

# THE TENdriL

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

Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 21 Issue 3  
September, 2021  
Editor, Helen Galluppi  
Hlg632@gmail.com



## THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Submitted by Kay Bair, District X Director

### 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

Under normal conditions we would be attending Conventions and Workshops which would require traveling to a destination. But in the comfort of our own home, our Zoom programs provided good information for anyone wishing to expand their knowledge.



These programs were recorded and put on the GCFP website at [www.pagardenclubs.org](http://www.pagardenclubs.org)

In case you missed them, here is how to access the recordings:

- On the left side of the home page---click on **Information Resources**
- Then – **GCFP Training Links – Password Protected** (if you do not know the new password – call your Club President, or me.) This password cannot be printed anywhere ---word of mouth only.
- After gaining entry ---you will find the you tube link for the recorded session of:

1. How to use Signup Genius
2. GCFP Leadership Workshop
3. GCFP Treasurers' Training
4. Practice with a free ZOOM Account (2 Minutes)
5. Participant ZOOM Training (56 Minutes)
6. ZOOM Share Screen (11 Minutes)
7. Vina's tour of the Website

In spite of the fact that some people do not like to "ZOOM", most have found that it was an opportunity to stay in touch with members across the state, and to expand our knowledge. One is never too old to learn.



## 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

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

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6 PM

Dianne Nicholson

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

### **UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB**

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

Sharlene Lehman

### **VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

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

Roxanne Huss

## 2021 IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 8	District X Annual Meeting Lion's Park
Sept 8	GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting. Creative Gift Ideas presented by District I.
Sept 23	GCFP Sponsored Zoom Training, 7pm to 8 pm "Using Doodle".
Sept 29	GCFP Sponsored Zoom Training, 7 pm to 8 pm, Scheduler.
Oct 8-9	"Bee Positive" Flower show, Washington Crown Center, Washington.
Oct 11-12	GCFP Board Meeting – Wyndham Garden State College, Boalsburg, PA.
Oct 13	GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting.. Specifics TBD.
Oct 29	Forest Hills Flower Show (See info from Flower Show section).
Nov 5	Giant Oaks fundraiser, Tinsel Luncheon, "A Winter Wonderland" Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn
Nov 10	GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting. Blue Star Memorial Dedications
Dec 8	GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting. Grinning in Greenery

## 2022 IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 12	GCFP Sponsored Zoom Program, District V, You Tube presentation
Feb 9	GCFP Sponsored Zoom

**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.**



Program, District IV, Vanilla Orchid Presentation,

Apr 3-5 GCFP Convention, "Celebrating Natures Masterpieces," Desmond Hotel, Malvern.

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

member JoAnn Jacobs home, where all members enjoyed light refreshments and fellowship.



**2021 DISTRICT X BOARD MEETINGS**  
*All Board meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.*

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**

**GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL**  
Submitted by Michael Saraino



On July 27th, the Garden Club of Munhall gathered at the Franklin Gardens & Community Gardens of Duquesne to attend the Twilight Garden Tour. Members went to five locations in the Steel Valley. The Franklin Gardens, located in Munhall, is a community garden which is a part of the Steel Valley School District. During the tour they also stopped at the Community Gardens of Duquesne. Members Cheryl Kocsis & Cathy Petruska both donate their time to maintain the garden. The tour also included a visit to the Hays Mansion's Amity Garden, in Homestead. We finished our tour at

**Scholarship Winner**

Aidan Good, a Steel Valley High School Student, received his \$1,000 Scholarship check from Michael Saraino, President of the Garden Club of Munhall on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at their meeting.



**Munhall Memorial**

Two of the Munhall Garden Club members, along with the Cub Scout Troop #4 of Munhall, cleaned the Munhall Veterans Memorial, planted flowers and mulched earlier this year to have it ready for Memorial Day.

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**GIANT OAKS**

Submitted by Barbara Jo Nerone

Giant Oaks is moving along in its drive to get back to "normal." All our meetings, board and membership, are in person. With members vaccinated and Covid behind us (we hope permanently) we have also been able to include a luncheon at our monthly membership meetings.

While we were unable to do our planned bus trip to Beechwood Farms Audubon Society because of social distancing, we did the next best thing: brought them to us. This included a tiny Screech owl who came in person. Our speaker gave a

fantastic presentation on the owls native to Western Pennsylvania.

