



Garden Basket

FGCMD District I

Issue #32

April 2023

Well, here we are, May 3, 2023.....and I am late, I am late, for a very important date with you.....!

Spring has sprung and April did not bring many showers, but the beginning of May is taking care of that. As I sit here today writing Garden Basket, I am more than ever convinced that Mother Nature did not read her calendar.... she forgot we were supposed to have the showers in April, and May was to be for flowers! But it is still early – warmer weather is on its way, and we really did need the rain.



Trish's Double File Viburnum

This issue is the first under Terry's leadership as District Director and she has a few comments in her "Director's Mini Basket". Terry is off and running.... Terry conducted several Club Installations and Board Orientation is planned for her Board mid-May. We also covered the 94th FGCMD Annual Meeting when our very own Susie Middleton was installed as President of FGCMD. Susie is currently attending the NGC Annual Meeting being held at the Greenbriar in WV.... I am sure we will be hearing a lot from Susie upon her return.

And finally, we have loads to tell you about activities of our clubs as we move forward in this post-covid world. We were busy celebrating Earth Day, working within our communities, celebrating and planning plant sales.... who doesn't love a plant sale!!!

Next month we will return with our usual format, and we encourage Club Presidents to send us pictures of Club events so we can spread the word on all that is going on in District I.

Trish Reynolds, Gardenews/Publications Chair



Director's "Mini Basket"

Finally. Spring has sprung! The gardener in all of us greets this growing season with much heart filled gladness after a long winter break. District I Garden Clubs are also jumping into action with their fundraisers, projects and planning their new terms. It's sure to be an action-packed year for all of us!

The District Board Chairman positions are filled except for one, The District Awards Position. I've made dozens and dozens of phone calls and emails attempting to get a new chairman but have been unsuccessful. Anne Foss has performed well in this position for many years, and we really need one or two people to step up. We can offer great mentoring from Anne Foss and Ann Street, our eastern shore resident FGCMMD Awards Chairmen to guide you. I can assure you all, performing this duty will be REWARDING in many ways for our members, our clubs and to you. Without you stepping up to serve in this volunteer position, we risk all our garden clubs NOT receiving awards that they richly deserve. Volunteers will be lauded for stepping up and you will be trained by the finest award chairs in the state! Please contact me if you are willing to step up for our District in this regard!

We were very proud to work with the home clubs of Susie Middleton's three clubs of District I. (Yes, Susie is a bit of an over-achiever!) Dorchester, Talbot and Oxford Garden Clubs got together, and we creatively created the head table floral designs for the FGCMMD Annual Meeting. Special thanks go out to Jeanne Bernard for coordinating the purchase and conditioning and planning of plant materials and to Boots for designing these floral head table masterpieces. It was decided that each of the floral designs were to be gifted to the incoming FGCMMD officers.



The District purchased special decorative rooting vessels for Susie Middleton's installation to act as mechanics for the dining tables at the FGCMMD, also customary of the incoming President of FGCMMD. Purchased over two years ago, they were assembled, and then put together by a dozen members from District I at the Oxford Community Center, who loaned us space for this design creating event. Our thanks go out to all of you for wanting to support Susie in this grand effort. We learned many lessons from this experience. I thank all of you who helped design and transport designs to the FGCMMD venue at Turf Valley. They were popular and all were sold!

Our District I Orientation meeting of elected Officers, Garden Club Presidents and Board members will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at the Talbot County Public Library Main Meeting Room from 1-4pm. Please mark this on your calendars. An invitation will be going out to all District I Board Members shortly.

We are planning some grand things for the District of our 9 wonderful garden clubs which will include field trips, a future District Standard Flower Show, horticulture sales and other events to help enlighten and educate our membership in all regards of gardening in a sustainable way to aid all of our wildlife and pollinators.

Happy Spring!

Terry Holman

FGCMD News.....Susie Middleton, FGCMD State President Installation Speech – March 28, 2023

So now that I'm here – what can you expect from me?

To introduce the theme and project for my term you need to know that I grew up as a savage tomboy. Savage because I was known to practice my Tarzan yell swinging from vines – this didn't work too well in the Maryland woods.

I was also a diehard collector. At one time I had 23 box turtles, 104 white mice, 2 guinea pigs, 2 dogs, a cat, countless tadpoles, and frogs. Also worms because my grandfather taught me how to create a worm farm for fishing.

We lived in a neighborhood surrounded by a native forest and streams. I spent endless hours roaming those woods. Over the years I came to learn the patterns of growth, first came the May Apples, followed by jack-in-the-pulps, native ferns, and dogwoods. Oddly enough I didn't collect these – even then I knew they were better left alone.

