



Keystone Gardener

Official Publication of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

Volume 7, Issue 2, July 2026

KG Online Newsletter Editor, Marilyn Small



Sleeping Beauty by Rose Romboski, So. Butler Co. Garden Club, IX



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.

~ George Washington



Dear Members,

July is the perfect time for a message that blends reflection, patriotism, gardens in full bloom, and the importance of connection. I have been noticing more and more red, white, and blue gardens throughout our communities. While planting our patriotic colors has been one of my initiatives, it is wonderful to see so many others embracing the idea, especially during this 250th anniversary of our nation. These gardens are more than beautiful displays—they are living reminders of patriotism, unity, and the power of working together.

I am thrilled to report that our first statewide Pennsylvania Garden Party was an extraordinary success! The first Saturday brought beautiful sunshine and welcomed hundreds of enthusiastic visitors to our spectacular private gardens throughout the Commonwealth. While the second Saturday arrived with a light rain, it did little to discourage our garden lovers. In fact, many visitors commented that the light rain enhanced the beauty of the gardens, adding a fresh sparkle to the flowers and foliage.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. I have received countless enthusiastic comments, heartfelt compliments, and an abundance of wonderful photographs that I look forward to sharing with you soon. Our statewide tour not only celebrated the beauty of Pennsylvania's gardens, but also highlighted the talent, generosity, and hospitality of our members.

My deepest gratitude goes to Nancy Cuttic for her outstanding leadership as Chair. Her dedication, along with the hard work of her committee, host clubs, generous homeowners, and many volunteers, turned this ambitious project to life. Each and every one of you played an important role in creating an unforgettable experience for our visitors. Together, you helped raise the visibility of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania throughout our state. Thank you for making this dream **A** reality.

And speaking of gardens, I am pleased to announce a special new resource for our members—a beautiful book featuring Pennsylvania's Public Gardens and Arboretums. I asked Karen Wychock to compile this book for us, and through her hard work and dedication, it is now available for us to purchase.

As we move deeper into summer, I hope you take time to enjoy the beauty of the season. Everywhere you travel this summer, I hope you continue seeing red, white, and blue blooming across Pennsylvania—living reminders of patriotism, community spirit, and the beauty we create together.

Thank you for all you do to help Pennsylvania “celebrate nature and embrace the future.” We are making our Keystone a Gemstone.

Pat Wolanski

GCFP President 2025-2027



GCFP OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Pat Wolanski

3245 Water Street Road
Collegeville, PA 19426-1535
610-584-4429

GCFPVicePresident1@gmail.com

Norristown GC - XI

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Tonya Young

1115 Sarazen Way
York, PA 17404-8515
717-870-5721

GCFPVicePresident2@gmail.com

The GC of York/Town & Country
GC of Lancaster - IV

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Mary Hetrick

4046 Holly Rue
Erie, PA 16506-1912
814-440-3411
Mary.hetrick23@gmail.com
Gospel Hill GC - VIII

TREASURER

Vivian Hall

1511 Wallace Road
Troy, PA 16947-9444
570-297-3684

vmh6777@yahoo.com

The Heritage GC - V

RECORDING SECRETARY

Deb Davis

1428 North Main Street
Washington, PA 15301-1241
724-228-5318

dardebDavis@verizon.net

Martha Washington GC, X

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Sheila Croushore

1275 Greenhill Lane
Somerset, PA 15501-9722
824-233-6769

sheshore6769@gmail.com

Somerset GC, VI



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





2025 NGC CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. convention in St. Louis was a wonderful opportunity for members across the country to gather in friendship and celebrate our shared commitment to gardening.

The beautiful Gateway Arch and the nearby Mississippi River provided a stunning backdrop to the convention hotel. Educational programs, the patriotic-themed petite flower show, and the engaging speakers made the event especially enJOYable. The Awards Dinner is always special in recognizing the hard work and dedication of clubs nationwide.

A visit to National Garden Clubs Inc.'s headquarters was particularly meaningful. The beautifully landscaped setting, interior carpeting, representing all of our states, and the newly established Path of Success left a lasting impression on all who visited.



Gail Manna, Pat Wolanski, and Angie Raitano



AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT THE NGC CONVENTION



NGC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE STATE AWARD

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
GCFP Reads

NGC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - non-member

W. Atlee Burpee Co.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Newsletter over 24 Pages, District
GCFP District X *The TENDril*

Permanent Community Improvements

Moon Township GC, IX

Fleur de Lune Garden at Robin Hill Park

Community Food Sources - \$100

Parkland Garden Club, II/III

Green Thumbs Garden Project

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Floral Design - Large Club

Parkland Garden Club, II/III

Newsletter 13-24 - Medium Club

Butler Garden Club, IX

Newsletter District

GCFP District I *The First Bloom*

Newsletter State

The Keystone Gardener Online

Website - Large Club

Parkland Garden Club, II/III

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Wildlife Survival and National Garden Week

Shaler Garden Club, IX

NGC MIRIAM ANDERSON STEEL SCHOLARSHIP

Liam Jack Ellis

Sponsored by Ingomar Garden Club, IX

NGC CLUB FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Purple Ribbon

Great Meadows Garden Club, X

"Road Trip"

Green Ribbon

District IV

"Leaping to Destinations"

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

Grade 1

Olivia Pawlowicz, Ingomar Garden Club, IX

Grade 2

Levi Yerger, Parkland Garden Club, II/III

YOUTH SCULPTURE

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Grade 4 - Quinn Briggs, Moon Township GC, IX

Grade 5 - Maura Teitz, Moon Township GC, IX

Grade 6 - Ethan Rivetti, Moon Township GC, IX

Grade 7 - Makenzie King, Moon Township GC, IX

Grade 8 - Sofia Bezilla, Ingomar GC, IX

YOUTH POETRY

2nd Place: Grade 4 - Charlotte E., Pucketos GC, VII

3rd Place: Kindergarten - Waylon B., Ingomar GC, IX

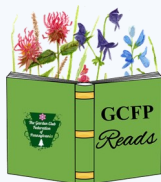
Grade 3 - Everly S., Ingomar GC, IX

HM - Grade 1 - Amari D., Pucketos GC, VII

Grade 5 - Riley E., Ingomar GC, IX

GCFP RECEIVES A PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. AWARD

At the National Garden Clubs, Inc. convention in May, GCFP President Pat Wolanski accepted the prestigious NGC SR-2 **Award of Excellence for States**, the highest award presented by NGC to a state garden club. This award honors a state for an outstanding project that involves a distinguished coordinated activity involving many clubs in the state.



The awarded project was the **GCFP's Reads Program**, chaired by Sharon Richardson, Uwchlan Garden Club, District I.

