



GARDENEWS

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Be a Steward of the Earth

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

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DEADLINES:

February Issue – January 10

July Issue – June 10

November Issue – October 10

GARDENEWS

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FGCMD President: *Donna Miller*

"When you are asked to serve, just say yes!"
"It's my turn to take a turn." Those are words I spoke
at the FGCMD Annual Meeting on March 25. Well,
recently I attended the National Garden Clubs (NGC)
Conference in Charleston, SC where there was a
roomful of other women and men who share those
sentiments. Over 40+ state presidents were installed
by our new NGC President, **Donna Donnelly**. The
theme for her term is: "**Plant America for the next
100 years!**" in commemoration of NGC's upcoming
anniversary.



Another initiative that was promoted at the conference was made by the Keep America Beautiful organization. Their goal is to remove 25 billion pieces of litter from parks, waterways, and public spaces by July 4, 2026, America's 250th celebration. You can take the pledge for the Greatest American Cleanup and make your community cleaner, greener, and more beautiful. Learn more here:

<https://kab.org/greatest-american-cleanup/>.

FGCMD was also presented with nine Certificates of Appreciation, three Flower Show Awards, two Youth Awards and one Scholarship Award! What a wonderful recognition of all YOUR hard work and our organization's effort to promote education.

NGC Awards presented to FGCMD:

- District I – Standard Flower Show Award: "Spirit of America"
- Lutherville GC – Certificate in Appreciation of Participation: Floral Design Program, Beautification Project, Permanent Community Improvements, Garden Therapy
- Crofton Village GC – Standard Flower Show Award: "60's Flower Power"
- Naval Academy GC – Certificate in Appreciation of Participation: Website
- Oxford GC – Certificate in Appreciation of Participation: Digital Media Presentation
- Four Seasons GC – Standard Flower Show Award: "The Wizard of Oz"
- Green-Walled GC – Certificate in Appreciation of Participation: Permanent Community Improvements, 1st Place 5th Grade 2024 Recycled Sculpture
- Mountain Laurel GC – Certificate in Appreciation of Participation: Community Project with Native Plants/Wildflowers
- Tasker's Chance – Honorable Mention 2025 Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
- Shirley S. Nicolai Scholarship Award to Gabrielle Bonds

I hope to see many of you at the [CAR-SGC Conference](#) October 19–22, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay. Let us each continue to "Be a Steward of the Earth!"

The Mission of FGCMD, Inc.

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

July 2025 Gardenews In This Issue

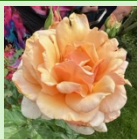
1: President's Notes

"When you are asked to serve, just say yes!"



3: District News

Clubs on Memorial Day,
Helping Communities



17: Committee News

Youth Gardening
Contest Winner,
Conservation Goals Met!



19: Council News

Brookside
Gardens Tour,
Landscape Design
School



Photo courtesy of
Montgomery Parks, M-
NCPPC

20: Member Profiles

New Gardenews Team



Don't miss your chance to attend! 2025 CAR-SGC Annual Conference & Tri-Refresher

October 19-22, 2025

Maryland: "America in Miniature"

[Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay](#)

100 Heron Boulevard at Route 50

Cambridge, MD 21613

Register Early to Secure Your Spot

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland invite you to attend the 2025 CAR-SGC Conference in the heart of Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Central Atlantic Region – State Garden Clubs includes garden clubs in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

This year's theme, America in Miniature, celebrates Maryland's diverse landscapes and cultural heritage. From mountains to seashores, urban centers to rural farmlands, Maryland reflects the vastness of the country in one small state. [Check out these points of interest.](#) Our program will showcase top-notch speakers, innovative design, environmental stewardship, and the joy of gardening together. The program has been designed to also serve as a refresher for Garden Study, Landscape Design and Environmental Consultants.

Click on this link to register and see a full schedule of events and program topics:

<https://www.car-sgc.org/2025-conference>

[Programs](#)

[Tri-Refresher](#)

[Sponsor](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Register](#)

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

Please go to the [NGC website](http://www.gardenclub.org/) to create an account:
<http://www.gardenclub.org/>

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



Plant America for the next 100 years!

Member Resources & Forms

[The National Gardener](#)

[Administrative Forms](#)

[Board Directory](#)

[Brand Guide & Disclaimers](#)

[Financial Reports](#)

[Golden Circle](#)

[Meeting Minutes](#)

[2025 Award Winners](#)



2025-2027



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

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

FGCMD District News

District I: Ann Street, *District Director*

Memorial Day Service and the Red Poppy

Occasions such as Memorial Day allow us to pause and pay tribute to the sacrifices made for freedoms we enjoy today. They remind us to cherish the connections we hold dear, the values we uphold, and the history that shapes us as individuals and as a community. It is in these moments of remembrance that we truly grasp the gift of human strength, the depth of love, and the enduring legacy of those who have passed before us.



2025 Memorial Day Service,
Oxford, MD

The Memorial Day service held in Oxford, Maryland, assisted by Oxford Garden Club, was particularly moving, with the beautiful sound of bagpipes. Each song seemed to commemorate the bravery and dedication of military personnel across all branches. Paying tribute to the fallen, families and friends shared heartfelt stories of loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Such a humbling moment that dolefully hugged our hearts!

The red poppy is a symbol of Memorial Day. Rooted in World War I history, it's recognized as a sign of respect and sacrifice for those who served and died in all wars. Poppies are carefully handcrafted by veterans and veteran organizations, carrying with them a rich and meaningful historical significance.

For gardeners the "common" poppy is considered an annual plant and easy to grow. While their blooms appear fragile, they are resilient and can withstand drought conditions and poor soil. To avoid becoming dense & overgrown they should be divided when a few leaves are noticed. Poppies bloom from spring into summer and are a source of pollination for bees. Their delicate petals may sway vulnerably in the breeze, yet poppies remind us that beauty thrives even in adversity.



District Director Ann Street



The Chestertown Garden Club, *Secethia Boardley-Davis*



May Mart 2025

Chestertown Garden Club's annual May Mart festival was held on 2 May. The community was able to purchase plants, baked goods, participate in a raffle, and purchase garden items. All proceeds go towards the beautification and the maintenance of both Fountain and Memorial Parks.

