November 1, 2026

Garden Club IN BLOOM

The Garden Club of York Quarterly Newsletter

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President's Message



Happy Autum!

It seems like autumn arrives in one fell swoop as nature quietly prepares for winter. Gardens are transitioning to prepare for the chilly winter months ahead. We spend more time inside and soon our days will grow shorter. Did you know that autumn is referred to as the "season of the soul"?

The Garden Club of York is also preparing for the colder months. Our public gardens are being cleaned out. The hanging baskets in downtown York are gone and the containers in the square have been planted with beautiful fall color. And our monthly meetings have begun.

Our Holiday Benefit Luncheon Committee is in full swing preparing for this highly anticipated event. It takes a lot of work and many hands to pull this event together. At our October meeting, we talked about different ways that you can get involved: from donating seasonal items for the Holiday Store, the Silent Auction, and Live Auction; to making arrangements and center pieces for the greens sale; and folding napkins. Oh, and don't forget to bake your favorite holiday treats for the Bake Shoppe. There is a job for everyone. All of the holiday sign-ups and more can be found on SignUpGenius.

Getting involved is a terrific way to meet people. So, call a favorite garden club member or call a new member and invite them to join you in helping to make this year's event the best one yet.

-Pam Paules



November 16
Membership Meeting
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
9:30 a.m.

December 5
Greens and Centerpiece Workshop
Veranda Room on York Fairgrounds
9:00 a.m.

December 7
Setup for Holiday Benefit Luncheon
Country Club of York
7:00 a.m.

December 8
Holiday Benefit Luncheon
Country Club of York
9:00 a.m.

Don't miss out!
Check out 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

November 4
Ceramic Acorn Bowl

November 12
Miller Plant Farm
Poinsettia Production Tour

December 14
Annual Tree Trot

March 18
Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip

Click link or 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, Elaine Yates, and Pam Paules
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May 1, 2027 issue– April 21, 2027
August 1, 2027 issue— July 21, 2027
November 1, 2027 issue– October 21, 2027

Copies are distributed via email. A copy is also available on our website at www.gardenclubofyork.com.

Spotlight On New Member

Barbara Reed

Barb Reed became a member of The Garden Club of York in November 2025. She retired at the end of 2024 after dedicating 40 years to her career as a physical therapist in acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. She was looking for volunteer opportunities and fun activities. Her friend, Jenny Parr, encouraged her to join the garden club.

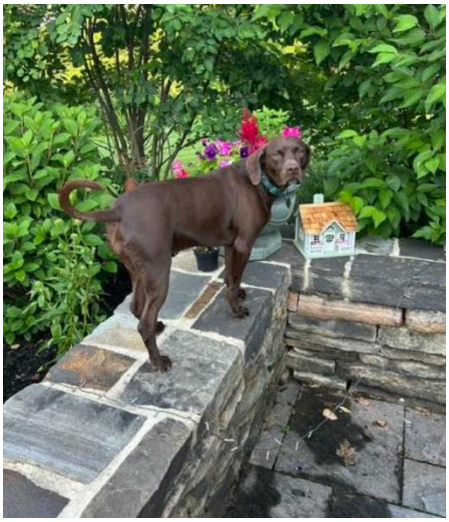
Barb volunteers with the American Cancer Society, Dover Library, WELL Food Pantry, and various church activities. She enjoys being outdoors in the garden, walking, yoga, exercise classes, reading, and playing piano. But most of all she enjoys spending time with family and friends.



She has been married to Joe for 34 years and they have two boys, Adam and Ben. Adam and his wife Madi have two children, Parker (age three) and Ella (age one). They also have a five-year-old rescue dog, a German Shorthair Pointer and Boykin Spaniel mix.

Her gardens feature perennial flower beds with some annuals, many container planters on their patio, and a few house plants (mostly succulents). Barb attempted a vegetable garden but was not successful due to clay soil conditions and wildlife.

