

Spring 2024

Nine's News

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

Inside This Issue

2-5 Committee Reports
6-14 Club Reports
15 -16 Happenings Around Town

Director's Message

Welcome to the Spring Issue of the Nine's News. Promises of warmer days and spring time blooms are ahead.

This is such a busy time of year as many cubs are finalizing their yearbooks and scheduling programs and field trips for 2024. It's exciting to see the variety of events that are offered by our clubs. Our thoughts and activities are now focused on planning and planting as we prepare for our plant sales, work in our community gardens and tend to our own gardens.

District IX will be hosting its spring event, Member's Day Out, on Wednesday, March 27th. Have your cell phones fully charged as our program will be on how to enhance your phone photography. Our speaker will be Don Orkoskey. We met Don at last year's GCFP Convention and are excited to have him as our speaker.

New this year will be an Art Show to display the talents of our members and Dennis James of DJ's Greenhouse will be our plant vendor. Please support the District activities and join us for Member's Day Out. The registration deadline is March 15th.

I am hoping that District IX will be well represented at the GCFP State Convention in Lancaster. In preparation of my annual District Director's report for the convention, I asked each Club for information about their activities. Look for the Highlights of District IX Activities in this issue to read about all that we accomplished in 2023. Our clubs are such vital assets to our communities as reflected in the generous volunteer hours and monetary donations to our communities. Keep up the great work.

Claudia Bernardo, District IX Director

Coming Events

March 19, 2024

District IX Board Meeting
Walnut Grille, Cranberry

March 26, 2024

GCFP Leadership Conference via Zoom
March 27, 2024

Members Day Out- T to T, Art Show
April 7-9, 2024

GCFP State Convention - Lancaster, PA
April 22, 2024

Earth Day

April 26, 2024

National Arbor Day

May 4, 2024

Shaler GC Plant Sale

May 11, 2024

FCGC Gardenfest

May 11, 2024

Greybrooke GC Plant Sale

May 11, 2024

EGC at Sewickley MayMart

May 15, 2024

7:00 p.m. GCFP Zoom Presentation
May 18, 2024

Ingomar GC Plant Sale

May 31, 2024

Deadline for submissions to IX's News
June 1, 2024

Oak Hills Plant Sale

June 18, 2024

District IX Board Meeting

Nine's News Editor: Sue Vandertie
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Committee Reports

HORTICULTURE

Climate Change and Pollinators

Our unseasonably-warm February may have tricked many pollinators into emerging from their winter shelters far too soon. This could hurt native pollinator populations in Pennsylvania.

Over millions of years, pollinators and plants have evolved and learned to dance together. Accelerations in climate change are altering the dance, globally. Climate change is linked to intense storms, higher temperatures, more frequent and longer heat waves, and increased drought frequency and severity. A wealth of new research is assessing the impact of climate change on plants and pollinators.

Here is a glimpse of what researchers are learning about climate change challenges being faced by plants and pollinators:

- **Change in Timing:** Timing is crucial for pollination, as flowering and foraging pollinators must overlap for successful pollination to take place. Climate change is causing a gap between the period when flowers produce pollen and when the pollinators are ready to feed on the pollen. New weather patterns also shorten the length of the flowering period.
- **Decline in the quantity and quality of nectar:** Stressful weather conditions may lead to a decline in the quality of nectar. One study shows that as temperatures rise, the sugar content of nectar decreases, making it less nutritious for pollinators. Extreme weather can also reduce the amount of pollen per flower.
- **Change in Plant Scents:** Scents are unique to each flower and plant. Many pollinators depend on these scents as they search for food. Climate change has resulted in plants changing their scents because they are climate stressed. This makes it difficult for pollinators to find their food resources.
- **Loss of Habitat:** Increased habitat loss from climate change has led to native bees and butterflies experiencing



a greater threat to extinction than ever before. The fragmentation of the landscape by humans makes it even more difficult for pollinators to migrate to modified landscapes, which may lack floral resources.

