

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GARDEN CLUB  
FEDERATION OF PENNSYLVANIA, DISTRICT X  
Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.



*the*  
**TENdril**

Volume 24; Issue 2 • June 2024

**The TENdril** is published four times a year on the GCFP website in March, June, September, and December.

**Submission deadline for the September issue is August 15.**

Please send submissions to Marce Zaragoza, Editor, at [MZarag23@gmail.com](mailto:MZarag23@gmail.com).

We welcome submissions from any District X garden club member. Submissions are subject to editing at the discretion of the editor.

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## The Director's Corner

*Deborah Davis, District X Director*

District X has its Annual June Fundraiser on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at the South Hills Country Club. Andy Amrhein from Evey True Value Hardware will speak. There are vendors, raffle baskets, a 50/50 and a white elephant sale. Shopping begins at 11 AM with lunch at Noon and then the program. Reservations are due June 1, 2024 to Haddie Weber with a check made payable to G.C.F.P. District X. This fundraiser is a wonderful way to introduce new members to the garden club. Also, all the awards earned by District X garden clubs and presented at the GCFP Conference will be presented to individuals or garden club presidents, so be there to support your garden club!

I hope all garden clubs filed their 501c3 information form 990 on time and paid their GCFP dues and District X dues on time. GCFP depends on your garden club to do the right thing!

Each District Director was asked to prepare and present a program to GCFP members. The District X presentation on "Founding Gardeners" is scheduled for July 18, 2024 at 6:30 PM. A link will be sent by GCFP.

Reminder that each garden club will prepare and print their District Laurel certificates, which are available on the GCFP website, Awards page. These certificates should be brought to the August 19, 2024 District X Board Meeting and given to the Director to sign and then present at the Annual District X meeting.

Another exciting event is the Annual District X Meeting which will be on September 4, 2024 at South Hills Country Club. Our GCFP State officers will attend and speak in addition to our program by Juliette Olshock of Phipps Conservatory. At this meeting many District awards will be presented. Newly elected District X officers will be installed. Please mark your calendars. More details will follow.

It has been a pleasure to serve District X in 2023-2024.

Deborah Davis  
District X Director

"SOW SEEDS OF KINDNESS, REAP JOYS OF FRIENDSHIP"

## DISTRICT X OFFICERS

**Director**

**DEBORAH DAVIS**  
Martha Washington Garden Club  
dardebDavis@verizon.net

**Assistant Director**

**WANDA SHERRY**  
Great Meadows Garden Club  
docnwanda@gmail.com

**Recording Secretary**

**HADDIE WEBER**  
Garden Club of Munhall  
haddieweber@mac.com

**Treasurer**

**REBECCA LEBEDA**  
Garden Club of Munhall  
fandbeck@gmail.com



## Educational Opportunities and Official Websites

Did you know that the National Garden Clubs (NGC) offers many [educational opportunities](#) to members? The links to these offerings are available on the [Garden Clubs of Pennsylvania \(GCP\) website](#), where the “More” tab provides a plethora of useful information about upcoming events, ongoing programs, outside resources and...More! Feel free to click around the entire site, and visit the [NGC website](#) as well for more insight on the workings and activities of our organization.

Funding may be available for some NGC educational programs. Check with District X Scholarships Chair [Vina McLeod Rudolph](#) or your Club president on how to apply.

### Newsletter Submission Hints

- If you are submitting articles with hints or tips, please consider the season for which you are writing. Submissions for the SEPTEMBER newsletter should contain hints for the FALL season, rather than the ending summer season.
- If you are submitting information gathered from a specific website without editing, please cite your source. Be aware of copyright concerns and be safe.

### 2024 IMPORTANT DATES

June 2-5	<b>NGC Convention</b> The Westin, Denver, CO
June 13	<b>District X Annual Fundraiser</b> South Hills Country Club
Sep 4	<b>District X Annual Meeting</b> South Hills Country Club
Oct 22-23	<b>CAR-SGC Annual Convention</b> The Old Mill Inn, Basking, NJ
Nov 5	<b>America Recycles Day</b>

# DISTRICT X GARDEN CLUBS

**GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL**

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7 PM

Michael Sarraino, President

[prince122@verizon.net](mailto:prince122@verizon.net)

<http://www.facebook.com/GardenClubofMunhall>

Web site: <http://www.gardenclubofmunhall.com>

**MON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 6:30 PM

Alice Harris

[aliceharris141@gmail.com](mailto:aliceharris141@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/monvalleygardenclub/>

