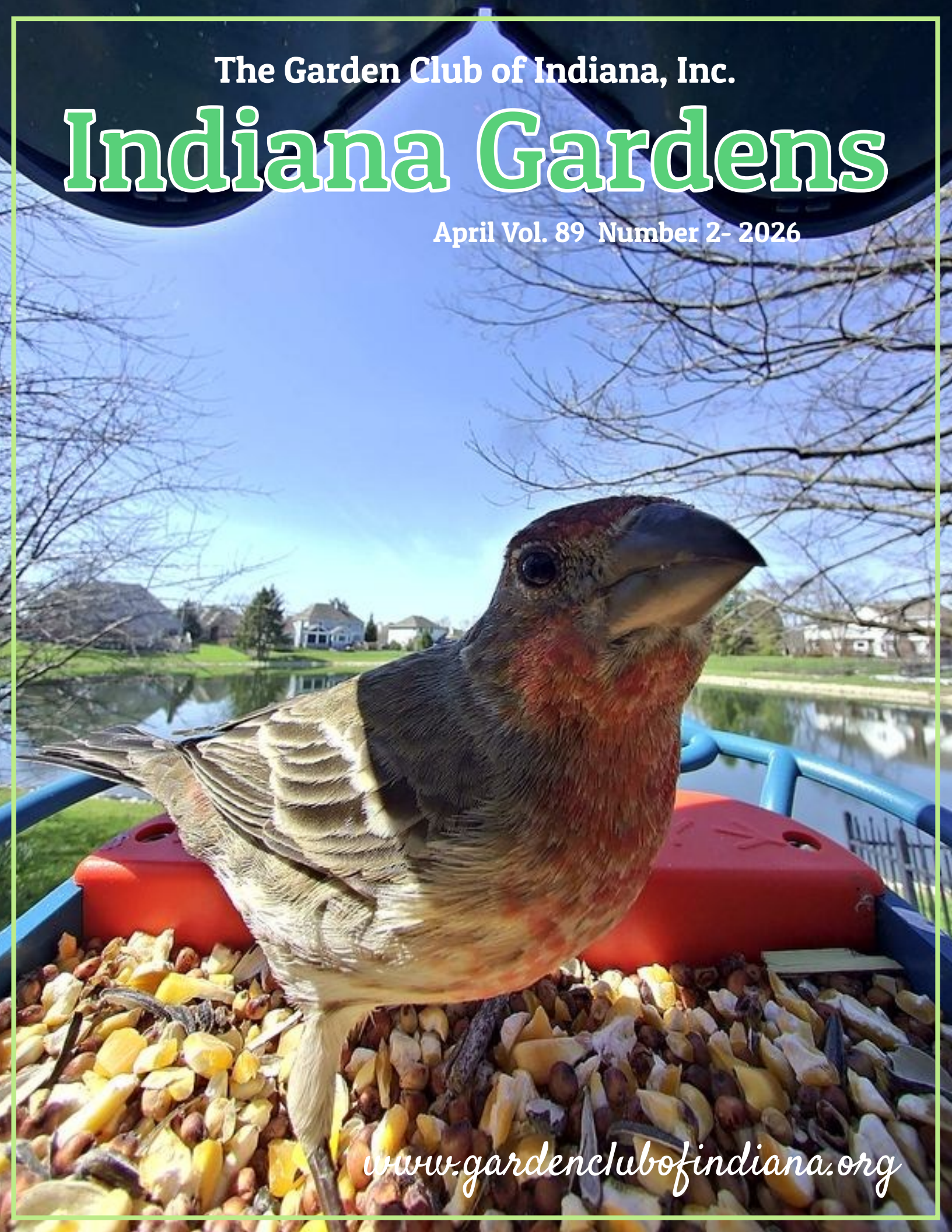


The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

Indiana Gardens

April Vol. 89 Number 2- 2026



www.gardenclubofindiana.org

In This Issue



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May 1, July 1, September 1, and November 1.

Cover Photo "Hello Spring!" House Finch photo by
Cathy Weber

Letter from the President



April showers bring verdant pastures, bright skies, budding trees, and the welcome promise of true spring but also umbrellas and rain boots. I hope that your sky is bright and clear. I am so excited to think of the spring

ephemerals in bloom. David and I try to visit the [Berns Meyer Nature Preserve](#) located in Pulaski County each year to check the blooming native plants while enjoying a hike. These are just a few of the native plants that we find on our hike in the preserve:

- Virginia bluebells
- Bloodroot*
- Red Trillium
- Spring Beauty
- Trout lily
- Dutchman's Breeches

These hardworking native spring ephemerals put on a show while most other plants are still sleeping underground. If you have a park or nature preserve near you and your garden is not blooming yet, go check out the area and see what you can find. If you do not know the plant, there are good cell phone apps that let you identify plants. Educate yourself, find out how you can have some of these plants in your garden.

