

The TUCKALEECHIE GARDEN CLUB GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Tuckaleechee Garden Club - June 2026 | Edition No. 1



President's Note: Welcome to June!

Welcome to June Garden Friends and our First official Club Newsletter the **TGC Gazette!**

Our gardens are in full swing this month with many flowering perennials, shrubs, and annuals hitting their stride. I've got hydrangeas of all types blooming while my lilies and roses are showing off. You've probably noticed a variety of pollinators in your garden and it's a perfect time for our June meeting guest speaker to share about honeybees and beekeeping. As a reminder of our June meeting:

Tuesday, June 16, 10:00 am

Guest speaker Morgan Junkel, "So You Want to be a Beekeeper?"

Design Theme: 'Garden BEEautiful'

Design Type: Creative Multi-Rhythmic Design (HB p 75) with a theme of bees. Design limits 32 inches high x 24 inches W & D

Hostesses: Diane Rohtert & Linda Morton

Judges for Horticulture & Design: Martha Frink & Lorna Hale

Example of Multi-Rhythmic Floral Design

Multi-Rhythmic Design – a Creative Design with emphasis on two or more rhythms in the design with one rhythm dominating.

1. Lines created two or more separate and distinct rhythms, each creating a different pattern and movement unlike the other.
2. Lines may go in any direction, be continuous, interrupted and /or crossed.



To complement and expedite the business aspect of our meeting next week, you'll find the meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report, April Meeting Minutes, and a draft of proposed changes to our bylaws all attached. We will

vote on the bylaws changes at our July meeting to give everyone 30-days to review and comment before an official vote.

Our **TGC Website** is alive and active, and I hope everyone has had a chance to visit and check it out at [Tuckaleechee Garden Club](#). There is a 'members' only' portal which can be accessed by using the password TGC@1983. This is an important and valuable area where you can now find our yearbook, past meeting minutes, the budget and monthly treasurer's reports, volunteer hours reporting form, administration hours reporting form, expense form, and Design & Horticulture classes. A **BIG** thank you to chair of our Communications Committee, Theresa Schehr, for developing and launching our website and then making it so alive with interactive forms for easy use and reporting!

Note that yearbooks will be printed and available at the July meeting for those wanting a bound hardcopy.

We've got a great meeting planned and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone. Consider inviting and bringing a friend!



Awards:

Congratulations to our club members **Janie Bitner** and **Wanda Taylor** on becoming official **TFGC Gardening Consultants** ! Wanda and Janie recently completed an extensive on-line gardening education program through National Garden Clubs and we are fortunate to have them as a resource to our members and community. Way to go Janie and Wanda!!

TGC Wins 8 TFGC Awards and one Deep South Award! What amazing people comprise our club! Because of the stellar and impactful work we did in 2025 with our educational programs, club yearbook, workshops, field trips, and community service projects, our club has been awarded the following. I'm especially proud that we were 2nd place for Club of the Year! This is such a positive reflection on our club and demonstrates that we excel at a multitude of activities. I believe it says our club offers something for everyone! No wonder we are one of the largest clubs in Tennessee with 52 members! Be sure to congratulate the volunteers and project leaders who have been recognized with the following awards:

TFGC- Flower Show Club of Excellence

TFGC- Flower Show Recognition- "TN Valley Fair" - Theresa Schehr

TFGC- 1st Place- Member of Honor- Diane Rohtert

TFGC- 1st Place- Yearbook - Theresa Schehr

TFGC- 1st Place- Anette Stanbery Community Beautification for Arbor Day Celebration

TFGC- 3rd Place- Programs- Individual- "Fruits" – Jerry Faulkner

TFGC- 1st Place- School Grounds Improvement - Theresa Sch

TFGC- 2nd Place- Garden Club of the Year

Deep South- 3rd place- Arbor Day Award



Upcoming Events & Meetings

Mark your calendars! We have some fantastic gatherings lined up for the next month:

- Townsend Elementary School: Thursday, June 11 at 9 am.
- Faithscape: Tuesday, June 16th, 9am-9:40am at Tuckaleechee UMC, this is right before our monthly meeting at the church.
- CWW Kidscape: Wednesday, June 17th, 9am-10am. At Camp Wesley Woods.
- Mornings in the Gardens' at Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center. June 7-13 9-Noon. Contact Debbie Dickie for a volunteering opportunity.
- Townsend High School reunion flower arrangements due. August 1st. Details forthcoming.
- TGC Monthly Meeting at Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church. July 21st 10 am. The program will be: "Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center Davis Cabin History" by Ruth Davis. After the program a potluck luncheon will be served. Guests are welcome to attend the meeting.



