

Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa

NEWS

Summer 2026





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"

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"

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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NEWS Deadlines

Fall _____ September 20th

Winter _____ December 20 (online)

Spring/Convention _____ March 20th

Summer _____ June 20th (online)



Theresa Cooper editor of the NEWS

<https://federatedgardenclubsofiowa.com>



Scan QR code with smart phone camera
and you will be directed to our web page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



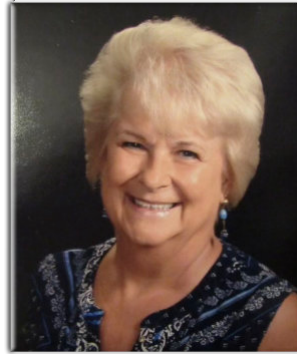
“Our Pollinators Still Need Help”

The summer of 2026 is getting short. The State meeting is over and went successfully. Celebrating the 250th year of the United States with a Petite Flower Show “America the Beautiful”

Teri Ewers was introduced as the 2027-2028 “Regional Director”.

Next year the State meeting will be June 14th and 15th, in Jefferson, Iowa, at the Wild Rose Casino, with a Standard Flower show “Pollinators Still Need Help.” I am looking for speakers, anyone have ideas, contact me.

Shirley Wolf



FGCI District Directors

District I - Marianna Haas

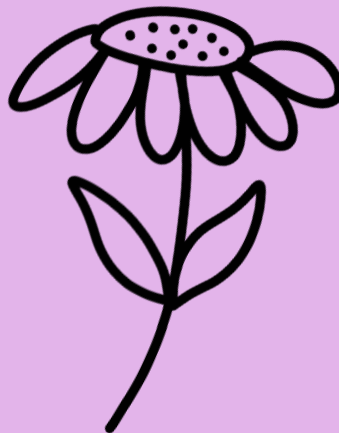
District II - Ruth Hamilton

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

2026

September 17	National Fall Board meeting (Virtual)
September 20	News Deadline for the Fall issue (Print)
September 17	A Day at Bessies Flower Farming and Bee Keeping
October 5-6	Central Region Convention- Virtual
December 20	NEWS Deadline for Winter issue (Online)
December 31	FGCI Awards A-O due

2027

Feb 1	FGCI Presidents Reports due
March 20	NEWS Deadline for the Spring/Convention issue
May 13-17	National Convention - Madison WI
June 14-15	98 th FGCI Annual State Meeting and Flower Show at the Wild Rose casino in Jefferson, IA



Going forward with the NEWS, there will be 4 issues per year. I will publish the NEWS as follows:

Fall Issue will be a print issue and be sent the 1st of October.

Winter issue will be online and will be online January 1st.

Spring/Convention issue will be print and sent the 1st of April.

Summer will be online and will be online by July 1st

The Fall and Spring/ Convention will also have a digital copy that has the same information but with no contact information

Please note that clicking on the [blue underlined](#) text will take you to the Websites

Announcements

Club President Annual Reporting

At the 2026 Annual Convention in Jefferson, club presidents discussed the possibility of changing the due date of the following Annual Reports:

- FGCI President's Annual Report
- FGCI Blue Ribbon Club
- FGCI Advanced Club Rating Award

Your reports were previously due at the end of the year on December 31st. We are happy to announce that these reports have been revised and are now due on February 1st each year for the prior calendar year.

In addition, we have converted these reports to a fillable PDF form that you can access on our [FGCI website](#). Now you can complete the form online, save and send to the Awards Chair electronically. If you prefer, you can print the report and complete it manually as in the past. You will still need to send your book of evidence via the post office to the Awards Chair.

As time permits we will be converting additional forms to fillable PDFs. If you have any questions about the fillable forms, please contact us.

Year end timing of other Awards A - O submissions still remain the same, December 31st. Award M is due June 1st and Award N is due April 1st.

Heidi Folkestad
FGCI Treasurer



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.**

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 SCHOLARSHIPS

Pat Thiede

FGCI YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Ruth Hamilton

FGCI BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

Jane Whitmore

FGCI AWARDS

Peg Egertsen

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

Garden Therapy

Hopefully the weather has been good for the Therapy Gardens. The iris, coneflowers and day-lilies are beautiful right now. Please take time to apply for the Garden Therapy awards.

-Jean Van Veldhuizen

Committee reports

Plant a Tree

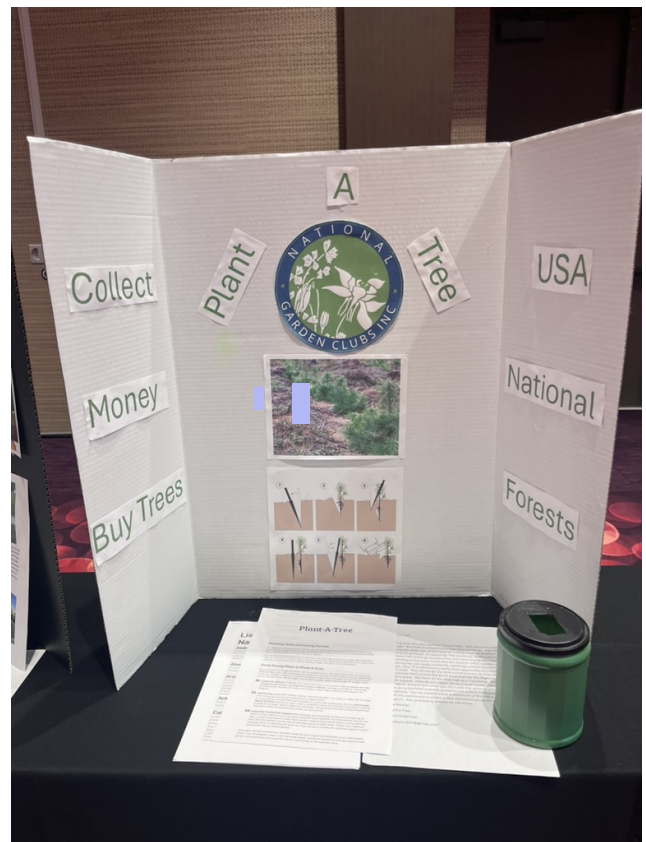
Greetings all!

It's been a hot Summer so far, and I hope that you can enjoy a cool lemonade or beverage of your choice, under a shade tree and keep cool

Pollarding: It's an ancient woodland management technique that has been used in Europe for thousands of years. It's not the same as topping, which is extremely harmful to trees. Pollarding can only be done to deciduous trees, such as London plane trees, and they are amenable to this intense, pruning technique. You would cut the tree to a height of 7-10 feet. This should encourage new growth and prevent browning and animals from eating their fresh shoots. They showed this technique at the Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, Nebraska. I hope that you get a chance to look this up.

The monies we received from State Show went to Superior National Forest in Minnesota. The wild fires are going again up there. Thanks all for your donations. Thanks to all the clubs giving to plant a Tree.

