

# CENTRAL REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Theme: Tree Planting Extravaganza  
March 2025 Newsletter

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

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



Time has gone by very quickly as Central Region Director. To think, I am in the last few months of my term of office. It has been a fun ride. I got to meet with lots of people, make new friends, reunite with friends from the past, and have quite a few adventures. Now I am in the stage of working with the next Central Region Director so she can hit the ground running. Our next Central Region Director will be from Minnesota. Her name is Rene' Lynch. Her email address is: rene-clynch@aol.com (the middle initial is important, or you will get someone else when emailing her). She will be installed at the next NGC Convention 5/18/25-5/22/25 in Charleston, South Carolina.

There are several opportunities for everyone to have a little fun in Garden Club these days. In addition to your individual state conventions, here is a list of things going on:

National Garden Club (NGC) Convention 5/18/25-5/22/25. There is the National Convention in May. For all the details, please visit the NGC website: [Homepage | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#) The information is listed on the homepage, scroll down toward the bottom of the page. Plan to tour Charleston, South Carolina, learn basket weaving and pine needle coiling, view the Magnolia Gardens or the Charleston Tea Garden.

Central Region Convention 10/28/25-10/30/25. In fall, we are planning the Central Region Convention from 10/28/25-10/30/25. The plan is to have the convention at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Our plan is to make this a convention to include your spouse too. The Osthoff resort is located on Elkhart Lake and includes a spa. The rooms are 1 or 2 bedroom suites with kitchen facilities in the room. More information is coming soon. We will email the state presidents when a final program is ready. Information will be also posted on the Central Region Website [Central Region NGC | Garden Club](#).

Photography Contest 1/1/25-8/1/25 There is a photography contest: Nature Is Imagination Itself. This is a photography contest for members of any federation garden club in the Central Region. Entries may be submitted from January 1, 2025 through August 1, 2025. Finalists in each category will be displayed at the CR Region Convention in October of 2025. Details of the contest can be found on the Central Region Website.

Flower Show Symposium 10/27/25-10/28/25. In addition to the above, we are very excited to announce that in addition to the Central Region Convention, Wisconsin will be hosting a Flower Show Symposium from 10/27/25-10/28/25. Many of you who are National Flower Show Judges need a Symposium to retain your credentials. These courses are primarily intended for Flower Show Judges to maintain their credentials, but all garden club members interested in learning more about flower shows, floral design and horticulture are encouraged to attend. We will be talking about Apples and Displays for Horticulture, Illuminary, and Reflective Designs and 'Picture This' for the Allied Topic. The Allied Topic will also be the opening topic for the Central Region Convention. This information is on the NGC website and the Central Region Website.

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

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There are a lot of opportunities to network with your garden club friends. Keep those relationships growing. You know what happens to plants when they are not fed and watered.

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**Theme: Tree Planting Extravaganza!**

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

**Dates to Remember**

**Central Region Convention**  
**Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI**  
**October 28 - 30, 2025 .**

**Flower Show Symposium and a Photography Contest**  
**Will be part of both the Symposium and Convention**  
**October 27 - 28, 2025**

**TGCI Annual State Convention**  
**Embassy Suites by Hilton**  
**April 9 - 10, 2025**

**National Garden Club Convention**  
**Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Convention**  
**May 18 - 22, 2025**

**SYMPOSIUM 2025**  
**“SHARING PERSPECTIVES”**

**October 27-28, 2025**

**Hosted by Wisconsin Garden Club Federation**  
*in conjunction with the*  
**Central Region Convention**  
*at the Osthoff Resort , Elkhart Lake, WI*

**Monday, October 27 – Horticulture Instructor: David Robson**  
**Topics: Apples and Displays**

**Tuesday – October 28 – Design Instructor, Lynn Fronk**  
**Topics: Illuminary and Reflective Designs**

**Tuesday Evening Dinner Program by Arabella Dane**  
**Allied Topic: “Photography”**

**“How To Make Your Smart Phone Camera Work For You”**  
**(Please Bring Your Cell Phone With You.)**

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**R E G I S T R A T I O N**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee: \$137.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Includes Tuesday Dinner Allied Topic**  
**PLUS \$5.00 Audit Fee. \_\_\_\_\_ . Total \_\_\_\_\_ \$142.00.**

