



**DECEMBER 2025**  
**Vol. 4, Issue 4**



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**2024-2026**

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

My gardening friends-  
Here we are just passing the middle of a wonderful Fall season. Like last year, I didn't expect such a colorful year given the lack of rain. But once again, we were blessed with a dazzling display of foliage. My first frost (and freeze) occurred in early October, but I did not give up on the garden. The peppers which enjoy cool nights took off with a vengeance against the cold. My family worked to prolong the harvest this year, and I was able to strip out the last of the tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The volunteer tomatoes that I let grow were really producing a month after the planted tomatoes faded. As they slowly ripen, I may have my own tomatoes up until Christmas. By cloching the veggies, I was also able to have entries in the Elverson Flower Show.

While I was out "up country" gathering items for the church Bazaar and my jam making, I could not believe it when I spotted a small cluster of fuchsia hollyhocks standing at attention along the drive to the fruit stand. In November? They weren't even sheltered. But even more spectacular was the huge patch of sunflowers lifting their faces and smiling at the passing cars on Route 322. Someone took a chance planting them late, but it paid off, and they weathered the frost with glee. I deliberately drove by again after the freeze, and they were hit, but still hanging on and laughing in the face of the impending cold which will eventually be their demise.

By the time you are reading this, we will be up to our necks in evergreens preparing for our annual Christmas Fair. This is very busy week, sometimes frenzied, but it is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow UGC members. Check out your Handbook for the week's agenda. Bring your gloves, clippers, and exuberance for creating to the Meeting House for some fun. There are folks there to direct the activities, and please consider giving a few hours of your time to help with the success of this event.

We are skipping a garden club entry to PHS for 2026, but there is already discussion for 2027 now that we know the lay of the land. There will be some entries by members, so put the Philadelphia Flower Show on your calendar. You may also consider volunteering, as there is a huge need for support to get the show set up and keep it running smoothly.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Luncheon for a time of merriment and sharing. I hope you all find some time to relax and enjoy the warmth and joy of the holiday, whether it be celebrating with family and friends, or settling down in a ray of sunshine with a good book and a hot beverage. May you savor the peace that comes with welcoming the Reason for the Season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year-  
Terry



## Fall Fun at the Downingtown Library

*Kate Morrison-Teeter*

Our young Little Sprouts designed beautiful Pumpkin Fall Flower arrangements using real pumpkins and seasonal blooms like mums and dahlias from our gardens. They also learned how to plant their own sunflower seed pods donated by Mary Smith and pumpkin seeds to take home and to grow in their gardens. This hands-on activity combined art, science, and a love for nature — a perfect way to celebrate the colors and creativity of fall. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this workshop successful - Ruth Kofke, Chris Tarlecki, Tina Boston, and Becky Zeeger.



## Library Planter Update

*Kate Morrison-Teeter*

In October, Downingtown Library planters were updated with Mums, cabbages, grasses, dried hydrangeas, gourds and pumpkins.

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



*If you listen carefully, the silence is beautiful.*

*Norton Juster*

## Floral Design Project at Pocopson Nursing Home *Kate Morrison-Teeter*

Leslie Wehr of The Gardens at Embreeville invited members of the Uwchlan Garden Club to assist with a floral design activity at Pocopson Nursing Home. This event partnership with Gardens at Embreeville and UGC was a great success, and we look forward to assisting again in the future. Leslie sent special thanks to UGC members; to: Kathy Deutsch for advance guidance and a warm connection with the seniors, Darlene Snyder for providing beautiful greens, Kate Morrison-Teeter for transporting materials, assisting with flowers, and Pam Halitsky for coordinating with UGC and helping organize every detail. Together, this team made a meaningful impact and brightened the day for all who participated.



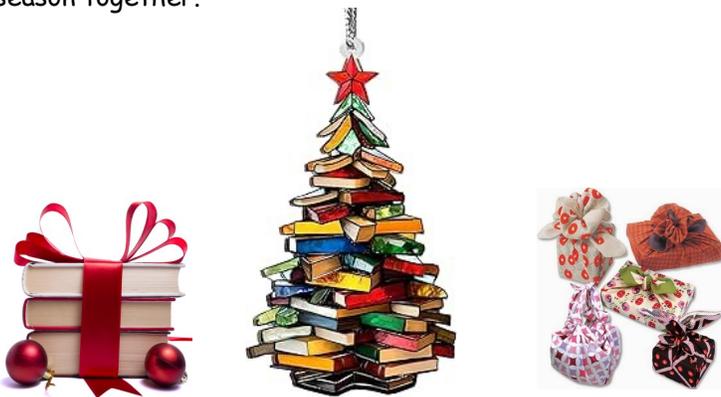
## “DECK THE SHELVES”! Festive Book Swap at the Holiday Luncheon!

