

NEWS

Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa

Fall 2026



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.

Federated Garden Club of Iowa, Inc.

President: Shirley Wolf

“Our Pollinators Still Need Help”

MEMBER OF



Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

ngccentralregion.com

Director: Rene Lynch

Progress is possible

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Member of



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

4401 Magnolia Ave.,

St Louis, MO 63110

gardenclub.org

President: Donna Donnelly

NEWS Deadlines

Summer	July 20 th	(online)
Fall	Sept 20 th	Oct print
Winter	Dec 20 th	(online)
Spring	March 20 ^h	March Print

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and you will be directed to our web page



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is fast approaching. 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.” We will be adding an educational division. The titles are: Protect our Pollinators and Why Pollinators are so important. You or a club may enter a educational division. Start planning you have all winter. I am looking for speakers, anyone have ideas, contact me.

-Shirley Wolf

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

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

Calendar of Events

2026

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: FGCI President's Annual Report, FGCI Blue Ribbon Club and FGCI Advanced Club Rating Award
March 20	NEWS Deadline for the Spring/Convention issue
May 13-17	National Convention - Madison WI
April 30th	District I, II, and III annual meeting in Independence, IA
June 14-15	98 th FGCI Annual State Meeting and Flower Show at the Wild Rose casino in Jefferson, IA
August 2-4	FCI Flower Show School Course 1 TBD
August	Judges Symposium TBD
October 3-6	Central Region Convention - St Charles MO

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



Notice Address Changes

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

**Please send to State Treasurer
Heidi Folkstad**

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

FGCI Fall Meeting Minutes

Fall Meeting in Ft Dodge Perkins on September 23rd, 2026 at 10:05 AM.

Meeting was called to order by our President, Shirley Wolf. There were nine members present and goes as follows: Sue Becker, Shirley Wolf, Terri Ewers, Angie Wilkins, Deb Specht, Mike Becker, Marianna Haas, Shirley Wallace and Peg Egertsen.

The secretary minutes were read from our Iowa State Convention in June 16th , 2026. The minutes were approved by Peg Egertsen and seconded by Shirley Wallace.

Next were the reports from the Committees present. It was mentioned that a new Conservation committee head was needed and Shirley Wallace stated that she would do that position.

Teri Ewers mentioned that she would like to have a Co-Chair to help with flower show school and for symposium. Angie Wilkins said she would help with that.

Pat Thiede stated that she would like to step down from the Scholarship committee. There is no one yet to fill that position, but a few names were mentioned and a follow-up on this will be needed.

It was discussed for a need for a replacement for Jean Klosterman for President Elect due to illness. This will mean Peg Egertsen will be President Elect and Angie Wilkins will be 1st Vice President and Awards Chair. Mike Becker for 1st VP and Jenny Messer for 2nd VP was listed as possible new officers. A rider at all district meetings to vote on and approve it. There will be a vote again at the State meeting for the second vote to change the by laws.

Circle of Roses will be no longer but instead there will be Volunteer of the Year award. Each Club will nominate one person. This would be a person who does a lot for the club. They would receive a green pin at the State Convention in 2027. Angie Wilkins will have more in the Winter Issue of the Federated Garden Club newsletter.

The State Convention will be held again at the Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson Iowa on June 14th and 15th. Madison Wisconsin will be hosting the National Convention on May 13-17th 2027. Reservations will be accepted in January 2027. St. Charles Mo will hold the regional in October 3-6th 2027.

Terri Ewers is planning a Judges training along with Jenny Messer's Small Flower Show around June 5th. Stay tuned for more information on this in the Winter issue of Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

Meeting was adjourned with Peg Egertsen 1st and Shirley Wallace 2nd.

