

UWCHLAN GARDEN CLUB

LIONVILLE, PA

MEETINGHOUSE MOMENTS

December 2024

Vol. 3, Issue 4

What's Inside

Longwood Flower Show	2
Ornaments, Sprouts, Keep America Beautiful	3
Meet New Members	4
Hudson Valley Road Trip	5
Centerpiece Challenge & Children's Gifts	6
Volunteering PHS FS	7
Winter Doldrums & Snippet about Meeting House	8
NGC Schools	9
Information	10

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A Message from Your President *Terry Miller*

My fellow floral enthusiasts-

By the time you read this, we will have experienced a magnificent fall. The trees were resplendent in brilliant colors which I didn't expect considering how dry it was. Now we are into the holiday season which can be wonderful and overwhelming at the same time. This month we will deck the halls, enjoy celebrations, and welcome the Winter Solstice which initiates the increasing daylight hours. Yay!

I must confess that I am NOT a winter person. My idea of winter sports is enjoying a cup of hot chocolate in front of a roaring fire, and the fire doesn't even have to be a real one. It is much better now that I need not fight the elements to get to the office and watch the schedule wipe out before my eyes. I do enjoy snow and the way it blankets the earth, muting the sounds and giving us pause to take in the pristine beauty and revel in the quiet. It forces us to sit still, stay home, indulge in a good book with a cup of hot tea...But I lack the exuberance for snow that I had as a child, and I'm just not fond of the inconvenience of it. If it could just fall on the ground and not the roads and sidewalks. One good accumulation a year is good enough for me now. Since we are so short on rainfall, I will welcome precipitation in any form.

Make me say that again in February, the month that I am thankful is only 28 or 29 days long. The thing that gets me through February is the plethora of seed catalogues. A seed catalogue should be a prescription, not a subscription. These brochures give us renewed hope through the doldrums of "almost Spring" and infuse us with excitement about the beautiful possibilities that can explode in dazzling color to adorn the earth.

There are also two UGC events to look forward to this winter: The Annual Christmas Fair and The Philadelphia Flower Show. Help is needed for both. This week's long agenda for Christmas Fair prep is in your Handbook. We need everyone's help creating wreaths, arrangements, swags, ornaments, baking, and all hands are needed the day of the sale. You all know UGC is preparing a large garden entry for Philly. It is a very exciting and stressful preparation, and we will need many hands to get this to fruition. A detailed email about this will arrive soon. As we gear up for the rest of the holiday season, I wish you wonderful celebrations with family and friends. May you experience the joy that comes from giving, and may you heart know the peace that comes with welcoming the Reason for the Season!



*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!*



Longwood Flower Show "Inspiration" *Pam Walsh*

UGC joined with seven other District I garden clubs in presenting "Inspiration Longwood" Flower Show on October 4-6, 2024, at Longwood Gardens. As usual, UGC took the lead in all aspects of the show, from the wonderful chairs and vice-chairs, Wendy Fox, Maria Jacobs, and Nancy Cuttic, flower show committee members, and volunteers, to the many designers and horticulturists. We also had many ribbon winners in the Design, Horticulture, Artistic Crafts, and Education Divisions.

In Design and Artistic Crafts, there were 21 of our members who entered with 13 of them winning either a blue ribbon or 90+ ribbon. The following list of these winners from class 1-9 of Design and class 11-13 of Artistic Crafts: Carrie Schreffler, Terry Miller, Chris Tarlecki, Pat Mitchell, Maria Jacobs, Tina Boston, Barbara White, Nancy Cuttic, Pam Walsh, Ruth Kofke, Carrie Schreffler, Becky Zeeger, and Pam McKee. Major award winners from UGC were Chris Tarlecki - The Table Artistry Award, Pam Walsh - The Tri-Color Award, and Sharon Richardson and Marilyn Small - The NGC Educational Award. The Horticulture Division was also filled with UGC entries and winners. Blue ribbon winners were Carol McConnell (2), Carrie Schreffler (2), Pam Walsh (2), and Maria Jacobs, and 90+ Red ribbon winners Maria Jacobs and Sharon Richardson. Carrie Schreffler won The Award of Horticulture Excellence, the highest scoring exhibit in the entire Horticulture Division.

A big thank you to everyone who was a part of this fabulous flower show!!



Pam McKee



Becky Zeeger



Carrie Schreffler



Barbara White



Sharon R. & Marilyn S.



