

**Central District Director  
Phyllis Grzeskowiak  
MCL Indianapolis, IN  
December 19, 2024**

The garden clubs of Central District have been busy with interesting programs and activities in the past few months.

### **Arbutus Garden Club**

Arbutus celebrated its 90th Anniversary in September and is the oldest garden club in TGCI. A history of Arbutus had been prepared by the anniversary committee was to be read as part of the celebration.

In October, a meeting is held annually at the John Kirk furniture store (Pat Kirk is an Arbutus member). A designer, Nick Williams, demonstrated how to construct holiday decorations. At their November meeting, Central District Director Phyllis Grzeskowiak attended this meeting to talk about table centerpieces that Arbutus will provide for the State Convention in April. The guest speaker was radio and TV Broadcaster, Paul Page, who gave a moving talk about Veterans Day, since the meeting fell on that day. The club ended the year by having a Holiday Tea, hosted by the 2024 Board members. Special thanks to our Central District Director, Phyllis Grzeskowiak, who attended our November meeting and installed the incoming officers for 2025.

### **Broad Ripple Garden Club**

Members of Broad Ripple Garden Club enjoyed a program on Bonsai trees at their September meeting. A flower arrangement demonstration was presented by a local independent designer. Broad Ripple also had a speaker who talked about native Indiana trees. New officers for 2025-2027 have been voted in and Installation will take place at their April meeting next year. The club has donated \$400 to plant two trees, along with 60 other arborists, who will be planting trees on September 18 as part of Saluting Branches at the War Memorial in the American Legion Mall and Obelisk Park downtown. They will be doing this along with 96 other sites across North America. It will be a public event with the War Memorial director, state forest manager and others in attendance. (Unfortunately, it was delayed due to rainy weather but should take place very soon). They enjoyed their annual Holiday party at Crooked stick Golf Club with a catered lunch and a grab bag.

### **Fall Creek Garden Club**

The Fall Creek Garden Club has been very busy with exciting projects and programs. In September, they took a native plant tour at the Eiteljorg Museum. In October, they went to a tour of the Arboretum at Crown Hill Cemetery where over 11,000 inventoried trees and 137 unique species grace the 555 acres of Crown Hill Cemetery. In November, they had a speaker talk about raising honeybees and for their Holiday Luncheon, they enjoyed the great food and celebration of the season at Cooper's Hawk.

### **Fort Benjamin Blossoms Garden Club**

The Fort Benjamin Blossoms GC had their annual picnic at the Fort during September. October, they had a presentation on how to grow and/or forge for mushrooms. November, Dave Tatum assembled pictures taken from member's gardens over a 12-month period. Interesting to see how the landscape changes from season to season. In December they had their Christmas Pitch-In and White Elephant gift exchange.

### **Friendly Garden Club**

Over the past several months The Friendly Garden Club (TFGC) and the Pittsboro Park Board (PPB) have collaborated about placing a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at the Veteran's Memorial in Scamahorn Park. This will be the first Blue Star Marker Friendly will place in its 64-year history. In September, they enjoyed a Garden Tour at John Chapin's where he spoke about Shady Plants. In October, during their monthly meeting, the feature presentation was Bulbs & Bugs; Fall Cultivation for Blooms and Beneficial Bugs by Karen Mitchell, a Purdue Extension employee. During their November meeting they had their annual Make, Bake, Sew and Grow Event. Finally, in December we enjoyed a peaceful/relaxing and beautiful Holiday Luncheon and members also brought generous donations for Family Promise.

### **Hillcrest Garden Club**

In September, Hillcrest Garden Club had a talk on Rachel Carson Takes on the World by Cathy Weber and in October they did a walking tour of Wonder Tree Farm in Zionsville. Their November Floral Design Program and Silent auction was very successful. In December, their Holiday Luncheon was at Hillcrest Country Club with Zoey, granddaughter of one their members performing on the viola as their entertainment. Also in December, their slate was voted upon and installation will be next April.

### **Irvington Garden Club**

The Irvington Garden Tour in June had record attendance above 400 with the absolutely perfect weather on the day after a major rain storm the night before. The Irvington Garden Club arranged and paid for some much-needed work at the historic Benton House gardens in the fall. Invasive poison ivy was attacked. The Irvington Farmers Market managed by the club was very successful this year with the beautiful weather we had. The Club paid for a pad terrace to be built in the park near the offices where several raised butterfly gardens have been sited. The area is now very enjoyable for relaxing. A field trip was made to Maximum Grow where the owner expertly explained with soilless aquaponics. Teresa Byington came to speak on Putting the Garden to Bed in October. Our year end Christmas Party and Pitch in was held December 9th with fun and donated door prizes for all.

### **North Harbor Garden Club**

This year the club will again donate \$150 and gift cards to the O'Conner House to support single, young mothers. Their new project involves collecting flower vases and making a monetary donation to "Random Acts of Flowers", which gifts flower arrangements to nursing homes and hospice centers. The North Harbour Garden Club also donates annually to the Indiana State Garden Club for the following funds: Blue Star Memorial, Scholarships, World Gardening and the Indiana Land Trust.

### **Sages Garden Club**

Sages Garden Club enjoyed a presentation on insects and conducted fall cleanup in our pollinator garden at the OrthoIndy YMCA in November. We had a wonderful holiday party in December.

### **Shamrock Garden Club**

In September, members toured the demonstration gardens at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. In October, they toured Oliver Woods Nature Preserve and had a picnic lunch. In November, they held workshops at 2 facilities to help them make birdfeeders out of upside down tomato cages, which were decorated with greenery and strings of popcorn, cranberries, dried fruit, and peanuts. Also, pinecones were filled with peanut butter and rolled in seeds. The birdfeeders were placed in their gardens. The two facilities they worked at were Westminster North and Still Waters Adult Care Center. They had a pitch-in dinner in December and each made a jar of Friendship Soup to take home.