

NEWS

OF THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

WINTER 2018



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DATEBOOK 2019

April 11-12 Gardening School, Madrid

- April 13 District 6 Meeting, Iowa Arboretum, Madrid
April 26 District 3 Meeting, Cedar Falls
Apr 29-May 2 NGC Convention, Biloxi, MS
May 4 District 2 Meeting, Cedar Rapids,
May 6 FGCI Spring Board Meeting, Ames City Hall
May 21 District 1 Meeting, Tipton
June 3 District 4, 5 & 7 Meeting

June 2-8 National Garden Club Week

**June 20-21 FGCI State Meeting & Flower Show,
Mason City**

September 12 -13 Gardening School, Madrid

September 18-20 National Fall Board Mtg, St. Louis



NEWS

of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.

WINTER 2018

Vol. 88 No. 4

NEWS Editor: Sandra Gossman, 515-232-5110,
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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:

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Advertising Rates

1/8 page	\$25.00	1/4 page	\$50.00
1/2 page	\$100.00	Full page	\$200.00

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/>

NEWS of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. Circulation

News of the FGCI (USPS 387-340) is published 4 times a year by Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.

Editor-Sandra Gossman, 2506 Northwestern Ave, Ames, IA 50010-4636

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

Periodical's postage is paid in Ames. Annual subscription rates are \$10.00 per member

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

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FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

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

Theme: Plant America - A Grant Program and Fund

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, our flower beds are put to sleep and poinsettias and amaryllis take its turn, seed catalogs appear and we have time to read that book. Winter may be showing off or being a sleeping giant, whichever, may you enjoy each day.

Keeping you up to date regarding National, and Regional Garden Club news, I am sharing some notes from the Fall Board Meeting in Orlando, FL and Central Region's Meeting in Frankenmuth, MI.

SOCIAL MEDIA JOIN NGC

FACEBOOK: National Garden Clubs, Inc.

INSTAGRAM: nationalgarden

TWITTER: @NatlGardenClubs

PINTEREST: natlgardenclubs

HASHTAGS: #plantamerica
#nationalgardenclubs

Check out Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa Facebook page and the state website www.gardenclubsofiowa.org. We are making an effort to have information and pictures available to you on these sites.

On the National level, there is a new website for Youth about Horticulture, www.WeAreBloom.org. This site contains free educational material for working with youth. Youth are our future, help them garden.

Wisconsin will host the 2020 "Perfect Vision" NGC Convention at the Potawatomi Hotel in Milwaukee May 11-14, 2020. Kitty Larkin, Convention Chairman, is looking for volunteers to help. Check out NGC web site for more info.

No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

IOWA JUDGES COUNCIL MEETING

As Chairman of the FGCI Judges Council, I would like to notify the Iowa Judges Council members of a meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Village Court Family Restaurant, 687 South Taft Ave., Mason City, Iowa. This restaurant is located south of where the 2019 FGCI Flower Show and Annual Meeting will be held in the Columbus Club. We will order off the menu, and then can have our evening meal during the course of our meeting.

One of the agenda items will be to election officers for the Iowa Judges Council for 2019-2020. I am not appointing a Nominations Committee to offer a slate of officers at the meeting, but will take nominations from the floor to fill the slate of officers. With only 36 judges as members of the Judges Council, the membership will need to step up to the plate to fill these positions and offer leadership. Anyone who has questions about the duties of the various officers can contact me and I will provide you with a list of duties and responsibilities. (1-712-540-6491)

Dennis Wolf, FGCI Judges Council Chairman

STATE FUND RAISER REcycling

Recycling continues to be an important part of our everyday activities. Recycling your used printer cartridges, etc. has been a fund raising source for FGCI for many years.

We presently use Funding Factory which just accepts specific used (nonrefillable) ink jet and laser printer cartridges. (Note: They no longer accept Cell Phones. Also do not accept are ANY EPSON cartridges or the thin color cartridges (1/2") used mainly in copy machines, no matter the brand. You can find a list of accepted copier cartridges on the Funding Factory website.

Please continue to collect accepted cartridges. 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

DISTRICT 1, 2, & 3 JUDGES' WORKSHOP

Monday, April 22, 2019

Ray House, 9112 First Avenue, Vinton

Setup & Coffee at 9:00 a.m. Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

"Spring Has Sprung"

Division 1 – Horticulture – "Blooming Beauties"

Class 1 - Narcissus – Daffodils- single stem

Class 2 - Tulipa – Tulip single stem

Class 3 - Muscari-Grape Hyacinth-single stem

Class 4 - Allium- Allium-single stem

Class 5 - Potted Plant- A. flowering B. non-flowering

Class 6 - Any Other (Any other bulb, corm, rhizome or tuber) single stem

Class 7 - Any Other Perennial

A. Blooming - single stem B. Foliage - single stem

Division 2 –Design- "Spring Beauties!"

Class 1- "Glorious Spring" - Low Profile Design - Limited to 3 designs Limited to 30" x 30" space. HB 78

Class 2 – "Nature's Loveliness - Springtime" -

Mono-Botanic Design Space allowed 30"w x 30"d, unlimited height - Background suggested for design. HB 79

Class 3 – "Spring Fling" - Miniature designs not to exceed 5" in any direction. Stage in a niche 6" x 6" x 6". Fresh or dried. HB 73.

Division 3–Botanical Arts- Artistic Crafts

"Birds of a Feather"

Class 1 - "This Place is for the Birds!" -

Decorations-Bird House HB 94

All FGCI members are welcome to attend and participate. Judges and guests bring your Handbook and something for Ways & Means table. Adjourn at noon. Lunch at local restaurant.

Please pre-register. Contact Marty Bargman, 319-989-2283 or Jane Buck 319-240-5970, dwbuck@cfu.net

Moving? Change of Address?