**Must attend all three sessions to get credit.**

**Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Garden Club Federation**

**Send to: Liz Murken, Registrar**

**1323 Maricopa Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904**

**Kitty Larkin**  
**Symposium Chairman**

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

### **Environmental School**

Course 1 Apr. 7-8, 2025, Augusta, MI, (in person, classroom)

Course 2 Mar. 24-27, 2025, St. Louis, MO (virtual via Zoom)

Course 3 None offered

Course 4 Sept. 18-19, 2025, Derby, CT, (virtual, via Zoom)

### **Gardening School**

Course 1 Mar. 28-29, 2025, Sawyer, MI, (in person, classroom)

Course 2 Out of region, (in person, classroom)

Course 3 None scheduled

Course 4 None scheduled

### **Landscape Design School**

Course 1 In person, out of CR area

Course 2 Mar. 25-26, Clenton, CT., (virtual via Zoom)

Course 3 Mar. 25-27, 2025, Waltham, MA, (virtual via Zoom)  
May 14-15, 2025, Lansing, MI, (in person, classroom)

Course 4 None scheduled

### **Flower Show School**

All classes in person, out of Central Region area.

Go online & type National Garden Clubs.org. Click on the website home page at the top of the screen. Go to the NGC Website Schools section to register for any of the above classes.

Zoom offers lots of opportunities to become a consultant or refresh credentials as a consultant. I am always happy to receive comments on virtual or in person schools.

**Lucy Valitchka**  
**lvalitchka@gmail.com**  
**NGC Schools Chairman**

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



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC) has a busy spring planned for its member clubs. We have had our Monday Member Meeting series running since January with two remaining meetings March 10, 2025 "Simplify to Keep on Growing" with Janet Macunovich and April 14, 2025 "Neonicotinoids -The Devastating Impact on Pollinators" with Dan Raichel and Nick Haddad. The April meeting will present the most recent research on the impact of this widely used group of neuro-active insecticides, much of which was conducted by Michigan State University.

Beginning at the end of March through April, MGC will be hosting all four NGC schools around the state. The registrations have begun for Gardening School Course 1 to be held in Sawyer, MI and Environmental School Course 1 to be held near Kalamazoo, MI. Flower Show School Course 4 is in Ann Arbor, MI April 3-5, 2025, and Landscape Design Course 3 is in Lansing May 14-15, 2025. For more information go to: [www.migardenclubs.org](http://www.migardenclubs.org).

We have been asked to participate in an upcoming NGC Webinar Plant America -Feed America to share our success with the "Gardening with Purpose" statewide initiative. This started as a grassroots effort and in 2024 MGC contributed over 74,000 pounds to the NGC Feed America project.

Beginning in April, four of our eight districts will be hosting Spring Leadership meetings. These provide opportunities for networking through round table discussions on topics identified by the Club Presidents in the District. This meeting format began as clubs were starting up after the pandemic to allow club leadership within the district to reconnect with each other and MGC.

On June 9-10, 2025, the 94th MGC Annual Conference "It's A Shore Way to Connect" will be held in Holland, MI. Taking the lead from our sold out 2024 conference we have again created a destination experience for our members culminating in the installation of the 2025-2027 MGC President Lisa Robinson and her board.

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

**Beverly Wattenbarger - President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.**  
**Theme: "PLANT AMERICA: Leading the Way for a Greener Missouri"**



With spring just around the corner, all of our FGCM clubs have just finished their yearbooks and planning meetings for 2025. As I read through their yearbooks it is very clear they will have a busy year.

We have dedicated several Blue and Gold Star Memorials, and we have held Environmental Schools each year. We have given Habitat for Humanity awards each year, and we have a "Teaching Missouri's Children to Plant America" grant that we have awarded each year.

Our members have been very busy with community activities and NGC & FGCM projects. FGCM awarded several very generous scholarships the past two years and are preparing to award more this February.