Ruth Kofke



Pam Walsh



Chris Tarlecki



Maria Jacobs

A Magical Christmas Fair Project *Carrie Schreffler*

This holiday season, we're excited to announce a new and truly special addition to our Christmas Fair — a collection of handmade ornaments crafted from dried materials sourced from our very own club members' gardens! From adorable critters to enchanting fairies, these unique decorations bring a touch of nature's magic to your holiday decor.

The journey began with a fun and creative workshop, where members gathered to explore the beauty of dried pods, cones, and seeds. With glue guns in hand and ideas flowing, everyone had a blast turning these natural materials into whimsical little creatures and festive ornaments. The result? A delightful assortment of pieces that are as charming as they are creative.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the workshop and shared their time, creativity, and dried materials. We can't wait to see these little treasures brighten up your homes.



*This holiday season and always,
you are wished much love, health, and joy!*

Sprouts *Kate Morrison-Teeter*

- **Sprouts**—Late October: Kathy Deutsch, with Ruth Kofke and Mary Whitesel, hosted a pumpkin project at the Downingtown Library for 10 children.



Horticulture Therapy

- Upcoming Event—December 11, 2024, at 2 PM- A horticultural therapy project at Simpson Meadows for assisted living residents will need 3 volunteers to assist participants with creating small evergreen arrangements and dried flower bookmarks.

Keep America Beautiful *Marie Rising*

Since this Spring, our Garden Club has adopted the road of North Village Avenue and has collected twice with the help of happy, friendly members.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful makes us responsible for this event within our Club.

A fluorescent vest, trash bags, and gloves are provided. A waiver is signed before the clean up.

We collected two pounds the first time. In October we collected closer to three pounds, because we cleaned not only our street, but also by the fast food restaurants. After it's done, I log in and show pictures and report the amount of bags, volunteers, hours accomplished, and the weight of our hard labor.

It's amazing to see the joy and the good feeling we get for such a simple act.

See you back in the Spring after the snow melts. Hoping we will get a good amount this Winter!



Meet Our New Members *MJ Schlomann*



An new member reception was held at the meeting house following the Executive Committee Meeting on November 14th and new members were asked to share a few comments about themselves. Six responded for the December issue.

Amy Saha—I was lucky enough to be asked to give a talk at the Uwchlan Garden Club in February about our Lavender Farm (Mt Airy Lavender). Everyone was so welcoming and I found out that I had so many connections with other members, either through friends or family or past interests and hobbies that I already felt like part of the group. Although I dream of having a viable cut flower garden someday, my real interest is in floral design. I attended the Longwood Floral Certification program, and now offer wedding floral services and workshops at our farm. I look forward to learning and growing with the club and creating lasting friendships.

Colleen Bruno—My first visit to the garden club was in January of this year. I immediately felt welcomed from so many & had a feeling of belonging. I have always loved house plants, so much so that my family calls me the plant mama. I currently have over 100! And I'm always propagating something. Since my retirement from dental hygiene in 2020, I have finally had time to find things that I enjoy that I never had time for before. I have learned so much from day one & look forward to each meeting. I jumped right in for the spring plant sale & had so much fun! Thank you to everyone for being so warm & welcoming!

Allison Stairs—Hi everyone! My name is Allison Stairs. I just joined in June and I'm so excited to be a new member of the Uwchlan Garden Club! My family and I, including my husband James and 14 year old son Logan, have lived in the Windsor Ridge community in Chester Springs since 2005. Prior to buying our home in Windsor Ridge, we owned a home in Limerick. I was introduced to the Garden Club by my long time friend Marie-Helene Rising. I have a love of nature and the outdoors and really enjoy tending to my flowers, herbs, and vegetables. One of the things I love most is watching the local birds, insects, and other wildlife in my garden. I formerly had a career in IT including positions as a Technical Writer, Disaster Recovery Consultant, Systems Engineer, and Business Analyst. I've worked at several companies, including The Vanguard Group, where I met my husband. I grew up in and around Reading, Boyertown, and Pottstown. Several members of my family had farms (in the Reading area), which I enjoyed exploring! I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and learning more about all the wonderful programs with UGC.