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

Sandy Stone Miller, FGCI Treasurer

10717 Highway E

Wyaconda, MO 63474

660-479-5580 Cell: 612-381-4800

onestonefarm@yahoo.com

RECYCLING TIP – Make liquid compost. In your blender, add vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, etc. with enough water to make a slurry. Pour this over your garden – a healthy snack for your yard. Also, did you know that the lid on your parmesan cheese container will fit on a mason jar?

91st FGCI Annual Meeting 2019 State Meeting Friday, June 21, 2019, Mason City, Iowa

Plan to attend the 91st FGCI Annual Meeting in Mason City, Iowa Friday, June 21, 2019 beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will be at Columbia Club (formerly known as Knights of Columbus) located at 551 Taft Avenue South, Mason City. We invite you to participate in the State Flower Show "Northern Lights" starting Thursday, June 20. Check out the Spring NEWS and the state website for the schedule.

A representative from Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, Iowa will be our featured speaker. Their farm protects 20,000 varieties of vegetables and fruits by growing them, saving and sharing the seeds and storing those seeds in underground seed vaults.

The Historic Park Inn, 7 West State Street, Mason City, Iowa has been reserved for FGCI for Thursday night, June 20, 2019 at a special room rate of \$129. The 27 rooms are each unique. Contact the hotel by May 1 for this rate. (641) 422-0015.

The Hampton Inn, 2111 4th Street, Mason City, Iowa also has a block of rooms available for FGCI at \$139 on Thursday, June 20, 2019. Contact the hotel by May 21, 2019 for this rate.

There are several optional hotels in the area. Contact the Mason City Visitor Center at 800-423-5724 or VisitMasonCityIowa.com.



Blue Ribbon Petite Design from 2018



Shopping ways and means at the 2018 meeting. Add to your plant collection and/or design materials.

STATE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Do you have a clever Recycling, Reusing or Reclaiming idea? Please submit your idea with a picture and brief description to this State President for a chance to win \$100 and a certificate to be awarded at the State Meeting June 21. Deadline is June 1, 2019.

The winner at the 2018 State Meeting was the Afton Federated Garden Club with their book page centerpieces. Thanks to all who entered, please enter again!

Julienne Bramer, State President 15677 110 St.; Greene, IA 50636; (641)823-9908; mabramer@myomnitel.com

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS AWARDS AND CENTRAL REGION AWARDS

You can't win if you don't apply! Have you heard that before? Don't forget to check out the awards offered by National Garden Club and Central Region. Requirements and time frame may vary. Get your information directly online or contact me for a hard copy. The following websites have all the award information and forms.

**National Garden Club – www.gardenclub.org
Central Region – www.ngccentralregion.org
FGCI – www.gardenclubsofiowa.org**

Walter Reemtsma, 1st Vice President /Awards Chairman
602 North Phillips,
Algona, IA 50511
515-295-2739 515-341-1052 (c)
(presby1mom@gmail.com)

AWARDS AND REPORTS



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR - CHRISTMAS, SNOW, AND FGCI AWARDS!

Remember to send the President's Report, Blue Ribbon Club Award, and Advanced Club Rating Award, and other FGCI Awards to the 3 of us—Juliene Bramer (State President), your District Director (see District News pages 13-15) and to Walter Reemtsma (Awards Chairman) by December 31. Your club yearbook is generally due by February 1.

The forms for all state awards can be found at: <http://www.gardenclubsofiowa.org/Forms.html> or by contacting your District Director or Awards Chairman (presby1mom@gmail.com).

Happy Holidays!
Walter Reemtsma
FGCI Awards Chairman
602 North Phillips
Algona, IA 50511-1744

A NOTE FROM YOUR FGCI TREASURER

Hello Garden Club Members !

January is coming, and I will send Club Membership Lists to all our Club Presidents and /or Treasurers as early as I can.

This is the address list we use to mail the NEWS letter and to contact members. Please look over the list and add new members, delete those who have left, and make any needed contact info changes. Please make the changes right on the list, or on the back, then mail it back to me at the address below.

Included in the mailing will be a postal permit form. This is required by the Post Office to allow us to qualify for the bulk mailing rate. I keep them on file in case of an audit by the Postal system. Please list the name of a contact person for your club on the form and return it with your membership list.

Dues are \$10 per member per year – Please make checks payable to Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, and send to me with your updated membership list and the postal permit by February 15. It is often easier to include your club's scholarship fund contributions in this same mailing, although scholarship donations are not due until May 1st. If you send just one check, please note the amount intended for scholarships on the memo line on the check.

Two questions are frequently asked: 1 - Do we have to pay dues for honorary members? And 2 - If a member buys or is given a lifetime membership, do they still have to pay yearly dues?

Yes, honorary members do have to pay dues if they want to receive the NEWS, some clubs choose to pay those dues from the club bank account. Honorary title is given to a member who has been long serving but no longer able to participate in club activities because of age/health. Sometimes it is a business person who provides a service to your club for free. Honorary members who do not wish to receive the NEWS should not be listed on the membership list returned to the treasurer.

And yes, Life Members also do have to pay annual dues. Life Membership is an honor, and is often a recognition given to long-time members, or a gift for those who have served as a Club officer. Funds from lifetime memberships go to the scholarship fund. The names of this year's new Life Members are read at the State meeting by the chairman of the Life Membership Committee and a list of all lifetime members is circulated there.

I'll be happy to talk with any of you via phone or email, and will answer any other questions you may have, or will find the answer from someone who knows, if I don't.

