

NEWS

OF THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

WINTER 2015



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DATEBOOK 2016

April 7-8, 2016 Gardening Study School, Iowa Arboretum, Madrid
April 15 FGCI Spring Board Meeting, Marshalltown, IA
April 16 District 8 Meeting
April 21 District 6 Meeting, Algona
May 2-7 NGC National Convention (Grand Rapids, Michigan)
May 13 District 2 Meeting, Decorah
June 5-11 NGC Garden Week
June 6 District 4,5,7 Meeting
June 23-24 FGCI State Flower Show and Meeting, Fort Dodge
Sept 23 FGCI Fall Board Meeting (Marshalltown)
Sept 26- October 2 NGC Fall Board Meeting (Portland, Maine)
October 7-9 Central Regional Convention, Springfield, IL

Datebook 2017

April 7 FGCI Spring Board Meeting, Marshalltown, IA
May 16-21 NGC National Convention, Richmond, VA
June 15-16 FGCI State Flower Show and Convention, Fort Dodge, IA



NEWS

of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.

WINTER 2015

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Theme: "Cultivating Connections"

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Theme:

"Remember the Past - Enjoy the Present - Plan for the Future"

DEADLINES

For articles submitted for NEWS

Spring Issue

Summer Issue

Fall Issue

Winter Issue

February 1

May 1

August 1

November 1

Please send information - articles - special club dates to:

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Central Region Website:

www.ngccentralregion.org

Iowa Horticulture Society:

www.iowahort.org

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FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

2015-2017 Theme: "Remember the Past - Enjoy the Present - Plan for the Future"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a beautiful fall we've had this year. Plenty of time to get all our fall bulbs planted and our gardens put to bed the proper way for a change. We can only hope that our winter is as great.

A big thank you to Fran Stueck and Denice Stephenson and of course Ted Stueck for the wonderful job they did organizing the Central Region Convention. Roberta Bowie and Roger Buhr did an excellent job in representing Iowa with their design program at the Sunday banquet.

It's time now to make plans for next year. The catalogs are coming in and every gardener can dream and plan. Take some time to find dwarf, mini and petite plants for next year's State Flower Show and as something new and different for your home landscape. Our handbook says "the horticulture division must consist of specimens of naturally small growth and/or those designated as dwarf plants by nurseries or societies."

It's also time to plan your State President's Project. Remember there's a monetary award available for the best use of "native plants in a public place." So find a spot, make your plans, write it up and send to me.

We also need to get our gardens registered as Butterfly Way Stations. It's fairly easy to do. They require you to grow three (3) nectar plants and three (3) caterpillar food plants. Then a quick list of three (3) management practices. The great part of this is that many of you are probably already growing the plants you need and I know all of you are using good garden management practices. For help with this contact our new Backyard Wildlife Habitat Chairman Shirley Wolf (email: saw@wccta.net or (515)544-3288). Or contact North American Butterfly Association (www.nababutterfly.com). They have a great list of plants and practices for attracting butterflies. Please let Shirley know when you have registered your garden so we can send a count to NGC Central Region and National Garden Clubs Chairmen.

As a closing, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Loretta

Photo - Loretta Daisy and Central Region Director Judy Newman at the October Central Region Meeting.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Bee a Wildlife Action Hero --- “Garden For Wildlife”



To “Bee a Wildlife Action Hero” you need to:

- “Garden For Wildlife.”
- Practice sustainable gardening habits
- Welcome pollinators and other wildlife into your gardens.

It will enrich your gardening experience manifold!

Due to the grave situation with our pollinators, NGC has been asked to be an Inaugural Network Garden Partner in the National Pollinator Garden Network, who have launched the “Million Pollinator Garden Challenge.” Gardeners around the country are asked to plant one million pollinator gardens in the next two years. Such gardens would add host, food and native plants to our existing gardens.

We are asking our members to plant for our pollinators and to register their gardens on the SHARE site – this information is all available on the NGC website, under the “Million Pollinator Garden Challenge” and there is a link to the SHARE site to register your garden. When it asks you where you heard about the Challenge, be sure and select Nation Garden Clubs, Inc. There is an incredible amount of science based knowledge out there about pollinators and the plants they need. Use the pollinator.org website’s interactive zip-code based information site on what pollinators are in your area and what you should plant for them.

If you get signed up, please let me know, so I can see how our area is doing. Or if you have problems, I will be glad to help you. Most of the things necessary to have a pollinator garden are things we all are doing in our midwest gardens. Let’s help make the million!

