



Upcoming Events

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

NGC General Meeting
March 13, 2024
Fairview Village Church
Eagleville, PA

Horticultural Therapy
March 21, 2024
Abington Adult Day Care
Lansdale, PA

Garden Clippings

Norristown Garden Club
Newsletter



January 2024 – Volume 45, No. 1

73rd Annual Holiday House Tour

It brings me great pleasure to say that the Norristown Garden Club's (NGC) 73rd Annual Holiday House Tour was a success, once again! This year we featured five homes in the Lafayette Hill and Plymouth Meeting areas. It was a sell-out event, and many attendees commented that they appreciated the close proximity of the houses for easy touring! In addition, there was a lot of positive feedback from homeowners that they both enjoyed and were impressed by all of the members' hard work and creativity that went into decorating their respective homes.

Such great success, however, would not have been possible without the support of all the club's members, both veteran and new members alike. This year there were two teams with chairpersons who had never chaired a home before! They did outstanding jobs along with all the other chairs and teams. Many members also volunteered for two hostess shifts in order to ensure that each home was properly monitored. There was also a large turnout of new members who "jumped right in" to help and noted what fun they had doing so!



The designs this year were also truly outstanding! It never ceases to amaze me how talented, creative, industrious, and dedicated our members are at getting the job done. The theme of each home was so well expressed in the designs, and it was apparent that a lot of thought and effort went into making that happen!

Rosemarie and I want to thank everyone, including the homeowners, who participated in this year's Holiday House! Without your help and support, the annual holiday house tour—the club's most important and biggest fund raising event—would not be possible and such a big hit year after year!

Selected pictures of the many beautiful decorations and designs included in the tour are presented. All pictures are provided by NGC's official photographers Ellen Raieta and Nancy Hannum, or courtesy of Barbara Andon and Karen Nemeth. We hope you enjoy viewing them and that they inspire you to participate in next year's holiday house! Thank you all!

73rd Annual Holiday House Chairs,
Anita Lehman and Rosemarie Hardy

Upcoming Events, Continued

Flower Design Workshop
March 27, 2024
Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell, PA

GCFP Annual Convention
April 7 to 9, 2024
Lancaster, PA

NGC General Meeting and
Luncheon
April 10, 2024
Cedarbrook Country Club
Blue Bell, PA

Horticultural Therapy
April 18, 2024
Providence Place
Collegeville, PA

Flower Design Workshop
April 24, 2024
Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell, PA

Horticulture Workshop
April 25, 2024
Scott Arboretum
Swarthmore, PA

NGC General Meeting
May 8, 2024
Fairview Village Church
Eagleville, PA

Plant Exchange and Covered
Dish Social
May 16, 2024
Home of Amy Coughlin

Horticulture Workshop
May 23, 2024
Chanticleer Garden Tour
Wayne, PA

The Roaring Twenties



A Collector's Christmas



O Holy Night



Special Thank You!

A special "thank you" goes to all the husbands and significant others that have worked behind the scenes over the years at holiday houses and other NGC events. They often go unrecognized, but their skills and continued support help make the NGC the wonderful and successful club that it is! Thank you all so much for your continued support!

Garden Poem

A Winter Garden

I have a winter garden
Here on the window sill,
Where lovely flowers blossom,
Though days are dark and chill.

Each day I bring them water
And tend them with great care;
But it is worth the trouble
To have a garden there.

When fleecy, white snow
blankets
Have covered other flowers,
I'll have my indoor garden
To cheer the winter hours.

....Winifred C. Marshall



Photo by Shutterstock.

Sachiyo's Christmas



Buon Natale!



NGC General Meeting

October 11, 2023

At the October meeting at Fairview Village, Cheryl Brumbaugh and Caren Puschak presented this year's Landscape Design Award to Donald Atkiss, Garden Organizer, at St. John's United Church of Christ, Lansdale, PA. Donald presented pictures of the many types of gardens that the church maintains such as their rose, pollinator, and labyrinth gardens. St. John's has three master gardeners and a host of talented volunteers to help with all the maintenance work. The gardens looked quite beautiful in the presentation, and they seem well worth a visit since they are open to the public. Thank you Cheryl and your team for coordinating this community-focused recognition!



Garden Quote

Anyone who thinks gardening is only for warm weather has never spent a wonderful winter's day by the fire surrounded by gardening catalogues to plan and dream of next year's garden!

