

NEWS

OF THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

WINTER 2017



Each of the seven states had a design in honor of the state presidents at the Central Region Meeting at Chula Vista. Juliene Bramer, Iowa state president is shown by her design done by Marge McGoff of Michigan.

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DATEBOOK 2018

January 10	Deadline for the NEWS
April 12-13	Gardening School, Madrid
April 16	FGCI Spring Board Meeting at Ames City Hall
April 20	District 6 Meeting, Webster City
April 24	District 1 Meeting, Muscatine
April 28	District 3 Meeting, Swaledale
May 4	District 2 Meeting, Independence
May 21-24	NGC Convention, Philadelphia, PA
June 4	District 4, 5 & 7 Meeting, Indianola
June 13	Wildflower Workshop, Annette Center, Indianola
June 21-22	FGCI State Meeting and Flower Show, Mason City
August 27-28	Judges Symposium, Marshalltown
September 20-21	Gardening School, Madrid
September 26-28	NGC Fall Board Meeting, Orlando, FL
October 1	FGCI Fall Board Meeting at Ames City Hall
October 22-23	Central Region Convention, Frankenmuth, MI



NEWS

of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc.

Winter 2017

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Theme: Partners in Planting America

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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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Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa Website:

www.gardenclubsofiowa.org

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

user name: member password: pumpkin

Central Region Website:

www.ngccentralregion.org

user name: member password: 7states

Iowa Horticulture Society: www.iowahort.org

Iowa State Extension Service:

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

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FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF IOWA

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

Theme: Plant America - A Grant Program and Fund

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you were drinking your coffee or tea this morning, were you looking at the birds on your feeders? Watching them jockey for position, flying in and out, moving around the pesky squirrels. Just a few months back, you were sitting on the porch, listening to the birds, hearing a hummingbird work its way among the flowers or the bees and the butterflies. Perhaps you had your nippers in hand, cutting a bouquet or perhaps you were walking among the hostas, roses and lilies pulling a weed or two and you may have been checking if the peas were ready. How nice to enjoy nature whatever the season. We all have that in common; we can talk to complete strangers about the eagle sighting, the deer that ran across the road or all the varied colors in the ditches, woods and fields, and better yet, share this experience with our garden club friends.

Where has garden club taken you? For me, as your State President, I was in Richmond, Virginia for the National Convention in May. Their theme was "Virginia is for Gardeners." Over 700 were present for meetings and installation of 2017-2019 officers. (Because of the timing of our state meeting, Iowa's president is installed at the Fall Board Meeting.) My favorite speakers were P. Allen Smith of Moss Mountain, Arkansas; Peter J. Hatch, Director of Gardens at Monticello; and Bulbs as Companion Plants by Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs (my favorite source for daffodils). Richmond is full of history. Above the James River, the Hollywood Cemetery is one of the most beautiful garden cemeteries in America. Two presidents, James Monroe and John Tyler, are buried there, as well as the President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. Eighteen thousand confederate soldiers are buried there as well. Garden clubs work in and support this cemetery.



The NGC Fall Board Meeting is held every other year in St. Louis, Missouri. St. Louis is the home of NGC National Headquarters located near the Missouri Botanical Garden. I was installed and will serve on the 2017 – 2019 NGC Executive Board. I was asked to give an inspirational thought at the Friday night banquet and I will share it at the District Meetings this spring. Kelly Norris, the Director of Horticulture at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, spoke to us on "Planting for the Future". Kelly, from Iowa, received NGC and FGCI Horticultural Scholarships and stated what a significant legacy horticulture scholarships are. He showed a new trendy plant, *Mangave*, a cross of *Agave* and *Manfreda*.

The Central Region Meeting was held in the Wisconsin Dells in October. I represented Iowa as one of seven state presidents attending. Iowa's own Fran Stueck is the 2017-2019 Central Region Director. Business meetings and reports in addition to informative speakers kept me busy. Look for more info in the NEWS.

continued on page 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

STATE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

During my term as 2017-2019 FGCI President, I would like to award a monetary gift of \$100 to the best Recycle, Reuse and Reclaim idea/project submitted to me by June 1 by a FGCI member or club. Send me a brief summary of your idea/project for my evaluation. The winner(s) will be announced at the 2018-2019 State Meetings.

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

STATE FUND RAISER

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

Sandy Heerema, Environmental Chairman,
sheeree@windstream.net

OUR BUSY HANDS

We have worked all summer and fall for our garden clubs. A job was well done by all.

Now that winter is here we still find lots to do for our local garden clubs.

In October I went to the Central Region meeting. Iowa was well represented and a good time was had by all. I am so proud of our Fran Strueck and the other Iowa garden club members who took positions to serve NGC's Central Region and Iowa's Garden Clubs.

I am sure our hands will still be busy as the garden waits for spring. For me it is cleaning house, getting ready for the winter holidays and dreaming of spring.

