

TRUMPET



VINE

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania District VII

A FREE newsletter distributed via

http://www.gardenclubofmonroeville.org/trumpet_vine_gcfp_district_vii_newsletter

And via Club Presidents to their ~372 club members

September-November 2018

Jackie Stempfer, Editor



WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR MARGIE WOLFF!



*New District VII Director Margie Wolff,
GCFP President Chris Leskosky, Asst.
Director Marilyn Backus*

Dear District VII Members,

We welcome new 2018-2020 District VII Director, **Margaret (Margie) Wolff**, of Murrysville Garden Club! Margie was installed by Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) President, Christine Leskosky, at our Annual Meeting on September 12, 2018. Margie is a current Accredited GCFP Flower Show Judge and is completing a term as a Co-President of Greensburg Garden Center. She served as President of Murrysville GC (2012-2014), District VII Conservation Chair (2014-2016) and most recently as its Awards Chair and Assistant District Director (2016-2018).

Marilyn Backus traded places with Margie and assumed the Assistant District Director role for 2018-2020.

President Leskosky performed a "hands" installation of all of District VII's 2018-2020 officers pictured to the left. We welcome **Valerie Wilson, Lana Kling and Arlene Madray** to the District VII Board of Directors!

We are all part of a greater whole called the "Federation" AND National Garden Clubs, Inc. and together we live GCFP President Chris Leskosky's theme "T.E.A.M. UP and PLANT AMERICA Together Everyone Achieves More!"



*(Pictured L to R) Newly Installed District VII Director Margie Wolff (Murrysville GC)
Assistant District VII Director: Marilyn Backus (GC of Monroeville)
Corresponding Secretary: Valerie Wilson (Murrysville GC)
Recording Secretary: Lana Kling (Joyful Bloomers)
Treasurer: Arlene Madray (GC of Monroeville)*

The District VII Annual Meeting was held at Palmieri's Restaurant, and 51 club members (or 15% of District members) plus 6 Guests attended. Door Prizes (for the "Highest **number** of attendees from one club" was **Burrellton GC (9/25 or 36%)** and **GC of Forest Hills (9/35 or 26%)**. The "Highest **percent** of attendees from one club" was also **Burrellton GC who scheduled its regular meeting at the Annual Meeting**. This Annual Meeting actually ended ahead of schedule (1:15 PM) so that members took their door prizes and raffle wins, which this year included vases and Yellow Trumpet daffodil and/or Ziva PAPERWHITE bulbs for forcing. *[How are your PAPERWHITES growing? Remember to start your refrigerated daffodils around New Year's Day.]*

"Download All" pictures of "Annual Mtg Sept 12, 2018" from <https://photos.app.goo.gl/MQWYr9gBuNu1Y2Ge6>
(continued from page 1)

The day began with **Arlene Madray**, who welcomed attendees and distributed nametags prepared by former District VII Treasurer **Leeanna Ryba**. The business meeting opened with (former) District VII Director, **Marilyn Backus**, who thanking her experienced, helpful Board members for their excellent advice and support during her two-year term.

There were new exhibits for viewing: *(Recycling) Crayon Initiative* (**Judy Schaffer**); *Succulents Exchange* (**Marsha Pratt, Mary Jane Hickman**, Marilyn Backus); *Noxious and Invasive Weeds* Field Guides and specimens (M. Backus).

To defray costs, **Murrysville GC and Pucketos GC** donated Raffle Items/Baskets that were managed by **Barbara Cseh**. We also had the Used Jewelry Table (**Anna Zamule**), Used Book Exchange, 50/50 Raffle (**Valerie Wilson**), and a free drawing for 20 festive vases, bulbs and directions for forcing (**Shirley Brody**). The 2019 Vision of Beauty calendars were also available for pickup (**Helen Stamatakis**) but the new 2019 GCFP Keystone Kalendar delivery was delayed.

