

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

Indiana Gardens

February Vol. 89 Number 1 - 2026



www.gardenclubofindiana.org

In This Issue



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47 Clubs 7 Districts 1,169 Members

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Cover Photo: Canada geese by [James Mann](#),
Wikimedia Commons.

Letter from the President



On this 17 ° winter day I am enjoying watching the geese formation glide down the Tippecanoe River. I am inspired by the geese and the following story and how it relates to the Garden Club of Indiana as we move into the 96th year of TGCI.

The Goose Story – A Teamwork Lesson

When you see geese flying along in “V” formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in “V” formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone — and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay with those people who are headed the same way we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It is

sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south. If bylaws or standing rules prevent the job exchange, at least support the leader. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. What messages do we give when we honk from behind?

Finally — and this is important — when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

At present I am head of the “V” please use the sense of a goose and stand by with me and each other to keep TGCI a great organization.

Looking forward to seeing you in April in Michigan City!

TGCI President





What's Up



National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) is the largest gardening organization in the world. The NGC mission is to provide education, resources and national networking opportunities to its members, to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

NGC Central Region Unified Project PLANT AMERICA: Your Garden Club Makes Progress Possible!



"Meet Me in St. Louis, Where the River Bends and The Arch Reaches the Sky!"

"Each club is different in its own way, but we all value nature and our environment, education, gardening, floral design and our community. Clubs do amazing projects and deserve to be recognized!"

2026 National Convention May 4 – May 6, 2026

Carol Yee
Unified Project Award Chairman
mscyee@hotmail.com

Registration Now Open: [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

\$100 Late Fee for Registrations After March 31, 2026

Deadline for All Registrations: April 14, 2026

13-Night Australia & New Zealand Cruise



PLUS
WFA 2 Days at the 14th Annual World Flower Show in Sydney
March 6 - 22, 2027

Itinerary

Sat, Mar 6	Auckland, New Zealand
Sun, Mar 7	Bay of Islands, NZ
Mon, Mar 8	Tauranga, NZ
Tue, Mar 9	At Sea
Wed, Mar 10	Picton, NZ
Thu, Mar 11	Christchurch (Lyttelton), NZ
Fri, Mar 12	Dunedin, NZ
Sat, Mar 13	Scenic Cruising
Sun, Mar 14	At Sea
Mon, Mar 15	At Sea
Tue, Mar 16	Hobart, Australia
Wed, Mar 17	Port Arthur, Australia
Thu, Mar 18	At Sea
Fri, Mar 19	Arrive in Sydney, Australia
Sat, Mar 20	WFAA or Sydney Tour
Sun, Mar 21	WFAA
Mon, Mar 22	Fly Home from Sydney

Starting From: \$3239*
*Pricing is per person based on double occupancy. Airfare is extra.

Includes:

- ✓ 13-Night Cruise
- ✓ Port Charges, Govt fees & taxes
- ✓ 2 Day WFA Tickets
- ✓ 3 Nights Hotel in Sydney

HOLIDAY CRUISES & TOURS

Call Shelley @ (800) 386-7327 Ext. 208
s@shelley@funsees.com
www.funsees.com/wafa

Land of Contrasts- [2027 World Flower Show](#)

Taking place in
Sydney, Australia

March 16-23
2027



Blue/Gold Star MEMORIAL Beautification Grant

Learn about this new grant opportunity from National Garden Clubs, Inc. in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, and submit your application today.

[Apply Today!](#)

Floral Accreditation & Certifications

[Click Here to Join the Excitement!](#)

“**PLANT AMERICA: Progress is Possible**”

Director - Rene Lynch



NGC Central Region Unified Project

PLANT AMERICA: Your Garden Club Makes Progress Possible!



“Each club is different in its own way, but we all value nature and our environment, education, gardening, floral design and our community. Clubs do amazing projects and deserve to be recognized!”

The goal of Rene Lynch’s NGC Central Region Director’s Unified Project is to recognize Central Region garden clubs for progress on new projects during her term: 2025-2026: It may be any new project or one that focuses on National Garden Club’s new project “**PLANT AMERICA: Red, White and Blue**” for our nation’s 250th Birthday in 2026.

