

GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

District I

*The First Bloom*

A quarterly publication of  
GCFP District I  
Spring 2024

[fineartamerica.com](http://fineartamerica.com)

# The First Bloom

SPRING 2024

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All District I members are encouraged to submit a gardening article, personal gardening awards or other pertinent information to share with others.

Editor: [Marilyn Small](#)

**Deadline Dates for Submission:** Summer Issue July 15  
Fall Issue October 15  
Winter Issue January 15  
Spring Issue April 15

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP)  
Central Atlantic Region - SGC (CAR-SGC)



### DISTRICT I OFFICERS

DIRECTOR

Nancy Cuttic

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Pam Walsh

TREASURER

Eleanor Tickner

RECORDING SECRETARY

Louise Sheehan

### CLUBS and PRESIDENTS

GC OF BALA CYNWYD

Sharon Fullerton

THE COUNTRY GARDENERS

Alexandra Brock

COVERED BRIDGE GC

Kathleen Tauber

ELVERSON GC

Carol Simonetti

FOUR SEASONS GC OF  
KENNETT SQUARE

Mary Ann Hanagan

RADLEY RUN GARDEN &  
SOCIAL CLUB

Ellen Barron

SPADE & TROWEL CLUB

Beth Vinyard

THE GC OF SPRINGFIELD

Louise Sheehan

UWCHLAN GC

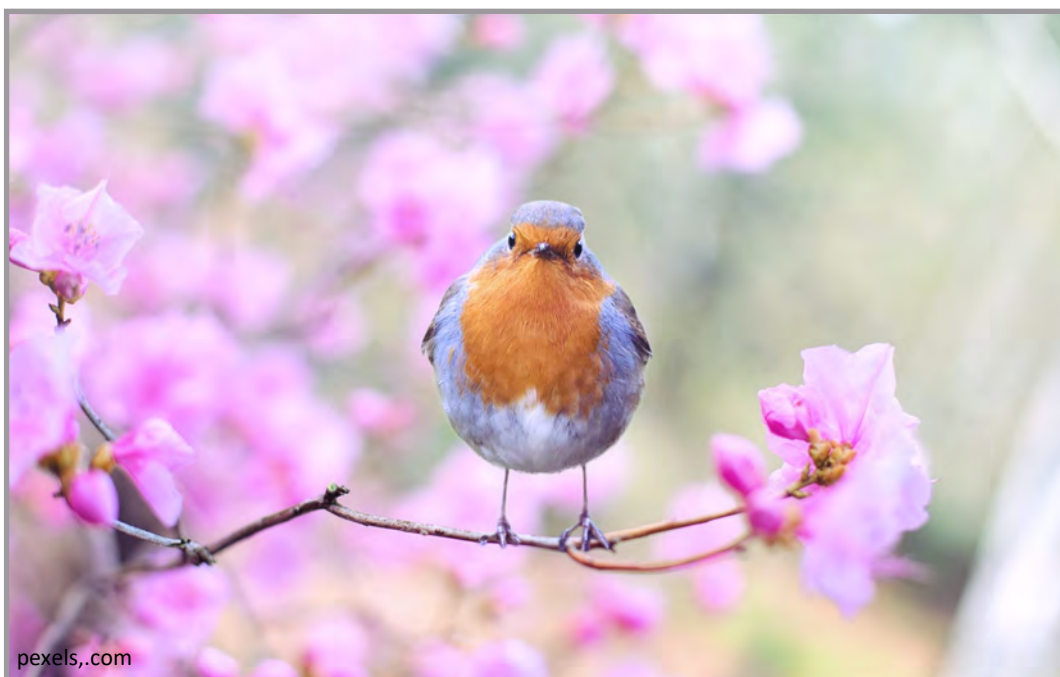
Pam Walsh

VILLANOVA GC

Laurie McGrath

WAYNE WOODS GC

Colleen Gassert





*“Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil.”*

~ Reginald Heber

## Nancy's News

Flower pots and large containers are my favorites to plant. Are you a flower bed gardener, a vegetable gardener, or perhaps a rock garden aficionado? Whatever is your pleasure, the fun begins now as we plan and plant. Several years back, I did an oil painting of my flowerpots on my deck that I am sharing with you. I hope that it will get you excited about the possibilities at your house.

Several clubs and members of District I participated in the always amazing **Philadelphia Flower Show** this past March and were quite successful **winning top awards**. They created amazing entries and were rewarded for their creativity, imagination, and green thumbs. Congratulations!

Forty members of District I attended the incredible **GCFP Annual Convention in Lancaster** in April. The three-day convention with a Lancaster County flair featured speakers from the **National Arboretum, PHS, and Longwood Gardens** among others. District I members did some fun shopping at the vendor booths, and on Monday, each attendee was given protective eyewear to view the solar eclipse. That was a first for any convention! Next year's convention, **“A Gardening Revolution,”** will be held in King of Prussia.

Several clubs will be changing leadership this June. Club Presidents should be sure that this information **is reported to the GCFP data base manager** via [downloadable forms](#) on the GCFP website.

Everyone is invited to the **Presidents' Luncheon on June 7 at Welkinweir** in Chester County. The district covers the cost of lunch for all **current Presidents as of June 7** as a way of honoring them for their service.

Many of the clubs honor members who have passed away with a donation to **Penny Pines**, which supports projects in the PA Allegheny Forest. However, there are no projects in the foreseeable future so the Federation has strongly urged that donations be made to the **GCFP Scholarship Fund** instead. Information on the [scholarship program](#) can be found on the GCFP website. The 13 winners from this year's program will be published in the upcoming **Keystone Gardener** online edition.

Wishing you sunny skies and happy planting!

~ Nancy



Oil, 24 x 30

## GCFP 2024 CONVENTION RECAP

District I represented with **40** members from **8** different clubs at the 2024 GCFP Convention in Lancaster. Whether members attended the full convention or just special sessions and individual meals, they were treated to some excellent speakers/presenters on a wide variety of topics.

It was exciting for some individuals and clubs to be present for award presentations; you can see on Page 5 the listing of the 23 awards won in our District.

