

Summer 2025

Nine's News

From District IX of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
Member NGC and CAR-SGC



Director's Message

June 20th marks the Summer Solstice. Our spring gardens have bloomed, and now soon we will have to cut the grass possibly more than once a week. Remember when in February you wished for green grass and gardens? Soon, you might regret it.

Garden Club, like our winter dreams of lush gardens and green grass, requires hard work. When the sun comes out, both plants and weeds grow. The beauty of our garden after planting, cutting grass, and weeding (and the compliments) is what moves us forward. We work hard then sit back and relax looking at our hard work with a glass of lemonade (spiked if you prefer).

Just like taking care of your yard, being part of our garden club requires regular effort and not just a one-time promise. This means we need to stay dedicated, which might make you miss the easy days of your February garden again.

Stay focused and be beautiful like your garden, your grass, or even your potted plants.

Stacey
Stacey Ivols, District IX Director



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Coming Events

June 17, 2025

District IX Board Meeting
Zoom Meeting info to be sent

June 28, 2025

SBCGC Garden Tour

June 29, 2025

FCGC Garden Tour

July 12, 2025

MTGC Garden Tour

July 13, 2025

SCG Garden Tour

August 23, 2025

Deadline for Nine's News submissions

September 4, 2025

District IX Annual Meeting, Hosted by SGC
at Wildwood Golf Club

September 16, 2025

District IX Board Meeting

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District IX reserves the right to edit all
submission content for space or clarity.



Committee Reports

BEE OR WASP?

You are out in the garden when you hear a buzz right beside your head. Stay calm! Whether bee or wasp, it is highly unlikely that the little critter is out to sting you. So, just out of curiosity, was it a bee or a wasp?

It's not always easy to tell a bee from a wasp, even for the experts. Both can be brightly colored, often with yellow, white, orange, and black stripes. Typically, wasps have smooth, hairless bodies with tiny 'wasp-waists' while bees have round bodies that are covered with hair. Bees also have branched hairs, called plumose, on their bodies that trap pollen grains and aid the females in carrying their pollen loads back to the nest. You often see pollen on bees. Wasps don't have branched hairs and do not collect pollen on their bodies.

Here are some key differences between bees and wasps:

 Bee	 Wasp
Generally smaller	Huge in comparison
Round body	Slender body, narrow waist
Fuzzy, hairy body and legs	Smooth, shiny body and legs
Long, oval eyes on side of face, often black	Long, oval eyes at side of head, sometimes with a 'notch'
Legs often hidden when flying	Legs hang down when flying
Gentle looking with softer colors - generally limited to stripes	Much 'harder looking' with bold patterns and colors - some with intricate markings such as dots and stripes together
Pollinator - feeds on nectar and gathers pollen	Predator - eats other insects and your hamburgers
Gentle in nature, rarely stings	More aggressive and easily provoked
Can sting only once, then dies	Can sting multiple times

The bright colors and patterns of bees and wasps serve as a warning to others - they can sting! There is a difference between a bee sting and a wasp sting. When a bee stings, it leaves its stinger in the skin. Once that happens, the bee dies. On the other hand, a wasp typically stings multiple times before flying away. Bees normally only sting if you stomp or sit on them. Wasps are much more aggressive than bees - they will sting you just for looking at them funny. Most people are stung by wasps, not bees.

Though highly unlikely, let's say you manage to get stung. Stings are traditionally treated with anti-inflammatories and cold compresses to help reduce pain and swelling. If itching and swelling are severe, you can take an oral anti-histamine such as Benadryl. If you experience symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, such as difficulty breathing, hives, or dizziness, follow up with your doctor.

Remember, both bees and wasps play important roles in agriculture and our ecosystem.

Pollination services provided by bees are essential for food production. The natural pest control offered by predatory wasps helps protect farms and gardens from crop-damaging insect pests.

Take time to observe insects visiting your flowers. Are you able to identify bees and wasps?

Until the next newsletter, you can find me in the garden.

Leslie Anthony, District IX Pollinator Advocate

Happy Pollinator Week!



THOUGHTS ON MEMBERSHIP

When one hears the phrase “three little words”, one usually thinks of ‘I Love You.’ There are poems, songs and movies composed about these three little words. But three words can also describe what garden club communities share. Thirty-two gracious and creative members of the MTGC recently provided me with their three words to describe our club. Here is the poetry of some of their thoughts!

Nature Lovers United in...

Friendship, Knowledge, Philanthropy

Learning, Sharing & Growing

Fellowship, Community, Service

Companionship, Education & Outdoors

Friends, Flowers & Fun

Synergy, Passion, Possibility

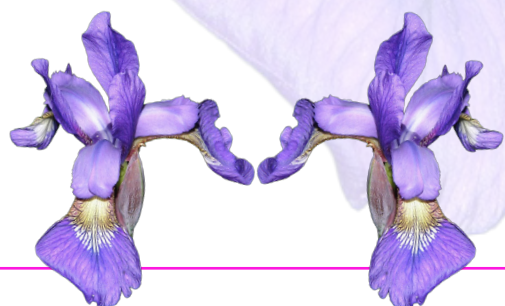
Sore Limbs, Dirty Fingernails, but Gratifying Results

Joy, pure Joy!

