



The LONE STAR

Spring  
2026

*Gardener*

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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

This year has started off extremely fast. Texas Garden Club members are working overtime to make our conventions successful, educational and fun. TGC, Inc. 98th Spring Convention will be here before you know it.

The District IV Convention Chairmen are making sure everyone has a good time as we learn, listen and solicit the best advice from our gardening friends. Yes, there will be surprises as well. So, sign up and get ready to bring some positive news to the convention that everyone will benefit from. I feel that I should brag on this group. Dist IV Director, Sharon Wegenhoft and Cindy Heckaman – Co-Chairmen and their committee have been consistently working, correcting, making changes adding, deleting and etc., as they strive to have a wonderful TGC Convention. My hat is off to all your committee members for their participation

We are honored to have the South Central Region Director, Christine Longthorp and National Garden Club President, Donna Donnelly attend the SCR Spring Convention hosted by TGC, Inc. and District VII, to enjoy the beautiful city and river walk in San Antonio. District VII Director, Felecia Jo- Snowden Sosa and Karen Taylor Co-Chairmen and their committee are making super plans where lasting memories are sure to be made. We open our hearts and welcome y'all to the Great State of Texas

This year we are celebrating America's 250th anniversary. What an exciting time to be an American. Flowers with brilliant Red, White and Blue colors are encouraged to be planted at our Blue Star and/or Gold Star Families Memorial Markers across Texas. By participating not only will we show our appreciation for our military and families but will also bring awareness to the sacrifices that were made throughout the past 250 years. So where ever our garden clubs have a marker let's make it beautiful as we celebrate AMERICA. Bobbie Mason, Blue Star/Gold Star Markers, Chairman has been doing a fantastic job working with veterans, garden clubs and other organizations soliciting Blue Star/Gold Star Markers to be placed around Texas. Texans are proud of our heritage and our service men and women and want to acknowledge them for defending our nation.

I am excited that your District Directors have extended invitations to me to attend your District Conventions. This is the best opportunity I will have to meet all of you and get to know you and the ways you are promoting our TGC, Inc. and its rich history.

We have a wealth of history in our great state of gardening with many different businesses, schools, cities and counties participating. My hope is that you continue to promote creative ideas and projects to make your town a better, inviting and beautiful place for hometown people as well as visitors.

Just 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*, **TX Motto** – *Friendship*



Linda Jean Brown, President  
2025-2027

Friends are the flowers that brighten your day.  
With fragrance and beauty to share on life's way.  
So treat them like flowers from the Gardener above.  
Weed them with mercy and water with LOVE.  
— unknown

My continuing theme, "Spread Wildflower Seeds All across Texas" is now in its first year of planning, organizing and planting. I have already heard from quite a few clubs and appreciate their enthusiasm and excitement they bring as they have started the prep work for this project. Please keep in mind that only one garden club winner from each district will be eligible to win the contest and be awarded a \$200.00 check.

We need to continue to reach out to one another through our websites, face book pages as we share your ideas and stories with others. Our organization has a vast amount of information and knowledge that needs to be shared with our sister clubs. The little things could make a big difference to others. So, continue to grow, learn and teach as we travel down this journey we call life. God has blessed each one of us with special talents, for that we should be forever thankful.

I am extremely grateful 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.

We are TEXAS STRONG!

*Linda Jean Brown*

### **President's Travel Schedule**

March 2, 2026 - Dist V Spring Convention Temple TX  
March 6, 2026 - Dist VIII Spring Convention Cross Plains TX  
March 10, 2026 - Dist X Spring Convention Sunnyvale TX  
March 12, 2026 - Dist IV Spring Convention Columbus TX  
April 7-9, 2026 - TGC, Inc. 98th Spring Convention Houston TX  
April 28-29, 2026 - SCR Spring Convention San Antonio TX  
May 4-6, 2026 - NGC Convention St. Louis MO

# Official Song of Texas Garden Club

REFRAIN

Have you ev - er been to Tex - as in the spring, \_\_\_\_\_ When the

*p-f*

2<sup>nd</sup> time 8va

*Ma sempre*

breez - es blow and birds are on the wing; Where blue

bon - nets wave in air, And there's friend-ship ev - ery-where, While the

*rit.* *a tempo*

bus - y bees are hum-ming and the ban - jos are a strum-ming Have you

*rit.* *a tempo*



walk'd on vel - vet car - pets in the spring, Made of

flow'rs whose sub - tile o - dor mem - ries bring; Have you

seen those sun - sets gay, as they glor - i - fy the day, Have you

ev - er been to Tex - as in the spring. Have you spring \_\_\_\_\_

# Message From South Central Region

Joy upon joy! Here in our South Central Region we are enjoying an early spring. Blossom trees are in full flower and bulbs are blooming everywhere. Now if it will hold until the apricot trees set then we will have a bumper crop.

Teams have been working on our state conventions through the region but especially in San Antonio preparing for the Texas hosted SCR convention at the end of April. Here in New Mexico we have chosen to rent a 12-passenger van and drive from Albuquerque. Several are flying down in the interest of time but a nice contingent will be there to support me and meet our regional members. We are delighted to take part in the planned activities and to celebrate the award winners from four states. If you have not yet registered, please do so soon so we can enjoy unique Texas hospitality!



