



GARDENEWS

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Be a Steward of the Earth

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

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CLUB SUBMISSION

DEADLINES:

February Issue – January 10

July Issue – June 10

November Issue – October 10

GARDENEWS

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FGCMD PRESIDENT: DONNA MILLER

President's Message

Since our last issue, spring did indeed arrive, and oh boy, has it been a busy one! Not only did I travel the state and meet many of you at your District meetings and at our FGCMMD Annual Meeting at Turf Valley, but I also traveled to St. Louis for the National Garden Club's (NGC) Annual Conference in May. There was a fantastic Patriotic Petite Flower Show, "America, The Beautiful" to enjoy, and many **educational displays** and enjoyable workshops and programs were provided. They covered Therapeutic Horticulture, Native Orchids, The Missouri Prairie Foundation, and the Gateway Arch Park Foundation. All state presidents met and had productive discussions on many issues.



Anna O'Kelly, State Treasurer (left) and Carolyn Braverman, Former FGCMMD State President and CAR-SGC Secretary.



Floral Designs at NGC Flower Show. All photos by Donna Miller.

Our clubs have been busy as well. Three President's Project Grants were awarded this spring to Kent Island, Bolton Hill, and Crossroads GCs to assist in their efforts in sustainable gardening and environmental education. The deadline to apply for the next round of **President's Project** *Be a Steward of the Earth* grant is quickly approaching. Submit applications by **August 31**. Any approved grants will be awarded in October. The link to the **application form and instructions** can be found on our website www.fgcofmd.org.

Plans for the next CAR-SGC 2026 Conference in Independence, OH have been finalized. There will be a Petite Design Specialty Flower Show titled "The Beat Goes On" with a very rock-and-roll theme, programs on the Northern Saw-Whet Owl, Conservation at The Wilds, seminars on Native Trees and Ozone Gardens, an optional bus trip to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame/Edgewater Park/Lakeview Cemetery and much more! Here is the link to access the full schedule of events, hotel information, and registration (early-bird registration ends **July 20**):

[2026 CONFERENCE | car-sgc](#)

Happy Gardening!

The Mission of FGCMMD, 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.

July 2026 Gardenews In This Issue

1: President's Message

(NGC) Annual
Conference

President's Project August 31 Deadline

CAR-SGC 2026 Conference,
Independence, OH



3: District News

District I Page 3

District II Page 8

District III Page 13

District V Page 15



20: Committee News

Awards

Conservation and
Environmental
Awareness



21: Council News

Landscape Design
School Course 3



22: The Gardens of Maryland Photo Gallery



24: Upcoming FGCMMD Events

The Calendar

26: Other Events

Educational Display at the NGC Conference

Moonflower GC Field Trip Registration



"OHIO - The Heart of it All"
2026 CAR-SGC Conference

Holiday Inn Cleveland
8001 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131
216-524-8550

Come join us as we learn what our Ohio CAR-SGC Conference has to offer. There will be great information everyone can take home and apply in their own gardens and communities!

For example, you will learn the importance of an ozone garden, the plant kingdom's color palette, and the amazing reclamation of an abandoned strip!

The Ohio Judges Council will also be sponsoring a Petite Design Specialty Flower Show at this conference. Please be sure to look for the details about this show as we are sure each of our seven CAR-SGC states will want to participate!

And of course, what would a CAR conference be without a bus tour? Ours will feature a trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the historic Lakeview Cemetery, long known for its beautiful garden landscapes and monuments including the President James A Garfield Memorial.

If you want to give yourself a few more days to explore our town, please be sure to click the "Places of Interest" link below.

So please make your plans to be with us on
October 18 - 21, 2026 in

"Ohio - The Heart of it All"

[CAR-SGC 2026 CONFERENCE](#)

[Register](#) [Programs](#) [Agenda](#) [Flower Show](#)



"OHIO - The Heart of it All"
2026 CAR-SGC Conference
Schedule

Holiday Inn Cleveland
8001 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131
216-524-8550

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, October 18, 2026	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	Flower Show set-up	Ballroom 2
	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Lobby
	3:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Flower Show entries received	Ballroom 2
	5:30 pm	Leadership Dinner (Invitation Only)	TBA
Monday, October 19, 2026	7:00 am - 8:30 am	Flower Show Entries Received	Ballroom 2
	8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Registration Open	Ballroom Lobby
	8:00 am - 7:00 pm	Vendors Open	Ballroom 1
	9:00 am - 11:00 am	Flower Show Judging	Ballroom 2
	9:15 am - 10:00 am	Finance Committee Meeting	Broadview Hts. Room
	10:00 am - 10:45 am	Executive Committee Meeting	Broadview Hts. Room
	11:00 am - 7:00 pm	Flower Show Open	Ballroom 2
	11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Seminar: "Native Tree Workshop", Presenter: Jennifer Shaffer	Broadview Hts. Room
	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Lunch and Program: "Northern Saw-Whet Owl", "The Cutest Owl You'll Ever Meet"	Ballrooms 3 & 4
		Presenters: Bill Beatty & Jan Runyan	
	2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	Board Meeting	Broadview Hts. Room
	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Seminar: "Ozone Gardens", Presenter: Jennifer Fenderbosch	Broadview Hts. Room
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Cocktail Hour	Ballroom Lobby	
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Dinner and Program: "Natural Ohio Through The Lens"	Ballrooms 3 & 4	
	Presenter: Jim McCormac		
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration Open	Hotel Lobby
	8:00 am - 7:00 pm	Vendors Open	Ballroom 1
	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Flower Show Open	Ballroom 2
	8:00 am - 9:00 am	Breakfast Buffet	Ballroom Lobby
	9:00 am - 9:45 am	Roundtable Discussions	Ballrooms 3 & 4
	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	General Session	Broadview Hts. Room
	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Lunch and Program and Raffle Drawings	
		"The Good, The Bad & The Hungry"	Ballrooms 3 & 4
		Presenter: Marne Titchner	
	3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Seminar: "Nature's Palette: The Plant Kingdom", Presenter: Beryl Prusnoski	Ballrooms 3 & 4
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Cocktail Hour	Broadview Hts. Room	
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Dinner and Program: "Conservation at the Wilds"	Ballroom Lobby	
	Presenter: Dr. Joe Greethouse		
Wednesday, October 21, 2026		Optional Tour, Details to Follow	Ballrooms 3 & 4

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

View the Latest Issue of *The National Gardener*

THE NATIONAL GARDENER
2026 SUMMER ISSUE
VOLUME 100, NUMBER 3

4TH OF JULY

Celebrating 250 Years



SCAN ME
QR Code

[NGC 2026 Convention Recap](#)
[Delightful Native Wildflowers](#)
[Experimental Gardener](#)
[Gardening for Native Birds](#)

In case you missed it...Spring 2026 National Gardener

THE NATIONAL GARDENER
2026 SPRING ISSUE
VOLUME 99, NUMBER 2

SCAN ME
QR Code

Ohio Council of Nationally Accredited
Flower Show Judges
Presents

"The Beat Goes On..."
A Petite Design Specialty Flower Show
October 19-20, 2026
Monday 11:00 am - 7:00 pm
Tuesday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Holiday Inn Cleveland S.
8001 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131
216-524-8550

Free & Open to
the Public

CAR-SGC Review
Spring 2026

CAR Review

From the Director:
Thank you for a healthy
March, April and May!

From the Editor:
Thank you for a healthy
June, July and August!

DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICT I: ANN STREET, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Annes, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester Counties

DISTRICT I DIRECTOR'S NOTES



District I proudly presented its biennial National Garden Club (NGC) Standard Flower Show, Celebrating Maryland's Eastern Shore, on June 18 at The Packing House in Cambridge, Maryland. The event was a tremendous success, attracting more than 600 visitors who came to enjoy the beauty, creativity, and educational value of our outstanding show.



Design Excellence
Award: Shelly Johnson,
GWGC

The show featured five divisions: Horticulture, Design, Education, Botanical Arts, Youth, and Photography. A total of 253 horticulture exhibits highlighted the remarkable diversity and beauty of plants grown throughout the region. Floral designs showcased exceptional artistry, imagination, and skill, while the educational and photography exhibits captured the rich heritage, natural beauty, and unique character of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Top honors were awarded to Julia Miller of Talbot County Garden Club (TCGC), who received the NGC Award of Horticulture Excellence, and Shelly Johnson of Green-Walled Garden Club (GWGC) (District V), who earned the NGC Award of Design Excellence. In addition to other NGC top exhibitor awards, District I presented 10 perpetual awards recognizing outstanding achievements in horticulture and design.

Success of this event was made possible through the dedication of countless volunteers, exhibitors committee members, judges and supporters. Their hard work and enthusiasm created an unforgettable experience for both participants and visitors, making Celebrating Maryland's Eastern Shore a truly memorable showcase of gardening excellence and community spirit.



Horticulture
Excellence Award:
Julia Miller, TCGC

Chestertown Garden Club: Secethia Boardley-Davis, Club President



Debra Silberg at Earth Day
Event

In celebration of Earth Month, Janet Davis of Hill House Farm and Nursery in Castleton Virginia presented "Birds, Bugs, and Blooms: The Harmony of a Native Garden." Members and guests were shopped for beautiful native plants before and after the presentation. Over 100 participants attended. Native plants and their importance are truly all the "buzz" here in Chestertown.

May brought our annual May Mart Fundraiser. The bell rang at 9:00am, sharp! Members of the community who were in line at 8:30am came in with smiles and chatter as they shopped for plants, baked goods and garden accessories.

May 15, members gathered in the backyard of member and Horticulturist Maggie Gray to learn the art of making Hypertufa planters. We waited a couple of days for the planters to set and dry. Then, it was pickup time, and all went home with smiles of their beautiful planter. We can't wait for Hypertufa 102.

Memorial Day, the Garden Club joined the town's celebration by providing red geraniums to lay at the memorials in Memorial Park.



The gathering at Deb Silberg's

The early evening hours were gorgeous on Tuesday, June 9. Members and guests gathered at the home of Deb Silberg for a tour of her new native plant garden and a lovely plant exchange. You came with one or two and left with something unique that you may not have had. Guests enjoyed listening to beautiful Classical, Brazilian and Spanish guitar music by Tom Rohde. His music added to the breathtaking event.

