

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



the TENdril

Volume 25; Issue 3 • September 2025

DISTRICT X OFFICERS

Director

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

Assistant Director

KAREN HUMPHREYS
Giant Oaks Garden Club
khumphreys81@hotmail.com

Recording Secretary

DEBORAH DAVIS
Martha Washington Garden Club
dardebDavis@verizon.net

Treasurer

REBECCA LEBEDA
Garden Club of Munhall
fandbeck@gmail.com

Inside this issue:

(Click the Links to navigate!)

Director's Corner	2
Club Presidents' Contact Info	3
Flower Shows	4-7
Kudos	8-10
Designers Guild	11
Club News	12-19
Committee Reports	20-24



The Director's Corner

Martha Alexander, District X Director

Martha's Musings

Dear Friends,

Lately, we have had a delightful spell of idyllic summer weather. I have been enjoying garden happy hours, pickleball games, paddling on the lake, tending the garden, and savoring its delights of tall colorful zinnias, magnificent fluffy hydrangeas, and some favorite native pollinators - bright cardinal flowers and orange butterfly weed. They are especially nice when you have grown them from seed. Also enjoyable are the delectable blueberries and ripening juicy tomatoes, and corn on the cob. Ahh, that's the taste of summer. I hope you have also enjoyed many of your favorite summer activities and garden treats.

'Tis the season for beautiful gardens and flower shows. This July and August brought 3 fine flower shows that were very different from each other. The Joint Judges Council "Girls Trip" Flower Show at the Greensburg GC on July 8 included horticulture and designs from the Pittsburgh Area and Laurel Highlands Judges Councils, and it was a delight. Great Meadows Garden Club had a "ROAD TRIP" Flower Show on July 23. Details are in a separate article. Martha Washington Garden Club hosted a nice "Destination Exploration" Botanical Arts Exhibition.

District X hosted a delightful and prosperous June FUN Raiser at the South Hills Country Club, which included games, vendors, raffle baskets, 50/50, and delightful giveaways. Our speaker was Andy Arnheim of Evey True Value Hardware. He spoke on a variety of garden-related issues and gave specific solutions.

We are looking forward to the many events coming up in the fall.

Martha



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/tcgcrpa>

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



On July 23, 2025, Great Meadows Garden Club held a fantastic flower show with the theme of "Road Trip." The club meets in Farmington, PA, where Historic Route 40 is the main road. The trip began with their horticulture, divided

"Road Trip" *Great Meadows Garden Club*



Martha Alexander

and a 60's Daisey's Diner. A photo booth with a car you could "drive" down Route 66 was a hit. A children's table with free small cars and activities was also a hit.



into sections such as annuals and perennials that corresponded with stops on Route 40 like Fort Necessity and the Washington Tavern. For the design division, the road trip continued out Route 66, stopping at sights like the Grand Canyon and Elmer Long's Bottle Tree Ranch.


The flower show included a large greenhouse plant sale, raffle baskets,

Educational exhibits showed the history of Route 40, and how to grow microgreens. Our junior gardeners also participated, and their dried floral arrangements were included in the show.

The Great Meadows Garden Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, usually at the Farmington Fire Hall at 10:30.

Feel free to attend a meeting or find us on our Facebook page.





