



GARDENEWS

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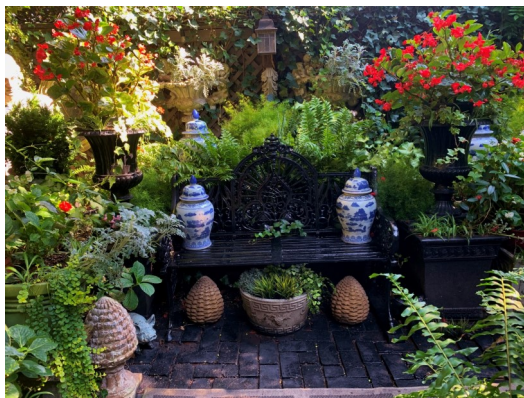
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Good Bye Summer – Hello Autumn

Although many clubs take a break during summer there were still lots of activities. One of my favorites is a Garden tour. This year's were a special delight. On each tour I came away with a list of must have plants and garden ideas.



Loved the mix of plants and pottery in the design above..

beautiful. (photo right) Another local flower grower keeps deer from nibbling her beds by surrounding the space with fishing line strung between tall metal garden stakes.

Now Fall is here bringing a new gardening season. I suffer from NEB – Not Enough Bulbs...every time I think I have enough bulbs a new catalog arrives. I'm now going to try Galanthus, also known as snowdrops, a lovely early bloomer.

Planning ahead for 2025, please mark your calendars.

March: Our **annual meeting** will feature horticulture with a speaker on plants. He'll be bringing plenty of samples to sell.

May: It is customary for the **NGC Convention** to be held in the home state of the incoming President and Donna Marie Donnelly's home state is South Carolina. The 2025 NGC Conference will be held in North Charleston, South Carolina May 18-22, 2025. Registration with a booking link will be sent December 1, 2024. Due to the location and special tours, it is sure to be popular so if you are interested, register early.



Photo Courtesy Jeff Heavner

Hope to see many of you at these events,

Susie



Attending garden club meetings and talking with members also provided an opportunity to learn. Did you know you can grow orchids in water? Anne Heavner of Four Seasons Garden Club is successfully doing that. She said she uses tap water but leaves it out overnight.

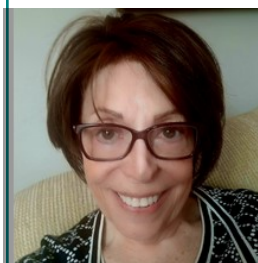
We visited a commercial grower and learned that he leaves his Dahlia's in the ground overwinter. I'm now zone 7a so it may not work for everyone but they were



Photo courtesy Donna Miller

October: Maryland is host to the **2025 CAR-SGC Conference** which will be held at the Hyatt Resort in Cambridge, MD October 19-22, 2025. It is open to all – we have a terrific line up of 8 speakers and a bus tour of 3 terrific sites. The conference is designed so it will qualify as a Tri-Refresher meaning Consultants in Gardening, Environment and Landscape Design can refresh their credentials by attending. Look for more on this in the spring. We promoted our conference at this year's with a song and crab cookie – Thanks to my bakers we made 231.

FGCMD State News



Marcia Richard1st Vice President

A follow up on my sustainable household items. After months of trying to use the products I bought last time, the only ones I still use and enjoy are the brush and the “wool balls” for the dryer. I have been able to cut my drying time which has been reflected on our electric bills. What I have learned is that not all products are winners. What have your experiences been and have you found other sustainable household items that we can share with club members? Would love to share your experiences in the next Gardenews. Please send them to me at gardenews@fgcofmd.org.



Lisa Johnson2nd Vice President

Planned Giving

What Is Planned Giving? Legacy Giving FAQs

Planned giving is a wonderful way to make a larger, lasting contribution to a cause you care about. Learn about planned giving, and how to get started. An Estate Plan represents the opportunity to preserve your legacy and use your finances to make an impact on others. A great way to accomplish this is through Planned Giving. This philanthropic practice represents the perfect opportunity to make a lasting impact for the cause of your choice. If you have ever considered making a major donation to a charitable organization or nonprofit, consider making it a part of your Estate Plan. There are numerous tax and legal benefits to this practice, not to mention the potential reach it could have. Continue reading to learn more about how to get started:

What Does “Planned Giving” Mean?

Planned Giving is the practice of designating a major gift to a charitable organization in life or as part of an Estate Plan. The gift could include cash, real estate, life insurance, equity, or personal property. Planned Giving is sometimes referred to as Legacy Giving. Planned Giving is often done as someone creates an Estate Plan, as there are certain investment or tax strategies that could be done to maximize the gift’s impact. If the gift is part of the Estate Plan it will typically be distributed after the donor has passed away.

