

THE TENdriL

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

Volume 124, Issue 4
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Editor, Marie Mueller
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THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Submitted by Kay Bair, Director, District X

As your new District Director, I welcome the opportunity to help our garden clubs grow, and to assist our Presidents with their responsibilities. We all need to work together to grow stronger.

In an effort to boost our level of communication to keep everyone in the loop, I distributed binders at our last Board meeting to hold various information discussed and passed out at the District Board meetings. I hope this will help our Board members and Presidents to pass along information to their Club members at their monthly meetings. **Club Presidents**, please print out the "Club President's Information Index" found on our GCFP website, at <http://www.pagardenclubs.org/president-s-packet--forms.html>, and add this information to your binder.



I hope you will consider using the resources available on the GCFP website, and consider some of the education opportunities available there. In addition, for new club officers, or anyone thinking about becoming an officer, there is a one day leadership training conference available on October 14, 2019, in State College (See article below). This is an opportunity to learn about the different responsibilities of each office and other pertinent information

Now that our gardens are put to bed, it is time to begin planning for Flower Shows in 2019. Set your date for your show and then contact Angie Raitano, Pittsburgh Area Judges Council Flower Show Schedule Reviewer, to determine if that date is available.

It is a pleasure to be your District Director. Please let me know when I can attend your garden club function, or meeting. I would love to come to visit with you.

Happy Holidays!



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District X Club Presidents--left-right --Judi Ball-Giant Oaks Garden Club, Toni Lozar-Green Gardeners, Linda Coleman-Martha Washington GC, Terri Laird-Town & Country GC, Wanda Sherry-Great Meadows GC, Roxanne Huss-Valley GC, Jan Nevling-Pleasant Hills GC, Nancy Peton (standing in for Joyce McCune)-Uniontown Flower Club, Michael Sarraino-Garden Club of Munhall. Missing from photo is Alice Harris-Mon Valley GC.

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 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
- May 21, 22** Flower Show Symposium, York PA

- June 3, 4** State Board Meeting, Atherton Hotel, 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 Seminar, 10am-4pm Atherton Hotel, State College, PA
- Oct. 14, 15** State Board Meeting, Atherton Hotel, State College, PA
- October 24-25** CAR Conference, Washington, D.C.

Hopwood Garden Club. There were 104 members in attendance.

District X awards were presented by Awards Chairman Michael Sarraino, President of The Garden Club of Munhall. Mary Jane Martucci of Valley Garden Club gave red tulip bulbs to new members and their sponsors.

The Butterfly Award was given to Cecilia Satler of Giant Oaks Garden Club. Director, Vina McLeod Rudolph, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Alice Harris, Autumn Harris, Sandra Grilli, Norman Miller and Michael Sarraino. Town & Country Garden Club was congratulated for receiving the Governor's Trophy at the 2018 GCFP Convention in Washington, PA.

New district officers for 2018-2020 were installed by GCFP President, Chris Leskosky: Kay Bair, District Director; Mary Jane Martucci, Assistant Director, Linda Coleman, Secretary; and Sandra Grilli, Treasurer.

A program was presented by Jan Patsch, Floral Designer, and owner of Malone Flower Shop in Canonsburg, PA.



2019 DISTRICT X BOARD MEETINGS

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

- February 28** Mon Valley YMCA
- May 16** Mon Valley YMCA
- August 26** Angie Raitano's home
- October 21** Mon Valley YMCA



ANNUAL MEETING

The Historic Summit Inn in Farmington was the setting for the 18th annual meeting for District X of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. District Director Vina McLeod Rudolph introduced the officers of GCFP: Chris Leskosky, President; Joyce Milberg, First Vice President; and Sheila Croushore, Second Vice President.

