

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GARDEN CLUB
FEDERATION OF PENNSYLVANIA, DISTRICT X
Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

the
TEN*dril*

Volume 26; Issue 1 • March 2026

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The Director's Corner

Martha Alexander, District X Director

Greetings District X Members,

We have much to look forward to and celebrate in the coming months. District X will hold our Spring Tea in Paris on March 11. It's a wonderful free event for anyone in the district plus their invited guests. Come enjoy this fun event.

Many of our members are attending the Philadelphia Flower Show. Thank you, Haddie Weber, for arranging a bus and rooms for the trip. I was privileged to be a judge at The Philadelphia Flower Show and have access to the amazing displays before the crowds arrived. Photos appear later in this newsletter.

The Convention "MystERIE on the Bay", held from April 26-28, is a fabulous experience for anyone in the district. If you have never gone to a convention, make sure to go for at least a day to experience what it has to offer. Find information on the GCFP website.

Two of our clubs, Great Meadows and Martha Washington, are gearing up for the first ever Pennsylvania Garden Party. The Garden Party will be held in districts across the state on June 20 and 27th. Our clubs will be hosting it on June 27. Information and ticket sales can be found on the GCFP website. Invite your family and friends to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Two of our clubs are having Flower Shows this summer. Martha Washington Garden Club will have their show on July 24-25, and Valley Garden Club has a show planned for June 25. Additionally, the Pittsburgh and Laurel Highlands Judges Councils will have a Flower Show on July 17. District X members are encouraged to enter horticulture in the show.



Join the fun!

*Martha Alexander
District X Director*

The TENDril is published four times a year on the GCFP website in March, June, September, and December.

Submission deadline for the June issue is May 15.

Please send submissions to Marce Zaragoza, Editor, at MZarag23@gmail.com.

We welcome submissions from any District X garden club member.

We reserve the right to edit content for space.

District X GCFP Presents

Bonjour!

The 26th Annual Spring Tea in Paris

Wednesday, March 11
9:30-1:30

Mon Valley YMCA
101 Taylor Rd, Monongahela, PA 15063

Featuring a grand assortment of teas, croissants, and other specialty foods

Program - **“Flower Farming in Western PA”**
by Mark Hrutkay

Also Featuring:

- *Trash to Treasure Judging*
- *Prizes for dressing in character*
- *Prizes for highest Club attendance*
- *Drawings*
- *White Elephant Table*

RSVP by February 25, 2026

with Garden Club name and
number attending to:

martha.alexander78@gmail.com

Oh la la!

*Uniontown Flower Club
is hosting
this event.*





There's still time to create a *Trash to Treasure* entry for the convention! Bring your creation to the Spring Tea on March 11, when entries will be judged and a design chosen to advance to the State Convention!

TRASH TO TREASURE at the CONVENTION

Chair Carol McConnell, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

MysterIE by the Bay -- "A Boat for Your Book"

Lake Erie often offers a peaceful, sometimes mysterious, beautiful setting—so when the opportunity arises, hop on a boat, relax, and make the most of the day. Bring along a great book—perhaps a mystery set in a garden—and enjoy some quiet reading time on the water.

Your Challenge:

Build a boat using all types of recycled/repurposed materials, dried flowers, glass, stones, wood or metal.

Specifications:

Dimensions: No larger than 15" by 15" mounting surface. Height no taller than 18".

Weight: Less than 20 pounds including mounting surface.

Materials: Any type of repurposed material (plastic, wood, metal, glass and stone) may be used. As much as 20% of the design may be paint and glue, and remember to use dried flowers, not fresh.

Each entry should include a 3" x 5" card.

Front: Title of entry and list of materials.

Back: District, Garden Club, designer(s) name(s), and mailing address.

Entry may be the work of more than one person.

Only One Entry from Each District

Selection method is determined by the District.

District entries must be submitted at the convention by Sunday, April 26, from 1-5 p.m. Judging is at 5:15 p.m.

