



VOLUME 25, Issue 1 February 2024  
THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF MARYLAND

[www.fgcofmd.org](http://www.fgcofmd.org)

The official publication of the  
Federated Garden Clubs of  
Maryland, Inc.

Gardenews@fgcofmd.org  
Published Tri-annually by  
The Federated Garden Clubs of  
Maryland, Inc.

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Club Submission Deadlines:  
November Issue - October 10  
February Issue - January 10  
July Issue - June 10

GARDENEWS is published  
on our  
Website: [www.fgcofmd.org](http://www.fgcofmd.org)

**Wow, I'm coming up on a year in office ....**

**Where did the time go?**

I want to thank all of you for embracing my theme  
**"Sustaining Maryland...one action at a time".**

Together we are making a difference:

- Numerous clubs and individuals have signed our Climate Action Pledge to make individual and collective changes.
- I see many clubs sponsoring educational programs related to the topic.
- Two clubs are in the process of implementing new projects with funds from the Grant Program
- Our Climate Action Committee has implemented ZOOM education programs with speakers on ecology and the environment. You are invited to attend a **"Campaign for Nature"** seminar at the Vollmer Center on May 1<sup>st</sup> : [fgcofmd.org/calendar/](http://fgcofmd.org/calendar/)



President  
Susie Middleton



Sometimes an image evokes more emotions than mere words can capture. That's what happened the first time I saw this photo. The photographer, Justin Hoffman said "It's a photo that I wish didn't exist but now that it does I want everyone to see it. What started as an opportunity to photograph a cute little sea horse turned into one of frustration and sadness as the incoming tide brought with it countless pieces of trash and sewage. This sea horse drifts long with the trash day in and day out as it rides the currents that flow along the Indonesian archipelago. This photo serves as an allegory for the current and future state of our oceans. What sort of future are we creating? How can your actions shape our planet?" So this year I'd like us to focus on one of the biggest problems we face and it's one we can all do something about - **Plastic Pollution** .



- Look in your kitchen. Like mine you probably have Ziplock baggies, saran wrap and plastic containers for storage. But what happens with them when you are done with them?
- Look in your grocery store. What do you put your fruit & vegetables in? Look at how the meat is packaged. Remember when it used to be paper? You can ask them to change.
- Look at all the containers for condiments and cleaning supplies - almost all of them are now plastic - remember when most were glass? You can write to manufacturers and ask them to change or find a new product like single sheet laundry detergent that dissolves in the wash.
- Look at the wasteful packaging on those plastic sealed items including pills...even more irritating they are hard to open. Write and ask for more user and planet friendly packaging or switch to a product that already does this.

**We can change what and how we are using our personal and household products. Pick a few and resolve to start the changes tomorrow.**

**Working together we can make a difference.**

FGCMD State News



**Marcia Richard .....1st Vice President**

In continuing my exploration on how to incorporate minimalism in my daily routine, I purchased some items to try out.

**So what are these items in the photo?**

Starting at the left, there are two white balls. They are wool balls to use in the dryer, and I have found they do reduce the amount of time for drying; furthermore, the clothes and towels come out very soft and fluffy. One can sprinkle scented oils of the dryer balls instead of using scented dryer fabric products.

The brush is used in lieu of sponges, and is very similar to a cast iron scrub brush.

The snowflake towel is called an “unpaper towel”, a substitute to use instead of paper towels. They come in different patterns and colors, and I am still on the fence on this. I use them in the kitchen and each bathroom has one. They are absorbent and washable.

The last item is the familiar Swedish dish cloth which has made a reemergence.

During my research, I found some very interesting other items that I might try at some point in time. Items like: environmentally friendly soaps and detergents, toothbrushes, and bamboo dental floss!



**Annual Meeting Speaker** *Chair Betty Reeves*

We are very fortunate and pleased to have well known floral designer **Jane Godshalk** as the program presenter, “**Designs Inspired by Nature**”. Jane Godshalk, AIFD, earned a MBA in



*Jane Godshalk*

Organizational Behavior before discovering her life’s passion, working with flowers. At first, Jane was totally immersed into the study of floral design, including certificates from Longwood Gardens, the Stoas University in the Netherlands, and a fourth level teaching certificate in Sogetsu Ikebana. She is an Artistic Judge for the Garden Club of America and a Certified Evaluator for the American Institute of Floral Design.

Her book “**Flower Arranging Secrets**” demystifies the art of floral design in an eco-friendly way. Jane has represented the USA at the Chelsea Flower Show in London and as an international demonstrator at the World Association of Flower Arrangers in Dublin. Both the American Horticultural Society and the Garden Club of America have recognized Jane with national medals. She has served on the board of the Garden Club of America and the Philadelphia Flower Show.

You will also have an opportunity to shop many vendors, some new & many returning, as well as purchase tickets for the many raffle prizes. Jane Godshalk’s book will be available for purchase.



*The Call*

**95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 Turf Valley Resort and Hotel**

All FGCMD members are invited to attend the State’s Annual Meeting and welcome Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs’ Regional Director Monica Hansen whose theme is “Together We’ll Plant America for a Cleaner, Greener and Healthier World”.

