

THE TENdriL

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

Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 21 Issue 2

June, 2021

Editor, Helen Galluppi

Hlg632@gmail.com



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Submitted by Kay Bair, District X Director

DISTRICT X BOARD Officers

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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



In case you missed it...highlights of the last few months

The GCFP Zooming into Spring Convention provided many programs about gardening by very knowledgeable people. But the icing on the cake was the program presented by the Judges Council, titled Floral Designs around the World. It featured nine designs by members of the Judges Council showcasing nine different countries: Australia, Scotland, London, Italy, Switzerland, Ireland, Canada, and ending in Disney World, in Florida.

Tyler Young, son of Tonya Young, District IV Director, videotaped the production. You felt like you were flying with them, as it showed views of the plane's interior, and each country as you came to it. The judges not only designed, but acted out a skit.

On May 12th, the first of the monthly GCFP Zoom programs, was presented by George Weigel whose brother describes him as a garden writer, garden speaker, garden-travel leader, horticulturist, and as his balding plant-killing brother likes to put it, a "Certified Gardening Wacko".

Through beautiful photos of previous visits, George gave us a tour of the Amsterdam area, including the Floriade and Keukenhof. The Floriade, the World's Fair of horticultural shows, is the largest public event in the Netherlands, takes place only once every 10 years. It will take place from April to October, 2022.

Keukenhof is the best place to see tulips in Holland. It is a park with 7 million flower bulbs surrounded by tulips.

A twelve day tour of the Floriade and Keukenhof are now available for April 18-29, 2022. If interested contact Chrissie at ckelly@lowees.com or 717-657-9658.



DISTRICT X GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENTS

2021 IMPORTANT DATES

GARDEN CLUB OF MUNHALL

Meet 4th Tuesday, at 7 PM

Michael Sarraino

<http://www.facebook.com/GardenClubofMunhall>

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

GIANT OAKS GARDEN CLUB

Meet 1st Thursday at 11:30 AM

Betty Amato

Barbara Jo Nerone

Facebook: Giant Oaks Garden Club

GREAT MEADOWS GARDEN CLUB

Meet 4th Wednesday at 10:30 AM

Wanda Sherry

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

GREEN GARDENERS OF UNIONTOWN

Meet 1st Friday (for lunch)

Paula Flaherty

MARTHA WASHINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Meet 3rd Tuesday at 12:30 PM

Deborah Davis

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

MON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Meet 1st Monday at 6:30 PM

Alice Harris

PLEASANT HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Meet 2nd 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 3rd Thursday at 6 PM

Dianne Nicholson

<https://www.facebook.com/tcgcr1pa>

UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB

Meet 2nd Friday at 1 PM

Sharlene Lehman

VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Meet 2nd Thursday at 10 AM

Roxanne Huss

June 5-13

Philadelphia Flower Show-Habitat: Nature's Masterpiece

Jun 7-8

GCFP Board Meeting – Wyndham Garden State College, Boalsburg, PA

Jun 9

GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting.. “Gardens of Capability Brown.” presented by Linda Johnson, a Penn State Master Gardener and member of Southern Butler County GC

July 14

GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting.. Seed Money Gardens

July 27

Great Meadows Flower Show, Hilton Garden Inn, Uniontown, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM (no Judging), Questions, contact Wanda Sherry

Aug 11

GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting.. Marie Mueller presentation

Aug 18

Judges Council Flower show. Greensburg Garden Center, 1:00 to 2:00 pm. titled “New York, New York”

Sept 8

District X Annual Meeting Lion's Park

Sept 8

GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting.. Specifics TBD

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

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.



- Oct 29 Forest Hills Flower Show (See info from Flower Show section)
- Nov 5 Giant Oaks fundraiser, Tinsel Luncheon, "A Winter Wonderland" Southpoint Garden Center
- Nov 10 GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting.. Specifics TBD
- Dec 8 GCFP Sponsored Zoom Education Meeting.. Specifics TBD

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.

