

February 1, 2026

Garden Club IN BLOOM

The Garden Club of York Quarterly Newsletter



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President's Message



Welcome to the February Edition of the Newsletter!

Happy New Year!

Winter always seems like a time to sit back and enjoy life at a slower pace. Even our gardens are asleep and gathering energy to give a great show of spring and summer color. I'm excited to see the first signs of their awakening. It is always a "Secret Garden" moment for me.

The quiet months of winter are a good time to familiarize ourselves with the many committees and gardens that are a huge part of the Garden Club of York. All of these committees and gardens are what make our club so great and we need your help. Without volunteers and committee chairs, we cannot do all that we do. So, grab your yearbook and find a committee and garden that fits you and get involved. You will be glad that you did.

- Pam Paules



Save
the
Date!

February:

February 16 - Membership Meeting

March:

March 16 - Membership Meeting

April:

April 1 - Deadline for Membership Dues

April 20 - Membership Meeting and

Deadline for Spring Luncheon Form

April 26-28 GCFP Convention in Erie



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

February 12

Galentine Tea at Glen Rock Mill Inn

March 2

Philadelphia Flower Show

Bus Trip

April 18

Alexandria Flower Show Bus Trip

May 15

Peony Garden—Field and Garden Tour

May 19

Walking Tour with York Historical Center

Go to SignUpGenius on the GCY website 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

Garden Club IN BLOOM is published four times a year.

Deadlines for Submissions for next issue of Garden Club IN BLOOM Publication:

May 1, 2026 issue— April 21, 2026

August 1, 2026 issue— July 21, 2026

November 1, 2026 issue— October 21, 2026

February 1, 2027 issue— January 21, 2027

Copies are distributed via email. A copy is also available on our website at 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 to reserve your spot.

Ceramic Berry Basket At Creative York

Class Dates:

Make: March 5, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Glaze: March 19, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Information will be on
SignUpGenius



Wool Felting Presented by Pam Paules



Class Date:

April 1 - Spring Flowers
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00
p.m.

Information will be on
SignUpGenius

Bonsai Making Class With Bill Bauer

Class Date:

May 4
Time: 10:00 a.m. to
2:00 p.m.

Information will be on
SignUpGenius



Flower Pressers Presented by Sally Lenker

Location: Two Brothers Restaurant

Times: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Class Dates:

February 25
March 25
April 22
May 27
June 24



Times: 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Class Dates:

February 17
March 17
April 21
May 19
June 16

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

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 Date:

February 11 Illuminary Design



National Garden Club Corner

Did you know you can attend National Garden Club (NGC) gardening school via zoom? There are many virtual classes offered for you to enhance your knowledge.

What is Gardening School? Gardening school courses, primarily intended for garden club members, are open to the public. Garden club members completing the series of four courses and passing exams gain the designation of NCG Gardening Consultant. The courses do not have to be taken in order. There are a series of four courses, scheduled over two days of instruction, followed by an exam for those interested in becoming a NGC accredited Gardening Consultant. Courses cover all aspects of horticulture: gardening, understanding soil structure, pruning techniques, identifying plants, etc. Topics include basic botany, soils, annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables, lawns, pests, plant diseases, plant classification, and selected subjects of local interest.

Visit this link for more information:
<https://gardenclub.org/gardening-school>

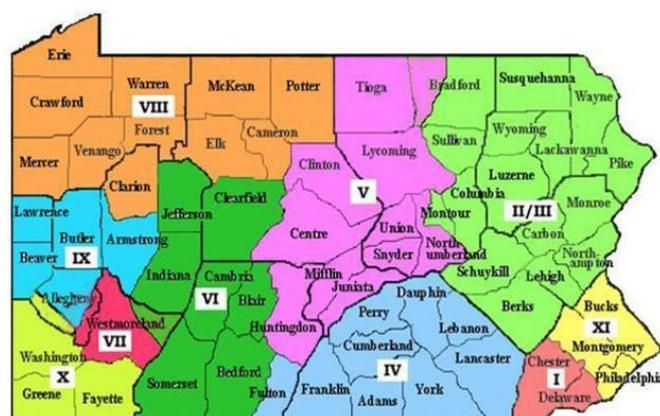


District IV Information



The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP), of which District IV is a part, is having its annual convention in Erie, Pennsylvania, from April 26, to April 28, hosted by District VIII. Visit this webpage for more information:
<https://pagardenclubs.org/2026-gcfp-convention-info>

Shown below is a map of how the GCFP is broken out. District IV includes Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York counties.