Shirley Wolf, Backyard Wildlife Habitat Chairman
saw@wccta.net 515-544-3288

FGCI By-Law Change

FGCI Board of Directors have proposed a change in the FGCI By-Laws. Change is proposed in order to bring the District Directors’ terms in line with the State President’s Term. All District Directors will be elected at their Annual District Meetings in odd number years.

Reason for the change: better communication between officers, allowing district directors to set goal and themes to coincide with National, Region, and State themes and objectives.

This change will be voted on at the State Meeting June 24, 2016.

ARTICLE XIV- DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Section 2. There shall be ~~seven (7)~~ six (6) district directors (districts IV and V consolidated in 1995, district VII consolidated with districts IV and V in 2011), one from each of the former congressional districts of the State of Iowa. ~~Directors shall be elected by members at their annual district meetings as follows:-~~

- (a) ~~Odd-numbered districts shall elect a director in the odd-numbered years.~~
- (b) ~~Even-numbered districts shall elect a director in the even-numbered years.~~

CHANGE WILL READ AS:

Section 2. There shall be six (6) district directors one from each of the former congressional districts of the State of Iowa. (Districts IV and V consolidated in 1995, District VII consolidated with Districts IV and V in 2011). **Directors shall be elected by members at their annual district meetings with terms in conjunction with the term of the State President (odd number years).**

83rd CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION

The 83rd Central Region Convention held at The Kirkwood Hotel, in Cedar Rapids Oct. 3-5, 2015 was a “BIG SUCCESS!” I want to thank the 53 Iowa members and guests who attended the Convention.

There were 115 registrations. I have received several notes and emails from attendees from all 7 states expressing how they enjoyed the tour, meals, informative speakers, vendors, fabulous sleeping rooms, the hotel facilities and friendly staff members.

Our special guest NGC President Sandy Robinson was impressed we had a programs on Monarchs, Mason Bees and Frogs, three of her projects 2015-2017.

A special thank you goes to Denice Stephenson, Co-Chairman, Terri Ewers, Registrar and Juliene Bramer, Credentials and Name Tags. Also a thank you to all the clubs and individuals behind the scenes that contributed in anyway. We are an Awesome State!

Thank you for allowing me to Chair the Convention. I appreciated all the support you gave me. There are pictures on the Iowa website.

Submitted By Fran Stueck, Central Region Meeting Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM THE FGCI TREASURER

To: All Club Presidents and Club Treasurers

Please either pull this sheet out of the NEWS or copy it for your reference. These are the items and dates that concern your club's changes and writing checks to the FGCI Treasurer.

- 2016 MEMBERSHIP:** All club presidents will receive a listing the first week of January of their club's membership rosters as we have them now recorded (2015 listing). As there will probably be changes, additions and deletions, please carefully verify this list, make the corrections right on that sheet, either below or on the line of the member's name, and list any new members on bottom or back side.
- DUES CHANGE:** Add up number of your club's current members and multiply by **\$10**. Checks should be made out to: Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa. Send your corrected list and the dues check to me by February 15th to my address shown below.
- CHANGE OF ADDRESSES:** Address changes are very important as the membership listing is also the list used for the NEWS mailing list. We pay a substantial amount for each returned NEWS because of incorrect addresses. Please have your club treasurer also send the FGCI Treasurer all changes of addresses that occur during the year, this includes sending names, addresses and dues for NEW members.
- WRITING CHECKS:** When sending your club dues you may also include your club contributions to the FGCI Horticulture and Landscape Design Scholarship funds. If you send one check please be sure to include information of the separate amounts. Other contributions that the State Treasurer takes care of are optional contributions to the President's special project and contributions to any of the Schools that FGCI sponsors. Scholarship donations are due by May 1st, but it may be easier for your Treasurer to include these contributions when dues are paid in February.
- OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:** Your individual Club contributions to an organization outside of FGCI, such as a GDM Botanical Gardens, Reiman Gardens, the Iowa Arboretum, etc. should be sent directly to the organizations of your choice – NOT to the FGCI Treasurer. This way your club will receive thank-you notices and frequently will receive other benefits such as newsletters and event updates from these organizations. The State Treasurer does not handle these contributions.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please call or e-mail me so that I can help with your answer.

