

Winter 2023

# Nine's News

From District IX of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

## Director's Message



**H**appy New Year to all the members of our District IX Clubs! I hope you all experienced the joy of family, the gift of friends, and a beautiful holiday season.

One would think that as we moved into the winter months, we would have taken a much needed break from Garden Club activities. Instead, across the District we were preparing for Holiday Greens Sales and Gift Shoppes, decorating community Christmas trees, conducting swag and wreath making workshops, holding holiday luncheons, ornament exchanges, and hosting events like Glitter and Glow. Many of these wonderful holiday activities are highlighted in this special Winter Edition of the Nine's News.

As we ring in the new year our club program committees are already busy planning field trips, workshops, and lining up speakers for the coming year. Collectively, the clubs in our District always have an exciting array of programs and events. Belonging to a garden club can be enriching in so many ways when you take part in your club's activities.

This issue of the Nine's News will introduce you to the District Officers, the District Committee Chairpersons, and our Club Presidents. Our goal is to help strengthen our clubs by providing leadership and addressing the issues that face many of our Clubs. It is my hope to have more committee reports included in future issues of the newsletter. Please reach out to the appropriate committee chairpersons if you have questions or need to collaborate on ideas.

District IX will hold its annual Member's Day Out on April 4, 2023 at the Chadwick in Wexford. Mark your calendars for this event. In addition to a program on growing hydrangeas and garden-themed raffle baskets, we will be selecting the District's 'Trash to Treasure' winning entry at this event. The theme of the contest is "A Sculpture for your Garden." I'm looking forward to seeing the sculptures our talented members create. Details of the contest are noted within this newsletter.

Until we meet in April - stay warm. Cozy up with your favorite garden magazine and plan your garden for next year.

*Claudia Bernardo, District IX Director*

## Inside This Issue

- 2-10 Club Reports
- 11-12 Committee Reports
- 13-14 Getting to Know You
- 15 Awards
- 16 Registration form MDO
- 17-18 GCFP Convention forms

## Upcoming Events

February 2, 2023

Ground Hog Day

February 15, 2023

deadline for Seed Money applications

March 3, 2023

Deadline for IX's News submissions

March 21, 2023

District IX Board Meeting - Springfield Grille

March 21, 2023

Commonwealth of PA State Bird Day

April 4, 2023

**Members Day Out**

see p. 14 for details

April 21-23, 2023

GCFP Convention, Monroeville, PA

April 22, 2023

Earth Day

April 26, 2023

Arbor Day

May 2-5, 2023

NGC Annual Convention  
Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, WV

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# Club Reports

## Butler Garden Club

We take on a diverse horticultural pursuit in the winter months by holding an auction amongst our members at our annual Christmas luncheon. The most sought-after items up for grabs are the elegant centerpieces created by our own member and AIFD, as well as Phipps Conservatory Lead Floral Instructor and AIFD Educational Advisor, Polly Berginc.

This year she designed and directed member helpers to create centerpieces with Noble and Silver fir, Port Oxford Cedar, Carolina Sapphire, White Pine, Boxwood, Magnolia leaves, pine cones and Lotus pods. These winter gems garnered high bids which, in turn, built up our donation purse tally at the end of the holiday celebration.

Festive and practical items, painted children's furniture, baskets of libations and the like were up for auction as well. The admirable sum of monies raised in just one hour by approximately two dozen women were in turn donated to thoughtfully chosen and voted-upon local charities. This year's recipients were Meals on Wheels, servicing the elderly shut-ins in the Butler area and Robin's Home, a Butler city residence and program for homeless, low-income female veterans and their children, servicing women in seven contiguous counties.

It is always a "win-win", gathering to share holiday fellowship and to give back and make an impact in the community in which we live.

*Susan Morgus, President, BGC*



## Edgeworth Garden Club

**E**dgeworth GC has been running low on funds since the start of Covid. Rather than give up any activities, we decided to embark on a holiday series of fundraising events to replenish our coffers. Since most things “holiday” seem to require a bow, we spent part of our November meeting refreshing our bow making skills. Hint for all who have hand agility issues, there are bow making gizmos for sale on Amazon and they work well!

On to our pumpkin project; with a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors of pumpkins we crafted centerpieces to sell at a local church craft bazar. While not wildly successful, we did make money due to the fact that everything we used to make the arrangements was donated by club members. We also learned that while beautiful to behold, large arrangements do not sell; smaller ones seem to be more appealing to potential buyers!

In December our club V.President, who had prior experience in making yule log table decorations, suggested we try making those for fun and profit. Armed with various cutting and pruning tools we headed for gardens and roadways to forage for fresh greens. Our foraging was so successful we soon expanded our activities to include holiday swags.