August - Monday, Aug. 23(to be held at Wanda Sherry's House in Farmington, PA
 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

The good news of 2021 is that Giant Oaks Garden Club has resumed in-person meetings. Following proper safety protocols, our members, most of whom are fully or partially vaccinated, have embraced face to face (or mask to mask) gatherings.

After "Zooming" board meetings early this year, the board is now holding in person monthly meetings. In March we began in person membership and program meetings. Our first meeting brought out 20 masked members, but by May we have doubled our attendance to just shy of 40 members –70% of our membership!

In March Carol Chernega, a Phipps Garden speaker and former assistant gardener at Jane Austen's home in England, presented a program on creating shade gardens, focusing on deer resistant plants. April and May membership and program meetings featured a speaker on drought tolerant and native plants and a clinic on chemical free lawn care and other landscaping tips.

May brought our first major event – our 20th annual Plant Sale and Garden Market. These events are a key part of the Club's fundraising efforts to raise funds to support grants to myriad local groups such as Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens, among a long list of beneficiaries and to fund scholarships to local high school students pursuing careers in horticulture, landscaping, or conservation. The sale, postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic, was an overwhelming success and netted close to \$3400 profit.

The Club's civic and community beautification projects, since they were outdoor programs, continued in 2020 throughout the pandemic. The Club recently voted to add a Recycling Committee as part of its continuing projects focusing on collecting plastic bottle caps and single use plastic bags. To date members have recycled almost 5000 caps, and one member alone collected close to a thousand bags to turn in for recycling!

Our Tinsel Luncheon fundraiser, held in November at a local hotel, normally attracts more than 400 attendees. We are closely monitoring CDC guidelines and the Governor's directives. We are hopeful that this major fundraising event can be held.

UNIONTOWN FLOWER CLUB

Submitted by Sharlene Lehman



The Uniontown Flower Club lost one of its most valued members. Donna Jean Cocalis died March 30, 2021. Donna was a long time member of UFC who contributed to many of our projects. Member and best friend Sally

Longfellow remembers fondly the many trips she and Donna took to the Hidden Valley Nursery in Springs, PA. Another member and friend, Dr. Jean Braun, recalled the times she and Donna visited nursing homes. Many members have wonderful memories of this lovely lady. She will be greatly missed.

The UFC met in April for the first time since last October. Our local Shoney's graciously gave us a private room where we will hold our meetings until Mount Saint Macrina reopens. A slate of officers was voted on and will be installed at the May meeting. We discussed continuation of our local projects that include planting and maintaining the flower pots at the Uniontown Court House and the Post Office. We will also perform our yearly cleanup at the Shrine at Mount Saint Marcrina. A new project, the Fountain area, across from the Courthouse, will begin in May with the establishment of plants that will be added to and maintained each year.

PLEASANT HILLS

Submitted by Louise Humphreys



The Pleasant Hills Garden Club's annual plant sale, held on Saturday, May 15 at Mowry Park in Pleasant Hills, was very successful. Having the sale at the park was nice in that there was open space; there was plenty of work/prep space; the tables, layout/display, and accessibility, were good; and we had an abundance of great plant donations. Parking was available! This was

one of our more profitable plant sales. I'm sure the great weather helped!



Kaylee Horvat, who is the Adult Program Coordinator at the Pleasant Hills Library, is planning a plant swap at the library on June 5th. To take a plant, you must bring a plant. We plan on having garden club members attend the plant swap to answer plant/garden questions. This will help promote the club as well as benefit local residents.

Marie Mueller met with Kevin Langholz, owner of Bill Green's Shopping Center. He made a donation to the Pleasant Hills Garden Club for assistance in maintaining the "Let Freedom Ring" garden. This garden is the gateway into the Pleasant Hills borough and fronts the shopping center. While the PHGC has maintained this garden beautifully over

the years, Bill Green's elected to assist by providing a donation. The donation is restricted for use at the "Let Freedom Ring" Garden and will help pay for landscaping and clean-up.