- **Change in Pollinator Activity:** Unfavorable weather can prohibit pollinator foraging activity. Extreme rainfall reduces the number of hours pollinators can fly to gather floral resources. Warmer temperatures have altered migration patterns, affecting pollinator species like butterflies and hummingbirds.

How to Help

It's not too late. There are several actions you can take to increase climate resilience for pollinators in your neighborhood.*

- **Create a Pollinator Habitat:** Plant a variety of native blooming trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to provide pollinators with good sources of nectar and pollen. Aim for a garden with multiple flowers in bloom from early spring through late fall. Many plants in a small space also provides a nearby refuge for pollinators .
- **Use drought-tolerant native plants.**
- **Provide nesting areas for native bees:** Keep areas of bare soil for ground-nesting bees to burrow. Leave woody debris, plant stalks and stems on the ground for bees to nest in. Disinfect a bee hotel every season to prevent the spread of bee diseases.
- **Protect pollinators from pesticides:** This can allow pollinators to be more resilient to extended heat waves. Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and insecticides. Instead, use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. Avoid any products that contain or treated with neonicotinoids.
- **Advocate for change.** Support policies and policy makers focused on limiting global warming. Limiting climate change is an attainable goal but it requires action. Let your representatives know that you support bold action on climate change.

Leslie Anthony, Pollinator Advocate, District IX

* Pollinators and Climate Change: Climate-Smart Urban Habitat, 2019. Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

MEMBERSHIP

Revitalizing Membership

Spring has Sprung reenergizing our spirits with the new life sprouting everywhere. Spring is the perfect time to consider the last of the 3Rs of membership: Recruiting, Retaining, and Revitalizing. Revitalizing membership challenges us to rejuvenate and 'fertilize' our clubs for continued growth.

Suggested Garden Club Fertilizer includes a mixture of the following:

- Encouraging and recognizing the diversity in our membership
- Being open to new ideas
- Expanding the use of technology with Face Time, Zoom and social media for meetings, notifications and advertising
- Using visual aids such as Power Point for programming
- Providing 'make and take' opportunities
- Keeping things simple

Just as fertilizer enhances the soil, we can boost our membership and empower happy gardeners by BEE-ing positive and having fun together.
Happy Gardening!

Marcia Welsh, Membership Chair



What exactly are Meeting Minutes?

The following information was written by Patty Arndt, NGC Parliamentarian in 2021 and printed in the "Keeping in Touch" newsletter, December 2021.

What exactly are "minutes" and what is their purpose? Minutes are the legal record of the business performed within a business meeting, any organized meeting or gathering. They don't become the legal record until they are approved by the members of the particular assembly, usually at their next regular meeting. Minutes are only drafts until they are approved.

Here's what minutes are NOT – they are not a newsletter. Secretaries frequently add items that do not relate to actual business, opinions, or conversations of members (i.e. "the pot luck dinner was enjoyed by all", or "we talked about holding a special meeting in the fall," etc.) Remember, minutes are a record of what was done at a meeting, not of what was said.

Minutes should include the following:

1. First Paragraph – the kind of meeting, name of organization or assembly, date, time, place; presence of President and Secretary, or names of substitutes; whether minutes of previous meeting were read and approved, or if they were approved as corrected.
2. Body – names of persons giving reports and their subject only; main motions only (secondary motions when main motion is carried over to another meeting); votes, notices of motions, points of order, and appeals.
3. Last paragraph – time of adjournment (do not list the motion or mover of adjournment).
4. Signature of secretary, and if desired, president. Do not include "respectfully submitted."

For more detailed information on preparing meeting minutes, please refer to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief. It will give clear instructions that are easy to read and understand, even for brand new secretaries.

