



**MARCH 2025**  
**Vol. 4, Issue 1**

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2024-2026**

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**A Message from Your President** *Terry Miller*

Greetings, gardening friends!

As I am writing this, remnants of snow cover my flower beds, but the snowdrops have already begun to emerge. I take comfort in knowing that Spring is just around the corner, despite what the groundhog has predicted. It will come, but I always love an early Spring, and there is nothing like an extended growing season.

I was thinking back many years ago, probably the Spring of 1988 or 1989. It was an exceptionally warm April with many days hovering at 90 degrees. I thought, "What have I got to lose? A few tomato plants? I'll take a chance." So, I planted several and waited patiently. I harvested my first tomato three days into June, and not a cherry. We were at a family function in late June, and my grandfather boasted that the neighbor had harvested his first tomato a few days prior. (Understand that Pop-pop was from the hills of western Virginia, and he was very dismissive about my knowledge and capability regarding growing vegetables. What could a college-educated dental hygienist possibly know?) I said, "Isn't he about three weeks late? I picked mine June 3<sup>rd</sup>." Shock changed to pride and a respect that I had never witnessed before. He so underestimated the strength of that farming gene!

In preparation for a presentation on Edible Flowers, I could feel the internal stirring of the call to the soil. My excitement for planning and planting is beginning to take control, and the seed exchange that I attended two weeks ago fueled the yearning to begin the vegetative nurturing. I am going to have to start some seeds and begin visiting my regular greenhouse haunts. I have been informed that Shenk's will open on March 5<sup>th</sup>. If you happen to catch my voicemail, it will let you know that I welcome Spring with a trowel in both hands

For several of us, the focus has been on preparation for the first UGC entry in the Philadelphia Flower Show. Homes have been transformed into greenhouses and fabrication sites. By the time this is published, our entry will have been judged at least once, perhaps twice. It has been intense, and I commend all the people who have had a hand in this major endeavor!

Prior to the Flower Show, we will have had the first planning meeting for the Plant Sale on May 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be "all hands on deck" again for collecting and potting perennials for the big day, not to mention the intense preparation week beginning May 5<sup>th</sup>. Please consider signing up for one of the committee chairs. Coming together for this project is a wonderful opportunity to foster deeper relationships with garden club buddies.

Don't forget to register for the GCFP Convention in April. We are lucky enough to have it in our backyard again this year in King of Prussia. Next year is in Erie, so take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for education and networking.

Ugh! It is the next day, and I have awakened to another snowfall. It seems like it will never end. I will have to assuage my anticipation snuggled under a throw sipping a cup of tea and immersing myself in a gardening magazine. Time to organize those seeds and search online for new products. We will get through this forced hibernation.

## Meet Our New Members *MJ Schломann*

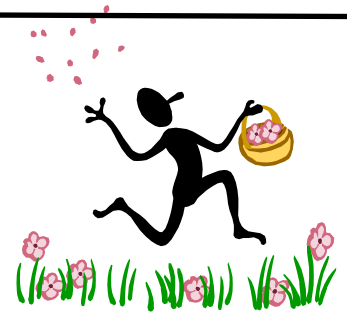


**Cleo Irvin**—I was born and raised in Central PA in a town called Tyrone. We had a garden that took over both sides of our backyard that my dad dug by hand. We grew numerous vegetables, and I helped my mother with canning. She also grew sweet pea flowers that both of us loved. I attended a business school for Associates Degree in Medical Science and worked over 50 years in hospitals and doctors offices. The 20 years before retiring in 2021, I did medical billing for a GI physician. I lived and worked in Northern VA for 38 years. I volunteer at Thorncroft Equestrian grooming and tacking horses for lessons and leading horses in Therapeutic Riding lessons, and I volunteer at Ryerss Farm in Pottstown. I met two members of the Garden Club at deep water aerobics at the YMCA.

**Jane Freemas**—I started gardening as a child with my mother, who was an avid gardener. I am a retired dental hygienist, and I worked with Coleen Bruno going back to 1981. We have been friends ever since. I live on a partially wooded acre in Glen Mills. My property is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. I focus on native plants. I was widowed when my husband died 6 years ago from Glioblastoma. I am always looking for new activities. I am currently working part time as a wine specialist at a small wine shop in Centreville, DE. I teach the wine and food pairing classes there, and also for the Chester County Adult Education program. When I can, I volunteer at the Chester County Food Bank.

