



Recent and Upcoming Events

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

Horticulture Workshop
Held on October 18, 2023
Temple Arboretum
Ambler, PA

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

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

Horticulture Workshop
November 1, 2023
Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell, PA

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

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

Garden Clippings

Norristown Garden Club Newsletter



October 2023 – Volume 44, No. 4

NGC Standard Flower Show

September 16, 2023

Christ United Methodist Church

It was a beautiful early fall day and perfect for attending the club's annual flower show entitled *Picnics and Tailgates*. The show's theme this year was all about food, fun, and those wonderful activities associated with summer picnics and tailgating parties. The show's schedule was full of clever titles for the Design Section and Class that were all about picnics and being outdoors. It was fun to browse through the schedule and to think about creative ways to interpret those clever titles with beautiful flower designs. The show displayed many exceptional designs ranging from picnic settings with teddy bears to underwater designs representing a picnic by the lake. The horticulture exhibits were extensive and impressive, while the vegetable specimens left many wanting to grow a garden of their own! In total, there were approximately 395 entries that were submitted by 71 members, 13 guests, and 7 youths across all the divisions and classes. In addition, more than 210 people stopped by the church to view the show. Quite an impressive turnout in both areas!



The show's Chair, Arlene Reagan-Harris, and Vice Chair, Ginger Hunsicker, would like to thank all those who helped in the show's preparation and/or who submitted an entry. And the NGC thanks both of them for their willingness and hard work in making the show happen and in making it so successful!



Entries for the novice class demonstrating a parallel design. All flower show photos by B. Andon.

Upcoming Events, Continued

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

Holiday Workshop
December 13, 2023
Markley Rehab and Health Care Center
Norristown, PA

NGC General Meeting
January 10, 2024
Fairview Village Church
Eagleville, PA

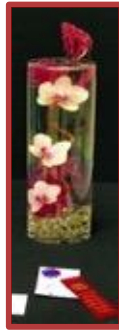
Horticulture Workshop
January 17, 2024
Wissahickon Valley Public Library, Blue Bell, PA

Horticultural Therapy
January 18, 2024
Providence Place
Collegeville, PA

NGC General Meeting
February 14, 2024
Fairview Village Church
Eagleville, PA

Horticultural Therapy
February 15, 2024
Markley Rehab and Health Care Center
Norristown, PA

Horticulture Workshop
February 21, 2024
Wissahickon Valley Public Library, Blue Bell, PA



Norristown Beautification Committee

August and September 2023

The Norristown Beautification Committee (NBC) is a new NGC committee established in 2023 and chaired by Diane Pratt. The goal of the committee is to work with residents, non-profit organizations, and businesses to improve the visual appeal of Norristown through gardening and to recognize them for their efforts. The Committee also seeks to identify and recognize one homeowner and one business each month that have eye-catching garden displays viewed from the curbside or on their properties. These Garden of the Month awardees are presented with a Garden of the Month sign that is placed at their gardens for all to see. Locations eligible for an NBC beautification project or for recognition must be within the Municipality of Norristown or be a school within the Norristown Area School District.



In August, a private home on East Marshall Street and Sarah Leeper of Simone Collins Landscape Architecture received NBC's Garden of the Month recognition. Photos by B. Bynon and O. Brady.



In September, a private home on Swede Street and Genuardi Gardens and Greenhouses received NBC's Garden of the Month recognition. Photos by B. Bynon.



Norristown Beautification Committee members work to decorate the façade of the Theatre Horizon. Photos by B. Bynon.

Gardens on the Go

September 7, 2023

NGC's Gardens on the Go has always been a favorite event for members. Those who join in on the event have the opportunity to tour some beautiful gardens in the Philadelphia and tri-state area. This year the tour locations were local and were at the homes of two NGC members.

