



Upcoming Events

NGC General Meeting
October 12, 2022
Fairview Village Church
Eagleville, PA

Horticulture Workshop
October 19, 2022
Richard Wall House,
Elkins Park

Horticultural Therapy
October 20, 2022
Markley Rehab and Health Care
Center
Norristown, PA

Flower Design Workshop
October 26, 2022
Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell

NGC Fall Luncheon Meeting
November 9, 2022
Cedarbrook Country Club
Blue Bell

Horticulture Workshop
November 16, 2022
Wissahickon Valley Public
Library, Blue Bell

Horticultural Therapy
November 17, 2022
Abington Adult Day Care
Lansdale

Garden Clippings



Norristown Garden Club
Newsletter

October 2022 – Volume 43, No. 4

“Time for Tea” Flower Show and Craft Market

Let's give a big “Thank you” to flower show chairs, Jane Irvin-Klotz and Arlene Reagan-Harris, for the wonderful “Time for Tea” Standard Flower Show and Craft Market held on September 10, 2022, at the Central Schwenkfelder Church. And what a wonderful show it was! There were so many beautiful floral arrangements, a plethora of horticulture specimens, an informative educational exhibit, multiple creative youth designs, an array of beautiful botanical artifacts, and a wonderful selection of crafts for sale. What more can you ask for from a flower show! And how fortuitous it was that the NGC was able to honor the passing of Queen Elizabeth II by dedicating the show to her memory.



Norristown Garden Club (NGC) members certainly outdid themselves this year. Many attendees commented that the quality of the designs and exhibits was superb. Jane and Arlene are both grateful and thankful for all the help that members provided. They equated all the support they received to a gear wheel where all the individual parts come together and work in harmony! Members should be proud of in and for providing helping show. Our “hats go off” to such an outstanding job in for the NGC and for the attended!



Flower Show Chairs Jane Irvin-Klotz and Arlene Reagan-Harris.



There were so many beautiful items at the show; far too many to include a picture of each. Several highlights are presented below and in the sidebar. All pictures are by B. Andon.

Upcoming Events, Continued

Wreath-Making for Historical Society
November 26, 2022
Location TBD

Flower Design Workshop
November 30, 2022
Wissahickon Valley Public Library, Blue Bell

Holiday House Tour
December 9, 2022
Various Locations



Garden Poem

Summer and Fall

Today it still is summer,
Tomorrow will be fall.
I see the purple asters,
I hear the autumn's call.

I feel the warm sun shining
As a balmy south wind blows;
I see more flowers blooming,
And I see the grass still grows;

The goldenrod is waving,
The bees are in the clover.
I hear a distant honking---
The geese are flying over.

The maple leaves are golden;
The pumpkins, round and yellow.
The apple cheeks are rosy,
The pears are getting mellow.

The nuts are growing rounder,
The cornstalks, brown and sear.
By twenty lovely tokens
I know that fall is near.

Today it still is summer,
Tomorrow will be fall.
Today I still am barefoot---
Oh, how I love it all.

....Nona Keen Duffy

Kudos to You

- Joan Lenhardt for receiving the Perennial Bloom Award honoring long-time garden club members.

- Sue Irwin for receiving a Blue Ribbon, Designer's Choice, and Design of Excellence award for her Elegant table design at the GCFP Flower Show at Longwood Gardens.



Gardens on the Go

July 11 and August 13, 2022

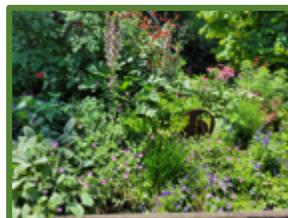
Thank you Jill Evans for bringing back "Gardens on the Go" for the 2022 summer season. This year there were two separate tours held within driving distance from members' homes. The first tour was held on July 11 and included a beautiful garden in the Huntingdon Valley area and one in Jenkintown. Those who attended the July 11 "Gardens on the Go" are pictured to the right. Photo courtesy of J. Evans.



The first garden visited in Huntingdon Valley featured a meadow designed by noted Landscape Architect Larry Weaner that was planted over a former tennis court. A pond with water lilies in bloom, frogs and Koi, and a bog garden for carnivorous pitcher plants added to the interest of this property. Photos by B. Bynon.



The Jenkintown garden had an amazing number of gorgeous plants in bloom. Two large wind sculptures designed by Jeff Kahn, as well as several stationary garden sculptures, some designed by the property owner, were fascinating. The garden was planted to be viewed from inside of the mid-century modern home, but the scene from outside was also inspiring. A sedum garden, a shallow reflecting pool, unusual specimens, and various seating areas all added to the charm.



