

# People, Places, Plants and Projects

TFGC President Denise Thorne  
615-289-2138

[denise@tec63.com](mailto:denise@tec63.com)

July 17, 2023

## Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl Poster Contest 2023

Jeanie Jackson  
Chairman

[tiger129ts@aol.com](mailto:tiger129ts@aol.com)

All the clubs should provide the materials from the NCG website to each school principal in their area, \*attention art teachers if available. Any questions, please contact me via email at tiger129ts@aol.com

Cont.

**TFGC Board Meeting  
Monday, Sept. 18,  
2023, 10:00 A.M.  
Oaklands Mansion  
900 North Maney Ave.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130**

10:00 A.M until 1:00 P.M.  
allotted time

Refreshments:

Tea sandwiches, Fruit, Cheese  
Straws and Dessert.  
Lemonade, Water and Coffee

After the meeting, you are  
cordially invited for an early  
buffet dinner at the home of  
the President and Gary Thorne  
beginning at 3:00 P.M.  
402 Bass Road, Watertown, TN  
37184

RSVP 615-289-2138

for viewing the staging and  
design signups begin for the  
DSGC NGC Petite Specialty  
Design Flower Show with  
schedule available.



Having 4 teachers with doctorates that specialized in my family, they recommend that supplies might be an issue due to school budget restrictions. So discuss with art teacher as size is restrictive. We had to eliminate one very beautiful entry due to the wrong size of paper used. Another was eliminated due to wrong colors so teachers must realize the parameters. We have decided to provide the specified size of paper to schools if needed. To see the smiles of winners at these ages is worth the cost/ time used to make sure the children can be in the running. Ideas are welcomed and it is encouraged to present early to schools and have them completed prior to Holiday shutdowns. At the end of the school year we planned a program on the last day of school , recognized the state winners and had the forest rangers from Smokey Mountain range as well as Smokey Bear attend this recognition. It was a huge hit and the students who were TFGC and Deep South winners were so pleased. All the assembly of students ,teachers and parents were in attendance. Our club will be making packets of information from all the schools in our area and provide in August at the beginning of school program. What a lasting impression it was to see the children embrace the idea of appreciating our beloved forests and animals. Thanks for your interest and contact me if you need further ideas, contacts etc. Jeanie 423-620-0473 All info on the website also

**Supporting Our Youth  
Building for the Future**

## **“Viewpoints”**

### **An NGC Standard Flower Show**

**Presented by  
Shady Oaks GC  
August 10, 2023  
2:00 PM until 8:00 PM  
133 N Commerce St  
Johnson City, TN 37604  
423-430-8441**

**Reminder:  
If your club is presenting a  
Flower Show,  
even if not applying for an  
award contact TFGC Awards  
Chairman Debbie Shaver  
[bufflescorner@bellsouth.net](mailto:bufflescorner@bellsouth.net)  
Certificates are given and we  
keep records of which clubs  
present flower shows  
evaluated or non-evaluated**

Books of Evidence for Awards can be submitted at any time! Don't wait until the end of the year. Many garden clubs had wonderful National Garden Week Projects. Make a BOE and apply for an award. The forms are on the website [tennesseefederationofgardenclubsinc.com](http://tennesseefederationofgardenclubsinc.com)

**The National Park System encompasses 424 sites in the US and territories**  
63 – have “National Park” designation in their name

## **TFGC Theme 2023-2025 “Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees – Plant Tennessee”**

### **Birds Chairman**

Kay Flynn

[leolewis1@comcast.net](mailto:leolewis1@comcast.net)

### **Bees Chairman**

Karen Dawson

[Fdkd70bellsouth.net](mailto:Fdkd70bellsouth.net)

### **Floral Design Chairman**

Denise Thorne (Interim)

### **State Judges Council**

### **Chairman**

Connie Wallace

[maryconniewallace@gmail.com](mailto:maryconniewallace@gmail.com)

### **Arboreal/Trees Chairman**

Wanda Taylor

[mommawanda@aol.com](mailto:mommawanda@aol.com)

Contact Chairmen or the TFGC President for Program ideas for your club meetings

### **Ivan Racheff House and Gardens serves as TFGC Headquarters**

Your club can plan a trip, Tour the Level II Arboretum

Enjoy the history of TFGC and the wonderful story of Mr. Ivan Racheff

Knoxville, TN

1943 Tennessee Ave.

Cathy Waitinas Chairman

[waitinas2@gmail.com](mailto:waitinas2@gmail.com)

TFGC Annual  
Membership  
and  
Business Meeting  
Awards Banquet  
2024  
Park Vista,  
Gatlinburg, TN  
Thursday, March 21,  
2024  
Following Deep  
South GC  
Convention  
Tennessee to Host  
Mark your calendar

## It's Vision of Beauty Calendar time

Sales Go to  
Scholarships!

