

# CENTRAL REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

## Theme: Tree Planting Extravaganza July 2024 Newsletter

### ***CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR - Lynne Ehnert***

#### **Central Region Tree Planting Extravaganza - Central Region Project 2023-2025**

It has been a very busy Spring. As Central Region Director, I have been privileged to attend the Indiana State Convention, Missouri State Convention, Wisconsin State Convention, and Michigan State Conference in the last six weeks. In between those travels I also attended the NGC National Convention.

While all conventions/conferences were similar, there were slight differences in each. The best part in each is the people. Reuniting with current friends and taking advantage of the opportunity of making new friends. With each gathering, people come back a little more invigorated with their projects and remembering the reason they joined their garden club. New ideas are generated, new plans are made, and new projects come to light, new teams are formed, and we all learn a little. It was interesting to me because while everyone has the same mission, all had different areas of focus. Here were some of the highlights of the conventions in addition to the business meetings:



:  
Scholarship Fundraising  
Environmental Concerns  
    Planting Native Trees  
    Waterways  
Floral Design - Several Excellent Design Programs  
Educational Exhibits  
Horticulture Specialty Show  
Various Workshops  
    Building Birdhouse  
    Making Peace Posts  
    Making Pool Noodle Floral Designs

As we close the books on these conventions/conferences, I look forward to the beginning of the next. Sarah Lambaria and Diane Dawson have been working hard to get the details ready for the 2024 Central Region Convention. We just recently posted the information about the next convention which will be held in O'Fallon, IL from 10/17/24-10/19/24. So, mark your calendars - We look forward to getting together at the 2024 Convention! Make your reservations now!

Have you been on the National Garden Clubs, Inc. site recently? There is a new link on the top drop-down menu – “NGC Pathway of Success.” I am not sure if you are aware, but NGC Headquarters property abuts the beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden. There is no fence dividing the two properties, and visitors to the garden tend to wander onto NGC’s property. NGC decided to capitalize on having such a beautiful neighbor and has recently begun renting their property out for functions – their first event having been a wedding last fall and with additional events scheduled in 2024. The “Path of Success” undertaking serves several purposes -- to utilize NGC’s physical assets more fully, to create a new revenue stream, and to educate the public about NGC garden clubs and our mission. The project includes creating a ¼-mile walking path on NGC’s grounds allowing the Missouri Botanical Gardens visitors and other members of the public to view NGC’s beautiful gardens and trees, and adding signage to educate visitors about the rich history and purpose of National Garden Clubs, Inc. You can purchase a paver for the new pathway as an individual or as a club, inscribed with your or your club’s name, etc. For more information visit <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-path-success>.

**Lynne Ehnert**  
**Central Region Director**

Thank you all for all you do in your club, your state, and our Region. I was able to see and hear first hand how hard everyone is working. Let’s continue our mission.

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## **Lynne Ehnert**

**Central Region Director  
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Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
414-630-1959 C**

**lehnert@wi.rr.com**

**Theme: Tree Planting Extravaganza!**

**[www.ngccentralregion.com](http://www.ngccentralregion.com)**



**The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.  
State Presidents**

**Central Region Convention is at O'Fallon, IL  
October 17-19, 2024  
Information on pages 5-7.**

## Central Region Director's Project - Tree Extravaganza

A new, easy to use tree reporting link has been added to the Central Region Website. It is: <https://www.ngccentralregion.com> - under forms.

Why should we plant trees? Why is our project an 'extravaganza'? If you look at the definition of "extravaganza," it means a spectacle or display, typically an impressive one. This means our project is an impressive display of trees we plant throughout our Central Region to help us improve the environment.

There are no rules as to the type of tree that can be planted. We will track the number of trees planted in each state for the 2023-2025 term which began on 6/1/23.

An award will be given for the state with the most trees planted per capita during the term. We will track trees planted annually. An additional point will be awarded for pictures submitted to the Central Region website of your tree planting.

Now that we have an easy to use form, we are looking to collect information regarding trees planted since June 1, 2023. Please share these links with your state officers, chairman, and club presidents requesting that they share it with all club members. Even trees planted by individuals count in the state numbers. Please use the new form as this will help us track all trees planted during the 2023-2025 Tree Extravaganza!

