



GCFP District VI Newsletter



4th Quarter, 2022

Seedlings

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Director's Corner

Deb Stumpf, District VI Director

As your new District Director, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who might not know me. I'm a retired registered nurse, married to my wonderful husband Rick (a retired Agriculture Education Instructor) and the mother of two daughters and grandmother to two wonderful grandchildren.

I grew up on a farm in Westmoreland County. When all the other girls my age were learning ballet, baton twirling or how to play the piano, I was outside helping my grandmothers tend their gardens. At their hands I learned plant identification, horticulture, and types of soil. This instilled in me a lifelong love of gardening. Every spring I still get the urge to get outside and "dig in the dirt". The flowers we grew were used in bouquets in the house and for reunions and family picnics, so I guess you can say I started "designing" early.

When I was looking to get involved in something after I retired, joining a garden club seemed like a logical choice. I have never regretted the decision. I have met so many wonderful people and the best part is that we all have the same thing in common. Gardening is always an instant conversation starter!

The theme of my Directorship is "Always Growing Together" I hope to be able to visit all your clubs and take an interest in what you are doing as a group. How you are not only growing your flowers and vegetables, but how you are growing your membership and your community involvement. I hope to be able to spread the word about outings and trips you are taking. And especially about any new horticulture, design, civic beautification or fundraising events you are planning. Make sure you include these things in your reports or notify me personally with any information you want passed along to the clubs of District VI.

Together the clubs of District VI can continue to thrive!

Deb Stumpf
District VI Director (2022-2024)

2022-3 District Calendar

Nov 2-3—CAR-SGC Convention
Seven Springs, PA
March 22—District VI Meeting at
Perkins in Richland—10:00 a.m.
April 21-23 GCFP Annual
Convention, Double Tree by
Hilton Monroeville

Articles, events and happenings concerning District VI may be submitted to:
Mary Lou Colussy at
lalou46@aol.com
Next Seedlings by
February 1, 2023

A special thank you to
Merita Brant, Seedlings
Proofreader

2022-2024 District VI Officers

**Director: Deb Stumpf,
Indiana GC**

**Asst. Director: Mary Lou Colussy,
Patton GC**

**Treasurer: Rene Hrescak,
Blair GC**

**Asst. Treasurer: Karlice Makuchan,
GC of Johnstown**

**Secretary: Wilma Light,
Weeders & Seeders GC**

**Asst. Secretary: Paula Miller,
Indiana GC**

Sheila Croushore, GCFP President, Deb Stumpf, D VI Director, Mary Lou Colussy, Asst. Director, Rene Hrescak, Treasurer, Paula Miller, Asst. Secretary, Karlice Makuchan, Asst. Treasurer. Missing from photo, Wilma Light, Secretary



Don't throw away those pumpkins...put a hole or smash and the critters will love it. This squirrel made its own hole in the pumpkin.

(Photo by Marcy Cuncelman)



CAR-SGC Conference

**7 Super Blooms That Changed Our World
November 2-3, 2022
Seven Springs Mountain Resort**

Join us beautiful Laurel for a Super Conference
7 Super Blooms 7 states/Areas =
A Winning Combination

TOURS

Tour the Flight 93 National Memorial
Fallingwater—a Frank Lloyd Wright house

WORKSHOPS

Seasonal Succulent Designs—Tonya Young
Planting for Birds and Pollinators—Marcy Cuncelman
New and Exciting Houseplants—Ron McIntosh
Autumn Rhythms -- Floral Rhythms
Williamsburg Christmas—Janice Davis
Creating From Your Own Garden--Fran Lansberry

DINNER SPEAKER

Roses and Tulips and Sunflowers – Oh My!?!
Tom Huston

VENDORS – Many!!