*Christine Longthorp SCR Director  
2025-2027*

I am planning to attend the Oklahoma convention at the end of March where I am also giving a design program. Oklahoma has a special place in my heart as it was the first state I lived in when I emigrated from the UK in 1966 with a six-week-old baby boy! It is always like going home to me. I will of course be in St. Louis in May for the National Garden Club convention to represent our South Central Region and learn from the other seven regional directors what they are doing to increase membership and keep up with the interests of the public. Gardening is still the most popular pastime in the USA, to date.

Our regional Ways and Means project is to buy four Gold Star memorials, one for each state. I am asking each of you to help with a way to raise funds that I know will be fun. Please sort out jewelry that you no longer wear to bring for our gently used sale. For me I have silver hair now and still have pieces from when my hair was dark red and so those pieces are perfect for someone else to enjoy. Please give your treasures to your club presidents to bring to the convention and see if we can achieve our goal by the end of my term.

This will be a very special SCR convention in 2026 as it is the 250 year anniversary of the USA, our National President Donna Donnelly will be attending and we will be planning NGC 100th year in 2029. The largest non-profit organization in the country. It will be my first as Regional Director so please come and support me and show the region how Texans are the best example of garden club spirit.

*Christine Longthorp*

# Down the Garden Path ...

by Gwen DeWitt, Garden Consultant

Between Garden Club and my garden, I have been super busy. This is leaf season in the garden – lots of raking. After getting leaves cleaned out of the beds and winter damage removed, it's time to put out compost.

Containers and hanging baskets are slowly moving back into the garden. Still holding off on orchids with the uncertain spring weather.

Each year, the amaryllis I purchase for the Christmas holidays are added to the garden after they have bloomed. The bulbs are putting up bloom spikes and the colorful trumpets are opening, providing much-needed color in the garden. The graceful trumpets will provide weeks of beauty – a feast for the eyes.

In years past, I look out my back windows to see a wildflower meadow covered in the delicate yellow blooms of flax and wild purple verbena. This year, with the drought, only a few brave blooms have forced their way up through the dry soil.

I traveled to San Antonio to give a program to a Windcrest Garden Club and for our District VII Spring convention. A quick trip to New Braunfels to give a floral design program and then on to Sunnyvale, the other side of Dallas for the District X Spring convention. I was the Queen Bee, complete with bee costume and tiara, in an environmental play for the convention. A star was born!

Typical spring weather - chilly one day and warm the next! The drought continues and our trees are dying. But there may be relief in our future. NOAA forecasters are predicting a high possibility (62%) chance we will have an El Nino emerging between June and August this summer – even a possibility of a super El Nino. This should bring wetter, cooler weather to our parched land. It also creates wind shear in the tropics which leads to few storms in the Atlantic basin.

We had an excellent speaker for our District Spring Convention – Jess Divin, a certified arborist. He talked to us about proper care during a drought, proper tree selection, and oak wilt. He gave an important reminder to us about watering trees - water half way between the trunk and the drip line



*Magic Green blooms edged with pink*



*Delicate pink frosting cream petals of Apple Blossom amaryllis*



*"Queen Bee" waiting to go on stage*

where the majority of the roots are. Benefits tree and conserves water.

Home owners, commercial businesses, schools and governments need to protect their trees by providing proper care and water. The loss of trees will result in higher heating and cooling bills for years to come. And then there is the water - more will be needed to maintain landscapes. The loss of trees in the landscape can impact property values. It is impossible to quantify the esthetic value of lost trees.

Although fall is best, there is still time to add a tree to your landscape. With the drought, I would postpone planting until the fall and hopefully wetter weather. Whether planting, pruning or dealing with ball moss, this is the time we get busy with our trees.

While we love our live oak trees, don't just plant oaks - diversity makes for a healthier urban forest. Diversity provides some protection to our landscape from disease and insects - oak wilt will eventually arrive here. Jess told us that if you spot oak wilt, it will be necessary to dig a deep trench around diseased trees and then remove them to protect healthy trees. It is a fungus that can travel through the roots.

When selecting a tree for the landscape it is important to consider many different characteristics. Among the many characteristics to consider is the tree's potential for disease or insect problems. It is also important to know if the tree has fruit or nuts, flowers, or excessive leaf drop. Be sure to consider the mature height and spread.

When planting a tree be aware of its location to power lines, buildings, and other trees. Consider the mature size of a tree when planting near a house - fifteen feet from the side or ten feet from a corner. Planting trees too close together stops them from reaching their natural shape and size. Unless it's your burning desire is to continuously deal with pruning, be careful locating the tree.

It is important to consider the four 'rights' of tree planting. Plant the right tree, in the right place, in the right way, at the right time of the year. Don't plant a \$100 tree in a \$10 hole! The hole is critical for establishing good root growth. Dig the hole two to three times larger in diameter than the current root ball - make sure it isn't perfectly round - keeps the roots from circling. If you have clay soil and only dig a hole a little bigger than the root ball you will doom the tree to a slow death. It has the same effect as planting the tree in a giant cement pot - the roots will circle and eventually strangle the tree. Plant the tree at the same depth as the root ball or an inch or two above to allow for settling.

Keep the soil you remove and break it up. Use it to backfill around the new tree with the native soil, without amendments. Research has shown that trees grow better if you only use the native soil that has been broken up instead of adding soil amendments. Be sure to pack soil in good around the roots to eliminate air pockets.