The Parks Committee decorated Fountain Park with planters of red, white and purple flowers in preparation for America's 250th birthday. To honor our 95th Anniversary, we gathered June 23 wearing our best garden hats. Our Parks Committee gave tours of Fountain and Memorial Park, followed by an ice cream social.



Karin Cowperthwait, Connie Schroth,
Cynthia Hoffman



Fountain Park 250th Decorations

District I Continued

Dorchester Garden Club: Sandy Lucas, Club President

Dorchester Garden Club has been busy for the last few months! For our field trip to **Chanticleer Gardens** on May 14, we had beautiful weather. One thing that we noted was the idea of planting vegetables alongside flowers especially in the containers: The plants were not only pretty, but edible too! If you have never been to Chanticleer Gardens, this is one that you need to put on your "must see" list.



Magnolia Planted at
Dorchester County
Courthouse

Dorchester Garden Club just recently celebrated our 95th Anniversary. To commemorate such an important milestone, we planted a Sweet Bay Magnolia at the Dorchester County Courthouse. This was a joint effort by our club, Amy Craig, Dorchester County Clerk of Courts and Shore Rivers.

Dorchester Garden Club Youth Gardening program meets every other week with the After School Program children at the YMCA in Cambridge. Each time they meet, the children have a lesson, a demonstration or craft and a snack. They have their own beautiful flower and vegetable gardens outside the Y in raised bed containers. The children maintain and harvest the vegetables to take home to their family. Produce is also available for the community to pick. The group recently had a lesson on different kinds of lettuce and were able to taste them and then plant some lettuce seeds.

On June 12, the club held our annual picnic at the gorgeous home of Fran Collins. It was a potluck lunch with many delicious dishes and a special cocktail! Our annual awards were given out at this time.



Chanticleer Gardens, Wayne, PA



Joan Johnson, Ledum Cup for Horticulture &
Anne Dremluk, Tawes Bowl for Design

Every month our club holds a Mini Flower Show, and the winners in each division are those who have accumulated the most points from the previous year's shows in specific categories. Joan P. Johnson won the Ledum Cup for Horticulture, Anne Dremluk won the Tawes Bowl for Design, and Helen Saum won the Kathryn C. Holdt Rosa Cup for roses. Our Perennial Bloom Award winner this year was Sue Jones. The Perennial Bloom Award goes to club a member who has served their club with their time, enthusiasm, a "can do" attitude and is the person you can count on to help!



Helen Saum, Kathryn C.
Holdt Rosa Cup



Sue Jones, Perennial
Bloom Award

Four Seasons Garden Club: Frances Follmer, Club President

Frances Follmer & Anne Heavner

One of the goals of the Four Seasons Garden Club has been to be more visible in our community. May 21, the Club participated in Salisbury's Third Friday event. We had a table featuring hand-painted flowerpots that were for sale. Members who claimed not to have artistic talents sealed the pots, and members with artistic skills painted lovely flowers on them. Ann Street, Anne Heavner, Marilyn Booth and Frances Follmer staffed the table.

On June 6, the home of Four Seasons new member, Stacey Weisner, was a stop on the Pollinator Garden Tour presented by the Lower Shore Land Trust. The new Pollinator Garden that Stacey and her husband, Mike, have created at Hidden Cottage was featured along with their lovely landscaped yard. Four Seasons members were docents for the tour.



Stacey Weisner, Frances Follmer,
Marilyn Booth, Nancy Craft



New Four Seasons
Brochure

At both Third Friday and the Pollinator Tour, the Club had a new brochure, designed by President Frances Follmer, on hand to give to interested persons.



Anne Heavner and friend
at Blind Industries

On June 10, Anne Heavner, Karen Butler-Shifflett, and Frances Follmer worked at the Blind Industries, which has been an on-going project for many years. Members work one-on-one with clients weeding and putting in new plants. We never know how many clients will be available on a day-to-day basis.

June 1 was the date of the Four Seasons Annual Picnic and Plant Auction. The featured plants are taken from members' gardens. Stacey Weisner hosted the event at her lovely home. Following tradition, Anne Heavner was the auctioneer. And it seems a new tradition is being instituted: Nancy Craft, again, received the Due Holland Trophy for winning the most Blue Ribbons at our Monthly Horticulture Challenges.



Weisner Pollinator Garden



Four Seasons Annual Picnic at Weisner's

District I Continued

Kent Island Garden Club: Bobbie Bell, Club President

Residents Planting at Queenstown Landing Assisted Living

Left and Right: At Garden Therapy Queenstown Landing Assisted Living: Mid-March, preparing and planting raised boxes in the courtyard, adding iris, seedlings and seeds. We returned in June to fill in spots with red, white and blue flowers!

Below: Creating centerpieces on May 1 for the 15th annual Talisman Therapeutic Riding Center's Derby Day, May 2 – one of our favorite community activities!



Barbara Russell and Linda Rzepkowski Crafting Centerpieces



Linda Rzepkowski, Mary-Helen Riser, Ellen Rice, Linda Elias, Diana Saquella



Barbara Russell, Linda Rzepkowski, Bobbie Bell, club friend, Mary-Helen Riser, Diana Saquella



Linda Elias and Resident Planting Raised Beds at Queenstown Landing Assisted Living



Left: At the Gold Star Marker in Stevensville, MD....

Patriotic Planting for Memorial Day

Pictured (L-R): Linda Rzepkowski, Ellen Rice, Bobbie Bell,

Linda Elias, Judy Tucker, Mary Helen Riser

**Oxford Garden Club: Sandy Wrightson, Club President**

Floral Design for Chesapeake Music

Spring has been an extremely busy season for the Oxford Garden Club. In addition to our usual schedule of interesting and educational programs, we have supported the community through many activities.

Notably, we created floral designs for two organizations' events: the 42nd Oxford Fine Arts Fair, May 15–17, and the Chesapeake Music Festival, June 12–20.

One very fun day for the Oxford Community (roughly 700 residents) is Oxford Day, usually the last Saturday in April. This year was no exception... a wonderful old-fashioned parade, fun dog shows, face painting for kids, food vendor, Oxford Library Book



Susie Middleton's Design for Fine Arts Fair

Sale and vendors in the park! A tradition unlike no other for OGC is the Surrey ride in the parade....



Floral Arrangement for the Memorial Day Observance

Melinda Hudson, OGC member, organized activities that educated the public on the benefits of controlling mosquitoes with "Buckets of Doom," a more environmentally friendly approach than spraying pesticides.

One of the more significant traditions of the OGC is the Memorial Day Observance at the Oxford Blue Star Road Marker. Dorothy Williams, OGC member, organizes the event with several speakers, a color guard and a bagpiper... It is a very solemn occasion that attracts many from the community.

We are so incredibly proud of our new members that accepted the challenge to enter the District I Flower Show, June 18! Some of our new members had never been to a Flower Show... but true talent came through this group winning the Vignette Design! (Lisa Smith, Susan Pijawka, Carolyn Nguyen, Carolyn Roberts and Kelly Steele).



Melinda Hudson and her "Bucket of Doom"

Left: three of the winners of the Vignette Design at the District I Flower Show: Susan Pijawka, Lisa Smith, Carolyn Nguyen, (Susan Pijawka, Carolyn Roberts and Kelly Steele not shown)

District I Continued

Queen Anne's County Garden Club: Robin Lanham, Club President

Who doesn't like a Plant Sale? ... Saturday, April 25 was the time for the Queen Anne's County Garden Club (QACGC) Spring Bazaar—a fun and profitable Plant sale!

On May 8, the Queen Anne's County Garden Club (QACGC) adorned the county seat of Centreville with flowers and greens for the summer. We have a watering schedule to ensure that the town looks beautiful throughout the summer.

On May 15, QACGC named Alana VanOrnum of Kent Island High School (KIHS) as its 2026 scholarship recipient (\$1,500). Alana plans to attend Virginia Tech to study industrial engineering and environmental science. In her



essay, Alana wrote the following:

"By combining my studies in industrial engineering, design, and environmental science, I hope to create products that reduce plastic pollution and limit waste while supporting healthier ecosystems and communities. I want to use my education to create solutions that support both people and the planet, and I am committed to building a future where sustainability is not an afterthought, but a priority."

Alana received her scholarship certificate at the KIHS Senior Awards Night.

In June, we toured the Jan Kirsh Studio in Bozman, MD. Jan is a renowned garden designer and creator of beautiful vegetable and fruit hardscapes. Inspired by the natural world, she has been creating artful spaces for over 30 years. Her creations include fruit- and vegetable-inspired sculpture, wearable art, and new art screens that combine her multiple passions of art and landscape design. During our tour of her art studio and her garden, we enjoyed her unique design ideas and plants.

Somerset County Garden Club: Kathy Henderson, Club President

Students prepared seedlings for the Spring Greenhouse Sale.

In April, six members of the SCGC enjoyed a warm welcome during a visit to the Horticulture Program at Somerset County Technical High School. On that day, students were busy transplanting seedlings into larger containers in preparation for their Spring Greenhouse Sale featuring vegetables, fruits, herbs and hanging baskets.

The sale was open to the public throughout May and June. The SCGC proudly supports the Somerset Technical High School program through an annual grant that helps the school provide hands-on career training in plant sciences, greenhouse management, and landscape design.

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday – The FGCMMD 2026 Spring Horticulture Report provided guidance on celebrating America 250: Following the recipe,

we used Geranium for the red, Angelonia for the white, and Convolvulus for the blue flowers in two large street planters we placed in front of the historic Washington Hotel (est. 1744) in Princess Anne.

You could hear plenty of oohs and aahs on Saturday morning, June 13 as members arrived with their horticulture exhibits for our *Sunshine Celebration* flower show at the Washington Hotel/Sugar Water restaurant in Princess Anne, MD. We were delighted to display 105 horticulture exhibits and a design exhibit along with two educational exhibits. It was a fun and rewarding day for everyone involved.