Registration	8:00am - 11:45am
located in the Lobby of the Hotel’s Main Entrance	
Vendor shopping	8:00am - 3:00pm
Silent Auction	9:45am - 12:00 noon
Business Meeting	9:30am - 11:00am
Cash Bar	11:00am - 2:00pm
Luncheon	11:45am - 12:45pm
Program	1:00pm - 2:00pm

We will present some awards at the Business Meeting, and additional ones at the luncheon meeting. District and Youth Awards will be presented at each District’s Annual Meeting. At the Business Meeting, District Directors will present a three-minute report. With the exception of the Treasurer, all Officers and Chairmen are asked to submit written reports to the Recording Secretary. A request for oral report time must be submitted to the President by March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**LUNCHEON MENU**

- Market Salad
- Grilled Chicken Breast with Penne Pasta, Tomato and Basil Marinara
- Double Layer Carrot Cake

**PROGRAM**

The luncheon program is a design program: “**Designs Inspired by Nature**” featuring **Jane Godshalk, AIFD**. She is an Artistic Judge for the Garden Club of America and a Certified Evaluator for the American Institute of Floral Design. Her book “**Flower Arranging Secrets**” demystifies the art of floral design in an eco-friendly way. Jane has represented the USA at the Chelsea Flower Show in London and as an international demonstrator at the World Association of Flower Arrangers in Dublin. Both the American Horticultural Society and the Garden Club of America have recognized Jane with national medals. Signed copies of her book will be available for sale at the annual meeting.

**DISTRICT DIRECTORS:** Please send the following proposed Nominating Committee to your Club Presidents and request they read to their membership:

District I	Ann Street
District II	Anna O’Kelly, Chairman
District III	Jackie Handley
District IV	TBD
District V	Lynn Walter
Members-at-Large:	Liz Williams, Jenny Henry

A vote to accept the proposed Nominating Committee will be called for at the Business Meeting. We look forward to seeing you at the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland. It will be a day filled with fun and friendship, good food, good entertainment and good shopping.



## FGCMD State News

## Conservation and Environmental Awareness ....Chair Carolyn Braverman

**January:** Kerry Wixted informed and entertained us all with her Zoom Presentation she called “**Double Trouble**”, a talk on biodiversity and its importance in relation to Climate Change.

**February 21** is the date for the rescheduled Zoom presentation by Sara Via: “**Climate Change Is Already Here**”.

Registration Link on the FGCMD Website: [fgcmd.org/calendar/](https://fgcmd.org/calendar/)

**May 1** The Climate Action Committee (CAC) will present a live event at the Vollmer Center called “**Campaign For Nature**”.



### Speakers for this event:

Dr. Kris Juffer: Film “Beautiful Earth” - an Astronomer’s view, mankind’s footprint, and our impact.

Dr. Mike Raupp: “A Dangerous Double Whammy” - what a Warming World and Biodiversity Loss Mean

Prof. Kevin Dodge: “Climate Change and Its Potential Impacts on Birds” - our shrinking avian population

Operations Director/Greenworks Forests Michael French: Restoring native forests & Economic opportunities

Retired Maryland Park Ranger Caroline Blizzard: How YOU can take control, make change & stay positive

with your everyday actions!

**Use QR Code or this link to view the registration flyer on the Calendar page :** [fgcmd.org/calendar/](https://fgcmd.org/calendar/)

**September 25** The CAC will be Zooming with Laura Greenleaf. Subject: **Light Pollution**

Have you ever thought about how that light affects us and other creatures?

NPR focused on the **50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act** and in one segment, they talked about Biodiversity.

The talk is available. Link: [SOS: 50 Years After The Endangered Species Act : 1A : NPR](#)

**5th Annual Legislative Summit on Climate and the Environment** was held over the January 5-6 weekend. The event was sponsored by the [Maryland Legislative Coalition's](#) Climate Justice Wing, [Sierra Club Lower Eastern Shore](#) and ShoreRivers .

It offered an online preview of climate and environmental legislation being introduced during 2024. A number of Delegates and Senators talked about the bills they were sponsoring that had to do with the environment.

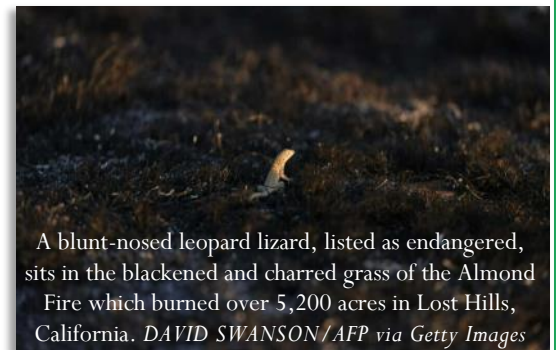
Topics included:

Recycling Refund and Litter reduction

Phaseout of Gas-powered State lawn equipment

Invasive Plant Legislation

Playground surface materials – how harmful



A blunt-nosed leopard lizard, listed as endangered, sits in the blackened and charred grass of the Almond Fire which burned over 5,200 acres in Lost Hills, California. DAVID SWANSON/AFP via Getty Images

**As always, “What’s your Climate Footprint?”**

## Blue and Gold Star Memorial Marker Program ....Chair Carolyn MacGlashan, Co-chair Nicki Schwab

Due to rising labor, material, and shipping costs SEWAH STUDIOS, manufacturer of the markers, advised new prices effective January 1, 2024. Prices include shipping costs...