Garden clubs qualify for the NGC Central Region Unified Project award by submitting an article (with photos) about their project to the Central Region Newsletter. After publication, the article and the NGC Central Region Unified Project Award application form must be submitted for review. Four clubs will be selected to receive recognition and a monetary award for outstanding new projects at the 2026 NGC Central Region Convention. We’re looking forward to hearing about your club projects throughout Central Region, so please submit articles to the CR newsletter!

Two \$25.00 recognition awards for clubs with 20 members or less and two \$25.00 recognition awards for clubs with over 20 members will be given. Each club that applies for the award will receive a certificate of recognition. Rene Lynch, NGC Central Region Director, encourages all clubs to make PROGRESS POSSIBLE. “Let’s do it together”.

Carol Yee
NGC Central Region Unified Project Award Chairman
mscyee@hotmail.com



NGC Central Region Unified Project Award Application Form

“Plant America: Your Garden Club Makes Progress Possible!”

Applicant Information (DEADLINE)for application:

Please provide the following details for your application:

- Date Submitted: _____
- Name of Garden Club, town/village/city and state as it should appear on the award certificate:

- Contact Person: _____
- Telephone: _____
- Email: _____

Submission Guidelines

To support environmental sustainability, all members are encouraged to submit their entries electronically rather than using additional natural resources.

If you are unable to send your entry electronically, please contact the Central Region Unified Project Chair before submitting. For manual submissions, please adhere to these guidelines:

- 1-Include a brief summary of the project and include articles and photos submitted to the Central Region Newsletter
- 2-For manual submissions, attach photos to the pages. For electronic submissions, insert photos within the document.
- 3-Keep a copy of your application for your records, as applications will not be returned.

Submission Instructions

Send the completed application electronically to:
 NGC Central Region Unified Project Award Chairman: Carol Yee
 Email: mscyee@hotmail.com
 Questions? Contact Carol Yee by email or phone: (708) 927-9937

If you must submit your application by mail, send it to:

NGC Central Region Unified Project Award Chairman
 5224 Grand Ave.
 Western Springs, IL 60558



**The Northwest District of
the Garden Club of Indiana**

Invites you to the

The Artful Gardener

2026 TGCI State Convention

April 14 & 15, 2026

**Blue Chip Casino & Hotel
Michigan City, IN**

To book rooms, call 888-879-7711 by March 23 to get discount. When calling, mention TGCI convention group code IGC413G. Online reservations can be made at www.bluechipcasinos.com/groups using the same code,



94th Annual TGCI State Convention Registration Form

The Artful Gardener

April 14 -15 2026 Blue Chip Casino & Spa, Michigan City Hosted by the Northwest District

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Garden Club: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Credentials: Mark all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/> First time attendee
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-TGCI member
<input type="checkbox"/> Club President
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Delegate
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Patron
<input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> State Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> State Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Region Officer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Region Chairman | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Life Member | |

Registration Categories & Fees	Early Bird Prices Must be postmarked by 3/11/26	Regular Fee Must be postmarked by 3/31/26
Convention Registration Fee (No meals included)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45
Monday Night Dried Flower Bookmark	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5
Monday Night Canva Workshop (option – bring your tablet or laptop)	No Fee	No fee
President’s Banquet – Tuesday Night		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pork Tenderloin	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Portabella Mushroom	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Scholarship Luncheon – Wednesday Tex Mex Buffet	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
I have medical food allergies <input type="checkbox"/>		
TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES		

Make checks payable to: *The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.* Mail check and completed registration form to :

Registration c/o Christine Graves, 2009 W. 82nd Ave. Merrillville, IN 46410- 6149

Name _____

Club _____

District _____

Mail this page with your registration or email **JUST THIS FORM** before March 28, 2026 to:
2026Stateconvention@gmail.com

MEMORIAL SERVICE (Presidents to fill out)

Please complete this information for the 2026 State Convention Memorial.

Name of Deceased _____

Special information about the deceased or submit a copy of the obituary

DISPLAY & EXHIBITS

State Chairmans please fill out if you wish to have a space in our display area.

