



Issue #40 – June 2025

Well, it's summertime and the living is easy.....and I say not so! As I sit here today in my airconditioned house I am thinking about what I have to do in my gardens,,but I say....it is 99 degrees....so I will wait and water when the sun goes down....but what about the weeds, and what about my roses that need to be deadheaded, and what about my veggies???....so much to do but it is WAY TOO HOT.

So, what is a gardener to do on days like this....well this gardener is sitting at her computer and bringing the members of District I up to date on what your fellow gardeners have been doing since we last chatted in Garden Basket.

So, sit back, enjoy a cold drink, wait for the sun to go down, take a nap, read your favorite garden book ...OR.... maybe read this issue and catch up with everything.

Most of our clubs do not meet in the summer so we will be covering mostly spring activities and a few recent early summer ones.

Trish Reynolds, Gardenews and Publications Chair



Director's "Mini Basket".....Ann Street

District I Director..... Ann Street

Occasions such as Memorial Day, and the upcoming celebration of the birth of our country, July 4th, allow us to pause and pay tribute to the sacrifices made for freedoms we enjoy today. They remind us to cherish the connections we hold dear, the values we uphold, and the history that shapes us as individuals and as a community. It is in these moments of remembrance that we truly grasp the strength of human strength, the depth of love, and the enduring legacy of those who have passed before us.



The Memorial Day service held in Oxford, Maryland, assisted by Oxford Garden Club, was particularly moving, with the beautiful sound of bagpipes. Each song seemed to commemorate the bravery and dedication of military personnel across all branches. Paying tribute to the fallen, families and friends shared heartfelt stories of loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Such a humbling moment that dolefully hugged our hearts!

The red poppy is a symbol of Memorial Day. Rooted in World War I history, it's recognized as a sign of respect and sacrifice for those who served and died in all wars. Poppies are carefully handcrafted by veterans and veteran organizations, carrying with them a rich and meaningful historical significance.

For gardeners the "common" poppy is considered an annual plant and easy to grow. While their blooms appear fragile, they are resilient and can withstand drought conditions and poor soil. To avoid becoming dense & overgrown they should be divided when a few leaves are noticed. Poppies bloom from spring into summer and are a source of pollination for bees. Their delicate petals may sway vulnerably in the breeze, yet poppies remind us that beauty thrives even in adversity.



News from FGCMMD

FGCMMD President's (Donna Miller) Project:

“Be A Steward of the Earth – Grants for Garden Clubs”

We have all seen the negative impact man has had on the environment in air and water pollution, and loss of bird, animal, and insect populations. We need to change the pattern so that we create a healthier environment for future generations.



The goal of this Grant Program is to encourage Garden Clubs and their members to find ways to change this pattern.

What are some good examples of sustainability projects?

- Avoid the use of plastic to keep the oceans clean.
- Planting trees to help protect the environment.
- Removing invasive species.
- Shrinking lawns and leaving leaves.
- Planting native plants to provide habitats for beneficial insects and the food web.
- Responsible consumption and production: Recycling items such as paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum.
- Planting community gardens.
- Growing and donating excess produce to local food banks.
- Educational programs for the community.

Who Can Apply.....Garden clubs affiliated with FGCMMD can apply for funds to support projects that will advance sustainability in their homes/communities.

The minimum grant request is \$100, maximum \$1,000.

Check the FGCMMD web site for more details.

2025 CAR-SGC Annual Conference October 19-
22, 2025

Hyatt Resort in Cambridge, Maryland.

<https://www.car-sgc.org/2025-conference>



Don't miss your chance to attend!

2025 CAR-SGC Annual Conference

& Tri-Refresher

October 19-22, 2025

Maryland: "America in Miniature"

[Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay](#)

100 Heron Boulevard at Route 50

Cambridge, MD 21613

Register Early to Secure Your Spot

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland invite you to attend the 2025 CAR-SGC Conference in the heart of Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Central Atlantic Region – State Garden Clubs includes garden clubs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

This year's theme, America in Miniature, celebrates Maryland's diverse landscapes and cultural heritage. From mountains to seashores, urban centers to rural farmlands, Maryland reflects the vastness of the country in one small state. [Check out these points of interest.](#) Our program will showcase top-notch speakers, innovative design, environmental stewardship, and the joy of gardening together. The program has been designed to also serve as a refresher for Garden Study, Landscape Design and Environmental Consultants.

