

# THE TENdriL

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

Volume 125, Issue 2

JUNE, 2019

Editor, Marie Mueller  
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## DISTRICT X BOARD Officers

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## THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Submitted by Kay Bair, Director, District X

District VI Hosted the 89<sup>th</sup> GCFP Annual Convention, "Seasons in Bloom", held in Altoona, in April. I was privileged to accompany members of the Landscape Design group on their Tri-Refresher Bus Tour to Penn State Sunday morning. On the trip to and from Penn State we listened to a lecture by Thomas Ford, a Commercial Horticulture Educator with Penn State Extension, on "Becoming a Gardening Guru". A Penn State, Professor gave us a tour of a roof top garden, many greenhouses, and then the Arboretum. If you are ever in the area, you must try to visit the Arboretum.



Our new GCFP officers were installed Monday evening. They are Joyce Milberg, President; Sheila Croushore, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Leeanna Ryba, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

The Tuesday Judges Council Event/Program, "Whole Lotta Designing Going On!" was MC'd by Betsy Smith, GCFP President 2013-2015, and Jackie Davies, GCFP Flower Show Judges Council Chair, and none other than Elvis. The featured designs each were an interpretation of an Elvis song, and each designer explained what inspired her design to Elvis. As you know Martha Washington GC has a member who is a great Elvis fan, I guess that is why there were more District X members attending from their club.



These Elvis inspired designs are L – R: Blue Suede Shoes by Barbara White, and Pocket Full of Rainbows by Angie Raitano.

Next year's convention will be held in our part of the state, please try to fit it into your calendar. It will be the first GCFP Convention held on a weekend, Friday thru Sunday, April 17-18-

19, 2020, at the Double Tree by Hilton Pittsburgh, Cranberry in Mars, PA.

## DISTRICT X GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENTS

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### **VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

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[crhuss@gmail.com](mailto:crhuss@gmail.com)

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.



## **DISTRICT X COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

<b>Awards</b>	Roxanne Huss
<b>Blue Star Memorial Markers</b>	Diane Hughes
<b>Birds &amp; Butterflies</b>	Wanda Sherry
<b>Environment</b>	Charlene Bowyer
<b>Historian</b>	Janice Yeaton
<b>Horticulture</b>	Grace Mitchell
<b>Membership</b>	Haddie Weber
<b>Natural Disasters USA</b>	Linda Shefcheck
<b>Programs</b>	Haddie Weber
<b>Publicity/Photographer</b>	Jan Nevling
<b>Scholarship</b>	Vina McLeod Rudolph
<b>TENDril Editor</b>	Marie Mueller
<b>Ways &amp; Means:</b>	
50/50	Grace Mitchell
Baskets	Mardell Page and Michael Sarraino
White Elephant Table	Great Meadows GC
<b>Wildflowers</b>	Diane Hughes



## **2019 IMPORTANT DATES**

- June 3, 4** State Board Meeting, Wyndham Hotel, Boalsburg, PA
- June 4-6** GCFP Symposium, Nittany Lion Inn, State College, PA.

**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

**Oct. 14, 15** State Board Meeting, Wyndham Hotel, Boalsburg, PA

**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.*

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



### DISTRICT X FUNDRAISER

District X Fundraising Event

South Hills Country Club.  
Thursday, June 20, 2019

Program: "Wedding Fashions Through the Years".

This popular and entertaining event will be a wonderful way to introduce your friends to Garden Club

Vendors, Raffle Baskets, 50/50,  
and a White Elephant.

Shopping at 11 a.m. and Lunch at Noon.

### **Menu choices are:**

- a. Eggplant Parmesan
- b. Grilled Salmon
- c. Tri Salad Plate-Chicken Salad, Tuna Salad, and Fresh Fruit

Donation is \$ 29.

### **ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE JUNE 5, 2019**

Please make your checks payable to:  
"G.C.F.P. District X"  
and write your menu choice on your check.