Sandy Stone , Federated Garden Club of Iowa, Treasurer
10717 Highway E; Wyaconda MO 63474
email: onestonefarm@yahoo.com phone: 612 381 4800

National Garden Clubs, Inc., GARDENING SCHOOL, Course 1– Series 13

Sponsored by Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa
IOWA ARBORETUM, 1875 PEACH AVENUE, MADRID, IOWA
Located in the rural area between Madrid and Boone, IA
Open to the public

APRIL 11, 2019 (Thursday)

8:00-8:20 A.M. Coffee and Registration
8:20-8:30 Introductions, announcements and questions
8:30 -11:00 *BASIC BOTANY
Aaron Steil, Assistant Director, Reiman Gardens, ISU
11:00-11:15 BREAK
11:15 AM-12:45 P.M. *TECHNIQUES FOR GROWING OUTDOOR FLOWERS
Yvonne McCormick, Extension Horticulturist, ISU Extension/Outreach Region 7
12:45-1:15 LUNCH (Please bring sack lunch. Refrigerator & microwave available)
1:15-3:15 *SOILS 2
Lee Burras, PhD, Professor of Agronomy, Soil Scientist, Agronomy Dept., ISU
3:15-3:30 BREAK
3:30-4:30 BUTTERFLIES OF IOWA
Anita Westphal, Butterfly Wing Assistant, Reiman Gardens, ISU

APRIL 12, 2019 (Friday)

8:15-8:30 A.M. Coffee and Registration
8:30 -11:45 PLANT PROPAGATION
Jessie Liebenguth, Landscape Horticulturist,
Reiman Gardens, ISU
BREAK
PLANT PROPAGATION WORKSHOP continues
Jessie Liebenguth, Landscape Horticulturist
11:45 AM-12:15 P.M. LUNCH (Please bring sack lunch if testing)
12:15-3:15 EXAM

*TESTED TOPIC, ALL OPEN BOOK TESTS

RECOMMENDED READING: The National Gardener magazine. Order on-line or by phone:

1-800-550-6007

Master Gardeners may be awarded 1 hour CEU for each 1 hour class time.

To register for the FGCI Registration – Gardening School, Course I, Session 13, April 11-12, 2019, at Iowa Arboretum, 1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA. Please complete the form below
REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL noon, April 8, 2019, NO REFUNDS AFTER April 8, 2019.
WALK-INS ALWAYS WELCOME, BUT NO HANDOUTS AVAILABLE

NAME (Only 1 name per form) _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
NEW LAST COURSE ATTENDED _____
NAME OF FGCI(if a member) Garden Club _____ Master Gardener(Y/N) _____
Unless checked, we may use your name, address, telephone and e-mail above to contact you with National Garden Clubs, Inc. information, including future Gardening Study Schools. _____

Class \$55 _____ Class + test \$60 _____ Class + refresh _____ \$60. Refreshing is available only to those who are already Gardening Study Consultants or Master Gardening Study Consultants.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **GARDENING STUDY** and mail to AdaMae Lewis, 122 N Russell Avenue, Ames IA 50010; E-mail adamaelewis@gmail.com; Phone 515-232-0608 and leave message

BUTTERFLIES

An Iowa 4-H member is hearing the monarch message. Hallie Hayer is a Boone County 4-H member actively involved in planting for monarchs. She has raised money to plant pollinator habitat at Don Williams Lake and Ledges State Park in her area. We salute you, Hallie.

At the 2018 Farm Progress Show, held in Iowa this year, a chemical company had a milkweed plot and butterfly exhibit. On-line at www.living-acres.basf.us you can read "Milkweed Refuges in Non-crop Areas" or "Seven Steps to Starting a Milkweed Stand". Google tells us that the Farm Progress Show is attended by folks from 46 states and countries around the world. Now the message appears to be going worldwide.

We found some interesting facts about pollinators at www.nrcs.usda.gov. At that site we searched 'pollinators' and read in "Pollinators: How much do you know?" that "hummingbirds are the most common avian pollinators" that "90% of your vitamin C intake comes from insect pollinated plants" and that "the US is home to 40,000 species of native bees". We realize that butterflies are a minor contribution to pollination, but also know that what is good for butterflies is good for all pollinators.

While working in our garden on October 15 we were happy to still see two monarchs moving from flower to flower. This was an unexpected pleasant surprise on a beautiful autumn day before our first frost.

Sandy Quam, Butterfly Chairman



DID YOU LEAVE YOUR LEAVES?

Winter is here, did you rake your leaves? If you didn't get it done, you did a good thing; leaves have a lot of benefit to wildlife and your garden. Many wildlife species live



in or rely on the leaf layer to find food and other habitat, including salamanders, chipmunks, box turtles, toads, shrews, earthworms, many insect species. Many butterfly and moth species overwinter as pupae in leaf litter. Leaves form a natural mulch that helps suppress weeds and at the same time fertilize the soil as they break down

If you just want a tidy look in your yard, or need to maintain one to comply with Home Owners Association rules, you can rake leaves off the lawn but still use them as mulch in your planting beds. Leaves make good insulation from the cold.

Imagine all the time you'll save by not having to clear all the leaves from your yard. That time could be spent on other projects. You don't have to ditch the rake completely, you can use it to move leaves onto your flower beds or onto a compost or leaf mold pile. Sometimes we can do good things without even realizing it.

Shirley Wolf
saw@wccta.net

TIME ETHICS

I often laugh at myself. I can lose track of the time during the day on any given day. But Flower Show time is special. I wake up wide eyed and bushy tailed.

Flowers have been cut the night before so they can have a long drink. The car is packed for the trip. Travel time is carefully calculated so there is plenty of time to arrive and place entries.

A successful Flower Show has many assigned duties for the committee members. A well run Flower Show depends on everyone arriving in a timely manner. Remember it's not about one person's entry, it's about many members participating in a timely manner. Entries close at a specific time for a good reason. The show area then needs to be cleared and cleaned so the classification and placement committee members can perform their responsibilities.

Flower shows are FUN, when everyone works together. We need to be considerate of our Garden Club friends and respectful of their time. This will keep us all stress free and keep friendships alive.

Are you ethical in your time management at Flower Show time?

Marlene Marolf
2nd Vice President



National Garden Week, June 2-8, 2019



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

PUBLICITY

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.

