

# THE FLOWER PRESS

PENN-CUMBERLAND GARDEN CLUB January-February 2020 Member of District IV, GCFP, CAR & National Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Sixty Years to Sparkle — Another Year to Shine"

### President's Corner .....

When you join Penn-Cumberland Garden Club you have joined a voice of gardeners greater than those names listed in the yearbook. You are also a part of the National Council of State Garden Clubs (NCSGC) with members in all 50 states and two territories. The NCSGC is divided into 8 regions, we are part of the Central Atlantic Region (CAR) with 6 other states and DC. The National Council of State Garden Clubs develops curriculum for educational schools and guidelines for flower shows. NCSGC also offers scholarships to students and project start up grants for clubs. We have recently applied for a "Plant America Beautiful" Grant.



Below the NCSGC and CAR comes our state organization, The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) with over 5,200 Pennsylvania Garden Club Members. A portion of your dues goes directly to the GCFP. The GCFP holds an annual conference in April which members are invited to attend. As a club we can compete against other clubs in the state to win awards and achievements for our activities and events including the coveted governor's trophy. Additionally, the GCFP hosts fabulous "schools" for additional training in landscape design, environmental studies, gardening consultant and floral design. These are continuously on going and are held all around the state.



The GCFP is divided in to eleven Districts. We are part of District IV. District IV encompasses 9 counties and is made up of 11 garden clubs. Presidents and representatives from these clubs meet quarterly to share and learn from each other. A small portion of your dues goes to cover District IV expenses.



Below District IV is Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, where you are part of an active club of 120 members strong. PCGC is 60 years old this year and has a strong legacy of gardening education, floral design, conservation work and service. PCGC has over 30 active committees of which you can be a part of to serve our club and community at a grass roots level.



Finally, we come to the most important part of PCGC. YOU!

<u>YOU</u> make this club! Every individual member is so important to make PCGC and "garden clubbing" great! By Participating in activities, helping with hospitality, serving on committees, paying dues and supporting fundraisers, attending meetings and honoring our club motto. "Every Member a Working Member" <u>YOU</u> help to make PCGC an excellent club! So in this season of gratefulness and blessings -- Thank <u>YOU!!</u>



## December 16th Meeting — Floral Designs of Other Cultures

Customs and designs evolve through time when they are infused with creative ideas. The December program attempts to step back in time to observe some of these traditions and appreciate how far the art of floral design has advanced from its roots.

Four of your Garden Club members have agreed to put forth their best efforts to recreate several of these designs from other cultures for your enjoyment. Ruth Zook will recreate an oriental design arrangement; Dee Titus received her inspiration from the early colonial settlers; Sheri Goff will display a creation typical of Sweden and Karen McAuliffe, who has traced her ancestry to King Edward of England, will recreate a classic design in the British tradition.

### 5th Annual Cookie Exchange

Bring 2 dozen or more cookies to the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting in a container with your name on it. We will empty your container and you will pick it up when it is time to select your cookies. A great way to have a nice variety of cookies for the coming holidays. We will have our usual luncheon as well – bring your place settings and a beverage cup. *In January, February and March we will have SOUPS instead of salads with our sandwiches so you will need to bring a mug or bowl and a soup spoon.* 



Fern Oram and Peggy Greene, Hospitality Co-Chairs

## January 27th Meeting — Our Role in Restoring Life to Pennsylvania's Rivers and Streams



Jenna Mitchell was born and raised in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She received a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Resource Management with minors in Environmental Soil Science and Watersheds and Water Resources. Following graduation, Jenna worked at the Lancaster County Conservation District as an Erosion and Sedimentation Technician. Jenna then moved onto the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay as the Pennsylvania Program Manager and has since been promoted to the Pennsylvania State Director.

### February 24th Meeting – Dare 7o Be 7ick Aware

**Lisa Rocuskie** of the **PA Department of Health** will help us learn about ticks and their habitats. Prevention tips on your yard, your animal and yourself. What action should be taken if bitten. The program will also include what type of ticks live in our area, what type of diseases ticks may carry, who is at highest risk and much more information.