What Are the Benefits of Planned Giving?

There are numerous benefits associated with planned giving but perhaps the most obvious is the support it provides to charitable organizations. Many charities do not rely on planned gifts, as they can be hard to predict or ask for, but they almost always make a significant impact on operations. Not only does Planned Giving represent the opportunity to provide long term support to an organization, but it also gives donors a chance to establish a legacy. This philanthropic gesture can be a great way to leave a memory of life.

Other benefits of Planned Giving include:

- Planned Giving represents the opportunity to leave a major gift that may not have been possible in their lifetime due to financial constraints.
- Charitable Gifts are often exempt from Estate Tax, meaning more of the gift would go directly to the organization.
- Donors can avoid capital gains taxes when they transfer assets as part of a Planned Gift -- again maximizing the contribution to charity.

How Does Planned Giving Work?

Planned Giving typically starts during the Estate Planning process, or when a donor realizes they want to make a significant contribution to a charitable organization. Most major gifts are organized with the help of an attorney or Estate Planning lawyer; this is because there are various legal and tax strategies available that can maximize the impact of the gift. The process of Planned Giving is commonly done as individuals make an Estate Plan, as this is the perfect time to set aside assets. The gift could be established in your Last Will and Testament or created as part of a Trust. An Estate Planning lawyer will be able to guide you through the best structure based on your goals and finances.

FGCMD State News

Judges Council ...Chair Anna O’Kelly

Featured Design: Armature

At our last Judges Council Meeting, our program featured Virginia Master Judge and floral designer, Betty Ann Galway. She created several examples of Armature designs and shared new techniques and tricks to create these creative designs.



Man-made material: wire and yarn.



Plant material organized into armature.



Betty Ann Galway
NGC Master Judge and Floral Designer

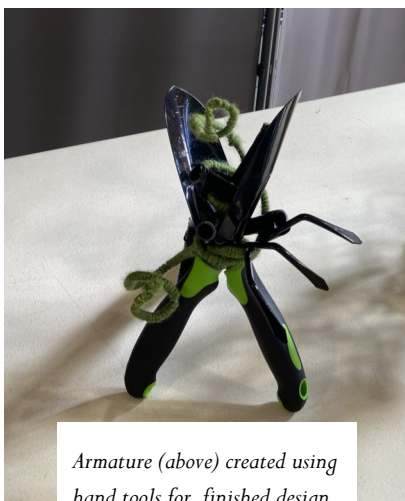
An Armature Design is an Advanced Design type recommended for advanced designers, Design study Groups and Judges Councils. They should also be considered for a Multiple Club, District or State Flower Show.

The following description of an Armature Design is provided in the Handbook for Flower Shows:

Armature Design – A Creative Design featuring an Armature form (grid-like structure).

1. The Armature Form is created by the exhibitor; plant material and other optional components are supported by the Armature.
2. The Armature Form may be made from plant and/or man-made material. It is greater in proportion than the other components combined.
3. The Armature is self-supporting or may rely on a container/s or other devices.
4. Water tubes or other means of water supply for fresh plant material may be used.

As we are encouraged to try designs that do not use floral foam, the use of water tubes is a great idea and are a perfect mechanic with Armature designs.



Armature (above) created using hand tools for finished design (right).



Note the use of water tubes for flowers.

FGCMD State News



SAVE THE DATE!!!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL, COURSE 1

MAY 7 & 8, 2025

DoubleTree Hotel, Columbia, MD

Course 1 Curriculum Includes these One-Hour Classes

Learning About Your Ecosystem

Space, Design and People

Principles and Elements of Landscape Design

Developing Your Garden Plan

Basics of a Site Plan

Color in the Landscape

Design for the Environment

Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Times to 1840

Xeriscaping: Not Just for the Desert

Landscaping With Native Plants

*2024 Holiday Season at the
Maryland State House*

100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Installation of the exhibits by

FGCMD garden clubs is scheduled for

November 25 and 26, 2024.

The State House is open to the public every day from 8:30 am- 5:00 pm except Christmas and New Years Day.

The Holiday Edition of Gardenews with photos will be published the first week of December.

FGCMD State News

FGCMD ScholarshipsRichelle Emerick, Chair

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland awarded \$7,000 in Life Scholarships to two undergraduate students for the 2023-24 academic year.

Scholarships are available to college/university juniors or seniors.