Till next time,
Susan Becker
Plant a Tree Chairman



Sue's poster from State meeting 7

Birds

Deb Lewiston's poster at the State Convention



FGCI Flower Show Judges Updated

Sue Becker M

Janna Boyd M

Sela Bryhne M

Theresa Cooper A

Loretta Daisy M

Peggy Egertsen M

Terri Ewers M

Pam Gollob M

Sandra Gossman M

Jean Klosterman Student

Mary Mai-Gengler M

Debbie Lewison M

Marlene Marolf M

Yvonne McCormick M

Jenny Messer A

Charla Pearce M

Liz Praisner Student

Sandra Quam M

Walter Reemtsma A

Mary Reyerson-Low A

Penny Robb A

Victoria Rute M

Helen Venneman M

Sandra Wales M

Angie Wilkins A

Shirley Wolf M

Steve Wolter M

M- Master Judge

A- Accredited



No Longer Judging

Blue Star Memorials

Since 2023, Iowa made several applications for Blue Star Memorials, with dedications held in each community. One application was submitted in 2025, and this year approval was given to move an existing Blue Star Memorial.

There are numerous Blue Star and Gold Star communities across the state of Iowa. By-Way and Highway markers honor those who have served our country. Iowa is the only state in the nation to have Blue Star Memorials in every community in four counties.

Clay County Federated Garden Club continues placing Blue Star Memorials in Dickinson County communities. They are nearing the goal of making this the fifth county in Iowa to have a Blue Star Memorial in each community of Dickinson County. This project is spearheaded by Marian McNabb from Linn Grove and her co-chair Terri Batchelet of Spencer.

Buena Vista County (10 towns) was the first to be designated as a Blue Star County, and was also the first in the nation to achieve this milestone. Cherokee County, Clay County, and Benton County (Brenda Hackbarth , chair) are also Blue Star Counties in Iowa.

- Clay County Federated Garden Club has placed memorials in Spirit Lake, Arnolds Park, Terril, Lake Park, Superior, Arnolds Park and just last weekend a dedication in Milford on Flag Day, June 14. (Milford American Legion Post 384). Only four more to go in Dickinson County.

- Knoxville Federated Garden Club (Sandra Christman, chair) placed Blue Star Memorials at , 2023. The marker was sponsored by the club, in cooperation with American Legion Post 108, and the Vander Linden Memorial Fund. A Blue Star Memorial, rededication, with the marker placed alongside a water feature and garden at the Knoxville Hospital and Clinics. In addition, the Knoxville group submitted an application for a Blue Star Memorial to be placed at Melcher-Dallas, sponsored by the garden club in cooperation with Melcher-Dallas Community Enrichment, American Legion Post #632, and American Legion Auxiliary Unit #632.

- Afton Federated Garden Club, in cooperation with American Legion Post 172, placed a Blue Star Memorial in Mt. Ayr ((Shirley Wallace chair). Bonnie Morris, Afton Garden Club, requested and has been granted permission to relocate a Blue Star Memorial in Afton, Union County. The new location will have more exposure for the public.

Iowa currently has 99 Blue Star markers at 84 locations.

Jane Whitmore



2026 FGCI Scholarships

2026 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.”

We offer congratulations to the four outstanding students who have received the Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. Horticulture scholarships for the 2026 school year. Annually, FGCI bestows four \$750 scholarship awards to worthy students who are majoring in one or more academic programs in Horticulture. Iowa State University’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 April 2026 and they, along with the recipients, appreciate the generosity of the FGCI for making these awards possible. This year’s Horticulture award recipients are:

Jasmine Kanagy, ISU Junior. Hometown: Grundy Center, Iowa. She writes: “I was originally drawn to Iowa State Univ., since ISU has one of the best Hort programs in the state – and, in the country. I was drawn to Horticulture because of the landscape emphasis, in which I am extremely interested. My plans upon graduating are to work for a landscape firm in Iowa where I can work on landscape designs while helping install the design plans.” Thanks so much for this scholarship. It comes at a great time.

Claire Thompson, ISU Sophomore, Hometown: Fort Dodge, Iowa. Claire reported: “I was immediately drawn to horticulture at ISU when touring the campus because of the extremely kind faculty and the creativity and diverse career opportunities offered. As I am a landscape design, installation, and management horticulture focus, I was attracted to this major because of the role I could have in agriculture while still able to be creative. I love the mix of science and art I can incorporate in horticulture. My future career goals after graduating with a major in Horticulture and a minor in agronomy are to work designing residential landscapes using my knowledge of science and creativity. This \$750 award is wonderful and will help so much.”

Summer Shoesmith, ISU Junior, Hometown: Hampton, Illinois (Quad City area). Summer was drawn to ISU by the reputation of the department's incredible career resources, scholarship aid, and proximity to the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute, along with the location of the vineyards at the Horticulture Research Station. "The experiences I have gained here are invaluable. I aspire to a career in viticulture and wine science in California wine country or abroad. Thank you for your generosity in giving me this gift."

Abby Ingersoll, ISU Sophomore, Hometown: Burlington, Iowa. Abby says: "I was drawn to study horticulture at Iowa State University because I have a deep passion and interest in plants. ISU has one of, if not the best, horticulture programs in the country. In addition, their research programs and facilities are fantastic. At this time, I'm not exactly sure what I would like to do after receiving my degree, but I'm considering pursuing a master's degree and finding a job in horticulture research. Thank you very much for awarding this scholarship to me."

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



FGCI Landscape Architecture Student Awards in 2025

Landscape Architecture involves the planning, design, management and nurturing of the natural and built environments. working to improve human and environmental health in all communities using cutting edge technologies and resilient nature-based solutions. The Landscape Architecture Department at Iowa State University draws students from around the state of Iowa, the U.S. and other countries and is recognized and ranked nationally and internationally as a premier academic program that helps students change the world by re-imaging and re-shaping the landscape to enhance ecological health, its cultural significance, and its social relevance.

This year, the LA faculty awards committee chose two students to receive our two FGCI \$1,000 scholarships. Students apply online through the university's financial aid office's scholarship **OneApp** website portal where it is automatically evaluated for needs-based requirements. The deadline for application is MARCH 1st. Later in March, the completed student applications are downloaded to the individual departmental committees and evaluated for awards offered. The Financial Aid Office policy is to protect student identities and personal information from the public and the LArchitecture department adheres strictly to that policy. However, they did provide me their names, but not their email/phone/address. I was able to send an email letter through the public ISU Directory and crossed my fingers....

Klaudia Suwaj responded! Hometown: Oak Lawn, Illinois. Upon graduation from ISU in May 2027, "I look forward to the chance and ability to make a difference within the communities that we work with and live in. I am also very motivated by the impact we have/can have on the environment and how our expertise can drive the world towards a greener more sustainable future." Upon graduation, she plans to locate in the Chicago area and work as a landscape architect in the community that she loves.

Grace Waltman (The department forwarded an email for her to respond to me.) Her personal contact information was suppressed per her preference in the University directory. She did respond with gratitude for the generosity of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa scholarship program. She is a Landscape Architecture student and will graduate in May 2027.

Dr. Carl Rogers, Chair of the ISU Department of Landscape Architecture, assured me that this award is valued and appreciated by both the department and the students in encouraging and recognizing their hard work in the furthering the development and establishing of beautiful, functional and sustainable spaces in our communities.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Student Scholarship Award for \$3,900

Each state in the NGCI is eligible to submit one qualified nominee for an award. Last year, the NGCI awarded 49 of these \$3,900 scholarships. The application process is done online through the National Garden Clubs website under Student Scholarships and are due before FEBRUARY 1st.

AUSTIN BIERL, from Clarion, Iowa is this year's Iowa nominee and recipient. As a college freshman, he first attended Iowa Central Community College before transferring to ISU and will be graduating in May 2028 with a degree in Horticulture and Microbiology, with a minor in Microbiology. His career goal is to be a plant pathology researcher working with ornamental or woody plants.