May ended with a Members Picnic and tour of one of our member's farm and garden. Wonderful bonding and fun were the hallmarks of our day together. Members are looking forward to activities and events that are scheduled for June, July and August.

The Club's April began with a celebration of the Earth all month long. Members of the Chestertown Garden Club made the Royal Connections with the "Queen Bumble Bee" at a Queen Bee Tea that was held 1 April. Our speaker, Dr. Clare Walker, spoke to the club about the most beneficial plants for us to have in the early spring gardens to attract pollinators.

Earth Day (April 22) was celebrated by boarding Washington College Callinectes boat for an Environmental Sail led by Dan Smalls, the Associate Director of the Natural Land Stewardship and Kathy Thornton, Field Technician with the Natural Lands Project at the Washington College Center for Environment and Society. The Club celebrated its recent designation of becoming a "Certified Bird City".



Enjoying the view!

District 1: Continued

Dorchester Garden Club: Sandy Lucas

The Dorchester Garden Club has been very busy since beginning our new 2025–2026 year in April. At our April meeting, we had one of our members, Julie Bryan, teach all of us how to do the Traditional Mass Floral Design. On April 17, we held our first “Flower Camp,” a series workshops that will be held throughout the year. The theme of this Flower Camp was “Judging 101: It’s Fundamental.” Our own Susie Middleton gave us a shortened version of the course she teaches for the [NGC Flower Show School](#). Dorchester Garden Club holds Mini Flower Shows at most of their monthly meetings and the members rotate being judges.

In May, our club traveled to Harvest Drive Nursery in North Dorchester owned by our own Kim Harper. Our program that day was a demonstration by Kim on how to do a container garden. She showed us plants to use for a sun garden and shade garden. She also gave us tips and tricks on how to plant, arrange and water our container. After the program, members made their own container gardens.



Kim Harper

Four Seasons Garden Club: Frances Follmer



Anne Heavner leading the Plant Auction

The rain did not dampen the spirits of the Four Seasons Garden Club members and guests as they met at the home of member Sharon Clark for their June Picnic and Plant Auction. After a delicious luncheon, the members held an auction of plants from members’ gardens. But as the rain would not stop, the auction was held in Sharon’s garage. It’s always amazing to see the array of interesting plants members bring for this event. Every plant was purchased, and this year’s event was quite successful!

Some members purchased plants and donated them to the “Blind Industries Sensory Gardens,” which is an ongoing project for the Four Seasons Garden Club. Peggy Buchness has spearheaded this project for years and will continue to do so, along with club members, as they

and the clients revamp the two gardens: one with herbs and the other with flowers.

Each year the Four Seasons GC awards to a member the “*Due Holland Tray*” for earning the Bluest Ribbons in our monthly Horticulture Challenges. Nancy Craft received this year’s award and the honor and privilege of keeping the tray for one year. Congratulations, Nancy!



Nancy Craft with
Due Holland Tray

Kent Island Garden Club: Bobbie Bell

“*Stayin’ Alive in 2025*”!

We have planted our new members into good soil and are matching with mentors in their Committees. Our enthusiastic group has already...

- Cleaned project gardens,
- Completed a plant sale,
- Prepared table arrangements for Derby Day at Talisman Therapeutic Riding Center,
- Welcomed volunteers for the Historic House Pilgrimage,
- Created flowering interpretations for Art in Bloom with the Kent Island Federation of Art and
- Held a Youth Gardening Event!

We plan a few quieter months ahead!



District 1: *Continued*

Oxford Garden Club: *Melinda Hudson*



The Oxford Garden Club was “all in” this spring, with a series of events, fundraisers, special speakers, show-stopping gardens, and some spectacular flower arranging. Let’s start with our signature event, the biannual *Secret Gardens of Oxford Tour*. This year’s tour featured six gardens, none of which has ever been open to the public. They were spectacular, each in their own way. From massive, classic displays of roses to onsite artist studios, vast water views and discreet private spaces, mature gardens with iconic Eastern Shore horticulture and completely reimagined gardens reflecting the gardeners’ eclectic interests.

And then it was Memorial Day, brought to you by the Town of Oxford and the Oxford Garden Club. There were prayers and invocations, heartfelt memories of those we lost and continued prayers for those who still carry the burden of service. We lingered in solemn appreciation.

All along the way, our talented designers created beautiful arrangements for signature events – The Oxford Fine Arts Fair and special partners, most recently the Chesapeake Music Festival.



*Pat Jessup's Fine Arts
Floral Design*



Queen Anne's County Garden Club: *Robin Lanham*



QACGC Members at work!

Queen Anne's County Garden Club members also planted 35 flower tubs and five window boxes around the county seat of Centreville.

The Queen Anne's County Garden Club (QACGC) presented a \$1,200 scholarship award to Lucy Taylor, a Senior at Kent Island High School with a 4.0 and weighted GPA of 5.0. She has been accepted to the University of Maryland where in the fall she will begin her journey to get her Master's degree in Environmental Science with a career goal to work for a nonprofit such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Lucy is a goal-oriented person who has a passion for environmental sciences.

The Queen Anne's Garden Club Conservation and Environmental Awareness committee made grocery/tote bags from feed/seed bags. What a unique way to repurpose and reuse feed bags for bird seed, cat/dog food, etc. The club sold the bags at our biannual May Mart fundraiser.



"Feed Bag" Grocery Bag!

Somerset County Garden Club: *Dana Zucker*



Frances Follmer leading the way!

The Somerset County Garden Club had a terrific field trip to the [Lower Shore Land Trust](#) where we had a wonderful presentation on beneficial insects and pollinators. The presentation was very informative, and we all learned so much about creating healthy garden environments.

Next, we enjoyed Dr. Nadine Burton of University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) Extension where she took us back to the basics of vegetable gardening and the importance of soil health, water and so much more.

We wrapped up our year at the home of two of our Master Gardener members and enjoyed tours of their gardens and time together to reflect on the past year and to talk about the coming year. Visiting each other's gardens is always so inspiring. The End of Year Picnic was a wonderful new member recruitment time during which we met many new potential members.

