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The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

Indiana Gardens

www.gardenclubofindiana.org



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46 Clubs 🌱 6 Districts 🌱 1,162 Members



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Cover image: Friendships Bloom in a Garden

Letter from the President



Where has the time gone? It appears we were just wrapping up the April convention, and now August is already here. My time as TGCI president is flying by, and I am truly enjoying every minute of it. July found me attending garden walks, where I was once again reminded of the creativity and talent of our garden club members and Master Gardeners. From thoughtful planning and generous plant sharing to charming garden art, there is always something new and inspiring to enjoy. At one of the garden walks, I made a bit of a faux pas when I commented that the autumn clematis was invasive, not realizing I was speaking with the homeowners. They graciously explained that, although it can be invasive, they were keeping it under control by growing it on a trellis at the entrance to their patio. I acknowledged the wisdom of their approach—and, from that point on, I kept my opinions to myself.

July may be the season for garden walks, but this year the heat was especially challenging. It brought plenty of watering, along with hopes that our Red, White, and Blue plantings would survive and thrive. Thank you to the clubs that submitted for the photo contest and that our district judges will have many wonderful photos to choose from. I know our local club struggled with the heat and with holding plants longer than expected in the spring, so it took some time for everything to begin performing well. Still, I am looking forward to seeing the many creative Red, White, and Blue plantings from TGCI members. I also hope you have been enjoying the 250th Celebration activities in your communities, from the Boy Scouts' reading of the Constitution and the planting of liberty trees to walking 250 miles and preparing materials for a time capsule.

I am also looking forward to the September [Seminar](#). I know Southwest District will do an outstanding job, and Lyle Station will be a wonderful venue. One highlight will be announcing the winners of the Red, White, and Blue Photo Contest. I hope all forty-six (46)



clubs submitted an entry. Our plan is to use all submitted photos to create a PowerPoint presentation that can run in a loop, allowing everyone to enjoy the many different interpretations of Red, White, and Blue plants planted by TGCI clubs. In addition, I have two district meetings in September and four in October, and I look forward to each one.

Although this has certainly been the year of Red, White, and Blue, I have not forgotten to remind everyone of my theme: "Plant America with Natives." That includes trees, provided they are native. One of our clubs is planning a redbud dedication at its historical society for its fall meeting, which fulfills the native-planting requirement and allows the club to apply for the \$100 President's Project grant. Is anyone else considering a similar project? To show TGCI members that I "practice what I preach," I am including photos from my own native gardens at home. This is the first year for most of the plantings, so I am keeping in mind the familiar saying about natives: the first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap. I can hardly wait for the leap. Already this year, I have seen black and yellow swallowtail butterflies, at least one monarch, and many bees. On the bird side, hummingbirds, cardinals, rose-breasted grosbeaks, orioles, and, as always, finches have been enjoying the seeds from the echinacea.

Until then, stay cool, looking forward to your Red, White, and Blue Photo Contest entries. Signing off "[See You in September](#)," with a popular song originally recorded by The Tempos in 1959.

W B Zahrt
TGCI President



What's Up



[National Garden Clubs, Inc.](https://www.gardenclub.org) (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 SCHOOLS UPDATE

www.gardenclub.org

Dear NGC Flower Show Judges and FSS Handbook Users,

Please note that the 2026 Flower Show School (FSS) Handbook is currently under revision and will *not* be available by the July 1 deadline.

Until the revised handbook is published, please continue using the 2025 FSS Handbook. We will notify you as soon as the 2026 edition becomes available.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.



****SAVE THE DATE****

Monday, October 5:

Executive Committee Meeting

Joseph Tychonievich "Great Garden Design for Bad Garden Designers"
David Lowenstein "Bugging out: What's that crawling on my plant?"