Hotel reservations may be made for Nov. 1-4 at special conference rate by phoning Seven Springs Resort at 814-352-7777

Registration form on CAR-SGC and GCFP websites



Indiana GC member and our new District Director, Deb Stumpf has shared some of her favorite blooms from her garden.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

BCGC Flower Show



**Bedford
Garden Club**

The Bedford County Garden Club held a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 from 11am - 3 pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, 115 E Penn St. It was free and open to the public.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Baker Mansion Committee toured the gardens and then went to breakfast together for all their wonderful work and commitment this year. They commit their time every Tuesday morning from the beginning of Spring to early Fall and if you have never gone to the garden at Baker Mansion just stop by..... the gardens are gorgeous!



Baker Mansion Committee



Blair Garden Club

Member Receives Recognition

Joan Sweeda, a member of the Blair Garden Club, received an award from the Blair County Historical Society for the restoration of her home on 15th Ave in Altoona. The home (1884) was originally owned by John Collins.



The grounds have been restored to an elegant and eclectic Victorian space with an extensive garden complete with brick walls and iron gates, stone balustrade and sculptures.



CLUB ACTIVITIES

JOIN US ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022
10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.
RAMADA BY WYNDHAM
1395 WAYNE AVE, INDIANA, PA 15701
FOR THE
ANNUAL TINSEL TIME LUNCHEON
HOSTED BY EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB
PEACE ON EARTH



ONLY 200 ADVANCED TICKETS SALES
 Boutique Shopping with Vendors and Evergreen GC Tables of Baked Goods, Fresh Greens, Santa Surprise, Raffle - Lunch, Entertainment, Holiday Design Program and Door prizes
 \$30.00 per Person
TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE BOOK NOOK AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN DOWNTOWN INDIANA, THE INDIANA COUNTY TOURIST BUREAU, INDIANA MALL, FLO'S FLORAL, HOMER CITY, OR BY CALLING 724-357-9479
PROCEEDS BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Plans continue for Evergreen's annual fundraiser, Tinsel Time on Thursday, December 1st, 2022.

A few changes were made including finding a new venue at the Ramada by Wyndham Indiana.

New this year will be buffet style instead of our usual sit-down luncheon. **Only 200 advanced tickets** will be sold for \$30. You can buy tickets at the Historical Society and the Book Nook in downtown Indiana, at the Indiana County Tourist Bureau in the Indiana Mall, at Flo's Floral in Homer City, from club members or by calling 724-357-9479. Marcy C also has some, if you need some for your club – 724-459-7229.

Evergreen Garden Club

Tinsel Time will offer the same activities as in the past with Boutique Shopping with vendors, and club tables with Santa Surprise, Raffle, Kitchen Goods and Fresh Greens. There will be Christmas music, a floral program and door prizes from local businesses. This year's theme is "Peace on Earth" for the fun-filled day of shopping with friends and family will be from 10:00am until 3:00pm. Buy your tickets early to help the Evergreen Garden Club raise monies for their community projects and scholarship(s). Save the date – December 1st.

Upcoming activities include making arrangements for the United Way Tables for their Annual Pancake and Sausage Day Fundraiser on Election Day. This will be at the New Life Church in the Indiana Mall. Members will be decorating the Silas Clark House for Christmas on November 9th. Greens workshop on November 28th to make the arrangements for Tinsel Time.

Evergreen Garden Club Treasurer and Scholarship chair, Carol Miller with Jenna Conrad, accepting the Mary Grove Scholarship of \$1,000, in memory of long-time club member Mary Grove.



Elizabeth Bruner was at a conference and was unable to attend. She was awarded the Jane Dole Scholarship of \$1,000, in honor of founding Evergreen Garden Club's founding member.



CLUB ACTIVITIES

A Patriotic Summer

*An NGC Standard Flower Show
Presented by
The Garden Club of Johnstown*



Horticulture and Photography



Botanical Arts



Horticulture of Excellence Award



Award of Design Excellence

**Garden
Club of
Johnstown**

CLUB ACTIVITIES

IGC Gardens of the Month



August's Garden of the Month. Congratulations Michele Lewis

September's Garden of the Month. Congratulations Jennifer VanWeiren

Indiana Garden Club

Indiana Garden Club's annual May Mart and Vendor Expo will be held May 19th and 20th, 2023 at the S&T Arena, White Township Sports Complex.

