



MEETINGHOUSE MOMENTS



September 2026
Vol. 5, Issue 3

Uwchlan
Garden Club
Lionville, PA

OFFICERS 2026-2028

President:

Karen Yoder

Vice-President:

Nancy Malanowicz

Treasurer:

Linda Donnon

Recording

Secretary:

Pat Mitchell

Corresponding

Secretary:

Dolores Knight



President's Message

Greetings, Garden Club Friends,

My presidential term began on a high note in June with the Pennsylvania Garden Party initiative. Aside from a brief afternoon shower, the weather graciously cooperated, allowing hundreds of visitors to experience the beauty and inspiration of our gardens. Heartfelt thanks go to the organizers, hostesses, volunteers, and, of course, the dedicated gardeners who so generously welcomed the public into their garden sanctuaries.

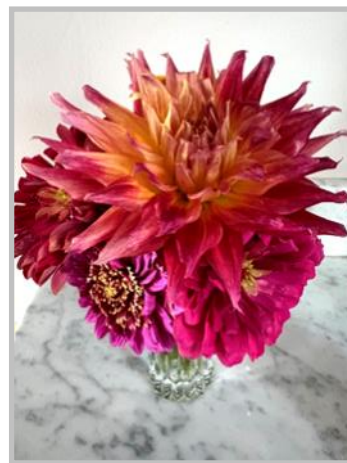
The heatwave in June, which persisted into July and August, undoubtedly tested our resilience as gardeners. As of now, we have experienced approximately 40 days this year with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees Fahrenheit. This is compounded by the intermittent reports of severe weather conditions, including strong winds, torrential rains, and even hail, which have posed significant challenges to our gardens and the gardeners who tend to them.

Yet, even in the challenging conditions, nature continues to reward our efforts. My dahlias and zinnias are flourishing, while my potted tomatoes, raspberries, and baby butternut squash are producing abundantly. The Swiss chard and herbs seem determined to grow without pause. If only the local deer would admire the gardens without helping themselves!

As grateful as I am for the abundance of the season—both in our gardens and at the local farm stands—I find myself eagerly anticipating the crisp mornings, vibrant foliage, and welcome relief that autumn always brings.

Wishing you a joyful and productive rest of the gardening season.

Karen Yoder



A Tri-Annual Publication

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc, Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs,
The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, and GCFP District I

Installation of 2026-2028 Officers

On May 28, members gathered for the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony, celebrating the transition of leadership for the next two years. Outgoing President Terry Miller ceremonially "passed the torch" to incoming President Karen Yoder, symbolizing the continuation of the club's dedication to leadership, community service, and the love of gardening. Also installed by District I Director Pam Walsh were Vice-President Nancy Malanowicz, Treasurer Linda Donnon, Recording Secretary Pat Mitchell, and Corresponding Secretary Dolores Knight. In a lovely ceremony, Pam used the sunflower as the central symbol, relating each part of the flower to the unique responsibilities and qualities of each officer's role. The ceremony served as a reminder that, like a sunflower, a successful garden club flourishes through strong leadership, teamwork, and the contributions of every member.



Incoming President Karen Yoder
Outgoing President Terry Miller



District Director Pam Walsh installing new officers. Treasurer Linda Donnon, Recording Secretary Pat Mitchell, Vice-President Nancy Malanowicz, President Karen Yoder

Road Clean-Up

Marie-Helene Rising

On Friday, May 1, eight members met to collect trash for our Adopt-a-Road clean-up, collecting a total of 42 pounds of debris. This is the fourth cleanup since adopting the road in 2024.

Pictured: Front: Helene Reid

Back: Terry Miller, Becky Zeeger, Marie-Helene Rising, Suzanne DiJiacomo, Carie Schreffler, Anja DiCio, Nancy Rutz



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER REDEDICATION

Mary Whitesel

The Rededication Ceremony for our club's Blue Star Memorial was held on July 5, at our beloved Uwchlan Meetinghouse in Lionville. The ceremony marked the 10th anniversary of the memorial's original dedication and coincided with the community's 250th anniversary celebrations, reaffirming the memorial's enduring tribute to the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

GCFP President Pat Wolanski's distinguished presence underscored the memorial's statewide importance. Members of Marine Corps League Detachment 286 of Downingtown, presented the Colors to open the ceremony, and closed the ceremony with a moving rendition of *Taps*.

