



The LONE STAR

Winter  
2024

*Gardener*

*A publication of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.*

*96 years • 1928-2024*

[www.texasgardenclubs.org](http://www.texasgardenclubs.org)



# The LONE STAR Gardener

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## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message and Travel Schedule .....	4
From South Central Region .....	5
Down the Garden Path.....	6-7
TGC Workday.....	8
Beeville Garden Club Arbor Day Celebration.....	9
Dogwood Garden Club Christmas Celebration.....	10
District III Fall Meeting .....	11
District IV Dedication Ceremony .....	12
Arbor Day Memorial Award in Jacksonville .....	13
TGC 97th Spring Convention Registration .....	15
NGC Gardening School Registration .....	16-17
District X Fall Convention .....	18
Planning the TGC Spring Conention .....	19
Dallas Council of Garden Clubs Holiday Meeting.....	20
Plant Care After Freezing Weather .....	21
Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Christmas Gala .....	22-23
Vegetables to Plant in January .....	24
Bluebonnet GC 2025 Flower Show .....	25
Calendar 2025.....	26
From Your Headquarters.....	26

8,458 Members | 14 Affiliates | 313 Clubs | 6 Judges' Councils | 6 Councils | 6 Youth Clubs | 4 Schools

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# TGC President's Message

Hope each of you enjoyed good times with family and friends during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's celebrations and made your RESOLUTIONS for the coming year.

Things are progressing at Headquarters. Three gardening events are being lined up by our event planner, Alisa Russell-Sykes, who is busy coordinating dates. She is planning an Open House during January at our Headquarters building showing off what we have to offer to vendors in the area.

Give yourselves a congratulatory pat on the back because all your dedication, commitment, and hard work are coming to fruition. Thanks to each of you for your loyalty and support of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. as we emerge better and stronger than ever with our financial position leveling off.

I had the distinct pleasure of visiting Rose Garden Club of Medina October 15 to help them celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Their community support was evidenced by the attendance.

Our Fall Board Meeting was held again at Headquarters, October 22-23. In the area of Awards, National Garden Clubs made a few changes in Youth Awards by reinstating the Youth Essay Contest and also expanding the Poetry Contest Grade Eligibility from K-9 to K-12. Good luck on your awards! It is your time to shine.

We are working on a new project being developed by National Garden Clubs, Inc. to place a Blue and/or Gold Star Marker at each Presidential Library in the United States. Texas needs markers at Lyndon B. Johnson (Austin), George H. W. Bush (College Station) and George Bush (Dallas) Libraries in Texas. I have turned this project over to Bobbie Mason, our State Blue Star Marker Chair. She has hit the ground running and will keep us updated.

If you ever have a chance to attend the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Gala, be sure to attend. What a "Winter Wonderland" with sooo many prizes and raffle items available for Christmas shopping. The floral arranging program was amazing.

The City of Fort Worth has done a "180" after offering to work with us in any way possible to resolve the ownership of the property owned by TGC located at the Botanic Gardens. They have filed a lawsuit again claiming to own the land. We have engaged an attorney and are committed to ending this matter once and for all. He understands our position and is committed to helping us.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in Nacogdoches and getting a chance to catch up. Christine Fincher, Judith Bussey and the District III team are really working extremely hard to make our experiences in the oldest city in Texas both fun and memorable ones, especially located at the historic Fredonia Hotel. This will be my last State Convention as your State President. It has been both a privilege and an honor to serve.

Check out the TGC and NGC Websites for information on the dates of schools. Flower Show School (Course IV) will be held in January 27-30, 2025, United Way 12300 Parcels Crest Drive, Stafford, (Regena Williamson, Chair); Landscape Design School February 10-11, 2025 George H. W. Bush Library, College Station (Michele Wehrheim, Chair); and Gardening School (Course 4) will be held February 3-4, 2025) San Antonio Garden Center



*Lee Taylor, TGC President  
2023-2025*

## President's Travel Schedule

- January 10-12, 2025 – Environmental School II– Mexia, TX
- January 27-30, 2025 – Flower Show School IV, Houston, TX
- February 3-4, 2025 – Gardening School IV, San Antonio, TX
- February 10-11, 2025 – Landscape Design School, College Station, TX
- March 14, 2025 – District III Spring Convention, Tyler, TX
- April 1-4, 2025 – TGC State Spring Convention, Nacogdoches, TX
- April 16-17, 2025 – SCR Spring Convention, Albuquerque, NM
- May 18-22, 2025 – NGC Spring Convention, Charleston, SC

(Karen Taylor, Chair). There is always something new to learn each time you attend. Whether you choose ZOOM or "in person classes," you will not be disappointed. Our Instructors are top notch.

