

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



the TENdril

Volume 25; Issue 2 • June 2025

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The Director's Corner

Martha Alexander, District X Director

Greetings District X!

Spring is finally here! My favorite time of year. Like so many of you, I adore hearing the cacophony of wake-up bird calls and songs as I have my morning coffee on the front porch. The bluebirds have been especially welcoming this spring, and the insistent wrens have filled many of our bird houses. Walking around the garden and seeing the flower nubs of the lupines, clematis, and alliums bring a smile to my face, and the baby bunnies bring squeals of joy from my grandchildren. It's the BEST time of the year!

Being the District X Director has brought loads of work, and much joy. It is a pleasure to get to know so many fine people around the district. Please continue to invite me to your special events. I have learned a lot from visiting your clubs and events. I will share your great ideas for fundraisers, meetings, and ceremonies with others in the district and my own garden club. I am constantly amazed at the wealth of talent in our members.

Special thanks to my phenomenal District X Board members. I have pushed them a bit and together we are coming up with some imaginative ideas to move our district and clubs forward. It's time to celebrate all the

wonderful things we do in District X. We will continue to move forward and "Build Community Through Gardening".

Live life in full Bloom!

Martha Alexander
District X Director



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>

Web site: <http://www.gardenclubofmunhall.com>

MON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 PM

Alice Harris

aliceharris141@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/monvalleygardenclub/>

GIANT OAKS GARDEN CLUB

Meets 1st Thursday at 11:30 AM

Pat Stanfill, President

patstanfill@icloud.com

Facebook: [Giant Oaks Garden Club](#)

PLEASANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Meets 2nd Monday at 12:30 PM

Tam Ziccardi, President

yogasoul36@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pleasanthillsgc>

GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB

Meets 4th Wednesday at 10:30 AM

Elaine Swaney, President

eswaney6@hotmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/gmgc1957>

TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

Meets 3rd Thursday at 6 PM

Tami Burnworth, President

tjfoxtrotter@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/tcgcrtpa>

GREEN GARDENERS OF UNIONTOWN

Meets 1st Friday (for lunch)

Lynda Waggoner, President

lwaggoner@paconserve.org

UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB

Meets 2nd Friday at 1 PM

Toni L'Hommedieu, President

tlhomme1942@gmail.com

MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 12:00 PM

Susan DeLost, President

sdelost@hotmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/mwgcwashpa>

VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Meet 2nd Thursday at 10 AM

Roxanne Huss

crhuss@gmail.com

District X Blue Star Marker Dedication

Marce Zaragoza, TENDril Editor

After over a year of planning, a National Garden Clubs, Inc., Blue Star Memorial Highway marker was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 26, 2025, at the Claysville Welcome Center on I-70E. Kathy Wells and Susan DeLost, District X Blue Star Marker co-chairs, coordinated the effort from its inception through planning a meaningful dedication ceremony.

Speakers at the ceremony included GCFP President Pat Wolanski and retired Air Force Master Sergeant Vina McLeod Rudolph of the Martha Washington Garden Club.

A huge thank you goes to Kathy and Susan, as well as to contributors Vina McLeod Rudolph and Past District X Director Deborah Davis; to Angie Raitano who donated the wreath for the ceremony; to District X Director Martha Alexander and GCFP Blue Star Marker State Chair Karen Faust for their support; and to all District X members who contributed to the project. Thank you also to ceremony participants Scouting America Troop #1005, Clay Kilgore of the Washington County Historical Society, GCFP President Pat Wolanski, State Senator Camera Bartolotta, Rachel Duda of PennDOT, and bugler Julie Meyer, who sounded Taps, bringing the ceremony to a properly reverent close.



Photo by Marce Zaragoza



Project Co-Chairs
Susan DeLost and
Kathy Wells

Photo by Marce Zaragoza



GCFP President
Pat Wolanski

Photo by Heidi Pane



Photo by Marce Zaragoza

GCFP Attendees (l-r): Marce Zaragoza, Linda Coleman, Grace Mitchell, Deb Davis, State Blue Star Chair Karen

Faust, GCFP Past President Leann Ryba, Vina McLeod Rudolph, GCFP President Pat Wolanski, Blue Star Co-chair Kathy Wells, District X Director Martha Alexander, Blue Star Co-chair Susan DeLost, Ruth Hrutkay, and Angie Raitano.

Photo by Heidi Pane



District X Blue Star Marker Dedication

(continued)



Vina McLeod Rudolph delivering the military tribute and dedication.

Photo by Marce Zaragoza



State Senator Camera Bartolotta

Photo by Heidi Pane



Laying of the wreath by GCFP President Pat Wolanski and District X Director Martha Alexander

Photo by Marce Zaragoza

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. DEDICATION FOR BLUE STAR MEMORIALS

delivered by

Vina McLeod Rudolph, USAF Master Sergeant, Ret.

We are here to pay tribute to our Armed Forces. While we go about our daily lives or while we sleep, the men and women in our Armed Forces fly our skies, sail our seas and guard our shores, ensuring our safety. They stand ready at a moment's notice to defend our Country. We must not forget them, and, **WE DO NOT! WE REMEMBER.** With every step of the Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. **WE REMEMBER.** With every drumbeat on the Fourth of July. When we Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, **WE REMEMBER.** At the sound of Reveille, **WE REMEMBER.** As the last lingering note of Taps resounds in the distance, **WE REMEMBER.**

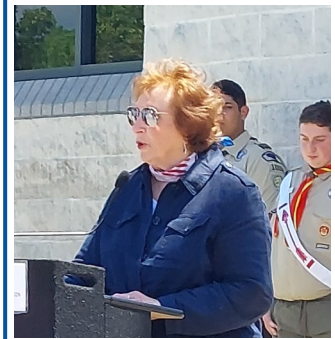
In REMEMBERING today, we dedicate this Blue Star Marker to the honor and glory of all those men and women who have served, are now serving, and will serve in the Armed Forces of this great Nation. It is with pride that the National Garden Clubs, Inc. joins with Penn DOT District 12 to perpetuate our Blue Star Memorial Marker Program with this Marker that stands as a symbol for ALL TO SEE,

**LEST WE FORGET THOSE
WHO HELP TO KEEP US FREE.**



Angie Raitano who donated the dedication wreath, with GCFP President Pat Wolanski and District X Director Martha Alexander, who placed the wreath.

