

Autumn 2025

Nine's News

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

Director's Message

It has been a year since we met last year in Moon Township for a beautiful Annual Meeting. As fall rolls around, Shaler has been host for us at Wildwood Country Club. The committee was hard at work to make us feel welcome when we walked "through the Garden Gate."

As I read through the President's Reports, I can say that I am so proud of this district. We continuously show that we as a district stand strong in our communities. We not only volunteer in our towns to support our communities but there is a sense of anticipation and renewal in the air. The crisp breeze and turning leaves remind us of the warmth and camaraderie that a garden club can bring. Try to pass that feeling to someone that doesn't belong to a club to bring in a new member.

After the Annual Meeting remember the things that we can learn from each other. The promises and new memories. Let's gear up for the year ahead. The Awards are in my thoughts- we had an Awards Workshop earlier this year. Let's take advantage of what we learned at the workshop and take over the State Convention in Erie next year with District IX Dominance!

Plant natives and bee happy!

Stacey

Stacey Ivoll, Director, District IX

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Coming Events

Sept. 27, 2025

KGC "Fall Festival"

12:00 - 4:00 PM

Fairhaven Park, McKees Rocks

Oct. 21, 2025

District IX Board Meeting

11:00 AM

Pgh. Botanic Garden

Nov. 22, 2025

Nature's Bounty & Greens Sale

Tusca-Ridge Garden Club

Frye Transportation Garage

9:00-12:00

Dec 6, 2025

"Greens & Gifts"

Moon Twp. Garden Club

9:00 AM- 3:00 P.M.

Robin Hill Center, Moon Twp.

Dec. 10, 2025

Fox Chapel "Glitter & Glow"

7:00 - 9 PM

Fox Chapel Golf Club

January 4, 2026

Deadline for submission to winter edition of IX's News

March 17, 2026

District IX Board Meeting
location TBD.

Nine's News Editor: Sue Vandertie
svandertie@comcast.net

Committee Reports

Flight of the Monarch

The lifespan of an adult monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) typically ranges from 2-6 weeks. During this time, they are fully engaged in the business of reproduction. They seek minerals and nectar for sustenance, and milkweed plants where they must lay their eggs. They are generally solitary insects, meaning they live and travel alone most of the time.

September monarchs are the fourth and last generation born each summer. They are the 'super generation' of monarchs, living up to 9 months. They spend their lifetime migrating south, sticking out the winter, and migrating north again. The shorter days and cooler nights of late summer trigger changes in their biologic and behavioral makeup. When these super monarchs hatch, their reproductive organs are undeveloped. This makes it possible for them to stock up on nectar and use their fat reserves to survive the winter. Since they cannot survive in colder climates, they migrate up to 3000 miles away to locations in Mexico and California.

Each September, migrating monarch butterflies pass through western Pennsylvania on their journey to Mexico. They can travel between 50-100 miles a day and it can take up to two months to complete the trip. Though none of these monarchs has ever been to Mexico before, they know exactly where to go. Only traveling during the day, they fly at very high altitudes, sometimes 800 to 1,200 feet high, where they catch strong air currents. If the wind is blowing in the wrong direction, they wait before heading out again. At night, they gather in clusters, called roosts. Roosting provides protection from predators, cool temperatures, and wind. Roosts range in size from just a few butterflies to hundreds. Roost locations are always near a nectar source.

In early spring, females begin to journey back to the site where they were born but no monarch has ever made the entire round trip back to Pennsylvania. They only make it part way. Just before females begin a return journey they mate (reproductive parts are finally in place now). As they attempt to make their way home, they search for milkweed plants, lay their eggs on the plants, then die. The offspring they produce, known as the first generation, continue the trek north. It is their children, the next generation, that we will see in Pennsylvania next summer.

With one exception, the number of migrating monarchs has declined drastically over the past several years. In 2025, the number showed an increase. That may be reason for hope but the number is still well below historic averages.

Climate change, loss of milkweed plants and nectar flowers all factor into the drop in numbers. The use of chemicals, such as glyphosate, has also hurt monarch populations as it kills milkweed.

