



GARDENEWS

Volume 27 Issue 1
www.fgcofmd.org

February 2026
office@fgcofmd.org

Be a Steward of the Earth

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

4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209

Gardenews@FGCOFMD.org

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 65172

Baltimore, MD 21209
410-396-4842

PRESIDENT

Donna Miller

statepresident@fgcofmd.org

EDITOR

Dan Portwood

gardenews@fgcofmd.org

GARDENEWS

REPRESENTATIVES

District I

Trish Reynolds

pk26998@gmail.com

District II

Jenny Henry

jennyhenry1188@comcast.net

District III

Vickie Rasmussen

victoriarasmussen@comcast.net

District IV

TBD

www.fgcofmd.org

District V

Gisela Cooke

gisimaria@yahoo.com

CLUB SUBMISSION

DEADLINES:

February Issue – January 10

July Issue – June 10

November Issue – October 10

GARDENEWS

is published tri-annually
on our website:

www.fgcofmd.org

FGCMD President: Donna Miller

President's Message

Brrrr! Baby, it's cold outside! As I sit here watching the frozen lake, snow mobiles, and ice fisherman in sub-zero temperatures, I find it hard to believe that my garden will one day be lush and green again. But hope springs eternal.

To keep busy during these hibernation days, our CAR-SGC Director, Beverly Kazickas, graciously provided us with links to two great programs given by Doug Tallamy. In case you did not receive them, here they are:

[Why We Need Oaks, and How to Save Them with Doug Tallamy](#)

[Nature's Best Hope - Conservation That Starts in Your Yard](#)

It is simply amazing how beneficial oak trees are; they capture carbon, they help manage the watershed, they support a diverse community of pollinators, and they support a complex food web. So, plant an oak!

We have also been provided with an opportunity to receive two free admissions per person to attend the Maryland Home and Garden Show February 28 – March 1 and March 6 – March 8. Information has been sent to all District Directors for distribution to our members. Details can be found in this newsletter.

The NGC initiative **PLANT AMERICA**: Blue and Gold Star Memorial Beautification Program is in full swing. Grants of up to **\$1,000** are available for direct project expenses. Approved applicants receive **75% up front** and the remaining **25% after submitting a final report**.

Here are a few suggestions for plants:

- RED – cardinal flower, Indian paintbrush, scarlet sage
- WHITE – white prairie clover, white wild indigo, common boneset
- BLUE – Texas bluebonnet, great blue lobelia, sky blue aster

NGC President Donna Donnelly encourages members to send photos of their red, white, and blue plantings to the National Garden Club. For more information and to apply click here:

[PLANTAMERICA Grants - Home](#)

The deadline to apply for a President's Project Be a Steward of the Earth grant is quickly approaching. Submit applications by February 28th. Any approved grants will be awarded in March. The link to the application can be found on our website www.fgcofmd.org.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming FGCMD District meetings in March and the **97th FGCMD Annual Meeting on April 28, 2026**.

The Mission of FGCMD, Inc.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission is to provide support, leadership and education for garden clubs and the public about best practices for horticulture, conservation, and landscape design. We encourage the protection of our natural resources, endeavor to create civic beauty, work for the improvement and protection of roadsides and parks, and award scholarships to further these goals.

February 2026 Gardenews In This Issue

1: President's Message



3: District News

[District I](#)
[District II](#)
[District III](#)
[District IV](#)
[District V](#)



ESPOMA ORGANIC AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS WANT TO HELP YOUR CLUB *Plant America!*

Grant applications for 2025-2026 will be accepted October 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. Twenty Grant Recipients will receive their choice of \$250 of Espoma Products.

NGC Member Clubs should complete the following online form: <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/> Attach a word document that includes a description of the project, "before" photos of the site, simple sketch of the master plan, plant list, etc. Be sure to indicate when your project is scheduled to begin.

Questions about applying? Need help?

Contact Debi Harrington

NGC Sponsors' Grant Chair

grants2025.27ngc@gmail.com



Be Our Guest!
2 COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS
TO THE
MARYLAND HOME + GARDEN SHOW
FEB. 28-MAR. 1 & MARCH 6-8
TIMONIUM FAIRGROUNDS
COW PALACE

SHOW FEATURES	HOW TO GET YOUR TICKET
7 Landscaped Feature Gardens - Annual Orchid Society Show and Sale 400+ Local Home Experts CELEBRITIES ON STAGE Matt Blashaw from HGTV's Yard Crashes Feb. 28 & March 1! Craig Conover from Bravo's Southern Charm March 6 & 7! Local crafters and family-friendly activities	- Go online at MDHomeAndGarden.com - Click "Buy Tickets Online" - Enter Promotion Code: GARDEN - Fill out the information on the form and click "Complete My Order" - You will receive an emailed receipt with a link to the ticket. The ticket can be scanned at the show from your phone or you can print the tickets to bring to the show.

MDHomeAndGarden.com | MARKETPLACE EVENTS

21: Committee News

[Annual Meeting Program](#)



[Gold Star Dedication](#)
[Conservation and](#)
[Environmental Awareness](#)



23: Council News

[Judges Council: Small Standard Flower Show at FGCMMD Annual Meeting](#)

[Landscape Design School Course 2](#)



24: The Gardens of Maryland Photo Gallery



25: Upcoming FGCMMD Events

[The Calendar](#)

[The Call: FGCMMD Annual Meeting Details](#)

27: Other Upcoming Events

[MD House & Garden / Talbot County Tour](#)

[Longwood Gardens Trip Registration Form](#)

The Call **97th Annual Meeting Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland** **Tuesday, April 28, 2026, Turf Valley Resort and Hotel**

All FGCMMD members are invited to attend this year's State Annual Meeting, including an NGC Small Standard Flower Show titled **Celebrating 100 Years "Yesterday and Today (1926-2026)"** sponsored by Judges Council.

We will present State Awards at the Business Meeting and at the luncheon meeting. District Awards will be presented at each District's Annual Meeting. A vote to accept the proposed Nominating Committee will be called for at the Business Meeting.

PROGRAM

The luncheon program is "Night Sounds of Mountain Maryland" featuring Kevin Dodge, Professor and Director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program at Garrett College in western Maryland. Kevin will present an entertaining and educational introduction to the different hoots, toots, peents, and peeps heard after sunset in the Central Appalachians. Weaving together facts, stories, and sounds, Kevin will recreate a night in the mountains of western Maryland.

[Click here for the full agenda.](#)



The FGCMMD
President's Project
is inviting you to
submit your
applications for a

"Be a Steward of the Earth" grant.

[Click here for Garden Club Grant Application and Instructions](#)

[Click here for Donation Card](#)

[Healthy Planet Pledge for Individuals](#)
[Download Here](#)

[Healthy Planet Pledge for Garden Clubs](#)
[Download Here](#)

The deadline for the spring award is
February 28, 2026 (awarded in March).

SAVE THE DATE
CAR-SGC Conference 2026
October 19-20, 2026
(optional bus tour 10/21/2026)

"Ohio - The Heart of it All"
Holiday Inn
Cleveland
Independence, Ohio
holidayinn.com

Early Registration and more details coming Spring 2026

View the Latest Issue of *The National Gardener*

THE NATIONAL GARDENER
2026 WINTER ISSUE
VOLUME 56, NUMBER 1

TNG

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides information, resources, and editorial and international networking opportunities. We're committed to providing the best of gardening, floral design and more and environmental responsibility.

Articles

- Conserving Our Precious Native Bees
- Where Do Butterflies Go in Winter?
- Vertical Gardening 1, 2, 3, 4
- PA Celebrating Our Nation
- This is Art
- Motion in Photography
- Prairie Promise
- Echoes from the Garden
- The Story Behind the Understory
- Winter Gardening Tips
- Winter Sowing

SCAN ME
QR CODE

DISTRICT I: ANN STREET, *DISTRICT DIRECTOR*

CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, KENT, QUEEN ANNES, SOMERSET, WICOMICO, WORCHESTER COUNTIES

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR'S NOTES

December was filled with festive gatherings and joyful celebrations throughout District I. One seasonal highlight was the Dorchester Garden Club's annual holiday event, held at a large and lively venue featuring an array of vendors, a silent auction, garden wares, plants, home décor, and many unique treasures.

On December 13, District I members once again came together in strong support of Wreaths Across America (WAA) at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery in Hurluck, Maryland. It was a special honor for the District Director to welcome and address the Gold Star families during the ceremony. Each federated garden club participated by purchasing wreaths and collecting community orders, demonstrating our shared commitment to remembrance and gratitude.



Shore Veterans Cemetery – Wreaths Across America

As the new year moves ahead, we look forward to our District I Annual Meeting, **March 4**, 9:45am, Prospect Bay Country Club, 311W Prospect Bay Drive, Grasonville, MD 21638. We are delighted to welcome Kent Russell, the Garden Guru, who will present, *"The Sensational Spring Garden,"* an engaging program sure to inspire ideas for the season ahead. Registration information is available here ([Information](#)) and on the [FGCMD calendar](#), and we warmly invite all who are interested to join us.

We were deeply saddened by the unexpected passing of our District I Corresponding Secretary, Marilyn Reedy. She touched countless lives with her kindness, generosity, and warm spirit, and her absence will be profoundly felt by all who knew and loved her. In addition, we also mourn Marillyn's dearest friend and Oxford Garden Club member, Sheilah Egan, who passed away within days of Marilyn. Although our hearts are heavy, we are grateful for the peace that surrounded their passing and for the many meaningful connections and memories they leave behind. We sincerely appreciate the many thoughts and prayers that have been extended during this time.

Chestertown Garden Club: *Secethia Boardley-Davis, Club President*

The Chestertown Garden Club began the holiday season with a trip to [Longwood Gardens](#), Kennett Square, PA, which included a "behind the scenes" tour of the poinsettias. Members enjoyed learning about the intricate care and planning that goes into the stunning holiday displays.

The beauty and festive spirit of Longwood Gardens provided inspiration for our own seasonal activities. Chestertown GC continued to enjoy the holidays celebrating their Annual Christmas Lunch!

The Chestertown Garden Club rang in the New Year of 2026 New Year with a wedding; "Do You, Gardener, Take This Garden?"



The Beauty of Longwood Gardens



"Do You, Gardener, Take This Garden?"

Enjoying the Luncheon – Susan Coomer,
Elizabeth Tully, Erica Landskroner

Please join us in Chestertown with a viewing of "This Beautiful Fantastic," a British romantic drama on **February 17**.

Our new year begins with a wonderful informational presentation "Birds, Bugs, and Blooms; the Harmony of a Native Garden." Janet Davis, from Hillhouse Native Gardens in Castleton, Virginia, will talk with us about the interconnectedness of birds, bugs and blooms. Lush native plants from the nursery will be on sale. Please make plans to join us on **April 7**.