Why not add words such as these to an informational brochure describing your club or use them to create a promotional garden club video? Create a welcome packet for guests including the mission, calendar, and contact information. Create club business cards to pass out at community functions. Publish members' personal stories and testimonials to your website and social media for a visual reminder of how engaged your members are.

District IX is Fine and thriving with nine medium and large clubs. We are part of the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world, National Garden Clubs, Inc (NGC). The use of strong, positive words will continue empowering the 3Rs of Club Membership: Recruiting, Retaining and Revitalizing. Why not celebrate your membership in your members own words!

Marcia Welsh, District IX Membership Chair



PERENNIAL BLOOM AWARD

Each club may nominate one member each year for the Perennial Bloom Award and this year we had four(4) nominations. Each club will be honoring the person they have submitted, as they deserve the highest respect for what they have contributed to their organizations. Each of these, through their contributions, are the individuals that are the reason our clubs are so successful in meeting their goals and objectives.

The nominations this year include:

- Butler Garden Club - Donna Cella
- Moon Township Garden Club - Marrienne Cacali
- Shaler Garden Club - Claudia Bernardo
- Tusca-Ridge Garden Club - Melissa Alexander

Congratulations to each of these individual who are absolutely outstanding. District IX is very proud to have such remarkable members with a dedication to the purpose of the GCFP.

Only one name can be passed on for State and Regional consideration and Claudia Bernardo has been selected to be that candidate. Claudia is a dedicated member of the Shaler Garden Club and a Past District IX Director. She has served in many capacities in both her club and at the District level. As a dedicated member not only of her club and district, she also actively contributes as she can to the NGC and GCFP. Claudia is always willing to reach out and help others with gardening and organization details.

Cheri Davison, District IX Awards Chair

A “PERENNIAL” FAVORITE!

One of my favorite flowers in the garden is bee balm. Its scientific name is “Monarda” and surprisingly, bee balm belongs to the mint family. Bee balm is native to North America. Its lively colors, tubular flowers and aromatic qualities make it a popular choice for planting in our Pennsylvania gardens. It pairs well with other native plants such as black-eyed Susans, coneflowers, and milkweed. Flowers that appear in mid-to-late summer make a stunning and wildlife-friendly garden. Its ability to attract pollinators makes it an excellent addition to any garden.



Bergamot (AKA Bee Balm) is more than just a beautiful addition to Pennsylvania’s gardens—it plays a crucial role in supporting local ecosystems. As its name suggests, bee balm is a favorite of pollinators, including bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies, which are drawn to its nectar-rich blooms. The plant serves as a valuable food source for these species. Its ability to attract pollinators makes it an excellent addition to pollinator pathways and butterfly gardens.

Suitable for our temperate climate, bee balm can grow well in our state’s gardens and wild landscapes. Bee balm grows best in well-drained, moderately fertile soil. It requires moist but not overly wet soil. The plant can grow up to 2 to 4 feet tall. Gardeners in Pennsylvania often select bee balm due to its durability and versatility. It is commonly used in flower beds, borders, and naturalized areas with full sun to partial shade. Bee balm can spread and establish itself quickly. Although bee balm grows easily it can be affected by powdery mildew, to prevent this, space plants well, avoid over watering, and prune and divide them regularly.

Historically bee balm was used for medicinal purposes by Native American communities. In Pennsylvania, early settlers and native Americans used bee balm for its anti-

septic and soothing properties.

It was brewed into teas (best known as Earl Grey) to address colds, sore throats, and digestive problems, and its oils (commonly sold as “oil of Bergamot”) were made into salves for application on wounds and insect bites.

Bee balm stands out as a plant that combines natural beauty with ecological and cultural significance. Whether you’re a gardener looking to enhance your landscape or an enthusiast of native flora, bee balm offers a vibrant, low-maintenance option that supports our pollinators.

Stacey Ivoll, Director District IX & Horticulture Chair

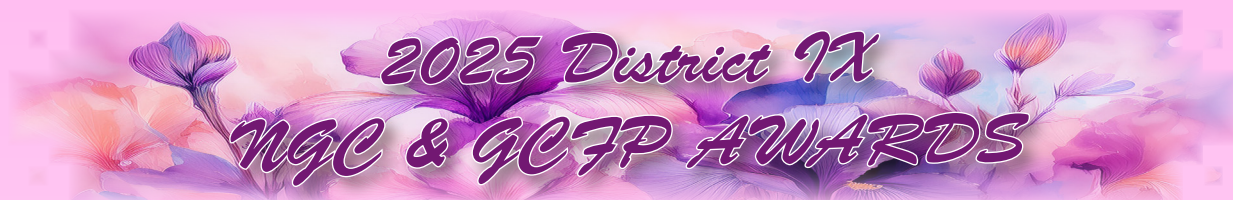


ATTENTION AWARDS CHAIRPERSONS

We are fast approaching deadlines for many 2025 AWARDS, including our District Awards. The deadline for Laurels, Daffodils, Forget Me Nots, and Outstanding Horticulturist will be July 15. So please start to look around and make sure you acknowledge the hard work put forth by your club and individual members. More information will be coming out so watch your emails!