Taking the Hours out of Minutes

Tips for writing meeting minutes

- Minutes should be less than a page for most of our garden club business
- Start with who, when and where the meeting opened
- Report the dispersal of the minutes (approved as read, as corrected, as distributed)
- Report the balances your club members are interested in (bank balance, working balance, earmarked funds)
- Report who made a motion, what the motion was, seconded (don't bother with who seconded it) and how the motion was disposed (carried, failed, unanimously carried)
- Record the motions as ultimately amended – don't include the process to the final motion
- Report who reported, but not what was reported.
- Example: The following chairmen reported
 - Awards
 - Hospitality
 - Special Announcements
 - Meeting Adjournment/ time of adjournment

DISTRICT IX HIGHLIGHTS 2023

District IX is growing. In 2023 Oak Hills Garden Club joined our District, bringing our total number of clubs to 10. We also welcomed an additional 48 new members.

- 96 general garden club meetings were conducted. 65 educational programs were presented to members at our meetings. An additional 4 educational programs were presented to the public.
- 36 field trips were scheduled and encompassed everything from visiting nurseries and gardens to touring cider presses and wineries.
- We enjoyed 24 hands-on workshops for members only, and an additional 4 workshops were offered to the public.
- 6 clubs are involved in Horticulture Therapy and collectively provided 13 different visits and/or projects for the residents in local assisted living and nursing home facilities.
- 3 garden clubs held specific programs and/or workshops for children. These encompassed activities from making birdhouses and fairy houses to mini lessons about butterflies, how seeds grow and learning about the critters that slither and crawl in our gardens.
- As a part of a growing national trend to support our pollinators and wildlife, there are 23 certified Pollinator Habitat gardens and 8 Wildlife certified gardens within our District. Many of our programs focused on climate change, birds, changes in migration patterns and the plight of our butterflies and bees.
- Collectively we provided \$6000 in private scholarship funds and another \$3000 to the GCFP scholarship fund. (not all clubs shared their monetary donations).
- We are supporters of our local Phipps Conservancy, the Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens and the Audubon Society of Western PA with \$4500 in donations. (not all clubs shared their monetary donations).
- Across District IX our additional financial donations exceeded \$21,000. (not all clubs shared their monetary donations).
- Collectively we are weak in our recycling efforts with only 3 clubs reporting any type of organized recycling

or litter control program. Those that did, sponsored great programs.

- 3 clubs reported contributing to their local “back pack” initiatives, and 6 clubs reported making financial and/or food contributions to their local food pantries and meals on wheels programs. Sadly, only one club reported that they registered their contributions on the new Feed America Program that was initiated by the new NGC President, Brenda Moore.

As we look forward to the activities of 2024, I am hoping that our clubs continue their wonderful community efforts. As a District we have plans to cosponsor a new Blue Star Marker with our neighbors in District VIII.

Stacey Ivoll and I are also working with a garden club that is considering joining the NGC, GCFP and our District.

Thank you all for contributing to the success of District IX.

Claudia Bernardo, District IX Director



2024 District IX Awards Chair

I am pleased to announce that Cheri Davison of Tusca Ridge Garden Club has accepted the position of District IX's Awards Chairperson. Cheri also serves on the District Board as Parliamentarian and has assisted in planning District events.

Cheri's commitment to Tusca Ridge Garden Club is impressive. She has served as a past club president and programs chair. She is highly involved in her club's annual Greens Sale, technology committee, runs their Facebook page and helps with their community gardening. She truly exemplifies how we can all make a difference by being active in our clubs, District IX and GCFP events.

Please look for future information about awards from Cheri and submit your District award applications to her as they come due. Her email is cheri.d@comcast.net.

Claudia Bernardo, District IX Director

2024 Trash to Treasure Rules

Trash to Treasure Theme: In a Milkwork Garden

Lancaster County produces 2.1 billion pounds of milk annually (1776 farms). Lancaster ranks 1st in PA and 10th in the country in milk production. The contest is based on reuse and repurposing milk cartons and dairy containers in crafting a patchwork with a garden theme.