Sue Becker, FGCI Secretary

Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. Assets as of 07-31-2026

CHECKING ACCOUNT xxxx86			
General Fund		\$28,629.62	
Scholarship Fund		4,563.58	
	Total	\$33,193.20	
CD ACCOUNTS			
Account	xxxx93	\$44,841.84	
Term	13 months		
Interest Rate	3.840%		
Annual Percentage Yield	3.90%		
Maturity Date	December 10, 2026		
Opening Balance	\$44,000.00		
Current Balance	\$44,841.84		
Interest Earned/Deposited at Maturity	General Funds		
Account	xxxx19	\$61,147.97	
Term	13 months		
Interest Rate	3.84%		
Annual Percentage Yield	3.90%		
Maturity Date	February 15, 2027		
Opening Balance	\$60,000.00		
Current Balance	\$61,147.97		
Interest Earned/Deposited at Maturity	Scholarship Funds		
	Total	\$105,989.81	
GRAND TOTAL		\$139,183.01	

Submitted by Heidi Folkestad, Treasurer

Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. Income Statement FY 8-1-2025 to 7-31-2026

Revenue	Amount
Membership Dues	\$7,835.00
Scholarship	4,139.00
State Meeting Registration	3,700.00
State Meeting Ways & Means	515.50
Flower Show School	50.00
Other (includes Refunds and Donations) *	118.38
CD Interest - General Fund	1,797.50
CD Interest - Scholarship	2,277.06
TOTAL REVENUE	\$20,432.44
Expenses	
Membership Dues (National)	\$763.00
NGC Plant-A-Tree	118.38
Officer Expenses	2,574.15
Board/State Meeting Expenses	5,289.59
Central Region	250.00
Office Expenses	4,608.41
Flower Show School	0.00
Scholarships	4,000.00
Grants	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,603.53
NET INCOME	\$2,828.91

* Donation - NGC Plant-A-Tree

Submitted by Heidi Folkestad, Treasurer

Announcements

The Circle of Roses award has been retired as of July 1, 2026 and has been replaced by the Volunteer of the Year award. Clubs can nominate one person each year and it will only be given once in a lifetime to a nominee. This Award will be presented at the FGCI Annual Meeting each year. Please send the form to the 2 Vice President by April 1 each year for the upcoming FGCI state meeting. Recipients of the award receive a pin and certificate selected by the 2 Vice President and the State President

-Angie Wilkins, FGCI 2 Vice President



The District Directors for I, II, & III met September 23 and did a little initial planning for a combined district. The meeting will be the last Friday of April. April 30, 2027 this year at Independence. District dues are \$1.00 for each club member payable by each club treasurer each spring. District elections will be held to completely combine the districts into one. A naming contest for the new district is being arranged before the meeting with the final vote at the April 30th meeting. More information available soon....

-Teri Ewers, District III Director

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](#)

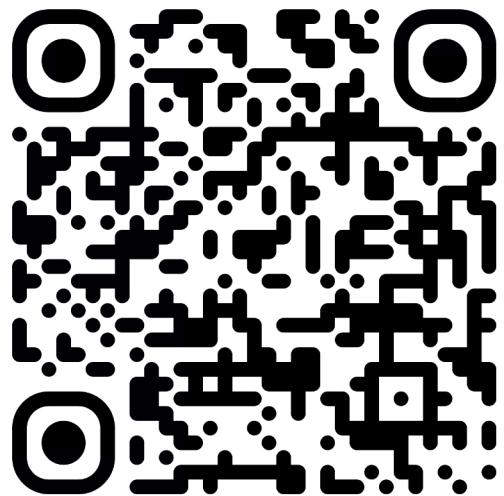
Your reports were previously due at the end of the year on December 31st. We are happy to announce that these reports have been revised and are now due on February 1st each year for the prior calendar year.

