



Upcoming Events

NGC General Meeting
January 11, 2023
Fairview Village Church
Eagleville, PA

Horticultural Therapy
January 19, 2023
Providence Place
Collegeville, PA

NGC General Meeting
February 8, 2023
Fairview Village Church
Eagleville, PA

Horticulture Workshop
February 15, 2023
Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell

Horticultural Therapy
February 16, 2023
Markley Rehab and Health
Care Center
Norristown, PA

NGC General Meeting
March 8, 2023
Fairview Village Church
Eagleville, PA

Horticulture Workshop
March 15, 2023
Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell

Garden Clippings



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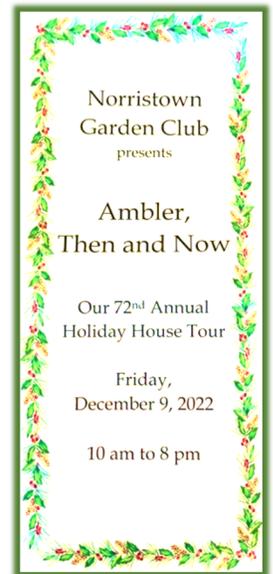
72nd Annual Holiday House Tour: Ambler, Then and Now

It brings great pleasure to say that the Norristown Garden Club's (NGC) 72nd Annual Holiday House Tour was "back to normal" and that it was a "sell out" event once again! We thank everyone who participated in this, the club's most important and biggest fund raising event! We greatly appreciate all the effort that went into making the creative floral holiday decorations, ensuring the smooth running of the tour's infrastructure, solving decorative and design problems as they arose, and for serving as hostesses and hosts.

Your magnificent, creative floral designs and clever new "outside the box" ideas were received with many "Oohs" and "Ahhs" from our area judges, visiting area club members, our own club members, area newspapers, and new and returning patrons. It goes without saying that the talent exhibited by all participating club members was stupendous!

We also would like to thank this year's participating Ambler, PA, home owners and the Trinity Episcopal Church Rectory Office for graciously allowing the NGC to showcase their homes and for opening their homes to the public during the NGC's 72nd Annual Christmas Holiday House Tour. Without them, and those who have participated in the past, this community-focused event would not be possible.

Selected pictures of the many beautiful decorations included in the tour are presented below in random order. All pictures are courtesy of NGC's photographer Ellen Raieta, Honey Bawduniak, and Barbara Andon. We hope you enjoy viewing them and that they inspire you to participate in next year's holiday house!



72nd Annual Holiday House Chairs,

Caren Puschak and Barbara Stoebenau

Upcoming Events, Continued

Horticultural Therapy
March 16, 2023
Abington Adult Day Care
Lansdale, PA

Flower Design Workshop
March 22, 2023
Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell



*Neither wind nor rain will keep
Portia Pots from working on Holiday
House! Photo by B. Andon.*





Garden Poem

The Tryst

Potato was deep in the dark underground,
Tomato, above in the light.
The little Tomato was ruddy and round,
The little Potato was white.

And redder and redder she rounded
above,
And paler and paler he grew,
And neither suspected a mutual love
Till they met in a Brunswick stew.
....John Bannister Tabb



Photo from Freepik.



E. Raita in kitchen of the Richard Wall House.



NGC General Meeting

October 12, 2022



Members who attended the October meeting at the Fairview Village Church were dazzled by the many types of beautiful dahlia blossoms presented by the guest speaker, Dana Miller. Dana is a well-known dahlia grower, a past president of the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society, and has won many blue ribbons for his outstanding

blossoms. As part of his presentation, Dana brought with him examples of blossoms of many of the 22 forms of dahlias. He spoke about each form and also presented information on each in slides. Dana then discussed the best sources for purchasing dahlias (e.g., Swan Island Dahlias), the best source for finding dahlia varieties (i.e., dahliaaddict.com), and how to best plant, grow, and store dahlias. Following his presentation, the beautiful dahlia blossoms were raffled off to the members attending the meeting.



