



Keystone Gardener

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A MESSAGE FROM SHEILA CROUSHORE, GCFP PRESIDENT

"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June." Al Bernstein

Time is moving fast, it's hard to believe my term is half over. The spring weather has been extreme, but everything is green and the BLOOMING has started.

"Super job" to District I for a well-run Convention. Director Mary Ann Desanto, and Co-Chairs Ellen McGarrigle and Nancy Cuttic worked countless hours to not only offer great food, vendors, and workshops, but also organized a Tri-refresher. We all left with great memories!

Speaking of memories, thanks to all the GCFP Members, spouses, and friends who traveled with us to the Netherlands. We had great weather, superb food, and we made lots of new friends. I am planning to do a Fall CAR-SGC Program on our tours.

Our schools are currently running, have you attended one yet? Not only can you learn about the Environment, Gardening and Landscape Design, but you meet so many wonderful people from all over Pennsylvania and other states. Check our GCFP website to see when the next one is, or our NGC site to see what ZOOM classes are being offered.

Membership seems to be BLOOMING! What a great group to be a part of. New faces are attending meetings and more projects are "in the works." This is a new year, so you have another chance to bring a new friend to Garden Club.

"Rise above the storm and you will find sunshine." Mario Fernandez



SOUTHERN BUTLER GC

Rose Romboski



The Southern Butler Garden Club gathered together at our May meeting to celebrate the 2021 Governor's Trophy Award. We also had the honor of displaying the award for the public to see in our National Garden Club Week display at the Cranberry Township Public Library (National Garden Club Week June 5-11th).



FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE II

Lori Pancione, State Flower Show Chair

Flower Show School #2 will be presented October 13-16, 2022 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Plymouth Meeting, PA. 19462. Contact Lori Pancione, 215-680-1310 for more information.

Deadline date to register for the course is September 5, 2022. Hotel deadline to receive guaranteed group rate is September 15, 2022. COVID guidelines apply. Registration is 2-6 pm on Thursday, October 13, 2022 in hotel lobby area near Chestnut Ballroom Area.

The Registration Form can be downloaded from the GCFP state website, www.pagardenclubs.org after June 17th, under the Forms tab. Print a copy and send in the registration form to Elaine Watters, School registrar.

NGC AWARDS PRESENTED TO GCFP AT 2022 CONVENTION

Sheri Lowry, GCFP Awards Chair

GCFP received the following awards at the National Convention:

The Lois Dupre Scholarship Award of \$4,000 was awarded to **Grace Stewart**, sponsored by Penn Cumberland Garden Club of District IV.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS

CE-1, Community Gardens, is given for a garden project in a community or on religious grounds providing greenspace that gives opportunities for various types of outdoor activities. The Certificate of Merit winner is:

Southern Butler County Garden Club, District IX

FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Club Standard Flower Show Awarded to **The Garden Club of Forest Hills, District VII**, for "Hide and Eek!"

MAE-2A AWARD

For outstanding social media or website page which promotes the sponsoring organization and NGC objectives. 2A is given for a website designed and managed by club members. The overall winner is **The Garden Club of York, District IV**

MAE-4C AWARD

For newsletters 12-24 pages in length, the Certificate of Merit awarded to **The Garden Club of York, District IV**

YOUTH AWARDS

Youth Recycled Sculpture

- 1st Place: **Noelle Ronnenberg, Ingomar GC, District IX**
2nd Place: **Violet Rumburg, Shaler GC, District IX**

YOUTH POETRY

"Sing with the Songbirds-Exploring the Glory of Nature"

An anthology of CAR-SGC/NGC Winners can be found on the NGC site, under Youth Awards, and includes the poems by these GCFP winners:

HONORABLE MENTION

- K-4TH Grade: **Olivia Clay, Ingomar GC, District IX**
5th Grade: **Grace DeBolt, GC of York, District IV**
9th Grade: **Karina Ingram, Tusca Ridge GC, District IX**

SECOND PLACE

- 6TH Grade: **Katherine Schaarsmith, Ingomar GC, District IX**

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Awarded to

- FD-2 - Floral Design Program: District XI**
FD-2 - Floral Design Program: Norristown GC, District XI

CE-3---Food Bank Donations: The GC of Bristol Borough, District XI

CERTIFICATE IN APPRECIATION OF AWARD PARTICIPATION

Awarded to

MAE-2 Social Media Website: Wayne Woods GC, I

MAE-2 Social Media Website: District IV

MAE-2 Social Media Website: Somerset GC, VI

MAE-2 Social Media Website: Parkland Garden Club, II/III

MAE-2B Social Media Website: Wayne Woods GC, I

MAE-2B Social Media Website: Norristown GC, XI

MAE-2B Social Media Website: Somerset GC, VI

MAE-2C Social Media Website: Norristown GC, XI

Newsletters:

MAE-4B Publications: Giant Oaks GC, X

MAE-4B Publications: Wayne Woods GC, I

MAE-4B Publications: District XI

MAE-4C Publications: Somerset GC, VI

MAE-4F Publications: Old York GC, XI



GCFP AWARDS REPORT

Sheri Lowry, Awards Chair

The 2021 Awards year culminated with the presentation of 183 awards certificates to individuals, clubs, and districts at our GCFP 2022 Convention. Certificates were distributed to their respective District Directors to be presented to their awarded clubs after each meal's awards presentation. A detailed listing of all GCFP Award Winners was published in the May issue of the Keystone Gardener Online.

Updates to our supporting documents are being prepared with a projected 7/1/2022 posting date. The Awards Manual, Awards Summary, Awards Deadline Dates, and Awards Application/Cover Sheet documents are being updated or amended. Formatting Guidelines are also being prepared. DO NOT SUBMIT ANY GCFP APPLICATIONS PRIOR TO 7/1/2022. We are planning a Zoom Awards seminar in mid-July to highlight the awards process and answer questions. These additional changes should be noted:

The revamped NGC Awards Program last summer required many adjustments. Mastering electronic submissions of applications was challenging for most. Resubmissions were allowed to correct mistakes. This awards season, it is strongly recommended that awards applications be sent to another club member to review for needed corrections before the application is forwarded to the Awards Chair. What is received is what will be judged; resubmissions will not be accepted.

Our 4 GCFP Club Size Categories have been adjusted to align with the 3 NGC Club Size Breakdowns. The breakdown is as follows: S=Clubs with 1-20 Members, M=Clubs with 21-50 Members, L=Clubs with 51+ Members. (Using Spring 2022 Membership Totals, we have 13 Small Clubs, 64 Medium Clubs, and 29 Large Clubs.) CAR-SGC Club Size Breakdowns align very closely with the NGC guidelines.



The Executive Board voted to make the Forget-Me-Not Award, a District Award, to be presented at each District's Annual Meeting. Each District's honoree will be acknowledged with a picture and summary of their accomplishments in

the KG Online. More information will be forwarded to our District Directors.

The Cynthia Calhoun Convention Attendance Award has been eliminated.

The Perennial Bloom Award is the first award deadline of the 2022 Awards Year. July 1st is the deadline for clubs to submit their Perennial Bloom applications to their District Directors. The CAR-SGC Perennial Bloom Award 2021-2023 information and application form is available on our Awards site. (The tab is green.) August 1st is the deadline for District Directors to forward their District Perennial Bloom Honoree to the GCFP Awards Chair. The GCFP Perennial Bloom Honoree will be announced at our Annual Meeting this fall.

As you plan your submissions for the 2022 Awards Year, be sure to check for updates on the Awards Page of our GCFP Website, follow the instructions given, and remember that you have to apply to win!



PRENNIAL BLOOM AWARD WINNER



The Perennial Bloom award is given in appreciation for members who have made our clubs grow and bloom with their continued support of our goals and objectives. Sheila Croushore presented this award to Barbara

Campbell for “garden club service in the Central Atlantic Region of the State Garden Clubs” at the GCFP Board meeting.



BEE GAP

Bonita Herman, Chairman.

This has been a fun year for me as the Bee Gap Chairman. I gave several programs on our Native Bees to garden clubs and at the Erie Home, and at the Garden Expo for the Master Gardeners. I am still surprised how little the general public knows about our Native Bees, including our Mason Bee.

At one of the garden clubs, my program was a two-part series. The first part was the information regarding these bees. It included some history, pictures, habitat, how to keep and attract bees and then what to do with the houses later in the summer.



For the second part, I brought houses/hotels, reeds, my DIY bee houses, mud making ideas - everything but the bees. These programs were done in April and May because this time the Masons are starting to hatch and members could make or buy their houses to see what happens.

I also bought some Mason Bee cocoons and placed them outside when the temperature was correct. I securely taped them on top of one of my store-bought houses. It took about 2 weeks for the males to start to emerge. (They have a white spot on their

face.) I was so excited!!! I took videos and pictures. A few days later the females then emerged.

Now, this house was totally empty when I hung it outside. I eagerly watched for any activity. The next day I had females coming and going all day long. I was standing right in front of it and they just ignored me and went about their business. At first one hole was completely mudded over. Now I have 11 mudded holes. Whoo-Hoo.



Most of the Masons probably now have finished their life cycle, but there may be some late hatchers that might be around. I am keeping the bee house up, because the leaf cutter bees will grow from larvae to bee and start their process in the near future. The leafcutter bee is not native, but very common and uses the same house/hotel as the Mason Bee. It is still considered a good pollinator.

