

# THE TENdriL

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

Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 21 Issue 1  
March, 2021  
Editor, Helen Galluppi  
Hlg632@gmail.com



## THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Submitted by Kay Bair, Director, District X

### DISTRICT X BOARD Officers

#### Director

**KAY BAIR**  
Town & Country GC

#### Assistant Director

**MARDELL PAGE**  
Valley GC

#### Recording Secretary

**LINDA COLEMAN**  
Martha Washington G C

#### Treasurer

**SANDRA GRILLI**  
Martha Washington GC

Spring is on the way, if you feel like I do, it can't come too quickly. I talked to Mardell recently, she had a tree full of robins in her back yard on February 13th. It looked like Nature is trying to help with our cabin fever by coming early.



One way to speed things along is by planting some of the early crops, like cabbage, kale, onions, celery, spinach, broccoli, radish and peas, as early as the ground is workable. Perhaps many of us have leftover seeds from last year, give them a try.

Planning for this coming year's meeting and programs is challenging as we all learn to do things differently than years past.

Some clubs are having Zoom meetings, along with others having actual ones. Whether we want to or not this is the way things will be done for a while. I have received zoom invitations to attend meetings for a few clubs in District X. A District X Board meeting is planned via zoom soon to plan for this coming year.

District IV is hosting the 91<sup>st</sup> GCFP Convention "Zoom into Spring" on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. **The deadline to register is March 1, 2021.** After you register you will receive Zoom training. I do hope many of you will attend. This will be the least expensive for attendees ever. You won't need to pay for traveling, hotel, dinner expenses or worry much about what you will be wearing.

Be brave ! Try it ! You might like it!!



## DISTRICT X GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENTS

### **GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL**

Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, at 7 PM  
Michael Sarraino

<http://www.facebook.com/GardenClubofMunhall>  
Web site: <http://www.gardenclubofmunhall.com>

### **GIANT OAKS GARDEN CLUB**

Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 11:30 AM  
Betty Amato

Barbara Jo Nerone  
1009 Lakeside Drive

Facebook: Giant Oaks Garden Club

### **GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB**

Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10:30 AM  
Wanda Sherry

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

### **GREEN GARDENERS OF UNIONTOWN**

Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Friday (for lunch)  
Paula Flaherty

### **MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN CLUB**

Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 12:30 PM  
Deborah Davis

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

### **MON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 6:30 PM  
Alice Harris

[aliceharris141@gmail.com](mailto:aliceharris141@gmail.com)

### **PLEASANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB**

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 12:30 PM  
Louise Humphreys

<https://www.facebook.com/Pleasant-Hills-Garden-Club-111595013758659/>

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

### **TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB**

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 6 PM  
Dianne Nicholson

[diannenick123@gmail.com](mailto:diannenick123@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/tcgcrpla>

### **UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB**

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 1 PM  
Monica Sweet

### **VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 10 AM  
Roxanne Huss

**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.**



### 2021 IMPORTANT DATES

Apr 18-21	GCFP Convention, "Zooming into Spring," via ZOOM
June 5-13	PHS Flower Show: Habitat: Nature's Masterpiece
Jun 7-8	GCFP Board Meeting – Wyndham Garden State College, Boalsburg, PA
Sept 8	District X Annual Meeting

Oct 11-12 GCFP Board Meeting –  
Wyndham Garden State  
College, Boalsburg, PA

### 2022 IMPORTANT DATES

Apr 3-5 GCFP Convention,  
“Celebrating Natures  
Masterpieces,” Desmond  
Hotel, Malvern

Apr 28-May 1 Flower Show School Course I,  
DoubleTree, Plymouth  
Meeting, PA



### 2021 DISTRICT X BOARD MEETINGS

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

May - Wednesday, May 19  
August - Monday, Aug. 23  
October - Monday, Oct. 25

It will be announced closer to the date of the meeting if it will be an actual meeting, or a ZOOM meeting.