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



Scan QR code with smart phone camera

and you will be directed to the forms page of our [Website](#)

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

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

Shirley Wallace

GARDEN THERAPY

Jean Van Veldhuizen

INVASIVE SPECIES

Darla Kickbush

OPERATION WILD FLOWERS

Darla Kickbush

RECYCLE, REUSE & REPURPOSE

Deb Specht

Committee reports

Greetings to All:

I had an opportunity to go to the Iowa State Fair this year. The DNR put on a program on Oak trees and so naturally I went to it. I sat in the first row and she asked for a volunteer and I shot my hand up and guess what? She chose me. She asked me to name all ten Iowa Oak trees. Well, I came up with five. I won a prize of an insulated mug that says "Only You" with Smoky Bear on it. So, I thought I would report on the Oak tree.

Iowa Oak Trees: Quercus is the genus.

They are divided into two Oak groups, white oak and red oaks.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Burr Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Chestnut Oak (*Quercus montana*), Swamp White Oak (*Quercus stellata*), Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus bicolor*), Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Blackjack Oak (*Quercus marilandica*), Shingle Oak (*Quercus imbricaria*) Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) and Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*).

Oak tree is our State Tree.

Oak trees are very valuable to our wildlife. The acorns and leaves feed hundreds of native bird, insect and mammal species. Oak trees provide great shade with their large canopies that block the sun and help cool your yard and home during hot months.

Environmental health: the Oak trees clean the air, store carbon dioxide and manage rainwater runoff. The root system is vast laterally. It can withstand some fires because of this. It starts out with a deep tap root and then spreads laterally. Oak trees have shallow roots that stay within the top 3 feet of soil, The roots stay shallow because they need oxygen to survive.

I did mention to the presenter that Federated Garden Clubs support a program that supports trees in National Forests called "Plant A Tree."

Let's all continue on with this great project that we have.

-Sue Becker, Chair

Flower Show School



Great news...the FGCI Judges' Symposium will be held in August 2027. The exact dates haven't been confirmed but we're looking at possibly Thursday and Friday (August 5 & 6).



FGCI also plans to start another Judges' school. While we hope to attract some members to become NGC judges, the four courses are open to all and provide a lot of information in both design and horticulture. The current plan is to hold the Course 1 on Monday-Wednesday (August 2-4).



More information on both will follow...

-Teri Ewers, FGCI Flower School Chairman

FGCI Flower Show Judges

(2026)

Sue Becker	Jean Klosterman (Student)	Walter Reemtsma
Janna Boyd	Debbie Lewison	Mary Reyerson-Low
Sela Bryhne	Mary Mai-Gengler	Penny Robb
Theresa Cooper	Marlene Marolf	Victoria Rute
Peggy Egertsen	Jenny Messer	Sandra Wales
Terri Ewers	Liz Pruisner (Student)	Angie Wilkins
Pam Gollob	Charla Pearce	Shirley Wolf
Sandra Gossman	Sandra Quam	Steve Wolter

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

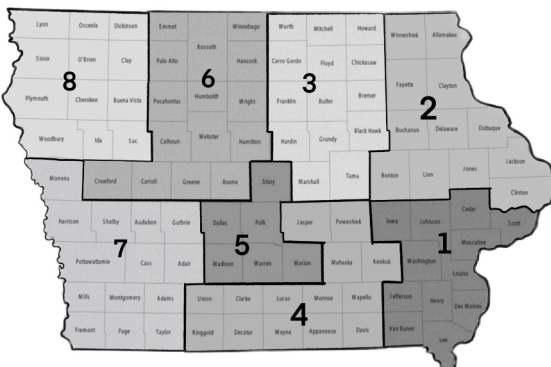
ESTHERVILLE GARDEN CLUB
FORT DODGE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB
KOSSUTH AREA GARDEN CLUB, Algona
MADRID FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB
PALO ALTO GARDEN CLUB
TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB, WEBSTER CITY

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."

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.