The first garden visited was at the home of Lynn Whelan. Lynn moved to this area just a few years ago and had to design and plant her garden from scratch. Because Lynn is a dahlia aficionado, her garden is full of absolutely beautiful dahlia specimens, many of which have won her blue ribbons at flower shows. Lynn has done an outstanding job of transforming her property from a simple lawn to a place of real beauty and tranquility. Congratulations, Lynn!



Lynn Whelan standing amongst some of her beautiful dahlias. Photo by B. Whelan.



Pictures above are of Lynn Whelan's garden.



Pictures of Lynn Whelan's garden by B. Andon.

The second garden visited was at the home of NGC member Edeltraud (Traudl) Wareheim and her husband Dave. She and Dave have created a garden full of beautiful plants and whimsical items that both delight the eye and entertain. It was a real treat to walk through the different parts of their garden and enjoy the uniqueness of each. As members became weary of touring on the warm summer day, they were invited to jump into the pool or sit on the porch with a cool drink and sample some of Traudl's wonderful lavender shortbread cookies, which were truly delicious!



Members enjoying the shade of Traudl's deck during the garden tour.

Thank you Lynn and Traudl for sharing your gardens with club members. You both are outstanding gardeners and an inspiration to us all! All photos by B. Andon and B. Bynon.



Kudos to You:

- Jane Comroe for receiving the Forget-me-Not award.
- Jane Irvin-Klotz and Cheryl Brumbaugh for receiving the award for Exceptional Horticulturist.



Jane receiving Exceptional Horticulturist Award from Honey Bawduniak, District XI Director.

Garden Poem

October Riches

October brings us royal treasures.
There's riches in the bin!
All the living gold of fields,
Has now been gathered in.

All the jewels of the orchards,
The gems of lane and fields,
All the treasures of the garden
Mingle in the yield.

What wealth can equal it in beauty,
Or rival in sheer worth
The riches that October brings
From the fertile earth?
.....Lenore Hetrick



Members enjoying Traudl's beautiful garden.

Laurel Awards

September 12, 2023

At the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFFP) District XI Annual Meeting on September 13, Caren Puschak was pleased to announce our club's 2023 Laurel Award Recipients.



The Laurel Award is given to those garden club members who have made significant contributions and/or

have provided outstanding service "above and beyond the call of duty" to our club. The 2023 recipients are (pictured from left to right): Diane Powell, Jill Evans, Barbara Leiby, Beth Bynon, and Anita Lehman. Congratulations, ladies, for jobs well done and for all your contributions and hard work!



NGC General Meeting

September 13, 2023

The September General Meeting was held at the Fairview Village Church in Eagleville. At the meeting, members enjoyed a presentation by Lori Curtis and Donna Armstrong entitled "A Colonial Kitchen." Lori and Donna are the current and former coordinators of the Peter Wentz Farmstead kitchen garden. They narrated a slide show demonstrating their plans for the recreation of the kitchen garden and reviewed its history.



Fifty years ago, Montgomery County acquired the Farmstead and restored the house to its Revolutionary War appearance on the historic site.

At that time, members of the Norristown Garden Club not only designed the gardens, but they also researched the fruits, vegetables, and flowers of an 18th century Pennsylvania German colonial garden and planted over 80 vegetables, flowers, and herbs in the four beds and borders. These were classified as culinary, medicinal, fragrance, and landscape plants.



The Peter Wentz organization has been maintaining the gardens since that time. We thank Lori and Donna for their informative talk and both our past

and present NGC members who participated in the development of the kitchen garden! Photos by B. Andon.

Horticulture Workshop

September 20, 2023

On Wednesday, September 20, members attended a guided tour of the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) Extension facilities and their Learning Gardens in Collegeville, PA. A Talk on “Edible Landscapes” followed the tour. The gardens have been developed as a tool for learning about multitudes of plants, planting materials, and hardscape materials, and they are open to the public daily. We thank Rosemarie Hardy and Beth Bynon, the Horticulture Workshop chairs who organized this interesting and informative event. Photos by B. Bynon.



Members having fun in lecture room (above) and studying horticultural specimens in the garden (below) at the PSU Extension Facilities and Learning Gardens.



