

The LONE STAR *Gardener*

Winter
2025

A publication of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

TGC, INC.

2026 SPRING STATE CONVENTION

"Color Your World with Flowers"

April 7-9, 2026

Houston Marriott North
255 N. Sam Houston Pkwy E.
Houston, TX 77060

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The LONE STAR *Gardener*

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7,677 Members | 12 Affiliates | 201 Clubs | 2 Members at Large | 6 Judges' Councils | 6 Councils | 1 Forum | 6 Youth Clubs | 4 Schools

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TGC President's Message

In the garden club world, we continue to find new and improved ways to better serve our communities. I look forward to visiting your Districts next year and the opportunity to meet with you and see the unique and clever ways you are promoting our Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. organization and its rich history. We do have a long history in our great state of working with many different businesses, schools and city and county officials as we continue to promote creative ideas and projects to make your town a better, inviting and beautiful place for hometown people as well as visitors.

Here's a little reminder of the emblems of our great state of Texas found in *Weavers of the Tapestry*:

TX Flower – Bluebonnet; **TX Bird** – Mockingbird; **TX Tree** – Pecan.

My continuing theme, "Spread Wildflower Seeds All Across Texas" has taken off extremely well. Five of the nine districts have received bags of wildflower seeds with instructions on this fun project. Approximately 25 to 35 garden clubs will be participating according to the seeds distributed. I have already heard from some of the clubs with enthusiasm and excitement as they start the prep work for this project. Please keep in mind that one garden club from each district will be eligible to win a \$200 check. I look forward to hearing about the ideas and pictures of results as you prepare your areas for spreading your seeds and beautifying our great countryside. Let's do what we love to do...beautify our communities and state highways with Texas Wildflowers! Happy planting and best of luck y'all!

We need to continue to reach out to one another through our websites and Facebook pages — remember to share your ideas and stories with others. You have a vast amount of information that needs to be shared. Little things could make a big difference to others. So, continue to grow, learn and teach as we travel down this journey of life.

As the year ends, my prayer is to count the ways God has been taking care of us, count our many blessings, friendships made along the way and the accomplishments that we as garden club members continue to make each and every day. Cherish your friendships, love one another and take time to be kind to those whose paths we cross. You may never know the impact you have on others.

I would like to pray for the families of members we lost in November this year: Pam Sykes, a master accredited flower show judge, and Sue King, an environmental consultant. They will be missed in the garden club world by many.

I send a special thank you to all the Garden Clubs, individuals and businesses who have so graciously stood by our sister garden clubs in the Hill Country during the devastating flood that occurred July 4th. The generosity and kindness you have shown to our sister garden clubs with your wonderful donations tells its own story. We stand by one another when times are hard. We are TEXAS STRONG!

Thank you again, for the opportunity to serve as your Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. President. I continue to ask God's blessings to keep each of you safe, and healthy and special prayers for our organization as we continue to move forward working the land God has entrusted us with.

Linda Jean Brown



*Linda Jean Brown, President
2025-2027*

Unconditional Surrender

By Nan Cornett, Houston, TX and taken from the Tapestry A History of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. 1928-1997

Life was peaceful; serenity reigned, but our dreams were shattered, our peace disdained.

Before, we were calm and all went well, then, one fateful day - the blow fell.

Mama - joined - a garden club!

The doorbell chimes; the telephone buzzes; garden club is all she doeses.

She flashes here and dashes there; garden club news stacked everywhere.

Mama - is in - a garden club.

Vases, flowers, leaves, scattered yon and hither, Un-called-for opinions put Mama in a dither.

"Aren't these beautiful? Isn't that sweet?" Experience has taught me it's best to retreat.

It all - goes with - a garden club.

Our lawn dug up, all piled with dirt, Mama in jeans and faded shirt,

Digs and plants and prays for showers, while yelling "STOP WALKING ON MY FLOWERS!"

Mama - is in - a garden club.

Our typewriter gallops, she was just inspired! It matters not who's hungry or tired.

Odorous bug sprays perfume the air, no plant or bush is beyond repair.

Mama - is in - a garden club.

Yes, life was peaceful, serenity reigned. Our dreams are shattered, our peace disdained,

but at last we've accepted her floral desires. We've surrendered the cause.

Mama still conspires for...you...know

Mama - is in - a garden club.

President's Travel Schedule

January 10, 2026 Environmental School, Ft. Parker State Park

January 13, 2026 Tyler Area Council of Garden Clubs Flower Show meeting Pine Lodge Lake

January 15, 2026 District IV Planning Meeting for Spring Convention, Kingwood, TX

February 3, 2026 District III Tyler Area Council of Garden Clubs, Hemphill, TX

March 2, 2026 District V Spring Convention, Temple, TX

March 5, 2026 District III Spring Convention, Kilgore, TX

April 7-9, 2026 TGC, Inc. Spring Convention, Houston, TX

Greetings From NGC President

In this first year of the 2025-2027 administration, I find myself reflecting on the spirit of giving and the joy of our NGC community. We have much to be grateful for, and it is thanks to your unwavering support and dedication that NGC can celebrate the success of fulfilling its mission during this season.

Traveling to state and regional meetings across the country has been wonderful, as I see the enthusiasm and dedication of members reflected in the National Garden Club's programs and projects, which keep improving through your strong sense of community and environmental stewardship. This commitment motivates all members to connect with nature and one another. You may have noticed the new and improved website design, along with recent updates. It is now easier to find resources and participate in the events and programs that NGC offers!

Your recent generous contributions to the PLANT AMERICA Matching Grant program are bringing us closer to the \$50,000 goal! Your donations allow NGC to offer grants to garden clubs supporting the NGC initiative PLANT AMERICA. The PLANT AMERICA/Keep America Beautiful program offers a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the matching grant and double your impact. I want to thank everyone who has already donated. The \$50,000 goal is within reach, and if each garden club chips in a small amount, we will achieve it! Donations can be made by visiting the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org. One of the most exciting goals of PLANT AMERICA during this term is to plant red, white, and blue this spring and summer at the four thousand Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers across the country in celebration of America's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026! This effort, in collaboration with Keep America Beautiful, will not only beautify our communities but also honor those who have served our country.

As you are aware, one incredible perk of your membership is the TNG magazine. The articles vividly highlight our gardening journey with sustainable practices, seasonal planting guides, innovative techniques, and inspiring garden designs. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting out, you are encouraged to share your unique insights, tips, and stories that reflect your passion for growing plants and nurturing landscapes. Your contributions will help create a lively community of gardening enthusiasts who celebrate gardening and conservation nationwide.

During this season of giving, let us continue to inspire one another and spread joy through our actions. Your passion and dedication to our mission make the friendships we build at NGC truly special and rewarding. Thank you for your hard work, generosity, and belief in the power of planting to create change. We have much to look forward to in the coming months.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and holiday season, filled with peace, warmth, and togetherness. May the New Year bring growth, both in our gardens and in our hearts. With sincere gratitude and appreciation for each of you,

Donna Donnelly



*Donna Donnelly, NGC President
2025-2027*

Message From South Central Region

As the deadline for awards is soon, I am encouraging clubs to prepare entries for your State and then forward those that apply, to South Central Region Awards Chairman Gwen Dewitt. It is just one more step and it will be fun to receive recognition at the convention in San Antonio from April 27th thru 30th when members from Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico will be recognized for their awards alongside of Texas, which will be great fun.

