



Charter member of The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania – 1933

2025

The Governor's Trophy
Book of Evidence

Submitted by
Pam Paules, President
990 Summit Circle North
York, PA 17403-4428
717-683-9717

THE GARDEN CLUB OF YORK
District IV

Contributing Members:
Jane Dodson
Audra Johns
Elaine Yates
Sandra Benedict

Table of Contents

Club Meetings	1
<i>The Garden Club of York Programs</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Floral Design Workshops</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Social Activity: Floral Watercolor Workshop</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Social Activity: Mosaic Montage</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Social Activity: Flower Pounding.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Social Activity: Meadowbrooke Gourds Tour</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Social Activity: Weaving a Hearth Basket</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Social Activity: Tree Trot.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>A Longwood Christmas</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Flower Pressers</i>	<i>11</i>
Civic Activities	12
<i>Arbor Day.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Martin Library Donations</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Community Outreach: York Jewish Community Center</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Community Outreach: Northeast Neighborhood Association</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Flowers and Fellowship.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Garden Faire</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Garden of Hope at UPMC Memorial Hospital</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Give Local York.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Hanging Baskets and Containers in Downtown York.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Colonial Herb Garden.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Blue Star Memorial By-Way Garden.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Cradle-Shaped Graves at Prospect Hill Cemetery.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>York State Fair Horticultural Hall</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>District IV Garden Clubs' Competition at the Fair.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>The 2025 Horticultural Hall Educational Speaker Series at the Fair.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Plant-It-Pink Garden.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Jeremy's Garden</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Public Tour of Community Gardens.....</i>	<i>22</i>

Conservation Activities	25
<i>Adopt-A-Block</i>	25
<i>Birds, Bees and Butterflies</i>	25
<i>Bluebird Trail</i>	26
<i>Monarch Butterfly Release Party</i>	27
<i>Certification for Members</i>	27
<i>Conservation, Environment and Horticulture</i>	28
<i>Recycling.....</i>	28
<i>York County Solid Waste Management and Refuse Facility</i>	29
<i>Presidential Trees</i>	29
<i>Youth Gardeners</i>	30
Club Organizational Activities	35
<i>Historian</i>	35
<i>Newsletters</i>	35
<i>Yearbooks</i>	35
<i>The Garden Store.....</i>	35
<i>New Members' Socials</i>	36
<i>Sunshine Committee</i>	36
Club Supported State Projects	37
<i>Attendance at District and State Events</i>	37
<i>Dedication at York's Blue Star Garden</i>	38
<i>Plant-A-Tree Donation.....</i>	39
<i>The GCY Member Service for District and State</i>	40
<i>Scholarships.....</i>	40
<i>GCY's Awards</i>	41
<i>Letter of Recommendation</i>	43

Club Meetings

The Garden Club of York Programs

In 2025, The Garden Club of York organized a variety of meetings and special events for its members. The regular programming included six formal club meetings, each requiring members to sign in upon arrival. In addition to these regular gatherings, the club hosted several seasonal and social events, such as the Spring Luncheon, the Fall Membership meeting as a picnic, and the Holiday Benefit Luncheon.

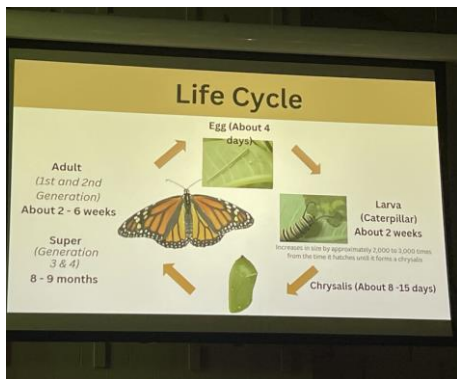
The club followed a consistent meeting format. The GCY Board meeting began at 8:30 a.m., followed by The GCY membership meeting at 9:30 a.m. A brief break was held at 10:45 a.m., after which the program and guest speaker session commenced at 11:00 a.m. The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon with closing remarks and a lunch that included social time for members to connect and network.

1. January 21 - Home is Where You Lay Your Eggs.

There are many questions to answer before you begin making a home. Should you rent or build, make it a new construction or remodel, what floor plan will you use, what's your preferred neighborhood, and what material will you use? Whether in a backyard, a wilderness area, or a shoreline, *eggs need a home!* GCY member Kathy Gingerich engaged us with her knowledge and photos. The expense for this speaker was \$150 which was covered by the budget for the Program Committee. 75% member attendance.



2. February 17 - Monarch Butterflies



GCY member Jennifer Titemore began raising monarch butterflies about four years ago and has been captivated ever since! During her first year, she released 237 monarchs. Next year she raised and set free 565. Last year she raised and released well over 900 monarchs. Jennifer shared her amazing knowledge, her pictures, and experiences to a captivated audience. The expense for this speaker was \$150 which was covered by the budget for the Program Committee. 75% member attendance.

3. **March 3 - Philadelphia Flower Show** Forty-two members participated in this education event. The 2025 theme “Gardens of Tomorrow” showcased floral and landscape designs, introduced new plant varieties, and featured gardening presentations, competitions, and special events. Each member paid for his own ticket and bus fare. 17% member attendance.



A Garden of the future!

4. **March 17 - Miller’s Wildlife**

Patrick Miller (pictured at the right) brought native Pennsylvania critters for members to view up close. Club members were highly engaged, taking photos as Patrick carried animals around the room, sharing facts about a red-tailed hawk, a horned owl, several snakes, a softshell turtle, and an American toad. The program educated members on ways to appreciate and protect the animals’ ecosystems. The expense for this speaker was \$500 which was covered by the budget for the Program Committee. 75% member attendance.



5. **April 11 - Miller’s Plant Farm**



Two educational GCY member-tours were filled to capacity. The first guided tour (as shown in the picture on the left) walked through production facilities learning about mechanized seeding, a special incubation process for seedless watermelons, and intentional use of insects being poured into the soil of tropical plants. Each member made a \$5.00 donation to the Gift of Hope Foundation which funds cancer research in memory of Mrs. Diane Miller. 20% member attendance.

6. **April 22 - Designing with Perennials**

Master Gardener Jack Geoghan discussed how to select and plant perennials so that constant color and interest extends throughout the gardening year. With PowerPoint illustrations, Jack shared types of plants, when they bloom, how to propagate, and when to plant and prune plants. The expense for this speaker was \$150 which was covered by the budget for the Program Committee. 75% member attendance.

7. May 7 - Annual Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers



This event held at the Stone Mill Inn, Hellam, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. began with a social hour and tour of the Inn's gardens followed by a noon luncheon. A business meeting followed with the installation of officers for 2025/26 as shown in the picture on the left. One hundred fifty-one members and five of the six scholarship recipients and their families attended. There was a delicious lunch, thanks and recognition to the outgoing board, and awards of \$12,000 in scholarships to six well-deserving students. District IV Distinguished Service Coins were also presented at that

time. Each member pays for his own luncheon ticket of \$50. Scholarships are subsidized by fundraisers. 60% member attendance.

8. May 15 - Hillwood Estate, Museum and Garden

Forty members traveled to the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post, "Hillwood," now owned by the Smithsonian Museum near Washington, D.C. This decorative arts museum is known for its extensive collections of Russian and French decorative arts, as well as its beautiful gardens. The 25-acre estate features formal gardens, including a Japanese-style garden and pond, a rose garden, a French parterre, plus a putting green and woodlands. The U.S. Botanic Garden campus includes the Conservatory, the gated outdoor gardens, and Bartholdi Fountain and Gardens. The Garden features more than 44,000 plants with major collections including orchids, roses, plants native to the United States, food and economic plants, carnivorous plants, and more. Its lush gardens also feature tropical plants and seasonal displays. Pictured below are the dining room, GCY members standing in front of the house, the swimming pool and a miniature garden. All expenses were individually paid by each member. 17% member attendance.



9. June 5 - Garden Club Members' Garden Tour



Five club members freely opened their gardens to host fifty attendees to our Annual Members' Garden Tour. Ranging from gardens in beginning stages (pictured left) to gardens that have been a 25-year project, these labors of love were fascinating to view. Everyone enjoyed the diversity of the five gardens.



One garden may be small, however, packed with flowers, pots and collections from travels (pictured right). Another garden was a transformation from a hollow of poison ivy to a hideaway oasis of colorful perennials, annuals and even a spring-fed pond (pictured left). Each garden provided new learning and all left inspired.