### Petals and Patchwork Flower Show Results

**Nancy Cuttic** - Wayne Woods and Uwchlan GCs

- 1st - Succulents/Cacti
- 1st - Helleborus Orientalis
- 1st and Arboreal Award - Service Berry Branch
- 2nd - Petite Line Design

**Terry Miller** - Uwchlan Garden Club

- 1st - Narcissus
- 1st - Anemone
- 1st - Primula
- 1st - Muscari
- 1st - Narcissus "Pheasant's Eye"
- 2nd - Narcissus
- 2nd - Hyacinth
- HM - Helleborus
- HM - Reflective Design

**Sharon Richardson** - Uwchlan Garden Club

- 2nd - Petite Angular (90+)
- 3rd - Petite Line Design

**Marilyn Small** - Wayne Woods Garden Club

- 2nd - Narcissus poeticus
- 2nd - Narcissus Libby Espey's Sir Winston Churchill
- 2nd - Amaryllis Red Lion

**Pam Walsh** - Uwchlan Garden Club

- 1st and Growers Choice - Succulent Dish Garden
- 1st, Collector's Choice, and Horticulture Excellence - Peperomia Collection





The 2023 GCFP Awards were announced at the Convention in Lancaster on April 7-9, 2024.

**District I placed second with the most district awards: 23 awards plus 3 Seed Money Awards.**

CONGRATULATIONS to the following District I individuals and clubs on their GCFP awards:

#### DISTRICT I

- 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter - "The First Bloom"
- 1<sup>st</sup> Digital Media Presentation - "Benefits of Joining a Federated Garden Club"
- 1<sup>st</sup> FD-2 Floral Design District - "Fall Centerpiece Design Challenge"

#### PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

- SHARON RICHARDSON**, Uwchlan Garden Club  
GCFP Tour to England
- MARILYN SMALL**, Wayne Woods Garden Club  
Zoom Awards Presentation

#### 60 YEAR FEDERATED ANNIVERSARY

- Four Seasons Garden Club of Kennett Square

**BONNIE KUSHNERICK**, The Country Gardeners  
GCFP Operation Wildflower

**JANE NYIRI**, The Garden Club of Springfield  
GCFP YW-10 Individual Outstanding Service to Youth

**HELENE REID** - Uwchlan Garden Club  
GCFP Horticulture Achievement Award

**PAM WALSH** - Uwchlan Garden Club  
GCFP Horticulture Excellence Award

#### GARDEN CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD

- 1<sup>st</sup> GCFP Special Recognition Award, Holiday Project - Medium Club  
"Decorating Historic Homes"

#### RADLEY RUN GARDEN AND SOCIAL CLUB

- 1<sup>st</sup> Special Recognition Award - Special Fundraiser for Scholarship - Medium Club

#### UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB

- 1<sup>st</sup> Special Recognition Award, Holiday Project - Large Club - "Christmas Fair"
- 1<sup>st</sup> Special Recognition Award, Plant Sale - Large Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Recognition Award Garden Tour - Large Club

#### WAYNE WOODS GARDEN CLUB

- 1<sup>st</sup> FD-2 Floral Design - Medium Club  
March 2023 "Eco-Friendly Floral Design"
- 1<sup>st</sup> Club Program, Garden Club Member, Flower Arranging - **Gwen Puglisi**, "Eco-Friendly Floral Design"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> FD-2 Floral Design - Medium Club  
Oct. Workshop "Birch Bark Arrangement"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Website - Medium Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Facebook Page - Medium Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Club Program, Garden Club Member, Workshop **Gwen Puglisi**, "Birch Bark Fall Arrangement"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> GCFP Special Recognition State Award  
Medium Club - Holiday Project - Old Roberts Schoolhouse
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Program, Garden Club Member, Workshop - **Ellen McGarrigle**, "Herb Planter"

#### 2024 SEED MONEY

- The Country Gardeners, Garden Club of Springfield
- Wayne Woods Garden Club



**GCFP Awards Page on the GCFP Website**

[pagardenclubs.org](http://pagardenclubs.org)



# PHS PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

## ELVERSON GARDEN CLUB



### Design Classes:

Class 156: "Open for Business"

Club Committee Chairs: **Lisa Cherpanich**, and **Mary Wickerham**

Entry Title: "Upbeat" - **2nd Place, 3rd Place, Class Commendation**

### Arrangement Classes:

Class 121 Miniature Arrangement  
"Ablaze" **3rd** - **Lisa Cherpanich**



### 100 Open platform

**1st** - **Wendy Fox**

PHS Award Outstanding Blue-ribbon of the week in Open Platform



### Photography Classes

Class 197 - "Play" Creative Vegetables  
**3rd** and **Class Commendation** - **Carol Simonetti**

Class 198 - "Gather" - Still Life  
**HM** - **Wendy Fox**

## UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB



### Carrie Scheffler

**1st** - Exhibition Table Entry



### Terry Miller

**2nd** - Botanical Arts Peony Ring



### Maria Jacobs

**3rd** - Petite Niche Design

## BALA CYNWYD GC



**1st** - Miniature Arrangement  
**Sharon Fullerton**

## SPADE AND TROWEL GC



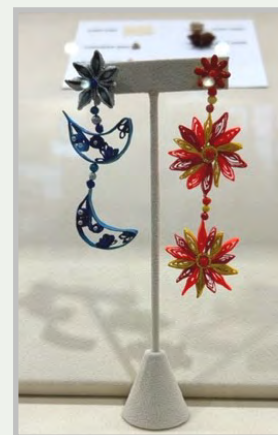
**1st** - Front Door Class

"Front Stoop - Join the Party!"  
Chair: **Heather Nicolas**

## BALA CYNWYD GC



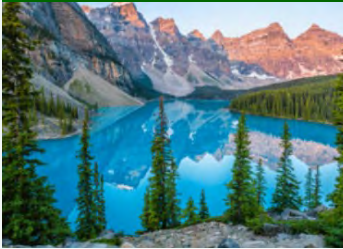
**2nd** - Front Door Class  
Front Stoop



**1st** - Botanical Arts  
**Sharon Fullerton**

# NGC SCHOOLS INFO

## Environmental



## Gardening

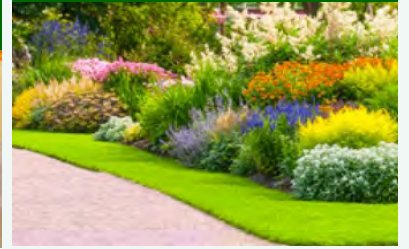


## Flower Show

Become a Flower Show Judge!



