

Summer 2024

Nine's News



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



Director's Message

It seems like yesterday that I was installed as the District IX Director, and now I am submitting my final report as Director. I truly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to represent District IX. Thank you to the officers and committee chairpersons who served on my Board. I want to congratulate all of our members. Collectively you have worked to make District IX one of the strongest and most dynamic Districts in the State. I am so appreciative of your efforts. We shared our passion for horticulture and our concern for the environment with our members and our communities. We hosted more programs and educational opportunities and definitely reached a broader audience than ever before. I encourage you to celebrate the success of your clubs by taking time to host appreciation luncheons, picnics and socials. Keep the 'fun' in belonging to a garden club. There are many friendships to be made through garden club activities.

In March, our Member's Day Out was well attended. We received such positive feedback on the Art Show that we'll plan to have a similar show next year. If you haven't heard, The Chadwick is permanently closing its doors, so we will be looking for a new location for next year's Member's Day Out. Suggestions are welcome. Merrienne Cacali from MTGC created another fabulous Trash to Treasure entry that went on to win first place at State Convention.

Speaking of the GCFP Convention - District IX again received the Comprehensive District Award and we also received the Comprehensive Youth Award. These awards reflect just how involved we are in community outreach and program development.

Join me in welcoming another new garden club to District IX. Kennedy Garden Club officially became a member of the GCFP and our District effective May 1, 2024. Be sure to read about them in this issue of the Nine's News. They are a dynamic club and will be a great fit within our District. We are now 11 clubs strong.

In the upcoming months we will be hosting garden tours, field trips and working to maintain our community gardens. The next District gathering will be on Sept 5th at our Annual Meeting hosted by Moon Township Garden Club. The theme of the meeting will be "Savor the Flavor of Gardening". The Annual Meeting promises to be a wonderful event, complete with the installation of our new District IX officers. The invitation is included in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Claudia Bernardo, District IX Director

Inside This Issue

- 2-4 Committee Reports
- 5 -6 Getting to Know You
- 7 Art Show pics
- 8 Members' Day Out pics
- 9-19 Club Reports
- 20 Events
- 21 Annual Meeting registration form

Coming Events

June 18, 2024

District IX Board Meeting
The Country House in Portersville, PA

June 20, 2024

Pollinator program at Shaler Library

June 29, 2024

SBCGC Garden Tour

July 14, 2024

SGC Garden Tour

July 31, 2024

Deadline for award submissions

August 22, 2024

Deadline for Annual Meeting Reservations

August 30, 2024

Deadline for Nine's News submissions

September 5, 2024

District IX Annual Meeting, Hosted by
MTGC at Montour Heights Country Club

September 17, 2024

District IX Board Meeting

October 15, 2024

Deadline for placing orders
on fall bulbs with TRGC.

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



FLOWER POWER

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. It's also the perfect time to thank your backyard pollinators. Why not buy them some flowers?



District IX is composed of eleven garden clubs covering five counties. We total close to 450 members with clubs ranging in size from 20 to 80. In a recent survey, club presidents reported over 21 civic beautification projects which are situated in highly visible locations throughout the district.

Think of the impact we could make during Pollinator Week if we each bought one new flowering native plant for our backyard pollinators and one new plant for our community gardens. Needless to say, our pollinators would be so appreciative.

My backyard pollinators really seem to like my mid-summer flowering plants. Some of their favorites include Anise Hyssop (*agastache foeniculum*), Butterfly Weed (*asclepias tuberosa*), Joe Pye (*eutrochium* spp.), Scarlet Bee Balm (*monarda didyma*) and White Beardtongue (*penstemon digitalis*). They all grow well in my clay soil and the deer seldom bother them. I am going to buy the pollinators a native species of Tickseed (*coreopsis*) this year. In fact, I will probably buy 3 - 5 plants because the pollinators really appreciate it when the plants grow in clusters.

Another great gift idea for your pollinators is the addition of a water source. Just find a shallow dish, add water and a few small stones to make it easy for pollinators to land and dip into the water. If you locate the water source next to a water faucet, it makes it easy to add fresh water every few days. To get the minerals and moisture they need, butterflies would love to a 'puddler'—a shallow dish filled with sand, compost, manure or, even better, a mud mix of these materials.

When it's too hot to work outside, check out Penn State's Pollinator Friendly Habitat Certification program. <https://pollinators.psu.edu/landscaping-for-pollinators/pollinator->

habitat-certification. The certification is managed by the Center for Pollinator Research. Their website is brimming with information about pollinators and native plants. Be sure to see what it takes to get your garden and your club-maintained community gardens certified as PA Pollinator Friendly. It is as easy as 1, 2, 3, 4.

Does your club have a pollinator or environmental advocacy committee? Mine does. During Pollinator Week we are presenting a program, open to members and the public, about native plants and pollinators. We are also going on a field trip to a local garden center where we will hear about their native plants. The committee also writes plants and pollinator articles for our club newsletter and we help interested fellow club members work towards certification.

District IX can make a difference. Our numbers are great and even small changes in our backyards and communities will help pollinators survive and thrive.

Happy Pollinator Week!