Flower Shows

"Road Trip" continued



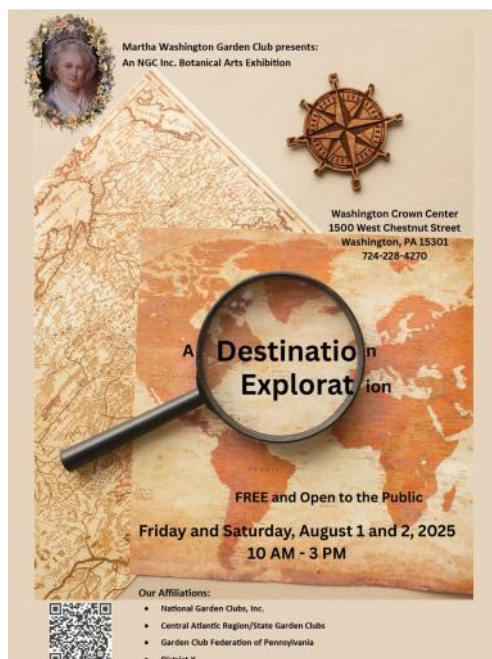


“A Destination Exploration” Botanical Arts Exhibition

Marce Zaragoza

When faced with the dilemma of wanting to continue our tradition of holding a flower show every year but lacking the time and resources to do so, the Martha Washington Garden Club decided instead to hold an Exhibition focused on Botanical Arts. By holding an exhibition as opposed to a standard flower show, we accomplished several goals:

- The momentum of having a design event each year was not interrupted.
- While we did have a schedule, we were freed of the demands of producing a detailed schedule and going through the approval process.
- By holding a non-judged event, we hoped to encourage more members to participate without fear of being rated.
- By dispensing with the limitations imposed by the requirements surrounding the number of entries in each category, we were able to accept as few as one entry in a category.
- No Book of Evidence was required, freeing members to move on to planning next year's standard flower show.



With the theme of “A Destination Exploration”, members enthusiastically visited “Wonderland”, “Neverland”, “Phipps Conservatory”, “The Biltmore House” and more through their creations focusing on fresh flowers. Vina McLeod-Rudolph led and provided materials for three workshops held separately from our regular meetings.

Attendees learned about and “explored” creating hanging designs, wearable apparel, and decorations. During our regular meetings, we learned about photography techniques and creating a topiary.

As is our custom, we held our annual Rummage Sale in conjunction with the Exhibition. The sale was our most successful ever and brought a lot of new admirers to view our members' creations.

All in all, we consider our experiment in exploration to be a success. We hope our experience will encourage others to think outside the box and turn a “we can't” into a “we can!”



“A Destination Exploration”
continued



Seated L-R: Grace Mitchell and Sue Luisi.
Standing L-R: Martha Bell, Marce Zaragoza,
Vina McLeod-Rudolph, Barb Funk, and Linda Coleman





District X Annual Meeting Awards

District X recognized several individuals during its recent Annual Meeting. Director Martha Alexander and Awards Chair Karen Humphreys presented each club with Tulip Awards and Laurel Awards. In addition, several special awards were presented.

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) Flower Show Blue Ribbon: Martha Washington Garden Club



(L-R) Kathy Wells, Ruth Hrutkay, Deb Davis, Barb Funk, Director Martha Alexander, Grace Mitchell, Susan DeLost, Vina McLeod-Rudolph, Sue Luisi, Martha Bell, Linda Coleman, and Carole Malmgren.



Awards (continued)

District X Butterfly Award: Kathy Wells, Martha Washington Garden Club

This Award is given for outstanding works and efforts of the nominee for their club during the last year, which runs from 1 July 2024 through 30 June 2025. In addition to Kathy's ongoing contributions producing the club's yearbook and producing the Schedule, signage, and Book of Evidence for the MWGC standard flower show in October 2024, she volunteered to be co-chair of our club's and District X's Blue Star Memorial marker committees. Kathy helped organize the dedication ceremony of the District's Blue Star marker. She is especially dedicated to installing a club Blue Star marker in the Veterans Garden at the B & O train station in Washington, where soldiers departed for wartime service and returned home.



Karen Humphreys, Kathy Wells, and
Martha Alexander

District X Forget-Me-Not Award: Linda Coleman, Martha Washington Garden Club



Karen Humphreys, Linda
Coleman, and Martha Alexander

This district award recognizes long-standing members who make our organization special because of their dedication to their club and its community service. Linda Coleman has been a valuable member of the Martha Washington Garden Club since she joined in 2012. She served as the Club's Co-Treasurer when she joined, followed by terms as Secretary, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and President; she is currently again the Co-Treasurer. At the District level, Linda served as the Secretary for 6 years and now continues to serve as the chair of the Natural Disaster Relief Fund.

