



Keystone Gardener

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KG Online Newsletter Editor, Marilyn Small



Cindy Vatauvuk, The Garden Club of Johnstown, VI



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The most powerful instrument created by mankind is that of kind words; it plays not only to the ears but to the soul." ~ Pat Wolanski



Spring is a wonderful time in Pennsylvania as gardens awaken and nature begins to bloom once again. Our clubs across the state continue the tradition of planting, caring for the environment, and sharing the joy of gardening in our communities.

Our annual convention in Erie, MystERIE by the Bay, was a very special time. There is nothing quite like being together, sharing ideas, enjoying a little fun, and reflecting on all we do as we honor the many accomplishments of our members. The creative "mystery" touches woven throughout the convention added to the enjoyment of the experience. It was especially meaningful to welcome members who traveled from near and far, including many attending for the first time. I truly enjoyed the opportunity to connect, visit, and share time with so many of you from across our state. I came home feeling inspired and reminded of the strength and friendship that define our Federation.

Many hours of hard work and planning go into organizing this event, and my thanks go to Convention Chair Joyce Milberg, Co-Chair Bonita Herman, and their dedicated committee for their outstanding efforts in making this gathering possible.

With spring in full bloom, we also turn our attention to an exciting and historic milestone for The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania – our first-ever statewide Garden Tour on June 20 and 27. This special endeavor will showcase our state and highlight the impact of our clubs over the past 96 years of our Federation's history. My profound gratitude to Nancy Cuttic, Chair, and Marilyn Small, Tour Book Editor—a powerhouse of two—along with their committee members and participating garden clubs, and all who are making this vision a reality. Tickets are now available on our website, and I encourage each of you to participate and invite others to join us. This is truly an opportunity for GCFP to shine.

As we approach our nation's 250th birthday on the 4th of July, we are reminded that Pennsylvania holds a special place in America's story. It is fitting that we celebrate our gardens, our communities, and our shared dedication during this season of national pride. I encourage every club to plant Red, White, and Blue Gardens in your communities. Let these gardens serve as a visible tribute to our nation, reflecting both pride and unity, while also supporting GCFP's and National Garden Clubs' initiative to commemorate this milestone in a meaningful way.

Thank you for the countless hours you devote to your clubs and to our Federation. Together, we are "Making our Keystone a Gemstone," one garden, one project, and one community at a time.

Pat Wolanski

GCFP President 2025-2027



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Somerset GC, VI

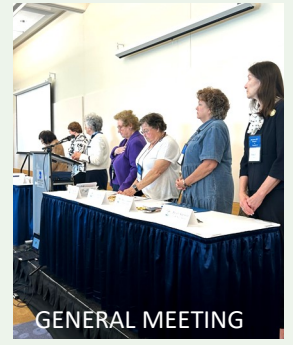
GCFP 2025 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

District VIII hosted a creative and memorable “MystERIE by the Bay” convention at the Sheraton Hotel and Bayfront Convention Center in Erie. More than 250 attendees gathered over three days and were welcomed with goody-filled hospitality bags, along with a series of engaging mysteries and stories woven throughout the event. Beautiful floral honor designs were created for CAR-SGC Director Beverly Kazickas, President Wolanski, and Convention Co-Chairs Joyce Milberg and Bonita Herman by Judy Morley, Vickie Beatty, Tom Huston, and Carol Klonicki.

A variety of engaging workshops and presenters filled the schedule, complemented by featured speakers at each meal who carried the convention’s mystery theme into their presentations. Attendees learned that Pennsylvania’s state insect is the firefly—the mystery of why it glows and how it communicates—and discovered that purchasing a new plant for the garden can sometimes require digging three separate holes!

Ken and Peggy Butler delivered an informative presentation on the firefly (better known as a lightning bug), while author Neal Sanders offered a lighthearted talk titled “Gardening is Murder,” sharing the challenges of maintaining multiple gardens. The Meadville Community Theater troupe entertained guests with a humorous performance about an invasive species mystery, and Tim Farrell provided an engaging and educational presentation that demystified floral design.

The convention also featured exciting award presentations, educational exhibits, a variety of vendors at the Bayside Market, excellent raffles, and beautifully arranged centerpieces at each meal.



New Life Members Pat Wolanski and Jan Olsen

GENERAL MEETING



CAR-SGC Director Beverly Kazickas



Judges Council Luncheon Speaker



Newest Accredited Judges - Sharon Richardson, Leeanna Ryba; Karen Wychock, FS Judges Council Chair; Nancy Cuttie



Governor's Trophy—The Garden Club of York, District IV



Mary Hetrick
2nd Vice President



Sharon Richardson and Leeanna Ryba, Four-Star Members





2025 AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT THE 2026 GCFP CONVENTION

Marilyn Small, GCFP Awards Chair, Uwchlan Garden Club, I
 Sheri Lowry, GCFP Awards Vice-Chair, The Garden Club of Johnstown, VI

2026 PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

Issued by GCFP President Patricia Wolanski

Chosen to receive this Presidential Citation because you have performed above and beyond expectations. Thank you for your dedication to the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania.

JoAnn Baylis, GCFP Database Manager
 Littlestown Area Garden Club, IV

Barbara Brand, Organizational Studies Co-Chair
 Gettysburg Garden Club, IV

Nancy Cartwright, Flower Show Judges Credentials Chair,
 Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, IV

Nancy Cuttic, Pennsylvania Garden Party Chair
 Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Deb Davis, GCFP Recording Secretary
 Martha Washington Garden Club, X

Joan Engle, Constant Comment Coordinator
 Norristown Garden Club, XI

Bonita Herman, Convention Co-Chair
 Lawrence Park Garden Club, VIII

Cynthia Layton, GCFP Financial Advisor
 Hazleton Area Garden Club, II/III

Christine Leskosky, Advisor and Floral Design and Horticulture Webinar Chair
 Hazleton Area Garden Club, II/III

Sheri Lowry, Awards Vice-Chair and Pennsylvania Garden Party Treasurer
 The Garden Club of Johnstown, VI

Joyce Milberg, Convention Chair
 Titusville Area Garden Club, VIII

Marjorie Sears, PA Garden Party Sponsorship Chair
 Old York Road Garden Club, XI

Marilyn Small, KG Online Editor, Awards Chair, and Pennsylvania Garden Party Tour Book Editor
 Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Karen Wychock, Pennsylvania's Public Gardens Guide
 Trevoise Horticultural Society, XI

Dorothy Yard, Organizational Studies Co-Chair
 Waterford Garden Club, VIII

SPECIAL CLUB FEDERATED ANNIVERSARIES

Clubs celebrating 50, 60, 75 and 90 years

50: DuBoistown Garden Club, V 1976
 90: Pottstown Area Garden Club, II/III 1936

Clubs celebrating 50, 75, and 100 Year Anniversaries receive a \$100 award.