Not to be judged under the same standards as a flower show.

SCALE OF POINTS FOR JUDGING

Conformance (height, width, weight).....	20 points
Artistic Concept (creative use of recycled materials) ...	50 points
Expression (interpretation of theme)	20 points
Execution (workmanship)	10 points
TOTAL	100 points

Club Reports

Garden Club of Munhall

Kathy Petruska, President



In November, 23 members decorated holiday wreaths, once again organized by Peggy Slobodnick.

Members met several times in November to sort the plastic bottle caps for

our 6-foot recycled bench. We placed the order for 1 bench, and members ordered 4 bird baths. Fern Siebert, Clean and Tidy Our Country, is our contact person. Members will be meeting in February to continue the

bottle cap sorting.

On December 14, the club celebrated the holidays at the South Hills Country Club. Once again, Haddie Webber organized a wonderful luncheon celebration. Our favors were the cutest miniature Poinsettia plants.

Unfortunately, our January meeting was cancelled due to the weather...and that's an understatement. We're all looking forward to warmer weather and attending the GCFP Convention in Erie in April.

SPRING ORCHID SHOW April 11 & 12, 2026



PRESENTED BY THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA (OSWP.ORG)

HOURS	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES
SATURDAY APRIL 11 EXHIBITS NOON TO 5 PM VENDORS 9 AM TO 5 PM	CROWNE PLAZA SUITES PITTSBURGH SOUTH 164 FORT COUCH ROAD	ORCHID DISPLAYS EXPERT PRESENTATIONS REPOTTING SERVICE ORCHID VENDOR SALES RAFFLES & AUCTIONS CRAFT FAIR
SUNDAY APRIL 12 EXHIBITS 9 AM TO 4 PM VENDORS 9 AM TO 4 PM	ACROSS FROM SOUTH HILLS VILLAGE FREE PARKING WITH EASY ACCESS TO ALL EVENTS	

ADMISSION \$5.00 (MEMBERS & UNDER 18 FREE)





Club Reports continued

Giant Oaks Garden Club

Submitted by Karen Humphreys, Treasurer, for Pat Stanfill, President

The Giant Oaks Garden Club meets the first Thursday of each month from February through October at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Venetia. Our current 2026 membership is 65 members.

GOGC hosted our annual Tinsel luncheon fundraiser - “Warm Wishes & Snowmen Kisses,” on November 7 at Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn. Our 400+ guests enjoyed a delicious lunch, shopped fresh baked goods, visited our 40 guest vendors, won chances for 60+ door prizes, bought chances for a 50/50 and our over-the-top themed gift baskets, and enjoyed a lively auction for our graciously donated mechanical/singing snowman. Plans are underway for our 2026 Tinsel event.

Members celebrated our annual Christmas luncheon, installation of 2026 officers and

annual awards recognition at the Valley Brook Country Club in December.

Our club continues to collect plastic bottle caps which are hauled out to be recycled into HydroBlox® Technologies, Inc. in Meadville, PA. Plans for spring will include tending several community gardens and Peter’s Twp. Library native/pollinator garden, garden therapy at McMurray Hills Manor, monthly tray favors and cupcakes for Meals on Wheels and our annual Plant Sale and Garden Market in May.

We don’t have a member meeting in January and January’s board meeting was cancelled due to blizzard conditions, delaying our annual budget review, but our projects, events, programs and speakers are confirmed and we look forward to a wonderful 2026.

SAVE THE DATE
CAR-SGC Conference 2026
October 19-20, 2026
 (optional bus tour 10/21/2026)

“Ohio - The Heart of it All”

Holiday Inn
Cleveland,
Independence, Ohio
holidayinn.com

Central Atlantic
 Region of State
 Garden Clubs

**Early Registration and
 more details coming Spring 2026**



Club Reports continued

Green Gardeners of Uniontown

Lynda Waggoner, President

Winter is generally a slow period for the Green Gardeners, but we have managed to keep our activities lively and engaging.