Link on the Central Region Website <https://www.ngccentralregion.com> or a Google doc to share with others: <https://forms.gle/JcMhMoN4u3U3ZwRM7>

**Diane Olsen**

**CR Director's Project Chairman**

## Scholarships

As chairman of the Central Region Scholarship Award, I received two applications from two of the seven states in the region. Missouri and Michigan. States please remember to send student scholarship applications by March 15. We would love to receive students applying from the five other states too.

These two well deserving students will each receive a five hundred dollar CRGC Scholarship for the school year 2024-2025.

Payton Duncan is a senior attending Southeast Missouri State University. She has a 3.8 Grade Point Average majoring in Agriculture/Agribusiness: Horticulture and Cannabis Studies. Payton is planning to go on to earn her Graduate Degree.

Mercedes Jimenez is a sophomore attending University of Michigan - Dearborn. She is the first person in her family to attend college. She has a 3.36 Grade Point Average majoring in Environmental Science, planning to become a conservation scientist.

Their letters of recommendation highly praised their hard work and diligence at school and both are very active in clubs and working.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the CRGC Scholarships.

**Nan McCabe**

**CRGC Scholarship Chairman**

[njkm55@gmail.com](mailto:njkm55@gmail.com)

636-293-0647

## **National Garden Club Schools in Central Region or Online in other regions.**

### **Environmental School**

Course 1

None scheduled

Course 2

Sept. 27-28, 2024, Sheboygan, WI, (in person)

Course 3

Sept. 19-20, 2024, Derby, CT, (Virtual, via Zoom)

Course 4

None scheduled

### **Gardening School**

Course 1

September 30-October 02, 2024, New Smyrna Beach, FL (Virtual Course)

Course 2

2 in person, out of CR area

Course 3

2 in person, out of CR area

Course 4

August 06-07, 2024, Athens, GA (Virtual Course)

### **Landscape Design School**

Course 1

In person, out of CR area

Course 2

October 09-10, 2024, Falmouth, ME, (Hybrid Course)

Course 3

October 29-31, 2024, Waltham, MA (Virtual Course)

Course 4

None scheduled

### **Flower Show School**

Course 4

June 20-26, 2024, South Barrington, IL (in person course)

Go to our NGC website, Schools section, to register for any of the above classes.

Zoom opens up lots of opportunities to become a consultant or refresh credentials as a consultant.

**Lucy Valitchka**  
**Central Region NGC Schools Chairman**





2024 Central Region Convention  
**Illinois Autumn Harvest**  
October 17-19, 2024  
Regency Conference Center  
O'Fallon, Illinois



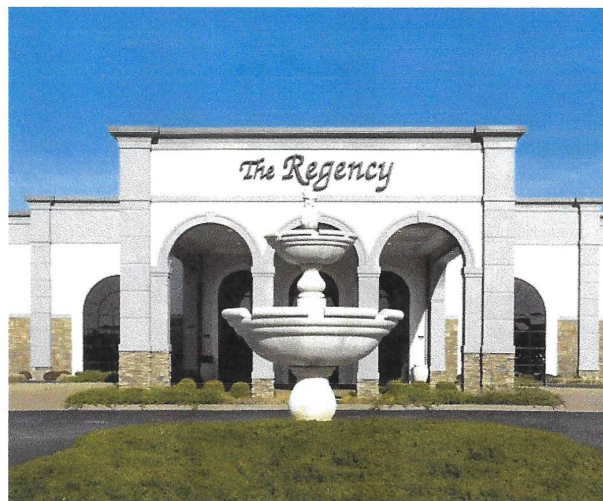
The Garden Clubs of Illinois invite you to join us for the 2024 Central Region Convention to be held **October 17-19, 2024** in **O'Fallon, IL**. Located 18 miles east of St. Louis off of HWY 64, O'Fallon is an easy 30-minute drive from the St. Louis Airport. This fast-growing community has preserved its small-town charm in its Downtown Business District which we will experience on our visit to the Vine Street Market with its food trucks, live music, and vendors. We will also tour the O'Fallon Garden Club's State Street Community Garden to plant a tree and see where they grow over 5,000 lbs of produce for the local food pantry. The program's featured speakers include Dr. Elizabeth Wahle (University of Illinois Extension, Invasive Plants), Mary Vanderford (CEO, Heartland Conservatory), and Carrie Bergs (Vice President, American Rose Society).



