



GARDENEWS

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You Can't Be Serious – Me in A Leadership Role?

I know that is one of the first things that goes through your mind when someone asks you to take a position in your Club, the District or the State. How do I know? It's because I've been in your shoes.

I was new to garden club and still working full-time and I remember getting the call asking me to serve as chair for a fundraising event. They assured me it was easy; they had done it before and would share information on how to do it. My first response was "I can't do

this; I've never been to one of your galas and fundraising is not something I consider myself to be good at". That's a normal first reaction.

We have all been this position saying, "I've never done this before and I seriously doubt that I have either the knowledge or skills to be successful in this position." But rather than immediately saying no I have found that the best thing to do is ask for more information and begin by creating a list of questions. Who was the last Chair? Can I have a copy of the last program? What's the budget or how much money do you want to charge or intend to make? Who else can help? Can I make changes? This information is your best tool for planning and will help you feel more comfortable taking on the role.

Another barrier is the commitment of time. We all have family, work, church and other demands on our life. You say to yourself "I'm already busy, realistically how can I add another job to what feels like a full load?" The reality is that we find the time to do what is important to us. Someone once said "If you give yourself 30 days to clean your house, it will take 30 days. If you give yourself 3 hours, it will take 3 hours. "Any task or job you take on can take as long or as little time as you decide. Most clubs, Districts or even state positions have no specific time commitment other than a minimum number of required meetings. Ask about this. Then when you are in the position, you are the one who decides if you want to do more; hold more meetings or add workshops or seminars – that is your choice, it is not mandated. But you will find that this is a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the issues you care about most.

I have served multiple positions at the Club, District and State level none of which I had ever done before. For many, I was still working full-time. I am not super-woman, I'm just like you – I've burned dinners, killed plants, and shrunk clothes in the laundry. The remarkable thing about a volunteer organization is you that can try your hand at anything and no one will judge you. You'll get mentoring, advice and friendly support as you learn the ropes of your new position.

Remember leadership is a journey like any other and everyone starts somewhere. Whether you are young or not-so-young, a newbie to Garden Clubs or a veteran, I invite you to try your hand by taking a new position next time it is offered. I guarantee you will enjoy the trip and all the friends you will make along the way. Thank you to all of you for joining me on mine.



Susie

Meet the Slate of Officers for 2025—2027



Donna Miller, President

Although I was raised in The Bronx, NY, gardening has always been an interest for me, thanks to my parents who maintained thriving vegetable, fruit and flower gardens on our two-lot parcel. After 5 years working in Manhattan for New York Life, I relocated to West Virginia followed by a move to the western mountains of Maryland. Boy, was that a drastic change! I then worked in the Human Resources field. Fast forward to 2015 when I joined the Mountain Laurel Garden Club and found my niche. I have served as Treasurer (4 terms), Co-Vice-President and Co-President of my club; and most recently, as Treasurer for FGCMMD for the past four years. I am also a member of the Environmental, Gardening and Landscape Design Consultants Councils, Treasurer of the latter. Can you tell I like when accounts are in balance? Being a member of my club and the State Board has afforded me not only the opportunity to learn so much, but also to form bonds of friendship with so many wonderful people. Aside from gardening, I also enjoy Jazzercise, bowling, singing in the choir and Garrett Choral Society, and travelling the country with my husband, Vaughn, on a Harley. I am honored to be your next State President.



Randi Low, 2nd Vice-President

I am a retired Occupational Therapist who grew up in Baltimore with a father who shared his passion for gardening with me. I also enjoy many handcrafts, especially knitting, counted cross stitch, and quilting. I have been active in the Gunpowder Garden Club since the early 2000's and have held several leadership positions including president multiple times. After retirement in 2010, I joined the Baltimore County Master Gardeners where I have held several leadership positions and continue to serve on the Training and Development and the BayWise committees. This past year I have served as District III Director for FGGMD. I have enjoyed all the various positions that I have held as they have provided me with challenges and learning opportunities. I look forward to continuing to learn as I support FGCMMD as 2nd Vice President.



Mary Hutchins-Danna, Recording Secretary

Born and raised in Maryland and following a rewarding career as a speech-language pathologist, Mary was invited to join the Mt. Airy Garden Club. Since joining in 2012, she has participated actively on a variety of Committees including: Ways and Means, Civic and Roadside, Nominations, Horticulture, Historic Preservation, Garden Therapy and as Chair of the Membership Committee, in addition to being Awards Chair for their most recent Flower Show. She was co-chair of the Blue Star Memorial Committee for District V and is a member of the Gardening Council. In 2021 Mary became the club's Vice-President and is currently President of the Mt. Airy Garden Club.

Though Mary's family only had a small backyard in Baltimore City while growing up, the family's prized fig tree started by her grandmother and nurtured by her mother through several moves, still grows today in Mary's backyard in Il County. This truly was the beginning of her love of horticulture.

Meet the Slate of Officers for 2025—2027 cont.



Shirley Santora, Corresponding Secretary

A transplant from Pennsylvania, Shirley has lived in Maryland since 1971. Currently she and her husband Vito reside in Severna Park. She spent most of her career teaching German. She remains active in the German Community as a member of the German Society of Maryland (Lifetime Director), the Society for the History of Germans in Maryland (Treasurer) and the Baltimore Kickers.