For our last business meeting of the year in November, we welcomed Master Gardener Susan Shoemaker, who presented an invaluable program on the invasive lantern fly. This pest poses a significant threat to local trees, and Susan's insights were both informative and eye-opening. In addition to the presentation, we made cuttings of Algerian Ivy and planted them using root hormone powder. A recent informal survey among members who planted the cuttings reported that they appear to be thriving. We hope to incorporate these plants into our palette for next spring's Main Street plantings.

Due to favorable weather conditions, we postponed the removal and cleanup of

downtown plants until mid-November, allowing us to maximize our gardening efforts.

In December, we enjoyed a festive holiday gathering with spouses at the home of Ellen and Bill Ulmer. A highlight of the evening was a round-the-table sharing of how each couple met, which resulted in many laughs and fond memories. It was a wonderful way to strengthen our community bonds.

The club does not meet in January or February; however, the Civic Improvement Committee convened to discuss the types of plants we will use in our downtown plantings next year. We are excited about the possibilities and look forward to sharing our plans with the full membership in the spring.





Club Reports continued

Great Meadows Garden Club

Elaine Swaney, President

Great Meadows Garden Club ended 2025 with their Christmas Party on December 17th with lunch and party at Caporella's Restaurant. A time to socialize and to hand out awards: Laurel, Daffodil, Butterfly, Forget Me Not Honorary Award and recognized members with a Creative Staging Award, Jump Right in Award, Heart and Soul Award and Membership Queen Award. Everyone voted on the wrapped gift exchange packages with First and Second Awards given out. Food was great and everyone who attended enjoyed themselves. A fun way to end the year.

January 2026 brought much snow, and although we had a small group attend the meet-

ing, our speaker Brian Reedy, supervisor at Ft. Necessity National Park, shared his archeological information on Jumonville Glen.

We are excited about preparation for our participation in the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Statewide Garden Tour. We have 7 sites: Katie and Richard Jaros, East End Community Garden, Martha and Robert Alexander, Charlene and Erik Friend, Wanda and Doc Sherry, Church Community Gardens at Bruderhoff, and Cindy and Dan Komarinski. We are excited to share our wonderful gardens.

Below are some photos from our Christmas party and our East End kids program.





Club Reports continued

Martha Washington Garden Club

Susan DeLost, President

The Martha Washington Garden Club concluded 2025 with 62 members.

Since our last report, two long-time members have passed away: Kathy Smith, age 76, on November 22 and Mary Ann Manion, age 91, on December 26. For 2025, we had a total of five deaths in the club: Arlene Ricker, Irene Powell, and Carolyn Johnson died earlier in the year.

In November, the gardens at the LeMoyne House and the Veterans’ Memorial Garden were prepared for winter. Members decorated the outside of the LeMoyne House for Christmas.

We had a good turnout for our annual Holiday Luncheon and Awards Presentation on November 18. Lisa Meyers, owner of “Fleur de Lise” and daughter of member, Carole Malmgren, created a number of holiday designs for our inspiration and enjoyment.



The monthly window displays at Citizens’ Library in Washington continue to generate

interest. Our December and January designs featured club activities corresponding to that month.

On December 10, Kathy Wells created small holiday designs during the third session of our newly created speaker series hosted by the Citizens’ Library of Washington.



She focused on reusing and repurposing items that could be found around the house and yard. These evening sessions are free and open to the public.

Our annual Holiday Mug Workshop was held on Friday, December 12. The 125 holiday designs were distributed to local hospice patients and to others needing extra cheer for the holidays.

Plans are underway for several of our 2026 activities, including the:

- May 17th Plant Sale
- June 27th Pennsylvania Garden Party
- July 24th & 25th Flower Show

We will also be raising funds for a Blue Star Marker at the former train station on South Main Street in Washington.