In addition to her leadership positions, Linda has been the chair of the Martha Washington Garden Club's biggest fund raiser, the annual Rumage Sale. Linda also works regularly in the gardens maintained by the club at the historic LeMoyne House in Washington. During the 2024 drought, she visited the gardens on her own several days a week to water the beds.

Linda is very knowledgeable, very personable, and cares deeply for the success of the club and its members. She is a joyful presence in the Martha Washington Garden Club.



Awards (continued)

District X Exceptional Horticulturist Award: Carole Malmgren, Martha Washington GC

Carole Malmgren has been a member of the Martha Washington Garden Club

for 12 years. Her extensive gardens include flowers, vegetables and shrubs, each of which is meticulously labeled. She delights in trying new varieties each year and is always willing to share plants and expertise freely. She has been a frequent winner the "Horticulture Sweepstakes", an award given for the greatest number of high scoring entries in a MWGC flower show. She has also won the Horticultural Excellence Award.



Karen Humphreys, Carole Malmgren,
and Martha Alexander

Book of Recognition- Charlene Bowyer



Congratulations to Charlene Bowyer, who was honored by the Pleasant Hills Garden Club with a donation to the GCFP in her name, placing her in the Book of Recognition. Charlene has been a garden club member since 2001. She served as president three times and is a valuable and passionate member of the club. Charlene is responsible for getting our "Let Freedom Ring" Blue Star Memorial Garden in existence. With fundraising, committee chairing and countless hours of garden work, she deserves our recognition. She was also a devoted District Committee

Board Member. She put endless hours into our yearbook, chaired flower shows, and donated many hours to our plant sale. She is also a great mentor for new and existing members.

Why Join Designers' Guild!

Iris Cisarik

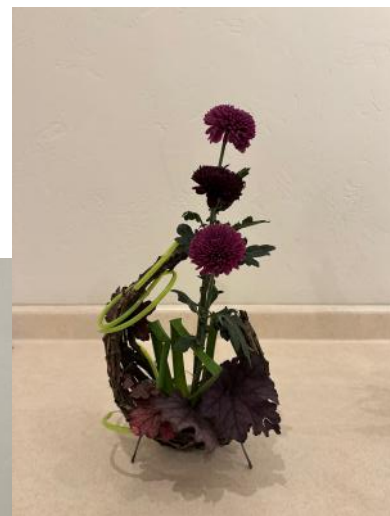
**Calling All Gardeners, Garden Club Members
or Anyone who wishes to learn about Floral Design:**



Designers' Guild, which meets 4 times a year (the next meeting being Wednesday, October 1, 2025) at the Greensburg Garden Council formerly known as the Greensburg Garden Center, is the organization where you can learn all the phases of floral design.

Everyone is welcome. We like observers to pay \$5.00 a meeting, but if you decide to become a member, it is \$25.00 a year. If you are interested in attending the October meeting, it begins at 10:30 A.M. and the Design for October will be "Pot de Fleur".

If you want more information on the Designers' Guild email jack-diane.hughes@gmail.com.





Garden Club of Munhall

Kathy Petruska, President

At our May meeting we had our Annual Plant Auction. It was so well attended and we raised a considerable amount of money. I think one member, not to mention any names, bought 50% of the plants. She is still looking for space to plant them all.

In June we met at the Homestead Cemetery Foundation and learned quite a bit about the history of Homestead, Munhall and West Homestead. There are 4 men from the Homestead Steel Strike in 1892 buried in the cemetery. The goal of the Cemetery Foundation is to have the cemetery thrive as a testament and memorial to the great men and women of the Steel Valley area who shaped who we are today.

Five gardens were visited at our July Twilight Garden Tour. We thank Carol Krivijanski for hosting a delightful soiree at her garden and the members who opened their gardens to us.

Members continued to care for the seedlings at the Duquesne Community Victory Garden (DCVG). Many of the seeds, now plants, were from the GCFP. Several members are now new members of the DCVG. We had a late start with the cold weather but now

vegetables and flowers are flourishing. Two members attended the District VII garden tour in July. We visited Ed Donley's garden in Indiana and the new Indiana Community Garden. Ed was gracious enough to give all of us some native plants. His garden ... and pond ... and lake are spectacular!