Club Presidents (or their Surrogates) gave two-minute, animated responses to the question, *“Per Nancy Hargrove, our NGC President, many members join garden clubs to LEARN ABOUT GARDENING. What NEW thing(s) did you and/or your club members learn or experience for the first time this past year – CONSIDER Gardening, Birds, Conservation/ Recycling, Leadership, etc.”*

Sharon Bryner of Joyful Bloomers encouraged our members to donate to the Natural Disasters Fund. **Margie Wolff of Murrysville GC**, District Awards Chairperson, distributed 17 Daffodil Awards and 42 Laurel Certificates to the members of eight clubs who nominated them. *See the next page for the awardees.*

Membership Chair, **Lana Kling of Joyful Bloomers**, distributed 20 red tulips to the 7 clubs welcoming **NEW MEMBERS (AUGUST 31, 2017-AUGUST 31, 2018)**:

Burrellton GC-1: Lynn Waltenbaugh

GC of Forest Hills-2: Laura Budde, April Kline

GC of McKeesport-5: Diane Bochicchio, David Caird, Alice Isbir, Steve Lesko, Carlyn Svec

GC of Monroeville-4: Janet DeCecco, Elise Frazer, Helen Naimark, Nancy Philpot

Landscape Design Society-: Judy Latchem (*sponsored by Fran Amatangelo*)

Murrysville GC-1: Debbie Kolonay

Pucketos GC – 6: Kay Quigley, Jackie Runyan, Sandra Enterline, Sue Simpson, Terri Staley, Barb Summers

Lana said, “Plant your bulbs in the FALL and in the SPRING you will be reminded that you are a new member of a federated garden club!”

GCFP President **Chris Leskosky**, 1st Vice President **Joyce Milberg** and 2nd Vice President **Sheila Croushore** offered energetic, newsy remarks. Chris presented **Marsha Pratt, President of GC of McKeesport**, with the *District VII Seeds of Service Award* for their 85 years of rose garden work for the community. (Well-deserved Congratulations!) Joyce will ascend the GCFP Presidency at the 2019 GCFP Convention. Sheila, 2019 Convention Chair, invited all of District VII to attend the courses, tours and socials at the **GCFP Convention at Blair County Convention Center on April 7-9, 2019 in Altoona, PA.**

Many thanks also go to Program Chair, **Iris Cisarik of Forest Hills**, who arranged for Master Gardener, Linda Roos, to present her highly educational presentation *“Forget Phil!!! Force Flowers for February!”*

District VII recognized Trumpet Vine Editor, **Jackie Stempfer**, with the *District VII Board Service Certificate* for serving more than ten years on our Board.

District VII’s **Garden Club of Forest Hills** nominated a new deserving **Exceptional Horticulturalist, April Kline**, to the *Honor Roll of Exceptional Horticulturalists*. Read on to read her accomplishments.

Our District’s **2018 District VII Hummingbird** winner was **Valerie Wilson of Murrysville GC** for her consistent spirit of volunteerism and dedication to garden club and the community. We congratulate Valerie and printed her accomplishments on the next page.

Marilyn C. Backus – Assistant District VII Director ■

NOTE: On November 6, 2018, GCFP reported that District VII had 372 members, which is a net loss of 15 members since 2017. **Club Members**, think of activities that can be publicized to grow awareness of your club's community impact and the many personal benefits of being part of a federated garden club. *Encourage your acquaintances* to join any our federated garden clubs and to consider the meaning of the word ... **"GROW": "Do we take advantage of the opportunity to GROW?"** To grow is to develop, to learn to increase our ability, to improve our methods. No one is truly unhappy who has a real sense of growing. To stop growing is deadly to the mind, the emotions, and even to our world." (*The Good Word* by Ralph Rhea)

THANK YOU, ANNUAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS, WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING

Natural Disasters/USA Collection (Sharon Bryner)	\$ 70.00	
Sale of Raffle Items or Baskets (Murrysville and Pucketos GC) AND 20 Vases with Bulbs for Forcing (Barbara Cseh)		\$184.00
Sale of 50/50 Cash Tickets (Valerie Wilson)	\$94.00	
Used Book Exchange or Sale (Members' Honor System)	\$16.00	
Used Jewelry Sale (Anna Zamule)	\$32.00	

CONGRATULATIONS VALERIE WILSON! 2018 District VII Hummingbird Award Recipient

Valerie Wilson has been a member of the **Murrysville Garden Club (MGC)** for many years and is currently its Parliamentarian as well as Assistant Treasurer. She served as Co-President of the Murrysville Garden Club from 2011-2012, Club Treasurer for 3 years, Awards Chair, and Memorials Chair. She has been Corresponding Secretary for District VII for several terms and regularly attends the GCFP Conventions, assists at the Spring Membership Teas and the Fall District VII Annual Meetings.



