



GARDENEWS

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4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 65172
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-396-4842

President
Carolyn Braverman
carolynb28@gmail.com

Editor
Liz Williams
gardenews@fgcofmd.org

Gardenews Representatives

District I
Trish Reynolds
pkr26998@gmail.com

District II
Carolyn Leahy
cleahy09@verizon.net

District III
Nancy Null
nnull@verizon.net

District IV
Michele Pappas
mmpappas1@verizon.net

District V
Ashley Conlon
ashleyconlon345@gmail.com

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President's Report Fall 2020



Fall arrived just the other day bringing the cool weather with it. Funny how the mornings get darker without notice, then one day it is 7:00 AM and it is still dark. This may be my favorite season. It probably comes from school days when the school year began with a new class, fresh notebooks, pens and pencils. A year of possibilities ahead. I love the warm, burnished colors that emerge. The Howard County Conservancy is filled with perennial sunflowers, goldenrod, brown-eyed Susans and New England asters. Such a beautiful combination. There were even some cranesbill geraniums blooming. Who would have thought?

Apparently the weeds don't know it's time to slow down. I am enclosing a photo of one day's worth of pulling Japanese stilt grass from the garden. Admittedly, things got out of hand this summer as I was not as vigilant as usual. Does anyone have a solution to controlling this invasive?

Maryland's garden clubs have been very energetic these past few months, coping with the strictures of the Covid pandemic. Members have found new and innovative ways to keep in touch with each other, virtual flower shows, sharing garden photos through email and Facebook, having socially distancing get-togethers in the backyard. We have even become proficient in using social media tools, like Zoom. And it is such a treat to actually see our friends' faces in these meetings. As we head into the colder weather, we will face new challenges, but I know that we are up to it. We will keep reaching out to each other. We will find ways to celebrate the seasons. We will survive. We are strong.

~ Carolyn



First Vice President's Report ...*Anna O'Kelly*



Anna O'Kelly

1st Vice President

The FGCMMD schools originally scheduled for the Spring were rescheduled for the Fall and were successfully and safely completed in person. The Environmental and Landscape Design school chairman, Linda Harris, endured many calls and discussions with NGC about the possibility of completing the Environmental Course Four, and Landscape Design Course One via Zoom, however, new Zoom Course guidelines were not yet in place. This means that NGC might not have given credit to those participating in the Zoom classes. In order to avoid rescheduling again and to make sure students received credit, the schools were held in person. Covid protocols for safety were in place. The Environmental School resulted in five new consultants!

Due to the nature of Flower Show School, it was necessary to attend the school in person. Course three was held in September and all students passed!

Landscape Design School Course Two will be held in Columbia in April 2021 and Flower Show School Course Four is scheduled for April 2021 at the Bowie Comfort Inn.

This Vice President attended all of the classes and found them to be informative and handled in a very safe manner. A big thank you to Linda Harris and her team, and Susie Middleton and Judy Slaughter for their diligence in making these schools a great success.

2020 CAR-SGC AWARDS RECEIVED BY FGCMMD CLUBS

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT AWARD (Certificate and \$100.00 for First Place)

1st Place Large Club-Mountain Laurel Garden Club of Maryland-72 members "Secret Country Garden Tour, Inc.; Simple Floral Table Designs for Home"

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN AWARD (Certificate and \$100.00 for First Place)

First Place Small Club-Chesapeake Garden Club-20 members "Calvert County Library Garden Water Runoff Project"

First Place Large Club-Mountain Laurel Garden Club-72 members "Partnership with MD State Parks to provide multiple programs for youth"

FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE AWARDS

Second Place-Somerset County Garden Club "Herbal Essence"

District Holiday Flower Show First Place-District I "Halloween"

NGC YEARBOOK AWARDS-(Certificate from NGC)

YB-1 (45-69) St. Mary's County Garden Club

YB-3 District V

NGC YOUTH CONTESTS

YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

First Place Kindergarten -Abigail Davis Sponsored by Fulton Garden Club

Second Place First Grade -Eva Thompson Sponsored by Calvert Garden Club

First Place Sixth Grade- Renata Lovitt Sponsored by Worcester County Garden Club

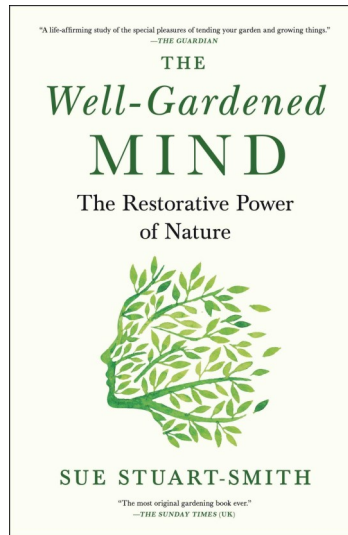
First Place Ninth Grade- Nia Savana Sponsored by Shipley's Choice Garden Club