District I: Continued

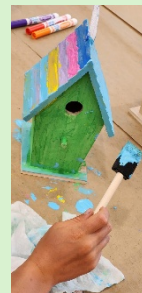
Talbot County Garden Club: Eleanore Denegre



"The Judges" (L-R) –

Dana Vlk, Trish Reynolds, Susie Middleton, Carol Garrison, Cherrie Carroll, Pam Keeton, Maribeth Lane, Georgia Adler

'Tis the season.... Many wonderful activities for the Talbot County Garden Club (TCGC) – leading off with an Arbor Day Planting on April 2 of six new native trees to the Rails to Trails. On April 18, our members created an *Easter Gift* with their floral designs for Talbot Hospice and Talbot Interfaith Shelter. On April 24, our Young Gardeners decorated a pair of birdhouses, one to take home and one to add to the Children's Garden at the Talbot Library. Next on our agenda was a trip on April 30 to Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne, PA where we had a glorious day enjoying the beauty of spring at this fabulous display garden.



Young Gardener
Bird House
Creation!

In the beautiful month of May, we led off with judging floral displays in downtown Easton business as part of the Flower



Illustrious Speakers and Authors
Linda Jane Holden and Sandra Sigman

Decorating Contest sponsored by "Downtown Easton". Next on our agenda – Easton Beautification Day, May 6, a day on which TCGC members dig in and plant hundreds of annuals, and some perennials, in the four civic gardens TCGC maintains in Easton. This year we had a special project: growing annuals from seed for the various gardens—and what a wonderful addition it has been.



TCGC Floral Table Design

The Highlight of the Spring Season was our biennial Symposium – "Floral Fête" held on April 22. This year's symposium exceeded our wildest expectations. It was a glorious day with flowers galore, insightful and inspirational speakers, luxe

delicacies, quality vendors, exciting silent auction items, all set in a welcoming environment at the Oaks Waterfront Hotel near Easton. Accolades keep rolling in from the event's 250 attendees, whose attendance will help support TCGC's community greening efforts.

Worcester County Garden Club: Susan Fletcher



Glenda Chatham Clarke Arboretum

In April, the Worcester County Garden Club greeted spring with a program by representatives of the Lower Shore Land Trust about ways members could expand the variety of birds coming into their gardens. More tips for creating bird habitats were shared by *My Backyard* owner Maureen Kennedy during May's "open house" to which guests were invited with the goal of rebuilding membership.

The event also included a presentation of the Mary Ann Royal Award by three previous recipients to Jan King for her outstanding contributions to the club.



Pat Arata, Martha Bennett, Jan King,
Joan LaHayne

Separate from our scheduled meetings, members did the following:

- Participated in a garden therapy workshop planting seeds in egg cartons with residents of Gull Creek Senior Living Community,
- Volunteered at the Lower Shore Land Trust's Native Plant Sale,
- Promoted the club at a Cross Farm Festival as well as Maryland Coastal Bays Bay Day,
- Weeded during a "Clean Up Day" at the historic Germantown School in Berlin,
- Attended the naming of Salisbury University's arboretum in honor of alumna (and fellow club member!) Glenda Chatham Clarke and
- Placed a wreath designed by Sue Ann Hudson at the Worcester County Veterans Memorial in Ocean Pines on Memorial Day.



Sue Ann Hudson with
Memorial Day Wreath

District II: Laura Spoerl, *District Director*

Daffodils Meet Agatha Christie

If you were looking for District II members from March 31 – April 2, the place to look was at the 41st annual daffodil show: Daffodils Meet Agatha Christie. This district-wide event was supported by many members representing clubs from across the district. All the efforts took place under the very capable leadership of Liz Williams (Chartwell Garden Club).



Over the years, the dates for the show have been creeping earlier and earlier to allow for changes in bloom time – dare we say climate change. This year, over 300 blooms were entered in the horticulture section in addition to entries in design, photography and youth sections.

This show was just 2½ weeks after the district's annual meeting during which outgoing officers were recognized and new officers were installed by FGCMMD president Susie Middleton – *Cereal* was

the installation theme. The new officers are ready for “crunch” time and look forward to continuing the leadership legacy created by past officers. The district's Perennial Bloom, Doris Smith (Crofton Village Garden Club) was also recognized at the meeting. Clubs are transitioning leadership and looking forward to a summer break to be refreshed and ready for many fall activities.

Bayside Bloomers Celebrate a Season of Growth and Giving

The Bayside Bloomers Garden Club had a productive winter into spring, with monthly meetings that offered education and hands-on experiences. Programs ranged from innovative garden designs and water conservation (presented by the Anne Arundel County Public Works Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration). We also had a guest speaker on pollinators and how to garden for them. Additionally, members enjoyed a thoughtful book discussion on *The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife* by Nancy Lawson. The season concluded in May with a fun and creative Hands-on Floral Design Workshop.

Community outreach remained at the heart of the club's mission. Members participated in Annapolis Greenscape by cleaning and planting around the Truxton Park sign, helping to beautify the area. In another effort, Bayside Bloomers hosted a Teacup Floral Arrangement Workshop at Brightview Senior Living. Club members provided all supplies and guided 25 residents in creating floral displays—brightening both their rooms and their spirits.

The club also continued its award-winning initiative, Operation Plant More Native, a native planting project at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, where the club meets free of charge. For this unique effort, Bayside Bloomers received the Jean Lowry Environmental Stewardship Award at the District II Annual Meeting in March. Additional honors included first place for the club's yearbook and special recognition of its 10-year anniversary as a Federated Garden Club.

In April, several members showcased their blooms at the Daffodil Show, earning awards and honorable mentions. And in June, the club came together to celebrate a year of growth, friendship, and impact—looking ahead with excitement as we plan to commemorate our 10th anniversary in full bloom.



District II: Continued

Chartwell and Crofton Greenery Garden Clubs

Blue Ribbon Project

The [Blue Ribbon Project](#), a non-profit located in Crownsville, MD, serves the needs of children from infancy to teen years who are placed in foster care. These children are often removed from their living situation quickly and do not have the chance to pack.

The kids are presented with backpacks that contain necessities based on age when they enter the program. The project also maintains a selection of new and used clothing giving the child an opportunity to "shop" for clothing. The building is in a desolate location.

Chartwell Garden Club received a call for help in planning a more welcoming entrance. Landscaping was needed! Members Lynn Tuozzo, Shirley Santora, Sally Sachse, and Barbara Donahue visited the site and came up with ideas for plantings. A plant list was given to Anna O'Kelly.

