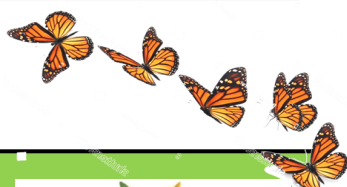


**UWCHLAN
GARDEN CLUB**

LIONVILLE, PA

JUNE 2025

Vol. 4, Issue 2



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2024-2026**

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MEETINGHOUSE MOMENTS

A Message from Your President *Terry Miller*

Hello there, fellow gardeners!

What an incredible Spring we have had! Did you all find it as exceptionally beautiful as I have? The flowering trees seemed to hang onto their color, and I have never seen Kousa dogwoods with so many flowers you could barely see green. My bulbs all seemed to have blessed my yard with blossoms, and the peonies are intent on winning the competition for the most spectacular curb appeal posey.

The past few months have not been easy for me. The new knee has REALLY cramped my style by keeping me homebound for far too long. This past weekend, Bob and I made the pilgrimage to the garden where I sharecrop at my brother Zeke's home. With the assistance of Zeke and his wife, Maura, we were able to plant 2 of the 3 beds. It was a wonderful day, although I was acting more in a supervisory capacity. I managed to make some use of the trowel and drop in most of the seeds.

So while my Spring has not been the greatest, UGC's has been incredible. From the wins in Philly, the 3 grants we were awarded, all the individual and club awards we collected at GCFP, and the success of the Plant Sale, our club has excelled. I would like to acknowledge how proud I am to be part of this group. We truly have a hard-working floral family!

Bob and I were in Exton for one of my myriad of appointments this week. On the return trip, I knew that travelling North on 100 at 5:00 pm would put us in at least 4 areas of horrible congestion, so I suggested that we take the cross-country route. Route 345 meanders through what I refer to as "The Forest," passing Hopewell Furnace and French Creek State Park. There is so much to enjoy on these back roads, and the canopy is dense, imparting the feeling of travelling through a green tunnel that wraps its arms around you and shields you from all negativity. Forget cell service along this route, but you shouldn't be talking to anyone lest you miss one of the visual blessings along the way.

My husband turned to me when we were almost home and commented about how beautiful the drive had been, as he was anticipating the alternative with nothing but traffic and impatient drivers. I said, "Why do you think I always took this route home from the office?" I told him it was Shinrinryoku, forest bathing, even though we were in a car. It was then that I realized that I had been unwittingly immersing myself in the beauty around me on every commute my entire life.

I know that I don't have to encourage you all to get outside to lift your spirits. It is a given for this group. But I must thank all of you who called, sent cards, texted, and prayed for me during this time when I could only enjoy the outdoors through my sun-room windows. Your messages always seemed to come when I needed them the most, often bringing tears to my eyes and joy to my heart. Your outpouring of love was deeply appreciated, and I can't wait to get back to spending time with all of you! Again, my thanks!!!!

Blooming Victory: Our First Time Exhibiting at the Philadelphia Flower Show

Carrie Schreffler

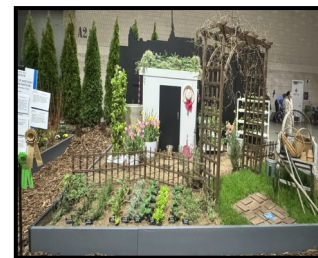
There's something magical about the Philadelphia Flower Show—the scent of fresh blooms, the vibrant displays, and the sheer artistry that fills every corner of the convention center. This year, that magic became a reality for us in a whole new way. For the first time ever, our club had the honor of exhibiting, and we're still in awe of what we accomplished.

We walked away with: two ribbons: 1st place, 2nd place; four awards (PHS Sustainability Award, The Betty K. Greene Award, PHS Gardening for the Greater Good Award, and Herb Society of America Award), and one trophy (Penn Valley Trophy.) To say we were overjoyed is an understatement! None of this could have happened without the dedication and heart of our entire club. Every element of our exhibit—from the perfectly grown plants to the meticulously crafted props—was the result of teamwork. Some of us were up late repotting. Others built the backdrop and shed, sketched layouts, or sourced materials. And everyone, whether they were able to be hands-on or cheering from afar, contributed with endless encouragement and support.

