



Keystone Gardener

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A MESSAGE FROM GCFP PRESIDENT LEEANNA RYBA



There are still many garden clubs planning activities as 2023 draws to a close. I hope that you will be there to support the upcoming holiday tours, greens sales and festive luncheons I heard about during the "Tour de PA." Speaking of the "Tour de PA," I want to thank each District for their hospitality and kindness. Hearing about the activities and events you are involved in makes me so proud!

As you plan your club programs and activities for 2024, please remember the theme for the 2023-2025 Administration is "PLANT AMERICA, While Keeping PA Beautiful." I'm asking every club to include one litter or recycling program/event supporting this theme in their 2024 Yearbook. Your club can apply for the Seeds of Service [President's Project Award](#).

NGC President, Brenda Moore, has initiated the "PLANT AMERICA, Feed America" program (more info [HERE](#)). The goal is to help feed the less fortunate in America by donating any extra produce you are growing in your own garden or in a community garden to a local organization that helps to feed the hungry in your community. Once your gardens are harvested, donations of non-perishable food items and cash donations also count. A short [donation form](#) can be found on the [NGC website](#). PA has had the lead in donations, thanks to your generosity.

When making plans for 2024, don't forget the NGC Schools. Online opportunities are available for Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design Schools. Neighboring states offer in-person schools. Do something nice for yourself; go back to school!

I am wishing each of you wonderful holidays full of warm memories.

Leeanna

GCFP President 2023-2025



Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania is a member of [National Garden Clubs](#) and Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs [CAR-SGC](#)



DISTRICT FORGET ME NOT AWARD WINNERS 2023



Marilyn Small, GCFP Awards Chair, Sheri Lowry, Co-Chair
Honoring long-standing members whose dedication to their club
and its community service make our organization special.

District I - LINDA HORNER



Elverson Garden Club

As a member since 1976, Linda has always been very active in the club, rarely missing a regular meeting. A vital member of her club's many plant sales, house and garden tours, community garden maintenance, herb garden planting, and holiday tour committees, she donates plants from her gardens, furnishes containers, and works with everyone on the project. As Membership Chair since 2016, she actively works to recruit new members. She leads by example, sharing cuttings, bulbs, and plants with anyone who needs them.

District II/III - TRACY McKAY SABOCHECK



Garden Club of Reading

Tracy McKay Sabocheck is always working on something with or for the Garden Club of Reading. Serving as president for the past 2 plus years, she takes on additional roles to get the job done. She initiated the club newsletter, "The Fertilizer," and does a grand job with District II/III quarterly newsletter "Buds and Blooms." She developed a 40th Year of Museum Garden History PowerPoint presentation, offers a video on the club prior to evening programs in conjunction with the local library. She talks positively about our club and has attended many local events to spread the word about our club, GCFP and NGC.

District V - LOIS KYPER



Standing Stone Garden Club

Lois has been a faithful and loyal member since 1992. She attends all meetings, and her floral designs have won her many prizes in the club and Huntingdon County Fair. She creates arrangements for the club-sponsored Hometown Holidays, and she takes care of the grounds that welcome people to Huntingdon. Lois is the club's treasurer, a past District V Director, and a long-time chair for the District V Ways and Means and Scholarship Committees. She has a beautiful garden surrounding her 18th century farmhouse.

District VI - PAT HARTMAN



Indiana Garden Club

As an active member of Indiana Garden Club for over 50 years, Pat Hartman has served as club president, sat on several committees, and volunteered on many projects. She served as Chair and was instrumental in the Indiana Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial Project. As Master Flower Show Judge, she has recently retired to Judge Emeritus. Pat served as District VI Director and on the GCFP board for many years, most recently as Book of Recognition Chair. She also chaired the 2009 GCFP Convention at Bedford Springs and has received both District Laurels and a state award.

District VII - MARGIE WOLFF



Murrysville Garden Club

Margie Wolff joined Murrysville GC in 2007, and later, the Greensburg Garden Center, and became president of each. She also became a Penn State Master Gardener and a Director in the Lions Club. On the District VII Board of Directors, she served 12 years in a variety of roles, including District VII Director. Margie is also an Accredited Flower Show Judge and exhibitor, and a Provisional Gardening and Environmental Consultant. She served as Chair for the Pittsburgh Area Judges Council, participates in Designers Guild, was GCFP Corresponding Secretary, is District VII Nominating Committee Delegate and GCFP Chaplain.

District IX - SHELLEY NILSON



Shaler Garden Club

During her 37 years as a Shaler Garden Club member, Shelley has bridged the gap from our past to the present. With declining membership in the early 2000's, Shelley took on the role of club Co-President and forged the strong community ties that we continue to have with Shaler Township and with the Shaler North Hills Library. Under her guidance, she not only kept the club alive, she strengthened its programs and revitalized the club's activities. She has served on countless committees, designed community gardens, helped coordinate flower shows, and spearheaded many plant sales. Shelley currently serves on our newly formed Pollinator Advocacy Committee.

