



Indianapolis Garden Club



Next General Meeting:

MARCH 18, 2026

Highland Country Club

9:45am arrival; 10:00am start

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- April 9 - Field Trip for Wake-Up Woods
Newfields- Virginia B. Fairbanks Park 10am
- April 14 - Endowment Centerpiece Workshop
- April 15 - Endowment Luncheon at Ritz Charles
11:30am Arrival; 12 noon start
- April 16 - Endowment Workshop with Kathryn Aalto
Holliday Park - 10am
- April 29 - Rescheduled CILTI Walk to Spring Mill
Park
- May 1 - Straw Hat Workshop

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March President's Letter

Finding inspiration for this letter has been challenging this month — it's hard to draw positive inspiration from nature when tornadic winds rage and wild temperature swings occur within a single day ... repeatedly. The news doesn't help either, with so many concerning reports.

What then inspired me this windy month of March? I found my inspiration from the IGC. Spending time collaborating with several club members has been an enjoyable bright spot these past few months. So, I want to highlight these members and their contributions to the club and express my gratitude for all the time and effort they have given our club. Keep reading and you will learn who made the February Zoom meeting possible and who is working hard to prepare for the club's many upcoming events this spring.

February Zoom Meeting

Thank you to all the members who attended the **February Zoom Meeting!** We received excellent feedback on the speaker, **Adam Banks**. Thank you to **Amy MacDonell Shepard** and **Shele French** for arranging his zoom visit with us. Adam's passion was clear as he guided us through images of three gardens from his fellowship, inspiring many members to want to see them firsthand. And thank you to our Hort Co-Chairs **Susie McClain** and **Elizabeth Rudolph** for setting the Amaryllis Show in motion last fall with the delivery of the bulbs and then partnering with **Carolyn Siderys** Photography Chair to have a show with two divisions and four classes total. Thank you to **Carolyn Siderys** for organizing the entries and to the judges of our show, **Pam Mahoney** and **Jan Sweeney**, for providing instructive comments on the entries. And most importantly, thank you to all who entered the show, without you there would be no show!

We are on the verge of our busy season – and have a full schedule ahead. In the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving A LOT of evites (Thank you **Melinda Fisher**), some with links to the IGC webpage so you can pay for events online (Thank you **Sarah Welsh**). There will be an email sent out with a list of all the evites so you know what to expect and can keep track of them, so you do not miss a thing (Thank you again **Melinda**).

March President's Letter

What's coming up next? March 18 General Meeting

It has been over three long months since the club members have all gathered in person for a general meeting! I am looking forward to our meeting on **Wednesday, March 18** at Highland Golf & Country Club. Get there early (9:45am) and you will have some time to catch up with garden club friends over a cup of coffee before the meeting starts at 10am. Thank you to **Claudia Hapak** and **Kim Marsh** for making these arrangements.

What's on the AGENDA for the March 18 meeting?

The executive and committee reports:

- **Recording Secretary** – thank you **Mary Kay Leicht** for diligently writing up all the meeting minutes.
- **Treasurer** – thank you **Liz Brainard** for the unending job of keeping track of all the club's finances, especially during this busy time of year.
- **2nd VP / Membership** – thank you **Kim Purucker** for getting the membership cycle started so the club remains vibrant going forward.
- **Civic Improvement** – Thank you **Gini Hupfer** for keeping tabs on the GCA Founders Fund voting.
- **Educational Endowment** – Thank you **Pam Baxter** for arranging for two exciting speakers in the coming year: **Kathryn Aalto** on April 15 and **Fergus Garrett** on October 30.
- **Floral Design** – Thank you **Kim Dickman** and Sally **Perlstein** for weaving floral design into so many events this year.
- **Garden Walk** – Thank you **Erin Baker** for writing up the evite Garden Walk volunteer sign-up sheet, thank you **Debbie Falk** for getting the ticket sale process up and running, as well as everything else you both, **Molly Sturman**, **Mary Quinn**, and all the Garden Captains are doing.
- **Visiting Gardens and Garden History & Design** – Thank you **Cindy Newcomer** and **Sue Combs** for planning the **June 11 trip to Allerton Gardens**.