At our May Zoom meeting, two of our members (Linda Schaffer and Helen Galluppi) gave an informative presentation about butterflies and chrysalises. We learned about the Monarch butterfly's life span and about their attachment of milkweed.

In June we are having our Art in Bloom meeting when members collaborate and share their talents using floral design and art/crafts. The members create imaginative, beautiful, and unique combinations that are a pleasure to view!

We were saddened by the passing of one of our club's past presidents and valuable member, Kay Ball.

Our members have done a fantastic job in keeping the Let Freedom Ring garden looking beautiful. We continue to keep the library lookin' good, too!

The weather has been beautiful... We can get out and enjoy all our planting, mulching, fertilizing, and weeding efforts!

TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by Dianne Nicholson

WOW. Just when we gave up hope of ever being able to meet together, we finally have a date for our first meeting.

We have tried Zoom, unfortunately we did not do so well. We found out we all need to go back to school.

Our Horticulture team will be meeting the first of May to plan for our planting of all four gardens.

Our scholarship committee has received applications for the Town and Country Scholarship for 2021. The Scholarship has been awarded to a very deserving young man from Jefferson Morgan High School. We can't wait to see what wonderful things he will do for our Environment.

Our club yearbook placed second in the 'small club category'. Congratulations to all our members who worked so hard on this book.

A tip for growing Asparagus, it takes three to four years before you can harvest your crop. It needs to be well established before you start cutting it for your dinner. Once you cut them, place them in a glass of water in the fridge until you have enough for a large serving. The harvest will last 4 to 6 weeks and it will be delicious with a pesto sauce and pasta. Add a glass of wine and you are ready for the food network.

HAPPY GARDENING

MARTHA WASHINGTON

Submitted by Deborah Davis

MWGC met on March 15, 2021 both in person and virtually. members presented "My Favorite Floral and Garden-Related Items/Topics". Many interesting items and topics were shared. There was also a presentation featuring herbs from colonial times and their medicinal properties.

Members met on April 20, 2021 both in person and virtually and members heard about Joe Hamm's daffodil farm which has thousands of daffodils. member Mary Pruss presented a program on "Fireflies in Nature". A decision was made to plan a scaled-down version of a standard flower show titled "Bee Positive" to be held October 8 and 9, 2021 at the Washington Crown Center, Washington, Pennsylvania.

Members, along with Stimmells Greenhouse, provided 160 small pots of flowers for the staff at Premier Health Care for National Nursing Home Week, May 9-15, as one of its Garden Therapy projects.

The May 25th meeting will feature MWGC member Kathy Wells Orr speaking on "Using Our Garden Produce".



Written by Sue Luisi.

Premier Health Center nursing facility's Director of Education (Washington, PA) reached out to the Martha Washington Garden Club in mid-

April, wondering if we could help her procure 160 potted plants for the entire Premier staff; this in celebration of National Nursing Home week (May 9 thru May 15, 2021) and the exemplary work all had done during the 2020 pandemic and continuing.

The board felt that we could assist. Board member Penny Steggles offered to contact her long-time friends at Stimmels' Greenhouse to ask about this somewhat last-minute need for so many potted plants. Stummels' Greenhouse was most gracious, indicating they could provide the club with 160 4-inch potted impatiens, pansies and small rose bushes.

Pickup and delivery was accomplished on Monday, May 10th by our President and three board members. The Premier Education Director would like to thank the club for its part in making National Nursing Homes Week (celebrated since 1967) a success.

Our club looks for ways to share what we do as "garden therapy" with our community. We are pleased that, along with the generosity of Stimmels' Greenhouse, we were able to make this contribution.

VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by Roxanne Huss, President

WE ARE BACK to in person meetings, enjoying our communal luncheons, and watching everyone's smiling faces greet each other after a long year. The club is meeting again the second Thursday of the month at Lynnwood Lutheran Church, Belle Vernon.