The club will feature its Orphan's Court plant sale and Garden Mart booth as well as the scholarship table. We hope to surpass our vendor total from last year. There will be lots of flowers and merchandise to buy!

As the winter months approach and we are stuck inside, mark your calendars and think about our delicious mushroom sandwiches and fresh strawberry pie. For more information see our website: www.indianagardenclub.org You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Save The Date

May Mart 2023
 Friday, May 19th &
 Saturday, May 20th
 at
 S&T Bank Arena

CLUB ACTIVITIES



Thanks to Mona Weakland and her committee; the Annual Mum Sale was a huge success again this year.

Patton Garden Club



Jan Davis presenting Mary Lou Colussy with Mushroom Award for Outstanding Contributions to the District Director during her term of office. Mary Lou also received a second-place award from GCFP for her D VI publication, *Seedlings*.

PGC Gardens of Distinction

Deb and Chick Lamont of Bakerton



Audrey Lobick gardens



Louise and Dan Kline of Carrolltown



Gardens of Gene and Linda Huber



CLUB ACTIVITIES

Joint meeting/picnic at The Hayloft

What an outstanding joint meeting/picnic we had on Monday, July 11th with our friends from the Garden Club of Johnstown at The Hayloft in Rockwood. This was due mainly to the outstanding location provided by our special Friend of Somerset, Betty Lou Svonavec and her conscientious staff, most notably Jill Gary who made the beautiful floral arrangements at the entrance to the labyrinth.

Everyone enjoyed Betty Lou's presentation about their very special labyrinth, and the wonderful sunshine and cool breeze added the perfect finishing touch to an already ideal day.



**Somerset
Garden Club**



CLUB ACTIVITIES

W&S July program and meeting was held at Brandywine Conservancy's Penguin Court in Laughlintown on July 19. Penguin Court's over 1,000 acres is "splendor to the eyes". They gathered for a presentation by Melissa Reckner, Program Manager of Penguin Court, about the history of the property, information about the ongoing Pollinator Palooza program, and a tour of the greenhouse where thousands of plants (trees, shrubs and perennials) are grown each year. The pollinator garden, that is extended each year, lines the drive near the conservatory and was in full bloom. Melissa described and identified each of the plants.

Besides the tour, the program for the evening involved two speakers, Wendy Love, a PA Master Naturalist, and certified phenology expert, explaining how to use the Nature's Notebook app to record phenology observations; and W&S club member and Penn State Master Gardener, Patti Flowers-Jacobina on how to qualify and apply to have your garden become a Penn State Certified Pollinator Garden.



Patti FJ presenting the PS Certified Pollinator Garden "How To's".



Weeders and Seeders

On August 16, back at the Loyalhanna Watershed Nimick Family Education Center preceding the meeting, club members were offered a Garden Hotline manned by the Penn State Master Gardeners of the club. Garden questions were emailed prior to the meeting and answers were researched and prepared to discuss at the meeting. One of the questions was how to trap the Spotted Lanternfly. Member and Penn State Master Gardener, Kate Nuernberger demonstrated how to build a Circle Trap. The Garden Hotline concept was well received and many of us learned new skills and tips.

We experienced a profound loss in our club with the passing of our dear friend, Mary Furlong-Leppold on September 3. Mary was active in the Weeders and Seeders, recently as Vice President and Hospitality Chairperson, and in the community as the leader of the Ligonier YMCA Penn State Demo Garden. We miss her. We will be memorializing her with a Little Free Library at the YMCA that will be built by an Eagle Scout with contributions.

On Friday, Sep. 9, Deb Christopher, Patti Schildkamp, Angela McDonnell, Judy Ridgway and Paula Heming attended the GCFP District VI annual meeting hosted by the Somerset Garden Club at The Heritage in Rockwood, PA. What a lovely time! The venue was amazing inside and out and the program, fundraising and FOOD was worth the trip. Our Weeders and Seeders Garden Club will be hosting the 2023 annual GCFP meeting on September 1st so we presented a humorous skit about Ligonier to entice everyone to attend.

