

INDIANA GARDENS

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2013



THE GARDEN CLUB OF INDIANA, INC

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

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2013-2015

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Theme: Making a World of Difference—Choices Matter

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Theme: Share, Care and Protect our Future

ISSUE DEADLINES

Jan. 2, Mar. 1, May 1, Jul. 1,
Sep. 1, and Nov. 1

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Mission Statement

The Garden Club
of Indiana, Inc.
promotes
interest and education
in Horticulture,
Landscaping,
Floral Design,
and
Environmental Concerns.

Hello fellow gardeners, designers, landscapers, and environmentalists!

We have had an amazing couple of months seeing firsthand the very business that so many clubs do month in and month out. Whether it was flower shows of spectacular dimension, the planting on public grounds, and the care shared with nursing home patients, the arrangements and designs shared with other organizations when asked...you all are busy and doing such amazing things. Of course, summertime is soooo busy with the growing season, whether it is the 100 x100 veggie garden, or a few pots on the patio or porch or a terrarium on the table. We, as gardeners, need to have our souls immersed in the dirt whether literally or figuratively in order to recharge ourselves. As the harvest moons wanes we are mindful of the bounty and we share it with others. We prepare for the rush of district meetings, and look forward to seeing you all in YOUR neck of the state.



Coming up as well will be the trip to St. Louis for the National Board fall meeting. Looking forward to learning about the National President's project and how she wishes to have that carried out as well as the tour of the St. Louis botanical gardens and the National Garden Club headquarters. I will bring that specific information to you in your district meetings as well.

It is with great excitement that I announce the winner of the first grant for the state project: Trees for Life! Hobart GC has completed its project with the planting of two sizable blue spruce trees. I am looking quite forward to visiting firsthand when I attend the NW District meeting on October 3. They have encompassed all the requirements: got matching money, even got in kind donation of labor, used a community space and will educate the public at Christmastime about proper recycling of holiday trees as well as care of newly planted live Christmas trees. I am thrilled as we award this first amount of money. Who is applying next? There is much more money to give away. The information about the grant should be on the website and if there are questions, please direct them to Laura Kearby, Trees Chair, or myself.

As we enter the final quarter of the year, many clubs are doing the accounting to see what they might send in for the "big four" donations. These efforts that we all join together to support include the funds for: **World Gardening**, which is Habitat for Humanity; **Scholarship**; **Land Trust**, which is collaboration with Nature Conservancy to preserve lands in Indiana; and **Blue Star Memorial**. Please go ahead and commit now and send those dollars in to the various chairmen. There is no advantage to waiting until December to do so. Get that out of the way before you all get busy with the holidays.

Speaking of Blue Star Memorials: Let's hear it for the Southwest District...again...another dedication in the works for Lincoln State Park on October 6 sponsored by Christmas Lake Village GC of Santa Claus, IN. Way to go! Anyone needing more information as to how to plan and put up a Blue Star marker can contact the chair, Jayne Kesler. See her listing in state board listing on the website.

Sarah Nahmias
TGCI President

**Crown Bees and National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Partner to Add Gentle Mason Bees to Gardens**

National Garden Clubs, Inc. announces a partnership with Crown Bees to increase native bee awareness, and encourage gardeners to add gentle, rarely stinging mason bees for food and flower pollination. Creating edible landscapes and bee-safe habitats in backyards can help save the food supply threatened by declining honey bee pollinators.

NGC President Linda Nelson says that **“MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE** in our environment is the goal shared by this newly formed partnership.” Crown Bees is a mason bee pollination and education company and National Garden Clubs, Inc is the largest worldwide nonprofit organization of volunteers pursuing gardening’s best practices and education for a sustainable environment.

President Nelson says that, “The hallmark of National Garden Club activities is to protect and conserve our natural resources, and to promote education so we may all be better caretakers of our beautiful planet.” She also says that, “Increasing bee awareness and promoting the use of bee safe products allow us to be part of this powerful solution.”

Debbie Skow (Native Bee/Bee GAP Chairman for NGC) stated that she will be working to collaborate with Crown Bees to implement 1) A NGC Bee Speakers Bureau to increase bee awareness and practices, 2) encourage bee products in annual plant sales by individual garden clubs, 3) develop a bee education program for our youth programs and 4) to implement the BeeGAP (Gardeners Adding Pollinators) program where members raise mason bees to pollinate gardens. Crown Bees purchase excess bees to send to commercial farmers to supplement honey bee pollinators.