If you want to support migrating monarchs, create and maintain safe habitats for them. As they migrate, our backyards, gardens, and parks can provide life-saving stops for them to rest and refuel. Try building a butterfly way station of native milkweed and nectar-producing plants. The plants should be close to each other to provide sources of shelter. Native trees and shrubs will further provide shelter and a place for



September monarch on Tithonia.
Photo by Leslie Anthony

roosting.

Late season nectar sources are extremely important for our September monarchs. Some good native flower choices for your garden include:

- Agastache (anise hyssop)
- Asclepias (milkweeds)
- Asters
- Coreopsis (tickseed)
- Echinacea (coneflower)
- Eutrochium (joe pyes)
- Helianthus (sunflowers)
- Heliopsis (oxeye sunflower)
- Liatris (blazing stars)
- Lobelia species
- Phlox species
- Rudbeckia (black-eyed susans)
- Solidago (goldenrods)
- Vernonia (ironweeds)

Additionally, for a healthy monarch habitat, skip the use of pesticides, advocate to protect our natural environments and get involved in efforts to mitigate climate change. An excellent resource for monarch conservation is Monarch Watch, an organization devoted to assuring a future for monarchs. Their website is www.monarchwatch.org.

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

Leslie Anthony, District IX Pollinator Advocate

Growing Forward

What are the chances that two retired elementary teachers, both members of two different garden clubs in the Pittsburgh area and not previously acquainted would end up with PNC Broadway season theater tickets sitting next to each other at the Benedum? And so it is that Nancy Zitelli, membership chair of Kennedy Garden Club and I, membership chair for District IX became fast garden club buddies! Membership in a garden club has so many perks. Making new friends is an important one.

Nancy recently shared with me the process that attracted 23 new members to Kennedy Garden Club this past year. She explained the club first “spent much time researching and exploring online sites, gardening periodicals and books and good old-fashioned brainstorming!” Then the membership committee under Nancy’s direction organized a Membership Drive which took place at their spring festival. Visitors were welcomed with a smile at a decorated membership table full of information about the club, complete with a folder of flyers on the club’s committees, activities and all the forms necessary to become a member. As a follow-up, a “Meet and Greet” was held where the new members mixed with current members to share additional information and chat! Awareness is the first step in recruiting. Congratulations to Kennedy, our newest club for their extremely successful membership recruitment!

To quote our District Director, Stacey Ivoll, “District IX is fine.” Our district is made up of nine medium and large clubs with a total of 470 active garden club members. Of that number, 63 are new to the district since August 2024. As new members join, current members are celebrating new friendships and longtime relationships.

Our Golden Girl for 2025 is Lois Mellott. Candace Uricchio, Fox Chapel Membership Chair, writes, “the Fox Chapel Garden Club honors and recognizes Lois Mellott this year for her 50 years of service and friendship.” In our club’s 94 years of operation, we have only six members reaching this honored status. Lois Mellott now too, joins these 50-Year Member Honorees: Dotty Beckwith, Marguerite Hannon (d. 2021), Lois Reuter (d. 2024), Mikell Schenk, Hannah Van Horn.” Such an awesome achievement!

At the Annual Meeting in September, we as active garden club members were challenged by the three GCFP Officers present to reach out and welcome new members; listen to the voice of our present membership and dig deep to grow forward!

Marcia Welsh, District IX Membership Chair

Reminder for all Club Presidents and Award Chairpersons:

District IX has always done such a fantastic job at the State Convention in the number of awards that are presented, and you are the important factor in this process. We are well aware that our clubs do such a fantastic job with projects, community service, sustainability and being involved with the objectives of GCFP and NGC. You are the ones that best inform everyone of the efforts of all!

So... be sure to review your Awards Manual and identify those that your club may be eligible for and make sure you are communicating and meeting the deadlines. Please, please ask questions of the various awards chairpersons for any help you may need, or let me know if I can assist in any way.

Keep up the good work – and let’s put the spotlight on District IX.

Cheri Davison, District IX Membership Chair



Help!!!