Marker w/7' Post	\$2,350 (Highway or Memorial Marker)
Marker (no post)	\$2,225
Marker w/10' Post	\$2,460
By-Way Plaque	\$ 750 (Be sure to consider extra cost of mounting)
Replace 7' Post	\$ 375
Replacement 10' Post	\$ 475
Refurbishment	\$1,200 (With cap repair \$1,450)

The Blue Star Marker honors all those who serve in the United States Armed Forces. Gold Star Memorials honors the families of those veterans who sacrificed their lives for our country.

If your club is interested in placing a marker, remember veteran organizations and civic groups are often willing to co-sponsor, sharing the cost. As a REMINDER, orders are taking 24 months or longer, so please plan accordingly. Info available online at [Blue and Gold Star Memorials | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#) Project info: [cmacglashan@gmail.com](mailto:cmacglashan@gmail.com) (Carolyn) or [mako261@aol.com](mailto:mako261@aol.com) (Nicki).

We are excited to have placed two orders for markers by clubs in 2023.

**Carroll GC** a Blue Star Families By-Way Marker; **Crofton Village GC & Crofton Greenery GC** a Gold Star Families Memorial.

Both dedications are scheduled for Veteran’s Day celebrations this November.

## FGCMD State News

**Photography Tips!** .... Chair Mary Ellen Pluemer**Landscape Photography Tips:**

1. Set your **horizon line** to assure the photo is perfectly level!  
HOW? Settings ~ Camera ~ Level.  
Connect the line segments. When yellow it is a level shot.
2. Include a **point of interest**: an ocean wave, a person, a tree, a building...
3. Shoot at daybreak or sunset for beautifully warm colors.  
“**Blue Hour**” is 1 hour before sunrise and 1 hour after sunset.  
“**Golden Hour**” is 1 hour after sunrise and 1 hour before sunset.
4. Include **dramatic clouds** when possible.
5. Make use of ‘**leading lines**’ to let the eye of the viewer follow through the photo!



Above: Tips #1,2,4,5

Below: Tips #2,3,4,5



Photos by Mary Ellen Pluemer

**Extra tips for snowy conditions!**

**Too bright?** Tap up arrow on camera screen and increase or decrease your exposure level across bottom menu bar!

**Snow not looking white?** While editing, adjust temperature and tint!

Made footprint in snow, set camera to selfie, 10 seconds and laid camera in footprint!  
Use snowy condition tips for contrast.

**Maryland Natives and Pollinators** ...Tina Swanson

**Monarda punctata** Common names: Spotted monarda, Spotted beebalm, Horsemint, Spotted horsemint, Dotted Beebalm

**Punctata: “marked with dots”**

In addition to Scarlet Bee Balm, *Monarda didyma* and Wild Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*, I now have Spotted Bee Balm, *Monarda punctata* growing in my gardens. I knew nothing about this monarda, so I was quite surprised at its late season, very interesting flower development. *Monarda punctata* has stacked inflorescences with large, showy pinkish-purple leafy bracts radiating out from the stem, just below each flower head. It blooms late summer into fall, attracting many pollinators.

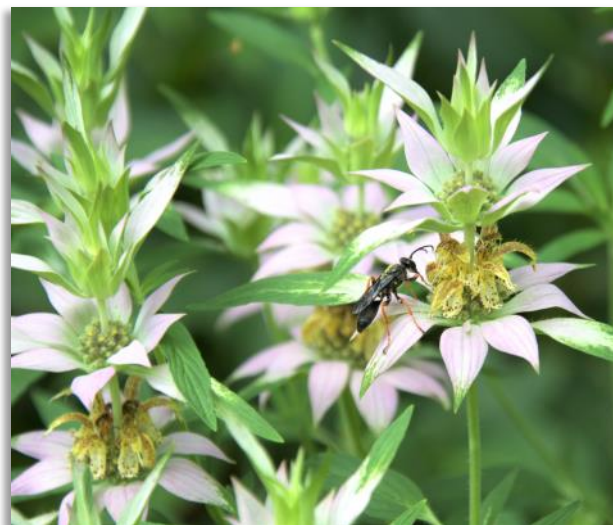


Tina Swanson Photos

*Monarda punctata* is a clump forming herbaceous perennial native to eastern U.S. It prefers full sun and can be found in dry prairie conditions, rocky dry woodlands, sandy areas, and coastal plains. It is a drought tolerant member of the mint - Lamiaceae family (square stems), spreading by runners ..**BUT** it is not considered to be aggressive. It will survive in poor soils. Depending on the conditions, it grows 1.5 to 3 feet tall producing single stems or branching stems....and very cool “triple decker” flowers!

It is susceptible to powdery mildew and rust late in the season after flowering. When soil is too dry, stressed plants become increasingly susceptible to disease. Propagate by sowing seeds in the fall, winter sow, or stratify seeds collected in September-October for sowing in spring. Also, great as a long lasting cut flower in arrangements. Enjoy a Short Video Link:

[\(167\) Spotted Bee Balm - Maryland Native Plant Profile - YouTube](#)



## FGCMD State News

### Judges Council ...Chair Anna O'Kelly

**What's the deal with floral foam?** You may have heard that it has been banned by the Royal Horticulture Society since 2021 and floral designers have been advised to use other types of mechanics when creating arrangements.

