

THE TENdril

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

Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Second letter is a lower case L,
not an i.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Submitted by Kay Bair, Director, District X

President Joyce Milberg's theme for her administration is "Growing our Legacy: Green Spaces, Education, Scholarship, Connections." The TENdril is a vehicle to tell your stories of what your club does for your community, and how you educate your members. Also please share the successes you had with schools, their students, and especially with those individuals who have received your club's scholarship grants.



One example of how Town & Country GC first scholarship helped a student, Kevin Willis, who has been teaching chemistry and environmental sciences at Carmichaels Area High School for the past 22 years: Kevin competed in the Envirothon International Competition while still a student and now is a Coach for the school's five member Envirothon Competition Team, which placed third in the 2019 National Conservation Foundation International Envirothon! Each team member was awarded a scholarship of \$1000 for their third place finish out of 53 teams from the United States, Canada, and China. Needless to say, District X is proud to say that "Scholarships do make a difference."

Additionally, let us know of any collaborations you have made with other organizations. Your messages may help stimulate others to some of the same, and gain insight for new projects, or programs. The seed packets your Club president received from your District Director, is one example of a collaboration: Board Member Marjorie Stilwell Sears and Ginny Mullock contacted the Chairman of Burpee Seeds, who donated 2,000 seed packets for distribution to all club presidents. We hope that all clubs will use the seeds in their communities – for garden therapy, beautification, children's projects, etc.

Tell us your stories and we will share them here.

Also, Joyce wants us to plant one million trees, so we need to keep track, and your president will report the number of trees planted, to Joyce, in his/her February report.



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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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Feb 29-
March 8 | Philadelphia Flower Show-Riviera
Holiday, Pennsylvania Convention
Center, Philadelphia, PA |
| Mar 9-10
Mar 11-12 | Environmental School
Gardening School, Course II,
Uwchlan Meeting House, 5 N Village
Ave, Exton, PA |
| March 18
Apr 17-19 | Spring Tea, Mon Valley YMCA
GCFP Convention, DoubleTree by
Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh-Cranberry,
910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA
16046 |
| May 11-14
June 1-2 | NGC Convention Milwaukee, WI
GCFP Board Meeting – Wyndham
Garden State College, Boalsburg,
PA |
| June 17 | District X Fundraiser, New location
Valley Brook Country Club
425 Hidden Valley Rd, McMurray,
PA 15317 |
| Sept 24-26
Oct 1 | NGC Fall Board meeting, Fargo, ND
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.***

February 19	Mon Valley YMCA
May 20	Mon Valley YMCA
August 17	Angie Raitano's home
October 26	Mon Valley YMCA



DISTRICT X CLUB NEWS

GIANT OAKS

Submitted by Barbara Jo Nerone

Giant Oaks Garden Club is wrapping up another successful year. In November we held our 54th annual Tinsel Luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe. The "Jingle, Mingle & Shop" event raised \$18,000 which will go toward appropriations, by the Club in 2020, to various charities. The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, Phipps Conservatory, the Audubon Society, Grow Pittsburgh, the Western PA Conservancy, and four \$1500 scholarships were part of the list of 24 recipients of the 2018 Tinsel event.



Close to 400 attendees enjoyed the day of shopping, raffles, 50/50 drawing, 42 vendors, the Jingle Bell Bakery, an outstanding luncheon, and a program featuring

Cindy Miller, Finleyville Flower Shop.

December features our annual Christmas Luncheon and Installation of Officers. Officers for 2020 include: Mary Meta, President; Carolyn Svitek, First Vice President; Michele Campbell, Second Vice President; Norma Stoehr, Corresponding Secretary; Joan Merz, Recording Secretary; and Ginny Riegner, Treasurer.

The luncheon to be held at Valley Brook Country Club will also highlight GOGC's many District X award winners. In addition, the board voted to invite the numerous husbands and significant others who contribute quietly behind the scenes to make our events successful.

GOGC's membership year begins in February 2020 with the annual meeting and a full range of lectures,

field trips, and hands-on workshops being planned for upcoming luncheons.

The Annual Plant Sale fundraiser takes place Saturday, May 16 at Peters Township Library. For the first time, the Club will hold a Garden Market, rather than a generic flea market, concurrently with the Plant Sale. The Garden Market will feature new and lightly used garden items, flower pots, seeds, and many creative craft items for sale. More details to come.

