



BUDS AND BLOSSOMS

MAY 2021

Linda Pinto, District Director, GCFP District II/III

DISTRICT II/III DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"The spring wakes us, nurtures us and revitalizes us. How often does your spring come? If you are a prisoner of the calendar, it comes once a year. If you are creating authentic life, it comes frequently. --Gary Zukav

Of all the springs I have been blessed to enjoy, this year seems to be the best! Such good news abounds throughout the District! We are slowly crawling out of our pandemic hibernation and beginning to enjoy and be grateful for all the blessings of living....the small and even giant blessings in our lives.

Of course, that includes reconnecting with our garden club family, venturing out to see the vibrant colors of spring plantings and even meeting with family and friends. In the end, these words ring true...

Your tenacity in the face of such horror, your persistence to find a way through impossible odds, and your steady belief that after every winter....there is always new life have been an inspiration to me and to all members of your clubs.

Linda Pinto District Director, GCFP II/III



"Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" –

Pollinator Gardens are high on the list of priorities for members of District II/III. Liam Jack Ellis reports the following in the latest issue of the [Keystone Gardener](#).

Habitat loss, the careless and excessive use of pesticides and weed killer, and other factors are causing populations of pollinators such as bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects to dip drastically. U.S. National Agricultural Statistics show a honeybee decline from about 6 million hives in 1947 to 2.4 million hives in 2008, a 60 percent reduction. While we face declining numbers and increasing ecosystem loss, there are steps you can take to provide healthy habitats and improve pollinator conditions, including choosing native, pollinator-benefiting plants for your gardens, eliminating the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides, and educating those who are unaware of the ways they can help address the environmental problems our world now faces.



When our parents said they wanted to talk about "the birds and the bees", I'm not sure they meant this one!

Awards

One of the benefits of membership in the GCFP is the opportunity to be recognized for the passion we bring to all things growing. Congratulations to Emmaus G. C., Hazleton Area G. C., Monroe County G. C., Parkland G. C., and Upper Perkiomen Valley G. C. for their Seed Money Award. Brava! To Jeanne Partel (Parkland Garden Club), winner of District II/III Forget-Me-Not Award. Congratulations also to Parkland Garden Club for their Award winning Club Yearbook and Publicity Press Book. Happy Anniversary to Pottsville (85), Bethlehem (90th) and (belated) Montrose (now 91). The Hazleton Area Garden Club has been selected to receive a 2021 Espoma Organic & National Garden Clubs Plant American Grant. This grant allows our club to receive up to \$250 of Espoma Organic products to use for our park project. Only 20 clubs across the USA were chosen!



Begin thinking about your own **Perennial Bloomers** in your club. This prestigious award is given by the District; sent onto the State; and finally awarded by the Central Atlantic Region (CAR). It recognizes long time members who, like the faithful perennials in our gardens, have made our clubs grow and bloom with their continuous support of our goals and objectives. These indispensable members of our Garden Clubs have shared their love of gardening and have planted many a seed for garden club programs and events, while their enthusiastic leadership has inspired members to nurture these seeds into successful blooms. Follow the link to find out how to apply by July 1st:

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/a9fa670e32ff08e0a01527e941ac21bf?AccessKeyId=B52863DF757A6B203CBA&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

(Pictured is Alice Jane Loewigkeit, recipient in 2018 and Chris Leskosky, then President)

Laurel Awards

This is a District Award given to ordinary members who do things in an extraordinary way. Keep watch in your own club for these hidden gems and make recommendations to your President. Nominations are due by August 15th.

NEW GCFP LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our new GCFP leadership: Sheila Croushore, President, Leeanna Ryba (First Vice President) and Pat Wolanski (Second Vice President). We are grateful for your willingness to serve the mission and vision of our clubs.

Here is Sheila's message:



It is an honor and pleasure to be part of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. Our theme for the next two years is "Watch Us BLOOM" and the President's Project is:

"Watching Our Youth BLOOM".