The second tour was held on August 13 in conjunction with the Rock Garden Society members-only tour. (We thank the Rock Garden Society for this collaboration between our two clubs!) On this date, three members of the Society allowed us to visit their gardens. The gardens visited included Halcyon in Media; Hedgleigh Spring, the Cresson Garden, in Swarthmore; and Belvidere, the Bunting Garden, also in Swarthmore. Some of the members who attended the August 13 "Gardens on the Go" tour are pictured below. Pictures are by B. Andon and B. Bynon.

- Bob Butera for the article featuring his garden in the Fall 2022 edition of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society GROW Magazine.
- Jill Evans for receiving the GCFP District XI Exceptional Horticulturist Award.
- Cheryl Burmbaugh for receiving “Watching Our Youth Bloom Award” for her leadership in the youth program at the Stewart Middle School in Norristown.

Garden Quote

There are no garden mistakes, only experiments.

....Janet Kilburn Phillips



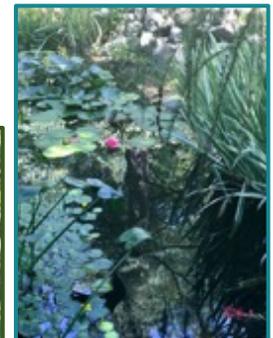
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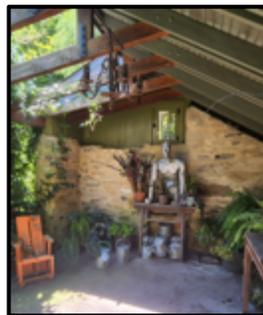
Sitting area in Andrew Bunting's garden.



NGC members on Rock Garden Society/Gardens on the Go tour and Halcyon Gardens.



Charles Cresson and his Hedgeleigh Spring Garden.



Andrew Bunting and his Belvidere Garden.

Norristown Garden Contest and Judging

July 13, 2022

This was another great year for the Norristown Garden Contest! The turnout for the number of entries and judges was awesome. There were 21 homeowners who entered the contest that consisted of 33 gardens and three public places. And there was a whopping total of 36 NGC judges! 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. Special thanks go to Joan Lenhardt, the map queen, who kept all the judges from getting lost as they navigated through Norristown; to Tina Gallagher, who created decorative prize envelopes for the contest winners; to Anita Lehman, who created the slide show presented at our monthly meeting; and most importantly to all the Norristown area residents who participated! Photos are courtesy of multiple NGC members serving as judges.



Garden contest judges at the Norristown Farm Park pavilion.



Front yard garden in contest.



Vegetable garden in contest.



Contest judges on the move.



NGC General Meeting

September 14, 2022

September is here and so is the beginning of another year for the NGC! The first meeting of the year was held at the Fairview Village Church. It was a busy meeting. The Norristown Garden Club contest winners were announced, and some winners were present to receive their rewards. This year's recipients of the Laurel Award and Perennial Bloom Award were also announced. There were club event updates by Arlene Reagan-Harris, co-chair of this year's flower show, who thanked everyone for helping with the show, and by Caren Puschak, who talked about plans for this year's Holiday House Tour.

Members also enjoyed a presentation by Paul Kawoczka entitled, "How to Plant a Multi-Season Planter." Paul is one of the founders of Enliven Planters, an innovative subscription gardening service located in Mount Airy that creates affordable, seasonal (quarterly) planters and window boxes for residential homes and businesses alike. Paul described how the company has grown from using a single Honda sedan to one with 50 employees, 15 trucks, and the preparation of more than 1,500 planters per week. During his talk, members learned what kinds of





Pam Masturzo and her raffle-prize planter.

plants work best in a planter, how to select the best plants seasonally, and how to plan for their growth as they mature. Paul noted that a 20-inch planter typically contains 15 plants and sells for approximately \$165. At the end of the lecture, Paul prepared a planter that was raffled-off (free tickets) to members. The happy winner was Pam Masturzo.



Laurel Awards

September 15, 2022

At the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) District XI Annual Meeting on September 15, Anita Lehman was pleased to announce the club's 2022 Laurel Award Recipients. The Laurel Award is given to a maximum of five garden club members (for large clubs) who have made significant contributions and/or have provided outstanding service "above and beyond the call of duty" to our club. The 2022 recipients are Barbara Andon, Debra Cascaden, Ginger Hunsicker, MaryCatherine Lowery, and Arlene Reagan-Harris. Congratulations, ladies, for jobs well done and for representing the NGC so well!



