



# Keystone Gardener

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KG Online Newsletter Editor, Marilyn Small

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## A MESSAGE FROM GCFP PRESIDENT LEEANNA RYBA

My theme for 2023-2025 is, **PLANT AMERICA, While Keeping PA Beautiful**. I hope that your clubs are planning recycling and litter pick up projects in 2024. Remember to apply for my **Seeds of Service President's Project Award** by submitting a one-page description of your event that occurred between May 1, 2023, and May 1, 2024, to your District Director by June



15. Top applicants from each District will be forwarded to the President's Project Chair by June 30. These exceptional projects will be noted in the Keystone Gardener/KG Online and winning clubs will be presented with certificates at the 2024 District Annual Meetings this fall.

When I received your Club President's Reports in February, I was pleased to read about clubs taking the problem of litter and the need to recycle seriously.

A **Zoom Leadership Conference** was held on March 26. All District Directors invited their Club Presidents and anyone interested in learning more about leading an organization, to click on the link and join in. Topics covered included Agenda Writing, Parliamentary Procedure, Zoom 101, Keep PA Beautiful, Database and Dues, Insurance, and Ideas to Attract New Members and How to Keep Them. Eighty-one of you joined us that evening. I know we all learned from the experience.

I wish to thank Joyce Crider, 2024 Convention Chair, Co-Chairs Delores Nolt and Tonya Young, and all members of my Board of Directors for their dedication to the GCFP.

Enjoy the wonders of spring!

*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

## 2023 AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT THE GCFP 2024 CONVENTION

Marilyn Small, GCFP Awards Chair, Wayne Woods Garden Club, I  
Sheri Lowry, Co-Chair, The Garden Club of Johnstown, VI

### 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

Issued by GCFP President Leeanna Ryba

*Chosen to receive this Presidential Citation because you have performed above and beyond expectations. Thank you for your dedication to the Garden Club Federation of PA.*

**Joyce Crider**, Convention Chair  
Town and Country GC of Lancaster IV

**Delores Nolt**, Convention Co-Chair  
Town and Country GC of Lancaster IV

**Tonya Young**, Convention Co-Chair  
Town and Country GC of Lancaster and  
The Garden Club of York IV

**Lori Pancione**, Flower Show School 2022-2023  
Gardeners of Crooked Billet and  
The Outdoor Gardeners XI

**Barbara Andrus**, Penny Pines and Work with  
US Dept of Forestry  
The Heritage Garden Club V

**Karen Faust**, Blue/Gold Star Memorials  
Butler Garden Club IX

**Sharon Richardson**, GCFP Tour to England's  
Chelsea Gardens I  
Uwchlan Garden Club I

**Vina McLeod Rudolph**, Website  
Martha Washington Garden Club and  
Landscape Design Society of W PA X VII

**Marilyn Small**, Zoom Awards Presentation  
Wayne Woods Garden Club I

**Sheri Lowry**, Zoom Awards Presentation  
The Garden Club of Johnstown VI

### GCFP - NGC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMUNITY GARDENS

D. Continuing participation in a community or  
religious garden while partnering with another  
organization

Medium Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Southern Butler Co. GC IX

Large Club  
2<sup>nd</sup> Norristown GC XI

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Largest donated produce from a community  
garden with which the club is involved

Large Club  
2<sup>nd</sup> Parkland GC II/III

3<sup>rd</sup> Norristown GC XI

### ROADSIDE PLANTINGS

Medium Club 1<sup>st</sup> Butler GC IX

### BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

#### A-1 Special One-Time Event

Medium Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Southern Butler Co. GC IX  
3<sup>rd</sup> Butler GC IX

#### B-1 Continuing Beautification Project

Medium Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Southern Butler Co. GC IX  
2<sup>nd</sup> Old York Road GC XI  
Large Club  
1<sup>st</sup> The GC of York IV

### GCFP - NGC

### ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

#### CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Medium Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Gardeners of Crooked Billet XI

#### WILDLIFE SURVIVAL

Large Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Shaler GC IX

### GCFP - NGC FLORAL DESIGN AWARDS

#### FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM

Medium Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Wayne Woods GC, Gwen Puglisi I  
"Eco-Friendly Floral Design"  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wayne Woods GC, Gwen Puglisi I  
"Birch Bark Fall Arrangement"  
District  
1<sup>st</sup> District I I  
"Fall Design Challenge"  
2<sup>nd</sup> District II/III II/III  
"Chris Leskosky Design Presentation"

### GCFP - NGC GARDENING

#### CONTAINER GARDENING

Large Club  
2<sup>nd</sup> Shaler GC IX

### GCFP - NGC MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AND EDUCATION

#### MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS

Medium Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Southern Butler Co. GC IX

#### DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATION

Large Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Moon Township GC IX  
"Creating a Spotted Lanternfly Circle Trap"

District  
1<sup>st</sup> District I I  
"Benefits of Joining a Federated Garden Club"

## AWARDS CONTINUED

### NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Medium Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Southern Butler Co. GC	IX
Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Shaler GC	IX

### NGC INDIVIDUAL OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO YOUTH

Jane Nyiri, GC of Springfield	I
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### SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE

Chair - Janet Fassbender, The Country Gardeners, I

#### WEBSITE

Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Parkland GC	II/III
2 <sup>nd</sup> Norristown GC	XI
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
Medium Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Southern Butler Co. GC	IX
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wayne Woods GC	I
Large Club Professional Design	
1 <sup>st</sup> The GC of York	IV

#### FACEBOOK

Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Parkland GC	II/III
2 <sup>nd</sup> Norristown GC	XI
Medium Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Southern Butler Co. GC	IX
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wayne Woods GC	I
District	
3 <sup>rd</sup> District XI	XI

### PUBLICATIONS

Chair - Joyce Peterson, The GC of Forest Hills, VII

#### 3-12 Page Newsletters - Medium Club

1 <sup>st</sup> Butler GC	IX
2 <sup>nd</sup> The GC of Forest Hills	VII
3 <sup>rd</sup> Murrysville GC	VII

#### 3-12 Page Newsletters - Large Club

1 <sup>st</sup> Parkland GC	II/III
2 <sup>nd</sup> Emmaus GC	II/III
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tusca-Ridge GC	IX

#### 13-24 Page Newsletters - District

1 <sup>st</sup> District I	I
2 <sup>nd</sup> District X	X
3 <sup>rd</sup> District IX	IX

### SR-4 MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR



*Recognizing Five or More Years of Outstanding Contributions and All-Around Excellence to Club and Community*

**Karen Szoke**  
Gettysburg Garden Club, IV

Over the last 12 years, Karen has demonstrated a strong commitment to the Gettysburg Garden Club through her involvement in programs and projects, and as both a member of the Board and the chair of several significant committees.

She consistently participates in workshops and fundraising projects. When her presidency term was over, she focused on the club's community engagement by significantly strengthening the financial stability of the Downtown Flower Project, a popular beautification project.

When the club president resigned in early 2020, Karen stepped forward and again took the helm at a critical and difficult time, just as the Covid-19 pandemic restricted all club activity for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. With her leadership and guidance, club members were introduced to the wonders of communicating via Zoom. Since then, she has helped make improvements in the club's digital presence online.

Thanks to Karen's dedication, initiative, energy and commitment, the Gettysburg Garden Club - now in its 63<sup>rd</sup> year - is a vital contributor to the beauty of the historic downtown, and its activities are recognized as a significant factor in the Gettysburg community's quality of life.