We currently have 108 garden clubs and 5 affiliates within GCFP with approximately 4700 members. In the last twenty years, I have had the pleasure of meeting so many of you. Your talents and creativity have helped GCFP reach our goals along with the goals of National Garden Club, Inc. I am looking forward to meeting many more of you in the coming years of my term.

In spending so much of our time in quarantine, we have planted and rooted deeply in our own gardens and communities. Now is the time to recharge and BLOOM.

- **BLOOM with New Ideas: Be a cultivar**
- **BLOOM in Membership: Invite a friend**
- **BLOOM in Friendship: Network and have fun**
- **BLOOM in Knowledge: Attend a school**

As GCFP gardeners, we must also protect Pennsylvania and our landscapes. One of the best ways would be to attend a school offered by GCFP through National Garden Club, Inc. By attending a Landscape Design School, a Gardening School, an Environmental School, or a Flower Show School, you can BLOOM in knowledge for GCFP, your Club and your Community. NGC's theme of Plant America is kicking off its fifth year, so let us support their goals by Planting America and "Watch Us BLOOM"!

Yours in Gardening,

Sheila Croushore

GCFP President 2021-2023

Zoom Wednesdays

Each District in GCFP will sponsor a program on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 through Zoom. June's program is on English Gardens and is offered through the good graces of District IX. More information will follow.



District Meeting

Above all, please mark your calendars and get ready for a wonderful opportunity! The Garden Club of Montrose (105 years old and 91 years in the Federation) is inviting you to our District Meeting on Wednesday, June 23rd beginning at 11:00 am (Refreshments served at 10:30). Located at the Susquehanna Public Library (458 High School Rd, Montrose, PA 18801), the meeting will take place in a large room providing ample space to safely distance. Each participant is asked to bring a bag lunch. Refreshments and dessert will be provided.

We will also be hosting the meeting by Zoom:

Topic: District II III District Meeting

Time: Jun 23, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5702965326?pwd=dkFzdDRyM2NQIVWNDNmZWdY1VCUT09>

The Garden Club members of Montrose have a special treat...an historical "look back" at their history. I'm sure you will see many parallels to your own. We also will look at the "Little Known Garden Giants of Great Britain". This will be presented by Linda Pinto. A notice will be sent at the end of May for your RSVP.



Celebrate Good Times!

Did You Know?

Dandelion Facts:

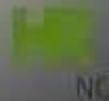
Dandelions are NOT weeds, but are from the same family as sunflowers.

1 cup of dandelion greens = 535% of your daily recommended vitamin K and 112% of vitamin A.

A Dandelion Seed can travel up to 5 miles before it lands.

Every part of the dandelion is edible.

Up until the 1800's, dandelions were seen as extremely beneficial. People would remove grass to plant dandelions.



CLUB REPORTS

Emmaus Garden Club The Emmaus Garden Club had its first meeting after fourteen months on May 4. We met outside at the historic Knauss Homestead in Emmaus. We heard all about the history of the homestead and had a tour of the house. A tree dedication to honor Elaine Klase's Perennial Bloom Award presented by the GCFP took place. Six members received Laurel Awards and two new members were installed!!! We also had four people join at the meeting. There were 45 people present.....needless to say, it was a wonderful reunion after so long! Since the church where we meet is still limiting the number of people who can attend, we will meet for our June 1 program at the Emmaus Community Park. We will enjoy a program on 'Planting a Cocktail Garden'! We are all so grateful to be meeting again and enjoying being together!!
Becky Short President, Emmaus Garden Club

Hazleton Area Garden Club The HAGC launched its spring meeting with a delightful speaker. Ellen Worthington, owner of Cerridwen's Garden in Bloomsburg, shared tips and techniques on floral arranging. She also demonstrated a unique way to create wreaths using birch tree branches. The three beautiful arrangements she created were chanced off to three lucky winners. The club's annual May dinner will be held May 20th at Edgewood in the Pines, Drums, Pa. The program will be "May Flowers Bring Happiness", presented by Club President, Theresa Evans; Vice President, Nancy Mensinger and Recording Secretary, Joyce Senger. The three will share their talents by demonstrating several designs using fresh flowers, plants and special containers. A horticulture therapy program is upcoming at the Providence Place Senior Living Personal Care Home. Club members will instruct the residence on how to make fresh flower topiaries and designs, using air plants and herbs.
Theresa Evans President, Hazleton Area Garden Club

