

NEWS

Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa

Fall 2025



A
Grateful Heart
sees many
Blessings

SAVE This Issue



Federated Garden Club of Iowa, Inc.

<https://federatedgardenclubsofiowa.com>

President: Shirley Wolf

“Our Pollinators Still Need Help”

MEMBER OF



Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

ngccentralregion.com

Director: Rene Lynch

Plant America “Progress is possible”

The News of The Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. Is a tax exempt, nonprofit organization under IRS ruling 501(c)3.

MISSION STATEMENT: To stimulate knowledge of gardening; to aid in the protection of trees, plants and birds; to promote beautification.

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Member of



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

4401 Magnolia Ave.,

St Louis, MO 63110

<https://gardenclub.org>

President: Donna Donnelly

Plant America “For the next 100 Years”

News Deadlines

Spring/ Convention Issue.....Feb 10th (March Print)

Fall/Winter Issue.....August 10th (September Print)

Editor: Theresa Cooper/

<https://federatedgardenclubsofiowa.com>



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and you will be directed to our web page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“Our Pollinators Still Need Help”

As I start the year as President who loves flowers and beautiful landscapes I look back at Walter Reemtsma's theme “Together We Can Make It Happen”. So many of our flowers, crops and environment depend on pollinators and as a group we can **help** make it happen.



Starting off the year, my Fort Dodge club gave me a wonderful party to start the year off. I want to thank all the people who sent me cards and came to the party. It was very energizing giving me quite a boost.

The Iowa State meeting will be in Jefferson, IA. I hope this is central enough to bring more people. The flower show will be a Petite Show. This was recommended to me and I love to do petites, they are much easier to haul a distance. There are many things to do in Jefferson (even if it is a smaller town) and you can make a fun trip out of it.

There is a little confusion on who to send what to, I will try to clarify it.

Deaths in your club–Jean Klosterman

Evidence Book–Peg Egertsen

Circle of Roses–Angie Wilkins

News –Theresa Cooper

Grant – There are none

For your club's insurance – send a list and dates of activities of your club to me (your club yearly book will work). Anything else let me know, if I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does.



I have an email address for state information
I get so much junk on my normal one, it gets confusing.

Looking forward to the year ahead!
Shirley Wolf, FGCI President

FGCI District Directors

District I - Marianna Haas

District II - Ruth Hamilton

District III - Teri Ewers

District IV,V,VII - Shirley Wallace

District VI - Shirleen Helgeson

District VIII - Mike Becker

Federated Garden Club of Iowa Officers 2025-2027



President
Shirley Wolf

President - Elect
Jean Klosterman

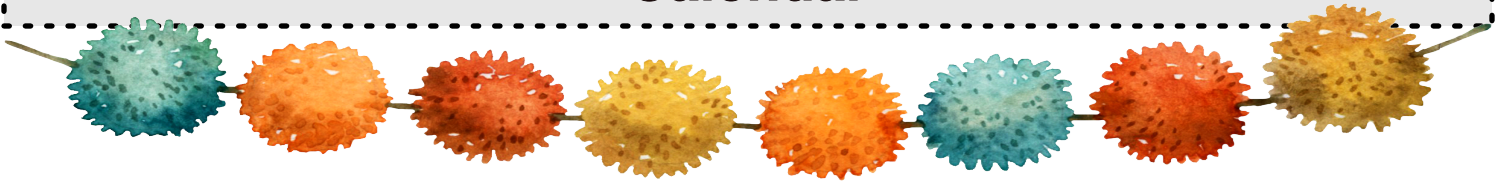
1 Vice President & Awards Chair
Peg Egertsen

2 Vice President
Angie Wilkins

Treasurer
Heidi Folkestad

Secretary
Sue Becker

Calendar



2025

September 23 Fall board meeting

October 28th-30th Central Region Convention- Elkart Lake, WI

December 31 FGCI Awards due

2026

February 10 NEWS Deadline for the Spring/Convention issue

May 4-6 National Convention - St Louis, MI

June 1 District IV, V, VII Annual meeting
East Lake Conservation Building, just east of Osceola.

June 15-16 97th FGCI Annual State Meeting and Flower Show,
Jefferson, IA Wild Rose casino

Notice

Address Changes

**Please note the post office
does not forward this
publication.**

**Please send to address changes
to State Treasurer
Heidi Folkstad**

**If you winter or summer please
let her know the changes.**



**Fall Board Meeting
Will be a Zoom
meeting
September 23rd**

Time TBD

Announcements

FGCI Membership Renewal

Hello,
In January I will be sending each club a copy of their membership roster for payment of 2026 dues. The membership roster is used to mail the FGCI semiannual NEWS publication.

Please mail the following to me by February 1, 2026:

- **MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**
Please review and update the list that you receive from me with any needed corrections or additions. Please make the changes right on the list. **Note: Submitting annual dues by February 1 each year is a requirement for clubs applying for an Advanced Club Rating Award.**
- **MEMBERSHIP DUES**
Please make checks payable to Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

I'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have about the membership renewal process. Please contact me by email, phone, or text with your questions.

Thank you,
Heidi Folkestad
FGCI Treasurer



FGCI Member Dues

- **Regular Membership:** \$10.00 annually per active member
- **Honorary Membership:** \$10.00 annually if the honorary member would like to receive the semi-annually NEWS publication. If the honorary member does **not** wish to receive the NEWS, then they do not need to be listed on the membership roster returned to the FGCI Treasurer. The *Honorary* member title is typically given to a member who has been actively contributing or long serving but is no longer able to participate in club activities. You can also recognize a business that has been providing a service to your club free of charge if you want them to receive FGCI semiannual NEWS publication.
- **Life Membership:** \$25.00 (honorary one time special recognition). Can be given to recognize a long-time member, a gift for someone who has served as club officer, or a business or group that supports your club. The names of each year's new Life Member recipients are read at the Annual State Convention by the Chair of the FGCI Life Membership Committee. The funds from Life Memberships may be used for special projects approved by the board.

PERSPECTIVELY CONNECTED
2025 Central Region
Convention
Oct. 28th - 30th, 2025
Osthoff Resort, Elkart Lake, WI
More information go to
central regions website:
ngccentralregion.com

National Convention
May 4-6th 2026
St Louis, MO
More information will be
available after December
31 on the National website:
gardenclub.org

COMMITTEES

FGCI MEMBERSHIP

Sela Bryhne

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Lizzie Pruisner

HISTORIAN

Sandra Gossman

JUDGES COUNCIL

Peg Egertsen

FGCI FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Terri Ewers

PARLIAMENTARIAN & PROTOCOL

Walt Reemtsma

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL GARDENING SCHOOL LANDSCAPING DESIGN SCHOOL

Victoria Rute

FGCI AWARDS

Peg Egertsen

FGCI SCHOLARSHIPS

Pat Thiede

FGCI YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Ruth Hamilton

FGCI BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

Jane Whitmore

FGCI Plant a Tree

Sue Becker

FGCI PLANT IT PINK

Janice Reemtsma

The Editor of the FGCI NEWS/Website

Theresa Cooper

ARBOR DAY/TREES

Penny Robb

BIRDS

Debbie Lewiston

BUTTERFLY/BUTTERFLY GARDENS

Sandy Quam

CONSERVATION

Jean Klosterman

GARDEN THERAPY

Jean Van Veldhuizen

INVASIVE SPECIES

Darla Kickbush

OPERATION WILD FLOWERS

Darla Kickbush

RECYCLE, REUSE & REPURPOSE

Deb Specht

Plant a Tree

At the State meeting, \$254.00 was raised. This was awesome! Lynn L was the speaker at this event and she did a wonderful job. Thanks to all that contributed. Thanks to all that support Plant a Tree at their club gatherings. I chose the money to go to Superior National Forest in Minnesota. While I was on vacation in the Duluth/Two Harbors area, the fires were raging in the Superior Forest. This is a worthy cause and I'm glad that we have such a program in our state. As you know, we do not have a National Forest in Iowa, so with this knowledge, it is great to know that we support our National Forests.

Thanks again,

Sue Becker
Plant a Tree
Iowa Chairperson.

Committee reports

Garden Therapy

Hope everyone is having a good summer. In our area, the rains have been coming nicely so flowers and plants are growing very nice. Hopefully your gardens are doing well also. Be sure to apply for a Garden Therapy award. The applications need to be in by the end of December. Happy gardening!

Submitted by Jean Van Veldhuizen

Invasive Species

ANOTHER INVASIVE SPECIES

Another Invasive species 'thug' has been found in 28 counties of Iowa. It was first detected in Johnson County.

Japanese Stilt Grass has invaded forest land in Eastern US. This grass hitched a ride to the US 100 years ago, most likely in commercial shipments from China.