Club News

Muscatine Garden Club, District I

This September the Muscatine Garden Club toured Red Fern Farm, a you-pick orchard south of Grandview, IA. We were there just at the start of harvest time for paw paws, persimmons, kousa (dogwood) and chestnuts; fruits and nuts which many of our members were unfamiliar. We asked plenty of questions and came home with recipes and a new appreciation for native fruits. The farm has an informative website and grows other fruit and nut varieties.

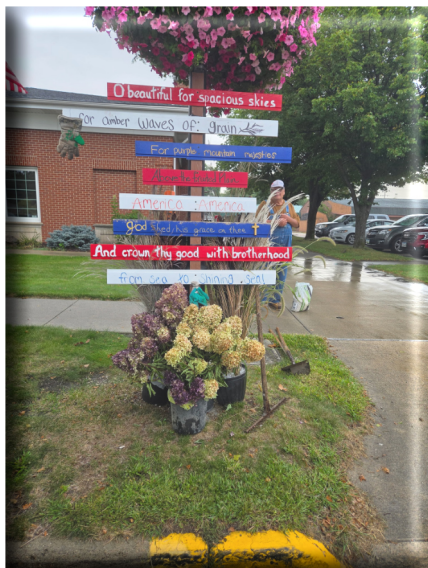
October will be a craft session with solar power — creating cyanotype and turmeric art from plant materials. November is elections and planning for 2027. December is a class on winter seed sowing

Submitted by Marianna Haas
Pres.

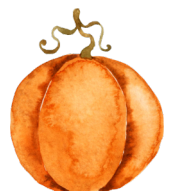
Members tasting Paw Paw



Green Thumb Garden Club, District III



Green Thumb Garden
decorated a light pole for the
town of Northwood, IA for
Northwoods annual Founders
day Celebration.



Club News

Ackworth Garden Club, District IV,V,VI

Summer was busy for the Ackworth Garden Club. July's program was "Edible Flowers" presented by Mary Jane Miller with food sample support from members Deb Willyard and Barb Buckton. We knew flowers were beautiful but didn't know how delicious they can be and how they can add flavor and color to our meals. Those who attended this meeting were excited to also be gifted daylily divisions from seedlings grown by our June presenter, Ken Messer.

July finished with our club supporting a horticulture specialty show at the Warren County Fair featuring horticulture, youth, and botanical arts. We had a huge show and the weather remained very pleasant for most of the fair. Whew!

In August, we visited the Iowa Arboretum. They were able to accommodate our members by taking us through the grounds on a 12 seat golf cart. We enjoyed seeing many of the gardens including the children's garden, the trial garden and the new treehouse village. After the tour, we had lunch at Whatcha Smokin BBQ in Luther. A fun day trip.

Throughout the summer, we have been planning a special event in October to celebrate our club's 90th anniversary celebration. Plans are being made for the program, table arrangements, food and much more. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

-Jenny Messer, President Ackworth Garden Club



Club News

Grant Sunshine Garden Club, District IV,V,VI

Happenings of the Grant Sunshine Garden Club: January: Guest speaker Tammy Ward gave us a history lesson unlike any we ever had in school! She created an incredible quilt that depicts the carefully researched history of the town of Grant — the namesake of our Garden Club. February: Deb Karwal portrayed the life, courage and resilience and contributions to the natural history of our country. March: a garden swap meet where members brought seed catalogs, gardening books and seeds for sharing and swapping and a show and tell of favorite garden tools. April: Trip to Nebraska City to Arbor Lodge to explore the lilac trail and the Lodge. May: Breakfast at the beautiful Pilot Grove Park with a plant swap. June: attended the District 4,5,7 Meeting. July: Took entries, staged and clerked the Open Class Flower and Garden Show and sponsored the Outstanding 4-H Horticulture Award at the Montgomery County Fair. Also toured the Garden of Paradise and Growing Joy Garden in Essex. August: Road trip to Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, NE. September: Our club was organized and federated this month 80 years ago. We celebrated this with a beautiful tea party in the home of Cathy Hart whose Aunt Kate and Grandma Nellie were organizers and members of the club. October will be a Halloween party and Doug Darnold will share all about growing orchids. November: Surprise lesson by Terra Brummett and a tour of the Red Oak Greenhouse with the 100's of Poinsettias they grow. The year will be finished in December with a Christmas party and more 80th anniversary celebrating.