We are looking forward to our FGCM 92nd Annual State Convention, April 21-24, 2025, held in Springfield, Missouri. We will be installing the new officers for the 2025-2027 term. Awards will be presented along with many other activities. Missouri will have several members attending the National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina this May. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

**Beverly Wattenbarger**  
**Missouri State President**

**National Garden Club - Central Region Schools Chairman**

The duties of the Central Region NGC Schools chairman are to submit a list of all current schools offered by the National Garden Clubs. This is sent to the CR newsletter editor and published in the CR newsletter three times a year. It is also posted on the CR website.

The list includes any in-person or online schools offered in the CR or USA. Listed schools are Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design. Flower Shows are included if a show is in the region. Most flower show schools are in person.

With the advantage of virtual classes via Zoom, many more opportunities are available for CR members. This is especially helpful if some states are not able to recruit chairmen for some schools.

In addition to the school listings, a few guidelines are included to help members know where to look on the National Garden Club website for schools.

**Lucy Valitchka**  
**Central Region NGC Schools Chairman**  
**lvalitchka@gmail.com**



**Jayne Kesler - President of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. 2023-2025**  
**Theme: "Plant Trees for Hope"**

## **Trees, Trees, Trees**



Since this is my last newsletter as President of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc., I want to thank all of the officers and presidents I have had the pleasure of meeting and working within the NGC Central Region. As a teacher it seems that I always gravitate to leadership positions in organizations I join, and the presidency of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. has been a delightful experience.

I have learned so much about the clubs and the workings in the state of Indiana. I also have an appreciation for the officers and boards prior to mine to have kept things in such a good working order. We are blessed to have Gerry St. Peters as our Parliamentarian to keep us following the path laid out by our founders and updated for needed changes today. Cynthia Wright, our present treasurer, has served in that position for a few terms, as well as many other offices and committees throughout her service on the state level. I have an appreciation for her

knowledge and commitment.

Many other past presidents continue to serve on the state and have been available to me to answer questions. Past President Sarah Nahmias, serving as our Land Trust Chairman, created the *LEAF-a-Legacy, Plant Trees* project as a collaboration between Central Indiana Land Trust (CILT), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Nature Preserves (DNP) and The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. to raise \$10,000 in order to plant 20,000 trees on 32 contiguous acres in the Big Walnut Nature Preserve. Nahmias said, "Our goal is to underwrite *LEAF-a-legacy* which delightfully aligned with our State President's theme. There is no better way to demonstrate our mission, and our commitment to the future than to plant trees."

Our annual TGCI Convention is coming up this April 9-10, 2025 in Indianapolis this year. The theme is "Myths, Facts & Realities." We are pleased to have National Garden Club President-Elect Donna Donnelly as our special guest. She will enjoy our lavish evening banquet at the Gala Under the Trees and will meet keynote speaker Tom Swinford who will talk about the "History of Indiana Landscape: From Ice Age to 1816 to Present." Also speaking on "The Illusion of Bonsai" will be expert Mark Fields, and arborist Carrie Teuscher will present "Trees of Crown Hill Cemetery and Preserving Architectural Greenspace."

We are working hard on communication within our organization. During my term I had Zoom meetings with my District Directors between our regular state meetings. They were "minutes free" opportunities to discuss concerns, share information, and collectively problem solve. The overall feeling was that they were helpful, and they built friendships. We will have problem-solving round table discussions between our afternoon business meeting and President's Banquet at the convention. We're encouraging discussions and friendships. The hope is to identify concerns and work on possible solutions.

Jim Pavelka has encouraged the state and clubs to participate in the opportunities for awards. Our clubs are busily engaging with and beautifying their communities, but they need encouragement to fill out the paperwork for the much deserved awards.

I am so glad when I was asked to become president that I said yes. My sweet husband encouraged me by saying that he'd drive Miss Daisy to all of her meetings. My car is now named Daisy, and honestly, I believe he has enjoyed the members and programs as much as I have! We're looking forward to the visit to Charleston for the National Garden Club Convention.