Marilyn Small—I originally became involved with garden club in 2021 to support my sister, Nancy Cuttic, when she was chair of the GCFP 2022 convention in Malvern. Through a variety of activities over the past few years, I've met so many wonderful people from Uwchlan, so when Nancy joined, I followed her. I'm not a floral designer and do minimal gardening, but I enjoy all of the people that I have met. I also enjoy supporting clubs, the District, and GCFP with my technology skills that I used to teach in my previous life as a business teacher. I like crossword puzzles, skiing, and spending time with my grandchildren. I am the District I Awards Chair, GCFP Awards Chair, and KG Online editor.

Nancy Malanowicz—Shortly after I retired from Unisys Corporation in 2015, I reconnected with a good friend, who had moved to upstate New York. She is a passionate gardener who often comes back to the area to attend the Perennial Plant Conference at Swarthmore College. She encouraged me to attend the conference with her in 2016 and I was hooked! I had always enjoyed working in the garden but never had time to do much. My husband even complained once or twice over the years that I was better at planting the garden than maintaining the garden. Plus, I focused on shrubs and annuals because I did not know much about perennials. That changed when I finally had more time to dedicate to gardening and I started learning how perennials transform the garden from season to season. My NY friend and I started going to plant conferences, garden tours, and plant sales. I met a lot of people who helped me along the way, but most of them lived in New York. I did not have any locally based gardening mentors until my friend Kate Morrison got me involved in the Uwchlan Garden Club (thanks Kate!). I still have a lot to learn, but it's been a fun journey that keeps me physically active, socially engaged, and enjoying the beauty around me!

Sue Gualtieri—I have lived in Chester County all my life except 3 years spent in Montgomery County. My father's family has been in Chester County for many years, since our relative Thomas Downing lived in Downingtown when the log cabin was new. I have loved flowers and planting all my life. I have been attending the Christmas and Spring sales at the meeting house since I first discovered them when I lived in Marchwood, (in the 1980's). I look forward to attending meetings and special events as well as getting to know all of you.

2024 Hudson Valley Road Trip *Marilyn Small*

By all accounts, the District I Hudson Valley Road Trip this past October was quite an adventure as we toured beautiful gardens and historic sites for three days with perfect weather, enjoying views of the glistening river and peak leaf peeping! Sharon Richardson planned an excellent itinerary that was packed down to the minute each day. Half of the travelers were Uwchlan Garden Club members. Our lovely female bus driver joined us on many of our tours and meals. All of us were amazed at her skill in maneuvering the enormous bus through traffic, narrow roads, steep hills, and even making a U-turn!!



The first stop on Day 1 was a guided tour of the Untermyer Gardens along the Hudson River. Despite it being late in the season, we were still able to enjoy the beautiful garden architecture, pools, ponds, waterfalls, and a stunning view of the river. Next up on Day 1 was a self-tour of the gardens and outbuildings of the John Jay Homestead. John Jay was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. We finished the day with a delicious meal and beautiful, scenic setting at the Shadows restaurant overlooking the Hudson.



Day 2 began with braving the cold and wind on a guided walking tour over the Hudson Valley walking bridge, the longest, elevated pedestrian bridge in the world, followed by an amazing three-course lunch and experience at the Culinary Institute of America. The Hyde Park Vanderbilt Mansion and estate on the Hudson was a historical trip back in time of living in luxury. Stonecrop Gardens still had quite a few dahlias blooming in some of their gardens; everyone also enjoyed the stone buildings, grounds, and water features.

Dinner at the Palace Diner on Day 2 proved to be quite the experience. After arriving late because of traffic, our group of 25 was handled by one server, who clearly never took care of a large group. Drink and food orders were taking forever - one traveler began taking drink orders and bringing them back from the bar, and our bus driver was taking food orders. It was chaotic, exasperating, and fun all at the same time. The evening was topped off with the police almost being called on Sharon, who was insisting to the owner that our drink orders should be comped because of the poor service! Sharon was almost put in Bar Bill Jail!



Storm King outdoor art center started Day 3 with a tram tour of the unusual modern art pieces displayed on acres of land, followed by another historic home tour of Kyuit, the Rockefeller Estate, home to four generations of the Rockefeller family. In addition to seeing the home and gorgeous furnishings, the tour also included the basement art gallery and stories of the sculptures displayed in the home and on the grounds.

The drive home was uneventful until we hit traffic, a certain someone took a tumble down the stairs of the bus (she was ok), and we were over an hour late returning!! After enjoying the amazing tours, laughs, and camaraderie, I'm sure we will be looking forward to the Second Annual District I Road Trip.



