



# GARDENEWS

Volume 25 Issue 2

July 2024

www.fgcofmd.org

office@fgcofmd.org

The official publication of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.

**Gardenews@fgcofmd.org**

Published Tri-annually by The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.

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Club Submission Deadlines:  
November Issue - October 10  
February Issue - January 10  
July Issue - June 10

Gardenews is published on our  
Website: **www.fgcofmd.org**

## Wow, What a Busy Spring! – President’s Report

I am an avid gardener. In spite of downsizing to a much smaller space 3 years ago – I can always find room for another plant. I call it a healthy addiction. Over the years I have gotten better at reading the plant labels for cultural requirements, though given my new home is mostly shade I cheat a bit. I have three favorite nurseries and when I go there, I make sure to only take one person with me because otherwise there won't be room for the plants. I have a mid-size SUV and it was full (remember some was my neighbors). My husband's reaction was the same as usual "Sus, remember we live on a small lot now". To which I reply "Yes, but I can always get rid of more grass".



Oxford Garden Club Members, Reenie Rice, Susie Middleton and Nancy Boyce

In spite of the chill, and drizzle, Oxford Garden Club mounted their first Native Plant sale with plants from member gardens.

**Talbot Garden Club took a bus trip to Bunny Mellon's Farm** outside of Middleburg, Virginia. It is bucolic horse country and we had incredible weather. The trip included a guided tour of her house and gardens.



It was Virginia week with the American Daffodil Society National Show held at the Dulles Hyatt Regency hotel. Maryland Judges, Anna O'Kelly, Liz Williams and I were fortunate to be invited to judge designs in the show along with three Judges from National Capital Area. One of the top designs – shown at the right had a container comprised of gardening tools.

Spring was filled with presentations, celebrations and commemorations. Here are a few of the events.

- Attended the Queen Anne's County Garden Club celebration of their club's 90th Anniversary. *See details on page 8.*
- Conducted several presentations on Sustainable Design, one with a workshop.
- Member of a team that decorated one of the homes on the Home and Garden Pilgrimage.
- Attended the Four Rivers Garden Club 100th Anniversary celebration held in the gardens of the Historic Hammond-Harwood House, Annapolis.
- Unveiled the Carroll County Garden Club Blue Star Memorial at its Dedication at the Westminster Veterans Memorial Park *See details on page 13*
- Visited the Crofton Village Flower Show "Flower Power"



June 20th welcomed the true beginning of summer; several of us attended the National Garden Clubs Convention in Colorado. Whatever your plans, best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy season.

Susie

## FGCMD State News



### **Marcia Richard .....1st Vice President**

#### Personal Reflections:

Summer is upon us, and it is a time for reflection on our gardens, our clubs, our community, and our State. For me, my garden is my greatest challenge and my best friend. I never know what newly planted plants will survive the heat of July or what new plants brought to my garden by our furry friends will decide to take root, and what will emerge and survive and what plants just decide to take a holiday, even though I tried to

appease their peculiarities.

Flower Shows are a wonderful opportunity to get the Federation name out there and to tap into the community members to share with them an opportunity learn about horticulture, special exhibits of a myriad of sustainability projects or the importance of bees and enjoying the creativity of the members. But it never ceases to amaze me, when I get approached and asked, "Will you be selling flowers?" How can we expand the Brand of Flower Shows by elaborating on publicity and handouts that there is something for everyone: the Native plant enthusiast, the creative artist, youth involvement in flowers and horticulture, or indoor plant nurturer. No, we are not selling flowers, but we are "selling" at no cost to you, an opportunity to enjoy what your local garden club has brought to you.

Garden Club programs are all in place, but sometimes, a club needs to have a back-up plan. There are so many garden websites, University Master Gardener programs. Locally, Mt. Cuba offers many options for virtual classes, even in the summer.

#### **Mt. Cuba Offerings:**

#### **Recorded classes that you may purchase to watch with your group:**

<https://mtcubacenter.org/programs/classes-on-demand/>

#### **Live, on-line lectures with a Mt. Cuba Center staff person:**

Learn about native plants from our gardening experts and get great suggestions for your home landscape. Each lecture includes time for audience questions, answers, and lasts about 60 minutes. For more information or scheduling, call 302.239.5083 or email [groupsales@mtcubacenter.org](mailto:groupsales@mtcubacenter.org).

#### **Some of the classes are virtual.**

[https://issuu.com/mtcuba/docs/24001-s2024\\_program\\_guide-digital?fr=sZDQyYzYzODU2Njk](https://issuu.com/mtcuba/docs/24001-s2024_program_guide-digital?fr=sZDQyYzYzODU2Njk)

#### **For more information, contact:**

Eileen M. Hazard [ehazard@mtcubacenter.org](mailto:ehazard@mtcubacenter.org)

### **LANDSCAPE DESIGN COUNCIL .....Chair Betty Reeves**

Due to the weather this spring, and much to our disappointment, we had to cancel the spring Landscape Design Council meeting and tour to the Paca Gardens in Annapolis. Hopefully, we will be able to have the same meeting and tour next spring, 2025. In the meantime, this summer, we are planning to have a short Zoom meeting and program presentation. Please watch for upcoming Email details.

The Landscape Design Council was very fortunate to give four Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Inc. awards for their outstanding landscape design projects. A tie for First Place for Landscape Work at a Public Site went to Bayside Bloomers Garden Club, District II and the Lutherville Garden Club, District III, each receiving \$150.00. Second Place went to the Talbot County Garden Club, District I, receiving \$100.00 for their landscape design project. The Evergreen Garden Club of Harford County, District III received \$200.00 for their project for the Habitat for Humanity Site. Congratulations to the four garden clubs for their outstanding landscape projects.