### GCFP AWARDS

#### GCFP KEYSTONE GARDENER/KG ONLINE LITERARY AWARDS

Chair - Sue Soraruf, Spade and Trowel GC, I  
*Awarded for an original garden-related poem or composition published in the Keystone Gardener or KG Online.*

**Martha Alexander** "Leaf Colors"  
Great Meadows GC X

**Ellen Phraner** "Why I Garden"  
Monroe Co. GC II/III



**Do you want your club and/or members to be recognized?  
Find out how on the Awards Page on the GCFP Website.**



## 2024 GCFP PERENNIAL BLOOM AWARD



*Honoring a Long-Time Club Member  
Whose Continuous Support of our  
Goals and Objectives Makes Our Clubs  
Grow and Bloom*

### Melanie Markowski

The Green Thumb Garden Club, IV

A Life Member of GCFP and CAR-SGC, Melanie has been an active member of The Green Thumb Garden Club for 26 years. She has served as President and Vice-President for 8 years, Secretary for 10 years, and Corresponding Secretary for 6 years. Throughout the years she has also served on 11 club committees and chaired Membership, Flower Show, Program/Yearbook, Community Garden, and Civic Improvement.

Melanie also coordinated the installation of her club's Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker.

Her District IV positions include past Chair for Junior Gardeners and current Chair for Birds, Bees, and Butterflies; she has received her club's Forget Me Not award, and has been awarded several District Laurels for her outstanding work for her club.

As Chair of Green Thumb Flower Shows in District IV, she encouraged members to participate in placing entries in the Flower Show, and she chaired the Judges' Clerks for many years at the Flower Shows. To advertise Green Thumb Garden Club and attract new members, Melanie has set up Educational Displays on various topics like "Horticultural Therapy" at the York Fair, local libraries, PA Herb & Garden Show, and the District IV Flower Show.

Melanie has attended three National Garden Club schools and is a Consultant in Environment and Gardening Schools, and is a Master Consultant for Landscape Design. She has contributed articles to CAR Review, Keystone Gardener Online, and NGC LDC Newscape.

Melanie is supportive of District IV, GCFP, CAR-SGC, and National Garden Clubs goals and objectives. She makes every effort to attend all the District IV Meetings, GCFP Conventions, and a few CAR-SGC and National Garden Club Conventions. She also encourages Green Thumb Garden Club members to attend meetings, on-line classes, training, conventions, and schools.

## 2023 GCFP GOLD SEAL AWARD



*Honoring a member whose efforts  
toward the advancement of garden club  
work have had far reaching influence*

### Marilyn Backus

Garden Club of Monroeville, VII

Marilyn received a beautiful necklace with a 14k gold engraved charm.

Marilyn's 13-year involvement and efforts toward the advancement of club, district, state, region and national garden clubs goals and objectives are numerous, as evidenced by her various executive board and committee chair positions for Garden Club of Monroeville, District VII, GCFP, CAR-SGC, and NGC.

Beginning her involvement with GC of Monroeville as Corresponding Secretary, she progressed to many Chair and Board positions. She was also VP for four years and President for two.

A GCFP Life Member, Marilyn has won several personal GCFP and NGC awards including the NGC Award for Special Booklet of Student Poems, Club Horticultural Achievement Award, and GCFP Yearbook Award when she was Yearbook Editor.

Her work with District VII included Recording Secretary, Convention Educational Exhibits Chair, Gardening and Health Chair, and Awards Chair, culminating with Assistant District Director then District Director from 2016-2018 and 2020-2022.

For Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, she was Awards Chair for 2 years and Vice Chair for 2 years. She is currently a Student Judge, a Gardening Consultant, KG Online proofreader, and Pittsburg Area Judges Council Vice Chair.

All of her work and experience culminated with her Chairing the 2023 GCFP Convention in Monroeville, and she has since accepted the position of GCFP Recording Secretary. She has received two GCFP Presidential Citations.

A CAR-SGC Life Member, her contributions include Indoor and Container Gardening Horticulture Chair and Newsletter Contributor.

Marilyn is also a valuable Board member in her community with the Elizabeth Township Historical Society as a 1790 Log House Reenactor, Director for Gardens and as a Horticulturist.



**GCFP SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS**

*Recognizing outstanding achievement in one of the following fields of interest*

**A. Beautification of Community Areas**

Medium Club	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hazleton GC	II/III
Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Parkland GC	II/III

**B. Parks**

Large Club	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Penn-Cumberland GC	IV

**D. Holiday Project**

Medium Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> GC of Springfield	I
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wayne Woods GC	I
Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Uwchlan GC	I
2 <sup>nd</sup> Parkland GC	II/III

**E. Plant Sale**

Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Uwchlan GC	I
2 <sup>nd</sup> Parkland GC	II/III

**F. Garden Tour**

Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Parkland GC	II/III
2 <sup>nd</sup> Uwchlan GC	I

**G. Special Fundraiser for Scholarship or Community Project**

Medium Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Radley Run Garden and Social Club	I
2 <sup>nd</sup> GC of Clarion Co.	VIII
Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Penn-Cumberland GC	IV

**H. Any Other Project/Event that Promotes GCFP Objectives**

Medium Club	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hazleton GC	II/III
"Helping Hands Playground Mums"	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hazleton GC	II/III
"Senior Horticulture Therapy"	

**GCFP CLUB PROGRAM AWARDS**

*Recognizing an outstanding, original, garden-related program presented at a single meeting by one or more club members*

**E. Flower Arranging**

Individual Member	
Medium Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Gwen Puglisi: "Eco Friendly Floral Design"	I
Wayne Woods GC	
Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Sue Weber: "Fun with Tea Cups"	
Parkland GC	II/III

**K. Workshop**

Individual Member	
Medium Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Polly Berginc: "Evergreen Centerpiece"	
Butler GC	IX
2 <sup>nd</sup> Gwen Puglisi: "Birch Bark Planter"	
Wayne Woods GC	I
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ellen McGarrigle: "Herb Planter"	
Wayne Woods GC	I
Large Club	
1 <sup>st</sup> Kirk Brown: "Landscape Workshop"	
Parkland GC	II/III

**GCFP CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS****OPERATION WILDFLOWER**

*For a member for his/her active participation and effective leadership in promoting the use of wildflowers and native plants.*

**Bonnie Kushnerick**

The Country Gardeners	I
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**MYRREL R. OVERDORF COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD**

*For a member whose achievements in his/her community have brought honor to the recipient and to their club.*

**Betsy Meyer**

Gettysburg Garden Club	IV
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**GCFP HORTICULTURE AWARDS****CLUB HORTICULTURE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*For an Outstanding Series of Horticulture Programs Presented throughout the Year*

**Club**

Shaler Garden Club	IX
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**Individual****Helene Reid**

Uwchlan Garden Club	I
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**HORTICULTURE EXCELLENCE AWARD**

*Honoring the Most Outstanding Horticulturist of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania*

**Pam Walsh**

Uwchlan Garden Club	I
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**GCFP YOUTH AWARDS****MRS. MAXWELL W. STEEL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD****Cheryl Brumbaugh**

Norristown Garden Club	XI
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**GCFP CLUB MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

*\$100 Awarded to the Existing Club  
in Each Size Category with the Greatest Number  
of New Members in the Calendar Year*

**Small Club – Up to 20 Members**

Alexandria Garden Club V  
Edgeworth Garden Club IX  
2 New Members!

**Medium Club – 21 to 50 Members**

Garden Club of Bristol Borough XI  
20 New Members!

**Large Club – 51+ Members**

Norristown Garden Club XI  
56 New Members!

**SPECIAL CLUB FEDERATED ANNIVERSARIES**

Clubs celebrating 50, 60, 75 and 90 years

50: Heather Club of Edinboro VIII  
Giant Oaks GC X  
Wyomissing Area Garden Club II/III

60: Four Seasons Garden Club I  
of Kennett Square

75: Emmaus Garden Club II/III

90: Fox Chapel Garden Club IX  
The Garden Club of Harrisburg IV  
Martha Washington Garden Club X  
Rockledge Garden Club VII  
Uniontown Flower Club X

Clubs celebrating 50, 75, and 100 Year  
Anniversaries receive a \$100 award.