*Sharon Richardson*

You are invited to share the joy of reading at our Holiday luncheon. Bring a gently loved book related to gardening, nature, or the environment—and take home a new treasure to enjoy. It may be fiction or non-fiction, adult or youth oriented.

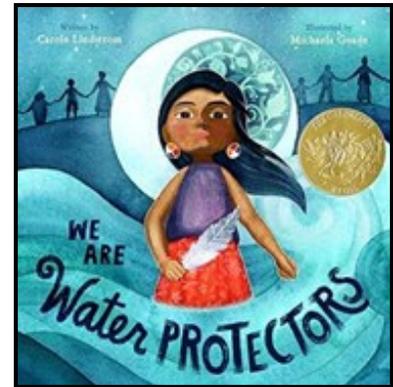
Please wrap your book and tuck a small note inside saying why you loved or selected that title, along with your name. You'll be giving the gift of nature one good book at a time!

At your table, everyone will open a new-to-you book to enjoy during the winter months. It's a warm, joyful way to share a love of reading, support GCFP READS, and celebrate the season together.



## Teaching Children the Importance of Advocating for our Environment!

*Sharon Richardson*



Beautifully illustrated book for children; winner of the Caldecott award, as well as other awards.



## Snippets About the Meeting House *Peggy Hartwick & MJ Schlomann*

The meeting house was built in 1756 and is nearing its 270th birthday! The interior remains much as it did when the building was first constructed. The sturdy oaken floors have withstood thousands of pairs of feet, and we can proudly state that George Washington walked here when it was a hospital during the Revolutionary War.

Since the building was rented out to parties of 75 people or less, and because The Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan (WCCU) and its Garden Class met here, modern conveniences were added. An enclosed porch was turned into the kitchen, and the old shed is now the powder room. The original bathroom, which had indentations in the wall for candles, but no heat, has been turned into a storage area.

Today, our club is proud to call the meeting house our 'home.' Most garden clubs have to meet in churches, municipal and other public buildings; all meeting and project supplies have to be stored and transported. We can all be grateful to WCCU for having the foresight to purchase the meeting house and forming the Trust to see that it is maintained.



Meeting house before renovations.



## "Beacons" Flower Show *Pam Walsh*

UGC held our 2025 "Beacons" Flower Show on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The Designs and Botanical Arts Divisions took their names from some of the many lighthouses found in the US. A picture of the named lighthouse and the name of the class were shown for each class. The design classes were 5" Creative Petite, 8" Angular Petite, 11" Creative Line Design, Exhibition Table, Underwater Design, and Illuminary Design. The designs and botanical arts were clever, well thought out, and were enjoyed by all. The blue-ribbon winners in Design were Carrie Schreffler - 3, Lisa Cherpanick, Vanessa Peterson and Nancy Cuttic. Carrie Schreffler won the Petite Award and Nancy Cuttic won the Designer's Choice Award and the Award of Design Excellence. The Botanical Arts classes were a Wreath, Collage, and Mobile. The blue-ribbon winners in Botanical Arts were Maria Jacobs, Maryann DeSanto, and Carrie Schreffler. The Botanical Arts Design Award was awarded to Carrie Schreffler.

The Horticulture was fabulous with beautiful specimens in 63 classes. The blue ribbon winners were: Terry Miller - 15, Carrie Schreffler - 7, Darlene Snyder - 7, Sharon Richardson - 5, Pam Walsh - 5, Carol McConnell - 4, Meg Spurlin - 3, Chris Tarlecki - 3, Maria Jacobs - 3, Becky Zeeger - 2, Linda Donnon - 2, Ruth Kofke - 2, Wendy Fox - 1, Kate Morrison-Teeter - 1, Peggy Schubert - 1, Nancy Cuttic - 1, and Marie-Helene Rising - 1. Section winners were Terry Miller, Darlene Snyder, Ruth Kofke, Maria Jacobs, Carol McConnell, Peggy Schubert, Nancy Cuttic, and Pam Walsh. The Award of Horticulture Excellence was awarded to Darlene Snyder.

The Flower Show was judged on Wednesday, and exhibitors could stop by to see how they did after judging was completed. On Thursday, the show was opened to the public and was very well attended by UGC members, friends, garden club members from other clubs, and others who saw the advertisement on Facebook.

Special thanks to Terry Miller for creating the schedule and to our committee chairs, volunteers, and especially our many exhibitors! Congratulations to all for an awesome show.



Carrie Schreffler  
Underwater Design



Terry Miller  
Hort. Collection



Nancy Cuttic  
Illuminary Design



Peggy Schubert  
Orchid



Nancy Cuttic  
Ponytail Palm

## Winter Indoor Gardening Projects *MJ Schломann*

When my children were little, we lived in a small town in Connecticut and there were few activities. We had a small grocery store called simply "Marys", a drug store, a 'filling' station, and a bank. One gray winter day, I had a bright idea for a fun project. I cut off the top of carrots and had my daughters place them in a dish with a little water; we then placed the dish in a sunny window. We followed instructions and changed the water every couple of days; in a few weeks the greens were growing nicely. I had dreams of flowers and seeds, but my daughter was showing them to her 3 year-old friend, Tommy, and (to my horror) he ate every one!