L-R: Karen Brimer; Bethany Davis, Program Instructor; Mary Fleury



Horticulture Exhibits



Educational Exhibit



Design Exhibit

*District I Continued***Talbot County Garden Club: Eleanor Denegre, Club President**

2026 Spring activities for TCGC continued to see members sprucing up the four main gardens we maintain throughout the year; Youth Garden Projects, Inclusive Gardening programs for adults with Alzheimer's, dementia or developmentally challenged; the Spring Native Plant Sale; Horticulture programs and workshops; and much more.



Historical Society Garden



Fairy Garden



Spring Plants for Sale

At the same time, preparations were being made for the two major events of the year: the 2026 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage and the District I Flower Show hosted by TCGC. These events take tremendous planning, well over a year, involving almost every member of TCGC; thankfully, both events were spectacular.

The Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage on May 9 showcased the many significant historic sites in our county to deliver an extraordinary experience in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary. Each property featured an array of houses, gardens and grounds that are rarely open to the public. At each property, visitors saw incredible floral displays creatively fashioned by the club's talented designers – a hallmark of this biennial event. Waterfront homes opened to tour included 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) also welcomed visitors. Tours and lunch were available at Third Haven Friends (Quaker) Meeting House (1684) in Easton. The success of this tour is not always registered by the number of visitors (this year we had over 1,800), but by the smiles on our guests faces, the interest in the history of the properties, and the compliments on the extraordinary floral designs of our members.



District I Standard Flower Show Team

On June 18, after more than a year of planning, the District I NGC Standard Flower Show hosted by TCGC was held at The Packing House in Cambridge. The Chairman of the show was Boots Michalak, TCGC Member and Accredited Flower Show Judge; her co-chair was Susan Fletcher, President of Worcester County Garden Club.

The Show included Divisions for Horticulture, Design, Education, Youth, Botanical Arts, and a special Horticulture Challenge Class. The Horticulture Division had a total of 233 exhibits from 43 exhibitors. All 56 blue ribbons were awarded and all top NGC Award Rosettes offered were placed. Horticulture winners included Julia Miller, Kim Helfgott, Harriett Slaughter, Susie Middleton, and Pam Keeton.

It was truly a remarkable display of horticulture! All nine Design classes were filled with spectacular exhibits, ranging from Parallel design, Miniatures, creative designs including Reflective, Cascade, and Petite Creative...and more. Three of our Design Winners:



Tray Design by Maribeth Lane



Petite Design by Kim Helfgott



Young Gardeners Design

*District I Continued***Worcester County Garden Club: Susan Fletcher, Club President**

Each year, the Worcester County Garden Club awards the Mary Ann Royal Award to a member for outstanding contributions to the Club. The 2026 award was presented by former award recipients to Sue Ann Hudson. Sue Ann holds a degree in Floral Design and has many years of experience teaching at community college plus owning her own Floral Shop.

Sue Ann used her considerable flower and horticulture design skills for several club projects and programs. Her contributions include chairing the Garden Therapy program and planning activities at an extended care facility for seniors in Berlin, MD; designing our club's State Christmas tree; making Wreaths for Worcester County patriotic programs and teaching club members how to make bows for wreaths and arrangements.



L-R: Jan King, Suse Anne Hudson, Pat Arata, Martha Bennett

Joan La Hayne reading *Save the Seeds* to the students

During the school year 2025–2026, Joan LaHayne, Chair, and Rebecca Galyon, Co-Chair of WCGC Youth Programs partnered with Costal Bays Environmental Education Programs to teach classroom lessons to Snow Hill Elementary Kindergarteners. The lessons were based on the book, *Save the Seeds* by Kathy Bingham Powell. This has been a winner with the students as well as meeting the school's curriculum standards.

WCGC Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Sandy Buchanan, has secured a partnership with Salisbury University to create a future endowment to be used for Salsbury University students studying specific environmental/Horticultural majors. WCGC's goal is to raise \$12,000 for scholarships though club fund raising and financial support from William and Alex Daugherty, owners of Gull Creek Senior Living Center. WCGC provides Garden Therapy to Gull Creek Seniors.



L-R: Joan LaHayne, Rebecca Galyon, Lisa Bunting, Shirley Kelly

DISTRICT II: LAURA SPOERI, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St Mary's Counties

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The long-awaited Alice Rush McKeon tree planting coordinated by District II took place June 15, 2026. The trees were planted at the Lake Shore Athletic Complex in Pasadena, MD in Anne Arundel County.

On a beautiful, breezy, and sun-kissed day, an appreciative group gathered to dedicate the nine trees planted at strategic locations throughout the park. Native trees were selected and installed by a local contractor. The district members were assisted in the project by Anne Arundel County Forestry Planner in coordinating the selection of the specimens and the Chief of Park Operations in securing the site and specific planting locations within the park. County Recreation and Parks staff will keep the trees watered throughout the summer.

A brief ceremony with remarks from District II Director Laura Spoeri was conducted. The remarks included information about NGC, FGCMMD, and District II as well as background about Alice Rush McKeon and the legacy she left through funds for trees. FGCMMD State President Donna Miller shared a reading of the poem *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer.

The ceremony was conducted at the park pavilion before moving to one of the newly planted trees for a symbolic turning of the spades. District members were most appreciative of the professional staff who actually planted the trees.

Four FGCMMD past presidents attended the event as well as FGCMMD members from District II and other districts. It was a beautiful morning, and the district looks forward to watching the trees grow and flourish. Many children of District II members compete in athletic events at the complex, so keeping a keen eye out on "our" trees will be an added benefit to cheering on their children.

It was a joy to continue the tradition of the Alice Rush McKeon legacy.



Alice Rush McKeon tree planting coordinated by District II, June 15. at Lake Shore Athletic Complex in Pasadena, MD

*District II Continued***Bayside Bloomers Garden Club: Susie Johnson, Club President**

The Bayside Bloomers Garden Club is delighted to report that it is blooming in more ways than one. Membership has grown by an impressive 40% over the past several months, a reflection of the club's vibrant programs, engaging activities, and welcoming spirit.

Throughout the winter, members enjoyed educational programs designed to inspire and inform. A horticulture expert and Master Gardener from the University of Maryland Extension shared insights on beneficial insects, helping gardeners identify both garden friends and foes. Another meeting focused on gardener wellness, as a Registered Nurse and personal trainer demonstrated safe movement techniques before, during, and after gardening, along with tips on ergonomics, reducing soreness, and practicing off-season self-care.

Spring brought even more excitement as members explored the beauty and versatility of edible flowers—complete with delicious recipe samples. Members also enjoyed several memorable field trips, including a guided tour of **Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens**.



Field Trip with David Culp and his gardens in PA

The club's final official meeting of the season took place at **Beaver Creek Cottage Garden**, a unique forest garden filled with an extraordinary collection of trees, flowers, and shrubs. The gathering concluded with members creating beautiful spring planters to take home.

The capstone to the 10th anniversary celebration year was a visit to Brandywine Cottage, the beloved two-acre garden of renowned gardener **David Culp**. Members also toured **Bondsville Mill Park**, a 47-acre property being transformed into both a nature preserve and historic destination.



Field Trip to Hillwood Gardens

It has truly been a flourishing year for Bayside Bloomers, with members continuing to grow friendships, knowledge, and a shared love of gardening!

Calvert County Garden Club: Anne Watson, Club President

Calvert Garden Club's annual Books in Bloom has spread its wings! We have expanded this wonderful event featuring floral arrangements inspired by books. Our fellow designers from Chesapeake Garden Club joined us featuring arrangements at the Deale Library.

Our club is on a roll, following Books in Bloom with our Annual Plant Sale at the end of April. Although the day was not the sunniest we have ever had—it was a little damp and cool—it was our highest profit sale ever!

Up next is our annual and much anticipated, Art Blooms at **Annamarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center**, Solomons, MD, August 7–9, 2026. The event features floral designs inspired by works of art displayed in **two themed exhibits in the galleries of Annmarie**: "Landmark: Iconic American Views" (May 8–September 20) and "Winging it: Birds in Art" (June 5–August 23). Here are samples from last year's event:



Art from the 2025 Annmarie Exhibit by FCGMD Garden Club Members (L-R) Ingrid Swann, St. Mary's Co. GC; Anna O'Kelly, Crofton Greenery GC; Mary Lilly, Charles Co.

Installation day for floral designers is August 6. Please call, text (443-975-1373), or email Joyce Fletcher (joycereynhoudt@gmail.com) to sign up as a floral designer and get more info. We hope you will join us as a designer and/or attend this wonderful event 8/7–9!

Chartwell Garden Club: *Liz Williams, Club President*



100 Gift Bags for Visitors to the Chartwell GC Spring Fling

Chartwell Garden Club was invited to participate in a “Spring Fling” sponsored by Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. The goal was to give residents an opportunity to learn about non-profit organizations in the Severna Park area.

Club members prepared 100 gift bags that included a pack of seeds, a small plant, and a brochure describing our club activities. Washable tattoos with flowers and bugs were popular with the kids – and some adults!

We had an immediate response from someone who liked what she read in the brochure. Unfortunately, she works during the day. We were able to refer her to one of our District II clubs that meets at night.

We plan to use the same format we used for the Spring Fling at our Fall Festival in October.

Chesapeake Garden Club: *Debbie Nisson, Club President*

The Chesapeake Garden Club (CGC) continued their liaison with Fairview Library with an April workshop. Attendees learned how to create a May basket and how to transition planters using a variety of plants. Judy MacWilliams and Kay Parris presented a PowerPoint presentation that covered the ins and outs of planters! CGC members worked with children to create their own May baskets using dried materials, cupcake holders, wallpaper sheets, and tissue paper. Many compliments came our way from parents and children.

In May, the CGC held their most successful plant sale ever on the grounds of Fairview Library in Owings! Many months of planning and hard work paid off. The CGC used a new method of identifying plants and showing them to customers. Inside the Library, a garden room featured decorative items for both inside and outside one's home. Many hands made light work, and it showed!”



CGC Plant Sale, Fairview Library, Owings, MD

During our May meeting, CGC awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Hannah Heavener graduating from Huntingtown High School. Hannah is going to Penn State to study Environmental Systems Engineering.

