



Keystone Gardener

Official Publication of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

Volume 7, Issue 1, May 2025

KG Online Newsletter Editor, Marilyn Small



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A MESSAGE FROM GCFP PRESIDENT PAT WOLANSKI

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's Party!'"

~ Robin Williams



As I begin my term as president of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, I am grateful for your support and very excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Serving in this role is both an honor and a privilege, and I look forward to working with you to celebrate nature, embrace the future, and continue the legacy of our organization.

Reflecting on our recent convention, *A Gardening Revolution*, I am reminded of all that we can accomplish together. To those who organized, attended, presented, or worked behind the scenes - thank you! Your contributions made this event a true celebration and a very special memory for me. Congratulations to District XI.

Moving forward, my theme - *Plant America: Pennsylvania Celebrates Nature and Embraces the Future* - will guide our work. This is more than a theme; it is an invitation to honor Pennsylvania's past while addressing the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. We will focus on sustainability, engage youth through programs like our new *Sprouts and Seedlings Program*, and strengthen our community connections. Our goal is to make GCFP a household name across Pennsylvania by bringing the work of our federation into the public eye.

I am also excited about other initiatives we will undertake together, including the *GCFP Reads Program*, the *Healing Art Program*, our *Floral Design and Horticulture Webinars*, and our *Pennsylvania's Garden Party*, a statewide garden tour scheduled for June 2026. We will even *publish a book* showcasing the beauty of Pennsylvania's public gardens and arboreta. These projects, and others, will highlight the dedication of our members, reinforcing the important role we play in creating a greener, healthier future.

This is our moment - not only to celebrate the past, but also to plant seeds for the future. Together, we will celebrate the beauty of Pennsylvania, honor our achievements, and build a future full of possibilities. What we do today will be what future members and others look back on and say - they made a difference!

Let's make this an exciting, successful, and rewarding term. I look forward to seeing the amazing things we will accomplish.

So now, together, let's make our *Keystone a Gemstone!*

Celebrating Nature and Embracing the Future with you,

Pat

GCFP President 2025-2027



Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania is a member of
National Garden Clubs and
Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs CAR-SGC





2024 AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT THE GCFP 2025 CONVENTION

Marilyn Small, GCFP Awards Chair, Uwchlan Garden Club, I
Sheri Lowry, Vice-Chair, The Garden Club of Johnstown, VI

2024 PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

Issued by GCFP President Leeanna Ryba

Chosen to receive this Presidential Citation because you have performed above and beyond expectations. Thank you for your dedication to the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania.

Karen Wychock , Convention Chair Trevose Horticultural Society	XI
Ginger Hunsicker , Convention Co-Chair Norristown Garden Club	XI
Diane Pratt , Convention Co-Chair Norristown Garden Club	XI
Barbara Andrus , Plant-A-Tree Chair The Heritage Garden Club	V
Nancy Cuttic , Past District I Director Uwchlan Garden Club	I
JoAnn Fogelman , Membership Chair McEwensville Garden Club	V
Sandra Hendricks , Scholarship Chair McEwensville Garden Club	V
Diane Hughes , Nominating Committee Chair Great Meadows Garden Club	X
Marjorie Sears , Seed Money Chair Old York Road Garden Club	XI
Diane Quinn , Program Resources Chair Emmaus Garden Club	II/III
Gaynor Hanna , Burpee Seeds	
Trish Fiel , Burpee Seeds	

SPECIAL CLUB FEDERATED ANNIVERSARIES

Clubs celebrating 50, 60, 75 and 90 years

50: The Littlestown Area Garden Club	IV
75: Allentown Garden Club	II/III
Blair Garden Club	VI
90: The Garden Club of Johnstown	VI
Oil City Garden Club	VIII
Uwchlan Garden Club	I

Clubs celebrating 50, 75, and 100 Year Anniversaries receive a \$100 award.

GCFP - NGC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

COMMUNITY GARDENS - *partnering with another organization*

Medium Club	
1 st Southern Butler Co. GC	IX

PERMANENT COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS

Medium Club	
2 nd Southern Butler Co. GC	IX

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Largest donated produce from a community garden with which the club is involved

Large Club	
1 st Parkland GC	II/III

ROADSIDE PLANTINGS

Medium Club	
1 st Butler GC	IX

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

A-1 Special One-Time Event

Medium Club	
1 st Southern Butler Co. GC	IX

GCFP - NGC

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

WILDLIFE SURVIVAL

Large Club	
1 st Shaler GC	IX

GCFP - NGC FLORAL DESIGN AWARDS

FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM

Large Club	
1 st Uwchlan GC	I
"Monthly Floral Design"	
2 nd Parkland GC	II/III
"That Floral Touch"	

GCFP - NGC MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AND EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS

Large Club	
1 st Shaler GC	IX
2 nd Parkland GC	II/III

DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATION

Large Club	
2 nd Moon Township GC	IX
"Recycling 101"	





NGC HORTICULTURE EDUCATION TO YOUTH

Large Club	
1st Parkland GC	II/III

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Large Club	
1 st Shaler GC	IX
Medium Club	
2 nd Southern Butler Co. GC	IX

WEBSITE

Chair - Janet Fassbender, The Country Gardeners, I	
Large Club	
1 st Parkland GC	II/III
2 nd Tusca Ridge GC	IX
Medium Club	
1 st Southern Butler Co. GC	IX
Large Club Professional Design	
1 st The GC of York	IV

PUBLICATIONS

Chair - Joyce Peterson, The GC of Forest Hills, VII

3-12 Page Newsletters - Medium Club

1 st The GC of Forest Hills	VII
2 nd Standing Stone GC	V
3 rd Green Thumb GC	IV

3-12 Page Newsletters - Large Club

1 st Uwchlan GC	I
2 nd Patton GC	IV
3 rd Town & Country GC of Lancaster	IV

13-24 Page Newsletters - Large Club

1 st The GC of York	IV
2 nd Butler GC	IX
3 rd Penn-Cumberland GC	IV

13-24 Page Newsletters - District

1 st District I - "The First Bloom"	I
2 nd District VI - "Seedlings"	VI
3 rd District IX - "Nine's News"	IX

Over 24 Pages Newsletter - Large Club

1 st Moon Township GC	IX
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GCFP AWARDS

GCFP CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

MYRREL R. OVERDORF

COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD

For a member whose achievements in his/her community have brought honor to the recipient and to their club.



Deb Barhight

Parkland Garden Club II/III

GCFP HORTICULTURE AWARDS

CLUB HORTICULTURE ACHIEVEMENT



For an outstanding series of horticulture programs presented throughout the year.

Uwchlan Garden Club I

HORTICULTURE EXCELLENCE



Honoring the most outstanding horticulturist of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania.

Eleanor Tickner

The Country Gardeners I

SILVER SEAL AWARD

Awarded to an individual other than a garden club member, or to an organization other than a garden club, for special contributions toward the advancement of the work of garden clubs.



Musselman Greenhouses, Inc.

Sponsored by
Gettysburg Garden Club IV

GCFP CLUB PROGRAM AWARDS

Recognizing an outstanding, original, garden-related program presented at a single meeting by one or more club members.

A. Horticulture

Large Club

1 st Elizabeth Henderson	
Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
Native Plants Garden	

E. Flower Arranging

Large Club

1 st Valerie Burgess, Uwchlan GC	I
Monthly Floral Design	

I. Birds, Butterflies, etc.

Medium Club

1st Deb Christopher and Patti Schildkamp	
Weeders & Seeders of Ligonier	VI
"Marvelous, Mystical Moths"	

K. Workshop

Large Club

1 st Kirk Brown, Parkland GC	II/III
"Designing Planters"	

GCFP CAR-SGC OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT AWARD

Awarded for an educational exhibit that relates to our national objectives.

Sharon Richardson and Marilyn Small

Uwchlan Garden Club, I
"The Role of Water at Longwood Gardens"



GCFP KEYSTONE GARDENER/KG ONLINE LITERARY AWARDS

Awarded for an original garden-related poem or composition published in the Keystone Gardener or KG Online.