Members attended a program on How To Prepare for a Horticulture Flower Show on July 14 and the District VII Dog Daze Flower Show in Monroeville on July 26. I have a new perspective and appreciation on preparing flowers for a show. Now, to wait for the next flower show.





Giant Oaks Garden Club

Karen Humphreys for Pat Stanfill, President

The Giant Oaks Garden Club meets the first Thursday of each month from February through October at St. David's Episcopal Church in Venetia. We are thrilled to have welcomed two new members this quarter, bringing our 2025 membership to 69 members, with two more new members joining this fall.

Giant Oaks Garden Club stayed busy this summer with seasonal themed luncheons. Our hostesses treated us to a picnic in June, visited Winnie the Pooh in the Thousand Acre Wood in July and surrounded ourselves with fresh cut flowers in the fields at Simmons Farm in Venetia. The highlight of our day was an immersive experience by our esteemed presenter (and club member), Accredited NGC Flower Show judge, Carole Mack. Carole described a vivid scenario where we, as the hostesses, applied principles of floral design from the door, through the table setting and departing favors using the materials and fresh flowers from the gardens.

Members braved 90 degree temperatures to visit the Rodef Shalom Biblical Botanical Garden in Shadyside. The garden, founded in 1987 by Rabbi Walter Jacob and his horticulturalist wife Irene Jacob, represents the diverse ecosystem of Israel with more than 100 plants mentioned in the Old Testament, many of which are not native to Western Pennsylvania. The



Rodef Shalom: L to R Tina Luttringer, Ray Mack, Carole Mack, Tim Anderson, Karen Humphreys, BJ Nerone, Darlene Anderson, Marilyn Dellovade, Ginny Riegner, Pat Stanfill, Karen Johnson, Dottie Bewick- kneeling, Maryanne Wyse

knowledgeable docents not only shared their knowledge of the horticulture but shared the stories and lore surrounding the plantings.

Fifteen members attended the June District X Fundraiser and enjoyed the fun and collegiality.

Our community gardens have flourished with the attention and extra "TLC" from many of the members, especially during those weeks of extreme heat. The native/pollinator garden at the Peters Township Public Library has exploded with shapes and colors that are attracting all forms of crawling, jumping and flying creatures.

Club members dedicated another "recycled bottle-cap" bench to the St. David's preschool playground and enjoyed time with the seniors at McMurray Hills Manor for our annual "plant the patio" and patriotic celebration.



Plant the Patio -
Diana Merdian

Plans are in high-gear for our Tinsel Luncheon fundraiser to be held November 7 at the Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn. This year's theme is "Warm Wishes, Snowmen Kisses." Guests can look forward to shopping fresh baked goods in our pantry, a variety of vendors, chances for door prizes, and drawings for our over-the-top themed gift baskets. Luncheon tickets are \$40 each. Please contact Karen Humphreys for information and to submit ticket requests. Seating for the luncheon is limited, so please get requests in as soon as possible.



Great Meadows Garden Club

Elaine Swaney, President

Great Meadows Garden Club has had a wonderful and adventurous Spring and Summer. On May 24th, we reserved two vendor spots at the Braddock's Inn Flea, where we sold many plants, kicking off fund-raising for our garden club. Plants were raised by members, and catalogued by Heidi Pane, helping customers make plant selections for their respective gardens. Very successful!



Come June, club members were off on a Road Trip in preparation for the July Flower Show. We stopped at Addison Toll House, Fort Necessity, Braddock's Grave, Point Lookout with our Blue Star Memorial, State Theater, and Route 40 Diner near Brownsville to take pictures.

The month of June ended with Great Meadows securing a spot at the Farmington Fireman's Annual Fair. This new venue offered us the opportunity to build awareness of those who walked through our area, and provide outreach for the community. We shared our educational program at the East End Community Center, continued support and presentation of the Blue Star Memorial at Point Lookout on Route 40, plantings and

beautification at Wharton Township Building and Wharton Township Park, and a scholarship award. Our members displayed trifold sharing information on all that we do. Heidi was the Greeter, inviting those who walked by to enter, examine everything, and buy tickets. This venue became another fundraiser for our club as members donated items, such as plants, artwork, Pyrex, and plant designs. The club sold chances, the public won wonderful prizes, and the club raised funds to help with ongoing projects.