Dave Hunter, founder of Crown Bees, said, “This is a groundbreaking alliance to reach communities everywhere with an easy backyard garden solution to the declining honey bee population. Nearly 1/3 of our food supply is threatened by lack of pollination. We need more alternate bee pollinators to keep food on tomorrow’s table. Bees flourish in an edible landscape, and that is a great solution in which we all benefit.”

For more information related to any of the above subjects you may visit NGC at www.gardenclub.org or Crown Bees at www.crownbees.com

**Wabash River with Nature Conservancy
Land Trust Project**

by Mary Peat, State Chairman, Land Trust

This is the time of year when our garden clubs are sending in money on our projects. Our Land Trust project is a little less than half way to our pledge of \$10,000 toward our project. Garden clubs can donate by district, club or as an individual. It is also a nice remembrance for a deceased club member from her club.

More than 700,000 Hoosiers live within 15 miles of the banks of the Wabash River. It is the longest free flowing river east of the Mississippi River. The Nature Conservancy’s mission for the Wabash River is the protect the rich diversity of life that depends on the river for existence and by improving the water quality. We also will enhance Hoosier dependence upon the Wabash for water, food and recreation. In the last few years, they have restarted and permanently conserved more than 6,000 acres of the flood plain along the Wabash River.

So you can see how important the Wabash is to all of us.

Indoor Succulents

By Linda Bower

Early last spring with company coming to dinner and no flowers for a centerpiece, I went to my favorite garden center. The large number of succulents caught my eye. Mostly succulent garden dishes were being promoted. They looked too big for my table, so I looked around at discount stores for containers and came up with the idea of using glass. I found two glass containers at my local Goodwill store. I did my research, of course one look on line, shows me succulent terrarium gardens is not a new idea. Any glass container works, but wide openings are easier for planting.

Next comes the layering of materials. My original source said to begin with activated charcoal to act as a reservoir for water. Some sources recommend leaving the charcoal out which is good because this requires a trip to the pet store. The next layer is gravel, then succulent friendly soil, both can be purchased at a garden center. Succulents are your choice, but they should be tiny. Your succulent terrarium needs bright but indirect light, 70-85 degrees by day and 50-55 degrees at night.

The most important part is watering. Watering should be generous at first. This is a fast draining mixture. Let the soil dry between watering. There is no need to fertilize.

Of course, there are drawbacks. Scraggly plants need to be pruned or removed. The glass sometimes looks dirty and needs to be cleaned with damp newspaper or a lint free cloth. There is no rapid growth and no flowers, but a terrarium makes a good conversation piece as well as a ready table centerpiece.



NGC "PLANT IT PINK" AWARDS:

State Award: PINK TROWEL AWARD

Club Award: PINK GLOVE AWARD

A one- page application should include the name of the state or club, project contact person, address, phone and email, project location and a brief description with photos on the back. Certificates will be presented to those applying.

Applications should be submitted to your state awards chairman. Contact Suzanne Potts for application information. Her contact information is in the Members Only section. Or you can get the form from the National Garden Club website at www.gardenclub.org.



Container Gardening by Joyce Karns

Here are some tips to beginning the “floor plan” for your container and choosing the right plants.

Formula for creating great plant combos in containers. Select a

- **Thriller:** (aka the uppy) is the focal point, soaring toward the heavens.
- **Spiller:** (aka the downy) grounds the plantings in the pot, softening its hard edges and drawing the eye downward.
- **Filler:** (aka the bulky) allows the eye to rest in between points of interest (that is to say, the uppy and the downy).

Consider the qualities each component brings as you’re formulating your composition—beyond color, plants can bring textural interest, contrast in form, movement and more.

Choose your container. Get creative! The container you choose for your garden can be a hollowed out stump from an old tree, as small as a teacup, a slender window box or an old wooden barrel. There are no rules for taking a container and making it unique to your own home and décor preferences—just make sure it is big enough to accommodate the plants you plan on using.

Decide on your plants/flowers. First-timers are encouraged to plant a simple herb garden. But whether planting herbs or flowers, a rule of thumb is to place taller growing plants at the back of your container with smaller and trailing plants near the front. But once again, be creative. There really isn’t a rulebook and if you have a vision in mind of what the finished plant will look like in bloom, make your own planting plan.