DISTRICT FORGET ME NOT AWARDEES Continued

District X - DIANE HUGHES



Great Meadows Garden Club

A consummate garden club member, Diane has been involved in the Great Meadows Garden Club for 45 years. She continues to give of herself enthusiastically and continuously at the local, district, regional, and state levels. Diane has held many leadership positions and continues to amaze her club with her high-quality workshops locally and at GCFP conventions. She inspires members by providing skillful instruction on design and horticulture and has even had design workshops in her home. She also provides leadership on wildflower walks and workshops. Whether it is leading the Designer's Guild, helping with a fundraiser, instructing seniors with garden therapy, or teaching others how to write a flower show schedule and run a show, Diane is always a cheerful participant in all things garden club.

District XI - JANE COMROE



Norristown Garden Club

As member of Norristown Garden Club since 2009, Jane has been continually active in activities and programs. She attends all meetings and participates in design and horticulture workshops. Jane always participates in "weed and plant days" at the gardens we plant and maintain. She is Chair of the Flower Show Awards Committee and always has the correct ribbons available for the show. She is a wealth of information on many things, helpful to new members, explaining the ins and outs of flower shows, how to best exhibit a flower or what the judges are looking for when they are looking at an exhibit. We can count on Jane to bring greens from her garden to use in the arrangements for Horticulture Therapy. She is a proofreader for our yearbook, and the club can rely on her to help with projects.

2023 DISTRICT EXCEPTIONAL HORTICULTURISTS

JoAnn Celaschi, Horticulture Coordinator

These members were honored at district meetings in September, and they will have their name placed on the [Honor Roll of Exceptional Horticulturists](#).

DISTRICT I

Ann Bryce, Spade and Trowel Garden Club
Pam Walsh, Uwchlan Garden Club
Beth MacMillan, Four Seasons Garden Club

DISTRICT II/III

Kirk R. Brown, Parkland Garden Club

DISTRICT IV

Anne Miller, Penn Cumberland Garden Club

DISTRICT V

Sue Miller, Duboistown Garden Club

DISTRICT IX

Karen Reilly, Shaler Garden Club

DISTRICT X

Peggy Brown, Valley Garden Club

DISTRICT XI

Jane Klotz, Norristown Garden Club
Cheryl Brumbaugh, Norristown Garden Club
Donna McCloskey, Garden Club of Bristol



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View the latest and past issues [HERE](#).



CAR-SGC CONFERENCE October 23 - 26, 2023 Corning, NY

With the gorgeous colors of the fall foliage as a background, 30 members of GCFP gathered for the yearly CAR-SGC conference. There were excellent raffles, quality vendors, and interesting presentations as members participated in pumpkin glassblowing, leaf manipulation, birds-of-prey session, round-table discussions, and a Halloween costume dinner.



At the Conference Meeting and Awards Ceremony, President Ryba reported on a few of the amazing projects our GCFP clubs have been working on that she learned about at her attendance at all ten of the District Annual Meetings, along with touting our 109 Blue Star Memorial markers, Flight 93 Memorial Chapel in Shanksville sponsored by Somerset GC District VI, and the 23 members who participated in the Flower Show School IV in October.

Dot Yard created a beautiful honor design for President Leeanna Ryba.



Marilyn Monroeville and her Entourage



CAR-SGC AWARDS WON BY GCFP CLUBS

Announced at the CAR-SGC Conference, October 23-25, 2023

Sharon Richardson - Uwchlan Garden Club, Award of Honor

Terry Miller, Uwchlan Garden Club - Outstanding Education Exhibit Award

1st Place Yearbook - 20-29 Members: Town & Country Garden Club of RL
30-44 Members: Wayne Woods Garden Club

1st Place Publicity/Press Book - Medium Club - Garden Club of Springfield

1st Place Tie Publicity/Press Book - Large Club - Gettysburg Garden Club

High School Essay: Ella J. Harold sponsored by Ingomar Garden Club

\$2,000 Scholarship: Christopher Burch, Graduate Student in Environmental Biology at Hood College, sponsored by Chambersburg GC



Committee Reports

AWARDS

Marilyn Small, Chair - Sheri Lowry, Co-Chair

GCFP, CAR, and NGC Awards deadlines are just around the corner -- **December 1 & January 15 & 25.**

All GCFP Awards documents have been updated, and efforts were made to clarify and streamline information. Members and Awards Chairs can find and download all of the necessary updated documents for applying for awards on the GCFP website [Awards page](#).

On **Tuesday, October 3**, we gave a Zoom presentation on Awards and updates. It was well received with approximately 58 members in attendance. If you missed it, you can view the PowerPoint presentation [HERE](#), along with NGC's Award Applications Presentation [HERE](#), and a sample NGC Award-Winning Application [HERE](#).

There are two new requirements this year for all NGC awards:

1. All NGC awards are to be submitted electronically (except for newsletters which may require electronic copy at a later date).
2. All NGC applications with photos of people, including youth under age 18, or any other proprietary information **MUST** have a signed

Publications Release Form for each person involved on file with your club. You can access the release form [HERE](#).

Also new this year is how the **Comprehensive Award** will be calculated. Only 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be recognized. Also, the Comprehensive Award will be divided into two separate awards:

1. GCFP Comprehensive Award for the district with the most GCFP Awards
2. Youth Contests Comprehensive Award for the district with the most club-sponsored winners of Youth Contests, which include the Youth Poetry, Sculpture, High School Essay, and Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster.