FGCI Treasurer - Sandy Stone

R.R.#1, Box 1775,
Wyaconda, MO 63474
660-479-5580 Cell: 612-381-4800
onestonefarm@yahoo.com

2015-2017 FGCI Board Members Corrections to Roster*

Please make the following corrections to the 2015-2017 in you FALL 2015 NEWS.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

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Email: jawal@netamumail.com
Preferred email address:
*Email: Presby1mom@gmail.com

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Marlyn Rietveld-Ebbers
Corrected address and telephone
*1711 Neil Dr.,
Pella, IA 50219
*641-628-3140 Cell 641-629-1306

CONSERVATION

Jean Klosterman
*Prefer cell phone 641-750-5716

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

Pam Claassen
Corrected address, telephone and email
*1301 14th Ave,
* Vinton, IA 52349
*319-472-4031 -(home)
*319-551-5744 -(cell)
* Email: Maddiesgma8@gmail.com

GARDEN CENTERS/ARBORETUMS/ GARDENS VISIT

Alice Hawes
Corrected street address
*216 Navaho Drive,
Corrected telephone number
*319-313-8279

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sela Bryhne
*Remove email – no email available

RECYCLING and FGCI Advisory

Sandra Heerema
email correction:
*Email: sheeree@windstream.net

SCHOLARSHIPS

Pat Thiede
email correction:
*Email: patsy50010@gmail.com

DISTRICT VI

Angie Beem
*(name correction – Angie Beem)

**FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA
GARDENING STUDY COURSE III – SESSION 11
HUGHES EDUCATION CENTER
IOWA ARBORETUM, MADRID, IOWA
APRIL 7 - 8, 2016**

APRIL 7, 2016 (Thursday)

8:15 am Coffee and Registration
 8:30-10:00 Classifying Plants (Plant Taxonomy)
 Deb Lewis, Curator,
 ISU Ada Hayden Herbarium
 10:00 Break
 10:15-11:45 *Techniques For Growing Outdoor Flowers
 Richard Jauron, ISU Ext Horticulture
 11:45-12:15 pm **LUNCH (Please bring sack lunch)**
 12:15-2:15 **Factors That Influence Plant Growth
 Lynnette Carpenter, Horticulturist
 2:15 Break
 2:30-3:30 Xeriscaping
 Lisa Orgler, Dept. Horticulture, Lecturer, ISU

APRIL 8, 2016 (Friday)

8:15 am Coffee
 8:30 – 10:00 *Pruning Techniques
 Joe McNally, Horticulturist, Iowa Arboretum
 10:00 Break
 10:15-12:45 Teaching Tour of Botanical Garden
 Joe McNally, Horticulturist, Iowa Arboretum
 12:45 **LUNCH (Please bring sack lunch)**
 1:15-4:14 **EXAM**

*SUBJECTS TO BE TESTED, ** MAY USE NOTES & HANDOUT FOR THIS TEST

**FGCI Registration – Gardening Study Course III, Series 11,
April 7 - 8, 2016**

Iowa Arboretum, 1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA.

**REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL April 1, 2016.
NO REFUNDS AFTER April 4, 2016. No refreshments will be served. WALK-INS ALWAYS WELCOME, BUT HANDOUTS MAY BE LIMITED.** Master Gardeners may be awarded 1 hour CEU for reach 1 hour class time.

Name (only 1 name per form) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Last Course Attended _____

Garden Club (if member) _____

____ Unless checked we may use your name, address, telephone and e-mail to contact you with NGC information including future Gardening Study Schools.

Class \$50.00 _____ Class+Testing \$55.00 _____ Class+Refresh \$55.00 _____

(Refreshing available only to those who are already Garden Consultants)

Make Check Payable to: GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL

**MAIL to: Gardening Study, AdaMae Lewis,
122 N Russell Ave, Ames, IA 50010**

E-mail: adamaelewis@gmail.com phone 515-232-0608

FGCI STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP



Do you have an outgoing Club Officer you wish to honor? Do you wish to recognize outstanding service to your Club? A marvelous way to commemorate such Club Members is to present them with FGCI's State Life Membership and new State Life Member Pin for only \$25. The colorful enamel State Life Pin, designed by Mavis Stevens, featuring Iowa's State Bird, the Goldfinch, resting on a branch the Wild Rose, Iowa's State Flower.

It is also a way for FGCI members to show their commitment to their local and state Garden Club organization. If you are not currently a State Life Member, this is a great time to become one. For only \$25.00 this honorary membership now comes with this pin and a membership card. (For new State Life Members the pin is part of the membership.)

If you are currently a State Life Member, the pin can be yours for only \$5.00. It is not necessary to purchase an additional life membership

Send your check for \$25 for new Life Membership, or if already a State Life Member \$5.00 for a pin to Sandra R. Wales, State Life Membership Chairman, at 2465 Cardinal Court, Muscatine, IA 52761. Please make the check payable to Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

You may also contact Sandra for information on Central Region or National Life Memberships.
 Ph: 563-264-0156 Email: wales@machlink.com

BLUE STAR MARKER REPORT

There were two Blue Star Marker dedications this past year. One at the Welcome Center at the Top of Iowa on June 10, 2015.