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

**Diane Dawson - President of the Garden Clubs of Illinois 2023-2025**  
**Theme: "Let's Grow Together Illinois: Plant America"**



The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. was thrilled to host our Central Region states in O'Fallon, Illinois, for the successful " Illinois Autumn Harvest" from October 17 through 19, 2024.

Thank you to Sarah Lambaria, GCI's Second Vice President and Central Region Convention Chair, and to Central Region Director Lynne Ehnert.

The fall weather was perfect; it was sunny and dry for a weekend in Southern Illinois. It was great fun to network with new members from around our region and to meet new friends. State presidents were able to discuss and report on state activities. Central Region Chair Lynne Ehnert conducted a productive Central Region Board of Directors meeting, where several votes were taken. I gave a personal nod to Kitty Larkin, CR Parliamentarian and former NGC president.

It was a pleasure to see our V.I.P., Brenda Moore, NGC president, and hear her speak about the future of NGC and the importance of community engagement. We loved getting to know Brenda and her husband, Ron, in a more intimate setting. Thank you, Brenda.

Attendees enjoyed extensive programs and speakers on a variety of topics, including invasive plants, Monarch habitat and migration, and roses. We also heard from the Air Mobility Command and the USAF Band of Mid-America (the US Air Force is Based near by) the Heartland Conservancy and the Illinois Country Harvest Heritage Farm and Garden leaders also spoke, providing valuable insights and information.

A highlight of the tour was a visit to the community garden of the O'Fallon Garden Club, an NGC-award-winning project and the reason Illinois was awarded NGC's highest honor: the Award of Excellence in 2023. Demonstrations and a tree dedication were held in the garden.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the convention was the shopping! There was a visit to the famous Vine Street Market. The Silent Auctions were a thrilling experience, with bidding and bidders eagerly participating until the final moments. The incredible vendors and packed Ways and Means added to the excitement and contributed to the financial success of the Convention.

Illinois would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the state sponsors. Michigan, sponsor for the Welcome Social, and the following GCI Districts: I, II, V, IX. Your support was instrumental in making this convention a success.

**Diane Dawson**  
**Illinois State President**



## **CRGC TREASURERS REPORT for 2024**

Included are the CRGC 24 Convention Income Statement, the CRGC 24 Income Statement and the CRGC 24 Balance Sheet.

The Convention Income Statement illustrates that the convention realized \$18,738.81 in income, had total expenses of \$15,647.15 resulting in a convention profit of \$1,998.57. Those profits were distributed 60/40 per CRGC Standing Rules. CRGC realized \$2,292.23 in income from the Convention. Thank you Garden Clubs of Illinois for a job well done!

The CRGC 24 Income Statement illustrates CRGC's income for 2024. We had an income of \$20,602.23 and expenses of \$23,449.28 resulting in a net loss of \$2,847.05 for the year. Of that loss, \$2,000 has been advanced to the CRGC 25 Convention for a location deposit. The remainder of the loss can be attributed to CRGC reimbursing the Director at the IRS business mileage rate following adoption at the CRGC23 meeting in Iowa. We realized \$700 in Director Support income versus \$2,027.68 in mileage expense. At the CRGC 24 convention Director Support was redesignated CRGC dues from the states and the annual dues were raised to \$200 per state. With seven states making up the region, the total income will be \$1,400 per year which will likely leave us short in covering the Director's mileage expense. However, as long as we continue to show a profit from our conventions, the shortage should not result in depletion of our Operating Fund. The annual dues may need to be reexamined should we experience several years of convention income shortfalls.

On a happier note, CRGC experienced \$758.42 in interest income in 2024 as opposed to \$1.01 in 2023. The increase is due to placing the largest share of our permanent Scholarship funds into a CD that earned that interest. This was the result of direction from the membership at the CRGC 23 Convention where I was directed to earn more interest on our savings. The CD matured at the end of 2024 and has been reinvested in another 13-month CD at a slightly lower annual return.

The CRGC Balance Sheet for 2024 illustrates that we had slightly more expenses than income resulting in a 5.3% decrease in our total operational balance. As was stated earlier however, we have a \$2,000 advance towards next years convention that will be reimbursed from convention income. When that imbalance (current versus future expense/liability) is recognized, we are seeing roughly a 0.1% decrease in that operational balance.