Infestations can impact the diversity of native species; reduces wildlife habitat, and disrupts important ecosystem functions. Stilt Grass is considered one of the most damaging invasive species in the US. Infestations spread rapidly and the seed can remain viable in the soil for up to 5 years.

Japanese Stilt Grass is an annual grass. It is a bamboo-like grass, that can grow 12-24 inches tall. It will grow in open sunny areas or on a shady hillside. It is easy to pull, but seedlings spread everywhere. A single plant can produce between 100 to 1,000 seeds, it will thrive in regular disturbed soils, mowing, flooding, tilling, high foot traffic, animal fur, contaminated hay, potted plants and mud stuck on footwear. The seeds will germinate in and under established plants where few other weeds can survive.

After seed production in the late summer or early fall, the plant will die back, leaving a thick layer of tan thatch on the ground until it reappears the following spring.

A weed trimmer can help eradicate the grass by whipping very low to the soil. This should be done before seed production appears. Another method of controlling the spread is grass clippings, cardboard or plastic placed where the infestation is growing. Frequent mowing before seed production is helpful.

Choose plants that will out compete Stilt Grass. For shade Ostrich ferns, some shrubs such as Caroline Allspice or Bottle brush Buckeye. For sunnier areas Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper, and Annabella Hydrangea, and Bee Balm.

The plant has pale green leaves with a white stripe down the middle with off-center midrib. It looks like a small bamboo. It has a sprawling habit. The leaves are 1-3 inches long. The leaves are elongated and lance shaped. The leaves are arranged alternately on the stalk. The stems are thin, wiry, and will root at the nodes on the stem. Flowers are delicate. Spikes appear in the last summer or early fall.

Japanese Stilt Grass crowds out native species. It all can change how nutrients are processed in the soil. It alters soil conditions, and can also alter fire behavior because of the dense thatch.

(Information taken from Penn State Extension, Thomas Roseburg, Drake University, Des Moines Iowa, Iowa DNR)

Submitted by Darla Kickbush

Committee reports

DEAD TREES ARE NOT USELESS TREES

Jean Klosterman
Conservation

Standing dead wood, also known as snags may appear lifeless but in fact, they support a rich array of biodiversity. They provide a critical source of food, shelter, and nesting sites for many wildlife species. Species that use standing dead tree branches and trunks include birds, mammals, insects, and fungi. Snags serve as important habitat for many endangered and sensitive species. These species depend on the unique microclimates of dead wood.

NEST CAVITIES CREATE WILDLIFE HABITAT

Snags provide useful resources for woodpeckers, nuthatches, and other cavity-nesting birds. Woodpeckers excavate cavities from dead and dying wood, then build their nests inside. They're known as primary nesters. The holes they create in the bark of snags also support many other bird species, such as bluebirds, swallows, and chickadees.

Other animals, like bats and raccoons, also use cavities in snags as roosting sites and nurseries for their young. These other animals are called secondary cavity nesters. Tree cavities, both excavated and natural hollow cavities, are important for many animals.

DECAY PROVIDES NUTRIENTS FOR DECOMPOSERS

The decay that occurs in standing dead wood creates some unique habitat opportunities for wildlife. As the wood breaks down, new cavities form, creating more homes for all kinds of birds, critters and more.

It also enhances the diversity of the ecosystem as more species move in. Many insects rely on snags as feeding and breeding sites. The fungi that grow on dead wood can serve as a food source for a wide variety of flora and fauna.

Live trees, dying trees, and fully dead trees may all have some level of decay. Loose bark, dead branches, or broken tops are all places where decay can occur. While decay may look ugly, it's critical to forest ecology. A healthy timber always has some decay happening.

REMOVING SNAG TREES CAN HURT WILDLIFE HABITAT

Studies have shown that the removal of snags in forests can have a severe impact on wildlife biodiversity. For example, keeping snags (instead of removing them) can result in more species of birds. This study showed that decline in some bird abundance may come from something as simple as removing dead or dying trees.

STANDING DEAD TREES & NUTRIENT CYCLING

Nutrient cycling is when organic matter breaks down into its component parts. This releases nutrients into the soil that nourish plants and other organisms. It helps the efficient transfer of energy between different levels of the food chain. Without nutrient cycling, we couldn't make and use healthy soil.

Dead trees play a critical role in nutrient cycling. As they decay, dead trees and other forms of organic matter release nutrients into the soil.

This decomposing process is essential to the functioning of timber ecosystems. The nutrients released back into the soil support the growth of new vegetation. Decomposition releases nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus.

Simply put, dead trees contribute to soil quality by providing a source of available nutrients. Plants then absorb these nutrients. By releasing these nutrients back into the ecosystem, dead trees play a crucial role by supporting the health and well-being of most other living beings within the forest.

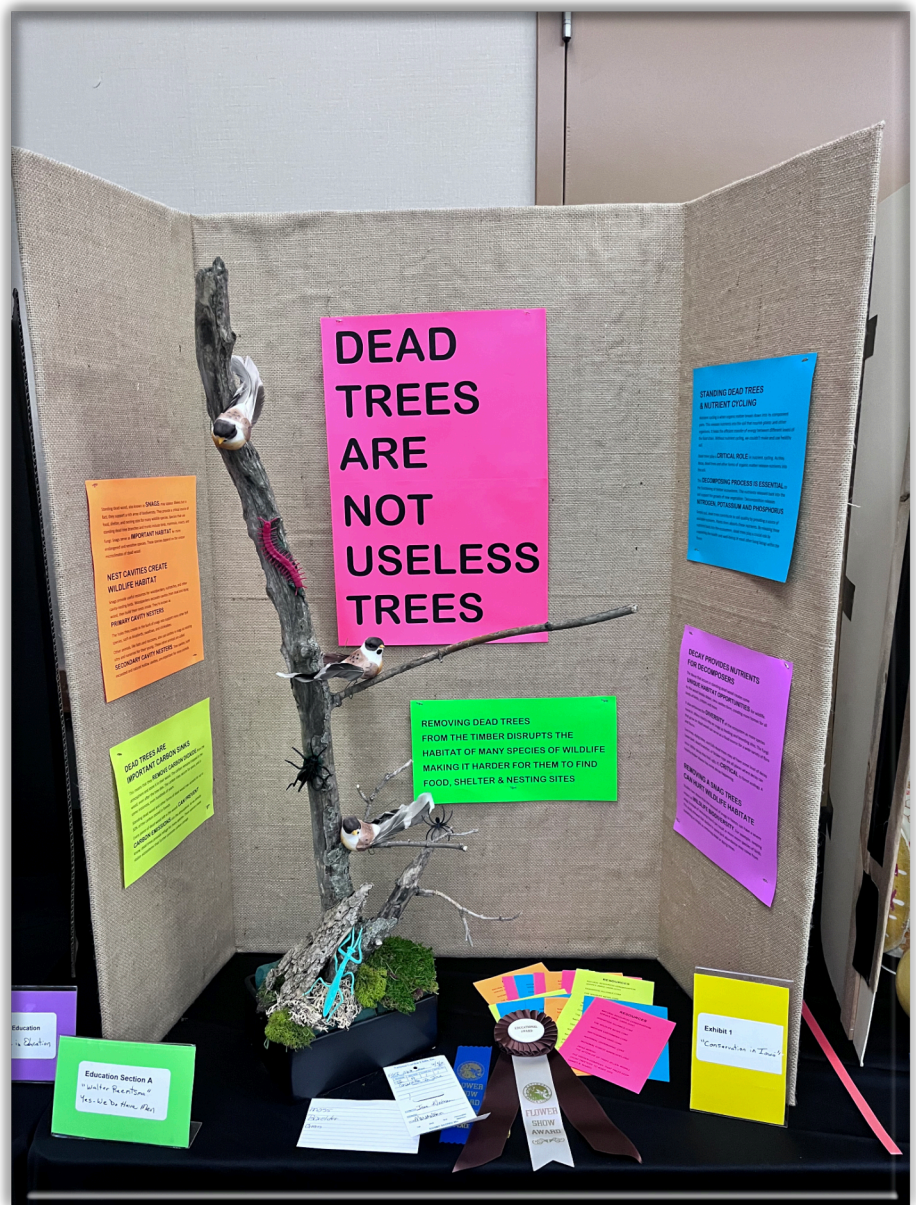
DEAD TREES ARE IMPORTANT CARBON SINKS

This means that they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their wood. The carbon remains trapped in the wood, even after the tree dies. The carbon stays secure for years, and in some instances, even hundreds of years.

Standing dead wood and other forms of dead wood may account for up to 50% of the carbon stored in forests. Every piece of dead wood left in the woods can prevent carbon emissions into the atmosphere. As we already know, dead trees provide refuge for many species. These species create stable ecosystems that further promote carbon storage.

