

News at Eleven

GCFP District XI

Winter 2024



A message from the Director, Honey Bawduniak.

The start of a new year and I hope the beginning of new projects, new ideas, new members, and success in all you do this year. On that note, I would like to see a better attendance at the District Meetings through better communication with the club presidents. We may need to give a prize to the club with the most members in attendance at the meetings. Any suggestions to increase attendance please send them to me.

Marj Sears is Chair of the nomination committee with a representative from Bucks County and Philadelphia County and will be looking for candidates to fill the positions of Director and Assistant Director. New officers will be sworn in at the Annual Meeting on September 11, 2024. If you know of someone who would like to or would be a good candidate for one of the positions, please notify Marj and she will check with them. The Director and Assistant Director positions are open to a former club president or a former District Board member.

(stilwellmarj@aol.com)

Our clubs have been doing great things in their community and I would love to have photos and information of the event. The president is not the only one who can do this, I relish getting emails from club members. Sometimes the president is busy with club “stuff” and forgets to share your news. Please feel free to send me your news and photos. (ibawduniak@aol.com)

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Winter Happenings

Old York Road Garden Club planted bulbs at the entrance of the Wall House before the ground froze, and we will look for a Spring photo of the results of their work. They also treated their members to Holiday Tea, nice to relax with friends and enjoy a cup of tea with sweets.



Planting bulbs for spring bloom



Enjoying Friends



Norristown Garden Club had their 73rd Holiday House Tour, made Holiday Baskets for the residents of Markley Manor a local nursing/rehab home, and visited Providence Place nursing home, to provide Horticulture Therapy for the residents.



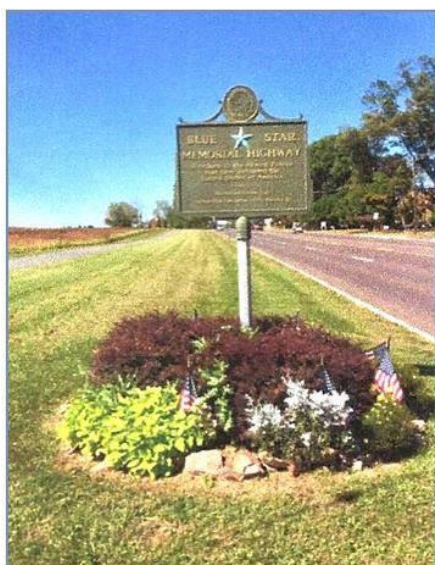
Holiday Baskets for Markley Residents



Horticulture Therapy



Holiday House Tour



How many of our members are familiar with the Blue Star Memorials? Our District has 4 of them to honor the service men and women serving our country.

Norristown Garden Club sponsored and paid for one on Germantown Pike near Barley Sheaf Road at the Farm Park entrance, this is state property. It was dedicated on June 14, 2008 (Flag Day).

This is the original one, it had to be moved when the road was widened when Einstein



Hospital was built. This is the refurbished one. Our club is responsible for maintenance of the Marker, the Farm Park Staff mow around the marker. We plant seasonally and weed as needed.

District XI sponsored and paid for one in the Garden of Reflection in the 9/11 Memorial Park 1950 Woodside Road, Yardley. Dedicated on November 10, 2010. This is a Blue Star Marker. I was unable to find a photo of it.

District I and District XI sponsored and paid for a Blue Star Highway Marker at milepost 328 on the Westbound Turnpike on November 11, 2011 (Veterans Day).

Old York Road Garden Club sponsored and paid for a Blue Star By-Way Marker at the American legion Post # 10, 493 Bethlehem Pike, Fort Washington on May 30, 2022 (Memorial Day).



Information on Guidelines for Memorial Markers and the cost of them is on the GCFP Website. It is a great way to honor our service men and women.

Speaking of the GCFP Website, I hope members visit it frequently. It has all kinds of information on it. Forms for your needs, the Award information books, announcements of plant sales, flower Shows, all District Newsletters, a shop to buy books, jewelry, and other garden themed items. Spend time there and learn about clubs, districts, the State, CAR-NGC and National. It holds so much information and always has up to date information. Become an informed garden club member, when I am informed of your plant sales or flower shows, I send the information in to the webmaster, and it is posted for all to see.



Horticulture Tips for Winter from Marge

WINTER PROBLEMS

- When we think of the effects that winter has on our garden, ice, which breaks the tree limbs and shrub branches, comes to mind. However, there is another problem to consider and that is SALT DAMAGE to plants from deicers.
- The most efficient and inexpensive chemical for melting snow is rock salt. This salt, however, can damage plants. It will pull water out of the leaves of conifers and from buds in trees. This is especially damaging in the early spring when leaf buds begin to swell. Damage appears as browning along the edges of the leaves, wilting, and stunted growth showing small yellow leaves.
- To protect your plants, instead of salt, try using sand or products like calcium chloride or potassium chloride that are less harmful to plants.
- If you plant trees or shrubs in an area where they may be exposed to salt, select species and varieties that will tolerate salt. Here are a few to consider: [Red Cedars](#), [inkberry holly](#), [lilacs](#), [pussy willows](#), and [sweet gum trees](#). [Salt tolerant perennials include coreopsis, yarrow, candytuft, butterfly weed, daylily, coral bells, sedums, and asters.](#)

GARDENER'S RESOLUTION FOR 2024

1. Plan Ahead
 - a. Are there perennials on your property where perennials need to be located in the spring? If so, make a list of them now so that you are prepared come spring.
 - b. Select a calendar with spaces for notes to use for notating garden tasks and bloom times.
 - c. Look at your landscape to see if you need plants for winter interest.
 - d. Make a list of native plants to add to your yard.
2. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
 - a. Divide and propagate plants that are already growing in your garden and share with others.
 - b. Plan your summer container gardens utilizing small, less expensive native perennials.
 - c. Use viable leftover seeds before buying new ones.
3. Walk your property each day and pull-out unwanted plants and weeds.
4. Whatever is started this year is going to be more beautiful in the following years, if maintained.
5. Resolve to cope with gardening disappointments. Remember, there are no gardening failures, just gardening experiments!



Calendar of Events

March 2-10, PHS Flower Show, Convention Center, Philadelphia. See the PHS website for information.

Thursday, March 21, 2024, District XI Meeting, Willow Grove Super Giant, Community Room, 315 York Road, W.G. 19090 Social time, registration 9:00 am, Meeting and Program 10:00am. Program, "Attracting and Cultivating Native Bees", by Sandy Sweeney. Hosting club: Swedesford Garden Club.

April 7-9th, 2024 GCFP 94th Annual Convention, Petals and Patchwork, Lancaster

See Keystone Gardener or GCFP website for information.

Calendar of Events Continued

August 23-24, 2024, Friday and Saturday. Trevoise Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show. “Bee Inspired” , St Ephrem Catholic Church, 5400 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem. More information: 215-441-5884 or 856-866-9163 or www.trevosegardeners.org