**CAR-SGC AWARDS****GCFP CAR-SGC ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AWARD**

1<sup>st</sup> **Judith Swanson**  
"Laundry Challenge"  
Gardeners of Crooked Billet XI

**GCFP CAR-SGC OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT AWARD**

Awarded for an Educational Exhibit that Relates  
to Our National Objectives

1<sup>st</sup> **Leslie Anthony**  
"Pollinator Restoration Exhibit"  
Shaler Garden Club IX

**GCFP CAR-SGC PUBLICITY PRESS BOOK AWARD**

Chair - Becky Zeeger, Uwchlan Garden Club, I  
*Recognizing winning Books of Evidence exhibiting  
quality, quantity, and diversity of coverage in the print  
media promoting garden clubs and NGC goals and  
objectives*

Large Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Gettysburg GC IV  
2<sup>nd</sup> Norristown GC XI  
3<sup>rd</sup> Parkland GC II/III

**GCFP CAR-GCFP CLUB YEARBOOK AWARDS**

Iris Cisarik, Chair - The GC of Forest Hills, VII

Under 20 Members:

1<sup>st</sup> Town and Country GC of Rices Landing X  
2<sup>nd</sup> The Heritage GC V  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joyful Bloomers GC VII

21-29 Members:

1<sup>st</sup> Waterford GC VIII  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lawrence Park GC VIII  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mifflin County GC V

30-44 Members:

1<sup>st</sup> The Wildflower GC VIII  
2<sup>nd</sup> The GC of Forest Hills VII  
3<sup>rd</sup> Presque Isle GC VIII

45-69 Members:

1<sup>st</sup> Hazleton Area GC II/III  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gettysburg GC IV  
3<sup>rd</sup> Great Meadows GC X

70-99 Members

1<sup>st</sup> Parkland GC II/III  
2<sup>nd</sup> Shaler GC IX  
3<sup>rd</sup> The GC of Johnstown VI

Over 100 Members:

1<sup>st</sup> Emmaus GC II/III  
2<sup>nd</sup> Norristown GC XI  
3<sup>rd</sup> The GC of York IV

**GCFP/CAR-SGC YOUTH CONTESTS**

Chair - Chris Hawthorne, Ingomar Garden Club, IX

**Youth Poetry Contest**

"I Spy With My Little Eye Something Green Outside  
- Celebrating Our Green World"

Grade K

1<sup>st</sup> Jerrica Mangol, Pucketos GC VII  
2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Whitney, Pucketos GC VII

Grade 2

1<sup>st</sup> Andrew Bosman, Pucketos GC VII

Grade 3

1<sup>st</sup> Devin Moyer, The GC of York IV  
2<sup>nd</sup> Charleston Sharbaugh, Indiana GC VI  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jack Steigert, Indiana GC VI

Grade 4

1<sup>st</sup> Dylan Smithson, Pleasant Hills GC X  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ja'Den Johnson, Pucketos GC VII

Grade 5

1<sup>st</sup> Ruby Heitzenroder, Ingomar GC IX  
2<sup>nd</sup> Elijah Haberman, Ingomar GC IX  
3<sup>rd</sup> Charlotte Hamburg, Ingomar GC IX

Grade 6

1<sup>st</sup> Jacen Turner, Pucketos GC VII  
2<sup>nd</sup> Maeby Pistininzi, Pucketos GC VII  
3<sup>rd</sup> Shauna Lawrence, Pucketos GC VII

Grade 7		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kate Record, Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Liesel Jean Tenhaeff, The GC of York	IV

Grade 8		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Evelyn Schultz, Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Aleena Vanucci, Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Amelia Trivilino, Tusca-Ridge GC	IX

### GCFP SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

Chair, Betty Grossheim, Puketos GC, VII  
"Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

Grade 1		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Nolan Bates, GC of Clarion Co.	VIII

Grade 2		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Layla Fling, GC of Clarion Co.	VIII

Grade 3		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jace Troup, GC of Clarion Co.	VIII

Grade 4		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Hannah Smith, GC of Clarion Co.	VIII
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Molly Berezney, Moon Township GC	IX
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sofia Irwin, Tusca-Ridge GC	IX

Grade 5		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Nicholas Mull, Giant Oaks GC	X
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brooke Bingham, GC of Clarion Co.	VIII
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sophia Wright, The Heritage GC	V

### GCPF CAR-SGC FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Chair, Margie Bucci, Indiana GC, VI

#### Small Standard Flower Show

Medium Club		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Warren GC "Here Comes the Bride"	VIII
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gospel Hill GC "Night at the Movies"	VIII

#### Standard Flower Show

Medium Club		
1 <sup>st</sup>	The Outdoor Gardeners "Broadway in Bloom"	XI
2 <sup>nd</sup>	The GC of Forest Hills "Tracing Our Roots"	VII
Large Club		
1 <sup>st</sup>	The GC of Harrisburg "Our Beautiful River"	IV
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bethlehem GC "Café La Fleur"	II/III

#### Patriotic Small Standard Flower Show

Large Club		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Martha Washington GC "Red, White, and Bloom"	X

### NGC FLOWER SHOW BOOK OF EVIDENCE

Chair - Deb Stumpf, Indiana Garden Club, VI

#### Standard Flower Show

1-49 Members		
1 <sup>st</sup>	The GC of Forest Hills "Tracing Our Roots"	VII
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Great Meadows GC "Alice in Wonderland"	X
3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Outdoor Gardeners "Broadway in Bloom"	XI
100+ Members		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bethlehem GC "Café La Fleur"	II/III

#### Club Small Standard Show 50-99 Members

1 <sup>st</sup>	Trevoze Horticulture Society "Rooted in History"	XI
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#### Patriotic Small Standard Show

1 <sup>st</sup>	Martha Washington GC "Red White, and Bloom"	X
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### 2024 GCFP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Chair - Sandra Hendricks, McEwensville Garden Club, V

#### The Louise Dimmick Scholarship of \$1,000

**Parker Adam Dimm** of Mifflintown  
*Mifflin County Garden Club, V*

He is a senior at East Juniata High School and in the fall will be attending Penn State Harrisburg, majoring in biology. He would like to pursue a profession in wildlife conservation. GPA 3.37.

#### The Marjorie E. Hamblin Scholarship of \$1,000

**Elizabeth Hope Bruner** of Blairsville  
*Indiana Garden Club, VI*

She is a sophomore at Penn State University (Dubois Campus) studying Wildlife and Fisheries Science. She has completed all levels of 4-H leadership Ladders and her Diamond Awards. Her long-term career goal is to become a forester. GPA 3.94.

#### The Catherine H. Kenworthy Scholarship of \$1,000

**Sam Conti** of Pittsburgh  
*The Garden Club of Forest Hills, VII*

He is a junior at Ohio Wesleyan College studying Biological Sciences. He would love to use his college education to help restore and protect different habitats in an effort to keep our planet healthy. GPA 3.62.

#### The Lois Dupre' Schuster Scholarship of \$1,000

**Madelyn Sloane Dowd** of Pittsburgh  
*The Garden Club of Forest Hills, VII*

A freshman at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Environmental Engineering. Her goals are working with water management, hydroponics, aquaculture, or anything to help the ecosystems. GPA 4.0.

**The Mary Alice Wheeler Scholarship of a \$1,000**

**Jenna Nicole Sassaman** of Selinsgrove  
*Susquehanna Garden Club, V*

As a freshman at Penn State University studying Agriculture, Jenna had the opportunity to study abroad in Belize experiencing new culture. She enjoyed interacting with the students, living within a Mayan village and learning the country's history. This year she will be a sophomore, and her GPA is 3.84.

**The Marilyn L. Whitmore Scholarship of \$1,000**

**Gabriel Aaron Hollabaugh** of Biglerville  
*Biglerville Garden Club, IV*

A senior at Biglerville High School planning to attend Penn State in the fall to study Agriculture. Gabriel's plan to get a college degree is to take care of his family fruit farm due to his father's death. GPA 3.9.