PLEASANT HILLS

Submitted by Kim Richter

Our Club had a booth at the Pleasant Hills Community Day celebration, where we showcased the projects that we do for the community, and also had a display of the Club's Member floral designs. Several people showed interest in joining the Club.

For the children who came by, we showed them how to make a "grass head". We chose to have them make these "heads" since grass grows so fast. With only a spritz of water a day the kids were able to see the grass seed turn to "hair" in about 5 days. The bottles we used were recycled and clear so the roots were also visible. The only things we purchased for this project were a bag of garden soil, foam shapes and googly eyes. The kids really enjoyed making them.



Also Submitted by Patty Feden:



Pleasant Hills GC held a flower show on Sept. 7th, titled, *County Fair*. The staging reflected this theme with Pumpkins, cornstalks and county fair

exhibits, including a "concession stand", "petting Zoo" and other county fair type games.

Our horticulture was well represented with a colorful palette of perennials, annuals, herbs, vegetables, shrubs and trees. Our member designs included a Creative Design, a functional style Alfresco Table for Two, and an Exhibition Table Design of artistically arranged table components.



Two Educational Exhibits were submitted, one featuring handmade soap and the other with decorative gourds. The Judges really loved each of these two exhibits, as well as the creative staging. The show was well received by the Judges and the community.

UNIONTOWN

Submitted by Sharlene Lehman

The Uniontown Flower Club members said goodbye to summer with a program in October on bulbs. Members learned how to force bulbs to bloom in late season and how to care for those outdoor bulbs with winter approaching. In November, members used natural pine cones and branches to make winter and holiday wreaths under the direction of Program Chair, Toni L'Hommedieu. December will find the Club relaxing and sharing winter plant tips at our Christmas luncheon. We will not meet in January, but our February Valentine Tea will be an opportunity to discuss spring and summer programs, as well as thoughts about the upcoming Convention and our new Master Gardener Scholarship program.

"The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others." St. John Chrysostom

To help non-migrating bees and other beneficial insects, leave hollow canes and dead flower stalks in your flower garden. Don't burn, or mulch all those autumn leaves. Leave a few piles for our winter insect friends. Old wood and bark from that tree branch that blew down can provide a nice home for them. Undisturbed soil mounds are also beneficial. Yes, it might look messy to leave flower stalks, a few

piles of leaves, or a dead branch or two. But you can clean it up in the spring when bees and other insects begin their labor again – for us!

VALLEY

Submitted by Roxanne Huss, President
Valley Garden Club

Well, I have taken the dead leaves off in my garden, stored the elephant ear and dahlia bulbs in a cozy dry place, planted a lot of tulip and daffodil bulbs, cleaned my tools and brought inside all the fragile flower pots and dodads. I am ready to hibernate! Now what do I do through the long winter months?

First order of business is help club members plan our next flower show for this coming summer. Thankfully the club has many members who are creative and know the revised rules for flower shows. It's important to get the verbage and categories correct!

Some other items on the "to do" list include:

- o Send for seed/plant catalogs.
- o Browse the internet for new cultivars and gardening ideas.
- o Experiment making fabric flower pins – examples were seen at the Phipps gift shop.
- o Make a Spring Bouquet of crepe paper flowers
- o Start tulips and other bulbs.
- o Soak dried hydrangeas in Rit dye – (Internet idea that looks easy to do).
- o Plan next year's garden/ landscaping (This is always on my list.)
- o Watch my succulents and other house plants grow bit by bit.
- o Get ideas for spring and summer field trips.
- o Finally get materials for starting seeds in March.

Then I will be ready for the first day of spring!!!!



DO YOU KNOW...

Submitted by Angie Raitano

(This is a follow-up of the article that was written one year ago (almost to the day!))

DO YOU KNOW...

*The lease on the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) Headquarters Office in Camp Hill terminated November 1, 2019. GCFP was released from the contract one year early.

*GCFP Headquarters Office is now located in the home of the new Headquarters Secretary. GCFP pays rent to her.

*The new GCFP Headquarters Secretary is Elizabeth J. Pinkham; available Mondays and - Wednesdays 8 AM-noon, 1-3 PM: phone 717-737-8219; e-mail GCFP205@gmail.com ; mailing address - P.O. Box 205, Lampeter, PA 17537-0205.

*GCFP President 2019-2021 is JOYCE MILBERG, Titusville Area GC in D. VIII, is from Tionesta, PA.

Further...DO YOU KNOW?

*District X (DX) is now 18 years old, having been established in 2001, when D.VII was divided into the three Districts VII, IX and X.