Club members (pictured right) also toured the Veterans' Memorial Gold Star Healing and Peace Garden. This beautifully manicured garden was dedicated to all veterans with color-coded sections representing the core values. Recently the garden celebrated its 10th Anniversary (pictured at right).



After a day of touring gardens, the attendees met at the Splash Pond Supply Company for a tour of their new location and learned about the interesting pond installations built for enjoyment. Refreshments were donated by the members. 20% member attendance.

10. September 16 - Fall Membership Meeting Picnic

The picnic was held at the Willis House and Laurels were distributed. After the invocation, the group enjoyed delicious food contributed by attendees and fellowship with one another. A members' plant swap from their own personal gardens was one of the highlights of the day. This is a third-year tradition. The only expense was the cost of the main course selections which amounted to \$491.99. This was covered by the hospitality fee charged at the beginning of the year. The hospitality fee is \$25/member and pays for the six lunches at the membership meetings and this expense of the September picnic. 53% member attendance.



From left to right are members Mark Paules, Pam Paules, Kim Keese, Elizabeth Norman, Deb Hempfing, Priscilla Waldman and Betsy Smith.

11. October 20 - Attracting & Keeping Bees

Mark Chronister is a fourth-generation beekeeper and active member of the York County Beekeeper Association. He presented “ A Beekeeper’s Year in York County,” taking the audience on a visual journey from winter preparation, overwintering, spring buildup, reproductive swarms, honey production, to colony decline, and the blooms that make York County honey. The expense for this speaker was \$150 which was covered by the budget for the Program Committee. 75% member attendance.

12. November 17 - Pumpkins Aren’t Just for Pies—The Promiscuous Pumpkins

Terri Maclay, pictured on the right, is a Master Judge and garden consultant. Terri led the audience through a visual, educational presentation of the history and creative uses for different varieties of pumpkins and gourds. The audience was delighted to take home different pumpkins and a beautiful floral design arrangement via the door prize lottery drawings. The expense for this speaker was \$150 and \$100 for the pumpkins which was covered by the budget for the Program Committee. 70% member attendance.



13. December 2 - Holiday Benefit Luncheon - “The Winter Woods”

Over 250 members of The Garden Club of York and guests celebrated the holiday season in the York Country Club Ballroom. This is GCY’s largest fundraiser. Revenue from this event adds funds for the community gardens, projects, and educational programs offered throughout the year. Planning and preparation was a yearlong event.

Members volunteer in numerous capacities: chairing committees/sub committees, baking and selling goodies for the Bake Shoppe, creating Raffle baskets, soliciting donations for the Silent Auction, creating holiday arrangements and door decor to be sold, filling the Christmas Corner with gently used holiday decorations and gift ideas, and creating centerpieces for the tables. The centerpieces were all sourced from members’ gardens. Everything was coordinated with the theme of the luncheon.

December 1 was a busy day with members setting up for the event. On December 2 the day began at 9:00 a.m. with over 80 members volunteering as greeters, helpers and cashiers. The program and luncheon began at 11:30 a.m. with the co-chairs welcoming everyone including Club Presidents, past and present.



The income was \$40,194.94. The expenses were \$19,705.67. This gave a net profit of \$20,489.28.



Dining room and place setting



Some items for Silent Auction

Above are members Jan Taylor and Valerie Sprenkle selling Raffle tickets for baskets of good stuff!!!



The Christmas Corner sold slightly used Christmas articles and poinsettias for sale.

Linda Hanson and Pam Paules were ready to sell some Christmas greens.

Floral Design Workshops

The Floral Design classes were conducted six times this year, offering both morning and afternoon sessions for all but one date. These classes welcomed all members, regardless of their experience level. Tonya Young served as the inspiration and primary instructor for these enriching sessions. She guided participants through each class's unique theme, providing step-by-step instruction on floral design. Tonya began by teaching members how to select and properly prepare flowers for their arrangements, ensuring everyone was ready to begin the creative process. Ann DeMille, the co-chair, assisted by distributing supplies and helping where needed.

At the end of every class, participants gathered for a group picture, which was often shared on social media or included in GCY communications to celebrate their achievements. Each themed class averaged seventeen members between the two sessions. The cost for each session was \$25 per person, typically covering the necessary supplies, with the committee covering any additional expenses if required. The themes for the year were:

January 16 - Winter White - Tonya, on the left, showed how to use different heights and textures of the same color to create a unique monochromatic bouquet. GCY member, Delaine Toerper, on the right, was proud of her creation.



February 13 - Miniatures - Tonya demonstrated (pictured below left) how to determine if the proportions of a miniature creation were correct. GCY member, Vickie Leiphart (pictured below right), worked earnestly on her little gems.



March 13 - Color - Tonya, on the left, explained the various combinations of pleasing combinations of colors. GCY members displayed their creative bouquets.



June 11 - Succulent Wreaths - Tonya taught how to attach succulent plants onto dampened wreaths.



Susan Fife, delights in her fall design.

October 23 – Fall'ing for Fall - The classes were challenged to incorporate a gourd into each design.



GCY members show off their beautiful succulent wreaths.

November 19 - Autumn Splendor - Tonya explained how to combine dried, painted flowers with fresh flowers for a beautiful centerpiece. Tammi Bortner, on the right, worked at her creation.



Social Activity: Floral Watercolor Workshop

On **January 25, 2025**, two introductory classes of painting florals with watercolors were held. Thirty-two members participated. Led by teacher/artist Hannah of Owl Feathers Watercolors, at the New York Wire Works Building, members learned several beginner strokes required in making basic florals. After mastering these basic strokes, guidance was provided in grouping and painting flowers in a bouquet. Each member paid her own fee.



Social Activity: Mosaic Montage

On **February 6, 2025**, two mosaic tile classes were held for thirty-seven members. Led by the owner of Mosaic Montage, each member was able to create a colorful mosaic flower from a wooden 8-inch floral cutout. Each was as unique and lovely as its designer! Several members opted to place a round mirror in the center of the flower creating an entirely different look. Each member paid for her own experience.



Social Activity: Flower Pounding

On **August 14, 2025**, at the home of Kim Keesee, member Tammi Bortner (pictured at the right) introduced twenty GCY members to flower pounding. This ancient Japanese technique requires hammering plants and flowers to create art and patterns on fabric or paper to resemble watercolor. Members discovered that experimenting with different flowers was all part of the fun. One can be surprised when reds often turn purple or pinks and blues may turn lavender. Each member paid a nominal fee to cover the cost of the class.



Social Activity: Meadowbrooke Gourds Tour

On **October 9, 2025**, twenty-four members of The GCY met at Meadowbrooke Gourds in West Pennsboro, PA. This company is the largest producer, manufacturer and supplier of gourds in the country. Using their creative talents, the members prepared a personal pumpkin for Halloween. The tour guide walked members through the production area, sharing how they grow, prepare, and decorate gourds either for sale in the gourd shop or to be shipped to retailers across the country. Each person paid for his own fee. The owner took the group on a trolley tour of the property sharing the history of the farm and leading to the gourd and sunflower fields, where participants were invited to cut all the sunflowers they desired.



Social Activity: Weaving a Hearth Basket

On **November 10-11, 2025**, club members Kathy Taylor and Jan Taylor, taught a group of twenty-four members an introductory basket weaving class. Everyone made a hearth basket. There was much anticipation for this class and hopefully Jan and Kathy will continue to have future classes for additional members to attend and past attendees to expand their talents. Tammi Bortner is seen here completing her very own basket. Each member paid for her own supplies.

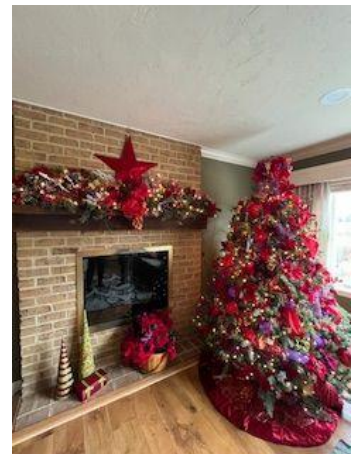


Social Activity: Tree Trot

On **December 8, 2025**, the annual Tree Trot was held. This is the club's tradition of visiting homes of members/non-members who volunteer to display their holiday decorations during the Christmas season. A member host was stationed at each house to greet the visitors and guide them through the individual homes. The tour finished with carol singing and treats at Betsy Smith's home with her husband happily playing the piano. This event was attended by sixty-five members. Homemade goodies were donated by members to share at Betsy's house. The Tree Trot Committee supplied a club membership to one of the non-member hostesses, some booties to be worn at the houses, and paper supplies for the sing along. The expenses were \$194.79 which was covered in their budget.