**The Dorothy A. Hermani Scholarship of \$1,000**

**Jacqueline Maureen Kiszka** of York  
*The Garden Club of York, IV*

A junior at Penn State University studying Atmospheric Science. She received a letter in January, 2024, on behalf of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences to congratulate her on Dean's List academic performance List. GPA 3.60.

**The Jane Layman Scholarship 4-Year - \$1,000**

Conditional on an annual 3.0 GPA

**Joseph John Romano, Jr.** of Frederick  
*Upper Perkiomen Valley GC, II/III*

A freshman at University of Delaware studying Plant Sciences with strong enthusiasm and dedication to plant breeding and genetics. He created a poster related to the role of QTL analysis on understanding sorghum plant height based on his research which was displayed at the Philadelphia Flower Show along with the students who designed the display, grew and organized the plants used within the display, and interacted with visitors during the show. GPA 4.0

**The Jacqueline A. Davis Scholarship of \$1,000**

**Konner Lee Trimmer** of Biglerville  
*Biglerville Garden Club, IV*

He is sophomore at Penn State University, Mont Alto Campus, studying Plant Science. He would like to become a full-time crop consultant after graduation and work on his father's fruit farm. He was a member of the Boy Scouts, FFA and earned the state level Keystone Degree, which was the state level. GPA 3.52.

**The Constance H. Smith Scholarship of \$1,200**

**Rebecca Leigh Durbin** of East Berlin  
*Gettysburg Garden Club, IV*

She is a junior at Penn State University studying Agriculture Sciences. Rebecca is majoring in Environmental Resource Management. She interned many hours at the Ross Student Farm as a Feed the People Market Stand leader. This program helped address food insecurity in the college community by operating as a "pay-what-you-can style" market, allowing students access to fresh, affordable produce. She hopes to work toward food equity and justice. GPA 3.91.

**The Katherine L. Rieger Scholarship of \$1,000**

**Samantha Grace Schulteis** of Biglerville  
*Gettysburg Garden Club, IV*

She is pursuing her Masters of Environmental Management at the Yale School of the Environment. Her advisor said her work was of such high quality that they were in process of submitting the work for a peer-reviewed journal article and featuring it in an upcoming gleaning convening co-hosted by the Society of St. Andrews and the World Food Policy Center. Her work is a critical piece of the convening to help growers, policymakers, and the larger community understand better the role of gleaning and the potential policy space to support this generative activity. GPA is H-HONORS

**The Miriam A. Steel Scholarship of \$1,000**

**Makenzi Christine Reed** of Wrightsville  
*The Garden Club of York, IV*

She is sophomore at Elizabethtown College studying Environmental Science and is planning a career as a wildlife ecologist with a focus on conservation. She enjoys fieldwork and takes full advantage of opportunities to gain experiences and skills relevant to conservation biology. GPA 3.7.

**The Edith Clemmer Steinbright Scholarship of \$1,000**

**Hunter Hawke Holcomb** of Titusville  
*Titusville Garden Club, VIII*

He is a junior at Chatham University studying Environmental Science. Hunter intends to pursue additional education through a thesis-based graduate program in ecology and his long-term career as a research ecologist. His professors say that Hunter has transformed from a relatively quiet student to someone who jumps into group projects and activities. He does not wait for opportunities – he seeks them out and completed two internships over the summer. GPA 3.42.



## 2023 AWARD STATISTICS

Marilyn Small, Chair; Sheri Lowry, Co-Chair

Our GCFP Award Program recognized the extraordinary efforts of our individuals, clubs, and districts during 2023 at our 2024 Convention. The dedication, creativity, knowledge, and hard work shared in the award applications truly showcased the efforts of our GCFP members to accomplish NGC goals and objectives.

- 62 of our 105 GCFP clubs received at least 1 award.
- 25 First-Place winners were forwarded for CAR-SGC award consideration.
- 25 First-Place winners were forwarded for NGC award consideration.
- 29 Youth Contest Awards
- 184 certificates were awarded.

### 2023 GCFP COMPREHENSIVE AWARD

*Awarded to the District Whose Clubs and Individuals Received the Most GCFP Awards in the Current Award Year*

#### **Congratulations to District IX!**

Earning 24 Individual, Club, and District Awards!

### DISTRICT AWARDS BREAKDOWN

District IX	24 Awards	District X	12 Awards
District I	23 Awards	District VII	11 Awards
District II/III	23 Awards	District VIII	10 Awards
District IV	22 Awards	District V	7 Awards
District XI	20 Awards	District VI	3 Awards

### TOP CLUB WINNERS

II/III	Parkland GC	11 Awards
I	Wayne Woods GC	9 Awards
XI	Norristown GC	8 Awards
IX	Southern Butler Co. GC	7 Awards
VII	The GC of Forest Hills	6 Awards
IV	Gettysburg GC	6 Awards
IX	Shaler GC	6 Awards
I	Uwchlan GC	6 Awards
IV	The GC of York	6 Awards

### YOUTH CONTESTS BREAKDOWN

#### **Congratulations to District IX!**

Earning 10 Youth Contest Winners!

District IX 10 Winners

5 Tusca-Ridge GC

4 Ingomar GC

1 Moon Township GC

District VII 7 Winners - Pucketos GC

District VIII 5 Winners - GC of Clarion Co.

District IV 2 Winners - GC of York

District VI 2 Winners - Indiana GC

District X 2 Winners

1 Giant Oaks GC

1 Pleasant Hills GC

District V 1 Winner - The Heritage GC

**Thank you to all of the club members** who shared their outstanding members' accomplishments, and submitted their club's projects and volunteer efforts. Our GCFP members are truly impressive, hard-working, devoted volunteers!

## 2024 CONVENTION TRASH TO TREASURE WINNER

The 2024 GCFP Trash to Treasure contest was held on April 7, 2024, in Lancaster, PA. All the entries were very highly creative and diverse while staying within the theme of the contest, "In a Milk Work Garden."

**1st Place:** Congratulations to **Marienne Cacali**, Moon Township Garden Club, District IX  
Title: "A Holstein Blossom"