## Landscape Design



For more detailed info and registration

go to <https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>

## Subscribe to *The National Gardener*

The official publication of National Garden Clubs published quarterly. Subscribe [HERE](#)

# NGC's GRANT and PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Espoma - Organic plant foods and soils

Applications accepted from Oct. 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024

[Apply HERE](#)

### Native Plant and Wildflowers Educational Program

Up to \$500 is available to be used toward an educational program on the subject of native plants and wildflowers.

More Information [HERE](#)

### Plant America - Landscape for Wildlife

Have your garden registered as a NGC Certified Wildlife Habitat

More Information [HERE](#)

### Plant America Community Project Grant

Helps enhance and beautify our public areas and community gardens.

More Information [HERE](#)

### PLANT AMERICA, Feed America

Focused on donating produce that NGC's members have harvested from their own gardens.

More Information [HERE](#)

### PLANT AMERICA - Plant for Pollinators

Support birds, bees, and other insects. Certify your pollinator garden.

More Information [HERE](#)

### Natural Disaster Grant

Apply for garden-related restoration efforts to replant parks, and municipal gardens due to natural disasters.

More Information [HERE](#)

### Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant

Up to \$200 is available for projects that include educational materials on the vital role pollinators play in nature and youth involvement

More Info [HERE](#)



# 2024 NGC CONVENTION

## "Colorado the Beautiful"

June 2 - 5, 2024

The Westin Westminster  
Westminster, Colorado

[CONVENTION DETAILS HERE](#)



# CLUB NEWS



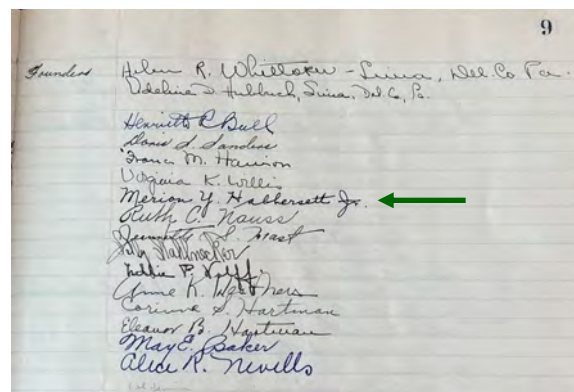
## THE COUNTRY GARDENERS - Alex Brock (outgoing president)

### Country Gardeners celebrate their 75th Anniversary!

On February 16, 1949, the organizational committee meeting of the "County Gardeners" was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Whittaker in Lima, Pennsylvania. The first official meeting was held on March 2, 1949. After a probation period, the club was federated in 1951. The original objective of our club was "To stimulate the love and knowledge of gardening amateurs; to aid in the protection of native trees, plants and birds, and to encourage good civic planting." Our club is proud to continue these quite important objectives to this day!

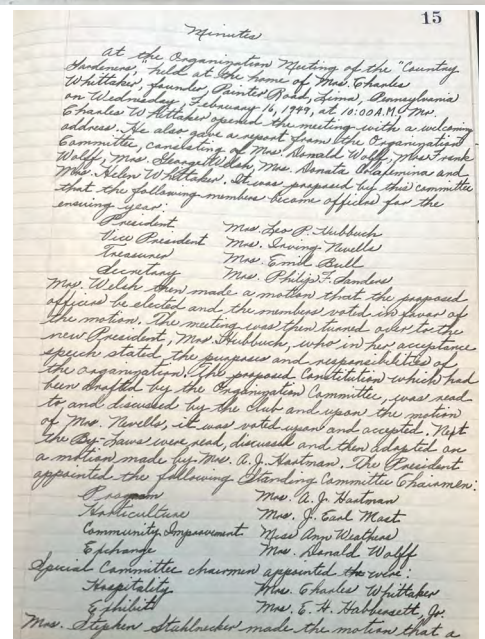
Pages from our ledger with founding members' signatures in our original ledger from 1949.

Our first officers were: President: Mrs. Leo P. Hubbuch  
Vice President: Mrs. Irving Nevells  
Treasurer: Mrs. Emil Bull  
Secretary: Mrs. Phillips F. Sanders



Note the use of their husband's names as their official names in this women's club. Fortunately times have changed! Note that our current member **Caroline Habbersett** is indeed a descendent of the founding member **Merion Y. Habbersett!**

The Country Gardeners' first meeting included the plan to attend the Philadelphia Flower Show, Strawbridge and Clothier's table settings, and Wanamakers' Rose Show. The club immediately formed ties with Scott Arboretum, Longwood Gardens, and Tyler (Painter) Arboretum, which lead to fruitful and close collaboration for 75 years!

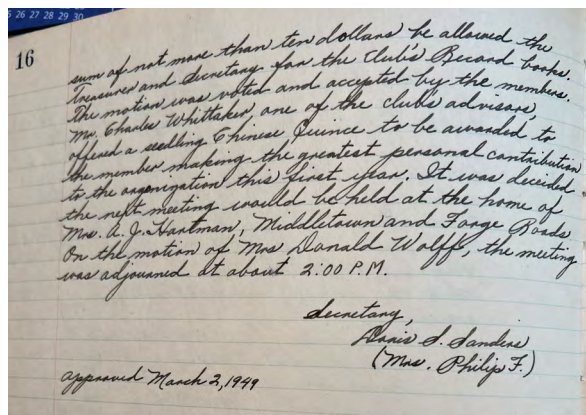


Reading through the handwritten minutes, it is apparent how forward thinking these founding members were. From their desire to foster an interest in native plants, supporting local gardens and arboretums, valuing social and civic engagement in the community, to their interest in horticulture, Ikebana, and the use of native plants in garden design.

Through the years, The Country Gardeners were very successful in participating in the Media, Philadelphia, and Longwood Garden Flower shows. From the start, our club supported Scott and Tyler Arboretums and later the PHS. They were a major contributor to local school garden designs, and played a leading role in the local community. Our membership is proud to follow in those footsteps.

Our wish for the next 25 years is that our club can continue to inspire others to become stewards of our beautiful Delaware County, by fostering an interest in lifelong learning and hands-on experiences with nature.