Governor's Trophy eligibility this year is for Small Clubs 1 - 20 members.

Remember, **all award applications start at the state level** and must be submitted to the respective state chair by the due date on the [Deadlines Document](#). Do not send directly to NGC or CAR-SGC.

Sheri and I look forward to your submissions!!

~ Marilyn and Sheri

If you missed the Awards Zoom Presentation on October 3, you can still view the presentation posted on the GCFP Website Awards Page [HERE](#).

SEEDS OF SERVICE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT AWARD

Barbara Campbell

I hope everyone is thinking about what project your club can do for the President's Project Award, "Plant America, While Keeping PA Beautiful." The theme centers around recycling and reusing. All the information about the award was in the last KG but can also be found [HERE](#).

I am looking for pictures of the projects that your club is doing, or has completed, that centers around this theme to make a display at the GCFP Convention in April 2024, in Lancaster. Please send pictures to barbarac45@aol.com

If you have any questions, you can contact me at 610-432-3313 or cell 484-225-7449.

I am looking forward to receiving your pictures. *~ Barbara*



PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Barbara Campbell, Chair

The Seeds of Service President's Project is in conjunction with President Ryba's theme "Plant America While Keeping PA Beautiful." This award recognizes programs, projects, and/or events of exemplary volunteer service to individual members, clubs, and/or communities that emphasize service relating to recycling, reusing, or litter clean up.

The four categories of recognition are:

- An individual garden club member for club or community service performing recycling/reusing
- Service by a club for working with youth or a youth community performing recycling/reusing
- Service by a club for working with youth or a youth community performing litter control
- Mentoring a youth leadership Environmental Club

Clubs in each of the ten districts can apply in one or all four categories as mentioned above.

The application is a one-page description of the project/event including a photo, if possible.

Clubs are to send their applications to their district director by June 15, 2024, for all projects occurring from May 1, 2023, to May 1, 2024. Top applicants from each district should be sent to the President's Project Chair, Barbara Campbell.

More information can be found on the [GCFP website](#) and in the Summer Edition of the "Keystone Gardener."

~ Barbara

SEED MONEY

Marjorie Stillwell Sears, Chair

Seed Money is available for that new project or additional work to an existing project.

The [Application](#) is on the GCFP website under Awards. Don't be late; apply today.

DEADLINE: February 15, 2024

Send application via email or snail mail to:

Marjorie Sears
8 Saint Dunstons Road
Hatboro, PA 19040-4526
215-450-7195
stilwellmarj@aol.com

~ Marj

NEW INVASIVE PLANT FOUND IN BERKS COUNTY, PA

Barbara Andrus



The Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association reports a finding of *Oenanthe javanica*, commonly known as Java water dropwort, water celery, Chinese celery, Indian pennywort, and Japanese parsley, which is a new invasive plant not listed on the DCNR Invasive Plant List. An aggressive ground cover, it can quickly spread into wetlands, streams and edges of ponds. It is a look alike to Bishop's goutweed.

~ Barb

LEARN MORE ABOUT NGC PROGRAMS



[PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA](#)

This project is focused on donating the produce that NGC's members have harvested from their own gardens. We want to spotlight how NGC is making a difference across America!



[PLANT AMERICA, LANDSCAPE FOR WILDLIFE](#)

Apply to have your garden registered as a National Garden Club Certified Wildlife Habitat!



[PLANT AMERICA, PLANT FOR POLLINATORS](#)

Apply to have your garden recognized as a National Garden Clubs Certified Pollinator Garden!



[PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY GRANTS](#)

Community Project Grants help enhance public areas and community gardens. These grants provide education about gardening and create a pride throughout communities.



[BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIALS](#)

The Blue & Gold Star Memorials Program honors all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Services.



[PENNY PINES](#)

NGC and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership sustaining our national and urban forests through this reforestation program.





BIRD REPORT

Vivian Hall



Question: What if the State Birds were determined by data?

An e-bird analysis or bird abundance in each state yields a different list of species than those shown as official state birds.

Only 20 out of 50 states have a unique state bird. Seven states claim the cardinal, six states share the western meadowlark, and three states claim the robin as their state bird. Here are some states that should get their own birds.

NEW YORK

Current Bird: Eastern Bluebird, shared by four states.

Should be: Peregrine Falcon

Why? NY City has the densest population of Peregrine Falcons in the world, and they have been seen in every county in the state.

FLORIDA

Current Bird: Mockingbird, shared by four states.

Should be: Florida Scrub Jay

Why? 100% of the global population is in Florida year round.

IDAHO

Current Bird: Mountain Bluebird, shared by four states.

Should be: Calliope Hummingbird.

Why? They have the highest population of these birds of any place in the world.

We have eleven states that honor birds that mostly live elsewhere.

PENNSYLVANIA - Ruffed Grouse

Should be: Scarlet Tanager

Why? Largest breeding population of any state.