Marilyn Smith  
Is the TFGC  
Vision of Beauty  
Calendar Chairman  
279 Pine Hollow Road  
Dayton, TN 37321  
[Mgsmith50@aol.com](mailto:Mgsmith50@aol.com)  
423-775-1792  
August 2023 is the  
deadline  
Sales go to scholarships!  
Order now or through your district  
chairman

**Conservation Camp 2024 Fall Creek Falls** Monday, September 30, Tuesday, October 1, 2024 "Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees of Tennessee"

2009 Village Camp Rd., Spencer , TN 38585

Executive Board Meeting, BOD Meeting, Reports, Speakers, Workshops, Botanical Arts Jewelry Workshop, Nature Walks and Fun!



Conventions and Conservation Camps Bring your books you no longer read for an exciting recycling project and nuts to make fall table décor. Walnuts make great owls! Whooo's invited? Everyone!

Nature trails with walking events\ or you can drive to sites  
Fun and education to share for all!

Cumberland Trails Project information will be explained in detail for your club programs.

## Save the Date



### Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc

Annual Convention  
March 19-20, 2024

### *Springtime in the Smokies*

The Park Vista  
705 Cherokee Orchard Road  
Gatlinburg, Tn

Wanda Taylor [mommawanda@aol.com](mailto:mommawanda@aol.com) and Janie Bitner [janie.bitner@live.com](mailto:janie.bitner@live.com)  
Chairmen of the Deep South GC. Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN  
Convention 2024 Tuesday, March 19- Wednesday. March 20, 2024, Registration begins in August

Tri Refresher Jeri Melton [jerimelton@yahoo.com](mailto:jerimelton@yahoo.com)

an NGC Petite Design Specialty Show – “Springtime in the Deep South”

Kay Flynn Design Chairman Registration [leolewis1@comcast.net](mailto:leolewis1@comcast.net)

District IV Members are excited to spearhead this 2024 Deep South Convention and they need your assistance. Thank you to District II Kande Walker, Harpeth Bend Garden Club Table Favors for two meals. District II Country Homes, Jean Richardson and Judy Johnson, Co-chairmen for Door Prizes have volunteered! We loved the flowers they gave away at our last convention. Complete list of District IV Chairman to be sent in August. They are the backbone!

We will need plenty of volunteers for the “Volunteer State” to make TFGC shine.

Email either Wanda or Janie above to share your talents!

## Calendar of Events: TFGC 2023-2025

### TFGC BOD Meeting

- District I Fall Membership Meeting October 16, Monday, 2023** Memphis Botanic Garden  
“Finding, Propagating, and Increasing Native Plants in Your Garden”, Suzy Askew
- District II Fall Membership Meeting September 26, Tuesday, 2023 10:00 AM** Cheekwood,  
Nashville- Lynne Fronk Design Program
- District III Fall Membership Meeting September 25, Monday ,2023** Museum and Cultural  
Center at Five Points, Cleveland ,TN
- District IV Fall Membership Meeting October 20, Friday, 2023,** Fox Den Country Club,  
Knoxville, TN
- March 19, 2024,Tuesday, March 20- Wednesday.** Deep South G.C. Inc, Park Vista Hotel,  
Gatlinburg, TN Convention 2024 “Springtime in the Smokies,” Tri-Refresher, NGC Petite  
Flower Show, “Springtime in the Deep South”.
- March 21, 2024, Thursday.** TFGC Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet Park Vista,  
Gatlinburg, TN
- June 2-5, 2024,** NGC Convention 2024, Denver, CO. 80020, 10600 Westminster Blvd.
- Monday, September 30, Tuesday, October 1, 2024**  
**Conservation Camp 2024 Fall Creek Falls -“Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees of Tennessee”**
- April 21-23, 2025, TFGC Convention Read House** Chattanooga, TN
- May 19-23, 2025,** NGC 2025 Convention, Omaha, Nebraska
- 

Send in your program news or flower show dates for monthly publication in the newsletter or posted to the website.