Decorations found on the Tree Trot!



Special Trees found on the Tree Trot!

A Longwood Christmas

On **December 11, 2025**, twenty-six members and guests of the club traveled by bus to Longwood Gardens to experience the magic of the season. Indoors, opulence awaited with towering trees gleaming in sapphire blue, ruby red, emerald green, and gilded metallics. Crystals sparkled overhead, and fabrics shimmered in jewel tones with gemstone-inspired lighting. When night fell, more than half a million lights illuminated the outdoor garden displays. Each person paid for his own ticket and bus fare.

Flower Pressers

Sally Lenker, Co-Chair & Instructor, and Susan Liebegott, Co-Chair, manage this crafting group which met monthly. Members learned the



Member Jan Taylor shares her creation.

art of flower pressing from an experienced, talented instructor. Sally is a member of the World-Wide Pressed Flower Guild. This group was open to any member who had an interest in this beautiful art form. Experienced or novice, everyone was welcomed. They met **the fourth Wednesday of every month** at a local restaurant. All supplies were provided. Members donated to the cost.



More examples of Flower Pressers' creations.

Civic Activities

Arbor Day

There was a good turnout at the Arbor Day planting in Penn Park on **April 8, 2025**.

Representing The GCY and braving the wintry wind for the dedication were Nancy Dellinger, Jane Dodson, Daphne Leeder, and, pictured on the right are, Barb Zmolek, Bill Lore, Mark and Pam Paules and Susan Liebegott.



Members Attending Arbor Day

The club donated \$1,000 to the city to buy and plant eight native trees. Mayor Michael Helfrick thanked the club, Jackson Elementary School students, and others for making York a “Tree City” for the 41st year. Also addressing the crowd and citing GCY, not only for Arbor Day, but also for other projects around town, were City Forester Trace Wilson and City Parks Superintendent Tom Landis. The club’s fundraisers covered the cost of this donation.

The trees planted were: two American Yellowwood, two Black Tupelo 'Wildfire', two Sourwood, one Stellar Pink Dogwood, and one Pin Oak.

Martin Library Donations

Whenever a member of The GCY passes away, a donation of \$35 is sent to the local downtown Martin Library. This donation is intended for the purchase of a book in memory of the deceased member. Before selecting a book, the family is contacted to determine if they have a specific preference for the book to be purchased. If the family does not have a preference, it is recommended that the library select a book related to flowers, gardening, native plants, or another topic connected to GCY. The library then purchases a book in the name of the deceased member, ensuring a meaningful tribute is made to honor the individual.

In 2025, this memorial donation process was carried out for three members: Joan Stauffer, Patricia Ann Gureghian, MD, and Melanie Hady. The cost of this \$105 donation is covered by the club’s fundraisers.

Community Outreach: York Jewish Community Center

On **February 11, 2025**, three members of GCY presented a program on “Rooting Houseplant Cuttings” at the York Jewish Community Center. Kathie Wild explained how to dip the plant root into the rooting powder and talked about not overwatering the cutting. The program was presented to their social group, the Tuesday Club, for adults over age 55.

The Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shvat which celebrates the natural world and the bounty of

the Earth was being honored. It is a time to give thanks for the fruits of the land. All twelve participants enjoyed getting their hands dirty and having a houseplant to take home.

Community Outreach: Northeast Neighborhood Association

On **June 7, 2025**, four members of The GCY hosted a table at a Block Party for the Northeast Neighborhood Association (NENA), in the city of York. The club had participated in this event in past years, but not recently, so perhaps this is a renewed relationship that will continue in the future.



GCY members at NENA block party

There was a display of five different cavity nesting bird nests and eggs from the Bluebird Society of PA. The most often asked question was: “Are those real eggs?” The answer: “Yes!” As people learned about the birds, children could work on a bluebird coloring sheet, pick out stickers to wear, and enjoy face painting.

A vase of fresh cut flowers and a container of herbs attracted attendees to posters listing tips for beginning gardeners about growing vegetables. The GCY sign advertised the club, offering information and membership applications. Members donated the supplies.

Flowers and Fellowship

This committee was started in 2015 and is co-chaired by Rebecca Fager and Frances Locati whose pictures are on the right. The committee has 49 members which is 1/5 of GCY’s membership. Three visits per year involve between 10-15 members helping each time.



At Normandie Ridge Nursing and Rehab Center on **January 9, 2025**, fifteen residents made bouquets to take to their rooms. They were not allowed to use glass, so cute little paper purses held the flowers.

March 11, 2025, featured a visit to the Amoroso Nursing Home to help eighteen residents create bouquets. Chatting with residents and learning about their lives and interests is meaningful to residents and committee members too.

On **October 8, 2025**, ten GCY members met at Lutheran Village at Sprenkle Drive, Memory Care, and helped fifteen residents. Six additional arrangements were made to take to some residents who couldn’t attend.

Arrangements are shown below, along with member, Barbara Whorl, who's holding one.



The budget of \$150 per visit is used mostly for flowers purchased at Sam's Club. The Flower Pressers Committee, chaired by Sally Lenker, makes laminated flower fairies to add to the bouquets. Another member, Vicki Leiphart, makes professional bows for use as well. Most of the glass vases are donated from club members which saves a lot of money. All expenses were covered by the club's many fundraisers.

Garden Faire

Garden Faire, the annual plant sale of The GCY, was held Friday, **May 2, 2025**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday, **May 3, 2025**, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the John & Paige Smith Building at York Expo Center aka York Fairgrounds. This public event was supported by over 100 GCY volunteers. The Garden Faire committee includes 35 members led by three co-chairs.



The sale features succulents, water plants, natives, members' donations, tropicals, herbs, hanging baskets, annuals and perennials as well as Mother's Day gifts. Demonstrations of container planting occur throughout the two days.

Rounding out the shopping opportunities is the club's Garden Store (profit of \$527.44) as well as the White Rose Attic offering resale of members' treasures (profit of \$2,420.85 which is earmarked for scholarships).



The Garden Faire is one of the major fundraising activities of The GCY, since its beginning on April 28, 2007. It was first held at the old train station on North Street across the tracks from the baseball stadium. In

support of the York State Fair, garden club members also maintain two ornamental flower beds on fair property.

Net Sales \$37,269.97
Expenses \$24,690.29
Net Profit \$12,579.68

Garden of Hope at UPMC Memorial Hospital

The GCY in partnership with UPMC Pinnacle Foundation dedicated this garden on May 7, 2021. The space aims to honor those who have passed and champion those who continue to fight cancer.

Sue Bowman of GCY worked tirelessly with UPMC to coordinate and ensure the completion of this project. The garden was designed by Elaine Zeiders, and the bronze sculpture was created by Lorann Jacobs, and fences (shown below) created by Nancy Woodrow.



Walkers using the wellness path are greeted by Redbud trees, obedient plants, hydrangeas, hibiscus, allium, snowberry bushes, and dianthus. Annuals such as wave petunias and begonias are planted each spring. Park benches have been installed to provide a comfortable space for meditation and reflection.

Care and upkeep of the garden is a joint effort between UPMC and GCY. UPMC's landscaper places mulch as needed and waters on a weekly basis. The club provides maintenance, planting/removal of

annual plants, weeding and pruning as needed from **spring through the fall**. Chris Barkdoll and Pat Cavanagh are the current co-chairs of this project. Basically, there are no expenses for this garden as UPMC paid for it all.

Give Local York

Give Local York's Day of Giving is a dynamic, community-driven event dedicated to supporting local non-profits in York County. This annual fundraiser event is an exciting 24-hour online day of giving. The proceeds go into the garden club's general fund and are used for Scholarships, Flowers and Fellowship at area nursing homes, Jeremy's Garden for horticultural therapy, Prospect Hill Cemetery's plants for the cradle-shaped graves, Plant-it-Pink Garden, Blue Star Memorial By-Way Garden, Herb Garden at the historic Golden Plough Tavern, UPMC Garden Hope, and and Youth Gardening programs at Martin Library & Leg Up Farm. In 2025, the York community donated \$3,605.31 to The Garden Club of York. The event was held on **May 2, 2025**.