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: <http://www.gardenclub.org/>

- National Garden Week Poster 2019 or • National Garden Week Poster 2019 (fillable PDF)
- National Garden Week Proclamation

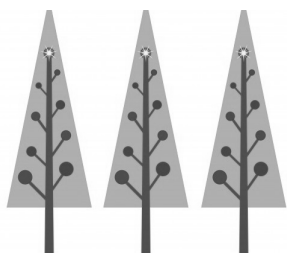
IDEAS FOR GARDEN WEEK FROM IOWA GARDEN CLUBS

- Keosauqua Town and Garden Club did a beautiful display in the bank window by member Vicki.
- Tipton Garden Club filled planters to be displayed at the local coffee shop.
- Floralia Arrangers Guild, Van Horne took flowers to local businesses.
- Marshalltown Garden Club learned about the Gallery Garden in downtown Marshalltown which features a vertical garden on the wall of the historic Kibbey building.
- Highland Park Garden Club had a "Make and Take" bouquet from members' gardens that were delivered to the Highland Park merchants.
- Cedar Falls Garden Club had an article in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier about their garden at the post office with a photo showing members planting and working in the garden.
- Palo Alto Garden Club hosted the chamber coffee during National Garden Week.

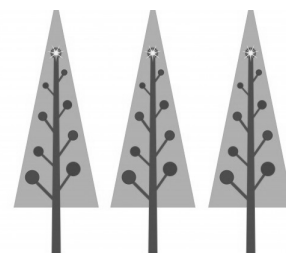
Other Ideas

- 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.

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



Happy Holidays!



MEET YOUR 2017-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



Deb Lewison is the new Bird Chairman. Deb loves birds, and loves to feed them and to listen to their songs. "It is an honor to serve as bird chairman." Deb has been married for 44 years, has 2 sons and 8 grandchildren. She has been gardening for 44 years. She has a large organic vegetable garden, as well as growing various fruits, an orchard, and vineyard. Deb

grows a wide variety of flowers, some of her favorites are peonies, roses, lilies, hemerocallis, iris, and wildflowers. Other hobbies include spinning, knitting, weaving, swimming, bicycling. She is a member of the Floyd Valley Federated Garden Club in LeMars, and a NGC Flower Show Judge.

Shirley Wolf is the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Chairman as well as the District VI Director.

Shirley has lived with her husband on a farm south of Farnhamville for the past 49 years. They raised two daughters and have 5 grandchildren. Shirley has always enjoyed gardening taught to her by her father. The last several years her passion for flowers have

taken over and can be seen in her flower beds all over the yard. Her favorite flower is the Asiatic lily, she just wishes it would last all summer. She is interested in a class on downsizing as you get older. Shirley has been retired since 2011 as Technology Administrator of Security Savings Bank. She is a member of the Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club and a NGC Flower Show Judge. She also works in her church, shows ponies, reads and has no problem keeping busy.



Sandy Heerema is our Recycling Chairman. She has been a member of the Pella Garden Club for over fifty years, serving as club president three times. She has served as District IV & V Director and State President from 1999-2001 and is a NGC Master Flower Show Judge. She has three children and eight grandchildren plus two who have decided to join their loving, hectic family. (She is not a great grandmother yet). She loves to garden, especially in the spring and fall. Sandy is also a Master Gardener. She has been the recycling Chairman for past few years.

PENNY PINES

NGC and the USDA Forest Service are proud partners in this reforestation/forest education program. With greater member support and advocacy, we can grow this program and increase its impact. Your Garden Club can participate in this meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68, or multiples of \$68, to Penny Pines. You can reach me with any questions at 712-540-4762 or by email: topdog51031@frontier.com.

At the State meeting in Mason City this year, I passed around the forms to all the clubs in attendance. I did talk about the importance of this program and what it means to contribute to such a worthy cause. For each \$68.00 contribution, you will receive a Penny Pines Certificate from National Garden Clubs, Inc. made "In Honor of: ____" or "In Memory of: ____" a special someone who has made a difference in the world, just by being in it. Your Garden Club can participate in this meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing \$68.00 to a Penny Pine plantation as part of the cost of replanting replacement and/or trees indigenous (Not Just Pine Trees) to a particular damaged area, whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe. You may designate a specific State you wish to have benefit from this contribution.

Susan Becker, Penny Pines Chairperson
topdog51031@frontier.com



PLANT IT PINK



Clubs are reminded that now is the time to include a "Plant it Pink" project in your 2019 budget. The National Federated Garden Clubs encourages local clubs to participate in this breast cancer awareness project.

The Marshalltown Federated Garden Club's "Plant it Pink" project was planting three Main Street corners and three flower pots at the Embers, a senior retirement facility. Unfortunately, due to the devastating tornado that hit Marshalltown on July 19, all of our plant it pink sites were destroyed. The club will replant those affected areas next spring.

Breast cancer is a non-discriminating disease that can affect both men and women. Local clubs are encouraged to participate in this worthwhile project in 2019.

Sue Ashton, Plant it Pink Chairman
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FGCI - Mission Statement

**To stimulate knowledge of gardening;
to aid in the protection of trees,
plants and birds;
to promote civic beautification**

My appreciation to Dr. Bob Hartzler and Meghan Anderson allowing me to share their article and photos in the NEWS. As gardeners, we need to keep a watchful eye out for this new invasive to Iowa.

MILE-A-MINUTE WEED FOUND IN IOWA

July 23, 2018 3:36 PM

Blog Post

Mile-a-minute weed (*Persicaria perfoliata*) is an invasive species in the Polygonaceae (smartweed) family that is native to Asia. It is believed to have been introduced to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's, but the initial introductions failed to form permanent infestations. The plant is suspected to have become permanently established following introduction to a plant nursery in eastern Pennsylvania in the 1930's or 1940's, possibly with imported rhododendron plants. Since then the plant has spread westward; the most recent USDA map indicates infestations in the mid-Atlantic states and west to Ohio and Kentucky. EDDMapS indicates an infestation in one Indiana county. MAMW is also found in Oregon.