On the coldest day of early December we headed to a local mall to join a “stuff a bus” project and sell our creations. Following that adventure we joined “light up night” activities in Sewickley to sell our wares in the lobby of the Tull theater. There we met with modest success and are pleased to announce that we are financially solvent for the remainder of the year.

Having frozen our assets off with various outdoor fund-raising projects, we were delighted to be able to relax with club friends at a holiday pot luck luncheon and gift exchange in a well heated location. We have learned that the club is populated with many creative members who willingly lend their talents to fund raising. We look forward to new adventures in 2023. Happy New Year to all.

*Suzan M. Vandertie, President, EGC*



## Fox Chapel Garden Club



After recovering from hosting the District IX Annual meeting in September, a group of members took a field trip to Footprints Farm in Gibbon Glade in Fayette Co., near Uniontown. Footprints Farm is a family run farm that uses organic methods to raise meat and vegetables and sells its products in the Pittsburgh area. Check out their website at <https://www.footprintsfarm.com> or better yet plan a field trip there with your garden club!

In October our general membership meeting was held at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg. This Boy Scout camp is supported by some of the funds we raise at Glitter & Glow. The camp manager, Mike Daniher, provided a tour of the camp and some historical background.

Fox Chapel Garden Club celebrated the holiday season with the return to its end of year fundraiser, Glitter & Glow! After two years of work arounds due to COVID restrictions, Glitter & Glow returned to its usual venue, Fox Chapel Golf Club. It's hard to say who had more fun; our members who spent two days creating beautiful arrangements of fresh greens and live plants or our 250 enthusiastic guests who attended the event.

The club is fortunate to have a member who lets us use her heated garage to prepare the arrangements. Our members enjoyed the camaraderie of the two workshop days spent creating the 140 arrangements we offered for sale. During our last general membership meeting our members tried their hand at creating "Salty Santas." These small holiday decorations started as basic salt and pepper shakers. Add some creatively applied decorations and the salt and pepper dispensers became Santas, snowmen or various other sparkly and festive small holiday gifts. We are pleased to say they sold faster than a snowman could melt at this holiday gala!

Our members also showcased their personal creativity by preparing handmade items for the auction tables. This year a decorated 8-foot artificial tree, a festively decorated piece of driftwood and a beautiful handmade hooked rug of a pair of foxes drew "oohs and ahhs" and lots of bids! Other members provided 11 dozen homemade cookies, pastries and savories that were offered as refreshments to our guests. Seen at Glitter & Glow were guests, Claudia Bernardo, current District IX Director; Leslie Anthony and Cindy Halicky, Shaler Garden Club. Thank you to all the District IX members who attended! All the proceeds raised by this glittering evening of inspired gifts, good friends and delicious food will be used to support local community organizations that have programs in line with our Club's mission.

*Christine Bennett & Susanne Hegnes, Co- Presidents, FCGC*



## Greybrooke Garden Club

**H**appy New Year from the Greybrooke Garden Club! We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

As we prepare our club for our 2023 club year, we need to reflect on what we have learned from 2022 and plan for the election of new club officers for our 2023-2025 club years. Greybrooke welcomed three new members in 2022. Their talents and experience will be an asset to our club.

After having a successful September Mum Sale Greybrooke began the planning for our November Joint Meeting. Members gathered at Karen Lampman's home to bake over thirty pumpkin rolls for sale at the meeting. The meeting included a lunch prepared by our members, vendor shopping, and an informative presentation by well known columnist Doug Oster entitled, "Things That Can Still Be Planted in Your Garden." Vendors included Best Feeds, Hahn's Nursery, Soergel's and Wild Birds Unlimited. Over seventy gardeners across the District attended.

This has become a tradition for the Greybrooke Garden Club and we look forward to hosting our fellow Gardeners every year.

Every Christmas Greybrooke has held a Christmas party for residents of the Orion Personal Care Home. For the past two years Covid has prevented having an onsite party, but we continued to provide stockings for each of the residents. We ended the year by celebrating the holiday with our annual Christmas party at Andora with a delicious lunch.

Plans for our January and February meetings include creating valentines for Orion and hosting a creative gardening craft session for our members. Once again Greybrooke wishes all a Happy, Healthy, Abundant New Year. At Greybrooke we are looking forward to a beautiful spring and all the wonderful activities that entails.

