

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

# Indiana Gardens



June Vol. 88 Number 3 - 2025



2025-2027


[National Garden Clubs Inc](#)

President: Donna Donnelly  
 4494 McCords Ferry Rd  
 Elloree, South Carolina 29047-9781  
 843-864-7594  
 Email: dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org  
 Theme: PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 years!


[NGC Central Region](#)

Director: Rene Lynch  
 112109 Haering Circle  
 Chaska MN 55318  
 (home) 952-361-6393 (cell) 612-207-1797  
 Email: reneclynch@aol.com  
 Theme- Plant America: Progress is Possible


[The Garden Club of Indiana Inc.](#)

State President: Wanda Zahrt  
 1401 East 100N  
 Winamac IN 46996-8601  
 (home) 574-946-6547 (cell) 574-270-8067  
 Email: gardenclub.zahrt@gmail.com  
 Theme: Plant America with Natives

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Cover Photo: *President Emeritus Jayne Kessler with National Garden Clubs' Highest Award photo by Sue Yoder.*

**Next Indiana Gardens Deadline: July 1st**

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



## Letter from the President

As I am working on this newsletter, I am looking out at the vibrant blooms of the redbud trees along the bank of the Tippecanoe River. Spring has arrived for me with the blooming red buds and a family of Geese with three little goslings—a sure sign that spring is here. I am motivated to get started with my Plant America with Natives incentive. If you checked my display at the convention, I would encourage you to start small using the Pollinator Pocket as a guide. Looking forward to hearing how you are incorporating the natives in your civic projects and your home gardens.

I hope you observed Arbor Day and planted a native Indiana tree- a Serviceberry, a Hackberry, or even a Pawpaw. The Serviceberry supports a variety of pollinators, including honeybees, bumble bees, other native bees, butterflies, and moths. The Hackberry tree serves as host for butterfly larva and the fruit feeds cedar waxwings, mockingbirds, and robins. The Pawpaw tree supports the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly larva. This appears as if we are still on trees, however while we wait for the earth to warm-up to germinate our native wildflower seeds, we can enjoy the flowering and fruit bearing native Indiana trees.

A huge 'THANK YOU' to Central District's Phyllis Grzeskowiak, Cathy Weber, and Cynthia Wright. So much planning and attention to detail came together in a well-organized, informative,



and fun convention. To make it extra special we honored the National Garden Club President, Donna Donnelly at the president's banquet.

I am getting my travel plans on my calendar starting with the National Garden Club convention in Charleston, SC in May. Back in Indiana, I will have attended an Arbor Day tree dedication and been invited to a picnic in the park in July. I am looking forward to more visits and adventures.

*WB Zahrt*



# NGC Convention: Hoosiers Honored with National Garden Clubs' Highest Award

In a stunning surprise at the 2025 National Garden Clubs Inc. Convention Awards Banquet, The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. was awarded the NGC Award of Excellence!

TGCI's 2023-2025 President, Jayne Kesler thought she was sitting at the head table because Carrie Tauscher of Crown Hill Foundation - Crown Hill Cemetery Arboretum was being awarded the NGC Non-Member Award of Excellence. But, after that presentation, NGC Awards of Excellence Chair, Sue Minor, surprised Jayne and our entire Indiana contingent at the Convention, by announcing our win for the Award of Excellence - NGC's highest award. Wow!

TGCI was specifically honored for our 2023-2025 President's Project - Plant Trees for Hope, and our "LEAF a legacy - plant trees" collaboration with the Central Indiana Land Trust and Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This project resulted in the planting of 20,000 trees in the 32 acres adjacent to the Big Walnut Nature Reserve (a National Natural Landmark) in Putnam County, IN. Our State Land Trust Chair, Sarah Nahmias spearheaded the project. Kudos Sarah!

Carrie Tauscher, Arboretum Director at [Crown Hill Foundation](#) Cemetery in Indianapolis received the Non-Member Award of Excellence. Tauscher's nomination was sponsored by The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc, and is the highest NGC non-member award given



to an individual, organization or institution that has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of goals and purposes of National Garden Clubs.

Read the entire Press Release Here: <https://gardenclubofindiana.org/tgci-press-releases/>

It was a wonderful evening for The Garden Club of Indiana! Thank you to all of our clubs across the state for all you do in your communities.

By Susan Yoder

*Above left: NGC Awards of Excellence Chair Sue Minor presenting the award to TGCI 2023-2025 President Jayne Kesler. Above center: TGCI 2025-2027 President Wanda Zahrt, NGC Non-member Award of Excellence Winner, Carrie Tauscher, TGCI 2023-2025 President Jayne Kesler, NGC Awards of Excellence Chair Sue Minor. Above right: TGCI 2023-2025 President Jayne Kesler with the award certificate.*



# 2025 National Garden Clubs Inc. Convention



May 18-22, 2025  
North Charleston,  
South Carolina





# Happy National Garden Week!

June 2-8 2025



*Hillcrest Garden Club President Dinah Montgomery presents Jena Mattix, Branch Manager of the Glendale Public Library, the NGC National Garden Week proclamation which was displayed with the seed display in the library.*



National Garden Week is an opportunity to share your club's love of gardening with others, encouraging pride within your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts. [Start planning with your club for next year!](#)

## Suggestions for 2026

- 🌱 Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden, or garden center.
- 🌱 Sponsor a hands-on "How Do You Select Flowers/Shrubs for Your Garden" workshop at an area nursery.
- 🌱 Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- 🌱 Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden. This would be a good opportunity to work with other groups.
- 🌱 Place a plant or flower arrangement at public facilities, along with one of the beautiful National Garden Week posters.



STATE OF INDIANA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
INDIANAPOLIS

Executive Order

# PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS, gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants, and the riches of their efforts; and
- WHEREAS, gardeners seek to add beauty, splendor, fragrance, and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage, flowers; and
- WHEREAS, gardeners work to preserve our county's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through hard work: and advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small, that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and
- WHEREAS, gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our lives, teaches that rewards can come from diligent efforts; and
- WHEREAS, gardening enables members of Garden Clubs across the nation and the world to make a world of difference in the communities where they reside and work;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Braun, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim June 1-7, 2025 as

## NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

*In Testimony Whereof, I hereto  
set my hand and cause to be affixed the  
Great Seal of State. Done at the  
City of Indianapolis, this 1st  
day of April the year of our  
Lord 2025 and of the Independence  
of the United States 248.*



BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Mike Braun*



# Awards



Awards presented at The Garden Club of Indiana  
93rd Annual State Convention, April 9, 2025

[The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. 2024 Awards Summary](#)



Awards presented at the National Garden Club Convention,  
May 18-22, 2025

**SR-1 Award of Excellence – Non Garden Club Member**  
Carrie Tauscher

**SR-2 Award of Excellence**

State Project - "Plant Trees for Hope"  
The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

**NGC Katherine Henby Heldly Scholarship**  
Daniel Foltz



*Award of Commendation*

*(1st in size category, but not overall winner)*

**CE-4-A – Roadside Development – Medium Club**  
Duneland Garden Club (NW)

**CE-9-Community Enhancement Historical Restoration - Large Club**  
Munster Garden Club (NW)



**EC -1-3-small -Environment & Conservation Promotion Activities**  
The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

**MAE – 1-1 Membership Awareness & Promotion – Medium Club**  
Hendricks County Garden Club (CW)

**MAE- 4-D-3 Small State – Newsletter**  
The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.



**MAE- 4- Small State – any other – e-booklet of TGCI poetry winners**  
The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