# 50th Benefit a "Golden" Success!



Our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual PCGC Scholarship & Community Projects Benefit was held on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, at the Radisson Conference Center in Camp Hill. It was a memorable event. Our exhuberant members and attendees enjoyed shopping at the marketplace, dining on a delicious lunch and listening to a creative presentation.

The theme of Bridgette Swepston's and Julia Clevett's program was "Amazing Floral Designs Incorporating Metal Sculptures." As Julia designed and created floral designs within the metal sculptures, she shared designing tips and management of unexpected challenges while designing. The beautiful sculpted floral designs were taken home by six fortunate luncheon attendees. The design sculptures were a treasure to behold and appreciated by the winners.

More than 25 vendors, including PCGC committees, also provided a variety of treasures for sale. Raffle baskets and items were on display for attendees to try their luck at possessing the winning ticket. The generosity of our members and committees enable our benefit to provide a unique shopping experience. These efforts contribute to the financial success for future scholarships and community projects.

A special thank you goes out to our President, Susanna Reppert Brill, whose trust and support of me to coordinate our benefit is greatly appreciated. The committee chairs, committee members, volunteers and PCGC members who purchased tickets provided the necessary support that enabled our event to be possible.

It was a pleasure to welcome guests Bob Carey, PCGC supporter/local radio host, and Gail Corle, CAR-SGC Director, who took time out of their busy schedules to attend.

The Radisson Conference Center management and staff went out of their way to assist us in making our benefit an enjoyable experience and a picture-perfect event.



# Benefit thanks ....

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of our amazing members who worked tirelessly to make our 50<sup>th</sup> Benefit a huge success. Special thanks go to the committee chairpersons and their committee members for your diligent work. The committee chair persons were:

- ➤ Co Chair Louise Bianco
- Communications Karen Schwarzbauer
- ➤ Baked Goods Betty Golob and Josephine McAnulty
- Business Donations Kay Rowe and Sandie Jones
- Credit Sales Jennifer Hooper and Nancy Rebilas
- > Floral Centerpiece Designer Nancy Hackett
- Floral Centerpieces Judy McGinnis and Joyce Wallen
- Greens Arlene Taylor and Susanna Reppert Brill
- Photography Sheri Goff, Kathleen Jacobs, Kathy Brenneman
- Pressed Flowers Karen Schwarzbauer
- Properties Dee Titus
- Publicity Lynn Garrett
- Raffle Donations/Baskets Nancy Toole and Kay Rowe
- Reservations Betty Pisano
- ➤ Signs Kathleen Jacobs
- ➤ Technology Lois Kriens
- Treasurer Jennifer Hooper
- ➤ Vendors Sue Kent
- Ways and Means Lisa Garrison



In addition, a great big THANK YOU goes out to the members who donated raffle items and baskets. Thanks to Louise Bianco, Pat Conrad, Marti Detweiler, Regina Dolan, Wanda Godar, Sheri Goff, Sue Greenly, Bonnie Guyer, Carol Hollis, Kathleen Jacobs, Bonita Lewis, Donna O'Brien, Nancy Toole, Bert Wigand, and Lisa Garrison. And last but not least, we are grateful to our wonderful committees for their generous donations: Birds, Butterflies & Wildflowers, Civic Beautification, Community Gardens, Horticulture, Membership, Pressed Flower Designers, Travel and Ways and Means. Together you made our special 50<sup>th</sup> Benefit a success! Here's to making our 2020 Benefit a continued success for scholarships and community projects.

A special and heartfelt THANK YOU goes to the **Greenly Family Foundation** for again sponsoring our Audio-Visual Aids.

### Carol



### My Gardening Passion... "Moving On" by Joyce Wallen



Thirty some years ago I started my first garden. I had no previous garden experience, just a love of flowers from my grandmother's mass beds of German iris, orange daylilies, and orange poppies. But that wasn't the kind of flower bed I wanted, nor was it the six-foot-wide annual beds already there.

