

District III

Christine Ramirez-Campbell, GCI District Director

The **Bloomington Normal Garden Club** is now in their fifth year with over 300 members. Their summer club meeting schedule includes keynote topics in June, “English Gardening”; July, “Town of Normal, A Landscape Perspective”; and August, “Herbicide Drift”. In the works are a garden tour and several road trips to visit public gardens and nurseries. Among community projects are celebrating our nation’s 250th and Route 66’s 100th anniversary.

As with all garden clubs the growing season is the busiest time of the year. The **Garden Club of Decatur** spruces up the downtown planters and plant annuals in May; this year with a red, white, and blue theme. The active club manages several gardens including the Veteran’s Memorial Garden; a pollinator garden at the Children’s Museum of Illinois; and the Monarch Way Station at the Decatur Public Library. In addition, members plant annual gardens with youth at two area libraries in Forsyth and Mt. Zion. And while they are busy digging in the dirt, they will also be preparing for their popular biannual event Tablesapes, to be held on October 3. A very busy club!

The **Morgan County Garden Club** is planning to visit a member’s home for a special picnic and get-to-know new members in June. The activity began two years ago and was such a success that it has become a yearly event. The host gets to show off their beautiful gardens, prizes are awarded for winners of a game, and all enjoy a wonderful dinner in the beautiful outdoors.

The **Peoria Garden Club** is pleased to announce its special garden event on June 13 from 9 am to 4 pm, Les Fleurs du Jardin (Flowers of the Garden). The PGC’s themed walk will feature six beautiful gardens: two in Peoria, two in East Peoria, and two in Morton. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$15 with tickets priced at \$20 the day of the event. For tickets, please contact Carolyn Schelkopf at 309-635-3946.

This summer, the **Springfield Civic Garden Club** will be returning to the Lincoln Home Historic Site; the St. John’s Hospital Children’s Garden; as well as the Springfield Muni Opera to beautify the grounds for visitors. Flowers will abound as club members create weekly floral designs throughout the summer for Lincoln’s Home and the Springfield Visitors Center. Community grant requests are reviewed and organizations are presented with financial support for projects with similar goals of beautifying the community. Also during the summer, members donate to the local community food pantry by collections of canned and packaged items, plus fresh produce from their gardens.