

The First Bloom

FALL 2022

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All District I members are encouraged to submit a gardening article, gardening awards or other pertinent information to share with others.

Editor: Marilyn Small mmsmall@comcast.net

Deadline for Submission Dates: Winter Issue January 15

Spring Issue April 1
Summer Issue July 1

Fall Issue September 15

Member of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP), Central Atlantic Region - SGC (CAR-SGC), and the National Garden Clubs (NGC)





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THE COUNTRY GARDENERS Alexandra Brock

ELVERSON GARDEN CLUB
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FOUR SEASONS GARDEN
CLUB OF KENNETT SQUARE
Mary Ann Hanagan

SPADE & TROWEL CLUB
Beth Vinyard

THE GARDEN CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD Louise Sheehan

UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB Pam Walsh

VILLANOVA GARDEN CLUB Dee Welge

WAYNE WOODS GARDEN CLUB

Colleen Gassert



"All gardening is landscape painting."

- Alexander Pope

Mancy's NEWS

Welcome to the first edition of "The First Bloom!" our District I newsletter. This quarterly newsletter will showcase events in which our nine District I clubs have participated, interesting information, and a calendar of upcoming activities and events that are open to the public.

This first issue includes a recap of the Presidents' reports because when they are read at the annual luncheon, so many wonderful ideas are difficult to remember. Here we can all read about what activities and fund raisers that each club sponsors so that we can learn from one another to better our clubs and to support one another.

There are many impressive things going on in District I, which is the result of some incredibly talented members who are willing to share their talents. My goal for our district is that the presidents can get to know one another, exchange ideas and take fresh approaches back to their respective clubs.

The theme for:

(NGC) National Garden Clubs is "Plant America – Play Outdoors"

(CAR-SGC) Central Atlantic Region – State Garden Clubs is

"Plant America – Let's Get Growing"

(GCFP) Garden Club Federation of PA is "Watch us BLOOM"

As garden club members, you are all members of these organizations. As I see the public

gardens that our clubs maintain, the beautification projects, the civic-minded activities, and educational experiences for adults as well as children, I think that District I has embodied these principles and will continue to do so.

As the days begin to shorten and the air becomes crisp and chilly, I hope that you will enjoy dividing those perennials, and planting your spring bulbs. Dahlias and sunflowers, in their vibrant splendor, welcome us in to fall.

I leave you with my sunflower oil painting that I did for a friend. May it bring you some autumn joy.





() ISTRICT I MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Congratulations to The Country Gardeners for hosting a fabulous District I luncheon with rustic charm. Many thanks to Chair Janet Fassbender and her team for a most enjoyable event.

Presidents gave reports of the wonderful things their clubs are doing. Each club designed and donated centerpieces for the tables.

We are grateful to Maryann DeSanto for her leadership as District Director for the past two years through the pandemic. She is District I royalty!



Janet Fassbender **Luncheon Chair**



Nancy Cuttic, Incoming DD Maryann DeSanto, Outgoing DD



New Officer Installation: Louise Sheehan, Secretary; Nancy Cuttic, Director; GCFP President Sheila Croushore; Pam Walsh, Assistant Director; Inset: Eleanor Tickner, Treasurer



Club Presidents: Beth Vinyard, Spade & Trowel; Sharon Fullerton, Bala Cynwyd; Colleen Gassert, Wayne Woods; Director Nancy Cuttic; Pam Walsh, Uwchlan; Carol Simonetti, Elverson; Maryann Hanagan, Four Seasons; Louise Sheehan, Springfield; missing are Dee Welge, Villanova and Alex Brock, **Country Gardeners**











Centerpieces designed and donated by each club

Congratulations

2022 DISTRICT I AWARD RECIPIENTS

The following members were presented with certificates, flowers, and/or bookmarks at the District I Luncheon on Friday, September 16, hosted by The Country Gardeners at the beautiful historic Barn at Northbrook.