There are other indoor gardening projects that you can probably have more success with. Herbs and micro-greens grow well on windowsills, bulbs are made for forcing, and you can start seeds for planting in the spring. I read that you can also upcycle kitchen scraps like green onions, lettuce, celery, lemongrass, beets, and more. Just Google 'growing vegetables indoors in winter' and read or watch utube programs. If you are fortunate enough to have grow lights, you can grow veggies from seed—lettuce, spinach, tomatoes and peppers. You will, however, need to pollinate the tomatoes and peppers by hand. Good luck!



# GCFP GOES TO ITALY!

*Carol McConnell*

Many people have asked me "How was your trip to Italy?" So I tell them all . . . Perfect!

Our flight from Philly to Milan . . .

The bus trip to Lake Como . . .

Our hotels were quaint, all . . .

The views were . . . breathtaking . . . and . . .

The Roof Top bar . . .

The Gardens . . . and I can really see where Mr. du Pont got some of his inspiration (and I thank him for putting the result on flat ground!) . . .

The little towns and villas . . .

The weather, 15 days of beautiful sunshine . . .

Our tour guide, Andrea, the best ever . . .

The visit to Ortocolaria, the Italian Flower Show . . . and the spice market, and the beautiful jewelry . . . .

The charcuterie boards, beautiful and delicious, and . . .

Our brief trip and stop to visit the market in Switzerland . . .

Making pesto! Who thought that could be so much fun . . . just ask our Dancing Queen, Wendy . . .

And making pasta . . . again, who thought that could be so interesting? But if you get to drink blue prosecco, you could find out! And the wine . . .

The Butterfly House in Pinocchio's hometown . . .

The boat rides on Lake Como . . .

The beautiful breakfasts every day . . .

Meeting the President of the Italian Garden Club . . .

The unexpected cave we found in the gardens in Genoa . . .

Every restaurant stop, both planned and unplanned . . . spectacular and . . .

Sharing meals with our fellow "foodie friends" . . .

The wine, and plenty of it . . .

Meeting new friends . . . perfect . . . and we'll see you in April at the State Convention in Erie!) . . .

Seeing the altar made in 200 A.D at the vineyards and winery . . . a surprise . . .

Our one-day-delayed flight from Rome, somewhat of a hassle, but we made the best of it and had fun . . . not perfect, but not so bad . . .

Valerie and I losing our luggage, travelling at 5:00 a.m. on the bus from the hotel to the airport . . . scary, but it makes a good story!

Luggage turned up with just a few scratches, so . . .

Sharing our last glasses of prosecco on our American Airlines flight home . . . finding my son's in-laws on the same flight . . .

As you can see, this trip was perfect in every way! Thank you, Sharon Richardson and EF Tours for such a wonderful adventure. Thank you to my husband for getting me out the door and encouraging me to go and have fun! Thanks to the people I work with for helping to make this happen.

It was all perfect!



# "GCFP READS" HELPS YOU GIVE THE GIFT OF NATURE THROUGH READING!

Sharon Richardson

This holiday, try sharing the joy of reading, specifically with books about nature. There are so many to choose from! So where to start?? I decided to search out popular, award-winning books originally written for adults and then adapted for younger readers.

Last year I gave my 7 year old grandson the youthful edition of Nature's Best Hope. He read a chapter each evening, so his parents were also learning Doug's practical tips for ecological gardening. I was thrilled to receive a thank-you note letting me know that they had decided to turn their property into a 'Homegrown National Park' as Doug Tallamy had suggested.

Below is my "Top 5" list of adult nature/gardening books that have been adapted for younger readers. (except #5 started with youth and inspired the adult version!) Can you believe there are FIVE versions of "The Hidden Life of Trees"?!

