GARDENEWS

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www.fgcofmd.org office@fgcofmd.org

Be a Steward of the Earth

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

4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209
Gardenews@FGCOFMD.org

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

President
Donna Miller
statepresident@fgcofmd.org

Editor
Dan Portwood
gardenews@fgcofmd.org

Gardenews Representatives

District I
Trish Reynolds
pkr26998@gmail.com

District II
Jenny Henry
jennyhenry1188@comcast.net

District III
Vickie Rasmussen
victoriarasmussen@comcast.net

District IV
TBD
www.fgcofmd.org

District V
Gisela Cooke
gisimaria@yahoo.com

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Holidays at the Maryland State House

The Maryland State House Holiday Tree & Wreath Project features designs by Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland from 23 Counties and Baltimore City. In 2015, Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan, initiated the project, which continued through 2022 except during the Covid pandemic (2020 and 2021). Maryland's current First Lady, Dawn Moore, has continued this wonderful Annapolis holiday tradition during Governor Wes Moore's term in office. Each December, with great joy and enthusiasm, Federated Garden Club members arrive from all over Maryland to transform the State House Rotunda into a holiday delight.

This Holiday issue of *Gardenews* features photos of the displays from participating counties in FGCMD districts' garden clubs including brief descriptions of the themes designers chose to illustrate their county's history or unique regional nature.

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.

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December 2025 Holiday Edition of *Gardenews*

Trees and Wreaths by District and County

District I:

- Caroline
- Dorchester
- Kent
- Queen Anne's
- Somerset
- Wicomico
- Worchester

Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore (Right) Greets FGCMD President Donna Miller to the Maryland State

FGCMD President Donna Miller, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore, and Danielle Brabazon, National Capital Area Garden Clubs President

District II:

- Anne Arundel
- Calvert
- Charles
- Prince George's
- St Mary's

District III:

- Harford
- Baltimore

District V:

- Allegany
- Carroll
- Frederick
- Garrett
- Howard
- Washington

First Lady Dawn Moore Presents Prince George's County with Certificate of Appreciation

Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore and Dionne Randolph, Department of General Services

Maryland State House Menorah

National Capital Area Garden Clubs (NCAGC) MD State House Display

Photo Credits: The Holiday Tree & Wreath photos are courtesy of the "Executive Office of the Governor" or individual garden club representatives. Group photos with Maryland's First Lady Dawn Moore are courtesy of the Executive Office of the Governor.

Official State House photos in this issue are by Photographer Joe Andrucyk.

Tree and Wreath Montage photos are by FGCMD President Donna Miller.

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District I: Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Annes, Somerset, Wicomico, Worchester Counties

Caroline County: *Caroline County Garden Club*

***Pictured (L-R)*: Jan Edwards, Kimberlee Eveland, Linda Moore. *Theme*: "O Little Town of Bethlehem."**
***Ornaments*: (Top) Year 2000 Commemorative issued by the Bethlehem, Maryland Post Office (est. 1857).**
(Bottom) envelopes with Three Wise Men stamps that have been issued since 1939. People travel to the town specifically to have their cards mailed from this location.

Dorchester County: *Dorchester Garden Club*

***Pictured (L-R)*: Kay Karminski, Sandy Lucas, Cookie Brohawn**
***Theme*: "Oystering on the Choptank." *Designers*: Kay Karminski, Cookie Brohawn, Fran Collins and Carol Williamson.**
The oysters came from the Choptank River. The picture of the oyster tonger (center) was from a mural in downtown Cambridge Maryland.

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Kent County: *Chestertown Garden Club*

***Pictured (L-R)*: Secethia Boardley-Davis, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore, Nancy Bennington, Kate Mason**

***Theme*: "'Tis the Season to Say, '*I Do*' in Kent County."**

Queen Anne's County: *Kent Island and Queen Anne's County Garden Clubs*

***Pictured (L-R):* Jennifer Sambataro, Nora Spicer, Linda Turner, Paula Kumar, Carolyn MacGlashan, Rita Yavinsky (*Not Pictured*, Lynn Acker)**

***Theme*: "Historic Sites and Themes of Queen Anne's County"**

Ornaments were made from photos of historic sites. Next to the tree is a notebook with an historic bio for each ornament featured on the tree.