### Hotel and Convention Center

The Convention will be held at **The Regency Conference Center**, located at 400 Regency Park, O'Fallon, IL 62269. Parking is free in front of the Conference Center and the attached **Hampton Inn** (430 Regency Park), where we have reserved a block of 35 rooms (1 King or 2 Queens) for the Central Region Garden Club. The group rate of \$125.00+tax is available until **September 17, 2024**. We highly recommend you make room reservations as soon as possible in this area!

To reserve a room, call the **Hampton Inn O'Fallon** at **618-589-9006** or [book online](#) (group code CHHLLC embedded).







# Illinois Autumn Harvest

October 17-19, 2024  
O'Fallon, Illinois



## Preliminary Schedule of Events

### *Thursday, October 17*

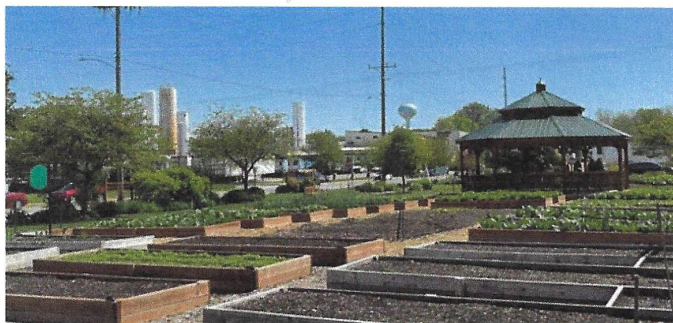
3:00-5:00 pm	Convention and Hotel Check-in
5:00-6:00 pm	Social Hour with cash bar
6:00-7:00 pm	Welcoming Remarks and Dinner
7:00-8:30 pm	Air Mobility Command Public Affairs Officer & US Air Force Band of Mid-America (Scott AFB)

### *Friday, October 18*

9:00-10:00 am	Dr. Elizabeth Wahle, University of Illinois Extension, "Invasive Plants in Your Garden"
10:00-11:15 am	Central Region Board of Directors Meeting or Shop Vendors
11:15 am-12:15 pm	Jennifer Duensing, Illinois Country Harvest Heritage Farm and Garden
12:15-1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30-2:30 pm	Mary Vanderford, President and CEO, Heartlands Conservancy
2:30-2:45 pm	Break
2:45-4:00 pm	Central Region Business Meeting
4:00-5:00 pm	Break
5:00-6:00 pm	Social Hour with cash bar
6:00-7:15 pm	Dinner
7:15-8:00 pm	Carrie Bergs, Vice President, American Rose Society, "America's Rose Garden"
8:00-9:00 pm	Remarks and Silent Auction results

### *Saturday, October 19*

8:30 am	Board bus
8:50 am	Depart for Community Garden Tour and Plant Tree
10:00 am	Depart for Vine Street Market
11:30 am	Board bus and return to Convention Center
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:30 pm	Silent Auction, 50/50, Closing Remarks





# Illinois Autumn Harvest

October 17-19, 2024  
O'Fallon, Illinois



## Fillable Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Food Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Room reservations at the Hampton Inn include breakfast. Please select meal preferences for lunch and dinner. All meals served with dessert, regular and decaf coffee, iced tea, and water.

**Please check all that apply  
for the 2024-2025 term:**

- ☐ National Officer
- ☐ Regional Officer/Chairman
- ☐ State Officer/Chairman
- ☐ National Committee Member
- ☐ District Director
- ☐ NGC Life Member
- ☐ CR Life Member
- ☐ GCI Life Member
- ☐ Past State President
- ☐ Club President
- ☐ Club Member

Package Selection	Meal Selections	Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full Package</b> <i>All speakers and all meals</i>	Thursday dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Sirloin Filet <input type="checkbox"/> Pork Chops <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian  Friday Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Ciabatta beef <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian  Friday Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian  Saturday Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Sautéed Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Roasted Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	\$225
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Friday Package</b> <i>Friday speakers and meals</i>	Friday Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Salad <input type="checkbox"/> Ciabatta beef <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian  Friday Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffed Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Grilled Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturday Package</b> <i>Saturday field trip and plated lunch</i>	Saturday Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Sautéed Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Roasted Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Late Fee</b>	IF POSTMARKED AFTER <b>SEPTEMBER 17, 2024</b>	\$25
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>		

