



# Buds and Blossoms

News from GCFP District II/III  
Christine Leskosky, GCFP President

February 2019

## Winter's Gifts

Recently back from a trip to Florida, my first week home was spent in "weather" shock, especially since my return coincided with the recent Polar Vortex. I was questioning my sanity, why had I returned north so soon??? But by week two, I settled in and found ways find peace with winter in Pennsylvania. The recent warm up helped me remember spring is on it's way. Clubs will begin buzzing again soon and gardens will be brought back to a more colorful and lively state. Winter is a wonderful time to reflect on all the ways we can all continue to grow together and plant seeds of community and stewardship in the coming months.

Liz Steen, Editor

### February: Thinking of Flowers

by Jane Kenyon

Now wind torments the field,  
turning the white surface back  
on itself, back and back on itself,  
like an animal licking a wound.

Nothing but white--the air, the light;  
only one brown milkweed pod  
bobbing in the gully, smallest  
brown boat on the immense tide.

A single green sprouting thing  
would restore me. . . .

Then think of the tall delphinium,  
swaying, or the bee when it comes  
to the tongue of the burgundy lily.

## Director's Report

**"Fashion Your Life as a Garden of Beautiful Seeds"**  
As gardeners, I think this is what we do in all our endeavors in beautifying our communities, volunteering in many ways such as in assisted - living homes, scout groups, planting trees, installing Blue Star Memorials, and educating people through garden tours, flower shows, and programs. Gardeners are special people who are always nice to be around because they appreciate the beauty that surrounds them.

As District Director, I had the opportunity to visit different clubs' events. I attended Hazleton's Christmas Banquet where I installed their new officers. Hazleton's Flower Show, "Winter Celebrations", was wonderful. I entered and judged the show. In keeping with the theme of the show it even snowed. "An Artful Christmas House Tour" presented by the Bethlehem Garden Club was a huge success. As you toured the homes it just got you in the Christmas spirit. There is a lot to look forward to in the coming months. When you get tired of winter, the Philadelphia Flower Show, "Flower Power", March 2-10 can help get your senses ready with the fragrant aroma of flowers. Many of our District II/III gardeners are involved with the show.

If you have never taken a NGC School you have two opportunities:

On March 14 and 15 the NGC Environmental School Course I is being held in Exton, PA

On March 25-26 the NGC Gardening Study School Course IV is being held in Exton, PA

On April 7-9 the State Convention "Seasons in Bloom" will be at the Blair County Convention Center where Joyce Milberg will be installed as our new state president. We wish Chris Leskosky the very best for a job well done. We were very lucky to have her as part of District II/III.

We welcome the Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club of Montgomery County as our newest club. Their president is Diana Rudloff. We are very happy to have them join us.

My wish to all of you is to **plant beautiful seeds** and share the love of gardening.



## Club Notes

### Allentown Garden Club

HOSPITALITY MUNCH AND MINGLE is an opportunity for AGC members to share fun, food and fellowship. As we've shared in the last newsletter AGC is reinventing ourselves to meet the needs of our current audience. A monthly hospitality prior to the meeting has been a great success. We love the chance to chat and nibble.