*Bonnie MacDonald, President, GGC*



# Ingomar Garden Club

**I**ngomar Garden Club ended our 2022 gardening year at Shannopin Country Club with a final December Meeting/Christmas Holiday Celebration. As I reflected upon this special occasion, a few lyrics from the song, "Somewhere in My Memory," came to mind. The line, "Christmas Joys all Around Me," was a reminder of the traditions held so dearly every December. Glowing bright lights, beautifully decorated trees, and ornamented holiday greens welcomed us. Then the words, "Precious Moments, Special People, Happy Faces, I Can See;" revealed the true meaning of Christmas, which is friendship.

We reveled in each other's company. sharing a delightful lunch, singing Christmas carols, and taking in the cheerful expressions of those opening garden related gifts. Ingomar Garden Club members were grateful for a full year return to normalcy; being back to our usual meeting place, enjoying good food, gathering with our neighboring garden friends, and amazing field trips. In fact, our last excursion to the Enchanted Olive Shop enabled us to purchase unique gifts after sampling a variety of flavored oils and aged vinegars.

In January and February IGC members will abandon winter hibernation for a bit of camaraderie and lunch. The year 2023 means great action for our club as we prepare for September's District IX Meeting.

Cheers to a Bountiful Garden in this New Year,  
*Julie Barnes, President, IGC*





# Moon Township Garden Club



**H**appy 2023 everyone! As we begin a new year of fellowship through gardening, we cherish those memories of the past. The MTGC celebrated the 2022 Holidays in our traditional fashion, preparing our Holiday Greens and Gift Shoppe for excited shoppers. Although the name and road signs were new this year, the traditional artificial greens, fresh greens, and birdseed wreath workshops provided ample treasured bonding time. Our seven new members eagerly came to learn from those more experienced all the while sharing their creative talents with the rest of us. Preparations of the 220 artificial floral pieces began in late fall. The fresh greens workshop, held the week before the sale, produced 90 fresh items using greens pruned by members from their own yards! Christmas is for the birds, you know; so, we insured our feathered friends were taken care of this winter with 62 homemade birdseed wreaths and decorated birdseed filled mason jars. A very popular item this year were the festively potted live plants grown by club members over the summer. Unusual boutique items for people and pets alike and freshly baked sweets tastefully wrapped were positioned among the other items throughout four rooms of Robin Hill Center.

Our Greens Sale has a colorful history being held in the basement of Robin Hill for many years selling only fresh greens and then moving to the carriage house, partnering with the Quilters Club and the Art League. As the club continued to grow in size, so did the size of the sale and its reputation around town! For a number of years now, the 1920s Georgian Style home (and our home base) has been magically transformed into a Christmas wonderland by the club members who all take part in some way. Always held on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving, the community shoppers line up an hour early to make the mad dash into the Shoppe upon opening. Under the calm leadership of Grace Aldridge, one of our newer members, the Holiday Greens and Gift Shoppe provided unique gifts at the best prices in town! All proceeds from the sale go back to the community through our community outreach and our private yearly scholarship.

In mid-December, our club met again at the Montour Heights Country Club for our Holiday Luncheon to toast each other as we completed our 101st year. Our club's history has been one of giving back to the community so my "food for thought" challenge for 2023 is to think of new ways to reach out to the community while carrying on our valued traditions!

*Marcia Welsh, President, MTGC*





## Shaler Garden Club



**H**appy New Year from Shaler Garden Club! We started the holiday season decorating four trees at the Shaler North Hills Library in preparation for Shaler's Lite Up Night. This was followed by the annual holiday wreath making workshop sponsored by the library. Club members assisted community members decorating live Fraser Fir wreaths. An additional ten wreaths were decorated by club members, and we sold within thirty minutes the following morning.



Our Christmas party was held on December 6th at our favorite meeting place, Glenshaw Presbyterian Church. Members enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon, followed by a Christmas Trivia game with prizes. In lieu of a gift exchange, members made donations to North Hills Community Outreach's food pantry in memory of Ginny Miller. Ginny was an honorary member who had served in multiple roles in her 29 years of membership.



Members enjoyed a Christmas Open House at the home of Susie Chastney. Susie had thirty beautifully decorated trees throughout her house, each one with a different theme.

In February we'll start our year of community service by creating one of the 18 holes at the library's annual mini-golf fundraiser during President's Day weekend.

Shaler Garden Club would like to remind everyone to save the date for District IX's Members Day Out. It will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at The Chadwick, Wexford, PA. This year's guest speaker is Dennis James, and the topic is Hydrangeas. Other features include:

- "Trash to Treasure" with the theme of Thyme to Garden in Pittsburgh contest judging
- A raffle of spring and garden-related items
- Plants for purchase from DJ's Greenhouse. Registration forms will be distributed to District IX clubs in February.

