

**The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.**



# **Indiana Gardens**

**February Vol. 88 Number 1 - 2025**

2025-2027



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**The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.**

← Link

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*Cover: Partly leucistic female cardinal photo by Clare Conoley Bozell, via U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Twelve readers spotted Boo hiding on page 41 of the October issue of *Indiana Gardens*. We did a random drawing and the winner of the Boo Prize is Yas Matsumoto.

ie Wildflower Workshop in Marion, Terra

ind



by Rozain Abdul Hafiz Masjudin

**Next Indiana Gardens**

**Deadline:  
March 1st**

Cathy Reed Weber  
 crazycat66@gmail.com  
 317-606-0553  
 Editor

# Letter from the President



I hope this finds you enjoying a break from your gardening chores. I imagine it finds you reading and making decisions for the future of your garden and your garden club.

I encourage you to meet as members and friends over coffee and use this gardening quiet time to evaluate and learn from the successes and failures of the last garden club year. You now have the time for a fresh beginning! Our projects are working with plants, and plants are the masters of adaptation. We gardeners can adapt, change, dream, and create new growing methods for both our plants and our clubs.

Many clubs have a whole new slate of officers. I congratulate you and wish you the best as you organize for your new year.

Please take advantage of the help available to club presidents and officers by logging on to [www.gardenclubofindiana.org/member-access/](http://www.gardenclubofindiana.org/member-access/). The website has information you will want to browse as well as use as a value tool in your club. It has the information listed below.

The [TGCI President's Manual](#) which was created especially for club presidents and their officers. Please give the manual a good read and make note of what is available for your club. I can't stress this enough. Some presidents may have made a copy to be handed to the next president, but don't rely on having it handed over to you when you can easily access it yourself on the website. The TGCI President's Manual covers the following:

- \* Introduction to Garden Clubs
- \* Ways to Keep Your Club Fun and Involved

- \* Parliamentarian/Tax/Finance Information
- \* Finances

These general categories go into great detail and cover the questions you may have.

Also The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. has extremely capable and hard working District Directors. These are your first "go to people." Their valuable experience will be able to provide answers and/or guide you to the source for your answer.

The [District Directors](#) along with the Executive Board make sure that, as a state organization, we are following our Mission, Bylaws, Standing Rules and Guidelines. Our State Chairmen research and provide information for us that fulfill our Mission Statement which is to promote interest and education in horticulture, landscaping, floral design and environmental concerns.

All of this provides a network that we can rely upon to enhance our individual clubs by sharing ideas and successes. We are the planting bed wall which uses its bricks for the foundation, its mortar to solidify and strengthen the structure which will be filled with healthy soil and produce beautiful plants.

Another valuable asset is our [Indiana Gardens](#) newsletter which touts our accomplishments, keeps us informed and shares many ideas to be recreated. Our Districts and State provide opportunities to learn and share information.

Our upcoming state convention will give us an opportunity to enjoy each other's company while we learn and celebrate. Please check reservation information in this edition.

I wish you a new year filled with beautiful trees and successful garden projects. See you in Indianapolis at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Indianapolis North on April 9th and 10th!

*Jayne Kesler*  
President

# A species on the brink of extinction safe from development in Indiana

The purchase of a 13-acre property containing a high-quality wetland in northern Indiana will help to protect one of the rarest species in the U.S.

The [Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc.](#) (CILTI), a private nonprofit conservation group, worked with partners to purchase the land known as Larimer Fen from private owners with the intention of selling it to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in the future when funding comes available. Due to its sensitive nature, it will not be open to the public.

The survival of Mitchell's satyr, a federally endangered butterfly, requires the unique conditions of high-quality wetlands like Larimer Fen. Nationally, the loss of similar habitats is putting Mitchell's satyr at risk of extinction. Only a handful of sites remain that are hospitable to the species, and Larimer Fen is the only one in Indiana.

But the butterfly isn't the only imperiled species making its home in the damp and peaty environment of Larimer Fen. Blanding's turtles, sphagnum sprite damselflies, elfin skimmers (North America's smallest dragonfly), and death camas, a state-threatened plant, also rely on the habitat for survival.

About the site, noted conservationist and best-selling author Kenn Kaufman said, "The Mitchell's satyr is an unbelievably rare butterfly, worth protecting in its own right, and it's also an indicator of unique, high-quality habitat. This fen is also home to rare wildflowers, rare dragonflies, and other special



photo by Nate and Erin Fuller

creatures. I am so pleased this natural gem is preserved forever." A native Hoosier, Kaufman is co-author of a popular butterfly field guide, among other books. He now lives in Ohio, where there is one site remaining for the Mitchell's satyr.

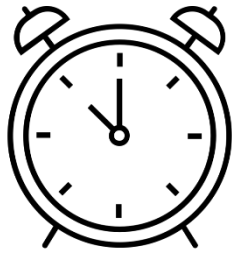
CILTI president Cliff Chapman expressed gratitude for the organization's generous donors and forward-thinking board that enabled swift action on the purchase. "Thanks to our support base, we can move fast when speed is of the essence," said Chapman. "We're interested in more partnerships with individuals, groups, and state government when it means protecting the natural places that make Indiana special."

A unique resource for a private nonprofit organization, CILTI's *Evergreen Fund for Nature* made the rapid transaction possible. Donors contribute to the fund so the land trust has access to ready capital, which allows it to move quickly when desirable land is for sale. This project's critical endangered species habitat also brought support from donors as far away

(Continued on page 46)



There's  
Still  
Time!



Be recognized for what your club accomplished in 2024!

No extra work, just download the

*link* -> [Club Achievement Form](#)  
give your club points for their achievements, total the points, and send to Club Achievement Chair Wanda Zahrt **by February 15, 2025.**

You do not even have to mail it, you can scan the completed form and email to Wanda or use your phone to take a photo of the completed awards form  
Email: [gardenclub.zahrt@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclub.zahrt@gmail.com)

### Did you know that National Garden Clubs, Inc. has a Natural Disaster Grant Fund?



**T**he Natural Disaster USA Fund was established by NGC in 1997 to receive monetary contributions from states, clubs and individuals for the purpose of assisting local and state clubs with their garden-related restoration efforts. This fund has helped to replant parks, municipal gardens and other garden related sites due to natural disasters caused by floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, ice storms and wildfires.

The Natural Disaster USA Fund is supported solely by the generous donations of dedicated garden club members, and has extended a helping hand by awarding grants to many fellow garden clubs across the country. We ask for your contributions to keep this fund alive so that we will be able to continue to provide much needed assistance to clubs restoring garden-related areas devastated by any past, present or future natural disasters. Make checks payable to Natural Disaster USA Fund and mail to the attention of the NGC Treasurer, at Headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110-3492. All donations are tax deductible, and will be gratefully acknowledged!

For more information:

[National Garden Clubs, Inc. Natural Disaster Grant](#)

Source: [www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org)

## Plantsident:

*[plant-si-dent]*  
(noun)

an unfortunate incident where you unexpectedly and unintentionally buy more plants, typically after saying, "I'm only going to look, I won't buy any more plants..."

Meme Source: NGC Facebook Page

# From the Chairs

## Our Schools

Our schools provide members and non-members with a range of educational opportunities on the art and science of the environment, gardening,



### Environmental School

Helping members



### Flower Show School

Flower Show School is a



### Gardening School

Gardening Schools



### Landscape Design School

Landscape Design School

## Gardening School



This fall I had fun working with a group of ladies that asked me for help preparing their garden for winter. I pointed out which plants to cut down

and explained that it is important to leave others alone because pollinating insects over winter on them. We talked about how some bushes are best pruned in the fall, and others are best pruned in the spring. We also talked about how to mulch.

To expand your gardening knowledge, sign up for [NGC Gardening School](#) courses, become a Gardening School Consultant and share your knowledge with others. Indiana's Gardening School Consultants are Kristen Grayson, Rita Hummel, Jodi Meyer, James Pavelka, who is a Four School Consultant, and Edi Dyer-Wilson, who is a Consultant Emeritus.

The courses can be taken in any order. Course 2 is February 10-12, and it is Virtual. It's perfect for someone who can't travel. Kristin Grayson from Petal and Stem Garden Club, and I are taking this course as a refresher. See the Gardening School overview on the school tab of the National garden Club's website.

Gardening is a great way to make new friends and have fun. I recently moved to a place surrounded by a flower bed. Already I have a new friend. My neighbor introduced herself and said we have something in common. Burning bush and thistles. We are now working together to get rid of them.

By Rita Hummel  
Gardening School Chair

[Discover Our Gardening Schools](#)

← Link

Art by Serhii Shtimov, Noun Project

# Trees

## Q : When do trees wake up ?

When the season shifts from winter to spring there is nothing better than seeing trees flaunt fragrant flowers and green glorious leaves! So, when will trees surprise us with their fresh new look? There's no set date, but we can use clues to predict when they will typically leaf out.

The lengthening hours of daylight alone is not enough of a signal for when it is a good time to make new buds and leaves, even if the light is telling the trees that spring is here. Trees have an internal system for regulating growth and development, which determines when to sprout new leaves and new branches. This system is influenced by several factors, including the availability of light, temperature, and water, as well as the presence of



By Ernst Vikne - Silver sky, Wikipedia

hormones and other signaling molecules within the plant.

Cold frosts in early spring can happen overnight that wipe out all of trees' new growth. Once there is a combination of the above cues, trees begin to awaken from their dormancy and make new growth.

By Laura Kearby  
*Trees Chair*

Sources: Garden Smart / Brooklyn Botanic Garden / Quora

## PRESIDENT'S PROJECT 2023-2025

# PLANT TREES FOR HOPE

GRANT UP TO ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100)

It's **not too late** to apply and qualify for the President's Project grant and make the arrangements to get a tree planted this Spring!

Start putting your plans in place and apply by March 31, 2025 with your tree being planted during the 2025 Spring Season.

Check out The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc website or contact President's Project Chairman Laura Kearby for any questions or clarifications.