My calendar is open this spring. I would love to visit whenever you want me. We can work out dates with a little juggling. I look forward to sharing experiences with the best team of garden club members around!!

On a more somber note, 2024 has been a hard year for many of our garden club members. Illness and death have altered so many members' lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as this year draws to a close as well as prayers for comfort and strength during the new year ahead.

Blessings to each of you,

*Lee*

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## *From South Central Region*

Happy Winter to all of you in the great State of Texas. Your other sister states of Arkansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma are busy with the new garden club year as well.

We have had the NGC Fall Board Meeting with many of you attending in person and many of you attending by ZOOM. The NGC Nominating Committee met and selected new nominees for the NGC Executive Board. Everyone will vote on these nominees in April in Charleston, NC. We have a member of SCR and of New Mexico who is up for consideration. We are thrilled for the chance to have representation from SCR on the Executive Board. Suzy Andregio who faithfully does the SCR Communicator will be on the slate.

We were asked by NGC to write about the states in the National Gardener and were given 100 words to write about all four of our states. It was hard but I was most impressed by New Mexico getting three Gold Star Markers and Oklahoma getting their first Gold Star Marker with a second one in the making.

The SCR Convention is April 16-17, 2025 in Albuquerque New Mexico. We have a lot of fun planned as I leave office and welcome our new slate of SCR Officers and chairmen.

As for Texas, my favorite state, I am so proud of your working together to keep our headquarters building and for solving all the financial issues this year has presented. I am so proud we can start the 2025 year with a lot of good memories and a lot of good anticipation for a good garden club future in our state. We are all getting stronger and better on the local level all the way to the state level. Everyone keep up the good work!!!

My traveling schedule includes several Fall District Meetings as well as several Anniversary Garden Club Celebrations. Please let me know if you would like for me to attend your club or district meetings. And don't forget Environmental School 3, July 17-19, 2025. Call or email me or check the website for information.

Sarah McReynolds



*Sarah McReynolds, SCR Director  
2023-2025*

# Down the Garden Path

by Gwen DeWitt Garden Consultant

I just got back from Environmental School at Fort Parker State Park. It always seems to be held on the coldest days of the year. Since we stay in the group camp barracks, you need to supply all of your bedding. I take my electric blanket along with sheets and an extra blanket. Even though the barracks have heat - when your bunk is next to windows, it gets nippy when temperatures plunge to 25 degrees.

I love attending the school seeing old friends, making new ones, and always learning something new. Our oldest student was in her mid-80s while our youngest 33. We had interesting classes, hands on projects and a hike. Everyone pitches in to bring snacks and beverages (some of which are made from grapes). We had fresh homemade cream of mushroom soup made by one of the attendees that raises mushrooms – delicious! The school is a time to celebrate and learn about the Earth and how we can take care of it.

We had a fascinating class on Monarchs. Nancy Galloway, a graduate from our Environmental School, was the presenter. Nancy is so enthralled by Monarchs, that she has taken more training and received certifications for all things concerning the ephemeral creatures.

Early Saturday morning, we were delighted with the sight of hundreds of snowy white pelicans landing on Fort Parker Lake. It was an amazing sight. That is the joy of visiting our state parks – the chance to connect to nature.

Assistant Superintendent, Fort Parker State Park, Leah Turner was a presenter giving us a class on the Great Blue Heron and their rookery located in the park. The birds return each year to nest. She led us on a hike to view the rookery from across the lake. The birds have a wing span of six feet. Only saw one of the large birds on this trip. Personally, after one of their brethren killed one of my koi, they haven't been one of my favorites!