Click on this link to register and see a full schedule of events and program topics. <https://www.car-sgc.org/2025-conference>

Club News

Chestertown Garden Club....Secethia Boardley-Davis

The Chestertown Garden Club took to heart the poem by Jan Yolen entitled Earth Day.

“And just as I need every bit of me to make my body fit,
So, earth needs grass and stone and tree.
And things that grow here naturally.”

The Earth is us, so for the Club April began with a celebration of the Earth all month long. Members of the Chestertown Garden Club made the Royal Connections with the “Queen Bumble Bee” at a Queen Bee Tea that was held 1 April. Dr. Clare Walker spoke to the Club about how the “Queen Bumble Bee” is the first to emerge in early spring, which makes her an important spring pollinator. We learned the perils of being both Queen and a single mom as it is not easy to raise daughters while coping with problems like nectar robbers and cuckoos. The event included a discussion about the most beneficial plants for us to have in the early spring gardens.



Earth Day, (April 22) was celebrated by boarding Washington College Callinectes boat for an Environmental Sail led by Dan Smalls, the Associate Director of the Natural Land Stewardship and Kathy Thornton, Field Technician with the Natural Lands Project at the Washington College Center for Environment and Society.

The month’s celebrations ended participating in the Towns Earth Day Festival on April 26. The Chestertown Garden Club’s booth featured a tribute to Chestertown’s recent accomplishment on becoming a “Certified Bird City”. In addition to featuring bird friendly plants, children engaged in making a nest of materials for birds to assist birds in building their nest. Binoculars were given to encourage families to go bird watching. In Fountain Park and participants assisted in mulching and the cleaning of garden beds.



May Mart 2025



Festive Ending to May

Chestertown Garden Club’s annual May Mart festival was held on May 2. The community was able to purchase plants, baked goods, participate in a raffle, and purchase garden items. All proceeds go towards the beautification and the maintenance of both Fountain and Memorial Parks. Members of the club also participated in Chestertown’s First Friday evening event.

May ended with a Members Picnic and tour of one of our member’s farm and garden. Wonderful bonding and fun were the hallmarks of our day together. Members are looking forward to activities and events that are scheduled for June, July and August.

Dorchester Garden Club....Sandy Lucas

The Dorchester Garden Club has been very busy since beginning our new 2025-2026 year in April.



At our April meeting, we had one of our members, Julie Bryan, teach all of us how to do the Traditional Mass Design. She gave us step by step instructions as the club members followed along and did their own designs. Julie is a member of the Washington National Cathedral Altar Guild and a wonderful teacher!



On April 17, we held our first “Flower Camp”. The Flower Camps are workshops that will be held throughout the year. The theme of this Flower Camp was : Judging 101: It’s Fundamental. Our own Susie Middleton gave us a shortened version of the course she teaches for the NGC Flower Show School. Dorchester Garden Club holds Mini Flower Shows at most of their monthly meetings and the members rotate being judges. For some members this was new information and for others it was a refresh. We had a wonderful time and learned so much....PS : If Susie is teaching a class, sign up for it!!

In May, our club traveled to Harvest Drive Nursery in North Dorchester owned by our own Kim Harper. The nursery has hundreds (maybe more) of plants that have started by seed and taken care of by Kim and her staff. The plants are beautiful and healthy. Our program that day was a demonstration by Kim on how to do a container garden. She showed us plants to use for a sun garden and shade garden. She also gave us tips and tricks on how to plant, arrange and water our container. After the program, members made their own container gardens. We were like kids in a candy store among all the flowers and plants! We then had a lovely lunch, and members went home with their beautiful new container garden.



Kim Harper, Harvest Drive Nursery

Four Season Garden Club – Frances Follmer



The rain did not dampen the spirits of the Four Seasons Garden Club members and guests as they met at the home of member Sharon Clark for their June Picnic and Plant Auction. After a delicious luncheon, the members held a plant auction. The plants were obtained from members' gardens. Due to the rain that wouldn't stop, the auction was held in Sharon's garage. It's always amazing to see the array of interesting plants members bring for this event. Every plant was purchased, and this year's event was quite successful!

Some members purchased plants and donated them to the Blind Industries Sensory Gardens, which is an ongoing project for the Four Seasons Garden Club. Peggy Buchness has spearheaded this project for years and will continue. Peggy, along with club members, and clients will revamp the two gardens: one has herbs and the other has flowers.