Then we were off on our Road Trip Flower Show. We prepared for customers and guests to visit our Diner where cookies and drinks were offered, stop by the photo booth, fill-up at the gas pump while visiting all of the horticulture and designs set up throughout the room. In one corner was an opportunity for children to express their creativity, and across the way tickets were sold for 20 prizes, and records with scratch-offs to win.



Now is a time for relaxation and preparation for other upcoming events.



Green Gardeners of Uniontown

Lynda Waggoner, President

Summer is undoubtedly the busiest season for most gardeners, and the Green Gardeners are no exception. For over 70 years, the Green Gardeners have been dedicated to enhancing the natural beauty of Uniontown by planting trees, annuals, and perennials in pots, planters, and gardens throughout the historic downtown area. This spring and summer, we planted and continue to care for 62 large concrete street pots, along with seven planters and two gardens. The pots and planters are strategically placed along both sides of Main Street and at adjacent entry points. Thanks to the considerable rainfall this spring and summer, the flowers have thrived, making our watering tasks much easier.

Of particular note was our involvement in the nationwide celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Revolutionary War General Marquis de Lafayette's reunion tour of the United States. This celebration retraced Lafayette's footsteps as he crossed the

nation, highlighting the events and locations he visited, including Fayette County. Thanks to a Community Projects Grant from "Plant America," we were able to purchase annuals in red, white, and blue color schemes, as well as small American and French flags to decorate all of our plantings, creating a festive atmosphere as Lafayette's carriage passed through Uniontown.





Martha Washington Garden Club

Susan DeLost, President

The Martha Washington Garden Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the Laboratory Presbyterian Church. Our membership stands at 62 members. We gained several new members since May, and we sadly have had two long-time members die: Carolyn Johnson, a 27- year member, died on May 10 at the age of 102, and Irene Powell, a 17-year member, died on July 11 at the age of 97.

We have been busy this spring and summer. Our members continue working in three community gardens in downtown Washington, and the gardens are thriving. In June, we awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Allee Hoover of McGuffy High School. Allee will be attending Penn State University and is planning to major in Agricultural Education. She has already accomplished much. Her family has a herd of 80 purebred sheep and shows them across the country; she is a member of the FFA and has earned several state awards. Additionally, Allee has been working as a floral designer in a local shop. We expect to hear more from her in the years to come!

Our annual picnic, held on July 15, was moved indoors due to the high heat and humidity. The room was abuzz with conversations and much laughter as we enjoyed each other's company and played Garden Club bingo.

Our August 1 and 2 Botanical Arts Exhibition was held at the Washington Crown Center Mall. This was a non-judged event. Our members

exercised their creativity, and we enjoyed seeing many unique and outstanding entries. Several visitors asked if the pieces were for sale! We held a Rummage Sale in conjunction with our Exhibition and did very well. Plans are already being discussed for a 2026 standard flower show. We will need to find a new location, as the mall which housed our flower shows for many years is expected to be demolished soon to make way for new development.

Our club again submitted floral design entries for the Washington County Agricultural Fair, held from August 9-16. For the first time, we also had a booth at the fair.

We continue to submit meeting notices and articles to the Washington Observer-Reporter newspaper and maintain a public website and a Facebook page. On a monthly basis, we install displays at both the Citizen's Library in Washington and the Frank Sarris Public Library in Canonsburg.

We are looking forward to the coming weeks and months, as there are several opportunities for field trips and a planned outing to a tea room. We are also partnering with the Washington County Master Gardeners and Citizens Library to hold a series of monthly public lectures and workshops beginning in September.



Pleasant Hills Garden Club

Tamara Ziccardi, President

The Pleasant Hills Garden Club kicked off the summer season with a wonderful presentation by Ann Talarek, who shared her expertise on container gardening. Her creative idea of a wine box planter inspired many of us to try something new in our gardens. Later in the month, we held our annual Plant Sale, and it was truly a team effort. Nearly every member contributed—whether by donating plants or helping with setup—and we're thrilled to report it was our most profitable sale to date!

