

The Seeder

The Newsletter of the Garden Club of Johnstown, PA
May 2022

Dear Members and Friends,



At this time of year we all feel we are the hardest working gardener in town. Here's a chance to prove it! **Bring your most worn-out gloves to the May 9th meeting** and they will be judged to see who the hardest working gardener really IS!

There are only two rules:

1. The gloves must be gardening gloves.
2. They must have been used by the entrant.

The winner will receive a new pair of gardening gloves from our Ways and Means store. (That they obviously need!) So, put those old gloves in the car and bring them to the May 9th meeting so you can show off how hard-working you really are! **Please tuck your name inside one of the gloves.**



Looking forward to more at our **May meeting**: The program will feature strategies for preparing Blue Ribbon Horticulture Entries for our July 29-30 Flower Show, "Patriotic Summer," co-chaired by Bridget Sarosi and Rani Murali.

We'll also have a refresher program on completing flower show Entry Cards and Entry Sheets. For more information on this and all things Flower Show, **The NGC Handbook for Flower Shows is now on-line and FREE.** (Go to NGC Website, "Member Resources", "Publications", "Handbook for Flower Shows – 2017", "Download Digital Handbook")

Also at the May meeting we will be unveiling our **2022-2023 Yearbook**, "We Gather, Garden and Grow." Carla Straw has done an outstanding job of compiling this with a new and easier to read format. **Each member may pick up their copy on the table near the entrance.** It's important to read through it to **understand the workings and responsibilities** of the club and its members.

Please bring your old club name tag holder to the May meeting. Your **new name tag** will be available to insert into your holder. If you no longer have the holder there will be replacements available.

While picking up your copy of the Yearbook, if you have not yet gotten your copy of the **Flower Show Schedule**, they will be available near the Membership Table as well. You are encouraged to pick up copies and deliver to a GC friends if they are unable to attend the meetings.



May 9, is also our annual **Plant Sale**. We count on our members to share extra plants from out yards and gardens. There will also be Club Plants and Club Flowers for sale to grow for the Flower Show and a few greenhouse plants from SEADS Nursery. So, take a look around your home, what plants need to be divided? What can you share? Please label them and any special cultivation needs, i.e. sun/shade wet/dry, houseplant etc. The committee will price them. The money from this sale helps cover our Club expenses. Be prepared to take some home to enhance your own gardens.



Line Designs may be brought to meetings for coaching by our experienced designers. Learn tips and tricks by getting hands-on practice. Your dining room table will thank you and you will definitely improve chances for winning ribbons at the flower show!



Get ready to garden! We're taking a **ROAD TRIP** to the amazing nurseries of Martinsburg, PA on Monday, May 16th. We have carpools set up, so if you need a ride, just contact one of the drivers listed in the 2022-23 Yearbook (pg 4). It's about a 40 minute drive.

We'll visit three nurseries beginning at **Piney Creek Nursery**, 334 Sportsman Road at **10 AM** and move along at our leisure to **Brubaker's** (3745 Fredericksburg Road) and **Spring Farms** (2190 Hickory Bottom Road) until we meet at **Mamie's Café and Bakery** (110 E. Allegheny St.) for **lunch at 1:00 PM**. It was great fun last year and it's a wonderful place to pick up unique plants to enter in the Flower Show.



Welcome the **Holidays** will be here before we know it. **We desperately need a chairman or co-chairmen for this event.** Previous chairs have compiled and pass on detailed notes of the process. If public speaking is holding you back, we have members who would be willing to do that part. Please contact the club president [REDACTED] if you can help with this or any other WTH committee chair.

We are going to have to be creative this year to come up with a boutique project. In previous years we have been gifted items we resold, sadly we do not have that option this year. So we need a brand new idea. Please share your ideas. We will have a **brainstorming meeting soon**. You are a creative group and I'm sure a great idea will be hatched. Funds from WTH support our committees' activities, scholarships, printing, postage and meeting expenses.



Civic **Development** Co-Chairs Sue Konvolinka and Darlene Wissinger thank the 36 GCJ members who have offered to help and/or be site leaders at the 15 sites for 2022 spring through fall seasons. Site leaders will be emailing their teams with planned work days and maintenance schedules in the near future.

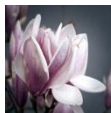
Global emails for additional help will be sent when larger projects need done at a site.

Please read and respond to your emails sent by your site leaders or Sue or Darlene.

