

Director's
Message



Blue Star
Memorial



Cherry
Blossoms
of Japan



Interview
with
Diana Pucci



Miller
House
Garden



Citizen
Science



BUDS & BLOOMS



Director's Message:

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that almost two years have come and gone and I will be leaving in September as Director of District II/III and a new administration will be coming in. I want to thank you for the privilege of being the Director of District II/III. I have enjoyed meeting our members, installing new officers, and sharing in the wonderful camaraderie that occurs whenever we get together. Of course, the food and programs are amazing too.

For me, the hardest part of leaving will be not seeing our members as frequently as I have been doing for the last two years. I have a story about Diana Pucci this month, another talented member that I am including this month.

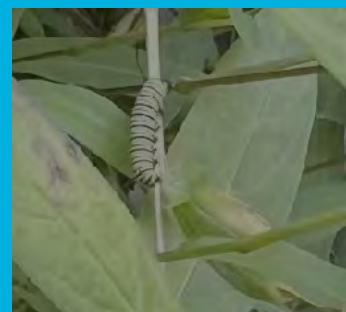
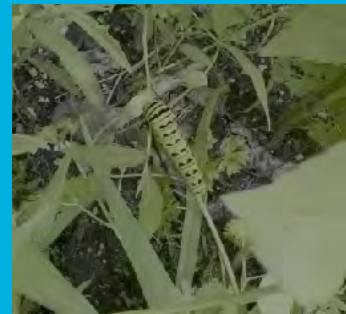
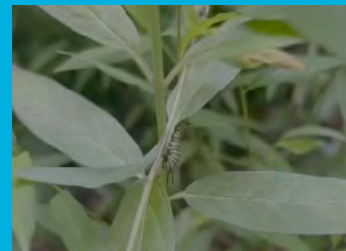
Please try to attend the September 09, 2026, annual meeting hosted by our South Schuylkill Garden Club. Their president, Kim Morgan, as well as the members of the South Schuylkill Club have been working diligently to prepare a welcoming venue with a floral designer, Mr. Kenny Fetherolf, our floral designer/presenter a.k.a. the Forget-Me-Not florist. There will also be great food, so if you haven't signed up yet, please do so. A gentle reminder that each club should be selling tickets for our only fundraiser of the year. You do not have to attend to win, but we really need attendees. Cynthia Dunton and Evelyn Broad are selling tickets in advance and will be selling tickets the day of the event. Page 6 of this newsletter is the invitation/RSVP for this event.

Please note the current list of proposed officers for District II/III for 2026-2028 are:

Jane Kruse- Director
Vacant-Assistant Director
Faye Schuler- Treasurer
Liz Lorenz- Recording Secretary
Wendy Webber Welsh- Corresponding Secretary

Looking forward to seeing you on September 09, 2026!
Fondly,
Claire Kukielka

*Watch Out!
It's the season for
Caterpillars!*



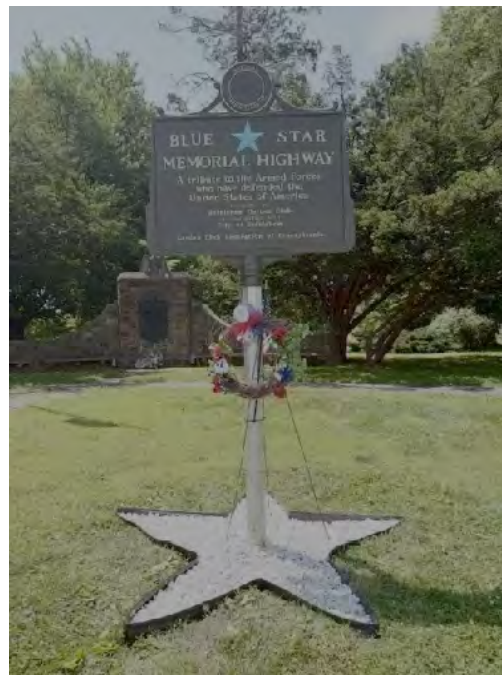
*From infants to
adult, they can be
hiding in plain
sight!*