Leah joined us for supper and helped with our project – making birdseed ornaments. It was a hands-on project where we made an ornament with canning rings and one using ice cream cones. We mixed unflavored gelatin, water, finely ground cornmeal and birdseed and fixed in in the ice cream cones and canning rings. After allowing the ornaments to set overnight, string was attached to hang them for the birds. A fun project that is easily accomplished with children and will provide hours of pleasure watching the birds.

We covered the rainforest and temperate forests along with endangered plants and wildlife. Each year, the Amazon rainforest absorbs 2.4 billion tons of carbon making it the “lungs of the world;” a strong reason to protect it. One of the simple things we can do for the environment is plant more trees. We need to protect our forests while managing them in a responsible way. California wildfires were a big part of our discussion. Their impact on the population of LA and the wildlife will be felt for decades.

Other courses included indoor and outdoor pollution, environmental ethics and how everything is interwoven. What happens in one part of the world will impact us. 10% of the oxygen we breath comes from Prochlorococcus, the smallest known photosynthesizing organisms, which lives in the ocean.

The Clean Air Act of 1963, was the first congressional act to counter air pollution. There have been several updates to the act. The EPA is responsible for protection of the country while TCEQ is responsible for water and air pollution in Texas. We also have the Railroad Commission to oversee oil and gas.

One of the biggest environmental successes was the removal of lead (a neurotoxin) from paint and gasoline. Tetraethyl lead, a fuel additive from the 1920s, was banned in 1976. Lead levels in children have dropped from 85% to less than 1%. Today, lead contamination is mostly from old paint.

While we all mourned the passing of freon in our air conditioners and refrigerators along with propellants in hair spray, the new chemicals are part of the reason the Ozone Hole is healing.

While we are always hearing about how bad livestock are for the environment, one third of methane comes from wetlands, termites and plants along with all animals. Improving the diet of livestock in feeding operation can improve the quality of air. Rice production is the biggest agronomy source. Energy production and

transportation is a major part of methane production. With ingenuity, scientists are finding ways to improve cost-effective ways to abate the pollution.

We conducted an experiment placing an egg in vinegar and a control egg in water. By the next day, we were able to see the thinning of the shell of the egg in vinegar. This was a simple demonstration of the effect of acid rain. Part of the class focused on nitrogen oxides and sulfur compounds and how they impact the air we breathe.

We, as individuals, can make an impact on the environment by being environmentally conscious in our everyday activities. Environmentalists will tell you to refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle. While we may not use all of those practices, we can make an impact in small ways. Reduce the number of trips to town by combining errands, purchasing items that have less packaging, reuse items or repurpose, cut down on consumption and plant more trees. We are the stewards of this earth and it is our responsibility to take care of it for future generations.

Happy Gardening!



*Rachel and Eleanor making birdseed ornaments*



*Our newest Environmental Graduate, Julie Chanler*



*Class awaiting the next lecture*



*Looking for Great Herons*

# TGC WORKDAY — November 22, 2024

## Dear TGC President, Trustees, and Workers

Today the team of Sharon Saylor, Sharon Wegenhoft, Sarah McReynolds, Nan Markland (and her helper Mike), and Heather White worked at HQ. Mostly weeding the beds, weed whacking the trails and placing the obelisk given by Marilyn Fitzner & Janet Nevil. We planted some purple Clematis at the base. Thanks to the generous donation of Mondo grass from Abilene Garden Club, we placed a large amount of Mondo “plugs” in the bed. Overall it was a highly successful day.

Heather White  
979-220-7545

## Next TGC Workday — March 25, 2025

### Dear TGC President, Trustees, and Workers

We have the “bones” laid out and we are working to keep the beds weeded, mulched and hopefully planted with predominantly native plants. Our next workday will be TUESDAY, 3/25 for 8-1. Bring gloves, garden shears/clippers and a small shovel is sometimes needed. There are wheelbarrows on site. Any assistance is appreciated; you don't have to be there the whole time. This will be our first spring day so I expect to clear limbs, weed and perhaps mulch.