Shirley joined the Chartwell Garden Club circa 2008 and has served in many officer positions. She maintains a garden plot in the Chartwell Garden at Kinder Farm Park and helps annually at the District II Daffodil Show. She is currently Assistant Director of District II and was briefly Acting Director. She is a member of Landscape Design and Garden Study Councils.

In addition to gardening, Shirley loves sewing, reading, cooking, and above all, travel. Whenever possible, she and Vito spend time on their farm in Pennsylvania. Finally, she is a devoted grandmother of five.



Anna O'Kelly, Treasurer

Born and raised in southern Illinois, and following moves to St. Louis, Kansas City, and New Jersey, Anna O'Kelly landed in Crofton, Maryland in 1989. At the suggestion of a friend, Anna joined the Crofton Greenery Garden Club and embarked on a journey of learning various aspects of gardening, landscape design, environmental awareness, and floral design.

She has completed all four NGC schools and is a four-star member as well as a Life Member of NGC, CAR-SGC, and FGCMMD.

Anna enjoys the creative outlet of floral design and has presented programs to clubs across Maryland and beyond. She is the past President of Ikebana International Baltimore Chapter #118 and a student of the Sogetsu school of Ikebana. She served as FGCMMD State President 2021-2023. Anna is currently President of Crofton Greenery Garden Club and Chairman of the Judges Council. She is also involved in the Crofton Community and serves as the President of the Crofton Civic Association.

FGCMMD Annual Meeting and Speaker

FGCMMD Annual Meeting – Chairman, Betty Reeves

Hopefully, everyone in your garden club is planning to attend the Federated Garden Clubs of MD Annual Meeting, on March 25, 2025. Come and meet the other garden club members from the five districts within MD. This is the year for a new administration and Donna Miller will be installed, as the new FGCoMD President. We are also very fortunate to have the National Garden Club President, Brenda Moore as our guest. We have a full event planned for you, starting with the Pre-dinner meeting on Monday evening, the business meeting on Tuesday, followed by lunch, the afternoon business meeting, the installation of new officers, and ending with the program and speaker, Ron McIntosh. We will also have lots of vendors that will allow you to “Shop until you Drop”. **For more information, check out “The Call” enclosed in this issue on page 15.**

Annual Meeting Speaker - Liaison, Gail Willin

Ron McIntosh, a gardener/landscaper, will present “The Exciting World of Houseplants”. Ron will focus on recent introductions and cross breeding as well as the efficient use of tissue culture propagation which has made the foliage plant industry an exciting one. Because of this technology, availability in box stores and garden centers is better than ever. However, plant selection is key to keeping them happy and healthy. The foundations of plant care including watering, fertilization, potting soils and pest control are key topics.

Ron is a horticulturist and landscape and gardening advisor in Pennsylvania. He currently designs and installs creative landscaping for clients as well as growing vegetables and herbs on his Somerset County farm. Plants will be for sale after the presentation.

FGCMD State News



Judges Council*Anna O’Kelly, Chairman*

Flower Shows are a Great Way to create excitement in your club!

What is the purpose of a flower show? A flower show is an opportunity to educate members and the public about the many beautiful specimens we grow in our gardens as well express creativity through floral designs. It is also a great way to attract new members that share a love of gardening and want to learn more about what garden clubs offer their members.

What is involved with presenting a flower show? All NGC flower shows follow guidelines outlined in the Handbook for Flower Shows revised in 2017. This handbook is a great resource and is available as a FREE digital download from either the FGCMD website: fgcofmd.org/councils/judgescouncil or the NGC website. The NGC store also offers a hard copy but it doesn't include any updates.

The NGC website also offers sample show schedules as well as presentations on Flower Show Basics, Entering Horticulture, Staging Photography, Table Designs, and Having a Flower Show.

The FGCMD Judges Council offers clubs support and advice on how to execute a flower show so please reach out for help. If your club hasn't had a show in a few years, it's not too late to plan one for 2025!

Yes, it takes work, but the results are worth it!

Smartphone Photography – Tips *Mary Ellen Pluemer*

PORTRAIT MODE

Want to create photos that look like they were taken in a studio??? Use PORTRAIT Mode!!

Portrait mode software recognizes the subject and the background, emphasizes the subject and blurs the background! This makes the subject really pop!

Practice by comparing photos in PHOTO mode then in PORTRAIT mode! In Portrait mode you have the following options for lighting as you touch the icons as shown in progression on the screen:

- 1 Natural Light – portrays the subject as naturally as possible, the default setting.
- 2 Studio Light – brightens the face of the subject.
- 3 Contour Light – adds shadows to the face of your subject.
- 4 Stage Light – blacks out the background, emphasizing the subject greatly!
- 5 Stage Light Mono – turns the photo to black and white.

Each setting can then be edited easily within the photo program to bring the photo to perfection!!

Additional tip: Emphasize the eyes!! Tap on the eyes to set the focus!!!



