

# Garden Club IN BLOOM

The Garden Club of York Quarterly Newsletter



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## President's Message

### Welcome to the November Edition of the Newsletter!



It is said that "Fall is a true example that change can be good"!

As our gardens start to get tired of producing their vibrant colors of summer, the surrounding trees and shrubs start their beautiful show of spectacular fall color. Orange, red and yellow become Mother Nature's paint palette. Our surroundings change.

Allowing ourselves to appreciate what is around us and enjoying the moment is the best way to enjoy the colors of life. So, as we transition into the cooler months, allow yourself to enjoy the colors around you and the changes that they bring.

Happy Gardening!

- Pam Paules



Save  
the  
Date!

### November:

November 11 - Hearth Basket Making  
 November 17 - Membership Meeting  
 November 29 - Greens and Centerpiece Workshops

### December:

December 1 - Holiday Luncheon Setup  
 December 2 - Holiday Luncheon  
 December 8 - Tree Trot  
 December 16 and 18 - Felting Workshops



**Don't miss out!**

**Checkout the "Garden Buzz" email  
for more opportunities!**

The Garden Club of York uses photos of members to publicize involvement in the community. If you object to having your photo included, contact the club president, Pam Paules.

### The Garden Club of York Affiliations:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

District IV of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

## Up and Coming Adventures

December 8  
Annual Tree Trot

December 11  
A Longwood Christmas  
Bus Trip

January 12  
Watercolor Class

January 29  
Yorktowne Hotel Art Tour

March 2  
Philadelphia Flower Show  
Bus Trip

Go to SignUpGenius on the  
GCY website [gardenclubofyork.com](http://gardenclubofyork.com),  
under *Membership-Members Only* section,  
to see opportunities for adventures.

## Newsletter Details

### Garden Club IN BLOOM Newsletter Editor: Beth Retallack

(The editor reserves the right to edit copy for clarity, accuracy or space requirements including photos.)

**Proofreaders: Mary Lou Benton, Jane Dodson, Susan Fife, and Pam Paules**

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February 1, 2026 issue— January 21, 2026

May 1, 2026 issue— April 21, 2026

August 1, 2026 issue— July 21, 2026

November 1, 2026 issue— October 21, 2026

Copies are distributed via email. A copy is also available on our website at [www.gardenclubofyork.com](http://www.gardenclubofyork.com).

# Feeling Creative?

Hands on workshops are available to members. Go to **SignUpGenius** under *Membership-Members Only* section on the GCY website [gardenclubofyork.com](http://gardenclubofyork.com) to reserve your spot.

## Wool Felting Presented by Pam Paules



Class Dates:  
December 16 - Christmas balls  
December 18 - snowman

Location information on SignUpGenius



## Yarn Yackers

Whether you knit, crochet, or cross stitch, come and join this group.

Contact Mary Alice Heilig

## Floral Design Workshops Presented by Tonya Young



Location:  
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Times: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
or 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Workshop Dates:  
November 19  
December date TBD

## Flower Pressers Presented by Sally Lenker



Location: Two Brothers Restaurant  
Times: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
or 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Come and create many different projects!  
Order breakfast or lunch and  
enjoy your food while you create.

### Class Dates:

No classes in November and December  
January 28  
February 25  
March 25



## Presidential Tree Honoring Jan Olsen

On October 20, several members of GCY met at Penn Park in York for a very important task — the dedication of a Presidential Tree. The planting of presidential trees started in 2019 as a way to honor the individuals that have served as president for The Garden Club of York. Each past president had the opportunity to choose the type of tree they wanted planted and the location of the planting. Since that time, we have planted 31 trees in honor of all past presidents, going back to GCY's inception in 1922. See page seven of your yearbook.



The most recent tree was for Jan Olsen, who served as president of our club from 2023 to 2025. Jan chose the Northern Red Oak and Penn

Park as its planting location. A commemorative plaque was placed under her tree.

Jan's leadership and guidance from 2023 to 2025 have been very much appreciated. As our club membership continues to grow, the job of president becomes more challenging, and Jan not only met those challenges but took steps to move our club forward. Her dedication to GCY has helped to motivate our members, and strengthen the spirit of teamwork and change.

Jan, may this mighty oak grow strong and tall and serve as a reminder of all that you have contributed to The Garden Club of York.

Congratulations and thank you for a job well done!!