Other programs included a hands-on workshop making container gardens, visits to six member gardens in August, and a trip to the Rose Garden and a Tea at Renzi Park in McKeesport. Future programs will present tips on how to prepare our gardens for fall and winter and will feature local paramedics discussing “at home” safety and emergency preparedness.

With the resumption of in person meetings, our monthly Meals on Wheels workshops have kicked into high gear. Even during the pandemic lockdown, our MOW chair (along with a few members working at home) prepared items for the local Meals on Wheels clients’ trays.

Our current major focus is planning our 55th annual Tinsel Luncheon complete with a 50/50 raffle, vendors, entertainment, and more than 45 raffle baskets. This is the club’s primary fundraiser, and we are hoping that Covid will not interfere with our holding this event on November 5, at the Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn.

Throughout the summer our various committees have been active. Garden Therapy members have visited a local nursing home and helped residents prepare floral arrangements for their rooms. Of course, home baked cookies are always part of the visits. Our Civic & Conservation groups continue to plant and maintain the Peters Township Library entrance garden, the SHIM garden at St. David’s Episcopal Church, the historic Wright House, and the beds surrounding the Giant Oaks community sign. Our newest effort is our recycling committee which has recycled almost 10,000 plastic bottle caps!

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### **GREAT MEADOWS**

Submitted by Wanda Sherry

Ants live in colonies made up almost entirely of non-mating female workers whose job is to gather food, build the nest, and look after the egg-laying queen and her young. At certain times, winged males and females are produced by the queen for the purpose of mating with ants

from other colonies. After mating, the male ants die and the mated queens fly off, shed their wings and start new colonies

Although some species, like the carpenter ant and the stinging fire ant can be pests, but generally ants are beneficial. Most ants nest in the ground, digging lots of tunnels that aerate the soil and allow moisture to get to the roots of plants. They also till the soil by bringing pebbles and articles to the top.

The leaves and insects brought into the nest decay and fertilize the surrounding plants. Ants act as decomposers, feeding on organic waste, insects, or other dead animals. Even carpenter ants keep the environment clean. By making their nest in dead or diseased wood. They accelerate the decomposing process. After the ants leave, fungi and bacteria grow in the galleries and further break down the wood fiber.

Many ants are predators and feed on insects that attack lawns and gardens, and in the process of gathering food, they often pollinate flowers and distribute seeds.

Ants are also the source of food for many other insects, birds, and mammals that are so important to the ecosystem.

A sudden convergence of ants in the garden, or a line of ants moving up and down a tree, indicate the presence of aphids, mealybugs, or other sap sucking insects that attack plants. These insects produce a substance called honeydew.

The ants stroke the insects with their antennas, causing the insect to excrete the sweet liquid. The ants swallow it and store it in a special holding stomach called the crop. The honeydew is brought back to the nest and shared with the queen and other workers.

Some ants even keep aphids in their nest as a farmer would keep a cow, giving them food and shelter in exchange for honeydew.

In some cultures, ants are considered delicacies. The honey pot ants that live in our southwestern deserts gather large amounts of nectar and store it in the swollen bodies of specialized worker ants called repletes. Native Americans have snacked on these sweet ants for centuries, making them

possibly the first ones ever brought to a picnic on purpose.

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### UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB

Submitted by Sharlene Lehman

The Uniontown Flower Club meets the second Tuesday of each month except January. We are still waiting for the COVID restrictions to be lifted at our usual meeting place at Mount Saint Macrina. Until then, we have and are meeting at various locations.

Our June meeting was held at Shoney's in Uniontown. Club President, Sharlene Lehman and member Nanci Myers conducted a program on seed germination and propagation and plant-friendly pollinators. In July, members visited Renzihausen Rose Gardens in McKeesport followed by a luncheon at a nearby restaurant. Our former club president, Monica Sweet, has graciously opened her home for our August meeting to be held on the 20th. A tour of her flower gardens will be followed by a covered dish lunch. Sharlene Lehman participated in the GCFP Website Zoom presented by Vina McLeon Rudolph, our GCFP Webmaster. A handout with the highlights and important information from the Zoom will be given at the meeting. Yearbook Chair, Patty Clutter, will present our yearbook for members to enjoy. Nanci Myers will display a commercially bought pollinator house and demonstrate how to make them for solitary bees.