ALABAMA - Northern Flicker

Should be: Swainson's Warbler

ALASKA - Willow Ptarmigan

Should be: Spectacled Eider

ARIZONA - Cactus Wren

Should be: Towhee

COLORADO - Lark Bunting

Should Be: Rosy Finch

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Wood Thrush

Should be: Fish Crow

GEORGIA - Brown Thrasher

Should be: Bachman's Sparrow

MINNESOTA - Loon

Should be: Golden-Winged Warbler

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Purple Finch

Should be: Bicknell's Thrush

NEW MEXICO - Roadrunner

Should be: Raven

VERMONT - Hermit Thrush

Should be: Black-Throated Blue Warbler

There are only two states that honor their state bird due to bird abundance.

LOUISIANA - Brown Pelican

OKLAHOMA - Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

So, in a perfect bird world, we might see more of these birds changed to state birds by their population in each state.

~ Vivian



Getty

Pennsylvania State Bird: Ruffed Grouse

The ruffed grouse has been Pennsylvania's official state bird since 1931, and its beauty is admired by hunters and non-hunters alike. Grouse are gallinaceous birds and are related to quail, turkeys, pheasants, and ptarmigan.

This brown, chicken-like bird gets its name from the black "ruffs" on the side of its neck. The ruffed grouse was an important part of the food supply for early settlers, and it's still a familiar sight in Pennsylvania forests today.

pgc.pa.gov

BEE GAP

Bonita Herman, Chair

The Squash Bee is a native solitary bee that pollinates the Cucurbita species, i.e., pumpkins and squash, which are entirely dependent upon these bees to pollinate them. It is similar to a honeybee,



by Alex Surcică

but is slightly larger with a rounder face and hairy legs, while the honeybees have smooth legs.

To see these bees, one needs to get up early. They are busy just after dawn as the flowers of the Cucurbita start to open, and sleep at midday as the flowers close for the day. The males sleep in the closed flower and the pollen sticks to him. When he awakens, his day starts, either by searching for food or a female to fertilize.

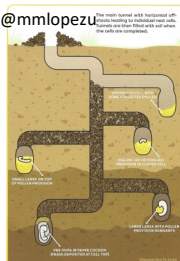
Most of the fertilization takes place in the flower. The females go from flower to flower looking for nectar and pollen for her nest, thus pollination occurs.



lopezuribelab.com

The nests are on the edges of the Cucurbita fields/gardens in bare soil. A mound of loose soil, about a pencil width diameter, is probably an active nest. The nest is

a vertical tunnel with a short antechamber, where the females rest at night. There are several lateral chambers with a shiny waterproof lining for the eggs. She fills the chambers, lower ones first, about 1/3 full of pollen and nectar. She lays the egg and "walls" it off so that several eggs, each in their own room, can be laid in one chamber. Female eggs are laid first in the deepest chambers.



Since these are solitary, non-aggressive bees that are unlikely to sting, it is safe to walk around or near nests. The egg hatches, and the larvae eats the pollen and nectar. The larvae spend the winter as a prepupa, and in the spring, they pupate to adults and then emerge in late spring or early summer and die in the fall. Gardeners can help squash bees by leaving some bare, non-compacted soil near squash plants; using newspaper or grass clippings as mulch that does not inhibit nesting; using a no-till method at least not near nesting areas; and waiting until mid-July to till when bees' emergence should be completed.

Watch the [Squash Bee Video HERE](#). ~ Bonita

BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES & CONSERVATION

Marcy Cunkelman, Chair

It is time to say goodbye to the summer residents and hello to the winter visitors, some of which have already arrived. Put those leaf blowers away since they damage the protection of leaf mulch for the pollinators and caterpillars, toad, frogs and amphibians, and turtles, that hide and overwinter.

Blue Jays are gathering up the wonderful oak mast and planting acorns everywhere. Doug Tallamy says the top of line host plants for all critters are oak trees, which support 897 caterpillar species in the United States.

Monarchs are still on the move to their winter grounds in Mexico. Cape May in New Jersey has been tagging with the [Monarch Watch](#) tags and has been using a mini tracking device they glue on the back of monarchs. The tiny, 62 mg, 8x8x2.6 mm chip can simultaneously measure light intensity and temperature, and wirelessly communicate that information back to researchers once the butterflies reach their destination.



Leave your hummingbird feeder up for as long as possible, since it doesn't stop a hummingbird from migrating. It gives them a source of carbohydrates (sugar water) for energy, since most flowers have stopped producing nectar and have died. There have been 204 western hummingbirds, such as the Rufous, Allen's, Calliope, Anna's and Black-chinned, caught, identified and banded in 49 counties since the 1990's. This research is so valuable to understanding hummingbird migration.



shopsteins.com

I recently applied for an NGC Certified Pollinator Garden. The [application](#) is only two pages and is very similar to the PA Master Gardeners Certified Pollinator Gardens. After waiting over three months, my new PA [pollinator habitat license plate](#) **N8IVE** finally arrived.