Photo Mode



Portrait—Stage Light



Portrait — Stage Light Mono

Marcia Richard

1944 – 2024

Marcia Richard, 1st Vice-president of Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, passed away on December 20, 2024. She was a member and former president of the Crofton Village Garden Club where her love of community created success for her club. As Publicity Chairman for District II, Marcia enthusiastically promoted the DII Daffodil Show. She served as FGCMD Awards Chairman before joining the Executive Committee. Her last project was planning, along with other members of the Crofton community, a Gold Star Memorial installation at the entrance to Crofton.



Awards.....Ann Street, Chairman, Bob Howatt, Vice Chairman

Awards for 2025 have been a wonderful surprise. Four out of five districts submitted applications, highlighting all their wonderful projects. We have forwarded nine year books to CAR-SGC and three projects to NGC for further consideration.

The Awards Selection Committee met in early December at Our Shephard Lutheran Church in Severna Park and spent the morning scoring each of the award applications. It was obvious the competition has been getting much tighter as most club applications are hitting all the marks needed to secure a high score on their projects. Photography provided another stunning array of club member pictures that were scored in late December with the help of a professional photographer. Yearbooks provided great insight into all the clubs efforts to help their membership enjoy a rewarding year. The NGC and CAR-SGC award recipients are unknown until to their fall meetings. The only award application left to be submitted is our Perennial Bloom Award which was due February 1st, 2025.

It's been another wonderful year working with the Awards Committee. We have had a lot of fun evaluating applications and learning about all the great projects that our clubs have been working on. The Directors will start announce the award winners at ucoming District Meetings. Thank you for participating in the awards program and sharing your wonderful projects.

Climate Action CommitteeCarolyn Braverman

President Middleton’s theme of Sustaining Maryland, One Action At a Time, was the impetus for the establishment of a new committee under the umbrella of the Conservation and Environmental Awareness Committee. And so the Climate Action Committee was “born”. It has been a busy two years:

- June 28, 2023: Initial meeting to establish the committee
- July 26, 2023: Developed a two year plan for Zoom presentations and a Newsletter
- October 2023: Issue 1 of Gardening in the Age of Climate Change
- November 1, 2023: First Zoom event with Sara Via: Climate Change is Already Here: The Problem, Its Impacts and How We Solve It
- January 17, 2024: Second Zoom Presentation with Kerry Wixted: Double Trouble: Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and What We Can Do
- May, 2024: Issue 2 of Gardening the Age of Climate Change
- August 2024: Issue 3 of Gardening in the Age of Climate Change
- September 25, 2024: Third Zoom Program with Laura Greenleaf: Shedding Light on Night Skies: Introduction to Light Pollution
- November 2024: Issue 4 of Gardening on the Age of Climate Change

We had planned for a Campaign for Nature, a full day of programs on May 1, 2024, but sadly, had to cancel as the timing for this event faced numerous conflicts.

It has been an incredible learning experience for me, and I hope for those who participated.

!!!FGCMD School News!!!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL, COURSE 1

**Scheduled for May 7 & 8, 2025
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Columbia, MD**

Take your gardening knowledge to the next level!!
Join us to learn some very exciting landscape design principles and techniques
from an excellent selection of instructors.

Classes/Instructors include:

"Learning About Your Ecosystem" & "Design for the Environment"
Presented by Dr. Stacy Small-Lorenz,
Faculty Specialist for Residential Landscape Ecology, UMD Extension

"Creating Pollinator Havens with Native Plants"
Presented by Maddie Potter,
Faculty Specialist for Entomology, UMD Extension

"Space, Design and People"
Presented by Betty Reeves, CCBC Adjunct Faculty for Interior Design,
FGCMD Member and Landscape Design Consultant

"Color in the Landscape"
Presented by Carrie Engel, Greenhouse Manger & Educator, Valley View Farms

"Developing Your Garden Plan" & "Basics of a Site Plan"
Presented by Kelley Okleson, Owner, Groundsmith Collective Design Firm,
UMD Adjunct Professor

**"Principles & Elements of Landscape Design" &
"Development of Landscape Design: Ancient Times to 1840"**
Presented by Colleen Vacelet, President,
Intreegue Design Landscape Architecture, Adjunct Professor UMD

"Xeriscaping: Not Just for the Desert"
Presented by Wanda MacLachlan, Retired UMD Extension Educator

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
EARTH DAY
EVENT**

8:00 to 8:45 Registration & Refreshments
8:45 to 9:00 Welcome

April 24, 2025 - 8 am to 12 noon
Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum
Baltimore, MD

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Ecological Landscaping for a Climate Resistant Watershed

Stacy Small-Lorenz, Specialist for Residential Landscape, UMD Extension

Learn about Maryland's climate forecast and delve into practical steps we can take as individuals and neighborhoods to become better stewards of the land, water, and atmosphere, in a shared quest for climate-resilient, sustainable landscapes that support native biodiversity and enhance our human connection to nature.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Beauty, Biodiversity and Resilience

Lisa Kuder, Native Plants & Landscape Specialist, UMD Extension

Explore naturalistic design and how to select native plants that can tolerate deer pressure, as well as a range of environmental conditions such as drought, flooding, and salt intrusion. Try your hand at applying what you've learned in a group garden design project.