District 1 Fall Centerpiece Challenge *Pam Walsh*

The 2nd Annual Fall Centerpiece Challenge was held at the meetinghouse on Wednesday, November 13th. There were eight teams from eight of our eleven District 1 clubs. Each team member was given an apron. Teams were presented with identical bouquets from Wegman's, a container with oasis, and a table of embellishments to choose from. The time limit was 30 minutes, however most finished in 20 minutes. Competitors and audience members bought raffle tickets as they watched the teams create their magic. The money raised goes towards funding the event and helping District 1 with other events. As you can see from the pictures, all the results were beautiful. Raffle tickets served two purposes. One was to give away the centerpieces and the other was to see whose designs were the most wanted ones. After all the tickets were counted, the UGC team of Pam McKee and Ruthie David were the winners of Michael's gift certificates. There was a tie for second place, and they received PHS journals. We are looking forward to next year's event!



Gifts for Children *Sharon Richardson*

Lee Valley has a set of realistic, but miniature garden tools: <https://www.leevalley.com/en-us/shop/>. These are wonderful—durable, don't rust, come in their own container, etc.

Gardening gloves and kids' wheelbarrows are great as well—lots of choices on Amazon. My grandson loved harvesting and wheeling his harvest to the house!



Volunteering at PHS Flower Show *Sharon Richardson*

For over 15 years, I have volunteered at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and it has been a very rewarding experience. I started as a "Barrier Aide" in a team of 3 with my sister and my dad, eventually worked in the various Clerking Jobs, and ultimately wound up in the Plant Expert booth answering horticulture questions. For an overview of this year's show, check out <https://phsonline.org/the-flower-show/press/news/phs-announces-gardens-of-tomorrow>



Recently, I contacted PHS' Volunteer Chairperson to find out how our club could volunteer and this is what she sent to me:

Volunteering at the Philadelphia Flower Show is a fun way to support PHS and your community! From greeting guests upon arrival, to ensuring guests have the information they need to make the most of their Show experience, to helping guests on their Show departure, PHS volunteers have always played an important role in the Philadelphia Flower Show. No previous experience is necessary - we give you the training you need, and you can choose the day, volunteer experience, and timeframe that works best for you!

*Giving your time to support the Flower Show helps make PHS's year-round programs to promote health and well-being in the Greater Philadelphia region possible, benefiting 300,000 people annually. **And don't forget -- when you volunteer at the Flower Show, you are welcome to explore the entire Show before or after your shift for FREE.***

Furthermore, she sent me the following list of volunteer shifts that you could sign up with a buddy or a team of buddies to travel together into the city.

Check out the Senior Fare Card to use on Septa <https://www.septa.org/fares/senior-fare-card/>

Horticulture Clerks and Barrier Aides:

- 2/28, 3/3, 3/6: 11am-4pm

Horticulture Recorder, Passer, Runner shift times:

- 2/27: 9:30am-12:12:45pm; 12:30pm-3:45pm; 3:30pm-6:30pm
- 2/28, 3/3, 3/6: 6:30am-9:45am; 9:30am-12:30pm

Horticulture Exhibitor Aide shift times:

- 2/27: 9am-12pm; 12pm-3:15pm; 3pm-6pm
- 2/28, 3/3, 3/6: 6:30am-10am

Horticulture Stager:

- 2/27: 10am-12pm; 12:45pm-3:45pm
- 2/28, 3/3, 3/6: 6:30am-11am; 11am-4pm

If you're interested in volunteering individually or with a group for the above positions, please reach out to volunteer@pennhort.org and they can help facilitate.



If winter comes, can spring be far behind.

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Winter Doldrums *Sharon Richardson*

For those of you who long to be involved in gardening during the bleak winter months, there are plenty of opportunities to learn.

We are surrounded by resources to educate and entertain us. Almost all the major, and many of the minor gardens in our area run wonderful programs all winter long. There are in-person and on-line programs a-plenty! To whet your appetite, I've provided information on a couple of my favorite winter learning activities.

I've been yearning for Longwood's classrooms to be up and running. As part of Longwood re-Imagined, there is a new building that houses state of the art classrooms and their new library. Check out the offerings from Continuing Education: <https://longwoodgardens.org/education/continuing-education> For those who don't want to drive to Longwood, they are also offering numerous on-line courses as well.