Valerie Wilson receives the District VII Hummingbird Award

Valerie is often a silent partner, completing activities with enthusiasm and proficiency. Almost single-handedly, Val maintains the Butterfly Garden in front of Sloan Elementary School and is often found weeding at the Branthoover Cut-Off. She was instrumental at Townsend Park and the Murrysville Community Center gardens by planting, maintaining, and weeding as necessary. For MGC's bi-annual Garden Tour, Valerie and her husband opened their "English Manor" garden and answered questions from the public, providing the common and botanical names of plants, as well as supplying information on keeping their plants healthy and well. Valerie is currently writing a series of articles on the Murrysville Garden Club in weekly editions of *Penn-Franklin News*, recording MGC's history and its contributions to the local community. Valerie's attention to detail, knowledge of planting, civic mindedness, and her love of natural

settings is highly respected. She lends her financial expertise to the community as well, serving as Treasurer for the Murrysville EMS, and participating in the International Women's group in Murrysville. ■

April Kline joins the GCFP Honor Roll of Exceptional Horticulturalists



April Kline, Garden Club of Forest Hills, was presented with a card and certificate at the Annual Meeting indicating that she is now enrolled as a GCFP Exceptional Horticulturalist who is EXPERIENCED, EDUCATED and SHARING. The Honor Roll began recording outstanding Horticulturalists in 1999 and can be viewed at any time on the GCFP website at <http://www.pagardenclubs.org/directory.html>.

April joined the Garden Club of Forest Hills (pictured at left) at its first 2018 meeting while continuing to be a member of her local, non-federation garden club. As a longtime master gardener, April brings a wealth of academic and practical knowledge of garden and landscape plants that was put to good use this year in the club's annual fundraising events: a perennial plant sale and an auction. Both events exceeded fund-raising goals due in large part to April's enthusiastic descriptions of the plants and their landscaping and non-garden uses. She contributes valuable information in member discussions and asks questions of speakers that bring forward insights and ideas about the topics at hand. The Garden Club of Forest Hills looks forward to her suggestions and counsel as they redesign a hillside garden in Forest Hills' main park. ■

42 DISTRICT LAUREL RECIPIENTS IN 8 CLUBS WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE FEDERATION!

(Presented by Margie Wolff, former Awards Chair)

Burrellton GC: Nancy Shremshock, Dorothy Suatoni, Rosie Mildren, Charlene Mahu, Marilyn Lagattuta, Darlene Hartman, Allison Loeper

GC of Forest Hills: Kathy Gaberson, Margaret Reed, Sally Sabino, Dorothy Buchanan, Kathy Bauer, Anna Zamule, Amy Shugerman Glasser

GC of McKeesport: Rudy Sallinger, Dolly Heineman, Jane Miller, Dorothy Zenkevich

GC of Monroeville: Nancy Dalverny, Janet DeCecco, Deborah Foster, Arlene Madray, Diane Maschok, Helen Naimark, Lisa Rettig, Eileen Smeltz

Greensburg Garden Center: Angie Raitano

Joyful Bloomers GC: Andrea Rice, Lana Kling, Sally Buchleitner, Lois Brown, Sharon Bryner, Ruth Carroll

Murrysville GC: Marlene Lewis, Linda Diss Thompson, Karen Evers, Nina Damato, Dot McWilliams, Jean Streeter, Joanne Murray, Marianne Nicholas

Pucketos GC: Kathleen Frosch

17 DAFFODIL RECIPIENTS IN 8 CLUBS WHO GIVE FAITHFUL, RELIABLE AND/OR LONG-TERM SERVICE TO THEIR CLUBS

Burrellton GC: Patti Giordano

GC of Forest Hills: Flo Reisig, Donna Prentice, April Kline

GC of McKeesport: Mary Jane Hickman, Frances Zalac

GC of Monroeville: Lynn Chandler, Gene Dalverny

Home Gardeners' Guild: Marla Kalning, Nancy Price, Marian Lynch

Joyful Bloomers GC: Lana Wisniewski, Marylee Duvall

Murrysville GC: Kathy Ostrowski, Helen Wolfe, Jackie Kozbelt

Pucketos GC: Althea Joseph

DESIGNERS GUILD NEWS

COME...LEARN...WATCH...DO! NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

GCFP Designers Guild instructors from District VII and other Districts will host 4 very low cost (\$5!!!) floral design workshops in 2019 for **any member** to practice new designs in a low risk, highly supportive environment. There is an optional lunch to help defray room costs.