GCFP - NGC COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMUNITY GARDENS

partnering with another organization

Medium Club

1st Southern Butler Co. GC IX
 Community Garden at Graham Park
 2nd Butler GC IX

PERMANENT COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS

Medium Club

1st Moon Township GC IX
 Fleur de Lune Garden at Robin Hill Park

COMMUNITY FOOD SOURCES

Most outstanding effort to address food insecurity

Large Club

1st Parkland GC II/III
 Green Thumbs Garden Project

BEAUTIFICATION (one time)

Medium Club

1st Southern Butler Co. GC IX
 Veteran's Memorial

GCFP - NGC

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

WILDLIFE SURVIVAL - Large Club

1st Shaler GC IX
 Pollinator Advocacy Committee

GCFP - NGC FLORAL DESIGN

Large Club

1st Barbara Campbell, Parkland GC II/III
 "That Floral Touch Seasonal Designs"

GCFP - NGC MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AND EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS

Large Club

1st Shaler GC IX
 2nd Parkland GC II/III
 3rd The GC of York IV

Medium Club

2nd Southern Butler Co. GC IX

WEBSITE - Chair Janet Fassbender, Country Gardeners, I

Large Club

1st Parkland GC II/III
 2nd The GC of York IV
 3rd Tusca-Ridge GC IX

Medium Club

1st Southern Butler Co. GC IX
 2nd Spade and Trowel Club I



NGC MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT AND EDUCATION

PUBLICATIONS

Chair Joyce Peterson, The GC of Forest Hills, VII

3-12 Page Newsletters - Large Club

1 st Uwchlan GC	I
2 nd Shaler GC	IX
3 rd Penn-Cumberland GC	IV

3-12 Page Newsletters - Medium Club

1 st Standing Stone GC	V
2 nd The GC of Forest Hills	VII
3 rd Ingomar GC	IX

13-24 Page Newsletters - Large Club

1 st Emmaus GC	II/III
2 nd The GC of York	IV
3 rd Parkland GC	II/III

13-24 Page Newsletters - Medium Club

1 st Butler GC	IX
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13-24 Page Newsletters - District

1 st District I - "The First Bloom"	I
2 nd District IX - "Nine's News"	IX

Over 24 Pages Newsletter - District

1 st District X - "The TENDril"	X
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NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

Large Club	
1 st Shaler GC	IX
2 nd Parkland GC	II/III
Medium Club	
2 nd Southern Butler Co. GC	IX

NGC HORTICULTURE EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

Large Club	
2 nd Norristown GC	XI

GCFP AWARDS

GCFP CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

HISTORIC RESTORATION AWARD

For a member who has shown dedication to the continuing challenge of reclaiming and/or preserving a historic site.

Carol Klonicki

Heather Club of Edinboro VIII

GCFP HORTICULTURE AWARDS

CLUB HORTICULTURE ACHIEVEMENT

For an outstanding series of horticulture programs presented throughout the year.

Shaler Garden Club IX

ELIZABETH POTTS AMIDON HORTICULTURE

For a member whose efforts towards the advancement of horticulture are so outstanding and far-reaching as to merit being cited as the most outstanding horticulturist of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania.

Mary Reefer

Butler Garden Club IX

CLUB FLORAL DESIGN ACHIEVEMENT

For a series of outstanding floral design educational presentations in a single calendar year.

Valerie Burgess

Uwchlan Garden Club I

MAXWELL STEELE YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Awarded for a year's outstanding activities that promote club, state, region and national objectives with a school, scout, 4H, or other youth group.

Great Meadows Garden Club X

GCFP CLUB PROGRAM AWARDS

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

B. Landscape Design

Large Club

1 st Ellen Northy	
Moon Township GC	IX
"Ground Covers -- A Carpet of Color"	
2 nd Kirk Brown	
Parkland GC	II/III
"Color for Four Seasons"	

D. Indoor Gardening

Large Club

1 st Nancy Smith , Parkland GC	II/III
"Creating a Fairy Garden"	

K. Workshops

Large Club

1 st Carrie Schreffler	
Uwchlan GC	I
"Succulent Dish Creations"	
2 nd Carrie Schreffler	
Uwchlan GC	I
"Mod Podge Vases"	

Medium Club

1 st Polly Berginc , Butler GC	IX
"Winter Glow Candlelight Centerpiece"	

L. Environmental Concerns

Large Club

1 st Dr. Brenda Smith	
Moon Township GC	IX
"Environmental Concerns"	



GCFP KEYSTONE GARDENER/KG ONLINE LITERARY AWARDS

Awarded for an original garden-related poem or composition published in the Keystone Gardener or KG Online.

Original Poem

Sue Scholz, Presque Isle Garden Club, VIII
"Bees, Birds, and Butterflies"

Original Article

Patricia Wolanski, Norristown Garden Club, XI
Pat's Points
"The Secret Language of Flowers"

GCFP SPECIAL RECOGNITION STATE AWARD

Awarded for outstanding achievement in one of the following several fields of interest.

A. Beautification of Community Areas

Large Club
1st Uwchlan GC I
Planters at Downingtown Public Library
Medium Club
2nd Spade and Trowel Club I

B. Tree Plantings, Arbor Day Activities

Large Club
1st Tusca-Ridge GC IX

C. Holiday Project or Event

Large Club
1st Uwchlan GC I
Christmas Fair
2nd Norristown GC XI
3rd Fox Chapel GC IX

D. Plant Sale, Garden Mart, Herb Fair

Large Club
1st Uwchlan GC I
2nd Moon Township GC IX
3rd Penn-Cumberland GC IV

G. Youth Activities a. Single

Large Club
1st Moon Township GC IX
Shining Light on the Firefly
2nd Shaler GC IX

G. Youth Activities a. Series

Large Club
1st Uwchlan GC I
Bulb, Salad, and Pumpkin Workshops
2nd Parkland GC II/III

H. Other Project/Event Promoting GCFP Objectives

Large Club
1st Moon Township GC IX
Landslides Presentation
2nd Uwchlan GC I
3rd Tusca-Ridge GC IX
Medium Club
1st Southern Butler Co. GC IX
Big Bugs and Mighty Pollinators

SILVER SEAL AWARD

Awarded to an individual other than a garden club member, or to an organization other than a garden club, for special contributions toward the advancement of the work of garden clubs.



W. Atlee Burpee Co.

Old York Road Garden Club XI

CAR-SGC AWARDS

GCFP CAR-SGC

OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT AWARD

Awarded for an educational exhibit that relates to our national objectives.

Karen Faust

Butler Garden Club, IX

Blue or Gold Star Marker Project Planning

GCFP CAR-SGC

JEAN LADSON

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Awarded to a club presenting the most outstanding garden club work that is not eligible for any other CAR-SGC Award.

Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Annual Christmas Fair

Benefiting the Historic Uwchlan Meeting House

GCFP CAR-SGC CLUB YEARBOOK AWARDS

Chair Iris Cisarik, The GC of Forest Hills, VII

Under 20 Members

1st Town & Country of Rices Landing X
2nd Joyful Bloomers GC VII
3rd Burrellton GC VII

21-29 Members

1st Lawrence Park GC VIII
2nd Heather GC of Edinboro VIII
3rd Waterford GC VIII

30-44 Members

1st Wildflower GC VIII
2nd Standing Stone GC V
3rd Butler GC IX

45-69 Members

1st The GC of Harrisburg IV
2nd Hazleton Area GC II/III
3rd Tusca-Ridge GC IX

70-99 Members

1st Parkland GC II/III
2nd Gettysburg GC IV
3rd Shaler GC IX

Over 100 Members

1st The GC of York IV
2nd Norristown GC XI
3rd Penn-Cumberland GC IV

GCFP CAR-SGC PUBLICITY PRESS BOOK AWARD

Chair Linda Freedman, Old York Road, XI

Recognizing winning books of evidence exhibiting quality, quantity, and diversity of coverage in the print media promoting garden clubs and NGC goals and objectives.

Large Club

1 st Gettysburg GC	IV
2 nd Norristown GC	XI

GCPF CAR-SGC FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Chair Margie Bucci, Indiana GC, VI

Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

Large Club

1 st District VII "Dog Daze!"	
2 nd Gospel Hill GC and Lawrence Park GC, VIII "Celebrating Gardens in Our Community"	

Design Specialty Flower Show

1 st The GC of Forest Hills "Spring Thaw"	VII
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Standard Flower Show

Large Club

1 st Trevoze Horticultural Society "La Dolce Vita"	XI
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Medium Club

1 st Great Meadows GC "Road Trip"	X
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Small Standard Flower Show

Small Club

2 nd Heather Club of Edinboro "Adventures in Wonderland"	VIII
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NGC FLOWER SHOW BOOK OF EVIDENCE

Chair Deb Stumpf, Indiana Garden Club, VI

Standard Flower Show FS-1B

21-49 Members

1 st Great Meadows GC "Road Trip"	X
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Standard Flower Show FS-1C

50-99 Members

1 st Trevoze Horticultural Society "La Dolce Vita"	XI
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FS-11A District/Region Standard Show

<15 Clubs

1 st District IV "Leaping to Destinations"	
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FS-16A Design Specialty Show

21-49 Members

1 st The GC of Forest Hills "Spring Thaw"	VII
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2025 GCFP GOLD SEAL AWARD

Honoring a member whose efforts toward the advancement of garden club work have had far-reaching influence.