Many members have had the opportunity to visit Dana's (and his wife Cindy's) dahlia farm in Sellersville, PA. We thank Dana for his willingness to share his knowledge and love of dahlias with us. And we look forward to visiting his gardens again in the future!

Horticulture Workshop

October 19, 2022

On October 19, members attending the Horticulture Workshop toured the Richard Wall House in Elkins Park. Richard Wall was a founder of Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania. He arrived with William Penn's group of Quakers in 1682 and purchased land directly from William Penn. He and fourteen others pooled their land purchases to create the Cheltenham Township. (Information sourced from Wikipedia.). The museum was opened in 1994 with a collection of period



rooms decorated with appropriate antiques and has since focused on the rich history of Cheltenham Township. The museum features four floors of exhibits in the house, a springhouse, a smoke house and a carriage house, also features an extensive herb garden planted with the same varieties as those used by early American households. Photos by J. Klotz and from Richard Wall House website.



Garden Quote

To be interested in the changing seasons is...a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring.

....George Santayana



Photo from Dreamstime.



NGC members enjoying the fall luncheon. Photos by B. Andon.

Horticultural Therapy

October 20, 2022

NGC members brought some sunshine to the residents of the Markley Rehab and Health Care Center by making festive fall centerpieces for the residents to enjoy. Thank you ladies for doing such a great community service!

Flower Design Workshop

October 26, 2022

It was a special treat to have NGC members, Susan Irwin and Cherie Nobil, conduct the flower design workshop in October. Susan, who was assisted by Cherie, taught members how to prepare a fall arrangement in the Asian manner. Members enjoyed the class and appreciated the personal instruction they received by both instructors. Thank you Susan and Cherie for teaching the class, and we look forward to your teaching additional classes in the future!



NGC General Meeting and Luncheon

November 9, 2022

Once again, NGC members gathered at the Cedarbrook Country Club, for the annual fall luncheon. At the luncheon, Tim Farrell, American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), American Academy of Floriculture (AAF), Professional Floral Communicators International (PFCI), demonstrated the assembly of several unique and imaginative floral designs for use during the holiday season. Tim was very entertaining, and members were dazzled to see the innovative techniques he used to prepare his designs. At the end of his presentation, the designs were raffled off, and several lucky members went home with some spectacular designs.





Table centerpiece by B. Leiby and R. Conley.



One of the beautiful pictures donated by J. Phalan for the flower design workshop. Photo by B. Andon.



B. Leiby demonstrates manipulating chicken wire for use as an armature (above) while workshop attendees prepared their flower designs (below).



In addition to Tim's wonderful designs, Barbara Leiby and Rita Conley prepared lovely table centerpieces for members to enjoy while lunching. Thanks to Tim, Barbara, and Rita for filling our meeting room with such beauty and creativity!



One of Tim's many lovely festive holiday designs.

Horticultural Workshop

November 17, 2022

To all those who assisted with the horticultural therapy workshop at the Abington Adult Day Care, Sandy Davis and Dottie McDermott say, "Thank you." Your participation in this event is very much appreciated by us and the members of the adult day care community!



Flower Design Workshop

November 30, 2022



At the November workshop, members had the opportunity to gain more experience in making flower designs using an armature versus oasis. Barbara Leiby, workshop chair, demonstrated how chicken wire, which can be manipulated into a ball and placed into a vase, can be used to support flower stems and greens. Members created a lovely festive holiday arrangement using evergreens, red and white carnations, and curly willow. Jean Phalan

donated a variety of beautiful white vases that were used to hold the arrangements. Thank you Jean! And thank you Barbara for another wonderful workshop! Photos by B. Andon and B. Stoebenau.





Marge Eberz working on butterfly garden at the Fairview Village Church.

Kudos to You

- Eleanor Way for your 50-year Anniversary as a member of the NGC.
- Karen Nemeth, chair, and Debbie Mazur, co-chair, for winning the first place award your Flower Show Schedule "Make Mine Music" for a large club from the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs (CAR-SGC).



Thanks to Debra Cascaden and Debbie Mazur for making holiday wreaths for the doors of the Historical Society. Photo by D. Cascaden.