PERENNIAL BLOOM
SUE SORARUF
Spade and Trowel Club

EXCEPTIONAL
HORTICULTURIST
LIBBY ESPEY
Wayne Woods Garden Club





DIRECTOR'S SPECIAL
RECOGNITION
NANCY CUTTIC AND
ELLEN MCGARRIGLE
Wayne Woods Garden Club

LAURELS

GARDEN CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD

Jan Booth, Garance Prior, Pat Whitmore

THE COUNTRY GARDENERS

Bonnie Kushnerick, Judith Rehm

ELVERSON GARDEN CLUB

Lisa Cherpanich

FOUR SEASONS GARDEN CLUB Soraya Goldstein, Craig Rybinski

LAURELS Continued

SPADE AND TROWEL CLUB

Debbie Ferrell, Jane George,

Beth Vinyard

THE GARDEN CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD

Maryann DeSanto, Kate Savensky

UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB
Wendy Fox, Thea Mahard,
Carrie Schreffler

VILLANOVA GARDEN CLUB Meg Cave

WAYNE WOODS GARDEN CLUB
Nancy Cuttic, Ellen McGarrigle,
Marilyn Small

GREATER PHILADELPHIA DAHLIA SOCIETY SHOW

September 17, 2022

Congratulations to SHARON RICHARDSON, Uwchlan Garden Club, for her winning entries: 4 Blue Ribbons and 3 Red Ribbons.

Here are some of her winning entries.







Nick Sr

Master David

Pennsgift







Ivanetti

AC Ben

Alpen Diamond



LONGWOOD GARDENS FLOWER SHOW

September 10, 2022 - Janet Fassbender, Chair Featuring a Sampling of District I Entries and Winners



CARRIE SCHREFFLER,
Uwchlan Garden Club,
was the overall winner
for most awards in both Design
and Horticulture.



KATE SAVENSKY, Springfield Garden Club, was a big winner in Horticulture.





PAUL SHEETZ, Elverson Garden Club, Grower's Choice Award





DARLENE SNYDER, Uwchlan Garden Club, Artistic Crafts Award, Botanical Arts



MARYANN DESANTO, Garden Club of Springfield, Functional Table Design









MARIA JACOBS, Uwchlan Garden Club, Designer's Choice Award for Duo Design and also Award of Design Excellence

MORE LONGWOOD GARDENS FLOWER SHOW



MARILYN ROMENESKO Four Seasons Garden Club, Award of Merit in Horticulture



Volunteers **Bonnie Kushnerick**, Country Gardeners and **Paul Sheetz**, Elverson



Chair Janet Fassbender and Longwood's Brad Dolan



COUNTRY GARDENERS, NGC Educational Award



Volunteers **Robert Grenfell**, Elverson GC and **Denise Klein**, Spade and Trowel Club





DENISE KLEIN Spade and Trowel, Duo Design



SHARON FULLERTON, Bala Cynwyd

For more detailed information and registration info, go to https://gardenclub.org/our-schools CHOOLS INFO

Landscape Design School

Course 1 October 12-13, Washington, DC

Course 3 October 3-4, Louisiana

20-21, Lancaster, PA

21-22, Montana

Course 4 October 10-11, Richmond, VA

October 26-28, Mass. on Zoom





Environmental School

Course 1 October 8, Cushing, OK, Zoom Saturdays Only

October 10-11, Clemson & Greenville, SC

October 21-22, Mainstee, MI

January 17-18 2023, Tampa, FL (Hybrid)

Course 2 October 18-26, Washington, DC

on Zoom Tuesday and Wednesday evenings

November 17-18, Ft. Myers, FL on Zoom

Course 3 January 10-18, 2023 Washington, DC

on Zoom Tuesday and Wednesday nights

February 23-24, 2023 Fort Myers, FL, Zoom

March 20-24, 2023 St. Louis, MO, Zoom evenings

Flower Show School

Course 1 October 3-5, Illinois

4-6, Oregon

March 14-15, 2023, Mississippi

Course 4

Course 2 October 12-14, Connecticut

12-15, Kentucky

13-16, Plymouth Mtg, PA

March 7-9, 2023, Washington

Course 3 October 11-13, Massachusetts

April 13-16, 2023 Plymouth Mtg, PA

Course 4 Feb. 27 - March 2, 2023, Virginia

April 15-20, 2023,

East Brunswick, NJ

Gardening School

Course 1 November 14-15, Florida

Course 2 April 12-13, 2023, Baltimore, MD

Course 3 November 15-16, Zoom



GCFP DISTRICT I NEWS 8 FALL 2022



GARDEN CLUB OF BALA CYNWYD



The club members visited Eleanor Tickner's Peony Farm, the Historic Andalusia Biddle Estate overlooking the Delaware River and FDR park for a tour of trees

planted by John Study of Bartlett Trees.