The Landscape Design Council is honored to be able to award to the Federated Garden Clubs for their outstanding landscape projects. For this year, please consider putting in for an award for your garden club.

Go to the website: <https://www.fgcofmd.org/coucilsandschools/landscapedesign/>

to the Landscape Design Council Awards Link. The deadline for the 2025 awards is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Landscape Design Council is also responsible for the Robert Lewis Baker Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to a graduate student pursuing a higher level degree in the studies of Ornamental Horticulture or Landscape Architecture. Unfortunately, we did not have any entries for this 2024. Now is the time to pass on the information to your family members, friends, neighbors and students about applying for 2025. Go to the website: <https://www.fgcofmd.org/scholarships/> for the application. The deadline for the 2025 applicant is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**FGCMD State News**

**Photography** .... *Mary Ellen Plummer*



This is the perfect time of year to photograph sunrises and sunsets!! A few suggestions here to help make them more interesting and memorable, not just the sun and clouds on the horizon!!!

Before:

- \* Arrive early at your chosen location to scout out the most interesting elements in the area.
- \* Keep the horizon level. iPhone review to get grid: Settings - Camera - Grid toggle on – Match lines to horizon!!!
- \* Tap the screen to get your preferred exposure and focus in on the main visual you want highlighted.

During:

- \* Include leading lines to take the eye towards the focused area ex. pier, plant, boat, fence.
- \* Use people, rocks, plants, tree etc. as silhouettes in foreground or horizon
- \* Use reflections. Find a shiny or wet surface or a window to reflect the sunrise or sunset image. Hold the phone down low with the lens right near the surface. Can look like a double exposure!!
- \* A partly cloudy day can result in wonderful sunsets!! USE the cloud formations for interest.
- \* Try the ‘High, Low, Close, Far’ settings to get great vantage points. Try .5, 1x, 3x to get the best amount of the scene included in your shot!
- \* Take lots of shots!! Easy to eliminate any unwanted shots!!! Be ready and be patient, the best shots may come before the sun comes up or after the sun is down!!

After:

- \* Use an editing program to crop and play with final color and effects for the perfect shot!!

Lots of apps are available for this!!!

Photos: Mary Ellen Pluemer



Leading lines



Cloud formations, Foreground



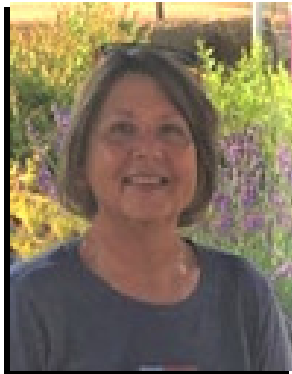
After effects!



Cropped image



**A Note of Appreciation**



Our Gardenews Editor, Tina Swanson, has resigned due to health issues. Since 2009 Tina has served, at different times, as editor or proof reader or contributor. In the beginning this was a ‘black and white publication’. Her artistic talents have created a colorful and more visually pleasing newsletter. Tina’s extensive knowledge of horticulture has resulted in timely and informative articles.

Please join us in thanking Tina for her many contributions to this publication.

## FGCMD State News

**Judges Council** ...Chair Anna O'Kelly

### Featured Design: Parallel

One of the designs that we see frequently in flower shows is a Parallel Design which is described as “A Creative Design in which three or more groupings of plant and other (optional) components are placed in a strong parallel manner in a single container, on a base, or both.”

To simplify this definition, each grouping in this design type must appear as a single unit in one container or base; however, more than one container may be used if it looks like one container.

Parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. **SPACE** between each grouping is an important component. Use of minimal plant material creates space within the design.

Only the overall effect must appear parallel. Components within each grouping need not be precisely equidistant from each other, nor do they need to be arranged precisely the same. Each grouping must appear as independent of the others, yet is related by color, texture, form, and/or pattern. The materials in each grouping may be the same plant materials, varied combinations of selected plant materials, or different plant material, plus other components as desired. Mix it up—creating different groupings creates more interest!

Many designers assume that the groupings must be placed in a container at equal distances from each other and in a straight line. However, depth is difficult to achieve by placing the groupings in a straight row.

The design in this photo used three containers stacked to appear as one. Staggering the containers creates **depth**. Minimal plant material is used which creates **space**. Similar plant materials are used within each grouping, yet there is a slight variance of their placement in each grouping to provide **rhythm**.

Challenge yourself and enter a parallel class in the next flower show!!



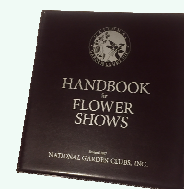
*Parallel Design*

*Designer: Anna O'Kelly*

The Digital Handbook for Flower Shows - Revised July 2024

Available for download at no charge.

<https://www.fgcofmd.org/coucilsandschools/flowershows/>



**Gardening School and Environmental School** ...Linda Harris Chairs both Schools

**Environmental School Course 4** is scheduled for September 18 & 19, 2024 at Garrett College. Some of the class subjects include wetlands, water ecology, aquatic plants and animals, earth stewardship, youth programs in environmental education, and a two-hour nature discovery field trip. Registration is open and the school brochure can be found on the FGCMD website on the calendar page and the Council page, or by contacting Linda Harris at [lindaharris355@aol.com](mailto:lindaharris355@aol.com)

**Gardening School Course 4** was held on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Columbia. 33 people attended; 6 were Gardening Consultants who were refreshing; and 27 students, 15 of which are now Gardening Consultants having completed their fourth Gardening School course.