Marlene Marolf, FGCI 2nd Vice President
gourddzn@aol.com

DISTRICTS 1, 2, & 3 JUDGES' WORKSHOP

Monday, April 30, 2018
Ray House, 912 First Avenue, Vinton
Set-up and Coffee: 9 a.m. Meeting: 10 a.m. to Noon.

"IT'S GARDENING TIME AGAIN"

DIVISION I HORTICULTURE "Get out the Tiller!"

Section A Bulbs, corms, rhizomes, tubers

"Last Fall's Plantings"

Class 1 Tulips (1 specimen)

Class 2 Daffodils (1 specimen)

Class 3 Hyacinths (1 specimen)

Class 4 - Any Other (1 specimen)

Section B Trees & Shrubs "Lovely New Growth"

Class 1 - Deciduous, Blooming (1 specimen)

Class 2 - Deciduous, Foliage (1 specimen)

Section C Perennials "Yearly Beauties"

Class 1 - Blooming (1 specimen)

Class 2 - Foliage (1 specimen)

Section D Container Grown Plants "Winter Survivors"

Class 1 - Blooming (Pot size not to exceed 8")

Class 2 - Foliage (Pot size not to exceed 8")

DIVISION II DESIGN "Grab the Clippers!"

Class 1 "The Kiss of the Sun" Parallel Design

HB p. 75 All Fresh. Space: 30" w X 30" d. Unlimited height. Background/Niche Required.

Class 2 "Spring Surprise!" Designer's Choice. Space: 30" w. by 30" d. Unlimited height. Background/Niche Required.

Class 3 "Warm Breezes" Petite Design HB p. 73. Not to exceed 10" in height, width and depth. Niche/Background required and may exceed 10". Staged on a mantel.

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

ON THE NET

Do you visit the NGC, Central Region and FGCI website? Check them out. To get the best use of the sites use the login passwords below. I also found NGC on Pinterest and Facebook.

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

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, 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

President's message ...continued from page 3

Here in Iowa I attended Gardening School (note the change in name according to the new NGC Gardening School Handbook) in Madrid at the Arboretum. The Gardening School courses further our education, and as garden club members we need to keep learning. Did you know that butterflies are the most visible but not the most important pollinator; it takes 1,875 visits to a pollinator plant to make one egg; flies have two wings-bees have four; our coffee needs a pollinator; lilacs are one of the first foods for a pollinator; monarchs are the farthest migrating animals, and think of pollen like a gas station! The next school is April 12 – 13, 2018. I would urge you to attend. Look for more info in the NEWS.

FGCI is celebrating its 90th year in 2018. *Woo Hoo!*

Winter weather and women's thoughts often change.....

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

Garden Clubs need programs to make a Flower Show Fun?

New 2017 FS Handbook Review "What Is The FS Judge Looking At?"

Contact: Peggy Moody,
Chairman Flower Show Schools of FGCI
(515)576-6021 Email: pmmoody@mchsi.com

GERANIUMS...do you know?

Grandpa Ott, of Grandpa'Ott Morning Glory fame, planted geraniums and overwintered each year in big pails by the kitchen woodstove along the south side of the house.



Gardening and recycling is a family tradition. Meet FGCI President Juliene Bramer's great-grandmother Petersen. Note the geraniums being watered in the recycled cans!

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 long 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.

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

Moving? Change of Address? Snowbird?

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

Sandy Stone, FGCI Treasurer
10717 Highway E
Wyaconda, MO 63474
onestonefarm@yahoo.com

SAVING SEEDS....do/did you?

Heirloom seeds are much more than the promise of next summer's squash or sunflower. They are living antiques, handed down from one generation to another. Gardening with Heirloom Seeds, Lynn Coulter.

Did you know the story of Grandpa Ott's Morning Glory helped launch seed saving? The seed would have been lost if a family member had not saved, a small container of seed thus founding Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, Iowa.

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

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

April 12-13, 2018
Open to the Public

APRIL 12, 2018 (Thursday)

8:15 AM. Coffee and Registration
8:30 -10:00 *HOUSEPLANT BASICS Aaron Steil, Assistant Director, Reiman Gardens
10:00 BREAK
10:15 -12:15 PM. **FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE PLANT GROWTH
Lynnette Carpenter, Horticulturist
12:15 -12:45 LUNCH (Please bring sack lunch, refrigerator available)
12:45 -2:45 *CONTAINER GARDENING - OUTDOOR
Laura Irish, Horticulture Graduate Student, ISU
2:45 - 3:00 BREAK
3:00 - 4:00 Supplemental TBA

APRIL 13, 2018 (Friday)

8:15 AM. COFFEE
8:30 – 10:00 NEW PLANT DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION
Jessie Liebenguth, Landscape Horticulturist, Reiman Gardens, ISU
10:15 – 12:15 PM. TEACHING TOUR OF BOTANICAL GARDEN
Iowa Arboretum staff
12:15 - 12:45 LUNCH (Please bring sack lunch)
12:45-3:45 EXAM

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

To register for the FGCI Registration – Gardening School Course 3, Series 12, April 12-13, 2018,
Iowa Arboretum, 1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA. Please complete the form below
REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL noon April 9, 2018, NO REFUNDS AFTER April 5.
WALK-INS ALWAYS WELCOME, BUT NO HANDOUTS WILL BE 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 _____

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 Consultants. If registration will reach me after April 9, add \$10 late fee.