Make a temporary soil wall around the edge of your hole to allow water to remain near the root ball. Remove this well after a year to encourage root growth beyond the original hole. Apply 3 to 4 inches of native hardwood mulch to help regulate the soil moisture and temperature. Mulch will keep the soil warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Mulch will help keep grass and weeds away that compete for water. Some excellent small ornamental trees to consider adding to your landscape include Texas redbud, Texas mountain laurel, wild olive, 'Little Gem' magnolia, crape myrtle, desert willow, yaupon holly, and vitex. If you must have an oak, consider Bur, Chinkapin, Shumard, and improved varieties of live oak.

Happy Gardening!

# Rose Pruning for Anyone

by Pam Smith

Winter rose care means it's time to prune all but once blooming selections. A general rule of thumb is around Valentine's Day but as we all know 'general' can be varying in Texas as we consider the weather in the Panhandle to the Valley. Another guide often used is when the forsythia blooms but again a problem indicator for Texas as forsythia isn't suitable for all our areas. So, what's a Texas gardener to do?

Well, this Texas gardener watches the weather, observes her roses and other plants, then consults her own availability. I prefer that my roses are dormant and no severely cold weather in the forecast near or long term. Ideally the object is not to cause the plant to wake up and force new tender growth too soon. Challenging? Yes, but not pruning robs you of the best possible spring bloom and healthier plants.

Repeat blooming roses bloom on new wood. This covers all but the once bloomers. The most common once bloomers are Lady Banks and Peggy Martin. These and other once bloomers should be pruned after they bloom as they bloom on last year's growth.

Once you have determined when to prune, these are guidelines for pruning:

- Tools include sharp pruners, leather gauntlet gloves, disinfecting wipes and a small pruning saw.
- Remove about half of last year's growth. Hedge shears make this part faster.
- Now evaluate the plant to identify any dead, damaged or diseased wood. Remove these branches. Wipe your prunes in between cuts to avoid spreading diseases.
- The next step is to remove any crossing or rubbing branches. You are opening up the center to create a vase shape with good air movement between the branches.
- Now look at the remaining branches and remove any tiny branches, long stubs and consider thinning the plant.
- Step back, walk around and fine tune as desired.
- Discard rather than compost the trimmings, unless you are sure your compost pile heats up enough to destroy any pathogens.
- Clean your pruners in preparation for the next use.

While often a tedious and thorny job, I enjoy this time training my plants for an optimal bloom while visualizing the results.



*Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Executive Board and  
Committee Members*

*You are cordially invited to attend a  
Welcome Reception  
at the home of  
Joelle Guilfoyle*

*When: April 7, 2026 at 5:30 pm  
Where: 7815 N. Dominion Falls  
Lane  
Humble, Texas 77396*

*RSVP to Cindy Heckaman  
832.654.0070*

# Brookhaven Garden Club Tours Mall

Brookhaven Garden Club traveled to NorthPark Center Mall for their February meeting. They enjoyed a tour of the mall's landscaping, given by a member of the mall's horticulture staff.

The tour was very informative and beautiful. The tour concluded in the outdoor courtyard where the members enjoyed beautiful spring flowers, sunshine and lunch on the patio!



# The Gardeners Club of Parker County **Grows**

The Gardeners Club of Parker County volunteers maintain a Community Garden located at St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church in Willow Park. Father Sam Wilgus wanted to serve the local community somehow; the church had the land and the Gardeners Club of Parker County had the skills, hands and heart to make the garden produce food. We have 12 raised beds with 760 square feet of growing area, which has been in production since 2021.

We deliver all of our produce to Tarrant Area Foodbank-West. The year 2021 had a yield of 220 lbs, 2022 had 620 lbs, 2023 had 730 lbs, 2024 had 700 lbs, and 2025 had 1,123 lbs of organic food grown for those in need. We are currently preparing our beds for another season. Onions were planted on February 16, potatoes will soon go in. We do crop rotation, companion planting, cover crops. There is always life in our garden. It is truly an act of love for gardening and a service for our community.



# Garden Masters (District X ) Welcomes Guests

Garden Masters meet every 1st Wednesday of the month, usually at North Haven Gardens Nursery in Dallas. We do not meet during the summer months (June, July, August), and start again in September. We welcome guests to our meetings.

On Wednesday, April 1, Paula Spletter will discuss the Desert Rose, a succulent plant with bright green leaves and vibrant rose-like flowers. Paula will cover the care of these succulents, and how to do root lifts, root and stem trims and repotting. Join us, if you would like to hear Paula inform us about the plants she loves.

Last month, the club enjoyed a tour of NorthPark Center art work. It is an amazing place!

## District VIII Convention



Your TGC, Inc. president had a remarkable time in Cross Plains for their District VIII Convention. District VIII Consists of four garden clubs: San Angelo, Coleman, Cross Plains, and Abilene. Four of the attendees from Abilene dispensed words of wisdom to all gardeners:

**Joyce Talley (age 95)** — "I love to learn about the designs and nature. Good people are the members of garden clubs."

**Shirley Morrow (age 91)** — "The biggest joy you will ever know is watching your plants grow."

**Naoma Parks (age 94)** — "A green thumb is a dirty thumb."

**June Estes (age 99)** — "Conservation of wildflowers is very important especially along the highways. Being out in nature is good."