[denise@tec63.com](mailto:denise@tec63.com)

Tickets to Moss Mountain Drawing was held at the TFGC BOD Meeting. Phyllis Allen, former District I Director 2021-2023, was the lucky winner for two! Congratulations Phyllis!

## Member News and Updates

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District II Awards Chairman  
and TFGC Courtesy Resolutions Chairman

Gayle Jaggers

is recovering from surgery.

Get well soon!

869 Belton Drive,

Nashville, TN 37205

Joe Rouse District II FS Judge, has

continued to improve. His wife is Lynne Rouse she is recovering from eye surgery. They serve as Co-Chairmen of TFGC Penny Pines. Cards to;

2816 Sterlingshire Dr.

Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Sandra Shumate-Curtis

Warner Park District II

Completed 6 months of Chemotherapy for Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma (CTCL) She will now have surgery and radiation for breast cancer. Praying for you sweet Sandra.

Please report member news.

[denise@tec63.com](mailto:denise@tec63.com)



## **The Volunteer Gardener**

The First Edition will be the TFGC By Laws Amendments from the TFGC 2023 Convention.

All listing of Officers, BOD, Judges, Garden Study, Environmental and Landscape Design Members, District Directors, BOD, Flower Show Credits and all Flower Show related information, Awards, History of TFGC, all Presidents and Garden Club information you might need. Will be printed and given to your district director for distribution.

Please note, you may be sent an email paperless copy if you have chosen previously to not receive a printed version. *Kennedy Pope TVG Editor*

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[volunteergardeneditortfgc@gmail.com](mailto:volunteergardeneditortfgc@gmail.com)

### National Garden Clubs, Inc.

NGC President Brenda Moore 2023-2025

e-mail [bmoore@gardenclub.org](mailto:bmoore@gardenclub.org)

Theme- "Go Green Plant America"

### Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.

DSGC Director Debbie Cooper 2023-2025

e-mail [coopcooper@aol.com](mailto:coopcooper@aol.com)

"Decorate the Deep South with Floral Accents"

### Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

Denise Thorne

TFGC President 2023-2025

402 Bass Road

Watertown, TN 37184-4251

Ph 615-289-2138 (C) e-mail:

[denise@tec63.com](mailto:denise@tec63.com)

Theme

"Birds, Bees, Flowers & Trees – Plant Tennessee"

Project "Plant America"

### **Planting New Clubs**

**Invite New Members and Guests to enjoy your wonderful meetings!**

**Share your talents with others.**



The NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar is a wonderful flower design resource  
NGC.org

Website is a wealth of information.  
Visit it soon!

"Plant Tennessee -  
Plant America"

President Brenda Moore's Projects  
are on the NGC Website

"Plant America/Feed America"

Gardening is one of the most  
popular hobbies in the United  
States. 55% of American  
households actively garden.

In 2021 the number of people who  
participated in birdwatching in the  
United States amounted to  
approximately 14.82 million. This  
is a slight decrease from the  
previous year's total of 15.23  
million.

## Meet your District Directors 2023-25

District I Director Chris Kellyman

[cabkelyman@aol.com](mailto:cabkelyman@aol.com)



I have lived in Germantown, Tennessee since 1979 with my husband, John. We have a daughter, Julie, who lives with her husband, Gibson Turley III, in Vancouver British Columbia Canada. I graduated magna cum laude from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan in Speech Pathology with a minor in Psychology. Instead of practicing Speech Pathology, I followed in the footsteps of my ancestors who emigrated from Norway, Europe by way of Ellis Island to practice their crafts as professional architects, builders, painters and paperhangers. I had a wallpaper/design business from 1982 through 2014 interfacing with builders, interior designers and paint and paper stores and conducting some of my later business through Angie's List. I was involved in all facets of the business from estimating, procurement of materials, preparation, installation, billing and collection. To this day, the family has paint, paper and decorating shop handed down from generation to generation in the UP of Michigan. Past and present I have been actively involved in my church wherever I have lived. John and I are currently members of Epiphany Lutheran Church. I facilitate a book club called the Page Turners and I am a member of Les Passees, a women's volunteer organization which provides advocacy and support to enhance the quality of life for children and their families in Memphis. My husband and I are members of both the Dixon and the Memphis Botanic Garden. I frequently attend the Munch and Learn series at the Dixon, attend their garden classes and symposiums and take some of the flower design classes at the Memphis Botanic Garden. My husband and I have traveled with friends to London to enjoy the world-renowned