11:10 AM - 12:00 PM

Protecting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects Amid Climate Change

Madeline Potter, Specialist for Entomology & IPM, UMD Extension

Connect the dots between Climate Change, native plants, pollinators, and beneficial insects while hearing actionable advice for gardeners. From habitat creation to learning about fascinating insect-plant relationships, discover how your greenspace can become a refuge for biodiversity.

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

\$30 Registration. Please make checks payable to: FGCMD
Earth Day Event
Mail this registration form and payment to:
FGCMD, PO Box 65172, Baltimore, MD 21209

**Native plant sale by
Herring Run Nursery**

Several conservation organizations
will have exhibits with information
about their activities and missions,
with staff members available to
answer questions.



Eventbrite online Registration
\$33.85 includes \$3.85 processing fee

Pre-registration is required & must be
received by Friday, April 18
Note: Fees are non-refundable



"Approved Maryland Master Naturalist &
Master Gardener Advanced Training Event"



2025 CONVENTION
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Charleston, SC
Sunday May 18- Thursday May 22, 2025
<https://gardenclub.org/2025-national-garden-clubs-convention>

News from Around the State

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

...Trish Reynolds pkr26998@gmail.com

District Director, Terry Holman



Happy New Year! This winter season, while bone chilling of late, has had many soul warming moments.

One of the greatest for me was the final planting of native trees for the District I Alice Rush McKeon Native Tree Planting Grant.

With the help of MD-DNR Tree Specialist, Haley Rhodes, we were able to plant 118 Native trees using the \$7000 grant at Maryland's newest State Park and another 12 native trees at the MD Tuckahoe State Park for a total of 130 trees! If not for an incredible amount of help from Haley, the MD DNR, and the Conservation Corps, this would never have happened in such a big way!



Linda Elias, Michelle MacTavish, Reenie Rice

Chestertown Garden ClubSue Comer

So many memories over the past two years – much laughter as things were done but not always in the way we planned them! In 2023, we had the most amazing in home flower show planned by Phyllis Roberts and Kate Mason. It was beautiful and made more so by all the smiles afterwards.

Activities included visits to the National Arboretum and Chanticleer Gardens. We celebrated the 125th anniversary of Hebe, the Goddess atop our fountain in Fountain Park. She has stood there, watching over everyone, maybe or maybe not dispensing the ambrosia that leads to eternal youth! All we can say is our garden club members are doing very well.

Dorchester Garden Club....Kay Karminskil

It has been busy, prosperous, creative, and productive two years for The Dorchester Garden Club, with so many programs , workshops and gardens to choose from.

The club maintains three public gardens in the City of Cambridge. Highlights for two of these gardens in 2024:



WWII Memorial, Cambridge, MD 1

The World War II Memorial Garden in the park at Long Wharf. This historic garden was created to salute our fallen heroes. It is funded

by the American Legion Post #91

and cared for by Dorchester Garden Club's "Ivy League" and the City of Cambridge.

The historic Dorchester County Courthouse and Garden. This

garden and lovely planters are funded and cared for by the Dorchester Garden "Ivy League" and the Dorchester County Courthouse. On patriotic holidays, the team provides flags to encircle the front of the building, and

the large flowerpots, receive thorough cleaning, repairs and some replanting when necessary. It is particularly important to recognize the statue of Harriet Tubman gracing the front of the courthouse since visitors to Cambridge are often drawn here by tour itineraries. In like manner, on other holidays such as Christmas, a special renovation or renewal of the plantings and area to depict timely celebrations require the "Ivy League's" creative attention.

Four Seasons Garden Club....Anne Heavner

FSGC President mission : To stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to aid in the protection of plants and wildlife, to foster the art of floral design and to encourage civic beauty .

Gail Willin recipient of this year's CAR-SGC Perennial Bloom Award is a true model for my mission statement. She has always been a wonderful mentor and continues to provide the club with knowledge and expertise. Another highlight was "The



Wizard of Oz, an NGC Standard Flower Show". Club participation was outstanding.

Kent Island Garden Club....Bobbie Bell

Should old acquaintances be forgotten....surely not!

We remember with fondness the work, the fun, the planning, the partying! I remember Marigolds for Moms, Painting and Potting with residents of the Chesterwye Center, of great participation and platitudes for our Specialty Horticulture Show, of Annual Kent Island Days, making table arrangements for Talisman Therapeutic Center and Wreaths Across America, Pool Parties, Summer Picnics and Prosecco, Arts N Bloom with KIFA and more! Eight new members have been planted into our club and will start to Bloom in 2025!

And so, my dears, KIGC will drink a cup of kindness yet for the sake of auld lang syne and wish you the very best in keeping things alive in 2025!

Oxford Garden Club....Melinda Hudson

One of the highlights of 2024 was celebrating our 20th Anniversary. It is a happy milestone, and one learns a lot when looking back. It helps to have an eloquent historian, Sheila

News from Around the State

Eagen. Through her work, we could see the arc of twenty years of community service, creativity, beautification and conservation and, of course, spectacular people - mentors, friends, colleagues. In our next decade, we will continue to sustain, educate, inspire, and enjoy each



Reenie Rice, Dorothy Williams, Jane Selden

other and the wonders of this precious ecosystem. We closed the year with a flurry of support for sustainability, conservation and community wellness. Including the new Community Garden at the Oxford Community Center, made possible by a Sustainability Award. Our gardeners designed, planted and now maintain a lush and productive vegetable garden for our local food pantry. Our talented team, Marilyn Reedy, Reenie Rice, and Jane Selden engaged summer campers to get started and teach the ethic and practice of growing and sharing fresh, healthy and abundant food to one's neighbors.