- Pam Paules



## District IV Information

### DISTRICT IV ANNUAL MEETING AND FLOWER SHOW *Leaping to the Hanover Country Club*



Have no doubt! Garden club members are creative! This creativity was on display during the District IV meeting at the Hanover Country Club, *Leaping to Destinations*, held on August 28, 2025. During the business meeting, we heard from all Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) and District IV officers, and then browsed the flower show.

Mary Hetrick, the 2nd GCFP VP, talked about the Sprouts and Seedlings Program which funds garden clubs that have a Youth Gardening Program.

Tonya Young, the 1st GCFP VP, spoke about how a garden club helps members make connections with each other, and how this is a key to retaining members. She proclaimed, "I love my garden club!"

The GCFP president, Pat Wolanski, explained that there are 103 garden clubs in our state and so many opportunities for growth within a club. She asked, "What are we planting in others?" and inspired us to be "cultivators of potential." Her ending comment was: "Let's make our keystone a gemstone."

Director, Carla Kelly, introduced each of the presidents of the ten clubs in the district. Pam Paules represented our club, and there was an audible gasp from the assembly when she mentioned we had 249 members!

## District IV Information (continued)



Many of our members attended the District IV annual meeting and eleven members entered the flower show. Four of our members won first place awards.

### First Place Winners:

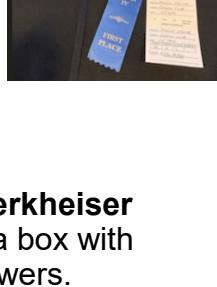
Our very own newsletter editor, **Beth Retallack**, won the prestigious *Lonnie Behler Novice Award* for her petite design.



**Phyllis Steiner** covered a shoe with plant material, which included cantaloupe seeds.



**Marilyn Werkheiser** decorated a box with pressed flowers.



**Karen Markle** won first place and the *National Garden Club Petite Award* for a petite design.



### Other members who won awards:

**Joanne Baylis** – Two Design and nine Horticultural ribbons

**Kay Bozart** – Second place ribbon for decorating a box with pressed flowers

**Ann DeMille** – Second place ribbon for covering a shoe with plant material

**Daphne Leeder** – Honorable Mention for Petite Design

**Karen Markle** – Two Design ribbons, besides her first-place award

**Pam Paules** – Second Place for Parallel Design

**Kathy Rimmer** – Third place for the Hershey Park Illuminary Design

**Cheri Yohe** – Honorable Mention for Horticultural specimen

**Barb Zmolek** – Third place for Petite Design and two Horticultural ribbons

**Pat Flynn** – Garden Show Clerk

**Bonnie Gartrell-Ney** – Garden Show Clerk

- Barb Zmolek





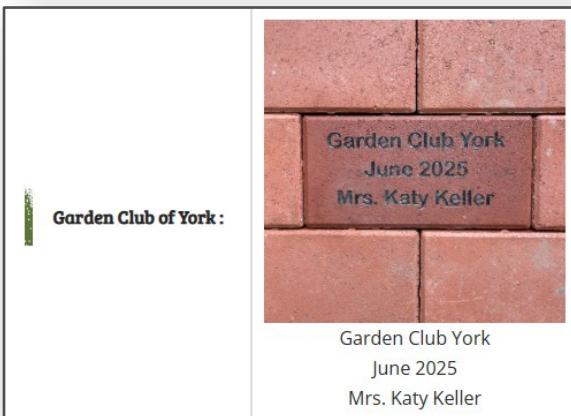
## National Garden Club Corner

The National Garden Club (NGC), located in St. Louis, Missouri, created a walking path that connects the NGC headquarters with the Missouri Botanical Gardens. It is called the **NGC Path of Success**.

[Gardenclub.org/ngc-path-success](http://Gardenclub.org/ngc-path-success)

The Path of Success starts on the east side of NGC's grounds. During a scenic stroll down the path, visitors will view fifty-one garden club state sections showcased, along with many personalized pavers in their respective state.

GCY member, Katy Keller, has a brick on the NGC path. Katy grew up in St. Louis and moved to Pennsylvania in 2021. She visited the Missouri Botanical Garden often as a kid on school field trips and with her family. As an adult, she found the gardens to be a fun date location. She learned about the path by following the NGC and Missouri Botanical Garden Facebook pages. The brick was dedicated to the path in June 2025.