...Barbara Andon

Winners of the October Show-of-the-Month

Place	Hort Grasses
First	Lynn Whelan
Second	Lynn Whelan
Honorable Mention	2-Lynn Whelan M. J. Rees Maureen von Stetina
Hort Seed Pod	
First	Marge Eberz
Second	Beth Bynon
Honorable Mention	2-M. J. Rees 2-Jane Comroe 2-Deb Webb
Design	
First	Olga Mercurio
Second	Karen Nemeth
Third	Rita Conley
Honorable Mention	Cheryl Crouse



Kathy Salisbury points out items of interest as members tour the arboretum. Members congregate in the arboretum's Head House. Photos by E. Raieta and B. Bynon.

Meeting attendees were pleased to have Tara Spears, Curatorial Assistant at the Jenkins Arboretum, present a lecture on her research entitled, Native Azaleas and Rhododendrons of the Eastern U. S. Tara Spears is a NGC Novelli scholarship recipient and a master's degree graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, Tara is a Chanticleer scholarship winner where she was the first woman permitted to work on the grounds crew at Chanticleer. (Good work Tara!!!)



For her graduate research, Tara is studying a newly described species of Rhododendron, *Rhododendron smokianum*, thought to be endemic to the Smokey Mountains National Park. Her lecture focused on her research and how to identify rhododendrons and azaleas that grow east of the Mississippi. Tara isolated deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) from rhododendron plants in order to identify and contrast various rhododendron species. At the end of her lecture, Tara answered a number of questions about rhododendron diseases and pests. Thank you Tara for a wonderful lecture and good luck with your research!

Diane Powell also presented the results of the show-of-the-month, "Signs of Autumn." The horticulture (Hort) section included ornamental grasses or a decorative seedhead while the design section required a Creative Mass Design using some ornamental grasses and/or dried materials. Thank you to all those who participated and to the judges Nancy Hannum, Sue Irwin, and Cherie Nobil and to those who assisted Diane with the show.

Horticulture Workshop

October 18, 2023

On Wednesday, October 18, members participated in a guided tour of the Temple Arboretum led by Director Kathy Salisbury. The purpose of the tour was to review the recovery from the damage incurred by the September 2021 tornado that severely impacted the arboretum.

It was a great tour, and the weather was gorgeous! Members had the opportunity to see the remnants of the tornado and to learn about what the arboretum has chosen to restore or leave as is. For example, one decision for restoration was to plant trees that are native to South Carolina, because it is predicted that the climate here, in Pennsylvania, in ~2050 will be as warm as South Carolina's temperatures are today! (Makes you wonder how warm it will be in South Carolina!!)

Thank you Kathy for hosting such a good tour and to Beth Bynon and Rosemarie Hardy for arranging the tour!



Photos from Horticultural Therapy Workshop at Markley Rehab and Health Care Center are by B. Bynon.



Linda Southerling lectures on the principles of Ikebana design, and selected workshop attendees assembly their design and then proudly pose for a picture with them!

Horticultural Therapy

October 19, 2023

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 25, 2023

At the October Flower Design Workshop, guest instructor Linda Southerling demonstrated how to prepare a simple design in the Asian manner. Linda holds a 4th level certificate in the Sogetsu School of Ikebana. She is a member of the Four Seasons Garden Club of Kennett Square, is on the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) Board, the District I Board of Directors, and has volunteered at Longwood Gardens for 25 years.

Linda talked about the principles of Ikebana design and demonstrated how to create a design using a kenzan (i.e., Asian style floral frog) to hold the flowers in place. All the arrangements were beautiful, and we thank Linda for taking the time to share her design knowledge with us!

Horticulture Workshop

November 1, 2023

Sandra Lopez Cortez, Gardener at Scott Arboretum, presented a program on Plants with Four Season Interest. After receiving a bachelor's degree in science, Sandra attended the Professional Gardener Program at Longwood Gardens in 2013 and joined the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College in 2015. Some of her responsibilities include the maintenance of a variety of gardens, plant specimens, a small tree nursery, and green roofs. Attendees asked a lot of questions during the lecture and enjoyed the information that Sandra shared. Note that the Horticulture Workshop scheduled for April 25, 2024, will be a tour of Scott Arboretum. Thank you Sandra for the lecture, and we hope to see you at the arboretum in April! Photo by B. Bynon.





Renee Tucci's book entitled Framing Floral Techniques.



Susan Burrell collecting club donations to Norristown State Hospital and members enjoying themselves at the November Luncheon.



Thanks to Debbie Cascaden and her team for making wreaths for the Historical Society and for helping support those who preserve the rich historical past of the Norristown area! Photo by D. Cascaden.