Queen Anne's County Garden Club ...Laura Blaylock

The ladies of the QACGC exemplify character, creativity and grace; they have made my Presidency a real pleasure. I think fondly of their willingness to put on one of the best events ever; the 2022 Harvest Highlights Flower Show. They then worked hard to raise thousands of dollars through the Holiday Dinner Party Raffle and May Mart. With the help of the Sustaining



Maryland President's Project, this civic organization planted trees at Route 18 Park to honor the Police, Firefighters and First Responders who served over the 90 years of our club's existence.

Our club enjoys decorating downtown Centreville at Christmas and in Spring annually. Perhaps most importantly, along the way, we have welcomed fourteen new friends who are sure to keep the club vibrant.

Somerset County Garden Club...Dana Zucker

The Somerset County Garden Club hosted Spirit of America District I Flower Show in Easton on October 5th. It was an amazing day with many entries. Somerset County's own, and incoming District I Director, Ann Street won 3rd place in a class called "Patriot Path". Other programs featured community projects. In June the club joined the Lower Shore Land Trust to both have member gardens on the tour but also

have members available for questions and share information about the club. The club also took a hard look at the environment in many ways including programs about pollinators and using only recycled or items found in nature for the State House tree. The club invited the community to join them in member Regina Bell's garden for the first annual Cocktail/Tea in the Garden Party in July.

Talbot County Garden Club...Maribeth Lane

These past two years have been very productive for the Talbot County Garden Club. We have introduced several new aspects for our membership to include a revamped website, a native plant sale, Youth Gardening Division for the District I Flower Show, monthly lectures/workshops on Horticulture, radio podcasts on a local radio station and more. And most notably we expanded our membership by 18 members over the two year period.

In 2024 TCGC expanded its outreach to include a new and important part of the Talbot County community - adults living with disabilities. Beginning in January 2024 TCGC partnered with the



YMCA of the Chesapeake to host men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities, providing programs such as creating terrariums, small window boxes for herbs, floral arrangements, and more. By popular demand this project has become a permanent part of the newly renamed "Garden Therapy- Inclusive Gardening Committee". Future projects are planned in cooperation with the groups mentioned above.

Worcester County Garden Club...Joan La Hayne

The Worcester County Garden Club excelled at "Growing Relationships Through Gardening" during this term. Members



got their hands dirty making hypertufa planters to sell at a local farmers market and while inclement weather affected sales, members purchased their favorites and went home happy.

The club is initiating plans to add a Gold Star Memorial marker at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial. We ended 2024 with a festive holiday luncheon.

News from Around the State

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

Shirley Santora shysanta@verizon.net

District II

Paula McCathran Winkler, Director

Welcome 2025 --- looking forward to the changes in the upcoming next 3 months and the installations of new administrations in our District, our Clubs, and the State. Exciting times...

It has been my honor and pleasure these past 16 months to lead our District. I Thank You for your trust in me!

Sincerely, pmw



The **Bayside Bloomers Garden Club** embraced the spirit of the holiday season with a whirlwind of festive activities and community engagement. Their celebrations kicked off in November with a visit to Dodon Winery in Davidsonville, Maryland. Club members learned about the vineyards, pollinator meadow, and woods, while also discovering that the winery has an inspiring commitment to enhancing biodiversity—a shared passion for the Bayside Bloomers.

The holiday cheer continued Saturday, December 14, with the club's annual Greens Workshop. The event blended camaraderie and creativity as members gathered to share a delicious brunch before rolling up their sleeves to craft 30 beautiful floral arrangements. These creations were donated to help brighten day of patients at Hospice of the Chesapeake, embodying the club's dedication to spreading joy during the season of giving. After completing their floral designs, members turned their attention to making personal kissing balls from fresh greens, adding a touch of handmade charm to their own holiday décor



Another part of the season was the club's selection to design one of the Annapolis State Circle Wreaths. The wreath graced a lamp post in downtown Annapolis, contributing to the city's holiday ambiance and highlighting the club's creativity to the wider community.

The Bayside Bloomers Garden Club wrapped up the season with hearts full of gratitude, memories of shared laughter and the meaningful impact through their love of nature and generosity.

Calvert Garden Club finished 2024 with several projects. Early in December our merry band of elves decorated the Courthouse Square for the holidays. Members created swags, wreaths, roping and decorations for the Christmas tree for Calvert's "Home for the Holidays" celebration. Continuing to spread Christmas cheer our elves visited the Calvert Nursing Home for Garden Therapy. Members assisted residents in decorating mini-Christmas trees. Our merry elves also made Christmas arrangements for display in the Drum Point Lighthouse at Calvert Marine Museum and finished the holiday decorating at the Prince Frederick Library. The theme was "Village in Snow." The mantel and entrance shelf were adorned with fresh greenery, pretty, little houses and snowmen. Wreaths with house ornaments were hung on the banisters.