Laura Kearby 317-946-0789 laurakearby@hotmail.com







## Garden Therapy

This year, inspired by other state garden club projects, I began implementing a Garden Therapy project with a local nursing home. While the collaboration got off to a good start, due to unexpected scheduling conflicts and health issues, the involvement of our club was limited. On a positive note, the nursing home and its residents continued on to nurture their patio raised-bed garden begun with our club; they were able to enjoy fresh vegetables and the therapeutic benefits from that garden.

Within the last month, I have received award applications from 4 clubs highlighting their garden therapy projects. I am pleased to see how each club has implemented their project and hope these projects motivate other clubs around the state to share their skills to make a difference by sharing their version of garden therapy with the people of their community.

By Pamela Rausch  
Garden Therapy Chair

## Wildflowers/ Roadsides



Hello fellow gardeners, Winter is here. It is time for perusing flower and plant catalogues or websites for the new year. Let us get excited about wildflower gardening in the new year!

The beauty of wildflowers is very “in” in the gardening world. Seed companies are selling wildflower seed mixtures, mixing annuals and perennials together in beautiful pictures of lovely harmony together. Making it look so easy. Remember perennial seeds can take years before getting established. It could be a while before your perennials are picture ready. Consider your purpose in creating a wildflower garden. Is it for beauty, nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies, or establishing a diverse ecosystem where there was none? Yes, you can have it all. If using a mixture, choose carefully avoiding invasives or overly aggressive natives. Consider giving your wildflower gardens a chance to shine in your community which brings me to reminding everyone of the [Amy Little Mason Award](#) for wildflowers. You can win \$100 dollars and a certificate for your club and the possibility of national recognition. So, my fellow gardeners it is time to plan to “garden up!” for the love of wildflowers. Plan now to submit applications for the Amy Little Mason Award in Fall 2025. All award rules are available on the TGCI website.

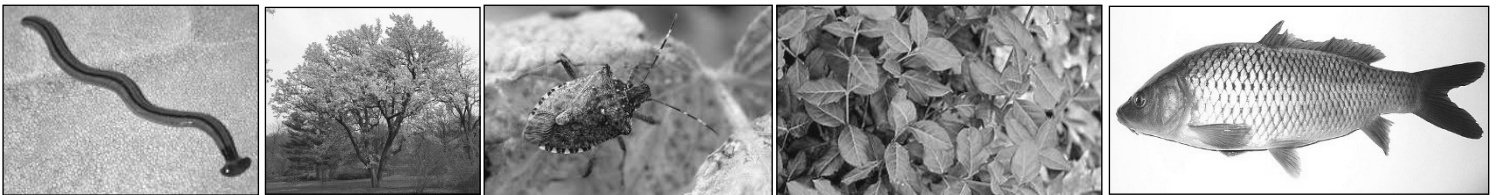
by Barbara Gill  
Wildflowers/Roadside Chair

Art by Seehi Smirnov, Naum Project

# Invasive Species

## National Invasive Species Awareness Week February 24-28, 2025

**I**nvasive Species Awareness Week is an international event to raise awareness about invasive species, the threat they pose and what can be done to prevent their spread. A study backed by the United Nations found that the global economic cost of invasive species exceeded \$423 billion



annually in 2019, with costs having at least quadrupled every decade since 1970. Human activity has increased the rate at which harmful species are introduced as pets, ornamental plants, crops, food, erosion or pest control or other purposes. Invasive species are one of the five major direct drivers of biodiversity loss globally, alongside land and sea-use change, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change and pollution.

More and more people are recognizing the destructive behavior of invasive species. Here are a few things you can do locally to help protect the environment and ensure the survival of native species of plants and animals:

1. Clean your hiking boots, waders, fishing gear, boats, trailers, off-road vehicles and other gear to stop invasive species from hitching a ride to a new location.
2. Do not dump aquariums or live bait into waterways.
3. Don't move firewood. Buy it where you'll burn it, or gather it on-site.
4. Use forage, hay, mulch and soil that are certified as weed free.
5. Check the soil when purchasing potted plants to make sure there is not an unwanted critter hiding inside.

6. Identify and remove invasive plant species from your property.

7. Report sightings of invasive species to authorities.

Indiana Invasive Species Council  
at [IISC@purdue.edu](mailto:IISC@purdue.edu)

[Indiana Department of Natural Resources](https://www.in.gov/dnr/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species)  
[www.in.gov/dnr/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species](https://www.in.gov/dnr/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species)

8. Check your local [Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area](https://www.sicim.info/cismas) (CISMA) at <https://www.sicim.info/cismas> and volunteer for a [Weed Wrangle](#).

9. PLANT NATIVES.

**Participating in  
National Invasive Species Awareness Week ?  
Let Indiana Gardens know!**

By Sharon Baldwin  
*Native and Invasive Species Chairman*



# Blue/Gold Star



The Blue Star Memorial Markers are in recognition of servicemen and women who have served, are serving or will serve in our nation's armed forces. Clubs desiring to establish, restore or rededicate a site should ask for guidance and assistance from the State Blue/Gold Star Chairman.

Large Blue Star Memorial Markers are permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, Veterans Administration Medical Centers and any other appropriate civic location. The small Byway Markers are suitable for club or public civic plantings in city, county or state parks, picnic sites, etc. They do not have to be located on dedicated highways. Permission to place and dedicate markers is usually under local or county government. The location is to be reviewed and approved by the NGC Blue Star Chairman as part of the application process.

I am pleased to report on activity and interest in the Blue/Gold Star Memorials since our last meeting in September.

The North West District had a rededication of the Blue Star Memorial at the new Kankakee Welcome Center on I-65 South near US 10 on the afternoon of September 25.

On September 30, 2024, I attended the Central West District Fall Meeting in Sullivan, IN. I spoke on the history of the Blue Star Memorial program with

the National Garden Club. The focus was the Blue Star Memorials within the Central West District.

All Thumbs Garden Club of the South East District had a Blue Star Highway Memorial dedication on Saturday, October 12 at 10:00 am in Crossroads Community Park, Seymour, IN. All Thumbs Garden Club of Seymour took the initiative to relocate, refurbish, and rededicate the original Blue Star Memorial on Hwy 50 near Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in the South East District.

Before the end of this year Friendly Garden Club of Brownsburg is placing an order for a Blue Star By-Way Marker to be placed at Scamahorn Park in Pittsboro, Indiana. They are planning a dedication ceremony in October of 2025.

The list of Blue and Gold Star locations has been updated on the website as of October 14, 2024.

Thank you to Hendricks County Garden Club for rediscovering a By-Way Marker that was installed in 1996 at Friendship Gardens Park in Plainfield by the Plainfield Garden Club that no longer exists. Hendricks County will maintain this memorial beginning in 2025.

James Pavelka informed me that the Blue Star Memorial located on Hwy 51 and 130 in Hobart will be relocated to Veteran's Memorial Park in Hobart due to changing this intersection of highway.

Sewah Studios finds it necessary to implement price increases effective January 1, 2025.

Blue/Gold Star Memorial Fund has received \$1,554.00 in donations for 2024, and I have received one award application.

Any clubs or districts interested in placing Blue/Gold Star Memorials please contact me at [tgcibluestar@gmail.com](mailto:tgcibluestar@gmail.com)

By Chris Seal  
*Blue/Gold Star Chair*



## 2025 Sewah Price Increase Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Pricing

We have received a price increase from Sewah Studios for Blue/Gold Star Memorials effective January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

- Marker with 7' post - \$2,240.00
- Marker with 10' post - \$2,515.00
- By-way Plaques - \$765.00
- Replacement 7' Posts - \$375.00
- Replacement 10' Posts - \$475.00
- Refurbishment - \$1,200.00
- Refurbishment with Cap Repair - \$1,450.00
- Extra Shipping to Western States - \$300.00

Clubs interested in Blue or Gold Star Memorials can find order forms on the National Garden Club website at

[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

Click on Programs, Blue Star and Gold Star Memorials, Blue and Gold Star Ordering Details.

# Bird & Butterfly

Join the world in connecting to birds on February 14–17, 2025 during the [Great Backyard Bird Count](#). Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online participatory-science project — also referred to as community science or citizen science — to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. [Birds Canada](#) joined the project in 2009 to provide an expanded capacity to support participation in Canada. In 2013, GBBC became a global project when we began entering data into [eBird](#), the world’s largest biodiversity-related participatory science project.

[Global Big Day](#) on May 11th, is an annual celebration of World Migratory Bird Day and share the birds you find with eBird. Participating is easy— you can even be part of Global Big Day from home. If you can spare 5 or 10 minutes, report your bird observations to eBird online or with our free eBird Mobile app.

Alternately, you may want to consider another project which can be done any point during the year, [Celebrate Urban Birds](#) which strives to co-create bilingual inclusive, equity-based community science projects which serve communities that have been historically underrepresented or excluded from birding, conservation, and citizen science.

By Cathy Weber  
*Birds & Butterfly Chair*

**Does your club participate in Citizen Science projects?  
Let Indiana Gardens know!**



# Youth Sculpture Contest Winners

Encouraging Youth to Keep Our Planet Green

The 2024 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Youth Sculpture contest was open to all youth in 4th through 8th grade. The contest was designed to encourage students to keep our planet green, to get involved with saving the environment and to encourage youth to explore their creative thoughts through sculpture.



2024 Indiana State Winners

# Youth Activities

We are happy to announce the winners of another of our youth contests! This is the National Garden Clubs Inc. Youth Sculpture Contest. Youth in grades 4th - 8th submitted entries with the theme, "Encouraging Youth to Keep Our Planet Green." State winners are now entered in the Central Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc Contest. Region winners move on to the National Contest! Check out the creative winners online at our website here:

[TGCI Youth Sculpture Contest Winners](#)

← Link

We are also thrilled to announce the Indiana State winners of the National Garden Clubs Inc. Youth Poetry Contest! This year's theme was "My Garden Has Vegetables to Spare That I Can Share - Helping Fight Hunger By Sharing Vegetables From Our Garden." Students in K - 12th grade submitted poems to their local garden club, grade-level winners at the local level were then submitted to the state contest. All of the state grade-level winners now go on to the Central Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc contest - those winners go on to the National Contest.