In case you haven't heard, my project this term is to purchase a Gold Star marker for each state to honor mothers who have lost sons and daughters who served in all branches of the military. We recently installed one at the Council of Garden Clubs center here in Albuquerque (see picture below). This year it was heartwarming to see that a Christmas tree at the White House was dedicated to Gold Star moms and each state was represented with their state flower and bird plus gold stars.

To make these markers a reality, we are raising funds as usual with our Ways and Means. One of the sales is a revival of something we have done many times in the past which proved to be fun and lucrative. It is a gently used and much-loved jewelry sale! As the evenings close in, we have time to sort through our treasures and deliver them to club presidents to bring to San Antonio in April to sell. In New Mexico, we have chosen a special person to collect the jewelry and will keep the "jewels" throughout the months ready for the convention. As an aside, when we were at the reception after our Gold Star installation ceremony one of the gold star moms was talking about disposing of her jewelry and wanted ideas...well our fundraiser was tailor made for her.

New Mexico has chosen our National Cemetery in Santa Fe as the location possibly to be placed alongside the Blue Star marker at the gate. This is purely a National Garden Club inspiration and has long been supported all across our nation. Make it a Texas state effort and let's add four more to our region.

May you all enjoy the comfort of home, family and friends and have fun making plans for your garden for the spring. See you all in San Antonio in April.

Christine Longthorp



*Christine Longthorp SCR Director
2025-2027*



Down the Garden Path ...

by Gwen DeWitt, Garden Consultant

With all the hustle and bustle of the recent holiday season, I found myself sneaking off to the greenhouse for a little decompression. I love the earthy smell and bromeliad and orchid blooms to brighten the overcast days.

In winter, it's time to consider what needs to be done in the garden. It's time to get caught up on chores while the garden sleeps. In our area, the garden doesn't sleep so much as nap. It's important to take advantage of what little time we have to get ready for spring.

The lack of rain has been very hard on our feathered friends. Act in Santa's stead and put out seed for the birds. They are a joyous addition to the garden providing hours of entertainment for the bird watcher. They have the added benefit of controlling insects.

Not all birds like the same seed or the same delivery system. Seed eaters include cardinals, chickadees, finch, nuthatches, titmice, sparrows, juncos, doves, pheasant and quail. Doves and juncos are ground feeders. To attract them and other ground feeders put out sunflower and smaller seed on the ground or in dishes. Finches prefer hanging feeders. To attract finches and other birds that prefer their seed in a hanging feeder, fill with black thistle seed. Sprouting seed under the feeder can be a nuisance. To counter this problem, feed safflower seed or peanut hearts – they don't germinate and the birds love them. Birds love sunflower seed but it is important to be aware that the un-composted hulls are toxic to plant growth. You will have a bare spot under the feeder.

The best way to attract birds to the garden is to plant for them using plant material that produces edible seed, berries or nectar. Some of the best choices include yaupon holly, elderberry, serviceberry, hawthorn, persimmon, loquat, fig, eastern red cedar, magnolia, mulberry, wax myrtle, Mexican plum, beauty berry, hollies, mohonia, Chinese photinia, roses, viburnum, coral vine, sunflower, hibiscus, lantana, Turk's cap, coral honeysuckle, blackberries, and salvias.

Mocking birds love chili pequin much to the aggravation of the husband. As soon as the peppers mature, the birds eat them like candy. The husband has to fight for his fair share.

If you are in a quandary about what to get that special gardener, I have a few suggestions. Good bypass clippers make a great stocking stuffer. A gift certificate to their favorite nursery is always appreciated along with a subscription to their favorite gardening magazine. First on my list is a good new hose. I'm always crimping the hose to move from one spot to another and after a couple of seasons hoses tend to become cracked and useless. A garden book on their favorite plant is always appreciated. One of the best gifts to give your favorite gardener is a promise of your time and labor.

Another nice gift for your favorite gardener would be the Christmas cactus. A traditional Southern Christmas plant, Christmas cactus (*Stumberger x buckleyi*) is arching branches tipped in delectate blooms that come in shades of red, fuchsia, pink, white, and yellow.

The Christmas cactus, an easy plant to grow, likes moist, well-drained soil. It doesn't like wet feet and will rot if kept too wet. The plants need bright indirect light, and enjoy being taken

outside in a lightly shaded spot during the warm months. The arching branches make the plant a wonderful specimen for hanging baskets.

Christmas cactus starts to set buds in the fall when the days begin to shorten and the temperatures abate. Your cactus needs to be watched carefully during this time so that you can bring it in if it gets too cold. When inside the cactus likes to be in a place without drafts and has bright indirect light.

Although I can't have a real tree if I wish to breathe, I do love the smell and sneak a whiff whenever I go to the grocery store. If you are one of the lucky and have a real tree, you need to follow a few steps to ensure its longevity. Check for freshness when shopping for a tree by bending the needles back to see how pliable they are. Another way to check for freshness is to hold the tree by the trunk and give it a firm shake to see if it retains its needles. After you have found that perfect tree, make a fresh cut about an inch above the old cut. This will allow the tree to absorb water. Please be sure to keep them watered. Use packets of floral preservative mixed with water to feed your tree to help lengthen its life. Use miniature lights, they are cooler. Remember - dry trees are fire hazards.

The weather has been mild so far, but cold weather will arrive. I've moved the most sensitive plants to the greenhouse and others to more protected locations. The covers are loaded in my wagon ready to be quickly deployed should the need arise.

Living at the top of a hill with large trees protects the plants in my garden from brief little cold spells. Cold air, like water, flows downhill. Unfortunately, tropical plants will only tolerate so much cold. Other plants like roses will actually thrive after cold weather forces them to rest. And best of all, cold weather helps keep the pests in check.

To protect your plants, mulch your beds with pine bark, oak leaves, cypress mulch, or hay. Make sure the mulch is three to four inches deep to be effective. Not only will the mulch protect the roots, it will keep the weeds down. Best of all the mulch will break down and enrich the soil. What a deal!

Happy Gardening!



Christmas cactus (Schlumbergera) in bloom



Christmas cactus in bud

Headquarters Clean Up in September



The Greater Herb Society of Ft Worth and the Wedgwood Garden Club, both of District II, came to work at TGC Headquarters on September 27. They did an amazing job and really helped improve the curb appeal.

Four Club Arbor Day Celebration

Comal Garden Club, Four Season Garden Club, Guada Coma Garden Club and Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park came together to celebrate Arbor Day on April 30 at the Texas Homemade Furniture Museum in New Braunfels. Each club donated \$100 (plus Friends of Landa Park) for two trees. A donation from Vanda Babich of \$50 rounded out the donations.



Justin Bell, Executive Director of the Heritage Society of New Braunfels and curator of the museum. Leslie Dey, Board Member of Heritage Society and President of Friends for the Preservation of Landa Park. Presidents: Vanda Babich - Comal, Helen Hunt - Guada Coma, and Connie Bye - Four Seasons

Fall 2025 Environmental School



Attendees at the Fall 2025 Environmental School at Old Fort Parker



Congratulations to the graduates of the Environmental School

In Loving Memory

— Darlene Joy Morse —

Desert Sands Garden Club
and

— Dorothy Parker —

Kermit Garden Club

District I

Congratulations!