Greetings from the Editor of Nine’s News! As Cheri just said, you do a fantastic job - on many issues. When I started doing the newsletter, I was spending a great deal of time just begging for pictures. Prior to that we were printing all of the newsletters for the entire District and delivering them to each club at Board Meetings. We simply could not place many pics! So we have come a long way since then. In some ways that makes the job easier but it is still a “bear.”

You can help me tame the bear by doing a few things. First, and foremost, please read the guidelines for submission. I love your offerings but it would make my job easier if you would follow those guidelines.

Next, almost always (I forget too sometimes!) the deadline for submissions to the next issue is on the first page, right column of the newsletter. The newsletter is (again, almost always) on the GCFP website under “Districts.” So if you lose your copy, you should be able to locate a new one online. If you have questions, send me an e-mail.

The next issue is dedicated to the holiday season. That is the primary purpose. Anything “holiday” your club does, we would like you to share with the entire District. Take pictures of making things, setting up, selling, taking down, eating, drinking, talking! Send those. Tell us “how” you did it.

Keep the good stuff coming, it is greatly appreciated!

Sue Vandertie, Editor, Nine’s News

Did you know that online at the GCFP website, (<https://pagardenclubs.org>) at the top right part of the home page, there is a link to information on a variety of topics. Look for this sign  and click on it. The GCFP ideas for member recruitment are located there under “information resources.” Some of those suggestions are reprinted here, but you can locate many more just by visiting that spot on the website.

- ✂ Host a “bring a friend” meeting – encourage members to bring someone. This could even be a recurring event so that new members are continually bringing new friends!
- ✂ Reach out to former members – Some people might be ready to come back.
- ✂ Encourage members to share your newsletter – Especially if they are featured in it!
- ✂ Invite members’ families to events – Spouses, siblings, parents, and (grown up) children are all potential members.
- ✂ Help members develop an “elevator speech” about their membership - Why are they members? What is the biggest benefit of membership? Can they explain the purpose of the club?
- ✂ Ask your members for recruitment ideas - They may have an idea you haven’t thought of before, or know about opportunities within their own social networks.
- ✂ Offer club business cards to your members – It’s an easy way for them to point people to your club and share more easily with their network. Put a line on the cards for the “referral source” so the member gets credit for referring someone new.
- ✂ Offer an alternate meeting time to attract people with different schedules – is your meeting time leaving out a whole group of people, like those with a 9-5 job or early bedtimes? Switch up your offerings to attract more people.
- ✂ Volunteer as a group – You will get to do good as well as meeting other volunteers in your space.
- ✂ Coach members on creating a welcoming experience – Getting potential new members to attend meetings is only half the battle! Remind current members to greet newcomers and avoid club jargon when there are visitors.
- ✂ Ask members to list their membership in their professional bios – It gets your club’s name in front of more people, builds your organization’s prestige, and reminds members to talk about it.
- ✂ Create an invitation email template your members can use – Make it easy for members to send invitations by doing most of the work for them. You could also create paper-based pamphlets or member application forms, or boiler-plate text that current members copy and paste into emails or Facebook messages that they send to colleagues.
- ✂ Give members a button or pin and encourage them to wear it – Make sure it’s stylish so members will be more likely to wear it, and people will ask what it’s about.
- ✂ Conduct exit interviews with departing members – When you know why people are leaving, you can start figuring out ways to keep them.
- ✂ Create perks for club members who recruit new members – Little perks and freebies can really motivate people. Think about gift certificates, a shout-out at your next meeting, or even reserving a coveted parking space for members who bring in new blood.



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

ANNOUNCING 2026 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

**Children from first through fifth grade
are invited to participate in this annual
drawing contest featuring conservation icons
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl!**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl.

View previous contest winners:

<https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsy-owl-youth-poster-contest>

Smokey Bear says: "Only you can prevent wildfires!"



Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for wildfire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey's message, "Only you can prevent wildfires!" encourages personal responsibility for wildfire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, burning yard waste, and matches. For more about Smokey Bear visit <https://smokeybear.com>.