As was stated at the Awards Workshop, review the NGC and GCFP Awards Manuals for other possibilities and deadlines. Coming up also, are the Civic and Outstanding Club Awards - so don't ignore the fact that your club may be a candidate. Please contact me if you have questions and we will work to get you answers.

Cheri Davison, District IX Awards Chair



2025 District IX NGC & GCFP AWARDS

Presented is a list of the 2024 awards that were presented to District IX at the 2025 GCFP Annual Convention. Our District is to be commended for the recognition received. We are so fortunate to have clubs that are dedicated to the objectives that are put forth by the NGC and a big thanks to our Awards Chairpersons for taking the opportunity to recognize the efforts put forth. As a member of District IX, you can be very proud of your accomplishments. We know it takes dedication, planning and hard work to reach your goals.

A recent workshop was held for our Awards Chairpersons in District IX and there was so much enthusiasm to continue to learn how to recognize the accomplishments of our members. Keep up the great work – and let's get ready to submit our 2025 applications!!

Cheri Davison, District IX Awards Chair

GCFP - NGC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

- **COMMUNITY GARDENS** - partnering with another organization
1st Southern Butler Co. GC IX
- **PERMANENT COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS**
2nd Southern Butler Co. GC IX
- **ROADSIDE PLANTINGS**
1st Butler GC IX
- **BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT A-1 Special One-Time Event**
1st Southern Butler Co. GC IX

GCFP - NGC ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

- **WILDLIFE SURVIVAL**
1st Shaler GC IX

GCFP - NGC MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT & EDUCATION

- **MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS**
1st Shaler GC IX
- **DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATION**
Large Club 2nd Moon Township GC IX "Recycling 101"

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

- 1st Shaler GC IX
- 2nd Southern Butler Co GC IX

WEBSITE

- Large club 2nd Tusca Ridge GC IX
- Medium club 1st Southern Butler Co. GC IX

13-24 PAGE NEWSLETTERS

- Large Club 2nd Butler GC IX

13-24 PAGE NEWSLETTERS - DISTRICT

- District IX - "Nine's News" IX

Over 24 Pages Newsletter

- Large Club 1st Moon Township GC IX

GCFP CLUB PROGRAM AWARDS

Recognizing an outstanding, original, garden-related program presented at a single meeting by one or more club members

• A. HORTICULTURE LARGE CLUB

- 1st Elizabeth Henderson Tusca-Ridge GC IX Native Plants Garden

CAR-SGC AWARDS GCFP CAR-SGC CLUB YEARBOOK AWARDS

- 45-69 Members
1st Tusca-Ridge GC IX

2025 SEED MONEY FOR PLANT AMERICA, WHILE KEEPING PA BEAUTIFUL

- Kennedy Garden Club
- Moon Township Garden Club
- Shaler Garden Club
- Southern Butler Co. Garden Club
- Tusca-Ridge Garden Club

YOUTH POETRY CONTEST "I Spy With My Little Eye Something Green Outside - Celebrating Our Green World"

- **GRADE 5**
1st Lily Christopher Ingomar GC IX
2nd Mia Kavic Ingomar GC IX
3rd Kieran Li Ingomar GC IX
4th Maretta Bender Ingomar GC IX

- **GRADE 7**
4th Austin Gallaway Tusca-Ridge GC IX

- **GRADE 8**
1st Lilliana Bixler Tusca-Ridge GC IX
2nd Jackson Selepec Tusca-Ridge GC IX
3rd Mikenna Keber Tusca-Ridge GC IX

GCFP SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

- "ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!"
GRADE 5
1st Afsheen Y. Arafath, Moon Twp. GC IX
2nd Dia Chada, Moon Twp. GC IX

Gold Star Marker

District IX is partnering with our neighboring District VIII (Erie area) to purchase and dedicate a GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKER on Interstate 80 near Mercer, PA. This will be the first Gold Star Marker at a Pennsylvania Welcome Center and the third Gold Star in the State. The first was dedicated in August 2024, at Patriot Park in Stoystown near the 911 site. The James Van Sandt VA Medical Center in Altoona was the site on Memorial Day weekend last month of the second Gold Star Marker sponsored by the Blair Garden Club.

District members are cordially invited to join in the Dedication on Wednesday, July 16 @ 1:00 pm. at the Welcome Center.

The Gold Star Marker joined the Blue Star Marker Program to honor the service member's ultimate sacrifice while honoring the family's loss, grief and continued healing.

Please join our garden club friends in District VIII at this Patriotic event. Think of forming a carpool in your Club or make a day with an early dinner to follow on your trip home. These events don't occur on a regular basis and it such an important part of who we are as a National Garden Club member.

For complete directions, Google Search Interstate 80 East Welcome Center, West Middlesex, PA 16159. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at khfaust@aol.com.

Karen Faust, District IX Blue Star Marker Chair

District IX Annual Meeting

Come "Through the Garden Gate" and celebrate District IX's 25th anniversary at this year's Annual Meeting.

The meeting will be hosted by Shaler Garden Club at Wildwood Golf Club on September 4, 2025. Clubs are invited to prepare a poster presentation on their past 25 years and how they have celebrated being a District IX club.

The presidents of each club will share their club's activities. You will meet the newly installed State Officers as they share their dynamic agenda and what's ahead for the Garden Club Federation of PA.