DESIGN/HORTICULTURE STUDY has also been well received with approximately 20 attendees each month. It's encouraging to see blooming designers and hardy horticulturalists eager to learn. Each month we review the next month's design, suggesting components, and encouraging folks to give designing a try. Horticulture study hand outs are discussed, and members share personal horticulture experiences, tips and suggestions. Members' support of new innovations for AGC has been phenomenal. Allentown GC offers a wonderful compilation of programs, Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, Fred Buse, Master Gardener - Agriculture in Tuscany and along the Amalfi Coast in Italy. Mr. Buse shares agricultural practices, street side containers, backyard gardens and culinary traditions. Apr 11<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth Trout, a horticulturist at the Tyler Arboretum - Rain Gardens You will learn some important ideas for storm water management that you can do yourself in your backyard. See how to create a rain garden, what plants to use and how they will help control runoff from you property. May 9<sup>th</sup>, Jack Jones, JJ Woodcrafts - Unique Birdhouses Find out what birds really want in their bird feeders. Jack Jones re-purposes old barn siding to build one-of-a-kind, unique birdhouses. He will offer many for sale after the presentation, so don't forget to bring your checkbook. POT LUCK SWEET AND SAVORY LUNCHEON was held DEC 13<sup>th</sup>. In the spirit of the holidays AGC expanded our December hospitality spot to a full hour giving us more time to PARTY! PARTY! PARTY! Members shared their favorite EVERGREEN FOLIAGES creating a delightful aroma for our holiday gathering. DESIGN TOURNAMENT Club members' creativity was highlighted when they wrapped an EMPTY BOX with floral botanicals (flowers, greens, pods, etc.). What a lovely display! March will find sister-clubs Allentown GC and Emmaus GC working at the Lehigh Valley Flower and Garden Show. We will offer seven hands-on DESIGN WITH NINE classes over the three days. This is marketing/outreach opportunity for both clubs where we will share marketing materials, floral and horticulture ideas, and answer questions - come visit us! FRI, MAR 8 (NOON-8 PM) - SAT, MAR 9 (10 AM-8 PM) - SUN, MAR 10 (11 AM - 4 PM) Rosemary Gish Ebersole (AKA Rosie), President

**The Bethlehem Garden Club** in early 2018 decided to have a large fundraiser, not only to increase or treasury, but also to present a HOLIDAY EVENT for the people to the Lehigh Valley and beyond. We concluded it would be a Christmas House Tour. We wanted to create a festive and INSPIRING atmosphere. We decide to add ART to our tour: paintings, photography, needlework, culinary and lots of table settings. Six members immediately volunteered their homes, each with different architecture. Plus, we added the Kemerer Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian. The Kemerer displayed 17 decorated Christmas trees and photography all done by our club members along with their 19<sup>th</sup> decorative arts. Our Artful Christmas House Tour, held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, was a delightful success!! Over 500 people from the Lehigh Valley to Connecticut traveled to see our homes and the historical and charming city of Bethlehem, always very special at Christmas. Many factors contributed to it's rich fruitage. First, the graciousness of our homeowners to be willing to open their lovely homes during this busy season, Secondly, the devoted and gentle leadership of Anne Chiadis as she deliciously fed her committed chairpeople, thirdly, our GENEROUS sponsors and lastly our expert bakers. Although our House Tour was the highlight of our year, so far, we have had other very bright moments: our monthly Tournaments, our informative, yet entertaining programs. Marta McDowell traveled from New Jersey to apprise us of her best selling book, *All the Presidents' Gardens*. No year would be complete without the decorative expertise of 45 or so club members that decorate not only the Kemerer Museum inside and out but also the historic Bethlehem buildings and the libraries. Let me

say here that none of this would be possible without the members who work quietly behind the scenes to make the meetings, programs, hospitality, Tournaments and Community Activities proceed with with precision and harmony. It was my goal as President to follow the missions of NGC, GCFP, District II/III and the BGC (to educate both members and the public in Horticulture and Design, also to provide an outlet for creativity, to mention a few). I wanted to accomplish this with grace , watchfulness and joy. Joy in our activities and pride in protecting our environment. Wendy-Webber Welsh, President

**EMMAUS GARDEN CLUB** – The holiday season was a busy one for the Emmaus Garden Club. On November 30, a bus trip to celebrate Yuletide at Winterthur and dinner at the Buckley Tavern kicked off the season. Thank you, Diane Huddleston for organizing the event. Then in December several members gathered at the historic 1803 House in Emmaus to make arrangements of dried flowers and greens available at that time for the annual open house. Afterward, the arrangements were transported to the Emmaus Public Library and offered for sale to benefit our scholarship fund. The event was covered by the local paper, *The East Penn Press*, which was a major coup.