District I Continued

Dorchester Garden Club: Sandy Lucas, Club President

Design by David Powers

Our club was extremely busy during the month of December! We had the Wreath Workshop, the Cambridge Christmas Parade with a float representing our club, and our annual Holiday Luncheon held at the Hyatt.

At our luncheon, we were also celebrating the 95th Anniversary of the Dorchester Garden Club. The Hyatt looked gorgeous with beautiful centerpieces, handmade wreaths made for our Silent Auction, vendors selling all their wonderful goodies (including our own Diggers Boutique), glittering handmade Christmas ball wreaths, a Mini Flower Show display, and an educational display of artifacts from our 95 years. To top it off, the most dynamic speaker, David Powers, wowed us with his beautiful floral displays and entertained us with his quick wit.



Table Centerpiece



Artifacts from Our 95 Years

We also had a 50/50 raffle, where the winner won over \$1,500! If you could not attend this year, please mark your calendars for **December 4, 2026**, so you won't miss out on a wonderful experience.

Looking forward to exciting programs for 2026 – February program, “*Have a Cuppa*” where members will be treated to an authentic English Tea. In addition, there will be a demonstration of garden art made from vintage china and glassware. In March, Dorchester GC hosts its Annual Meeting and a program on succulent and houseplant care, led by Tonya Young, First VP of the Federated Garden Clubs of PA and NGC Flower Show Judge. Two great programs to start our year.

Four Seasons Garden Club: Frances Follmer, Club President

The Four Seasons Garden Club is approaching its 70th Anniversary, and its theme is “**Sustaining our Future: Growing Seeds with Our Community!**” The theme is manifest by the club's activities during the past month. We have collected outer-cold-weather wear, which was donated to a local charity. A week later, the Club placed a wreath featuring “*Salisbury University's 100th Year Celebration*” in the State House. Upon the wreath being returned to Salisbury, it will be displayed at the University.



For Christmas, the Club decorated Poplar Hill Mansion with floral designs, which reflected the 1970's theme of glitz and glitter chosen by the Curator. The planters at The Village of Hope were revamped by Fran Reed to reflect the Christmas Season.



Four Seasons' upcoming meetings are interesting and informative. **February 20**, Carrie Sammis will present “*What Type of Bird is This?*” Carrie has worked for the Coastal Bay Program and has been Curator at the Salisbury Zoo. Her program will highlight the birds of Delmarva, their habitats, their roles within the ecosystem, and methods for identifying them in flight. Carrie is recognized

for her expertise and engaging presentation style. This open meeting will be held at The Mercy House, located at the St. Francis Catholic Church parking lot.

The **March 20** meeting features Ginny Rosenkranz, “*Tips on Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring.*” Ginny is going to give us information about when plants need to be planted, pruned, deadheaded, etc. She will provide a list of pollinator plants and flowers and review how to select annuals and herbaceous perennials to help us save money. This OPEN meeting will be at Poplar Hill Mansion.

You won't want to miss this many-faceted meeting on **April 17**. Our District Director, Ann Street, is going to present “*Exploring Japanese Gardens and the Art of Tea.*” Ann will take us on a vicarious trip, by way of photographs, to the places she toured. She will discuss Japanese culture, and she will demonstrate making green tea and preparing loose teas.



From Ann Street's Travels in Japan

During the meeting, Anne Heavner, who lived in Japan while her husband Jeff served in the Navy, pursued the art of Ikebana. To learn more about Japanese culture, Anne earned multiple certificates in this art form, which combines nature and humanity. She is going to do an Ikebana design using sticks, which will... (I don't want to give everything away, so you'll have to attend). This OPEN meeting will be at Poplar Hill Mansion.

All **Four Seasons** meetings start at **1:00pm** unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact **Frances Follmer** at 410-713-5404.

Sample of Ikebana Design
(Source: Zen Lifestyle)

District I Continued

Kent Island Garden Club: Bobbie Bell, Club President

Club Members and Guest

One of the Kent Island Garden Club's most cherished events is greeting the truck drivers at the American Legion in Stevensville as they drive from New England to deliver wreaths for the Wreaths Across America event at Arlington National Cemetery. The club members decorate the Legion Hall so that when the drivers stop, they are greeted by a festive hall and served some refreshments by the Legion before they move on to complete their journey.

Kent Island Garden Club is heading into 2026 with a menu full of specials! Much of our gathering time will prepare us for our September 2026 Standard Flower Show, "Bon Appetit"!

Gini Volker, Diana Squella, Dawn Thomas
Preparing Decorations at the American
Legion Hall in Stevensville, Maryland

We will be planting herbs with local Seniors and Earth Day Seed Bombs will be filled with colorful flower seeds for cutting by our youngest friends. Celebrating our country's 250th Birthday, we will be filling the garden space of our Gold Star Marker, at the American Legion, with Red, White and Blue Blossoms! Finally, finishing Phase 3 of The Kirwan House Garden Redesign, we'll plan a Rededication Celebration with the Kent Island Heritage Society! Cheers!

Oxford Garden Club: Melinda Hudson, Club President

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a member of the Oxford Garden Club is the incredible range of knowledge and experience our members bring to the group. The diversity of expertise covers *so many things*, enriching our club and inspiring us all.

One of Dede's Meadow-Inspired Floral
Arrangements

At our November meeting, TCGC member and talented designer Dede Hoopes led a program that showcased a meadow-inspired floral arrangement, perfect for our Thanksgiving table.

Dede's demonstration emphasized sustainable techniques, guiding us through methods such as foraging and other creative approaches for

assembling elegant table designs. This hands-on learning experience was both educational and enjoyable, highlighting the resourcefulness and artistry within our club.

Dede Hoopes Demonstrating Sustainable
Techniques for Creating Meadow-Inspired Floral
Arrangements

"Virginia Blue Bells"

Source : Diane DuBois Mullaly

In February, Mikaela Boley will join us. She is the Principal Agent Associate for Home Horticulture at the University of Maryland Extension Service in Talbot County and has coordinated the Master Gardener Volunteer program since 2013. Mikaela will guide us through different container gardening techniques for each season.

In March, we will install new Officers and celebrate the past term of our current officers and committee chairs!

We started off our year with a workshop led by Diane DuBois Mullaly.

Diane is an award-winning artist known for her impressionist palette knife painting in oil, Plein Air Painting and Nature Sketching. All attendees received watercolor paints, brushes, and artist paper.

Under Diane's guidance, participants were instructed in pencil sketching as well as techniques for working with watercolor on paper.

In February, Mikaela Boley will join us. She is the Principal Agent Associate for Home Horticulture at the University of Maryland Extension Service in Talbot County and has coordinated the Master Gardener Volunteer program since 2013. Mikaela will guide us through different container gardening techniques for each season.



Source: Hennepin County Master Gardeners



"Ilex"

Source: Diane DuBois Mullaly

District I *Continued***Queen Anne's County Garden Club: Robin Lanham, Club President**

Queen Anne dressed for the Holidays!

In December, the Queen Anne's County Garden Club (QACGC) decorated Centreville (Inc., 1794), county seat of Queen Anne's County, for their holiday parade as well as the *original* County seat, Queenstown (1707–1782) for their tree-lighting ceremony.

In addition to decorating the county seats, each club member brought two miniature holiday decorations that were distributed to the local hospice, memory care, and assisted-living facilities and churches to give to their residents and parishioners.

A group of QACGC members attended the Dorchester Garden Club Holiday Fundraiser. Members enjoyed shopping, comradery, and an excellent presentation.

In May, we will conduct our annual tub planting adorning the county office buildings for the spring and summer. Club members take turns ensuring the plantings are watered and cared for over the summer ensuring the county seat looks beautiful.



Jan Kirsh, Landscape Designer and Artist

In June, we will be visiting the Jan Kirsh Studio in Bozman, MD. Inspired by the natural world, she has been creating artful spaces for over 30 years, fruit- and vegetable-inspired sculpture, wearable art, and now, *new* art screens that combine her multiple passions of art and landscape design. We will tour her art studio and her garden.

One of our youth gardening programs that partnered with **QAC Character**

Counts will be doing seed planting with a 4th grade class at Bayside Elementary School to grow flowers to take home.



QACGC Members Creating the Decorations



Decorations at the Fundraiser



Youth Gardening at Bayside Elementary School

Somerset County Garden Club: Dana Zucker, Club President

Group Decorating Teackle Mansion

The December workshop made creative wreaths/swags for our usual community locations, i.e., local libraries, nursing homes, Blue Star and Gold Star markers. However, we made a wreath for the Police Department of Princess Anne (county seat of **Somerset County, MD**) to show our support. The club participated in making a wooden tree from scraps (sustaining the environment) and added fresh greens for the Maryland State House.

The Somerset County Garden Club continued their annual daffodil bulb sales, offering three selections for members and the community. These efforts help promote Somerset County's official flower and support gardening initiatives throughout the area.

The Somerset County Vocational School received a \$600 grant from the club for its horticulture program. The funds will be used for gardening tools, soil, fertilizer, and seeds to promote youth gardening.

The club will visit the site in spring or fall to evaluate progress.

Exciting programs are planned for 2026, including the **June 13** "Horticulture Specialty Flow Show." More details will be shared soon.



State House Tree, Teackle Mansion

District I Continued

Talbot County Garden Club: Eleanor Denegre, Club President

TCGC celebrates the Holiday Season by giving back to the community in which we live! Each year in early December, our entire club convenes to create wreaths and swags for display on public buildings, such as the Talbot County Courthouse, and local businesses, including Shore Bank. At this workshop, we also decorated 40 small holiday mugs with greens and candies for Meals on Wheels in St. Michaels.



Swag for Public Building in Easton



Wreath for Easton Vol. Fire Department



Meals on Wheels Cup



Trish Reynolds led her TCGC Tandem team on how to assist our guests.

Our outreach programs – Talbot Hospice and the Interfaith Shelter – received Holiday floral designs for the guests, approximately 25 in total. The YMCA TANDEM program (for individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's), along with members of the TCGC Inclusive Gardening Committee, held a workshop during which our guests (20) created small evergreen designs with Holiday Greens.

Mother Nature played havoc with our Winter Speaker Series, forcing us to cancel our January Program. We will resume on **February 24** with a presentation by Teresa Speight, "Community Gardens: Building Community by Gardening and Digging in the Dirt with Your Neighbors."



Virginia Sappinton assisting a guest.

On **March 25**, we do a switch to humor with Kirk Brown presenting a first-person historical presentation on the life of John Bartram, America's first and foremost horticulturist, "John Bartram Lives...." All programs are held at the Talbot County Library and are open to the public beginning at 11:00am.