Photo by Heidi Pane



Karen Faust, GCFP Blue Star Chair.

Photo by Marce Zaragoza

GCFP Past President Leeanna Ryba with Lulu and scouts

Photo by Heidi Pane



a Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Martha Alexander, District X Director

On March 12, 2025, District X hosted a delightful Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Members were encouraged to dress for the occasion, with a prize awarded to those who did. District Director Martha Alexander emceed the event as the Mad Hatter. In addition to the program, attendees enjoyed a Mad Hatter Bingo game and an Alice in Wonderland Trivia competition, both curated by Martha. The hall was decorated with charming Alice in Wonderland and Tea Party elements, including talking flowers, a silver tea service, and whimsical Wonderland signs and posters. The message "We're all mad here" added to the fun and excitement of the event.



GCFP President Leeanna Ryba, was our special guest at the event. President Ryba encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming GCFP State Convention.

The theme of the 2025 GCFP Convention is "A Gardening Revolution," with the Trash to Treasure theme focusing on the "Revolution Bird House." Vina McLeod Rudolph, Marie Mueller, and Angie Raitano served as judges for the District X Trash to Treasure Contest. Marilyn Dellovade from Giant Oaks Garden Club was named the 2025 District X winner. Other participating garden clubs included the Garden Club of Munhall, Great Meadows Garden Club, Pleasant Hills Garden Club, Town & Country



Garden Club, Uniontown Flower Club, and Valley Garden Club.

Due to illness, the scheduled program speaker could not attend, so District Director Martha Alexander stepped in with an informative presentation on pollinator gardens. She shared tips on native plants and how to improve or establish pollinator gardens.

Grace Mitchell of Martha Washington Garden Club ran the 50/50, with \$195 being split equally between the Scholarship Fund and the General Fund and \$195 going to the winner, Rose Andreko, a guest of Martha Washington Garden Club. Elaine Swaney of Great Meadows Garden Club reported that \$162 was raised through a jewelry sale. Deborah Davis of Martha Washington Garden Club reported that \$189 was raised for the Natural Disasters Fund. An additional \$44 was raised from Big Hat donations, and \$23 came from food sales at the end of the event.

District X Director Martha Alexander extended thanks to Pleasant Hills and Mon Valley Garden Clubs, who served as the hostesses, and Mon Valley Garden Club for the centerpieces and succulents provided for each attendee.; Elaine Swaney and the members of Great Meadows Garden Club for handling the White Elephant sale; and to all District X Board members and garden club presidents who provided the delicious sandwiches, desserts, and special selections. Participants were sent on their way and reminded to "Live life in full Bloom."



"That was the best anything I have attended. Must have been a lot of work on your part and those great people who volunteered." Toni L'Hommedieu, Uniontown Flower Club President.

*Photos
Heidi
Pane*

Convention Recap: A Gardening Revolution

Martha Alexander, District X Director

The 95th Annual GCFP Convention, titled “A Gardening Revolution,” was held at the Alloy Hotel near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and proved to be an informative and enjoyable gathering of garden enthusiasts from across the state. Hosted by the dedicated members of District XI, the event was a true showcase of collaboration, creativity, and a shared love of gardening.

Highlights from the Convention

Attendees were treated to a wide range of outstanding presentations and workshops covering topics such as growing dahlias, designing exhibition tables, creating colonial gardens, gardening with deer, and crafting pressed flower frames.



Photo: Martha Alexander

One of the more memorable moments came during the liberTEA session, where an educational and entertaining visit from “Martha Washington” brought history to life. Field trips to nearby Valley Forge offered attendees a chance to explore and connect with the rich local heritage.

The Monday morning opening session included the annual business meeting, which provided updates from districts across Pennsylvania and a heartfelt memorial tribute. District X paused to honor its members who had passed away, including those from our district.

Special Events and Speakers

Renee Tucci, Floral Designer and Author, was the featured dinner speaker. She wowed attendees with her creative use of plant materials and offered

valuable design tips throughout her lively presentation.

Monday evening included the Installation Ceremony for the newly elected GCFP Officers:

- President: Pat Wolanski
- First Vice President: Tonya Young
- Second Vice President: Mary Hedrick
- Recording Secretary: Deb Davis (our very own!)
- Treasurer: Vivian Hall
- Financial secretary: Sheila Croushore

In addition, recognition was given to District Directors, Assistant Directors, and Club Presidents, followed by a well-deserved awards presentation.

Judges Council Highlights

Six new accredited judges were officially inducted during the Judges Council Meeting, including District Director Martha Alexander. The celebration continued at the Judges Council Luncheon, which featured an inspiring program by NGC favorite Frances Thrash titled “Discovering New Creativity in Design.”

Fun Extras

Marketplace vendors added to the experience with unique shopping opportunities, and daily raffle drawings kept the excitement going at every meal. Attendees also enjoyed excursions to the King of Prussia Mall and nearby plant nurseries.

Looking Ahead

The convention concluded with an enthusiastic invitation to the 2026 GCFP Convention, which will be held in Erie—a location sure to be convenient for many of our members. We’re already looking forward to what promises to be another memorable gathering!

Convention Photos!

Thank you to all who contributed photos!