Plants We Love: Crossvine

I have been asked, "What is your favorite plant?" I cannot name my favorite plant. That is like asking a mother who her favorite child is or a grandmother to name her favorite grandchild. I can say I really, really like the Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*).



I especially like the Crossvine because it is native and it is an evergreen perennial vine. Another plus is the flowers are 1.5 to 2 inches long and bloom in 2 to 5 flower clusters. It blooms in March, April and May. The Crossvine



thrives best in sun or partial shade and can grow from 15 to 50 feet. As for moisture needs, it can grow in dry to moist soil.

Try growing this vine on a Shepherd's hook as I have. If there is a long bare wall on your house or a long run of open fence, try breaking up the wall and fence by growing this vine on a trellis. I placed a 1 foot piece of wire fence to provide support for the vine to grow along the top of my fence. I love this vine and I think you will too. What is not to love?



— Sandra Benedict

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
February 1, 2026:
258**



New Members:

Karen Benton
Sharon Coluccio
Lisa Enyeart
Louise Leckrone
Patricia Owen

Looking Back at The Winter Woods

Mother Nature did her part to decorate for the Garden Club of York's annual Holiday Luncheon by coating the landscape with a soft layer of snow which helped set the tone for this year's theme, "**The Winter Woods.**" There were 269 tickets sold for the luncheon.

If you attended the Holiday Luncheon, what do you remember? Was it the shimmering, sparkling ballroom, the yummy aroma of the Bake Shoppe, the Christmas Corner with all its treasures to peruse, or standing with friends in front of the photo-op? Let's look back!

Karen Markle's Silent Auction was such a feast for the eyes! Some highlights:

- High bid on the Trash to Treasure birdhouse that Kim Keesee and Rick Layman constructed, and Anne DeMille, Carole Wanzer and Pam Paules embellished, was \$230.
- The rooster Pam Paules felted went for \$250.
- Kathie Wild's sailing lesson drew a high bid of \$275.
- Two topiary trees that Kathy Brown decorated went for \$350.
- Total earnings after expenses: \$7,101

The Raffle Baskets put together by Kathy Rimmer's group presented such a coordinated, elegant display. There were 15 basket themes.

- 598 tickets went toward winning the quilt covered in 59 lottery tickets.
- The Bouquet of Cash, the prize being \$180, was next with 411 tickets.
- The Bird Enthusiast exhibit reined in 368 tickets.
- One of our members won three baskets! She must have bought a lot of tickets!
- Total earnings after expenses: \$4,052.



Some things you may not know:

- We sold 41 of the 45 centerpieces that were created.
- Linda Hanson and Kathie Wild stopped counting the greens arrangements once they hit 100. With all greens sourced, and all containers and embellishments donated, the Greens Committee had no expenses. They brought in \$2,007.
- The U-Haul business on Roosevelt Avenue donated the use of a truck to haul items from the storage unit to the Country Club.
- The photo-op was the idea of Tad Sinclair, built by Rick Layman, and decorated by Carol Seifarth and Robin Neuhaus.
- 75 people attended the Monday lunch at the Country Club. Before lunch they all had a role to play in making the next day memorable! It was a busy day!
- With the inclement weather, our wise president decided we should have a valet service. Many took advantage of it! Thanks to Mark Paules, Lynn Neuhaus and Randy Zmolek for braving the weather and providing this service.
- Twenty more poinsettias were ordered this year compared to last year.
- Total profit from the Holiday Luncheon for our club was \$19,989.28.

Daphne Leeder, Betsy Meckley, and Barb Zmolek are co-chairing the 2026 Holiday Luncheon. We'll be leaving "**The Winter Woods,**" but we guarantee we'll go somewhere else just as memorable.