All of our state winners are printed in our free online downloadable booklet of poems. The poets were so creative! Access the poems here:

[TGCI State Youth Poetry Contest Winners.](#)

Link →

By Susan Yoder  
Youth Activities Chair

# 2024 YOUTH POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

INDIANA STATE WINNERS



My Garden Has Vegetables to Spare That I Can Share - Helping Fight Hunger By Sharing Vegetables From Our Garden

The 2024 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Youth Poetry contest was open to all youth in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. The contest was designed to excite and encourage youth to explore their creative thoughts through poetry.

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. © 2024





## Parliamentarian

After the approval of recommendations by the Board of Directors at the September meeting, the changes were made to the [Standing Rules of the Board of Directors](#) and to the [Guidelines for State Conventions/Guidelines for September Seminar](#), and forwarded to members to update their files.

By Gerry St. Peters,  
*Parliamentarian*

## Annual Civic Fund

Thus far the Annual Civic Fund has received a total of \$980 from 2 Districts and 14 Clubs. I am sending out [a plea for more clubs to contribute](#) since we all benefit in the long run.

by Diane Hurless  
*Annual Civic Fund Chair*

## Member Services

This chairman is currently receiving entries for the Member Services Sales award. Clubs are encouraged to submit receipts of items purchased from NGC during 2024 to this chairman (clvgc@hotmail.com) by February 15, 2025.

Check the NGC website for items for sale including the book bundle of the four children's books for the reduced price of \$20-a savings of \$20 and the Vision of Beauty calendars for \$10 each.



By Sue Fuhrman  
*Member Services Chair*

## State Historian

Reading through the newsletters, there are so many great ideas for programs, speakers, fieldtrips, garden walks, workshops, seminars, and more that clubs participate in, plan and accomplish. There is variety, sharing information, peaking interest, and fun!

As Historian, I want to capture and record that enthusiasm in the 2023-2024 yearbook. Please help me by sending pictures, articles, invitations, flyers, brochures, and anything you would like to include in the record. I appreciate any and all offerings. Thank you.

Shirley Kunkle  
*State Historian*

## Save the Date

**National Garden Clubs Convention**  
May 18-22, 2025  
North Charleston, South Carolina

**Central Region Convention**  
October 28-30, 2025

**Central Region Flower Show Symposium**  
October 26-28, 2025

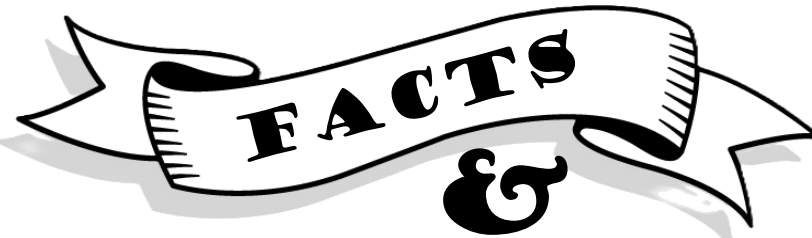
**TGCI Annual State Convention**  
April 9-10 2025  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**TGCI September Seminar**  
September 9, 2025  
Nashville, Indiana

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

# 93rd Annual State Convention

Call Letter



Jayne Kesler, TGCI President

Cathy Weber, Convention Chair

Phyllis Grzeskowiak & Cynthia Wright, Co-Chairs

## JOIN US FOR:

The Myth or Fact Mixer... meet special guest National Garden Club President-Elect Donna Donnelly...Play Amazing Games, Win Fabulous Prizes...

enjoy a Lavish Evening at the **Gala Under the Trees** President's Banquet...

hear Keynote Speaker Tom Swinford talk about the **History of the Indiana Landscape:**

**From Ice Age to 1816 to Present**...be part of a Problem-Solving Round Table Discussion...discover *The Illusion of Bonsai* with expert Mark Fields...collect **Flair**...

learn about our current Land Trust project LEAF-a-Legacy of planting 20K trees...be wowed by Carrie Tauscher: *Trees of Crown Hill Cemetery* and the preserving the architectural greenspace ...**Relax** in the lovely venue spaces...Shop at Amazing Local Artist Vendors including *Roots to Stars*, *Blue Porch deSIGNs*, and *Anne Maddox*...come meet our scholarship students at the **Stunningly Fabulous Scholarship**

Questions? Email them to: [TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com](mailto:TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com)



# Embassy Suites by Hilton Indianapolis North

Located off 465 & Michigan Rd  
At 912 Vincennes Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46268

DON'T  
MISS OUT  
ON THE  
FUN!



All available rooms are *full suites*, with a sleeping area, kitchenette, and separate space to relax. Your stay includes a free made-to-order breakfast, plus two drinks and snacks at a Manager's Event each evening.

**Total cost: \$139 plus tax** per night

Embassy Suites is offering TGC members a *fantastic deal*, if you reserve your room **before March 10, 2025**.

**After March 10th**, rates will increase.

There are a limited number of special ADA suites. To reserve an ADA-compliant room, please contact Christine Mitchell, Director of Sales at 317-715-4915 or [christine.mitchell2@hilton.com](mailto:christine.mitchell2@hilton.com)

Questions? Email them to:  
[TGCStateMeetings@gmail.com](mailto:TGCStateMeetings@gmail.com)



To Make Reservations

CALL this number: 888-875-2580

CLICK this Link: [The Garden Club of Indiana](#)

Use this CODE: GCL

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.  
 93rd Annual State Convention  
 April 9-10 2025

# 93rd Annual State Convention Tentative Agenda

Time All times are EST	Agenda Item	Location
<b>Tuesday April 8, 2025</b>		
5-6:00pm	Myth or Fact Mixer	Atrium
	Dinner on your own*	See below
7:30pm	Social Hour Make-n-Take	Madrid Room
<b>Wednesday, April 9, 2025</b>		
6:00–9:00am	Breakfast for registered guests	Garden Cafe
9:00am	Ways & Means Opens	Madrid Room
9:30am	Registration Opens	Barcelona Room
10:00am	<i>The Illusion of Bonsai</i> , Mark Fields	Barcelona Room
11:15am	Lunch on your own*	See below
1:00pm	<b>Official Meeting Opening</b>	Barcelona Room
3:30pm	<i>Round Table</i>	Barcelona Room
5:00pm	Social Hour	Atrium
6:00pm	Vendor Room Closes	Madrid Room
6:00pm	<b>President's Banquet &amp; Installation of Officers</b> Keynote Speaker: Tom Swinford, Sycamore Land Trust <i>History of the Indiana Landscape: From Ice Age to 1816 to Present</i>	Barcelona Room
<b>Thursday, April 10, 2025</b>		
6:00–9:00am	Breakfast for registered guests Check out of room by 11:00am	Garden Cafe
9:15am	<i>20K Trees – TGCI Land Trust Project</i> , Cliff Chapman CILT	Barcelona Room
10:30am	<i>Trees of Crown Hill Cemetery</i> , Carrie Tauscher	Barcelona Room
12:30pm	<b>Scholarship Luncheon</b>	Barcelona Room

\* There are approximately 20 restaurants within a 15 minute or less drive of Embassy Suites by Hilton North.

**Questions? Email them to: [TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com](mailto:TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com)**

# Just a Few More Things You Can See While You Are Here

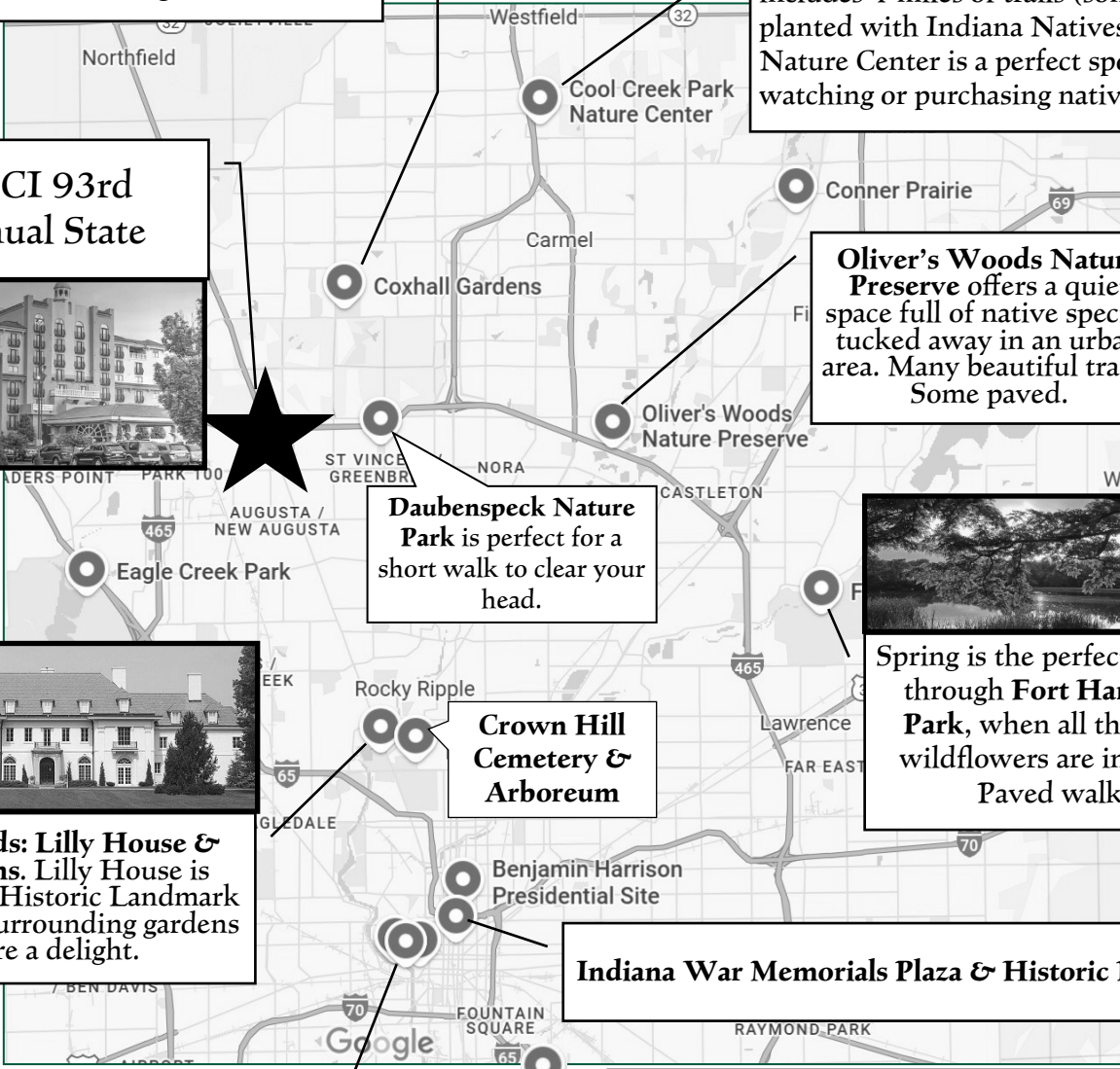
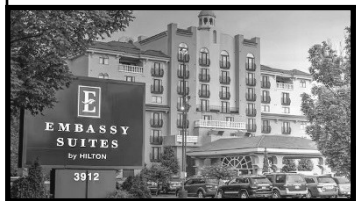


Visit **Coxhall Gardens** to hear the bell towers chime and see the enchanting gardens. Paved walking trails.



