NEWS

OF THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

SPRING 2018



Photo by Tracy Edens

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DATEBOOK 2018

April 10 Deadline for the NEWS

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April 12-13 Gardening School, Madrid
April 16 FGCI Spring Board Meeting at Ames City Hall
April 21 District 8 Meeting, Kingsley
April 20 District 6 Meeting, Webster City
April 24 District 1 Meeting, Muscatine
April 28 District 3 Meeting, Swaledale
May 4 District 2 Meeting, Independence
May 21-24 NGC Convention, Philadelphia, PA
June 4 District 4, 5 & 7 Meeting, Indianola
June 13 Wildflower Workshop, Annette Center, Indianola
June 21-22 FGCI State Meeting and Flower Show, Mason City
August 27-28 Judges Symposium, Marshalltown
September 20-21 Gardening School, Madrid
September 25-28 NGC Fall Board Meeting, Orlando, FL
October 1 FGCI Fall Board Meeting at Ames City Hall
October 22-23 Central Region Convention, Frankenmuth, MI
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Datebook 2019

April 29 - May 2 NGC Convention in Biloxi, MS May 6 FGCI Spring Board Meeting at Ames City Hall June 20-21 FGCI State Meeting and Flower Show in Mason City



NEWS

of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.

Spring 2018 Vol. 88 No. 1

NEWS Editor: Sandra Gossman, 515-232-5110, 2506 Northwestern Ave, Ames, IA 50010-4637

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Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. - NEWS

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The Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. is a member of:

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. National Headquarters:

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Theme: Plant America

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Theme: Partners in Planting America

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mabramer@myomnitel.com

Theme: START ANEW - Plant, grow, wonder and remember...

Theme: Plant America - A Grant Program and Fund

DEADLINES

For articles submitted for NEWS

Spring Issue January 10
Summer Issue April 10
Fall Issue July 10
Winter Issue October 10

Please send information - articles - special club dates to:

Sandra Gossman 2506 Northwestern Ave Ames, IA 50010-4637

Email - SRGOSSMAN@aol.com

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Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa Website:

www.gardenclubsofiowa.org

Yvonne McCormick, Webmaster - yvonne@iastate.edu

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Website: http://www.gardenclub.org/

user name: member password: pumpkin

Central Region Website:

www.ngccentralregion.org

user name: member password: 7states

Iowa Horticulture Society: www.iowahort.org

Iowa State Extension Service:

http://www.extension.iastate.edu/

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FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA OFFICERS 2015-2017

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FGCI Secretary

Marlyn Rietveld-Ebbers 1711 Neil Dr., Pella, IA 50219 (641)628-3140 (641)629-1306 cell mere2038@gmail.com

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

Theme: START ANEW - Plant, grow, wonder and remember...

Theme: Plant America - A Grant Program and Fund

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring has sprung! What does the expression mean? All of a sudden, it has stopped snowing, the days are warmer, the grass is green, the trees are budding and everything seems to have new life starting anew. May you have a wonderful Spring!

As this FGCI President travels to your district meetings this spring, each club in attendance will have the opportunity to win the NGC's book *The Saved Seed* written by Brenda Moore. This child's book is about pumpkin seeds, saving the seed, growing and harvesting. It is hoped that the clubs, in turn, will gift

the book to a library, school, etc. Remember, we ask that each District furnish an item for the Silent Auction at the State Meeting. This item should be a \$25-\$30 value. Proceeds go to the FGCI Scholarship Fund. As I attend NGC meetings, I am reminded how important education is and it is one of our main goals. Also, remember to bring items for the Ways & Means table.

In May, I will be in Philadelphia for the National Convention. I will give a three-minute report on FGCI and its goals and accomplishments.

On Friday, June 22 the Annual Meeting will be in Mason City the Columbia Club. FGCI will be celebrating 90 years! Please plan to attend. Enter the Flower Show on Thursday June 21. Then check out the Mason City area and the Frank Lloyd Wright architecture, spend the night in the Historic Park Inn, the Hampton Inn or one of the many hotels in the area. See more information and the registration form in this NEWS.

"Despite the forecast, live like it is spring" Lilly Pultizer

Juliene Bramer, FCGI President

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Remember to submit to me your best Recycle, Reuse and Reclaim idea for a certificate and \$100 monetary award. The first award will be announced at the State Meeting in Mason City on June 22.

Juliene Bramer, FGCI President 15677 110th Street, Greene, IA 50636 641-823-9908 mabramer@myomnitel.com

Memorials – There will be a Memorial Service at the FGCI State Meeting, Friday June 22 in Mason City. Please give the name of any deceased club members from the last year to your District Director so they might be honored at this special service.

Traveling Trophies Winners

If you won one of the Traveling Trophies at the 2017 State Flower show, "Once Upon a Time", please remember to return it for the 2018 Flower Show.

JOIN THE FLOWER SHOW FUN!

Check the schedule in this issue of the NEWS for the 2018 FGCI State Flower Show, "The Wright Way," a NGC Standard Flower Show.

Find one or more classes you'd like to enter, and then contact the consultant for design (or horticulture consultant, in selected classes) to reserve your space. Plan now to enter and join the fun. Join us June 21-22. You can't win if you don't enter!

CLERKING FOR THE STATE FLOWER SHOW

If you are going to be at the State Flower Show consider assisting as a clerk.

Contact Marti Bargman, 319-989-2283

PLANT IT PINK

Now is the time for Iowa Federated Garden Clubs to promote "Plant it Pink" projects to increase breast cancer awareness. Please check the National Federated Garden web site to find projects, ideas, and/or suggestions for club activities...

Sue Ashton, Plant It Pink, Chairman

Questions on the New Flower Show Handbook?

Contact Peggy Moody, Flower Show Chairman at 515-576-6021 or pmmoody@mchsi.com. She would also be available to give a program.

STATE FUND RAISER

Recycle your used printer cartridges, etc. Funding Factory has added digital cameras, ipods, mp3 players, GPS devices and laptops to their recycling efforts in addition to used (nonrefillable) ink jet and laser printer cartridges. (Note: Cell phones are no longer recyclable. Kodak and Epson cartridges are not recyclable nor are regular alkaline batteries. Refilled cartridges are NOT recyclable.) Please continue to collect these items. Give to your District Director or bring them to the State Meeting where we will have boxes for collection. Your help is greatly appreciated. Presently the monies received from these recycling efforts go into the FGCI Scholarship Fund.

Sandy Heerema, Environmental Chairman, sheeree@windstream.net



The Pella Garden Club and the Pella Historical Society request the honor of your presence at the

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

on Thursday, June 28, 2018

Doors open into Graham Hall, Central College at 11:00 a.m. for a silent auction.

Dining room opens at 11:30 a.m. and a bridal lunch will be served at 12:00.



Tickets are \$25.00 and available from any Garden Club member, or contact ticket chairman Edie Buwalda at 641-628-4864 or edith@iowatelecom.net

FGCI - Celebrating 90 Years

"90 Years". 1928 was a leap year, the winter Olympics were held in St. Moritz, Charles Lindbergh was presented a medal of honor for the first transatlantic flight, Amelia Earhart was the first woman to do the same, the first machine sliced and wrapped loaf of bread was sold in Chillicothe, MO for 9 cents, a gallon of milk was 56 cents, a gallon of gas was 21 cents and house rent was \$12 a month. Women were wearing flapper fashions, hemline at the knee. The garden club ladies met in drawing rooms. 90 years ago, oh my, the changes......

CIRCLE OF ROSES NOMINEES

It's that time of year to honor one of your own club members for the "Circle of Roses Award." Think of who has been active in rallying the troops, keeping you together, or encouraging others to attend or join your club, etc.

