

News at Eleven

GCFP District XI



Message from District XI Director, Honey Bawduniak:

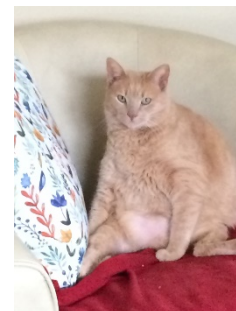
I hope the new year finds you well and full of energy and ideas. Our member clubs spent an active holiday season on various projects helping others and treating ourselves for a job well done. As the saying goes, "Spring is just around the corner," and many are already working on projects, some are preparing for the Philadelphia Flower Show, and others are resting dormant like the spring bulbs, storing energy, ready to bloom come warmer weather.

A District Project in an advanced planning phase is planning for the 2025 State Convention. At the October State Executive Board Meeting, President Croushore announced she has completed making changes to the Board of Directors' Manual. One of the changes yet to be voted on will be that the location of the convention in the odd numbered year, being an installation year, should be held in the incoming president's district. Hence, District XI is hosting the 2025 State Convention, Pat Wolanski will be inducted as GCFP President. Karen Wychock (Trevoise Horticulture Society) is the Chair and Diane Pratt, and Ginger Hunsicker (Norristown Garden Club) are the Vice Chairs. They are going to be filling the various committee positions as noted in the GCFP website Manual for Hosting a Convention. Chairs for the committees need to be filled in order to progress with the planning phase. All clubs are asked to contribute their talent and members to these positions. Two years seem so far away, but we received the call in October and Karen and her Co-vice Chairs have organized a great deal already. Time will go quickly so, **say yes** when you get the call, " will you ??"

I requested photos and information about the activities your club participated in during the winter months. I did receive a few, but I am sure more activities happened. Wishing more information would flow back to me, as Director I am interested in your club and am hoping that with the relief of my back pain, I will be able to attend your meetings. I am sorry I do not drive much at night so when it stays light later in the Spring, Ana and I may venture out to the evening meetings.



Working on Holiday Decorations



Storing up energy for Spring projects

Looks like there is a party in the works...piles of assorted greens and flowers...roses, carnations, mums, hypericum berries and more! The Trevoze members got together to arrange 20 centerpieces for the Bensalem Senior Center's Holiday Party. Wishing everyone a healthy New Year in 2023!



Old York Road Garden Club decorated a cabin at The Variety Club for Children for their annual Holiday Lane Tour, a fund raiser for the Variety Club. "An Old-Fashioned Kitchen" They also made ornaments to sell in the "country store."



The Outdoor Gardeners decorated the Germantown Center in the Park, lovely job! They also had a Holiday Luncheon serenaded by a Barber Shop Quartet.



Norristown Garden Club decorated 5 private homes and a church rectory for their 72nd. Holiday House Tour. The club's main fund raiser for their projects and scholarships. Another successful tour.





Hope you all have completed and sent your awards in to GCFP Awards Chairs. The winners will be announced at the Convention in April, and winners go on to CAR-SGC and/or on to National. Our clubs are doing wonderful things and need to be recognized for their efforts. If you need help with applying for awards for next year, please ask Marj Sears or me for help. We can meet with your awards chair and go over the Awards Book. It was changed to be better, but I found it different and needed more time this year.

The Philadelphia Flower Show is back in the Convention Center this year and runs from March 4-12. Many of our clubs are already in the preparation phase of entering, as a club entry or an individual entry. Help is out there for help entering. I first entered at the age of 80! I was scared but a seasoned enterer (is that a word?) helped me and it was fun, and I proudly pointed my entry out to my children even though I did not get an award.

They still need volunteers in several areas. Information was sent out to the presidents. It is a clever way to find out the workings of the Show, being there most of the time before the Show is opened to the public and you get a free ticket to go another time, this is in addition to the time when you are not "working" that day.