Flower Design Workshop

September 27, 2023

At the September Floral Design Workshop, attendees prepared a creative mass design using fall grasses and flowers. Attendees were asked to bring decorative fall grass plumes from their gardens to use in the design. They then augmented the grasses with fresh flowers specifically selected to dry well. The goal was to create a mass design that would bring enjoyment for several weeks as the grasses and flowers dried over time. The resulting designs were quite lovely and captured the look and feel of fall. Photos by B. Andon.



Workshop attendees preparing their fall grass floral arrangements.



Ornamental grasses from your garden can be used to make a beautiful fall arrangement. Photo by Proven Winners.



Garden Quote

Autumn...the year's last,
loveliest smile.

....William Cullen Bryant



Photo from Freepik.



Fothergilla in Fall.



Heuchera 'Caramel' (Coral Bells).
Photos by M. Eberz.

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 or visit the Club's Facebook Page.

Horticulture Tips from Marge

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER

Lawn Care:

- Plant new lawn areas, overseed, aerate, and fertilize as needed.

Gardening Tasks

- Evaluate the garden's successes and failures.
- Divide spring- and summer-blooming perennials as may be needed.
- Remove annuals and diseased foliage on plants.
- Dig up tender bulbs after first frost kills the leaves, e.g., cannas.
- Dig up flower tubers and store them where they will not freeze, e.g., caladiums and dahlias.
- Cut back perennials, but leave those with seed heads for the birds, e.g., coneflowers.
- Do not prune spring-blooming shrubs or trees.
- Before bringing your houseplants in for the winter, wash them thoroughly with a hose to kill insects, and remove dead and diseased leaves.
- Clean all gardening tools before putting them away.
- There is still time to plant spring bulbs; plant them in drifts of 25.
- This is a good time to plant shrubs, trees, and perennials and to take advantage of garden-center sales. Look for plants with multi-season interest. Here are a few to consider:
 - ◆ Amsonia, Red Twig Dogwood, Fothergilla, and Christmas Fern.
- Keep all newly planted plants well-watered throughout the fall.
- After the fall season is over, pumpkins can be used for Christmas decorations by spraying them white and piling them up on one another to make a snowman. A permanent black magic marker can be used to make eyes, nose, and mouth. (Some may remember when coal and a carrot were used for this purpose!)

Planting

- Try something new, e.g., *Heuchera* 'Caramel' which is a low growing coral bell with apricot leaves in summer that turn yellow in fall. A great bright addition to a shady area.
- The chrysanthemums bought from the garden centers and planted in the fall are usually not hardy because they have been started as a stem cutting and have spent their entire life in a greenhouse. It is best to treat them as annuals.

DECEMBER

Winter watering of plants – Outdoors

- Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered until the ground freezes. This rule should be followed for all trees and shrubs planted during the last two years.

Winter watering of plants – Indoors

- Indoor plants need less water in winter because growth is slower. Before watering, check the soil two inches down in the pot. If it is dry, water thoroughly with room temperature water. Do not overwater; keep in mind that more plants die from overwatering than underwatering.

Club Membership

Do you know someone who would like to join 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.

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.

Best Houseplants for Winter bloom

- Amaryllis bulbs, African Violets, Christmas and Thanksgiving Cacti, Kalanchoes, and Paperwhite Narcissus.
- For Christmas blooms, start bulbs in early December.

Deicing Problems

- Salt deicers are a necessary evil at this time of year. They take their toll on trees and shrubs when the ice melts and the salt seeps into the ground. Salt builds up in the soil and can become toxic, leading to twig die-back, leaf and needle burn, reduced growth, and ultimately death. Maple, spruce, pine, and ash trees are especially susceptible to salt in the soil. To help these trees in areas where there has been salting, wait until the temperature is above freezing for three or more days and then water around trees with a mixture of an ounce of sugar (2.25 tablespoons) to one-half liter of water (2 cups water).