The CD Kick-off planning meeting was held on Monday, April 25 at the Boulevard Grill. Twenty-five members planned to attend, but only twenty team members attended. Once again Don Kasprzyk, owner of the Boulevard Grill went above and beyond with hospitality and his generosity providing a delicious \$19 luncheon buffet with complimentary beverages and delicious cheesecake desserts.

The following groups have been very supportive of the GCJ for many years; they've help us meet our goal to beautify the Johnstown area. We encourage you to support the Boulevard Grille, SEADS in Westmont, Stuffers' Nursery in Riverside, Southerwood Gardens in Salix, the Sandyvale Gardens Greenhouse when you purchase plants for your sites or own gardens.

Also a helpful hint shared by Karlice Makuchan: Bantly's Hardware, 701 Von Lune Road, Johnstown sharpens garden tools at a very reasonable price - \$3-\$4 per tool!! Keeping our gardening tools in good shape to make clean cuts is a bonus and a must!!



New **Flower Show Award for Novices!**

In 1972 a young mother was invited by her neighbor to come to a Garden Club of Johnstown meeting. She came; she joined and has been a member ever since. This year Mary Jo Gardill is celebrating her 50th year as an Active Member of the GCJ. In her honor a new Club Flower Show Award has been created. This award shall be called "The Mary Jo Gardill Novice Award" and is to be awarded to the GCJ member who wins the Blue Ribbon in Design in the Novice Class in a GCJ Flower Show. It will be a perpetual award with each winner's name added to the trophy. The trophy is a beautiful painting of a magnolia (*Magnolia x "Blushing Belle"*) by local artist Sandy (Sandra) Vigna.

Mary Jo is such an asset to our club! She is always happy to teach and guide members in the art of floral design and all of our club's pursuits. She is our GCJ Second Vice President, a flower show Accredited Master Judge, serves as chair on two GCFP Boards of Directors Committees and is on the CAR-SCG Board of Directors. Congratulations, Mary Jo, your contributions to GCJ have been instrumental in our club

becoming what it is today; we thank you and will continue to rely upon your experience, generosity and wisdom as we serve the Johnstown community.



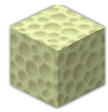
Thank you Jan Davis, District VI Director, for being here and presenting a beautiful ceremony for the installation of our new officers. Congratulations go to the 2021-2022 officers on the successful completion of their tenure in office during this difficult year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Through the creative use of Zoom, field trips and outdoor meetings, the club has maintained its zest for promoting the goodness and beauty of nature. Retiring co-presidents Gloria La Monica and Nancy Block were presented with beautiful NGC Past President pins, a primrose plant and a block of the new Oasis alternative, Agra Wool. (We're anxious for a report on how that works, ladies!)



The Garden Club of Johnstown is featured in the **April and July issues** of the *Johnstown*

Magazine. The April article, "Digging in the Dirt and Unearthing Beauty," explores the history and activities of our club along with eleven pages of photographs.

Then in July there will be information about our July 29-30 Flower Show, "A Patriotic Summer," at the Westmont Presbyterian Church. Pick up copies at local stores or contact *The Tribune Democrat* to subscribe (814-532-5003). Let's support them as they support us!



Agra Wool, the new compostable Oasis substitute, will cost about \$4 for a 3"x4"x9" block with shipping. It comes 20 blocks to a box. Before Ways and Means places an order, we need to confirm that members are going to purchase it. There will be an order sheet on each table. Please give your name and the number of blocks you promise to purchase. If we get 20 requests, we will place an order. See a sample on the W&M table.



Welcome to our newest members, Deb Slick, Karen Rizzo and Sara Beth Schott. We hope you find membership rewarding and fun. We look forward to getting to know you better and working together. If you see a committee you'd like to join, contact the chairperson, we're always happy to have more helpers!

At the April meeting we enjoyed the company of guests Lindy Yutzy, Carol Keppel and Tiffany Taha. Another recent visitor is Carolyn Boxler. We're so happy you were here and we hope you will be joining The Garden Club of Johnstown. Always feel free to contact any officer if you have questions or need anything.

I'm looking forward to seeing you ALL at 10:00 AM on the Monday, May 9th meeting and again on our field trip Monday, May 16!

Fondly,
Charlotte
GCJ President

Note: Submissions from committee chairmen for the Seeder Newsletters are welcome and are due within ten days after our monthly meeting.