Committee or Exhibit Name _____

Table Space Requirements _____

Details about the meals:

President's Banquet - Catered by Blue Chip Casino . Choices are Pork Tenderloin with a cherry balsamic glaze or a Mediterranean Stuffed Portabella Mushroom with sun-dried tomato pesto. Both entrees include green beans and garlic fingerling potatoes. Dessert will be tiramisu.

Scholarship Luncheon will be a Tex Mex buffet including pork carnitas, chicken fajitas, vegetable fajitas, cilantro lime rice or Spanish rice, black or pinto beans, diced tomatoes, diced onions and cilantro. Sides including guacamole, pico de gallo, tortilla chips, salsa and fresh fruit. Dessert will be churros with chocolate or strawberry sauce.

Wednesday morning, there will be continental breakfast in the banquet hall for attendees. It will consist of fresh sliced seasonal fruits and berries, assorted muffins and bagels and coffee, tea and assorted juices. This is included in your registration fee.

TGCI State Convention Schedule

Monday April 13, 2026	
Time	Scheduled Activity
2pm	Executive Board Meeting
3pm	Board of Directors Meeting
4pm	Registration Opens Hotel Check-In
5pm	Dinner on your own (see registration packets for restaurant options)
7pm	Seminar: Making a Bookmark with Dried Flowers
7:45pm	Seminar: Beginner’s Guide to Canva
Tuesday April 14, 2026	
8am	Registration
9am	Dunes Hike with Rafi Wilkerson
9am -5pm	Vendors open*
11-1pm	Lunch on your own (see registration packet for restaurant suggestions)
11-2pm	Flower Show Judging
1pm	Registration
1pm – 3pm	Convention Kickoff Meeting
3:15 pm	<i>Photography in the Garden</i> Jim Rettker
5-6pm	Cocktail Party
6pm	Presidential Banquet- Keynote speaker Nina Koziol <i>The Gardener as an Artist</i>
Wednesday April 15,2026	
8-10 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00- 9:30am	Reconvene Business Meeting (if needed)
9:30- 10:30am	Doreen King <i>So you Like Lavender, Now What?</i>
11:00 am	Em Racine/ History of the Dunes Hotel Check Out Time
12:30pm	Scholarship Luncheon – speaker Zann Wilson <i>Rare Flowers in the Garden</i>

*The Convention Committee has 11 vendors who will be selling their goods from 9am to 5pm on Tuesday. Please consider supporting these artists by checking out their unique items and shopping for yourself or others. Each time you purchase an item from a vendor, you will receive a raffle ticket!



Blue Chip Casino Hotel & Spa

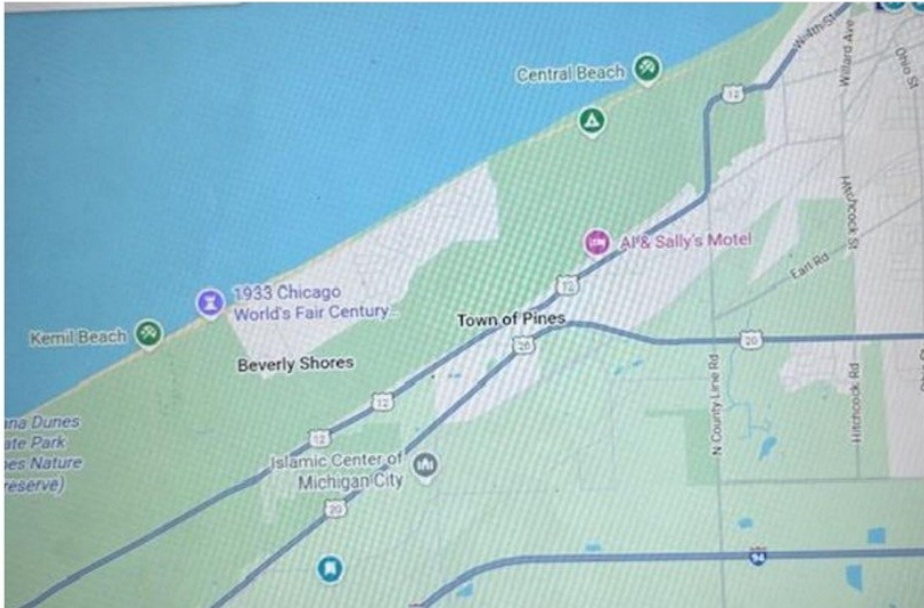
777 Blue Chip Dr. Michigan City, IN 46360