*We have had seven D.X Directors:

Grace Mitchell (2001-2006)
Diane Hughes (2006-2010)
Mary Finley (2008-2010; deceased)
Mary Jane Martucci (2010-2014)
Haddie Webber (2014-2016)
Vina McLeod Rudolph (2016-2018)
Kay Bair (2018-2020)

*District Directors are installed in the even-numbered years, so they are "in place" when the new GCFP Presidents are installed in the odd-numbered years.

DO YOU KNOW.....how D.X is networked to GCFP? ?

*These D.X members serve on the GCFP Board of Directors:

Bair, Kay	Hughes, Dian
Martucci, Mary Jane	Mitchell, Grace
Mueller, Marie	Page, Mardell
Raitano, Angie	Rudolph, Vina
Sarraino, Mike	Weber, Haddie

*D.X is networked to the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (CAR-SCG), which includes the garden club federations of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, National Capital Area, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania) by the following D.X members serving on the Regional Board of Directors (BOD):

Hughes, Diane Mitchell, Grace
Raitano, Angie (CAR Alternate Dir.)

CAR-SGC Director is Gail Corle Manna, Bedford County GC in D.VI, from Imler, PA.

*D.X is networked to National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) by the following D.X members serving on the National BOD:

Hughes, Diane Mitchell, Grace
Raitano, Angie

*These D.X members interact with garden club members from many countries, including Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and many other Western Hemisphere Countries that are International Affiliate Members of NGC.

What fantastic sources of information and learning!



"A FUNNY THING HAPPENED on the WAY to the"...FLOWER SHOW!

Submitted by Angie Raitano,
PAJC FS Schedule Reviewer

It was September 7 and I was driving to Pleasant Hills to judge the Pleasant Hills Garden Club Flower Show, "County Fair". It was a beautiful day, there was not much traffic, and I smiled as I noticed a trooper (tucked into a spot that was impossible to see, until directly in front of him) because I **was** observing the speed limit, and I **was not** going to get a speeding ticket!

A short distance after that, I realized I was humming a tune to the rhythm of the words "I'm going to a flower show. I'm going to a flower show." What a pleasant thought!

Going to a flower show always makes me feel good...and I always leave feeling better! I don't care whether I attend as a spectator, as an exhibitor, as a judge, or as the show chairman...I find it exciting to see what beautiful designs and intriguing horticulture specimens are on exhibit. If I attend as a judge, I'm excited to see my friends who are also judging the show. As a spectator, it's interesting to study the horticulture specimens and read the judges comment sheets. To focus on the beauty and creativity derived from Nature is always fascinating!



So, I congratulate *all garden clubs that held Flower Shows this year.* **"Congratulations to all participants!"** No matter what ribbon/s you did or did not receive, you have been responsible for giving

pleasure to a lot of people. You have helped to educate yourselves, your club members, and the public! That's the purpose and the goal...and you have done it! Keep doing it!

Also, think about attending Flower Show School, or consider offering a club Scholarship to member/s to attend a School.



TRASH TO TREASURE

Submitted by Pat Drennen,
GCFP Trash to Treasure Chair

Here is advance information on the upcoming 2020 Trash to Treasure competition, to help people prepare ahead. We hope to see as many people participating as possible!

For this year's Convention, we will be using a party theme to *Celebrate our Legacy of 90 Years*. We would like the main attraction to be a cake or a slice of cake, or both.



The theme for your Trash to Treasure submission is ***ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT.***

Things to keep in mind:

- It must be in the shape of a cake, slice of cake, or both.
- Dimensions must be within 20" x 20" x 20".
- You must incorporate our 90 year anniversary Logo.
- You must include the color purple, as purple is our signature color.

If you have any questions, I am ready and willing to help! You can reach me at Phdpeach@icloud.com, or at 717-422-8913.



QUIET SKIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Wanda Sherry,
Birds and Butterflies Chair

If you think you're hearing fewer birds singing when you wake up in the morning, it's not your mind playing tricks on you, it's true. Here in North America

we have had a staggering 29% decline in our bird population since 1970.



According to the National Audubon Society, species of birds that have seen declines locally and across Pennsylvania are the chipping sparrows, the common grackle, meadowlarks, juncos, warblers, red winged blackbirds, finches, wrens, thrushes, the nuthatch and others. While the loss of birds is a blow to birdwatchers and animals that feast on birds like cats and serpents, it also has an impact on our ecosystem. Birds control pests, pollinate flowers, spread seeds and carry out other vital tasks necessary to keeping the environment healthy.

