



Garden Clippings

Norristown Garden Club Newsletter
July 2025, Volume 46, No. 3

A Message from Caren,

The Norristown Garden Club (NGC) was very active this Spring. In addition to the activities mentioned and pictured in the pages below I would like mention just a few more. I would like to thank Diane Pratt and Ginger Hunsicker for organizing NGC teams for the 2025 GCFP Convention that District XI hosted this year. Our April general meeting was the following day with a program on Xeriscape Gardening. The Spring Luncheon celebrating new members took place in May at Old York Road Country Club with guest speaker Melissa Palmer presenting floral designs incorporating vegetables. April, May, and June also had a Garden of the Month awarded in the Norristown Borough thanks to Jill, Beth and Olivia.

June saw many outreach planting sites worked on in the Norristown Borough by the Norristown Blooms Committee including the Montgomery County S.A.A.C., Montgomery County Historical Society, Norristown Library, Norristown WWII Memorial, Expressive Paths, plus the Wissahickon Valley Library. Five classes of fourth grade students at a local Elementary School planted vegetables in containers with educational instructions on the plants from Arlene Reagan-Harris and Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski. Twenty floral arrangements were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House by Karen Nemeth and Patrice Hegarty.

At our June General Meeting, it has been NGC's tradition to award the NGC and Novelli Fund scholarships to college student applicants pursuing a degree in horticulture-related fields. The Scholarship committee and Chair Pam McAnulty awarded eight Scholarships this year. All eight winners were present and spoke about their studies at various universities and their career goals. These recipients are the next generation of Horticultural and Environmental specialists.

A Message from Caren (cont.)

Also, the Jefferson Cups for the highest points in Design and Horticulture in our Shows of the Month were awarded to Beth Bynon and Nancy Threlfall, respectively.

The Norristown Garden Club's Spring NGC Standard Flower Show, was chaired by Ginger Hunsicker and co-chair Jane Irvin-Klotz, kudos! The last event of the club year was the Norristown Borough Garden Contest. Thanks to Chairs Maureen Von Stetina, Gina O'Hara, and members who judged the twenty-one gardens.

It took all of us to deliver and make all the NGC internal and outreach programs interesting, educational, & rewarding.

Please welcome our 2025-2027 President, Ginger Hunsicker, Officers, Chairpersons and New and Prospective Members.

Best, Caren Puschak, Past President

Wildflower Poem - Isabelle Barros

*Meadows bright with golden rays,
Wildflowers bloom in colors blaze.
From mountains high to deserts dry,
They paint the land beneath the sky.*

*Butterflies dance, bees hum sweet,
Birds chirp soft where blossoms meet.
Seasons change, their hues reborn,
From winter's white to summer's dawn.*

*Daisies, poppies, and bluebells,
In riverbeds and alpine dells.
Each region holds its floral charm,
A vibrant quilt on nature's arm.*

*From snow-clad peaks to arid sand,
Wildflowers grace this varied land.
A symphony of nature's art,
Their beauty sings within the heart.*



Drought-Resistant Plants



Salvia & Coneflower



Coreopsis & Lamb's Ear

Plants with Interesting Seed Pods



Money Plant & Blackberry
Lily



Summer Gardening To Do's

Marge Eberz

- When potting flowers, put a coffee filter in the bottom of the pot to keep the soil from leaching out.
- Keep bird baths clean and filled with water.
- Replace pansies with drought-resistant plants such as Lavender, Salvia, Yarrow, Coneflower, Lamb's Ears, Black-Eyed Susan and Coreopsis.
- Finish pruning and dead-heading spring-blooming shrubs.
- If you have a small property like a condo or townhouse, think about growing plants in containers and hanging baskets.
- Cut flowers for bouquets in early morning or early evening when they contain the most moisture.
- Cut flowers for dried or pressed arrangements at midday when the least amount of moisture is in the leaves.
- Add some plants to your yard that produce flowers or can be easily air dried. Another option is adding plants that have interesting seed pods which can be used in fall arrangements or for the Holiday House. Here are a few to consider:
 - Blackberry Lily and Money Plant for seed pods
 - Black-Eyed Susan—the center of the flower can be used for flower arrangements
 - Air-dried Strawflower, Gomphrena, Statice and Lavender

Perennial Plant of the Year
2025
Clustered Mountain Mint



Scientifically known as *Pycnanthemum muticum*, Clustered Mountain Mint is a perennial herb native to eastern North America.