The Fountain across from the courthouse was completed with the combined efforts of members Kristina Garrison, Harriet Michniak, Dorothy Gruskowski, Stacy Novotney, Jean Braun, and Monica Sweet. Work continues maintaining the courthouse and post office planters in Uniontown. Member Antoinette Franks has been instrumental in keeping tabs on these areas for the club. September will take the club to Bittersweet Café in Farmington to view their beautiful flowers. Members are looking forward to attending our District X meeting on Sept. 8th. October will find us at the Century Inn, at Scenery Hill, with visits to local greenhouses nearby.

Save the Pollinators: Don't cut canes, stalks, or other standing plant material which may house

nesting bees or be providing anchors for overwintering pupae. Leave leaves alone where possible to provide winter homes for a host of pollinators. Do not till soil where there might be ground nesting pollinators. A few "wild," unmanicured nooks and crannies in your yard provide winter survival homes for pollinators

"If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, man would only have four years left to live."  
Jacques Yves Cousteau

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### PLEASANT HILLS

Submitted by Marie Mueller

Recently three of the members of the Pleasant Hills Garden Club took a short trip to Acme, Pa. to visit the Garden in the Woods, located in the Bear Rocks community. Helen Galluppi, Kim Richter and I enjoyed a tour of Glenda Gebert's garden. Glenda is a member of the Greensburg Garden



Center club, the Mt. Pleasant Area G. C. and the Connellsville Area G. C.

Garden in the Woods is a secluded private residence with beautiful paths flowers and natural

features. Glenda offers garden tours, fun classes in nature and inspired art projects. We will have Glenda present a leaf making class, like those shone here, as a program for one of our regular meetings.



Glenda's husband built her an air conditioned and heated "She Shed" / garden shop with a greenhouse attached to the back. The

greenhouse currently houses about 400 succulents that she will utilize for her succulent decorated



pumpkin workshops, this fall. She also sells a selection of nature inspired items, gardening

tools and other great finds and essentials for gardening. We all brought treasures home from her store.

It was a fun day and being among her beautiful plants and lush trees on her two acre property was so relaxing. Check out Glenda's website at [www.gardeninthewoods.net](http://www.gardeninthewoods.net). If you are interested, free garden tours are available June through September, by appointment. Contact Glenda at 412-916-9651.



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### TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by Terri Laird

My New Friend-Lovely Lavender

Who doesn't love lavender? I planted eight Lavender plants last year, honing in on my previous failures. I planted them way differently than I used to. For example, I added sand in the soil mix, and I grew them among my landscape rocks. I stayed away from the fertilizer, offering only a small amount at the beginning of Spring. According to Gardening Know How, by Liz Baessler at [www.gardeningknowhow.com](http://www.gardeningknowhow.com), there is a saying about lavender and why it died: "More often than not, the plant has actually been cared for to death". Lavender prefers nutrient poor soil so I chose not to mulch them, instead utilizing the rocks as an insulator to help them overwinter. I

found that my mulch actually kept them wet and led to the plant experiencing rot as it came out of winter, even if I removed the mulch early in late winter. They are also very drought tolerant and are typically killed from overwatering. I also chose the particular plant called "Phenomenal" – *Lavendula angustifolia*, because it has one of the most beautiful, strong, long lasting scents and this cultivar has excellent hardiness in our area.

This summer I had the most beautiful lavender with long straw like spikes, their ends exploding with intoxicating wafts of lavender flowers all around one side of my home. Even my husband noticed and that's saying something! There were hundreds of bees all over them and you could hear the low humming sound of all their buzzing which was music to my ears. I had so much fun, and I learned so much through the process of growing and harvesting it. So, what does one do with all this lovely, dried, beautifully scented lavender flowers? Shhhhhh. It's a secret. But I will reveal the answer soon!

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### MARTHA WASHINGTON

Submitted by Martha Alexander

As you plan your garden for next spring, keep the birds, butterflies, and other pollinators in mind. It's quite easy to provide a butterfly buffet with a few additions to your yard. We depend on insects and other wildlife to pollinate 80% of the world's crops. Habitats for butterflies, 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 and hummingbirds. They need our help.

