



Garden Clippings

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

A Message from Ginger,

We say ‘Good-bye’ to Summer, and ‘Thank you’ to our beloved past-president, Caren Pushchak for your leadership and help to make Norristown Garden Club shine.

Now, we say Hello to Fall! There are many things lined up for the new year, and we hope you will participate as much as possible.

We started by honoring our Laurel Award winners, Beth Bynon, Connie Burnley, Caren Puschak, Arlene Reagan-Harris, and Mary Fran Leahy at both our September NGC General Meeting and again at the District Luncheon held on September 11, 2025 at Cedarbrook Country Club.

Beth Bynon and Winnie Severson arranged a tour of the house and gardens of the Appleford Estate, which is an arboretum and country estate, on September 16, 2025.

The Holiday House Committees are meeting and getting preparations underway for our 75th Anniversary of the Holiday House Tour. Don’t miss out on the celebration. If you haven’t joined a committee to help decorate, we implore you to be a hostess/host at one or more of the homes to welcome guests.

Barbara Leiby and Barbara Andon instructed us on how to do a creative mass design with leaves, in anticipation of our October Show-of-the-Month design, “Falling for Autumn Leaves” at the NGC General Meeting on October 8, 2025. We look forward to all of your entries. This is a Bring-A-Friend Meeting, so why not invite someone you know.

A Message from Ginger (cont.)

We are also going full speed ahead with Pat Wolanski's 2026 statewide Garden Tour. Keep posted as we reveal when and where you can participate and help make this event a success.

We'll keep you buzzing with the Horticulture Workshop, October 15, 2025, with a presentation from Bruce Cooper Gill, Beekeeper, and a Terrarium workshop on October 29, 2025.

The Blooms Committee is in full swing with lots of projects for the Norristown Municipality. Why not get down and dirty with us for any one of these upcoming projects:

- Montgomery County Senior Adult Activity Center
- Norristown Library Workshops
- Expressive Paths and Theatre Horizon

Be sure to sign up for the November 12th Luncheon by October 27, 2025. You don't want to miss Jane Godshalk presenting "Celebrating Holiday Designs: Past, Present, and Tomorrow."

See you at the Club, Ginger Hunsicker, President

Fall Horticultural Tips

Marge Eberz

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 dead annuals.
- Get rid of diseased foliage.
- Dig up tender bulbs after the first frost kills the leaves.
- Store bulbs where they will not freeze.
- Cut back perennials but leave perennials with seed heads for the birds.
- Do not prune spring-blooming shrubs or trees.
- Bring houseplants inside before the temperature drops and be sure to wash them off first to get rid of insects.
- Clean all gardening tools before putting them away.

Planting?

Try Something new!

- * Select native plants for a red, white, and blue garden in 2026.

Red Native Plants



Sweetshrub



Cardinal Flower

White Native Plants



Sweetspire

Blue Native Plants



Amsonia



Eryngium

Fall Horticultural Tips

Marge Eberz

- There is still time in November to plant spring-flowering bulbs.
- Take advantage of Garden Center sales and look for plants with multi-season interest to plant on your property.
- The mums that are offered at this time of year have spent their entire life in a greenhouse environment. They may not be hardy enough to overwinter in our climate.
- Consider these natural materials for your holiday decorations:
 - Rose hips last longer if collected after frost.
 - Collect milkweed pods when dry.
 - Collect flowers for drying in mid-day when they have the least amount of moisture in them.
 - Collect bittersweet pods before they open, then spray with a clear spray to prevent seeds dropping off.

Planting?

Try something new :

- ✳ Select plants for a sensory garden.



- Wild Bergamot
- Smooth Blue Aster
- Black-eyed Susan
- Blue-stemmed Goldenrod
- Joe-Pye-Weed

Garden of the Month

July, 2025

The Garden of the Month for July shows that you can truly beautify your "corner of the world". While going around a block to check out a possible Garden of the Month, we stumbled on this magnificent petite garden. Beautiful colors, healthy plants, creative arrangement, a host of pollinators and two rain barrels! It took our breath away.