Specifications:

1. Entry to be a mounted patchwork or applique artwork which can also be framed (optional). It can be multidimensional. (ex. extended petals, leaves)
2. Dimensions: No larger than 14” wide or 14” deep. Height limited to 14.” If framed, not to exceed 11x14”. The entry may also be displayed on an easel stand.
3. Weight: No more than 15 lbs.
4. Materials: All type of materials used for milk production including carton, plastics and glass. 20% of the design may be other materials. (ex: glue, paint)
5. Each entry must include a 3 x 5 card. On the front: Title and a list of materials used. On the back: District, Garden Club name, Designer(s) name and mailing address.
6. Entry may be the work of more than one person

Only one entry (is selected)from each GCFP District. Selection method is determined by each District. District entries selected for Convention competition must be submitted on Friday, April 7 between 11AM-5 PM at the Doubletree Resort by Hilton Hotel in Lancaster. Judging will be at 5:15 PM. Entries will not to be judged under the same standard as a flower show. Questions? Please call the chairperson listed below. GCFP Trash to Treasure Co-Chairs: Naser Chowdhury and Marsha Chowdhury (phone: 484-432-6386)

SCALE OF POINTS FOR JUDGING

Conformance	20 pts	(Fits within stated dimensions, weight)
Artistic Concept	50 pts	(Creative reuse of recycled materials)
Expression	20 pts	(Interpretation of theme)
Execution	10 pts	(Workmanship)
TOTAL	100 pts	

Club Reports

Butler Garden Club

We spent our winter months digesting our fantastic quarterly newsletter, created and edited by Gina Beaver and Mary Reefer. Its twenty-five plus pages are filled with something for everyone. Members share recipes as well as photos and write ups of their travels. We're not outside digging in the dirt this time of year, yet topics such as a new member's hydroponic gardening, tips to winterizing your garden as well as a winter plant identification quiz keep us curious and informed. It has served as a great tool for all members but especially for those who are no longer able to attend meetings and club outings.

For those who aren't snowbirds, our Ladies Day Out is around the corner and will be held at Hotel Saxonburg for a spring-themed lunch and brief business meeting. On the agenda is discussion of our upcoming meetings.

April takes us to a beautiful shop on Main Street in Butler, aptly named "Grows on Main", which is owned by a young couple. They have an extensive number of unique houseplants and they do workshops and parties in their beautiful downstairs space as well. We will be learning from owner Madeline Miller about these houseplants as well as doing a "make and take" terrarium activity. We love to support small local businesses – come on up and check them out! <https://www.growsonmain.com>.

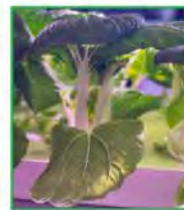
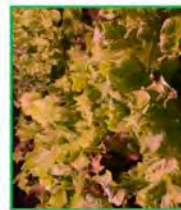
We are hoping to reinstate our Arbor Day projects by adding another tree to the grounds of the Broad Street Elementary School, the site in which a redbud tree was planted by us last fall. We have enjoyed a great relationship with this school in enhancing its outdoor learning space.

The balance of the spring will round out with plantings of community gardens, downtown cleanup of the city of Butler and preparations for our biennial fundraiser which takes place in June.

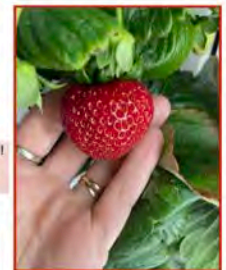
Susan Morgus, President, BGC



PICTURES FROM TRACEY'S HOME HYDROPONIC GARDEN



Tracey's impressive hydroponic garden of greens, including lettuces, spinach and bok choy.



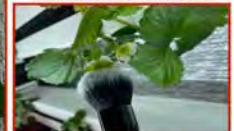
Finally... Tracey is rewarded! A flawless, pesticide-free, homegrown strawberry!

Soaking strawberries in H2O2 solution prior to planting.

Strawberries in Zip Grow system.



Pollinating strawberry flowers.