After a busy end to 2024 we are ready to start 2025 with some great programs. January's first program is Maryland's Big Tree Project presented by Joli McCathran, Vice Chair of the Maryland Big Tree program. Calvert County is home to fifty-three "Big Trees" five of those trees are state "Big Trees." The program covers how the program began and the criteria for a tree to be a "Big Tree." Up next in January is "Choosing Plants with Design in Mind." This program is part of our Horticultural Study Group. Smithsonian Horticulturalist, Janet Draper highlights her favorite plants for creating year-round interest in your garden. February brings presenter Edward Goodwin speaking about Integrated Pest Management – using gardening practices that reduce the need for herbicides, pesticides and promoting plant health through environmentally sound practices. March 20-22 arrives with a yearly favorite, Books in Bloom. Book inspired floral arrangements by garden club members and other area garden club floral designers. The public is invited to participate with guidance available from our club. Arrangements are displayed at all Calvert County Library branches March 20-22.



Chartwell Garden Club recently enjoyed , "Beyond Phalaenopsis", a lively history of the myths surrounding orchid culture by Dr. Clark Riley. He is a member of the Maryland Orchid Society and the National Capitol Orchid Society. His lifelong interest in orchids began when he was 6 years old.

News from Around the State



The **Chesapeake Garden Club** (CGC) held two very successful outreach programs in November. With the encouragement of Fairview Branch Library, CGC members held a program demonstrating various holiday ideas including table arrangements using fall foliage, seasonal greens, terrarium, and craft ideas for children. Over 40 people attended. Many signed up for the CGC November meeting where the Club hosted a prospective membership event. Guests were invited to make holiday swags and 19 visitors came and enjoyed the day. The two events were very successful.

Four Rivers Garden Club continues our 100-year tradition of community service. Our 2024 projects were carried out by six working teams. Several of these groups created weekly fresh flower arrangements in recycled jars for delivery to charitable organizations. The abundant arrangements used greenery from our gardens, along with the discarded but still lovely fresh flowers that we picked up weekly at Trader Joe's.

The Light House homeless shelter was given table centerpieces and table arrangements for their luncheon room.

Chrysalis house also enjoyed flower deliveries, some for use in client therapy. For Annapolis and Eastport Elementary Schools, around 60 small arrangements for teachers were delivered several times, and the PTO groups were given buckets of flowers for children to make monthly teacher gifts. The Arnold Senior Center enjoyed flowers for their office area, and Maryland Hall received large arrangements for holiday events. The Symphony and Opera were also recipients of bouquets for their events too.

As a part of our 100th anniversary celebration Four Rivers gave funds to London Town and huge flower urns to Hammond Harwood House. Meanwhile, other Four Rivers groups planted flowers, bulbs, and shrubs at Broadneck High school. A garden statue was donated to Tawes Garden. Several members made arrangements for the 250th celebration of the Burning of the Peggy Stewart Brig at the Hammond Harwood House celebration. Our club also held a garden tea party for our 100th

year celebration, at the Hammond Harwood House and several ladies from District II were in attendance.

When the weather turned cold, we gathered bags of fresh boxwood for our annual Wreath Making holiday event, creating numerous boxwood wreaths and trees. Additionally, for Wreaths Across America, we placed large boxwood wreaths on the entrance pillars at the Annapolis National Cemetery.

Hollyberry Garden Club

hosted its annual Greens Sale at the Severna Park Library December 6-7, 2024. The garden club members created over 150 beautiful handmade wreaths, swags, centerpieces, trees and other gifts. Also available were pre-planted amaryllis bulbs in a variety of colors and containers.



The **Naval Academy Garden Club** (NAGC) continues its celebration of 90 years of service by reflecting on major gardening events that have occurred since its founding in 1934. First, Victory Gardens were an important country-wide program that offered relief to families during times of food shortages. They became popular and almost essential during World Wars I and II, when food was scarce and rationed. These gardens played a pivotal role in fostering food security and community resilience.

Environmental Movement ignited by Rachel Carson with the publication of "Silent Spring" in 1970. This book highlighted how chemical industries damage our environment when their toxic products, developed to kill insects and foster plant growth, creeps through gardens to our waterways. The NAGC is highlighting the importance of Carson's research which had an enormous impact on our nearby Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The **Shipley's Choice Garden Club** has had a busy winter. We are working with the neighborhood and community on the program "How to Grow and Keep Your Indoor House Plants Healthy". Members attended the lecture in Talbot County "Helping Native Bees in Talbot County".

In February we met at our community club house for "BYO Tea Cup", and had afternoon tea with savory sandwiches and learning about local tea history.

News from Around the State

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



District III Director, Randy Low

District III was very busy decorating Historic Homes during December. Many of the clubs involved submitted pictures to the district newsletter. The District also sponsored a wreath or porch pot workshop that was greatly enjoyed by those who attended. We are now working on our annual meeting March 7th at the Valley Mansion. Karl Gercens will present the program “The Hows of Wows” (behind the scenes at Longwood Gardens). We will also have a silent auction, vendors and a raffle. For more information contact me at randysaint@hotmail.com.

disappeared with lightning speed. The kids really loved the Alstroemeria, baby’s breath and carnations, and red must be a favorite as they kept asking for more. In addition to learning to make a floral arrangement, another goal of this



project from the perspective of Gretchen McGee (Lutherville Lab’s Kindergarten Teacher and head of the Lutherville Lab School Garden Club) is to learn about sharing. Each student was to create an arrangement for themselves and then one to share with another person. The students were eager to tell us who they would like to share their second arrangement with. This is a fun and rewarding club activity that really puts members, and the children, in the holiday spirit!