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Mary Niezelski,, Recording Secretary, and a Penn State Master Gardener, presented our September 20th program, "My First Year Growing Dahlias" with a beautiful Powerpoint presentation of her dahlias, ways to grow and overwinter them, ways to keep pests away and showed us catalogs offering zillions of varieties to obtain. Mary also decorated each table with an arrangement of her dahlias... and then gave them away!

The oldest W&S club member at 93 yrs old, Ann Woodall, was surprised with a Happy Birthday song by our club members!



At the meeting, we distributed what we received at the GCFP District VI annual meeting: daffodil bulbs to the new members of the club and the awards won in 2021 to their recipients. They feel proud that to have had the most members join in a District VI club since September 2021 (20!) and were awarded a Laurel award (Andrea Kautz), 1st place 2021 Flower Show Schedule/Small Standard Flower Show for 21-49 members (Angela McDonnell and Paula Heming) and 3rd place 2021 Club Yearbook for 45-69 members (Paula Heming). In addition, six of our members were awarded a certificate and a cute bee pin for having their gardens certified as a Penn State Pollinator-Friendly Garden. These were also issued to us by Jan Davis, at the District VI annual meeting.

**Weeders
and
Seeders**

Holiday Market
 Sat. Nov. 5
 12 Noon ~ 4 PM
 Ligonier Country Market
 6 Old Lincoln Hwy.
 Natural, handmade gift items
Weeders and Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier



The newly formed craft committee has been busy making "crafts from nature" together as a group and individually, to supply our booth at the 12-4 pm November 5th Ligonier Country Market Holiday Mart.

Come see what we have been working on and help our fundraising efforts!

District VI Annual Meeting – September 9, 2022



New District Officers getting installed



Nerita Brant, Chairman of Annual Meeting



Sue Konvolinka, Exceptional Horticulturalist



Seedlings takes 2nd place in GCFP Awards for newsletters

District VI Penn State Certified Pollinator-Friendly Garden Awards Winners



GCFP Pres. Sheila Croushore



W& S skits for next Annual Meeting on Sept. 1, 2023



"The Meeting"



Mary Lou Colussy, winner of Mushroom Award



Sue Konvolinka and DD Jan Davis



Program Presenter, Ron McIntosh



Goodies abound

Native Alternatives to Hostas (That Are Deer Resistant)

Source: Finegardening.com By Christine Alexander

These native plants are great options for gardeners who want the effect of hostas without attracting deer

Why would you ever want alternatives to hostas (*Hosta* spp. and cvs., Zones 3–9)? These garden favorites are seemingly perfect—they can adapt to sun or shade, come in a multitude of colors and forms, and do the hard work of shading out weeds while also somehow looking fabulous while doing it. They are one of a gardener's best tools when designing a garden.

But over the years, we have come to understand that for some gardeners, hostas are a nonstarter. These complaints typically come from those for whom deer pose an ever-present threat to their gardens. These gardeners should have some alternatives that, though not *quite* hostas, at least approach the form, habit, and color options hostas present—but that are avoided by deer.

Another group of people who sometimes question the popularity of hostas are those who are looking to incorporate more native plants into their beds for ecological diversity and to perhaps support wildlife that isn't currently being supported by the lovable, affable hosta.

While there is no real replacement for a hosta's big broad leaves and versatility, the options below do a good job as understudies.

Umbrella plant



Umbrella plant (*Darmera peltata*), is a great hosta replacement for mild climates.



Darmera peltata. Photo: Jennifer Benner

Umbrella plant turns a lovely shade of reddish orange in fall. In mild climates, umbrella plant is a great choice for mimicking a large hosta's effect in the garden. It prefers wet, cool, shady areas. The leaves, which can grow up to 1½ feet across, provide gorgeous texture and turn red in fall.