State board members, District X board members and the presidents of the 10 clubs that compose District X were recognized. Visiting Non-Federated Clubs attending were Connellsville Garden Club and



New officers 2018-2020: Kay Bair – District Director, Sandra Grilli – Treasurer, Christine Leskosky-GCFP President, Linda Coleman – Secretary, Mary Jane Martucci – Assistant District Director



L to R - Vina McLeod Rudolph – Retiring District Director, Christine Leskosky- GCFP President, and Kay Bair – newly installed District Director



DISTRICT X CLUB NEWS

GIANT OAKS

Submitted by Judie Ball

Giant Oaks is winding up its year. On November 2 we had our Tinsel Time Luncheon, with 370 guests, which was wonderful. Our floral designer was Jan Patsch of Malone Flower Shop in Canonsburg.

On the 9th we traveled to Cranberry to the Johnston Tea House to enjoy their fabulous Christmas decorations and luncheon tea. We will have the installation of our 2019 officers at the December Christmas Luncheon, held at Valley Brook Country Club. Mrs. Claus will entertain us and pass out candy to our guests.

Our community outreach includes making lap blankets for the patients at McMurray Hills Manor, and baking cupcakes for over 200 clients at Meals on Wheels. We also made them globe snowmen for Christmas.

We have had quite a bit of interest from the community at large and are looking forward to gaining several new members. We do not have a General meeting in January, but will have our business/budget meeting in February. In March our speaker is Gannon Boone of Bartlett Tree Service. Gannon recently joined our club.

We are looking forward to another great year with our new officers and exciting programs.



GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB

Wanda Sherry

The Great Meadows Junior Garden Club made plush pillow cases to deliver to the Ronald MacDonald House, in Morgantown West Virginia, as a community project for Christmas.

The Junior Club has 13 members. Our club leaders are Wanda Sherry, Martha Alexander and Charlene Friend. As a Christmas present for our Junior Club we are introducing them to a pottery class.

UNIONTOWN

Submitted by Sharlene Lehman

Our September meeting was held at the Century Inn in Scenery Hill, Pa. Before and after lunch,

members explored the various gardens surrounded by scenic walkways. In October, we were back at our Mount Saint Macrina location where member Lourie Stewart gave an interesting demonstration on using plants and flowers as dyes. In November, members created holiday centerpieces using natural and artificial materials.

The Uniontown Flower Club has volunteered to help Uniontown's "Home for the Holidays" celebration, by decorating plants and planters at City Hall in November. We'll close out the year with a Christmas party at Marilyn's on Main restaurant in Uniontown.

"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens; the garden outdoors; the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye." --Katherine S. White.

Want to keep some color in your flower garden in winter? Try planting hellebores, snowdrops, violas and winter jasmine. The firethorn bush can provide berries for birds in the winter and flowers for bees in the summer.



VALLEY

Submitted by Roxanne Huss

The Valley Garden Club's annual fundraiser was held November 1, at the Mon Valley YMCA. Pretty Petals owners Doug and Ernie demonstrated how to create modern interpretations of traditional Christmas designs. The constant humorous commentary was informative and entertaining for the sold-out crowd. The club members created the table centerpieces of adorable Snowmen families from white socks. Members made a wide assortment of delicious salads.

A few members traveled to Phipps Conservatory, in Pittsburgh, to see the fall flower show. The Back Porch will be the venue for our Christmas Meeting on the second Thursday of December.

Lastly, the scholarship chairman submitted the announcement of GCFP scholarship opportunities to the local newspaper and area high schools.



2019 CONVENTION ROOM RESERVATIONS

Submitted by Kay Bair, District X Director

To reserve a room for the 2019 GCFP Convention, to be held April 7-9, 2019, in Altoona at the Courtyard by Marriott, call 814-312-1800. The deadline for reservations is March 5, 2019.



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE CHANGES

The Leadership Conference will undergo a change in 2019. There will be ONE meeting for the state of Pennsylvania --sort of a mini state convention. It is scheduled for October 14, 2019, at the Atherton Hotel, in State College from 10 am to 4 pm. Lunch will be provided at a small cost, the cost of the conference is to be determined but will be in line with prior year's Leadership Conference costs.