Crofton Greenery Garden Club: Anna created a landscape plan of all native plants. A local nursery donated and delivered all the plants and mulch. A third group of volunteers planted the flower beds. It takes a village



Planter at the Entrance to the Blue Ribbon Project Building

Chesapeake Garden Club June 2025 Garden News Report, Debbie Nisson, President



Anniversary

We celebrated Chesapeake Garden Club's 65th anniversary at our March meeting. Two of our members participated in Calvert Garden Club's Books in Bloom.



Books in Bloom with Member Judy

Floral Design

Mike Burch from Potomac Floral Design Studio visited with us at our April 15 meeting and conducted a floral design program for Spring floral arrangements. He put together many beautiful Easter and spring arrangements, including this beautiful Spring Arrangement: ➡

Plant Sale

CGC held its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 10 at the Fairview Library Branch in Owings Maryland. After weeks of digging and potting perennials from members' and friends' gardens and two days of setup, we had another very successful sale, taking in over \$6000 again this year. *And*, we had a gorgeous weather day!



Mike Burch's Spring Arrangement



Newly Installed CGC Executive Officers

Native Plants

We also significantly increased the number of native plants for sale this year, and we will continue to do so.



Succulents Tobacco Star

Scholarships

We awarded our first high school senior horticulture scholarship for \$500 at our May 20 meeting.

District II: *Continued*

Four Rivers Garden Club

In late April, the Four Rivers Garden Club continued our tradition with our 80th Flower Mart. A workshop was conducted, and perennials, fresh garden baskets and fairy gardens were sold.



80th Annual Flower Mart at Maryland Hall

The Four Rivers Garden Club has been focusing on community service with our young. Workshops have been held at Green Street Elementary, Mills Parole Elementary and Broadneck High School with plans to expand our reach in the fall. Green Street Elementary third graders learned about flower bulbs. All the students were given a lesson led by Charlotte Pennington and had hands-on experience planting their bulbs; through the year they will watch them grow.



Flower Mart Workshop held at Maryland Hall

At Mills Parole Elementary, we gave a 10-minute talk about perennials, pollinators and planting. The kindergartener's had been well prepped by their teacher. Our ladies helped the student's plant 75 native perennials in the bed created for the 100th celebration. The students watered the plants, and the ladies installed a drip hose to maintain the garden.

Moonflower Garden Club, Jackie Richter, President

This has been a busy Spring for the Moonflower Garden Club. On May 3, Bodkin Elementary School held its 16th Annual Environmental Fair. The Moonflowers had a table where we sold hanging flowering baskets and ran a free Mother's Day craft project for children to make flower arrangements for their mothers. With the guidance of the club members, the children learned about floral design and the plants that they used in the arrangements.

The Moonflower Garden Club has long supported the maintained Hatton Register Green, a garden area with many native plants and a pond with a waterfall. The garden is right in Severna Park along the B&A trail.

Members worked extra hard to get the area in tip-top shape for the Memorial Day dedication of the Severna Park Heroes of the Vietnam War Memorial. The Memorial honors the five Severna Park residents that were killed during that war. Three Vietnam Veterans, including one POW, spoke at the dedication.



Hatton Register Green Garden on the B&A Trail in Severna Park, Anne Arundel County

When you are in Severna Park, come by and see the Vietnam Memorial and spend some time relaxing in the Hatton Register Green Garden.

District II: *Continued*

Naval Academy Garden Club: Enhancements for Commissioning Week



Grand entrance to Farragut House at the U.S. Naval Academy, showing the sailboat arrangements by the Naval Academy Garden Club

The Naval Academy Garden Club (NAGC) continued a long-standing tradition of enhancing the grounds of the U.S. Naval Academy during commissioning week in May. Commissioning week is the culmination of four years of intensive training, both academically and physically for the Midshipmen.

The large residence of the Superintendent, an impressive Beaux-Arts structure, is the site of numerous receptions for the Midshipmen and visiting dignitaries. At the beginning of 2024, the club placed a dozen or so flowering houseplants in the residence to create a home-spun feel, and to enhance the venue even more, NAGC designed and made “sailboat” arrangements for the main door of the Superintendent’s residence at the Naval Academy.



Close-up of Sailboat Design on Front Door of Farragut House

Shipley’s Choice Garden Club



Members participating in the plant sale.

Field Trip and Plant Sale. The Shipley’s Choice Garden Club had a busy spring starting with our field trip to Mount Vernon in April for an educational historical tour. Then we worked with the community on the plant sale on May 3 to help the people in the community understand more about planting natives and help with the pollinators. At the same time, we helped with planting some ground-cover flowers for the community median strip area to beautify the area.

New Members. The club is growing, and we have had a few more young members join the fun and learn more about the club’s programs and activities.

New Club Officers Inducted.

We are proud to announce our new slate of officers for 2025–2027. They were installed by the new District II director during our end-of-year dinner in June at the local Mezzanotte restaurant.



New 2025-2027 Executive Officers Inducted by the New District II Director

District III: Mary Ellen Pluemer, *District Director*

Country GC of Harford Co: Bel Air Garden Mart

Members of the Country Garden Club of Harford County were busy this spring. Our major focus was preparing to join other garden clubs participating in Bel Air's Garden Mart. Members potted up plants from their own gardens and traveled to Pennsylvania's Amish country to purchase hanging baskets and plants to sell. On May 9, the Bel Air Armory was transformed into a marketplace for local garden enthusiasts to stock up on their spring planting needs as the garden clubs raised money for their various projects.

Our club's ongoing projects include several charitable initiatives:

- Creating flower arrangements for hospice patients,
- Contributing to scholarships at Harford Community College,
- Holiday decorating for Ladew Topiary Gardens.

WMAR interviewed club members Germaine Vadas, Joyce Jordan and Betsy Lehmann for a spot in their 5 o'clock news hour.



Evergreen GC: Volunteers Doing Community Service



Fund-raising for Evergreen's projects at the May Garden Mart was a huge success!

Our group continues to help with decoration projects at the Citizen's Care Center in Havre de Grace. For Easter, craft items and assistance were provided for residents to create their own Easter arrangements in cute Easter egg and grass-filled containers.

