



GARDENEWS

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President Anna O'Kelly and Sheba

As the colors outdoors change from the greens of summer to the glorious autumn hues, our thoughts turn to crisp autumn days and the coming holiday season. Many of our clubs have begun to safely return to in-person meetings and are planning to resume their traditions of holding greens workshops, decorating historic homes for the holidays, and decorating public areas with garlands and wreaths.

Zoom meetings continue to be a valuable resource for our organization. The September NGC Board meeting was held virtually. We were entertained by author Amy Stewart, [The Drunken Botanist](#), attended workshops on Each one Plant one, Sponsorship opportunities, and how to be effective leaders, and too much more to list.

We have successfully completed Course III of Landscape Design School in person and look forward to Course IV of Landscape Design School May 24-25, 2022, at Turf Valley Resort. We will tour two gardens during Course IV and it's not a requirement to have attended the first three courses to sign up. We will begin a new Garden Study School beginning September 14-15, 2022. The school will be held at the Cylburn Arboretum classroom.

Did you know that we have a virtual book club? The group came together to connect during the isolation of Covid and continues to meet virtually to discuss various garden or nature themed books. The next book club meeting is December 10, and [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) by Robin Wall Kimmer will be discussed. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carolyn Braverman at carolyn-yb28@gmail.com.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the State Annual Meeting to be held March 22, 2022, at Turf Valley. Our special guest will be the CAR-SGC Region Director, Betty Cookendorfer. The Judges' Council will host a flower show, and the speaker for the program will be author Page Dickey. She is a well-known garden writer who has been gardening passionately, writing about gardening, and designing gardens for others for several years. Of course, we will have vendors for your shopping pleasure!

Please check out the State website as well as our Facebook page to find out what is happening across the State. Remember to submit dates of events to website@fgcofmd.org and share photos at [Facebook@fgcofmd.org](https://www.facebook.com/fgcofmd.org).

Keep Growing!

Anna O'Kelly

1st Vice-president

NGC Online Resources

If you haven't visited the NGC website you are missing out on a lot of free resources.

Here are just a few:

- **The National Gardener** <https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener>
This is the official publication of the National Garden Clubs, and appears quarterly. They highlight articles of interest to environmentalists, gardeners, landscapers, floral designers, educators as well as nature photographers. Feature columns provide our readers with leadership advice, seasonal recipes and garden club lore. You can view and download the current and archived issues. On this page you can also register your email to get an email notification when each new issue is published.
- **Virtual Sharing** <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/virtual-resources-links.pdf> Your NGC Virtual Resources Team promised you internet links to access green education, garden tours, and special topical presentations. Many possibilities await! Have questions or need help- email the Virtual Resource Team: virtualteam@gardenclub.org
- **NGC UTube Channel** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnNSWjpNiff8QuqH534bMA/videos> while in its beginning stages this is sure to grow. Right now, it has recorded messages from our leadership, a brief tour of NGC headquarters and information about two of our grant programs, Ames Tools and Espoma.
- **Need basic tech help?** A workshop is coming! Keep on the lookout for more information.



Susie Middleton
1st Vice-president

Susie Middleton

Announcements



2021-2023 FGCMMD Directories

are available for purchase.

\$5.00 each plus postage.

May also be picked up in person.

Contact the Office Administrator office@fgcofmd.org

Are you Interested in Becoming a Flower Show Judge? To start you need to take the four courses in the school. Maryland just completed a series so won't be offering one in the state but two local states are offering the courses.

Virginia (VFGC) will be holding Flower Show School - Course #2, Feb 28 - Mar 3, 2022 in Waynesboro, VA (just off I-64 near Charlottesville). The instructors are Darlene Newell of West Virginia and Judy Binns of Virginia. Darlene will be teaching *Aucuba* and Succulents with an emphasis on *dracaena (sansevieria)*. Judy Binns will teach all types of tables and petites. Questions – contact Frances Thrash, francesthrash@cox.net, 757-481-3484 (H) or 757-478-5791.

Pennsylvania will be offering Flower Show School Course #1 slated for Thursday, April 28-May 1, 2022 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Plymouth Meeting is a northwest suburban area near Philadelphia but the hotel has easy access to all the major routes feeding into the area. Instructors are Dot Yard/Horticulture and Julia Clevert/Design. Want more information? Contact Lori Pancione, PA State Flower Show Schools Chair at lpanzy@hotmail.com or 215-680-1310 (c).