Best wishes to our fellow garden clubs on their journey.







## FOUR SEASONS GARDEN CLUB - Tina Burke

A program via zoom was presented in February about the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania. Members learned about the raptor program, which included rehabilitation. Members were able to see an owl, which was rehabbed at the sanctuary, but due to his previous injuries would not be able to be released. Their objective, though, is to rehabilitate raptors and set them free.



Four Seasons Garden Club had their **May meeting** at our new facility, the Kennett Area Senior Center. Members collected photos of their gardens for a presentation "Show Me Your Garden," which was viewed on a smart tv.

On April 5, Four Seasons Garden Club, along with Kennett Collaborative and Spade and Trowel Garden Club planted annuals in the downtown area of Kennett Square. L-R: **Tina Burke, Carol Jameson, Mary Drinker, Ros Fenton, Jo Cotterman** and **Sue Engberg**.

### Upcoming Events

**April 27** - our club will plant **salad bowls with annuals**. Some of these are for members and some will be sold at the May 16 Dining Experience in downtown Kennett Square.

**May 1** - our regular meeting will have a program on "**Irises**" presented by George Hildebrandt.

**May 4** - **Beth MacMillan** will have her **annual spring fling** with members to Amish farms to purchase plants.

**May 4-5** - we will be **helping at Pratt's nursery** in Kennett Square. Proprietor Bill Reynolds' donates 20% of his sales to Kennett Collaborative for multiple plantings in the Kennett downtown barrels.

**May 16** - Dining Experience in downtown Kennett Square. Drop by to **buy some plants** from our experienced gardeners and enjoy the evening.



## GARDEN CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD - Sharon Fullerton

Happy Spring! Congratulations to the **PHS Flower show team!** Our club won a second-place ribbon for our festive Front Stoop exhibit in Class 167.

**April's meeting**, we welcomed guests Nancy Cuttic and Pam Walsh, and they joined our Origami program where we created a stem, tulip, and butterfly.

On April 11 we visited **Stoneleigh** and had a highly informative tour of the estate and grounds. It was a fun afternoon followed by lunch at Pietro's.

Our **Youth Seed Germination Program** on April 13 was remarkably successful, and we received rave reviews from the children and parents. They planted lima beans in a clear plastic bag to watch the seed's progress and made a greenhouse out of a milk gallon jug with planted marigold seeds inside. They were also given rosemary plants to grow for a class in our fall flower show.

Our **May meeting** is all about **Honeybees and Beekeeping** and on May 9 we travel to **Welkinweir** for another estate and grounds tour followed by a lunch at Ludwigs.

We end our season with a luncheon at the Overbrook Country Club in June.





## THE GARDEN CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD - Louise Sheehan

**At our January meeting**, two of our club members, who are also Master Gardeners, presented a program entitled *Houseplant for Health and Happiness*. The members talked about the care, propagation, diseases and

treatments, and their benefits to the environment and our well-being. The members were encouraged to ask questions, and they were treated to a gift – a houseplant!

**In February**, our guest speaker was Maria Rodale, who is a member of the board of Rodale Institute and author of *Love, Nature, Magic*. Maria talked about her interactions with plants, animals, and insects and she recounted how those conversations allowed her to view nature in a more respectful way. Part of her presentation included reading excerpts from her book.

Several of our club members visited a nursing home and helped the residents create Valentine flower arrangements.

**Our March meeting** combined flower pressing and a mini-flower show. Members were invited to find their favorite flowers, press them at home, and bring them to the meeting where they would use them to create note cards and/or bookmarks. Following the activity, our mini-flower show displayed a variety of perennials, flowering bulbs and branches, and several underwater designs. Members of our Design Committee provided helpful critiques on the displays.

As part of our **Hort Therapy Program**, a number of our club members made flower arrangements, which were transported to the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia. The arrangements were displayed in various high-trafficked area for all to see.



## COVERED BRIDGE GARDEN CLUB - Kathleen Tauber

**JANUARY – Honeybees** - The good the bad and the ugly!

A representative of the local Chester County Beekeepers Association filled us in on the joys and hazards of beekeeping as a hobby and how to

identify a swarm of bees which could take up residence in your home. Our design theme was “Earthy Bouquet,” which incorporated fruits or vegetables into an arrangement.



**FEBRUARY – Potted Succulents Make and Take**

Members **Gayle Slaybough** and **Sue Strong** guided us in planting multiple succulents in an especially attractive container pot ready to take home and display indoors or outside. No design theme for this meeting as we were doing this craft.

**MARCH – A New Take on Container Gardening**

Krystal Snyder from Penn State’s SE Agricultural Research and Extension Center presented a program explaining how certain plants do well together based on factors other than their appearance such as needs for soil ph, fertilizer and

amounts of sunlight in the pot’s location. “O Solo Mio” was the exhibit theme for presenting a single flower in an interesting and unique way. Guests included our District Director Nancy Cuttic, who explained to us the advantages we receive as a member club of the GCFP.



- Carol Simonetti

In March, 19 members of the Elverson Garden Club participated in the Philadelphia Flower Show. Members chaired committees, exhibited, and worked in the Horticulture Court.

The Dettlerline Hall Gardening Committee met twice at the Hall Gardens for spring clean-up.

We were delighted to welcome **District Director, Nancy Cuttic** to our April meeting. Nancy thoughtfully shared information key to understanding the mechanics of the GCFP Thank you, Nancy! At the same meeting, Jean McCarney, Co-Founder of Rock Hollow Woods Environmental Education Center talked with us about the history, mission, and goals of this local non-profit. As a result, the club formed an exploratory committee to determine the feasibility of making a commitment to renovate and maintain one of their native plant gardens. The Committee will visit the sight in May and report back to the club.



For the second year, the club will be participating in the April 27<sup>th</sup> Chester County Parks System, “Sheep and Wool” Day held at Springton Manor Farm, Glenmore. PA. Members are gathering mainly native plants from our gardens to sell to the visitors while also educating attendees on the value and variety of native plants



locally available. We will also be sharing our crowd-pleasing flower wooden frame for colorful photo ops.

We are implementing our goal to offer more garden visits and specialized workshops. This month we featured “For the Love of Groundcovers” at the Manada Conservancy in Hershey, PA.