**SAVE THE DATE for 4/29/25 which will be the next one.**



*Mondo grass from Abilene Garden Club*



# Beeville Garden Club Arbor Day Celebration



*Texas A&M Forest Service joined Beeville GC for Arbor Day celebration and provided information on planting trees, fire prevention, and offered Smokey the Bear swag. They also provided oaks for the public.*



*Mexican Redbud planted at Arbor Day celebration*

## *Dogwood Garden Club Christmas Celebration*

The members of the Dogwood Garden Club - Palestine met at the Queen Street Grille inside the Redland's Hotel for their Christmas luncheon. An ornament exchange took place and is always an interesting time. Who knows who will end up with what? Also, the 13th annual Festival of Trees Judges were included and gift baskets full of goodies were given to each of them for their participation in making our event a huge success.



# District III Fall Meeting

Pionette Garden Club President, Loyie Winkel, and Dogwood Garden Club-Palestine President, Dolores Walker and clubs members held a great fall meeting on November 14, 2024. It was a catered affair held at the Harvey Woman's Club in Palestine. District III Director Kathi Sivess called the meeting to order and important business was discussed. Ways and means and raffle items were a big hit.



*(L-R) Linda Jean Brown - 1st Vice Director, Virginia McNeill - 2nd Vice Director, and Debbie Gillispie - 3rd Vice Director*



*(L-R) Christine Fincher, Kathi Sivess, Nita Beale, Rhonda Wood (seated)*



*Members socializing at the meeting*



*Buffet line*



*Virginia McNeil and Betty Denson*



*The raffle table*



**DISTRICT IV of TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**  
**proudly announces**  
**A Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication Ceremony**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 @ 2:30 pm**  
**Houston National Cemetery**



*Memorial Marker  
NGC brochure  
July 2021*

Creating a legacy through the Garden Club is certainly something to be proud of where you can point to a brass plaque in a prominent location and tell your grandchildren you were part of the organization whose name is embellished on its face. District IV of Texas Garden Clubs will be showcasing a new addition to our gardening legacy. Over the last two years members of the Blue Star Memorial Marker Committee have been working and planning to put a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Houston National Cemetery. This will be the **FIRST** Blue Star Memorial Marker for the veterans in this area.

Just a bit about the Blue Star Memorial Marker program: after World War II The New Jersey State Council of Garden Clubs wanted to beautify a strip of highway as a living Memorial to honor the servicemen and women from World War II. In cooperation with the National Council (National Garden Clubs, Inc. today) and the state legislature and with the help of the NJ highway department they planted 8,000 dogwoods along US Highway 22 from Mountainside to North Plainfield, NJ. They eventually created a plaque to mark the area, and more states got on board after the National Council approved this idea to plant more memorials along the highways.

The program has evolved to what we know today as the Blue Star & Gold Star Memorial Marker program. Landscapes are being beautified and marked with a Memorial Marker, or a Memorial Highway Marker honoring both the Armed Services under the Blue Star program and the Gold Star Families whose marker honors the families of members killed in action.

The Blue Star committee for District IV is planning a dedication ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery on March 25th at 2:30 in the afternoon. We will send invitations out to all the clubs of District IV, the Directors of all the Texas Districts, and certain members of the State and National Garden Clubs. We hope you all will join us.

***Pamela Randall***

Blue Star/ Gold Star Memorial Marker Committee, chair  
District IV of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

[yardmap@aol.com](mailto:yardmap@aol.com) cell: 281-543-5889

THANK YOU!

# *Arbor Day Memorial Award in Jacksonville*

On Tuesday, November 26, 2024, Arbor Day Chairman Linda Jean Brown presented a live oak tree and a plaque, in honor of Gene Fincher, at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville. Mayor Gorham spoke and pastor Eric Johnson of First Baptist Church offered a prayer and spoke of how much the church and community valued Gene Fincher's contributions in his lifetime.