TGC, Inc. Officers

2025 - 2027

from

District I

98th TGC Fall Convention

October 2025





First Time Attendees

Red-Tailed Hawk

Contributed by Rhonda Wood, Bird Chairman (San Augustine Garden Club and Six Mile Garden Club)

Our Garden Club President, Linda Jean Brown, has selected the Red-tailed hawk as our club bird. Linda Jean and her husband, Daddyo, have a special affinity for the Red-tailed hawk as they are often seen around their home and lake, even perching atop the American flagpole on their pier. The Brown's affectionately named a neighborhood pair Red and Guns in honor of Daddyo's Texas Tech Red Raiders.

Red-tailed hawks are prevalent across North America and an ever-present raptor in the great State of Texas. There are numerous sub-species of the Red-tailed hawk, but they all display the distinctive red tail. They are known for their powerful talons and ability to soar at great heights. Their incredible eyesight (as much as seven times that of a human) allows them to be formidable hunters from high above the ground.

The unmistakable loud, raspy "kree-eee-ar" scream lets you know that they are in the area. You might just hear that call anywhere in Texas as the Red-tailed hawk easily adapts to various environments from woodlands to urban areas. It is very fitting that our Texas Garden Club President chose the Red-tailed hawk due to its strength, beauty and perseverance. The Red-tailed hawk even has cultural significance. Cherokee tradition considered them a sacred protector spirit. In Middle Ages, hawks were often depicted on the arms of noblemen and the hawk symbolized a watchful presence and divine wisdom in Judeo-Christian tradition.

Let's celebrate the Red-tailed hawk and keep our eyes peeled for one of God's most beautiful creatures!



TGC Workday - November 8, 2025

Sarah McReynolds, Heather White, Scott Force (Wedgwood GC/Dist II) and Martina Salinas (Greater Ft Worth Herb Society/Dist II) worked at HQ on November 8. The major projects were removal of brush in the small clearing adjacent to the bog garden. Many thanks to Scott Force and Sarah's chainsaw for a success.



Sarah McReynolds and Scott Force begin the cleanup



Above: After the cleanup — Cleaning of trash/debris from the creek - Heather donned some wellies and braved the creek. There was a very large number of plastic bags (which are horrible for most amphibians and turtles), a degraded VISA gift card, many cans and other personal trash. It was a treat to seeing many birds bathing in the creek. And due to very high winds in Ft Worth recently, lots of limbs were down. Martina Salinas helped with those.

Left: Sarah McReynolds and Martina Salinas replace a fence rail.



Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. 98th Spring Convention

April 7-9, 2026

Houston Marriott North - 255 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston TX 77060

Texas Garden Clubs Convention 2026-\$129.00 per night +tax +fee

Phone: 281-875-4000, Press 0 - Reserve by March 23, 2026

Name on Badge _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Club _____ Affiliate _____ District _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 23, 2026 (NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE)

Registration starts April 7, 2026 @10am - 5:00pm - Other days: 8:00am - 5pm

Registration Fees

Entire Convention - \$45.00	\$ _____
One Day - \$30.00	\$ _____

Tuesday April 7, 2026

Meetings: Trustee 1:00pm - Finance 2:00pm - Organizational Studies 4:00pm

Meals on your own

Wednesday April 8, 2026

Executive Board Meeting 9:00am - Board of Directors Meeting 10:15am	
Lunch 12:00pm - \$32.00	\$ _____
Program 12:45pm - John Thomas, Owner of Wild Seed Farms	
Nominating Committee 2:00pm	
Workshop 3:00pm - Zentangle Art, Brenda Pearson - \$10.00	\$ _____
Dinner 6:30 pm - \$50.00	\$ _____

Thursday April 9, 2026

General Assembly Meeting 9:00am/Presentation of Colors 9:30am	
Memorial Service 11:30am	
Lunch and Youth Awards 12:00pm - \$32.00	\$ _____
Program-1:30 PM- Program: Jay White, Publisher of <i>Texas Gardeners Magazine</i>	
Design 3:00pm - Houston Area Flower Show judges -Free	
Workshop 4:00pm - Felt Flowers - \$20.00.....	\$ _____
Dinner and Adult Awards 6:30pm - \$50.00	\$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Circle any special dietary needs:

Diabetic Gluten-Free Vegan Vegetarian Other

Send registration (with check payable to District IV) to:

Madeleine Rogers

2002 Sierra Street

Kemah, TX 77565

281-684-4957

Credentials

- NGC President
- Former NGC President
- NGC Chair
- SCR Director
- Former SCR Director
- SCR Officer
- TGC President
- Former TGC President
- TGC Officer
- Trustee
- TGC Chair
- District Director
- Club President
- Club Member
- Club Alternate
- Affiliate Member
- Council President
- First-time Attendee
- Spouse
- Speaker
- Guest
- Landscape Design Cons.
- Environ. Studies Cons.
- Gardening Studies Cons.
- Flower Show Judge:
 - Master
 - Life
 - Accredited
 - Student
 - Emeritus
- NGC Life Member
- SCR Life Member
- TGC Life Member

TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC. CALL TO CONVENTION

98TH SPRING CONVENTION

April 7-9, 2026

Houston Marriott North-255 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, TX 77060

Hosted by District IV Garden Club

Schedule of Events

Day 1 –Tuesday April 7, 2026

❖ 10:00am- 5:00pm	Registration	Foyer C
❖ 1:00pm- 2:00pm	Meeting 1 - Trustee Mtg.	Dallas
❖ 2:00pm- 4:00pm	Meeting 2 - Finance Mtg.	Dallas
❖ 4:00pm- 5:00pm	Organizational Studies	Dallas
❖ 12:00pm- 5:00pm	Vendor Room Set-up	Salons A&B
❖ 12:00pm- 5:00pm	Silent Auction Set-up	Salons E&F

Day 2- Wednesday, April 8, 2026

❖ 8:00am- 5:00pm	Registration	Foyer C
❖ 8:00am- 5:00pm	Vendor Room Open	Salons A&B
❖ 8:00am- 5:00pm	Silent Auction Open	Salons E&F
❖ 9:00am- 10:00am	Executive Board of Directors Meeting	Lone star Ballroom
❖ 10:15am- 11:45am	Board of Directors Meeting	Lone Star Ballroom
❖ 12:00pm- 2:00pm	Lunch & Program	Salons C&D
❖ 2:00pm- 3:00pm	Nominating Committee Meeting	Dallas
❖ 3:00pm- 5:00pm	Workshop- Zentangle Art Brenda Pearson	Dallas
❖ 6:30pm- 8:30pm	Dinner	Salons C&D

Day 3- Thursday, April 9, 2026

❖ 8:00am- 5:00pm	Registration	Foyer	
❖ 8:00am- 5:00pm	Vendor Room Open	Salons A&B	
❖ 9:00am- 11:30am	General Assembly Meeting	Lone Star Ballroom	
❖ 9:30am- 10:00am	JROTC Color Guard	Lone Star Ballroom	
❖ 11:30am- 12:00pm	Memorial Service	Lone Star Ballroom	
❖ 12:00pm- 2:30pm	Lunch & Program Youth Awards	Salons C&D	
❖			
❖ 8:00am- 2:00pm	Silent Auction Closes	Salons E&F	
❖ 3:00pm- 4:00pm	Houston Area Flower Show Judges	Dallas	
❖ 4:00pm- 5:00pm	Workshop-Felt Flowers	Dallas	
❖ 6:30pm 7:30pm	8:00pm	Dinner Gala Adult Awards	Salons C&D

ADVERTISE YOUR CLUB IN THE CONVENTION BOOKLET

The 98th Spring TGC Convention is fast approaching.

