



*the*  
**TENdril**

Volume 26; Issue 2 • June 2026

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## **Welcome to Our Summer Edition!**

*By Marce Zaragoza, TENdril Editor*

Surprise! And welcome to an experimental issue of The TENdril! This issue was created using the Canva program in anticipation of losing access to the program I used previously.

I would appreciate your input and comments on whether this format is suitable to the way you view the newsletters. The print is a bit smaller, but hopefully you can enlarge your view to make it comfortable for you. If you are using a phone or a tablet, try rotating the device to view the newsletter horizontally.

I appreciate the kind comments and feedback I have received in the past. I hope you enjoy this new format, but further experimentation may ensue – stay tuned!

# Director's Corner

*Martha Alexander*

*Martha's District X Annual Report as presented at the GCFP Convention – in VERSE!*



District 10 has done it again.

125 members were honored at our  
Annual meeting,  
and we hope the spirit they carry forward is  
anything but fleeting.  
Tulips, laurels, daffodils galore,  
we showed our appreciation,  
and of that  
there's much more.

Our clubs in numbers, oh how we build,  
26 new members help make us fulfilled.  
We now total members of 413,  
which makes me smile just like a queen.

When tending our gardens, we dig in the soil,  
with love and care we doth work and toil.  
Historic, Perennial, Pollinator, Blue Star,  
our gardens are impressive both near and far.

So many opportunities for  
fellowship and learning,  
on any topic for which one is yearning.  
Our programs on composting  
and rare trees have reason.  
We also have "A Time for Tea"  
and learning the "Magic of Season."

Our Fundraising takes a creative turn,  
Tinsel teas, bazaars, and modeling help us earn.

Our flower shows Botanical Arts and Road Trip,  
were said to amaze, to be just fantastic!

Some clubs have new young  
Sprouts and Seedlings,  
whose kids learn much more  
about gardening than weeding.  
They learn about roots, stems, leaves,  
flowers, fruits and seeds,  
and look at our garden, the community feeds!

We provide hort therapy for young and for old.  
The designs bring delight,  
especially when it's cold.  
And just look at the flowers  
the displays: behold!

Creativity abounds in so many ways  
as we plan Seasonal luncheons and holidays.  
Our Award ceremonies are very grand for sure,  
we celebrate members and all they've endured.

We work so hard with great perspiration  
in hopes that our gardens will bring inspiration.  
We're planning a splendid Garden Party Tour  
and hope big flowers come  
from all the manure.

Altruistic projects like floral Christmas mugs,  
and baking for Meals on Wheels  
brings much delight, and even some squeals.  
100 daffodil bulbs planted in historic places  
bring smiles to those who see, on their faces.  
Bulbs planted at gravesites will  
last on for years,  
and bring beauty to those  
who come and shed tears.

So you see, Madam President,  
about our dear District 10,  
we just keep coming through  
again and again!

## District X Officers

Director  
MARTHA ALEXANDER  
Great Meadows Garden Club  
[martha.alexander78@gmail.com](mailto:martha.alexander78@gmail.com)

Assistant Director  
KAREN HUMPHREYS  
Giant Oaks Garden Club  
[khumphreys81@hotmail.com](mailto:khumphreys81@hotmail.com)

Recording Secretary  
DEBORAH DAVIS  
Martha Washington Garden Club  
[dardebddavis@verizon.net](mailto:dardebddavis@verizon.net)

Treasurer  
REBECCA LEBEDA  
Garden Club of Munhall  
[fandbeck@gmail.com](mailto:fandbeck@gmail.com)

## District X Club Info and Presidents

GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7 PM  
Kathy Petruska, President  
[kpetruska@aol.com](mailto:kpetruska@aol.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/GardenClubofMunhall>  
<http://www.gardenclubofmunhall.com>

MON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 6:30 PM  
Alice Harris  
[aliceharris141@gmail.com](mailto:aliceharris141@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/monvalleygardenclub/>

GIANT OAKS GARDEN CLUB  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 11:30 AM  
Pat Stanfill, President  
[patstanfill@icloud.com](mailto:patstanfill@icloud.com)  
Facebook: [Giant Oaks Garden Club](#)

PLEASANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 12:30 PM  
Tamara Ziccardi, President  
[yogasoul36@gmail.com](mailto:yogasoul36@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/pleasanthillsgc>

GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10:30 AM  
Elaine Swaney, President  
[eswaney6@hotmail.com](mailto:eswaney6@hotmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/gmgc1957>

TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6 PM  
Tami Burnworth, President  
[tjfoxtrotter@gmail.com](mailto:tjfoxtrotter@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/tcgcr1pa>

GREEN GARDENERS OF UNIONTOWN  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday (for lunch)  
Lynda Waggoner, President  
[lwaggoner@paconserve.org](mailto:lwaggoner@paconserve.org)

UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 1 PM  
Toni L'Hommedieu, President  
[tlhomme1942@gmail.com](mailto:tlhomme1942@gmail.com)

MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN CLUB  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 12:00 PM  
Susan DeLost, President  
[sdelost@hotmail.com](mailto:sdelost@hotmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/mwgcwashpa>

VALLEY GARDEN CLUB  
Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 10 AM  
Roxanne Huss  
[crhuss@gmail.com](mailto:crhuss@gmail.com)



## *Upcoming Events*

**JUNE 25** Valley Garden Club Flower Show  
1:00-5:00 PM | Mon Valley YMCA  
101 Taylor Run Road  
Monongahela, PA 15063

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**JUNE 27** Pennsylvania State Garden Party  
9:30 AM -4:00 PM | Various locations  
See page 9 for info on purchasing an  
admission ticket.