RESOURCES: NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRSC.USDA.GOV); DOGWOOD ALLIANCE.COM; THE WILDLIFE NEWS.COM; MOTHER EARTHNEWS.COM; SMITHSONIAN MAG.COM; NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.COM; NATIONAL FOREST ADVOCATES.ORG; *DEAD WOOD: THE AFTERLIFE OF TREES* (ELLEN WOHL); *THE HIDDEN COMPANY THAT TREES KEEP: FROM TREETOPS TO ROOT TIPS* (JAMES B. NARDI)

Jean Klosterman's Educational exhibit from the FGCI State Flower Show



FGCI Flower Show Judges Updated (2025)

Sue Becker

Jenny Messer

Janna Boyd

Charla Pearce

Sela Bryhne

Sandra Quam

Roger Buhr

Marlyn Rietveld-Ebbers

Loretta Daisy

Victoria Rute

Peggy Egertsen

Helen Venneman

Terri Ewers

Sandra Wales

Pam Gollob

Angie Wilkins

Sandra Gossman

Shirley Wolf

Twila Henning

Steve Wolter

Mary Mai-Gengler

Debbie Lewison

Marlene Marolf

Yvonne McCormick



A reminder - The FGCI has 6 student judges who all need judging credits. Please consider asking several of the following to judge at flower shows in your area:

Mike Becker

Theresa Cooper

Jean Klosterman

Walter Reemtsma

Mary Reyerson-Low

Penny Robb

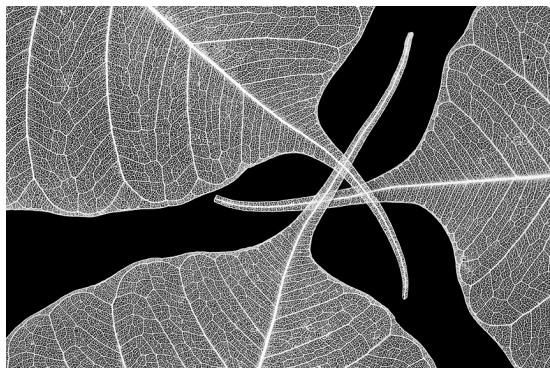
Skeletonizing Leaves

Select leaves that are not especially delicate. Leaves such as Magnolia, Leather leaf, Maple, Rubber plants, and many cacti work well. Also, green supple leaves or naturally dried leaves.

Method One: This is a simple method but takes longer. Obtain a plastic size box and pour in enough water to fill half full add 3/4 cup of Borax . Place a leaf or leaves in the water and a small weight to keep the leaves from floating. **Wait 15 days** - Very carefully (with tongs) remove the leaves and place them on a paper towel. Take a very soft toothbrush or paintbrush and very gently dab all of the underside of the leaf while removing as much plant flotsam as possible. Gently flip the leaves and repeat the process. Optional: Place leaf or leaves in a small container of bleach. Do this first if you desire the finished look to be white or if you intend to paint it a different color. Last Step: Dry the leaves on a paper towel. If you like the look of flattened leaves then place them between two paper towels and place a flat weight on top. If you like the natural look of the curled leaves then let them dry without any weight.

Recipe from the judges symposium given by Shirley Tetreault, DesignInstructor

Photo by Julie Kenward
<https://www.flickr.com>



FGCI 96th Annual Meeting Information

Iowa State Convention 2025
June 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order by our president, Marlene Marolf. There were 60 registered members. Heidi Cox-Folkestad read her treasurer's report which I have attached with my notes. Sue Becker, Secretary was not present, but a copy of the minutes was included in the brochure, passed. There was a program put on by Brian Ritter of Nahant Marsh in the afternoon. The second speaker was supposed to be a Representative from the African American Museum of Iowa. They couldn't make it, so Marlene led the discussion on how to grow our clubs in the State of Iowa.

The new officers were installed and are as follows:

Shirley Wolf, President

President Elect: Jean Klosterman

1st Vice President: Peg Egertsen

2nd Vice President: Angie Wilkins

Secretary: Sue Becker

Treasurer: Heidi Cox-Folkestad

Plant a Tree raised \$254.00 which Heidi will send in to National Headquarters.

There was a \$100.00 donation to Judge's Training.

Heidi and Pat Thiede are working out how to distribute these funds and a check will be sent to Dr. Carl Rogers, Chair, Department Landscape Architecture in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the two Landscape Design scholarships. Information was given on the four Horticulture student recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Becker

Secretary



Walt
presenting
new officers
with flowers

Heidi Folkestad, Angie Wilkins, Peg Egertsen
Jean Klosterman, Shirley Wolf, Marlene Marolf
and Walter Reemtsma

2025 Circle of Roses

Walter Reemtsma, Susan Caulkins,
Candy Bisenius, Mary Steuben,
Nan Bonfils and Steve Wolter



Palo Alto Garden Club
Madrid Garden Club
Knoxville Federated Garden Club
Clay County Federated Garden Club
Greater Des Moines Garden Club
Afton Federated Garden Club
Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club
Muscatine Garden Club
Kossuth Area Garden Club
Ackworth Garden Club
Tipton Federated Garden Club
Independence Garden Club
Clay County Federated Garden Club

Candy Bisenius
Nan Bonfils
Susan Caulkins
Dennis DeWitt
Ruth Keairns
Beth McGrath
Rita Milberger
Maryrose Peterschmidt
Walter Reemtsma
Frances Sales
Sue Schroeder
Mary Steuben
Steve Wolter

In Memory

A Gardener's Wish

If I should die before the spring,
When Flowers bloom and songbirds sing
Remember me in gardens bright
Where petals dance in golden light
-Unknown



Mavis Floy- Swaledale

Kay Demory- Ackworth

Penny Blakey- Ackworth

Karen VanBuskirk - Afton

Marlena Moors -Baxter

Melvin McGamery- Baxter

Judu Schroeder -Grant Sunshine

Steve Williams- Grant Sunshine

Beth Muenchrach Greater Des Moines

Vigil Moore-Greater Des Moines

Dixie Loynachan -Knoxville

Ruth Dotteres-Knoxville

Sandy Heerenna- Pella

Wanda Burkman- Woodland Hills

Lavaille Anderson Esterville

Joan Nimms- Esterville

Bonnie Cronquist- Fort Dodge

Nancy Hunziker- Palo Alto

Annette Pererson- Palo Alto

Ki Mosser- Palo Alto

Libby launbenthal- Palo Alto

Sandra Vab Hauen- Webster City

Jane Adams Webster City

Mary Lou Larson- Spencer

Student Scholarship Awards

2025 FGCI Horticulture Student Scholarship Awards

“Horticulture influences our everyday lives. Whether it be the grass we walk on, the apple and food we eat, or the flowers in the gardens around us and so much more.”

Annually, FGCI bestows four \$750 scholarship awards to worthy students who are majoring in one or more academic programs in Horticulture. Iowa State’s Horticulture Department is one of the oldest and most respected in the world. Because Iowa State College was established as a land-grant college, and was the first to establish a master gardener’s program, we rely on ISU to produce the horticulture students we want to recognize. Students learn from industry-leading professors and have access to the latest technologies in landscaping, turf-grass management, and every food and non-food crop under the sun. They receive hands-on experiences off campus working at greenhouses, farms and vineyards, golf courses, sports fields, and landscape construction and management firms to develop skills as a horticulturist.

These hard-working, quality students were selected by the dedicated faculty committee in March and they, along with the recipients, appreciate the generosity of the FGCI for making these awards possible. This year’s Horticulture award recipients are:

Alexis “Lexi” Roberts, Hometown: Albert City, Iowa. She grew up on a farm where she was constantly surrounded by plants, animals and the changing seasons. She states, “I developed a passion to understand HOW things grew which then sparked my interest in science, sustainability and conservation. Upon graduation in Spring 2026, I hope to work in land management or conservation, ideally with the National Park Service. We need to protect natural ecosystems, educate the public and support sustainable practices that preserve landscapes for future generations.”

Holland Hanson, Hometown: Savage, Minnesota. Graduating in Spring 2026. “After starting as a pre-med biology major, but after taking a course in Horticulture, I decided to double major, which now, turned into Public Horticulture as my sole major. The fantastic and enthusiastic professors at ISU, I grew to LOVE everything horticulture and look forward to a career in public botanical gardens, creating fun and engaging spaces so people can have the same magical experiences I had with my family visiting gardens all over the upper Midwest.”

Brooklyn McGinnis, Hometown: Muscatine, Iowa. She will be a May 2027 graduate.

“I took a horticulture class my sophomore year of high school and fell in love! I loved working in the greenhouses and being surrounded by plants. Iowa State has an amazing horticulture program and I knew it would be the perfect place for me. I do not know my future career plans but I currently have an internship at the ISU Research Farm in Fruitland and Crawfordsville that I am enjoying. Thank you for the scholarship gift.