Leslie Anthony, District IX Pollinator Advocate



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

To plant a garden is to dream of tomorrow.
Audrey Hepburn

District IX consists of over 400 members in 11 clubs of varying sizes: 1 small (1-20), 5 medium (21-50), and 4 large (51+). Each of the clubs arrange their memberships in different ways with some listing all members as Active and some breaking membership into Active, Associate and/or Honorary.

All members are valued for their efforts and input. Each club continues today to focus on Recruiting, Retaining and Revitalizing its members.

When I recently approached the club presidents about mentioning long term members in the Nine News, their response was amazing. I expected a couple of names but received many, many more. I wish there was enough space to share all their stories like that of Kay Womsley who joined 58 years ago and mentored Janet Eck eight years later! Mary Margaret Wright celebrated her 50th year of membership this past March. Although Cindy Chupka joined in 1979, she began attending club meetings as a 2year old in the lap of her mother in 1952.

What better way to Revitalize District IX membership than to recognize those dedicated members who have shared their 'tomorrow dreams' with us for over 40 years! It is with gratitude and respect we honor these women for their longevity in their commitment to gardening and love of nature.

Congratulations one and all!!!

50 plus years:

Lois Reuter (FCGC) 1964
Kay Womsley (IGC) 1966
Karen Steup (EGC) 1970
Dotty Beckwith (FCGC) 1971
Mikell Schenck (FCGC) 1971
Hanah Van Horn (FCGC) 1971
Jacque Leefe (TRGC) 1972
Janet Eck (IGC) 1974
Mary Margaret Wright (GGC) 1974
Mary Dickson (BGC) 1974
Bette King Norris (BGC) 1974

40 plus years:

Lois Mellot (FCGC) 1975
Cris Scott (FCGC) 1976

Loretta Daczkowski (MTGC) 1976
Nancy Willems (GGC) 1976
Bett Beeson (FCGC) 1977
Mereb Drennan (BGC) 1977
Ruth Ann Wiegand (BGC) 1977
Marcia Vallecorsa (TRGC) 1978
Barb Baer (GGC) 1978
Sally Foster (FCGC) 1979
Cindy Chupka (OHGC) 1979
Rin Babson (FCGC) 1980
Marcia Coleman (GGC) 1980
Elsie Standley (TRGC) 1983
Caryl Day (BGC) 1984
Gail Hunter (BGC) 1984
Nancy Mikan (BGC) 1984
Carolyn Street (BGC) 1984
Judy Todd (BGC) 1984

Marcia Welsh, District IX Membership Chair

DISTRICT IX ANNUAL MEETING

Savor the Flavor of Gardening

How does gardening flavor your life? Do you joyfully anticipate the new blooms of spring? Does snipping a summer bouquet of pretty posies bring a smile to your face? Perhaps you relish the fall harvest of vegetables.

Come "Savor the Flavor of Gardening" at the Annual District IX Meeting on September 5, 2024, hosted by the MTGC at Montour Heights Country Club. You will learn about other clubs' activities and share a delicious luncheon buffet complete with a Pittsburgh Cookie Table and Chocolate Fountain. You can take some chances on awesome raffle baskets and peruse a variety of gardening exhibits. Penn State Master Gardener, Past Chair, and present member of the Western PA Unit of the Herb Society of America, Dr. Silloo Kapadia will tempt your tastebuds with her presentation on Culinary Herbs.

This talk provides practical information on different aspects of culinary herb gardening, including identification, hardiness, cultivation, disease-resistant cultivars, pollinators, propagation, harvesting and suggestions for using herbs in the kitchen with selected recipes. See the official Call included in this Nine News. We so look forward to meeting you in Moon for an interesting and informative gathering.

Marcia Welsh, Mary Ann Miller, Fran Lopinsky District IX Annual Meeting Chairs

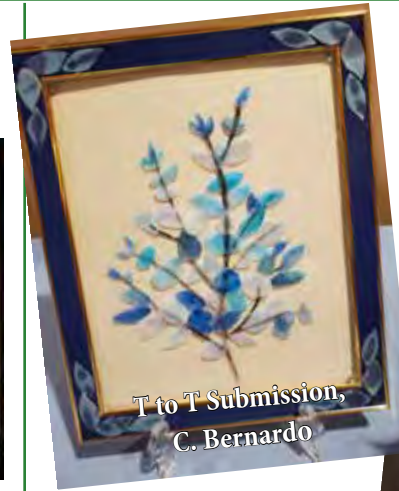
TRASH TO TREASURE

Congratulations to Mari-
Canne Cacali, member of
the Moon Township Garden
Club on her 1st Place award at
the GCFP Convention in April!



Marianne's Trash to Treasure
project was selected at our
Members Day Out luncheon
to go on and represent District
IX at the Convention. She took
home the Blue Ribbon with her creatively beautiful design.
This is the second time in a row she won the 1st Place
award in our District and then at the GCFP Convention.
Well done Marianne, well done!

Rose Romboski, Trash to Treasure Chair



SHALER CLUB MEMBER

DELIGHTS EVERYONE ON ZOOM!

Shaler Garden Club member,
Elaine Liberati represented
District IX when she presented
the state-wide zoom program on
Hugelkultur. Elaine's interest in
Hugelkultur began when she lost
the many ash trees on her property
that succumbed to the ash borer.