Blue Star Memorial Update in Time for 250th Anniversary by Birdie Mackary



As the year 2026 is the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, the Bethlehem Garden Club wanted to do something special with The BLUE STAR marker located in the Rose Garden, on West Union Blvd in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Member, Fran Favretto, managed to secure money from Plant America Grant to cover the cost of the enhancement. A plan was developed to cut out the grass under the marker in the shape of a star. That space was filled in with white stones. The outer spaces were planted with red, white and blue flowers. The improvement is a tribute to all of our veterans.



In case you missed it ...

The You Tube video of the August 5th Floral Design and Horticulture Webinar is now available.

Learn, be inspired, and grow ! Click on this Link:
[YouTube Video of Webinar](#)

Japan in April by Becky Short



Just returned from a two week trip to Japan. Naturally a country called 'Land of the Rising Sun' would have amazing gardens. Fortunately, we visited at the perfect time of year to see all the cherry trees in blossom. They were everywhere! Sakura symbolize the brief, colorful and fleeting nature of life and beauty. Besides cherry trees, other valued native trees include camphor, maple, oak and palm. A common practice to keep the trees smaller is cloud pruning. This appeared to be very severe to me but the trees do survive. Pine trees are sacred and represent long life.

Japan is a place where tranquility, serenity, purity and respect are practiced. Gardens are mostly green and devoid of colorful flowers making them simple and incredibly beautiful. There are exceptions, of course, including one shrine that was surrounded by their native

blooming peonies. Although bamboo is native, it is considered invasive there. We saw many rice beds. The areas are filled with water and the rice seedlings are planted. Plants are harvested in the fall and dried. I learned that all rice is brown. Processing makes it white and most Japanese eat rice at every meal!

The lotus plant represents enlightenment. On the statues, Buddha is sitting on a lotus flower. It is one of the most powerful symbols. It rises from mud, darkness and decay and yet emerges pure, untouched and radiant. Mud represents suffering, ignorance, fear, negativity and hardship. Lotus represents awareness, wisdom, compassion and awakening. Without mud, there is no lotus. The lotus doesn't fight the mud, doesn't complain, doesn't try to clean the pond. It simply grows through it. This is basically the heart of Buddhist practice. I'm going to try to be more like the lotus!



Interview with Diane Pucci by Claire Kukielka

I had the pleasure of working with Diana Pucci last year, when we were planning for the annual meeting hosted by Monroe Garden Club. Both she and her husband, Joe, are super knowledgeable and super hard workers and they put a lot of time and energy into the Monroe Garden Club. I realized then that Diana was very gifted.

She doesn't know a lot about vintage jewelry, but she used Google lens to find and match vintage pieces she had acquired. She provided a lot of items to the Monroe Garden Club to help them with their raffle table. I also saw some beautiful artwork that she had included in their yearbook. She is the chair of the Monroe Garden Club's yearbook and does a fantastic job.

However, I was floored when I recently saw Diana's name out on Amazon with her adult coloring book. I contacted her and did a small interview where I learned a few more things about her. Diana is a graduate of Pratt Institute. During her college years she changed majors from design to sculpture and then to jewelry. However, she always remained in some field of art. Diana remembers drawing since she was three years old. She didn't have a lot of colors available to her as a child, so she just drew in black and white. She particularly did not like crayons which she found messy and imprecise. It wasn't until high school that Diana began working with colors. Diana's family had many other artists in her family which helped to motivate her and set an example.

When Diana graduated from Pratt she worked at Xerox. As a technician she was required to leave a printing which demonstrated the calibration of the printing before she left each site. She began to enhance the documentation she left with drawings of unicorns and other figurines. She found when she returned to the sites to check on the equipment, the employees had cut out and colored these images. What was surprising to Diana was how unique these images became as they took on the attributes of the various people working with them. This created a sort of Deja Vu moment for Diana as she saw how unique her artwork could become. Her artwork was actually a vehicle to allow others to become creative. Ultimately, Diana created a coloring book based on portraits and sketches she had created over many years.