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**JULY 17** Judges Flower Show  
noon-3:00 PM | The Lamplighter Restaurant  
6566 William Penn Highway Delmont, PA 15626

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**JULY 24-25** Martha Washington GC Flower Show  
July 24 1:00-4:00 PM | July 25 11:00AM-2:00 PM  
**Rummage Sale**  
July 24 11:00 AM-4:00 PM | July 25 11:00 AM-2:00 PM  
AMVETS National Headquarters  
265 North Ave, Washington, PA 15301

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**AUG 28** District X Annual Meeting  
9:00 AM Registration | 10:00 AM Meeting  
South Hills Country Club  
4305 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236

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## Remember Me Rose Garden

by Heidi Pane, Great Meadows Garden Club,  
District X Photography Chairperson

I enjoyed my first visit to the Remember Me Rose Garden, April 19, 2026. The people I met were friendly and helpful. I found the experience uplifting.

The Flight 93 National Memorial was erected at the crash site, and just ¼-mile east from the entrance to the memorial sits the “Remember Me” Rose Garden. Many acres of land were purchased by the families of the heroes of 9/11 as a buffer zone around the park. The Families donated 13 acres in 2009 for the construction of a rose garden, to be a “Living Tribute” to the memory of their loved ones. (Remember Me Rose Garden website)

I had subscribed to the email messages from this non-profit organization to learn more about how I could become involved. When I received an invitation to hear a presentation by Doug Oster and then help tend to the garden, I signed up with enthusiasm. We gathered indoors for welcome and introductions from Board Members of Remember Me Rose Garden non-profit organization.

Mary Alice Mankamy, Advisory Board Member and Gardener, explained, “We are very honored that the Flight 93 families donated this property in 2009 to build a rose garden to honor their loved ones. The Flight 93 Remember Me Rose Garden has become a beautiful, peaceful place for everyone to enjoy. We are so very grateful for all the volunteers who help to continue this amazing peaceful effort. Please come, enjoy, and be a part of this exciting work. It is free to all. We must never forget what happened on 9/11!”

Clay Mankamy, Chairman Emeritus, shared, “We are honored to have been part of creating the beautiful Flight 93 Rose Garden, as it grows up from the death and destruction created by the terrorists. Our theme for the garden is ‘Beauty From Ashes.’”

About thirty people attended, some experienced, some others learning for the first time about the work needed to care for the rose garden.

Doug Oster gave a slide presentation entitled “Growing roses, perennials, and other garden treasures.” He advised that compost is the key to a green thumb. He recommends mulch to retain moisture and keep down weeds. He recommends chemical-free gardening to encourage pollinators. After the program, he informed me, “I started covering the Remember Me Rose Garden while working at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. When I heard Clay Mankamy’s powerful story of being a first responder, I felt it was important to keep the public aware of the progress of the garden.”

Doug Oster shared, “I feel a special connection to the garden as it’s a very special place that more people should know about. It’s an important part of my job to make sure to keep the garden in the public eye as it continues to grow and spread their important message.”

After the presentation indoors, we drove a short distance to the Remember Me Rose Garden, with gardening tools and beverages.

At the garden we began with a prayer for the Flight 93 victims and their families, thanks for the many volunteers to do the work, and thanks for good weather. *continued on page 23.*



Doug Oster and Clay Mankamy

# Club Events & Activities

## Garden Club of Munhall

**Kathy Petruska, President**

In February our program speaker was Tyler Kastranova from the PA Game Commission. He spoke about managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while hunting and trapping for current and future generations. The Commission owns and manages over 1.5 million acres of State Game Lands.

In early March, 16 club members attended the District X Annual Tea at the YMCA, Charleroi. The club submitted a diorama for the Trash to Treasure contest. It was the first time most of members attended the tea and everyone had a great time!

In March our program speaker was Collette Walsh from Sol Patch located on Braddock Ave. in Braddock. She spoke on growing and maintaining an urban cut flower farm as a business.

In April, Jason Rihn, Arborist from Bartlett Trees

spoke. Jason presented information on keeping trees and shrubs healthy year after year.

In April four members attended the GCFP Convention in Erie. My favorite display was the Create a Firefly Friendly Habitat. Neal Sanders, an author of 16 mysteries was our Monday luncheon speaker. His presentation was quite entertaining and his books are a must read.

On May 2 the club had its annual fundraiser at the South Hills Country Club. Once again, Haddie Weber chaired the event and did a wonderful job. Thank you! The fashion show was presented by The Buttonhole, a consignment shop in Pleasant Hills. The event featured a basket auction, bake sale, jewelry sale, plant sale, 50/50 raffle, a special 3 gift raffle and a lottery ticket basket.

We're all looking forward to warmer weather so we can get gardening!



Photos by Marce Zaragoza, except basket by Heidi Pane

# Club Events & Activities

## Giant Oaks Garden Club

by Karen Humphreys, Treasurer  
for Pat Stanfill, President

The Giant Oaks Garden Club meets the first Thursday of each month from February through October at St. David's Episcopal Church in Venetia. Our current 2026 membership is 65 members.