Standing behind these young-at-heart ladies are TGC, Inc. President, Linda Jean Brown and Abilene Garden Club President Susan Barber. A Presidential Citation was given to Abilene Garden Club for celebrating 90 years of beautifying their community.

# Ikebana International Dallas Chapter 13

Friendship through Flowers – Founded in 1956 by Ellen Gordon Allen, Ikebana International unites people around the world through a shared love of nature and the Japanese art of flower arranging. Our members celebrate the seasons, explore Japanese cultural traditions, and enjoy the beauty and harmony that ikebana inspires through demonstrations, workshops, and cultural programs, fostering friendship and artistic expression.

Ikebana International Dallas Chapter 13 welcomed spring with a celebration of Hinimatsuri, Japan's cherished Girls Day Festival which honors girls' health, prosperity, and good fortune. During Hinamatsuri, families display dolls representing the Emperor, Empress, and their court arranged on tiered platforms and passed from one generation to the next. Because this festival coincides with the peach festival, Debra Bagley's demonstration and workshop showcased flower arrangements featuring blooming branches. Debra's third design used a purple painted wood structure on top of her vase to support heavy tropical stems. [ikebana-dallas-13.mystrikingly.com/]



Left:  
*Tropical Flowers including Heliconia, red ginger, bells of Ireland, lilies and curly willow*

Below:  
*Debra Bagley assisted by Tabassan Rizvi Inserting Heliconia*



Below Left:  
*Display of dolls*

Below Right:  
*Iron vase with cherry blossoms, Ming fern, daffodils, jasmine, monstera leaves and bamboo*



# Gateway Garden Club — Many Celebrations!

The Gateway Garden Club celebrated its annual Arbor Day ceremony by honoring longtime member Pat White and commemorating the club's 90th anniversary. The event recognized White's 50 years of membership and service to the organization.

Beth Pesek served as Arbor Day chair, assisted by committee members Suzanne Broyles, Terri Godfrey, Suzy Heath, Carol Hodgson, and Charlotte Nyman.

Club President Carol Hodgson shared a brief history of the organization. Gateway Garden Club was organized and federated on June 28, 1935, with 22 members, and held its first year of monthly meetings during 1935–36. While the iris was originally chosen as the club flower, the morning glory was selected the following year and remains the club's flower today. Meetings have traditionally been held on the third Friday of each month from September through May.

Hodgson noted that many of the club's standing committees have remained consistent over the years, although a "Defense Committee" was added during World War II. As the club has evolved, some traditions have adapted with modern communication. For example, the long-standing telephone committee was recently renamed the telephone/communications committee to reflect the use of text messaging and email. Early club yearbooks also reveal that telephone numbers once contained only four digits.

Gateway Garden Club currently has 33 active members and maintains affiliations with National Garden Clubs, Inc., the South Central Region of National Garden Clubs, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., District III and Northern Zone, and the Texarkana Council of Garden Clubs.

The ceremony also honored Pat White, whose love of gardening began at age three while working in a small "worm patch" with her grandmother. By third grade, while living in Hot Springs, she had joined her first garden club. White joined Gateway Garden Club in 1976 and has devoted five decades of service to the organization and its mission. She is a District III Life Member and a National Life Member and has served on several Texas Garden Clubs committees.

During the ceremony, Suzy Heath read "The Garden of Friendship," and several of White's favorite songs were played, including "Crazy" by Patsy Cline, "Love Is Like a Butterfly" by Dolly Parton, and "How Great Thou Art."

A Star Magnolia tree was planted in Pat White's honor as a living tribute to her years of dedication. Following the ceremony, guests gathered for a reception where historic scrapbooks were displayed and refreshments were served. Many attendees also visited the newly planted tree commemorating Pat's legacy.



*Pat White and Beth Pesek*



*Pat White with Star Magnolia*



*Reception*



*Terri Godfrey, Suzy Heath, and Carol Hodgson*



*Theda Friedman, Nancy Robbins, Jan Scott, and Rachel Houston*

# Beauty in Every Inch

by Karen Murrell, Design Editor

Designs as small as 3 inches or as tall as 12 inches in height, width and depth, can be entered in a Petite Section of an NGC Flower Show. The Flower Show Schedule determines the height, width, and depth of each class and includes any additional staging provided. However, if staging is provided by the exhibitor (staging panel and/or base), it is considered part of the height requirement. Petite Designs may be any design style except functional tables, floor designs or vignettes. HB p 73 Petite Designs are staged at eye level. HB p35/p106. Always list every plant material used on your entry card; common names are acceptable.

**Petite Award:** Classes of Petite Designs never compete against full size designs for a Section Award. The winner of the Petite Section may compete against other sections for the Award of Design Excellence. HB p. 42. The Petite Award of blue and white ribbons may be awarded to the highest scoring 95+ blue ribbon winner in the Petite Section of a Standard or Small Standard Flower Show. HB p 43 This award is never offered in a Petite Flower Show. The Handbook for Flower Show revised July 2025 can be found at Flower Show School Resources | National Garden Clubs ([garden-club.org/flower-show-school-resources](http://garden-club.org/flower-show-school-resources)). Click on Member Resources and create a password to access the handbook.