On June 15, 2014 I attended a dedication in La Porte City at the VFW/Legion Hall. It was a moving dedication for me, as my uncle was one of the men who helped uncover the marker.

I really enjoy being the Blue Star Marker Chairman. It is very moving and special attending the dedications.

Pam Claassen, FGCI Blue Star Marker Chairman
 319-472-4031 (home)
 319-551-5744 -(cell)
 1301 14th Ave Vinton, IA 52349
 Maddiesgma8@gmail.com

SAVE THESE DATES JUNE 23 - 24, 2016 Plan to participate in the State Annual Meeting and Flower Show. A Petite Advanced-Standard Flower Show "Small but Mighty" held at the Starlite Village Best Western Hotel, Fort Dodge.

SHOP NOW FOR PETITE TABLE ARTISTRY COMPONENTS

As in most flower shows, the petite show in June will include Table Artistry classes. All four table classes will be small designs eligible for the Table Artistry Award.

- "Little Red Riding Hood," Exhibition Table, Type I. Designer's Choice. Required background and underlay must be in pleasing proportion to an 8" design, but may not exceed 8.5" in height.
- "Little Boy Blue," Exhibition Table, Type II. Designer's Choice. Required background and underlay must be in pleasing proportion to an 8" design, but may not exceed 8.5" in height.
- "Good Morning, Sunshine," Functional tray for one. Tray, furnished by the designer, must fit within an 8" x 8" space. All plant materials must be fresh.
- "Tea for Two," Functional table staged on a "small table" measuring 8" x 8" x 5" high. Committee will furnish the small black pedestal table. All plant materials must be fresh.

If you've never entered petite table classes before, here are some ideas for collecting and making components.

- New miniature dish sets are most often offered in stores during the Christmas shopping season. Check toy departments of discount department, home improvement, dollar, and farm supply stores.
- Shop thrift and antique stores for stray dishes. Tray and exhibition tables do not require complete sets. A teapot without a lid can become the container for plant materials. Antique "butter pats" can work as plates, though they don't have matching to-scale cups.
- Paint your own dishes: The aluminum divider between refrigerator tube rolls and icing becomes a plate, and small cosmetic caps and mini-shot glasses can hold beverages. Spray paint souvenir cups and plates from thrift stores.
- Try toy specialty stores and online retailers (often more expensive). Or borrow from children and grandchildren.
- Trays can be made from lids of boxes or metal tins.
- Exhibition tables will need background panels and underlays. Try frame matting or textured card stock. Attach a support behind the panel with Cling or Glue Dots. Easels are readily available near the photo frames of hobby stores for your plates, and you might elevate cups behind plates.
- Linens don't require sewing skill. Cut your fabric, edge with Fray Check, a liquid that reduces fraying, fold, and iron on hem tape. (Check at the notions counter of the fabric department for these helps.) Those with sewing, knitting, or crocheting skills can custom-design napkins, place mats, runners, and tablecloths. Options include fringe, lace edging, embroidery, cross-stitch, and more.

Learning to see objects in a new light is one of the pleasures of creating petite designs. Join the fun!



Submitted by Jan Krass, Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club

Photo - Ideas for staging of Exhibition Tables in a Petite Flower Show.

FGCI AWARDS REMINDER

A quick reminder that the December 31 deadline is coming up quickly when clubs' reports, award applications and books of evidence are due. You will find Report Forms (President's Annual Report, Advance Club Rating Application and Blue Ribbon Club Application) and FGCI Awards information on the FGCI Website: www.gardenclubsofiowa.org. National Garden Clubs Awards information and awards forms can be found on the NGC website <http://www.gardenclub.org>. Central Region Awards information and award forms on the Central Region Website: www.ngccentralregion.org

In addition to sending the Awards Chairman your reports, copies should also be sent to FGCI President Loretta Daisy and your District Director.

Note: District Directors your District Directors Annual Report are due January 15 of each year. Please see the Help Book for the report and particulars.

Terri Ewers, 1st Vice President/Awards Chairman

10712 Jonquil Ave., Clear Lake, IA 50428 phone(641)357-4139; pearl@ctel.net

DISTRICT AND CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT 1: Laura Kauffman
PO Box 343; Keosauqua, IA 52565
Ph 319-293-3387 Cell 563-343-4190
LTKauf@gmail.com

Tipton Federated Garden Club placed labels on 70 trees (of which they had planted 50 from 2008 – 2011 with 7th grade students) at the Tipton Elementary and Middle Schools. The last meeting of 2015 was in October and the speaker, Judy Nauseef, discussed "Gardening with Native and Prairie Plants." She explained the positive environmental impacts they produce. Judy has authored a book on prairie plants that will be published in the spring of 2016. The club also makes/donates an outdoor evergreen container to be sold at the Historical Society's annual silent auction, each November.