Please make checks payable to **Central Region Garden Clubs**

Send registration form and check to:

Kim Atkins

Atkins Educational Farm

7101 State Route 158

Millstadt, IL 62260

[firefighter106ofd@yahoo.com](mailto:firefighter106ofd@yahoo.com)

### Questions about the convention?

Please contact Convention Chair

Sarah Lambaria

[lambaria@charter.net](mailto:lambaria@charter.net)

618-632-4436



## Jayne Kesler - President of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. 2023-2025

Theme: *"Plant Trees for Hope"*



### Trees, Trees, Trees

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.'s 92nd Annual Convention was a celebration of "Our Tree Mendous Earth." We learned about trees and much more as we were enveloped in the beauty of Turkey Run State Park. When not in a convention activity, the beauty of the park was taken in with walks.

Speaker Carrie Tauscher, Arborist at Crown Hill Cemetery, where she is the Director of Crown Hill Heritage Foundation, shared information on how urban green space functions not only as a cemetery but also as an arboretum which meets the requirements necessary across internally recognized standards. Arborist Lydia Lodovisi introduced us to Forest Bathing, which is walking and experiencing the outdoors to support our wholeness and wellness through the connection through direct experiences with the natural world.

Lifelong gardener Fred Sanders with The Apple House Home and Garden Center in Terre Haute informed us with facts and humor about what to use to control pests and diseases in the garden. He encouraged us to improve and guide our garden plots rather than forcing them into submission!

Indiana Master Naturalist President of Sullivan County Barb Gill introduced us to the sweet blue queen bee who is indeed a Worker. Barb has been raising Mason Bees for six years to pollinate her many orchards and wild berry patches. We learned how Mason Bees also called Blue Orchard Bees are pollinator powerhouses who are gentle, and unless sufficiently provoked, do not sting as they do their job pollinating.

A big thank you goes to Central West District and Co-chairmen Sue Rosiak and Laura Kearby for their dedication and hard work providing a fun and innovative approach to our 92nd Convention. They brought back a Flower Show and Gallery Talk under the chairmanship of Jim Pavelka. Lynne Ehnert, our Central Region Director, and her mother Kitty Larkin, Former National Garden Club President, joined in the judging as they are both Master Judges. Alternatives to paper and plastic waste were employed and encouraged in their planning thanks to Susan Yoder, and happily Edie Dyer-Wilson and Laura Kearby entertained us with their auction hijinks of Edie's repurposed from junk to art items during our meals!

Jim Pavelka, TGCI Awards Chairman, presented 241 awards. All 7 Districts received awards, and 35 out of 52 clubs received awards. Twelve individuals received awards, and our coveted Honeywell Horticulture Award was received by Wanda and David Zahrt. We are eager to peruse their book of evidence and learn about their gardening journey. Sixteen award applications were passed on for National Garden Club awards.

We were pleased to have Lynne Ehnert share information about our Central Region and National Garden Clubs. She also installed three of our District Directors. Lynne was quite at home with her Central Region theme being "Central Region A Tree Planting Extravaganza."

Sarah Nahmias, Land Trust Chairman, proposed a new Land Trust Project for TGCI, "Leaf a Tree as a Legacy." Sarah informed us about our joining with Central Indiana Land Trust and the DNR to plant 20,000 trees in an adjacent 32 acre plot in the Big Walnut Preserve located in Putnam County. The cost will be \$10,000. The project is targeted to be completed in 2024.

We now have three ways that clubs can contribute to "Plant a Tree for Hope." Clubs can plant a tree and use the President's Project Grant to help defray expenses...And/or they can contribute \$68.00 to Penny Pines to help with reforestation of areas in Indiana and the United States...And lastly they can keep, or better yet increase, their donations to The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.'s Land Trust Project.

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. will be dedicating 3 Blue Star Memorial Markers this summer and fall. Our clubs are busy having plant sales and garden walks in addition to their meetings and field trips this season.