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*Sowing Seeds of Kindness*



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## Nature Program *Sharon Richardson*

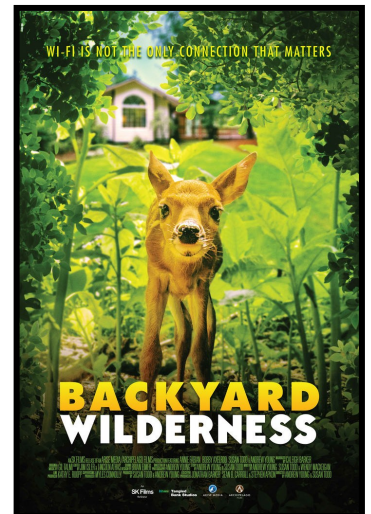
**Backyard Wilderness: A Film Screening and Panel Discussion**  
Thursday, April 3, 2025 | 7 p.m.

<https://greatvalley.psu.edu/events/community-events>

*Backyard Wilderness* will surprise and entertain you with the unexpected wonders of nature that are right under our noses - in our own backyards. Spanning a seasonal year around a suburban home, the film displays a stunning array of unique wildlife images and behavior and reminds us that Wi-Fi is not the only connection that matters. Sometimes in ordinary places, you can uncover extraordinary things that can transform you forever - you just need to step outside. [Click here to view the trailer.](#)

A panel discussion on the importance of native plants in maintaining watershed health, building climate resilience, and creating habitat for birds and other wildlife will follow the film.

Presented in partnership with [Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens](#), [Audubon Mid-Atlantic/John James Audubon Center](#), and [Valley Forge Park Alliance](#).



## Say Hello to My Little Friend! *Chris Tarlecki*

Who wouldn't want a distinct crisp edge around their flower beds. "Say hello to my little friend," the Radius Garden Root Slayer Edger. This tool has an inverted V blade with root-cutting ripsaw teeth that slice through sod and roots with ease. My husband used this tool to edge a new flower bed and he said it is the best garden tool he ever used and made the job so easy. The tool cuts through turf like a warm knife through butter. You can buy it on Amazon and the purchase is well worth it.



## GCFP Floral Design/Horticulture Workshops! *Sharon Richardson*

In 2025, GCFP will present three Zoom Floral Design and Horticulture Workshops on May 6, August 5, and November 4 at 7pm. The floral designers will present workshops on various types of NGC Floral Designs, and Horticulture Specialists will instruct on exhibiting horticulture in an NGC Flower Show. The workshops will be prerecorded by the designers and horticulturists, and then presented free through Zoom to all GCFP members. A question and answer will be offered at the end of each workshop.

Chris Leskosky is chairing this project. She has earned countless awards, and her designs are frequently featured in the NGC Visions of Beauty Calendar. She is hoping to ensure that a diverse range of techniques and types of floral designs and horticulture topics are covered.

Information on this new initiative will be posted on the GCFP Website. Watch for the zoom link!



## Snippit about the Meeting House *MJ Schlomann*

The stone walls surrounding the burial ground were in poor condition when the Downingtown Friends deeded that property to the Trust in 2019. The walls were repaired in several stages from 2020-2024. The top slabs were adhered and sealed, protecting the walls from water damage, and the sections that had fallen stones were rebuilt at a cost of \$15,350. One question arose—when were the walls built?

I found a paper that was read to the Grange by Isaac Smedley in 1939, and I learned that in 1771, Isaac Lewis and David Owen left legacies to build a wall around the graveyard. Other gifts of land and money followed, and the wall was started in 1772 and finished in 1775. So now, we know!



## Horticulture Therapy & Little Sprouts *Kate Morrison*

In December, we hosted a horticulture therapy program for assisted living and memory care residents. Using greens from the Christmas sale, along with florals, sticks, and decorative embellishments, residents created festive arrangements in Christmas mugs. The program was warmly received by both residents and staff.