Please reach out to me with any questions that I can try to answer should you have any questions about any of this. My email address is [oneplus@chorus.net](mailto:oneplus@chorus.net)

**Joe Powelka**

**CRGC Treasurer**

# CRGC Balance Sheet

	Report Date 2/15/2025		
	1-Jun-24	YTD	\$ Change
<b>Assets:</b>			
<b>Checking: Associated Bank</b>			
Obligated Funds	\$4,166.09	\$4,860.49	\$694.41
Operating Funds	\$18,849.46	\$15,939.01	\$2,910.45
<b>Checking Balance</b>	<b>\$23,015.54</b>	<b>\$20,799.50</b>	<b>\$2,216.04</b>
<b>Savings:</b>			
Operating Fund:Summit CU	\$1.00	\$759.15	\$758.15
Operating Fund:Associated Bank	\$2,355.64	\$1,765.91	\$589.73
<b>Accessible Scholarship Savings</b>	<b>\$2,356.64</b>	<b>\$2,525.06</b>	<b>\$168.42</b>
Base: CD @ Summit CU	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$0.00
Base: Associated Bank	\$263.47	\$263.47	\$0.00
<b>Base Scholarship Savings</b>	<b>\$13,263.47</b>	<b>\$13,263.47</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$15,620.11</b>	<b>\$15,788.53</b>	<b>\$168.42</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$38,635.65</b>	<b>\$36,588.03</b>	<b>\$2,047.62</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Scholarship Funds</b>	<b>\$15,620.11</b>	<b>\$15,788.53</b>	<b>\$168.42</b>
Obligated Funds			
Convention Funds	\$2,330.00	\$4,530.00	\$2,200.00
Awards Funds	\$122.40	\$72.40	\$50.00
Director Travel Support	\$1,446.79	\$119.11	\$1,327.68
Penny Pines	\$37.37	\$113.46	\$76.09
Web Support	\$229.52	\$25.52	\$204.00
<b>Total Obligated Funds</b>	<b>\$4,166.08</b>	<b>\$4,860.49</b>	<b>\$694.41</b>
<b>General Operating Fund</b>	<b>\$18,849.46</b>	<b>\$15,939.01</b>	<b>\$2,910.45</b>
Checking Account	\$23,015.54	\$20,799.50	\$2,216.04
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$38,635.65</b>	<b>\$36,588.03</b>	<b>\$2,047.62</b>

## CRGC Income Statement

	Report Date	2/15/2025
Income	YTD	
<b>Checkbook Income</b>		
24 CRGC Convention		
Registrations	\$14,131.72	
Public Gifts in Kind	\$0.00	
Program Inc: Donations	\$3,514.00	
Silent Auction	\$707.00	
Recovered Expense	\$0.00	
24 Convention Income		\$18,352.72
Director Support		\$700.00
Awards Support		\$450.00
Penny Pines Donations		\$76.09
<b>Total Checkbook Income</b>		<b>\$19,578.81</b>
<b>Savings Income</b>		
Scholarship Donations		\$0.00
Life Memberships		\$265.00
Savings Interest		\$758.42
<b>Total Savings Income</b>		<b>\$1,023.42</b>
<b>Total CRGC Income</b>		<b>\$20,602.23</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Checkbook Expense</b>		
24 CRGC Convention		
Convention Expense	\$16,881.17	
State profit share	\$799.43	
24 Convention Expenses		\$17,680.60
25 Convention Expense		\$2,000.00
Total Convention Expenses		\$19,680.60
Awards		\$500.00
Director Expenses		\$2,027.68
Operating Expenses		\$0.00
Bank Charges		\$12.00
Mailing		\$0.00
Penny Pines		\$0.00
Web Expense		\$204.00
Corporate Registration		\$25.00
Misc-Contingency Fund		\$0.00
<b>Total Checkbook Expense</b>		<b>\$22,449.28</b>
<b>Savings Expense</b>		
Scholarships		\$1,000.00
<b>Total Savings Expense</b>		<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Total CRGC Expenses</b>		<b>\$23,449.28</b>
<b>Net Profit/Loss</b>		<b>\$2,847.05</b>