GOGC is busy with spring activities. Wildlife rehab volunteer Lauren Henschel from Wildlife Works, Inc. was the featured speaker at the April luncheon meeting. She brought two of her group's educational rescue animals: Artemis, a handsome Barred Owl and Drax, a box turtle. Wildlife Works Inc. is a volunteer organization dedicated to rehabilitation and release of injured and orphaned wildlife.

Our "May Flowers" luncheon program will introduce our members to Jeffrey Kim, Watershed Specialist with Washington Co. Watershed Alliance. Jeff will share how watersheds work and how the organization enhances and coordinates conservation efforts.

Trax Farm in Finleyville will host our June meeting with lunch and a terrarium workshop.

We awarded scholarships this year to two outstanding graduating high school seniors with career goals in agriculture and plant science. GOGC awarded one (\$3,000) scholarship to a student from Washington High School and the second (\$1,000) on behalf of former member Janet Fuchs in memorium to a student from McGuffey High School.

The club sponsored Karen Humphreys to attend the GCFP annual convention in Erie and, although not a state competition winner, our member Marilyn Dellovade created the District X entry for the "Trash to Treasure."

On Saturday, May 16, GOGC hosts our 25th Annual Plant Sale/Garden Market at the Peters Township Public Library (9am - 12noon). Besides the variety of plants, gardening items and raffle baskets of gardening goodies, we're offering a "kids garden" section with fanciful pots, smaller plantings and fun salad and herb containers. This event is highly anticipated by our community and helps fund the club and its many local charities.

Ongoing activities include our bottle cap recycling program, tending several community gardens as well as our flourishing native/pollinator garden at the Peters Township Public Library. The club continues to make cupcakes and tray favors monthly for the Peters Township Meals on Wheels. Club members regularly visit McMurray Hills Manor to do garden related activities with residents. This May they "plant the patio" to plant annuals in their outdoor pots and flower beds to add color, cheer and beauty to their patio all summer long.

Plans are underway for our annual "Tinsel" luncheon and fundraiser on Friday, October 30, 2026 at the Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn. With the theme - "Glitter & Glow", we're anticipating a bright and sparkly event.



# Club Events & Activities

## Great Meadows Garden Club

by Elaine Swaney, President

Time flies by!! Mother's Day has passed and Great Meadows is preparing for their annual flea market fundraiser set at Braddock's Restaurant and field on May 23rd from 8-4. Come visit we have something for everyone: books, plants, gently used items and jewelry.

East End Community Center, Junior Gardener Program, stays busy and active. The children recently learned about insects and made them out of clay. They started preparing their garden by planting vegetable plugs of broccoli, kale, cabbage and a few other species. In addition, a private benefactor donated Wren birdhouse kits for all the children and garden club members' husbands assisted in the assembly.

Mountain Area Fair is planned for the week of June 21st-27th, 2026. Great Meadows will have displays depicting their community involvement as well as information on club membership. Our hope is to increase awareness in the local area of the Great Meadows Garden Club, their projects and community involvement. There will be a basket action, plants and jewelry sale. Mark your calendar for June 23rd from 4-8. Hope to see you there.

In anticipation of the upcoming Garden Tours, our gardeners are preparing for June 27<sup>th</sup>. Garden Sites are Katie and Richard Jaros, East End Community Center youth garden, Martha Alexander, Charlene and Erik Friend, Wanda and Doc Sherry, Church Community Gardens of Bruderhof and Cindy and Dan Komarinski.

Great Meadows Garden Club, part of small club, was awarded second place for ad sales for the Garden Tours. Great Meadows received a Civic Beautification Grant from Community Foundation of Fayette County. In addition, Great Meadows, was selected to receive the 2026 Espoma Organic Plant America Grant.

Great Meadows was awarded the 2025 GCFP Maxwell Steel Youth Achievement Award for outstanding activities that promote NGC objectives with a youth group.

We are so excited to learn that we received First Place from GCFP CAR-SGC Flower Show Schedule for Medium Clubs, and First Place for GCFP CAR-SGC Flower Show Book of Evidence Standard Flower Show (21-49 members) for "Road Trip".

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## Great Meadows Garden Club recently learned about Ikebana with Iris Cisarik



Diane Hughes, Elaine Swaney, and Iris Cisarik



Photos by Heidi Pane

# Club Events & Activities

## Green Gardeners of Uniontown by Lynda Waggoner, President

Following the January and February hiatus, Green Gardeners kicked off 2026 with its first meeting of the year, which included lunch at the Titlow Tavern in Uniontown. Members discussed the upcoming season and plans for various plantings in downtown areas.

At the April meeting, the speaker was Karen Hegedus, a Master Gardener with five years of experience. She delivered a fascinating presentation on the invasive Asian Jumping Worms (*Amyntas agrestis*), commonly referred to as “crazy worms” or “snake worms.” These worms are a significant invasive species spreading across Pennsylvania. Found in the top 3-4 inches of soil from mid-summer until freeze, they exhibit violent thrashing, leaping, and tail-shedding when disturbed. They degrade soil into a granular texture resembling coffee grounds, which can ruin garden beds and forest ecosystems. Along with tips on identifying these pests, she provided helpful hints for eradicating them and preventing their introduction into our gardens.

**EUROPEAN EARTHWORM**  
*Lumbricus terrestris*  
pink to brown in color that does not jump when disturbed  
SIZE: 110-200mm x 7-10mm  
120-170 segments



**JUMPING WORM**  
*Amyntas agrestis*  
reddish brown iridescent worm that will thrash and jump when disturbed

SIZE: 70-160mm x 5-8mm  
63-100 segments



## Pennsylvania State-Wide Garden Party is here!

The Great Meadows Garden Club and the Martha Washington Garden Club are both participating in the Pennsylvania Garden Party on June 27th!