**2nd Place:** Jane Sutera and Diane Jacobs, Pottstown Area Garden Club, District II/III

**3rd Place:** Pam Paules and Ellen Ehlenbeck, The Garden Club of York, District IV

**Honorable Mention:** Patricia Balte, Lawrence Park Garden Club, District VIII

Naser and Marsha Chowdhury  
GCFP Trash to Treasure Chairs



## 2024 Seed Money for PLANT AMERICA, While Keeping PA Beautiful

Chair - Marjorie Sears, Old York Road Garden Club, XI

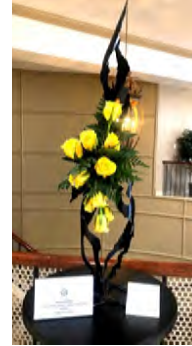
Alexandria GC	V	Train Station stairs bed edging new plants.
Bedford County GC	VI	Sensory garden in raised bed to be enjoyed by all.
Bethlehem GC	II/II	Plants for Historic Miller House Garden.
GC of Bristol Borough	XI	Purchase plant pressing supplies for Program.
Burrellton GC	VII	Top soil & amenities for the Lower Burrell Triangle.
The Country Gardeners	I	Using cold stratification techniques to propagate native plants. Then offered free to community in Media.
Countryside Gardeners	XI	New plants for sun exposure change (tree removed).
Duboistown GC	V	Flowers & mulch for Brandon Park in Williamsport.
Emmaus GC	II/III	Perennials & annuals in gardens at Emmaus Public Library.
Four Lanes End GC	XI	Planting flowers in urns at Historic Richardson House.
Gardeners of Crooked Billet	XI	Tiny figurines, moss & plants for Fairy Gardens.
Gospel Hill GC	VIII	Harborcreek Historical Society's new pavilion needs new plants.
Great Meadows GC	X	Monarch Wayside Station to teach Junior Gardener Group.
Hanover GC	IV	Teach children how to plant seeds at Codorus State Park Festival.
Hazleton Area GC	II/III	Shrubs for Prayer garden at Holy Rosary RC Church.
The Heritage GC	V	Clean up scrub areas of trash & plant wild flowers.
Ingomar GC	IX	70 <sup>th</sup> year planting & weeding 1.5 acre Memorial Park.
Kane GC	VIII	Restore the Florence Newcomer Nature Preserve.
Lawrence Park GC	VIII	Veterans War Memorial with Blue Star Marker plant replacement.
Littlestown Area GC	IV	Welcome Sign seasonal flowers.
The GC of Munhall	X	Mulch to refurbish the War Memorial.
Murrysville GC	VII	Floral design supplies for Autistic Support Faculty.
Norristown GC	XI	Seeds started in school & taken home with "Seed to Table" focus.
Old York Road GC	XI	Plants for rock garden at entrance to Historic Wall House.
Our GC Philadelphia & Vicinity	XI	Planters around church to help with beautification.
Parkland GC	II/III	Perennials for South Whitehall Township Butterfly Garden.
Patton GC	VI	Replace and/or repair existing flower planters along borough streets.
Penn-Cumberland GC	IV	Create a Children's Sensory Garden at the local library.
Presque Isle GC	VIII	Grandview School kids will plant milkweed in Monarch Garden.
Shaler GC	IX	Dwarf shrubs for fall/winter interest & annuals for color at library.
Shiloh GC	IV	Turning community garden into a certified Native & Pollinator Garden.
South Schuylkill GC	II/III	Establish & maintain 4 planter boxes at Wayne Township Park.
Southern Butler Co. GC	IX	Garden related crafts for intellectual & developmental disability adults.
GC of Springfield	I	Hardscaping, shrubs & flowers for Blue Star Marker.
Swedesford GC	XI	Native perennials for new Library Memorial Pavilion.
Town & Country GC of R L	X	Perennials & annuals for three projects.
Trevoise Horticulture Society	XI	Mulch update for Feasterville Fire Company.
Upper Perkiomen Valley GC	II/III	Bluebird nesting box for organic community garden.
Valley G C	X	Native shade plants for Mon Valley YMCA entrance.
Wayne Woods GC	I	Plants for seasonal barrels at McKaig Nature Center entrance.
Weeders & Seeders GC	VI	Pollinator seed mixture will be distributed at 2024 outreach events. Trifold will demonstrate & questions answered.
The Wildflower GC	VIII	Beautify 5 community gardens: Sawmill Arts Center, Scotch Hill Garden, Leeper Comm. Park, "Garden of Hope" at Clarion Cancer, and the children's garden at Clarion YMCA.

### 2024 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

District VI hosted a fabulous "Petals and Patchwork" convention in Lancaster. Over 300 attendees were treated to a beautiful display upon entering the hotel and received a lovely hospitality bag with a handmade quilted flower. There were stunning floral honor designs for President Ryba, the Convention Committee, and CAR-SGC Director Monica Hansen, made by Lori Pancione, Tonya Young, and Chris Leskowsky.

The many very interesting workshops and presenters were followed by wonderful speaker presentations at each delicious meal: Karl Gercens of Longwood Gardens, Andrew Bunting of the PA Horticultural Society, Dr. Richard Olsen, Director of the US Arboretum in Washington, DC, and Steven Cox of Longwood Gardens, who demonstrated quilt-inspired floral designs. The petals and patchwork theme was woven throughout the convention.

There were exciting awards presentations, educational exhibits, vendors of many different products, excellent raffles, and even a flower show, which was the "icing on the cake" for the many attendees.



Andrew Bunting PHS



Steven Cox, Longwood Gardens



Dr. Richard Olsen Director of the US Arboretum Washington, DC

## 2024 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Eclipse glasses in the hospitality bags enabled attendees to view the historic event!



Creating one of many beautiful centerpieces



Palm Court Luncheons and Dinners



General Business Meeting

## SEEDS OF SERVICE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT AWARDS

Barbara Campbell, Chair  
Parkland Garden Club, II/III

The Seeds of Service President's Project works 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.

Projects/events must have taken place between May 1, 2023 and May 1, 2024.

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**. Top applicants from each district should be sent to the President's Project Chair, Barbara Campbell, by **June 30, 2024**. [barbarac45@aol.com](mailto:barbarac45@aol.com) 610-432-3313

More information can be found on the [GCFP website](#) and in the Summer 2023 edition of the "Keystone Gardener."

**I ♻️ AMERICA**  
RECYCLES DAY®

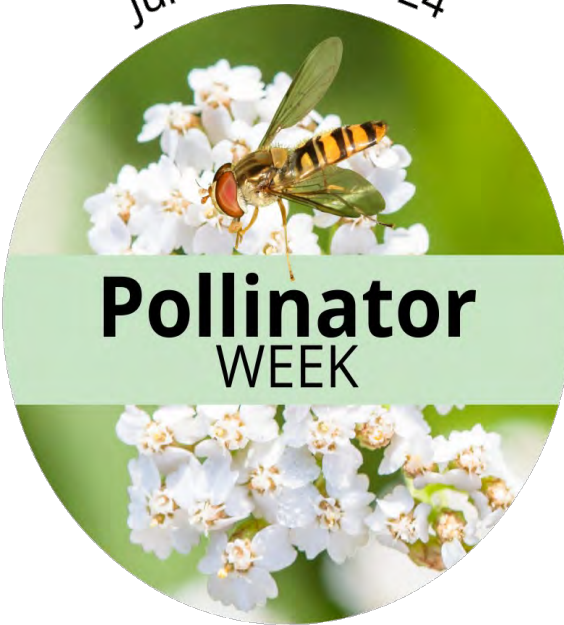
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

November 15, 2023

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

KEEP AMERICA  
BEAUTIFUL®

June 17-23, 2024



Pollinator  
WEEK

pollinator.org

Get your Pollinator Week  
Tool Kit [HERE](#)

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

Diane Quinn

GCFP Program Resources Chair  
Vice President, Emmaus Garden Club, II/III

I have posted the beginning of an exciting resource that is available to all clubs for assistance in identifying Program Speakers and Program Topics. However, in order to grow a database, we asked the help and expertise of the District Directors, Presidents, and the Program Chairs. Thank you everyone for sharing this important information that we can share around the state.

Check out the 50+ speakers and topics posted under "[Programs and Resources](#)" on the GCFP Website as of March 29, 2024. Obtain the password from your club president or district director.



## 501-C3 SIMPLIFIED

Mary Jo Gardill, Chair  
The Garden Club of Johnstown, VI

501-3C is an **IRS designation** for non-profit organizations. Since it is a federal status, **state sales tax has nothing to do with it.** This is an annual filing required by each Garden Club, under the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania's (GCFP) umbrella. GCFP's fiscal year is May 1 to April 31, just like your personal fiscal year is January 1 to December 31.

The majority of our Garden Clubs earn **less than \$50,000** annually; this is gross income before any expenses. Therefore, the **990 short form** is used. Completing this form, acknowledges that the club has earned less than \$50,000, during that time period.

The only financial component on this form is the **gaming portion**, that is if 50/50, raffles, etc., have taken place within the year. The form will be emailed to each Garden Club's treasurer on May 1. The 990 should be completed and signed and dated, sending it **May 1 to May 15**, preferably. It can be emailed or mailed; priority mail is not necessary. If the 990 form is misplaced, it also can be found on the GCFP website.

There are a few Garden Clubs in Pennsylvania that gross over \$50,000 annually, and a **long form** is required. It has a few financial pages that must be completed.

