



## Upcoming Events

Holiday House Kick-Off Meeting  
August 18, 2023  
Community Center of Central  
Schwenkfelder Church  
Worcester, PA

District XI Meeting and  
Luncheon  
September 12, 2023  
Cedarbrook Country Club  
Blue Bell, PA

NGC General Meeting  
September 13, 2023  
Fairview Village Church  
Eagleville, PA

NGC Flower Show  
September 16, 2023  
Christ United Methodist  
Church  
Lansdale, PA

Horticulture Workshop  
September 20, 2023  
PSU Extension facility  
Collegeville, PA

Flower Design Workshop  
September 27, 2023  
Wissahickon Valley Public  
Library, Blue Bell, PA

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

# Garden Clippings

Norristown Garden Club Newsletter



July 2023 – Volume 44, No. 3

## A Message from our President

The Norristown Garden Club (NGC) has been busy this past spring. I thank Anita for all her hard work over the last two years! As the incoming President, I have come to realize what a large club we have with many participants and activities that make this Club really hum with ideas! I would like to thank Diane Pratt and her committee for organizing the Spring Luncheon, and Cherie Nobil and Barb Leiby, two of our in-house Floral Designers, for their Flower-Show-Entry tutorial at our May meeting.

NGC was thrilled to have so many applicants for our annual Scholarships program; the awards were presented at the June meeting to nine deserving college students. Congratulations go to Beth Bynon, who won both the Horticulture and Design Jefferson Cups. Thanks also to NGC Chairs Honey Bawduniak and Beth Bynon who ran the Norristown Borough Garden Contest and to the thirty club members who judged the forty-two gardens. Prizes will be awarded at the September meeting.

Thank you to all the Chairpersons, committee members, and participants for last quarter's activities that included the Flower Design and Horticulture Workshops, outreach programs in Horticultural Therapy, a Youth Floral Design Workshop at an Elementary School, and Gardens on the Go!

It takes all of us to make the NGC programs and activities interesting and educational. I encourage you to look at the new Yearbook (coming in August) on pages 8-13 to see if there are committees and activities that you might be interested in! The rest of the yearbook is also worth reading! You will be amazed at the variety of programs that our club offers and the knowledge our members have to share.

Currently, teams are busy working on the Yearbook, the 2023 Fall Flower Show, Youth Floral Design, the Floral Design and Horticulture Workshops, and the Fall Luncheon, just to name a few of the activities. And, of course, there is the 2023 Holiday House Tour. Signups for the various workshops and committees will be available at the September meeting.

I look forward to working with you all and seeing you at our General Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> to 'kick-off' our 2023-2024 NGC Year!

*Caren Puschak, President*

## Upcoming Events, Continued

Horticulture Workshop  
October 18, 2023  
Temple Arboretum  
Ambler, PA

Horticultural Therapy  
October 19, 2023  
Markley Rehab and Health  
Care Center  
Norristown, PA

Flower Design Workshop  
October 25, 2023  
Wissahickon Valley Public  
Library, Blue Bell, PA

NGC General Meeting and Fall  
Luncheon  
November 8, 2023  
Cedarbrook Country Club  
Blue Bell, PA

Horticulture Workshop  
November 15, 2023  
Wissahickon Valley Public  
Library, Blue Bell, PA

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

Wreath-Making for Historical  
Society  
November 25, 2023  
Norristown, PA

Flower Design Workshop  
November 29, 2023  
Wissahickon Valley Public  
Library, Blue Bell, PA

Holiday House Tour  
December 8, 2023  
Multiple Locations  
Plymouth Meeting and  
Lafayette Hill, PA

## NGC General Meeting

April 12, 2023



In April, members enjoyed a pleasant afternoon attending the Annual Spring Luncheon at the Cedarbrook Country Club. Following lunch, attendees were dazzled by the designs presented by Melissa Palmer, the guest speaker/designer at the meeting. Melissa attended the Boerma Institute in the Netherlands in Dutch Master Design. She is also an instructor at Longwood Gardens teaching Floral Fun Classes, is a frequent lecturer/speaker for PHS and the Philadelphia Flower Show, and owns her own businesses, Florum Flowers and Petaling Posies.

Melissa prepared several arrangements in the traditional Dutch manner.



Think of a Dutch still-life painting with all those beautiful peonies, tulips, and fruit and you will envision some of the designs Melissa prepared. They were lovely to behold and watch her make. Many attendees were fortunate raffle winners and were able to take home one of her designs!



Thank you Melissa for making our luncheon so beautiful and entertaining!

Also at the meeting, Anita reminded members that it was the NGC's 110<sup>th</sup>



Anniversary! Thank you to all the many members over the many years who helped make the NGC the wonderful club it is today! A special thank you goes to those who made the birthday cake floral arrangement to help celebrate the club's B-day!



