

THE TENdriL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GARDEN
CLUB FEDERATION OF
PENNSYLVANIA, DISTRICT X

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March, 2019
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THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Submitted by Kay Bair, Director, District X

Membership. Seems like most of us are facing declining membership these days. Gone are the days when our clubs had so many members we had to screen them. Women did not work and had the time to focus on gardening and garden clubs. Many of us are retired and at that point in life we looked to do the things we never had time for while working full time. Additionally many of our club meetings take place during the day, so that cuts out the working person from joining those groups.



So what can we do to increase our membership? First I would suggest that you consider focusing your recruitment by asking each of your members to recruit at least one member each year. That can be achieved by inviting a friend, neighbor, or relative to each of our meetings. Along the way, if treated warmly, the opportunity for at least one of them joining increases. Additionally, for those clubs which meet in the daytime, consider focusing your outside recruitment by targeting senior centers, or people who are recently retired.

I have included, at the end of this newsletter, some good information, gathered from the Internet, on membership recruitment. Please take the time to look over the suggestions, and discuss them at your next club meeting. Remember, the more members we have in our club, the more the work is spread out, and the less we have to do ourselves.

It is everyone's job to recruit, not just the Membership Committee, and nothing will happen if we do not put some energy into it.

FORGET-ME-NOT AWARD

Janice Yeaton, of Valley first ever District X Forget-selection is to be a member active participation in club activities, regular attendance promotes GCFP, CAR-SGC, garden, big or small.



Garden Club, is the winner of the Me-Not Award. Criteria for in good standing for 10 plus years, activities, and community at meetings and functions, and NGC values, and loves her Congratulations Janice!

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When you fill out the "Officer Change Form" to notify GCFP when your Club President changes, please also send copies, with the updated contact info, to the District Director and TENDril Editor.



2019 IMPORTANT DATES

- March 2-10** Philadelphia Flower Show
- March 20** Members Spring Tea, Mon Valley YMCA
- April 7- 9** GCFP Convention at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA.
- April 29 - May 3** NGC Convention, Biloxi, MS
- June 3, 4** State Board Meeting, **Wyndham (CHANGE) Hotel, Boalsburg, PA**
- June 4-6** GCFP Symposium, **Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA. CHANGES**
- June 20** Fundraiser Luncheon, South Hills Country Club, 4305 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236
- September 10** Annual Meeting, South Hills Country Club, 4305 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236

- October 2** Judges Council Flower Show,
Greensburg Garden Center,
Greensburg, PA
- Oct. 14** Leadership Workshop, 10am-4pm
Wyndham Hotel, Boalsburg, PA
(CHANGES)
- Oct. 14, 15** State Board Meeting, Wyndham
Hotel, Boalsburg, PA (CHANGES)
- October 24-25** CAR Conference, Washington, D.C.



2020 IMPORTANT DATES

- April 17 – 19** GCFP Convention, Doubletree
Hotel, Cranberry PA
- May 11-14** NGC Convention, Milwaukee WI



2019 DISTRICT X BOARD MEETINGS

All Board meetings begin at 10:30 a.m.

- May 16** Mon Valley YMCA
- August 26** Angie Raitano's home
- October 21** Mon Valley YMCA



SPRING TEA

GCFP District X Annual Spring Tea
Wednesday, March 20, 2019

***Mon Valley YMCA,**
101 Taylor Run Road, Monongahela, PA 15063

Coffee and Rolls upon arrival.
Business Meeting – 10:00 A.M.

TEA – NOON
District X Board Members
provide lunch, free of charge.

Hostess – Garden Club of Munhall
Table Centerpieces – Garden Club of Munhall

PROGRAM 1:00 PM
How Not to Mess Up Your Landscape

Speaker: George Weigle, Pennsylvania Garden
Writer, Horticulturist and Certified Gardening Nut.

Also, do not forget to bring your "Trash to Treasure"
entry as the contest winner's entry will be chosen to
go to the 2019 GCFP Convention
Mark your calendars and plan to be there to
celebrate the first day of SPRING.