— Barb Zmolek

Holiday Benefit Luncheon The Winter Woods



Tree Trot 2025

The members of The Garden Club of York enjoyed a delightful "Tree Trot" on December 8th, by visiting eight homes and admiring the beautiful Christmas decorations on display. The homes varied in size and the decorations reflected the personality of each homeowner.



Those participating were:

Michele Gettle whose decorations reflected a rustic forest style. The Grand Teton Alpine Tree looked like it was just cut from the forest, along with a redwood pine flocked tree decorated with a woodland motif.

Lisa Enyeart, whose condo displayed a completely different style with a dining room decked out in reds and greens and a living room tree in shades of blue. On display were pieces of Lisa's artwork.

Delaine Toerper welcomed us through a decorated courtyard to a living room with a corner tree done in tones of bronze. The kitchen/great room held a large tree festooned in reds and purple. On hand was a charming Elf who was our guide!



Sherri Gardiner loves penguins and there were many interspersed in the downstairs rooms along with whimsical displays of red and white candy canes. The dining room table held an impressive Thomas Kinkadee Village.

Sherry Jacobs filled her home with pieces passed down through generations. Many different styles and periods were blended with modern pieces. The living room was filled with Old World Christmas ornaments collected throughout the years.

Darlene Schardt not only invited us to view the area where she entertains her large family but also opened her upstairs so we could see the handmaid holiday themed quilts made by Darlene!



Katy Keller is proud of the Heirloom Christmas she can enjoy with her growing family! A special display showcases some of the large collection of her Grandfather's Santa Claus collection.



Mindy Christian decorated with pieces passed down from both grandmothers along with expressing her artistic side with a modern take on a Vintage Christmas. The mantle featured a beautiful swag Mindy created.

If you are interested in sharing your home in the tree trot next year, please contact the adventure committee.

— Kathy Crossman



Scout's Eagle Project At Prospect Hill Cemetery

In the spring of 2025, a young man named Cameron Sands, a senior at Northeastern High School, was working on his Eagle Scout project. He plays the bugle and often plays "Taps" at the Prospect Hill Cemetery for different ceremonies.

Alicia Forry at Prospect Hill Cemetery learned he was looking for a project and asked him to consider the replacement of the weathered walking tour markers of the Civil War graves.



Cameron decided to take on the project, which quickly became complex. Not only would he need signs, posts, concrete, sponsorship labels, and mounting hardware to replace the old markers, it would require \$6,000 to do it. He earnestly took on the task and started asking companies, organizations, and individuals for donations.



Alicia Forry suggested Cameron contact GCY for a donation because GCY maintains the cradle-shaped graves at Prospect Hill Cemetery, so he did. GCY thought it was an admirable project, but it did not fit within our Purpose or Mission statement.



After some discussion, some of our members offered to privately donate money and we were able to send him a donation of \$200.

His project was completed, after soliciting enough money, and a dedication ceremony was held at Prospect Hill Cemetery on August 9, 2025. Susan Liebegott and Elaine Yates attended and heard Cameron Sands play "Taps" to end the event, as reenactors of the 87th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry served as color guard for the day.



Cameron is now a freshman at York College studying mechanical engineering and is still playing his bugle.

— Elaine Yates



From the Desk of.... A Plant Enthusiast (or a crazy lady)

Getting antsy to be back in the garden? Me too! Below is a list of shrubs and plants you can trim back and shape in late winter—March in our neck of the woods. Look for dead, damaged or diseased branches. Be careful not to cut back into old wood.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| -Boxwood | -Crape Myrtle |
| -Juniper | -Beauty Berry |
| -Yews | -Spirea |
| -Holly | -Potentilla |
| -Arborvitae | -Weigela |
| -Hemlock | -Dogwood |
| -Privet | -Abelia |
| -Cypress | -Nandina |
| -Panicle Hydrangea | -Perennials |
| -Ornamental Grasses | -Roses |
| -Blueberry and other
fruits that grow on
shrubs | -Rose of Sharon |

Hang in there. Next month you can start your seeds inside. Make a list of some new things you want to try. Don't forget—we have the Orchid Show at Hershey Gardens the first weekend in February and the Philadelphia Flower Show the first week in March.