While the coloring book has been refined to showcase Diana's evolving artistic talent and interest, her earlier illustrations served as a springboard for her current work. Diana enjoys employing fantasy, science fiction, mythical themes, and folklore in her artwork. She also has used a fusional process to include Indian and Japanese imagery. Her current book will be available at the September 09, 2026, annual meeting if you are interested in purchasing a copy. Diana is already planning on another coloring book, and I can't wait to see how it turns out.

Diana moved from the Bronx to the Poconos once she retired. Because she had vacationed in the Poconos for several years and because the location allowed her time with her mother-in-law, it was a logical and easy transition. She has been a member of the Monroe Garden Club since 2017. She has made many things including cement bird baths and draping pots which her other members have enjoyed. Diana also designs her own custom wire wrapped jewelry.

As always, I am amazed at the talent and generosity of our members. This is just another reason to join a national garden club affiliate; this is a great opportunity to meet interesting and talented people who love giving back to their community.



District II/III
Annual Meeting
Pennsylvania Keystone to the Beauty of America
Hosted by
South Schuylkill Garden Club
September 9, 2026

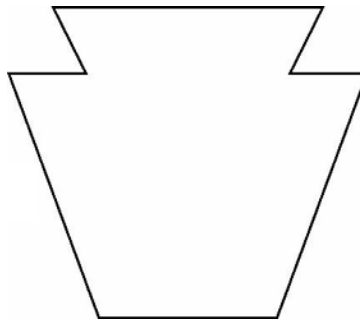
Floral Designer:

Kenny Feterolf

Owner of Forget Me Not Florist

100 Years in business

(His bio is on the following page)



9:30 Registration

9:45 President's Meeting

10:30 Brunch

11 Business Meeting

1 PM Designer

3 PM Departure

Registration:

Please Mail your reservations to

Linda Bollinger 552 Schwartz Valley Road

Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972-9012

Please make check payable to

South Schuylkill Garden Club (SSGC)

In the amount of \$40.00 per person

Payable by August 31, 2026

Additionally, please include your
email address for confirmation.

No payment will be taken at the
door.

Name: _____

Club: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Participants are invited and encouraged to view the studios of various artist on the 3 floors off the Gallery

Walk In Art Center

220 Parkway

Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

South Schuylkill Garden Club Kenny Fetherolf, Forget Me Not Florist

Presenter for Annual District II/III Meeting

159 E Adamsdale Rd, Orwigsburg, PA 17961

The business was originally established in 1926 and is celebrating its 100th anniversary of operation this year. The owner and floral designer, Kenny Fetherolf, attended the Schuylkill County Vocational-Technical School for horticulture. While in high school, he apprenticed for a year under John Bryden, the owner of Forget Me Not Flowers in Pottsville at the time. Kenny purchased the business from Mr. Bryden in 2009, the same year he graduated from both the vocational school and the Blue Mountain School District. Soon after acquiring the business, Kenny moved Forget Me Not Florist to its current location. Under Kenny's talented flair for floral design, the business has thrived.

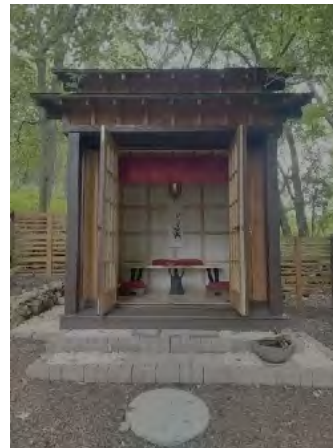
They offer a wide selection of flower arrangements and talented designs. If you would like to look into their options for an upcoming occasion, they can be reached at (570) 366-2619 or online at <https://www.orwigsburgflorist.com/>.