CHRISTINE LESKOSKY

Hazleton Garden Club, II/III

Chris' unwavering dedication, exemplary leadership, and passionate commitment to the goals and values of the Hazleton Area Garden Club, District II/III, GCFP, NGC, and her community make her exceptionally deserving of this honor.

A member of HAGC since 2001, she has served on and chaired numerous committees and events, with her leadership having a profound impact on the club's growth and success.

A notable contribution has been chairing the club's biannual flower show, and developing and hosting a series of floral design classes. Her floral designs have been featured in NGC's Vision of Beauty Calendar 15 times. Another notable club and community contribution was her work with Hazle Township Supervisors to plan, design, and name the Hazle Township Inspirational Park to beautify the area with trees, PLANTS, and a gazebo.

On the district, state, regional and national levels, she has served on and chaired numerous committees, including District II/III Director, GCFP Financial and Recording Secretary, 2011 Convention Co-Chair, Convention Presentations, Leadership Workshops, and GCFP President 2017-2019 to name a few! She is a Master Flower Show Judge and current Chair of NEAJC, judging prestigious shows including the Philadelphia Flower Show, as well as state shows in Maryland and Delaware, along with presenting floral programs across Pennsylvania.

For her community, Chris has donated countless hours working on procession floats, public gardens, habitat homes, blue star markers, rails to trails, and downtown Hazleton fall decorations.

A life member of GCFP, CAR-SGC, and GCFP, Chris' dedication and remarkable contributions easily merit GCFP's highest recognition.



SR-4 MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR

Recognizing five or more years of outstanding contributions and all-around excellence to club and community.



KAREN WYCHOCK

Trevoze Horticultural Society, XI

Karen Wychock is well-known in GCFP and a go-to person to get jobs done. In addition to her illustrious educational career, she is the owner of Times Gone By, a traditional basketry business, and was a featured vendor at the 2025 GCFP Convention Marketplace.

Deeply engaged in horticulture and the arts, she IS past President of the Trevoze Horticultural Society, a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and Ikebana International. Since joining Trevoze Horticultural Society in 2009, she has assumed leadership roles at local, district, and state levels.

Serving as Chairperson of the 2025 GCFP Convention in King of Prussia, she created “A Gardening Revolution” experience, blending gardening and colonial history into an inspiring and educational event. She currently serves as GCFP State Judges Council Chair, coordinating six area councils across Pennsylvania, and became an Accredited Life Judge in 2023. From 2021–2025, she also served as Keystone Gardener Editor (print edition), producing six issues, including directory editions for Presidents Sheila Croushore and Leeanna Ryba. Karen worked diligently through the Covid pandemic as District XI Director, and has served on several District XI committees, including Flower Show Chair and Design Program Chair.

For 13 years, her creative contributions as chair of her club’s flower shows were invaluable, having been awarded several GCFP Flower Show and Schedule awards. Her eight years working with youth and senior citizen groups have focused on mentoring and supporting their participation in her club’s annual flower shows. She has conducted numerous design workshops and has been honored by both her club and GCFP presidents. Never slowing down, Karen has participated in and won multiple ribbons in horticulture and design at the Philadelphia Flower Show, while also serving as a show committee member. Her current project is a GCFP Pennsylvania Gardens publication for President Wolanski.

GCFP/CAR-SGC YOUTH CONTESTS

Chair Chris Hawthorne, Ingomar GC, IX
Co-Chair Barb Oswald, Ingomar GC, IX

Youth Poetry Contest

“Plant America for the Next 100 Years”

Grade K	1st Waylon Bender	Ingomar GC	IX
Grade 1	1st Amari Dolby	Pucketos GC	VII
	2 nd Kiyah Peterson	Pucketos GC	VII
	3 rd Savannah Black	Pucketos GC	VII
	4 th Bryn Stromski	Ingomar GC	IX
Grade 2	1st William Stysliger	Pucketos GC	VII
	2 nd Esther Nkemakolan	Pucketos GC	VII
	3 rd Andrew Moore	Ingomar GC	IX
	4 th Dakaray Spiker	Pucketos GC	VII
Grade 3	1st Everly Stromski	Ingomar GC	IX
	2 nd Noelle Sorrels	Pucketos GC	VII
	3 rd Amelia Dzierzynski	Pucketos GC	VII
	4 th Hunter Karafa	Pucketos GC	VII
Grade 4	1st Charlotte Eiseman	Pucketos GC	VII
	2 nd Evelyn Zamule	Pucketos GC	VII
	3 rd Landon Monaako	Pucketos GC	VII
Grade 5	1st Riley Enright	Ingomar GC	IX
	2 nd Hannah Karafa	Pucketos GC	IX
	3 rd Melody Bryant	Pucketos GC	IX
Grade 6	1st Ja’den Johnson	Pucketos GC	VII
	2 nd Leo Dobies	Pucketos GC	IX
Grade 7	1st Ethan Hendershot	Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
	2 nd Josephine Bill	Tusca Ridge GC	IX
	3 rd Maggie Boucek	Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
Grade 8	1st Sofia Bezilla	Ingomar GC	IX

GCFP NGC SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

Chair Betty Grossheim, Pucketos GC, VII
“Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!”

Grade 1	1st Olivia Pawlowicz	Ingomar GC	IX
	2 nd Penelope Mandak	Ingomar GC	IX
	3 rd Lyla Smoley	Ingomar GC	IX
Grade 2	1st Levi Yerger	Parkland GC	II/III
	2 nd Andrew Moore	Ingomar GC	IX
	3 rd Audrey Robinson	Ingomar GC	IX

GCFP NGC SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST Continued

Grade 3	1st Gabby Skrbin	Ingomar GC	IX
	2 nd Dexter Kearns	Ingomar GC	IX
	3 rd Cecelia Makuta	Ingomar GC	IX
Grade 4	1st Reese Catalfamo	Tusca-Ridge GC	IX
	2 nd Baylen Harz	Ingomar GC	IX
	3 rd Sally Williamson	Ingomar GC	IX
Grade 5	1st Chayse Rivera	Parkland GC	II/III
	2 nd Henry Lohr	Ingomar GC	IX
	3 rd Felicity Makuta	Ingomar GC	IX

GCFP NGC YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

Chair Chris Hawthorne, Ingomar GC, IX
Co-Chair Barb Oswald, Ingomar GC, IX

Grade 4	1st Quinn Briggs	Moon Twp. GC	IX
	2 nd Tyler Rivetti	Moon Twp. GC	IX
Grade 5	1st Maura Teitz	Moon Twp. GC	IX
	2 nd Charlie Cuddy	Moon Twp. GC	IX
	3 rd Makayla Slotten	Moon Twp. GC	IX
Grade 6	1st Ethan Rivetti	Moon Twp. GC	IX
Grade 7	1st Mackenzie King	Moon Twp. GC	IX
	2 nd Frederick Russell	Moon Twp. GC	IX
Grade 8	1st Sofia Bezilla	Ingomar GC	IX
	2 nd Morgan Gould	Moon Twp. GC	IX

GCFP CLUB MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

*\$100 Awarded to the club
in each size category with the greatest number
of new members in the calendar year*

Small Club – Up to 20 Members
Landscape Design Society of PA, VII
6 New Members!

Medium Club – 21 to 50 Members
Presque Isle Garden Club, VIII
8 New Members!

Large Club – 51+ Members
The Garden Club of York, IV
39 New Members!

2026 GCFP PERENNIAL BLOOM

*Honoring a long-time club member whose continuous
support of our goals and objectives makes our clubs
grow and bloom.*



NANCY CUTTIC

Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Since 2010, Nancy has been a dedicated, highly valued member of District I and the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. Her knowledge, expertise, attention to detail, and leadership have been invaluable in directing the success of her clubs, District I, and GCFP.