Hanging Baskets and Containers in Downtown York

The Hanging Basket and Container Committee chaired by Kim Keesee is responsible for 286 baskets and 114 containers that beautify The City of York's business, Royal Square, and WECO districts. The GCY designs the baskets and containers, maintains the containers, and raises the funds to pay for the baskets and other beautification. Raising about \$80,000 annually sustains this project.

Funding for the baskets comes from the interest payment of an endowment labeled, "Baskets of York Endowment," at the York County Community Foundation and from a fundraising campaign where over 500 appeal letters are sent to businesses and residents of York County. A grant from Downtown, Inc., pays for the planting and watering of the containers by The GCY volunteers.

Committee members also decorate the four corners of Continental Square in March, October, and December. It is estimated that 70+ members work together to make this all happen in collaboration with Downtown Inc., The City of York, Trump Lawn and Land Company, and The York Water Company.



On the left are Chris Barkdoll and Leslie Bowman getting ready to prune the containers in front of the Courthouse. On the right is the display of hanging baskets which were hung throughout the city on May 15, 2025.

HISTORIC YORK



A Century of Growth & Civic Pride

Over 100 years of planting and placemaking with The Garden Club of York

By Brendan Salyards
Manager, Economic Initiatives

Founded in 1922, The Garden Club of York was a charter member of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, an organization formed in 1930 to promote gardening and civic beautification efforts, facilitate garden and flower shows across the Commonwealth, and provide educational resources to youth. Since its founding, **The Garden Club of York has grown into an organization with nearly 250 members that maintains nine gardens in the City of York and the surrounding area, annually sponsors 286 hanging baskets and 114 container planters across Downtown York,** and contributes immensely to civic life in York.

During the Great Depression and the Second World War, the Garden Club of York was active in promoting gardening as a means to sustain families, and the club was a prominent supporter of victory gardens and other civil defense measures during the war. Today, the Garden Club of York

provides six scholarships to high school seniors and undergraduate students studying horticulture or other environmental-related fields. The club has also participated in the "Adopt a Block" program. Immediate Past President Jan Olsen reiterated a quote from her predecessor, Kim Keessee, as noted in a 2022 article in the York Daily Record, which said that, **"The York Club has evolved from its origins as a tea party and white glove organization to a working-class club working in the community."**

"When I moved to York, I was looking for something to get involved in," shares Jan. "After talking to some of the members, I felt the Garden Club of York was something I would enjoy. I found there were many ways to be involved, from digging in the dirt to learning how to arrange flowers. Being new to York, the Garden Club gave me an opportunity to make new friends and be involved in the community."

In recent years, the Garden Club of York's Youth Committee has made great strides in expanding the outreach and presence of the club in the community, and the club regularly participates in Earth Day, Arbor Day events, and other related events such as Go Green in the City and York County Envirothon. The Club has also revamped the Horticulture Center at the York State Fair, including the addition of an expanded educational display, organizing and judging the various horticulture competitions, creating new gardening-related activities for children, and volunteering throughout the Fair.

Throughout the year, the Garden Club's Adventure Committee organizes trips to botanical gardens and estates, including a recent trip to Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood Estate in Washington, D.C., tours of the gardens of local members and non-members, and other activities.

The Garden Club of York meets monthly at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and is open to members and their guests. Each meeting generally includes a speaker on a subject related to gardening or horticulture. Benefits of membership include recommendations for native plants and plantings to consider for one's own garden, and floral and landscape design classes. Those interested in joining the Garden Club of York can find additional information on their website!

"For me, The Garden Club of York represents a group of like-minded people, like myself, that share a love for gardening and floral design," stated Pam Paules, current President of The Garden Club of York. "It gives me an opportunity for continued learning, provides a creative outlet, and the chance to meet new people and cultivate friendships, while providing the opportunity to give back to the York Community."



"...The Garden Club of York represents a group of like-minded people, like myself, that share a love for gardening and floral design..."

Pam Paules

Current President of The Garden Club of York



Colonial Herb Garden

Behind the historic Gates House and Golden Plough Tavern in downtown York is a replica of a garden that would have been planted in colonial times. GCY was asked to take over responsibility for it in 2023 by the York County History Center, when the Mason Dixon Line of the Herb Society of America disbanded. Each year, the garden is maintained and watered by members of the club several times a week from **March until the end of November**. GCY participates in the Colonial Days' activities in the spring and fall as well. Paul Godfrey coordinates the activities of this garden.

The Committee has a budget of \$150 but the money is rarely used as members usually donated plants. Members Susan Liebegott, Frances Locati, and Kim Keesee are shown here tending to the garden.



Blue Star Memorial By-Way Garden



The Blue Star Memorial By-Way Garden is in the plaza in front of York's minor league baseball team's stadium. The team is named the Revolutions. The garden was dedicated in 2009 to honor and say "thank you" to all veterans. It is a living memorial to honor the veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces. Each year it is maintained by members of GCY several times a week from **March until the end of November**. The stadium's grounds crew helped in this effort. It is a peaceful garden shared with all and meant for contemplation. Daphne Leeder coordinated the activities of this garden. This committee had a budget of \$100 which was covered by the fundraisers of the club.

Cradle-Shaped Graves at Prospect Hill Cemetery

Prospect Hill Cemetery is a historic cemetery in York. It contains fifteen cradle-shaped graves which the members of GCY plant, maintain, and water from **May until October** of each year. These graves were popular in the Victorian Era. They consist of a

gravestone, a footstone, and two low stone walls connecting them. The flowers on top are used to mimic a blanket on the grave, filled with colors and textures. Nineteen members of the club volunteered to keep these graves looking so lovely this year. This committee had a budget of \$100 covered by the club's fundraisers. In July of this year, GCY helped to document and write a self-guided walking tour of the graves which is also posted on the GCY website for the public to use. It was printed by the staff of the cemetery. A copy of the pamphlet is enclosed in the back of our Book of Evidence.



York State Fair Horticultural Hall

The GCY works closely with the York State Fair (YSF) Director and her team to develop and implement new ideas to inspire and educate the community and encourage participation in York County agriculture. The theme for the 2025 fair was "Our 260th Anniversary." The ten-day fair ran from **July 18, 2025**, through **July 27, 2025**.

Twenty club members plus YSF staff met monthly from **January through June** planning for the fair. The GCY members spearheaded the following projects: Volunteer Coordinator Group, Displays, Signage, Vegetable Department, Pressed Flowers Exhibit, Floral Department, and Speaker Presentation Program at no club expense.

They recruited other club members to assist with the setup process the week before the fair, during the event, and the day after the 10-day fair. Members assisted with taking in entries, clerking for the judges, organizing and tidying displays, and answering questions for visitors. Sixty-three club members actively volunteered during the fair.

The GCY Youth Gardening committee organized and hosted a Youth Workshop on **June 14, 2025**. Youth participated in making projects to be entered into the fair. Children made decorated flowerpot projects, seed art projects, and fairy gardens. To the delight of the children, many projects entered in the fair won awards. More details and photos are included in "Youth Gardening" in the Conservation section.

District IV Garden Clubs' Competition at the Fair

Theme: Mantle - "It's Fair Time! Hay Bales and Cow Tales"
Table - "It's a Celebration! From Farm to Fair"

Town and Country Garden Club of Lancaster — Recipient of First Place Award
Lingelstown Community Garden Club – Recipient of Second Place Award
Penn – Cumberland Garden Club – Recipient of Third Place Award
Garden Club of Harrisburg – Recipient of Fourth Place Award

The 2025 Horticultural Hall Educational Speaker Series at the Fair

The GCY members developed the Speakers Program to make audience education both engaging and enjoyable.