Alternatives may include pin-holders, chicken wire, etc. Also, a product introduced a few years ago, Agra wool, is composed of basalt mineral rock fibers, and is reusable and biodegradable. Friends familiar with the product claim that it is difficult to work with. While these options are environmentally friendly, they don't perform as well as the green stuff when it comes to holding stems in place.

At the State November Design Day, Potomac Floral Wholesalers designer David Powers said that Oasis has reformulated their floral foam in response to concerns that floral foam is not environmentally friendly. He said that he incorporated used floral foam into his flower beds and a year later it has mostly decomposed.

Skeptic that I am, I visited the Smithers-Oasis website and followed-up with a conversation with one of their sales representatives. He explained that their Max Life floral foam (available in green or midnight) decomposes by 75% at the end of the first year, and completely degrades after 500 days. Government rules require that a product labeled biodegradable must decompose in one year. So Max Life may not be labeled biodegradable even though it degrades completely in 500 days. Thus, it is classified degradable, but not biodegradable.

They have also introduced Forage Foam which is essentially Max Life in brown. Their line of Ecosential containers is produced using bamboo, corn, coir combined with an environmentally friendly binder and pressed into molds; a great alternative to plastics.

This is not an endorsement for Oasis products, but they are responding to the environmental concerns of their customers. Not all floral foam is degradable and may be formulated using toxic chemicals. But rest assured that if you use Oasis Max Life floral foam, you are using an environmentally responsible product.

### Gardening School and Environmental School ...Linda Harris Chairs both Schools

#### GARDENING SCHOOL COURSE 4

May 8 & 9, 2024

DoubleTree Hotel 5485 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD

Plant Classification and Nomenclature  
Outdoor ID of Plants  
Specialized Styles of Gardening  
Techniques for Growing Woody Ornamentals  
Pruning Techniques  
Keystone Plants

School brochure & registration Link: [fgcofmd.org/calendar/](https://fgcofmd.org/calendar/) on FGCMD website or contact Linda Harris at [lindaharris355@aol.com](mailto:lindaharris355@aol.com)

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL COURSE 4

September 18 & 19, 2024

Garrett College, Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County

Water & Related Issues  
Ecology of Water  
Wetlands  
Aquatic Plants & Animals  
Youth Programs in Environmental Education  
Earth Stewardship – Effective Citizenship  
Environmental Science - Sustainability  
School brochure and registration will be available on the FGCMD website calendar page or by contacting Linda Harris at [lindaharris355@aol.com](mailto:lindaharris355@aol.com)

### Support our FGCMD Scholarship Fund ... and become a Life Member!



Life Memberships may be purchased for \$75 per individual. Proceeds go entirely to the FGCMD Life Member Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships annually to qualified students in accredited U.S. colleges and universities.

Life members receive a **Black-eyed Susan pin**.

Application link [fgcofmd.org/membersupport/](https://fgcofmd.org/membersupport/)



A Wealth of Garden Club information available for you!



National Garden Clubs, Inc. Website:  
[Homepage | National Garden Clubs, Inc.](https://www.nationalgardenclubs.org/)

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs:  
[Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs | National Garden Clubs \(car-sgc.org\)](https://www.car-sgc.org/)



## News from Around the State

**District I - Eastern Shore** Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester Counties

...Trish Reynolds pkr26998@gmail.com



### District I Director Terry Holman

District I garden clubs are working on their 2024 activities which include planning new yearbooks, programs, and projects to support President Susie Middleton's "Sustainable Maryland, One Action at a Time." Our clubs are still in the process of signing the sustainable pledge from the new FGCMD Climate Action Committee. District I is collaborating with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources of the Eastern Shore region to assist us in locating public locations to plant native trees using the 2024 Rush-McKeon tree planting funds.

We are busy planning our annual district meeting at the Prospect Bay Country Club hosted by the Queen Anne's County GC on March 6, 2024. Registration link: [fgcofmd.org/calendar/](https://fgcofmd.org/calendar/) on FGCMD website. Download the registration flyer/form. Our guest speaker is Jim Sutton, the Senior Horticultural Display Designer of Longwood Gardens. Planning of our District I Standard Flower Show continues for October 5, 2024.

**Chestertown GC** Susan Flanigan, leader of the Conor McDowell Imagination Fund (the name for our youth gardening program) led a 1<sup>st</sup> grade program about pumpkins (*who knew that the stem of a pumpkin is called a peduncle!*) and a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program about trees. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students adopted and learned about one of the trees growing in the playground area. It is safe to say that fun was had by all. Starting this year, the CGC will sponsor two fifth grade students from Garnet Elementary School for one Sultana Summer Program. Garnet is a Title 1 school, and we want to encourage the curiosity of their students!

Our January meeting was planned so our new members could talk about how they can help the club grow and be successful. After the meeting, we had a pot-luck luncheon.

