

# News at Eleven

GCFP District XI



## SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for understanding the need to cancel our March meeting. The program- Blanche Gottle "Plants That Make You Happy" has been rescheduled for May 2019.

The one entry for Trash to Treasure was submitted by Norristown Garden Club. I will be taking it to the GCFP State Convention-April 15-17.

Congratulations to all those who exhibited individually or as a club at the Philadelphia Flower Show. The District was well represented by our hardworking and talented members. Kudos to Our Garden Club of Philadelphia and Vicinity for earning the award for the highest number of points of all the clubs in Horticulture and Design.

Please join us at the May District meeting to lend a helping hand for the National Convention. We will be stuffing the Welcome bags.

Nancy  
Grow and Bloom!  
Nancy



### DISTRICT XI MAY 2 MEETING

**District XI Meeting**  
Wednesday, May 2, 2018  
Willow Grove Giant  
315 York Road  
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Host: Tohickon Garden Club

#### Ways & Means

Four Lanes End Garden Club  
Old York Road Garden Club  
Trevoise Horticultural Society  
Swedesford Garden Club

#### Agenda:

10:00 am- Social/Refreshments  
10:30 am- General Meeting  
Old & New Business  
10:40 am- Helping Hands Workshop





**GCFP State Convention**

April 15-18, 2018

Washington, PA (Meadowlands)

**Gardeners of the Crooked Billet**

Annual Plant Sale

May 5, 2018

8:30 to 2 pm at the Union Library in Hatboro. The Plant Sale is held in conjunction with the Library Book Sale. Tables and plants will be set up on the front lawn of the library. In addition to potted selections, they also plan on having some planted hypertufa.

**The Outdoor Gardener Plant Sale**

May 6, 2018

Chestnut Hill Home & Garden Festival

Rain Date- May 20, 2018



**NGC Convention**

*Love Blooms in Philadelphia*

May 20-24, 2018

**Norristown Garden Club**

June In Bloom

Flower Show & Craft Fair

June 9, 2018

Norristown State Hospital, Bldg 33

Community Bldg.

**Tohickon Garden Club**

Plant Sale on July 7-8, 2018

Tinicum Park Art Festival

**Four Lanes End**

Christmas in July Workshop

Tree of Life Ornament

Date TBA Cost \$25

**Trevose Horticultural Society**

Traveling the Orient Express

Flower Show

August 17-18, 2018

**District XI Annual Meeting & Luncheon**

**September 6**

Cedarbrook Country Club

Blue Bell, PA



## BUD VASES NEEDED!

52nd America Dahlia Society  
National Dahlia Show  
September 20-23, 2018  
Longwood Garden

Clear bud vases are needed for the upcoming National Dahlia Convention to be held at Longwood Garden on September 20-23, 2018. Please email Sue Bunkin at [bhive@ptd.net](mailto:bhive@ptd.net) or phone her at 215-771-4847 if you are able to help the cause.



District XI  
Trash To Treasure Entry  
Norristown Garden Club

## COUNTDOWN TO THE 2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION MAY 20-25, 2018

The countdown for the 2018 NGC Convention has begun! Join us as we celebrate "Love Blooms in Philadelphia."

### Important Details:

Mark your calendar!

Dates: Sunday, May 20 – Thursday, May 24, 2018

Friday, May 25 – Post-Convention Trips

Registration available online at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

On the home page, upper right-hand corner, click on Login Member ID is "member" and Password is "pumpkin."

Venue: Loews Philadelphia Hotel

12th & Market Streets

Philadelphia, PA

877-604-0016





# GARDEN CHATTER

## YOUR APRIL "TO DO" LIST

- Plant pansies, snapdragons, dianthus and dusty miller for early-spring color.
- Plant new trees, shrubs and perennials and transplant/divide existing ones.
- Plant any of the edibles that could have been planted in March. Or make a second planting of any of these for a staggered harvest.
- If you underdid it with bulbs, add instant spring color by planting blooming, potted bulb plants from the garden center. These are ideal for early-spring flower pots, too.
- Start cutting back early bulbs, but only after the foliage has at least begun to yellow. Brown is better. It's OK to snip off flower stalks as soon as the blooms fade.
- From mid-month on (once soil has warmed a bit), mulch new beds and cultivate and top off mulch on beds that were mulched in previous years.
- Direct-seed beets and carrots.
- Immediately after blooming, prune early-spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, redbud, star magnolia, viburnum, cherry, pear and bridalwreath spirea. Evergreen hedges also can be sheared.
- Early in the month, prune roses right before new growth gets going. Start your spraying and fertilizing program as soon as the roses leaf out.
- Dethatch, aerate and/or rake lawn, if needed. Begin



- cutting as grass begins growing. After the first cut or two, move the height up to 2½ to 3 inches. Cut high all summer.
- This is a great month to seed thin or dead patches in the lawn. (Do NOT use crabgrass preventer if seeding new grass.) Use sod for quick spot patching.
- Dig out or spot-spray weeds. Last chance to put crabgrass preventer on lawn (except for Dimension, which can go on in May).
- Apply weed preventers such as Preen or corn gluten to shrub and perennial beds.
- Late in the month, fertilize lawn. Also fertilize trees, shrubs and perennials if you didn't do it in March. This is a good time to do a soil test of your lawn and gardens if you haven't done it in a few years. This will tell you exact fertilizer needs.
  - Scout for pest problems and treat as needed. Watch for aphids on roses, burning bush and many other ornamentals; tent caterpillars on fruit trees; weevils on pines and spruce; mites on spruce and psyllids on boxwoods.
- Begin regular spraying program for fruit trees. Do not use insecticides on fruit trees when they're blooming to avoid killing pollinating bees.
- Begin feeding outdoor fish as they come out of dormancy and come to the surface. Remove pond heater and reconnect pumps for fountains and waterfalls.
- Resume feeding houseplants. Wait until mid-May, though, to begin moving them outside for summer.
- Remember, still no digging the soil whenever it's soggy. Wait until it dries a bit.
- George Weigel (george@georgeweigel.net)