Club News



Club News

Ames Garden Club, District IV,V, & VII

The Ames Garden Club has enjoyed touring members' gardens, a spring and fall plants sale, and a flower show at Reiman Gardens. This fall we are learning about insects, flower arranging styles, and members' trips to botanic gardens around the world before ending the year with a pot luck gathering.

You can follow us on [Facebook](#) now



Afton Federated Garden Club, District IV,V, & VII

National Garden week started with the club hosting the District IV, V, & VII meeting. June 1. "This Land is my Land" was the given theme. It was held at the new Conservation Building, at East Lake east of Osceola on highway 34. Close to 70 members were in attendance with a catered lunch, large way and means, silent auction, speakers, ending by auction of centerpieces made by the Knoxville Club.

The mayor of Afton Michelle Burger signed a proclamation making it National Garden Week.

Five members attended the State meeting held at the Wild Rose Casino in Jefferson.

Nine members and one guest attended a tour of the Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, June 5. The gardens gave members ideas for their own gardens.

The Union County fair Horticulture show there were 75 entries, down because of the extreme heat. Bonnie Morris a member of the club received 10 blue ribbons, best of show and sweepstake. (Her granddaughter won the youth for her theme garden). Saturday was Kids day and the Club had a activity for the kids to enjoy.

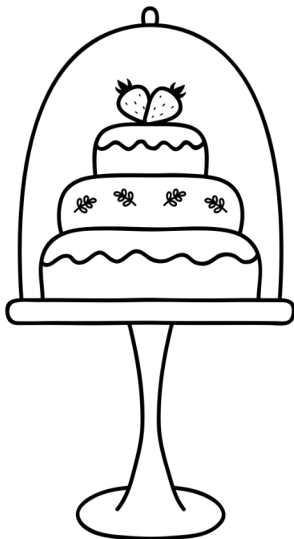
The Club received permission to move a Blue Star Marker from Three mile lake to the Virgil Criss Memorial in Lorimor Iowa, where hopefully it will receive more exposure. We planned to have it moved September 11 on patriots day but the City of Lorimor needed to reconcrete the pad it was to be set on. No date has been set for the dedication at this point.

With the loss of one of our members, spouse and children, we have persevered by gaining three new members and hope for the future.

Dixie Shinkle AGF

Club News

Happy 80th
Tea Party for the
Grant Sunshine's
80th year of being a
Federated Club



Club News

Palo Alto Garden Club , District VI

Well, activities for our club are starting to wind down. This time of the year, our officers are busy working on next year's activities and programs. Since our last NEWS our club cleaned up and planted new prairie flowers at the Lost Island Nature Center in Ruthven, Iowa in July and we were able to tour the Stockdale Lavender Farm in Humboldt, Iowa. In August our program was on rain garden. One of our members had installed a rain garden last September, 2025. The meeting was held at their residence and the program was given by Harley Butler, NCRS. The members were able to enjoy looking at the outdoor rain garden. In September, our program was given by one of our own garden club members on seed saving. She gave us some very valuable information about the benefits of seed saving. Our club continues to maintain our planters downtown and soon will have the petunias replaced with fall decorations. Also, in September, some of our garden club members attended a meeting at the Lost Island Nature Center in Ruthven, Iowa about monarchs and had the pleasure of tagging some of the monarchs. The nine garden club members that were enrolled in the Master Conservationist program this summer through Palo Alto County extension office and Emmet County extension office completed their program with a lunch and tour of the Lakeside Lab in Milford, Iowa. In October, our program will be on indoor plants. In November the program will be on gourds. Our final meeting for the year will be in December with a banquet and installation of officers. Also, during this time of year, we make contributions to Upper Des Moines of Iowa and distribute care items to our local nursing homes. Our club will not be meeting until next March, 2027. 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