Muscatine Garden Club held their annual flower show at the Discovery Center on October 12, 2016. At the November meeting they celebrated the 90th birthday of long time garden club member, Lynn Tavener and planned the programs for 2016. The December meeting was the Holiday Potluck held at member Deb Bentley's home.

Keokuk Garden Club went to a member's farm in October and held their program-planning meeting in an antique barn. They collected wild foliage for fall bouquets. In November, a member of the Lee County Board spoke on winter bird habitat. In December, members met for lunch at a restaurant and brought canned goods for the food pantry.

Keosauqua Town and Country Garden Club had a float in the October Scenic Drive parade entitled "The Villages Celebrate Nature." In November, decorations were made for the Festival of Trees bird tree. A holiday gathering was held at a member's residence in December, the 2016 program was planned, and new officers elected.

DISTRICT 2: Nancy Weber
2769 Benson Shady Grove Ave.,
Jesup, IA 50648
319-827-1449 nlweber@jtt.net

Floralia Arrangers Guild enjoyed a club lunch for their August meeting. In September the group had presentations on Alliums, Monarch Butterflies, and Water Conservation. They also prepared craft packets for their presentation at the Central Region Meeting in Cedar Rapids on October 4th. The angel ornaments made from pine cones were well received.

October meeting addressed "Tough Love to Improve Your Garden" and "Learning from Garden Blunders."

Good Earth Garden Club enjoyed Master Gardener Jean Wilson's program on "Pretty Poisons Lurking in Your Garden" in August. September was their Flower Show at Noelridge Park Greenhouse. On October 16th, they dedicated three wind sculptures at Noelridge Park in honor of Jim Venneman for his volunteer work at Noelridge. In October they reviewed "Tree Care 101" with Wil Crew.

Independence Federated Garden Club enjoyed a fun afternoon in August with the Long Term Care residents making floral arrangements for each resident's room. Keith Magonigle and Eleanor Hand shared some of their beautiful nature photography. The September meeting included a presentation by Master Gardener Deb Walser on "Water Conservation for the Garden." The club submitted an entry to the First Annual Scarecrow Contest at the Lee Mansion Gardens as part of the historical society's "Art Under the Oakes" event. Members learned about "Exciting Changes in Food Gardening" from David Cavagnaro at their October meeting.

Monticello Federated Garden Club enjoyed a program entitled "Joy, Kaleidoscope" at their August Meeting. September found the club traveling to Dubuque to tour the Dubuque Arboretum. Members enjoyed a delicious potluck in October followed by a program on Plants of the Bible.

Quasqueton Federated Garden Club in August traveled to Vinton to visit the Old Schoolhouse Gardens. September's program was on "Butterflies" and the lesson was on "Water." Their ecology fact about water: We use 127% more water today than we did in 1950 and about 95% of the water coming into our homes goes down the drain. The October meeting found club members enjoying the Hawker Cabin near Guttenberg and touring a local winery.

Town and Country Garden Club, Decorah, toured the Norman Borlaug Nature Center, Farm, and Historical Museum in August. In September they visited a member's backyard that had been revamped. October found them painting pumpkins with the Assisted Living Residents in Decorah.

Vinton Garden Club had a tasty program "Eating Your Bouquet" at their August meeting. In September they toured the Ray House and Gardens in Vinton. They traveled to Solon in October for a tour of the Cedar Ridge Winery. November they

entertained the Dist. II Director. Program was "New Varieties of Trees for 2016," speaker was from Frazier Tree Farm. Vinton Garden Club had 8 members attend and help at the State Ways and Means both at the Central Region Meeting in Oct. **Cottage Garden Society, Vinton**, worked at the Tilford butterfly garden and learned about rain barrels. In September they chose and planted fall bulbs for spring blooms at the Ray House. They wrapped up their year with a potluck at their October meeting.

District II would like to acknowledge and thank Fran Stueck for all of her work in organizing and hosting the Central Region Meeting in Cedar Rapids, October 3-5th. We are proud of you!

DISTRICT 3: Dianne Peterson
1624 Rainbow Dr.;
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
319-268-0318 Cell 319-504-1462
cardsbydianne@cfu.net

Marshalltown Garden Club's big fund raiser Accents on Entertainment was Nov. 6 & 7. The club always has great participation by members as well as the general public in Marshalltown. The speaker was a renowned artist and designer from Ames, Iowa.