**Tips for Petite Arrangements:** Use a ruler as a guide for size. Proportion is key in miniature designs. Choose containers and small plant materials that are in scale. Small vases, jars, bathroom accessories, or even a pencil holder can work for a 12-inch design. Look for unusual creative containers. A lipstick lid, bottle cap, sample fragrance bottle, or thimble are in scale for smaller designs. Add weight to the bottom to maintain stability. Consider the opening of the container and proportions of the design when selecting plant material. A traditional vase with a narrow opening typically accommodates about seven stems: 1 stem of greenery, 3 stems of filler, and 3 stems of flowers or focal points. Creative designs often require fewer blooms. If the opening of your container is too small, attach dried materials to the back of your container. As a rule, blooms should be no larger than one-third the size of the container. For a 12-inch design, think in terms of dime-, nickel-, or quarter-sized flowers. Spray roses, mini carnations, and button mums are ideal choices. Designs measuring eight inches or smaller require petite blooms like sedum, waxflower, and yarrow, Crown of Thorns, statice, kalanchoe, or Oncidium "dancing lady" orchids to be in scale. Succulent blooms require little water, and flowers like statice keep their color even when dried.

**Tiny Petals, Endless Creativity:** Hunt for tiny treasures the perfect tendrils or twigs, and unusual seed pods to add interest. Dried cones, seeds, and pods found in potpourri mixes or fresh Hypericum berries or ornamental peppers add color, contrast, and texture. Select foliage with naturally small leaves such as boxwood, myrtle, Texas sage, or thyme to maintain proper scale. Curly willow, slender twigs, and grape or tomato stems provide line material. Dried plant materials may be altered with paint or nail polish, and petals or leaves can be trimmed, folded, rolled, or twisted to reduce their size. With the right materials and mechanics, even the tiniest arrangements have a big impact. Anna G. Burns in her book *Guide to the New Petite, Floral Design 12" and Under* features over 50 multiple design types in both traditional and creative design styles and a comprehensive list of plant material.



*Curly willow, statice, berries*



*Preserved oak leaves with statice on wire sculpture*



*Solidago with lemon leaf*



*Angular with orchid*

# The Northern Flicker

## SCR Environmental Bird Contest



**The Northern Flicker** is a medium sized bird of the woodpecker family.

It is native to most of North America and one of the few woodpeckers species that migrate.

Typically it has a brown or green back and wings with black barring and a beige to yellowish underside with black spotting or barring.

SCR Director, Christine Longthorp, has chosen this bird for SCR Environmental Bird Contest.



Texas Flower Show Judges Council  
Welcomes  
Texas' Newest NGC Accredited Judge

*Shannon Bouffard*

Houston

# Smithville GC Awarded Top Prize in Float Competition

The Smithville Garden Club was awarded the top prize in the float competition at the annual Smithville Lighted Christmas Parade on December 6th. They were awarded the Best in Theme award for their float centering around the theme of Toy Story. The float was titled "A Toy Story Adventure in Who-ville."

While on their way to visit Smithville, the toys of Toy Story missed their turn. They found themselves in Who-ville! Some of the Who-villians joined the Toys on their holiday adventure.

Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Bo Peep, Mr. Potato Head, Hamm, Slinky Dog, and Jessie were joined by Cindy Lou Who, the ladies of Whoville and "The Grinch" to wish all Smithvillians a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday! Many members of the club and their grandchildren portrayed the characters.



And...

# Smithville GC Celebrated a 90th Anniversary

September 23, 2025



# District X Convention

District X Convention was hosted by Sunnyvale Garden Club. Very well attended, over 100 garden club members, dignitaries and guests. Important folks at the front included TGC President Linda Jean Brown and 2 SW regional past chairs. Most of our judges sat up front as honorees of their clubs. The venue was very nice. The main news of the day was that the TGC, Inc. HQ building has been pronounced "ours." Todd Eich and Michael Matthews gave the awards presentation, and the awards were presented by Mary Whitehurst. DFSJFG got an award for our Yearbook, created by Rachel Clark. Following a lunch of fajitas, a play titled The Pollinators was Presented by speaker Sarah McReynolds, former TGC, Inc and SCR Director after which raffle prizes were awarded.



*Honor Guard by ROTC*



*Dignitaries included TGC President Linda Jean Brown*



*Fajitas for lunch*



*DFSJFG President Alexandra Taylor-Cowart, and Distict X Director, Mary Whitehurst*



***The following clubs received Presidential Citations:***

- Oak Cliff Women's GC 55 yrs
- Prestonwood Estates 55 yrs
- Ovilla GC 55 yrs
- Brookhaven GC 66 yrs
- Sunnyvale GC 66 yrs
- Oak Cliff Garden Forum 74 yrs
- Mesquite GC 80 yrs
- Terrell GC 91 yrs
- Better Garden Club of Corsicana 93 yrs

# District IV Spring Convention - March 11, 2026

District IV Spring Convention was held in Columbus TX in March. Eight clubs received Presidential Citations ranging from 30 years to 90 years of serving their communities.