Friday, July 18, 2025	Sally Lenker – The Art of Flower Pressing
Saturday, July 19, 2025	Connie Schmotzer, Master Gardener – Why Natives
Sunday, July 20, 2025	Paul Godfrey , Local Artist – Painting Botanical Arts
Sunday, July 20, 2025	Randy and Barb Zmolek – Bluebirds in Your Backyard
Monday, July 21, 2025	Paul Godfrey - Growing and Using Culinary Herbs
	Chris Barkdoll – Creative Container Gardening
Tuesday, July 22, 2025	Kathy Crossman – How to Create Living Wreaths
	Tonya Young – Tips and Tricks of Floral Design
Wednesday, July 23, 2025	Karen Markle – Pollination – Hands on Activity for Kids
	Keith Ahrens – Donut Peaches: What are They?
Thursday, July 24, 2025	Jennifer Titemore – Monarch Butterflies

Friday, July 25, 2025

David Arrow, York Audubon Society – Feathered Friends
Mark Chronister – Beekeeping: Show and Tell

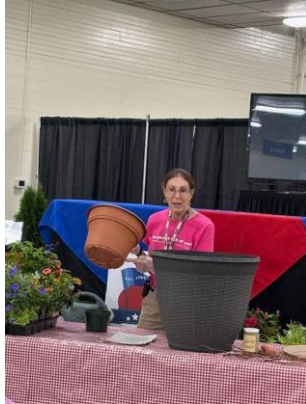
Saturday, July 26, 2025

Vicki Mihm – Succulent Make and Take Fun for Kids
Joanne Baylis, Master Gardener – Creating Terrariums

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Ellen Ehlenbeck, Local Artist – Color in the Garden
Mark Chronister – Bees, Bees, Bees: Honey Extraction

***Names in bold are The GCY members**



Chris Barkdoll presenting her creative containers.

Plant-It-Pink Garden

Garden crew taking a rest on the right!

In 2018, The Garden Club of York (GCY) joined forces with NGC in the Plant-it-Pink effort to raise awareness about breast cancer in our communities. A club member, Susan Bowman, obtained funding from Denise Gilliland, president of Pink Power. A garden was established at John C. Rudy Park with the approval and support of the York County Department of Parks and Recreation. York County Parks support the project with an on-site water tank and debris removal. Committee members are responsible for the maintenance and improvement of this garden dedicated to people affected by breast cancer ever since. Members of the 2025 mulch crew enjoy the shade above.



Garden crew taking a rest!

Each year members work during the growing season from **March to October** to plant, weed, water, and groom on a schedule managed on the GCY website. After the Knock-Out roses are pruned in March, bulbs begin to appear and the season continues through October, ending with Clara Curtis chrysanthemums. The plants are all perennial except for the petunias which are planted yearly. Everything blooms pink!

Forty club members comprise a volunteer list shared with the UPMC Pink Garden. At

least 25 of them participated for a total of 115 hours. A yearly budget of \$400 covers petunias, mulch, and fertilizers. This money emanates from the fundraisers of the club.

Jeremy's Garden

Jeremy Srour, son of Jim and Cushla Srour, is lucky to have a garden named to honor him. And, The Garden Club of York (GCY) is lucky that the 1/2 acre garden is the focus of its Horticultural Therapy Committee's work. GCY started working with Jessica and Friends in 2014 and transitioned to the Srour's farm in 2021. Together with participants from group homes run by Jessica and Friends, ten members met bi-weekly throughout the growing season (**April - September**) to provide one-on-one support during 45-minute sessions. Vegetables, fruits, and flowers are planted, cultivated, harvested, and enjoyed. Mini-lessons on horticultural topics as well as crafts and games rounded out the program. More than 30 adults with intellectual and physical disabilities participated this year. The budget for this committee is \$300 for the year and was covered by fundraising.



Jeremy

Public Tour of Community Gardens

GCY decided to have a public viewing of club-maintained community gardens on **September 6, 2025**. Many people in the area do not know the club does more than hang baskets and plant containers downtown. A public viewing would enlighten the community and also give new members an opportunity to view the gardens themselves. The 8 gardens were hosted by 20 members and visited by 102 people – 76 from the public and 26 from the club. As a result of this tour, six new members joined the club, and a rather large donation was given in appreciation for the beautification of York. The only expense incurred was the cost of the invitations and poster used at the Fairgrounds. The cost was \$264.08 covered by The GCY fundraisers.



Martin Library



Leg Up Garden with Susan Liebegott and other members



UPMC Garden of Hope with member and friends



Colonial Herb Garden w/Paul Godfrey



Blue Star Garden



GCY member Joan Graff and Joan Fulton at the York Fairground Garden



**GARDEN CLUB OF YORK
COMMUNITY GARDENS TOUR**

Visit Saturday, September 6th
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
free

Come see the pink blooms at John Rudy Park and at the UPMC Garden; see the roses and hellebores at the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Garden at the Rev's stadium; smell the beautiful aromas at the colonial herb garden behind the Golden Plough Tavern; see the wonders happening at Jeremy's garden with vegetables and blooming flowers planted from seeds; delight in the sensory garden in the children's courtyard of the Martin Library; be amazed at the transformation of the Leg Up Farm at their equestrian facility; and, be dazzled by the newly refurbished gardens at the York Fairgrounds.

The addresses of these gardens are listed below.

- 1. Breast Cancer Garden of Hope**
UPMC Memorial Hospital
1703 Innovation Drive, York, PA
- 2. Plant It Pink Breast Cancer Meditation Garden**
400 Mundis Race Road, Pavillion Entrance
John Rudy Park, York, PA
- 3. Blue Star Memorial By-Way Garden**
Next to the Rev's Stadium
5 Brooks Robinson Way, York, PA
- 4. Colonial Herb Garden at**
Golden Plough Tavern
157 W. Market Street, York, PA
- 5. Sensory Garden at Martin Library**
159 E. Market St., York, PA
- 6. Leg Up Farm Vegetable and Flower Gardens**
4880 N. Sherman St., Ext., Mt. Wolf, PA
- 7. Jeremy's Garden**
Jim & Cushla Srour's Farm
2750 Indian Rock Dam Road, York, PA
- 8. York Fairgrounds Gardens**
334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA
Admin. Building, Gate 9

A large poster and this invitation were printed for the event. The invitations were distributed at meetings, the York State Fair and the District IV annual meeting.

Conservation Activities

Adopt-A-Block

In 2025, The GCY participated with the Adopt-A-Block Program in downtown York, by picking up trash, pulling weeds and sometimes raking up fallen sticks on 2+ streets. Elaine Yates and Daphne Leeder are pictured raking the loose twigs on the block. The city provides trash bags, plastic gloves, and “picker uppers.” An average of six members participated four different times this year. The bags of trash are placed on a corner and the City of York picks them up the next day. The average is about 4-5 bags of trash on each clean-up day, although it’s getting less each time.



This activity began during the Pandemic when some GCY members took it upon themselves to go into downtown York to help clean up the city. Spotting a sign that said “Adopt-A-Block” sponsored by the City of York, the group contacted the City Hall office, and, in 2021, The GCY signed up to participate in this citywide program, at first handling just one block. Now club members handle almost three blocks at a time. The Adopt-A-Block crew has noticed an increase in other city helpers and also merchants participating in a routine downtown cleanup themselves.

Birds, Bees and Butterflies

Birds, Bees, and Butterflies, a committee chaired by Kathy Gingerich, keeps a busy profile year round. The committee’s goal is education of the membership regarding the effects of pesticides, habitat destruction, diseases and parasites causing the disappearance of these valuable pollinators. “Home is Where You Lay Your Eggs,” a program all about nests, was presented at the **January 2025** membership meeting, as well as for other garden clubs and Audubon societies.

Shorter ten-minute PowerPoint programs also heighten member awareness. “Stick out your tongue – nectar anyone?” presented at the **October 2025** meeting led members to reconsider some assumptions about how pollinators do their unique jobs.

The community also benefits from Kathy’s programs: “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” illustrating how birds keep warm in the winter, and “Do You See What I SEE,” what pollinators really see. She has presented these illustrated talks to libraries for both adults and children, in classrooms, and at senior living facilities.

GCY members are encouraged to participate in ONE MILLION GARDENS and Save the Monarchs. Providing food and habitat for pollinators in home gardens is stressed as well as participation in Audubon programs, the annual seed sale in the fall and the Great Backyard Bird Count in **February**.

Bluebird Trail

A new initiative began in **April 2025** with training on The GCY Bluebird Trail at Country Meadows Retirement Community. Club member Barb Zmolek and her husband Randy erected seven bluebird boxes on a half-mile trail. More than twenty club members volunteered to monitor the boxes. Audra Johns and Roxane Ohl are pictured inspecting a nest found in a bluebird house. Plans are already underway to extend the project to an area park next year.