March President's Letter

March Meeting Program:

- **Sally Rowland** is going to show and tell us about the GCA Conservation Study Workshop that she, **Lynn Dimond**, **Jess Stokley**, and **Stephanie Paine Crossin** attended in Florida at the end of January. Thank you **Sally** for reporting and thank you **Sally, Lynn, Jess, and Stephanie** for attending on the club's behalf.
- An in-house panel, **Sally Lanham**, **Jan Sweeney**, and **Lindsay Thornton**, will give us an overview of the Zone X Meeting and Zone Flower Show that the club will be hosting next April 2027 and let us know what to expect in the coming year as the club prepares, including some insider tips on the Horticulture Division in Flower Shows. Thank you **Sally, Jan, and Lindsay** for your commitment to the club and to the **GCA**.

Looking forward to the UPCOMING EVENTS, the following members have been busy over the past couple of months working to bring you many club activities in April, May, and June – **Thank you to all!**

- **Susie McClain** and **Elizabeth Rudolph** (Hort) will be bringing you the **"Wake Up Woods"** field trip at Newfield's on **April 9**,
- **Sally Perlstein** and **Kim Dickman** (Petal Pushers) are bringing you not one BUT two more floral design workshops on **April 14** and **May 1**,
- **Claudia Hapak** and **Kim Marsh**, our Program Co-Chairs, are responsible for the logistics for our **April 15, May 13, and June 5** General Meetings,
- **Pam Baxter** is planning the exciting Endowment events on **April 15 and 16**,
- **Sally Rowland, Lynn Dimond, and Stephanie Paine Crossin** (Conservation and CILTI) will be bringing you the CILTI walk to Spring Mill Park on **April 29**,
- And Garden Walk gals **Erin Baker, Molly Sturman, Mary Quinn, and Debbie Falk** will be bringing you the **30th Garden Walk and Reception** on **June 3!!!**

That is why I said to keep an eye out for the evites—so you won't miss the fun.

Many of the IGC Board have been hard at work behind the scenes over the past few months and your contributions are greatly valued! Without your efforts, the club could not run smoothly. Finally, I would like to give a special thank you to our newsletter editor, **Katy McMurray**. Thank you, **Katy**—if not for you, no one would be informed about the IGC's activities or reading this message.

That's it for now – stay dry, stay warm, and stay tethered!

Marta

Conservation Corner

Wednesday April 29th - Spring Mill Park Hike with Cliff Chapman

As a reminder, Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI) and CILTI President & CEO, Cliff Chapman will lead IGC hikers on a trail to one of the most biodiverse forested areas in Indiana - Spring Mill State Park.

Look for the Evite for the 8:45am-4pm event leaving from St. Luke's Methodist Church. The ephemeral guided walking tour is limited to 25 hikers.



April Has Been Proclaimed as Native Plant Month by Governor Braun

The **Native Plant Month Initiative** of **The Garden Club of America** is a nationwide, multidisciplinary, cross-committee collaboration to promote native plants by formally establishing a Native Plant Month in all fifty states and D.C. In Indiana, Governor Braun has once again proclaimed April to be Native Plant Month.

National Legislative Affairs (NAL) 2026

Conservation Co-Chair **Lynn Dimond** and Zone X Conservation Chair **Jess Stokely** are attending the GCA Washington DC conference from March 15th through March 18th.

One of the topics of particular interest is the **Ohio River Basin Restoration Program Act**. It would restore large-scale restoration of the Ohio River by restoring fish and wildlife habitat, preventing spread of invasive species and reducing flood risks. This is the largest body of water without federal funding. Lynn will be reporting back to us during our May IGC meeting.

Horticulture and Community Projects

SAVE THE DATE

Come walk in the woods with the IGC on **April 9th @ 10am** to see the Wake Up Woods storybook walk that was partially funded by the ICG.

