

THE TENdriL

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

Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Submitted by Kay Bair, Director, District X

Because of the current pandemic, April feels like it didn't really even happen this year. Our normal springtime activities have been halted, and we haven't been able to truly enjoy this season as we usually would. Today, I'm turning to poetry to channel that spring energy and feelings of hope that should come with seeing the world blossom, even if we're not getting to experience it fully this year. Here is a poem about flowers, which I found on the Internet, to carry you into summer and bring a bit of beauty to your day.



"So, if you see clouds upon the hill, they soon will bring clouds of daffodils, so keep on looking for that bluebird, and listening for his song, whenever April showers come along."

In 1557, a man by the name of Thomas Tusser compiled a collection of writings he called "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry." In the April husbandry section, he wrote:

Sweet April showers
Do spring May flowers

As you can see, the rhyme was originally a short poem. However, there is meaning behind the words, as well. "April showers bring May flowers" is a reminder that even the most unpleasant of things, in this case the heavy rains of April, can bring about very enjoyable things indeed -- even an abundance of flowers in May. "April showers bring May flowers" is also a lesson in patience, and one that remains valid to this day.

Many of life's greatest things come only to those who wait, and by patiently and happily enduring the clouds and damp of April, you can find yourself more easily able to take in the sights and smells of May. After all, it's easier to love something if you begin with an optimistic outlook.

Have you had a season of setbacks, disappointments or hindrances? Do not be dismayed. Remember these things: there has never been a wind that did not change directions, clouds do not hang forever and April showers bring May flowers.



DISTRICT X GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENTS

GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL

Meet 4th Tuesday, at 7 PM

Michael Sarraino
135 Crawford Avenue
Munhall, PA 15120
412-461-0665

prince122@verizon.net

<http://www.facebook.com/GardenClubofMunhall>

GIANT OAKS GARDEN CLUB

Meet 1st Thursday at 11:30 AM

Mary Meta **NEW e-mail**
1241 Berryman Avenue
Bethel Park, PA 15102
412-835-4253

marymeta@gmail.com

GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB

Meet 4th Wednesday at 10:30 AM

Wanda Sherry
104 Burke Rd.
Farmington, PA 15437
724-329-4736

docnwanda@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/gmgc1957>

GREEN GARDENERS OF UNIONTOWN

Meet 1st Friday (for lunch)

Toni Lozar
96 E Berkeley Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-880-4645

tonilozar@hotmail.com

MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Meet 3rd Tuesday at 12:30 PM

Carole Malmgren
304 Oak Rd
Scenery Hill, PA 15360-1318
724-239-2357, 724-263-4639 (cell)

Golf lady15@hotmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/mwgcwashpa>

MON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Meet 1st Monday at 6:30 PM

Alice Harris
558 South Ridge Road
Coal Center, PA 15423-1023
724-466-0979

aliceharris141@gmail.com

PLEASANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Meet 2nd Monday at 12:30 PM

Helen Galluppi
504 Parkview Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
724-496-8701

Hlg632@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/373595246449599>

Web site: <https://pleasanthillsqc.org/>

TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

Meet 2nd Thursday at 6 PM

Dianne Nicholson
5237 Gardenville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-3373
412-726-6603-cell

diannenick123@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/tcgcr1pa>

UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB

Meet 2nd Friday at 1 PM

Monica Sweet
10 Ridgeview Drive
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-437-2894

monicaksweet@gmail.com

VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Meet 2nd Thursday at 10 AM

Roxanne Huss
309 Crest Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
724-929-3391

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.



2020 IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| June 7-13 | National Garden Week |
| June 17 | District X Fundraiser, CANCELLED |
| June 29-30 | GCFP Board Meeting – Wyndham Garden State College, Boalsburg, PA. DATE CHANGE |
| Sept 24-26 | NGC Fall Board meeting, Fargo, ND |
| Oct 1 | District X Annual Meeting, New location Valley Brook Country Club, 425 Hidden Valley Rd, McMurray, PA 15317 |
| Oct 12-13 | GCFP Board Meeting – Wyndham Garden State College, Boalsburg, PA |
| Oct 18-20 | CAR Fall Conference, Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, Dover Delaware |



2020 DISTRICT X BOARD MEETINGS

*All Board meetings begin at **10:00 a.m.***

- | | |
|------------|--|
| August 17 | Black Bay Catering NEW
(More info coming via e-mail) |
| October 26 | Mon Valley YMCA |

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DISTRICT X AWARD WINNERS



Gold Seal award winner Vina McLeod Rudolph joined Martha Washington GC in 2015 to accept the challenge of serving as District X's Assistant District Director, and later, its Director. This challenge entailed a two-hour drive from her home to attend all club and district functions. Vina is an avid cheerleader for garden club is the "go-to" person due to her presentations and interests in design, horticulture, environmental and landscape design in Districts VI, VII and X, and for serving as District Director for the 2018 GCFP Convention.