Since joining the garden club one year ago, Barb has enjoyed numerous activities including gardening at many of the public gardens, monitoring the bluebird trail at Cousler Park, and learning new skills such as felting, bee house construction, and flower pressing. She also participated in adventures locally and the arboretum at Penn State. The most rewarding experiences have been volunteering at Jeremy's Garden, where she worked with adults with intellectual challenges, and assisting with Flowers and Fellowship programs at nursing facilities.



What Barb values most about the garden club is the members. Since her first meeting last November, everyone has been so friendly, answered questions, and invited her to join in activities. She has learned so much from members, has enjoyed getting involved, and has made so many new friends.

-Beth Retallack



National Garden Club Corner

Did you ever have that perfect bloom in your garden that you want to keep forever? The National Garden Club Store has a small flower press for sale. You can use it to preserve your favorite blooms for framing, handmade cards, botanical art, or thoughtful gifts.

And as a bonus, some of the proceeds of the purchase go to Plant America. Plant America is a National Garden Club grant program which supports public spaces and community gardens.

Check out the National Garden Club store for the flower press and other affordable gifts.

National Garden Club Store Link



Flower Press Details:

- $18.00
- 4.75" x 4.75"
- Natural wood with engraved floral artwork
- Presses multiple flowers at one time
- Instructions included
- Fully assembled and ready to use

District IV Information



Is your jewelry box overflowing? If so, it could be time to clean it out and donate jewelry you no longer wear to a good cause. District IV of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) is collecting gently used jewelry for the Ways and Means Table Fundraiser at the GCFP 2027 convention.

Please bring any jewelry you would like to donate to the November 16 Garden Club of York membership meeting and give it to Joann Bayliss, the 2027 GCFP convention chair.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Plants We Love: Bloodroot

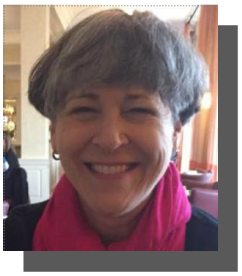
Bloodroot is one of my many favorite flowers. It is called bloodroot because of the color of the roots and the sap. Native people used the red sap as fabric dye, for face paint, and to treat insect bites.



This photo is from March 27, 2023. The bloodroot is a true spring ephemeral and a member of the poppy family. The flower lasts a very short time, made even shorter if we get a windy, rainy day. The flowers open on sunny days and close at night. A leaf is tightly wrapped around the stem of an emerging flower. The flower stem grows taller while the leaf stays short. When the flower fades, the leaves unfurl and grow taller. The leaves are an unusual shape, are glaucous colored (pale, bluish, grayish-green), and provide a nice contrast to greener foliage. As temperatures warm, they turn yellow and die back completely to reemerge the next year.

-Susan Liebegott

Membership Minute with Barb Zmolek



Welcome New Members

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

Total Membership as of November 1, 2026: 254



New Members:

Jolie Brown

Patricia Dow

Therese Laucks

Bonnie Lindstrom

Regina Vincent

Holiday Benefit Luncheon

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

Ring In the Season

Registration form is located in the yearbook on page 33. Submit ASAP! Space will fill up quickly, and it is a first come, first served event. Mail it to:

PO Box 7079, York, PA 17404
ATTN: Holiday Benefit Luncheon

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

Any questions can be directed to Vickie Leiphart or Kathy Brown.



Menu

First Course

Winter salad of baby kale, roasted sweet potatoes, beets, toasted pecans, goat cheese & maple Dijon vinaigrette

Entrée

Chicken Milanese, Florentine whipped potatoes, asparagus, roasted mushrooms & roasted tomato cream sauce

Dessert

Gingerbread cake with cream cheese frosting & chocolate bell garnish



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



Monday, December 7 - Setup Day lunch

Lunch will be available for $24 for those who are working to set up. No bag lunches are allowed.

The deadline to sign up for lunch and pay is November 16, 2026. Give the money to your subcommittee chair.