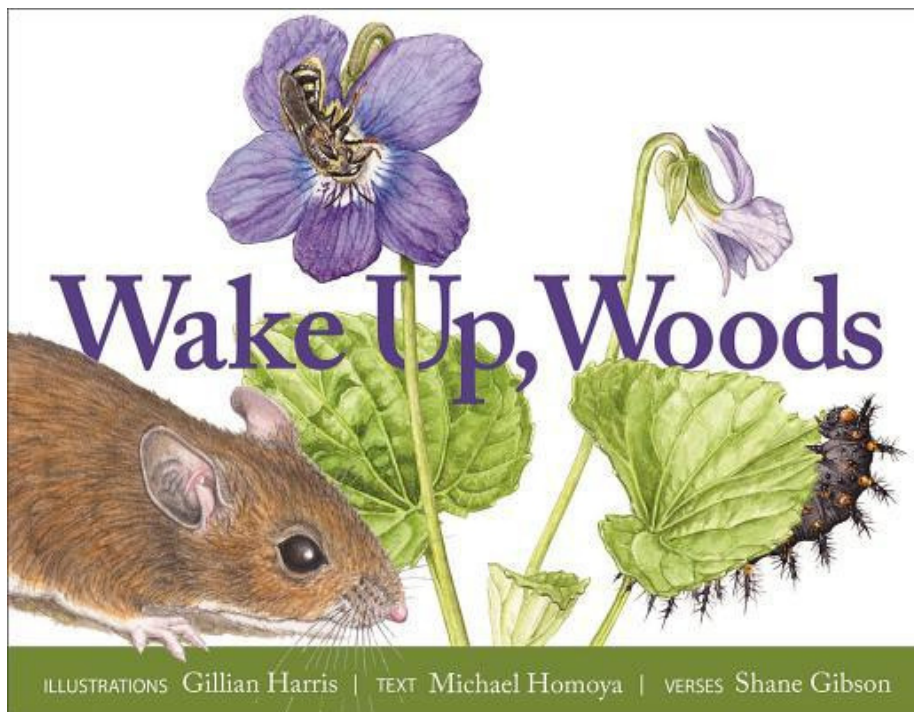
Horticulture & Community Projects are happy to announce a nature inspired walk to see spring ephemerals at the The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park at Newfields with Lisa Milton (Director of Natural Resources at Newfields). Park in the rain garden area where we visited after the September meeting.

Limited to the first 25 people to sign up. Rain or shine!
Watch for the Evite!

PLAN TO HAVE LUNCH AFTERWARDS IN THE CAFE!

CONTACT SUSIE MCCLAIN OR ELIZABETH RUDOLPH (CO CHAIRS HORTICULTURE)
FOR DETAILS

SUSIEMCCL@AOL.COM OR ELIZABETHRUDOLPH62@GMAIL.COM



Floral Design

UPCOMING FLORAL DESIGN COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS

WOODLAND CENTERPIECE WORKSHOP FOR ENDOWMENT LUNCHEON

Tuesday, April 14th, 10 am - Noon

Location: Posh Petals, 1134 E. 54th St., Studio A, Indpls

Cost: \$63.00 - Offered to the Petal Pushers Committee first and if spots remain we will open it up to the rest of the club. - Limit 19 - Bring your snippers

RSVP and payment due by March 27th - Payments can be made through the IGC website or check sent to Sally Perlstein, 8015 High Drive, Indpls, IN. 46240

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



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



Educational Endowment

Educational Endowment Events Coming in April

Save the dates below for a delightful celebration of nature, literature, and inspiration at our upcoming Educational Endowment events featuring

Kathryn Aalto!



Kathryn Aalto is an American landscape designer, historian, writer, and educator who now calls Exeter England her home. Kathryn will take us on a fascinating journey into the relationship between storytelling and the natural world.

Endowment Luncheon with Kathryn

[Wednesday, April 15](#) at 11:30am at Ritz Charles

Writing in Nature Workshop with Kathryn

[Thursday, April 16](#) 10am-12noon at Holliday Park

Watch your email for more details and Evites coming later this month!