I started learning about plants in my usual way: reading lots of library books and plant catalogs. The first garden design was drawn on graph paper in pencil, a kidney-shaped island bed in partial sun. But from then on there was less and less planning and mostly impulse buying of plants and trying to make them fit. Flower beds were added wherever possible and grew deeper.

A hosta collection began with cheap plain green species hostas from plant sales and yard sales, until my son replaced them with large variegated hybrid hostas. After a National Hosta Convention and joining the newly established Susquehanna Hosta Society, I was truly a "hostaholic." There wasn't room for more hostas in the garden but that didn't stop me from adding more, now mainly in pots. When it was time to move on to a more manageable garden and single-story house, there were more than 50 pots and 140 named hosta varieties that had to be downsized. In the fall I noted the hardiest hostas to move.



The new lot is small, only one-fifth of an acre, and was beautifully landscaped with lots of trees and shrubs underlaid with mulch beds waiting to be filled. But there were too many trees too closely planted together, and too close to sidewalks and structures. Trees and shrubs that thrive in full sun were now distressed in full shade. In *Glorious Shade*, Jenny Rose Carey advises to "identify which plants should stay and which should be removed," and so the first year was mostly about cutting down 20 trees and more than 10 shrubs, and rejuvenating spindly shrubs. Not to worry: 19 native trees remain.



The great room overlooks extensive shade borders in the back that were easiest to fill. Later gardens would be designed on graph paper, but then moving plants took priority. Plants were jammed into bulb crates and replanted within days. Over 300 plants were moved, most survived, and few needed to be transplanted to a better location later. Hostas were my top priority, with most miniature and small hostas chosen because they are harder to find, cost more, and don't take up much space, and then large and medium hostas that still look good in the fall. Giant hostas like Sum and Substance and Sagae were replaced from nurseries. The hosta collection still has more than 70 named varieties, more than enough for the smaller shade borders.

Special shade perennials also moved include: Convallaria majalis 'Aureovariegata' (a variegated lily of the valley with yellow stripes); Corydalis temulifolia 'Chocolate Stars', a gift from my daughter-in-law that has been discontinued; Saruma henryi (upright wild ginger); a variegated wild ginger groundcover Asarum splendens 'Quicksilver'; and a yellow perennial foxglove, Digitalis grandiflora species. My son transplanted a rhubarb plant originally from his great-grandmother's garden.

Other shade perennials relocated were carex (sedge), heuchera (coral bells), tiarella (foamflower), pulmonaria (lungwort), helleborus (Lenten rose), polygonatum (Solomon's seal), brunnera (false forget-me-not), dicentra (bleeding heart) and bergenia (pigsqueak). All except helleborus have impressive foliage.

In the last five years I've completed NGC courses to become a flower show judge as well as a landscape design, environmental and gardening consultant. At the time, moving wasn't even a remote possibility. In the second year, concepts learned were so valuable in planning new gardens. During the second year, shrubs and groundcover were added to the shade gardens. An area with standing water was converted to a bog garden. For less maintenance, borders will be flowering shrubs with some perennials and bulbs. More than 300 bulbs were planted. In retrospect, it was not much planting, considering that every possible moment was spent laboring outside. Mounds around trees removed were leveled, grass was planted and leaf compost was spread – all so time-consuming but necessary.

The old garden was full of mature plants and breathtakingly beautiful in many spots. Now I have better planned and designed beds with lots of growth space between plants. Most perennials and shrubs sleep the first year, creep the second, and leap the third. Until then, the old garden is admired in a photo book and by all the plants moved. This new garden is much smaller and designed for less maintenance in my senior years. **About the new house – I loved it the moment I saw it!** 



### Membership

We recently signed up seven new members. Our current membership now stands at 123. Please take the time to introduce yourself to our newest members and help them grow in our organization. After all, that's what we do, we help things grow! Please add these women to your yearbook.