Choose the right soil. Or, go soil-less. Check with your gardening center expert to find out what the best type of soil is to grow your plants or flowers. There are modern soil-less mixtures that allow for optimum plant growth and require very little maintenance, including taking less of your time, watering as the water retention in the new planting mixtures is high.

Double check your drainage and sunlight visibility. It won’t matter how beautiful your container garden looks when freshly planted, if the container isn’t set up with the right kind of drainage and the right amount of exposure to daily sunlight. The beauty won’t last long. Drainage holes should be about a half-inch stretched across the bottom of the container or pot, and for hanging baskets make sure to line your basket with moss for the better water retention. Pay attention when buying your plants and make sure they fit the shade or sun exposure that your container will receive when it is placed outside your home.

And if flowers aren’t really what you had in mind and you would rather grow your own fresh organic salad fixings, planting a container garden of bibb lettuce, baby carrots, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, or spinach, is a great option too. There’s nothing like a salad homegrown from your own back porch!

Your personal container garden is only limited by your imagination. Once you get started you may never want to stop. The containers add beauty to any outside space and do so with easy maintenance.

Little Bulbs for a Big Spring

by Ruth Hartley

Across the country, autumn brings gardeners to their knees, not in homage to the splendors of the season, but to spring. They crawl about their yards, under shrubs and around trees, planting spring beauties by the dozens. Undoubtedly most of them will be the glorious tulips and daffodils we admire in the spring bulb catalogs, arriving this time of year. However, there are other treasures to behold perhaps unnoticed by most gardeners as they make their "must have" lists. For those who wish to improve the spring show in their garden, there are the minor bulbs, a loosely knit and largely unrelated clan that includes Crocus, Scilla, Alliums, Fritillaries and more. These encompass a host of delightful diminutive spring bloomers many of which offer years of bloom in return for minimal care.

While minor bulbs will never replace the tulips and daffodils, if properly handled they can create handsome displays throughout the spring.

To get the most impact from these bulbs, they must be used in bold quantities, planted closely and making smaller satellite clumps to give a more natural look. Such showy displays are affordable because they are relatively inexpensive. Combined with the grand show of the major bulbs, they seem to tie the large blooms into a whole, or tucked into an odd spot, they add that needed spark of color. Left to naturalize, in your garden area, there are several types of small bulbs that will create a satisfying unified picture.

Here are a few of the most rewarding bulbs in order of their appearance. By all means, plant where you can see them from a window as a few cheerier sights are possible on a gray day than a spot of color in the garden.

Winter Aconite (Eranthis) These are the first to bloom and never seem to mind the worst weather conditions. Each golden yellow blossom has a ruff of handsome, finely-frilled green. They flourish under trees and seed freely, establishing lovely colonies in March.

Snow Drops (Galanthus) Here is another bulb that appears in early spring, sometimes in the snow, enticing the early gardener outdoors. These graceful, nodding white blooms marked with green should be planted in quantity and left undisturbed to give their best.

Crocus These lead all other early bulbs on range of color and blooming period. They are synonymous with spring and bring news that winter is almost over. The first to bloom are the species, poking through the snow their smaller blooms in great abundance, then the Dutch hybrids in a wide range of color. Given a place with plenty of spring sun, Crocus will multiply rapidly and reward you with years of color.



Glories of the Snow (Chionodoxa) Here again these little beauties will survive snow, frost and heat alike. They naturalize well and the foliage disappears quickly so it is fine for naturalizing. My neighbor across the street has a yard of the glorious blue each spring that is a delight to behold.

Scilla (Squill) This is one of the bluest blues of the flower kingdom. Several nodding bells are borne on each stem and can carpet the garden in glowing blue. Although not a pest, they increase rapidly and carpet the garden with color in a short time, but is that all that bad?

Wood Hyacinths (Scilla) Also sometimes called Spanish Bluebells, these delightful blue, pink or white bell-shaped flowers thrive in shady spots and multiply each year. They are excellent to naturalize in woodlands or under trees or odd corners that seem to be neglected.



Fritillaria Besides the spectacular crown imperials that rise a yard above ground to dazzle all viewers, this family also gives us the beguiling checkered lilies, fat little bells of heathery purple that are checkered with cream or the large, bell-shaped bronze maroon edged with yellow. Give them a warm sheltered spot and they'll slowly increase into enhancing little colonies in May and June.