One member hosted a horticultural workshop entitled "Delving in Daffodils." A second workshop was held outside where members made 3 concrete pumpkins of different sizes to be displayed separately or for stacking. For the last board meeting of each year, members bring plants for a swap, lunch and dessert to be shared.

This past month, the club was a first-time

sponsor for the Longwood Flower Show and sold concrete garden items at the Harriton House. Bala Cynwyd



welcomes all to visit their Harvest Moon Flower Show from October 21-23 at the Ludington Library, 5 South Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr.

THE COUNTRY GARDENERS



The small group of active members did an incredible job organizing the District I luncheon as well as the outstanding Longwood Flower

Show with Janet Fassbender as Chair, both held in September.

COUNTRY GARDENERS Continued

The club's most popular program each year is the Horticulture Therapy work with residents of

Fair Acres Geriatric Center, but because they could not visit them, the members created spring bulb gardens that were delivered to them.



The Country Gardeners will dedicate a new Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker at the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum at 12 E. State Street in Media, PA, prior to the Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2022, at 10:15 a.m. Judith Rehm is leading this project for The Country Gardeners.



The Blue Star program began in 1944 with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees to honor veterans of WWII, and today it continues to honor all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Forces. It is sponsored by the National Garden Club, Inc. and more information can be obtained on the NGC website. (www.gardenclub.org).



Kudos to Elverson GC for recruiting new members and increasing their membership by 25%! They also initiated a Penny Pines collection.

The environment, horticulture, floral design, history and the arts have all been explored by their monthly speakers. Members enjoyed their annual picnic in a member's garden.

ELVERSON Continued

Members enjoyed a holiday wreath making

workshop in December, served on the GCFP convention committee, and participated in the Philadelphia Flower show. Eleven members entered and won four blue ribbons, one best of blues, one 2nd place



Keith Simonetti, Barry Sawtelle, Laura Alden

and two 3rd place awards. The make-and-take leaf pounding workshop was a club favorite. Elverson members also participated in the Longwood Flower show this September with Wendy Fox as Vice Chair who will then chair the 2023 show.



Wendy Fox, EGC Floral Design Workshop presenter

FOUR SEASONS GARDEN CLUB



March saw members visit greenhouses in Lancaster for their "Spring Fling" followed by their initiation banquet in March.

The club supported the replanting of the Butterfly Garden in Anson B. Nixon Park, which was overrun with weeds prior to the pandemic. The club also supports the Tri- State Bird Rescue, which is a great tour for clubs.

FOUR SEASONS Continued

Members did a lot of planting including salad bowl planters and the Kennett Square summer barrels. In May they held their Kennett Beautification Plant Sale at Pratt's Greenhouse followed by a plant swap at their May meeting. In August they enjoyed their annual picnic at a member's garden.



This fall, Four Seasons will make arrangements in pumpkins, do challenge arrangements to be critiqued and will make Christmas arrangements for retirement and nursing homes. Their Centerpiece workshop in December is open to the public.

Four Seasons Garden Club will be conducting a Holiday Centerpiece workshop on Saturday, December 3, at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Kennett Square. The cost of \$40 includes all supplies needed to create a centerpiece of freshly cut assorted greens. It also includes container, ribbon and holiday embellishments. A hot breakfast cooked by members begins at 9:30 followed by workshop. Limited to 30 participants. E-mail Linda Southerling at Isfleur1@hotmail.com for a registration form.