Milford Garden Club A Spring awakening has begun in Milford. 11 Club members participated in our "Art in Bloom" collaboration with a local Milford Art Gallery, Artery and celebrated with a Wine and Nibbles Opening. It was a sure sign that better days are on the way. We hosted our first in person meeting on May 11th, where we simply reconnected and *painted pinecones* that will be used in centerpieces at a fundraiser for one of our beautification partners, the Milford Enhancement Committee. We had a lot of fun! We also have been meeting up in the various gardens and areas we maintain in historic Milford and our Community Vegetable



Garden is all cleaned up and the growing has begun. We are lucky to have our *Delaware Valley High School Transition Team* helping us get the job done as well as member Ralph Pinto, who applied for and received an Ames Tool Grant of an amazing assortment of gardening tools for these young folks and we all hope they are inspired to learn more about how to tend a garden. With the help of another local non-profit, we were able to award our annual Scholarship of \$1500 to Amanda Jason. Amanda will be attending Penn State University main campus in the College of Agricultural sciences with an

intended major of Plant sciences. Our Annual Plant Sale fundraiser will take place on May 22nd and the club will plant annuals in the street urns around the borough the week of May 24th in time for Memorial Day. Our Joy is Palpable! Liz Steen President, Milford Garden Club

MONROE COUNTY GARDEN CLUB The Monroe County Garden Club is pleased to announce that we are up and running despite the pandemic...we continue to bloom! We are using zoom for our monthly meetings. We have recently had meetings entitled "Potting Sheds and other Potting Places" presented by Pam Hubbard, Master Gardener. The last meeting was all about the *Spotted Lantern Fly* presented by Kettle Creek Environmental Center. Both were very enjoyable. We recently awarded Emma Barret a \$1000 student scholarship. She will be attending Yale University. Our Arbor Day celebration was a huge success. We enjoyed planting 2 lovely willow trees and refreshments donated from a local shoprite. The raindrops began to fall as we were ending the ceremony. Perfect timing from Mother Nature considering it had rained for 3 days previously. Our member, Carmen Costalos, has a love of irises. Each year we are invited to her home and she gives us a tour. We will be going there this week to enjoy these beautiful blooms. Also on the agenda is our annual ice cream social slated for June at Bryant Street Park in Stroudsburg. One of our members, Ellen Phrane, is head coordinator for the many blooms at this park. There are many volunteers also aboard to help maintain this little space of beauty. Some of the plants there are redbud trees, aguja, herb garden, hellebores, daisies, anemone, epimediums, geraniums and many more. In August, we will be having our club picnic at a local park. Everyone will bring their favorite dish to share and we also have a fun plant sale. No one will go home hungry or empty handed. *Gardening is essential for a happy and healthy lifestyle.*
Carol Akam President, Monroe County Garden Club

THE GARDEN CLUB OF MONTROSE The Garden Club of Montrose is venturing into an uncertain year filled with hope. May will be the first month we will implement the planned calendar, beginning with a program of Feng Shui in the Garden to bring good energy into your space by color and placement. We are anxiously anticipating hosting the **June 23 District Meeting** while celebrating our 1905 beginning and 91 years in the Federation. We will host a vintage tea at the Susquehanna County Library with club members dressing in Vintage costumes. We will continue to add Porch Parties to our calendar, in addition to our monthly meeting, for the fun and friendship of the club members and guests. A special Congratulations to Audrey Angella, our prior President, for being chosen Chairman of the Northeast Judges Counsel. "Where flowers bloom, so does hope" ~ Lady Bird Johnson is the quote we used in our yearbook, that sums our year ahead.
Joanne Decker President, Garden Club of Montrose