**MAE- 4-D-medium club – any other E-booklet of HCGC poetry winners**  
Hendricks County Garden Club (CW)





**MAE – 5-2 group National Garden Week**  
Shamrock and Ft. Benjamin Blossoms Garden Clubs

*Certificate in Appreciation for Award Participation*

**CE -2-1 Community Enhancement Permanent Improvement -Medium Club**  
Crown Point Garden Club (NW)

**CE-5-B-1 Beautification Project – Small Club**  
Hobart Garden Club (NW)

**CE-7 -1 – Blue Star/Gold Star Landscaping – Medium Club**  
Hendricks County Garden Club (CW)

**G-3-1-Small – Garden Therapy- Small Club**  
Shamrock Garden Club (C)

**MAE – 1-1 Membership Awareness & Promotion – Small Club**  
Hobart Garden Club (NW)

**MAE – 2 – A -1 Medium Club– Website**  
Crown Point Garden Club (NW)

**MAE -5-1 Small club National Garden Week**  
Hobart Garden Club (NW)

**MAE -5 -2 Medium Club National Garden Week**  
Hendricks County Garden Club (CW)

**Poetry K – Special Needs**

1 st : Allison M., Hobart Garden Club

K - 3 rd t : Leo R, Hobart Garden Club

1st 1 st : Audrey S., Hobart Garden Club

6 th 2 nd : Allena R, ; Mudlarks Garden Club

7 th HM Emma B., Hendricks County Garden Club

10 th - Special Needs 1 st Clifton T., Hobart Garden Club

11 th 3 rd Jerral M., Hobart Garden Club

11 th – Special Needs 1 st : Caiden C., Hobart Garden Club

12 th 1 st : Jonathan D., Hobart Garden Club

Sculpture 6th HM Josiah S. Hobart Garden Club

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster 2nd Central Region David L., Hobart Garden Club



# What's Up



## **Central Region Convention**

In fall, we are planning the Central Region Convention October 28—30, 2025. The plan is to have the convention at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Our plan is to make this a convention to welcoming to your spouse too. The Osthoff resort is located on Elkhart Lake and includes a spa. The rooms are 1 or 2 bedroom suites with kitchen facilities in the room. More information is coming soon. We will email the state presidents when a final program is ready. Information will be also posted on the [Central Region Website](#).

## **Garden Club Photography Contest**

There is a photography contest: Nature Is Imagination Itself. This is a photography contest for members of any federation garden club in the Central Region. Entries may be submitted from January 1, 2025 through August 1, 2025. Finalists in each category will be displayed at the CR Region Convention in October of 2025. Details of the contest can be found on the [Central Region Website](#).

## **Flower Show Symposium**

In addition to the above, we are very excited to announce that in addition to the Central Region Convention, Wisconsin will be hosting a Flower Show Symposium October 27-28, 2025. Many of you who are National Flower Show Judges need a Symposium to retain your credentials. These courses are primarily intended for Flower Show Judges to maintain their credentials, but all garden club members interested in learning more about flower shows, floral design and horticulture are encouraged to attend. We will be talking about Apples and Displays for Horticulture, Illuminary, and Reflective Designs and 'Picture This' for the Allied Topic. The Allied Topic will also be the opening topic for the Central Region Convention. This information is on the NGC website and the [Central Region Website](#).

By Lynne Ehnert  
Central Region Director

[www.ngccentralregion.com](http://www.ngccentralregion.com)





# Indiana natives making big comeback

## New TGCI President Launches “*Plant America – with Natives*” Initiative

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. new State President, Wanda Zahrt, announced the launch of her President’s Project, “*Plant America – With Natives.*” This new grant program is designed to provide funds to local garden clubs to plant native species in their communities and provide educational programs about the importance of using plants native to Indiana in their gardens.

The new grant initiative was announced during her acceptance speech at the TGCI 93rd Annual Convention on April 9, 2025. Zahrt explained her President’s Project was a complimentary program to the National Garden Clubs, Inc. PLANT AMERICA initiative.

Zahrt said, “I am honored to serve as the 50th President of The Garden Club of Indiana. There has been a growing interest in improving our ecosystems by replacing invasive species with plants that are native to the area. Our ecosystems benefit from native plants by stabilizing soil, filtering water, cleaning the air, and supporting pollinators and wildlife.”

Zahrt hopes that by establishing this grant

program, it will encourage more action.

Incoming NGC President Donna Donnelly remarked, “I’m excited to work with Wanda and the other State Presidents to broaden the reach of the National Garden Clubs PLANT AMERICA initiative and encourage communities in every state to “Plant America – For the Next 100 Years” – the theme of the 2025-2027 administration.” Local garden clubs can access information about the initiative and apply for grants on the TGCI website at [GardenClubofIndiana.org](http://GardenClubofIndiana.org).

Zahrt shared, “I’m looking forward to seeing all of the creative ideas local clubs develop to re-fill Indiana gardens with the native plants that have been here for centuries, and returning our state to a healthier ecosystem.”

Zahrt is currently working to providing funding for the project which will be distributed to clubs in the form of grants for planting native plants. “When I chose this theme, I had in mind flowers and grasses, however I need to include native shrubs and trees. I plan to have a listing of Midwest natives for the clubs to use.”

# Native shrubs for Indiana gardens

Native shrubs don't often get the same publicity and love as the native flowers do, but they often offer more than a summer's interest in our gardens. They are worth finding and growing. At a recent Fall Creek Garden Club meeting, I asked several members to tell me about their favorite native shrubs. It took a minute to think through which shrubs were native (no, not forsythia!), but we quickly came up with a list of five native shrubs.



**Spicebush**

Photo by Jason Hollinger

Becky Heck mentioned spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). Spicebush is known for its fragrant flowers in early spring. It's also a host plant for the larva (caterpillar) of the spicebush swallowtail butterfly. Because it is dioecious, with male and female flowers on separate plants, you'll need at least one male plant to go with any female plants for any fruit to form on the female plant.

Tess Park said her grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), has been forming a nice thicket in her garden. Grey dogwood is an excellent native shrub for a larger garden, and it doesn't mind growing in poor soil.

Once you see bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parvifolia*), the choice of our president Janet Stultz, you'll never forget it. There are some beautiful bottlebrush buckeyes, on the grounds of Newfields in Indianapolis, which demonstrate how big and showy this shrub can be.



Grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) provides shelter and food for Indiana native species

It is usually in full bloom in June and July with flowers that resemble bottle brushes.



**Witchhazel**

Photo by Eric Hunt

Sara Zeckel chimed in with witchhazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) another early blooming shrub. Though the flowers aren't showy, they do bloom very early—often in February in my own garden—and have a lovely fragrance. They need that fragrance to attract pollinators because the flowers aren't all that

showy.

Our vice-president, Gayle Sanders, added fothergilla to the list. *Fothergilla gardenii* is a nice smaller shrub if the size of some of the other native shrubs seems too big for your garden. It has white blooms in the spring and great fall leaf color.

A favorite shrub of mine that no one mentioned is the arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum Dentatum*). It produces blue berries in the fall, which birds will eat. You will need two plants, preferably two different named varieties, to get good fruit set. Although we often want to select the straight species when choosing native flowers

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12)



**Forthergilla gardenii**

*Photo by Lyonothamnus*

and shrubs, in some situations, choosing a named variety will help ensure we are selecting a plant that has been selected or bred to provide better flowers, foliage, or a more manageable size.

Also, as with many of our native flowers, some of these shrubs won't exactly be found growing in the wilderness where you garden, but all will be found east of the Mississippi River. That's close enough for me!

For more information, Purdue University has some excellent online publications with more information about native shrubs. The [Purdue University](#) website provides a list of native shrubs with great fall coloring. You can also check out the Purdue University [Arboretum Explorer](#) website for information on native shrubs and trees located there.

Finally, if you are at a local garden center or nursery and wondering if a plant is native, the Missouri Botanical Garden website has a large database of plant information. Just put in "name of shrub" and Missouri Botanical Garden as the search term, and you'll find everything you need to know about a shrub, including where it is native, before you buy it.

By Carol Michel  
*Reporter-at-large*

## Bird Town Indiana program moves to bi-annual certification



*Photo: Bird Town Indiana sign at Pollywog Pond in Ogden Dunes by Brad Bumgardner.*

Indiana Audubon is making updates to its Bird Town Indiana program to better support the communities we serve. Beginning April 1, 2025, both new and current Bird Towns will transition from annual certification to a two-year recertification cycle. This change is designed to make the program more accessible and sustainable for towns, cities, and campuses—especially those that require collaboration across multiple departments or committees, which often need more time to coordinate and implement long-term, bird-friendly actions.