*Diane Tucek & Linda Barto, Co-Presidents, SGC*



# 6. Butler County Garden Club



Southern Butler County Garden Club (SBCGC) once again gathered at the Springfield Grille for a Christmas luncheon, cookie exchange, and ornament-exchange game. Twenty members attended this lovely event on December 13th. Once again, the service and food at the restaurant was excellent and having the meeting room made our gathering private and special.

A special thank you letter for our club's food donation to Gleaner's Food Bank was read by Jackie Batt, our Hospitality Chair. Also, Jill shared a donation thank you letter and card from Pittsburgh Botanical Garden. Our club made donations in November to eight organizations and sent one thank you gift card. Jill thanked all the members for their help and service and gifted each with a poinsettia plant. Truly, a happy holiday! Best wishes to all in 2023!

*Jill Barger, President, SBCGC*



## Tusca-Ridge Garden Club



Tusca-Ridge spent the fall preparing for our annual "Nature's Bounty and Greens Sale." It began with planning, then cutting fresh greenery for making our creations. Workshops were held in October with members making items with dried materials and wiring pinecones and making bows in preparation for working with fresh evergreens in our workshops in November. At that time, we spent 8 days building wreaths and mailbox huggies, as well as our unique boxwood creations of kissing balls and tabletop trees.

The greenery workshops were held at the Frye Transportation garage. They generously allowed us to hold the sale at their location as well.

Other community partners helped to make our sale a success. The owners of 31 Event Rentals donated a tent and tables and the women of the College Avenue Methodist Church set up a bake sale near the check-out area.

Because of the successful sale, the club was able to support worthy charities, especially the Beaver County Educational Trust, which gives grants to teachers doing gardening projects. Our recipient this year was Isaac Dixon, who established a thriving garden at the Rochester Area School.

*Ann Niemann, President, TRGC*



# Committee Reports

## Does the Rule of Thumb for Native Perennials Apply to District IX?

The rule of thumb for native perennials is “sleep, creep, leap.” First year perennials sleep while the plant’s energy is focused on its root system. Second year plants creep with slow growth and a few blooms. Third year perennials leap in size and flower production.

As District IX’s Pollinator Chair, I believe that, when it comes to recognizing the significance of native plants and pollinators, District IX is no longer sleeping but creeping. As I listened to club reports being given at September’s District IX Annual Meeting, I noticed that club presidents were referencing an increasing variety of activities involving pollinators and native plants. To verify this suspected increase, I did a little research. I reviewed District IX annual club reports from 2021 and 2022 and counted the number of times that the words “native” (in reference to plants, trees, flowers, or grasses) and “pollinator(s)” appeared in the reports.

Here’s what I found:

In 2021, two of nine district reports cited the words native or pollinator(s) in their annual report.

- 3 native
- 1 pollinator(s)

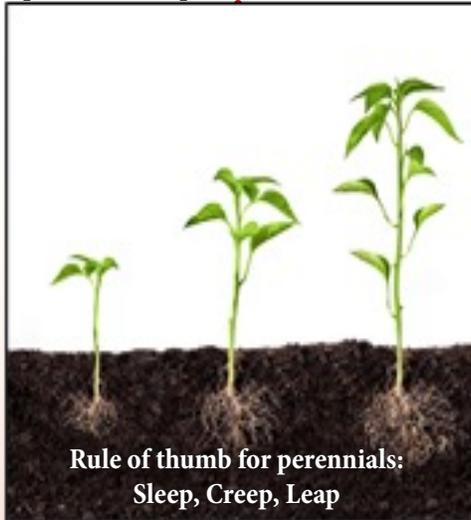
In 2022, five of nine district reports cited the words native or pollinator(s) in their reports:

- 7 native
- 10 pollinator(s)

I also noted that the 2021 reports specifically named 2 native plants and the 2022 reports specifically named 7 native plants and 3 herbs that benefit pollinators. Both the 2021 and 2022 reports indicate that all of the clubs in District IX maintain community gardens, with Tusca-Ridge Garden Club indicating that one of their gardens is a butterfly garden.

Native plant and pollinator activities increased significantly in 2022. Three clubs highlighted some of their native plant and pollinator activities. Fox Chapel Garden Club selected “Native Plants and Pollinators” as the theme for

the 2022 annual district meeting, which they hosted. This theme was clearly evident in their programs, gift baskets, centerpieces, keynote speaker and program. Additionally, the Fox Chapel Garden Club reported the planting of native trees and plants in their community work with Hartwood’s Sculpture Garden, Suffragist Grove and two new meadows.