Gardeners have been hard at work sprucing up their private and public gardens for our enjoyment. Come out on June 27<sup>th</sup> to enjoy the fruits of their hard labor – and prayers that everything is blooming at the right time!

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by credit card on the day of the tour at the following District X locations:



Fayette County  
Great Meadows Garden Club  
104 Burke Road, Farmington

Washington County  
Martha Washington Garden Club  
Historic LeMoyné House  
49 East Maiden Street, Washington

# Club Events & Activities

## Martha Washington Garden Club

Susan DeLost, President

The Martha Washington Garden Club has 57 members.

2026 looks to be a very busy year. We are finalizing plans for our May 16 Plant Sale, our June 27 participation in the Pennsylvania Garden Party, our July 24 & 25 Standard Flower Show, and more!



We are holding design workshops immediately before our Spring meetings to help our newer members become more comfortable with entering designs in the Flower Show. One of the Classes in our Flower Show will be to dress a mini-mannequin. Vina McLeod Rudolph created the beautiful sample shown to demonstrate on possibility of what can be done in this class as part of her series of workshops.

We have received 5 scholarship applications from local high school students. We will invite the winning student to our June meeting for the presentation of the \$1,000 award.

We continue to collect donations to purchase a Blue Star memorial marker for the former Train Station on South Main Street in Washington. We have collected \$2,100 to date.

The community gardens that we tend entered the growing season a bit early this year. We will be busy getting them ready for Memorial Day and their Garden Party debut.

The monthly window displays at Citizen's Library in Washington continue to generate interest. We have also installed several displays at the Frank Sarris Library in Canonsburg.



Library Window created and installed by Sandy Grilli.

We had an online fundraiser with Proven Winners Direct. We made \$229.72. We plan to do this again in early Fall.

Garden Club T-shirts have been ordered and we are looking forward to wearing them at our various activities!



# Club Events & Activities

## *Pleasant Hills Garden Club*

*by Tamara Ziccardi, President*

During our February meeting, we were excited to announce to our members that we had been chosen to receive the NGC Plant America grant for \$1000. This will be used to refresh and create a lovely display of red white and blue in our Blue Star Marker garden.



*Tamara Ziccardi at the Spring Tea.*

Our March meeting was presided over by Helen Galuppi, and our guest speaker was Denise Schriber who spoke about Urban Garden Myths and Legends. We also had 19 members attend the Spring Tea. It was a fun event with lots of laughs and smiles.

We have met several times in April to clean up the gardens we maintain, figure out how to run the plant sale more smoothly, and many members continue to grow and pot up seedlings and plants for the upcoming sale.

At our meeting we enjoyed a Tray design challenge, and one of our members donated some beautiful new aprons for us to wear during the sale.



*Donna Buchheit growing seedlings for the plant sale.*

# Club Events & Activities

## Uniontown Flower Club

by Sharlene Lehman

The Uniontown Flower Club meets every second Friday except in January at Mount Saint Macrina. We have 29 members.

In February, UFC welcomed Ashley with Eighty-Four Microgreens. Ashley discussed her business and how she and her husband grow the microgreens they sell. Members were given 6 sample microgreens to try with Ashley telling the health benefits of each. Members had an opportunity to order microgreens and several did.

In March, UFC welcomed Stephany from the Sunshine Garden Shop in Masontown. Stephany showed members how to propagate several types of flowers. She discussed types of "starters" and fertilizers once the new plant was rooted.

In April, member Nanci Myers did a program on making wreaths. She demonstrated the different materials needed as well as techniques to create various types of wreaths. She brought wreaths she had made for holidays including an autumn, Easter, Valentine, and St. Patrick wreaths.

In May, the club will install their new officers that include Nanci Myers as President, Sue Cole as Vice President, Dorothy Gruskowski as Treasurer, and Sharlene Lehman as Recording Secretary. The club will also review Committee members and members names, emails, etc. for any changes prior to the new Yearbook being issued.



Nanci Myers and her wreaths.



SEED SWAP @ SUNSHINE GARDEN SHOP

SUNSHINE GARDEN SHOP

Hilton Farm II  
Smithfield, PA

FEBRUARY 22ND 1PM-3PM  
102 S MAIN STREET MASONTOWN, PA



Bring your leftover seeds, saved seeds, plant cuttings and/or perennial roots to swap or just show up &

**LETTUCE GROW TOGETHER**

Questions and Donations can be made to Shelby @ (724) 562-9235

The poster features a central illustration of various gardening tools (shovel, rake, fork, trowel, and shears) arranged in a semi-circle. To the left is a yellow sun with the text 'SUNSHINE GARDEN SHOP'. To the right is a black and white cow with the text 'Hilton Farm II Smithfield, PA'. The event details are in green and black text. A QR code is located on the left side of the poster.

# Club Events & Activities

## Town and Country Garden Club by Tami Burnworth, President

The Program for our meeting held in February was “ A Day in the Life of a Game Warden”, presented by Brandon Bonin, Game Warden for Southwestern PA. He spoke about why you should not feed wild animals, especially deer. He also talked about other wild animals and brought along pelts of fox, otter, coyote and other small animals.