We all can think of at least one club member who makes our clubs meaningful, fun, and productive. Get the awards form online or from your club president and send in your club nomination by May 1, 2018. [Generally only one nomination per club]. Send the nominations to the Awards Chairman/FGCI 1 Vice President Walter Reemtsma, 602 North Phillips, Algona, IA 50511-1744



WHEN: Saturday, April 7, 2018

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Dyer-Hudson Hall,

Hwy 14 N, Knoxville, IA

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Diana Cochran Topic: "Edible Fruits for the Garden" Topic: "Monarchs & Pollinators in Dr. Donald Lewis

the Home Garden"

Chuck Meyer Topic: "Easy Elegance Rose"

Registration Fee: \$40.00. Registration deadline, March 28, 2018. No walk-ins accepted. 8:30-9:00 Registration & Coffee; Lunch served; vendors for shopping. Master Garden CEU hours will be issued.

Please make checks payable to Knoxville Garden Club

Mail to: Knoxville Federated Garden Club, Box 645, Knoxville, IA 50138.

Information contact:

Lois Davis, 641-842-5777, handldavis@iowatelecom.net or Sandra Clark, 641-891-5198, sandy-jo@live.com



COMING SEPTEMBER 4-8, 2018 PELLA GARDEN CLUB'S TRIP TO **CHICAGO**

We will be going to the Shedd Aquarium, Navy Pier, Frank Lloyd Write Museum, Chicago Botanical Garden and much more.

Everyone Welcome!! Limited space. Fore more information contact: Edie Buwalda at 641-628-4864 or edith@iowatelecom.net

FLOWER SHOW - 90+ stickers

"NGC now has silver "90+" stickers (90+ in blue) that can be purchase to designate those exhibits scoring 90+ but not the blue-ribbon winner. Of course, this helps the public immediately recognize those outstanding exhibits, gives a boast to the exhibitor and also lets student judges count the exhibit. Just so you can go-right-to-them: http://www. shopgardenclub.org/shop/item.aspx?itemid=347vid "

Item Name: Award Seals- 90+ (Silver): Item #:7175 Price/ea: \$10.00 Scalloped edge stickers (in packs of 100)

DISTRICTS 1, 2, & 3 JUDGES' WORKSHOP

Monday, April 30, 2018 Ray House, 912 First Avenue, Vinton

Set-up and Coffee: 9 a.m. Meeting: 10 a.m. to Noon.

All FGCI members are welcome to attend and participate. Judges, bring your new Handbook and something for Ways & Means. Please pre-register. Contact Jan Tyler Blanchard (563-387-0804) or Roger Buhr (563-382-3088).

NOTE: DO TO SPACE PLEASE SEE THE WINTER 2017 ISSUE **OF THE NEWS FOR SCHEDULE AND MORE INFORMATION.** Or contact Jan Tyler Blancard or Roger Buhr.

National Garden Clubs, Inc., GARDENING SCHOOL, Course 3– Series 12 Sponsored by Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa IOWA ARBORETUM, 1875 PEACH AVENUE, MADRID, IOWA

Located in the rural area between Madrid and Boone, IA http://iowaarboretum.org/ for directions

April 12-13, 2018 Open to the Public

		18 (Thursday) Coffee and Registration		
	8:30 -10:00	*HOUSEPLANT BASICS	Aaron Steil, Assistant Director, Reiman Gardens	
	10:00 10:15 -12:15	BREAK PM. **FACTORS THAT INFLU	JENCE PLANT GROWTH	
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		LUNCH (Please bring sack lur	,	
	12:45 -2:45			
	2:45 - 3:00		e Graduate Student, ISU	
	3:00 - 4:00		ITH NAN	
		Nan Ripley, Hybridizer	with 53 introductions, Master Gardener, Plantswo	man
	APRIL 13, 20	•		
	8:15 AM.	COFFEE NEW PLANT DEVELOPMENT	T & EVALUATION	
	6.30 – 10.00		e Horticulturist, Reiman Gardens, ISU	
	10:15 – 12:15	PM. TEACHING TOUR OF		
	10.45 40.45	Iowa Arboretum staff		
	12:15 - 12:45 12:45-3:45	LUNCH (Please bring sack lur	ncn)	
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National Garden Week, June 4-10, 2018

The Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa should promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, gardening, and involvement of Garden Clubs in your community. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

Publicity is the key to the promotion of National Garden Week. From the NGC Website, you can download the National Garden Week proclamation. By inviting the mayor to sign this proclamation, you have a photo opportunity to submit to the local newspaper to kick off the week. Share a photo and write up of your National Garden Week activities with your local newspaper. Share your projects by sending photos to Yvonne McCormick, Website Manager for the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa website at Yvonne@ iastate.edu or NGC Flickr Website: http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/photo-archiving.aspx for more details and information.

There are two versions of the National Garden Week poster. One version is a fillable PDF file so that the name of a local garden club can be added (space for two lines) before printing the poster. These can be found on the NGC website at http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/national-garden-week.aspx

Posters and proclamation available on the NGC website: National Garden Week Poster 2018 (fillable PDF) National Garden Week Poster 2019 (fillable PDF) National Garden Week Proclamation

Ideas for Garden Week

- Organize public or private gardens open for tours during garden week.
- · Advertise Garden Week on Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Involve school children in the week's events—plant flowers at the school.
- Take flowers and a poster to the local library, town council, etc.
- · Hold a home and garden tour.
- Be a docent at a garden tour, hold a plant sale, have an antique show, a book signing, host a lecture, hold an art workshop in the garden, promote your town's local flower during Garden Week, produce a segment on local television, or one for the local paper.
- Encourage and direct a Girl Scout/Boy Scout troop to plant a raised bed of herbs at an Assisted Living facility.
- Pass out seedlings with information about your club.

Whatever you do, publicize the activity so you get maximum visibility of the garden club and the benefits of being a member.

Jane Buck, FGCI Garden Week Chairman dwbuck@cfu.net 319-240-5970

Wildflower Workshop - June 13

The FGCI Wildflower Workshop is being held June 13, 2018. Registration starts at 8:45 to 9:15. The Workshop is being held at the Warren County Conservation Annett Center, 15565 118th Ave. Indianola, IA 50125 (Directions The Annett Nature Center is located five miles south of Indianola. Travel 4 miles south on Hwy 65/69 and look for the Annett Nature Center signs. From there turn west on G-58 to Lake Ahquabi and then turn north on 118th Ave. The ANC is on the east side of the road.)

The registration fee is \$30.00. Morning refreshments will be provided. To keep costs down we are asking that you bring your own lunch. Picnic tables overlooking the pond are available for lunch and hopefully, waterfowl will be on the pond for your enjoyment.

PROGRAM:

- Invasive Species invading the prairies, by Jane Buck, FGCI Invasive Species Chairman;
- Film: How do plants in prairies and gardens interrelate with one another, by Sue Thompson;
- How Insects, butterflies, etc. co-exist with one another in the prairie by Beth Waage. Story County Conservation;
- What are Oak Savannas? TBA
- A tour of the Annett Center Prairie that surrounds the Annett Center will be observed via a tractor and wagon.
 A butterfly garden is located in the front of the Annett Center. It is an area where you can stroll during your lunch time if you wish. It has very interesting plants growing. A new butterfly display has been added to the center. A reptile center is located in the basement of the center. Come early and stay late and enjoy all there is to see.

If you have questions, contact Darla Kickbush at dkkick40@gmail, or telephone 515.707.5456.

