

NEWS

OF THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

SUMMER 2014



*JUNE IS BUSTIN'
OUT IN IOWA*

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DATEBOOK 2014

June 2	Districts 4, 5, & 7 Annual Meeting
June 19-20	FGCI Annual Flower Show & Meeting, Iowa City
July 28-29	Judges Symposium, Marshalltown, IA
Sept 11-12	Gardening Study Course IV, Luther, IA
Sept 5	FGCI Fall Board Meeting, Marshalltown, IA
Sept 18-20	Flower Show School, Ft. Dodge, IA
Sept 23-28	NGC Fall Board Meeting, Des Moines, IA
October 9-11	Central Region Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

DATEBOOK 2015

April 25	District 3 Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA
May 1	District 2 Annual Meeting
May 12-18	NGC National Convention, Louisville, KY
June 1	District 4, 5, & 7 Annual Meeting
June 18-19	FGCI Annual Flower Show and Meeting
October 3-5	Central Region Meeting, Cedar Rapids, Iowa



NEWS

of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.

SUMMER 2014

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Theme: "Own Your Zone - Grow the World Around You"

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DEADLINES

For articles submitted for NEWS

Spring Issue	February 1
Summer Issue	May 1
Fall Issue	August 1
Winter Issue	November 1

Please send information - articles - special club dates to:

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www.gardenclubsofiowa.org

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

Central Region Website:

www.ngccentralregion.org

Iowa Horticulture Society:

www.iowahort.org

Iowa State Extension Service:

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

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CLUBS OF IOWA
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**FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA
2013-2015 Theme: "Own Your Zone—Grow the World Around You."**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Warm weather greetings to Iowa's gardeners. Spring has finally sprung, and I hope by the time you receive this issue of The NEWS, that all of you will be enjoying this warmer weather and are able to be out in your gardens. My husband and I spent the last two days working out in some of our plantings, cleaning out debris from the prolonged winter, and looking for long-delayed spring perennials to make an appearance. As we worked, I thought how similar tending our garden plots resembles the groundwork we all do in maintaining our garden clubs. At the club level, we put in hard work on our individual projects, planning interesting programs to feed our members' interests, and paying special attention to the newcomers to our club, just as we

give special attention to the new additions to our gardens. In that same way, your Annual State Meeting and Flower Show chair persons have been working hard, preparing an interesting and entertaining event for your education and enjoyment. The groundwork has been laid by the selection of the hotel, the engagement of the speakers, and the planning of a vibrant flower show. You will find all the information needed to register for this meeting on pages 5 & 6 in this issue. Please lend your support to the state organization by planning to attend.

Spring and summer are also full of many other educational opportunities for our members. I have attended one District Meeting and two garden club events so far this year. All three of them have featured very interesting speakers. It is fun to realize that even at my greatly advanced age, there is always something new to learn about the art of gardening. As I go on to attend more District Meetings around the state, I hope to see an energized attendance of members and their guests, ready to join me in learning something else new.

I would also take this opportunity to remind you that you still have time to submit nominations for Circle of Roses awards for worthy and outstanding members of your clubs. Persons so honored will be recognized at the Annual meeting on June 20.

There is also still time for clubs to participate in my State President's Project, which encourages the use of Earthkind Roses in public and private plantings. Entries are closed for 2014, but there will be an additional award available in 2015, so be planning ahead when you are determining upcoming projects for your club.

Finally, take a look back in your Fall 2013 issue of The NEWS, and see if there is any way for your club to take advantage of the many awards available through our National President, Linda Nelson's, project, *Making A World of Difference—Choices Matter*.

See you soon in Iowa City. Happy Gardening! *Sandy*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

JUDGES WORKSHOP

Districts 1, 2 & 3

Date: Monday, Sept 15, 2014

Place: Ray House, 912 First Avenue, Vinton
Set up & Coffee at 9 AM Meeting at 10 AM

“DAZE OF FALL”

HORTICULTURE “Harvest Time”

SECTION A Arboreal Branches Handbook pg106

Classes determined by Judges. Exhibits correctly named, length not to exceed 30 inches. Displayed in appropriate size clear bottle.

SECTION B Fruits, Vegetables and Nuts Handbook pgs 108-9
Displayed on paper plates provided by exhibitor.

1. Large Specimens - 1 ea.
2. Medium Specimens - 3 ea.
3. Small Specimens - 6 ea.
4. Nuts - 3 ea.

Section C Cut Specimens – Flowers.

Exhibits correctly named and displayed in clear container provided by exhibitor, wedging permissible. Classes determined by Judges

Section D Any other worthy horticulture correctly named and properly exhibited.

DESIGN

Class 1 “Golden Daze of Autumn” - Exhibition Table Type II - Handbook page 216. Designers Choice. Staged in an innovative manner. Space provided 20 inches deep by 24 inches wide, unlimited height.

Class 2 “Natures Bounty” - Designers Choice of materials and type. Space provided 20 inches deep by 24 inches wide, unlimited height.

Class 3 “Fall” - Duo Design Handbook page 200. Designers Choice. Exhibitor to provide own pedestal.

Small (HB pg 208) and Miniature (HB pg 203) Designs

Class 4 “All Natural” Small Design - Panel Design – Handbook pg 205. Staged on mantel at eye level

Class 5 “Natures Forms” Miniature Design - Sculpture Design – Handbook pg 208. Staged on mantel at eye level.

All Garden Club members welcome to come and participate. Judges Bring Handbook and something for Ways & means. Please pre-register with Marti Bargman 319-989-2283 by September 10.

STATE FUND-RAISER

Recycle your used printer cartridges, used cell phones, etc. Funding Factory has just 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 and cell phones. 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 goes into the FGCI Scholarship Fund.

Sandy Heerema, Environmental Chairman
sheeree@windstream.net

FGCI ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW TREASURER

Due to illness Angie Wilkins has had to resign as FGCI State Treasurer. Angie would like to thank the many garden club members who have sent her cards of encouragement and well wishes.

Kathy Elliff from Marshalltown has graciously accepted appointment to the position for the rest of the 2013-2015 term. Kathy served as FGCI treasurer for a number of years in the past.

Message to Club Presidents and Club Treasurers

All new member information, changes in your members addresses during the year, and members who are no longer with your club, need to be sent to Kathy. Also, if you have contributions to FGCI Scholarships for Horticulture and Landscape Design, or general contributions to the FGCI Schools, please send to Kathy.

Please write check to: Federated Garden Club of Iowa. Other contributions your club may make that are outside of FGCI, should be sent directly to that organization – not to the FGCI Treasurer. If you have questions regarding finance contributions, please call or email.

Kathy Elliff
913 West Church St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Phone: (641-752-3941) Email: kleliff@hotmail.com

PLANT IT PINK

“Hope Blooms for Breast Cancer”

Get creative! Plant pink flowers to show hope and awareness of breast cancer, and encourage others to join in!