Mail your reservation to:  
Haddie Weber  
1009 Broughton Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Any question please call Haddie at  
412-655- 3469 home, 412 897 8002 cell,  
or e -mail [haddie.weber@verizon.net](mailto:haddie.weber@verizon.net)



### DISTRICT X CLUB NEWS

#### **GIANT OAKS**

Submitted by Judie Ball

Several Giant Oaks Garden Club members visited Joe Hamm's Daffodil Farm in Washington, PA and were treated to quite an array of daffodils. We recently had our Plant Sale and Flea Market. It was a wonderful way to reach out to the community with perennials, annuals and information about our club and gardening. It was also a great way to sell some of our treasures! Habitat for Humanity and Washington City Missions received our "leftovers." Many members were able to enjoy the beauty of the Phipps and see all of the vendors at May Mart.

June will take the entire club on a bus trip to Beechwood Farms where we will have a bagged



lunch, our meeting and a speaker from the Audubon Society teaching us about Native Plants. Recently

we ordered Giant Oaks T Shirts and Aprons and will wear them proudly on our field trip. Our July speaker is Carol Chernega. She will give us an overview of an English Garden and teach us how to create and maintain one at our home. In August Susan Parker will present "Growing Perennials and Shrubs in different types of Shade Gardens."

We continue to create favors for Meals on Wheels and bake cupcakes for the clients each month. The patients at McMurray Hills Manor enjoy the group who brings them cookies and some gardening craft or actual planting, weather permitting. Our gardens at the historic Wright House, the Giant Oaks sign, the library and township building in Peters Township, as well as the SHIM garden at St. David's Church are beginning to take shape.

Sadly, two of our past members died recently and will be greatly missed by all who knew them. Pat Pohlman and Karen Thompson were vital members in their community and in our club. I'm sure they are gardening up there and telling us to keep up the good work.

We just welcomed a new member and have two potential members for June. Giant Oaks is growing again, and we need that as many of our members are not able to do everything they have done in the past. Our Tinsel luncheon "Jingle, Mingle and Shop" is November 1 and we are working hard to ensure a great time for all who attend. There will be a minimal amount of tickets available so if you are interested, ask Carolyn Svitek, or Judie Ball, for a ticket at the June luncheon, or call one of us.



Looking forward to a great gardening summer and remember, "When it rains, look for rainbows and when it's dark, look for stars."

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### UNIONTOWN

Submitted by Sharlene Lehman

The Uniontown Flower Club welcomed spring with a program in April, by member Dorothy Gruskowski, on planting a "Rainbow Garden." Members were given great ideas of what flowers to plant to best create this lovely, colorful rainbow of flower colors. The Club will be hitting the road, in May, with a trip to Amish greenhouses. The trip was such a success last year that members decided to once again explore the many greenhouses located in our beautiful mountain area.



This spring we will be inducting our new officers, and will enjoy a program based on a recent garden program attended by several of our Club's members. Learning to plant "intensely" to avoid the use of mulch, weed killers, etc., and still have a beautiful landscape, will be the feature of the program. Also, planting to attract bees and butterflies will be another aspect of the program.



"If dandelions were hard to grow, they would be most welcomed on any lawn." Andrew Mason. Let those dandelions color your yard. **Bumblebees, solitary bees and honeybees** visit dandelions for

food, along with hoverflies, beetles, and butterflies such as the peacock and holly blue. Goldfinches and house sparrows eat the seed. Remember, weed killers also kill beneficial insects and pollute our water table.

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### VALLEY

Submitted by Roxanne Huss, President

Some Valley Garden Club members welcomed spring by taking a tour of the Braddock Trail Park, in North Huntingdon, to see the beautiful assortment of wild flowers. A knowledgeable volunteer guide showed us where to find some of the more rare specimens. Cedar Creek Park also has many types of wildflowers.

At the GCFP State Convention, the Club was thrilled to take second places for our Flower Show schedule, and our Book of Evidence in the medium club size category. VGC Past President, Janice Yeaton, also received the first Forget-Me-Not award for District X.

We awarded this year's scholarship to winner Noah Quattro, a senior from Monessen High School. He will be attending Gannon University to study Environmental Studies.