The project was approved by The GCY's Project Grant Committee which funds initiatives to support the club's mission. The third purpose in the mission statement is "to promote and preserve native plants, pollinators, and birds." This proposal would place bluebird boxes in a suitable area to give bluebirds a place to nest and propagate their young.



The site had to be easily accessible to monitors, have wide open areas of low-cut grass, sustainable food options, and a water source. The Country Meadows Retirement Community in the Shiloh area of York, PA, met the requirements. Bonnie Geisinger, Director of Community Life at Country Meadows, was genuinely interested. A walk around the property with Nancy Putt, the York County Bluebird Society of PA (BSP) Coordinator, showed that the area could support seven boxes.

Randy Zmolek, a member of the BSP, agreed to share his expertise in creating the trail and teaching the monitoring process to club members. Houses from the BSP cost \$16 each and are cut out and assembled by residents of the Willow Valley Senior Home in Willow Street, PA. Poles and hardware to mount the houses cost \$45. The total expenditure was \$365. The box activity observed from April through July was recorded with the BSP as well as the state of Pennsylvania.

Monarch Butterfly Release Party

Thirty members of The GCY gathered at new member Jennifer Titemore's York County farm to learn how monarchs transform from tiny eggs to butterflies that have the potential to migrate as far as Mexico. Two release sessions were scheduled on **August 19 and 20, 2025**. This program was a follow-up to the February PowerPoint she presented to the club. Picture at the right shows a monarch caterpillar on a milkweed seedpod.



Jennifer has been raising monarch butterflies for about four years. She welcomes anyone interested in learning about raising monarchs and adding butterfly gardens to their homes.

Certification for Members

Members are encouraged to qualify for national programs which certify gardeners who create habitats for wildlife, pollinators, and monarch butterflies. Certification signs can be displayed in these gardens to advertise ecological goals.

Backyard Wildlife Habitats: seven club members

Certified Monarch Waystations: five members

Master Gardeners' Certified Pollinator Friendly Gardens: five members

Million Pollinator Garden: three members

NGC Certified Pollinator Garden Challenge: one member

National Wildlife Federation Certification: one member

Conservation, Environment and Horticulture

Kathie Wild, chair, reports to the general membership on an educational topic to stimulate an interest in ecology. This is done in the form of periodic 10-minute PowerPoint presentations at meetings several times a year. In 2026 she will present a 40-minute program on how to select the best shrubs for year-round color.

The programs in 2025 included: a month-by-month planning guide for gardening; "Starting from Seed" (inside, then outside) in **January**; and Earth Day presentation in **April** (rescheduled - presenter ill); The committee also organized the annual member plant exchange at the fall picnic for the third year.



Recycling



Recycling was a mindset that guides many decisions of the club. The GCY sells members' used-Christmas decorations at the Holiday Luncheon, and members' plants at the Garden Faire. Both events reuse signage and table covers which curbs waste. The White Rose Attic recycles treasures from members' homes and raised over \$2,400 for scholarships at the Garden Faire.

York, Pennsylvania, is home to The Center for Regenerative Design & Collaboration (CRDC), a business which

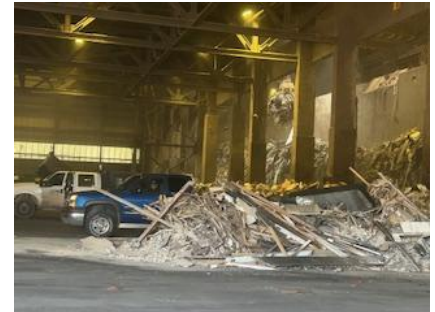
recycles ALL plastics, and the club enthusiastically supports the endeavor. Bags purchased from CRDC were available at every monthly meeting. Jean Frigm is shown above getting ready to distribute the CRDC collection bags. A March PowerPoint presentation reinforced this effort with additional information about the state of plastic recycling and alternatives in shopping and home products to reduce plastic use. Education about area opportunities for recycling was an integral part of GCY programming.



York County Solid Waste Management and Refuse Facility

A popular community trip to the York County Solid Waste Management and Refuse facility returned this year on **August 4, 2025**, as eleven more club members and friends toured the plant in Manchester Township. The smaller group facilitated more questions as members walked through the 36-year-old facility. All of the trash from York County's 72 municipalities is processed here producing electricity for the local grid. The tour ended with a demonstration of vermicomposting, observing

red wigglers recycling food waste into compost. The club was welcomed to this complimentary tour, and members got ready and suited up! The trash was overwhelming!



Presidential Trees

The GCY acknowledges each Past President by planting a native tree and accompanying it with a commemorative plaque. These plantings are on public properties so they may be viewed by all. Five plantings were completed in the first year of the project, 2019. In 2021, twenty-four more trees were planted for former Presidents. Since then, a tree for each past president has been planted. To date, there are 31 planted trees. This year a Northern Red Oak tree was planted in Penn Park to honor Jan Olsen on **October 20, 2025**. This project will be continued on a biennial basis to honor the most recent outgoing president. Garden club members celebrate with Jan Olsen to dedicate her tree as seen in the photo above. This committee has a \$300 annual budget to accomplish this cherished tradition in purchasing a tree and plaque.



Youth Gardeners

Earth Day

Ladybugs ruled the day, **April 26, 2025**, at the Youth Committee event to celebrate Earth Day. Central Market in downtown York was crowded with over fifty-five children and their families. Activities included: completing a ladybug puzzle, creating their own ladybug from a recycled golf ball (see photo below), and getting photos with Downtown York's Revolution baseball team mascot. Each child left with more information about the value of ladybugs in a small goodie bag. Ten committee members hosted this event with a total expense of \$28.



The committee's motto is "Inspiring kids...one seed at a time."



Beckie Fager, Deb Hempfing, Roxane Ohl, Audra Johns, and Frances Locati from left to right.

Envirothon



Beckie Fager, Vicki Mihm, Frances Locati, Becky Payne, Susan Fife, Nancy Shoff, Jean Frigm, Julie Ream.

The GCY partnered with The York County Conservation District by becoming a sponsor for the 2025 Envirothon. On **May 15, 2025**, 400 third and fourth graders along with their coaches gathered at John Rudy Park in York for the final competition. Eight members of the GCY Youth Committee assisted in handing out the awards. In the spirit of the committee's motto "Inspiring kids...one seed at a time," each participant was presented with a pencil containing seeds to be planted at home. The GCY was an American Chestnut Gold Level Sponsor of \$2500. The seed pencil expense was \$407.

Scouts Earn Badges

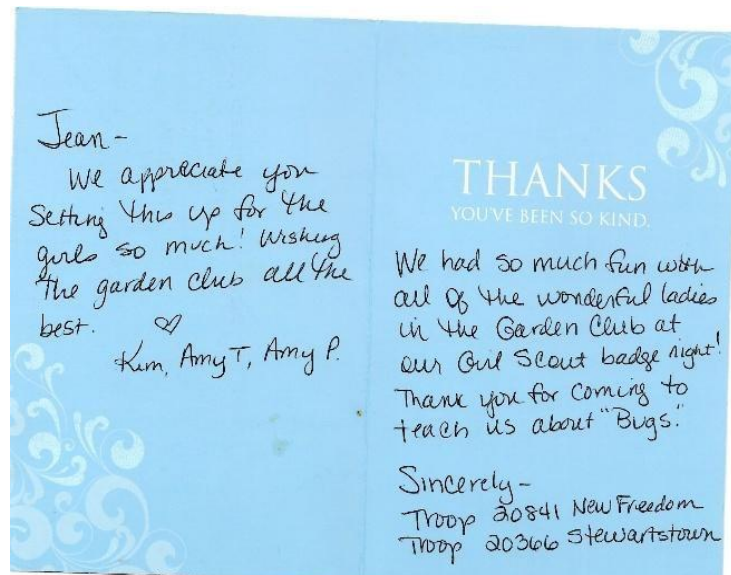


**March 18 – GCY
Members: Roxane Ohl,
Frances Locati, Beckie
Fager, Jean Frigm,
Vickie Leiphart, Audra
Johns, Vicki Mihm**

The GCY Youth Committee's involvement with the Girl Scouts began in 2018. During the months of **March through May 2025** the committee traveled across York County providing programs to 104 Girl Scouts of various ages in six different troops. The badge-earning programs focused on Flowers, Bugs, and Bees, and Pollination. The programs consisted of hands-on education and a learning activity. Forty club members participated in these activities with a total expenditure of \$158.