Now is the time to get feeders clean, and filled with fresh sunflower seed and chips and to recycle your pumpkins for the critters to eat. My gardens will probably be frosted this coming week, and I will be leaving the plants in place through the winter for natural food and cover. It is also time to plant more natives. I expect to see something special in the yard as a result of adding a great native plant. ~ Marcy



bradley.edu

ENVIRONMENTAL – KEEP PA BEAUTIFUL

Judi Swanson, Chair



[KeepPaBeautiful.org](https://www.KeepPaBeautiful.org) (KPG) has a VAST website with many offsite resources. KPG is a non-profit community action and education organization, which is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Volunteers are its PUBLIC FACE who do the “heavy lifting” while KPG works with partners like government agencies, and private corporations.

Core Programming focuses on Litter Control, Prevention, Education, and Enforcement. Other programs promote Recycling, Beautification and Greening, Illegal Dumping, and Land and Waterway Stewardship.

KPG has a [Financial Grant Program](#) to aid organizers and municipalities that seek to keep PA “Clean and Green.” Its most well known initiative is the [“Pick Up PA” program](#), which is wide ranging, assisting volunteers, communities and various organizations to stage events and to pick up litter in roadways, empty



lots, parks, schools, waterways, and to support community improvement projects in Recycling, Illegal Dump Spotting, Greening/Beautification and Education.

KPG maintains a [calendar of events](#) on its website where clubs can register their own event or inquire about joining others. Litter collection supplies, and promotional materials such as posters, signs, and folders are often available to volunteers. Other events, open to only the planner’s group, are listed to essentially join “the movement” and to qualify for supplies. Litter collection events are usually scheduled in spring and/or fall. The Altoona Garden Club has a litter pick up program every year.

Most informative for Garden Club event planners is the [explanatory video](#) that is available on KPG site. It outlines the process of conceptualizing, planning and organizing an event. The site provides projects submitted by past planners, and tips for planning events that are age appropriate for youngsters and seniors, with safety suggestions included.



Empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and *Beautiful*.

KPG’s Program Coordinator can be reached at the phone number listed on the [Contact Us page](#).

My club, The Gardeners of Crooked Billet, took a major step to get out of plastics. I designed a Laundry Challenge for members that compared the cleaning potential of the new laundry detergent strips on a medium-sized load of towels and bedsheets.



- The club purchased Canada’s TruEarth laundry detergent strips.
- Fifteen volunteers from GOCB compared four washes: plain water, usual detergent, then two using the laundry strips.
- Participants judged each wash and compared each to the others, using the same set of items for each wash and giving normal usage to the items between washes.
- They recorded their findings on a log sheet which was turned in after the month of serial washes.
- The rationale was that If members were pleased with the cleaning power of the detergent strips compared to their usual detergent, then they would be inclined to use the strips regularly with the result that use of plastic bottles would decrease -- a POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION to the environment -- because of LESS WATER wasted and LESS SPACE consumed.

All participants were pleased and intend to incorporate detergent strips in their laundry routines.

~ Judi



POLLINATOR RESTORATION PROGRAM

Leslie Anthony, Chair

A WORD ABOUT GARDEN CERTIFICATIONS

Whether you consider your garden to be a butterfly, pollinator, wildlife, or other conservation-focused habitat, there is a certification for it. Most organizations that sponsor these certifications are credible but, for many, their primary goal with respect to certifications is for financial support. As a top benefit of being certified, they offer garden signage at an additional cost. Certification involvement varies across organizations with some requiring a thorough assessment of your property and others, quite often, making certification very easy to obtain (maybe too easy).

I encourage you to check them out:

- Was the certification relevant and comprehensive?
- Did you learn anything new with respect to your garden habitat?
- Can you use it to help educate others?



After doing a little research of my own, I continue to promote Penn State's Pollinator Friendly Habitat Certification [Pollinator Habitat Certification - The Center for Pollinator Research](https://www.psu.edu/pollinator-habitat-certification) (psu.edu). The program's strong research foundation provides up-to-date best practices and season-long native plant recommendations that will boost the pollinator value of your property.



With an exclusive focus on Pennsylvania's plants and pollinators, it indeed educates! The application process is among the most rigorous, with criteria that may take home owners a year or more to accomplish, but the reward of a Pennsylvania Certified Pollinator Habitat is well worth the effort. Yes, there is an application fee and once certified, optional yard signage costs, but all proceeds go back into Pennsylvania pollinator research. The garden plaque is beautiful, and it will look especially nice in GCFP member and club-maintained gardens – and it will serve to educate the public.

My local club, Shaler Garden Club, District IX, has a Pollinator Advocacy Committee. This past summer we held a community-wide workshop that covered the basics of a pollinator garden. We used the PA certification application as a guide for the workshop with speakers highlighting components of the certification process. Participants were very engaged and, even if they chose not to obtain certification, the workshop provided a solid foundation for good gardening practices going forward. Members whose gardens are certified are awarded a special pin acknowledging this achievement. We also feature exceptional pollinator gardens in our club's newsletter along with articles about pollinators, plants and best gardening practices.

Our National Garden Clubs President, Brenda Moore, is also encouraging us to support our pollinators. As part of NGC's Plant America Program, she has created the [National Garden Clubs Pollinator Garden Certification Program](https://www.ngc.org/PlantAmerica). I recently completed the application and was pleased to see that the process seeks specific information on how we provide food, water, shelter and sustainable gardening practices. This certification is one that we can all support and work to accomplish. Let's be sure to give recognition to club members who earn NGC Pollinator Garden Certification.