Becoming an NGC Flower Show Judge in 2025, she is a member of three Judges Councils and has judged numerous shows, including the 2025 Bloomsburg Fair and York State Fair Flower Shows. She is currently working on completing Landscape Design and Gardening Schools.

At the state level, she is currently serving as the 2026 Pennsylvania Garden Party Chair, organizing President Pat Wolanski's vision for a 2026 statewide garden tour. She is also on the GCFP Nominating Committee for District I. Nancy is the recipient of the 2024 Member Award of Honor, and is a recipient of two GCFP Presidential Citations. She chaired the 2022 GCFP Convention in Malvern, organizing an outstanding event for members across the state.

On the District level, Nancy served as District I Director, expanding it by adding two new clubs and initiating the Thanksgiving Floral Design Challenge at the fall meeting. She is the current District I 2026 Longwood Flower Show Design Chair and past District I 2024 Longwood Flower Show Vice-Chair.

On a club level, she served as president of Wayne Woods Garden Club, spearheading two major restoration projects—the historic Old Roberts Schoolhouse Garden and the club's Blue Star Marker landscaping. Her work as Yearbook Chair and Design Co-Chair earned several GCFP awards. Working with youth, for two years, she successfully presented "The Saved Seed" pumpkin project in an elementary school, utilizing the NGC book and earning multiple awards for the project.



2025 GCFP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Chair Sandra Hendricks, McEwensville Garden Club, V

The Judging Panel chose the following students using the NGC formula:

Academic – 40%, Applicant's Letter – 25%, List of Honors – 10%, Financial Need – 20%, Recommendations – 5%. An additional 5 points are added for relationship to a GCFP Member.

The Edith Clemmer Steinbright Scholarship of \$1,000

Katherine Laura Butzler of Jersey Shore
McEwensville Garden Club, V

Kate is attending Penn College studying Environmental Engineering with a GPA of 3.4. She is a transfer student from York College of Pennsylvania, with studies in civil engineering. She has excellent leadership skills and a friendly demeanor, along with good communication.

The Jacqueline A. Davis Scholarship of \$1,000

Chloe Jayne Baughman of Reedsville
Mifflin County Garden Club, V

Chloe is a junior at Penn State studying Agriculture Sciences. She is pursuing her degree in Horticulture with an Entomology minor. Several letters from her teachers stated how Chloe demonstrated her ability to analyze and integrate complex and diverse ideas as well as her creativity and interest in learning with an obvious love for the plant world. GPA 3.8.

The Louise Dimmick Scholarship of \$1,000

Zoe Cimo of Phoenixville

Pottstown Area Garden Club, II/III

Chloe is a freshman at Lafayette College in Easton, studying Biology and Environmental Studies. She is interested in conservation journalism or becoming a professor. Zoe has a GPA of 4.0.

The Lois Dupre' Schuster Scholarship of \$1,000

Madelyn Sloane Dowd of Pittsburgh
The Garden Club of Forest Hills, VI

Madelyn is a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Environmental Engineering. Her goals are working with water management, hydroponics, aquaculture, or anything to help the ecosystems. She is described as incredibly motivated, bright, patient, and very hard-working. Her GPA is 3.746.

The Dorothy A. Hermani Scholarship of \$1,000

Emily Phillips of Elizabethtown

Town & Country Garden Club of Lancaster, IV

Emily is a sophomore at Messiah University studying Biological Sciences and has won many academic awards. She gives academics her highest priority and earned the highest grade that a student has ever earned in her professor's AP Biology Class. With a degree in Environmental Science, she strives for a career fighting against the effects of climate change with a chance to leave a brighter future for the generations to come. Improving the planet means improving the life of every person on earth. Her GPA 4.0.

The Marjorie E. Hamblin Scholarship of \$1,000

Shelby Rose Vernon of York
The Garden Club of York, IV

Shelby is sophomore studying Environmental Science at Susquehanna University. She is considering a path in conservation and wildlife management. Her GPA is 3.9.

The Catherine H. Kenworthy Scholarship of \$1,000

Theresa Lynne Feese of Wellsville
The Garden Club of York, IV

Theresa is a junior at Huntington University studying AgBus-Ministry and Mission. Her GPA is 4.0. Her goal is to plant, teach, and harvest food for families in need along with hosting hands-on workshops showing the tools to conserve the land for future generations.

The Jane Layman Scholarship 4-Year, \$1,000

Conditional on an annual 3.0 GPA

John Clark Bruner of Blairsville
Indiana Garden Club, VI

John is a freshman at Penn State DuBois studying Wildlife Technology. He has been very involved in 4-H and the Pennsylvania Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation. His ultimate career goal after graduation is to apply to the Game Warden Academy with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. John's career aspiration is to become a Pennsylvania Game Warden. His GPA is a 4.0.

The Katherine L. Rieger Scholarship of \$1,000

Liam Jack Ellis of Sewickley
Ingomar Garden Club, IX

Liam is a junior at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, with a double major in Economics and Environmental Policy, pursuing an Arborist Certification in addition to his dual degree. He has a GPA 3.7.

The Constance H. Smith Scholarship of \$1,200

Ian Jason Nagel of Carrolltown
The Patton Garden Club, VI

Ian is a freshman at Juniata College studying Biology. Education will provide him with opportunities to reach his goals to help his community. GPA 3.897.

The Miriam A. Steel Scholarship of \$1,000

Abigail Fetterhoff of Halifax
The Garden Club of Harrisburg, IV

Abigail is a sophomore at Chatham University with a GPA of 3.62. Her intended career in a freshwater stream ecologist.

Continued on Next Page



Scholarships Continued

The Marilyn L. Whitmore Scholarship of \$1,000

Alexandra Elisabeth Noble of Spring City
Pottstown Area Garden Club, II/III

Alexandra is a junior at Penn State Berks in Reading, studying Agricultural Sciences, and plans a career as a Plant Geneticist. Through genetic research, she plans to help farmers and companies improve their crop production. Alexandra is extraordinarily smart and inquisitive, with a fantastic outlook on her choice of major. She has balanced her schoolwork with employment and has big goals for herself as she continues her education at PSU. GPA 3.96.

2025-2026 AWARD STATISTICS

Chair Marilyn Small, Uwchlan GC, I, and Vice-Chair Sheri Lowry, GC of Johnstown, VI

Our GCFP Award Program recognized the extraordinary efforts of our individuals, clubs, and districts during 2025 at our 2026 Convention. The dedication, creativity, knowledge, and hard work shared in the award applications truly showcased the efforts of our GCFP members to accomplish NGC goals and objectives.

- 44 of our 98 GCFP clubs received at least 1 award.
- 32 First-Place winners (including youth) were forwarded for CAR-SGC award consideration
- 19 First-Place winners were forwarded for NGC award consideration
- 50 Youth Contests
- 186 certificates were awarded



2025 GCFP COMPREHENSIVE AWARD

Awarded to the district whose clubs and individuals received the most GCFP awards in the current award year

Congratulations to District IX

Earning **36** Individual, Club, and District Awards!

DISTRICT AWARDS BREAKDOWN

District IX	36 Awards	District VIII	12 Awards
District IV	19 Awards	District VII	8 Awards
District II/III	17 Awards	District X	6 Awards
District I	16 Awards	District VI	4 Award
District XI	13 Awards	District V	4 Awards

TOP CLUBS

I	Uwchlan GC	13 Awards
II/III	Parkland GC	10 Awards
IV	The GC of York	8 Awards
IX	Butler GC	7 Awards
XI	Norristown GC	7 Awards
IX	Shaler GC	7 Awards
IX	Moon Twp. GC	6 Awards
IX	So. Butler Co. GC	5 Awards
IX	Tusca-Ridge GC	5 Awards

2025 YOUTH CONTEST COMPREHENSIVE AWARD

Congratulations to District IX

Earning **32** Youth Contest Awards!

