



GARDENEWS

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4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209

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

President

Anna O'Kelly
anna_okelly@comcast.net

Editor

Mary Jo Robey
gardenews@fgcofmd.org

Gardenews Representatives:

District I

Trish Reynolds
pk26998@gmail.com

District II

Rose Gazarek,
rosegazarek@gmail.com

District III

Diane Perkins
pahperkins@msn.com

District IV

Maidie Podles
maidiepodles@yahoo.com

District V

Sue Christiansen
suemeadowbrook@yahoo.com

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The last several months have seen our clubs return to activities that had been on hold for two years. We saw a return to in-person meetings, special events, field trips and holiday celebrations. Course 1 of Gardening School was well attended and Course II will be held in April. Join us for an Earth Day event in April at the Vollmer Center.

I hope that you all enjoyed the special December issue of Gardenews featuring the State House Christmas trees and wreaths representing each Maryland county and that many of you were able to view them in person. Thanks to the club members who participated in this very special event.



President Anna O'Kelly and Sheba

The September Conservation Day event at the Vollmer Center was very well attended with almost 100 attendees. A big thank you to Conservation and Environmental Chairman Lynn Walter, and Vice Chairman Christa Pusateri, and coordinator extraordinaire Linda Harris, for their efforts to make this a successful event. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists were invited to attend and received educational credits for participating. This was our first trial of Eventbrite and most attendees registered using this method.

Maryland was well represented at the CAR-SGC convention at the Seven Springs Resort in Pennsylvania. The last convention was in 2019. Plans are underway for next year's convention in Corning New York.

FGCMD will again have a booth at the Maryland Home and Garden Show at the Timonium Fairgrounds Saturday March 4th and Sunday March 5th. Our botanical arts display this year will be a high-heeled shoe adorned with plant material. These creations are showstoppers, drawing people into the booth, and we have attracted new members over the years from these displays. We need volunteers for shifts on both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers receive free admission to the fair. You may register for a shift using Sign-up Genius or contact your District Director if you aren't comfortable with the on-line process. Sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4EADAC2CA3F94-volunteer1>

PLAN TO ATTEND: 94th State Annual Meeting, Tuesday March 28, 2023, Turf Valley Resort. We are looking forward to having NGC President Mary Warshauer join us and install the 2023-2025 officers. This will be a very special day with award presentations and a design program by Kaye Vosburgh, NGC Master Flower Show Judge and Sogetsu Teacher. Copies of her book "Creations from the Garden" will be available. BRING cash or check for shopping and Silent Auction! The notice is included in this issue. We are offering reservations using credit

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Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland's Annual Meeting



Please plan to attend the

93RD ANNUAL MEETING

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MARYLAND, INC.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

**TURF VALLEY RESORT & HOTEL
ELLICOTT CITY, MARYLAND**

Monday March 27 Annual Meeting PreGala Dinner Turf Valley Country Club

Reservations are a must. Check with your club president for the form, or sign up with a credit card through Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/2023-annual-meeting-pre-dinner-tickets-519349667837

Please join FGCMMD President Anna O'Kelly and the Federation's honored guest, National Garden Clubs President, Mary Warshauer, for an evening celebrating our accomplishments and friendships.

Tuesday March 28 FGCMMD Annual Meeting Turf Valley Country Club hosted by District I

Annual Meeting Registration (Ballroom lobby) 8:00am - 11:45am

Vendor shopping 8:00am - 3:00pm

Silent Auction 9:45am - 12:00 noon

Business Meeting 9:30am - 11:00am The Cameo Room

Luncheon and program: 12:00 noon—2:00pm

"Creations from the Garden" with Kaye Vosburgh



Kaye is a master judge in the National Garden Clubs and instructs courses in Design and Procedure for Flower Shows to the incoming judges. She is also a Sogetsu Ikebana teacher of the highest rank, teaching at home in Newton and at Tower Hill Botanic Garden as well as in Schenectady, New York and on Zoom. Kaye has just published a book entitled "Creations from the Garden – Growing Plants for the Art of Flower Arranging" and signed copies of her book will be made available for sale at our annual meeting.



For more information and the registration form, please visit www.FGCofMD.org and look under Calendar of Events.

President's Report, Continued from Page 1

cards through Eventbrite or you may remit payments by check.