Applicants must have the following:

- ◆ GPA of at least 3.25;
- ◆ Be planning a career related to agronomy, gardening, landscape design, rural/urban planning habitat, forest/systems ecology, environmental issues, wildlife and plant pathology science, floral design or horticulture.
- ◆ Be a legal resident of Maryland and a US citizen or permanent legal resident of the US.
- ◆ Be attending full time (12 graded course hour)

The scholarship application is available on the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. website. <https://fgcofmd.org/scholarships/>

Deadline for application is February 1st.

Questions: Richelle Emerick, FGCMD, Scholarship Chair (emerick@wans.net)

Carolyn Braverman, FGCMD Chair for Sustaining Maryland Grants

Sustaining Maryland Grant Recipients October 2024



Queen Anne's County Garden Club celebrated their 90th Anniversary with the planting of a Quercus alba and five Cornus florida "Cherokee Princess" flowering dogwoods by the Fallen Heroes' Memorial in Centreville. The project honors the Firemen, Police Officers and first responders who ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

Photo by Laura Blalock



The goal for Cross County Garden Club was to replace the boxwoods in Whipp's Cemetery in Ellicott City with native shrubs and expand native plantings into a new area. The club is committed to increasing biodiversity and providing food for native wildlife and beneficial insects.

Photo by Nancy Grabowski



Oxford Garden Club wanted to provide organic vegetables to the Neighborhood Service Center (food bank) plus flowers with holiday lunches for homebound individuals. The bed is a 4' by 8' Oxford Community Garden raised bed which they prepped, grew and maintained in 2024 and going forward. They invited the summer children's camp to participate in these activities. Pictured is Garden Club member Jane Selden.

Photo by: Marilyn Reedy



*** Breaking News ***



*** WANTED * WANTED * WANTED * WANTED * WANTED ***

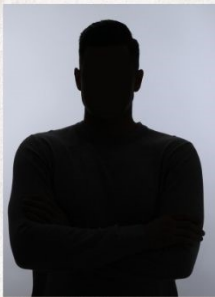
WANTED

★ OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR ★

THIS COULD BE YOU, A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR



The position is 20 hours a week, with flexible scheduling and located at the Federation Office at the Vollmer Center-4915 Greenspring Ave, Balto, MD.



Some of the responsibilities are keeping the financial records, responding to member inquiries, providing administrative support to the Officers, creating the Membership Directory, and handling event registration.

Familiarity with Microsoft Software, Publisher and Quicken essential. Interested candidates should be referred to StatePresident@fgcofmd.org

★ **PART-TIME** ★

★ **FLEXIBLE HOURS** ★

SHARE THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY WITH FELLOW MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Gold Star Dedication

Veteran’s Day Dedication of Gold Star Memorial



Marcia Richard and Anna O’Kelly, Co-Chairs



Carolyn MacGlashan, FGCMD Gold Star Chair.

The National Garden Clubs Gold Star Memorials are dedicated to those who paid the ultimate price defending the United States. Crofton Village Garden Club, Crofton Greenery Garden Club and the greater Crofton community came together to sponsor a memorial located at the Crawford Blvd entrance. Marcia Richard, FGCMD 1st Vice President and member of Crofton Village GC, and Anna O’Kelly, FGCMD immediate past president, president of Crofton Greenery GC and president of the Crofton Civic Association, were Co-Chairs.

The November 10, 2024 dedication began with Boy Scout troop 115 presenting the colors. The Crofton High School Chorus sang the National Anthem. Paula Winkler, District II Director, led the Pledge of Allegiance. A history of the Gold Star was given by Carolyn MacGlashan, FGCMD Gold Star chair. Representing the Armed Forces was Rear Admiral ret. Kenneth Barausky. Town Manager Martin Simon recognized the Gold Star families in attendance. Four servicemen from the Anne Arundel County area were memorialized. Anna O’Kelly dedicated the marker which was then presented by Paula Winkler. The ceremony ended with Taps played by Rick Barnes, The Maryland Defense Force Band.



Marcia Richard, Anna O’Kelly, Rick Barnes, Adm. Kenneth Barausky and Paula Winkler



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

The Autumn Season arrived, and we held our Semi-Annual Meeting at the beautiful Miles River Yacht Club in St. Michaels, Maryland on October 2, hosted by the Talbot Co. Garden Club. The artist, Pamela Crockett, gave a wonderful presentation about her use of past prime horticulture featured in her paintings.

Our 7th Biennial District Standard Flower Show, "Spirit of America" was on October 5 at Elk's Lodge in Easton, MD. One hundred percent of our nine garden clubs were involved for our first Patriotic Standard Flower Show. For the first time, we incorporated a Youth Division with 41 entries of Design Plaques of dried materials featuring "Betsy Ross's Flag" and 29 "Yankee Doodle" miniature designs. Kudos for District Youth Chair, Gretta McDonald to this great achievement.



