

**UWCHLAN
GARDEN CLUB**

LIONVILLE, PA

SEPTEMBER 2025

Vol. 4, Issue 3



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2024-2026

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MEETINGHOUSE MOMENTS

A Message from Your President *Terry Miller*

Hello my UGC buddies-

I delight in Spring, warmly welcome Summer, and enjoy the Fall, but I am never so exuberant about any season as Bob Miller, the self-declared "Peter Pan."

It's September again, and the mania begins at my house. Who's kidding who; it has already begun. Most of you know I love to decorate for the seasons, but this is the time when my husband catches fire for his favorite color and season all in one: October. It has been especially bad this year since Bob is no longer working, and my daughter-in-law introduced him to "Summerween." (It is a real thing. Check out Michaels. They have merchandise for it. He went shopping.) He has also been quelling the autumnal addiction with occasionally sauntering through the aisles of his recent discovery, Hobby Lobby.

Let me give you an indication of the intensity of this time of year. August begins the continual hunt for the changing of the foliage. He stands in our sunroom with the binoculars and scours the treetops for the first red leaf. He plans our pumpkin/mum runs to Lancaster County, and he broke out the pumpkin spice coffee August 10th. While I stretch summer into October, Fall starts August 1st for Bob. I am reveling in the bounty of summer tomatoes, canning up a storm, enjoying my edible flowers, and sowing some Fall crops. He lays out his pumpkin-carving patterns and measures for new decorations. On our drives through the beautiful countryside, I am enjoying the flowers while he searches for any change in tree color. I admire the growth of the sweetcorn-he sees the potential cornstalks for decorating.

It will be fine. I may not have the jubilation for October that Bob has, but I do get a bit crazy when it comes to the gardening season. And I confess that my insanity permeates most of the year. I guess I cannot fault his Fall frenzy. Mine starts in February with seed shopping and goes full bore when my hands get into the soil. I don't keep receipts from greenhouses, because they are proof of my addiction. I have been known to plant during a torrential downpour in my Mickey Mouse poncho. When I lived in West Grove, it was no secret that one time I vaulted out of bed at the crack of dawn and raced outside, possessed at the thought that the groundhog was out there devouring my plants, only to realize that I was standing in my garden in nothing but a teddy. I don't know if that incident came up at a Borough Council meeting, but my former neighbor (who was a Council member) insisted that gardening in the middle of the night with a headlamp was against Borough regulation. I have pondered for years that the Mayor's first comment to me when I met him was, "Oh, I've heard about your garden!" Ok, I have serious issues.

Here's to the Celebration of Orange!



2026 Pennsylvania Garden Party *Nancy Cuttic*



Pennsylvania is hosting a Garden Party! One of GCFP President Pat Wolanski's initiatives is to show off our beautiful state by planning a statewide garden tour.

Garden clubs across PA are invited to participate by showcasing 6 - 7 show worthy gardens in their area. Twenty-five dollars buys a tour booklet and a ticket to visit gardens on both Saturday, June 20 and Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 9:30 until 4:00. That is fourteen gardens to experience for this rain or shine event.

It is estimated that 100 beautiful gardens will be open for visitors across the state of Pennsylvania. There will be various kinds of gardens offered such as pollinator, specialty plants/flowers, Old English, vegetable, rock, native, and many more.

Uwchlan Garden Club is 'joining the party' and is currently securing the seven gardens to be on display on Saturday, June 27, 2026. Hostesses will be needed to serve in shifts at the gardens on this day. Pam Walsh is our Club Liaison for the event. On Saturday, June 20, 2026, Uwchlan Garden Club members can use their ticket to visit the gardens of neighboring clubs or districts.

GCFP is offering an 80/20 ticket sales split. For every \$25 ticket sold, our club will receive \$20. If we sell 50 tickets, we can earn \$1,000. One hundred tickets gets us \$2,000! The club that sells the most tickets in the state will receive an award of \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place.

In addition, our club needs to solicit ads from local businesses, eateries, garden centers, etc. The club with the highest ad revenue will win \$1,000. Second place will receive \$750, and 3rd place will earn \$500. Kate Teeter-Morrison is our Club Ad Coordinator.

