

Spring 2026

# Nine's News

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

**M**arch winds are often said to be a sign of change, and I have always believed that change can be a wonderful thing, it brings something new into our lives. While we cherish the traditions that ground us, welcoming something new can refresh our spirits and breathe life into our clubs.

Across District IX, our garden clubs are beginning to defrost. With the arrival of that extra hour of daylight, the days feel a little longer and the promise of spring a little closer, slowly making its way to us. In our region the sun may not shine every day, but it is comforting to know we are no longer heading to bed at 7 PM.

As we begin to thaw from winter, our clubs are planning for the year ahead—exploring new programs, sharing fresh ideas, and exciting opportunities are taking root for the coming season continuing the traditions that make our clubs so special.

Thank you to all of the garden clubs that responded to the program surveys. Your participation allows us to see the many inspiring and educational programs our members are enjoying throughout the district.

I always look forward to seeing your new year-books. It is truly a pleasure to see what each club has growing—new programs, new projects, and new possibilities for the year ahead. As our clubs welcome new ideas and opportunities, let us embrace change and welcome something new into our lives.

As our clubs look toward the coming year, I encourage everyone to embrace change and welcome something new into your lives and your clubs. Growth, like gardening, often begins with planting just one new seed. Can't wait to see you at MDO and Convention! And remember, if March comes in like a lion, it will surely go out like a lamb.

*Stacey*  
Stacey Ivof, District Director, District IX, GCFP



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## Coming Events

March 26, 2026

Member's Day Out

April 26, 2026

KGC -Earth Day park cleanup & G-Tool Swap

May 2, 2026

SGC PLANT SALE

May 4-6, 2026

NGC National Convention, St Louis, MO

May 9, 2026

FCGC Gardenfest

IGC Plant Sale for Mother's Day

May 30, 2026

KGC Spring Festival & Plant Sale

OHGC Plant Sale

May 31, 2026

Tax Form 501c3 990 due

June 2, 2026

Deadline for submission to IX's News

June 18, 2026

MGC "Petals & Pours" (flowers & wine)

District IX Board Meeting

June 27, 2026

SBCGC Garden Tour

Nine's News Editor: Sue Vandertie  
svandertie@comcast.net

District IX reserves the right to edit all submission content for space or clarity.

## Committee Reports



### Ruby-throated Hummingbird Migration: An incredibly journey

Many hummingbirds spend the winter in Central America or Mexico. They begin migrating north to their breeding grounds as early as February, reaching more northern areas by late spring. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) typically arrives in south-western Pennsylvania in mid-to-late April.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are solitary creatures. They make their long-distance migrations alone, often navigating back to the same backyard flowers and feeders each year. Older birds will use the same flight path they took earlier in life. First-time flyers generally return to the area where they were hatched, but they must find their way without the guidance of a parent or flock.

Most will take a route that includes a challenging, non-stop flight of more than 500 miles across the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This flyover takes 18 to 20 hours, under favorable conditions. In the weeks leading up to migration, the tiny birds consume large amounts of nectar and insects, building fat reserves to fuel their journey. During migration, they take advantage of tailwinds whenever possible to conserve energy and body fat. If they encounter cold fronts, storms, or strong headwinds, they may run out of energy and die due to exhaustion.

Over land, hummingbirds fly by day, keeping watch for nectar-producing plant sources along the way. They fly low, just above the tree tops, which allows them to locate nectar-rich flowers and to stop and refuel. Stops may last only a few minutes or the birds may stay for days, if food is plentiful.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds typically arrive at their breeding grounds before most plants have begun to bloom. At this time they rely on an unexpected food source: the sap holes drilled by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*). The hummingbirds also feed on insects attracted to the sugary tree sap and they may even build their nests nearby to take advantage of this steady food supply.

Female hummingbirds build nests, which are about the size of a golf ball and made of lichen, and moss, and lined with spiderwebs. The females usually lay two eggs, each about the size of a coffee bean. After hatching, she alone cares for her chicks, which will stay in the nest for approximately three weeks.



These tiny creatures are highly intelligent and have remarkable memories. They can recognize human faces and distinguish between different people, particularly those who regularly maintain their feeders. Year after year, they will recall and return to specific locations, often associating particular people and places with reliable sources of nectar.

Their rapid metabolism requires them to eat roughly every 10–15 minutes. Each day, a hummingbird sips nectar from hundreds of flowers and eats thousands of tiny insects. The edges of its tongue are rolled inward, helping it draw nectar and insects into its mouth. Hummingbirds are the tiniest birds in the world, weighing about as much as two pennies, yet, despite their tiny size, hummingbirds eat an extraordinary amount—consuming up to twice their body weight in food each day.

Hummingbirds cannot smell their food but rely on their excellent color vision when searching for food. It is easier for them to spot flowers with warm shades, like red and orange, over cooler shades, like blue and green. However, it is the richness of the nectar that matters more to them than the color of the flower. Hummingbirds are quick learners, once they find a good food source, despite the color, they will come back for more. With the right flowers and feeders, you can attract them to your yard.