Mark the 2019 days now:

Tuesday, Apr 23 "Mono-Botanicals"

Friday, Aug 23 "Botanical Arts"

Tuesday, June 11 "Transparencies"

Wednesday, Oct 16 "Techniques"

The workshops are held at Greensburg Garden Center, tentatively 10 AM-1 PM on Old Salem Road. Just bring a container and plant material. One can work on the highlighted design or something of your own interest and receive free advice! The recent October workshop was "Low Profile Design" which is placed on a low table and judged by looking directly down over it. It must incorporate 3 or more design techniques and the length or width measures at least 4 times the height of the design as described on pages 78, 81-83 of the new *Flower Show Handbook*. ■

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2019 GCFP CONVENTION "SEASONS IN BLOOM"

ATTEND FOR A DAY OR SEVERAL DAYS

SUNDAY-TUESDAY, APRIL 7-9, 2019

Marriott Courtyard Altoona (connected to Convention Center)

2 Convention Center Drive, Altoona PA 16602

814-312-1800

Reserve by link only: [Book your group rate for Garden Club of PA](#) **FOR ~\$109+TAX/NIGHT**

CHECK-IN 3 PM AND CHECKOUT 12 PM

OR CALL TO RESERVE

Holiday Inn Express & Suites (across the street from the Convention Center, with Breakfast)

115 Convention Center Drive, Altoona, PA 16635 T: 814-693-1004 FOR \$124 + Tax/NIGHT

RESERVE EITHER HOTEL **BEFORE March 5, 2019** (SHARE A ROOM AND COSTS!)

WATCH FOR THE WINTER 2018 KEYSTONE GARDENER OR www.pagardenclubs.org
FOR REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM INFORMATION AND REGISTER AS SOON AS FEASIBLE FOR COURSES,
LUNCHESES/PROGRAMS, DINNERS/PROGRAMS, MEETINGS

DISTRICT VII OPEN, PUBLIC EVENTS CALENDAR FOR 2019

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
Thurs Jan 17	District VII	Board Meeting at Panera Bread in Wilkins Township at 10 AM
Fri Feb 1	GCFP	Due Date for GCFP and NGC Scholarship Applications
Mar 2-10		Philadelphia Flower Show "Flower Power"
Thurs-Fri Mar 14-15	GCFP	Environmental Course I, Easton PA
Thurs Mar 21	District VII	Annual Membership Tea , Sampson's Mills Presby. Church Hall, White Oak, Doors open at 9 AM for 10 AM Business Mtg, Lunch by District Board members, Program, Exhibits, Raffles. Est. close is 2:15 PM.
Fri Mar 29	PAJudges Council	JC meeting at 10:30 AM at Greensburg Garden Center
Sun-Tues, Apr 7-9	GCFP	GCFP Convention "Seasons in Bloom" at Altoona, PA
Tues Apr 23	DG	Designers Guild (DG) \$5 Workshop "Mono-Botanicals" at 10 AM, Greensburg Garden Center, Reserve for Lunch
Wed-Fri, May 1-May 3	NGC	NGC Convention Biloxi, MS
May 4?	GC Forest Hills	Plant Sale at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
May 15?ff	GC Forest Hills	Plant Auction at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
Wed May 29	PA JC	JC meeting at 10:30 AM at Greensburg Garden Center
Tues June 11	DG	Designers Guild (DG) \$5 Workshop on "Transparency Design" at 10 AM, Greensburg Garden Center, Reserve for Lunch
Fri Aug 23	DG	Designers Guild (DG) \$5 Workshop on "Botanical Arts Design" at 10 AM, Greensburg Garden Center, Reserve for Lunch
Wed Aug 28	PA JC	JC meeting at 10:30 AM at Greensburg Garden Center
Wed Sept 11	District VII	Annual Meeting
Wed Oct 2	PA JC & LH JC	Flower Show at Greensburg Garden Center
Wed Oct 16	DG	Designers Guild (DG) \$5 Workshop on "Design Techniques" at 10 AM, Greensburg Garden Center, Reserve for Lunch
Thurs-Fri Oct 24-25	CARSGC	CAR Convention and Flower Show Symposium @ Arlington Hotel, VA



Happy Holidays from your GCFP Representatives!