- Beth Retallack

### Membership Minute with Barb Zmolek



#### Welcome New Members

The first time you attend a garden club meeting, it can be overwhelming! The Membership Committee is ready to help. Stop at the **New Member** table in the church lobby and receive your gift bag, get help signing in, pick up your name tag, and meet some of the members. We will also answer any questions you may have. We are looking forward to meeting you and are happy to have you join us.

**Total Membership as of  
November 1, 2025:  
255**



#### New Members:

Kim Bellis  
Doreen Colnaghi  
Michele Giano  
Anne Gillespie  
Judy Glorioso  
Stace Laughman  
Janet McGuinness  
Barbara Reed  
Susan Shiffer  
Cathy Smith

# Holiday Benefit Luncheon

It won't be long until we are gathering together for our annual Holiday Benefit Luncheon:

## The Winter Woods

Registration form is located in the yearbook on page 33. Submit ASAP! Space will fill up quickly, and it is a first come, first serve event. Mail it to: PO Box 7079, York, PA 17404 ATTN: Holiday Luncheon

One person will register for your group and collect all of the checks. Then, we will combine small groups and individuals to fill the table of 12.

Any questions can be directed to Robin Neuhaus or Carol Seifarth.

## The Garden Club of York's Holiday Benefit Luncheon The Winter Woods

Tuesday, December 2, 2025  
The Country Club of York

9:00 AM

Social Hour, Silent Auction, Raffle Ticket Sales  
Shopping for Greens, Christmas Goodies & Décor

11:30 AM

Luncheon

Raffle Basket Drawing  
& Silent Auction Winners

12:30 PM

Special Holiday Music



## Menu

### First Course

Winter salad with shaved fennel, celery, apple, pomegranate seeds, parmesan snow & champagne vinaigrette

### Entrée

Chicken Forestière —Herb roasted french cut chicken, fingerling potatoes, asparagus & a creamy forestière sauce of mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes, spinach, & cream

### Dessert

Chocolate Roulade



**It takes all of us to make this successful, and we need your help! There are many working parts to this event, so each of you can jump in to be part of it.**

### Monday, December 1st Set up day lunch

Lunch will be available for \$20 for those who are working to set up. No bag lunches are allowed.

The deadline to sign up for lunch and pay is November 17, 2025. Give the money to your subcommittee chair.

On the day of set up, Jan Olsen will be at the door where you enter to check off your name and give you a ticket for lunch.

## Centerpieces & Greens and Arrangements

If you enjoy making arrangements or want to learn, the **Greens Workshop** is for you! The workshop will be held on Saturday, November 29 at 9:00 a.m. in the Veranda Room on the York Fairgrounds. This is always a fun event where we make arrangements and wreaths that will be sold at the Holiday Luncheon.



If you have any decorative pots or containers that you would like to donate, please bring them to the November membership meeting, or you can bring them to the workshop.

Taking place on the same day is the table **Centerpiece Workshop**. This workshop will start at 9:00 a.m. During this workshop, we will be putting together the centerpieces that will be put on the Holiday Luncheon tables.

Contact Pam Paules for questions.

## Christmas Corner

Bring your gently used holiday and Christmas treasures and decorations to our meeting on November 17 at St. Matthew. There will be tables located in the lobby to drop them off.



Kathy Gingerich is the contact if you have questions.

## Raffle Baskets

As a major fundraiser during the Holiday Luncheon, we ask you to thoughtfully consider how you can participate. One way is to add items to the existing raffle basket themes (located on SignUpGenius) to help ensure we reach a content value of new items between \$100-\$200. We will provide a basket and put the basket together. Just gather the items and bring them to the November 17 club meeting or contact us for drop off/pick up. We would appreciate all basket contents sooner rather than later to allow for proper wrapping.



Another way to participate is to donate an instant scratch-off lottery ticket. Simply bring your ticket to the monthly meeting and give it to a committee member.

Contact Cheri Yohe or Kathy Rimmer if you have questions.

## Silent Auction

This year, we would like to focus on experiences and handcrafted items.



If you or someone you know is an artist or a crafter, please consider a donation of their work. If you are a business owner or have business contacts that could provide donations, please let us know. If you just want to help, consider donations of like-new items our members would enjoy.

For questions or further information, email or call Karen Markel.



## Poinsettias

To order poinsettias, use the order form that is in your yearbook on page 35. The order form and address to send payment are in the yearbook. Orders are due by Tuesday, November 18. If you don't mail your order, bring it to the November 17 meeting.

