

UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB

LIONVILLE, PA

MEETINGHOUSE MOMENTS

Fall 2024

Vol. 3, Issue 3

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A Message from Your President *Terry Miller*

Hello there, my garden club friends-

This is my first president's message to you, and I have written many in the past, but they have all been dentally related! This is a new adventure for me, making a shift from oral healthcare to floral earthcare.

I thought I would start off by telling you a bit about myself. I am a very passionate person, and I am passionate about everything I do. I provided patient care for over 40 years as a dental hygienist, and I loved my profession! When my back gave out 10 years ago, I had to stop practicing immediately. I worked right around the corner at the Medical Arts Building, and a few of the UGC members were patients of mine. They were always encouraging me to join, but I could not, because I was working. Irene and I kept in touch, and a few years after my forced "retirement," she encouraged me to get involved with UGC. What a joy it has been to get to know you all. I am still working on names, so bear with me.

My passion for gardening started when I was 7 years old and discovered 3 lady slippers growing in the woods behind our house. I kept track of them every year, but we lived in dense woods, so a garden was out of the question. When I was 12, we move 2 miles away to the top of a hill, and it was wide open space. We had a family garden, but I was pretty much the one who planted and maintained it when I got into college. I spent every summer canning. The summer of 1982, I cut back by 50 to just 100 tomato plants. I am not an avid gardener; I'm a rabid gardener. I am passionate about growing vegetables and teaching about edible flowers, but don't trust me with a houseplant.

I have three siblings, and three out of

four have dominant "farming genes" passed down from way back in our heritage. We are not happy unless our hands are in the soil. I don't have much property at my house, so I sharecrop at my brother's home where I maintain three very large beds. 10 families benefit from what we harvest. I only have 40 tomatoes planted there, and the other 17 are at my house, so you see that I am gradually cutting back. What can I say- I'm an heirloom junkie.

My previous garden club was Lesserton in Southern Chester County. They were a group of mostly Quaker farmers and schoolteachers. It was a non-federated club, but we had fun together. We were all involved in the Unionville Community Fair. That is where I started competing, and I think the farmers were glad when I moved to Berks County so they had a chance to win the award for "Excellence in Vegetables and Specimen Flowers" that I had captured for 24 out of 25 years. I entered the combined flower shows at Longwood several times; apparently, I was interacting with this group long before I knew!

So it was destiny that brought me to you, and I am excited to serve as your president. I am still learning the ropes, so be patient with me, and don't hesitate to offer suggestions. My promise to you is that I will approach the next 2 years with a blue-ribbon commitment.

Here's to bountiful fall harvests!



Two Private Garden Tours *Chris Tarlecki*

As a member of the Garden Conservancy, I take advantage of their Open Days and visit as many private gardens as possible. Two spectacular gardens I visited this year are in Connecticut. On two of the hottest days of the summer, my husband and I visited Sleepy Cat Farm nestled in the heart of Greenwich and the Garden of Bunny Williams which is on fifteen acres in Falls Village.

Sleepy Cat Farm is a private estate situated on over 13 acres maintained by five gardeners. The garden pathways lead to multiple garden rooms and follies. The central portion of the garden is dominated by a reflecting pool and a wisteria-covered arbor. This area is bordered by a sculptured hornbeam hedge framing the Chinese pavilion (or "ting") - a place to stop and take in the view) that is a small island surrounded by a pond full of Koi. The garden has many statues, topiaries, specimen trees, perennial borders, and fountains scattered throughout. This amazing garden has a surprise around every corner.

Many of you may know Bunny Williams as an author of interior design and garden books. Her country estate garden is laid out with a sense of structure, balance, scale, symmetry, and intimacy. I could live in her studio that has views of the pool with a Greek Revival-style pool house. A diamond patterned path surrounded by shapely yews leads to the formal sunken garden. Annuals in the parterre, the kitchen garden filled with flowers and herbs; and the tropical greenhouse treated us to many vivid colorful plants. There is even an aviary with unusual chickens!

Visiting gardens is a favorite pastime of mine and being a member of the Garden Conservancy affords me the opportunity to explore private gardens.