Flowers can be planted at: Hospitals- Memorial Gardens
- Private Gardens - Cancer Centers - Garden Therapy Projects

These efforts will help everyone remember the importance of breast cancer awareness, early detection, and steps to ensure that all women have access to the lifesaving screenings they need. Make a statement with pink flowers for breast cancer awareness!

There will be a monetary prize to the best entrant at the State Meeting, June 20, 2014.

Entrants may contact Denice Stephenson at
estep2@yahoo.com or 319-472-4170.



Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.
83rd Annual State Meeting
AND
Flower Show

*JUNE IS BUSTIN'
OUT IN IOWA*

June 19 – 20, 2014

Sheraton Hotel

210 S. Dubuque Street

Iowa City, IA 52240

319-337-4058

FLOWER SHOW - Thursday, June 19

Entries: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Judging: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Open and Free to the Public: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., June 20

Friday, June 20, 2014

83rd ANNUAL FGCI MEETING

Sheraton Hotel

Schedule of Events

8:00- 9:30 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Rolls,
View Flower Show, Ways and Means, Etc.

9:30 a.m. Meeting Called to Order

Business Meeting

Program: "How to Design A Theme Garden," Speaker, Lisa Orgler

12:00 p.m. – Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Unfinished Business – Scholarships, Awards

Central Region Director Gerry Ford – Comments

Program – "History of Flour Sacks," Speaker, Mike Zahs

Business Meeting Resumes

Circle of Roses Presentations

Door Prizes

3:45 p.m. – Meeting Adjourns

4:00 p.m. – Flower Show Closes

**EARLY REGISTRATION FORM
FGCI ANNUAL MEETING
June 20, 2014**

Sheraton Iowa City Hotel, 210 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

FGCI District _____ Garden Club _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Member Status (please check all that apply)

State Officer _____ Past State President _____ State Life Member _____

District Director _____ Past District Director _____ Guest _____

Board Member _____ Flower Show Judge _____

Club President _____ Landscape Design Consultant _____

Club Member _____ Garden Consultant _____

_____ Reservation for Thursday June 19, evening dinner with special guest NGC Central Region Director Gerry Ford
(pay at the time of meal)

REGISTRATION - State Meeting Fee - \$35.00 After June 1, 2014 - \$40.00

Fee includes registration, morning coffee, lunch and programs

Make Checks payable to: FGCI 2014 Annual Meeting

**Send to: Muscatine Garden Club, c/o Janet Kardux
2478 Hummingbird Lane, Muscatine, Iowa 52761
Ph: 563-263-5515, jkardux@yahoo.com**

Accommodations: Sheraton Iowa City Hotel, 210 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240, 1-800-848-1335 , 1-319-337-4058 or Fax to 1-319-337-7037. \$99.00 for 2 Queen Beds until May 26, 2014. After May 26, rate based on availability. Make sure to mention FGCI when making your reservation. Reservations may also be made on a dedicated website using the following link: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1306141414&key=64B94> (Please be aware the dates listed on the hotel website are for Wednesday and Thursday evenings.) Parking is available in an adjacent parking structure for \$11 for a 24-hour period.

DIRECTIONS TO Sheraton Iowa City Hotel

From East

Take Interstate 80 to Exit 244. Go south on Dubuque Street until you come to Washington Street. Turn left onto Washington Street. Travel one block and make a right onto Linn Street. Travel two blocks and make a right onto Burlington. Travel one block and turn right onto Dubuque Street and proceed to the hotel.

From West

Take Interstate 80 to Exit 244. Go south on Dubuque Street until you come to Washington Street. Turn left onto Washington Street and travel one block. Turn right onto Linn Street and travel two blocks. Turn right onto Burlington. Travel one block and make a right onto Dubuque Street and proceed to the hotel.

From South

Take State Highway 218 to Interstate 80 East. Travel on Interstate 80 East and exit at Exit 244. Go south on Dubuque Street until you come to Washington Street. Turn left onto Washington Street and proceed one block and turn right onto to Linn Street. Go two

blocks and take a right onto Burlington. Travel one block and turn right onto Dubuque Street and proceed to the hotel.

From North

Take Interstate 380 to Interstate 80 East. Take Interstate 80 to Exit 244. Go south on Dubuque Street until you reach Washington Street. Make a left onto Washington Street. Go one block to Linn Street. Take a right onto Linn Street. Go two blocks and take a right onto Burlington. Go one block and turn right onto Dubuque Street and proceed to the hotel.

NOTE: AT TIME OF PRINTING, DUBUQUE STREET IS CLOSED TO WESTBOUND TRAFFIC. IF IT IS STILL CLOSED AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING, PLEASE USE EXIT 246, THE DODGE STREET EXIT. PROCEED SOUTH TO BURLINGTON STREET, TURN RIGHT AND FOLLOW BURLINGTON TO THE HOTEL AT THE INTERSECTION OF DODGE STREET AND BURLINGTON.

STATE MEETING AND FLOWER SHOW ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE FLOWER SHOW

Don't miss your chance to enter the 2014 State Flower Show! Read through the schedule that celebrates Iowa gardens and decide how you'd like to challenge yourself. Then volunteer your entries in design, special exhibits, and horticulture collections and displays. We want to make sure that we reserve adequate display space for your creative work.

Please use the "contact..." line to phone or email the class consultant. Whether consultant or competitor, please confirm that your entry information is correct. If consultants don't have enough volunteers, they'll be contacting you. Beat the rush and choose the classes you're most interested in! Design Consultants will need to contact Roberta Bowie at least one week in advance of the show, by June 12. That allows time to produce entry tags and have them ready when exhibitors arrive. Exhibitors, when you arrive, be sure that the tag is complete on the bottom-most portion. Return address labels are great! Also, please add your club affiliation.

Advance Horticulture entries go to Mary Boysen; Special Exhibits and Youth Exhibits go to consultants, then to Juliene Bramer. We will also use entry numbers for easy and accurate clerking. Be sure your entry tag has a number. If it doesn't, be sure to get one at the Registration desk. You'll use the same number for all divisions.

Thank you to all the Chairmen and Consultants that said 'yes' when asked to help. We could not put on a flower show without your help! We are looking forward to seeing you in Iowa City on June 19 and 20.

Roger Buhr and Donna Helgens Flower Show Co-Chairmen



PLEASE BRING EXTRA PLANTS, BAKED GOODS, ETC. FOR WAYS AND MEANS TABLE!

While at the State Meeting be sure to check out the fundraiser (ways and means) table for great bargains.

State Flower Show "JUNE IS BUSTIN' OUT IN IOWA"
Design Consultants for the State Flower Show June 19 still have openings in their design classes. Be sure to register soon. All design classes must have four pre-registered designs/designers!