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

NEWS ABOUT BUTTERFLIES

Ladies and gentlemen of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa Inc., you are amazing. You and your National Garden Club partners around the country have gotten the attention of the Federal Government. You have made them very aware of the plight of butterflies and pollinators, so aware that the US post office has produced stamps that say "protect pollinators". These are beautiful stamps with pictures of butterflies, flowers and bees. Please use these stamps on all your correspondence to show you care.

Also, another way to show you care is to apply for Central Region awards 10a and 10b. There is a \$25 award for the winning applications. (Information on CR Awards in the Fall 2017 NEWS)

Prairie Nursery has a catalog with beautiful pictures of native plants for butterflies and other pollinators. You can request a copy from PrairieNursery.com. They also have an E-Newsletter available at that web site.

Sandy Quam FGCI Butterfly Chairman

PLANT IT PINK

As 2017 comes to a close, our clubs are starting to put our 2018 budgets together. Please consider putting a line item in your budget for the "Plant it Pink" project. The Plant it Pink Project is a national project encouraged by the National Garden Club, Inc. It encourages local clubs to promote awareness of not just breast cancer but all cancers on a local level.

Cancer is a terrible diagnosis for anyone. Bringing awareness is important for continued patient education, screening, and treatment modalities. Because of awareness of breast cancer and treatment improvements, breast cancer survival for greater than 5 years has risen to greater than 65%.

Consider placing a pink poinsettia or Christmas Cactus at your local community center or public library. Continuing to bring awareness to this devastating disease will continue to bring further improvements.

Sue Ashton, Plant it Pink Chairman

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

WHAT: Wildflower Workshop
DATE: June 13, 2018
TIME: 8:45 to 9:15, Registrations, and refreshments
WHERE: Warren County Conservation Annett Center
15565 118th Ave., Indianola, IA 50125
FEE: \$30.00

PROGRAMS:

- *Invasive Species invading the prairies;*
- *A film; How do plants in prairies and gardens interrelate with one another;*
- *How Insects, butterflies, etc. co-exist with one another in the prairie;*
- *What are Oak Savannas?*

Plus there will be a tractor and wagon tour of the Warren County Prairie at the Annett Center. The Annett Center has a wildflower butterfly garden, an information center on butterflies and reptile exhibits for you to enjoy.

Refreshments will be provided.

To keep costs at the same level we are asking folks to bring their own lunch. You will be able to eat your lunch outside and enjoy the prairie surrounding the center, plus watch for waterfowl on the pond, etc.

More information and directions to the Annett Center will be in the Spring Newsletter.

Darla Kickbush, Wildflower Workshop Chairman
dkkick40@gmail.com

Register for Wildflower Workshop June 13, 2018

Fee \$ 30.00 per person

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Amount enclosed _____

Checks made out to: **Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.**

Registrations can be sent after January 01, 2018 to:
Darla Kickbush
706 West Third Ave
Indianola, Iowa 50125

CENTRAL REGION 85th ANNIVERSARY MEETING

WOW! What a turn out from Iowa; 17 members took the time to attend the Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention, "Digging in the Dells" at the Chula Vista Resort. It was great seeing 6 members that had never attended a Central Region Convention. Thank you to all for taking the time to attend.

If you would like an evaluation form, email franstueck@yahoo.com I value your input.

The 2018 Convention will be in Frankenmuth, MI Oct. 22-23, 2018.

Central Region Director, Fran Stueck



CENTRAL REGION AWARDS

Congratulations to the following FGCI clubs who applied for Central Region Awards this fall. Awards were presented at the CR Convention October 4-5, 2017.

CR AWARD 5 PARTNERING WITH PLANT IT PINK

2nd Place--- Muscatine Garden Club
3rd Place --- Swaledale Federated Garden Club

CR AWARD 9 PRESERVING OUR LAND

1st Place – Ted and Fran Stueck, Vinton , IA
4th Place--- Ackworth Garden Club

These clubs worked quickly to send their entries for Central Region awards by the September 10th, 2017 deadline. The Central Region 2018 award year is September 1, 2017 thru August 31, 2018 with award deadline of September 10, 2018. Award information can be found in the Fall 2017 NEWS of FGCI and on the Central Region website: www.ngccentralregion.org (Note member password is *7states*).

IN HONOR OF SERVICE TO FGCI

At the Fall FGCI Board meeting the Board voted to honor our own Fran Stueck with a one time Central Region scholarship to be given in her honor in the amount of \$1,000. Fran is well known on the National, Central Region, and State levels for her service on many committees and as FGCI State President and Central Region Director. She is an enthusiastic supporter of FGCI, a willing volunteer, and always ready with a joke or two. Since education is an area of emphasis for NGC and FGCI, this is indeed a special way to honor Fran.

