



Indianapolis Garden Club



Next General Meeting:

MAY 13, 2026

Holliday Park Nature Center

with **Ken Keffer**

author of **Knowing the Trees**

Hike with Ken at 9:15am

meeting at 10:00am

EV show and plant swap to follow

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

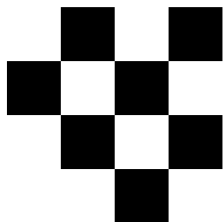
* 6/3 - 30th Annual Garden Walk 9:00am - 3:00pm

* 6/5 - Annual Meeting and luncheon - 11:30 am

Meridian Hills CC

* 6/11 - Daytrip to Allerton Gardens

Monticello, Illinois



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May President's Letter

It's May!

And you know what that means in our namesake city!



The IGC is on a countdown as well – to our **30th Garden Walk** celebration on June 3, now less than a month away. And shortly after the **Annual Luncheon Meeting** will take place on June 5.

We kicked off the festivities on May 1 with the Straw Hat workshop – just wait until you see your fellow members sporting their creations! Check some out on pages 9-10. Special thanks to **Sally Perlstein** and **Kim Dickman** for arranging the workshop and to **Amy Cooke** for the informative talk on the principles (the rules) and elements (the tools) of floral design.

But before we get to our Garden Walk Pearl, there is the **May 13 General Meeting** – which will be jam-packed with a nature walk and talk by our May speaker **Ken Keffer**, an EV and hybrid show, and a plant swap. Thank you to **Sally Rowland** (EV show) and **Susie McClain** and **Elizabeth Rudolph** (plant swap) for providing these extra activities for the May meeting. See page 3 for the plant swap instructions

As we approach the final stretch of the IGC 2025-26 year, I hope that you can join us for these remaining events.

In closing, I want to thank **Pam Baxter** for orchestrating the **April Educational Endowment Events**. What a whirlwind three days it was! See the writing workshop pictures on page 18. **Kathryn Aalto** gave a very engaging talk and offered fresh insights into the classic children's tales of Winnie-the-Pooh, Christopher Robin, and their cohorts, the 100 Acre Wood landscape they inhabited, and the author A.A. Milne and his son, Christopher Robin. I am certain I will view Milne's Pooh tales differently the next time I read them.

Marta

May 13 General Meeting

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 and hybrid 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.

Let us know if you can help organize the plants as they arrive.

Elizabeth & Susie

Elizabeth Rudolph co-chair Horticulture
[elizabethrudolp\[h62@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethrudolp[h62@gmail.com)

Susie McClain co-chair Horticulture
susiemccl@aol.com

Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY NEWS - CAROLYN SIDERYS, CHAIR

THE GCA JUNE ENEWS WILL BE IGC ZONE X TIME TO SHINE! ENTER A PHOTO OF FLOWER OR GARDEN BLOOMING IN THE MONTH OF JUNE. PHOTOS CAN BE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS.

PHOTO SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MAY 15, 2026.

Here are the details:

Photo Specs:

- photos from a previous June or seasonally appropriate months
- standard size HORIZONTAL images (landscape) ONLY
- taken by Zone X members, in Zone X
- color images only, no creative manipulation
- all photos should be IMB or larger

How to send photos:

- email photos to Alison Alten Jia at enews.alisonalten@gmail.com
- rename photo in this format: First Name Last Name, GC name, Zone VIII (for example: Alison Alten Jia, Georgetown GC, Zone VI); or include the member's name, club, and zone in the email
- please DO NOT use the eNews article jotform to email the image to the GCA

Yet more:

- club members may send in up to four photos
- no pets or identifiable people
- please do not submit blue ribbon or special award winners in a GCA photography show or Focus contest, and if you plan to enter your image into a future show, do not submit it to eNews
- all photos will be archived for other communications use, such as the carousel on the Members Area homepage, GCA's Photography Friday postings on social media, or the GCA annual report
- Images used in eNews and social media