#### Martha Crumlich

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#### Brenda White

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#### Gail Remsburg

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Betty Pisano and Sandy Green, Membership Co-Chairs



## Civic Beautification

The Civic Beautification Committee has been busy planting bulbs that will beautify 5 Communities next spring. In the past year, we have planted over **1,000** daffodils in gardens and containers located in Camp Hill, Enola, Lemoyne, Mechanicsburg, and New Cumberland. (We only bought 325 of the bulbs--the remainder were donated or found in the gardens, divided and replanted.) Plus, we have added allium, tulips, and other spring native plants to some of the gardens. We will let you know when and where they are blooming next spring so you may enjoy them also. Pictured is the slope garden at New Cumberland Library.

We have also put seasonal greens in 32 planters and pots throughout the county this fall!

### Birds, Butterflies and Wildflowers



Article from National Wildlife magazine .... Life in the Litter by Emma Johnson

It is the dead of winter. In many parts of the United States, skies are grey, temperatures are plummeting, and you maythink there is nothing living in your dormant backyard. But within the fallen leaves, tree bark, downed trees, soil and dried seed heads of your garden thrive a complex community of animals that are adapted to waiting out the cold.

From small centipedes, spiders, beetles, earthworms, slugs and moth pupae to larger frogs, salamanders, snakes and box turtles to even bigger foxes and bats, as myriad of creatures depends both on the soil and on the ground cover above it throughout the winter.

Just a few inches below the soil's surface, for example, many small insects go into a hibernation like state called diapause, lying dormant until the ground warms. Moths undergo a full transformation. In autumn "94 per cent of moths drop off the tree when they develop as larvae" says University of Delaware entomologist, Doug Tallamy. The insects land under cover of leaves, bark, and soil and pupate in cocoons, emerging as adults the following spring.

For amphibians, many in decline, yard cover is crucial. "Leaf litter helps amphibians retain proper moisture levels and provides protective habitat," says Christopher Petersen with DoD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. Some of these animals will burrow into the muddy bottom of backyard ponds, breathing through porous skin.

Reptiles also seek out shelter to protect their cold-blooded bodies during their dormant months. Snakes take refuge in abandoned mammal dens, while some turtles and tortoises dig their own hideouts. "Box turtles are one of the more common and charismatic backyard species," says Petersen, "and they typically dig into the leaf litter and soil for cover."

Most backyard mammals also tend to hibernate. Chipmunks, voles and other small rodents find spots in open logs,insulating them with plant material such as milkweed seeds. Bigger mammals, including groundhogs and foxes, builddens, rarely moving for months. Even bats use ground cover during the winter. When temperatures drop below freezing, eastern red bats dive underneath leaf litter for extra warmth



So while your yard may look "dead" in winter, it sustains a host of creatures when you leave leaf piles, flower stalks and other debris in place. "If you want to help animals in winter," says National Wildlife Federation Naturalist David Mizejewski, "let your yard be as natural as possible.

So never think things don't look tidy, remember you are helping all creatures survive the coming winter.

Sue Kent, Birds, Butterflies and Wildflowers Chair

## Susanna's "Tussie Mussies" go to ... Our PCGC Husbands!



Big thanks to the husbands who lift, load and haul for us.

Big thanks to the husbands who tolerate PCGC "stuff" in our houses.

Big thanks to the husbands willing to drive us.

If you have a husband who is a good sport when it comes to PCGC please tell him he is appreciated!

### A Moment in Pressed Flower History...



In the 1990's, PCGC's Pressed Flower Designers created a "quilt" using Pressed Flower Pictures that became well known in the area and was on display at the **Philadelphia Flower Show.** George Weigel wrote a long article about the quilt for the Patriot News in 1997. There were actually 4 versions of the quilt--Birds, Dancers, Flowers and Animals. The plant material was glued to fabric-covered card stock and attached to a fabric grid using Velcro. One of the Pressers made the fabric grid and a presser's husband made a quilt stand. We are very happy to say that two of the Pressers that contributed to the quilt continue to attend our workshops--**Betty Wilson and Marian Mundorff**. Their designs are not only instructive but an inspiration to us.



