



THE FLOWER PRESS

PENN-CUMBERLAND GARDEN CLUB JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021
Member of District IV, GCFP, CAR & National Garden Clubs, Inc.

WE ARE ... PENN-CUMBERLAND!

President's Corner ...

Dear Garden Club Friends: I joined PCGC as a young woman and one of the first activities I participated in was a bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. When I woke up the day of the show there was already 8 inches of snow on the ground and the snow was to continue all day. I thought to myself, "oh dear, these old ladies are going to cancel." I called the trip leader, and she answered the phone saying, "we're going," and I responded, "Ok, I'll be there." It was one of my most memorable visits to the Philadelphia Flower Show because only the most intrepid gardeners, including Penn-Cumberland were there.

Fast Forward to 2020 and now I am one of the old ladies! The year has not been a "normal" year, yet despite the challenges and difficulties in this Covid year, Penn-Cumberland Garden Club has persevered and pushed on. We have learned how to Zoom! We held garden tours in the summer; Civic Beautification has continued all their projects; Floral Design Guild, Horticulture Committee, Pressers, and Conservation Committee have met in small groups, mostly outdoors, and of course the Benefit continued! PCGC is such an amazing club that will not be held back or stopped as I learned my very first year of joining the club.

We were able to hold the Benefit but again we now need to PIVOT as indoor meetings of more than ten are not recommended. Our December regular meeting will be held via ZOOM. A link will be sent to you to join the meeting. We will have our scheduled speaker, Heather Andrews, first, followed by the business meeting. We will attempt to have as much normalcy to our regular meeting as we can. Now if only we could figure out how to do the cookie exchange online.....

During this time of gratefulness, thanksgiving, and blessings, I am so incredibly grateful to be a part of Penn-Cumberland Garden Club. From the first year I joined PCGC to now, the ladies (and gentlemen) of PCGC have always been and continue to be an inspiration to me. Your willingness to pitch in to help, the incredible creativity, the genuine caring, the passion to learn, the intense knowledge on so many subjects, the love of beauty and nature, and the desire to share that love of beauty and nature with our communities is truly amazing! I am so proud to be a part of and current president of Penn-Cumberland Garden Club. I am a better person for it.

It is important that you continue to remember PCGC and participate in the club. All of us have different comfort levels during this pandemic. Following PCGC on Facebook or Instagram is a physically distanced way to support your club. (Be sure to make some comments -so we can connect) Reading the newsletter all the way through will keep you updated on our activities. Our next in-person event is our January regular meeting which will be held in a room that seats 850 people. We will be sure to sit physically distanced but we will also cover the meeting through Zoom so that everyone can participate either in-person or online. "See" you soon, either in person or online!

Fondly, Susanna



December 21st – Online Meeting!

Our **regular monthly meeting is the 21st this month**, just in time for some holiday cheer virtually! In cyberspace! You will receive via email the link to log in to the Zoom meeting which will begin at 10 a.m. with our speaker, Heather Andrews. The usual business meeting will follow. Please log in to Zoom a few minutes early and then wait for the host, Susanna, our President, to open the meeting. Please have your device muted so that we do NOT hear your dog barking, your phone ringing, etc.

Heather Andrews is a **published author, photographer, traveler and speaker** who routinely works with homeowners and businesses to create sustainable native pollinator habitats. She grew up as one of 12 grandchildren in North Carolina, and often took walks on her Grand-daddy Andrews acre garden, where she learned about pollinators and increasing yield. Her childhood chores included weed pulling in her Daddy's rose garden, which she did not appreciate at the time.

She is a Graduate of Oglethorpe University, and the wife of the Chief of Cardiology at Holy Spirit Hospital, Dr. Raj Dave (pronounced Dah- Vey) and a fur mom to 4 rescued spoiled housecats.

During the growing season, you will find her in her monarch waystation, Cat-a-pillar Haven, videoblogging her garden on her Facebook page, The Thoughtful Gardener. She encourages gardeners provide wildlife habitat and fuel for native pollinators and improve vegetable yield via pollinator hedgerows/corridors. She combines information from her day job as a clinical researcher to guide her messaging, and just completed an online fall gardening mini course, "Five weeks to a Fabulous Fall Pollinator and Wildlife Fueling Waystation." She often sends milkweed seeds to gardeners throughout North America to help create host plants for the endangered monarch butterfly. During this pandemic gardening became the #1 hobby, and she sent over 30 packages of various seeds to gardeners who could not find supply, since garden stores both locally and on the internet were sold out.