Experts believe the culprits for bird loss includes the use of pesticides, habitat loss, global warming and even such common activities such as birds striking windows, or being gobbled up by natural predators along with feral and outdoor cats. "This is a clear message: the natural world humans depend on is being paved, logged, eroded and polluted. You don't need to look hard for the metaphor that birds are the canaries in the coal mine that is the earth's future.

People have a natural desire to react to something like this in some positive way. Your backyard is part of a larger puzzle for breeding and the passage of migratory birds. We can't take birds for granted in our world. Since the 1970's, we have lost three billion of America's birds. This is a full-blown crisis that requires political leadership as well as mass individual action. We must act now to protect the places we know birds rely on.



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 baby bee does.
2. What doctors attempt to do.

3. A flower made of cow hide.
 4. A monk's garment.
 5. What mice fear the most.
- (See page nine for answers.)**



CONVENTION HOTEL INFORMATION

Sue Semple, GCFP 2020 Convention Chair

Below is the on-line link to the room block for the 2020 GCFP Convention. The room block will close on March 26, 2020. The convention is from April-17-19, 2020. If you are planning to come in early, the room block rate starts on that Thursday (April 16). There are plenty of rooms in the block and everyone will be in one hotel.



The Web page address is:
 Garden Federation of Pennsylvania
 – Reservation link
 Group Name: Garden Federation of Pennsylvania
 Group Code: GCF
 Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,
 Pittsburgh – Cranberry
 910 Sheraton Drive
 Mars, Pennsylvania, 16046
 Phone: 724-776-6900

Looking forward to see you in April as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the GCFP. If you have any problems or questions please feel free to contact me.

semplew@verizon.net
 412-367-9387.



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE -

Notes/Tips

Submitted by Angie Raitano,
 GCFP Parliamentarian

Are your members doing this correctly? At the Leadership Workshop in October, the following was presented:

The PURPOSE of Parliamentary Procedure:
 To provide RULES/PROCEDURES that PROTECT the RIGHTS of Members and provide for EFFECTIVE/SMOOTH CONDUCT at MEETINGS. It PROTECTS RIGHTS of:

- The MAJORITY to decide
- The MINORITY to be heard
- The INDIVIDUAL Member
- The ABSENTEE Member

There MUST be a QUORUM to do business (to make decisions). BY-LAWS establish the QUORUM. Most VOTES are decided by a MAJORITY (one more than half of those voting). *But, a TWO-THIRDS VOTE is necessary for matters that LIMIT or TAKE AWAY the RIGHTS of Members. Matters of great importance may require that ALL Members (those absent, too) be informed prior to the next meeting at which the vote will be taken. (Example: By-Laws changes)

ACTIONS/MOTIONS:

- When proposing some action that requires a vote, the proper verbiage is “I MOVE.....”
- Then the PROPOSAL becomes a MOTION, which MUST have a “SECOND” in order to be discussed.
- The Presiding Officer says “It has been MOVED and SECONDED that...(repeats the Motion). Is there discussion?”
- After discussion, the Presiding Officer says, “Are you ready for the QUESTION?”... which ends the discussion....,
- Then “All those in favor of the Motion, say ‘Aye’.
- Those opposed, say ‘No’”.
- The ayes have it and you have voted to
- Or the nos have it and the motion fails
- The next order of business is.....

AMMENDING a MOTION: The verbiage is “I move to AMEND the MOTION”. Then state the change. A SECOND is needed! Then After discussion of the AMENDMENT, the Presiding Officer ask for a vote on the AMENDMENT.....following which, a vote will be taken on the original MOTION (with/without change).

In case of difficulty in coming to a decision, the matter can be:

TABLED until later in the meeting and be considered again before adjournment, or POSTPONED and be considered at a meeting in the future. It is saved for a future AGENDA. The MOTION/AMENDMENT can be withdrawn by the original person who proposed it.



PLANNING A POLLINATOR GARDEN

By Martha Alexander, Fayette County Master Gardener, Great Meadows Garden Club

As you plan your garden for next spring, keep the birds, butterflies and other pollinators in mind. We depend on insects and other wildlife to pollinate 80 % of the world's crops. Habitats for butterflies and birds and many other kinds of wildlife are being wiped out by development, pesticide use, and increased lawn growth. Pollinator populations are declining in abundance and diversity especially the bees, butterflies, bats, songbirds and hummingbirds. They need our help.