Kathy Petruska



Martha Alexander



Marce Zaragoza



Deb Davis Installation
Marce Zaragoza



Martha Alexander



Martha Alexander



President Pat Wolanski
Susan DeLost



Martha Alexander

MORE Convention Photos!



Marce Zaragoza



Martha Alexander



Marce Zaragoza



Kathy Petruska



Martha Alexander



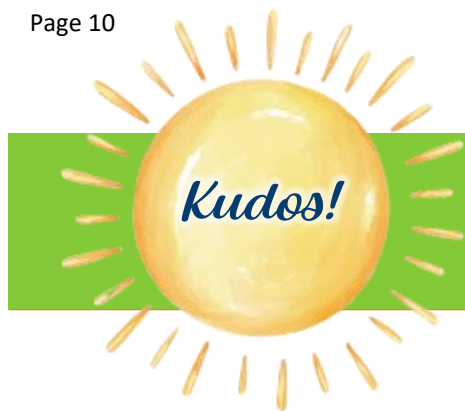
Kathy Petruska



Susan DeLost



Susan DeLost



District X Recognized at State Convention

District X was well represented at the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania State Convention held April 6-8, 2025. Congratulations to all those recognized for their hard work! District X Director Martha Alexander presented the awards at the May District X Board Meeting.

GCFP CAR-SGC CLUB YEARBOOK AWARDS

45-69 Members, 2nd Place: Garden Club of Munhall
70-99 Members, 3rd Place: Martha Washington GC



Martha Alexander &
Kathy Petruska of
GC of Munhall

GCPF CAR-SGC FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Standard Flower Show, Large Club
2nd Place: Martha Washington GC, "Celebrate 90!"

Standard Flower Show, Medium Club
3rd Place: Valley Garden Club, "Let's Party"

NGC FLOWER SHOW BOOK OF EVIDENCE

Standard Flower Show, 21-49 Members
1st Place: Valley Garden Club, "Let's Party"

Standard Flower Show, 50-99 Members
2nd Place: Martha Washington GC, "Celebrate 90!"



Martha Alexander,
Roxanne Huss, & Janice
Yeaton, Valley GC



Martha Alexander, Susan DeLost, Vina
McLeod Rudolph, Kathy Wells, and Marce
Zaragoza of Martha Washington GC

Congratulations to ...



Martha Alexander,
who earned her
GCFP Flower Show
Judge Certification!

Haddie Weber,
our District X
Butterfly Award
Recipient!





Garden Club of Munhall

Kathy Petruska, President

At our
January
meet-
ing

Belinka Hoak, Jefferson Memorial Arboretum, presented a program on the species, cultivars and varieties of trees and shrubs.

At our February meeting, Don German from USS Mon Valley Works presented a program on the bald eagles' nest on the Monongahela River.

Four members attended the Convention in King of Prussia. The Club won \$75.00 Seed Money for Club project with DCVG and the Club won 2nd place for our directory.

The Club had their annual Fund Raiser at the SHCC. The Buttonhole presented the fashions and several garden club members modeled. The event included a basket auction, lottery tree raffle, 50/50, bake sale, jewelry sale, 10 for 1 raffle and plant sale. Our special guests included Martha, Heidi and Marilyn Backus, District VII Director.



Cross Cultural Horticulture: Cheryl Kocsis (left) and Kathy Petruska shared their love of gardening with their Afghan lady friends.

Members started seed planting in the greenhouse at the Duquesne Community Victory Garden (DCVG). Many of the seeds planted are from the GCFP.





Giant Oaks Garden Club

Karen Humphreys for Pat Stanfill, President

Giant Oaks Garden Club's sad news - our long time, active member, Carol May passed away on May 3. We are anticipating induction of 2 new members next month.

GOGC is busy with spring activities. At our March "Mardi Gras" meeting, Gannon Boone from Bartlett Trees shared his expertise about when and how to prune our trees and shrubs.



Mardi Gras: Back L to R - Cathy Rager, Cathy Kelly, Ginny Riegner, Judie Ball. Front - Lou Ann Kinol, Kay Brennan, Karen Humphreys

At our April Tea, Mark Miller of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden delivered a lively presentation about deer resistant (or deer outmaneuvering) gardens. Our "May Flowers" program featured Mad-die Perzel of Bedner's Greenhouse, who charmed us with options and alternative cultivar shrubbery for every environment.

We awarded scholarships this year to three outstanding graduating high school seniors with career goals in agriculture and plant science. GOGC awarded two (\$1,500 each) scholarships to students from McGuffey and Bethel Park High Schools and the third (\$1,000) on behalf of former member Janet Fuchs in memorial; that recipient is from Canon-McMillan High School.

The club sponsored Karen Humphreys to attend the GCFP annual convention in Valley Forge and, although not a state competition winner, our member Marilyn Dellovade created the District X entry for the "Trash to Treasure" birdhouse.

On Saturday, May 17, GOGC hosts our 24th Annual Plant Sale/Garden Market at the Peters Township Public Library. This year we're offering a "kids garden" section with fanciful pots, smaller plantings and fun salad and herb containers.

Ongoing activities include tending several community gardens as well as our flourishing native/pollinator garden at the Peters Township Public Library. We regularly visit McMurray Hills Manor to do garden related activities with residents.

Looking ahead to the fall, plans are underway for our Tinsel Luncheon fundraiser, to be held November 7 at Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn. This year's theme is "Warm Wishes & Snowmen Kisses."

Marilyn Dellovade with her District X winning entry in the Trash to Treasures competition.