Register for Wildflower Workshop June 13, 2018 Fee \$ 30.00 per person
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
TELEPHONE E-MAIL Amount enclosed
Checks made out to: Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa. Registrations can be sent after January 01, 2018 to: Darla Kickbush 706 West Third Ave Indianola, Iowa 50125

MEET YOUR 2017-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Each issue of the NEWS we will introduce you to Board Members for 2017-2019)

Darla Kickbush, 2017-2019 Operation Wildflower Workshop Chairman and former District Director and FGCI President from Indianola. She is presently a mostly shade and container gardener. Check out her Facebook page "Warren County Garden Talk" where she enjoys posting information learned or heard about. She enjoys giving presentations to clubs and groups. She is a mentor mom for the MOPS group (mothers of preschoolers) and belongs to the Indianola Tree Committee presently getting information on the emerald ash borer in Warren County. Quilting and book clubs fill her time also. You can find her at Crouses at noon as she dines with two couples who have adopted her! They have many laughs.

Tracy Edens, District 1 Co-Director Tracy and her husband live on a hobby farm south of lowa City. They have three children, two grown daughters and a son, a high school senior. Besides gardening she raises chickens, laying hens. She is currently learning how to tap dance for the first time and watercolor paint. Her favorite flower is daffodils. Three from her garden club went to the International Daffodil Show in St. Louis last year, it was great! Tracy's garden club is Muscatine Garden Club, the three carpool 30 minutes to meet with that great group of ladies.

Dennis Wolf, Tree Chairman & Judges Council Chairman - Dennis has served as the local president of the Floyd Valley Federated Garden Club during the first years of the formation of the new garden club. He is also serving as District 8 Director. In 2018 he will resign his chairmanship of the Iowa Judges Council due to health issues and aging issues, he will be reducing his involvement in the local, district and state organization. Each year it is more difficult to maintain both the Iowa gardens and those in Florida. This winter he will be writing a book of short stories that his maternal grandparents told him about their life, and life experiences as young people in northwest Iowa. Each winter he attends and exhibits gourd entries in the Florida State Gourd Society and spends time doing watercolor painting and classes.





Mary Steuben is the District 2 Director. Mary was born and raised on a Century Farm located near Rockford, Iowa. She graduated from the Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock School District and received her BA degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She and her husband David are the proud parents of four adult children who all live and work in various locations across Iowa. Mary and David are both retired teachers who happily spoil their five grandchildren, love to travel, cheer on their favorite Iowa State Cyclone football and men's basketball teams, and enjoy working in their gardens. Mary taught for over 38 years in a variety of positions including fourth and fifth grade, Talented and Gifted, preschool instructor, K-8 teacher at Perry #1 Rural (Amish) School, middle school math, and K-7 art instructor. Following retirement, Mary continues to volunteer in the Jesup Schools. She is an active member of the Independence Garden Club and has also loved working as a Master Gardener in her local community. During the past twelve years, Mary has also enjoyed working at home as a floral decorator for many brides across Iowa and the Midwest, providing wedding flowers and decorations for receptions and churches.

What grew well for me in 2017 and what I will plant again.....

Petunia 'Ustuni6001' SUPERTUNIA VISTA BUBBLEGUM P. Allen Smith talked about this Proven Winner petunia, I grew it last year and loved it. I will grow it again. Lots of color! Bubblegum is a vigorous bloomer that performs well in full sun but tolerates some light shade.

Second only to impatiens in annual bedding plant sales, the petunia has been a popular plant for many years due in large part to its ease of culture and non-stop flowering from spring to frost.

For the last two years I have grown a fern called 'Kimberly Queen' (Nephrolenis obliterata) also called sword fern

For the last two years I have grown a fern called 'Kimberly Queen' (Nephrolepis obliterata) also called sword fern because of its straight, narrow upright fronds. It is an Australian native that's about 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide when mature. It's an easy-to-grow plant that thrives on my front porch with fronds that stay green. *Juliene Bramer*





The Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. Presents An NGC Standard Flower Show

THE WRIGHT WAY

Flower Show: June 21-22, 2018

Columbia Club – 551 South Taft – Mason City, Iowa Entries 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. June 21 Judging: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. June 21 Flower Show Free and Open to the Public: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. June 22



Annual Meeting: June 22, 2018

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Central Region





Flower Show Committee

State President Juliene Bramer, 641-823-9908, mabramer@myomnitel.com **Flower Show Chairman** Kathy Elliff, 515-257-4976, klelliff@hotmail.com **Horticulture:**

Entries & Classification: Marlene Marolf, 563-391-9621, gourddzn@aol.com & Jane Buck, 319-240-5970, dwbuck@cfu.net

Placement: Shirley Wolf, 515-544-3288, saw@wccta.net & Judith Walrod, 515-463-2268

Consultant: Walter Reemtsma, 515-341-1052, presby1mom@gmail.com **Design:**

Entries & Classification: Sandy Gossman, 515-232-5110, SRGossman@aol.com

Consultants: Listed with each Class

Schedule: Kathy Elliff & Juliene Bramer; Roger Buhr, Schedule Consultant

Judges & Clerks: Marti Bargman, 319-989-2283

Awards: Jan Krass, 515-359-2007, mjkrass@lvcta.com

& Victoria Rute, 712-320-2535, Victoria597@icloud.com

Publicity: Pam Carlson, 641-358-6149, bbbcarlson@gmail.com & Sandy Gossman

Staging: Terri Ewers, 641-357-4139, pearl@CLTEL.net Hospitality: Angie Wilkins, 641-390-7149





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THE WRIGHT WAY

2018 GENERAL RULES

- 1. Members of the Federated Garden Clubs of lowa and non-member amateur growers and designers may enter any division of the show.
- 2. This Flower Show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). *The Handbook for Flower Shows (HB) 2017 Edition*, with revisions printed in *The National Gardener* magazine (TNG), is the authority for all issues not covered by the Schedule, which is the Law of the Show.
- 3. Prior to the show each exhibitor in the Design Division will be assigned a number and this same number should be used in every Division. Exhibitors entering Horticulture only must receive a number from the Horticulture Entries Chair upon arrival at the show. Entry cards for the Horticulture Division will be available from the Horticulture Entries Chairman. Entry cards must contain the exhibitor's number, name and address on them and be filled out completely. Small address labels are acceptable.
- 4. The names and numbers of exhibitors in the Design Division will be written on the entry card in advance of the show. On the day of the show, exhibitors must locate their cards where their entries will be placed and complete the cards with address and club. The bottom section of entry card will be folded forward.
- 5. Advance registration is required in all Design Classes. Classes will be filled in the order in which the entries are received. Design classes will be limited to four entries, they MUST be registered with the proper Design Class Consultant by June 12. The Design Class Consultants will give the names of their exhibitors to the Design Entries Chair by June 16.
- 6. Exhibits must be entered and placed from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 21. Preparation may be completed in the designated room in the Columbia Club. Materials and tools may be stored in that room if necessary.
- 7. The Classification Chairmen for each division (Horticulture and Design) will check exhibits for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. Final determination for conformance is the judges' responsibility.
- 8. The General Chairman and the Classification Chairmen for each division are available during judging for possible consultations. They, along with the judges and clerks, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging.
- 9. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any division
- 10. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture Division.
- 11. Judging will begin promptly at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 21, by panels of National Garden Club approved Judges.
- 12. The decision of the judges is final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
- 13. The Federated Garden Clubs of lowa, Inc. will strive to assure the safety of all items after arrival and placement, but is not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.
- 14. Plants on the state's endangered or conservation plant list must be grown by the exhibitor or collected in a legal manner and so identified. (State policy prevails.) Noxious weeds and plants on the state's invasive plant list are not permitted in any Division. Lists can be downloaded at http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/reference/weedlaw.htm.
- 15. The show will be open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, June 22.
- 16. Entries must be removed Friday, June 22, after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. The Show Committee will not be responsible for removing horticulture or designs left by any exhibitor.