Tennessee State Wildflower

Passion Flower

*Passiflora incarnate*

Photo from Thorne Farm

## District II Director

Bette Ann Fields

[bette@nickleman.com](mailto:bette@nickleman.com)



## Bette Ann Fields • District II Director

Growing up in the Northeast, young Bette Ann Fields accompanied her mother to flower shows and



Chelsea Flower Show and traveled again with the same friends to the Philadelphia Flower Show and Longwood Gardens. My interest in horticulture began many years ago during my youth when I helped my mother in her flower gardens filled with masses of tuberous begonias, Shasta daisies, fox gloves, glads, delphiniums and award winning snapdragons and front porch pots filled with big red geraniums and sapphire trailing lobelia. My grandfather tended a vegetable garden annually at the family farm with much fresh produce for my family to enjoy so needless to say I was hooked on gardening. Shortly after joining the Poplar Estates Garden Club in Germantown, Tennessee, I stepped up to serve as club president for four consecutive years from 2015-2019. During this time I entered my first flower show and encouraged my club members to do so, too. The four years I served as president, I learned much attending District I events and TFGC conventions. An added dividend was all the friendships I cultivated along the way. Two years ago I served on the District I Nominating Committee to end up serving in the capacity of Vice Director. During this past two years I have learned much more in preparation for the position of District I Director. I am blessed to have a very capable and competent team of officers who will be serving alongside of me during the 2023-2025 biennium. I have chosen for my Theme: "Gardening with Native Plants" and my Project: "Work with Mother Nature by incorporating Natives into the Landscape". After reading an article in the November/December 2022 issue of fine Gardening magazine about a conversation with Doug Tallamy, noted conservationist weighing in on how plants can save our ecosystems, along with the book *Native Plants of Tennessee: A Book of Lists* authored by Suzanne Irwin Askew from District I and produced by The Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., these two served as the impetus for my theme. During my two years as District I Director, I see my role as a cheerleader to all the clubs in my district offering encouragement and inspiration. District I is blessed with many talented, curious and motivated members so I see many great achievements on the horizon especially embracing the movement of planting "NATIVES" in our landscapes to save our ecosystems and planet. Doug Talley's words could not be clearer when he says, "Garden as though life depends on it".

gardening events, taking an early interest in successful growing techniques and award-winning flower arrangements. Later, after retiring from a 25-year career in Diagnostic Radiology, Bette Ann pursued her love of horticulture and floral design in earnest—becoming a Master Flower Show Judge and Master Landscape Designer. She became active in the Nashville Rose Society. And today, she is a Lifetime Member of National Garden Clubs, Deep South Garden Clubs, and Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. She maintains a busy schedule attending most state, regional and national garden club conventions, as well as Creative Flower Arrangers of America's annual forum in Florida.

Bette Ann is delighted to begin serving her term as District II Director with her signature enthusiasm, welcoming garden club presidents to a President's Meeting on June 13, 2023, at Cheekwood Estate and Gardens where Bette Ann will be outlining TFGC activities, sharing ideas for garden club meetings, and promoting workshops and upcoming events.

Additionally, Bette Ann will regularly email the District II event calendar to club presidents—listing upcoming flower shows and programs—as well as regularly emailing call letters for events of interest.

"We are blessed," says Bette Ann, "to have survived a worldwide pandemic. Now I'm eager to be about the business of *Planting America, Playing Outdoors* and *Bee-ing a Blessing*. How about you?"

## District IV Director

**Janie Bitner**

[janie.bitner@live.com](mailto:janie.bitner@live.com)



Tuckaleechee Garden Club  
Co-President  
Endowment Trust Fund DIV Representative  
Ivan Racheff House and Gardens Garden Co-Chair  
Knox County Master Gardener 2015  
Deep South 2024 Convention  
Co-Chairman  
Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center  
Blue Ribbon Country Fair Committee  
Great Smoky Mountain National Park  
Twin Creeks Science and Education  
Center Natural History Collection Herbarium Assistant  
Curator

**Janie is the Cochairman for the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc Convention 2024**

## District III Director

**Ginger Cloud**

[gincloud9@gmail.com](mailto:gincloud9@gmail.com)



One summer afternoon in June 2014 I was invited by my neighbor, Erma Brewer, to attend a garden club meeting at the home of Annette Stanbery (former District III Director, TFGC President, and Deep South Regional Director). These few afternoon hours spent with Magnolia Garden Club members and with the very gracious Annette in her abundant flower and vegetable gardens on her plant lavished patio, shaped and directed my upcoming retirement days. That afternoon at an MGC meeting I found a thirsting love for all things "garden".