Keith and I are looking forward to Denver, St. Louis, and O'Fallon events to visit with and learn from our garden friends from other states. It is a time of renewal of friendships and gardens.

**Jayne Kesler**  
**Indiana State President**



**Nancy Ryan - President of the Garden Clubs of Michigan - 2023-2025**  
**Theme: “Grow, Share, Connect Michigan”**



At the April 11, 2024, board of directors meeting the board voted to approve our new logo. While our pink apple blossom logo brought fond memories to many, a logo needs to do more than that. It is an important visual representing Michigan Garden Clubs, not only for our current members but for future members as well.

This spring MGC sponsored three NGC Schools: Flower Show School Course 2; Environmental School Course 4; and Landscape Design Course 1. In the Fall we will continue with Landscape Design Course 2 and Flower Show School Course 3. In Spring 2025, we will then add Environmental and Gardening School, first course.

Our Gardening with Purpose initiative in support of Feed America, kicked off with an April Member Meeting via Zoom. A statewide group of representatives, one from each district, worked during the winter to develop a list of local food pantries accepting fresh produce by district and near each of our clubs. That, along with guidelines to provide fresh produce, has been posted on the MGC website home page.

Our annual conference “Smitten With the Mitten Shore to Shore” was June 10-11, 2024 in Bay City, Michigan and sold out quickly. The focus was on the Environment, water in particular.

The schedule of 2024 Summer Garden Walks around the state has been sent out via Constant Contact to all our members along with the schedule of 2024 Summer and Fall Flower Shows.

The board has welcomed four clubs to Michigan Garden Clubs this term, two returning, and two new ones. This is a good time to be a gardener and a member of Michigan Garden Clubs!

**Nancy Ryan**  
**Michigan State President**

## **Linda McCafferty, President of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation 2023-2025 Honoring Veterans and Gold Star Families**



Winter eliminated our gardening activities. Outside and indoor activities slowed down considerably, except in Madison District where there was a flurry of activity with the NGC Standard Flower Show *Imagine*, and Design Challenge, held in conjunction with the 2024 PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo February 9-11. It was truly a spectacular event abounding with breathtaking beauty. The Design Challenge was exciting with the designers using beautiful flowers flown in from Hawaii especially for the event and miscellaneous staging items including curb-found hubcaps and pieces of metal fencing. The twist introduced in the middle of the event was the requirement to use three plastic Nerf balls in the design. Three Flower Show Judges and a non-Judge competed against each other with the audience choosing the best design. Guess who won? The non-Judge, of course!

The members of the Milwaukee District have been working diligently for more than a year to prepare for WGCF's 96th Annual Business Meeting and Convention entitled *Serendipity*, featuring informative and interesting speakers and activities.

The opening banquet will honor CR Director Lynne Ehnert and WGCF Bronze Award\* recipient Mark Dwyer, who will inspire us to develop beautiful and environmentally-friendly landscapes. A dessert reception and musical entertainment will follow.

Continuing through the Convention, a speaker will share a captivating story of building and maintaining a bird oasis and another will discuss historic landscapes, public spaces, and environmental issues. The final program will feature a Certified Florist who began his floral designing career with WGCF and NGC. Attendees at the serendipitous workshops will create a peace post and build a wren house. Breakout sessions will emphasize some of the workings of NGC and include parliamentary procedure and photography, which is a Botanical Arts Division at flower shows. Clubs, districts and individuals donate baskets for the Tisket-A-Tasket basket raffle and serendipitous vendors will exhibit items for purchase such as melted glass (lanterns, sun catchers, birds, and snow scenes), cloth bags, copper garden art (dragonflies, bees, and flowers), honey products, embellished fabrics, and more. Attendees will certainly have a wonderful time with Serendipity a part of our gardening experience.

Clubs are now deeply engrossed in their plans for outdoor activities, such as plant sales, garden walks, involvement with various community projects, seminars, tours, and avidly providing education, resources, and opportunities to promote and share the love of gardening, floral design, and civic, and environmental responsibilities.

\*A non-member is recognized for exceptional and outstanding accomplishments in any field that advances WGCF objectives.

