

Summer 2026

Nine's News

From District IX of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, Member NGC & CAR-SGC



Director's Message

I am so proud of District IX. We rocked the 2026 Convention winning award after award. I want to thank the presidents and the members that made their way up to Erie to experience the grandeur and fun of a convention. Especially when we conquered by winning the State Comprehensive Award.

Garden clubs throughout our FINE District continue to make an impact through education, beautification, environmental stewardship, and of course, community service. Our clubs educational programs on topics such as biodiversity, backyard birds, watershed conservation, wild bees, and fireflies make our gardeners some of the most knowledgeable chicks in the state.

District IX's clubs plan to participate in horticultural therapy, field trips, workshops, and hands-on learning experiences that promote gardening and environmental awareness. We learn a lot, get a little dirty, and have a whole lot of fun—because that is how FINE gardeners do it.

We maintain and enhance gardens in parks, churches, libraries, and community spaces. Several FINE clubs are undertaking renovation projects to restore gardens and have installed irrigation systems—because even gardeners know you cannot rely on Mother Nature to remember watering day.

I hope you enjoyed our recent Member's Day Out. If you didn't come you missed a great time at the Lindsey Theater to watch "Gardening for Our Planet." The film reminded us how we can continue to be FINE stewards of this great state of Pennsylvania. And let's be honest, District IX will always show up if there are flowers, friends, food and maybe a raffle basket or two.

There is one rather large dandelion growing in our District garden right now—and that dandelion is leadership! Our District cannot continue to thrive without members willing to step up and help guide it into the future. Everyone loves to admire the flowers, pick a bouquet, and enjoy the beautiful garden we've created together. But gardens don't flourish on their own. Someone must plant the seeds, pull a few weeds, and occasionally wrestle that stubborn dandelion or two. Please consider serving at the District level. The commitment is not overwhelming—there are only three meetings a year. That's right: one, two, three. Not thirty-three. Just three!

It has truly been my honor to serve District IX because, quite honestly, it's fun! You gain a greater understanding of how our District and State organizations work, meet amazing gardeners from across Pennsylvania, and form friendships that last a lifetime. So, I'm asking you—please, please, please.

And after the convention two of our members from Moon came to me and said, District NINE is just not FINE it is SUPER Fine.

Have a great summer District Super Fine!!!!

Stacey, *Stacey Ivol, District IX Director*

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Coming Events

June 15-21, 2026 -
National Pollinator Week

June 16, 2026
District IX Board Meeting
D.J.'s Nursery & Greenhouse

June 18, 2026
MTGC Petals and Flowers

June 20 & 27, 2026
State Wide Garden Tour

June 22, 2026
World Rainforest Day

June 25, 2026
BGC Garden Party

June 27, 2026
SBCGC Garden Tour

July 12, 2026
Shaler Garden Tour

July 17, 2026
Pgh. Area & Laurel Highlands Judges
Council Flower Show

August 27, 2026
District IX Annual Meeting

August 29, 2026
Deadline for submissions to IX's News

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Committee Reports

Vincas and Privets & Stiltgrass, Oh My!

We knew it was bound to happen eventually—and this year, it did.

After our recent plant sale, the Shaler Garden Club received a thoughtful and well-written message from a patron expressing concern that we had sold invasive plants. Yikes! As it turns out, she was right.

So, what exactly is an invasive plant?

A native plant is one that grew naturally in our region before European settlement. A non-native plant is one brought to our country from another part of the world. Many non-native plants coexist with native species without causing problems, but some do not. These troublemakers are known as invasive plants. They compete fiercely with our native plants – spreading aggressively and disrupting our ecosystems. The most damaging invasive plants are classified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as noxious weeds.

Who determines that a plant is invasive?

Determining whether a plant is invasive is a collaborative process involving government agencies, researchers, and environmental scientists. They use established scientific criteria to evaluate whether a non-native plant causes harm to natural ecosystems, the economy, or human health. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has the last word. They maintain guidelines along with noxious weed and invasive plant lists to help us make informed decisions.

Does the National Garden Club have a position on invasive plants?

Yes. The National Garden Club (NGC) promotes environmental stewardship by educating gardeners and the public about the ecological impacts of invasive plants. The organization encourages the removal and control of invasive species and supports replacing them with native plants whenever possible.

Where should our garden club go from here?

No longer is ignorance bliss. If we continue to sell invasive plants at our plant sale, we risk our reputation as a trusted community resource. Instead, we should view this as an opportunity to educate ourselves, our members, and the public about non-native plants that threaten our local habitats.