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

Centerpieces & Greens Workshops

If you enjoy making arrangements or want to learn, the **Greens Workshop** is for you! The workshop will be held on Saturday, December 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the Veranda Room on the York Fairgrounds. This is always a fun event where we make arrangements and wreaths that will be sold at the Holiday Benefit Luncheon.



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

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

Contact Linda Hanson if you have questions.

Silent Auction

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

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



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

Raffle Baskets

As part of the fundraising for the Holiday Benefit Luncheon, we ask you to thoughtfully consider how you can participate. One way is to add items to the existing baskets (on SignUpGenius) to help reach a content value of new items between $100-$200. **We will provide the basket and put it together!** Just gather the items and bring them to the November club meeting. Or contact us for drop off/pick up.



If you aren't a shopper, there are other ways you can support the committee:

- Cash Donation - for our cash-themed basket
- Scratch Off Lottery Tickets - of any denomination for the Lottery Wreath
- Unwanted Gift Cards/Gift Certificates

Be sure to come to the Holiday Benefit Luncheon to see how your contributions have helped create a beautiful basket and purchase raffle tickets to take a chance on being one of the lucky winners!

If you have questions, please reach out to Cheri Yohe or Kathy Rimmer.

Christmas Corner

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



Kathy Gingerich is the contact if you have questions.

Poinsettias



To order poinsettias, use the order form that is in your yearbook on page 29. The order form and address to send payment are in the yearbook. Orders are due by Monday, November 16. If you don't mail your order, bring it to the November 16 meeting.

The poinsettias can be picked up on Saturday, December 5, in the Veranda Room at the York Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



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

The poinsettias come in two sizes: four-inch pot is $6.50 and seven-inch pot is $19.00.

Contact Phyllis Steiner with any questions.

The Bake Shoppe



Calling All Bakers

We need your help to create an enticing and delicious bake shoppe!

Please consider baking and donating an item for the Holiday Benefit Luncheon. You can easily sign up on SignUpGenius or at the November membership meeting.



If you have questions, please reach out to Jenny Parr.

Live Auction

Get ready for a fun new addition to this year's Holiday Benefit Luncheon—a **live auction**!

Professional auctioneer **Scott Wehrly, of Wehrly's Auction Service** in Glen Rock, will conduct the sale. This will be a fun, fast-paced auction featuring smaller, reasonably priced items rather than the more expensive items offered in years past.

The auction will begin during the dessert course and will last approximately 15–20 minutes. You won't want to miss it!

We Need Your Donations! Our goal is to have **15 items** available for auction, and we need your help to make it happen.

Homemade food is at the top of our list! Consider donating:

- A fancy cake, pie, or other special dessert
- Homemade bread or candy
- A container of your favorite time-tested recipe, such as Cream of Crab Soup

This is also a great opportunity to look around your home for something you no longer use or need—but that someone else might love to have. Here are a few ideas to get you thinking:

- Handmade crafts
- Antiques
- Decorative items
- Unique jewelry or accessories
- Garden art
- Christmas or holiday items

Have something in mind? Contact Linda Hanson about a donation. Let's make this year's Holiday Benefit Luncheon Auction a fun and successful new tradition!

Spotlight On Committee

Youth Gardening

Have you seen the *Turtle Baby*?

If you have never been to the Sensory Garden in the enclosed courtyard adjacent to the Martin Library Children's Library or visited the library as a child, you have missed the beautiful and charming statue called *Turtle Baby*.

The story of the statue begins in 1955 when William Baker and Salome Baker Stauffer honored their father, John E. Baker, by supplying funds to establish a children's wing of the Martin Memorial Library that was named the J. E. Baker Children's Library. Construction commenced that same year to build a 50-by-60-foot children's wing addition at the Queen Street building. The new space featured a large picture window and a fountain beyond an oval pool with a bronze statue called *Turtle Baby*, one of four in the world. The fountain, at one time, was surrounded by a beautiful stone base that had a large space for children to sit and read.