Grace Mitchell, a 42-year member of Martha Washington GC, received the Forget-Me-Not Award. She is the "go-to" person for any project that requires a diligent, dedicated and accountable person. Grace served as District X Director from 2000 to 2004. She is a past GCFP Awards Chair and has co-chaired numerous flower shows. In addition to her Club and District, Grace chairs the Horticulture and/or New Cultivars committees at the GCFP, CAR-SGC and NGC levels. She is also a 2010 GCFP Gold Seal honoree!



It is a shame that these two deserving women could not be fully recognized at the state convention, which was cancelled due to the coronavirus.



DISTRICT X CLUB NEWS

GIANT OAKS

Submitted by Barbara Jo Nerone

Giant Oaks Garden Club is coping as best we can with the disruption of the Covid 19 Pandemic. All Club activities have been cancelled until our counties open for business and gatherings, at least through June.

The members are staying in touch in several ways. An abbreviated OAK LEAF newsletter was mailed in May, and one is planned for June and beyond. President Mary Meta has kept members informed via e-mails and by forwarding articles on horticulture

and outdoor places to visit in Pennsylvania. In addition, she is checking in with every member by phone. Some members are also posting and communicating via Facebook.

We can report that three members have started Burpee seeds. Others have been deterred by the abnormally cold and wet spring. GOGC was thrilled with the success of our entries to the Youth Contests for 2019. Sadly, our local school districts have cancelled all summer programs, due to the virus, so we will be unable to participate for 2020. We had hoped we could hold our successful annual Plant Sale and Garden Market in May. This is the first time in 19 years we have been unable to hold these community events. We have already scheduled the dates for 2021 and hope to come back gangbusters!

We do not expect to be able to meet as a group until the State allows groups of more than 25. Our monthly luncheons will begin as soon as possible, safely. Our next major event is Friday, November 5, which is our annual Tinsel Luncheon at the Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn. Planning is continuing.

GOGC is looking forward to renewing our full range of lectures, field trips, fundraisers, and hands-on workshops as soon as possible.

PLEASANT HILLS

The following photo, titled "Waterfront Smokestacks" made the semi-finals in the 2020 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Photography Competition, "Seeing is Believing". Although she did not place, our club member, Marie Mueller, is thrilled to have her photo make it that far, given the high quality of the winning international entries.



UNIONTOWN

Submitted by Sharlene Lehman

Although UFC did not meet in April and will probably not be able to meet in May because of the COVID-19, it did not stop some of our members from working on their Burpee Seed plantings and pictorial journey. With the wonderful donation of free seeds from Burpee, three members started their project in March.



At left, one picture of the many Burpee seedlings started by member Kristina Garrison for her pictorial journey to be submitted to Burpee this fall! At right, a picture from member Toni L'Hommedieu as she began

her seed planting journey!

Members Jean Braun and Sharlene Lehman will be adding their seed journey pictures soon. We can't wait to see all the beautiful vegetables and flowers from the Burpee Seed Project participants at UFC.



“True solitude is a din of birdsong, seething leaves, whirling colors, or a clamor of tracks in the snow.”

William Hoagland

The Uniontown Flower Club members hope to meet in June depending on our Governor's advice. In the meantime, we wish everyone health and the joy of the birds' songs, the trees' leaves, the colors of spring and summer and hopefully no more snow until winter!

MARTHA WASHINGTON

Submitted by Carole Malmgren

Due to the Covid-19 Virus this year, we have only had one meeting in February. Our speaker was Gannon Boone, an Arborist of the Bartlett Tree Experts Company, who spoke about environmental stresses on trees, how to grow our trees to be more compatible with nature and which trees are well suited for our area. He was truly knowledgeable and well spoken.

At that meeting I distributed the Burpee Seeds to our members and still had some remaining. Many of those were dispensed to the Washington County Food Bank in Centerville; and Pam Kilgore, a Washington resident, who will plant some in Washington Park and elsewhere. The plants will be ready to be transplanted outside very soon and pictures will be provided to the Burpee Company in the fall.

Since the GCFP Convention was cancelled, the entries for the “Any Way You Slice It” Contest were judged online. This had to be difficult, but the

MWGC entry which was prepared by Judy Weizen, won first place! It was a beautiful square cake with white icing and purple flowers all around. Staged on a pedestal. What a wonderful surprise for all of us. Congratulations Judy.