## FGCMD State News

### Legislation Highlights ... *Chair Shirley Santora*

Following the close of the 446<sup>th</sup> Session of the Maryland General Assembly in April, the Department of Legislative Services 90 Day Report provided a summary of the legislation passed during the recent session. [https://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/RecurRpt/24rs\\_90\\_Day\\_Report.pdf](https://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/RecurRpt/24rs_90_Day_Report.pdf)

It is a lengthy report, but sections K and A would be of most interest to garden club members. Part K includes all the legislation centering around natural resources, the environment, and agriculture. Beginning at Part A –80, Aid to Local Governments, there is a listing by county. As examples, Anne Arundel County will receive \$200,000 for Sandy Point State Park; in Baltimore County Patapsco WWTP will receive \$15,000,000 for improving headwaters (Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund). Readers are encouraged to examine aid to their counties.

In related news, the following counties received grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Charles, and Prince George. The funds will be used to replace diesel school buses with electric ones. The city of Frederick, with support of city funds and a grant from the USDA, has a successful residential compost program that diverted [nearly 550,000](#) pounds (about 249475.6 kg) of organic waste from being sent to a landfill. Finally, Gov. Wes Moore signed a comprehensive executive order to advance Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. The order was signed on June 4, 2024, and the event can be viewed on YouTube.

### Awards Committee ... *Chair Ann Street, Bob Howatt Vice-Chairman*

#### New Dates for Perennial Bloom Award

In 2023 - 2024 two (2) Perennial Bloom recipients were chosen from each state because CAR-SGC was changing the date of the Perennial Bloom Award. This month we will be editing the FGCMD Awards Manual to reflect the changes. As it stands now, the new dates for FGCMD Perennial Bloom Award will be:

**District Deadline/Contact - February 1** / District Awards Chairperson(s) receives candidates from the district clubs and chooses the one candidate who best represents their district

**State Deadline/Contact - March 1** / State Awards Chairman receives one candidate from each district awards chairperson (s) and presents to the state Perennial Bloom Committee for selection

The State Awards Chairman will submit the state selection to CAR by April 1. The CAR-SGC winner (chosen from all states submitting a candidate) will be announced in the fall at their meeting.

### Natural Disasters .....*Chair Charlotte Pennington*

**A natural disaster is:**

**“A major event brought about by the natural processes of the Earth that causes widespread destruction to the environment and loss of life”**

Natural Disasters Committee works to promote donations from our Statewide garden clubs. We ask that each District, along with each club, donate to FGCMD Natural Disasters fund. We then make grants available for those demonstrating the appropriate needs.

There have been many disasters effecting most of the country in some way. From the fires in Hawaii to over 850 tornadoes throughout the Midwest, many areas have been impacted. Record winter storms have been recorded throughout the north west. Currently, there are fires in New Mexico and Arizona. From heat waves to record setting snow falls, we've had and are experiencing natural disasters.

Just recently, a storm came through Baltimore. The storm produced lightning that struck down an historic 60 year old *Dawn Redwood* tree in the *Cylburn* Arboretum.

Natural Disasters affect communities all too often. The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland looks for your donations to help those in need.

Please donate a dollar per member, more as your club is able. Individual donations are always welcome. We look forward to each club sending their donations to:

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, INC.  
P.O. Box 65172  
Baltimore, MD 21209

Contact Donna Lawson at 410-396-4842 with questions.

## National Garden Clubs Paver Project



Carol Norquist, Director of the Pacific Region reports that the Permanent Home and Endowment Trustees have approved the addition of a walking path to the NGC grounds: The NGC Path of Success. Roughly 1/4 mile long, the Path of Success will be a walking path located on the grounds of NGC's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri and will link to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, spreading more awareness of NGC than ever before. This project will also serve as an educational platform, showing the rich history and mission of NGC. There is a smaller paver size measuring 4"X8" (\$250) for individuals and clubs (order on the website) and a larger paver for states. Each of the small pavers allows three lines of text with a limit of 18 characters per line. Clubs can partner and share a paver.

You can also just donate on the website for the project. For more information go to <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-path-success>

## CAR-SGC Invitation



## CAR-SGC Conference 2024

October 22-23, 2024

The Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ

*Come join us in the historic Somerset Hills in autumn!*

Theme: Wonders of the Garden State

Speakers-Workshops-Vendors-Trips

Hosted by the Garden Club of New Jersey

Conference 2024 chairmen: Mary Warshauer & Florence Leyssène

GCNJ President-Beverly Kazickas

<https://www.car-sgc.org/>

## Garrett College Project

# Many Hands Make Light Work...



The Mountain Laurel Garden Club, Maryland Forest Service and Garrett College facilities department, aided by more than 40 Laker student-athletes, planted 113 native flowering shrubs surrounding the college's recently developed turf field. The student-athletes included members of the baseball, women's volleyball, wrestling and women's soccer teams.

"I was expecting to be here until early afternoon," said Katherine Phillips, the Maryland Forest Service Western Region Urban and Community Forestry coordinator. "With so many people helping, we started planting around 10 a.m. and we were done before 11." The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee (MUCFC) awarded a \$1,000 tree planting grant to the Mountain Laurel Garden Club, which was matched by the college. MLGC contributed \$960 from the proceeds of their Native Plant Symposium held at Garrett College in April.