Edgeworth Garden Club

Starting a new year in March, our club led off with a blast – of flavor that is! Our first meeting of the new year featured Professor Subha Das (We called him “Das” as requested.) a Bioorganic & Chemical Biology, Nanoscience, Associate Professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

We learned about Das when checking out classes at Phipps where he offers a class in, “The Science of Taste and Flavor.” This topic may have implications if you are planning to grow edibles in your garden!



Carnegie Mellon Assistant Professor, Subha Das

According to Subha, “The experience of flavor is mediated by all our senses. When we eat and drink, the combination of sensory systems – taste, smell, and chemesthesis (activation of sensory nerves) leads to our perception of flavor.” His program showed us how taste receptors work, and helped us discover how color, crunch and aromas can trick your brain. We also explored how ingredients and the chemical components of food and drink can affect our senses.

How did we accomplish this, you might well ask? Well, we tasted, munched, crunched and sniffed our way through a variety of sensory experiences for which I am not going to give specifics. Why am I not telling? Because our members found the presentation to be a delightful learning experience and we don’t want to ruin it for you with a “tell all” that might spoil an experience should you decide to invite him to your club.

Be advised that we do have some rather graphic pictures of our activities which we hope will entice you to either join him at Phipps or invite him to join you for a meeting.

Sue Vandertie, President, EGC



F. Nesaw



R. Crawford



L to R: J. Adamson, K. Kruse, M.J. Wasco, R. Flaherty



Greybrooke Garden Club

Spring has sprung early this year! Our gardens are waking up and everyone is already diggin' in!

The feedback following our first two programs this year has been very positive. In January, Anne Maus hosted a very interesting and informative Zoom presentation from Nashville, where she manages the production of a vast quantity of plants that are distributed throughout the U. S. Anne is a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker who kept everyone's interest and attention!

In February, our speaker was Nicholas Balduaf who is a Tick Biologist with the Allegheny County Health Department. His topic was "Lyme Disease & Ticks." We all learned so much more about the increasing tick population in our communities, how to prevent Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases, the life cycle of ticks, and more. We saw actual specimens of ticks at various stages of their life cycle. His presentation was very enlightening!

Our featured speaker in March is Marilyn Germansky, a Penn State Master Gardener. Her topic is "Small Spaces – Can I Fit That Container Here?" We are looking forward to her presentation!

Our club is very busy preparing for our annual Mother's Day Plant Sale. Customers may pre-order beautiful floral hanging baskets, Boston ferns, and various colorful annuals to plant in their gardens. We are also holding a plant sale event on May 11th at McCandless Crossing. Please refer to the flyer in this edition of Nine's News, or go to our website www.greybrookegardenclub.org for more details.

We are quite excited to announce that our District Director, Claudio Bernardo, will be our featured speaker at our May meeting. Her topic is "Landscape Design." This should be a popular program, and, as with all of our programs, it is open to the public.

Our Civic Committee launches into action this Spring with the maintenance of various community gardens and presenting "Garden of the Month" awards.

This year we are introducing two evening meetings in lieu of our regular morning meetings. We are holding them on June 12th and September 11th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the community center in DeHaven Court. Our primary goal is to attract new members who might not be available for regular morning meetings. At the end of the year, we will determine if there is merit to continuing to offer evening meetings.

As with all of you, we have a very busy year planned and are excited about what lies ahead!

Karen Lampman, President, GGC



Mother's Day Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 McCandless Crossing
 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Location: In the grassy area within the circle in front of Bonefish Grill and between Old Navy and Ethan Allen.

Great gifts for Mother's Day!

Shop for beautiful floral hanging baskets and Boston ferns...great gifts for Mother's Day! There will also be a variety of colorful annuals available to purchase. And don't miss out on owning a Spear Head Spade® shovel.



"Tough on Tasks...Easy on You"

Children's Corner

Children may participate in a fun spring craft workshop and will be able to take their craft project home with them!

You may also pre-order hanging baskets, Boston ferns, flats of annuals and potted plants for Mother's Day...go to our website for details as well as the order form.