By far the most exciting and intensive project for TCGC is the upcoming Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage scheduled for **May 9!** Every member of TCGC has a role to play, from parking to promotion, preparing noteworthy houses and gardens for the tour. Club members create spectacular florals for each property, and guide visitors through each property and home. This year, 2026, is the 250th Anniversary of our Country and the 350th Anniversary of Talbot County, and the tour will concentrate on extraordinary properties as part of this celebration.

For more information, see the [flyer in Upcoming Events](#), which includes a link to ticket information and reservations for lunches.

Worcester County Garden Club: Susan Fletcher, Club President

Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, the Worcester County Garden Club dedicated a Gold Star Marker at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Park in Ocean Pines Maryland. The Club hosted a large Gold Star Luncheon afterwards for Gold Star Families, Vietnam Veterans and American Legion Commanders.

For additional details, see the article by the Blue Star & Gold Star Memorial Markers Committee, Carolyn MacGlashan, Chair, Nicki Schwab, Vice Chair.



The Worcester County Garden Club members gathered for a Holiday celebration including a Christmas Tea hosted by WCGC member Jan King in her historic home in Snow Hill.



WGCC President Susan Fletcher and Marie Gilmore, Chairman WC Veterans Memorial

DISTRICT II: LAURA SPOERI, *DISTRICT DIRECTOR*
ANNE ARUNDEL, CALVERT, CHARLES, PRINCE GEORGE'S, ST MARY'S COUNTIES

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The title for the 43rd Annual District II Daffodil Show will be "Daffodils go on a Magical History Tour." The theme was inspired by the location for the show, historic **Baldwin Hall** in Millersville, MD. Built in 1861, the building will be a lovely venue to display the entries in the show. The show itself will be held **March 30–April 1**. Please contact Liz Williams mliz.williams825@gmail.com for more information.

Five District II clubs represented their county at the Maryland State House tree and wreath display. Each club: Bayside Bloomers GC, Calvert County GC, La Plata GC, Forest GC, and St. Mary's GC represented the district with enchanting and creative exhibits. [See the **December issue of Gardenews**.]

The tradition of creating and hanging wreaths around State Circle (a circular road that surrounds the Maryland State House and serves as a hub road to downtown Annapolis) continued. Seventeen garden clubs (both federated and non-federated) created 35 wreaths, which were on display throughout the holiday season. The snowy morning was the perfect backdrop to hang the beautiful wreaths for the holiday season on the lamp posts that surround the Maryland State House.

Clubs in the district also beautified their local area through community outdoor displays as well as indoor decorations of public buildings and historic locations.

Plans are being finalized for the District II annual meeting on lucky **Friday the 13th**, 10:00am at the Bowie Comfort Inn.



Renee Little (Naval Academy), coordinator of the State Circle Wreath project, holds two examples of the 35 wreaths that were created by garden clubs in the District II area.
 Photo by Roger Little.

Bayside Bloomers Garden Club: Susie Johnson, Club President

The past few months have been a season of growth, generosity, and joyful connections for the Bayside Bloomers Garden Club. From hands-on planting to meaningful community outreach, members have been busy nurturing both gardens and goodwill.

In November, the club marked its 10th anniversary with a \$500 donation to the Anne Arundel Community College Environmental Center. The Center equips students to tackle real-world environmental challenges through hands-on projects, including wetland restoration, monitoring swimming and restoration sites, preserving native species, and conducting bioremediation and toxicity testing at industrial locations and areas impacted by stormwater runoff.



Members created evergreen arrangements at the annual Greens Workshop.

December brought beauty and celebration. Members enjoyed a festive day and evening at Longwood Gardens, kicking off the holiday season surrounded by thousands of twinkling lights and stunning seasonal horticultural displays.

The spirit of giving continued at the annual Greens Workshop, where members gathered for a holiday brunch and created evergreen arrangements. These handmade creations were then shared with patients at Hospice of the Chesapeake, spreading comfort and cheer during the season.

We also provided two wreaths to be hung at State Circle in Annapolis for all to enjoy!

As the new year began, Bayside Bloomers were already looking ahead to spring. On a brisk January day, several members gathered to learn and practice winter sowing—an easy, low-cost method of starting seeds outdoors using milk jugs. This technique allows for natural cold stratification, producing hardy, self-sufficient seedlings that are ready to be transplanted when warmer weather arrives.

With every season, the Bayside Bloomers continue to cultivate beauty, community, and love for the environment.



Bayside Bloomers Garden Club Members Celebrating the Club's 10th Anniversary



Winter Sowing Workshop

*District II Continued***Calvert Garden Club: Anne Watson, Club President**

Calvert Garden Club was very busy as 2025 ended. November found club members gathering to make beautiful bows and ornaments in preparation of the Greening of the Courthouse Square for the holidays and Calvert County's State House Christmas Tree. Just after Thanksgiving, members created swags, wreaths, Della Robbia, and roping that decorated all the lampposts, entrances to the County, courthouse doors, and the courthouse entrance walls.

**Roping Crew**

The Christmas Tree on the courthouse lawn was decorated in anticipation of its official lighting ceremony.

Prior to the official events, we had a small snowfall, which further enhanced the beauty of all the decorations.

The Christmas Tree even served as the backdrop for a winter bride's photos.

**Roping on Courthouse Entrance Wall****Wreaths and Swags Ready****Della Robbia over Court House Doors****Lamppost with Window Wreaths****Tree at Night**

Continuing to spread Christmas cheer, members visited the Boys and Girls Clubs in North Beach and Prince Frederick to help the children create some very lovely swags. The Christmas cheer rolled on as members also made Christmas arrangements for display in the Drum Point Lighthouse at Calvert Marine Museum and decked the halls at the Prince Frederick Library.

After a busy end to 2025, we are ready to start 2026 with more great programs. January's first program, "Art or Books and Blooms," was geared to practice and preparation to participate in *Books and Blooms* or *Art Blooms*. Experienced designers will "Show and Tell" about making an interpretive flower design, and you will make a design yourself. When *Books in Bloom* arrives **March 25–27**, members who attended the design workshop will be all set to participate in this yearly favorite. The public is invited to participate with guidance available from our club. Arrangements are displayed at all Calvert County Library branches. *Art Blooms* will be later this year in the summer. Stay tuned for more on this activity.

Our next January program was "Oyster Conservation," presented by Brian Russell, founder and co-owner of Shore Thing Shellfish. Brian is the chairman of the Southern Maryland Shellfish Growers Association. He presented information on the ecology of oysters and the oyster farming process.

Charles County Garden Club: Kathy Miles, Club President

The Charles County Garden Club marked the end of 2025 with a new activity – making holiday arrangements for the District Judges' Breakfast Meeting at the Charles County Courthouse – as well as two of our traditional activities – remembering our veterans by making flower arrangements for the residents at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and coming together for our annual Christmas Tea.

**Christmas Tea Tree**

Making approximately 200 arrangements for the veterans was a three-day activity at the home of Betsy Parbuoni, from gathering greens to delivering the mugs our members filled with greenery and flowers. Over 20 members participated.

One of the highlights every year is the Christmas Tea. Our members really outdid themselves with an amazing array of food and drink, all in the beautifully decorated home of our member Joyce Edelen, with a costumed caroler and Santa to add to the Christmas spirit! As a bonus, we collected over 130 pairs of socks for the residents of the Veterans Home.

In February, we look forward to a trip to the Smithsonian's Orchid Exhibit, ***More than a Flower: The Connective Power of Orchids***, at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It is the 30th annual joint orchid exhibition featuring orchid collections from Smithsonian Gardens and the United States Botanic Garden.

**Arrangements for the Veterans Home****Tea Setting**

*District II Continued***Chesapeake Garden Club: Debbie Nisson, Club President**

Chesapeake Garden Club (CGC) members kept busy with several outreach projects in November and December. In cooperation with Fairview Branch Library, CGC offered a holiday workshop in which patrons enjoyed learning how to make a variety of decorations. Demonstrations on how to make wreaths using magnolia leaves and live greens, along with centerpieces, with both dried and fresh flowers/plants, as well as children's crafts, and oyster shell ornaments gave attendees many ideas for the holidays.



Members at Captain Avery Museum

In December, the CGC volunteered to decorate the **Captain Avery Museum** in Shady Side, Maryland. Located along the shore of the West River, the Museum's mission is to showcase three centuries of the history of the area and contributions by local watermen and boat builders to the seafood industry.

Using a collection of donated holiday items from members, the ladies enjoyed decorating several trees, making fresh magnolia leaf wreaths, bows, centerpieces and more. The Museum never looked better. Throughout the season, the Museum held several events during which visitors enjoyed the festive look including the CGC's holiday luncheon.

CGC volunteers also helped decorate the Twin Beach Branch Library in North Beach. Using a variety of vintage toys, including trains, dolls, nutcrackers, and sprigs of fresh greens, the bookcases throughout the library took on a very holiday look. Visitors enjoyed the added attractions.

Photos by Judy MacWilliams, Ann Brinkner



Member Kay Parris and President Debbie Nisson

Crofton Village Garden Club: Margaret Antonelli, Club President

Club President Margo Antonelli enjoyed getting together to prepare the wreaths. The wreaths were delivered and handed off to State Circle Chairman (Naval Academy Garden Club) Renee Little, with Crofton Village Committee co-chair Trish Lilek-Demers.

Maryland State House & State Circle – Under the leadership of Club President Margo Antonelli, the Croton Village kept the tradition and participated in the State House and State Circle evergreen wreath display. Seven Crofton Village Garden Club members designed two fresh evergreen wreaths for the State House & Circle. Members conducted a workshop together to prepare the wreaths and share the joy of the holiday season. Committee Members Rosa Johnson, Paulette Heward, Peggy Smail, Lauren Toomey, Parliamentarian Trish Lilek-Demers, and

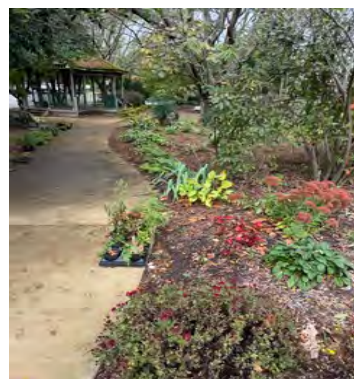


Installing a Wreath at the Maryland State House and State Circle

Hollyberry Garden Club: Lenore Mirski, Sally Mitchell, Co-Presidents

The Hollyberry Garden Club has been busy this fall. Here are some of our activities:

In October, members visited the historic London Town and Gardens. This beautiful site features both woodland and ornamental gardens, and our club enjoyed guided tours showcasing blooming camellias along the South River in Annapolis.



Closer to home, we continued our role as caretakers for two sites in Severna Park, MD—one at the library and another in town.

Our annual planting effort included more than 100 plants, such as milkweed, coneflower, phlox, foam flower, cardinal flower, blue flag iris, and multiple varieties of ferns.