Having worked several jobs at a time during high school, he continues to work 2-3 jobs while putting himself through college. Even after taking 43 college credits while in high school, because of his ambitious majors he chose, he will still be a 4-year graduate.

He sounds like a great kid! He loves volunteering for food pantries, mountain rock climbing, and has received many notable awards and honors. One of his professors wrote: "Austin has a well-deserved reputation for being an excellent student and model Horticulture departmental citizen...also has distinguished himself outside the classroom, his lofty academic standing, advanced communication skills, and willingness to network has landed him a spot on the prestigious ISU President's Leadership Class...".

As always, if FGCI members have questions about the student scholarship program or have students (friends, children, grandchildren) who should apply for these scholarships, please ask them to send me an email message and/or fill out the form on the FGCI website and a message will be forwarded to me. There are many worthy students who could/should be applying for these awards. Thank you.

Submitted by Pat Thiede, Student Scholarship Chair



National Garden Clubs, Inc., Student Scholarship Award for \$4,000

Each state in the NGCI is eligible to submit one qualified nominee for an award. This spring, the NGCI awarded 48 of these \$4,000 scholarships. The application process is completed online by the students through the National Garden Clubs, Inc., website: <https://federatedgardenclubsofiowa.com/scholarships/> and are due before FEBRUARY 1st annually.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa's state of Iowa nominee who was selected and acknowledged at the annual NGCI meeting in May 2026 is:

ERIN DRISCOLL, from Williamsburg, Iowa. Erin will be a senior, majoring in Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications and is attending Kansas State University after getting some of her core classes completed at Kirkwood Community College. She is expected to graduate in May 2027.

Erin had very impressive supporting recommendation letters from professors and employers. Her personal letter states: "I am currently pursuing a degree in Agricultural and Natural Resources Communications at Kansas State University, with a minor in Advertising and Public Relations. My education allows me to combine my agricultural background with strategic communication skills to help bridge the gap between producers, consumers, and policymakers. I am particularly passionate about educating the public on conservation, environmental stewardship, and responsible land use through clear, accessible messaging.

I am financially responsible for most of my educational expenses and work while attending school to help cover tuition, housing, and academic costs. While I actively pursue scholarships and manage my finances carefully, the rising cost of higher education remains a challenge. Receiving this \$4,000 scholarship from the National Garden Clubs, Inc., significantly reduced this financial burden and allows me to remain focused on my academic goals, leadership development, and community involvement.

Thank you for your time and consideration in nominating me to represent my home state of Iowa. I am honored to receive support from an organization dedicated to conservation, education, and community beautification. Your investment would directly support my pursuit of a career devoted to stewardship of our natural resources and service to others." Thank you, Erin.

As always, if FGCI members have questions about the student scholarship program or have students (friends, children, grandchildren) who should apply for these scholarships, please ask them to send me an email message and/or fill out the form on the FGCI website and a message will be forwarded to me. There are many worthy students who could/should be applying for these awards. Thank you.

Submitted by Pat Thiede, Student Scholarship Chair



97th FGCI State Convention Minutes

Federated Garden Club of Iowa State Convention Jefferson, IA June 16, 2026

President Shirley Wolf called the State Convention meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Shirley told everyone that the Plant A Tree donation can was going around and please donate. Money collected was \$118.38. Shirley told everyone to look in their booklets for the Treasurer's report along with the Secretary minutes of the previous State Convention meeting. Motion was made by Deb Bentley and second by Terri Ewers. Motion passed. Treasurer's report sent on for File for Audit. Terri Ewers will be the new Central Region Director as she is the only one qualified to be the Director of the State Of Iowa.

Shirley brought up the idea of lowering the number of members to make a quorum at the State Convention as we haven't made it for several years. There was enough for that this year and being there is, this was brought up. After much discussion, Steve Wolter made a motion of 35 members to vote on an issue. Second was by Becky Rogers. Motion passed and must be voted on again next year at the State Convention. State Convention will be held back here at the Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson Iowa on June 14 & 15, 2027. Talked was also discussed about maybe have a central location for the State Convention. Heidi brought up that the clubs & districts must send in the information that she requests for the IRS forms so the State can keep the C501 distinction. Shirley Wallace reported the total from Silent Auction was \$281.00 and Ways & Means was \$231.50. Deb Lewison, bird director for the State, had a drawing for a hand knitted bird. Winner was Deb Bentley. Motion was made to adjourn meeting. Motion made by Steve Wolter and second by Sue Becker. Motion passed. Time of adjournment was 2:44 PM.

Attest

Sue Becker

Pictures of 97th State meeting and Flower Show



**Central Region Director
Rene Lynch**



FGCI Flower Show Top Award Winners
Sue Becker, Deb Lewison, Marian McNabb,
Shirley Wallace, Deb Bentley, Teri Ewers, Shirely Wolf, Jenny
Messer, Jan Krass, Peg Egertsen, and Jean Klosterman