Hugelkultur is the technique of
building a 'mound culture' from
decaying wood and other organic
matter. Rather than hauling off the fallen trees or chip-
ping them, Elaine and her husband used the fallen trees as
the base of their mounded gardens that eventually became
their nutrient rich vegetable beds. What a great sustain-
able gardening technique!

Elaine's garden was featured on the Shaler Garden Club's
Garden Tour in 2022. She is a Penn State Master Gardener
(Allegheny County). Her lovely gardens are certified as a
Pollinator-Friendly Habitat, an Audubon Society Certified
Backyard Habitat, and as a Wildlife Habitat.

Thank you, Elaine, for representing District IX and pre-
senting such a wonderful program.

Claudia Bernardo, District IX Director

2024 CONVENTION TRASH TO TREASURE WINNER

The 2024 GCFP Trash to Treasure contest was held on April 7, 2024, in Lancaster, PA. All the entries were very highly creative and diverse while staying within the theme of the contest, "In a Mile 'Work Garden."

1st Place: Congratulations to Marianne Cacali, Moon Township Garden Club, District IX
Title: "A Holstein Blossom"

2nd Place: Jane Suters and Diane Jacobs, Pottstown Area Garden Club, District I/II

3rd Place: Pam Paules and Ellen Ehlbeck, The Garden Club of York, District IV

Honorable Mention: Patricia Balte, Lawrence Park Garden Club, District VIII

Naser and Manisha Chowdhury
GCFP Trash to Treasure Chairs



GCFP Awards Page on the GCFP Website
pagardenclubs.org

AWARDS DEADLINES

Don't miss this opportunity!!! July 31 deadline is
around the corner and it is time for all of our Club
Presidents and Awards Chairpersons to get busy with
nominations for our District Awards.

Remember this is your opportunity to recognize those
that set the benchmark for excellence. Acknowledge their
exceptional performance and provide a sense of accom-
plishment for their hard work. We all have members that
go above and beyond on a regular basis, allowing our
clubs to be strong contributors to our communities.

Please forward your club submissions for Laurels and
Daffodils, as well as the Civic Club Project Award, Out-
standing Horticulturist award, and Distinguished Club
Award to Cheri Davison (cheri.d@comcast.net) by July
31.

Also due July 31 is your submission for the for the For-
get Me Not award nomination. Please also send to Cheri
and a copy Claudia Bernardo, District Director (claudia-
jbernardo@yahoo.com)

Cheri Davison, District IX Awards Chair



GCFP/CAR/SGC YOUTH AWARDS

GRADE 5

1st place: Ruby Heitzenroder, IGC
 2nd place: Elijah Haberman, IGC
 3rd place: Charlotte Hamburg, IGC

GRADE 7

1st place: Kate Record, T-RGC

GRADE 8

1st place: Evelyn Schultz, T-RGC
 2nd place: Aleena Vanucci, T-RGC

GCFP SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

Grade 4

2nd place: Molly Bereznay, MTGC
 3rd place: Sofia Irwin, T-RGC

DISTRICT IX - WINNER OF THE GCFP COMPREHENSIVE AWARD

Sponsoring the most District, Club and Individual Awards

GCFP CAR-SGC NEWSLETTER AWARDS

3-12 page newsletter-Large Club
3rd place: Tusca-Ridge Garden Club
 13-24 page newsletter – District
3rd place: Nine's News
 Over 24 pages
1st place: Butler Garden Club

GCFP CAR-SGC CLUB YEARBOOK AWARDS:

70-99 Members
2nd place: Shaler Garden Club

GCFP-NGC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMUNITY GARDENS:

D. Continuing participation in a community or religious garden while partnering with another organization:
 Medium Garden Club
1st place: Southern Butler County Garden Club

ROADSIDE PLANTINGS:

Medium Club
1st place: Butler Garden Club

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:

A-1 Special one-time event:
 Medium Club
1st place: Southern Butler County Garden Club
3rd place: Butler Garden Club

B-1 Continuing Beautification Project:
 Medium Club:
1st place: Southern Butler County Garden Club

GCFP – NGC ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY:

Wildlife Survival / Public Education Program
 Large Club:
1st place: Shaler Garden Club

GCFP – NGC GARDENING CONTAINER GARDENING (individual)

Large Club:
2nd place: Shaler Garden Club

GCFP – NGC MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AND EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS
 Medium Club
1st place: S. Butler County Garden Club

SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE

WEBSITE
 Large Club
1st place: Tusca-Ridge Garden Club
 Medium Club:
1st place: S. Butler County Garden Club
 FACEBOOK
 Medium Club
1st place: Southern Butler County Garden Club

DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATION

Large Club
1st place: Moon Township Garden Club

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Medium Club

1st place: Southern Butler County Garden Club

Large Club

1st place: Shaler Garden Club

GCFP HORTICULTURE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For an outstanding series of Horticulture Programs presented throughout the year

Club Award: Shaler Garden Club

GCFP SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

K. WORKSHOP (Individual Member)

1st place Polly Berginc "Evergreen Centerpieces"