A grant from Unity Gardens, a program dedicated to empowering local groups, enabled us to purchase many of these native plants from a local source.

We look forward to watching our new plantings grow and bloom in 2026.



*District II Continued***La Plata Garden Club: Barbara Hays, Club President**

Posies for Vets: La Plata Garden Club member Kathy Davis participated in Wreaths Across America at Cheltenham Veteran's Cemetery two years ago. The wreaths that were available were placed to be seen from the road, and much of the cemetery was left bare. She was saddened to see so many graves that had been forgotten.

Kathy was moved to make "posies," just small winter arrangements, for as many as she could, and did this for two years. This past year, Kathy asked La Plata Garden Club members and the Charles County Master Gardeners to lend a hand. Everyone brought greens from their yards and we got to work. We enjoyed making the posies, and we were able to have fun, be creative, and do something that had meaning for all of us. Kathy, Jeanne Bouche, and Jan Lakey-Waters' husband Jim placed 236 posies at Cheltenham.

We are hoping to contribute more posies next year, and we invite our fellow Garden Clubs to participate as well.

**Shipley's Choice Garden Club: Louisa Agriesti, Club President**

Louisa Agriesti, Shipley's Choice Garden Club's new president of 2025–2027 released the following Mission Statement:

As Members of the Federated Garden Club of Maryland, we will:

- Stimulate the love of gardening in our members and community,
- promote the beautification of our neighborhood's public spaces,
- encourage the study of plant life, and
- foster good stewardship and the conservation of natural resources.

Our field trip chairs planned and scheduled trips to the "Talbot County Lecture Series" for January 27 and to the Philadelphia Flower Show for **March 5, 2026**.

We are busy with many new programs and working with the local communities on beautification of the public spaces and encourage more tree planting in the area. We have 100 percent involvement from our members on the Garden Therapy program; we work with a local nursing and assistant living facility with their residents and members. A beautiful way to kick off the new 2026.

DISTRICT III: MARY ELLEN PLUEMER, *DISTRICT DIRECTOR* BALTIMORE AND HARFORD COUNTIES

DISTRICT III DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Homemade Crafts, created by Stacy Zyrick, and auction items added to the merriment!

- “Beautiful, festive event! Clearly a lot of work went into it!! Tree decorating, gingerbread boys to dress, auction items and a hot chocolate bar with a unique and special touch! Great fun! — Sue P.
- “Loved the tree decorations! The Gingerbread cookies were fantastic! The hot chocolate bar left no stone unturned! Well done! It was indeed a FUNraiser” — Carolyn

Share The Joy! District III conducted its first Annual Old-Fashioned Holiday Party, December 6, 2025. The photos and comments below speak to its success. Special thanks to Stacey Zyrick, Evergreen Garden Club FUNraising chair, for a tremendous amount of time and preparation to make this event so successful.



Gingerbread cookie decorating and contest also was a shared activity.

- “The whole event was beautifully coordinated. Karaoke was a surprise and fun. I would like to thank the leaders of the event for a great morning! The dwarf Alberta Spruce will be planted in my yard this Spring!” — Sharyn R.



Sharyn R. poses with Santa at the photo booth.

- “Great fun! Appreciate all the hard work. I will be planting my tree in the Spring! Kudos to Stacey Z! — Joan H



Enjoyed by attendees, Alberta Spruce trees made for a creative decoration activity.

- “What a fabulous way to kick off the holidays with friends, new and old! Loved the opportunity to decorate the tree to take home, sip hot cocoa and shop for homemade crafts! Hope to do it again next year!” — Vikki W.
- “The warmth of beautiful women [and Santa] bloomed throughout the party.” — Vickie R.

Glen Arm Garden Club: *Mary Carol Bruff, Club President* 2026 Fundraising Trip: “Longwood Gardens Reimagined”

Monday, April 20, 2026

BUCKLEY'S TAVERN WILMINGTON, DE

Our first stop of the day will be Buckley's Tavern which features casual American cuisine in an historic 1817 building that has been used as a residence, smithy, tollgate, and stagecoach station. We will enjoy seated service. Make your selection from several menu options included in your ticket price, and feel free to add any additional fare at your own expense.

LONGWOOD GARDENS, KENNETT SQUARE, PA

Longwood Reimagined for spring 2026 will be our garden destination for the day. The newness—and beauty—of spring beckons throughout the Gardens this season. It's the first with the stunning Bonsai Courtyard, gorgeous new outdoor landscapes, and redesigned Idea Garden ... making this a season of fresh beginnings like never before.

TRANSPORTATION

We will travel on a fully appointed motor coach and offer two boarding locations:

- (1) Towson United Methodist Church, 501 Hampton Lane, Baltimore, MD (just east of Dulaney Valley Road). Please be ready to board after supplies are loaded at 10:15am. We will depart promptly by 10:30am.
- (2) I-95 Park 'n' Ride at RT. 24 Abingdon, MD (Exit 77-B). Please be ready to board here at 10:45am, Departure at 11:00am SHARP. Estimated return time to Towson is 8:00pm-ish.

COST

The cost for Longwood members with a valid membership card will be reduced to \$151.

Be sure to bring your current card – without it, you must pay the full admission price at the gate.

The cost for those without a Longwood membership is \$175, which includes bus, lunch, and admission.

Reserve your seat(s) by mailing your completed registration form(s) and check made payable to “Glen Arm Garden Club” to reach Mary Carol Bruff by **March 20, 2026**. [Click here to fill out the Longwood Gardens Trip Registration Form.](#)

**After March 20, NO REFUNDS will be issued for any reason.
Make a commitment ASAP. We must have 36 people to run the trip!**



Join us for an exhilarating trip to Longwood Gardens. It's not just for the ladies – gentlemen are welcome too!

*District III Continued***Halten Garden Club, Jacqueline Handley and Gretchen Sarkin, Co-Presidents**

Halten Garden Club is pleased to announce that we have received a National Garden Clubs "Plant America" Grant for \$2,000.00, which will be used for The Herb Garden at Sherwood House, Cromwell Valley Park, Towson, MD, built in 1935 by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Henry Sherwood.

Member Leslie Speer composed and submitted the application with input from club members. The application contained our project mission, the history of Sherwood, Halten's stewardship of the garden over the years, detailed plant and material lists, and volunteer hours calculations (members and local high school student volunteers).

Halten GC has been associated with the Sherwood House in Cromwell Valley Park since 1994, maintaining the herb garden, which was created in 1935 originally as a culinary garden for vegetables and herbs. Over the years, the change in weather/climate conditions and increased pressure from invasive plants and deer/wildlife require the club to reconsider plant selection and placement. Major plantings were done in 1994 and 2023. Also, in 2023 Halten agreed to include a larger adjacent area under a holly tree as part of our project, thus doubling the planting area, bringing the total garden to 1250 square feet.

Halten GC had already planned to refresh the garden in 2026 as we address climate change paying attention to "right plant, right place" and installation of hardscaping for erosion control and bed definition. It will include herbs tolerant of all seasons, perennial native plants and groundcovers (that are not invasive) for pollinators, resulting, eventually, in dense plantings. Educational signage will tell the importance of native pollinator plants and herbs to the community.

We hope that, with 25,000 to 40,000 visitors annually, this beautiful garden in Cromwell Valley Park will continue to invite and educate all!



Halten GC Members working at Sherwood House, Fall, 2025.
Left to Right: Sue Thompson, Nancy Johnston, Jackie Handley, Sue Grady, Amy Schmaljohn, Leslie Speer and Pat Parke

Hampton Garden Club, Chris Neas, Club President

A group of 12 from the Hampton Garden Club enjoyed a delightful workshop at Maryland Flower & Foliage, creating beautiful live green centerpieces. Many thanks to Sherry for her expert guidance throughout the project. Thank you to everyone for joining in such a fun time together.

Six Hampton Garden Club members enjoyed a visit to Swarthmore College on Wednesday, October 29, 2025.

The 350-acre Swarthmore College campus is consistently recognized as one of the most beautiful in the country. Located just 11 miles from Philadelphia, it offers rolling hills, flowering trees, and hiking trails—a serene natural escape on the city's edge.



We participated in the Quaker Roots: Horticultural Connections, where our guide shared fascinating insights into the college's early history.

The campus was beautiful, and many of us agreed it would be well worth returning for a spring visit.



District III *Continued***Lutherville Garden Club: Pam Engle, Club President**

We had another successful Young Gardeners Program at Lutherville Lab School on December 17, 2025. Forty children attended, and they were so excited and eager to start their holiday arrangements. The students created designs with flowers and greens in holiday decorated tuna/cat food cans filled with oasis. After a short demonstration, they were off and running! A special thank you to our volunteer team of Marie Frederick, Georgia Jubb, Corinne Lears, Dawn Slaughter, Char Monfried, Lori Rogers, Vicki Kessler, and Susan Dumont.

In February, the students are making easy DIY bird feeders, a favorite (but messy) project! Our simple goal is to have children in touch with nature and realize that they too are connected to the natural world.

On December 4, Lutherville Garden Club presented a holiday floral design program. LGC Judges Council members Shirley Tighe and Kathie Dollenberg were joined by Betty Reeves in demonstrating design techniques to the club. Members then decorated individual holiday designs. What a fun way to start the holiday season!

**Town and Country Garden Club (TCGC) of District III: Sheri Hairston, Club President**

Town and Country Garden Club volunteers spruced up the patio of The Junior League of Baltimore.



TCGC opened the new season with a Houseplant Fashion Show. The plants sported fashionable containers, and our members wore their floral couture.



Town and Country Garden Club learned the Rules of the Game when pairing wines and food flavors.

Woodbrook-Murray Hill Garden Club: Cathy Wales, Meghan McPhail, Co-Presidents

The Woodbrook-Murray Hill Garden Club had a wonderful Fall.

In October, Sarah Oktavec led us on a Mushroom Foraging hike in Lake Roland Park. This was an extra activity that was attended by some members and their families and friends. The weather was perfect and edible mushrooms, including chicken of the woods, were foraged.



Our group visited The Margaret Cleveland at Walther Gardens in November.

Our November meeting had 20 attendees and was held at The Margaret Cleveland at Walther Gardens. Chris Heller demonstrated a Fall "forever floral" faux arrangement. Lunch was served, and the members then explored the gardens and twelve spaces around the property that were filled with treasures for sale.

In December, we decorated wreaths and had a potluck supper at the Church of the Redeemer. It was nice celebrating the holidays together until our club meets again in February.

District IV: *Maidie Podles, Acting District Director*

BALTIMORE CITY CLUBS

Bolton Hill Garden Club: *Chris Mirkovich, Club President*

A great time was had by all who braved the elements and came out for the Bolton Hill Garden Club's annual afternoon Winter Tea! Emma Canoles, owner of Emma's Tea Spot on Harford Road, presented an engaging program on the Art of Tea at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church. Buffet tables were set with a delicious array of savory and sweet dishes, and blended teas in piping hot tea pots were served at the tables.