To help nourish them, by early April, set out feeders filled with a 1:4 sugar-to-water mixture, and plant early blooming nectar sources like wild columbine, azaleas, or red-flowering salvia. Then, when they show up at your feeders and flowers, take a moment to marvel at the incredible journey they have taken to get there.

Until the next newsletter, you can find me in the garden.

*Leslie Anthony, District IX Pollinator Advocate*

# TRASH TO TREASURE at the CONVENTION

Chair Carol McConnell, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

## MystERIE by the Bay -- "A Boat for Your Book"

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

### Your Challenge:

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

### Specifications:

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

**Weight:** Less than 20 pounds including mounting surface.

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

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

**Front:** Title of entry and list of materials.

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

Entry may be the work of more than one person.

### Only One Entry from Each District

Selection method is determined by the District.

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

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

### SCALE OF POINTS FOR JUDGING

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

CFP



## MEMBERSHIP

### The Garden Club

The garden club's the place to go  
To tell about the things you grow,  
And what is shrub, and what is weed, and  
When to plant each bulb and seed.

Why the iris needs a drink,  
Should we mulch or prune the pink.  
When should we hoe the tulip bed and  
Rake the leaves now brown and dead?

But of all the things we ever do  
This is the secret I'll tell you,  
Tho' leaves may die, the flowers fade  
The friends the garden club has made  
Will be with us to the shining end  
For a gardener is a faithful friend.

Author Unknown

*Marcia Welsh, District IX Membership Chair*

## AWARDS

### 2026 SEEDS OF SERVICE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT AWARDS

The Seeds of Service Award was originally created by Gail Corle Manna, GCFP President 2011-2013.

These Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) awards are given by the current president in even years as a reward and recognition to clubs for embracing the president's theme.

President Pat Wolanski will recognize programs, projects, and/or events of exemplary volunteer service to individual members and/or clubs that emphasize Seeds of Service incorporating and relating to her theme:

### **"Plant America: Pennsylvania Celebrates Nature and Embraces the Future."**

#### Categories for Recognition

**Theme Gardens** - Creating meaningful, educational, and inspirational gardens in private or community spaces; i.e., Pollinator & Habitat Gardens, Native Plant & Sustainable Gardens, Red, White and Blue Gardens, Youth Gardens. *Co-Chairs: Marge Eberz and Arlene Harris, Norristown GC, XI*

Service by a garden club or individual member for:

1. community service by creating a Theme Garden (as mentioned above).
2. working with youth to create and maintain a "Sprouts and Seedlings" Youth Garden.

**Healing Art** - Donating nature-inspired artwork or photography to medical facilities to provide comfort to patients and visitors. Minimum size 12" x 16" or larger depending on display space.

*Chair: Barbara Campbell, Parkland Garden Club, II/III*

Service by a garden club or individual member for:

1. framing and donating personal photographs of gardens, flowers, or any other nature scenes to medical facilities. \*\*
2. creating and donating nature-inspired original artwork, paintings, pressed flower art, or illustrations to medical facilities. \*\*

**Application:** Contact the appropriate Chair for details about submitting your garden or art work. Submit Photo Release Form for all individuals, including children.

**Time Frame of Eligibility:** All projects and donations completed during President Wolanski's term.

*Theme Gardens: Marge Eberz - mte54@verizon.net and Arlene Harris - areagpers@gmail.com*

*Healing Art: Barbara Campbell - barbarac45@aol.com*

\*\* All artwork should be labeled with: "Donated by The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania's Healing Art Program" with the GCFP and Healing Art logos. Label will be provided upon request.

\*\* Anyone donating personal photographs or original artwork must submit a Proprietary Release Form.

These exceptional projects will be noted in the Keystone Gardener/KG Online, as well as presented with certificates at the GCFP Annual September District Meetings or Conventions.

The above was reprinted from the GCFP website at:  
<https://pagardenclubs.org/awards>



## LEARN ECOLOGY-FOCUSED GARDENING STRATEGIES

In-person workshop features expert insights, silent auction

Discover practical strategies to benefit your home landscape ecosystem in Penn State Extension Master Gardeners' "Smart Gardening Workshop: Improvements for Ecological Impact." Learn how you can support wildlife through habitat-friendly gardening.

Take home a complimentary tree sapling and bid on baskets and garden items during the silent auction. This event is for new and experienced gardeners, as well as nature enthusiasts.

### TOPICS:

- + Improving the ecological impact of your yard
- + Managing excess water
- + Encouraging camouflaged creatures
- + Growing native plants in modern landscapes
- + Increasing natural monarch survival



**Register Today!**  
[extension.psu.edu/smart-gardening](https://extension.psu.edu/smart-gardening)  
 or 877-345-0691

### SMART GARDENING: IMPROVEMENTS FOR ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

**Saturday, March 28**  
 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 Penn State Beaver  
 100 University Dr.  
 Monaca, PA

Register by: March 23  
 Space is limited.  
 Preregistration is required.