Nancy Craft was awarded the Due Holland Tray for earning the most Blue Ribbons in our monthly Horticulture Challenges. Nancy has the honor and privilege of keeping the tray for one year. Congratulations, Nancy!

Nancy Craft - Due Holland Tray



Anne Heavner leading the plant auction

Kent Island Garden Club....Bobbie Bell

Stayin' Alive in 2025!



We have planted our new members into good soil and are staking them up with mentors in the Committees they are Chairmen of!

Our enthusiastic group has already cleaned project gardens, completed a plant sale, prepared table arrangements for Derby Day at Talisman Therapeutic Riding Center, welcomed volunteers for the Historic House Pilgrimage, created flowering interpretations for Art in Bloom with the Kent Island Federation of Art and held a Youth Gardening Event!

We plan a few quieter months ahead!



Oxford Garden Club.....Melinda Hudson

The Oxford Garden Club was 'all in' this spring, with a series of events, fundraisers, special speakers, show-stopping gardens, and some spectacular flower arranging. Let's start with our signature event, the biannual *Secret Gardens of Oxford Tour*. This year's tour featured six gardens, none of which has ever been open to the public. They were spectacular, each in their own way. From massive, classic displays of roses to onsite artist studios, vast water views and discreet private spaces, mature gardens with iconic Eastern Shore horticulture and completely reimagined gardens reflecting the gardeners' eclectic interests. And thank you to Maribeth Lane and our Talbot County Garden Club friends, for being docents alongside us, cheering us on, spreading the word and being superb ambassadors for our District's garden clubs.



This year our Tour coincided with the Fine Arts Festival, sponsored by the Oxford Community Center. Having their two-day festival and our one-day tour was a boost to the Town, which was abuzz all weekend whether it was the art, the gardens or the strawberry shortcake. It was a happy day in Oxford! .



Our talented members designed floral arrangements to complement the art. And then it was Memorial Day, brought to you by the Town of Oxford and the Oxford Garden Club. This is one of our most 'memorable' and moving events of the year. As the bagpiper calls, we 'gather at the river,' at the Blue Star Memorial in the Town Park. The memorial wreathes are woven from the Solomons Seal from our gardens. There were prayers and invocations, heartfelt remembrances of those we lost and continued prayers for those who still carry the burden of service. We lingered.



All along the way, our talented designers created beautiful arrangements for signature events and special partners, most recently the Chesapeake Music Festival. We do so not only the grand gestures, but the quiet, kind ones such as flower arrangements for the homebound, condolences to those who grieve, and 'thank you's to volunteers and supporters. We go into a 'summer break' after a great day with the incomparable Marie Davis in the Herb Garden at Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Insider tip: join the Chesapeake Bay Herb Society. You will be inspired and well fed!



Finally, in a nod to our commitment to sustainable practices all around (shout out to Susie Middleton!), enjoy this wonderful ikebana featuring our ‘ditch’ milkweed, the host of the monarchs now alighting in our gardens.

Thank you all for your inspiration, dedication, friendship, and a great sense of fun.

Have a great summer!



Queen Anne’s County Garden Club - Robin Lanham

The Queen Anne’s County Garden Club presented a \$1,200-scholarship award to Lucy Taylor, a Senior at Kent Island High School with a 4.0 and weighted GPA of 5.0. She has been accepted to the University of Maryland where in the fall she will begin her journey to get her master’s degree in environmental science and a career goal to work for a non-profit such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Lucy is a goal-oriented person who has a passion for environmental sciences.

The Queen Anne’s Garden Club Conservation and Environmental Awareness committee made grocery/tote bags from feed /seed bags .What a unique way to repurpose and reuse feed bags from bird seed, cat/dog food, the club sold the bags at our biannual May Mart fundraiser.



QACGC Members at work !

In addition, members of the Queen Anne’s County Garden Club planted thirty-five flower tubs and five window boxes around the county seat of Centreville.



"Feed Bag" Grocery Bag!

Somerset County Garden Club.....Dana Zucker



The Somerset County Garden Club had a terrific field trip to the Lower Shore Land Trust where we had a wonderful presentation on beneficial insects and pollinators. The presentation was very informative, and we all learned so much about creating healthy garden environments. Next, we enjoyed Dr. Nadine Burton of UMES where she took us back to the basics of vegetable gardening and the importance of soil health, water and so much more.