Circle of Roses Award

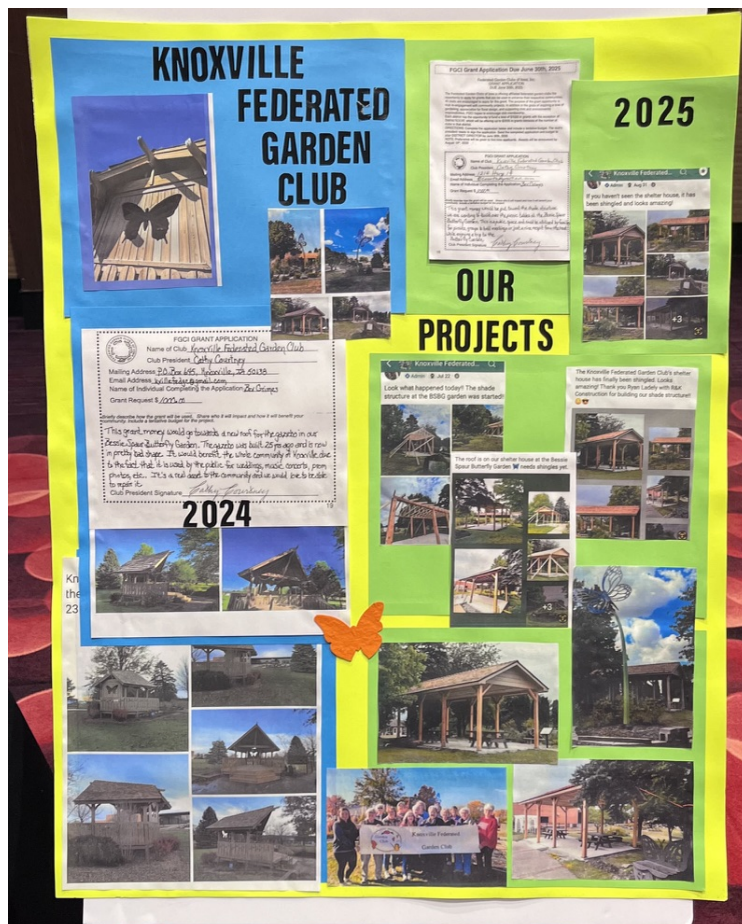


Program about Apples in

Greenfield, IA Tree Project

Shirley Wallace District IV, V and VII





FGCI Flower Show Horticulture Top Awards

Division I – Horticulture

Award of Horticulture Excellence and Rusk Certificate of Excellence

Jennifer Messer

Horticulture Sweepstakes Award and Smith Certificate of Excellence

Deborah Bentley

Otto certificate of Excellence

Terri Ewers

Awards of Merit

Annuals

Deborah Bentley

Vegetables

Jennifer Messer

Perennials

Jennifer Messer

Container Grown plant

Marian McNabb

Bulbous Plants

Marian McNabb

Collections

Deb Lewison

Displays

Terri Ewers

Herbs

Jennifer Messer

Roses

Shirley Wolf

Arboreal

Deborah Bentley



Jenny Messer

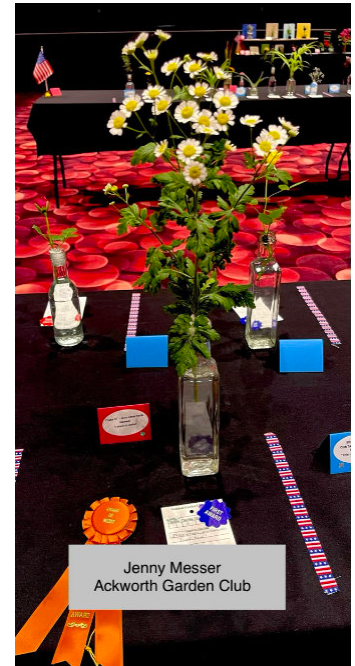




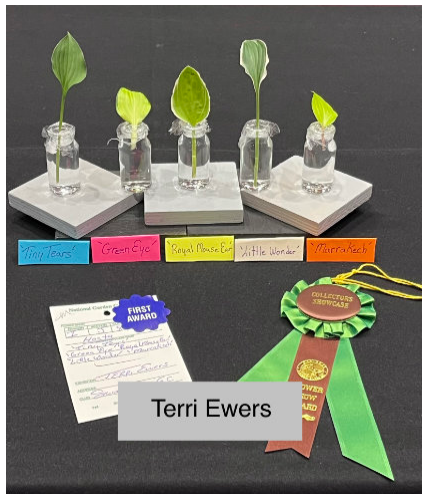
Deb Bentley
Muscatine Garden Club



Marian McNabb
Clay County Garden Club



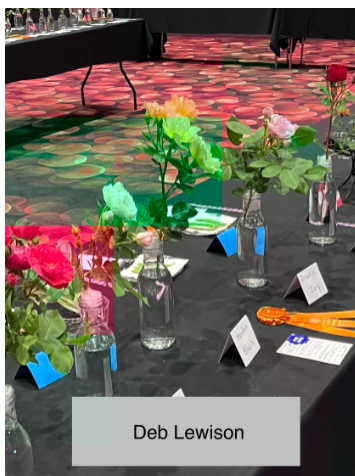
Jenny Messer
Ackworth Garden Club



Terri Ewers



Shirley Wolf
Fort Dodge Garden Club



Deb Lewison



Marian McNabb
Clay County Garden Club

FGCI Flower Show Design Top Awards

Division II - Design

Award of Design Excellence

Jan Krass

Tri-color Award

Jean Klosterman

Award of Distinction

Sue Becker

Designers Choice. and

Williamsom Certificate of Excellence

Peg Egertsen

Petite Award and

Barb Sylvester Certificate of Excellence

Jan Krass

Table Artistry award

Jan Krass

Design Sweepstakes Award and Willasson Certificate of Excellence

Jan Krass

Mabel Prior Certificate of Excellence 90+ designer not a judge

Jan Krass

Davidson Certificate of Excellence

Terri Ewers

Fran Smith Certificate of Excellence Best Second-place

Jean Klosterman



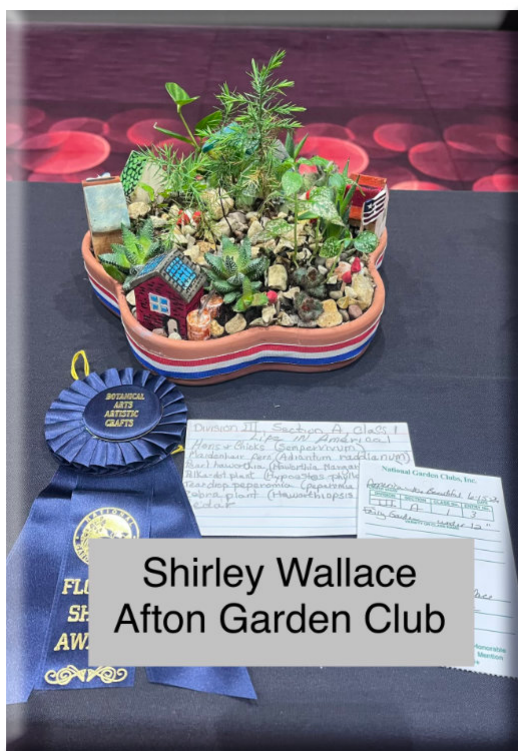


Peg Egertsen
Clay County Garden Club



Sue Becker
Floyd Valley Garden Club

FGCI Botanical Arts Top Awards



Shirley Wallace
Afton Garden Club

Botanical Arts Artistic Craft Award

Shirley Wallace

CLUB AWARDS 2026 REPORT

2026 Awards

DISTRICT I

Muscatine Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence

Tipton Garden Club: Advanced Rating Book of Evidence

DISTRICT II

Good Earth Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence

Independence Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence

Town & Country Garden Club, Decorah: Blue Ribbon Club, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence

District IV, V, & VII

Ackworth Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. Red Ribbon 90+, Article on Gardening

Afton Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. Yellow Ribbon 90+, Civic Achievement Award

Baxter Garen Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. Blue Ribbon Tree Award

Grant Sunshine Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club (no book)

Greater Des Moines Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. Red Ribbon 90+, Civic Achievement Award

Knoxville Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. Red Ribbon 90+, Garden Therapy Award

Woodland Hills Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club (no book)

DISTRICT III

CLUB AWARDS 2026 REPORT

Green Thumb Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. Blue Ribbon Standard Flower Show Award

Marshalltown Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence

DISTRICT VI

Estherville Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence

Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club

Kossuth Area Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence

Palo Alto Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. Blue Ribbon, Gardening Therapy Award. YELLOW RIBBON 90+, Article on Gardening Award. Honorable Mention 90+, Civic Achievement Award.

Town & Country Garden Club, Webster City: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. BLUE RIBBON, Civic Achievement Award.

DISTRICT VIII

Clay County Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence. Blue Ribbon, Article on Gardening Award.

Floyd Valley Federated Garden Club: Blue Ribbon Club, Blue Ribbon Yearbook, Advanced Rating Book of Evidence.



SUCCULENT HOUSEPLANTS

Hindu Rope, *Hoya Carnosa Compacta*, is easy to grow, it likes sunshine, a south, or west window is ideal. Mine are in hanging planters one in a south window, the other in a west window. It only needs water every other week, or twice a month, set your date and don't over water. Many plants are lost to over watering. Water it all the way through to the bottom of the pot when you water. Hindu ropes will bloom twice a year, and the smell lets you know they're in bloom, you'll smell it when you enter the room. Don't take the bloom stems off as they bloom from the same stem when they bloom. To take cuttings, cut them above a pair of leaves, you can put them in water or soil it will take a few weeks to get a good root system growing.