This is a generous offer from our federation and an incredible opportunity to boost our treasury and increase our presence in the community. So, find your place in making our club tour a huge success.

Downingtown Library Planters

Kate Morrison-Teeter

In May, UGC partnered with the Downingtown Library to plant a variety of colorful annuals in beautiful planters constructed by Steven Snyder. Since then, we've been caring for them—deadheading regularly to keep the blooms fresh—while Jasmine Smith, the Library Director, has done an amazing job all summer keeping them watered.

Next month, we'll be switching out the summer plants for fall favorites. If you'd like to help with this community outreach project, please reach out— we'd love to have you join us!



One More Award!

MJ Schlomann

Darlene Snyder received **the** District I Perennial Bloom Award at the District I President's Luncheon. This wasn't posted in the June newsletter because the District Director wanted to surprise her. I think all the attendees would agree that she was speechless!

Meet Our New Member!

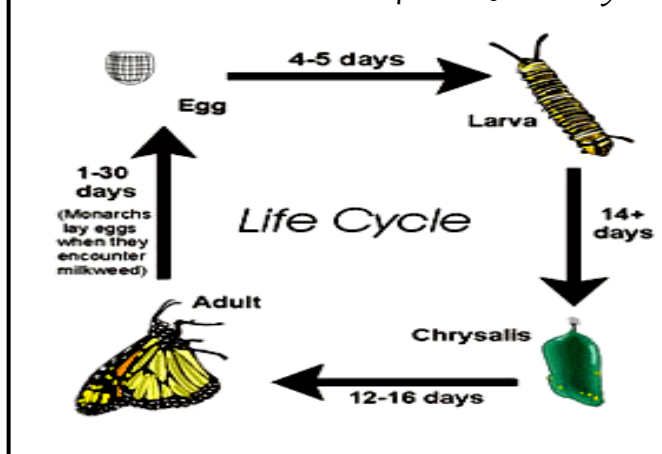
Member & MJ Schlomann

Tina Boston—I have been a member for two years. David is my husband, and we have a blended family: two daughters from him, a son from me and two grandsons that live in Florida. We love traveling; and I love yoga, walking, and living at Eagleview.



Monarch Butterfly

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy



Garden as though you will live forever. William Kent

Snippets About the Meeting House

Musings of Peggy Hartwick

Our parent organization, The Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan, felt Lionville was a nice place to call 'home' and set the wheels in motion to purchase the Uwchlan Meeting House from the Uwchlan Grange. The building was in total disrepair when this was finalized in 1963. Never described as shrinking violets, these energetic women had varied backgrounds but were united in determination. Most were equally involved in both the Woman's Club and the Garden Class. Many served on boards of both federations, and all worked tirelessly on fundraisers and projects.

A four-phase renovation plan was drawn up, and Phase I was completed - construction of the 'west wing', plumbing, a heating system, and a fully equipped kitchen where a porch had been. Members were also responsible for getting the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Old records tell us that the notification letter arrived just before bulldozers started work to create a cloverleaf on Route 113 onto the meeting house grounds, and the highway department packed up all their equipment and left!

Realizing that the eighty members could not raise enough funds to complete all the renovations, the Uwchlan Conservation Trust (UCT) was formed, and the meeting house was sold to the UCT in 1976. Phase II included restoring the original four chimneys and putting on a new roof; Phase III included removal of a Victorian porch that had been added about 1875, repointing all the exterior stonework, and restoring the facade as much as possible to its original appearance. Phase IV was the restoration of the interior of the building. Community donations, federal and charitable trust grants, and money raised by the WCCU Christmas Fair and Garden Class Plant Sale funded the last three restoration phases.

Today, the 1756 Uwchlan Meeting House stands proudly on its original site!