**THE INDIANAPOLIS
GARDEN CLUB**

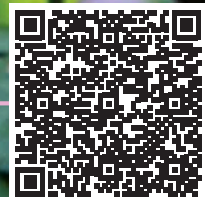
INVITES YOU TO THE

*30th Annual
Garden Walk*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

9AM – 3PM

PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS HERE _____



INDIANAPOLISGARDENCLUB.ORG

Garden Walk 2026



The Garden Walk is in full bloom, and we are very excited about all the features at this year's gardens! We will have raised bed garden consultants, a potting shed artist, violinists, and local artists painting en plain air. There are many historic features this year with Hilary Salatich's home being one of the oldest homes in Crow's Nest. Thank you to Holeman, Inc for hosting the plant sale at her garden. We have gems in Meridian Kessler and Forest Hills, and we are thrilled to be partnering with Newfields, who was our first garden 30 years ago. They are rolling out the red carpet for us and all of our guests. Their horticulturists will be available all day throughout the gardens. You can enjoy special lunch and drink options as you tour. And do not miss the sneak peek at the Madeleine F. Elder Greenhouse Garden. Opening in May 2027, it will feature four season displays, fully accessible pathways, a pavilion for garden based interactive and educational programs, a culinary hub, and eventually seasonal produce to support local communities. A nod to our beloved former member who gave so much to the Club and our community. If you haven't signed up for a shift yet, you can do so at:

[HTTPS://WWW.EVITE.COM/SIGNUP-SHEET/6280254676271104/?
UTM_CAMPAIGN=SEND_SHARABLE_LINK&UTM_SOURCE=EVITELINK&UTM_MEDIUM=SHARABL
E_INVITE](https://www.evite.com/signup-sheet/6280254676271104/?utm_campaign=send_sharable_link&utm_source=evitelink&utm_medium=sharable_invite)

Garden Walk 2026

**TICKET SALES ARE UNDER WAY!
THEY CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE BY CLICKING ON THE LINK BELOW:**

EVENTBRIGHT

You can also pick up or purchase your tickets at the General Meeting at Holliday Park this Wednesday, May 13. Sponsor packets will be ready too! And thank you to all our Member Sponsors. We so appreciate your commitment to making the Garden Walk a continued success!

Look for your Garden Walk Reception Invitation coming soon for you and a guest. We look forward to honoring our Garden Owners and Sponsors and celebrate our members for all their hard work in a very special way at the Beer Garden at Newfields. A special thanks goes to OEG again for hosting this year.

We are so excited for what is in store for our 30th Annual Garden Walk. Please let us know if you have any questions!

**YOUR GARDEN WALK CO CHAIRS;
ERIN BAKER, MOLLY STURMAN, MARY QUINN AND DEBBIE FALK**



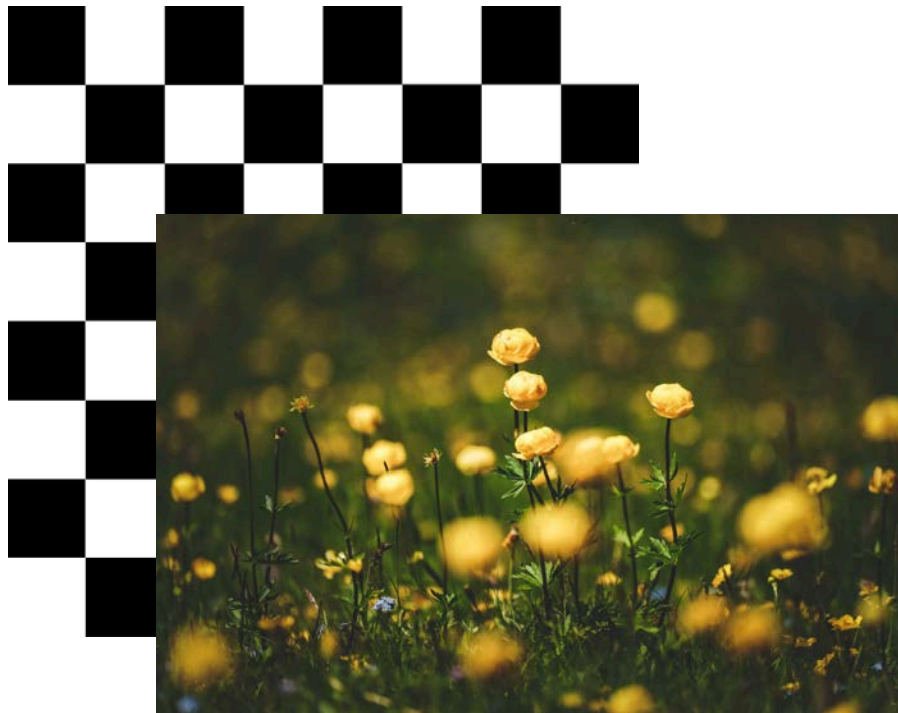
Nominating Committee

ON BEHALF OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, PLEASE FIND BELOW THE PROPOSED SLATE FOR THE 2026–2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD. THIS SLATE WAS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT ITS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, AND WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP FOR A FINAL VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE.