Yes, there are a lot of certifications out there, and certification by any credible organization is worthwhile. My preference is for those that serve to educate and challenge my gardening practices in support of our native pollinators. Do a little of your own research and decide what is best for you.

Until next time, you can find me in the garden, ~ Leslie

HORTICULTURE THERAPY

Maryann DeSanto, Chair

Horticulture Therapy visits have slowly resumed in most Districts. Club Horticulture Therapy Chairs have shared their latest ideas for memorable visits, and I, in turn, forward their photos and ideas to all the clubs.

Nursing homes were the last to remove their restrictions on visiting, so clubs used creative ideas to let residents know they were not forgotten. Members of one club planted succulents and made arrangements to deliver them to the facilities; many wrote holiday cards. Another club decorated over 100 Christmas mugs that were taken to various nursing homes and home-bound individuals; 70 of these mugs went to hospice patients.

Clubs that can visit a facility monthly keep their ideas fresh by drawing from seasonal and holiday themes such as cornucopia floral designs, shamrock plants and Easter baskets. Planted bulbs in individual pots are appreciated since the residents can care for them as they watch them grow into beautiful flowers.

A few Garden Club members have taken ideas shared by clubs to use when visiting their own friends and family who may be homebound or in facilities not serviced by local garden clubs.

This summer one club worked with students, instructing them in gardening skills along with floral design. Not only did they complete these projects, but they were encouraged to give away what they made to the needy, community members, and local nursing homes. Connecting youth with the elderly can only be beneficial to both groups.

If a club does not currently participate in Horticulture Therapy, I encourage thinking about incorporating this most rewarding outreach program. Garden club members appreciate the health and well-being gained from gardens and fresh flowers, and can share their love of horticulture with others for a most rewarding experience.

~ Maryann

Club News

Great Meadows Garden Club, District X, hosted a very successful community event, the Alice in Wonderland Flower Show and Mad Hatter's Tea Party. This flower show was different because it was designed to include the whole family. Guests entered by literally going "down the rabbit hole" and found themselves in a Wonderland of floral designs, stunning horticulture, expertly made crafts, and of course, a fun tea party. Club members dressed as characters from the book to add a realistic touch to the event. Kids enjoyed a scavenger hunt, puzzles, and hat making, and a photo booth provided fun for friends and the whole family. For the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, club members supplied delightful tea and cookies for everyone.



Kathy Gerke and Kathy Petrucci



Rose Bando, Gretchen Wagner, Bonnie Fazenbaker, Sandy Kulp, Katie Jaros, President Martha Alexander, Kathy Petrucci, Wanda Sherry, and Cherie Beal (floor)

The artwork included an Alice in Wonderland quilt, a tree and Cheshire Cat, a caterpillar on a mushroom, numerous talking flowers, and many other fun displays. The beautiful floral displays were designed around the wonderland theme, and each section depicted some aspect of the story, including such entries as an "unbirthday" party on children's tables, and "down the rabbit hole" fairy gardens. The horticulture and education sections of the show provided information about starting a pollinator garden, wildflowers, home freeze drying, and many great entries.

The youth division of the show included children from a local community center who made teacup gardens and fairy gardens for the competition.

Uwchlan Garden Club, District I, held its biennial flower show on June 8, and it lived up to its name, MAGIC. The creations in the Design and Botanical Arts Divisions were magical indeed and the horticulture was amazing! Most of the entries were from UGC but several other District I garden club members entered as well and helped to make the event one to remember. Several first timers won ribbons and hopefully are hooked!

The reception after the judging was lovely and most of the judges stayed and enjoyed talking with our members. The pictures of our show speak volumes about the talent and growers we have in our club. Congratulations to all!



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Trex® is proud to sponsor local recycling programs in communities throughout the country. If your team can collect more than 1,000 pounds of soft film plastics and packaging in a 12-month span, we will award a Trex® furniture bench to your organization.

How does the challenge work?

- Register on NexTrex.com to obtain access to the Trex Portal
- Determine a 12-month collection time period
- Collect a minimum of 1,000 lbs.
- Report recycling totals at mytrex.com

More Info: Nextrex.com



DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Note: Not the water bottles themselves, just the outside case wrapper

RECYCLING POSTER

Program will not be discontinued in December as reported at the October Board Meeting.

RECYCLE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS TO HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

District News

DISTRICT I - Nancy Cuttic

At the NGC Convention in May at the Greenbrier Resort in WV, Uwchlan Garden Club member **Sharon Richardson** was awarded the Member Award of Honor award for the CAR-SGC Region.

In June, over 50 members honored our presidents at the Stroud Water Research Center for a luncheon, informative presentation, and tour of the center. We welcomed members from our two newest clubs.

At our 68th Annual Meeting, Luncheon, and Awards Presentation that was held on September 13 at the Kennett Square Country Club, we were delighted to have in attendance our GCFP Officers. Hosted by Spade and Trowel Club, it featured a delicious lunch, fabulous raffles, and an impressive landscape architect speaker.