It's quite easy to provide a butterfly buffet with a few additions to your yard. Pollinators need food, water, and shelter to thrive in an area. You may just want to add a few items to your

existing garden. First, select a sunny spot for your garden because most plants that pollinators use require full sun (at least 6 hours). Different pollinators need a variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall. It is best to use native plants, instead of cultivars, as they are four times more attractive to pollinators. Native plants with lots of nectar are the ones that our local insects have adapted to over many years. Cultivars are often not as good at providing nectar, and double flowers contain almost no nectar.

You should plant your flowers in masses or drifts to make it easier for the pollinators to see them and find lots of nectar in one place. Many insects also like thyme, dill, fennel, and parsley. Some butterflies need a native host plant. Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed leaves. Spicebush swallowtail caterpillars feed mainly on spicebush and

Sassafras. Black swallowtail caterpillars feed mainly on plants from the parsley family.

You can provide water in shallow pools, or birdbaths



with rocks. Place a quarter of an inch of sand in a saucer and add water until just covered. Add a few flat stones that rise above the water.

Many beneficial insects overwinter in hollow stems, or in leaf litter. A swallowtail Chrysalis looks like a shriveled leaf. Mason bees like to collect soil from muddy patches in your yard to seal the chambers holding their larva. Save any large leaf and stem clean-up until spring.

Some annuals that attract butterflies and bees are Zinnias, Marigolds, Cosmos, and Sunflowers. Some good perennials are Common Milkweed and Butterfly Weed. My hummingbirds love my Lobelia Cardinal Flowers. Other good perennials for nectar sources are tall Verbena Bonariensis, Russian Sage, Liatris, Columbine, Black-eyed Susan, and Coneflowers. Many of these plants will be available at our annual Master Gardener Plant and Geranium Sale on the Saturday before Mother's Day, in the 4-H Building at the Fayette County Fairgrounds. Plan now, buy later.

As you plan your garden for next spring, choose native plants that provide fruit, nectar, and seeds. The birds, bees, and butterflies will find your garden simply irresistible.

For more information go to:

<https://extension.psu.edu/catalogsearch/result/?q=pollinator+gardens>



GARDEN TIPS

Submitted by Kay Bair

You may want to consider purchasing the booklet titled *Month to Month perennial and Shrub Maintenance Chart for the Mid-Atlantic region*. It is a Horticultural Reference written and edited by the following Obsessive Gardeners: Nancy A. Burns, Dani Klorig, Poss Tarpley, Kelva Frailey, Billie Trump and Evalee B. Ciuca, all are dedicated to the Gardeners of the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The garden maintenance chart organizes, in an easy-to-use format, comprehensive information gardeners want and need in order to grow vigorous, beautiful, perennials and shrubs in our mid-Atlantic zones, 6a to 7b. This booklet has easy to read charts for planting, pruning and other important information regarding maintenance of your perennials and shrubs on a month to month basis.

Your club president will be given more information, in case you wish to order one.

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



HORT IN TEN

Submitted by Grace Mitchell



Usually the seed catalogs start coming right after Christmas, but Burpee's couldn't wait. They emailed me some new selections for 2020.

We all need another tomato, so there's Bodacious Hybrid-large, round and sweet. Silky Sweet Hybrid Turnip is Snow White and delectable (they say). You want a cucumber that's chartreuse, crunchy and sweet as honey? Then Honey Plus Hybrid is for you. Not that I would eat one, but there is a new radish, Royal Purple. (No, not even if it is purple).

Guess what the summer squash Lemon Drop Hybrid's shape might be?? Green Knight Hybrid Eggplant looks like a group of pale green fingers. What next?

Flowers are next. Zesty Mix Zinnias look like what I get when I plant my saved seeds. No sale, Burpee. Chocolate Cherry Sunflowers remind me of Velvet Queen, one of my favorites, with deep shades of brownish red.

Now this is new to me. Cybister Amaryllis, Evergreen; winner of 'Award of Garden Merit' from Royal Horticultural Society. Lovely lime pointed blossoms are unique.

Lastly, I'll mention a new twist on another of my faves, the Hyacinth Bean. This one has white blossoms with silvery pods. You may guess I still prefer the purple ones...

Whatever you plant, new or old, happy horting!!



WILDFLOWER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Honey suckle
2. Heal-All
3. Leather flower
4. Monkshood
5. Catnip



The deadline for submissions for the March 1 issue of the TENDril is **February 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".