Note: The 2014 State Flower Show Schedule was in the Spring 2014 issue of the NEWS. You will also be able to access the Spring NEWS on the FGCI website in the green box in the 'About Us' section.

2015 VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDARS

Don't miss out. We will have a limited supply of the 2015 Vision of Beauty calendars available at the state meeting in June.

To ensure you have a copy - pre-order!
Send a check made out to FGCI for \$6 per calendar. Please include the name of each member ordering along with your club's name.

Mail to: Terri Ewers, 2nd VP -FGCI,
10712 Jonquil Ave,
Clear Lake, IA 50428.

Your calendar will be available for pickup at the meeting June 19-20.

AWARDS

As the FGCI Award's Chairman, I reviewed the 2013 President's Report, Yearbooks and applications for awards. It is very impressive how busy your clubs are and the range of projects. Of Iowa's 52 clubs, I received 42 yearbooks, 41 President's Reports, 32 Advanced Club Ratings, 34 Blue Ribbon Club and 35 Blue Ribbon Yearbook applications. I have enjoyed presenting these awards and shaking your hand at District Meetings around the State and I thank you for taking the time to do these reports and applications.

And just a reminder that your 2014 yearbook was due May 1st to your state president, your district director and me. It is not too late, please do so today.

There will be more awards at the State Meeting in Iowa City on June 20. I hope your club is a recipient!

Juliene Bramer, FGCI 1st VP/Awards Chair
15677 110th Street
Greene, IA 50636
641-823-9908 mabramer@dishmail.net

Just find nature's address and come get your happiness.

CENTRAL REGION MEETING 2015

Mark your calendar, Iowa is host to the 2015 Central Region Meeting October 3-5. at the Hotel Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids. Fran Stueck is chairman and Denice Stephensen is co-chairman. of the event. There will be educational and fun speakers and workshops. A tour is in the planning for Saturday. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

If you are willing to help in anyway please let Fran Stueck know by email franstueck@yahoo.com or call 319-472-3032.

**FGCI JUDGES SYMPOSIUM
July 28 & 29, 2014
Fisher Comm. Center
709 So. Center St., Marshalltown, IA**

Flower Show Judges, Garden Club members and interested persons may attend lectures on payment of tuition. Only NGC Accredited Judges are eligible to take this Symposium for credit. Start time for both days 8:20 a.m.

July 28 (Mon) 8:00 a.m. Registration/Coffee
8:20 a.m. Announcements
8:30 a.m. Allied Topic: "Rain Gardens" (1st hour)
9:45 a.m. Design: Pot-et-Fleur and Op Art
Design Instructor: Liz Murken, Wisconsin

July 29 (Tues) 8:00 a.m. Registration/Coffee
8:20 a.m. Allied Topic: "Plants for Rain Gardens"
9:45 a.m. Horticulture: Zinnias/Roses
Horticulture Instructor: Judith Newman, Wisconsin

For more information please contact: Peggy Moody, Flower Show School Chair, 2022 Westwood Acres Dr., Ft. Dodge, IA 50501 (515)576-6021, email - pmmood@mhcsi.com

**FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA
GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL
COURSE IV - SESSION 10
IOWA ARBORETUM
1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA
(in the Hughes Education Center)
September 11-12, 2014**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 (Thursday)

8:15 a.m. COFFEE AND REGISTRATION
8:30 There Is A Water Feature For Every Garden
Jamie Beyer, Midwest Waterscapes
9:30 BREAK
9:45 Techniques For Growing Fruit
Gail Nonnecke, Professor, Horticulture, ISU
11:15 Home Irrigation Systems
Ryan Adams, ISU Lecturer/Turfgrass Ext. Spec.
12:15 p.m. LUNCH (**Please bring sack lunch**)
12:45 *Tree Identification
2:45-3:45 *Outdoor Identification Of Plants

SEPTEMBER 12, 2014 (Friday)

8:15 a.m. COFFEE
8:30 *Techniques For Growing Woody Ornamentals
10:00 BREAK
10:15 *Specialized Styles Of Gardening
Lynnette Carpenter, Horticulturist
12:15 p.m. LUNCH (**Please bring sack lunch**)
12:45 EXAM
*SUBJECTS TO BE TESTED.

No refreshments will be provided. Bring what you'd like. Recommended reading: LIVING WITH PLANTS by Schumann, review chapters 6 & 9. BOOKS AVAILABLE through National Garden Clubs, Inc. Phone: 1-800-550-6007. Master Gardeners may be awarded 1 hour CEU for each 1 hour of class time.

**Symposium 2014
REGISTRATION FORM:**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

_____ Full Course with exam	\$105.00
_____ Full Course-Auditing-Good Standing	\$105.00
_____ Full Course-General Attendance	\$100.00
_____ One day Registration	\$ 50.00
_____ Monday _____ Tuesday	
_____ Lunch \$10 per day	\$ 20.00
_____ Late Registration after July 21	\$ 5.00
_____ IA Judges Council Dues 2014 & 2015	\$ 20.00
TOTAL	_____

Status

_____ Accredited	Date:	Location:
_____ Life	Date:	Location:
_____ Master	Date:	Location:
_____ Student	Date:	Location:
_____ Guest		

Be sure to bring **1. The National Gardener Label**
2. Appropriate Application Form **3. Exhibit Verification form**

Make checks payable to: Iowa FGCI Judges Council
Mail to: Loretta Daisy, Symposium Registrar
123 South Wood Lawn,
Lake City, IA 51449-1728

**FGCI REGISTRATION - Gardening Study Course III
September 11-12, 2014**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Garden Club _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

New _____ Renewal _____ Last Course Attended _____

Class \$40.00 _____ Class+Testing \$45.00 _____ Class+Refresher \$45.00 _____
(Bring The National Gardener Label if testing or taken for credit)
Walk-in Welcome – but handouts may be limited

Make Check Payable to: GARDENING STUDY

**MAIL BY March 31, 2014 to: AdaMae Lewis, 122 N Russell Ave.,
Ames, IA 50010. E-mail: adamaelewis@gmail.com phone 515-232-0608**
_____ Unless checked we may use your name, address, telephone and e-mail to contact you with NGC information including future Gardening Study Schools.

THE TOP REASONS FOR ENTERING PETITE DESIGNS

Do you need to be convinced that petite designs can be fun and rewarding? Check out these reasons for creating petite designs. (David Letterman gives his top ten reasons nightly. Since this is about petite designs, the list will be petite, too, with only five reasons.)