Our club has been assigned to arrange for a Blue Star Marker to be located in the Rest Area along Rt. 70 West near the West Virginia Border. We have contacted State Senator Camera Bartolotta by email and are waiting for her response to this matter.

One of our valued members, Grace Mitchell, has won the Forget-Me-Not Honorary Award for District X for 2019. Finally, Ms. Vina McLeod Rudolph has won the 2019 GCFP Gold Seal Award.

Hopefully, we will be resuming our meeting schedule very soon and will be able to hold our Standard Flower Show in the fall.

GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL

Garden Club of Munhall, we are still alive and doing some club work at home. Our scholarship committee did their reading of our essays and picked a winner of our \$1000.00 scholarship. A big thank you out to our committee Jill Anderson, Sharon Sarraino and Lisa Schoon.

Mike Serriano presented the certificate to this year's winner, Diana Craycroft, from Steel Valley High School. Diana is planning on attending University of North Carolina School of the Arts.



VALLEY

Submitted by Roxanne Huss, President

Our club is in quarantine status since our March meeting. The April meeting and garden clean up at the YMCA was cancelled. Communication with members continues via phone calls and emails. For the May meeting we are planning a Zoom video conference call. The scholarship committee however still continued their work and picked this year's scholarship winner. After extensive deliberations they chose Noah Quattro, an

environmental science student. He also won last year's scholarship.

At this writing our semiannual flower show is probably cancelled due to the corona virus. A flower show schedule is written but due to the uncertainty of the safety and timelines of communities reopening we find it advisable to keep the recommended social distancing. The club's future plans for the next few months are to be determined.



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. What a good adhesive is supposed to do.
2. A candy banner.
3. A sleeping plant.
4. A Greek Goddess' beauty aid.
5. Two porcupines cuddling.
(See page eight for answers.)



2020 NGC FLOWER SHOWS

TOWN & COUNTRY G. C. of Rices Landing scheduled for June 25, 2020, is **CANCELLED** due to the Coronavirus.

VALLEY G. C., Thursday, July 16, 2020, "Roaring 20s", is **CANCELLED** due to the Coronavirus.

LAUREL HIGHLANDS & PITTSBURGH AREA JUDGES COUNCILS – August 19, 2020. Location: Greensburg Garden Center, 951 Old Salem Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. Open to the public - August 19, 2020.

MARTHA WASHINGTON G. C., "Tinsel & Tidings" will be held on October 9-10. More info to follow.



TRASH TO TREASURE WINNERS

Since the Spring Tea was cancelled, the Trash to Treasure entries, titled "Any Way You Slice It", were judged via e-mail. There were six District X entries and The results are as follows:



First Place: Judy Weizen for the Martha Washington Garden Club.



Second Place: Kathy Hritz for the Great Meadows Garden Club.



Third Place: Kim Richter for the Pleasant Hills Garden Club.

Congratulations to all winners.



2019 GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF PENNSYLVANIA AWARD WINNERS

Giant Oaks Garden Club

Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Poster Contest "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

GRADE 1: Johnny Baldrige - 1st Place*

Youth Sculpture Contest Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse!

GRADE 4: Samuel Fleisher - 1st Place*

Youth Sculpture Contest Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse!

GRADE 5 Victoria Bates - 1st Place*

Youth Sculpture Contest Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse!

GRADE 5: Callie Kaplan - 2nd Place

Youth Sculpture Contest Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse

GRADE 6: Alina Heineman - 2nd Place

Great Meadows Garden Club

Standard Flower Show Schedule Award (50-99 Members) "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Honorable Mention

Standard Flower Show FS-1C (50-99 members) "A Midsummer Night's Dream", 2nd Place

Martha Washington Garden Club

Gold Seal Award: Vina McLeod Rudolph, Martha Washington GC

Forget-Me-Not District Award: Grace Mitchell, Martha Washington GC

Club Yearbook Award A (45-69 Club members) 1st**

Standard Flower Show Schedule Award (50-99 Members) "Stayin' Alive at 85!!" 2nd place

Standard Flower Show FS-1C (50-99 members), "Stayin' Alive at 85!!" 4th place

Pleasant Hills Garden Club

Small Standard Flower Show Schedule Award (21-49) Members "County Fair" 1st place *

Town & Country Garden Club

Club Yearbook Award A (<20 Club members), 2nd place

Valley Garden Club

Mary Alice Wheeler 2020 GCFP Scholarship of \$1,000 to Noah James Quattro

District X Clubs

Newsletter Publication Award (Extra- Large Club), District X TENDril newsletter, 3rd place

Pittsburgh Area Judges Council & Laurel

Highlands Judges Council

Standard Flower Show Schedule Award for Judges Council, "Autumn Creations" 1st place

* Sent on to CAR-SGC for judging.