Butler Garden Club

GCFP CLUB MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Small Club

Edgeworth Garden Club

SPECIAL CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrating 90 years

Fox Chapel Garden Club

GCFP CAR-SGC OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT AWARD

Awarded for an educational exhibit that relates to our national objectives

1st place: Leslie Anthony "Pollinator Restoration Exhibit" Shaler Garden Club

**PRESIDENTIAL CITATION
BLUE/GOLD STAR MEMORIALS**

Karen Faust: Butler Garden Club

A big shout out to all of our Awards Chairpersons and Members who took the time to submit the entries for various annual awards for 2023. Remember there are 11 Districts and 106 clubs with 4700 members within the GCFP that are eligible to participate in this process. District IX can certainly be proud of the recognition that was conferred on them for their efforts.

This year awards were divided into two categories. (1) Youth Contests and (2) District, Club and Individual Awards. The comprehensive award (the most awards per district) in both categories was presented to District IX.

Cheri Davison, District IX Awards Chair

PERENNIAL BLOOM AWARD

As you know, each club may nominate one member each year for the Perennial Bloom Award. The district nominations are acknowledged at the club level as award recipients and are to be honored by each of their clubs. The District then selects one nomination to be forwarded to GCFP to be submitted at the state and regional level.



The Perennial Bloom Award is given to a longtime member who has made the club grow and bloom with their continuous support of the goals and objectives. Just as perennials serve as the anchor, providing structure to our gardens, hard workers serve as the glue that holds everything together.

This year, we had five clubs submit names for this honor:

Butler Garden Club - Gail Hunter

Moon Township Garden Club - Merrienne Cacali

Shaler Garden Club - Kathy White

Southern Butler Garden Club - Alicia Garrison

Tusca-Ridge Garden Club - Stacey Ivoll

These nominations were absolutely outstanding and all deserve the highest of respect for what they do and have contributed to their organizations. District IX can be very proud to have such outstanding members with a dedication to the purpose of the GCFP.

Only one name can be passed on for State and Regional consideration. Stacey Ivoll has been selected to be that candidate. Stacey is a dedicated member of the Tusca-Ridge Garden Club and also serves as the Assistant District IX Director.

The nominations this year were outstanding and each of these clubs are so fortunate to have these individuals who are the backbones of our organizations. Please take time to acknowledge and thank these members for their continued efforts.

Cheri Davison, District IX Awards Chair

Congratulations to all who participated in
THE ART SHOW!



MEMBERS' DAY OUT



Art Show Artists



Art Show Display



Club Reports

Butler Garden Club

As mentioned in my previous report, our club newsletter is blossoming. I'm happy to report that we received a first-place award at the State Convention for it, as well as a few other accolades for our workshops, beautification projects and a Presidential Citation for Karen Faust's work with The Blue Star Marker Project! It was also great to learn how strong a showing our District had at the convention with regard to awards, as seems to consistently be the case!

Our April meeting did not disappoint at the terrific **Grows on Main** shop. It was a beautiful venue along with a very informative program by owners, Madeline Miller and her husband, Adrian DeSantis on caring for houseplants. Our other downtown adventures in April also had us helping clean up the sidewalks of the city on a rainy Saturday morning.

Spring continued with our annual plantings at various ends of Butler, from Gateway Gardens to The Senator Lowrie House and to Lifesteps Adult Day Health Program, where we engage with the clients to fill large planters to adorn the entrance to their facility. While these are all routine annual events, we approach the projects with eagerness and gratitude for our community.

The balance of our time has been spent wrapping up details and preparing for our biennial fund raiser in June, this year's theme being "Summer Solstice Garden Party", finally celebrating the long sunny days ahead after a wet, but busy spring!

Susan Morgus, President, BGC



Presidential Citation winner Karen Faust with GCFP President Leanna Ryba.



Edgeworth Garden Club

Spring is such a delight, especially when digging in the dirt! After all, that is what we garden club members do best, right? EGC does a decent amount of digging for the benefit of our community so the enclosed pictures will give you an idea of what and how.

Our April meeting was a field trip. We journeyed to Hamm's Hortus to see his extensive collection of daffodils, make a purchase or two, and discuss "daff-0-culture" with the ladies who conducted a tour of the premises. This was of course, followed by lunch without which no field trip would ever be complete!

Next, our Tuskegee Memorial team once again planted three lovely flower beds at the memorial in Sewickley Cemetery and will tend them lovingly throughout the summer. These ladies take on this task each year and do a fantastic job.

In May, one of our members sang our praises at the Pitt Moss booth during the May Mart event in Sewickley, which resulted in a donation of several bags of Pitt Moss for our use in our bus stop plantings. Since many of our members have never tried the product this should be a learning experience for all of us. We are hoping that the diplodeinas that were planted, will thrive.

May Mart is the Sewickley way of celebrating the change of seasons and as usual our club put in a lavish display of various garden related items, as well as plants and Mother's Day gift baskets of annuals. Piloted by our capable and new club "president elect," Jessie Britton, our club once again moved our financial status into the green so we end our club meeting year on a positive note.