Also in December, we held our annual Holiday Luncheon at the Lehigh Country Club. Leesa Wimmer, a Master Gardener, presented a wonderful program about her experiences decorating the White House for Christmas in 2013. It was my honor to present District Laurel Awards to the following outstanding members of the Club: Barbara Adamcik, Lillian Carson, Rosie Ebersole, Diane Huddleston, Rose Parry, Becky Short, Ellen Wilson, and Bob and Chris Stamper. Elaine Klase, membership chair, also installed two new members – Linda Gery and Diane Handwerk.

Our horticulture therapy continued in December with Dot Morrone filling the back of her SUV with 48 large pink and white poinsettias from Glick's Greenhouse in Oley and delivering them to the residents of Renaissance Senior Living Center in Emmaus. Many folks have been working hard in preparation for our 2019 meetings. Auditing and budget work and program planning have been completed. The 2019 yearbook is being prepared. An expanded program committee chaired by Becky Short has exciting programs planned for us. On March 5 we have "Live Interactive Designing" with Richard Morrissey of RichMar Florists. On April 2 program is "Perennials Spring to Fall" with Stephanie Cohen, the Perennial Diva. You don't want to miss her! Watch for information about the program at our District meeting. Just in time on May 7 we have "Designing a Flower Garden" with Lori Metz. On June 4 Frank Licata will present "Beekeeping in America: Promoting the Medical and Historical Aspects of Keeping Bees." Those of you who heard him at a District meeting last year, know what a dynamic speaker he is. On July 2 the delightful Fred Buse will share his photos and descriptions of "English Cottage Gardens." Our Small Standard Flower Show and Annual Picnic will be held on August 6. Rosie and her committee have agreed on a beachy theme. It should be fun! On September 3 Master Gardener Randy Fey will tell us about "Changing Climate and Landscape." On October 1 it's time for "Fall Gardening and Cleanup" with Linc Coffin. Wanda Drey and Constance Sholl of Macungie's Posey Patch will present "Colors of the Season" on November 12. And, all too soon, on December 3 we will have our annual holiday luncheon. Guests are always welcome at our meetings. Sadly, we will miss Bob Stamper's articles about horticulture and design in our Newsletter. Shirley Kohler has agreed to write the horticulture articles and Elaine Klase and Ellen Wilson will share the design area. They also plan to demonstrate the next month's design at our meetings. Their theme for the monthly Design tournaments is Special Days. Diane Huddleston has a full bus headed to the Philadelphia Flower Show in March. The theme is Flower Power – the same as the name of our horticulture therapy group! Local road trips for our Weeds on Wheels group will be planned later. For Arbor Day, we will be honoring Bob Stamper, who passed away in 2018. Ellen Wilson has chaired our very successful teas. This year the tea will be held on May 4. Watch for information about it at our District meeting. We're going to have a great year! And, as Oscar Wilde said, "With freedom, books, flowers, and the moon, who could not be happy?" .....Faye Schuler, President

**HAZLETON AREA GARDEN CLUB** – No Report

**MILFORD GARDEN CLUB** -Members of the Milford Garden Club celebrate the winter season of short days and long cold nights by remembering what Yoko Ono, artist and activist says: *Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence. Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance. Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence. Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance.* Our November meeting was a workshop on stamping stationary. Tips were shared on how to personalize your correspondence. In early December, we decorated the main streets of Milford with wreaths which was followed by a soup luncheon. We ended our membership year with a delightful and delicious Christmas luncheon where cookies and memories were plentiful. We pass the winter months warming ourselves with the thought of exhilarating programs, projects, and field trips. Think Spring! Linda Pinto, President

The **MONROE COUNTY GARDEN CLUB** is taking a much needed break and planning our gardens for next year. We will be starting our meetings in March and will be rolling along by April. See you in the Spring! Robin Teets, President

#### **GARDEN CLUB OF MONTROSE – No Report**

**PARKLAND GARDEN CLUB** had an enjoyable Christmas Banquet at the Brookside Country Club in December. We had lovely meal and enjoyed fellowship and party spirit with our friends and guests. We recognized our four 2018 Laurel Award recipients: Donna Wagner, Patti Molitoris, Megan Stanley and Randy Wetherhold. The Club always invites a speaker from the Meals on Wheels organization and does a donation to their cause. Many of our members also donate and this year it became quite a sizable donation.

