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Central District Director  
Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Indianapolis, IN  
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Madame Vice President:

This is my last Central District Director Report for my 2023-2025 term. It has been an honor to work with the garden clubs in Central District. As always, they never cease to amaze with the wide range of speakers and activities in their clubs.

### **Arbutus Garden Club**

Arbutus Garden Club members have an exciting array of programs on their upcoming calendar. They have a speaker from Holeman Landscaping talking about Using Native Plants in your garden.

They also have speakers talking about Botanical Artwork and Bonsai Plants from the Herron School of Art, and a speaker talking about Dahlias from the IMA.

They also have some other programs planned that sound interesting: Anne-Marie's UPick Flowers in Zionsville, Winter Bulbs and trip to Holcomb Gardens

### **Broad Ripple Garden Club**

After a lovely holiday luncheon in Dec, Broad Ripple Garden Club opened 2025 with a planning meeting in Feb.

A last-minute speaker cancellation caused the club to elicit a couple of members to speak at the March meeting. They were

treated to one member's exploits of her time with the CIA post war, & another member brought her needlework that was more like art work!

New officers were installed in April during a very nice luncheon at Crooked Stick Golf Club. The club has donated \$400 to purchase and plant two trees at Crown Hill Cemetery. They continue to maintain the gardens at the Blue Star Memorial in Carmel and will again maintain their donated Plant America planter at Nora Library.

### **Fall Creek Garden Club**

Fall Creek Garden Club is ready for the new gardening season! In January they met for lunch and planning for the next year. In February, their topic was Healthy Posture for Gardeners. In March, it was all about attracting butterflies to their gardens. They also welcomed some new officers who will begin their roles in April. They have an exciting array of other programs planned for the coming year.

### **Ft. Benjamin Blossoms**

Fort Benjamin Blossoms enjoyed a program from Scott Yelich from Eagle Creek Bonsai. He presented a program on Bonsai Art and did an actual planting and pruning of a bonsai tree. Also in April, several of their members will be attending the Annual State Convention.

Their May meeting will be a Progressive Luncheon. Also on May 8 is their annual plant sale at the Ft Harrison YMCA, Lee Road.

June is National Garden Week, so their club, along with Shamrock, will be presenting a program at the Lawrence Library entitled Native Fruit and Nut Trees: Show and Tell and Taste. Dr. Kris Heeter, Biologist at Indiana University will be presenting the program.

### **Friendly Garden Club**

Friendly Garden Club will be "growing, learning and sharing" in many directions throughout their 2025-26 year. These events include programs on Flower Arranging; Monarchs; Bees; Asian Gardens; Winter Sowing; and Medicinal Presentation. They will continue to provide support to their local Brownsburg Public Library (BPL), via outdoor planters, gazebo garden and their BPL community Seed Library.

They will be supporting their club with a spring plant sale (open to the community of perhaps, NEW Friendly friends). This will happen as they await the arrival of their Blue Star Memorial plaque and October dedication ceremony. Friendly does have some "seeding" ideas for this year which may bloom as they move to warmer weather.

### **Green Thumb Garden Club**

The members of Green Thumb Garden Club are really excited about the libraries seed exchange program. Many planned to bring seeds to share and others were going to help pack the seeds.

### **Hillcrest Garden Club**

The club held its Reorganization Meeting and Installation of new officers in April. They will have speakers Jeff Stant, recently retired from the Indiana Forest Alliance. IFA works for the protection of forests including urban forests crucial to Indy and Indiana quality of life and Deb McClure-Smith from Good Earth on Bach Flower Remedies. Deb will discuss 38 wildflowers that positively affect health/emotional balance.

Also, field trips are planned to Eagleson Meadows Gardens in Sheridan, IN., Harvest Day at Newfields and a trip to Meltzer Woods.

### **Irvington Garden Club**

Members of Irvington Garden Club enjoy a full calendar of activities and speakers.

Invasive Plant Removal, Common Gardening Mistakes, Irrigation Systems and Water Saving Techniques are just a few of the great programs Irvington members will enjoy. Their Plant Sale, Garden Walk and Farmer's Market always draw crowds.

### **North Harbor Garden Club**

The North Harbour Garden Club begins their year with several fundraisers: a Spring mulch sale and perennial plant sale. They usually sell over 500 perennial plants during the first weekend in May. Also, during May they plant flowers at the two entrances of their subdivision.

The club enjoyed a catered Italian dinner, planning meeting and induction of officers at their first meeting in March. Cathy Weber was the guest speaker on Monarch Butterflies and lead a ceremony for the induction of officers.

Multiple field trips are planned for 2025:

Blatchley Spring Wildflower Walk, tour of Heartland Growers, tour of the Holcomb Gardens at Butler University and a tour of Crown Hill Cemetery.

This year they will again donate \$150 and gift cards to the O'Conner House to support single, young mothers.

### **Sages Garden Club**

Sages Garden Club kicked off its last meeting of the fiscal year with a wonderful presentation by Mary Huber of the Eastern Bluebird Society. They were able to purchase five birdhouses from the society to help Indiana's bluebird population right in their own yards! They look forward to starting their service projects at Hope House, the OrthoIndy YMCA pollinator garden, and Hope Center.

## **Shamrock Garden Club**

Their February 2025 meeting participated in a Zoom meeting presented by Coletta Kosiba entitled "The Winter Garden: Looking at Structures and Plans in the Winter Garden". During their March 2025 meeting, they hosted Cathy Weber who presented her program "Milkweeds and Monarchs" to the group. The club also recognized long standing members of the Shamrock Garden Club with certificates of participation and appreciation. As an initiative to create interest and recruitment to potentially increase club membership, they also discussed and reviewed at the March meeting the design and verbiage of book marks they intend to distribute to the public.

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