Name _____
Phone # _____
Garden Club _____
Attending _____

SEND FORM TO: Haddie Weber, 1009 Broughton
Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, or by e-mail to
haddieweber@mac.com
412-655-3469, or 412-897-8002

Directions to the Mon Valley YMCA

Take INTERSTATE 70 EAST/WEST TO ROUTE 43
NORTH (toward Pittsburgh). Take the first Exit #39
Donora/Charleroi (There is a toll) at the end of the exit
ramp. TURN RIGHT and follow ROUTE 481 NORTH to
the traffic light at the top of the hill. TURN LEFT onto
ROUTE 88 NORTH and TURN LEFT again (first
possible left), immediately onto the YMCA entrance
road.

From Pittsburgh

Take ROUTE 51 SOUTH to ROUTE 43 SOUTH. (There
is a toll) Follow ROUTE 43 SOUTH to Exit #39
DONORA / CHARLEROI. At the end of the exit ramp,
TURN LEFT AND FOLLOW ROUTE 481 NORTH to the
traffic light at the top of the hill. TURN LEFT onto
ROUTE 88 NORTH, then immediately TURN LEFT
again (first possible turn), onto the YMCA entrance road.

Non toll route

Take route 51 SOUTH/NORTH to interstate 70 WEST.
Follow INTERSTATE 70 WEST. Follow INTERSTATE
70 WEST TO EXIT 43B. At the end of the exit ramp,
TURN RIGHT. Follow the DONORA signs. Continue for
about 2 miles and cross over a BRIDGE. At the end of
the BRIDGE, stay left and follow the CHARLEROI signs.
Continue for about ¾ mile, to a T (and STOP sign). Turn
LEFT following ROUTE 837 SOUTH, still following the
Charleroi sign. Go about 2 miles, to a TRAFFIC LIGHT
(facing a Giant Eagle store). TURN LEFT onto ROUTE
88 SOUTH. Go about ¼ mile (2nd possible right turn).
TURN RIGHT in front of the YMCA sign onto the YMCA
entrance road



DISTRICT X CLUB NEWS

GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL
Submitted by Haddie Weber

The Garden Club of Munhall will hold their Annual Luncheon Benefit, "Celebrate Spring", on Saturday April 6, 2019. There will be a Fashion Show from the Trunk Show Boutique, located in Upper Saint Clair. There will be Raffle Baskets, 50/50, Ten for One, and Vendors. Donation is \$ 30.

Menu Choices:

- Tuscan Pork Tenderloin
- Chicken Asiago
- Grilled Salmon

To make reservations contact Haddie Weber at 412- 897-8002, or haddieweber@mac.com.

Also submitted by Michael Sarraino:



The Garden Club of Munhall sponsored an award for Veterans Day at Steel Valley High School. Presenting the award to Niko Haughey, was Club President Michael J. Sarraino.

Photo below of members enjoying their garden party. Fifty people attended.



Member Robert Falce manning the Garden Club of Munhall booth for Community Days.

GIANT OAKS

Submitted by Judie Ball

Giant Oaks meets the first Thursday of every month, except in January. At our January Board Meeting we will create our budget. Our programs and committees are all in place so we are excited to begin a new year. Our theme is "When it Rains Look for Rainbows, When it's Dark, Look for Stars".

We currently have 65 members, and a few others plan to join in March and April. We continue to

invite the public to our meetings. We create 200 plus Meals on Wheels Favors, bake cupcakes once a month for them, and visit McMurray Hills Manor for garden therapy. Many of our members have been ill, so our Caring & Sharing Committee has been quite busy. February is our business meeting so we do not have a program, but in March our own member, Gannon Boone of Bartlett Tree Service will teach us "Ten Ways to Avoid Killing Your Trees." In April, Elise Keeley will present "Assessing Your Landscape Needs."

Our Appropriations Committee will present their budget in April and we will vote to accept the appropriations. May is our Plant Sale/Exchange and Flea Market. We will take a group to the Phipps for the Plant Sale there. Our speaker for May is Claire Schuchman and her topic is "What to Do When You Don't Know What to do" All the time we are working on our Tinsel Luncheon which is held in November.

Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings so if something catches your eye, call one of us and join us for the day.

Also submitted by: Barbara Jo Nerone, Co-Chair, Plant Sale:

The Giant Oaks Garden Club will sponsor its 19TH annual Plant Sale and Flea Market on Saturday, May 18 at the Peters Township Public Library, Peters Township. The plant sale will feature a large variety of quality potted perennial plants selected from members' gardens. The sale runs from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., rain or shine.



Also featured are herbs, annuals, hanging baskets and raffle baskets of gardening items. GOGC members, many of whom are Master Gardeners, also provide assistance and answer individual gardening questions from the public. The Flea Market runs concurrently and features a wide variety of household and other items.

Various local community agencies, including the Peters Township Library, Canonsburg Lake Restoration and Improvement Committee, Phipps Conservatory, Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens, and the Washington County Children's Garden, among many others, are the beneficiaries of the fundraiser. In 2018, more than \$2500 in net proceeds was

raised from the Plant Sale and the Flea Market. Questions? Call 724-809-3397, or E-Mail bjnerone@hky.com.

PLEASANT HILLS

Submitted by Marie Mueller



In December we held our Club's Holiday Party where members each brought a "pitch in" dish. The highlight of the event was when longtime member Marilyn Walk was surprised, and honored, for her 50 years of service to the Club. An

engraved brick will be installed in her honor at the Pleasant Hills *Let Freedom Ring Garden*, located at the Bill Green Shopping Center.

Our January meeting was focused on the installation of our new officers for 2019. The hostesses held a Southern Tea and served finger sandwiches, salads and sweets. Members enjoyed their food at tables covered by beautiful antique tablecloths and arrangements of delicate flowers, setting a mood for something special.



Sadly, in early January we lost longtime member, Ginger Paulsen. Ginger was in our Club for 29 years. She will be missed.

TOWN & COUNTRY

Submitted by Kay Bair

Norma Kline recently presented the program "The Anthology of Flowers" at a recent garden club meeting at Hewitt Presbyterian Church. Kline hand painted 30 different flowers, then explained which of the seven categories each flower belonged: folkloric, medicinal, emotional, edible, wild, exotic, and toxic. Kline is a longtime member of Town and Country Garden Club.



Also, in February Linda Shefcheck presented a program titled "Making Maple Syrup." She talked about the different types of maple trees, and how

to mark the trees in summer or fall to remember which trees to tap in the winter.

Each tap on a maple tree puts out 20 gal of sap per season. It takes 40 gal of sap---to make 1 gallon of syrup. This can only be done from January to March depending on the weather temperatures.

Shefcheck's great-grandfather had a farm in Newbury, Ohio. He started making syrup in the 1890's. The family farm produced maple syrup until a few years back.

Linda not only gave the program, but as hostess for the meeting, served the Club Members pancakes and sausage, with Ohio Maple Syrup.

UNIONTOWN

Submitted by Sharlene Lehman

The Uniontown Flower Club said farewell to 2018 with a wonderful Christmas Party at Marilyn's on Main, in Uniontown. Members exchanged winter tips about poinsettias, shrubs and winter landscape woes. A Christmas gift exchange completed a delightful afternoon.

On a sad note, we lost one of our members, Lois Hulton, on December the 6th. Lois was a grand lady who had been our Uniontown Flower Club president and very active member. She participated in many Pennsylvania State Flower Shows and rarely missed a meeting. Last year, she shared her antique Victorian Christmas ornaments with us. The week before she passed, she sent one of our members her famous Italian Cake recipe. We will miss this wonderful woman – our friend and Flower Club member.

January's meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather, but February promises to be another fun afternoon with a Valentine Party. In February and March, members can look forward to programs on getting ready for spring, flowering plants and shrubbery, and winter clean-up tips.

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." Mark Twain

Getting restless waiting for Spring? In late March, you can sow wildflower, sweet peas, and cornflowers outside. Inside, save some money for summer flowers and start asters, coreopsis, dahlias, geraniums, salvia, and begonia that require

a longer growing time. I have several containers started with coneflowers, daises, sunflowers, and some of the above.