Original Poems

Jean Washburn Branco

Norristown GC X
"Crystal Lake Morning" & "Grandmother's Violets"

Original Article

Sharon Richardson

Uwchlan GC I
"Year-Round Buffet for Your Pollinators"

GCFP CLUB MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

\$100 Awarded to the existing club in each size category with the greatest number of new members in the calendar year

Small Club – Up to 20 Members

The Garden Club of Montrose, II/III

6 New Members!

Medium Club – 21 to 50 Members

Verona Garden Club, VII

13 New Members!

Large Club – 51+ Members

The Garden Club of York, IV

34 New Members!

CAR-SGC AWARDS

GCFP CAR-SGC CLUB YEARBOOK AWARDS

Iris Cisarik, Chair - The GC of Forest Hills, VII

Under 20 Members:

1st Elk Valley Garden Club VIII

2nd Joyful Bloomers GC VII

21-29 Members:

1st The Heritage GC V

2nd Burrellton GC VII

3rd Waterford GC VIII

30-44 Members:

1st The GC of Forest Hills VII

2nd Standing Stone GC V

3rd Pucketos GC VII

45-69 Members:

1st Tusca-Ridge GC IX

2nd GC of Munhall X

3rd Patton GC VI

70-99 Members

1st Hazleton Area GC II/III

2nd Emmaus GC II/III

3rd Martha Washington GC X

Over 100 Members:

1st The GC of York IV

2nd Penn-Cumberland IV

GCFP CAR-SGC PUBLICITY PRESS BOOK AWARD

Chair - Becky Zeeger, Uwchlan Garden Club, I
Recognizing winning books of evidence exhibiting quality, quantity, and diversity of coverage in the print media promoting garden clubs and NGC goals and objectives.

Large Club

1st Penn-Cumberland GC IV

2nd Norristown GC XI

Tie 3rd Gettysburg GC IV

3rd Parkland GC II/III

GCPF CAR-SGC FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Chair, Margie Bucci, Indiana GC, VI

Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

Medium Club

1st Wildflower GC VIII

"Here Comes the Bride"

Standard Flower Show

Medium Club

1st Littlestown Area GC IV

"Through the Decades - Flowers In Fashion"

2nd Hazleton Area GC II/III

"KaBloom...an Explosion of
Nature and Creativity"

3rd Valley GC, "Let's Party" X

Large Club

1st Trevoise Horticultural Society XI

"Bee Inspired"

2nd Martha Washington GC X

"Celebrate 90!"

3rd Penn-Cumberland GC IV

"Nature's Bounty...from your home,
heart & harvest"

NGC FLOWER SHOW BOOK OF EVIDENCE

Chair - Deb Stumpf, Indiana Garden Club, VI

Standard Flower Show

21-49 Members

1st Valley Garden Club X

"Let's Party"

50-99 Members

1st Trevoise Horticultural Society XII

"Bee Inspired"

2nd Martha Washington GC X

"Celebrating 90"

3rd Hazleton Garden Club II/III

"KaBloom...an Explosion of Nature
and Creativity"

Club Horticulture Specialty Show

1st Wildflower Garden Club VIII

"Summer in the Alleghenies"



GCFP SPECIAL RECOGNITION STATE AWARDS

Recognizing outstanding achievement in one of the following fields of interest

A. Beautification of Community Areas

Large Club

1st Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Medium Club

3rd Hazleton Area Garden Club, II/III

C. Tree Plantings, Arbor Day Activities

Large Club

1st Parkland Garden Club, II/III

Medium Club

1st Southern Butler Co. Garden Club, IX

D. Holiday Project or Event

Large Club

1st Parkland Garden Club, II/III

E. Plant Sale, Garden Mart, Herb Fair

Large Club

1st Shaler Garden Club, IX

Medium Club

1st Indiana Garden Club, VI

F. Garden Tour

Medium Club

1st Southern Butler Co. Garden Club, IX

F. Garden Tour Large Club

1st Shaler Garden Club, IX

2nd Emmaus Garden Club, II/III

3rd Uwchlan Garden Club, I

H. Other Project or Event Promoting GCFP Objectives

Medium Club

1st Southern Butler Co. Garden Club, IX
"Horticulture Therapy"

2nd Weeders and Seeders GC of Ligonier, VI
"Scarecrow Recycling Contest"

Large Club

1st Parkland Garden Club, II/III
"Horticulture Therapy"

SR-4 MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR

Recognizing five or more years of outstanding contributions and all-around excellence to club and community.



NANCY CUTTIC

Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Over the last 15 years, Nancy has demonstrated her creativity, organization, progressive ideas, and leadership through her involvement in programs, projects, and events, implementing duties with great success while promoting NGC goals and objectives.

During her club presidency, she spearheaded the restoration of the gardens of a historic one-room schoolhouse and the Blue Star Marker in King of Prussia that had become neglected. She also developed and implemented a program for 2nd and 3rd graders at a local elementary school to work with pumpkins and seeds based on the NGC book *The Saved Seed*.

As District Director, she successfully increased membership and participation with innovative ideas for meetings and worked with two non-federated clubs to join the GCFP.

Co-Chairing the 2022 GCFP Convention in Malvern, again tested her deft skills for a very successful end result. While serving in her various positions, her work was rewarded by having won many District, GCFP, and NGC awards for her clubs.

A member of three judges' councils, Nancy has completed Flower Show School, competing and winning in both horticulture and design in flower shows.

For her community, she helps to plant seasonal flowers, serves on the Landscape Committee, and offers monthly flower arranging workshops. She has also been chosen by President Pat Wolanski to Chair the State Garden Party Garden Tour in 2026.

2024 GCFP PERENNIAL BLOOM

Honoring a long-time club member whose continuous support of our goals and objectives makes our clubs grow and bloom.



KAY JOHN

Garden Club of Clarion County, VIII

For over 41 years, Kay has been a devoted, dedicated, and highly-valued member of the Garden Club of Clarion Co., District VIII, GCFP, CAR-SGC, and NGC.

A Master Gardener and member of the Penn State Extension Clarion County Advisory Council, she participated in the PA Native Bee Monitoring project and has been recognized with two different awards.

The many hats she has worn with her club include President, Vice-President, Board of Gardeners, Awards Chair, Youth Chair, Flower Show General Chair, and Judges Chair.

A member of the Erie Area Judges Council, she is a Life Judge, Council Chair, and three-time judge at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

As a life member of NGC, CAR-SGC, and GCFP, her involvement toward the goals and objectives of these organizations is impressive, including District VIII Director and several major chair positions, several GCFP board member positions, and a two-time CAR-SGC Continuing Projects and Penny Pines Chair.



GCFP/CAR-SGC YOUTH CONTESTS

Chair - Chris Hawthorne, Ingomar Garden Club, IX
Vice Chair, Barb Oswald,

Youth Poetry Contest

"My Garden Has Vegetables to Spare
That I Can Share"

Grade K			
1 st	Savannah Black	Pucketos GC	VII
2 nd	Seven Swann	Pucketos GC	VII
Grade 1			
1 st	Ahlijah Wagner	Pucketos GC	VII
2 nd	Ryder Stone	Pucketos GC	VII
3 rd	Everett Haslett	Pucketos GC	VII
4 th	Anthony Reddix	Pucketos GC	VII
Grade 3			
1 st	Ameeya Ringold	Pucketos GC	VII
2 nd	Lincoln Murray	Pucketos GC	VII
Grade 4			
1 st	Melody Bryant	Pucketos GC	VII
2 nd	Aliza Costantino	Pucketos GC	VII
3 rd	Leroy Libengood	Pucketos GC	VII
4 th	Greyson Imm	Pucketos GC	VII
Grade 5			
1 st	Lily Christopher	Ingomar GC	IX
2 nd	Mia Kavic	Ingomar GC	IX
3 rd	Kieran Li	Ingomar GC	IX
4 th	Maretta Bender	Ingomar GC	IX
Grade 6			
4 th	Lana Longstreet	The York GC	IV
Grade 7			
4 th	Austyn Gallaway	Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
Grade 8			
1 st	Lilliana Bixler	Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
2 nd	Jackson Selepek	Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
3 rd	Mikenna Keber	Tusca-Ridge GC	IX

GCFP SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

Chair, Betty Grossheim, Puketos GC, VII
"Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

Grade 1			
1 st	Fiona Osborne, Parkland GC		II/III
Grade 2			
1 st	Harlow Siegel, GC of Clarion Co.		VIII
2 nd	Anaaya Kumar, Parkland GC		II/III
Grade 3			
1 st	Blake Weibel, Parkland GC		II/III
Grade 4			
1 st	Andrew Scovel, GC of Clarion Co.		VIII
Grade 5			
1 st	Afsheen Y. Arafath, Moon Twp. GC		IX
2 nd	Dia Chada, Moon Twp. GC		IX
3 rd	Haley Gallagher, Parkland GC		II/III

2024 GCFP GOLD SEAL AWARD



Honoring a member whose efforts toward the advancement of garden club work have had far-reaching influence.