In many ways, that's the part we're most proud of. Yes, the ribbons and awards are amazing, but what really made this experience unforgettable was the unity and spirit that brought us together. As we look back on our exhibit, we carry more than just hardware—we're bringing back inspiration, new friendships, and a deeper bond within our club. We've set a high bar for ourselves, but more than anything, we've proven that with passion and teamwork, anything is possible.

Thank you to every single person who played a role, no matter how big or small. We couldn't have done it without you.

Here's to our first show!



Uwchlan Garden Club Members NE Judges Council Flower Show 3/31/2025



NANCY CUTTIG, Uwchlan GC
First Place



PAM WALSH
Uwchlan GC
First & Grower's Choice



PAM WALSH, Uwchlan GC
Second Place



TERRY MILLER, Uwchlan GC
First Place



BARBARA WHITE
Uwchlan GC
Second Place



PAM WALSH
Uwchlan GC
Third Place

My Favorite Tool *MJ Schlomann*

I have done a lot of weeding since I started gardening over 60 years ago. There was the never fail dandelion weeder that we all know never worked, hand weeders, long-handled weeders, weed pullers, weed poppers, hoes, and knives. The list could cover the walls of the meeting house! Then, I found the Japanese weeding sickle, and my life changed. I can drive it into the soil and reach deep roots, or pull it along the ground for the shallow ones. Zip, zip, and I am done (almost)!

I use the Growtech Josi Nejiri Kama brand, but there are others with good ratings, starting at \$15.

It is still nearly impossible to get all the taproot of a dandelion, but it has made weeding a lot easier for me!



Creativity in Full Bloom: Hands-On Workshop for the Plant Sale *Carrie Schreffler*

In the weeks leading up to our annual plant sale, excitement was already growing—but it truly came to life during our hands-on, pre-sale workshop, where club members gathered to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind items that would later brighten tables and homes. It was a joyful, productive day filled with laughter, glue, and just the right amount of mess!

One of our main projects was transforming simple, clear glass vases into colorful works of art using tissue paper and Mod Podge. The process was fun and accessible to all. Each one was different, and each one was stunning. Once dry, the vases became perfect vessels for the floral arrangements we later sold at the plant sale, adding a handmade touch that customers truly appreciated.

The second project was just as delightful: succulent dish art. Using shallow containers, soil, stones, and a variety of hardy succulents, we created miniature living art. Each arrangement was carefully styled. These unique creations became popular items at the sale. We sold 18!

Beyond the crafts themselves, the workshop was an opportunity to connect, share ideas, and prepare together for one of our biggest events of the year. Workshops like these remind us that our success at the plant sale doesn't start at the event—it starts weeks earlier, with shared effort, creativity, and community spirit.

To everyone who came, crafted, and contributed: thank you for helping us grow beauty from the ground up. We're already dreaming up ideas for the next one!



A weed is an unloved flower. *Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

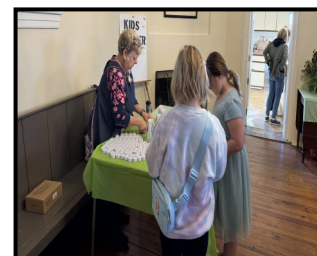


Little Hands, Big Smiles: Plant Sale Kids' Korner *Carrie Schreffler*

At this year's plant sale, there was one area that stood out not just for its creativity, but for the sheer joy it brought to everyone who visited: the Kids' Corner. What started as a simple idea to engage young visitors turned into one of the day's most heartwarming highlights.

From the moment the sale opened, children's eyes lit up as they spotted the colorful station. Some even made a beeline straight to the table, eager to dive into the fun. Their excitement was contagious, drawing in curious parents and passersby alike.

The project was simple but meaningful. Each child received a plastic cup and was invited to decorate it with flower stickers. The creativity flowed freely, with little hands carefully placing each sticker just right. But the best part came at the end: we tucked a small, battery-operated candle inside each decorated cup.



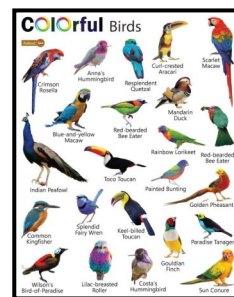
The glow on the children's faces matched the soft flicker of their candles. They were proud of what they had made—some clutching their creations tightly, while others carefully carried them as gifts for their moms, just in time for Mother's Day. Whether it was a keepsake for themselves or a present for someone they love, each little lantern became a symbol of joy, creativity and thoughtfulness.