**Cool Creek Park & Nature Center** includes 4-miles of trails (some paved) planted with Indiana Natives. The Nature Center is a perfect spot for bird watching or purchasing native plants.

**TGCI 93rd Annual State**



**Oliver's Woods Nature Preserve** offers a quiet space full of native species tucked away in an urban area. Many beautiful trails, Some paved.



**Daubenspeck Nature Park** is perfect for a short walk to clear your head.



**Oldfields: Lilly House & Gardens.** Lilly House is National Historic Landmark and the surrounding gardens are a delight.

Spring is the perfect time to walk through **Fort Harrison State Park**, when all the woodland wildflowers are in full bloom. Paved walkways.

**Crown Hill Cemetery & Arboreum**

**Indiana War Memorials Plaza & Historic District**

- ☆ **White River Gardens**
- ☆ **Indianapolis Zoo**
- ☆ **Indiana State Museum**
- ☆ **Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art**

**Garfield Park Conservatory** is home to 800+ types of orchids. Drop by and see what's blooming! Open Tues- Sat: 10 am - 5 pm.



Questions? Email them to: [TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com](mailto:TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com)



# 93rd Annual TGCI State Convention Registration Form

April 9-10 2025 📍 Embassy Suites by Hilton, Indianapolis 📍 Hosted by Central District

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDENTIALS:** (Mark all that apply)

- First Time Attendee
- Non-TGCI Member
- Club President
- Club Delegate
- Scholarship Patron
- State Life Member

- National Officer
- State Officer
- National Chairman
- State Chairman
- National Life Member
- District Officer
- Region Officer
- Region Chairman
- Regional Life Member

REGISTRATION CATEGORIES AND FEES	Early Bird Price <i>Must be postmarked March 3, 2025</i>	Regular Fee <i>Must be postmarked March 28, 2025</i>
<i>We welcome all members and non-members at the same rate. Early Bird Prices only if postmarked by 3/3/2025. No guaranteed meal if postmarked after 3/28/2025.</i>		
Convention Registration Fee (no meals included)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45
Tuesday Social Hour Make-n-Take	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
President's Banquet — Wednesday Night <input type="checkbox"/> Meatless Option	<input type="checkbox"/> \$37	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40
Scholarship Luncheon — Thursday Afternoon <input type="checkbox"/> Meatless Option	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
<input type="checkbox"/> I have Medical Food Allergies.		
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION AND FEES</b>		

*Make checks payable to: **The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.** Mail check and completed registration form to: Registration c/o Linda Foster, 6075 Crows Nest Dr, Indianapolis, 46228-1409*

**Questions? Email them to: [TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com](mailto:TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com)**



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form in with your registration or email JUST THIS FORM before March 28, 2025 to:  
TGCISateMeetings@gmail.com.**

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Presidents, to include someone who has passed since our 2024 State Convention, please complete this information.

Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Information about the Deceased or submit a copy of obituary notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DISPLAY & EXHIBITS**

State Chairman, if you wish to have a space in our display area (unsecured), please complete this information.

Committee or Exhibit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Table Space Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

All Attendees can submit questions for the Round Table Discussion on Wednesday afternoon.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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The Nominating Committee met on November 6, 2024, at the Carmel Clay Public Library in Carmel, Indiana.

President elect Wanda Zahrt called the meeting to order at 1pm. Present were Phyllis Grzeskowiak (C), Mariellen Smith (NW), Diane Hurless (SE), and Linda Harkleroad (NC). Wanda declared a quorum present, and the meeting proceeded. Diane Hurless was elected chair and Linda Harkleroad, secretary.

After some discussion, the committee determined the following slate of officers:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Jim Pavelka
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Rita Hummel
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President – Laura Kearby
- Secretary – Gloria Notaro

Phone calls were made, and all nominees accept their nominations.

A Treasurer was nominated at a later date, and David Zahrt accepted the position.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Hurless  
*Nominating Committee Chair*

*The Garden  
Club of  
Indiana, Inc.  
Slate of  
Nominations  
for 2025-  
2027*



## President-Elect

- Wanda Zahrt
- Member of Iris-Elm Garden Club, Winamac, Indiana.
- Member of TGCI for fourteen years.
- Previously served as TGCI First Vice-President 2023-2025
- Received National Garden Club *Member of Honor Award* in May 2024
- Awarded TGCI Honeywell Horticulture Award in 2024.
- Wanda's motto is: "There's no such thing as being too busy. If you really want something, you'll make time for it."

**Wanda Zahrt** is a proud member of the Iris-Elm Garden Club, Winamac, Indiana in the North Central District. Her career background includes banking and business, having earned a BS in Business from Indiana University South Bend. For much of her career Wanda worked at the family trucking business and served in many roles including dispatch, accounts receivable, accounts payable and HR. After 40+ years, Wanda began a "retirement career" of sewing and reading, as well as getting back to her roots of gardening. Wanda grew up on a small farm in East Tennessee and is not stranger to vegetable and flower gardens, mostly weeding. In 2011, she decided to take on a new pursuit and joined the local garden club. Knowing nothing about the garden club or how it worked her interest was sparked when she attended an annual North Central District Meeting. As the saying goes "everything else is history." Wanda has now been a member of TGCI for fourteen years, serving on the Executive Committee for eight years, and on the Board of Directors for four years. Wanda looks forward serving as TGCI's President. Wanda's motto is: "There's no such thing as being too busy. If you really want something, you'll make time for it." Wanda and her husband David live in Winamac, Indiana. David is also on the Board of Directors as the TGCI Scholarship Chairman, 2025-2027 Treasurer and Photographer. The couple have one daughter, Leeann Wright. Leeann and her husband, Steven, and daughter, Nova Mae, moved back to Winamac in August of 2022. Wanda's theme is Plant America with Natives, and she is looking forward to sharing the benefits of planting native.



## Nominee 1st Vice President

- James (Jim) Pavelka
- Member of Hobart Garden Club, Hobart, Indiana.
- Member of TGCI for forty-five years.
- Previously served as TGCI 2nd Vice President, North West District Director, and NW District Vice-Director.
- Awarded the TGCI Honeywell Award in 2012.
- Received the National Garden Club Youth Leadership Award in 2018.
- Received Member Award of Honor-Central Region 2019
- Gold Master Gardener.

## Jim Pavelka

has been a member of the Hobart Garden Club since 1981. He is currently president and has served as vice president of his club. Jim got into gardening when he bought a rose bush for Mothers Day, "I was in 3rd grade. My grandparents had a garden and cherry trees, and I would go and help plant and harvest and learn how to cook them properly and share with neighbors." He helped his dad every weekend with the garden .

Currently, Jim serves as TGCI Awards Chair and Environmental Consultant School's Chair as well as serving Central Region as Youth Activities Chair and National Garden Club's Youth Poetry and Essay Chair. He also represented TGCI in Washington D.C. for the 200th anniversary of Columbus Day with a display at the National Conservatory. He has a Master status in Flower Show Judge, Landscape Design Consultant, Environmental Consultant, and a Garden Consultant and 4-star NGC member.

Jim is a graduate of Indiana University - Health Science Education : Ivy Tech Community College- EKG technician /EMT : and St Vincent's Medical Center-Polysomnographic Technology

Jim is also active in his church, playing chimes and bells and organ. He gives youth programs to area schools promoting the National Garden Club's four youth books wearing frog, dog, pumpkin, and butterfly costumes. He enjoys delivering meals-on -wheels. He volunteers for disasters for American Red Cross. Jim plays the bassoon in several community and university bands.



## Nominee 2nd Vice President

- Rita Hummel
- Member of Sages Garden Club, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Member of TGCI for fifteen years.
- Previously served as Central District Director from 2019-2023.
- Currently serves as TGCI 3rd Vice-President and Gardening School Chair.
- As incoming second vice president, Rita's is excited to share ideas to gain new members and strategies to keep the ones we have.

## Rita Hummel

grew up in northwest Indiana where her first memory of gardening was growing beans and tomatoes in her family's sandy backyard. In 2010 she enrolled in the Marion County Master Gardener class and joined Sages Garden Club in Indianapolis, with learning the secrets of growing delicious vegetables as a goal. Sages installed a pollinator garden at the OrthoIndy YMCA in Indianapolis with the help of a grant from NGC. Tending the garden is a fun way to make friends and share gardening tips. She has served the club as vice-president and president. Currently she is the club secretary and a member of the pollinator garden committee.

Rita served as Central District Director from 2019-2021. Meeting and sharing with members of the eleven clubs was an important aspect of the job. Currently she serves as TGCI 3rd vice-president.