They offer several convenient delivery options to meet your needs:

- Local & Nationwide Delivery: We provide flower delivery in and around Orwigsburg, as well as nationwide delivery through our reliable florist network.
- Same-Day Service: If you need a last-minute gift, we provide same-day flower delivery to ensure you have the best and freshest flowers exactly when you need them.

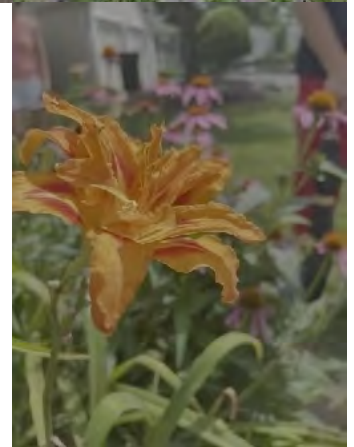


We loved it all!
Here are a few of
our favorites
from the
Parkland GC
26th Annual
Garden Tour!



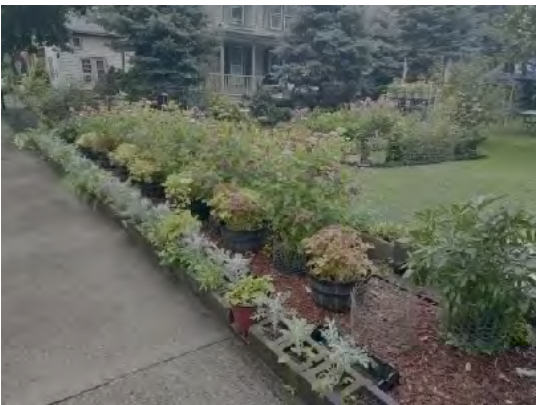
Saturday, July 11

STAR
SPANGLED
GARDEN TOUR
2026



Clubs and Presidents of District II/III updated July 2026

Allentown Garden Club	Rosemary Gish Ebersole 610-967-3747	445 Rock Cliff Road, Emmaus, Pa 18049 rgebersole@aol.com
Bethlehem Garden Club	Rosanne Cilente 610-570-8640	4015 Devonshire Road, Bethlehem PA18020 Rosiesgarden55@gmail.com
Emmaus Garden Club	Lynne Yaeger 607-738-3006	1377 Blue Church Rd, Coopersburg, PA 18036-3015 lynnyaeger@gmail.com
Hazleton Area Garden Club	Barbara Grosso 570-436-4425	1759 Chrismark Road Hazleton PA 18201-5263 bgknitter@ptd.net
Milford Garden Club	Judy Casey 201-803-1990	PO Box 764, Milford 18337-0764 milfordgarden@gmail.com 105 8 th Street Milford, PA 18337 (home address) judyth.casey@gmail.com (home email)
Monroe Garden Club	Carol Akam 570-897-6433	414 Sandy Shore Drive, Mt. Bethel 18343 carolakam800@gmail.com
Parkland Garden Club	Kendra Copley 610-973-4834	1130 North Broad Street Allentown, PA 18104-2912 Kendra.copley@gmail.com
Pottstown Area Garden Club	Veronicann Gordon 610-608-8666	690 Old Airport Rd Douglassville, PA 19518 veronicannkoren@gmail.com
Garden Club of Reading	Janet Hurlbrink 610-779-3486 484-269-6936-cell	12 Longview Drive Birdsboro PA 19508 janbrinks@msn.com
South Schuylkill Garden Club	Kim Morgan 570-617-0808(c)	1537 Panther Valley Rd, Pine Grove, 17963-9015 kamorgan11@gmail.com
Upper Perkiomen Garden Club	Diana Rudloff 215-541-4929	1607 Lloyd Lane, Pennsburg 18073 diana.rudloff@outlook.com