We're already looking forward to what we'll create next year. Until then, we'll carry the glow of this year's little lanterns in our hearts

How to ID Birds *MJ Schlomann*

Have you ever walked in the woods and wondered what bird song you were hearing, or spied a strange bird and wondered what it was? The best app for finding answers is Merlin, the free global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps, and more! You can download it on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>, download it from the app marketplace or store, or you can get it on Google Play.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY, also offers an online guide to birds and bird-watching for those who don't wish to download apps. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/>



A Bit of Club History *MJ Schlomann*

When I joined our club in 1979, it was 'The Woman's Community Club Of Uwchlan (WCCU)' and the 'Garden Class of WCCU'. It was a different world—we wore nylons, hats, gloves, dresses, and horror of horrors—girdles! At WCCU meetings, members served tea and coffee from silver service; cookies, nuts, and candy were served on small china plates; and we sat on the meeting house benches, while we chatted and ate. We recently found a copy of "A Collect for Club Women" by Mary Stewart that we recited at each meeting, after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding
And leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense
And meet each other face to face,
Without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment
And always generous.
Let us take time for all things;
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
Straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is
The little things that create differences,
That in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know
The great, common human heart of us all.
And, oh Lord God, let us forget not
To be kind!

In 1904, Mary Stewart (1876 - 1943), wrote a "Collect for Club Women" which was recited by club women throughout the world. Stewart stated that the Collect (kol'•ekt) was written "...as a prayer for the day. I called it a Collect for Club Women because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps, they had need for a special petition and meditation of their own."

bee-lieve in



Flower & Plant of 2025

The Spruce

For the Flower of the Year, 1-800-Flowers pick is the ranunculus and the Plant of the Year is the snake plant.

In a press release, Alfred Palomares, Vice President of Merchandising, explained their reasoning behind this year's choices. "The ranunculus, with its vibrant petals, reflects enthusiasm, love, admiration, and happiness, while the snake plant represents longevity, health, and growth," he said. "Beyond their striking beauty, these choices offer a meaningful gift that nurtures relationships and promotes well-being—exactly what we're all wishing for in the year ahead."



Plant a Bulb Workshop at Pine Creek Park *Kate Morrison*

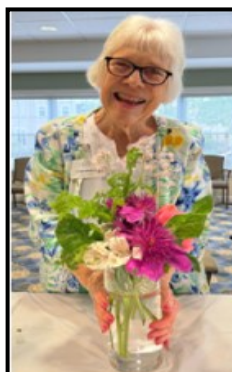
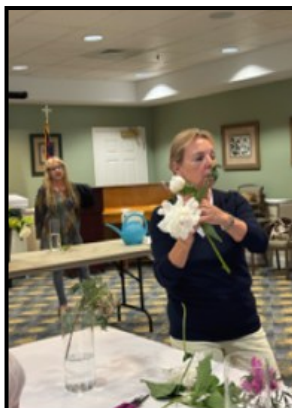
In partnership with the Chester Springs Library, in April, we hosted a "Plant a Bulb" workshop at Pine Creek Park while the library continues to rebuild following damage from a fallen tree. Each participant, with the assistance of Tina Boston, Kathy Deutsch and me, created a spring-themed planter featuring a blooming daffodil, a budding hyacinth, and a small allium bulb just beginning to sprout. Pansies were added to the center of each planter for ongoing color and interest. Participants learned to identify six types of flowering bulbs—both by name and by their distinctive foliage. They were also encouraged to replant their bulbs in their own gardens after the blooms fade, extending the beauty and benefit of the program. To complete the arrangement, natural embellishments, such as pinecones, sticks, and dried materials, were included reminders of the many free gifts Mother Nature provides.

As always, we invite our UGC community to think of us when nature offers its treasures—dropped branches, dried seed pods, pinecones, and other natural elements are always welcome additions to our outreach programs.



Horticulture Therapy—Floral Design Workshop *Kate Morrison*

Spring flowers took center stage in a vibrant floral design workshop led by Darlene Synder with assistance from me and Tina. Participants were delighted by the colorful assortment of garden-grown and store-bought blooms supplied by Tina, Becky, Nancy Malanowicz, Darlene and me. The session welcomed 11 residents—primarily from independent living, with a few from assisted living and one from memory care. The atmosphere was joyful and creative, with each participant proudly crafting their own unique floral arrangement.



