



Indianapolis Garden Club



Next General Meeting:

APRIL 15, 2026

Endowment Luncheon

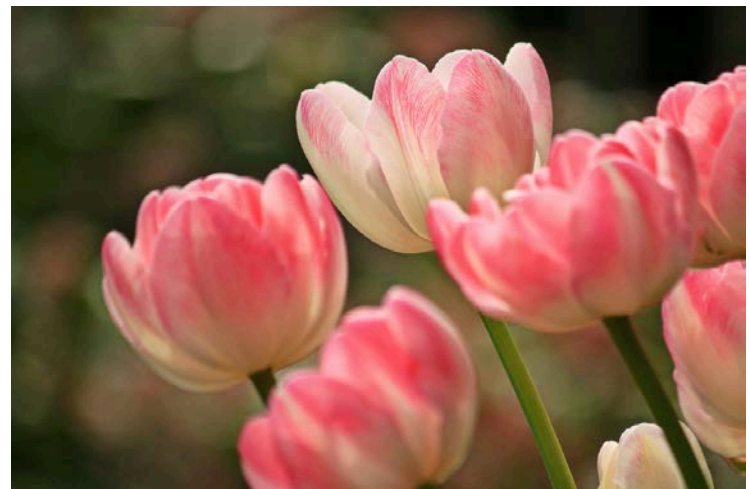
11:30am arrival; 12:00pm start

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- **April 14 - Endowment Centerpiece Workshop**
- **April 16 - Endowment Workshop with Kathryn Aalto
Holliday Park - 10am**
- **April 29 - Rescheduled CILTI Walk to Spring Mill
Park; 8:30am (meet at St. Luke's Methodist Church)
RSVP by 4/22/26**
- **May 1 - Straw Hat Workshop, Cooke Financial Group.
10:00am RSVP by 4/20/26**
- **May 13 - General Meeting at Holliday Park with
Ken Keffer; EV show and Plant swap**

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April President's Letter

Happy Native Plant Month!

Indiana has once again declared April as Native Plant month. What better way to celebrate native plant month than taking a woodland walk!

Last week, the club kicked off Native Plant month with a delightful event. A group of members visited Newfields and took part in a guided tour of the Wake-Up Woods Story Walk. We learned from Newfields Director of Natural Resources, **Lisa Milton**, about the plants in the story walk, one of the areas that benefited from an IGC community project grant. It was a lovely spring morning spent discovering spring plants and birds and enjoying the experience together.



We are standing in a small grove of Oldfields Redbuds. Take a look at this beautiful branch.

The walk through the woods theme



April President's Letter

continues this week with our Educational Endowment speaker **Kathryn Aalto** who will take us on a “walk” through the forest that inspired Hundred Acre Woods at our Endowment Luncheon on Wednesday. On Thursday, members have the opportunity to experience another local woodland gem – Holliday Park – and be inspired to write about nature at **Kathryn's** writing workshop.

And another woodland walk opportunity for members has been generously arranged for by **CILTI** on April 29 to visit Spring Mill State Park.

Thank you to our Conservation (**Sally Rowland & Lynn Dimond**), Hort (**Susie McClain & Elizabeth Rudolph**), and Educational Endowment (**Pam Baxter**) chairs for making all this possible!

I hope that you will be able to join your fellow club members for at least one of these events. And if you aren't in Indiana this month, I hope you get a chance to take a walk in the woods and enjoy some native plants.

And don't forget to decorate your Garden Walk Hat on May Day at the Straw Hat Workshop!

My best, Marta

P.S.

If you missed the IGC March General Meeting, which included **Sally Rowland's** presentation on the conservation chairs' trip to Florida for the GCA Study Conference as well as a preview of the April 2027 Zone X Meeting and Flower Show from **Sally Lanham, Jan Sweeney, and Lindsay Thornton** and would like to see the slide decks of what you missed they are attached to the email you received with this newsletter.