Her garden was recently awarded the "Garden of Distinction" in 2020 by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and her nature photographs and articles have been featured in magazines and other mediums. Her proposal, "The resurgence of pollinator hedgerows-using science to create a pollinator oasis in your own backyard," was accepted for the 2021 International Master Gardeners Conference. To follow her educational videologs, she can be found on her new educational gardening channel on You Tube, Garden Thoughtfully.

Heather will be sharing two of her other passions with us - travel and photography. She has photographed hundreds of gardens in over 29 countries. Her topic is **"Traveling for Garden Inspiration: Tips and Tricks to Maximize Your Dollars and Time."**

January 25, 2021 – Growing Orchids – All You Need to Know

Kerri Laudig from Ashcombe Farm and Greenhouses will speak on orchids, a plant we love but sometimes find difficult to manage! Speaker at 10, business meeting to follow. Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church, 1050 South York Street, Mechanicsburg 17055. Note that we are meeting on the 4th Monday due to the national holiday on the 3rd Monday.

We are meeting at a **new location**, the **Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church, at 1050 South York Street, Mechanicsburg 17055**. Our President, Susanna, searched far and wide for a venue for us and this church is welcoming us free of charge. Their space we will be using has a seating capacity of 850 so we will be able to easily socially distance ourselves. Masks are mandatory to comply with the current state requirements.

Bonita Lewis, Program Chair



51st Benefit is in the books!





More Benefit fun!



PCGC's 51st Annual Scholarship and Community Projects Benefit

It is my pleasure, as PCGC Benefit Chair, to report to our membership that our 51st Scholarship and Community Projects Benefit was a success! The success of our Benefit can be measured by the dedication of our members and local businesses whom supported our efforts either monetarily or through hard work. We have an incredible group of committee chairs whose tireless work contributed to a successful event. Special thanks go to: *Karen Schwarzbauer, Betty Golob, Josephine McAnulty, Kay Rowe, Sandie Jones, Judy McGinnis, Joyce Wallen, Arlene Taylor, Sheri Goff, Kathy Brenneman, Dee Titus, Lynn Garrett, Nancy Toole, Fern Oram, Betty Pisano, Nancy Rebilas, Sue Kent, Terri Mclay and Lisa Garrison.*

You, the membership, found creative ways to contribute, even though you might not have attended the event. These include but are not limited to:

- Purchasing tickets
- Purchasing of Raffle Tickets
- Donating items for Ways and Means
- Donating Greens
- Donating Baked Goods
- Assembling Boxwood Trees
- Creating Raffle Baskets/Items
- Giving Monetary Donations



One hundred tickets were sold and about eighty plus attendees enjoyed a day of unique shopping, fellowship and entertainment. Our PCGC vendors were productive and sold a good amount of merchandise in spite of our lower attendance. The raffle baskets were a big hit as usual and the silent auction added a fun dimension to the experience. **Our committee vendors, ticket sales and donations took in approximately \$8808.40. After expenses have been deducted we have realized a PROFIT of \$5,434.95! *As compared to last year's profit of \$6,058.36, we fortunately did well amid challenging circumstances.***

I want to extend my deep gratitude to our amazing President, **Susanna Reppert-Brill**, who supported and collaborated with me continuously this past year to ensure that our annual fundraiser would be realized and that the integrity of Penn Cumberland Garden Club's Benefit would remain intact. Another person who was instrumental in working side by side with me was **Betty Pisano**, my Co-Chair. In numerous ways, Betty was my right hand! She was instrumental in assisting with problem solving of issues that came to light throughout the planning stages, days leading up to the Benefit and the day of the Benefit. As I have come to know and trust about PCGC, all members pull together for the good of our organization. Through our efforts we are able to make dreams come true for students and the community I am proud to be a part of this wonderful organization!

WE ARE PENN CUMBERLAND

Carol Hollis, Benefit Chair

Ways and Means

Lisa Garrison, Ways and Means Chair, thanks all who donated items for the Benefit as well as those who helped to set up and take down the tables plus those who helped make the boxwood trees. The unofficial dollar amount is about **\$750** which is wonderful in a COVID year! It was once again worth the effort

Membership



Our current PCGC Membership is 127. Please welcome three new members to our organization: Mary Benton, Lorie Middendorf, and Brenda White. Thank you to our current members who faithfully help our organization grow.