Last year I did have a few grass carrying wasps, which are native, and a pollinator, in my bee house. I don't think it survived because I didn't know why all this grass was hanging out in some of the holes and I poked at it and I may have destroyed the egg.

I went out the other day to check for any further activity in the house. Nothing new other than the 12 completed nests. But I did not expect to see in my DIY little branch that I drilled holes into, leafcutter bee nests. I did a happy dance outside. I think my neighbors will be sending me to a rest home soon.



GIANT OAKS GC

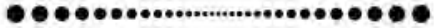
Judie Ball, GOGC Co-President and
BJ Nerone, Oak Leaf Editor

As we celebrate our 60th year, Giant Oaks Garden Club continues to grow steadily - just like our gardens! We have welcomed nine new active members over the past year.

The club is active, working on three area gardens, visiting a local nursing home with projects, making favors and cupcakes monthly for Meals on Wheels, and collecting plastic bottle caps for our recycling campaign. To date we have collected more than 25,000 caps to be made into “hydroblox” planks used in water control.

Our Plant Sale and Garden Market, in May, sold out quickly. This event is not just a fundraiser, but also enables our members to interact with members of the community to spread our love of gardening.

Currently we are working on our annual Tinsel luncheon, titled "Enchanted Christmas." This fundraiser, which attracts 400 guests, features vendors, raffle baskets, door prizes, and a bakery of homemade items as well as a delicious luncheon and entertainment. Most of the monies earned through this event go for scholarships and for grants to local community organizations.



"DESIGNS FOR THE KING"



Finally, after two years, members of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) District X were able to hold their June Fundraiser at Valley Brook Country Club. Angie Raitano, former President of the GCFP, put together a wonderful hour of entertainment for the 78 members who attended the event.



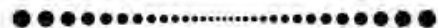
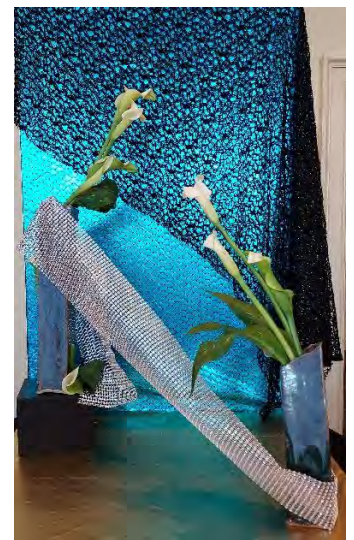
The designs, inspired by the music of Elvis Presley, were created by the District's very talented Flower Show Judges with each creating floral designs representing seven of Elvis' songs.



Judges presenting their designs were Diane Hughes, Sue Luisi, Mary Jane Martucci, Marie Mueller, Angie Raitano, Vina McLeod Rudolph, and District member Wanda Sherry. A very special member, posing as Elvis, added comments about Elvis' life and the designs. Elvis

presented a scarf to each designer as he left the building.

Designs in order of appearance here: Guitar Man, Wanda Sherry; Heartbreak Hotel, Marie Mueller; Hound Dog, Sue Luisi; Blue Suede Shoes, Angie Raitano; Jailhouse Rock, Diane Hughes; Blue Hawaii, Vina McLeod Rudolph; Burning Love, Mary Jane Martucci. And Elvis.



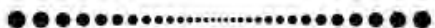
SHOW OF THERAPY AND APPRECIATION

Jane Kruse

Bethlehem Garden Club participated in a new venue, the Memory Café, where they worked with Alzheimer patients and their caregivers in making small flower arrangements to take home. It was a wonderful experience and they have decided to make it a part of their yearly schedule.

The Club continues to work with local nursing homes by bringing in small bouquets for their guests at Valentine's Day and Easter even when they could not visit or work with them personally.

A celebration with a tree planting at St. Luke's Hospital on Arbor Day was well attended by garden club members and hospital workers. They honored essential workers with a beautiful white redbud tree and plaque. A plaque and tree planting ceremony were also conducted at Cedarbrook Nursing Home in appreciation for staff work and dedication. The work of these fine healthcare workers did not stop with year 2020.



DONATIONS

Linda Southerling, Chair

GCFP scholarships help students who plan to further their education in Agriculture-related fields.



In Memory:

Jocelyn Lamb
Norristown Garden Club
Roseann Lubold
John C. Kime
Peggy L. Alderdice
Bedford County Garden Club

PENNY PINES

Barb Andrus, Chair

Donations stay in Pennsylvania for special projects, or to help reforest areas in the Allegheny National Forest.