Special thanks go to the following:

Maidie Podles, Acting District IV Director of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland for attending our Winter Tea;

Member Lynn Cripps for the beautiful floral centerpieces she created for the tables (later awarded as door prizes);

Ace Hardware at Waverly for its donations to the club of canisters of pollinator seeds, which were made into tea favors; and

All the volunteers who helped so much with the coordination and setup and breakdown.

District V: Mary Heizer, District Director

DISTRICT V: ALLEGANY, CARROLL, FREDERICK, GARRETT, HOWARD, WASHINGTON COUNTIES

DISTRICT V DIRECTOR'S NOTES

District V is holding its Annual meeting on **Thursday, March 5, 2026** at **Holly Hills Country Club**, 5502 Mussetter Road, Ijamsville, MD 21754. The theme is Red, White and Blue in honor of America's 250th anniversary. The guest speaker is Dr. Clare Walker, who will speak on Phenology. Phenology is for everyone; however, District V members will learn how to incorporate Phenology into Youth Programs.

District V clubs continue to collect recyclable plastic bags for the TREX Challenge. Our goal is to receive another TREX bench after collecting 1000 pounds of plastic bags. That is a lot of bags. Our first bench was placed at the Kline Hospice House in Frederick, Maryland by Green-walled Garden Club. Which club will win the second bench?

Even though the ground is covered in snow and the wind is whipping around, District V clubs are planning for Spring. Some clubs have started flowers from seed while others have drafted plans for updating the public gardens they maintain. Of course, all clubs are researching which Red, White and Blue flowers to plant in honor of America's 250th anniversary.

Crossroads Garden Club: Connie Lenhart, April Zentmeyer, Club Co-Presidents

Crossroads Garden Club is sponsoring a Bus Trip to the **Museum of Shenandoah Valley**, in Winchester, VA on **Thursday, April 30, 2026** (space is limited). You and your guests are invited to an outing via chartered bus, touring the 1794 historic **Glen Burnie House** including four galleries of historic artifacts and 7 acres of perennial, rose, vegetable, sculptures, and water gardens. We will then travel to Carrabba's Italian Grill for lunch before returning to Hagerstown. We will leave on Thursday, April 30 from the lower lot at Martin's Grocery Store parking lot on the Dual Highway at **9:15am** and travel to Winchester, VA. We will return to Hagerstown by 3:30pm.

The cost for the trip is \$50 for Crossroads Garden Club members and \$55 for guests. This includes the cost of the admission to the Glen Burnie House, galleries, and gardens, and bus transportation, including driver's tip. The cost of lunch at Carrabba's is not included. Space is limited, so please make your reservation by mailing your check payable to Crossroads Garden Club to Connie Lenhart at 1401 Potomac Avenue Hagerstown, MD 21742. **Reservations and checks must be received by March 30.** Any questions, please contact Donna Faith at 301-964-7198 or e-mail faithgeiger@myactv.net.

Here are some highlights of recent Crossroads Garden Club activities as well as some of the plans for this year (so far):

- Flower design for The Women's Club, Hagerstown, Maryland and gardens in 2026 will have a patriotic theme in celebration of the 250th birthday of the USA, for all monthly and seasonal décor. The 2026 flower design show will be held **November 8, 2026** at The Women's Club, 31 S. Prospect St, in Hagerstown. Details to follow. Save the date for this popular event. It is always a sell-out.
- Crossroads Garden Club contributed 27 pounds of plastic for January's District V Nextrex Recycling Challenge recycling plastic project.
- Members supported the District V "Got Nectar" by planting their gardens with over 1,000 bulbs and perennials for spring.
- The Memorial Garden is another civic beauty project at the federal garden and Blue Star Memorial at the Woman's Club. Spring cleanup will be held in March.
- Garden Therapy, chaired by Patsy McInnes, at Homewood helped residents create centerpieces and crafts in November 2025. Spring Baskets will be created in April 2026 with the Western Maryland Hospital Center patients.
- Members of Crossroads served as greeters at various locations for the annual Maryland House and Garden tour in Washington County, and they decorated a tree for the annual community Celebration of Trees held at Springfield Barn in Williamsport, Maryland.
- Art in Bloom – The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts will host Art in Bloom on **April 24–26, 2026**. Interpretive designers are asked to contact the museum for details. info@wcmfa.org.
- The Women's Club will hold a House and Garden tour on **June 13**. Crossroads members will provide flower designs and act as hostesses. For tickets and information, please contact Joyce Siwarski at 301-518-3509, joysiw@icloud.com.

District V *Continued***Frederick County Garden Clubs****Restoration and Revitalization of the South Frederick Arboretum at the Frederick County Public Schools' Earth and Space Science Lab**

For the past three years, FGCMDC's Frederick County Garden Clubs (Green-walled, Tasker's Chance and The Garden Club of Frederick) along with Bryan Dwyer, Scout Leader Troop 274, have collaborated to restore and revitalize the South Frederick Arboretum at the Frederick County Public Schools' Earth and Space Science Lab.

On October 25, 2025, club members planted 10 new native shrubs to augment the understory of the larger trees and to provide food and shelter for smaller birds and animals.

The understory is the layer of vegetation beneath the canopy of larger, mature trees, consisting of smaller, shade-tolerant trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. This layer provides habitat and food for wildlife, contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem by absorbing carbon dioxide, and adds visual interest to a landscape. Plants in the understory have adaptations, like rapid spring growth, to survive in the lower light conditions found there.



Pictured (L-R): Bryan Dwyer, Scout Leader Troop 274; Margaret Cornely, President, Tasker's Chance Garden Club; Ed Cornely, Volunteer; Scouts, Samantha Wijayarathna, and Blake Neccia; John Kettlestrings, Volunteer; Patty Kettlestrings, Member of The Garden Club of Frederick; and, Shelley S. Johnson, Member of the Green-walled Garden Club.

The shrub planting was made possible by the FGCMDC President's Project Grant.

The Frederick County Garden Clubs and Troop 274 invite the FGCMDC clubs to visit the [Earth and Space Lab and South Frederick Arboretum](#), Madison Street, Frederick.

For additional information, visit their website: [Earth and Space Science Lab](#).

Green-walled Garden Club: Julie Howell, Club President**Guest Speaker: Mr. Ray Crough, Frederick County Beekeeping Association**

At the November 2025 Green-walled Garden Club meeting, guest speaker Ray Crough presented **"The Buzz on Keeping Bees."**

Mr. Crough, local beekeeper and Outreach Coordinator for the Frederick County Beekeeping Association, showed slides on keeping bees and explained how beekeeping equipment is used to maintain healthy colonies of honeybees. He displayed his passion and extensive knowledge of bees and experience with beekeeping and included samples of different types of honey for tasting by the Green-walled Garden Club attending members.

Guest Speaker: Ms. Lauren Paulet-Miller, Frederick County Sustainability Commission

At the February 2026 meeting, Lauren Paulet-Miller, Sustainability Outreach Coordinator at the Frederick County Sustainability Commission, presented **"Frederick, Native Gardens."** Ms. Paulet-Miller was recently presented with a 2025 Sustainability Award for her leadership of environmental efforts across the City of Frederick.

She is a transformative leader who launched a composting program to secure Maryland's first Bird City designation. She champions sustainable practices through grassroots education and blends advocacy, accessibility and daily action into making Frederick a model for community-driven climate resilience, wildlife protection and waste reduction.

If other FGCMDC Clubs would like to have Ms. Paulet-Miller or Mr. Crough as a guest speaker at meetings, please contact the Green-walled Garden Club Vice President, Margie Mott, at (301) 401-1039.



*District V Continued***Mount Airy Garden Club: Barbara Rogers, Club President**

The first week in December each year for over a decade the Mount Airy Garden Club has held a Holiday Decoration Workshop where everyone gathers at a club member's garage to make all natural live green wreaths and swags to decorate the town of Mount Airy. Carol Phillips has graciously volunteered her garage for this workshop for the past few years, and we really appreciate her support.

At our last Holiday Decoration Workshop on December 4, 2025, club members got together to make decorations for the following locations: Pine Grove Chapel, Carroll County Senior Center, Carroll County Public Library and the Carroll County Volunteer Fire Department.

The day before the workshop, a committee of club members went to the homes of members that had volunteered their bushes and trees to be pruned. They worked together to cut branches of live greens that would be needed for the next day's workshop. Many different types of evergreens including Pine, Spruce, and Magnolia were collected.



The day of the workshop, club members busily worked in small groups with assembly-line organization to make the decorations. One group cut evergreen pieces to specific lengths. Another group put the pieces together to make clusters and wired the clusters to the wreath and swag frames. Other club members worked on the final stage of attaching ribbons to complete the wreaths and swags. After all the work was done, everyone had lunch. Carol made her famous turkey soup, which has always been a club favorite. This was especially appreciated because it was quite chilly in the garage where we were so busy working all morning.

After lunch, the group was divided into smaller groups to put the wreaths and swags up throughout the town of Mount Airy to decorate for the coming holidays. The most exciting part of the day was when the Carroll County Volunteer Fire Department came with their ladder truck to hang up the large wreath on the side of the Carroll County Library. It was quite a sight.



Stephanie Hamel (left) and Beverly Blatchford (right)



Mount Airy Garden Club will hold a plant sale on **May 9, 2026** (the Saturday before Mother's Day) at the Calvary United Methodist Church Main Street Parking Lot. The address is 403 South Main Street, Mt. Airy. The time is 8am–2pm, and it will be held rain or shine.

There will be hanging flower baskets, annuals, tomato plants, herbs, and perennials grown by club members. Cash or check only. Garden club members can answer your gardening questions. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser support Community plantings, decorating projects in Mt. Airy and youth and senior gardening activities.

District V *Continued***Mountain Laurel Garden Club, Barb Davis, Deborah Hutton, Co-Presidents**

Local Sourcing The Mountain Laurel Garden Club's annual holiday dinner traditionally includes a centerpiece fundraiser. The club's floral design committee goes out of its way to create an array of stunning arrangements that far exceed the cost of each centerpiece. For the 2025 MLGC Holiday party, the Horticulture Committee was tasked with finding unusual greenery for each of the designs, not an easy winter assignment in Maryland's snowiest and coldest county. But Garrett County is fortunate to be home to an abundance of unique clubmosses, an ancient group of lycophytes that date back to the Carboniferous Period.



These clubmosses, especially Crowsfoot (**Southern Ground Cedar**), have been a popular addition to winter floral designs. Valued for their texture and softness, moisture retention, and cascading effect, clubmosses prove to be a beautiful addition to winter floral arrangements. While not all clubmosses are legal to harvest and may not be removed from any public land or without permission from private landowners, none of the clubmosses available in our neck of the woods are on the state's endangered list or in threat of extirpation.