Club Reports continued

Pleasant Hills Garden Club

Tamara Ziccardi, President

Our November meeting was a club favorite. We practiced floral design and created centerpieces for Celebration Villa, a local assisted living residence. Our Program Committee purchased flowers, and several people brought in things from their garden.



Marie Mueller, our resident floral design judge, helped us to create beautiful masterpieces. We also had our committee chairs turn in updated information about what they do and what the committee is responsible for.

Our December meeting was the annual potluck Holiday party. The Programming Committee did a great job making the space festive. Everyone brought something delicious to share, and we had an optional gift exchange game. Everyone had a great time, and there were lots of smiles.



Barbara & Irv Latterman

For the January meeting we passed out yearbooks, announced some changes to the committees, voted on a new design for our club brochure, and did some winter sowing.

Town and Country Garden Club of Rices Landing

Tami Burnworth, President

The program for our October meeting was “Making a Bug Hotel”. Members gathered supplies and we all made our own bug hotel for our gardens – a little messy but fun.

The month of November we did not have a business meeting, instead we participated in the “All Things Christmas Festival” at the Methodist Church Social Hall. Members worked together on making a Christmas-

themed door hanging which was then donated to the Church to be raffled off for their drawing to raise money for the Church.

In December we did not have a meeting, but in January a meeting was held at a members home where we planned the yearbook and discussed projects for the new year.



Club Reports continued

Uniontown Flower Club

Submitted by Sharlene Lehmann

The 30-member Uniontown Flower Club that meets at Mt. Saint Macrina the second Friday of each month except for January, ended the year with their annual Christmas party. We began partnering with the Uniontown College Club for this event. The College Club conducted an auction, and our Flower Club sold handmade Christmas and all occasion cards to help fund our new scholarship partnered with the local 4-H Club. Pictured below are the beautiful cards made by member Rose Lehman. The all-occasion cards contained pressed flowers grown by Rose.



Also pictured is our Christmas cake that both clubs enjoyed.



Members Mary Ann Blasinsky, Sue Cole, and Antoinette Franks visited several senior citizens who were spending Christmas alone and two members whose husbands had passed away recently. They gave them candy and flowers and a wish for a Merry Christmas.

We don't meet in January, however, we made up for it in February with a pizza party. Pictured are hostesses Charlene Smochinsky (left) and Joyce McCune along with special guests Mickey and Minnie.



After the pizza party we were treated to a wonderful guest speaker, Ashley Yokum, from Eighty-

Four Microgreens. Members were treated to a taste testing of a variety of microgreens and were also able to put in orders for the microgreens that they enjoyed. Ashley discussed the growing process of the microgreens, their health benefits, and the care taken to deliver the best product to customers. Pictured are some of 7 greens we tasted.





Club Reports continued

Valley Garden Club

Roxanne Huss, President

The Valley Garden Club has 29 members. Five are currently in inactive status. The club meets at the Lynwood Lutheran Church the second Thursday of each month except for July and August.

A small standard flower show is planned for July 25, 2026 at the Mon Valley YMCA.

Programs for the upcoming monthly meetings include flower design workshops, May Day Craft Demonstration, and a speaker from

Kiln'it on hand-fused and slumped art glass.

The club's entry to the GCFP Trash to Treasure contest will be selected in February.

The installation of new officers will be held at the May monthly meeting.

The 2026 scholarship winner will be awarded in June. Applications are due in April.

The below photos are from our flower arranging class and flower show practice session.





Committee Reports

Awards Committee

Karen Humphreys, Chair



According to the November 2025 Leadership Workshop “Awards Documents and Procedures” (Marilyn Small, GCFP Awards Chair and Sheri

recognized through GCFP awards include *websites, digital media, newsletters, flower shows, environmental projects, youth engagement and programs.* Top winners are forward to CAR-SGC and NGC for further consideration.