As you all know, April is the month when we formally welcome all our new members into the club, and this April was no exception! We are pleased to have so many new members, and we wish them lots of fun and success! The following new members attended the April luncheon: Mary Alderfer, Nena Colletti, Paula D'Orazio, Suzanne Finger, Sue Goldberg, Dolores Joyce, Gloria Lopez, Michelle Mustin, Jayne Price, Lynda Smith, Brian Threlfall, Nancy Threlfall, and Linda Trefz. Missing were Dianne Brumble, Lori Costanza, Frani Morrione, Kathy Orner, and Suzanne Pearson. Welcome ladies and gentleman! All meeting photos by B. Andon.



Photo of new NGC members that attended the April luncheon.

## Horticulture Workshop

April 19, 2023

Horticulture Workshop attendees received a wonderful presentation by Kathy Salisbury, the director of the Temple University Ambler Arboretum and adjunct professor. Kathy spoke about the damage that occurred following the tornado that hit the arboretum in 2021. Over 520 trees were lost. The loss of this much vegetation and its associated water absorption issues has impacted rainwater management at the arboretum. Without all those trees, the arboretum now has a problem with flooding! Kathy also discussed the rationale for selecting trees to replace and repopulate the arboretum and how expected future climate change has impacted the selection process.

One portion of the Arboretum, however, has been left to recover on its own. This section is an old growth forest which is located behind the smaller parking area and has been part of a Smithsonian research project on old growth forests. The researchers elected not to repair this portion of the Arboretum so that the area's natural recovery is being studied and measured by Temple University and the Smithsonian! Following the lecture, Kathy accepted a check for \$200 from the NGC to support the planting of trees at the Arboretum. Thank you Kathy for a very interesting and informative lecture and for all the good work at the Ambler Arboretum! Photo by B. Bynon.



NGC members beautify the Blue Star Memorial in May.



Pam Liu with her log arrangement.



Sue Harbaugh's lovely parallel floral design using the test tube log as a vase and members having fun at the workshop (below).



## Horticultural Therapy

April 20, 2023

In April, NGC members brightened the day of the residents of Providence Place at the Colleeville Inn by making floral arrangements for the residents to enjoy. Thank you ladies for doing such a great community service!

## Flower Design Workshop

April 26, 2023

At the April Flower Design Workshop, attendees "Sprang into Spring" by making a parallel floral design using a log that contained three drilled holes each of which was fitted with a test tube to hold flowers. The log "vases" were hand-made by Barbara Andon and her husband, Thomas Skopek. Attendees made some beautiful spring arrangements as pictured. At the end of the workshop, some of the attendees lined up to say a special "Thank You" to Tom for taking the time to help make their April workshop so successful! All photos by B. Andon.



## Garden Quote

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

....James Dent, in The Charleston Gazette, as quoted in The Reader's Digest, 1994....



Photo by iStock.



Pictures of Show of the Month entries at the May meeting.



## Lowe's and NGC Collaborate at the Variety Club

May 3, 2023

The NGC would like to thank Lowe's Home Improvement Store in Hatfield for its generous contribution of annuals, perennials, and planting supplies that were used to beautify the front entrance and outside of the Recreation Hall of the Variety Club Camp in Worcester. Lowes donated the supplies in an effort to support community-based projects in the Norristown area. Barbara Andon and Cheryl Brumbaugh, the project coordinators, would also like to thank all those who turned out on a "not so nice day" to help with the plantings (including Cheryl's husband Mike)! Photos by B. Andon.



Some of the NGC members that helped with the planting at the Variety Club.

## NGC General Meeting

May 10, 2023

The May General Meeting was held at the Fairview Village Church in Eagleville. A special thank you goes to Barbara Leiby and Cherie Nobil who prepared a last minute presentation when the scheduled presenter cancelled due to illness. Barbara and Cherie instructed members on the construction of various designs that will be featured as design classes in the upcoming NGC Flower Show on September 16. Two of the design classes, along with some general hints, that they discussed are presented below. Meeting photos are by B. Andon and Diane Powell.



**Underwater Design** – Barbara demonstrated how a Gerbera daisy can be adhered to the side of a glass cylinder using magnets. She shared the trick of using a ladle when adding water to the container of an underwater design so that the design is not disturbed and recommended using (de-gassed) distilled water to avoid unsightly bubbles in the container. She also reminded members that water magnifies a design, so be sure that the water line does not detract from the presentation of the design.

**Reflective Design:** Cherie and Barbara explained that a reflective design contains reflective materials that give back or reflect light back to the viewer and that it does not mean using a reflective container. Materials typically used in a reflective design include reflective foliage or flowers (e.g., anthurium), wire, and/or shiny materials that reflect light. Mirrors and submersible lights should not be used nor should plant material be treated with any chemical substance to make it shiny in order to reflect light.