The native shrubs, including black chokeberry, red chokeberry, black haw viburnum, buttonbush, winterberry, witch hazel and New Jersey tea, were planted 28 per row surrounding the turf field. Linda Harris, project leader, said Garrett College Foundation Executive Director Cherie Krug, a member of MLGC connected the club with the college. We hope to continue working with these partners in beautification projects across the campus.

Richard Midcap, Garrett College president, said the shrub planting initiative "once again illustrates the value of partner-based projects. I greatly appreciate the collaborative efforts of the Mountain Laurel Garden Club and the Maryland Forest Service," said Midcap. "Linda Harris and Katherine Phillips were particularly instrumental in making this project a reality."

(Katherine Phillips was a guest speaker at the District V meeting in October of 2023, which is where Linda Harris met her; they are currently working on other planting projects in Garrett County.)

Or in this case—shovels!



## Sustainability

## Got Lots of Clothes, but can't find anything to wear? And, what does this have to do with sustainability?

Americans are buying more clothes today than ever before. On average, we buy 53 new items of clothing per year — [four times](#) as much as in the year 2000.

Most people don't need more clothes today than they did two decades ago, so what's driving this rise in consumption? The answer, in short, is fast fashion.

- Clothing manufacturers are producing more clothes than ever — over 100 billion pieces per year.
- Fast fashion companies are a big part of the problem, rapidly churning out new clothes to both drive and keep up with trends, which are evolving faster than ever thanks to the rise of social media and online shopping.
- Fast fashion companies are also selling their clothing at eye-poppingly low prices that don't take into account the true cost all this consumption is taking on our planet.

And, technology has made it easier than ever for fast fashion companies to sell clothing. Consumers are bombarded with clothing ads on social media, even when they're not shopping for clothes. Influencers fill social media feeds with the latest trends. And buying new clothing is as easy as clicking a button.

Clothing is cheaper, more readily available, and easier to buy than ever before — and as a result, we're buying more clothing than we can wear.



<https://pirg.org/articles/how-many-clothes-are-too-many/>

### Are you guilty – take this quick quiz to find out:

1. It takes you ages to put together an outfit.
2. You have multiple duplicates of the same item of clothing (6 white blouses)
3. You can't physically close a drawer.
4. You store clothes in weird places.
5. It takes a long time to change out your closet at the end of a season.
6. You can't remember what clothes you have
7. There are lots of clothes you have never worn or only worn once or twice.
8. You have lots of "just in case" clothes – in multiple sizes.
9. You rarely rewear the same item in a two-week period.
10. Too many of your clothes don't feel like 'You'

If you answer yes to a few of these, it might be time to change your habits.



## Sustainability

### The cost to our planet of throwing away clothing

When we clean out our closets, we often use three piles for clothing: keep, donate, and toss (or, landfill). Even though many Americans donate clothes, textiles still make up a shocking amount of the US waste stream. The EPA reports that Americans generate 16 million tons of textile waste a year, equaling just over six percent of total municipal waste (for context, plastics make up 13 percent of our waste stream). On average, 700,000 tons of used clothing gets exported overseas and 2.5 million tons of clothing are recycled. But over three million tons are incinerated, and a staggering 10 million tons get sent to landfills.

We need to reduce textile waste and prevent burning or landfilling used clothing, processes that release greenhouse gas emissions. Plus, it typically costs \$45 per ton to dispose of textiles, equaling hundreds of millions of dollars per year, showing a clear economic case to reduce waste. With almost two-thirds of clothing castoffs headed directly to the landfill, what's abundantly clear is that we produce far too much clothing in the first place. With the influence of fast fashion, we now see over 50 "micro-seasons" of clothing being made in a year instead of the previous two seasons (spring/summer and fall/winter) from decades past. <https://www.greenamerica.org/unraveling-fashion-industry/what-really-happens-unwanted-clothes>

### Instead it is Time to Reduce, Reuse, and then Recycle

Here are three steps from the greenheart collective you can take to reduce your impact on the Earth when it comes to clothes

1. Use a method to organize your wardrobe to figure out which clothes are surplus.
2. Donate clothes to your local charity shop.
3. Swap clothes with friends or family.
4. Try using a clothes swap app.
5. Sell on eBay, Vinted, Depop or other online platforms.
6. If clothes are really worn, consider upcycling them – animal shelters need rags for cleaning and bedding.
7. Check local community groups, schools or homeless shelters to see if they are in need of specific clothes.
8. Take them all to a yard sale and price them to go all in one day.
9. Consider giving them away in a Facebook group or Marketplace.

<https://www.greenheartcollective.uk/blogs/news/signs-you-have-too-many-clothes#:~:text=You're%20constantly%20having%20to,time%20by%20having%20a%20ponder>

For all of us who wear clothes, there are many ways we can make a difference for people and the planet.



News from Around the State

District I - Eastern Shore Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester Counties

...Trish Reynolds pkr26998@gmail.com

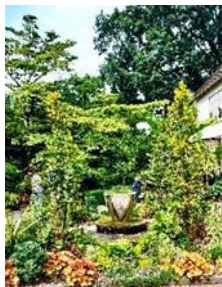


District I Director Terry Holman

District I clubs have completed a successful year with many clubs taking a well-deserved hiatus during July and August. District Plans include coordination with the DNR Maryland Parks Service to utilize the Alice Rush McKeon Tree Planting funds to purchase and plant native trees for

Maryland's newest park, Cypress Branch State Park, located in Kent County, Maryland. Once our plans are approved by the DNR, we will geolocate each planting site. We cannot wait to be a part of this new state park's future and hope that Alice Rush McKeon will be proud of our endeavors.