A landowner near Knoxville, IA contacted the Marion County Extension office regarding a weed after a friend tentatively identified the plant as mile-a-minute weed (MAMW). The landowner had been battling the plant for three years, and believed he was starting to lose the war. We, along with a representative from IDALS, visited the site on July 19 to confirm that the weed was indeed the invasive plant not known to be present in Iowa. Once we arrived, it was clear that the plant was indeed MAMW.

MAMW has several unique characteristics that differentiate it from other vine weeds in Iowa and simplify its identification. These traits include: leaves shaped like an equilateral triangle; short, curved spines on stems and petioles; circular ochrea at leaf nodes; and small blue fruit produced in clusters, each containing a single seed. Like most members of the Polygonaceae family, the white flowers of MAMW are small and inconspicuous. The plant is adapted to wet areas with full sun, and frequently invades forest edges, stream banks, and roadsides. It is not considered a threat to agricultural fields.

The plant is spread locally by birds consuming the fruit. Since the plant is not known to be in the region, it is likely the introduction to this site was facilitated by human activities. Our best guess is that seed of MAMW was brought to Iowa via plants purchased from a nursery in a state infested with MAMW. The infestation was located at the edge of a wooded area and well-maintained gardens. We did not find presence of MAMW in the wooded area with deep shade or along a stream below the property.

Although this was our first encounter with MAMW, it was easy to see why the plant is considered a threat. This infestation was less than a quarter acre in size, but it was crowding out existing vegetation. The weight of the plant was pulling down a stand of miscanthus, a species known for establishing monocultures.

There is no easy method to eradicating weed infestations, whether it is mile-a-minute weed, Palmer amaranth, or Canada thistle. It appears this infestation had been present for at least five years, thus there will be a large seed bank present. Studies have shown seed can survive for at least eight years, and management will take a long-term commitment. The landowner has used postemergence applications of glyphosate and growth regulator herbicides. While these are effective, the prolonged emergence patterns will require multiple applications during the growing season. These products also will damage other plants in the area, opening the site up for invasion of other weeds or new flushes of MAMW. The plant has a small root system, so hand pulling is a relatively easy (gloves are recommended due to the spines) and effective way to remove plants.

While this is the first discovery of this invasive species in Iowa, humans are extremely effective at inadvertently moving invasive species to new locations. If you find MAMW or another weed you suspect to be an invasive species, please contact us for information on identification and management.

Dr. Bob Hartzler is a professor of agronomy and an extension weed specialist and He conducts research on weed biology and how it impacts the efficacy of weed management programs in corn and soybean. Dr. Hartzler also teaches undergraduate classes in weed science and weed identification.

Meaghan Anderson is a field agronomist in east central Iowa and an extension program specialist at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Jane Buck
FGCI Invasive Plant
Chairman
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Photo shows an up close look at the triangler shaped leaves of the Mile-A-Minute Plant. Please check website for colored photos.



IT'S A WRAP

The 86th Annual Central Region Convention, led by Region Director Fran Stueck, came to an official close Tuesday evening, October 23. It capped a highly successful, informative, enlightening and fun event in Frankenmuth, Michigan, hosted by the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Here is a farewell recap of the events.

The Bavarian Inn and Lodge provided four major meals, and gracious hospitality. The kickoff event was an NGC Horticultural Specialty Flower Show featuring great exhibits and entries. While the exhibits were set in place and judged, there was a bus tour to Midland, Michigan where attendees experienced the longest canopy walk in the country at Whiting Forest of Dow Gardens. Meanwhile back in Frankenmuth, others took self-guided tours of the city's historic sites, and some participated in a workshop learning how to create pretzels.

The evening dinner featured strolling accordion music, and a presentation by the 97 years young matriarch of the Bavarian Inn, Dorothy Zender. Dinner was followed by the awards presentation and recognition of the seven state presidents. Entertainment featured each president, and an aide, in creating their own Blumenkranz (German head piece). This fun experience was topped off with a presidential parade of their designs.

Tuesday's schedule included the annual meeting and three major speakers – one at each meal. They were: Gene Hopp, (owner of Frankenmuth Florist), Kyle Bagnal (program manager of Dow Gardens' Whiting Forest), and Jan Bills, (owner of Two Women and a Hoe and author of Late Bloomer; How to Garden With Comfort, Ease and Simplicity in the Second Half of Life).



State President Juliene Bramer and President-Elect Terri Ewers enjoyed making prestzels at the CR Mtg.

Throughout the afternoon there were vendor booths to visit and workshops covering harvest centerpiece creations, another pretzel making opportunity, and a presentation teaching how to create a pollinator garden. Before I say Auf Wiedersehen, I want to extend a Big Thank You to all those from Michigan Garden Clubs who contributed hours and hours of time in addition to their talents to make this convention one to remember. Now I can say, "Auf Wiedersehen. See you at our 87th convention next year in St. Charles, Missouri."

Sharon Yantis, Central Region 2018 Convention Chairman



Attending the CR Convention left to right back row Fran and Ted Stueck. Front row Jane Buck, Juliene Bramer and Terri Ewers.

CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR FRAN STUECK SCHOLARSHIP

The \$1,000 Horticulture Scholarship has been awarded. The FGCI Board voted to honor Fran Stueck, the 2017-2019 Central Region Director, with a \$1,000 scholarship given to a horticulture student in an Iowa Community College. The winner is Cole Rozendaal starting his second year at Hawkeye Community College.

Cole is from New Sharon, Iowa and is majoring in Natural Resource Management. His goal is to provide and improve the habitat of Iowa's natural beauty and find a job working on Iowa prairies, wetlands and woodlands. Congratulations Cole Rozendaal!



Interesting tidbits:

- Bee cause east-facing flowers warm up quicker, they attract five times as many pollinators as west-facing flowers!
- Compost, forget the rules - just do it!
- Snake Grass or Equisetum, whatever killed the dinosaurs couldn't kill this.

