

News at Eleven

GCFP District XI

Spring 2021



Message from District XI Director, Marjorie Sears,

We've made it through the Winter and we've picked up new skills. Many thanks to all of you who have persevered. We are grateful to the Zoom Team: Liz Snowdon, Leslie Morris-Smith and Carolyn Hufnagle who have guided us through our extra District Zoom Meetings and given us some joy.

I've learned a few things about Zoom: It works best with Chrome, if it's a large meeting best to arrive early and socialize. If too many arrive at one time, it causes a bottleneck.

Hard to believe that so much has changed in one year. But as we become vaccinated and observe the guidelines that are put out by our health professionals, we will somehow navigate these troubled waters and be better for it. Although there can be much uncertainty, there will be much opportunity!

We had great extra Zoom Meetings in February with Jenny Rose Carey. She is writing a book but paused to cheerfully enlighten us with her plant knowledge of both Sunny Gardens on February 3rd and "Glorious Shade", her Timber Press Book that was released in 2017, on February 25.

All of the present GCFP Officers attended our latest Zoom in the morning: President Joyce Milberg, First VP Sheila Croushore and Second VP Leeanna Ryba. We learned that the March 1st Deadline is for the Workshops only, so the pressure is off and we still have time to register for the Programs and the FREE Open Session Meetings! Note: On Monday, April 19, 2021, our own Patricia Wolanski will be installed to join this elite group. We can watch the Installation for FREE but we must sign-up to receive the link.

At the Zoom Evening Session, we learned from past GCFP President, Chris Leskowski that there will be nine designers who will give us a "Trip Around the World" during the Judges Council \$18.00 Program.



Many thanks to Tonya Young for giving us our own PNG!





Philadelphia Area Judges Council (PAJC) by Kay Morrissey.

The PAJC is a committee of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. Its area encompasses judges who belong to National Garden Clubs in PA's District I and XI. However, judges who belong to other Districts' councils may also join PAJC. It is quite common to belong to more than one council. Currently there are 42 active judges and 7 emeritus judges in the PAJC, which meets 2 to 3 times a year.

The objectives of the council are to discuss issues encountered in judging flower shows, to pursue advanced study, to inform members of educational opportunities, and to assist student judges in acquiring judging and exhibiting experience. To retain accreditation, judges must continue to exhibit horticulture and floral design, and to attend periodic symposiums and pass written exams until the master judge level is reached.

Accredited judges are available to judge your flower shows, to advise you in writing your flower show schedules, and one judge is assigned to approve your completed schedule. Judges encourage all clubs in the districts to hold flower shows. Many judges also give programs on horticulture and design along with other parallel subjects. Judges also participate in club, district, state and national NGC, Inc. activities.

The PAJC is presently organizing a FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL for 2022 - 2023. The school will conduct four courses held six months apart. Aspiring judges must attend 4 courses and pass written exams. However, attendees can, and are encouraged to participate in individual courses for the sole purpose of expanding their personal knowledge.

Currently I am a member of The Outdoor Gardeners, District XI's judge's council representative, the PAJC Chairperson elect for 2021 – 2023, and an Accredited Master Judge. Contact me with your questions at kaysflowergarden@gmail.com. Thank you, Kay Morrissey

NOTE: On the GCFP 91st Annual Convention Application, Judges Council will have a Program "Spring into Floral Designs" for \$18.00 and Two Workshops: "Kokedama \$50.00" & "Living Wreath \$80.00" or Special for both workshops \$115.00. Materials with instructions will be mailed to you in time for each Zoom workshop. Since materials for the workshops must be mailed to you, deadline for the "Kokedama" and "Living Wreath: is March 1, 2021.

RESCHEDULED GCFP/PAJC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE #1

Submitted by Lori Pancione, State Flower Show Chairman

The NGC Flower Show School Course #1 sponsored by the Philadelphia Area Judges Council and GCFP has been rescheduled for **Thursday April 28 through Sunday, May 1 2022, with the Written Exam on Horticulture and Design on Sunday morning, May 1.** The school will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Philadelphia West, located at 640 Fountain Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462.

Room block reservations begin on Thursday, March 2, 2022. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel, at 619-879-4148. Ask for PAJC Flower Show reservations. There is easy access, free parking, free Wi-Fi, double Queen and King options, and study suites.

Using the new NGC recommended format for flower show school instruction we will be separating the Flower Show Procedure instruction and test from the Horticulture and Design Part of testing.

If there are any 2021 NGC changes to this flower show school format, news will be posted in 2021 and 2022 issues of the Keystone Gardener.

Optional Group Tours will be available to students and guests beginning Thursday, April 28, 2022. Tours to the Audubon Museum, Valley Forge Park, Chanticleer Gardens, Hope Lodge and other nearby attractions will be available by hotel shuttle service or private car. Hotel shuttle cost will be divided among the total shuttle count. Other private tours can also be arranged. Plymouth Meeting Mall is in walking distance or short drive from the beautiful DoubleTree by Hilton hotel. Each room has a separate study suite and are ideally set up to share a room with a friend.

The revised flower show trifold, and additional information will be available at www.pagardenclubs.org on the GCFP website after October 30, 2021.

Credit and non-credit options are available for the school attendance. We hope to see many prospective judges or interested gardeners at Course # 1. Watch for more news about the school in upcoming Keystone Gardener editions. Contact Lori Pancione, State Flower Show Chairman, lpanzy@hotmail.com for additional details.