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST

First Place Grade Five -Macy Rae Sponsored by Somerset County Garden Club

Book Review

Sue Stuart-Smith, *The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature* (New York, Scribner, 2020)



What do you get when you cross an eminent psychotherapist and psychiatrist with an equally eminent garden designer? This book. The subtitle tells it all, but even the most experienced gardener will be startled by the range of illnesses that can be treated with garden therapy, from addiction and trauma to urban violence, autism, schizophrenia, stress, depression, and beyond. Stuart-Smith admits to coming late to gardening herself, and she writes primarily as a doctor, but with her background in literature, she knows how to layer her narrative and draw the reader in. Frequently she begins a chapter with a personal or family anecdote, then expands to describe case studies and their results, and goes on to detail the brain science that lies beneath the treatment. This is no tedious clinical text: interspersed with the medicine we meet an impressive array of anthropologists, psychiatrists (notably Freud the gardener), evolutionary theorists, poets, gardeners, and saints. Nor is it a ragbag of disparate facts and persons; her literary skills are too good for that.

And she is not without a certain humor: “The team calculated that having just ten more trees to a city block was associated with lower levels of mental distress of the same magnitude that an extra \$10,000 of income would be expected to bring... although most people, given the choice, would probably opt for the money rather than the trees.

If you read only one chapter of this book, try Chapter 6, *Roots*, on the pre-Neolithic origins of horticulture. Or Chapter 9, *War and Gardening*, on the trench gardens soldier made amidst the awful devastation of the Great War.

Or possibly Chapter 10, *The Last Season of Life*, for a view of the modern hospital from a doctor with a poet's eye, meditating on death in the race to resuscitate a man stricken while mowing his lawn. As the team labors over him, cutting away his clothes and connecting him to machines, little green clippings spread over the floor and fill the ER with the smell of freshly cut grass. “Two versions of death were juxtaposed before our eyes...we were treating the body as a failing machine, but it is to the earth that we ultimately return, and the green blades of grass asserted the inescapable naturalness of the fact.”

So doctor that she is, and stuffed with scientific fact as this book may be, Stuart-Smith comes ultimately to the understanding that our connection to the garden is in the end a spiritual one. Some of us suspected it already. Here is the brain science behind it.

Reviewed by Maidie Podles,
FGCMD Garden Therapy Chairman

A New Way of Coming Together

The **Mountain Laurel Garden Club** went virtual with its flower show that had been planned for September 15th. The theme of the show, “Votes for Women”, was carried forward in celebration of the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution that assured women suffrage. Using Zoom, the first half of the program featured a review of the history of the campaign for women's rights in the United States by member Susan Offutt. As part of that, Club Co-president Donna Miller delivered two monologues as Alice Paul, a key figure in the final, successful effort to achieve ratification (see photo at right). Then, in a pre-recorded video, member Lynn Vinke gave a demonstration on creating a traditional mass arrangement (see photo below), with Floral Design Committee Chair Eleanore Brown assisting. Co-president Joan Mitchell was responsible for the technical wizardry behind the session.



Co-president Donna Miller portraying Suffragette Alice Paul.



Lynn Vinke gave a video demonstration on creating a traditional mass arrangement similar to those designs that were popular 100 years ago.

An Ongoing Club Project



Columbarium Chapel photo by Ellen Dailey.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the Naval Academy Garden Club (NAGC) continues its longstanding and loving care of the Columbarium grounds at the United States Naval Academy.

The USNA Columbarium is the final resting place for hundreds of the nation’s veterans, many of whom gave their lives in service to this country. The Columbarium grounds include a marble outdoor chapel for private memorial services.

As it has for the past twenty-two years, the NAGC monitors the grounds weekly to remove spent flowers and trash to ensure that a respectful and reverent atmosphere is maintained.