Tuesday, October 6:

General Membership Meeting

Heidi Grasman "Growing Into 2027: New Plants You Won't Want to Miss"
Joannee DeBruhl "Shoots and Microgreens"
Joe Summers "Frog Approved Water Gardens"
Elizabeth Lumbert "Discover Dow Gardens and its Legacy of Beauty"
 (special virtual tour of Dow Gardens)

****Organize a Watch Party for added fun with friends****
 (individual registration required)

****Zoom training opportunities to follow****

Registration opens August 1
(registration details coming soon)

~ Hosted by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. ~



Floral Accreditation & Certifications

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

NGC Central Region Convention 2026

Registration & Speaker Details

← *Link*

WISCONSIN ROOTS NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS 98TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

SAVE
THE
DATE

MAY 14-16, 2027
MADISON, WI

Current lists of [Flower Show Judges](#),
 Environmental Consultants, [Gardening
 Consultants](#), [Landscape Design Consultants](#),
 Programs and Speakers can be found on
[The Garden Club of Indiana website](#)

Convention Reform



At last December's TGCI board meeting, a recommendation was made to explore options for holding state conventions. Mariellen Smith brought up concerns about running a convention that the North West district encountered when planning the 2026 convention. The district found it a challenge to keep registration and food costs at a reasonable price with the cost of room rental and food costs continuing to skyrocket. The NW District held several fundraisers to offset these rising costs to pay for part of the food and registration costs for attendees. Without these fundraisers, they would

have been in the red.

State board members made a recommendation that a committee be formed to look into ways to keep convention costs down. Mariellen Smith is chairing this committee and is looking for input from TGCI members. All suggestions are welcome! We need to "think outside the box" to find a way for districts and the state to hold reasonably priced conventions. The committee will review all recommendations and make a final recommendation to the board at the 2027 December board meeting. Members can send suggestions to Mariellen at mariellensmith@yahoo.com or contact her at 616-915-2690.

Save the Date

2026 TGCI Fall Seminar

Lyles Station Historic School & Museum
Princeton, IN
September 9, 2026

South East District Fall Meeting

Whittington's Barn
September 23, 2026

South West District Fall Meeting

Main Street Methodist Church Boonville, IN,
September 24, 2026

North Central District Fall Meeting

Tippecanoe River State Park Winamac, IN
October 1, 2026

NGC Central Region Convention

Virtual Meeting
October 5 - 6 2026

North West District Fall Meeting

October 7, 2026

Central District Fall Meeting

October 13, 2026

Central East District Fall Meeting

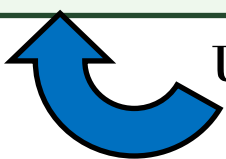
Falls Park, Pendleton, IN
October 16, 2026

TGCI 95th Annual Convention

Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN
April 28-30, 2027

National Garden Club Annual Convention

Madison, Wisconsin
May 14-17, 2027



Use links for more information, including registration



REGISTRATION FORM
THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIANA, INC

2026 Fall Native Seminar

"LET'S GO NATIVE"

← *Link*

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

HOSTED BY SOUTHWEST DISTRICT GARDEN CLUBS **LYLES STATION HISTORIC SCHOOL AND MUSEUM,**
953 N COUNTY RD 500 WEST, PRINCETON, IN

Registration Deadline: Sunday, August 9, 2026

Registration Fee: \$40.00

Includes morning beverage, snack, and lunch

Make check payable to:

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

Mail check with completed registration form to: TGCI Registration

Postmarked by August 9, 2026

c/o Jodi Meyer

2400 Taylor Ave

Princeton, IN 47670

Spouses and Guests are welcome. A separate registration form is required for each attendee.