Pam Baxter Endowment Chair

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

Membership

MEMBERSHIP STATUS CHANGE

If you have completed 10 years of service or more, you are eligible for Associate Status. If you would like to change your membership status, please contact Melinda Fisher, Corresponding Secretary, with this request in writing, by April 1, 2026.



Horticulture and Photography

The IGC Mid-Winter Amaryllis Show

"Amaryllis blooms in the depth of winter bring so much joy."

The IGC mid-winter flower show did bring joy and bright beautiful blooms during the winter months. Thank you to all the IGC members who participated in this event. So many beautiful blooms! A special thank you to our judges, [Jan Sweeney](#) and [Pam Mahoney](#), not an easy task with so many beautiful amaryllis to judge.

Notes from our Horticulture judge, [Jan Sweeney](#):

Judging amaryllis in horticulture we look for symmetry, fully open flowers with at least 4 on the stem that makes as perfect a cross as possible. The flowers should be in prime condition. If there is more than one stem, similar size and flowering is more desirable.

Points are taken off for blemishes, holes in the flowers, stems that are not straight, mal-formed flowers, and flowers that are not fully opened.

In horticulture there can be multiple 1st place awards and among the first place, one is chosen for Best in Show. There can be multiple 2nd, 3rd place and Honorable Mentions.

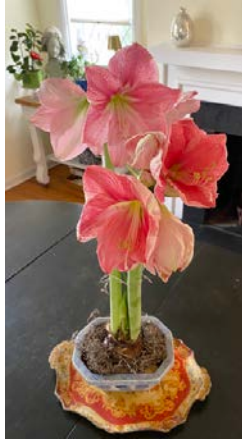
Horticultural Division - Potted amaryllis on display in your home.

1st Place - Blue Ribbon and
Best In Show - [Mary Quinn](#)



Horticulture and Photography

2nd Place - Red Ribbon



Carolyn Siderys



Fionnula Walsh

3rd Place - Yellow Ribbon



Sally Perlstein



Jennifer Morris

Photography Division- 3 Classes

Awards by Division and Class:

Best in Show - Jennifer Morris



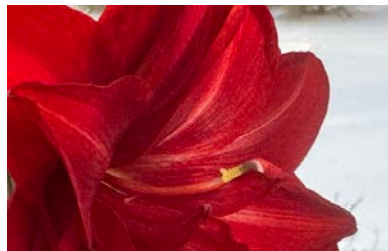
Class 1: Potted amaryllis on display in your home.

1st Place - Lynn Dimond



Class 2: Close up of a single or multiple amaryllis blooms

1st Place - Lynn Dimond



Class 3: Creative image

1st Place - Sue Welch



Susie McClain co-chair Horticulture, Carolyn Siderys chair photography

Garden Walk 2026

Garden Walk is hard at work setting up our 30th Anniversary Walk!

Invitations are going out soon with ticket sales beginning April 15th.

Look for an Evite Sign-up Sheet to register to work at a garden. If you have questions in the meantime please contact [Erin Baker](mailto:ekbaker2@gmail.com), ekbaker2@gmail.com.

Our big news is we have new garden. We unfortunately had to replace the beautiful Italian Villa in Golden Hill, and are thrilled to have found such a lovely new garden

Please welcome the “Boulevard in Bloom”!

Experience this Meridian Kessler treasure with its historic, stately home, which was built in 1925 and recently underwent an extensive two-year renovation. Now modern living blends seamlessly with a tastefully designed pool, luxurious reflective sauna, and a covered patio that combines harmoniously with the green and wooded landscape. This garden boasts raised beds filled with cutting flowers and fresh vegetables, as well as hydrangea, early bloomers including tulips and daffodils, and an abundance of containers overflowing with seasonal flowers.



Erin Baker - Garden Walk Co-Chair

Visiting Gardens & Garden History and Design

JUNE 11, 2026 TRIP
to Allerton Gardens
Champaign, Illinois

Please join us for a one day trip to beautiful Allerton Gardens and the Lewis and Clark Museum Sculpture Garden on June 11, 2026. This is a 2-1/2 hour drive each way.