It's characterized by its clump-forming habit, aromatic leaves, and showy, silvery bracts that surround small, white or pinkish-white flowers.

This plant is a favorite among pollinators, particularly butterflies and bees, and is often found in meadows, woodlands, and gardens.

Summer Gardening To Do's

(cont.)

Marge Eberz

- Kill unwanted grass growing between the cracks in the sidewalk with white vinegar or sprinkle salt in the cracks to prevent weeds.
- Paint tool handles with a bright color so you can find them in the grass.
- If squirrels dig up the soil and plants in your containers, cover the soil with sweet gum balls and squirrels will leave the container alone. The gum balls act as a mulch and will hurt their feet.
- It is officially TICK season. It is important to protect yourself from the ticks, especially those that carry Lyme disease. Wear protective clothing and tuck your pants into your shoes while working outside and apply insect repellent. Always check for ticks after coming inside.
- In order to have enough energy to do your garden work, eat chocolate chips. A single chip provides enough food energy to walk 150 feet and 35 chips provide enough energy to walk a mile.



A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches us patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. Gertrude Jekyll

Submitted by Ellin Hlebik

GCFP Annual Convention

April 6 – 8, 2025

The GCFP 2025 State Convention in King of Prussia at the Alloy Hotel was a success thanks to everyone's planning, committee work, volunteering, and attendance.

All photos by Beth Bynon



Horticulture Workshop

April 15, 2025

Jenny Rose Carey of Northview Gardens in Ambler, provided an educational tour of her themed garden spaces including a cutting garden, an herb garden, a dry garden, and various mixed flower gardens.

Jenny Rose manages 4 acres with just one full time gardener. Her gardens were whimsical and were throughly enjoyed by all!

What an inspiring day for every gardener!

All photos by Beth Bynon



Horticulture Workshop (continued)

April 15, 2025

Jenny Rose and her gardens have been featured on the PBS series The Victory Garden, in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, GROW magazine, and The Pennsylvania Gardener.

All photos by Beth Bynon



Horticultural Therapy

April 17, 2025

The Horticultural Therapy team wrapped up their program until the fall with a trip to Providence Place at the Collegeville Inn. A good time was had by all and the arrangements just keep getting better and better!

Photo from Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski



Bird Lover's Corner

An update from LynnWhelan



Did you know that House Sparrows are not native to the US and are one of the reasons why our Bluebird population has declined?

House Sparrows, not to be confused with Song Sparrows, are aggressive birds and will make their nests in Bluebird Boxes. Lynn witnessed a Sparrow attack a Bluebird at her Bluebird feeder. She feared the Sparrow would have killed the Bluebird if she had not been there. Lynn joined a FB group called 'Bluebirds Unfiltered' where she purchased a Bluebird nesting box with two holes so the birds could not be trapped inside.

Her reward—4 bluebird babies!

Flower Design Workshop

April 23, 2025

The last Design Workshop of the year was a creative line design using Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta') to create an armature. What fun! And some truly clever designs, too.