**Dorchester GC** The very successful Holiday Gala presented at the Cambridge Hyatt was the top news item amongst the conversations of club members. The 50/50 raffle awarded \$1000 to the winner, The same Raffle tickets also gifted beautiful floral arrangements created by our speaker, Mike Bramble of Florals Unique. Musical melodies filled the air with a performance by the Dorchester Chorus. Vendors presented lovely goods for sale, and of course, our own Diggers' Boutique presented marvelous bargains for guests. We are gearing up for a new year with Youth Gardening. Our Youth Gardeners consist of volunteer involvement by students enrolled in after school care provided by the YMCA, in



Cambridge. Students will learn weather tracking and practice recording temperatures and precipitation. We are planning to make newspaper pots, collect egg crates for seeds and make pinecone bird feeders to hang around the habitat areas. Members are busy planning our speakers and activities for the 2023-2024. We have an exciting **May 14, 2024 Field Trip** planned to the **Ladew Gardens**.



**Four Seasons GC** will meet on February 16, 2024, at 1:00, at the Poplar Hill Mansion. Jean Siers, Delmarva Director of the Society of St. Andrews, will present "**The Meaning of Gleaning**". Jean will be speaking about the Society of St. Andrew's Mission to end food waste and to get nutritious food to people in our communities who lack it. They do this through the ancient Biblical practice of gleaning, which offers people the opportunity to go to farmers' fields and rescue food that is left behind after harvest. Jean will talk about SoSA's 40-year history of food rescue and the Society's newest office in Salisbury, which is serving the entire Delmarva Peninsula. She began working for SoSa in 2021. Since beginning, she has shared more than 8 million pounds of food with 740 community agencies! **This is an open meeting, and we welcome everyone to join us.** If planning to attend, please call Ann Street at 443-783-2029.



Jean Siers

**Kent Island GC** members enjoyed our annual support of Wreaths Across America by preparing table decorations for the meals the convoy would eat on their stopover before heading to Arlington Cemetery.

With Christmas music, snacks and sparkling wine, we toasted Ollie Waskey, a well known character from KI, who was recently interned at Hurlock's Veterans' Cemetery and would receive his first wreath that District 1 supplied.





News from Around the State

**Oxford GC** Officer Installation will be held on March 7th. Melinda Hudson will succeed Marilyn Reedy as President. Our members are looking forward to celebrating the Club's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024 with the town of Oxford and beyond. A tea is planned for June 7. Three CHEERS for its founding members,



many of whom remain active to this very day. In 2023, our Club was awarded a \$1,000 Plant America Grant. A site in Oxford was chosen. Perennials and annuals were planted earlier this year. This fall, a group planted 800 daffodil bulbs. What a wonderful site this will be for Oxford citizens.

**Queen Anne's County GC** Recently members prepared the menu and floral arrangement for the lucky winner of our wildly successful Holiday Party Raffle. Meanwhile, we are delighted to welcome several new and returning members to our club. We look forward to hosting the March 6 District Meeting at Prospect Bay. A **Sustaining Maryland Grant** allowed QACGC to plant a White Oak and five Dogwoods at the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Centreville. A Spring dedication is planned to honor the Firemen and Police Officers who have kept our community safe over the 90 years of our club's existence.



**Somerset County GC** The first meeting for 2024 SCGC is March 4th. Following our business meeting, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Reenie Rice, will present "Welcome Mother Nature to Your Yard". She will discuss the four basic requirements that wildlife need to survive and thrive: Food, Water, Shelter and Safety. We will learn how we can provide many of these things for local wildlife and turn our backyards into a welcome habitat for all sorts of critters. Not only will we improve local biodiversity and have a positive impact

on local species, but we will also get to enjoy observing and learning about all the animals and bugs that have decided to call our yards home.



SCGC is also planning a "road trip" in mid-April along with the Four Seasons GC, to visit Trish Reynolds' (TCGC & OGC member) display of thousands of daffodils and tulips, along with minor bulbs such as Scilla and Chionodoxa.

**Talbot County GC** is trying something new - A program modeled after those we conducted for our Young Gardeners. On January 18, TCGC will join forces with the local YMCA to hold a program for disabled adults. We will assist participants in creating Terrarium Gardens. The program will be led by Paige Connelly and Trish Reynolds with assistance from our members and care givers. Attendees will take home a "Garden Under Glass" with instructions on how to maintain and care for "terrarium gardens". Depending on the success of this effort, we will plan additional programs for this group. TCGC has several "Open Programs" coming up. Please check the FGCMMD Calendar [fgcmd.org/calendar/](https://fgcmd.org/calendar/) for date, time, location and subject.



Trish Reynolds

**Worcester County GC** continued "Growing Relationships Through Gardening" with a "make & take" holiday arrangement workshop at its meeting on December 11, 2023. Members also hosted a Garden Therapy workshop at Gull Creek Senior Living. Residents made arrangements in holiday mugs to take back to their rooms. On December 21, six members braved the cold to decorate historic St. Martin's Church for its Christmas Eve service.



**District II – Southern Maryland** Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties ... [Shirley Santora shysanta@verizon.net](mailto:Shirley.Santora@verizon.net)

**District II Director Paula Winkler**

Happy New Year 2024. A huge thank you to Shirely Santora for stepping up as Interim Director in late August. DII is on course and moving forward. Our Board has been filled and we are looking forward to our Annual Meeting on March 8, 2024, *Spring is in the Right Around the Corner*. My focus for the next 15 months: "Sustaining Maryland's Trees: Ensuring Tree Mitigation". A design workshop, "Mardi Gras Madness - Laissez les bons temps rouler!" is planned for Saturday February 24, 2024, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. More information can be found at the Calendar of Events: <https://www.fgcofind.org/calendar/>.