Upcoming events

INDIANAPOLIS GARDEN CLUB

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING ENDOWMENT
LUNCHEON Featuring Kathryn Aalto
Wednesday, April 15 11:30 AM Ritz Charles
12156 N Meridian St Carmel, IN 46032
Kathryn will be selling and signing her books**

Writing Wild - \$20

The Natural World of Winnie-The-Pooh - \$30

**Kathryn will be
accepting cash or check only**

**MAY 13 GENERAL MEETING
Holliday Park with Ken Keffer,
author of *Knowing the Trees***

**Hike with Ken at 9:00am, Meeting at 10:00am
EV car display and Plant Swap following Meeting**



Conservation Corner

For those curious about electric vehicles (EV's) and hybrid vehicles, our members will be displaying their own vehicles after our May 13th meeting at Holliday Park. Feel free to have some car talk with fellow garden club members. Informally learn about home charging, maintenance, planning for long distance trips and much more.

If Sally Rowland has not contacted you about the May meeting and you'd like to bring your hybrid or EV car, please reach out to her at rowland.sally@gmail.com



Conservation Corner



NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE 2026

The Garden Club of America's 43rd National Affairs and Legislative Conference (NAL) was held mid March in Washington DC. Jess Stokely and Lynn Dimond joined nearly three hundred other smart, passionate women from as far away as Hawaii to advocate for the environment. We had fun, we learned from remarkable speakers, traveled to Capitol Hill and advocated with our legislators.

Jess in her role of Zone X Conservation rep, did an outstanding job preparing our 14 zone members for action. We appreciated Jess's direction on everything from legislative priorities to the best restaurants in Georgetown. In addition, Jess had the honor of introducing key speaker Jordan Lubetkin, Senior Director of Ohio River Restoration, National Wildlife Federation. The conservation committee will be keeping you updated on this key Zone X initiative.

NAL is a well-oiled machine with three days of fast-paced education and advocating. Sunday evening we met our fellow Ohio and Michigan zone peers and listened to a keynote speaker addressing climate change. Monday was Education Day. Speakers discussed National Parks, saving rare plants and seeds, the threat of PFAS, the Ohio River Basin Restoration Project, clean energy, and a reminder that nature is nonpartisan: We can all agree on Clean Air and Clean Waters.

Conservation Corner

Tuesday was Capitol Hill Day with more speakers and legislators. Jess and I skipped out to attend three meetings with our legislators. We met with Senator Young and Senator Bank's aide. We had a productive conversation with Senator Young and learned about a new bill he introduced called America's Living Library Act. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to begin a project to collect catalog, and sequence genomic information on animals, plants, fungi, and microbes on US public lands. The initiative is driven by biotech and the idea that biological data is a strategic national asset. Jess has sent the bill to the GCA policy committee for evaluation. After the Young meeting, we walked to the Rayburn House of Representatives to meet with Congressman Carson's aide. Many of the representatives were in committee meetings, so the aides were helpful. On the third day known as Advocacy Day we met with Congressman Baird. Next year's NAL is March 14-17th. Please sign up for the Conservation committee next year and learn more about attending NAL or the Conservation Conference.

PS: Fun Cocktail Tidbit - When commenting on the The Roadside Pollinator bill Senator Young asked us about Mushrooms and Weed!

We hope look for Governor Braun's official proclamation that April is Native Plant Month at the April Endowment luncheon check-in table. Native Plant posters are also at Garden Walk sponsors' retail locations.

The rescheduled CILT Walk is on Wednesday, April 29th. Your last chance to RSVP is April 22nd. Be sure to mark your food option. We thank CILTI for this opportunity.

Lynn Dimond co-Chair Conservation



Horticulture and Floral Design

A Garden Club of America Flower Show

Presented by

The Garden Club of Dayton



Rooted in **INNOVATION**

The Miami Valley Hunt and Polo Club

2465 Keystone Club Drive

Dayton, OH. 45439



Open to the public free of charge

Friday, May 8, 2026

9 am to Noon

Anyone interested in attending the show, please contact Sally Perlstein at Sperlstein@hotmail.com. A carpool and lunch plans will be coordinated by the Floral Design Committee co-chairs. We will be leaving for Dayton at 7:30 am to allow time to enjoy the show and have lunch before returning home.

Horticulture

PLANT SWAP!

Plant Swap- For our regularly scheduled club meeting at Holliday Park on May 13th, Conservation has organized Ken Keffer, author of Knowing the Trees to speak at the general meeting. After the meeting, Conservation plans to have EV cars to show off in the parking area and Hort will have an "all club" member plant swap!

It's a fun, low-key way to share what we've been growing or dividing and pick up something new for the garden.