We can begin by researching invasive species,* sharing reliable information with our membership, and promoting responsible plant choices. We should also ensure that our plant sales and civic landscaping projects prioritize native plants and work toward removing known invasive species whenever feasible.

It will not be easy, but it is the right path forward. Until next time, you can find me in the garden,

Leslie Anthony, District IX Pollinator Advocate

* For help in identification of invasive plants, treatment, and protection suggestions for your property, explore the Pa website: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dcnr/conservation/wild-plants/invasive-plants/invasive-plant-fact-sheets>. The sheet is reprinted in part on p.3 of this document.



Did You Know?



You can apply for a NGC Grant to obtain garden tools for your club to use in your various gardening projects. These include children's tools as well as lightweight tools. All you have to do is go to: <https://gardenclub.org/awards-and-grants>, once there click on "Ames Tools Grant."

Since 2014, AMES has been a proud sponsor of tool grants to National Garden Clubs, Inc. and its Member Clubs in their variety of gardening projects and opportunities from community gardening to gardening education classes that support civic and environmental responsibility.



Trees

Amur maple, *Acer ginnala*, is a small ornamental tree that spreads by numerous winged seeds.

Norway maple *Acer platanoides*, a common street and lawn tree that frequently escapes cultivation.

Sycamore maple *Acer pseudoplatanus*, a tall Eurasian tree invading urban and suburban woods in s. Ps

European black alder, *Alnus glutinosa*, is often found along streams and other wet areas.

Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*, grows throughout Pennsylvania. Introduced as an ornamental.

Mimosa *Albizia julibrissin*, invades roadsides and woodland edges in eastern Pennsylvania.

Japanese angelica tree *Aralia elata*, has sharp spines on the trunk and resembles PA native devils walking stick.

Paper mulberry *Broussonetia papyfera*, is a common, small ornamental tree from Asia.

White mulberry *Morus alba*, is a fast-growing species that will hybridize with our native red mulberry

Princess-tree, empress-tree *Paulownia tomentosa*, this purple-flowered tree spreads across by winged seeds.

Cork tree *Phellodendron amurense*, *P. japonicum*, *P. lavalleyi* Callery or bradford pear *Pyrus calleryana*, has established populations in fields and hedgerows in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Bee-bee tree *Tetradium daniellii*, is an uncommon landscape tree that is slowly spreading

Siberian elm *Ulmus pumila*, a fast-growing tree reaching 50-70 feet high.

Shrubs

European and Japanese barberries *Berberis vulgaris* and *B. thunbergii* form dense thickets in woodlands, wetlands, and meadows.

Butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii*, has numerous cone-shaped bunches of purple flowers that attract butterflies.

Russian olive and autumn olive *Elaeagnus angustifolia* and *E. umbellata*, imported from Asia, have become serious weeds in southern Pennsylvania pastures and other open ground.

Winged euonymus or burning bush *Euonymus alatus*, a shrub from China and Japan imported for its bright purple-red fall color and frequently found along streams and in woods mostly in southern Pennsylvania.

Chinese and shrubby bushclovers *Lespedeza cuneata* and *L. bicolor*, are semi-woody shrubs that readily invade open and disturbed habitats.

Privets *Ligustrum* species, imported from Europe and Asia are aggressive, thicket forming shrubs.

Shrub honeysuckles five *Lonicera* species that rapidly invade and dominate field edges and pastures.

Common buckthorn and Glossy buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. frangula*, are small trees or shrubs to 20-feet high with yellow sapwood and pink to orange heartwood.

Jetbead (*Rhodotyposcandens*), is a deciduous shrub with clusters of small black fruits and white four-petaled flowers.

Multiflora Rose, *Rosa multiflora*, this import from Asia has become a noxious weed in Pennsylvania fields, pastures, and woodlands.

Wineberry *Rubus phoenicolasius*, imported from Asia for its raspberry-like fruit and now common on roadsides and in woods and thickets.

Japanese spiraea *Spiraea japonica*, was imported from Japan for its pink flowers. It escapes from cultivation to forest openings and meadows.

Doublefile viburnum *Viburnum plicatum*; Linden viburnum (PDF)(opens in a new tab), *V. dilatum*; and

Siebold viburnum *V. sieboldii*, are Asian shrubs with abundant fruits that are spread by birds.

Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*, a tall shrub with maple-like leaves imported from Eurasia and escaped to woods fields and roadsides.