**Calvert GC** will host **Books in Bloom** March 13-16<sup>th</sup> at all four Calvert County, Maryland libraries. Participants from area garden clubs and the community are invited to create floral displays inspired by a book from the library. We ask designers to drop off arrangements on the morning of March 13<sup>th</sup> and



## News from Around the State

pick them up on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Please include the book with the floral display. The public will be able to view and enjoy the flowers during that period. Calvert GC will create a paper floral display at the Prince Frederick Library for the month of February to promote interest for this event. The club's history and how to join will also be featured in the display case. Signs will be created for each branch to invite the community to join in the fun with Books in Bloom and Calvert GC. The public is also invited to our February Club meeting. Angela Ingrahm Bryant is our guest speaker. She will focus on how to design a floral work based on a book or piece of art.

**Chesapeake GC (CGC)** looks forward to the upcoming new year with several informative meetings planned. In February, Dr. Luke Macaulay, Wildlife Management Specialist at the University of Maryland, will discuss "How to Attract Butterflies and Bees to our Gardens." In March, Heather Newhart, Gardening Consultant, will offer a program on "Proven Winners: Landscaping Trouble Spots and Native Plants." In April, members will begin prepping for the Club's Annual Plant Sale on May 11 at the Fairview Branch Library in Owings.



**Forest GC** A busy December unfolded with a series of holiday events. We placed a wreath in Upper Marlboro on the Tomb of Dr. William Beanes, a Revolutionary War Veteran who was imprisoned in Baltimore and eventually rescued, which inspired him to collaborate on the writing of The Star-Spangled Banner. We also provided a greenery wreath to help dress the State Circle for the holidays in Annapolis. Our club participated in Lady Moore's Holiday Tree project at the Maryland State House. Our Junior Gardener Committee hosted a Christmas Tea and Workshop and each young gardener took home a decorated tree. For our December meeting, we enjoyed a Christmas Tea at Reynold's Tavern. In lieu of exchanging gifts, we collected \$500 which we donated to the Salvation Army in Hyattsville. We also brought in gifts consisting of books, puzzles, stickers, colored pencils, crayons, coloring books, playing cards and socks, enough to fill five bags, which were delivered to Manor Care Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

**Gibson Island GC's** President's Project for 2023 - 2024 is the Gibson Island Garden Trail. Our Club has scheduled one workday per month for clearing out invasive species and making the trail "debris free" for the community's enjoyment. The trail had been a prior project that was neglected for years, but we are proud that the trail is now looking fabulous. The signs have been spruced up, and the relocation of the current steps close to the water's edge will be moved up to a safer and flatter location. The work should be completed this spring. The group has enjoyed working outside in nature and collaborating for this common goal.

**La Plata GC** is looking forward to continuing several special projects this year that involved our members in 2023. Members maintained the Star Memorial Garden in La Plata, and the club is

involved with the town in plans that will include adding a mural. Two successful fundraisers: the Shabby Chic table at the Port Tobacco Market Day and our Annual Plant Sale at the La Plata Farmers' Market, not only raised money but also promoted community awareness of our club. In addition to decorating a carousel horse for the Maryland State House for the Christmas holidays, we had a make-and-take meeting making tree ornaments from dried natural materials.

As always, our greatest asset is our members, who presented programs on moss cultivation, shade gardening, and water features. Field trips included a trip to an Amish farm and Merrifield Garden Center. We will continue to award a cash prize for a horticultural project at the Charles County Science Fair and offer a college scholarship to a Charles County high school senior.

### **Naval Academy GC (NAGC)**

A 68 year May Day tradition, begun in 1956 by the Garden Club of Old Annapolis initiated a beautification project that flower lovers flocked to. Residents and businesses in the historic area of Annapolis were invited to display baskets of flowers adorned with ribbons and other festive items. So many homes and businesses responded, that a gorgeous walking path was created through the old streets of Annapolis. NAGC has participated in this annual event ever since the beginning and we usually win a blue ribbon for our creations that are designed especially for Gate 1 at the United States Naval Academy. Plans are currently underway for May Day 2024 on May 1, 2024.



**St. Mary's County GC** The Four R's Market Table is an undertaking of our Club that promotes recycling, reusing, reducing and rebuilding our environment. Members bring in a variety of items for the table at regular meetings to not only promote environmental stewardship but also raise funds. The Four R's Market Table works with the Ways and Means committee to create this unique program for members. The club wrapped up the year by decorating the historic St. Mary's City State House. A private garden club decorated the building for many years, but turned the project over to our Club. Decorating with only natural materials was the primary challenge. The volunteers used magnolia, oyster shells, native evergreens, dried and fruit.





News from Around the State

District III Baltimore & Harford Counties ...Judy Walter judywalter1@verizon.net and Toni Serruto tserruto@towson.edu



**District III Director Randy Low**

District III was very busy during the month of December. Several clubs worked on the District's traditional "Greening of Hampton Mansion." Lutherville Garden Club and Claire Jones worked to decorate the State House in Annapolis. The district is busy planning an Asian Inspired

Workshop on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> at Cylburn and our Annual Meeting on March 1st "From the Garden to the Vase" with a program by Barbara Melera from Harvesting History.