And our guest speaker Kathleen Litchfield, owner of Petro Design / Group enlightened all on storm water management and being a watershed steward.

In June, along with Fairview Library, CGC paid tribute to America's 250th Birthday by holding a workshop – “Red, White, and Bloom” that focused on making fresh flower arrangements, wreaths, and containers for the celebration! Happy Birthday America!



Judy MacWilliams



Hannah Heavener,
Ruthie Lewis (CGC)

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



The Hollyberry Garden Club enjoyed a busy and rewarding spring season filled with creativity, learning, and community engagement.

Our annual fundraiser featured a colorful selection of *Caladiums*, offering members and supporters popular varieties which included Carolyn Whorton, Tapestry, Candidum and Frog in a Blender.

Monthly meetings provided opportunities for both education and hands-on activities. Members created decorative flowerpot jewelry using beads and crystals and enjoyed a presentation demonstrating how everyday household items, such as pasta jars and teacups, can be transformed into unique and charming floral arrangements.

A highlight of the season was participating in the May Day “Books in Bloom” display at the Severna Park Library. Members designed imaginative floral interpretations of selected books, bringing literature to life through flowers and artistic expression. Featured displays were inspired by *The Shell Seekers* and *Every Day with Babs*.



The club was excited to celebrate its 70th anniversary in early June. We look forward to honoring our rich history, recognizing our accomplishments, and continuing our tradition of friendship, gardening, and community service.

District II *Continued***Moonflower Garden Club: Jackie Richter, Club President**

The Moonflower Garden Club has had several highly educational speakers this year. In January, Justin Schmitz, Director of Horticulture, spoke about the gardens and decisions surrounding the maintenance of the gardens at Historic London Town & Gardens. Alex Shy, arborist with Shy Tree Arboricultural Services, discussed tree diseases and insect pests. He went into how to prevent these diseases and pests as well as how to treat them and the general care of trees.

As part of our service to the greater community, we painted and hung birdhouses at our church meeting location along the trail to the lake. The Hatton Register garden area that is maintained by the Moonflowers suffered damage when a large rock was thrown into the pond and the liner was torn. The pond is now empty. The club is awaiting the decision of the AA Trails group to decide how to proceed.

In May, Bodkin Elementary School held its 17th Annual Environmental Fair. The Moonflowers sold planters and worked with the children attending to create an arrangement that they could give to their mothers for Mother's Day. With the guidance of the club members, the children learned about floral design and about the plants that they used in the arrangements. These arrangements were free for the children. The project was so popular that we ran out of supplies! We will plan for greater numbers next year.



Making the perfect arrangement for Mom at Bodkin Elementary Environmental Fair!

Moonflower Field Trip to Christmas Spectacular: The club is excited to announce plans to visit Radio City Music Hall for the Christmas Spectacular, **November 18**. We will travel by bus from Arundel Mills and White Marsh. The timeline will be emailed to club members who register.



So that the club can purchase your tickets before the hustle and bustle of the holidays, send us a separate registration form for each person planning to attend at this link:



If we get enough registrations, we will take two buses. We have several movies, games, contests, and raffles that come with door prizes and will entertain everyone. We will have a 50/50 raffle that can potentially give the winner the cost of their ticket back. Our lunch will be fabulous, and we provide a happy hour on the way home as well. Dinner is on the attendee.

Excursion Details We'll visit Bryant Park Christmas Market (officially the Holiday Shops at the Bank of America Winter Village), which is a highly popular European-style, open-air market located in Manhattan between 40th and 42nd Streets and 5th and 6th Avenues. The market features over 180 custom-designed "jewel box" kiosks offering artisan gifts, local crafts, and diverse international foods. The village is free to enter, with additional attractions including bumper cars, dining at The Lodge, and a 17,000-square-foot ice-skating rink. (Unfortunately, there will not be enough time for ice skating.)

On the way out of town, we will drive past Macy's flagship Herald Square store in Manhattan (Broadway & 34th St.) so you can view Macy's iconic holiday window displays from the bus. Macy's holiday window displays debut in mid-November (usually the week before Thanksgiving). While the Rockefeller Square tree will not be lit, we will drive past it.

Spouses are joining the trip making the day a memory for the couple. What a great way to give someone a gift of your time, your presence and a lasting memory. It is an ideal gift for some of those hard-to-shop-for loved ones or those Christmas-crazy people on your list.

Naval Academy Garden Club: Debbie Cronin, Club President

Maryland Native Plant Month The benefits of sustaining native plants are essential to Maryland for many reasons. Native plants are of utmost importance to the survival of pollinators and wildlife providing critical nectar, pollen, sites for bees, butterflies and native birds. Native plants protect the Chesapeake Bay. They require fewer fertilizers and pesticides, reducing toxic runoff. Their deep roots trap and filter pollutants and prevent shoreline and topsoil erosion. Native plants are drought resistant as they have adapted to our humid summers and variable rainfall. Their use in our gardens limits the spread of invasive species and enhances a sustainable living environment.

All this brings us to a new provision from the Maryland Legislature. To recognize the benefits that native plants have on Maryland's natural environment, the legislators are requiring Governor Moore and all subsequent governors to proclaim **May as Maryland Native Plant Month** each year. A bill to make it permanent is still in progress and has not yet been passed into law.

This program still requires an order from the governor each year urging educational and environmental organizations and businesses to observe Maryland Native Plant Month appropriately. The effective date of this provision is October 1, 2026. The Maryland Native Plant program backs the Maryland's State Agencies in prioritizing native planting throughout the state. Invest in your environment by planting native species.

— Renee B. Little, District II Conservation and Environmental Awareness Chair, Naval Academy Garden Club

For more information, check out some of the many resources on plants native to Maryland, including the following:

[**Maryland Native Plant Society**](#)

[**Maryland Department of Agriculture**](#) (Press Release announcing Maryland's Native Plant Month)

[**University of Maryland Extension \(UME\): Maryland Native Plants Program**](#)

[**UME: Maryland Native Plant Guides**](#)

*District II Continued***St. Mary's County Garden Club: Beth Bonifant, Club President**

Multiple members took home flower arrangements from the March District II meeting raffle! Four members exhibited designs at the Daffodil Show. During the week of Earth Day, members helped install and maintain native plant gardens at a local storefront, a small park and at Leonardtown Library. Our club received the Sustainability Award from the County Commission on the Environment.

At Leonardtown's "First Friday" event on May 1, we relaunched the Leonardtown Butterfly Trail, an effort to establish a corridor of native habitat for birds and insects. Efforts by our members included creating plant ID signs and a colorful brochure that highlights local businesses and shares information about caterpillars, butterflies and native plants.



Robbie Loker welcomes guests to the tea.

On a delightfully sunny day in May, SMCGC welcomed 93 guests to their 3rd Annual Tea, "Sip, Sip Hurray!" held at Four Waters, an intimate event venue located where the Potomac River, St. Clements Bay, Back Creek and St. Patrick's Creek meet. The location was a reminder of how important it is to cherish and protect our waterways and the lands that surround them.

Funds raised will support our community engagement efforts including workshops on landscaping with native plants and the importance of pollinators, and annual scholarships to local students. (For example, we have awarded a \$2000 scholarship to each of two St. Mary's County high school students who plan to major in horticulture or a related field.) Our "Sip, Sip Hurray!" tea was an elegant escape with delectable treats, exquisite table designs and a hat contest – so much creativity on display!



Amy Henderson & Becki Wolf accept Sustainability Award



Kathy White Thorne & Cherie Heeley
w/Kathy's Table & Floral Design



Ingrid Swann at the Tea



District II Raffle Winners



Butterfly Trail Pollinator Garden Sign

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

Shipley's Choice Garden Club had a very busy spring. The Plant Sale on April 25 was a success. A majority group of members helped bring the community together for a fun day to learn about all different plants, herbs and the native plants.

Our Field Trips chairs Maureen Iler and Pat Jenkins planned a trip May 9 to the Talbot County Garden Pilgrimage tour and a June Trip to the U.S. Botanic Garden to visit its installation, "**America's State Flowers: An America250 Celebration**," which will have continuous blooms of flowers each U.S. state and territory has chosen as its official flower—on display until October 12.

Among the various speakers for our programs was guest speaker Tamara Taylor, who presented "Healing Through Horticulture."

Our June meeting included an End-of-Year dinner to share our garden stories and review of the year for all the activities that we have enjoyed.



The Wye House Built in 1648



The Orangery at the Wye House

DISTRICT III: MARY ELLEN PLUEMER, *DISTRICT DIRECTOR***Baltimore and Harford Counties****DISTRICT III DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

Clubs are busy over the summer planning for a productive, meaningful, fun year ahead! And we, the District III Board, continue to offer assistance for our clubs by sharing resources that are intended to help make club officers feel supported and more able to enjoy their roles as planners and leaders of successful FGCMDC clubs! Here are some of my hopes for our District:

- I hope that gathering and sharing favorite programs and trips from last year will provide a starting point for all club Program Chairs.
- I hope the business/ID cards that identify all our members as FGCMDC members—plus the list of nurseries/garden centers that will offer discounts with this ID—have been helpful!
- I hope the very usable summary of available grants, awards and scholarships that were provided by Randy Low and Betty Reeves will help with planning projects for the year ahead.

This year is District III's turn to choose a site and do tree planting in the name of Alice Rush McKeon! We want to do her proud! Thanks for advice from other District Directors who have shared advice from their experiences.

Best wishes to all FGCMDC clubs for a wonderful, enjoyable year! Stay safe!

Right: Alice Rush McKeon Tree
Planted This Spring

(See District II Director's Notes)

**Bent Twig Garden Club: Sherrie Shorter, Club President**

On March 19, 2026, the Bent Twig Garden Club of Catonsville toured the Baltimore County Cockeysville Recycling Center.

The club supports recycling in our daily lives. Members that attended were Pat Johnson, Joanne Feustle, and Winnie Gochar.

Rose Eicker, Marde Gillespie, and Susan Rura also attended the tour. It was interesting to see where our recycling goes and how it is recycled.