Enjoy the fellowship of fellow gardeners, share a delicious luncheon buffet and take some chances on unique raffle baskets. Our speaker will be Steve Roth, a Master Beekeeper. His love of beekeeping expanded from a backyard hive to over 30 hives. Steve has been named as a past West Virginia Beekeeper of the Year, has been President of the Tri-State Beekeepers Association and is Co-Chairman of the WV Master Beekeeping Program. Steve is also the founder of the Belmont Correctional Facility's beekeeping program.

The official call for the Annual Meeting is included in this edition of the Nine's News. Join us for a day of gathering, fellowship and food as we celebrate the District's Silver Anniversary.

Claudia Bernardo, Mary Jo Clayton, Susan Semple, District IX Annual Meeting Chairs



KENNEDY GARDEN CLUB'S

Fall Festival

Saturday, Sept 27 • 12-4pm

39 Fairhaven Road • McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Food Trucks, Baked Goods,
Crafts, Plants,
Raffles, Vendors

Featuring the Kennedy Twp. Parks & Recreation Committee
with fun events for the whole family!



KENNEDY
GARDEN CLUB

Come grow with us

- Community Involvement •
- Civic Planting •
- To learn by Doing, Growing and Planting •
- Festivals •





Congratulations to all who participated in

The Art Show



Member's Day Out



Programs from NGC Inc.

Planting Trees and Saving Forests

For many years, National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the USDA Forest Service have maintained a partnership sustaining our national forests through the Plant-A-Tree program. Plant-A-Tree, formerly known as Penny Pines, is a reforestation and forest education program.

Your garden club can participate by contributing to this meaningful conservation project. All contributions help the Forest Service to plant trees across the national forest system where reforestation is needed most—the places most impacted by wildfires, flooding, drought, and other forest disturbances.

From Penny Pines to Plant-A-Tree

As some of you may already be familiar with this program when it was called Penny Pines, the new name “Plant-A-Tree” better reflects the program’s mission and will help us reach a wider audience.

Additionally, we are also making changes to the donation process to make it more accessible and user-friendly. Even if you are already familiar with the original Penny Pines program, please read through the changes below.

DONATION AMOUNT Previously, we required donations in increments of \$68.00. Donors can now contribute any amount, starting from as little as \$50.00 to as large as \$10,000.00. This change provides greater flexibility for donors and enables a wider range of people to participate in the program.

CERTIFICATES As of May 31st, 2025, we will no longer be providing mailed certificates to donors. In an effort to “Go Green,” we will be offering digital certificates that donors can customize and print out themselves. We kindly ask that all donors provide their email address (even if donating by check) so that we can electronically send out tax receipts and online certificate links/instructions. We assure you that your privacy and personal information will be handled with the utmost care and security.

DONATING TO SPECIFIED FORESTS When donating, you may choose to have your donation go to where it’s most needed or you may select a National

Forest; however, the Forest Service reserves the right to utilize funds based on need. If you specify a National Forest where there is no tree planting need, then the donation may be used for planting trees on another forest. *Please note, individual plantings will not be identified per donor (ex: if you donate to a forest, you would be unable to locate a specific tree that you helped donate).

We understand that these changes may raise questions or concerns, and we want to assure you that we are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible for our valued donors. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or if you need assistance with the new donation process.

Once again, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your support and dedication to our reforestation efforts. Your contributions make a real and lasting impact, and we are honored to have you as part of our garden club community and are grateful for your partnership in this important work.

The above information was reprinted from the NGC website at: <https://gardenclub.org/plant-tree>



Club Reports

Butler Garden Club

We kicked off our spring Club meetings with a fabulous workshop hosted by our very own District Director, Stacey Ivoll! She joined us for our business meeting and conversation over lunch and then led us in a fun kokedama workshop, incorporating moss, soil, twine and the plant of our choice! We don't have workshops very often so it was a treat to learn and to get "mossy"! Thank you, Stacey!

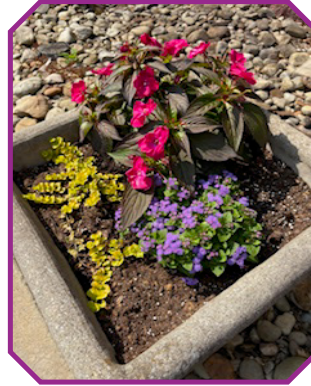
We were fortunate to have another District leader, Leslie Anthony, present her extensive Pollinator program for our club at our May meeting. There is SO much material to take in, learning how important all these "workers" are to ensuring a stable food supply for humans, as well as the added benefit of beautiful gardens.

In between the spring gatherings we took on our annual planting projects of planters at Lifesteps Adult Day Health Services, Gateway Gardens, and the historical Lowrie House planting, next to our downtown courthouse. Butler is now filled with vibrant Celosia, Double Profusion Zinnias and Moss Roses, as well as a newly-established perennial bed containing False Indigo, Coneflowers, and Rudbeckia Goldstar, to name a few!