**GIANT OAKS GARDEN CLUB**

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 11:30 AM

Karen Humphreys, President

[khumphreys81@hotmail.com](mailto:khumphreys81@hotmail.com)

Facebook: [Giant Oaks Garden Club](https://www.facebook.com/GiantOaksGardenClub)

**PLEASANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 12:30 PM

Pamela Kavelman, President

[pkavelman@yahoo.com](mailto:pkavelman@yahoo.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/pleasanthillsgc>

**GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB**

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10:30 AM

Martha Alexander, President

[martha.alexander78@gmail.com](mailto:martha.alexander78@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/gmgc1957>

**TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB**

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6 PM

Tami Burnworth, President

[tjfoxtrotter@gmail.com](mailto:tjfoxtrotter@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/tcgcr1pa>

**GREEN GARDENERS OF UNIONTOWN**

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday (for lunch)

Paula Flaherty, President

[pjflaherty1@yahoo.com](mailto:pjflaherty1@yahoo.com)

**UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 1 PM

Sharlene Lehman

[fairchance67@yahoo.com](mailto:fairchance67@yahoo.com)

**MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN CLUB**

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 12:00 PM

Kathy Wells, President

[kwells@chestnuteast.com](mailto:kwells@chestnuteast.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/mwgcwashpa>

**VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 10 AM

Roxanne Huss

[crhuss@gmail.com](mailto:crhuss@gmail.com)



*Exceptional Horticulturist Award*  
*JoAnn Celaschi, GCFP Horticulture Coordinator*

**Deadline: August 1**

I want to advise club award chairs and club officers that the time to submit nominations for this year's Exceptional Horticulturist award will be soon upon us. This is a non-competitive award that is given at each district's September District meeting. The nominations for this award are to be submitted by August 1 to JoAnn Celaschi, Horticulture Coordinator.

The qualifications for this award are as follows:

**Experience:** The candidate should grow numerous types of plants, trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and houseplants and be able to discuss how best to grow them.

**Education:** The candidate should have attended one of the schools provided by the National Garden Club program, **but this is not a requirement**. However, the candidate should be familiar with the schools and programs of the NGC, flower and gardening catalogs, and horticulture magazines and other sources of horticulture information.

**Sharing:** The candidate should share their knowledge and experiences with plants with friends, garden club members as well as civic organizations. The candidate should have served club and community when called upon and should be able to represent the GCFP as a knowledgeable source of horticulture information.

There is no separate application to submit to nominate a member for this award but rather a description of the candidate's qualifications for the award should be sent in writing either by snail mail to JoAnn Celaschi, 1216 Lookout Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022-2028, or by e-mail to [celaschi@hotmail.com](mailto:celaschi@hotmail.com). Photographs are not required.

The GCFP website contains the names of past winners of this award and can be accessed on the GCFP website by clicking on directories, then select other directories.

If your club has a member who is an exceptional horticulturist and has not received this award in the past, please nominate them for this year's award by August 1, 2024.



*District X Recognized at State Conference*  
*Deborah Davis, District X Director*

As District X Director, I represented you at the 2024 GCFP Convention and wanted to report on **AWARDS**. Only first place awards were announced at the events due to time. Sheets were not placed on tables with all the info for all levels.

**2024 PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS:** Issued by GCFP President Leeanna Ryba for performance above and beyond expectations.

Vina McLeod Rudolph, Martha Washington Garden Club  
 Websites for GCFP and Landscape Design Society of W PA (District VII)

**GCFP CAR-GCFP NEWSLETTER AWARDS**

13-24 page Newsletter: **2nd Place: District X “The TENDril”**

**GCFP KEYSTONE GARDENER/KG ONLINE LITERARY AWARDS:** Awarded for an original garden-related poem or composition published in the Keystone Gardener or KG Online.

Martha Alexander, Great Meadows Garden Club, “Leaf Colors”

**SPECIAL CLUB FEDERATED ANNIVERSARIES:** Clubs celebrating 50, 60, 75 and 90 years (Clubs celebrating 50, 75, and 100 Year Anniversaries receive a \$100 award.)