Several awards given across Pennsylvania at the District level include:

- *Perennial Bloom Award – due January 15
- *Forget-Me-Not Award – due August 1
- *Exceptional Horticulturist Award – due August 1 to GCFP
- *Laurel Awards (not judged) – due August 1

<https://pagardenclubs.org/information-resources>:

GCFP Information -> Manual Club Presidents 2025
Part VII Awards and Grants, President pin Page 13

The GCFP Award Manual has been updated in 2025. You can also review high-level descriptions on the “District X Awards Information” from Karen Humphreys (updated 2/2026).

Lowry, GCFP Awards Co-Chair), only 40 of GCFP’s 100 clubs applied for at least 1 GCFP award. Most were for newsletters, flower shows, or yearbook. District Directors are asked to encourage our clubs to apply for awards. (<https://pagardenclubs.org/awards>)

To Quote from the GCFP Manual for Club Presidents:

“There is satisfaction in accomplishing a planned project. Recognize this accomplishment with one of the many awards offered through GCFP, CAR-SGC and NGC.”

Awards offered are listed under the GCFP Awards, which references the NGC awards manual. Note that one of the easiest awards to apply for is to submit the Club Yearbook by December 1. Other areas that can be

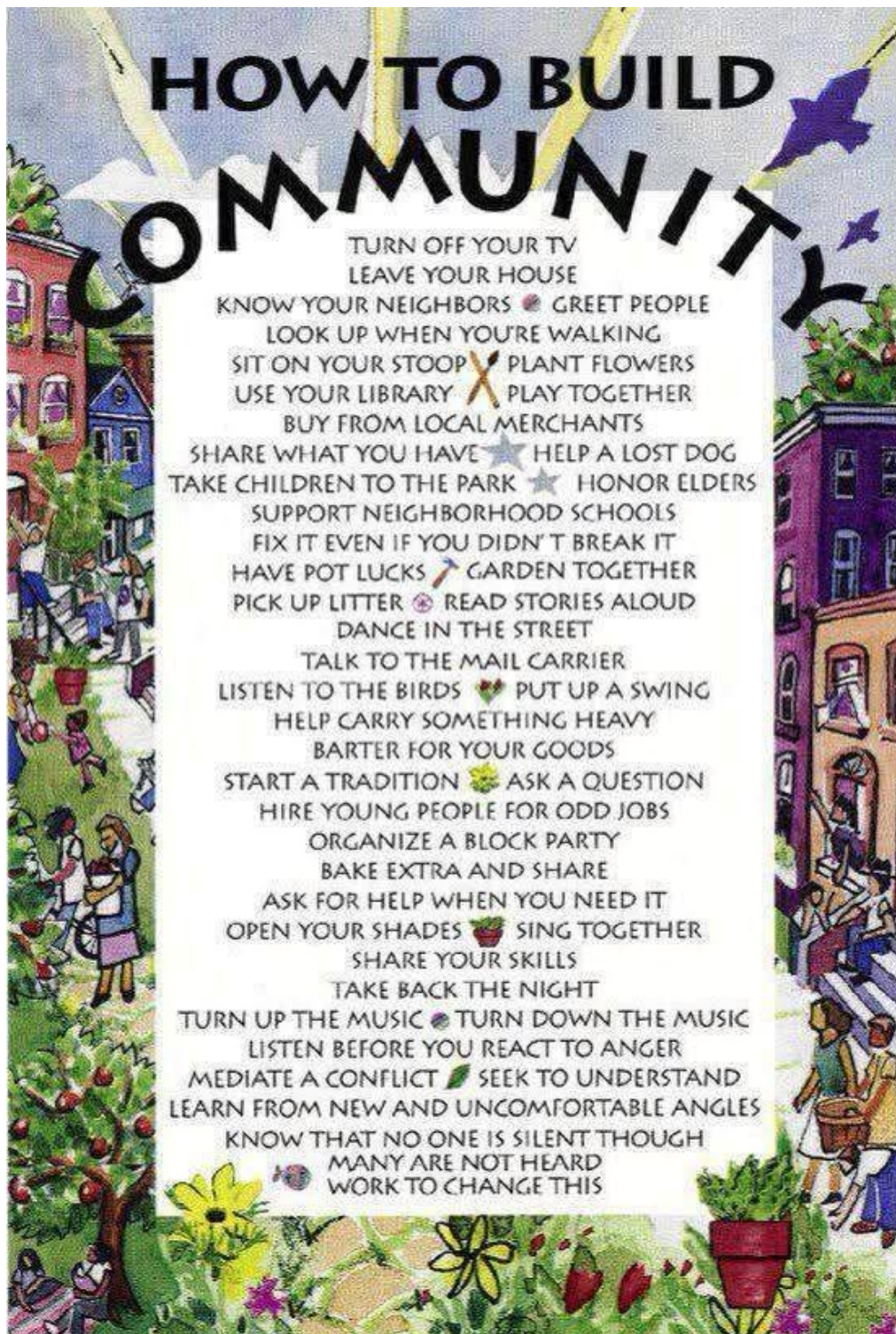


Committee Reports continued

Birds, Butterflies and Conservation Committee

Kathy Petruska, Chair

From: The Heirloom Gardener, John Forti





Committee Reports continued

Hort Hints

Grace Mitchell, Horticulture Chair

Remember, every day is one day closer to Spring.

As we try to survive till then,

Think about a couple delightful houseplants.



Sweetheart plant (Hoya Kerii) – just in time for Valentines Day – has heart shaped leaves and is vining.



Also interesting is the Burro’s Tail. (Sedum morganianum). Its long stems are layered with silvery teardrop-shaped leaves, and is long-lived.

Burro's Tail in bloom by Morningdew51 at English Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2518633>