DISTRICT AND CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT 1

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Keosauqua Town and Country Garden Club had a work day at the Rose Garden in September. A new member added more rose bushes, the garden is looking great! August brought a day trip to the Dancing Rabbit Eco Village. For the Festival of Trees they will decorate a tree to put outside for the birds, seeds and peanut butter are made into ornaments for the birds to enjoy. December will be a luncheon and cookie exchange.

Tipton Garden Club enjoyed an interesting landscape program by Chuck Porto in August. In September the club visited Cedar Manor Nursing Home to make floral arrangements for the residents' rooms and dining hall. The residents look forward to this annual event and so do the members. October is the last meeting with a pot luck supper and installation of new officers. The winter will be spent finalizing the plans for hosting the District 1 Meeting May 21, 2019.

Muscataine Garden Club will be planning programs for 2019 and elect officers in November. A holiday party at Norma Kasten's home is planned for in December.

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Cottage Garden Society of Vinton is sorry to report that the majority of their members voted to discontinue their membership in the FGCI as of May, 2018. Time constraints, grandchildren's activities, health, and age were cited as reasons to become a less active group. The District II club members wish them the very best, and hope that they will still continue to enjoy gardening for many years to come.

Decorah Town and Country Garden Club took a walking tour of the Decorah Community Prairie and Butterfly Garden in August. In September, club members toured the gardens of Mary and Eric Weis of Decorah. Garden therapy was the program focus for the month of October, club members helped residents of Aase Haugen Home paint pumpkins.

Floralia Arrangers Guild of Van Horne lunched in Cedar Rapids before they enjoyed a tour of Wanda's Lunn's gardens. Wanda has many award winning lily, daylily and iris. Floralia members worked the concession stand at the Van Horne Recreation Center for a day in September as a fundraiser. A report was given on the number of exhibits at the flower show, and the duties of the flower show chairmen were explained. A program on "Winged Wonders" was given about butterflies. A lesson was presented on how to dry hydrangeas and examples of different varieties of dried hydrangeas were shown. Members are making plans to use dried gourds for the Christmas table decorations at the Keystone Care Center. Club members decorated grapevine wreaths using a variety of fall decorations.

Good Earth Garden Club of Cedar Rapids had a "Show and Tell" program in September. Members brought things they grew in their garden to share with the club. In October, "Straw Bale Gardening" was presented by Barbara Wing, Linn County Master Gardener. Bulletin news shared information on fertilizers for various garden plants, including how bone meal helps bulbs and which fertilizers are helpful for garden plants such as cabbage, lettuce, and beets. Editor John Layton of the "Pollinator" also gave helpful hints on "walking onions" and selecting peppers for pickling and canning and techniques for over wintering geraniums.

Independence Garden Club learned about "Residential Turfgrass" from Dr. Adam Thoms from ISU in August. Adam provided a wealth of information on how to diagnose problems in your lawn, selecting the right variety of grass based on location in your yard, and steps to take to insure a lush, beautiful lawn. September club members took to the road with a trip to Ames to tour Reiman Gardens. Despite the rain, the gardens provided a variety of fall blooms that gave ideas for home gardens. In October, Brenda Hackbarth presented a program on "Blue Star Markers". Interest was sparked by the development of a Veterans Memorial in Independence.

Quasqueton Garden Club members took

a road trip to the nearby town of Jesup to visit the old, one-room schoolhouse that was moved to the corner of the current Jesup school grounds. Local Master Gardeners and FGCI members have teamed up with the Jesup school children to provide flowerbeds and landscaping to the site. The Jesup FFA tends the prairie grasses and prairie flowers in the adjoining acres surrounding the little school. The club members enjoyed touring the grounds to see the prairie wildflowers, viewing the old varieties of barnyard flowers, and reminiscing about the days of the one-room schoolhouses. Flower craft was the focus for the September meeting. In October, Quasky members had fun creating fall arrangements on grapevine wreaths using a variety of silk and dried flowers, berries, pinecones, acorns, and grasses in warm, autumn colors.

Vinton Garden Club shared the news that their club will be significantly downsizing at the conclusion of this year. Age, health, and other issues have prompted their decision. Fran Stueck, FGCI Central Region director, shared that she and her husband Ted hosted the Muscataine Garden Club on their 200 acres of prairie and wildflowers this summer. They planted the acres two years ago and were delighted to take visiting members for a ride through the prairie where a path was mowed. We hope the Vinton Garden Club members will be able to continue to enjoy planting and enjoying their gardens for many years into the future

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Algona Garden Club held its flower show in conjunction with the Kossuth County Fair in August. Currently the club is focusing on landscaping the area around the old country school house that has been moved onto the fair grounds. The club made holiday wreaths which will be sold during the "Living Christmas Card" event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce in November.

Green Thumb Garden Club in Northwood toured the Charles City rural home of Jean King in July to see her interesting gardens and lunched at the Pub by the Cedar River. Garden Therapy was bringing garden flowers to the Lutheran Retirement Home so residents could make arrangements for their rooms and treats to share during

afternoon coffee in July. The club planted 3 trees (2 maples and 1 oak) in memory of three former members who have passed away. "Curb Appeal" has encouraged town residents to brighten and take extra care for their yards. Selected "Curb Appeal" yards along with their owners are photographed and published in the local paper the *Anchor*. A tour of R. J. Weselmann's prairie scheduled for August was cancelled due to weather, but rescheduled to September. Members enjoyed a the educational tour. R. J. shared many wild prairie seeds with those attending. Cheryl Nitcher gave a program on pruning perennials at in September. Ruth Robb talked about stained glass window creations in October and showed some of her art work. November 26 will be a holiday decorating program.

Swaledale Federated Garden Club met at Clear Lake and enjoyed a stroll through the Central Gardens of North Iowa. This 2.75 acre garden has become a premiere outdoor educational, recreational, cultural and social space for all to enjoy. It was a great place to meet and view the beautiful scenery minus a mosquito or two! August found the club back in Clear Lake at the B&B of club member Carolyn Abujobarah. It was fun to learn the history of this large home and enjoy an example of the breakfast that is served to guests that stay there----very delicious! In September they gathered at the Landfill of North Iowa, which in addition to having a beautiful facility, offers top shelf educational programs including a bus tour for the many groups that pass through. In October the club visited Lime Creek Nature Center in Mason City, hiked the trails and held the annual club elections.