Marian's bird design for the quilt



Betty and Marian working at our last Presser Workshop

## Garden Therapy



Garden Therapy at Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Carlisle is a new project for the club this year. Our volunteers met with the residents on November 12th to design floral arrangements for their rooms using permanent flowers. We also prepared floral designs as shown in the photo to use on their dining tables. A comment heard from one resident was, "this is the most fun I've had in a long time." We will be going to Claremont again on December 10<sup>th</sup> (Christmas decoration theme) and January 28<sup>th</sup> (Valentine's Day theme). If you wish to volunteer to join us for the upcoming dates, please contact Norma Frame or Kay Rowe.

Kaye Rowe, Garden Therapy Co-Chair

### Horticulture Hints

From Harrisburg Magazine September 2015, Great Gardening Tips from "those in the know"

Joyce Wallen provided this article written by one of our longtime members. It's some basic advice for us all as we head into the season of catalogs arriving on our doorsteps and dreams and plans start forming for our gardens in the Spring.



#### CAROL DILLON, CAMP HILL

- 1. Don't buy an item from a local nursery because it looks so pretty that day. It might only bloom that one day a year! Read instruction markers closely when buying plants for details about their blooming time as well as whether they prefer sun or shade, how far apart they should be planted, if they're perennials or annuals, how tall and wide they grow and if they're invasive. Plant accordingly.
- 2. Beware buying an item from an obscure catalog because it looks pretty in the picture and the cost is ridiculously low. It may arrive alive, if you are lucky so small it will take a long time to grow.
- 3. Try to plant the item in the right place the first time, where it will be seen and not hidden by another plant.
- 4. Use leaf mulch instead of tan bark, keeping it only 3 inches deep; it will help the soil the next year. Some people also put four layers of newspaper down on soil before adding leaf mulch to prevent weeds from coming through.
- 5. Research the correct pruning time for all of your bushes, trees and plants. Mostly, the rule is to prune after blooming.



### Sharing Garden Wisdom

This month's theme for "sharing" is greens! Bring any extra holly, pine, juniper, cypress, berried branches, etc. to share with your fellow club members and plan to take home some greens that you don't have in your yard.

### Bloom and Grow Mini-Show

The "show" for December is wreaths. Members have volunteered to create wreaths using only natural materials. We are all looking forward to seeing what unusual components from "Mother Nature" our creators have found.

### Ames Community Gardens — Growing the Love of Gardening



The Ames Community Gardens have completed their 9<sup>th</sup> season – 2020 will be our **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!** A garden committee of 9 Penn-Cumberland members and 5 community gardeners work together to help maintain the gardens at the Ames Community Gardens in Shiremanstown. We assign plots and keep records of assignments. The Ames Company provides tools in a permanent storage shed and water stations to make it easy for anyone to garden. The perimeter is fenced to offer security and peace of mind.

129 gardeners include retirees, apartment dwellers, and those who don't have enough space to garden at home. Extra vegetables are also donated to **New Hope Ministries**. This season, over **1500 pounds of vegetables** were donated to New Hope Ministries.

This is a great project for Penn-Cumberland Garden Club to help serve our communities and to spread the seeds of goodwill. Plans have already begun for the next garden season which will begin again in April as we continue to grow the love of gardening in Central Pennsylvania. There will be garden plots available and we will continue to work on maintaining this beautiful garden community. If you would like to be a part of this very worthwhile project, please contact Susan Wilder or Sheri Goff. We invite you to join the fun and welcome any who wish to join us on this committee. Not necessary to have a plot to be on the committee.

Susan Wilder, Community Gardens Chair

### Plant Sale – N & Liebman – May 16th



Penn-Cumberland's **annual plant sale** is coming up on May 16th this year. As in the past few years, it will be held at NB Liebman Furniture Store parking lot. We will set up on Friday from 3 PM until finished. Plan to bring your plants that day instead of early Saturday morning. Lots of help will be needed to set up tents and tables and then to price and arrange plants. The sale will start on Saturday at 9 AM and close at 1 PM. Mark your calendars so you can plan to bring plants Friday and help make this a success again this year.