Left: Bent Twig Members Pat Johnson,
Joanne Feustle, Winnie Gochar at the
Cockeysville Recycling Center

Right: Bent Twig Members Rose Eicker,
Marde Gillespie, and Susan Rura at the
Cockeysville Recycling Center

**Evergreen Garden Club, Pat Vandrey, President**

Eight members of the Evergreen Garden Club attended the annual District III meeting at Valley Mansion on Friday, March 6, 2026. It was a nice meeting, with 20 clubs attending. As always, it was fun to see what other clubs in Maryland are doing and a joy to mingle and share ideas with garden lovers outside of our own club. Evergreen Garden Club received three awards this year:

- Landscape Design Award – Habitat for Humanity First Place,
- Kayla's Home and Garden – Decorating Historic Houses, Second Place, Medium Club and
- A Hays House Christmas-Garden Therapy Award, Honorable Mention, Medium Club.



Evergreen GC Members Receiving Awards at the Annual
District III Meeting

Belinda Karas presented a short talk about our very successful and ongoing project at Carter Archer Mansion, for which we had received a Plant America Award.

Evergreen Garden Club members Ingrid Kupferman, Ann Bennett, Phoebe Durst, Karen Matthews, and Beverly Jones enjoyed planting spring annuals in containers for the residents' garden at the Citizens Care Center. Also, Evergreen Garden Club "diggers" landscaped a habitat rehab home in Aberdeen. Along with members Lynn Crothers, Ann Bennett, Kathy Zimmerman, Patrice O'Connor, Alena Schwaber, Gretchen Loewke, Karen Matthews, and homeowner Lynn, they transformed a drab entrance into a gloriously pretty one. Patrice put the cherry on top with a welcome mat for Lynn and her family's new home.

*District III Continued***Hampton Garden Club, Chris Neas, Club President**

Hampton Garden Club has been involved with Boys Hope Girls Hope for the last four years. We have planted spring, summer and fall gardens on their property. Last year, we expanded our work with this group of 16 young men and women (ages 10–18) by providing holiday-based make-and-take experiences. Both the boys and girls enjoy these events and have become quite good at making things from their own point of view, which we encourage.

- In November, we make floral arrangements on a pumpkin and support their sale at the annual Friendsgiving fundraiser.
- In December, we make wreaths or ornaments.
- In February, we create a gift for Valentines Day with flowers.
- In May, we make a gift for your mom for Mother's Day.



Hampton Garden Club was awarded the community Service Award for the Hope Ignites Project. The award was presented at the District III Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland annual meeting March 6.

Left: Community Service Award for the Hope Ignites Project Presented at the District III FGCMD Annual Meeting March 6



The Boys Hope students and the Girls Hope students enjoyed making Valentine gifts with Garden Club members.

**Lutherville Garden Club: Pam Engle, Club President**

Lutherville Garden Club's May meeting was held offsite at Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills, MD. Dr. Claire Walker presented on Woodlands and Wildflowers, followed by a walk through the Woodland Gardens.

In May, LGC sponsored a bus trip to Nemours Estate in Wilmington, DE. The group toured Nemour's beautiful house and gardens, followed by lunch at the Columbus Inn.

Left: LGC Members exploring the Irvine Nature Center Woodland Gardens. Photo by Cindy Atkinson

Right: LGC Members touring the gardens at Nemours. Photo by Corinne Lears

**Manor Garden Club: Elaine Sauer, Club President**

Louise Larson

Photo by James Verderamo

The Manor Garden Club completed its Paths and Pollinators project in fall 2025. Members added green & golds, which blossom from spring to early summer, and white wood asters, which blossom in the fall, to their native community garden on the TCB/NCR trail at milepost 2. Both attract pollinators like native bees and butterflies to the garden. The seeds of the wood asters also provide food for birds and other wildlife over the winter.

The club has added additional native plants to the garden in early spring. The project has been made possible with a generous grant from the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland in summer of 2024.

During the coldest months of 2026, club members met indoors. Manor Gardener Louise Larson offered some tips about successfully caring for orchids: They prefer terra cotta pots, which allow orchids to breathe; transplant into orchid bark unless in moss only, in which case use 50% bark, 50% moss; never let roots sit in water; and orchids prefer full western sun.

Dreaming of outdoors, members met with Harford County Master Gardeners, Joan Parris and Dan Gustitis, who shared advice about tomatoes, their ID codes, the difference between determinate and indeterminate tomato plants, when to start seeds, and how to care for the plants during the growing season.

Early in March, the club celebrated its favorite photographer, Sharon Kollman, who placed in the region's photo contest and received her award at the District Luncheon! Her winning photo is shown.

Left: Sharon Kollman with District III Director's Photography Award, Photo by Elaine Sauer, Manor Club President

Right: Sharon Kollman's Winning Photo, Yellow Swallowtail



District III *Continued***Woodbrook-Murray Hill Garden Club: Cathy Wales, Meghan McPhail, Co-Presidents**

Woodbrook Murray Hill Garden Club had a wonderful Spring. We visited Radebaugh Florist and Greenhouses in February where we learned about Valentine's Day preparations from a florist's point of view.

In March, we focused on our own preparations for our May Flower Show. And in April we had the honor of visiting the Walnut Hill Garden in Ruxton. This garden, created by AC and Penney Hubbard is a work of art and testimony to a life of gardening.

Left: WMHCG attends a tour at Walnut Hill given by Penney Hubbard

Entrance to the Walnut Hill home of the Hubbards in Ruxton
Photos by Meghan McPhail

**DISTRICT V: MARY HEIZER, *DISTRICT DIRECTOR***

Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Washington Counties

DISTRICT V DIRECTOR'S NOTES

District V clubs prepared for the July 4th 250 USA anniversary by planting red, white and blue flowers. Our Horticulture Chair, Lisha Utt, gave us a list of 'blue' flowers to plant since they are much harder to find than red or white flowers. I hope you were able to attend at least one of the many clubs' 'Home and Garden Tours this Spring & Summer. District V is also planning its semi-annual meeting scheduled for **Thursday, October 8, 2026** at Holly Hills Country Club. Jim Sutton, designer at Longwood Gardens, will be presenting "How Longwood Gardens Preserves the Past, Lives in the Present and Plans for the Future." Look for the District V meeting registration form to be out in early August.

District V held its Annual meeting Thursday, March 5, 2026 at **Holly Hills Country Club**. The theme was Red, White and Blue in honor of America's 250th anniversary. Guest speaker Dr. Clare Walker spoke on Phenology, as District V members are interested in how to incorporate Phenology into Youth Programs.

Our 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?

Several awards were presented to District V garden clubs and members at the Annual District V Meeting Thursday, March 5 at Holly Hills Country Club in Frederick. Congratulations to all the District V garden clubs and members on your well-deserved awards! Patricia Louison, District V Awards Chair, announced the awards with Donna Miller, President of FGCMMD, and Mary Heizer, District V Director, presenting the following awards:

National Garden Clubs (NGC) Anniversary Certificates, In Recognition (Based on FGCMMD Established Years):	• Crossroads Garden Club: 95 Years
	• Town and Country Garden Club: 75 Years
	• Garden Club of Cumberland: 70 Years
	• Green-walled Garden Club: 70 Years
	• Discoveries in Gardening: 55 Years
	• Longfellow Garden Club: 55 Years
	• Crossroads Garden Club: 95 Years
Central Atlantic Region – State Garden Clubs:	Town and Country Garden Club, Civic Development and Improvement Award for their Seed Collecting of Red Bud and Dogwood seeds donated to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) germination.
FGCMMD Awards:	• Community Service: Green-walled Garden Club, "Beyond the Garden Gates Tour," 2nd Place
	• Garden Therapy: Cross Country Garden Club, "Ellicott City Health Care Center," 3rd Place
	• Flower Show (Certificate of Recognition): Carroll Garden Club, "Painting with Flowers," An NGC Standard Flower Show, May 16, 2025.
Yearbook Awards: (Medium Size Garden Clubs, 21-50)	• Carroll Garden Club, 2 nd Place, Tie
	• Cross Country Garden Club, 2 nd Place, Tie
	• Town and Country Garden Club, 3 rd Place, Tie
	• Garden Club of Cumberland, 3 rd Place, Tie
	• Crossroads Garden Club, 3 rd Place, Tie
	• Green-walled Garden Club, Honorable Mention, Tie
The Mary F. Fitzpatrick Photography Award:	Donna Miller, Mt. Laurel Garden Club, "Creative Line Mass," 3 rd Place
Certificate of Recognition:	The award was presented to Jean Brown for the remarkable achievement of reaching the age of 100 years and for 56 years as a member of the Silver Fancy Garden Club.
District V Certificate of Appreciation Awards: Perennial Bloom Nominated Award Recipients:	• The award and a bouquet of roses were presented to Marilyn Potter for being the Mt. Airy Garden Club Perennial Award nominated recipient. In appreciation for her years of service, outstanding leadership and dedication, invaluable contributions, guidance and commitment. In addition, Marilyn was also presented with a Certificate of Recognition at the annual FGCMMD annual meeting April 28.
	• The award was announced for Mikki Stratmeyer on being the Green-walled Garden Club Perennial Award nominated recipient. In appreciation for her years of service, outstanding leadership and dedication, invaluable contributions, guidance and commitment. Richelle Emerick, Green-walled Garden Club Membership and New Mentor Program Chair, accepted Mikki's award in her absence. A bouquet of roses, along with her award, were sent to Mikki in Florida.
	• The award and a bouquet of roses were presented to Marty Talton for being the Town and Country Garden Club Perennial Award nominated recipient. In appreciation for her years of service, outstanding leadership and dedication, invaluable contributions, guidance and commitment.

District V *Continued***Crossroads Garden Club: Connie Lenhart, April Zentmeyer, Club Co-Presidents**

"95 years of conserving, growing, designing, and playing outside in our gardens..."



A Bit of History: Crossroads Garden Club is proudly celebrating its 95th year as an organized club. The club started as the Garden Committee for the Women's Club in 1931.

The Women's Club, itself, was founded in 1921 for the advancement of women. The Women's Club Garden Section was federated in 1946 and became known as Crossroads Garden Club in 1968.