This President truly appreciates your support of her project, "The SEED School of Maryland" landscape enhancement. The final phase will be the installation of pollinator gardens in the Spring. It's not too late to contribute, and donations will be accepted through March.

When this President was installed in 2021 there was a great deal of uncertainty about how we would carry on during the pandemic. The Executive Board, Club Presidents, and members are a dedicated group that have persevered despite obstacles along the way. It has been an honor to represent you these two years, and I thank you all for your support. It has been a rewarding experience.

Anna

First Vice President

Lessons from Nature

Like much of the natural world Garden Clubs continue to evolve. During Covid we learned how to navigate with ZOOM, social distancing and masks. And who knew there was such a thing as a Hybrid Meeting? Well in spite of RSV, the flu and continuing reports of COVID, Garden Clubs are back to in-person meetings, celebrations and working on their many projects.

Clubs are also hard at work planning programs for the coming year and some are considering new projects. However, we all have limited resources, whether it is manpower or funding. There is another lesson we can take from the natural world. Periodically every gardener evaluates their garden to determine what's working and what isn't – it can lead to removal of some plants and replacement with a new variety or a gentle pruning to improve their health. We can all benefit from the same analysis of our projects. So, it may be time to audit your programs and ask a few questions.

What was the original goal of the project?

Does it still make sense?

Do we have the needed resources to continue at this level?

Do we need to solicit other resources (manpower, materials or funding)? If so, what creative solutions might exist? For ideas reach out to other clubs that have experience in getting grants or developing partnerships in their community.

Are there other projects we want to undertake that might be a better use of our resources.

Asking questions like this will yield a productive discussion among club members and may lead you in new directions. Here's wishing you all a Happy and Productive 2023!

Susie Middleton

First VP



Susie Middleton,
First Vice President

Councils and Schools

Continuing Education Opportunities Sponsored by the Councils

Gardening School

Course 2 will be offered April 12 & 13, 2023, at the Vollmer Center – Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, Maryland

Classes Include:

Plant Diseases & Garden Pests

Lawn Alternatives

Water Requirements & Usage

Growing Fruit – Growing Vegetables

Rain Gardens of Cylburn Arboretum

To learn more, Contact Linda Harris at lindaharris355@aol.com or go to the website at fgcmd.org and look under Calendar of Events.

Upcoming Flower Shows



40th Annual Daffodil Show

An NGC Standard Flower Show

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 2:00pm to 7:00pm

Wed, April 5, 2023 10:00am to 3:00 pm

Presented by DII, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc and

The American Daffodil Society

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

400 Benfield Rd., Severna Park, MD

Open to the public, handicapped accessible

For more information, contact Show Chairman, Liz Williams: mlizwilliams825@gmail.com

March

2 District V Flower Show presented in conjunction with the District V Annual Meeting

April

3-5 District II Daffodil Show

19-20 Maryland Daffodil Society Show

25 Mt Airy Garden Club presents "Songs of Spring" NGC Standard Flower Show

May

2 Lake Roland Garden presents "Gardens of the World", an NGC Small Standard Flower Show

17 Homeland Garden Club presents "Celebrating Baltimore" an NGC Small Standard Flower Show

September

14 - 18 Charles County Garden Club Flower Show 8440 Fairground Rd, La Plata, MD 20646

21 - 24 St. Mary's County Garden Club Flower Show Leonardtown, MD

30 Flower Show presented by For-Win-Ash Garden Club

Special Earth Day Event



Thursday, April 27, 2023

7:45 am to 3:00 pm

Vollmer Center - Cylburn Arboretum

4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209

Five Speakers/Topics Including:

Biodiversity: why we need it; evidence that we are losing it; how to rebuild it; and the key role of gardeners in that process; presented by Dr. Sara Via, Professor & Climate Extension Specialist, UMD

Beavers as a Keystone Species and the work being done to restore wetlands through the “Beavers Working Group”, presented by Claudia Donegan, Habitat Restoration & Conservation, Chesapeake & Coastal Service, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

“For the Love of Birds”, a documentary highlighting projected changes in bird populations because of climate change and other factors; presented by Caroline Blizzard and Julie Turrentine

The Importance of Old-Growth Forests; presented by Brian Kane, Outreach Coordinator & Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager for the Old Growth Forest Network

An update on the Clean Water Act “Five Decades of Clean Water”, presented by Jen Mihills, Regional Executive Director of Mid-Atlantic Regional Center of the National Wildlife Federation