NGC General Meeting and Luncheon

November 8, 2023

NGC members gathered, once again, at the Cedarbrook Country Club, for the annual fall luncheon.



The guest floral designer at the luncheon was Renee Tucci, who is a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), the American Academy of Floriculture (AAF), and the Professional Floral Communicators International (PFCI). She is also an author and instructor with the Teleflora National Education Team and at Bucks County Community College.

Her book, which she wrote during the Covid 19 pandemic, is pictured in the sidebar. To help get everyone in the holiday spirit, Renee prepared many holiday designs for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. As is the custom, her designs were raffled-off following her presentation, and those who won were delighted to take her designs home!

The luncheon had a big turnout of 133 attendees! Thank you Diane Pratt and your team for organizing yet another great luncheon. All photos by B. Andon.

Norristown Beautification Committee

November 9, 2023

On November 9, The Norristown Beautification Committee (NBC) beautified the Theatre Horizon in Norristown for the fall/winter season by planting flowers in pots and window boxes at the theatre. Olivia Brady is pictured below planting a window box at the Theatre while being interviewed by WHYY. How cool is that! NGC thanks Olivia and all the NGC members who participated in this community beautification project. In addition, the NBC and NGC thank Lowe's Home Improvement Store of Hatfield for donating the plants to make this project possible. Thank you Lowe's!



Norristown Beautification Committee decorates the façade of the Theatre Horizon. Photos by B. Bynon and O. Brady.



Floral design made at the November Horticultural Therapy workshop.

Garden Joke and Quote

Question: What do you get if you cross a wizard and a blizzard?

Answer: A cold spell!

Last night we had three small zucchinis for dinner that were grown within fifty feet of our back door. I estimate they cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$371.49 each.

....Andy Rooney



Photo from VectorStock.

Horticultural Therapy

November 16, 2023

The November Horticultural therapy workshop was held at the Abington Adult Day Care in Lansdale. Members helped the residents make their own flower arrangements. NGC thanks Sandy Davis and Sue Goldberg (standing in for Ceil McGeehan) for organizing this event.

Flower Design Workshop

November 29, 2023

The November workshop was held at the Wissahickon Library in Blue Bell. The topic of the workshop was "A Winter Reflective Design" presented by Barbara Leiby and Barbara Andon. A reflective design is a creative design containing material(s) that reflect or give back images of light to the viewer. The reflective aspect of the design is a major component of the design itself.

Many beautiful winter designs were created by members using a red glass vase, donated greens, red glittered Ting Ting, and small red Christmas ornaments.



Workshop attendees prepare and proudly exhibit their winter floral reflective designs.

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.

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, 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.

Horticulture Tips for Winter from Marge

WINTER PROBLEMS

- When we think of the effects that winter has on our garden, ice, which breaks tree limbs and shrub branches, comes to mind. However, there is another problem to consider and that is SALT DAMAGE to plants from deicers.
- The most efficient and inexpensive chemical for melting snow is rock salt. This salt, however, can damage plants. It will pull water out of the leaves of conifers and from buds in trees. This is especially damaging in early spring when leaf buds begin to swell. Damage appears as browning along the edges of leaves, wilting, and stunted growth showing small yellow leaves.
- To protect your plants, instead of salt, try using sand or products like calcium chloride or potassium chloride that are less harmful to plants.
- If you will be planting trees or shrubs in an area where they may be exposed to salt, select species and varieties that will tolerate salt. Here are a few to consider:
 - Red cedars, inkberry holly, lilacs, pussy willows, and sweet gum trees. Salt tolerant perennials include coreopsis, yarrow, candytuft, butterfly weed, daylily, coral bells, sedums and asters.

GARDENER'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2024

1. Plan Ahead
 - a. Are there areas on your property where perennials need to be located in the spring? If so, make a list of them now so that you are prepared come spring.
 - b. Select a calendar with spaces for notes to use for notating garden tasks and bloom times.
 - c. Look at your landscape to see if you need plants for winter interest.
 - d. Make a list of native plants to add to your yard.
2. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
 - a. Divide and propagate plants that are already growing in your garden (and perhaps share them via the club's Adopt-a-Plant Program).
 - b. Plan your summer container gardens utilizing small, less-expensive native perennials.
 - c. Use viable leftover seeds before buying new ones.
3. Walk your property each day and pull out unwanted plants and weeds.
4. Whatever is started this year is going to be more beautiful the following years, if maintained.
5. Resolve to cope with gardening disappointments. Remember, there are no gardening failures, just gardening experiments!