### DISTRICT X CLUB NEWS

#### **GIANT OAKS**

Submitted by Barbara Jo Nerone

Now that 2021 is here Giant Oaks Garden Club has a full year of meetings, programs, and special events on the docket. Unfortunately, the success of these events depends on where we are here in Pennsylvania with the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Our first meeting of the year is slated for March. This will be the Club’s annual business meeting and will also feature a program on shade gardening that was postponed from 2021. The meeting will follow strict guidelines from our meeting sites as well as all CDC instructions.

The snow and cold weather this winter has all our members anxious for Spring. We have our annual

fundraiser – the Plant Sale and Garden Market – slated for May 15 at Peters Township Library. The 2020 Sale that was cancelled was the first sale not held in 20 years. The Committee is now in the planning stages for this event.

Our second fundraiser is our Tinsel Luncheon, scheduled for November 5 at the Southpoint Hilton Garden Inn, features a program, luncheon, vendors, and raffles. Both of the events provide the funds GOGC uses for its many charitable donations and scholarships.

We have published our yearly Yearbook and mailed it to all our members. Our monthly newsletter, The Oak Leaf, continues to provide club and gardening information in our effort to keep the club members not just informed, but linked together.

Co-presidents Betty Amato and Barbara Jo Nerone have set their goal for the year “to keep the garden club alive and as active as possible, and to provide a way to preserve garden club friendships.” Their motto, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow”, summarizes their belief that just as gardeners look forward to the rebirth of the land in spring, our club believes in tomorrow and in the promise of our club.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB**

Submitted by Sharlene Lehman

The Uniontown Flower Club has been following the recommended guidelines of our State and the CDC. We did not meet in January and will not meet in February, however, we are hoping to be able to meet in March.

Member Sharlene Lehman attended virtual classes from the Penn State Extension on pruning, and is scheduled for a class on seed starting.

President Monica Sweet has kept us informed of District news as it comes available.

Getting that “I need to plant something” feeling? Here are a few tips when you begin purchasing your flower and vegetable seeds. Make sure the seed company is from the Northeast so you get the best planting advice and seeds that will do well in

our climate. When buying seeds from a seed rack, don't buy the front one. Often, people pick that out, handle it, and can accidentally crush some of the seeds. Check the date and make sure it is for the 2021 growing season. Also, check the number of seeds in a pack. Hint: if you want a pack with just a few seeds for a small area, your local dollar store seeds often have fewer seeds. And guess what, they grow just as well as those expensive ones in the seed stores. And don't forget to buy flower seeds to attract bees and butterflies.

I know all of us can't wait to get our hands in some warm, beautiful garden soil.

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." Margaret Atwood

\*\*\*\*\*

### **PLEASANT HILLS**

Submitted by Marie Mueller

Since the weather turned cold we were no longer able to meet outdoors, so we are currently holding our Club meetings via Zoom. For our Installation of Officers, in January, we invited Angie Raitano, former Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) President, and current Assistant Director of the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs (CAR-SGC), to install our incoming officers. Angie made her presentations by referencing the colors of the rainbow as they relate to each officer's position. It was an inspiring ceremony to kick off this new year.

Interestingly, while on this Zoom call, the mail arrived at my home and we discovered that our Flower Show Schedule, titled "Country Fair", won a third place award in the CAR-SGC regional competition. This was something to celebrate in bleak January.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MARTHA WASHINGTON**

Submitted by Deborah Davis

The Martha Washington Garden Club had two planning meetings in January 2021 and one board meeting on February 9, 2021 in a hybrid form offering both in-person and via Zoom meeting for members. Meetings for the 2021 year have been scheduled and the yearbook is currently being completed. A bi-monthly newsletter has been

created and will be mailed to all members. Members also receive meeting notices via email and MWGC Facebook page and a contact committee reinstated to call members who wish to receive meeting notices that way. Dues were reduced to \$10 for the 2021 year in order to hopefully retain membership.

The first meeting of the 2021 year will be on February 16, 2021 and Sue Luisi, MWGC member and flower show judge, will speak about the beautiful specimens at the Philadelphia flower show and how to force branches.