-- Plant Enthusiast



Taste of Garden Club

January Membership Meeting Recipe: White Chicken Chili From Linda Janosky



Ingredients:

- 2-15.5 oz. cans great northern beans
- 2-3 cups cooked chicken, diced
- 10 oz. alfredo sauce
- 10 oz. chicken broth
- 4 oz. can mild green chilis
- 1 cup frozen gold/white corn
- 3 oz. monterey jack cheese
- 3 oz. pepper jack cheese
- 2/3 cup sour cream
- 1 small yellow bell pepper, diced
- 1 small yellow onion, finely diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. white pepper
- 3/4 tsp. cayenne pepper

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in a crockpot and warm on low for 4-5 hours.

Toppings:

- cilantro
- sour cream
- salsa verde
- additional cheese

Serves: 10

Spotlight On Activity

Yarn Yackers

What is the Yarn Yackers?

The “Yarn Yackers” is an activity group that is open to anyone to join. Whether you knit, crochet, quilt, or cross-stitch, you are welcome to bring your project and enjoy camaraderie while you work. If you don't have a project, the group will share ideas, patterns, and techniques to get you started.

How did the group start?

In 2018, Adrienne Bartell and Mary Alice Heilig visited the Creative Ewe yarn shop in McSherrystown. They stopped for lunch and talked about starting a knitting group. Adrienne was adept in the art and Mary Alice was picking up where she left off at age 12.

What are some group member projects?

One example of a finished project is a beautiful sweater created and modeled by Neila Burrows. It is an oversized striped pullover called Catalina. It was knitted with Merino fine wool in cream and squid ink.



These lacy scarves made by Mary Alice Heilig are another finished project example. Perfect to complement your outfit on a chilly day.

When do they meet?

Instructional meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. with around six attendees. Neila Burrows offers assistance with any piece you may be working on and is brilliant in suggesting patterns for a project you might want to knit. The ladies present usually bring knitting pieces, but there are quilters, crocheters and other art forms represented.

They also meet on the second Friday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. with an average of ten attendees who come and work on their



projects together. And even if you are not in the mood to knit, you are always welcome to come and just enjoy the fellowship of the Yackers.



Knitting and crochet are trending hobbies. People of all age groups are using yarn and needles not just to craft but to connect, relax, and create. It is nice to have a group where you can learn, inspire each other, and share your hobby.

If you are interested in joining the Yarn Yackers, call Mary Alice Heilig to RSVP for a meeting, and you will receive information on the meeting location.



— Beth Retallack

Plastics: My Year of Intention

Last March I presented “Plastics: The truth, the myths, some solutions” at the monthly GCY meeting. I hoped that some statistics would persuade even more members to use less plastic in their lives or try to recycle what they can’t live without. Here I honestly record some personal successes, failures, and plans for going forward.

Successes:

- Swedish dishcloths
- shampoo bars
- powdered laundry detergent in bulk
- cloth napkins
- plates to cover food in refrigerator
- all plastic to CRDC Global - bag styrofoam separately, only drop-off is 390 Eberts Lane
- glass storage containers



Failures:

- Beeswax food wraps - I find them ineffective.
- Bulk food at grocery stores is not always fresh. I'll be more careful in what I buy.
- I overbought in smaller storage bags for shopping. (I was able, for the most part, to avoid produce in plastic packaging.)
- I'm still using liquid hand soap but am about to return to cake soap at my sinks.
- I only refuse plastic straws and bags sometimes but plan to be more assertive.

My goals going forward:

- Visit new Pantry of Plenty, 3931 East Market Street, York - refilling and terracycle drop-off point
- Visit new location of Refillism - 2572 Eastern Boulevard, York
- Find more alternatives to plastic wrap, ziploc bags
- Pay more attention to avoiding nanoplastics/microplastics
 - ◊ Opt for reusable products over single-use plastics.
 - ◊ Choose natural fibers over synthetic.
 - ◊ Use water filters to capture microfibers, drink tap water instead of bottled water.
 - ◊ Throw away teflon pans and plastic cutting boards.
 - ◊ Properly dispose of plastic to prevent it from breaking down into microplastics.



Do you want to dig deeper?

- Watch this - “Buy Now: The Shopping Conspiracy” - Netflix
- Read this - The New York Times - “What the experts want you to know about microplastics” (May 20, 2025)

Remember: Be gentle with yourself. Take one step at a time.