Robin Pokorski is the current NGC corresponding secretary, and will be Pacific Region Director. She is well known as an inspirational speaker and has been doing Leadership workshops all over the U.S. for NGC with high marks from all attendees. All garden club officers and anyone thinking about becoming an officer/leader is invited (and encouraged to attend). You will learn a lot and meet lots of GCFP members.

Note to State Board Members: At 4:30 p.m., after the program, the State Board Members will begin their meetings and will continue the next day as usual.



START THINKING....FLOWER SHOWS in 2019!

Submitted by Angie Raitano,
PAJC FS Schedule Reviewer

The Flower Shows of 2018 are just good memories, now. Hopefully, there are many good photos and applications for Awards have been prepared and are ready to be sent.

As I look over my Pittsburgh Area Judges Council Schedule Review records, I find that I reviewed **six** Flower Show Schedules in 2018. **Only two were from D. X member clubs!** That's down from **three** D. X Club Flower Shows in 2017!

I think we all agree that "Flower Shows are a lot of work!" When it's over, we agree that "It was a

learning experience!" Some of us "crazies!" think "It was fun!"

I believe the Garden Club benefits from having a Flower Show. It strengthens the bonds within the Membership. The individual creative expression, member cooperation, showcasing the Beauty of Nature make a Flower Show an inspiring and memorable experience. At very least, the attention and praise from the visiting viewers serve to feed an ego! Whatever the motivation, "*Keep creating Beauty!*"

No more flower shows are scheduled this year. Start thinking of staging a Show in 2019! Also, give some consideration to attending Flower Show School, or offering a club Scholarship to one, or more, member/s to attend a School. It can be very beneficial to your club.



THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY.

Submitted by Kay Bair, District X Director

They say the Spotted Lanternfly could do billions of dollars' worth of damage in Pennsylvania to orchard trees, grapes, hops, ornamental and other trees. It weakens plants by feeding on them and by producing a sticky sweet substance.



Here is what you can do to help stop the spread of spotted lanternflies:

- Scan your property for the eggs, the eggs are a drab brown-gray with no color at all. Color may appear after dipping in alcohol.



- Scrape them off with a credit card or butter knife and place them in a plastic bag, or container, that contains rubbing alcohol, or hand sanitizer, to kill them.
- DO NOT put them in the GARBAGE CAN before killing them, which can spread spotted lanternflies to new locations.
- Don't indiscriminately poison your home, or yard, by using toxic home remedies. A simple solution of 1/4 cup of liquid dish detergent and one gallon of water, sprayed on heavy enough to coat them, is very

effective at killing the lanternflies that you can safely reach.

For more information go to:

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-nws-spotted-lanternfly-egg-mass-20180925-story.html>



HUMMINGBIRDS

Wanda Sherry, Chair Birds and Butterflies

Hummingbirds are small colorful birds with iridescent feathers. Their name comes from the fact that they flap their wings so fast (about 80 times per second) making a humming noise. Hummingbirds can fly right, left, up, down, backwards and even upside down. They are also able to hover by flapping their wings in a figure 8 pattern.

They have a special long and tapered bill that is used to obtain nectar from the center of long tubular flowers. Their feet are not used for hopping or walking, but are used for perching only.

Their fast breathing rate, fast heartbeat and high body temperature required them to eat often. Hummingbirds require an enormous amount of food each day. Their long tongue is used to lick their food at a rate of up to 13 licks per second.

Hummingbirds are only found in the western hemisphere from south eastern Alaska to southern Chile, although most live in the tropics. There are more than 300 species of hummingbirds, 12 of which summer in North America and winter in the tropical areas. Like other birds, hummingbirds communicate via visual displays. Hummingbirds are very territorial and have been observed chasing each other and even larger birds, such as hawks, away from their territories.