For the fifth consecutive year, members competed in the Annual Southeastern PA Orchid Show, Orchid Design Competition at the Oaks Expo Center on April 4. **Laura Alden** received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbon, and everyone had fun competing. Thank you, **Paul Sheetz** for the invitation.

## DISTRICT I PRESIDENTS’ LUNCHEON

Friday, June 7, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Welkinweir, 1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown

Menu: Assorted wraps and sandwiches, salad, chips, and dessert

Cost: \$35 Presidents as of June 7 are Guests of District I

We will receive a guided tour of Welkinweir after the luncheon.





Radley Run  
Garden & Social Club

## RADLEY RUN GARDEN and SOCIAL CLUB

- Ellen Barron

Part of our stated mission is to advance the study of horticulture. Our **Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show** in November was attended by over 200 guests and netted **\$15,000 for scholarships**. All of our members contributed in some way to that effort. Members solicited sponsors, made gift baskets, and organized the fashion show and luncheon. One group made centerpieces using greens from our Country Club property.

**In January** we agreed to donate \$5,000 scholarships to local students attending these schools and studying horticulture: Penn State, West Chester U., and Williamson College of the Trades.

**At our February meeting**, our guest speaker was Carol Spears, RN, who spoke about Medicare Fraud. Members also enjoyed a lecture about roses and made a floral "take home."

**At our March** meeting, we welcomed Carla McKinney from C.J. Mushroom Co., who spoke about the mushroom industry in Kennett Square. Our own Chef Rob demonstrated how to make a delicious appetizer with mushrooms. We had a "trunk swap," where we shared gardening items and small plants with other members. On March 12, members enjoyed a field trip to Rockwood Park and Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. On March 21, we welcomed our new members with a "meet and greet" luncheon at the home of our President, Ellen Barron.



**At our April meeting**, our guest speaker was Jim Christ, who discussed the history of the Paoli Battlefield. There was also a presentation about the chemical makeup of tulips and daffodils. Members were surveyed to see what topics they would like discussed, as we plan for the coming year. On April 16, our members visited the horticulture program at Williamson College of the Trades, one of our scholarship recipients.

**At our May** closing meeting and luncheon, we will install our newly elected officers. On May 9, members will be visiting Chanticleer Gardens.

Our trip in March was to the Rockwood Historic House and Garden in Wilmington. Within its parklike setting is a walled garden, which by March showed signs of spring bulbs.





## SPADE AND TROWEL CLUB - Beth Vinyard

The Spade and Trowel Club **started the year** with an informative presentation about Dahlia Breeding, presented by LeeAnn Huber, owner Coseytown Flowers. Then in **February**, our members enjoyed an herbal workshop, presented by Paula Billig of Paula's Wellness, a Movement, Herbal, Pelvic Floor Holistic Body Coach.

**In March**, our members participated in a workshop for our upcoming **In-House Flower Show**, "Who's in my Garden" (an NGC small-standard flower show) being held for our members and associate members. For each design class, the class advisor gave an overview of the design type including what judges look for, principles and elements of design, design hints and tips and how to document the design's plant materials for the exhibit. In addition, our horticulture advisor reviewed the rules for entry in Horticulture and used plant material to illustrate classification considerations.

The Spade and Trowel Club and various members of the club have been exhibiting in the **PHS Philadelphia Flower Show** (PFS) for years. Chaired by **Heather Nicholas**, the PFS committee entered the Front Door class at the 2024 PFS for the first time: "Front Stoop - Join the Party!" The club is thrilled to have won the Blue Ribbon.



Heather Nicholas, Jen Madden, Sue Clayton, Sandy Yeatman, Kris Qualls. Not pictured: Diane Mateson, Sandy Retzlaff

We were also honored to receive the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society **Gardening for the Greater Good Award**.



## VILLANOVA GARDEN CLUB - Laurie McGrath

The Villanova Garden Club hosted the following events in February and March:

- An Elements of Floral Design class at StudioFlora in Berwyn.
- A cooking demonstration by Susanna Foo on Chinese Herbs and Spices held at Valley Forge Flowers in Strafford.

At the floral design class, we made small arrangements working with line, form, space, texture/pattern, color, size and fragrance. Unfortunately the attendance was low due to the time of year with many members away enjoying warm weather.

**Susanna Foo**, who is a James Beard award winner and former chef and owner of several restaurants and member of our club, conducted a demonstration on making Braised Wuxi Beef Short Ribs and her favorite Bacon Fried Rice. Having recently been in China, she brought with her herbs and spices for this demonstration and to share with the large group of attendees.

District Director **Nancy Cuttic** and Assistant District Director **Pamela Walsh** were guests at this demo and tasting.





## UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB - Pam Walsh

Uwchlan Garden Club has hosted several remarkable speakers at our January, February, and March monthly meetings.

Steve Van Valin spoke on "Plants with Multi-Seasonal Interests." He focused on how to incorporate interest in your gardens year round through planning and trial and error. His PowerPoint included photos of his lush gardens that we hope to visit this summer.



Our **February** meeting was "Let's Talk Lavender" by Amy Saha. Many of us wore lavender and our luncheon featured lavender in food, drinks, and centerpieces. Amy and her sister Joanne Vollcker own Mt. Airy Lavender Farm in Coatesville, PA. She told us about their history, how they grow lavender and how they produce products to sell at the farm and online. It is a wonderful place to visit.

Finally, Katy Drinkwater Bieniosek presented "Centerpieces." She showed us several tricks of the trade as she created gorgeous centerpieces for us to raffle.

Preparations have begun for one of our big fundraiser, our **May Plant Sale**. The primary focus is repotting perennials members have brought from their own gardens. We also sell inside and outside arrangements, succulent gardens, vegetable, herb and annual plants, hanging baskets, flower arrangements, have a **Garden Market** (slightly used garden tools, decorations and odds and ends) and a kids' corner. It is held the day before Mothers' Day, **Saturday, May 11**, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.