Haven Cross, Hometown: Cedar Falls, Iowa. Graduating December 2026. She grew up tending her family’s garden and enjoying being outside and working in nature all summer long. Her career goal is to work for the City of Cedar Falls and eventually partner with them to open a city/community run greenhouse. She also received this award in 2024.

Graduates have a **98% job placement** within six months of graduation, they are on their way to enjoying a great career as: Fruit and vegetable producer, Golf course or sports field manager, Lawn care professional, Nursery producer and garden center manager, Landscape design and installation professional, Public garden horticulturist and educator, garden writer and communication professional, or Environmental specialist.

Submitted by Pat Thiede, FGCI Student Scholarship Chair

96th Annual State Flower Show Awards

Division II - Design

Award of Design Excellence

Jenny Messer -Ackworth

Section A - Designers Choice. and Williamsom Certificate of Excellence

Steve Wolter- Clay County

Section B - Petite Award and Barb Sylvester Certificate of Excellence

Lizzie Pruisner - Ackworth

Section C -Table Artistry award and Ricky Certificate of Excellence

Jenny Messer -Ackworth

Design Sweepstakes Award and Willasson Certificate of Excellence

Peg Egertson - Clay County

Thomas Certificate of Excellence 90+ novice winner

Lizzie Pruisner -Ackworth

Mabel Prior Certificate of Excellence 90+ designer not a judge

Walter Reemtsma - Kossuth Area

Davidson Certificate of Excellence

Marti Bargman - Marshalltown

Fran Smith Certificate of Excellence Best Second-place

Sandy Quam - Ames

Division III - Educational

Top exhibitor, educational award

Jean Klosterman - Marshalltown

Division I – Horticulture

Award of Horticulture Excellence and Rusk Certificate of Excellence

Deb Bentley- Muscatine

Horticulture Sweepstakes Award and Smith Certificate of Excellence

Deb Bentley -Muscatine

Otto certificate of Excellence

Sandy Quam-Ames

Awards of Merit

Annuals - Flowering

Deb Bentley -Muscatine

Biennials Flowering

Brenda Emick-Herring- Tipton

Perennials Flowering

Deb Bentley -Muscatine

Perennials Foliage

Jennifer Messer -Ackworth

Bulbous Plants

Deb Bentley -Muscatine

Herbs

Penny Robb- Green Thumb

Roses

Shirley Wolf- Fort Dodge

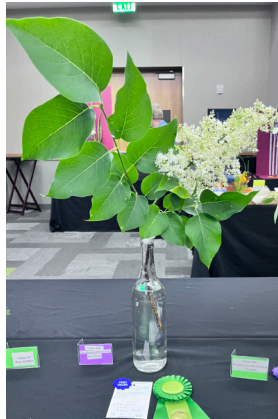
Arboreal

Sandra Walles- Muscatine

FGCI Flower Show Horticulture Awards



**Penny Robb
Chives**



**Sandra Walles
Japanese Tree Lilac**



**Penny Robb, Jenny Messer, Deb Bentley, Sandy Quam,
Sandra Walles and Brenda Emick-Herring**



**Jenny Messer
Hosta**



**Deb Bentley
Zinna**



**Deb Bentley
Delphinium**



**Shirley Wolf
Rose**



**Deb Bentley
Lilly**



**Brenda Emick-Herring
Clustered Bellflower**

FGCI Flower Show Design Awards



Walt Reemtsma, Jenny Messer, Lizzie Pruisner, Sandy Quam, Peg Egertson, and Steve Wolter



Sandy Quam



Jenny Messer



Lizzie Pruisner



Walter Reemtsma



Marti Bargman



Peg Egertson



Steve Wolter

CLUB AWARDS REPORT

CLUB AWARDS REPORT

Jean Klosterman

It was my very great pleasure to wrap up my second and final year as FGCI First Vice President and Awards Chair by recognizing garden clubs from around the state with award certificates at the district meetings that took place this past spring. Clubs that submitted the yearbooks and reports by the Dec. 31 deadline were acknowledged of their status as recipients of Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook and/or Advanced Club Rating certificates. In addition, 11 clubs also received awards for their community service and education projects. They are as follows:

DISTRICT 1: Muscatine Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Tipton Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating

DISTRICT 2: Good Earth Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Independence Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Town & Country Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating,
Plant It Pink: Red

DISTRICT 3: Green Thumb Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating,
Plant It Pink: Blue; Standard Flower Show: Blue; President's Project: Blue
Marshalltown Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Swaledale Garden Club: *Garden Therapy: Blue; Civic: Red*

DISTRICT 4, 5, 7: Ackworth Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Afton Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Ames Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Baxter Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Centerville Garden Club: *Plant It Pink: Blue*
Grant County Sunshine Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club
Greater Des Moines Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating,
Civic: Blue
Knoxville Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating,
Civic: White
Pella Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating
Awards: Gardening Article: Blue; Rita Tarr: Blue
Woodland Hills Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating

DISTRICT 6: Estherville Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating,
Garden Therapy: White;
Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating,
Standard Flower Show: Blue
Kossuth Area Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club
Town & Country Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating,
Civic Award: Blue
Palo Alto: *Civic: White*

DISTRICT 8: Floyd County Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Yearbook
Clay County Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating

Districts and Clubs

DISTRICT IV, V, VII

ACKWORTH GARDEN CLUB
 AFTON GARDEN CLUB
 AMES GARDEN CLUB
 BAXTER GARDEN CLUB
 CENTERVILLE GARDEN CLUB
 GRANT COUNTY SUNSHINE GARDEN CLUB
 GREATER DES MOINES GARDEN CLUB
 KNOXVILLE GARDEN CLUB
 MORAVIA GARDEN CLUB
 PELLA GARDEN CLUB
 WOODLAND HILLS GARDEN CLUB, DES MOINES AREA

SHIRLEY WALLACE, Director

DISTRICT I

KEOKUK GARDEN CLUB
 MUSCATINE GARDEN CLUB
 TIPTON GARDEN CLUB

Marianna Haas, Director

DISTRICT II

GOOD EARTH GARDEN CLUB, CEDAR RAPIDS
 INDEPENDENCE GARDEN CLUB
 QUASQUETON GARDEN CLUB
 TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB, DECORAH

Ruth Hamilton, Director

DISTRICT VI

ESTHERVILLE GARDEN CLUB
 FORT DODGE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB
 KOSSUTH AREA GARDEN CLUB, Algona
 MADRID FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB
 PALO ALTO GARDEN CLUB
 TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB, WEBSTER CITY

Shirleen Helgeson, Director

DISTRICT III

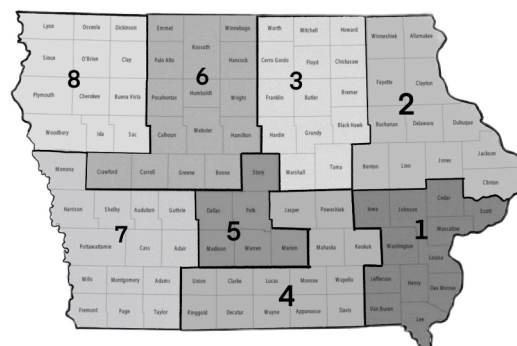
BETTER HOMES AND GARDEN CLUB, RADCLIFFE
 GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB, NORTHWOOD
 MARSHALLTOWN GARDEN CLUB
 SWALEDALE GARDEN CLUB

Terri Ewers, Director

DISTRICT VIII

FLOYD VALLEY FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB
 CLAY COUNTY FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB

Mike Becker, Director



NGC Conservation pledge

"I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet
 earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers
 of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife."

District Annual Meeting Reports

District III

FGCI Annual Meeting Minutes - April 16, 2025

The 2025 annual meeting of District III Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa was held at the Swaledale Community Center, Swaledale, Iowa on Wednesday, April 17, 2025, hosted by the Swaledale Federated Garden Club. Tables were set in spring colors with a potted pansy at each place setting for attendees to take home and assorted garden seed packets available.

The meeting was opened with a welcome from Julie Kaduce of the Swaledale Club. She introduced state officers as honored guests, State President Marlene Marolf, President-Elect Shirley Wolf, First Vice President & Awards Chair, Jean Klosterman, 2nd Vice President Peg Egertson and Secretary Sue Becker.

Terry Dorenkamp introduced guest speaker, Katie Jensen, landscape designer and owner of Katie Casey Designs in Clear Lake. While Katie's expertise lies in the landscape design area her shop features houseplants and home decor. Katie presented several varieties of plants in the philodendron family. She explained it as a very diverse group of plants as evidenced by the plants she displayed and described. Katie discussed some houseplant care tips and stressed her own preference for low maintenance specimens. She answered questions and her passion for plants was evident.