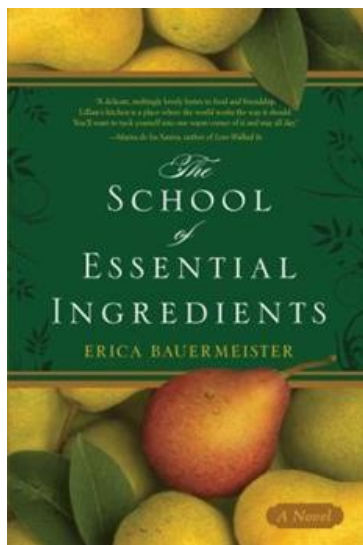
Several conservation/environmental organizations will have exhibits

Vendors will be available for shopping as well as fundraising items provided by FGCMMD

\$40/person (includes morning refreshments and lunch)

Brochure and registration information can be found at FGCofMD.org

Contact: Linda Harris (lindaharris355@aol.com)



FGCMMD Virtual Book Club

Get ready for your senses to be blown into high gear within the first chapter of *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister. Aromas and memories rise from the page as the story unfolds of Lillian's cooking school. As you read, the incredible urge to rush into the kitchen and start doing. — something — hits you square in the stomach. This is the book currently on the reading list of the FGCMMD Virtual Book Club. A Thanksgiving Dinner menu the likes of which you could never imagine. A mysterious coffee concoction tickles the imagination. Those are just two of the intriguing dishes you will read about. The next Zoom meeting will be **Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 1:00 PM**. If you are not currently on the roster for the link, you are welcome to join us. Just send your request to:

carolynb28@gmail.com

News from Around the State

District I - Eastern Shore

Caroline, Cecil,

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

Trish Reynolds precynolds@goeaston.net

Jeanne Bernard, District I

With Spring just around the corner activities in District I have picked up after a very successful holiday season! We are seeing meetings, exciting programs, trips planned, workshops being offered, and time for us to spend in our community gardens as well as our own!. Everyone is working on their program schedule and year-books for the coming year. Can't

wait to see what unique activities you all come up with.

Activities in District I of late have mostly centered preparing for our Annual Meeting, scheduled for March 1, hosted by the Kent Island Garden Club. Clare Jones will be our featured speaker. In her program, "Sculpted By Nature", she will be using flowers and branches and weathered wood to create spring themed arrangements. The District has been preparing for the change in District Officers as well as new garden club administrations. At the District Annual Meeting FGCMDC President Anna O'Kelly will be installing the new District Officers for the 2023-2025 term:

- ☐ Director – Terry Holman, Oxford Garden Club
 - ☐ Assistant Director – Ann Street, Four Seasons GC
 - ☐ Treasurer – Pat Jessup, Oxford Garden Club
 - ☐ Recording Secretary – Linda Elias, Kent Island GC
 - ☐ Corresponding Secretary – Ann Foss, Queen Anne's CGC
- District I Theme: "Sustaining the Eastern Shore: Gardening for Wildlife"

The Club Presidents for the upcoming term are:

- ☐ Chestertown – Susan Comer
- ☐ Dorchester – Kay Karminski
- ☐ Four Seasons – Anne Heaver
- ☐ Kent Island – Bobbie Bell
- ☐ Oxford – Marilyn Reedy
- ☐ Queen Anne's CGC – Laura Blaylock
- ☐ Somerset CGC – Karen Brimer
- ☐ Talbot CGC – Maribeth Lane @ 7-1-2023
- ☐ Worcester – Suzy Young

Sadly, we are down to nine clubs in District I, having recently lost (from FGCMDC) the lovely folks in Greenfingers GC in Cecil County.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone in District I for the support during my two-year term as District I Director. I have learned a lot, made many new friends, enjoyed your programs, delighted in your successes, and so much more. I wish everyone In the District I much success as we move forward into the 2023-25 term! And finally, I also want to thank Anna O'Kelly and the FGCMDC Board, for welcoming me to the Board and supporting District I during this 2-year term.