So this fall at the Central Region Convention in Wisconsin it was announced that FGCI will honor Fran with this scholarship to be presented in 2018. Fran, have a great term as Central Region Director.

Julliene Bramer, FGCI President on behalf of FGCI

THANK YOU FGCI FOR THE HONOR

What a BIG surprise and honor I had at the 85th Central Region Garden Clubs Convention business meeting in Wisconsin. Our State President Juliene Bramer gave her report and asked me to stand. She announced that FGCI wished to donate a \$1,000 Central Region Scholarship in my honor. What an emotional moment for me.

*I would like to thank FGCI for this tremendous honor.
Let's "Partner in Planting America"*

Fran Stueck, CR Director



TREE CHAIRMAN REPORT

With the end of the gardening season and the beginning of the fall season, all garden clubs will begin the planning processing for the upcoming year of 2018. As your local committee meets and plans, be sure to include some programs regarding tree care and maintenance. Now is the time to plan something for an Arbor Day Program in your community. The Arbor Day Foundation, at 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 is a very good resource for information and programs. I have used them when I presented to fourth grade students an Arbor Day program and we planted a tree(s) at the Kingsley High School in Kingsley Iowa. The Arbor Foundation provided printed materials for each of the students. The materials included items such as: Why plant trees? What effect do trees have on the environment? Besides humans, who else benefits from trees? And the interesting story of how, and why, Arbor Day was started.

With the beginning of the tree loss due to the Emerald Ash Borer, it is important that we begin the process to replant and replace ash trees that will be lost. Part of our mission as a National Garden Club affiliate is to educate the public about the correct way to plant and care for trees, and to develop a sense of appreciation for what trees add to our local communities. What better way to do this, than join with 4-H clubs, local schools, city officials and community leaders to identify what types and where trees might be planted, and then plant the trees with the partners. Those youth that are involved with your project will then learn how to plant a tree, how to care for it, and they will have a sense of ownership and pride through the years as the tree grows and matures.

Other local youth groups for partnering could be the Boy and Girl Scouts, FFA Chapters, and Church Groups. Many of these groups are looking for projects that would involve community development and beautification. Your local garden club can be the one that is the catalyst to bring all these local players together, to develop an Arbor Day Project that serves your community well into the future, and instills into the partners, our love for things that grow and add beauty to our communities.

Please send to me your club's tree count for the year 2017. This includes the number of trees your membership has planted during the year 2017. These can be any trees planted on your property. If you live in town and have a farm or rural property, and trees were planted for a shelter belt, or new windbreak, please include those numbers in your club's tree count.

Please mail your tree count to me as soon as your local club has completed the count. I will need the information soon after the first of January, 2018. Mail it to: Dennis Wolf, 306 Beech Court, Cocoa, Florida 32926
Submitted by Dennis Wolf, FGCI Tree Chairman

BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT

Just for your information: In a race against extinction, the rusty patched bumble bee was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered—the first bumble bee ever to be protected under the Endangered Species List.

I read an article about opossums, I always wonder what purpose these ugly creatures could have, but my question was answered: With the huge rise in deer tick populations and the spread of Lyme disease, many friends of wildlife are welcoming opossums into their yards. Why? Scientists have learned that opossums act like little vacuum cleaners when it comes to ticks— with a single opossum Hoovering up and killing as many as 4,000 ticks per week. Not that we would consider opossums as one of our backyard wildlife creatures, but they do have a purpose.

I hope when you cleaned up this fall you were planning on our wildlife this winter. Most people enjoy the birds especially in the summer, but they need food and water even more in the winter.

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

ORGANIC GARDENING

Organic gardening isn't just pulling weeds by hand and that's all you do. No. There is much more to it than that. There are now organic fertilizers, organic potting soils, organic seed starting soils, organic insecticidal soaps and other things you can use by using ordinary house hold items such as vinegar. Now that the growing season is over outdoors don't forget your indoor plants. Repot them with the organic potting soil.

Then think about next spring. When it gets closer to Spring and we can start our seeds for the garden indoors under grow lights, use organic seed starting soils and mixes. Your plants will love it. Don't forget about composting next spring when it starts to warm up. This is a great way to help your garden. If you make your own, you know exactly what is going into it. Use the compost starter from Espoma. This is an organic compost starter. There are many products from Espoma. Go to their website at www.espoma.com. There you will find where you can buy them and what products they make. (Espoma and NGC are partnering in Plant America - see Espoma or NGC website for information on grants.)

These are just few thoughts as we are in the winter months. Enjoy the time away from your garden as you rejuvenate yourself for the upcoming year in gardening.