The statue now resides in the courtyard garden and has been maintained by the Youth Gardening Committee since 2022. Last year we requested authorization to drain the fountain basin and turn it back into a planter since it was no longer working and received permission to proceed this year. The basin has been planted with winter hardy succulents that were donated to us by Jane Lindhorn. She generously permitted us to dig them out of her yard.

A bit of history on the statue and how it came to be in York was provided by Paula Gilbert in a Retro York Facebook posting. Per Paula, Rebeccah Baker (William's wife) found the statue in France and purchased it for the children's library when the new section was opened in 1956. It was a working fountain for many years and then became a planter.

Youth Gardening (continued)

In the late 1980's it went back to a fountain until major renovation took place in 2005 that required the fountain to be moved. The decision was made to put it in the garden so that memories could continue being made.

The statue was made by Edith Barretto Stevens Parsons circa 1910-1916. She was renowned for her garden sculptures of young children with animals, which one commentator praised for capturing "the happiness of just being alive." *Turtle Baby*, her most famous composition, was modeled after her daughter. Conceived as a fountain, the bronze sculpture measures 41 inches tall with internal water conduits exiting the mouths of the four turtles circling its base. There are only three other statues known to exist today. They are located at The Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio, Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, and Outdoor Sculpture Center in Ohio.

I personally have many wonderful memories of my visits to the library on Saturday mornings enjoying the tranquility of the *Turtle Baby* fountain. No doubt many of you do as well.

-Vicki Mihm





PennState Extension | Master Gardener

Congratulations to the following Garden Club of York members who achieved Master Gardener through the Penn State Extension:

- Elaine Bonneau
- Pat Cavanaugh
- Bill Lore
- Karen Markel
- Barb Zmolek

Master Gardener trainees are required to participate in a minimum of 40 hours of classroom training, score 80 percent on the midterm and final exam, and fulfill 50 hours of volunteer service. The next class will start in October 2027.

For a list of all garden club members who are Master Gardeners, see page 10 of the GCY yearbook.

For more information on the Master Gardener program, click this link:

Penn State Extension Master Gardener Program



Queen Bee

Buzz Buzz! Interesting Bee Fact:

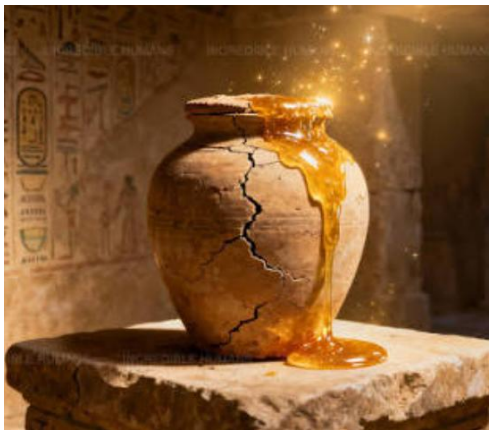
Honey never spoils.

Why? Due to its **low moisture** content and natural **acidity**, pure honey can last for thousands of years without spoiling. The third element allowing honey to remain edible is its natural antimicrobial **enzymes**.

- Low Moisture: Honey contains only 17-18% water which is too low for bacteria, yeast, or mold to grow.
- High Acidity: Honey's pH level ranges between 3.2 and 4.5 creating a hostile energy-like environment for microbes.
- Hydrogen Peroxide: Bee-derived enzymes like glucose oxide produce mild hydrogen peroxide which kills bacteria on contact.

Famous examples:

- Ancient Tomb Honey: Archeologists discovered 3,000-year-old sealed jars in ancient Egyptian tombs that were completely safe and edible.
- Prehistoric Finds: Containers reopened from ancient burial sites dating back 5,000 plus years have maintained stability of the honey due to its sealant avoiding exposure to humidity and air.