- Transporting petite designs is so easy. Lightweight and small, they require minimal trips into the show area. There's no toting of heavy metal sculptures and tall backgrounds.
- Less storage space is required for your containers, backdrops, and dried plant materials.
- Petite plants take far less space in your garden. If you are limited in space or have had to downsize your garden, set aside a small space (maybe a corner or a whiskey barrel) for these diminutive plants
- Learning to create petite designs has fostered in me a new way of seeing. When I see plants or even pieces of them in the yard or garden, I think in new ways. Learning to meet a new challenge has helped me to grow and develop creativity. I've often had fun adapting an amazing design style from large to petite.
- Those miniature ribbons and small Petite rosettes are so cute hanging on the bulletin board in the flower room, and friends and colleagues are always fascinated by the petite designs.

Submitted by Jan Krass, Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club

INVITATION TO FGCI MEMBERS FROM THE FGCMN Autumn Splendor in Minnesota October 9-11, 2014

The 2014 Central Region Convention will be held at Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska, Minnesota. Come to the Twin Cities in the wonderful, colorful fall. When most people think of Minnesota they picture snow, cold, and darkness. But, guess what! We have splendid autumns. We really do! And, we have a world-class arboretum. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is home to all kinds of world renowned research. Northern hardy varieties of many plants, including the Northern Lights Azaleas and Northern Accents Roses were developed here. We developed a variety of sweet, wonderful apples (SweeTango, Honeycrisp, Zestar!). And there's a brand new \$2 million sculpture garden on the grounds, along with the Japanese Garden, the rose gardens, annual beds, prairie walk, bog plants, blooming trees – the list is endless. We will spend one afternoon with a picnic lunch at the Arboretum.

Our programs have been set. We will enjoy a wonderful enactment of a famous poet, the floral design slam down contest, and a description of new lily varieties. We are hosting a Miniature Flower Show, so that you, who come a long way, can easily bring design and horticulture entries. We are also holding a geo-caching treasure hunt and designing note paper with pressed flowers and stamps.

Oh, and we will actually do some Central Region business, too! So please mark your calendars and plan on coming to the Annual Convention in Minnesota in October. You will find hotel and full registration information as well as the Flower Show schedule on the **Central Region Website: www.ngccentralregion.org**. We can't wait to see you in October!!

Martha Allen, Central Region Meeting Chairman



All FGCI garden club members are invited to attend Central Region meetings which is held in a different CR state each year. In 2013 nine members from FGCI attended the Central Region Meeting in Indiana. They enjoyed programs, workshops, tours and participated in the Central Region business meeting. Pictured left to right first row: Sandra Wales (FGCI State President) Patsy Saddler (Pella), Loretta Daisy (Lake City), Back row left to right: Sela Bryhne (Ft. Dodge) Edith Buwalda, Delores Boerigter (Pella) Linda Nelson (National Garden Clubs President, Oregon), Florence VanderMeiden (Pella) Sandy Quam (Jefferson) and Fran Stueck (Vinton).

PRESIDENT'S PROJECTS - CONSERVATION

When Aldo Leopold wrote the book "Sand County", it is hard to believe what he wrote in the 1940s has come to pass in the 21st Century. I wrote in the winter issue about what happened to our land when man arrived. I thought it would be good to review some terms that we find when we read about the environment which we are to protect.

Aldo Leopold writes: Ecology is a science that attempts learning to talk. Like an infant, it working days lie in the future. Ecology is the collective knowledge of turning knowledge into WISDOM. THIS IS CALLED CONSERVATION. Conservation is the harmony between man and land. Have we learned the first principle of conservation which is to preserve ALL parts of the land? Sadly no, we haven't. The definition of land is; ALL THINGS OVER; ALL THINGS ON AND ALL THINGS IN THE EARTH. Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left. You cannot conserve the waters and waste the land; you cannot build the forest and mine the farm, the land is one organism. Its parts complete and cooperate with each other.

The outstanding scientific discovery of the 20th century was the complexity of the land organism. Only those who know the most about it, know how little is known about it. We have our hearts in the right place, but we have not yet recognized the small cogs and wheels that make up our world. Some of those cogs and wheels are the species that has gone over the brink into extinction. We still don't know the impact in our world when species disappear. Man has tinkered, and too much tinkering has occurred. What will the effects be? The ecologist is then called upon to be a doctor to heal the wounds and scars from all the tinkering, But how? The result of the tinkering is; the forest have been destroyed; there is little land management or game management; there is virtually no wildflower management, there is minimal pollution control, there is little erosion control on a voluntary basis to name a few.

Conservation must build an ethical understanding of land economics. We see the gullied farm, a wrecked forest, or polluted stream. The attitude is; whatever ails the land the government will fix it. We, yes you and me, must build an

ethical understanding of land economics. Until that happens, until you and I take a stand, nothing will happen. If man does not realize how plants, animals, habitats, behaviors, where they live, how do they live, then how can it be fixed? What will our land be like in the next 100 years?

Culture is part of the problem. Culture has wild roots. Culture is judged by the common consent of people, i.e. sports, customs, and experiences. The value of culture is dependent on soil, plant, animal, man and the food chain. Civilization has cluttered the elemental man-earth relationship. Culture created the pattern for growth. How has man handled that pattern of growth? What has man destroyed in the name of growth?

How has man handled land ethics? As man competes for a place in his world, boundaries are enlarged, soils, water, plants and animals are displaced. How are we caring for our world? Man thinks water is only for turbines, barges and sewers. Plants and animals are disposable, as we place them wherever we want them. We exterminate the world around us, because it is in the way. Land ethics implores us to respect and protect our world. Conquering the land is self-defeating, because a few decide what is valuable and what is worthless, in our world. Unfortunately man knows neither. Until internal changes of intellectual emphasis, loyalties, affections and convictions, ethics will remain as they are now. The government can provide all kinds of programs, but the ultimate ethical responsibility lies with all of us as we live in this world that has been given to us to care for.

I hope this writing will cause you to stop and think about the world in which you live. We all know what we can do to improve the world around us. I can list many things we all can do. But you have heard it all before, and we are all aware of what we can do on an individual basis. But as you can see it is a much deeper problem. As garden club members, we can't change our world on a large scale, but we can do obvious things that we have been taught to do that will help to save this world we live in.

Darla Kickbush, President's Projects Chairman

LIFE MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

We would like to have a current up-to-date listing of all persons who are LIFE MEMBERS of National Garden Clubs, Inc., NGC Central Region and Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

Life Memberships are a one-time payment to each of these three organizations. We are asking clubs and club members to please email or drop me a note with your club's living members that are "Life Members" of these three designations so we can have the listing current.

Also, the \$25 Iowa State Life Membership is a considerate gift to an out-going club president or to a special person in your club.

Kathy Elliff, Life Membership Chairman
913 W. Church Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158 email: kleliff@hotmail.com

HISTORY OF FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS, OF IOWA, INC.

Eighty Five Years of FGCI

1928-2013

Editor's note: The History of FGCI will be an ongoing column until the 85 year history of FGCI has been published in full. The complete history will be available on the web site in the spring of 2014. Part 1 (1928-1945) was published in the Winter 2013 NEWS, Part 2 (1946-1959). This history has been compiled by Barbara Rusk, FGCI State Historian.