Martha Washington Garden Club plans on continuing projects like maintaining the LeMoyné House garden and train station/veterans garden, decorating monthly a window at Citizens Library, presenting a "Lovely Landscape" award to recognize outstanding local plants and holding a standard flower show. In addition, MWGC voted to proceed with a new community project, "Trees for Our Train Station and Our Town," which includes the purchase and planting of trees, care of trees after planting, and planting trees and marking the historic Armed Forces memorial trail in the Washington Park.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

Submitted by Roxanne Huss, President

The Valley Garden Club met on February 11 with a Zoom conference call. Members dialed in with their computers or phones. All were happy to hear and see each other after a two month recess from meetings. After muting their device, our speaker on Identity Theft gave a short presentation. A Zoom meeting is also planned for March. Like most gatherings this year plans for future meetings are flexible. Outdoor meetings may be the best choice for May and June.

Kay Bair, District X Director also joined us on the call. She announced that Angie Raitano the District X Forget-Me-Not awardee. Angie is a long time member and past president of the Valley Garden Club. Angie has held many leadership roles and continues to be an inspiration to old and new members at the local, state and national levels of Garden Clubs. We are lucky to have her.



## ANNUAL MEETING / AWARDS



The 2020 Forget-Me-Not Award for District X goes to Angie Raitano of the Valley Garden Club. Angie will be honored with this award at the GCFP Convention, in April. Congratulations Angie! Criteria for selection is to be a member in good standing for 10 plus years; active

participation in club activities and community activities; regular attendance at meetings and functions; promotes GCFP, CAR-SGC, and NGC values; and loves her garden, big or small.



## LET'S TALK FLORAL DESIGN

Submitted by Angie Raitano

I AM DISAPPOINTED! Not a single person responded to my invitation to be the JUDGE! I was hoping to get some criticism/comments about the floral design, below:



It's not perfect! What's wrong? You surely have some opinion!  
Angie Raitano

angie.raitano@comcast.net

Editor's Note: This challenge is interesting to me. I am looking for ways I could spark ideas with my club members. I haven't decided but my goal is to place the picture on Facebook and ask for criticism. I am hoping that I will have something to report back to Angie in the next Issue. Join the challenge!



## FLOWER SOUP

Submitted by Kay Bair  
Printed from COOKS.COM  
<https://cooks.com/v711q655>

- 40 lb. Top soil
- 1 shovel sand
- 1 lb. 10-10-10 fertilizer (large butter tub)
- 8 oz. Bone meal
- 2 shovels mulch (peat, compost, nature's helper, manure your choice)
- 1 lb. Dolomitic lime

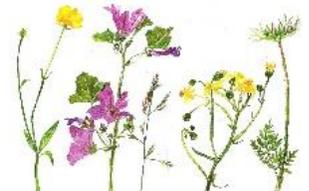
Empty 1 bag top soil into a wheel barrow or baby pool, add a shovel or 2 of sand, one pound of 10-10-10 fertilizer, eight ounces of bone meal, two shovels full of mulch, one pound dolomitic lime. With a shovel stir (fold) well. Serve by shovelfull and mix in with existing soil in your flower beds.



## 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. A sad sound producer.
2. A bump on a tooth.
3. A pretty girl in May.
4. What Jacob used for painting his house.
5. That which you wrap a tree in to keep it fresh.  
(See page eight for answers.)



## HORT IN TEN

Submitted by Grace Mitchell

Spring is coming, as it usually does. This year is like no other, obviously, and we will be so excited to be able to get outside and plant!

You know I always like to try new and unusual plants, and I found a few in the new Breck's catalog that look interesting.

**Olympus Phlox** has rosy red blooms with foliage to match (Looks purple to me). The leaves have green highlights. At 36" tall, it makes a statement!

**Japanese Bottlebrush** is an eye catcher with its feathery spikes above lacy green leaves. Its carmine flower clusters (look purple to me) are insect and rabbit resistant, and also 36" tall.

**Mega Caramel Heuchera** has gold and caramel-colored leaves (does not look purple to me) and is twice the size of traditional coral bells. It makes a dramatic splash of color, even in winter. 20 " tall.