Submitted by Mike Becker, LeMars, IA
Central Region Organic Gardening Chairman

**Invasives: Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*
Glossy Buckthorn *Rhamnus frangula***

Common buckthorn, originally from Eurasia, was introduced to the Midwest as an ornamental as early as 1849. It has become well established and is spreading rapidly. Common buckthorn is more widespread but glossy buckthorn is aggressive in wet areas. Both species were planted for visual beauty and in areas where space was limited for larger trees. They both produce a dense shade that crowds out native species. This makes it difficult for forests to regenerate and remain healthy.

Buckthorns have a long growing season and leaf out early and hold leaves late into fall. Because they remain green longer than most native trees and shrubs, they are easy to spot. This is a good way to identify the shrub. (See photos below.)

They can grow up to 22 feet tall and they have a grayish/brown bark, yellow-green flowers and clusters of small black berries. The berries attract birds that spread the seeds. The leaves and seeds are mildly poisonous for people and animals. Cut bark exposes yellow sapwood and orange heartwood. Twigs often end in stout thorns. Buckthorns have a rapid growth rate and can grow in a wide variety of habitats including poor soils.

Different ways to remove the shrub include cutting and applying herbicides to the exposed stump. You can also have a prescribed burn which can set back small, young plants, but won't kill them. Hand pulling young plants and basal bark treatment can be effective. Propane weed-torches may also be used to kill seedlings, which will generally not resprout if burned in spring or early summer. Late fall is a good time for chemical control of buckthorn stems and trunks because most native plants are dormant at this time and chemicals are easily drawn down to the roots with natural sap flow. Researchers are studying the use of several insects from Europe as biological control for non-native buckthorns but more testing needs to be done in this area.

References:

Wikipedia

Minnesota DNR

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest by Elizabeth Czarapata

Submitted by Jane Buck, Invasive Plant Chairman



MEET YOUR 2017-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



Jean VanVeldhuizen, FGCI District 3 Director and Garden Therapy Chairman

Jean VanVeldhuizen from Northwood is the FGCI District 3 Director and also the Garden Therapy Chairman. She is a member of the Green Thumb Garden Club in Northwood. Jean has been married to her husband for 53 years. They have four children, two live nearby, one lives in northern Minnesota and the other lives in central Illinois. She has seven grandchildren and one great grandchild on the way. They farm with their oldest son; he has his land and they have theirs and they work together. It is a good relationship.

She enjoys her garden in many ways. Pulling weeds is a good time to think and not too many bother her at that time!!! In the spring it is fun to get around and see what is coming up. She uses wood chips as a way to control weeds and to conserve moisture.

Angie Beem, FGCI Life Membership Chairman

Angie Beem lives in Emmetsburg and is a member the Palo Alto Garden Club. Her favorite thing, in the yard and garden is to try new plants and ideas. She is challenged by big time shade. Angie is trying to help the environment by putting as many pollinator protective practices into action as she can in her wooded yard. Her yard is a Certified Butterfly Garden from the North American Butterfly Association and a Certified Pollinator Habitat from the Blank Zoo. FGCI has led her to present programs in garden club on dried flowers, geraniums, lilies, iris, to serve as local president, District Director and now Membership Chairman.



Sue Ashton, Plant it Pink Chairman (photo not available)

Sue Ashton is from Marshalltown. She joined the Marshalltown Federated Garden Club in 2009 while still employed in the health care industry. Ever since she can remember, she has enjoyed gardening and growing flowers. As a child, she helped her father grow the most beautiful roses in her hometown of Vancouver, Washington. Sue's professional health care career involved nearly 40 years of nursing, the last 20 years as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner. Her specialty was in women's health and family practice.

Since joining the Marshalltown Federated Garden Club, she has been involved in all of the activities and fundraisers, chairing several of the events. Sue served as president of her club from 2015-2016. During her years in her garden club, she has enjoyed all of the many friends that she has made. Sue is very proud of the positive impact her club has had improving the quality of life for the people of Marshalltown. During this time, the club has made her keenly aware of nature's beauty, conservation and environmental issues.

Sandy Quam, Butterfly/Butterfly Gardens Chairman

Sandy has been a garden club member for over 40 years and was the 1995-1997 FGCI President. Sandy is a member of the Ames Garden Club.



Her gardening interests include using drip irrigation in her flower beds to conserve water and starting perennials and veggies from seed under lights indoors. After the weather has warmed a little, she moves the seedlings to a cold frame outdoors and then into the garden or flower beds. Sandy's favorite flowers include lupines, calla lily, daylilies, lilies, coleus and butterfly weed for the monarchs. Several plants she wishes to study further and grow more successfully are orchids, ferns and clematis. In the winter, when gardening is limited to indoors, she likes to propagate coleus cuttings. Other winter hobbies would include stained glass, quilting, reading and feeding birds.

It is Sandy hopes that by submitting brief articles to the NEWS we can keep each other encouraged to provide plants and habitats for butterflies!