The poinsettias can be picked up on Saturday, November 29, in the Veranda Room at the York Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

They will also be sold at the Holiday Luncheon on Monday and Tuesday at the Country Club of York. The sale of poinsettias benefits our club's scholarship fund.



Contact Phyllis Steiner with any questions.



## The Bake Shoppe

Cookies, candy, cakes, and pies...oh MY!

Sign up to donate baked goods and other treats that will be sold to benefit The Garden Club of York and enjoyed by members and guests. Use SignUpGenius on the *Members Only* section of our website - it's open now!

Questions...

contact Linda Janosky



## Taste of Garden Club

### October Membership Meeting Recipe: Molasses Cookies From Daphne Leeder

#### Ingredients:

1-1/2 cups butter, softened

2 cups sugar

2 large eggs, room temperature

1/2 cup molasses

4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

4 teaspoons ground ginger

2 teaspoons baking soda

1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon ground cloves

1/4 teaspoon salt

3/4 cup coarse sugar



#### Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in eggs and molasses. Combine flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.
- 2) Shape into 2 inch balls and roll in coarse sugar. Place 2-1/2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake until tops are cracked, 13-15 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool.

#### Tips:

- 1) Place dough on cool, ungreased cookie sheets.
- 2) If dough is too moist, add more flour.
- 3) Chill your dough for 30 minutes.

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/giant-molasses-cookies/#RecipeCard>

## From the Desk of.... A Plant Lover

### Plants to divide in the fall:

Peonies – Cut back the foliage. Dig up the entire clump and separate it into divisions with at least three to five eyes (growth buds) each. Replant 1-2 inches deep.



Bleeding Heart – Dig up the entire plant. Divide the plant with a knife keeping at least two eyes per division. Replant immediately at same depth as original plant.

Iris – Dig up the whole clump. Clean off dirt. Cut leaves back to 4-6 inches. Divide into small sections. Dry for 24 hours. Replant just below the surface.



Phlox – Cut back foliage 4-6 weeks before frost. Dig up whole plant, divide the root clump into sections, leaving at least three shoots along with healthy roots. Replant divisions immediately. Water thoroughly and regularly.

Astilbe – Dig up the whole plant. Cut back the foliage. Divide into clumps of healthy shoots. Clean off excess soil. Replant divisions at the same depth of original plant.



Hosta – Divide every 3-4 years. Dig up the whole plant with a sharp spade or shovel. Cut the root ball into smaller sections. Be sure there is at least one eye with roots. Replant immediately in a shady spot.

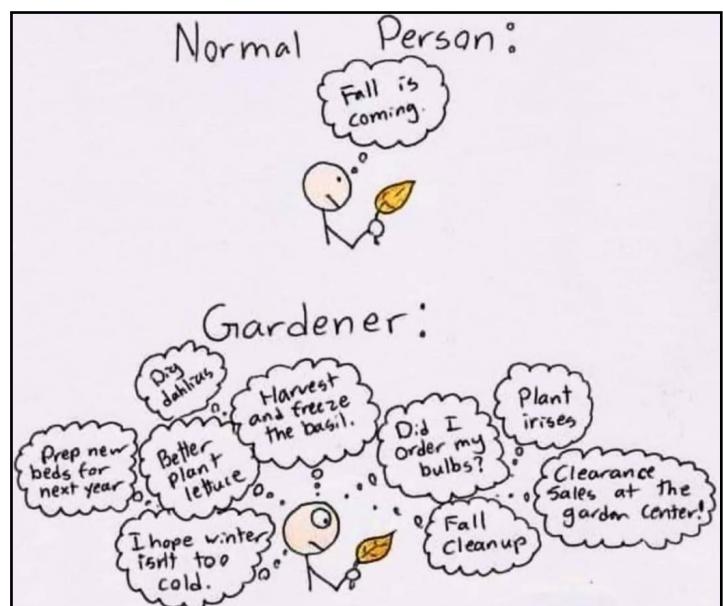
**All new plants should be watered well and mulched before winter.**

Perennials you can bring in for house plants:

<b>Hibiscus</b>	<b>Common Sage</b>	<b>Coleus</b>
<b>Agapanthus</b>	<b>Orange Tree</b>	<b>Croton</b>
<b>Geraniums</b>	<b>Wax Begonias</b>	<b>Fuchsia</b>
<b>Lady Fern</b>	<b>Elephant Ears</b>	<b>Sedum</b>

Check out *The Spruce* for more details specific to each plant <https://www.thespruce.com>

- Plant Lover



# Spotlight On Committee

## Youth Gardening

### What does the Youth Gardening Committee do?

We have worked with Girl Scouts to earn badges since 2018 and this year we met with six troops all over York County. The program focused on flowers, bugs, bees and pollination. It was very rewarding assisting 104 Girl Scouts to earn badges this spring.