*Photo from FreeArt.*

## Garden Poem

My Mother kept a garden.  
A garden of the heart;  
She planted all the good things,  
That gave my life its start.

She turned me to the sunshine,  
And encouraged me to dream:  
Fostering and nurturing  
The seeds of self-esteem.

And when the winds and rains  
came,  
She protected me enough;  
But not too much, she knew I'd  
need  
To stand up strong and tough.

Her constant good example,  
Always taught me right from  
wrong;  
Markers for my pathway  
To last my whole life long.

I am my Mother's garden,  
I am her legacy.  
And I hope today she feels the  
love,  
Reflected back from me.

.....Author unknown

**Background Color:** The color of a background display panel can greatly influence a design. It is helpful to try several colors behind a design to see which color complements it the best and makes it POP!

**Hint:** Take pictures of your design and study them to identify how the design can be improved. And most importantly, "Practice Makes Perfect", so practice, practice, practice!

Lastly, the May Show of the Month was entitled "Celebrate Spring". This show was exceptional not only for the quality of the designs but also for the number of entries. There were 19 entries for Horticulture and eight for Design. It was an amazing display! A special thank you goes to all those who entered and to Diane Powell for doing such a tremendous job in encouraging members to participate in the Show of the Month.

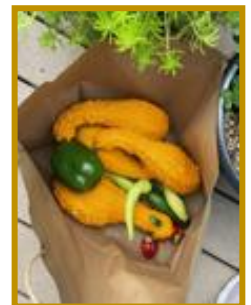


*Several of the design entries from the May Show of the Month.*

## Horticulture Workshop

**May 17, 2023**

The guest speaker at the May Horticulture Workshop was long-time Master Gardener, Leslie Bass. She spoke about growing vegetables in containers. There were ten members in attendance, and there were a lot of questions from the group that made for a lively discussion. Leslie showed slides of veggies being grown in containers and provided some very good informative handouts on vegetable growing in pots. Jane Irvin-Klotz, the workshop chair, noted that as we gardeners "downsize", it is very helpful to learn more about gardening in containers. Because of the workshop, Jane, herself, was inspired to grow more veggies in containers and grew crooked neck squash and other vegetables that she donated to others. Thank you Leslie and Jane for keeping the "gardening spirit" alive in us as some of us downsize our gardens!





All Plant Exchange photos by B. Andon.



Scholarship winners present at the June meeting.

NGC and Novelli Scholarship Fund Winners:

- Calvin Keeyes
- Tara Spears
- Francis Napoli
- Isabelle Rocca
- Colin Walsh
- Daniel Fried-Peterson
- Dana Joy Needleman
- Alicia D. Applegate
- Nicole Willoughby

## Plant Exchange and Covered Dish Social

May 18, 2023

Once again, the Chairs of the Plant Exchange and Covered Dish Social, Marge Eberz and Sandy Davis, did an excellent job of arranging this year's event. It is one of the club's most popular affairs, and this year's gathering was no exception. The turnout was tremendous, and everyone brought such beautiful and interesting plants to exchange and food to eat. Arlene Reagan-Harris, the event's hostess, was a very gracious hostess indeed, and her home and gardens made for a wonderful setting for all to enjoy. We all thank the Chairs, and our hostess, Arlene, and her husband, Ralph, for such a great social event!



## NGC General Meeting

June 14, 2023

One of the nicest things about the June meeting is the awarding of scholarships to deserving young students of horticulture and associated fields. Jessica Milleo, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, presented the awards to this year's scholarship winners in attendance at the meeting. She and her committee—Bob Butera, Portia Potts, Pat McDonnell, and Beth Chiatti—are congratulated for performing such an important and difficult task and for doing such a wonderful job! The NGC wishes all awardees the best of success in the future and looks forward to one day seeing them return to the NGC as members! The scholarship winners who were able to attend are shown at left. All photos by B. Andon.

Congratulations to Beth Bynon for winning the Jefferson Cup for BOTH design and horticulture this year! The Jefferson Cup is awarded to the highest point scorer in horticulture or design based upon the point scores received for each entry made in the Club's Show of the Month. Beth certainly had a marvelous year by accumulating the highest number of points in both categories! Keep up the good work and the excellent designs, and we look forward to seeing many more of them in the future!





*Ginger Hunsicker presents outgoing NGC president Anita Lehman with gift.*



*Pictures above are of Mary's home and garden in Elverson, PA.*

June is also the time of year when the club installs its new Board of Directors. As District XI Director, Honey Bawduniak had the honor of introducing the new Board as follows: Caren Puschak, President (not present); Ginger Hunsicker, First Vice President; Diane Pratt, Second Vice President; Carol Goldberg, Recording Secretary (not present); Elaine Watters, Treasurer; Rosemarie Hardy, Financial Secretary; and Arlene Reagan-Harris, Recording Secretary. Congratulations ladies, and best wishes for a wonderful two-year term! Following the installation, a fond farewell was wished to our outgoing President, Anita Lehman. She was awarded a gift that was presented to her by Ginger Hunsicker. Thank you Anita for doing such a good job over the last two years! Photos by B. Andon.