Part 3 (1960-1967)

1960-61 - Mrs. Lynn Fulton (Bertha) – Independence

Theme: 'The Therapy of Gardening'

Membership: 205 clubs 6 300 members

Projects: Garden Therapy; Billboard Control; Blue Star Markers; Plant Iowa; Conservation - Control of Dutch Elm Disease; Home & Flower Show -February 18-26 at Veterans Auditorium in Des Moines; Slide Film Contest; Ways and Means - Barton Cotton Co. products; World Gardening Picture Book of slides of gardens and flower arrangements. Schools.

Landscape Design School held at Memorial Union in Ames; Flower Show Schools at Eagle Grove and Des Moines.

National Awards

Flower Shows - Elma and Cherokee Garden Clubs; Roadside Beautification Citation - Mrs. Angie Gutekunst Chairman.

Advanced Club Rating was established to stimulate participation in projects. Life Membership fee was lowered to \$25.00 and many memberships began to come in. The money to be used for a project decided by the executive board. Worked for preservation of our virgin prairie and better maintenance in our state parks. Purchased three Blue Star Markers making five in all. Completed Garden Therapy program at the Boy's Home in Toledo. The first Landscape Design School was completed. The Rostat Plaque for Junior Club Yearbooks was established.

The Annual Meeting in Ames was held in October as a change from November.

The 1960 President's Luncheon was held July 11 in Cedar Rapids. The 1961 Luncheon was June 13 in Waterloo. A Corsage Club was formed in Jefferson. The Spring Flower Show was May 27-28 in Ft. Dodge, The Blue Star Markers Dedication was on June 2, 1961 at Council Bluffs and Onawa. Annual state dues were raised to 50¢.

Scholarships in Horticulture of \$75 were awarded to John Placek in 1960 and Charles Collins in 1961.

1962-63 - Mrs. Eugene Criss (Alice) - Sac City

Theme: "In All Things Create Beauty"

Membership: 1962 - 200 clubs 6,629 members

1963 - 209 clubs 6,436 members

Projects: Billboard Control; Garden Therapy; World Gardening - Artistic and Horticultural slides; Home and Flower Show - Veterans Auditorium in Des Moines; Roadside Parks; National Permanent Home Fund;

Garden Centers; Junior and High School Clubs; Plant Improvement - Test gardens at Davenport, Dubuque, Ft. Dodge, Ames, Keokuk, Marshalltown, Mason City, Red Oak, Sioux City, Indianola, Spencer, and Oskaloosa; Visiting Gardens; Ways & Means - Barton Cottons - Blue Star stationery.

Schools: Landscape Design School was held at ISU, Ames; Flower Show Schools-Eagle Grove and Des Moines. The second series of Landscape Design Schools started and completed. The Rita Tarr Landscape Award was announced. Rita Tarr award established by Rita Tarr to be an award to recognize one member in each district for home grounds landscape design.

Iowa received the first grant of \$1,000 from Sears, Roebuck and Co. in 1962, thus the two projects, Plant Improvement and Civic Development were created. The Sears grant to Iowa was \$2,000 in 1963. The Garden Therapy project at the Toledo Juvenile Home was completed. Iowa was host to the National Board of Directors Meeting on October 9-11, 1962 at the Hotel Ft. Des Moines, National Council Vice President, Mrs. J.Gordon Gose and Central Region Director Mrs. Fred Multaler were guests. The total attendance was 105.

The 1962 Annual Meeting was held November 1-2 in Ames, Regional Director, Mrs. Fred Multaler was a guest.

Iowa Scholarships: Horticulture 1962 - \$75.00 Kayoko Yamazaici, Tokyo, David Wilding, Marshalltown, 1963 - \$75.00 Monty Lynn Christiansen.

1962 National Awards

Flower Shows: Cherokee and Marshalltown; #27 Best Use of Radio & TV - District IV-Garden Club of the Air; #29 Blue Star Memorial Highway - Certificate of Merit Conservation; Award of Merit - Mrs. Dewey Jacobson, Marshalltown.

1963 Annual Meeting was November 1-2 in Ames.

The name, Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. was placed on the Roll of Honor at National Headquarters in 1963. National Council increased dues from 10¢ to 25¢ per member. State dues were increased to \$1.00 per member. The NEWS, garden club publication doubled in size and for the first time permitted pictures and advertising. A fund was established for a state headquarters. The Pettit Plaque for Junior Achievement was established by Ferne Pettit. The bylaws were changed, creating the office of president-elect. The 1963 Spring Flower Show was held in Marshalltown. Victor and Ruth Fagen established the wildflower sanctuary 'Happy Hollow' near Perry.

1964-65 - Mrs. L.N. Hockett (Catherine "Kay") - Marshalltown

Theme: "Design With Dexterity"

Membership: 185 clubs 6,300 members

Projects: Membership Contest - \$10.00 to the District with the largest increase; The National Gardener Subscriptions; Roadside Parks; Civic Development; World Gardening (Scholarship for a foreign student); Garden Centers; Radio and T.V.; Garden Therapy. An awareness of the importance of attendance by members at State, Regional, and National meetings was created. A brochure was prepared telling of the work of committee chairmen and was sent to all chairmen, presidents, and board members. Through the assistance of Sears, Roebuck and Company the following projects were undertaken: (1) Garden Therapy - overhead watering system for growing mums at the State Training School at Eldora. (2) Civic Improvement Contest continued. (3) Plant Improvement in 12 test gardens. Membership was promoted through personal contact and visits to member clubs. Three new committees were established: Inter-club Relations, Plant Societies, Protocol and Garden Club Functions. The Iowa Legislature declared the last Friday in April to be Arbor Day.

The Spring Flower Shows in 1964 and 1965 were held in May at the Des Moines Waterworks Park. A bench was presented to the Lincoln Memorial Gardens in Springfield, IL by the Iowa Federation.

Scholarships 1964- Horticulture \$150-Linda Kay Marrone, Landscape Arch. \$150-Stephen Drake.

Scholarships 1965 - Horticulture \$150-Loretta Wohlt, Omaha, Landscape Arch. \$150-Dennis Arp.

National Awards 1964

Flower Shows - Monticello and Cherokee; Lorena Spillers Award in Landscape Design Education; State Publication for the NEWS; Certificate for Meritorious Service to Mrs. Hugh Moore of Ft. Dodge for Radio & T.V.

National Awards 1965

Flower Shows - Des Moines, Greenfield, Baxter/Collins, State Center and District VI; Yearbook - Marshalltown; Bronze Seal - Therapy at Boys Home at Toledo; Citation for 100% participation for National Permanent Home Fund; Sears, Roebuck Grant of \$2,000.