Swaledale Garden Club was prevented from the visiting Kothenbeutel Prairie in August due to weather. But the weather was delightful in September to visit the gardens of member Juliene Bramer. Members were pleased to have special guest District III Director Dianne Peterson, attend the meeting. They enjoyed seeing the work Juliene has put into her gardens and yard and a soap making workshop. Some of the fruits of their labor were put to use in a fall craft day in October.

Radcliffe Better Homes and Gardens held their October meeting at the Hubbard Care Center assisting residents with decorating smaller sized pumpkins for their rooms. Members and residents look forward to the visit and craft project each year. Afterwards the members met in the chapel room for a business meeting.

Cedar Falls Garden Club enjoyed getting together to fill gift bags for the Regional Meeting in Cedar Rapids. Later some members cleared the Cedar Falls Post Office Garden in preparation for winter. October's meeting was a highlight with guest speaker Ed Gruenwald from Hartman Reserve presentation on owls.

Green Thumb Garden Club's September program was making cement orb creations given by Julie Robb and Connie Hickel. They also discussed how to store bulbs over winter. October's meeting was a pressed flower card workshop. In November ISU Extension person Dennis Johnson spoke about water and soil issues. December 14th was a Christmas Party potluck at President Myra Harris' home. Plans are being made for the 2016 District 3 Meeting to be held in Northwood, Iowa on Thursday, April 21, 2016. Members are asking any District 3 members who wish, to bring a note card to display with a pressed flower design (bring a card, with a small easel to stand it on - the kind you would use for a small picture). More information as to time, place etc. will be set as it becomes available. The club enjoyed having District 3 Director visit in September, and her new information about the Blue Star Memorial.

DISTRICT 4, 5, 7: Marilyn Moore
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Ackworth Garden Club met at the home of member, Cheryl Holland, in Sept. who discussed tulip geraniums and shared her "slipping" skills for carrying them over for another year. Other members who shared their gardens were Sharon Weeks and Angie Akers. In October Sam Weeks spoke on "Growing Heirloom Pumpkins and Gourds."

Afton Federated Garden Club hosted a fall luncheon in October for the Bevington, and Winterset Garden Clubs in Lorimor, Steve Wainwright (Johnny Apple Seed) from Ladoga LaBlanche orchards west of Bedford was guest speaker. He talked about the true Johnny Apple Seed and answered questions about the care of apple trees. As it was "all things Apple," apple recipes were shared. Members also visited his orchard, made apple cider, enjoyed a hayride and wiener roast.

Bevington Garden Club once again hosted a magnificent harvest meal for the many individuals of the community who support and assist their Club's endeavors. A home cooked meal, a guest speaker, and beautifully appointed tables were just a few of the gestures expressing gratitude to all in attendance. In September, club members spruced up the Y-Park, decorated the Norwalk Care Center with mum plants, and learned a few new tricks to canning the wealth of produce this time of year yields. Member Kim Downs presented a program

on pumpkins at the October meeting. Their next outing was a Tea and Tour held at the Madison Historical Complex in Winterset. They will end the year with a holiday celebration at St Paul Lutheran Church.

Grant Sunshine Garden Club Visited the Shenandoah Garden Club and toured the flower gardens at the city parks in August. Lunched at the Wabash Wine Company, enjoying pizza made in a brick oven from Italy. September was an evening gathering at a member's home with each member preparing a foil dinner cooked over a campfire. In October they learned about the Circumzenithal Arc (upside down rainbow) and viewed a film about the planting and harvesting of tulips in the Netherlands. They learned the meanings of each month's birth flower and some of the traditions behind the bridal bouquet.

Greater Des Moines Garden Club enjoyed a trip to Howell's Dried Florals and Greenhouse, with demonstrations on the process drying and using plant materials in design. In October Cynde and Richard Schreiber, Cacti and Succulent Judges, presented a slide program about cacti and succulents. In November Janna Boyd, Flower Show Judge, presented "Floral Design." December's Annual Holiday Tea included Christmas music. January will be Gerald Schnepf from Keep Iowa Beautiful, Civic Conservation Projects.

Highland Park Garden Club: September program was making Gourd Bird Houses. The gourds were grown by members. Jenny Clay, Garden Therapy Chairman, worked with seniors at North Senior Center preparing and decorating gourds. October was lunch at DMACC with the club's scholarship student. November's program, "Potpourri," members brought dried flowers, leaves and fruits to mix with essential oils and spice to make their own potpourri. December includes their traditional Holiday Meal and installation of officers.