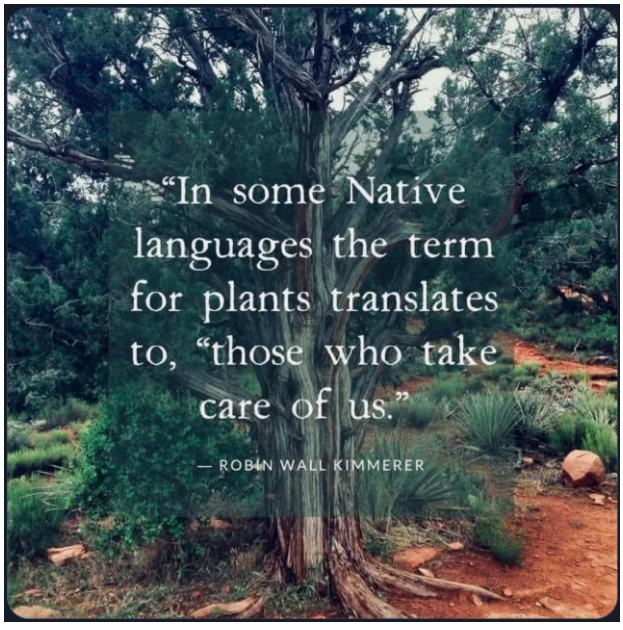


How do you store honey properly to keep it fresh and prevent it from absorbing moisture? Store it in a tightly sealed container at room temperature in a dark space.

- Container: Use the original container, a glass jar, or food grade plastic container. Avoid metal containers as honey's natural acidity can erode the metal over time.
- Location: Keep it in a pantry, cupboard, or dark shelf, away from direct sunlight and heat sources like stovetops or appliances.
- Temperature: Room temperature should be between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Queen Bee says…Check your honey inventory. Are you storing it properly?





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





Floral Fun with Pumpkins

Look at these floral designs made with pumpkins. Use your imagination and create a fall masterpiece for a gift or for your table.

Vibrant



Elegant



Lush



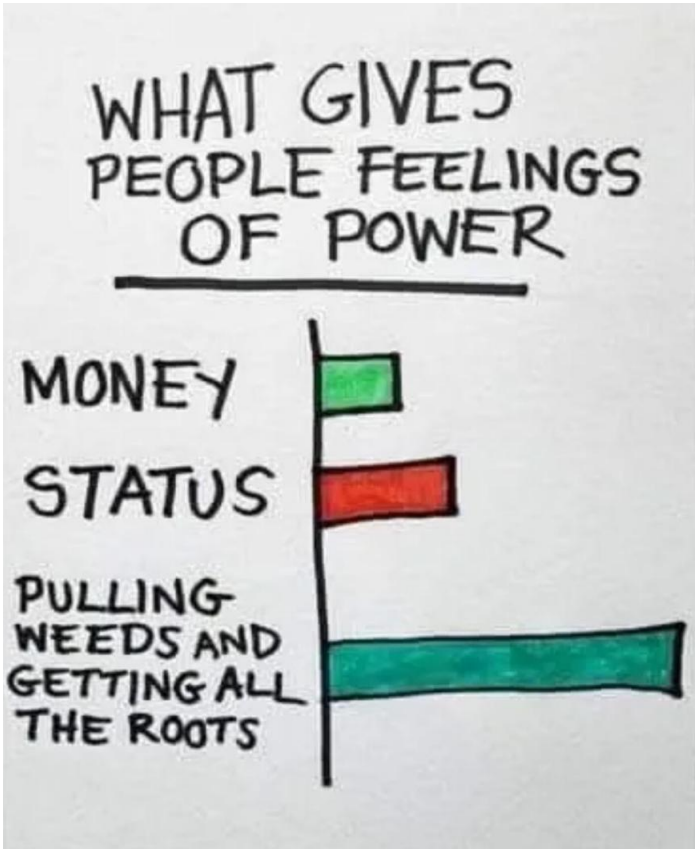
Cheerful



Whatever your style, create a unique masterpiece using your imagination.

Pumpkins are the stars of fall, bringing joy to every garden.

A Gardener's Life...



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