PARKLAND GARDEN CLUB Parkland Garden Club plans to have a picnic this year separate from our regular meeting so members can just meet and have fun. Our 22nd annual garden tour "Gardens of Inspiration" will feature 9 gardens with three guest speakers stationed at different gardens to talk about gardening. We will also feature a silent auction at one of the homes as well. Please mark your calendars and try to make this great event. Since we are not doing bus trips this year we have decided to do other events. In May we went to visit the Welkinweir Estate and Gardens, July will be a Field trip to Fordhook Farm Burpee, August we are doing a hypertufa garden planter workshop and in August there will be a hands-on-workshop flower design. The club also maintains each month the Butterfly Garden in South Whitehall Township (pictured at right), the Ironton Rails to Trails and the LCCC flower bed. Since the Arbor day event was canceled we are having a special tree dedication at the Lehigh Valley Zoo and replanting the Medicine Wheel with plants using the seed money award.
Brenda Aubert President, Parkland Garden Club



June 16th PGC Picnic 5 PM Covered Bridge Park, S. Whitehall Twp

July 17th PGC Garden Tour "Gardens of Inspiration"

July 19th Field Trip to Fordhook Farm Burpee

**August 7: PGC Trip Hypertufa garden planter workshop @ Point Phillips Perennials, Danielsville, PA
Time TBD/TBA.**

August 16: PGC Flower Design– Hands-on workshop, to be held outside @ members home.

POTTSTOWN AREA GARDEN CLUB I'm pleased to report our club is emerging into 2021 with a renewed sense of friendship, fellowship and love of gardening. A few highlights of what we've been doing: Covid hasn't stopped us! Our club continued to meet through Zoom, not missing a single meeting!!! We are excited to be planning our first outdoor meeting in June, at a local park with large pavilions and resources, to allow the members to be engaged with one another while continuing to social distance. I'm very excited to report that we also now have a full slate of officers for our club. In addition to my being elected as President (Karen Lee Coyle), we also filled the 2nd VP role (Audrey Stengel) and Recording Secretary (Veronicann Koren) positions rounding out the roster of officers! Through Zoom we've been able to maintain our programs, actively engaging with the Master Gardeners from Montgomery and Delaware Counties to offer new gardening ideas and tips. *Mixing gardening and cocktails.. Kudo's to Joe Daniels, (Delco Master Gardeners) for his tips on how to plant a cocktail garden!* Our first fundraiser, a Plant Sale is planned for May 15, 2021 to raise funds for the club as well as engage the community about the Pottstown Area Garden Club! Thanks to Audry Stengel for chairing the event! Speaking of fundraisers, we are also actively supporting our District II/III with their annual fundraiser 'Celebrate 2021'. Thanks to Marti Stump for being our Chairperson! Tech is here to stay! I'm delighted to report PAGC was able to submit 5 videos to the National Garden Club! Much going on at PAGC which we look to cultivate into beautiful blossoms with our members for 2021.