Evergreen Garden Club participated in the latest Habitat for Humanity house project located in Edgewood. With contributions from Site One Landscape Supply and their help, hard soil, rocks, glass and old roots transformed into a welcome garden of topiary and flowers for a single mother and her children.

Our club volunteers completed an outside cleanup at the historic Carter Archer Mansion. Tasks included trimming, weeding, raking and assistance with brick walkways that were power washed and sand reapplied. Presently an arbor is being painted and below roses and clematis have been planted. A cast iron bench has been repaired and painted. New topiary and relocated daffodil bulbs have been planted on a hillside. Mulching continues, and new flowers are being planted in the gardens, pots and stairway boxes.



Evergreen Awards Display, Community Service Award (Center)

Evergreen Garden Club received multiple awards at the District III Annual Meeting. These included the following:

- Community Service Award – 2024-25 Engraved Silver Bowl.
- Community Service Award, 2nd Place – Holiday Arrangements Benefiting the Liriodendron Foundation.
- Decorating Historic Homes, 2nd place – Ladew Holiday Manor.
- Garden Therapy Award – Floral Therapy at Jacob's Well Assisted Living.
- Gifts for Great Gardens Award – Hays House Herb Garden.
- Historic Preservation Award, 3rd Place – Carter-Archer Landscape Improvement.
- Landscaping Design Council Habitat for Humanity Award – Landscaping Habitat for Humanity House.
- Annual Luncheon at the Maryland Golf and Country Club.

A scholarship to a Harford Tech graduating Horticulture student was awarded at the club's Annual Luncheon at the Maryland Golf & Country Club. She plans to use it within her new business (Skyler's Eternal Florals) of flower and of creative ribbon design arrangements.

District III: *Continued*

Lake Roland GC: Flower Arranging in Miniature



Flower Arranging in Miniature was a demonstration by Master Gardener Pat Legters of The Glen Arm Garden Club. Pat spoke about the containers, materials and design of the miniatures.

She created an example, giving tips and direction along the way. As in a normal-size arrangement, the same properties apply... design, balance, color and continuity. We all designed our own miniature using a vessel and a nice variety of flowers that Pat provided. Pat also included fresh greenery cut from her garden. We took pictures against an apple for scale, in a fabric covered box. We talked about each one and what worked and what could have been done differently. It was a great experience for all. Our arrangements surprisingly lasted a long time.



Photo by member Debbie Reed

Manor GC: Spring Flower Show

Bringing May flowers, members of the Manor Garden Club held a spring flower show. Two of the winning entries are shown.



Photo by member Louise Larson

Hampton GC: 50th Anniversary



The Hampton Garden Club (HGC) celebrated their 50th Anniversary this spring. Many members participated in our luncheon held at Bluestone Restaurant.

A historical play was the main event, depicting each decade of the club's 50 years. Soloist and period actresses from the club did an excellent job keeping us entertained and educating us on the club's history.

The Cromwell Valley Park Children's garden, in the 9th year of HGC's development and maintenance, was given a refreshed look.



HGC's Anniversary Revelers



Cromwell Valley Park
Children's Garden



Hill and Stream GC: Community Yard Sale

Hill and Stream Garden Club participated for the first time in a Community Yard Sale on May 17 at St. John's Episcopal Church where our club meets monthly.

Our garden club had a wonderful time engaging with the community and sharing our love for native, perennial, herbs and house plants.



District III: *Continued*



Lutherville GC: On the Road

Oh...the places the Lutherville Garden Club (LGC) goes! In May, the Lutherville Garden Club visited Chanticleer, a pleasure garden in Wayne, PA. Once the Rosengarten home, outside of Philadelphia, PA, Chanticleer is truly a pleasure garden, providing a beautiful and colorful setting, full of garden delights!

The bus trip was coordinated by our LGC member, Dottie DeMarr. If you do not know Dottie, Dottie's bus tours are fabulously fun, touring regional, beautiful gardens with Dottie's perfect weather almost always guaranteed! Thank you, Dottie DeMarr and the LGC bus trip team, what an enjoyable day!



Town and Country GC: Season Opening Tea Party/Teacup Arrangement Workshop



T&CGC visited Draycott Gardens for a tour of Carol Weber's glorious Irises and Peonies while they were in their full glory.



Tea Party/Teacup Arrangement Workshop

It was a lovely day to host our season opening event. Three of our very own members presented their arrangements to

the ladies, and Sarah Wyeth walked us through the steps before we each created our own little masterpieces.



Woodbrook - Murray Hill: Native Plants Presentation and Tour of Hampton Mansion Gardens



The Woodbrook Murray Hill Garden Club enjoyed a talk given by Baltimore County Master Gardener Julie Acker. She presented "Native Plants in the Landscape" and described the different kinds of native plants and explained why they are beneficial to wildlife and local ecosystems. Julie shared information on selecting native plants to incorporate into one's own garden. This program was full of information for us to use.

The Club toured the formal gardens of [Hampton Mansion](#). Park Ranger, Jimmy Hogan, Horticulturist and Certified Grounds Manager, led the tour. Eliza Ridgely, an accomplished gardener and horticulturist, had extensive gardens here in the mid-18th century, and they still exist today. The dramatic overlook from the mansion terrace was created by an 18-foot drop-off with turf ramps connecting six parterres or geometric gardens forming a "Falling Garden". This allowed the hillside gardening to be less challenging. An Orangery was created to overwinter citrus plants and is used today for functions such as our meeting and luncheon, which we held there. It was a lovely day and wonderful visit.



District III: *Continued*

York Manor GC: Picnic and Visit to the Garden of David Walsh, President, Maryland Rose Society



York Manor Garden Club concluded its 2024–25 garden club year with a picnic on June 7 followed by a visit to the private garden of David Walsh, president of the Maryland Rose Society, on June 13.

YMGC members and guests then toured David's garden that includes more than three hundred rose varieties. David concluded the tour with a demonstration of two outstanding rose arrangements.

Roses from the Garden of David Walsh, President, MD Rose Society



District IV: *Baltimore City Clubs*

Guilford Garden Club, Kathleen Truelove, Co-president

The Guilford Garden Club celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Our club's first project was with the Baltimore Museum of Art, for a garden that was subsequently built over with the "new" building.