Radcliffe Better Homes and Gardens Club have enjoyed summer activities. The Rorem Mini-Park, that they tend, has looked good all summer and this fall it's dressed it up with mums, pumpkins, gourds, bales and scarecrows. September was a guest potluck. October was the Hubbard Care Center for a craft activity with the residents. October is also when they team up with the elementary art teacher for a pumpkin decorating contest for 5th grade students. November meeting was a craft class. December they will be providing pies for the local craft fair lunch.

Marshalltown Garden Club's Accents on Entertaining "A Country Tea," and program "Farm to Vase" by a speaker from Elizabella Flower Farm, was well received. Much of the proceeds from Accents will go for trees in Marshalltown, to replace some that were lost in the devastating July 19 tornado. The board has been busy finalizing the schedule and programs for the 2019. December will be installation of officers.

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Afton Federated Garden Club hosted a fall luncheon in October for 30, the Bevington and Winterset garden attended. Steve Wainwright (Jonny Apple Seed) from Ladoga LaBlanche orchards west of Bedford was the guest speaker. Members enjoyed a fall trip to visit his orchard and make apple cider, hayride and wiener roast. *"We all lose track of people that we have known and many of FGCI members have asked about our member Olive Kerns. Olive had been a flower judge for many years but age has prohibited her to continue her love of gardening and the Federated Garden Club. For the past two years Olive has been a resident of the Creston Care Center, in Creston Iowa. In October, Olive was moved by a nephew to Texas where she has family. On January 14, Ms. Olive Catherine Kerns will be 95 and if you want to send her a card or letter, her address is Sandy Lake Rehab and Care Center, 1410 East Sandy Lake Road, Room 111, Coppell Texas 75019. Even though I have only known Olive for a short time, she has given me much knowledge and plants, Thanks Olive!"* by club president Shirley Wallace.

Ackworth Garden Club held their Youth Container Contest at the Warren County Fair for Warren Co. kids in K – 12. Members were on the road for September's meeting visiting Quilted Gardens & Nursery with a great program on Conifers by Barry Laws, owner. In September they sponsored the Biggest Pumpkin/Giant Sunflower contest for Warren County Youth K – 12 with a total of 24 entries. October was a program on Current Garden Trends by Megan Hughes, garden magazine writer. In November they placed wreaths for Veterans at the Ackworth Church Cemetery. Garden Therapy committee will be participating in Festival of Trees and Holiday Floral Arranging project at Vintage Hills retirement community.

Ames Garden Club members enjoyed hands-on activity of making Kokedama moss balls in October. In November they made ornaments for a holiday tree at the Iowa Arboretum.

Grant Sunshine Garden Club enjoyed a road trip to Freedom Creek Prairie in Adams County where seeds of native wild flowers are hand collected from one of the few remaining areas of remnant prairie in Iowa. How, where and when to plant these seeds to enhance backyards, nourish songbirds, butterflies, bees and wildlife was covered during the day. A breakfast

with the birds trip was enjoyed while learning from Kay Newman of SOAR about the raptor rehabilitation efforts made in our area. A rehabbed barred owl and a peregrine falcon were on display. Two screech owls were ready for release. The last road trip was to Ladoga LaBlanche Orchards near Bedford. Members toured the little red schoolhouse and learned about many different varieties of apples. A hayrack ride ended in the orchard where everyone filled their bags with apples to take home. The day ended with a lunch cooked over the campfire.

Baxter Garden Club members toured gardens for the July meeting. The August meeting was attending the farmers market in Des Moines. The Kellogg Garden Club members were guests for the September meeting held at the Newton Arboretum. Guest speaker was extension horticulturalist John Krzton-Presson who spoke on raspberries and strawberries.

Greater Des Moines Garden Club September general meeting was a presentation by Marilyn Moore on Dried Flower Arrangements. October was the annual SILENT AUCTION and Jodi Holt, Des Moines Feed and Grain, talked on "Feeding Birds and Winter Critters." In November the Greater Des Moines Garden Club will celebrated their 100th year with a joint meeting with the Highland Park and Urbandale Clubs. They will end the year in December with a Holiday Tea.

Kellogg Garden Club members toured the flower gardens of member, Laura Hanawalt. She has developed striking flower beds in a short time. Following that tour members were guests of the Baxter Garden Club at the Newton Arboretum for a special presentation by John Krzton-Presson, ISU Extension Horticulture and Local Foods Program Coordinator. He spoke on successfully growing raspberries and strawberries in Iowa. Later in the month the Baxter club joined the Kellogg club for a tour of Chuck Jackson's local orchard. He grows cherries, peaches, pears and apples. The groups learned how to stem graft apples trees.

Highland Park Garden Club enjoyed a discussion by Joan Frerichs on the difference between onions and shallots and the usage of shallots in cooking in September. October's topic was on herbs and spices and their uses, not only for cooking but also their health properties. In November they enjoyed meeting with the Greater Des Moines Garden Club for the annual get-together and their 100th year celebration.

Moravia Garden Club has had a quiet summer with ongoing maintenance of the planter boxes in the Moravia Park. They

hosted the Centerville and Albia Garden Clubs at their annual guest day picnic in August (an inside picnic due to rain). Two of members judged flower displays at the Monroe County Fair and a member also judges flowers at the Moravia Fall Festival. **Pella Garden Club** is off and running with this year's theme of "Seeds of Today, Flowers of Tomorrow". September meeting was a presentation by Jim White from Bates in Grinnell. He demonstrated how to create balance and how to make a "pettable" design. Tulip bulb mania took place the week of October 8. The bulbs sold at "Tulip Time" arrived from Holland; members box up and mail thousands of bulbs during that one week period.