Both schools have adapted the new schedule in which you study a topic the first day and get the test the next morning. Experience has shown this format to be less stressful and yields excellent results.

Virtual Book Club

Book Review for *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change our Minds and Shape Our Future*

What can eat rock, make soil, digest pollutants, nourish and kill plants, survive in space, induce visions, produce food, make medicines, manipulate animal behavior and influence the composition of earth’s atmosphere? Give up? It is fungi! In his new book, *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Future* Sheldon Mandrake takes us on a journey through this fascinating world.

In one chapter, he tells us about the foraging behavior of fungal mycelium (the network of fungi). A professor of microbial ecology, who works with mycelium, studies how they grow and expand. She devised an experiment in which mycelium could work out the most efficient routes between cities in Britain! In another chapter, he discusses how lichens are actually two different entities, a fungus and an alga, which work together, each providing what the other one needs, and that the discoverer of this phenomenon, Albert Frank, actually coined the term “symbiosis” for this phenomenon back in 1877.

Sheldrake details how psilocybin, a component of certain mushrooms, has influenced the ritual and spiritual doctrines of human society and how the use of

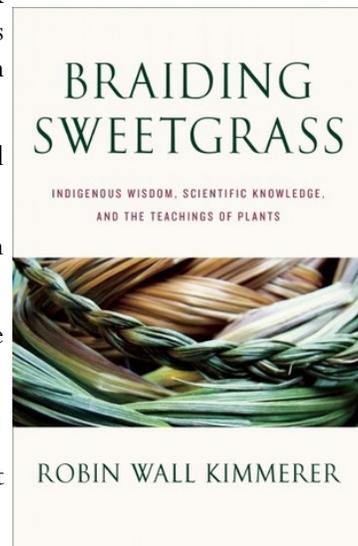
these mushrooms has evolved to cure human problems or to provide relief from anxiety and depression for those suffering from terminal illnesses.

These are just a few of the facts revealed in this engaging book, which members of the FGCMMD Virtual Book Club read and discussed in our September “meeting”.

Next up is *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wells Kimmerer.

We’ll be meeting virtually on December 10, 2021. Please contact me at carolynb28@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Carolyn Braverman



In Memoriam



Bonnie Stevens

December 26, 1942—August 25, 2021

FGCMMD President 2007—2009

Founding Member Oxford Garden Club

NGC Flower Show Judge

Judge American Daffodil Society



Joan Bender

May 10, 1947 – August 21, 2021

Catonsville Garden Club

NGC Flower Show Judge

Credentials Chairman Judges Council

Judge American Daffodil Society

Councils and Schools

Gardening Consultants Council joins with the Landscape Design Council and tour Historic Hampton Mansion



Photo Courtesy of Historic Hampton

Although a bit last minute, council members, including those with Gardening Council, met in person the first time since the Covid-19 outbreak. Historic Hampton Mansion opened their grounds for group tours and this was right up our alley. On September 30, we were met at the Visitor's Center

by the new Horticulturalist, Jimmy Hogan, a Historian, Dustin Durovik, and a Park Service Ranger Tim Ertle. What a glorious weather day! We wended up past the original greenhouses to see the magnificent catalpa tree, dodging a black walnut falling from above. Most of the trees are over 200 years old and are well cared

for by staff. One particular tree, Cedar of Lebanon, located

centrally in the Great Terrace, arrived as a seedling in a shoebox in which Eliza Ridgely brought from



*Photo courtesy of Terry Conner
Catalpa Tree*

Europe. Yes, it's still standing and it's huge!

Eliza Ridgely (1803-1867) was a noted horticulturist and successfully created larger and more elaborate gardens cultivated on the grounds, with a large variety of flowers and shrubs grown in the estate's greenhouses. As we continued on our tour, we overlooked four of the six restored parterres. What a sight! Although many the plantings have passed their prime, the red headed coleus were Spectacular!



Photo courtesy of Anna O'Kelly



Parterres I & II with Hardy Banana Tree and the Red Headed Coleus (Photos courtesy of Terry Conner & Anna O'Kelly)

We wound our way to the other side of the mansion where we were met by Glen Arm Garden Club member, Marion Romans, who was tending the herb garden close to entrance of the kitchen. Her garden club has been looking after the herbs for about fifty years.