GOGC Monthly Meals-on-wheels tray-favor workshop. Around the table: Diana Hagan, Alexis Leonardi, Pauline Kitchen, Janice Celedonia, Mary Werling, Cel Satler, Catherine Pachis and Dorothy Holde





Great Meadows Garden Club

Elaine Swaney, President

Great Meadows Garden Club had their annual clean-up day at Point Look-out/Blue Star Memorial. This is always a tremendous feat with numerous weeds and mulching needs. Flags have been replaced and a contact with Forbes State Forest DCNR to help with the area behind the stone-wall. So grateful for their help with the area. Planting of flowers in the Blue Star planter and Wharton Park and Wharton Township Building will be in mid-May.



to share with the community plants and/or floral designs by placing a container in each of the 6 local post offices in our area. We identify our club and share information extending an invitation to join.

Farmington Fire Department Hall is a location that we use

for several of our monthly meetings. This year the Fire Department has asked us to fill a spot on June 26 from 8-10 PM following their annual parade. This will give our club that opportunity to share with the public what an important impact we have on our Community and extend an invitation to attend one of our meetings.

On May 24th from 8-4, our garden club will have spots at Braddock's Inn Flea Market where we will have unique items for sale including plants such as sunflowers, bell flowers, and cosmos. As our annual fund raiser, we are hoping for lots of sunshine.

Week of June 1st - 7th is National Garden Week. Great Meadows takes this opportunity



Pulling weeds with junior gardeners



Preparations for our flower show on July 23rd

are in full swing. Mark your calendar and join us for a fun filled 1960's Road Trip down Route 40 and Route 66.

Green Gardeners of Uniontown

Lynda Waggoner, President

The Green Gardeners have been busy planning their downtown Uniontown plantings. In preparation, the members have cleaned the various pots and gardens and amended the

soil where needed. Weather permitting, Club members hope to install the plants the week of May 12th.



Martha Washington Garden Club

Susan DeLost, President

First, we have sad news to report: in early April, 15-year member Arlene Ricker passed away. She will be missed.

Five of our members attended the 2025 Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania's Annual Convention. We enjoyed the event and several of us came home with centerpieces and raffle basket prizes. Excess seed packets and gardening gloves from the convention were offered to our members at our April meeting.

Spring has sprung, as have the gardens that we maintain in downtown Washington. At the Train Station and Veterans Memorial Walkway, military markers and flags will accompany the red, white and blue annuals that are planted each year before Memorial Day. One member's husband has been diligently working in the grove of trees there, pruning the trees and shrubs. The tulips have been blooming at the LeMoyne House gardens as the deer haven't managed to unlatch the fence gates yet! We received a request from the Bradford House to help them in their gardens. One member has been helping there since mid-April.

Our 3rd Annual Plant Sale was held on Saturday, May 17, in the gardens area of the LeMoyne House. We hold our Plant Sale on the same days as the National Pike Festival, and

we get many visitors from those following the route. We hope that many of you were able to attend the District X Blue Star Marker dedication at the Claysville Welcome Center on Memorial Day.



At the State Convention (L-R): Vina McLeod Rudolph, Deb Davis, Kathy Wells, Marce Zaragoza, and Susan DeLost.

ing their review of the nine (9) applications received this year.

Our scholarship program committee is finaliz-

We hope you will join us for our August 1 & 2 Flower Show and Exhibition, focusing on the Botanical Arts, at the Washington Crown Center Mall. This will be a non-judged event. Three workshops have been planned to help our members become more familiar with Botanic Arts designs and for our newer members, to learn and gain experience in design.



Pleasant Hills Garden Club

Tamara Ziccardi, President

We have been and are continue to clean up and enjoy our springtime gardens. The speaker for our March meeting was unable to attend, so one of our members created a slide show for the meeting with pictures she had taken from the National Parks themed flower show. We also did botanical arts for our floral design this meeting. (Botanical design involves decorating an object with dried or fresh flowers like a glove or hat.) I think



Linda Minor modelling a
Botanical Arts design.
Photo by Tamara Ziccardi

this would be a great program idea for a meeting, and we will be working it into next year's programming.

April's meeting was focused on what would need to be done to help maintain our gardens and who will help with what for the upcoming plant sale.

Our May meeting featured a speaker who previously worked at Fallingwater and showed us ideas for container gardens.

Town and Country Garden Club of Rices Landing

Tami Burnsworth, President

The Town and Country Garden Club of Rices Landing hosted Brandon Bonin, Game Warden for Southwestern PA at our March meeting. He discussed his duties as Game Warden and answered a lot of questions from members and guests, it was an interesting meeting.

In April our members chose the next Scholarship recipient and the new Officers were installed, also two new members joined the Garden Club.

At our May meeting we will be hosting the Scholarship recipient and parents. There will also be a Roundtable discussion with members and guests.

In the coming months, we will also be cleaning up and getting ready to plant the Flenniken Library in Carmichaels and the Rices Landing Triangle.



Uniontown Flower Club

Sharlene Lehman

The Uniontown Flower Club meets on the second Friday of each month except January at Mount Saint Macrina Trinity House in Uniontown. We have added two new members to our club recently and have had all our current members return.

In February, members Nanci Myers and Sharlene Lehman presented a program on growing and caring for succulents. Over a dozen succulents were identified and discussed with the help of Sharlene's app called "Picture This." Each member received a succulent grown by Nanci from the plantlets of her "Mother of Thousands" plant also known as a chandelier plant pictured here.



In March, member Nanci Myers again served as a presenter and demonstrated how to grow your own flowers from seeds over the winter using grow lights. She brought grow lights and how best to use them as well as an in-bloom impatiens grown over the winter in a basement from a summer cutting. She also showed several varieties of seed starter kits and when to best thin and transplant seedlings.

In April, members welcomed District Director Martha Alexander who did a wonderful presentation on flower design. Us-

ing a power point, various designs were shown. Martha then constructed a floral design discussing the step-by-step process. Members then went into the workroom and began creating designs that Martha gently critiqued. It was a valuable program especially for those just beginning design interest.