The month of March was a program given by Stephany Smearcheck owner of Sunshine Garden Shop, where she specializes in houseplants and seasonal plants. She brought along many different houseplants such as low light, bright light and easy care plants. she discussed caring for them along with many others, and answered questions from our members regarding common problems such as overwatering, underwatering and repotting.

April we welcomed spring with our program “Spring Ephemerals” A powerpoint presentation was given by Susan Swala about many different varieties of spring flowers that can be seen blooming along the river trail.



## Valley Garden Club by Roxanne Huss, President

The Valley Garden Club has 29 members. Five are currently are inactive status. The club meets at the Lynwood Lutheran Church the second Thursday of each month except for July and August.

A small standard flower show is planned for June 25, 2026 at the Mon Valley YMCA. The title is “Creative Freedom” in honor of the 250th Birthday of the founding of the USA.

The program for May is about invasive plants by the Penn State Extension speaker. In June , members will practice flower designs with instruction from experienced members. There are no meetings planned for July or August.

Some members are planning to attend the District X meeting June 3, and the Garden tour on June 27.

The installation of new officers will be held at the May monthly meeting. The officers are :

- Co-Presidents: Roxanne Huss and Peggy Brown
- Vice President: Dolores Coulson
- Secretary : Ruth Antonelli
- Treasurer: Pam Gregor

The 2026 scholarship winner will be awarded in June. Applications are due in April.

The Valley Garden Club continues to maintain the YMCA gardens by weeding, mulching, and planting native and pollinator plants.

**The TENDril** is published four times a year on the GCFP website in March, June, September, and December.

**Submission deadline for the September issue is August 15.**

Please send submissions to Marce Zaragoza, Editor, at [MZarag23@gmail.com](mailto:MZarag23@gmail.com).

We welcome submissions from any District X garden club member.

We reserve the right to edit or publish based on relevancy of content and available space.

# GCFP DISTRICT X ANNUAL MEETING

Friday August 28, 2026  
South Hills Country Club  
4305 Brownsville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

9:00 AM - REGISTRATION  
Coffee, Tea, & Pastries  
Raffle Baskets - 50/50 - Ways & Means & Vendors

10:00 AM - BUSINESS MEETING  
Installation of Officers

NOON - LUNCHEON

1:15 PM - **Pansies Among the Parsnips: Raising Edibles & Ornamentals**  
Mark Miller from the Pittsburgh Botanical Garden

### **Special Guests:**

GCFP President Patricia Wolanski  
First Vice-President Tonya Young  
Second Vice-President Mary Hetrick

Each club will bring a Display Board on the activities of their Garden Club

Reservations NO LATER than August 10, 2026  
Make Checks Payable to GCFP District X and send to:

Haddie Weber, Program Chair  
3603 McRoberts Road, Apt 115  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234  
(412) 897-8002 | haddieweber@mac.com

Amount: \$40.00

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Make checks payable to GCFP District X in the amount of \$40.00

Menu Choice:  Chicken Asiago  Grilled Salmon  Eggplant Manicotti

Dietary request: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_

# Committee Reports

## Awards Report

by Karen Humphreys, Chair

Our Award nominations deadline is near! District X awards are given for recognition of members during the year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Most District Award recipients' nominations should be reported to our District Director and/or District Awards Chair on or before August 1, 2026. Recipients will be recognized at the Annual GCFP/District X meeting on August 28, 2026 with awards presented to each club President, who in turn hand them out at their monthly meeting with appropriate recognitions. I have (optional) worksheets designed to help your clubs organize accomplishments for your award nominees and a table of the awards details. Please let me know if you would like to receive a copy.

For those new members who are not familiar with the Award terminology and as a refresher for all:

1. **Red Tulip** bulbs are given to new members and their Sponsors—so that each spring when the red tulip appears it is a reminder of our garden club members.
2. **Daffodils** are awarded for a special project or for recognition of a special member (limit of three can be awarded to each club)
3. **Laurels** are non-competitive awards, so no limits per club. They encourage and recognize outstanding accomplishments that are “above and beyond” the regular duties of office or committee.
4. The **Butterfly Award** recognizes ONE member of each club for outstanding work and efforts for their club. One of these nominees is chosen to be District X Butterfly Awardee.
5. **Forget-Me-Not** is an honorary award recognizing ONE active, long-standing member of each club who makes our organization special because of their dedication to their club and community. One of these qualified nominees is chosen to be awarded District X's Forget-Me-Not.
6. **Membership Attendance Award** 2026 is awarded to the club with the highest number of members attending the District X Annual Meeting. A Certificate will be presented to the Club President by the District Director along with a check for \$25 from District X.
7. **Exceptional Horticulturist** is a special award given to a club member who has shown themselves to be an exceptional horticulturist. Candidates demonstrate experience in horticulture, well rounded education and share their knowledge and experience. Qualified nominees from each club are eligible; the District Director will choose one recipient. The Exceptional Horticulturist will have their name placed in the GCFP Book of Exceptional Horticulturists.
8. CAR/SGC **Perennial Bloom Award** is a special award given to a long-standing member who has made our clubs grow with continuous support of our goals and objectives, are indispensable members who have shared their love of gardening, enthusiastic leadership, and are the “backbone” of the Club. Clubs may nominate one member to their District Awards Chair and/or Director using the GCFP/CAR-SGC/NGC Award Application Cover Sheet AND special Perennial Bloom application form (GCFP website Awards Page). **Deadlines are tricky!! CLUB DEADLINE:** January 15 to submit to the District; **DISTRICT DEADLINE:** February 1 to send one entry to the State Awards Chair; **STATE DEADLINE:** April 1 to send one winning application to the CAR-SGC Perennial Bloom Chair. The winner will be announced at the CAR-SGC Fall Convention.