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Penn State Extension at 1-877-345-0691 in advance of your participation or visit.

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UBR AGR 26-354



**PennState  
Extension**

**YOU'RE NOT COMING  
to  
MystERIE BY THE BAY?**

The GCFP Convention in Erie PA on April 26-28.

This convention can only be filled with intrigue and fun. I mean really, there will be a murder mystery! Have I not convinced you yet? Well-do you know what a Piping Plover is?

You can find out in one of these presentations:

- The Piping Plover and why they are returning to Presque Isle.
- What is the tiny forest?
- Going up, going down. What's up with vertical gardening?
- Good bugs/Bad bugs—What's bugging you?
- Nurture ourselves through Nature
- Maple Syrup making---yum
- Floral designs for entertaining throughout the seasons.
- Are you a Square?—learn about Square Foot Gardening.
- Canning/preserving your garden bounty safely.
- What is killing our beautiful state tree?

**Your excuses?**

- *It's too far!* - Pennsylvania is big, but this trip is easy—just a hop, skip, and a jump! Make this your first convention and join us as we round up our garden clubs and head north for a blooming good adventure.
- *Too expensive*- How can you put a price on education plus it will give you the inspiration to come home and start planning! Think of this as your Spring break get away from it all, leave your troubles behind for a couple of days and spend time with your garden “buds.” (I hope I am the colorful rose and not the thorn!)



• *Conventions are boring*- I've spent a lot of time with these Erie folk and they are far from boring. This committee has chosen so many great programs that are engaging, uplifting and created just for learning and having fun. Trust me lacking excitement will be your last thoughts after attending MystERIE by the Bay.

• *It's cold up there* - It may be frosty in Erie, but buds like us don't mind a little chill, they know what's coming next! Spring is around the corner; District VIII is great and brings the warmth. Let's show them District IX is standing tall beside them. We're rooted, resilient, and IX is F.I.N.E!



**HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION**



THE SHERATON BAYFRONT ERIE HOTEL  
55 West Bay Drive, Erie, PA 16507  
814-454-2005

Check In at 4 PM  
Check Out at 11AM

Room Rate \$140 plus 13% tax per room (\$158.20) Our Block Covers Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>

FREE Parking

Deadline for Group Rate Reservation is  
March 26, 2026  
Phone (814) 454-2005

Note: Ask the AI voice to speak to an Associate  
This will get you to a human in reservations.  
Mention Garden Club Federation  
when making your reservations

**Thank you for supporting the Penn State Master Gardeners of Allegheny County**



**2026 PENN STATE MASTER GARDENERS GARDEN & LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM VENDORS**

- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Benedictine Farm
- Cherry Valley Organics
- Cutting Root Farm
- DJs Greenhouse
- Ernst Seeds
- Future is Nuts
- Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society
- Hampton High School Garden Club
- Jen Schnakenberg Jewelry
- Kellar Farms Nursery
- Lamb's Ear Farm
- Locust Spring Nursery
- Michael Brothers Nursery
- North American Rock Garden Society Allegheny Chapter
- Olive & Marlowe
- Pittsburgh Botanic Garden
- Penn State Extension Master Gardeners
- Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards
- Sunny Sprouts
- Tree Pittsburgh

**While you're there...**

- Visit the "Ask a Master Gardener" table to find answers to your horticulture and gardening questions.
- Shop the Master Gardeners Book shop or new and lightly used books.
- Stop at our "New to You" table for new and used home and garden items at great prices.

**Support our partners and advertisers**

Our office is located at:  
Penn State Greater Allegheny Campus  
4000 University Drive  
Main Building  
McKeesport, PA 15132



**PennState Extension**  
Master Gardeners of Allegheny County



**30<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Garden & Landscape Symposium**

**and Garden Marketplace**



Saturday, April 25, 2026  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hampton Community Center  
3101 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

Join us for one or ALL educational presentations. Take time to peruse the Garden Marketplace. We have a holding area available for your purchases while you enjoy the educational programming.

**THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN OUR GARDEN MARKETPLACE!**

- |                                   |                                 |                             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Benedictine Farm                  | Kellar Farms Nursery            | Garden                      |
| Cherry Valley Organics            | Lamb's Ear Farm                 | Penn State Master Gardeners |
| Cutting Root Farm                 | Locust Spring Nursery           | Penn State Master Watershed |
| DJs Greenhouse                    | Master Watershed Program        | Stewards                    |
| Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society | N. American Rock Garden Society | Sunny Sprouts               |
| Hampton HS Garden Club            | Allegheny Ch.                   | Tree Pittsburgh             |
| Jen Schnakenberg Jewelry          | Olive & MarlowePgh. Botanic     |                             |

**GARDEN & LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM**

THERE IS **NO COST** TO JOIN US!