Questions about Registration? Email: jodilume57@gmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Club Name: _____ Club District: _____

Check if applicable: Spouse: _____ Guest: _____ State Officer: _____ Other (List): _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Those arriving Tuesday evening are invited to a *Campfire Social*, 6:30-8pm at Lyles Station, 953 N County Rd 500 West, Princeton, IN. Dinner and drinks \$7.00 each. Attending *Campfire Social*? YES _____ NO _____

Available Lodging: *Room reservations should be made directly with Princeton hotels.*

Hampton Inn, Princeton: 812-385-2400; Holiday Inn Express, Princeton: 812-385-4300

Gibson County Fairgrounds: 812-385-3445 (camping sites available)

DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS: If you wish to have space for an exhibit, please complete following:

Project or Exhibit Name: _____ Table Space needed _____



Save the Date for a Day with Roses and Gardening September 18-19, 2026

Sponsored by the Illinois-Indiana Rose Society

Saint Susanna's Catholic Church
Plainfield, Indiana

Friday Events:
6PM–Pizza Supper

Introductions. Program: "Antique Roses in Gary, Indiana"
RazBanco and the Miller Garden Club

Saturday 9AM–Speakers/Topics will Include:

Antiques Roses

Mike Shoup, President of the Heritage Rose Foundation

Roses and Pests

Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Professor of Entomology, Kansas State University

"The New Paradigm"

Leslie Lewis, soil scientist with Living Systems Soil LLC (Zoom)

Roses and their Climbing Friends

Linda Beutler, President of the
International Clematis Society (Zoom)

All Are Welcome!
All Meals Provided

*Final details and Registration Form will be
available soon on our website
www.IllinoisIndianaDistrict.org*

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Name _____

(Full name as you would like for them to appear on your name badge)

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Rose Society _____

EMAIL _____

List any dietary restrictions _____

Conference registration includes all programs and district luncheon

Before September 10th \$40.00 each

Friday & Saturday registration Number attending _____ total \$ _____

After September 10th, \$45.00 each

Friday & Saturday Number attending _____ total \$ _____

Donation (optional) \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____ \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please consider a donation for the silent auction

Hotel location: Holiday Inn Express, 6296 Cambridge Way, Plainfield, IN 46168**Contact the Holiday Inn Express directly for Reservation by September 4th:****Phone 1-317-839-9000 wait and PUSH #2****Group Discount code: IPA****Hotel rate: \$135.00 plus taxes and fees**

6:00 pm – Friday Evening informal gathering will be at St. Susanna's R. C. church. Pizza supper and refreshments will be provided. Let us know if you are joining us. Yes _____ NO _____

Checks payable to: Illinois-Indiana Rose District

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ Code _____

Mail registration form and check to:

Linda Kimmel

7825 S. Sherman, Indianapolis IN 46237

Questions?

Contact: Sharon Shipp,

District Director

Registering late? Text Linda 317-+03-6016 and bring registration to the meeting.

Garden Therapy



The psychological and physiological benefits of therapeutic horticulture include:

- ✿ Stress reduction
- ✿ Improved mental health
- ✿ Cognitive benefits
- ✿ Fine and gross motor skills
- ✿ Sensory stimulation
- ✿ Improved memory

There is research to show that people in hospitals whose windows look out at a garden or a tree have better outcomes, including:

- ✿ Decreased use of pain medication
- ✿ Decreased anxiety
- ✿ Shorter hospital stays

Our session included putting herbs together for an herbal tea, seeing examples of flower arranging, nature printing with flowers and herbs, nature journaling, making a phenology wheel, creating scented sachets, creating zines and mandalas.

Liz Byrde had just published the book Rosie & Pogo which features a blind child and her lead dog touring the Missouri Botanical Garden. They smell the fruits, feel the bark and leaves, feel the warmth of the glass dome, hear the splash and rumble of the waterfalls, feel the path changes from pavement to smooth stone and read the Braille

Both Liz Byrde and Jean Carbone said that the key to making Horticulture Therapy successful is to present a cue which draws the individuals in to work on the therapy on their own and gives them a feeling of relaxation and creativity.



While at the NGC Annual Convention I attended a session on Therapeutic Horticulture given by Liz Byrde and Jean

Carbone. It was fascinating to learn about the volunteer program that is a part of the Missouri Botanical Garden on site and presented as therapeutic programs in the community. They had as their goals for their sessions the following:

- To nurture a sense of awe and wonder
- To have people leave feeling a little better with every interaction
- To have people leave knowing more about how to use a garden or natural space in a therapeutic way



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

By Jayne Kesler
Garden Therapy Chair

Trees

The Long Hot Summer



ummer can
be a
challenging

season for trees due to intense heat, drought conditions and fluctuating rainfall. It's time to protect trees in their most stress-prone months. Your focus should be on watering,

pest scouting and monitoring/inspecting for signs of heat-stress, disease and decline.