A few events are planned for the next two months: A floral design workshop, a tour of Robison Acres in Scenery Hill, and a hypertufa workshop to make troughs.

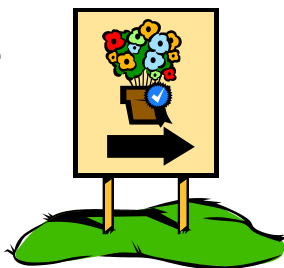
The club meets the second Thursday of every month, except July and August.

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## 2019 NGC FLOWER SHOWS

**Murrysville G. C.**, "*Born in the USA*", at Redstone Highlands, 4951 Cline Hollow Road, Murrysville PA 15668. Open to the public Saturday July 13, 2019 from 1:00- 5:00 PM.



**Martha Washington G.C.**, "*Staying Alive at 85*" at Washington Crowne Center Mall, Washington, PA 15301, Friday - Saturday, July 26-27, 2019. Open Friday 2 - 9 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM, and free to the Public.

**Mon Valley G.C.**, "Living Flower Show", September, 2019.

**Great Meadows G.C.**, "*Midsummer Night's Dream*", at the Mt. Summit Inn, Route 40, East of Uniontown. Wednesday, July 31. Open 2 p.m. – 7 p.m., and free to the Public.

**Forest Hills G.C.**, "*Floral Centennial*", Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 1840 Ardmore Blvd., Forest Hills, PA 15221. Friday, August 23. Open 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. and free to the Public.

**Pleasant Hills G.C.**, "*County Fair*", at the Pleasant Hills Borough Building, 410 East Bruceton Road, Pleasant Hills, PA 15236. Saturday, September 7. Open 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. and free to the Public.

**Pittsburgh Area Judges Council / Laurel Highlands Judges Council**, "*Autumn Creations*", at the Greensburg Garden Center, 951 Old Salem Road, Greensburg, PA 15601, Wednesday, October 2. Open from Noon to 1PM, and free to the Public.



### CONSIDER ATTENDING A NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS CONVENTION!

Submitted by Angie Raitano

Diane Hughes and I travelled recently to Biloxi, Mississippi for the NGC Convention, "*Gathering on the Gulf*". We had a very enjoyable few days.

Several other GCFP members attended, too: Gail Corle, Jackie Davies, Chris Leskosky, Joyce Milberg, Grace Mitchell (in person!), Flossie Narducci, Lois Shuster, Judy Vehse, Pat Wolanski, and Dorthy Yard. Of course, we attended business meetings, enjoyed many good meals, shopped

interesting vendors (some of which we don't see anywhere else but at NGC convention), met many G. C. friends from all parts of the country and made some new friends.

A highlight of our seven-day stay was meeting a group of ladies, who came from Peru to present the National Flower Arrangers program, "*The Splendor of Nature; A Floral Journey*", designs depicting natural wonders from around the world. The designs by Renata Canepa Carozzi were spectacular! She and her helpers dressed in Peruvian costume on the final night of convention. Another highlight was the presentation of (incoming and outgoing) state presidents, including our own GCFP Chris Leskosky and Joyce Milberg, and the installation of Regional Directors, including Gail Corle, CARSGC Director, and the new NGC President, GAY AUSTIN, from MS.

We toured the Crosby Arboretum, a native plant preserve. I took "*The Grand Old Mississippi Coast*" tour and saw the area that had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina, 14 years ago. Big difference, since the NGC convention there in 2003! Many of the mansions were destroyed and new construction post-Katrina requires that the first floor of buildings be one floor above ground. But we had the privilege of visiting a real mansion, part of which had miraculously survived and was restored, with additions. It was a spectacular estate, beautiful in every detail.

Next year's NGC Convention will be held at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, in Milwaukee, WI. Milwaukee isn't that far away! Start planning, now. National Flower Arrangers is engaging a floral designer from South Africa. When will you ever have an opportunity to see a floral designer from South Africa?