A **green card** was prepared for each Garden Club to be kept with the treasurer's checkbook and financial information so that the successor knows exactly what and when to do it. It also has the club's EIN.

Please note that according to IRS guidelines, it is the responsibility of each Garden Club to **issue a 1099 to any individual who is paid \$600 or more** for services rendered.

If a new Garden Club decides to become federated, it is imperative that they contact this reporter as soon as possible to avoid any problems later with the IRS. Losing the 501-C3 status can be a long and costly situation. If you have any questions or tax concerns, please contact me at [jgardill@gmail.com](mailto:jgardill@gmail.com) or 814-241-8902.

## PA RESOURCES COUNCIL

Mary Lou Colussy, Chair  
Patton Garden Club, VI

**Pennsylvania Resources Council** is a statewide environmental organization dedicated to the vision of "a Pennsylvania where nothing is wasted."

In 2022, Pennsylvania Resources Council launched a new fundraising model, moving away from its annual donor gala and embracing its mission to prevent waste and conserve Pennsylvania's environmental resources.

Following a successful year, PRC held its second annual **"Zero Waste Non-Event"** in 2023. The **"Non-Event"** raised funds to support PRC's state-wide programs and avoided an estimated 750 lbs. of waste typically generated by the dinner held for hundreds of people. Instead, PRC is now recognizing donors on digital platforms throughout the year in concert with imagery of the PRC work they support in the community.

**Money raised** during the Zero Waste Non-Events supports waste reduction and diversion programs for high-value materials such as glass as well as hard-to-recycle items, environmental justice in watersheds, and environmental education for people of all ages.

**Zero Waste** is a philosophy that seeks to maximize the recovery of resources we commonly throw away or discard. A **"Zero Waste Event"** aims to reduce event waste holistically, including purchasing, usage and disposal of resources before, during and after an event.

### PRC's Zero Waste Event Services aims:

1. to minimize the production of discards
2. direct the discards we have to reuse, recycling or composting
3. manage what we have left as responsibly as possible

### In 2023, supporters helped PRC:

- reuse, recycle, and safely manage nearly 3 million pounds of materials – *eliminating approximately 2,600 metric tons of greenhouse gases*
- recycle 1,000 tons of glass from 50,000 households and expand glass operations in southeastern PA
- educate more than 4,500 K-12 students about waste, watersheds, and sustainable energy
- train 1,130+ community members to reduce waste, manage stormwater, and steward the environment
- expand composting across the region
- implement green stormwater infrastructure projects managing 6 million gallons of stormwater per year, and much more



## WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO CREATE A YEAR ROUND BUFFET FOR YOUR POLLINATORS?

Sharon Richardson, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

### CELEBRATE NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK June 17-23, 2024

In 2008, the U.S. Senate's **unanimous** approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the **urgent issue of declining pollinator populations**. The National Pollinator Organization, [Pollinator.org](http://Pollinator.org), has partnered with many organizations such as the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) to educate us on how we can help.



The national pollinator organization lists **SEVEN THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR POLLINATORS**. You can find the list [HERE](#).

For the purpose of this article, I am going to concentrate on how to **plan** for supporting our pollinators on our own properties by learning what to purchase and plant. You may hear people emphasize the importance of planting **native** plants. However, that term may be too restrictive because there are non-native plants that also support our pollinators, so Doug Tallamy has coined the phrase "Productive Plants." For example, dahlias and [heptacodium miconoides](#) (Seven-son Flower) are NOT native to North America, but they certainly keep bees very happy, so they are productive plants.



There are **many resources online** to assist you in selecting productive plants. One of my favorites is the **National Wildlife Federation** because they provide a [link to the plants most beneficial to the pollinators](#) living in your zip code.

'Tis the season for going to your local nursery or garden center in search of plants. The key to

purchasing plants that will support pollinators is **selection** and **succession**. It is NOT about what is pretty or what is in bloom right now. Even if you do not have a garden, using pollinator plants in containers on your patio, porch or deck can still help the [Pollinator Protection Campaign](#).

**Succession planting** is critical to keeping our pollinators healthy. Many shoppers get intrigued by the beautiful plants blooming right now, but pollinators need food, shelter and habitat year round. If you fill each space with a plant that is blooming now, you run the risk of starving your pollinators in the fall. Migrating pollinators need to bulk up for their journey, while permanent residential pollinators rely on seeds, nuts, and seedpods to survive the winter. Consider purchasing plants that will bloom in the fall such as asters and solidagos. Remember that the goal is to provide a [year round buffet for your pollinators!](#)



Many of us are no longer planting trees, but they make wonderful gifts for the next generation. Those of you who are familiar with Doug Tallamy's work already know that he touts the amazing ability for one mighty oak tree to support 534 Lepidoptera species (butterflies and moths), followed by native willow trees (456), cherry and plum trees (456), birches (413) and crabapples (311). Also, there are many shrubs that support our pollinators. Did you know that blueberry bushes support 288 species of lepidoptera and have gorgeous fall color?! Wouldn't your grandkids love to pick blueberries in their own back yard?

Think about gifting a tree or shrub for a graduation, wedding present, or birth of a child. When my daughter married, her registry consisted of fruit trees and bushes. Ten years later, my grandchildren love to harvest peaches, plums, apples, pears, blueberries and raspberries!





## GRANDMOTHER'S VIOLETS

by Jean Washburn Branco  
Norristown Garden Club, XI

Between the cracked sidewalk and the rickety wooden fence,  
Lush beds of violets lay quietly in the sun  
In my grandmother's yard --  
Patiently waiting to be picked  
By someone.

On sunny spring afternoons just after the earth warmed,  
Heart-shaped leaves cradled their purple treasures  
While a little girl sat  
Picking violets.

Now grandmother is gone, and that little girl is grown,  
But the lush beds of violets, those purple treasures,  
Are still  
Patiently waiting to be picked  
By someone.

**NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK**  
**June 2-8, 2024**

Sponsored by  
**National Garden Clubs, Inc**  
[www.gardenclubs.org](http://www.gardenclubs.org)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO LIZ SNOWDON

The Outdoor Gardeners, District XI

### Winner of the 2023

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs

### GOLDEN PERENNIAL BLOOM AWARD

Open to All District IV and GCFP Garden Clubs

## "THROUGH THE DECADES - FLOWERS IN FASHION"

An NGC Standard Flower Show

Presented by the

Littlestown Area Garden Club

at

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

53 W. King Street

Littlestown, PA 17340

Friday, July 12, 2024 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 13, 2024 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Flower Show Chair  
Pat Higgs at [mph3@aol.com](mailto:mph3@aol.com) or 717-345-6256.





# NGC SCHOOLS INFO



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](#)



**Natural Disaster Grant**  
 More Information [HERE](#)



**Native Plant and Wildflowers Educational Program**  
 More Information [HERE](#)



**Youth Pollinator Gardens**  
 More Info [HERE](#)



**PLANT AMERICA - Landscape for Wildlife**  
 More Information [HERE](#)



**PLANT AMERICA Plant for Pollinators**  
 More Information [HERE](#)



**Gardening for Wildlife**  
 More Information [HERE](#)  
[Apply HERE](#) to Register Your Garden as a National Garden Clubs Certified Wildlife Habitat



**Planting for Pollinators**  
[Apply HERE](#) to Register Your Garden as a National Garden Clubs Certified Pollinator Garden



## Club News

### GETTYSBURG GARDEN CLUB, DISTRICT IV Blue Star Memorial Markers Ten-Year Commemoration

Ten years ago, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Gettysburg Garden Club was proud to place two Blue Star Memorial Markers in this historic town. The markers were dedicated at the Adams County Court House plaza and in the Veterans' Section of Evergreen Cemetery on October 19, 2013.

The Club commemorated this event on its tenth anniversary with wreath-laying ceremonies on November 8, 2023.