SPADE AND TROWEL CLUB



Spade and Trowel is proud that Sue Soraruf, who has been a member since 1986, was awarded the 2022 District I Perennial Bloom award for her leader-

ship, involvement and enthusiasm.

A new scholarship was created in the amount of \$1000 for a graduating senior from Kennett High School who will pursue studies in Horticulture or Environmental Science.

Some members were involved in the GCFP convention and made the centerpieces for the Monday dinner. The club participates in the following projects such as landscaping local flower beds, and providing flowers and arrangements for community affairs.

- Maintaining the herb and kitchen garden at Barns Brinton House in Chadds Ford
- Making holiday arrangements for those using Heartland Hospice Services
- Helping children make flower arrangements at the YMCA Montessori School Head Start
- Making floral arrangements for the Brantwyn Classic to benefit the Kennett Symphony
- Tree sapling give aways for Arbor Day
- Along with Four Seasons GC, participating member of the Kennett Square Beautification Committee.



S & T Members at the Installation of Officers Luncheon

SPADE AND TROWEL Continued

Spade and Trowel was a sponsoring club of the Longwood Flower Show, and they hope to compete again in the Philadelphia Flower Show and have requested to enter the Windowsill Design Class.

This winter, members will create holiday greens, paperwhites, amaryllis and holiday floral designs to be sold at The Creamery on Birch Street in Kennett Square on December 3 and 4.



THE GARDEN CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD

The club celebrated their 90th anniversary with a luncheon. They rededicated the Garden of Hope where they planted more native plants and added two plants in memory of two members who passed away. A Christmas Tea was enjoyed by members in December.

The club maintains three community gardens and participates annually in the Arbor Day activities, which includes the donation of and planting of a tree. They decorated a window of the township library to increase club visibility.



SPRINGFIELD Continued

A mini flower show was held to encourage members to enter the Longwood Show and to provide direction for those planning to enter.

Their Horticulture Therapy Program continued as members made flower arrangements and cards that were delivered to residents of a local nursing home.

Despite heavy rain, the annual plant sale was a success, and the club was able to present a scholarship to a Springfield High School graduate who demonstrated an interest in environmental/horticulture studies.

Members enjoyed a trip to Laurel Hill Cemetery and concluded the year with a luncheon and installation of new officers.



UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB



The club held its biannual flower show, which was well attended. They hold their meetings, plant sales, fairs and club related events at the 1756

Uwchlan Meeting House, a registered National Historic site. They fund the conservation trust

UWCHLAN Continued

and maintain the cemetery, building and surrounding gardens.

The annual Christmas fair raised over \$10,000 and over 75% of their members contributed in some way. They sold over 50 wreaths, 100 plus indoor and outdoor arrangements, jams, jellies, baked goods, a sleigh, decorated skis and skates and also had a raffle.



Members enjoying a pop-up-garden tour

Uwchlan members contributed to the annual GCFP convention with three presenters, a vendor and many volunteers.

The annual May plant sale also raised over \$10,000, despite hurricane-like conditions. Members sold perennials from their gardens, indoor and outdoor arrangements, fresh floral bouquets and donated garden items. The Kids' Corner was also a success.

VILLANOVA GARDEN CLUB



Our members began the year with a walking tour of Chanticleer followed by a "boxed tea" purchased from A Taste of Britain. We enjoyed a Zoom presenta-

tion by Doug Tallamy and a fall splendor walking tour of Jenkins Arboretum that was like a scene from Brigadoon.

VILLANOVA Continued

A nephew of one of the members is the head landscaper at Winterthur. He answered all questions, and we enjoyed lunch in their cafeteria.

COVID restrictions intervened with our holiday workshop and luncheon of making arrangements for Meals on Wheels at Appleford. Prior to the event, we have a decoupage workshop to create small pots to contain the arrangements which resemble small Christmas trees.

A workshop to create decorative hats was

held at Studio Flora in Berwyn. The results were amazing and one of our hats is on the cover of our new yearbook. For the GCFP annual convention,



a team of six created 30 centerpieces with a Beatrix Potter theme gleaning a lot of information about her along the way. Member Meg Cave created all of the 300+ name badges for "Celebrating Nature's Masterpieces."