### GCFP AWARDS RECEIVED

Submitted by Kay Bair, District X Director

Congratulations to all the GCFP Award winners in our District X:

**2018 Forget Me Not Award for District X** - Janice Yeaton.

**Special Recognition State Award G Fundraiser** - Great Meadows GC --First Place.

**Club Yearbook Awards** Clubs 45-69 - Martha Washington GC-Third Place.



**Flower Show Schedule -Standard Flower Show** 21-49 - Valley Garden Club - "There's No Business like Flower SB - Second Place.

**Flower Show Schedule -Standard Flower Show** 50-99 - Martha Washington GC - "Rhythm & Blues" - First Place.

**Flower Show Book of Evidence – Standard Flower Show** 21-49 -Valley Garden Club -"There's No Business like Flower SB - Second Place.



**DISTRICT X AWARDS 2019**  
**Roxanne Huss, Awards Chair**

For those new members who are not familiar with the District X Awards, here is an explanation below. These awards are presented to each club President, who in turn will hand them out at one of their monthly meetings.

**Daffodils** are awarded for a special project, or for recognition of a special member. Each club can award 1-3 members of their club a Daffodil Award.

**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 Membership.

**Laurels** are non-competitive awards. They encourage and recognize OUTSTANDING accomplishments that are "above and beyond" the regular duties of office, or committee. There are specific categories for these awards which can be found in your Blue District X Award Manual, or on the GCFP website. There are no limits per club for this award.

**Butterfly Award** recognizes ONE member of each club for outstanding works and efforts for their club. Then one of the ten possible entrants is chosen to be District X Butterfly Awardee.

**Blue Rosette Award** - Given for the Outstanding Garden Club of District X during the time period of August 1, 2018 – July 30, 2019.

**C.A.R. Perennial Bloom Award** - Honoring long time Garden Club members – Send application to District Director by July 31, 2019.

**Exceptional Horticulturist Award** – For a club member almost a professional in the areas of Horticultural experience, education and sharing

with others. Send application to Horticulture coordinator for GCFP, by July 31, 2019.

The appropriate applications for Daffodil, Laurel and Butterfly and Blue Rosette Awards are due July 31, 2019 to: Roxanne Huss, 309 Crest Ave, Rostraver, PA 15012, [crhuss@gmail.com](mailto:crhuss@gmail.com), 724-929-3391.



**KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBER**  
**Featuring Wanda Sherry,**  
**Birds and Butterflies Chair**

I am the middle child of a family of 18 (9 boys and 9 girls). I got married in 1972, have two daughters, their husbands and five grandchildren and am now retired from Pennsylvania Department of Welfare. We have two large draft mules, two quarter horses, 16 chickens and three cats.



My husband, the wagon master, and I have been involved with the National Pike Wagon Train Association for over 30 years. It's a reenactment of the National Road Heritage organization. Sometimes we use our draft mules and ride in the processions.

I like to play bridge, 500 bid and poker, and also enjoy yoga, exercising and playing pickle ball.



I'm president of Great Meadows Garden Club, and a Master Gardener, through Penn State. I'm a 4-H leader and committee member of our Great Meadows Jr. Gardeners.



**HOW TO APPLY FOR A DISTRICT X SCHOLARSHIP**

District X Scholarships are available to members for the following NGC Accredited Schools:

- Flower Show School (4 courses plus reading exam)
- Landscape Design School (4 courses)
- Gardening School (4 Courses)
- Environmental School (4 Courses)
- Symposium or Refresher

### To apply:

1. Request a District X Scholarship Application from Chairman, Vina McLeod-Rudolph
  2. Fill out and sign all required information, including your Club President's signature.
  3. Send it to the Scholarship Chairman with a completed copy of the GCFP Symposium or School Registration Form of the course that you are interested in attending.
  4. Do not send the form to the Class Registrar on your own. It has to be approved by the Scholarship Chairman.
  5. You will be notified if it is approved.
  6. A check for payment will be sent directly to the Registrar if you qualify, by the District Treasurer.
  7. ONE Scholarship per applicant per year.
- There are many interesting Symposiums and Schools to attend, so apply!