AWARDS

NGC STANDARD SYSTEM OF AWARDS

Only one first place (blue) ribbon per class. Must score 90 points or more.

Only one second place (red) ribbon per class. Must score 85 points or more.

Only one third place (yellow) ribbon per class. Must score 80 points or more.

One or more honorable mention (white) ribbons as merited. Must score 75 points or more.

An entry card of a blue ribbon winning exhibit must be signed by an NGC Accredited Judge on the judging panel. Judges will recognize non-blue ribbon winners scoring 90+ with silver stickers.

HORTICULTURE DIVISION NGC TOP EXHIBITOR AWARDS

The Award of Horticultural Excellence will be offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit entered by an individual in the entire Horticulture Division I. (See Handbook, p. 40)

Nine Awards of Merit will be offered in Sections A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H & I (See Handbook, p. 41)

DESIGN DIVISION NGC TOP EXHIBITOR AWARDS

The Award of Design Excellence will be offered in Division II, Design. (See Handbook .p. 42)

One Designer's Choice Award will be offered in Section A. (See Handbook, p. 42)

One Petite Award will be offered in Section B. (See Handbook, p. 43)

One Table Artistry Award will be offered in Section C. (See Handbook, p. 43)

OTHER AWARDS

Two Sweepstakes Awards will be offered – one in the Horticulture Division and one in the Design Division, counting only blue ribbons. Red ribbons will be counted to break ties. (See Handbook, p. 46)

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB OF IOWA TRAVELING TROPHIES

The following are "traveling trophies" and are intended to be in the possession of the winner for one year only. If the recipient wishes to have the winner's name inscribed on the trophy, it may be done at the winner's expense. It is the responsibility of the winner to have the trophy at the next State Flower Show in prime condition to be awarded again.

Horticulture Division

Available only to members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

Rusk Traveling Trophy to the Award of Horticultural Excellence winner.

Smith Traveling Trophy to the Horticulture Sweepstakes winner.

Otto Traveling Trophy awarded by the State President and Flower Show Co-chairmen to a worthy exhibit in the Horticulture Division that did not receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award.

Design Division

Available only to members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

Williamson Traveling Trophy to the Designer's Choice Award winner.

Ricke Traveling Trophy to the Table Artistry Award winner.

Barb Sylvester Traveling Trophy to the highest scoring Petite Award winner.

Thomas Traveling Trophy to the highest scoring Novice winner. (Design must score 90+)

Mabel Prior Award to any worthy design exhibit (90+) by a designer other than a judge.

Willasson Traveling Trophy to the Design Sweepstakes winner.

Davidson Traveling Trophy awarded by the State President and Flower Show Co-chairmen to a worthy exhibit in the Design Division that did not receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award.

Fran Smith Crystal Traveling Award for the best second place floral design in the show.

DIVISION I HORTICULTURE "The Vision Between Indoors and Outdoors"

Award of Horticultural Excellence is offered

Horticulture Rules

- 1. All Horticulture Classes are open to any amateur grower.
- 2. All plant material must be fresh and have been grown by the exhibitor.
- 3. All plant material must have been in the exhibitor's possession for 90 days, except arboreal with possession for 6 months, see HB p. 55. For other exceptions for annuals, bulbous blooms, vegetables and others, see HB p.55.
- 4. Plant material may not be altered by the application (treatment) of oil or commercial "shine" products that change the natural appearance. No wiring of specimens is permitted.
- 5. Cut horticulture specimens are to be shown in clear, preferably colorless, glass bottles, provided by the exhibitor. Stems should be viewed easily through any container. Containers should be free from lettering, labels or distracting colors and patterns and in pleasing proportion to the specimens.
- 6. Exhibitors will complete their own horticulture entry tags, in advance, if possible. Entry tags may be obtained from the Entries Committee the day of the show. ALL SECTIONS of the entry tag must be filled out. Address labels may be used. To avoid water damage, entry tags may be completed with typing, water-proof ink, or pre-printed labels.

- 7. All entries are to be labeled by genus, specific epithet and/or variety or patented/trademarked names. Common names may also be given, see HB p.137
- 8. Preparation, classification and entries will be done in the designated preparation area.
- 9. Fruits and vegetables will be displayed on paper plates provided by the Committee. Fruits and vegetables are not to be washed or polished. They should be clean and free of blemish. Multiple specimens should be uniform in size and color.
- 10. Wedging of specimens is recommended. Wedging is to be inconspicuously placed in the neck of the bottle to hold the specimen upright. The exhibitor will furnish any wedging used.
- 11. Double potting is permitted, but the inner pot must not be visible. Container sizes are specified in the Classes.
- 12. An exhibitor may have more than one entry in any Class or Sub-Class providing each is a different cultivar, color, or type except in Collections and Displays. Any exhibitor who will have more than 5 exhibits in one Class or Sub-class must notify the Horticulture Entries Chair three days before the show.
- 13. The Horticulture Classification Committee reserves the right to subdivide any horticulture Classes by color, type, or cultivar.
- 14. The Scales of Points for judging horticulture is listed on p. 129 of the Handbook.

DIVISION I HORTICULTURE

Award of Horticultural Excellence offered

Section A Annuals - Flowering "New Developments" *Award of Merit offered*

Class 1 Antirrhinum, Snapdragon, 1 stem

Class 2 Centaurea, Bachelor's Button, 3 blooms

Class 3 Consolida, Larkspur, 1 spike

Class 4 Pelargonium, Geranium 1 blooming stem

Class 5 Salvia (annual), 1 spike

Class 6 Violaceae, 3 blooms

a. Pansy b. Johnny Jump Up

Class 7 Any other flowering annual not listed, 1 specimen

a. Large (over 2" bloom)

b. Small (2" bloom and under)

Section B Annuals - Foliage "Innovative Styles" Award of Merit offered

Class 8 Coleus, 1 stem

Class 9 Grass (Pennisetum, Isolepis, Millet, etc.) 3 stems Class 10 Strobilanthes dyerianus, Persian Shield, 1 stem

Class 11 Any other foliage annual, not listed, 1 specimen

Section C Biennials - Flowering "Recurring Achievements"

Award of Merit offered

Class 12 Campanula 1 stem

Class 13 Dianthus, Sweet William 1 stem

Class 14 Digitalis, Foxglove 1 stem

Section D Perennials - Flowering "Revival Recognition"

Award of Merit offered

Class 15 Achillea, Yarrow 1 stem

Class 16 Aquilegia, Columbine, 1 spay

Class 17 Centaurea, Bachelor's Button 1 stem

Class 18 Coreopsis, Tickseed 1 stem

Class 19 Delphinium, 1 spike

Class 20 Dianthus, 1 stem

a. Pinks b. Carnation

Class 21 Dicentra, Bleeding Heart, 1 spray

Class 22 Echinacea, Cone Flower 1 bloom

Class 23 Gaillardia, Blanket Flower, 1 bloom

Class 24 Hemerocallis, Daylily, 1 scape

a. Eyed b. Miniature c. Regular

d. Spider e. Double

Class 25 Heuchera, Coral Bells 3 flower stems

Class 26 Leucanthemum, Shasta Daisy, 1 bloom

Class 27 Liatris, Gay Feather, 1 bloom

Class 28 Penstemon, Beardtongue, 1 stem

Class 29 Paeonia, Peonies

a. Herbaceous, 1 stem

b. Intersectional, 1 stem

c. Tree, 1 stem

Class 30 Salvia (perennial), 1 stem

Class 31 Stokesia, 1 stem

Class 32 Veronica, Speedwell, 1 stem

Class 33 Any other flowering perennial, not listed 1 specimen

a. Large (over 2" bloom)

b. Small (under 2" bloom)

Section E Perennials - Foliage "Lifetime Inspirations"

Award of Merit offered

Class 34 Ground Cover, 1 specimen

Class 35 Heuchera, Coral Bells, 3 leaves

Class 36 *Hosta*, (Measure the width of the leaf of a mature plant for the variety.)