Karen Lee Coyle President, Pottstown Area Garden Club

THE GARDEN CLUB OF READING This will be my last report to be published in "Buds and Blossoms" as president of the Garden Club of Reading. I must say I leave the presidency with mixed emotions. After a year of Covid shutdowns, I had to find a way to conclude my presidency and give our members some memorable experiences as we move forward. I decided to promote as much activity as possible in the last few months of my presidency to help our members come out of the Covid era feeling vibrant and strong and to pave the way for the next presidency so it can flourish and succeed. Our April, May and June's meetings are held at the Reading Public Museum, Stone Terrace. Also, our Garden Club Members maintain the beautiful Garden of Remembrance and The Friendship Garden located on the museum grounds. These gardens are open to the public and provide a beautiful venue for wedding ceremonies and other special celebrations. In April, Stacy Jones, a Reporter from the Reading Eagle came and wrote a featured lifestyle article about our garden and club members along with photographs to be published in the near future. During the Covid months, it remained difficult to arrange guest speakers and to get their commitment to live speaking engagements for our club. As a result, I reached out to a network of people I knew and who I could rely on to help me with this effort. On April 20, we had a speaker by the name of Marsha Fehl who delighted our club members with a light-hearted presentation "Tree Bingo". She is an avid gardener, conducted many garden tours at her home and served as president of the Heartland Herb Society of Berks County. Her subject was "Tree Bingo" where she educated us more of the scientific and cultural influences of trees in our lives by considering 25 topics relating to trees on a Tree Bingo card. The topics ranged from Wishing Trees, Witness Trees to famous trees in movies. On May 10th our club members will tour David Culp's Brandywine Cottage located in Downingtown PA. David Culp is the creator of the gardens at Brandywine Cottage and has been lecturing about gardens nationwide for more than 25 years. Articles on David have appeared in Gardens Illustrated, Horticulture Magazine, and numerous other publications. He is the Principle of David L. Culp Designs and Owner of Brandywine Snowdrops. David Culp has spent more than 30 years creating a sensational year-round garden that provides an abundance of joy, both indoors and out. Here, he urges home gardeners everywhere to do the same in their own space. He is well known for his Galanthus and Hellebore displays and sponsors the annual Galanthus gala in early March. At the conclusion of the tour, our club members will enjoy a lovely luncheon at Amani's restaurant in Downingtown. On May 15th once again we will be back at the Reading Museum for our General Membership meeting where we will have Robert Sprague speak about native orchids. Robert is the longtime Director and past President of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society (SEPOS). He has directed the orchid shows at Longwood Gardens, Philadelphia Academy of National Sciences and Oaks Expo Center. My husband and I are also members of SEPOS. We decided to join because my husband's brother was a doctor of botany and orchid enthusiast. On May 24th we will be taking another tour, this time to the Goodly Gardens. Thom Mrazik will be our tour guide showcasing a variety of Peonies. Thom spoke at the district meeting and it was a wonderful presentation about Peonies. We will conclude the tour with a lovely luncheon at a nearby restaurant. On June 9, we are looking forward to our bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, a full day outdoor event, never before accomplished in an outdoor setting. On June 15th we will conduct the election of officers. The event will be held at the Stone Terrace at the Reading Public Museum and will include a catered luncheon. As a passionate career party planner, I will provide the decorative table linens and florals. *Bloom Where You Are Planted!* Maria DiCecco President, Garden Club of Reading

South Schuylkill Garden Club Energy has been focused for months on the return of the Spring Plant Sale. Community Gardens have been scanned for extra plants. Homeowners are refreshing last year's pots that did not get a chance to sell. Gardeners look for overflow plants that could use a new home. The plant sale is ready, bright and early, with a 7:30 am opening time on Saturday, May 22 in Schuylkill Haven. An early May outdoor meeting recognized Arbor Day and Earth Day with a look at trees assigned to the month of each members' birthdate. Would you be a weeping willow, a flowering mountain ash or a cool hornbeam? Trees have characteristics no different than other horoscope suggestions. South Schuylkill is looking to re-engage with the community as events cancelled last year are returning to bring the community together. Meeting for the summer months will remain out-of-doors. Hope for a full fall schedule remains.
Jane Kruse President, South Schuylkill Garden Club

Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club The Club's public programs are on hold till the Fall, but gardening activities, both individual and community-based, are at their peak. Early cold crops are flourishing in the bins at our Community Benefits Garden (CBG) and our patch of 50 asparagus plants donated last year are thriving.