If like me, you were fortunate enough to grow up at that time you remember warm summer evenings when the lawns were filled with lightning bugs. Remember how we would capture them to put in grass-filled jars with holes punched in the lids and then release them the next morning?



It was these memories that made me realize how much has changed. **Think of it....** when was the last time you saw a lightning bug, heard peeper frogs, or saw a Baltimore Oriole? Too many of our native birds, and insects have all but disappeared. And this is happening at an alarming rate.

How bad is it?

- Take the birds. North America has three billion fewer birds today compared to 1970 (let me remind you that a billion is 1,000 million)—that means more than 1 in 4 birds have disappeared from the landscape in 50 years. – That is in your lifetime.
- But birds aren't alone, a new study finds frogs, toads, and salamanders also disappearing at an alarming rate.
- Some people are looking at the fate of native bees and the stats are not good.
- The Bumblebee species has declined by 96%. Declining 96%? Of course, you could say "well there are still some left". But if it was your bank account that declined 96%, wouldn't you be concerned? At 96% they are so rare that they are no longer performing in their eco-system. So, they are functionally extinct even if you can still find some.
- These are just part of a global trend.

The tragedy is that we did it – we collectively, with our landscaping and development practices. We have cut down the native forests and fields and replaced them with invasives, non-native plants, pavement, and lawns, in doing so we destroyed their habitat. We have also polluted our waterways with erosion, chemical runoff, sewage, and plastics.

So, what can we do?

Albert Einstein once said, "Insanity is continuing to do the same thing but expecting different results."

So, the answer is simply that we need to change what we are doing, in our homes, clubs, and communities. Each one of us choosing to change one thing can make a difference.

So, that is the purpose of my President's project. It is called "Sustaining Maryland...one action at a time." I'm going to ask each of you to think of something you can do differently: reduce your use of plastic, car-pool, begin recycling, leave the leaves to overwinter, conserve, and plant more trees and native plants. There is an endless list of things you can do – please just start with one.

But my project is to also encourage this on a larger scale, your donations to the President's Project will be used to fund grants to garden clubs that want to implement programs to benefit the environment. Grants will be given twice a year. The deadlines are August 31st (Awarded October) and February 28th (Awarded March).

So, join me in this Journey- Working together we can make a difference and create a better world to leave for the next generation.

Susie Middleton

State Awards presented at the 94th FGCMD Annual Meeting

The following awards were presented at the FGCMD Annual March Meeting:

- **MARYLAND ROADSIDE AWARD**

- Talbot County GC 2nd Place Large Club - Celebrating Frederick Law Olmstead's 200th Birthday and Arbor Day with a Tree Planting



Pres. O'Kelly, TCGC VP Maribeth Lane, NGC Pres. Mary Warshauer

- **STEIFF YOUNG GARDNERS AWARD**

- Kent Island Garden Club- Kent Island Library "Grab and Go" Growing Kits"



KIGC Pres. Diana Bonner, Pres. O'Kelly, NGC Pres. Mary Warshauer

- **DESSIE MOXLEY YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AWARD**

- Four Seasons Garden Club – Flower Art Youth Contest



Anne Heavner, Pres. Four Seasons GC, Dessie Moxley, Former FGCMD Pres., Anna O'Kelly, Pres. FGCMD, Mary Warshauer, NGC Pres.

- **PRESIDENT'S AWARDS** – for promoting the goals and objectives of FGCMD.

- Susie Middleton
- Diana Bonner
- Terry Holman

More from FGCM 94th Annual Meeting

- Tribute Designs –



Designed by Judy Slaughter for FGCM
President-Elect Susie Middleton



Designed by Gail Willin for
NGC President Mary Warshauer



Designed by Marjorie Glennan for
FGCM President Anna O'Kelly

- Program – Designs by Kaye Vosburg, NGC Master Flower Show Judge and Sogetsu Ikebana teacher – *"Creations from the Garden"*



Club News

With Spring comes District I Activities.... here are just a few.... celebrating Earth Day, hosting an incredible Symposium, working with our communities. Hopefully I will be getting more articles from you all that I can share with District Clubs!

I would also very much like to "advertise" your club's upcoming "Open Events", so please be sure to let me know of any for May and June.

Also don't forget, **Club Presidents** to send me a copy of your new Yearbooks.....Trish Reynolds, PO Box 425, Oxford, MD 21654.

- ❖ Kent Island Garden Club – Earth Day cleanup kept KIGC members busy at Historic Cray House and Train Station, Historic Christ Church and the Kirwan House.



- ❖ Somerset County Garden Club – another Earth Day event – Maintaining the daffodil bulbs that were donated years ago at the Somerset County Complex. The club also cleaned up the grounds around the Blue Star Marker located at the Somerset Tourism Center. “The earth is food to us, so we need to be good to it”!