She completed the NGC Gardening School courses, achieving consultant status, and now serves as the TGCI Gardening School Chair.

She and her husband Bill have two daughters and two beautiful, young grandchildren. She is retired from teaching Spanish in the Indianapolis area. Rita volunteers with friends at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis. Rita and her husband recently downsized to a home with a sunroom perfect for her orchids and other plants in her collection. In addition to gardening, Rita belongs to three book clubs, travels, and collects cookbooks.



## Nominee

### 3rd Vice President

- Laura Kearby
- Member of Come into the Garden Club of Mooresville, Indiana.
- Member of TGCI for forty years.
- Previously serving on TGCI Executive Committee in the elected position of Recording Secretary.
- Currently serving as 2nd Vice President, Membership Chair, President's Project and Trees/Plant-A-Tree Chair.
- Laura looks forward to continuing to serve as TGCI Trees/Plant-A-Tree Chairman and encourage members to Plant More Trees!

## Laura Kearby

is retired and, since 1982, has been a resident of rural Morgan County, Indiana. Her property consists of both wooded and meadow/pasture areas and is a Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat. She has been a member of Morgan County Master Gardeners and Indiana Gourd Society.

Laura first visited Come into the Garden Club of Mooresville in the late 1980's and shortly thereafter joined the club as an official active member. In her second year she became an appointed officer and in the following years continued to serve in the elected offices of President (currently President), Vice President, and Secretary along with chairing and serving on numerous committees.

She has served the Central West District as chairman of various committees and special committees and as chairman of several district meetings and events. She has held the elected offices of District Director, Vice-Director, Secretary, and, currently, Treasurer.

Previously Laura has also served on TGCI Board of Directors as chairman of several committees (currently Membership, President's Project and Trees/Plant-A-Tree), served on various special committees and been chairman and/or co-chairman multiple times of State events (Annual Convention, Conservation Conference, September Seminar and Wildflower Workshop).





## Nominee Recording Secretary

Gloria Notaro

- Member of Vale of Paradise Garden Club of Valparaiso, Indiana.
- Member of TGCI for fourteen years.
- Previously serving as North West District Director and the Editor of *Indiana Gardens*.
- Currently serving North West District Recording Secretary.
- Gloria looks forward to looking forward to serving as Recording Secretary for TGCI

**Gloria Notaro** resides in Valparaiso, IN. along with her husband Dominic, three grown children along with seven grandchildren. Gloria retired from being a realtor after 32 years.

From age one until she began high school, Gloria lived with her grandparents on an 80 acre farm in Hamlet, Indiana. Gloria stated she didn't realize she was learning how to survive during those years of growing up on the farm. "We rarely went to the store because we grew everything and there was no need to go. My grandma made fresh pasta of all kinds, noodles for any dish that needed them. We had potatoes that lasted all winter, and she canned fruits and vegetables. We always had meat in the freezer," explained Gloria.

Gloria joined the Vale of Paradise Garden Club in 2011. Over time, the position of vice president for the club became available and Gloria decided to take that on. A couple of years after, the North West District Director position became available and after many discussions, she decided to take that on. From that position she learned a lot about the TGCI.

For the last 9 years, Gloria was the editor of the *Indiana Gardens* newsletter, while also serving as the editor of the *Central Region Newsletter*, and webmaster of the TGCI website. Presently Gloria serves as the North West District Recording Secretary and looking forward to serving as Recording Secretary for TGCI.



## Nominee Treasurer

- David Zahrt
- Member of Iris-Elm Garden Club, Winamac, Indiana.
- Member of TGCI for twelve years.
- Previously served as TGCI Photographer and Scholarship Chair.
- Awarded TGCI Honeywell Horticulture Award in 2024.
- David is excited about spending the next two years chauffeuring the President around the seven districts.

**David Zahrt** was born in Logansport, Indiana and grew up in Winamac. He owned and operated his family businesses until retiring in 2013. After retiring, he joined the Iris-Elm Garden Club and has served as club president for the past 8 years.

David enjoys reading and cooking, dabbling in local political campaigns, teasing his granddaughter, and being outside. He is also a member of Friends of the Tippecanoe State Park, and has served on board of Pulaski County Health Foundation, Winamac Park Advisory Board, various committee at Winamac Methodist Church. David is a retired a Captain in the Indiana National Guard.

*Voting for state officers will be held at the 93rd  
Annual TGCI State Convention on April 9, 2025.*

# Club News



## Peru Garden Club

*Tell me and I'll forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn." — Benjamin Franklin*

The method encouraged by Ben Franklin has been implemented with the I-Grow Children's Gardening workshops presented at [Garden Gate Greenhouse](#). For the last six years, Peru Garden Club has sponsored and taught workshops for the themes that Diana Payne, Peru Garden Club past president, and Tia Carpenter have followed throughout the years.

Boys and girls from 6-13 years of age are encouraged to participate in the free workshops that provide hands on experiences with nature. The 4 workshops of an hour and a half give the children an opportunity to have an art project, a story that pertains to the theme, complete a journal entry, have a hands on craft and food experience.

Since the 2024 year's theme was "Where the Wild Things Are," Peru Garden Club decided that their "wild thing" would be wildflowers. Other civic

groups provide the three workshops for the program which covered poisonous plants, safe hiking and walking in natural areas and care of injuries. As the sponsor of the program, Peru Garden Club presents last so we can hand out our tee shirts and awards the children have received.

Our Wildflower camp event started with a trifold asking "What is a Wildflower?" of the children. They shared and had a good start on the idea of our topic. We shared a quick definition of "Wildflowers are plants that grow freely. The plant often chooses where it grows. They grow in many different kinds of places,







many different colors, sizes and shapes. They are happy in the company of different wildflowers.”

From our definition we went to the favorite flower children gather for bouquets and blowing seeds for making wishes...the tenacious dandelion. Our Dandy Lion presented the growing stages representing the sun, the moon and the stars. A hands on study of a live plant showed the long taproot which makes it so resistant to being weeded and the sawtooth leaf structure which gave it the name “lion’s tooth.”

From the interactive portion, we read [Miss Rumphius](#) by Barbara Cooney. They learned about the Lupine Lady who scattered seeds so they would grow throughout the area and that wildflowers can be planted from seeds.

Next, the campers took part in a game matching real plants to the ones on the Indiana Wildflower poster. The campers handled, smelled and learned the names of the flowers.

The final craft activity involved drawing and decorating a vase on a piece of cardboard. They punched holes above the vase and filled the holes with real wildflowers selected from vases filled with a variety of flower, and grasses. The flowers were pulled through the holes and taped down on the back of the cardboard to secure them. They had created their own vase of live wildflowers.

The day is finished with Peru Garden Club presenting each camper with a tee shirt, having snacks and taking pictures. It is such a fulfilling activity for our members as well as the children. We look forward to sponsoring this nature camp for many more generations of young gardeners.

Submitted by Jayne Kesler  
*President*



**Did your club participated a kid-friendly workshop?  
Let Indiana Gardens know!**



# Four Winds Garden Club



Life was busy for Four Winds Garden Club in November as it is our Auction month for the scholarship. Many members stalk garage sales and thrift shops looking for items to accessorize a basket, to knit cute items. ( one little knitted sweater for a young child was one of the higher bids.) We had over 50 items to bid on. We enjoy it and seek new members to help us. But this year we had a special guest David Zahrt was one of our "Vanna Whites". He did an excellent job and was much appreciated.

Elaine Zent  
Four Winds Garden Club



Recycle/Reuse/Reuse by Bernd Lakenbrink from Noun Project



# Munster Garden Club

Munster Garden Club The Munster Garden Club celebrated the end of 2024 with a lovely luncheon at the Little Italy restaurant. President Mariellen Smith thanked all members who helped the garden club have a successful year filled with civic beautification projects, entertaining programs and field trips and a wonderful plant sale. The Festival of Trees committee entered a tree this year with the theme of *Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose*. Many members helped refurbish old ornaments, jewelry, toilet paper rolls, clothespins and more into new holiday ornaments. The garland made of old wooden spools was a highlight. The tree won third place this year in the competition. In 2025, the club will be changing their meetings to the evening in the hope that working people will consider joining. Membership and developing youth activities will be the focus of 2025.

Submitted by Mariellen Smith, *President*

## Membership

### REMEMBER

! Keep your current members satisfied and involved !

 Recruit!

 Retain!

 Revitalize!

In 2025

By Laura Kearby  
Membership Chair

## National Garden Week

Now is the time to start planning with your club for National Garden Week June 2-8 2025. This is a great opportunity to encourage pride in your club, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part your community.

## From the Editor



Have you seen Boo? He has gotten out again and cleverly hidden himself in this issue of *Indiana Gardens*.

If you find him, send an email/text to the Editor by March 1st and you'll be entered into a drawing for a wonderful prize! Winner announced in the April 1, 2025 issue .

*The Boo on page 2 does not count.*

## Cultivating Garden Club



Cultivating Garden Club has the following plans for 2025:

- Assisting the new Sacred Heart Community Garden.
- During our annual plant sale in May, we enjoy the opportunity to share information on the care for the large variety of plants for sale along with answering questions.
- In July we'll be taking a tour of a recreated native prairie garden at the [Trafalgar Public Library](#) in Johnson County.
- Anticipating a great schedule of interesting and informative speakers at our monthly meetings. Two of our speakers will be from TGCI, and we're looking forward to hearing from them.

Photos above are of Mark Bennett, 42 years with Indiana [Department of Natural Resources](#), explaining how to identify plants and trees at a member's 10-acre property in September.

Linda Stemnock  
President



## Hillcrest Garden Club

Hillcrest Garden Club members participated in their Civic Day at [Random Acts of Flowers](#) in December. Members shown here: Jo Plant, Yas Matsumoto, Karen Query, Nancy Coyle, Dinah Montgomery, Kathy White, Mary Holland, Jill Gonzales, Judy Wilson, and new member, Judy Hall.



