



Buds and Blossoms

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

November 2018

Autumn Harvest

As we wind down the calendar year, we reflect on the glorious bounty of blessings and rewards we have reaped in and out of our gardens. It is a great honor to take over the job of editor of Buds and Blossoms, the quarterly newsletter of Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania's District II/III from the multi-talented Sally Giff. I am grateful for the reports sent to me and know that sharing the projects, activities, successes of our clubs with each other will generate a mutual appreciation of the hard work, dedication and passion that is the hallmark of a garden club member. As I work on this, I sit in front of my computer overlooking the small grove of oak trees at the side of my home and will share this short poem to mark the season and describe my current point of view.

Liz Steen, Editor

Leaves

by Elsie N. Brady

"How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below

To wait, like children, for the snow."

Director's Report

As I take on the role of District Director, I am looking forward to working with all of you. I must compliment the Garden Club of Reading for doing an outstanding job for the Sept. 5, District II/III meeting. Everything was excellent: the meal, chocolate dessert, speaker, Stephanie Cohn, the Perennial Diva. Her program was informative as we went from spring to fall in the garden. The garden art raffle was a success.

It was a pleasure to welcome our state executive board: Christine Leskosky, GCFP State president who is from District II/III, 1st Vice President Joyce Milburg, and 2nd Vice President Shelia Croushore.

Fall is always a busy time between the District II/III meeting and the State Board meeting at State College on October 8-9 which I attended. Two books were recommended at the meeting for our reading: The Living Landscape by Doug Tallamay and Rick Darke. I recently heard Doug Tallamay speak at Cedar Crest College. His message was important about what we must do to save our environment by planting the proper plants that will support our bird populations. His co-author, Rick Darke, will be a presenter at our GCFP State Convention, April 7-9, 2019. The second book Beatrix Potter Gardening Life by Marta McDowell is the first book to explore the origin of Beatrix's love for gardening.

The theme for GCFP State Convention will be "Seasons in Bloom." It will be held at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA. There will be a Tri-Refresher offered at this convention.

The Keystone Kalendars were distributed at the state board meeting. It is exciting to have our own state calendar spearheaded by President Chris Leskosky. The photos are a mixture of designs, horticulture, and landscapes. Think about submitting your photos for next year's calendar. The entry form is on the website of GCFP.

LeAnn Stine, our state secretary, is retiring after 33 years. She has done a Goliath job for GCFP. The present office will close at the end of August. A new secretary has been hired and will have a home office for GCFP.

I would encourage your club to look into all the scholarships and awards that are offered by GCFP and National Garden Club especially the Plant America Grant. The Youth Contests are a good way to expose our youth to the goals of our organization. The youth poetry theme is **Pop Goes the Seed** for students in K-9 grades. The high school essay grades 9-12 theme is "**The Impact of Bottled Water on the Environment and Water Supply.**" Smokey Bear is turning 75 this year so the posters for Smokey Bear Contest should only be Smokey Bear not Woodsy Owl.

Please think about attending one of the schools being offered. March 14-15, 2019, Environmental School Course I will be offered at Exton, PA. Gardening School Course IV March 25-26, 2019, is also at Exton. Applications are on line.

As President Chris Leskosky says, be part of T.E. A. M. Together Everyone Achieves More. I am looking forward to working with all of you.



Club Notes

ALLENTOWN GARDEN CLUB With our September and October meetings under our belt the Allentown Garden Club (AGC) is off and running with a new administrative year. Embracing a few format changes, our Club is energized and focusing on a 70th Anniversary celebration, fund raising and outreach opportunities, Design/Horticulture Studies, hospitality, and hosting the District II/III Annual meeting on September 26 (2019) at Lehigh Country Club.

We massaged our **garden club meeting day scheduled** a bit:

9:00 AM Doors open for Tournament entries and hospitality set-up

10:00 AM Design/Horticulture Study

10:30 AM Judging Tournament entries

NOON Hospitality

12:30 PM Program

1:45 PM Business Meeting

In anticipation of a balanced budget, we've reactivated our **Ways & Means** and **Raffle** at our monthly general meetings. Ways & Means Last month, member Provy LaPadula, shared some demitasse cup bird feeders for sale at \$5/each Raffle At our November meeting a Garden Art item will be raffled in addition to program designs

At our September 13th meeting **Lynn Dautrich, Master Gardener** shared his expertise with *Raised Bed Gardening* via a PowerPoint presentation. An excellent speaker, Lynn presented the numerous advantages, types and uses of raised beds.

On October 11th, **Dave Shimp, Phoebe Floral** shared an Autumn TableScape members might do at home to take us September through November, and a Winter TableScape appropriate for December into the New Year. Simply gathering items we already have at home we can create a lovely vignette welcoming each new season into our home.