Room reservations for booking a room can be made by calling (888) 879-7711 before March 23, 2026. Both queen and king beds are available. When making your reservation, inform the hotel that you are with *The Garden Club of Indiana Convention Group*, or use **code IGC413G** when booking online to receive the group rate of \$136.13 per night which includes tax and resort fee. You will need a credit card to secure your reservation.

Besides hotel accommodation, the Blue Chip Casino & Spa offers the excitement of the casino, as well as restaurants and Spa options. The hotel is located near the Lighthouse Outlet Shopping Center, as well as the picturesque downtown and , of course, Lake Michigan. (see map for other area attractions)



Michigan City Area Attractions



1. Friendship Gardens
2055 US 12 MC
2. Barker Mansion
631 Washinton St MC
3. Brincka Cross Gardens
427 Furness Rd MC
4. Lubeznik Center for the Arts
101 W. Second St MC
5. Indiana State Park
1600 N 25 E
Chesterton, IN
6. Indiana Dunes National
Park Visitor Center
1215 N State Rd 49
Porter, IN
7. Chicago 1933 World's Fair
Century of Progress Homes
127 W. Lake Front Dr
MC
8. Lighthouse Premium Outlets
601 Wabash MC
9. South Shore Train Station
11th Street MC

Decorate a Hat!

Exhibition Flower Show

Miniature Gardens

Flower Show Categories

Line Design

Line and Mass Arrangements

Employ the use of mass for a greater feeling of depth

Mass Design

Full, flowing and symmetrical

Dried Flower Bookmark



THE ARTFUL GARDENER
FLOWER SHOW EXHIBITION CONTEST
APRIL 14, 15 - 2026
Blue Chip Casino – Michigan City, Indiana
8:00 am – 12:00 noon April 15, 2006

Section 1 classes 1-5: beauty of the colors in our gardens

Classes 1-3 will be displayed in a 6" x 6" cubicle (white with backing)

Class 1 - 3" miniature **line** design (no artificial flowers)

Class 2 - 4" miniature **line-mass** design (no artificial flowers)

Class 3 - 5" miniature **mass** design (no artificial flowers)

Classes 4 & 5 will be displayed on raised brown platform

Class 4 - 6" miniature **monochromatic** (one color) design (no artificial flowers)

Class 5 - 7" using all **dried** material (no artificial flowers)

Section 2 classes 6 – 8: beauty in our gardens and crafts from our flowers for a party

Class 6 - miniature fairy garden from 6" – 12"

Class 7 - decorated hat 6" - 12" (no artificial flowers)

Class 8 - pressed flower bookmark 4" – 6" (no artificial flowers)

Section 3 classes 9-11: remembering the artistry of our garden through photography

Class 9 : 4" x 6" or 5" x 7" black and white photo

Class 10 : 4 " x 6 " or 5" x 7" monochromatic (one color photo)

Class 11: 4" x 6" or 5" X 7" garden photo landscape

Class 12: 4" x 6" or 5" x 7" individual flower

(only one entry per class allowed for classes 9-12)

All photos will be matted by committee on a **black background**.

Detailed schedule and information will be available by email: jamespavelka@comcast.net

Speaker Bios

Nina Koziol

Nina Koziol is a horticulturalist and a garden writer who tends plants on a deer-infested acre about 40 miles from Chicago. She wrote garden articles for the Chicago Tribune for 22 years as well as for Chicagoland Gardening, Old-House Journal, Organic Gardening and The American Gardener. She now writes for Landscape Illinois and for the Chicago Botanic Garden's website. She's been teaching horticulture, garden design and residential landscape design history at the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Morton Arboretum since 1997.