General Donations

Giant Oaks GC
The Outdoor Gardeners GC
GCFP District IV
GC of Springfield

In Honor

Rebecca Bingham
Millie Martin
GC of York

In Memory

Judy Tomaino
Hazleton Area GC
Ann Romaine
Evelyn Zumas
Mary Pat Beebe
Robert D. Romeril
Bethlehem GC

BOOK OF RECOGNITION

Joyce Hoek, Chair

These donations give special recognition to club members and help support general operating expenses of GCFP.

In Memory:

Jean Wilson
Gospel Hill Garden Club

Lucretia E. Fake

Una D. Miller
Green Thumb Garden Club

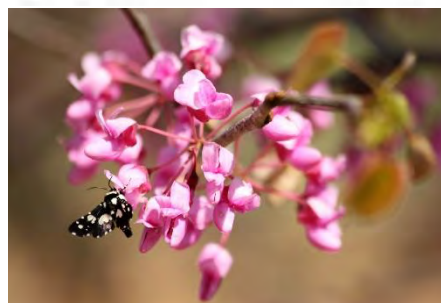
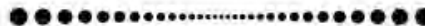
NEW GCFP LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Nerita Brant, Chair

An excellent way to honor a special person – for a retiring club officer, a birthday, anniversary, holiday gift, or just for you. \$75 dollars of the \$100 donation is used for GCFP Scholarships.



JoAnne Fogelman McEwansville GC Dist. V



Unlatch the Garden Gate...
Discover the World of Art in Bloom

Treat yourself to a trip!

September is special time to visit New England. A calmness settles in after the busy summer and the temperatures are ideal for almost anything. Witness blinking lighthouses, historic mansions and stroll along the beach. It's the natural thing to do!

Click the links below to view the itineraries our two amazing early fall vacations. Then, call early for reservations.

Fall in Love with the Berkshires

<https://www.artinbloomgardentours.com/tours/berkshire-fall-foliage>

Cape Cod, Nantucket and Coastal Maine

<https://www.artinbloomgardentours.com/tours/capecod-nantucket-coastal-maine-boothbay>

Only a few spaces left: Abruzzo Cooking School

Call about our 2022 New York City Christmas Tour

Watch for new tours coming in 2023!

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Art In Bloom Garden Tour!*

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GCFP MEMBERS AT THE NGC CONVENTION IN ORLANDO



L-R, first row: Pat Wolanski, Sheila Croushore, Flossie Narducci. Second row: Judy Vehse, Joyce Milberg. Third row: Diane Hughes, Nancy Fulk, Angie Raitano. Back row: Jackie Davies, Grace Mitchell.



2022 KEYSTONE EVENTS

Parkland Garden Club will present the "Love of Gardening" it's the 23rd **annual garden tour** on Saturday, July 16, 2022. The tours will take place rain or shine, from 9 AM to 4 PM. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of tour. For more information contact Barbara Campbell 610-432-3313, or Millie at 610-398-3400.

Advance Tickets for sale at the following locations: (beginning in June)

Crooked Row Farm, 3245 Route 309, Orefield
C. Leslie Smith, 311 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown
Dan Schantz Greenhouse, 2031 29th St. SW, Allentown
Eagle Point Farm Market, 853 Trexlertown Rd., Trexlertown
4 Seasons Garden Center, 9006 Hamilton Blvd., Breinigsville
Herbein's Garden Center, 4301 Chestnut St., Emmaus
Lehigh Valley Home & Garden Ctr., 4220 Crackersport Rd., Allentown
Phoebe Floral Shop, 2102 W. Hamilton St., Allentown

Gardens are located at:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| o 5058 Westfield Dr.
Schnecksville, PA 18078 | o 5305 Chariot Dr.
Schnecksville, PA 18078 | o 522 N. 28 th St.
Allentown, 18104 |
| o 1392 Highland Ct.
Allentown, PA 18103 | o 2126 South St.
Allentown, PA 18104 | o 5840 Kernsville Rd.
Orefield, PA |
| o 4373 Kistler Rd.
Schnecksville, PA 18078 | o 222 N. 28 th Street
Allentown, PA 18104 | o 1039 Treeline Dr.
Allentown, PA 18103 |

2023

- Apr 13-16 Flower Show School Course III, DoubleTree, Plymouth Meeting, PA
- Apr 21-23 GCFP Annual Convention, D-VII, DoubleTree, Monroeville, PA
- Apr 22 Earth Day
- Apr 28 Arbor Day
- May 2-5 NGC Annual Convention, White Sulphur Springs, WV
- Jun 4-10 National Garden Week
- Oct 12-15 Flower Show School Course IV, DoubleTree, Plymouth Meeting, PA



**THE DEADLINES FOR THE KG ONLINE NEWSLETTER:
October 15, 2022 for November 1, 2022 issue
(Please mark your calendar)**

Please state “KG ONLINE Submission” in the subject line when submitting articles.
The Editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements.

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