**Evergreen GC** embarked on a new Garden Therapy project . With the coordination of club member (and Recording Secretary) Jan Puliafico, we were able to arrange two workshops with the residents of the Jacob's Well Assisted Living Center in Bel Air. We came prepared with tuna fish and cat food cans filled with floral foam and our own snips. In December, we brought an assortment of greens (without berries or thorns!) left over from our "Holiday Make and Take" event. We prepped the flowers, so they were an appropriate length for residents to set right into the containers. The residents who participated selected colors and textures that were appealing to them. They were all able to take an arrangement back to their room or give it to a friend. We are looking forward to bringing more color to the residents at Jacob's Well in 2024.

**Gunpowder GC** To add recognition and appreciation to club members who give energy and volunteer time to Club stewardship, our Club began an internal award - the "Garden Gnome Award". Jeannie Whitin and Barbara Williams are the first Gnome Awardees named by the Garden Gnome Council. In this northern Baltimore County region of woodlands, waterways, and farmland, gnomes frequent the area. As legend has it, gnomes move about freely, mostly at night, helping Mother Nature protect the earth.



**Hampton GC** partnered with Meals on Wheels for a fun project to provide bouquet-filled mugs. Members donate mugs and greens



and the club buys flowers and oasis. After the bouquets are made, the mugs are delivered to Meals on Wheels for distribution with clients' meals. It is a much beloved twice-yearly project that members enjoy doing as much as clients enjoy receiving.

**Lake Roland GC** In December, our Club enjoyed a holiday tour at the White House in Washington, DC. We entered through a side entrance hallway lined with portraits of first ladies. The painting of Nancy Reagan was particularly arresting. We walked through a ground floor hallway lined with rooms on each side, like the China room and Library. We peeped into the rooms but could not enter. The first floor of the residence was decorated from head to toe! We moved from the huge East Room, through the Green, Blue, and Red Rooms, and into the amazing State Dining Room, and took a group photo in the hallway. We exited via the North Portico. Knowledgeable docents happily answered questions and told stories. It was a magical experience, seeped in lights, history, and art!



**Manor GC** invigorated their public garden off of the NCR trail by maintaining it in simple ways. It was not a big enterprise, but an important one. The park service provided support by removing limbs from two redbud trees on the site. The group met over the spring and summer months to bring the garden back from its long winter's sleep. A sign will appear soon, simply saying "Manor Garden Club" since 1960. Participation in monthly club meetings went up. Eyes opened to future skill building: bonsai planting, and hypertufa making. Projects done for others included: making arrangements for Liriiodendron Mansion Christmas open house, collecting applesauce to benefit Thanksgiving baskets for Hereford Food Bank, and other monthly fundraising supports.



**Woodbrook-Murray Hill GC** enjoyed a demonstration of holiday decorations by Claire Jones, including a dried flower and dried fruit wreath, a red rose topiary, and a design with orchids and gold berries. Claire also gave tips on helping designs last and refreshing them with replacement flowers when needed. Claire also presented to our club last December, speaking about her experiences





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decorating the White House for the holidays. Club members contributed to a festive holiday potluck and participated in a “Yankee Swap” after Claire’s program.

**York Manor GC** fall meetings included a slide presentation on Native Bees in Maryland by Master Gardener, Sara Yosua and a field trip to McLean Nursery consisted of a wreath making demo and a lesson on the history of McLean Nursery and the holly industry in Maryland. Our annual fundraiser at Mercy Ridge retirement community ended the first half of our year. Efforts to increase membership include a website for YMGC.



**District IV** Baltimore City ...Katherine Edwards [Katherine.s.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:Katherine.s.edwards@gmail.com)



**District IV Director Gretchen Edwards**

**Mt. Washington GC** represented our district for the First Lady Moore’s Holiday Tree display at the Maryland State House.

**Garden Workshop GC** For the past several years, our club has created small holiday arrangements for Meals on Wheels at the very successful December Meetings. This year, we donated approximately 120 holiday arrangements.



**For-Win-Ash GC** continued our tradition of decorating the Molly Bannaky house, located on the grounds of the Benjamin Banneker Park and Museum in Catonsville. The Club decorated four Christmas trees (3 exterior and 1 interior), an open bookcase, and a fireplace mantle, as well as adding garlands to staircases and wreaths on doors. This also included a lovely Kwanzaa display. Members also brought poinsettias and gifts to their shut-in members. This past year, our Club worked with the Urban Tree Program and the Nathan A. Pitts Ashburton Elementary/ Middle School. We co-led sixth graders in a series of six classes introducing them to outdoor habitats, the anatomy of a seed, the water cycle, and gardening.