Evergreen Garden Club participated in the Ladew Topiary Garden Glow with prep work cutting, gutting and carving pumpkins. Contributing to a total of 750 pumpkins for the event.



A Habitat for Humanity house in Aberdeen was landscaped by and with club member contributions and from Site One Landscape Supply. Our group has planted at twenty-two houses thus far. At the last house in Elkton we diehard gardeners broke through a frozen top layer of ground to achieve our goal. Citizen’s Care nursing home

Garden Therapy Program in Havre de Grace once again benefited by members as they decorated the main dining room for the holidays.

EGC gals worked in the basement of the Liriodendron Mansion creating arrangements for the Holiday Fundraiser in two-day sessions.

Lutherville Garden Club conducted a Young Gardeners’ Christmas Floral Project in December at Lutherville Lab School. Members Marie Frederick and Georgia Jubb led a volunteer team consisting of club members Corinne Lears, Dawn Slaughter, Char Monfried, Elaine Tipton, Vicki Kessler, and Susan Dumont. Forty (40) children attended and they were so excited and eager to start their arrangements. After a short demonstration, the children were ready to take off. The flowers and greens (donated by club members)

conducted a Young Gardeners’ Christmas Floral Project in December at Lutherville Lab School.



The **Manor Garden Club** in North Baltimore County is committed to sustainable gardening and has shared some techniques in its latest meetups. Highlights included a late fall discussion on planting and maintaining native perennial gardens at a local garden center, and an early winter presentation on home composting by Master Gardener Pam from the Baltimore County Agricultural Center. Most exciting is that the club finished part 1 of its Paths and Pollinators project. This project is meant to improve accessibility for human visitors to a local trail and through the club’s native perennial garden, which is called the Phoenix Garden. In December, working with a grant from the Federated Garden Clubs, Manor Garden club members joined Ranger Jen Cashell from the Department of Natural Resources to upgrade an accessibility path to milepost 2 of the Torrey C. Brown/NCR trail off Phoenix Road in the Sparks area. Part 2 of the project will continue in the spring when club members along with local volunteers will work to upgrade a path through the club’s community garden. The club also hopes to participate in Earth Day activities at Monkton Station to educate about the benefits of native plants for wildlife and pollinators. Part 3 of the project happens this fall, when the club will introduce additional native perennials into its garden to increase the variety and the blooming time for pollinators. Results of the effort will be enjoyed next spring and summer 2026. Special thanks to the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland for supporting this effort!



Before



After

The **Woodbrook-Murray Hill Garden Club** traveled to Cold Spring Floral in White Hall for its November meeting. Tasia McKnight showed club members how to create a spectacular turkey design from dried flowers and turkey



feathers.

For our December meeting, Ellen Frost of Local Color Flowers in Waverly demonstrated holiday designs and discussed her locally-sourced, intriguing plant material. Before, during, and after, we enjoyed a potluck hors d'oeuvres and dessert spread, auction, and Yankee Swap gift exchange.

At the beginning of December, **York Manor Garden Club** had another successful Holiday Greens Sale at Mercy Ridge Retirement Community. This year the Greens Sale was extended to the public offering the freshest bundles of evergreens, magnolia and deodar cedar, in addition to a variety of holiday arrangements. Our Mercy Ridge sale first began in 2005 and has been a pleasure for club members and residents. Spring activities include a slate painting workshop led by a club member, and several tours. Tour location will include a local plant nursery, an iris and peony garden, and a rose garden. Our year is concluded with a picnic/luncheon in June.



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



District IV Director Gretchen Edwards

The District IV Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 18, 2025 at L'Hirondelle Club. For more information please contact Gretchen Edwards.

with stars and stripes using the primary colors. Red, green and black Christmas balls were included in the design. Members enjoyed the project.

ForWinAsh Garden Club (FWAGC) continues its tradition of designing and decorating a Christmas tree for Kennedy Krieger's Festival of Trees held at Timonium Fairgrounds. This year FWAGC welcomed Kennedy Krieger's invitation to include "diversity" in the design. Considering FWAGC's African American heritage, the theme "WE ARE ONE" was developed and the colors of red, green and black representative of Pan African nations were the primary colors in the design. The design consisted of the Pan African Flag as well as a flag



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

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

Life members receive a **Black-eyed Susan pin.**

Application link fgcofmd.org/membersupport/

News from Around the State

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



District V Director Shelley Johnson

District V is halfway to its goal of collecting 1000 lbs of soft plastics with a total of 554 + lbs collected as of December. The club who has collected the most in the District will receive a TREX recycled park bench to be placed in their community.

DV will have its installation of new officers on March 6, 2025 at Holly Hills

Country Club, Ijamsville, MD. It is our honor to do the centerpieces and the tribute floral design for the state meeting on March 25, 2025.