1A: Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard (Doug Tallamy)

1B. Youth Version: Nature's Best Hope: How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard

2A. The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World (Michael Pollan)

2B. The Botany of Desire Young Readers Edition: Our Surprising Relationship with Plants

Note: this book has been made into a beautiful PBS movie that can be watched in 30 minute "chapters

3A. Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants

3B. Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants (Robin Kimmerer)

4A. The Hidden Life of Trees: What they Feel, How They Communicate (Peter Wohlleben)

4B. The Hidden Life of Trees: A Graphic Adaptation

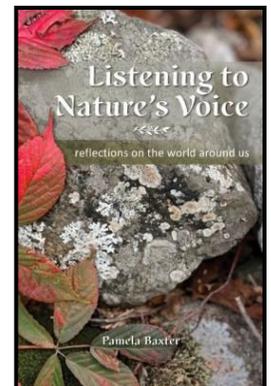
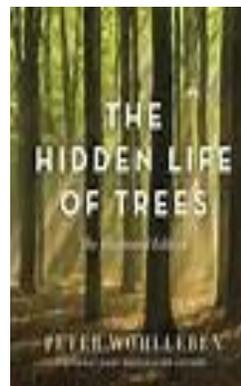
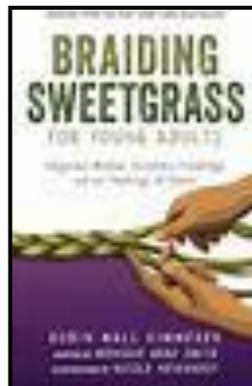
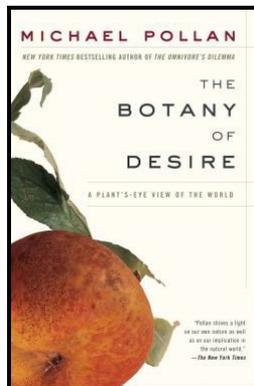
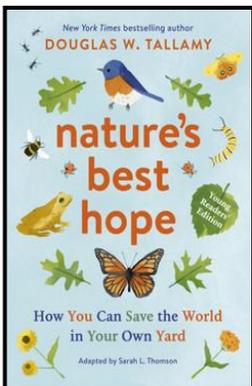
4C. The Hidden Life of Trees: The Illustrated Edition (abridged)

4D. Can you Hear the Trees Talking? (ages 8-10)

4E. Peter and the Tree Children (ages 4-8)

5A Youth: Big Life Lessons from Nature's Little Secrets (Pamela Baxter)

5B. Listening to Nature's Voice: reflections on the world around us



*This season, let's celebrate stories that remind us how deeply we're rooted in nature.*



*Wishing you a joyful and green holiday!*



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

## Gardening School

- Course 1— February 7-8, Los Osos, CA
- Course 2— February 2-3, San Antonio, TX  
February 21-22, Los Osos, CA
- Course 3— March 7-8, Los Osos, CA  
April 17-18, Sawyer, MI
- Course 4— February 9-11, New Smyrna Beach, FL (Virtual)  
March 21-22, Los Osos, CA  
April 9-11, Chelmsford, MA  
September 18-19, Sawyer, MI

## Flower Show School

- Course 1— January 13-26, Boca Raton, FL  
March 23-25, Ft. Payne, AL
- Course 2— March 2-5, Little Rock, AR  
March 8-10, Mem
- Course 3— February 13-21, Poway, CA  
April 13-15, Gettysburg, PA
- Course 4— April 11-16, East Brunswick, NJ  
April 25-30, Milford, MA  
October 26-28, Gettysburg, PA

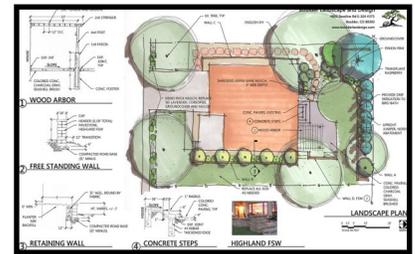
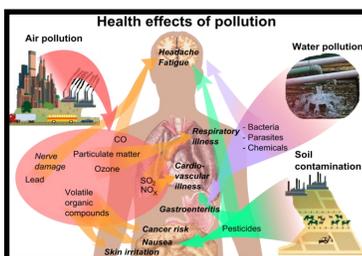
## Landscape Design School

- Course 1— April 23-24, Traverse City, MI
- Course 2— March 25-26, Columbia, MD”  
August 25-26, Elizabethtown, KY
- Course 3— December 11-12, Starkville, MS  
September 28-29, College Station, TX
- Course 4— January 23-25, Louisville, OH (Virtual)

## Environmental School

- Course 1— January 13-15, St. Augustine, FL (Virtual)
- Course 2— None
- Course 3— March 16-19, St. Louis, MO (Virtual)  
April 6-7, Augusta, MI
- Course 4— November 2-3, Augusta, MI

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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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, December 11, 12:00pm**

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

**Thursday, January 22, 11:00am**

- Anna Davis "Historic Gardening" - what was planted, how it was grown, harvested, & stored.

**Thursday, February 26, 11:00am**

- Hallie Steinberg "Hydroponics!" Discover how this fascinating method of growing plants works.

**Thursday, March 26, 11:00am**

- Meet Beatrix Potter! Learn valuable gardening tips and enjoy her presentation!

## 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 Zoom Meeting**

- February 2026 TBA

**Presidents Luncheon**

- June 2026 TBA

**District I Annual Luncheon**

- September 10, 2026