Mary Jo Schlomann, an invaluable and long-standing member, gave the rededication speech. Having also dedicated the Blue Star Memorial ten years ago, she reflected on the club's honor and privilege to have the Blue Star Memorial at the Meetinghouse.

Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed refreshments while exploring the rich history of the meetinghouse. A short, historical video and displays of artifacts from both the meetinghouse and the club's archives offered visitors an opportunity to learn more about the site's heritage. The event beautifully united solemn remembrance and appreciation for military service.





Horticulture Therapy: Spring Floral Design Workshop - Kate Morrison-Teeter

On Monday, May 18, the Uwchlan Garden Club hosted a delightful Horticulture Therapy Spring Floral Design Workshop. Led by Darlene Snyder, participants created beautiful spring arrangements using a lovely assortment of flowers generously donated by club members, along with additional blooms purchased for the program.

Residents enjoyed expressing their creativity while sharing conversation and the joy that flowers bring. Each participant left with a unique arrangement to brighten their room and celebrate the beauty of the season.



A special thank you to our volunteers—Vicki Sweet, Amy Saha, Sheila Cain, and Suzanne DiGiacomo—for helping to make this meaningful program a success. The Uwchlan Garden Club is grateful for the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our members, whose support makes these horticulture therapy programs possible. Please let me know if you are interested in any of our community projects.

Sprouts and Seedlings: Grow an Herb Garden - Kate Morrison-Teeter

On Monday, June 15, Sprouts & Seedlings welcomed 12 enthusiastic young gardeners to our **Grow an Herb Garden** program at the Downingtown Library.

Led by Suzanne DiGiacomo, with assistance from Kathy Ewell, Helene Reid, Nancy Rutz, and Ruth Kofke, each child planted a container herb garden featuring basil, dill, thyme, and mint. The mint selection added an extra element of fun, as participants also chose from orange, chocolate, mint, and strawberry varieties.

Participants learned what herbs need to thrive, how to care for their gardens, the importance of pruning to encourage healthy growth, and the many ways herbs can be used in everyday cooking. They also explored the unique scents and textures of each herb and took home simple recipe ideas to enjoy with their families.

The smiles on our UGC volunteers' faces say it all—it was a wonderful day of learning, gardening, and growing together!



A SUMMER FULL OF GARDEN VISITS!

Summer Pop-Ups!!

Mary Whitesel's



July 25



Helene Reid's - July 30



Ruth Kofke's - July 24



Summer Pop-Ups!!

Pam Walsh's - July 31



Linda Donnon's - August 4



Summer Field Trips

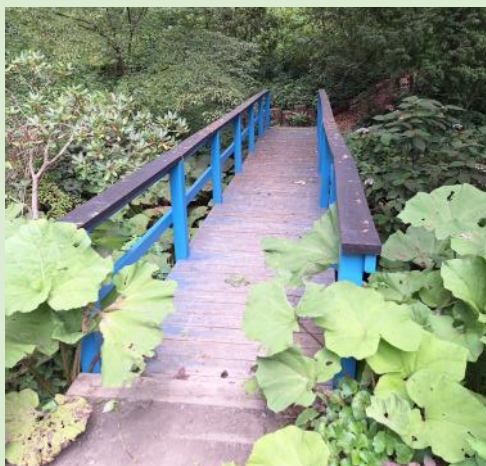
Thank you to Carol McConnell for organizing these fabulous summer garden trips.
Steve Van Valin's Garden in Chester Springs - July 22



Summer Field Trips

Wayne Guydon Garden in Chadds Ford - July 28

Several club members enjoyed a visit to Wayne Guydon's fabulous *WynEden*, where Wayne personally guided the group through his gardens. Highlights of the tour included a bamboo cave, a beautiful koi pond, impressive lotus blossoms, and vibrant tiger lilies attracting butterflies. Wayne also shared interesting information about the bamboo, explaining that after it blooms, the plant dies.