A walking tour and lecture at Haverford College Arboretum was inclusive and informative. They are really addressing the future while respecting the past. Our workshop for creating table arrangements for the dining room and reception area for Ronald McDonald

VILLANOVA Continued

House were limited due to COVID restrictions so member Jane Carton created an arrangement for the reception area.

We enjoyed a slide presentation of *Gardens Around the World* by Claire Sawyers, Director of Scott Arboretum followed by a personal tour by Claire and a boxed lunch. In June we enjoyed a walking tour: Garden Layering at Brandywine Cottage. David Culp, nationally known instructor, horticultural lecturer and writer gave an inspiring tour of his two-acre hillside garden which is a local treasure. A lunch was then enjoyed at Amani's BYOB in Downingtown.

September this year began with a fascinating guided walking tour by Robin Rick, Director of the Woodlands, a Victorian cemetery and arboretum, which was followed by a VGC hosted picnic on the premises.

WAYNE WOODS GARDEN CLUB



The club is proud of members Libby Espey who was awarded the 2022 GCFP Horticulture Excellence award and Myrtie Musetti who was awarded the 2021 District I Exceptional

Horticulturalist award.

A big thank you and congratulations to members Nancy Cuttic and Ellen McGarrigle for chairing a fabulous GCFP annual convention in Malvern.



WAYNE WOODS Continued

Wayne Woods has won many awards recently for their programs, website, yearbook, newsletter and community beautification.

Sadly, the club lost a treasured member, Doris Petty, who joined WWGC in 1962 and was an active member for sixty years.

Ongoing projects include the following:



- Blue Star Marker Garden the very first in District I – on the Best Western property across form the King of Prussia Mall on the corner of Rt. 202 and South Gulph Road
- Old Roberts Historic One-Room Schoolhouse gardens
- In conjunction with NGC Plant America theme, McKaig Nature Education Center barrels located at the entrance are planted with seasonal flowers.
- Holiday decorating of the Roberts Schoolhouse and Blue Star Marker with wreaths and swags made by members
- Meals on Wheels floral arrangements made to accompany food items delivered to those who are homebound

This year, the club will be contributing to Penny Pines, as well as always sponsoring Jenkins Arboretum and the Upper Merion Park and Historic Foundation. Also this year members will make and donate centerpieces

WAYNE WOODS Continued

for a fund-raising benefit for Ryan's Cases for Smiles. This organization works to help children and families with the stress and emotional impact of childhood illness.

There will be two fund raising and recruitment events where baked goods, seasonal decorations, fresh arrangements, etc. will be for sale:

- Fall Festival held at Heuser Park
- Holiday Village at the Upper Merion Township building



Upcoming events include a presence at the Upper Merion Farmer's market this fall to recruit new members.

POSSIBLE 10TH GARDEN CLUB FOR DISTRICT I

Four members of the Covered Bridge Garden Club attended the District Luncheon. They have expressed interest in learning more about joining the GCFP and, therefore, becoming a member of District I.

We welcomed them to our luncheon to experience the event and hear about the exciting projects and activities that take place in our district. GCFP President Sheila Croushore, 1st VP Leeanna Ryba and 2nd VP Pat Wolanski stayed to meet with them and answer questions about the Federation. It is my hope that the January District I newsletter will include the Covered Bridge Garden Club.



The next major awards deadline is December 1, 2022. There is a wide array of awards offered to recognize your members, projects or club. Be sure to check the GCFP website for all of the up-to-date awards docs and information.

https://pagardenclubs.org/awards
Download the Awards Manual, the
Deadlines doc, the Awards Summary,
Awards Application, Formatting
Guidelines and Cover Sheet (fillable).

The Awards Summary document gives you a detailed overview of the application process, award categories offered, scoring rubrics and much more. Many applications require an electronic submission. Be sure to follow the suggestions accurately, and complete the cover application completely to ensure your submission will be

Club sizes are now consistent with NGC

club sizes: S 1 - 20 members

accepted.

