

SPRING 2022

Nine's News

From District IX of *The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania*



Director's Message

Happy Spring Everyone!

It may be a few days premature, but my thoughts are already in warmer weather and all that goes with it. District IX members know that means getting back to what we do best, plant sales, community gardens, garden tours and great meetings with interesting and informative speakers. Some of you may have already had your first meetings this year. Since we have received our Covid vaccinations, more opportunities should arise for us to get back to our "normal" way of life. I so look forward to being around friends again.

Our Member's Day Out planning is all in place and promises to be a wonderful Spring event. Many thanks to Cheri Davison and Ann Neiman (our Special Event chairs) along with their Committee, for making this a special day. They are still accepting reservations (see the form on the back page). If you haven't already done so, please reserve your spot. Invite a friend or two and plan to have a wonderful time.

Stacey Ivoll expects to see some very interesting "Trash to Treasure" entries and she promises to see that our District IX winning entry is in the competition at the 2022 GCFP Convention in Malvern on April 3rd. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to have District IX's entry become the GCFP Winner!

There will be a new twist to the table of Raffle items this year. I will keep it a surprise, but I think you will like all the amazing items the ladies have for you. Of course, our day will be topped off with our wonderful speaker, Linda Johnson. Linda will guide us through some beautiful gardens in her native England. We will all feel like we just had a tour through the English Countryside! I will look forward to seeing many of you on Tuesday, March 29th at the Chadwick in Wexford.

Happy Gardening!

Karen Faust, District IX Director

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Coming Events

March 21, 2022

Commonwealth of PA State Bird Day

March 29, 2022

Member's Day Out - p. 13 for details

April 3-5, 2022

GCFP State Convention
"Celebrating Natures Masterpieces"

April 22, 2022 - Earth Day

April 30, 2022 - Arbor Day

May 17-20, 2022

NGC Annual Convention, Orlando Florida

June 5-11, 2022 - National Garden Week

June 14, 2022

Dedication of Dist. IX Blue Star Marker in
Vet's Memorial in N. Boundary Park -time
tbd

June 21, 2022

District IX Board Meeting - at Pgh. Botanic
Garden, meeting & lunch - time tbd

August 21, 2022

Club Presidents' Zoom Meeting

Sept. 7, 2022

District IX Annual Meeting
Hosted by Fox Chapel Garden Club

Oct. 18, 2022

Fall Dist. IX Board Meeting location tbd



Nine's News Editor: Sue Vandertie
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Club Reports

Butler Garden Club

Spring has already sprung for our club as we are working toward events before the vernal equinox gets here! After a brief winter hiatus, we will gather informally for a fun St. Patrick's ladies day out in mid-March and then get back to scheduled meetings with our snow birds returning. In April we will meet at Lutherlyn, an outdoor ministry which operates summer camps, retreats and environmental educational programs, to name a few. We look forward to learning about new projects on their vast wooded acreage in Prospect, PA.

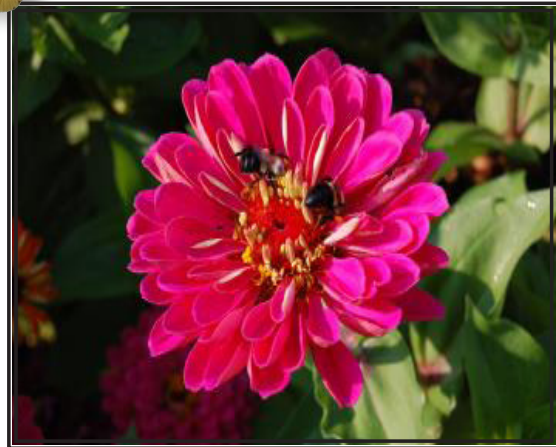
Moving forward in May, aside from community plantings, we will be hard at work wrapping up preparations for our much-missed biennial Summer Garden Party. We can't wait to resume this super event, as we haven't had it since 2018! It will be held on June 16th at the Butler Country Club.