Twenty-six Laurels were awarded. Our Forget Me Not honoree was **Linda Horner** of Elverson GC. Three Exceptional Horticulturists were honored: **Ann Bryce** of Spade and Trowel Club, **Beth MacMillan** of Four Seasons GC and **Pam Walsh** of Uwchlan GC. The District I Director Special Recognition Award went to **Sharon Richardson** of Uwchlan GC and **Marilyn Small** of Wayne Woods GC for their outstanding contributions to the District.

On October 19, **The Country Gardeners** held a High Tea at the Temenos Retreat Center. Guests were treated to a delicious 3-course, high-tea luncheon, with incredible raffles.

Six members of District I attended the CAR-SGC Conference held in Corning, NY October 23-25. Several participated in a pumpkin glassblowing workshop, a tour of Corning Glass, and several outstanding programs and presenters.

On November 9, our district will gather for a business meeting and Thanksgiving Floral Design Challenge. Participants will be given the same materials to compete in creating a floral design.

~ Nancy



District I Flower Show School IV Attendees

F: Sharon Richardson, Nancy Cuttic, Terry Miller; B: Maryann DeSanto, Jan Coppola, Denise Klein, Chris Tarlecki, Pam Walsh, Carrie Schreffler, Wendy Fox; Missing: Kate Savensky

DISTRICT X - Deborah Davis

District X held its annual meeting on September 8, 2023 at South Hills Country Club, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with honored guests GCFP President **Leeanna Ryba**, GCFP First Vice President **Pat Wolanski**, and GCFP Second Vice President **Tonya Young** in attendance. Eighty-six people were registered for the event.

A welcome was given by **District X Director Deborah Davis**. District X Awards were presented by **Grace Mitchell** to:

Garden Club of Munhall
Giant Oaks Garden Club
Great Meadows Garden Club
Martha Washington Garden Club
Pleasant Hills Garden Club
Town & Country Garden Club
Uniontown Flower Club
Valley Garden Club.

Awarded to District X members were:

37 Tulip Awards for new members
51 Laurel Awards
15 Daffodil Awards
1 Butterfly Award to **Randi Starr** of Giant Oaks GC
1 Forget Me Not Award to **Diane Hughes** of Great Meadows Garden Club
1 Exceptional Horticulturist Award to **Peggy Brown** of Valley Garden Club

Steve Neubauer of Neubauer's Flowers presented a wonderful program on holiday designs. Garden club presidents prepared tri-fold posters about their 2023 activities in lieu of written reports. District X made \$1,003 from basket raffle, 50/50, white elephant sales, and vendors. It also raised \$121 for the Natural Disasters Fund. *~ Deb*



L-R: Assistant District X Director Wanda Sherry, District X Director Deborah Davis, GCFP President Leeanna Ryba, GCFP 1st Vice President Pat Wolanski, and GCFP 2nd Vice President Tonya Young.



rhs.org

GCFP TRIP TO ENGLAND

and the



RHS

Chelsea Flower Show

We are looking forward to the [Chelsea Flower Show](#) in late May, 2024. The itinerary and trip information can be found at grouptoursite.com/gcfp. Space is limited to 38 people.

England has a rich historical and horticultural history. You'll have the opportunity to see the sights of London as well as visit the Cotswolds. The itinerary includes Sissinghurst, Windsor Castle, Hidcote, the Eden Project, and much more.

Our GCFP Trip Itinerary to England was built around attending the Chelsea Flower Show, so I thought it would be fun to share a few fun facts about the Chelsea Flower Show compliments of housebeautiful.com

- *The Chelsea Flower show is arguably one of the oldest (1862) and most prestigious Flower Shows in the world.*
- *Organized by the [Royal Horticultural Society \(RHS\)](#), the show has been held on the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London every year since 1913, apart from gaps during the two World Wars.*
- *It wasn't always called the Chelsea Flower Show. It was first called the RHS Great Spring Show in 1862 after launching in a large tent at the now-vanished RHS garden in Kensington.*

Between 1888 and 1911, it was held in the Temple Gardens on the banks of the Thames before moving to its current site at Royal Hospital Chelsea in 1913.

- *It is NOT the biggest flower show. It may be the most prestigious, but it is not Britain's largest flower show – that accolade actually goes to the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, previously named the RHS [Hampton Court Palace Flower Show](#).*
- *It takes a little less than 3 weeks to build the show. Show Gardens at Chelsea are built from scratch in 19 days and dismantled in five days, and over 2,000 tons of earth are moved in preparation for the show.*

RHS ambassador and garden designer, [Jamie Butterworth](#), once described Chelsea as "the World Cup of gardening," explaining: "love the pressure, the adrenaline. You work for as long as you can, as hard as you can, then you go to the pub afterwards."

If you have any questions, contact me sharonrichardson22@gmail.com

Looking forward to tipping a pint with you!

~ Sharon Richardson

DISTRICT ZOOM MEETINGS

Mark these dates to Zoom and Learn with the Districts.

November 1 - 6:30 p.m.
District I - England Trip

December 12 - 7 p.m.
District IV - Hydroponics

January 17 - 7 p.m.
District V - Flower Pounding

Zoom link will be emailed closer to the date.

DONATIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Linda Southerling, Chair

For GCFP scholarships to students who plan to further their education in agriculture-related fields.