We do not have a monthly meeting this January, but by no means are we hibernating! Our first club meeting of 2019 will be on February 11, with a talk by Jan Eline of Hickory Grove Greenhouses on the care and benefits of houseplants. A welcome way to usher in and hurry-up spring is visiting the Philadelphia Flower Show. This year we are going on March 7. On March 11, Mark Kinzel of Mark Kinzel Design will do demonstrations on DIY Bride. He will be making bouquets and showing us Do-It-Yourself projects to wow your wedding guests. We are excited to host the March 19<sup>th</sup>'s District II/III Meeting. Please feel free to join us – and see this Buds & Blossoms newsletter for information on the day! In April, our Club activities really wind up! For April 8 Dr. Diane White Husic is doing a presentation on Tracking Climate Change Through Bloom Times in the garden. Of course, the GFPC Convention is happening April 7, 8 & 9, so some of us will be travelling to Altoona for this event. Normally in April we do our Arbor Day activities: donations of tree seedlings to all elementary schools in the Parkland School District (Allentown area) and donated member plantings at the Lehigh Valley Zoo.

Wow- are we really up to May already? – Bonnie Keller, President

**POTTSTOWN AREA GARDEN CLUB** has finally given in to the pressures of having year-round meetings. As of April 2019, we will be eliminating meetings in the months of January and February. Winter has always given us grief when trying to decide whether or not to cancel a meeting because of bad weather. Hopefully this change will make that decision a little easier for future Presidents.

Our November program was presented by Jacki Hagmayer. Jacki is the daughter of one of our long time members, Sandy Plotts. Jacki presented a look into the life of Beatrix Farrand accompanied by a slide presentation. Beatrix is one of America's most celebrated landscape architects.

In December we had a wonderful hands on workshop presented by Tracy McKay Sabocheck, a Reading Garden Club member and unique designer. Tracy showed us how to make our own holiday arrangement using greens, pine cones, etc. from our own gardens. Tracy's own arrangements were so impressive; she even used a photo of one of them to advertise her company in the Reading Eagle.

January's meeting was an informative presentation by Edie Parnum and Barb Elliot, Ph.D. of the Valley Forge Chapter of the Audubon Society. Their program introduced us to ways of attracting birds, butterflies and other wildlife to our yards. Our Horticulture Therapy continues with therapy at the Manor Care facility in Pottstown. February's project will be to assist residents in decorating a Valentine's Day vase and filling it with fresh flowers.

Our Youth committee will be holding a Pressed Flower contest for local children at the Pottstown Library in February. Our committee members will be judging and awarding ribbons to the children for their creativity. Karen Albera, President

#### **SOUTH SCHUYLKILL GARDEN CLUB – No Report**

**GARDEN CLUB OF READING** – *We would like to extend our sincere condolences to the club President, Heather Sterckx and her family on the recent loss of her husband. If you'd like to drop her a note, her address is on the last page of this newsletter.*

**UPPER PERKIOMEN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB (UPV Garden Club)** was formed in early 2017 and we joined the Federation at the end of 2018. We are located in northern Montgomery County, a few miles west of the Quakertown interchange of the PA Turnpike.