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Somerset County: *Somerset County Garden Club*

The Somerset County Garden Club celebrates the diversity of our native plant material with this holiday display.

The tree silhouette is constructed of branches from the bald cypress (*Taxodium* distichum) and from the loblolly pine (*Pinus* taeda).

The tree is adorned with foliage from

- American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*),
- American holly (ilex opaca),
- bee balm (*Monarda fistulas*),
- eastern red cedar (Juniperus virginiana),
- highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*),
- inkberry holly (Ilex glabra),
- red switchgrass (Panicum virgatum),
- spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*),
- white pine (Pinus strobus) and
- pinecones from the loblolly tree.

Wicomico County: *Four Seasons Garden Club*

Pictured **(L-R): Anne Heavner, Frances Follmer, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore, FGCMD President Donna Miller**

Theme**: "Salisbury University Celebrates 100 Years"**

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Worchester County: *Worchester County Garden Club*

Pictured (L-R): Worchester County Garden Club Members with Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore
Theme: "Let It Sow, Let It Sow, Let It Sow!"

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

Anne Arundel County: *Bayside Bloomers Garden Club*

Pictured (L-R): Sandy Reckert-Reusing, Maggie Spargo, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore*, Tracy McGinniss, Kathy Larrabee, Shannon Wires*

Theme: "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

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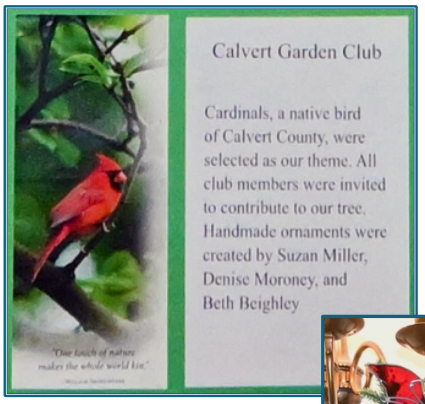
Calvert County: *Calvert Garden Club*

Pictured (L-R): Andrea Jordan, Beth Beigley, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore



***Theme*: "Celebrating Cardinals"**

***Contributors*: Beth Beigley (Chair), Andrea Jordan, Suzan Miller, Denise Moroney.**

***Ornament Design*: Beth Beigley, Suzan Miller, and Denise Moroney**

Charles County: *La Plata Garden Club*

Pictured (L-R): **Club Committee Members Jean Boucher, Judy Thomason, Lori Geisweidt, Carole Raucheisen, Patti Faulkner; Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore (*Not Pictured*: Committee Members Sherie Zimmer, Betsy Parboni, Mary Ann Wade, Kathy Miles, Janice Lackey-Waters)**

***Theme*: "The Historic Town of Port Tobacco, Charles County, Maryland"**

***Ornaments*: Highlights of historic events, famous people and important dates from Port Tobacco's founding in 1727 to current times. It is Maryland's smallest town (pop. 11), home of Thomas Stone, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.**

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Prince George's County: *Forest Garden Club*

Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore Presenting Certificate of Appreciation for Prince George's Garden Club.

Pictured (L-R): **Cheryl Lancaster, Club President Maggie Sliker, Dawn Moore, Gail Meloy, Lynn Roberts.**

Theme: **"Salute & Celebrate Joint Base Andrews, Camp Springs, MD"**

St. Mary's County: *St. Mary's County Garden Club*

Pictured (L-R): **Patty Teague, Beth Bonifant, Genise Rondina, Lee Lacy**

Theme: **"Natural Bounty and Enduring Traditions of Maryland's Mother County"**

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District III: Baltimore and Harford Counties

Baltimore County: *Monkton Garden Club*

Theme: **"Enjoying the Great Outdoors"**

Harford County: *Evergreen Garden Club*

Pictured (L-R): **Evergreen Garden Club President Pat Vandrey, First Lady Dawn Moore, Lynn Crothers, Sue Thomas**

Designers/Creators: **Pat Vandrey, Gretchen Loewke, Lynn Crothers, Alena Schwaber, Sue Thomas**

***Theme*: "Harford County's Rich Racing Heritage"**

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DISTRICT V: ALLEGANY, CARROLL, FREDERICK, GARRETT, HOWARD, WASHINGTON COUNTIES