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Scholarship Donations 2012 = \$20,001.75!

TGCI wants to extend our most heartfelt thanks for the Scholarship Donations made during the year of 2012. This money has been allotted to the appropriate Scholarship Recipients at Ball State and Purdue University. Petal & Stem GC, Four Winds GC and Vale of Paradise GC deserve special recognition for their efforts in **raising more than \$2,000.00** per club as their scholarship contributions. Each club has named scholarships. Congratulations to all clubs and their members for their efforts in raising more than \$20,000 for this outstanding TGCI project.

Large plus small amounts equal a successful year for TGCI and the students.

Send donations for the year 2013 to:

Joyce Bulington
6024 Elm Dr.
Marion, IN 46953-6124

List of Clubs & Districts Donating for 2012

Central District \$100

Arbutus GC

Broad Ripple GC \$1020

Brookside GC

Eagle Nest GC

Fall Creek GC

Friendly GC

Glen Oaks GC

Ft. Benjamin Blossoms GC

Green Thumbs GC

Hill Crest GC

Sages GC

Spring Green GC

Women's Department GC

North Central \$1000

Four Season GC

Four Winds GC \$2300

GC of Michiana

Iris Elm GC

Middlebury GC

Peru GC

Rochester GC

Syracuse-Wawasee GC

Terre Verde GC

South East District \$500

All Seasons GC

All Thumbs GC

Brown County GC

Cultivating GC

Dirt Diggers GC

Fayette GC

Flower Lane GC

Give Un Take GC

Mudlarks GC

Shelby Diligent Diggers GC

Terrace GC

North West District

Crown Point GC

Dyer GC

Portage GC

Vale of Paradise GC \$2500

Central East District

Creative Hands GC

Dig & Hoe GC

GC of Marion

Pendleton GC

Petal & Stem GC \$3000

South West District \$100

Arts & Flowers GC

Boonville GC

Christmas Lake Village GC

GC of New Harmony

Green Thumb GC

Newburgh GC

Petersburg GC

Vincennes GC

Westwood GC

Central West District

Denominational GC

Hendricks County GC

Sullivan County GC

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Supporting the TGCI Scholarship Project by funding a Scholarship Patron or a Gold Star for a club member is just one of the varied ways to make donations. This is an honor for members to receive and clubs to bestow on their members. Honorariums and Memorials are also a way to acknowledge members without donating a specified amount of money. As always donations are accepted from anyone and throughout the year until December 1st.

List of 2012 SCHOLARSHIP PATRONS

Name of Recipient

138 Barbara Hall
139 Don St.Peters
140 Carol Phillips
141 Evelyn Villarin
142 Ana Maria Hollander
143 Susan Filbert
144 Rose Marie Springer
145 Richardeen Martinson

Donor

Ft. Benjamin Blossoms
Ft. Benjamin Blossoms
Crown Point Garden Club
Personal Gift
Newburgh Garden Club
Newburgh Garden Club
Central District
Boonville Garden Club

List of 2012 GOLD STARS

Name of Recipient

142 Gerry St. Peters
143 Cynthia Wright
144 Joyce Bulington
145 Rose Marie Springer
146 Evelyn Villarin

Donors

Sarah Nahmias/gift
Sarah Nahmias/gift
Sarah Nahmias/gift
Sarah Nahmias/gift
Personal Gift

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Daffodils (Narcissus) Along with the small bulbs, it would be a mistake not to include the many miniature daffodils available. They are a delight to behold. Be sure to attend a daffodil show to see the many charmers that are out there. Just to name a few to consider—**Tete-a-Tate** is yellow, has 2 or 3 per stem and is excellent for forcing. **Thalia** is white with 3 or 4 trumpets per stem. It is a fragrant and flowers in late spring. **Lintie** is yellow-flowered with a yellow crown and clear orange rim. As you can see these miniatures are available in a wide range of colors and shapes and are perfect for borders, beds or rock gardens.



There are many other minor bulbs that are there for your garden but time and space limited the number that can be listed here. Check your catalogs for the many and varied small bulbs you can select at nominal expense and get down to work. Just remember the rewards next spring when you see those spring beauties.

Remember:

Adam was a gardener,
And God who made him
Sees that half a proper gardener's
Work is done upon his knees!