Rule of thumb for perennials:  
Sleep, Creep, Leap

Moon Township Garden Club’s theme for 2022 was “In Touch with Nature.” As part of their community Plant Giveaway initiative, they distributed over 400 Southwest Pennsylvania native plants and herbs to participants with a goal of encouraging the public to replace invasive plants with pollinator friendly herbs and flowers. They also held a Pollinator Photo Contest, inviting members of the community to share photos of

their pollinator visitors.

Southern Butler Garden Club formed an Educational Outreach Committee and scheduled four community events at Graham Park in their club maintained pollinator garden. They kicked off the season with an Arbor Day event with tree pruning demonstrations and giveaways. During National Garden Club week, the club hosted a “Coffee and Conversation” event which included a history of the pollinator garden. Pollinator fun facts were located throughout the garden during their “Pollinators and their Purpose” event. The last event, a fall “Walk and Talk,” covered the importance of milkweed to monarch butterflies and included milkweed seed giveaways.

In summary, all club reports conveyed busy, productive clubs engaged in a wide variety of activities that clearly support the mission of the National Garden Club, which is to “promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.” There is a trend towards incorporating native plants and beneficial pollinator plants into our programs, gardens and community-based activities. It is clear that clubs are not sleeping. Like perennials, our roots are strong and clubs are creeping (if not leaping) forward in support of our native plants and pollinators.

*Leslie Anthony, District IX Pollinator Chair*

## TRASH TO TREASURE

It's THYME to get creative and start thinking about a project to submit for the 2023 Trash to Treasure. The 2023 GCFP Convention will be in April and takes place in our own backyard of Monroeville! The theme this year is "Thyme to Garden in Pittsburgh" - A Sculpture for the Garden. Now is a great time to craft something amazing from recycled or repurposed metal items. You may work as a group within your Garden Club or individually. Only one project from District IX will go on to compete at the convention. If you are interested in participating, be sure to bring your completed project to our District IX Members Day Out luncheon on April 4, 2023. That's when judging will take place, with one project being selected to go on and represent District IX. PLEASE be sure to follow the theme/rules provided and be mindful of the scale of points for judging listed. Thyme to show how creative District IX is!



*Rose Romboski, District IX Trash to Treasure Chair*

### Trash to Treasure Rules: "THYME to GARDEN in Pittsburgh" - A Sculpture for your Garden

Pittsburgh was home to immigrant families who found work and wealth in its many earth-related industries. Therefore, this contest is for a standalone functional metal sculpture for the garden (e.g., not limited to iron, steel and aluminum).

1. Dimensions: must be exhibited on a base, no larger than 14" Wide or 14" deep. Height is minimum of 20".
2. Weight: No more than 15 lbs.
3. Materials: Any type of metal(s) that is/are recycled, reused or repurposed. May use dried plant materials (NO fresh).
4. Each entry must include a 3 x 5 card:
  - Front: Title and a list of the materials used
  - Back: District, Garden Club, Designer(s) name and mailing address.
5. Entry may be work of more than one person

District entries selected for Convention competition must be submitted on Friday, April 21 from 11am-5pm at the Monroeville Doubletree Hotel. Judging is at 5:15 PM. Entries are not to be judged under the same standards as a flower show.

### SCALE OF POINTS FOR JUDGING

Conformance - 20 pts  
(Fits within stated dimensions, on a base, weighs less than 15 lbs.)

Artistic Concept - 50 pts  
(Creative reuse of recycled materials)

Expression - 20 pts  
(Interpretation of theme)

Execution (Workmanship) - 10 pts

TOTAL: 100 points

*Pat Drennen, GCFP Trash to Treasure Chair*

## AWARDS

The deadline for applying for Seed Money from the GCFP is approaching! It is due February 15!

Go to the GCFP website, click "More", then click "Awards" and the application form is there for you to download. All the instructions are there as well where to send it.

SEED MONEY IS FREE FOR THE ASKING! Just complete application (one per club) for one project and send it in before the deadline. GCFP President, Sheila Croushore is encouraging us to grow in many aspects. Garden Clubs can become more visible in our communities by developing a cooperative effort with civic organizations, youth, and church related groups and educating them on the principles of gardening. GCFP will award a grant to the clubs selected.

*Ann Niemann, District IX Awards Chair*

# Getting to Know You

We would like to introduce you to the new officers of District IX. Please welcome them to their new positions when you see them at Member's Day Out or the GCFP Convention!