In 2012-2013, the garden club's Blue Star Marker Committee raised funds to purchase the markers, gathered permissions for the chosen locations, and designed a peaceful garden at the cemetery. The dedication ceremonies were attended by local dignitaries, GCFP officers and District Directors, garden club members, and well-wishers. The Color Guard was from the JROTC of Gettysburg High School, and a local musician played taps.

The Blue Star Marker at the Adams County Court House marks the location of much of the action during the conflict of July 1-3, 1863, when troops from both sides of the conflict raged through the borough over successive days.

Evergreen Cemetery was where many casualties of the conflict were temporarily interred immediately after the battle. In the decades since, it has become a historic haven adjacent to the Gettysburg National Cemetery, the site of Abraham Lincoln's historic "Gettysburg Address" on November 19, 1863.

The Memorial Garden at the Veterans' Section of Evergreen Cemetery is maintained by the Evergreen Cemetery Association, with funds provided by and in collaboration with the Gettysburg Garden Club. Recently, the Cemetery Association installed a pair of granite benches at the garden location, providing seating for those wishing to sit and view the garden and the Veterans' graves beyond.

The Gettysburg Garden Club is honored to have been instrumental in the installation of both Blue Star Memorial Markers in Gettysburg, where a pivotal point in our nation's history took place.



Veterans' Section of Evergreen Cemetery



Veterans' Section of Evergreen Cemetery



Adams County Court House Plaza

**UPPER PERKIOMEN VALLEY GC, II/III  
Scholarship Recipient 2024**

Living up to his commitment of delving into horticulture related topics, **Joe Romano, Jr.** is featured in the University of Delaware, Department of Plant and Soil Science as an Undergraduate Research Assistant at the Mu laboratory,

The Mu lab uses fundamental and applied sciences to understand genetics, environmental and developmental regulation of agronomically important traits in maize and sorghum.



Joe is a 2023 and 2024 GCFP **Scholarship recipient** from Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club, District II/III.

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF READING, II/III  
Perennial Garden at Reading Museum**

"Nature is All Around Us" is the theme of Reading Public Museum for this year and is featured during Homeschool Days at the Museum.

**The Garden Club of Reading** created a formal flower bed which is used by artists, photographers, celebrations, weddings and more. No doubt, the homeschool session of "yards and gardens" will not venture onto this geometric layout. As the Museum publication states, "Nature is thriving right under our noses and in our cities and towns."



Reading Perennial Garden at Reading Museum  
by Tracy McKay Sabocheck

**Indiana Garden Club  
May Mart  
Garden and Vendor Expo**

S&T Bank Arena & White Township  
Sports Complex 497 E. Pike Road  
**\$1 General admission**  
**Friday May 17th 10 am-6 pm**  
**Saturday May 18th 10 am-4 pm**

Vendors, Plants, Food  
Trucks, Kid's Corner,  
Scholarship Raffle

**igcinformation@gmail.com**  
**for questions**

*Norristown Garden Club  
hosts a Garden Tour  
Art in the Garden  
Saturday, June 8, 2024  
10 am to 4 pm  
Rain or Shine*

*Meander through eight beautiful local gardens*

*\$25 donation ~ tickets are limited*  
*Tour benefits NGC Community Projects and Laurel House*

*Order by May 8 through PayPal (\$1.50 fee) at norristowngardenclub.org*  
*Or mail a check and self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to*  
*NGC, P.O. Box 742, Spring House, PA 19477*

*Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.,  
Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs,  
Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania*

### THE HERITAGE GARDEN CLUB, V Smokey Bear Poster Contest

The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Youth Poster Contest is sponsored by National Garden Clubs, of which the Heritage Garden Club is a member. This poster contest is for Grades 1 through 5 to learn about the importance of knowing all the ways of preventing a wildfire and saving trees that are ecologically significant in our environment.

Sophia Wright is in the 5th grade at Troy Intermediate School. Her talent won her a third-place award given at the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Convention held in Lancaster from April 7-9, 2024.

Caroline Hall, Heritage GC President presents Sophia Wright with her certificate.



Mr. Wayne Beeman, school art teacher, with Club President Caroline Hall and other participating 5th grade students. National Garden Club is celebrating Smokey Bear's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so all posters are done on just Smokey Bear! Each student received a participation certificate and a \$5 gift card to Stir from the Heritage Garden Club.

### PLEASANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB, X Trex Recycling Project

#### Pleasant Hills Garden Club Turns Plastic Into a Bench

A PHGC member told us about a plastic recycling program that the Lions Club had done to get a free garden bench for their community. In May of 2023, PHGC members started researching the NextTrex Recycling program for the Club's involvement.

We started on a journey to recycle those things that cannot be recycled in our local recycling plan. Normally only #1 and #2 plastics can be recycled in our local plan. This leaves a myriad of other types of plastics that can still be recycled. Among those are pallet wrap, stretch film, grocery bags, bread bags, case overwraps, drycleaning bags, newspaper bags, Ziploc and other resealable bags, product wrap, produce bags, retail bags, air pillows, bubble wrap, plastic shipping envelopes, and electronic wraps.



After registering with NextTrex, the club members started collecting plastic. NextTrex provided bins for collection which we placed at the public library, and we also advertised on our Facebook page. It wasn't long

before we had enough plastic to earn our first bench.

The community also helped to fill the bin and our club was fastidious about emptying the bin every night. The Pleasant Hills Library was instrumental in helping us achieve our goal.



Here is a picture of our first bench. This will go either to Let Freedom Ring Garden, the library, or the arboretum.

We are working our way to getting our second bench. We must collect our goal for each month and take a picture of it to send to NextTrex before turning it into the drop off site.



Our club did a great job and is thankful to the Pleasant Hills Library and to the community for helping us keep a lot of plastic out of the environment.

Additionally, we have inspired a local high school student to get the NextTrex Recycling program started at their school.

# District News

## DISTRICT I - Nancy Cuttic

Assistant District Director Pam Walsh, and I embarked on our **Tour de District I** this year, visiting each club in the district to present information about the **benefits of belonging to the GCFP**, where each club fits into the big picture, and demystifying the Federation. We met the most wonderful people. The talent, knowledge, and dedication in the district was truly impressive.

We had some fun along the way this spring learning about soil, gardening camps for kids, enjoying incredible design and hort, folding origami flowers, learning Ikebana, and tasting chef-prepared mushrooms and Chinese cuisine.

Rounding out the year, we learned about design from a Longwood floral designer and experienced a fabulous small standard flower show.

Many thanks to the clubs for welcoming us.



## DISTRICT V - Judy Warn



District V members attended the GCFP Convention: District Director Judy Warn, Barb Andrus, Libby Green, Carole Heilig, Sharon Brown, Sandy Hendricks, Vivian Hall, Lois Kyper and Joanne Fogelman

## DISTRICT X - Deborah Davis

District X had a successful annual **Spring Tea** on March 13, 2024, at the Mon Valley YMCA. Reports were heard from its officers, garden club presidents and District X chairs. Dr. Michelle Duennes of Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, spoke on the **Spotted Lantern Fly**.

District X Civic **Beautification Grants** of \$100 each were awarded to Giant Oaks Garden Club, Great Meadows Garden Club, Martha Washington Garden Club, Mon Valley Garden Club, Pleasant Hills Garden Club, and Uniontown Flower Club.

The District X **Trash to Treasure** winner was Garden Club of Munhall and their entry went to the GCFP Convention in April. Wanda Sherry of Great Meadows Garden Club won the 50/50 and the other portion went to District X to be divided equally between the Scholarship Fund and the District X general fund.

Members enjoyed a white elephant/jewelry sale which benefited District X. Money was collected for the Natural Disaster Fund as well. Martha Washington Garden Club served as the host club and Garden Club of Munhall provided the centerpieces.