District IX	32 Contests
	19 Ingomar GC
	9 Moon Twp. GC
	4 Tusca-Ridge GC
District VII	6 Contests - Pucketos GC
District II/III	2 Contests - Parkland GC

Thank you to all of the club members who shared their outstanding members' accomplishments, and submitted their club's projects and volunteer efforts. Our GCFP members are truly impressive, hard-working, devoted volunteers!



[Awards Page on the GCFP Website](#)





2026 Seed Money for

PLANT AMERICA: Pennsylvania Celebrates Nature and Embraces the Future

Chair Marjorie Sears, Old York Road Garden Club, XI

District I

Country Gardeners
 Covered Bridge Garden Club
 Uwchlan Garden Club

District II/III

Bethlehem Garden Club
 Emmaus Garden Club
 Hazleton Area Garden Club
 Parkland Garden Club
 Upper Perkiomen Valley GC

District IV

Biglerville Garden Club
 Gettysburg Garden Club
 Penn-Cumberland Garden Club

District V

DuBoistown Garden Club
 Standing Stone Garden Club

District VI

Weeders & Seeders Garden
 Club of Ligonier

District VII

Burrellton Garden Club
 Joyful Bloomers Garden Club
 Garden Club of Monroeville
 Murrysville Garden Club
 Verona Garden Club

District VIII

Heather Club of Edinboro
 Gospel Hill Garden Club
 Wildflower Garden Club

District IX

Ingomar Garden Club
 Shaler Garden Club
 So. Butler Co. Garden Club
 Tusca-Ridge Garden Club

District X

Great Meadows Garden Club
 Garden Club of Munhall
 Town & Country Garden Club
 Uniontown Flower Club

District XI

Garden Club of Bristol Borough
 Countryside Gardeners
 Four Lanes End Garden Club
 Gardeners of the Crooked Billet
 Norristown Garden Club
 Old York Road Garden Club
 Our GC of Philadelphia and Vicinity
 Swedesford Garden Club
 Trevoise Horticultural Society



2026 CONVENTION TRASH-TO-TREASURE WINNER

Carol McConnell, Uwchlan Garden Club, I, GCFP Trash-to-Treasure Chair

The 2026 GCFP Trash to Treasure judging was held on April 26, 2026, at the convention in Erie, PA. All of the entries were very highly creative and diverse while staying within the theme of the contest, "A Boat for Your Book." Congratulations to:

1st Place: The Garden Club of York, IV
Rick Layman, Pam Paules, Carole Wanzer, Ann DeMille, Sally Lenker, Tammie Bortner

2nd Place: Presque Isle Garden Club, VIII - **Anne Miller**

3rd Place: Moon Township Garden Club, IX - **Merrienne Cacal**





THE 2026 PHS PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

February 28 - March 8, Pennsylvania Convention Center

ROOTED: ORIGINS of AMERICAN GARDENING

Congratulations to the following members and clubs for their participation and success at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

GCFP CHAIRS AND JUDGES AT THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Pat Wolanski, Vice-Chair Artistic Classes
Norristown GC, XI

Tonya Young, Vice-Chair Botanical Arts
GC of York and Town & Country GC of Lancaster, IV

Martha Alexander, Great Meadows GC, X

Wendy Fox, Elverson & Uwchlan GCs, I

Gail Manna, Bedford Co. GC, VI

Marilyn Backus, GC of Monroeville, VII

Louise Heilig, GC of Bala Cynwyd, I

Marie Mueller, Pleasant Hills GC, X

Barbara Campbell, Parkland GC, II//III

Maria Jacobs, Uwchlan & Norristown GCs, XI

Deb Stumpf, Indiana GC, VI

Nancy Cuttic, Uwchlan GC, I

Denise Klein, Spade & Trowel, I

Barbara White, Uwchlan GC, I

Sheila Croushore, Somerset GC, VI

Anita Lehman, Norristown GC, XI

Margie Wolff, Murrysville GC, VII



Front: Tonya Young, Pat Wolanski, Gail Manna
Back: Wendy Fox, Anita Lehman, Nancy Cuttic, Barbara White, Maria Jacobs, Louise Heilig, Denise Klein



PAJC Judging Panels:
Marie Mueller, Marilyn Backus, Martha Alexander, Deb Stumpf, Margie Wolff, Sheila Croushore

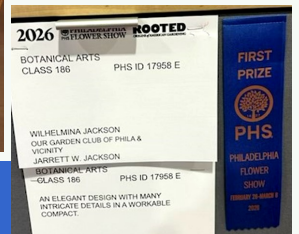


GCFP President Pat Wolanski,
NGC President Donna Donnelly,
MD Judge Robin Hammer

OUR GARDEN CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY, XI



Cynthia Wright, won six blue ribbons and a class commendation in various horticulture divisions.



Wilhelmina Jackson
1st Place Botanical Arts

ELVERSON GARDEN CLUB, DISTRICT I



Wendy Fox, (also of Uwchlan GC)
1st Place and GCFP Special Achievement, Quadrant



Mike Walls and the Chester County Intermediate Unit Students
1st Place Window Box and Lamp Post

SPADE AND TROWEL CLUB, I



2nd Place, Class Commendation, and Maintenance Award
“Lost Gardens of Heligan” Committee:
Diane Matteson, Katharine Brigilia, Kris Qualls, Sandy Yeatman, Sue Clayton

NORRISTOWN GARDEN CLUB, DISTRICT XI



Maria Jacobs with Cherie Nobil — Cherie’s Small Niche won 1st Place, the GCFP Blue/Gold Award, the Carolyn Waite Award, the Helen Hope Dechert Award, and the Sarah C. Z. Groome Award



Cherie Nobil, 1st Place, NGC Blue/Gold, and PHS Outstanding Miniature



Nancy Ferraro Anderson, 1st Place Class 4234 *Hedera helix*

UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB, DISTRICT I



Carolyn Schreffler
1st Place and GCFP Special Achievement Award
Large Backed Pedestal, Pot et Fleur



Carolyn Schreffler, 1st Place
Large Backed Pedestal Class 131



Alex Dulchinos and Maria Jacobs (also of Norristown GC)
1st Place and Best of Large Backed Platforms for
“Twist and Turns”

Other Ribbons Won

ELVERSON GARDEN CLUB

Elverson Garden Club, 3rd Place in the Doorway Class, “Speakeasy”
Wendy Fox, 2nd Place, Large Backed Pedestal Pot et Fleur
Carol Simonetti, HM Photography Class

UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB

Carolyn Schreffler, 2nd Place Large Backed Pedestal
Maria Jacobs, (also Norristown GC) 2nd Place with Class Commendation for Red Carpet Dress in Botanical Arts; 2nd Place and Class Commendation for Tip of the Hat; 3rd Place Miniature Arrangement
Alex Dulchinos, 3rd Place, Large Backed Pedestal, Pot et Fleur

NORRISTOWN GARDEN CLUB

Susan Irwin, 2nd Place Miniature Arrangement
Cherie Nobil, 1st Place Small Niche, “Mother of Invention”
Melissa Bullitt, 2nd Place Botanical Arts Jewelry, 3rd Place Miniature
Barbara Leiby, 2nd Place, Open Platform Stretch Design
Meg Gaibiselis, 2nd Place Phalaenopsis Hybrid
Beth Bynon, 2nd Place, Fern, 3rd Place Hatiora Salicomiodes
Olafs Gaibiselis, 2nd Place, Crassula Ovata
Andrew Gaibiselis, 3rd Place, Crassula Ovata



PENNSYLVANIA GARDEN TOUR

Chair Nancy Cuttic, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

JUNE 20 and 27, 2026

GCFP is bringing a true gardener's delight this June! Fifteen clubs ARE showcasing **90 stunning private and public gardens** across 12 counties on the last two Saturdays in June, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.—rain or shine.

For just \$25, your ticket includes a beautiful **160-page, full-color tour book**, which also serves as your admission to all participating gardens statewide. Tickets are available by check or credit card.