**24 CRGC Convention** **Report Date** 2/3/2025

**Income**

**Registrations** **\$14,131.72**

**Donations:**

IL Dist 1	\$500.00	
IL Dist 2	\$100.00	
IL Dist 5	\$500.00	
IL Dist 9	\$500.00	
O'Fallon GC	\$500.00	
Atkins Acres Ed Farm	\$100.00	
Sandy's Back Porch	\$100.00	
Market's Basket of O'Fallon	\$100.00	
Pam Baker	\$100.00	
Crain Tree Farm	\$100.00	
MI GC	\$500.00	
Diane Dawson	\$350.00	
Vendor Rent	\$64.00	<b>\$3,514.00</b>

**Convention Income** **\$17,645.72**

Life Membership		\$135.00
Silent Auction		\$707.00
Awards Income		\$175.00
Plant-a-tree		\$76.00

**Total CRGC Income** **\$18,738.81**

**Expenses**

**Hampton Inn of O'Fallon**

RCC AV		\$1,514.56
RCC Stage		\$403.88
RCC Bartender		\$403.88
RCC Food		\$12,585.50
Subtotal		<b>\$14,907.82</b>
1/24/2024 Deposit		\$2,500.00
Food & AV		<b>\$12,407.82</b>

**Bus**

3/24/2024 Vandalia	\$1,369.60	
10/3/2024 Vandalia	\$1,530.00	
10/3/2024 Vandalia. Db charge	\$49.73	
Total bus charge		<b>\$2,949.33</b>

**CRGC Regional Director lodging**

10/19/2024 Lynne Ehnert 24 Conv lodging		\$290.00
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**Total Convention Expenses** **\$15,647.15**

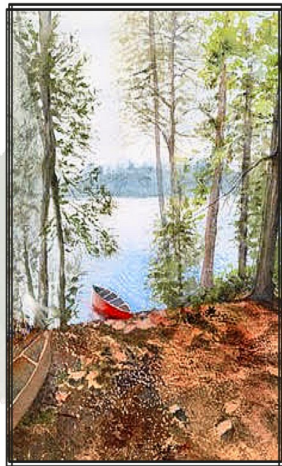
**23 Convention Income** **\$1,998.57**

Profit to CRGC (60% of profit or loss)		\$1,199.14
Profit/Loss to GC of Illinois (40% of profit or loss)		\$799.43

**The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation invites our Central Region friends to join us at the Lismore Hotel in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, from April 27<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> as WGCF gardening advocates and local gardeners gather for our 3 day convention.**

The convention focuses on environmental issues such as citizen science opportunities and groundwater health, horticultural issues including soil health, and sustainable veggie gardening, and the art of gardening featuring floral design, garden trends, and caring for the gardener plus conducting the business of the organization.

Vendors will sell gardening wares and “Creativity on the Chippewa” features floral interpretations of regional art work. Join in conversations about gardening and more. Detailed information on the WGCF website. ([www.wisconsin-gardenclub.org](http://www.wisconsin-gardenclub.org))



## **Conversations on the Chippewa**

**97th WGCF Annual Convention**

April 27th - 29th

The Lismore, Eau Claire

**Join the Conversation!**





## Central Region Awards

Hello to everyone in the Central Region who has been dealing with cold and snow so far this year! I want to make you aware of the updated Award information for the new term of 2025-2027. Rene Lynch will be the new CR Director, and she has asked me to continue as the CR Awards Chairman. I am thrilled she asked me, and I hope to keep improving on the award procedures.

As you know, the two biggest award changes in the upcoming term are:

We will no longer be offering a Yearbook Award and

Sponsors of the remaining awards will be contacted in September if there are entries for their specific award. If there are no entries, there will be no reason to send in a sponsorship check.

So, if you are a State that sponsors an award, you might want to include that in your budget for the year. But please do not send in any money until you hear from me.

The award procedures have been updated on the CR website. I want to stress that all award applications must be sent to me electronically. If for some reason this is not possible, you must contact me to discuss the situation. My phone number and email address are in the award procedures on the website.