DISTRICT AND CLUB NEWS

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Keokuk Garden Club purchased two benches to be placed in Rand Park. The Adopt a Bed flower beds had many participants and were judged. The butterflies and hummingbirds made the clean up and work days in the Butterfly Garden enjoyable. They are looking forward to fall programs and a Christmas luncheon. Muscatine Garden Club enjoyed a lovely day at the Monsanto Butterfly Garden with lunch afterwards. September also brought successful participation at the local farmers market. The goal was education and exposure, many plants and garden crafts were sold. They had much interest in club membership. Autumn concluded with hands on bulb forcing and program planning. They will enjoy a Holiday Potluck in December.

Tipton Garden Club held a program on the Climate Friendly Diet and enjoyed a Fall Potluck. The year ends with creating outdoor designs for Jail Fest.

Keosauqua Town and Country Garden Club's Fall Breakfast at Bentonport was a success and members toured the English Garden of Mindy Kralacek. As always there is weed pulling and trimming at the Bentonport Rose Garden. In October, Pat Crawford gave a presentation on fall decorating and made a lovely centerpiece from things from her yard and garden. November's meeting will be making decorations for the outdoor wildlife tree for the December Festival of Trees.

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Cottage Garden Society, Vinton visited the In the Country garden center in Quasqueton in August, where several members created a cement planter sphere. Many purchased succulents to plant in it. In September members were treated to a presentation by Bill Page, an orchid grower. **Vinton Garden Club** held a flower show at Benton County Fair along with Floralia

Arrangers Guild. Members do garden therapy in July and September at the nursing homes and assisted living homes. They are honored to have club member Fran Stueck as the 2017-2019 Central Region Director and Master Flower Show Judge. Members held their design workshop in June, while in August they met at Celebration Park that was built at a green space on the Cedar River. Members toured Noel Ridge Park in Cedar Rapids in September.

Floralia Arrangers Guild, Van Horne, had a program in August on "Bringing Birds to your Garden." They have been working on Christmas centerpieces for the Keystone Center made from wine bottles sprayed in various colors. Members made Christmas tree decorations with dried hydrangeas. September's program "It's a Bug-Eat-Bug World" taught about natural bug control. They will be adding gourds and pumpkins to the drying purple fountain grass in the uptown planters for fall.

Good Earth Garden Club, Cedar Rapids, toured Wickiup Hill Learning Center and grounds near Toddville in August. September's program "Steps and Stones" was presented by Debbie Main. Members discussed and voted on organizations to give donations at the September meeting. Contributions included: Butterfly Gardens, the Lowell and Agnes Walter's Estate "Cedar Rock" home designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright in Quasqueton, Noel Ridge Park in Cedar Rapids, and Feed America First.

Monticello Federated Garden Club has been busy this summer taking care of their flower beds around town. Members went to Indian Creek Nature Center and took a tour of their new facilities, which are lovely and environmentally friendly. In June, members went to Farmers Daughter and checked out the merchandise for sale. Charlie Becker gave a good program in July featuring many pictures about Camp Courageous which serves handicapped individuals. August program was a program called "Back to Eden".

Quasqueton Garden Club continued their 2017 Club theme "Gardening around the World". Gardening around the USA was the theme of their June meeting as well as a visit to a pollinator area where members had an opportunity to view a local eagle nest. The club invited the public to the September meeting featuring guest speaker, Orlan Love, a long time columnist for the Cedar Rapids Gazette. He spoke about pollinators, tomatoes, and mushrooms. Members made Kokedama, Japanese hanging balls, in September.

Independence Garden Club held their July meeting touring the vast gardens of a local Independence gardener who described how he starts seeds each spring. In August, members visited the vast Noelridge Park gardens in Cedar Rapids. Following lunch, the club stopped at Peck's Garden Center and Cedar River Garden Center in Palo, IA. Members went "back to school" in September as they met at an old country school that was moved to the corner of the Jesup Community Schools grounds. The program "Grandma's Garden" was presented by three Master Gardeners who had planted a variety of heirloom flowers around the one room school. Members enjoyed viewing the old fashioned blooms that beautified the grounds adjacent to the tall grass prairie. During the summer, members maintained the Plant It Pink Garden at the Independence Depot.

Decorah Town and Country Garden Club enjoyed interesting programs by a naturalist and resources manager speaking on the County Park System and by a local farmer about organic gardens. Several members brought floral designs with the theme "Let's Go Green" that were critiqued by our two state judges and "Dessert Among the Flowers" where each member set a table for eight with a floral design and table setting. A speaker spoke on Iowa wild flowers and an artist demonstrated carving edible art. During the local Nordic Fest members hosted three local garden tours. They took a road trip to Prairie du Chien, WI to visit the St. Feriole Island Memorial Gardens.