* DCNR has deemed these trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, and aquatic plants to be invasive on state lands. The species listed are managed by DCNR staff.

District Award Submission Request

Don't miss this opportunity to recognize the work of those in your club that makes your organization and District IX so outstanding!! July 15 deadline is around the corner and it is time for all of our Club Presidents and Awards Chairpersons to get busy with nominations for our District Awards. Details on District Awards may be found in the GCFP Awards Manual under GCFP DISTRICT AWARDS. If you have any further questions, contact Cheri.d@comcast.net. Remember this is your opportunity to recognize those that set the benchmark for excellence. Acknowledge their exceptional performance and provide a sense of accomplishment for their hard work. We all have members that go above and beyond on a regular basis allowing our clubs to be strong contributors to our community.

Laurels and Daffodils are non-competitive awards for individual club members. These recognize and encourage outstanding achievements that are "above and beyond" the standard membership, office, or committee. Be selective when choosing nominees and consider those who have never been recognized or honored for exceptional service. Please review the guidelines in the GCFP Awards Manual. There are no limits on how many Laurels a club can award, although two to four is suggested. Daffodils are awarded to those who focus more on specific club related activities such as horticulture, conservation, or Civic contributions. Again no limit, however it is suggested to have six or less.

The Forget-Me-Not award is also due at this time. This district award recognizes long-standing members who make our organization special because of their dedication to their club and its community service. Each club may nominate ONE member and this will be submitted to the District Director by August 1. She selects one District winner to be recognized at the Annual District Meeting. Again, refer to the guidelines in the GCFP Awards Manual. The nomination selected by the DD will then be forwarded to the State Awards Chairman to be published in the Keystone Gardner Fall Edition.

It also time to think about EXCEPTIONAL HORTICULTURALIST award. Nominations are due by August 1. to JoAnn Celaschi. Go to: <https://pagardenclubs.org/awards> for information. Don't forget to send a copy of your nomination to Cheri Davison at: cheri.d@comcast.net

This award is given at the district meeting in September

to a club member who has demonstrated outstanding horticultural skills. Award winners will have their name recorded in the GCFP Book of Exceptional Horticulturists. Qualification details are also noted in the GCFP Awards Manual.

While reviewing your awards manual regarding District Awards, take time to review the Member Of Honor Award that is due in December. You may want to start preparing a submission for this recognition!

Cheri Davison, District Award Chair



Did You Know?



"Empowering communities through green initiatives, PLANT AMERICA fosters a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship. By providing grants to support public spaces and community gardens, we aim to educate individuals of all ages about the benefits of gardening and cultivate a sense of pride within neighborhoods."

You or your club can join the NGC mission to support and enhance communities nationwide. For a limited time, thanks to generous donor Barbara Baker, your support made through the "Double the Impact" donation form will be matched (up to \$50,000)! Looking for a place to "plant" some cash that will make a big impact? This might be the perfect spot! Check it out at:

<https://www.plantamerica.org>

Markers Shine Bright in District IX

Writing this summary of our Blue and Gold Star Markers makes me think of the sacrifices our Soldiers have made for their Country to keep us safe in this United States of America. Last Saturday, June 6th was the Anniversary of D-Day. What a powerful moment in history. As a National Garden Club, we have adopted the Blue/Gold Star Marker Program to place markers across America. The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania has well over 100 markers in the ground across the Commonwealth. What a wonderful way to honor our Veterans and the families that have lost a loved one due to wounds sustained in wartime.

Closer to home, our District IX and/or individual Clubs of GCFP placed and dedicated the following Markers:

- Butler VA Medical Center, 325 New Castle Road, Butler. Sponsored and paid for by Butler Garden Club and dedicated on May 28, 2007. Blue Star Memorial Marker
- Oakmont Service Plaza located at milepost 49.33 East-bound. Sponsored and paid for by District IX and dedicated July 19, 2007. Located in District VII (Blue Star Highway Marker – PA Turnpike). By-Way Marker.
- Bowmansville Service Plaza PA Mile Post 289.9 east-bound. Sponsored by District IV with sign from Zelenople Plaza paid for by District IX and rededicated July 2, 2012 (Blue Star Highway Marker – PA Turnpike).
- Riverfront Park, 100 Water Street, Rochester, PA Sponsored by and paid for by Tusca Ridge Garden Club, District IX and dedicated May 27, 2016 (Blue Star Memorial Marker)
- VA Butler Healthcare, Abie Abraham VA Clinic, 353 N. Duffy Road, Butler, PA Sponsored by and paid for by Butler Garden Club and Southern Butler County Garden Club. District IX and dedicated September 11, 2017 (Blue Star Memorial Marker)
- Cranberry Township Municipal Community Garden, Graham Park, 260 Graham Park Drive, Cranberry Township sponsored by the Southern Butler County Garden Club and the Cranberry Community Chest. Dedicated September 18, 2019. (Blue Star By-Way Marker)
- North Boundary Park Veteran's Memorial, 1171 N Boundary Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066. Sponsored and paid for by District IX – Garden Club Federation of PA. Dedicated on June 14, 2022. (Blue Star Memorial Marker)