CELEBRATE OUR **30TH ANNIVERSARY** WITH FREE PRESENTATIONS BY **PENN STATE MASTER GARDENERS** AND **OTHER HORTICULTURE EXPERTS**

**SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE**

Doors open at 9:15 AM

9:30 AM

Three Seasons of Color:  
The Perennial Garden  
Bill Goff

Penn State Master Gardener

10:45 am

Trees for Streets and Yards—Their Selection and Care  
Joseph Stavish  
Tree Pittsburgh Director of Education

12:30 PM

Hydrangeas for the Home Garden – Culture, Flower Color, Pruning, Pests, and Propagation  
Silloo Kapadia  
Penn State Master Gardener

1:30 PM

Adaptive Gardening  
Tools and  
Pat Johnson

Penn State Master Gardener

## Club Reports

### Butler Garden Club

We are accepting the reality of “false spring” in early March, knowing we are about to circle the wagons again for more cold weather but that means more time to plan our spring adventures! “March” is our club’s slow awakening from a two-month hiatus, where we get together and catch up with one another at our annual Ladies’ Day Out. The following week some of our members will anxiously be anticipating a terrific Members Day Out in Sewickley, as well!

The spring months will find our weekends committed to community plantings of annuals and perennials, as well as participating for a second year in the Homegrown by Heroes Garden at our Butler VA. This garden will create more raised beds and seek out new vegetables to grow in bags for better drainage. BGC volunteers will assist by helping plan and plant as well as providing tomato and pepper plants for this special garden for our veterans.

We are so lucky to have Jill Barger from Southern Butler County Garden Club joining us in April to share her multiple horticultural talents on how to design a garden full of continuous blooms. I love how our District members visit other clubs to impart their knowledge on us all.

April also brings our club’s missions into full swing with the preparations for our biennial fundraiser in June. Tasks have been assigned for ticket sales, vendor acquisitions, bake sale preparations, basket coordination and centerpiece creations, to name a few. This terrific event will feature Susan Kelly, the former cheese monger at McGinnis Sisters, instructing how to make charcuterie boards with edible flowers and herbs. This biennial event is shaping up to be another success for BGC and its efforts to raise funds to be disbursed in our community.

*Susan Morgus, President, BGC*



Club members at The Maridon Museum in Butler on a field trip.



## Fox Chapel Garden Club

The Fox Chapel Garden Club has been busy at work while our gardens are sleeping. Through the generosity of our patrons from Gardendfest and Glitter and Glow we were able to support the following ventures in the coming year:

- ☛ Ventures
- ☛ Allegheny County Parks Foundation
- ☛ Aspinwall Community Garden
- ☛ Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
- ☛ Blawnox Community Garden
- ☛ Borough of Blawnox
- ☛ Cooper-Siegel Community Library
- ☛ Fox Chapel Area School District's Mary's Garden at the High School
- ☛ Fox Chapel Area School District's O'Hara Elementary Green Foxes
- ☛ Fox Chapel Garden Club Scholarship
- ☛ Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania's Plant-A-Tree
- ☛ Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania's Scholarship Fund
- ☛ O'Hara Township
- ☛ Penn State Extension Garden and Landscape Symposium
- ☛ Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
- ☛ Pittsburgh Botanic Garden
- ☛ Sharpsburg Community Garden

Our Conservation Committee lead by Jane Grooms and Susie Williams held an impressive recycling campaign for our club.

- ☛ Coat Hangers - dry cleaners
- ☛ Cosmetic containers - specific cosmetic companies
- ☛ Denim - Dick's Sporting Goods to Blue Jeans Go Green
- ☛ Eye glasses - local eyeglass vendors
- ☛ Egg cartons - local chicken farmers
- ☛ Greeting cards - Gardendfest
- ☛ Medical supports and walking aids - Global Links
- ☛ Medicine bottles (labels removed) - Matthew 25 Ministries
- ☛ Styrofoam - (no food trays) Allegheny Warehouse
- ☛ Wine corks - Center for Creative Reuse

Since 2011 The Fox Chapel Garden Club began archiving at the University of Pittsburgh Library System. This January the Archives committee lead by Ruthanne Bauerle and Susanna Hegnes visited the site and meet with the coordinator of Archives in preparation of our 95th year. ( 2 photos)

Plans are well underway for Gardendfest 2026, and Chair Ronna Riffle has been busy creating a fun garden-ing event for all. (poster)

Our February meeting featured a Bonsai artist, Ian Evans from Bebop Bonsai who gave a stellar presentation and was inspiring to venture into this art form.