50 YEARS: Giant Oaks Garden Club  
 90 YEARS: Martha Washington Garden Club  
 90 YEARS: Uniontown Flower Club

**GCFP CAR-GCFP CLUB YEARBOOK AWARDS**

Under 20 Members, **1st Place: Town and Country Garden Club of Rices Landing**  
 45-69 Members, **3rd Place: Great Meadows Garden Club**

**GCFP/CAR-SGC YOUTH CONTESTS**

Youth Poetry Contest, “I Spy, with My Little Eye, Something Green Outside - Celebrating our Green World”

Grade 4 **1st Place: Dylan Smithson, Pleasant Hills Garden Club**

**GCFP Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!”**

Grade 5 **1st Place: Nicholas Mull, Giant Oaks Garden Club**



*District X Recognized at State Conference*

**GCPF CAR-SGC FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE**

Patriotic Small Standard Flower Show, Large Club  
 1st Place: **Martha Washington Garden Club**  
 “Red, White, and Bloom”

**NGC FLOWER SHOW BOOK OF EVIDENCE**

Standard Flower Show 1-49 Members, 2nd Place: **Great Meadows Garden Club** “Alice in Wonderland”

Patriotic Small Standard Show 50-99 Members, 1st Place: **Martha Washington Garden Club**  
 “Red White, and Bloom”

**2024 Seed Money for PLANT AMERICA, While Keeping PA Beautiful**

Four District X Clubs received Seed Money for projects as follows:

**Great Meadows Garden Club:** Monarch Wayside Station to teach Junior Gardener Group.

**The Garden Club of Munhall:** Mulch to refurbish the War Memorial.

**Town & Country Garden Club of Rices Landing:** Perennials & annuals for three projects.

**Valley Garden Club:** Native shade plants for Mon Valley YMCA entrance.

**NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS** To honor a special person - for a retiring club officer, a birthday, anniversary, holiday gift, or just for you.

CAR-SCG Life Membership: **Grace Mitchell, Martha Washington Garden Club**

**PERENNIAL BLOOM SUBMISSION FOR DISTRICT X LEVEL**

**Chris Lentz, Great Meadows Garden Club**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

GCFP awards scholarships to students who plan to further their education in agriculture-related fields. District X has issued a challenge to all districts to match their support of the GCFP Scholarship Donations Fund. Their donation of \$1,000 reflects their commitment to GCFP in supporting students.

Congratulations to all District X winners! I encourage more chapters to enter the many contests and feel there are more potential awards out there if you enter. I **decided to spend 10 minutes at our Annual Fundraiser on June 13, 2024 (Thursday) to distribute these awards where more people can see the garden clubs receive their awards.** I encourage your garden clubs to have a great attendance so they can see their winners.



## Garden Club of Munhall

*Michael Sarraino, President*

The Garden Club of Munhall meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at Messiah Lutheran Social Hall 4300 Main St. Munhall, PA 15120. Our club has 60 members at this time, and we still have some applications out.

We do many civic projects such as our Main St. flower planters, our Veterans Memorial on Main St. is undertaking a Boy Scout to earn his Eagle Scout. We donate to the Carnegie Library of Homestead, Lions Club of Homestead, Memorial Garden of Messiah Lutheran Church. We just had our scholarship dinner for the Steel Valley High School where we donated a \$1000.00 scholarship to a graduating senior.



Members pose in one of several fashions they modeled at our Annual Spring Benefit.  
*Photo credit Heidi Pane.*

The club had a great time making the table gifts for the Annual Spring Benefit held on April 27, 2024. The event was very well attended with many gift baskets raffled off, a plant sale, bake goods sale, jewelry sale and a silent auction. We were entertained with a fashion show featuring many of our members and family.

In May we held our famous “Plant Auction” which is a favorite for all the members.

July will be busy with our Twilight Garden Tour, which is a big hit for our members.

## Mon Vallev Garden Club

*Alice Harris, President*

April through now have been very busy months for us. It’s has been too early until now to plant things out. We will be meeting with the Old West Church groundskeeper to decide what we will do there this summer. I have spoken with him several times by phone, also.

We have all been on a number of plant excursions. There’s always a lot to see and learn.





*Club Reports continued*

## Giant Oaks Garden Club

*Karen Humphreys, President*

The Giant Oaks Garden Club meets the first Thursday of each month from February through October at St. David's Episcopal Church in Venetia. Our 67th member was inducted May 2, with 2 prospective members on track to join next month.