May 13—insect snack



Thank you from the Girl Scouts - April 16

York State Fair and Garden Club of York Horticultural Hall Workshop

To further The Garden Club of York's commitment to York State Fair's Horticultural Hall, the Youth Committee sponsored a June workshop in an intergenerational setting. The goal was to create an environment to encourage learning about horticulture. Thirty-four children aged 1.5 through 12 used their imaginations to complete flower pot creations, traditional seed art, and fairy garden projects for entries in the York State Fair in **July 2025**. Many received ribbons for their work. All supplies were donated by fourteen club members who also provided guidance where needed.



June Workshop – June 14 - Audra Johns, Susan Fife, Karen Markle, Carole Wanzer, Beckie Fager, Jean Frigm, Suzanne Petry, Deb Waltemyer, Nancy Shoff, Vicki Mihm, Kathy Rimmer, Patty Dow, Frances Locati, Tonya Young



Fairy Garden – Suzanne Petry with Miles Allison



Flowerpot



Seeded piggy

Dear Vicki,
 Although this note is long overdue, I want to express my sincere thanks to you and the members of the Garden Club of York and the Youth Committee. I know you girls do a lot of wonderful things throughout the York County Community, and as a Board member of the York County (Agriculture) Society and the York State Fair, we thank you. I was personally so happy to be a part of the youth workshop event. What's well planned, organized and FUN event it was. The feedback I heard from those who attended was very positive. I did commend all of you at the board meeting that followed.
 You did a fabulous job in leading and organizing everything and follow up after, a true leader. Also tending to the fairy gardens!! An added responsibility. The fairy gardens, seed lot and flower projects were adorable! It was wonderful to see the children come in with their projects to see their projects on display along with their ribbons. A great part of the Fair!
 It was an overall great success and I can't thank you enough for all you did. I love the Garden Club Fair!
 I look forward to seeing you soon!
 Sincerely
 Patty Dow

Thank you note from the York Fairgrounds

Leg Up Farm

Leg Up Farm’s mission is to enrich the lives of individuals and families with special needs and unique challenges. Since 2022, the GCY Youth Committee has partnered with them in this effort. In May, the raised garden beds were refreshed with native plants, and maintenance continued throughout the growing season. The garden book box was replenished. Two customized summer programs presented in June and July were designed to educate and stimulate the minds and senses of the campers. Forty-three campers attended the camps. The “Five Senses in the Garden” camp taught campers how to use their five senses as they toured the garden. The “Ladybug” camp provided education and included the release of ladybugs into the gardens. Twenty-one club members participated in these activities at a total expense of \$449.



***Leg Up Farm Planting -
May 8 – Susan Fife,
Frances Locati and Jan
Olsen***



Butterfly Waterer

Martin Library

The relationship between the GCY and Martin Library located in York City began in 2020. It continues today with the Youth Committee providing fifty take-home kits for visiting children on a quarterly basis. These kits contain materials for projects related to gardening or nature. In 2025, fifty kits were also provided to a rural satellite library. In **May 2025**, the Sensory Garden located adjacent to the Children’s Library wing was refreshed. GYC assumed responsibility for this area in 2022 at the request of the library. The committee also presented two educational programs to thirty-four children. In **June 2025**, they taught about bees, including their jobs, types, and how to protect them. In July the subject was ladybugs focusing on their environmental value and ending with a live release into the Sensory Garden. Sixty-five club members participated in these activities for a total expense of \$56.



Preparing a take-home kit - Roxane Ohl, Suzanne Petry, Jean Frigm, Vickie Leiphart, Vicki Mihm, Deb Hempfing, Mary Stratton, Darlene Kling, Susan Fife, Becky Payne, Francis Locati, Julie Ream



Bee presentation – June 18



Library Sensory Garden May 5



Ladybug presentation – July 31 - Susan Fife, Vicki Mihm, Karen Markel, Deb Hempfing, Jean Frigm

Club Organizational Activities

Historian

With the help of committee chairs and general membership, the historian of the club, Dave Corman, collected yearly information involving club activities including meetings, trips, projects, and awards. This information was then put into a scrapbook adding photos, newspaper articles, and handouts. The GCY website published past years' information.

Newsletters

The GCY's newsletter, entitled "The Garden Club in Bloom," was created and published four times this year – in February, April, August and November. It included articles written by club members, officers, and committee chairs. These articles included seasonal, committee, and plant information. Also featured were articles about members, their hobbies, and district and state information. It was distributed by email and posted on the website and mailed to those without technology. Beth Retallack is the new editor this year. Two copies are included in the back of the Book of Evidence. The expenses for having a few copies printed for each issue averaged \$62.74 and to have them mailed, the average cost was \$33.75 per issue. For 2025, the club spent \$385.94 on newsletters.

In addition to the four newsletters, the President also issued a monthly summary of the club activities. It is emailed to members around the first of each month and is called "The Garden Buzz." In chronological order, it listed activities for the next two months. It also listed members' names who are having current challenges, i.e., dealing with a death, had an operation, or illness.

Yearbooks

Copies of The GCY's yearbooks 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 are included in the envelope which is stapled to the inside back of the Book of Evidence. The expenses for having 325 copies of the 2025-2026 yearbook printed and twenty-eight of them mailed were \$2,250. Copies were distributed manually except for the few which had to be mailed. Additionally, the Yearbook was posted on the website and updated as needed.

The Garden Store

The Garden Store of GCY offers members both online shopping opportunities and sales at events and meetings. Profits support the general operation fund. The more than fifty items for sale include: equipment, tools, garden decor, home decor, GCY apparel, and jewelry. The inventory is managed by a committee of six members. The sales for 2025 were \$5,966, the costs were \$4,158.50 and the profit was \$1,807.50.



New Members' Socials

March 5, 2025 - New Member Brunch



Twelve new members and twelve current members met at the home of the incumbent president, Pam Paules. Although stormy outside, it was warm inside with laughter, great food, and interesting and funny stories from members describing how and why they joined the club.

September 10, 2025 - New Member Luncheon

Twenty-eight new members were invited to attend with seventeen of them coming to the event held at the home of the club president, Pam Paules. Ten veteran club members also joined the new members and talked about opportunities for participation in the club.



Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee, chaired by Katy Meckley, supports the members of GCY. The club's leadership informed the committee of any member who was experiencing a challenge - be it health, surgery, or a death. Committee members sent cards, delivered food, and sometimes checked in on members' well-being.

Club Supported State Projects

Attendance at District and State Events

Attendance by members of The GCY at district and state meetings is encouraged through newsletters and periodic email reminders. Attendance was tracked by Jan Olsen.

March 6, 2025 - District IV Leadership Training - York - Four members of GCY attended a workshop at the York Fairgrounds.

March 31, 2025 - District IV - Semi-Annual Meeting in Mechanicsburg 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. - Seven members of GCY attended

April 6-8, 2025 - GCFP Annual Convention - King of Prussia - Six members of GCY attended the convention.

May 14, 2025 - Blue Star Memorial Dedication - Three GCY members, Jan Olsen, Tonya Young, and Joanne Baylis attended the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker at I-81N PA Welcome Center Greencastle on May 14, 2025. The marker was sponsored by District IV. Joanne Baylis, District IV Director 2022-24, served as Master of Ceremonies. Greetings and remarks were given by Joshua Peters from the Office of Representative Chad G. Reichard; Carla Kelly, District IV Director 2024-2026; Pat Wolanski, GCFP President 2025-2027; and Tonya Young, GCFP First Vice-President 2025-2027 and Mary Hetrick, GCFP Second Vice-President 2025-2027.



August 28, 2025 - District IV Flower Show and Annual Meeting - Hanover
The District IV meeting on August 28, 2025, at the Hanover Country Club, *Leaping to Destinations*, was a good example of support and participation from GCY.

In June, members of District IV Garden Clubs met in West York to learn about how to enter items and support the August Flower Show. Both horticultural and floral design

entries were discussed. Twelve GCY members were among the thirty-three attending. Tonya Young, former GCY president and first vice-president of the Garden Club Federation of PA, led the meeting. Several women demonstrated how to create a design entry or described procedures for entering horticultural specimens. South Central PA local attractions and gardens were featured as titles for design entries.