In May the program was about meeting the needs of Bluebirds. The speaker was Glenda Gebert, owner of Garden in the Woods, Acme. She showed slides about bluebird care and their predators. Some members bought an official bluebird house kit which they will assemble and mount in their home yards. A recording was played of the Eastern Bluebird songs. One member reports she has a bluebird nesting for the first time ever.

The club is making plans for summer outings, and the November Fundraiser Luncheon. A GCFP Seed Money grant was received which will supplement club funds to improve plantings at the YMCA Garden.



ZOOM!!!

Submitted by Kay Bair

Zoom is not going away. There will be Zoom programs, from each of the ten districts in GCFP, on the second Wednesday of each month. This is another way we can share information.

They will be available to all members via the GCFP website beginning May 12th through March 2022. Recently I have had the opportunity to attend Zoom meetings with several clubs in District X. It is great to see and hear how they do things. Many of which might help others.

The ten district directors of the GCFP are convening to meet on Zoom once a month to exchange information on garden club related subjects. Having experienced these meetings, I would like to encourage all members to continue learning about Zoom.

June Meeting: The presenter is Linda Johnson, a Penn State Master Gardener and member of Southern Butler County GC.

Linda is from London, England and will present the "Gardens of Capability Brown." He is an 18th century British landscape architect who designed over 170 gardens, many still stand today. Linda has a wonderful power point presentation and I can attest to how nice it is since she incorporates many of her own photos captured on visits back to London to visit her family still residing there.

Linda lives in Cranberry Twp. In Butler County and enjoys working in her English cottage garden.



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 bump on a rodent's toe.
2. The symbol of a famous Biblical King.
3. A jar containing an alcoholic beverage.
4. Is found on most dinner tables.
5. Something farmers do in the spring.
(See page ten for answers.)



HORT IN TEN

Submitted by Grace Mitchell

Can you believe it? I try to bring you new and unusual plant news, and this time I think I've found some things that are so different they border on weird (except for the purple ones.)

I found all these in the House of Wesley catalog at www.DirectGardening.com. 'Mulberry Freeze' day lily is deep purple with a chartreuse ruffle. And it reblooms!

Monge Red Lilac- now that's weird. Thornless Near Black Hybrid Tea Rose - when black buds open, they are deep dark red. Not too weird.

Starfish Iris - shaped like a day lily with animal spots and gold ruffle. After flowering, it goes dormant



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immediately. Definitely weird.

Voodoo Bulb - Maroon petals sprout from this bulb without soil, pot or water! They call it unique, you know what I call it.

Rainbow carnations - one plant has multiple colors of blooms. What?

Get ready, this is the weirdest of all. Pear of the Earth (*Smallanthus sonchifolius*). It grows 4-6ft tall, with yellow flowers. Dig it in the fall for a generous harvest of tubers that taste like watermelon, apple and pear. Very juicy and it can be eaten raw or cooked. Can you believe it?

Happy Horting!! Thanks.



REPORT FOR POLLINATOR GARDENS

Submitted by Martha Alexander

We all know that pollinators are a vital component of our ecosystem. Pollinator gardens provide important corridors for these insects as they travel to our vegetable gardens, farms and orchards. Pollinator gardens cannot replace the wild lands that have been lost due to development but they can certainly help. This is a spotlight on two of the native species that our pollinators like best and are absolutely beautiful in any garden.

Asclepias tuberosa, or butterfly weed, has beautiful bright and cheery orange flowers rarely seen in nature. It is a must-have plant to invite butterflies into your garden. These delightful members of the milkweed family grow from one to



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two feet tall and like full sun and well-drained soil. Monarch butterfly caterpillars feed only on plants in this family, so milkweeds are essential to their survival. Butterfly weed has glossy green leaves and orange flowers that are rich in nectar and pollen which keeps butterflies, bees, insects, and hummingbirds coming back to them all summer. In late summer or early fall they will develop seed pods which will open and spread seeds if left alone. Seeds can be sown directly into your garden in the fall, and plants can be planted in the spring after danger of frost. Established plants emerge in late spring and reach full glory in the warm summer months, from July to September. Butterfly weed plants do not require extra care or fertilizer, as they are found in nature in our area.