With Marj Sears of Old York Road Garden Club leading a successful ad campaign supported by many participating clubs, host clubs competed for awards based on revenue with the following results:

- **\$1,000:** Uwchlan Garden Club, District I and Great Meadows Garden Club, District X
- **\$750:** Norristown Garden Club and Old York Road Garden Club, both District XI
- **\$500:** Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, District IV and Spade & Trowel Club, District I

Similar incentives are also in place for clubs generating the highest ticket sales.

An active publicity campaign is already underway, including posters in local businesses, outreach to plant societies, and a strong social media presence. The goal of the PA Garden Party is to showcase the beauty of our state, strengthen connections among garden clubs, attract new members, and provide a meaningful fundraising opportunity for participating clubs.

We're excited about the potential of this statewide tour to shine a spotlight on GCFP as an innovative and forward-thinking leader within the National Garden Clubs community.

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Chair Joanne Baylis, Littlestown Garden Club, IV

congratulations

to the new accredited judge

Denise Schalleur Klein

Spade and Trowel Club, I

**Flower Show School Course IV dates are
October 26-28, 2026, in Gettysburg.
Details on Page 22.**

congratulations



Leeanna Ryba

Burrellton Garden Club, VII

For Achieving 4-Star Membership
Completing all Four
National Garden Club Schools

NGC's NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

June 7-13, 2026

More Info [Here](#)





NGC IS GOING TO THE WORLD SHOW OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF FLORAL ARTISTS

WAFA

Sharon Richardson, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Imagine stepping into a world where flowers become sculpture and designers from every corner of the globe gather to celebrate creativity. In March 2027, that opportunity awaits in Sydney, Australia, when the World Flower Show returns. Members of National Garden Club (NGC) and Garden Club of America (GCA) are invited to take part through the United States Floral Design Society.

Held every three years in a different part of the world, the [2027 World Flower Show](#) will be hosted by the Australian Floral Art Association (AFAA) and promises an extraordinary celebration of floral artistry, horticulture, and international friendship. wafaaustralia.com

The event brings together florists, designers, and flower enthusiasts from around the globe to showcase innovative floral creations and celebrate cultural traditions through the art of flower arranging. Visitors will enjoy breathtaking competitive exhibits, large-scale installations, and imaginative designs representing many countries along with educational seminars, workshops, and trade exhibitions, offering opportunities to learn from leading experts and explore new ideas in floral design.

Past NGC President Gay Austin has extensive experience in international exhibiting and she has

assembled “Team USA” to represent NGC at this prestigious international event. Participants include:

- Liz Wozencraft, creating an honorary country display
- Bette Ann Fields, serving as a judge
- Sharon Richardson, offering a presentation

The exciting news is that attendance is open to all members of NGC and the Garden Club of America. Gay warmly welcomes fellow NGC members to attend—or even consider entering one of the competitive design classes.

Anyone interested in entering the competition, please contact Gay Austin. gaylaustin@gmail.com She has vast experience in entering WAFA competitions. Anyone interested in attending WAFA and visiting gardens in New Zealand and/or Australia, please contact sharonrichardson22@gmail.com.

I am currently exploring the possibility of visiting some New Zealand and Australian gardens on MY way to or from WAFA and would welcome GCFP companions! There are cruise options and land packages that might work.

This is an opportunity for you to experience the global world of floral design—and perhaps represent our garden club community on the international stage.





Sprouts & Seedlings

SPROUTS AND SEEDLINGS Chair Cheryl Brumbaugh, Norristown GC, XI

Let's take a look at what the buzz is all about.

Spring is here and with it much activity is starting for our GCFP Sprouts and Seedlings youth groups. I am pleased to announce that we currently have 16 Garden Clubs joining S & S and working with various youth-age groups.

We'd love to add your club.

Great Meadows Garden Club, District X: We have done some winter sowing and spent time on insects—



both beneficial and nasty. Our kids are learning about the insects, making their own clay insect with a head, thorax, and abdomen, wings, eyes, and legs. We had a speaker in to talk about birds and pollinator gardens.

Our husbands assisted with their power drills to help the kids make pre-cut wren houses. These will be taken home or hung in the trees on campus.



We also taught the kids about garden design, then had them draw out their own ideal garden. We have seed studies and plant part studies planned. When it is warm enough we will have the kids help prep the gardens. We will also re-pot small seedlings.

****Our garden is one of the 90 gardens across the state that will be featured in the Pennsylvania Garden Party for Great Meadows Garden Club in District X.****

DuBoistown Garden Club, District V: We worked with 5th- and 6th-grade



Girl Scouts Audrey, McKenzie, and Harley from Troop 60124. The girls met in Cogan Station, WHERE club member Joyce Schramm guided them in planting seeds to take home.

Following a discussion about flowers and the environment, they planted larkspur, cosmos, nasturtiums, and hot chili peppers. The club looks forward to having them assist with the annual plant and bulb sale on June 14, as well as the flower show on August 26-27 in Williamsport.



Old York Road Garden Club, District XI: For the past four years, we have worked with 4-year-old preschoolers at Christ's Lutheran Church, teaching them about gardening through planting bulbs in the fall and seeds in the spring.

We introduce basic environmental concepts, including how plants support insects, provide food, and benefit the ecosystem. The children receive seeds to grow at home and have created simple flower arrangements as gifts for their mothers.

They continually impress us with their knowledge and curiosity, making this program both rewarding and enjoyable.



Need to Tri-Refresh?

Chair Sharon Richardson, Uwchlan GC, I

Sunday, September 13, 2026—Monday, September 14, 2026

What do the Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport and September’s Tri-Refresher have in common? More than you might think—and together, they offer a season of exceptional garden experiences. How does this connect to the GCFP Tri-Refresher in September?

This year’s program will take place across three exceptional venues:

Longwood Gardens • Mt. Cuba Center • Stroud Water Research Center

Registration for the Tri-Refresher includes the Stroud Water Research Center. Participants may either purchase admission to Mt. Cuba and Longwood Gardens or purchase a Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport.

Sunday: afternoon walk and talk at Longwood Gardens; optional stay for dinner and enjoy the evening illuminated fountain display

Monday: a.m. environmental study at the Stroud Water Research Center
p.m. gardening/horticultural focus at Mt. Cuba Center

Adding to the weekend’s appeal is the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society’s annual show in Longwood’s conservatory ballroom. Visit before the programming begins or afterward. Extend your stay and enjoy some of the other destinations with the [Brandywine Passport](#). Registration and [Tri-Refresher details here](#).

HEALING ART - Chair Barbara Campbell, Parkland Garden Club, II/III



On February 23, the Parkland Garden Club presented nine pieces of artwork to Mosser Nursing Home.

- **Karen and Larry Pimble** donated photographs of cone-flowers and an abstract floral painting from a collection by George Geissler, a photographer from the Schnecksville area, along with a large painting of a stone farmhouse titled *Making Hay*, by Andrew Peters. **Karen Pimble** is the Parkland GC’s Healing Art Chair.
- **Debbie Gault**, a member of the Parkland Garden Club, contributed a painting titled *Moon*, which will be displayed in the dining room.
- **Cindy Haenn**, PGC member, donated two canvas photographs featuring garden settings.

Diane Zito, Activities Director at Mosser Nursing Home, was delighted to receive the artwork, which will be displayed throughout the facility. To celebrate the donation, members of the Parkland Garden Club visited Mosser Nursing Home to share the artwork with residents and enjoy refreshments together.

Anyone who knows of a healthcare facility that would like nature-themed artwork to brighten its space please contact Barbara, 610-432-3313 or barbarac45@aol.com.