The Alice Rush McKeon Tree Planting of 118 native trees were planted on October 22 and 23 at Cypress Branch State Park in Millington, MD. The MD Conservation Crew planted the bulk of trees at one location of the park while able bodied garden club members from Oxford Garden Club and other District Clubs helped plant Cypress Branch trees in the main part of the park near the 3-acre fishing pond.

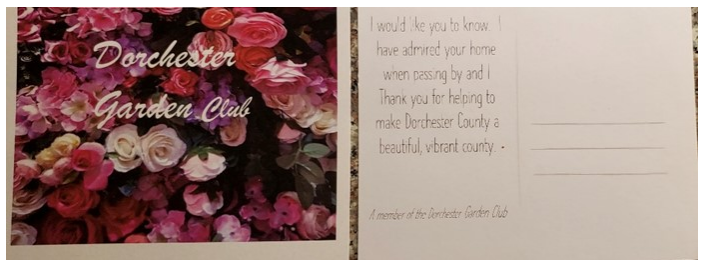
Our Patriotic Programs Committee is soliciting annual donations for the Wreaths Across America event at Hurlock, MD Veterans Cemetery. Wreaths will be laid on December 14 at 10am.

Chestertown Garden Club enjoyed a program with Erica Jones, who is a professional gardening and culinary consultant. The presentation included how to grow – and use – more herbs.

October focused on the history of our club as we have had an influx of members since the pandemic. The morning had speakers talking about the past. The meeting was closed to the public in the afternoon as we talked about crafting our future together.

Following along FGCMMD President Susie Middleton's theme "Sustaining Maryland One Action at a Time" – We are working on planting natives in Memorial Park. After removing liriope, we planted four small beds with native plants this past spring.

This fall, the Town will remove two invasive Golden Rain Trees, and we will participate in planting eight Serviceberry Trees in Memorial Park. We are working with Shore Rivers on this project.



Something new and exciting for **Dorchester Garden Club** ... You know how when we walk around our street or town we often see a lovely garden... well here is something new we developed to show our appreciation to someone who has made the effort to help beautify our community. Community Project Postcard – Drop a postcard in the mail, place it on the porch, door, etc. Appreciate your neighbors' hard work to make their home beautiful.

Summer brought a whirlwind of excitement to **Four Seasons Garden Club**. Starting out with our picnic, whose theme was one man's trash is another man's treasure... think recycle, reuse! Used books, magazines and containers were auctioned off. Containers ranging from seed starter cells to intricate African violet pots were saved from the landfill.

October was all hands on deck. Two flower shows in one month... District and our own show one week later - wow! Decorating Poplar Hill Mansion, and Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremony at ES Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock on Dec. 14 will wrap up the year.



Carrie Engel

Kent Island Garden Club was pleased to welcome Carrie Engel, Greenhouse Manager of Valley View Farms (and the Sunday Gardener on WBAL-TV) on Friday, October 11 at the Kent Island Library. Carrie's presentation was on Fall Plantings and we had a chance to ask Carrie our burning gardening questions.

This summer, **Oxford Garden Club** built, filled, tilled and harvested a new community vegetable garden funded by a

News from Around the State

“Sustaining Maryland” grant to provide fresh vegetables to the Easton Neighborhood Service Center. Fall activities included a “Pumpkin Fest” – decorating pumpkins with succulent cuttings, moss and other botanical things. November will be all about birds of the Chesapeake, featuring Ron Ketter; and we will end the year with our annual Holiday Party!



The arrival of fall saw **Talbot County Garden Club’s** return to its’ busy schedule. On Sept. 21 the Conservation Committee had its first Native Plant sale – we opened the sale up to other local garden clubs offering a wide variety of Native Perennials designed to grow in our new Zone 8. We had 328 sales – exceeding our expectations both in number and net profit...not bad for a first attempt!



Native Plant Sale Team & Plants



QACGC member carrying water to Courthouse

During the summer break **Queen Anne’s County Garden Club** made flower arrangements for Compass Hospice every other week and watered the over 40 window boxes and flowerpots around the Centreville Courthouse. In September we took a boat ride to Poplar Island to see how sand and rock made an almost extinct island flourish with new life.

The TCGC Speaker Series began in October with the program, “Exploring Hillwood’s Gardens”.

We had a Migratory Bird presentation by Maren Gimpel, Associate Director of the Foreman’s Branch Bird Observatory, Washington College.