## Come Into The Garden Club

December was the Come Into The Garden Club's annual Holiday Gathering at the home of member Sandy Higginbotham where members and a guest celebrated the holiday with a delicious pitch-in dinner and participated in a lively ornament exchange game. It was a Joyous evening of fun and fellowship! Exciting January plans are to attend this new and first time event, Plant Swap w/Bonus Workshops of the year, on Saturday the 25th at Morgan County's old Hall Elementary School benefitting the Hall Civic Association.



[www.gardenclubofindiana.org](http://www.gardenclubofindiana.org)

Submitted by Laura Kearby  
*President*

## Friendly Garden Club

Because of our continued growth and to help all better understand our community involvement, the Friendly Garden Club will begin April 2025 with a dedicated meeting to review Committee and Member Involvement.

We have our Plant Auction scheduled for May and our Make/Bake/Sew/Grow Auction for November. In June, our beloved Kerry Cates, will open her gardens for a tour and luncheon meeting. Other monthly activities planned are a Flower Arrangement presentation, Pot Luck with a Canning presentation, tour of Harrison House, Bee presentation by Dr Jerry Zimmerman, Monarch Butterfly presentation by Monica Paul, and a presentation by the Historical Herb Society in February 2026.

Our Holiday Luncheon in December will kick-off our Season with joy and giving. We've also connected with a Sister Club, Hendricks County Garden Club, to have a shared pot luck at a local park.

Our next year is full of gatherings, learning, a Memorial, giving, and fellowship. We, so, enjoy each other's friendship and hope to grow closer next year.

Submitted by Mark McNabb  
*President*



## Vale of Paradise Garden Club



Vale of Paradise Garden Club had a lovely Christmas lunch out as a group. November was our last formal meeting.

January we will have a table at the [Port County Master Gardeners Garden Show](#). It's held at the Porter County Expo Center. It's also our annual membership drive with a raffle basket to raise money for Scholarships.

We are now doing the behind the scenes work of garden club: planning programs, working on the budget. Our biggest plan for the year will be the preparation for the celebration of our club's 50th Anniversary as a club.



# North West District

## **Crown Point Garden Club**

This year, the pollinator garden planted over 500 early Spring Blooming bulbs with the help of the Boy Scouts in November. The club also purchased over 85% of the necessary supplies to irrigate the garden in the future saving the members having to drag garden hoses when the gardens needs watering.

The club had a successful Meals on Wheels flower arrangement meeting in October with a generous \$500 flowers donation from Strack and VanTils supermarket. It allowed us to make over 70 floral arrangements for those receiving meals, as well as the volunteers who deliver them.

In the past two years, our club has welcomed 21 new members! They have formed a membership committee to help introduce and welcome each new members and show them how they can participate actively in the club.

## **Duneland Garden Club**

The Duneland Garden Club created a relationship with the Gabis Arboretum to prune non-deciduous trees and shrubs for the Chesterton downtown holiday planters. Additionally, 80 boxwoods were transplanted from Brinca Cross Gardens and were replanted by a few members and husbands at Thomas Centennial Park. Several members also scraped and painted the gazebo at the same park. In November, members spent four days filling 20 planters and 20 hanging baskets for the holidays in downtown Chesterton. December saw us make cookie trays for the Westchester meals for the homebound residents. For the holidays, the club will be holding a potluck luncheon. The president has

prepared 10 raffle baskets for members. Members received tickets throughout the year based on participation in club activities. Some members have 100 participation tickets!

## **Hobart Garden Club**

The Hobart Garden Club received 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$50 for their National Garden Club Week Activities from the Central Region.

The club also played Halloween Bingo with 30 seniors at the Maria Rhiner Center. They collected underwear, socks and t-shirts for the Kiwanis Christmas giveaway. The club decorated 9 trees at the Hobart Chamber of Commerce. The club will host picture with Santa there as well. The club plans to decorate the Hobart Historical Society inside and out with information about the club.

The club applied for the ESPOMA grant and several awards offered through TGCI and NGC. It also contributed to the TGCI Scholarship, land trust and civic development.

The Hobart Garden Club finished the year with its annual Christmas party.

## **Munster Garden Club**

In the fall, the club had a table at the Monarch Festival where we handed out membership materials and had a craft for children to make.

Nine members traveled to Marion Indiana for the Wildflower Workshop, as well as attended the district meeting.

In September, the town of Munster gave the Munster Garden Club a proclamation appreciating all the civic projects we have completed in town.

*(Continued on page 36)*

# Taking a Closer Look at... Crown Point Garden Club



**C**rown Point Garden Club was organized on August 13, 1929 and Federated on January 1, 1933. Their motto /conservation pledge has always been: *I give my pledge as an American, to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, it's soil and minerals, it's forests, waters and wildlife.*

**Q** Crown Point G.C. had an impressive increase in membership over the last few years. What has Crown Point done to attract these new members?

*Attracting members for us has been a huge team effort. There are several different strategies we are using. Some ideas we're using are:*

*1. Fun. When talking to anyone, we've strived to show the fun side of what we do. Times have changed to a lot of households needing to have a two income earners. So, instead of asking people to come join us to do the "work" of the Community, we showing how friendships develop by working outside with each other and also pointing out that we can turn anything into a reason to get together for a*

*lunch, cocktail or impromptu garden walk among friends!*

*2. We work hard to have Seminars at each meeting that can help drive the public into our meetings. Trying to find Speakers is a huge task but when we stopped asking our members for Speakers they wanted to listen too and asked "What topic do you want to learn about?" We got and still get tons of ideas to try and point us in the direction of a fun or educational speaker.*

*3. Door hangers, business cards and pamphlets that all have club info on it. When and where we meet every month, where our gardens are, our next Fundraiser date they need to know about and they have QR codes (generated by free websites online) that direct people to our Facebook page and website. The door hangers are dropped off to homes congratulating them on how beautiful their garden looks on behalf of our club. The business cards are passed around at local nurseries, people we meet,*

*(Continued on page 35)*

our local Library. Pamphlets are passed out also as needed. Especially at our Mothers Day Fundraiser when people are paying for plants. We talk our club up and let them see how we brought snacks too and how we make a party out of it.

4. When we get guests at our meetings, they are never ignored! We introduce ourselves to them, make sure they feel welcome to stay and come to as many meetings as they want without joining, enjoy the free snacks and beverage provided. If they pay dues and join, we make sure to follow up with them and walk them through what we do, ask them if they have any special interests that we can point them towards. Are they more interested in growing herbs, are they into houseplants, raised bed gardening? Because we can point them to a member who probably has the same interest.

**Q** What advice would Crown Point G.C. offer to other clubs about attracting and keeping new members?

Use one Social Media platform to help advertise. If you want younger members it's a necessary tool to show what your club does. In addition to the flyers and business cards, we post on facebook regularly. We share pictures of what our gardens look like, a garden joke or a related article by another Facebook Page. We create a FB "Event" for every meeting and Fundraiser so the public sees them come up in their feed. Its easy to do and can be done by someone if they are not in the position to be able to dig or pull weeds as it can be done from the comfort of your chair. Once you get the public in your meetings and they're joining, you follow up with them. Send them an email or a phone call. Discuss their interests and see if you can point them to another fellow member who shares the same passion. Whether its



houseplants, raised beds, growing seeds, a pollinator garden. That way they're making friends, because isn't it easier to walk in a room where you know someone then a room full of strangers? When you walk into a garden club it's a room full of friends and that's what we strive for.

**Q** What was the highlight of Crown Point G.C.'s 2024?

To see how all of our efforts of advertising our Club is working. As the outgoing President of 2024 for me the highlight was to see guests at every single meeting. Some meetings, I can even boast that we had 6 guests attend and 4 joined!. So to see my fellow club members efforts pay off by getting almost 20 new members in 2 years? Definitely the highlight for us!

Submitted by Christine Graves  
President  
Crown Point GC

*(Continued from page 33)*

The club is presently planning to make membership a top priority in 2025, as we have seen our membership drop this past year.

In December, we once again entered a decorated tree in the Festival of Trees competition. This year our theme was Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle. Many members helped recover ornaments with things like old jewelry, buttons, thread spools and yarn. The club came in third place.

The club ended 2024, with a holiday party at Little Italy restaurant.

### **Vale of Paradise Garden Club**

It was a busy Fall at the Vale of Paradise Garden Club. We participated in the YMCA Senior Resource Day and also the YMCA Christmas sale.

The director of the Porter County Recycling and

Waste Reduction gave an informative presentation to the and at another meeting, we had a presentation on putting our gardens to rest for the winter.

Several members attended the Wildflower workshop in Marion and we hosted the district Fall meeting at the Silo at the county park where we maintain four gardens.

The club made leaf castings for next year's plant sale, as well as decorated ornaments for the YMCA Christmas Market.

The club is now preparing for the January Porter County Master Gardener Garden Show where we will have table for a membership drive and also offer a raffle basket.

November was our last formal meeting for 2024.

By Mariellen Smith  
*North West District Director*



*Grow a Beautiful World  
by sharing your love of Gardens*

*Photo by David Zahrt*



# Central East District

Central East District held their annual meeting on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> this year. The theme was the *Color of Autumn*, and three professional florists. Becky Banks florist and member of **Twin City Garden Club**, Becky DeLong member of **Summitville Garden Club/Creative Hands Garden Club**, and Ruth Moorhead, Master Judge, a member of **Creative Hands/Garden Club of Marion** and Don Howlett, florist and employer of Becky DeLong was the other designer. Each did a different style and used different mechanics to hold the flowers and greens in place. It was a huge success! Following the program each design was sold, with one going all the way back to Indy to be placed at the front of an at church.

It was an “interesting” day as the district gave the “driver of Miss Jayne” a bottle of “Boos” to acknowledge his many miles traveled and his happy smile that he shares with all. Reports were given by all presidents followed by that president presenting, to Jayne Kesler, a check for Land Trust in support of her “Trees for Hope” project. A 15-minute workshop on how to make a budget, why, who to give copies of it to and when. Several presidents were pleased to get this correct information from the TGCI treasurer Cynthia Wright. A fun filled day was had by all, learning about project possibilities, meeting new people, spending money, and finally electing a new District Director!