All photos by Beth Bynon

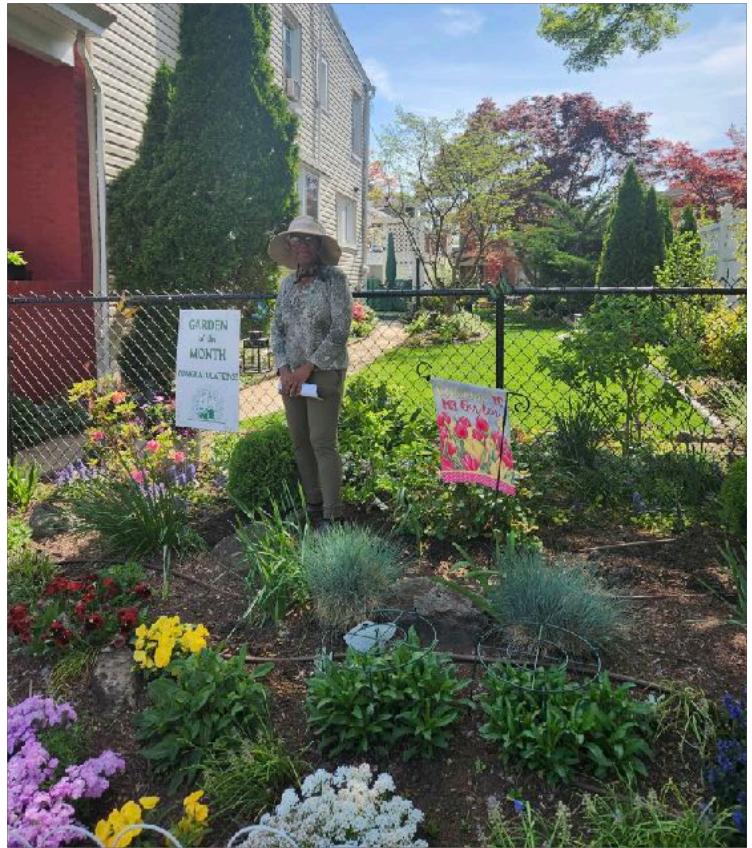


Garden of the Month

May 2025

Norristown Garden Club's "Blooms" committee is once again on the lookout for gardens, visible from curbside, that help to beautify the Municipality. This exquisite garden on Brown St., shown with the homeowner, Betty, is a wonderful example of what hard work and a love of gardening can produce.

Photo by Beth Bynon



NGC Blue Star Memorial on Germantown Pike

Spring plantings by:

- Honey Bawduniak
- Joan Lenhardt
- Jane Comroe

Welcome New Members 2025

May 14, 2025



Plant Exchange and Covered-Dish Social

May 15, 2025

The Garden Club ladies took advantage of a lull in the rain to have a wonderful plant exchange and covered-dish lunch. A big thank you to Helen Horstmann who opened her beautiful home and garden to us.

All photos by Beth Bynon



Norristown World War II
Memorial
May 27, 2025

Our NGC ladies are
everywhere!
This memorial is located at
Elm Street and Haws Ave.
Many thanks to Maureen Von
Stetina (not shown), Mary
Fran Leahy and Gina
O'Hara.



Garden of the Month
June 2025

Norristown Garden Club's
"Blooms" has admired
this Locust Street garden
for many years. It is
always well tended and
obviously well loved. By
the end of this month, the
window boxes will be
spectacular.

Photo by Beth Bynon

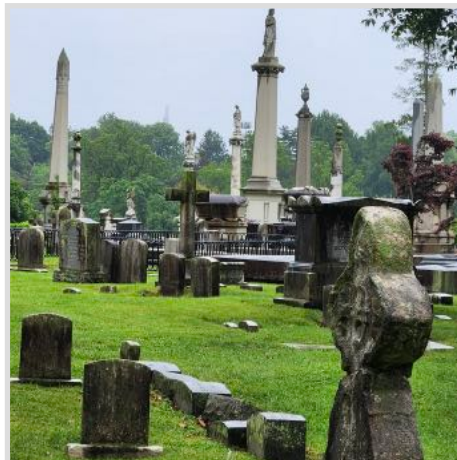


Horticulture Workshop

May 28, 2025

Sixteen warmly dressed members went for a tour of Laurel Hill East on a very soggy day. Greg Tepper, head horticulturist of Laurel Hill, guided us through the arboretum to enjoy some of the fabulous trees and other plantings....and we all came home with a freshly cut rose!