Tour of Stockdale Lavender Farms in Humboldt, IA



Members who completed the Master Conservationist Program

The photo was taken at Lakeside Lab in Milford, Iowa with West Lake Okoboji in the background



Club News

Baxter Garden Club, District IV,V, & VII

Baxter Garden Club members have had a busy spring and summer and now are looking forward to the cooler weather fall brings. Starting in March, Master Gardener 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 Lisk and Vice President Cindy Brunner 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 main street planters. Which were cared for all summer long by club members. Our club traveled to the Busy Bee Garden Center near Indianola and enjoyed touring and shopping for plants. June was a busy month for us beginning with our annual plant and garage sale. June was also the district meeting in which we provided and served breakfast. Knoxville Garden Club provided a tour of the Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden. Several of our members also attended the State Convention and Flower show. For our July meeting we traveled to Kellogg where member Laura Hanawalt showed us the gardens she plants and cares for. Our meeting was then held at the Kellogg Grange building hosted by Laura. The Jasper Community Foundation provided us with a grant that we will be using to purchase metal benches that will be placed in the business section of Baxter. In August our club enjoyed a trip to the Iowa Flower Farm to learn about cut flowers and cut flowers to design their own bouquets. This fall and the remaining part of our year will be spent learning about different kinds of Lily's, planting bulbs, and Poinsettias. The year will end with our traditional Christmas Potluck.



Woodland Hills Garden, District IV,V, & VII

The Woodland Hills Garden had Tara Dudley from Plant Life Design near Van Meter. She spoke at the March meeting on "How to Integrate Cut Flowers into your Landscaping."

In April, Stephanie Harrington with the Polk County Extension spoke on Spring Gardening and Spring Bulb planting.

The May meeting was in the Pleasant Hill library parking lot. First members had pizza. Then we planted the 4 planters with red, white and blue flowers.

July the members met to create their own flower bouquets.

Shirley Wallace, the District 4, 5 and 7 Director, came to visit the club. We used the flower catalogs to plan what to plant in the planter for 2027.

Woodland Hills was organized on Feb 25, 1956 and Federated on March 21, 1956. The club will celebrate 70 years at our Ladies night out in Dec.

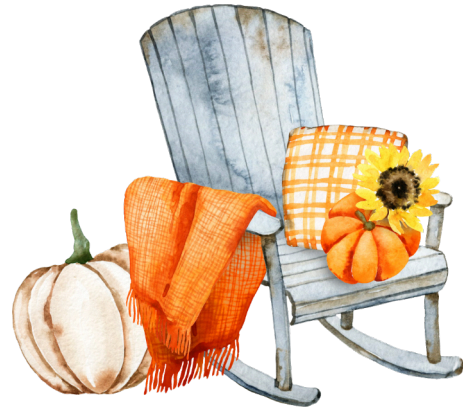
Club News

Greetings from District VIII

Our District even though we have only 2 clubs, we are very busy doing things in our clubs. We have just completed 2 County Fairs which are also Federated Shows as well. Our clubs: Floyd Valley and Clay County just have done their fairs with Clay just finishing up at this writing. Plymouth had record setting attendance with many of them coming through the Open Class Building with Horticulture and Baking Goods in the front half and Arts, Crafts and Such in the back part. Numbers for entries were down in both fairs mainly due to weather. Plymouth because most flowers that should have been blooming were past because of the hot weather early in the summer. The Clay County Fair as well because they were finished partly from the weather and partly because of the time. This year it started on Sept. 12 as last year was Sept. 6, 2025. That's just about a full week. Of the exhibits in these 2 fairs, they were outstanding. I'm so, proud of these 2 clubs, not just for putting on the flower shows in their counties but for all of the other things they do. They both are planning bigger and better things for next year. Can't wait. Happy Gardening.