Worcester County Garden Club meetings were suspended over the summer months, but work continued behind the scenes. The Ruth Bowie Butterfly Garden at Snow Hill Elementary School is maintained primarily through the tireless efforts of Christina Hulslander, a dedicated and passionate environmental educator. Christina and Joan LaHayne met with school staff to present an oral history of the garden and to emphasize the importance of native plantings in supporting pollinators and wildlife. Additionally, Sandy Buchanan and Glenda Clarke met with our student scholarship recipient at the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin to hear about her freshman year at the University of Maryland as well as her plans for the future.

Plans are underway for the annual Christmas Greens workshop for the decoration of Downtown Centreville. Members will also bring smaller arrangements to be delivered to Compass Hospice, Queenstown Harbor Nursing home and shut-ins.

Trish Reynolds made a presentation “Container Plantings for Fall & Winter” to get **Somerset County Garden Club** in the swing for Fall.

We were the Host Club for the NGC Patriotic Standard Flower Show on October 5. Other plans include a visit to a local orchard to learn how pollination affects their fruits, vegetables and honey and a demonstration by local talent of holiday tablescapes ideas for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

December keeps our members busy decorating the Teackle Mansion for an Open House, having our annual wreath making activity for the local libraries, nursing homes, and ourselves this year.

Lastly, Susie’s theme is echoed in every program we have and has renewed an interest with all members.



Student Scholarship Recipient, Sandy Buchanan with Glenda Clarke

The WCGC’s monthly meetings returned in September with a long-anticipated presentation by Susie Middleton on “Sustainable Floral Designs.” In October we welcomed Liz Wist from Maryland Coastal Bays, who presented information about reducing plastics in Eastern Shore waterways. We end the year with two fun activities. In November members will have the opportunity to make their very own ornament while visiting the Swimming Dog Glass Studio in Snow Hill. The grand finale in December includes a holiday luncheon and a “Yankee Swap” where members will exchange personally crafted or designed garden-themed gifts in a festive game format.

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

Sustaining Maryland's Trees: Ensuring Tree Mitigation

All the Summer planning has come to fruition in the delightful Fall months!

Two amazingly successful NGC Standard Flower Shows in September: Charles County GC's, *A Centennial Celebration*—the 100th Anniversary of the Charles County Fair; and St. Mary's GC's, *Broadway Blooming*.

October's Semi-Annual Meeting at the Bowie Comfort Inn offered a stimulating occasion with presentation of NGC Awards, the introduction of our 2025-2027 Slate of Officers, and the return of Mike Burch for an over-the-top Autumnal floral presentation.

Wrapping up our Fall season: a Gold Star Dedication sponsored by Crofton Greenery GC and Crofton Village GC, the First Lady of Maryland Holiday at the State House, and our clubs celebrating the 250th year of Hammond Harwood House with holiday decorations in the Williamsburg style!

Happy Fall to All!

The **Bayside Bloomers Garden Club**, with its theme of "Diversity in Bloom," kicked off the season with exciting news—securing a "super grant" of nearly \$2,000 from Unity Gardens. This generous grant allowed the club to purchase additional native trees, shrubs, perennials, mulch, and Leafgro to build on their previous efforts to enhance native biodiversity at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. The project also involved creating several new garden beds. To this end, on Saturday, October 5, club members came together to plant the perennials in the existing front foundation garden, providing vital support for pollinators during the summer months.



Members also created new native garden spaces in the church's Memorial Garden. The Bayside Bloomers have been meeting at the church, free of charge, for several years. This project is a wonderful way for the club to show its appreciation by beautifying the church grounds.



In addition to this project, on Friday, September 27, Bayside Bloomers members embarked on a field trip to Cavano's Perennials, Inc., where they had the opportunity to explore the behind-the-scenes operations of this major commercial grower. Members also enjoyed shopping for plants during their visit.

Later in October, in partnership with the Greenscape Initiative of Annapolis, club members weeded and planted around the Truxton Park sign. Bayside Bloomers maintain and clean up the garden bed there twice a year.

The club has nine months of engaging activities and wonderful speakers planned for 2024/2025, such as making floral arrangements—bringing cheer to those in the hospital around the holiday season.

A long-standing tradition of the **Calvert Garden Club** is the Greening of the Courthouse Square and Main Street located in Prince Frederick for the Winter Holiday. Nearby, Boyd King Park and the Historical Society located at Linden house are decorated as well.



This is a club activity in which all members

gather to participate to create and assemble the decorations. These decorations include beautiful wreaths, sprays, roping and a Della Robbia. Most of these decorations are assembled from fresh greens and hand created bows.