In June, we close our year with a member picnic, then, for the months of July and August when the actual club meetings are in hiatus, we will get together for a field trip or two and perhaps a member's garden tour.

We wish all District IX club members a bountiful summer.

Suzan M. Vandertie, President, EGC



Fox Chapel Garden Club

What an incredibly exuberant spring our club experienced this year! We began at our annual luncheon meeting on March 27th at the Pittsburgh Field Club to celebrate our past year's accomplishments and to reflect on our past. I posed the question to our members: "what is the significance of the year 1931?"

A few could answer, (especially our historians!) but now everyone knows. It is the year our club was created by several women who gathered because they wanted to make a difference in their community at a time when women were not eligible to participate in public/community organizations because they were females! Those enterprising women found ways to contribute and advocate for environmental stewardship and community involvement outside the traditional all male channels, and we continue that tradition to this day.

Fast forward to April 2024 and our efforts continue. Our Gardenfest event has continued to grow and increase its reach with participants from The North American Rock

Garden Society, the Western Pennsylvania Herb Society, Tree Pittsburgh, Lambs Ear Farm, The Mens Garden Club, Guyasuta Garden Club, Penn State Master Gardeners of Allegheny County, Country Barn Farms plus local artisans. Despite Mother Nature throwing three seasons of weather at all of us within the confines of 6 hours we braved it out and customers came despite the challenges! You can see from the smiles a little weather did not keep us from accomplishing our mission!

The night before Gardenfest, we load our potted perennials and then gather to socialize and share food and drink! You can tell from the smiles from our members from the day of the event as well as the night before, we enjoy one another's company!

Fast forward to our upcoming events in June and we'll round out our programming year with a Pop-Up visit to a "zone-pushing garden" that was voted in 2019 as the "Best Front Yard in America" by Better Homes and Gardens. The owner once lived in Florida and his yard is a tropical paradise!



At our monthly membership meeting in June we will learn about the history of gardening in America and the region from early explorers to our presidents, to Pittsburgers (like the Frick family) from a presentation by the Frick Museum entitled "Land of Abundance: Pittsburgh and the American Garden." Can't wait for that one!

And finally in July, we will venture to Laughlinton for our final Pop Up of the season for a docent led tour of the Scaife estate, bequeathed to the Brandywine Conservancy in 2015 which is "a stunning preserve of 1,089 acres of forests, meadows and open space; a spring-fed reservoir and pond; a 7,000 square-foot conservatory and a 3,700 square-foot greenhouse..."

All this activity has been based on a renewed effort on the part of my executive committee to make our garden club compelling, instructive and stimulating for our members by

offering them innumerable opportunities for learning through lectures, field trips and hands-on activities. We experienced a rise in membership from 76 to 82 this year and the word is out. Interest in joining our club continues to grow. We have several candidates in the pipeline! What more could a president ask for?

I leave you with this shot from my own garden earlier in the season as Mother Nature helped create a most ethereal presentation of colors and textures. Because after all, it is the natural world that brings us all together and compels us to garden!

Respectfully submitted, with gratitude for the opportunity to serve as President of the Fox Chapel Garden Club,

Karel Ulizio, President. FCGC



Greybrooke Garden Club

Greybrooke Garden Club began its new fiscal year in May with a change in leadership. Bonnie MacDonald was appointed Second Vice President, replacing Mary Margaret Wright who stepped down at the end of April. Bonnie is also Programs Chairperson. Mary Margaret is now chairing our Horticulture Committee.

May was a very busy month with plant sales! Customers were able to pre-order beautiful hanging baskets as well as potted annuals and full trays of bedding plants. We had a large volume of pre-orders that were fulfilled on May 10. On May 11, we held our annual Mother's Day plant sale at McCandless Crossing. Although the weather brought cold rain in the afternoon, sales were quite good. A special "thank you" is extended to Shaler and Tusca Ridge Garden Clubs for supporting us by purchasing several of the plants that were left over from our May 11 event!

Our District Director, Claudia Bernardo, was our featured speaker at our May meeting. She gave an excellent presentation on "Landscape Design." Attendees learned about basic concepts to create beautiful and functional garden spaces.

Our June meeting will be our first evening meeting. It will be held beginning at 6:00 PM at Beechwood Farms Nature Center, and Roxanne Swan will present "Native Plant Gardening in Containers & Small Spaces." As with most of our programs, guests are welcome to attend.

On June 19, we will be embarking on our first field trip of the year with a visit to Wilpen Hall in Sewickley. It's an historic estate with full time gardeners and a very rich history.

As always, guests are welcome to attend most of our programs and field trips. Additional information can be found on our website www.greybrookegardenclub.org under the "Events" tab.

On July 10, Greybrooke Garden Club members will enjoy their annual garden party picnic at the home of Karen & DeWitt Lampman. In addition to sharing delicious food and friendship, they will have an opportunity to preview the Lampmans' gardens, which will be included on Shaler Garden Club's Annual Garden Tour on July 14.

There is no regular meeting scheduled for August as members will be enjoying the end of summer with family and friends. Plans are underway for additional field trips, so check our website periodically for updates.

Our Civic Committee is in full swing: maintaining gardens at Passavant Hospital, Orion Personal Care Residence, and Concordia of Wexford, as well as presenting "Garden of the Month" awards to worthy recipients in our communities.