District VIII Director

Mike Becker



Clay County Garden Club, District VIII

In July we met at the home of members Doug & Mary Marske to view their beautiful garden with its many bird feeders. Doug gave a report on the many different birds they get to enjoy at their birdfeeders and flowers.

The Clay County Fair wrapped up 9 days of Flower Shows including 2 Design divisions which included large and small table settings, niches, mantels, and pedestal designs. Open Class Artistic designs, container plants, a Rose show, Gourd show, Gladioli show, Dahlia show and 2 Petite Design shows. It was a wonderful time and please remember that entrance to the flower shows are open to all who want to participate.

Later in September a tour of the Little Sioux Orchard is planned.

December will bring our Annual Christmas Luncheon and Bazaar/Bake Sale. This year it will take place Saturday, December 5th at Grace United Methodist Church in Spencer

- Jacqueline Heinrichs

Club News

Town & Country Garden Club, District VI

We kicked off the year in February with a program called Interesting Folds by Diane Madoerin & Linn Lilienthal. As the weather got warmer, March was about Soil & Fertilizer from Will Vaugh of Smitty's Greenhouse in Fort Dodge. April was about Getting in Shape to use our tools, with stretches by Linda George.

Thank you to everyone who attended our District VI meeting on April 28. Our theme was BEE IN THE GARDEN which reflected our President's theme of "Our Pollinators Still Need Help". Hope you all enjoyed your time with us.

We planted 68 planters downtown with annuals flowers and grasses. This is a coordinated effort with the city chamber office. So thankful for all the rain this spring and summer. They look stunning.

We maintain & weed several gardens around town: West Twin Park, Horse Garden, Bonebright.

Helped out at Morning Glory Coffee Shop and our own Dick Carlson had the park on 2nd St named after him by the city. He does a beautiful job and we love supporting him. Our annual plant sale was held in May and is an excellent fund raiser for the club. We have plants of all kinds, plus crafts and silent auctions items.

Yvonne McCormick spoke in June about Getting ready for the county fair. We held our two Flower Shows in July at the Fair with the theme of "Where Traditions Shines" It is a fun Community activity and a way to spark new up and coming gardeners.

We held two evening meetings at West Twin Park Shelter house in August and September. We started the August meeting with a Potluck. Our Speaker John Barber and wife Barbara from The Cellar Winery, Madrid, IA talked to us about grapes and wine making.

September was another evening event where we served Subway Sandwiches. The program was about mums by Polly Hayes from Polly Garden Center in Stanhope. We ended the night with our annual bulb, seed and plant exchange.

October will be All About Berries. November will be Christmas Crafts and Fresh Green for wreaths and ending the year with a Christmas Luncheon and election of new officers.

Hop you all have a wonderful fall and keep planting seeds for bigger and better Gardens Clubs. Remember " Our Pollinators Still Need Help".

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Miller, Co-president of Town & Country Garden Club



Madrid Garden Club, District VI

The Madrid Garden Club meets at Saint John's Lutheran Church, 104 S Market St, on the 4th Tuesdays of the month from April to October. We will wind down our year with a potluck and craft on the 3rd Tuesday of November.

We will be hosting the District VI meeting in Spring of 2027.

This was our 2nd year for hosting a Fun Flower Show during the Madrid Labor Day celebration. We have gone with only categories and no specific rules. This has greatly increased the number of entries from the public. Winners are voted on by the visitors. This year we added free root beer floats and ribbons for youth participants. We had a great turnout!

Other programs at our meeting included: Lights out Iowa, Adventures in Black Walnut Syrup making, Blue Dahlia Greenhouse, Iowa Waste Exchange, a local yard/garden tour of Iowa natives, Ikebana Japanese Flower arranging, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Native Iowa Plants.

- Jean Rhodes, President

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