### Upcoming Events:

- March 13 at 1:00pm: St. Patrick's-themed project with Assisted Living residents at Simpson Meadows. We will be creating floral arrangements in shamrock pails.
- April 23 at 1:30pm: a bulb planting program for Little Sprouts at the Chester Springs Library.
- May (date TBD): Floral design workshop for Independent Living residents at Simpson Meadows. If anyone has ideas on how to obtain affordable cut flowers, let me know.
- June (date TBD): plant a salad container for Little Sprouts program at the Downingtown Library. We are still working on the program idea. One thought is to provide each participant with a journal where they can take notes and add photos of their garden. Follow up with the participants towards the end of summer or in September and see how their gardens fared.

Anyone interested in the Horticultural Therapy and/or the Little Sprouts programs, please email me at [katherineteeter@gmail.com](mailto:katherineteeter@gmail.com).



*If you have a garden and a library,  
you have everything you need.*

*Marcus Tullius Cicero*



## Trash to Treasure "Revolutionary Birdhouse" *MJ Schlomann*

### Specifications and rules:

- Revolutionary design, primarily recyclables
- Dimensions—15" x 15" mounting surface, max height 18"
- Weight—maximum 20 lb.
- Entry card 3x5 front—title and materials list  
Card back—district, garden club, name and address



Deliver to Pam Walsh by March 15th for judging. Winner will be the District I entry at the GCFP Convention in April.

## Spring 2025 Plant Sales *Sharon Richardson*

- April 23-26 University of Delaware AG Days <https://canr.udel.edu/udbg/>
- April 25-27 Jenkins Arboretum Sale grand opening, remains open until the fall <https://www.jenkinsarboretum.org/plantsale/>
- May 3 LaDew Garden Festival <https://ladewgardens.com/Event-Calendar/Events-at-Ladew/-Garden-Festival>
- May 3-4 Tyler Arboretum Plant Sale 8 am-2 pm <https://tylerarboretum.org/plant-sale/>
- May 3 Delaware Valley Rhododendron Society Plant Sale at Jenkins Arboretum <http://dvchapterars.org/events.html#anchorJENKINS>
- May 8 Philadelphia Chapter of the Herb Society, Historic Yellow Springs Meadow, 10:00 a.m.to 2:00 pm <http://dvchapterars.org/events.html#anchorSALES>
- May 9-10 Herb & Garden Faire, Landis Vally Village and Farm, Landisville <https://www.landisvalleymuseum.org/event/herb-garden-faire-2025-at-landis-valley-village-farm-museum>
- May 10 Dahlia Society Tuber Sale in front of Longwood Gardens Visitor Center <https://philadahlia.org/events.html>
- May 10 Uwchlan Garden Club, Uwchlan Meeting House, Lionville
- May 10-11 Brandywine Conservancy Wild Flower, Native Plant and Seed Sale <https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/events/wildflower-native-plant-and-seed-sale>
- May 11-27 Peony Festival at Styers <https://styerspeonies.com/pages/festival-of-the-peony>



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## Garden Helper *MJ Schlomann*

As we get older (wink, wink), we need special tools and helpers in the garden. If your lot is fairly level, a must have is a 'Foldable Garden Kneeler and Seat.' With it in the up-position, you can sit; flip it over and you can kneel on a padded surface with "arms" to help you stand up. When you are finished working for the day, the 'arms' or 'legs' fold flat for storage. I don't recommend it for hilly terrain, because you can topple over! Amazon has dozens of brands, ranging in price from \$15 to more than \$60. If you don't have one, you 'KNEED' it!



## Private Sale for Members and Friends *MJ Schломann*

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**MARCH 10, 10AM TO 1PM**

Our PHS Flower Show Team has been working for months on our entry in the PHS Flower Show and are offering to share the plants and props that were used. They will be dismantling our entry late Sunday evening, bringing saleable items to the meeting house late Sunday night. The sale will be held on Monday, 10AM to 1PM. You can purchase primroses, bulbs, pansies, herbs, veggies, and succulents. They also have grow lights, hydroponic growing systems, willow fencing, other props and more. Please bring a friend and your checkbook or cash; AND, as always, arrive early for the best selection. All receipts benefit our club.