Photo courtesy Liz Williams



Photo courtesy Liz Williams

Councils and Schools

Continuing Education Opportunities Sponsored by the Councils

Environmental Council News

Course 4 of Environmental School was held “live” on September 9 and 10 at the Holiday Inn Express in Easton on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. We had 16 garden club members attending and followed the Covid-19 Protocols that kept us all safe. It was a very successful course and we were even able to go to Pickering Creek Audubon Center for our field trip to tour their wetlands in between all the rain that day. We also had a guided tour of the Chesapeake Bay Herb Society’s herb garden that is located at Pickering Creek. As a result of this fourth course, we now have five new Environmental Consultants: Sue Christensen, Marie Davis, Marsha Hairston, Anna O’Kelly, and Betty Reeves. We also have our first Environmental Master Consultants: Diana Bonner, Linda Harris, and Christa Pusateri. Congratulations to everyone!!

Can you identify the FGCMD masked members in the following two photos??



The Environmental Consultants Council hopes to take a trip to tour the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel next spring. We were not able to go on any field trips in 2020, but are looking forward to getting back on our schedule of two relevant destinations per year.

We are again offering the **Jean Lowry Sustainable Landscape Award** that offers a \$500 award. **The deadline for submission has been moved to December 1st.** The landscape project should display an understanding of environmental stewardship practices; there is an educational component that teaches benefits of sustainable landscaping to the local community; and there is evidence of successful efforts to improve or reverse degradation of natural resources. **The garden needs to be completed and maintained for at least a year** before it is eligible for an award to show evidence of the criteria. This is the perfect year to submit an application for any projects that were done last year or years prior. More information on the criteria and how to apply along with the application can be found at the Environmental Council’s page on the FGCMD website or by contacting Linda Harris at linda-harris355@aol.com. The award recipients are chosen by the Council officers, not the FGCMD Awards Committee.



Pickering Creek Audubon Center in Easton, Maryland where our ES field trip took place.

Councils and Schools cont.

Flower Show School

Flower Show School Course III was completed successfully with the implementation of COVID protocols as shown in the photos.

Course IV is scheduled to be held Monday, April 26, 2021 -Thursday, April 29, 2021, again at the Bowie Comfort Inn. Horticulture will feature Iris/Cut Specimen and Rhododendron/Arboreal with instructor Darlene Newell. The instructor for Design is Jackie Davies from Pennsylvania.



Temperature checks and Compliance Certification were completed daily.



Student seating was 1 per table



Point Scoring was done in a large ballroom with ample space to observe social distancing

All photos courtesy Susie Middleton

Landscape Design

Course 1 of Landscape Design School was held on October 13 & 14 with 30 people attending and all following our Covid-19 Protocols. This is the first in a series of four courses that will continue with two more in 2021 and the fourth in 2022. We had a diversity of instructors and classes with very interesting landscape design topics. We had 12 members that were refreshing and 22 new members who are working toward their consultant status. It was a very successful course. Course 2 will be held on April 13 & 14, 2021, and the course information will be available on FGCMMD's website.

News from Around the State

District I - Eastern Shore

Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Worcester

Trish Reynolds preynolds@goeaston.net



Doris Key

District I Director

As we all know, the world has been turned upside down in the last 9 months. Everyone has had to make major adjustments to the patterns of everyday life. 2020 has been all about stress and disruption - we have experienced the closures, wearing of masks, maintaining social distances – these have affected us as individuals,

our families, communities and everyday life.



Charlotte's Contribution

Responding to the challenge, members of the Kent Island and Queen Anne's Garden Clubs, along with other clubs in the District, pulled out their sewing machines, dusted them off and made masks, and other PPE for distribution to First Responders – including Anne Arundel Medical Center, University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton, as well as senior centers and fire departments. Everyone pitched in... Director Doris Key initiated the mask making project for "Face Masks for Maryland". Doris and Robin Lanham were fabric cutters, runners delivering materials, with Doris' husband dropping off the masks at the various facilities. Anne Foss, QACGC, made 801 masks... and Charlotte Hardman, KIGC, made over 250; in total these groups of ladies made roughly 2,500 masks! One member of QACGC who visually impaired, is still making masks and has made over 200!! What an awesome contribution to our communities!!! A big shout out

and thank you to all that participated!



Sample of Anne Foss's Masks

In this period of social distancing and masks, the District I Clubs cancelled their meeting and programs for the rest of 2020. We have turned to Zoom Meetings for both Board Meeting and Programs. Individual members and clubs have developed video presentations – example – TCGC's Annual Meeting was held in September by Zoom with over 60 members attending. It included live presentations, prerecorded board and committee reports, and an eight minute video montage of member gardens with music developed by club members. Another example, Oxford Garden Club member, Carol Jelich, produced a fantastic 45 minute video, "Plant This Not That", with a link provided to all District I Club Members....sharing the wealth!