District II - Southern Maryland

Anne Arundel,

Calvert, Charles County, Prince George's, St. Mary's County

Carolyn Leahy cleahy09@verizon.net



Carolyn Leahy, District II Director

A fond farewell to Carolyn Leahy who served District II during the difficult post Covid months and encouraged members to resume their garden club activities. And introducing Rose Gazarek, District II Director for 2023 – 2025. Rose has been a member of The Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club (HGC) since 2015. HGC is a

small club in Charles County that works hard and has fun. She co-chaired the Butterfly Garden project for several years with her late husband, George Gazarek. She served as President of HGC from 2020-2021 and is currently its Past President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. She has served as District II Assistant Director from 2022-2023, while serving concurrently as FGCMDC Membership Chair. She lives in Accokeek, Maryland with her son, Jonathan.

Rose is a Student Judge for Flower Shows and Student Garden Consultant, where she serves as its current Treasurer. She is a Certified Floral Designer through American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), Alexander Farms Certified Designer (AFCD), and Master Gardener through University of Maryland Extension Program. She is currently Treasurer of Independent Floral Designers Association (IFDA), and past Treasurer of Friends of Maxwell Hall. Rose is employed full-time as a contract manager at a Fortune 500 company. She has a Bachelors degree, MBA, is a Certified Professional Contract Manager through National Contract Management Association (NCMA) and received NCMA's highest award, the Dana Award, now known as the Lifetime Achievement Award. Rose served as Governance Chair of the 20K+ membership organization, NCMA while on its Board of Directors.

While the last couple years have been challenging for garden club members with their limited ability to meet in person, it is hoped that Covid and its variants are behind us. Therefore, it is this director's hope that garden club members will re-awaken with the love of gardening in a garden club setting and reacquaint with all the gifts their membership holds for the personal, or community garden, but also learning about how we can become more

News from Around the State

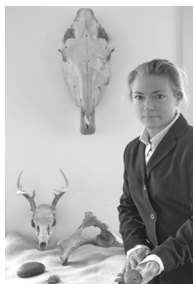
District III - Baltimore and Harford**Counties** *Diane Perkins pahperkins@**Claire Jones, District III Director*

The District III garden clubs have scheduled events to celebrate, to decorate and to cultivate. Many clubs hosted special holiday brunches, luncheons or dinners. Gunpowder Garden Club, located in the Hereford Zone of Northern Baltimore County, hosted a holiday luncheon that incorporated a "birds" theme. Andrea Barnett, club member, created hand-made crystal ball ornaments filled with oiled sunflowers seeds for the members to feed hungry birds. Barb Williams and Lynn Irwin made hand-sewn felt birds that captured the color and beauty of our feathered friends. Both favors were created as a reminder to support our bird life during the winter months.



Friendship Garden Club of Harford County transformed the Liriodendron Mansion in Bel Air into a Victorian Christmas showplace during the holidays. Each room had a different theme, combining beautifully decorated mantels, elegant arrangements and whimsical touches. The exquisite designs are exemplified in the picture of Shirley Dixon completing the mantel display in the central hall of the Liriodendron.

This year, York Manor Garden Club celebrated their Sixtieth Anniversary. Current and former members reunited to share memories, club accomplishments, and friendship through stories, pictures and displays. Judy Walter, YMGC president compiled a memorabilia booklet for each member that included sixty years of milestones, celebrations, flower shows, community projects and contributions. Anna O' Kelly, state president of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland and Claire Jones, District III director (and member of YMGC) attended. Claire Jones presented Judy Walter with an award from District III.



During the winter months District III clubs cultivate their interest in all things beautiful that nature brings. In January 2023, Friendship Garden Club hosted historian Colleen Webster, as she portrayed Georgia O'Keefe, the famous American artist of flowers. Dressed in proper attire for Georgia O'Keefe (picture included), she presented life experiences and events of the artist, in first-person. Her depth of knowledge about the artist made it possible to field questions spontaneously about the life and work of one of America's most talented artists.

District IV - Baltimore City

No report

District V - Western Maryland Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, Washington*Sue Christiansen, District V Director***Howard County Garden Club**

To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Ellicott City, the Howard County Garden Club partnered with the Howard County Recreation and Parks Heritage Division to provide the funding and installation of an interpretive garden at the Patapsco Female Institute. Howard County Member, Rita Hamlet, served as project coordinator.

Jennifer Evans, landscape designer and Howard County GC member, planned the garden based on a list of pressed flowers found in the 1844 journal of Mary Jerdone Coleman, a student at the Patapsco Female Institute. The garden features seven documented species mentioned in Miss Coleman's journal. A flag stone walk takes you through the garden to a plaque that reads "Get to know the Garden".

Each plant is identified with a leaf and flower drawing and shown its



placement in the map of the area.