*TGC President Linda Jean Brown (far left) stands with first time attendees to a District IV Spring Convention*



**District IV Garden Angels:** Members of District IV who have "gone that extra mile" on projects and activities were recognized.  
Standing: Harriett Bedenbaugh- Lakewood Forest Garden Club, Winona Dutton- Tomball Garden Club, Cheryl Rose- Columbus Garden Club, Shirley Northcutt- Norchester Garden Club, Karen Bruccoliere- Hearthstone Garden Club  
Seated: Nancy Giffhorn- District IV, Barbara Pearson-Kingwood Garden Club, Jean Devins- Kingwood Garden Club, Madeleine Rogers- Houston Federation of Garden Clubs, Chandia Phillips-Bluebonnet Garden Club.



Newly elected officers of District IV for 2027-2029 — L-R Front Madeleine Rogers, Treasurer Diane Sullivan Area 6 Coordinator, Victoria Stevens District IV Director Elect, Mindy McQueen Newsletter, Leslie Wong Area 1 Coordinator, Jennifer Francois Area 5 Coordinator, Nancy Giffhorn Trustee, Anna Blythe Area 4 Coordinator. Back: Sharon Wegenhof Organizational Studies and Cindy Heckaman Area 3 Coordinator. Not Pictured: Regena Williamson Awards



Regena Williamson, Sharon Wegenhof and Linda Jean Brown TGC President celebrating 90 years of Columbus Garden Club



New Life Members of District IV — Front: Ida Sivley, Mindy McQueen, Madeleine Rogers, Pam Randall, Karen Payne  
Back: Jennifer Hydes, Sharon Roensch, Patsy Hodge, Sharon Wegenhof, District IV Director, and Gloria Cox

# Growing Skills Through Flower Show School

## NGC Flower Show School II

by Jan Myrick, Flower Show School Chairman

Did you know Hellebores have Sepals? Did you know Taxus trees (yews) produce red, berry-like forms called arils, which contain the seeds instead of cones? During Flower Show School II on March 3rd, students studied the botanical structures of both horticulture exhibits. Following Terri Ewers' class, students served on a judging panel to practice point scoring these specimens. Our thanks to Dallas Flower Show Judges and friends who provided Hellebores and Yew. Your contributions created an exceptional experience for everyone.

Popular with both the public and designers in Flower Shows, the Design portion of the school featured Functional Tables and Exhibition tables which interpret themes incorporating linens, tableware, and accessories taught by Gina Jogan. All Functional Tables are staged for dining and include a floral design. Exhibition tables are creative artistic expressions that include plant material and suggestions of dining like a plate or a skillet. We appreciate the judges who created Exhibition Tables and Trays for One for the design point scoring.



*Terri Ewers — Hellebores Yews*



*Exhibition Table by Sarah Andry*



*Flower Show School Students*

# Iowa Park Garden Club - District II

by Kristi Richie

The Iowa Park Garden Club in District II has been around since 1960. We have 11 members who are all wonderful and a pleasure to be around. Our year starts in September and runs through May. So far this year we have had some great programs on littering, horned lizards, organic food gardening, wild flowers, plant selection (which can be really tricky for this unforgiving weather area), and the language (or meaning) of flowers.

We have several projects we do throughout the year such as recycling, a food drive, Texas Arbor Day, seasonal (fall and Christmas) decorating for our town, and delivering Meals on Wheels. We are currently working to set up a city wide litter campaign for several dates this year between us, the city of Iowa Park and Sheppard Air Force Base Non-Commissioned Officers Academy. In between those large projects, our club will fill in cleaning up the local small parks.

In the upcoming month we are excited to go on some field trips. In April we will visit an "eclectic & funky" garden. In May we will visit a Master Gardener's property with a duck pond, an adult treehouse surrounded with different gardening areas.

This summer we will try to keep all of our red, white and blue flowers we tend around town alive throughout the Texas heat.

# "Dancing with Daffodils"

The 2026 American Daffodil Society Southern Region and  
NGC Small Standard Flower Show presented by  
Texas Daffodil Society and NGC Designers with Flair Study Club

Karla McKenzie and Mary Ann Moreland, Flower Show Chairman

"Dancing with Daffodils" Flower Show included Horticulture (Daffodil Sections of Standard, Classic, Historic, Miniature, Collections, Container Grown, Youth, Master Gardeners, and Small Growers), Design, Education and Photography Divisions. "Dancing with Daffodils Ikebana Style" Educational Exhibit by Ikebana International Dallas Chapter 13



(Above) Dallas Chapter 13

(Left)  
Designer Choice

(Right)  
Winning Photo



# Schulenburg Garden Club

## *“Beautiful Waters”*

A Standard Flower Show



Show is FREE and open to the Public

**Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

**Noon — 3 p.m.**

**Schulenburg Hall—KC**

**405 South Street & Hwy 77**

*Lunch, Plant Sale, Country Store*

*Punch and Cookies, Door Prizes*

## INSTRUCTORS

### Gina Jogan (Design)

- **Credentials:** National Garden Club Master Accredited Flower Show Judge, Flower Show School Instructor, and Flower Show School Symposium Instructor
- **Experience:** NGC Symposium, Design, Procedure, & Allied topics Instructor since 2002
- **Leadership:** Serves as the NGC Flower Show School Chairman and Liaison to Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructors
- **Publications:** Designs have been published in magazines, manuals, calendars, and online