List of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of Maryland - March 2021

One of our region's many clubmosses' characteristics is the ability to endure extreme cold. The foraging for winter greenery brought forth a bountiful collection from MLGC members' properties of not only hemlock, white pine, juniper, and holly but Crowsfoot (*Diphasiastrum digitatum*), Common Clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*), and Flat-branched Tree-Clubmoss (*Dendrolycopodium obscurum*)—all of which were above inches of snow-covered backyards. If you are interested in learning more about 13 species of clubmoss unique to Maryland, check out this article written by Jim Brighton of the Maryland Biodiversity Project: **Garrett County Clubmoss Extravaganza**.



Winter Sowing The Mountain Laurel Garden Club has wasted no time in 2026, diving straight into winter, sowing hundreds of seeds to begin their journey from seed to plant. Many of these seeds were carefully collected from local members' gardens during late summer and fall, preserving regional genetics and ensuring our plants will grow in a Western Maryland climate.

Using recycled milk jugs cut in half (with a hinge left intact), we created miniature greenhouses filled with a soil mix amended with organic all-purpose plant food. These hardy seeds were placed outside for spring germination. They will be used this year in our upcoming Habitat for Humanity native plant garden and sold at our annual June plant sale fundraiser, which will feature a wide selection of native plants, perennials, and annuals.



Joan Harvey filling milk jugs with amended soil.



Barb Davis and Grace McKearin in Barb's greenhouse planting seeds and labeling.



Over 60 milk cartons were sown with seeds and placed outside until spring.

Keeping track of those little guys is key to success. Careful labeling, numbering, and cataloging allow us to manage more than 30 different plant varieties, including *Allium cernuum* (nodding onion), *Echinacea purpurea* (echinacea), *Liatris spicata* (blazing star), *Monarda didyma* (bergamot), *Nepeta* spp. (catmint), *Nigella damascene* (love-in-a-mist), *Penstemon* spp. (the beardtongues), *Stokesia laevis* (Stokes aster), *Vernonia noveboracensis* (iron weed), and many more—ensuring correct identification from winter sowing through planting day.

This project reflects the Mountain Laurel Garden Club's focus on restorative gardening—supporting a healthy environment, resilient plants, and long-term benefits for our community.

*District V Continued***Tasker's Chance Garden Club: Margaret Cornely, Club President**

Tasker's Chance Garden Club had a whirlwind of a holiday season. In three short weeks, we did the following:

- Divided and conquered to help decorate the Frederick County Holiday Tree displayed this year at Heritage Frederick, a collaboration with Green-walled Garden Club and The Garden Club of Frederick...
- Presented a specially requested Holiday Greens and Candle Centerpiece Workshop for a non-federated garden club...
- Decorated an historic 1868 Frederick home, "Home for the Holidays," part of Celebrate Frederick's Annual Candlelight House Tour...
- Joined The Garden Club of Frederick for the holiday decorating of Faith House...
- Held a wonderful Holiday Greens Garden Therapy Workshop at Frederick's Tanney Senior Center...

... all of which ultimately culminated with our all-hands Annual Boxwood Tree Fundraiser, for which we created 68 trees, most of which were dressed in a newly featured color scheme of white and gold decorations. Three weeks that were exhausting but exhilarating!

As we impatiently await spring, we had the perfect antidote for the snow, ice, wind, and freezing temperatures—a slideshow program sharing photographs of our members' gardens, past or present, as well as many of our favorite blooms, all with plenty of commentary and discussion.



The Frederick County Federated Garden Clubs' Holiday Tree Displayed at Heritage Frederick



Candlelight House Tour: Welcome to Home for the Holidays



Candlelight House Tour: At Home for the Holidays



Fundraiser: Boxwood Tree Decorating



Slideshow: Lantana, Butterfly Magnet

Town and Country Garden Club of District V: Patty Austin, Club President

TCGC President, Patty Austin

Throughout the fall and winter, Town and Country Garden Club has been engaged in a wide range of activities.

We learned the art of making marshmallows using only natural plants and roots and participated in a wreath-making adventure for ourselves as well as several non-profits.

We spent an afternoon wrapping Christmas gifts for patrons of our local mall.

We had our first annual Progressive Holiday House Tour where we trekked through the cold to view the holiday decorations at the homes of five members. Homes varied in style from historical to mid-century, from traditional to contemporary.

Menus were unique to each home, and the members were photographed at their front doors. Our President, Patty Austin (Left) and First Vice President, Donna Pietrzyk (Right), are pictured here with their front entry evergreen decorations.



TCGC First Vice President, Donna Pietrzyk

We ended the holiday season with our Mingle and Jingle event, complete with some fine dining and a garden gift exchange.

February brings a new adventure in floral design. Members have chosen unusual vessels to contain arrangements of fresh or natural floral materials. These will be donated to several non-profits such as Coffman Nursing Home and the local Breast Cancer Awareness Coalition.

Town and Country Garden Club takes great pride in co-sponsoring the Annual Washington County Museum of Fine Arts fundraising program called "Art in Bloom" (AiB). The weekend celebrating the connection between floral design and art kicks off with a reception on **Friday, April 24 from 6:00 to 8:00pm**, and continues both Saturday and Sunday during regular museum hours. This year, Shelley Johnson, immediate past director of District V, will be the floral design demonstrator on **Saturday, April 25 at 1pm**, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, 401 Museum Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

We hope to see all of you there!

Committee News

Annual Meeting: **Betty Reeves, Chair**

Please Take Note & Mark Your Calendar: The annual meeting is moving from the 4th Tuesday in March to the **4th Tuesday in April**. The FGCMMD Annual Meeting will be held **April 28, 2026**, at Turf Valley Resort and Hotel in Ellicott City, Maryland. See [The Call](#) for details.

Annual Meeting Program: **Linda Harris, Program Liaison**



Our program for the FGCMMD Annual Meeting on **April 28, 2026** will be titled “Night Sounds of Mountain Maryland,” presented by Kevin Dodge, Professor and Director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program at Garrett College. Kevin will present an entertaining and educational introduction to the different hoots, toots, peents, and peeps heard after sunset in the Central Appalachians. Weaving together facts, stories, and sounds, Kevin will recreate a night in the mountains of western Maryland.

Kevin Dodge has a plethora of expertise in natural history, ecology, and wildlife conservation. He holds a B.S. in Biology from Southwest Missouri State University and an M.S. in Biology from Michigan Technological University. Throughout his career, Kevin has conducted research on wood warblers, gypsy moths, acid mine drainage, and more. He has also been actively involved in conservation efforts in Garrett County and the surrounding region. Kevin is a passionate educator who has mentored countless students, many of whom have gone on to have successful careers in the outdoor field. He leads numerous hikes, programs, and student trips, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for nature with students and the public through his work at Garrett College, Frostburg State University, West Virginia University, and various local organizations. Kevin's extensive travels have taken him to Alaska, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and southeast Arizona, where he has studied the natural history of these regions and shared the wonders of these landscapes with countless students.

Awards: **Linda Elias, Chairman; Carolyn Magee, Co-Chair**

The 2025 Awards season is drawing to a close. We are pleased to report robust participation, with four out of five Districts submitting applications that showcase their outstanding projects. Five yearbooks have been forwarded to CAR-SGC and ten projects have been forwarded to NGC for further evaluation.

In November 2025, the Awards Selection Committee convened to review and score 34 applications, all of which demonstrated high quality and innovation. Additionally, we evaluated 41 photography submissions with the guidance of a professional photographer. The yearbooks provided valuable insight into each club's efforts, illustrating their commitment to providing members with a rewarding experience.

Recipients of NGC and CAR-SGC awards will be announced at their respective Spring and Fall meetings. District Directors will announce award winners at District annual meetings, and the top FGCMMD Awards will be revealed at the Annual Meeting on **April 28, 2026**.

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who submitted entries and shared their club's achievements. Your commitment to excellence and community involvement is evident in every submission. Thank you for your dedication and for contributing to a memorable awards season.

Conservation and Environmental Awareness: **Carolyn Braverman, Chair**

This Chair spent two days attending the 7th Annual Legislative Summit for Climate and Environment, 10 – 11 January. Sponsored by the Maryland Legislative Coalition's Climate Justice Wing, ShoreRivers, and the Lower Eastern Shore Sierra Club, the summit is Maryland's largest online pre-session legislative briefing on climate, water quality, and environmental bills. Delegates from the Maryland General Assembly and Advocates presented proposed bills that would be appearing before the Legislature this session.

Topics were far-ranging. The first day dealt with energy, its sources, its delivery, and associated costs:

- Costs have risen, and low-income communities have been hardest hit. Although the energy costs have fallen due to fracking, the delivery costs have risen; so overall, the rates are higher.
- The increase of Data Centers being built is a big issue, for although presently there is enough energy, we need to plan for the certainty of future increased needs. Currently, Data Centers are exempt from sales-tax and have the option to be exempt from personal property taxes. Data from other states reveal a big loss in revenue to the state from these practices.
- Bills will be introduced improving infrastructure, investing in public transit, walking and biking infrastructure, off-setting climate pollution from future highway expansion.
- The first day was concluded with an analysis of the history of nuclear energy use in the United States, its costs, hazards, and waste storage. Turns out, it is the most expensive energy option.

Day two dealt with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and other environmental products:

- PFAS comprise 7 million chemical compounds that are found in thousands of products, including food packaging, cookware, carpets and the dust from them, stain-resistant clothing, waterproof cosmetics, and ultimately drinking water. Industrial waste, landfill, and residential waste go to waste-water treatment facilities; the end-product is bio sludge, which is applied to farmland – where it is absorbed by livestock and crops. A bill mitigating PFAS in biosolids will be introduced this session, and one phasing out PFAS in consumer products.
- The Maryland Bottle Bill proposes adding a refundable deposit to beverage containers, and a bill extending the scope of electronics recycling will also be presented.
- Other bills focusing on defining ecosystem services, regulating the sale of invasive trees, banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on state property, and requiring septic system inspection for property sales will be brought forth.

It was an intense two days, but eye-opening and rewarding.

Committee News *Continued***Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Markers: Carolyn MacGlashan, Chair****Gold Star Dedication**

Despite high winds and freezing temps, the dedication of the new Gold Star Families Memorial Marker on 11 November 2025 at Worcester County Veterans Memorial, Ocean Pines, MD, was a spectacular event.

Held in collaboration with the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony, Worcester County Garden Club (WCGC) President Susan Fletcher gave a brief history of Gold Star Markers and dedicated the beautiful marker with three Gold Star Families' unveiling...all were moved by their sacrifice and patriotism.