- ❖ Talbot County Garden Club – It was years in the making, but on April 18, 2023, the Town of Easton cut the ribbon on its new Rails-To-Trails Extension. Members of the Talbot County Garden Club worked with the town to create the shade-lined extension by purchasing trees and designing gardens along the trail, as well as donating several benches for relaxation.



- ❖ The weather couldn't have been better, the speeches by town officials and the Mayor were short, praising the Engineering and Public Works Departments for their dedicated efforts. After the speeches and an ice cream treat provided by the garden club the Mayor and others took a leisurely stroll down the new trail!



- ❖ Oxford Garden Club – on April 6 members of the Oxford GC hit the road for the Delaware Botanic Garden to view the garden in its spring splendor. There were many areas to explore from the Rhyme Garden to the water features and the woodlands, to Piet Oudolf's Meadow Garden, to trails along Pepper Creek. After exploring the gardens, the club moved on to enjoy fellowship and lunch!



❖ Talbot County Garden Club – Symposium

“Corks, Forks & Flowers” -TCGC’s biennial symposium was a most delightful, delicious and decidedly fun day! While focused on presenting a solid garden -to-table information program with lively speakers, the three co-chairs and their committees managed to perfect many details that added to the day’s charm.... with exciting vendors, stunning floral arrangements, edible centerpieces, and a sophisticated luncheon menu.



Chairs: Diana Sable, Madeleine Cohen and Alden Firth

Proceeds from this event will enable TCGC to build on its good and green works for Talbot County. (Source: TCGC Facebook page)



Karen Parker and Ingrid Blanton prepping for Symposium.

Program Presenters:



Floral Cutting Garden Speaker – Ginny Rosenkranz (U of MD Cooperative Extension Educator)



Wine Speakers – Patrick & Jacque O'Neil (Jerico Ridge Vineyard), Alex & Margo Spies (Triple Creek Winery)



Culinary Locavore Speaker – Chef Jordan Lloyd (Hambleton House Events & Catering)

Save the date 🌻



❖ Queen Anne County Garden Club

❖ Chestertown Garden Club – May 5, 9-1 Memorial Park in Chestertown -Plant Sale and More



Editor's Note: If a District I Club has a flyer for an Open event and would like it included in Garden Basket, please forward it to me, pk26998@gmail.com

Connections:

Editor's note:

This issue of Garden Basket is so full of Garden Club, District and FGCMDC events that I will not have our usual links for readings, podcasts, trip, or webinars. We will however, return to some of our favorite items soon.

Calendar of Events

Announcements/Reminders

“**Create a New Climate for Action**”, a newsletter of science-based information about climate impacts and solutions. Find webinar videos from 2020-2022, Dr. Via's blog and other climate resources, on her website www.climatecorner.org; svia@umd.edu.

Go to www.Pegplant.com to sign up for a free, subscription-based, on-line newsletter for gardeners in the DC metro area. Her current post provides a listing of over 100 gardening events in March alone.

- June 4-10.....National Garden Week.... find ways to celebrate!
- June 7.....in celebration of National Garden Week join FGCMD for “Beautiful Native Plants Year-Round” – a live ZOOM Presentation by Leah Brooks, Mt. Cuba Center 10 am.... check their website for information.
- July 29.....Somerset County GC is presenting a Small Standard Flower Show “Summer Herb Garden” at the St. Andrew’s Parish Hall. Open to the public 1-4pm.
- NGC Gardening School, Course 3, is being offered at the Vollmer Center, Sept. 6-7. See registration flyer attached on FGCMD website. These schools are really wonderful. You will learn so much and upon completion, you can join the Council associated with a particular school and participate in tours and events.
- October 4..... District I Semi-Annual Meeting hosted by the Oxford Garden Club.
- UME Master Gardener Coordinators are presenting various programs that might interest you so check out their website for date, time and topics. <https://go.umd.edu/getgrow>
- Be sure to check out some of our usual websites and links for interesting and informative webinars.... Fine Gardening, Garden Design, Proven Winners, and more!



Trish’s “Tiny Basket”

As we move forward into the heart of spring let us spend time in our gardens, weeding, planting, designing new gardens.... just getting our hands dirty.... This is the best time of year for me a period of rejuvenation and re-birth.

So cut some flowers, peonies, roses, alliums, false indigo and make a pretty bouquet for your or a neighbor....it will indeed give you great joy!

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the District I’s newsletter – *Garden Basket*. See you again next month and get out in your spring gardens!

Garden Basket is published and circulated to District 1 Club Members monthly.

Input is welcomed from members in District I and should be sent to Trish, pk26998@gmail.com

Trish Reynolds, Gardenews/Publications Chair

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Gardenbasket.#32.4-23