Em Racine

Em is a Chicago transplant with intergenerational ties to the Indiana Dunes and is on the Save the Dunes Council. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She brings an array of experience in Community Events Coordination and Social Media implementation to save the dunes. She believes in bringing folks together in nature through sustainability, education and recreation. She enjoys road tripping, thrifting and making art in her free time.

Jim Rettker

As a Master Naturalist, Jim Rettker is an expert in the broader ecosystem of our local area and his love of nature and the great outdoors shows in his amazing photography. He has taken many photo and educational trips within the US and foreign countries, such as Iceland for the amazing Aurora Lights, Costa Rica for the wildlife, Florida for the many birds, The Upper Peninsula of Michigan for the amazing Pictured Rock formation and many other locations where nature's beauty can be found. He is currently a member of four photo clubs and mentors other

photographers in night photography, timelapse photography, cell phone photography and much more. Jim enjoys sharing his tips and tricks for taking amazing photos. He has received many honors and awards for his expertise.

Doreen King

Doreen King is co-owner of Lakeside Lavender and Herbs in LaPorte, Indiana. With her husband Mike, she began growing lavender as a niche crop in 2013. After 37 years in healthcare, Doreen retired from her day job and in 2023 joined Mike as a full-time farmer and formulator of value-added products. She graduated from Indiana University in 1986 with a degree in laboratory medicine and in 2016 earned a certificate from Hearts of Herbs School of Herbal Medicine in Clinical Herbalism and Aromatherapy. Today, she will be sharing her art of formulating herbal products.

Zann Wilson

Zann has been a plant lover since her father assigned her to deadhead the annual petunias in their garden. Because they were sticky, this was a terrible task to excite a young gardener. In spite of this rocky start, Zann has kindled a love of plants spanning decades and while living in a few diverse environments across the country having gardened in Western Illinois, Southern Ohio, North Carolina, Southern Arizona and Northwest Indiana. She has been a Porter County Master Gardener since 2002. She has presented at many area garden clubs on a variety of topics. She has come to appreciate how plants work and don't work in various environments. Zann asks us to join in at her presentation where she will look at some rare and unusual plants for your artful garden

Save the Date

2026 TGCI State Convention
April 14-15, 2026
Michigan City

2026 National Garden Club Convention
May 4 - 6, 2026
St. Louis, Missouri

NGC Flower Show Symposium
Aug 12 - 13 2026
Birmingham, AL

2026 TGCI Fall Seminar
September 9, 2026

South East District Fall Meeting
September 23, 2026

South West District Fall Meeting
September 24, 2026

North West District Fall Meeting
September 30, 2026

North Central District Fall Meeting
October 1, 2026

Central District Fall Meeting
October 13, 2026

Central West District Fall Meeting
October 15, 2026

Central East District Fall Meeting
October 16, 2026



←link

Click here to catch up with what our district directors and chairs are doing.

Youth Activities

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest



Click. Like. Share.
[The Garden Club of Indiana](#)

PRESIDENT'S
PROJECT



←link

"Plant America with Natives"
2025-2027

2025-2027

Garden Therapy

What a pleasure it has been this month to receive the 5 Garden Therapy Award Applications from 4 clubs. There are two awards available; one FOR participating in the project in which the recipients cannot take part. The other is WITH which involves the recipients partaking in the activities. I have made copies of the information and pictures for each award and those will be a part of the scrapbook I hope to complete for the 2025-2027 term. I encourage you to include a Garden Therapy chairman for your garden club. Take this winter break to assess the opportunities that are in your community for involvement with your club and please include one for the upcoming club year. Rest and renew in the upcoming months, and think of John Geddes's advice which says, "I pray this winter be gentle and kind- a season of rest from the wheel of the mind."

By Jayne Kesler
Garden Therapy Chairman

Endangered Species



Piping Plover, a small sand-colored shorebird that nests on beaches and mudflats, known for its distinctive single breast band, orange legs and short bill, encounters numerous challenges that threaten their survival.