Local celebrity and all-knowing gardener, Doug Oster, will be our speaker, educating us on great plants for our gardens in 2022! Another fan favorite, DJ from DJ's Greenhouse, will accompany Doug, providing material for his talk. DJ will also make his outstanding plants available to guests for purchase. We will have terrific vendors for guests to shop as they like, as well as chances to win our extravagant member-made raffle baskets. We will be opening ticket sales to the District clubs in early May, so start thinking about attending - on your own, or with a friend! Hope to see you there!

Susan Morgus, BGC



Mel Shewalter, BGC's Irish First Lady





Jane Adamson designing a valentine!



Kathy Kruse delivering arrangements.

Edgeworth Garden Club

As a rule, Edgeworth Garden Club takes the months of January and February off for a variety of reasons – most having to do with weather. However, this year we moved a project that was planned for November, to February!

We were originally going to make table floral arrangements for common areas of Villa St. Joseph in Baden for the winter holiday season. However, several of our members decided that they had too many conflicting holiday engagements to participate in this activity. As a result, we moved the “arranging” session to early February and made table arrangements that were Valentine Day themed for the residents of the Villa to enjoy.

Several members of the club gathered at the home of a club member to hone our design skills which we then loaded into the back of President Sue’s SUV and headed off to Baden. We received a warm reception at the main building and loading the arrangements on a cart provided by Villa St. Joseph, we moved the floral masterpieces into the facility.

Later that week we received a phone call from Chris, their activities chairperson, who thanked us profusely for the flowers. Our club members enjoyed the experience so much we are now considering making this activity a continuing part of our club programs/activities. We found that doing this helped us not only improve our floral arranging skills, but gave us the satisfaction of bringing a smile to the face of many others in our community.

We plan to resume our regular monthly meetings in March and will begin with a "hands-on" experience with creating dish water gardens.

Suzan M. Vandertie, President, EGC



Fox Chapel Garden Club

The Fox Chapel Garden Club will host our annual Gardenfest in May at O'Hara Community Park. We have invited Penn State Master Gardeners and other local garden clubs to join us as we sell our prized plants to the public.

All 700 plants we sell come from our members' gardens and are bare rooted into sterilized pots with sterile potting soil. We do this so we do not potentially introduce the destructive Asian Jumping Worm or invasive Japanese Stilt Grass. By doing this extra step we believe we are being responsible gardeners, educating the public, and sharing our best and most beloved plants.

In April, our meeting will take place at Tree Pittsburgh. The topic for the meeting is "From Seed to Forest: A One-of-Kind Tree Nursery Along the Allegheny River."

Our June meeting will feature a club member and Penn State Master Gardener who will give a presentation at the North Park Demonstration Garden. The program is entitled, "Master Gardeners Know the Best Dirt." Our hostess team will supply a bagged lunch, and time is set aside as we break bread and visit with our fellow club members.

At our Annual Luncheon in March, I will be passing the Presidency baton to Susanna Hegnes and Christine Bennett. Both women have served in this role previously, and we are all delighted that they have again stepped into leadership for our club. We look forward to their tenure and moving ahead with our programs.

Robin Felton Baum,
President, FGC



Greybrooke Garden Club

Greybrooke Garden Club is ready for spring! At our February meeting we recycled milk containers and created mini greenhouses to germinate our spring seeds. We planted various seeds for pollinators, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Several members have already had their seeds sprout.

Our March 9th meeting speaker will be Master Gardener Bill Goff. He will be educating us on "The Peony and the Glories of the June Perennial Garden." He will explore the care of the peony, as well as highlight companion plants that complement these glorious flowers.



Lorie, GGC

In April, we will be holding our annual members tea at the Serendipi-Tea room in Saxonburg, PA. Members look forward to taking a step back in time for the elegant service of high tea. We are also working toward our Spring Plant Sale. Pre-orders

are being accepted -forms are on our website, and planning is under way for the McCandless Crossing Mother's Day Sale on May 7.