Due to recent rain/storms in Indiana, watering

trees may not be at the forefront of everyone's minds. As we head into summer remember most of Indiana is still in a state of abnormal dryness to moderate drought.

One simple ongoing task to protect your trees is regularly watering especially important in young and newly transplanted trees. To reduce water runoff, a slow drip system is recommended.

- Mulching helps to retain moisture, reducing evaporation.
- Avoid heavy pruning in the extreme heat. Do smaller corrective cuts only.
- Maintaining healthy tree growth preserves the beauty of your landscape and impacts environmental conditions.

By Laura Kearby
Trees Chair

Resourced from Cultivating Flora, Purdue Extension, SYS Enterprises

DID YOUR CLUB PLANT A TREE FOR ARBOR DAY YOU COULD QUALIFY FOR THE

BEV KELVER ARBOR AWARD

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

Requirements:

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

Scale of Points for Judging:

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

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

Club News



Shamrock Garden Club



Shamrock Garden Club invited members of Sages Garden Club to join them on a tour of the gardens of ["The Mad Botanist," Bill McKnight](#). He is a professionally trained botanist, experienced gardener, and educator. He has written, illustrated and self-published (2016) [Rantings of a Mad Botanist](#), a 450-page book intended to help gardeners and property managers make fewer mistakes, save money, time, and failed specimens. The book emphasizes stewardship in Central Indiana. His 3-acre property is located in northeast Indianapolis. The grounds have many trees, shrubs, and flowers. All are labeled with botanical names. The club members enjoyed an extensive tour of the grounds, and then relaxed on his patio with a cool drink and snack.



By Gerry St. Peters
Publicity Chairman





POKAGON STATE
PARK
ANGOLA, IN



STATE
CONVENTION
2027

HONORING OUR
DEEP NATIVE
ROOTS

APRIL 28-30
2027

Save the date!

[TGCI 95th Annual State
Convention](#)

hosted by North Central District
April 28-30, 2027 at Pokagon
State Park in Angola, IN



Vale of Paradise Garden Club

Our summer started with a spectacular plant sale. Our Valparaiso community was very supportive, and the Valparaiso Women's Association was kind enough to let us use their property for the plant sale. We are busy with trips this summer. We visited the [Friendship Botanic Gardens](#) in Michigan City, and in July we will visit a lavender farm in Niles, Michigan. One of our biggest projects is planting red, white, and blue flowers for the 250th anniversary.

Linda Dingee
President



Munster Garden Club

The Munster Garden Club recently held its popular garden walk which included six gardens from neighboring towns. Around 270 people enjoyed the unique gardens on a day blessed with good weather. The club hosted a cocktail party the Friday before to recognize those homeowners sharing their gardens this year. The club also held its annual plant sale in May which saw many regular customers come back for more bargains. In July, members got together to learn [flower hammering](#) and found it to be quite enjoyable and a great way to get out any frustrations!



Above: Come into the Garden Club members choose the bear.

Come Into The Garden Club

Come into the Garden Club members met in May and June for meetings, tours to events along with dinners, and lunches. Program, discussion, and observational topics included “Pansies” with transferring favorite florals into wearables, “A Healthy Nutritional Diet and Exercise Plans” with incorporating seasonal produce and a daily exercise routine into each day and introducing exposure to nature on a regular basis. Members are looking forward to a “Beary” good summer enjoying our natural world and our own backyard gardens.



Click. Like. Share.

[The Garden Club of Indiana](#)



"Plant America with Natives"
2025-2027

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

2025-2027



Time to
Wrangle Up!