June Gardening Checklist

Here is what you should be focusing on in the dirt this month:

- **Watering:** Water deeply and early in the morning to minimize evaporation. Aim for 1 inch of water per week for established beds.
- **Mulching:** Refresh your mulch layers (2-3 inches) to keep soil temperatures cool and retain precious moisture.
- **Deadheading:** Regularly remove faded blooms from perennials like salvia, coneflowers, and roses to encourage a second flush of flowers.
- **Pest Patrol:** Keep an eye out for aphids, Japanese beetles, webworms, and hornworms. A sharp blast from the hose or a bit of neem oil usually does the trick!
- **Special tip#1:** Fall flowering plants such as asters, mums, goldenrod, sedum, and Joe-pye weed can be cut back to make them shorter and stockier when they bloom. Cut their current growth three quarters of the way back this month to have them looking great and in bloom this fall.
- **Special tip#2:** You can still direct-seed sunflowers in your garden. Stagger their planting by every week or two through July, and you will have flowers until frost.



This Month's Garden Scoop: Elderberries by Debbie Dickie

Elderberry: Nature's Ancient Multi-Tool

Do you know this plant? It is in full bloom right now! Identify this large, multi-stemmed shrub by its opposite pinnate leaflets and flat, dome-shaped white flower clusters. For thousands of years, people have used elder for tools, flutes, medicine and food. It is most famous for its potent berry, which turns purple later in the summer. Take note of where it is blooming now, so you are ready for the mid-summer harvest! Grows best in full sun with moist but well-drained soil. Typically grows 8-10' tall and just as wide.



Member Spotlight & Photo of the Month

With our nation's 250th Birthday fast approaching, why not visit Racheff House & Gardens in Knoxville and check out the new Red, White, & Blue Garden recently installed by our members and 'Keep Knoxville Beautiful' volunteers? Planted in April, the gardens 'Wee White' hydrangeas, 'Red Drift' roses, and blue perennial geranium 'Rozanne' are all hitting their stride. The garden showcases the Blue & Gold Star Markers honoring our veterans and families. Garden member and immediate past president, Janie Bitner, conceived the idea for the new garden and invited current president, Sue Hamilton to do the garden design. TGC was awarded a grant from NGC to implement the garden. Racheff is open M-F 9-3 pm and is free and open to the public. The address is 1943 Tennessee Ave, Knoxville.



Photo from early May where mulch was spread to complete the garden. Pictured L-R Ben Bitner, Janie Bitner, Sue Hamilton, and two UT student volunteers.



Garden Tip of the Month: Growing Microgreens by Kris Jedlicki

Growing microgreens is simple. Soak your seeds for a few hours, then spread them evenly on a tray with moist soil or a hydroponic mat. Keep them covered for the first few days to block light, then uncover and give them bright indirect light. Mist daily to keep the surface damp but not soggy.

Harvesting microgreens just after the first leaves develop—usually seven to fourteen days after—with a sharp pair of scissors. They're packed with nutrients, often more concentrated than their mature versions, and add a fresh, peppery or nutty flavor to salads, sandwiches, or garnishes. Common microgreens include radish, broccoli, sunflower, and pea. For around \$10.00 you can grow your own microgreens at home. A good resource for everything you need is Knoxville Seed & Greenhouse 5001 Rutledge Pike 865-524-2734



Shrub of the Month: Hydrangeas by Sue Hamilton

Few shrubs offer the beauty, versatility, and season-long appeal of hydrangeas. With their lush and showy blooms, they're a standout in landscapes, containers, and cutting gardens. There are five different types of hydrangeas we can grow and as a result, there really is a hydrangea for every type of garden setting! Some hydrangeas have been bred to be so small or weeping that they are ideal for containers! All hydrangeas can be in bloom in the month of June so you can have quite a kaleidoscope of colors and flower forms in your garden all at once. The gardening season starts with our native oakleaf hydrangea. By mid-July their blooms fade but they can linger into fall. They typically retain their foliage through the fall in our area which offer vibrant colors of reds, oranges, and yellows. All other hydrangeas, mophead and lacecaps; mountain hydrangea; smooth-leaf hydrangea (another native); and panicle hydrangea begin flowering in June and with reblooming varieties available in each, they can all rebloom into late fall. No matter the type, hydrangeas really are easy going and not fussy plants to grow. They all like steady moisture and well-drained soil. The only 'all-day' sun-loving hydrangea is the panicle hydrangea. It's also quite drought tolerant. All other hydrangeas prefer a half



day of sun and more shade if fine. Dappled sunlight is ideal. Yes, if desired, you can control the mountain, mophead, and lacecap type hydrangeas through your soil pH. Yes, you can prune hydrangeas to control growth and when to do it depends on if it flowers on old or new wood. But you don't have to prune hydrangeas; it's a choice. Deadheading, cutting off dead flowers, is not pruning. There is a sixth hydrangea we can grow; the climbing hydrangea. Great for climbing up a large tree, arbor, trellis, or building, the large lace-cap blooms can be quite showy. If you'd like to know more about hydrangeas, how to grow them, and the many wonderful new, reblooming selections on the market, one of the best overviews I've found is [Hydrangeas Demystified](#).

Connect With Us! Be sure to check out our new website at <https://www.tuckaleecheegardenclub.com> or find us on FaceBook and Instagram

Next Meeting: Jul 21, 2026 10:00 AM