I also want to clarify the award year; it runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> of the given year. For example, the current award year will be September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025, with entries submitted to me by the deadline of September 10, 2025.

I can't wait to see what great things our clubs have or will be doing this year. As always, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you might have.

Spring and summer will be here soon. As gardeners we will be doing what we love. But don't forget to take time to enjoy the moments of sun, seeds, soil, and flora. And keep those awards in mind!

**Kerry Krokos**  
**CR Awards Chair**

## **Invasive Plants**

### **Invasive Jumping Worms**

Besides invasive plants, gardeners have to be concerned with invasive jumping worms! Jumping worms are no friend to the gardener, and certainly not the ecosystem at large. Instead of improving soil structure and fertility like our good earthworms do, jumping worms degrade and damage topsoil to such an extent that plants fail to thrive.

The highly invasive jumping worm, a genus introduced from eastern Asia, now squirm and twist within the topsoil of more than a dozen states in the Midwest including all of our Central Region states.

Please check out this very informative article on jumping worms written by the Wisconsin DNR. The article is something you can print and save for reference.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Invasives/jumpingwormfaq.pdf>

## **Jane Buck Invasive Species**

### **FALL & GARDENING AS THERAPY**

During cold months, bring nature indoors with tropical and other potted plants, fresh cut flowers, and dried garden clippings. Plants in the winter garden can stimulate a sense of sound. Sound orients us to the season. Woodpeckers pecking, birds feeding.

Plant enthusiasts devote their entire landscape (and planting of it during the winter) to combing through seed catalogs selecting edible plants: vegetables, herbs, flowers, and fruits. Garden catalogs do a great job of relieving winter doldrums.

**Linda Dingee  
Garden Therapy/Healing**

## ***Birds and Butterflies***

The birds will be arriving soon from their warmer climates. Make sure your feeders and bird houses are clean, have a water source for them and they'll stay around all summer. Robins are always first, then Orioles will be arriving, and Scarlet Tanagers will be here shortly after. It will be around Mother's Day before I see any butterflies.

This year I'm planting a lot of Zinnias, Marigolds, and Sunflowers, along with my usual perennials that will be popping up. Please remember, **DO NOT** use chemicals on your garden. Those chemicals are poison to both birds and butterflies.

This Monarch is on a Marigold, it has dark spots on the bottom of both wings, for those that don't know, the dark spots tell you it's a boy.

*Enjoy our wild creatures and invite them to your*



**Marian M. McNabb**  
**Bird and Butterfly Chairman**

## Photography Tips

### To Center or Not To Center: Close-Up Photos

How many times have you taken a picture of an interesting subject and the resulting photo had the subject placed right in the center? If it has been more times than you want to think about, then read on for tips to take your photography to the next level.

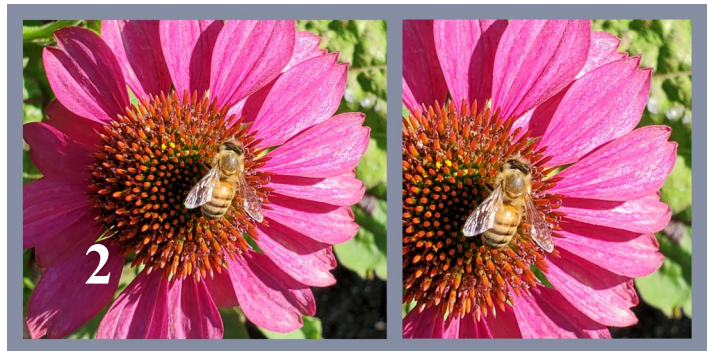
#### Rule of Thirds

For the majority of close-up photos, keeping the rule of thirds in mind will result in a more interesting photo. What is the rule of thirds? It is when you divide what you see on the camera or phone screen into thirds both vertically and horizontally, then place your subject close to one of the resulting intersections. Many phones and cameras today will allow you to turn on a grid that only shows up on the screen to remind you to intentionally place your subject where you want it. See example (1) for what the grid looks like. I highlighted the four intersections where it would be best to place your subject near.