The 2026 flower design show, *Greens Show*, will be held at 2pm on **Sunday, November 15, 2026** at The Women's Club, in Hagerstown, 31 S. Prospect Street. Save the date. Details will be posted on the FGCMMD calendar. For more information, contact Chair Carol Kreykenbohm-Barnhart (301-992-7051) kreybarn@myactv.net or Susan Stull (301-992-6826) susiecamp@aol.com.

Flower design for all monthly and seasonal décor at The Women's Club and gardens, Hagerstown,

MD will have a patriotic theme in celebration of the 250th birthday of the USA.

FGCMMD awarded Crossroads Garden Club a \$400 "Be a Steward of the Earth" grant to upgrade the federal style Blue Star Memorial Garden at the historic Women's Club at 31 S. Prospect St. in Hagerstown.

Crossroads Garden Club contributed over 100 pounds of plastic through June for the District V Nextrex Recycling Challenge recycling plastic project.

Art in Bloom – The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts hosted Art in Bloom on April 24–26, 2026. There were 28 interpretive designs. Crossroads Garden Club participated. Floral designers included Connie Spong, Ellen Strock, Connie Lenhart, and Carol Kreykenbohm-Barnhart.

Garden Therapy, chaired by Patsy McInness, met at Homewood Nursing Home and helped residents create centerpieces and crafts in April.



The Women's Club held a very successful and interesting House and Garden tour on June 13. Crossroads members provided flower designs and served as hostesses at the eight sites.

Here are some more highlights of recent Crossroads Garden Club activities:

The Memorial Garden is another civic beauty project at the federal garden and Blue Star Memorial at the Woman's Club. Spring cleanup was held in March.

Crossroads Garden Club sponsored a Bus Trip to the **Museum of Shenandoah Valley**, in Winchester, VA on **Thursday, April 30, 2026**. The tour included historic **Glen Burnie House** (1794) encompassing four galleries of historic artifacts and 7 acres of perennial, rose, vegetable, sculptures, and water gardens.

Members supported the District V "Got Nectar" by planting their gardens with over 1,000 bulbs and perennials for spring.

Crossroads GC enjoyed a May Day pilgrimage to Annapolis to view the citywide floral designs. Members, master gardeners, other garden clubs, and guests filled a bus.

Frederick County Garden Clubs**Patriotic Holiday Tree Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary—Through July 18**

Come and visit the decorated Patriotic Holiday Tree display at **Heritage Frederick**, a historical and cultural organization that includes **The Museum of Frederick County History**. Created by the Frederick County affiliates of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. (i.e., Green-walled Garden Club, Tasker's Chance Garden Club and The Garden Club of Frederick), the patriotic holiday tree display is a celebration and tribute to commemorate 250 years of Independence.

The Patriotic Holiday Tree features a wide array of beautifully designed handcrafted ornaments and decorations representing the interpretations of the picturesque words of Francis Scott Key's "Star Spangled Banner." From the "broad stripes and bright stars" and "rockets' red glare, bombs bursting in air" to "the flag was still there."

The Patriotic Holiday Tree will be on display at **Heritage Frederick**, located at 24 E. Church Street, Frederick, from **Thursday, June 25 through Saturday, July 18**. General Hours: Open Thursday – Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; By Appointment Only Sunday – Wednesday.

General Admission is \$10.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Seniors and Children. **Heritage Frederick** also offers docent-guided tours on Fridays at 1:00 PM, which is included in the general admission fee. We hope you will visit and enjoy our Patriotic Holiday Tree and the exhibits Heritage Frederick has curated for America's 250th Anniversary.



District V *Continued***Green-walled Garden Club: Julie Howell, Club President****Guest Speaker: Brandon Carbary, Horticulturist and Landscape Designer, Frederick County**

At the March Green-walled Garden Club meeting, Brandon Carbary, horticulturist and landscape designer specializing in applied ecological design, landscape systems management, and horticultural education, presented "Hillside Plantings as Climate Infrastructure."

He discussed the process of converting a steep hillside and terraces from lawn (and ruts) into pollinator gardens at Buckingham's Choice in Frederick. Brandon also demonstrated a computer-generated software for roll-out gardens, including landscape design software that helps to map out, visualize and calculate plant spacing and customized and pre-planned layouts for garden plantings.

His professional experience spans landscape and horticultural work for private golf clubs and university environments, including arboriculture, integrated pest management, GIS-based tree inventories, and ornamental landscape planning. Brandon's work emphasizes the translation of ecological theory into practical, maintainable landscapes and includes a strong pedagogical component through curriculum-aligned partnerships, public lectures, and educational programming. His work has been featured on horticulture-focused podcasts and in televised landscape settings, reflecting a commitment to public-facing scholarship and applied outreach.

He is the founder of Ecoplantia, an online nursery providing Roll-Out Gardens™ where he developed a biodegradable, life-size garden template system for regionally specific native plant installations across the United States. In April of 2024, a retail garden center was opened in Frederick, where they are active in the community providing plants, education, and landscaping services.

For additional information in the event other FGCMDC clubs would be interested in having Brandon Carbary as a guest speaker at meetings, contact the Green-walled Garden Club Vice President, Margie Mott, at (301) 401-1039.

Mount Airy Garden Club: Barbara Rogers, Club President

(L-R): Club members Mary Boldt, Mary Hutchins-Danna, and Beverly Blatchford making wreaths.

On April 30, Mount Airy Garden Club members gathered to make Patriotic Grape Vine wreaths to decorate the town of Mount Airy for our country's 250th anniversary. Wreaths were made for Pine Grove Chapel, the Blue Star Memorial, Mt. Airy Library, and Mt. Airy Senior Center. These were made to be displayed in June along with decorations the town plans to provide.

On Saturday May 9, Mount Airy Garden Club held their Annual Plant Sale at Calvary United Methodist Church on South Main Street in Mt. Airy from 8:00am–2:00pm. This sale is held each year in May on the day before Mother's Day to raise funds for community projects. Hanging baskets, annuals, herbs, tomato plants, and donated perennial plants from members gardens were for sale.

Members offered free gardening advice to the public. Money raised is used to support community gardens, Youth and Senior gardening activities, Historic Preservation as well as donations to State/National gardening and conservation projects. All members participate. This year, we were fortunate to have a very good turnout and perfect sunny weather



Completed Wreaths

Right: Club member Reiko Royston is holding one of the many perennials grown by club members.



At the Plant Sale checkout table, Club members (L-R, front row): Beverly Blatchford, Cathy Hoover, and Barbara Rogers, Club President. Back row: Ginny Centi



Plant Sale Club Members (L-R): Kim Yarbrough, Mary Boldt, Mary Hutchins-Danna, and Stephanie Hamel

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

The Mountain Laurel Garden Club (MLGC) hosted another highly successful community plant sale on June 13 at the Glades Pavilion in downtown Oakland. In just two hours, shoppers purchased 768 plants, making the event one of the club's most successful fundraisers and educational outreach efforts. A major contributor to the sale's success was Co-President and Horticulture Chair Barb Davis, who began sowing seeds in March and nurtured, transplanted, and repotted more than 400 plants for the event. Additional plants were divided from established MLGC gardens throughout the community, including the Oakland Library garden and native plant gardens previously installed by the club for Habitat for Humanity.



Cut Leaf Cone Flowers

The sale featured a variety of interesting perennial plants from members' gardens that have proven to thrive in Western Maryland. Special recognition goes to Julie Crolius who contributed more than 100 non-invasive plants, including unique pineapple lily (*Eucomis* 'Princess Bride') bulbs and yellow trillium (*Trillium luteum*) from her abundant garden. Shoppers were especially excited to find pollinator-friendly perennials, culinary herbs, and heirloom tomato plants reaching nearly three feet tall.

A highlight of the sale was the extensive selection of Maryland native plants that support pollinators, birds, and biodiversity. Among the offerings were butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), blazing star (*Liatris* spp.), anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*), penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*), ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*), blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and sweet Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*). These native species help create resilient landscapes while providing critical habitat for wildlife.

"The best part of the sale is seeing people get excited when they walk in and discover the variety of plants available, especially some of the harder-to-find native species," said Davis.

The annual plant sale reflects the club's commitment to its theme of "Restorative Gardening." Behind the scenes, hundreds of volunteers spent hours sowing seeds, dividing plants, potting, labeling, transporting, and setting up for the sale. By encouraging gardeners to incorporate native plants and pollinator habitat into their landscapes, MLGC continues to promote environmental stewardship while beautifying the community. Proceeds support MLGC community projects, educational programs, conservation initiatives, and student scholarships.



MLGC 2026 Garden Tour MLGC hosted its signature Garden Tour, celebrating gardening, conservation, education, and community engagement June 27. This year's tour, **Nurturing Nature and Trees by Accident**, highlights the diverse ways gardens, farms, forests, and landscapes enrich our community. The self-guided tour featured four unique properties conveniently located off U.S. Route 219 in Accident, Maryland. From sustainable agriculture and native habitat restoration to cut-flower production to an historic family garden, this year's tour showcased the stewardship and creativity found throughout Garrett.



An aerial view of Honey Moon Farm

Honey Moon Farm, offers visitors an up-close look at small-scale, sustainable agriculture and the connections between growing food, flowers, and supporting pollinators. The farm grows vegetables, fruits, herbs, and cut flowers side by side with free-range hens. Intensively planted garden beds maximize production in a relatively small space, reflecting a hands-on approach that relies on careful planning, soil health, and seasonal growing practices.

At the **Hickory Environmental Education Center (HEEC)**, tour visitors experienced a landscape created specifically for outdoor learning and environmental education including a native meadow, arboretum, hybrid (98% American) chestnut grove, amphitheater, and a network of trails that wind through woods and streams. The site also includes the new Naylor

Family Tree Observation Area, an elevated classroom with a wrap-around deck 18 ft off the ground and a 37-ft bridge leading to a tree-viewing outpost. Typically reserved for students, the Garden Tour offered a rare opportunity to experience a canopy-level perspective of the forest. The native meadow, fully renovated in 2022 in partnership with MLGC, includes plant markers and QR codes linking visitors to expanded educational content. It is both a teaching tool and a pollinator haven, demonstrating the vital role native species play in maintaining healthy ecosystems.