2026-2027
INDIANAPOLIS GARDEN CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD
PROPOSED SLATE

President
First Vice President/Community Projects
Second Vice President/Membership
Treasurer
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary

Marta Gross
Lara Knitter
Kim Purucker
Liz Krimendahl
Sarah Carter
Melinda Fisher



Membership

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO OUR 2026 NEW MEMBERS! THESE MEMBERS WILL BE INTRODUCED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 5. PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING THEM TO THE INDIANAPOLIS GARDEN CLUB!

1. Julia "Jill" Clark

Sponsor: Jill Failey

Second: Sue Welch & Emily McIntosh

2. Darcy Griffin

Sponsor: Jill Hall

Second: Lynn Dimond & Cami O'Herren

3. Paige Miller

Sponsor: Shele French

Second: Lauren Hamilton & Shandon Whistler



Floral Design

23 Garden Club members recently gathered for a delightful and creative workshop, preparing for the upcoming garden walk by adorning their own straw hats with ribbon, greenery and silk flowers. **Amy Cooke** kick started the workshop by presenting Principles (the Rules) and Elements (the Tools) of design. We all took what we learned from Amy and tackled our straw hats!

As members tried on their finished hats, there was a shared sense of anticipation for the garden walk, where these beautiful handmade pieces will bring back the tradition of wearing garden hats to this year's Garden Walk, June 3, 2026.



Floral Design



WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY PETAL PUSHER CO-CHAIRS: **KIM DICKMAN AND SALLY PERLSTEIN**



Civic Improvement

The **Elizabeth Abernathy Hull** Award is given out each year by the GCA to "local champions who impart to children a love and concern for the natural environment." We are please to announce that **Amanda Smith** with Hamilton County Parks and Recreation was nominated by the Civic Improvements Committee and won! **Marta Gross** and **Gini Hupfer** presented Amanda with a certificate recognizing her 30+ years working with youths instilling a love of nature at Hamilton County Parks and Recreation along with a check for \$1000.

Gini Hupfer, Chair Civic Improvement



Community Projects

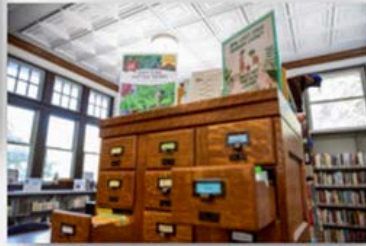
GRANTEES PROVIDE PROJECT UPDATES

IGC GRANT RECIPIENTS WERE BUSY OVER THE WINTER MONTHS DESIGNING GARDENS, FINALIZING PLANT SELECTIONS, CREATING MATERIAL LISTS, AND SEEKING QUOTES. HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INTERIM REPORTS:

1. **AWSUM (Amazing Women Standing United in Motherhood) has been busy prepping garden beds and has purchased materials for the construction of the planter boxes and pathway.**
2. **Butler University will be ordering the Story Walk sign frames this month. A draft has been developed for the story and will be illustrated this Fall. Final installation will be by March 2027.**
3. **Conner Prairie has prepped the pollinator garden bed for May planting. The garden design has been finalized and plants ordered.**
4. **Crown Hill Foundation completed bed preparation and will be planting the native perennials in the coming weeks. CHF has been working diligently to procure as many of the 56, registered, Helen Link hybrids as they possibly can.**
5. **Friends of Garfield Park, Inc. purchased and installed the Sunken Garden plantings. They are still seeking quotes for restoration of the wedding arch. They may replace it based on its condition.**
6. **Indianapolis Public Library Foundation has distributed over 100,000 seed packets as of April 30th.**
7. **Marian University is projected to have completed all planting in time for graduation ceremonies.**
8. **Newfields decompacted soil around the three heirloom trees and added biochar. Plantings will be installed this Spring to discourage foot traffic at the base of the trees.**
9. **Random Acts of Flowers uses the grant funds to offset the twice weekly cost of composting with Green With Indy.**
10. **Soul Food Project Indy (SFPI) distributed Spring plants and seeds to families April 25 after an educational workshop.**
11. **The Children's Museum of Indianapolis has experienced delays implementing work on the new native plant garden beds due to a delay in infrastructure work by the City of Indianapolis. It is anticipated the beautification efforts and native plantings will begin Fall of 2026.**