The gestation of hummingbirds is 13 to 22 days, they lay between one and three eggs and the young start to fly in 18 to 30 days. Historically, hummingbirds are killed for their feathers; today they face different but equally devastating threats.

As hummingbirds are often specially adapted to each unique habitat, each species of hummingbird, currently listed as vulnerable or endangered on the IUCN red list, are all threatened due to habitat destruction and loss. The earth's changing

temperatures due to climate change are affecting hummingbirds' migratory patterns, causing different species to be spotted in locations well outside their normal range, where it might be harder for them to find food.

Hummingbirds in the US and around the world have the benefit of being garden and backyard favorites. Many people put out hummingbird feeders or grow flowers that attract hummingbirds in the warmer months that allow these birds to refuel during their long migratory journeys. What's in site is often in mind, and many fans of hummingbirds are doing what they can to keep every backyard park and garden a friendly place for these beautiful birds.



DISTRICT X BOARD MEMBERS **and COMMITTEE CHAIRS** **2018 - 2020**

DIRECTOR – Kay Bair, Town & Country GC,
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CHAPLAIN - Mardell Page, Valley GC,
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BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER - Diane
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BIRDS/BUTTERFLIES - Wanda Sherry, Great
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BUDGET COMMITTEE – Janice Yeaton,
Angie Raitano, Mardell Page

ENVIRONMENT - Charlene Bowyer, Pleasant Hills
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FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE – Sandy Grilli,
Janice Yeaton, Kay Bair

HISTORIAN - Janice Yeaton, Valley GC,
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HORTICULTURE - Grace Mitchell, Martha Washington GC, mngmgardens@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP - Haddie Weber, Munhall GC haddie.weber@verizon.net

NATURAL DISASTERS – Linda Shefcheck, Town & Country GC, jjshfcheck@hotmail.com

PROGRAMS - - Haddie Weber, Munhall GC, haddie.weber@verizon.net

PUBLICITY/PHOTOGRAPHER - Jan Nevling, Peasant Hills GC, jnevling@comcast.net

SCHOLARSHIP- - Vina McLeod Rudolph, Martha Washington GC, gardenfairie@mac.com

TENDRIL - Marie Mueller, Pleasant Hills GC, mmueller150@aol.com

WAYS & MEANS –

Baskets - Michael Sarraino, Munhall GC, prince122@verizon.net and Mardell Page, Valley GC, mardellpage624@gmail.com
White Elephant Table - Great Meadows Garden Club

WILDFLOWER - Diane Hughes, Great Meadows GC, hughesdj@verizon.net



HORT IN TEN

Submitted by Grace Mitchell

I've just received my Old Farmer's Almanac for 2019. Now, hot off the press, is the weather forecast you've all been wondering about. As gardeners, weather is one of the most important factors in our success (or not.)

Winter: Temperatures will be above-normal in the northeastern part of the country, and snowfall will be below normal in most areas. Good news!

Spring: It will be cooler than normal in the Northeast, and precipitation will be below normal. We'll see.

As a bonus with my almanac, I received copies of the 1819 and 1919 editions. The first publication of the Old Farmer's was in 1792, and still going!

Here's some info from 1819:

Lay up winter apples -heap up manure -gather garden roots, such as beets, carrots and parsnips,

for, I say, and insist upon it, that parsnips are best dug in autumn.

Think not that because it is winter a farmer may be idle. Busy is the word for farmers at all times and seasons.

And from 1919:

The small farm tractor that does the work of draft animals is coming into use rapidly. It supplies a mobile power plant for plowing, harrowing, wood sawing, silo filling, grinding and pumping.

For short hauls and odd jobs on the farm, the horse is still superior. The time has not yet come for dispensing with the services of Dick or Jennie, or for our becoming bereft of the sentiments those noble animals inspire.

How language and times have changed!



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 for cleaning up spills.
2. What an amphibian seeks on a sunny day.
3. A path followed by an Indian woman.
4. Another name for arteries.
5. A physician from Kansas.