As was previously noted, the 2025 Convention will be held at the Alloy Hotel in Valley Forge on Route 202. The hotel was recently refurbished, with free parking and lovely rooms and a close drive for most club members. Karen Wychock will provide information on the progress of the planning at the March 15th Meeting. In the meantime, she and her Co-Vice Chairs will be making calls to find Chairs for the various committees needed, say yes when you get the call and get your friends on the commit to help you.





Winter Hort. Tips from Marge

A Gardner's Checklist for 2023

1. Are there any areas on your property where perennials are needed?
2. Select a calendar for scheduling garden tasks and when plants have bloomed.
3. Does your landscape lack plants with winter interest? If so, consider planting some this spring.
4. Consider adding more native plants to your beds.
5. Continuing feeding birds and provide them with water.
6. Plan your summer containers utilizing small, less expensive natives.
7. Place evergreen branches over emerging bulbs and perennials to keep them from being eaten by animals.
8. New Plants being introduced this year and in gardening centers this spring to add to your garden:

Tall Plants-36"

Agastache 'Royal Raspberry' - sun

Agastache 'Queen Nectarine' - sun

Medium Height Plants – 20"-24"

Coneflowers – sun/shade

'One in a Melon'

'Fuchsia Bright'

'Butter Pecan'

Raspberry Beret"

Monarda (Beebalm) – sun

'Lavender Taffeta'

'Pink Chenille'

'Red Velvet'

Low Growing Plants – 12"- 18"

Heuchera (Coral Bells) – shade

'Ball Gown'

'Frosty Berry'

'Pistachio Ambrosia'

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 10 AM, GCFP District XI Meeting, “Where have all the Bees, Birds and Butterflies Gone?” Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski. Social Hour 9 AM, Willow Grove Giant Community Room, 315 York Road, Willow Grove, 19090.

April 13-16, 2023, Flower Show School Course III, Doubletree, Plymouth Meeting, PA

See the Keystone Gardener for information.

April 21-23, 2023, GCFP Annual Convention, D-VII Hosts, Monroeville, PA

See the Keystone Gardener for information.

May 2-5, 2023, NGC Annual Convention, Greenbriar Resort, White Sulphur Springs, WV

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 10 AM to 3 PM, The Outdoor Gardeners will be offering pre-planted hypertufas and annual baskets along with an extensive range of perennials for purchase at Chestnut Hill Day on Germantown Ave. All proceeds fund our outreach and educational programs for the year.

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 9 AM to 1 PM, Swedesford Garden Club will hold their annual fundraiser plant sale at the North Wales Area Library.

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 9 AM to 3 PM, Gardeners of the Crooked Billet will have their Plant & Book Sale at Hatboro’s Union Library, 243 S. York Road, Hatboro, PA

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 10 AM, GCFP, District XI Meeting with “Busting Garden Myths” by Jane Irvin-Klotz, social hour 9 AM at Variety Club, Children’s Charity, 2950 Potshop Road, Worcester, PA 19490

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, Cedarbrook Country Club, Annual District XI Meeting. Luncheon details to follow.

Friday, September 15 and Saturday September 16, 2023, Countryside Gardeners present a Small Standard Flower Show. “Memories and 90th Anniversary” at Half Moon Inn, Court Street and Centre Avenue, Newtown, PA

Gentle reminders: **Laurel Awards** are presented at the Annual Luncheon Meeting, start thinking of that member who helped over and above for the club. Information for submitting will follow.

Changes to the Perennial Bloom Award Rules were in the November 2022 CAR-SGC Newsletter. The District Directors must have the Award winners sent to the CAR-SGC Chair by March 1st, 2023. This award was traditionally required submission in August and awarded the following year. The 2022 winner has already been submitted, we will submit this year’s winner by March 1st and both winners will be announced at the CAR-SGC Convention in October. Presidents/ Award Chairs are requested to note this change and get your submissions to me by February 17th so I may send the District winner by March 1st

Seed Money Applications are due to Marj. Sears by February 15th.