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Green Thumb Garden Club, Northwood, met in August at Mary Ryerson's for an early evening prairie walk through her very interesting prairie acreage. Mary pointed out some continuing prairie flowers and grasses and some surprise prized wild plants that she just discovered during the walk--exciting! Club treasurer, Judy Balkenende, was honored with a Circle of Roses pin for club activities. Seven members and three guests day tripped to Ames in September for lunch at Hickory Park and a guided tour of Reiman Gardens. September's meeting a local Master Gardener, Eileen Dahlby and Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Director together showed a video and commentary of Eileen's fantastic lawn and gardens. In

October members met to make potpourri with dried blooms collected this summer. November, anticipating colder weather and less food for birds, the speaker told about making bird treats.

Marshalltown Federated Garden Club rounded out their year with a November meeting at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center with Naturalist Emily Herring presenting a program on "Owls". The club held their annual Accents on Entertaining event with decorated tables, speaker Elizabeth Reece of the Tama County Historical Society talking about the history of weddings and a delicious lunch with wedding cakes, catered by Heavenly Breads. In December the club members will make and decorate snowmen from recycled pop cans.

Swaledale Garden Club enjoyed beautiful weather for member garden tours in August and a field trip to Lime Creek Nature Center in September. October they were back indoors with member Julie Kaduce talking about Healthy Harvest of North Iowa. The year finished with creating wreaths/swags/baskets from fresh greens in November and visiting a care center in December.

Cedar Falls Garden Club enjoyed District 3 Director Jean Van Veldhuizen, as a guest at the September meeting. It was held at the Earl May Garden Center where member Donna Pohl gave flower arranging hints. October's meeting was at Petersen and Tietz Greenhouses in Waterloo. Jeremy Tietz spoke about their poinsettia production and how they don't force the plants to bloom like the big box stores, but stagger bloom time. They have many different varieties and the greenhouse is beautiful to see in December.

Radcliffe Garden Club enjoyed touring 3 gardens in July. August was a potluck meal and a white elephant auction. September a member shared pictures of her visit to Paris, a beautiful city with many beautiful gardens. She shared wonderful macaroons with that her daughter has perfected making. In October they met at the Hubbard Care Center joining residents in making toilet paper pumpkins covered with a variety of fall materials.

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Ackworth Garden Club held its first member/spouse picnic in early September with 42 people in attendance. Members went on another road trip for September's program to the Wallace Country Life Center

by Lisa Swanson and her staff. Members enjoyed lunch at the Gathering Barn, toured the farm's restored prairie, sculpture walking path, flower gardens, orchard & produce gardens, and the restored farm house with a gift shop. In October Nathan Romine presented a program on his Seed Library project in Winterset and Steve Wainwright (aka Johnny Appleseed) presented "All Things Apple." In November they made Natural Holiday Decorations, placed wreath on veterans graves at Ackworth Cemetery. December will be the annual Christmas party.

Afton Garden Club had their meeting at a member's home in August, Marilyn talked about design principles and talked about her plantings around her new home in Creston. September the club had a picnic meeting in the Afton park. In October members held a fall luncheon in Lorimor for two other clubs. The speaker is a new bee keeper. She had a swarm that needed a home that she adopted. She then learned more about bees and continues enjoying them. In November new purposed projects, elections, and programs will be talked about for the coming year.

Ames Garden Club will finish the year with a program by Story County Naturalist Beth Waage on Plant, Grow, Fly, a holiday workshop and Christmas pot-luck.

Baxter Garden Club toured gardens belonging to Don and Bev Bury, Steve and Beth Fredrickson and Betty Nikhil in July. The evening concluded with visiting and snacks on Betty's patio. The August meeting was a tour of Tin Roof Vineyard owned by Lyle and Cindy Brunner. Regina Frahm gave a presentation on wool harvesting from their sheep. Kellogg Garden Club members were guests for the September meetings tour of the Newton Arboretum. Plans were made for the town fall decorating contest as well as fall décor for the planters and nursing home.

Grant Sunshine Garden Club sponsored, staged and clerked the Open Class Flower and Garden Show at the Montgomery County Fair. The club sponsors the Outstanding 4-H Horticulture trophy at the Montgomery County Fair. Some members traveled to either Nebraska or Missouri to observe the Total Solar Eclipse. Members attended the Garden Field Day held at the ISU Research Farm near Lewis. Topics covered included donation gardening, edible flowers, vertical gardening, raised beds and compact vegetables.

Greater Des Moines Garden Club had a presentation on Water Quality in Iowa by Jamie Benning from ISU in September. October's talk was on Organic Lawn & Garden Care by Des Moines Feed & Nature Center. Annual silent auction was held in

November plus a Floral Design program by Flower Show Judge Shirley Wolf based on the 2018 March Flower Show theme. The year ends with a Holiday Tea and music. In 2018 they will celebrate 100 years as a Garden Club.

Kellogg Garden Club hosted a coffee time to honor Mary Crum's 70 year club membership. The gardens of Nadine Rozenboom near Oskaloosa were toured by the club members. This farmstead was designated one of Iowa's most beautiful farms by Our Iowa magazine. The Baxter Garden Club joined the club at Stony Point for a potluck dinner and tour of the Poortinga's beautiful gardens. The club has been busy upgrading and maintaining the flower beds. Members enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving dinner. The club was guests of the Baxter Garden Club touring the Newton Arboretum. Pointers on cutting back Knock Out Roses were given.