Frances Follmer leading the way!

We wrapped up our year at home of two of our Master Gardener members and enjoyed tours of their gardens and time together to reflect on the past year and to talk about the coming year. Visiting each other's gardens is always so inspiring. The End of Year Picnic was a wonderful new member recruitment time, and we met many new potential members.

Talbot County Garden ClubEleanor Denegre

'Tis the season...many wonderful activities for the Talbot County Garden Club – leading off with an Arbor Day Planting on April 2 of six new native trees to the Rails to Trails. On April 18 our members created an *Easter Gift* with their floral designs for Talbot Hospice and Talbot Interfaith Shelter. On April 24th our Young Gardeners decorated a pair of birdhouses, one to take home and one to add to the Children's Garden at the Talbot Library. A trip to Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne, PA on April 30th was next on our agenda where we had a glorious day enjoying the beauty of spring at this fabulous display garden.



"The Judges" - Dana Vlk, Trish Reynolds, Susie Middleton, Carol Garrison, Cherrie Carroll, Pam Keeton, Maribeth Lane, Georgia Adler

Moving in the beautiful month of May we led off with judging floral displays in downtown Easton business as part of Flower Decorating Contest sponsored by "Downtown Easton". Next on our agenda - Easton Beautification Day, May 6, a day on which TCGC members dig in and plant hundreds of annuals, and some perennials, in the four civic gardens TCGC maintains in Easton. This year we had a special project...growing annuals from seed for the various gardens...and what a wonderful addition it has been.

The Highlight of the Spring Season was our biennial Symposium – “*Floral Fête*”, held on April 22. This year's symposium exceeded our wildest expectations. It was a glorious day with flowers galore, insightful and inspirational speakers, luxe delicacies, quality vendors, exciting silent auction items, all set in a welcoming environment at The Oaks



Illustrious speakers and Authors Linda Jane Holden and Sandra Sigman

Waterfront Hotel near Easton. Accolades keep rolling in from the event's 250 attendees, whose attendance will help support TCCC's community greening efforts.



TCGC Floral Table Design



In mid-its Annual for saying goodbye and many outgoing board led my Eleanor Denegre and her 2025-27!

Fun with flowers continued with a program in which members gather and after some instruction designed their own beautiful floral arrangements to take home.



Maribeth Lane handing Eleanor Denegre the President's Gavel

June, TCGC held Meeting - a time thanks to the Maribeth Lane, and welcome new President Board extending best wishes for a successful term,



Worcester County Garden ClubSusan Fletcher



In April, the Worcester County Garden Club greeted spring with a program by representatives of the Lower Shore Land Trust about ways members could expand the variety of birds coming into their gardens. More tips for creating bird habitats were shared by *My Backyard* owner Maureen Kennedy during May's "open house" to which guests were invited with the goal of rebuilding membership. The event also included a presentation of the Mary Ann Royal Award by three prior recipients to Jan King for her outstanding contributions to the club.



Pat Arata, Martha Bennett, Jan King, Joan LaHayne



Glenda Clarke at dedication of Glenda Chatham Clarke Arboretum

Separate from our scheduled meetings, members participated in a garden therapy workshop planting seeds in egg cartons with residents of Gull Creek Senior Living Community; volunteered at the Lower Shore Land Trust's Native Plant Sale; promoted the club at a Cross Farm Festival as well as Maryland Coastal Bays Bay Day; weeded during a "Clean Up Day" at the historic Germantown School in Berlin; attended the naming of Salisbury University's arboretum in honor of alumna (and fellow club member!) Glenda Chatham Clarke and placed a wreath designed by Sue Ann Hudson at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines on Memorial Day.



Sue Ann Hudson with Memorial Day Wreath

So, as we wrap up Garden Basket for the summer, I would like to include an article from the District Co-Chair of Horticulture, Reenie Rice, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist.

The World's Deadliest Animal

Dorothy worried about lions and tigers and bears. Oh my! Others have worried about werewolves, which apparently are fearsome in London, wolves at the door, running bears, sleeping lions, krakens, great white sharks and evil snakes lurking in trees.

My mother used to sing about smiling at crocodiles as a warning to us kids not to do stupid stuff.