If you already took the photo and centered the subject, try cropping to position the subject at one of the intersections of the rule of thirds. You should have a free simple cropping tool on your phone, tablet or computer. In this example (2) both the before and after photos are shown. The bee is pretty much centered and the dark shadows of the petals on the left detract. By cropping, the photo is more interesting, and your eye focuses more on the bee, which is the main subject of this photo. Play with cropping and see what you think.



Linda O'Shaughnessy  
Photography Chairman



Continue on next page.

## ***more photography tips...***

One thing to think of if you are cropping or even just when you take the photo, is to give your subject a little more space in front of where it is looking than behind it. In example (3) the lily stem is centered, the lily is “looking” out of the photo and has more space behind it. A simple crop improved this greatly.

Sometimes you might think a subject looks good centered. There are still ways to make it interesting. You can have something behind the subject placed at a diagonal to add interest. Or you can try having your subject rotated to an angle. This example (4) shows both.

The best subject for a centered photo is one that has symmetry. Example (5) shows this nicely.

Go out and try taking some close-up photos and intentionally place your subject within the frame to give your photo that little extra wow factor.



**Linda O’Shaughnessy  
Photography Chairman**



## Central Region 2025 Poetry Contest Results

Grade	Name	Sponsor	Plac
K – Special Needs	Allison M.	Sponsor: Hobart Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
K -	Leo R.	Sponsor: Hobart Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Audrey S.	Sponsor: Hobart Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Ethan A.	Sponsor: O’Fallon Garden Club (Illinois)	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Ella L.	Sponsor: Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club (Missouri)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Eden L.	Sponsor: Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club (Missouri)	1 <sup>st</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Caiden V.	Sponsor: Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club (Missouri)	1 <sup>st</sup>
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Allena R.	Sponsor: Mudlarks Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Poon T.	Sponsor: Grow and Glow (Missouri)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
	Eli A.	Sponsor: O’Fallon Garden Club	3 <sup>rd</sup>
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Emma B.	Sponsor: Hendricks County Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Brooklyn L.	Sponsor: O’Fallon Garden Club	2 <sup>nd</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Brody T.	Sponsor: Grow and Glow (Missouri)	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Vidita K.	Sponsor: Mudlarks Garden Club (Indiana)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Special Needs	Cliffton T.	Sponsor: Hobart Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Jerral M.	Sponsor: Hobart Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade			
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Jonathan D.	Sponsor: Hobart Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Alexandria Goff	1 <sup>st</sup> Place won \$25 - 2025 Central Region Essay Winner	
		Sponsor: Caro Garden Club (Michigan)	

**All 1<sup>st</sup> place winners will advance to NGC National Contest  
and will be announced in the next Central Region Newsletter.**

**Central Region Participation Award – 1<sup>st</sup> place with \$25 for the state that  
participated the most in the offered contests and NGC Youth Awards. The winner is:  
*The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.***

### POETRY THEMES

**2025/2026 – PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 years.**

**2026/2027 – Celebrate America’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday with Red, White, and Blue.**

## Central Region 2025 Youth Sculpture Contest

Grade	Name	Sponsors	
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Alice C.	Sponsor: St. Clair County Garden Club (Illinois)	1 <sup>st</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Annika D.	Sponsor: Kent Garden Club (Michigan)	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Mia R.	Sponsor: St. Clair County Garden Club (Illinois)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Josiah S.	Sponsor: Hobart Garden Club (Indiana)	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Diem M.	Sponsor: St. Clair County Garden Club (Illinois)	2 <sup>nd</sup>
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Kailyn F.	Sponsor: Caro Garden Club (Michigan)	1 <sup>st</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Jayla F.	Sponsor: Carol Garden Club (Michigan)	1 <sup>st</sup>
		<b>Grade</b>	

NGC winners will be published in the next Central Region Newsletter.

### Central Region Participation Award

1<sup>st</sup> and \$25 for the state that participated the most in the offered contests and NGC youth awards,  
The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.

### EXCITING NEWS BREAKING!!

Next issue of the Central Region Newsletter will have a contest for adults, and international affiliates. Details in the next issue of the Central Region Newsletter.