The Iowa Federation had four members serving on National committees: Mrs. Criss, Bird chairman, Mrs. Pettit, Civic Development, Mrs. Kiburz, Membership, and Mrs. Young, Publicity.

Schools: Landscape Design - Ames; Flower Show Schools - Mason City, Marshalltown, Manchester, Red Oak, Moravia; Advanced Refresher Course for Judges - Des Moines (more than 100 attended).

The Presidents Luncheons were held June 16, 1964 in Webster City and June 5, 1965 in Marshalltown. The Annual Meetings and Flower Shows were held in Ames on October 24-25, 1964 and November 5-6, 1965.

1966-67 - Mrs. G.J. Jensvold (Margaret) - Ringsted

Theme: "Gardeners Let's Dig"

Membership: 5,444 in 1966

Projects: Civic Development - Sears-Roebuck Foundation Grants; Visiting Gardens-list divided by districts; Conservation Camp Scholarships-Iowa teachers at Springbrook State Park; Radio & T. V.; Bird Sanctuaries; Photography - slides contest; Anti-litter - Keep America Beautiful; World Gardening - Water pumps for Ecuador. Schools: Flower Show Schools - Moravia, Marshalltown, Earlville, Sac City; Landscape Design - I.S.U. Ames; Symposium - September 21-23 Des Moines YMCA; State Junior Meeting was held April 30 at Eagle Grove in 1966 and Wall Lake in 1967.

The President's Luncheon was in Perry on June 28, 1966 and June 27, 1967 in Indianola.

In conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of the Horticultural Society a four day Flower Show was held October 19-23 at Iowa State University in Ames. Central Region Meeting was held November 2-4 at the Ft. Des Moines Hotel. National President, Mrs. Fred Mauntel and Central Region Director, Mrs. Henry Prange were in attendance. Members contributed to a memorial bench that was installed on the State House grounds near the Japanese bell. The bench was in appreciation of Tomoko Yamamoto's service to the Federation as a teacher of Oriental Artistry. Members also contributed to the National Project, 'Dimes for Pines,' a landscape beautification project at the J.F.K. Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The Spring Flower Show was held in Marshalltown. The Federation received the Iowa Wildlife Federation's Conservation Organization's State Award. President Jensvold was the National Council Chairman for Juniors in 1972. She established the Jensvold Award for Youth Conservation work in Iowa.

Annual Meeting and Flower Show, October, 20-21, 1966 I.S.U. Ames. Spring Flower Show held May, 20-21, 1967 in Marshalltown. Annual Meeting and Flower Show November 9-10, 1967 I.S.U. Ames.

National Awards 1966

Reader's Digest Grant - Marshalltown; Flower Shows: Creston, Mallard, Earlville, Swaledale, District IV.; Award # Wallis Bird Protection Silver Trophy; Junior Garden Achievement -Floraettes 2 awards.

National Awards 1967

Flower Shows: Waterloo, Bevington, Lake City/Lohrville, Northwood; Award # 42 Wallis Bird Protection Silver Trophy.

Iowa Scholarships 1966: Horticulture - Vivian Nuss, Waverly; Landscape Arch. Jurgen Hess, Davenport.

Iowa Scholarships 1967: Horticulture - Vivian Nuss, Waverly; Lyle Dean Cox, Knoxville.

Editor's note: The History of FGCI will be an ongoing column until the 85 year history of FGCI has been published in full. The complete history will be available on the web site in the spring of 2014.

DISTRICT AND CLUB NEWS

District I Director: Alice Hawes
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Tipton Federated Garden Club has cleaned, weeded and mulched the gardens around Floral Hall at the Cedar County Fairgrounds and in a small prairie bed around a large rock designating the center of Cedar County. April's meeting was titled "Earth Friendly Lawn Care." On Arbor Day, members will work with the 7th grade science classes to plant trees and shrubs at a new sports complex. The club designed the plan and received a \$700 community grant to purchase many of the trees/shrubs. The club also donated a dwarf conifer to the project. One club member and her grandson built a wooden bench for the site. In May they made garden art stands with colored beads on flexible curved wires that will sway in the wind and provide fun color in the sun's rays. June will find members at an all-day garden walk in Cedar Rapids and then touring three club members lawns at the regular evening meeting. In July a local chef will demonstrate and teach how to use herbs to enhance salad dressings and fresh vegetables from the garden.

Muscatine Garden Club planted a tree on Arbor Day in memory of long-term member, Marie Lindsey, who passed away earlier this spring. The tree planted was a yellow magnolia, "Butterflies." Pictured below from left to right, Janet Kardux, Sandra Wales, and Lynn Tavener, who planted the tree.



Tri-City Garden Club in April members heard Tara Dillard of Atlanta, nationally recognized garden designer and author, speak on "Vanishing Threshold: Combining Life, House and Garden." Creating a beautiful garden creates a beautiful life. In May retired Professor Jim Pease, from ISU, spoke on "Possums Under the Porch." Discussing several methods to manage and limit wildlife damage. In May members met at the Quad City Botanical Center where they are opening the first phase of the new Children's Garden. In June they will tour three of members gardens followed by a luncheon. The club does not meet in July and August but our members do service five area garden projects with spring clean-up, planting, mulching, weeding and watering from mid April thru October clean-up. **Keokuk Garden Club** May's meeting will be about creating art with succulents and driftwood. June's meeting will be touring members gardens. In July they are taking a road trip to Cedar Rapids to visit Wanda Lunns private garden featuring many daylilies and many true lilies as Wanda is an officer in the Lily Society (Lillium). In August they have planned a work day and picnic in Rand Park.

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Decorah Town and Country Garden Club continues to deliver flowers to residents local nursing home for their birthdays, made possible by the generosity of a local garden center who donates the flowers each month. The year began with a speaker from a northeast Iowa nursery who talking about new plants/flowers on the market this spring. Several members traveled to Caledonia, MN in March for a workshop presented by the U of Mn and the Houston County Master Gardeners "Gardening – We Dig It." At the March meeting they viewed two exhibits at Vesterheim Museum; "Four From the North" and "Flora

Metamorphicae." Gallery talks were given by museum guides for each exhibit. At the April meeting, Julie Fischer, a passionate and inspiring composter, gave a presentation on composting which made all those present excited about recycling and the proper procedure to get maximum benefit from the compost material.

Monticello Garden Club filled six Thanksgiving baskets in November to be given to families by the Food Bank. December's meeting was a cookie exchange along with revealing Secret Garden Pals with a gift. February's program was on Recycling, Composting and Mulching by Donna Helgens. In March Joy Adams presented a program on Birds. In April Kim Miller, Admin. Assist. Jones County Extension and Master Gardener presented a program on Horticulture. Joe Yedik, County Director also spoke on History of Extension Service in Iowa. May was a tour of the Arboretum in Dubuque.