The sale will feature beautiful hanging baskets, perennials, herbs, and annuals. Miscellaneous garden items will also be available. Activities for children will be available. This is Greybrooke's major annual fundraiser. For further details please visit our website at www.greybrookegardenclub.org.

At our May 11, meeting Katy DeMent "the Paper Lady," will present "Making Paper Seed Cards." Guests are welcome so please join us if you can. Please email bonnie204bernice@gmail.com, if you plan on attending. Greybrooke is looking forward to all our spring activities and getting out in the dirt!

Bonnie MacDonald, President GGC



Marty, GGC



Mary Ann & Melissa GGC



Karen, GGC



Deborah, GGC



Ingomar Garden Club

With the cold weather and spike in Omicron this winter, Ingomar Garden Club members found ourselves hibernating after the holidays. As you can imagine, we thoroughly enjoyed venturing out and gathering for two winter luncheons - one at Casey's Family Restaurant in Allison Park and the other at Longhorn Steakhouse in McCandless.

This is a yearly tradition for our club and it is always a wonderful, relaxing time spent pouring over garden catalogs, catching up, sharing laughter, and strengthening our garden club friendships. March marks our return to our business meetings and programs for the year. Chris Kubiak, the Director of Education for the Audubon Society, presented a program on "Winter Birds" for us in March, and we look forward to learning all about roses in April.

Craig Jansen, an ARS certified Rosarian and Pittsburgh Rose Society's VP will share his program entitled "For the Love of Roses". Our annual spring field trip to Jesteadts Greenhouse in Prospect, PA will be in April.

On Saturday May 21st., our club will hold Plant Sale fundraiser. We have many "Diggem" perennials from our own garden, as well as hanging baskets, annuals, crafts and "new to you" items.

It has been a pleasure and honor for me to lead a wonderful club of talented, dedicated, hard working members over these past two years. On May 1st, I will pass to torch to the capable hands of Julie Barnes, who will lead us into 2024. Happy Spring District IX!

Kate Colville, President, IGC





New Club Officers:
 L-R: T. Barker - C.S. - C. Klug - Treas., J. Packer
 - V.P., S. Adams - R.S., M. Welsh - Pres.



Fleur de lune Garden



Moon Township Garden Club

Moon Township Garden Club plans to get “In Touch with Nature” as we begin the first year of our second century! All of our programs for 2022 express this theme with such topics as using nature to beautify ourselves and spicing up our life with nature. Three of our own Master Gardeners will share their knowledge of nature and the latest gardening tips.

Of special interest this year is providing for nature and educating the public. We begin in April with a presentation on planning and establishing a PSU certified pollinator garden not only for home reference but also for the Fleur de Lune Community Garden which we maintain yearly.

Over 500 free pollinator friendly herbs and native plants will be offered to 100 families as one of our community outreach events. The Civic, Horticultural, and Environmental Committee is sponsoring our 2nd Annual Plant Give-Away on May 21, 2022 at Moon Park from 10AM-2PM.

Club members are growing herbs and Brown-eyed Susan seedlings from seed in our sunrooms and garden windows. Other pre-purchased native plants with established roots for successful transplanting will be available for the give-away. Club volunteers will be present for an open dialogue on native plants, invasive species, and plant care.

On June 19, 2022, our first ever Wine, Dine, Crops and Hops Garden Party is being hosted by the Garden Party Committee at Robin Hill Park from 5PM-8PM. In lieu of our Garden Tour, this event is planned to educate the community about the benefits of adopting a plant-based diet. 100 guests at the cost of \$50 a ticket will partake in tastings of a variety of plant-based foods provided by four caterers and complimented by local wineries and breweries. Included will be a silent auction and raffle along with live music. Funds raised will be used to support the Club's philanthropic activities.

After an exciting and busy year of proudly celebrating A Blooming Centennial, our club of 52 members is going strong and moving forward following Ralph Waldo Emerson's advice “Adopt the pace of Nature; her secret is patience.”