We are eagerly looking forward to our November 8th meeting, James Axiotis, Wegman's Floral Department Manager, will present the program – *Enhancing Each Room of your Home with Flowers*. Discover how you can bring your home to life with flowers suited for each room. Surround yourself with nature and joy. Wegman's Allentown, 3900 Tilghman Street, Allentown PA 18104 (610)336-7930 www.wegmans.com/products/floral.html

Dec 13 , Bob Sparrow, A local gardener specializing in cacti, succulents, begonias and violets - *Houseplants*
Mr. Sparrow will share his knowledge and will also bring some plants for you to purchase, if you are interested. We will expand our December program with a pot luck luncheon at 11:30 AM in celebration of the holiday.

2019 Programs - Allentown Public Library Community Room (NOON) Hospitality (12:30 PM) Program

Mar 14 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 in these areas.

Apr 11 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 your property.

May 9 Jack Jones, JJ Woodcrafts – *Unique Birdhouses*
Find out what birds really want in their bird feeders. Jack Jones repurposes 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.

Jun 15 **Allentown Garden Club's 70th Anniversary Celebration – Lehigh Country Club** Deborah Pomeroy-Moyer, Floral Educator and Designer, will present the program – *Organic Floral Designs*. Deborah has been a floral designer working in PA, NJ and DE and is an adjunct professor at Mercer County Community College. She will dazzle us with her organic designs creating three delightful arrangements. Moreover, table centerpieces will be created by the talented Club designers. A raffle at the conclusion of the day will offer attendees the chance to win one of Deb's designs or a lovely table centerpiece.

Allentown Garden Club meets the 2nd Thursday monthly (Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec and Mar, Apr, May, Jun) at the Allentown Public Library in the basement Community Room. Enter through the Main Entrance; take elevator to ground floor.

Visitors are ALWAYS welcome! Rosemary Gish Ebersole (AKA Rosie), President

The **BETHLEHEM GARDEN CLUB** usually does not meet during August, but this year a group of dedicated members focused on planning our fundraiser that will support our scholarship and various community activities. It will be an "Artful Christmas House Tour" on December NINTH (9). We will have six homes (three in the Historic District) and one Museum (an affiliated of the Smithsonian). The Kemerer Museum, aside from its collections, will have 10 Christmas trees creatively decorated by members interpreting various paintings. Each of the six homes will have, along with Christmas decor, at least two holiday table settings that will be both exquisite and/or whimsical. Christmas baking delights, baked by our talented members will be on sale. Art work from some of our juried artists will be displayed, as well as magnificently wrapped packages. We hope to inspire you to return home with wonderful ideas for your own Christmas decor. Bethlehem is a special city anytime of year, but at Christmas it has a special radiance. Come and be part of the glow.

For twenty four years we have decorated Bethlehem's Libraries and Historic Museums and Sites. This year is no exception, 50 members are ready to put Bethlehem in its finest Christmas clothes in mid November.

We have had two General Meetings with stimulating speakers. In September we were taught how to paint flowers on everything from canvas to clothes by Rory Ebert and in October Marta McDowell had us spellbound as she gave us

insights to her best selling book "All the Presidents' Gardens". Our Horticulture, Design and Botanical Arts Tournaments displayed the best of our gardens, designs and photographs skills. Our third General Meeting in November will have Linda Kurtz demonstrating Holiday Floral design for us to use in our homes.

We look forward to our Christmas Luncheon on December fifth and our House Tour on December ninth. In addition, many are awaiting the trip to Philly Pops Christmas Concert.

Some of our members have traveled to attend Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania . Early in September several of our members attended the lovely and informative District II/III Meeting in Reading. Four of our ladies won raffle items. Our three Accredited Judges will attend the two Judges' Councils (Northeast and Philadelphia) meetings in late October.

Wendy-Webber Welsh
President

EMMAUS GARDEN CLUB – No Report

HAZLETON AREA GARDEN CLUB – No Report

MILFORD GARDEN CLUB -As the days grow shorter and the trees give off the incredible beauty of autumn color, the club reflects on the programs and activities since August. We enjoyed a kokedama demonstration by Stella Provenzano, a member; were delighted by a Cornell program "Attracting Birds to the Garden" and another "Plants for Winter Interest." We held a successful flower show themed "Year of the Birds". This was in connection with the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. Over 60% of our members participated whether it be in design, horticulture, arts and crafts, photography or hospitality. We enjoyed the company of Barbara Campbell, Chris Leskosky, and Barbara White as judges. As always, the incredible hospitality genius which is the Milford Garden Club provided a yummy breakfast and delicious lunch for all judges and committee members. We held a traditional British tea at the historic Laurel Villa Inn to support our scholarship program and yielded over \$600. In September, we partnered with the Police and Fire Departments of Milford to sponsor a Community Auction. Members donated and solicited donations of art, antiques and unique adventures. It was attended by over 200 tri-state interested parties. The Milford Garden Club yielded \$9353.97 which will go to support the replacement of urn/planters around town. Our "build a scarecrow" event produced 13 scarecrows placed around Milford. This was especially enjoyed by participants at the annual Readers and Writers and Black Bear Festivals. We received a \$1000 grant from the Richard L. Snyder Pike Foundation and were able to open up the vista of the Delaware at Ethel Barckley Park. The following Saturday, we hosted over 15 children who built their own scarecrows for decoration at their homes. We sponsored a library reading story event centered on "The Saved Seed", a publication of the National Garden Club. Our Remembrance Place, a public park in town, received a Garden of Distinction Award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Members planted over 300 daffodils around town during an event entitled "Daffodil Daze". We are looking forward to our annual Christmas luncheon and then enjoying a long winter's nap! Linda Pinto, President