Please consider placing an advertisement in the Convention Booklet.

Ads are a great way to share information about garden club activities such as celebrations, congratulations, express sympathies or to let everyone know about upcoming events such as flower shows and plant sales!

The deadline is: March 16, 2026

Rates are:

1/4 page: \$25

1/2 page: \$50

Full page: \$100

If you wish to purchase an ad, please email content only to **Lisa Lofaro** at:

lofaros@gmail.com

Make checks payable to: **Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.** and mail your payment to

Madeline Rogers, 2002 Sierra Street, Kemah, TX 77565



TGC, Inc. President, Linda Jean Brown's
2025-27 Project Wildflower seed planting Contest

Each District in Texas that participates in the planting of wildflower seeds in a given area (parks, highways, schools, churches, etc.) will receive one award for the overall excellence and best entry planting of wildflower seeds.

The award will receive Linda Jean's Presidential Citation as well as \$200.00 check.
This will be a one and one half year contest during the president's administration.

Deadline November 1, 2026

Single Garden Clubs need to receive 1st place in their District in order to qualify for the award.

They will be awarded at the TGC, Inc. Spring Convention 2027.

Planting of Wildflower seeds will be in a specific location chosen by your club members.

Establishment of Location

Clearing the area and prepping the ground

Pertinent information and details

Before and after photographs and publicity

District Directors send your first place winners to
TGC, Inc. President's Project Chairman and Committee

Linda Jean Brown 30 Waco Dr

Elkhart TX 75839

ljbrown3264@windstream.net

**Please note: District III has their own Wildflower contest
and will not be eligible to participate in this particular contest**

Happy Planting and Best of Luck Y'all.



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION AND TREE PARTY AT HEADQUARTERS IN OCTOBER 2025



Sarah McReynolds and Denise Hilburn who played a major role in preparing the luncheon fare



A tree hat?



Sarah with a woody pine tree



SAVE THE DATE

“PLANT AMERICA”
See How We Grow

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION
WHEN: APRIL 28-29, 2026
WHERE: HISTORIC MENGER HOTEL
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Take a narrated boat ride along the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk, enjoy two fun workshops, as well as speakers on orchids and lavender and Red, White & Blue landscaping of Blue Star Memorial Markers. Tuesday will be Fiesta Day with a fabulous Design program hosted by San Antonio Judges Council and Wednesday dress in your Red, White and Blue Western wear and enjoy some Texas Hospitality!

South Central Region Garden Clubs Annual Meeting & Convention

“PLANT AMERICA” See How We Grow

Tuesday, April 28 - Wednesday, April 29, 2026

at the Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 (Fiesta Day)

8:30am	Leave for San Antonio Riverwalk for Boat Tour
12:00noon	Lunch at Hotel and program on Lavender
1:30pm	SCR 2025-2027 Executive Committee Meeting
3:00pm	Resurrection Plant Workshop
6:00pm	Dinner and Design Program provided by San Antonio Judges Council

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 (Western Day)

9:00am	SCR General Business Meeting and Awards Presentation
12:00noon	Lunch and program on Orchids
1:30pm	Red, White and Blue Workshop
5:00pm	Reception honoring NGC President and SCR Director
6:00pm	Dinner and Blue Star Memorial Program



**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION GARDEN CLUBS
ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION
“PLANT AMERICA”
See How We Grow
Tuesday April 28 – Wednesday April 29
at the Historic Menger Hotel**



TGC Inc. District VII is Host for the South-Central Region Convention
Join us for a taste of Fiesta and a Texas style Barbeque. It's your chance to see garden friends
from our sister states (NM, TX, OK, & AR).

We have some great vendors for your shopping experience.

Tuesday is Fiesta Day!

Tuesday is your chance to glide down the San Antonio River on a barge and experience the Ambiance and History Old San Antonio, after which we return to the Menger for lunch and a program on Lavender.

Experience the excitement of creating your own Resurrection Plant Garden at a workshop led by Paula Cotty-Duplant.

Dress in Fiesta wear to enjoy dinner followed by Wendy Osburn CFD, Director of Texas A&M University's Benz School of Floral Design.

Wednesday is Western Day – Texas Style!

We start the day with the SCR General Business Meeting and Awards Presentation. Learn about Orchids at lunch on Wednesday.

In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, we will have a Red, White and Blue Landscape Workshop for Blue Star Memorials.

District VII will host a reception for our NGC President and SCR Director – join the fun and meet our leaders!

Wear your Red, White and Blue Texas bling for a Texas Barbeque with a program on the Blue Star Memorial Program!

Join us for some Texas Hospitality!



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



2026 Annual Meeting & Convention
“PLANT AMERICA-See How We Grow”

April 28-29, 2026 - Menger Hotel-204 Alamo Plaza-San Antonio, TX

2026 South Central Region Convention Registration Form

Print your name as you would like it to appear on your name tag.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone _____ Garden Club(s): _____

Please circle either Early Package or Late Package:

Package includes:

Registration fee, Tuesday Tour, Lunch, Resurrection Plant workshop, Dinner and Floral Design Program, Wednesday Lunch, Red, White & Blue workshop, NGC President & SCR Director Reception and Dinner.

EARLY PACKAGE

Postmarked on or before April 3, 2026 - \$325.00

LATE PACKAGE

Postmarked after April 3, 2026 - \$350.00

NOTE: No refunds on registration after registration close of April 3, 2026. Registration fee of \$35.00 is **NON-REFUNDABLE**.

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

\$ _____

CREDENTIALS: Please circle all that apply. NOTE: If you are unsure of anything, please do not circle it. Someone will help you when you register at the convention.

NGC President, NGC Officer, NGC Chair, NGC Committee Member, NGC Life Member, SCR Director, Past SCR Director, SCR Officer, SCR Chair, SCR Committee Member, SCR Life Member, State President, Former State President, State Officer, State Chair, State Life Member, State District Director, Club President, Club Member, Flower Show Judge, Environmental Consultant, Garden School Consultant, Landscape Design Consultant

BREAKFAST IS ON YOUR OWN

Make checks payable to: **TGC, Inc., SCR 2026 Convention**

Mail check and registration form to: Linda Franke, Registrar, PO Box 311096, New Braunfels, TX 78131

Hotel Accommodations at the **Menger**: \$159.00 + tax (Parking: \$30.00 per day + tax)

For hotel reservation use this booking link for the group rate: <https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=16589&nights=3&checkin=04/27/2026&group=042726TEXASGA&lang=en-us&adults=1&childAges=>

Cutoff for Hotel Reservations is Friday, April 10, 2026 - NO EXCEPTIONS

CIRCLE any special dietary needs: Diabetic / Gluten Free / Vegan / Vegetarian / Allergies

A&M Garden Club - WILDFLOWER SPREAD AND STOMP

On October 10, the A&M Garden Club invited the community to help spread native wildflower seeds in the Wildscape area of Richard Carter Park, the only historical park in College Station. Over 50 families attended and spread a cup of native wildflower plant seeds and bluebonnet seeds to improve the wildscape area, spread native wildflower seeds, promote the TGC project to "Spread Wildflower Seeds all across Texas," and to promote Plant America, the National Garden Club (NGC) theme for 2025-2027. Participants also received a packet of wildflower seeds to plant at their own homes for food for pollinators, to promote native plants and for conservation. Seeds were donated by the College Station Parks and Recreation Department, Keep Brazos Beautiful, TAMU The Gardens, and Miss Rodeo Texas.