All photos by Beth Bynon



Garden of the Month

August, 2025

"Blooms" had been watching this garden develop all season and we think we caught it at one of its loveliest moments. It has it all — flowers, vegetables, a rain barrel and space to relax! A bonus: it's on a corner so can be enjoyed from many angles.

All photos by Beth Bynon

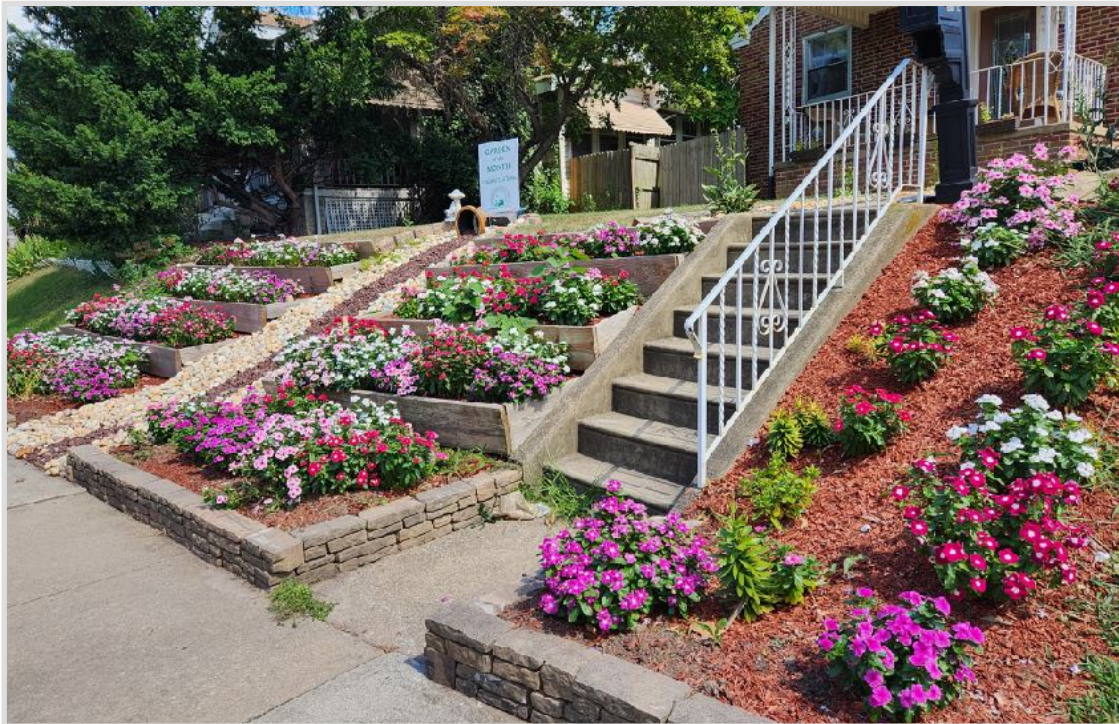


Garden of the Month

September, 2025

After a long dry spell, September's Garden of the Month continues to look bright and vibrant. The garden this month is located on a corner so it can be enjoyed from several directions.

Photos by Beth Bynon



Holiday House Kickoff 2025

August 27, 2025

Can you believe that it's time to start working on our 75th Holiday House tour? Five fabulous houses were chosen, the chairmen are in place and today was the first opportunity to see them and to sign up to work on one. "Great Job" to Olivia Brady, the 2025 overall Chair, and the Holiday House committee!

Photos by Beth Bynon



Fairview Village Church Butterfly Garden

September 9, 2025

The women of NGC were busy working in the Butterfly Garden at the Fairview Church. They weeded and pruned the garden. Looking good ladies! I am sure our winged beauties love it!

Photos courtesy of Marge Eberz



Back Row (left to right):

- Jane Comroe
- Olivia Brady
- Maureen Von Stetina

Front Row (left to right)

- Linda Titanich
- Nancy Hannum
- Ginger Hunsicker
- Marge Eberz



District XI Annual Meeting

September 11, 2025

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) event was a wonderful day of celebrating the many garden clubs of Pennsylvania. From the encouraging addresses of the CGFP Officers thru the many award ceremonies and Tim Farrell's "Autumn Delights" floral demonstration, the event was a great success and enjoyed by everyone!