Left: Larry Pimble, Helen Papatthanasiou Right: Barbara Campbell, Cindy Haenn, Diane Zito, and Karen Pimble

Cindy Haenn with two donations



Joyful Bloomers GC donated art from **Sharon Bryner** to Kane Regional Living Center L to R: **Ann Stromberg, Andrea Rice, Sharon Bryner, Neil Bowser, Mary Lee Duval, Diana Soltis**

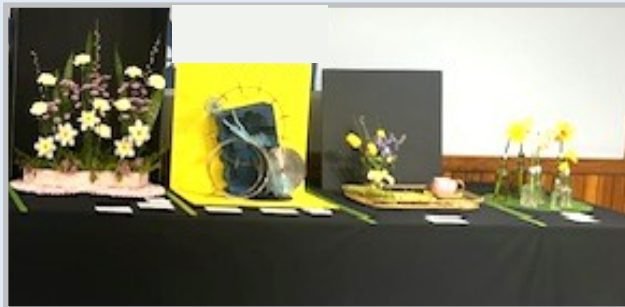
JUDGES COUNCIL NEWS

NORTHEAST AREA



March 23, Emmaus

Pam Walsh, Nancy Cuttic, Barbara Campbell, Back: **Claire Kukielka, Janet Hurlbrink, Audrey Angelella** demonstrated various NGC designs at the meeting. Designs are below.



Marjorie Faust, Allentown GC; **Sharon Richardson,** Uwchlan GC; **Betsy Hassler,** GC of Reading; **Rosie Ebersole,** Allentown, Bethlehem and Emmaus GCs; **Terry Miller** and **Carrie Schreffler,** Uwchlan GC.

PHILADELPHIA AREA



PAJC MEETING on March 30

1st Vice-President **Tonya Young,** The GC of York and Town & Country GC of Lancaster, IV, presenting an armature design. Design samples by **Valerie Burgess,** Uwchlan GC, I, and **Anita Lehman,** Norristown GC, XI

CENTRAL AREA



Dolores Nolt, Town and Country GC of Lancaster, IV, presented on *Winter Interest in the Garden* at the meeting on March 26 in Camp Hill.



Judging the Southeastern PA Orchid Society International Orchid Show on March 27 — President **Pat Wolanski,** Norristown GC, XI; **Nancy Cuttic,** Uwchlan GC, I; and **Caren Puschak,** Norristown GC, XI

2026 NGC Floral Design, Horticulture, and Wildlife Presentations

Chair Chris Leskosky, Hazleton Area Garden Club, II/III

Join us for an inspiring series of virtual presentations celebrating the art of floral design, horticulture, and wildlife. These engaging sessions will be held via Zoom from **7 - 8 p.m.** on the following dates:

May 11

August 5

November 4



The upcoming session will highlight a diverse range of NGC floral design styles, along with horticulture guidance on how to properly enter vegetables and fruits in a flower show. Attendees will also be delighted with a video presentation highlighting the beauty of dahlias. It will also feature an engaging video on the life cycle of a butterfly, as well as a video collection of stunning photographs showcasing a variety of bird species.

Each session is prerecorded and offered to all GCFP members and guests. To wrap up the evening, participants are invited to join a live Q&A for additional insights and discussion.

Come learn, connect, and be inspired—right from the comfort of your home!

Watch for the Zoom link!

APPLY FOR GRANTS FROM NGC



[Natural Disaster Grant](#) - Apply for funds to help replant, restore, and beautify a public area that has been damaged or destroyed by a Natural Disaster such as hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, floods, fires, etc.



[Native Plant and Wildflower Education Grant](#) - Up to \$500 is available to be used towards direct expenses for an educational program on this subject.



[Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant](#)

Up to \$200 available for youth projects for planning and planting pollinator gardens.



[Ames Tools Grant](#)

Apply for tools for projects up to a retail value of \$250. January through March.



[Espoma Plant America Grant](#)

Apply for products up to a retail value of \$250. October 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026

Congratulations to Uwchlan Garden Club, I, for receiving the **NGC Blue Star Marker Grant** to improve the landscape around the marker located at the historic Uwchlan Meeting House in Lionville. In conjunction with our nation's 250th anniversary, the marker will be rededicated on Sunday, July 5, 2026. The marker was originally installed and dedicated in October 2016.

SAVE THE DATE

CAR-SGC Conference 2026
"Ohio - The Heart of it All"

October 19-20, 2026





Flower Show School



Chair Joanne Baylis, Littlestown Area GC, IV

We are delighted to announce the upcoming **Flower Show School, Course IV**, taking place October 26–28, 2026, in Gettysburg.

Flower Show School is designed for everyone—from flower enthusiasts to accredited judges and those aspiring to become judges—who wish to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floral design. Participants will gain valuable insights into flower show procedures, judging criteria, and more.

Whether you are just beginning or looking to refine your expertise, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn, connect, and grow.

Location: Gettysburg Fire Department Social Hall

Flower Show School Course IV brochures can be found on both the [GCFP website](#) and the [NGC](#) website.

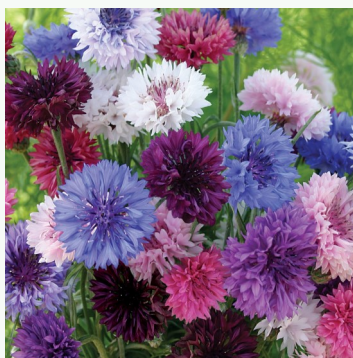
We look forward to seeing you!




BURPEE SEEDS

Marj Sears, Seed Money Chair

[Burpee.com](#) has these red, white & blue bachelor buttons (cornflowers) listed in their catalog, 250 seeds in a pack, \$5.45. Sow directly into soil after April 15.



Note: Deer prefer soft, tender growth over coarse or fuzzy plants, making the texture of the bachelor button a natural barrier to browsing. This unpleasant mouthful acts as an immediate physical signal that the plant is not a preferred food source.

Use Code: PAGC25 for 20% off & Free Shipping

CLUB NEWS

THE GARDEN CLUB OF FOREST HILLS

Maria Lindsay, Communications Chair

'Tis the season for members of **The Garden Club of Forest Hills** (and many others) to think about “The flowers that bloom in the spring.” Now they “welcome the hope that they bring” as sunshine chases away winter’s chill and warms up their neighborhoods so planting can begin.

There is much work to be done though. Members are cleaning up their own and the borough’s public gardens, then adding new plants to show off in the warmer weather.

The club has resumed selecting a Garden of the Month in the borough. April’s features a seasonal favorite – Lenten Roses (*hellebores*)—and is the work of Nathalie Picard at 307 Burlington Road.

It’s time, too, to learn more about gardening, horticulture and our natural environment. Program focus this year will be on “Talent Within,” with many club members as speakers.

After “Rollin’ in Dough” of the edible kind on April 2, members **Paul Kimicata and Marilyn Gelzhiser** will talk about “Garden Tools Include a Pencil and Measuring Tape” on May 7; then members **Cheryl Finlay and Sandy Nix** will instruct and have a workshop “Making a Spindle Birdhouse Any Bird Would Love” on June 4.

Members will celebrate in July at the club’s Patriotic Garden Party event on the 2nd, and Forest Hills Community Day on the 4th in the main park. Of course, the nation’s 250th birthday will spark the atmosphere at both.

Meetings and programs of this century-old Forest Hills organization begin with coffee and tea at 9:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Avenue, Forest Hills. Guests are always welcome.

For more information, talk with any current club member or contact Maria Lindsay lindsmr3@gmail.com (330) 606-7738. Please check us out at:

www.Facebook.com/TheGardenClubOfForestHills

www.instagram.com/@forest_hills_garden_club

https://www.foresthillspa.gov/resident_resources/organizations/index.php

KEYSTONE EVENTS

MAY 2, 2026 - THE GARDEN CLUB OF FOREST HILLS PLANT SALE

Sale hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme is, Deer Resistant Plants! There will be a variety of perennials, vegetables, herbs and annuals. Spread the word and hope to see at the Forest Hills Pool Lodge, 400 Braddock Road, Forest Hills, PA 15221. Cash or checks only. For any questions, please contact Paul Kimicata, GCFH Plant Sale Chair.