A&M Garden Club member Cheryl Lewis, Texas Master Naturalist and Native Plant Society of Texas, spoke about Wildflower Native Plants and their benefit to conservation, beautification, pollinators, and America and answered questions. Miss Rodeo Texas Reanna Santos helped spread wildflower seeds and spoke on her platform - "Flourish with Purpose" to help ranchers achieve economic and ecological sustainability through conservation and education.



(L-R) A&M Garden Club President Jan Porter, Keep Brazos Beautiful Exec Director Brooke Arellano, Wildscape Chair Jane Cohen, Miss Rodeo Texas Reanna Santon, Speaker Cheryl Lewis, Secretary Susie Ohendalski, and Flower Beds/TAMU Big Event Carmen Billings.



Speaker Cheryl Lewis on native plants

San Saba Garden Club



San Saba Garden Club
is raffling off this
beautiful quilt to
raise funds to repair
their club house
which was severely
damaged in 4th of
July floods.



Linda Jean Brown with Marjean Alexander Co-President, Janis Murry VP, Trudy Hughes Treasurer San Saba Garden Club

Please join District VII
for
Gardening School - Course II
(Courses do not have to be taken in order)

When:

February 2 & 3, 2026

Where:

San Antonio Garden Center
San Antonio, Texas

Special Room Rate available at Drury Inn
95 NE I-410, San Antonio, TX 78216
210-308-8100

<https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10168421>

Come join the fun while learning all about gardening from
Dr. Joe Novak of Rice University

Contact Karen Taylor @
409-256-3819 with questions

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
GARDENING SCHOOL
Series 19 – Course 2
February 2 – 3, 2026

San Antonio Garden Center
3310 N. New Braunfels
San Antonio, TX 78209
830-837-5262

Open to Everyone!

Gardening School Courses are open to everyone, regardless of National Garden Club, Inc. membership. Each of the 4 courses has an optional exam. **NGC members wishing to apply to be NGC Gardening Consultants must take all four courses and pass each exam.** Non-members fulfilling the above requirements may apply to be Consultants upon joining an NGC affiliated club within one calendar year of the completion date of the 4th course.

To take advantage of this opportunity, fill out the registration form on the reverse side of this brochure and send it with your check in the amount of \$150.00 made out to:

TGC, Inc. Garden School
Memo line: GS S19-C2

Please Note
Course #3 is planned for
August 2026

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
GARDENING SCHOOL
Series 19 – Course 2
February 2 – 3, 2026

Sponsored by:
TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
DISTRICT VII



Sponsored by:

Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.
District VII

The NGC Gardening School Courses are designed to provide educational instruction to those interested in gardening, horticulture and related subjects.

The school consists of a series of four courses, scheduled for two days of instruction followed by an **OPEN BOOK** examination. Courses cover all aspects of growing – from understanding soil structure to pruning techniques, plant cultivation and identification, etc. Topics include basic botany, soils, growing annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, fruits and vegetables, lawns, pests and diseases of plants, and selected subjects of interest.

The courses are intended primarily for garden club members, but they are also open to the general public, requiring only the payment of a nominal fee. NGC affiliated Garden Club members completing the series of four courses are awarded the designation of NGC Gardening Consultant. A non-member student who has successfully completed the four courses may apply for Consultant Certification upon joining a garden club affiliated with NGC within one year after completing the series. Additional topics and areas of interest that may be covered are subjects such as Reconciliation Ecology (the science of inventing, establishing and maintaining new habitats in places where people live, work, and play), and creating backyard habitats to help endangered species such as pollinators and amphibians.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
GARDENING SCHOOL
Series 19 – Course 2
February 2 – 3, 2026

Sponsored by:
TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
DISTRICT VII

Helping Members become accomplished horticulturists.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Gardening School

Series 19 – Course 2
February 2 – 3, 2026

San Antonio Garden Center
3310 N. New Braunfels
San Antonio, TX 78209
830-837-5262

STATE PRESIDENT
Linda Jean Brown

LOCAL GARDEN SCHOOL CHAIRS

Karen Taylor, Chair
Lee Taylor, Co-Chair

Arp Garden Club, District III

On Friday October 24, the Arp Garden Club completed a meaningful project. We updated and beautified the memorial site dedicated to our fallen Arp canine officers. This special area, located in the Arp City Park, holds three engraved stones honoring the loyal service and sacrifice of our city's K-9 heroes. Over time the site had weathered and needed care, so our members joined together to restore it. We are proud to honor the memory of these faithful K-9 officers who served our community with courage and devotion.



(L-R) Connie Davis, Jackie Calicutt, Ginny Clark, Arp Chief of Police, Kathy Stroupe, Debbie Gillispie, Pam Lowery, and Tammy Smith



Phillip Smith and Pam Lowery



Ginny Clark, Kathy Stoupe, and Pam Lowery



Kathy Stroupe, Pam Lowery, Connie Davis, and Tammy Smith



Ebbie Taliaferro and Ginny Clark

TGC MEMORIAL SERVICE

at TGC Spring Convention — April 9, 2026 — 10:30 a.m.

Lone Star Ballroom (tentatively scheduled)

If you have a member of your Federated Club or Affiliate that passed/es away 1/1/25-12/31/25, please contact TGC Chaplain Heather White at heathermwhitemd@aol.com, no later than February 1, 2026 with the following information:

Name of Member

Name of Club/Clubs

District

Date of Birth and Date of Death

All District Directors are requested to attend the Memorial Service as you will participate in the service.

Thank you

Heather White, TGC Chaplain

GARDEN ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

Meet Lisa Lofaro

by Pamela Randall, Lakewood Forest Garden Club

Imagine your garden is the prettiest it has ever been. You have spent hours and days trimming, fertilizing, planting, weeding... all the garden chores required to keep those plants healthy and beautiful. You sit in your favorite spot, favorite beverage in hand, admiring your hard work, replaying those moments of joy when you found a new bloom, or of loss when you realized the specimen you planted last year did not make it. You take a mental "snapshot" - and maybe even a real photograph - so you can hold it close to your heart.

The members of the League City Garden Club and homeowners of League City take these moments personally. Each year the garden club offers homeowners (and even their own members) a chance to show off their gardens to the public during the Annual Garden Walk fundraiser. Yes, the money earned from all this arduous work funds the club's projects for the year, but the main event is seeing the pride beaming from the faces of the gardeners themselves.

Your family and friends join you for this beautiful exhibition of your gardening talents. Neighbors and club members come hoping to gather the latest ideas in floral display. People from all over the county and Greater Houston area descend on your garden like hungry lady bugs. You hear the "oohs..." the "aahs..." the gasps and you smile to yourself knowing your efforts are appreciated.

And then it happens: you are presented with a portrait of your lovely garden. A hand-drawn, hand-colored sketch highlighting all your growing talents and your garden at its peak of perfection. This one-of-a-kind artwork captures a view of your garden that lets you see it for all its glory. Colors leaping out of the frame to remind you of the beauty you helped to create. You feel your emotions begin to swell; your smile beaming even brighter.