With this new structure:

- Initial certification for new Bird Towns will be \$200.
- Existing Bird Towns will pay a \$100 recertification fee every two years.

While initial certification is an important milestone, Indiana Audubon emphasizes ongoing community involvement in creating and sustaining bird-friendly environments. The extended certification cycle encourages a deeper, more sustained commitment to actions that benefit birds and their habitats over time. It also gives communities more flexibility to build on their previous efforts, document continued progress, and foster local partnerships that support both birds and people.

Questions? Email Whitney Yoerger, Indiana Audubon's communications and outreach manager, at [wyoerger@indianaaudubon.org](mailto:wyoerger@indianaaudubon.org).



Just Joyce

# The Magic of Marigolds

Let me start at the beginning of my story. My grandmothers and aunts all grew Marigolds. I was not impressed, they were short, and they were orange, and they also smelled funny.

I did not plant them when we moved into our forever home, why would I? However, last week I bought 2 flats of those stinky flowers again. Why? Let me tell you.

In my travels around the state, I became an excellent "Lawn Looker". It was early fall and there I was attending a district meeting at a southern Indiana country club. We pulled into the parking lot facing the golf course entrance and I was stunned. This entrance was large enough for two golf carts to enter side by side. There was an ornate arch hovering over the pathway and lo and behold, right before my eyes, I changed my outlook on those short orange "old lady" flowers.

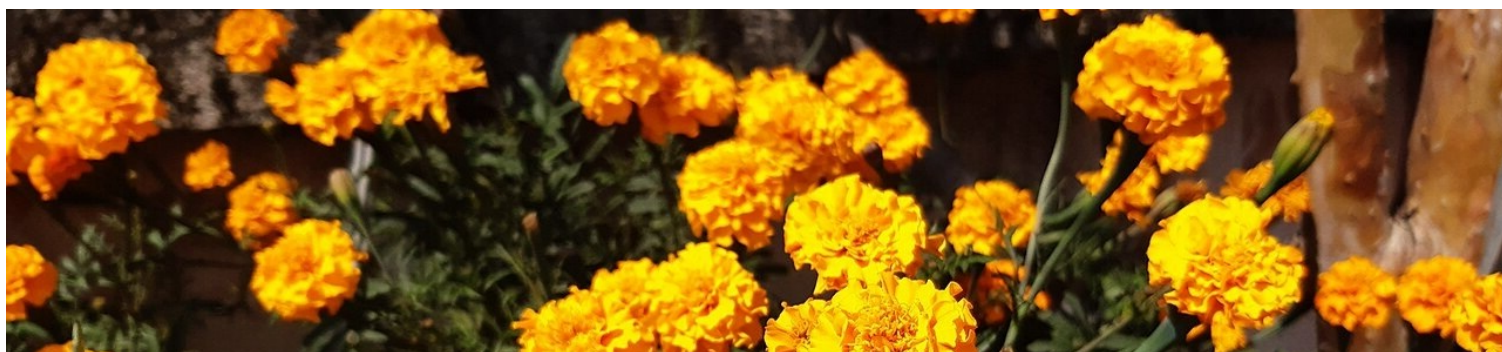
At the base of each foot of the arch was a six-foot in diameter circular flower bed full of blooming orange marigolds. The sun was shining a glorious welcome to all and almost reflecting off the blooms

of those bitsy orange flowers. The arch and the sun combined to present a perfect showcase for those flower beds. And they were successfully showing off and making a statement. They would not have been noticed at all if they were just edging or a small out of the way bed. A magic moment indeed.

This is when I suddenly understood the appeal of mass plantings. No matter the color or size, this type of bed is a showstopper. When you go to a nursery, try putting three or four matching baskets with only one type of flower side by side, stand back and notice the difference. They get your attention.

Now the decision has been made, you must choose the location and prepare the bed before your spouse notices. If you really want to draw attention to a designated space, plant yellow flowers in mass! Short or tall, it is your choice to make. The reason for this is that the first color we see is yellow; therefore, the color of school buses and the famous fast-food arch. The knowledge, of yellow and mass plantings, was truly unexpected and became a magical

*(Continued on page 40)*





# Blooming with pride:

## *The Garden Club of Marion celebrates 43 years of growth, giving, and gorgeous gardens!*

Marsh Milkweed by Gregory Shaner



Since 1982, the Garden Club of Marion has been cultivating more than just flowers—they've been growing community spirit, friendships, and support for a wide range of causes. Now, in full bloom at 43 years strong, this

dedicated group of green thumbs has plenty to celebrate! What began as a passion for gardening has blossomed into a thriving volunteer organization, proudly affiliated with The Garden Club of Indiana and National Garden Clubs, Inc. And through it all, three of the original founding members—Ruth Moorhead, Sue McVicker, and Lila Milford—are still actively involved. Their long-standing commitment continues to inspire every new member who joins.

Club meetings are as educational as they are enjoyable. Each gathering features a short business meeting followed by guest speakers who are experts in gardening, landscaping, and all things green and growing. From time to time, members venture out on fun and informative field trips to nearby botanical gardens, scenic fields in full sunflower bloom, a beekeeper's apiary or even an alpaca farm. While the club's roots are in gardening, their reach extends far beyond flower beds.

Each year, two major fundraisers—the much-

loved Annual Plant Sale at Matter Park, the Saturday after Mother's Day each year and the scenic Garden Tours help fund generous support for local, state, and national projects (tour local residents and garden club members private gardens each June).

Locally, the Garden Club lends a helping hand in many meaningful ways:

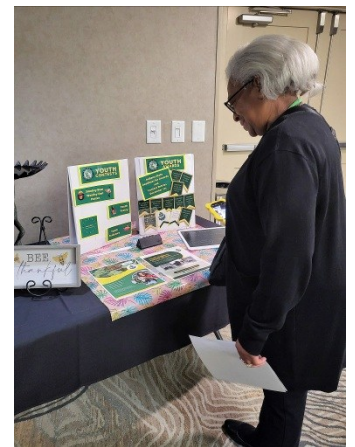
- Maintaining the Blue Star Memorial and the Memorial Garden at Matter Park (just two of the many beautiful beds in the park—contrary to popular belief, they don't manage all of the park's gardens!).
- Donating to and decorating the Marion Public Library display case each May.
- Excitedly jumping in to support the library's outdoor renovation project.
- Hosting a booth at the annual Earth Day Festival.
- Organizing a food drive for St. Martin's, and collecting clothing and personal hygiene items for the local women's shelter. And this year, there's two festive new ventures on the horizon: the club will be decking the halls of the beloved Hostess House for Christmas starting in November and plans to participate in Marion's Christmas parade.

On a larger scale, the Garden Club of Marion also contributes to key state and national efforts, including Plant Trees, Plant America, and Land Trust initiatives. Whether planting perennials or planting hope through charitable giving, the Garden Club of Marion continues to grow in purpose and passion. Here's to 43 years of digging in, giving back, and making Marion more beautiful—one bloom at a time!

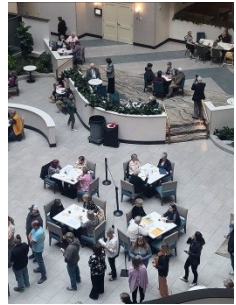


The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

# 93rd Annual State Convention








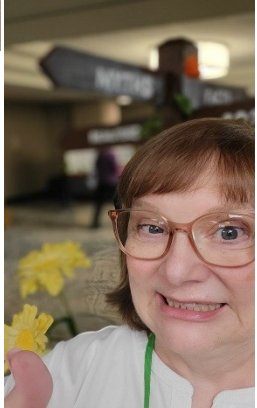
**MYTHS  
&  
FACTS  
REALITY**

**FACT:**  
See the Pyramids.

**REALITY:**

The Pyramids of Indianapolis are three 11-story, pyramid-shaped office buildings that are part of a 200-acre commercial development in the College Park neighborhood just across the street. They were constructed between 1967 and 1972 using a design by architect Kevin Roche. They are noted for the abstract quality of the opacity of the concrete walls that face the nearby highway and the reflectivity of the glass curtain walls that face the landscaped grounds.

 THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIANA





# MYTHS & FACT MIXER *Answers*

<b>Myth or Fact?</b>	<p><b>Cornhole is the official game of the State of Indiana.</b></p> <p>MYTH! Indiana does not have an “official state game.” While cornhole is a popular game, most Hoosiers identify Basketball as the most popular game.</p>
<b>Myth or Fact?</b>	<p><b>The branches on a tree move up as the tree grows taller.</b></p> <p>MYTH! Trees grow from the tips so branches stay at the same height forever.</p>
<b>Myth or Fact?</b>	<p><b>The legendary Beast of Busco lives in Churubusco, Indiana.</b></p> <p>MYTH! In Indiana folklore, the <a href="#">Beast of Busco</a> is an enormous snapping turtle which citizens claimed to have seen since the 1890s. Despite a month-long hunt during the 1940s which briefly gained national attention, the legendary beast was never found.</p>
<b>Myth or Fact?</b>	<p><b>Oaks are keystone species in the forests of Indiana.</b></p> <p>FACT! Oaks are keystone species, meaning they have an unusually strong effect on other species in the given forest community. Not only are they important in maintaining biodiversity, they also provide food and support for a substantial number of wildlife species and insects.</p>
<b>Myth or Fact?</b>	<p><b>Indiana is being invaded by giant African land snails.</b></p> <p>FACT! The giant African land snail is an unwanted visitor to the United States. Although it has been traded at flea markets and kept as a pet, all of the snails in the U.S. are here illegally. As a reaction to the discovery of the snails in Indiana in 2005, the DNR issued a quarantine banning the snails in Indiana (<a href="#">312 IAC 18-3-19</a>).</p>
<b>Myth or Fact?</b>	<p><b>The Colts left Baltimore for Indianapolis in the dead of night in 1984.</b></p> <p>FACT! On March 28, 1984, Bob Irsay, owner of the once-mighty Baltimore Colts, moved the team to Indianapolis. Without any sort of public announcement, Irsay hired movers to pack up the team’s offices in Owings Mills, Maryland, in the middle of the night, while the city of Baltimore slept.</p>
<b>Myth or Fact?</b>	<p><b>Indiana's official state insect is the Lightning Bug/Say's Firefly.</b></p> <p>FACT! Students at Cumberland Elementary School in West Lafayette, Indiana, spent four years of <a href="#">lobbying, letter writing, and campaigning</a>, to make Say’s firefly has become Indiana’s first state insect in 2018.</p>
<b>Myth or Fact?</b>	<p><b>The Kile Oak in Irvington has been growing since the 1770s?</b></p> <p>FACT! <a href="#">The Kile Oak Tree</a> does not have a date recorded for when it was planted. The Kile Oak Tree is estimated to be "somewhere between 300 and 500 years old" and is one of the oldest trees in the city of Indianapolis.</p>



TGCI September Seminar

## HATS OFF TO GARDENING

The Southeast District of  
The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

invites you to

a day of **FELLOWSHIP, FUN and DISCOVERY**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

9 am – 3 pm

The Seasons Lodge & Conference Center  
560 E. State Road 46, Nashville, Indiana  
in beautiful Brown County



**FELLOWSHIP** begins after check-in at 9:00 am. Greet and chat with old and new gardening friends while munching on the famous Fried Biscuits and Apple Butter.

**FUN:** Make and wear your own themed garden hat—make it pretty—make it fun—make it uniquely you!  
OR--wear your old, much-loved garden hat—one the sun has shined on and rain has fallen on.

**DISCOVER** Homegrown National Parks.

Rocky Lortz from the South Central Indiana Master Gardener Association, will explain the concept of Homegrown National Parks.

**DISCOVER** the mysteries beneath our feet.

Cora Reinbolt, Purdue University Extension Educator, will explain the structure and nutrients of Indiana soils and how we can improve our soil to improve our plants.

**DISCOVER** helpful gardening hints and a history of garden hats.

**DISCOVER** the Tomato—vegetable or fruit?

Ro Whittington, Mudlarks Garden Club, will present entertaining and interesting facts and history of the tomato.

There will be W&M Baskets, door prizes AND MUCH MORE!

MAIL your registration today and

JOIN us on September 9<sup>th</sup> for

FUN surprises throughout the day.

Wanda Zahrt, TGCI President

Diane Hurless, Seminar Chair

Sharon Baldwin, Seminar Co-Chair

TENTATIVE AGENDA  
TGCI 2025 September Seminar  
HATS OFF TO GARDENING  
September 9, 2025  
Seasons Lodge and Conference Center  
Nashville, Indiana  
Hosted by The Southeast District

9:00-9:30 am	REGISTRATION CHECK-IN ENJOY FRIED BISCUITS & APPLE BUTTER
9:30 am	WELCOME: SE District Director, Diane Hurless Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag TGCI President, Wanda Zahrt
9:45 am	SPEAKER #1: Rocky Lortz, Homegrown National Parks
10:30 am	BREAK/FLEX CHECK OUT W&M BASKETS AND EXHIBITS
10:45 am	SPEAKER #2: Cora Reinbolt, Indiana soils
11:30 am	LUNCH BREAK CHECK OUT W&M BASKETS AND EXHIBITS
1:00 pm	<i>“The Blooming Voices”</i>
1:15 pm	COMPANION GARDENING. DID YOU KNOW.....? HISTORY OF GARDENING HATS
1:45 pm	SPEAKER #3: Ro Whittington, Tomato—vegetable or fruit?
2:30 pm	SHORT BREAK LAST CHANCE TO BID ON BASKETS
2:40 pm	INVITATION TO 2026 SEPTEMBER SEMINAR, South West District  DRAWING FOR BASKETS  DOOR PRIZES
3:00 pm	CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU FOR COMING. SAFE TRAVELS.





*Plant Trees for Hope:*

# There's new trees in town



## Peru Garden Club

Peru Garden Club members and guests celebrated Arbor Day dedicating the two trees, Flame Thrower Redbud and Rising Sun Redbud at the Historic Peru Depot.



A proclamation was read by a mayoral representative. Jayne Kesler, former TGCI President, explained her President's Theme, "Plant Trees for Hope" and Laura Kearby, Jayne's President's Project Chair explained her role as chairman of Trees and Plant-A-Tree.

We were treated to a skit from Dr Seuss'



The Lorax/Truffula Trees by members of the [Peru Community Schools](#) - Peru High School Chapter of the [National Honor Society](#) and the [PJSHS](#)

[Drama Club](#). The Lorax by [Dr. Seuss](#) is a story about the dangers of greed and environmental destruction. The story centers around the Once-ler, who cuts down Truffula trees to manufacture Thneeds, leading to the ruin of the ecosystem and the disappearance of the Lorax and the animals who lived in the Truffula forest. The Lorax, a small, fuzzy creature who speaks for the trees, warns the Once-ler about the consequences of his actions.

The program ended with the [National Garden Clubs Inc.](#) Conservation Pledge.





*Flower Lane GC participants from left to right: Paulette Balmer, State President - Jaym Kesler, Sally Fribley, District Director - Diane Hurless, Becky Swift, 2nd Vice President, Laura Kearby*

### Flower Lane Garden Club

In April, the Flower Lane Garden Club proudly took part in the *Plant Trees for Hope* initiative. A tree was planted in remembrance of a beloved member's loved one, with Flower Lane members joining Indiana Garden Club representatives for a heartfelt ceremony.

### Sullivan County Garden Club

Sullivan County Garden Club members, President Becky Cole, Mary Lou Chapman, Pam Irvin, Laura Kearby (also TGCI Trees Chairman), Starr Kress and Shar Strahle gathered at the Dugger Union Community Schools Elementary building for the planting of an apple tree provided by the club as a part of the club's Civic Development project.