A Wildflower Workshop and an annual meeting all within 2 months has been a successful challenge this year. It may be the reason all of my

hair is now gray.

A general report of all activities in the past 8 months. A flower show was successfully held by **Petal & Stem Garden Club**, multiple tours were taken of gardens, a sunflower field, a greenhouse, plant sales held, garden tours given, and different types of fundraisers were successful. The last one I know of was a public invitation to a Make-it, Take-It of holiday floral arrangements or wreaths from the club members greenery for \$15, offered by **Summitville Garden Club**. Three clubs have made fresh greens arrangements for the holidays. Soup luncheons, auctions of garden produce or results of their picking were sold, random items were sold at another as well as laughter. There were several meetings since the Wildflower Workshop and even one more plant sale or two. Forms have been filled out for awards, membership brochures and one club is filling out the form for a grant.

The clubs are always active in their communities, and I am always in awe of what can be accomplished by just a few hard-working members. I salute the clubs in the Central East District for all that they do, plans successfully accomplished and plans that are in progress. The members of this district work hard, play hard and continue to make a difference in their communities.

Happy Holiday Memories to all!!! I am missing you.

Joyce Bulington  
Central East District Director

# Taking a Closer Look at...

## Small Town Garden Club

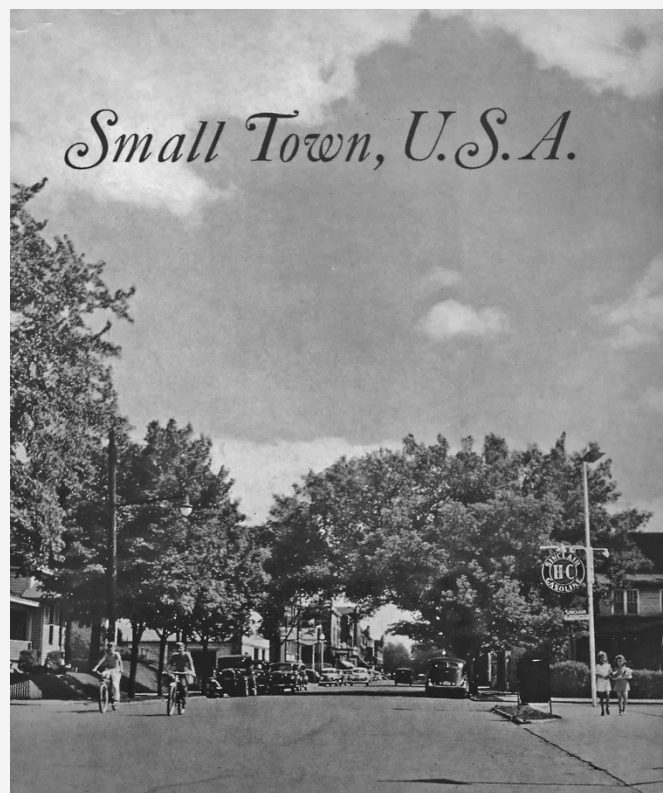
Small Town Garden Club of [Alexandria, Indiana](#) was formed in 2002 by three ladies: Michelle Rowland, Marilyn Lenhart, and Bonnie Carrell. We held our first meeting in June at the Alexandria Community Center on Harrison St. This became our new home, and the meetings are still held there on the first Monday of each month. We gather at 6:30pm with the program starting at 7:00 pm.

Our first order of business was to decide on a name. The history of the name is as follows. During WWII, the U.S. government was looking for a typical small town to show European Countries what the U.S. Looked like. Alexandria, In. was chosen as that typical town and were designated [Small Town USA](#) by the Federal Government. We decided that name would be our new garden club name. Then for the first meeting, we had a plant swap. In December 2003, we voted to join The Garden Club of Indiana.

We started with forty-three members that June. Pretty good for a new club in a very small town. For the July meeting we decided to have refreshments brought by volunteers. This gradually grew into a full meal and has stayed that way to this day.

Our Mission Statement is *"To encourage and promote interests in all aspects of gardening within our membership and throughout our community; To develop a love of growing plants in the hearts of children; To advocate sound environmental practices and conserve resources."*

Our club membership has become much older these past few years and it is difficult to do many of the



things we used to do for our community although we do sponsor the Liberty Christian youth garden club in Anderson. We also donate to Land Trust.

We have a *Baked Goods and Veggie* auction in late summer for our members and guests. It has become our yearly fundraiser.

We don't meet in January or February, so March is our kick-off month for the year, consequently our program manager is still in the planning process. We have four programs set up so far: *Iris*es – Bonnie Carrell has over 350 different irises at her home to see and choose from; *Lavender Uses* by Becky DeLong; *Baked Goods and Veggie Auction*; *Make Your Own Wreath* by Becky DeLong.

With our aging membership now, we concentrate on the monthly meetings and programs.

Submitted by Bonnie Carrell  
Charter member of Small Town GC

# Central District

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

## **Arbutus Garden Club**

In October, Arbutus held a meeting at the John Kirk furniture store (Pat Kirk is an Arbutus member). Where a designer, Nick Williams, demonstrated how to construct holiday decorations. At Central District Director Phyllis Grzeskowiak attended their November meeting to discuss table centerpieces 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 GC also had a speaker who talked about native Indiana trees. New officers for 2025-2027 have been voted in and installation will take place 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 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](#). 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 Benjamin Harris](#) 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 Friendly Garden Club and the Pittsboro Park Board 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*

*(Continued on page 40)*

(Continued from page 39)

*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 they 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 Saves the World* by member 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 Gardening](#) where the owner expertly explained with soilless aquaponics. Teresa Byington came to speak on *Putting the Garden*

*to Bed* in October. Their 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 North Harbor Garden 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 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. They enjoyed 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 two 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.

Phyllis Grzeskowiak  
Central District Director



# North Harbour Garden Club

Taking a Closer Look at...

**Q** When was North Harbour G.C. formed? Does your club have an objective?

*North Harbour Garden Club (NHGC) was formed in August 1983. Our by laws state: The NHGC objectives shall be to promote the knowledge and the love of gardening, the protection of our natural resources and the beautification of our community.*

**Q** What projects did North Harbour G.C. focus on during the past 10 years?

**A** *Planting and maintaining flowers at the two entrances of North Harbour along with adding a few trees and shrubs. Making donations to the underserved women in the community by donating to Prevail and The O'Connor House.*

**A** *The NHGC members work together to pot over 500 perennials from their own gardens or volunteer to separate plants for homeowners to add to our plant sale. Norma Minion has organized the sale for the past 17 years and we fill her driveway with plants. The plant sale is coordinated with our neighborhood garage sale during the first Friday and Saturday in May.*

**A** *Our secondary fundraiser is selling mulch to local homeowners and receiving a commission from the sales.*

**Q** What does North Harbour G.C. plan to focus on in 2025?

*We have not made a definite plans for 2025, but have discussed adding a bench for the playground area at the Banbury Park.*



Submitted by Gina Maddy  
President

# South East District

The South East District had a wonderful and informative Fall Meeting in September. There was a great turnout. A big Thank You to Sarah Nahmias and Give-n-Take for a beautiful day.



ALL THUMBS GARDEN CLUB did a very nice rededication of the South East District Blue Star in October after the club took care of moving the Blue Star to a better location. Thank you to all the clubs who donated to the relocation. Also in October, they had a meeting on Invasive Plants at Muscatatuck. November was a class on Winter Microgreens. December was a Christmas Brunch.

CULTIVATING GARDEN CLUB had a meeting on Identifying and Controlling Harmful Insects in October. November was a meeting on New Varieties of Plants tested by All American Selection

and December was a Holiday Celebration.

FAYETTE GARDEN CLUB went to Turtle Orchard in Greenfield in October for a tour and had lunch at the Sweet Shop. In November they learned how to make Wired Ribbon Bows. The year ended with a Christmas lunch and fellowship.

FLOWER LANE GARDEN CLUB had a Decorating Pumpkin class in October. November was a class at the local Public Library to learn about the libraries' Seed Exchange. December was a lunch and white elephant gift exchange at Batar Restaurant.

MUDLARKS GARDEN CLUB had an interesting meeting in October on "the plant that put zip in our beer" by a local hops grower. November was a Wreath Making Workshop. December was a Christmas Celebration time.

TERRACE GARDEN CLUB had a meeting on Invasive Plants done by a local Master Gardener in October. The speaker in November was unable to come to the club meeting but the club had some good discussions. They even discussed changing their meeting to Saturday during the day to help with not having to drive at night and for people who work. December was a pitch-in inviting possible new members. They also brought items for the nursing home.

By Diane Hurless  
*South East District Director*

**Is your club doing a Garden Walk in 2025?  
Let Indiana Gardens know!**

# Taking a Closer Look at... **N**ight Bloomers Garden Club

**N**ight Bloomers Garden Club was formed and federated in 1999. It was the result of bringing together a group of people in the Decatur County area who had an interest in joining a garden club but were working and unable to participate in the other Greensburg's Give un Take Garden Club. Emily Shireman was a key force in the club's formation. Sarah Nahmias was also part of that team, but intentionally did not join the club until a later date in order that the new members could establish their own identity and path to take. The Give un Take GC sponsored and mentored the young club as it wrote its bylaws and rules to be admitted to The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

The unique and special people who came together initially will forever be interwoven in the fabric of the club whose members do not stand much on formality but share a desire to learn and to do some good within the community. For many years the club's civic project was maintaining a garden at The Point near the old fire station which is a heavily traveled intersection and highly visible.

The meetings proved appealing to new members in their brevity and in their convenience of being held in the evening. The club has always been lower in its profile but very open to new members and evolution of its conduction as it evolved with time

In recent years the members of Night Bloomers have taken a hard look at its priorities and faced the challenge of finding relevant topics and presenters within a modest budget and the



challenge of finding officers etc. that many TGCI clubs have faced. Collectively, the eleven current members decided to have each member take charge of a month and plan the entire meeting, including location, topic or activity, and any other delights, such as refreshments. This has proven to be a life saver as members worked together to bring each of their styles to freshen meetings and renew interest. It seems to be working as this shared ownership has resulted in better attendance and a comradery that is stronger. It also fostered an attitude of "no grumping" when someone had conflicts and had to miss a meeting!