VALLEY

Submitted by Roxanne Huss, President

The Valley Garden Club is happy to report it has sponsored three students for the GCFP Scholarships. Two students are high school seniors and one is a freshman at Penn State, Fayette Campus. We wish them luck! The Scholarship Chairman, Dodie Beerbower, is currently notifying the area's schools about our Club's 2019 Scholarship application process.



A few of the Club members are taking the Greensburg Garden Center's bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, on March 6. It is our first time attending the famous show. Cameras and phones are ready to capture the creations.

On a sad note, our long term member Eileen Willey unexpectedly passed away in January. She contributed to the Club's success in many ways, as an officer, creative designer, and gracious friend. Our February program is a Flower Design demonstration, by Angie Raitano. Some members plan to meet quarterly to practice making the many types of flower designs.



2019 CONVENTION ROOM RESERVATION ALTERNATE LODGING:

Submitted by Kay Bair, District X Director

The 2019 GCFP Convention will be held April 7-9, 2019, at the Convention Center, in Altoona.

The Courtyard Marriott Hotel, which is attached to the Convention Center, is now full. However there is alternate lodging at the Holiday Inn Express, located across the street from the Convention Center, at 115 Convention Center Drive, **Duncansville, PA 16635**. (Yes, it is across the street from the Marriott which has an Altoona address, as the street between is the dividing line between Altoona and Duncansville).

For reservations at the Holiday Inn Express call 814-693-1004, and ask for the Garden Club Block. **Deadline for reservation is March 5, 2019**



PENNSYLVANIA TO HOLD SYMPOSIUM

The GCFP will hold a Symposium **June 4-6, 2019** at the **Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA**. (Note changes from last TENDril issue.)

Dorothy Yard will be the horticulture instructor. Her topic will be "Exploring forms, colors and sizes in Spring Perennials." Her allied topic will be "Adding Botanical Arts in Horticulture to Flower Shows." The Design instructor will be Jackie Davies. Her topic will be Tables with "Techniques". Her allied topic will be Botanical Arts – "Defining the Designs."

The Symposium registration form will be on the GCFP website www.pagardenclubs.org under Education/Awards.

GCFP Symposium Chair is Tonya Young.



WILDFLOWER QUIZ

Submitted by Diane Hughes, Wildflower Chair

What flower has a name which is the same, or sounds the same, as the following descriptions?



1. A blond sea lion
2. What young men sow
3. What a defective faucet does
4. What bees drop on their enemy
5. What Satan paints with
(See next page for answers.)



POLLINATORS PREFER MESSY WINTER GARDENS

Submitted by Iris Cisarik,
GCFP State Bee Gap Chairman

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures soar downward, the first instinct of the



conscientious gardener is to clear their flower beds by cutting away every herbaceous plant. Three quarters of the world's flowering plants and one-third of our food supplies depend on pollination. These herbaceous

plants provide protection and a safe place for pollinators to overwinter, or a piece of bark or dry leaf may be their only protection until spring. Vegetation, seed pods, or nests, may be their only refuge during the winter months.

There are over 3,000 species of native bees that hide in hollow stems or ornamental grasses. Some varieties of solitary bees are red mason bees, which inhabit nests in dry hollow stems, walls, or holes in wood. Leaf cutter bees and wool carder bees are also cavity dwellers. So you impeccable gardeners, who take great pride in your perfectly coiffured gardens year after year, it may come as a mild shock to find out the messy winter gardens provide critical protection from the winter elements for the native bees, and other pollinators who are a backyard garden solution to the declining honey bee. Keep this in mind next fall when 'preparing' your garden for winter.



STILL LEARNING AND LOVING IT!

Submitted by Angie Raitano

I have spent many years and some amount of energy trying to convince friends and garden club members that "*Floral Design is FUN*". Who wouldn't like to spend time *playing* with flowers and *creating* an "**art form**" that expresses a mood or theme that is entirely your own?