Two of our on-going projects are a Community Benefits Garden and a Butterfly/Pollinator Garden. The former is an experiment in raised bed gardening, in addition to traditional in-the-ground planting. The garden is located on property owned by our local Y and all produce is donated to our local food pantry. This past summer was our second summer for

the garden and we donated 500 pounds of vegetables, despite the late snow that affected our cool crops and then the excessive rain through the summer. On the positive side, we did not have to do much watering! Among the vegetables we donated were red & green leaf lettuce, romaine, swiss chard, carrots, beets, radishes, and peppers. We also had plentiful beans and some pumpkin, zucchini and yellow squash but only a few tomatoes. We also added 2 bins of pollinator plants to increase the yield of some crops. A core group of 4 volunteers planted and tended the garden. We look forward to growing our volunteer base and involving youth by partnering with the Y.

The butterfly garden at our local Y was a 2018 initiative. We created the butterfly garden where two walking paths converge. We planted a combination of perennials and annuals with the intention of increasing the perennials over time. The perennials include Mountain Mint, Blue Fortune Hyssop, Thyme and Butterfly Weed. Annuals included State Fair Zinnias, Tithonia, Cosmos and Marigolds. As a result of the success in 2018 we are in planning meetings now with the Y to add to the garden this spring and expand to a second area on the Y property. Diana L. Rudloff, President

#### **WYOMISSING AREA GARDEN CLUB**

In December we had our annual Holiday Party. Every one had a great time socializing and we had a terrific meal at Salute. Members brought bags full of essentials such as cozy socks, shampoo, gloves, deodorant, body wash, etc to donate to the residents at Opportunity House. It always feels good to give back when we are all so fortunate.

We don't meet in January or February but the board is planning events for the spring such as our members' garden tour and lunch for June. We are also beginning to think about our 2020 major fundraiser which always takes lots of exchange of ideas and planning.

We are hoping for a mild winter and looking forward to spring to get back to our gardens. - Fran Carroll - President

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

### **TRASH TO TREASURE THEME ANNOUNCED: 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 re-purposed, 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 re-purposed 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 pm. Judging at 5:15 pm.

Pick-up on Tuesday, April 9th

Questions? Contact Pat Drennen, Chair [carrie@parenfaire.com](mailto:carrie@parenfaire.com) 717-422-8913

# REPORT FROM THE BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES COMMITTEE

## **Audubon Society Suggests Ways to Protect Birds**

1. First step is to start at home by creating a safe place for birds to rest and nest in your yard by using fewer pesticides, leaving dead trees or branches stand, cleaning birdbaths regularly, growing more native plants in gardens and converting lawns into birdscapes.
2. Birds are a pivotal step in the food chain. They are a bridge from the insect world into the animal world and the treatment of the environment can be clearly seen. The use of pesticides, loss of natural habitat, and change in climate all contribute to a decline in bird population.
3. Look at your contribution to global warming – frequency of trips burning gasoline, use of energy efficiency of appliances, separation of trash and recycling, choice in renewable energy, tree canopy cover in your yard and neighborhood. With each person making a softer impact on the environment, a greater imprint will be noticed globally.
4. Use your voice. Speak to neighbors of your concerns for bird welfare, write articles to legislation and local media of simple steps to make a difference, become involved on city or county tree or zoning commissions to affect environmentally friendly future planning.

Ultimately, what is good for birds is good for us. Submitted by Jane Kruse, District II/III Birds and Butterflies Liaison

## On the Calendar in 2019

### **March 19, 2019 District II/III Meeting – Parkland Garden Club**

Place: Jordan Lutheran Church  
5103 Snowdrift Road  
Orefield, PA 18069

Schedule: 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast  
10:00 AM Meeting  
11:30 AM Lunch  
12:30 PM Program:

Program: Rexine Krause: Culinary Herbs and Their Uses

Rexine will talk about the history of herbs and unusual uses of herbs.

Please bring a bagged lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Club Presidents and Committee Chairs bring three copies of your reports. Your report should be limited to three minutes.

Remember to bring your entry for the Trash to Treasure contest.