“Never smile at a crocodile.
Never stop for a moment just to chat a while
Don’t be taken in
By his friendly grin
He’s only thinking how you’d look beneath his skin...”

Not that crocodiles were much to worry about in the wilds of Ohio and mountains of New York where I grew up.

It’s quite a panoply.

Sadly, despite their fearsome reputations, none of these creatures, not even all of them put together, can even begin to match the planet’s deadliest animal.

The mosquito



Mosquitoes aren’t, all by themselves, totally terrifying. They’re scary because they’re such great vectors for disease (disease vectors are ways the disease moves from one living creature to another. Air and water are common, but mosquitoes, rats, fleas, deer, ticks, etc. are some of many others).

The list of mosquito born diseases is long and only gets longer the more we study diseases. Malaria, dengue, chikungunya, zika, west Nile, La Crosse encephalitis, Jamestown canyon virus, and yellow fever destroy many human lives each year; and others, more deadly to animals than humans (like dog heartworm), can be carried by one - just one, one, one little mosquito. And - it is entirely possible to be infected with more than one disease by that one hungry mosquito.

The tiny terrors dominate the world's health. Is there another scary animal that the CDC offers surveillance software to the public to help them track? (If you're interested, Google CDC mosquito surveillance software)

What's a horrified eastern shore resident to do????

We are all aware of insect protection we can spray on ourselves and our clothing. That's great. But - wouldn't it be better, more pro-active, to strike back at the little horrors and keep them from bothering us in the first place?

What fun! Take revenge on the bloodthirsty flyers.



The **“Mosquito Bucket of Doom!”** Is the perfect solution.

It's simple and unbelievably effective. You'll need a 5-gallon bucket or two (front and back yard), mosquito dunks (available at hardware stores and the internet), some grass clippings or pulled-out weeds, and water. That's all you need.

Place the grass clippings, weeds, and dunk in the bucket, carry it to a far-from-your-front-or-back-door spot, and fill it half way with water. Walk away. This works best if you have one in both front and back yards.

This works because mosquitos breed in water. Females - those that want our blood - lay their eggs on the surface of the water. Eggs hatch into larvae, which molt and grow for several days, to emerge as a fully capable adult mosquito. Days. A *few* days. This is why it's so important to make sure there's no standing water around - except where there are dunks!

Chuckle to yourself as you settle the score with your evil-to-mosquitos buckets. in a few days the mild funk - you won't smell it unless you shove your face into the bucket - of the decaying matter in the water will emit an aroma irresistible to female mosquitos. They'll lay their eggs there. Yes, they will. They just can't resist. It's a siren song! Their eggs will never grow up to be mosquitos, though, because Bt kills them dead. (Bt, bacillus thuringiensis israelensis, is a group of bacteria deadly to mosquito larvae.) Nothing else gets bothered by Bt, so it's a win for all the planet.

While after a while you're not likely to encounter a mosquito in your yard, you just might go elsewhere and find they're not so well behaved. You will need some protection.

While DEET is famously effective against mosquitos and other varmints in the yard (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide), not environmentally friendly as *it doesn't break down*. Every shower or laundering of DEET protected clothing puts this chemical into the water and, you guessed it, sooner or later it will poison something in the Bay.

For a more environmentally friendly, yet still effective, alternative, Icaridin, *sold as Picaridin*, is a great choice. Icaridin/Picaridin is made from pepper plants; it breaks down in the environment but is still effective. Like DEET, it works mostly by smelling revolting to insects. It might be most effective as a spray, but pair it with Permethrin (another plant-based repellent) for total mosquito/tick protection. Both are more planet friendly than DEET, and together they are equal to DEET's fabulous protection.

In a world full of scary enough scenarios - let's protect ourselves from the planet's deadliest animal.

Mosquito Bucket of Doom:

<https://sidewalknature.com/2022/05/08/mosquito-bucket-of-doom/>

Picaridin Effectiveness:

<https://www.consumerreports.org/health/insect-repellent/picaridin-insect-repellent-a3356321627/>

<u>The Last Word</u>

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of District I's newsletter - catching up on Club Activities as well as State and CAR-SGC news.

We are going to take the summer off, but we will be back in September bringing you the news from around the District and the State. So, stay safe, have fun in your garden, and enjoy your summer.

Trish Reynolds, District I *Gardenews* and Publications Chair

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