Indianola Garden Club's measured and weighed sunflowers and pumpkins in September for their Log Cabin Days contest. The largest pumpkin tipped the scales at 131 pounds, and the largest Sunflower measured a bit over 14 inches. There were some very happy young growers who received checks for winning.

Kellogg Garden Club members finished their summer activities with several tours. Summer tours included the Pattee Hotel in Perry, IA and the Botanical Gardens in Des Moines. Bobbi Schrader, a member of the Kellogg Garden Club, gave a presentation on identifying bird songs in October. The group hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for member families and guests in November. Club members continue to tend the gardens

at the triangle, gazebo, library and City Hall in Kellogg.

Pella Garden Club put on a non-judged Fall Flower Show during the Pella Historical Village Fall Festival in September. The second week in October, they packaged and mailed the tulip bulb orders taken during Tulip Time and after. October's meeting followed with wrap up information and decision of 2016 Tulip Time.

Urbandale Garden Club members visited the Greater Des Moines Botanical Center to view the new garden displays and enjoy a lunch at the Center's "Trellis Café" in September. In October, they toured the Brenton Arboretum in Dallas Center, viewed the beautiful fall foliage, and enjoyed a picnic lunch.

Ames Garden Club enjoyed a program on houseplants and tour of Reiman Gardens Conservatory's fall/winter plant change-over which features a g-scale (garden scale) railroad and reproductions of many of the ISU buildings. **Sunshine Garden Club, Winterset** planted a tree for Arbor Day in honor of Lynn LaFollette, a long time member who passed away earlier this year. They have continued to place "Garden of the Month" signs in community yards from May through September. In September they toured the club president's home. They will provide gifts and donate to CRISP, and canned goods will be collected for the food pantry. December's Christmas Gala program will feature a program "All About Poinsettias," with plants grown and provided by the FFA Students for sale.

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Algona Garden Club visited the Elmore Nursery to see Christmas wreaths being made in November. In December they will enjoy their annual potluck. The club is well on its way to preparing the schedule for the flower show held in August in conjunction with the Kossuth County Fair.

Estherville FGC spent many hours this growing season helping to beautify their community in various public places. Wildflowers were the timely focus of their September meeting and in October they prepared for winter birding with a program on "Feeding the Birds in Winter."

Fort Dodge FGC enjoyed a work outing in September to the Brushy Creek State Park to help harvest the seeds of St John's Wort. The staff at Brushy shared the operation of their facility which includes growing,

gathering, and processing all kinds of prairie grasses and plants for distribution to all the natural prairies in the state of Iowa. November's program addressed taking care of plants without a greenhouse. **Jefferson Garden Club's** September program centered on Butterflies. In October, they studied planting, pruning and protecting trees. November will highlight holiday arrangements. In December club member Marilyn Copeland will host a Christmas luncheon at her home and club president Jeanne Myers will present a Christmas reading.

Madrid Garden Club receives their meeting notices in the form of a colorful and very informative newsletter from their president. The October meeting's program was given by Lisa Burke on Saving Seeds. They have kits ready to make decorations for the Christmas tree at the Arboretum and will begin planning for next year.

Palo Alto Garden Club continued their study on pollinators in September at the Nature Center. October's program dealt with gourds, pumpkins, and squash (history and uses), followed by a demonstration on using fall materials in decorating. A wide variety of gourds and pumpkins were available for decorating the senior living and nursing homes. In addition a basket of arranged gourds was delivered to each of five facilities. The big fall project was in conjunction with Iowa Lakes Community College to lay the hardscape at the Victorian on Main, as part of the Club's landscaping project.

Town and Country Garden Club of Webster City held a program on Holiday Crafts in November and will have a Christmas Luncheon in December with place settings by members. As a great way to end the year, the Club will lunch together and complete the Historian's Book and State Reports.

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Kingsley Home and Federated Garden Club is busy with 2016 plans. The fall included a visit to the Plymouth County Nature Center, making Christmas decorations with the third graders, decorating the Christmas tree and a Christmas party with contributions going to a local charity. Members will spend January studying seed catalogues and planning for 2016 gardens and new flower beds.



Photo above from Central Region Meeting: Fran Stueck, Mtg. Chairman; Denice Stephenson, Co-Chairman; Terri Ewers, Registrar and Juliene Bramer, Credentials.

**2015 STATE FLOWER SHOW
 BOOK OF EVIDENCE**

The Book of Evidence for the 2015 FGCI Flower Show in Iowa City, June 18-19, is completed and has been submitted for a Flower Show Achievement Award. If anyone would like to see its contents, email a request to rbuhr@mchsi.com. Donna Helgens & Roger Buhr, Co-Chairmen

Moving? Change of Address?