OMG! A **Hosta** with red (not purple) stems and yellow leaves. It's the Lipstick Blonde Hosta. The little flowers are lavender (yes!). The height is only 15", but what a contrast to regular hostas.

My last recommendation is definitely not purple. It's black and gold. An **Asiatic Lily** named Lionheart has black petals tipped in vibrant gold. Very different and impressive. We should all grow one and maybe it will bring the Steelers better luck next year!

Go to [Breck's.com/spring](https://www.breck.com/spring) to see all of them. Happy Horting !!



## KNOW YOUR BOARD / TENDRIL EDITOR

Submitted by Marie Mueller,  
former TENDril Editor

Helen Galluppi is a District X Board Member, and the new TENDril Editor with this issue of the newsletter. Before retirement, Helen was a computer consultant and former President of the Pleasant Hills Garden Club. She said:

I grew up in Oakmont and went to Penn State University where I met my ex-husband and we had

two boys and produced five wonderful grandchildren. We settled in Dauphin County, in central Pennsylvania, and I came back to this area 2007, to help with my sick mother.

I always loved gardening. And my dad always had a vegetable garden, but I used to make him mad by digging and planting flowers in a place that was grassy. So, I shelved that love until I had time. As luck would have it, my colleagues at Hershey Medical Center were avid gardeners, so we were always exchanging plants. To this day those friends and I still get together several times a year.

My only talent is art. I have always painted or drawn using watercolor, and now my focus is on botanical drawings. I tried to learn the "Zorba the Greek" dance at the start of the pandemic. That didn't work very well, but I had fun trying.

My friend from York and I are planning a trip to see the Chelsea Flower Show, in England. Along with that, we plan on several trips to visit some outstanding gardens. We have visited the Philadelphia flower Show several times. A favorite is Chanticleer Garden, in Wayne PA.



## NATIVE PLANTS FROM FLORIDA

Submitted by Diane Hughes  
Wild Flower Chair



Crinum Americanum  
Swamp Lily  
Found around wet areas in  
the Everglades National  
Park



Biden's Alba  
White beggarticks  
Found along roadsides and  
in waste areas.



## NOW IS A GOOD TIME!

Submitted by Angie Raitano

*“Buckle up your overcoat.....Take good care of yourself.....”. “Tis the season to be jolly.....”*

Are those phrases familiar? Of course.....they are phrases from songs that we have all sung/said at one time or another. Now, we are in the throes of cold/snowy/icy weather and may not feel like singing. But, now is the time to put aside our focus on the weather conditions and the problems of the past year. Now we must try to muster a positive attitude and focus on pleasant thoughts. For me, that means thinking of the coming spring season and the new growth of plants, especially the flowers that provide us beauty and pleasure.

Yes, flowers always lift the spirit. Who can resist the urge to “Ooh” and “Aah,” when a houseplant blooms during the winter...or when the first snowdrops appear through the snow...or when the trees/shrubs start to bud out green!

Yes...let's settle into a comfortable chair with a plant/seed catalog and think Flowers and plants. Do it....NOW! (Next focus: FLOWER SHOWS!)



## COMPOSTING

Submitted by Carole Malmgren

More food waste makes its way into landfills and combustion facilities than any other material in trash. We produce over 76 billion pounds of waste each year, according to the EPA. As the food rots it produces methane gas because it does not get enough air circulation. Methane gas is a greenhouse gas that is up to 36 times more potent than carbon dioxide – as it breaks down.

The solution to this problem is composting, which is produced aerobically, it does not create methane like a landfill. Most people are afraid to try composting because they are unaware of how to manage without the food scraps smelling bad. It is really quite easy. You may want to make your own compost pile in your yard or join a pickup service.

### **Composting Starts in the Kitchen.**

You can keep a small airtight bin or counter-top composter in your kitchen to store the scraps. When full, just take the scraps outside. If fruit flies are present, store scraps in a sealable bag in the refrigerator and take outside when full.