Addictive Behaviors

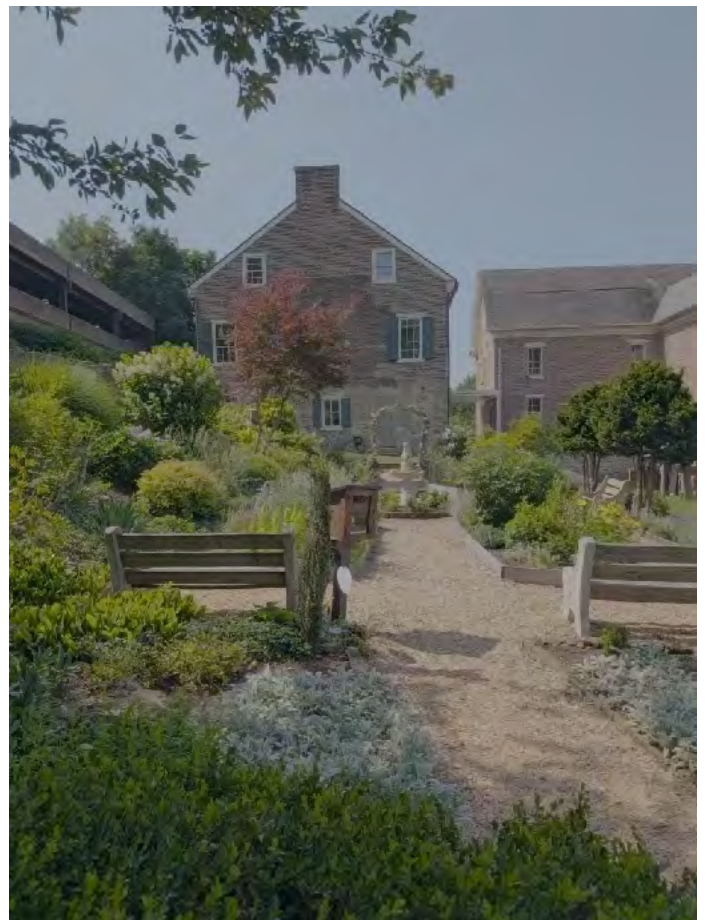
Interesting house in Watkins Glen, NY proves that one CANNOT have too many containers & pots with flowers in them. There were 100's and 100's of them of all sizes on this small corner property!!!



Interesting Points: Janet Hurlbrink's Visit to Denver & Sante Fe's Botanical Gardens



Miller's House Garden - Bethlehem Garden Club



Citizen Science Update by Diana Rudloff

District II/III has two Citizen Science Projects. A count of birds at feeders during the winter and a precipitation monitoring study during the growing season.

Project Feeder Watch Count

Here are a few observations from our winter of '25/'26 feeder:

- We had 11 participants from 5 clubs with 5 observers from Parkland.
- 2,276 birds were counted representing 37 confirmed species.
- There was at least one sighting of all the Woodpeckers that might be expected in Pennsylvania. In order of number reported they were Downy (49), Red-bellied (17), Hairy (11), Flicker (7), Sapsucker (4), Red-headed (2) and Pileated (1). The sequence is also consistent with what would be expected for feeder counts versus "in the field" counts.
- Of the potential irruptive species this winter, both Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches were reported. Irruptive species are birds that winter in our area only in some years, typically when food sources are scarce in Canada and the more northern Northeastern states.



Speaking of Birds ... First time seen a couple of weeks ago at Tracy McKay's bird feeder ... Pileated Woodpecker mother on the right feeding her female baby. Mom is about 18" long and is larger than her mate. The young one looks so clean and pretty. And, they can make a heck of a lot of noise together.

We will be continuing this project so if you are interested in participating, let me know. The count runs from December through March.

Precipitation Study

Now in our fourth year of reporting precipitation in our yards, we have 14 participants from 8 clubs and are building some interesting historical data for comparisons. Participants began reporting precipitation in April and will continue through October. Results are troubling. My year-to-date this year is 7.63 inches less than last year.

Unfortunately, locations in our district continue to be in various categories of drought. Check out the weekly PA Drought Monitor at

We gardeners need to seriously consider what we are planting going forward as we experience extremes of temperature and conditions throughout the year.