Lori has generously donated many items for a "Ways & Means Table" to benefit the Flower School. We look forward to browsing at the next in-person event for our District.

HORT TIPS FOR SPRING by Marge Eberz



1. Spring is here and now is a good time to start a gardening journal to keep track of your plants as they emerge and bloom. Take photos and note empty spaces.
2. Check your gardening tools: Clean tools and containers with a 10% bleach solution.
3. Buy seeds and onion sets; but do not start seeds too early or they will get spindly.
4. Before planting in flower or vegetable beds, check the soil by picking up a handful of it. If it sticks together in a ball it is too wet. If it crumbles in your hand it is ready for planting.
5. As you walk around the yard, remove matted leaves and debris from emerging early bulbs; but leave the mulch. Remove dead branches from trees and shrubs.
6. Trim off last year's growth on ornamental grasses and shrubs.
7. Do not cut back butterfly bushes and Caryopteris until new growth starts.
8. Thinking of pruning? Remember if it blooms before June don't prune.
9. Buy and plant pansies in pots.
10. Radishes, Lettuce and other greens can be planted now. They all do well in pots.

Are you looking for a good new plant for your garden? The Perennial Plant Association has chosen *Calamintha nepata*, as this year's Perennial Plant for 2021 (above).

Calamintha Nepata (catmint) is Ht.-18' Width 18", Light-full sun, Soil-average

Blooms - tiny white flowers from early summer until frost.

Maintenance - low, very hardy, Disease, pest, resistant, Deer resistant,
Bees and pollinators love it

Uses: containers, rock garden, front of border

GCFP SEED MONEY

Although the Covid-19 Pandemic has limited fundraising abilities, clubs still worked on their Legacy within their community. Please note there were fifty-four clubs that received a total of \$2500.00. Congratulations to the following Clubs in District XI:

Countryside Gardeners, Four Winterberry Bushes along the back fence at the Historic Half Moon Inn where they meet.

Four Lanes End G. C., Replace entrance trellis at Historic Richardson House and Park where they meet.

Gardeners of the Crooked Billet, Lawn Signs to advertise Plant Sale at Union Library.

Hulmeville G. C., Plant natives at Memorial Park Clock in Hulmeville, PA.

Norristown G. C., Spring blooming pollinators for Butterfly Garden at church where they meet.

Old York Road G. C., Mapping out and printing brochure describing herbs in garden for visitors to Historic Richard Wall House.

Swedesford G. C., Improve garden at North Wales Area Library where they meet.

The Outdoor Gardeners, Supplies for flower arrangements at Ronald McDonald House that helps families with a child at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Trevoise Horticulture Society, Feasterville Fire Company Bell Garden Project.

Hulmeville Clock, Norristown Butterfly Garden, Feasterville Firehouse Bell, Wall House Herbs



Regarding our Contest: Best Fall/ Winter Gardens

Winners all received a \$25.00 Gift Card for the 2021 Burpee Seed Catalog

Cheryl Brumbaugh, Emily Schnarr, Kay Morrissey, Audrey Williams!

Calendar of Events

The Outdoor Gardeners is having a spring pansy sale, open to all who are interested. Pansies will be sold by the market pack flat (six packs of 6 plants each) for \$20 by preorder only. Notify Audrey Williams by **March 15** of your color preference and number of flats: blumobeard@gmail.com or 267-422-3271. Flats will be purchased from the wholesaler mid-March and will be available for pickup at Audrey's home in Flourtown. Delivery can be arranged for orders of 4 or more flats.

March 17, 2021, District XI Meeting, "Seed Starting" by Debbie Mahon, past President of Hulmeville Garden Club and the Mayor of Hulmeville will give us the finer points of starting seeds via Zoom at the 10 am meeting. We will record her program and repeat it at 7 pm for those who worked or simply had other things to do.

April 18, 19, 20, 2021, GCFP 91st Convention Zooming Into Spring! Please find application attached and send it in immediately as due by March 1st, which is Monday. If you are not sure, at least register for Monday's Official Opening (9:30- 11:30 am) and the Installation of GCFP Officers by Gay Austin, President, National Garden Clubs (7 – 8 pm). Our own Pat Wolanski will be installed as 2nd VP. Another four years and she will be GCFP President!

May 4, 2021, District XI Meeting with Club Reports! Stay tuned for details. Program will be about Tea and by our own District XI **Master Gardener, Jane Klotz!**

May 8, 2021, 9 am until Noon, **The Gardeners of the Crooked Billet** will have their **Annual Plant Sale** at the Union Library, 243 S York Rd, Hatboro, PA 19040.

May 8, 2021, 9 am to 2 pm, The **Swedesford Garden Club** will be holding a **Plant Sale** in the driveway and front yard at 1943 Armstrong Drive, Lansdale, PA.

June 26, 2021, Norristown Garden Club is again planning to hold a Garden Tour (originally scheduled for June 2020). Further information TBA.

September 14, 2021, District XI Meeting and Luncheon at Cedarbrook Country Club, if possible. Awesome Designs using non-toxic solutions. Yummy desserts!

April 3, 4, 5, 2022, GCFP 92nd Convention in our backyard: The Desmond Hotel in Malvern!