IN MEMORY

Our club lost member Debbie Miller who passed away in March. A long-time UFC member, Debbie was always there when health allowed to attend meetings and participate in club activities. One such activity was the Uniontown Courthouse planters. Debbie is pictured below, second from the right, working with her UFC friends. A gentle, kind and delightful friend and fellow UFC member who will be missed.



*Club News continued*

Valley Garden Club

Roxanne Huss, President

The Valley Garden Club's annual fundraiser will be November 6, 2025, at St Anthony's Church in Donora. The program will feature a Magician. The members will provide a smorgasbord of salads.

The club continues to maintain the YMCA gardens with native and pollinator plants. In addition, the club will assist Belle Vernon Borough with the planters on main street.

Recent monthly programs were about

mushrooms, orchids and microgreens. An outing is planned to the Arona nursery, which is near New Stanton.



This year the club is awarding two scholarships to local students majoring in environmental science. One student is a graduate of

Belle Vernon Area and the other is from Cal Tech.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GCFP Annual Meeting

Friday August 29, 2025

South Hills Country Club

10:00 AM

\$ 40.00

Each President will be given complete details at the June 4th fundraiser

This is the meeting in which the GCFP State Officers attend give the latest info and updates.

Please plan to attend!

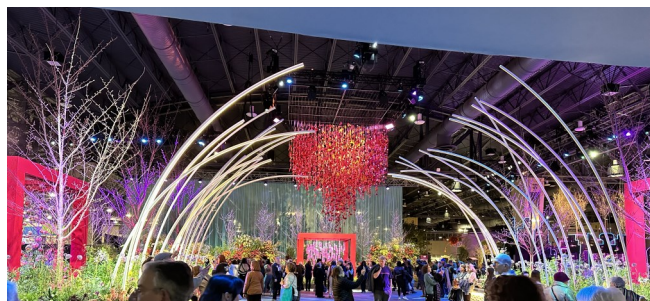
The Philadelphia Flower Show

Heidi Pane

Many people enjoyed the Philadelphia Flower Show at the Pennsylvania Convention Center March 1- 9, 2025. As mentioned on the PHS website, “The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation’s largest and longest running horticultural event and features stunning displays by the world’s premier floral and landscape designers.” “The 2025 Philadelphia Flower Show is a celebration of innovation, resilience, and creativity in gardening,” explained Seth Pearsoll, VP and Creative Director of the Flower Show. (PHS website)

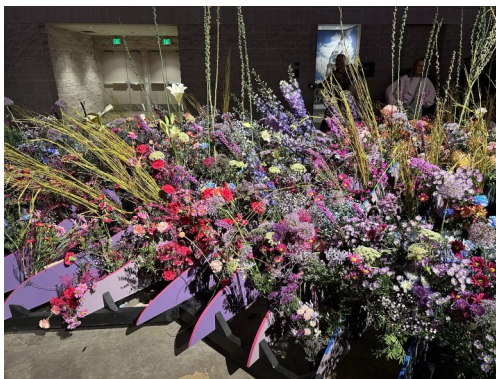
This year’s theme was *Gardens of Tomorrow*. The show featured creative exhibits, including the Entrance Garden, “Futura Florentia” (created by Philadelphia Horticultural Society).

Near the entrance, the NEXUS represents the intersection of natural and urban landscapes,



organic, and synthetic, past and future. It envisions a world where flowers persist, adapting to new environments and merging with technology to redefine beauty.

One of the large designs with many award ribbons was Welcoming Wildlife Home by Jennifer Designs. Welcoming Wildlife Home showcased the essential role of wildlife in maintaining a healthy, thriving ecosystem grounded in biodiversity. Three-foot-tall insects and



animals were created sitting on chairs at a table surrounded by plants and flowers.

Another impressive large design was Tomorrow’s Eden — Gardens for a Changing World. It included a small forest, stream, and waterfall.

My favorite design was “Thanks for the Meadow.” This exhibit was inspired by an NPR story about a couple in a small town who found themselves isolated during the pandemic. With free time and a desire to connect, they planted a flower meadow. Over time, the flowers bloomed, creating a bridge to the community around them. What began as a simple act grew



into a symbol of hope and interconnectedness.

Japanese flower arrangements in a noncompetitive and educational exhibit were created by students and teachers from the

Philadelphia Chapter of Ikebana International, including Ikenobo, Ohara, Sogetsu, and Ichiyo schools.

The floral design Sower’s Symphony included blossoms and bouquets incorporated with a piano.



One of my favorite classes in the flower show was Entryway, Design a backyard entrance.

Some of the other designs included Botanical Arts, photography, jewelry, pressed plant material to create a picture or a globe, monochromatic hat design in purple.

The Philadelphia Flower Show (continued)

Heidi Pane

Horticulture was amazing with a larger floor space than last year.

As in previous years, there was a butterfly tent to enjoy with a low-priced ticket.

There were three or four PHS Know to Grow speakers each day, open to anyone at the flower show. There were other special workshops for PHS members only. There were over 100 people at each of the presentations.



Some of the free speaker series presentations included:

- Don't Go With the Flow of Climate Change: Planting Beautiful Green Spaces for Healthy Waterways and Climate Resilience with Lauren McGrath
- There's Beauty in the Brambles: How Your Yard Can Provide Habitat for the Birds That You Love with Blake Goll and Michelle Eshleman
- Foraged Florals with Ace Berry
- The Future of Lawns and the Rise of Native Wildflower Plantings with Mike Cranney

Photos by Heidi Pane

REVIEWS

"This was my first time at the show and I will definitely return! The displays were so outstanding, especially the animals and insects at the dining room table. The miniature displays were also so much fun too."

~Kathy Petruska

"After the dreary days of winter, there is nothing more refreshing than to walk through the doors to the Philadelphia Flower Show. Not only is it filled with gorgeous flowers, but it is truly a breath of Spring. I particularly admired one titled 'Welcoming Wildlife Home' which featured a garden table with human-sized animals which included a squirrel, bee, butterfly, and turtle."