We still found time to incorporate a new project into our repertoire, helping plant a vegetable garden at our local VA, for which the veterans receive the produce for free. Finally, we took on a last-minute planting at the VA just in time for Memorial Day, which was a former undertaking of ours and will hopefully be returned to us for good – planting reds (Celosia) and whites (Vinca Vine and Alys-sum) under the Blue Star Memorial marker that graces one of the two VA campuses in Butler. It feels GREAT to give back to those who have served our country on our behalf.

Summer promises a trip on the Preston's Pearl Boat at Moraine State Park, our annual summer picnic at a member's Airbnb and the installation of new officers at our August meeting.

Susan Morgus, President, BGC



Fox Chapel Garden Club

Let's go to the year 1980. That's 45 years ago.... Can you remember where you were and what you were doing? What chapter of your life were you developing? Was it your career, your community, your family?

I can tell you what one FCGC member was doing in 1980, Rin Babson was developing and pursuing membership in FCGC and she became one. But she didn't just become a member, she began a 45 year 'career' in the activities of the club, embodying the essence of what opportunities there are to serve, and serve she did in an amazing array of capacities. In her first decade, she served as Co-Chair of the Youth Activities and Environmental Education Committee and then served as the Chair for the ensuing two years. In 1984, she presented a program to the club featuring Belgian Gardens, and in 1986, a program on Chinese Gardens. And to round out the decade, in 1988, she served as the Flower Arranging Committee Chair and Co-Chair.

Rin continued to branch out in the following decades serving as our Publicity Chair, our Corresponding Secretary, our Awards Chair while also being a member of the Conservation, Program and Horticulture Committees. Rin was instrumental in helping to form District IX and then became active in it, serving as their Recording Secretary and as our GCFP representative before becoming the District IX Director in 2005. She has also served as our President for two years in the early 2000's and has recently served as the President of the Western Pennsylvania Unit of the Herb Society of America.

She has received a Laurel Award and the Inspiration Award and is an affiliate life member of both the state Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania and of our National Garden Club. She currently serves on our Long-Range Planning and Conservation/Environmental Watch Committees.

She has created a blueprint for what "outstanding achievement" in FCGC related activities' really means. This phrase is significant as it is one of the two criteria in our Bylaws for being nominated as an Honorary Member. The other criteria? 30 years of membership! Since she had surpassed this second criteria 15 years ago, the above list speaks for itself as the quintessential example of "outstanding achievement in FCGC related activities". As such, it was my honor as your President, at our annual

luncheon to recommend to our membership that our club recognize her 45 years as an FCGC member by bestowing the title of HONORARY Member on Rin. Thank you, Rin, for your years of dedication to and pursuit of the mission of our club. We are honored to know you and to call you a friend and colleague.

FCGC has been all smiles while digging in the dirt since April 2nd as we prepared for our annual Gardenfest. We divided and potted select perennials such as natives and deer resistant varieties from our gardens. A total of 663 plants were shared from 12 gardens and brought to Gardenfest!

The event took place on a glorious sunny day Saturday, May 10, 2025, at O'Hara Township Community Park. There were 14 vendors joining us this year. Participating with us were Penn State Master Gardeners, Guyasuta Garden Club, The Men's Garden Club, North American Rock Garden Society, The Green Foxes Garden Club of O'Hara Elementary School, Fox Chapel Girl Scouts, Western Pennsylvania Wild Ones, Lambs Ear Farm, glass artist Africa Herrera, garden wood art creator Tony Ulizio, photographer Ruthanne Bauerle, artist Carol Skinger and dahlia notecard photographer Jack Wolfe.

In the coming weeks we will be enjoying our pop-up events and our most recent was a tour of member Bobbie Smith's home garden which will be featured on the Symphony Splendor Garden Tour taking place on June 29th from 11:00 am – 4:00pm. Here's the link for tickets.

<https://psaevents.ticketleap.com/symphony-splendor-garden-tour/>

Melissa Johnson, President, FCGC



Rin Babson



Ingomar Garden Club

Once members got into the swing of spring, the garden gloves were on. There was debris to clean out in David Councill Park and Edith's Garden. Our Plant Sale was moved up to Mother's Day weekend into Greybrooke Garden Club's former location of McCandless Crossing. Perennials had to be potted up at our dig-gums workshop, even though lingering cold weather presented the challenge of finding them.

We learned about composting as Laura Blood, Environmental Education Coordinator, from Pennsylvania Resources Council, covered the basics, providing great resources to help reduce food waste. Then, Master Gardener, Marilyn Germansky, detailed the wonderful world of container gardening in small spaces, reviewing container types with their pros and cons, as well as, care and maintenance.

In April, certain members toured Joe Hamm's Daffodil Hortus in Northern Washington County, home to an impressive collection of over 2,000 varieties, blooming at different times from March until May. Joe Hamm had started this vision in 1990, collecting cultivars bred onward from his birth year of 1938. He also included heirloom varieties from that same point backwards to preserve daffodils of old. Over 400 different breeders are now part of this display.

At Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy, members were able to observe injured birds in rehabilitation and to also explore the habitat of Wild-bird Recovery, Inc. By changing their perennials to native plants a constant need to refill their feeders has been reduced. With the plant sale behind us, our focus shifted to planting David Councill Park, Edith's Garden, and our UPMC Containers, summer is coming. That means watering, weeding and maintaining. We are grateful to Greybrooke Garden Club, especially Karen Lampman, who donated so much to make our plant sale successful.