# Committee Reports

## Conservation Report

by Kathy Petruska, Chair



A fawn curled in tall grass with no mother in sight is almost always doing exactly what it should be doing.

White-tailed deer hide fawns in vegetation for the first weeks of life. The mother returns to nurse a few times a day and stays away deliberately – her scent would lead predators to the baby. The fawn is nearly scentless when still.

Most fawns that look abandoned have been alone less than a few hours.

How to read the situation:

- Lying still and quiet – healthy, following instinct. Walk away.
- Visibly injured, trapped, or covered in flies – call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator before moving it.
- Same exact spot for a full day, visibly weakened or crying – that’s when help is warranted. Check from a distance with binoculars first.

The myth that a doe rejects a fawn after human contact isn’t true – but the reason to leave it alone is simpler. She knows where it is. It knows what to do. The hardest part is walking away. That’s usually the right call

From: Kindness for All Living Things.

## Hort Hints

by Grace Mitchell, Chair

### Wakey, Wakey!

Now that you have had your coffee, I’m going to tell you more than you ever wanted to know about what to do with the grounds.

Dried grounds can suck bad scents out of the air, so make a sachet for your fridge or your car. Mix grounds with coconut oil and rub on your face and body to remove dead skin cells. But that’s not why I called. Get your pencils ready and I’ll tell you what houseplants love the above.

Spider, jade and snake plants, Christmas cactus , miniature roses and philodendron . Outside, sprinkle them around plants to fertilize and attract worms while repelling snails, slugs and cats.

So, keep on drinking! Hope it works with decaf!



# Committee Reports

## Photography Report

by Heidi Pane, Chair

I continue to enjoy responsibility as District X Photography Chairperson. I have participated in many events, taken photos and portraits, and shared photo albums with members of District X and others. My photos have appeared in The Tendril, Keystone Gardener, Great Meadows Garden Club 2026 Yearbook, and numerous Facebook pages, increasing awareness of District X activities. Also I have enjoyed GCFP Convention in Erie, Phipps Conservatory, and Remember Me Rose Garden, and shared photos and information with members of District X and GCFP.

Events I have photographed include:

- Valley Garden Club luncheon fundraiser in Donora, November 6, 2025
- Giant Oaks Garden Club Tinsel Tea luncheon fundraiser, November 7, 2025
- Philadelphia Flower Show, March 2-3, 2026
- District X Tea in Paris luncheon fundraiser at YMCA Monongahela, March 11
- Phipps Conservatory, March 31
- Remember Me Rose Garden near Flight 93 National Memorial April 18
- Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Convention in Erie, with numerous educational speakers and award presentations, April 26-28
- Garden Club of Munhall luncheon fundraiser, South Hills Country Club, May
- Great Meadows Garden Club at Bogey's Duck Hollow with special guest speaker Andy Armgren

I am looking forward to:

- Historical National Road celebration, Farmington, May 16
- Great Meadows Garden Club increasing awareness of garden clubs and gardening at Braddock's flea market on May 23 and the Mountain Area Fair on June 23
- Designers Guild in Greensburg, May 29 and July 31
- District X luncheon fundraiser at South Hills Country Club, June 3
- GCFP Garden Party Tours June 20 and 27
- Judges Council Flower Show at The Lamplighter in Delmont, July 17
- Martha Washington Garden Club Flower Show, July 24-25
- Valley Garden Club Flower Show, July 25

I appreciate the feedback I have received about my photos. Also, I congratulate everyone involved in creating The Tendril, which won first place in GCFP for the 2025 publication.\*

\*Editor's note; Thank you, Heidi! And thank you for all the photographs you provide to enhance the newsletter!



# Committee Reports

## Pollinator Report

by Wanda Sherry, Chair

### Creating a Pollinator Garden

Creating a pollinator garden involves planting native species, selecting diverse blooms that flower from spring through fall, avoiding pesticides, and providing habitat, such as shallow water sources and bare soil. Focus on native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees to provide nectar, pollen, and host sites for caterpillars.

Choose a site with full or partial sun and well drained soil, as pollinators often prefer sunny areas to bask. Select native plants for your region, as they are best adapted for local pollinators and require less maintenance. Aim for at least three species that bloom in spring, summer and fall. Plant in clusters rather than single plants to help pollinators locate them efficiently. Include plants that support larva development, such as milkweed for monarch butterflies. Only use organic insecticides for pest control.

It may take some time, but you will eventually see butterflies and other pollinators enjoying your garden. Make sure to weed and water your garden to keep it healthy.