There were 18 UGC members who attended the recent GCFP Annual Convention. We were honored to receive several awards:

1<sup>st</sup> Large Club Recognition Award Holiday Project - Christmas Fair

1<sup>st</sup> Large Club Recognition Award - Plant Sale

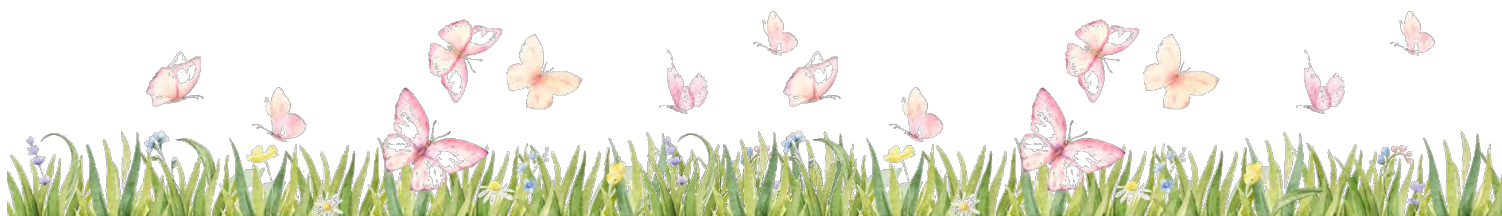
2<sup>nd</sup> Large Club Garden Tour

**Pam Walsh** - Horticulture Excellence Award

**Helene Reid** - Individual Horticulture Achievement Award

**Sharon Richardson** - Presidential Citation for planning the GCFP tour to England's Chelsea Gardens

Several members also participated and won ribbons in the Petals & Patchwork Flower Show held during the convention.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS



### Awards

Marilyn Small, Wayne Woods GC

All of the 2023 awards were announced at the Convention in April. If your club received an award, Congratulations! You can get your certificates from District Director Nancy Cuttic.

If your club did not enter any applications for awards and would like to do so next year, please contact me for information and help. In the meantime, you can look over the [GCFP Awards Manual](#) and other documents and accompanying information on the GCFP Website under "Awards."

**One more upcoming award** is President Leeanna Ryba's **Seeds of Service President's Project Award**. Check details, eligibility, and requirements [HERE](#). Deadline is **June 15, 2024**, to District Director Nancy Cuttic.

And it's not too soon to be considering your individual awards that will be due this **August 1**. Descriptions in the GCFP [Awards Manual](#) on the GCFP Website.

1. **District Laurels** - to Nancy Cuttic (Page 9)
2. **District Forget Me Not** Honorary Award - to Nancy Cuttic (Page 10)
3. **District Exceptional Horticulturist** to Joanne Celaschi celaschi@hotmail.com (Page 8)

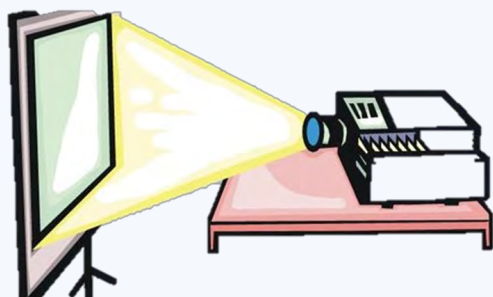
Winners of these three awards will be announced at the District I Annual Meeting and Luncheon this year on September 10.

If you have any questions about awards, please contact me [mmsmall@comcast.net](mailto:mmsmall@comcast.net).

### DID YOU KNOW?

District I owns a projector for use within the district for presentations.

Contact Nancy Cuttic, District Director  
[ncuttic@comcast.net](mailto:ncuttic@comcast.net)



### Horticulture

Sharon Richardson, Uwchlan GC



This is a special kind of plant sale that is a wonderful collection of specially crafted herbs that has been ongoing for about 85 years, rain or shine.

I've never seen anything like it -- they use an open field in Historic Yellow Springs, and they line the field with tables in a rectangle. Three sides of the rectangle have herbs in alphabetical order. They have several varieties of most of the herbs. One year I was assigned the Rosemary plants -- there were a dozen varieties. Some were sprawling ground covers and some were upright. There were people who would come to the table for specific ones: "My husband will only use 'Barbecue'," etc.



The most popular herbs have been lavender and basil, so this year there will be ten varieties of each of them.

There are people who stock up on culinary herbs while others are re-stocking their medicinal herbs, etc. People line up for hours waiting for the official opening.

Then in the middle of the field there is another square of tables that will have scented pelargoniums (some people call them geraniums) and many varieties of salvia. Members of the Herb Society have been propagating the pelargoniums for this sale for many years. This year there will be 62 varieties of scented pelargoniums and 43 different salvias.



It is well worth a visit. My advice is to go early with a wagon or basket because they sell out quickly!

Herb Sale Link [HERE](#)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS Continued

### Horticulture Therapy - Bonnie Kushnerick, The Country Gardeners

I hope that everyone has been able to enjoy the spring weather and get out in the garden. It's amazing what the fresh green colors and scents of the season do to brighten your spirit.

HT provides benefits to ourselves and to others, especially those who aren't able to be out in the garden. Here are a couple of ideas.

#### Plant Some New Herbs

Try something new, even if just to add a new scent to your garden. Have you ever tried curry or lemon thyme? Even if you don't end up cooking with these, they are fun to smell the leaves while out in the yard or in a pot on your deck. I've started lovage seeds this year.

#### Eat Something on the Wild Side

Have you ever tried burdock, dandelion greens, mint, sorrel, violets, or wild garlic? Maybe you have some in your yard to add to a spring salad.

**Some Projects with/for Others** - Everyone enjoys the scents of flowers. The Country Gardeners potted "air plants" with the residents at Fair Acres. We also filled sachet bags with lavender and add a purple bow.

The Springfield Garden Club made several fresh floral arrangements for the Ronald McDonald House in Phila. Inclusion of peach blossom branches and dill provided a scent of spring for the families that are staying there.

**Amaryllis** aren't just for Christmas. I found some bulbs on sale in March. Varieties "Cherry Blossom" and "Bridal Veil" have added spring color to the dining table at Brethren Village for over a month.

Check out the [GCFP Horticulture Therapy group page on Facebook](#) for some other ideas to try.