*(L-R) Arbor Day Chairman with Christine Fincher*



*(L-R) Arbor Day Chairman and Mayor Gorham*



Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. 97<sup>th</sup> Spring Convention - April 1- 4, 2025

**"Discover Your Path Back to Nature"**

Fredonia Hotel - 200 N Fredonia Street - Nacogdoches, Texas 75605

Hostess: District III and Tyler Area Council of Garden Clubs

Name on Badge (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Credentials (Please mark ALL that apply)

**First Timer** –  Yes  Spouse  Speaker  Guest  
 NGC President  Fmr NGC President  NGC Chair  SCR Director  Fmr. SCR  
Director  SCR Chair  TGC President  Fmr TGC President  TGC Officer  TGC  
Chair  Trustee  District Director  Club President  Club Delegate  Club Member  
 Club Alternate  Affiliate Member  Council President  Landscape Design  
Consultant  Gardening Consultant  Environmental Consultant Flower Show Judges:  
 Student  Accredited  Life  Master  Emeritus

Life Members:  NGC  SCR  TGC  District  Member of the Year

CIRCLE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS: Diabetic/ Gluten Free/ Vegan/ Vegetarian

**Registration Deadline March 21, 2025 – NO EXCEPTIONS**

Please select and enter amount for each event you plan to attend

**Registration Fee:** \$40.00 entire convention / \$20.00 per day.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025** 1:00 P. M. Executive Board Meetings (Dinner on your own)

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025** 9:00 A. M. Officer Meetings Continued

Lunch Dr. Creech SFA .....\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Tour to SFA Ruby Mize Garden 2:00-4:00.....\$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop- Making Friendship Bracelet \$10.00 pp 36 attendees only..... \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Floral Design Banquet- Tony Huffman, Houston.....\$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, April 3, 2025**

9:00 A.M. Opening Ceremonies & General Assembly

Lunch - Garden Club Member of the Year.....\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop – Edible Birdhouses w/seeds \$15.00 pp 36 attendees..... \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner – Adult Awards.....\$36.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, April 4, 2025**

9:00 A.M. – Youth Awards, Memorial Service

Lunch – On Your Own – explore Nacogdoches

Workshop-Plant a plant \$10.00 pp 36 attendees only..... \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner – Installation of 2025-2027 TGC, Inc. New Officers.....\$39.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 8:00 A.M. Cabana Patio** New Officers & Board of Directors

Meeting with New Elect State President Linda Jean Brown **Grand Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**BREAKFAST IS ON YOUR OWN** – Available at Hotel 1<sup>st</sup> City Café – First Floor- 7:00 A.M.

**Check payable to: TGC, Inc State Convention Mail to: Nita Beale, Registrar – 610 Town  
Oak Circle - Kilgore, TX 75662 ( 903-981-3251)**

Chairmen: Christine Fincher – 903-714-5985 and Judith Bussey – 409-381-0526

**Hotel Accommodation - Mention "Texas Garden Club State Convention"**

**DEADLINE March 18, 2025 for Fredonia Hotel 936-564-1234 – 200 N Fredonia St. –  
Nacogdoches, TX 79605 Room rate \$169.00**

National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
**GARDENING SCHOOL**  
Series 18 – Course 4  
February 3 & 4, 2025

**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 S18-C4**

**Please Note**  
**Course #1 is planned for**  
**August, 2025**

National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
**GARDENING SCHOOL**  
Series 18 – Course 4  
February 3 & 4, 2025

Sponsored by:  
**TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**  
**DISTRICT VII**

*Helping Members become accomplished horticulturists.*

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.

Sponsored by:  
**Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**District VII**



**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Gardening School**

Series 18 – Course 4  
February 3&4, 2025

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

**STATE PRESIDENT**  
**Lee Taylor**

**LOCAL GARDEN SCHOOL CHAIRS**

Karen Taylor, Chair  
Lee Taylor, Co-Chair



## Gardening School

Series 18 – Course 4

February 3 & 4, 2025

### REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Master Gardener (Please Circle)    YES    or    NO

### REGISTRATION FEES:

**DEADLINE IS January 27, 2025**

Two Day School includes lunch and snacks both days:

**Credit/Refresher/Guest**

(Please circle category)