Moving on to things blooming, are you thinking of Red, White, and Blue plantings for American's 250th Anniversary. How about blue salvia, red and white geraniums, common plants and easy to find. These plants will be our local garden club's go to plants for planting in our civic project areas. I have asked Cathy to

include the [red, white, and blue list](#) in this edition of *Indiana Gardens* in case you need a "jump-start."

While promoting the red, white, and blue planting, I have not forgotten to **Plant American with Natives**. I am increasing the President's Project Grant from fifty dollars (\$50) to one hundred dollars (\$100) for 2026-2027 and I hope your clubs take advantage of this increase to also increase planting natives. The application and additional information are on the webpage under Member Access- Announcements- first page.

Another opportunity for monetary awards is available from the Central Region. NGC Central Region Unified Project is to recognize clubs for progress on new projects during 2025-2027. The information and application are in the [February Indiana Gardens](#).

My 2026 schedule is beginning to fill up, but if you would like a visit or an officer installation, please let me know. I would be happy to be part of your club for the day.

Hope to see you at the 94th Annual TGCI convention. The Northwest District has a great convention planned for you. We will be hearing from a horticulturalist and garden writer, a member of Save the Dunes Council, an award-winning photographer, a certified Herbalist and Lavender Farm owner, and a master gardener that will show us rare and unusual plants for an artful garden. I am looking forward to all the speakers. I know I will come away with innovative ideas for my garden; **fulfilling part of our mission statement: promoting interest and education in horticulture, landscaping.**

See you at the 94th Annual Convention in April!

TGCI President

*We always struggle finding the right time to see them bloom.

PHOTO CONTEST

RED, WHITE AND BLUE PLANTING

Win the Grand Prize! \$100
Details in April Indiana Gardens

Who IS Eligible?
All TGCI Clubs

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Planting must be a Civic Project.
- Entries submitted by District Director by July 31.
- Each District will select a winner.
- District Winner will go to TGCI Red, White and Blue Committee for Judging.

Winners will be announced
September 9, 2026
During September Seminar
Princeton, IN
Questions: gardenclub.zahrt@gmail.com



Red, White Blue Planting Contest Rules

- Must be a Club Civic Project.
- Must Include Red, White & Blue Plants.
- Deadline for Photo to District Director July 31, 2026.
- District Director Deadline to TGCI Committee August 19, 2026.

Questions: gardenclub.zahrt@gmail.com



INDIANA
AMERICA
250
IN



Plant Red, White & Blue

Red:

- Superbells® Red *Calibrachoa hybrid*
- Superbells® Pomegranate Punch™ *Calibrachoa hybrid*
- Rockapulco® Red *Double Impatiens Impatiens walleriana*
- Soprano® Bright Red *Bedding Impatiens Impatiens walleriana*
- Luscious® Royale Red Zone™ *Lantana camara*
- Sunsatia® Cranberry Red *Nemesia hybrid*
- Boldly® Dark Red *Geranium Pelargonium interspecific*
- Supertunia® Black Cherry® *Petunia hybrid*
- ColorBlaze® Rediculous® *Coleus scutellarioides*
- Superbena® Red *Verbena hybrid*
- Summer Jewel™ Red *Salvia Salvia coccinea*

White:

- Superbells® White *Calibrachoa hybrid*
- Endless™ Flirtation *Bush Violet Browallia hybrid*
- Angelface® White *Summer Snapdragon Angelonia hybrid*
- Señorita Blanca® *Spider Flower Cleome hybrid*
- Diamond Frost® *Euphorbia hybrid*
- Rockapulco® White *Double Impatiens Impatiens walleriana*
- Snow Princess® *Sweet Alyssum Lobularia hybrid*
- Soprano® White *Bedding Impatiens Impatiens walleriana*
- Superbena® Whiteout™ *Verbena hybrid*

Blue:

- Artist® Blue *Flossflower Ageratum hybrid*
- Angelface® Blue *Summer Snapdragon Angelonia hybrid*
- Endless™ Illumination *Bush Violet Browallia hybrid*
- Blue My Mind® *Dwarf Morning Glory Evolvulus hybrid*
- Laguna® Royale Blue Pearl *Lobelia erinus*
- Laguna® Dark Blue *Lobelia erinus*
- Blue Hill Meadow Sage *salvia nemorosa*
- Rockin® Playin' The Blues® *Salvia longispicata x farinacea*
- Superbena® Cobalt™ *Verbena hybrid*



**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**

Keynote Speaker - Nina Koziol Chicago
Tribune garden columnist, educator at
Chicago Botanic Gardens, Morton

Arboretum

11 Art Vendors
and much more!

Email 2026Stateconvention@gmail.com for more
information



Exhibition Flower Show

Miniature Gardens



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

Flower Show Categories



Line Design

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)

Line and Mass Arrangements

Employ the use of mass for a greater feeling of depth



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" (no artificial flowers)

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

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



Mass Design

Full, flowing and symmetrical

Section 3 classes 9-11: Remembering the Artistry of Our Garden through photography (only one entry per class allowed for classes 9-12) All photos will be matted by committee on a black background.

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

Decorate a Hat!



Dried Flower Bookmark



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

Earth Charter Indiana and Garden Clubs of Indiana Partner on Native Plant Initiative



The Garden Clubs of Indiana, Inc. President Wanda Zahrt speaks with [219 GreenConnect](#) host Kathy Sipple about their mutual love of native plants, history about The Garden Clubs of Indiana and the new initiative they are working on together that is part of a movement to restore our native ecosystems and address the biodiversity and climate crises. We believe by working together across communities and organizations, we can certify every region in the state of Indiana - and be the first state to ever do so!

[Click here to Listen](#)

*One o' Eight
and Doing
Great!*



Friendly Gardener Edith Hallet of Friendly Garden Club in Brownsburg, Indiana has just celebrated her 108th birthday!

Trees

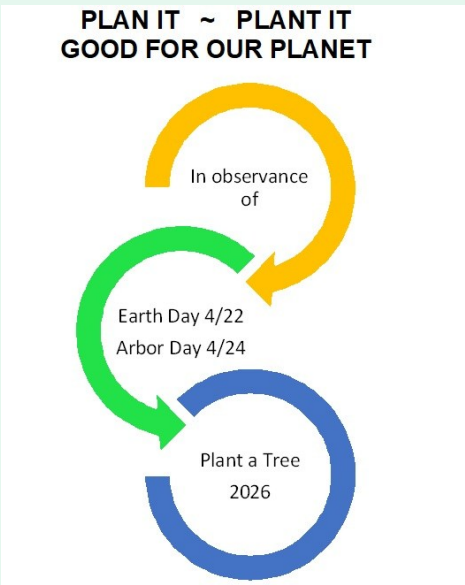
Spring tree care in Indiana (March - May) focuses on Planting, Mulching, and Pruning.

PLANTING: Do your research. Choose the right tree for the soil in your area. Choosing natives increases survival. Plant new trees early for better root establishment. The most common mistake in tree planting is planting it too deep burying the root flare. Water – young trees need 15 gallons of water weekly (April – October) to thrive, especially in Indiana’s often heavy clay soil.

!!! CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG !!!

MULCHING: Apply 2” - 3” mulch ring around the trunk base, keep it away (1’ – 2”) from the trunk. Piling mulch high against the trunk, a “mulch volcano”, suffocates roots, traps moisture, promotes decay and disease, and encourages insect infestation and rodent damage.

PRUNING: Prune dead wood, diseased and damaged branches from new plantings and existing trees preferably before leaves appear. Pruning in early spring prevents loss of sap from cuts. Refrain from pruning spring bloomers until after they flower.



By Laura Kearby
Trees Chairman

Resourced from AI, Hoosier Ag Today, Purdue University

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



Youth Activities

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest



Click. Like. Share.

[The Garden Club of Indiana](https://www.facebook.com/TheGardenClubofIndiana)



Eagleson Meadows Garden Walk & Market

6th June | SATURDAY | 10am-3pm

VENDORS • UNUSUAL PLANTS

2195 W. 211th St. Sheridan, IN 46069

Come join us for our 4th annual garden walk & market!