~Rebecca Lebeda

"What I enjoyed most about the Philadelphia Horticulture Society flower show 2025 was the information presented in the lectures on making changes in landscaping, turning grass areas into wildflowers for all of nature to thrive."

~Wendy Christopher

"I loved my first experience at the Philly FS. From the moment you walk into the show it overwhelms you with the enormity and beauty of plants and flowers everywhere, in every realm imaginable. It is stupendous and fun to share with fellow garden lovers."

~Martha Alexander



Photo by Kathy Petruska

"What a phenomenal experience! The Philadelphia Flower Show never disappoints. Everyone needs to see this once in their lifetime! Once you view this you will want to go every year! New gardening ideas will come your way!"

~Charlene Smochinsky

"This was my first visit to the Philadelphia Flower Show. The highlight of the visit was to see so many young people (20s-40s) so intrigued by the outstanding plants, designs and landscapes."

~Marilyn Backus

"One thing I always look at are the Wardian cases (sort of like terrariums). They come in all sizes and always intrigue me with the plants growing inside."

~Joyce Peterson

"This show was my first and won't be the last. I had a wonderful time. The show was magical. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. There is a lot of walking to take place in one day. You don't want to miss anything. The initial entrance was magical: the lights, the fragrances, the flowers in all their glory. After a long cold, dark, winter, this was a welcoming experience. Creative designs, talent & imagination abound everywhere. It's really beyond description!"

~Cherie Beal



Birds, Butterflies and Conservation

Kathy Petruska, Chair

Excerpt from Penn State Extension, “**Gardening for Butterflies**”, Authors Judith Mank, former graduate research assistant, and Margaret C. Brittingham, professor of wildlife resources

Butterflies have long fascinated people with their beautiful wings and whimsical flight. They are also extremely important ecologically. Butterflies pollinate flowering plants and serve as food for other organisms, thus forming an important link in the food chain. Populations have declined in recent decades, owing to increased pesticide use (especially herbicides); loss of fencerows; urbanization and other destruction of habitat; and loss of caterpillar host and nectar plants. Managing your garden for butterflies can help conserve butterfly populations as well as greatly enhance a traditional garden.

There are about 750 butterfly and skipper species in North America, and about ten times that number of moths. Butterflies, moths, and skippers combined form the order of insects named Lepidoptera, meaning “scaly winged.” The wings are covered with thousands of tiny scales, which form the spots and stripes that we see. Skippers are considered an intermediate form between moths and butterflies. The body shape is similar to a moth’s, but skippers are active during the day, like butterflies. One hundred forty-six species of butterflies and skippers have been reported in Pennsylvania. Of these, 24 have been documented only a few times and should be considered rare visitors.

Because butterflies are attracted to flowers, it is easy to plant a garden that both you and they can enjoy. Caterpillar host plants of some common Pennsylvania butterflies are listed below.

Common Pennsylvania Butterflies That Frequent Gardens

Whites and sulphurs, Swallowtails, Satyrs and wood nymphs, Fritillaries, Anglemings and tortoiseshells, Metalmark, Hairstreaks, Coppers and Blues, Skippers, and Milkweed butterflies.

Host Plants (Caterpillars)

Aster, Birch, Black cherry, Clover, Cottonwood, Dill, Dogwood, Hibiscus, Hollyhock, Milkweed, Mustard, Brassica, Nettles, Parsley, Sassafras, Snapdragon, Spicebush, Violet, and Willow

Nectar Plants (Adults)

Aster, Azalea, Bee balm, Blackberry, Black-eyed susan, Blazing star, Butterfly weed, Buttonbush, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Gayfeather, liatris, Geranium, Goldenrod, Ironweed, Vernonia, Joe-pye weed, Lantana, Lilac, Marigold, Milkweed, Phlox, Sunflower Sweet pepperbush, Trumpet honeysuckle, Verbena, and Zinnia.



Hort Hints

Grace Mitchell, Horticulture Chair

This past year I have been almost out of commission with an unrelenting backache. I was unable to bend over enough to plant. This made me realize that I'm not the only one whose mobility is getting more limited, so I decided to give some hort hints for gardeners with limitations.

Most of these are preaching to the choir, but I must mention: **Raised beds.**

- They should be at least 32 inches high for easy reach.
- Flowers are beautiful, but let's try some veggies and herbs.
 - Choose dwarf varieties of tomatoes to save space and make them easier to harvest.
 - Basil is fun to plant, but harvest it before it blooms. Flowering ruins the taste of the leaves.
 - Rosemary and sage are slow growers.
 - Cilantro grows great and the seeds (coriander) are useful.
 - Dill is easy to grow but can get very tall.



As we age, we must make concessions, but we'll never lose our love of gardening.

Natural Disasters

Linda Coleman, Natural Disasters Chair

The Natural Disaster collection at the Spring Tea, March 12, 2025, was \$189. These funds help victims of floods, fires, tornados and other devastating events. Thank you to all who contributed! A collection takes place at all District events.



Photography Report

Heidi Pane, Chair

I continue to enjoy responsibility as District X Photography Chairperson.

March 3-4, 2025, I enjoyed the Philadelphia Horticulture Society Flower Show "Gardens of Tomorrow" with other Garden Club members. I shared my photos of exhibits and educational presentations with District X and received positive feedback.

March 12 I enjoyed the District X Tea Party fundraiser with an Alice in Wonderland Mad Hatter theme. The Trash to Treasure entries were creative.

I enjoyed Garden Club of Munhall Fundraiser Luncheon at South Hills Country Club April 26. The highlight was seeing garden club members, and their daughters modeling clothing and accessories available at the Buttonhole Consignment Shop in Mt. Pleasant.