Giant Oaks Garden Club is busy with spring activities. At our March meeting, Pennsylvania State Trooper Rocco Gagliardi presented an informative and lively program about the "top five scams" currently in vogue. At our April luncheon, Gary VanGelder from the Orchid Society presented an informative program on demystifying the care and feeding of orchids. Our May program featured Doug Oster, writer and award-winning producer and radio and television host.

GOGC awarded two scholarships this year. The first recipient is Kaylin Kelly from Bentworth High School. We were requested to award a second scholarship this year on behalf of former member Janet Fuchs in memorium; that recipient is Anthony Salvini from Fort Cherry High School.

On Saturday, May 18, we held the GOGC's 23rd Annual Plant Sale/Garden Market at the Peters Township Public Library. The sale highlighted a variety of hanging baskets, flats and potted annuals and perennials as well as quality potted plants selected from members' gardens. Also featured were container gardens with herbs, vegetables, and annuals as well as gardening items, decorations, crafts and raffle baskets of gardening items. GOGC members, several of whom are Master Gardeners, circulated to assist and answer individual questions from the public. This event is highly anticipated by our community and helps fund the club and its many local charities.

Ongoing activities include our bottle cap recycling program, tending several community gardens as well as our flourishing native/pollinator garden at the Peters Township Public Library. The club continues to make cupcakes and tray favors monthly for the Peters Township Meals on Wheels. Club members regularly visit McMurray Hills Manor to do garden related activities with residents. This May they "planted the patio," an annual activity to plant annuals in their outdoor pots and flower beds to add color, cheer and beauty to their patio all summer long.

Looking ahead to the fall, plans are already underway for our Tinsel Luncheon fundraiser, to be held November 1 at Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn. This year's theme is "Sleigh Bells Ring.



## Great Meadows Garden Club

*Martha Alexander, President*

Great Meadows Garden Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am. We usually meet at the Farmington Firehall, but sometimes meet at other locations.

Although we have recently lost a number of our older members, Great Meadows has had an influx of new members in the past two years. We have an active club with a strong and enthusiastic core group of core members. This year we have woven our theme of Environmental Stewardship into our projects and programs. We maintain a flower bed at the Wharton Township Building and a large garden surrounding our Blue Star Memorial. With the help of a Master Gardener friend, we teach an after-school program on Tuesdays and summers at a local community center. Students do winter sowing and learn numerous garden and stewardship skills to help prepare, plant, and nurture a large community garden, children's garden, and newly formed Butterfly Waystation. An Espoma Grant and Seed money helps pay for soil, seeds, and equipment. Our President is writing up our lesson plans for the state website.

Great Meadows also provides Horticulture Therapy regularly at a local senior center and has started collecting bottle caps for our recycling campaign.

Our major fundraiser is a Flea Market in May. The plants we grow and pot up are major sellers. This has proven to be a good place to interact with the community about our love of gardening.

We offer programs this year on winter sowing, toad houses, pollinators and replacing non-natives, climate change and gardening. We also have a special design mini-course, birding at Deer Lake, a visit to Rachel Sager Mosaics, and our annual picnic.

Three of us enjoyed attending the GCFP Convention, and our President has completed all 4 courses of Flower Show School and is now a student judge. Two of us attend judges' councils, and many of us are active participants at Designer's Guild, led by one of our members.



*Club Reports continued*

## Martha Washington Garden Club

*Kathy Wells, President*

The Martha Washington Garden Club continues to meet regularly, the third Tuesday of the month at the Laboratory Presbyterian church in Washington.

In February, we heard about growing plants in a commercial environment. In March, our member Marce Zaragoza told us about the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly and her experience raising them complete with videos. Fern Sibert joined us in April and told us about efforts to keep Washington Clean and Tidy by collecting bottle caps and having them transformed into park benches.

At our May meeting, Karen Faust, chair of the Garden Club of Pennsylvania Blue Star Marker Program, told us about the National Garden Club’s initiative to honor veterans through the Blue Star Marker Program. In addition to the Marker requested for the Claysville Welcome Center, MWGC is exploring the possibility of placing a Blue Star Memorial or By-Way Marker at our Veteran’s Memorial Walkway and Garden located at the Historic Train Station. Meanwhile, our major garden projects are keeping us busy. We are busy doing Spring clean up of the LeMoyne House Gardens for the Washington County Historical Society and the Veteran’s Memorial Garden. The Lemoyne House Gardens was the site of our second annual Plant Sale on May 25, 2024.