Congratulations to Susan Fletcher and Worcester County Garden Club on all the hard work in sponsoring the Gold Star Marker, and the replacement of the nearby 2006 Blue Star Marker (plaque) which was worn. These NGC projects will continue to be a source of great pride and achievement by the club, District I, and FGCMMD.

A lovely luncheon hosted by WCGC followed at the Ocean Pines Golf Club honoring the Gold Star Families, Bozy Markiewicz, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, and contributors.



Gold Star Families unveiling the Gold Star Marker.



Gold Star Honorees (L-R): C. Keith Bailey, Christopher Coffland, John David Randolph Hilty, and Bozy Markiewicz (Photo)

Natural Disasters: Charlotte Pennington, Chair

A natural disaster is "a major event brought about by natural processes of the Earth that causes widespread destruction to the environment and loss of life."

NGC established the **Natural Disasters USA Fund** in 1997 to receive contributions from garden club members to aid in replanting parks, community gardens and other municipal areas. The FGCMMD Natural Disasters Committee encourages donations from our Statewide garden clubs. Having each garden club contribute an average of one dollar per member helps with these efforts. Please know that even without horrific weather events we still have disasters that affect our communities. The grants through Natural Disaster USA Funds will aid many in needed areas.

We appreciate your donations, and Federated Garden Clubs thanks you. To donate, make your check payable to FGCMMD; include **Natural Disasters USA Fund** in the memo line, and mail it to:

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.
P.O. Box 65172
Baltimore, MD 21209
Attn: Natural Disasters USA Fund

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

Committee News *Continued***Scholarship Opportunities for College Junior/Senior and Master's Degree**

For the current academic year (2025–2026), FGCMMD awarded \$7000 to three students to pursue undergraduate degrees intended to lead to a career related to the mission of our organization. Significant funds will be available to award for the 2026-2027 academic year. Application deadline is **February 1, 2026**.

Sophomores and juniors attending an accredited college or university and master's degree students are eligible to apply. Criteria include the following: Applicants must have a GPA of 3.25, be a resident of the State of Maryland and a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Legal Resident attending full time in the U.S. Applicants must be majoring in one of the following fields of study:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Agronomy, Agriculture Education | • Forestry |
| • Biology | • Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology |
| • Botany | • Horticulture |
| • City (rural and urban) Planning | • Land Management |
| • Environmental Conservation | • Landscape Design |
| • Environmental Management | • Plant Pathology/Science |
| • Floriculture | • Wildlife Science |

Please encourage eligible students to apply for this wonderful scholarship opportunity.

For more information, contact Richelle Emerick, emerick@wans.net.

Council News**Environmental Gardening and Landscape Design School, Linda Harris, Chair****Landscape Design School Course 2: March 25 & 26, 2026, DoubleTree Hotel in Columbia, MD**

The next Landscape Design School, Course 2, is scheduled for **March 25 & 26, 2026** at the DoubleTree Hotel in Columbia, MD.

This course will include classes on the following:

- Designing for Pollinators & Wildlife
- Plants in the Landscape
- Accessible, Enabling & Therapeutic Gardens
- Structures in the Landscape
- Redesign of Areas
- Development of North American Landscape Design
- Preservation of Historic Sites & Structures
- Overused, Often Invasive Plants & Native Alternatives



Photo from the Course 1 Session, May 7–8, 2025



Check the [Landscape Design Council website](#) for updates.

[Link to brochure \(PDF\)](#)

Judges Council: Susan Palmer, Council Chair**Small Standard Flower Show April 28, 2026** The FGCMMD Judges Council is sponsoring a Small

Standard Flower Show titled, 'Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. Celebrating 100 Years; 'Yesterday and Today' (1926–2026)' that will be held at the State Annual Meeting at Turf Valley Resort and Hotel, Ellicott City, Maryland, on **April 28, 2026**, 11:00am to 2:15pm. Entries will be received on Monday, April 27 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm, and on Tuesday, April 28 from 7:30am to 8:15am. Exhibits may not be removed before 2:15pm on April 28, and must be removed by 2:45pm. Judging will begin at 9:00am, April 28. Decisions of the judges are final.

Check out [Flower Show Information](#) for the schedule and rules for exhibiting.

Contacts

General Chairman, Shelley Johnson, 301-788-9711, sjohnsonart@gmail.com, Green-walled GC
 Schedule Chairman, Carolyn Braverman, 917-612-3270, carolynb28@gmail.com, Dorsey Hall GC
 Publicity Chairman, Anna O'Kelly, 410-721-6435, anna_okelly@comcast.net, Crofton Greenery GC



Council News *Continued***Landscape Design Council: *Betty Reeves, Chair*****Landscape Design Council Awards**

Annually, the Landscape Design Council awards three types of awards:

- Landscape Work at a Public Site; 1st Place, \$150.00, 2nd Place, \$100.00, third place, \$50.00 and honorary mention, \$25.00.
- The Mae Scott Tapestry Landscape Award is awarded to an individual's home or a garden club's planned and maintained project, for a cash award for \$250.00, first place and \$150.00, second place.
- The Habitat for Humanity Award may be presented to an FGCMMD garden club for work at a Habitat for Humanity Site for an award of \$200.00.

Garden clubs and garden club members can put in for any of the Landscape Design Council monetary awards annually by completing the [LDC application on the FGCMMD website](#) and submitting the application to the LDC chairman by November 1.

Links to Award Applications:

- [Landscape Design Award for Public Places](#)
- [Habitat for Humanity Award](#)
- [Mae Scott Tapestry Landscape Award](#)

All award applications are due November 1.

Background on the Landscape Design Program from the FGCMMD Website

The Landscape Design Program was established in 1952 by The National Garden Clubs, Inc., to develop in its membership a greater appreciation of the environment, both natural and manmade, and to advance the fine art of gardening, landscape design and the study of horticulture. After a series of four courses, the garden club member is eligible to become a Landscape Design Consultant and may join a Landscape Design Council after two courses by paying dues of \$10.00 annually.

Member Profiles

In future issues, Gardenews will be featuring profiles of FGCMMD members as time and space allow. As many Gardenews staff are new to our roles, we will start by introducing a few of us in each issue to provide a bit of background on our careers and experiences in the gardening universe.

More Gardenews staff profiles to come in 2026...

The Gardens of Maryland Photo Gallery

Photo from Tasker's
Chance GC

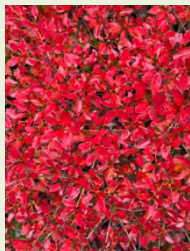
In addition to the photos in your news items, please send photos of your favorite garden spots in your yard, in your district or anywhere in Maryland to:

gardenews@fgcofmd.org

For now, take another look at these photos from District clubs, and challenge your botanical taxonomy expertise to identify the photos below.



Photo from Oxford
GC



Photos in the Wild: Can you identify these plants?

Upcoming FGCMMD Events

Check the calendar on the FGCMMD website (<https://fgcofmd.org/calendar/>) for updates on scheduled events.

February 4	District I Board Meeting, 9:45am, Chesapeake College, Cambridge Center, 416 Race Street, Cambridge, MD.
February 5	Judge Council Meeting, 10 AM, at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 400 Benfield Road, Severna Park MD 21146.
February 9	Garden Photography Zoom Workshop: <i>Prune Your Photos</i> , 1:00pm: More Information
February 24	Talbot County Garden Club Free Public Lecture: TERESA SPEIGHT, author, garden writer urban/estate gardener, garden coach specializing in earth-friendly practices, and CSA farm expert, will discuss “Community Gardens – Digging in the Dirt with Your Neighbors” and the African American gardener legacy. 11am, Talbot County Free Library, 100 W. Dover St., Easton. Info: Camille.Massie501@gmail.com . Details
March 4	District I Annual Meeting, 9:45am, Prospect Bay Country Club, 311W Prospect Bay Drive, Grasonville, MD 21638. Kent Russell, the Garden Guru, will present “The Sensational Spring Garden.” Information
March 5	District V Annual Meeting, Holly Hills Country Club. Registration and Information
March 6	District III Annual meeting, Valley Mansion, 594 Cranbrook Rd. Cockeysville, MD.
March 13	District II Annual meeting; Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD. Information
March 25 & 26	Landscape Design School, Course 2, DoubleTree Hotel in Columbia, MD. Link to Brochure .
March 25	Talbot County Garden Club Free Public Lecture: KIRK R. BROWN delivers an historical presentation on the life of America’s first horticulturist and plant collector: “John Bartram Lives....” 11am, Talbot Co. Free Library, 100 W. Dover St., Easton. Info: Camille.Massie501@gmail.com .
March 28	Cylburn in Spring, A Community Fair, 10am–2pm, The Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore
March 30, 31 and April 1	The District II Daffodil Show and Standard Flower Show. Please note new location at Historic Baldwin Hall, 1358 Millersville Road, Millersville MD 21108. For information, contact Liz Williams mliz.williams825@gmail.com .
April 20	Glen Arm Garden Club Fundraising Trip “Longwood Gardens Reimagined” Flyer Reservation Form
April 28	97th Annual Meeting, Turf Valley Conference Center, Ellicott City, MD. FGCMMD Judges Council will sponsor a flower show “Federated Garden Clubs of MD Celebrating 100 Years, Yesterday and Today (1926-2026)” Flower Show Information
April 28	Talbot County Garden Club Free Public Lecture: CECE HAYDOCK, landscape architect, presents “Edith Wharton and the Villas of Rome.” 11am, Talbot County Free Library, 100 W. Dover St., Easton. Info: Camille.Massie501@gmail.com .
May 4–6	NGC Convention, St. Louis MO, Hotel and Registration Information
May 9	Talbot County Garden Club’s Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage / Talbot County Tour will celebrate America’s 250 th Anniversary by showcasing the many significant historic sites in the county, including an array of houses, gardens and grounds rarely open to the public. Waterfront homes open to tour include Wye House (where Frederick Douglas lived in his youth) and Plimhimmon (where Anna Maria Tilghman, widow of Revolutionary War hero Lt. Col. Tench Tilghman, entertained the Marquis de Lafayette), plus Emerson Point (on the Miles River). The spectacular grounds of Harleigh Farm (on Trippe Creek) will also welcome visitors. Tours and lunch will be available at Third Haven Friends (Quaker) Meeting House (1684) in Easton, with drive-through tours of historic Oxford and St. Michaels. Purchase Tickets Here and get More Details Here . More Information
May 11	Garden Photography Zoom Workshop: <i>Harvest Your Best Shots</i> , 1:00pm: More Information
May 12	State Board Meeting hosted by District III.
May 16	Charles County House and Garden Tour: Founded in 1658 and named for Charles Calvert, the third Baron Baltimore, Charles County reflects Maryland’s colonial and religious heritage. Established as a haven for English Catholics seeking peace and coexistence, Charles County is home to St. Ignatius Church, the oldest Catholic parish in the United States. During the Revolutionary War, Charles County played a crucial role by providing troops and supplies to the patriotic spirit that helped shape a new nation. The Maryland House and Garden Tour features historic homes spanning colonial to revolutionary eras, set in a scenic rural landscape.
May 21	Judge Council Meeting: 10:00am at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 400 Benfield Road, Severna Park MD 21146.
June 13	Mountain Laurel Garden Club annual plant sale Glades Pavilion on Liberty Street, Oakland, Maryland, 9:00 am until sold out. For more information contact Barb Davis (babsldavis@att.net). More Information
June 18	District I Flower Show, The Packing House, 411-A Dorchester Ave., Cambridge, MD.
June 27	Mountain Laurel Garden Club annual garden tour is titled “Nurturing Nature and Trees by Accident”, featuring four exceptional gardens all located in Accident, Garrett County, Maryland. More information coming soon. More Information
September 8	State Board Meeting hosted by District IV.
September 24	Kent Island Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show, Kent Island Library, 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, MD.
October 7	District I Board Meeting, Location TBA
October 8	District V Semi-annual Meeting, Holly Hills Country Club
October 9	District II Semi-annual meeting; Comfort Inn; Bowie, MD
October 19-20	CAR-SGC Conference hosted by the Garden Club of Ohio (optional bus tour on 10/21). Holiday Inn Cleveland, Independence OH. More details to follow. Flyer
November 10	State Board Meeting hosted by District V