Happy Spring

*Melissa Johnson, President, FCGC.*



# GARDENFEST

Organized by Fox Chapel Garden Club

**Saturday**  
**May 9, 2026**  
**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**O'Hara Township Community Park**

**Fox Chapel Garden Club**  
Perennials, deer resistant & native plants

**Fox Chapel Girl Scouts**  
Garden art

**The Green Foxes Garden Club**  
O'Hara Elementary kids garden club & bake sale

**Guyasuta Garden Club**  
Hanging baskets, floral baskets, & houseplants

**Lambs Ear Farm**  
Succulents, perennials & houseplants

**Mens Garden Club**  
Tool & knife sharpening

**North American Rock Garden Society**  
Mini conifers, dwarf hardy ferns & alpine plants

**Pa WildOnes**  
Wild Ones shirts and Native Seed Packets

**Penn State Master Gardeners**  
Perennials & tomato plants

**PittMoss**  
Soil scientist & high-quality soils from recycled materials

**Rustic Residence**  
Bird, bee & butterfly dwellings

**and Local Artisans**  
Wood art, photography, paintings & glass creations

[www.foxchapelgardenclub.org](http://www.foxchapelgardenclub.org)

# Ingomar Garden Club

For Ingomar, it's an anniversary year, having been founded 80 years ago.

To start off the New Year, members were able to kick back and enjoy delectable food and delightful conversations at Wexford Public Restaurant in January and at Monte Cello's in February. For both outings we dodged what Old Man Winter clobbered us with. Mountains of plowed snow and blustery cold blew in the weekend after the first excursion, holding many of us hostage in our homes before finally relenting. This made the second get together even more special.

Our official garden club year just began again in the first week of March. Here, interesting details on our 3,094 acre North Park were brought to light in a captivating program. Deaglan McManus, an Allegheny County Park Ranger, shared North Park's rich history. Many structures were built thru the Civilian Conservation Corps and other New Deal Programs; a man-made lake and boathouse, the lodge and various shelters, a swimming pool that was once considered to be the largest in the world, and even a Fountain of Youth to make North Park, THE PLACE to spend quality time.

Later this month, we will gather together to pot up plants, "dig-gums," from our gardens for our annual plant sale that will be held the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend, May 9th, at McCandless Crossing. The installation of a new slate of IGC Officers will occur at our May Meeting bringing a change to Ingomar that should be upbeat.

March brings brighter days,  
*Julie Barnes, IGC President*




**INGOMAR GARDEN CLUB**  
**PLANT SALE for MOTHER'S DAY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026**  
**9 AM - 2 PM**

**LOCATION - McCandless Crossing,**  
(Grassy Area)  
Perennials, Veggies, Annuals,  
Baskets, BAKE SALE  
(cash/credit cards)





Deaglan McManus



CHRIS HAWTHORNE MARCH MEETING

## Kennedy Garden Club

The KGC has a busy lead in to our Spring Festival. During our January meeting, Sharon Helfrich from the Robinson Library discussed how garden clubs and libraries can collaborate to connect nature, education and community. She helped Club members start our very own gardeners' lending library for our members. This is the beginning of a nice partnership with the library and a larger community that we can reach thanks to club member Nancy Zitelli's efforts.

In February, KGC member and Master Gardener Pat Johnson filled in for Deb Young. She discussed seed starting basics; giving us some tips on reading seed packets and gardening catalogs. She also gave us examples on various ways to start seeds at home.

March saw the Club making a presence at the Robinson Township Library's first Seed Swap. We used seeds gathered from the Hope Grows Respite House to distribute. During our March meeting, club member and mycophile Ursula Tomsko gave the club an enlightening presentation on exploring mushrooms in your gardens and woodlands.

In March, two members of our club's Membership Committee were speakers at the local chapter of AARP. The club was invited to member Bill Alexander's house for our second Seed Sowing event. This is a hands-on presentation by Club member and Master Gardener Deb Young. On March 28th, the KGC will join forces with our Parks and Recs Board for the Easter Egg Hunt. We plan on passing out some snacks to the children and we will have flyers on hand for our upcoming events as well as KGC membership applications.

Our April meeting speakers will be Club members and Master Gardeners Pat Johnson and Jen McMurtrie. They will give us some tips and guidance for our garden plantings and do a Q&A session.

On April 26, we partner with the Township's Parks and Recs Board to celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up Fairhaven Park. We will also hold our first Gardeners' Swap Meet in conjunction with this event. Residents can swap out seeds, seedlings, shoots, bulbs, perennials, houseplants, pots, tools, books, magazines or any garden related item. Bring what you don't want and take what you need. It's all about sharing and it's free.

Our May Meeting will focus on Herbs and our guest will be Barbara Orion from Orion Organics where we will learn how common herbs can support everyday wellness.

In addition to the above, Club members also make an annual trip to Jesteadt's Nursery in Prospect before our Festival where we purchase vegetables and annuals for our plant sale. Club members also do a shopping trip to purchase hanging baskets for the Festival from a flower vendor in the Strip District.

So, we are very busy before our Spring Festival on May 30th. Now, fingers crossed it doesn't rain.

*Barb French, President, KGC*



J. Kulik & D. Young exchange seeds



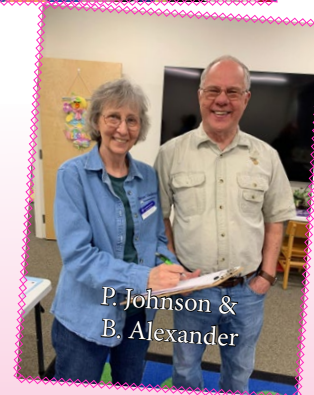
Mushroom maven, U. Tomsko



l to r, N. Zitelli, D. Young, P. Johnson, J. McMurtrie, swap seeds.