The **MONROE COUNTY GARDEN CLUB** – No Report

GARDEN CLUB OF MONTROSE – No Report

PARKLAND GARDEN CLUB has had a busy autumn season. Our October 8th program featured Louise Bugbee of the PA Lyme Resource Network. Her program was "Dare 2B Tick Aware"- what Lyme disease is, and how to protect ourselves as gardeners. She also shared information on the dreaded spotted lantern fly infestation in our area. Our October 24 bus trip took us to see the Great Jack-o-Lantern Blaze in Tarrytown, NY and visit the area where Washington Irving was inspired to write Rip Van Winkle and also the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. It was a wonderful but cool autumn day. We visited the cemetery where Washington Irving was buried and learned a little about his life. Later we toured "Sunnyside", his home along the Hudson River, and saw how he and his extended family lived. That evening we visited the Blaze and saw thousands of carved pumpkins and displays. Truly an appropriate trip to celebrate Halloween!

On October 25 we had our Horticultural Therapy Program at Luther Crest Retirement facility. The residents decorated straw bonnets with seasonal silk flowers and foliage to hang on their front doors. This was followed by a group sing-a-long and refreshments for everyone. Thanks to our Horticultural Therapy Committee to organize and carry out this event. November has two programs: On November 1st, our Viticulture and Wine Tasting Program at Clover Hill Vineyards and Winery will occur. This has been rescheduled twice, so we are happy to finally be able to go and enjoy the presentation. On November 12, we will have Organic Design by Deborah Pomroy Moyer, an experienced floral designer in the Greater Philadelphia area. She incorporates elements from the garden with twigs, foliage, vines and accent flowers. This a popular design trend and our membership will surely enjoy it.

December 14's bus trip will be to the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia to have dinner and hear the Philly Pops Holiday Concert. It was so popular in 2017, we decided to have the trip again! December 11 is our Annual Christmas Banquet at the Brookside Country Club with entertainment by the Lehigh Valley Men's Chorale, a presentation by Meals on Wheels, great food and fellowship with our garden club friends.

With winter weather being a bear for the last few years, we decided to not schedule a monthly meeting for January. So our first club meeting in the new year will be on February 11, 2019, with a talk on the care and benefits of houseplants. A welcome topic while we are all inside for the winter!--- Bonnie Keller, President

POTTSTOWN AREA GARDEN CLUB has enjoyed our summer meetings by being outside. We toured the John James Audubon Center in Mill Grove, the Montgomery County Penn State Cooperative Extension in Colledgeville, the Manatawny Winery in Douglassville and of course, three of our local and members flower gardens.

October's meeting gave us a chance to elaborate on the subject of our bee population. Dan Boylan, President of Montgomery County Beekeepers Association gave us tips on how gardeners can help our endangered bee population. Rebecca Boylan, Master Gardener and horticulturist, showed us a video and spoke of what flowering plants and trees are favorable pollinators.

In November Jacki Hagmayer will present a look into the life of Beatrix Farrand. Beatrix is one of America's most celebrated landscape architects.

In December will have a hands on workshop presented by Tracy McKay Sabocheck, a Reading Garden Club member and unique designer. Tracy will show us how to make our own holiday arrangement using greens, pine cones, etc. from our own gardens.

We've just completed the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends campaign. So far we've netted \$1,629 with more to be received. Also, in December, our club will be back at Boscov's to wrap Christmas packages for donations.

Our Horticulture Therapy committee just completed assisting residents at the Manor Care facility in Pottstown with arranging dried plant material in pumpkins to be kept in their rooms. In November we will be returning to Manor Care to make a decoration using pine cones to be hung on their room's door. - Karen Albera, President

SOUTH SCHUYLKILL GARDEN CLUB – No Report

WYOMISSING AREA GARDEN CLUB

Our November program was "Gathering Fall Treasures for Winter Creations". Our own club member, Nancy Kuntzleman, did a great job of showing us all the fabulous things that we can dry to make fall and winter arrangements. She put in so much time and effort into growing and experimenting with grasses, seeds and pods to work with. Our November program will be making Oreo Cookie Turkeys to donate local after school programs. This is a fun project that club members love doing and the children love getting. December is our annual Holiday party that gets everyone together for a fun time. We are deciding which local charity will be donating to at the party. We are off in January and February but that doesn't mean we are idle. The board is busy planning spring events and members are looking forward to warmer weather to get back to their gardens. - Fran Carroll - President

"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn."

- Elizabeth Lawrence

On the Calendar in 2019

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

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