Quasqueton Federated Garden Club in February hosted a program on "Integrated Roadside Vegetative Management" at Prairie Hills presented by Buchanan County Roadside Manager, Sherlyn Hazen. At the April meeting the May plant sale was discussed. To recognize Arbor Day, the club chose to plant a Pee Gee Hydrangea at Cedar Rock. Plans are being made to promote gardening at the June 7th Farmers Market in celebration of Garden Week.

Floralla Arrangers Guild, Van Horne met at the home of Winifred Nolan in November with ten members answering roll call, "Program ideas for 2014." Members volunteered to put Christmas decorations in the planters on Van Horne Main Street. Several members also made evergreen swags for the "Light up Van Horne" event. Gladys Werner reported on Horticulture: Put pine needles on top of the soil around your houseplants to keep cats out. Winifred Nolan and Carla Albertsen assembled materials for a workshop making Christmas centerpieces. The group designed fourteen holiday centerpieces to be used on the dining room tables at the Keystone Care Center.

Lamont Garden Club met in April and discussed plans for the town flower containers and decided on pink arrangements to honor "Breast Cancer Awareness." A flower arrangement and poster will be set up in the Lamont Library for National Garden Club week. A committee was selected to start plans for the Clubs' 50th Anniversary in 2015.

Cottage Garden Society, Vinton toured "Old School Produce" in Vinton in April and

heard an interesting program on hydroponic gardening. In May they traveled to Oelwein to tour Gary Wittenbaugh gardens of miniature conifers and succulents. In June a tour of "Cottage-in-the-Meadow Gardens" at South Amana will be a treat. The club has been busy planting 70 pots to be placed by businesses around town. Annuals will be planted at Ray House when weather warms up.

Vinton Garden Club learned about "Treatment of trees for emerald ash borer and other diseases" from Mark Pigenot in April. In May members toured "In the Country" a greenhouse that specializes in hosta at Quasqueton. Owner Josh Speces gave a talk on the gardens. Annuals will be planted around town when weather gets warmer. In June there will be hands on member workshop. Fran Stueck will talk on "Tips For Exhibiting Flowers At The Flower Show." In July will be therapy at the Lutheran home with the residents.

Good Earth Garden Club, Cedar Rapids program was "New Cultivars for 2014" given by John Layton in February. In March members enjoyed "Everlasting Flower Garden" given by Nancy Sutherland, Master Gardener. Program on "Gourds" given by Sharon Foster, Iowa Gourd Society in April.

Independence Garden Club members learned about "Climate Change" by Wendy VanDeWalle in February. In March Deb Conklin did a program on horticulture. Joellen Yeager spoke on "New Plants for 2014" in April. May's meeting was "Growing Vegetables in Containers." In June members will prep for participating in the county fair. Members are looking forward to the bus tour of Dysart Gardens in July. Throughout the year members continue their projects and garden therapy programs.

District III Director:

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Cedar Falls Garden Club year started with a March Brunch prepared by volunteer members and hosted by president, Dianne Peterson. Vice President, Marlene Rasmussen, shared the titles of upcoming programs for the year. Followed by a business meeting and preparing for hosting the May 17th District 3 Meeting. The April meeting was held on one of the first spring-like days. The grass was green in Bernie Wright's yard and she had a beautiful spring bouquet on her table. Committees reported and plans were finalized for hosting the district meeting.

**District IV, V, & VII Director:
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Pella Garden Club didn't meet in January and February. In March members had a program on Creative Floral Design by Janna Boyd who showed pictures from her attendance at the CFAA Seminar in Orlando in February. April was their annual guest meeting with a Flower Arranging Program given by Sandy Gossman followed by a salad luncheon. May is the busiest month with Tulip Time Flower Show and tulip bulb sales, their most important fundraiser. In May after Tulip Time, members will tour Ted Lare Greenhouses in Cumming. For garden week containers in front of the library will be planted. The June meetings program will be a workshop on container gardening. Their newest endeavor is the first annual Summer Garden Party, this year featuring "Downton Abbey" which will take place June 27 at Central College.

Urbandale Garden Club enjoyed a program on "Woodland Flowers" by Naturalist, Lewis Major. In May members will plant flowers at Lions Park in Urbandale and donate a tree to one of Urbandale's Public Parks. Also in May they will visit the Iowa Arboretum. To celebrate National Garden Week, we will have a display at the Urbandale Public Library. We are happy to welcome one new member.

Kellogg Garden Club in February Fred Chabot gave a demonstration on cleft, whip and bud grafting. Grafting makes it possible to grow a different variety of apples on an established apple tree root stock. The club made plans for the Spring Tea to be held 1:00 on April 26 at the Cornerstone Church in Newton. A light meal will be provided. Toni Peska, will present the program on bees and the environment. Advance tickets will be available soon for \$10. In March Mildred Rawlins demonstrated a spring centerpiece. Louise Meakins gave a program on the types of tea, where it is grown and how the various types are processed and Cindy Dethrow, a member of the Baxter Garden Club made a presentation about "planting in the appropriate place". The Baxter Garden Club were guests at the March meeting.

Greater Des Moines Garden Club had a very successful Flower Show in March. March's meeting was Jim White of Bates Flower Shop in Grinnell on Floral Design. April 24th was the Past Presidents' Luncheon at Hyperion Field Club at 11:30 am for lunch at noon.

Ames Garden Club planned their plant sale for May and will enjoy home garden

tours during the summer. For Garden Week members will provide centerpieces to an assisted living facility in Ames.

Sunshine Garden Club, Winterset had a lesson on planting Fairy Gardens by Marilyn Spencer at the Madison Square assisted living facility. Bevington and Afton clubs were invited to participate. In May members split into groups to tend the herb garden at the Historical Complex, hostas and roses at the Courthouse and will plant prairie flowers and grasses in two flower beds at Cedar Bridge Park. Dave Brakhone, a garden designer is designing the beds for the club. In July members will go to the Brakhane home (former home of Jack and Florence Thomas) for a lesson on growing blueberries and landscaping. July 16-20 is the County Fair Flower and Vegetable Show.

Baxter Garden Club is excited to have three new members this year. The Emerald Ash Borer has been found in their county (Jasper) and one of the club members is doing a proactive approach in the city by identifying the many ash trees in the community. The annual community beautification project will be planting the Main Street containers in early May

Grant Sunshine Garden Club cancelled February's meeting due to a blizzard! In March's speaker was the "Bean Lady" from Shenandoah. There are 450 different kinds of beans. She does everything from cooking to crafting with them. She displayed a collection of several different kinds and colors of beans explaining the use of each. The club is collecting items to be used for day camps at the Anderson Conservation Area Nature Center this summer. In April their guest speaker was the manager of the HyVee Garden Center. He brought several new items for this year including wind chimes, plant stands and hangers, new annuals and perennials. Also items that make gardening a bit easier like Preen, GrassBeGone and Roundup. Members are making items to be in the Trading Post for the Oregon Trail Reenactment at the Anderson Conservation Area for area grade school students.