In June our trip to Flora Park was a highlight of the summer. We had a fantastic turnout with 28 members in attendance. Flora Park provided a delicious lunch, and some lovely annuals to brighten up our planters. It was a beautiful day spent among blooms and friends.

In July, we continued the summer fun with our annual Picnic in the Park. It was a hot day, but our members stayed cool and enjoyed a generous potluck spread, played games, and won prizes. The food and fun were fantastic, and the company even better—truly a celebration of community and the joys of summer.

For our August meeting we are looking forward to welcoming Andy from Evey True Value Hardware, who will be speaking about garden pests and how best to manage them. It's sure to be an informative and helpful session for all of us.

.

Town and Country Garden Club of Rices Landing

Tami Burnsworth, President

Our Club meets the third Thursday of each month at Hewitt Presbyterian Church at 6:00 pm in Rices Landing.

At our June meeting, we enjoyed a presentation by Duann Thistlethwaite, co-owner of Thistlethwaite Vineyard & Winery. Duann shared information about cultivating varieties of grapes and the process of producing their own wine. An

informative and enjoyable program.

Also in June, one of our members hosted a fundraiser for her animal rescue organization at a local park. The Town & Country Garden Club participated with dedicated signage at our table. We distributed free perennial plants that had been repotted from a member's garden and shared information about pet-friendly plants and our club's activities.



Uniontown Flower Club

Sharlene Lehman

The Uniontown Flower Club meets every second Friday except in January. We have 29 members with our newest member Lee Ann Risha. The club meets at Mt. Saint Macrina Trinity House except in July when we meet at member Joyce McCune's home and in September when Mt. Macrina hosts its annual Pilgrimage.

In May, the club installed its officers that included President Toni L'Hommedieu, Vice President Sharlene Lehman, Secretary Mary Ann Blasinsky, and Treasurer Antoinette Franks. The installation ceremony had a "BEE" theme with each officer given a hover bee house pictured.



In June, the club did its annual review of committee chairs and members, updating of member addresses, phone numbers and emails. Members also chose club projects that they would be responsible for upkeep, etc. Pictured are three hard working members at the Uniontown Library weed and plant event. Left to right is Mary Ann Blasinsky, Nanci Myers, and Antoinette Franks.



In July, the club met at the home of Joyce McCune. Member Dorothy Gruskowski and Joyce McCune presented a program on setting a tea table.

Members had fun learning several kinds of napkin folding as well as proper placement of flowers at a tea.



Pictured are the beautiful tea tables used as part of the program .

In August, member Charlene Smochinsky will present a program on her trip to Poland and her visit to their Sunflower Gardens. Her program will include the importance of sunflowers, their various parts, and how to best locate and grow sunflowers.



Valley Flower Club

Roxanne Huss

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.





Committee Reports

Awards

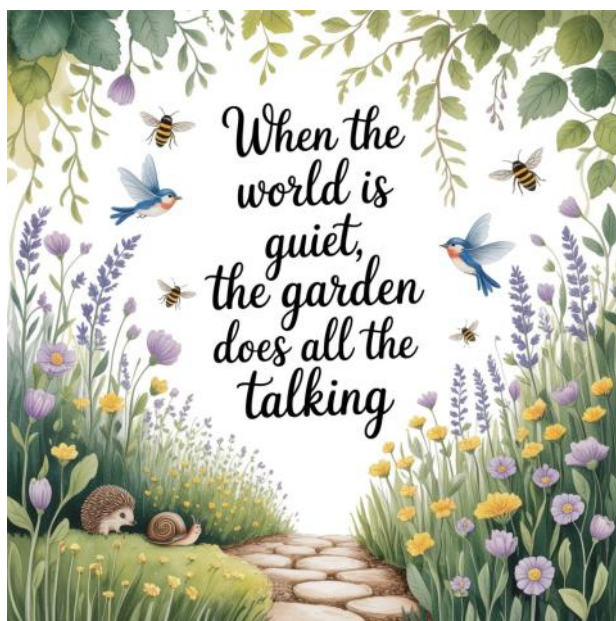
Karen Humphreys, Chair

As I try to wrap my arms around this phenomenon of “Awards Committee,” I wondered whether awards and recognition are the same. I tend to use the terms interchangeably.