Community Projects

Indy Public Library



Conner Prairie

Garfield Park Sunken Garden



Newfields

Heirloom Trees Interim Report Photos



Bartlett Tree Experts performing root aeration

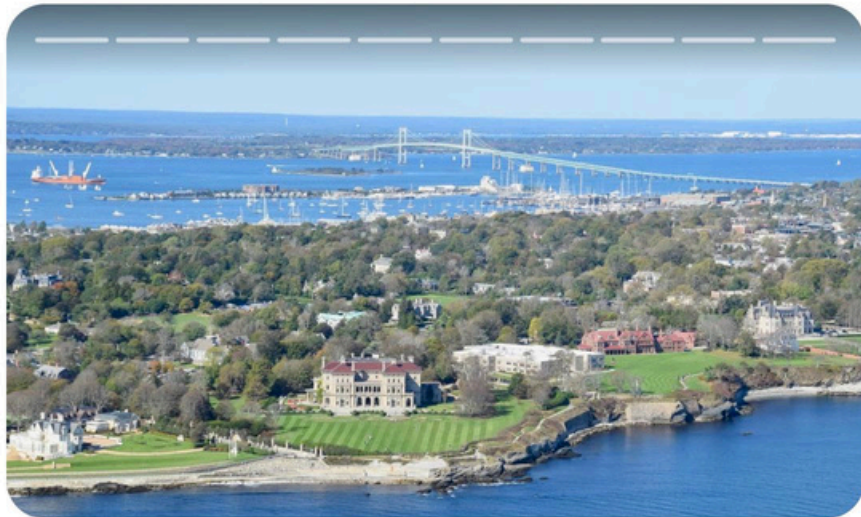
Visiting Gardens

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND FLOWER SHOW 6/18-20 2027

Newport



City in Rhode Island



DETAILS ARE STILL IN THE WORKS BUT IF YOU ARE AT ALL INTERESTED IN ATTENDING PLEASE EMAIL [CINDY NEWCOMER \(VISITING GARDENS CHAIR\)](mailto:CINDYNEWCOMER@GMAIL.COM) AT CINDYNEWCOMER@GMAIL.COM. THANKS!

GCA Annual Meeting

GCA 2026 Annual Meeting Report

As your president, I had the pleasure of attending the **GCA Annual Meeting on April 19-21** in NYC. It was a streamlined format this year, with only the president attending from each of the 199 GCA clubs, rather than the usual president and one delegate. That, however, did not stop the social buzz that occurred and was most evident during the opening cocktail reception, where GCA committees hosted stations that were dispersed around the room. Attendees mingled and moved between staCons, gathering commi4ee stamps as they went. Anyone who collected at least 15 stamps qualified for a prize drawing. It was a successful ice breaker for meeting new people and for learning more about GCA's various committees.

The business meeting keynote speakers we heard from were both very impressive women. **Betsy Smith, President & CEO, Central Park Conservancy** gave an informative talk on the history of Central Park, how the Conservancy came to be after the NYC financial crisis of the 1970's, the Conservancy's 45-year restoraCon of Central Park, and its plans for the long-term health of both Central Park and the Conservancy.

Lisa Switkin, 2008 Recipient of the GCA's Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture, a landscape architect whose work explores the civic, cultural, and ecological potential of the public realm, spoke about many of the complex public projects that she has worked on in New York, including the High Line, Gansevoort Peninsula in Hudson River Park, and Brooklyn's Domino Park, as well as master plans for Staten Island's Freshkills Park.

There were several optional lectures and outdoor activities to choose from. At one lecture I attended, I learned about how the **Billion Oyster Project** is restoring oyster reefs in the New York Harbor in collaboration with New York City communities. At one time, New York City oysters were plentiful and a common food source. Sadly, it took less than 100 years to wipe out the oyster population. To date, more than 175 million oysters have been restored, 3 million pounds of shells collected, and 15,000 students involved.