**Linda McCafferty**  
**Wisconsin State President**

## Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial Markers



I continue to be busy finalizing the collection of data of all Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers erected in CR. When I commenced this task, I was asked, "Why not just look at what is on NGC's website?" Unfortunately, as might be expected, national record keeping was difficult almost a century ago when NGC was created and likely was not much better in 1945 when the Blue Star Marker Program was adopted; as a result, NGC's data base has considerable discrepancies.

The information being requested is available on most states' websites but for some this data is only recorded on paper. During my term, I would like to establish a link on the CR website so all data could be accessed in one place. Linking CR to those states who are already listed digitally should be easy, I say as one not schooled in website and server management. If these links are possible, whenever states update their websites, CR access would be accurate; we are not relying on someone to provide the updated information which often does not happen. The conundrum I have now is how to access paper information other than initially digitizing and continually updating. I suspect our consummate Webmaster will know exactly what to do. If we are able to effectuate this task, perhaps other Regions might follow suit; NGC could then link to each Region or State and this information would be quickly available and accurate nationally.



I was invited to attend a Rededication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker initially installed in 2004 in a rest area that was eventually eliminated. This ceremony was conducted on April 20, 2024, by Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc., Northwest District, at a Veterans Home in Cameron, Missouri. The photo of the Marker includes from left, Sheila Buecher and Margie Wild, FGCM Blue Star Co-Chairs, Beverly Wattenbarger, FGCM President; my wife, Linda McCafferty, President, Wisconsin Garden Club Federation; and me.

If available, I would like to attend CR Dedications so please inform me of your events.

Thank you.

**Chuck McCafferty**  
**Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman**

**Check out the CR website:**  
**[www.ngccentralregion.com](http://www.ngccentralregion.com)**



# Invasive Plants

## Invasive Plants

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has interesting information on [Emerging Invasive Plants in the Midwest](#).

Check it out at:

<https://bugwoodcloud.org/mura/mipn/assets/File/On%20Our%20Radar%20Handout%202023.pdf>

If you haven't seen this website, I would encourage you to look at all the information they have on invasive plants in our central region states. <https://mipn.org>

### **Plants must go through five stages to be considered invasive:**

1. Transport, when a species is moved outside of its natural range.
2. Introduction, when it is accidentally or intentionally released into nature in a new area.
3. Establishment, when its population becomes self-sustaining in the wild.
4. Spread, when the species increases its range.
5. Impact, when the species causes harm to its new environment or to human health.

At any stage, factors such as climate, resources, environmental conditions or other competitors could prevent an alien species from becoming invasive. Some will not be able to colonize. Some may colonize but not achieve establishment. Others may establish but not spread.

The full text of this article can be found at:

<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2024/03/12/how-climate-change-drives-the-spread-of-invasive-plants/>



Teasel



Mile-a-minute



Purple loosestrife



Wild Parsnip

**Jane Buck**  
**Invasive Species Chairman**

## Birds and Butterflies

We've had many birds in our yard this year. A Leucistic Sparrow has been around for 3 years now. Leucistic means it lacks pigmentation in it's wings, nice to have it around for so many years.

We always have a lot of Orioles. I feed them oranges and grape jelly.

Hummingbirds seem to be sparse this year but we do have two. A recipe for Hummingbird food is 1 cup of water to 1/4 cup of sugar, mix it well. You don't need to add food coloring, just have sugar water for them. Please keep your feeders and bird baths clean as birds can pick up disease from dirty feeders and bird baths.

The Butterflies are in abundance; we have a lot of Painted Ladies, our Central Region Butterfly. Right now they're enjoying Chives in the garden.



I do have Milkweed for the Monarchs but have only seen one at this writing but haven't found any eggs yet. Let Milkweed that is native to your area grow in your yard. It doesn't have to be invasive; you can keep control of it by pulling out what you don't want but look under the leaves before you pull it to make sure you're not throwing away a Monarch egg.

Please remember DO NOT use chemicals in your Butterfly garden; those little worms will be your Butterflies. Enjoy your summer.

**Marian McNabb**  
**Birds & Butterflies Chairman**



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## Garden Therapy/Healing

### **EXPLORING THE POWER OF AWE**

The season of spring officially begins when the sun rays cross the Earth's celestial equator. Nature responds quickly to this celestial event as trees and shrubs break dormancy, ephemeral plants emerge from the warming soil, birds migrate north, and insects once again appear.