### David Robson (Horticulture)

- **Credentials:** National Garden Club Master Accredited Flower Show Judge, Flower Show School Instructor, and Flower Show School Symposium Instructor
- **Education:** Graduate Iowa State University and University of Illinois
- **Leadership:** Currently serving as NGC Flower Show School Vice-Chairman and as the Liaison to Horticulture Instructors, Credentials, and State Chairmen on the NGC Board of Directors
- **Specialty:** Horticulture and pesticide safety specialist, teaching for more than 43 years

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Homewood Suites by Hilton  
4520 Techniplex Dr  
Stafford, TX 77477  
(281) 265-2760

Booking Code: NGC SYMPOSIUM

Rate: \$109 King/ \$115 Double (plus taxes)

Free Parking and Daily Breakfast included



**SYMPOSIUM**  
Sponsored by

**Houston Area Flower Show Judges**  
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.



October 13–15, 2026  
United Way of Fort Bend County  
12300 Parc Crest Drive  
Stafford, TX 77477

### General Information

All lectures are open to all Garden Club members and to the public for listed fees. Enrollment will be assured as space allows upon receipt of paid registration. Only NGC judges are eligible to take this course for credit. If attending for refresher or credit participants MUST be seated when class begins and attend all lectures in their entirety.

### HAFSJ Symposium Chairs:

Suzanne Milstead [scsuz@gmail.com](mailto:scsuz@gmail.com)  
Corrie Ten-Have [cortienthave@gmail.com](mailto:cortienthave@gmail.com)  
Sigrid Vincent-Brown [sigridvinbrown2@aol.com](mailto:sigridvinbrown2@aol.com)

### Required Materials:

Judges must have a personal copy of the "Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Revised Edition" hardcopy or digital version

Available for free download from [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

Remember to bring pencils and study outlines

### NGC CREDENTIALS SUBMISSION

**Forms Required:** TGC judges use form 13, 15L, or 15M; Out-of-State Judges use form 18.

**Send to:** Rachel Clark (TGC Credentials Chair) 3120 Wintergreen Terrace, Grapevine, TX 76501 [mrclark2@msn.com](mailto:mrclark2@msn.com) or 682-667-6966

**Judging credentials must be approved prior to registration. No credentials will be accepted on site..**

### COURSE SCHEDULE

#### Day I: Tuesday October 13, 2026

1:30-2:00 Registration  
2:00-3:15 Allied Topic Fiberworks (Gina Jogan)  
3:15-3:30 Break  
3:30-4:30 Allied Topic Fiberworks (Gina Jogan)

#### Day II: Wednesday October 14, 2026

8:00 Registration  
8:15-8:30 Welcome  
8:30-10:30 Horticulture – Bromeliads (David Robson)  
10:30 Break  
10:45 -12:45 Horticulture – Anthuriums (David Robson)  
12:45- 1:15 Lunch  
1:15-2:15 Practice point scoring  
2:15-2:30 Break  
2:30-2:45 Exam instructions  
3-5 pm Point Scoring Exam

#### Day III: Thursday October 15, 2026

8:00 Registration  
8:15-8:30 Welcome  
8:30-10:30 Angular Design (Gina Jogan)  
10:30 Break  
10:45 -12:45 Tubular Design (Gina Jogan)  
12:45- 1:15 Lunch  
1:15-2:15 Practice point scoring  
2:15-2:30 Break  
2:30-2:45 Exam instructions  
3:00-5:00 Point Scoring Exam

### Dinner on your own

### Registration

**To Register:** Mail the completed form below along with your check (payable to Houston Area Flower Show Judges ) to:

Regena Williamson  
Symposium Registrar  
PO Box 57 Sheridan, TX 77475-0057  
361-550-1485  
[regena46@yahoo.com](mailto:regena46@yahoo.com)

### Registration Form (Please fill out and include with payment)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name for Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Judging Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
Good Standing Date: Dec 31, 20\_\_\_\_

### Course Selection (Check one):

\_\_\_ Full Course with exam or audit \$200  
\_\_\_ Horticulture only (Wednesday) \$100  
\_\_\_ Design only (Thursday) \$100

(Lunch and snacks included daily).

Course outlines will be emailed. Each participant is responsible for printing, reviewing, and bringing outlines to the symposium. Printed copies can be supplied with advance request (\$10 additional printing fee)

President Linda Jean's  
**2026 Environmental Poster Contest**  
will be the beautiful **Wood Duck**



### Wood Duck Fun Facts

- They display amazingly beautiful colors (males are more colorful)
- Head has the appearance of being a metallic purple-green
- Distinct white strips extending up the cheeks
- White stripe running along the dark face
- The base of their bills is marked with yellow dots while the sides of their bodies are pale yellow with a black tip
- Nest in tree cavities
- Forage food by dabbling along the shores of their watery habitats
- Females come back to the same hatching place every year during breeding season with their mates
- They are social usually swimming in pairs or small groups with less than 20 birds, but they do not associate with other waterfowl species

Good luck to all participants!

# Comal Garden Club



Comal Garden Club met at the home of Pat Muras for a workshop. We decorated 14 Christmas trees for the Comal Crisis Center and 22 Christmas arrangements for the Blake Senior Living and Memory Care.