Any questions contact Barbara Campbell [barbarac45@aol.com](mailto:barbarac45@aol.com) 610-432-3313

### DIRECTIONS TO JORDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

#### FROM READING

Take Rt. 222 North towards Allentown. Follow the Rt. 222 Bypass around Trexlertown. Just after it merges back onto Hamilton Blvd/Rt. 222, exit to the right onto Rt. 309 North/I-78 West. Follow I-78/Rt. 309 North approximately 0.8 mile and stay in the right lane to exit onto Rt. 309 when I-78 splits off to the left. From the split follow Rt. 309 approximately 3.4 miles then turn left onto Snowdrift Road. Follow Snowdrift approximately 0.4 mile to Jordan Lutheran on the right. Park in the lot across the road.

## FROM THE POCONO AREA

Take Rt. 33 South towards the Lehigh Valley. Stay on Rt. 33 to the end and bear right onto I-78 West. Follow I-78 West towards Allentown. In the Allentown area Rt. 309 merges with I-78 from the right. Follow I-78/Rt. 309 North approximately 6.1 miles and stay in the right lane to exit onto Rt. 309 when I-78 splits off to the left. From the split follow Rt. 309 approximately 3.4 miles then turn left onto Snowdrift Road. Follow Snowdrift approximately 0.4 mile to Jordan Lutheran on the right. Park in the lot across the road.

Or Take the PA Turnpike /I-476 South to the Lehigh Valley exit and then take Rt. 22 East. In about a half mile exit onto Rt. 309 North. Follow Rt. 309 North about 1-1/2 mile then turn left onto Snowdrift Road. Follow Snowdrift approximately 0.4 mile to Jordan Lutheran on the right. Park in the lot across the road.

## FROM POTTSVILLE

Take Rt. 100 North towards Allentown. Rt. 29 will merge with Rt. 100 at Hereford. Stay on Rt. 100/29. In a few miles Rt. 100 and Rt. 29 will split. Bear right onto Rt. 29 North towards Emmaus. As you enter Emmaus after approximately 2.5 miles, turn left at the light onto Cedar Crest Blvd. /Rt. 29 North. Follow Cedar Crest Blvd. for 2.9 miles and turn right onto I-78 West/Rt. 309 North. Follow I-78/Rt. 309 North approximately 1.9 miles and stay in the right lane to exit onto Rt. 309 when I-78 splits off to the left. From the split follow Rt. 309 approximately 3.4 miles then turn left onto Snowdrift Road. Follow Snowdrift approximately 0.4 mile to Jordan Lutheran on the right. Park in the lot across the road.

April 7-9, 2019      State Convention, Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA

June 25, 2019      District II/III Meeting – Wyomissing Area Garden Club

September 26, 2019 District II/III Meeting – Allentown Garden Club

October 14-15 ,2019 GCFP State Board Meeting

## Club Presidents

ALLENTOWN GARDEN CLUB	Rosie Ebersole 445 Rock Cliff Road Emmaus, PA 18049	RGEbersole@aol.com 610 967-3747 610 392-1405 cell
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GARDEN CLUB OF READING	Heather Sterckx 447 Oysterdale Road Oley PA 19547	hjckx@aol.com 610 987-1111
SOUTH SCHUYLKILL GARDEN CLUB	Linda Bollinger 552 Schwartz Valley Road Schuylkill Haven PA 17972	lkayb731@verizon.net 570 -739-4580
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## District **IV** 2018-2020 Board

District Director	Barbara Campbell ( Parkland GC)	<a href="mailto:Barbarac45@aol.com">Barbarac45@aol.com</a>	610-432-3313
Assistant Director	Linda Pinto ( Milford GC)	<a href="mailto:pinto.linda@gmail.com">pinto.linda@gmail.com</a>	570-491-7306
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PLEASE ADVISE THE EDITOR OF ANY UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS  
AT [PEACEGRL62@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PEACEGRL62@GMAIL.COM)

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