On June 4th, 2022, the Mary Jerdone Coleman Garden was dedicated at a ceremony with Howard County Executive, Calvin Ball, cutting the blue ribbon. Howard County Garden Club President, Betty Jacobs, and club members were recognized and thanked.

Mountain Laurel Garden Club During the last year, members have been working on a Native Demonstration Meadow Project in collaboration with Northern Garrett High School staff and students. The meadow is located at the Hickory Environmental Education Center, an educational site visited by all Garrett County Public School students twice during the school year as part of their science curriculum. Several grants were applied for and received for this project: an NGC Youth Pollinator Garden grant of \$200 (used for signage and basic plant markers); an NGC Plant America Grant of \$250 worth of Espoma Organic products (soil amendments) provided by a local vendor; a grant of \$1,000 from The Pollination Project (covered the cost of 162 native plants representing 28 species); and a Nora Roberts Foundation grant of \$2,000 (used exclusively for curriculum hands-on materials and QR Code plant markers). A complete color booklet featuring each plant with its description and

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News from Around the State

Continued from page 7

characteristics is being prepared for use with elementary-level children. Middle and high school students will be able to access the QR Code on the plant markers from their phones to identify each plant and read about its characteristics. More information about the project



MLGC Native Demonstration Meadow in full bloom at Hickory Environmental

including additional photos can be found on the club's website at www.mountainlaurelgardenclub.com/conservation-and-environmental-awareness.html

The Talbot County Garden Club Announces Its Winter Lecture Series

All events are free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Tuesday, March 29, 2023 11 a.m.

Kim Eierman of EcoBeneficial will present "The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline."

Talbot County Free Library, 100 W. Dover St., Easton, MD
Countless pollinator species have suffered dramatic declines in recent years. With simple strategies, you can attract and support not just bees, but an array of pollinators that have different requirements. Learn how to create a Pollinator Victory Garden to help win the war on pollinator decline.

Kim Eierman is the Founder of EcoBeneficial LLC. She is an environmental horticulturist and ecological landscape designer specializing in native plants. Based in New York, Kim teaches at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Native Plant Center, Rutgers Home Gardeners School and several other institutions. Kim is the author of the book, *The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening*.

Questions about the programs should be directed to talbotcountycg@gmail.com.



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informed stewards of the communities where we reside by volunteering in all phases of gardening, conservation preservation, and civic beautification of our communities. I look forward to serving District II while mentoring the next generation of gardening leaders.G

The Naval Academy Garden Club (NAGC) continues its 50+ year tradition of decorating the grounds of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis for the winter holiday season. As they have done for so very many years, they made six large wreaths which were hung on the Academy's gates, placed a Christmas tree at each gate and placed numerous other decorations around The Yard.

Another longstanding tradition is for the NAGC to decorate one of the rooms of the historic Hammond-Harwood House for Christmas. Hammond-Harwood House dates from 1774. This year's theme was music of the early 19th century, and the NAGC chose "Deck the Halls" as their inspiration.



The NAGC looks forward to a number of indoor programs during the winter months, then a return to their outside gardens, their first-love.

The Chesapeake Garden Club proudly announces that the grounds at Fairview Library earned the Bay-Wise Certification. Since 2014, in cooperation with Fairview Library, and with the help of the General Services Department and Calvert County's Buildings and Grounds, the Chesapeake Garden Club has been responsible for maintaining the gardens that surround the library.

In 2014, Club Member Kay Parris met with Fairview's Librarian, Lisa Tazzo, and offered to help plant Maryland natives in some of the areas around the building. Parris drew up plans to create a rain garden to handle the drainage and runoff. She formed a Garden Club committee and began the work.

The County graded it and did all the heavy work. The Club first planted Bay Magnolia and River Birch trees along with several shrubs that the County helped purchase. In 2015, the Fairview Project won the FGCoMD top award, the Governor's Beautification Bowl – First Place! Subsequently the Club has received several other awards for their work at the library. Additional gardens were added, including shade and pollinator. Members meet regularly to tend the areas, working to create a natural habitat for frogs, dragon flies, butterflies, bees, bunnies and even a much-maligned resident snake! The gardens are filled with hydrangeas, ferns, hostas, native Black-Eyed Susans, winterberry, prim roses, coneflowers, corallbells, larkspur, and more. Many plants and cuttings come from the Club Members' gardens.