Designers Guild (of Greensburg) had no meetings this winter but resumed on May 9. Diane Hughes has the schedule and can answer questions.

I look forward to two events planned by Martha Washington Garden Club.

- Monday, May 26 at 1 PM : Dedication of the District X Blue Star Marker at the I-70 East Welcome Center near Claysville
- Friday, August 1: Martha Washington Garden Club, Botanical Arts Exhibition at the Washington Crown Center Mall



Garden Club of Munhall ladies modeling fashions at their annual fundraiser.

I look forward to the Great Meadows Garden Club stand-ard flower show July 23 at Uniontown Country Club. Open to the public 2-7 pm.

If anyone would like to invite me to a flower show or special event, or if you would like to receive a link to a photo album, contact me by email.

Heidi@pane.net



Marie Mueller with her panel design at Designers Guild.



Pollinators in Pennsylvania

Wanda Sherry, Pollinators Chair

Every plant that flowers requires pollination to reproduce. In Pennsylvania, the main animal pollinators are bees, flies, butterflies, beetles, hummingbirds, and moths.

Pollinators are nearly as important as sun, soil and water in both flowering plant reproduction and in the production of most fruits and vegetables. Pollinator populations are, however, on the decline for various reasons including habitat loss, introduction and spread of invasive plant species, misuse of pesticides and disease.

Providing wildflower-rich habitat is the most significant action you can take to help pollinators. Growing native flowering plants that

adapt to local soil and climate is usually the best source of nectar and pollen for native pollinators. Most native plants require little irrigation, bloom without fertilizers, and are unlikely to become weedy. Your pollinator friendly plants should receive full sun throughout most of the day. Butterfly adults generally feed only in the sun.

To sustain pollinators throughout the season, plant a variety of plants that flower at different times providing nectar and pollen sources throughout the growing season. Clumps of flowering plants will attract more pollinators than single plants scattered in the landscape.

Remember do not use insecticides they have the potential to poison or kill the pollinators.



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

Submission deadline for the September issue is August 15.

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

We welcome submissions from any District X garden club member. Submissions are subject to editing at the discretion of the editor.



Program Committee Report

Haddie Weber, Chair

Mark your calendar: Friday August 29, 2025, is the Annual GCFP meeting. Our new state officers will be attending this meeting. Details will be given to the club

presidents at the June 4th Fundraiser. Angie Raitano will be preparing a Design Program featuring floral designers from District X.

Newsletter Report

Marce Zaragoza, Editor

The TENDril District X Newsletter will continue to be published quarterly. Club presidents continue to be encouraged to submit photos to accompany their articles.

We will face a challenge in the coming year as Microsoft will discontinue Publisher, the program used to produce the newsletter. We have been looking for a suitable alternative. Canva seems to be the leading candidate, but using it may require a significant redesign of the newsletter. The goal will be to make the transition without an interruption in the publication schedule.



Scholarships Report

Vina McLeod Rudolph, Chair

Since our last meeting, we have had one person receive a scholarship for Flower Show School, Course 1, in Gettysburg, PA.

Marce Zaragoza attended the class and is planning on going to Course 2.



Wildflowers Report

Diane Hughes, Chair

Our goal should be sustainable gardening, an eco-friendly approach to cultivating plants that minimize environmental impact and promotes biodiversity. You can reduce your carbon footprint, conserve resources and create a healthier ecosystem for plants and wildlife.

This spring, the wildflowers have been beautiful! Please visit:

- Raccoon State Park, Beaver County
- Schenley Park, Panther Hollow Lake, Pittsburgh
- Trillium Trail, Fox Chapel, Allegheny County
- Cedar Creek Park, Belle Vernon
- Great Allegheny Passage
- Ohiopyle State Park

ENJOY THE WILDFLOWERS!





On May 6, 2025, I had the pleasure of attending a Zoom presentation on Horticulture and Floral Design, sponsored by the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. The meeting began with a greeting by Pat Wolanski, GCFP President, and was facilitated by Chris Leskosky.

The first presenter was Dot Yard, who spoke live on preparing horticulture for a flower show. One especially helpful hint was to check the schedule for what you might want to exhibit and write the names of the plants on the back of the schedule so that you have them handy when filling out your entry cards. Dot also demonstrated using medical plastic tubing as wedging material for your specimens.

The design segments of the meeting were recorded and extremely informative.

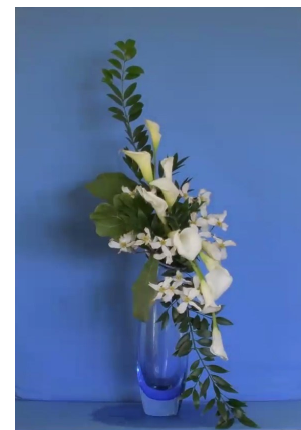
First, Mary Jane Martucci demonstrated an Illuminated Design, in which lighting is an integral part of the design. She showed various types of lighting that could be used and suggested that the lighting be able to be seen in brightly lit conditions. Her creation is entitled "Sunrise Service."



Angie Raitano demonstrated a Creative Line Design in which space and plant material were used in an unnatural way. She



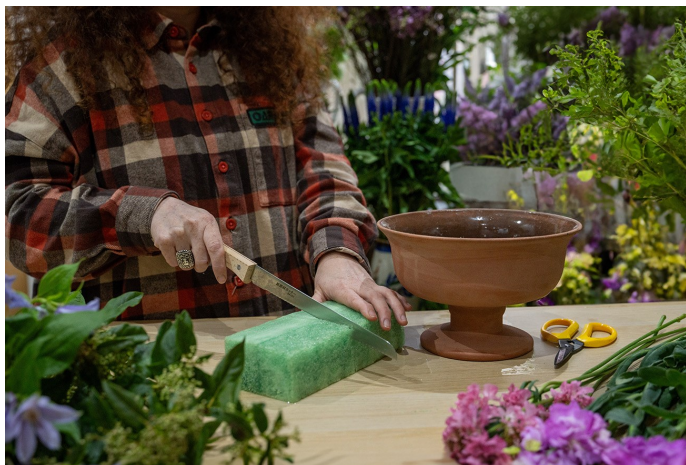
then developed that design into a Creative Line Mass Design by adding more plant material and adding depth to the design.