Submitted by Emily Steele & Sarah Nahmias  
*Night Bloomers Garden Club*

# South West District

Serving as the South West District Director for the last few years has been an honor and privilege. All the memories and people I have met and had the opportunity to work with has been a blessing. Attending different Club meetings, meeting new people and learning how others do things have been a boon to my consistent quest for knowledge.

**BOONVILLE** — The annual Christmas tree Decorating contest at the museum was a success, their tree was done in a garden theme. The Community and High School clubs are invited to use the scenery for picture backdrop. They have a full slate for new officers. They also enjoyed a lovely Christmas/fellowship meeting where the donations were donated for children's delinquent lunch accounts.

**CHRISTMAS LAKE VILLAGE** — This just might be the busiest time of the year. The club helps answer letters from around the world that want letters postmarked Santa Claus Land. They help with the lights and making sure Santa & Mrs. Santa make an appearance. They also hosted cookies and cocoa at Rudolph's village.

**NEW HARMONY** — This is the 3rd or 4th year that they have met and made Holiday Swags for the Historic Buildings in New Harmony. At a workday they winterized the gardens and then went for coffee and fellowship. They installed a new

president in the spring.

**PETERSBURG** took a field trip to Family Roots to see Christmas plants and decorations. They also went to Huntingburg for exploration. They held pitch-in Christmas Lunch and fellowship.

**PRINCETON** — The club has been very active at [Lyle's Station](#) helping bring more life to this Historical town of South West Indiana. Their work has helped bring knowledge to the youth and community. Always maintaining regular garden spots.

**WASHINGTON** took a field trip to a Walnut Grove a local couple spent more than 10 years developing. They purchased 100 trees each year, the most recent were planted 5 years ago, he said probably have 875 of the original 1000 planted. A Daviess County Master Gardener shared about growing special gourds that turn into loafahs. She explained the process and offered seeds to all those that want to try their hand at growing. No one wants to be an officer SO I introduced a new position, "Conductress". A different Member signed up for each month next year. This position will call the meeting to order, lead the pledge of allegiance, and lead the club collect. (In my mind this is "President in Training".)

Submitted by Linda Cornelius  
South West District Director



*Taking a Closer Look at...* **C**ome into  
the Garden Club



**C**ome into the Garden Club (CITGC) was organized in 1939 in the town of Mooresville, Indiana (even though we had then and currently have members from the surrounding communities) and was federated into the Central West District (CWD) of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc (TGCI) in 1946. The meeting day was originally on the third Wednesday of the month in the early afternoon. The club motto was and is *“A Dogwood Tree in Every Lawn in Mooresville.”*

Our club flower is the Snapdragon even though in the last decade or so, as our membership has aged, we have jokingly referred to ourselves as The Forget-Me-Nots. Luckily, much of our club’s history has been preserved at the Mooresville Public Library in the Indiana Room and as we discover more information and history about the club we continue to add to that collection.

Membership started out small and grew over the years to thirty plus members with a waiting list, but due to lifestyle changes (many of us had to return to the workforce) and aging we are now once again a small group and we developed into an evening meeting club. Due to our

current membership, we meet more as a casual group where we visit our members’ gardens, plan programs on a wide variety of subjects following the full spectrum of TGCI Mission presented by one of our members and take opportunities as they arise to tour public gardens, visit gardening related centers, and attend educational programs.

Over the many years our club has actively participated in numerous local civic development projects (plantings and maintenance at local parks, library and town) and community events (Civil War Re-Enactment, Victorian Christmas and even expanding to decorating at the Lily Pavilion in Indianapolis), initiated the placement of a Blue Star By-Way Marker at Pioneer Park, hosted annual Plant Sales and Flower Shows, supported local 4H groups, sponsored new Clubs and Junior Garden Clubs and our members have chaired and participated in many CWD and TGCI events - just to name a few of our many endeavors.

We strive to meet the future following the same objectives as we have in the past with a focus on growing with the changing times and promoting new membership.

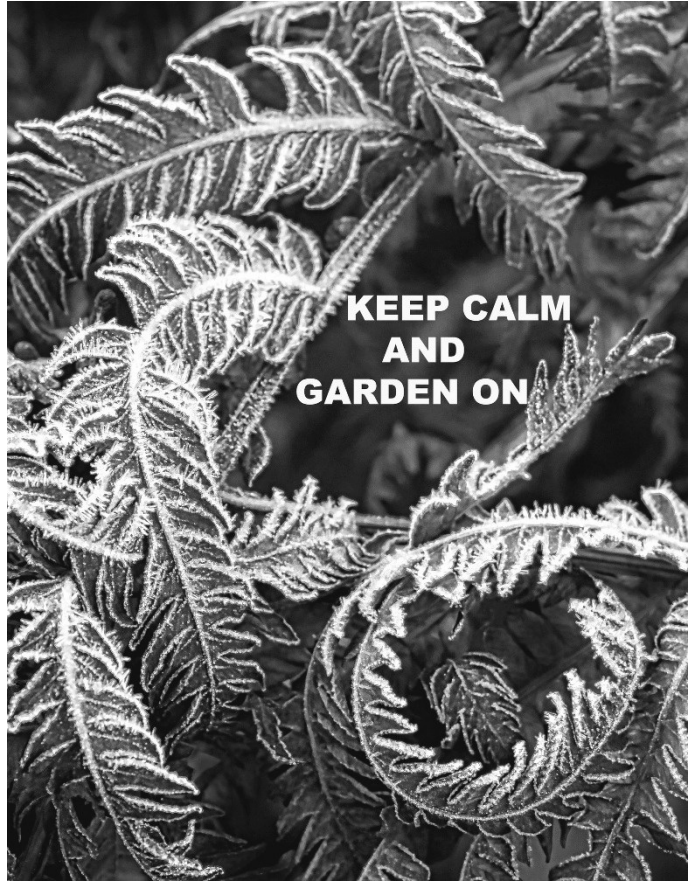
Submitted by Laura Kearby  
*President*

A species on the brink of extinction safe from development in Indiana

(Continued from page 4)

as California. In cases like Larimer Fen, CILTI can hold onto a property until the state can free up funds to purchase it for long-term protection.

“Even though the site will never be open to the public, I believe saving part of our natural heritage increases overall quality of life in Indiana. It’s wonderful to know that places like this still exist in 2024, and we were fortunate to put a deal together fast enough to buy the land, ensuring that the state wouldn’t end up with development that would wipe out the endangered species,” Chapman said.



**PUT YOUR PLANS IN PLACE FOR 2025 AND APPLY  
BEV KELVER ARBOR AWARD**

An award of \$100.00 and a Certificate of Award will be given when merited, to the club with the most outstanding tree program. Additional awards of \$50.00 may be given on occasional years when funding permits.

**Requirements:**

1. Submit an application form (see Award Rules).
2. Include photographs, financial statement, project summary, publicity, and number of trees planted.
3. Project work to be from January through November of current year, however, it may show evidence of a continuing project.
4. No club may win this award two consecutive years.

**Scale of Points for Judging:**

Number of trees planted by club members on private property	10 pts
Number of trees planted and significance of club planting projects on public grounds	45 pts
Most significant Arbor Day Service	35 pts
Tree planting and/or environmental education programs with youth	<u>10 pts</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 pts</b>

A committee of three (3) members, including the **State Trees Chairman**, shall be appointed by the State President to judge the applications. Application form (see Awards Rules) is to be sent to the **State Trees Chairman** by **December 1**.

## PRESIDENT'S PROJECT 2023-2025

# PLANT TREES FOR HOPE

**C**limate change and the warming planet threaten our way of life. Carbon dioxide, the primary driver of global warming, has played a crucial role in shaping our Earth's climate.








"As an efficient, inexpensive source of carbon capture, trees can be a major part of the solution to mitigate the effects of climate change." (www.arborday.com)

Trees can be the solution to support communities providing calming canopies and a sense of well-being; trees can provide hundreds of species which nurtures biodiversity for forests, and they can absorb carbon dioxide and produced approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per tree per year. (Utah Forest Facts: "Trees and Climate Change" by Megan Dettenmaier, Michael Kuhns, Bethany Unger, Darren McAvoy)

With increasing concern about climate change, Jayne Kesler chose **Plant Trees for Hope** as her President's Project to challenge The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. clubs to take a part in providing Hope by Planting Trees.

Lucy Larcom captures it by saying, "He who plants a tree, plants a hope."

### General Guidelines:

-  Provide an actual in-kind value donation of at least \$100 by the sponsoring club for the project. This could be from the club treasury or be a labor or material donation from an outside party.
-  Plant in a public space or private property dedicated to public use.
-  Define how the tree will benefit the public and site.
-  Explain why the particular location was chosen and what significance does it hold.
-  Host a public "Tree Dedication" coinciding or coordinated with Arbor Day or any other public educational program.
-  Acknowledge The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. as a sponsor and partner in all events, articles, promotional and print materials.
-  Provide and explain on-going tree maintenance and public educational programs on tree issues and care.



**PLANT TREES FOR HOPE**

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Tax EIN \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Title of person submitting grant application \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tree (native species preferred) \_\_\_\_\_

Nurseries/Businesses/other Organizations involved \_\_\_\_\_

Club in-kind donation (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount requested (up to \$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Tree placement – where & why (significance/benefit/visibility) \_\_\_\_\_

Correlation to promotion of overall club/district/state organization mission \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication/Public Event(s) held/planned \_\_\_\_\_

Education programs (organization & public) held/planned \_\_\_\_\_

On-going maintenance plans \_\_\_\_\_

Member involvement \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement of TGCI \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information (please provide as much information as possible to assure your serious consideration for this grant) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach copies of receipts, photos, publicity, other verification

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. reserves the right to review or reject any application deemed ineligible. Decision of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. is final. This organization does not discriminate against any person based upon race, gender, age or sexual preference.

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Rita Hummel 317-875-8388 rithum1970@comcast.net

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