Mary was sponsored and is mentored by Carol Hollis. Mary signed up for the following committees: Birds, Butterflies and Wildflowers and Horticulture. She can be reached at 906 Conley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-5160, PH 717-903-0152, Email: mbenton906@gmail.com

Lorie was sponsored and is mentored by Susanna Reppert-Brill. Lorie signed up for the following committees: Birds, Butterflies and Wildflowers, Civic Beautification, Community Gardens, Conservation, Garden Tour and Plant Faire. She can be reached at 2135 Lambs Gap Rd., Enola, PA 17025-1122, Email: theseasonalherbal@gmail.com



Brenda was sponsored and is mentored by Karen McAuliffe. Brenda signed up for the following committees: Floral Design Guild and Flower Shows. She can be reached at 6 Sterling Glen Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-2704, PH # 717-791-1158, Email: teavana@verizon.net

Please add these three new members to your PCGC yearbook. Also add the following changes:

Diane Connelly new email address: dmc8080@outlook.com, Julie Geib new email address: den.julgeib@gmail.com

Sandie Jones' new address and email: 420 4th St. Apt.2 New Cumberland, PA 17070-1801, szejgones@yahoo.com

Louise Kostelac new cell phone number: 717-649-7644

If you have any changes for our records contact me at betpisano@aol.com or call 717-732-4631.

Betty Pisano, Membership Chair Sandy Green, Co-Chair

Scholarship Applications for 2021-2022

The 2021-2022 Penn-Cumberland Scholarship Application for high school seniors and college students are available on the PCGC website <http://www.penncumberlandgardenclub.org>. The Scholarships are offered to high school students and current college students who will major in Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Architecture, Conservation, Forestry, Urban or Regional Planning, Environmental Science, Botany or plant or ecology related studies. **Please contact Sue Greenly at 717-303-9121 for further information.**

Please note that scholarships are also provided by the Garden Club Federation of PA and the National Garden Club. Their Scholarship forms and information can be obtained at <http://www.pagardenclubs.org>.

Sue Greenly - Scholarship Chair



American Hosta Society National Convention - 2018

Imagine a convention where you board a bus in the morning, tour two spectacular private gardens, nibble baked goods from a garden's aviary, shop for hypertufa containers of all sizes and colors, and enjoy a boxed lunch. Then in the afternoon tour an exotic private garden overlooking a hillside along a creek with over 1,000 different Hostas. This was an amazing tour day of the 2018 American Hosta Society National Convention in nearby Valley Forge, PA. The highlight of American Hosta Society National Conventions are the bus trips to nearby private gardens. These tours are intended for all conference attendees and included in the conference fee.

There was another day of tours to more private gardens and to the Mid-Atlantic's only National Hosta Display Garden at the Barnes Arboretum. Private gardens varied from Talley Crest with one-third acre and more than 300 Hosta cultivars to a 10 acre garden along the banks of Tohickon Creek, Mill Fleurs, with over 1,000 Hosta cultivars. Wyn Eden, featured in an issue of Martha Stewart Living, is described as a woodland garden par excellence. My favorite was Holly Lane, the 2 1/2 acre garden of an artist featuring 700+ Hosta cultivars and lots of artistic touches (even the garden shed.)



Another feature of interest to Hosta lovers was a Hosta show. Like most plant society shows, more than one blue ribbon can be awarded in a class and all designs must include Hosta (or the society's plant) with full botanical names. Hosta from colder states like Wisconsin were much larger than those from PA.

The convention also had vendors, a silent auction of designs featuring Hosta, four Educational Experiences, an ever popular Hosta auction, and an optional tour of Longwood Gardens with the night fountain show. Buffet breakfasts, box lunches, two buffet dinners and a sit-down awards dinner were included. But for me the real draw are the tours of Hosta gardens.

Attending Hosta conventions will be a high priority when travel is safe again. The gardens toured during the 2018 convention were all spectacular and this was by far the most interesting convention I've attended. The 2021 AHS National Convention is planned for Kalamazoo, MI and the 2022 convention is rescheduled for Minneapolis, MN.

Joyce Wallen

Floral Design Guild

The Benefit centerpieces were a big hit judging from the many comments heard. We owe Terri Maclay and her assistant, Megan, a great deal of gratitude for all their work in helping me make the arrangements. Designers, please start thinking of a design for next year to compete with this year's success!

The next Floral Design workshop will be March 22, 2021. Details on the topic and location are to be determined.