**\$150.00 + \$5.00 if taking class for credit**

**Registration Deadline is January 27, 2025**

**No Registration at Door**

**\*THIS IS AN IN PERSON CLASS\***

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**TGC, INC. GARDEN SCHOOL**

Memo line: GS S18-C4

**Additional Form Requirements:**

**NGC Form 6 for Students**

**NGC Form 7 for Consultants**

## COURSE III Schedule

### February 3 - MONDAY

8:00 - 8:30am - Registration

8:30am - 10:30am Outdoor Identification of Plants

10:30am - 10:45am Break

**10:45am - 11:00am Open Book Quiz on Outdoor**

**Identification of Plants**

11:00am - 12:00pm Supplemental Subject

12:00pm - 12:45pm LUNCH BREAK

12:45pm - 4:15pm Specialized Styles of Gardening

4:15pm - 4:30pm Break

**4:30pm - 4:45pm Open Book Quiz on Specialized**

**Styles of Gardening**

### February 4 - TUESDAY

8:00am - 8:30am Assemble/Announcements

8:30am - 11:00 am Techniques for Growing Woody

Ornamentals

11:00am - 11:15am Break

**11:15am - 11:30am Open Book Quiz on Techniques**

**for Growing Woody Ornamentals**

LUNCH BREAK - 11:30am - 12:15pm

12:15pm - 2:15pm Pruning Techniques

2:15pm - 2:30 Break

**2:30pm - 2:45pm Open Book Quiz on Pruning**

**Techniques**

2:45pm - 4:15pm Plant Classification &

Nomenclature

4:15pm - 4:30pm Break

**4:30pm - 4:45pm Quiz on Plant Classification &**

**Nomenclature**

**ALL WRITTEN EXAMS ARE TO BE OPEN BOOK and/or NOTES.**

**Instruction By:**

**Dr. Joe Novak**

**Professor, Rice University**

**REQUIRED READING**

**"The National Gardener"**

Available on-line and by subscription

## SUGGESTED READING

**Botany for Gardeners**

Brian Capon

## **SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS**

### **PEAR TREE INN SAN ANTONIO AIRPORT**

143 NE I-410 Loop

San Antonio, TX 78216

210-366-9300

**They are guaranteeing a rate of \$79.00+tax**

**on reservations made before**

**January 2, 2025**

Details: Free Continental Breakfast & Free

Beer & Wine Happy Hour



**SEND CHECK AND REGISTRATION TO:**

Karen Taylor, Chair

109 Axis Run

Hunt, TX 78024

# District X Fall Convention

District X Fall Convention on November 20, 2025 was hosted by the Ennis Garden Club at the Welcome Center in Ennis, Texas. The theme was "Splash of Fall Colors." The General Assembly opened at 10:00 am with Annie Wartsbaugh, President of Ennis Garden Club, presiding over the opening ceremony. The Marine Corps League Color Guard presented the American and Texas flags. Mayor of Ennis, Kameron Raburn, welcomed the 77 attendees. Brenda Moore, NGC President, gave greetings via zoom. Sarah McReynolds, South Central Region (SCR) Director, brought greetings from SCR. Lee Taylor, President of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. (TGC) gave greetings from TGC. Sharon Russell, District X Director, presided over the Business meeting. Lunches prepared by the Bluebonnet City Grill were handed out. Scotty Rigby of Silverado Lawn and Landscaping and Rigsby Garden Center in Midlothian gave the after-lunch presentation. The final credentials and Courtesy Resolutions were given and the meeting was adjourned. There was time to shop at the various sales tables from SCR, TGC, and Ennis GC.



— At Left —

*L - R Mary Whitehurst, incoming District X Director, Annie Wartsbaugh, Ennis GC President; Mayor Kameron Raburn, District X Director, Sharon Russell, and Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. President, Lee Taylor.*



*Scotty Rigby of Rigsby Garden Center, Midlothian*



*Sarah working at SCR table*



*Attending members*



*Ennis GC with Mayor Raburn and Lee Taylor*

# Planning the TGC Spring Convention

The Tyler Area Council of Garden Clubs and District III State Convention chairmen and hostesses had a round table discussion at the Tyler Area Council Meeting in the Fall. Seated on the left are Lee Taylor, Paula Duplant, Christine Fincher, Convention Chair, Virginia McNeill, Rhonda Wood, and Fran Hulse; and on the right are Judith Bussey Co-Chair Convention:, Kathi Sivess, Janice Moore, Standing (left) Juanita Robinson, Linda Jean Brown, and Carol Metteauer Tyler Area Council GC President.