"Gardening is Learning, learning, learning. That's the fun ...you're always learning." – Helen Mirren

Many Summer Returns,
Julie Barnes, President, IGC

Kennedy Garden Club

Following our May Meeting, the Club hosted a Meet & Greet where prospective members could mingle and meet our club members. We shared cookies made by Cookie, Cookie Ice Cream Company and met two new members.

Our Club members worked some very long, hard hours to prepare for our Spring Festival this year. The Craft Committee held numerous crafting sessions almost up until the day of the Festival. The ladies made beach glass & rock paintings, decoupage glass vases, flower gem magnets, lavender sachets, painted rocks and more. These sessions brought out the talent that was hidden within our club members. Kudos go to Darlene Adamski for spearheading this creative adventure.

The Raffle Committee met and under the guidance of Cindy Kasper made 29 beautiful gift baskets with vendors giving us another 9. Plus, we had an additional raffle with a donated bedroom bench from member Patti Harding. One of our raffle baskets included an original painting donated by member Sue Vandertie.

During this year's Festival we had a separate tent set up for our Membership Committee who welcomed our vendors and talked to prospective new members. They signed up 21 individuals interested in joining our club. Three of those folks have already joined the club.

We all learned a lot about grow lights, rotation and watering of seedling at a member's home gathering. We had fun in getting our hands dirty. Some of our club members made a trip to Jesteadt's Greenhouse in Prospect to purchase plants for the Festival plant sale. Another group went to Bob's Market and Greenhouse in the Strip District to purchase hanging baskets.

On St. Patrick's Day, we met at member Patti Harding's floral shop where we made artificial flower wreaths. At the end of March, WQED and Fred Rogers Productions brought their "Be My Neighbor Day" to McKees Rocks to celebrate community resilience and kindness. It was held at FOCUS ON RENEWAL'S FATHER RYAN ARTS CENTER and Club members passed out sunflower seed kits to everyone in attendance. Each kit contained seeds, soil, pots and directions on starting your plants in zip lock bags.

The Club hosted the Pittsburgh premiere of the documentary "Gardening for the Planted" at the Lindsay Theater in Sewickley. Even though the theater's website was down for four days leading up to the event...it was a success! A big "thank you" to Stacey Ivol for attending our event. We were approached by a Sewickley Club president who is interested in joining us next year to host another gardening documentary. Ideas are already swirling around to make this a bigger and better event next year. The theater has gotten phone calls from individuals in the community asking for another show-

ing. I hear one might be scheduled in August.

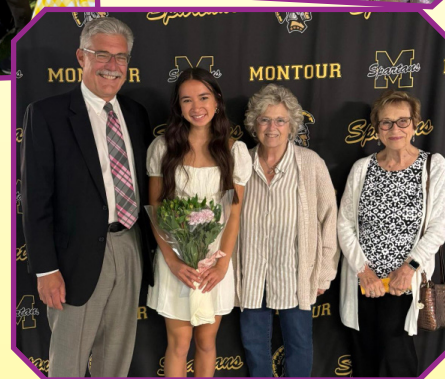
We were a bit tired but we purchased annuals and planted them in a local park that has been dedicated to First Responders. We purchased American Flags and placed them around the fountain for Memorial Day. We are currently working on a design plan for a perennial planting in the fall to include native plants.

The Kennedy Garden Club awarded their student scholarship to Montour senior, Joelle Ludwick who will be attending the University of Pittsburgh and studying Biochemistry. Joelle along with her parents and her high school advisor will be invited to our Appreciation Luncheon in July.

At the end of May, we enjoyed a tour of the rose garden at Wilpen Hall in Sewickley. Afterwards, we lunched at the Christy House. A special "thank you" goes out to club member Deb Young and her brother Mark for arranging this wonderful afternoon.

Now, we get back to work and plan for Kennedy Community Days and our Fall Festival.

Judy Fritzges, President, KGC



Moon Township Garden Club

As summer approaches, we want to share the activities we've enjoyed this spring.

In March, we held our first general meeting, featuring members wearing flower jewelry, aligning with our "Flower Power" theme. Everyone received their 2025 handbook as we previewed upcoming plans and activities. Our host committee along with 1/3 of our membership prepared a St. Patrick's Day potluck lunch.

In April, we shifted our meeting to an earlier start with our host committee serving breakfast in lieu of lunch. Our business meeting included an overview and open discussion of changes in procedures and by-laws. Voting on by-laws will take place next month. Our meeting concluded by noon offering our members an afternoon to enjoy personal activities. Change is good!

Our April program took place the following evening at the Moon Township Municipal Building. We organized a presentation titled "Disappearing Yards: Dealing with Landslides in Moon Township." The event was open to the public and attracted over 40 local residents. Afterwards, attendees shared their feedback, stating "the presentation was informative and engaging."

We are thrilled to have partnered with Moon Township for their Earth Day Celebration. Our Youth Committee featured the Pennsylvania state insect, the firefly in a walk-through exhibit, showcasing its habitats, such as high grass, water, and rocks. The exhibit ended with a tunnel of twinkling lights against the dark wilderness, and each child received little jars of twinkling lights to mimic fireflies. Attendees were advised that fireflies thrive best in darker areas so turn off any garden lights! We're incredibly proud of our Youth Committee and the members volunteering to assist.