TONYA YOUNG

The Garden Club of York, IV
Town & Country GC of Lancaster

Tonya received a beautiful necklace with a 14K gold engraved charm.

A born leader and recently installed as GCFP's 1st Vice-President, Tonya has worn many hats throughout her garden club years and continually encourages clubs to gain new members.

As a member of The Garden Club of York since 2007 and Town and Country Garden Club of Lancaster since 2019, Tonya's involvement and efforts toward the advancement of club, district, state, region, and national garden club's goals and objectives are impressive.

From serving as GC of York's president, chairing the annual Garden Faire - raising record sales, providing floral design instruction and workshops, serving as District IV Director, and providing multiple Zoom education sessions and workshops, including the 2021 "Zooming into Spring" Convention, she was deservedly awarded several club laurels and a District Director Citation.

She has served GCFP not only as 2nd Vice-President but also as Wildflower Chair, Symposium Chair, Co-Chair of the 2024 Annual Convention, and received four GCFP Presidential Citations.

Her work for CAR-SGC includes being the 2021-23 Facebook Chair, the 2022 Conference workshop speaker, and representing GCFP at the 2024 Conference Design Challenge. She presented in 2022 on the NGC's Workshop Wednesday series and made a personal trip to NGC headquarters in 2024 to further her knowledge of the organization. She actively promotes NGC Schools and encourages all members to attend meetings and conventions.

Her community work includes her involvement with the York State Fair since 2001, and she currently assists the Director of Horticulture in planning and organizing the entire horticulture exhibit and securing judges. She has also served as Vice-Chair of Horticulture Judges for the Philadelphia Flower Show and has presented programs for garden clubs across the state and in Maryland.

Tonya is eager and ready to step in where needed. Her positive energy and willingness to serve the organization are certainly commendable.



2024 GCFP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Chair - Sandra Hendricks, McEwensville Garden Club, V

The Dorothy A. Hermani Scholarship of \$1,000

Emily Phillips of Elizabethtown

Town & Country Garden Club of Lancaster, IV

Emily is a freshman at Messiah University studying Biological Sciences and has won many academic awards. She gave academics her highest priority and earned the highest grade that a student has ever earned in her professor's AP Biology Class. "A career fighting against the effects of climate change is a chance to leave a brighter future for the generations to come. Improving the planet means improving the life of every person on Earth. That is what I strive for with a degree in Environmental Science." GPA 4.0.

The Marjorie E. Hamblin Scholarship of \$1,000

Elizabeth Hope Bruner of Blairsville *

Indiana Garden Club, VI

She is a junior at Penn State University majoring in Forest Ecosystem Management. Her long-term goal is to become a forester or work in wildland firefighting to protect, conserve, and preserve our forests within Pennsylvania. She has joined two wildland firefighter crews to volunteer with the Dept. of Conservation & Nat. Resources in their efforts to contain PA wildfires, in hopes to impact future of tree harvesting as well as forest conservation. GPA 3.94.

The Catherine H. Kenworthy Scholarship of \$1,000

Sam Conti of Pittsburgh

The Garden Club of Forest Hills, VII

Sam is a junior at Ohio Wesleyan College studying Biological Sciences. His goal is to restore and protect different habitats to keep our planet healthy. His Ph.D. advisor has been impressed with his potential and recommends him wholeheartedly without reservation for Plant Physiology. GPA 3.52.

The Lois Dupre' Schuster Scholarship of \$1,000

Madelyn Sloane Dowd of Pittsburgh

The Garden Club of Forest Hills, VII

Madelyn is a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Environmental Engineering. Her goals are working with water management, hydroponics, aquaculture, or anything to help the ecosystems. She is described as incredibly motivated, bright, patient, and hard working. GPA 4.0.

The Miriam A. Steel Scholarship of \$1,000

Makenzi Christine Reed of Wrightsville

The Garden Club of York, IV

Makenzi is a junior at Elizabethtown College studying Environmental Science. She plans a career as a Wildlife Ecologist with a focus on conservation. She is a Social Media Manager for SEEDS Ecology Club and loves kayaking and hiking. She painted two storm drains in York City to raise awareness for water pollution and won People's Choice. She is a very active student. GPA 3.82.

The Constance H. Smith Scholarship of \$1,200

Ian Jason Nagel of Carrolltown

The Patton Garden Club, VI

Ian is a senior at Cambria Heights School District in Carrolltown, ranking 4th in a class of 118, with a 4.0 GPA. He will be starting classes in the fall at Juniata College studying Biology. Education will provide him with opportunities to reach his goals to help his community.

The Edith Clemmer Steinbright Scholarship of \$1,000

Katherine Laura Butzler of Jersey Shore

McEwensville Garden Club, V

Kate is a senior at the Jersey Shore Area High School, ranking 22nd in a graduating class of 179 with a GPA of 3.9. In the fall, she will be attending York College of Pa. to study Civil Engineering. She has excellent leadership and communication skills and a friendly demeanor.

The Jacqueline A. Davis Scholarship of \$1,000

Chloe Jayne Baughman of Reedsville

Mifflin County Garden Club, V

Chloe is a sophomore at Penn State studying Agriculture Sciences. She is pursuing her degree in Horticulture with an Entomology minor. Several letters from her teachers stated how Chloe demonstrated her ability to analyze and integrate complex and diverse ideas as well as her creativity and interest in learning and an obvious love for the plant world. GPA 3.8.

The Katherine L. Rieger Scholarship of \$1,000

Joseph John Romano, Jr. of Frederick **

Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club, II/III

John is a junior at the University of Delaware, studying Plant Breeding and Genetics. Qi Mu, Ph.D., Joseph's professor, is of the opinion is that Joseph is in a great growth trajectory as a plant genetics researcher, with projected graduate-level training in the future. He had no doubt that Joseph would become one of the future leaders in the agriculture research fields. He is equipped with the necessary academic prowess, research skills, and dedication to make a significant contribution to the field. GPA 4.0.

The Mary Alice Wheeler Scholarship of a \$1,000

Jenna Nicole Sassaman of Selinsgrove

McEwensville Garden Club, V

Jenna is a junior at Penn State University studying Agriculture Sciences and Extension Education. She enjoyed her study abroad in Belize last year and experienced educating students in the village. The students were fascinated to take a seed, plant it, and add water, and a small plant would grow. These kids reminded her how much she loved outdoor education, which prompted her to want to become an agriculture teacher. GPA 3.72.

* Application sent to CAR-SGC for further consideration

** Application sent to NGC for further consideration

Scholarships Continued

The Louise Dimmick Scholarship of \$1,000
Katie Elizabeth Salsgiver of Oil City
Titusville Area Garden Club, VIII
A freshman at Pennsylvania College of Technology, Katie is pursuing a degree in Landscaping and Plant Production. Her long-term goal is to grow flowers sustainably, own a flower farm, and run a floral design business. “Her passion and drive in this industry are truly inspirational.” GPA 3.8.

The Jane Layman Scholarship 4-Year - \$1,000
Conditional on an annual 3.0 GPA
John Clark Bruner of Blairsville
Indiana Garden Club, VI
In the fall, John will be a freshman at Penn State Dubois studying, Wildlife Technology. GPA 4.0

The Marilyn L. Whitmore Scholarship of \$1,000
Alexandra Elisabeth Noble of Biglerville
Pottstown Area Garden Club, II/III
Alexandra is a sophomore at Penn State Berks studying Agricultural Sciences and plans a career as a Plant Geneticist. Through genetic research, she plans on helping farmers and companies improve their crop production. Alexandra is extraordinarily smart and inquisitive, with a fantastic outlook on her choice of major. She has balanced her schoolwork with employment and has big goals for herself as she continues her education at PSU. GPA 3.96.