- PA Department of Transportation I-80 East. Pennsylvania Welcome Center- ½ mile east of the PA/OH border at West Middlesex, PA. Sponsored by District VIII and District IX Garden Club Federation of PA. Dedicated on July 16, 2025. (First Gold Star Marker at a PA Welcome Center)

Our District IX has really played a pivotal role in the Marker Program across Western PA. It is my hope to join with District X to jointly sponsor a marker near I-79. Tusca Ridge, Shaler, Butler and Southern Butler County Garden Clubs have also placed markers. This is the perfect time to talk in your Clubs about where you would like to place a Gold or Blue Star Memorial Markers. Markers ordered before the end of summer and into fall can be in the ground around Memorial Day or another time of the Club's choice. Please reach out to me! I look forward to hearing from you.

Karen Faust, Blue/Gold Star Marker Chair



Did You Know?



There is an abundance of information relative to everything "Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania" on the Federation website at: <https://www.pagardenclubs.org>

Visit often to learn of the many educational opportunities available. You can also check out the other clubs in the state by visiting the "Districts" link. There you will find newsletters from all over the state. Each one gives you a bird's eye view of activities from each of the GCFP state clubs.

Club Reports

Butler Garden Club

Before we set off on the multitude of community plantings in May, late April got four of us in the horticultural mood with a trip to Erie for our State Convention! We took in great lectures on assorted topics such as Tiny Forests and Vertical Gardening. I appreciated a roundtable format where District Directors and Club Officers rotated amongst different circles for discussions on Membership Recruitment and Retention, Succession Planning and Fundraising Ideas, to name a few. We all have a vested interest in helping our clubs succeed and the challenges we face are not just one-club-specific.

Our biennial fundraiser is right around the corner where cheese monger Susan Kelly will be sharing her knowledge of pairings in creating charcuterie boards with edible flowers and herbs. Pictures to follow in our next newsletter!

July brings a member favorite - our summer picnic - a casual, bring-a-guest day and bring-your-favorite-salad-and-recipe day! SO many delicious dishes for sure!

At the tail end of July we are venturing on a double field trip day. We are going to Ernst Seed in Meadville to see their seed collecting operations and then backtracking to Fairlamb Lavender Farm in Sandy Lake, PA for a tour, a lavender craft and some shopping in their wonderful store.

Ironically in the heat of August our speaker from Every Season Blooms in Renfrew will share her knowledge about tending to our garden beds for the cooler months, with pruning tips and other helpful preparations.

This is one heck of a summer bucket list for BGC!

Susan Morgus, BGC



Fox Chapel Garden Club

A year of celebrations for the Fox Chapel Garden Club!

At our annual luncheon in March, we reflected on our 95 years with a stroll down memory lane thanks to our archives committee and our long-standing members. Speaking of long-standing members, we recognized Cris Scott for her 50 years of active dedication to our club.

For me, Cris is not just a fellow club member. She has been part of the fabric of my life for many years. She lived across the street from our family, and over time that closeness became a lasting friendship between our families. My daughter and Cris's daughter, Allie, have been lifelong friends, which makes introducing her today feel especially meaningful.

Cris is one of those people whose presence has quietly and steadily made a difference in our club for decades. She has been a member of this club for 50 years, beginning in 1976, and that kind of commitment says something remarkable. It speaks to loyalty, generosity, and a deep belief in the value of showing up and doing the work that keeps an organization strong. Beyond her contributions here, there is a loyal friend, devoted mother and grandmother and world traveler.

Over those fifty years, Cris has contributed to this club in more ways than I can possibly capture in just a few minutes, but I do want to highlight some of the extraordinary ways she has served. From the early years, she was involved in May Market, Youth Activities, and Environmental Education. She helped with the Trillium Trail Walks and even chaired those efforts, helping create experiences that brought children and our members closer to nature and to the mission of the club. Our club members took up to 450 Fox Chapel school children on these walks each year and we all learned together about our native plants.