Last season the county coordinated a community event "Light up Main Street" for the holiday season. Once, again the county will be coordinating a holiday event in which the theme for this



News from Around the State

year is "Home for the Holidays." This event is for the community members and all who visit the area. The county is expanding the event over two weekends in December and adding more activities and food vendors. Our club will continue the tradition of creating the decorations for Main Street and we have been asked once again to provide the decorations for the tree. This event provides a wonderful opportunity for our club to showcase our talents and be involved in the community.

Chartwell Garden Club

received a second Unity Gardens grant making it possible to add more native plants to the refurbished gardens at the Earleigh Heights Ranger station on the B & A Trail. Chairman Sally Sachse led members who planted Monarda, rudebekia, and asters supplementing the echinacea, coreopsis, liatris and goldenrod. Following the Cornell Lab of Ornithology advice to "Do Nothing", the dried seed heads are being left in place to provide a winter food source for birds.



Chesapeake Garden Club (CGC) members held their fall senior therapy program at Calvert Pines and helped a dozen residents create delightful fall pumpkins filled with succulents. The darling pumpkins all received Blue Ribbons at the Calvert County Fair! CGC maintained a booth during the five days of



the Fair giving out information on the Club and answering questions from the public.

The Tobacco Star that was displayed at the MD State House in December also received a Blue Ribbon as part of the CGC's entries into the Fair. CGC Member Rosanna Noyes earned a "Grand Champion Ribbon" for her magnificent Hibiscus!

November events included two workshops. On November 2, at the Fairview Branch Library in Owings, CGC member Kay Parris led a demonstration on how to decorate for the upcoming holidays using materials from nature. At the CGC November meeting, club members Jackie Smith, Kate Kramer, and Terri Devine held a workshop on making holiday swags.



1953 NAGC Members

The **Naval Academy Garden Club** (NAGC) will celebrate its 90th birthday this year. Monthly programs will highlight themes from each of the nine decades since it was founded. They will begin by exploring NAGC archives maintained in the Nimitz Library special collections division, revisit early efforts to save the Chesapeake Bay and delve into secrets of the many victory gardens maintained by so many during the depression and both world wars.

Victory gardens supplemented rationing stamps and cards to reduce pressure on the food supply. Besides indirectly aiding the war effort, these gardens served as a morale booster as gardeners felt empowered by their labor and rewarded by the produce grown. Indeed, victory gardens were a part of daily life for many decades.

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/

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

District III had a very successful presidents' meeting on September 6th where a lot of information was shared. Later in September members went on a bus trip to Grounds for Sculpture. It was a very successful trip. The 300+ sculptures were very

interesting and different. They were set in unique installations. The settings were mostly shrubbery not flower. Members are looking forward to having our wreath or porch pot workshop on December 3rd. The District III annual meeting will be held in March and the flyer will be released soon.

This summer the **Evergreen GC** began a long-term collaboration with Maryland Department of Natural Resources to improve the landscaping surrounding the Carter-Archer Mansion. This majestic 14-room structure is a prime example of Federal-style architecture. It was built in 1804 by John Carter, a partner in the Rock Run Grist Mill, and is part of a collection of historic buildings located within the Susquehanna State Park. Closed during the pandemic, the park management wants to re-open the mansion to the public. Club members met with Historian Rob Bailey of the Maryland Park Service to review the requirements and restrictions of working on a historic building. Colorful porch pots and refreshed plant beds were added to the side entrance in August. Plans for additional work to begin in Spring 2025 are under review.



Franklin GC celebrated its 2024 Perennial Bloom Award winner Elizabeth Lynn Owings again with a Tree dedication ceremony in September. The Franklin Woodland Trail near the Reisterstown Library has a new thriving Sweet Magnolia. Thanks to Susan Rose and the committee. Erin Meyer artist. The gorgeous colors of Dahlias were on full display as we visited the Cylburn Arboretum after our September meeting! Members learned from expert Nancy Blois the care and dedication required in growing this beautiful Dahlia

garden. The October presenter was Bobbi Lowe of Benjamin's Landing at Lowe Farms. Bobbi's topics included: growing a glorious variety of gourds with innovative farming techniques and great storytelling of history and seed preservation.