- a. Dwarf/Miniature, Less than 2" width, 1 leaf
- b. Small, 2" but less than 4", 1 leaf

- c. Medium, 4" but less than 6", 1 leaf
- d. Large, 6" but less than 8", 1 leaf
- e. Giant, Over 8", 1 leaf

Class 37 Stachys, Lamb's Ear, 1 specimen

Class 38 Any other foliage perennial, not listed, 1 specimen

Section F Bulbous Plants "Emerging Shapes" Award of Merit offered

Class 39 Allium, 1 specimen

a. Over 8" b. 4" to 8" c. Under 4"

Class 40 Iris, 1 scape

- a. Japanese c. Siberian
- b. Bearded d. Spuria e. Louisana

Class 41 Lilium 1 stem

- a. Asiatic
 - 1) Up-facing 3) Down-facing 2) Outfacing
- b. Any other

Class 42 *Tuberous Begonia*, 1 bloom and leaf floating in a clear, shallow container

Class 43 Zantedeschia, Calla Lily, 1 bloom

Class 44 Any other bulb, corm, rhizome, or tuber not listed, 1 specimen

- a. Large (over 2" bloom)
- b. Small (2" bloom and under)

Section G Herbs "Integrated Aspects"

Award of Merit offered

Class 45 Annual

- a. Cut, 3 stems
- b. Container grown, Pot size under 7"

Class 46 Biennial

- a. Cut, 3 stems
- b. Container grown, Pot size under 7"

Class 47 Perennial

- a. Cut, 3 stems
- b. Container grown, Pot size under 7"

Section H Rosa, Roses "Dramatic Interests"

Award of Merit offered

Classes may be subdivided by color.

Class 48 R. floribunda, 1 spray

Class 49 R. grandiflora, 1 bloom

Class 50 R. hybrid, Hybrid Tea, 1 bloom

Class 51 Miniature,

a. 1 bloom b. 1 spray

Class 52 Mini-flora

a. 1 bloom b. 1 spray

Class 53 Old Garden, e.g. Bourbon, Damask, Moss,

Portland, 1 spray

Class 54 Polyantha, 1 spray

Class 55 Shrub, e.g. rugosa, kordesii, musk, 1 spray

Class 56 Any other rose not listed, 1 bloom or 1 spray

Section I Fruits and Vegetables "Masterpieces" *Award of Merit offered*

Class 57 Allium, Onions, 3 scallions

Class 58 Asparagus officialis, 3 spears

Class 59 Berries, any kind, same variety, 3 specimens

Class 60 Brassica olearcea, Kohlrabi, 1 specimen

Class 61 Brassica oleracea italaica, Broccoli, 1 head

Class 62 Pisum sativum, Peas, 3 specimens

a. Edible pod b. Shell pod

Class 63 Any other fruit or vegetable, not listed.

- a. Small (Under 2") 3 specimens
- b. Large (Over 2") 1 specimen

DIVISION II DESIGN "The Legacy of the Wright Influence"

Award of Design Excellence offered.

Design Rules

- 1. All design classes are open to any amateur designer.
- 2. Design must be the work of one individual. Plant material need not have been grown by the exhibitor, unless the schedule requires.
- 3. Some plant material must be used in every exhibit.
- 4. The designer has the freedom to choose Traditional or Creative Style with any design type listed unless restricted by the schedule.
- 5. Fresh plant material may not ever be treated in any manner. Plant material that has been treated to alter its exterior appearance may be used only in its dried state.
- 6. Contrived plant material or other forms made from real plant materials, fresh/and/or dried are permitted in all design classes unless prohibited by the schedule, law, or specific requirements of a Design Top Exhibitor Award.
- 7. Consult NGC Policies and Guidelines for the Design Division (HB pp.79-81) in regard to what is permitted and not permitted.
- 8. If a designer is unable to fulfill the assignment, it is the designer's responsibility to find a replacement.

- 9. Designer is on her/his honor that the design being entered has not been previously entered or previously judged in an NGC Flower Show.
- 10. Exhibitors may enter only one design in each class. All designs should be pre-registered with the appropriate Class Consultant by June 9.
- 11. All plant material used in the design must be identified on a card, provided by the exhibitor and included with the entry tag.
- 12. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the class.
- 13. Rules for Design Types, Advanced Design Types, Table Designs and Table Appointments are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
- 14. The Design Scale of Points is in the *Handbook*, Chapter 7, p. 130.
- When a designer has completed her/his design, she/he must have the entry card initialed by the Design Classification Chairman before leaving the entry.
- 16. The Design Classification Chairman will not accept designs that contain plant material on the Iowa Noxious Weed list. See http://www.weeds.iastate.edu/reference/weedlaw.htm for a list of Iowa's noxious weeds.
- 17. The Thomas Traveling Trophy is offered to the highest scoring novice winner (90+). A novice is anyone who has not won a blue ribbon in a FGCI State Flower Show. NOVICE should be written on the outside of the entry tag. A novice may enter any design class.
- 18. The Mabel Prior Award is offered to any worthy design exhibit (90+) by a non-judge. A non-judge is anyone who is not certified as an NGC judge. NON-JUDGE should be written on the outside of the entry tag. A non-judge may enter any design class.

DIVISION II DESIGN "The Legacy of the Wright Influence"

Award of Design Excellence offered

Section A Designer's Choice "Innovative Achievements"

Designer's Choice Award offered

(All Class titles are names of Frank Lloyd Wright designed homes.)

Designer has the choice of all plant materials. Accessories permitted. Background panel or niche, 36" high, required. Space allowed: 30" wide x 30" deep x 36" high. Black table covering will be provided. See HB p 42.

Class 1 "FALLING WATER" A Cascade design supported by a container or other device of the designer's choice and provided by the designer. (HB p.73)

Consultant: Marlyn Rietveld-Ebbers, 641-628-3140, mere2038@gmail.com

4 Exhibits

Class 2"FOUNTAINHEAD" An Underwater design. (HB p. 79)

Consultant: Steve Wolter, 712-262-7554, saw@wccta.net

4 Exhibits

Class 3"PRAIRIE HOUSE" A Transparency design. (HB p. 77)

Consultant: Jan Tyler-Blanchard, 563-387-3032, jkay@acrec.com

4 Exhibits

Section B Petite Design "La Miniatura"

Petite Award offered (HB p. 73)

Petite design size as indicated in Class. Designer has the choice of all plant materials. Accessories permitted. Required background/underlay must be in proportion to design size and may not exceed 1" in height & width more than specific size of the design class. Scale is important. Classes 4, 5 and 6 will be displayed on black open shelving. Class 7 will be displayed on tabletop with black covering.