As with any tour, we wrapped up in the front of the mansion which overlooks the original farm houses and stables. Many hope to return when the mansion will accept visitors once again to tour the buildings.

Dottie DeMarr, Landscape Design Council Chairman and Carolyn Braverman, Gardening Consultants Council Chairman

Councils and Schools

Continuing Education Opportunities Sponsored by the Councils



Judges Council

The Judges Council recently sponsored a Small Standard Flower Show, “Autumn Leaves are Falling”, at the Chartwell Country Club. Visitors to the show included members of the Town and Country Garden Club in District V, For-Win-Ash Garden Club in District IV and both the Naval Academy Garden Club and Chartwell Garden Club in District II.

Congratulations to Student Judge Carolyn Braverman! Her design (at left) in the “It ‘Leaves’ You Breathless” class was awarded a 1st place Blue ribbon, the Designer’s Choice Award and the Award of Design Excellence.

A Standard Flower Show will be sponsored by the Council at the FGCMMD Annual meeting in March.



Course 3 Landscape Design School Students

Landscape Design School

Course 3 of Landscape Design School was held on September 22 & 23 in Columbia, and was attended by 30 people. This course was particularly exciting as everyone had to prepare a small landscape plan in class. This three-hour class was led by Claire Jones who provided appropriate drawing materials as well as lots of direction. The classes held the day before also provided lots of background in how to draw a landscape plan. Everyone worked diligently and they were all awarded 30 points toward their total grade of 100, which also included an exam. Susie Middleton and Diana Bonner stopped on the way to Columbia and purchased 9 flats of excellent quality plants that were offered for sale during the course, as well as 20 garden aprons, all providing a bit of fundraising for the Landscape Design Council, something we had not been able to do during the other courses. The next LDS is already scheduled for May 24 & 25, 2022 at Turf Valley Resort. This course will include two tours of gardens, one a public garden and one a private, which everyone attending will learn how to evaluate landscape designs.

Submitted by Linda Harris, Landscape Design School Chair

Gardening School

The next Gardening School is scheduled for September 14 and 15 2022. Course I will be held in the Cylburn Classroom. Planning is well underway, and Linda Harris is the contact person: lindaharris355@aol.com

News from Around the State

District I - Eastern Shore

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

Trish Reynolds preynolds@goeaston.net

The Gold Star Memorial Journey



On October 12th, the long-overdue dedication ceremony was held at the Eastern Shore Veteran's Cemetery in Hurlock for the Gold Star Memorial. It was a beautiful, very moving program with a military tribute by USN Ret. Captain Bill Key (husband of past District Director, Doris Key) and the presentation of the memorial by State President Anna O'Kelly to Bruce Webster, USMC Ret. and Superintendent of the cemetery.



President Anna O'Kelly



Bozy Markiewicz (left), former Blue Star Chairman, and Nicki Schwab (right), Blue Star Chairman



USN Ret. Capt. Bill Key

The Gold Star Marker that we dedicated on Oct. 12th has had a long journey and a very interesting history. It all began in 2011 when Nicki Schwab and former Blue Star Chairman Bozy Markiewicz were working with the State Highway Administration in a State Highway Administration yellow truck with SHA contact Jim Hade. The guys had picked the gals up in that wonderful truck on that cold and rainy day, and they headed to the MD/ DE line to check out an old, battered Blue Star that had been installed in a crumbling stone foundation in 1960. Many of the original monuments that were placed in beautiful stone foundations were in terrible disrepair. Alas, the old crumbling monument was to be demolished for highway construction, and we were trying to decide what to do with the old marker with the help from our friends at SHA.

The Federation decided that it would refurbish and save the historic star. Once the old star was looking shiny and brand new again, the SHA relocated the marker to the Bay Country Welcome Center, in Centreville on Nov. 13, 2013.

Four years later the Gold Star Memorial Marker Program was adopted by National Garden Clubs. The new program honored the families “whose loved ones paid the ultimate price defending the United States of America.” the Federation took the lead with the gift of a new post to approve and purchase the first Gold Star Memorial Marker to be installed in our state.

The Star is so elegant and comforting to the families of servicemen, who have given the ultimate sacrifice to our country. It is a peaceful and beautiful tribute. This project has been long in coming, but we finally arrived.