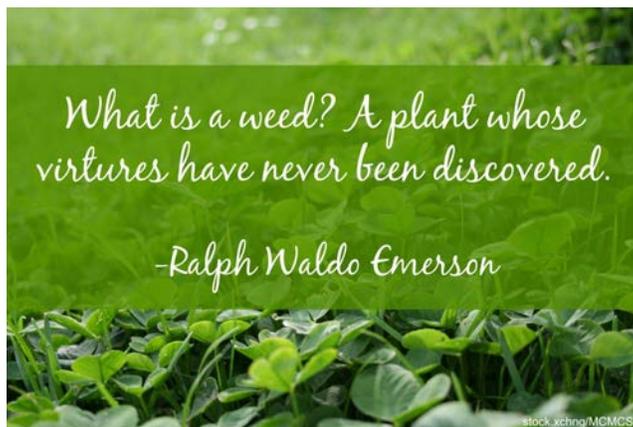


We transplanted and added perennials to the Butterfly and Lobby Gardens at the Y. The beds and in-ground planters at the Chamber of Commerce and neighboring business are weeded and awaiting the splash of color from annuals. Plans for an Open House at the CBG on June 21st are underway. We are waiting for the final schedule for the Upper Perkiomen Valley's *Make Music*, an annual musical event during which individuals and groups perform at various venues throughout the Upper Perk Valley. We expect the CBG to be a venue for one or more musical events that day. So far, we have 17 participants in our "Planting Challenge" this year. As mentioned in our last report, we are trying Ground Cherries and Bottle Gourds this year. Several of our participants started seeds indoors and others tried winter sowing. We will see how those plants prosper versus direct in-the-ground sowing. One of our members combined winter sowing, the Plant Challenge and last year's Burpee seeds. Among other seeds, she sowed Ground Cherries and Echinacea donated last year by Burpee. Another member has Bottle Gourds being hardened for outdoor planting.



The Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club is appreciative of the Seed Money Grant we received from the GCFPA. The funds have been used to purchase a portion of the 300' of flexible hose needed for watering our Butterfly Garden. Carting water to the garden has been an onerous task for our volunteers, most of whom are retired Seniors. Based on the lack of rain to date in 2021, we are thankful we could purchase a hose to run water from the nearby Upper Perk Y building. Diana Rudloff President, Upper Perkiomen Valley Garden Club

WYOMISSING AREA GARDEN CLUB Hello fellow gardeners: It's so good that the nurseries are open and stocked for replacing and adding favorites to our plantings. We have a full and exciting program schedule for June 2021 thru June 2022. Due to Covid we are finding it a challenge to find a regular meeting site. Our members are resourceful and all will be good. Happy digging to all! Beverly Bowman President, Wyomissing Area Garden Club



COMMITTEE REPORTS

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE: DISTRICT II/III ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RAFFLE IS HERE!

This year's theme by the Bethlehem Garden Club is "**FALL FESTIVAL**". Each club is asked to provide a raffle item for an accessory to enhance the beauty of a garden. For example, this could be a statuary, bird feeder, birdbath, wind chimes, patio pot, weather vane, wind vane, rain gauge, etc. Your contribution is your choice, but the accessory should have a minimum value of \$35.00. We need your photos of items to be donated asap in order to distribute a flyer prior to the raffle event at our September 13th 2021 meeting. Photos will help your committee to sell more raffle tickets. If your Garden Club has not sent a picture please do as soon as possible. My email address is allco@pdt.net or allco@rcn.com. Remember, this is the only fund raising event that District II/III is having for 2021. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Cynthia Dunton, Committee Chairperson

SONGBIRDS AND BIRDS OF PREY

Since the Fall there has been a lot of migration activity including overwintering of songbirds in Pennsylvania. Species as pine siskins, evening red-winged crossbills and through the region, but had species had been present Migrations like this are the is termed an "irruption" morph rough-legged hawk reported at Plymouth Flats



River located near

birders call them, had been present for a month or more. This hawk migrated south from the Arctic tundra.

from Canada and the Arctic such grosbeaks, purple finches, common redpolls not only passed also stayed. Several of these through the end of April. result of shortages of foods and year. Concerning raptors, a dark (pictured here) had been which is along the Susquehanna Wilkes-Barre. The "roughie", as