2024 AWARD STATISTICS

Marilyn Small, Chair, Uwchlan GC, I and Sheri Lowry, Vice-Chair, GC of Johnstown, VI

Our GCFP Award Program recognized the extraordinary efforts of our individuals, clubs, and districts during 2024 at our 2025 Convention. The dedication, creativity, knowledge, and hard work shared in the award applications truly showcased the efforts of our GCFP members to accomplish NGC goals and objectives.

- 46 of our 105 GCFP clubs received at least 1 award.
- 22 First-Place winners were forwarded for CAR-SGC award consideration.
- 21 First-Place winners were forwarded for NGC award consideration.
- 29 Youth Contest Awards
- 157 certificates were awarded.

2024 GCFP COMPREHENSIVE AWARD
Awarded to the district whose clubs and individuals received the most GCFP awards in the current award year

Congratulations to District II/III
Earning 21 Individual, Club, and District Awards!

DISTRICT AWARDS BREAKDOWN			
District II/III	21 Awards	District V	10 Awards
District IX	20 Awards	District VII	9 Awards
District IV	18 Awards	District XI	8 Awards
District I	14 Awards	District X	7 Awards
District VI	12 Awards	District VIII	7 Awards

TOP CLUBS		
I	Uwchlan GC	12 Awards
II/III	Parkland GC	10 Awards
IX	Southern Butler Co. GC	8 Awards
IV	GC of York	6 Awards
IX	Shaler GC	5 Awards
VII	Forest Hills GC	4 Awards
IV	Penn Cumberland GC	4 Awards
V	McEwensville GC	4 Awards
IX	Norristown GC	4 Awards

2024 YOUTH CONTEST COMPREHENSIVE AWARD
Congratulations to District VII
Earning 12 Youth Contest Awards!

District VII	12 Awards - Pucketos GC
District IX	10 Awards
	4 Ingomar GC
	4 Tusca-Ridge GC
	2 Moon Township GC
District II/III	4 Awards - Parkland GC
District VIII	2 Awards - GC of Clarion Co.
District IV	1 Award - The GC of York



Thank you to all of the club members who shared their outstanding members’ accomplishments, and submitted their club’s projects and volunteer efforts. Our GCFP members are truly impressive, hard-working, devoted volunteers!



2025 Seed Money for PLANT AMERICA, While Keeping PA Beautiful

Marjorie Sears, Chair, Old York Road Garden Club, XI



District I

Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd
The Country Gardeners
Elverson Garden Club
Four Seasons Garden Club
Spade and Trowel Garden Club
Uwchlan Garden Club

District II/III

Bethlehem Garden Club
Emmaus Garden Club
Hazleton Area Garden Club
Parkland Garden Club
Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club

District V

Standing Stone Garden Club

District VI

Weeders & Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier

District VII

Burrellton Garden Club
The Garden Club of Forest Hills
Joyful Bloomers Garden Club
Garden Club of Monroeville
Murrysville Garden Club

District VIII

Gospel Hill Garden Club
Lawrence Park Garden Club
Wildflower Garden Club

District IX

Kennedy Garden Club
Moon Township Garden Club
Shaler Garden Club
Southern Butler Co. Garden Club
Tusca-Ridge Garden Club

District X

Giant Oaks Garden Club
Great Meadows Garden Club
Garden Club of Munhall
Uniontown Flower Club

District XI

GC of Bristol Borough
Countryside Gardeners
Four Lanes End GC
Gardeners of the Crooked Billet
Norristown Garden Club
Old York Road Garden Club
Our GC of Philadelphia and Vicinity
Swedesford Garden Club
Treves Horticultural Society

2024 CONVENTION TRASH TO TREASURE WINNER

Naser and Marsha Chowdhury, GCFP Trash to Treasure Chairs

The 2025 GCFP Trash to Treasure contest was held on April 6, 2025, in King of Prussia, PA. All of the entries were very highly creative and diverse while staying within the theme of the contest, "Revolutionary Birdhouse."

Congratulations to:

1st Place: Rick Layman, Pam Paules, Carole Wanzer, Ann DeMille
Garden Club of York, IV

2nd Place: Jane Sutera, Diane Jacobs, Sandy Plotts, Pottstown Area Garden Club,
District II/III

3rd Place: Nancy Cuttic, Uwchlan Garden Club, District I
HM: Wildflower Garden Club, District VIII



GCFP Awards Page on the GCFP Website
pagardenclubs.org



GCFP 2025 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

District XI hosted a fabulous **"A Gardening Revolution"** convention in King of Prussia. **Over 300** attendees throughout the three days were treated to beautiful revolutionary-themed displays and decor and received a goody-filled hospitality bag. There were beautiful floral honor designs for NCG President Elect Donna Donnelly, President Ryba, Convention Chair Karen Wychock, and the Convention Committee made by **Lori Pancione, Audrey Angelella, Gloria Denoon, and Wendy Fox** respectively.

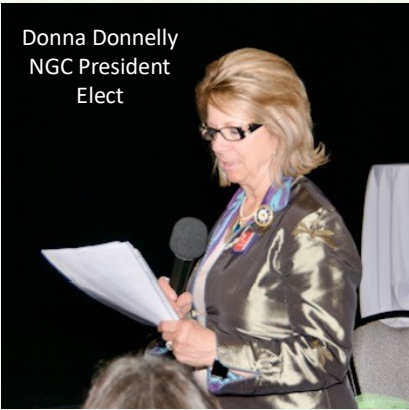
The many, very interesting workshops and presenters were followed by wonderful speaker presentations at each delicious meal. Floral designer Renee Tucci presented stunning floral designs, Carol Spacht performed a historical and entertaining Martha Washington impersonation, and Frances Thrash demonstrated various NGC floral designs at the Judges Council Luncheon. The **gardening revolution theme** was woven throughout the convention, which also included the installation of President Wolanski and her Executive Board.

There were exciting awards presentations, educational exhibits, vendors of many different products, excellent raffles, and beautiful centerpieces at each meal.



Photographer
Bob Wolanski

GCFP 2025 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Heritage Garden Club, V
Governor's Trophy

PRESIDENT PAT WOLANSKI'S INITIATIVES

PLANT AMERICA: PENNSYLVANIA CELEBRATES NATURE AND EMBRACES THE FUTURE

As we move forward, The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania is embracing new ways to celebrate our state's rich natural beauty while preparing for the future. My initiatives as president focus on fostering environmental awareness, engaging youth, and strengthening our impact through meaningful projects with both our members and our communities.

CELEBRATING NATURE THROUGH COMMUNITY GARDENS - President's Project

In keeping with my theme of celebrating nature, I encourage clubs to establish a community-themed garden, such as sensory gardens, herb or medicinal gardens, youth gardens, vegetable gardens, native plant gardens, and rock gardens. Let's bring our passion for gardening to life and showcase our efforts within our communities! Let's make our GCFP a household name in our communities and bring awareness to the work we have done and will continue to do.

Reach out to Co-Chairs **Marge Eberz** and **Eileen Harris** for guidance and suggestions.

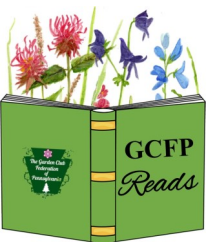
HEALING ART PROGRAM - President's Project



Chaired by **Barbara Campbell**, this initiative highlights the power of art in reducing stress and promoting well-being. Studies show that exposure to art can lower anxiety, improve writing skills, and even reduce disciplinary issues among students. Research also suggests that images of nature—such as landscapes, flowers, or botanical illustrations—can lower cortisol levels, reduce heart rate, and promote relaxation.

Every club has an artist or photographer—why not put their talents to good use? Choose a piece of nature-inspired artwork or a garden photograph, have it framed, and label it with The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Healing Art Program (labels will be provided). Then, donate it to a local medical facility, school, dental office, urgent care center, or children's hospital. Imagine the impact of a beautiful garden image bringing peace and calm to someone in a waiting room. That is the power of this program!

GCFP READS PROGRAM



I am thrilled to launch the GCFP Reads Program, a statewide reading initiative led by **Sharon Richardson**. This program will engage members of all ages in reading books related to nature, gardening, and the environment. Sharon will coordinate activities to foster participation and ensure alignment with GCFP's goals.

EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS: FLORAL DESIGN & HORTICULTURE



We will offer scheduled instructional webinars to guide members through floral design techniques and horticultural insights. Each 45-minute session will be followed with a 15-minute

Q & A. A link will be sent prior to the programs and will be available on our website.