Marcia Welsh, President, MGC

Shaler Garden Club

The first organizational meeting of this year took place on 2-22-22. Our first event of the year was participating in the Shaler North Hills Library's annual Mini-golf fundraising event. There are eighteen holes constructed by various community and family groups between the stacks. This is Shaler Garden Club's third year sponsoring a hole.

Plans are in progress for the "Create a Succulent Garden" workshop at the Library on Friday, March 4, 2022. Garden club members will assist library patrons with the planting and arranging.

April brings a spring wreath workshop where club members prepare wreaths and arrangements using silk and live flowers for our big plant sale on May 7.

The new Pollinator Advocacy Committee was organized to help those interested in learning more about pollinators and the PA Pollinator Friendly Garden Certification process.

An equally important objective for the committee is to educate club members and the public about native plants and the value of pollinators in our gardens. Newsletter articles, programs, and handouts will be the vehicles used to achieve this goal.

Diane Tucek & Linda Barto, Co-Presidents SGC



Shaler Garden Club's 68th

Plant Sale

Sat. May 7th

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Kiwanis Park (Wetzel Road)

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS from Local Gardens
Vegetables, Herbs, Bulbs, & Houseplants
Mother's Day Plant Arrangements, 'Baubles',
Baked Goods, Auction Baskets, Children's Activities,
"Ask the Gardener" & Garden Book Sale!



Rain or Shine...see you there!!!

S. Butler County Garden Club

Warm greetings! It's great to hear the birds singing. Our club has had two Zoom presentations this winter. In January, three club members, Linda Johnson, Laura Murphy, and Joyce Yasko, did a presentation called "Critter Conflab". We learned the finer points of five of our backyard critters and methods of controlling them.

In February, club member Rita Spontak presented on the herb of the year and notable native plant of the year. Rita told us everything you could want to know about the herb of the year, pansy, and the native plant of the year, goldenseal.

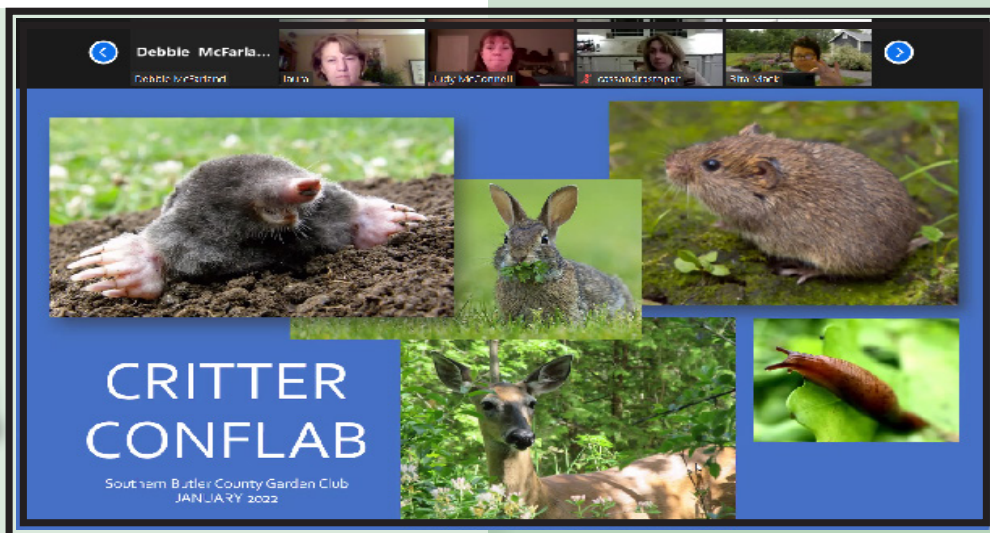
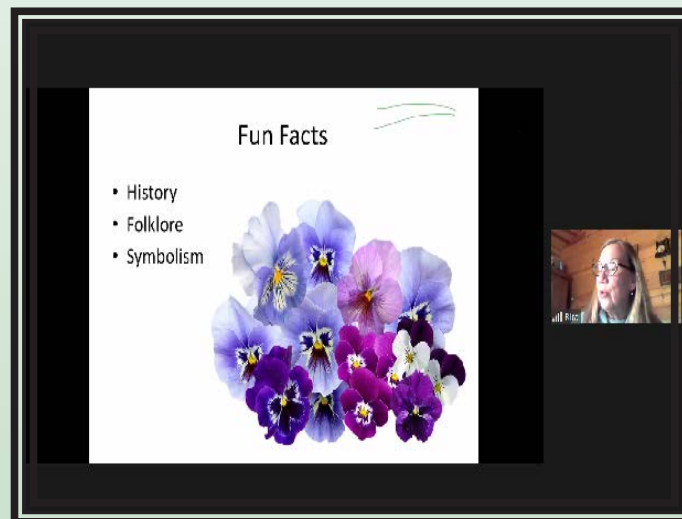
Looking ahead to our first meeting of the year on March 22, our speaker is Timothy Choltco on orchids. Timothy will focus on Phalaenopsis orchids including a demonstration of repotting one.