Their habitat is on sandy beaches and shorelines of large water like the Great Lakes, Atlantic Coast, and Missouri River system, and winters on coasts and mudflats. According to Karl Schneider at the *Indianapolis Star*, The Great Lakes population has

been listed as endangered since 1986. "The Great Lakes population's bands are even more visible than those on other piping plovers because every year researchers tag new bands on hatchlings to denote when and where they hatched, according to bird conservancy group Audubon. They will wear the bands for the rest of their lives. The piping plover lives around five years."

These shorebirds forage for food by running in short bursts, then pause to peck at food sometimes shuffling one foot to startle prey. Their diet consists of insects, marine worms, and small crustaceans.

The nesting of the Piping Plover consists of the birds building a shallow scrape on the sand, often marked with pebbles. Chicks are able to walk and feed themselves shortly after hatching. The male often takes over care of the young after the female leaves.

Predators like foxes, raccoons, and cats are attracted to beaches by human activities, leading to increased predation on eggs, chicks, and adults. Climate change also poses a significant threat by altering coastal ecologies and affecting food availability. Conservation efforts are crucial to protect these endangered birds and ensure their survival.

According to Karl Schneider, "A 2005 plan by the conservation team set a goal of at least 150 breeding pairs surviving five consecutive years for the birds to be taken off the endangered species list. The plan also says the federal government should develop long-term funding and management agreements to ensure the population remains protected. While Indiana does not have a project focused on piping plovers, the DNR Wildlife Research Supervisor Theresa Bordenkecher says the agency is considering starting one in the future," .

The conservation efforts now include closing off nesting areas, using fences, public awareness campaigns and habitat restoration.

By Phyllis Grzeskowiak
Endangered Species Chairman

Trees



In February trees are mostly dormant in Indiana. Winter burn is still a possibility so keep protecting tender trees during this month and going into the month of March.

This is an excellent time to properly prune branches and start your spring tree planting plans and preparations. Avoid tree topping which contributes to long term damage. Schedule clearing and other maintenance projects before the April 1st “Bat Window” begins!!!



Northern long-eared bat
(*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Indiana’s “Bat Window” begins April 1st and runs through September 30th. This restrictive window is in place to protect the endangered Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat during their active summer roosting and maternity periods according to

INDOT Policy. The October 1st through March 31st window is the inactive hibernating season for these bats.

by Laura Kearby
Trees Chairman

Resourced from AI INDOT

Scholarships



At the December 2025 TGCI Winter Board of Directors meeting, TGCI Scholarship Chair David Zahrt made a special presentation to Diane Hurless of Flower Lane Garden Club, Columbus and Sharon Baldwin of Mudlark Garden Club of Columbus. In recognition of their going the extra mile in support of the TGCI Scholarship program, David presented them with custom Jewelry Pin Hangers. Both members became Scholarship Patrons and then for two consecutive years, Gold Star Members. Diane is the Annual Civic Fund Chair and Sharon is the Invasive Species Chair. Anyone wishing to become a Scholarship Patron can go to the TGCI website to get the [form](#), fill it out, and mail it with a check to the TGCI Treasurer. Or you can always just catch David at a TGCI meeting, as he carries the forms, pins, and stars with him. Patron and Gold Star Memberships are a great way to support the [Scholarship Program](#) or to honor someone in your club.

By David Zahrt
Scholarship Chair

Club News

Come Into The Garden Club



Come into the Garden Club met in October, November, and December for business meetings, programs and travels to the Christmas Gift & Hobby Show in Indianapolis and Mooresville's Victorian Christmas. Members celebrated the holidays with dinner gatherings for Christmas and New Year's Eve Celebrations. We're all looking forward to plans in the making for the upcoming 2026 year!

Green Thumb Garden Club



After a delay due to the inclement weather of December, Green Thumb Garden Club held their holiday celebration on January 7, 2026 at the Kopper Kettle Inn Restaurant, in Morristown, Indiana. It was a lovely gathering and their special guest was Central District Director, Cathy Weber who took this photo.

Hillcrest Garden Club

Kathy White took this fun pictures of the super holiday party Hillcrest Garden Club had in December with special guests the Ukaladies. Thank you all for making it an outstanding year, capped off with a great party!