The project, one of President Wolanski's initiatives for her presidency, was started to encourage our membership to read books about gardening, nature, and the environment, and to share the love of reading and gardening with youth.



W. ATLEE BURPEE CO. RECEIVES THE PRESTIGIOUS NGC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR NON-MEMBERS

President Pat Wolanski accepted the Award of Excellence for Non-Members for the **W. Atlee Burpee Co.** at the recent NGC Convention in St. Louis. Burpee was nominated for this award by Old York Road Garden Club, XI. This is the highest National Garden Clubs, Inc. award offered to non-members, and a great honor. It is awarded to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of goals and objectives of NGC.

The Burpee Co. was also honored at the GCFP Convention in Erie with the Silver Seal Award, which is also awarded to a non-member individual or organization for special contributions toward the advancement of the work of garden clubs.



NGC President Donna Donnelly, GCFP President Pat Wolanski, NGC 3rd Vice-President Susan Miner

President Wolanski's Presidential Citation Crown Recipients



F: Joyce Milberg, Barbara Brand, Karen Wychock, Chris Leskosky, Deb Davis, Bonita Herman B: Joan Engle, Sheri Lowry, Marilyn Small, Cindy Layton, Joanne Baylis, Nancy Cuttic, Marj Sears, Dot Yard, Nancy Cartwright

Philadelphia Area Judges Council at Scott Arboretum



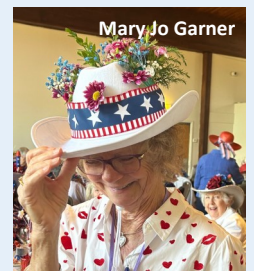
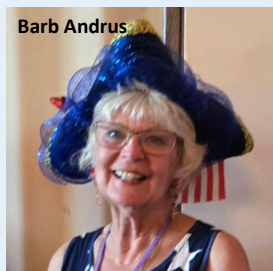
F: Nancy Hannum, Sharon Richardson, Barbara Campbell, Barbara White, Liz Snowden, Pat Wolanski, Louise Heilig B: Audrey Williams, Tammy Gravslande, Wendy Fox, Carrie Schreffler, Anita Lehman, Denise Klein, Pam Walsh, and Tom Campbell

“HATS OFF TO AMERICA” SUCCESSFUL JUNE BOARD MEETING

Held on June 8 and 9 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Boalsburg, the meeting was a spirited celebration of patriotism celebrating America's 250th Anniversary! With a vibrant red, white, and blue theme, attendees came dressed to impress in patriotic attire with many participating in the patriotic hat contest.

After a full day of productive meetings, 66 board members gathered for a themed dinner complete with patriotic decorations, American history trivia contest, and a patriotic singalong. The decorated hat awards went to Karen Wychock for “Most Creative,” Barb Andrus for “Most Patriotic,” Mary Jo Garner for “Best use of Natural Materials,” and Jane Kruse for “Funniest.” Their creativity and enthusiasm perfectly captured the theme of the evening.

It was two days of specialty meetings, committee reports, American pride, connection, creativity, and GCFP spirit, celebrating the values of community, service, and pride that bring us together.



BOARD APPROVES SLATE FOR GCFP'S 2027-2029 ADMINISTRATION

At the recent meeting held June 8-9 in Boalsburg, PA, GCFP's Board of Directors approved the Nominating Committee's motion for the Slate of Officers for the next administration. GCFP membership attending the 97th annual convention in Lancaster next April will approve the slate during the business meeting and installation of the officers will occur later that evening.

The Delegates to the Nominating Committee for the 2025-2026 GCFP Administration from all ten GCFP Districts have unanimously recommended the following slate:

President - Tonya Young, District IV
First Vice-President - Mary Hetrick, District VIII
Second Vice-President - Karen Wychock, District XI

Recording Secretary - Marilyn Backus, District VII
Treasurer - Sheri Lowry, District VI
Financial Secretary - Joanne Baylis, District IV

The Nominating Committee believes this slate will admirably and harmoniously serve the members of GCFP for the next two years. Each candidate has been vetted, is qualified for the position, is aware of and has graciously accepted our nomination to serve.

In the next few months, Tonya will be assembling her Board. If she contacts you, please consider serving on the board as an exciting learning experience, and please say “yes.”



PENNSYLVANIA GARDEN TOUR

Nancy Cuttic, Uwchlan Garden Club, I

JUNE 20 and 27, 2026

"If you build it, they will come." ~ *Field of Dreams* (1989) The Pennsylvania Garden Party—GCFP's first-ever statewide garden tour—drew throngs of visitors on Saturday, June 20. The beautiful, sunny day brought hundreds of garden enthusiasts. We even received a Proclamation from Governor Shapiro!

Gardens on the Main Line drew the most guests. The Cassatt Garden in Bryn Mawr counted 305 visitors. In the historic district of Newtown, the Countryside Gardeners sold 54 tickets on the day of the tour. Many host clubs acquired some potential garden club members. The reaction from the public was very favorable, with many asking about plans for a future tour!

Saturday, June 27, was quite different. The weather didn't deter visitors for most of the host clubs, but a few clubs did experience a low turnout. The clubs with higher pre-ordered ticket sales had the most attendees, as ticket sales on the day of the tour were significantly lower than the previous Saturday.

There were over 1,050 pre-ordered tickets sold. The final number will be tallied when all host clubs have submitted their numbers from the "day of" ticket sales. There were over 1,350 tour books distributed.

Ad sales provided the funding for the tour. The cost to produce and mail the books, in addition to the \$15 that clubs earned for each ticket sold, totaled \$24.40. Revenue was not generated by ticket sales.

Award money for **highest ticket sales** will be presented by President Pat Wolanski at the upcoming annual District Luncheons. Award money for the **highest advertising revenue** was given at the convention in Erie.

Ad Revenue Small Clubs (50 or fewer members)

- \$1,000 – Old York Road Garden Club, District XI
- \$ 750 – Great Meadows Garden Club, District X
- \$ 500 – Spade & Trowel Club, District I

Ad Revenue Large Clubs (over 50 members)

- \$1,000 – Uwchlan Garden Club, District I
- \$ 750 – Norristown Garden Club, District XI
- \$ 500 – Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, District IV

The host clubs, particularly the Club Liaisons and Ad Chairs, are to be commended for their dedication and countless hours of work to secure their gardens and ads. The success was possible because of the generosity of the garden owners, who worked tirelessly to prepare their gardens, and the many volunteers who welcomed guests and engaged in conversation about the history of the gardens and the many plant varieties. Gardeners are by far the nicest people!

President
Pat Wolanski
with a
Proclamation from
Governor Shapiro



Pennsylvania
Garden Tour
Chair Nancy Cuttic





SPROUTS AND SEEDLINGS

Cheryl Brumbaugh, Norristown GC, XI

My belief is that every child deserves the opportunity to dig in the dirt and discover the world around them. Over the past year, I have been delighted to receive 16 Sprouts and Seedlings applications. Garden clubs across Pennsylvania are working with youth groups ranging in age from preschool through 18 years old.