She also lent her talents in creative and practical ways by designing and sewing many of the club's original aprons, the blue jean-colored aprons with the red fox applique that many of us still remember fondly. That detail says so much about Cris. She did not just volunteer her

time. She gave her creativity, her care, and her hands to the work.

As the years went on, she continued to serve wherever she was needed. She worked at Garden Market and May Market. For many years she was a Pre-Sale Co-Chair, and we drove to her house to pick up our pre-sale orders or to help drive the plants we had dug and stored there after dirt diggers into May Market at the Pittsburgh Garden Center.

Cris has served on many committees including, Membership, Garden Therapy, Program and Yearbook, Hostesses, Reservations, Holiday Auction, Photography, Awards, and Long-Range Planning. She chaired many of them. She also served as Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Program Co-Chair, Hostess Coordinator Chair, and in many other roles. She stepped in year after year, event after event, committee after committee.

Two of the roles that stand out especially are her years as Club President in 1994 and 1995, and her service as Treas-

urer and Assistant Treasurer over multiple years. Leadership roles ask a great deal of a person. They require steadiness, trustworthiness, and a willingness to carry responsibility for the good of the whole group. Cris did that with grace and dedication.

One especially important part of her legacy is that she was president when the club raised the funds to install the first Garden Therapy Raised Bed Garden in Western Pennsylvania at Harmarville HealthSouth. That outdoor garden and our indoor Garden Therapy program with the patients was a beautiful and lasting contribution. It reflected the very best of what a garden club can be: not only a place that celebrates beauty, but a place that brings healing, accessibility, and care to others.

Our current president, Melissa Johnson, remembers from her first days as a new member how Cris greeted her with a warm welcome and said she would be glad to answer any questions or help her in any way. Thankfully, Cris still volunteers to welcome our guests to Glitter and Glow, and I am sure her warm greetings have contributed to many repeated yearly visits to our event and certainly encouraged many new members.

By Corinne Babson for Melissa Johnson, President, FCGC



Christine Scott, FCGC Member
50 Year Member Recognition



Ingomar Garden Club

The Ingomar Garden Club recently held its annual Plant Sale, and thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members, it was one of our most successful fundraisers to date.

Garden enthusiasts from throughout the community arrived early to browse an impressive selection of plants. More than 70 hanging baskets found new homes, along with a wide variety of annual flowers, vegetable plants, and garden favorites. As always, our member-dug perennials were in high demand, with nearly every plant sold by the end of the event.

Adding to the excitement this year was a new feature—our first-ever Bake Sale. The response exceeded all expectations as customers eagerly purchased homemade treats prepared by our talented members. The undeniable crowd favorite was the apple dumplings, which sold quickly and received rave reviews.

In addition to a successful fundraiser, the club proudly launched a new community project this spring: the Children's Learning Garden at Northland Public Library. Designed to inspire curiosity and a love of nature, the garden features large metal planting bins filled with colorful flowers, whimsical elements, and opportunities for exploration. Each garden display highlights a page from "The Hungry Caterpillar," and "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," creating an engaging connection between literature and the natural world. The result is a delightful outdoor learning space where young minds can discover, imagine, and grow.

The success of the sale and the creation of the Children's Learning Garden reflect the teamwork, generosity, and gardening expertise of our members. From digging and potting perennials to nurturing seedlings, baking delicious treats, and helping customers on sale day, every member played an important role.

Proceeds from the sale help fund club initiatives, educational programs, and community beautification efforts. We look forward to continuing our tradition of gardening, service, and fellowship while sharing our love of gardening with the community.

Eileen Miller, President, IGC

Kennedy Garden Club

The Kennedy Garden Club is making a positive impact in the community! Let's take a moment to recap two significant events in our area..

On April 26th, the KGC participated in Earth Day by cleaning up Fairhaven Park and the Andrew's Pavilion. The cleanup crew was made up of National Honor Society students from Montour High School, residents of Kennedy and Robinson Twp., members of the KGC, local church groups and local Boy Scout groups. Our first "garden swap" was a success with many garden related items including plants, magazines, statues and fashionable attire! Our theme of "bring what you don't want and take what you need" was appreciated by all who participated!

In May, our KGC scholarship winner was honored. He is Mitchell Braidie from Montour High School. Civic planting was also a focus as well as preparing our plants for the spring festival.