L-R Joyce Milberg, Judy Schaffer, Margie Wolff, Chris Leskosky, Marilyn Backus, Leeanna Ryba, Iris Cisarik, Joyce Peterson (Not pictured are Haddie Weber, Angie Raitano and Sheila Croushore.)

*The Trumpet Vine deadline for Dec 2018-Feb 2019 issue is **February 15, 2019**. It will be published on March 1, 2019.*

JUDY'S JOTTINGS

Are you growing a poison garden?

By Judy Schaffer, Pucketos Garden Club

On my recent August trip to Ireland/Scotland, I climbed to the top of Blarney Castle and for the second time kissed the famous stone. (Is my gift of gab better now?) On my downward climb I spotted a sign pointing to a Poison Garden. Visiting this unique garden had me wondering about how many of know what is poisonous that we are growing in our yards.

Are we unknowingly becoming Lucretia Borgias?

Her famous Borgia family used arsenic to rid themselves of enemies in the Middle Ages.

Poisons were a known method of silently killing people throughout the years. Socrates in 399 B.C. drank hemlock as a punishment and died at the age of 70. Macbeth in Shakespeare's play used nightshade to poison the army of the Danes who invaded Scotland. Royalty used official "Tasters" to prevent their being poisoned.

"Poison is in everything, and no thing is without poison.

The dosage makes it either a poison or a remedy." *(Quote from Paracelsus)*

Hundreds of plants have toxic parts, whether their fruits, flowers, foliage, or roots.

Have you heard of the Alnwick Poison Garden located in England? The sign at the garden gate reads:

"THESE PLANTS CAN KILL."

Jane Percy in 1995 due to marriage became the Duchess of Northumberland. A castle with expansive gardens, designed by the famous landscape designer Capability Brown, was part of her family inheritance. She discovered an overgrown, neglected section of the grounds which she restored as a poison garden. It opened in 2005 with the following warning:

"Don't touch any of the plants, don't even smell them. There are plants here that can kill you."

Percy planted the area with hard-to-get deadly poisonous plants. Many required special government permission to grow. The about 100 legendary killer plants are caged, and the garden is secured each evening behind gates under a 24-hour security watch. Licensed guides explain their deadly properties during a special tour as part of the entry fee to the Castle grounds. (This garden is now on my bucket list to visit in England.)

What are the possible dangers growing in your garden? Check out toxic plants on the internet for a complete list.

Check-out this partial listing of familiar plants that are dangerous:

Asparagus (BERRIES are toxic) Tomato (LEAVES/STALKS are toxic)

Potato (LEAVES are toxic) Columbine (SEEDS/ROOTS are toxic)

Yellow Oleander (ALL PARTS ARE TOXIC)

Ivy (LEAVES/BERRIES are toxic) Azalea (ALL PARTS ARE TOXIC)

Philodendron (LEAVES are toxic) Mountain Laurel (ALL PARTS ARE TOXIC)

Lily-of-the-Valley (ALL PARTS ARE TOXIC)

Hydrangea (ALL PARTS ARE TOXIC)

Are hydrangeas really poisonous? This flowering plant is commonly grown in most of our gardens. They are even sold as Mother's Day gifts. Several parts of the plant – the buds, flowers and leaves contain a compound known as glycoside amygdalin that can break down and produce cyanide.

People and pets, including horses, dogs and cats, can experience hydrangea poisoning if they eat large quantities of the plant. It produces severe gastroenteritis symptoms along with diarrhea. Some individuals even harvest the flowers to dry and then smoke for a cheap high.

Learn about what could be toxic in your garden!

Be sure to instruct children about what to avoid touching or eating. I never knew about the tomato leaves being toxic.

Eating a fresh ripe tomato just picked from the plant is a delight! Make sure that when children are helping to harvest this crop, they are taught exactly what is safe to eat and what is not.

If there is a chance you'll come in contact with a toxic plant, wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves, socks and lace-up shoes. Goggles will keep you from touching your eyes with tainted gloves. If pets have been exposed, bathe them with soap and water, but wear rubber gloves when washing them.

Continued next page...

Don't try to pull up toxic plants. Smother them under newspapers or black plastic. Eradicate large areas with a systemic herbicide. In conclusion, **Know What You Grow!** ■