NGC Laurel Award Winners 2025

Connie Burnley was recognized for her steadfast efforts over the years to audit our financial records and gently recommend alternative accounting practices if needed.

Beth Bynon was recognized for her outstanding service to NGC in both leadership roles and participation in many, many activities, while providing a voice of reason in any forum.

Mary Fran Leahy was recognized for her organizational skills, guidance, and follow-up, which she has demonstrated on both NGC and District XI committees.

Caren Puschak has earned her Laurel for being an outstanding role model for our members — energetic, creative, and supportive of both projects and people, with a perpetual drive to help others.

Arlene Reagan-Harris was recognized for her willingness to fill any need, whether it is holding two Board positions at once, working with 4th grade students or Senior Center residents, or helping the Blooms committee keep Norristown blooming.

District XI Annual Meeting (continued)

September 11, 2025

Photo by Nancy Hannum

Exceptional NGC Horticulturists for 2025

- Barbara Andon
- Debbie Mazer
- Renee Messant
- Caren Puschak
- Arlene Reagan-Harris

Honey Bee Award

- Honey Bawduniak

Director's Special Citations — Patriot Awards

- Ginger Hunsicker
- Diane Pratt



District XI Annual Meeting (continued)

September 11, 2025

Tim Farrell has over 40 years of experience in the Floral industry. His creations have graced many high-profile events including the Academy Awards, presidential inaugurations, White House State dinners, the papal visit to Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

He created these “Autumn Delights” for us!



Horticulture Workshop

September 16, 2025

The Horticulture Workshop was a fabulous tour of the Appleford Estate and Parsons-Banks Arboretum in Lower Merion. Now primarily a wedding venue, the entire property was a remarkable example of a beautiful, exclusive estate in the mid-20th century. The home was very elegant, as well as historical, and the gardens were just lovely. Carol and Michelle were excellent tour guides and a lot of fun!

Photo by Beth Bynon



Horticulture Workshop (continued)

September 16, 2025

Photos by Beth Bynon



Norristown Blooms

September 19, 2025

It was time to do a refresh at Theatre Horizon so that everything looked great for their new season which was starting soon. We were joined by Mydera Robinson, Executive Director, and Jonathan Schlieman, Executive Producer. Flowers planted and pumpkins placed — let the show begin!

Photos courtesy of Beth Bynon



Flower Design Workshop

September 24, 2025

The “Falling for Leaves” involved preparing a creative mass design using only leaves and green foliage. Leaves of varying shapes and textures were used, including croton leaves which added a little fall color to the arrangement. Aspidistra leaves were manipulated to make curls, and croton and magnolia leaves were wired to sticks for easy insertion into the armature. The resulting designs were all absolutely stunning! Thank you attendees for making the first design workshop of the 2025/2026 season a success!

Photos by Barbara Andon.



Bird Lover's Corner

An Update from Lynn Whelan

Courtesy of: @ [I Love Hummingbirds] and @ [We Love Hummingbirds Community]



Hummingbird migration is a remarkable phenomenon where millions of these tiny birds fly south to warmer climates in North America. The fall migration typically lasts from August to October, with different species traveling varying distances.

Key Facts About Migration:

- **When:** Fall migration usually starts around Labor Day and continues into late October.
- **Where:** Hummingbirds migrate from Canada and the US to Mexico and Central America.
- **Solo Journey:** Hummingbirds travel alone, relying on instinct, and don't migrate in flocks.
- **Fuel:** They need abundant nectar to fuel their long journeys.

Did You Know?

Hummingbirds have a surprising diet that goes well beyond just nectar from flowers.

Hummingbirds devour up to 2,000 tiny insects and spiders every single day!

These aerial acrobats need massive amounts of protein to fuel their incredible metabolism and maintain their lightning-fast wing beats.

Hummingbirds return to the exact same feeder locations they used in the previous years. These tiny birds have incredible spatial memory.