M 21 - 50 members

L 51+ members

Note that the **Forget Me Not** award is on hold until 2023.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS AWARDS

To further boost your submissions and to be eligible for more awards, be sure to download the NGC Awards Manual at https://gardenclub.org/awards-and-grants

For more awards info, upcoming deadlines and the GCFP Awards Due Dates Schedule, <u>Click Here</u>

NCG Plant America Grants October 15 GCFP Member of Honor January 1 GCFP Gold & Silver Seal January 15 GCFP Governor's Trophy January 15 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl January 24 **GCFP Publicity Press Book** January 25 **GCFP Scholarships** February 1 **GCFP Seed Money** February 15

For more information or help in applying for awards, contact Marilyn Small, District I Awards Chair mmsmall@comcast.net





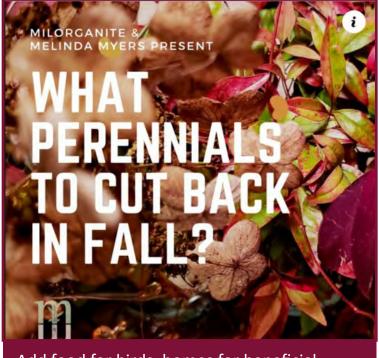
So much to do and see at LONGWOOD GARDENS

- Festival of Fountains through October 30
- Bruce Munro Light Display through October 30
- Stunning Fall Displays and Exhibitions
- Online Classes: October 10 November 21
 Annuals, Perennials and Vines
 Houseplants, Succulents and Cacti
- Behind the Scenes Tour: Under the Fountains Through October 29

- Live Music in the Beer Garden through October 30
- Olmstead 200 September 24 25
- An Evening with Gregory Porter -September 28
- Planted Pumpkins October 4 & 18

For more information on events:

https://longwoodgardens.org/eventsperformances



Add food for birds, homes for beneficial insects, and a bit of interest to the landscape by leaving healthy perennials standing for winter. Find out how <u>HERE</u>

KIDS AND GARDENING



Studies Find that Kids Who Learn to Garden Become Adults Who Eat More Veggies

CLICK HERE

To learn some things parents can do to get kids excited about gardening



Open to the public; please try to support our fellow clubs.

BALA CYNWYD

Harvest Moon Flower Show

October 21-23 at the Ludington Library 5 South Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr

THE COUNTRY GARDENERS

Blue Star Marker

November 11, 10:15 a.m. Pennsylvania Veterans Museum 12 East State Street, Media

PennCrest Fall Craft Festival

November 19, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 134 Barren Road, Media

Greens Event

Roosevelt Community Center 464 S. Old Middletown Road, Media December 9, 1 - 6 p.m. December 10, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FOUR SEASONS GARDEN CLUB

Holiday Centerpiece Workshop & Breakfast

December 3, 9:30 a.m.

For a registration form, contact

Linda Southerling at Isfleur1@hotmail.com

SPADE AND TROWEL CLUB

Holiday Greens Sale

December 3 and 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Kennett Square Holiday Village Market Creamery on Birch St. in Kennett Square

UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB

Annual Christmas Fair

December 3, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Uwchlan Meeting House 5 North Village Avenue, Lionville

WAYNE WOODS GARDEN CLUB

Holiday Village

December 3, noon - 3 p.m. Upper Merion Township Building 175 West Valley Forge Road, K of P



The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

https://pagardenclubs.org



Save the Date! And mark your calendar. Information for attendance reservations will be forthcoming. Check your email regularly for updates.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022, 10 AM

Business Meeting and Guided Tour of



FEBRUARY 8, 2023, 7 PM on Zoom

Business Meeting and Speaker GCFP President Sheila Croushore "Netherlands in Bloom" and "Keeping Members Engaged"



JUNE 2, 2023, 11 AM

Business Meeting and Presidents' Luncheon Location TBD



GRANT INFORMATION

There are many grants offered by National Garden Clubs:

- Plant America Community Project
- Ames Tools
- Natural Disaster
- Native Plant and Wildflower Education

See if Your Club Qualifies

https://gardenclub.org/awards-and-grants