Woodsy Owl says: "Lend a hand—care for the land!"



Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a hand, care for the land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste; gardening, planting, and caring for trees; using resources wisely; and not littering. For more about Woodsy Owl visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids/woodsy-owl>.



National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides a grant opportunity for Garden Clubs working with youth clubs or groups planning and planting Pollinator Gardens. Grants, up to \$200, are available for projects that include educational materials on the vital role pollinators play in nature and youth involvement in planning and planting gardens providing nesting and food sources for pollinators. Youth will learn the importance of providing appropriate food sources, nesting areas, shelter, and practicing sustainable gardening practices for pollinators by planning, planting, and maintaining these pollinator gardens.

To apply for a grant, complete an NGC Grant Application, provide detailed information about the project, and submit your request to the NGC Youth Committee Chairman for approval.

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NGC Grant Application for Youth Pollinator Gardens

Number of Members in Club or Council: _____ Date _____

Name of Garden Club: _____

District: _____ State: _____

Club Member Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

State Awards Chairman: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please complete the following. If additional room is needed, you may attach pages referencing these item numbers:

1. Project Name: _____

2. Project Begin Date: _____ Completion (or Expected) Date: _____

3. Brief summary and objectives of project:

4. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:

5. Project expenses:

6. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance plan:

7. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan (does not need to be professionally drawn).

Please send to NGC Youth Chairman:

Vickie Stedman

vcsted@comcast.net

Grant monies for approved projects will be sent upon the project's completion. Grant recipients agree to provide receipts for the reimbursable expenses (not to include cost of labor for member or youth), as well as pictures of the completed project. By submission of this request, the Club grants NGC permission to publish all photos.

2025 DISTRICT IX AWARDS

BUTLER GARDEN CLUB

Laurels Donna Cella Mary Reefer Karen Faust

Daffodils Kathy Frederick Jill Walls Barb Conley Shauna Zukowski Linda Menchyk Janet Platt

FOX CHAPEL GARDEN CLUB

Laurels Allison Burgan Lynn Thompson

Daffodils Christina Finizio Melissa Simon Kris Brown

INGOMAR GARDEN CLUB

Laurels Ruth Kirk Irene Rudy Tess Swartz

Daffodils Ashley Cifone Edie Joseph Michelle Joyce Bonnie Miller Tim Miller Marlene Straub Jane Tate
Marcia Wielgus

KENNEDY GARDEN CLUB

Laurels Betty McDermott

Daffodils Deb Young Janet Schipani Bill Alexander Joanna Simmons

MOON TOWNSHIP GARDEN CLUB

Laurels Brenda Smith Ellen Levin Mary Adamowski

Daffodils Debbie Williams Ramona Corey Cheryl Leasure Deb Young Irene Prendergast Suzan Braun

SHALER GARDEN CLUB

Laurels Cindy Halicky Susan Semple Sally Strizinger

Daffodils Patsie Evans Beverly Fafata Susan Radage Jayne Harrison Colleen Rosander Chris Witman Lisa Packard

SOUTHERN BUTLER GARDEN CLUB

Laurels Jackie Batt Ruth Moodey Laura Murphy

Daffodils Pat Coffield Kristi Gregory Donna Hall Judy Meyers Cassie Stopar

TUSCA-RIDGE GARDEN CLUB

Laurels Sandy Stacy

Daffodils Jane Mihalko Cindy Matkan Nicky McLaughlin

FORGET- ME-NOT NOMINATIONS

Nancy Vincett – Fox Chapel

Linda Bernardo – Moon

Deborah DiBenedetto – Tusca-Ridge



Butler Garden Club

District IX's Annual Meeting and silver anniversary recognition was an inspiring celebratory kick off to our own new calendar year!

I am so pleased to see our newer members stepping up to engage in the community activities in which we participate – and to even seek out new ones for our club. As mentioned in our last report, we successfully partnered with the local Veterans Affairs campus to plant their vegetable garden this past spring. The end results? An incredible bounty of vegetables was harvested and provided to the veterans, free for the taking. On the opposite side of the VA campus, the Blue Star Marker bed filled with vinca vine, celosia and alyssum has grown in nicely throughout the summer, as well.