Knoxville Garden Club entered a float in the Sprint Car Nationals parade. They won 1st place in the non-theme category and 'Best of Parade.' They welcomed four new members. New patio at the Bessie Spaur Butterfly Garden is completed. Butterfly release at the Garden was hosted by Hospice in September. Programs: Seed Savers, Pella Library has a seed saver check-out program; Marla Mertz, County Conservation, talked to us about 'Bats'; All important Pollinator Plants was discussed in October. Plans for Garden Gala April 7, 2018 are coming together.

Moravia Garden Club again sponsored a fun miniature garden workshop with 4th graders at the Moravia school. They provide pots, soil, plants, miniature decorations, etc. Annual August guest day picnic was held at the home and gardens of RoseMary Smith. Twenty-three members and guests attended from Moravia, Albia and Centerville clubs. Members do ongoing maintenance in the Moravia park and will decorate four corner boxes with holiday greenery. December meeting will be a soup luncheon at the home of Judy Lamb.

Pella Garden Club packed Tulip bulbs and mailed 17,000 bulbs to gardens around the United States in October. The program books were handed out with the theme: Seeds of Time, as they celebrate their 55th year of existence. Members enjoyed fall program on Neal Smith Nature Preserve/pollinators. The holidays are planned with a painting event at Fairhaven Retirement Home. Soon after that, the Tulip Time Flower show will be organized. You are invited to enter the show. Please contact Lois A. Boeyink: boeyinkl@windatream.net for more details.

Urbandale Garden Club members visited a new member's garden, Polk County

Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden and the Urbandale Park's Dunlap Arboretum. They ended the season with care of the newly established Pollinator Garden, analyzing which plants were most successful. Other activities included a program on recycling by a representative of Metro Waste Management and a member's presentation on birds in your yard. Members collected paper products for the Urbandale Food Pantry and will decorate a tree with bird ornaments at the Urbandale Public Library. They will close the year with a Christmas potluck at the Historical Olmsted – Urban House and install new officers.

Winterset Sunshine Garden Club will go to Madison Square Assisted Living in November, they will make dried arrangements to take to nursing homes. Christmas will be a potluck Supper December 6th.

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Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club enjoyed "Companion Designs" for their July meeting with an experienced designer working with a new designer. In August they created and delivered small designs to Friendship Haven's health care residents. In September they returned to Brushy Creek State Park to harvest seeds of prairie flowers boneset and sneezeweed for the DNR state lands.

Madrid Garden Club just completed the Fall Flower Show with 249 entries. September meeting was a presentation by two ISU Horticulture Specialist on their summer visit to Costa Rica and the agricultural practices there. October was about Bats and November is last meeting of the year. They end year with a potluck and an open discussion about problems and successes over the year. Their new year begins March of 2018.

Palo Alto Garden Club met in the home of one of a member for a program on flower arranging. Practical tips were given. August was a fascinating program on nature photography by a member who demonstrated how to find new and unusual angles of the common of things (plants, leaves, wood, flowers, etc.) to produce amazing images. September was about native bees and making mason bee houses to take home for the bees to use this winter. Their plant challenge this year was to grow at least one new native plant, members shared photos of a variety of native flowers.

Estherville Garden Club members continue to maintain the rock garden and memorial garden which are located along the Des Moines river. June's meeting was brunch at the Willingford Community Building and then tours of the delightful gardens of members Bev Brinx and Nathalie Anderson. Other meeting topics have been sunflowers, gardening in Wales and planting fall bulbs. The club had a window display in a downtown store during National Garden Club Week. Members of the club also set up a table for the "Good Samaritan Society's Parade of Tables" fund raiser and presented a program about garden club activities.

Algona Area Garden Club had a very successful flower show at the county fair. Plans are moving along to do more plantings at the fairgrounds and hospital. A winter project coming up is to design pots for our porches & of course a Christmas potluck and working on plans for next year. Members designed a scarecrow for the chamber.

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Floyd Valley Federated Garden Club toured Ron and Margo Sievers "theme" gardens in June. July was the annual garden club show at the Plymouth County Fair. Report on the study plants plus top 10 fall clean-up tips were the topics in September. Members also entered Horticulture, Designs and Gourds at the Clay County Fair in Spencer. October they hosted 40 members from the Merrill, Brunsville, Kingsley and Floyd Valley Garden Clubs at Hillview Park; interesting fall decorations were brought and Roseanne Plante demonstrated how to creatively decorate pumpkins. November will be Winter decorating. December the annual Christmas party plus decorating a tree for the Pioneer Village at the Plymouth County Fairgrounds.

Buena View Garden Club had an interesting program given by Storm Lake City employee about the water gardens being established around town. Members enjoyed a September day outside making stepping stones for gardens. Our November meeting program is on global warming. December will be their annual pot luck.

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