In April, our club is headed to DJ's in Transfer PA. Dennis James will present on new plants for 2022, and then we get to shop! For our May meeting, April Claus will present on creatures that hop, creep, and slither in your garden. This will be a hands-on interactive program introducing us to reptiles and amphibians of western PA.

In June, our club is going to the Zelenople Historical Society Houses and gardens. Our very own Sue Casker will be our host and tour guide through the gardens.

Save the date of Saturday, July 23. This is the date of our 14th Annual Garden Tour, our club's main fundraiser.

Jill Barger, SBCGC President





Tusca Ridge Garden Club

This Spring, we are eagerly anticipating the return to “normal”. We will be meeting together and enjoying programs and lunchtime fellowship.

Our first meeting will be a presentation on terrariums by Master Gardener Judy May. At our April luncheon, we will not only celebrate our club’s 64th birthday, we will also honor our past Presidents. We will learn about a new sustainable garden product called "PittMoss™" presented by Ashley Mariani, their Director of Business and Development

May is the time for our popular Members’ Plant Exchange. Each person will share those specimens from her garden that are doing so well that they need to be divided. It’s a win/win for all.

And of course, we will be inspecting our civic gardens – doing clean-up and planning for summer planting and care.

It will be so good to be together again!

Ann Niemann, President, TRGC

Did You Know?

"Healing gardens are spaces to promote recovery from illness, to provide an improvement in overall well-being. These gardens incorporate both the physical and spiritual. This is nothing new. Gardens have been used from ancient times as a place for healing. Now, in the last few years, gardens are being planted at hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices because patients tend to recover faster and require less medication." 🌿

Resources:

Why Create a Healing Garden?

For more information, or to submit photos and project descriptions, contact: Carol Vallens,

Chairman: Healing Gardens for Hope and Awareness*

*Reprinted from NGC website. "Horticulture and Environmental Concerns"

Congratulations to Polly Berginc

2022 Forget-Me-Not District/GCFP
Honorary Award Winner

Polly has brought so much to Butler Garden Club in her ten years as an active member. Polly is always willing and available to help with any floral work that the Club needs for a fundraiser or a celebratory event.

At our Annual Christmas Party Luncheon, Polly arrives with a dozen arrangements prepared the day before at her home. These pieces adorn our tables and then are auctioned off to our own members with proceeds going to a local charity the Club has previously chosen. It is never surprising to see a centerpiece sell for over \$100. She has also worked to design centerpieces for the Bi-Annual Summer Garden Party. Needless to say, Polly is a huge part of Butler Garden Club's ability to give to our Butler charities.

During Polly's term as President, 2015-17, Butler Garden Club grew in membership. During this time, she and Karen Faust, then President of Southern Butler County Garden Club, brought their memberships together to co-sponsor a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the newly opened VA Butler Healthcare Center. Polly and Karen saw the project through from the beginning to a large dedication celebration in September 2017.