B. Alexander & J. Schipani planting seeds!



P. Johnson & B. Alexander



N. Wagner at seed potting event



J. McMurtrie at seed potting event

# Moon Township Garden Club

We begin our 105th year in mid-March with new leadership and renewed energy. President Sandy Donovan has declared "A Growing Heritage" as the theme. During the January-February hiatus, MTGC officers and chairs sowed their project ideas with the Big Reveal happening after our Spring Potluck Luncheon.

Membership is in the midst of an enthusiastic campaign in search of an engaging tag line. A grand announcement is forthcoming! As a result of Membership's quest to search out how best to mentor and retain new members, prospective members will now receive a comprehensive booklet packed with pertinent club information.

Our legacy of civic engagement is evident with the club's first events. In April, the Youth Committee will sponsor an Earth Day recycling demo, "Plants vs Plastics" to educate youth on how to recycle, what happens to recycled items and how to eliminate plastic use. The lucky first 100 children receive Mini Trash Bin Pencil Holders! This committee will also assist Moon Parks with Spring Break activities including making "Grass Heads" and participating in the GCFP poster contest.

In May the Civic, Horticulture, Environmental Committee will sponsor their 6th Plant Give-Away/Exchange. The committee planted 10 jugs each of 8 varieties of seeds in January for winter sowing of seeds that need cold stratification to develop. The sprouted plants will be offered to the community along with education on the needs of each plant. Guests can also exchange a plant for one brought from home. Want to learn more about Winter Sowing? Follow this link: <https://youtu.be/5l6EEiAswaI>.

MTGC is proud to 'grow our heritage' through continued community involvement.

*Marcia Welsh, MTGC, 2nd Vice President*



sprouting heads



winter seed sowing

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

**June 18<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm**  
 949 Thorn Run Road, Moon Township, PA 15108

Relax with a glass of wine and delicious appetizers

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

Our Garden Shop offers many unique garden items and beautiful plants

Tickets are \$20



<https://square.link/u/1eVwh3lh>

Proceeds go to the Fleur de Lune Garden

Oak Hills Garden Club

PLANT SALE

with  
GARDEN-THEMED BASKETS RAFFLE

Saturday, MAY 30, 2026 - 9 AM - 1 PM

Location: AMERICAN LEGION 778  
150 Legion Memorial Ln., Butler, PA (Look for Army Tank!)

FREE Admission & Low pricing

90% PERENNIAL Plants  
Annuals, Vegetables, Bushes from our Local Gardens



Benefits COMMUNITY PROJECTS  
(We reuse your donated pots for this sale.)

# Oak Hills Garden Club

The Oak Hills Garden Club started the new year with a luncheon in February at Rachel's Roadhouse in Butler. This is our recognition of officers event honoring: Marilyn Rogerson, Vice President, Peggy Miller, Treasurer and Kathy Geibel, Secretary. I thank these ladies for all the support and wisdom they give me.

We no longer collect plastic bags, NexTrex has changed their program and no longer gives a bench for 1,000 lbs. collected. They have revised their program for each 250 lbs. collected 25 participating organizations will randomly be chosen quarterly to receive a gift valued at \$500. Since we were close to our second 1,000 lbs. NexTrex gave us our second bench. We are very proud that we were able to donate the bench to Succop Nature Park in Penn Township. Though we as a club are no longer collecting plastic we encourage everyone to still recycle. There are several churches in the area that have collection facilities.

This month we are starting early planning for our plant sale since Tanglewood Center, our home for many years has been sold. We will be meeting at our new location, the American Legion at Lyndora, to discuss signage, publicity and logistics of the new space. Our sale will continue to be the same low cost plants primarily perennials divided from our own gardens. Since these plants are grown locally they have a higher survival rate in their new homes. Please come to our sale on Saturday, May 30th.

Our program committee has planned a year of exciting activities and with spring approaching the gardening bug is calling!

*Melissa Jacoby, President OHGC*





72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
**SHALER GARDEN CLUB  
 PLANT SALE**

Saturday, May 2nd  
 9 am - 12 noon  
 Kiwanis Park (Wetzel Road)

Perennials from Local Gardens  
 Annuals, Vegetables, Herbs, Bulbs  
 Hanging Baskets, Houseplants  
 Baked Goods & Auction Baskets

Please join us rain or shine

## Shaler Garden Club

**G**reetings from Shaler! It has been a whirlwind of a season, and our club is blooming with new energy. Following a productive start to the year, we are thrilled to share our progress and a look at the exciting path ahead with our District IX friends.

We kicked off the year with a trek into the woods for an Owl Prowl in North Park this January—a wonderful way to appreciate our local ecosystem during the quiet winter months. Back in town, we showed our community spirit by participating in Caddy Stacks, a creative mini-golf fundraiser for the Shaler North Hills Library.