—Jane Dodson

Garden Faire Shout Out

Garden Faire is The Garden Club of York's annual event where garden lovers can purchase everything for a beautiful flower garden, vegetable garden, and even landscaping needs. It includes numerous sun and shade annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and shrubs.

Location: The John & Paige Smith Center at the York Expo (fairgrounds)



Please note 2026 sale hours are:

Friday May 1st

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. for Garden Club Members only
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. for Friends and Family

Saturday May 2nd

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. General Public

Here is your chance to clean up those overgrown perennials. Just divide, pot and mark/name your plant donation. See GCY website under 'Members Only' for the form. Bring your shared bounty to the John & Paige Smith Center on Wednesday, April 29th and Thursday, April 30th between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.



Be sure to check out White Rose Attic while you are there. Find your new/old treasures from items that members donate. Repurpose items to turn your garden into a fun place. White Rose Attic requests items must be in good shape and salable. They do not accept small appliances, magazines, or clothing.



This event is a great opportunity to pick up garden tools from the garden store. There will be numerous "cool tools" for sale at their table.

You don't have to be an expert in gardening. You will learn a lot while working with wonderful people, so don't hesitate to say, "YES!", if asked to help a few hours. We can't have a successful Garden Faire without lots of help from members. Lunch and snacks are provided.



Please contact Co-chairs Daryl Hoffman, Georgia Parker, or Sherry Dunbar for more information.

—Sherry Dunbar





Queen Bee

People Ask and Queen Bee Answers:

How Cold is Too Cold for Honey Bees to Survive?



A quick answer to that question is when the temperature drops below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature is too cold and unsafe for individual honey bees to survive.

Honey bees survive freezing weather by forming a winter cluster or ball inside the hive and vibrate their bodies consuming stored honey to keep their queen and brood warm. The colder the weather, the tighter they have to group together. When female worker bees on the outside edge of the cluster get too cold, they swap places with the bees in the middle of the cluster.



Bees do not need to keep their entire nest warm, nor do they need to heat all their comb, pollen, and honey. They do need to heat any eggs the queen has been laying until the bees hatch out.

Honey bees use the same muscle to fly and to stay warm by vibrating it. They unhinge their wings first so they do not fly. They consume honey to give them energy to vibrate. They will climb inside empty cells, like sleeping bags, to concentrate heat. Bees do perspire and create heat from their bodies. These crafty insects are able to seal any cracks inside their hive that let cold air in by using propolis, a mixture they make from tree sap and enzymes. Amazing!

How can we help bees?

To help solitary bees survive as well as bees that may emerge too early from the hive, it is essential to provide bee-friendly plants like mahonia and heathers which bloom in the winter offering a source of nectar and pollen for bees.



Mahonia



Heather

The good news is that bees are pretty good at taking care of themselves.

— Queen Bee

Membership Meeting Programs

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."



GardenWise: Penn State Extension Workshop

When: March 14th 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Where: Central York Middle School



Designed for both new and experienced gardeners, GardenWise offers engaging sessions led by experts who share practical tips, innovative techniques, and the latest findings to help you cultivate a thriving, eco-friendly landscape.

Space is limited. Preregistration required.

<https://extension.psu.edu/gardenwise>

Flower Trivia



What is the term for a flower that blooms and dies within a single day?

- Phantom
- Monoecious
- Monocarpic
- Ephemeral

Answer found on page 20

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



"My garden sings with the winds in winter."
Derek Jarman

Missing the beauty of our floral gardens? Feast your eyes on the largest flower garden in the world. This is the Dubai Miracle Garden with 150 million blossoms made into breathtaking displays. Check it out! Here is the link -

<https://www.dubaimiraclegarden.com>

Enjoy.



***"All gardening is landscape
painting."***

—Alexander Pope

A Gardener's Life...



Flower Trivia Answer

Ephemeral is a broad term for plants with very short life cycles, including those that bloom and die in a single day. Examples of ephemeral flowers are daylily, tropical water lily, saguaro cactus flower, evening primrose, chocolate flower, and rock harlequin.

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-
GCofYorkTreasurer@gmail.com