Fourth Grade Passes to Federal Parks, Lands & Waters

Sharon Richardson

A few things to know

- Go to <https://everykidoutdoors.gov/index.htm> for information on getting a 4th Grader Pass.
- You need to print your pass and bring it with you when you visit. Electronic copies aren't accepted.
- Your pass has a unique code. That means you can't copy it and give it to friends. Encourage your friends to get their own pass if they're in the fourth grade.
- This program only provides passes for fourth graders.

Eco Botanical Dyeing Process *Pam McKee*

Botanical dyeing on watercolor paper is a fascinating process, which has been included in my art portfolio. It begins with collecting flowers, leaves, vines, and leaves capable of releasing natural dye into the paper. I artfully arrange the material on about 12 pieces of watercolor paper and bind to ensure contact with the material. The package is submersed in water and a mordant to set the dye, and then it is boiled for several hours. The papers are removed, rinsed, and dried flat overnight, and then the creativity starts! I carefully look at each piece and decide the best composition and media. The dyeing process leaves faint images on both sides of the paper. I have used watercolors, acrylics, gold leaf, and pencils in my work. This process combines the natural beauty of plant dyes with artistic creativity, resulting in unique works of art. Although botanical illustration is my first love, I truly enjoy the creative process in this process, which inspires me endlessly. www.pammckeeatrcolors.com



*Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering
from the autumn tree.*

Emily Bronte

A Walk in the Borough of Downingtown *Thea Mahard*

Restore Our Roots is a Downingtown based environmental organization which works to restore native habitats in the borough. They work as a group to plant buffers along the waterways in the borough, and they reach out to local gardeners to encourage native plantings. They publish helpful information such as a native plant starter list with plants that will thrive in the Downingtown area. On July 20, 2024, they hosted a walk through the borough in which the gardens of local homeowners were visited. The mix of native and non-native plants that are visited by local pollinators were highlighted. The group also distributed a list of necessities in a pollinator garden, such as sources of food, water, and shelter for bees, birds, and butterflies. The final garden visited was Linda Donnon's outstanding example. Other UGC members in attendance were: Anja DiCio, Sandy Hengst, Thea Mahard, Carol McConnell, Helene Reid, Marie Rising, Peggy Schubert, and Vicki Sweet.



2025 Convention Fundraisers *Wendy Fox*

District XI will be selling aprons, bags, t-shirts and jewelry at the District I Annual Luncheon to help offset their costs in hosting the 2025 GCFP Convention in King of Prussia.

2025 GCFP Annual Convention Fundraising Efforts



APRONS - \$25
CANVAS BAGS - \$30
EMBROIDERED T-SHIRTS - \$30

JEWELRY
EARRINGS - \$20
NECKLACE - \$20
EARRINGS/NECKLACE COMBO - \$35

Please make checks payable to the
2025 GCFP Convention



Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
95th Annual Convention
The Alloy Hotel, King of Prussia, PA



Bluebell Necklace and Earrings
\$20 Each or \$35 for both!

Handmade Items
Materials: Brass, Rhodium Plating for a lasting shine, Blue Enamel
Necklace Length: 20 inches, adjustable length

Mosquito Vigilance *Wendy Fox*

Diseases passed to you through mosquito bites are on the rise and more serious than ever, due to the high heat we have been experiencing.

Here is a list of plants that are mosquito repellent:

- Lavender
- Marigold
- Lemon Grass
- Catmint
- Rosemary
- Basil
- Citronella Geranium
- Bee Balm
- Mint
- Ageratum
- Sage
- Allium

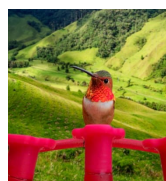


With help from the right plants, you can keep your garden and yourself mosquito free.

Happy Hummingbirds *MJ Schlomann*

My daughter has had a Bird Buddy's Smart Bird Feeder for several years, and we have laughed at the videos of local birds staring into the camera while feeding. This summer, she added the Bird Buddy's Smart Hummingbird Feeder, and we have identified three different hummers at the feeder, one male and two females. We are notified when hummers visit the unit, which has a universal camera module and a built-in microphone, so you can see them on a video and hear them sipping.