Experiment: Doing Battle with Thistle *Sharon Richardson*

I really don't mind weeding, but thistle is a particularly difficult weed to eradicate. Thistle roots can penetrate the soil to depths of 6 to 15 feet, and their horizontal roots can extend 15 feet or more. These deep and wide-spreading root systems are what make thistles difficult to control. I am philosophically opposed to the use of chemical herbicides, and hand pulling thistle encourages the underground roots to work even harder to make it to the surface.

Recently I decided to research alternative solutions. Research suggested that a mixture of strong vinegar, mixed with salt and liquid dish detergent would do the trick. The liquid soap detergent acts as a surfactant, helping the mixture penetrate the leaves by increasing the spreading and wetting properties of the vinegar. I learned that household strength vinegar is typically too weak to be effective for killing weeds. The strongest I could find locally was 30%, and I also found a 45% strength from Amazon, so I purchased a gallon of each strength. The theory is that the more concentrated the mixture, the more effective the result.

Meanwhile, a fellow gardener had suggested cutting off the foliage and using a small paint brush OR eye dropper to 'paint' the top of the wounded thistle stalk to get the solution down directly into the roots. The eye dropper took too much time and patience for my taste, so I gave up on the eye dropper and used a small paint brush. I did not observe a noticeable difference between the section with 30%, 45 % or beheaded foliage.

I found numerous recipes on line, and some recipes used the same ingredients in different proportions. The recipe I used was one cup of salt, one tablespoon of Dawn dish detergent, and 1 gallon of strong vinegar. (some recipes specified Epsom salt). I can't say there was a huge difference between the 30 and 45% - they both seemed initially effective, but new baby thistles emerged within a few days.

Most of the articles I read stressed the fact that safety precautions should be practiced. Gloves, long sleeves, and eye goggles were all mentioned. Industrial-strength vinegar contains acetic acid and can irritate skin and/or eyes

When there is an entire patch of thistle with no valuable plants in the area, the spray bottle works fine. Once there is bare soil exposed and/or you have planted in the bed, a paint brush is preferable because this solution will kill anything, not just thistle. It could also compromise the soil by affecting the pH and/or kill beneficial insects, so a paint brush is the better approach to a spray bottle.

Most articles recommended mid-day application on a hot sunny day. There should not be any dew on the leaves, and the sun is strongest in the middle of the day. There should be no rain in the forecast for 24 hours. I observed a noticeable difference in how quickly the thistle went ashen when I applied the mixture on a hot sunny day.

The roots really tried to grow back, so for the month of May, I had to be vigilant about doing battle with my paint brush. I'm happy to report that by Memorial Day, I was able to plant my new bed. I will continue to monitor the bed and use a paint brush to eradicate any new baby arrivals!



GCFP Awards Announced at the Convention *Marilyn Small*

Uwchlan Garden Club

90th Federated Anniversary
Horticulture Achievement Award
1st—FD-2 NGC Floral Design Award & NGC Certificate of Appreciation
1st—Newsletter 3-12 Pages Large Club & NGC Certificate of Appreciation
1st—Special Recognition Beautification of Community Areas
Adopt-a-Highway Program
3rd—Special Recognition Garden Tour
Pop Up Garden Tours

Nancy Cuttic

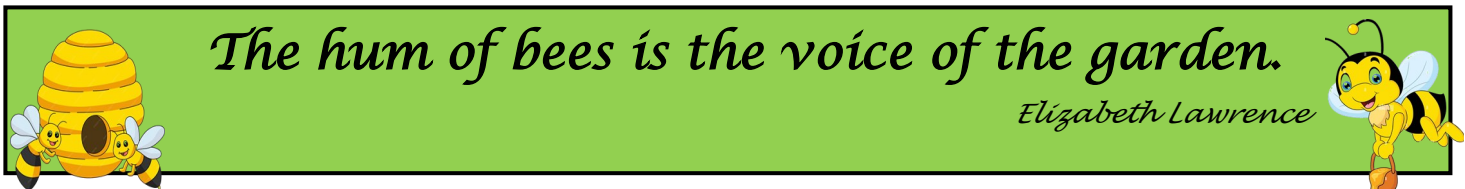
CAR-SGC Award of Honor;
Presidential Citation