Rebecca Kenyon-Sister, Science Teacher, and Jason Shank, Administrator, at the Tree Observation Area



Globe amaranth at Cove Pastures

One of the most visually striking stops on this year's tour is **Cove Pastures @ Branch Bender Cidery**, the working flower field and gardens of Chester and Trish Yoder, located along Harmon Road in Accident. Visitors enjoy sweeping views from the flower field, where more than 250 peonies of many varieties have been planted over the years. While few peony blooms remained during the tour, the field is vibrant with 25 rows of annuals and perennials for use in Trish Yoder's floral design business, Petal Branch. Surrounding the home and cidery are 173 acres of pasture, woods, and gardens that reflect the property's history. Heritage plantings—including mock orange, lilac, and a variety of ground covers—anchor the landscape and blend naturally with newer additions.

When **My Historic Home on Cove Road**, built in the late 1800s, was renovated in 2016, the garden of Fannie Bender was preserved, and the garden design grew organically from those original plantings. Flower beds were gently mounded and expanded, creating a landscape that feels

deeply connected to the history of the home and the land. MLGC's Floral Design team presented "Branches, Ferns and Found Objects," three times during the tour. This stop on the tour also featured local food vendors, live plein-air painting demonstrations, cooking demonstrations, live music, and free cookies. These four destinations offered visitors an inspiring look at the many forms gardening can take—from working farms and educational landscapes to flower fields and treasured home gardens. As it does every year, the MLGC garden tour invites the community to explore, learn, and celebrate the people and places that nurture nature throughout our region.

District V Continued

Tasker's Chance Garden Club: Barb Falkenstein – President

Tasker's Chance Garden Club (TCGC) established two memorial scholarships through the Career and Technology Center of Frederick County Public Schools. The scholarships, in the amount of \$1000 each, were established to honor and remember the contributions to the club made by our deceased members. One scholarship is to be awarded annually through June 2030, to a deserving senior seeking to further their education in the fields of Landscape Design or Horticulture. The second Memorial Scholarship was established to honor Mary Ann Simmons, a 55-year member of TCGC, who died June 15, 2025. Mary Ann held many positions and was our long-serving Horticulture Chairman. Congratulations to the 2026 recipients of the scholarships, Candace Lovejoy from Catoclin High School, and Isabella Long from Linganore High School, respectively. We wish them great success as they pursue careers in Landscape Design.

Arbor Day was celebrated at Whittier Elementary School in Frederick where a White Oak Tree, donated by TCGC, was planted for The City of Frederick's 46th Annual Tree City USA Arbor Day Celebration! The City of Frederick has the distinction of being the first community in Maryland to receive this designation, which it has now held for 46 years. TCGC is proud to partner with and provide the oak to the City's Urban Forestry Department for planting. Whittier's 3rd graders presented a delightful and meaningful program on the importance of planting, sustaining and conserving trees, as a most vital element for our wellbeing and for the Earth's.



Result of TCGC Smartphone Photography Program

Our spring programs and club activities have focused on GARDENING! 🌱 Programs on planting natives, even incrementally, will benefit our pollinators and the ecosystem; best annuals and perennials to plant for our own cutting gardens; and a practicum on smartphone camera photography basics as well as ways to capture captivating images of flowers and plants.

Our year culminated June 8th with a tour of Rose Hill Manor in Frederick, the "retirement" home of Maryland's first elected Governor, Thomas Johnson. It was an excellent and enlightening tour of the Manor House, out buildings and grounds. Our meeting was held in the formal parlor of the Manor House, where we celebrated our outgoing Executive Board:

Margaret Cornely – President, Barb Falkenstein – Vice President, Roxanne Frank – Treasurer, Lisa Allen – Recording Secretary, and Jackie Bastide – Corresponding Secretary...

and hailed our new Executive Board:

Barb Falkenstein – President, Lyn Witt – Vice President, Nancy Reding – Treasurer, Diane Wilkinson – Recording Secretary, and Mary Steggert – Corresponding Secretary.

Many thanks to all these members for their dedication and service to the club! TCGC greatly appreciates the leadership of the outgoing board and looks forward to two more successful years with our new board!



On Arbor Day, Margaret Cornely, TCGC President, and Mary Steggert, TCGC Arbor Day Chairman



TCGC Outgoing and Incoming Executive Boards

(L-R): Barb Falkenstein, Roxanne Frank, Lisa Allen, Margaret Cornely, Jackie Bastide, Mary Steggert, Lyn Witt, Nancy Reding, and Diane Wilkinson

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

(Left): Marty Talton Receiving the Perennial Award

A vibrant springtime helped bring Perennial Award Nominee, Marty Talton (pictured left) to the foreground, highlighting her ongoing efforts and commitment to the Town & Country Garden Club since 1977! Her continued dedication and contributions have earned her widespread recognition among the garden community.

The season also featured the highly successful Art in Bloom event at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts co-sponsored by our club. The event attracted enthusiastic participation from club and community members and visitors alike, showcasing stunning interpretational floral displays, artistic creativity and the enduring cultural value of the museum. Attendees praised the celebration as one of this year's standout community events.

Another highlight of the celebration of the Town and Country Garden Club's 75th anniversary was the presentation of scholarships to three outstanding local students. Brandon Stiles and twin brothers Elijah and Noah Weddle each received a \$1000 scholarship to support their post-secondary education.

The club awards scholarships annually to deserving Washington County students pursuing degrees or certificates in horticulture, agriculture, landscape design or related fields at a college, university or other institution of higher education. The scholarships reflect the club's ongoing commitment to encouraging the next generation of professionals in these important fields.

Adding to this year's celebration, several members hosted a special Denim-and-Diamonds-themed affair hosted poolside at a member's home. The milestone event brought together members and guests to honor the club's rich history, lasting friendships and decades of service to the community while celebrating its legacy in a festive and memorable setting.



TCGC Members Celebrating TCGC's Anniversary

COMMITTEE NEWS

AWARDS: LINDA ELIAS, *CHAIR*; CAROLYN MAGEE, *CO-CHAIR*

The 2025 FGCMMD Awards season is almost over! We received news from the NGC Convention that two Clubs received Certificates of Appreciation:

- Dorchester Garden Club (DI) – Floral Design Program
- Halten Garden Club (D3) – “The Halten Herald” Newsletter

And one student from Talbot County Garden Club (DI) received a certificate for her Woodsy Owl poster!

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 2025 awards season.

The 2026 Award Season is now in session! District and Club Award Chairs can access the 2025-2027 Awards Manual from the FGCMMD Website:

2025-2027 FGCMMD Awards Manual

[click here to download 2025-2027 Awards Manual rev. 03.2025](#)

The FGCMMD website also includes all the applications for the various awards.

Please review and share your critical dates with your members.

We look forward to another round of fantastic projects, beautiful pictures, fun posters and poems and the chance to celebrate all the fantastic work achieved by our Garden Clubs throughout the State of Maryland.



Perennial Bloom Award	Instructions and Application
FGCMMD AND NGC AWARDS	FGCMMD and NGC Award Application
	FGCMMD and NGC Scoring Rubric
	FGCMMD Photography Award Application
Flower Show Awards	FGCMMD Photography Scoring Rubric
Flower Show Awards	Guide to State, Regional and National Flower Show Awards
Environmental Consultants Council Award	Jean Lowry Sustainable Landscape Award (rev.08_2022)
Landscape Design Council Awards	Habitat for Humanity Proposal Award
	Habitat for Humanity Award
	Landscape for Public Places Award
Gardening Consultants Council Awards	Mae Scott Tapestry Landscape Award
CAR-SGC AWARDS	Container Gardens Award Edible Gardens Award
Youth Work Awards and Contests	CAR-SGC Awards Information
	NGC Youth Contests
	High School Distinguished Service Award,
	Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
	Poetry Contest, Sculpture Contest

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS: CAROLYN BRAVERMAN, *CHAIR*

We are following up on some of the initiatives before the Maryland General Assembly that were presented at the Legislative Summit for Climate and the Environment held early last January. Some of my favorite issues were not passed, but they were also not turned down. Turns out, they are “Referred to Committee.”

We will continue monitoring the progress of these initiatives. The following is the status of these issues as of June 17, 2026:

- SB342 **Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program**. This is a program to increase the use of recycling of beverage containers and reduce litter pollution and the costs associated with beverage containers. So, *stay tuned*. We’ll have to wait until the next session, and hope there is enough support to pass this. Other countries have programs like this and apparently, they are successful.
- HB 1534 **Data Centers – Standards for Operation and Siting**. This is a bill requiring compliance with certain standards requiring the Department of Energy establish by regulation certain sound and vibration controls and backup power generation for Data Centers. There is a lot of concern about the proliferation of Data Centers and their effect on the environment and their use of resources, especially water. There is also concern about the tax breaks that the Data centers get. While this bill does not necessarily address all that, some regulations are being presented.

Here are some bills that passed, that are of interest to those who are environmentally concerned:

- HB035 **Local Government – Regulatory Powers - Regulation of Invasive Trees**. Authorizing the governing body of a county or municipality to adopt certain ordinances to regulate Tree of Heaven and certain invasive trees; and authorizing the governing body of a county or municipality to establish certain programs to incentivize the removal of Tree of Heaven and certain invasive trees.
- HB0925 **Sewage Sludge – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Regulation**. Reducing the percentage of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in sludge to levels below 25 parts per billion and establishing certain monitoring protocols for certain substances, etc.
- SB0431 **Fish and Wildlife – Endangered and Threatened Species and Migratory Birds - Regulations, Lists, Petitions, Essential Habitats, and Takings**. Requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to review and, if warranted, update regulations related to the Irreplaceable Natural Areas Program by July 1, 2033, and at least every 10 years thereafter.

There is more to each of these bills of course than what is described here, but this is the basis.