### Environmental - Janet Fassbender, The Country Gardeners

#### Earth Day - Celebrated April 22, 2024



Earth Day was created in 1970 by a US Senator from Wisconsin, [Gaylord Nelson](#), to force the protection of the environment onto the national agenda. At that time, there were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect the environment - no EPA, no Clean Air Act, no Clean Water Act. On that day in 1970, some 20 million Americans participated in demonstrations in various US cities, parks, and auditoriums. This event marks the largest single day protest in human history.

Why was April 22 chosen? The date was selected because it fell between colleges' spring break and final exams! Originally proposed to be a "teach-in" across college campuses, it was later renamed Earth Day.

In 1990, Earth Day became international. Gaylord Nelson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, recognizing his vision. On Earth Day 2016, the critical Paris Agreement for Climate Protection was signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, China, and 120 other countries.



Today, Earth Day is an annual occasion to raise awareness and support for environmental protection. It is observed by millions of people in 190 countries across the world. Let's raise a toast of clean water in honor of Gaylord Nelson!



## District Director's Tour de District I

District I Director **Nancy Cuttic** and Assistant Director **Pam Walsh** continued the tour of district clubs that started last fall with **Country Gardeners**. Information was presented about the benefits of belonging to the GCFP and demystifying the Federation.

- Wearing our spring colors in anticipation of warmer weather at **Radley Run Garden Club**.
- Chinese cooking demo with restaurateur Susanna Foo with **Villanova Garden Club**.
- Enjoying beautiful floral designs and wonderful horticulture at **Elverson Garden Club**.
- A lesson on soil, followed by lunch with members of **Covered Bridge Garden Club**.
- Fun with origami flowers at **Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd**.
- Dinner and new club officer installation at **Four Seasons Garden Club**.



Radley Run GC



GC of Springfield

- Ikebana demonstration with members of **Springfield Garden Club**.
- Learning principles of floral design with Cres Motzi of Longwood Gardens with **Uwchlan Garden Club**.

The month of May will finish the Tour de District I with a visit to **Spade and Trowel Club** for their NGC small standard flower show "Who's In My Garden."



Four Seasons GC



Elverson GC



GC of Bala Cynwyd



Covered Bridge GC



Uwchlan GC



Susanna Foo of Villanova GC

# DISTRICT I FLOWER SHOW AT LONGWOOD GARDENS

The next District I sponsored Flower Show at Longwood Gardens will be held **October 4 - 6, 2024**. This is a change to October based on Longwood's schedule and the predicted grand opening of their fantastic new exhibition spaces.

We have an experienced, dynamic team leading the show:

- Chair: Wendy Fox, Elverson & Uwchlan GCs
- Vice-Chair: Maria Jacobs, Norristown & Uwchlan GCs
- Vice-Chair: Nancy Cuttic, Wayne Woods and Uwchlan GCs
- Past Chair: Janet Fassbender, The Country Gardeners

All clubs in District I are encouraged to not only participate as exhibitors, but with the many opportunities to volunteer during the show.

For questions about Horticulture and Design contact:

- Horticulture Chair: Robert Grenfell [roberthgrenfelljr@gmail.com](mailto:roberthgrenfelljr@gmail.com)
- Design Coordinator: Pam Walsh [pamyoga@aol.com](mailto:pamyoga@aol.com)

We look forward to your involvement in an exciting and challenging show. Questions may be directed to

Wendy Fox, [ladyfox@me.com](mailto:ladyfox@me.com)



*"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."*

~ Margaret Atwood



The Middletown Library in Media is having a **seed fundraiser** in May. They offer wonderful free programs for children and adults.

If you or your club have extra seeds and would like to donate them to the library for some of their programs, you can mail them to:

Laura Kuchmay  
 Adult Services Librarian  
 Middletown Free Library  
 464 S. Old Middletown Road, Suite 3  
 Media, PA 17063



# DISTRICT I MEETINGS

## FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024, 11 AM



Business Meeting and Presidents' Luncheon  
Presidents as of June 7 are Guests of the District  
Welkinweir, 1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown



## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, 9 AM

Luncheon and Annual Meeting Hosted by Elverson Garden Club  
Theme: "Native Orchid Connection"  
Speaker: Robert (Bob) Sprague, "Enigmatic Orchids of Pennsylvania"  
a Douglassville, PA resident, native orchid expert, and avid orchid grower  
The Farmhouse at People's Light, 39 Conestoga Road, Malvern

### BIRTH MONTH FLOWERS



May  
Hawthorne



June  
Rose



July  
Water lily

etsy.com

## KIDS' CORNER



WORLD BEE DAY KIDS' RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES [HERE](#)



Several Kids Gardening Grants are available. More info on grants [HERE](#).

Resources, Activities and More! [Kidsgardening.org](http://Kidsgardening.org)

Subscribe to a free monthly newsletter [HERE](#).



## INAUGURAL DISTRICT I ROAD TRIP Hudson Valley During Peak Leaf Peeping!

**October 15 - 17, 2024** (dates may change by a day or two)

Sharon Richardson, Uwchlan Garden Club

One of my absolute favorite reasons for living in the Mid-Atlantic states is being able to experience our beautifully distinct seasons, and nothing shows our region off better than our fall foliage! If you'd like to see the **Hudson Valley** in all it's glory, join me on a bus trip to some of the high points.

### Brief Itinerary:

**Day 1:** Depart at 8 a.m. and head to **Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate**. We'll lunch on our own in Sleepy Hollow and then proceed to **Stonecrop Gardens**. We'll have a welcome dinner at Shadows on the Hudson and stay in the Hampton Inn in Poughkeepsie. (dinner included)



**Day 2:** Enjoy complimentary breakfast before boarding the bus to the **Vanderbilt Mansion and Gardens in Hyde Park**. We'll lunch at the famous **Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in their Bocuse Restaurant** with a 3-course meal and have a short tour of the Culinary Institute Experience. In the afternoon we'll enjoy a guided tour of **Val-Kill, home of Eleanor Roosevelt**. Afterwards we'll experience the **Walkway Over the Hudson Historic State Park** crossing a 19<sup>th</sup> century railroad bridge transformed into the world's longest elevated pedestrian park. We'll end our day at the **Palace Diner**, a landmark dining establishment since 1981. (breakfast, lunch and dinner included)



**Day 3:** Enjoy complimentary breakfast before checking out of our hotel, headed to **Storm King Art Center**. This sculpture park is vast, and the **Tram Tour** consists of a tram ride around the grounds which includes information about Storm King's history, art and landscape. After our visit, we will have lunch on our own in Montgomery, NY, before proceeding to the **Orange County Arboretum**. The 35 acres and wooded areas feature magnificent raised gardens, cascading water features and a garden that displays tree collections. (breakfast included)



Return approximately 6 p.m.