To ensure continued delivery of the NEWS be sure to send your new address to the state treasurer:

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Memorial Jim Venneman Memorial for Jim Venneman was held in October at Noelridge Park & Greenhouse in Cedar Rapids. Helen Venneman gave a touching memorial at the dedication of the three cooper wind sculptures in Jim's memory.

Before starting his own business, Jim worked for the Cedar Rapids Parks Department at Noelridge Park & Greenhouse. He loved all aspects of beautifying the landscape with trees, shrubs, flowers & healthy lawns. In 2007 city-wide cuts took place resulting in the reduction of the staff at Noelridge Greenhouse. Jim realized that a volunteer group would be a great help to the capable staff remaining there. "Friends of Noelridge" was formed with the help of many others. After the 2008 flood devastated Cedar Rapids property & finances, this organization became even more important. Today "Friends of Noelridge" is a huge success providing the permanent staff with help in growing & caring for plants to beautify the cit well as serving as an educational source for the public.

My family members & I are humbled by this honor for Jim & we wish to thank everyone who helped make this possible.



WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

This past June the FGCI held a Wildflower Workshop at the Warren County Conservation Annett Center. What a fun day it was! The day started with a presentation by Lowen Lown, from Polk County Conservation. He talked about invasive species in the prairies and the importance of restoring areas to prairies.

Following the presentation, Mark Wilson and David Youngbluth from WCC, took us to the butterfly garden and showed all the different species of plants for butterflies' growth. We enjoyed watching the butterflies. We then took a hay wagon ride through the Warren County Prairie that surrounds the complex. What fun that was! Mark and David pointed out the different species of prairie plants. Some of them were species seldom seen here. After the tour we were also able to purchase prairie plants, grown each year for WC wildflower plant sale.

Following that tour, we were treated to a delicious lunch provided by the Ackworth Garden Club.

The afternoon started off with a tour of the Rolling Thunder Virgin Prairie, thought to be one of the oldest virgin prairie in Iowa. It is a jewel of a prairie. The Rattle Snake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) was abundant, though some years it is rarely seen. This year was a good year for it. We also looked for the Regal Fritillary Butterfly, but we didn't see any. However we did see the violet plant that is the host plant for the Fritillary. It is only approximately 4" tall. Mark Wilson said this plant gives off a pheromone that attracts the butterfly. The Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias*) was in full bloom. It was awesome to see the huge clumps of bright orange blooms, which drew our attention. The Iron Weed (*Veronica fasciculata*) was also in full bloom. We were also treated to the Turk Cap Lily (*Lilium Michiganense*) and Blooming Prairie Petunias and lobelias. The Cone flowers were not as abundant this year and were just starting to bloom.

The third prairie was a private prairie the owner has spent several years restoring. The prairie was in existence but in poor condition when the owner purchased the land. Again the Rattle Snake Master and Butterfly Weed were in abundance. In a bit of luxury, Loretta and I took the tour via "the gator." Experiments to determine the best method for restoration for that particular prairie is underway.

It was amazing to see three prairies that were very different. The day was a very relaxed, not particularly hot, fun day.

Submitted by Darla Kickbush, Wildflower Chairman



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FALL BIRD REPORT

“Look at that!” I shouted excitedly to my husband. “There’s another one! Isn’t he lovely!” “A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher” my bird book informed us! What a find!

We were on our way to Iowa from the southern-most tip of Texas. Fourteen hundred miles our road map informed us. It was the middle of November in 1959, and all along the way we identified migrating birds—hundreds of them. Some of them we had never seen before—including the Flycatcher.

It is hard for me to believe that I’ve lived in Iowa 55 years. Harder to believe that daily we saw birds in great hordes that fall and more of the same coming back in the spring. I don’t remember which year it was that we began to notice fewer and fewer birds in our yard and at our feeders, and on the telephone wires and on the Mississippi River. The Red Headed Woodpecker was one of the first I missed. Then I began to miss the ducks and geese and the huge flocks of blackbirds. Where had they gone?

Then I read a book by Rachel Carlson, *Silent Spring*. What an eye opener. And because of her book and some wonderful garden clubbers and great citizens we now can see eagles and ducks and swans and even pelicans. I saw a Red Headed Woodpecker on the telephone pole opposite my house this year. But I have yet to see a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher or any great hordes of migrants.

Dear Club Members, put away the weed killers, and put out the sun flower seeds. And the bird baths. And a bit of sand. Control the cats. Do leave some big trees on your property. The birds’ problems have not gone away. We helped them in the past. We can do it again.

Lynn Tavener – FGCI Bird Chairman