The school assembly included all grades of the current student presence. President Cole began the event with an interactive club members and students educational program. The students participated in many aspects of the program with



*Tree planting at Dugger*

3rd grade prepping and digging the planting site, 5th grade pruning the apple blossoms as recommended and all grades represented in the final planting chores and watering.

The questions and answers session with the students revealed a vast amount of planting and maintenance knowledge already known by the students.



## Save the Date

### TGCI September Seminar

September 9, 2025  
“Hats Off To Gardening”  
Seasons Lodge Convention Center  
Nashville, Indiana

### **North West District Meeting**

October 7, 2025  
Teibel's Family Restaurant  
1775 US 41, Schererville IN 46375

### **North Central District Meeting**

October 8, 2025  
First Presbyterian Church  
104 N Illinois St, Monticello IN 47960

### **Central District Meeting**

October 14, 2025  
Allisonville Christian Church  
7701 Allisonville Rd, Indianapolis IN

### **Central West Meeting**

October 15, 2025  
Northview Christian Church  
623 N SR 39, Danville IN 46122

### **Central East District Meeting**

October 16, 2025  
To Be Announced

### **South West District Meeting**

October 20, 2025  
Lyles Station Historic School & Museum  
953 CR 5000 W, Princeton IN 47670

### **South East District Meeting**

October 21, 2025  
Bruner Event Centre  
100 N Webster St, St Paul, IN 47272

### **Central Region Convention**

October 26-28, 2025  
Osthoff Resort  
Elkhart Lake, WI

## Tool Box



Indiana Native  
Plant Society

### **Interactive Indiana Native Plant Finder**

It's the Indiana Native Plant Society's searchable database of Indiana native plants and their pollinators. This colorful, user-friendly tool can filter on numerous characteristics to present an array of plants suited to your site conditions. Garden-friendly natives are noted, as well as plants designated as caterpillar and pollinator magnets. The Finder holds 140 complete records now and will grow to 500 as details are added. Find it at <https://finder.indiananativeplants.org>.



# From the Chairs

## 2025-2026 Scholarship Winners



### Four Winds Garden Club Scholarship

*Aysa Jordan Streeval*    Bloomington    Indiana University    Environmental Science

### Mary B. Miller Horticultural Scholarship

*Abigail Shaw*    Anderson    Ball State University    Landscape Architecture

### Don St. Peters Scholarship

*Esau Marcial*    Indianapolis    Ball State University    Landscape Architecture

### Petal and Stem Garden Club Scholarship

*Melisa R. Green-Price*    Jonesboro    Ball State University    Landscape Architecture

### Vail of Paradise Garden Club Scholarship

*Sarah Grimes*    Elizabeth    Ball State University    Landscape Architecture



# The Garden Club of Indiana State Chairs 2025-2027

Accredited Flower Judge(s)	Suzanne Potts	smp9114@att.net
Annual Civic Fund	Diane Hurless	diane.hurless@gmail.com
Awards	Jim Pavelka	jamespavelka@comcast.net
Backyard Habitat	Jodi Meyer	jodilume57@gmail.com
Birds & Butterflies	Cathy Weber	crazycat66@gmail.com
Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial	Chris Seal	tgciibluestar@gmail.com
Bylaws	Gerry St. Peters	stpsales@aol.com
Civic Development	Kathy Vermilion	kathygodby@hotmail.com
Container Gardening	Linda Dingee	wdingee@mac.com
Editor, Indiana Gardens	Cathy Weber	crazycat66@gmail.com
Facebook Page	Sue Yoder	seoyoder@hotmail.com
Garden Therapy	Jayne Kesler	kjkesler@comcast.net
Historian	Carolyn Karstens	tgcihistorian@gmail.com
Honeywell Horticulture	Ann Herrman	aeherrman@gmail.com
Indoor Gardening	Pam Irvin	ralpami66@aol.com
Invasive Species	Sharon Baldwin	skbald@sbcglobal.net
Land Trust	Sarah Nahmias	nahmiasmud@gmail.com
Legislation	Bridget Molinari	amomentforyourself@gmail.com
Litter Control/Recycling/Reclamation	Donna Cox	redrun73@gmail.com
Member Services	Sue Fuhrman	clvgc@hotmail.com
Membership/2nd Vice President	Rita Hummel	rithum1970@comcast.net



## NGC School Consultants

Environmental	Jim Pavelka	jamespavelka@comcast.net
Flower Show	Suzanne Potts	smp9114@att.net
Gardening	Rita Hummel	rithum1970@comcast.net
Landscape	Jim Pavelka	jamespavelka@comcast.net
Nat'l Garden Week/1st Vice President	Jim Pavelka	jamespavelka@comcast.net
National Life Membership	Mary Jane Smith	mjms502011@hotmail.com
Native Plants/President's Project	Barbara Gill	gardenclub.gill1@gmail.com
Photographer	Judy Alexander	jgalexander55@gmail.com
Plant-It-Pink	Toby Oswald	tobydoswald@gmail.com
Pollinators	Colette Bracken	cabracken@gmail.com
Programs/Yearbooks/Scrapbooks	Mark McNabb	cmarkmcnabb@gmail.com
Protocol/3rd Vice President	Laura Kearby	laurakearby@hotmail.com
Scholarship	David Zahrt	scholarshiptgci@gmail.com
Trees/Plant-A-Tree	Laura Kearby	laurakearby@hotmail.com
Vegetables/Herbs/Cultivars	Roxanne McGlone	rockyroads53@hotmail.com
Website	Sue Yoder	webmastertgci@gmail.com
Wildflowers/Roadside Beautification	Emily Gill	milylou3@gmail.com
Youth Activities	Pam Schumm	pamschumm@gmail.com



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

# Plant-It-Pink

Icon by ksonicon

## Q&A: with Plant-It-Pink Chair, Toby D. Oswald



Toby D Oswald belongs to the Syracuse-Wawasee Garden Club in Syracuse, Indiana and was recently appointed Plant-It-Pink Chair.

### Q : What does the Plant-It-Pink Chair do?

*As Chairman, I stimulate interest in planting pink-colored flowers and foliage to promote Breast Cancer awareness and gather relative information and provide to clubs.*

### Q : What are your goals for 2025?

*Inform the clubs of the importance of planning the Color Pink. Pink represents warmth and hope, like the rosy, pink clouds in the summer. It is also the color chosen to symbolize cancer research, awareness, and support.*

*I hope to influence all clubs to add pink to their outdoor plantings (town beds, hanging baskets and home gardens as well inside plants). I will send out suggested pink plants that are great for outside plantings as well as indoor plants.*

### Q : What message do you want to share ?

*By planting pink, you are recognizing friends and loved ones that have survived or passed away from breast cancer.*

by 문정 O at Noun Project



# Facebook



Check out our new recurring feature on [Facebook](#) ... "Travels With Our Garden Club of Indiana President." We'll be following TGCI President Wanda Zahrt as she travels the state (and beyond) spreading the word about TGCI, gardens, gardening, [National Garden Clubs Inc.'s #PlantAmerica](#) and our 2025 theme of *Plant America - With Natives!*

Her first official visit was to the [Pulaski County Public Library](#) where she met up with Denise Hettinger and presented the library with copies of the 2025 TGCI newsletter, *Indiana Gardens* for the library's Indiana reference section. Some people don't have computers and we want to make sure they have the opportunity to read about garden clubs in Indiana. Stay tuned to see where TGCI travels to next!

By Susan Yoder  
Facebook Page Chair



## Gardening School

**B**eautiful flowers are springing up everywhere. I consider myself a decent vegetable gardener, except for radishes, supposedly the easiest to grow, and beets. All I got were green tops and carrot-shaped roots. One NGC gardening course I took said test my soil Ph. I found I needed fertilizer with less nitrogen, the first number on the fertilizer bag, and more phosphorus, the second number. That helped!

I highly recommend the NGC Gardening School. It consists of four courses. At the end you will be a Gardening School Consultant. The Indiana consultants are Kristen Grayson, Rita Hummel, and Jim Pavelka, and Edie Dyer-Wilson, consultant emeritus.