And finally, as a response to clubs not being able to meet, various clubs have developed weekly newsletters to keep their club members engaged and connected. One example is Talbot County Garden Club's "Tid Bits" - a weekly publication/newsletter of the Horticulture and Conservation Committees whose objective is to maintain the engagement of the membership of the club during the period when the club's regular monthly meetings and programs were suspended. It was designed to be short, to the point, educational, informative and entertaining. Other Clubs have similar publications...Dorchester GC has their "Weekly Buzz", Chestertown has "Monthly Memo" to name just two.

News from Around the State

District II - Southern Maryland Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles County, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s County
Carolyn Leahy cleahy09@verizon.net



Donna Roberts
District II Director

ALICE RUSH MCKEON

TREE PLANTING PROJECT

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland (FGCMD), District II, sponsored the annual Alice Rush McKeon Tree Planting Project for 2020. This event rotates to each of the five FGCMD Districts and support for the project is based on the returns of an investment fund administered by the FGCMD. The fund was established by Alice Rush McKeon, an enthusiastic environmentalist and former two time President of the FGCMD, from the sale of her booklet entitled “Sonnets for the Scenic Ease”. The purpose of the fund is to plant trees along Maryland State Highways.



Installation site near Flag Ponds

The year 2020 has been challenging because of the arrival of the Corona Virus (COVID -19). In recent years, the Maryland State Highway Administration matched the available FGCMD funds and handled the landscaping requirements for the project. Budget limitations, caused by the State’s response to COVID-19 issues, resulted in the Highway Administration withdrawing its support by mid-June of 2020. However, the District continued to plan for a scaled-down project. Our authorized funding limit was \$5,000 and it was determined that this amount would support the planting of twelve (12) native trees.



Judy Moe, Chairman

The site chosen for the trees was along Maryland Highway 2/4, travelling northbound, in Calvert County, near the entrance to Flag Ponds Nature Center. One side of this intersection was planted previously by District II, and on October 14, 2020, the second side of the intersection was planted. Twelve native trees were installed: Two (2) *Celtis occidentalis* (Common Hackberry); one (1) *Ulmus americana* ‘Princeton’ (American Elm); three(3) *Nyssa sylvatica* (Black Gum); and six (6) *Cornus florida* ‘Cherokee Princess’ (Flowering Dogwood). Permits for the planting were obtained by the District, and E&F Landscaping, LLC (a woman-owned company) located in Brandywine, Maryland, was selected to support the project. The cost was \$4,200 and a “not-to-scale” diagram of the planting is attached.

The yearly Alice Rush McKeon tree planting project continues to contribute to the beautification of Maryland’s highways and to improve the quality of the air we all breathe. It was my privilege to assist in this project for District II.

Judy Moe
St. Mary’s County Garden Club

News from Around the State

District III - Baltimore and Harford Counties

Nancy Null nnull@verizon.net



Ana Marie Colwill

District III Director

The key concept for meeting the current challenges for our clubs is creative engagement. Maintaining safe physical distance while encouraging member involvement has resulted in innovative solutions.



Photo courtesy of Carol Silberstein

Lake Roland met at Star Bright Farm, learning about lavender and other plants from the owner, Peter Elmore.

Hampton maximized the resources of Cromwell Valley Park by meeting on the Park grounds, having the Park naturalist, Anne Wentworth, speak to the group, and visiting the club's "Memory Garden" created within the Children's Garden of the Park.



Photo courtesy of Loan Tran

Catonsville GC held a "driveway meeting" at the home of club president Linda Mohler.

Clubs are seeking out properties and parks in our area where facilities support social distancing, leveraging relationships built on past community involvement. **Gunpowder's** "masked gardeners" utilized the generous open space of a neighboring Monkton farm to explore a collection of Native American artifacts. **Lutherville** enjoyed the outdoor spaces of Sherwood House.

Friendship's history of caring for the gardens and urns of Liriodendron mansion gave the club a chance to meet outside on the grounds, porch and patio.



Photo courtesy of Mary Jo Hofmann

Clubs are also utilizing online capabilities to encourage member interaction and engagement. **Monkton** conducted an online "Books and Blooms" event. Each member was invited to choose any book and interpret it with flowers. Photos were posted to Facebook.



Photo courtesy of Jean Sansonetti



Photo courtesy of Claudia Brookes

Above is Claudia Brookes' "Tidy Flower Drawer" interpretation of Marie Kondo's *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*.