Following is a tentative schedule:

8 am leave Indianapolis

10:30 - 11:30 Garden Tour

11:45 - 12:15 Lunch

12:30-1:30 Home Tour

We then drive to the Lewis and Clark Museum Sculpture Garden (15 min)
2ish-3:30 Tour

3:30 Leave for Indianapolis

The fee is \$20.00 for the tours, lunch is additional. Depending on interest, we may rent a bus which would also be added into the fees.

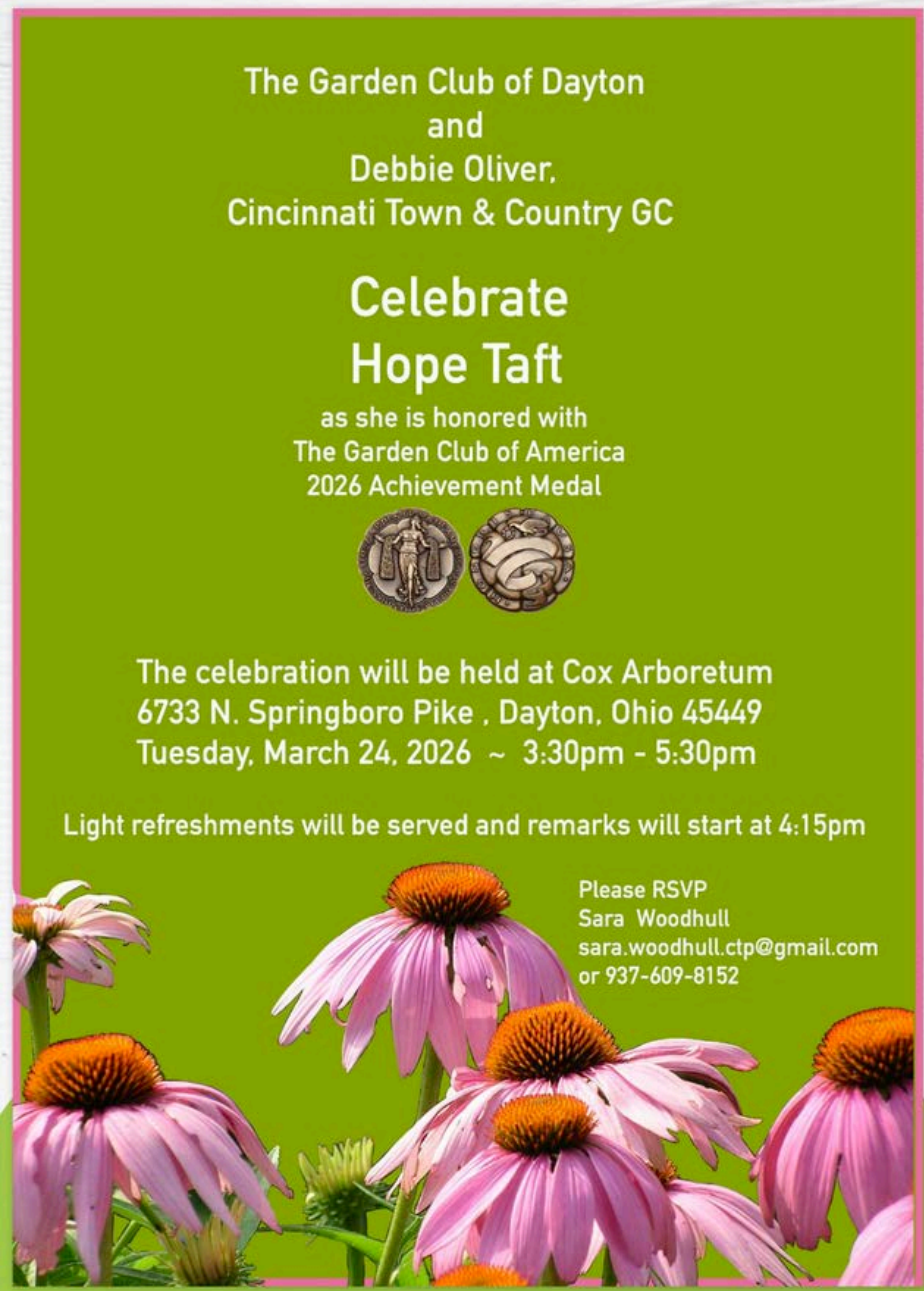
Please let us know by [March 30](#) if you are interested in attending by contacting [Cindy Newcomer](#) cindynewcomer@gmail.com.