We are looking forward to starting our calendar year with an informative program this fall on Edible, Useful, and Medicinal Plants of Western Pennsylvania as shared by Audubon Society of Western Pa, right in our backyard at their Butler location. We are also fortunate to have a fabulous holiday greenery workshop from our very own, Polly Berginc to close out 2025.

As we round the corner into 2026, our energies will be funneled into our biennial fund raiser taking place next June. Our two co-chairs for this hallmark event are showing what it is to step up, particularly as newer members, to keep us thriving as we near that 100-year mark!

Susan Morgus, President, BGC



Fox Chapel Garden Club

Our June membership meeting launched the summer season with a presentation on Forest Bathing by Kathryn Hunninen with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy held at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library.

Forest Bathing - The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, coined the term shinrin-yoku or forest-bathing in 1982. Bathing in the forest, however, has nothing to do with water. The idea is to immerse yourself in a natural environment and soak up the many health benefits of being in the green woods. Anyone can participate through the conservancy with a certified guide for a forest bathing walk.

This gentle walk takes you along a forest trail with opportunities to rest along the way. Through sensory-based invitations, you'll slow down, connect with nature, and cultivate a sense of well-being and connection to yourself and the world around you. Open to adults and youth ages 14+ (with an adult).

Please visit their website for more information

<https://pittsburghparks.org/?s=Forest+bathing+>

Other events with FCGC included touring members gardens, committee meeting and always a favorite an evening social held at Allegheny River Trail Park. Happy Fall!

Melissa Johnson, President, FCGC



June meeting presentation given by Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy on Forest Bathing.



Member Jane Grooms presenting a Hort Short on Chatsworth Garden in Derbyshire, England.



Member Betty Manuck giving demonstration of assessing clay in soil. England.



Members Donna McLaughlin and treasurer elect Lynn Thompson at August social.



Ingomar Garden Club



This summer of many hot days did not slow some members down. A visit to Phipp's Conservatory Jungle Safari in June was stifling as the outside 91 degree temperature made it feel like 100 degrees inside. Even the annually released butterflies sought refuge to escape the heat with visitors. Eventually, lunch at the Cheesecake Factory provided hydration and sustenance.

In July, it was time for fun at the home of Jane Tate, who hosted our annual picnic/ meeting/ fund raiser auction. Colorful plantings greeted and surrounded us. Participants provided savory fare that energized us for a rockin' auction of garden related items provided by members. For a field trip, our energetic Museum Director Stacey Ivol, began a tour of Beaver Museum, log cabin, and doll house before leaving to deliver welcome remarks at Mercer's Welcome Center's Gold Star Marker Ceremony. Members learned a little Beaver history, took in the sights of the Beaver Train Station Garden and had a relaxing lunch later at Frank G's Place.

Horti-therapy this month also brought joy to Wexford Healthcare Center Residents who were assisted in making arrangements with a wealth of beautiful flowers.

In August, lunch was provided to our Poetry winners and their families after award presentations and a reading of their poems. IGC Member, Ashley Cifone introduced GreenStalk, a vertical planter system for growing a variety of plants. A walking tour of Eleven Mile Farm delved into the variety of seasonal flowers that they raise and pick fresh for floral arrangements. Then, a quaint lunch at Brick and Barrel Cross Keys immediately followed. "Farewell Summer!"

Julie Barnes, President, IGC



Kennedy Garden Club

The Kennedy Garden Club's Membership Committee has been working on growing our ranks during the past several months. From hosting meet and greets with perspective new and current club members before our regular meetings, to manning a membership tent for our Spring Festival, everyone has worked hard to attract new members.

Each event was fun and informative. We sponsored the Pittsburgh movie premiere of the documentary "Gardening for the Planet" that focused on native plants for your gardens. We did a private tour of Wilpen Hall's Rose Gardens in Sewickley and enjoyed a lovely tea luncheon afterwards at the Christy House. Everyone had a wonderful time.