I am pleased to share some of their reported activities, which will hopefully inspire new groups to join:

- Growing flowers and vegetables from seed
- Learning about nutrition
- Planting and maintaining gardens in schools, churches, and preschools
- Composting
- Planting seeds and small tree saplings in containers for young gardeners to take home and nurture
- Building birdhouses and designing raised beds in community spaces
- Creating flower arrangements in mugs or containers for students to take home
- Participating in plant sales and entering exhibits in club flower shows
- Learning about insects, plant biology, pollination, and environmental stewardship

Youth-involved gardens are part of a network of 90 gardens across the state that were featured in the Pennsylvania Garden Party. **Great Meadows Garden Club in District X**, under the leadership of District Director Martha Alexander, was proud to include their youth garden in the event.

Your garden club can become part of Sprouts and Seedlings by submitting an application available on the [GCFP website](#). Simply send in the application along with a \$2 fee, and your club will receive a \$50 startup grant for your youth program, along with ongoing support as needed. T-shirts are also available for \$11.



We welcome all clubs to join us in starting a youth gardening group!

smsschoolgarden@gmail.com

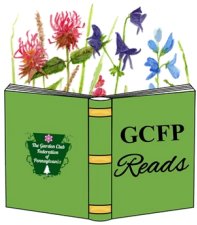
Norristown Garden Club, District XI: Club members work with elementary-age students throughout the year to create floral designs for occasions such as Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. Students take their arrangements home, and lessons on pollinators are also included.

Another club member collaborates with a middle school group to maintain a school garden, using it as an outdoor classroom. Students begin by growing plants from seeds on classroom windowsills, then transplanting them into raised beds in the spring. They continue to care for and harvest the plants throughout the summer and fall, supporting school families. During the summer months, students also take plants home to tend, encouraging the development of their own home gardens. In addition, students participate in lessons on growing tree saplings.



A local scout troop, ages 10–16, is also supported through classes on environmental topics, pollinators, and growing plants from seeds to take home. This group participates in the Norristown Garden Club's annual flower and design show in the youth category. Additionally, this year they will be planting a local flower garden.





GCFP READS

Sharon Richardson
Uwchlan Garden Club, I

Congratulations to everyone who has supported the GCFP Reads initiative in any way!

I am delighted to report that at the recent NGC Convention, the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania received the **Award of Excellence for States**—an honor awarded to only **one state federation** whose innovative initiative captures national attention and is in line with NGC's goals and objectives. The award included a **\$500 check**.

This recognition belongs to all of you who participated in a GCFP Reads activity. A sincere thank you to every club, district, and member who helped advance the goals of GCFP READS.

Activities supporting the initiative included:

- Book clubs focused on gardening, nature, or environmental topics
- Inviting authors to speak at club meetings, district meetings, and our State Convention
- Hosting book exchanges
- Participating in book fairs, including our Barnes & Noble partnership
- Sprouts and Seedlings programs that incorporate books and related activities
- Conducting horticultural therapy programs connected to books and follow-up projects
- Publishing GCFP READS articles in newsletters
- Hosting public library programs

This month, one district newsletter article connected GCFP READS with our upcoming GCFP trip to Costa Rica by featuring the book *Monkeys Are Made of Chocolate*, a book of 32 essays offering "great insight into tropical natural history . . . and environmental insights."

For those who have not yet participated in GCFP READS, I encourage you to consider incorporating it into your club's programs and activities next year. Together, we can continue to promote reading, learning, and a deeper appreciation of the natural world.

If you implement any activity that supports the GCFP READS Initiative, please send it to me at

sharonrichardson22@gmail.com



HEALING ART

Barbara Campbell
Parkland Garden Club, II/III

Our most recent donation is from **Diane Yarger**, Garden Club of Reading, District II/III. Diane donated her beautiful original pastel painting of a vase of altar flowers made from her garden. Her donation will be displayed at The Residence at Village Green retirement community in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania.



Contact [Barbara Campbell](#) to arrange for an art donation.



GCFP FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE IV

Step into a world of color, creativity and nature! Learn new skills from NGC instructors in both Design and Horticulture.

October 26-28, 2026

Gettysburg Fire Department Social Hall

See the brochure [here](#).

**Congratulations to the following
Flower Show School students who
have achieved the status of
Student Judge:**

Patricia Crincoli - Emmaus GC

Nancy Ferraro Anderson - Norristown GC

Carla Kelly - Town & Country GC of
Lancaster

Caroline Hall - The Heritage GC

Andrea Falchek - Somerset GC

AT'S POINTS

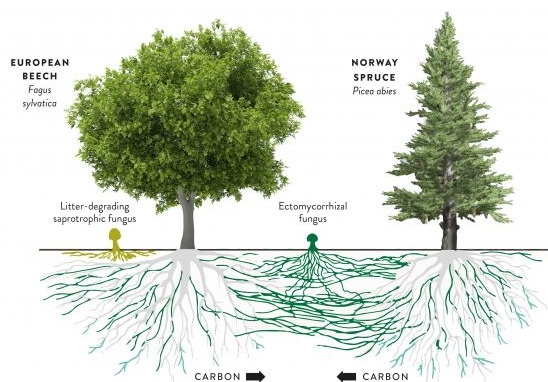
THE WOOD WIDE WEB

Nature's Secret Conversations

President Patricia Wolanski

When we walk through a forest or garden, we often admire what we can see – towering trees, colorful flowers, and the beauty of nature all around us. But one of the most fascinating parts of nature is actually hidden beneath our feet.

Scientists have discovered that trees communicate through an underground network of roots and fungi now nicknamed the “Wood Wide Web.” These tiny fungal threads, called mycorrhizae, connect plants and trees throughout forests and woodlands, creating a living system that allows them to share nutrients, water and even warning signals.



When a tree becomes stressed by drought, disease, or insect attack, it may send chemical messages through this underground network to nearby trees. Those trees can then begin strengthening their own defenses before danger reaches them. Researchers have also found that older “mother trees” sometimes help younger seedlings survive by sharing nutrients through these hidden pathways.



It changes the way we think about forests. Trees are not simply standing alone – they are part of a connected community quietly supporting one another.

Nature has always had lessons to teach us. The Wood Wide Web reminds us that healthy communities depend on cooperation, communication, and strong connections. What happens to one part of the system can affect the whole. Nature thrives not in isolation, but through relationships.



As gardeners, we see these connections every day. Healthy soil, pollinators, native plants, trees, water, and wildlife all work together to create thriving gardens and landscapes. Even when we cannot see those connections, they are there.