All photos by Beth Bynon



Doesn't the Comcast building in the back of the obelisk garden look like it fits right in?

Norristown Blooms

May 21, 2025

Norristown Blooms had their initial work session at their newest project, Montgomery County Senior Adult Activities Center (S.A.A.C.). We planted pots and raised beds and got a good start on weeding the "sign garden" to prepare it for planting next week.

Jill Roth, Norristown Site Manager, and Diane Pratt, chair of Blooms, discuss the watering schedule. A good time was had by all—lots of hard work and lots of laughter.

Photos by Beth Bynon & Nia Eaton



Library Flower Design Workshop

May 21, 2025

On May 29, Barbara Leiby and Barbara Andon (not pictured) held a flower design workshop for members of the Wissahickon Valley Public Library in Blue Bell. Workshop attendees created a beautiful spring centerpiece using shades of pink.

Rakhee Lala, the library's outreach coordinator, is pictured below holding her lovely design along with Barbara Leiby. The workshop was sponsored by the library, and the complimentary instruction was provided by the NGC instructors as a thank you for the library's ongoing generous support of Norristown Garden Club activities.

All photos by Barbara Andon

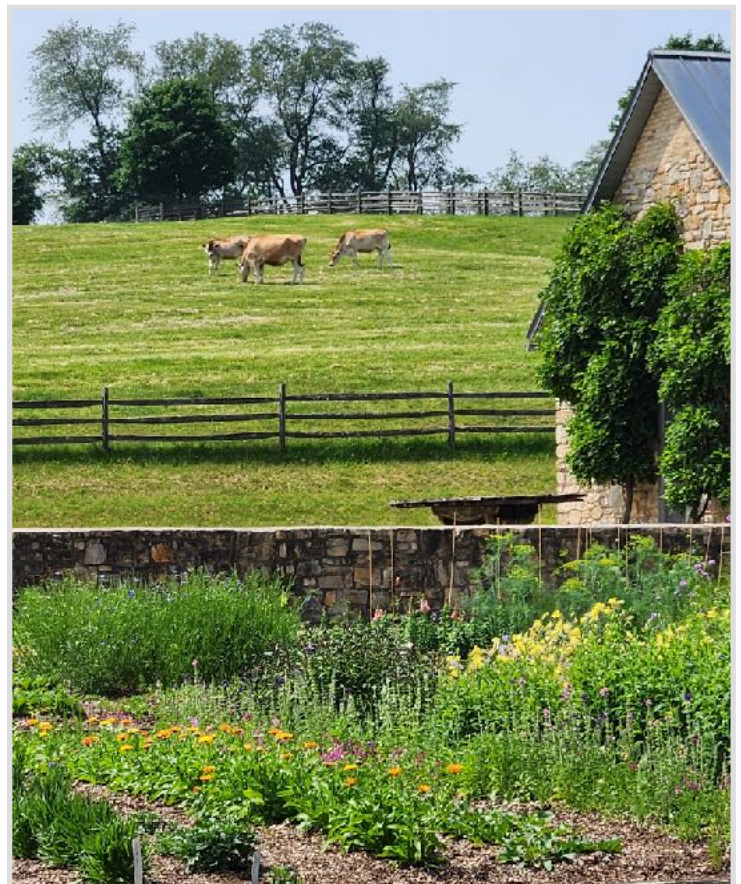


Gardens on the Go

June 5, 2025

Gardens on the Go visited a beautiful private farm in Chester County. We toured the gorgeous gardens which included very traditional styles, as well as very modern and adventurous styles. We also toured the greenhouses and "working" gardens and we learned so much. Lunch followed in "Stable Dining" which, once upon a time, was an actual stable. Everyone had fun AND the weather co-operated!

All photos by Beth Bynon



Norristown Blooms

June 17, 2025

Norristown Blooms visited the Montgomery County Historical Society with trowels in hand. Weeds were pulled and replaced with colorful flowers...a good morning's task to brighten the Historical Society's entrance.

Photos from Beth Bynon