Fifteen members of GCY attended the District IV meeting in August. Tonya Young spoke on the joys of belonging to a garden club and gave ideas for engaging members. Then she took the podium again to introduce the flower show and shared a brief history of its development .

Eleven GCY members entered the flower show, and four won first place awards. Beth Retallack won the prestigious Lonnie Behler Novice Award for her petite design. Other first place winners:

- Phyllis Steiner- shoe covered with plant material, including cantaloupe seeds (pictured on the right)
- Karen Markle - First place and the NGC Petite Award for a petite design
- Marilyn Werkheiser - a box decorated with pressed flowers (pictured on the right)



GCY contributed financial support as well – raffle basket (\$114.80), favors (\$116), Lonnie Behler Award (\$119.67), and general donation (\$50).

November 13, 2025 - GCFP Leadership Workshop 2025 - On Zoom - 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Five GCY members participated in a presentation via Zoom.



Dedication at York's Blue Star Garden

In honor of her father, Colonel Allen Beaumont, Jan Olsen (former President of The GCY) donated a planting of hellebores to the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Garden located at the York Revolution Stadium. On **September 12, 2025**, The GCY honored Jan Olsen for being a loving daughter and a thoughtful member of the club for planting those hellebores. A plaque was placed at the garden with her father's name on it.

The Blue Star Memorial By-Way Garden was established to honor all men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. In this garden, everyone has the opportunity to contemplate, meditate and/or thank the veterans for all they sacrificed.



GCY members Susan Liebegott, Pam Paules, Daphne Leeder, and Jan Olsen



Plaque for Jan's father, Colonel Allen Beaumont

Plant-A-Tree Donation

Plant-A-Tree (formerly Penny Pines) is a reforestation and forest education program. The partnership between National Garden Clubs and the USDA Forest Service began many years ago. The GCY joined this national effort in 2011 under the leadership of Anne Collier, a former president. Millie Martin has been a long-time chair, and leadership had just been turned over to Vickie Leiphart this **May, 2025**. The GCY participated through members' cash donations collected at lunch at monthly meetings. Contributions to NGC for 2025 totaled \$297.05. These monies plant trees across the national forest system where trees were needed most - places impacted by forest destruction.

The GCY Member Service for District and State

Members of The GCY who serve on boards of local, district, state, and national garden clubs are as follows:

District IV Executive Board: Ann DeMille - Treasurer; Joanne Baylis - Advisor

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania: Sandra Benedict - Technology Trainer; Kathy Crossman - Natural Disasters USA/International Funds Chair; Jan Olsen - Life Membership Chair; Betsy Smith - Personnel; Tonya Young - 1st Vice President, Flower Show Symposium Chair; Jane Dodson, proofreader for GCFP newsletter; Tammi Bortner - Awards Chair.

Plant Society Members: Kim Keesee, Jan Olsen - American Daffodil Society; Mary Alice Heilig - American Rose Society; Peggy Conway, Kim Keesee - The Herb Society of American Heartland Unit.

NGC National Life Members: Sylvia Kindig, Betsy Smith, Audrey Thompson.

GCFP State Life Members: Linda Hanson, Kim Keesee, Daphne Leeder, Jan Olsen, Betsy Smith, Audrey Thompson, Priscilla Waldman, Tonya Young.

National Garden Club, Inc. Consultants: Tonya Young, Joanne Baylis - Accredited Flower Show Judge; Kim Keesee(P), Jan Olsen®, Betsy Smith - Gardening Studies; Mary Alice Heilig, Kim Keesee, Robin Neuhaus, Jan Olsen, Carol Ann Seifarth, Betsy Smith, Tonya Young-Landscape Design.

Master Gardeners of York County: Active - Joanne Baylis, Sandra Benedict, Naomi Bloom, Susan Bowman, Peggy Conway, Peggy Davidson, Anne Gillespie, Linda Hanson, Cathy Hendrix, Clare Hescox, Kim Keesee, Karen Knuepfer, Daphne Leeder, Rene Manzella, Nancy Rexrode, Priscilla Waldman, Kathie Wild; Inactive - Lynn Danyo, Kristine Gross, Betsy Smith.

Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee was established in 2001 with the mission of helping York County students pursue college degrees in horticulture and related fields. Since that time, The GCY has awarded a total of \$94,000. The last two years GCY has awarded 12 scholarships of \$2,000 each.

Over time, the areas of study supported by the scholarships have expanded beyond horticulture to include environmental studies, agriculture, landscape architecture, forestry, botany, wildlife sciences, marine biology, and other related disciplines.

GCY had many fundraisers during the year to support these scholarships. While these activities have provided important contributions, the club itself has increasingly budgeted for the majority of funds required for the scholarships. In addition, many



individual members have given generously—sometimes as much as \$1,000 each—to support this meaningful project. The committee had also benefited from the club’s participation in *Give Local York*, a county-wide day of giving.

Five of the six scholarship recipients for this year attended the Spring Luncheon in May. Jenna Morris was unable to attend. In the picture on the left, they are from left to right: Shelby Vernon, Theresa Feese, Leah Flinchbaugh, Juriel Diaz, and Makenzi Reed.

However, Leah Flinchbaugh decided to defer going to college until next year. Her scholarship money was then given to an alternate applicant - Rowan Sroka. She is pictured on the right.

Several of the applicants additionally applied for GCFP scholarships this year. Makenzi Reed received GCFP scholarship monies in May 2025 for the GCFP 2024 scholarship.



GCY's Awards

In 2025, The GCY received the following awards for 2024:

- 1) Website - 1st place for Large Club Professional Design
- 2) Publications - 13-24 Page Newsletters- Large Club
- 3) GCFP Club Membership Awards - Large Club - 34 new members
- 4) GCFP CAR-SGC Club Yearbook Award - Over 100 Members - 1st place
- 5) GCFP/CAR-SGC Youth Contest - Grade 6 - Lana Logstreet - “My Garden Has Vegetables to Spare That I can Share”
- 6) 2024 GCFP Gold Seal Award for Tonya Young
- 7) The Miriam A. Steel Scholarship of \$1,000 to Makenzi Christine Reed
- 8) 2024 Convention Trash to Treasure Winner - 1st Place to Pam Paules, Rick Layman, Carole Wanzer, Ann DeMille



Trash to Treasure entry is shown with Carole Wanzer, Rick Layman, Pam Paules and Ann DeMille showing off their recycling creativity! This birdhouse was recently auctioned off during our Holiday Benefit Luncheon for \$130.00.

District IV Distinguished Service Coins were also presented to Elaine Yates, Pam Paules, Daphne Leeder, Bill Lore, Joan Graff, Cathy Hendrix, Nancy Dellinger, Jane Loucks and Tammi Bortner for establishing the Strategic Planning Committee, new mission and purpose statements, new Investment Policy, the Project Grant Committee and the Project Grant application.

****All persons shown in photographs have signed waivers giving permission for their photos to be shown in this document.**

Letter of Recommendation

25 October 2025

Dear Members of the Governor's Trophy Selection Committee,

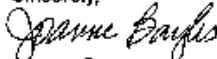
I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for The Garden Club of York. I highly recommend them for the Governor's Trophy.

As District IV Director from 2022-2024, I had the pleasure of interacting with club members on many occasions, attend club functions and install their newly appointed officers. Members of The Garden Club of York are ready and willing to step up when called upon to assist with various club functions as well as within the District IV geographic area. The most memorable event was during the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) 2024 Convention that was hosted by District IV. Many club members stepped in to support the convention from the Registrar, to creating centerpieces for each meal (approximately 90 in total), decorating the lobby and assisting wherever there was a need. The success of the convention would not have been possible without the members of The Garden Club of York.

As a large club (approximately 254 strong), the members attend functions not only for their own club, but for District IV events. The men and women of The Garden Club of York are always ready to do what is needed. Their willingness to lead and participate is infectious. This is evidenced by their numerous activities, community service, their interest in all things gardening, but also a strong passion for sharing their gardening knowledge, always promoting the Garden Club of York. This is shown not only with club members, but with others in the community and with District IV clubs.

I was so impressed with The Garden Club of York during my reign as District IV Director that after my term was completed I joined the club and have not regretted it. I look forward to club meetings and activities and in my opinion, The Garden Club of York has demonstrated and exceeded the requirements to be awarded the Governor's Trophy.

Sincerely,



Joanne Baylis
District IV Director, 2022-2024