For more information on some of the legislative wins for this year, check out the following posting by the Maryland Native Plant Coalition:
[Celebrating Key Wins for Native Plants from the 2026 Maryland General Assembly](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS, CHAIRS: *RICHELLE EMERICK, FGCMD LIFE SCHOLARSHIP; BETTY REEVES, BAKER SCHOLARSHIP*



You may have seen a lot of the Federated Garden Club members wearing the “cute” little Black-eyed Susan pins. When I first joined my garden club, I asked, how can I get a Black-eyed Susan pin? I found out that I needed to become the garden club president and that is what is given to the outgoing presidents. I not only became the garden club president, but I was the garden club president twice. But I only received one pin.

Maybe you are not planning to become a garden club president, but you would still like to have the Black-eyed Susan pin. For your membership of \$75.00, you can become a State Life Member, and you will also be helping to support the **State Life Scholarship Fund**. Become a State Life Member, or better still, have a Black-eyed Susan challenge within your garden club, and everyone can be wearing a Black-eyed Susan pin. **See the “ad” on page 23 of this newsletter** for a link to the Life Member application.

FGCMD State Life Scholarship: One-year grants are available to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students pursuing a Master’s degree. Applicants must be planning a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the FGCMD State Life Scholarship. For more information, please contact Chairman: Richelle Emerick, email: Emerick@wans.net.

Another available scholarship is the Robert Lewis Baker Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded annually to an applicant who is enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States and whose studies must lead to a degree in Ornamental Horticulture or Landscape Architecture. For more information, please contact the Robert Lewis Baker Scholarship Chairman: Betty Reeves, email BReevesdesign@aol.com.

For more information on both scholarships, go to the FGCMD website at www.fgcford.org. Applications are due to the scholarship chairmen by **February 1, 2027**.

Please encourage eligible students to apply for these wonderful scholarship opportunities.

COUNCIL NEWS

ENVIRONMENTAL GARDENING AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL, *LINDA HARRIS, CHAIR*

Landscape Design School Course 3: September 16 & 17, 2026, Robinson Nature Center in Columbia, MD

Landscape Design School Course 3 is scheduled for September 16 & 17, 2026 at the Robinson Nature Center 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD.

This course includes some very interesting and fun classes. In addition to modules on the landscape design process, there will also be classes about using woody and herbaceous plants in the landscape, learning about landscape design with maintenance in mind, and graphics interpretation. All of this culminates into a 3-hour class creating your own home garden landscaping plan with Clair Jones as our instructor. This class will offer you the information you will need to make your plan as well as excellent support from Clair. You will also get to work with some of the Master Landscape Design Consultants on this too.

We hope you will be joining us for this exceptionally interesting and useful landscape design course. This is your opportunity to take back some great information to be used in projects at your garden clubs.

The brochure is available on the FGCMD website on the calendar page, Council front page, and on the Landscape Design Council page, or by contacting Linda Harris at lindaharris355@aol.com.

This course will include classes on the following:

- Landscape Design Process, Kelley Oklessen, Owner, Groundsmith Collective Design Firm, UMD Adjunct Professor
- Landscape Design with Maintenance in Mind, Kelley Oklessen
- Graphics Interpretation, Colleen Vacelet, President Intreegue Design
- Woody Plants in the Landscape, Colleen Vacelet
- Creating Your Own Landscape Plan, Claire Jones, Principle, Claire Jones Landscapes
- Herbaceous Plants in the Landscape, Carrie Engel, Greenhouse Manager, Valley View Farms
- Supplemental Subject



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



Link to Registration Brochure (PDF)

Registration deadline is September 2 or when room capacity is reached.

Check the **Landscape Design Council on the FGCMD website** for updates.

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 FGCMDC 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 one of the award applications on the [LDC page on the FGCMDC 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 FGCMDC 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 FGCMDC 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 ...

The Gardens of Maryland Photo Gallery



[Photo from Manor 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

Meanwhile, revisit these photos from District clubs, and challenge your botanical taxonomy expertise to identify the photos below.



[Photo from Mountain Laurel GC](#)

Photos in the Wild: Can you identify these plants?

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

Please go to the [NGC website](http://www.gardenclub.org/) 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



Don't Miss the CAR-SCG 2026 Conference October 18 – 21, 2026



Fill out your Registration on the CAR-SCG Website

Early Bird Deadline is **July 20**

Make your hotel registration directly with

Holiday Inn Cleveland

6001 Rockside Road Independence, OH

44131

216.524.8050

Deadline to reserve hotel rooms:

September 21, 2026

Group Rate Code:

Ask for "CAR-SGC rate"

Link to the
[CAR-SCG 2026 Conference
Registration Form](#)



"OHIO - The Heart of it All"
2026 CAR-SGC Conference
October
18 – 21, 2026



Click Here
to
Register

Link to the
CAR-SCG 2026
Conference
Registration Form



The FGCMF President's Project
is inviting you to submit your applications for a
"Be a Steward of the Earth" grant.

Click here to apply 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
August 31, 2026 (awarded in October).

Support Our FGCMF Scholarship Fund ... and become a Life Member!



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

Life members receive a
Black-eyed Susan pin.

Application link:

fgcofmd.org/membersupport/

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



UPCOMING FGCMMD EVENTS

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

September 2026

8	State Board Meeting hosted by District IV
16 & 17	Landscape Design School, Course 3 will be held at the Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD; more information to follow. Registration and Information
17 -20	Charles County Garden Club's "Snippets of America's Semiquincentennial" NGC Standard Flower Show, Charles County Fairgrounds, La Plata, MD. Open to the Public.
24	Kent Island Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show, "Bon Appetit", Kent Island Library, 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, Md. 21666 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Contact Diana Bonner for information debonner@verizon.net .
24 - 27	St. Mary's County Garden Club's "Let Freedom Ring" NGC Standard Patriotic Flower Show, St Mary's County Fairgrounds, Leonardtown, MD. Open to the Public.

October 2026

7	District I Board Meeting, Location TBA
8	District V Semi-annual Meeting, Holly Hills Country Club
9	District II Semi-annual meeting; Comfort Inn; Bowie, MD
17	Four Rivers Garden Club "From Sea to Shining Sea - Happy Birthday America" NGC Standard Flower Show, Annapolis, MD
19 - 20	2026 CAR-SGC Conference hosted by the Garden Club of Ohio (optional bus tour on 10/21). Holiday Inn Cleveland, Independence OH. More details: 2026 CONFERENCE car-sgc and Flower Show Flyer

November 2026

3	FGCMMD Judges Council Meeting Tuesday, 10 AM. Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park, MD
5	FGCMMD Design Program featuring Mike Burch of Potomac Floral Design Studio, The Atrium at Soaring Timbers, 610 N. Bestgate Rd, Annapolis, MD. Price TBD.
10	State Board Meeting hosted by District V
18	Moonflower Garden Club bus trip for Radio City Music Hall holiday bus trip Information

January 2027

12	State Board Meeting via ZOOM
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February 2027

3	District I Board Meeting, Location TBA
23	FGCMMD Judges Council Meeting Tuesday, 10 AM. Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park, MD

March 2027

3	District I Annual Meeting, Location TBA
4	District V Annual Meeting, Holly Hills Country Club, Ijamsville, MD
12	District II Annual meeting; Comfort Inn; Bowie, MD

April 2027

27	Annual Meeting Turf Valley Resort
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May 2027

14-16	2027 NGC 98 th Annual Convention, Madison, Wisconsin Information
17-29	From Chelsea to the Welsh Hills: A Garden Connoisseur's Tour Information
25	FGCMMD Judges Council Meeting Tuesday, 10 AM. Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park, MD

October 2027

6	District I Board Meeting, Location TBA
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Check the calendar on the FGCMMD website (<https://fgcofmd.org/calendar/>) for updates on scheduled events.

VICTORY GARDENS

Are They on the Comeback?

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MOONFLOWER GARDEN CLUB TRIP REGISTRATION FORM



Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular Bus Trip

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Bus Departure from Arundel Mills

Showtime 2 p.m.

\$275.00 per Person

Includes sandwich and bottle of water/tea for trip up to New York City, along with fun games, such as Holiday Trivia, and more. Time to do some window shopping before taking in the most spectacular Christmas show there is. Once you are back on the bus, we will serve some wine, water, etc. with snacks for a cozy ride back to Arundel Mills. Snack will consist of Trail Mix and Chocolates.

To get your reservation on the calendar before the hustle and bustle of the holidays, please complete this registration form for each person planning to attend and return with your payment to

Moonflower Garden Club c/o Karin Gipple

682 White Swan Drive

Arnold, MD 21012

We will send all registered attendees a complete agenda.

Please email committee chair Sylvia Deck (Sylvia1862@verizon.net) when you mail your registration so we can track how many tickets are sold. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Deck at 410-980-3444 after 4 p.m. M-F or anytime on the weekends.

Please give us the cell phone number you will have with you on the trip. If you are not on the bus when it is time to leave either location, we will call you to make sure you are still coming. We don't want to leave anyone behind in NYC!

Reservation for Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular Bus Trip

Name: _____ Cell No.: _____

Any food allergies? _____

Sandwich Choices: Please check one per person:

___ Roasted Turkey Breast with Swiss cheese, honey mustard and lettuce on brioche

___ Traditional Chicken Salad with lettuce on a croissant

___ Falafel Wrap (Vegan) with tomato, lettuce, pickled carrots, lemon garlic dill sauce.

Beverage Choice: White Wine ___ Red Wine ___ Bubbly Water ___

Pick Me Up At: Arundel Mills ___ White Marsh ___

Please fill out a separate form for each person planning to attend.

Excursion Details

We are going to go to Bryant Park Christmas Market (officially the Holiday Shops at the Bank of America Winter Village), which is a highly popular European-style, open-air market located in Manhattan between 40th and 42nd Streets and 5th and 6th Avenues. The market features over 180 custom-designed "jewel box" kiosks offering artisan gifts, local crafts, and diverse international foods. The village is free to enter, with additional attractions including bumper cars, dining at The Lodge, and a 17,000-square-foot ice-skating rink. (Unfortunately, there will not be enough time for ice skating.)

On the way out of town, we will drive past Macy's flagship Herald Square store in Manhattan (Broadway and 34th St.) so you can view Macy's iconic holiday window displays from the bus.

Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular Bus Trip

Wednesday, November 18, 2026