Polly designed a huge, patriotic wreath from fresh flowers to sit beneath the Marker. Since these two Clubs are the only Federated Garden Clubs in Butler County, it was a wonderful collaborative effort for the Community of Butler to witness.

Polly is a wonderful representative of Butler Garden Club. In addition to presenting programs to Butler Garden Club on some area of floral design, she has worked several years as a volunteer designer with the Christmas floral team at the White House and also with the Philadelphia Flower Show. She travels the country participating in AIFD schools and events. She is also a floral design instructor at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh.

Always friendly and welcoming, Polly represents Butler Garden Club and GCFP in everything she participates in. Thank you, Polly, for all you do for Butler Garden Club!



Polly Berginc

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NGC Video Menu

Watch videos when you want.

- Free Gardening Tips
- Free Club Resources
- Free Webinars

Did You Know?

NGC now has a "video café" available on the home page of the NGC website. You enter the café with a mouse click and will be treated to a menu below what you see in the picture left. Once inside there is an assortment of YouTube videos that range in topic from a welcome given by Mary Warshauer, current NGC President, to Gardening Tips and various other Garden Club related information. You might find this to be interesting, informative and best of all, free! 🌿



Committee Reports

Scholarship

Hello 2022 Garden Clubs. District IX GC's did a great job last year with donations to the GCFP Scholarship Fund or their own Scholarship Fund. I would like to ask all Clubs to continue their support of furthering the education on Gardening and Environmental studies. Have a very colorful year!

Denise Kross, Scholarship Chair

Did You Know?

There is an abundance of information relative to everything "Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania" on the Federation website at: <https://www.pagardenclubs.org>

Visit often to learn of the many educational opportunities available. You can also check out the other clubs in the state by visiting the "Districts" link. There you will find newsletters from all over the state. Each one gives you a bird's eye view of activities from each of the GCFP state clubs. 🌱



Awards

There are a few upcoming Award Applications to consider for your Clubs.

The **Seeds of Service Award** is a GCFP President's Project Award. GCFP President Sheila Croushore has selected "Watching our Youth Bloom" as her project.

There are four categories of recognition for this award:

1. By an individual garden club member for Club and community service with youth.
2. Service by a Club working with youth or youth community.
3. Service by a Club for youth horticulture therapy or for working with handicapped youth.
4. Mentoring a Youth Leadership led program.

Awards are due at the District level by June 15, 2022. Please Email your letters of application with a one page description of the project/event (including a photo) to both District Director Karen Faust and Awards Chairperson Claudia Bernardo. The top applicants per category from our District will then be sent on to the President's Project Chair. Please refer to the GCFP Website/Awards for more detailed information.

There are also several NGC Grants that are available. Check out the NGC Website for information and applications as the requirements for these grants are specific. These include the Epsoma Grants, Youth Pollinator Garden Grants, Native Plant and Wildflower Grants, and Natural Disaster Grants. Clubs may be inspired to pursue a project by knowing what help is available to fund it.

Claudia Bernardo, Awards Chairperson



DISTRICT IX MEMBERS DAY OUT

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

The Chadwick, 10545 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090

Registration 9:30 Brunch Buffet 10:00

*Program: "Incorporating English Gardening Ideas Into Your Garden"
by Linda Johnson*



- Other features:
- “Trash to Treasure” contest entries
 - Raffle of Spring and Garden-related Items
 - DJ’s Greenhouse will bring plants for you to purchase

NOTE: Masks are suggested to be worn at all times in the Chadwick, except while dining

Register by March 15 \$25 per person. Make checks payable to “District IX GCFP”

Send reservations to Michele Gillespie, 430 Navigation Street, Beaver, PA 15009-2024

Online reservations accepted at:

www.tuscaridgegardenclub.com/virtual-store/p/members-day-out

Name: _____ Name of guest: _____

Garden Club: _____