Two additional Gold Star dedications will take place on the Eastern Shore, one in Somerset County on Veteran's Day and a third in Queen Anne's County sponsored jointly by the Kent Island GC and the American Legion Post 278 in Stevensville in December.



Jeanne Bernard, District I Director

Text.....Jeanne Bernard and Nicki Schwab, edited by Trish Reynolds. Photos, Trish Reynolds

News from Around the State

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

Rose Gazarek rosegazarek@gmail.com

Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club promotes conservation, preservation and civic beautification at Maxwell Hall



Carolyn Leahy, District II Director

Maxwell Hall, located at 17388 Teagues Point Road, Hughesville, Maryland, was established before our country—in 1768 by a Scottish merchant, George Maxwell. The colonial home played a role in the War of 1812 when the British came through Benedict, Maryland on their way to Washington, DC. This home was saved from burning because it was so large that it housed army troops at that time. The home was eventually abandoned in 1970 and in 1980 the Swann family purchased the home with the intention to restore it to its original state. They did a fabulous job. The Swanns sold the home to the Charles County Parks in 2007. The colonial home was opened only once a year for the Charles County Holiday Trail. The County Parks supervisor approached the Hughesville Garden

Club to ask if they would like to decorate the home for the annual Christmastime holiday. Hughesville Garden Club has been decorating the home for the annual Holiday Trail for nearly ten years. Then, in 2018, group of Hughesville Garden Club members and others with an affinity for historic homes, formed a group called Friends of Maxwell Hall. The Friends group has opened the home for open houses and Colonial Faires since inception and the Hughesville Garden Club traditionally decorates the home. The recent Southern Maryland Colonial Faire and Fall Festival was the best attended event so far and gained many first-time visitors that plan to visit the Holiday Trail at Maxwell Hall this year. The Hughesville Garden Club

traditionally has an educational exhibit about the gardens maintained throughout the community and other community service projects. The Club also provides the supplies and volunteers member's time for the Children's crafts table. This year, the Club exhibited and demonstrated corn husk dolls, chenille caterpillars, and tri-corner hats, along with coloring of a monarch butterfly.

These activities engage and educate the youngsters. The parents appreciate the educational content too. The recent Colonial Faire highlighted the birthday celebration of the Club's oldest member, Miss Mary Louise Webb, who celebrated her 97th birthday. Miss Webb is a well-known author and speaker for her book, "Life on the Farm."



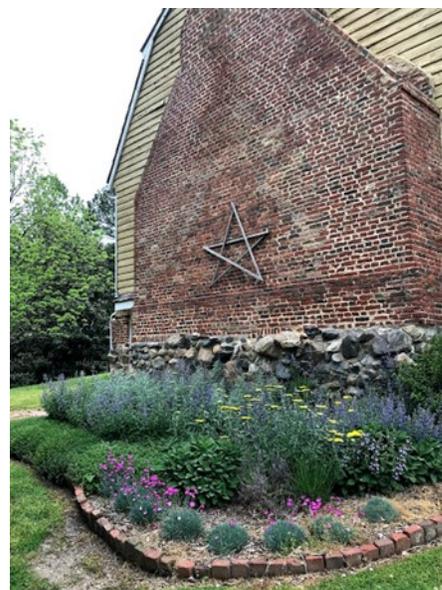
Miss Mary Louise Webb

The Hughesville Garden Club designed a kitchen garden at Maxwell Hall, a historic garden, and a monarch garden that has been certified by the Monarch Waystation. The Baywise team with the Charles County Master Gardeners wanted to certify the property of the historic home but then covid came and activity has not happened yet. It is a registered historic home.

The next event will be Saturday and Sunday, December 4th and 5th, 2021 and, again, the Hughesville Garden Club will decorate the home with the plaid (tartan) theme to highlight the home's Scottish founder, George Maxwell. These events help to bring new visitors to the historic home and also to expand the membership of the Club.



Children's crafts table exhibiting the corn husk dolls



Kitchen garden designed by HGC members

News from Around the State

District III - Baltimore and Harford Counties *Diane Perkins pahperkins@msn.com*

*Claire Jones, District III Director,
presentation for Friendship Garden Club*

District III Garden Clubs are "Back and Running Strong". Clubs have reported that they resumed meeting in-person with restored enthusiasm, camaraderie, and friendship. The clubs have renewed their love of gardening, their stewardship for the environment and their endorsement of conservation through their fall events and activities.