Name: *Darmera peltata*

Zones: 5–7

Native range: Northwestern California to southwestern Oregon

Size: 3 to 5 feet tall and wide



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Photo: USFWS-Pacific Region-darmera_peltata

Giant trillium



Trillium chloropetalum var. *giganteum*.
Photo: Leonora Enking

Trilliums are a welcome sight come spring in the northern woodlands of the Americas. This species, *Trillium chloropetalum*, is native to the western range of the Rocky Mountains, but it can make a home in most temperate places with a little help. Somewhat larger than other varieties you may be more familiar with, it can grow to an overall height of over 2 feet and features leaves that can reach 7 or 8 inches long. Because trilliums are found in native woodland and scrub, it does well in shady, naturalized areas. The one detail that may derail your dreams for a trillium on every corner of your garden is the plant's dormancy period, which begins in summer. Because of this, you may want to consider combining a trillium with another foliage plant that can take over as it recedes.

Name: *Trillium chloropetalum*

Zones: 6–9

Native range: West of the Rocky Mountains

Size: 18 inches to 2 feet tall, with leaves up to 8 inches long

Skunk cabbage



Western skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*, Zones 7–9)



Eastern skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*, Zones 4–7). Photo: Justin Meissen

Disregard the name if you can. A large patch of skunk cabbage is a site to behold, and skunk cabbages make a gorgeous replacement for hostas, especially in damp areas. *Lysichiton americanus* can be difficult to establish, but it is native to the Pacific Northwest and has gorgeous large leaves. The yellow flower of this skunk cabbage is also quite interesting, although the interesting part is actually a spathe. *Symplocarpus foetidus* is native to the eastern coast of North America, and its foliage is somewhat rounder than that of its western cousin. Both do well in shade conditions but can also handle full sun, and they prefer wet soil to standing water.

Name: *Lysichiton americanus* and *Symplocarpus foetidus*

Zones: 5–9

Native range: Pacific Northwest (western skunk cabbage); East Coast (eastern skunk cabbage)

Size: Up to 3 feet tall and wide

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Mayapple

Photo: Lynn Felici-Gallant

A mayapple colony is an excellent replacement for a hosta patch. This hardy perennial spreads via rhizomes and forms dense mats of umbrella-like foliage in damp, shady areas. Pollinators enjoy the flowers, and wildlife will eat the fruit. As an added benefit, mayapple can also be grown under black walnut trees (*Juglans nigra*, Zones 4–9) due to its juglone tolerance.

Name: *Podophyllum peltatum*

Zones: 3–8

Native range: North America west to the Southern Plains and Northern Plains

Size: 1 to 1½ feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide (but colonies will spread and form large patches if allowed)

Wild ginger

The small leaves of wild ginger are more akin to those of a hosta variety such as 'Sun Mouse' rather than 'Sum and Substance', but this plant works wonders as a ground cover in partial to full shade and beneath trees.

Name: *Asarum canadense*

Zones: 4–6

Native range: Manitoba to North Carolina

Size: 6 to 12 inches tall and 1 to 1½ feet wide (but colonies will spread and form large patches if allowed)

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Goat's beard



Goat's beard prefers rich soil and is happy in full sun or partial shade. Though its foliage is less hosta-like than that of many in this list, the leaf habit, size, and showy flower spikes make it an interesting replacement for a spot typically reserved for hostas. Consider a cultivar such as 'Kneffi' if you're looking for a smaller variety. Goat's beard attracts bees, butterflies, and moths and acts as a host plant for the dusky azure butterfly.

Name: *Aruncus dioicus*

Zones: 4–8

Native range: Mid-Atlantic and midwestern United States

Size: 3 to 6 feet tall and 2 to 4 feet wide

Shooting star



Photo: Hannes Wilms

Shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*).

Though shooting star is short lived in the garden, going dormant by midsummer, its foliage and flowers, which bumblebees in particular enjoy, make it a wonderful spring addition for texture and color in the garden. Shooting star will tolerate full sun as well as full shade as long as the soil drains well and is and evenly moist.