District X, Scholarship Chairman,  
Vina McLeod-Rudolph  
348 Elm St  
Indiana, PA 15701-3122  
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724-840-7715



### STILL PLAYING WITH FLOWERS!

Submitted by Angie Raitano

Spring 2019 has given us some great changes in the weather. But it has been one of the most beautiful seasons for the flowers and flowering trees. A lilac bush that I've had for very many years flowered for the first time. I was thrilled. And the dogwood trees were beautiful. The hellebores have been in bloom for months. I could go on and on.

But, to get to a point...why not pick some of the pretty flowers, or branches, and do a floral design for no reason at all other than for the sheer pleasure. Recently, the Designers Guild members practiced the ILLUMINARY DESIGN. This is a Creative design type that incorporates light/s for special effect. The lights must be an integral part of the design. It was fun to see the many variations of lighting effects used and how interesting it made the designs. Try it sometime!

Designers Guild will meet again on June 11 to study the TRANSPARENCY DESIGN. (Call me for more information...724-483-6724).

By the way...remember to condition your plant material!

### "THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN OFTEN GO AWRY!"

Submitted by Kay Bair, and taken from Wikipedia

You know the phrase, "Best laid plans..."? It basically means no matter how well you plan something, always expect the unexpected, in other words, just because you think you've done all you can for something to go right....something can still get messed up.

The actual phrase is, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley." from Scottish poet Robert Burns' "To a Mouse." The modern translation goes, "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry." ~ The phrase from which John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" was coined.

Wikipedia has a decent account: "The poem denotes the narrator of the poem is plowing his field when he cuts through a mouse nest. The poet shows regret and apologizes to the mouse before he goes on a tangent which reveals the deeper meaning of the poem. The connotation is that even when you mean no harm and have pure intentions, you can destroy somebody else's well laid plans."

Today, we often use the phrase interchangeably with "Murphy's Law," that, regardless of how well you are organized and how well you pay attention to detail, sometimes obstacles get in the way from those plans from being properly executed.

I'm not saying that I have succumbed to failure; rather, I have been involved in several events lately that have not concluded entirely as designed.

### 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. Used in making solar bread.
2. A transparent plant.
3. The result of insect damage.
4. The American flag at dawn.
5. What Batman tells the Boy Wonder first thing in the morning.  
(See last page for answers.)



## DISTRICT X GARDEN CLUBS HOLD SPRING TEA

Submitted by Jan Nevling



Hosts, Munhall Garden Club (L-R), Michael Sarraino of Garden Club of Munhall, Terri Laird of Town & Country GC, Joyce McCune of Uniontown Flower Club, Wanda Sherry of Great Meadows GC, Judy Quashnock and Elaine Farney of Giant Oaks GC, Linda Coleman of Martha Washington GC, Roxanne Huss of Valley GC and Alice Harris of Mon Valley Garden Club

The garden clubs of District X held their annual Spring Tea on Wednesday, March 20 at the Mon-Valley YMCA. National and state board members, District X board members and the presidents of the 10 clubs that compose District X were recognized. There were 67 members in attendance. District Director Kay Bair conducted a short business meeting followed by the tea and luncheon. After the luncheon, George Weigle, Pennsylvania Garden Writer presented "How Not to Mess up Your Landscape."

The District X June 20 fundraiser will be held at the South Hills Country Club. The program will be "Wedding Fashions through the Years." The program for the annual meeting on Sept. 10 at South Hills Country Club will be given by Steve Neubauer, a floral designer from Uniontown.



## HORT IN TEN

Submitted by Grace Mitchell

I am always trying to bring you the latest in new cultivars, I found one that comes under the category of "What will they think of next?" It's a kalette! It is what you get when you cross Brussel sprouts and kale. It grows like Brussel sprouts, only the florets develop and are ready to pick when they are two inches in diameter. They look like little heads of kale instead of cabbage. And they can be yours for \$3.95 for 15 seeds, from Jung Seeds and Plants. Maybe next year.

Just a brief hort story from NGC Convention in Biloxi. The Beau Rivage Hotel is gigantic, and the lobby looks like Phipps! Trees and flowers

everywhere are most impressive. When I checked in, the whole place was filled with gorgeous blue hydrangeas. The next morning, they had all turned pink! I never grew hydrangeas, but I didn't think they changed color overnight. Then I heard that a night crew changed them all. Had me going for a while.