This fall the **Friendship**

GC of Bel Air kicked off their fall season with a delightful visit to the Maison Nord Garden in Joppa, MD. Owner and developer Rhona Frank led the group on a fun and informative tour of the many themed gardens she has developed over the years. Each area has a specific focus – one reminiscent of Frieda Kahlo with a bright blue wall, bright flowers, and low-moisture succulents and plants. There is a section



using German horticultural techniques, one with a Japanese feel, one designed to feature water-loving pitcher plants, arbors covered in squash vines with fruit growing at eye height, and many, many more special gardens. It was a real treat for our plant-loving ladies to see such a variety of carefully tended plants in one morning. The October club meeting featured a presentation about Monarch butterflies by Master Gardeners Ginger Huller, Cindy Monius, and Kathy Toller. The amazing process whereby four generations of insects manage to fly over 3000 miles from the winter haven in Mexico first to Texas, then to the Southeastern states, and as far north as Canada before heading south to winter with millions of others in a very small area in Mexico. The discussion turned to the importance of providing pollinator-friendly gardens so these and other pollinators have plenty of nutrients and water all along their trek. Friendship Garden Club coordinates with the Liriodendron mansion, owned by the city of Bel Air, to keep it looking beautiful. The next meeting will be at the mansion, where we will winterize the kitchen garden, the perennial garden, and the decorative urns. There will also be a bulb exchange between members. In December we will transform Liriodendron into a winter wonderland by decorating the rooms. Club members are also looking forward to our annual Christmas luncheon and gift exchange.

The caring women of the Friendship Garden Club also sponsor a scholarship for a college student and help meet the needs of residents of Anna's House, a shelter for women in Bel Air. Several new members have joined this year and a warm welcome is extended to all who would like to attend our meetings on the second Monday of each month during the school year.



Thousands use the old NCR hike and bike 19-mile Torrey C. Brown rail trail in a portion of the Gunpowder Falls State Park. At the trail’s mid-point, the 1890s Monkton Train Station occupies center stage for communication and gatherings. It is common for the trail user to rest, review, and enjoy the bulletins posted on the station’s east wall.

Along with the Ranger’s tips for Respecting Wildlife, as well as a host of signs on water safety and tubing on the Gunpowder, **Gunpowder GC** added a new initiative— Seasonal Trowel Tips— created by the club’s Outreach Committee. For more than 30 years, the club has tended the Station gardens. Trowel Tips is meant to encourage the general public to tool up, dig in, and turn up the soil in their own backyards and enrich the gardening experience. The garden club’s seasonal outreach plan is to share the knowledge, experiences, and practices of garden club members. Sharing dig -in-the-dirt experiences enriches gardening for others so they may harvest the rewards. These Trowel Tips, along with Garden Gate Chats, have become a popular communication tool for the club as a friend of the park.

On October 10th, **Lutherville GC** sponsored a bus trip to Morris Arboretum and Gardens of the University of Pennsylvania. Nestled among more than 2,500 plants were rustic structures and fall decorations. Following the garden tour, the club stopped for lunch at the historic Valley Green Inn on Wissahickon Creek in Philadelphia.



The **Woodbrook-Murray Hill GC** traveled to Green Mount Cemetery in early October. Jamie Brown of Beechbrook Landscape Architects led a tour of the notable trees of Green Mount, which was one of the first garden cemeteries in the country. We had appropriately somber weather for a tour of a cemetery in October!

Prior to the start of regular 2024 -2025 meetings, members of the **York Manor GC** met at Hampton Mansion for a guided tour of the Mansion. Additionally, Pat Legters , a member of the Glen Arm GC, gave a tour of the Hampton Mansion Herb Garden. Regular meetings began in September with a tour of Bauers Wholesale



Greenhouse in Harford County. Club activities for the coming months will focus on preparations for the annual fundraiser Holiday Greens Sale at Mercy Ridge Retirement Community on December 7. Spring programs will include a slate painting workshop and two garden tours.

District IV Baltimore City ...*Katherine Edwards* Katherine.s.edwards@gmail.com



District IV Director
Gretchen Edwards



*Members of FWAGC with containers they designed.
Photo is Courtesy of Sherman Baker*

The **For-Win-Ash Garden Club** (FWAGC) recently celebrated its 65th Anniversary at its Naomi Camper Garden located in Cylburn Arboretum. Naomi Camper was FWAGC’s first president when the club was established in 1959 and she remained the President for 18 years. FWAGC became Federated in 1970 and the Naomi Camper Garden was planted in 1984 and became one of 5 “backyard” gardens at Cylburn. FWAGC has maintained the garden for many years, but, more recently, a redesign of the backyard gardens is being planned. In celebrating the club’s 65th anniversary and commemorating Naomi Camper, members gathered and designed 18 potted containers and met with family and friends for a photo opportunity there.

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 has 12 clubs participating in the State House Holiday Tree Decorating event with over 30 ornament creators across the district, working to make their tree or wreath unique. Frederick County's Garden clubs are continuing to use recycled materials as they create a "pollinator"

themed tree- we can't wait to see it!