Greybrooke Garden Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Proceeds help support the Club's annual donations to conservancy groups and worthy community organizations.

Please find us on Facebook at [Greybrooke Garden Club](https://www.facebook.com/GreybrookeGardenClub) or visit us on our website: www.greybrookegardenclub.org



Ingomar Garden Club

A Pittsburgh winter can be so unpredictable. This year, we were not held back from our January and February luncheons. Authentic flavors and a festive atmosphere warmed us up at Tepache Mexican Kitchen on a cold and rainy, January day. As we sampled guacamole, prepared table side, it was nice to taco-bout family and occurrences.

Next, a big praise was in order for our famous Pennsylvania Groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, at The Dive Bar and Grill. A forecasted early spring is something for us to cling. Sunshine and friendship on that February day overshadowed what can typically be gray.

With March here, it's time to start a new gardening year. For our March program, Penn State Master Gardener, Bill Goff will present "Operation Monarch" stressing the importance of butterfly weed in a monarch butterfly's life cycle. A simple seed starting method, using a plastic jug, will be demonstrated and members can participate.

Then in April, "Are You Pondering a Pond?" may provide inspiration to those considering a landscape water feature. Brian Golgan, owner of Pondering LLC, will share how he transformed unused spaces into aquatic wonderlands.

Finally, our members will soon be busy preparing for our plant sale. Perennial plants will be dug from our gardens and brought to our annual dig-ums workshop to be divided, potted, and then lovingly nurtured for the big day. This is our annual fundraiser and we hope you can drop in on May 18th.

"Spring is the Time of Plans and Projects," (Leo Tolstoy)

Julie Barnes, Ingomar GC President



Moon Township Garden Club

We start our 103rd year with a fresh perspective, led by a new Executive Board, and with a promise to continue our past achievements. We focus on new possibilities with our theme, "Seeking Harmony with Nature." We have principles to guide us in our daily lives, whether individually or collectively, such as; interdependence, adaption, diversity, oneness, cycles and circles, health, and beauty. These principles will help us to live in harmony with nature.

Neither the dark grey days of January nor a tease of higher-than-normal February temperatures deterred our organization from being on the move! Our committees wasted no time as members gathered with their creative minds to set goals, plan events and activities, prepare budgets, and set fund-raising goals to ensure our organization's success.

Our board's first initiative is over the next two years to implement procedures to reduce paper. We are transitioning to digital records and aiming to have minimal paper records. Additionally, we may consider converting our old records to digital format.

To uphold the Five Rs challenge, the Program Committee will experiment with reusable plates during our luncheons, as we already use reusable silverware and washable tablecloths.

Our Program Committee has planned some enjoyable and informative speaker programs. In April, our member Joann Canan will present "Your Garden Can Tell A Story" with endless options for theme gardens. Through outside speakers, we will be informed about the effects of light pollution, troublesome hillsides, and an herbal cooking demonstration. Field trips will take us to the Allegheny Observatory, our local community gardens, and to Arcadia Natives, bringing nature into our backyard.

Our Communication Committee has been hard at work on external and internal communications, with their larg-



est accomplishment to date publishing the club's 2024 Yearbook. At 31 pages, the Yearbook contains useful MTGC information and is acclaimed by members as a significant resource.

Every year, our club participates in the Township's Earth Day Festivities. On April 21st, our Youth Committee will have a demonstration of the "Life of a Monarch Butterfly." Children will receive pots with milkweed seeds to plant, a butterfly cage, and instructions on how to raise Monarch butterflies at home.

Perhaps Punxsutawney Phil wasn't far off in his prediction of an early spring, but don't start cleaning your flower beds just yet. Leave those seeds and insects found in the dead foliage for the birds to feed on for another couple of weeks! This is the advice given by our Civic, Horticulture, and Environmental Committee. They are currently busy preparing for

our annual Plant Give-Away in May but first, they want to share what goes on behind the scenes at this time of the year.