Mark your calendars: **May 6 | August 5 | November 4**

This program is chaired by **Chris Leskosky**.

SPROUTS AND SEEDLINGS PROGRAM: GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GARDENERS



Sprouts & Seedlings

This program will encourage clubs to start youth garden clubs under a unified brand name that connects them to GCFP. Every Pennsylvania

garden club should have a youth club. If you already work with youth, congratulations—register your group using our online registration form, and you are part of this initiative! Imagine a youth garden club connected to every GCFP club – that would be a lasting legacy – a promise for the future.

Need ideas on starting a club, planning activities, or finding meeting locations? **Cheryl Brumbaugh**, our program chair, will be your go-to resource, offering encouragement and support. Watch for more details in upcoming Keystone Gardeners!

PENNSYLVANIA'S GARDEN PARTY: A STATEWIDE GARDEN TOUR

To showcase our beautiful Pennsylvania and to share our gardening successes, we are planning a statewide garden tour showcasing Pennsylvania's stunning private gardens.

This event, chaired by **Nancy Cuttic**, will be open to both GCFP members and the public.

Save the dates: **June 20 & 26, 2026**

Two weekends, one ticket, double the beauty!

Local clubs and districts will play a key role in organizing and promoting this event.



PRESIDENT WOLANSKI'S INITIATIVES Cont.

PUBLIC GARDENS & ARBORETUM GUIDE

I also hope to publish a comprehensive guide to Pennsylvania's public gardens and arboreta. This publication, sponsored by participating gardens, will be available for purchase statewide. **Karen Wychock** will oversee this project.

PAT'S POP-UPS: STAY IN THE KNOW!

With our new communication system, I will be able to send quick updates, reminders, and ideas through Pat's Pop-Ups.

KEYSTONE GARDENER: PAT'S POINTS

Beyond my usual message in Keystone Gardener, I will also have a "Pat's Points" section, where I will share seasonal garden challenges, DIY projects, spotlights on PA native plants, fun facts about gardening, nature and the environment, fundraising ideas, and youth activity suggestions.

Want to get off the couch and enjoy the outdoors? The *Pennsylvania State Parks Adventure Book* will help you check each park off your adventure list! Get your copy [HERE](http://www.mynaturebookadventures.com)



PENNSYLVANIA'S GARDEN PARTY

Nancy Cuttic, Chair, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

It's time to party! President Pat Wolanski has announced the theme for her presidency, *Plant America: Pennsylvania Celebrates Nature and Embraces the Future*. In keeping with this theme, one of her initiatives as president is a state-wide garden tour to celebrate the beautiful gardens in Pennsylvania and to enjoy the fruits of our labor of having Planted America.

The garden party will take place on the last two Saturdays of June 2026: **June 20** and **June 27, 2026**. Six to seven private gardens will be featured in each of the ten districts. Tickets will be priced at \$25 for admission to the gardens on both days. Anyone will be able to purchase a ticket from the GCFP website or the state registrar.



We anticipate a variety of gardens to be on display, such as rock gardens, pollinator-friendly gardens, ponds, herb, vegetable, English gardens, and more. If you have a show-worthy garden or know someone who does, please contact Nancy Cuttic at Ncuttic@comcast.net.

Volunteers will be needed to serve on the committee and as hostesses at our beautiful gardens. Many of our clubs have held successful garden tours over the years. Now, we are excited to take this to a statewide level and host a garden party to showcase our Keystone State.



GCFP FLORAL DESIGN/HORTICULTURAL WEBINARS

Chris Leskosky, Chair and Master Flower Show Judge
Hazleton Area Garden Club, II/III

from 7 - 8 PM on the following dates:

May 6, 2025 August 5, 2025 November 4, 2025



May 6 Presenters:

Master Flower Show Judges Mary Jane Martucci, Diane Hughes, Angie Raitano,
and NGC Horticulture Instructor and Master Flower Show Judge Dorothy Yard

Topics Will Be:

NGC Exhibition Table Designs, Creative Illuminary Designs, a Line/Line Mass Design,
and Behind the Scenes with Horticulture

Please join us for an evening of fun and learning!

Information on this new initiative will be posted on the GCFP Website.

Watch for the Webinar link!

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is now." ~ Old Chinese Proverb



Sprouts & Seedlings

SPROUTS AND SEEDLINGS

Cheryl Brumbaugh, Chair, Norristown Garden Club, XI

The Garden Club Federation of PA (GCFP) wants children and youth to learn the importance and benefits of gardening. We will offer help and resources needed for successful children and youth gardening programs. Please consider registering your youth garden group by going to the forms page of the GCFP site. [Forms Library](#).

Don't have a group? Consider forming one from local school students, church youth groups, scouts, children with disabilities, or youth clubs.

Research has shown that gardening encourages socialization, increases activity, connects us with nature, and teaches responsibility and commitment.

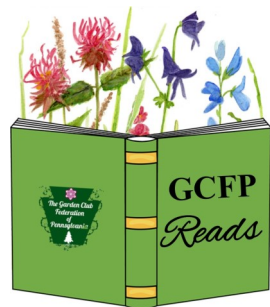
Youth gardening is about getting children outdoors, using the garden as an outside classroom, and creating hands-on opportunities:

- growing flowers, fruit, or vegetables
- learning about good insects, pollinators, composting, or getting their hands in the soil

Growing food and flowers brings the beauty of our world to our children and empowers them to want to grow their own food. This is a gift that will last a lifetime for our next generation of gardeners. Think back to your own personal reason for loving to garden.

If you'd like to be a mentor to youth, this opportunity might be for you and members of your club.

The GCFP "Sprouts and Seedlings" program can offer you some start-up advice and resources to begin your youth program.



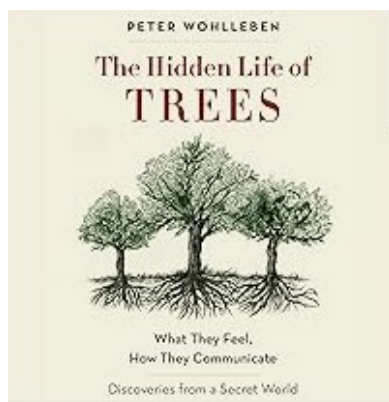
GCFP READS

Sharon Richardson, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

When President Pat Wolanski invited me to chair her GCFP Reads initiative, I was thrilled! What could be more fun than merging two of my favorite passions - gardening and reading?

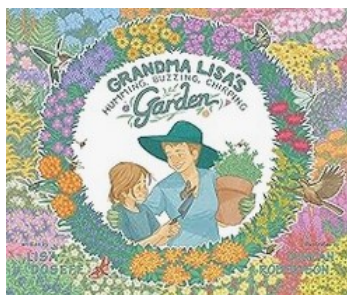
The goal of this program is to promote reading books about gardening, nature, and the environment with our members AND share our love of reading and gardening with youth in our communities.

This is the perfect time to think about next year's garden club programs and district programs, and there are many ways your club could include this in next year's programming. For example, **Martha Alexander's Great Meadows Garden Club** will be reading a short excerpt from *The Hidden Life of*



Trees by Peter Wohlleben. Martha developed discussion questions for small and large group discussions. There will be no requirement to read the full book, but it will certainly whet members' appetites to read more of this outstanding book.

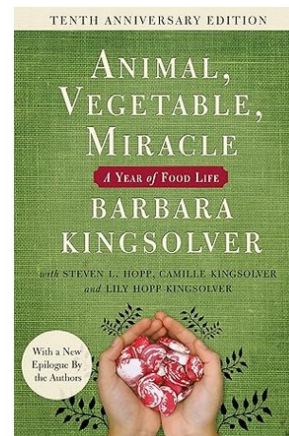
Carla Kelly's Town & Country Garden Club of Lancaster invited Lisa Doseff, a local garden writer from their community, to speak at a monthly



meeting. The author wrote a lovely children's book titled *Grandma Lisa's Humming, Buzzing, Chirping Garden*. She then invited the garden club to visit her garden.