Start thinking about growing annuals from seeds, starting new house plants from cuttings and planning which perennials you can divide. For the 2020 sale we would like to have a large Native Plants section to entice the Native Plant customers. Our sale will be listed on Native Plant sites. The following link has information on plants native to Pennsylvania if you are not sure what plants are native. https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/LandscapingwithNativePlants

Our customers always appreciate the wide variety of plants that come from our members' gardens! And don't forget to think about gently used gardening items for the Ways and Means tent. Of course, we'll sell baked goodies, too!

Randi Lorah and Nancy Rebilas, Plant Sale Co-Chairs



### Solving the Mystery of Houseplant Care by Karen Schwarzbauer January 15th - Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg — 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Includes a Discussion of Houseplant Needs, a "How to Propagate" Demonstration, and a Handout of Information Sources.



In addition to being a member of Penn-Cumberland Garden Club, Karen Schwarzbauer belongs to the Hobby Greenhouse Association. She has the beginnings of collections in several houseplant families such as ivy and begonias. Karen has won several awards at flower shows for her houseplants. Some of her favorite pastimes (when she is not tending her plants) is to search the internet to expand her plant knowledge; search mail order nurseries; listen to houseplant podcasts; follow houseplant Facebook pages and watch houseplant YouTube videos.

Karen's talk is open to the public and is sponsored by PCGC as part of our Library Liaison program to provide not only books to our county libraries but other services. Please join Karen and other members at Simpson Library, 16 North Walnut Street, Mechanicsburg, on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Darlene Palanti, Library Liaison Chair

## Youth Gardening

A new program has begun in Carlisle at Hope Station spearheaded by Pat Loomis and Paula Heckman. Hope Station is a place for kids to come after school for a snack and get help with their homework plus other activities. Once a month PCGC is sponsoring an activity led by Pat and Paula. They did painted gourds their first session. The second time they met with the kids the focus was on the raised bed gardens that are outside of the building. Pat and her husband along with Valerie Rowader cleaned out the neglected beds to prepare them for planting. The kids then planted lettuce. Rye grass was planted in some beds for a cover crop and bulbs were planted for Spring. In December there were 3 craft stations set up for the kids to each make a pressed flower ornament, a pinecone tree and an arrangement of greens, carnations and candy canes to take home.



Penn-Cumberland Garden Club – The Flower Press www.penncumberlandgardenclub.org Sheri Goff, Editor 421 Candlewyck Road Camp Hill, PA 17011 sgoff24261@aol.com

Newsletter Deadline: March/April Newsletter - February 1st

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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December 16 – PCGC Monthly Meeting – Doors open at 9 a.m. – Program at 10 a.m. – Camp Hill Borough Building
January
          5 – National Bird Day
January
           6 - Pressed Flower Designers - 9 to Noon - Giant in Camp Hill - Second Floor
January
          13 – Board Meeting – 9 a.m. – Giant in Camp Hill – Second Floor
January
          27 PCGC Monthly Meeting – Doors open at 9 a.m. – Program at 10 a.m. – Camp Hill Borough Building
          30 - Conservation Committee - 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Giant in Camp Hill - Second Floor
January
February 1 – Deadline for Newsletter Articles
February 3 – Pressed Flower Designers – 9 to Noon – Giant in Camp Hill – Second Floor
February 10 – Horticulture Committee – 8:15 a.m. – Giant in Camp Hill – Second Floor
February 10 – Board Meeting – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Giant in Camp Hill – Second Floor
February 10 – Civic Beautification Committee – 10:30 a.m. – Noon – Giant in Camp Hill – Second Floor
February 24 – PCGC Monthly Meeting – Doors open at 9 a.m. – Program at 10 a.m. – Camp Hill Borough Building
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February 27 – Conservation Committee – 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Giant in Camp Hill – Second Floor