Another spectacular native pollinator garden favorite is the ruby red cardinal flower, Lobelia cardinalis. This is one of the showiest of our native flowering plants. They are typically found along streams and rivers, swamps, and low wooded areas. Cardinal flowers grow well in Pennsylvania in full sun or part shade and prefer somewhat wet soil. Since they have evolved along with our native pollinators, these flowers are perfectly adapted for feeding our native butterflies and hummingbirds. When in full bloom, I put away my hummingbird feeders because they much prefer getting their sweet nectar from these tubular bright red flowers. To make a powerful statement, grow them in masse in a zig-zag pattern. The bright red color pops, and the strong vertical accent draws the eye. Cardinal flowers bloom in late summer when many other flowering plants are spent. They grow 2 to 3 feet tall and their hardiness zones are 3 to 9. These plants will reseed themselves if the pods are left alone and allowed to dry. A little added compost in the spring will keep these plants happy. Mulch will help maintain the moisture they love.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Submitted by Vina McLeod Rudolph

The District X Scholarship is available to any member of the District to attend any NGC Accredited School or Symposium. The Scholarship pays for the class tuition only. All other expenses are paid by the student. The student should apply prior to the class, then the District X Treasurer will send a check directly to the class Registrar. If necessary, the student may apply for the scholarship funds to reimburse them for the cost of their tuition.



CICADAS!

Submitted by Wanda Sherry

Millions of cicadas will soon crawl out of the soil in Southwestern Pennsylvania. This brood known as, Brood VIII emerges every 17 years for about six weeks. We could expect them any day now. We have the issue today of global warming and climate change, which makes it much less predictable. In the past we could pretty much count on mid May and they are usually out for about six weeks.

The adult form lives for about a month, but they don't all come out at once. They come out over a couple week period. The cicadas will appear in Pittsburgh and 10 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania.

They can also be spotted in the northern West Virginia panhandle and the eastern edge of Ohio. The US Forest Service tracks at least four other broods that emerged in other parts of Pennsylvania.

It's worth noting these are periodical cicadas, rather than annual cicadas, which are green and come out each summer. The brownish periodical cicadas in the eastern United States come out every 13 or 17 years in various places.

This particular brood VIII is big in terms of the number of individual cicadas that will make an

appearance. Could be up to 1.5 million in a single acre.

The nymphs form cases around their bodies and tap into the roots of trees to feed. As they grow, they break out of the cases and form new ones. This molting process happens five times over a 17 year period until the Cicada is ready to emerge above ground. They know it's time when the soil near the surface hits 64°. They also measure the day length and only venture out when the season's right.

First, the nymphs crawl out and look for a twig or tree to go through one final molt. The back will split in a seam and an adult cicada will crawl out, when it crawls out, it's sort of pale and soft and the wings are all crinkled up like an origami. The cicada then pumps fluid from its abdomen into the veins of its wings, which expand.

The females select their mates and later cut a small scar into tree branches, where they lay their eggs before they die. Six to 10 weeks later, tiny nymphs emerge from the eggs, they just drop out of the tree onto the ground and burrowed down into the soil and start the whole thing over again.

Cicadas will not bite or sting. A lot of animals like to feast on cicadas, including fish, birds and other insects. Humans can eat them too however it's not recommended as they taste like plastic and fat.

Cicadas won't damage mature healthy trees, however they may be hard on young fruit trees and saplings if there are millions of them. You may want to put netting over young trees or just delay planting them until after the cicadas are gone. The nymphs underground won't have much noticeable impact on a tree's health.



2021 PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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.



FLOWER SHOWS

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.

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. Squirrel corn
2. Solomon's Seal
3. Claret's cup
4. Butter & Eggs or Wine cup.
5. Tuckahoe.

The deadline for submissions for the September 1 issue of the TENDril is **August 15**. Please e-mail your submission to 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".