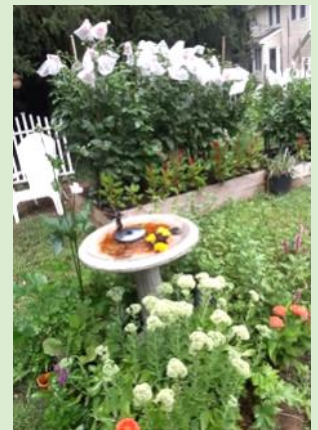
Summer Field Trips

Gary Erb's garden in the Marsh Creek Area - August 10



Summer Field Trips

Kathy S. Cole's garden in the Marsh Creek Area - August 20



Uwchlan Community Days—August 1

The Uwchlan Garden Club had a very successful Community Day on August 1. **Mary Whitesel, Linda Donnon, Carol McConnell, Sandy Hengst, and Anja DiCio** engaged with residents, sharing their passion for gardening and highlighting our educational workshops, beautification projects, and fundraising efforts. We were also proud to recognize our clubhouse, the historic 1756 Uwchlan Meetinghouse, a testament to our community's enduring legacy.



Summer Field Trips

David Culp's garden tour - September 16

We were honored to have GCFP President Pat Wolanski join us on the tour.



Uwchlan Summer Picnic at the Meetinghouse

August 27, 2026



Division 09, Garden Club Show

Terry Miller, Wendy Fox, and Nancy Malanowicz created this beautiful, period dried-flower grouping at the York Fair during the last week of July. In celebration of our country's 250th anniversary, the theme was **"Growing a Nation,"** and Uwchlan's exhibit beautifully reflected the spirit and history of this milestone commemorative year.

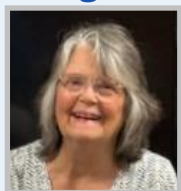
Their efforts received a 3rd Place ribbon.

District I Meeting and Luncheon - September 10

Uwchlan Garden Club had an excellent presence at the recent District I Meeting and Luncheon with 26 club members in attendance. Our own **Pam Walsh** “passed the torch” as District Director to Ellen Barron of Radley Run Garden Club, and **Sharon Richardson** was installed as Assistant District I Director for 2026-2028. **Darlene Snyder** made the gorgeous centerpiece donated by our club. Our raffle donation was a beautiful wine basket.



Awards Announced at the District I Luncheon Congratulations to



Helene Reid — Recipient of District I’s **Exceptional Horticulturist Award!** Helene was honored at the District I Meeting and Luncheon on September 10. She is an accomplished horticulturist whose extensive expertise in plants, garden design, and floral design enriches the Uwchlan Garden Club through engaging educational programs, plant identification, horticultural guidance, and support for flower shows and the annual Plant Sale.

Club Laurels

Carol McConnell for her work as Program Chair securing quality presenters for meetings, for serving as Co-Chair for the Spring Plant Sale, and coordinating multiple, quality summer garden field trips.

Kate Morrison-Teeter for her work with Sprouts & Seedlings and Horticulture Therapy, the bookmark workshop for the Barnes and Noble fundraiser, organizing hostesses for Uwchlan gardens and the advertising for the Garden Party tour, earning the club a cash award, She also serves as Chair of the Community Outreach maintaining seasonal plantings at the Downingtown Library and the Brandywine Valley Active aging.

Becky Zeeger for her diligence as Awards Chair in submitting applications for recognition of noteworthy candidates and club activities, submitting applications for several beautification grants for the Meetinghouse, and her work as Chair for the “Under the Stars” prom at the Hopewell United Methodist Church.

District I Flower Show at Longwood Gardens - September 18-20

Congratulations to **Show Chair Maria Jacobs**, **Design Chair Nancy Cuttic**, **Horticulture Chair Sharon Richardson**, and **Botanical Arts Chair Pam Walsh** for their outstanding work in making the show, *Celebrating a Nation of Artists*, a success. Sincere appreciation goes to the many club committee members who contributed their time, including **Alex Dulchinos**, **Wendy Fox**, **Barbara White**, **Chris Tarlecki**, **Becky Zeeger**, **Carrie Schreffler**, **Valerie Burgess**, **Carol McConnell**, **Kathy Ewell**, and **Marily Small**. Many other members also helped to make the show a success by submitting entries and sharing their creativity and talents.