The next time you walk beneath a canopy of trees or work in your garden, take a moment to appreciate the hidden world below the surface – a remarkable network of life quietly working together beneath our feet.



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Christine Leskosky, Hazleton Area Garden Club Blue Star Chair, II/III

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. Blue Star Program honors all men and women who have served in the United States Armed Services.

THE PROGRAM

The Blue Star Memorial Program began in 1944 when the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs planted 8,000 dogwood trees as a living memorial to World War II veterans. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs—now National Garden Clubs, Inc.—adopted the program and launched the Blue Star Highway System. Today, it spans thousands of miles across the continental United States, as well as Alaska and Hawaii.

Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers were installed along these routes to pay tribute to those who served in the Armed Forces. The Blue Star symbol was chosen because it had become an iconic image during World War II, displayed on flags and banners in homes, churches, and businesses to honor family members serving in the military.

The first Blue Star Highway Marker was dedicated on February 18, 1948, at Rose Tree Park in Upper Providence Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. It was sponsored and funded by District I of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania in cooperation with District 6-0 of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Pennsylvania, working together with PennDOT, later completed the installation of Blue Star Highway Markers at all service plazas statewide, a project finalized in 2015.

THE MEANING OF THE BLUE STAR

During World Wars I and II, families displayed Armed Forces Service Banners in their windows to signify that a loved **ONE** was serving on active duty. Authorized by the Department of War, the banner featured a blue star on a white field bordered in red—a powerful symbol of hope, pride, and service.

The service banner remains in use today and is the only flag authorized to be flown beneath the United States flag over the U.S. Capitol Building—and only on Veterans Day.

HAZLETON AREA GARDEN CLUB'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The Hazleton Area Garden Club placed its first Blue Star By-Way Marker in 2006 in front of The Providence Place Senior Living. The dedication included a ceremonial tree planting and a tribute by the United States Marine Corps.

The second marker, located at Route 93 and 15th Street in West Hazleton Veterans Memorial Park, was dedicated in November 2021 in cooperation with West Hazleton Borough. The monument was designed by architect Mr. Sal DeFazio.

Each year, the club joins with the borough, the local fire department, and the Marine Corps to honor veterans—past and present—by placing a floral wreath beside the marker on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.



Hazleton Area Garden Club's Blue Star Marker at Rt. 93 and 15th Street in West Hazleton Veterans Memorial Park.

Celebrating America with Theme Gardens

A Colonial Kitchen Garden with Medicinal Plants

Marg Eberz and Arlene Reagan-Harris, Co-Chairs President's Project: Theme Gardens

Before modern hospitals, antibiotics and prescription pads, early American settlers turned to one thing for healing—plants. Whether it was a fever, a wound, or some other ailment, colonists relied on remedies they learned from their elders, who brought the plants and seeds across the Atlantic Ocean or from the tribes here in America.

In 1776 the typical home had a garden near the house. This was the “kitchen garden.” The garden was square or rectangular, with raised beds and enclosed by a fence or a shrub border to keep animals out. In this garden were vegetables, herbs, fruits, and flowers that were used for food, medicine, and dyes. Many plants had multiple uses.



Here are a few of the plants that would be growing in a Pennsylvania garden for common ailments.

- **Basil:** dried leaves used for colds and headaches
- **Chamomile:** leaves used in a tea to alleviate indigestion
- **Comfrey:** used as a poultice to heal wounds, reduce swelling, and relieve itching
- **Wild Marjoram:** used to help with insomnia
- **Mint:** tea from leaves for headaches, aids digestion
- **Yarrow:** applied to wounds to reduce bleeding, also to treat colds and fever

- **Horehound:** a tonic for cough, asthma, consumption
- **Angelica:** a tea made from dried young leaves, roots, and stems to aid colds and bronchial problems
- **Winter Savory:** used as an antiseptic and to relieve pain of bee stings
- **Lady's Mantle:** dried leaves helped to stop bleeding
- **Sage:** used for snake bites and a tea for sore throats
- **Hyssop:** tea from the green tops was used as a gargle for sore throats and rheumatism relief
- **Borage:** an infusion of the flowers was used for fevers, bronchitis, diarrhea
- **Tansy:** used for the treatment of round worms, aid digestion, and repel mosquitos and flies

If we were to travel south to Virginia at this time in history and visit Martha Washington at Mount Vernon, we would find her busy filling her family medicine chest. Let's take a peek inside this chest:



- **Calendula:** tea for relieving muscle spasms and as a compress for wounds and leg ulcers
- **English Ivy:** dried leaves were used to treat colds, diarrhea and gastritis
- **Thyme:** used to treat lung infections and stomach complaints
- **Garlic:** for treatment of intestinal parasites, snake and spider bites, earaches, sores, fatigue
- **Horseradish Root:** juice from the root used for scurvy and to ease pain of aching joints

Continued on next page



- **Lavender:** used for fainting and for overcoming grief, headaches, and other head pains
- **Mint:** aids digestion, and helps to treat cholera and colic
- **Nasturtium Leaves:** used to treat respiratory and urinary tract infections and applied as an antiseptic to wounds
- **Roses:** rose water was used to treat diarrhea and gonorrhea. A mixture of roses and wine to help relieve headaches, eye pain, and earaches
- **Rhubarb Root:** used as a remedy for intestinal worms

Hopefully the above information on medicinal plants has stimulated your interest and desire to plant some of them in a garden area. Here are some suggestions to incorporate them into a garden.

- If a garden club is planning a tour of gardens, include a vegetable garden with labelled medicinal plants, and call it a Colonial Kitchen Garden.
- As a garden club, work with a historical society or historical home to plant a garden with medicinal plants.
- Sometimes hospitals have areas where labelled medicinal plants can be planted among their shrubs or along a path.



Or plant your own Martha Washington's Kitchen Garden with [Burpee's Kitchen Garden Kit](#) containing eight different seed packets.



DEB DAVIS, GCFP SECRETARY, HONORED BY DAUGHTERS of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION



At a ceremony held in May in Washington, Pennsylvania, Deb Davis, GCFP's Secretary and member of the Martha Washington Garden Club, X, received the *DAR Women in American History Award* by the National Pike Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her ancestor, Elizabeth Gilmore Berry, who served as a frontline nurse at Valley Forge, married a Continental soldier, and enlisted as a "Lady Ranger," was also honored with this award. Deb is a charter member of the National Pike Chapter. You can read the full article published in the *Observer-Reporter* [HERE](#).



GCFP CONVENTION 2027!



Join District IV for what promises to be a fabulous convention! Enjoy fantastic workshops, inspiring speakers, and more, all highlighting President Pat's initiatives—Garden Party, Themed Gardens, and Healing Art.