** Sent on to NGC for judging.



DISTRICT AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR 2020

Roxanne Huss, Awards Chairperson

A good way to encourage club members to remain active and develop their leadership skills is to give them public recognition. The following awards are available for club presidents to nominate their members. The District awards are based on work carried out over a one year period, August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

1. **Daffodils** are awarded for a special project, or for recognition of a special member. Up to three can be awarded to each club.
2. **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. Application sent to Haddie Weber by July 31, 2020.
3. **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 this award 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.
4. The **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.
5. **Blue Rosette Award** - Outstanding Garden Club of District X.
6. **C.A.R. Perennial Bloom Award** - Honoring long time Garden Club members - application sent to District Director by July 31, 2020.
7. **Exceptional Horticulturist Award** - club member almost a professional in the areas of Horticultural experience, education and sharing with others. Application sent to Judy Vehse, Horticulture Coordinator, for GCFP by July 31, 2020. The appropriate applications for Daffodil, Laurel and Butterfly and Blue Rosette Awards are due July 31, 2020 to: Roxanne Huss, 309 Crest Ave, Rostraver, PA 15012 crhuss@gmail.com, 724-929-3391.



**ENJOY MOTHER NATURE'S
SPRING GARDEN**

Susan Swala, Town & Country Garden Club

The wildflowers are popping up along the back roads and trails of Greene County. Starting with the bright yellow Coltsfoot, usually the first to bloom in March,

there is a changing array of colorful flowers to delight the eye. Some can be seen from the car, but to really see the greatest variety, walking the trails, meadows and woods yield the best views.

Next to bloom is the short yellow Celandine that form a thick carpet along roadsides with a mat of green leaves. Bloodroot, with its bright white flower and red stem can best be seen in the woodlands, as can the frilly Dutchman's Breeches. Wild Violet in white and purple, pink Wild Geranium and Wild Phlox also join the spring bloom in semi wooded areas. Virginia Bluebells are show stoppers, often growing in large drifts on the edge of the woods. Yellow Trout Lilies



can be found along streams and flood plains. Best known of all of our spring wildflowers are the Trilliums (see left), ranging from pure white to deep red, often growing up steep banks in the woods.

Two trails in the county, one in the western end, the Enlow Fork Trail and in the eastern end, the Greene River Trail, are great walking trails where a plethora of spring wild flowers can be seen, beginning in the end March, through mid-May. The Greene River Trail is an easy eight mile walk along the Monongahela River. There is a guided wildflower walk usually around the last Sunday in April, at Enlow Fork. This is a wonderful place to see drifts of Blue-Eyed Mary and often, Fire Pinks, the only true red flower in the spring. Check their website, Enlow Fork Wildflower Walk for further information. A very helpful resource to take along on your walk is *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*, by Mary Joy Haywood and Phyllis Monk.

Many gardeners would like to grow wildflowers in their gardens. It's tempting to dig them in the woods to transplant, but it is ill advised. Often transplanting is not successful, resulting in dead plants. Better to buy from a reputable nursery such as Sylvania Natives, who can supply healthy plants. Try to recreate a similar environment to its native growing conditions, including; amount of sunlight, moisture and a humus rich soil.



LET'S TALK FLORAL DESIGN!

Angie Raitano

Let's talk BALANCE! Does the design appear to be stable? Will it stand up, without falling over? How do we achieve Balance? We achieve it by proper PLACEMENT of components in the design. It

stands to reason that if we place too many flowers, or leaves, or other components close together in one area, it will affect the Visual Balance of our design. Proper PLACEMENT is essential! Believe it or not, everyone has the ability to evaluate Visual Balance. Our eyes and brain have developed that ability through the years.

Upon completing a design, ask these questions: Does the design appear to be falling forward or back? Does the design appear to fall to one side? If the answer is "No" to both questions, then the design is Visually Stable.

After completing a design, turn away for a few seconds. Then turn back and ask, "Does it still appear STABLE? And as Kitty Pottmeyer would ask, "Did you 'landscape the back yard' to achieve depth?" If the answer is "Yes" to both questions, then BALANCE has been achieved! Good job!



HORT IN TEN

Submitted by Grace Mitchell

In this unbelievably crazy time, let's try to think of normal things and get on with our gardening activities.

