



Garden Clippings

Norristown Garden Club Newsletter
January 2025, Volume 45 No. 5

Greetings, Members and Prospective Members,

The NGC has sponsored many activities in 2024. To recap, we had outstanding participation in all our floral and horticulture workshops. Our Horticultural Therapy and the Holiday Workshop at the Markley Rehab and Health Care Center were great successes. The Norristown Blooms Committee continued to provide the community Floral Design and Gardening Education Programs for the residents of Norristown Borough.

We also enjoyed our annual fall luncheon and speaker at Cedarbrook Country Club. Many thanks to our members for bringing many requested items for our outreach to the Norristown State Hospital. Our 74th Holiday House Tour featured 4 homes and a church decorated with fresh flowers and greens for the holidays by our army of designers, decorators, helpers and new members. Our HH Chairperson, Rosemarie Hardy, and Co-Chair, Sue Harbaugh, as well as all the House Chairs and Co-Chairs coordinated the teams at each of the homes and church. Our support teams facilitated ticket sales, writers and editors provided flyers and publicity, photographers documented progress from early summer to the end of the tour resulting in our video production by Anita Lehman and Barbara Andon at our January meeting. It truly took the NGC's village of talented members months to deliver such a successful tour again. Thank you! We look forward to your ideas and help for the 75th NGC Holiday House Tour, and committees will soon be forming.

We have many programs and opportunities in the next 6 months. Please consider attending. These include lectures and design workshops, volunteering in our outreach programs, Youth gardeners with the schools, Norristown Blooms activities, and helping to maintain our two garden areas, plus more. Also, you can sign up to volunteer now at the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show on March 1st - 9th or enter Horticulture and/or a design in the Show. Volunteering is a great way to gain free admission to this Show. We also need volunteers to help at the GCFP Convention, hosted by our District XI, this April 6th, 7th, 8th at the Alloy Hotel in King of Prussia. If you haven't attended a GCFP Convention before, be aware it is an opportunity to meet members of other garden clubs from all over PA. You can sign up for lectures, demonstrations, lunches and dinners. Your GCFP Keystone Gardener that includes all the 2025 Convention information and the registration form is in the mail! If you can't wait, the GCFP Keystone Gardener is also on line to review under <pagardenclubs.org> 1. Click on MORE (upper right corner on the menu), scroll way down to 2025 GCFP Convention Info and Click. 2. Scroll down to 2025 Convention Issue KG (pdf) and the Registration Form below that.

I look forward to seeing and talking with you at our upcoming Programs!

Cheers, Caren

A Gardener's Checklist from Marge:

January/February

January – February Events

General Meeting

January 8, 2025

Fairview Village Church,
Eagleville

Horticulture Workshop

January 15, 2025

Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell

Horticultural Therapy

January 16, 2025

Providence Place at the
Collegetown Inn, Collegetown



General Meeting

February 12, 2025

Fairview Village Church,
Eagleville

Horticultural Therapy

February 20, 2025

Markley Rehab and Health
Care Center, Norristown

Horticulture Workshop

February 27, 2025

Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, **Ambler**



1. Select a calendar for scheduling garden tasks and when your plants bloom.
2. Are there areas on your property where perennials are needed?
3. Does your landscape lack plants with winter interest? Here are a few to consider:
 - Winterberry
 - 'Arctic Fire' Red Twig Dogwood
 - Hollies
4. Consider adding more native plants to your beds.
5. Continue feeding the birds & supplying them with water.
6. Plan your summer containers utilizing small, less expensive natives.
7. Place evergreen branches over emerging bulbs and perennials to keep them from being eaten by animals.
8. Here are some new plants being introduced this year. Look for them in your garden centers this spring.
 - **Evolution Pink Prism Sedum**
 - (12 - 16")
 - Drought resistant, attracts pollinators
 - **Living Large Big Sky Salvia** (see below)
 - (24 - 36")
 - Late blooming, violet blue flowers
 - **Endless Hellebore**
 - White flowers, late blooming