Our momentum continued in February with successful Executive and General meetings, where we solidified three vital initiatives aimed at the long-term health of our club and community. With chairmen already in place, we are ready to move forward on:

**Civic and Conservation Subcommittee:** We are beginning a three-stage restoration of the library gardens following last year's construction. Our first major goal is developing an automated watering system to ensure the gardens thrive without the need for manual watering.

**Mentorship Subcommittee:** To help retain and promote new members within our club, we are developing a program to pair newcomers with experienced members for their first year. This gentle acclimation is vital for our future, and we invite anyone who loves making people feel at home to join us.

**Youth Committee:** This “win-win” initiative shares our gardening lore with young people while they assist us with their vitality and social media skills. This program also enables both the students and our club to become eligible for new awards and scholarships.

**Springing into Action: Community Outreach** March is set to be a busy month for outreach! We are hosting a Spring Community Workshop at the Shaler Library, where we will create whimsical floral book vases with participants.

Additionally, we are launching a program with a nearby senior residential facility to help them establish a “pizza garden.” This kicks off in March with a seed-starting workshop covering soil testing, fertilization, and grow lights. Residents will care for the seedlings until mid-May, when we will return to help them plant their “pizza ingredients” into raised beds on-site. We look forward to a delicious harvest and a stronger connection with our neighbors!

With our committees formed and leadership in place, we are ready to grow. We look forward to seeing everyone at Members Day Out!

*Mary Jo Clayton, President, SGC*



M.J. Clayton, C. Bernardo,  
 Dinelle Hannigan



# S. Butler County Garden Club

In 2026, Southern Butler County Garden Club will continue to maintain the community gardens at Graham Park in Cranberry Township and the Mars Library Garden in downtown Mars. Our special project this year is the installation of a pergola to provide shade for the picnic table at Graham Park, benefiting both our horticultural therapy program and the local community.

To stay connected during the winter, the Southern Butler County Garden Club (SBCGC) has been hosting several field trips. In February, members gathered at a local restaurant to socialize and discuss plans for the year. Our next outing will be at "Grows on Main", a specialty plant store in Butler, to create terrariums. Our March Meeting presentation will be about Beatrix Potter's life work focusing on her interest in and enthusiasm for the natural world, including some of her artwork and books. Following a successful board meeting in March, we are currently diligently organizing the Annual District Meeting, which is scheduled for August.

Additionally, we have six beautiful gardens lined up for our Garden Tour on June 27th. As our primary fundraiser, this is always an inspiring event, and we invite you to join us for a day filled with wonderful ideas for your own garden.

*Kristi Gregory, President, SBCGC*



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

Registration & day of event ticket sales from 9-10 am only at the Cranberry Twp. Municipal Center.  
 At registration ticket holders will receive a booklet with garden descriptions and driving directions.  
 Get inspired by touring several private gardens in and around the Cranberry Twp. area. Homeowners will be available to answer your questions and share their gardening design insight with you.

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

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

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

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

**For more information call Linda at 412-335-0550**

Thank you for your support!  
[www.southernbutlercountygardenclub.org](http://www.southernbutlercountygardenclub.org)  
**Be sure to Like Us on Facebook!**

## Tusca -Ridge Garden Club

The Tusca Ridge Garden Club opened its garden club year “full STEAM ahead”, by participating in a STEAM/Story Walk held at the Rochester Area Schools, in collaboration with our educational partner, Rochy Gardens. With the A in STEAM standing for Arts, club members assisted elementary students in the creation of dried flower pictures. As spring unfolds, our club will be looking ahead to our annual President’s Luncheon in April and our eagerly anticipated plant exchange in May.

*Roxanne Walker, President, TRGC*

With Easter right around the corner, it is never too early to start planning for that fantastic holiday brunch, lunch, or dinner. While most people focus on food, some of us are thinking flowers.

With that in mind, and a little help from Better Homes & Gardens, I have found a list of some of the most popular flowers to breath life and color into your holiday celebration. *S.M.P.*

10 Best Flowers for Easter  
(according to Better Homes & Gardens)

- Tulips
- Peonies
- Hyacinths
- Easter Lilies
- Ranunculus
- Daffodils
- Anemones
- Mini Hydrangeas
- Roses
- Sweet Peas





**Tour Dates/Counties**

**Saturday, June 20, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Rain or Shine**

- | <u>Counties</u>             | <u>Gardens</u>  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Bucks County                | Countryside Gardeners<br>Bensalem, Newtown, New Hope  |
| Cumberland/Dauphin Counties | Penn-Cumberland Garden Club<br>Camp Hill, Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg                                       |
| Delaware County             | Springfield Garden Club<br>Broomall, Chester, Springfield   |
| Montgomery County           | Garden Club of Bala Cynwyd/Villanova Garden Club<br>Berwyn, Bryn Mawr, Gladwyne, Merion Station, Narberth |
- Saturday, June 27, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Rain or Shine**