In commemoration of our 100th, we thought it fitting to seek another BMA project, so contact was made with relevant people there. The Antioch Courtyard, in the center of the original building, is being refurbished, so our club was offered the opportunity to re-imagine the center of the Courtyard. It's a challenging area for plants, open to the air but hemmed in on all four sides by the building. We are currently in the assessment stage – for example, determining the sun pattern now, at midsummer, and moving through the rest of the growing season.

Guilford Garden Club members are excited to have this amazing site for our centennial project. We anticipate that this area will not be built over, as our earlier project was!



Club member Nettie Washburn collects soil for testing in the Antioch Courtyard.

Cliff Dwellers Garden Club

Cliff Dwellers Garden Club presented one of our best programs this spring: "How Music, Poetry and Nature Reflect the Four Seasons to Calm Our Souls and Spirit," presented by member, Deanna Hauser. She created the story of her childhood, read poetry, and performed music—beautiful piano pieces about the four seasons and flowers.



The Gardens of Maryland Photo Gallery

In addition to the photos in your news items, [send us](#) shots of your favorite garden spots in your yard, in your district or anywhere in Maryland. For now, take another look at these from District III Clubs.



District V: Mary Heizer, District Director

Carroll Garden Club: NGC Standard Flower Show, May 16, 2025



The Carroll Garden Club held its first National Garden Clubs, Inc. Standard Flower Show in more than 20 years at Carroll County Public Library's Finksburg Branch on May 16. The show, themed "Painting with Flowers," was a tremendous success, with over 244 attendees.



Publicity for the flower show was widespread, with articles in the Carroll County Times, the Baltimore Sun, and Carroll Magazine, interviews on the local radio station and a wide distribution of posters and quarter sheets.

The event featured more than 160 horticulture entries from members' gardens. The Design Division had 24 entries for categories that included Petite (parallel, angular, and line), Still life, Tray for One and Table for Two. The Botanical Arts Division had 22 entries for photography (categories for color landscape, close-up of a single specimen and floral design). The Education Division had three entry exhibits on native plants, invasive insects and light pollution.

A total of 176 ribbons were given out at the show and 14 Rosettes. The Carroll Garden Club also included three memorial Club Awards to honor deceased club members: the Carmen Blosveren Memorial Award, the Audrey Whalen Hospitality Award and the Lura Griswold Honorary Award.



"The club really stepped up to the challenge, and we are all very proud of what we accomplished," said Terry Conner, Flower Show General Chair.



Dorsey Hall Garden Club

In March, we collected mugs from all over and then planted a sweet little Christmas cactus in each one.

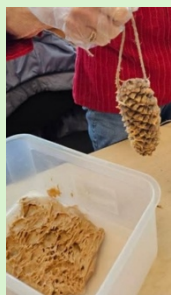
We made colorful tags with a "Just for You" greeting attached to each.

We made them for residents of Morningside House, a senior living home in Ellicott City, MD.

The mugs were used to decorate their dinner tables.



District V: Continued

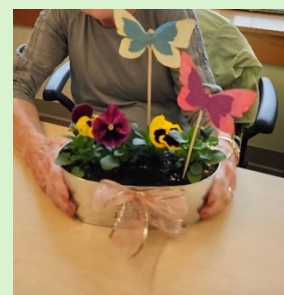


Garden Club of Cumberland

The Garden Club of Cumberland sponsors Garden Therapy each month at the local Human Resources Development Commission (HRDC) Senior Center. The activity coordinates with a theme for each month.

Pinecones were rolled in peanut butter and then birdseed. Jute string was wrapped around the top for easy hanging on a bush, tree, or fence.

Pansies were planted in metal containers and a bow was glued to front. Butterflies were cut out of two colors of scrapbooking paper and glued on a long skewer.



Mountain Laurel Garden Club (MLGC)

New Officers Installed: On June 17, MLGC welcomed its newly elected 2025–2027 officers and committee chairs in an installation ceremony led by State President Donna Miller. Co-Presidents Barb Davis and Deborah Hutton selected *Restorative Gardening* as the theme for their term.



MLGC Board Officers and Committee Chairs



MLGC Plant Sale Team, at Glade Park Pavillion June 7

MLGC Plant Sale:

At our annual spring plant sale June 7 at Glade Park Pavillion in Oakland, the club

showcased over 800 plants. Doors opened at 9:00 am, and by 10:00 am, over 80% of the plants—including 30 species of Maryland natives, 11 culinary and medicinal herbs, and “heirloom” tomato plants, all grown by club members—were sold. Also, 100 plants were donated to local community projects. Proceeds from the sale will help support MLGC’s environmental and community initiatives.



Native Plant Festival: The MLGC Conservation Committee participated at the Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival at New Germany State Park May 10. We had giveaways of native seedballs, seed packets, and native plant information, and we answered lots of questions about planting native plants.

Native Tree Plantings: At Deep Creek Lake State Park May 23, 12 MLGC members and 6 from MD Forestry Service planted 56 native flowering trees and shrubs. MLGC purchased these plants with a grant from the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Council (MUCFC).

The “Pleasant Gardens in the Valley” Garden Tour June 21 featured four gardens and farms in the Pleasant Valley area of southern Garrett County, focusing on farming and biodiversity, with flower and food farms. Attractions included live music at all locations and historical displays. Demonstrations were given on creating flower and herb gifting baskets with flowers and herbs sourced by club members.

Habitat for Humanity Gardens: In May, MLGC members planted our fourth native plant garden for pollinators at a Habitat for Humanity home in Mountain Lake Park. Fifteen species of native plants provided a diversity of bloom colors, blossoming period, and height. On a recent inspection of Habitat for Humanity gardens created in 2022 and 2024, we found that these gardens are being extremely well maintained by the homeowners.



Co-President Deborah Hutton at the Gifting Basket Demonstration

Committee News

Annual Meeting: *Betty Reeves, Chair*

Please take Note & Mark your Calendar:

After some research and discussion, the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland Executive Board voted to move the annual meeting from the 4th Tuesday in March to the **4th Tuesday in April**. This is because many garden clubs do not meet in January, February or March, and many club members do not return from winter vacations until April. It is also becoming more difficult to contact the club membership about upcoming meetings. As March is a busy month with three meetings (club, district and annual), and in the best interest of the membership, **the FGCMMD Annual Meeting will be held on April 28, 2026.**

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

Summer is upon us, and we're sure all the garden clubs of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland are very busy planning, creating, editing, weeding, and, hopefully, enjoying their gardens and their gardening projects throughout the State.