Finally, Diane Hughes demonstrated a lovely Exhibition Table, implying dining and having no restrictions on the type and number of serving pieces.

The entire presentation was very professionally done. Congratulations to the team responsible for putting it together. I hope we will have the opportunity to learn together via technology again in the not too distant future! If you missed this presentation, it will soon be available on the GCFP website.

Article and screenshots by M. Zaragoza



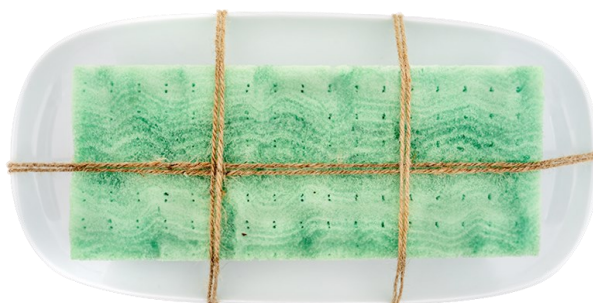
PHOAM

Is Phoam our Phuture?

by Marce Zaragoza

The recent observance of Earth Day brings to mind sustainability and how we can address this as Garden Club members. Some of the concerns regarding using Oasis for floral design is its lack of biodegradability. I recently heard of a new product called Phoam (Foam spelled with a PH) that, for some, could be an acceptable substitute for other floral foams.

According to their website, phoamlabs.com, Phoam is made from quickly-renewable plant material like corn or sugar cane. It is safe for users and completely compostable. It introduces no microplastics to the environment like other similar products. It can be used wet or dry and can be easily trimmed to the desired shape.



My observation in watching a video demonstration was that Phoam seemed to have a texture similar to that of the floral foam used for artificial flowers. It was easy to pierce with stems of various thicknesses. However, one possible drawback noted by the presenter was that it was not as forgiving as Oasis in terms of placement and replacement of stems. If you are a novice designer, like me, who moves stems after placement, Phoam may not be for you. However those experienced designers who are quite confident with their stem placements may find Phoam a desirable addition to their design arsenal.

Phoam was developed and is manufactured in the United States, further adding to its desirability. It is expected to be available in the UK this quarter and in the US later in 2025. It is not known at this time where it will be available and at what cost.

While it may not be for everyone, a step in the direction of biodegradability by using Phoam when applicable could help reduce the floral design industry's impact on our landfills.

**GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB
PRESENTS:**



**An NGC Standard Flower Show
at Uniontown Country Club
25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA 15401
Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 2-7 pm
Free and Open to the Public
Join us in your 60's clothes in our 1960's convertible.
Raffle baskets BIG Prizes!
Family FUN!!! Photo booth 60's Diner
Greenhouse plant sales**



Save the Date!

District X and NGC Meetings and Events

June

- 4 District X Fundraiser – South Hills Country Club
- 9-10 GCFP Board Meeting – Boalsburg, PA

July

- 8 Judges Council Joint Flower Show
951 Old Salem Rd, Greensburg 12-1:30 pm
- 23 Great Meadows GC Flower Show
Uniontown Country Club 2-7 pm

August

- 1-2 Martha Washington GC Flower Show
- 6 Designers' Guild
- 18 District X Board Meeting at Angie Raitano's home
- 29 District X Annual Meeting - South Hills Country Club

October

- 1 Designers' Guild
- 8 District X Board Meeting
- 14-15 GCFP Board Meeting – Boalsburg, PA
- 19-22 CAR-SGC Conference & Tri-Refresher, Chesapeake, MD
- 20-22 Flower Show School Course 2, Gettysburg, PA

November

- 7 Giant Oaks Tinsel Luncheon, Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn
- 13 Valley GC Fundraiser – Mon Valley YMCA



2025 Pennsylvania Flower Shows

**Let's get out and support these Flower Shows
happening across the State!**

June

- 5 The Outdoor Gardeners GC, Philadelphia
- 14 Norristown GC, Fellowship Hall
Schwenkfelder Church, 2111 S. Valley Forge
Road, Lansdale, 10am-2pm
- 21 Four Lanes End GC, Langhorne

July

- 8 Judges Council Joint Flower Show
951 Old Salem Rd, Greensburg 12-1:30 pm
- 9 Presque Isle Garden Club, "Celebrating our
Diamond Anniversary—75 Years of Gardening
Together", a Small Standard Flower Show
- 23 Great Meadows GC Flower Show, "Road Trip",
a Standard Flower Show, Uniontown Country
Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, 2-7 pm
- 26 District VII Horticulture Specialty Show, "Dog
Days of Summer", New Covenant Presbyterian
Church Hall, 2225 Grandview Avenue,
Monroeville

August

- 23 Indiana Garden Club, Indiana Mall
- 1-2 Martha Washington GC "Destination
Exploration", a Botanical Arts Exhibition,
Washington Crown Center Mall, 10am-3pm
- 5 Gospel Hill Garden Club, Horticulture Specialty
Flower Show
- 16 Blair Garden Club, 801 Allegheny St.,
Hollidaysburg
- TBA Trevoise Garden Club, Trevoise
- TBA Weeders and Seeders GC, Ligonier
- 28 Garden Clubs of District IV "Leaping to
Destinations", a Standard Flower Show,
Abbottstown

September

- TBA Our Garden Club of Philadelphia, Philadelphia



Photos by M. Zaragoza