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## Plant Sale Garden Market Revamped *Kate Morrison*

Darlene and Kate have revamped their needs for the Plant Sale Garden Market. Their Goal is **LIMITED**, interesting, sellable items, which must be clean and passed by Kate and Darlene first and not just dropped off at the Meeting House without permission.

Suggestions:

- Birdbaths, Bird Houses, Hummingbird Feeders
- Garden Sculptures
- Fairy Garden Accessories
- Lanterns, String Lights
- Plant Stands
- Wind Chimes
- Wreaths - decorated, grapevine

Sourcing Ideas:

- Online Marketplaces - Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, or Freecycle
- Nature & Foraging - Use branches, driftwood, or stones for handmade décor
- Thrift Stores & Estate Sales - Country Gift and Thrift Shop in Gap, St. Phillip and James Resale Shop on Route 30, Goodwill, St. James Church in Downingtown

Curated:

Please reach out and provide photos of potential items to Kate Morrison 484-356-8456 and/or Darlene Snyder at 610-350-7984 .



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

## Gardening School

Course 1— March 28-29, 2025, Sawyer, MI  
 July 10-11, 2025, Encino, CA

Course 2— August 14-15, 2025, Encino, CA

Course 3— April 38-39, 3035, Tacoma, WA  
 June 11-12, 2025, Spartanburg, SC

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

## Flower Show School

Course 1—April 1-3, 2025, Vorhees, NY  
 April 28-30, 2025, Gettysburg, PA  
 July 20-23, 2025, Memphis, TN  
 August 18-21, 2025, Roanoke, VA

Course 2—April 12-15, 2025, Milford, CT  
 October 20-22, 2025, Gettysburg, PA

Course 3—March 18-20, 2025, Red Bluff, CA  
 June 10-12, 2025, East Brunswick, NJ

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

## Landscape Design School

Course 1—May –7-8, 2025, Columbia, MD  
 August 26-27, 2025, Elizabethtown, KY

Course 2—March 25-26, 2025, Clinton, CT (Virtual)

Course 3—March 25-27, 2025, Waltham, MA (Virtual)  
 May 14-15, 2025, Lansing, MI

Course 4—April 7-8, 2025, Richmond, VA

## Environmental School

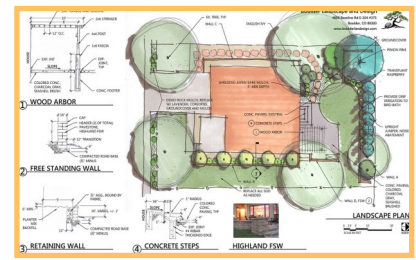
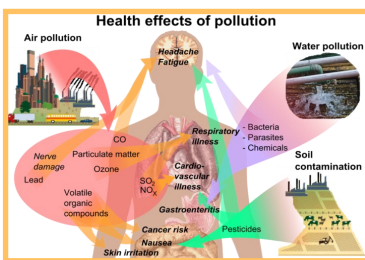
Course 1—April 7-8, 2025, Augusta, MI

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

Course 3— None

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

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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Deadlines: February 15, May 15, September 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](http://uwchlangardenclub.org)

**Webmaster**—MJ Schlomann

**Facebook**—Uwchlan Garden Club

**Moderators:** MJ Schlomann, Valerie Burgess,  
Mary Smith, Maria Jacobs

## Upcoming UGC Meetings & Programs

**Thursday, March 27th, 11:00am**

- "Bringing New Plants to Market," Chris Groff,  
Groff's Plant Farm

**Thursday, April 24th, 11:00am**

- Andrew Bunting, PHS

**Thursday, May 22nd, 11:00am**

- "Peonies at Winterthur", presented by Linda  
Eirhart, Horticulturalist at Winterthur

**Thursday, June 26th, 11:00am**

- Tonya Young, designer



## 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 I Meetings

**President's Luncheon**

- Location, date, and time TBD

**Tuesday, September 10th, 9:00am**

- District I Annual Meeting and Luncheon,  
hosted by Bala Cynwyd Garden Club.

**Fall District I Meeting Date and Time TBD**

- Location—1756 Uwchlan Meeting House