- | <u>Counties</u>                 | <u>Gardens</u>   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Allegheny/Westmoreland Counties | Burrellton/Pucketos Garden Clubs<br>Lower Burrell, Natrona Heights, Tarentum, New Kensington   |
| Bucks County                    | Old York Road Garden Club<br>Bensalem, Doylestown, Horsham, Willow Grove   |
| Chester County                  | Spade & Trowel Club<br>Chadds Ford, Honeybrook, Kennett Square, West Chester<br>Uwchlan Garden Club<br>Coatesville, Downingtown, Exton, Parkesburg, West Chester |
| Clarion County                  | Wildflower Garden Club<br>Clarion, Shippenville  |



- Fayette County
  - Great Meadows Garden Club
  - Chalk Hill, Farmington, Smithfield, Uniontown
- Lancaster County
  - Town & Country Garden Club of Lancaster
  - Lancaster, Lititz, Millersville
- Montgomery County
  - Norristown Garden Club
  - Ambler, Collegeville, Eagleville, Gwynedd, Lansdale, Malvern, Norristown, Phoenixville
- Washington County
  - Martha Washington Garden Club
  - Washington, Eighty-Four



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**GCFP TRI-REFRESHER**  
 September 13-14, 2026  
 Brandywine Valley, Pennsylvania

Get ready for a refreshing garden adventure in one of the most beautiful corners of our state!

This exciting two-day event will feature three premier attractions as part of the official Tri-Refresher, including a visit to the spectacular Longwood Gardens.

**Make it a getaway!**

The Brandywine Valley boasts 12 enchanting gardens and cultural treasures perfect for planning a mini-vacation around your Tri-Refresher experience. Watch for registration in the coming year.

The GCFP Tri Refresher is an educational seminar sponsored by the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) that combines refresher courses for three National Garden Clubs (NGC) schools: Environmental, Gardening, and Landscape Design.

This event provides NGC-accredited consultants and judges with the opportunity to maintain their active status by receiving updated information on relevant environmental issues, gardening techniques, and landscape design principles. It is often held in conjunction with state or regional garden club conventions and conferences.

For more information on upcoming refreshers and registration details, individuals can check the National Garden Clubs website or the GCFP's local district communications.



## Programs from National Garden Clubs Inc.

### Planting Trees and Saving Forests

For many years, National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the USDA Forest Service have maintained a partnership sustaining our national forests through the Plant-A-Tree program. Plant-A-Tree, formerly known as Penny Pines, is a reforestation and forest education program.

Your garden club can participate by contributing to this meaningful conservation project. All contributions help the Forest Service to plant trees across the national forest system where reforestation is needed most—the places most impacted by wildfires, flooding, drought, and other forest disturbances.

#### From Penny Pines to Plant-A-Tree

As some of you may already be familiar with this program when it was called Penny Pines, the new name “Plant-A-Tree” better reflects the program’s mission and will help us reach a wider audience. Additionally, we are also making changes to the donation process to make it more accessible and user-friendly. Even if you are already familiar with the original Penny Pines program, please read through the changes below.

**01 DONATION AMOUNT** Previously, we required donations in increments of \$68.00. Donors can now contribute any amount, starting from as little as \$50.00 to as large as \$10,000.00. This change provides greater flexibility for donors and enables a wider range of people to participate in the program.

**02 CERTIFICATES IMPORTANT UPDATE: DIGITAL CERTIFICATES ONLY** – As of May 31, 2025, NGC no longer mails certificates and has fully transitioned to a digital format.

An email address is required with each donation to receive a tax receipt and a link to a customizable digital certificate. Donors can opt to make a certificate in honor or in memory of someone if desired, however we no longer need to collect this information. We assure you that your privacy and personal information will be handled with the utmost care and security.

**03 DONATING TO SPECIFIED FORESTS** When donating, you may choose to have your donation go to where it's most needed or you may 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 on another forest. \*Please note, individual plantings will not be identified per donor (ex: if you donate to a forest, you would be unable to locate a specific tree that you helped donate).

Once again, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your support and dedication to our reforestation efforts. Your contributions make a real and lasting impact, and we are honored to have you as part of our garden club community and are grateful for your partnership in this important work.

States, regions, districts, clubs, and/or individuals may participate in this program. Please note, a \$50.00 minimum is required with each donation.



**NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK: JUNE 7-13, 2026**

### Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community!

Join NGC clubs across the country to celebrate National Garden Week, June 7-13, 2026. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

Ideas to Consider:

- Plan an educational program and/or workshop at your local library, public garden or garden center.
- Sponsor a hands-on “How Do You Select Flowers/ Shrubs for Your Garden” workshop at an area nursery.
- Plan a garden tour. This is a great time to share your knowledge of growing while sharing ideas.
- Beautify a manageable blighted area or enhance an existing garden.
- Plan an activity with a youth group or school students.

Information reprinted in part from NGC website