**[Cindy Newcomer](#), chair Visiting Gardens
[Sue Combs](#), chair Garden History and Design**

GCA HONORS HOPE TAFT

THE IGC CLUB MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A RECEPTION FOR HOPE TAFT, WHO HAS BEEN HONORED WITH THE GCA ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL.


If you would like to attend, please RSVP as indicated on the Invitation below.



The Garden Club of Dayton
and
Debbie Oliver,
Cincinnati Town & Country GC

**Celebrate
Hope Taft**


as she is honored with
The Garden Club of America
2026 Achievement Medal



The celebration will be held at Cox Arboretum
6733 N. Springboro Pike , Dayton, Ohio 45449
Tuesday, March 24, 2026 ~ 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Light refreshments will be served and remarks will start at 4:15pm

Please RSVP
Sara Woodhull
sara.woodhull.ctp@gmail.com
or 937-609-8152



February Minutes

The Indianapolis Garden Club
General Meeting by Zoom
February 18th, 2026

President's Welcome Remarks – **Marta Gross**

Members were welcomed by Marta who called the meeting to order at 10:01am.

Educational Endowment – **Pam Baxter**

Our speaker for the April 15th Endowment Luncheon meeting at Ritz Charles will be Kathryn Aalto. In addition to her luncheon talk, Kathryn will present a workshop on Nature Writing on April 16, from 10am–noon at Holiday Park Nature Center. Fergus Garrett (of Great Dixter) will be our fall endowment speaker. His talk will be on October 30. Fergus has been described as one of the most influential living garden designers and horticultural educators in Britain today.

Adam Banks February Speaker, Introduced by **Shele French**, Scholarship Chair

Adam Banks was awarded the 2023 GCA and Royal Horticultural Society Interchange Fellowship. This fellowship led Adam to exciting opportunities abroad, including time spent at the RHS Wisley Garden, Tresco Abbey Garden, and Great Dixter Garden. Adam presented a lovely slideshow packed with photos and details to bring these extraordinary gardens to life!

Executive Committee Reports –

Recording Secretary – **Mary Kay Leicht**

December 2025 general meeting minutes were approved as printed in the February 2026 newsletter.

2nd Vice President/Membership – **Kim Purucker**

Members are encouraged to think about potential new members to propose. Three sponsors are needed and letters must be in by April 15. Any active member who has 10 years of service and would like to become an associate member should send a letter to Melinda Fisher by April 1.

Committee Announcements –

Civic Improvement – **Gini Hupfer**

The three finalists for the 2026 GCA Founders Fund Grant are: Appalachian Spring Project in Charleston West Virginia, the Community Greening Project in Delray Beach Florida, and the Garden of Hope in New Orleans. The winner will receive \$40,000 with \$15,000 going to

both runners up. Please refer to the Winter Edition of the GCA Bulletin pages 29-35 to see the full scope of these projects. An email with a link to vote will be sent later today. Voting closes on March 10 and the club winner will be announced at the March General Meeting.

Visiting Gardens and Garden History and Design – Cindy Newcomer and Sue Combs

There will be a tour of Allerton Gardens on June 11. This is a one-day tour. Look for more information in the newsletter and let Cindy know if you are interested.

Amaryllis Show – Photography and Horticulture Divisions – Pam Mahoney, Susie McClain, Elizabeth Rudolph, Carolyn Siderys, Jan Sweeney's comments were read by Susie McClain The winners were announced and the pictures were shown.

Congratulations and a job well done by all entrants!

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am. Respectively submitted,

Mary Kay Leicht

Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Garden Walk Sponsorships due by February 28

March General Meeting – Wednesday March 18, 9:45am Highland Country Club