The **Uwchlan Garden Club** started a book club that meets monthly. Members of the book club take turns hosting the meeting, and each member

selects one book. The list of books we selected for our first year will be posted on the GCFP website. One of my favorites was Barbara Kingsolver's memoir titled *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, where her family shares their year-long experience the first year they decided to eat all locally produced food by growing it, raising it, or bartering with neighbors for it.



Who are your favorite garden writers? How many garden writers are there in your district? Please share the names of your favorite garden writers with me. When we publish the list online, we'll asterisk the PA writers on the list. We'll collectively build a list of garden authors who write fiction and nonfiction books about gardening for adults, youth, and children. By the end of the first year, we should have a sizeable list of great gardening books for our members' enjoyment.

I invite every club president and every district director to share their programs and experiences whenever you discuss or do an activity that relates to books about gardening.

In our next KG article, we'll turn our attention to books and authors that celebrate **NATURE**. The deadline for submitting books, authors, programs, or activities for possible inclusion in the Keystone Gardener and the GCFP Reads website is **June 1**.

Please submit to me

- your book recommendations with the subject line **"GCFP Reads Books and Authors."**
- your book activity ideas with the subject line **"GCFP Reads Programs."**
- your nature book ideas with the subject line **"GCFP Reads about Nature."**

I look forward to hearing from you!

sharonrichardson22@gmail.com

AT'S POINTS

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

Whispers from the Garden

Did you know that flowers once spoke in a secret language? In the Victorian era, bouquets weren't just beautiful – they were messages. Through a practice called floriography, people could express emotions they did not dare to say aloud. A red rose meant love (no surprise there), but a yellow rose? It could mean friendship or jealousy, depending on who sent it and why. Talk about mixed signals.

You can still have fun with this floral code. Add a little meaning to your next bouquet.

Daffodils – New beginning and hope

Tulips – Yellow or pink – cheerfulness and affection

Lilacs – Purple – First love and youthful innocence

Lily of the Valley – Return of happiness

Lavender – Calm and grace

Daisies – Innocence and cheer

Peonies – Prosperity and romance

Forget-Me-Nots – Remembrance and loyalty

It's a sweet tradition to revive, whether you are planning a themed garden, creating floral designs, or just adding a wink of meaning to a floral gift. Flowers still speak ... if you know how to listen.

So, here's the challenge: Send a "talking" bouquet to someone in your club or community this month. Tuck in a note explaining the meaning behind your chosen flowers. **Let your flowers do the talking!**



HONORING SYLVIA MYERS

The Outdoor Gardeners, XI



In 1966, Sylvia Myers walked into the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, not quite sure what to expect. She had seen an ad in the newspaper about The Outdoor Gardeners, and she was curious. A short while later, she joined the club and is still a member today, as she approaches her 101st birthday this summer.

During her six decades as an Outdoor Gardener, Sylvia has had a hand in just about every project the club has undertaken. She has energetically participated in decorating historic houses for the holidays and has helped to plan and execute elaborate "Terrace" exhibits at the PHS Flower Show.

Sylvia also served as an NGC-accredited Flower Show Judge for several decades (today, she is an Emeritus Judge) and has encouraged many other club members to attend Flower Show School over the years.

More recently, she has taken on a key role at our annual plant sale at the Chestnut Hill Home and Garden Festival; she keeps an eagle eye on all the money exchanging hands as she presides over the cash box. Photo is Sylvia at 98 watching the money!

Today, nearly six decades after Sylvia first walked into an Outdoor Gardeners meeting, she's still perched on a chair in the back row, and we all smile to hear her cheerful greeting, "Hello, dear heart! How are you?"



PHS

The Philadelphia Flower Show

March 1 - 9, 2025

Congratulations to the following members and clubs for their participation and success at the Philadelphia Flower Show. If you missed attending the show, you can view some highlights on the **6 abc news video clip** [HERE](#).

GCFP JUDGES AT THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Audrey Angelella, The Garden Club of Montrose, II/III

Joanne Baylis, Littlestown Area Garden Club, IV

Valerie Burgess, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Tammy Gravisande, The Outdoor Gardeners, XI

Elise Payne, Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd, I

Tonya Young - The GC of York, Town & Country GC of Lanc., IV



UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB, I - 7 Awards

Garden Class 160 - Fusion of History and Innovation

BLUE RIBBON - 1st judging

RED RIBBON - 2nd judging

GREEN & GOLD - Herb Society Award

PHS GOLD for outstanding use of sustainable gardening

PHS GREEN - Gardening for the Greater Good

GOLD & WHITE BETTY K GREENE AWARD - outstanding blue-ribbon winner in Design Class

PENN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB TROPHY



ELVERSON GARDEN CLUB, I

Class 175 Pocket Garden
BLUE RIBBON - 1st judging
RED RIBBON - 2nd judging
PHS CLASS COMMENDATION



Pam Walsh

Uwchlan GC, I
Saintpaulia CV
BLUE RIBBON



Wendy Fox

Elverson GC, I
Photography
YELLOW RIBBON



Linda Freedman

Old York Road GC, XI
Phalaenopsis
RED RIBBON



Amy Coughlin

Norristown GC, XI
Terrariums
BLUE RIBBON



Jane Davison Barton

GARDEN CLUB OF BRISTOL BOROUGH, XI
28 ribbons: 5 Blue, 7 Red, 3 Yellow, 13 HM



Mary Ann Pedrick



Donna McCloskey



Amy Coughlin

Norristown GC, XI
Terrariums
BLUE RIBBON



The Philadelphia Flower Show Continued



Linda Mingo, Living Wall
BLUE RIBBON



Bernadette Briscoe, Anthurium Black Beauty
BLUE RIBBON



Linda Mingo & Bernadette Briscoe
YELLOW RIBBON

OUR GARDEN CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA & VICINITY



Cynthia Wright, Euphorbia Liliifolia
BLUE RIBBON



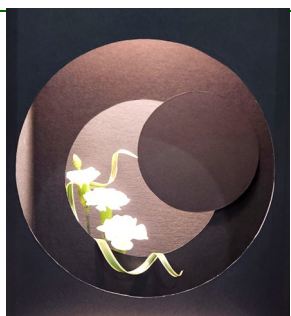
Linda Mingo & Wanda Speight
RED RIBBON



Shirley Daly, Forsythia Suspensa and Euphorbia Milii
RED RIBBON



Cherie Nobil, BLUE RIBBONS and GCFP Rosette and Carolyn Waite Award
Solar Flair



Lunar Eclipse
NORRISTOWN GARDEN CLUB

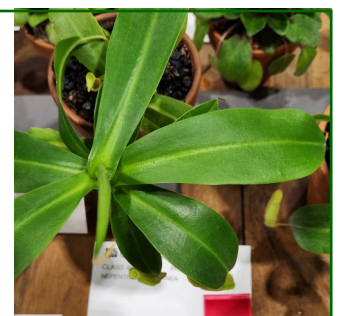


Whirligig



Nancy Anderson

Horticulture Red Ribbons
NORRISTOWN GARDEN CUB



Beth Bynon

Horticulture Red Ribbons
NORRISTOWN GARDEN CUB

Melissa Bullitt
Botanical Arts RED RIBBON
NORRISTOWN GARDEN CUB



Maria Jacobs
Botanical Arts RED RIBBON
NORRISTOWN GARDEN CUB

NGC SCHOOLS INFO

Environmental



Gardening



Flower Show

Become a Flower Show Judge!



Landscape Design



For more detailed info and registration



go to <https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>

Subscribe to *The National Gardener*

The official publication of National Garden Clubs published quarterly. Subscribe [HERE](#) and



Follow National Garden Clubs Inc. on Facebook

NGC GRANTS and PROGRAM INFORMATION



Espoma Gardening Project Grant

October 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025
Information [HERE](#)



PLANT AMERICA - Community Project Grants

More Information [HERE](#)



Natural Disaster Grant

More Information [HERE](#)



Youth Pollinator Gardens

More Info [HERE](#)



Native Plant and Wildflowers Educational Program

More Information [HERE](#)



PLANT AMERICA - Landscape for Wildlife

More Information [HERE](#)



Planting for Pollinators

[Apply HERE](#) to Register Your Garden as a National Garden Clubs Certified Pollinator Garden



Certified Wildlife Habitat

[Apply HERE](#) to Register Your Garden as a National Garden Clubs Certified Wildlife Habitat



CONGRATULATIONS TO UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB, DISTRICT I

For being awarded the \$250 Ames Tools Grant AND the \$250 Espoma Grant for use when working on the grounds of the historic landmark Uwchlan Meetinghouse grounds, cemetery, and Blue Star Marker.