A couple veggie thoughts (Groaners)

Broccoli is a royal veggie because it has crowns.

Cauliflower is broccoli that’s seen a ghost!

I know a pea that’s rich & famous—he’s a **V.I.P.!**

Hanging burro’s tail by Joe Mabel, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6358368>

Remember each day is one day closer to **SPRING!**



Committee Reports continued

Pollinator Gardens Report

Wanda Sherry, Chair

Native bees like bumblebees can only survive if there is an abundance of native flowering plants to provide them with food and shelter. Bees are one of our main pollinators, and without them we would not have any of our fruits and vegetables. Bees are declining in rapid numbers due to habitat loss, pesticide use, disease, and lack of native flowering plants. Bees only use pollen from one species, and if these plants are removed the bees go away.

There are more than 2000 native plant species in western Pennsylvania. Here’s a list of easy to find and easy to grow native plants.

- * Wild bergamot
- * Scarlet bee balm
- * Purple cone flower
- * Golden ragwort
- * Butterfly milkweed
- * Blue wild indigo
- * Black eyed Susan
- * Common milkweed
- * Dense blazing star
- * Swamp milkweed
- * Wild columbine
- * Cardinal flower
- * Virginia bluebells
- * New England aster
- * Aromatic aster
- * Blue lobelia
- * Wrinkleleaf goldenrod
- * Jerusalem artichoke
- * Foam flower
- * Joe pye weed
- * New York iron weed
- * Anise hyssop



Committee Reports continued

Program Committee Report

Haddie Weber, Chair

District X has a very exciting and active upcoming year.

March 11, 2026 is our Spring Tea. Meeting will begin around 10:00 AM. The District X Board will be bringing the food. Uniontown Flower Club is the Host Club. Our speaker is Mark Hrutkay who will be speaking on Flower Farming in Western Pennsylvania. His business is Hillside Blooms. His specialties are Gladiolus, Sunflowers and Dahlias. His business sells to thirteen florists.