In June, we held our Annual Picnic in Fairhaven Park and the Picnic Committee cooked and baked some delicious food. Sue Vandertie's cupcakes were a huge hit. In addition to the great picnic food we held our yearly Elegant Auction with all proceeds benefiting our Scholarship Fund.

The Club held their Appreciation Luncheon in July at Cucina Vitale, a local Italian restaurant. It was a very lovely event and the Club honored President Judy Fritzges for her past 14 years of her Presidency. We also honored club members who received Daffodil and Laurel awards from the previous year.

Our first ever August meeting was held this year and we discussed our upcoming Community Days and Fall Festival. Plus, we held another Meet and Greet with some new members at this meeting.

We also held a tea cup planting and house plant planting event for our upcoming Fall Festival. We had a range of house plants and tons of succulents. Plus, Club Member Bill Alexander was on hand with his drill to be put drainage holes in some of the cups. We are all keeping our fingers crossed for good weather for the Festival.

Judy Fritzges, President, KGC



Moon Township Garden Club

We have had fun-fun-fun all summer long! Our playlist features great programs, a youth summer camp, a successful Garden Tour, an interactive field trip to the National Aviary, all culminating with enchanting evenings in our Fleur de Lune (FDL).

In addition to awarding our 2025 College Scholarship at the June 11th meeting, our program featured, "Steel City Eagles." Don German, a Bald Eagle advocate and Plant Manager at the U.S. Steel Irvin Works, introduced us to locals Irvin and Clair (Stella), whose nest sits just below the Irvin plant. A webcam permits viewers to tune in daily, especially in February, to watch for the birth of little eaglets. Follow "Steel City Eagles" on Facebook or e-mail: dgerman@uss.com to schedule a presentation!

Also in June, on the eve of the Summer Solstice, in the FDL, we held a Midsummer Dream Festive Fairy Fete. The evening consisted of festive food, members in live floral headpieces, and celestial clothing. Others performed "Smudging," the practice of burning sage to cleanse a space, object, or person of negative energy.

On June 26th, Moon Parks and Recreation invited our Youth Committee to assist with the Summer Youth Camp, which served 48 children. We provided recycled, reused, and reduced materials for each child to make a sculpture of their choosing.

Our program in July, "Living with Lyme Disease," was timely and focused on the disease carried by ticks. Presented by our own, Dr. Brenda Smith, a very educational piece on how one tick bite can affect us differently. Takeaways: If bitten, see your doctor to receive preventive antibiotics. You may not have a bull's-eye rash with infection. Always use insect repellents when working outside.

July 12th was a sunny, bright summer day for our Garden Tour enthusiasts! Our Fleur de Lune (FDL) Garden was one of seven extensive, beautiful gardens on our tour. The beautification done in just two years to our garden is inspiring! As tourists walked through, music played all day long from a live jazz trio, and a garden shop with unique finds made for a fun stop!

In August, we visited the National Aviary, where a guided tour took us through environments like the Tropical Rainforest, where birds fly freely around you. It was both educational and delightful to see members engaging with the birds. We enjoyed lunch from the café.

Later in August, we brought Game Night to the FDL! Guests played Trivia to test their knowledge of gardening and plants. Refreshments and snacks were on hand.

Won't be long till summer time is through (from the Beach Boys, "All Summer Long")

Christy Klug, President, MTGC



Holding a smudge!



Dr. Brenda Smith



Theodore Tolliver receives scholarship award.



Game Night!



Oak Hills Garden Club



The Oak Hills Garden Club had a summer filled with crafty hands on projects and an excursion to DJ's Greenhouse.

June we made terrariums and kokedama balls. Kokedama balls is the practice of suspending the root ball of a plant in mud and coated with moss. This was a muddy but fun day.

July, Merrienne Cacali of Moon Township showed us how to make hypertufa pots, they are made of cement, peat moss and perlite. There is a definite theme this summer, get your hands dirty either digging up plants for the plant sale or crafting.