I am a mother of three, grandmother of seven, and a wife of 57 years to a very understanding husband. I have been a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, middle school math teacher, high school guidance and vocational counselor, Girl Scout leader, youth league soft ball coach, GED Adult Educator, and Master Gardener. So, you see, education and learning have been a focus in my earlier life and continues into my "garden" life.

There are abundantly talented and knowledgeable members at all levels of our garden club organization. For our next generation to succeed, we must pass on what we have learned. There are books and there is internet but for knowledge to be integrated into our lives, it is best accomplished by seeing and doing. My grandmother would plant hardy petunias, verbenas, and thrift by the porch steps. Throwing out the weeds as she dug them up with her hoe was my task. This was a seeing and doing activity that I still have in my head (and heart) this many years later. Dolly Parton says, "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent teacher/leader." Our goal should be to create for others a curiosity for gardening and growing. They will in turn take this gift and share it with generations beyond us.

**REACH OUT AND TEACH SOMEONE!**

**Ginger is the Official Hostess for the TFGC 2025 Convention in Chattanooga, TN.**

## Garden Club Pyramid

- 1. National Garden Club, Inc. NGC** – we all are members. New Members pay a \$1.00 fee. All States and International Affiliates belong to NGC. The Headquarters or Permanent Home is in St Louis, MO. There is an Annual Membership/Business/Awards Convention rotating in the US. There is a President for the entire NGC that is elected. You can also purchase a Life Membership.
- 2. Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. DSGC** - This was formally known as “The Deep South Region.” Now it is the DSGC. All the US States are divided into regions. Six states make our Deep South GC Region, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. We have an Annual Membership/Business/Awards Convention rotating in the Deep South Region. Tennessee is the host for the 2024 Convention in Gatlinburg. We all talk alike, and it is a really entertaining group! We are all members of DSGC. There is not a fee for this. You can purchase a Life Membership and that goes toward scholarships. There is a Deep South Director that is elected from the rotating states along with the Executive Board.
- 3. Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. TFGC** Our state is divided into four districts. You write them as follows, District I ( Memphis), District II ( Nashville), District III (Chattanooga) and District IV( Knoxville). We rotate officers and the Annual TFGC Convention. Every two years we elect state officers. We are governed by a set of Bylaws, and we have Standing Rules. Your fee is \$7.00 annually. Life Members pay a one-time fee. Our Headquarters is in Knoxville, TN.  
The Ivan Racheff House and Gardens, IVHG is our permanent home for our records and history. You can visit and tour. Next month we will present a history of Racheff, the man and the place.
- 4. Districts** – I,II,III, and IV Each has a Director, that each district elects and an elected Executive Board. The Director selects the Board of Directors, these are the committee chairmen. All districts abide by the state, TFGC, rules. Districts have membership meetings, spring and fall and a presidents’ meeting. Your district director is the representative for your district to the state.
- 5. Your Garden Club.** You and at least seven (7) of your friends got together at one time and officially elected to form a garden club. You have elected officers, observe *Roberts Rules of Order*, pay dues, and have a written set of bylaws that you have made for your club. You have set the rules specific to your club’s needs. Your club pays dues to your club and TFGC. The president of your club, or a representative, attends District and State meetings. New clubs are presented to your district director with a form and then the state for acceptance.
- 6. Being a member of a “Federated Club”** sets us apart from other garden clubs.

Next month continued. .

# TFGC People

President Denise Thorne  
denise@tec63.com

615-289-2138



On the NGC  
website  
NGC.org  
You can  
download  
The  
Handbook  
for Flower  
Shows  
Free of  
charge

There are  
club program  
guides on the  
website

## GETTING READY FOR YOUR NEXT STEP

The President's Guide is now on  
the official website of TFGC.  
[tennesseefederationofgardenclubsinc.com](http://tennesseefederationofgardenclubsinc.com)

**Spell it out – and add .com**

Working hard to add all we need!

Adding Members, Supporting Youth is our future for  
TFGC

“Despite the  
gardener’s best  
intentions, Nature  
will improvise.”

*-Michael Garofalo*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Volunteer to have a garden tour in  
your district!  
This is a membership tool and we  
all need and love new members!**

**“When  
gardeners  
garden, it is  
not just  
plants that  
grow, but  
the  
gardeners  
themselves.”**

**Ken Druse**