This is just a gentle reminder for the Club and District Awards Chairs to review the [Awards Manual](https://fgcofmd.org) (fgcofmd.org) to begin thinking about how your various projects fit into the FGCMMD, CAR -SGC, and NGC Awards categories. An updated version of the Manual with new contact information will be available after July 1.

[Check out 2024 FGCMMD Awards Presented at the March 25, 2025 Annual Meeting](#)

We're looking forward to working with the District Awards Chairs, to reading all about your projects and to continue FGCMMD's stellar list of award-winning projects!

Conservation and Environmental Awareness: *Carolyn Braverman, Chair*

Go Maryland! We reached a conservation goal way ahead of schedule! "30 by 30" is the name of the global initiative, to protect thirty percent of the earth's land by 2030. According to an article in the *New York Times*, "[Maryland Protected Nearly a Third of Its Land, and It's Reaching for More](#)," April 21, 2025, Maryland is the first state to reach its goal.

And we won't stop there.

The Nature Conservancy worked with a local MD company to develop a documentary film called "[On Water's Edge](#)". It focuses on the city of Chrisfield, located on the Chesapeake Bay, and like other communities on the water, it faces challenges from flooding. The premise of this film is that presenting the problems and challenges as personal stories and experiences will appeal to a wider audience. The film debuted in the spring of 2025 at the Ocean City Film Festival. The goal is to reach a regional audience "to help raise awareness and interest in Chrisfield as a model coastal community where innovative, community-led flood adaptation strategies are being co-designed by scientists, city planners, government agencies and members of the community." For updates on Maryland Conservancy efforts, visit [The Nature Conservancy, NATURE Maryland/DC](#).

In other news...

Bad news for bees. [NRDC \(Natural Resources Defense Council\) revealed](#) that early reports indicate big bee colony losses may reach 60 to 70 percent. Neonics may be the driving factor.

The FGCMMD [President's Project](#) is looking forward to hearing from you about your projects and applications for a "Be A Steward of the Earth" Grant.

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

[Click here for Donation Card](#)

[Healthy Planet Pledge download here](#)

[Healthy Planet Pledge for Garden Clubs download here](#)



Committee News Continued

Natural Disasters: *Charlotte Pennington, Chair*

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

NGC established the [Natural Disasters USA Fund](#) in 1997 to receive contributions from garden club members to aid in replanting parks, community gardens and other municipal areas. Through your donations, the Natural Disaster USA Fund has been able to grant monies to clubs needing assistance with restoration of garden-related areas devastated by natural disasters.

The FGCMD Natural Disasters Committee encourages donations from our Statewide garden clubs. Having each garden club contribute an average of one dollar per member helps with these efforts.

Our more recent disasters include the fires in LA, Arizona and most recently New Jersey. Our southern states have had incredible flooding with Hurricane Helene and other major rain events. Tornadoes have devastated areas of Tennessee, Missouri and Oklahoma.

Please know that even without horrific weather events we still have disasters that affect our communities. The grants through Natural Disaster USA Funds will aid many in needed areas.

We appreciate your donations, and Federated Garden Clubs thanks you.

To make a donation, make your check payable to FGCMD, with Natural Disasters USA Fund written in the memo line, and mail it to:

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.

P.O. Box 65172

Baltimore, MD 21209

Attn: Natural Disasters USA Fund

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

Youth Gardening and NGC Contests: *Jenny Henry, Chair*

The mission of Youth Gardening is to work with our districts and local clubs to participate in assistance with the local youth and schools so we can pass on the wonderful knowledge of gardening to our next generation... and to *grow* with the young and the young-at-heart to help create a better environment for our planet.



[Poetry Contest](#)



[Essay Contest](#)

We are also working with the National Garden Clubs and FGCMD for all kinds of youth contests providing opportunities to help our youth expand their learning and imagination, letting their ideas shine on their creations of all the different media of the creative contests. Each year, the NGC runs the youth contests and publishes the winners on the [NGC Contests and Scholarships website](#) for easy access to people who are interested in the projects. Creative contests include [Poetry](#), [Essay](#), [Recycle/Sculpture](#) and [Poster](#) projects.

The themes for the new Poetry contest for 2025 and 2026 are:

2025 – Plant America for the Next 100 Years!

2026 – Plant America Red, White, and Blue to Celebrate America's 250th Birthday!

This year, we are proud to announce our winner of the 2025 NGC youth Recycle/Sculpture contest award, 5th Grade 1st Place: Caitlin Neuuah, sponsored by District V Green-walled Garden Club, Maryland – Central Atlantic Region.

We hope that more clubs will reach out to their local youth to help educate them about the importance of gardening, to share the joy of harvest and to bring more beautiful blooms for generations to come.



5th Grade 1st Place Winning Entry posted on [NGC website](#)

Council News

Gardening Consultants: *Linda Harris, Chair*

The Gardening Consultants Council took a field trip to Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD on April 9. Eighteen members attended and were excited to see so many spring flowers, shrubs, and trees blooming, many more than where most of us live. After our walk through all the different gardens, we had lunch and a short meeting at the Olney Grille.

Photo courtesy of
[Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC](#)



Landscape Design: *Betty Reeves, Chair; Linda Harris, Co-Chair*

Landscape Design Council Awards

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

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

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

Links to Award Applications:

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

All award applications are due November 1.

Background on the Landscape Design Program from the FGCMDC Website

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

Fifty-four Attend Landscape Design School Course 1 Session May 7-8

The [Landscape Design Council](#) held another very successful Landscape Design School (LDS) on May 7 and 8 in Columbia, MD. This course was attended by 54 people, 36 of which were all new students who took and passed the exam. The others were refreshing their credentials as Landscape Design Consultants.

We enjoyed having seven excellent instructors, who presented the landscape design classes required for Course 1. Two members, Terry Conner and Carolyn Magee, became Landscape Design Consultants as this was their 4th course; and Betty Reeves became a Master Landscape Design Consultant.