Jade, *Crassula Ovata*, is another easy to grow succulent. I have three varieties, plain green, variegated, green with white edges, and Sunset, green with yellow and reddish edges. They're all in a south window. The green one is old, it was a start off of my parents 35. Anniversary Jade and they've been gone for 20 years. Sunset is a start from a gourd friend in California. The Variegated one is a start from our Granddaughters In Laws, in California. Jade plants only receive water twice a month, or every two weeks, don't over water, but water so the roots receive water, all the way through to the bottom of the pot. The easiest way to get new Jade plants is to take cuttings and put them in

soil, it does take time but they will root. You can also root a leaf, but again it takes a long time, maybe 2 months to get it to have a good root system, it's called patience and sometimes we all run out of it.

Crown of Thorns, *Euphorbia Mili*, prefers a south window, it will also do well in a west window. transfer them to a sandy soil, either half sand, half soil or 2/3 dirt and 1/3 sand. It'll be milky when you cut it, so make sure you let it scab over before you put it in soil.

Panda Plant, *Kalanchoe tomentosa*, a very easy plant to grow, they do like a lot of sunlight, if they don't receive enough sun they'll get long and lanky. Their leaves are fuzzy with a brown edge, depending on the variety Mine was given to me by my husband when he retired from the Military, so all my starts came from the original one 42 years ago.

Panda plants are one of the easiest to take starts from as they'll grow from cuttings or leaves. If a leaf falls off into another potted plant it'll take

root and start a new plant. You can plant a Panda Plant in regular potting soil, it grows well. Because it's a succulent it can be watered every other week or twice a month.

Transplant your succulents twice a year unless they're large ones. It gives them fresh soil to get them growing again. I repot them in the Spring, and Fall except when they're large then they only receive new soil once a year. If they're root bound, put them in a pot no bigger than two sizes larger than what they're in, otherwise they grow at the root system before they grow at the top.

Two insects that will destroy succulents are Mealy Bug and Scale. If you receive a new plant, make sure you separate it from your other plants for two weeks to make sure they are bug free. I have about 115 houseplants at the moment so I watch carefully when I receive a new plant as I don't want to have my houseplants destroyed by an insect. I also don't put many of my plants outside for the summer as they can pick up critters.

Marian M. McNabb

Member of Clay County Federated Garden Club, Life Member of State, Regional, and National Garden Clubs.



2026 Circle of Roses Recipients

District III

Cheryl Searle - Marshalltown Garden Club
Penny Robb - Green Thumb Garden Club
Mary Reyerson Low - Green Thumb Garden Club

District IV, V, and VII

Lizzie Pruisner - Ackworth Garden Club
Betty Nikkel - Baxter Garden Club
Lynn Hagen Greater - Des Moines Garden Club
Cathy Courtney - Knoxville Federated Garden Club

District VI

Allison Studer - Town and Country Garden Club
Shirleen Helgeson - Palo Alto Garden Club
Kathy Meham - Palo Alto Garden Club
Becky Rogers - Kossuth Area Garden Club
Jean Rhodes - Madrid Garden Club



In Memory

Someone Is Missing

Let this be a loving reminder
That someone is missing today.
Someone our hearts still hold on to
As we travel along life's way
Someone who made life so special
For all those who gather here
Someone who won't be forgotten
But cherished from year to year.
And now, as we pause to
remember
Let us all fondly recall
How dearly each of us loved them
And they loved us all.

As always we paused during the State Convention to remember those club members who had passed since we last convened.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Roberta Bowie - Tipton Garden Club
Wilma Lesan - Ames Garden Club
Becky Smoot - Clay County Federated Garden Club
Lou Benskin - Marshalltown Garden Club
Marilyn Peterson-Ship - Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club
Florence Sandgen - Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club
Kathy Tapkin - Afton Garden Club
Iris Smith - Afton Garden Club
David Mixdorf - Afton Garden Club
Linda Brooks - Knoxville Federated Garden Club
Mary Myers - Knoxville Federated Garden Club
Arlene Ensore - Knoxville Federated Garden Club

Districts and Clubs

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
TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB, DECORAH

Ruth Hamilton, Director

DISTRICT III

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

Terri Ewers, Director

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 VI

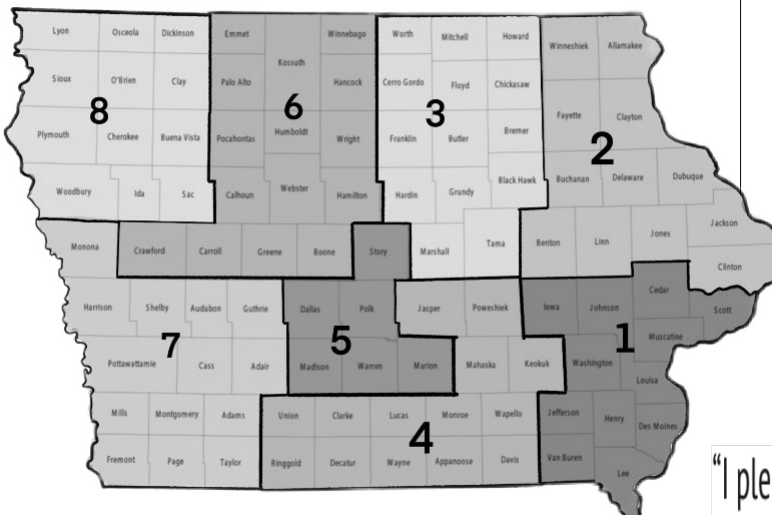
ESTHERVILLE GARDEN CLUB
FORT DODGE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB
KOSSUTH AREA GARDEN CLUB, Algona
MADRID FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB
PALO ALTO GARDEN CLUB
TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB, WEBSTER CITY

Shirleen Helgeson, Director

DISTRICT 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 VI ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB MEETING

APRIL 28, 2026

The annual District VI Garden Club Meeting was held on April 28, 2026 in Webster City, Iowa. The meeting was hosted by the Town and Country Garden Club from Webster City, Iowa with fifty-eight members present.

The meeting began with a welcome from the Town and Country Garden Club members, the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Garden Creed. State representatives with the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa were introduced.

In the AM Nicole Jonas from the Red Granite Farms Garden Center spoke on pollinating shade and sun plants. These were sold after her presentation. Before lunch was served the six garden clubs in our district discussed their projects they had planned for the year. The 'Plant a Tree' donation was discussed. The National Garden Week events were discussed being held in our communities.

After a delicious lunch, the next speaker was Allison Studer who is a certified arborist and previous scholarship recipient. Her presentation was on the "Do's and Don'ts of Landscaping".

The District VI business meeting was presided over by District VI Director, Shirleen Helgeson. Minutes for the 2025 annual meeting were approved. Treasurers report with a balance of \$475.75 as of April 28th, 2026. Discussions were on the elimination of grants, a digital newsletter, digital communication and continued liability insurance with the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa and bringing more perennials to sell for the Ways and Means table. There have been several clubs merging, including 4,5,7 and 1,2,3. District VIII

Clubs, Clay County Federated Garden Club and Floyd Valley Garden Club requests merging with District VI. Motion made to initiate ongoing discussion regarding this merge. Motion passed.

The State Convention will be held at the Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson, IA on June 15-16. A motion was made to approve the amount of \$50 for the silent auction at the State convention. Motion approved. Palo Alto Garden Club provided the silent auction item.