This is the "Thank You" gift presented by artist extraordinaire, Lisa Lofaro, on behalf of the League City Garden Club.

Before joining the garden club, Lisa was interested in using her artistic skills to help save the Butler Oaks in League Park, which was scheduled for a major overhaul. Members of the League City Garden Club discovered her sitting under those oaks sketching pictures of each tree to preserve their history and asked her to come to a Garden Club meeting. There she found informative speakers, horticultural programs and gardeners interested in preserving the beauty of League City. She joined the Board, served two-terms as President and is still continually active in all the aspects of her recently expanded gardening world.

This may seem like quite a journey from the prestigious Tyler Art School, to studying The Masters during her Junior year in Rome, to saving trees in League City, yet Lisa has enjoyed every colorful moment. One of her most rewarding reactions from a homeowner on the Annual Garden Walk was the sheer surprise that this tireless gardener expressed. This daughter of the soil had no idea she would be gifted with this heartfelt sketch of appreciation. Her eyes filled with tears and the exuberant expression of joy reminds Lisa why she loves this beautiful form of art.

Lisa's talents have been recognized by the gardeners in District IV who are hosting the TGC, Inc. Spring convention April 7 – 9, 2026. She has been asked to provide the art work for the program brochure. Lisa will also be entering a very special piece into the TGC Art – Photography Award competition. And if you have always wanted to own a gorgeous hand drawn and colored sketch, the conventioneers will have a chance to bid on one of Lisa's beautiful creations during the Silent Auction.

You will find more of Lisa's work at the West Bay Common School Children's Museum in the League City Historic district and in the Butler Museum in Kemah, Texas.

President Linda Jean's

Ways and Means Fundraiser



This awesome **Texas Wildflower** flour sack kitchen towel, measuring 30"×30" will be available at the TGC, Inc. 98th Spring Convention hosted by District IV in Houston.

These will be great, fast gifts that everyone would be thrilled to receive. As we continue to "Spread Wildflower Seeds All Across Texas," I encourage you to buy and show your support as we move forward doing the work that is so important to our world.

\$11 each

Contact Rhonda Wood

972-978-7469

rara411@yahoo.com

Recommendations from the TGC, Inc. Trustee and Finance Committees

by Cindy Heckaman, Recording Secretary

1. Move that we accept the purchase of a ring device for the front door for a one-time cost of \$120.00 for the device and \$30.00 for the anti-theft. **Executive Committee Accepted**
2. Move that we accept the updated Headquarters Personnel Policy Manual for Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. **Executive Committee Accepted**
3. Move that we ratify an action of the President Linda Jean Brown and Vice-President Carol Coughran transfer \$15, 000.00 from Chase Premium Savings Account 9205 to Chase Premium Savings Account 1907 for 2025 Transfer Budget Fund. **Executive Committee Accepted**
4. Move that we approve the actions of the President and Vice-President of Finance to transfer funds of \$10, 000.00 for Dues and Trustees Budget for 2025-2026 year **Executive Committee Accepted**
5. Move that tentative budget be approved as presented for 2025-2026. **Executive Committee Accepted**
6. Move that we accept with gratitude donations from Clubs in the amount of \$9, 313.00, Districts, \$7,979.00, Individuals, \$5, 104.00, totaling \$22, 396.00. **Executive Committee Accepted**
7. Move that we accept Scholarship money to SFA student Kathryn Heuther for \$3,000.00 and Texas A & M student Michael Cook for \$4,000.00. **Executive Committee Accepted**
8. Move that we accept the updated Youth Awards Manual. **Executive Committee Accepted**
9. Move that we accept increase of monetary awards for TGC, Inc. Youth Essay Contests to first, \$15.00, second, \$10.00, and third place, \$5.00. **Executive Committee Accepted**
10. Move that we accept TGC, Inc. reinstate the Youth Essay Contest at the State level beginning with 2026-2027 award year. **Executive Committee Accepted**
11. Move that we accept Federating Burleson County Garden Club. **Executive Committee Accepted**
12. Move that we accept Federating Just Bulbs Garden Club, Dallas, Texas District X **Executive Committee Accepted**

Dogwood Garden Club in a Holiday Mood



District III Dogwood Garden Club members decorated trees getting the Greenbriar Nursing Facility residents in the Christmas spirit. Present were: Dolores Walker, Virginia McNeill, Ruth Ann Freeman, Deborah Neal, Gay Bryant, and TGC president Linda Jean Brown.

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Fundraiser and Celebration



President Linda Jean Brown was warmly greeted at the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Holiday Fundraiser and Celebration. Members did an outstanding job making the event festive and inviting. A huge thank you to Co-chairs Susan Diehl and Sigrid Vincernt-Brown.

Frisco Garden Club



Each year, the Texas State House of Representatives presents the Austin State Capitol Christmas Tree. **The Frisco Garden Club** was proudly chosen to craft the ornament representing Texas State House District 106.

Member **Carolyn Babb** painted the Bluebird ornament to recognize the club's extensive Bluebird Nest Box project throughout the city of Frisco.

Mischka Pinto, daughter of member Namitha Pais, penned the calligraphy on the back. **Karen Vernon**, our talented Treasurer, styled the ornament with sprigs, ribbon, and bows.

NEW PLANT AMERICA GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Blue/Gold Star Memorial Beautification Grant!

Help beautify Blue and Gold Star Memorials in your community! Learn about our new grant opportunity in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, and submit your application today.

Visit
gardenclub.org
and **APPLY NOW**
(deadline 2/2026)



Plano Garden Club



Our annual Christmas tree decorating — we donate over 100 trees to children in the oncology unit at Childrens Hospital in Dallas.



Over 120 pounds of food was collected for Minnie's food pantry at our November meeting.



More than 120 pairs of PJs were donated by members for the Children's Advocacy center.



Plano GC awarded Dana Serafine with an NGC lifetime membership at our Christmas luncheon.

Sunnyvale Garden Club

Holiday Luncheon - December 9, 2025

Sunnyvale Garden Club held their December meeting and holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 9 at The Story in Sunnyvale. Class Act Tap Company and the Sunnyvale High School Daybreak Choir provided wonderful entertainment. Class Act Tap Company is a volunteer organization of ladies age 50 and up who have danced for area groups since 1986. The award-winning Daybreak Choir entertained with seasonal songs. Beautiful table centerpieces became door prizes. All 74 attendees received a potted cyclamen and a gift bag of holiday goodies. The event was a fun and festive kick-off to the holiday season.



A BLOOM OF BLUE

Joy Unveiled in Dallas

by Karen Murrell, Design Editor

At the Fall District X Convention in Dallas, floral artistry took center stage when

Wendy Osburn, CFD, Director of the Texas A&M Benz School of Floral Design, unveiled her latest creations during her demonstration "Journey to Joy" introducing



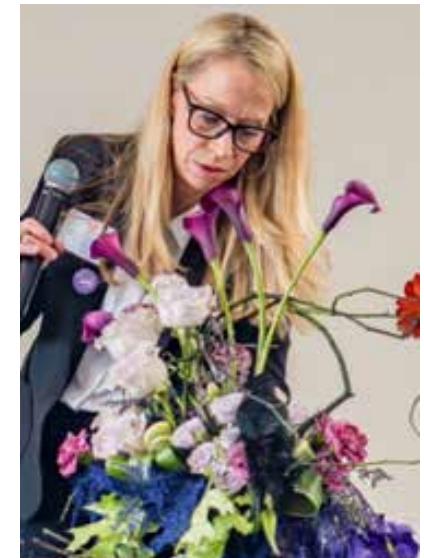
blue chrysanthemums. The blossoms symbolize innovation in the floral industry. The convention was a celebration of wonder, where flowers told stories and the designer painted with petals.