## District IX Director Claudia Bernardo

When I retired after a 40 year career as a physical therapist, I was able to pursue my two personal interests of gardening and baking. I had already received my landscape and garden design certification from Phipps, so I became a Penn State Master Gardener, and even found time to complete the Wilton cake decorating courses.



I believe that if you join a Club you should be an active member and work to support its activities at all levels. I joined the Shaler Garden Club in 2015 and have served as a past club president, designed the club's Plant America Garden, and continue to serve as the awards chairperson, plant sale chairperson and civic & conservation co-chair. I also served as the District IX Awards Chairperson for 3 years and as Assistant Director before assuming the role of District Director.

## District IX Assistant Director Stacey Ivoll

Gardening began years ago for me. We had a large yard growing up in which the majority was a vegetable garden. We had to weed the garden before going out to play in the summer so I refuse to have a veggie garden now. My mother had irises and lilies which I have brought them from her garden in St. Louis to add to mine here in Pennsylvania.



I do have some vegetables but I mix them in pots with annuals to calm my veggie weeding memories.

Happy garden memories!

## District IX Secretary Joanne Laverty

As a Shaler Garden Club member since 2013, I have provided assistance in most of the club activities be it weeding, decorating, organizing, or greeting. In addition to producing the club's yearbook for several years, I had the challenge of being club president during the COVID years which required creativity, flexibility, and improving technological skills as SGC planned and implemented its 100th anniversary.



My primary reason for continuing garden club involvement is community improvement. However, the biggest benefit has always been meeting and interacting with so many interesting people.

## District IX Treasurer Mary Reefer

Most of my married life I was a stay-at-home mom with a husband who urged me to decide what I wanted to be when I grew up. In 2011 an empty nest gave the freedom to grow up, and I became a Master Gardener and began courses at Phipps to become a certified botanical illustrator.



I also joined Butler Garden Club and served as Treasurer for four years as well as Co-President for four years. My new challenge as a Computer Illiterate is as the Co-editor of the BGC newsletter which is definitely a work in progress.

**District IX Committee Chairpersons  
and Representatives**

- Annual Meeting Co-chairs:**  
Paula Steinmetz, Ruth Kirk, IGC
- Auditor:**  
Kate Colville, IGC
- Awards:**  
Ann Niemann, T-RGC
- Blue Star Marker:**  
Karen Faust, BGC & SBCGC
- Environmental:**  
Weezie Walter, FCGC
- Horticulture:**  
Stacey Ivol, T-RGC
- Membership:**  
Marcia Welsh, MTGC
- Nines News Editor:**  
Suzan Vandertie, EGC
- Parliamentarian:**  
Cheri Davison, T-RGC
- Pollinators:**  
Leslie Anthony, SGC
- Programs:**  
Robin Felton Baum, FCGC
- Scholarship:**  
Bonnie MacDonald, GBC
- Special Events** (Members Day Out):  
Linda Barto and Diane Tucek, SGC
- Trash to Treasure:**  
Rose Romboski, SBCGC
- GCFP Nominating Committee Representative & Alternate:**  
Rose Romboski and Karen Faust



**District IX Garden Club Presidents**

- Butler Garden Club:**  
Susan Morgus
- Edgeworth Garden Club:**  
Sue Vandertie
- Fox Chapel Garden Club:**  
Susanna Hegnes & Christine Bennett
- Greybrooke Garden Club:**  
Bonnie MacDonald
- Ingomar Garden Club:**  
Julie Barnes
- Moon Township Garden Club:**  
Marcia Welsh
- Shaler Garden Club:**  
Diane Tucek & Linda Barto
- S. Butler County Garden Club:**  
Jill Barger
- Tusca-Ridge Garden Club:**  
Ann Niemann



*District IX Members Day Out*

Tuesday, April 4 2023  
 The Chadwick, Wexford, PA  
 Guest Speaker: Dennis James  
 Topic: Hydrangeas  
 Brunch Buffet

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

**Other Features:** "Trash to Treasure" contest entries  
 Raffle of Spring and garden related items  
 DJ's Greenhouse will bring plants for you to purchase  
 Registration forms will be distributed to Garden Clubs in February





**CIVIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT AWARD**  
 First Place Medium Club-Hazleton Garden Club (50 Members)  
 Certificate and \$100

**FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE AWARDS**  
 NGC Standard Flower Show  
**LARGE CLUB**  
 1ST Place: Norristown Garden Club, "Make Mine Music"  
 2ND Place: St. Mary's County Garden Club, "From Sea to Shining Sea"

**PUBLICITY/PRESSBOOK**  
 Small Clubs: First Place: Heritage Garden Club  
 Medium Clubs: First Place: Biglerville Garden Club  
 Large Clubs: Second Place: Gettysburg Garden Club