The Hardy Plant Society runs delightful programs throughout the winter. I encourage you to check them out: <https://www.hardyplant.org>

Every March they have a special full day program called March into Spring. This year it will be held at Winterthur: https://www.hardyplant.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=2612&Itemid=114&year=2025&month=03&day=22&title=march-in

This just scratches the surface of the many winter offerings in our region!

This Holiday Season, Share 'a Cup of Kindness with Old Friends.'



Snippit About the Meeting House *MJ Schlomann*

The burial ground in back of the Uwchlan Meeting House was owned by the Uwchlan Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends at Downingtown Inc, and had been in disrepair for many years. In 2019, the funds available for mowing were depleted, and it was deeded to the Uwchlan Conservation Trust Inc. Members of UGC, led by Mary and Bob Whitesel, removed overgrown vines, trimmed trees, realigned fallen headstones, and added benches for rest and contemplation.

About those headstones—did you know that early Quakers did not believe in the use of tombstones, because they believed in equality in life and equality in death. Most graves were unmarked. Later generations bemoaned the fact that they could not locate the final resting places of their relatives. By the mid-19th century, Friends decided that marking graves was acceptable, but tombstones had to be simple with only the name of the deceased, the date of death and their age, perhaps the date of birth. Most of the people with markers died after 1850. A few markers are earlier, but they were likely placed after grave markers were approved.

The Trust receives occasional requests to document ancestors, and we send them a list of all people known to be buried in the burial ground and other sources of Quaker genealogy information.

Of note: In an old newspaper article in the archives, S. R. Downing wrote that the remains of Theodore Roosevelt's maternal grandmother were in the burial ground adjoining the Friend's Meeting House at Lionville. We do not find her name on our list.



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

Environmental School

Course 1—None

Course 2—March 24-27, 2025, St. Louis, MO (Zoom)

Course 3—January 10-12, 2025, Mexia, TX

Course 4—March 4-5, 2025, St. Louis, MO (Zoom)

Flower Show School

Course 1—February 27-March 1, 2025, Poway, CA

April 28-30, 2025, Gettysburg, PA

August 18-21, 2025, Roanoke, VA

Course 2—October 20-22, 2025, Gettysburg, PA

Course 3—None

Course 4—March 24-27, 2025, Little Rock, AR

March 24-27, 2025, Richmond, VA

March 24-27, 2025, Summerville, SC

Landscape Design School

Course 1—May 7-8, 2025, Columbia, MD

August 26-27, 2025, Elizabethtown, KY

Course 2—December 5-6, 2024, Starkville, MS

March 25-26, 2025, Clinton, CT (Virtual)

Course 3—January 20-22, 2025, Louisville, OH (Virtual)

Course 4—February 10-11, 2025, College Station, TX

Gardening School

Course 1—July 10-11, 2025, Encino, CA

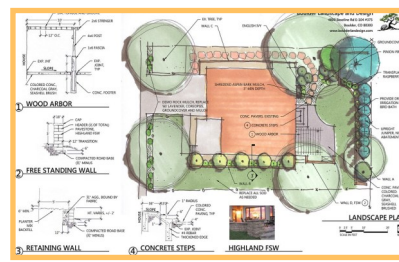
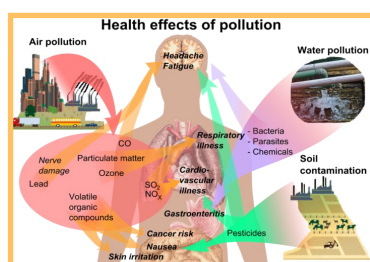
Course 2—February 10-12, 2025, New Smyrna Beach, FL
(Zoom)

August 14-15, 2025, Encino, CA

Course 3—None

Course 4—October 23-24, 2025, Encino, CA

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

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Published quarterly: March, June, September,
December

Deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15,
November 15

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

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Moderators: MJ Schlomann, Valerie Burgess,
Mary Smith

Upcoming UGC Meetings & Programs

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

- Christmas Fair

Friday, December 13th

- Holiday Luncheon, Whitford Country Club

Thursday, January 23th, 11:00am

- "Garden Reconstruction" presented by Mark Ebert

Thursday, February 27th, 11:00am

- "Climate Action Plan, Reforesting Ideas" presented by Rachel Griffith

Thursday, March 27th, 11:00am

- "Bringing New Plants to Market" presented by Kris Groff



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

February, TBA, District I Zoom Meeting

TBA, District I President's Luncheon