We will also welcome and swear in our new Executive Board for the 2027–2029 term. As the host district, we will once again be offering a Flower Show, so be sure to join us!



HORTICULTURE HINTS

Grace Mitchell, Martha Washington GC, X

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.
- Houseplants that love coffee grounds: 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!



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS PATH OF SUCCESS

The Path of Success is a walking path located on the grounds of NGC's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, linking it to the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

See your personal, club's, district's, or GCFP's success brick [here](#).

Pavers can still be purchased. Find out more about how to purchase a one [here](#).

THE GARDEN CLUB OF YORK MAKES LOCAL NEWS



ABC News 27 in Harrisburg highlighted The Garden Club of York's (IV) long-standing contribution to downtown York's beautification through its seasonal planter program.

You can read the article and watch the video clip featuring the club's work [here](#).

Read all about their hanging basket and container project on their website [here](#).



GCFP SYMPOSIUM 2026



Lectures are open to all garden club members and the public for the fee stated on registration form. Only NGC Judges are eligible to take this course for credit to stay in good standing. Brochure [here](#).

When: August 24-25

Where: Gettysburg Fire Dept. Co. 1
35 N. Stratton Street, Gettysburg

Instructors: **Horticulture** - Pam Braun: Broadleaf Evergreens & Fruits, Nuts, and Vegetables
Design - Lynn Fronk: Low Profile and Abstract Designs

Hotel: Hampton Inn by Hilton
1280 York Road, Gettysburg
Room Rate \$134 plus tax per night, includes a complimentary breakfast buffet, Wi-Fi, and free parking. The hotel is a ten-minute drive to the Fire Dept.

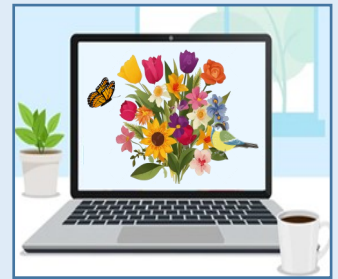
2026 NGC FLORAL DESIGN and HORTICULTURE PRESENTATIONS

Chris Leskosky, Hazleton Area Garden Club, II/III

Our previous webinar drew 222 views and was enthusiastically received by attendees. We hope you'll join us for the next one!

The next of our inspiring series of virtual presentations celebrating the art of floral design and horticulture will be held via Zoom from **7 - 8 p.m.** on the following dates:

August 5 and November 4



The upcoming session will highlight a diverse range of NGC floral design types, along with horticulture guidance on how to properly enter cacti and succulents in a flower show.

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!

Club News

EMMAUS GARDEN CLUB, II/III

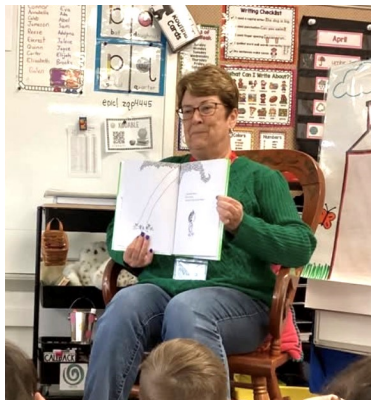
by Penny Pantano

In January 2026, I contacted Rebecca Champion, principal of Lincoln School, to discuss the possibility of leading an environmental activity for students. She suggested organizing an Earth Day/Arbor Day program on April 22, 2026, for the school's three kindergarten classes and three first-grade classes. Rebecca recommended reading a story about trees—specifically *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein—followed by a discussion about trees to fit within the 20–25 minute program.

To organize the event, member Chris Rader, Allison RaHS, Penn State Master Watershed Steward, and I coordinated through social media and developed a presentation focused on how seeds **GROW** and mature.

After reading the book to the students, we discussed the life cycle of seeds and demonstrated seed development using sprouting bean seeds and germinating maple tree seeds.

We also passed around log discs so the children could count the tree rings and



estimate the age of the tree. One child proudly observed that the tree was “older than his mom.” We pointed out that some rings were close together while others were farther apart and encouraged the students to think about why that might happen. Slides were also used in each classroom to help illustrate the different topics.

The classroom teachers remained present during the presentations and took photographs that were later shared on the school district's social media pages. Before entering the classrooms, Allison, Chris, and I completed the required volunteer procedures, including notarized identification and background clearances filed with the East Penn Administration Building.

The experience was enjoyable and rewarding for all three of us, and we agreed that we would gladly participate in a similar program again in the fall.



Club News

THE GARDEN CLUB OF JOHNSTOWN

Gold Star Memorial Byway Marker Dedication

On June 6, a beautiful, sunny day in Johnstown, a Gold Star Memorial Byway Dedication was held **AT** the Cambria County Veterans Museum, sponsored by the Garden Club of Johnstown, presided over by club Vice-President Bob Wilkey. GCFP President Pat Wolanski, 2nd Vice-President Mary Hetrick, and Blue and Gold Star Memorial Chair Karen Faust were in attendance. The ceremony served as a heartfelt tribute to Gold Star Families, honoring the sacrifice of their loved ones. The solemn program included a moving VFW gun salute and the playing of taps, creating a powerful and respectful atmosphere of remembrance and gratitude.



INSPIRE YOUNG MINDS — ENTER THE GCFP YOUTH CONTESTS!

Chris Hawthorne and Barb Oswald, Ingomar Garden Club, IX

Please consider participating in the GCFP Conservation and Youth Contests. Contests include: **Youth Sculpture, Poetry, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters, and High School Essay.** These contests provide excellent opportunities for students to express their creativity while learning about conservation and the environment.

Need help finding student participants? Consider offering these contests to your **Sprouts & Seedlings** groups, or contact:

- local schools or homeschool groups
- library youth coordinators
- scout troops
- youth organizations
- nature centers
- environmental clubs
- art and language arts teachers
- community recreation programs

We would love to see more garden clubs participate and enjoy some friendly competition beyond the four clubs that regularly submit entries.

All of the entry information and requirements are listed on Pages 16-18 in the GCFP Awards Manual on the GCFP website. Hard-copy entries for all contests must be **received** by the deadline of **December 1, 2026**. Holiday mail will be slower, so plan accordingly and mail entries in early.

If you would like to confirm that your entries have been received, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us. Chris - christhenurse@yahoo.com Barb - isshadowkittycat@gmail.com

THE GARDEN CLUB OF FOREST HILLS, VII

by Maria Lindsay

Our gardens are all popping with the perennials and annuals purchased at our successful May 2nd Plant Sale. Members are in full garden mode with their own gardens and continue to maintain and add new plants to the borough's public gardens with some help from Boy Scout Troop 90. The club continues to select a Garden of the Month in the borough. The focus in May was the spectacular garden of Linda and Ed Hyde at 603 Woodside Road. June's recipient is Cara Vampenhout at 309 Bevington Road, with lovely **FLOWER** beds mixing a variety of perennials with deer-resistant annuals.