I was very pleased that DESIGNERS GUILD (Design Study Group/Diane Hughes, Director) initiated design workshops in 2018, and that the workshops will continue in 2019. It's hard to resist flowers! Every flower is beautiful in some unique way. My conclusion: "*I have never met a flower that I didn't like!*" Of course, I like some better than others.

So...back to my effort to convince you that "*Floral Design is FUN*". I think that, in many cases, *self-doubt* causes many people to be hesitant about Floral Design: "*I don't know how to do this! Will I like the final design? Will the Judges like it?*"...and many more questions! I say, "*Put those questions aside! Have confidence in yourself! Everyone has some creative ability.*" Hopefully, I have at least got you interested in waiting for my next article in the TENDril. Tendril Editor, Marie Mueller, has "twisted

my arm"....but only a little! I love talking about Design!



HORT IN TEN

Submitted by Grace Mitchell

Counting the days until spring? You bet! Looking over seed catalogs? Yep! Finding new things to plant? Of course!

Some of our members may be planting a vegetable garden for the first time. Here are some tips for you from The Old Farmer's Almanac:



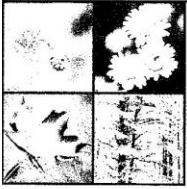
Make 11 rows, 10 feet long, with 18 inches between them. Rows should run north and south to take advantage of the sun. The following plants can feed a family of four for a summer, with extra to share.

Zucchini (4 plants); Tomatoes (5 plants, staked); Peppers (6 plants); Cabbage (6 plants, red and green); Bush beans; Lettuce; Beets; Carrots; Kale; Radishes; Marigolds (to discourage rabbits.).

I would plant a border of marigolds all around. If you don't have this much space, do a half or quarter of plantings. At least plant a tomato and a zucchini in pots! A garden doesn't have to be big to bring you pleasure. Happy horting!



TRASH TO TREASURE COMPETITION



SEASONS IN BLOOM

**GCFP Chair Pat Drennen announces the
Trash to Treasure Theme for the
2019 GCFP Annual Convention.**

Create flowers or foliage to be used in an arrangement or presented in your own original way using repurposed, recycled materials or materials such as dried flower stems and seed heads to represent the *Seasons in Bloom*.

This composite design must meet the following criteria:

Cannot weigh more than 15 lbs.

No more than 18" wide by 18" deep by 18" tall
(from the bottom of the base).

Must use recycled, reused or repurposed materials.

Each can be the work of more than one (1) person and each District
submits only one (1) entry.

Each entry must include a 3 x 5 card with the title and a list of the materials used on
the front. District, Garden Club, designer(s) name and mailing address on the back.

**NO FRESH PLANT MATERIAL, BUT CAN USE DRIED
SEEDHEADS, PODS AND CONES.**

Entries must be delivered on Sunday, April 7, from 12-5:00 p.m.

Judging at 5:15 p.m.

Pick-up on Tuesday, April 9th

Questions? Contact Pat Drennen, Chair
carrie@parenfaire.com 717-422-8913



ORCHID SHOW LOCATION CHANGE

Submitted by Marie Mueller



Due to the Phipps Garden Center construction, this year's Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania 2019 Orchid Show will be held at Artsmiths, a local South Hills Gallery in Mt. Lebanon, located at 1635 McFarland

Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15216.

The show will be held on March 16 and 17. Hours are Saturday, 10AM – 5PM, and Sunday, 10AM – 4PM. For more information visit the OSWP web site at <http://www.oswp.org/>.



WILDFLOWER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Golden Seal'
2. Wild Oats
3. Leeks
4. Bee Balm
5. Devil's paintbrush