If you would like to receive our monthly report, even if you do not measure and report precipitation, contact me. My email address is diana.rudloff@outlook.com.

The Tree That Sparked the American Revolution - Penn State Outreach



Pinus strobus (Eastern white pine)



It took acres of sail to move a big 18th century ship and multiple wooden masts to support the sails. The ideal lumber for a mast was the trunk of a big Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*). Harvesting these immense and valuable American trees was a challenge. Loggers would first clear a drop zone for the tree and build a cradle of brush at one end. When the tree fell, the cradle would cushion the fall and prevent the tree from splintering on impact. If a tree was cut down close to a river, it could be rolled into the water and floated to a port. If not, teams of oxen would drag the fallen giant out of the forest.

As forests along the eastern seaboard were cleared, the British passed laws to reserve large white pines for the Royal Navy, marking the trees to signify that they were the property of the Crown. Not only did a sailing ship require as many as eleven masts and sub-masts to support its sails, but a ship usually needed replacement timber to fix masts damaged over the course of a voyage. Without big white pines, how was Great Britain supposed to maintain its navy, and without a navy, how was it supposed to maintain its empire

Laws against harvesting mast pines were mostly ignored until the 1760s, when New Hampshire governor John Wentworth decided to step up enforcement. Violent confrontations between British officials and American colonists ensued.

The most famous conflict over white pine arose in Weare, New Hampshire, in 1772, when a group of sawmill owners were caught with illegally harvested trees in their possession. Sheriff Benjamin Whiting and his deputy John Quigley were dispatched to Weare to arrest the mill owners unless they paid their fines. Most of the mill owners quickly paid or, in the case of mill owner Ebenezer Mudgett, promised to pay soon. The officials returned to their inn, apparently unaware that news of their arrival had spread throughout the town and plans were afoot.

The next morning, Ebenezer Mudgett and a mob of twenty men, their faces blackened with charcoal and armed with wooden switches and poles, burst into the inn where Whiting and Quigley were staying and beat both men to the point that Whiting feared for his life. The mob jeered as the beaten, humiliated officials rode out of town.



The Tree That Sparked the American Revolution, con't.



Pinus strobus 'Pendula'

The men of the Weare mob were ultimately arraigned and paid a light fine. Their act of vigilante justice (or injustice, depending on your viewpoint!), helped to set the stage for the Revolution and was likely an inspiration for the Boston Tea Party, which took place one year later. Proof that the Pine Tree Riot was well-known at the time of the Revolution is that the pine served as the emblem of the 1775 "An Appeal to Heaven" banner flown by the first American naval fleet.

You can observe a total of 54 white pines planted in the Arboretum with most of these located in the Pollinator and Bird Garden, just outside the Childhood's Gate Children's Garden, around the Event Lawn, and in the Marsh Meadow.

The majority of these are standard Eastern white pines ([*Pinus strobus*](#)) but there are also two white pine cultivars: [*Pinus strobus* 'Pendula'](#) (semi-dwarf weeping form) and [*Pinus strobus* 'Fastigiata'](#) (upright and narrow columnar form). Larger specimens can be found in the Hartley Wood, and they are definitely large! A mature specimen will commonly grow 150 feet tall, with a diameter of 5 feet.

[The Tree That Sparked the American Revolution - The Arboretum at Penn State](#)



Pinus strobus 'Fastigiata'

Just Some Fun Stuff ...



While the Reading Public Museum hosted a Plein Aire art competition within the Arboretum which included our formal perennial garden, the GC of Reading was hosting the PA Heartland Herb Society bus tour. Artists and admirers were everywhere!



Poetic License can affect things in a bad way!

One of the artists, transposed a deer spotted farther away into our garden and titled the piece, "Out to Lunch"! Three days later, Betsy Hassler, sent out a text to the garden workers declaring all the lilies on one side of the garden were nibbled off!