Jean Klosterman presented the various awards the clubs applied for. Many awards were given out. Before the meeting adjourned door prizes were given out. The 2027 District VI meeting will be hosted by the Madrid Federated Garden Club. Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.

Submitted by Gail Moser, District VI secretary

District Annual Meeting Reports

FGCI DISTRICT I ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 13, 2026

The District I meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa was held at the Environmental Learning Center in Muscatine. Present were members of Muscatine and Tipton Garden Clubs. Invited guests were introduced: State President Shirley Wolf, Jean Klosterman VP, and Past Pres, Terri Ewers.

We began with our program. Melissa Baker, has a BA from ISU with emphasis in Landscape and Design. Melissa has been with Muscatine Parks and Recreation, for over 12 years and assisted in the development and implementation of a comprehensive park and street tree digital inventory system. She has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining the community's hanging basket program and now oversees the care and maintenance of park grounds and urban greenery. She has spoke to us about the city's extensive park system and the various duties and staff required to develop and maintain the various locations. She offered advice on types and locations of residential trees and shrub plantings. Melissa fielded many questions from the participants and was given rave reviews about the depth of knowledge she shared with us.

The District I meeting was then called to order at 11:15 AM by President Marianna Haas. The minutes of 2025 had not been made available from last year's officers. Items discussed will be listed under old business.

As our District Treasurer had not yet returned from California, her submitted report was presented by our club VP Vicki Hampton. The account, including interest, has a balance of \$277.61. Today's registrar, Sandra Wales, stated 18 members paid the \$15 registration (\$270), and there were donations of \$10 from Tipton and \$15 from Jean Klosterman for a total of \$295. Rather than bringing items to sell, we had agreed Ways and Means would receive \$5 from each registration which totaled \$90 of the \$295. Bills totalling \$143.90 for today's expenses were presented and approved.

For Old Business, we discussed redistricting as presented at the last meeting which the Muscatine Club had approved but Tipton had not yet decided. There was much discussion about the distance in traveling to other areas for the District meetings. We were reminded, it is only once a year and attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. The pluses of expanding included learning about other soil types and climate differences across Iowa which influence gardening, gaining more ideas from more members, and, with more clubs, we would not have to host every other year. There were many questions about how the funds in the current District would be handled – whether remaining or combining and how moneys are sent to State. Tipton asked if it is necessary to be in a district or if a club could “stand alone” and still be Federated. Shirley Wolfe expressed that we are losing clubs but we do not want to lose members of FGCI. This is new territory for the FGCI to discuss. Deb shared that she had been in contact with Ruth Hamilton, District II, and they voted in their clubs to accept combining Districts. We have been invited to attend their meeting in Independence next week and Marianna and Deb will attend. Muscatine voted again to merge. Tipton members present voted to merge, but will discuss further at their next meeting before taking a second vote.

We voted to send FGCI Scholarship and Horticulture/Design \$50 each.

Shirley Wolf spoke briefly and thanked us for the speaker's presentation and for hosting the meeting and luncheon. She offered praise for the Environmental Learning Center and Arboretum location, to which all attendees agreed. She encouraged us to be creative in growing our membership and keeping FGCI alive. Shirley invited us all to enter the State Flower Show and to attend the Convention June 15 and 16 in Jefferson.

Peg Eggerston, State Awards Chair, was not in attendance so Jean Klosterman presented the Club awards. The Tipton and Muscatine Books of Evidence were then on Display for the day. While a croissant sandwich lunch was set up, participants were encouraged to view the exhibits at the ELC, and to later explore the arboretum by trails or do a drive through on their way home.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Bentley, Dist. I Secretary

Club News

Muscatine Garden Club District I

The weather cooperated for our May plant sale and we had a lovely day sharing the bounty of our gardens while raising money for our local projects, which include tree planting and the care of our Plant It Pink Garden.

After that date, the weather has been pretty disastrous. A great many of our long-time Plant It Pink garden perennials did not survive the winter. Missing this spring were peonies, yarrow, mums and cone flowers. Our club has decided to turn the bare areas to our advantage and plans to add new peonies and hydrangeas, with members offering to donate pink flowering bulbs and plants from their gardens.

A deluge started our June tour of local gardens. A few hardy members with umbrellas saw a city yard whose owner has replaced almost 100% of her lawn with plants. Next, as the rain lessened, was a formal garden of stone structures, including a courtyard and fountain, all designed by the owner. An expansive garden of our member Sandy Wales's, followed as she explained how the garden has metamorphosized over many years. A returning downpour canceled our final member Deb Bentley's garden, which demonstrated hillside gardening.

High temps cooled most of our members' desire to attend the July Muscatine County Fair flower show, but they didn't stop member Nancy Carlisle from winning 3 Best in Show ribbons, plus a red ribbon in Design.

With members always gone for the winter, we decided to switch our holiday party to August so they could be included. The party will be held inside but we will be able to admire our hostess's water garden.

Meetings — We hosted the April District 1 meeting and two members attended the District 2+3 meeting, as we hope to merge with them. Two members also attended the FGCI convention and entered the 97th Annual Flower Show.

Submitted by Marianna Haas
Pres., Muscatine Garden Club



Club News

Decorah Town and Country Garden Club

These two designs were brought to the July meeting of the Decorah Town & Country Garden Club. The theme was "Hurrah for the Red, White, and Blue"



As I sit on my flower bench
and I ponder,
Eyes closed, planning my
little patch, I wonder.

At Roses, Hosta, Daffodils,
and Ivy I know,
And even the vine-wrought
things I do not know.

People pass by, they
smile and wave,
And I pause to smile
and wave.

Will my flower patch ever
look that good, I ponder

-Peter Julsth
Green Thumb Garden club

Club News

Green Thumb Garden Club District III

The Green Thumb Garden club started off the year in January. The program was reviewing the year book for this year.

The February meeting was about the 6 R's. Rethink, Reuse, Repair, Recycle, Reduce, and Refuse.

In March we learned a lot about daffodils. Our hostess had many flowers and we all got to take some home with us.

Our April program was about making house plants or potted plants show worthy. Telling what the judges look at or notice at flower shows. The May meeting was held on the first of June. The program was about Hummingbirds. We also had a plant and bulb sale the first Saturday in May.

Several club members helped clean up the fountain area at the fairgrounds and also cleaned up the building where the flower show was held.

The clubs flower show was in June during our Worth county fair.

Our July meeting will be held at the Lutheran Retirement Home where we will help the residents arrange flowers for their rooms.

Jean VanVeldhuizen



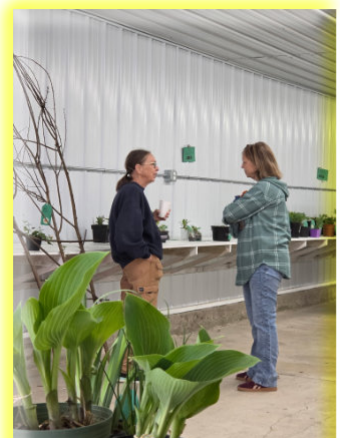
Co-Hosting District meeting with District II



Garden Therapy Helping Residents at local care center arrange flowers



Beautiful Daffodils from the March meeting



Plant Sale in May



Program on recycling

Club News

MARSHALLTOWN GARDEN CLUB District III

The summer months are a busy time for members of the Marshalltown Garden Club. After another successful plant sale on May 9 (which was a SOLD OUT event for the first time ever!) we moved into the serious business of the season.