Some of our club's Blue Ribbon and Specialty Ribbon Winners in **Design** were:

Valerie Burgess - Blue Ribbon, The Table Artistry Award, AND The Award of Design Excellence for her Keith Haring-inspired exhibition table.

Alex Dulchinos - Blue Ribbon AND The Designer's Choice Award for his Alexander Calder-inspired spatial design.

Maria Jacobs - Blue Ribbon AND The Artistic Crafts Award for her Tina Turner-inspired bustier.

Terry Miller - Blue Ribbon for her Andrew Wyeth-inspired tray for one.

Carrie Schreffler - Blue Ribbon AND The Tri-Color Award for her Dale Chihuly-inspired creative transparency design.

Pam Walsh - Blue Ribbon for her Winslow Homer-inspired underwater design.

Becky Zeeger - Blue Ribbon for her Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired earrings.

Horticulture:

Terry Miller - Award of Merit for a Blue-Ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above AND the Award of Horticultural Excellence for the highest-scoring exhibit in the Horticulture Division.

Sharon Richardson - Award of Merit for a Blue-Ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above.

Look for photos and more horticulture winners in the District I newsletter October 15 issue.

Uwchlan Garden Club Members Completing NGC Schools

Flower Show School - Flower Show Judge

Valerie Burgess	Terry Miller
Nancy Cuttic	Sharon Richardson
Wendy Fox	Pam Walsh
Carrie Schreffler - Student Judge	
Chris Tarlecki - Student Judge	

Gardening School

Sharon Richardson	Mary Jo Schlomann
Carrie Schreffler	

Environmental School

Sharon Richardson	Carrie Schreffler
-------------------	-------------------

Landscape Design School

Sharon Richardson	Carrie Schreffler
Mary Jo Schlomann	Darlene Snyder

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.

Uwchlan Garden Club's Four-Star Member

Sharon Richardson



Before You “Clean Up” the Garden, Think About Who Lives There

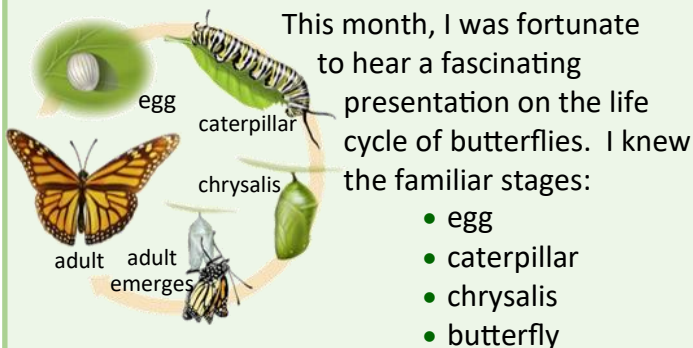
Sharon Richardson

As our days grow shorter and fall begins to settle in, we gardeners naturally start thinking about putting our gardens to bed. But before you reach for the pruners and rake, consider this: **your garden may already be someone else’s winter home.**

Many of our pollinators and other beneficial insects spend the winter right where they have lived all summer:

- dried plant stems
- grasses
- seed heads
- fallen leaves

We have learned to leave flower seed heads standing to provide food for overwintering birds. Perhaps it is time to think about what we can leave for our butterflies and other insects too.



but I discovered there is much more to creating a butterfly-friendly garden than simply choosing flowers for our “garden buffet.”

Adult butterflies generally have relatively short lives, and in that time they must reproduce while avoiding an astonishing number of predators. Only a small percentage survive from egg to adulthood. Consider Doug Tallamy’s reminder that a single brood of chickadees requires thousands of caterpillars. Suddenly, every caterpillar that becomes a butterfly seems like a small miracle!



Have you ever noticed a butterfly tapping a leaf or flower with its feet? It is actually **tasting** it. Butterflies have taste receptors on their feet that help females determine whether a

plant is suitable for laying eggs and help them identify food sources.

And those eggs may be all around us without our ever noticing them.

- Skippers lay eggs on grasses
- Sulphurs use plants in the legume family
- Other butterflies leave tiny eggs on their host plants.

Fallen leaves and plant debris also provide important winter habitat for countless insects in various stages of their life cycles.



Many insects survive winter through **diapause**, a period when growth and development temporarily stop.