## Pleasant Hills Garden Club

*Pamela Kavelman, President*

Each month, we issue a different design challenge to our members. Some of our new members have shown interest in design and are participating in the challenges. At our March meeting, our design challenge was Table Design. In April the challenge was Petite Design, and a long-time member made her first attempt. The challenge for May is Cascade Design, which we have not done before. Our member-judge, Marie Mueller, critiques the designs and everyone adds their own impressions. We make changes and decide if we can improve on the original.

We also include horticulture at every meeting, and members bring in examples from their gardens. This can give us ideas of what we would like to add. If there is a problem with a particular plant, that information is shared. We have a drawing for a plant at each meeting.

At our March meeting, members made Kokedama balls under the guidance of Marina Pawlesh. Member Tamara Zicardi is a Yoga Instructor, and in April she led us in chair yoga, leaving us all relaxed. An important skill for gardeners. Our May program is Planting for Pollinators, with Marcy Cunkelman.

Our April and May discussions center on our annual plant sale, to be held on Sunday, May 19, at Mowry Park. Our usual date is the Saturday following Mother's Day, but the pavilion was unavailable. We'll see how Sunday works out. At this sale members bring in perennial plants from their gardens and seedlings which they have grown under lights or in milk jugs. Members who don't have plants to offer donate hanging baskets. We have many repeat customers at our sale. It is our sole fund raiser.

The Let Freedom Ring Garden, now under the care of Cheryl Goodman, is our major beautification project for the community. Members donate their time to keep it looking beautiful. Spring is a busy time, getting the garden into shape, weeding and dividing overgrown plants to pot up for the plant sale. Engraved bricks can be purchased by community residents to honor their loved ones. The proceeds from sale of bricks help with the expenses.

We are continuing with our plastic recycling project, and are on track to earn another bench from NexTrex.



*Club Reports continued*

## Town and Country Garden Club of Rices Landing

*Tami Burnsworth, President*

Town & Country Garden Club members meet at the Hewitt Presbyterian Church in Rices Landing the third Thursday of the month at 6 pm. Our membership total at this time is 10. We have a few prospective new members and are continually trying to interest new members.

The program for May 16, will be “Learning about Plastics - How to Refuse, Recycle and Re-use” presented by Izaak Walton League Director, Mike Stout. Dee Kochirka, Vice President of the Alleghany Chapter will also be speaking on “The Effects Plastic is Having on the Human Body, as Well as the Planet”.

We will also be hosting one of our Scholarship winners and Family. We had two very good applicants this year that met the criteria for our scholarship. Both applicants will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

We continue to maintain our Garden Club Projects at Flenniken Library, the Rices Landing Triangle and the Carmichaels Town Square.

The program for next month’s meeting will be “Medical Herbs for Every Day”.

“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.” — *F. Scott Fitzgerald*



*Club Reports continued*

## Uniontown Flower Club

*Sharlene Lehman, President*

The 33 members of the Uniontown Flower Club have had a busy winter/spring. The club does not meet in January, however, in February, we had our annual tea party and member Nanci Myers gave a presentation on the care of orchids. In March, Sharlene Lehman gave a presentation on flowers and plants in world religions. In April, members were treated to a presentation on houseplants with Masontown Sunshine Garden Shop owner Stephany Smearchek, who also brought dozens of houseplants that members were able to buy after the presentation.

Members have been busy getting ready for their new project, landscaping cleanup and planting for the Uniontown Library. Work got underway Thursday, May 2nd with cleanup of the front and back sections of the library with members Antoinette Franks and her sister from Ohio, Gerri, along with Dorothy Gruskowski, Sharlene Lehman and Nanci Myers collecting multiple bags of winter leaves, weeds, and some trimming. Planting will begin in late May.

The planters at the Uniontown Courthouse were weeded and it along with the Fountain across from the Uniontown Courthouse will be replanted in late May.

Garden Tip: “Your first job is to prepare the soil. The best tool for this is your neighbor’s garden tiller. If your neighbor does not own a garden tiller, suggest that he buy one.”  
Dave Barry

“Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the treehouse; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colors in a parched landscape; but most of all, summer was Dill.” — *Harper Lee*



## Valley Garden Club

*Roxanne Huss, President*

The Valley Garden Club installed a new Vice President, Terry Frederick at the May meeting. She will replace Elaine Harmon for the term 2024-2026. The current president, Roxanne Huss, and Secretary/Treasurer Pam Gregor will continue serving for the next two years.