We participated in Go Green Day in April at Central Market for the third year. Fifty-five children and their families visited with us. Our focus was on ladybugs and the children took a goodie bag

with information about the value of ladybugs.



Our club was a sponsor of Envirothon this year and participated in the 3rd and 4th grade final testing event. We assisted in handing out awards to over 400 participants. In the spirit of our Youth Committee motto "Inspiring Kids, One Seed at a Time" each participant was presented with a pencil that contained seeds to be planted by the kids at home.



We have been working with Martin Memorial Library since 2020 and provide 50 take home kits quarterly for



children visiting the library. Each kit contains a project to make about gardening or nature along with educational materials on that subject. When the library did renovations, we helped refresh the garden courtyard, and plant and maintain the Sensory Garden that the library incorporates in their activities. We also provide educational programs to the "tween" group. June's program focused on bees and July's subject was ladybugs. There were 34 participants in total.

In 2022, we were asked to participate in the planting of Leg Up Farm's raised garden beds. We have continued to maintain the gardens and now also present customized programs at their



summer camps. Two summer programs were presented to 43 campers in June and July. Our programs are designed to not only educate but to stimulate the minds and senses of the campers.

Perhaps the most fun we had was the Hort. Hall Youth Contest Workshop in June. We sponsored a workshop in an intergenerational setting which included 34 children ages one through twelve. They used their imaginations to complete flower pot creations, traditional seed art, and fairy garden projects for entries in the York State Fair in July. Many of them received ribbons for their work. All materials used were donated. It was wonderful to have so many of our members, family and friends participate.



It is time to decide what we do next. If this sounds interesting to you, please join us.

- Vickie Mihm

## Spotlight On Small Water Features

**Jodi Katz, Kim Keesee,  
Susan Liebegott,  
and Susan Fife**

One of our newer members, Jodi Katz, who lives in Dallastown, was the inspiration for this article highlighting smaller water features. When Beth mentioned having a column in our newsletter on water features in members' gardens, I immediately volunteered to interview Jodi about her pond.

Years ago, we had a goldfish that we won at the York Fair which just kept getting bigger, and we decided it needed to find a new home. Turns out it was a Koi, not a goldfishb and it went to live in our friend's, the Katz's, pond. Fast forward a few years and we see that something has changed.

For many years, Jodi and her husband Keith enjoyed the pond in their yard that was filled with Koi. Herons began visiting the pond looking for a fish feast. Maintaining the pond during the winter, and losing fish with the colder temperatures was a challenge. When the pond's foundation began to have issues, they were faced with the decision to fix the problems or look for a different solution. The solution they settled on was to have a bowl shaped fountain and fill the pond with dirt and plant flowers.

One of the things Keith likes about the fountain is that it is practically maintenance-free. Jodi enjoys looking out her window and seeing the pretty flowers blooming with water flowing from the bowl during the summer. The fountain is still attracting cardinals and other birds, providing a place for them to splash around and get drinks which is a pleasure to watch. The fountain is smaller but still brings a pleasant experience to their outdoor space.



Kim and John Keesee enhanced the front of their home with two small fountains. The first fountain is special because they made it from a large rock that was found on their property. They had holes drilled for the tubing and creatively turned the rock into a fountain. In the empty space between their garage doors, nothing would grow which lent itself to the perfect location for this unique water feature, adding beauty and soothing sounds of water to the space.



The second small water feature at the Keesee home is a basalt rock fountain. They discovered this interesting piece at a greenhouse in Shippensburg. They brought it home and laid it out themselves. Adding lights to the fountain creates a beautiful look in the evenings. They placed it outside of their kitchen window to give Kim something pretty to look at while she works in the kitchen.



## Small Water Features (continued)

Susan Liebegott has adorned her yard with a barrel fountain that she found for a reasonable price. One of the features she appreciates about her fountain is that it is lightweight, which makes it easy to clean. She enjoys the soothing sounds water flowing from the pump brings to that little corner of her garden. Small birds have been seen taking a quick drink. Neighborhood cats have also been discovered enjoying the fountain. This is proof that a small water feature can bring joy to your garden.