This is not hort, but I believe it's worth mentioning. When I returned home from Biloxi, I discovered someone had broken into my home and stolen several items. So, heads up. I never dreamed it could happen to me, in my safe little neighborhood. It could happen to you too. I'm getting a security service.

Happy horting and lock your doors!



## EASTERN BLUEBIRDS

Submitted by Wanda Sherry,  
Chair, Birds and Butterflies



Bluebirds are one of Pennsylvania's most beloved songbirds. Preferring open country, bluebirds were rare in Pennsylvania before the 1900s, when forest covered most of the state. Bluebirds increased in number as forests were cut in the early 1900s but declined sharply in the mid-1900s because of the widespread use of pesticides and competition for nest sites from house sparrows and starlings. Today bluebirds have made a significant come back primarily because of the management activities of landowners across the state.

Some eastern bluebirds are year-round residents in Pennsylvania but the majority migrate south in the winter, returning to Pennsylvania in early March. The first bluebirds to arrive are males, with females arriving a short time later. Adults often return to the same territories where they previously bred, and young from the previous year return to breed near the areas where they were hatched.

Soon after arriving, bluebirds begin to look for suitable nesting sites. Pairs begin breeding in early April. The female lays 3 to 6 pale blue eggs which she incubates. The eggs hatch within 12 to 14 days, and the young are fed in the nest by both the male and female for 15 to 20 days. The adults feed the young out of the nest for another 10 days before the young are on their own. Most adults will raise two broods in a season. During the breeding season



bluebirds use a variety of habitats, including open fields with scattered trees, farmlands, forest edges, swamps, sparsely inhabited residential areas, fence lines and clearings created by logging. In the winter they use grasslands, and forest edges.

Bluebirds defend nesting territories from 2 1/2 to 7 acres in size. They require cavities for nesting and abundant perches for feeding and resting. Bluebirds nest in natural cavities and nest boxes. Nests are usually 5 to 12 feet above the ground but, have been found as high as 20 feet because people have removed cavity trees from many habitats, suitable nest sites often limit the number of bluebirds in an area. In addition, many other cavity nesting species, including the European starling, house sparrow, tree swallow, and house wren, compete with bluebirds for the limited number of natural nesting cavities available. Bluebirds that over-winter in the region, rather than migrate, require weather-tight roosting sites and use both natural cavities and nest boxes.

Insects including grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, and caterpillars, make up 68% of the bluebird's diet, while the remaining 32% is fruit. Bluebirds gather insects from leaves, branches, and the ground. They also catch insects in the air by hunting from perches, a technique known as hawking. The lack of perches in the interiors of open habitats may restrict bluebirds use to the edges, where perches are more abundant. Bluebirds prefer open habitats and rarely are found in forested or dense brushy areas. Open habitats that are left unmanaged for several years will become unsuitable for bluebirds as woody vegetation invades the sites. Because bluebirds often hunt from perches, having perch sites to open habitats with few existing perches can improve habitat quality. Natural perches are abundant along the edges of large open areas, such as clear-cuts, pastures, and open fields. Artificial perches can be provided by using garden stakes, fence post, or tree limbs stuck into the ground.

Bluebirds often use clear-cuts as nesting and feeding sites and may nest in cavities in snags or in trees left standing on a clear-cut. Because bluebirds are territorial and will not allow other bluebirds to nest close to them locate their nest boxes at least 100 yards apart.

To attract migrating bluebirds prepare the boxes for use by February. Leave the boxes up year-round, since overwintering bluebirds can use them for roosting. Bluebirds are very susceptible to pesticides which are thought to be one of the main causes of their historic population

declines. Insecticides reduce the amount of food (insects) available to bluebirds. In addition, many insecticides and herbicides are toxic to bluebirds, especially young nestlings. Therefore, minimize the amount of pesticides used in bluebird habitats.