# Dallas Council of Garden Clubs Holiday Meeting

Dallas Garden Club held their Holiday Meeting at Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. Headquarters on the morning of December 2, 2024. Every member brought their favorite dish or dessert for a festive pot luck. All 37 members attending enjoyed a delicious meal followed by a brief meeting, drawing for the door prizes furnished by Mesquite Garden Club, convivial fellowship, and a self-guided walking tour of the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens.



*Bobbie Mason, Marilyn Fitzner, Takes Lewis-Baker*



*Members at meeting*



*Ginny Hale, Joyce Taylor, Faye Nabors, Sylvia Carter*



*Pot luck buffet*

# Plant Care After Freezing Weather

Recently, most of Texas has received some form of freezing weather for several days. Many gardeners have prepared for the cold and covered their plants and gardens to protect them from the cold.

Things to do after a hard freeze:

1. Check the soil temperature. If the soil did not freeze, the plants may be OK.
2. There may be some brown, crinkly leaves or droopy, slimy leaves showing signs of freeze damage. Only trim back the damaged leaves, and in the case of canna plants, cut the whole mushy stem.
3. For perennials and woody stemmed plants, go near the base of the stem and make a small scratch breaking the outer bark and look for a green color. If the color is green – the plant is still alive.
4. On the first warm sunny day when the weather is above freezing and the weather reports are predicting night temperature above freezing, uncover the plants, and check to see if they need water. Water if needed and keep the plant coverings nearby just in case another cold snap is on its way. Plants need the sun for photosynthesis.
5. Do not fertilize.
6. Wait patiently until spring when green buds appear on standing stems or green growth appears in the crown of what you thought was a dead plant. It will only be a six to eight week wait.

# Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Christmas Gala

The Houston Federation of Garden Clubs hosted their annual Christmas party on Friday, December 13, 2024. The keynote speaker was Alan Masters, AIFD CFD, who created magnificent arrangements in minutes and his creations were auctioned to attendees.



*Alan Masters, AIFD CFD, keynote speaker*



*Cindy Heckaman, District IV Director stands next to one of the innovative table centerpieces at the gala.*



*Attendees at the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs annual Christmas Gala*



*Another brilliant centerpiece*

# Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Christmas Gala



*(L-R) Marian Schonenberg, Sharon Wegenhoft, and Jennie Pritchett*



*Centerpiece*



*Centerpiece*



*Centerpiece*

# *Vegetables to Plant in January*

## *Broccoli*

It takes broccoli about 100 days to reach maturity. In warmer climates choose quick growing varieties

## *Cabbage*

Seeds need to be planted in January. Some gardeners enjoy buying and planting transplants.

## *Garlic*

Plant cloves in January. (Grocery store garlic is usually treated with a growth inhibitor).

## *Kale*

Sow seeds outside in January. Kale tastes sweeter when it has gone through a cold spell.

## *Micro greens*

They do best seeded indoors in small trays on a sunny window sill. Best growing microgreens are arugula, alfalfa, mustard, and radishes.

## *Onions*

Seeds take some time. If you purchase bundles of onion set, remember to plant them shallow.

## *Peas (green)*

Sow in ground in January. May need to scar (nick) the seed to get best germination.



# Bluebonnet GC 2025 Flower Show

BLUEBONNET GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS...