Depending upon the species, an insect may overwinter as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis or adult. What looks to us like a dead stem, pile of leaves or untidy corner of the garden may actually be sheltering next year’s butterflies and beneficial insects.

Our speaker brought examples of butterfly eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalises for us to examine. I was so enthralled that I ordered two [insect-and-butterfly habitat cages](#). My grandson and I are going hunting this month to see what we can find, raise and eventually release. I can hardly wait!



So this fall, perhaps we should redefine what it means to “put the garden to bed.” **Instead of cleaning everything away, let’s tuck some of its smallest residents in for the winter.**

More butterfly chrysalis info [here](#).

Swallowtail chrysalis info [here](#).

EVER HEAR OF "Devil's Tooth" fungus?



(*Hydnellum peckii*) is a strange mushroom known for oozing bright red, blood-like droplets when it is young.

The "Bleeding" Effect: Young, moist caps ooze a sticky red liquid through tiny pores.

Guttation: This red liquid is caused by a process called guttation, where high water pressure in the soil forces excess fluid out through the mushroom. The red color comes from natural pigments mixing with the water.

Teeth: Instead of gills underneath, it has tiny, tooth-like spines that release spores.

Aging: As it gets older, the mushroom stops bleeding, loses its velvety feel, and turns a plain brown color.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - 9:00AM-4:00PM



A selection of native perennials, shrubs, and edibles perfect for fall planting, along with a variety of house plants to keep you happy indoors.



East Bradford Twp. Building- 676 Copeland School Rd. West Chester, PA



Penn State Extension
Master Gardeners of
Chester County



Master
Gardeners
PennState Extension

Penn State Extension
Master Gardeners



HUMMINGBIRDS HEADING SOUTH!

FALL MIGRATION

NOW - SEP 13TH

SEP 13TH - SEP 20TH

SEP 20TH - SEP 27TH

SEP 27TH - OCT 4TH

OCT 4TH - OCT 11TH

@MATTHEVITTWEATHER

CREDIT: MSU EXTENSION

THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

March 13 - 21, 2027

Pennsylvania Convention Center

Online Exhibitor's Guide [HERE](#)

Workshops Starting
Saturday, September 19

Volunteer Information [HERE](#)



Upcoming 2026 UGC Meetings, Programs, and Events

Thursday, September 24, 11 a.m.

Greg Tepper, from Laurel Hill Cemetery
Horticulturalist, arborist, and designer

Thursday, October 22, 11 a.m.

Maria Jacobs, a PHS award-winning jewelry artist
Demonstration of the art of designing and
creating botanical arts jewelry

Thursday, November 19, 11 a.m.

Jenny Rose Carey, author, gardener, educator
Presentation of the story of Gertrude Jekyll and
the preservation of Munstead Wood, her
legendary 15-acre home and garden in Surrey,
England, created with architect Edwin Lutyens

December 5, Christmas Fair

December 10, Holiday Luncheon

Ludwig's Grill & Oyster Bar



GCFP and District I Meetings

District I Fall Meeting and Design Challenge

Wednesday, November 11, 9:30 a.m.

Uwchlan Meetinghouse

District I February Meeting on Zoom

Date TBD

GCFP 2027 Convention

April 19-21, 2027

Celebrating Pennsylvania "Ready, Set, Bloom"

Double Tree Resort by Hilton, Lancaster

District I Presidents' Luncheon and Meeting

June TBD

NGC FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Course 4: October 26-28, Gettysburg, PA

*"The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now."*

~ Chinese Proverb

Our Affiliations



National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)
President: Donna Donnelly
www.gardenclub.org



Central Atlantic Region of State
Garden Clubs (CAR-SGC)
Director: Beverly Kazickas
www.car-sgc.org



Garden Club Federation of PA (GCFP)
President: Patricia Wolanski
www.pagardenclubs.org



GCFP District I
Director: Ellen Barron
Radley Run Garden and Social Club

Meetinghouse Moments UGC Website & Facebook

Meetinghouse Moments Editor - Marilyn Small
mmsmall@comcast.net 717-261-6399

Proofreader - Terry Miller

Published Tri-Annually:

January 15, May 15, September 15

Deadlines:

January 1, May 1, September 1

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

Facebook - Uwchlan Garden Club

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