I hope that we all find some time this summer to smell the roses!

Karen Lampman, President, GGC



Ingomar Garden Club

There is never a “dill” moment. Our 2024-26 officers were sworn in at our May meeting under the theme, “Growing off the Beat-in Path.” It is a challenge to move a little outside the comfort zone.

After lots of plant sale/flea market preparations, the big day finally arrived for our annual fund raiser. Before set up, an early morning torrential rain brought back unforgettable visions of last year’s non-stop showers. “Oh no, not again,” was hanging in our minds. Then, good fortune arrived. The sun came out and reigned over a productive day.

With planting time upon us, it was now time to tap into those creative juices one more “thyme” at our time-honored locations. It is our 70th year for maintaining David Councill Park. Last year’s newly constructed IGC stone sign is a stand out as colorful annuals enhance an area memorializing our veterans. Lively containers filled with harmonious plants and a recently added garden at UPMC’s entrances, and around the ICU, bring joy and comfort to patrons, employees and patients.

At Northland Library’s Edith’s Garden, visitors will experience a little brightness at the entrance incorporating our Blue Star Marker. The possibilities can be endless when experimenting with different plant combinations; a unique way to “Growing off the beat-in Path.”

Happy summer,

Julie Barnes, President, IGC



Kennedy Garden Club

It all began last May when the Kennedy Garden Club celebrated our 100th Anniversary with a lovely luncheon. That got our Executive Board thinking that we needed to work smarter and do bigger projects to benefit our local communities in the future. Joining the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania was the answer. Being able to network with other garden clubs as well as becoming a 501(c)(3) and having a Liability Insurance policy sounded great!

For our March meeting we had Andy Amrhein the host of the Evey Hardware Home Improvement Show from KDKA Radio as a guest speaker. We made a FB post with this information and had one woman come to the meeting just to see him and hopefully she will join the club. We even live streamed his presentation on our FB page. Andy discussed the latest products on the market to improve your garden this season. He is an excellent guest!

In April, we teamed up with the newly formed Parks and Recreation Board in Kennedy Township to host the first Earth Day Clean-Up of Fairhaven Park. We had one hundred volunteers of ALL ages show up to pick up trash, do some pruning, divide perennials and remove metal staples from wooden picnic tables. Members of the Girl Scout Troop 60184 greeted our volunteers and went on to weed. We even had Pittsburgh Pirates' game tickets and an autographed Andrew McCutchen baseball as giveaways. It was a well received event by our community and we have plans to make it even bigger next year.

In May, we had our Spring Festival that featured our annual Plant and Bake Sales. We had over forty raffle baskets. One raffle included a cedar, dowel pin constructed handmade obelisk by one of our members' husbands that also had a yellow Black-Eyed Susan vine plant. The event featured over fifty vendors and five food trucks. Even though it rained for most of the event, we raised money, had fun, made new friends, bought some craft items and ate well. We also learned that in the future we need to accept credit cards via PayPal or Venmo.

On May 30th, we presented our Student Scholarship to Louis Mariano from Montour High School. Louis wrote an excellent essay on the importance of our parks system. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh and majoring in Mechanical Engineering with an emphasis on

making our railways safer.

We are now looking forward to our Annual Picnic, our Appreciation Luncheon, Kennedy Township's Community Days and doing a lot of crafting projects for our upcoming Fall Festival.

Judy Fritzges, President, KGC



Moon Township Garden Club

Time flies when you're having fun, and this certainly applies to our Garden Club as we wrap up our spring agenda and prepare for our summer session in just a couple of weeks.

We proudly joined Moon Township Parks and Recreation in April to commemorate Earth Day. Our Youth Activities Committee, led by Bonnie Keen, hosted an interactive booth that was one of the busiest during the day's activities. There was a steady line of children waiting to explore our exhibit on the life cycle of Monarch butterflies. Each child received a butterfly cage, seeds, a pot, and instructions to raise monarch butterflies. This year, we added a beautiful monarch butterfly created by our own Merrienne Cacali, allowing children to have their picture taken!

We hosted our highly anticipated 4th annual MTGC Plant Giveaway and Plant Exchange event in May. This year, we featured a variety of bird-friendly native plants that would bloom throughout the growing season. The community's enthusiasm was evident as visitors flocked to the Pavilion well before the 10:00 start time, proving the adage "the early bird gets the worm." The Civic, Horticulture, and Environmental Committee, led by Annemarie Malbon and Andrea Schriver, were all set to welcome the early arrivals, making this event a resounding success.

The enthusiastic return of previous attendees and the interest of new visitors, who discovered our event through local magazine articles, significantly contributed to our event's success. The collective effort of our committee members (pictured) and volunteers, tirelessly spending time and effort meeting and greeting the visitors, answering questions, and guiding them to a selection, made this event enjoyable for all. We gave away 1,000 plants, including those seedlings to mature ones, and others brought in for exchange.

The theme of our April meeting was "Beauty in Many Forms." Our member and garden enthusiast Joann Canan gave a delightful presentation on "Your Garden Can Tell a Story." We learned that every garden reflects the gardener's love of nature and can become a theme garden by showcasing the gardener's interests and passions.