Co-Chair Annemarie Malbon says, "Through the generosity of a member, we use donated space in a large, unheated greenhouse to grow seedlings. MTGC members are currently cold-stratifying the locally collected native seeds (in wet sand in the fridge). In early March, they take the seeds to plant in pots. Club members will take turns watering the seedlings until the day of the Plant Give-Away."

Next on the agenda, looking-forward to join fellow gardeners for "Members Day Out!"

*Christy J. Klug,
President, MTGC*





Oak Hills Garden Club

The Oak Hills Garden Club Program Committee has scheduled an exciting series of speakers, field trips and craft projects for this year. Starting with February's meeting, graciously hosted by Marilyn Rogerson at her home, Linda Cranmer and Patty Black assisted members in making china creations for our gardens and our upcoming plant sale.

At the February meeting, we finalized the creation of our Recycling Committee and the procedures the members should follow. The members are to bring their plastic bags and athletic shoes to each meeting, and the Recycling Committee will weigh and distribute them to the appropriate locations. I want to thank Karen Schwab, Beverly Olenic and Patty Black for taking on this responsibility. Our members are so excited about keeping plastic bags out of the land fill that we have collected 50 lbs. already!

I would like to remind everyone that the Oak Hills Garden Club's annual plant sale and basket raffle will be held at the Tanglewood Center in Lyndora on June 1st beginning at 9:00 am ending at 1:00 pm. 90% of the plants are perennials that we have divided from our own gardens, and if they can grow in our garden they certainly will grow in yours. The profits from this fundraiser are donated back into the Butler community, so I hope to see you there.

Melissa Jacoby, President, OHGC





Shaler Garden Club

Shaler Garden Club has officially started the 2024 year with one executive committee meeting and the February general meeting. I can't emphasize enough how happy everyone looked to be back together again, although we still have members who have not returned from their more weather-friendly locations. However, those remaining in the Pittsburgh area have been pleasantly surprised by the unusual February weather.

On President's Weekend our club was visible at the Shaler North Hills Library Caddy Stacks fundraiser when members created a miniature golf hole after the animated short film Lava (2014). Instead of our typical floral motif, members showed their creativity with palm trees, sea creatures, a volcano, an acrylic-painted backdrop of the major characters, and clouds in the sky with seagulls flying overhead. As usual, the patrons enjoyed the challenge, although a hole-in-one was virtually impossible.

Continuing in our efforts to support our local library, seventeen members came out on March 1st to assist 40 participants as they created floral hoops using silk flowers and greenery. We were especially happy to see two friends from the Tusca-Ridge Garden Club come to join in the fun. Lots of shopping took place to collect the necessary materials, with enough materials left over to recreate the event next year. It was equally as much fun seeing what snacks were brought by the patrons as it was to see what unique wreaths they created.

Before the push to prepare for our May 4th plant sale,

educational opportunities can still be enjoyed with an Orchid Workshop on March 8th and a Blue Star Marker program on March 23rd presented by our past District IX Director Karen Faust. We look forward to all the programs, workshops, and field trips scheduled for 2024.

Joanne Laverty, President, SGC



S. Butler County Garden Club

On February 13, twelve club members and one guest gathered at the Harmony Inn for lunch. This winter get-together was organized by our field trip committee. We were able to order off the regular menu and pay individually. We had wonderful food and service, and a group photo is attached.

New for this year is some beautiful signage for our Graham Park Community Garden. Photos are attached. One of the signs talks about the importance of gardening with native plants. The sign explains what a native plant is and why we should care about them.

Another sign is about the monarch butterfly and its metamorphosis: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, emerging adult, and adult. Also documented is the importance of the milkweed plant to the monarch. All stages of the monarch can be found in Graham Park Garden.

A third sign talks about the history of the Blue Star Memorial Marker Program. This sign will be placed beside the Blue Star By-Way Marker in Graham Park Garden. Funding for the signs was made possible by matching grant money from the Cranberry Township Community Chest (CTCC).