- Free admission
- Plenty of parking
- May want to bring a wagon
- Some vendors are cash only

Eagleson Meadows 4th annual Garden Walk & Market

Vendors

- Benedicts Nursery - alpines, miniatures, papercrete containers
- Tree Frog Nursery - perennials, woodies
- Byron Baxter - unusual conifers
- Bill Barger - unusual conifers and Japanese maples
- Randy Goodwin - unique hostas
- Local honey by Haledale Honey
- Local jams and soaps by Covenant Farms
- Local pottery by Judy Degan
- Garden glass art by Glen Jabel
- Chainsaw art demonstration and products by Ryan Frauhiger
- Glass art and mosaics by Sheila Jones
- Concrete bird baths by Kathleen Zien
- Wrought iron art by Colt Shannon
- Dog treats by Klondike Bakery
- Fresh sourdough bread products by Tim Dines
- Medicinal teas, handmade goods by Kerusso Tea & Company



The Cultivating Garden Club's
24th Annual

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 16th

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

7125 S. Meridian St

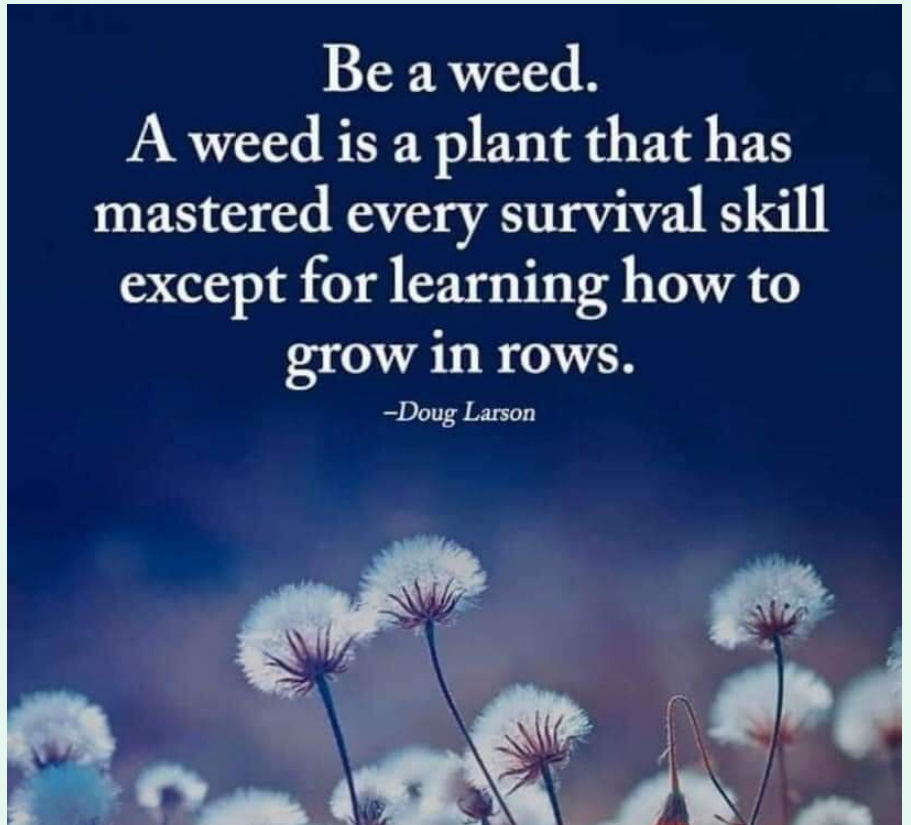
(one block south of Southport Rd on Meridian St)

Sun and Shade Perennials, Herbs,
Houseplants, Groundcovers, Vegetables,
Shrubs, Trees and more

Rain or Shine

Be a weed.
A weed is a plant that has
mastered every survival skill
except for learning how to
grow in rows.

-Doug Larson



Garden Therapy

As I work on Facebook for my Peru Garden Club, I enjoy the gardening posts anticipating the growing season. A favorite of mine captured the essence of being a gardener.

“IN EVERY GARDENER
THERE IS A
CHILD WHO
BELIEVES
IN THE
SEED FAIRY”

I hope all of your clubs have established a Garden Therapy Committee and have in mind activities for or with a group that will increase their learning about and joy in being a part of nature. I encourage you to document and photograph your activities so that you can apply for a Garden Therapy Award this coming December 1st.

My Garden Therapy display board has added more ideas and quotations from famous people who just happen to be gardeners as well. A favorite of mine is Monet’s quotation, “*I must have flowers always, and always.*”

I am making a scrapbook of your projects and ideas that I have gathered from reading. I also want to share some children’s books that I recommend. Daisy Rewilds by Margaret McNamara and Kerasoet is one of those dear books that adults enjoy as much as the children.

Enjoy your planting season and the lessons you learn, the friendships you make and the powers for good you share with your community.