## 2025 FLOWER SHOW

# *Blooms of Legacy*



## Celebrating 75 Years of Floral Splendor

### *Cocktail Preview Party*

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

5:30 to 7:00 PM

Tickets \$25

### *Celebration Flower Show*

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Tickets \$15

Ant Street Inn • 107 West Commerce Street • Brenham, Texas

For additional information contact  
RebeccaEhlert@sbcglobal.net (512-914-6148 )  
www.bluebonnetgardenclub.com

All proceeds benefit community projects and scholarships

**Join us** at the Blooms of Legacy Flower Show, hosted by the Bluebonnet Garden Club of Brenham Texas. The Bluebonnet Garden Club is celebrating 75 years of floral splendor with our theme "Blooms of Legacy."

Start the celebration early at our Cocktail Preview Party on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at the Ant Street Inn in Brenham, Texas. Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres as you get a sneak peek at the beautiful floral displays and enjoy our delightful company for a fee of \$25.

On Wednesday, March 26, 2025, we invite you to attend the Celebration Flower Show from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Ant Street Inn. Explore a stunning display of flowers and floral arrangements that showcase the 75 years of legacy of our garden club, with an admission fee of \$15.

You may purchase advance tickets for both events by visiting our website <https://bluebonnetgardenclub.com> or email to Rebecca Ehlert at [rebeccaehlert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rebeccaehlert@sbcglobal.net). Tickets can ONLY be purchased at the door for Wednesday's Celebration Flower Show.

We are proud to support our community through various special projects that make a positive impact on the lives of those around us. By attending the Flower Show and Cocktail Preview Party, you are helping us fund these important initiatives.

- Scholarships for High School Seniors
- Garden Therapy in Assisted Living
- 8th Grade Watch Program
- Yard of the Month Award
- Recycling Program at Brenham Elementary School
- Art Poster contest at Brenham Elementary School
- Business Beautification Awards
- Seeds for Life
- Butterfly Garden at Brenham Elementary School
- Bread Partners
- Trees for Arbor Day

Other projects included planting trees in different city parks and landscaping the grounds at the community swimming pool in connection with Arbor Day observance.

# Calendar 2025

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

<b>NGC Events</b>	NGC Spring Convention - May 18 -22, 2025 – Embassy Suites Hotel, North Charleston, South Carolina
<b>TGC Events</b>	TGC Spring Convention – April 1-4, 2025 – Fredonia Hotel, Nacogdoches, Texas
<b>SCR Events</b>	SCR Spring Convention – April 16-17, 2025 – Embassy Suites, Albuquerque, New Mexico -Theme: Bee Enchanted in New Mexico
<b>Flower Show Schools</b>	FSS IV, January 27-30, 2025 – United Way, 12300 Parcels Crest Drive, Stafford, TX 77477. Regina Williamson, Chairman
<b>Environmental School</b>	Environmental School 3, July 17-19, 2025, Fort Parker State Park, Mexia (Sarah McReynolds)
<b>Gardening Study School</b>	GSS Series Course – February 3-4, 2025 and August 4-5, 2025 – San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N New Braunfels, San Antonio, Texas. Karen Taylor, Chairman
<b>Landscape Design School</b>	LDS, Course 4, Series 27, February 10-11, 2025, George Bush Library, College Station, Texas. Michele Wehrheim, Chairman

**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

We gratefully accept your contributions received from October 3, 2024 through January 17, 2025.

**ENDOWMENT FUNDS:**

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:** TGC SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Terrell Heights GC; HENDY SCHOLARSHIP: Joyce Hendy

**HEADQUARTERS FUNDS:** LAWYERS FUND: Nan Markland; HEADQUARTERS GENERAL OFFICE FUND: Oak Cliff Garden Forum; BLUE AND GOLD STAR MARKERS: Dana Serafine; Virginia McNeill, Sharon Wegenhoft, Gwen DeWitt, Pam Davison, Freda Marin, Fleur

De Lis Sachse; YOUTH AWARDS: Freda Marin

**GENERAL FUNDS:** MEMORIAL BOOK: Honoring Denora Van Dusen (DeNora) Dial by Plano GC

**PRESIDENT’S BOOK:** DISTRICT VIII: San Angelo GC

**CONTRIBUTING PROJECTS:** NATURAL DISASTER NGC: Hunt GC; SEEDS FOR LIFE: Bluebonnet GC - Brenham; BROOKWOOD GEORGETOWN: Killeen GC.