Clubs have been busy kicking off the 2021-2022 garden club year with presentations. In September,

the Friendship Garden Club of Bel Air hosted a demonstration by Claire Jones as she created centerpieces using pumpkins, succulents, and dried materials. Adding a wide variety of colors, shapes and sizes with dried flowers, fruits and vegetables enhanced the creativity of the centerpiece and sparked enthusiasm for starting fall projects. The Bent Twig Garden Club of Catonsville resumed its meeting schedule with Claire Walker from the Irvine Nature Center presenting, *Woodlands and Wildflowers: The Web of Life in a Maryland Forest*.

The Hampton Garden Club members enjoyed returning to their traditional meeting site with guest speaker, Bob Zimmerman, a floral designer/event planner and MICA graduate who has designed for Baltimore Museum of Art, the Walters Art Museum, and the Hunt Ball at George H.W. Bush's inauguration. Bob masterfully created two impressive arrangements with cuttings from a member's garden while offering tips on creating a spectacular centerpiece from individual gardens.



*Flower arrangement
by Bob Zimmerman*

Claire Jones shared her expertise on designing deer resistant gardens with a slide show of award winning landscapes, design ideas and plant selection at the York Manor Garden Club's October meeting. In September and October, garden tours offered the perfect venue for garden clubs to reunite, to renew their spirit of friendship, and to strengthen the commitment to our natural surroundings. Many garden clubs in District III scheduled times to gather together at a garden, both public and private. Members of various clubs opened their gardens for the monthly meetings. York Manor Garden Club kicked off the new season with a tour of Karen Offutt's beautiful private garden that overlooks Upperco, MD.

Community outreach projects resumed with members of the Glen Arm Garden Club maintaining the herb garden at Hampton Mansion, after it had been closed for more than a year. They will be back to replace overgrown plants in Spring 2022. The Friendship Garden Club's continued their effort to keep the Liriodendron Mansion and gardens beautiful by winterizing the kitchen garden, the perennial garden, and the decorative urns. In December, they will transform Liriodendron into a winter wonderland, with trees and creative decorations in each room of the mansion. Liriodendron Mansion and gardens is owned by the city of Bel Air in Harford County, MD. The Glen Arm Garden Club created small seasonal floral arrangements that were distributed to Meals on Wheels recipients in October.



*Glen Arm Garden Club cleaning up the
Hampton Mansion herb garden*

Fundraising is off and running through a variety of events. The Glen Arm Garden Club set up a successful plant sale at the Zion United Church of Christ's Peach Festival in September. The York Manor Garden Club will hold its annual holiday greens sale at Mercy Ridge on December 4th. Club members will meet on Friday December 3rd to create a variety of arrangements for sale at modest prices. The Glen Arm Garden Club is sponsoring a bus trip on December 3rd to Longwood Gardens.



*Members of the Glen Arm Garden Club at the Peach Festival, September
2021*

News from Around the State

District IV - Baltimore City

Members of the thirteen District IV clubs will meet on November 17 at the Cylburn Arboretum Greenhouse Classroom for a leadership workshop. Contact District Director Maidie Podles for more information.

Clubs are planning their annual holiday decorating projects at historic locations throughout the City.



Maidie Podles, District IV Director

District V - Western Maryland Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, Washington
Tina Swanson dt4060@msn.com



Sue Christensen,
District V Director

Howard County GC Blue Star Dedication Ceremony

On September 18, 2021 the Howard County GC dedicated its third Blue Star Memorial at the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library in Ellicott City. The first two memorials in the Historic District were washed away during the floods of 2016 and 2018. It took three years to bring the project to fruition with Chair Laura O'Donnell and 85% of the Howard County Garden



Club Members participating. Due to the unique circumstances, guidance from FGCOFMD officers helped facilitate the process. Partners of the project were The Horticulture and Land Management Division of the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, the Howard County Library System, and the Joint Military Command of Howard County. Member Jennifer Evans designed all three Memorial Gardens.

Director Sue Christensen. Representing Howard County Government were County Executive Calvin Ball, Council Representative David Yungmann, and Council Chair Liz Walsh. The Howard County GC is proud to carry on the tradition of the Blue Star Memorial that honors the Armed Forces of America.