Valerie Burgess

1st—GCFP Program Award—Flower Arranging

Sharon Richardson & Marilyn Small

GCFP CAR-SGC Outstanding Educational Exhibit
Award "The Role that Water Plays at Longwood
Gardens"



Grow a Salad Workshop Recap *Kate Morrison*

Our Grow A Salad workshop was a great success, with 11 enthusiastic children of various ages participating in our first comprehensive garden project. Each child planted a tomato plant, two lettuces, two marigolds, and a nasturtium to create their own vibrant salad garden. They also received a small pot to sow basil seeds, encouraging them to grow this flavorful herb from scratch and add it to their planter.

In addition to planting, each participant received an instructive garden journal to track their progress and reflect on their gardening experience; recipes for salad ideas and a balsamic dressing were included. Lastly, the gardeners were encouraged to reflect what they learn along the way. We've invited everyone to return at the end of summer to share their salad garden journey and participate in the UGC Flower Show in September.

A heartfelt thank you to Terry Miller, Becky Zeeger, Kathy Deutsch, and Dolores Knight for their invaluable support and encouragement in bringing this program to life.



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

Gardening School

Course 1— July 10-11, Encino, CA
 July 15-16, Westerville, OH (Virtual)
 August 4-5, San Antonio, TX

Course 2— August 14-15, Encino, CA

Course 3— June 11-12, Spartanburg, SC
 September 25-26, Encino, CA
 September 28-October 1, New Smyrna Beach, FL (Zoom)

Course 4— August 26-27, Abbeville, LA
 October 23-24, Encino, CA

Flower Show School

Course 1—July 20-23, Memphis, TN
 August 18-21, Roanoke, VA
 August 25-28, Little Rock, AR
 October 27-30, Dallas, TX

Course 2—September 25-27, Poway, CA
 September 30-October 8, Voorheesville, NY
 October 20-22, Gettysburg, PA

Course 3—June 10-12, East Brunswick, NJ

Course 4—September 24-26, Red Bluff, CA

Landscape Design School

Course 1—August 26-27, Elizabethtown, KY

Course 2—None

Course 3—None

Course 4—November 11-12, Charleston, SC

Environmental School

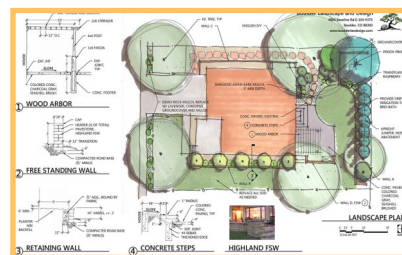
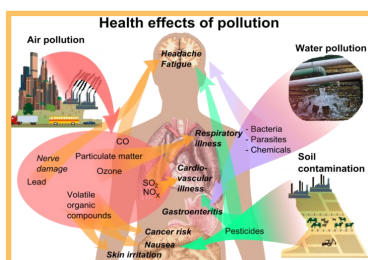
Course 1—None

Course 2—November 3-4, Augusta, MI

Course 3— September 26-27, Sheboygan, WI

Course 4— September 18-19, Derby, CT (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

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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, Maria Jacobs

Upcoming UGC Meetings & Programs

Thursday, June 26th, 11:00am

- Tonya Young, designer

Thursday, July 24th, 11:00am

- Chris Leskosky, designer

Thursday, August 28th, 6:00pm

- Picnic at the Uwchlan Meeting House

Thursday, September 25th, 11:00am

- "Gina Khalifa, owner URNed Elegance, "Let's
Make a Fall Container!"



Our Affiliations



National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

President: Donna Donnelly

<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: Patricia Wolanski

<https://pagardenclubs.org/>



GCFP District 1

Director: Pam Walsh

no website

GCFP District I Meetings

President's Luncheon

- Wednesday, June 12th, 11:00am
Williamson College of the Trades, Media

District I Annual Meeting & Luncheon

- Tuesday, September 10th, 9:00am
Hosted by Bala Cynwyd Garden Club

Fall District I Meeting

- Wednesday, November 12th, 10:00am,
1756 Uwchlan Meeting House