We should take the time to notice, being in a state of awe is a very effective method to improve our quality of life.

Coming into a state of awe and experiencing the small self-perspective strengthens our connection to one another, the natural world and beyond. Spring will soon evolve into summer and the opportunity to encounter awe in the garden will be abundant.

**Shared-Colleen Griffin**  
**Linda Dingee**  
**Garden Therapy/Healing Chairman**

## Photography Tips and Tricks – Try Backlighting

Lighting is very important when you want to take a good photo, but taking a photo in the full sun during midday can be challenging. If the sun is somewhat behind you when you take your photo, you can get harsh shadows and contrast, or the photo can look washed out and not have much depth of field. If you put the sun behind your subject instead (backlighting), you can get some interesting and amazing results.

There are a couple of different ways to try backlighting. The first is to include the sun in the photo along with your subject. If you do include the sun, there are a couple of things to remember:

The sun may compete for attention with your subject depending on where it is placed. The further away from your subject the sun is placed, the more your eyes will bounce back and forth between the sun and your subject, which is not a good thing. You will probably want to have the sun relatively close to your subject, or directly behind it.

Having the sun in the photo may cause lens flare and may wash out the area directly around it. However, you can also get some rather dramatic results if the sun is carefully placed!

Give it a try. Take lots of photos. Position the sun differently. Try it directly behind your subject...several times if need be. Try it with the sun just at the edge of your subject. Try it with the sun further away from your subject. Remember, you can always delete the bad photos.

The second way to get a backlit shot is to place the sun just outside of the photo. This can work well and to your advantage if you have some sky in your photo. The sky will naturally be a little brighter in the direction of the sun (but not washed out). If your subject is looking/facing in that direction, your eyes will naturally flow from the subject to the lighter area. You can also try a darker background for your backlit subject.

Another benefit of backlighting is to spotlight the inner parts of something that you might not otherwise see.

**Linda O'Shaughnessy**  
**Photography Chairman**

*continued on next page...*

## Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl

Though we are decreasing in the number of poster submissions at the state and regional level, the judging has not been easier. In fact, I would say this year was the hardest year since I became the chairman. This year's contest was Smokey Bear, as it was his 80th birthday, so all posters were to feature just him. We should be back to our normal contest rules which would allow either Smokey or Woodsy Owl and their respective tag lines.

Congratulations to our Regional winners:

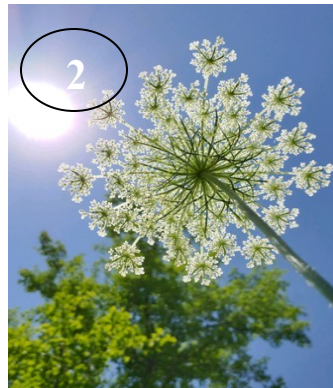
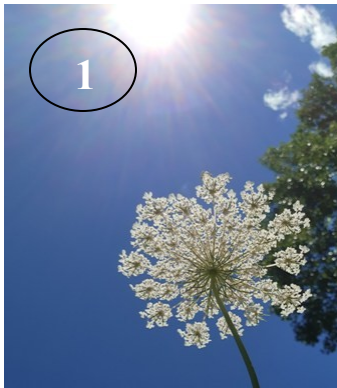
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade - Bennett Vaetch, Missouri
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Irisa Do, Illinois
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Gracie Spraul, Missouri
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Bridget Kuba, Wisconsin
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - McKenna Schreiber, Wisconsin

**And a special congratulations to Bennett Vaetch for winning the National 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Award which included \$50 from National Garden Clubs.**

**Cynthia Wright**  
**Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl**



## ***Photography continues...***



### **I have captions for each of these photos:**

1-With the sun closer and the Queen Anne's Lace looking at it, your eye flows smoothly through the photo.

2-Notice how your eye jumps back and forth between the sun and the Queen Anne's Lace?

3-Here are backlit zinnias against a dark background that also works well.

4-Here you can see the swirling floral parts inside this Foxglove Beardtongue with the flowers backlit.

5-With the sun just outside of the photo and the flowers looking in the direction of the sun, your eye also flows through the photo easily.

6-Notice how all the hairs on this emerging fern stand out against a dark background when backlit.