Horticulture Tips from Marge

January, February, and March

January-February

- **Indoor Plants: Give your plants some attention**

- Wipe leaves with a clean cloth to remove any holiday dust and glitter.
- Keep the soil moist but not soggy; soils tend to dry out more quickly during the winter months.
- Snip away dead or discolored leaves.
- Inspect leaves and stems for signs of insects, such as mealybugs and/or scale.
- Isolate and treat plants that appear to be infected or discard the plants.

- **Caring for holiday flowering plants after blooming**

- Place poinsettias in bright light and keep the soil moist. Discard plants that lose their leaves or show signs of insects or disease.
- Pinch off spent blooms from the Christmas cactus and keep this plant in filtered light. It can be damaged by placing it in full sun. Do not over water at this time.
- Cyclamen tubers should continue to bloom during the winter months. Avoid wetting the leaves and stems. Drain away excess water to prevent tuber rot. Pluck faded flowers and leaves from the plant. New leaves and blooms may appear during the blooming cycle. Fertilize every other month.
- Remove the floral stalk from your amaryllis after the flowers have faded. Continue to water and fertilize the bulbs during the winter.
- Paperwhite Narcissus bulbs can be discarded after blooming. They are not likely to rebloom.

- **Deicing**

- Salt deicers are a necessary evil at this time of year. They take their toll on trees and shrubs when ice melts into the ground. You can lessen salt damage by using sand instead of salt.
- Calcium chloride is less harmful to trees and shrubs than rock salt. Salt buildup in the soil can become toxic, leading to twig dieback, leaf or needle burn, reduced growth, and ultimately the death of the tree or shrub.
- Maple, spruce, pine and ash are especially susceptible to salt in the soil. To help these trees in areas where there has been salting, wait until temperatures are above freezing for three or more days and then water around the trees with a sugar mixture of one ounce of sugar to ½ liter of water.

Garden Club

The Norristown Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.; Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.; and a Charter Member of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP), District XI. NGC is the largest federated garden club in the state of Pennsylvania.

Club Membership

Do you know someone who would like to join the NGC? If you do, please consider inviting them to a meeting as your guest, being their sponsor, or referring them to the club's website at www.norristowngardenclub.org for more information. Contact the club's New Member Chairperson, Ginger Hunsicker, by email at ginger3131@verizon.net for further details if you are a member or if you are not a member but are interested in joining.

Newsletter Contributions

If you would like to contribute news, photographs, or helpful hints for possible inclusion in the quarterly NGC *Garden Clippings* Newsletter, please contact the editor, Barbara Andon, via email at barbaraandon@verizon.net.

- For flower beds near a road choose these salt-tolerant plants: coreopsis, yarrow, candytuft, butterfly weed coral bells, sedum, asters, and obedient plant.

- **Wildlife Control**

- Remove debris and weeds from around your plants to reduce the number of hiding places for mice and shrews.
- If the warm weather of December brought on an early emergence of daylilies, you can protect them from being eaten by deer by spreading a cedar mulch over them. Deer do not like the smell of cedar. If you had a live Christmas tree, cut the branches off the main stem and spread them over the emerging daylilies.

MARCH

- Start getting ready for Spring by washing pots and trays with soapy water. Be sure to add some bleach to the water to help kill fungus and diseases.
- Check your gardening tools. Clean and sharpen pruners.
- Start a gardening journal to keep track of your plants that do and do not grow well. This will provide information regarding where and what plants are needed in the future. Add photos of your garden throughout the year.
- As you walk around the yard, remove matted-down leaves from emerging bulbs.
- Trim off last year's growth from ornamental grasses and ferns.
- Do not prune butterfly bushes or Caryopteris until new growth starts.
- Check for winter injury on plants by identifying any discolored evergreen needles or leaves, dead branches, and heaved root systems. When new growth begins at these locations in the spring, prune all dead branches and twigs back to within an inch above a live bud. Apply fertilizer to the soil around winter-damaged plants and water them deeply.
- Order seeds from a nursery or buy them in stores while they are still available. Do not start seeds too early indoors or they will get spindly. Herbs usually do well on a sunny window.