Donations:

Burrellton Garden Club
Butler Garden Club
Heritage Garden Club
Wildflower Garden Club



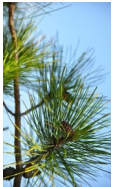
In Memory:

Anne Collier
by Sharon Brown
Gladys Dapp
by Angela Raitano
by Sharon Brown

PENNY PINES

Barb Andrus, Chair

Donations stay in Pennsylvania for special projects or to help reforest areas in the Allegheny National Forest.



General Donations:

The Garden Club of Johnstown

In Memory of:

Irene Heller and Donna L. Schultz
by Bethlehem Garden Club

BOOK OF RECOGNITION

Joyce Hoek, Chair

These donations give special recognition to club members and help support general operating expenses of GCFP.

In Memory of

Dr. Dorothy Gish	Fern Oram
Gwendolyn Harper	Linda Peiffer
Anne Keck	Marie Stolz
Ann Morris Markley	
by Penn Cumberland Garden Club	

Gladys Dapp
by Rosalie Miller

Shirley McCord
Helen Moyer
Quillma Beecher
by South Schuylkill Garden Club

Nancy Bittinger
by Hanover Garden Club

Brigitte Muller
by Green Thumb Garden Club District IV



NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Jan Olsen, Chair

An excellent way to honor a special person – for a retiring club officer, a birthday, anniversary, holiday gift, or just for you.

CAR-SGC

Judy Jackson, Bedford County Garden Club,
District VI

There are three types of life memberships available to all garden club members. They are GCFP (state), CAR-SGC (regional) and NGC (national).

The largest portion of the funds collected from these life memberships helps provide for the scholarship given annually by these garden club groups. The GCFP life membership includes a pin, as does CAR-SGC life membership. The NGC, however, has a pin available for purchase from their catalog if desired. ~ Jan

THE SAGE AND ROSES FUND

Vivian Abel, Chair

The Sage and Roses Fund was created in 2002 by our own **Lois Shuster**, former NGC President, to provide funding for new Blue Star Memorial Markers and maintenance of existing markers that are in need of repair or restoration.

During Lois' presidency, email was a new way of communicating. Lois came up with a plan in which garden club members would send email greeting cards, thereby eliminating the cost of postage (currently 66¢ each). They would then donate whatever they saved in postage to the Sage and Roses Fund.

The email part of the plan has been largely forgotten through the years; however, GCFP Past President **Sheila Croushore** revived it when her term ended this year. She sent her GCFP Board members thank you notes for their service by email. She then sent a generous donation to the Sage and Roses Fund.

Donations may be sent to: Vivian Abel
200 Marticville Road
Lancaster, PA 17603

Checks should be made payable to GCFP and "Sage and Roses Fund" should be written on the memo line. All donations are appreciated. ~ Vivian



2023 KEYSTONE EVENTS

RADLEY RUN GARDEN AND SOCIAL CLUB will hold its 49th Holiday Luncheon and Fashion Show on **Thursday, November 30**, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Radley Run Country Club, 1100 Country Club Road, West Chester, PA. Tickets are \$55 and are available via US Mail. See the [Holiday Luncheon Fashion Show](#) website for more information and the reservation form.

GETTYSBURG GARDEN CLUB'S annual Christmas Greens and Gourmet Gifts Sale occurs **Saturday, December 2**, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., or until everything is sold. The sale is at the Gettysburg Fire Hall, 35 North Stratton Street. Proceeds benefit the Lincoln Square Flower Gardens and scholarships for Adams County students majoring in horticulture-related fields. Cash, credit card, or check are accepted for purchases. Contact Lynne Hershey, 551-427-5248, or visit the Gettysburg Garden Club website gettysburggardenclub.org for additional details.

NORRISTOWN GARDEN CLUB presents their 73rd Holiday House Tour on **Friday, December 8**, from 10 AM to 8 PM. The five homes will be in the Plymouth Meeting/Lafayette Hill area. Tickets are \$35 and will be available on October 1 via PayPal or US Mail. See the website, norristowngardenclub.org for information.

GCFP 2024 CALENDAR

April 7-9 GCFP Convention Doubletree Resort by Hilton Hotel, Lancaster, PA
June 10-11 GCFP BOD Meeting, Wyndham Gardens, Boalsburg, PA

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

August 29	District V	September 6	District VII
	30 District VI		9 District II/III
September 3	District VIII		10 District I
	4 District X		11 District XI
	5 District IX		12 District IV



October 7-8 GCFP BOD Meeting, Wyndham Gardens, Boalsburg, PA
November 15 America Recycles Day

DEADLINES FOR THE KG ONLINE NEWSLETTER

May 1 Issue - April 15 July 1 Issue - June 15 Nov. 1 issue - October 15

(Please mark your calendar)

State "KG ONLINE Submission" in the subject line when submitting articles.

Marilyn Small, GCFPKGOnline@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements.

GCFP HEADQUARTERS

GCFPVicePresident1@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL PROOFREADERS

Marilyn Backus, Jane Dodson, Angela McDonnell,
Judy Warn, Karen Wychock, and Dorothy Yard