Our District I Patriotic Standard Flower Show, "Spirit of America" is October 5, 2024, at the Elks Lodge at 502 Dutchman's Lane in Easton Maryland from 1-4pm.



The **Chestertown GC** had a very successful May Mart followed by a bus trip to Chanticleer. Chanticleer displays gardens that you can recreate in your own yards. And, as with English gardens, they don't use mulch! They plant very tightly and use leaves from the town that have been shredded, lightly composted to spread in the gardens. It is well worth seeing and the guides are amazing. In July we will visit the gardens of four members in the Fairlee area of Kent County. August will find us celebrating Hebe's 125th birthday. Hebe is the Goddess atop the fountain in Fountain Park, which was dedicated in 1899! We've had some fun times and are looking forward to more of them!

**Dorchester GC** was excited to visit Ladew Gardens in Harford County, Maryland. Members joined in to answer riddles, explore purse contents, and get to know each other better on the 2-hour luxury bus ride. We enjoyed a guided tour of the Harvey Ladew home and dined in the horse stall. The 22-acre gardens of sculptured greenery and over 100 life-sized topiaries amazed all.



The **Four Seasons GC** participated in the Poplar Hill Mansion Festival on May 1. President, Anne Heavner organized and manned the sale of plants that club members donated.

Nancy Craft, Gay Kern and Frances Follmer manned the annual activity for children. Each child had the opportunity to plant a flower in containers they decorated with noses and wiggly eyes. It was amazing to see the number of teens requesting permission to participate. The teens planted side-by-side with the little tykes!



Anne Heavner

The club is focusing on its upcoming flower show, "The Wizard of Oz, Celebrating the 85th Anniversary". At the May Meeting, Ann Street and Frances Follmer demonstrated two of the floral design types, Spatial Thrust and Reflective, that will be included in the flower show. The designs were created from the very beginning to the end so members could see the mechanics that were used and ask questions.

**Kent Island GC** has had a non-stop season of growth, from a Garden Redesign at the Historic Kirwan House to Pop Up Plant Sales at the Art Mart in Stevensville, to Art in Bloom interpretations at Kent Island's Art Federation and supporting Talisman Therapeutic Riding Center's Derby Day Fundraiser by creating table centerpieces. We topped off our Spring Season with a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show that welcomed entries of several friends from other clubs!



Spring for **Oxford GC** was a moving and memorable time. For the Oxford Fine Arts Show members designed floral arrangements to complement the creations of the artists in our community. We sponsored the town's Memorial Day Service recognizing those who gave their lives to their country with wreaths for the Blue Star Memorial, prayers and personal remembrances, accompanied by the bagpiper. We celebrated our 20th anniversary with a lively gathering of friends, neighbors, and



**News from Around the State**

community minded colleagues at the Oxford Community Center. It was also a demonstration of what we have been doing best for two decades. All of this is a reaffirmation of steadfast partnerships, enduring friendships, civic pride, and a growing support for all forms of conservation. We are also known for award winning floral design. Our anniversary gift for Oxford is a garden bench adorned with carvings of hydrangeas. Have a seat the next time you are in Oxford. Enjoy the beauty of this special town and its gardens and celebrate those who made so many of them possible.

As part of our 90th Anniversary celebration, on May 26th, the **Queen Anne's County GC** held an Arbor Day Tree Dedication for a Quercus Alba and five Cornus florida at the oute 18 Park in Centreville in honor of Queen Anne's County Police officers, Firefighters and First Responders. On this beautiful spring day here were approximately 60 participants including FGCMMD President Susie Middleton, and District Director Terry Holman. Former FGCMMD



President Diana Bonner and former District Directors Anne



Foss and Doris Key were also in attendance. Sheriff Gary Hofman and Commissioner James Moran spoke briefly before Mr. Robert Mitchell inspired us with his bagpipes. Refreshments were provided by club members and Red Oak and Red Bud saplings were available from the Department of Natural Resources.

**Somerset County GC** participated in the Lower Shore Land Trust Pollinator Tour. The tour included many club members' gardens. In addition, club members volunteered at the locations talking about pollinators.

Spring 2024 for **Talbot County GC** was filled with incredible events starting with Easton Beautification Day, a day in which all our members join together to prepare the 4 public gardens we maintain in Easton for the upcoming season...we weed, cut back and plant! A few of our members were asked once again by the Economic Development Office to judge window displays, container gardens and front doors of local businesses. In cooperation with the YMCA a program on growing herbs in small window-box containers provided to developmentally challenged adults was given.



What takes two years to organize and execute? Well for TCGC it was the Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage....May 11 was a glorious day, with sunshine, a cloud-free sky, and optimal spring temperatures that helped to draw a

bonanza number of folks to the Talbot County Garden Club's biennial TALBOT COUNTY TOUR of the MARYLAND HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE. Homeowners of seven iconic properties opened their doors and welcomed 2,038 Pilgrims into their homes. Inside, in addition to fabulous architecture and decor, the Pilgrims were treated to fabulous florals, designed by club members.



The event drew county-wide participation – from club members, homeowners, volunteers, sponsors, businesses, and the media – that generated substantial proceeds that will result in tangible and lasting improvements to two historic local properties: Scotts United Methodist Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, both in Trappe.