Designed for easy cleaning and maintenance, the Smart Hummingbird Feeder is engineered with BPA-free recyclable materials, and comes with a metal hanger, two additional closed flower ports, and a cleaning brush. There is also a solar roof, which reduces the need for recharging.



Who are the Workhorses for our Pollinators in the Fall? Sharon Richardson

Many of us are watching our gardens fade away and are preparing to put our gardens to bed. But WAIT! What about our pollinators? What do they need to survive our winter, hibernate or migrate? Asters and goldenrods are two autumn Pennsylvania keystone plants that provide critical sustenance and habitat.

I was reminded of their importance when I recently attended a Nature Talk featuring Sam Nestry from Stoneleigh. The title of her presentation was, "The Glorious Insects of Goldenrods." She is such an enthusiastic bug lover – she even offers 'insect safaris'! She explained that there are over 100 species of native goldenrods, 32 of which are native to Pennsylvania. They support an amazing number of insects, bees, spiders, wasps, and beetles as well as birds, butterflies, and moths!



Doug Tallamy identified asters and goldenrods as keystone plants, because they serve so many pollinators with pollen, nectar and habitat. In fact, he reported that goldenrods are worth their weight in gold, because, "It's one of the best herbaceous native perennials for attracting and feeding wildlife."

Many gardeners avoid goldenrods because of their reputation for causing allergies. But the truth is these plants are innocent victims of a long-standing myth. Goldenrods bloom at the same time and in many of the same places as [ragweeds](#). Ragweed is wind pollinated and spreads for miles. Scientists have proven that goldenrods are not responsible for allergic reactions, but bad reputations are hard to overcome.

Asters make a wonderful contrast to the goldenrods, ranging in color from shades of blue, purple, pink, and white. With over 35 species of native asters in our commonwealth, there is a species for nearly every habitat you can imagine. Asters can tolerate a variety of soil conditions and light conditions. Asters are an important plant for many wildlife. They may be browsed by deer, rabbits, and mice, but because of their pungent smell, bitter taste, and rough textured leaves, animals rarely do more than a little 'pruning' before becoming discouraged. Heart-leaved aster flowerheads attract many kinds of insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, skippers, and beetles. Symphyotrichum asters feed at least 100 types of larval caterpillars, while the seeds provide sustenance to both resident and migratory birds. Not only do asters provide food, but they are an important habitat. Even their stalks provide hospitable nesting.



As much as I love the fall colors of mums and the dazzling range of colors my dahlias provide, we need to heed Doug Tallamy's important environmental message that pretty is no longer the most important criteria in plant selection. We don't have to banish our non-natives as long as we remember to include keystone plants in our gardens.

Goldenrod

Thomas Edison experimented with goldenrod to produce rubber, which the plant naturally contains. Edison created a fertilization and cultivation process to maximize the rubber content in each plant. His experiments produced a 12-foot plant that yielded as much as 12% rubber. The tires on the Model T given to him by his friend Henry Ford were made from goldenrod.

What does goldenrod symbolize?

One of the most common symbols associated with goldenrod is wealth, due to its vibrant, golden color. It's also often seen as a symbol of good luck or good fortune. In terms of its association with the change of season, goldenrod is a sign of the approach of autumn.

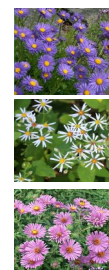


Asters

Our common aster's scientific name is *Aster novae-angliae*, belonging to the composite family. The common name of aster is Latin for star, referring to the flower's star-like shape. According to a Greek legend the aster was created out of star dust when Virgo looked down from heaven and wept.

What do the colors mean?

- Purple asters represent wisdom and royalty. Within European civilizations, members of royal families wore purple to signify their nobility.
- White asters symbolize purity, innocence, and new beginnings.
- Red and pink asters mean undying devotion.



Mackinac Island Musings *Pam Walsh*

My husband Joe and I took a short road trip to visit friends in Michigan this June. Our first stop was in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where we walked around the expansive University of Michigan campus and enjoyed the old buildings on the main campus, as well as the athletic complex just outside of downtown. We made a short stop at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and were especially impressed with the Bonsai exhibit of beautiful azaleas in full bloom. Our trip took us to our friends' summer home on Walloon Lake near the towns of Petoskey and Harbor Springs. As usual, my phone is now filled with pictures of public flowers and gardens on the grounds of the grand homes located there.