Jill Barger, President, SBCGC



Tusca-Ridge Garden Club

Our first members meeting of 2024 is held in March. This is the first time we will see everyone since our Christmas Lunch, a delicious meal in a restaurant followed by the installation of new officers and entertainment by Stacey Ivoll.

Meanwhile our board has been busy planning programs for the coming year. We can look forward to some informative guest speakers and a field trip. We are trying something new in the summer. Our annual "Make and Take" activity will be held at a different time. We are hoping that this will attract some new members.

This will be my first time as President of TRGC and I am missing Ann Nieman's guiding hand. Luckily I have several wonderful past presidents available to advise me and I am looking forward to a great year ahead.

Susan Parry, President, TRGC



Shamrock Symbolism And Meaning

The symbol of the shamrock is unique to Irish culture and tradition. This fact is generally known and accepted in most cultures – look at leprechauns and trinkets on St. Patrick's Day. Shamrocks, though, are not to be confused with four-leaf clovers, although both can be associated with good luck and fortune. Although they symbolize roughly the same things, the reasoning behind the symbolism is different.

While the four-leaf clover is thought to be lucky because of its rareness, the shamrock symbol is lucky because of its abundance and prevalence in nature. There is a strong connection, one which has stood the test of time.

The Celts were the first people to denote symbolic value upon the shamrock, as their culture reveres the number three. This is evident in their work with design and Celtic knots. Shamrocks were thus viewed as naturally occurring examples of that sacred and holy number. With its three petals, the shamrock's symbolic meaning represents the balancing of forces in many ways.

<https://www.sunsigns.org/shamrock-symbolic-meanings/>





**INGOMAR GARDEN CLUB
PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024
9 AM - 2 PM**

Corner of Ingomar Rd. and Rt. 19
Perennials, Veggies, Annuals,
Baskets, Flea Market





**70TH ANNUAL
SHALER GARDEN CLUB
PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, May 4th
9 am - 12 noon
Kiwanis Park (Wetzel Road)**

Perennials from Local Gardens
Annuals, Vegetables, Herbs
Bulbs & Houseplants
Mother's Day Plant Arrangements
Baked Goods & Auction Baskets

Please join us rain or shine



GARDENFEST

Presented by
Fox Chapel Garden Club

Saturday, May 11th

9:30 – 3:00

*O'Hara Township
Community Park*

www.foxchapelgardenclub.org

District IX Annual Meeting

The Moon Township Garden Club is “over the Moon” to host the 2024 District IX Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, September 5 at the Montour Heights Country Club. This will be an opportunity to discover many ways gardening can flavor your life experiences.

- Learn about other clubs’ activities.
- Win an awesome raffle basket.
- Enjoy a delicious luncheon with gardening buddies.

All of the specific details of the District IX Annual Meeting will be on the registration form to be published in the June Nine News. Please mark your calendar now and SAVE THE DATE to join us!

Marcia Welsh, Fran Lopinsky, Mary Ann Miller, Event chairs

DISTRICT IX
MEMBERS' DAY OUT

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

The Chadwick, 10545 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Registration and Art Show Display

10:00 am Brunch Buffet

11:15 - 11:30 a.m. GCFP and District IX Updates

11:30-12:15 p.m PROGRAM

12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Trash to Treasure and raffle basket winners announced

Program: "Phone Photography

By: Don Orkoskey

Don is the owner of WDO Photography Pittsburgh. He has been teaching photography for over 15 years and teaches at Phipps Conservatory, the Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens and privately. Learn to capture amazing photos of your garden with nothing more than your phone.

Highlights: First Ever - District IX Art Show

Raffle of Spring and Garden Related Items

Plant Vendor – DJ's Nursery

"Trash to Treasure" Contest Entries

Register by March 15 \$27.50 per person Make checks payable to District IX GCFP

Mail reservations to Diane Tucek, 9500 Babcock Blvd, Apt 55 Allison Park, PA 15101

the26@verizon.net 412 713-5812

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Garden Club: _____