Our May meeting focused on final planning for the May 30th festival. Our committees were finalized and members chose where they would work. Also, in the past two meetings, our members worked with a partner to create raffle baskets that were beautiful, creative, and attractive! The educational piece of our meeting focused on garden herbs and how they can support our wellness. Barb Orion from Orion Organic shared growing tips and recipes. She also conducted a brief Q & A session!

On May 30, our spring festival was bright, sunny, educational (thanks to our Master Gardeners) and FUN! Our members were wonderful hosts and hostesses with our 40 vendors. Set up and implementation was supported by several husbands and the local Knights of Columbus (thanks to Bill Alexander). The teamwork and collaboration of our members was to be commended, and three cheers for our beautiful weather and the smiles too!

We are looking forward to our KGC picnic which will be held at Fairview Park on June 9, Community Days, and other fun events! Our members have been supportive and positive of each other and the club's busy schedule.

The membership committee will help us say good bye to summer with a PARTEA with Deb Young (Master Gardener) teaching us how to grow a PARTEA garden and how to create our own herbal tea!

Barb French, President, KGC



Oak Hills Garden Club

The OHGC started spring with plants and more plants. April we traveled to DJ's Greenhouse where he presented new plant varieties, container growing tips and deer prevention. The presentation was followed by a delicious lunch and a trip to the greenhouse to purchase the plants DJ demonstrated.

We made our annual trip to New Wilmington, PA to the Amish greenhouses. We managed to visit four this year despite the rainy weather, but as true gardeners that didn't slow us down. We filled our cars with many plants and headed to Ryder's restaurant to get warm and have a nice lunch. This year a local introduced us to a small bakery filled with warm baked bread and Amish donuts! It was a great way to end our trip.

May is the month of our annual plant sale. Our members were busy digging up, potting and labeling over 1,000 plants. Also, they were busy calling and picking up donations from our local businesses for our crowd pleasing raffle event. We were nervous about changing venue from Tanglewood Senior Center to the American Legion, Lyndora but thanks to our excellent publicity team Tanya Hackwelder, Beverly Olenic and Kathy Geibel who needed to update our street signs we didn't need to worry. People were lined out the door and the sale was very successful.

I want to thank Marilyn Rogerson, Debbie Rose, Jenny Clark, Peg Miller and all our members who contributed to making our annual fundraiser a success.

Have a wonderful summer.

Melissa Jacoby, President, OHGC





Moon Twp. Garden Club

Nurturing Nature-Cultivating Community is our club's new tagline! Besides being displayed on a larger banner at all events, it will permeate our website, business cards and correspondence. Mary Adamowski, Membership Chair, stated that its purpose is, "to create a strong, positive impression and clearly reflect our mission, values, and spirit!"

Here are some examples:

Our Civic, Horticulture, and Education Committee demonstrated the nurturing aspect with their 6th successful Plant Give-Away/Exchange. The added Plant Exchange is such a hit that gardeners are now bringing plants to exchange that they have grown from those they received during previous Plant Give-Aways. Judy Mihok, our club Horticulturist, reminded us to nurture the pollinators as well as our plants through her club presentation on Baby Food for Pollinators.

What better way to cultivate community than to learn community and club history and then invite the community for an evening in the garden! A Moon Township History Minute has been added to our monthly meetings by our Parliamentarian, Patty Zusinas. Four of our longest serving members were honored at the May meeting while looking back over the club's 105-year history. A reminder to all Nine's News readers to join the MTGC Garden Tour Committee at our Petals and Pours Event in the Fleur de Lune Garden at Robin Hill on June, 18 from 5-8 PM where attendees will share wine and hors d'oeuvres while learning all about the overabundance of plants growing there!

We are living our tagline!

Marcia Welsh, 2nd Vice President, MTGC



Shaler Garden Club

Shaler Garden Club hit the ground running with a remarkably successful spring season. As a proud member of the District IX Garden Club Federation, our club has worked tirelessly to promote our new youth group, The Garden Explorers, and sustainable gardening practices.

Our lineup began with two hands-on spring workshops to build inventory for our main initiatives. On March 31, participants crafted fresh flower arrangements to take home. On April 15, members put together high-quality, handmade succulent planters and custom garden accents to sell at our annual plant sale.

All preparation paid off on May 3 during our most successful annual plant sale ever. Despite two severe hail storms and near-freezing temperatures, our club prevailed! As our only fundraiser of the year, this single event secures the vital funding needed to sustain all of our civic planting projects and educational programs for the entire year.