Kristin Grayson and I recently completed a Gardening School Refresher.

By Rita Hummel  
*Gardening School Chairman*

## Pollinator

**M**oths are the largest group of night pollinators. Also, they comprise 90% of *Lepidoptera* winged insects. Moths do the same work at night as butterflies do in the daytime. They seek out nectar and in doing so they pollinate. We need to support Moths by planting white, silver-leaved or light-colored tubular flowers, and it is helpful if the flowers have a sweet scent. Flowering Tobacco and Phlox are suggestion. We also need to provide shelter and habitat to protect our pollinator friends. Moths need fallen leaves, stems, and other plant debris to lay their eggs, conceal the pupae, and larvae, think caterpillars. Don't vacuum your yard.

Leave the abovementioned debris in place over the winter. Don't remove it too early in the spring. If you shred leaves, there is a good chance that you are shredding some stage of the Moth Life Cycle.

Instead, you could create a leaf pile and let it decompose naturally. Day working pollinators cannot do all the work needed to keep the plants in your yard and garden pollinated. This information is slanted towards moths, but it applies to all night or crepuscular insects.

I will just add this fact, artificial light at night is not beneficial to birds or insects

By Sue Rosiak  
*Pollinator Chair*



By Carl E Lewis - flowering tobacco

## Bird & Butterfly

[Why some monarch butterflies are skipping migration](#)

← Link

*Bee Aware!* ☼🐝

[As honeybees die off again, some bee enthusiasts want to give mason bees a chance](#)

# Native and Invasive Species

Ornamental grasses have become increasingly popular as modern tastes have shifted to more naturalistic garden designs. Grasses bring year-round interest, movement, structure and seasonal changes of color. However, grasses not native to North America can spread and create large patches, displacing native plants. Exotic grasses do not support wildlife.

Chinese Maiden Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), also known as Chinese Silvergrass or Zebra



**Chinese Maiden Grass**  
*Miscanthus sinensis*

Grass is listed as Highly Invasive on the Indiana Invasive Plant List and is one of the twelve invasive species listed on the Proposed Amendment to the Terrestrial Plant Rule (described in the April 2025 issue of *Indiana Gardens*).

Chinese Maiden Grass is chosen by landscapers for its size and showy elegance. However, it is an aggressive invasive that spreads primarily by vigorous roots and rhizomes. It also spreads by windborne seed produced in the fall. This species is extremely flammable. Burning fragments can be blown offsite resulting in difficult to control fires.



Switchgrass  
*Panicum virgatum*

Native plants are not only beautiful, they also benefit birds and other wildlife. They support multiple pollinators and insects, providing food for Indiana birds. Native plants do not harm existing ecosystems.

## Two native ornamental grasses

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) is one of the most valuable native grasses with a root system that grows nearly as deep as the plant is tall, holding soil in place, preventing erosion, and making it drought tolerant. It is also deer resistant. With its small seeds and tall cover, Switchgrass offers a quality nesting place for birds. The seed heads in fall have a slight purple tint and foliage turns golden.



Prairie Dropseed  
*Sporobolus heterolepis*

Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) has fine textured leaves, green in summer with a golden hue in fall/winter and grows only 2-4 feet tall. Most surprising for a grass, the blooming stalks are fragrant! It is a host plant for six species of butterflies and skippers. The “dropseed”

in the common name refers to the fact that ripe seeds fall to the ground, where they may be eaten by birds and small mammals. They do not germinate easily so you are not likely to see them popping up around your garden.

Additional native ornamental grasses include: Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Prairie Cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Pink Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

For more information visit: [Indiana Native Plant Society](https://indiananativesociety.org/)

By Sharon Baldwin  
*Native & Invasive Species Chair*

**Free Native Landscape Plans:** Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District To support residents in transitioning to native landscaping, the SWCD has launched new residential native landscape plans, now available at [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org).



# What's Hot: Gardening Trends for 2025

## Vegetables/Herbs/ Improved Cultivars

Gardening continues to evolve, reflecting broader societal shifts towards sustainability, technology integration, and personal well-being. Emerging trends highlight a collective move towards eco-friendly practices, efficient resource use, and the creation of personalized green spaces.

To name a few of the prominent trends according to Park Seed Company in Greenwood, South Carolina, gardeners increasingly are integrating edible plants into their landscapes. Also, creating habitats that support local wildlife by planting native species and allowing certain areas to remain undisturbed to attract pollinators and beneficial creatures.

With increasing awareness of water conservation, gardeners are adopting practices that minimize water usage. Incorporating drought-tolerant and native plants which reduces the need for supplemental watering and fertilizers.

### New Vegetable Varieties & Trends

Expect to see more compact, high-yield varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and other vegetables designed for container gardening and small gardens.



Photo by Tigereante

Fast-growing carrots and radishes, perfect for raised beds with limited soil depth, are gaining popularity.

Red tomatoes with deeper color and enhanced sweetness are expected to be

standouts. Cucamelons are miniature watermelons that add a refreshing, cucumber-like crunch to salads and snacks.

New varieties of arugula, butternut squash and cherry tomatoes to mention a few.

### Modern Growing Techniques

From vertical farms to laser weeding, technology is dramatically changing how vegetables are produced. Technologies such as drone monitoring, AI-driven analytics and smart irrigation systems are making these tasks easier, smarter and more efficient.

Advanced hydroponic systems have already begun to revolutionize urban agriculture, with vertically stacked farms in cities like New York and Los Angeles maximizing yield while using a lot less water than traditional methods. These year-round, weather-resistant techniques allow farmers to meet growing consumer demand for unique and flavorful vegetables, making it an ideal fit for modern cities and culinary exploration.

### Health-focused vegetables

The following information is according to [Morning AgCommunications](#), an affiliate of NBC located at WNDU-TV in South Bend, IN.

The latest trends in vegetables are all about nutrient density and variety. These veggies pack higher levels of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, making them even more appealing to health-conscious consumers. Kale and spinach continue to be favorites but share the spotlight with newer

*(Continued on page 40)*

## Litter Control, Recycling, & Reclamation

Spring is a time that people start getting out and litter at an alarming rate. How many times have you been out and saw someone throw something out of the vehicle? It is against the law to litter even with a cigarette butt. Have you noticed the amount of trash along your own road or highway? No one has been picking up the trash throughout most of the cold weather. You may begin to see workers or volunteers picking up trash. Some groups pick up for a project. Others just help because they care. It is a good project for groups to help save the environment. Animals are innocent victims of litter. Over one million animals die each year being entrapped or ingesting litter. Plastic litter is the most common litter. Even birds can die from ingesting poison toxins, moldy food, cigarette

butts, and other harmful substances. Some items stay in the digestive tract, blocking food passage and eventually the birds die. Injuries due to broken glass are also seen. Fishing line found in birds' nests can strangle baby birds. Discarded buckets and containers are found with heads of animals stuck inside. Bioaccumulation occurs and impacts the delicate food cycle. Injecting microplastics and micro toxins affects all wildlife and marine life. Small animals affected and then it goes to larger animals. These toxins are stored in the fatty tissue once eaten. This creates physical ailments and possible death.

To combat this environmental problem, remember these three R's. The first one is reduce waste, second is reuse (what you can), and third is recycle (your waste). Be a good example for all mankind. Cited Source: Margaret Wack

By Donna Cox

*Litter Control, Recycling, & Reclamation*



*What's Your Club  
Planning?*



# Club News

## Crown Point Garden Club



Vicki Bush accepted the Katrina Vollmer Butterfly Award Traveling Silver Tray for Crown Point Garden Club. This wonderful tray is awarded to an Individual Garden Club for outstanding contribution to the landscaping for butterfly which could include: landscaping for butterfly attraction and protection; maintaining a butterfly habitat, attraction, and preservation. Find out more about this and other Birds & Butterfly [Awards](#) .

Five members (all first time attendees) of the Crown Point Garden Club attended the [TGCI 93rd Annual State Convention in Indianapolis](#). We learned that the Garden Club of Indiana is the “largest” volunteer organization in the world! So nice to hear that the small part that each one of us does in preserving our earth is so important!