Club members traveled just south of Marshalltown to the Gilman area on the morning of May 22 for a tour of the Swift Greenhouses. In 1952, Earl and Mildred Swift purchased a small greenhouse from John and Audry Zesch, which included 15,000 square feet of glass greenhouses and a clientele of grocery stores and seed stores who purchased plants out of the back of John's pick-up. Today, Swifts produces over 20 million perennial, herb, and annual seedling plugs per year, which are sold through brokers and shipped to greenhouses in all 50 states and Canada. The outing lasted just over an hour and those in attendance were invited to choose plants to take home for their gardens.

In an attempt to broaden our public relations outreach, in June we introduced a new feature called Yard of the Month which will continue through September. Colorful signage is placed for easy viewing and the hosts receive a write-up in the local paper and a certificate.

July brought sweltering temps and the reintroduction of an old favorite: the Summer Garden Tour. Undaunted by the heat and armed with ice cold bottles of water, our intrepid guests spent the afternoon of Sunday, July 12 touring four gardens in Marshalltown plus an additional one just a few miles north of Marshalltown in Conrad.

Our educational programs continue to wow the crowd, which includes our members as well as non-members as our programs are always free and open to the public. In May, Keri Byrum visited with us about the different option for using tropical plants for their color and textures to create stunning displays in our gardens and planters. Barry Laws of Quilted Gardens returned in June to share his tips and tricks for incorporating shrubs for all seasons (especially for strong fall color and winter interest) in our landscapes. The August programs will feature Sally Wilson who will share tips about "Sustainable Gardening"; Cynde Schreiber will wrap up the month with "Succulents 101".

Last but certainly not least, we will return to the Marshall County parking lot for our annual Fall Plant Sale on September 12. The three-hour sale, based on a free-will donation, will run from 9 a.m. to noon. As always unsold plants will be donated the Riverside Cemetery for installation in the many gardens located throughout the grounds.

Our meetings are held the first Monday of the month at the Marshall County Extension office and begins with the business discussion at 10:30 a.m. followed by an educational program at 11. Some exceptions may apply.

Jean Klosterman

Club News

Ackworth Garden Club District IV, V & and VII

Wow! So much activity since our last report. In February, Ray Harden from Boone came and gave a program on Iowa woodpeckers. In March, we prepared for our May plant sale. In April, Ryan Francois shared about Woodland Realm which is an urban community garden in the heart of Des Moines. Our Garden Therapy committee went to Victory Academy in April for a seed planting demonstration for the kids. So much fun with these littles. Our club then spent time in April and May cleaning up gardens at Scotchridge Church in Carlisle, which is our home base, gardens at the Randleman House in Carlisle, and the Warren County Justice Remembrance Garden in Indianola. In May, we had our annual plant sale in Indianola which was a great success. Our special projects group held a youth container gardening class at the Warren County Extension office and at the end of May, we toured the Allendan Seed Company in Winterset. They grow native plants and seed to sell throughout the United States. Quite the huge operation! In June, our members attended our district meeting in Ocala, the State meeting in Jefferson and we partnered up with the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society for their summer garden tour and auction. We closed out June with a wonderful program with Ken Messer on hybridizing daylilies. Daylily seedlings will be shared at our July meeting. Hopefully divisions from some of these lovely seedlings will be shared at one of our future club plant sales. Whew! We were busy

-Submitted by Jenny Messer



Club News

Afton Federated Garden Club District IV, V & VII

Our year started off rough with the loss of David Mixdorf, he was our new treasure. A note for everyone. (Make sure you have more than one person's name on the clubs checking account) that was a major learning curve. Except for our secretary our club has all new officers. Thankfully, the club members are keeping me on track.

We have been very busy so far this year cleaning the flower gardens, preparing the beds for spring. Planting red, white and blue flowers around the square in 18 pots in Afton, for the nation's 250 Anniversary. A Spring plant sale, and celebrating National Garden week. Afton garden club hosted the District IV, V, & VII meeting in the Conservation Building at East Lake, using the theme, "This land is our land". We wanted to make it assessable to members in our district around the State off the interstate. It went very well. The Garden tour June 5 was at the Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha Nebraska.

Many interesting programs have been given during the past months. February Crevice Gardening, March photographing flowers, April Basil, May Simple Pollinator Garden June, Perennials, July Design with the fair in mind.

Now with the Union County Fair coming up members are preparing for the Horticulture Show and Kids Day Activities.

-Dixie Shinkle President Afton Federated garden Club



Club members in the Giant Greenhouse at the Lauritzen Gardens



Rose Garden at the Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha NE



Members at the State meeting and flower Show Shirley Wallace Director, Monica Huddleson, Sharon Gardener, Connie Kerrigan, and Dixie Shinkle Club President

Club News

Baxter Garden Club District IV, V & and VII

Baxter Garden Club's 2026 year has been full of fun programs, projects, and events.

Starting in March, Master Gardner Rhonda Murphy gave a program on Indoor Spring Seed Planting.

Then in April members enjoyed learning about and designing Teacup Gardens from member Janet Damman.

For Earth Day, the club spoke to Baxter's First Graders about caring for our earth and helped them plant flowers to take home.

President Macy and Vice President Cindy attended the District President's meeting in Madrid.

A few members helped our Hometown Pride Committee and Baxter Students plant new trees around our town.

May began with planting flowers in Baxter's Mainstreet planters. Planters will be cared for by our club throughout the summer months.

Also, in May Club Members traveled to the Busy Bee Garden Center near Indianola and enjoyed touring and shopping their greenhouses. Before leaving Indianola, we visited Buxton Park Arboretum.

June was a busy month for us beginning with our annual plant and garage sale. Our Club hosted breakfast at the district meeting held at Easter Lake Conservation Building located in Osceola. Several Club Members traveled to Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden in Knoxville and enjoyed a tour given by a Knoxville Garden Club member. June ended with four members attending the 97th annual State Convention and Flower Show.

-Deb Krampe



Club News

Ft. Dodge Federated Garden Club District VI

What we've done:

May 7th - We had an amazing plant sale

May 19 - 12 of us went on a Nursery Hop in the Lake View area

Garden Club week: A table display is set up at the Ft. Dodge Library every year for this.

June 9th - Potluck lunch - Speaker was unable to come.

Discussed State Flower show.

June 15-16 - 8 members helped Shirley with the show and enjoyed our speaker from Deals Orchard immensely

Unfortunately, our Twilight Tour had to be postponed until next year.

July 21st meeting: Stripling Aviaries came and talked about honey bees and honey. An amazing program.

August 1 & 2 - Our Annual Flower Show with a Ft. Dodge "Theme" will be held!!

August 18th - We will visit one of our club member's home. She raises flowers for Farmer's Markets.

September 15th - We will be decorating mini pumpkins that will find a home in a local nursing home.

October 20 - We will visit and tour the Ft. Dodge Recycling center.

November 17 - We will learn how to create a Charcuterie Board

December 15 - Noon Potluck and Christmas Party

Meetings at the Lion's Den begin at 1 pm.

Each month we have a report on different succulents.