Now that Spring has arrived the northerly migration of raptors and songbirds has begun. The official hawk count began even before then at the Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch, the Golden Eagle Flyway, on February 23rd. And on March 10th this author hit the jackpot and observed 30 of 42 golden eagles for the day and 19 on the following day, March 11th. In just these two days alone, 1/3 of the migrating golden eagles totaling 189 for the spring count had been observed. Other migrating raptors observed included bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks and falcons. Hawk counts have also been conducted at Presque Isle State Park, Allegheny Front and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

Songbirds have been increasingly making their way north with reports of various species of warblers, vireos, thrushes, swallows and sparrows. These species are in addition to the early arrivals of robins and blackbirds. And the year-round resident cardinals, chickadees, tufted titmouse and mourning doves have been singing more and more each day and observed engaging in breeding activity and nest building.

John Leskosky, Committee Chairperson

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania 91st Annual Convention

Well, it is now GCFP history. The 91st Annual Convention is surely one for the books! Who would have ever thought we would experience an ENTIRE convention on our computers? The gala, hosted by GCFP District IV, was conducted via Zoom April 18th- 20th. Amazingly two hundred and ninety-seven members and friends took part with just a click of their finger!

A General Session, Installation of the new 2021-2023 Officers and a Closing Session were featured. National President, Gay Austin installed the officers. GCFP Officers are: President, Sheila Croushore; 1st VP Leeanna Ryba; 2nd VP, Pat Wolanski; Recording Secretary, Flossi Narducci; Financial Secretary, Barbara Brand and Treasurer, Joyce Crider. District II/III wishes them all the best.

A Memorial Service remembering all the deceased GCFP members was presented. A moving video clip listing all the names of the deceased was set to beautiful music and lovely nature scenery. District II/III members listed on the video are gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

The two keynote speakers were Nikolas Buescher – “Gardens Around the World” and Petra Mann-Page – “Growing Our Gardens, Growing Ourselves”.

Six sessions were also viewed which included: “Oak Leafs to PeeGees/Hydrangeas” by George Weigle; “Old-Growth Forests of PA” by Joan Maloof; Leslie Anthony on “Pollinator Friendly Gardens”; “Saving Seeds: The Heirloom Seed Project” by Joanne Ranck Dirks; Tim Abbey on “Invasive Species” and “Powerhouse Native Plants” by Elyse Jurgen.

In addition, two hands-on workshops “Kokedamas” by Carol Seifarth and “Living Wreaths” by Tonya Young were performed. The materials used for the workshop were pre-shipped to the attendees.

Part of the Conventions Tuesday happenings featured a program by the GCFP Judges Council called “Spring into Floral Design – Around the World”, which featured ten NGC Judges from across Pennsylvania. A unique way of presenting designs was showcased in a video. Attendees were taken on a flight leaving from the District IV GCFP Convention to Australia, Canada, England, Iceland, Italy, Mexico, Scotland, Switzerland and back home to the USA. Both entertaining and educational, the program was well received. Hazleton Area Garden Club member, Chris Leskosky and District IV Director, Tonya Young wrote the script. Tonya’s son, Tyler produced the video. The comical ending video clips, “Bloopers”, topped off the entertainment.

The ten designers dedicated their designs in honor of the following:

Pat Wolanski (Australia) – CAR-SGC Director, Gail Corle-Manna
Tom Huston (Scotland) – 2019-2021 GCFP President, Joyce Milberg
Jackie Davies (Mexico) – Incoming President, Sheila Croushore
Tonya Young (Italy) – Convention Chair, Joyce Crider
Cheri Nobil (Canada)– Convention Co-Chair Barbara Brand
Mary Jan Martucci (Iceland) – Convention Co-Chair, Linda Hoppes
Mary Lou Colussy and Fran Landsberry (Switzerland) - District IV
Audrey Angelella (England) – District IV
Chris Leskosky (USA) – 2019-2021 NGC President, Gay Austin

So, as you can see, the 2021 GCFP Zoom Convention was definitely a great success. What a sheer pleasure to finally see the faces of friends we have missed, some of them more than an entire year... at least I know it truly was for me.

Kudos to District IV for a fete well accomplished! Chris Leskosky, HAGC member