Class 4 "SNOWFLAKE HOUSE" (3" Petite Design) Design no more than 3" in height, width & depth.	
Consultant: Twila Henning, 712-262-1447, hmt51158@smunet.net	4 Exhibits
Class 5 "BLOSSOM HOUSE" (5" Petite Design) Design no more than 5" in height, width & depth	
Consultant: Tracy Edens, 319-338-1401, tracyleeann66@yahoo.com	4 Exhibits
Class 6 "LITTLE HOUSE" (8" Petite Design) Design no more than 8" in height, width & depth	
Consultant: Ruth Hamilton, 319-334-3971, hamiltonfarm1864@gmail.com	4 Exhibits
Class 7 "WINGSPREAD" (12" Petite Design) Design no more than 12" in height, width & depth	
Consultant: Pam Gollub, 515-359-2649, gollob@LVCTA.com	4 Exhibits

Section C Table Artistry "Interior Details"

Table Artistry Award offered

Class 8 "HOLLYHOCK HOUSE" Tray for 1, furnished by the designer. Tray must be no larger than 24".

Coordination of all components must be balanced within the allotted space. (HB p. 76)

Consultant: Debbie Lewison, 605-906-3161, debbielewison@gmail.com

4 Exhibits

Class 9 "SKYEWAY" Exhibition Table. Space allotted: 30" wide by 30" deep. A 36" background/niche is required. Black table covering will be provided. Plant material must be used as needed for the overall design. (HB p. 76).

Consultant: Peg Egertsen, 712-845-4344, plegertsen@me.com

4 Exhibits

Class 10 "SUN COTTAGE" Functional table for 2. Staged on a standard size square card table provided by designer. Coordination of all components must be balanced within the allotted space. (HB p. 76)

Consultant: Sandy Quam, 515-386-4679, zeldag@hotmail.com

4 Exhibits

A FOOTNOTE FROM THE FLOWER SHOW CHAIRMAN

Inspired by the beauty and architectural lines of the Mason City's downtown Bank building, an original Frank Lloyd Wright design, and other local buildings and homes from the Wright school of design, President Juliene Bramer chose the title of this year's State Flower Show – "The Wright Way".

Working with this architectural theme seems to draw into the similar principles of flower arranging: Balance, Dominance, Proportion and Scale and the element of Form. Designing a structure is also similar to planning a floral design, encompassing Beauty, Distinction, Expression and Harmony. All are elements that create the final design.

Don't panic over the names of the design classes, these are actual names some of the most famous houses that Frank Lloyd Wright designed. Just consider the Show's theme and the design type in your creations. As we have all heard, it's the beauty of the design itself that is the main assessing factor being judged – just let go of the specific title and be as creative as you have ever wanted to be. The horticulture themes and subtitles also reference Wright's design philosophies.

Also, you will notice that the Design & Horticulture Section classes are somewhat smaller than usual. The original concept this year was for an NGC Small-Standard Show, but developed into an NGC Standard Show, just somewhat abbreviated than usual to adjust for the smaller space available.

Jump "Wright" in to enter this show - call or email the class consultant to participate. And, this June date will be a great time to enter your late spring/early summer horticulture. Because of fewer designs, this is a perfect opportunity to have more time to show off those beautiful individual flowers and plants you have at home. Please take some time to read the flower show rules as there have been many changes in rules with the new 2017 Handbook for Flower Show.

Encourage your fellow club members who may not have ever entered the show to do so this year, and to attend the 2018 annual meeting as representatives of your club from your area of lowa.

Welcome to the Mason City area.

On Thursday, June 21 entries for the Standard Flower Show "The Wright Way" will be accepted from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Judging will begin at 4:30 p.m. Please sign up for a design for this show as soon as possible!

Come early, enter the flower show then spend the day and evening discovering the Frank Lloyd Wright architecture, the Stockman House, Music Man Square, Dillenger gang bullet holes in bank wall, Meredith Willson boyhood home and Foot Bridge, Charles MacNider Art Museum and unique shopping. In Clear Lake, just a few miles away, is Central Gardens, the Surf Ballroom, downtown shopping and the Buddy Holly crash site.

Visit the Mason City Visitors Center, 2021 4th Street SW, Mason City, IA 50401 800-423-5724 www.VisitMasonCitylowa.com to make your plans.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

90th FGCI ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, June 22, 2018

Doors open 8:00 a.m. Meeting Starts at 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO MASON CITY, IOWA The Wright Way, a Standard Flower Show will be held Thursday and Friday, June 21 – 22 at Columbia Club (formerly Knights of Columbus), 551 S Taft, Mason City, Iowa 50401

Meeting Registration Fee - \$40 by June 1, 2018 – Late Fee \$45 after June 1, 2018 (Fee includes registration, morning coffee, lunch and programs) Registration form below.

Make checks payable to: FGCI 2018 Annual Meeting

Send to: Deb Stockberger, Registrar

18388 Warbler Avenue Nora Springs, IA 50458

(641) 749-2542 debstockberger@gmail.com

ACCOMODATIONS:

Historic Park Inn, 7 West State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 641-422-0015

Room special \$124 plus tax. Refer to Federated Garden Club of Iowa when making reservation. Deadline to make reservation May 1, 2018. This is the last remaining Frank Lloyd Wright designed and built hotel in the world. It has only 27 rooms, FGCI has reserved them all for evening of June 21, 2018. Please note, make reservations by May 1, 2018 for this room rate. It is a beautiful boutique hotel.

Hampton Inn & Suites, 2111 4th Street SW, Mason City, IA 50401; 641-435-7500; \$129 plus tax. May 21, 2018 deadline for room rate. Refer to Federated Garden Club of Iowa when making reservation. Breakfast is included.

There are many hotels in the area. Contact them directly or through the Mason City Visitors Center, 2021 4th Street SW, Mason City, IA 50401 800-423-5724 www.VisitMasonCitylowa.com

REGISTRATION FORM FGCI ANNUAL MEETING Friday - June 22, 2018

Name:		
Address:		
Contact number/ema	iil	
FGCI District	Garden Club	
	(\$40.00 early registration;	after June 1 - \$45.00)
,	gistration, morning coffee, lunch and programs)	(efforts will be made to accommodate
Member Status (please c	heck all that apply)	
State Officer	Former State President	State Life Member
District Director	Former District Director	Central Region Life Member
Board Member	Flower Show Judge	National Life Member
Club President	Landscape Design Consultant	Central Region Director
Club Member	Garden Consultant	Central Region Board Member
Guest		

DISTRICT AND CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT 1 Deb Bentley Co-Director; 2463 Bobwhite Drive Muscatine IA 52761 641-420-3696 (c) dmhalfpap@gmail.com

Tracy Edens Co-Director (email contact) 4515 560th Street SE lowa City IA 52240 319-338-1401 (h) tracyleeann66@yahoo.com

Keosaugua Town and Country Garden Club's first meeting of the year will be installation of new officers and a program on "Creeping Charlie". February brings a potluck and program on dish gardens. Keokuk Garden Club enjoyed their annual Christmas luncheon in December. Food items were gathered for the local food pantry. Lee County conservation will be presenting a program on "Prairie Wildflowers of Iowa" in January. Future programs include lawn care, habitat for birds and fairy gardens. It is good to see club members taking an active role in presenting educational programs. Muscatine Garden Club held evening hands on learning session for the public. demonstrating how to force bulbs such as tulips and daffodils. They saw the completion of construction and placement of 15 bluebird houses, an Eagle Scout project they supported. The first meeting for the year is Japanese Dish Gardens at the Town Hall Room at the new Muscatine Lumber Co. In April they will learn about cacti and host the District 1 Meeting. Tipton Garden Club met in October for a potluck and program by Brenda Emick-Herring about cooking and eating sustainably as well as hints on recycling. In November they made outdoor evergreen arrangements which were sold as a fund raiser for the Freedom Rock which will be placed and painted in Tipton during 2018/2019.