MAY 9, 2026 - BURRELLTON GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL MAY MART PLANT SALE

The sale is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lower Burrell City Garage at City Hall, Schreiber St. There will be various annual and perennial plants for sale, including some from our own gardens! Proceeds benefit the beautification of the City of Lower Burrell. The Club is accepting new members! For more information, call 724-335-3353, or visit

Facebook: [burrelltongardenclub](https://www.facebook.com/burrelltongardenclub) Instagram: [burrelltongarden](https://www.instagram.com/burrelltongarden)

MAY 9, 2026 - UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB SPRING PLANT SALE

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Uwchlan Meetinghouse, 5 N. Village Avenue, Exton. A wide variety of plants, both perennials and annuals, are available for purchase, as well as garden art, kitchen gardens, outdoor planters, and fresh floral arrangements. There will be a "Plant Doctor" in house to discuss your health-challenged specimens and a "native" specialist to share information. A children's corner will delight the young ones with a craft while adults are free to select their purchases.

MAY 15 and 16 - INDIANA GARDEN CLUB MAY MART GARDEN AND VENDOR EXPO

S & T Bank Arena, 497 East Pike Road, Indiana, PA. \$1 admission at the door. Orphan court plants, vendors, kids' corner, food trucks, educational displays, basket raffle, horticulture. Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

www.igcinformation@gmail.com

July 12, 2026 - SHALER GARDEN CLUB'S GREAT GARDENS TOUR

Enjoy a self-guided tour of five beautiful local gardens at the 18th annual Shaler Garden Club's Great Gardens Tour on Sunday, July 12, 2026, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Proceeds support the Shaler North Hills Library. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the event, available at the library 91822 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Glenshaw, or online. Admission includes access to all gardens and a chance to win a gift basket. The event is rain or shine.

For details, visit www.shalergardenclub.com or www.shalerlibrary.org, or call 412-486-0211.

PRESIDENT PAT'S

travel schedule



- May 3-7 NGC Convention, St. Louis, MO
- June 8-9 Board Meeting, Boalsburg
- 20 Pennsylvania Garden Party
- 25 Butler Garden Club's Summer Garden Party
- 27 Pennsylvania Garden Party
- July 31 Flower Show Judge at Bethlehem GC
- Aug. 26 District VIII Meeting
- 27 District IX Meeting
- 28 District X Meeting
- 31 District VII Meeting
- Sept. 1 District VI Meeting
- 2 District V Meeting
- 3 District IV Meeting
- 9 District II/III Meeting
- 10 District I Meeting, Malvern
- 11 District XI Meeting

HIDDEN QUOTE CHALLENGE!

Tucked away within the articles of this newsletter are eight KEY WORDS that come together to form a gardening quote. Can you find them all?

Your Mission:

Hunt down the KEY WORDS (Hint: they will be in all caps), piece together the garden quote, and send it to

GCFPKGOnline@gmail.com



Deadline:

Submit your quote by **May 15** to qualify. Have fun sleuthing through the stories! Your investigation skills might just win you a prize!

November's KG Issue Winner:

Congratulations to **Bonnie Keen, Wayne Woods Garden Club**, District I, who successfully found the quote, "Life is Better in the Garden." Bonnie won an Amazon Gift Card.



DONATIONS



SCHOLARSHIPS

Chair Linda Southerling
Four Seasons Garden Club, I

For GCFP Scholarships to students who plan to further their education in agriculture-related fields. Scholarship Donation Form [here](#).

Donations:

Burrellton Garden Club
Fox Chapel Garden Club
The Garden Club of Forest Hills
Garden Club of Reading
Ingomar Garden Club
Shaler Garden Club
Spade and Trowel Club

In Memory of:

Nancy Bittner
from Angela Raitano
and Judy Jackson
Irma Mackenzie and Helen Brennan
from Norristown Garden Club
Lois Reuter
from Fox Chapel Garden Club
James Szymanowicz
from Presque Isle Garden Club
Wesley Semple
from Susan Semple
Kay Leto and Judy Vehse
from Joyce Milberg
Kay Leto and Tina Giannantonio
from Four Seasons Garden Club
and Linda Southerling
Noreen Gregory
from Hazleton Garden Club

In Appreciation:

Rin Babson
from Fox Chapel Garden Club

BOOK OF RECOGNITION

Chair Joyce Hoek
The Garden Club of Harrisburg, IV

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

In Memory of:

Pricilla Klunk by Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, IV

The donation form can be found in the Forms Library under "More" on the GCFP website or [here](#).

Donations can be made "In Memory of," "In Honor of," or "In Appreciation of" a beloved club member.



PLANT-A-TREE formerly Penny Pines

Chair Nancy Lambert Fulk, Penn-Cumberland GC, IV

Plant-A-Tree, formerly known as the Penny Pines program, is a reforestation and forest education initiative.

Even if you are familiar with the original Penny Pines program, please review the updates below.

1. Donors can now contribute any amount, ranging from \$50 to \$10,000. A minimum donation of \$50 is required.
2. Please note that individual plantings are not assigned to specific donors. For example, if you donate to a forest, you will not be able to locate a specific tree associated with your contribution.
3. [Online donations](#) are the preferred method, as they help reduce paper waste. Debit cards, credit cards, PayPal, and Venmo are accepted.
4. To donate by check, please access the [paper form online](#). Complete the form and mail it, along with your check payable to "NGC Plant-A-Tree," to the address listed on the form.

NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Chair Jan Olsen, Garden Club of York, IV

An excellent way to honor a special person, a retiring club officer, a birthday, anniversary, holiday gift, or just for you.

Click on the specific **Life Membership** link of interest, complete the form from the [GCFP website Forms Library](#), and send it with your check to the address on the form.

[GCFP Life Membership](#)

Mary Jo Dolak, Presque Isle Garden Club, District VIII

[CAR-SCG Life Membership](#) - None

[NCG Life Membership](#) - None

For questions and answers, feel free to contact Jan Olsen, jebeau47@gmail.com

NATURAL DISASTERS, USA

Chair Kathy Crossman, Garden Club of York, IV

Make checks payable to GCFP with the notation "Natural Disasters USA" on the lower left memo line. Please include your email address so that an electronic receipt can be sent.



WINTER GETAWAY TO COSTA RICA

Join Sharon Richardson, GCFP Tour Chair, for a nature-filled adventure to see the lush beauty of Central America's Costa Rica from January 30 to February 11, 2027.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot today.

Contact Mark Rake at 215-315-4065

or mrake@aca.aaa.com

Mark will share a PowerPoint presentation with you and answer all of your questions.



Would you like to see one of your fabulous photos showcased on the cover of the May 2026 KG Online? Send your best shot of a beauty from your garden, a winning entry in a flower show, garden scenery, or a special shot of one of your club's tours or projects.

Must be a vertical size, not horizontal.

Send your photos to Marilyn Small

GCFPKGOnline@gmail.com.

This issue's tulips cover photo is by

Cindy Vatavuk

The Garden Club of Johnstown, VI

NGC, CAR-SGC, GCFP 2025-2026 CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| May 4 | NGC Convention, St. Louis, MO |
| 11 | Floral Design Presentation on Zoom, 7 p.m. |
| June 8-9 | GCFP BOD Meeting, Wyndham Gardens, Boalsburg |
| 20 & 27 | GCFP Statewide Garden Party |
| August 26 | District VIII |
| 27 | District IX |
| 28 | District X |
| 31 | District VII |
| September 1 | District VI |
| 13-14 | GCFP Tri-Refresher, Brandywine Valley, PA |
| October 5-6 | GCFP BOD Meeting, Wyndham Gardens, Boalsburg |
| 18-20 | CAR-SGC Conference, Cleveland, OH |



DEADLINES FOR THE KG ONLINE NEWSLETTER

April 15 for a May 1 issue

June 15 for a July 1 Issue

October 15 for a Nov. 1 issue

(Please mark your calendar)

State "KG ONLINE Submission" in the subject line when submitting articles.

Please submit info as a **MS Word document**, not PDF or typed in the email itself.

Marilyn Small, GCFPKGOnline@gmail.com

The Editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements.

GCFP HEADQUARTERS

GCFPVicePresident1@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL PROOFREADERS

Marilyn Backus, Jane Dodson, Angela McDonnell, Karen Wychock, and Dorothy Yard

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania is a *member of* National Garden Clubs and Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs CAR-SGC