News from Around the State

District IV - Baltimore City

Michele Pappas mmpappas1@verizon.net



*Eleanor Oster
District IV Director*

As of March 2020 our lives have been rerouted, rescheduled, or not scheduled at all. Many clubs are not having traditional in person meetings. Many are taking advantage of zoom and Facebook to connect with one another; learning how to navigate virtual garden clubbing.

A number of clubs are taking advantage of NGC virtual programs. They are selecting programs on Horticulture, Conservation and

Flower Arranging. They are meeting on Saturday and enjoying walks on sections of the Jones Falls Trails, touring members gardens, visiting local arboretums, or walking the Roland Park alleys and footpaths designed by Olmstead.

One club held a flower arranging workshop where everyone picked up pre sorted materials and a container. Later they zoomed the actual demonstration to make their arrangement. Finished designs were shared via Facebook.

Early in the spring, during isolation lockdown, many club members photographed their emerging trees and plants. These pictures were turned into a slideshow to be enjoyed by everyone. They have staged photo contests, awarding gift card prizes and posted winners on Facebook.

Two clubs held garden scavenger hunts in an actual garden. Each masked participant was given two lists. One contained the preselected names of trees and plants to be identified by their common/ familiar names. The second list contained the botanical name of the same trees and plants.... not listed in the same order.

This director helped lead a mosaic workshop where participants glued found objects, buttons, tiles, pieces of mirror, glass to flower pots. All to be grouted later. A way to have a gift for someone without having to shop during COVID.



Garden orb made with styrofoam ball.



Flower pot not finished.

all photos courtesy Eleanor Oster



Flower pot with glass, buttons and mirror.

Clubs are also holding book reviews and discussions of selected fiction/ nonfiction books about gardening. If a nonfiction book was selected, a specific subject was selected and discussed. We may not be sitting side by side, but we are forging ahead exploring new ways to educate and amuse our gardening creativity.

News from Around the State

District V - Western Maryland Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, Washington
Ashley Conlon ashleyconlon345@gmail.com



*Marjorie Schiebel
 District Director*

District V met via Zoom on October 8th. Meetings & Program Chair, Gwynn Webb, organized the online meeting and English Tea Gardens program. 37 members joined virtually. Marjorie thanked everyone for their efforts including the State President, and all past Directors, for joining the meeting. A moment of silence was

designated for district members who had passed away recently. Carolyn Braverman noted new NGC directives, their updated website, and encouraged clubs to apply for the The Plant America Grant. Committee reports were then presented. Directory & Membership Chair, Ashley Conlon shared the tally of clubs continuing to meet virtually, in-person, or in a hybrid format. Currently, 5 clubs are holding virtual meetings, 2 are having in-person meetings, 3 are using a hybrid system, and 7 clubs are not holding any meetings. Following the meeting, guest speaker Claire Jones shared a lovely "English Garden Tour" video. Members shared scone recipes and teapot floral designs.

The **Howard County Garden Club** has been busy during this pandemic. The monthly meetings of the club are being held via Zoom. In July Anna O'Kelly virtually presented a very informative and interesting program to the club titled "Floral Design in the Oriental Manner". The gardens we have established and maintained at the Howard County Conservancy and the ARC continued to be cared for by small committees of members. The Blue Star Memorial and the Patapsco Female Institute Garden are in the planning stages to be accomplished in 2021. Our Tree Swallow Project at the Howard County Conservancy, Mt. Pleasant location has been a success. The two new bird houses on Meadow Trail and Grassland Loop have provided more nesting space for these beneficial birds who each

consume 2,000 flying insects (mosquitoes) a day. Pat Weir painted the lovely artwork on the nesting boxes as shown in photos as bottom of page.



*Design and photo
 by Nancy Grabowski*

Cross Country Garden Club has provided Garden Therapy for residents at the Ellicott City Healthcare Center for thirty years, providing materials for small arrangements and serving holiday treats. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club has been unable to visit the Center since March. Club members voted to make and deliver a floral arrangement to thank the heroes who work at Ellicott City Healthcare Center and acknowledge their sacrifices. Club member Nancy Grabowski created the stunning arrangement using sunflowers, fuchsia Alstromeria, and sprigs from her yard. Leaves were wrapped inside the vase to hide stems. *See photo above.*

Hagerstown Garden Club proudly hosts the 20th Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown, Maryland in March of 2021. Details to be announced later.