By Jayne Kesler
Garden Therapy Chairman

BROAD RIPPLE GARDEN CLUB DONATED RAISED GARDEN PLANTERS, SOIL, PLANTS & SUPPLIES TO THE RESIDENTS OF CAR DON. THEY WERE GIVEN ACCESS TO THE PLANTERS AND WERE ABLE TO WATER THEM WITH THE HOSE WE HOOKED UP. A RESIDENT OR TWO ADDED TO WHAT WE PLANTED AND WE ARE HOPING THAT THE HERBS & VEGGIES WERE USED FOR THEIR MEALS!



PRESIDENT'S
PROJECT



"Plant America with Natives"
2025-2027

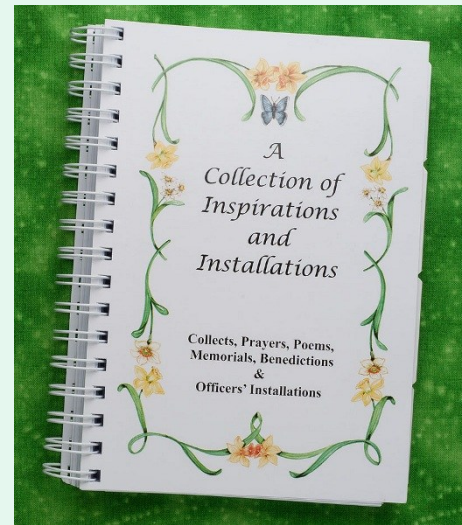
2025-2027

← Link

Club News

Boonville Garden Club

Upper left, Gretchen Powers presided at installation. Boonville Garden Club choose to do a Cereal Installation. Wheat Chex for Treasurer, making sure accounting is correct. Cheerios for Secretary, to remain cheery. Vice President received Wheaties so that club can be of Champions. And President, Rice Krispies, so to give meetings a certain amount of snap, crackle and pop.



This fun installation can be found in the collection , [A Collection of Inspirations and Installations](#) published by [National Garden Club](#)



Below left, left to right: Mary Pate, President, Tammy Miller, Vice President, Robert Engel, Secretary, Suzanne Harker, Treasurer.

Submitted by Mary K. Pate
President

www.gardenclubofindiana.org



Blue/Gold Star MEMORIAL

Beautification Grant

Learn about this new grant opportunity from National Garden Clubs, Inc. in partnership with Keep America Beautiful.

[Click here Learn More](#)



[Click here](#) to catch up with what our district directors and chairs are doing.

Garden Club of New Harmony



Photo above: left to right: Barbara McConnell, co-treasurer; Marlene Huffaker, secretary; Janet Werry, vice president; Lisa Smith, president; Ann Scarafia, co-treasurer; Tom Stahl, outgoing president.

The Garden Club of New Harmony installed new officers at their January 2026 meeting for the upcoming year. Everyone is looking forward to getting out into our gardens after our winter hiatus. We're beginning to see daffodils and early spring bulbs emerge from their winter's nap and soon there will be blossoms all over town. We are making plans and looking forward to seeing club members from around Indiana in September when the SW District Mudlarks club hosts the TGCI Fall Seminar, "Let's Go Native." We have our own native project as we refurbish a bed that formerly held invasive burning bush, planted many years ago, by now planting plugs of native plants this spring. This is a new bed in addition to nine others around town that we maintain.

We also welcome visitors to contact us and schedule a golf cart garden tour around New Harmony during the growing season. From peonies and blooming trees through autumn color, New Harmony has much to offer. Everyone is welcome to plan a golf cart tour; garden clubs are free. For details and reservations, contact us through <https://www.visitnewharmony.com/history-tours> and click on the "Learn More" button under Garden Tours.

Submitted by Marlene Huffaker
Secretary

Flower Lane Garden Club



Flower Lane Garden Club closed out 2025 with a joyful Holiday Pitch-In Luncheon held at Faith Lutheran Church in Columbus, Indiana. Members brought an array of delicious dishes to share, along with wrapped gifts for our always entertaining White Elephant exchange. Laughter filled the room as we swapped surprises, enjoyed good company, and celebrated the season

together.

We began 2026 with purpose and enthusiasm. In February, the club held its annual planning meeting to map out the year's priorities and activities. Members discussed potential guest speakers for upcoming meetings, strategies to promote our annual Plant Sale, participation in the State Convention and the Bartholomew County 4-H Fair, and updates for the 2026–2027 Flower Lane Club booklet. The group also explored ideas for field trips and shared several possible approaches to promote and encourage new membership.