### YOUR PHOTO PUBLISHED

Photographs will be taken at GCFP events and activities and may be used on our website or in publications, or written material. If you do not want your photo included, you need to inform the local garden club when you see a photographer at one of these activities, please notify the photographer that you do not want to be included in the shot, and step away from the photographer.



### UNDERSTANDING OUR 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

A **501(c)(3) organization** is a corporation, trust, unincorporated association, or other type of organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code. It is one of the 29 types of 501(c) nonprofit organizations in the US.

501(c)(3) tax-exemptions apply to entities that are organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, for testing for public safety, to foster national or international amateur sports competition, for the prevention of cruelty to children, women, or animals. 501(c)(3) exemption applies also for any non-incorporated community chest, fund, cooperating association or foundation organized and operated exclusively for those purposes. There are also supporting organizations—often referred to in shorthand form as "Friends of" organizations.

26 U.S.C. § 170 provides a deduction for federal income tax purposes, for some donors who make charitable contributions to most types of 501(c)(3) organizations, among others. Regulations specify which such deductions must be verifiable to be allowed (e.g., receipts for donations of \$250 or more).

**Due to the tax deductions associated with donations, loss of 501(c)(3) status can be highly challenging if not fatal to a charity's continued**

operation, as many foundations and corporate matching funds do not grant funds to a charity without such status, and individual donors often do not donate to such a charity due to the unavailability of the deduction.

GCFP's largest impact revolves around the **education of our members, the public, and future generations.**

GCFP Clubs provide **opportunities for education** in the following ways:

- Club programs for members & guests
- Club sponsored scholarships for related activities. i.e. college, trade school education.
- District meetings that have programs given by subject matter experts
- District scholarships to attend NGC Accredited Schools & GCFP Leadership Workshops
- GCFP sponsored schools, symposiums & refreshers
- GCFP sponsored scholarships
- CARSGC sponsored scholarship
- NGC Accredited Schools & Refreshers
- NGC sponsored scholarships

**So by using the money in our clubs' bank accounts in the ways just mentioned insures that we are complying with the guidelines of a 501-3c organization.**

The Requirements for 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status.  
To receive the benefits of tax-exemption, a 501(c)(3) organization must meet several requirements beyond serving the charitable purposes listed above. **These requirements are:**

- It must be organized and operated **only** for exempt purposes.
- It must not be organized or operated for the benefit of any private interest. Its net earnings may not benefit any private shareholder or individual. Nonprofits can make a profit, but that profit must support charitable purposes only. This may be the defining difference between nonprofit and for-profit businesses.
- It is restricted in its political and lobbying activities.

What Benefits Do 501(c)(3) Nonprofits Enjoy? It is helpful for a nonprofit organization to seek tax exemption. The benefits include:

- It can receive grants from private foundations and the government.
- It is exempt from many federal, state, and local taxes.
- It can provide a tax deduction to individual donors.
- It may receive special postage rates, nonprofit advertising rates, and other discounts.
- It receives limited protection from lawsuits. Since a charitable organization usually incorporates before seeking tax exemption, lawsuits only apply to its corporate assets. Thus, staff and board members enjoy legal protection. But, that protection may not cover all situations. Nonprofits should also buy certain types of insurance as well.

Are There Drawbacks to Becoming a Tax-Exempt Nonprofit?

Yes, nonprofit status is not for everyone. Disadvantages are usually the flip side of the advantages. For instance, some groups may think that not sharing profits with directors, officers, members or staff is unfair.

Also, income producing activities not related to the group's nonprofit purpose are limited. The IRS examines unrelated income and, if it is large, the nonprofit may have to pay taxes and penalties. If the nonprofit closes, it must give its remaining assets to another charity.

### WILDFLOWER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Sun flower
2. Ghost plant
3. Bugbane
4. Morning Glory
5. Wake-Robin



**The deadline for submissions for the September 1 issue of the TENdril is **August 15.** Please e-mail your submission to mmueller150@aol.com. We welcome submissions from any District X garden club member.**

**The TENdril is published four times a year on the GCFP website, on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Mark your calendar to access it then, by going to "Districts", and choose "District X".**