We enjoyed and learned some great information about Bonsai trees – *The Illusion of Bonsai* by Mark Fields. We all sat there in awe as he shared his 57 years of knowledge and love of the beautiful trees that he brought along to share with us. We even found out we had been pronouncing “bonsai” incorrectly....who knew?

We learned so much from both Tom Swinford, *Indiana’s Natural Landscape and Conservation* and Cliff Chapman, *Restoring Natural Areas Close to Home*. Just some easy ideas that we can all do in our own communities can make a big difference to Mother Earth!

With the energetic presentation from Carrie Tauscher, the Arboretum Director at Crown Hill Cemetery, which was established in 1863, we learned how she and her crew are re-establishing the original plan and design of this amazing cemetery and arboretum.

As Spring arrives our “amazing” gardens are waking up and the flowering trees in the community are putting on a beautiful show.

Our Pollinator Garden is beginning to take

*(Continued on page 34)*

(Continued from page 33)

shape as it wakes up from Winter. We look forward to the emergence of the showy Hyssops and Coneflowers to the subtler Yarrow and Rattlesnake Master. As Spring continues we look forward to the Milkweed, Rudbeckia, Beebalm, and False Indigo all to create a feast and attract our native pollinators.

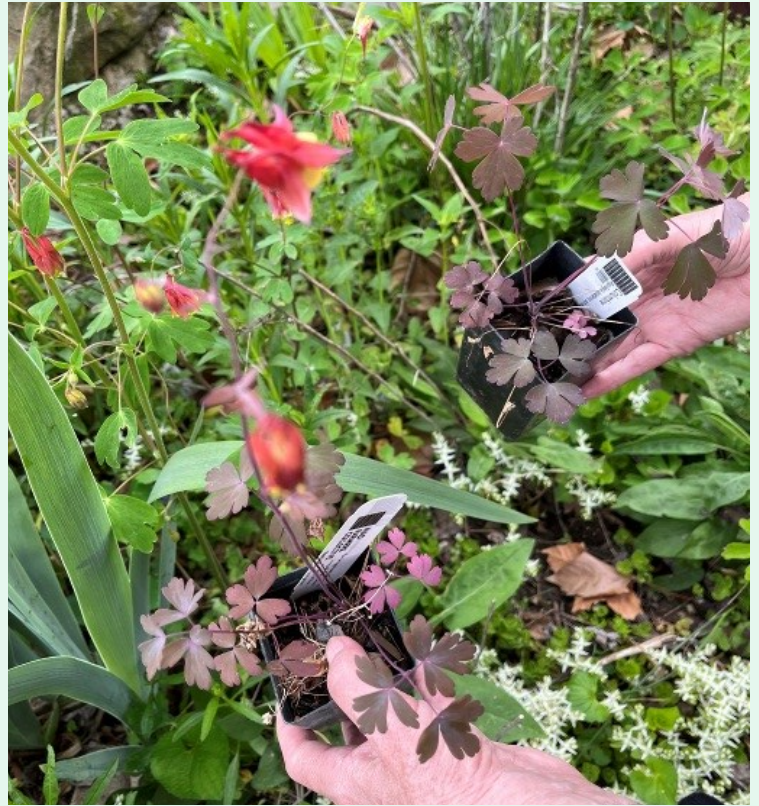
Our Grand Old Lady, the [Lake County Court House](#), is beginning to shine as we clean out the flowerbeds, add some fertilizer, plant Pansey's in the large urns and add a new layer of mulch to freshen up the grounds. Our speaker for May is Karl Ackermann from Gibson Woods Chapter of Wild Ones and we look forward to learning about more native plants we can add to our courthouse flower beds to add to the beauty of our beautiful square in downtown Crown Point.

The [Covered Bridge Garden](#), within the Lake County Fair Grounds, is beginning to wake up. We have added Lungwort, Brunella, Liatris and several varieties of Heucheras in the orange and purple family, Elephant Ear, Caladium in three colors, Sweet Woodruff, and Wild Geranium.

We are have having our annual Plant Sale at the Lake County Fair Grounds, Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10. This is always a big fundraising event for our club as it's Mother's Day weekend. As always we will have hanging baskets, herbs, annuals, perennials, planters, garden decorations, Mother's Day gifts and much, much more.

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

## Cultivating Garden Club



The Cultivating Garden Club of Greenwood maintains the church courtyard in exchange for meeting space with full kitchen and use of IT/AV equipment. We are adding native plants as space opens up. Going in are native Wild Columbine .

## Flower Lane Garden Club

Flower Lane Garden Club started 2025 on a productive note, kicking off the year with a January planning meeting to outline key activities. Discussions included selecting guest speakers for monthly meetings, promoting the annual Plant Sale, participating in the State Convention, and 4H Fair, publishing the 2025–2026 club booklet, and considering potential field trips for members.

March marked a special transition for the club as we welcomed our new leadership—Sharon Follendorf as president and Diane Hurless as treasurer.



## Florist Feature: Meet Becky DeLong!



If you've ever admired one of our stunning arrangements, there's a good chance Becky DeLong had a hand in it! Becky has been a beloved part of the Kelly's family for 9 years—but her journey with flowers started long before that.

From the time she was a little girl, Becky's hands have been in the soil and her heart in the petals. Her passion for floral design shines through in every bouquet she creates, bringing color and joy to our shop and customers alike.

A true nature enthusiast, Becky is an active member of five local garden clubs and spends her free time tending to her beautiful gardens. But her green thumb doesn't stop at flowers—she's also a vendor at local farmers markets where she sells her homemade jams and jellies (Trust us, they're as amazing as her arrangements!).

Becky's love for nature, dedication to her craft, and warm spirit make her an irreplaceable part of our team. We're so lucky to have her blooming with us!

## Broad Ripple Garden Club

Broad Ripple Garden Club began the Spring 2025 season with its Installation of New Officers in April at Crooked Stick Golf Club, installed by the Incoming Central District Director Cathy Weber. New officers are Phyllis Grzeskowiak, President; Colette Bracken, Vice President; Jan Hutchings, Secretary; Carol Branson, Corresponding Secretary and Wilma Borinstein, Treasurer. We enjoyed a lovely lunch before the Installation.

We are proud to announce our contribution of \$400 to 'Trees for Hope' and the planting of two trees at Crown Hill Cemetery. Below is a photo showing the location for two new trees. We plan to visit our trees once they are planted and a plaque is installed stating our donation of the trees.

We will hold our 'Annual Plant And More Sale' in May. We look forward to raising monies for scholarships. We also will be planting our Plant America flower pot again at Nora Library and we are working on our new project, donating raised flower beds to nursing homes for residents to do a but of gardening.

Submitted by Phyllis Grzeskowiak  
*President*

## Come into the Garden Club



*Come into the Garden Club members at the assisted living pond.*

Come into the Garden Club held no regular monthly meeting in March, but did some traveling instead. Members and guests attended the [Morgan County Master Gardeners Garden Fest](#) in Mooresville and the Indiana Flower and Patio Show in Indianapolis enjoying gorgeous gardens, visiting the many vendors and attending educational programs.

President Laura Kearby represented the club at the bi-monthly March Plant Swap at the [Historic Hall Elementary School in Morgan County](#). Herbs were the topic of this meeting with focusing on Basil including a "Plant-it & Take-it" potting workshop.

In April members visited the [Boone County Master Gardeners Garden Fest](#) in Lebanon viewing the various displays and vendors' booths.

At our first regular monthly meeting of the new fiscal year in April 2025 members met at the assisted living home of member Mary Ann Banks. Following the business portion of the meeting, members took a short walking tour of the facility grounds stopping at the nearby pond to enjoy and feed the resident wildlife. It was a beautiful day!



Have you checked out NGC's Plant America program? Up to [\\$2,000.00](#) is made available to be used for direct expenses of projects.



You can find [PLANT AMERICA](#) items like the flag above in the store on the NGC website.