Judy McGinnis – Floral Design Guild Chair



How To Add a Splash of Color to Winter Gardens



Winter gardens do not have to be boring and without color. Consider planting cyclamens with Hellebores. Cyclamens are wonderful for brightening the winter or early spring garden with their bold splashes of color in shades of pink, lavender, white or fuchsia. They are ideal for filling in between shrubs and trees and are easy to grow and will self-sow once established. Cyclamens will create a striking carpet over time. They combine beautifully with Hellebores, another outstanding winter bloomer. Known as the Christmas Roses (*Helleborus Niger*) or Lenten Roses (*Helleborus x hybridus* or *Orientalis*), Hellebores

are prized for their profuse and long-lasting blooms. They have attractive leathery foliage which stays fresh-looking year round. Hellebores bloom steadily from mid-winter to mid-spring. Hellebores are tough, cold-hardy, deer and rabbit resistant and easy to grow perennials. Low care, Hellebores and Cyclamens are noteworthy additions to the shade garden and provide gardeners with some of the most spectacular color combinations to brighten up a winter/early spring garden.

Carol Hollis – Horticulture Chair



Why not use Brent and Becky's online catalog Bloomin' Bucks Program when ordering perennials for your 2021 garden? This organization returns a **percentage** of the total monies spent **back to our club**. Civic Beautification's fall order resulted in a Bloomin' Bucks' check for \$65.38 being sent to PCGC.

YES, Brent and Becky's has **SPRING plants** in addition to their fall planting bulbs--several different **lilies**, 46 different **dahlias**, **grasses**, **caladiums**, and many more plants are included. There are only a few varieties offered for certain groups of plants but they are very unusual varieties.

When making the selection for Civic Beautification's fall order, Ann Markley noticed they were offering a flowering quince shrub. We ordered one for the New Cumberland Library garden and one for the Unity Church Labyrinth. We were very pleased with the condition of the plants when they arrived.

To Order--Visit--<https://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com/site/view/836>



The first page contains very clear instructions on how to submit your order within the Bloomin' Bucks Program.

Such a lovely way to make a donation to the club when purchasing plants you were going to order anyway. Remember your family and friends can take advantage of this offer too--they just need to select Penn-Cumberland Garden Club when placing their order.

Karen Schwarzbauer – Civic Beautification Chair

Bloom and Grow Mini-Shows

Unfortunately, our mini-show for December will not take place. However, please look ahead to the February and March shows and be thinking about how you might participate. Call or email Joyce Wallen, 717 329-5083, wallenj7@gmail.com, with questions about how to enter this show and any upcoming shows.

January 25th Mini-Show will be a **Seed Starting Techniques Display**. (no participants needed)

February 22nd will be **Pot-et-fleur**, a Botanical Design in the Botanical Arts Division of a judged flower show. This is a design with an emphasis on **two or more foliage and/or flowering plants with roots growing in soil or other medium**. It must **also include fresh cut flowers**. Other fresh or dried plant material or components may be added for embellishment. Provide a list of plants and flowers used on an index card. No underlay required.



In honor of Bird Month, the **March 15th Mini-Show** will be a **Pressed Flower Picture with a bird theme**. This is another type of Artistic Craft within the Botanical Arts Division of a flower show. Maximum picture size is 10" wide and 10" long (not including optional matting or frame). Please provide a card listing plant material.

Joyce Wallen and Carol Hollis – Bloom and Grow Mini-Shows Co-Chairs

From thisto this! Thank you, Robyn and Bill Collins!



There's a story here, to be sure! This sad birdhouse was found on the ground at the New Cumberland Library. Robyn insisted that she could fix it and took it home. Within less than two weeks it was back and installed in a new home, the Children's Garden, at the library. A new copper roof was purchased and Robyn painted the same designs on it that were part of the original. Bill helped with the post and the anchoring in a bucket of concrete. Robyn is the new "head gardener" of this space. The birdhouse is a beautiful addition to it and it's a great restoration project.