State president Marlene Marolf addressed the group expressing her enjoyment and privilege of serving the past two years as president and now enjoying her last fling of district meetings as her term winds down. She discussed the financial issues the state organization is facing. The scholarship fund continues to be strong. However, the general budget is not as strong as it has been resulting in the end of grants being offered after this year. The NEWS publication will be cut back to two physical issues. The plan is to utilize the website more. In closing Marlene expressed the honor of serving as president and encouraged attendance at the state meeting in Cedar Rapids in June to support the incoming president, Shirley Wolf.

District III Director, Bonnie Handsacker, opened the business meeting. She shared her experience visiting Brazil the past winter noting the differences in farming between Iowa and Brazil as well as differing year round yard work.

Secretary Pam Carlson read minutes from the 2024 meeting. Upon motion by Penny Robb and seconded by Theresa Cooper the minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Jean Van Veldhuizen presented the treasurer's report with a balance on April 16 of \$688.76. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Old Business

At the 2024 annual meeting a change in annual dues from \$.25 to \$1.00 per member was approved. This change to the bylaws requires two votes. It was unanimously voted to raise the membership dues effective with the 2026 year. It is the discretion of each club to implement the new amount in the current year or 2026. Terri Ewers will make the change in the district bylaws and provide a copy to each District III club president. Club presidents or those on their behalf reported on their club activities. It was noted that there were six student judges present. In spite of varying levels of club membership each club is active providing a variety of project and programs for members.

Attendance of Clubs

Jean Klosterman, Marshalltown - 1

Theresa Cooper, Green Thumb Garden Club, Northwood - 11

Kathryn Henderson, Radcliffe - 3

Deb Stockberger, Swaledale - 7

Awards chair, Jean Klosterman, announced district awards.

Green Thumb Garden Club - Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating

Blue for each project: Plant it Pink, Flower Show Schedule, President's Project

Marshalltown - Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Club Rating

Swaledale - Blue-Garden Therapy; Red-Civic

District Annual Meeting Reports

-District III- Continued

New Business

Considering there are four clubs left in District III combining with District II was discussed. District II also consists of four clubs-Cedar Rapids Good Earth, Decorah Town and Country, Independence and Quasqueton Garden Clubs. Districts IV, V, and VII are currently combined, Districts VI and VIII share boundaries making District II a good choice to partner. Points to consider include the fact that the number of clubs and membership in clubs are declining and an increase in clubs provides greater options for networking. Upon motion by Penny Robb, seconded by Nancy Amundson the motion passed. Terri Ewers will reach out to the director of District II so that the possibility can be approached at their district meeting May 2. It was noted that a merger of the two districts would require a change to by-laws and therefore require two votes. This would also provide a "trial" shared district meeting in 2026 before the second vote would take place. District officers from each district could form a committee on the proposed merger. District donations were discussed. In the past \$50 has been donated to the State president during the second year of their term for expenses incurred during their term in office Upon motion by Angie Wilkins, seconded by Theresa Cooper a motion passed to donate \$50 to State President Marlene Marolf. Sue Becker, shared information regarding Plant-A-Tree, formerly Penny Pines, She pointed out differences in the new partnership with the USDA Forest Service. Donations are now accepted in any amount \$50 up rather than \$68 increments. Donations may be designated for a particular forest or where it is most needed at the discretion of the Forest Service.

Considering there are no national forests in Iowa it was suggested to donate funds within Iowa. Upon motion by Mary Low, seconded by Terri Ewers it was passed to donate \$200 to the Iowa Arboretum. Following a break to peruse the ways and means table as well silent auction items and enjoy lunch Deb Stockberger presented her project of flowers embroidered on tulle stretched on a hoop. Deb was introduced to the craft by the work by Olga Prinku which piqued her own passion to integrate flowers into creative and beautiful projects. The business meeting was resumed and old business was completed. State President Marlene Marolf shared information regarding the state flower show schedule, Women in Iowa. She encouraged researching the titles honoring women who have made a mark in Iowa history as well as past state presidents.

Election of officers

Nominations from the floor

Director: Terri Ewers (no nominations from the floor as vice director steps into director position)

Vice Director: Julie Kaduce, nominated by Angie Wilkins, 2nd Carol Witt. Passed

Secretary: Pam Carlson will continue to serve, no other nominations. Passed

Treasurer: Jean VanVeldhuizen agreed to continue to serve, no other nominations. Passed

Outgoing officers were thanked for their service.

Jean VanVeldhuizen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Julie Kaduce. The meeting was adjourned!

Pam Carlson demonstrated making coasters from recycled plastic shopping bags.

Green Thumb Garden Club extended an invitation to the 2026 District III meeting. the meeting is subject to the potential for a joint meeting with District II. No date has been set and attendees were invited to take pansies at their place setting as a thank you gift from the Swaledale Club.

Silent auction winners were announced. The silent auction netted \$180 to go to the district.

Gift bags and remaining Ways and Means items were distributed as door prizes.

Ways and Means also netted \$180!

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Carlson



District Annual Meeting Reports

FGCI District IV, V & VII Annual Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2025

Districts IV, V & VII met at the National Sprint Car Museum in Knoxville, Iowa. Knoxville hosting. Registration by Woodland Hills.

Delicious morning refreshments by Baxter.

District Director, Shirley Wallace (Afton) called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and gave the Welcome.

Flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the Afton Federated Garden Club.

Shirley Wallace introduced guests:

Shirley Wolf - FGCI State President Elect

Jean Klosterman - FGCI 1st Vice President and Awards Chair

Peg Egertsen- FGCI 2nd Vice President

Heidi Folkestad - FGCI State Treasurer

District roll call- Clubs recognized total numbers, number of new members and number present today

Total number-171

New members-15

Members present -72

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were motioned on and approved. Motion made by Lois Boyrink (Pella), 2nd by Jean Scheisher (GDM) Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was motioned on and approved. Motion made by Mike Boulton (Afton) 2nd by Romana Parken (Ackworth) Motion carried.

Shirley reported that there has been \$1,175 earned for Greenfield, Iowa to use for replanting trees this fall after their devastating tornado. Clubs may still donate.

Jean Klosterman presented awards for the clubs' Book of Evidence. They were put on display.

Motions were made to reelect the current slate of District IV, V, VII officers. Motions carried.

Shirley Wallace- District Director

Ginny Quick- District Secretary

Kathy Ellis-District Treasurer

President Shirley Wallace recognized the Treasurer and Secretary with gifts from her trip to London, which were greatly appreciated.

Garden Moments were given by Greater Des Moines.

Members were encouraged to attend the FGCI Annual Convention and FGCI Flower Show, which will be held in Cedar Rapids at the Kirkwood College Hotel on June 9 & 10. Members are urged to sign up in order to have a quorum.

A very informative presentation was made by Barry Law, owner of Quilted Gardens and Nursery. "New and Underused Trees and Shrubs" Trends for the Future.

.Greater Des Moines gave Grace.

A delightful Lunch was enjoyed.

State President Marlene Marolf also reiterated the importance of attending the State Meeting June 9 and/or 10 at Cedar Rapids. She talked about Iowa women and the flower show. There will be 2 newsletters sent out a year and other information will be available on the website.

She encouraged clubs to be more diverse. Grants will no longer be available after this year.

Door prizes were given out throughout the meeting during breaks by the Ackworth GC.

The afternoon speaker was Curt Froyen of Knoxville . He gave us a very interesting insight into his childhood and growing up near a railroad. His heartfelt presentation on Monarchs was very insightful. Monarch Research Project, Marion, IA

Pella Garden Club talked about an upcoming trip to the Botanical Gardens in St Louis, MO, Sept. 18-19 2025. May try to visit the Headquarters in St. Louis.

A sheet was passed around for clubs to sign up for next year's District IV, V, VII meeting June 1, 2026 which will be held at the East Lake Conservation Building, just east of Osceola.

Afton will be hosting.

Centerpieces by the Afton GC were also given away.

Reports were given:

Plant Sale - \$650.50

Silent Auction-\$316.00

Total - \$966.50

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15

Club News

Muscatine Garden Club

For the Muscatine Garden Club, 2025 has been a mix of our annual events plus trying something new. We started the year hosting a documentary film, “Moved by Waters” which highlights local efforts to clean the region’s waterways. To easily identify members at events, we purchased bright pink aprons.

March found us at the local Art of Gardening day presented by Muscatine County Master Gardeners. We also joined with them and the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Society, plus two 4-H groups, to host our annual, very popular, fund-raising plant sale. April was the District 1 meeting in Tipton. With only two groups remaining in our district, we need to decide our future course. We also purchased our annual tree for Weed Park and continue to care for the Plant It Pink Garden there.

Our members all worked diligently to provide plants for our May sale, which was quickly followed by the tremendous effort we put into our June horticulture flower show.