As State School Chair, I will be chairing the Tri-Refresher at the [CAR-SGC Conference](#) in October at the Hyatt Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge. At this tri-refresher, Gardening, Environmental, and Landscape Design Consultants can refresh for any of these schools by attending the designated seminars and bus tour.

These seminars are designed to cover important concepts in all three schools, as well as the bus tour, which offers three educational stops: Layton's Chance Vineyard & Winery (come and learn about how they choose the best grapes); [UMCES Horn Point Lab](#) (where you can see the oyster restoration project live); and a visit to [Blackwater Wildlife Refuge](#) located on the Bay. You can contact me for more information (lindaharris355@aol.com).



Council News *Continued*

Robert Lewis Baker Memorial Scholarship: *Betty Reeves, Chair*

The Robert Lewis Baker Memorial Scholarship is a one-year \$10,000 scholarship given annually providing grants to a college/university junior, senior, or graduate student, majoring in the study of—and with the intent of a career in—Ornamental Horticulture or Landscape Architecture.

Students must be enrolled for a minimum of 6 graded hours of classes. If there is more than one qualified applicant applying for the scholarship, the grant will be divided among the qualified candidates.

If you know of a qualified student majoring in higher education, please inform them about the Robert Lewis Baker Memorial Scholarship. The application can be found on the [Scholarships](#) page of the Federated Garden Clubs of MD website. The application deadline is February 1, 2026.

Member Profiles

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

More Gardenews staff profiles to come in November...

Trish Reynolds, *Gardenews Representative, District I*

Clubs: Talbot County GC (TCGC) (1996), Oxford GC (OGC) (2010)

Originally from Long Island, Trish moved to Oxford, MD, when she was 16. She graduated from Notre Dame University, MD in 1966, and obtained her Masters in Finance from Loyola University, MD in 1980. She worked in Banking for almost 30 years. Trish expanded her love of gardening by taking the two Ornamental Plant Corticated Programs at Longwood Garden, joining TCGC in 1996, and OGC in 2010, as well becoming involved with FGCMMD, at both District and State levels. She has served the following roles:

FGCMMD State offices:

- District I Director – 2011-13
- Recording Secretary – 2013-15, 2021-23
- Hort Chairman – 2007-2009; and 2015-2017
- Nominating Committee – 2020
- Judges Council – Recording Secretary – 2019-21
- Landscape Design Council – Treasurer – 2019-23
- Corresponding Secretary – 2023

FGCMMD District I offices:

- District I Director – 2011-13
- Asst. Director – 2009-2011
- Treasurer – 2007-2009
- Chairman of Nominating – 2013-15
- “Gardenews Chairman” – 2009-2011, and 2015-2025
- “Garden Basket” Newsletter for District I – writer and publisher – 2020-25

Talbot County Garden Club offices:

- President – 2007-2009
- Vice President – 2005-07
- Treasurer – 1999-2005, and 2011-2015
- Currently – Chair... Awards, Horticulture, Historical Society Garden Committees

Trish has held Horticulture Workshops for other clubs and is a Flower Show Life Judge and a member of the Judges', Garden and Landscape Design Councils. She continues to serve on TCGC Committees – Hospitality, Finance, Flower Show, Environment and Nature, Yearbook, Library Garden, Garden Therapy; and is Membership Chair for OGC. Trish is a life member of FGCMMD and CAR. She is also a member of the Maryland Daffodil Society, American Daffodil Society, American Horticulture Society, and Maryland Horticulture Society.

Member Profiles *Continued*

Denise Kramer: *Gardenews Webmaster, District V*

Club: Mountain Laurel Garden Club (MLGC) (2012)

Webmaster: MLGC and FGCMMD

Denise has been a member of the Mountain Laurel Garden Club since 2012. She served as the MLGC President from 2021 to 2023. During her 13 years of membership, she has also served as Communications Chair, responsible for MLGC's newsletter, yearbook and website. Denise is now also serving as webmaster of FGCMMD's website and was Co-Editor of FGCMMD's *Gardenews* in 2023. She has designed many of MLGC's graphics, including the club logo. She helped create interpretive signage for Sang Run Park that teaches about the sensitive pollinator ecosystem, and she has produced many event flyers and brochures for MLGC activities. She currently also serves as MLGC's Member Relations Chair.

An avid gardener for years, she was originally from Howard County. She joined the MLGC after moving to western Maryland and sought out the advice of club members with experience gardening in the Zone 5, mountain climate.

Dan Portwood: *Gardenews Editor, District V*

Club: Mountain Laurel Garden Club (MLGC) (2022)

As a lifelong gardener, my father, a career Department of Agriculture civil servant, instilled in me an enduring love of working with nature. When I was 8, he helped me plant my first garden. In high school, I set out on what would become a career in editing by serving as the editor of the school magazine. ... But I continued to garden.

After earning a BA in English from the University of Virginia, I worked as a free-lance editor for several organizations around DC, including the Agricultural Research Service, before joining the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, where I worked for 42 years as an editor and technical writer. During that time, I earned an MA in Journalism from the University of Maryland and an MS in Technical Communication Management from Mercer University. ... And I continued to garden.

After we retired, my wife and I moved to Oakland, MD and joined the Mountain Laurel Garden Club. We graduated from the [University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Program](#) and have since enjoyed teaching others—and learning from them—about gardening throughout Garrett County.

As a member of MLGC's Communication Committee, I was proofreader for Denise Kramer, editor of the club's newsletter, until she asked me to take over the editorship so she can concentrate on her work as web master of the MLGC and FGCMMD websites. Donna Miller asked me to be the editor of *Gardenews* after Liz Williams retired. I am deeply grateful to Liz for helping me get my bearings. She has been a great mentor providing deep background on the production of FGCMMD's *Gardenews*.

I am just getting to know the District Directors, *Gardenews* Representatives and others in the Clubs throughout Maryland, and I am in awe of the achievements of FGCMMD members. I hope to learn much from their many years of experience. Please feel free to contact me (Gardenews@fgcofmd.org) if you would like to chat about gardening and your club's previous accomplishments and upcoming projects.



Support our FGCMMD Scholarship Fund

... and become a Life Member!

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

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

Application link: fgcofmd.org/membersupport/

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