Due to the lack of scholarship applicants these past two years, the club voted to seek eligible seniors at two more school districts, Yough and Bentworth. The present school districts are Charleroi, Belle Vernon, Frazier, Ringgold, and Monessen. Graduates from these local school districts who will be attending Penn-West University are also eligible to apply for the scholarship.

A Standard Flower Show is planned for July 11, 2024 from 1 to 5PM at the Mon Valley YMCA. The theme is “Let’s Party”. The show is open to the public.

The members are busy revamping the gardens at the YMCA. Seed money from the state and District X will be used to buy the necessary supplies. Native plants were purchased from Phipps. Many pollinator plants will replace some invasive plants.

At the recent monthly meeting, the speaker was Jane Clark of the Audubon Society. She presented a power point slide show about birds and their reliance on the food and natural habitats they need to survive.

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.” — *James Dent*



## Awards Committee

*Vina McLeod Rudolph, Chair*

Copies of the District X Awards Information Procedures were distributed to each of the Club Presidents at the District X Board Meeting on May 15, 2024.

## Horticulture Report

*Grace Mitchell, Chair*

Yes, Spring has finally sprung, as it usually does. Sometimes it just takes a bit longer.

Over the past year, I have given you all many sage (get the garden reference?) words of advice. If you've heard them before, don't let on.

- A man should never plant a garden larger than his wife can take care of.
- Bulb: a potential flower buried in autumn - never to be seen again!
- There's a new garlic diet. You don't lose much weight, but from a distance your friends think you look thinner.
- Gardening requires a lot of water, most of it in the form of perspiration .
- God blesses my garden, but He does not weed it.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit- wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- The best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it's a valuable plant.
- If I could only grow green stuff in my garden like I can in my fridge!
- Old gardeners never die, they just vegetate.....

**Happy horting!**





## Birds, Butterflies and Conservation Committee

*Martha Alexander, Chair*

Remember Jiminy Cricket? Well, I'm here to be your Jiminy Cricket today: to remind you of what you already know and to be your conscience. And today, we're talking about plastics.

We've all seen and been moved by those horrible pictures of dying wildlife caught in a web of plastic netting, which is heartbreaking. But did you know that in addition to the plastics and microplastics found swirling throughout our rivers and oceans, we humans have microplastics pulsing through our veins? It's in our lungs and our bowels. We can't see it, and we can't feel it, but it is there. It is there in the water we drink, the food we eat, and in the very air that we breathe. Even breastmilk has been found to have microplastics in it. We don't know, yet, what it's doing to us, but we know we have plastic in our flesh.

The whole subject of microplastics has a nightmarish quality because we understand it to be a symptom of a deeper issue: that the unthinkable harm we have done to the planet, as Consumers, is being visited upon our own bodies. When we look at the decomposing bodies of those trash-filled birds, we know that we are looking not just at what we are doing to the world, but also at what our damaged world is doing to us.

Do you remember the 5 R's of recycling? **The 5 R's are: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and then, finally... Recycle.**

- **Refuse** plastic bags at stores and carry your own. Refuse straws and nasty Styrofoam take-out containers at restaurants and carry your own. Refuse to buy excessively wrapped items.
- **Reduce** your kitchen waste and start composting. Buy less junk you don't need.
- **Reuse** your own drink containers instead of single use plastic bottles that litter our land and waterways and form particulates in the air. Store snacks and leftovers in reusable containers.
- **Repurpose** (or upcycle) newspaper under mulch. Use jam jars to hold many things. Repair things that can be salvaged.
- **Recycle** as a last resort.

Jiminy Cricket says, "I use all of these R's 'cause I'm no fool!"

Encourage you club to get involved in a program to refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle.



## Blue Star Marker Program

*Kathy Wells and Susan DeLost, Co-Chairs*



The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) has long been requesting that a Blue Star marker be placed at the Pennsylvania Welcome Center on I-70 at Claysville. At the March District X Board meeting, Martha Washington Garden Club officers Kathy Wells and Susan DeLost, President and First Vice President, accepted Co-Chairmanship of the Blue Star Marker Program Committee, and the Board voted to budget the money necessary to purchase and install the marker.

On April 26, co-chairs Kathy Wells and Susan DeLost visited the Welcome Center and spoke to PennDOT Travel Coordinator Barbara Mitchell. We discussed the program and the GCFP District X leadership's intention to fully fund the project. Barbara informed us that PennDOT would bear the costs of the installation of the marker and maintenance of the grounds, pending PennDOT's approval of the project.