Our next stop was Mackinac Island. If you have never been, I suggest putting it on your bucket list. The island's only motorized vehicles are a fire engine and ambulance, with bicycles, horse drawn carriages, and walking is the only way to get around. They do have cottages, Airbnb, and The Grand Hotel. It was fun to watch the guests' suitcases leave the ferry (the only way to get there) and being loaded on carriages, put on small bike carriers, or rolled by visitors. We mostly walked the first day, but we finished with a tour on a horse drawn carriage. The Lilac Festival was happening and we saw many cultivars past bloom, in bloom, and ready to bloom. The oldest lilac tree on the island is 150 years old.



The second day we ferried back to the island, I walked up the hill to the Grand Hotel while, Joe rented a bike and toured around the island. The Grand Hotel first opened its doors in 1887 and for the next 85 years the Musser family owned and guided the hotel's growth. Today it is a National Historic Landmark and continues to amaze visitors with its old-world charm, stunning gardens, and hospitality. I paid the \$12 visitor fee and toured with the lead gardener who is responsible for planting, maintaining, and designing the gardens. The 660 feet long porch, the world's largest, has 260 planting boxes filled with 2,500 Rocky Mountain red geraniums, a trademark of the hotel, with 3,000 more planted in the ground. Geraniums have been a theme of the hotel since the 1920's. Besides the porch and grounds, they are found on the carpets, furniture, and even in the bathrooms.



After meeting on the porch with Drew Butterfield, senior director of grounds, we visited a garden that provided herbs for the kitchen staff preparing meals. Then to the annual gardens found on the ground level under the incredible geraniums above. They were filled with every type of annual and summer bulb you can imagine. He orders 150,000 bulbs every year. These gardens were filled with tulips in the spring before transitioning to the summer palette. As we walked the vast grounds of the hotel, we saw the greenhouse that houses extra geraniums and other annuals. The secret garden was just coming back to life after being filled with hyacinths in the spring. Perennials fill the hill with the hotel above, and the large expanse of lawn includes a horse and carriage topiary and water fountain. This tour was lovely. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to tour these beautiful gardens and look forward to visiting there again, next time in the spring or fall!



Invitation to Start a Children's Book List *Sharon Richardson*

This summer I enjoyed spending lots of time with my grandkids. While we had lots of fun adventures and discoveries during the day, I found myself tired by the end of the day and ready for bedtime reading.

I was delighted to find so many wonderful books about nature, plants, and the environment. It occurred to me that we could share our discoveries over the next couple of months to build a list that might be useful for holiday shopping.

I'll start the list, and I invite you to send me your suggestions: sharonrichardson22@gmail.com. Please be sure to use "CHILDREN'S BOOK" as the Subject Heading in your e-mail.

Books:

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

This NYT Best Seller won a Caldecott Medal Award and is the first book in a 3 book series about a robot who finds herself on an island inhabited by wildlife who teach her how to survive. The book is scheduled to come out as a movie soon. Both my 7 year old and 9 year old loved the 1st book and can't wait to read the 2nd one!



We Are Water Protectors

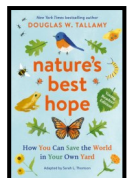
by Carole Lindstrom

This NYT best seller and Caldecott Medal winner was endorsed by NEA (National Educators Assoc). It is a true story about a Sioux Tribe that advocated for protecting their water source. It is beautifully illustrated and packs important environmental and advocacy messages.



Nature's Best Hope: How you can save the world in your own yard by Doug Tallamy

This children's version convinced my 7 year-old grandson that he wanted to create his own version of Doug Tallamy's suggestion to create your own 'Homegrown National Park'



Big Life Lessons from Nature's Little Secrets by Pamela Baxter

"This engaging, interactive book calls attention to some of the most common elements of nature and shows how they can provide insight and inspiration to a child. With dozens of examples, naturalist Pamela Baxter invites you to use all your senses to notice little details of ordinary things—like trees, birds, insects, and clouds—that can be seen right outside your home, no matter where you live. Pam takes these observations one step further and reveals big life lessons that can be found in nature's little secrets". Review by GoodReads