Now is a good time to think of what is too big for your garden or not in that perfect spot.

Rules:

- Label your plants and provide best growing conditions.
- Have plants potted in a plastic reusable container
- Bring one to swap one! Bring two to swap two! Etc.

Opportunities for you to volunteer-

- Set up at 9am -Members drop off their plants and we need help organizing.
- After the meeting around 11am-Plant swap will be open for exchanging.

More details will follow, but for now, just save the dates and let us know if we can count on your help or participation in swapping!

Elizabeth & Susie

Elizabeth Rudolph co-chair Horticulture

[elizabethrudolp\[h62@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethrudolp[h62@gmail.com)

Susie McClain co-chair Horticulture

susiemccl@aol.com



Garden History and Design

NATURALIST DESIGNS

Naturalist planting has gained in popularity. There are four terms used to define the layout of this style: Block, Drift, Matrix and Blend.

Block –a group of plants of the same type-usually at least 12 – advantage-easy to pick out renegades, good mass effect Negative- disease/ bugs may wipe out the area, possibly limited bloom time

Drift- multiple long blocks of plants in the hundreds to thousands (Gertrude Jekyll)—think daffodils—advantage-huge mass effect as above Negative-as above

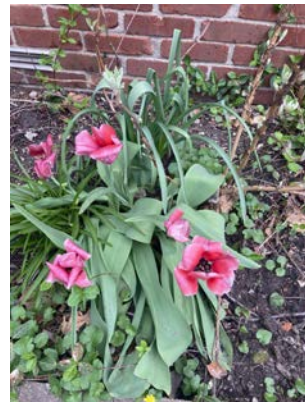
Matrix-a planting of low ground cover plants (a base) —advantage-weed suppression, natural look Negative-difficulty recognizing weeds, may want overplanting of taller plants

Blend-a randomized mixture of plants usually broadcast and grown from seed -advantage, low cost for a larger area Negative- plant site preparation, random growth , extended time for coverage, prone to weeds

Tulip tricks

We have all experienced the disappointment of planting tulips to have them only last one season. The tulip photo (way past its prime) demonstrates a way to extend the life of the bulbs. The tulip has been in the ground over 10 years and comes up every year. The trick? Look at the plant behind the tulip. It is an allium. Critters do not like allium in the onion family. Plant tulips with allium and enjoy multiple seasons. (this was dumb luck on my part initially but has proven to be a tried success) Good luck!

Sue Combs - chair Garden History and Design



Floral Design

STRAW HAT DECORATING WORKSHOP

Friday, May 1st, 10 am - 11:30am

Location: Cooke Financial Group - Conference Room, 9340 Priority Way Dr., Indpls, - Bring glue gun if you have one

Cost: \$20.00 - Open to all Garden Club members

RSVP and payment due by April 20th - Payments can be made through the IGC website or check sent to Kim Dickman, 95 Wellington Rd, Indpls, 46260

Details:

We are bringing back a time-honored Garden Walk tradition this year...The wearing of a "decorated" straw hat at the 30th annual Garden Walk!! We will provide all the supplies - flowers and ribbon and you bring your own hat! Amy Cooke will serve as the design presenter, with co-chairs Kim and Sally providing support.

<https://indianapolisgardenclub.org/product/workshop/>



Sally Perlstein, Kim Dickman -Co-chairs Floral Design

Membership

NOW IS THE TIME TO PROPOSE NEW MEMBERS

New members bring energy, enthusiasm and new skills to our club. Do you have a family member or friend who would be a wonderful addition to the Garden Club? The ideal candidate has time to attend five meetings, work on a committee, and has an interest in gardening, horticulture, floral design, conservation, photography and giving back to the community.

Please think about a candidate's availability (must attend a minimum of five meetings per year), financial responsibility (dues, Garden Walk Tickets and Flower Show participation), leadership potential and length of commitment (ten years). If you know of someone who fits this description, please consider sponsoring her for membership. You may go to the Indianapolis Garden Club website (indianapolisgardenclub.org) to download the proposal form and instructions. Log in to the website and go to "Member Resources", click the drop-down menu and select "Member Documents". Additionally, you may call me (317-697-5151) or email me (kspurucker99@gmail.com) and I would be happy to send you the forms.