"Floral Design Meets Imagination"

During the Spooky Fascinator Workshop, Linda

Jean Brown incorporated the blue bloom into the fascinator she was crafting.

The bloom turned her headpiece into a unique fashion crowned by a blue flower. The workshop highlighted the evolving landscape of floral design, where artistry, fashion, and horticultural science converge to inspire new possibilities.



Wendy Osborn

The Blue Chrysanthemum

The Science behind The Flower

Scientists have been attempting to create true-blue flowers.

By introducing genes from Canterbury bells (*Campanula medium*) and the blue flowering butterfly peas (*Clitoria ternatea*) into chrysanthemums, Naonobu Noda, a Japanese plant biologist created blue chrysanthemums.

Science 26 Jul 2017 "Scientist genetically engineer the world's first blue chrysanthemum" by Elizabeth Pennisi.



Blue Pea from Wikimedia Commons

<https://www.science.org/content/article/scientists-genetically-engineer-world-s-first-blue-chrysanthemum>



Canterbury Bell from Wikimedia Commons

What is Sogetsu?

In 1927, when everyone believed that practicing ikebana meant following established forms, Sofu Teshigahara recognized ikebana as a creative art and founded the Sogetsu School of Ikebana. He believed that ikebana could be arranged "Anytime, anywhere, by anyone, with any kind of material." A yearlong, worldwide celebration of a Hundred Years of Sogetsu Ikebana begins in 2026.

The Sogetsu Dallas Branch's Celebration will feature high ranking Master Instructor Suisho Higuchi and Riji instructor Tokue Yamagchi from Japan who will demonstrate and lead workshops March 20-21, 2026. Nancy Griggs, Director Sogetsudallas.com

SOGETSU 100



Dallas Branch celebrating
Sogetsu 100th Anniversary

from Japan, featuring
Master Instructor

Suisho Higuchi
and Riji Instructor
Tokue Yamaguchi

March 20-21, 2026
9 AM - 4 PM

*Demonstrations, luncheons
and workshops*

Location
Bhartiya Nivas
A Life Style Community

7750 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway
Dallas, TX 75251



Scan QR Code to Register

DEADLINE: February 26, 2026



Designers and Diggers

Designers and Diggers decorate the Historic Wilson House on Swiss Avenue for Preservation Dallas for Christmas inside and outside. Fresh Poinsettias placed in each of the fireplaces complete the festive look.



Beverley Kluge, Cindy Crouse, Pam Dowling and Karen Murrell draped lighted garland on the railing of the Wilson House.

Flower Show School I

by Jan Myrick, Flower Show School Chairman

Flower Show School Horticulture Chair Alexandra Cowart-Taylor, Dallas Flower Show Judges, Founders Group President, expertly tagged, staged, and arranged an impressive collection of Japanese Maples and container grown Coleus for Flower Show School I. Our heartfelt thanks to Alex for her support and many thanks to all the judges and to every friend who so kindly offered their cuttings and plants. Your contributions helped create an exceptional experience for everyone.

Kathy Waitinas presented an informative program highlighting the distinctions among Line, Line Mass, and Traditional Mass floral arrangements. She also guided participants through the use of the Design Scale of Points, offering valuable insight into how each style is evaluated. We extend our sincere appreciation to the judges who prepared sample designs for the session, giving students a meaningful opportunity to practice their judging skills. With Thanks to the Flower Show Judges who helped with this First Flower show School. There were about 25 persons who either took the class for credit to become flower show judges or just audited the class for their own information on creating designs.

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL II — BEGINNING MARCH 2, 2026 — THE HISTORIC ALDREDGE HOUSE, DALLAS, TX



District X

Better Gardens Club, Corsicana

The Better Gardens Club of Corsicana members, the Salvation Army in Corsicana, the Mayor, City Manager and others attended the ground-breaking and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the local Community Prayer Garden in November. This is a joint project with lots of moving pieces. The Garden Club is helping to raise funds by creating a recipe book where all profits will be donated in addition to us helping to design the garden and manage the work. Local businesses are donating labor and supplies, and the local Boy Scouts are performing much of the work. The Boy Scouts have recently completed the vegetable planter boxes and the border around the cross in the large yard area.



Both are now ready for planting. We are truly proud to be a part of this community project.

Our club also held our annual Christmas Luncheon/Auction Fundraiser to support club activities. The event was held at the Kinsloe House, a Women's Club House Association supporting the community, who served our lunch and furnished all the gorgeous decorations for our enjoyment. This year's gathering was smaller than usual due to travel plans and illnesses of several of our members. Although small, it was a great day with good food and even better fellowship.



Also, member Stephanie Rustin (Certified Herbalist & Aromatherapist), had an article published in *Without Borders Magazine* Winter 25-26 edition. The article "Medicinal Allies in Pioneer Times" is a very interesting read and shares Stephanie's interest in all things natural. The article is available online at <https://online.fliphtml5.com/efyzh/iyjd/#p=1>

District X

Plano Garden Club

Members of the Plano Garden Club brought Christmas cheer to the Eating Disorder Unit Staff at Children's Hospital Plano Campus this December, with the delivery of Wren bird houses. Fifteen nesting houses were made by students at Archgate Montessori School in Plano, specifically for the patients in the Eating Disorder Unit at Children's Hospital. The Wren houses were designed by the husband of a Garden Club member, and he was instrumental in facilitating the workshops at the Montessori school with the students to assemble all the houses. The patients personalize and decorate the outside of each house, so they are ready for early spring Wren nesting in North Texas.

Plano Garden Club has a long-standing relationship with the Eating Disorder Unit Staff and has facilitated many garden related workshops over the last ten years with patients and staff. The introduction of nature has been proven to have a positive impact on the patients as they learn to manage their disorder.



Your Gift Will Be Matched — Support PLANT AMERICA

As we welcome a new year, we invite you to begin 2026 with a gift that grows beauty, education, and environmental stewardship through the Plant America Matching Grant Program.

Your donation to Plant America directly supports grants awarded to garden clubs across the country — helping communities plant, preserve, and inspire. For a limited time, every gift will be matched, doubling the impact of your generosity.

As a special thank-you, with any donation of \$25 or more, you will receive the **2026 Vision of Beauty Calendar**, a gift from Donna Donnelly, President of National Garden Clubs, created to inspire beauty throughout the year.

When you're ready to give, visit: <https://www.plantamerica.org/matched-giving> and fill out the donation form there.

Join us in bringing in the New Year with giving. Together, we can plant the seeds for a more beautiful tomorrow. Let's PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 years!

Warm Regards,

Donna Donnelly, NGC President 2025-2027

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE II

March 2-4 &5, 2026

Deadline to register February 3, 2026.