Then we relaxed with July tours near West Branch. Linda Black has a huge, rural garden filled with a wide variety of blooms and moss edging. She raises and releases butterflies and showed us all stages of their life cycle. After lunch we went to Lisa Frerich’s Alpaca Farm where we learned a great deal about how unique alpacas are. We highly recommend both tours. Aug was a private tour of Calyx Lavender Farm complete with refreshments.

Submitted by Drea Marianna Hess



Club News

Town & Country Garden Club, Decorah, IA

Town & Country Garden Club, Decorah, IA

Visiting the nearby small acreage, FriedenHof Farm, was one of this season's highlights. The owners hosted us on their relaxing, wrap-around porch overlooking a fenced, creatively managed orchard with strolling ducks feasting on grasses and bugs. The general strategy of the farmers is to 1) experiment with diverse & common perennials, fruit trees (hardy kiwi, pawpaw, persimmon), nuts and berries; 2) integrate animals to manage insects, grasses and fallen fruit, encourage pollination and to produce eggs and honey and finally 3) to enhance wildlife habitat. We all enjoyed delectable afternoon treats which were served by our hosts using tasty products from their farm.

While visiting Hidden Springs Peony farm in Spring Grove, MN we gained increased understanding of the peony cultivar. In their gazebo, tasty desserts were enjoyed surrounded by fragrant, blooming peonies.

During Decorah's Nordic Fest the end of July, the club is again hosting a tour of three outstanding Decorah properties, two developed by our own creative members. Yards featuring unique homes, surrounded by colorfully designed landscapes, winding paths, dozens of personally designed contrasting pots, the whimsy of fairy and "family memory" areas along with quaking aspens will delight the senses. Our major fund raiser of "Painting & Planting" a magnificent "one of a kind" small pot filled with a small succulent of choice will be offered at one of our garden club member's home featured on the tour.
Submitted LaVonne Monson, VP



Green Thumb Garden Club

New officers were installed at the January meeting. Money continues to be collected for Plant a Tree (formerly Penny Pines).

For the first time in eight years the club held a Plant and Bulb fundraiser in May. All club members brought plants and bulbs from members' gardens. Also included in the sale were gently used gardening books and flower pots.

In preparation for the yearly NGC Flower Show hosted by Green Thumb Garden Club the club held an "Everything you wanted to know about the Flower Show" event for the community. Club members provided examples, demonstrations and answered questions on both designs and horticulture entries. The 2025 NGC Flower Show had five Divisions, 294 entries, and awarded many ribbons. We applied for the NGC Flower Show Achievement Award.

Four club members attended, and entered exhibits in, the FGCI State Flower in Cedar Rapids in early June. At the state meeting Angie Wilkins was appointed 2nd Vice President for the next two years. Theresa Cooper, Mary Reyerson-Low, Penny Robb and Angie Wilkins completed Judges school in 2024 and will become Accredited judges by the end of summer.

In July the club held the annual Flower Arranging with the Lutheran Retirement Home (LRH). Club members took garden flowers and a pan of bars or cookies to work with LRH residents in creating bouquets for their room.

Submitted by Penny Robb

Club News

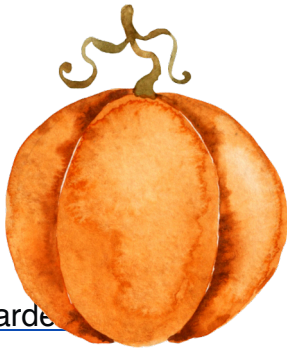
Swaledale Garden Club



Pictured: Pam Carlson and Deb Stockberger standing by the latest "Bucket Garden".

The Swaledale Club opened the 2025 year in February with this year's emphasis on "growing for body and soul". Deb gave a report on growing loofah gourds to use as a sponge for a home spa treatment. It was good to be back together and visit about all things gardening for the upcoming year. Planning has begun to host the District III meeting this spring in Swaledale. In March we continued to plan for the District III meeting which was well attended in April. Speaker Katie Jensen presented information regarding houseplants, which was very interesting. Pam Carlson of the Swaledale club showed us how to recycle plastic bags into a coaster, and Deb (Swaledale) presented how to use dried flowers to make a wall hanging. Dialogue was also held to consider consolidating districts 2 and 3, as membership has declined in many of the State's districts. The topic will be re-introduced at the State meeting in June. The annual plant sale was held in the Sheffield City Park this year to see if there would be more traffic, as food trucks would be present. We decided it would probably be a good idea to go back to Thornton next year, but it was fun to try something new. The Club cleaned/weeded the Swaledale Butterfly garden in June along with placing additional stepping stones. Carol Witt hosted the July meeting in Clear Lake with the option to attend a water aerobics class before the meeting. We also did are latest 'Bucket Garden' in front of the Thornton Fire Department! Our club goal is to hit all of the small towns in our area with a 'Bucket Garden' as our efforts to contribute to the communities.

-Teri Ewers



Baxter Garden

We began our 2025 year with many programs and events-

In March President Macy Lisk gave an informational presentation about Avian/Bird Flu.

In April the club hosted its annual Spring Tea where guests enjoyed music, lunch, and a program by Jill DeVries from the Flower Court.

May was busy cleaning up city gardens and planting flowers in the main street planters. Several members traveled to Bentley Ridge Tree Farm and Nursery in Grimes. Our Yard of the Month program began.

At our June meeting we listened to Natalie Moorman from the Home Town Pride Committee share ideas for the Vision Grant Baxter received. Jerry Ratliff from the Jasper County Conservation shared updates that were made to some of the county parks and the Nature & Education Center that is being built.

Our club had its annual garage sale fundraiser. Club members provided and served breakfast at our District meeting. We participated in Baxter Fun Days by having an entry in the parade and sponsoring a foam machine for the kids.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Krampe

Club News

Centerville Garden Club News

Things are growing at Centerville Garden Club. We have several new active members who have challenged and encouraged our older members, so that there is plenty to do and be engaged in. We have been asked to be caretakers of the Girl Scout Cabin in the city park which will be a great resource as our group has nearly outgrown most living rooms. We have cleaned, furnished, and made several improvements to the facility. We have plans to build a children's garden in the near vicinity of the cabin.

We have maintained the Centerville Square flower beds and pots, as well as those at Highways 2 and 5, and the Levee and have planted at the park, the library, city hall, and at All-Play. We have delivered May baskets to the businesses who help us water throughout the growing season.

We had several car loads visit the Lavender farm at Pleasant Hill. We have crafted at several meetings making memory scrapbooks, and hypertuffa leaves. We have been informed about medicinal plants and have viewed a powerpoint presentation on a British garden tour which three of our members took in May.

In September we have agreed to serve a meal to the homeless. And our annual gathering of local flower clubs will be September 17 where we will hear a lecture on Monarch butterflies followed by a luncheon.

Woodland Hills Garden Club

Woodland Hills Garden Club news: March 10th meeting at the Pleasant Hill library. Rhiana Paxton from Black Bird Bloom & Seed spoke about "Beyond the Garden Crafting the Blackbird Bouquet menu". She will be growing black and white flower to sell bouquets at Daisy Chain coffee in the East Village or at Farmer's markets. She was making a business plan of how many blooms she would need and when. She was a new gardener and was asking us questions on growing flowers, too. She doesn't have a store at this time.

April 14th meeting was at the PH library. Meredith with Barnswallow Flowers in Oskaloosa did a Zoom call with the club. We got caught up on what flowers she was growing for 2025. We learned what she would be doing at the Tulip festival in Pella. She will have a booth at the DSM Farmer's market this year.

May 12, the club members planted the 4 planters at the PH library. They turned out well.

May 23, 2 members went to Clay Elementary School where the students planted 2 maple and 2 oak trees near the new walking track. The club had purchased the trees with our grant.

June had 2 members attended the District meeting in Knoxville.

We didn't meet in July due to the heat.



Club News

Knoxville Federated Garden Club

Knoxville Federated Garden Club has had a busy year! Great projects with a lot of fun mixed in. We currently have 43 members. Nila, Connie, Joyce, and Susan have organized many greenhouse trips for plant shopping, lunch, and garden tours around central Iowa. We have been mindful to not carpool too much to leave more room for plants! A clear favorite this year with strong attendance was a trip to member Connie's farm for a tour of her beautiful gardens and grilled picnic lunch.

The Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden committee has worked tirelessly to keep the garden looking beautiful, along with a few exciting projects for 2025: installation of soaker hoses on timers across all garden plots, new garden shed, construction of a permanent shade structure and concrete patio for picnic table area (thanks in part to a generous donation by member Linda and various community grants), preparation for installation of a butterfly sculpture in collaboration with the Knoxville High School's manufacturing class and Weiler, and drafting 5 and 10 year plans for the garden. In April, 84 young men from the Central College Football Team helped club members with a project clean-up day at the garden – the phrase 'many hands make light work' was an understatement that day! The butterfly garden was awarded 'Best of Red Rock 2025 – Top 10 Things to do in Marion County'.