Urbandale Garden Club had a successful plant sale of items donated by members and friends in May. Summer was spent working with the Urbandale Historical Society to develop a Pollinator Garden and meet the qualifications for the Monarch Watch Waystation program. Planting was also done at the entrance of Karen Acres Care Center. Sandy Taylor, a local florist, provided a helpful program on the selection and care of houseplants and bouquets. Mark Schneider spoke on What's New at the Iowa Arboretum.

Woodland Hills Garden Club July meeting was a tour of the Enabling Garden in Altoona and a member's home garden. September's meeting was on clematis by a club member, she has over 20 kinds in her garden. In October club members changed out the Library plants to a fall theme with hay bales, pumpkins and a few ghouls. October's program was on getting tools ready for winter.

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Ft. Dodge Federated Garden Club's October meeting was on Birds, and a study of Succulents. In November, the members will share centerpieces, getting ready for the holiday season and study Moss Rose as the ground cover.

Madrid Garden Club held its annual Flower Show on Labor Day weekend, though the number of entries was down due to unusual weather, it was a nice show with good attendance. They are looking forward to the end of the season that includes a surge of preparation for next year. They continue to prep for the 2019 District meeting that they will be hosting on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at the Iowa Arboretum.

Estherville Garden Club had an informative talk on Rain Gardens and Urban Water Conservation by Hannah Vorrie, Urban Conservationist in April. For roll call members brought a May basket to exchange. May's meeting was held at the Emmet County Nature Center with a program by Ashley Reed, their Conservationist. Club members maintain two large city park gardens near the Des Moines River (one was flooded for several weeks). They enjoyed touring 2 local residents' flower gardens in June. In July the club enjoyed an illustrated talk on "Floral Design" by Rebecca Masters. In August member Hazel Wilson presented a program on Powis Castle, which is located near her hometown in Wales. Madonna Johnson gave "Seed Saving" ideas in September. The club made donations to the Community Christmas Project, the hospital, public library and the Head Start Reading Program.

Palo Alto Garden Club took a field trip to the Prairie Pedlar in Odebolt and the Lavendar Farms of the Loess Hills in July. What a beautiful place! They also faced the club challenge to submit at least one entry in baking or horticulture classes at the county fair. They didn't quite meet it, but the open classes at the fair benefited greatly from member participation. In August they toured a local Aronia Berry farm, learning about the health benefits of Aronia berries and how to grow them. They also enjoyed samples of the berries as well as jams, juices and wines made from Aronia berries

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Kingsley Garden Club's October's program was around fall decorations, centerpieces and garden clean up. November's program was on the Dipladenias. Members also worked with third graders to make Christmas ornaments. A new story was written by Darla Rock for the activity. The fourth graders will work on Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl posters.

Little Sioux Garden Club brought enjoyment to residents of Linn Grove, Sioux Rapids, and the Pre-School Children at Sioux Central School in October. The club gathered two pickup loads of Pumpkins to give out. Pumpkins were given to residences who did not have one. They also collected colored Gourds for the Gourd Group. Blue Star Markers at Hwys 3 & 71 and in Linn Grove have been weeded and Daffodil planted for next spring.

Clay County Federated Garden Club's October meeting program was Mindy Silvester on Aronia berries. November's meeting was an organizational meeting for their annual Christmas Luncheon, bizarre and bake sale on December 1st. Club members will decorate tables with dinnerware set for 8 and a centerpiece, setting off the holiday season with a sit down dinner prepared and served with class and style.

2018 Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation
 (Required by USPS PS Form 3526)

- 1) Publication Title:
NEWS of Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa
- 2) Publication Number: 387-340
- 3) Filing Date: 9-30-2019
- 4) Issue Frequency: Quarterly
- 5) No. of Issues Published Annually: 4
- 6) Annual Subscription Price: \$10.00
- 7) Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication:
2506 Northwestern Ave, Ames, IA 50010
Contact Person: Sandra Gossman
(515) 232-5110
- 8) Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:
2506 Northwestern Ave,
Ames, IA 50010-4637
- 9) Full Name and Complete Mailing address of Publisher, Editor/Managing Editor:
NEWS of Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.
2506 Northwestern Ave,
Ames, IA 50010-4637
Editor: Sandra Gossman, 2506 Northwestern Ave,
Ames, IA 50010-4637
Managing Editor: None
- 10) Owner: Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.,
502 E. 9th St., Wallace Bldg,
Des Moines, IA 50319-0058
- 11) Known Bondholders, Mortgages etc: None
- 12) Tax Status: 1) Has not Changed During Preceding 12 months.
- 13) Publication Title:
NEWS of Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.
- 14) Issue Date of Circulation: Fall (September)
- 15) Extent and Nature of Circulation
Ave. No. Copies / No. Copies Single Issue
a) Number. of Copies (Press run) 1071 / 1044
b) 1. Requested Copies outside co. 1063/1044
b) 2. Pd in Co. 8 / 0
b) 3. Sales through Dealers 0 / 0
b) 4. Other Classes Mailed 0 / 0
c) Total Pd 1071 / 1044
d) Nonrequested Distribution
1) Outside County by mail 0 / 0
2) Inside County by mail 0 / 0
3) Nonrequested by other classes of mail 0/0
4) Nonrequested copies distributed outside the mail 10/10
e) Nonrequested Distribution 10 / 10
f) Total Distribution 1181 / 1054
g) Copies not Distribution 35 / 30
h) Total 1216 / 1084
i) Percent Paid 90% / 99%
- 17) Publication Statement of Ownership
Printed in Winter Issue (December 1, 2017)
- 18) Signature and Title:
Sandra Gossman, Editor 9-30-2018

NEWS of the
Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa,
Inc.
2506 Northwestern Ave
Ames, IA 50010-4637

Postmaster - Form 3579 to above address

PERIODICALS
USPS 387-340



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2002 Madison Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

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