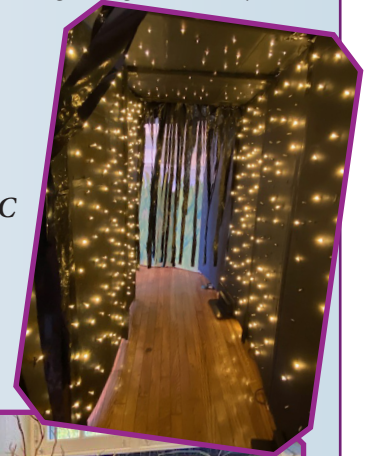
On the heels of a successful winter sowing, our 1,500 native and pollinator seedlings debuted at our 5th annual Plant Giveaway and Exchange on May 10th. Our Civic, Horticulture, and Environmental Committee (CHEC) put forth an extraordinary effort exceeding last year's success! We served 125 households and welcomed many visitors who brought plants to share. We are also incredibly proud of our CHEC and those volunteering to make this event most successful. We are grateful to our new and repeat visitors, who we learned, are crazy in LOVE with this event!

Our May Business Meeting was held at Moon Park

where our host committee featured a picnic lunch. During our Business Meeting we voted and received a unanimous vote on the By-laws changes. Our program lead, Carol Howe, led us through some "getting to know you" games and it was great fun!!

Let's embrace the beauty of change this spring as we move into summer together!

Christy Klug, President, MTGC



Oak Hills Garden Club

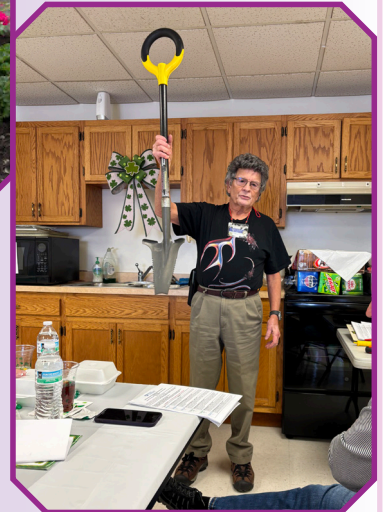
Oak Hills Garden Club received exciting news in March from NexTrex that we reached our goal of recycling 1000 lbs. of plastic bags. Our recycling committee is in the process of selecting the appropriate place for the bench that we will be receiving. We are also well on our way for a second bench by already collecting over 200 lbs. March 2024, when we decided to do this we never thought we would reach this goal but felt that keeping any amount of bags out of the landfill was worth it. Thanks to fellow garden clubs, friends and neighbors for helping us reach our goal.

Spring has been very active: during our meeting in March we were presented with a demonstration of useful garden tools by Steve Piskar. April was our annual plant sale planning meeting with Patty Black displaying our new banner which will be used at our sale. In May we went on what has become our annual trip to New Wilmington to visit several Amish greenhouses and lunched at Ryder's restaurant.

For the seventh year our Club planted flowers at Doughboy Park, located in the city of Butler, for Memorial Day. This is a small park established to immortalize the local fallen WWI veterans. Thanks to Metha Hillard, Catherine McDonnell and Cheryl Pennington for spearheading this project.

The past few weeks have been busy digging up our perennials, dividing, potting and labeling them for our upcoming plant sale on May 31st. We are ready to rest and enjoy the summer.

Melissa Jacoby, President OHGC



Shaler Garden Club

Shaler Garden Club has been busy....fundraiser, field trips, educational opportunities, social gatherings, and lots of meetings. Despite the weather, our Annual Plant Sale and Bake Sale produced enough revenue to meet our budget requirements although we continue to be challenged having enough perennials for all our loyal clients. An added bonus to this event is getting to know members better as they contribute their skills and enthusiasm.

Field trips included a trip to Latodami Nature Center at North Park to learn how maple syrup is made. The next excursion was to Michael Brothers Nursery in Cheswick that included an emphasis on native pollinators. When a visit to a local restaurant followed, members were able to enjoy the extra time with no work involved.

Educational opportunities available included a Spring Floral Hoop Wreath Making workshop, Rock Painting, and the Citizen Science of Monitoring Wild Bees in Pennsylvania.

Social gatherings apart from lunches out following our field trips included our annual New Member Tea, in which five of our new members were able to attend.

Meetings are an inevitable part of running a garden club. However, this year work has already started on planning September's District IX Annual Meeting, which marks the District's 25th anniversary.

We look forward to extending our hospitality to our fellow gardening enthusiasts in the fall. Until that time, consider joining us for planned pollinator activities and July's Shaler Garden Tour. Look for details on our soon to be updated website and Facebook page.

Joanne Laverty, President, SSGC



S. Butler County Garden Club

Since February 2025, Southern Butler County Garden Club has been active touring, learning, and volunteering. An early field trip to Chatham University Eden Hall Campus was very well attended. This is the world's first university campus designed for sustainable solutions. They have over 400 solar panels and their own wastewater treatment process that mimics nature. We were guided through two of their greenhouses, a hydroponics lab, and an organic farm.