Name: *Dodecatheon meadia*

Zones: 4–8

Native range: Eastern North America

Size: 8 to 18 inches tall and 8 to 12 inches wide (but flower stalk can reach up to 3 feet in height)

Christine Alexander is the editor of FineGardening.c

Bird and Butterfly Report

Marcy Cuncelman

Fall sure did come in and take over summer! It brought in the winter visitors like the Juncos, Kinglets, and Sparrows before October 1st. Trees are changing and losing their leaves, making it easier to see the few summer residents still hanging around like the Phoebes, Vireos and Towhees. They should be moving to warmer temps since frost is in the air. Hummers are gone, but still have my feeders up and flowers to attract those late migrants. There have been sightings of Rufous Hummers around the state, using the feeders and flowers. So, if you see a late hummer and there is rusty color, esp. on the tail, please let me know, so I can report it and see if it can be banded. Take a photo to help ID, since there could be other Western Migrants.

Bumblebee on cigar plant cuphea, also for hummers



While out mowing, enjoying the last of the beautiful blooms of the native perennials, I was observing many birds on and under the plants eating seeds and bugs. If you can, please don't cut back all your plants, so there is winter cover and natural food for the birds and critters. If you do cut back, please make a loose brush pile with the stems, since many pollinators use these for winter hibernation until it warms up until May. Speaking of a brush pile, why not make one out of the downed branches and twigs for added protection for the birds this winter. We put one where we can see from the house and put mixed seed under it, for the scratching birds like the Juncos and Sparrows.

Fresh male monarch 10/16/22



If you have been following Monarch Watch thru the years, Chip Taylor was the strong inspiration for keeping this going. He has announced that he will be stepping down in August 2023 if his health stays strong. I couldn't believe he is 85 and has worked for free. He says he still has projects to finish and journals to write. They will be finding a paid person to take his place and applications are now out to look for his replacement. We all wish you well Chip!

Female monarch on zinnia 10/13/22



Did you see more Monarchs this year? Better than last year, but all the butterfly and bee numbers are way down compared to other years.

The weather this year was so up and down, dry and drought in places and other places wet and rainy. Here's to a better 2023. It's a great time to plant for the birds and butterflies and critters. Look for native plants that would offer nectar bloom for pollinators, fruit and color for the birds and host caterpillars, and cover all year for nesting and a safe place to perch.

Time to get those feeders clean and filled. Make sure you keep the feeders clean thru out the season. Its time to enjoy the plants you have been adding to your yard to improve your habitat. Keep a journal and you will be surprised how many birds you see and how adding some more natives and fruit bearing trees and shrubs will bring them closer for you to enjoy! Hope you see something new and interesting!!! Marcy Cunkelman, Bird and Butterfly Chair, plant4nature@gmail.com

Blooming witch hazel 10/16/23



Lady in red salvia still waiting for hummers.



CAR-SGC CONFERENCE

**Hosted by the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
 "7 Super Blooms that Changed Our World"**

Schedule for NOVEMBER 2-3, 2022

Wednesday Nov. 2

Registration	8:00 – 11:30 am
Finance Committee	9:45-11:15 am
Workshop A and B	10:30 – 11:30 am
Lunch	11:30-1:00 pm
Vendors	1:00 – 7:00 pm
Executive Board	1:00 – 2:00 pm
Full Board	2:30 – 3:45 pm
Workshop C and D	4:00 – 5:00 pm
Workshop E and F	5:00 – 6:00 pm
Leadership Dinner	
(By Invitation Only)	5:30 pm

Thursday Nov. 3

Registration	8:00 – 11:30 am
Continental Breakfast	7:30 -- 8:30 am
Roundtable Discussion	8:00 – 9:00 am
Vendors	9:00 am – 7:00 pm
General Membership	10:00 – 11:45 am
Lunch	12:00 – 1:30 pm
Tours	1:30 – 5:30 pm
Cash Bar	6:00 – 7:00 pm
Dinner with Keynote Speaker	
	7:00 – 9:30 pm
Closing	

From the EAST – PA Turnpike to Somerset Exit 110, Get on RT 31 W

From the WEST -- PA Turnpike to Donegal Exit 91, Turn onto RT 31 E to Seven Springs

Directions are clearly marked to the resort

Room reservation MUST be made by September 30 for special Conference rate of \$129 + 11 % tax per night Nov. 1 -4. Call 814-352-7777 or 800 – 452-2223 (sales)