On July 2, members will celebrate our nation's 250th birthday with a "Patriotic Garden Party" Special Event. We will be going back in time to learn about colonial days: the food, plants, shrubs, trees, and flowers. The renovated hillside and pollinator gardens are in full bloom for the Forest Hills 4th of July Community Day. New signage for both gardens will be installed beforehand. Members will provide tours of both gardens to residents throughout the day, as well as staff an information booth with several raffle baskets and a "Kids Korner," where children can "plant" their own flowers to take home.

Program focus continues this year with our "Talent Within" theme, with many club members as speakers. On August 6, member Maria Mackin will lead the workshop "In a Pickle," and will instruct on how to grow and can cornichons (a small French pickle). On September 3, we will have a Member Appreciation Day Potluck at the Forest Hills Main Park Pavilion, and on October 1, members Amy Shugerman Glasser and Shana Buccigrossi will lead a workshop on "Oh, My Gourd...Do We Have a Pumpkin Project for You."

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 Communication Chair Maria Lindsay lindsmr3@gmail.com (330) 606-7738.

Please check us out at:

www.Facebook.com/TheGardenClubOfForestHills
www.instagram.com/garden_club_of_forest_hills/
www.foresthillspa.gov/resident_resources/organizations/index.php



GCFP SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL WINNERS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Betty Grossheim, Pucketos Garden Club, VII

It is a pleasure to announce that two Pennsylvania posters won national recognition at the NGC Convention this year. Receiving Honorable Mention for their posters were:

Olivia Pawlowicz sponsored by the Ingomar Garden Club

Levi Yerger sponsored by the Parkland Garden Club

Winning posters from all grades are available to view on the [NGC website](#).

Beginning in August, look for updated information on the [NGC website](#). Here you will find needed forms and directions to sponsor this year's poster contest. Info is also listed in the [GCFP Manual](#) Page 17.

My hope is that all District Directors will appoint a Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Coordinator to encourage more of their clubs to participate in this engaging activity. Hints for winning posters include: proper spelling, appropriate colors for both Smokey and Woodsy, use of markers that provide brilliant colors, and properly sized paper. Please contact me at sophiesmom1991@yahoo.com for any additional information.

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE!

PITCAIRN WAR MEMORIAL AND PARK BUILDING, DISTRICT VII



GC Monroeville President Jan DeCecco, DD VII Marilyn Backus, and Treasurer Arlene Madray



District VII partnered with the Garden Club of Monroeville to enhance the border garden at Pitcairn's War Memorial and the planters at the park building. In exchange for free setup and use of the park building for our Spring Membership Lunch Buffet, District VII agreed to help fund the project.

Four Garden Club of Monroeville members—President Jan DeCecco, Treasurer Arlene Madray, Recording Secretary Nancy Dalverny, and District VII Director Marilyn Backus—installed perennial blue junipers, boxwoods, and Veronica, along with annual red coleus and red and white impatiens for the partially-shaded areas. The project created a patriotic red, white, and blue theme and was completed in **TIME** for Memorial Day services.

EAST NORRITON BOCCE COURTS, DISTRICT XI



THE COUNTRY GARDENERS, DISTRICT I

Blue Star Memorial landscaping update with an NGC Red, White, and Blue Grant, using native plants such as Itea, Echinacea, Ninebark, Monarda, and Amsonia.





All GCFP Members Invited:

Explore the Brandywine Valley Through September's Tri-Refresher

Sharon Richardson, Uwchlan GC, I

Sunday, September 13, and Monday, September 14, 2026

This September, GCFP members are invited to enjoy an inspiring and enriching weekend in the beautiful Brandywine Valley. Designed for far more than simply fulfilling Tri-Refresher requirements, this program offers exceptional opportunities for learning, garden inspiration, environmental study, and fellowship.

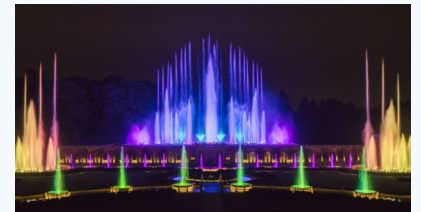
This year's [Tri-Refresher](#) features visits to three outstanding destinations:

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

Sunday: Sunday afternoon opens with a special **Landscape Design tour** at Longwood Gardens. Participants may also choose to stay for dinner and enjoy the illuminated fountain display that evening.

Experience Longwood Gardens' exciting "Longwood Reimagined" enhancements, including:

- The new West Conservatory
- Bonsai Pavilion
- Cascade Garden
- The elegant 1906 Restaurant overlooking the Main Fountain Garden



Monday: a.m. **environmental study** at the Stroud Water Research Center
p.m. **gardening-focused** program at Mt. Cuba 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](#).

Whether you attend for Tri-Refresher credit, garden inspiration, educational enrichment, or simply the pleasure of exploring with fellow GCFP members, this promises to be a memorable Brandywine Valley experience.

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](#).



AWARDS

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

Sheri and I very much enjoyed presenting awards at the convention in Erie. We hope that your recent wins and honors will inspire you—and perhaps other clubs—to submit applications again this year.

Upcoming Announcements

- All awards forwarded to CAR-SGC will be officially announced in the November issue of the KG Online, following the CAR-SGC fall conference.
 - ♦ Award of Honor and Perennial Bloom
 - ♦ Jean Ladson Outstanding Achievement Award
 - ♦ Outstanding Educational Exhibit
 - ♦ Yearbook
 - ♦ Publicity Press Book
 - ♦ Flower Show Schedule

- There will be some major formatting changes to the Awards Manual, but all of the information will remain the same. We hope that we streamlined the process for you and made it easier to apply.

Immediate Deadlines: August 1 Notable Individual Awards

- District Exceptional Horticulturists to [Joanne Celaschi](#)
- Forget-Me-Not and Laurels to your District Director

Full details and submission guidelines are available on the [GCFP website](#) — scroll down to District Awards.

We look forward to reviewing your 2026 applications to celebrate your club's achievements again.



NGC SCHOOLS INFO

Environmental



Gardening



Flower Show

Become a Flower Show Judge!



Landscape Design



For more detailed info and registration go to <https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>



Subscribe to *The National Gardener*

The official publication of National Garden Clubs published quarterly. Subscribe [HERE](#)

congratulations

NGC Blue Star Marker Grant Recipients receiving \$250 from NGC for sprucing up their Blue Star Markers for the USA 250th Anniversary

The Country Gardeners, District I

Uwchlan Garden Club, District I

Green Thumb Garden Club, District IV

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.



[Plant America Community Project Grant](#) - April 1 through October 15 for new or continuing projects for the following year.



[Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant](#) - Up to \$200 available for youth projects for planning and planting Pollinator Gardens.



2026 CAR-SGC CONFERENCE
Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs
 October 19-21, 2026
 Holiday Inn Cleveland, Independence, OH



TRADING WINTER FOR THE WONDERS OF COSTA RICA

COSTA RICA

January 30 - February 11, 2027

Last winter was brutal! When speaking with our president, we joked about finding a warm place to be in the winter. In looking for a winter getaway to scratch a gardener's itch, I was searching for a destination rich in warmth, sunshine, and natural beauty. I discovered Costa Rica — a small Central American country known for breathtaking biodiversity, welcoming people, and a deep commitment to conservation.

If you love nature and enjoy traveling with warm and friendly gardeners, come join me next February as we escape the short freezing days and long dark nights!

Did You Know . . .

FUN FACTS ABOUT COSTA RICA

- Costa Rica means "Pura Vida" ("Pure Life"). It is both a greeting and a way of life.
- Costa Rica is home to more than 500,000 species of plants and animals.
- The country has coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea.
- Over 100 volcanic formations exist in Costa Rica.
- Nearly all electricity comes from renewable energy.
- Costa Rica abolished its military in 1949 and redirected funds to education and healthcare.



Interested in Joining the Tour January 30 - February 11, 2027?

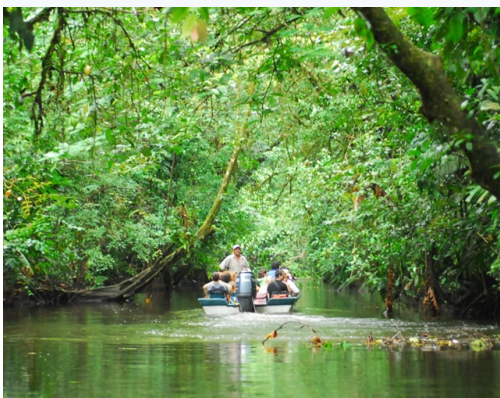
Registration ends in July, so sign up soon!

The trip brochure and itinerary are [available here](#):

An informational video about the tour company and itinerary can be [viewed here](#):

Passcode: ^An4uhx+ (**case sensitive)

To enroll or ask questions, contact Mark Rake at mrake@aca.aaa.com or 215 315-4065



AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, & WAFA: THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

MARCH 6 - 22, 2027

Have Australia and New Zealand been on your travel wish list? National Garden Clubs (NGC) has partnered with Princess Cruises to offer a 13-night cruise through these spectacular destinations, followed by a three-night stay in Sydney, Australia.

Known for breathtaking scenery, unique wildlife, vibrant cities, and friendly people, Australia and New Zealand are dream destinations for many travelers. This cruise provides a convenient and affordable way to experience both countries without the hassle of multiple hotel stays.



The package also includes a two-day pass to the World Association of Floral Art (WAFA) World Flower Show in Sydney. Floral design enthusiasts can enjoy internationally acclaimed exhibits and designers, while others may choose to explore Sydney's famous harbor, beaches, gardens, museums, and historic neighborhoods.

Although prices increased on June 1, a special rate freeze has been secured for GCFP and NGC members. Simply mention your NGC affiliation when booking to receive the discounted rate. An optional pre-cruise extension allows guests to arrive in Sydney two days early to attend additional WAFA programs and events.

Whether you want to experience New Zealand's stunning landscapes, discover Australia, explore Sydney, or attend a world-class floral art show, this trip offers something for everyone.

Additional information is available at <https://www.funseas.com/wafa>. For questions, contact Sharon Richardson at sharonrichardson22@gmail.com.

THE HOUDINI FLY: AN ENEMY OF THE MASON BEE



The Houdini Fly, native to Europe, was first detected in the United States around 2011 and reached Pennsylvania by approximately 2019.

This tiny insect, about the size of a fruit fly, is a kleptoparasite—it steals resources from its host rather than gathering its own food. While it does not attack Mason Bees directly, it poses a serious threat to their offspring.

The Houdini Fly emerges in spring before Mason Bees. To escape from its nesting cell, it pushes through the mud walls, earning its "Houdini" nickname. Adult flies live only 2–3 weeks, but a female can lay 300–500 eggs during her lifetime, compared to only about 15 eggs laid by a female Mason Bee.

You may notice Houdini Flies hovering around Mason Bee nesting sites, waiting for a female bee to leave. The fly then enters the nest and lays its eggs on the pollen provision that the bee has stored for her developing larva. When the Mason Bee returns, she seals the cell with mud, unknowingly trapping the fly eggs inside.

After hatching, the fly larvae consume the pollen intended for the bee larva. They then develop into pupae, overwinter in the nest, and emerge the following spring to repeat the cycle. Meanwhile, the Mason Bee larva starves because its food supply has been consumed. This is why harvesting Mason Bee cocoons in the fall is so important—it helps prevent the next generation of Houdini Flies.

Unfortunately, there is little that can be done for bees already infested this season; however, traps can help reduce future populations. Instructions for making a simple trap can be found at CrownBees.com.

Using a small jar with 1/8-inch holes drilled in the lid, fill it with red wine and attach it beneath the Mason Bee house using a spacer. The bees are not attracted to the wine, but the flies are. They enter through the small holes and become trapped inside.

One bit of good news: the Houdini Fly does not infest Leafcutter Bee nests. (CrownBees.com)





Norristown Garden Club
Presents

Happy Birthday USA

An NGC Standard Flower Show

Saturday, September 12, 2026
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Open and Free to the Public

St. Helena's School Gymnasium
Yost Rd., Blue Bell, PA 19422

Member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
District XI

*Reviewed by Philadelphia Area Judges Council
Schedule Advisor*

DISTRICT I FLOWER SHOW

**Celebrating a
Nation of
Artists**

A National
Garden Clubs, Inc.
Patriotic Flower Show



In celebration of America's 250th Birthday
PARKLAND GARDEN CLUB
proudly presents our



SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026

9:00 am to 4:00 pm - Rain or Shine

Visit a variety of unique gardens, meet author Eva Monheim, experience local history, silent auction, and more!

**Special guest appearances by
Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin and John Bartram**

Tickets are \$25 in advance,
\$30 day of tour, purchased at any garden

For more information contact Barbara 610-432-3313
or Judy (610-285-4112)

HIDDEN QUOTE CHALLENGE!

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

Your Mission:

Search for the **KEY WORDS** (Hint: they will be green and in all caps), piece together the garden quote, and send it to

GCFPKGOnline@gmail.com

Deadline:

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

May's KG Issue Winner: Congratulations to **Martha Alexander, Great Meadows Garden Club**, District X, who successfully found the quote, "Home is where my plants are." Martha won an Amazon Gift Card.