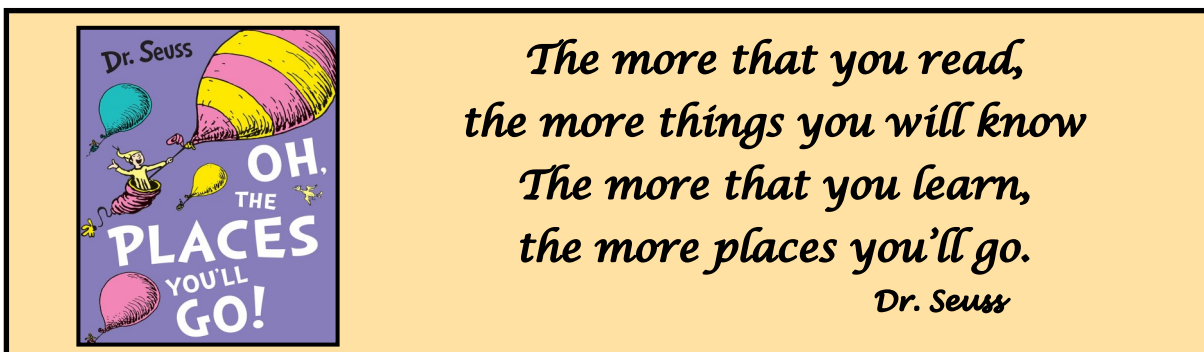


Stellaluna by Janell Cannon, recommended by Terry Miller

"Stellaluna is the tender story of a lost young bat who finally finds her way safely home to her mother and friends." Review by GoodReads



Please submit your suggestions by November 24th and remember to use CHILDREN'S BOOK as the Subject Heading.



Should You Prune Your Hostas? *MJ Schlomann*

Hostas are favorites for the shady garden and require little care, unless you have slugs or deer. They are available in all sizes – from miniatures (less than 5" high with tiny leaves) to giant hostas (up to 4' high). Their leaves are variegated, yellow, green, blue, or red/green (rare Wisconsin Red), and smooth to corrugated or wavy; their flowers range from tiny purple to large fragrant creamy white trumpets. They are lovely bordering a garden path or standing like sentinels beside a pond. Most are happiest in shade, but several new varieties shine in the sun. They can also be grown in pots, and if the pot is large enough, it can be left out during the cold winter months.

In the fall, I have always allowed my hosta plant leaves to wither and simply rake them off, but, if you are a neatnik, you might wonder if you should prune them. If you should prune them, when? I recently read an article on gardentabs.com that recommended the best time to cut hostas back is in the cool days of autumn, after a heavy frost, or early spring. I can't imagine leaves being alive in the winter months, but the author wrote that cutting them when they are dormant in the winter could kill the plant. Cutting them in summer might cause overheating and dying.

To prune your hostas:

- rake off all dead leaves and debris;
- cut leaves back at the base of the plant (you won't kill it);
- apply a thin layer of mulch;
- discard debris and you are done!



'Wisconsin Red' Hosta



When was your best 'leaf jump'?

Snippit About the Meeting House *Excerpted from Francis G. Brown Article by MJ Schlomann*

Meeting House Doors, Oh My! There has been uncertainty about the doors on the south facade of the Meeting House, which are the main entrances. The outline of a single door can be seen in the outside stonework. Indeed, additionally, there are two vertical lines in the pointing, one on either side of that single door, which suggest that yet another configuration of openings existed at some period. Today, there are two doors, which were covered by a porch until the 1980s. In early days, during worship, it was customary for the men to sit on one side of the room, the women on the other (with the panels, of course, raised). It was, therefore, usual that there would be two entrance doors, one for each sex. It may be as part of the 1870s alterations that the present doors, as they now appear, were constructed; we just don't know.