The District Fundraiser is Wednesday June 3, 2026. Steve Neubauer will be our program for this fundraiser. The event will be at South Hills Country Club. There will be vendors at this event. Each Club is responsible for a raffle basket. The Martha Washington Garden Club will be

responsible for the centerpieces. Details and tickets will be available at the Spring Tea.

Also mark your Calendar for the Annual Meeting on Friday, August 28, 2026. It is suggested that this information be given to members now because reservations will be due in early August. The Garden Club of Munhall is responsible for the centerpieces.

In case you do not have my new address, phone number or email:

Haddie Weber
3603 McRoberts Road Apt 115
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
412 897 8002
haddieweber@mac.com

Click the Pic!





Judges Pictured left: Marie Mueller, Marilyn Backus, Martha Alexander, Deb Stumpf, Margie Wolff, and Sheila Croushore



Photos by Martha Alexander



DISTRICT X OFFICERS

Director

MARTHA ALEXANDER
Great Meadows Garden Club
martha.alexander78@gmail.com

Assistant Director

KAREN HUMPHREYS
Giant Oaks Garden Club
khumphreys81@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary

DEBORAH DAVIS
Martha Washington Garden Club
dardebDavis@verizon.net

Treasurer

REBECCA LEBEDA
Garden Club of Munhall
fandbeck@gmail.com

DISTRICT X GARDEN CLUBS

GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL

Meets 4th Tuesday at 7 PM
Kathy Petruska, President
kpetruska@aol.com
[http://www.facebook.com/
GardenClubofMunhall](http://www.facebook.com/GardenClubofMunhall)
<http://www.gardenclubofmunhall.com>

GIANT OAKS GARDEN CLUB

Meets 1st Thursday at 11:30 AM
Pat Stanfill, President
patstanfill@icloud.com
Facebook: [Giant Oaks Garden Club](#)

GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB

Meets 4th Wednesday at 10:30 AM
Elaine Swaney, President
eswaney6@hotmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/gmgc1957>

GREEN GARDENERS OF UNIONTOWN

Meets 1st Friday (for lunch)
Lynda Waggoner, President
lwaggoner@paconserve.org

MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 12:00 PM
Susan DeLost, President
sdelost@hotmail.com
[https://www.facebook.com/
mwgcwashpa](https://www.facebook.com/mwgcwashpa)

MON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 PM
Alice Harris
aliceharris141@gmail.com
[https://www.facebook.com/
monvalleygardenclub/](https://www.facebook.com/monvalleygardenclub/)

PLEASANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Meets 2nd Monday at 12:30 PM
Tam Ziccardi, President
yogasoul36@gmail.com
[https://www.facebook.com/
pleasanthillsgc](https://www.facebook.com/pleasanthillsgc)

TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB


Meets 3rd Thursday at 6 PM
Tami Burnworth, President
tjfoxtrotter@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/tcgcr1pa>

UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB

Meets 2nd Friday at 1 PM
Toni L'Hommedieu, President
tlhomme1942@gmail.com

VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Meet 2nd Thursday at 10 AM
Roxanne Huss
crhuss@gmail.com



District X and NGC Meetings and Events

March

11 District X Spring Tea

April

13-15 Flower Show School Course III, Gettysburg, PA

26-28 MystERIE by the Bay, GCFP Convention - Erie, PA

May

4-6 NGC Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO

13 District X Board Meeting

June

3 District X Fundraiser – South Hills Country Club

20, 27 Pennsylvania Garden Party Tours

July

17 PAJC Judges Flower Show

24-25 Martha Washington Garden Club Flower Show

25 Valley Garden Club Flower Show

August

3 District X Board Meeting at Angie Raitano's

28 District X Annual Meeting - South Hills Country Club

September

13-14 GCFP Tri-Refresher, Brandywine Valley, PA

October

19-20 CAR-SGC Conference
Holiday Inn Cleveland, Independence, OH

21 District X Board Meeting

30 Tinsel Tea, Giant Oaks Garden Club