**District V - Western Maryland** Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Washington Counties ...Genevieve Weston [olemissbelle76@gmail.com](mailto:olemissbelle76@gmail.com)



**District V Director Shelley Johnson**

DV would like to give a huge shout out to all of the clubs in the district for their selfless holiday contributions in their communities. Here are just a few of the ways our district clubs helped their citizens celebrate the holidays. Financially, clubs donated or helped raise over \$40,000 for non-profits who aid those less fortunate and/or will be providing future no cost community events. Time and creativity are also evident in the many club activities that took place during the season’s festivities. Participation in Wreaths Across America, decorating state parks, historic sites and government buildings such as fire halls, stores and chapels, as well as creating beautiful decorations for house tours were also important in making our cities and towns joyful for the holidays. Delivering gifts to nursing homes and leading holiday projects helped touch the lives of our senior citizens.

**Carroll GC** Our members are blessed to have a plethora of live evergreens in their yards for wreaths and floral arrangements. Members brought greens to create Christmas arrangements and wreaths. Rich reds of holly berry and soft oranges of nandina were also added to the arrangements for a pop of color. Each member was able to take home a beautiful arrangement. The Club also uses

greens at the Annual Westminster Library holiday arrangement workshop for the Community.



**GC of Frederick** decorated one of the city’s magnificent homes for the December 2nd-3rd Candlelight House Tour. Open to the public, the tour is one of the highlights of the year for Frederick City. Members worked extremely hard decorating the home with flowers, arrangements, and décor. Observing long lines forming outside on Show Days was very rewarding!



**Green-walled GC** decorated the historic Gaslight House and Gallery Studio at 118 East Church Street in Frederick, as part of the Frederick Candlelight House Tour in December. The holiday



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festive decorations were displayed on the outside and backyard of the house. The inside foyer, which contains the Gaslight Gallery, the living areas, dining room and kitchen were also decorated and designed with a creative festive holiday theme. The house dates back to the early 1800s and volunteer docents, including GwGC members, provided information about the history and architecture of the home. Visitors were thrilled to see the creative decorations.

**Howard County GC** For many years our Club has decorated the Firehouse Museum in Historic Ellicott City with swags of mixed greens on the firehouse doors, pine roping draped over the fence and red ribbons. The town is decorated every year with holiday decorations, which draws many people to enjoy shopping and dining in this festive atmosphere.



**Mountain Laurel GC** has an ongoing commitment to community programming in partnership with local organizations. Each January, the club offers a free lecture on local wildlife for its members and the community at large in cooperation with Kevin Dodge, director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program at Garrett College. In **April 2024**, MLGC is sponsoring "**The Power of Native Plants**," a daylong native plants symposium in cooperation with the MD Native Plant Society, Garrett College Continuing Education and Workforce Development, and University of MD Extension. Link for program details: [Programs & Events - MOUNTAIN LAUREL GARDEN CLUB](#)

**Mt. Airy GC's** 90 year tradition of decorating around Town for the holidays is a favorite project! At our Holiday Design Workshop, we create wreaths and swags for historic Pine



Grove Chapel, wreaths for the Senior Center, Fire Company and the Library entrance, and the huge 6 foot wreath for the front of the Library building! Each year, Senior Citizens look forward to creating holiday arrangements at our Holiday Design workshops. Participants are thrilled to take home beautiful evergreen designs they created using evergreens from our members' yards!

**Tasker's Chance GC** held a small standard flower show in October. "75 Years Celebrating and Remembering" reflects the 75th anniversary of the club's founding in 1949. For the 2023 Christmas House Tour, our team did a great job decorating, including one of our boxwood trees! The Frank's home was beautiful and the visitors loved it.

Our annual fundraiser resulted in a profit of \$3561.00. We sold total of 65 handmade boxwood trees, including 18 with lights. The lit trees were a new addition to the offerings. The Club continues to partner with the city of Frederick's Senior Center. This year's Garden Therapy projects included a fresh holiday greens arranged in a coffee mug. We are planning Easter and late spring garden activities for Frederick seniors also.



**Town & Country GC** held a workshop to prepare for this year's Art in Bloom at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts on March 16. Using their own containers and plant material provided by the club, members worked together and in pairs, with experienced designers helping newer members to interpret "Perry's Victory on Lake Erie" by Edward Everard Arnold. Beautiful results! Several of the floral creations were delivered as surprise gifts to area businesses and nonprofits including: Children in Need, Fletcher Public Library, Bester Community of Hope, and Washington County Community Foundation. All were very appreciative by this impromptu gesture. We plan to make this a yearly tradition.



Tina Swanson  
Gardenews  
Editor

**Gardenews is published 3 times a year -February - July - November**

**Club Submission Deadline:** January 10, June 10, October 10

**District Gardenews Reps Deadline:** January 20, June 20, October 20

**State Officers & Chairs, Schools, Councils Deadline:**

January 20, June 20, October 20

Questions??? Contact Tina Swanson [gardenews@fgcofmd](mailto:gardenews@fgcofmd)

### Promote Your Garden Club Events

**Calendar:** Send details of Special Events, Flower Shows, Fundraisers, Bus Trips, and Plants Sales, etc. to: [website@fgcofmd.org](mailto:website@fgcofmd.org).

**Facebook:** Send Special Events, Flower Shows, Fundraisers, Bus Trip and Plant Sales to: [facebook@fgcofmd.org](mailto:facebook@fgcofmd.org)

**\*Flyers must be pre-approved for posting and be sure to include photo credit with photos.**

NGC, Inc. Magazine "The National Gardener"

**Winter 2024  
Publication!**

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