**All of this splendor will be in the Hudson Valley with the fall foliage in peak season!**

### Logistics:

- The tour price estimate is \$1,000/person for a double room
- Single room estimate is \$1,211
- Triple room estimate is \$940/person
- Meals included are: 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, and 1 lunch
- The activities allow for wheelchair access.
- For further information and/or to register for the trip, please contact **Rose O'Brien at AAA Mid-Atlantic at 610-235-2525**. Participant minimum is 25 passengers.



## BONNIE KEEN, Wayne Woods Garden Club is District I's Backyard Bird Watch Word Search Winner

Bonnie received a \$20 gift card to Wild Birds Unlimited.



### Fun Facts About American Robins



allaboutbirds.org  
Photo: Tony Nastaso

Although robins are considered harbingers of spring, many spend the whole winter in their breeding range. But because they spend less time in your yard, you're much less likely to see them unless you provide fruit. Robins eat a lot of fruit in the fall and winter.

Robins eat different types of food depending on the time of day: more earthworms in the morning and more fruit later in the day. Because the robin forages largely on lawns, it is vulnerable to pesticide poisoning and can be an important indicator of chemical pollution.

Females are paler than males and have more white on the belly. May Western robins are paler in general than those in the East.

An American Robin can produce three successful broods in one year. On average, only 40 percent of nests successfully produce young.

allaboutbirds.org



Pinterest.com

## DID YOU KNOW?

### ARE BIRDS DESCENDED FROM DINOSAURS?

When we think of dinosaurs, we often think of large, reptile-like creatures. The Tyrannosaurus Rex is often thought of as a scaled-up, ferocious lizard, but that might not be the case for all other dinosaurs.

Since the 1960s, many scientists have found recurring evidence that birds are direct descendants of these prehistoric reptiles. In fact, according to the [Smithsonian Magazine](#), all living birds are indeed dinosaurs, but not all dinosaurs were considered birds. Some dinosaurs even had feathers just like birds!



Onetreeplanted.org



## 10 THINGS SMART GARDENERS DO IN MAY

gardening.org

1. Finalize planting plans
2. Final preparations on garden beds
3. Harden off seedlings (acclimate to outdoors)
4. Plan a plant swap
5. Clean and fertilize perennial fruit and vegetable crops
6. Look for early signs of pests and disease
7. Get planting! Cold growers and [cole crops](#)
8. Get planting! Tender vegetables
9. Get planting! Tender annuals and flowers
10. Be prepared for freak frosts

Read the full article [HERE](#).



### JULY 20, 2024

National Pennsylvania Day on July 20 recognizes the second state to join the Union. Once the home of the temporary capital of the United States in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is also known as the Keystone State. While the source of the nickname has been forgotten, the meaning is not lost. Bridge builders know leaving the vital keystone out of their structure would be folly, leading to collapse.

More Info on National Pennsylvania Day [HERE](#)

*“There are no happier folks than plant lovers and none more generous than those who garden.” ~ Earnest Wilson*

## LONGWOOD GARDENS



**SPRING BLOOMS UNTIL MAY 5**

**Fireworks & Fountains Shows [SCHEDULE](#)**



**Summer Performance Series and Other Upcoming Events [Info](#)**

Note that **special tickets are now required for the Fireworks & Fountains Shows**. Tickets are limited and will likely sell out. Reserved seating is required for all Fireworks & Fountains Shows. No personal chairs or advance placement of personal chairs will be permitted. Reserved Seating is \$50-75.

Also, the **gardens photography policy has changed**. There will be no staged indoor photo shoots. Photo shoots are permitted in the outdoor gardens only. Staged photo shoots will not be permitted anywhere in the gardens beginning October 1, 2024.

## DISTRICT I CLUBS' UPCOMING EVENTS

Open to the public. Support our fellow clubs.

### SPRINGFIELD GARDEN CLUB PLANT & BAKE SALE

Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Old Central School, Saxer Ave. & Powell Rd.  
Springfield

### UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 11  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain or Shine!  
Uwchlan Meeting House  
5 N Village Avenue, Exton

### FOUR SEASONS GARDEN CLUB OF KS

May 16 - Dining experience in downtown  
Kennett Square. Drop by to **buy some plants**  
from our experienced gardeners and enjoy the  
evening.



## IN MEMORIAM

### WE REMEMBER THOSE FROM OUR DISTRICT WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US

Barbara Simpers	Spade & Trowel Club	5/23	Joyce Brown	Villanova GC	11/23
Joan Wood	Villanova GC	5/23	Helen Vounas	Villanova GC	1/24
Maureen Innes	Wayne Woods GC	6/23	Margie Schwartz	Radley Run GC	2/24
Rita Grayum	GC of Springfield	7/23	Judi Manzelli	Radley Run GC	2/24
Jane Duffy	GC of Springfield	7/23	Gladys Nigro	Villanova GC	3/24

## NGC, GCFP, and DISTRICT I 2024 CALENDAR

- May 14-25 GCFP Tour to England & Chelsea Flower Show
- June 2-5 National Garden Clubs Annual Convention, Denver, CO
- June 7 **District I Meeting** and Presidents' Luncheon, 11 a.m., Welkinweir
- June 10-11 GCFP BOD Meeting, Wyndham Gardens, Boalsburg, PA
- September 10 **District I Annual Meeting** and Luncheon, The Farmhouse at People's Light  
39 Conestoga Road, Malvern, hosted by Elverson Garden Club
- October 7-8 GCFP BOD Meeting, Wyndham Gardens, Boalsburg, PA
- 15-17 **District I Hudson Valley Trip**
- 22-23 **CAR-SGC Fall Conference**, Old Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ
- November 15 America Recycles Day

*Have Something to Say??*

If you would like to submit an original seasonal gardening article to be published in  
the next newsletter, send it by the submission deadline date to  
Marilyn Small, Editor [mmsmall@comcast.net](mailto:mmsmall@comcast.net)