**NGC YEARBOOK AWARDS**  
 YB-1 (100-299 MEMBERS) The Garden Club of York

**NGC YOUTH CONTESTS**  
 Youth Recycled Sculpture Contest  
 Grade 4-Second Place: Violet Rumburg, Shaler Garden Club  
 Grade 5-First Place: Noelle Ronnenberg, Ingomar Garden Club

**NGC YOUTH POETRY CONTEST**  
 Kindergarten: Honorable Mention 90+ Olivia Clay, Ingomar Garden Club  
 5th Grade: Honorable Mention 90+ Grace Debolt, Garden Club of York  
 6th Grade: 2nd Place: Katherine Schaarsmith, Ingomar Garden Club  
 9th Grade: Honorable Mention 90+ Karina Ingram, Tusca Ridge Garden Club

Reported in the CAR-SGC Review.  
 Full listing can be accessed from the GCFP Website.  
 Sheri Lowry, GCFP Award Chair

**Congratulations to Ingomar, Shaler and Tusca-Ridge**

**The 93<sup>rd</sup>  
 GCFP Convention**

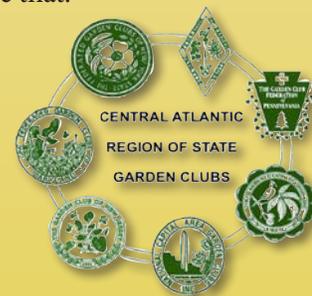
**"Thyme to Garden"**

Friday through Sunday, April 21-23, 2023  
 Doubletree by Hilton  
 Pittsburgh-Monroeville Convention  
 Center  
 Hosted by District VII

Registration information is available online. Go to "pagardenclubs.org." Click on the word "more" in the far right. When the menu drops, go to the bottom and click on "2023 GCFP Convention info."

The next KEYSTONE GARDENER might not be out in time for you to register for the convention. To register you need to first, check the information on the website. This will tell you everything you need to know that has already been finalized for the convention.

Next, either print the registration form in this issue of NINES NEWS, or download the registration form from the website and use that.



**NGC's Membership Mondays**

The National Garden Club's Membership Monday Programs are free monthly zoom events for all members. Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, they are designed to address topics, enhance skills, resolve commonly encountered issues that face our garden clubs, and explore solutions in a spirit of collaboration. Simply go on the National Garden Club Website, go to the member resources tab, click "register here" and the link to join the program will be sent to you. The upcoming programs will provide information about the NGC's Schools of study. The "Video Café" link will give you access to previous programs. Please take time to explore the NGC's Website, there is a wealth of information and free educational programs available to all of us.

The January Program will be on the NGC School of Garden Study  
 The February Program will highlight the NGC's Flower Show School  
 The March program will be on the Landscape Design Study School



*DISTRICT IX*  
**MEMBER'S DAY OUT**

*TUESDAY, April 4, 2023*

*The Chadwick, 10545 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090*

*9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m Registration*

*10:00 am Brunch Buffet*

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

*11:30-12:15 p.m PROGRAM*

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

**Program: "Growing Hydrangeas"**

*Presented by*

**Dennis James**

*Dennis is the owner of DJ's Nursery in Transfer, PA. This year marks his 40<sup>th</sup> year in business. Visit his shop for a delightful selection of shade perennials, small trees, shrubs, dozens of other perennials, hanging baskets and over 20 varieties of hydrangeas,*

**Highlights:** *Raffle of Spring and Garden Related Items*

*DJ's Greenhouse will bring plants for you to purchase*

*"Trash to Treasure" contest entries*

*Register by March 18, \$26 per person Make checks payable to District IX GCFP*

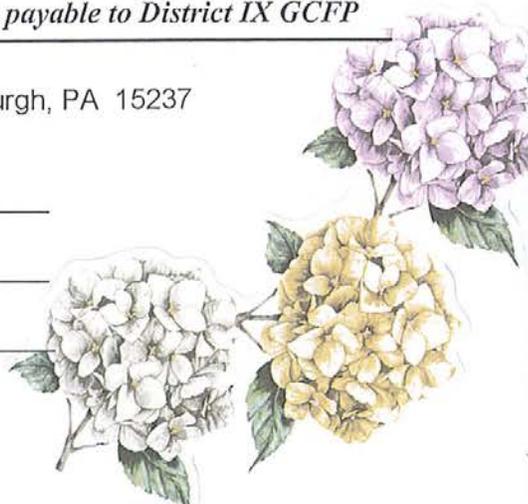
Mail reservations to Sue Semple, 626 Tara Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

[semplew@verizon.net](mailto:semplew@verizon.net) 412 216-4084

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_



## REGISTRATION for 93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

**April 21 - 23, 2023 (Friday-Sunday)**

Please print legibly and complete separate registration forms for you and your guest(s), using both pages.