Finally, we are sorry to lose one of our flower show judges, Lynn Vinke, as she is moving to Minnesota to be closer to her family. Lynn was an active member in her club, Mountain Laurel, and was a judge that many of us relied on for shows.



Crossroads Garden Club - District V recycling plastic project has collected over 100 pounds and planted over 1,000 bulbs.



Members of **Green-walled Garden Club** participated in a workshop at Perennial Clay and Garden Shop, Frederick MD. The presentation included information about care of bulbs, pre-cooling temperatures and planting. Each member chose several bulbs and arranged them in a take home clay pot. These can be enjoyed as a table decoration until ready to transfer to the garden for blooms in the spring.

The **Crossroads Garden Club** decorates and provides monthly flowers for our clubhouse, The Women's Club, a federal building, on South Prospect Street in Hagerstown's historic district. This year's theme was the Nutcracker Suite Ballet. December community and club events enjoyed the festive decorations, as well as community members, residents, and club members.



For many years the **Howard County Garden Club** has decorated the Firehouse Museum in Historic Ellicott City. The town is decorated every year with holiday decorations. Leonora Hoenes and Dorcas Zoller (pictured) were members of the decorating committee. The photographs were taken by club member, Vickie Goeller.

Tasker's Chance Garden Club, long known as the Boxwood Club, members worked together to create 75 Boxwood Christmas trees that had been sold by members to coworkers, friends and family throughout Frederick County. The trees were crafted with fresh Boxwood clippings from members' gardens, and were sold fully decorated with lights, bows, berries, cones and cardinals; just lights; or in the simple beauty of the fresh greens. We enjoyed a day of great fellowship and a delicious potluck lunch while crafting our signature trees. It was a very successful fundraiser!



News from Around the State



Tasker's was invited to decorate an historic home that was to be featured on Frederick's Candlelight House Tour. Amid frigid temperatures and high winds, we decorated the lovely home inside and out in a theme featuring reindeer, family heirlooms and traditions, using an abundance of natural materials and fresh greens, all favorites of the homeowner.

Mt. Airy Garden Club (MAGC) members have been busy continuing our tradition of making festive, Christmas decorations for buildings in our town. At our Holiday

Workshop, we made wreaths and swags for Pine Grove Chapel and its Blue Star Memorial, as well as, for the Mt. Airy Library, the Mt. Airy Senior Center and the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Dept building where we hold our meetings. We support the Wreaths Across America Program each year. Later, our Horticulture Chair, Mary LeGore, led our members in making lovely floral centerpieces for their homes.



2025—2027 Incoming Officers National Garden Clubs President

Donna Donnelly

4494 McCords Ferry Rd
Elloree, SC 29047-9781

dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org

843-864-7594

Theme: PLANT AMERICA for the next 100 years!

PRESIDENT'S PROJECTS:

-PLANT AMERICA

-Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Red, White and Blue! (2026)

CAR-SGC Region Director

Beverly Kazickas

carsgc.regiondirector@gmail.com

FGCMD President

Donna Miller

PO Box 507

McHenry, MD 21541-0507

dmill11@comcast.net

240-442-5390

Theme: Be a Steward of the Earth

FGCMD State News



The Call

96th Annual Meeting Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland Tuesday, March 25, 2025, Turf Valley Resort and Hotel

All FGCMD members are invited to attend this year's State Annual Meeting and welcome our special Guest of Honor, National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore. President Moore will install the new FGCMD Officers, who will lead our Federation for the 2025-2027 term. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Liz Williams, proposes the following slate for your confirmation:

President, Donna Miller – Mountain Laurel Garden Club/District V
 First Vice President
 Second Vice President, Randy Low – Gunpowder Garden Club/District III
 Treasurer, Anna O'Kelly – Crofton Greenery Garden Club/District II
 Recording Secretary, Mary Hutchins-Danna - Mt. Airy Garden Club/ District V
 Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Santora – Chartwell Garden Club/District II

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

Registration	8:00am	-	11:45 am
located in the Lobby of the Hotel's Main Entrance			
Vendor shopping	8:00am	-	3:00 pm
Silent Auction	9:45am	-	12:00 noon
Business Meeting	9:30am	-	11:00 am
Cash Bar	11:00am	-	2:00 pm
Luncheon	11:45am	-	12:45 pm
Program	1:00pm	-	2:00 pm

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

LUNCHEON MENU

Market Salad Market V & GS-Mixed greens, zucchini, Carrots, Tomatoes, Peppers, Onion , Herb Vinaigrette
 Herb-Roasted Chicken GS with Wild Rice Medley, Sauteed Squash, Creamy Dijon Sauce
 Double Layer Carrot Cake V

Note: GS means Gluten Sensitive, V means Vegetarian

PROGRAM

The luncheon program is: "The Exciting New World of Houseplants" featuring Ron McIntosh. He is a Horticulturist and Landscape and Gardening Advisor in Pennsylvania. He will lead you into the world of houseplants as you explore the varieties from around the globe as well as traditional ones from the past. Discussion will cover the selection and care of indoor greenery from containers, soil and fertilizers to pest control and propagation. **Plus, all the plants he displays will be for sale!**