Complete this registration form and mail with check payable to **DRSJFG** (Dallas Flower Show Judges Founders Group) to Registrar, **Gina Woods, 5350 Springmeadow Dr., Dallas, TX 75229-4331,**

Email gina@tropicalsbygina.com

No Refunds after Feb. 3, 2026

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone No _____

Email* _____

Garden Club _____

Fees: Circle \$ amount

FSS II Registration

NGC Fee for credit

Full time Student

Daily: Flower Show Procedure

.....Horticulture

.....Design

*Course Outlines Emailed.

*Printed Handouts

Lunch (Circle day) Wed. \$20

Total enclosed _____

ALL SESSIONS BEGIN PROMPTLY.

Students must attend all sessions to receive credit

SCHEDULE

Monday, March 2, 2026

12:30 -1:00 pm Registration

1:00-3:00 Flower Show Procedure

3:00 - 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:15 pm FSP Exam

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone No _____

Email* _____

Garden Club _____

Fees: Circle \$ amount

FSS II Registration

NGC Fee for credit

Full time Student

Daily: Flower Show Procedure

.....Horticulture

.....Design

*Course Outlines Emailed.

*Printed Handouts

Lunch (Circle day) Wed. \$20

Total enclosed _____

School Location:

The Historic Aldredge House
5500 Swiss Ave.
Dallas, TX 75214

Hotel Information: There are many options in the Dallas area. Suggested option:

Element Dallas
4005 Gaston Ave, Dallas, TX 75246
469-399-1049

Information: School Chairman:

Jan Myrick, 210-587-9861
DallasFlowerShowJudges@gmail.com

Required Reading: Course Outlines

The National Gardener Magazine Online
Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Revision

(See Instructors' Outlines)

Digital *Handbook 2025 Revision* Free
available on the NGC website
Possession of Handbook required for Credit.

Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging \$30

Can be purchased from the NGC store:
gardenclub.org/our-store

Recommended reading

Table Settings for All seasons on sale \$5
Plant Families for Designers NGC download

Clipboard provided

PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL

OUR FABULOUS INSTRUCTORS

Gina Jogan, Florida

Flower Show Procedure: & Botanical Arts Photography

Design: Tables and Petite Design

Gina Jogan teaches Design and Flower Show Procedure for NGC's Flower Show Schools, Design and Allied topics for NGC Symposia. She is an NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, Master Gardening Consultant, Master Landscape Design Consultant and a member and presenter at CFAA and OFAD. Gina currently serves as the Chairman of the NGC Flower Show Schools Committee.

Terri Ewers, Iowa

Horticulture: *Helleborus* & *Taxus* (Yew)

Terri Ewers, a NGC Horticulture Instructor teaches FS Schools and serves as the Iowa Garden Clubs FSS Chairman. Terri lives in Clear Lake, Iowa where she has a love for flower and vegetable gardening. Currently Terri has ten 3'x6' above-ground gardens and several additional spots to grow her favorite horticulture (vegetables, flowers, and arboreal)! She also serves the District 3 Director of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa and is co-president of Swaledale Federated Garden Club.

Flower Show School is a comprehensive program that teaches all you need to know about judging, entering, competing, and chairing an NGC Flower Show. There are 4 courses each with a specific curriculum that includes horticulture, design, and flower show procedure (FSP). If you are considering becoming a flower show judge, planning to chair a flower show, or simply want to learn more, come to Flower Show School. gardenclub.org



National Garden Club, Inc



FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL II

March 2-4 & 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

DALLAS FLOWER SHOW JUDGES
FOUNDERS GROUP



The Historic Aldridge House
5500 Swiss Ave.
Dallas, TX 75214

Jan Myrick, Flower School Chairman
DallasFlowerShowJudges@gmail.com 210-587-9861

Gina Woods, Registrar
5350 Springmeadow Dr.
Dallas, TX 75229-4331
gina@tropicalsbygina.com
214-566-3924

Dallas Flower Show Judges, Founders Group
Alexander Taylor Cowart, President
alexandraktaylor@gmail.com



Being familiar with the Handbook and studying the course syllabus ahead of courses is recommended for a successful Flower Show School experience.

Texas Daffodil Society
and
NGC, Inc. Designers with Flair Study Club
present

2026 American Daffodil Society Southern Region
and NGC, Inc.
Small Standard Flower Show

“Dancing with Daffodils”



March 13-14, 2026
Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden
Rosine Hall
8625 Garland Road
Dallas, TX 75218

Open to the Public with Paid Admission to the Arboretum

Friday, March 13, 2026 — 1 pm to 5 pm
Saturday, March 14, 2026 — 9 am to 12 pm

In addition to the Small Standard Flower Show
American Daffodil Society is offering

ADS School II
March 14, 2026

The Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
SEWELL BOARD ROOM
8625 Garland Road
Dallas, Texas 75218

March 8 at 8:30am to 4:30pm

ADS Accredited Judges can refresh for one hour (\$5)

Student Fee is \$25 payable to **Texas Daffodil Society**

Contact: Mary Ann Moreland, 214-801-6777, geray@aol.com



2025 TGC, Inc. Scholarship Winners

The Scholarship Committee met at the TGC Fall Board meeting on October 21, 2025 held at TGC Headquarters in Fort Worth. We are pleased to announce the following recipients:

Michael Cook

Michael is a student at Texas A&M with a grade point of 4.00. His major is Viticulture and Enology. Michael is working his PhD and upon graduating plans to be an assistant professor and extension specialist in horticulture with Texas A&M. Michael received a \$4,000 scholarship from TGC.

Kathryn Michelle Huether

Kathryn is a student at Stephen F. Austin State University with a grade point average of 3.3. Her major is Horticulture and plans to be a Horticulture Researcher upon graduation. Kathryn received a \$3,000 scholarship from TGC.

Calendar 2026

Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. | (817) 332-6602 | tgc.headquarters@gmail.com

NGC Events	May 4-6, 2026 - NGC Spring Convention - St. Louis, MO
TGC Events	April 7-9, 2026 - 98th TGC Spring Convention - Houston, TX - Marriott Houston North Hotel, 255 Sam Houston Parkway, Houston, TX. Cindy Heckman and Sharon Wegenhoft, Co-Chairs
SCR Events	April 27-29, 2026 - SCR Spring Convention - Historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX
Flower Show Schools	March 2-5, 2026 - Dallas Flower Show School II - Aldredge House, 5500 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX October 26-29, 2026 - Dallas Flower Show School III - Aldredge House, 5500 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX
Environmental School	
Gardening Study School	February 2-3, 2026 - Series 19 - Course II - San Antonio Garden Center, San Antonio, TX, Karen Taylor and Lee Taylor, co-chairs
Landscape Design School	

Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. MISSION STATEMENT Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes the love of gardening, floral design, horticulture, civic responsibilities, landscaping, environmental concerns, and garden therapy for men, women, and children and encourages participation and support in educational programs for both the very young and advanced students. It is the purpose of this organization to preserve, protect, and conserve the natural resources of this country and to maintain and enhance the beauty of the lands.

FROM YOUR HEADQUARTERS

Your contributions, received from September 1, 2025 through November 1, 2025, will be combined with new contributions and

reported in the next From Your Headquarters printed in the spring issue of *The Lone Star Gardener*.

— Let's Ring in the New Year —

May we be filled with love in our hearts, laughter in our voices, a smile on our faces and above all,
May God be with us throughout our Journey! Happy 2026

Linda Jean Brown, TGC, Inc. President