On a trip to Delaware, we found this half barrel fountain with a false pump at a garden store on clearance. We fell in love with the soothing sound the water makes flowing from the pump spout. It adds an interesting visual to my garden and gives a nice backdrop for flowers.

For years, we have enjoyed this fountain at the side of our porch. The time came for the half barrel to be replaced and the pump to get a new paint job. We moved it to a new location in our backyard garden, beside a concrete bench. After spending a few long hours weeding my gardens or mowing the lawn, I find myself sitting on the bench enjoying the sound of the water and taking in the beauty of the flowers. I love my barrel fountain. So do my grandkids!

I hope you have been inspired to add a small water feature to your garden space!

- Susan Fife



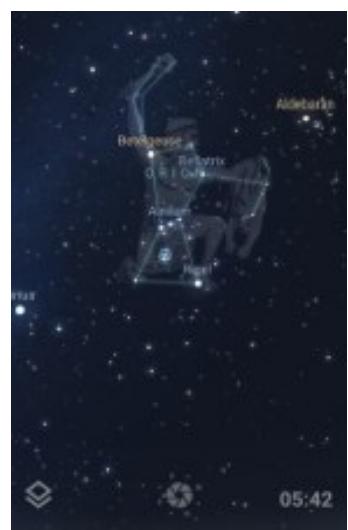
## Spotlight On Mobile App

# Stellarium

Have you ever been in your garden early in the morning or late in the evening as it is growing dark and the stars come out? You look up and wonder, "What is that bright star?" or "Could that orange-looking star be a planet?" ... There's an app for that! And it's free!

Fall is the time of year when daylight is getting shorter each day and occasionally, I am outside in the garden when the stars are shining. Last fall I looked up and saw three closely aligned stars every night and wondered what it was. A friend showed me the Stellarium app on her phone. Once you open the app, you can point your phone at the sky and it will tell you what you are looking at.

the three stars and the constellation you are seeing appears on the screen. To my delight, the three stars I observed each evening were Orion's Belt, a well-known star pattern consisting of three bright stars within the larger Orion constellation.



Despite the darkness and cooler temperatures, you can spend time outside in your gardens while stargazing. I challenge you to find Orion's Belt in the night sky this fall.

- Beth Retallack

Scan this QR code to download the app.



## Spotlight On New Members

### The Etters Girls

In 2024, The Garden Club of York (GCY) welcomed four new members from Etters: Kathy Rimmer, Karen Yeager, Lisa Yoder, and Cheri Yohe. They are friends who belong to a sewing group that meets monthly, and some of them also belong to a monthly craft club.

Cheri Yohe met Kathy Taylor in Hobby Lobby where they were both looking at fabric. During their conversation, Kathy Taylor, a GCY member, shared about the club's many educational and interesting opportunities and that the club was friendly and welcoming. She encouraged Cheri to come to a meeting. Cheri was hesitant to attend a meeting by herself, so she told the other Etters girls about the garden club and the four of them decided to go to a meeting together in March 2024...they joined in April. Additionally, when their friend Kay Shaffer heard all about the GCY from them, she joined in April 2025. So that is five new members from a chance encounter in the fabric aisle of Hobby Lobby!

**Lisa Yoder** is married with two adult children. A few years ago, she retired from a career in nursing and now volunteers at her church. She has interests in crafts which is what brought the Etters girls together. At home, she has a vegetable garden and enjoys growing herbs for cooking. Lisa has participated in various volunteer activities with the club, especially enjoying the March luncheon. Currently, Lisa is involved in the raffle baskets for the holiday luncheon. She wants to thank all members who made the Etters girls feel so welcome and feels that it is an amazing community.



Kathy, Lisa, Karen and Cheri from left to right

**Karen Yeager** is married with two adult children. She works from home and loves to craft, garden, read, and exercise. In her garden, Karen enjoys planting new perennials every year and growing veggies. This year, she joined the Plant It Pink committee because she likes to get her hands dirty. She tries to attend all the membership meetings and has enjoyed participating in a few activities such as the Philadelphia Flower Show and flower pressers.