At Barbara's request, we emailed PennDOT a letter to formalize our request for permission to install a marker. We included an invitation to attend the May 21 meeting of the Martha Washington Garden Club, when Karen Faust, GCFP Chair for the Blue Star Marker Program was scheduled to speak. As a result of the letter, Mike Maurer, PennDOT District 12 Roadside Specialist, informed Kathy Wells that he would attend the May 21 Martha Washington Garden Club meeting.

The May 21 meeting was well attended by members as well as representatives from the Giant Oaks Garden Club and the representatives from PennDOT. Karen Faust's presentation included the background of the Blue Star Marker Program and the process of applying for a marker. She was able to confirm that, due to the lengthy process of individually casting each marker, we need to make application soon in order to have the marker completed and delivered in early 2025. This delivery date would be necessary in order to allow time for installation of the marker. Several options for the installation were discussed with the PennDOT representatives using photos provided by Kathy Wells. It was agreed that the marker would be installed on a 10-foot pole, with the bottom of the marker being 7 feet off the ground for safety reasons. The location will be in full view of all visitors as they pass the flagpole. PennDOT representatives also confirmed that they will take care of the entire installation, including accepting delivery and storing the marker prior to installation.

A tentative date of the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend 2025 was selected for a dedication ceremony. Details of the ceremony will be confirmed at a later date once the marker is received.



## Newsletter Report

*Marce Zaragoza, Chair*

The TENdril, newsletter of District X of the GCFP, continues to be published four times a year, in March, June, September, and December.

In recent issues, I have tried to incorporate some information that might be especially useful or interesting to new members. It is easy to forget that not all members have the years of experience and general knowledge of the workings of the Garden Clubs of America as do most of our members. I encourage suggestions for articles - or, even better, complete articles - that may be of interest to new members or the general membership.

Finally, I remind Club Presidents to send me dates and details for your special events such as Plant Sales or Flower Shows. If you have a flier or advertisement for your event, please send it for inclusion in the newsletter at [mzarag23@gmail.com](mailto:mzarag23@gmail.com).

## Photography Report

*Heidi Pane, Chair*

I continue to enjoy volunteering as District X Photography Chairperson. For each event I attended, I took photos, created an Amazon photo album and shared the link with other garden club members. Every time I shared photos, I received positive feedback and thank-you notes.

I attended the Philadelphia Horticulture Society Flower Show March 4-5. On March 13, I enjoyed the District X Meeting and fundraiser at the Mon-Valley YMCA. I attended the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania April 7-9. I appreciated an invitation to the Garden Club of Munhall fundraiser April 27. On April 29, I participated in Designers Guild in Greensburg where I learned more about creative staging of designs.

Later in May, I look forward to attending the Martha Washington Garden Club Meeting to learn more about Blue Star Memorial Gardens. In June, I look forward to joining the Uniontown Garden Club at the Remember-Me Rose Garden at the Flight 93 Memorial.

If other garden clubs would like me to attend and photograph an event, they can contact me at [heidi@pane.net](mailto:heidi@pane.net).



## Program Committee Report

*Haddie Weber, Chair*

Following are plans for the upcoming events for 2024:

The **Fundraiser** is scheduled for Thursday June 13, 2024 at the South Hills Country Club. Andy Amrhein of Evey True Value Hardware will be our speaker on a topic to be determined. Each garden club will provide a Raffle Basket. **Valley Garden Club** will be providing the Centerpieces.

The **Annual Meeting** is September 4, 2024. This date is not determined by the district, but by the State Officers. **Please mark your calendars** now, as this date falls early in September, right after Labor Day. More details will be forthcoming. **Great Meadows** and **Green Gardeners** will be providing the Centerpieces. The menu for this event was also decided at the last District X Board meeting. Juliette Olshock of Phipps Conservatory will provide our program on “Planting for Pollinators”. Each club will be responsible for a raffle basket for which your club will be reimbursed \$25.

At the Fundraiser and Annual Meeting there are vendors. If you have any suggestions for vendors please let Haddie Weber know.

Thank you for everyone’s cooperation in having excellent participation in our events.



## Flower Shows

July 11, 1-5 pm	“Let’s Party!” Valley Garden Club Mon Valley YMCA
October 4, 1-5 pm	“Celebrate 90!”
October 5, 9 am - 4 pm	Martha Washington Garden Club Crown Center Mall, Washington, PA