The meeting was capped off by a lovely Awards Brunch event in celebraCon of ten new **national medalists**. Next year, the 2027 GCA Annual Meeting will return to its President and one delegate format, and will take place in Wilmington, Delaware.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marta Gross

Picture This

SARAH WELSH'S GCA VISITING GARDENS TRIP TO BHUTAN



GCA TRAVELERS IN
FORMAL BHUTANESE DRESS



THE ULTIMATE MONASTERY
HIKE. 1500 FEET
ELEVATION. 5 MILES ROUND
TRIP. THE MONASTERY IS
BEHIND US UP ON THE
HILL. PEOPLE TRAVEL FROM
ALL OVER THE WORLD TO
COME TO HIKE TO THIS
PLACE. IT'S THE HOLIEST
OF HOLIES FOR BUDDHISM.



ONE OF MY FAVES. THESE LADIES WERE
MIXING CONCRETE BY HAND AND YET THEY
WERE STILL HAPPY TO TAKE A BREAK SO I
COULD GRAB A PHOTO (I FIT RIGHT IN
HERE!)

Picture This

SARAH WELSH'S GCA VISITING GARDENS TRIP TO BHUTAN



**PRAYER FLAGS
EVERYWHERE.
BEAUTIFUL.**



PLANT ON A HIKE

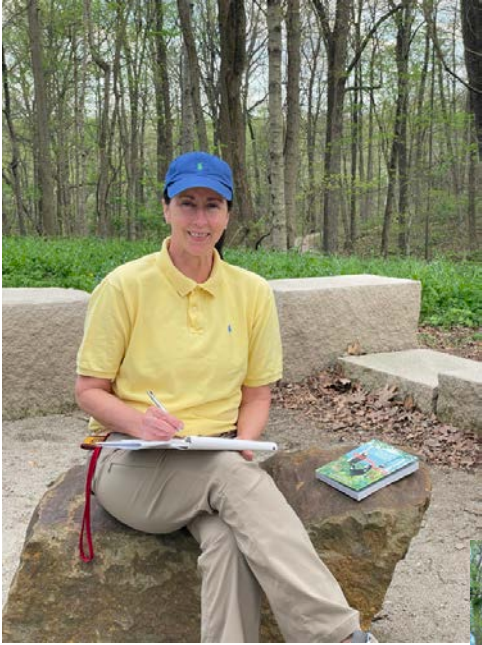


© Robin Turnbaugh

**I DIDN'T TAKE THIS PHOTO. BUT ANOTHER MEMBER DID. AND IT'S A
LOVELY REPRESENTATION OF THE MAGNIFICENT WILD
RHODODENDRONS THAT THRIVE IN THE COOL, MOUNTAINOUS
COUNTRYSIDE. AS WELL AS AN EXAMPLE OF TYPICAL EVERYDAY FEMALE
BHUTANESE DRESS.**

Picture This

WRITING IN NATURE WORKSHOP WITH KATHRYN AALTO



April Minutes

The Indianapolis Garden Club

April 15, 2026 Educational Endowment Luncheon

Ritz Charles

President's Remarks – Marta Gross

IGC members and their guests were welcomed to the Spring Educational Endowment Luncheon, and many thanks to Kathryn Aalto, our speaker, for joining us today.

A reminder to all that April has once again been proclaimed Native Plant month in Indiana – there is some information on this at the tables in the back.

Garden Walk – Erin Baker

Garden Walk tickets have been mailed. The electronic ticketing goes live today. IGC members can pick up their tix at the May General meeting. Tickets will again be sold at Charles Mayer. Pat Sullivan (of Sullivan's Hardware) will welcome representatives from Garden Walk on his Saturday morning radio show on May 9.

The meeting was paused so members and their guests could enjoy lunch.

Educational Endowment – Pam Baxter – Pam introduced our speaker and informed everyone that Kathryn is selling and signing her books after her talk. Introduction: **Kathryn Aalto** is an American landscape designer, historian, writer, and speaker living in Exeter, England. She has a master's degrees in garden history and creative nonfiction with a particular interest in literary landscapes. Before her expat life, she taught American Literature of Nature and Place in the Pacific Northwest.

Kathryn presented a lovely slide show, depicting scenes and characters from her book "The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh." Kathryn's presentation was well received and there were several questions. She appeared to enjoy herself while visiting with us!

After Kathryn's talk and questions:

Amy Shepard spoke about GCA Scholarship: Over \$604,000 has been awarded by GCA to scholarship winners this year.

Marta thanked **Sally Perlstein** and **Kim Dickman** (co-chairs for Floral Design / Petal Pushers) for orchestrating the creation of the lovely woodland table centerpieces. There was one centerpiece given away to an attendee, and **Amy Shepard** was the lucky winner.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kay Leicht

Recording secretary