Candidates for admission must be proposed in writing by an active or associate member and seconded by two active or associate members. A member may propose one candidate and second one candidate in any club year OR may second two candidates. The primary sponsor completes the Admissions Proposal Form and writes one letter. The other two letters are written by the seconding members. Letters are to be typed and should be one page maximum. As a proposer, we ask that you mentor your candidate, communicate regularly with her, and provide guidance during her first year.

Proposal letters must be received by WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

Please send your proposal to Kim Purucker:

Via email: kspurucker99@gmail.com

or

Via mail: 4439 Edinburgh Point, Indianapolis, IN 46228

Thank you for your consideration in supporting the Indianapolis Garden Club in this very important way.

Kim Purucker, 2nd Vice President, Membership

Garden Walk 2026

Garden Walk 2026 is in full swing! Ticket sales will begin soon on April 15th. All members are required to purchase 2 tickets unless you are a sponsor. Please contact Mary Quinn if you have a question about this at (317) 697-4543 or maryrquinn@gmail.com . Tickets will be sold at Charles Mayer again this year. Thank you Claudia Ryan!

We are actively signing up for Garden Shifts. See Evite link below. If you have an issue, please contact Erin Baker at (317)414-3515 or ekbaker2@gmail.com .

Click here for the
[SignUp Sheet](#)
[evite.me](#)

Listen to our Garden Walk Chairs on the WIBC Home and Garden Show with Pat Sullivan on Saturday morning, May 9th!

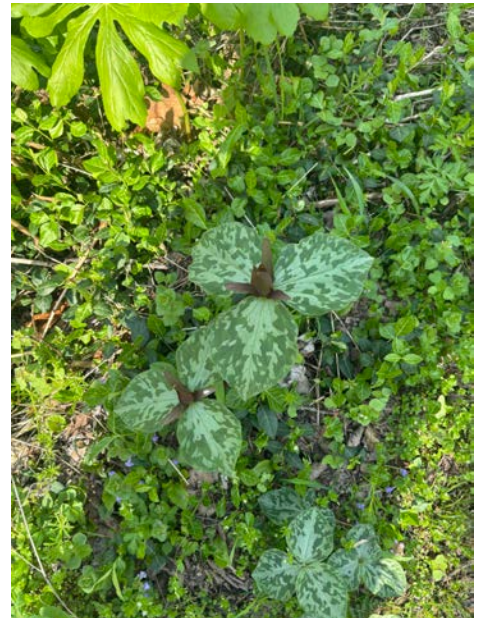
We look forward to sharing with you soon some of the exciting details we have for our 30th anniversary Garden Walk and Reception!

Erin Baker - Garden Walk Co-Chair



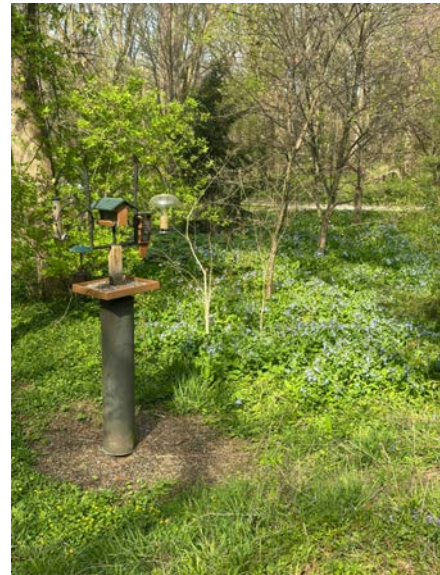
Picture This

WAKE-UP WOODS NATURE WALK



Picture This

WAKE-UP WOODS NATURE WALK



Picture This

DAFFODILS IN MEMBERS' GARDENS FROM THE FALL BULB SALE



March Minutes

The Indianapolis Garden Club General Meeting at Highland Country Club

March 18, 2026

President's Remarks – Marta Gross Meeting was called to order at 10am. Marta alerted members to a fraudulent email requesting payment of club expenses via Zelle or PayPal that was recently received by a member which appeared to come from an IGC board member. She reminded us that the IGC does not send emails soliciting payment for club expenses in this fashion. If you receive an email that appears to be related to IGC business and you are not sure whether it is authentic, contact Marta or someone on the Executive Board.