Following the sale, members enjoyed an inspiring field trip to Quality Gardens and officially welcomed the newest faces to our organization at our lovely annual New Member Tea.

Our May meeting featured a fascinating presentation on dahlias from the Dahlia Society of PA, followed by a May 27 pollinator program.

On June 6, our first Garden Explorers youth event celebrated the creation of our new library youth garden, where families explored five interactive learning centers. We also successfully launched our new mentorship program, matching several new members with experienced gardeners.

Looking ahead, we are hosting a June 9 pollinator workshop focusing on container gardening, alongside National Garden Week events like a Fairy House workshop and herb sessions. We will wrap up with our annual Summer Solstice supper later this month. Our members' dedication continues to impact District IX!

Mary Jo Clayton, President, SGC



At the Convention.

L to R: M.J. Clayton, S Semple, S. Stritzinger, J. Soltis C. Bernardo, J. Laverty, B. Moore

S. Butler County Garden Club

It has been an exciting spring for the Southern Butler County Garden Club.

We are thrilled to announce that our past president, Jill Barger, received the Perennial Bloom award for District IX at the District IX Member's Day Out. Jill is a Penn State Master Gardener and a certified garden and landscape designer from Phipps Conservatory. Notably, she designed the Mars Library Garden in Mars, PA, and has maintained it for over 20 years. To honor her contributions, a Mock Orange tree was planted in our Graham Park garden. Congratulations, Jill!

Additionally, Karen Faust won the State Outstanding Educational Exhibit Award in Erie this past April. Karen serves as the GCFP and District IX Blue and Gold Star Memorial Marker Chair and has overseen marker installations throughout the state. Her Patriot Park Gold Marker exhibit (pictured), was a CAR-SGC award and will be judged with the winners at that convention this fall. Congratulations, Karen!

For our first meeting of the year, Ann Troxell, (a member of the Beatrix Potter Society for over 30 years) presented "The Life of Beatrix Potter." She highlighted Beatrix's enthusiasm for the natural world and how it influenced her artwork. The meeting featured themed refreshments, including a beautiful garden veggie tray prepared by Judy Meyers.

We recently installed a new pergola over the picnic table at our Graham Park community project. This area supports the club's Horticultural Therapy program, as well as those who enjoy the garden.

Kristi Gregory, President, SBCGC



Past President and Perennial Bloom



The new pergola at Graham Park.



Prizewinning Blue / Gold Star Marker exhibit by K. Faust.



Garden "veggie" tray by J. Meyers

Tusca-Ridge Garden Club

Spring is a time of new growth, and just as the trees and flowers around us have been sending forth new shoots, so has the Tusca Ridge Garden Club. As we celebrate our 68th anniversary this year, we are experiencing growth through the enthusiasm and ideas of our new members; but alas, through growth comes change, as we re-examine some of our long-held traditions. CHANGE!?!?! Yikes!!! Such a scary thought! But slogging through MANY hours of meetings and discussions, we have seen some positive results!

Our usual morning meeting times have changed to include some evening times as well, and that has enabled us to accommodate and welcome some new faces. We have revised some of our by-laws to better reflect the current needs and values of our members. As both our physical and social climates are evolving, it is necessary that some of our events and fund-raising activities evolve, too.

One of the things that has NOT changed, though, is our commitment to our local communities. Through the efforts of our Education Committee, and particularly, Michele Gillespie, TRGC is promoting gardening and environmental awareness, and is reaching out to some of our local school districts. One such effort has been with our junior garden club, Rochy Garden, in the Rochester Area School District. A grant of seed money from the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP), enabled the students to replace an above ground garden box, which had badly deteriorated.

In March, TRGC participated in the Rochester Area School District's STEAM walk. A STEAM walk is an educational, engaging, and community-based activity designed to foster interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) by exploring real-world applications in the environment. Since the A in STEAM stands for Arts, club members assisted students in making art projects with dried flowers.

In addition to our Rochy Garden collaboration, the Education Committee sponsored the Poetry and Poster Contests held during Beaver's annual Arbor Day observance this spring. Students from Beaver Area Middle School were honored for their portrayals of how trees provide us with much more than just beauty (think tree houses and oxygen!) One of the young poets was even the winner of the native tree--a black cherry tree--raffled by our club!

In May, club members participated in Dutch Ridge Elementary's annual fundraising plant sale, answering questions and providing an art activity for those attending. Through all these efforts, and a continuing commitment to embrace change, the TRGC is fostering our next generation of gardeners!