May was an eventful month for the **Worcester County GC**. Members braved a cold and dreary Saturday at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market selling succulent-filled hypertufa troughs that were made during an April workshop. At the monthly meeting member Martha Bennett was presented with the Mary Ann Royal Award for her outstanding contributions to the club.



*Pat Arata, Sandy Buchanan Martha Bennett and Joan LaHayne*

Three prior recipients made the selection and member Jackie Davies created a stunning floral arrangement for the trophy bowl. Members also enjoyed learning about the medicinal benefits of common herbs from Clinical Herbalist Michaela Eggers and sampling

some of the delicious teas she sells in her Berlin store, Little Green Witch Apothecary.

Members joined Garden Therapy Chair Glenda Clarke for a workshop helping residents arrange flowers and greenery in pint mason jars at Gull Creek Senior Living Community. The month ended with a Memorial Day wreath laying at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial. For National Garden Week members placed floral arrangements in each of the five branches of the Worcester County Library,

## News from Around the State

**District II – Southern Maryland** Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties ...

*Shirley Santora shysanta@verizon.net*

### DII Director Paula McCathran Winkler

Spring 2024 kicked off with a bang! The two Spring Flower shows were a feast for the senses. DII's signature Daffodil

Show: *Spring Break* received a record number of blooms; with the design and youth divisions sharing the extraordinary talents of our District! **Crofton Village GC** emerged from the COVID lockdown with a throwback to 1964: '60's Flower Power

Flower Show celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Hundreds of pristine, binomially correctly named horticulture exhibits, and exquisite designs, youth, and educational exhibits. Then, on to an Elegant Luncheon Tea at a riverside Lavender Farm, tree plantings at schools, public garden cleanups, plant sales, and so much more!

Summer and Fall schedules are packed full of workshops, Fall flower shows, and a Gold Star Memorial Dedication.

My focus continues to be:

*Sustaining Maryland's Trees: Ensuring Tree Mitigation*

**Calvert GC** (CGC) and Anmarie Garden (AMG) invite you to our 15<sup>th</sup> annual ART BLOOMS exhibit. The event features flower arrangements inspired by works of art displayed in two themed exhibits in the galleries of AMG: "POP! Art with Mass Appeal" and "MORE! Embracing Excess". Please sign up as a floral designer (to install an arrangement on August 1), come to the opening party on Friday, August 2, 5:00-8:00 pm or come view the art at AMG August 2-4! To sign up and for more information, please email CGC Art Blooms chairs Marcia Olson ([marcia.olson1@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.olson1@gmail.com)) and Joyce Fletcher ([joycereynhoudt@gmail.com](mailto:joycereynhoudt@gmail.com)).

**Chartwell GC** enjoyed an informative presentation on roses given by David Walsh, president of the Maryland Rose Society.



The program was quite timely because the following week some members were able to attend the Maryland Rose Society Show at the Vollmer Center.

Earth Day on the B&A Trail found Chairman Sally Sachse, Judy Mayron,

and Shirley and Vito Santora having fun weeding our garden, established 1991, located next to the Ranger's Station. Last year Sally Sachse led the refurbishment of the gardens with a Unity Gardens grant. Native plants were installed and are thriving!

A very enthusiastic group that included spouses and grandchildren met at Kinder Farm Park for a spring clean-up at



the exhibition gardens next to the Kinder Farmhouse. Lynn Tuozzo transported not one but two truckloads of bagged mulch to the garden and Aleta Dust provided cardboard to lay under the mulch with guidance provided by Jill Breen, Chairman. In addition to weeding, the mulch was spread on the paths between the individual garden plots. This was truly a club effort with "many hands making light work".

The **Chesapeake Garden Club's** (CGC) Annual Plant Sale was an overwhelming success! Members spent months preparing for the May event by visiting members' gardens and helping to dig plants for the sale. By May, over 1,000 plants from home-grown gardens were dug, transplanted into pots and sold! A Garden Room filled with items for one's porch, patio, or home enjoyment added to the prosperous event. CGC created "The Well-Rounded Gardener" – a book filled with members' recipes, gardening tips, floral design know-how and "tales" from the members' experiences in gardening. Books will be for sale at the October District II meeting.



May 14th was the 100th Anniversary celebration of the **Four Rivers Garden Club** held in the gardens of the Historic Hammond-Harwood House.

The **La Plata GC** really had an exciting beginning of 2024. We started out with a wild bird lecture by Barb Shipley letting us know the 13 most wanted backyard birds. We then toured P.A. Bowen Farmstead, a working farm who produces raw milk and many varieties of cheese. We had a fantastic hot dog social at Tilghman Lake, in La Plata. We toured Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood Estate and enjoyed all the gardens and the greenhouses. We had 2 fundraisers, our annual plant sale and a rainy -day shabby chic sale. Together these events raised funds to benefit our 2024 scholarship program.

### Naval Academy Garden Club

The Naval Academy Garden Club (NAGC) continued its 68 year tradition by creating May Baskets that were placed on the gates of the United States Naval Academy (USNA). This tradition of celebrating May Day in Annapolis is sponsored by the Garden Club of Old Annapolis. Both residents and businesses participate to make beautiful arrangements of flowers that are hung outside for all to enjoy. The event brings out the best in the historic area of Annapolis as springtime is welcomed. Blue ribbons are awarded by a committee from the Garden Club of Old Annapolis, and the NAGC has earned many over the years since 1956 when it first participated in this festive event.