Awards are usually something which you can touch, feel, and experience. Awards fall into the category of certificates, trophies, tokens, prizes or cash. Recognition, on the other hand, involves publicly commending individuals or teams for their hard work, dedication or positive impact. It’s invisible in nature and it is priceless in terms of value. So remember, an individual can be recognized without receiving an award, BUT neither is a substitute for the other. It’s important to give both awards and recognition where due.

We have received individual club lists for 2024-2025 awards. We have 48 “Tulips:” (26 new members, 22 sponsors), 62 “Laurels” and 11 “Daffodils.” There are 3 recommendations for the “Forget-me-not,” 1 for “Book of Evidence” , and 1 “Exceptional Horticulturist.”

The “Butterfly” award recipient will be selected from the slate of 5 worthy nominees at the upcoming Board meeting. Award recipients’ names will be listed in the GCFP District X annual meeting program, (so be sure they’re spelled correctly!), and all will be recognized and awarded that day.





Birds, Butterflies and Conservation

Kathy Petruska, Chair

Gifford Pinchot 1865 -1946

The First Conservationist

Gifford Pinchot, the 28th governor of Pennsylvania, is credited as being the father of American forestry and a leader in conservation.

His work in the woods began in early 1891, when he evaluated timberlands in Pennsylvania, examined hardwoods in Mississippi and Arkansas, and evaluated holdings in Arizona. He went on to touring the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, the giant sequoias of the Sierras, and the towering redwoods and Douglas firs of the Pacific coastal forests.

When Pinchot was appointed chief of the U.S. Division of Forestry in 1898, he began the transformation of an insignificant federal agency into the motherland of American forestry and incubator of the conservation movement. When Pinchot brought his ideas of conservation to the president, Roosevelt immediately realized their importance. He made it the policy of his administration, and conservation soon became a household word.

In 1900, Pinchot founded the Yale School of Forestry, which is now the Yale School of the Environment and the Society of American Foresters which still exists.

As governor in 1930, Pinchot set up work camps throughout the state that became the

models for the Civilian Conservation Corps of President Franklin Roosevelt.

Gifford Pinchot State Park dedicated in 1961 is located in Lewisberry, PA (York County). The first "Pinchot Road" crosses the park - now PA 177. Grey Towers National Historic Site, the home of Pinchot, is located in Milford, PA. It



offers trails, various wayside exhibits, and a museum. Information on visiting Grey Towers can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/greytowers>.



Hort Hints

Grace Mitchell, Horticulture Chair

What a summer! More rain than usual has made everything grow wonderfully. Now, a bit delayed, comes the dry hot month when everything dies.

I'm celebrating the first anniversary of my diagnosis of Lyme disease. Also, very soon I will be 83 — so when I have aches, pains and fatigue, I don't know which of the two options it can be!

Here are a few fun thoughts to take with you:

- I fought the lawn, and the lawn won.
- Give a weed an inch, and it'll take a garden.
- Trees drink root beer.
- Look who just came back from a fight — Black-eyed Susan!
- Grass is just a flowerbed in waiting.
- I laughed so hard I wet my plants.
- I love you from my head tomatoes

Scholarships Report

Vina McLeod-Rudolph, Chair

Linda Lutes received \$55 to attend NGC Gardening School Course 1, via Zoom, sponsored by the Garden Club of Ohio, on July 15-16, 2025.

This chairman sincerely hopes the scholarship recipient will share their knowledge gained with their garden club.

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

Submission deadline for the December issue is November 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.



Photography Report

Heidi Pane, Chair

I continue to enjoy responsibility as District X Photography Chairperson. For each event I attended, I took photos and shared them with others as a digital photo album. I received thank you notes and some of my photos were used in the Tendril and District X Facebook. Some photos will be used in books of evidence for NGC.