Upcoming Events March

General Meeting

March 12, 2025

Fairview Village Church,
Eagleville

PHS Philadelphia Flower Show March 1 – 9

Horticultural Therapy

March 20, 2025

Abington Adult Day Care,
Lansdale

Flower Design Workshop March 26, 2025

Wissahickon Valley Public Library,
Blue Bell

Horticulture Workshop

March 27, 2025

Wissahickon Valley Public Library,
Ambler Branch, Ambler

District XI Meeting

March 27, 2025

Temple Ambler Learning Center,
Ambler



A Gardener's Checklist from Marge: March

Spring will arrive soon so get ready for the planting season by doing the following chores:

- Wash pots and trays with soapy water, add bleach to kill fungus diseases.
- Check garden tools, make sure they are in good working order.
- Start your garden journal with garden observations.
- Walk your property, inspect it and remove matted-down leaves on emerging bulbs.
- Trim off last year's growth from ornamental grasses and ferns.
- Check for winter injury on plants when new growth appears & prune all dead branches and twigs back to within an inch above a live bud.
- Apply fertilizer in soil around winter-damaged plants and water deeply.



Horticultural Tips from Marge

Deicing — Salt deicers are a necessary evil this time of the year and they take their toll on trees and shrubs when ice melts into the ground. To lessen salt damage:

- Use sand instead of salt
- Calcium chloride is less harmful than rock salt.

Salt buildup in the soil can become toxic, leading to twig dieback, leaf and needle burn, reduced growth and ultimately the death of the tree.

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 3 or more days then water the trees with a sugar mixture of 1oz. sugar to 1/2 liter of water. Consider these salt tolerant plants for beds near the road: Coreopsis, Yarrow, Candytuft, Butterfly Weed, Asters, Sedum, Obedient Plant.

The Bird Lover's Corner

Lynn Whelan



When you are breaking down your holiday planters, put your Winterberry branches in your garden or near your bird feeders. Just stick the branches into the soil for easy access and watch the berries disappear! You can also put some berries in your cup feeders.

When you come across grubs while digging, add them to your cup feeders. They will be devoured in no time, especially in the spring when birds are feeding their young.



November Horticulture Workshop

November 6, 2024

NGC had an interesting and fun presentation from Maria Jacobs who lead the group in creating a design using pressed plant materials. Each of the attendees created a unique and lovely framed design.

All photos by Beth Bynon.



Maria Jacobs design

The workshop was over too quickly but the designs were delightful!



Sogetsu BuxMont Study Group's 9th Annual Ikebana Exhibition

November 9, 2024

In addition to the demonstration by the certified Ikebana teachers, there were about 20 beautiful arrangements by the members on display. All photos by Beth Bynon.



Arrangement by our own NGC member
Karen Nemeth
“Morning Joy”

Annual Fall Luncheon

November 13, 2024

NGC members gathered at the Cedarbrook County Club for our annual fall luncheon. Everyone in attendance had a festive time.

The guest floral designer was Ron Mulray, a member of AIFD and an instructor at Bucks County Community College. He presented many unusual and extravagant hand-tied bouquets using a variety of armatures. As always, his unique designs were raffled-off following the presentation.

The luncheon had a great turnout with 145 attendees.



All photos by Nancy Hannum

Design Workshop

December 4, 2024

A very merry time was had by all those who attended the December Flower Design Workshop. Attendees made a beautiful grape vine wreath that was adorned with poinsettias, berries, ribbon, and many evergreen branches. Each wreath had its own personality and was quite beautiful! Pictures of attendees working on their wreaths or displaying their final design are provided. All photos by Barbara Andon.



HolidayHouse Tour

December 13, 2024

Holiday House 2024 is in the books! Thanks to our members who gave their time and talent and to everyone who attended.

Save the Date: By popular demand, you are invited to two additional Zoom Showings of the 2024 Holiday House Tour Video followed by the 2023 HH Tour:

1. Tuesday, January 21st @ 10:30 am
2. Wednesday, January 22 @ 6:00 pm



All photos by Ellen Raieta.

Holiday Workshop

December 18, 2024

The December 18th Holiday Workshop was a huge success. Several members volunteered their time to prepare holiday mugs to be donated to the residents at Markley Rehab in Norristown. Thank you to everyone who participated. It's always fun to be together and bring joy to the residents.

All photos by Beth Bynon.