The 22nd 'Garden Gala' April 5th was well attended with great vendors. Bev baked and decorated over 200 cupcakes for the lunch. Speakers were 'Hans Stokes-Perennial Selection for a Midwest Garden', 'Gina Buelow-Foraging for Mushrooms', and 'Dr. Russell Benedict-The Lost Prairie Landscape'.

Eleven members attended the Baxter Garden Club's tea held April 26th – a lovely event!

Sherrilyn and crew helped with the annual Kindergarten Day, May 7th at Marion County Park. They read a monarch story, planted seeds, drew pictures, and had sensory plants. The kids' pictures are again making rotation through story boards at the butterfly garden along with drawings from local nursing home residents.

Yard of the Month committee has selected recipients for June-September. Jill and Arleen presented certificates to new two new Habitat for Humanity homeowners in Marion County (Knoxville, Bussey) for a tree or two bushes to be planted in the fall. Sandra has again spearheaded a new Blue Star Memorial Marker to be placed in Melcher-Dallas, with plans for a dedication ceremony to be held this fall.

We hosted District IV, V & VII annual meeting June 2nd at the Sprint Car Hall of Fame. KFGC received several awards including Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Blue Ribbon Club, Advanced Club Rating, 3rd Place Civic Project, 1st Place Garden Therapy. There were approximately 80 in attendance, with 21 members from our club. The plant sale was very successful again this year. 7 members attended the State Convention June 10th in Cedar Rapids. Susan Caulkins was presented with the Circle of Roses award.

Ways & Means: Sherry, R.P. and Deb auction plants, donated garden items at each meeting.

Our annual 'Sitting Pretty' Gardening Contest was held June 28th at Brooks Park; there were 24 entries with 6 non-members participating. Chairs are judged on pleasing combination of flowers, creativity, and overall appearance, with cash prizes awarded. This year a local musician played music in the park while the chairs were on display.

KFGC's scholarship for 2025 was awarded to a third-year student, Riley Finan. A donation was made to our District's 'Trees for Greenfield' initiative so local groups in Greenfield can purchase trees to replace those lost in the tornado in May 2024.

Nola and Sherrilyn are planning a display for the Merry-N-County Christmas lighted drive through display. Our past display has included a lighted butterfly constructed in collaboration with the Knoxville High School's manufacturing class and Weiler. Sherry, Dixie, and Barb are planning our annual 'Living Windows' Wreath Silent Auction November 21st. Wreaths are sold, the purchaser decorates and then donates the wreath for silent auction. Proceeds are used for garden club projects.

Our December meeting will be our annual potluck and gift exchange. Perfect attendance awards are announced and Butterfly Garden volunteer hours recognized.

Programs at our monthly meetings, 2025: 'Hoksey Native Seed', 'Blooming Prairie Nursery', 'Ron Huelse: Beginnings of the Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden', 'Gala Review', 'Curt Froyen: Raising Butterflies', 'Therapeutic Gardening and Garden Therapy', 'Karen Johlas-Syalkowski, Marion County Conservationist', 'Stam Greenhouse', 'Big Rock Park', 'Pumpkin & Succulent Centerpieces – Make & Take'.

Megan Stanley, Recording Secretary



Knoxville Garden Club



Grant Sunshine Garden Club

Happenings of the Grant Sunshine Garden Club: January: Attended the Women, Land & Legacy workshop on winter seed growing. February: Lesson on "Divide and Conquer" techniques and timing of plant propagation. March: Decorative Garden Painting workshop. April: toured Frank Pellet Memorial Woods near Atlantic led by Cass County Naturalist. May: Breakfast in the park at Pilot Grove Park with a plant swap. June: attended the Cass County Master Gardeners garden tours. July: took entries, staged and clerked the Open Class Flower and Garden Show at the Montgomery County Fair. Hosted members of the Ackworth Garden Club starting out at the Hillsdale Lily Farm, Glenwood. Picnic style lunch at the Wilson Performing Arts Center in Red Oak followed by a tour of the very large Red Oak Greenhouses. Very enjoyable day with fellow gardeners. August: demonstration on building planters and garden art from up cycled items. September: preserving the harvest demonstration. October: trip to Winterset touring points of interest in the area. November: program on the ways pioneers and native Americans used plants. December: Christmas party and luncheon. Another year full of fun, friendship and gardening delight.

Club News

Afton Garden Club

AFGC meets the 2nd Friday of each month with, scheduled Programs at each meeting. So far this year we have had Conservation, Wildflowers, and a Horticultural slide show of Major Gardens of England. A club tour to the Clark County Wildflower preserve, also 4 private flower gardens, and public food pantry garden. We also find time to maintain 18 flower planters, Butterfly Garden on Afton's square, and the Circle of roses garden at the Union County fairgrounds, and a flowerbed at the Lorimor roadside.

Afton hosted a Blue Star marker ceremony at the American Legion Post 172 In Mt Ayr Iowa. Hosted a Floriculture Show at the Union County Fair with 105 entries. Member Shirley Wallace Judged. On kids day at the fair members hosted a Plant Monster making (65 participants). AFGC hosted 2 plant sales to the public. 8 members attended District 4,5,&7 meeting providing centerpieces and maintaining a Silent Auction. 2 members attended the State Flower Show and meeting. Member Beth McGrath received the Circle of Rose's award.

AFGC 1935-2025 is in the planning to have a 90'th Anniversary, and later a Fall Luncheon inviting Clubs and public. We have 2 Honorary members Audrey McDowell 43 years and Iris Smith 34 years. We have lost two of our members this year to illness. Karen VanBuskirk and Kathy Tapkin. These two women are sorely missed. We welcome guest to all meetings.

-Bonnie Morris AFGC President.



Working with kids at the Union County Fair making grass Monsters.



Dedication of the Blue Star Marker at the American Legion Post 172 in Mt Ayr, Iowa (Ringgold County)



Afton member enjoying a tour of Wildflower at the Clark County wildflower Preserve.

Club News

Estherville Garden Club

The Estherville Garden Club has had interesting programs in 2025: Jenny Boggess gave information about bees, Sue Boettcher, the Adult Program Coordinator for ISU Extension, talked about Bird Migration, and Sidney Krueger, the Emmet County Naturalist, identified prairie plants and we made pollinator plant seed pods. Our club members made garden stakes at the Vermeer Glass Company in Spencer and toured Dels Garden Center in Spencer. New flowers were planted in the city planters this spring by club members. In June we brought flowers and made floral arrangements to give to local businesses. Our members choose a yard of the month in Estherville and a metal sign is placed in the resident's yard each summer month. 3 members judged the 4-H Buckets of Flowers at the Emmet County Fair. The Rock Garden was flooded last year and a lot of work has been done this spring to repair it. Hundreds of perennials and annuals were planted in the spring by our members in preparation for the July overnight visit of the RAGBRAI bicyclists.

-Carolyn Brown

Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club

Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club (District 6) has had a busy spring and summer. In April they hosted the District Meeting. Since then, they have held their annual plant sale and hosted a June standard flower show and a July Twilight Tour of Gardens. In July they also entertained 8 visiting members from Green Thumb (Northwood), Akron, and Webster City Town & Country clubs to celebrate Shirley Wolf and her installation as FGCI president. Also in July, the club sponsored and hosted the open class flower show held at the Webster County Fair. In August they will make tray favors/small bouquets for residents at Friendship Haven, a senior living campus.

In a more sobering situation, members attended the visitation and funeral of Marilyn Peterson-Shipp, long-time club member and flower show judge. She passed May 18, just nine days before our flower show and 17 days before her 90th birthday. To honor her, members each brought a flower or two for a "communal vase" and a "friendship bouquet" that was arranged at the flower show. Her daughter Pam Gollob is also a flower show judge, so if you wish to contact her, please check previous issues of the NEWS for her contact information.

-Jan K



Shirley Wolf and Daughter at Party hosted by Fort Dodge Garden Club to honor Shirley as New FGCI President

Club News

PALO ALTO GARDEN CLUB NEWS

What a spring and summer it has been. With all of the heat and humidity we have had lately, the flowers and vegetables have ideally benefited from this. It took a while for our perennial beds to finally start growing. We started year 2025 in March with a program from the ISU extension on "Spring Garden Tasks".

In April, our program was about a Trinity Garden that has been implemented at a Lutheran Church. At the end of April, club members did some "spring cleaning around the gardens outside of the Victorian House Museum" which has been an annual event for several years.