We closed the summer with a fun excursion to DJ's Greenhouse. He gave a wonderful presentation on fall planting, and we were able to witness the emergence of a monarch butterfly from its crystals and drying its wings on a nearby plane. Then we left with our cars loaded with plants.

This has been a busy summer featuring a successful plant sale, great activities and also added two new members.

Melissa Jacoby, President, OHGC





Shaler Garden Club

Shaler Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week with a plant giveaway and a children's potting plants activity. The Pollinator Committee also planned a celebratory week with a presentation on Fireflies and a field trip to the Sisters of St. Joseph Farm in Baden, PA.

The Shaler Garden Tour had its challenges when gardens still had not been selected by March. Fortunately, the committee was able to turn this around and identified gardens that impressed the public and resulted in a monetary success for the Shaler North Hills Library.

Most of our summer activities took place at the library. The traditional Children's Fairy Garden Workshop attracted a record number of children (over 74) and guardians. Two evening meetings open to the public educated the attendees on outdoor plant and how to attract backyard birds.

Not to forget our friends at Hampton Fields, members brought materials and assisted residents decorating picture frames with silk flowers.

We are happy that the oppressive heat has departed. However, with no rain, watering continues. Thanks for all those members who manned those hoses and watering cans.

Joanne Laverty, President, Shaler Garden Club





S. Butler County Garden Club

On August 26, 2025, our members gathered for our annual Summer Social. The large group is in the opposite photo. This year, we got together to socialize and have a lite supper at the home of club member, Donna Hall. Donna is pictured in front of her zinnias. Donna and her husband Mark have a beautifully landscaped home featuring a train garden.

The following day, six club members met at the Mars Library to tidy up the garden which borders the library on two sides. The garden was edged and lots of crab grass was removed. Mulch, left-over from the spring mulching, was put on all the edged areas and where beds were bare. Plants were cut. Rose is seen in an attached photo taking a picture of a pollinator visiting the mountain mint.

Two other photos show club members attending two field trips. One of the field trips was to Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio. See photo of attendees on a bridge. On this same day, club members toured the nearby grounds of the historic Kirtland Mormon Temple. Another field trip was to Goodell Gardens and Homestead in Edinboro, PA.

Jill Barger, President, SBCGC



Tusca-Ridge Garden Club

TRGC members enjoyed a lovely day trip to the Fellows Riverside Gardens in Youngstown OH.

In July A local bee keeper came and told us facts about various bees, how he started his hives and brought honey to sample.

Our Horticulture Therapy team at one of their visits to Cambridge Village.



Annual Meeting





L to R: GCFP 2nd V-Pres. Mary Hetrick,
GCFP President, Pat Wolanski,
GCFP 1st V-Pres. Tonya Young



Barbara
Binder





Moon Township Garden Club
Cordially invites to you the
Holiday Greens and Gift Shoppe

December 6, 2025
9 am to 3 pm
Robin Hill Center
949 Thorn Run Road, Moon Township

Featuring a beautiful variety of fresh and artificial centerpieces, wreaths, swags, seasonal treasures and delicious baked goods for home or gift giving.



KENNEDY GARDEN CLUB'S
Fall Festival

Saturday, Sept 27 • 12-4pm
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 •



Save The Date

The Fox Chapel Garden Club's
Annual Event
Glitter & Glow

December 10, 2025
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
The Fox Chapel Golf Club
Reservations Open November 1, 2025
Learn More at www.foxchapelgardenclub.org

The Fox Chapel Garden Club's mission is to further the appreciation and knowledge of horticulture and gardening, and to advocate sound environmental stewardship.



Tuscar Ridge Garden Club
Annual Nature's Bounty
& Greens Sale
November 22, 2025
9am-12pm

Frye Transportation Garage
902 Western Ave.
Beaver, PA 15009

You can pre-order online
and pickup at the garage or
come see our beautiful arrangements
the day of the sale.

tuscaridgegardenclub.com

Our Wreaths, Kissing Balls, Boxwood Trees, Live
Garland Roping-Custom Handmade Décor
will be available to order on online.

Questions
call Judy 724-709-7003
Stacey 412-974-4577