Roxanne Walker, President, TRGC





District IX Annual Meeting

Hosted by Southern Butler County Garden Club

Thursday August 27, 2026

Cranberry Highlands Golf Course Clubhouse

5601 Freshcorn Road, Cranberry Township PA 16066

Celebrating our Natives

9:00am Registration opens ~10:00am Annual Meeting begins

12:00pm Luncheon & Raffle with Program to follow at 1:00pm

Guest speaker Jennifer Sencheck, ISA Certified Arborist will present an engaging program entitled *The Relationship of Pawpaw trees to the Swallowtail Butterfly*

A brunch buffet will be offered including:

Egg & Vegetable Frittata, Cranberry Chicken Salad on Croissant,
Strawberry Spinach Salad w Raspberry & Balsamic Vinaigrette,
Yogurt Berry Granola Parfaits, Vanilla Cake, Orange Juice, Coffee & Hot Tea

Cost: \$39 per person includes tax & gratuity

Make check payable to: Southern Butler County Garden Club

Please fill out registration form below and mail with your check to our Registrar:

Rita Mack - 208 Hampshire Drive, Cranberry Twp PA 16066

rjmwem@gmail.com 860-992-8734 Reservation deadline: August 13, 2026

Name: _____

Garden Club _____

Email _____

Phone no. _____

The Moon Township Garden Club invites you to
Petals & Pours
 A summer evening in the Fleur de Lune Garden

June 18th 5-8pm
 949 Thorn Run Road, Moon Township, PA 15108

Relax with a glass of wine and
 delicious appetizers

Take a tour of the Garden with our expert gardeners and learn about
 the diverse variety of plants and how to care for them.

Our Garden Shop offers many
 unique garden items and beautiful plants

Tickets are \$20



<https://square.link/u/1eYwh31h>

Proceeds go to the Fleur de Lune Garden

BUTLER GARDEN
 CLUB
 THURSDAY
 JUNE 25, 2026
 BUTLER COUNTRY CLUB



Summer Garden Party

BASKET RAFFLE — SILENT AUCTION
 MARKET — BAKE SALE — 50/50

10:00 AM MARKET OPENS
 12:00 PM LUNCHEON
 1:00 PM PROGRAM

The Art of the Charcuterie Board with
 Edible Flowers and Herbs. by Susan Kelly

**Southern Butler County
 Garden Club
 18th Annual Garden Tour**
 Saturday June 27, 2026
 Touring 9am-3pm

Registration & day of event ticket sales from 9-10 am only
 at the Cranberry Twp. Municipal Center.

At registration ticket holders will receive a booklet with
 garden descriptions and driving directions.

Get inspired by touring several private gardens in and around the
 Cranberry Twp. area. Homeowners will be available to answer
 your questions and share their gardening design insight with you.

Pre-sale tickets are available for \$20
Day of event tickets are \$25 (cash or check only)

To pre-purchase a ticket please mail a check payable to:
Southern Butler County Garden Club
 c/o 2640 Timberglen Dr., Wexford, PA 15090-6930
 Please include a self-addressed, stamped return envelope (#10)
 and a phone number. **There is no rain date for the tour.**
Ticket requests received after June 20th will be held at Will Call.

Tickets will be collected for a chance on a door prize & chances
 may be purchased to win several "Gardener's Delight" raffle baskets.
 Pottery and Stepping Stones will also be available to purchase.

The price of your ticket is tax deductible and helps
 us fund local horticulture programs in our community.

For more information call Linda at 412-335-0550
 Thank you for your support!

www.southernbutlercountygardenclub.org
 Be sure to Like Us on Facebook!

The Shaler Garden Club
 Presents
The Great Gardens Tour
 Sunday, July 12
 11 AM to 4 PM (rain or shine)
 \$20 in advance/\$25 day of tour

Be inspired by 5 delightful gardens,
 each with their own personal style.

tinyurl.com/shalertour2026
 Purchase tickets online, or at
 Shaler North Hills Library
 1822 Mt. Royal Blvd. Glenshaw 15116



Save the Date **It's Bloomin' America**
 A Patriotic Flower Show

Pittsburgh Area and Laurel Highlands Judges Councils
 The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
 Featuring Local Historical Societies
 The Lamplighter Ballroom
 6566 Route 22, Delmont, PA 15626

Friday, July 17, 2026
 Free and open to public 12-3pm
 National Garden Clubs' Judging of
 Horticulture and Live Floral Designs
 All Members of GCFP may participate