Mark your calendar ... February 22, 2021 – Beautiful Bluebirds

Ornithologist, Wildlife Biologist and Environmental Scientist, Dan Hinnebusch, of Wild Birds Unlimited, will be our speaker. 10 a.m. will be the presentation, business meeting to follow. McBIC church will again be the venue. **Please note that both the January and February meetings are on the 4th Monday due to national holiday.**

Presidents' Tree Dedication — Joyce Wallen — 2015-2017



On a “bluebird sky” fall day we held the dedication ceremony at the New Cumberland Library of a **Blue Ice Cypress** to commemorate Joyce’s service to our club. Her son and family were in attendance along with club members, the director of the library, Kate Pursel, and other friends of Joyce’s. A “tailgate” reception was held afterwards. Thank you to Karen Schwarzbauer for orchestrating and conducting the ceremony and to Betty Pisano for the delicious cookies!



Civic Beautification at Work-Winter Color

The head gardeners of various spaces around the county have been hard at work converting planters from summer blooms to winter color! Kay Rowe and Cindy Kenney do New Hope, Betty Jordan tends Camp Hill Borough, Sheri Goff heads up New Cumberland Library and Susan Wilder does the creating at the Mechanicsburg Train Station. Karen Schwarzbauer, Chair of Civic Beautification helps all of us with our spaces!



How Does Our Garden Grow in a Pandemic Year?

2020 has been a most unusual year. Gardeners have found ways to make the best of it by growing vegetable gardens and spending more time outdoors. Studies have shown how important it is to have fresh air and to get our hands dirty with soil. Gardening is therapeutic. Small doses of microbes and bacteria found in soil help humans to boost immune systems, relieve anxiety and help to make us happy. We knew all along that gardening makes us happy!



Sales of houseplants boomed as those without yards went green indoors. Houseplants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into our homes through photosynthesis. NASA did a study to figure out how to clean the air in space stations and came up with a list of almost 20 houseplants to help with the task. Monsteras, fiddle leaf figs, spider plants, English ivy, peace lily, snake plant, Boston fern and succulents were among the ornamental house plants that made the list. The NASA study showed that the bigger and leafier the plants are, the better – and hairy and waxy leaves are even more effective. Houseplants need to be placed to optimize their sun and temperature needs in our homes.

Most of us have tried to become more sustainable as we've seen shortages of items in our grocery stores. A few zero-waste experts have suggested a few tips to help us. Starting with our own masks – having several cloth masks allows us to launder them with the rest of the laundry making them reusable, sustainable and usually more comfortable. Cooking at home is an easy way to avoid waste, but for a treat, buying from local eateries is also good for the environment because it supports local food producers and keeps carbon-emitting travel to a minimum. If possible, bring your own reusable containers. When ordering takeout, ask the restaurant to keep its plastic cutlery and paper napkins. You can also reuse the disposable containers that hold takeout food, since they are usually sturdy enough for a second use.

It has also been found that single-use plastic is not safer than reusables, so it is a good practice to use reusable bags for grocery shopping – leaving your bags in the shopping cart and bagging the groceries yourself. Single-use plastic is not safer than reusables and causes additional public health concerns once it is discarded. Bulk supermarkets and refill shops provide large quantities of essentials like rice, pasta and cereal that can be refilled at home using reusable containers. Buying in bulk helps to avoid lots of small plastic bags.



Now that we are spending more time indoors, we can find more joy by feeding the birds. Birds must spend much of their time eating so they can generate enough heat to survive. Finding food and water during the colder months is a formidable task. Bird-feeding is a popular and easy activity that brings sound, color and joy to our lives. Remember that feeding areas should provide birds with easy access to food, and also offer nearby protective cover from predators. Set up feeding stations near large shrubs, trees or fences. Sunflower seeds delight the smaller species like American goldfinch, Carolina chickadee and tufted titmouse. Thistle seed in a tube feeder is a favorite of American goldfinches, purple finches, house finches, chickadees and many sparrows.

Suet attracts chickadees, nuthatches, brown creepers, woodpeckers, wrens and cardinals. And don't forget that birds also require water. Birdbaths or even just a shallow pan or bowl of water will suffice. Cold temperatures can freeze water sources, making them inaccessible so it is important for them to have ice-free sources. Attracting and feeding birds awakens a lifeless yard, porch or patio. We can also join a citizen science effort like Project Feederwatch to learn more about birds in our area.

These kinds of lifestyle changes aren't as simple as flipping a switch, but we can all develop a sense for sustainability – and this pandemic is the perfect time to cultivate it. We can share our enthusiasm with others and have an impact on what happens in our communities. And we can continue to celebrate the earth – and work to protect her.



Susan Wilder for the PCGC Conservation Committee

Penn-Cumberland Garden Club – The Flower Press

www.penncumberlandgardenclub.org

Sheri Goff, Editor

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