Our club's May program was at the beautiful Succop Nature Center, part of Audubon of Western Pennsylvania. Ryan Stauffer presented an amazing program on "Pigeons and People." Ryan talked about the history of pigeons used as food, message carriers, and military service. After the program, refreshments were served and then a business meeting was conducted. Members visited the Nature Center's gift shop.

Our club's volunteering continues with helping the VFW Post 879 members at the VFW Memorial in North Boundary Park, Cranberry Twp. Our members have been offering these older men a few hours of assistance for the last several years. We planted several flats of begonias and then spread several bags of mulch.

Our club's bookwalk is back. "The Mighty Pollinators", with poems by Helen Frost and photography by Rick Lieder, book display is at the Mars Library for National Garden Club Week, June 1-7.

Jill Barger, President, SBCGC



Tusca-Ridge Garden Club

The highlight in May was our annual member plant exchange. I forgot to take the microphone! It would certainly have helped with our outdoor meeting and calling the names of our members and guests to come forward and choose their new plants.

However, nothing else could spoil a fun evening, even the weather behaved. We had a few new twists to our traditional event. Instead of our usual morning schedule, members brought their plants at 4:30 before our 5pm meeting under the shelter rather than inside the lodge.

What a privilege for me to welcome 5 new members during our meeting. Our hostess team for the month prepared a delicious picnic. Previous years each member received 10 tickets which they distributed amongst the various plants, garden tools, ornaments etc. like a Chinese auction. Some people went home with lots of new items and some were unlucky and got 1 or 2 or none!

This year each person had one ticket which went into a big pot. As each name was drawn the winner picked from the whole array until everyone had 1 plant. The names all went back in the pot and this was repeated until all the plants had been taken. EVERYONE went home happy with 4 or 5 items. Now, we are wishing for a June with more sunshine and less rain.

Susan Parry, President, TRGC





2025
Moon Garden Tour
 Sponsored By
Moon Township Garden Club

Saturday, July 12th ~ 9am-3pm
Featuring Six Beautiful Gardens

An Exceptional Garden Shop in
The Fleur de Lune Garden at Robin Hill
949 Thorn Run Road, Moon Twp. PA 15108

Tickets \$25
\$30 the day of the Tour
Pick up the program & garden map at Robin Hill

For more information:
www.moon townshipgardenclub.com



<https://square.link/wh1.1GDX7H>



PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
Symphony Splendor

Fox Chapel Garden Tour
Hidden Garden Gems

Sunday, June 29, 2025 • 11 am - 4 pm

Please check our website for more
 information and registration:
pittsburghsymphonyassociation.org **\$50**



Southern Butler County
Garden Club
17th Annual Garden Tour

Saturday June 28, 2025
Touring 9am-3pm

Registration & day of event ticket sales from 9-10am only
 in the Cranberry Twp. Municipal Center.
 Join us for our 17th Annual Garden Tour...
 Get inspired by touring several private gardens in and around the
 Cranberry Twp. area. Homeowners will be available to answer
 your questions and share their gardening design insight with you.

Pre-sale tickets are available for \$20
(Purchased day of event \$25)

To purchase a ticket please mail a check payable to:
Southern Butler County Garden Club
c/o 2640 Timberglen Dr., Wexford, PA 15090-6930
 (Please include a self-addressed stamped return #10 envelope)
Kindly include a phone number. There is no rain date.
Ticket requests received after June 20th will be held at Will Call.

At registration ticket holders will receive a booklet with
 garden descriptions and driving directions.

Tickets will be collected for a chance on a door prize & chances may be purchased
 to win several "Gardener's Delight" raffle baskets. Stepping Stones will be available to
 purchase at one of your stops. The price of your ticket is tax deductible and helps us fund
 local horticulture programs in our community.
 Thank you for your support!
 For more info you may call: Linda at 412-335-0550

www.southernbutlercountygardenclub.org
 Be sure to Like Us on Facebook!



Shaler Garden Club
Great Gardens Tour

Sunday, July 13, 2025

11AM to 4PM

\$20 in advance/\$25 day of tour



tinyurl.com/shalergardens2025

Shaler North Hills Library 412-486-0211
 1822 Mt. Royal Blvd. Glenshaw, PA 15116



District IX Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Hosted by Shaler Garden Club

Wildwood Golf Club

2195 Sample Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

Through the Garden Gate

9 am Registration 10 am Annual Meeting
12 pm Luncheon and Raffle 1 pm Program

Guest Speaker: Steve Roth, Master Beekeeper

Topic: The Business of Bees

Steve Roth is a Master Beekeeper and current co-president of the WV Beekeepers Association. He is a past WV Beekeeper of the Year.

A luncheon buffet will be provided by the Wildwood Golf Club includes Chicken Francaise, Salmon with Dill Cream and Citrus Butter, Soup, Salad, Vegetable Accompaniments, fresh rolls and butter and Assorted Plated Desserts.

Cost: \$36 per person includes tax and gratuity

Make check payable to: **Shaler Garden Club**

Mail to: **Susan Semple c/o 626 Tara Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-3807**

semplew@verizon.net (412) 216-4084

Reservation Deadline: Friday, August 15, 2025



Name: _____

Club: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____