DISTRICT 2: Mary Steuben 315 Douglas Street Jesup, IA 50648 319-827-1509 (h) 319-230-8099 (c) msteuben@jtt.net

Cottage Garden Club held election of officers and a pot luck dinner. Planning committee worked on program ideas for 2018.

Floral Arrangers Guild the Blue Star Marker honoring veterans will be moved to a location near the new Veteran's Memorial in Van Horne. A lesson on "Loads of Late Season Color with Dahlias" was informative. After a hard frost, dahlia bulbs must be dug and stored where they won't freeze. As a workshop activity members made suet cakes and pinecones to feed birds in the winter.

Good Earth Garden Club had their Annual Christmas Party. A potluck dinner was served, games were played, and then a multimedia program was presented.

October's program was "Gardening on the Wild Side" and a Craft Night was held in November.

Independence Garden Club in October, members assisted residents of Lexington Estates with making a fall pumpkin centerpieces for their rooms. In November members learned about a program called "Kaylee Kares" developed by a 4-H girl to assist foster children. Members took home bags sewn by Jesup Middle School FCS students and filled them with items such as PJs. toothbrushes. combs. socks. personal care items, and including some comfort items like a stuffed toy, journal, pacifier, or small blanket. These items were collected for use by DHS and sheriffs' departments in five Northeast Iowa counties. Heather Sage, an employee of Cedar River Garden Center in Palo, spoke to members about ways to control Japanese beetles as well as tips for Landscape Design in December. **Quasqueton Federated Garden Club** enjoyed the hospitality of Denise Hawker for their November meeting. Charlene Starts gave a program on "Invasive Species: Where in the World did they

Starts gave a program on "Invasive Species: Where in the World did they come from?" Roll Call was "My Most Despised Weeds" and the Education Tip was about bird migration. Club members met at In the Country Garden and Gifts for a fun afternoon making a winter craft project of recycling wine bottles into cute snowmen. Members learned about small conifers in the Educational Tip lesson. Everyone enjoyed a White Elephant gift exchange. The club will begin planning and organizing the FGCI District 2 May 4 Annual Meeting along with Independence Garden Club as hosts.

Monticello Federate Garden Club shared that they have made the decision to disband at the end of 2017. Members are aging and finding it more difficult to proceed with club events as they have done in the past. District 2 members wish them well in future gardening endeavors, and hope they will recall warm, fond memories of their garden club experiences.

Decorah Town and Country Garden Club's recent programs featured "Behind the Scenes of Oneota Co-op" and Andy Nimrod, Park and Rec. Director in Decorah, presented information on 15 Winneshiek County rural parks. Members are experimenting with "Doing Your Own Thing" designs at meetings.

Vinton Garden Club members did their last flower therapy in December at Virginia Gay Hospital Annex and Rehab Center in Vinton with bright red carnations and lovely evergreens. Members then turned their attention to another generation of twenty small children, ages 2-5, at the local Hacap Center. Each child was excited to open a present from SANTA! Members made plans for their community flower planting and Spring Garden Therapy - planting seeds to prepare for spring transplants.

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Swaledale Federated Garden Club met at Lime Creek Nature Center for the September meeting. It was a warm day as the members ventured out on a hike along the Winnebago River before meeting in the air-conditioned comfort of the Nature Center to hold an in-door picnic. In October, member Julie Kaduce shared her knowledge and involvement with Healthy Harvest of North Iowa. She explained how families can enjoy and participate in eating fresh food by partnering with local food growers. In November, club members gathered in Swaledale to create fresh holiday wreaths, swags, and baskets. In December the club met at the Rockwell Nursing Home to sing Christmas carols and share homemade goodies with the residents. Club members also collected and donated money to the local food bank. It will be a busy year for the club as they will host both the District 3 meeting as well as the State Flower Show in 2018! Last fall. Swaledale Club member and State President Juliene Bramer donated several copies of the book The Saved Seed to be distributed to area Libraries. The Seed Saved is the second early reader book written to educate elementary children about the life cycle of seed plants. **Radcliffe Better Homes and Gardens** Club closed out the calendar year with several activities. In October they met

at the Hubbard Care Center and included the residents in a craft activity, making a pumpkin using a roll of toilet paper. Members also worked with the art teacher at the local school on a pumpkin decorating contest. They judged the pumpkins and awarded prizes to the students. November was their wreath sale fund raiser, which included options of evergreen candy canes and crosses. They assisted with the Radcliffe Craft Fair by providing pies for lunch. The club completed the year with a Christmas supper including an ornament exchange and a Christmas story read by one of the memhers

Green Thumb Garden Club met in November for an informative program using lovely photographs of butterflies given by Nancy Amundson. They met at Signatures Supper Club at December 11 for a Christmas luncheon. Tables were decorated with evergreen branches. Christmas silver balls, red twig dogwood stems and small frosty white trees--a gift to each member. January's meeting was to review the 2018 yearbook Worth County Extension Director will speak on a few invasive weed species that are of present concern to gardeners and farmers at the February meeting. Dan Block, Worth County Naturalist, will present a program on birds in March, and in April the club will review the new NGC Handbook for Flower Shows

DISTRICT 4, 5, 7: Marilyn Moore 1815 Park Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50315 Cell: 515-991-4791 marilynwisemoore@gmail.com

Afton Federated Garden Club will focus on Planting America, building bonds with each other and community. February's meeting will focus on spring planting for the plant sale May 11. A recycling project will continue for the district meeting. March a garden therapy project will start with two members starting community gardening projects, like helping older members with their gardens and, starting a program at local nursing homes. Members will visit five Elementary Schools in five different Counties to give their Library a copy of "The Saved Seed" by Brenda Moore. In April Polly McCoy will present a program on birds. At the end of April or the first of May members will travel to Mt. Ayr to the new Dragoon Trace Nature Center to plant wildflower plugs and tour the center. May 11 is the Clubs annual Plant Sale in the Afton City Park. Members will grow their own plants from seed.

Ames Garden Club's future programs will be "The Return of the Eagles" by Ty Smedes and "Vegetable Gardening Today" by Sharon Rinks.

Baxter Garden Club members made fresh flower arrangements in October for the residents at Accura Health Care of Baxter. Members trimmed evergreens for the city planters during the November Meeting. A Christmas tree was decorated for the Jasper County museum open house. A Christmas potluck was held in December and members brought birdseed for the nursing home.

Greater Des Moines Garden Club is starting their Centennial Year 2018. February we have a Petite Floral Design Workshop by Kathy Elliff. Annual NGC Flower Shower "Let's Sing about the Weather" will be held March 16-18, 2018 at the Varied Industries Building, lowa State Fair Grounds. Later that month the will be a program on "Recycling and Municipal Planting Efforts."

Highland Park Garden Club is happy to welcome new members this year and start out January with their annual soup and dessert luncheon. This spring they will plant rose bushes at the new North Side Senior Center in honor of Jennie Clay, a past president, after planting members will hold a luncheon to promote their club. Mothers Day weekend will be the annual fund raiser. Future programs include exploring floral and nature photography, sharing Tips and Tonics, and learning more about growing and using herbs and spices and pumpkins, gourds and squashes.

Kellogg Garden Club is looking forward to a very busy 2018. Future programs will be Wind Energy, honey bees, solar energy, composting, garden tour and picnic at Laura Hanawalt's and an orchard tour in Newton. Along with this members will be revamping the gazebo plantings, as well as other flower gardens members keep up.