## Four Winds Garden Club

April was a test of our patience in Northern Indiana. We had snow, rain, sun and way too many cool cloudless days. We concentrated on an inner city tree lawn garden called Beardsley Bulldog Crossing. It needed Spring cleanup and new mulch. A lot of muscle was put into it. We also concentrated on getting ready for our Plant Sale at [Wellfield Botanical Gardens](#) in Elkhart, Indiana on May 10, 2025.

## Garden Club of Michiana



Garden Club of Michiana held their annual plant sale at St. Therese Little Flower Catholic Church.

## Hillcrest Garden Club



Hillcrest Garden was happy to be able to participate in National Garden Week this year! I contacted Jena Mattix, Branch Manager of the [Glendale Public Library](#), and she agreed to let us display the NGC proclamation with the seed display in the library. We also donated 2 children's books on gardening to the library. Happy National Garden Week!

Submitted by Dinah Montgomery  
*President*



## Fall Creek Garden Club



*Officers of Fall Creek Garden Club from April 2025 - March 2026, left to right: Janet Stultz, President; Greta Jones, Treasurer; Gayle Sanders, Vice-President; Anne Kitten, Secretary; Rosie Springer, Historian; and Linda Foster, Past-President*

Fall Creek Garden Club members will never look at worms in the same way again after our April program on Asian jumping worms presented by Bob Bruner, exotic forest pest specialist with Purdue University's

[Department of Entomology](#). We learned how to identify these worms and what they do to destroy the soil, which impacts how plants grow. Bob explained that these worms have been in Indiana for a hundred years or more, but have become more of a problem in recent years.

He also encouraged us to contact our county cooperative extension service or his office at Purdue if we find exotic pests, such as Asian jumping worms and especially the more recently discovered spotted lanternfly, so they can determine where they are becoming more prevalent.

In May, we look forward to meeting at the [Indiana Medical History Museum](#) to tour the medicinal plant garden and pathology lab. This garden is located on the grounds of the former Central State Hospital on the west side of Indianapolis and features over 120 different medicinal plants, over half of which are Native American, while others originated from Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Submitted by Carol Michel  
Club Member

## Shamrock Garden Club



Shamrock Garden Club had a unique program at their May meeting. It was a *Smoothie Garden Sampler*. Smoothies are a way of getting large amounts of fruit and leafy greens into your diet, which is something we can all benefit from.

Each member brought a pitcher of smoothies of their own choice, and a tasting session followed with voting for their favorite. The smoothies contained a variety of fruits, such as berries, bananas, mango, and pineapple, as well as leafy greens, such as spinach, kale, chard, and collards.



Each member brought the recipe to be printed in our annual January newsletter. Since January's weather is usually unpredictable, we do not have a meeting in January, but keep in touch with a newsletter.

Submitted by Gerry St. Peters  
Publicity Chairman

## Munster Garden Club



The Munster Garden Club made a momentous decision to change the time of monthly meetings from 12:30pm to 6pm three months ago. It has been an adjustment for some, but meetings have been well attended. At our latest meeting, four new people attended who had read about our meetings on Facebook. The club hopes that changing the time will bring new members to the club who might not be able to attend day meetings due to work. At our last meeting, members brought in their favorite garden tools and told us why they are indispensable in their garden.

Eight members attended the [state convention](#) in Indianapolis and enjoyed meeting other garden club members from around the state, as well as the wonderful speakers. Several members of the club manned a table at an Earth Day celebration at Heritage Park. Despite the chilly weather, we enjoyed meeting others doing amazing things to be kind to our planet.

The Community Service Committee planted three Oakleaf Hydrangea at the historical home where last year we completed a landscaping project for the front of the home. We were thrilled to see the new Azaleas in full, glorious bloom!

On May 13 the Terra Verde Garden Club met at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Karen Sarver, Master Gardener associated with the LaPorte County Extension Office, introduced our members to the many components of soil; soil structure, what ails most soil, nutrients and how to take a soil sample to test the soil. She was very informative helping members ask the question, *Is Your Garden Ready?*

On Saturday May 17 Terra Verde members held a very successful plant/yard sale to raise monies to cover expenses for the coming year.

On May 20 Terra Verde members provided the Community Dinner held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for the public. We are now preparing our work schedules to care for the garden at the entrance to Kesling Park and the gardens at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We are also preparing to locate 4 outstanding gardens in our Community to award the Terra Verde Garden Club Green Thumb Award. This garden award was started when Terra Verde organized 50 years ago and is still a recognized and coveted award today.

We have also been busy building our membership and have two new members join us this month. We were successful reaching out to interested gardeners at the [LaPorte County Master Gardeners' Show](#) in March. At our plant sale we visited with many interested gardeners and invited all to join us.

Submitted by Frances Raderstorf  
Terra Verde Garden Club

## Terra Verde Garden Club





# Irvington Garden Tour

2025  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual

Tickets are only  
\$10



Please visit our website: [www.IrvingtonGardenClub.com](http://www.IrvingtonGardenClub.com)

*Sunday, June 29, 1-6 p.m.*



*Proceeds benefit the beautification projects of the  
Irvington Garden Club*

*Tickets Available  
Day of Tour from:*

**The Benton House**  
312 S. Downey Ave.

and

**Bona Thompson Ctr.**  
5350 University Ave.

and

**Irvington United  
Methodist Church**  
30 N. Audubon Rd.

**Strawberry Festival 1-4**  
Shuttle Tickets Available \$5



*Advance Tickets  
available 2 weeks  
before the Tour from:*

**Ace Hardware**  
1025 N. Arlington Ave.

and

**Black Sheep Gifts**  
5626 E. Washington St.

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discovery.

I have learned why my relatives planted them on the edges of their garden. Rabbits don't like them. It is so easy to save the seeds for next year. I often gather the seeds during the season and let them self-sow for a fuller look; but that is not necessary. Easy magic.

I belong to a garden club which designs flower arrangements every month. We call it playtime; and now I will share a secret. In the fall, we arrange with vegetables or fruit as part of our designs. Take a variety of colored peppers, clean out the centers, and voila, you have a container/

s. Pick your marigolds in the morning, take them to the evening meeting and make several pepper designs with those marigolds and whatever little pieces of greenery you or the person sitting next to you has. Vibrant colors sitting on your table for Taco Tuesdays, or just to make one smile. Pure Magic!

If you have horticulture questions about planting or caring for these short magical flowers, consult the TGCI Horticulture Chairman please. I am not a 'hort' person. Mine grow and give me pleasure, bring warm memories to my heart and great grandbabies that don't have to run indoors to get away from those stinging critters. You too, can make "Marigold Magic" happen.

By Joyce Bullington

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varieties that promise even more nutrition.

One of the top trending vegetables is kelp, a nutrient-rich sea vegetable that's gaining popularity for its impressive health benefits. High in iodine, calcium and essential vitamins, kelp offers a unique way to add extra nutrition to meals. It's becoming a go-to ingredient in green smoothies, snacks and even pasta alternatives, as more people explore plant-based diets and sustainable food sources.

The push for nutrient-packed vegetables has led to the rise of hybrid and enhanced varieties of existing favorites. From rainbow chard with its

vibrant hues to purple cauliflower rich in anthocyanins, these colorful options are designed for eye appeal and better health benefits.

A shift towards more local produce, particularly from Farmers' Markets and seasonal produce is offering a chance to eat healthier while supporting sustainable practices. These trends are transforming what we eat and how it impacts the environment. Take time to explore these trends and see what new plants/seeds you might decide to grow this season.

By Shirley K Vargas

*Vegetables/Herbs/Improved Cultivars Chair*

### Citizen Science Mapping Ground Nesting Bees

Cornell University researchers have built a community science project, [Project GNBee](#), focused on mapping aggregations of diverse ground-nesting bees. They hope to facilitate the study of their nesting requirements as well as the biology of these bees across space and through time. They are asking a broad community of participants to upload observations they have made of ground-nesting bee aggregations to their iNaturalist project, adding to more than 3,000 observations of over 300 bee species worldwide. GNBee: [website](#) iNaturalist: [project](#) Instagram: [projectGNBee](#).