30 Ideas to Increase Membership

1. Promote your club with a booth at a local event such as a fair, festival and home show.
2. Host a "Paint Party" with local artists; invite the public, judge the art and serve refreshments. Artists supply their materials. Members welcome guests with garden club handouts and invitations to next regular meeting.
3. Co-host a "Plant Party" with your local nursery at a public location and invite the public. Distribute invitations to your next meeting.
4. Offer a Gardening program at the Library. Members present information on several topics such as perennials, garden pests, favorite plants, etc.
5. Select a "Yard of the Month." Present a certificate to the winner and invite them to a meeting.
6. Send welcome letters to new residents in each club member's neighborhood and invite them to a meeting.
7. Develop a beautification program in your town.
8. Include an invitation to a club meeting with time, date and location and place in your church bulletin.
9. Sponsor a yearly club competition and challenge members to bring in new members. The winner receives a traveling trophy recognizing their success in recruiting the most new members.
10. Plan a garden tour of members' gardens and invite the public.
11. Distribute garden club informational flyers to realtors to give to new residents.
12. Distribute posters to local businesses, garden centers and libraries inviting the public to a special garden club program.
13. Invite non-members to assist with club community activities.
14. Create a garden club float if there is a parade in your town.
15. Host a "Mad Hatter Tea Party." Members and guests wear hats with garden-theme decorations.
16. Host a potluck supper for prospective members with current members supplying the food.
17. Organize a "Spring Fling" garden luncheon and include a floral design demonstration.
18. Plant and maintain flower beds at community locations and include signage to let the public know about your community spirit.
19. Order brightly colored t-shirts for your members with club name on front. Members wear the shirts when working on community projects to give additional visibility to the public.
20. Hold at least one meeting each year in a public building to attract local attention.
21. Provide flowers or a plant each month at public building such as City Hall, Library, and local Bank; and include a small sign identifying your club as the donor. Members can volunteer for each month.
22. Work with Boy/Girl Scout troops, 4-H groups and other youth organizations to form a Youth Garden Club.
23. Create an eye-catching display at the area recreational center with club activity information giving date, time, location and phone number and an invitation to attend.
24. Make personal phone calls to invite people to a club meeting. One club more than doubled their membership using this approach.
25. Organize a neighborhood "front door" decoration contest with prizes and invitations to join your club.
26. Organize an open workshop at a garden center with a flower show judge demonstrating basic designs for the home. Charge a small fee (\$5.) and serve simple refreshments furnished by club members.
27. Prepare a one-page flyer with a brief history of your club and list past accomplishments, on-going projects and community involvement and end with an invitation to join the club. Include meeting time, location and contact person with phone number. Members could give these to prospective members as they invite them to a meeting. See sample below.
28. Hold an OPEN meeting for the public at least once each year and offer an interesting Horticulture program. Create display boards that describe special Garden Club of Georgia projects such as Blue Star Markers, Scholarship program, Collect a Tab for Ronald McDonald House, educational opportunities such as flower show schools and landscape courses for members, etc. to demonstrate the value of GCG membership.
29. Offer to give programs for other organizations in your community spotlighting your clubs community endeavors.
30. Create computer generated "business cards" and distribute several to each member to hand out to potential members. The "Club" card could be printed on pre-perforated stock business cards from an office supply store, or you can print several on card stock and cut with a paper cutter. You could also print post card-sized cards to use as invitations to potential members. Consider leaving the WHERE and CONTACT

line blank so that the member presenting the invitation may insert her name and meeting location. See example below.

Oleander Garden Club
Please Join Us ...
What: Garden Club Meeting
When: 2nd Thursday of Month – 10:00
Where: Civic Center Meeting Room
Contact: Jane Gardener – 912-555-5555
Please plan to attend our next meeting for fun,
fellowship and educational activities.

There is no substitute for a personal invitation to attend a meeting. Present the Club “business card” to your invited guest as a reminder of the meeting and chances are they will join you.

Make Prospective Members Feel Welcome and a Part of the Club. A prospective member attending a garden club meeting should walk away feeling as though they are already a part of the club.

Introduce the prospective member to others during the club’s hospitality time. Then, after the meeting, encourage them to ask questions about the club.



Also download the following for more membership information, and also how to **retain** your members too.



How to Attract New Members pg 1.pdf



How to Attract New Members pg 2.pdf



How to Keep Our Members pg 1.pdf



How to keep members pg 2 and How to Help Members Flourish.pdf



How to Help Members Flourish pg 2.pdf



10 tips for member recruitment pg1.pdf



10 tips for member recruitment pg2.pdf