Evite Head's Up – there will be numerous evites sent to members in the next few weeks.

An evite was sent 3/17 for April 9 – Wake up Woods Walk at Newfields

Three evites from IGC coming later today 3/18 for

- * April 14 – Endowment Centerpiece Workshop at Posh Petals,
- * April 15 – Endowment Luncheon at Ritz Charles, and
- * April 16 – Writing in Nature Workshop with Kathryn Aalto at Holiday Park.

Executive Committee Reports –

Recording Secretary – Mary Kay Leicht

February 2026 general meeting minutes were approved as printed in the March newsletter.

Treasurer – Liz Brainard – Dues invoices for 2026-27 will be sent by email around April 1.

2nd Vice President/New Membership – Kim Purucker

Members are encouraged to propose friends for admission.

Committee Announcements –

Civic Improvement – Gini Hupfer

GCA Founders Fund Grant projects being considered are: Appalachian Spring Project in Charleston, WV; The Community Greening Project in Delray Beach, FL; and the Garden of Hope in New Orleans. 70 members of the IGC voted and the results are 67% in favor of the Appalachian Spring Project. The IGC's vote for Appalachian Spring has been sent to GCA.

Garden Walk – Erin Baker and Debbie Falk

We have a new garden. The garden is on Washington Blvd. and will be named “Boulevard in Bloom.” A Garden Walk Volunteer sign-up sheet has been prepared, and a link will be sent to members to sign up for shifts. Members are encouraged to attend the Straw Hat Workshop on May 1 so that they will have a decorated hat to wear for the Garden Walk.

Horticulture – Susie McClain and Elizabeth Rudolph

With thanks to the judges of the February Amaryllis Show, Jan Sweeney and Pam Mahoney, Susie awarded certificates for the amaryllis and photography winners and runners up. Elizabeth announced the Wake-Up Woods field trip to Newfields at the Virginia B. Fairbanks Park on April 9 at 9:45am.

March Program**Conservation – Sally Rowland**

Sally spoke about the trip that she, Lynn Dimond, Stephanie Paine Crossin, and Jess Stokely took in January to the GCA Conservation Study Conference in Florida.

They visited the Everglades National Park, and the Fairchild Tropical Garden, in conjunction with the GCA Conference. Many interesting points were raised:

- * All the water in south Florida comes from the Everglades
- * At one point, there were plans to build an airport in the Everglades but thanks to Marjory Stoneman Douglas this land became protected
- * Alligators live in freshwater, crocodiles live in saltwater
- * This year the Fairchild Gardens have planted 700,000 native orchids and hope to soon have one million growing

Sally also informed us about:

- The pending Ohio River Restoration Act legislation -- this area is the largest body of water in the U.S. without Federal Funding.
- The month of April again, has been designated native plant month in Indiana.

2027 Zone Meeting and Flower Show Panel Discussion –

Jan Sweeney, Sally Lanham, Lindsay Thornton were the panelists.

Sally Lanham and Pat Jacoby are co-chairs for the 2027 Zone X Meeting. Lots of logistics to work through, members will be asked to help. This will be an overall team effort.

Jan Sweeney is the chair of the GCA Flower Show committee.

Lindsay and Mary Watson will co-chair the IGC Zone X Flower Show.

There is a Zone X meeting every two years, the president and a delegate from each club will be invited, as well as other GCA position holders.

The Zone X meeting here will be held on April 27-29, 2027 at the Center for Performing Arts and the Hotel Carmichael in Carmel. The flower show will be at the hotel, meetings held in lovely rooms in the Performing Arts Center. Sally reiterated that help will be needed for all events.

Jan Sweeney gave a presentation on Horticulture Division II tips for a Flower Show. If you have questions about GCA flower shows, contact Jan Sweeney.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kay Leicht

Recording secretary

Upcoming Meetings and Events

April 9 – Field Trip for Wake-Up Woods at Newfields 9:45am

April 14 – Endowment Centerpiece Workshop at Posh Petals 10am

April 15 – Endowment Luncheon at Ritz Charles, 11:30 arrival, 12:00 noon start

April 16 – Endowment Writing Workshop with Kathryn Aalto, Holiday Park 10am

April 29 – Rescheduled CILTI walk, Spring Mill Park 8:30am

May 1 – Straw Hat Workshop 10am