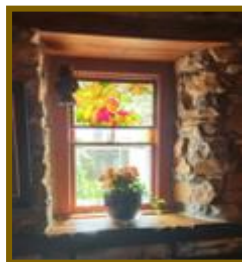
*Pictured from left to right are Elaine Watters, Rosemarie Hardy, Arlene Reagan-Harris, Diane Pratt, Honey Bawduniak, Ginger Hunsicker, and Anita Lehman.*

## Gardens on the Go

June 15, 2023

In June, members were "on the go" to Elverson, PA, to visit two historic homes and their wonderful gardens! We were able to tour the inside of the homes as well as the outside gardens of these two amazing locations. At the first home, the owner, Mary, shared the history associated with the building and noted that the house was once the town post office! For the second home, our hostess, Janice, shared her experiences in restoring the home and gardens since she purchased the home many years ago. In addition to touring their gardens, the Elverson Garden Club provided a marvelous lunch that members were able to enjoy in Janice's garden. Following lunch, Janice enchanted members by playing a saw. It was truly entertaining to hear the sounds of the saw and listen to the tunes she played.

This wonderful "Gardens on the Go" was organized by Jill Evans and Beth Bynon. We thank them both very much for such an entertaining tour and look forward to many more in the future! All photos are by B. Andon and B. Bynon.



*Photos of Janice's home in Elverson, PA.*

# Norristown Garden Contest, Judging

June 28, 2023

Photos of Janice's gardens in Elverson, PA, are provided below.



Janice is pictured playing the saw!



Elverson home owners Mary and Janice, members of the Elverson Garden Club, and Jill Evans and Beth Bynon, the "Gardens on the Go" chairs, pose for a group photo.

This was another great year for the Norristown Garden Contest! The turnout for the number of entries and judges was awesome. Homeowners entered 42 gardens into the contest, and there were 30 NGC members who volunteered to judge them! The event is always a good way to learn more about Norristown, meet garden club members, and have lots of fun. This year, NGC will be awarding almost \$1500 in prize money to contest winners at the September meeting! Honey Bawduniak and Beth Bynon, the contest chairs, could not be happier with the level of support they received from both the community and NGC members. A special thanks goes to Lowe's Home Improvement Store who donated to each contestant a Lowe's bucket filled with goodies that included a pair of gloves, a packet of seeds, micro-fiber cloth wipes, and a Caladium tuber! George Miers of Norristown is pictured with Beth as he receives his Lowe's bucket filled with goodies! Barbara Andon, who coordinated the donation from Lowe's, Beth and Honey appreciate Lowe's generosity and its commitment to support the NGC and Norristown-based community activities! Photos by B. Bynon and other members.





## 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. To learn more, visit the Club's website at [www.norristowngardenclub.org](http://www.norristowngardenclub.org) or visit the Club's Facebook Page.

## 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](http://www.norristowngardenclub.org) for more information. Contact the club's New Member Chairperson, Ginger Hunsicker, by email at [ginger3131@verizon.net](mailto:ginger3131@verizon.net) for further details.

## 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](mailto:barbaraandon@verizon.net).

## Horticulture Tips from Marge

For this edition of the *Garden Clippings*, Marge was asked to submit the prayer she read at the April luncheon. It was a favorite of Marge's mother, and it became an instant favorite of luncheon attendees as well. Thank you, Marge, for sharing your Mother's beloved poem!



### GARDENER'S PRAYER

Thank you for this beauty, Lord, for sun and rain and seed.  
Thank you for this pastime, Lord, that fills my own soul's need.

Thank you for the pleasure, Lord,  
that Your Creation brings to me. And may my garden efforts  
a tribute be to Thee.

Who could deny Your existence, Lord? I see the endlessness of your love,  
when I look upon my garden warmed by the sun above.

In all this glorious splendor,  
in every tint and hue, in each leaf and budding blossom,  
I see a little bit of You.

I think how much more You must love me, if you loved the earth so much,  
that you clothed her in this beauty with just a gentle touch.

The vastness of your Creation makes  
me feel honored to be a part of the continuity of this life and  
keeps a Hope within my heart.

I ask for Your Blessing, Lord, upon this little plot of land.  
May it grow more beautiful sheltered by Your Hand.

Thank you for the pleasure, Lord,  
that Your Creation brings to me...and may my garden efforts  
a tribute be to thee.

...Author unknown