Laurel Award recipients Barbara Andon, Debra Cascaden, Ginger Hunsicker, and Arlene Reagan-Harris. (MaryCatherine Lowery was unable to attend.)

Horticulture Workshop

September 21, 2022

On September 21, those members who signed up for the Horticulture Workshop toured Springfield Mill at Bloomfield Farm. The Mill is one of the two oldest architectural features of the Morris Arboretum and dates back to 1761. It has been carefully restored and made operational by a dedicated group of volunteers. In addition, it contains the most complete inventory of original flour mill works and related machinery of any mill in the area and is one of only two working mills (of 50 in the past) left along Wissahickon Creek. NGC members were invited inside the mill by the docent, were shown its "working parts", and received an explanation of how the mill works. The docent then "turned on" the mill's grinding wheel and demonstrated all the steps of how corn is ground. After the mill tour, members were allowed to tour the Morris Arboretum. Thank you to all the members who attended this fun tour! Photos courtesy of B. Bynon.



NGC members at Springfield Mill.



Inside Springfield Mill. Photo from Morris Arboretum website.



Mason jar and netting armature used in the September flower design workshop.



For fall color, Marge recommends *Fothergilla*. In late fall, *Fothergilla* leaves turn from green to a brilliant red or gold. Also known as witch alder, *Fothergilla* produces white bottle-brush flowers in early spring. It grows best in part shade and acidic soil.

Garden Humor

Winter is coming. Be prepared, and make sure this does not happen to you! Thank you, Ellin Hlebik, for submitting the cartoon!



Caption: They did not leave you carrots. Go ahead and eat their hostas!

Flower Design Workshop

September 28, 2022

Barbara Leiby, workshop chair, showed attendees how to transform a grocery-store bouquet into a design using an armature instead of floral oasis. The armature was plastic netting that is sometimes provided to protect bottles during transport. The netting was cut to fit over the mouth of a quart-sized mason jar. The mason jar ring held the netting taut, and excess netting was trimmed away. The 20 attendees created many beautiful floral designs without oasis! All photos are by B. Leiby.



Design workshop attendees (L to R) Gwen Bihn, Olivia Brady, and Portia Potts with their lovely designs.

Horticulture Tips from Marge

October and November

Lawn Care

- Plant new lawn areas, overseed, aerate, and fertilize the lawn.

Gardening Tasks

- Evaluate the garden successes and failures.
- What needs to be moved or divided? Divide spring- and summer-blooming perennials.
- Remove annuals.
- Remove and discard diseased foliage.
- Dig up tender bulbs after the first frost kills their leaves. Examples include cannas, caladiums, and dahlias. Store the tubers in a location where they will not freeze.
- Cut back perennials, except leave perennials with seed heads (e.g., coneflowers) for the birds.
- Do not cut back the following perennials: Evergreen/semi evergreens, dianthus, heucherella, foam flower, ajuga, creeping phlox, red hot poker, woody stem hibiscus, Russian sage, lavender, and butterfly bush.
- The leaves of hellebores, ornamental grasses, sedum, and allium, all perennial plants, provide winter interest. Do not prune.
- Do not prune spring-blooming shrubs or trees.

Norristown 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.

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 for more information. Contact the club's New Member Chairperson, Ginger Hunsicker, by email at ginger3131@verizon.net for further details if you are a member or if you are not a member but are interested in joining.

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.

- Bring houseplants back inside before temperature drops. Be sure to wash them off first to remove insects.
- Clean all gardening tools before putting them away.
- Why not try planting something new?
 - For spring blooms: Plant bulbs in drifts of 25 or more in the fall for effect.
 - For winter/early spring blooms: Plant aconite, dwarf iris, snowdrops, and Solomon's seal in the fall.
 - For summer blooms: Plant *Camassia* (wild hyacinth), alliums, and lilies in the spring.

Horticulture Tips for November

- Plants received at Thanksgiving and Christmas will do best if they are kept in a cool area at night. The hot dry air in our homes is hard on plants. Many will drop leaves and flower buds. A dish of water placed near these plants will help them receive the moisture they need.
- Holly can be pruned at holiday time for decorations.
- Rose hips can be pruned once they have been exposed to frost.
- Protect young newly planted trees from deer and mice with tree guards.
- Evergreens suffer from dryness during winter months. Proper watering is critical when winterizing them. If rains are insufficient, give plants a thorough soaking that will supply the entire root system before the ground freezes. A two-inch layer of mulch will help reduce water loss.
- Start forcing *Narcissus* bulbs to bloom five weeks before you want them to flower.