Allegany County: *Garden Club of Cumberland*

Pictured (L-R): **Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore, Garden Club of Cumberland President Ginny Decker, FGCMD President Donna Miller**

Theme: **"Allegany Arts"**

Carroll County: *Mt. Airy, Carroll County, Silver Fancy Garden Clubs*

Pictured (L-R): **Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore; Barbara Rodgers, Mt. Airy Garden Club President; Mary Wormell, Mary Boldt (Mt. Airy GC); Christine Calka (Silver Fancy GC), Diane Bayless, Mt. Airy GC Photographer; Cathy Hoover (Mt. Airy GC); FGCMD President Donna Miller**

Theme: **"Birds, Butterflies and Flowers"**

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Frederick County: *Green-walled, Tasker's Chance, Garden Club of Frederick*

The Frederick County Federated Garden Clubs' holiday tree is displayed this year at Heritage Frederick, an historical and cultural organization that includes the Museum of Frederick County history.

A patriotic celebration of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States of America, the tree's theme features beautifully designed handcrafted ornaments representing Francis Scott Key's "Star Spangled Banner."

We hope you will visit and enjoy the Frederick County holiday tree display and festive Heritage Frederick located at 24 E. Church Street, Frederick.

We look forward to displaying the Frederick County Holiday Tree at the Maryland State House in 2026.

Garrett County: Mountain Laurel Garden Club

Pictured (L-R): **Ellen Cowgill, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore**

Pictured (L-R): **Ellen Cowgill, FGCMD President Donna Miller, Betsy Potts**

Theme: **Nurturing Nature in Garrett County**

Designers**: Ellen Cowgill, Donna Swift, Pat Williamson and Laura Ivkovich**

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Howard County: *Howard County, Dorsey Hall, Cross-Country Garden Clubs*

Pictured (L-R): **Jenny Casasco, Shyran Albert, Jeanne Holsey, Gay Bohn, Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore, Anne Drnec, Sandy Thompson, Laura Dauber, Debra Dear, FGCMD President Donna Miller**

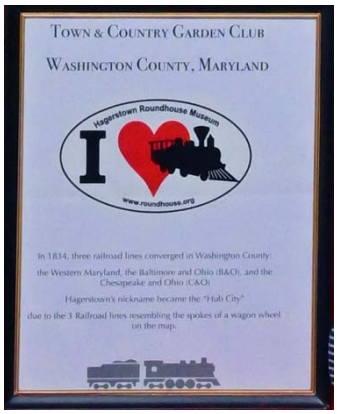
Theme: **"Parks in Howard County"**

Washington County: *Town and Country, Washington County Garden Clubs*

Pictured (L-R): **Mary Heizer (District V Director, President, Town and Country Garden Club), Laura Johnson**

In 1834, three railroad lines converged in Washington County: the Western Maryland, the Baltimore and Ohio, and the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O). Hagerstown's nickname became the "Hub City," due to the three railroad lines' representing the spokes of a wagon wheel on the map.

The roundhouse (photo center) was built in 1939.
The Hagerstown area railroad industry was the major employer for more than 50 years.



Theme: **"Railroads/Trains Representing the Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum"**

Designers**: Kathleen Murray, Sue Goller, Michelle Hess, Laura Johnson, Mary Heizer**

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Maryland State House Menorah

Holidays at the Maryland State House

The Maryland State House Holiday display includes a menorah celebrating the eight days of Chanukah, beginning at nightfall, December 14 and ending with nightfall, December 22.

The State House is open to the public every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except Christmas and New Year's Day.

Photo Courtesy of Leonard and Phyllis Attman

National Capital Area Garden Clubs (NCAGC) MD State House Display

NCAGC District IV, Montgomery County: Montgomery Village and Norbeck Manor Garden Clubs

One of FGCMD's neighboring Garden Club organizations is Maryland's Montgomery County, District IV of National Capital Area Garden Clubs (NCAGC). The theme of their State House tree display is "Montgomery County Public Library (MCPL)." Organized in 1950 with just 7 branch libraries, today MCPL includes 21 publicly accessible branch libraries and one branch at the MoCo Correctional Facility.

Pictured (L-R): **Danielle Brabazon, NCAGC President; Alma Paull, Norbeck Manor GC; Geri Matise, District IV Director, Montgomery Village GC; Susan Lopsonzski, Norbeck Manor GC; Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore**

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