2026 [←Link](#)

Flower Lane Garden Club



Above: Former president and current member – Paulette Balmer demonstrates at the Flower Arrangement Workshop

The first half of 2026 has been a vibrant season of creativity, learning, and community involvement for the Flower Lane Garden Club, as members launched spring initiatives, welcomed educational speakers, and supported countywide horticultural events.

Spring Planning and Educational

Spring preparations began early as the club organized for its Annual Plant Sale, held each May. At the March meeting, guest speaker Casey Ritz offered an insightful look at Columbus' ongoing efforts to care for its urban canopy. He highlighted the city's Tree City status, the importance of planting trees suited to local soil and drainage, and the continued challenges posed by invasive species and pests like the emerald ash borer. Ritz also shared practical guidance on mulching and pruning, along with updates on city initiatives—from incentives to remove aging Bradford pears to planned improvements at Donner Center, the Archway Bridge area, and the Riverwalk. He closed by noting the growth of the community garden, now home to seventy thriving plots, underscoring the community's commitment to

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

healthy green spaces.

In late April, club members spent an afternoon thinning perennials at Norbeck Chapel, gathering healthy plants to add to the inventory for the upcoming sale. The work quickly turned into a lively team effort, with members enjoying the chance to dig in together and contribute directly to one of the club's biggest annual events. The camaraderie and shared purpose set a positive tone heading into the busy spring season.

Despite the unpredictable Indiana spring, complete with rain, wind, hail, and even a touch of sleet and snow. The club's Annual Plant Sale drew both loyal patrons and first-time visitors. Community members stocked up on greenery and boutique items, and this year's event benefited from generous donations from former members and local residents.

The sale proved to be one of the club's most successful, blooming with enthusiasm and support.

Summer Creativity and County Fair Participation

In early June, planning began for the Bartholomew County 4-H Open Class Flower Division, an annual event proudly sponsored by the club. Member Paulette Balmer led a hands-on flower arrangement workshop, inspiring members and helping spark creative ideas for fair entries.

On June 24, the club sponsored the Open Class Flower Entries Division at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fair. The event displayed an impressive array of horticultural specimens and imaginative floral designs from both club members and community participants. Seven individuals earned Best in Show honors across various horticultural divisions and classes, highlighting the region's strong gardening talent. The Youth entries were particularly fun, creative, and whimsical.

Friendly Garden Club



Crown Point Garden Club



Spring finally arrived and our “amazing” gardens became the talk of the town and all of our hard work began to put on a beautiful show.

Our Grand Old Lady, the [Lake County Court House](#), became a “special” spot for our community to begin taking pictures for Mother’s Day, Spring weddings and many high school graduation pictures. We are now preparing the flower beds, as well as the Blue Star Exhibit, also located on the grounds of the court house, for our country’s “special” 250th Birthday Celebration in July freshening the flowerbeds, and planting festive “red, white and blue” flowers in the large urns adding to all of the American flags that will be encircling the entire block around the court house as we look forward to our July 4th parade “*Looking Toward the Future While Honoring Our Past*”.

The [Covered Bridge Gardens](#), within the Lake County Fair Grounds, are also being freshened up with patriotic red, white and blue flowers. Our beautiful bench is attracting many walkers and visitors to sit and enjoy our gardens. Graduation pictures from pre-

school through high school and even “gender reveal” celebrations are enjoying our labor of love of gardening.

We had our annual plant sale at the Lake County Fair Grounds, Friday, May 8, the weekend of Mother’s Day. We always look forward to this big fundraising event for our club as our community is always so generous in supporting our mission within the community.

Next up is our annual picnic, the end of June, as we enjoy good fellowship, fun, laughter, getting to know our new members that have joined this year and as always good food.



Boonville Garden Club



Above: Mental Health Committee donates flowers to Boonville nursing homes

At Boonville Garden Club's June meeting they heard from Donna Leland about Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed planting.

In late June they donated flowers to three Boonville nursing homes as our Mental Health project. We also planted vinca, ferns and grasses at Boonville City Lake and Johnson Park. We used red, white and blue flowers at a raised bed at Johnson Park on Boonville City Square.