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By the time that you read this column it will be June and I am assuming that spring/summer has arrived and our gardens are beginning to take shape. Enjoy these days!! We earned them after the extended winter and the delay in the arrival of spring.

Have you heard about the fungus that is expected to attack the garden favorite *Impatiens*. In late April I visited with the owner of an area garden center who confirmed what I had heard secondhand from another large garden center. *Impatiens* may be doomed for years to come and some garden centers are suggesting that we refrain from planting the flower this year. It seems that the fungus will linger in the garden for a number of years and spreads easily. To learn more simply type in *impatiens fungus 2014* into your search engine and several web sites will provide a great deal of information. Our shade loving Hosta plants may also be in danger due to the arrival of "Crown Rot". I found a very informative article on the Iowa State Extension Web site on "Crown Rot."

June is National Garden Club Week. Does your garden club have plans for observing this special week? **Algona Garden Club** will be placing a sign highlighting their contribution to the completed landscaping project at the Kossuth County Fairgrounds. The club helped finance a landscaping project at the site of the famous Nativity Scene created by German Prisoner of War soldiers that were in a camp near Algona during WWII. **Estherville Garden Club** is planning to create an exhibit of flower arrangements at the Good Samaritan Home to which the public will be invited. A variety of themes will determine what the arrangements will look like. The **Webster City Garden Club** is using the occasion to host a guest day for potential new members while the **Emmetsburg Garden Club** will be hosting a chamber coffee and hopes to place bouquets of garden flowers in the city's public buildings. All of these are great ideas that you might want to consider for observing the event in 2015.

Thinking out of the box, maybe it would be good to select your program planning committee a year in advance so that as ideas present themselves, they can be incorporated into next year's program booklet. Long range planning has its advantages. Imagine having your club's 2015 programs selected by the end of 2014.

Speaking of programs the **Jefferson Garden Club** is going to be learning about garden and farm ponds this summer. Their study of this interesting topic will culminate when they will visit an area business that specializes in pond equipment and necessities. I have wanted to build a pond in my garden for several years but never gave much thought to the fact that there is a right and wrong way to get a pond established. One is never too old to learn.

Many of you may know that I am a former middle school science teacher and one

of my favorite units in my curriculum was weather. A few days ago my son shared with me that he had heard of an old adage which states that when the ice is extremely thick on Lake Michigan farmers in Iowa will experience a bumper crop. Supposedly this winter the thickness of the ice on Lake Michigan set a record. I am anxious to see if this adage will prove to be true. I would suspect that if there is a bumper crop in our Iowa fields that our gardens should do the same. Wouldn't that be wonderful? Time will tell.

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Buena View Federated Garden Club the 2013 year culminated with a most enjoyable December luncheon at a member's home by the lake. Members met on Dec 12th, National Poinsettia Day, Poinsettias were everywhere including the program. Interesting programs we have had or will have in 2014 are: Planting and Caring for Trees and Shrubs, Our Gardens of Eden, Harvesting Walleyes in Storm Lake, Planting by the Moon signs, Container Gardening, Wild Herbs and their Healing Properties, Napkin Folding and a People's

Choice Flower Show on July 10. The club has 5 new members, 3 of them being men. The club will travel to a Member's home at the Lakes in August for a tour.

Clay County Federated Garden Club, Spencer has made plans for the Clay County Fair's Garden Shows. The fair is located in Spencer, IA. They plan and hold two shows each season. Dates for 2014 are September 6-9 and September 10-14 **Floyd Valley Federated Garden Club, LeMars** will be visiting local gardens and visit a Nursery in Cherokee, Iowa during the summer. They held their annual fundraiser in May.

Kingsley Home and Federated Garden Club went to the Kingsley Pierson School on April 23, 2014 to give a presentation to the 22 students of Miss Hodenfield's class. The garden club members took onions sets to be planted by the class, who happened to be studying gardening in the farming area. They each planted a yellow, white and red onion in a container to be started in the house to be transplanted into their gardens when they have sprouted. Elaine Klingensmith gave an informative talk on the onion and what family it was related to. Nancy Rutter-Spriggs helped with the planting and Darla Rock showed the children what their onions should look like when full grown. Darla also wrote the poem below which she shared with the class.

The Onion So Fair

Today we are studying an onion ever so fair.
It's really quite easy to grow and doesn't take much care.
I come in Yellow, White, and Red and
always grow a nice round head.
If you chop me with vigor and glee,
a tear may appear for all to see.
Oh, I have heard stories about putting matches in the mouth .
That's just an old wives tale and just as well fly south.
The onion is the basic element of many a stew.
When you mix onion, celery, and bell pepper, the three will do.
So all you little Chef's when these plants are your very own.
Handle it with care and as a gardener you will be full blown.

Written by Darla Rock

OLD PANTY HOSE CAN STILL SUPPORT

Old panty hose and knee-high stockings make great recycled substitutes for that stretchy green plant tie tape. Cut your old flesh-colored panty hose into half-inch rounds and keep them in jars around your garden to use throughout the season. As a plant grows and needs support, just take a strip of nylon (use two or three together for a stronger hold) and tie it to the plant stem and support structure. The tie stretches, so it allows the plant to grow without compromise. And it is almost invisible. *From the Pollinator -Good Earth Garden Club, Cedar Rapids - John Layton, Editor*

Did you know -

It is an interesting natural phenomenon that about 92% of all vines and plants that twist and climb, do so in a counterclockwise direction.

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BIRDS "YELLOW SHAFTED FLICKERS"

You can't be Yellow Shafted Flickers! I have never seen you fly in flocks before. You always flit about in the grass by yourself and fly like a bullet at the trunk of my white birch tree. Once you turn your back, you're easy to identify. That huge white patch on your rump gives you away every time. Now, there are five of you together, playing around in the grass at the Arboretum pretending you own the place. Wonderful!

How long are you planning to visit? Your cousin who was at my house last week is already gone. Looking for a better place!

Modern bird books just call them Northern Flickers and mention the eastern ones were once called "Yellow-Shafted". To show you how old I am, I still call them "Yellow Shafted". Look for them walking about on the ground. They are a bit larger and much darker than the Ring Necked Dove.

Do I just imagine it this year but birds seem to be scarce. I've seen only one wren. Robins are in great prominence. Ravens seem happy to be around also. Remember in hot weather birds need water, water, water. And so do other animals. Even groundhogs drink out of my pond and the bird bath .

Did I ever recommend Gladys Black's book "Iowa Birdlife." If you have never read it, try the public library. It was published in 1992 by University of Iowa Press. It is superbly written and extremely interesting and informative. A wonderful book to own!

Happy Birding this summer.

Lynn Tavener, FGCI State Bird Chairman