News from Around the State

District III Baltimore & Harford Counties ...Judy Walter judywalter1@verizon.net and Toni Serruto tserruto@towson.edu



**District III Director Randy Low**

There has been a lot going on in the District since the last Gardenews. District III had a very successful Annual Meeting in March with Barbara Melera from Harvesting History speaking on *From the Garden to the Vase*. She was very well received. Most of the garden clubs in the district have been very busy with plant sales and other fund raisers. The District board has been busy planning for the presidents' meeting coming in June and September, for our fund raisers that include a bus trip to The Grounds for Sculpture Sept 20<sup>th</sup> and The Wreath/Porch Pot Workshop in December, as well as our annual meeting next March.

I do want to acknowledge Pat Parker from the Halten Garden Club who is the District Liaison to the Historic Hampton Mansion for all her work recruiting volunteers from the garden clubs to help plant the formal gardens and urns. She has also helped to fund raise throughout the district for the intern program that is a great learning experience for a college student who is interested in gardening/horticulture or a related area. The Baltimore Sun published an article that highlighted Pat's work in the gardens. Pat also organizes the garden clubs to decorate the mansion for Christmas. This is always a fun project for those who participate. Thanks Pat!!!

The **Franklin GC** combined our annual field trip in May with our Spring fundraiser. The bus trip and tour was to Hillwood Museum and Gardens, the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post, followed by lunch. In the afternoon, our group of 55 members and guests visited the National Arboretum's Bonsai Exhibit. The ride home was fun as many prizes (including box seat tickets to an Orioles game and gift certificates to several area restaurants) were raffled off. The weather was beautiful and the trip turned out to



be a highly successful fundraiser. A bonus was the interest generated in joining our club.

For the last 25 years, **Gunpowder GC** has created three container gardens around the porch perimeter of the historic 1897 Monkton Train Station. The three wooden barrels rest in nooks around the

Station deck and receive full sun to partial shade exposure. Each year, Lynn Irwin (Container Garden Chair) and her team create a "plant plan" for each barrel— keeping in mind the sun-to-shade exposure. The team of gardeners secure the plants and make sure they are in place shortly after Mother's Day weekend. Each barrel features a sign identifying the plants so visitors may learn and become familiar with the featured plants of the season. The station and trail are part of the Gunpowder Falls State Park and rangers confirm that the 19.8 hike-and-bike trail averages 4,000 visitors per week.



President Patsy Stein cuts the LGC cake in honor of 75 years, photo by John Monte.

**Lutherville GC** celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a day trip to historic Jerusalem Mill in Kingsville, Maryland, followed by lunch at Mountain Branch Golf Club. Photo: President Patsy Stein cuts the LGC cake in honor of 75 years,

The **Manor GC** has planned several programs this year which support sustainable gardening, including talks about baywise gardening and integrated pest management. Members share what they are doing

to support their local environment at each meeting. The club maintains a native plant garden at the Phoenix Road entrance of the Torrey Brown Trail in Baltimore County. Members are working on a midsummer grant proposal to the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland which would help finance a small garden expansion, upgrade the path through the garden, and give back to the visitors to the Gunpowder State Park trail. This spring the group tested the waters for a future educational presentation on native plants by participating in the 2nd annual Earth Day event at Monkton Station, offering examples of plant natives and their pollinators. The group is having fun with bonsai creating and hypertufa container-building for sustainable gardening joy. The club continues to work to improve their gardening methods and to share their knowledge with the group (and anyone else who will listen!).



**Woodbrook-Murray Hill GC** The Woodbrook-Murray Hill Garden Club traveled to Cylburn Arboretum for a visit to the Nature Education Center and a tour of Cylburn's gardens, led

## News from Around the State



by Head Gardener "Fig" Figlestahler. We learned about trees in Cylburn's collection, interesting perennials and bulbs, their culture and maintenance, and ongoing and upcoming projects. Woodbrook-Murray Hill held our annual meeting at Star Bright Lavender Farm in White Hall. The meeting included a tour of the lavender farm by owner Helen Norman and lunch in the barn at Star Bright. Our May meeting featured a demonstration of seasonal designs and sustainable practices from floral designer Kathy Phillips. WMH also learned about the various species and varieties of viburnums suitable for our

area from landscape designer Kathi Shea in February, and photojournalist Melissa Riggs spoke on cell phone photography of flowers and landscapes for our March meeting.

**York Manor GC** Spring meetings included a wonderful slide presentation by club member, Claire Jones, on Exceptional Gardens Around the World. During our April flower arranging workshop by YMGC member, Toni Bullough, each member participating produced a beautiful topiary flower arrangement. Our annual picnic was held at the home of club member, Madelyn Ayres. Madelyn and Larry are the ultimate host and hostess and members enjoyed a beautiful day and a tour of their gardens, particularly their very ambitious vegetable garden. Efforts to increase membership include an ongoing project developing a website for YMGC.



### District IV Baltimore City ...Katherine Edwards [Katherine.s.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:Katherine.s.edwards@gmail.com)



District IV Director Gretchen Edwards

#### **The District IV Summer Challenge!**

Each member of District IV is invited to create a special garden for her/his own meditation/prayer. Each member so doing who brings a picture of her/his garden for our October 15 Annual meeting will receive a certificate of appreciation.

Each member or club of District IV is invited to create a special garden for meditation/prayer for a community church, police or fire station, star memorial, health facility, home for the elderly, etc. to enrich our city with beauty, peace & prosperity. Each person or club so doing who brings a picture of said garden to the October 15 Annual meeting will receive a certificate of appreciation.