**Cheri Yohe** is a retired art teacher of 33 years. She volunteers at the AACA auto museum in Hershey and enjoys crafting, sewing, snow skiing, boating on the river, and traveling with her husband. She has two adult children and a grandson. While gardening was not in her blood, she learned what plants would grow in the rock-hard, red clay in Etters. During the growing season, she enjoys watching the gardens transform with new growth, blooms, and a symphony of color and texture. Cheri began volunteering with the luncheon committee in March 2025. She helped with the youth workshop in June, became a member of the Hort Hall committee, served as a judge at the fair, and is now co-chairing the raffle basket committee for the holiday luncheon.

## The Etters Girls (continued)

**Kathy Rimmer** is married with one adult son. Kathy worked over 45 years in the grocery industry as a buyer and then in sales. She has a passion for sewing alterations including wedding dresses and attire. A chance meeting of their dogs, led Kathy to meet Karen Yeager. During their conversations, they found mutual interests in gardening and sewing. Karen suggested that Kathy join her sewing group which is where Kathy met these effervescent friends. Kathy has a love of flowers and gardens that she inherited from her mom. She has worked on Rose Bowl floats for over ten years. She has helped at the Garden Faire and the York Fair and attended glass blowing, flower pounding and flower arranging.

**Kay Shaffer** retired from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts after 27 years. She enjoys sewing, quilting and furniture upholstery. She enjoys walking daily and traveling. Kay and her husband have a camper outside of Shippensburg where they can enjoy the seasonal changes. She has two adult children and three grandchildren. Her gardens are limited, but she enjoys house plants and tropical deck plants in the summer. Since she just joined in April 2025, she has not had the opportunity to participate in much as of yet, but is a member of the raffle basket committee.

- Beth Retallack



## Plants We Love Hosta

Katy Meckley's favorite plant is a hosta. She loves any variety of hosta because they grow easily in her shaded garden.



Hostas are a versatile perennial that can brighten any garden with endless variations of colors, sizes and shapes. They are extremely hardy, shade-tolerant, and require very little maintenance.



Hostas are grown for their ornamental beauty in the US, but have been eaten as a vegetable in Asian cultures for centuries. Despite hostas being edible to humans, they are toxic to cats and dogs.

Hostas are referred to as the friendship plant due to the fact they are so easy to divide and share with your friends!

According to the American Hosta Society, there are 45 species of hostas and over 3,000 registered varieties.

- Beth Retallack





## Photos

### Themed Cruise of Susquehanna River Zimmerman Center for Heritage

#### Meadowbrooke Gourds Carlisle, PA



**Flowers and Fellowship**  
**Glatfelter Community Center**  
**The Village at Sprenkle Drive**



**Fall Flower Design**  
**With Tonya Young**



**Flowers  
make us  
happy!**





# Queen Bee

**Queen Bee says: I've got facts to knock your socks off!**

Did you know...

**Bees are extremely diverse and have adapted to live all over the world.**

There are over 20,000 different kinds of bees worldwide with more being discovered all the time. Bees are found on every continent except Antarctica. Throughout the course of their 120-million-year evolution, they have adapted to a wide variety of habitats from the frigid polar regions to the arid deserts.



But they are under threat from a variety of human induced pressures including habitat loss, pesticides and climate change. This will particularly affect species living in extreme conditions including bumblebees 'Bombus Polaris' and 'Bombus Hyperboreus,' both living in the Arctic, as well as thousands of species



Bombus Polaris

adapted to live in deserts, including the world's smallest bee, 'Peridita Minima.'



Peridita Minima



Bombus Hyperboreus



## Bees developed from wasps.

Let's look at the evolution of the bee. More than 100 million years ago, bees evolved from the hunting wasps. Yes, they are difficult to tell apart. Generally, bees are vegetarians and wasps are carnivorous. Vulture bees, who live in South America, eat meat they collect from dead animals. Lastly, bees have feathered hairs which are more effective for collecting pollen while wasps' hairs are simple singular hair strands

## Not all bees make honey.

Only honeybees make large quantities of honey and wax. Bumblebees make a small amount of both. There are 11 species of honeybees known as 'Apis' worldwide, but 'Apis Mellifera' is the most productive of the species. All bees forage for protein rich pollen and sugar rich nectar from flowers. Honeybees convert nectar into honey to be used as a source of food throughout winter when nectar is scarce. The honey has a higher caloric value than pure nectar and can be stored for longer as it is resistant to bacterial degradation. A healthy colony can produce 2-3 times the amount of honey needed to meet its needs.