Pollinators need food, water, and shelter to thrive in an area. You may just want to add to an existing garden. Select a sunny spot for your garden because most plants that pollinators like require full sun (at least 6 hours). Pollinators like a variety of plants that bloom from early spring into late fall. Use native plants as they are four times more attractive to pollinators. Native plants with lots of nectar are the ones they have adapted to feed on over many years. Cultivars are often not as good at providing nectar, and double flowers contain

almost no nectar. Plant your flowers in masses or drifts. This makes it easier for the pollinators to see them and find lots of nectar in one place. They also like dill, fennel, and parsley. Some butterflies need a native host plant. Monarchs eat only milkweeds. Spicebush swallowtails eat mainly spicebush and sassafras, and black swallowtails eat mainly from the parsley family. 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.

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### **VALLEY GARDEN CLUB**

Submitted by Roxanne Huss, President

At the June meeting, Valley Garden Club presented their annual \$1500 scholarship to a local high school student. This year's winner is Gavin Maxson of Belle Vernon. He will be attending Penn State University, majoring in Agricultural Engineering.

The June meeting program was about Bonsai. The speakers were Barbara Bailey and Shirley Rosenberger, owner of the Appalachian Creativity Center in Connellsville. Some members also attended a field trip to an extensive, colorful daylily garden in Monongahela. The owner develops new specimens and had some certified as new cultivars. Despite the rain, fun was had by all. It was hard to pick a favorite!



### **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 crops are usually planted in.
2. A veterinarian who heals feathered creatures.
3. A girl who has lost a fight.
4. Where a sheep herder keeps his money.

5. An island off the coast of Italy.  
(See page eight for answers.)



### **HORT IN TEN**

Submitted by Grace Mitchell

It's about two hours until sunset. I'm standing in my garden, one of my favorite places. There are bees, bumblebees and three kinds of butterflies enjoying my zinnias. My cannas are six feet tall with wonderful huge leaves and blossoms. And the sunflowers — the sunflowers! Last year the groundhogs destroyed all my sunflowers and five kinds of beans. I didn't plant any beans this time, but I vowed that I'd plant so many sunflowers that they couldn't eat them all!

So, ten kinds of sunflowers later, either my plan worked, or I was incredibly lucky. There was some nibbling on one variety, but the rest are gangbusters! I tried some new varieties, and was delighted with the results. I found Sun-Fil Purple Sunflower in Johnny's Selected Seeds catalog. I googled it - most unusual. I did a design of these for the county fair, and it won Best of Show! What a thrill!

As the sun begins to set, I take a last look around at all my "friends", and appreciate how wonderful it is to be a gardener.

Happy Horting!



### **KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBER**

Featuring

Martha Alexander, Pollinator Gardens Chair

Martha Alexander has a love of nature, botany, and adventure in her blood. She has botanists and explorers on both sides of her family, so it is only natural that she would become a biology teacher and adventurer.

After teaching for 30 years in the Maryland suburbs of Washington DC, she was a mentor

teacher, a teacher evaluator, and finally a science literacy specialist for the state of Maryland. She became a Master Gardener three years ago, and recently had her Pollinator Garden certified.

Martha's love of nature and adventure have taken her to many parts of the world. She's at home exploring in the Mayan caves and snorkeling in the coral reefs of Belize, and in Monet's Garden in Giverny, France. She loves kayaking in the warm springs of Florida alongside the gentle Manatees, and still heads off for skiing trips in Colorado each winter.

She shares with all of us a love of plants and gardening. Her slight obsession with hydrangeas began when she retired and moved to Deer Lake from Maryland.



**October 29, 2021** – The Garden Club of Forest Hills will present a Standard Flower Show, “Hide & Eek!,” to be held at the Forest Hills Community Pool Building, 400 Braddock Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15221, on Friday, October 29, 2021, from 2 PM to 7 PM. For information, contact Joyce Peterson at 412-243-5107 or at [jpeterson1010@msn.com](mailto:jpeterson1010@msn.com).



### **WILDFLOWER QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. Wild Rose
2. Burdock
3. Black-eyed Susan
4. Shepherd's Purse
5. Sweet Cicily



The deadline for submissions for the December 1 issue of the TENDril is **November 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".