I don't have any idea what the response will be, but I am prepared to be amazed. Best wishes and Happy Summer!

Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain, you say? Here is

a peek at the executive and advisory team of the **Bolton Hill Garden Club (BHGC)** enjoying an end-of-the-year celebratory dinner.

The team conducts club business, and also creates,

steers, and executes all of its programs, activities and events with its cadre of hard-working member volunteers. So what may look effortless from the outside has many hands making things happen from the inside – resulting in a shared workload and engaging events, programs and parties created in the spirit of fellowship, education and fun.

In the few short years since coming out of the pandemic, club membership has more than doubled to its current 120 members. Its mission: furthering horticultural education + environmental awareness + fellowship is what BHGC is all about. Join us! See:

[www.boltonhillgardenclub.org](http://www.boltonhillgardenclub.org)



### **Support our FGCMF Scholarship Fund ... and become a Life Member!**



Life Memberships may be purchased for \$75 per individual. Proceeds go entirely to the FGCMF Life Member Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships annually to qualified students in accredited U.S. colleges and universities.

Life members receive a **Black-eyed Susan pin**. Application link [fgcofmd.org/membersupport/](http://fgcofmd.org/membersupport/)

## News from Around the State

District V - Western Maryland Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Washington Counties ...*Genecile Weston olemissbelle76@gmail.com*



District V Director Shelley Johnson

District V is excited about two initiatives we have as friendly “club competition”. Both are voluntary.

The first initiative was started by DV Civic Improvement Chair Patty Kettlestrings of The Garden Club of Frederick. The program is called “Got Nectar?” and ties into what many garden clubs are doing already- planting! The program’s focus has a bit of a twist. Individual members and/or clubs are asked to plant early spring blooming plants or late fall bloom plants for the insects that appear early or late in the two seasons. Bulbs such as Snowdrops or Virginia Bluebells are perfect for spring and Asters are an example of a late fall flowering plant. Clubs record their information into a shared spreadsheet. The district has planted over 1600 bulbs and plants as of March. We can’t wait to see what the following year brings!

Our second district initiative is all about recycling. DV Conservation Chair Lynn Walter of Silver Fancy GC is heading up this endeavor. Plastic Recycling is our focus for a friendly competition. A club who chooses to participate in the Trex Recycling Challenge has a chance to receive a park bench made by Trex. As a district, we need to collect 1000 lbs. of plastics to receive the bench. The club who collects the most plastics based on their membership and (a lot of math on Lynn’s part) will be the designated winner!

As part of District V Trex Recycling challenge, **Silver Fancy GC** is taking the lead for District V. Beginning September 1, we will be collecting soft plastics - grocery bags, dry cleaning bags, reclosable bags. To learn more, please visit <https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate>. Contact Lynn Walter with questions: [lynnwalter@gmail.com](mailto:lynnwalter@gmail.com).

**Carroll GC** unveiled a Blue Star Memorial marker at the Westminster Veterans Memorial Park in a dedication ceremony on May 18th. Club members were joined by Susie Middleton, FGCMDC President, Carolyn McGlashan, FGCMDC Blue Star Chairman, Shelley Johnson, District V Director, and three Carroll County commissioners. American Legion Post #31 did the Presentation of Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. VFW Post 467 performed Taps and gave a 21-gun salute.



The memorial marker was 12 years in the making. Club member Katie Corbin, whose mother originally approached the county with the idea, said, “This was really my mom’s baby. I just took it on in her honor.”

**Howard County GC** members are sometimes asked to present programs, collaborating with other non-profit



organizations. Rachel Hoenes Haak, a member of our club and flower designer, was invited to the Ellicott Mills Children’s Museum to present a program on flower arranging for Mother’s Day. She taught the various participants about color, how to design, and what the various colors of the flowers mean. The participants were very enthusiastic and excited to create their mothers a posie bouquet, also known as a tussy mussy.

The annual “Art in Bloom” benefit event was held March 15 through March 17 at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, Maryland, hosted by **Town and County GC**. The “Art in Bloom” event couples members of regional garden clubs, designer guilds, art schools, and individuals with a select work of art at the museum. Each floral designer interprets their assigned work of art, be it a painting or sculpture, by creating a one-of-a-kind floral arrangement. A special demonstration on floral arranging techniques was provided by Karen Kallmyer. This year, there were 30 floral arrangements displayed throughout the museum.



Members from the **Green-walled GC** participated in this event. Shelley Johnson and Julie Howell designed a floral arrangement to compliment the cover of the book, *Charlotte’s Web*, illustrated by Garth Williams; Peggy Conner and Judy D’Agostino designed a floral arrangement to compliment the painting *Portrait of Shanah*, by Philip Guston; and, Richelle Emerick and Karen Kallmyer, designed a floral arrangement to compliment the painting, *It Runs!* by Julia Badger.

**Mt. Airy GC** members have had a very busy and productive spring. Our annual Plant Sale, held the Saturday before Mother’s Day, featured annuals, hanging baskets, home grown perennials, herbs, as well as, cedar bluebird houses and planters. The bird houses were made by a club member’s husband. The event was a resounding success. The Historic Preservation and Civic and Roadside committees completed spring chores at the gardens we tend at Vest Pocket Park, Pine Grove Chapel and the Mt. Airy Library. The members enjoyed a day in nature by visiting the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Vienna, VA.