**Make check(s) payable to: "GCFP 2023 Convention"**

Mail to: **Linda Phelps, 2023 Convention Registrar,  
73 Elmore Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15221**

Contact: registrar2023dvii@gmail.com 412.559.9578

**Confirmation will be sent to your email address**

**NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 31, 2023**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name on Name Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club (s) \_\_\_\_\_ District(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check all that apply:**

<input type="checkbox"/> NGC President	<input type="checkbox"/> District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> GCFP Life Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Former NGC President	<input type="checkbox"/> Asst. District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge
<input type="checkbox"/> NGC Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Club President	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/> CAR-SGC Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/> GCFP (State) President	<input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/> Former GCFP President	<input type="checkbox"/> CAR-SGC Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest/Spouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Current GCFP Officer or Board Member Position:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Current CAR-SGC Officer or Board Member Position:		

Advanced registration is required for all events and early registration is advertised. See next (2/2) page. Obtain enlarged Form on GCFP website.

## REGISTRATION for 93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION, cont.

Page 2/2: Specify & prioritize your choices. Calculate check TOTAL due.

<b>ONE HOTEL MEAL MUST BE SELECTED to attend ANY sessions of that day. Enter \$ of selected events in right column.</b>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Enter \$</i>
Registration postmarked on or before March 10, 2023	\$5	\$ _____
Registration postmarked March 11-31, 2023	\$25	\$ _____
Save \$30! Full Conference Rate includes Friday & Saturday dinner and program, Sessions A-C, Saturday & Sunday Lunch and Program, and EXCLUDES events (shaded) prior to Friday dinner.	\$250	\$ _____
<b>INDIVIDUAL EVENTS</b>		
<b>FRIDAY, APR. 21 * indicates additional fees, NOT part of the Full Conference Rate</b>		
8-11:45AM Log House Tour/Breakfast (20-26 required)	\$50*	\$ _____
11-11:45AM MT1 <i>Ribbon Magic-Mary Jane Martucci</i> (40 max.)	\$10*	\$ _____
1-2:45PM Afternoon Tea & <i>Titanic Era Fashion-Deb Gilbert</i> (50 max.)	\$50*	\$ _____
3-3:45PM MT2 <i>Essential Oils for Gardeners-Linda Boyer</i> (40 max.)	\$10*	\$ _____
4-4:45PM MT3 <i>Propagation-Maggie Shafferman</i> (40 max.)	\$10*	\$ _____
6:30-9PM. International Sampling Buffet/ <i>Entertainer Mickey Dee</i>	\$65	\$ _____
<b>SATURDAY, APR. 22</b>		
10:45-11:45AM Session A-Please prioritize your choices as 1, 2 & 3	\$20	\$ _____
A1 <i>The Safe Way to Can-Marcy Cunkleman</i>	# _____	
A2 <i>Rachel Carson's Gifts and Legacy-Jeanne Cecil</i>	# _____	
A3 <i>Mastering Phone Photography-Don Orkoskey</i>	# _____	
12-2:45PM Lunch & Speaker: <i>PIT Botanical Garden, Mark Miller, Ph.D.</i>	\$45	\$ _____
3-4PM Session B-Please prioritize your choices as 1, 2 & 3	\$20	\$ _____
B1 <i>The Neighborhood's Urban Forest-Joe Stavish</i>	# _____	
B2 <i>Supporting Home Landscapes-Gabe Tilove</i>	# _____	
B3 <i>Native Landscaping for Birds-Robert Mulvihill</i>	# _____	
6:30-9PM Dinner, <i>Floral Rhythms, Dessert/Champagne Reception</i>	\$65	\$ _____
<b>SUNDAY, APR. 23</b>		
10:45-11:45AM Session C - Please prioritize your choices as 1, 2 & 3	\$20	\$ _____
C1 <i>Connecting Schools with Gardeners-Adia Effiong</i>	# _____	
C2 <i>Conservation of Ecosystems-Rose Marie Muzika</i>	# _____	
C3 <i>History &amp; Future of Garden Design-Joshua Beblo</i>	# _____	
11-2PM Lunch & <i>Under the Rainbow</i> by Best of the West Designers	\$45	\$ _____
Make check "Total" payable to "GCFP 2023 Convention"	<b>Total</b>	\$ _____