Our program for May was presented by a family member who have implemented a memory garden in front of the Iowa Lakes Community College in honor of their mother who was a twice master gardener. May was a very busy month for us. 13 of our members attended the district 6 meeting in Fort Dodge. We had a very successful plant sale with the money raised for this event going towards a scholarship for a student pursuing a college degree in any horticulture, ag or environmental program. We corroborated with a 4-H club during a chamber event and a plant sale they were having during this event. This club has taken on planting of the downtown chamber planters for several years along with the planting of flowers at the Victorian House Museum. The flowers are furnished by a local greenhouse. On a cold end of May, several members tackled the cleanup of a raised bed courtyard at a Senior Living facility. It had been sadly neglected. We were a little slow this year for our "Garden of the Month" due to the weather, but we continue to do this event.

In June, the club hosted the Chamber Coffee at the Five Island Campground and the program was on the dedication of the Memorial Rock in memory of those members who have passed. Also, one of our members was presented the "circle of roses" award. The raised gardens at the Senior Living facility courtyard received a facelift with new perennials and annuals being planted. The club received \$1,000 from the Hospital Auxiliary to cover the cost of plants, soil and mulch. The president of the club attended the annual Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa meeting in June and learned a lot from other garden club members. National Garden Week was celebrated with posters at the county libraries and a presentation to a local coffee group about National Garden Week. Clean Water Festival was celebrated during a weekend in June. A few club members volunteered at the festival by handing out wildflower seed packets and helping youth decorate a sailboat or fish craft

In July, the program was presented by two master gardeners on exhibiting flowers, vegetables, photos or baked goods at the local county fair. A few of our members exhibited and were very successful in winning ribbons. We had a very successful garden tour with a couple of our local garden clubs attending the tour.

In the upcoming months there will be a Chamber coffee hosted at the renovated raised garden courtyard in August, presentation on a butterfly garden, behind the scene tour of a local goat farm, a conservation topic at the county nature center, a demonstration of flag folding and planting and pruning trees, distribution of non-perishable food items for Upper Des Moines opportunity and the final meeting will be a lunch provided by the Culinary and Hospitality students from our local community college with holiday sharing with our local nursing homes and installation of officers. Our club meets the second Tuesday of months March-December. You can check out our club on our Facebook page: Palo Alto Garden Club.

"Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes or flowers"

-Shirleen Helgeson, Co-president of Palo Alto Garden Club



Club News

Madrid Federated Garden Club

The Madrid Garden Club's summer programs included learning about DNR wildlife monitoring programs and a visit to a tea shop. We are changing our Labor Day Flower show from a small standard show to a community fun show. Hopefully this will encourage more community participation and attendance. Upcoming fall programs will include programs on Buck Roses and African Violets. We will conclude our year with a potluck in November.

-Jean Rhodes, President



TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB, Webster City, Iowa

Our club has been busy helping the community look beautiful. We held our annual plant sale in May and added \$1800.00 to our treasury for our scholarships we award to graduating seniors studying horticulture.

All hands were on deck to plant 68 planters in downtown Webster City. With such a good team we accomplished this in 45 minutes. For National Garden Club week we had a table at Market Night in Webster City giving out treats and seeds for the people to plant in their gardens. Our donations totaled \$100 which we gave to our caretaker member of the Main Street garden. He cares for this on his own time and funds. We also purchased two permanent planters and filled them with a variety of flowers for our local library. (See photo)

At our meeting in June we learned how to dry plant material and what was possible to dry for arrangements by our member, Diane Madoerin.

In July we hosted two, Open Class Flower shows at our county fair. In August we learned about Monarch Butterflies and have our annual potluck. Members are encouraged to bring a friend and we usually get new members interested at this time.

September will bring interesting facts all about garlic and October we will be decoupageing rocks. More to come later in the year. Always new things to learn and share with our members and the community.

-Linn Lilienthal, Secretary



Joan Nessa, Loeda Paine, Diane Madoerin, Allison Studer, Carol Main, and Linn Lilienthal

Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa Awards

Award A - FGCI Horticulture Award. A certificate will be given for the outstanding horticulturist in each District. A Club or District should make nominations. Requirements are as follows: Applicants will be chosen for their work with plants, community projects involving horticulture, working with the youth and furthers NGC goals. The Book of Evidence should include name and address of the person, name of club, list of special interests of the applicant, outstanding contribution to gardening, approximate years of gardening, horticultural contributions of applicant to the community, any publicity and pictures. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award B - Rita Tarr Award for Landscape Design. A certificate and medallion is offered to the best applicant who designs and landscapes their own yard using good landscaping practices. Contact the current Landscape Design Chairperson for information regarding application and requirements. Send application form and requirements to the Landscape Design Chairperson by December 31.

Award C - Wendelburg Memorial Conservation Award. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be given to clubs for the best work in conservation. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award D - Article on Gardening. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be given for the best article considered for publication. The article should be based on personal experience or observation and be 500 - 1000 words in length and double-spaced. No article will be returned as they become the property of FGCI and may be published in the NEWS. The author's name, address and club should be included. No one may receive this award two years in succession. No Book of Evidence is required. Send FGCI Awards Application form and article to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award E - Bird Award. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be awarded to a club for the best work in the protection of birds; including feeding, sanctuaries, homes and promoting law enforcement relative to bird welfare. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award F - Garden Therapy. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be awarded to a club for the best garden therapy project. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award G - Civic Achievement Award. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be given to a club for the best civic achievement project. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award H - Tree Award. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be awarded to a club for the best comprehensive tree program. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award I - Butterfly Award. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be awarded to a club for the best butterfly project. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award J - Pettit Memorial Award. A certificate and a \$10 award to a junior unit or club working with youth gardening, horticulture, garden therapy or community projects in conservation. This award is made possible by Hazel and Fern Pettit, teachers promoting youth in horticulture and gardening. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31. The FGCI Executive Board and District Directors choose the winner of this award.

Award K - Small Standard Flower Show. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be awarded to a club for the best Small Standard Flower Show Schedule. The Schedule must be signed and dated by the panel of judges judging the show. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Flower Show Schedule to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award L - Standard Flower Show. Blue, Red and Yellow Certificates of Participation will be awarded to a club for the best Standard Flower Show Schedule. Schedule must be signed and dated by the panel/panels of judges judging the show. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Flower Show Schedule to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31.

Award M - Local President's Project. A blue, red and yellow certificate will be awarded to the club showing the best evidence of participation in their local club president's project. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State President / State Awards Chairperson by June 1.

Award N - Circle of Roses. A pin and certificate will be awarded at the State meeting to recipients of this award. Each club is allowed to nominate a person(s) who has shown exceptional dedication through their knowledge and participation in Federated Garden Club making a difference in our garden, our garden club, our community and reflect the goals and projects of NGC. Send FGCI Awards Application form and attach the name(s) submitted and a brief description of their work to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31. The State Awards Chairperson and the State President will select the recipients.

Award O - Plant it Pink. A cash memorial will be given to the American Cancer Society in the name of the FGCI that has submitted the best Plant it Pink project. Plant it Pink is a continuing NGC project that recognizes those who have been touched in some way by breast cancer and encourages pink gardens, pink flower show classes, garden therapy or other activities promoting the fight against breast cancer. Send FGCI Awards Application form and Book of Evidence to the State Awards Chairperson by December 31. The State Awards Chairperson and the State President will select the recipients.

Federated Garden Club of Iowa, Inc

FGCI Award Name _____ **Letter** _____

Garden Club Name _____

FGCI District _____ **# of Club Members** _____

Club President Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Cell** _____

Email _____

Application Submitted By _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Cell** _____

Email _____

HOW TO PREPARE A BOOK OF EVIDENCE

- Use a 9½ x 11 1/2" folder.
- Place Label on front of folder cover: name and number of award, name and location of club and district number.
- Page 1 is the application form. Do not exceed 12 pages (6 pages front and back). Photocopies are permitted. Plastic sleeves are not required.

• Page # Exception: The Book of Evidence for the Advance Rating Award is a history of your club and is not limited to 12 pages

• NOTE: If the same project is eligible for more than one award, you must submit a separate application and Book of Evidence for each award when required.

DIRECTIONS: To apply for an award, please submit this completed form along with a written summary of the project including timelines, number of members working on project, community involvement, funds raised and spent, and any other pertinent information to the **CURRENT AWARDS CHAIRPERSON**.

NOTE: A Book of Evidence, if required to qualify for an award, should be included with the completed application and summary details.

**NEWS of the
Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.
4052 Lilac Ave
Kensett, IA 50448**

**FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA, INC.
STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

FGCI Life Membership Donation is \$25.00

The new State Life Member Pin is included with your new Life Membership

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Your Garden Club: _____

City of Your Garden Club: _____

Application and \$25 check made out to **Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa** are to be sent to:

Life Membership Chairman:

Lizzie Pruisner
9312 Old Orchard Dr.
Norwalk, IA 50211
515-669-7151
liz.pruisner@gmail.com