In the Spotlight

DISTRICT IV

Carla Kelly, Director
Town & Country Garden Club of Lancaster

District IV clubs participated in a **Leadership Workshop** on March 6, 2025, in York. The workshop was open to Club Presidents, VP's, District Board members, and anyone in the clubs who leads a committee or is a budding leader. There were 22 in attendance with representation from all 10 of our clubs. Thankfully, our meeting space at the York Fairgrounds was free for non-profits. We convened from 12:30 - 3 PM. A microphone and a large screen were used for presenters' PowerPoints.

The purpose of the workshop was to give a foundation of knowledge for newer club presidents to work from and have some in-depth topics for seasoned or budding leaders to reflect on. Attendees could get inspiration to take their favorite garden club topic and help others rally around it, whether it be with design, landscaping, environmental protection issues, encouraging birds and pollinators, and more.

There is so much knowledge to be gained by being involved in our garden clubs. There are GCFP resources and NGC Schools for formal learning. We covered how to find that information on the website. Following is the full agenda:

- Pat Wolanski, GCFP 1st VP, spoke about her vision and goals for our clubs as the incoming State President. There was time for questions, and members expressed enthusiasm for the youth projects and the 2026 statewide garden tour that she discussed.



- Time was taken for the group to introduce themselves to each other. We did a quick program to create your custom handshake with one or more gestures based on the number of siblings a person has.



- Marilyn Small, State Awards Chair, presented a recap of the various types of awards: NGC, CAR-SGC, and GCFP and all of the awards possibilities. She showed us how to determine what our clubs are doing that might fit the different awards and also discussed the awards application process.

- Sandy Benedict, District IV Chair for Technology Literacy, talked about how to improve PowerPoint slides for more effective presentations.



- Carla Kelly, District IV Director, gave some pointers about Robert's Rules.
- Melanie Markowski, Assistant District IV Director, reviewed the highlights of the GCFP Club President's manual.
- Carla Kelly, District IV Director, shared a PowerPoint demonstration on how to do financial reviews of club bank records.
- Carla Kelly, District IV Director, explained how to write a press release for your local printed paper or electronic paper. The information should be duplicated on the club's website or Facebook page with "buzz" words for search engine optimization.

A TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY EVANS

by Shalene Lehman, Uniontown Flower Club, X

"Like a leaf on a breeze, she blew away." Those lyrics from a long-ago song remind me of the life and death of Shirley Evans. She was at Mt. Macrina nursing home shortly after being released from the hospital. The next day was our Friday meeting at Trinity House at Mt. Macrina. Shirley told the staff she planned to come to the meeting. Sometime in the night, like that leaf on a breeze, she left our world.



A member of the Uniontown Flower Club for over 30 years, the daughter of a master gardener and a retired master gardener herself, her life was dedicated to gardening. She amazed us with her knowledge of plant names, their care, and how their beauty can

be captured in amazing designs that she brought to meetings month after month, year after year.

Now, we watch the seasons pass, one by one, with spring's hope, summer's joy, autumn's farewell, and winter's silence. And with it, we remember the little lady with the big red toolbox filled with flower design "tools of the trade." Pruning shears, floral tape, wire, and a needlepoint holder are all neatly organized in the box, ready for Shirley to show us how to use them for design or simply to have a beautiful arrangement in our homes.

She is gone but in many ways, she is still among us. She's there when we bring flowers and think about how to show them in their best arrangement. She's there when we turn to our phones to identify a flower instead of turning to her. She's there when we drink our tea and remember her smile and her joy of simply being there with us at that moment. But her presence is most felt when we dare to think we could enter a contest and remember her encouragement for us to just "do your best."

To honor her, we will bring our flowers to meetings, keep learning about design, and enter contests where we have "done our best."

congratulations

to

Joyce Peterson

The Garden Club of Forest Hills
District VII

for achieving
4-Star Membership



Completing all four
National Garden Club Schools

Kids' CORNER

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

primaryplayground.com

- 🍃 Find 4 pine cones.
- 🍃 Find something that is yellow.
- 🍃 Find 2 tree stumps.
- 🍃 Find a feather.
- 🍃 Find a seed pod.
- 🍃 Find 4 smooth rocks.
- 🍃 Find a spider web with a spider on it.
- 🍃 Find 3 mushrooms.
- 🍃 Find a long stick.
- 🍃 Find 2 things that can fly.
- 🍃 Find 3 different sized green leaves!
- 🍃 Find a dandelion weed. Blow a wish.





KEYSTONE EVENTS



MAY 3, 2025 - PLANT SALE - SHALER GARDEN CLUB, IX

71st Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 9 AM to 12 noon, rain or shine, at Kiwanis Park, Wetzel Road, Glenshaw. A basket raffle and bake sale will add to the festivities. Bring your dull garden tools to be sharpened for a voluntary donation. Cash or credit cards accepted. Proceeds benefit community projects and philanthropic donations of the Shaler Garden Club. www.shalergardenclub.com for more information.



MAY 8, 2025 - GARDEN FAIRE - THE GARDEN CLUB OF YORK, IV

This huge event takes place at the York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Avenue, York, PA. One day only, May 8, from 8 AM to 2 PM. Annuals, vegetables, herbs, and everything in between!



MAY 10, 2025 - PLANT SALE - UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB, I

At the 1756 Uwchlan Meetinghouse, 5 N. Village Avenue, Lionville, from 8 AM to 2 PM, rain or shine! Proceeds to benefit the 1756 Uwchlan Meetinghouse. Choose from container gardens & garden crafts, vegetable & herb plants, something for the birds & bees, perennial plants, shrubs & trees, from our garden to yours. Bring the kids for Kids' Korner & gifts for mom.



MAY 16 and 17, 2025 - 50TH MAY MART GARDEN AND VENDOR EXPO

INDIANA GARDEN CLUB, VI - S & T Bank Area and White Township Sports Complex, 497 East Pike Road, Indiana, PA. Friday, May 16, 10 AM - 6 PM and Saturday, May 17, 10 AM - 4 pm. Vendors, Plants, Food Trucks, Kids' Corner, Scholarship Raffle. \$1 General Admission. igcinformation@gmail.com for more information.



MAY 17, 2025 - PLANT SALE - MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN CLUB, X

Martha Washington Garden Club will be holding their plant sale on May 17, 2025, from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Lemoyne House Gardens, 49 East Maiden Street Washington, PA.



JUNE 5, 2025 - FLOWER SHOW - THE OUTDOOR GARDENERS, IX

The Outdoor Gardeners present a small standard flower show, "From Sea to Shining Sea," featuring our National Park System. Free and open to the public:

Thursday, June 5, 2025, 1 to 6 PM
Cathedral Village Retirement Community
600 East Cathedral Road, Philadelphia



JUNE 12, 2025 - GARDEN TOUR - PARKLAND GARDEN CLUB, II/III

"NATURE'S JOURNEY" A variety of unique gardens, silent auction, and talk by Jenny Rose Carey. \$25 in advance; \$30 day of tour, purchased at any garden. Barbara 610-432-3313 or Brenda 610-653-6363



JULY 13, 2025 - 17TH ANNUAL GREAT GARDENS TOUR AND GARDEN CONTEST

SHALER GARDEN CLUB, IX - Sunday, July 13, 2025, 11 AM to 4 PM, rain or shine. Tickets can be purchased at the library, 1822 Mt. Royal Blvd., Glenshaw, PA, for \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the tour; tickets are also available on the library's website. Your ticket includes hosted visits to the 5 beautiful gardens and a chance to win a lovely gift basket.

www.shalergardenclub.com or www.shalerlibrary.org or call (412) 486-0211.

Shaler Great Local Gardens Contest. Submit 5 photos of your garden along with a description of what makes your garden special. July 1 deadline for entry drop off at the Shaler North Hills Library, 1822 Mt. Royal Blvd., Glenshaw, PA. Photos will not be returned. Winners will be announced at the Shaler Garden Club's meeting at the library on July 22, 6:30 pm. Winners of the contest may have the opportunity to be a part of a future Great Gardens Tour.

www.shalerlibrary.org or www.shalergardenclub.com/



DONATIONS



SCHOLARSHIPS

Linda Southerling, Chair
Four Seasons Garden Club, I

For GCFP scholarships to students who plan to further their education in agriculture-related fields.