## Program Report

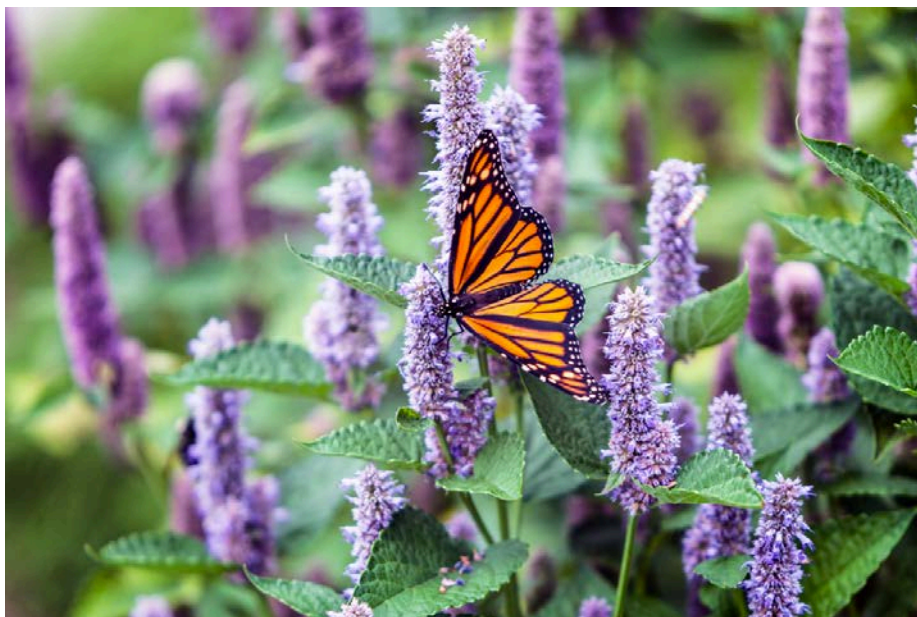
by Haddie Weber, Chair

The District X Annual Meeting is on Friday August 28, 2026. The date of the Annual Meeting is scheduled by the GCFP Officers. Our GCFP officers will be our guest. Also this will be the Installation of the Incoming Officers of District X. The program will be Mark Miller from the Pittsburgh Botanical Garden. His topic is "Pansies Among the Parsnips: Raising Edibles & Ornamentals." Each club is to have a raffle basket for which they will receive \$25.00. Club presidents will receive the information at the June 3rd Fundraiser. However please inform your members about this District X Annual Meeting at our very next meeting. It is before Labor Day.

Also mark your calendar. March 1 & 2, 2027, is the trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. This is the celebration of 200 years of this show. More information will be available In October,

In case you do not have my new address, phone number or email:

Haddie Weber  
3603 McRoberts Road Apt 115  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234  
412 897 8002  
haddieweber@mac.com



**The Natural Disaster collection for the District X  
Spring Tea, March 11, 2026, was \$233.00.  
--Linda Coleman, Natural Disaster Chair**

# District X June Fundraiser

District X members from nearly every club enjoyed this year's "FUN-raiser", led by Director Martha Alexander. As usual, Haddie Weber deserves a round of applause for organizing a flawless event, complete with vendors, raffles, a wonderful speaker, and that special dessert we all look forward to. Linda Coleman was recognized as the District Perennial Bloom winner, and Marce Zaragoza received a GCFP certificate for winning newsletter in its category. The Great Meadows Garden Club was also recognized for their 2025 Flower Show, "Road Trip." Photos are by Heidi Pane, except where noted.



Photo by Susan DeLost

Photo by Marce Zaragoza

*more from the June Fundraiser*



# Great Meadows Garden Club: Civic Beautification and Blue Star Memorial

by Heidi Pane, Great Meadows Garden Club,  
District X Photography Chairperson

For many years, members of Great Meadows Garden Club took care of Blue Star Memorial on Route 40 National Pike near Historical Summit Inn, and planted flowers at Wharton Township Municipal Building and nearby Wharton Park on Elliottsville Road. Members continued these projects on May 20, 2026.

Planning ahead, members applied for grants and received funding. One of the grants is from the Community Foundation of Fayette Community. The other grant is from Plant America.

At the Blue Star Memorial we removed tattered flags and replaced them with new flags in metal holders showing all branches of the Armed Forces. We dug up weeds, sprayed weed killer, and spread 20 cubic feet of mulch. We planted red begonias that we had bought at the Countryside Produce Auction in Salisbury near Springs, PA, and white Allysum that we had purchased as plugs in March. We will create a schedule for Garden Club members to water the begonias and Allysum at the Blue Star Memorial each week.

When we were nearly finished, two gentlemen stopped at the Lookout Point and commented on how nice the Blue Star Memorial is, thanked us for our work and thoughtfulness, and took our photo for the garden club.



Cherie Beal, Heidi Pane, Helen Snaith, Wanda Sherry,  
Linda Kapalko, and Joette Harris

At Wharton Municipal Building, we filled a very large flower box with begonias, Alyssum, Ageratum, and petunias. Nearby at Wharton Park in Farmington, we filled two flower boxes with a variety of flowers. Furthermore, we plan to plant native flowers and seeds at the wildflower trail in Wharton Park. We appreciate forget-me-not seeds donated by Remember Me Rose Garden board members.

Helen Snaith, GMGC Chairperson Civic Beautification Project, stated, “The Garden Club plants and cares for flower planters at the township municipal building and community park. These seasonal plantings contribute to the overall beautification of the township, creating welcoming public spaces for residents and visitors alike. Through ongoing volunteer efforts, the Great Meadows Garden Club continues its commitment to civic pride, remembrance, and community enhancement.”

Joette Harris, GMGC Chairperson Blue Star Memorial Project, explained, “The Blue Star Memorial is a symbol of our appreciation for our Armed Forces. We honor all who have served in the past, are serving now, and all who will serve in the future. So proud to be a part of this. Most every family has a veteran who comes to mind as we plant, or strangers who stop by for the view and see the memorial. For me, my thoughts are of my father who served under Patton in WWII. Thousands have served and are remembered.”