Dr. Michelle Duennes and District X Director Deborah Davis

## KEYSTONE EVENTS



### MAY 4, 2024 - THE GARDEN CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD, I

District I will hold its **13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PLANT and BAKE SALE** at Old Central School, Saxer Avenue and Powell Road, Springfield, PA, on Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., rain or shine.

The sale will feature hundreds of herbs, vegetables, native plants, annuals, perennials, homemade baked goods, handcrafted garden art by club members, and small potted floral arrangements in time for Mother's Day. Members of the Garden Club, including Master Gardeners, will be on hand to answer questions and help with selections. Proceeds will go toward an annual scholarship awarded to a high school graduate who will pursue a degree in Horticulture or Environmental Studies. For additional information contact **Jane Nyiri**, Plant Sale Coordinator, [jtnyiri@aol.com](mailto:jtnyiri@aol.com).



### MAY 17 - 18, 2024 - INDIANA GARDEN CLUB, VI

Indiana Garden Club's annual **May Mart and Vendor Expo** will be held May 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the S & T Arena, White Township Sports Complex. It is our club's only fundraiser and allows us to fund our scholarships and help with the beautification of local public gardens. In addition to vendors, our ever popular Orphan's Court will be selling perennials, shrubs, bulbs and house plants, all donated by garden club members and the general public. Our mushroom sandwiches and strawberry pie make for a delicious lunch. \$1 general admission. For questions, contact us at [igcinformation@gmail.com](mailto:igcinformation@gmail.com)



### JUNE 8, 2024 - NORRISTOWN GARDEN CLUB, XI

NGC is hosting a **GARDEN TOUR**, "Art in the Garden," on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Meander through eight beautiful local gardens. There is a \$25 donation ~ tickets are limited. The tour benefits NGC Community Projects and Laurel House. Order by May 8 through PayPal (\$1.50 fee) at [norristowngardenclub.org](http://norristowngardenclub.org) or mail a check and self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to Norristown Garden Club, P.O. Box 742, Spring House, PA 19477.

### JULY 12 - 13, 2024 - LITTLESTOWN AREA GARDEN CLUB, IV

LAGC is sponsoring an **NGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW** that is open to all District IV and GCFP Garden Clubs. "**Through the Decades - Flowers in Fashion**" will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 53 West King Street in Littlestown, PA 17340. Hours on Friday are 2 - 6 p.m. and on Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, contact Flower Show Chair **Pat Higgs** at 717-345-6256.



### JULY 13, 2024 - PARKLAND GARDEN CLUB, II/III

The Parkland Garden Club is proud to present their 25th annual garden tour. "**The Silver Anniversary Garden Tour**" will be held on Saturday, July 13, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., rain or shine. Ten beautiful and unique gardens will be featured on the tour. **Pamela Hubbard**, award-winning home gardener, speaker, educator, and writer, will be at one of the gardens all day. There will also be a Silent Auction at one of the gardens. Proceeds from the tour go toward our scholarship fund and the club's other civic activities.

Tickets: \$20 in advance (\$25 day of the tour). To purchase tickets, contact **Barbara Campbell** at (610) 432-3313 or **Brenda Aubert** at (610) 653-6363. If you have any questions, email us at [parklandgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:parklandgardenclub@gmail.com). The website is [parklandgardenclub.com](http://parklandgardenclub.com).

**THE BRANDYWINE TREASURE TRAIL PASSPORT** - If you are looking for an inexpensive way to enjoy wonderful gardens, check out this passport. Explore Longwood Gardens, Nemours Estate, Winterthur Museum, Mt. Cuba Center, and so many more. Single or family passes available. Valid May 25, through October 31, 2024. More Information [HERE](#).

## DONATIONS

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Linda Southerling, Chair  
Four Seasons Garden Club, I

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

**District X has issued a challenge** to all districts to match their support of the GCFP Scholarship Donations Fund. **Their donation of \$1,000** reflects their commitment to GCFP in supporting students. **What will your district do?**

#### Donations:

District X  
Four Seasons Garden Club of Kennett Square  
The Garden Club of Forest Hills  
Ingomar Garden Club  
Shaler Garden Club  
Sharon Brown  
Spade and Trowel Club  
Sue Semple



#### In Memory:

William Eberlein and Joseph Chermack  
by Presque Isle Garden Club  
Virginia Belle Wenner  
by Joyce Hoek  
Connie Morrison  
by Fox Chapel Garden Club  
Isabelle R. Rudisill  
by Angela Raitano

#### In Appreciation:

Betty Forish and Karen Willey  
by Presque Isle Garden Club

Also, when contributing to the fund, please always use the [GCFP online form](#) on the GCFP website to make your contribution. Just print out the form and fill it out. Please use e-mails to acknowledge donations, which is a savings on postage and more reliable. [Lsfleur1@hotmail.com](mailto:Lsfleur1@hotmail.com)

### BOOK OF RECOGNITION

Joyce Hoek, Chair  
Garden Club of Harrisburg, IV

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

In Memory of  
Eleanor Schleicher  
by The Outdoor Gardeners  
  
Lois Armstrong  
by Judy Warn  
  
Penny Williams  
by Penn-Cumberland Garden Club

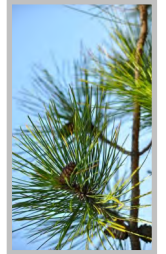


### PENNY PINES

Barb Andrus, Chair, The Heritage Garden Club, V  
*Donations stay in Pennsylvania for special projects or to help reforest areas in the Allegheny National Forest.*

#### General Donations

The Garden Club of Johnstown  
Emmaus Garden Club  
Gettysburg Garden Club  
Indiana Garden Club  
Four Seasons GC of Kennett Square



#### In Memory of

Irene Heller  
Donna L. Schultz  
Roseanne Bridges  
by Bethlehem Garden Club  
John Copley  
by Parkland Garden Club  
Helen Vounas  
Joyce Brown  
Gladys Nigro  
by Villanova Garden Club

#### In Honor of

Jean Williams  
by Evergreen Garden Club  
Marjorie L. Stevens  
Dorothy Miller  
by Parkland Garden Club  
Susie Williams  
by Fox Chapel Garden Club

### NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Jan Olsen, Chair  
Garden Club of York, IV

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

#### NCG Life Membership

Claudia Bernardo  
Shaler Garden Club, District IX

#### CAR-SCG Life Membership

Grace Mitchell  
Martha Washington Garden Club, District X  
Joan Davis  
Presque Isle Garden Club, District VIII

#### GCFP Life Membership

Patricia Higgs  
Littlestown Area Garden Club, District IV  
Betty Pisano  
Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, District IV

**SAVE THE DATE****CAR-SGC Conference 2024**

October 22 - 23, 2024

The Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ

*Come join us in the historic  
Somerset Hills in autumn!***Theme:** Wonders of the Garden State

Speakers - Workshops - Vendors - Trips

Hosted by the **Garden Club of New Jersey****Conference 2024 Chairs:**

Mary Warshauer &amp; Florence Leysse`ne

GCNJ President - Beverly Kazickas



The Old Mill Inn  
Basking Ridge, NJ

un.org Greg Beals

**World Bee Day is May 20**

On this day Anton Janša, the pioneer of beekeeping, was born in 1734. The purpose of the international day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. (Wikipedia)

**GCFP 2024 CALENDAR**

- May 14-25 GCFP Tour to England & Chelsea Flower Show  
 June 2-5 NGC Convention, the Westin, Denver, CO  
 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  
 22-23 CAR-SGC Fall Conference, Old Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ  
 November 5 America Recycles Day

The Keystone Gardener and KG Online issues are now password protected on the GCFP Website.  
 Call your District Director for the password.

**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.

Please submit info as a MS Word document, not typed in the email itself.

**Marilyn Small**, [GCFPKGOnline@gmail.com](mailto: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

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