Apis Mellifera

# Membership Meeting Programs



## November 17th Pumpkins Aren't Just For Pies With Terri Maclay

This program on pumpkins is a look at the fun, promiscuous plant so popular across America. We will look at the history and creative uses for pumpkins. Terri is the founder and owner of *Nature's Harmony*, a business that specializes in weddings. She is a Master Judge and a garden consultant.

## January 20th Landscaping with Shrubs for Year-Round Color With Kathie Wild

We'll look at many different shrubs that change colors or provide flowers at different times of the year. Plant these instead of annuals or perennials for lovely, neat, and tidy gardens.



## February 16th Sustaining Bluebird Populations in York County with Randy Zmolek

Randy has dedicated his efforts to studying and actively supporting the conservation of the bluebird population in York County and will share what he's learned. He was awarded the Blue Feather Award at the 2025 Annual Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania Convention, for installing, rehabilitating, maintaining, and/or monitoring 85 nesting boxes in York County. You will find these bluebird boxes on the walking path at UPMC, the Milbourne Estate, Cousler Park, and Providence Place Senior Living.



## March 16th How to Be a Watershed Steward With Deborah Kronsteiner

Deborah is a Master Gardener and will discuss why she is a "Master Watershed Steward" through Penn State Extension Services and share its importance to all aspects of horticulture.



## April 20th Make Spring Special: Flower Design With Megan Connors

Megan, co-owner of *Rosemary and Rust*, Shrewsbury, and her business partner Shay, will demonstrate creative spring arrangements. Though they provide flowers for over 100 celebrations each year, they also host various workshops at their "Flower Studio."



## Flower Trivia



Vanilla flavoring comes from the pod of what plant?

- Jewels of Opar
- Larkspur
- Lotus
- Orchid

Answer found on page 20

## 1st Vice President Daphne Leeder's Garden Tips And Quips



3  
Helpful  
Tips

The whisper of falling leaves on a cool breeze signals a change of season. We revel in the vibrant hues of red, orange and yellow leaves. The late blooming asters with their delicate petals of blue, purple, pink and white bring a smile. We know it is time to prepare for the garden to rest.

### Think About ...

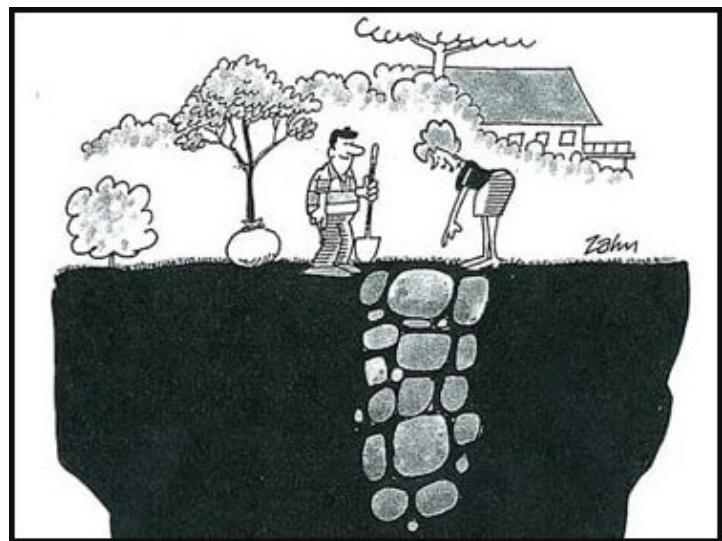
- Bringing houseplants inside
- Removing annuals
- Planting spring bulbs
- Cutting back perennials except those with seeds for birds and places for insects to winter
- Cleaning up beds and mulch with leaves

***“Every leaf speaks bliss to me.”***

Emily Bronte



## A Gardener's Life...



## Flower Trivia Answer

Vanilla flavoring comes from the pod of an orchid. Vanilla planifolia is the Vanilla Orchid. It is a native vine from Mexico and is grown in Central and South America and Madagascar. It grows on short trellises in the shade of taller trees.

## Good Stuff to Know

- “The Garden Club Store” has an online store. Visit the GCY website and go to the “Members Only” section to browse and place orders.
- Reminder...Please send all checks and monies due to the Garden Club of York to PO Box 7079, York, PA 17404.
- Email address for the Treasurer-  
GCoYorkTreasurer@gmail.com