Wanda Sherry stated, “We are proud to honor all veterans—present, past, and future. “

Elaine Swaney, President GMGC, said, “Great Meadows Garden Club takes great pride in honoring the men and women who have served with our Blue Star Memorial.”

# Designers Guild

by Heidi Pane, Great Meadows Garden Club,  
District X Photography Chairperson

Designers Guild met at the Greensburg Civic and Garden Center on May 29 to discuss Parallel Designs.

Designers Guild lessons include information from the National Garden Club Handbook for Flower Shows, Chapter 7, Design, updated July 2024.

Parallel Design—a creative design consisting of three or more groupings of plant material and optional components with a strong parallel placement in a single container and or base.

1. Multiple containers/bases may be used if combined to appear as one unit.
2. Parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal within the allotted space.
3. The overall effect must appear parallel. Groupings need not be equidistant from each other.
4. Connectives may be used as the base of the design.

Designers Guild members had advance notice of the design type to be discussed and had the opportunity to create a design and take it to Greensburg for informal judging and critique as a learning experience.



Flower Show judges and others learning about floral design are members of the Designers Guild. Members meet four mornings per year. Anyone interested in joining should send an email to [Jackdianehughes@gmail.com](mailto:Jackdianehughes@gmail.com).

Wanda Sherry, Great Meadows Garden Club, said “Designers Guild has been such a help to me as I’m learning different designs and the techniques of design. I thoroughly enjoy the ladies in our guild who are so knowledgeable in flower arranging.”

Leeanna Ryba, Burrellton Garden Club, stated, “Designers Guild is a great opportunity to learn the many facets of flower arranging. The constructive criticism is gentle and very helpful for those of us new to flower shows.”

Terry Rodgers, Westmoreland Garden Council, stated, “I am new to this group and am impressed by the beauty and creativity of the arrangements. I am learning a lot about design.”

Maryjane Martucci, Valley Garden Club, expressed, “Designers Guild is a wonderful place to start if you want to design for a flower show.”

Nadine Mason, Eastwood Garden Club and Westmoreland Garden Council, exclaimed, “I love Designers Guild. You learn so much. This is something I do for me!”



Instructor Marie Mueller



Marilyn Backus



Wanda Sherry

## **Remember Me Rose Garden** *(continued from page 4)*

Supporters of the non-profit organization invite people to visit the [RememberMeRoseGarden.org](http://RememberMeRoseGarden.org) website to learn about the organization's mission, formation, and events, and to sign up for the email distribution list.

Stephen Scanniello attended. He was honored as a Board Member of the Remember Me Rose Garden and President Emeritus of the Heritage Rose Foundation, which has provided funding, plants, and labor toward the development of this beautiful memorial! He gave instructions to volunteers about the work to be done.

Volunteers found over 200 Julie Andrews Rose bushes and dozens of perennials needing attention. There were about 30 volunteers. Together we pulled the old mulch away from the base of each rose bush being careful to gently uncover new growth. We cut away dead plant material and piled it into a tractor to be hauled away. We added some RoseTone to the soil for each rose bush. Then we pushed the mulch back around each rose bush, many plants pruned to be less than four inches high.

Lastly, many volunteers cut back the perennials, including sage grass, which smelled refreshing.

In the garden, the volunteers' pleasant conversations made the hours go by easily.

The Remember Me Rose Garden Facebook page has over 200 photos showing the development of the site, including photos as far back as 2021.

Mary Alice Mankamyer explained that the land purchased was covered with trees and huge rocks. The design for the land was to create an arrangement of huge rocks in the shape of a compass that can be seen by pilots and flight attendants. Forty heroes died on Flight 93. A distance of forty feet is incorporated in the design of the compass. She provided these details, "The compass can be seen from 20-30,000 feet with the south point of the compass



pointing to the Flight 93 crash site at the National Park."

Members of the board spoke about the importance of pollinators (including birds, butterflies, bees, and other insects) and the plans to reseed a field of wildflowers within sight of the rose garden and Ryan's Trail. This will be a Monarch Waystation.

Bill Cenk (a Board Member of the Remember Me Rose Garden) informed me, "This year, the 25th Anniversary of 9/11, we are adding features to our Living Tribute to the Heroes of Flight 93. A new Visitor Center will be constructed, an automated irrigation system will be installed, and we will plant an additional 300+ perennials. We welcome visitors, we always need volunteers, and as Americans, we can 'Never Forget' the sacrifice made by the brave crew and passengers aboard Flight 93!"

John Vento (a Board Member of the Remember Me Rose Garden) stated, "The Remember Me Rose Garden is truly special and sacred, honoring the heroes of Flight 93. I am humbled to be a volunteer at such an amazing place."

After my great experience at the Remember Me Rose Garden, I contacted Patricia Wolanski, President Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, who responded, "While I have not yet had the opportunity to visit the RMRG, I have been learning more about its purpose and meaning. It is clearly a very touching and worthwhile tribute, honoring the families connected to Flight 93 in a beautiful way. Efforts like this reflect the powerful role gardens can play in remembrance, healing, and community connection. I think it is a lovely and fitting tribute for a very important cause, and I look forward to visiting in the future."

***"Efforts like this reflect the powerful role gardens can play in remembrance, healing, and community connection."***

***- Patricia Wolanski, GCFP President***