In May, our theme was "Our Place in the Wider Universe" when our Program & Hospitality Committee, led by Carol Howe, made a field trip to the amazing Allegheny Observatory. Forty percent of our membership joined the day's activities, including an hour-long nature walk, a private tour of the Observatory, and lunch!

Christy Klug, MTGC President



Oak Hills Garden Club

It is hard to believe spring is almost over. Our members have been busy dividing their perennials for our upcoming annual plant sale and actively publicizing it thru out the community. Besides planning for the sale we had a packed program for the spring.

In March we met at the Hardwood Cafe on Route 8 and our guest speaker was Jim Kalka from the Dahlia Society. He gave an interesting presentation of the various types of dahlia plants and new introductions. He provided resources to purchase tubers and recommended additional reading material.

April's meeting at Natili North Pizza we were introduced to the spotted lantern fly, presented by Diane Dallos, Master Gardener Coordinator. The SLF is destructive to PA's grapevine industry, they also kill black walnut saplings and the Tree of Heaven, which is an invasive species. She emphasized that it is important to check your car when you leave an area that is infested so you don't bring them home to your garden. They will not kill garden plants but will stress them.

We ended our spring program this May with a trip to the New Wilmington Amish greenhouses. They have a large variety of annuals and are reasonably priced. Linda Cranmer graciously organized this excursion for us and forewarned the greenhouse owners ahead of time that serious plant lovers were coming. We lunched at Ryder's restaurant and finished the day at the Cheese House for a nice selection of cheese, deli and specialty items. We all enjoyed this so much we want to make it an annual event.

I will wrap up with our recycling committee update, we have collected 150 lbs of plastic wrap thru April!

Melissa Jacoby, President OHGC



NexTrex NexTrex Recycling Challenge

How does the challenge work?

- Register on NexTrex.com to obtain access to the "New Portal"
- Determine a 12-month collection time period
- Collect a minimum of 1000 lbs.
- Report recycling totals at my.trex.com
- Weigh, record and attach pictures
- Deliver the collected plastic film to a participating retailer (see list) for recycling

What does Trex provide?

- Up to three recycling bins
- Posters

What can I win?

Stores prefer smaller and more frequent amounts in the green/red bin. Please contact store ahead of time with larger amounts.

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

Register on the website NexTrex.com







TIME: Thursday, June 20 at 6:00 pm
LOCATION: Shaler North Hills Library
 1822 Mt. Royal Blvd.
 Glenshaw, PA 15116
PRESENTED BY: Shaler Garden Club, Pollinator Advocacy Committee, Claudia Bernardo, speaker

Bring in the bees, butterflies and birds by planting three seasons of native perennial powerhouse plants.

This program will highlight a succession of blooms and the pollinators they attract from spring through fall.



Open to the public
 Please register: 412-486-0211
 shalerlibrary.org



Shaler Garden Club

April and May 2024 were very busy months that raises the question once again...where did the time go? We began by recognizing Earth Day as a small group of Shaler Garden Club members created small packets that contained two pollinator seed packets. These 320 packets were then distributed to Shaler Area kindergarten teachers who sent them home with their students. Here's hoping our volunteers made some children and bees happy with their efforts.

Next came our Annual Plant Sale, that also included a bake sale, basket raffle, 50/50, Mother's Day arrangements, and even a jewelry table. This was our second year accepting credit card payments, which significantly increased our sales. However, the primary reason for the sale's success was membership participation, which was estimated at 89%. In addition to baking and creating baskets and arrangements, members took time to pot up their perennials and house plants for sale. One member donated 320 plants for the sale which has to be a record. Also, credit needs to be given to Mother Nature for holding off the rain until closing time. Although the plant sale is essential for raising club funds and donations to non-profits, what should not be overlooked is how much the community looks forward to finding such good deals and getting gardening advice.

In mid-May, over 45 members attended the New Member Tea at one of our member's homes. To make this event even more of a success was learning that 11 of our new members were able to participate. The club has been very fortunate given the enthusiasm and skills that these new members bring to our organization.

The gardens at Shaler North Hills Library have already been awash with the colors of springtime. Teams are forming to get the weeding, pruning, planting, and watering done. Do not worry about members being overworked because entertaining field trips and workshops have been planned by our program committee to make sure there is a good balance between work and play.

Joanne Laverty, President, SGC



S. Butler County Garden Club

Since the last publication, our club has had three meetings with programs, an Arbor Day Event, and a Member's Garden Tour. In addition, we have cleaned up, weeded, and mulched our two community gardens. Also, our horticultural therapy program has started back up for year number two!

Our two community gardens are Graham Park Garden and Mars Library Pollinator Garden. We had a fantastic turnout (see photo) for the mulching at Graham Park where we spread compost and wood chips provided by the township. A new area was prepared for a future picnic table that will be funded in part by a grant from Cranberry Township Community Chest (CTCC). The Mars Library Garden was well tended too, and a photo is included. Not shown in the photo are the three VIPs and CARE's staff member that helped mulch that day. It's so true that many hands make light work.