NGC School Information (Courses are In-Person unless otherwise specified)

Environmental School

Course 1—None

Course 2—September 27-28, 2024, Sheboygan, WI
March 24-27, 2025, St. Louis, MO (Zoom)

Course 3— September 19-20, 2024, Derby, CT (Zoom)
September 27-29, 2024, Mexia, TX
October 7-8, 2024, St Louis, MO (Zoom)

Course 4—September 18-19, 2024, McHenry, MD

Flower Show School

Course 1—October 16-18, 2024, Milford, MA

Course 2—September 21-26, 2024, New Brunswick, NJ
October 5-10, 2024, Derby, CT

Course 3—September 16-19, 2024, Houston, TX
September 23-October 1, 2024, Columbia, SC
October 10-15, 2024, Ann Arbor, MI
November 7-8, 2024, Metairie, LA

Course 4— October 23-25, 2024, Madrid, IA
November 11-14, 2024, Pearl, MS
March 24-27, 2025, Little Rock, AR

Landscape Design School

Course 1—October 8-9, 2024, Baton Rouge, LA

Course 2—September 25-26, 2024, Lansing, MI
October 9-10, 2024, Falmouth, ME (Hybrid)
October 29-31, 2024, Waltham, MA (Virtual)
December 5-6, 2024, Starkville, MS

Course 3—September 16-17, 2024, College Station, TX
September 30-October 1, 2024, Richmond, VA
November 12-13, 2024, Charleston, SC

Course 4—None

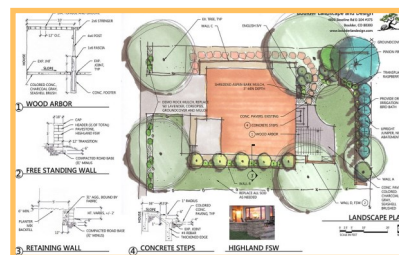
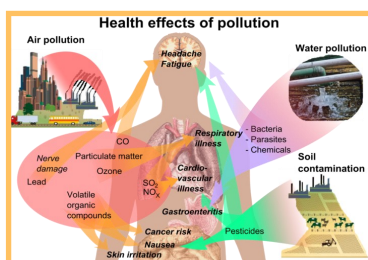
Gardening School

Course 1— September 11-12, 2024, Virtual Classroom
September 30-October 2, 2024, New Smyrna Beach, FL (Virtual)

Course 2— September 27-28, 2024, West Memphis, AR
October 28-29, 2024, Tacoma WA

Course 3— September 4-5, 2024, Abbeville, LA
Course 4— None

SCHOOLS MAY BE TAKEN IN ANY ORDER, IN ANY STATE, IN-PERSON, VIA ZOOM, OR HYBRID (COMBINATION OF IN-PERSON AND ON-LINE.)



Become a Four & Five Star Member

Members completing all four NGC Courses may apply to become Four Star Members. Those Mastering each course may apply for Five Star Membership.



Meetinghouse Moments, UGC Website & Facebook

Meetinghouse Moments Editor—MJ Schlomann
mrsrags11@gmail.com, 610-246-0061

Proofreader—Terry Miller

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Please send articles in Word, with a title, author name, and credits (if copied from another source). Photos should be attached to the email.

UGC Website—uwchlangardenclub.org

Webmaster—MJ Schlomann

Facebook—Uwchlan Garden Club

Moderators: MJ Schlomann, Valerie Burgess, Mary Smith

Upcoming UGC Meetings & Programs

Thursday, September 26th, 11:00am

- "The Dirt on Soil" presented by Steve Van Valin

Thursday, October 24th, 11:00am

- "Workshop with Pam McKee"

Thursday, November 21st, 11:00am

- "The Wonderful Chelsea Flower Show," presented by Jenny Rose Carey

Saturday, December 7th, 8:00am to 2:00pm

- Christmas Fair

Friday, December 13th

- Holiday Luncheon, Whitford Country Club



Our Affiliations



National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

President: Brenda Moore

<https://gardenclub.org/>



Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs (CAR-SGC)

Director: Monica Hanson

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



Garden Club Federation of PA (GCFP)

President: Leeanna Ryba

<https://pagardenclubs.org/>



GCFP District 1

Director: Pam Walsh

no website

GCFP District 1 Meetings

Tuesday, September 10th, 9:00am

- District I Annual Meeting and Luncheon, The Farmhouse At People's Light, Malvern, PA, hosted by Elverson Garden Club

Fall District I Meeting, November 13th, 10:00am

- Location—1756 Uwchlan Meeting House