KEYSTONE EVENTS

JULY 11, 2026 - PARKLAND GARDEN CLUB, II/III

"STAR SPANGLED GARDEN TOUR" IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

Join us for Parkland's Garden Tour on Saturday, July 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine. Tour a variety of unique gardens, meet author Eva Monheim, experience local history, silent auction, and more! Special guest appearances by Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin and John Bartram. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 day of tour, purchased at any garden. For more information, contact Barbara 610-432-3313 or Judy 610-285-4112.

www.parklandgardenclub.com

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

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 1822 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.

AUGUST 21 - 22, 2026 - TREVOSE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, XI

NGC PATRIOTIC FLOWER SHOW - "RED, WHITE, AND BLOOM"

The Trevoise Horticultural Society celebrates our 103rd year with our annual NGC Standard Flower Show **"Red, White, and Bloom"** featuring over 130 classes of horticulture, including entries for cut specimens, vegetables, potted plants, horticulture collection, themed garden, and patio planters. Inspired by our country's 250th anniversary, our visitors will also enjoy creative staging and imaginative artistic designs, junior and senior sponsored group classes, educational exhibits, as well as market and bake sale tables, and unique baskets. Staged Friday, August 21, 4 - 8 p.m. and Saturday, August 22, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at St. Ephrem Catholic Church, 5400 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, PA. Admission is free. Contact Karen Wychock, kwychock@verizon.net or call 215-460-8853. For more information - TrevoiseGardeners.org and Facebook.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 - NORRISTOWN GARDEN CLUB, XI

NGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW - "HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA"

Show will be open on Saturday, September 12, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is free and open to the public. Held at St. Helena's School Gymnasium, Yost Road, Blue Bell, PA.

SEPTEMBER 18-20 - THE GARDEN CLUBS OF DISTRICT I

NGC PATRIOTIC FLOWER SHOW - "CELEBRATING A NATION OF ARTISTS"

District I will be presenting an NGC Patriotic Flower Show, based on well-known American artists such as Annie Leibovitz, Andy Warhol, Anne Geddes, Nat King Cole, John Denver, Georgia O'Keefe, and many more. It will be held at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. The show is open to the public with admission to Longwood Gardens on September 19, from 1 - 9 p.m. and September 20, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Questions may be directed to Flower Show Chair Maria Jacobs at mtjent57@icloud.com. [Here](#) is a link to the schedule.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Linda Southerling, Four Seasons Garden Club, I

For scholarships to students who plan to further their education in agriculture-related fields.

Donations: • The Garden Club of Johnstown, VI
• GCFP District IV





DONATIONS

NATURAL DISASTER, USA

Kathy Crossman, Garden Club of York, IV

October 2025 to June 2026

\$1,082

- District V and District X
- Shaler Garden Club
- Parkland Garden Club
- Biglerville Garden Club
- The Garden Club of Johnstown
- Bethlehem Garden Club
- Hazleton Area Garden Club
- Harrisburg Civic Garden Club



Natural disasters continue to affect all parts of our country, so there is an ongoing need for our assistance in restoring gardens and parks.

Contributions to this fund must be made payable to GCFP with the notation "Natural Disasters USA" on the lower left memo line. Please include your email address with the contribution so that an electronic receipt can be sent.

BOOK OF RECOGNITION

Joyce Hoek

Garden Club of Harrisburg, IV

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

In Memory of:

Dot Beatty

Rose Marie Burke

by Gospel Hill Garden Club

In Appreciation:

Bonita Herman

Joyce Milberg

by Mary Hetrick

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

PLANT-A-TREE

Nancy Lambert Fulk

Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, IV

Formerly Penny Pines

Donation Amount - Donors can now contribute any amount, starting from a minimum of \$50 to as large as \$10,000. This change provides flexibility for donors and enables a wider range of participation.

Mail-in donations can be made using the form [HERE](#).

Make check payable to **Plant-A-Tree** and send to:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110

Printed certificates are no longer provided. Donors who would like a digital certificate may request one when submitting their donation by check.

NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Jan Olsen, Garden Club of York, IV

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

Would you like to be a GCFP, CAR-SGC or National Garden Club, Inc. Life Member or give a membership as a gift? Just follow these steps.

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.

If you have a question, feel free to contact me – Jan Olsen, jebeau47@gmail.com.

SAGE AND ROSES

Vivian Abel, Town and Country Garden Club of Lancaster, IV

The GCFP Sage and Roses Fund, which stands for "Send a Greeting Electronically and Remember Our Servicemen's Every Sacrifice," supports our Blue Star Markers throughout Pennsylvania. We are appreciative of all donations. **2026 Donation:**

In Memory of Judy Vehse by the Garden Clubs of District VII

To make a donation, please make your check payable to **GCFP and write Sage and Roses Fund** on the memo line. Send your donation to: Vivian Abel

200 Marticville Road, Lancaster, PA 17603-9653



PRESIDENT PAT'S

travel schedule



- June 19 Award of Excellence presented to Mr. Ball,
Burpee Seed Co, Fordhook Farms
- 25 Luncheon, Butler, PA
- 19 NEAJC Meeting
- 20 Pennsylvania Garden Party
- 27 Pennsylvania Garden Party
- 30 Judge York Fair
- July 5 Uwchlan GC, Lionville, BSM Rededication
- 11 Parkland Garden Tour
- 13 Meet with Perkiomen Valley School Dist.
- 31 Flower Show Judge at Bethlehem GC
- Aug. 1 Biglerville Blue Star Memorial
- 21 Trevoise Horticultural Society Flower Show
- 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
- 17 Virtual NGC Fall Board Meeting
- 22 District IV Convention Meeting
- Oct. 5-6 Board Meeting, Boalsburg
- 18-20 CAR-SGC Conference, Cleveland, OH

Photo Contest

Would you like to see one of your fabulous photos showcased on the cover of the November 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 cover photo is by

Rose Romboski

So. Butler Co. Garden Club, District IX

2026 CALENDAR

August 5 GCFP Floral Design and Horticulture on Zoom
24-25 Gettysburg Symposium

ANNUAL MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

August 26 District VII	Sept. 2 District V
27 District IX	8 District IV
28 District X	9 District II/III
31 District VII	10 District I
Sept. 1 District VI	11 District XI
13-14 GCFP Tri-Refresher, Brandywine Valley	
Oct. 5-6 GCFP Board Meeting, Boalsburg, PA	
19-20 CAR-SGC Conference, Independence, OH	
26-28 Flower Show School, Course IV, Gettysburg	
Nov. 4 GCFP Floral Design and Horticulture on Zoom	

DEADLINES FOR THE KG ONLINE NEWSLETTER

May 1 Issue - April 15

July 1 Issue - June 15

Nov. 1 issue - October 15

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 Dorthy Yard

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