Club Members participating. Due to the unique circumstances, guidance from FGCOFMD officers helped facilitate the process. Partners of the project were The Horticulture and Land Management Division of the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, the Howard County Library System, and the Joint Military Command of Howard County. Member Jennifer Evans designed all three Memorial Gardens.

The ceremony began with the Navy ROTC Color Guard from UMD Baltimore County. Songs and instrumental pieces were performed by St. John's Episcopal Church Choir. Special guests from the Maryland Chapter-Chesapeake Blue Star Mothers and the Maryland Chapter of Gold Star Mothers were introduced at the dedication. Honored guests from FGCOFMD included Blue Star Chair Nicki Schwab, State President Anna O'Kelly, Past State President Carolyn Braverman, and District V

Green-walled GC Garden Plaque Installed at Catoctin Furnace Historical Society



Green-walled GC continues its exciting work at Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Thurmont, MD. Through a **National Garden Club Plant America Grant** and financial support from The Friends of Cunningham Falls State Park and Gambrills State Park, a wayside plaque was installed behind the historic Collier Log Cabin in June 2021. The plaque provides simple answers to questions about the kitchen and pollinator gardens that GwGC maintains on site. It provides historical information, explains

News from Around the State

District V continued.

how the two gardens support each other as well as the benefits of planting with native plants. The plaque also supports a pamphlet holder with brochures that list and describe herbs in the kitchen garden.

Mountain Laurel GC Blue Star Dedication Ceremony



Carolyn Braverman, FGCMC Past President; Brenda Moore, NGC 1st Vice President; Susie Middleton, FGCMC 1st Vice President; Anna O’Kelly, FGCMC President; Diana Bonner, FGCMC Past President; Nicki Schwab, Blue Star Memorial Chair, FGCMC Past President; Marcia Richard, FGCMC 2nd Vice President.

Not pictured: FGCMC Donna Miller, Treasurer.

On September 9, 2021, a Blue Star Memorial Marker was dedicated at the Youghiogheny Overlook Welcome Center on I-68 Eastbound near Friendsville. Linda Harris, MLGC Blue Star Marker Chair, spearheaded the project with the assistance of FGCMC and MDOT. The ceremony was performed by American Legion Post 208 of Accident and featured the Presentation of Colors, an invocation by Walter Nauman (Chaplain, Post 208), Pledge of Allegiance, and the Star-Spangled Banner played by Harry Miller (Bugler, Post 208). Attendees included local and state government officials, MLGC members, and representatives of MDOT,

NGC, and FGCMC. Brenda Moore, NGC 1st Vice President, opened the program with brief remarks, including personal information that her father’s WWII service is honored by the Blue Star Memorial Marker in Morgantown, WV. Nicki Schwab, FGCMC Blue Star Memorial Chair, presented a brief history of Blue Star Markers. A military tribute followed, led by Ed Scofield (Commander, Post 208). Linda Harris and Nicki Schwab unveiled the marker followed by the Dedication of the Marker by Anna O’Kelly, FGCMC President. Charlie Thomas, MDOT/SHA Office Manager and retired Air Force veteran who served in Desert Storm, performed the Acceptance of the Marker. Immediate MLGC past co-presidents Donna Miller and Joan Mitchell laid a wreath designed by members Eleanore Brown and Susan Offutt at the base of the marker. MLGC President Denise Kramer offered closing remarks, followed by a benediction by Walter Nauman, a rifle tribute by members of Post 208 and Taps. The majority of attendees joined club members at a post-ceremony luncheon at Penn Alps.



MLGC recently presented *The Garden: Elements and Styles* by Toby Musgrave to the Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County in Oakland in memory of deceased member Aletta "Letty" Martz. Letty was an active club member for many years, and chaired the Hospitality and Oakland Library Garden committees. Thomas Vose, Library Director, received the book from current MLGC Hospitality Committee Chair Jan Parandhamaia (L) and President Denise Kramer (R).

Become a Life Member



FGCMC Life Membership Pin

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. Life Memberships may be purchased for \$75 per individual. Proceeds go entirely to support the FGCMC Life Member Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships annually to qualified students in accredited U.S. colleges/universities; Life members receive a black-eyed Susan pin to show their commitment and support of FGCMC. A FGCMC Life Membership also is a great way to honor a special member of your garden club. [FGCMC Life Member Application](#)