Scholarship Donation Form [HERE](#)

As of April 4, 2025

Donations:

Burrellton Garden Club
Four Seasons Garden Club of Kennett Square
Ingomar Garden Club
Sharon Brown
Southern Butler Co. Garden Club
Sue Semple

In Memory of:

Nigel McQuin
Maude McGill
by Titusville Garden Club
Annie Knepp
by Joyce Milburg
Tom Dolak
Mary Jo Dolak
by Presque Isle Garden Club
Helene Detwiler
by Garden Club of Forest Hills
Mildred Schorr
by the following:
Claire Lechlitter
Judith Jackson
Susan Semple
Jack and Carla Ryba
Kathy Ryba
Jody and Dave Meredith
Elizabeth Fazzini
District IX
Shaler Garden Club
Janice, Bill and Mary Tackett
Don and Karen Kostishack
Charlene Mahu
District VII



In Appreciation:

Peggy Berry
by Titusville Garden Club

BOOK OF RECOGNITION

Joyce Hoek, Chair
Garden Club of Harrisburg, IV

These donations give special recognition to club members and help support general operating expenses of GCFP.

In Memory of:

Eileen Packer
by Tiffany Landis
by Kristi L. Hanlon



Donation form can be found in the Forms Library under "More" on the GCFP website or [HERE](#).

Donations can be made "In Memory of," "In Honor of," or "In Appreciation of" a beloved club member.



THE SAGE AND ROSES FUND

Vivian Abel, Chair
Town and Country GC of Lancaster, IV

Send A Greeting Electronically and Remember Our Servicemen's Every Sacrifice

The Sage and Roses Fund was created in 2002 by our own **Lois Shuster**, former NGC President, to provide funding for new Blue Star Memorial Markers and maintenance of existing markers that are in need of repair or restoration.

During Lois's presidency, email was a new way of communicating. Lois came up with a plan in which garden club members would send email greeting cards, thereby eliminating the cost of postage (currently 73¢ each). They would then donate whatever they saved in postage to the Sage and Roses Fund.

The email part of the plan has been largely forgotten through the years; however, GCFP Past President **Sheila Croushore** revived it when her term ended in 2023. She sent her GCFP Board members thank you notes for their service by email. She then sent a generous donation to the Sage and Roses Fund.

Donations may be sent to: Vivian Abel
200 Marticville Road
Lancaster, PA 17603

Checks should be made payable to GCFP, and "Sage and Roses Fund" should be written on the memo line. All donations are appreciated.





PLANT-A-TREE formerly Penny Pines

Barb Andrus, The Heritage Garden Club, V
Outgoing Chair

I wish to thank everyone who has donated to
Plant-A-Tree! Keep on tree planting!

General Donations Report from NGC

There were three general donations made since
October 2024.

Donation Amount - Previously, we required
donations in increments of \$68. Donors can now
contribute any amount, starting from a minimum of
\$50 to as large as \$10,000. This change provides
greater flexibility for donors and enables a wider
range of participation.

Certificates – As of May 31, 2025, mailed certificates
will no longer be provided to donors. To “Go Green,”
NGC be offering digital certificates that donors can
customize and print themselves. We ask that all
donors provide their **email address** (even if donating
by check) so that we can send tax receipts electroni-
cally and online certificate link/instructions. We
assure you that your privacy and personal information
will be handled with the utmost care and security.

Donations to Specified Forests – When donating, you
may choose to have your donation go where it’s
needed most or select a National Forest; however,
the Forest Service reserves the right to utilize funds
based on need. If you specify a National Forest where
there is no tree planting need, then the donation may
be used for planting trees in another forest. **Please
Note:** individual plantings will not be identified per
donor; for example, when donating to a forest, you
would be unable to locate a specific tree donated.

Online and mail-in donations can be made from the
NGC Website link [HERE](#). (Scroll down.)

NATURAL DISASTER, USA

Kathy Crossman, Chair, The Garden Club of York, IV

\$536 cash donations received at the convention
\$589 in donations

from October, 2024 to 7 April, 2025

GCFP Districts X, The Littlestown Area GC, IV
Hazleton Area GC and Parkland GC, II/III

Donations must be made payable to GCFP with the
notation “Natural Disasters USA” in the memo line.
Please include your email address to receive your
receipt electronically.

DONATIONS

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Jan Olsen, Chair, Garden Club of York, IV

*An excellent way to honor a special person –
for a retiring club officer, a birthday, anniversary,
holiday gift, or just for you.*

Click on the **Life Membership** link you are interested
in, complete the form on the [GCFP website](#) under
“More > Forms Library,” and send it with your check
to the address on the form.

GCFP Life Memberships

- Daphne Leeder, The Garden Club of York, IV
- Jan Olsen, The Garden Club of York, IV
- Jane Kruse, South Schuylkill Garden Club, II/III
- Judy Custer, Bedford County Garden Club, VI

CAR-SCG Life Membership

- Lynn Jackson, Presque Isle Garden Club, VIII

If you have a question, feel free to contact me –
Jan Olsen, jebeau47@gmail.com

PRESIDENT PAT'S

travel schedule



- May 2 Gettysburg GC 65th Anniversary, IV
- May 14 Blue Star Dedication, I-81 in District IV
- May 15 Post-Convention Luncheon
- May 18 Parkland GC Anniversary Luncheon, II/III
- May 19-21 NGC Convention, South Carolina
- May 23-June 2 - Out of Town - Accepting calls & emails
- June 9-10 Board Meeting in Boalsburg
- June 11 Norristown GC Installation
- Aug. 27-Sept. 11 - Tour de PA, District Luncheons
- Sept. 17 NGC Board Meeting
- Sept. 28-Oct. 10 - Out of Country - Accepting urgent calls, texts, and emails
- Oct. 14-15 Board Meeting in Boalsburg
- Oct. 19-21 CAR-SGC Meeting, Cambridge, MD
- Oct. 27 PAJC Meeting, Bryn Mawr
- Nov. 7 District XI Meeting



SIX NEW NGC ACCREDITED FLOWER SHOW JUDGES



Martha Alexander, Joanne Baylis, Carolyn Bock,
Marilyn Backus, Teresa Miller, Pam Walsh

Photo Contest

Would you like to see one of your fabulous photos showcased on the cover of the next KG Online (July 2025)? Send your best shot of a beauty from your garden, a winning entry in a flower show, garden scenery, or a special shot of one of your club's tours or projects.

Must be a vertical size, not horizontal. Send your photos to Marilyn Small
GCFPKGOnline@gmail.com.

This issue's cover photo, *Chorus Line Daylily*,
is by

Mary Ann Dailey

Pottstown Area Garden Club, District II/III

NGC and GCFP 2025-2026 CALENDAR

- May 6 Floral Design/Horticulture Webinar, 7 PM on Zoom
- May 19-21 NGC Convention, North Charleston, SC
- June 9-10 GCFP Board Meeting, Boalsburg, PA
- August 5 Floral Design/Horticulture Webinar, 7 PM on Zoom

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| August 27 | District VI | September 5 | District VIII |
| 28 | District IV | 8 | District V |
| 29 | District X | 9 | District II/III |
| September 3 | District VII | 10 | District I |
| 4 | District IX | 11 | District XI |
| October 14-15 | GCFP Board Meeting, Boalsburg, PA | | |
| November 4 | Floral Design/Horticulture Webinar, 7 PM on Zoom | | |



DEADLINES FOR THE KG ONLINE NEWSLETTER

May 1 Issue - April 15

July 1 Issue - June 15

Nov. 1 issue - October 15

(Please mark your calendar)

State "KG ONLINE Submission" in the subject line when submitting articles.

Please submit info as a **MS Word document**, not PDF or typed in the email itself.

Marilyn Small, GCFPKGOnline@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements.

The Keystone Gardener and KG Online issues are now password protected on the GCFP Website.

GCFP HEADQUARTERS

GCFPVicePresident1@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL PROOFREADERS

Marilyn Backus, Jane Dodson, Angela McDonnell,
Karen Wychock, and Dorthy Yard

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania is a member of National Garden Clubs and
Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs CAR-SGC