On June 4, I photographed the District X South Hills Country Club fundraiser luncheon with guest speaker.

The Martha Washington Garden Club invited me to photograph two of their events:

- May 26 Dedication of the District X Blue Star Marker at the I-70 East Welcome Center near Claysville



Botanical Arts: Photography. Martha Washington Garden Club Botanical Arts Exhibition.

- August 1: Martha Washington Garden Club, Botanical Arts Exhibition at the Washington Crown Center Mall.

I was backup photographer for GMGC "Road Trip" from Addison to Brownsville on Route 40, taking photographs of members with a red convertible at the following stops: Addison, Fort Necessity, Braddock's grave marker, Jumonville, State Theater in Uniontown, and The Diner in Brownsville.

Not only did I photograph the Great Meadows Garden Club fundraiser at the June Mountain Area Fair in June, but my photo entries won ribbons, alongside Wanda Sherry's entries.



Staging. Great Meadows Garden Club Flower Show.

I look forward to District X luncheon, fundraiser, and awards celebration at South Hills Country Club in August.



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

Designers' Guild



Pollinators

Wanda Sherry, Chair

Fall Pollinators in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Southwestern Pennsylvania hosts a variety of pollinators that remain active well into the fall, primarily sustained by late blooming native plants.

Bees. The key fall pollinators are bees. Many native bee species, including carpenter bees and honeybees, continue to forage for nectar and pollen as long as fall blooms are available. Penn State Extension also highlights the importance of leaving fall leaves and stems for overwintering bees.

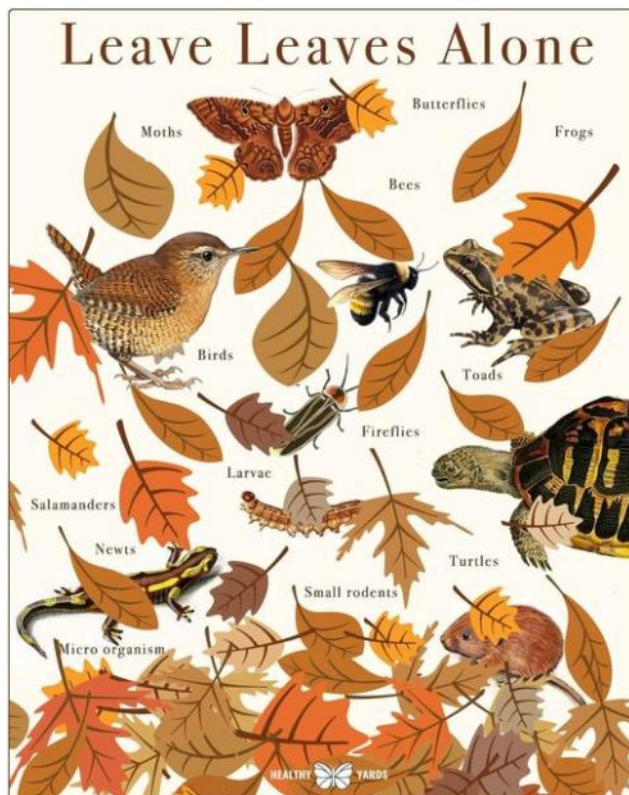
Butterflies and moths.

Species like the eastern tiger swallowtail, narrow headed marsh fly, and Hummingbird Clearwing moth are still active and seeking nectar in the fall. Monarch butterflies rely on fall flowers like asters and golden rod during their migration south.

Flies. Hoverflies are important pollinators that linger on fall blooms.

Beetles. Pollinating beetles, including various families like soldier, blister, and long-horned beetles, continue to be active in the fall, feeding on pollen and flower parts.

Hummingbirds. While many hummingbirds migrate south for the winter, some may still be seen in early fall, seeking nectar from tubular flowers before their journey.



Some important fall pollinator plants would be asters, golden rod, Joe Pye weed, mountain mints, iron weed, coneflowers, cardinal flowers and great blue Lobelia. Some additional tips for supporting fall pollinators are: leave the leaves, avoid pesticides, and provide a water source.