Upcoming Events *Continued**The Call***97th Annual Meeting Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland****Tuesday, April 28, 2026, Turf Valley Resort and Hotel**

All FGCMD members are invited to attend this year's State Annual Meeting, including an NGC Small Standard Flower Show titled **Celebrating 100 Years "Yesterday and Today (1926-2026)"** sponsored by **Judges Council**.

Registration..... 8:00 am - 11:45 am **located in the Lobby of the Hotel's Main Entrance**
 Vendor Shopping..... 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Business Meeting ... 9:30 am - 11:00 am
 Cash Bar..... 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
 Silent Auction..... 11:00 am - 12:45 pm
 Flower Show Viewing ... 11:00am - 2:15pm
 Luncheon..... 11:45am - 12:45 pm
 Program..... 1:00pm - 2:00 pm

We will present some State Awards at the Business Meeting, and additional ones at the luncheon meeting. District Awards will be presented at each District's Annual Meeting. At the Business Meeting, District Directors will present a three-minute report. Except for the Treasurer, all Officers and Chairmen are asked to submit written reports to the Recording Secretary. A request for oral report time must be submitted to the President by April 6th.

LUNCHEON MENU

Market Salad GS VG Mixed Greens, carrots, tomato, red onion, cucumber, balsamic vinaigrette Caprese
 stuffed balsamic chicken GS, sun-dried tomato, fresh basil leaves, mozzarella, asparagus, 4 cheese risotto
 Raspberry Cheesecake with graham cracker crust
Note: GS- Gluten Sensitive, VG-Vegan

PROGRAM

The luncheon program is: "Night Sounds of Mountain Maryland" featuring Kevin Dodge, Professor and Director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program at Garrett College in western Maryland. Kevin will present an entertaining and educational introduction to the different hoots, toots, peents, and peeps heard after sunset in the Central Appalachians. Weaving together facts, stories, and sounds, Kevin will recreate a night in the mountains of western Maryland.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS: Please send the following proposed Nominating Committee to your Club Presidents and request they read to their membership.

District I – Diana Bonner, Kent Island Garden Club, Chairman

District II – Paula Winkler, Charles County Garden Club

District III – Betty Reeves, Lutherville Garden Club

District IV – Mary Ann Thompson, Homeland Garden Club, Women's Club of Roland Park, Town and Country

GC District V – Linda Kangrga, Howard County Garden Club

Members At-Large – Christa Pusateri, Mt. Airy Garden Club, DV

– Renee Little, Naval Academy Garden Club, DII

A vote to accept the proposed Nominating Committee will be called for at the Business Meeting. **BUSINESS MEETING VOTING:** Only State Executive Board Members, Former State Presidents, current Club Presidents and one delegate per club chosen by the Club President are eligible to vote.

Other Upcoming Events

Talbot County Garden Club's 2026 Maryland House & Garden / Talbot County Tour Will Showcase County History



The Talbot County Garden Club (founded in 1917, with 120 members) recently kicked off planning for its **2026 Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage / Talbot County Tour**. The Tour, which invites visitors to explore notable private properties in the area, will take place the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend – **May 9, 2026**. Camille Massie and Louise Peterson co-chair the event.

"This Tour is being designed to deliver an extraordinary experience in **celebration of America's 250th Anniversary**, showcasing the many significant historic sites in our county," says Peterson.

"We'll feature an array of houses, gardens and grounds that are rarely open to the public. At each property, visitors can expect to see incredible floral displays creatively fashioned by the club's talented designers – a hallmark of this biennial event."

"To add to the day's experience, we will also direct visitors to drive by and discover the many historic landmarks in Oxford and St. Michaels (towns that were influential during the Revolutionary War) that tie together the day's route of discovery," says Massie. "Ultimately, the Club will be honored to use the proceeds generated by the Tour to help preserve the **Talbot Historical Society's Neall House** (c. 1804) in Easton."

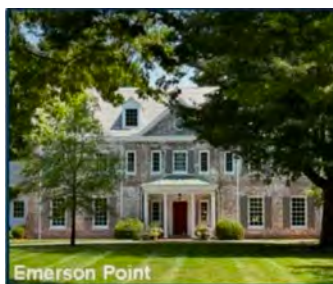
"There is truly something for everyone on this tour," adds Peterson.

Waterfront homes open to tour include **Wye House** (a 17th century National Historic Landmark with an 18th century house continuously occupied by 12 generations of the Lloyd family, including a Delegate to the Continental Congress, Governor, and U.S. and State Representatives); **Plimhimmon** (where Anna Maria Tilghman, widow of Revolutionary War hero Lt. Col. Tench Tilghman, entertained the Marquis de Lafayette); **Emerson Point** (graciously set on the Miles River); and the spectacular grounds of **Harleigh Farm** (on Trippe Creek).

"Mark your calendar for this highly anticipated event," says Eleanor Denegre, club president. "Talbot County is home to some of the most exquisite estates and historic properties in Maryland and is always a popular part of the statewide Pilgrimage. We feel truly grateful to the generous property owners who open their gates and enable us to share our rich history and beautiful landscapes with the many visitors who are sure to come and 'tour'."

Tours and a delicious lunch will be available at **Third Haven Friends (Quaker) Meeting House** (1684) in Easton.

Tour details and tickets are available at MHGP.org/talbotcounty.



Emerson Point



Wye House



Harleigh Farm



Plimhimmon

An Invitation to FGCMMD from Virginia Federated Garden Clubs (VFGC):

Come to our Convention 2026 – April 20–21 in Williamsburg, VA

Come and help us celebrate all that is Virginia – the 2026 convention promises to be filled with guided Garden Tours of the Colonial Era, including lunch at a historic tavern; a fantastic, invigorating design program presented by Francine Thomas – New Zealand's Designer of the year for 2025; opportunities to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution! Not to mention seeing old friends and meeting new friends.



“Virginia: Inspiring Past, Bright Future,” the theme for the 2026 convention, will be this and more. Our future will look different at this convention, more than at any other, so plan to come and experience the future, while honoring our past. What could be better than doing this in Williamsburg, Virginia?!

The featured floral designer, Francine Thomas, represented New Zealand on stage with a fantastic floral display at the World Flower Show in Ireland; she has travelled throughout New Zealand and all-around Australia, Wales, and Great Britain. In the USA, she has demonstrated, taught and judged from Rhode Island to Orlando. Francine won New Zealand Floral Art Designer of the Year for 2025, as well as Australian Designer of the Year 2018 and 2022.

Check the VFGC website (<https://viriniagardenclubs.org/annual-convention/>) for registration details.



Reminder from NGC President Donna Donnelly: Join NGC to access member resources.

Please go to the **NGC website** to create an account:
<http://www.gardenclub.org/>

- Click on **Member Login** (upper right).
- Then click on “Create account” at the bottom of the login page.
- NGC will send you an email link to create a password.
- Once you have saved your password, you will be able to click on **Member Section** to see the following links:



Plant America for the next 100 years!

Member Resources & Forms

The National Gardener

Administrative Forms

Board Directory

Brand Guide & Disclaimers

Financial Reports

Golden Circle

Meeting Minutes

2025 Award Winners



2025-
2027



**Director's Theme
for the
Central Atlantic Region-
State Garden Clubs
(CAR-SGC):**

**Plant America:
Gardening for a
Healthy Mind, Body
and Soul**



The FGCMMD **President's Project** is inviting you to submit your applications for a
“Be a Steward of the Earth” grant.

[Click here for Garden Club Grant Application and Instructions](#)

[Click here for Donation Card](#)

[Healthy Planet Pledge for Individuals Download Here](#)

[Healthy Planet Pledge for Garden Clubs Download Here](#)

The deadline for the spring award is
February 28, 2026 (awarded in March).



Support our FGCMMD Scholarship Fund ... and become a Life Member!

Life Memberships may be purchased for \$75 per individual. Proceeds go entirely to the FGCMMD 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/

Download PDF: [State Life Membership Application](#)



Longwood Gardens Trip Registration Form

GLEN ARM GARDEN CLUB 2026 FUNDRAISING TRIP

"LONGWOOD GARDENS REIMAGINED"

Monday, April 20, 2026

RESERVATION FORM

Please Note: Each person must submit a completed Reservation Form by March 20, 2026. Multiple seats may be paid for with one check. Your check is your receipt.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED FOR ANY REASON AFTER MARCH 20, 2026.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ EMail* _____

Boarding Location (please select **ONE**):

____ Towson UMC

____ Abingdon Park 'n Ride.

In case of emergency, notify: _____ (name/relationship)

_____ (phone number)

Lunch Entrée (Please choose **one** - includes drink and dessert):

____ Quiche Lorraine

____ Chicken Caprese Sandwich

____ Buckley's Burger

____ Crab Cobb Salad

Please select **one**:

____ Longwood Membership

Enclosed is \$151

____ **NO** Longwood Membership

Enclosed is \$175

Please mail your completed Reservation Form with your check, in the amount you selected above to arrive by March 20, 2026, made payable to Glen Arm Garden Club to:

Questions? Please call:

Mary Carol Bruff
15 Hillside Avenue
Towson, MD 21286

Mary Carol Bruff 443-823-9371
Vicki Uzarowski 443-226-269

** By providing Glen Arm Garden Club with your email address, you help our non-profit organization keep our mailing costs down. We will never share or sell your personal information, and will only use your email address to let you know about upcoming events.*