Flower Lane Garden Club looks forward to a productive and enjoyable year of learning, community engagement, and shared fellowship.

Submitted by Lisa Dailey

Come Into The Garden Club



Come into the Garden Club started the 2026 new year concluding old business and ended the garden club fiscal year organizing future new business.

"House Plants" was our January program topic, when members met at the assisted living apartment of member Mary Ann Banks, emphasizing on how gardening can continue even with limited physical abilities and smaller living spaces.

February found us at a local eatery with our program focusing on "Blue and Green" - the importance of natural light and nature and how they affect our moods and well-being.

Submitted by Laura Kearby
President

Land of Contrasts-
2027 World Flower Show
Show

Taking place in
 Sydney, Australia
 March 16-23 2027

13-Night Australia & New Zealand Cruise

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

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

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	WFA or Sydney Tour
Sun, Mar 21	WFA
Mon, Mar 22	Fly Home from Sydney

Call Shelley @
 850-388-7327 Ext. 208
 s@tkinson@FunSeas.com
 www.funseas.com/wafa



Garden Clubs 2026
 National Convention May 4 – May 6,
 2026
 "Meet Me in St. Louis, Where the
 River Bends and The Arch Reaches
 the Sky!"
 Registration Now Open:
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)
 \$100 Late Fee for Registrations
 After March 31, 2026
 Deadline for All Registrations: April
 14, 2026

Vale of Paradise Garden Club



It's always a pleasure to gather with our garden club members. Vale of Paradise Garden Club met at Christmas (our final meeting for the year) and gained a new member. January is our annual membership drive and gift basket raffle for scholarships. What a great surprise it was when TGCI President Wanda Zahrt and her husband David Zahrt visited. In February, we had our first meet and greet and gained three new members. What a great way to start our new garden club year.

Submitted by Linda Dingee
 President



Garden Club of Marion



The Garden Club of Marion has ended 2025 with a busy and creative holiday season filled with community, learning, and anticipation for the months ahead.

In November, members gathered for a fun and festive greens workshop to create eco-friendly bird feeders. The project was both decorative and practical, giving our feathered friends a nourishing treat while encouraging sustainable crafting.

December brought another special gathering as the club celebrated the holiday season with a delightful Christmas luncheon at Marion's Hostess

House. Members enjoyed a warm meal, holiday décor, and the fellowship that makes the club so special. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the past year and celebrate friendships formed through a shared love of gardening and nature.

Founding member, Lila Milford, and long-time member Darlene Carper passed away at year's end, leaving us all devastated and with big shoes to fill. We continue to celebrate their lives and lasting legacies.

Throughout the winter months, club members have been hard at work submitting favorite recipes for an exciting cookbook fundraiser. The project has brought together favorite recipes from many club members. We look forward to receiving the finished cookbooks in April and sharing them with the community.

As spring approaches, the Garden Club of Marion is excited about the return of gardening season and our annual plant sale in May.

Submitted by Kimberly Jackson
President



Crown Point Garden Club



*"To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow."
—Audrey Hepburn*

Crown Point Garden Club was off to a rousing start as we enjoyed our first meeting of the new year on February 5, 2026. Once again as our members approached the door they were welcomed by "Petunia the Garden Lady" as we began our New Year and "love" of gardening. What fun it was to see old friends and welcome new friends to the meeting!

Our program was presented by Jim Pavelka, President of the Hobart Garden Club and 1st Vice President of the Indiana Garden Club, on Miniature Flower Arrangements and how to submit them for judging in a flower show.

The North West District Director, Mariellen Smith, also gave a presentation on the upcoming [Indiana Garden Club State Convention](#) that will be held April 14 – 15, 2026, at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, IN. We look forward to seeing old and new friends as we enjoy our love of gardening together.

Every year the Crown Point Garden Club puts together individual flower arrangements for the Meals on Wheels clients in Crown Point, Lowell, Merrillville and Lowell communities which are delivered with their meals in October. We are supported by Strack and Van Till who donates all of the fresh flowers and greenery. Great fellowship and fun as we support the Meals on Wheels Organization in our community.

Our garden club received a wonderful grant from the Birdzell Family Trust through the Crown Point Community Foundation and installed a beautiful Black Wrought Iron Bench in our Covered Bridge Garden area within the Lake County Fair Grounds for the community to enjoy. Come out and sit and enjoy our beautiful garden.

We all love this quote from Audrey Hepburn - *"To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow."*