# Calendar 2026

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

<b>NGC Events</b>	May 4-6, 2026 - NGC Spring Convention - St. Louis, MO
<b>TGC Events</b>	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
<b>SCR Events</b>	April 27-29, 2026 - SCR Spring Convention - Historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX
<b>Flower Show Schools</b>	October 26-29, 2026 - Dallas Flower Show School III - Aldredge House, 5500 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX NGC Flower Show School IV - March 8-10 and 11, 2027 - Chairman Jan Myrick, <a href="mailto:dallas-flowershowjudges@gmail.com">dallas-flowershowjudges@gmail.com</a> . Registrar Gina Woods, <a href="mailto:gina@tropicalsbygina.com">gina@tropicalsbygina.com</a>
<b>Environmental School</b>	
<b>Gardening Study School</b>	
<b>Landscape Design School</b>	

**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.



## Ways & Means

**Texas Wildflower  
flour sack kitchen towel**

**\$12.50 each**

Contact

**Rhonda Wood**

Ways & Means Chairman

972-978-7469

[rara411@yahoo.com](mailto:rara411@yahoo.com)

## FROM YOUR HEADQUARTERS

We gratefully accept your contributions received from September 1, 2025 through March 1, 2026.

**ENDOWMENT FUNDS:** ENDOWMENT FUND: Hondo Garden Club, Columbus Garden Club, Kyle Garden Club; SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Terrell Garden Club, Columbus Garden Club, Kyle Garden Club; BLASCHKE LANDSCAPE: Dogwood Garden Club Palestine.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:** BRUNDRETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Gateway Garden Club; HENDY SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Joyce Hendy; SIVESS SCHOLARSHIP: Gateway Garden Club; NELL DENMAN HORTICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP: Garden Master, Inc.

**HEADQUARTERS FUNDS:** HEADQUARTERS BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Garden Masters, Inc, Gateway Garden Club, Terrell Garden Club, Brookhaven Garden Club, Arp Garden Club ; HEADQUARTERS LANDSCAPE / WILDSCAPE / POCKET GARDENS: Dogwood Garden Club Palestine, Frankston Garden Club, Terrell Garden Club, Frisco Garden Club, District IV; HEADQUARTERS GENERAL OFFICE FUND: Dogwood Garden Club Palestine, Newton Garden Club, Gateway Garden Club, Civic Garden Club, Terrell Garden Club, Brookhaven Garden Club, Hondo Garden Club; ADULT AWARDS: Hondo Garden Club; YOUTH AWARDS: Brookhaven Garden Club, Hondo Garden Club, Arp Garden Club; BLUE & GOLD STAR MARKERS: Dogwood Garden Club Palestine; ARBOR DAY: Terrell Garden Club; BIRDSEED: Terrell Garden Club, Kyle Garden Club.

**GENERAL FUNDS:** GOLD BOOK: Honoring Hazel McCoy by Goldthwaite Garden Club; MEMORIAL BOOK: Honoring Sandra Marie Pascoe by Temple Garden Club, Honoring Mary Mills by Smithville Garden Club, Honoring Lanice Deltjen-Hunger by Smithville Garden Club, Honoring DeNora Dial by Dallas Flower Show Judges Founders Group, Honoring Wilam Smith by Dallas Flower Show Judges Founders Group, Honoring Wilma Smith by

Plano Garden Club, Honoring Catherine Shleicher Baum by Plano Garden Club; FRIENDSHIP BOOK: Browning Community Garden Club.

**PRESIDENT'S BOOK:** Virginia McNeill by Dogwood Garden Club Palestine, Dr Charlotte Hueter by Gateway Garden Club, Rita Thompson by Civic Garden Club, Debbie Ferenchak by Georgetown Garden Club, Paula Boales-Pabis by Browning Community Garden Club, Dennis Hilburn by District V, April Highojos by Temple Garden Club, Mary Vacek by District IV.

**CONTRIBUTING PROJECTS:** NATURAL DISASTER NGC: Newton Garden Club, Terrell Garden Club, Hondo Garden Club, Arp Garden Club; BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY: Dogwood Garden Club, Hondo Garden Club, Columbus Garden Club; BROOKWOOD GEORGETOWN: Hondo Garden Club; TEXAS DISASTER RELIEF: Newton Garden Club, Terrell Garden Club, Hunt Garden Club, Gay Fuller, Randa Waton, Jim Bob Lindsey, Linda Jean Brown, David Brown, Brookhaven Garden Club, District III Life Membership, Tyler Area Council of Garden Clubs, Hondo Garden Club, Browning Community Garden Club, Bluebonnet Garden Club Brenham, District III, San Antonio Garden Center, Arp Garden Club; KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK: Dogwood Garden Club Palestine, Hondo Garden Club, Arp Garden Club; NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCY TEXAS: Gateway Garden Club, Terrell Garden Club, Hondo Garden Club; SEEDS FOR LIFE: Dogwood Garden Club Palestine, Terrell Garden Club, Hondo Garden Club, Bluebonnet Garden Club Brenham, McGregor Garden Club; GARDENS AT TEXAS A&M: Arp Garden Club; TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE: Gateway Garden Club, Hondo Garden Club; RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER: Dogwood Garden Club Palestine, Hondo Garden Club, Columbus Garden Club, Arp Garden Club; FORT PARKER: Hondo Garden Club; CAMP TYLER: Newton Garden Club, Terrell Garden Club.

**Hallettsville Garden Club** is pleased to announce that  
member **Bea Wyatt** is now 90.  
*She has been a member since 1975 (50+ years).*