Boonville Garden Club



Boonville Garden Club increased our membership by three at the November luncheon. Prospective members were invited to the luncheon, many of which were Yard of the Month recipients. Also, Certificates of Special Thanks were given to many members for their efforts. In November, Robert Engel was recognized for his outstanding efforts to explore restoration of the *Welcome to Boonville* garden on Yankee Road. In December, we

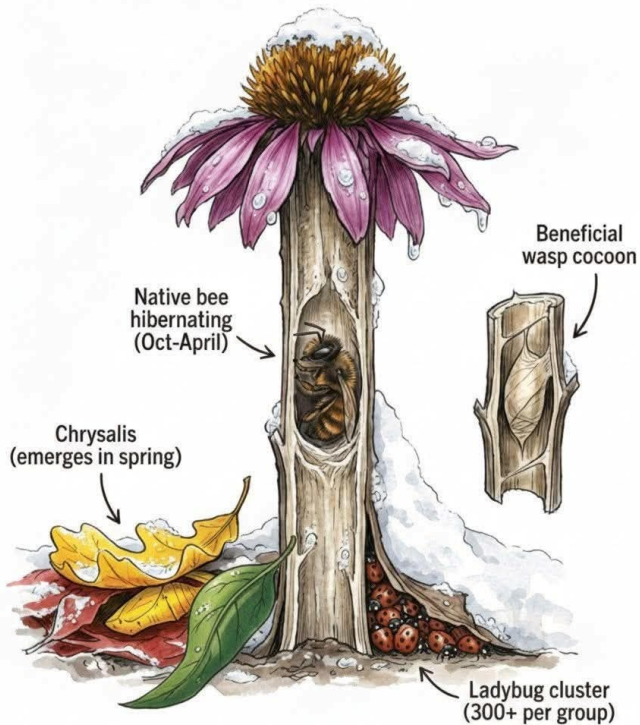
decorated a tree at the Warrick County Museum. It focused on Plant Red White and Blue and was decorated with patriotic ornaments. At our Christmas party we sang Twelve Days of Christmas embellished by dancing marionettes for each day. A beautiful pink poinsettia was given as a door prize.



Submitted by Mary Pate
President

www.gardenclubofindiana.org

**I'M HIBERNATING INSIDE THIS 'DEAD' STEM.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO CUT ME IN HALF.**



The shears can wait. My life can't.

Delay winter garden cleanup until May to support overwintering pollinators! Traditional winter cleanup can harm beneficial insects like native bees and butterflies, which rely on dead plant material for hibernation. Cutting back plants too early destroys their habitats and reduces natural pest control for spring. Here's a better approach:

Fall (Oct-Nov):

- Leave perennials and leaf litter.
- Avoid cutting hollow-stemmed plants.

Winter (Dec-Mar):

- Keep all plant material standing.
- Resist the urge to tidy up.

Spring (Late Apr-May):

- Wait until daytime temps hit 50-55°F before cutting stems.
- Leave some cut stems in your garden for late-emerging insects.

A "messy" garden is a functional habitat providing insulation for hibernating insects and food for birds. Plus, it enhances garden health by boosting pollination and pest control! For those worried about appearance, focus cleanup on front areas while leaving borders for wildlife.

Information curtesy of [Indiana Native Plant Society](#)

Munster Garden Club



The Munster Area Garden Club had a busy December starting with our annual entry in the Festival of Trees. This year our tree was adorned with dried flowers that came from several of our members' gardens. For the fourth time in the last five years, the tree earned first place at the Festival of Trees luncheon. The club also tried something new by making air dry clay vase frogs to sell at the local popular holiday craft fair. The purpose of participating in the craft fair was to bring awareness of the garden club to the community and attract new members. Our items were popular and we almost sold out. We handed out business cards with information about the club and have since been contacted by some of these individuals who wish to come to a meeting. Several are now following our social media sites too. The club used the TGCI membership reimbursement program to finance the entry fee for the table at the craft fair.

Submitted by Mariellen Smith