Our Arbor Day Event featured an excellent talk by Joe Stavish of Tree Pittsburgh, a fascinating non-profit organization. The event was held in collaboration with the Mars Area Public Library that provided free meeting space and handled online sign up. Club members provided snacks and treats. Our club table is featured in a photo.

The last picture is of our Member's Garden Tour. We had three members open their gardens for club members to tour with lunch at the last garden. What a great turnout!

Jill Barger, President, SBCGC



Tusca -Ridge Garden Club

A standing room only crowd gathered at the gazebo in Irvine Park in Beaver, on April 27, for Beaver's annual Arbor Day Observance, presented by members of the Beaver Tree Commission and the Tusca Ridge Garden Club. The rain stopped, just in time, for us to celebrate the importance of trees and to advocate for their planting in our local area.

Beaver's Tree Commissioner, Philip Colavincenzo, received an award for his many years of dedicated service. The Beaver Tree Commission, which oversees all trees planted in Beaver parks and along the river, plants these trees in honor or memory of local citizens. The Tusca Ridge Garden Club plants a tree in one of the parks every 2 years, in honor of its president. The Club is in the process of donating a tree this year, in memory of our beloved past president, Ann Niemann.

Club members were on hand to chat with members of our community about the purpose of our club and to disperse pamphlets and information created by club members. Roxanne Walker, Conservation Committee Chair, spoke about the importance of planting native trees and plants.

Each year, the TRGC provides a small shrub or tree to be raffled. This year's plant was a viburnum, a shrub native to this region. Students from our local high school who had participated in our poetry and poster contests, presented poems they had written about the personal meaning of trees in their lives. Their Arbor Day posters were displayed around the gazebo. An appreciative crowd applauded the students' efforts and enjoyed refreshments, as we celebrated this 150-year-old tree planting holiday.

Susan Parry, President, TRGC





Southern Butler County Garden Club 16th Annual Garden Tour

Saturday, June 29, 2024
Touring 9am-3pm

Registration & day of event ticket sales from 9-10am only in the Seven Fields Community Center
Join us for our 16th Annual Garden Tour...
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
(Purchased day of event \$25)

To purchase a ticket please mail a check payable to:
Southern Butler County Garden Club
c/o 2640 Timberglen Dr., Wexford, PA 15090-6930
(along with a self-addressed stamped return #10 envelope)
Please include a phone number

At registration ticket holders will receive a booklet with garden descriptions and driving directions.

Tickets will also be collected for a chance on a door prize & chances may be purchased to win several "Gardener's Delight" raffle baskets. Stepping Stones will be available to purchase at one of your stops. The price of your ticket helps us fund local horticultural programs in our community.
Thank you for your support!

For more info you may call: Linda at 412-335-0550
www.southernbutlercountygardenclub.org
Be sure to Like Us on Facebook!



Tusca-Ridge Garden Club is selling Spring flower bulbs!!

Plant bulbs in the Fall and enjoy flowers in the Spring!

How to Order:

1. Visit our personalized website:

[Tusca-Ridge Flower Bulb Sale](#)
2. Browse the website to see all the wonderful bulbs.
3. Select & purchase the bulbs of your choice.
4. Bulbs will be delivered directly to your house.
5. Flower Bulb shipping will begin Mid-September.
6. All orders must be placed by October 15.

Order flower bulbs and support our causes including educational and community organizations.

If you misplace this email, you can go directly to our website, www.tuscaridgegardenclub.com and locate the Flower Bulb Sale page to order.

Any questions? Contact us at flick614@gmail.com

Save The Date

Shaler Garden Club's Great Gardens Tour

Sunday, July 14 2024
11AM to 4PM
\$20 in advance/\$25 day of tour



SCAN ME

tinyurl.com/gardentour2024

Shaler North Hills Library 412-486-0211

District IX Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 5, 2024

Savor the Flavor of Gardening



Hosted by
Moon Township Garden Club

Montour Heights Country Club
1491 Coraopolis Heights Road
Moon Township, PA 15108



9:00 AM	Registration and Coffee
10:00 AM	Annual Meeting
12:00 PM	Luncheon Buffet and Raffle
1:00 PM	Program

Guest Speaker: Dr. Silloo Kapadia

“Culinary Herbs in the Home Garden: For Use and For Delight”

Dr. Silloo Kapadia is a Penn State Master Gardener, Allegheny County, and a Phipps Master Gardener and Past Chair of the Western Pennsylvania Unit of the Herb Society of America with an interest in Culinary Herbs and Spices.

The McCune Garden Buffet includes: Fresh Fruit Salad, Broccoli Carbonara, House Greens Salad, Pan-seared Fillet Tips, Chicken Romano, Cheesy Layered Au Gratin Potatoes, Sauteed Vegetable Medley, fresh rolls, sweet cream butter, Pittsburgh cookie table and chocolate fountain, coffee and iced tea.

Cost: **\$35.00 per person includes tax and gratuity.**



Make check payable to: **Moon Township Garden Club**
Mail to: **Mary Adamowski**
1816 Madison Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108-1099



mma1215@comcast.net/412-877-8003

Reservation deadline: **August 22, 2024**

Name _____ Club _____

Email _____ Phone _____