Meeting house in 1963

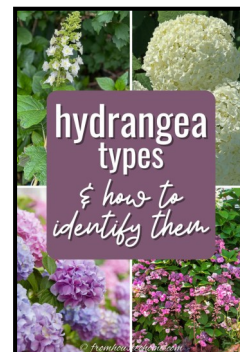


Bulldozers in 1973

Pruning Hydrangeas *Proven Winners & MJ Schlomann*

Pruning Based on Type:

- **Hydrangeas that bloom on old wood (Oakleaf Hydrangeas, Bigleaf Hydrangeas that are not rebloomers, Mountain Hydrangeas that are not rebloomers)**
Most shrubs that bloom on old wood should be pruned immediately after they are done flowering. However, hydrangeas that bloom on old wood finish flowering so late in the season that pruning them after they bloom doesn't leave enough time for them to regrow and form flower buds for next year. Proven Winners suggests that you avoid pruning this type of hydrangea except to remove any completely dead branches in the spring once the plant starts to leaf out.
- **Hydrangeas that bloom on new wood (Smooth Hydrangeas, Panicle Hydrangeas)**
These can be safely pruned in late fall once the plants have gone dormant or in early spring. Next year's flower buds won't be formed until late spring the same year they bloom, so there is no risk of removing the buds if you prune in fall or spring.
- **Reblooming hydrangeas (Reblooming varieties of Bigleaf Hydrangeas & Mountain Hydrangeas)**
Reblooming hydrangeas produce flowers on both old and new wood. Reblooming cultivars should be pruned the same way as hydrangeas that bloom on old wood, meaning you should only need to prune out a few (if any) dead branches in the spring once the plant starts to leaf out.



How Much to Prune

- Generally, it is safe to prune as much as one-third off hydrangeas that bloom on new wood. Pruning it further removes too much of the sturdy framework that keeps the plant standing upright.
- Make your cut just above a set of large, healthy leaves.
- If in doubt, DON'T PRUNE! No hydrangea requires pruning to grow and bloom well.

'GCFP Reads' Opportunities *Sharon Richardson*

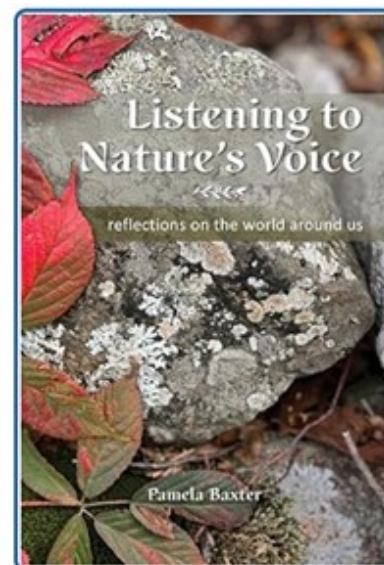
President Wolanski is excited to launch the **GCFP Reads Initiative** with a gift of 10 copies of *Listening to Nature's Voice* by local columnist Pam Baxter for each District. This inspiring collection of essays encourages us to pause and appreciate the everyday wonders of nature.

Pam has written for the *Daily Local* for more than 25 years and often highlights our garden community. District I has invited her to their Annual Meeting, where she will offer signed copies at a discounted price of \$10.

The goal of **GCFP Reads** is simple: to connect members of all ages with books that celebrate gardening, nature, and the environment. Pam's book is just the beginning—clubs are encouraged to explore other titles, share favorites, and use them as inspiration for programs, projects, or discussions.

I am honored to serve as Chairperson for this initiative and would love to hear how your club is using books and other resources. Please share your stories, photos, or recommendations with me at sharonrichardson22@gmail.com.

Let's celebrate the joy of reading, the beauty of nature, and the ways both bring us together as a community



Showcase Your Blooms: Enter the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society Show at Longwood Gardens

Sharon Richardson

A big thank you to Program Chair, Carol McConnell, for giving us the chance to learn about growing dahlias, and to Jeff Dore, one of our speakers last spring, who generously provided many of you with dahlia tubers.

If you're interested in showcasing your beautiful dahlias, why not enter them in the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Show held on September 20-21 at Longwood Gardens? You can submit entries on September 20 from 6 - 10 a.m. Entering a dahlia show is similar to entering an NGC Flower Show, but there are a few important differences to keep in mind:

1. **Containers Provided:** The Dahlia Society supplies all containers for the show, so be sure to transport your dahlias carefully and transfer them into the provided containers upon arrival.
2. **Entry Cards:** Unlike standard flower show entry cards, the dahlia entry cards ask for details like the size, form, and color of each bloom. Be sure to include this information on each card. To get more familiar with this, check out this 2-minute video: [Dahlia Show Entry Basics](#).
3. **4-Digit Code:** Each dahlia is assigned a 4-digit number code that represents its size, form, and color. You can find these codes in Dahlia Classification books available at check-in.
4. **Helpful Assistance:** Experienced Dahlia Society members will be available to help you with your entry cards. However, it's a good idea to come prepared with the name of your dahlia, along with its size and form. With that info, they can assist you in finding the correct 4-digit code. Here's an article with helpful charts on size, form, and color: [Dahlia Types Guide](#).
5. **Small Growers Division:** If you're new to growing dahlias, consider entering Division 4, which is specifically for "Small Growers." Be sure to request Small Grower entry cards. A Small Grower is someone who grows dahlias for personal enjoyment, does not sell them for profit, has never been employed as a gardener, and grows fewer than 75 dahlias.

For more details about the show, visit the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society's website at philadahlia.org, where you can find the full Dahlia Show Schedule. Also, check out the American Dahlia Society website dahlia.org. I look forward to seeing many of you there!



*It does not matter how slowly you go,
as long as you do not stop.*

Confucius

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

Gardening School

- Course 1— November 17-18, Fairfax, VA (Hybrid)
- Course 2— September 12-13, Sawyer, MI
September 25-26, New Haven, CT (Virtual)
- Course 3— September 25-26, Encino, CA
September 28-October 1, New Smyrna Beach, FL (Zoom)
- Course 4— October 23-24, Encino, CA
October 29-30, Tacoma, WA

Flower Show School

- Course 1— September 24, Poway, CA (Design only)
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—September 17-20, Mt. Vernon, KY
October 9-16, Rocky Hill, CT
October 15-18, Milford, MA
- Course 4—September 24-26, Red Bluff, CA

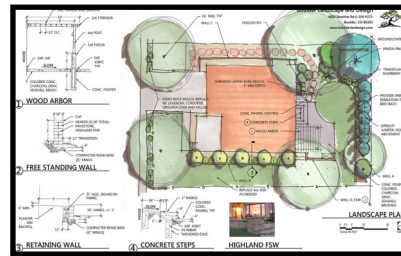
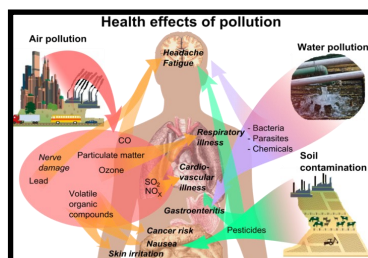
Landscape Design School

- Course 1—September 29-30, College Station, TX
October 13-14, Richmond, VA
- Course 2—September 29-30, Baton Rouge, LA
- Course 3—October 27-28, Fairfax, VA (Hybrid)
December 11-12, Starkville, MS
- Course 4— September 22-23, Lansing, MI
October 28-30, Waltham, MA (Virtual)
November 11-12, Charleston, SC

Environmental School

- Course 1—January 13-15, 2026, St. Augustine, FL (Virtual)
- Course 2—November 3-4, Augusta, MI
- Course 3— September 26-27, Sheboygan, WI
October 22-23, Bowling Green, KY
- Course 4— September 18-19, Derby, CT (Virtual)
September 19-21, Mexia, TX
November 20-21, Ft. Myers, FL (Virtual)

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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Please send articles in Word, with a title,
author name, and credits (if copied from
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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, September 25, 11:00am

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

Thursday, October 23, 11:00am

- Leslie Wehr, "Garden Designing." Leslie has shared her garden with our club the past two years.

Thursday, November 20, 11:00am

- Jenny Rose Carey, introducing her new book release. The book, *The Essential Guide to Bulbs*, will be available for sale and signing!

Thursday, December 11, 12:00pm

- Christmas Luncheon, Ludwig's Grill & Oyster Bar, 2904 Conestoga Road, Glenmoore, PA



Our Affiliations



National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

President: Donna Donnelly

<https://gardenclub.org/>



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

Director: Beverly Kazickas

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



Garden Club Federation of PA (GCFP)

President: Patricia Wolanski

<https://pagardenclubs.org/>



GCFP District I

Director: Pam Walsh

no website

GCFP District I Meetings

District I Annual Meeting & Luncheon

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

Fall District I Meeting

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