Ever mindful of the "dear" deer, think before you plant! Flowers deer love for lunch: Azealia, Black-eyed Susan, Crocus, Hosta, Hydrangea, Lily, Rose and, of course, Tulip. Flowers deer usually don't snack on: Coreopsis, Dianthus, Dusty Miller, Foxglove, Purple coneflower, Vinca, Yucca and Zinnia.

Now, you have successfully grown some lovely flowers. You have cut enough for a beautiful bouquet. Here are a few options to make them last longer. Mix 2 tbsp. of clear corn syrup per quart of very warm water. Add to vase when cool. Dissolve a cube of sugar per pint of water and put a penny into the vase. To hold blossoms longer, spray cut flowers with hairspray after they have been cut for a day or so.

Whatever you choose to do, be smart and stay safe. We are missing all our wonderful garden club activities, but no activity is worth risking our health. It should be safe to work in your garden, alone in the fresh air, so "Happy Horting!"



TOMATOES - PREVENTING EARLY BLIGHT

Submitted by Kay Bair

Yes, it is possible to control early blight using proven, organic and natural methods. Here's how:

Common on tomato and potato plants, early blight is caused by the fungus *Alternaria solani* and occurs throughout the United States. Symptoms first appear on the lower, older leaves as small brown spots with concentric rings that form a "bull's eye" pattern. As the disease matures, it spreads outward on the leaf surface causing it to turn yellow, wither and die. Eventually the stem, fruit and upper portion of the plant will become infected. Crops can be severely damaged.

Early blight overwinters on infected plant tissue and is spread by splashing rain, irrigation, insects and garden tools. The disease is also carried on tomato seeds and in potato tubers. In spite of its name, early blight can occur any time throughout the growing season. High temperatures (80-85°F.) and wet, humid conditions promote its rapid spread. In many cases, poorly nourished or stressed plants are attacked.

Treatment

1. Prune or stake plants to improve air circulation and reduce fungal problems.
2. Make sure to disinfect your [pruning shears](#) (one part bleach to 4 parts water) after each cut.
3. Keep the soil under plants clean and free of garden debris. Add a layer of [organic compost](#) to prevent the spores from splashing back up onto vegetation.
4. Drip irrigation and [soaker hoses](#) can be used to help keep the foliage dry.
5. For best control, apply [copper-based fungicides](#) early, two weeks before disease normally appears or when weather forecasts predict a long period of wet weather. Alternatively, begin treatment when disease first appears, and repeat every 7-10 days for as long as needed.
6. Containing copper and pyrethrins, [Bonide® Garden Dust](#) is a safe, one-step control for many insect attacks and fungal problems. For best results, cover both the tops and undersides of leaves with a thin uniform film or dust. Depending on foliage density, 10 oz. will cover 625 sq. ft. Repeat applications every 7-10 days, as needed.
7. [SERENADE Garden](#) is a broad spectrum, preventative bio-fungicide recommended for the control or suppression of many important plant diseases. For best results, treat prior to foliar disease development or at the first sign of infection. Repeat at 7- day intervals, or as needed.

8. Remove and [destroy all garden debris](#) after harvest and [practice crop rotation](#) the following year.
9. Burn or bag infected plant parts. Do NOT compost.

Recommended Products: Serenade Garden, Liquid Copper, and Garden Dust (Bonide)

For more information:

<https://www.planetnatural.com/pest-problem-solver/plant-disease/early-blight/>



THANK YOU

By Angie Raitano

When confined in an isolation room, the four walls get pretty tiring, pretty fast! The desire to see a family member or a friend grows strong. To be able to see a tree or a flower might help. Doctors and nurses are hardly distinguishable, because of all the protective garb they are required to wear and change each time they enter a new room. Thoughts drift to many things that might help to raise the Spirit.

What helped me to focus?.....the cell phone! However, my ringer was turned off for two weeks, because I was barely able to speak. It was difficult for me to send out brief text messages to family.

However, I am thankful for the many texts and encouraging messages, the many prayers, and the concern for me as I struggled with COVID-19. I loved reading all the beautiful cards and heart-warming messages that I received at the hospital and at home.

Now, thank goodness, I have survived. I am home, at last, and the extended quarantine is not even hard to take! *It's a wonderful world. Garden Club Friends are the best! Thank you, ALL!*



WILDFLOWER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Stick Tight
2. Sweet Flag
3. Knapweed
4. Venus' Looking-Glass
5. Prickly Pear



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

If you have a clever yard decoration, send a photo of it for inclusion in the next TENDril issue. Also send any garden tips that you know of, or have discovered, to share with our members.



The deadline for submissions for the September 1 issue of the TENDril is **August 15**. Please e-mail your submission to mmueller150@aol.com and put "TENDril submission" in the subject line. 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".