#### What to Collect in the Bin?

- Fruits and vegetable peels
- Stems and scraps raw and cooked
- Eggshells
- Teabags and coffee filters
- Greasy pizza boxes (tear into small pieces)
- Napkins, paper towels and paper bags
- Fats, oils and dairy products
- Compostable single-use products

#### What NOT to Compost:

- **Wood Ash** – Once burned there is nothing left but minerals. Compost microbes do not need minerals. Ashes can be mixed into finished compost or added directly to your garden. Just not too much.
- **PLU Stickers** – They are made from plastic.
- **Commercial flowers** – They are usually treated with chemicals which is not good for compost.
- **Pet Waste** – This contains pathogens that can be transferred to human beings, therefore should not be utilized for compost.
- **Meat, bones and fish** – Home compost bins will not reach a high enough temperature to kill the bad bacteria.
- **Weeds that have gone to seed** – These seeds will sprout when put into your garden because the heat in the pile is not hot enough to kill the seeds.

#### **Create your Own Compost System.**

You can purchase a premade compost bin or build one yourself from wood pallets, chicken wire or a trash bin. You will need to add both “green and brown” materials. Greens are primarily fruit and veggie scraps and eggshells, but also include coffee grounds, plant clippings and seedless weeds, which contain nitrogen. Browns are carbon-rich materials, such as leaves, sticks, wood shavings and hay, along with items like coffee filters and most types of paper and cardboard. Add “browns” in a 3:1 ration to “greens.” This keeps down the bad odors.

You will need some water added. The compost should always be a little moist. Using a pitchfork or shovel, turn over the compost at least twice a week. This adds oxygen, used by the bacteria, fungi and mold to break down the food scraps. It takes at least six months for compost to break down. It will look like good soil when it is ready to be used and the smell is so wonderfully earthy. Your garden will love all the nutrients you have provided for the plants.



## 2021 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

### [2021 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW TICKETS ON SALE NOW \(phsonline.org\)](https://phsonline.org)

JANUARY 11, 2021, PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) announced today that tickets to the 2021 Philadelphia Flower Show, June 5 – 13, are available for purchase at PHSonline.org.

Attendees are asked to select their preferred date and session at the time of purchase. To allow for social distance protocols, a limited number of tickets will be available for each day and time segment. Early purchase is highly recommended.

The Philadelphia Flower Show, typically held each March at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, will be held outdoors for the first time in its history this summer at the historic Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (FDR Park) in South Philadelphia. Given the pandemic, the move will allow PHS to present the Show safely, at the height of the gardening season and with the added health benefits of the outdoors.

The central location, situated adjacent to the South Philadelphia Sports Complex, is accessible to major highways and mass transit. The Park features inspiring natural beauty and an expansive setting that also provides show designers with an exciting new layout for creative expression and horticultural displays. Visitors will experience the Show through three distinct “Districts” that feature all manner of Plants, Design, and Gardening created for all skill levels.

The Flower Show “footprint” will span 15 acres of FDR Park’s 348 acres parallel to Pattison Avenue allowing the vast majority of FDR Park and its amenities to remain accessible to the public during the Flower Show dates. PHS is working closely with local community leaders and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation on Show planning.

“We are thrilled to be able to celebrate the outdoors and offer joy and beauty after a year that has been marked by so many challenges. This experience is a wonderful example of the enduring and combined power of green space, plants, and gardeners to create impact and inspiration,” said Sam Lemheney, PHS Chief of Shows & Events.

FDR Park, a registered historical district, was built to the design of Olmsted Brothers, the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and John Charles Olmsted in the early 20th century. With walkable pathways, majestic trees and breathtaking views, FDR Park is an inspiring venue that contributes to the splendor that the Flower Show is known for.



## WILDFLOWER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Bugleweed or Rattle box
2. Toothwort
3. Spring Beauty
4. Jacobs Ladder
5. Trefoil

**The deadline for submissions for the March 1 issue of the TENDril is February 15. Please e-mail your submission to [hlg632@gmail.com](mailto:hlg632@gmail.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”.**