We have 14 clubs participating in the TREX recycle plastics challenge. The district needs to collect 1000 pounds of plastic to receive a TREX park bench. The club who collects the most based on their membership will receive the bench. We have already collected over 200 pounds of plastic.

Our district meeting involved many clubs and their members in a variety of ways in October. Clubs create an "educational display" sharing an aspect of their programming. The displays in October included panels by Garden Club of Cumberland, Dorsey Hall Garden Club and Garden Club of Frederick. The displays provide an



opportunity to dialogue with other club members and get new ideas. Five clubs demonstrated their talents as they interpreted a piece of art via flowers. The designers were: Silver Fancy GC- Lynn Walter, Sandy Miller, and Susie Heck, Garden Club of Frederick- Sharon Lillard and Patti Hart, Green-walled GC- Julie Howell, Karen Kallmyer and Pat Louison, Dorsey Hall GC- Carolyn Braverman and Kathie Armstrong, Town and Country- Mary Heizer (Expressive Design PowerPoint), Michelle Hess, Sue Goller and Donna Pietrzyk. Susie Middleton, FGCMD State President shared comments on each design before they were raffled off to the members.

The **Carroll Garden Club** continues to grow. Last year we added 13 new members, for a total of 43. In anticipation of holding next year's flower show, some of our meetings this year have concentrated on flower arranging as well as members engaging in "show and tell" activities. This past summer the club held two garden tours, one at member Lorraine Fulton's garden and the other at Shipley Historical Manor House, which member Sandie Hall has restored.



In October, to prepare for the Greens Show, **Crossroads Garden Club** members created decorative pumpkins with bows. For the TREX recycle plastic challenge, we collected a whopping 20 LBS in September and October.

Dorsey Hall Garden Club decided to revamp a flower garden that was inundated with invasives and out of control plantings. Interested members were recruited to develop a design and manage specific areas to weed and clear for replanting. Weekly watering, weeding and deer control schedules were developed. We applied for grants, spoke to our HOA for concurrence, talked to Master Gardeners for suggestions on what to plant. But more than the reconstruction, we noticed renewed interest from the community. The garden is located along a neighborhood walking path, frequented by neighborhood residents, many stopping by to chat and ask questions about the garden. All of this speaks to how a simple garden can bring people together. A garden can facilitate our connection to nature and help make for a better community.

Howard County Garden Club is supporting The Cattail Chase Races, a charity horse race that is celebrating the local fox chasing history and traditions of the horse country of Howard County. This is a charity sporting event. We are enhancing the event with our "in kind" donated floral designs through the support of 4 club members making 11 floral arrangements and 3 other club members making a display table presenting the history of our garden club and our goals. We are memorializing a beloved club member whose husband was a steeplechase horse owner and race official. This is a wonderful way to let people know about our club, enjoy floral designs they can take home, and memorialize a club member.

Mt Airy Garden Club (MAGC) proudly celebrated its 90th Anniversary at a special luncheon on October 16th. Many members and past members, spouses, and friends gathered at Morningside Inn to reminisce, to enjoy the company of friends and to celebrate the club's accomplishments. A Proclamation from the Town of Mt. Airy presented by Mayor Hushour highlighted the club's service projects in the community and

News from Around the State

contributions to beautification of the town's gardens. Susie Middleton, FGCMDC President and Shelley Johnson, District V Director, spoke and presented MAGC with certificates of appreciation. The scrapbooks on display and the PowerPoint overview of MAGC's history since 1934 identify the reasons that our club still exists: we continue to grow and adapt while staying true to our traditions.

Tree Campus designation through the Arbor Day Society. MLGC Conservation Committee members gathered at Sang Run State Park for the native plant sale.

Tasker's Chance Garden Club commemorated its 75TH Anniversary with a celebratory event at the Union Mills Public House with current and past members spanning the decades from as early as 1964. The club was honored to have guests from the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District V, and several sister federated garden clubs. We celebrated and honored the rich legacy of community and environmental beautification projects, horticulture and conservation education, love of gardening, and formal floral design with Volume III, Tasker's Chance Garden Club History, and a "That Was Then... This Is Now" display of memorabilia and accomplishments including its original documents of federation and founding Constitution and Bylaws, circa 1949.



The **Mountain Laurel Garden Club** (MLGC) has recently introduced a scholarship for a Garrett County high school student to attend the Natural Resource Career Camp. The club is working closely with Garrett College to prepare a campus tree plan and apply for a



Members of the *Mount Airy Garden Club* celebrated the club's 90th anniversary.



Past and present members of the *Tasker's Chance Garden Club* gathered to commemorate the club's 75th anniversary.