Each month the president reads a poem about gardening

Kathy Geisler

Ft. Dodge Federated Garden Club President

Club News

Kossuth Area Garden Club District VI

RECAP OF KOSSUTH AREA GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

It has been a busy year for the 31 members of the Kossuth Area Garden Club. In early July the club sponsored a unique garden tour. Instead of walking through the gardens we stepped on a pontoon boat and rode by the gardens groomed by individual residents of Oak Lake. Doing so allowed us to enjoy the backyards or lakeside views of their properties. Nearly 70 individuals took part raising a sizeable sum for the club treasury.

For our July meeting we participated in the creative art of “flower pounding.” Members brought fresh flowers from their garden and a hammer or mallet, laid their flowers on a piece of white cloth, laid a sheet of wax paper over the flowers and pounded away. A number of unique designs evolved and members have been encouraged to enter their creations in our upcoming flower show.

In observance of National Garden Club week, the club donated four children’s books to each of the eleven county libraries. They were well received. The books were purchased from the National Garden Club store.

In June we hosted a bus trip to Reimen Gardens and the Iowa Arboretum for a day excursion. 50 people were on the bus and through careful budgeting the club garnered a hefty income over expenses.

Steve Wolter provided an interesting program on decorating gourds in June.

Most recently 7 members took a field trip to Brown’s Landscaping near Belmond and enjoyed the landscaped lawn of the owner and had the opportunity to purchase beautiful perennials for our own gardens.

In August we will be having our annual flower show in conjunction with the Kossuth County Fair. Later in August we will be having a picnic to just relax after our busy previous months of activities.

Walter Reemtsma, President Kossuth Area Garden Club.

Club News

PALO ALTO GARDEN CLUB District VI

Wow, where is the summer going? It's hard to believe just a few months ago we were wondering if the weather was ever going to warm up. Now I'm wondering if the temperature is ever going to cool down. Welcome to Iowa! The Palo Alto Garden Club started their first meeting in March after a two-month hiatus. With Iowa having high cancer rates, our first meeting was on Radon. Our own club member, who is the Community Health Resource Coordinator for Palo Alto, gave us very useful information. So far, this year, we have added five new members bringing our total to 51.

On a rainy day in April, seven of our members signed up for a fused glass class in Spencer, Iowa. Our April meeting featured a Conservation Agronomist with The Nature Conservancy on Principles of Regenerative Agriculture. A local county library gave a program with Sarah Pratt, the butter cow lady with the Iowa State Fair. We even got to create our own butter sculpture. Six of our members were able to attend the District VI annual meeting in Webster City, Iowa. Members of the club tackled the cleanup of one of our community projects in the courtyard gardens of a Senior Living Facility.

In May we started off with our annual plant sale which was very successful. Many of the hostas and perennials from the Victorian House were removed from the area to be sold at our plant sale. The Victorian House was once one of our community projects but due to the deterioration of the building we are no longer able to do this. Our monthly meeting was on botanical art given by our own FGCI president, Shirley Wolf. Every year our club is responsible for planting the downtown planters along with our own two planters. This year the flowers selected for the downtown planters were various pink colored petunias. The petunias are loving this humidity and there is a beautiful display of pink noted in our downtown. Nine of our members signed up for the Master Conservationist program offered jointly between the Palo Alto County extension and Emmet County extension. The course is online with field trips combined with the program. Towards the end of May some of our members were able to enjoy the beauty of peonies at the Silo Ridge Peony Farm located southwest of Milford, Iowa.

In June, National Garden Week was recognized by displaying the national poster at the five libraries in our county. Our monthly meeting was held at the Prairie Flower farm west of Fostoria, Iowa. We were given a tractor/wagon tour of the 640 acres of prairie. What a sight to see!! During national garden week the garden club sponsored a lavender presentation at our local library by The Stockdale Lavender Farm outside of Humboldt, Iowa. Also, during National Garden Week, some of our garden club members attended a presentation from Boersen Honey Bees. Three of our members attended the FGCI state convention at the Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson, Iowa on June 16th. Two of our members received the Circle of Roses award at the convention. Since there is a lake in Emmetsburg, located in Palo Alto County, our members were able to volunteer at the annual Clean Water Festival. Our club had a kid's craft of painting and decorating a small flower pot. We also handed out wildflower packets to the public that attended the event. Another event, at our local library, hosted one of our local town residents on his photography of prairie flowers. At the end of June some of our members joined the Kossuth Area Garden Club on a chartered bus tour to the Iowa Arboretum, ISU Reiman Gardens and the ISU ice cream creamery. It was a fun trip.

Our club hosted their annual Garden Tour on July 9th with five local home owners showcasing their beautiful gardens. Garden club members were able to tour other local garden tours during the week with one of the tours being a pontoon tour around Oak Lake in Algona, Iowa.

With the Palo Alto County Fair fast approaching, our speaker for our July meeting was Walter Reemtsma from Kossuth Area Garden Club giving the group tips on how to properly display an exhibit in the open class. Clean up of a garden area at the Lost Island Nature Center is planned this month.

Lastly, we are hoping to plan a trip to the Stockdale Lavender Farm before the lavender stops blooming. This hot weather is not helping. Our August meeting will bring us to one of our member's rain garden. The September meeting will be on seed saving given by one of our members. October's meeting will be on indoor plants. The topic of gourds will be our November meeting and donations will be delivered to our local Upper Des Moines Opportunity during the month of November. At the end of the year in December, we will conclude our year with a banquet and our monthly business meeting. During this time of the year, we will distribute gifts to our local long term care facilities. Our club meets the second Tuesday of months March-December. The public is always invited to our meetings. Check out our club's activities on our Facebook page: [Palo Alto Garden Club](#).

Submitted by Shirleen Helgeson, President



Club News

Clay County Garden Club District VIII

1. We held a 3 day Childrens Pollinator Program with the Clay County Conservation Commission at the Oneota Outdoor Living Center. 13 3rd thru 5th graders attended. The children were allowed to feed a wood turtle and bullfrog, hold a Fox Constrictor snake. The children went on a hike in the prairie and planted a pollinator garden by the Oneota Outdoor Living Center.

2. The Clay County Garden Club held their annual garden tour of 5 wonderful gardens. Three were annual and perennial gardens at homes while one was raised beds at the Catholic Church School planted and tended by students. The 5th garden was the TOGA (Todays Outstanding Gardeners of America) at one of the many community gardens throughout Spencer and featured vegetable and flowers worked by a garden club member couple and several area teenagers.

Thank you,
Jacqueline Heinrichs, Treasurer
Clay County Garden Club

[Clay county Fair](#)
[Sept 12-20th](#)



A child with curly hair, seen from behind, is walking through a field of tall grass and wildflowers. The child is wearing a light-colored dress. The background is a soft, painterly landscape with a blue sky and distant hills. The overall style is artistic and serene.

Centerville Garden Club
Invites You To Join Them For
A Day at Bessie's
September 17, 2026 at 11:00am

Bessie's Barn
15927 Hwy 2
Centerville, IA 52544

Amy Tubbs
presents
Flower Farming & Beekeeping
RSVP - Stephanie - 913-232-6125

A lite lunch will be provided

Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul.

Luther Burbank

Iowa is one of the seven states that makes up the Central Region. The other States include Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Below is the websites of the states. Check out what other garden clubs are doing in Central Region



Illinois
gardenclubsofillinois.org



Minnesota
mngardenclubs.com



Indiana
gardenclubofindiana.org



Missouri
fgcmo.org



Michigan
migardenclubs.org



Wisconsin
wisconsin-gardenclub.org