(See next page for answers.)



DISTRICT X GARDEN CLUB MEETING DATES

Mondays

Mon Valley, 6:30 PM, first Monday.

Pleasant Hills, 12:30 PM, second Monday.

Tuesdays

Martha Washington, 12:30 PM, third Tuesday.

Munhall, 6 PM, fourth Tuesday.

Wednesdays

Great Meadows, 10:30 AM, fourth Wednesday.

Thursdays

Giant Oaks, 11:30 AM, first Thursday.

Valley, 10 AM, second Thursday.

Town & Country, 6:00 PM, second Thursday.

Fridays

Green Gardeners, Lunch, first Friday.

Uniontown, 1 PM, second Friday.



DO YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Angie Raitano

DO YOU KNOW

- that GCFP has a Headquarters?
- where the Headquarters is located?
- who is the Headquarters Secretary?
- how many years she has been a major guiding force behind all GCFP operations?

The GCFP Headquarters office is located at 1525 Cedar Creek Drive, Camp Hill, PA. *(I've been in GC. for 46 years and it's been there for that entire time. I don't know where it was before that.)*

For 33 years, the GCFP Headquarters has been managed by **LEE ANN STINE** *(the most organized/capable/dedicated person that I have ever met)*. In 2019, Lee Ann will retire from her position with GCFP. **She will be sorely missed. She will be fondly remembered.** My suggestion: Put a reminder on your April/May/June 2019 calendar to send Lee Ann a greeting card to wish her well during her retirement.

Further....

DO YOU KNOW:

- that GCFP is giving up the office at 1525 Cedar Creek Drive?
- where the new office Headquarters will be located?
- who the new Headquarters Secretary will be?
- when these changes become effective?

Answers to these questions came from the recent GCFP October Board of Directors Meeting: The new Headquarters Secretary will be **Elizabeth J. Pinkham**, effective June 1, 2019. The GCFP Headquarters Office will then be located in Elizabeth Pinkham's home. *(I do not have that address, yet.)* GCFP will pay rent to her. GCFP will store contents of the Camp Hill Office, if needed. The lease on the

Headquarters Office in Camp Hill will terminate August 1, 2019.



LOW-PROFILE DESIGNS

Submitted by Angie Raitano

The designs, below, done at a recent Designers Guild Meeting, are good examples of NGC's relatively new **LOW-PROFILE Design**. Each was designed to be placed on a table or location where the viewer looks down on it. The length of the design must be at least four times its height. At least three different design techniques are required.

Design techniques used in the photos below are:

1. Layering plant materials, manipulating/rolling leaves, grouping roses, clustering white flowers and pink flowers
2. Clustering mums, manipulating grey fibers, three-dimensional effect of leaf placement
3. Layering leaf work, bundling twigs, pillowing/clustering flowers



DISTRICT X DECEASED MEMBERS - 2018

Munhall	Dan Cummings Elinor Lebeda
Giant Oaks	Laura Alvi Janet Brisky Patricia Koval
Great Meadows	Judith Cholak Shirley Gearing
Martha Washington	Iva Clark Anna Jeanette Kamoda Elinor Burt
Town & Country	Helen Barbor
Uniontown	Sister Rita Keshock

May they rest in peace.



WILDFLOWER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Ragweed
2. Toadstool
3. Squawroot
4. Bloodroot
5. Prairie Duck



For those of you who use “Facebook”,
check out [GCFP District X](#)



The deadline for submissions for the March issue of the TENDril is **February 15**. Please e-mail your submission to mmueller150@aol.com. Put “TENDril Newsletter submission” in the subject line. Make sure that your name, phone number and your Club name is in the e-mail, in case clarifications are necessary.

We welcome submissions from any District X garden club member. The Editor reserves the right to edit any copy for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements.

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.

Many thanks to our proof readers, Kay Bair, Mardell Page, Angie Raitano and Vina McLeod Rudolph.