Knoxville Federated Garden Club held their annual potluck supper and gift exchange in December. Members have donated many hours working at the Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden. Four members received a small gift for having perfect attendance at meetings in 2017. Garden Gala #17 plans are on schedule. Speakers have been secured, (see ad page 5) registration material will go out soon. The club is planning a bus trip to St. Louis and to National Garden Clubs Headquarters, June 6, 7 & 8 to celebrate their 20th year as a club. They will be hearing from Jane Peterson on 'Growing Hops.' She is one of only 7 commercial hops growers in Iowa.

Pella Garden Club The snow is falling. Pella's tulip bulbs have been delivered and hopefully they are planted. Christmas brought members together for a luncheon and painting class. It was a fantastic day. A program on Eagles of Red Rock began their year. As spring gets closer members begin preparation for the Pella Flower Show. If you are interested in displaying an arrangement to be judged, please contact me: boeyinkl@windstream.net. Woodland Hills Garden Club has taken care of the planters in front of the Pleasant Hill Library/Police Station again this year. October brought fall decorations of pumpkins and Halloween. In November the club put out winter greens with red dogwood. Their October meeting was on worm composting. The November meeting was on container gardens. Marcia Leeper showed how to make a pot of spring bulbs and plant outside for blooms next spring. She made some for members to take home and try. The club voted at their December meeting to not meet in January and February.

DISTRICT 6: Shirley Wolf 3725 Zearing Avenue Farnhamville, IA 50538 515-544-3288 (h) 515-351-2300 (c) saw@wccta.net

Madrid Garden Club is on a winter break (Dec-Feb). In November they held their annual end of the season potluck, inviting the winners of the Yard of the Month as their guests. Members also decorated a tree for the Arboretum's Holiday Tree display.

Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club closed 2017 with a Christmas potluck, installation of officers, and hosting of Friendship Haven residents for coffee and cookies and a school choir entertainment. They began 2018 with a hands-on activity to make garden towers of glass and ceramics. In February, they learned about plants that were popular purchases in 2017 and will be available in 2018.

Estherville Garden Club enjoyed an informative program about hydrangeas at their October meeting. The final yard of the month for the year was awarded in October to the Schiltz family for their creation of fall decorations in their front yard. In December the club donated a wreath for the Avera Holy Family Auxiliary fund raiser and a basket of gardening supplies for the public Library special project. A while elephant exchange was included in the December meeting.

Algona Garden Club will be working on landscaping at the hospital and the flower show in August. They have a shed at the fairgrounds that is in need of some repairs and sprucing up in 2018

DISTRICT 8: Dennis Wolf 35861 200th Street LeMars, IA 51031 712-546-5556 wolfhort70@gmail.com

Kinglsey Garden Club will be hosting the 2018 District 8 Annual Meeting on April 21, at the Kingsley Community Center beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Buena View Garden Club had an interesting fall culminating in its annual December potluck with a program on Christmas trees. Their summer garden contest brought new members. Members are considering Saturday or night meetings to draw new members to help with our butterfly garden in Frank Starr Park. The 2018 programs have been distributed and members look forward to a year of learning about and helping out lowa's Pollinators.

Floyd Valley Federated Garden Club members are looking forward to another exciting year with "Water Plants" as our study plant for 2018. January's program will be on "Worm Castings" followed in February on "Planting Vegetables & k\ Keeping Them Healthy." March will be on "Types of Popcorn & Storage of Popcorn." April includes "What's New" in the retail side of gardening by Mother Nature's Greenhouse. "Water Gardens" will be the topic in May, plus their annual Plant sale.

Geraniums, did you know.....

Geraniums are plants for people with purple thumbs. Few plants take as much abuse as the geranium and still flower. Their needs are simple.

Juliene Bramer, FGCI President

Moving? Change of Address?

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

Sandy Stone, FGCI Treasurer 10717 Highway E Wyaconda,MO 63474 660-479-5580 Cell: 612-381-4800 onestonefarm@yahoo.com

REMEMBER YOUR GARDEN IN THE WINTER

This is the Spring NEWS, but outside looks more like winter. Does your yard look a little bleak all winter? Maybe you need a few bushes or flowers to enhance your yards and feed the birds. If you do, add it to your spring wish list, to remember when you go shopping for plants. We tend to look for blooming plants instead of what the plant will look like next winter.

Food is one of the four essential elements for wildlife habitat, and berry producing shrubs are one of the best food sources for birds, particularly in the winter when other food sources are scarce.

Common bird species that do not migrate, such as northern cardinals, woodpeckers and mockingbirds depend on berrying shrubs in winter. In addition to providing winter food, berrying shrubs are multi-functional. Shrubs planted densely in a border attract many more birds to your property like cardinals and thrushes seeking cover and nesting places. In the spring, flowers are a nectar source for pollinators.

A winter shrub I am looking at is the winterberry shrubs, they are hardy to Zone 3. Jan Riggenbach had an article in the Des Moines Sunday register about them and I looked them up on the internet. Only the female has berries and she needs a male to pollinate her blossoms, but one male can pollinate several female. They come in several sizes from 2 to 9 feet. Winterberry holly is a versatile shrub that you can use for seasonal decorations and displays, and it attracts a variety of birds.

Ornamental grasses are justly famous for adding winter texture to the landscape. The Miscanthus grass is beautiful summer, fall and winter. Sedum Autumn Joy, Rudbeckia and Echinacea add interest to your winter landscape when they add scaffolding for a layer of fresh snow.

Winter is a lot less dull with active flocks of birds busying themselves in the garden. Make your yard a little brighter next winter, the birds can eat and you can enjoy watching them.

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

PAUSING AT MY KITCHEN WINDOW

Pausing at my kitchen window I see the red flash of a cardinal in the lilac bush, a nuthatch creeping headfirst down the old oak tree in search of a hidden seed tucked in a crevice, and a cheerful little chickadee quickly grabbing a bite at the feeder as a much larger red bellied woodpecker approaches. These birds and many others frequent my yard for one reason only - FOOD! Here are a few of the things I have learned about feeding birds over the years.

The kind of seed in your feeder determines the kind of bird that frequents it. In the past I bought the cheap seed, a mixture of who knows what. A few birds showed up and did a good job of scattering the seeds all over the ground, but they were less than enthused with all that filler! I soon learned that cheap wasn't the way to attract desirable birds.

Black-oil sunflower seed, sometimes referred to as the hamburger of the bird world, seems to attract a larger variety of birds than any other single food. It has a thin shell, making it easier to crack, and a large kernel. Sparrows and juncos are unable to crack the shell but will forage beneath the feeder for bits and pieces. Cardinals, nuthatches, and a variety of woodpeckers will eat you out of house and home while you delight in seeing them in your yard!

Niger, or thistle seed, is the preferred feeder food of the finch family. This little black seed is actually the seed of the African yellow daisy and was called niger in reference to Nigeria, the plant's geographic origin. The seed is totally unrelated to thistle plants. Though expensive, the sight of the brightly colored goldfinches in their summer plumage is worth the price! House finches and purple finches are equally attracted to it and add color to the bird scene.

With spring approaching I will continue to feed these favorite foods. The familiar winter birds will soon be joined by the beautiful rose breasted grosbeaks who are also very fond of sunflower seeds. Migrating birds, including my favorites the Fox and Harris' Sparrows, will be arriving. Don't forget to toss out a handful of seeds from time to time for these foraging birds. Their "scratch with both feet" technique of food finding will surely amuse you!

Lois Neighbors, Birds Chairman; Im_neighbors@yahoo.com

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