



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

OCTOBER 2025

Upcoming Events

- Oct 7th/Secret Garden Workday 10-Noon
- Oct 15th/Touring Hillwood Estate, Museum, Gardens Tour and Lunch on Site
Carpooling arrangements TBA
- Nov 4th/Secret Garden Workday 10-Noon
- Nov 6th/Morning of Design 10AM Hosted by District III & Judges Council. Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church 3810 Meredith Dr Fairfax
- Nov 11th Rededication of Blue Star Memorial Garden and Reception
- Nov 19th/GCM Fall Craft/Centerpiece Workshop 10:30 Brittany's
- Dec 5th/Quantico Spouses Christmas Tour of Homes
- Dec 17th/Annual Holiday Greens Workshop & Luncheon 10:30 Brittany's



One of the most wondrous events of fall is the ability of trees to change color. Leaves change color in the fall as trees stop producing chlorophyll, the green pigment for photosynthesis. As chlorophyll breaks down, hidden yellow and orange pigments called carotenoids become visible. Some trees also produce new pigments, anthocyanin, in response to trapped sugars, resulting in vibrant reds and purples.

Some additional factors affecting color are the cool crisp nights enhancing the production of vibrant red and purple pigments. A wet growing season followed by a dry, sunny fall with cool nights often produces the most vivid colors. Before you get too busy with fall preparations in your own gardens and yards, be sure to take time to "peak" at Virginia's beautiful timely foliage!



**Garden Club of Montclair
Celebrating Their 50th Program Year!**

The annual **Art in the Garden** sponsored by the Montclair Public Library was held in September. The Garden Clubs of Montclair and Lakeridge, worked alongside The Prince William Master Gardeners, to set up **crafts related to the garden**. Children, parents and grandparents participated in this hands on activity.



Art in the Garden

Birthdays

October

Beverly Houston 3rd

Emily VanDyke 5th

Anna Worrell 10th

Pat Contrades 14th

Barbara Ball 15th

Mary Ann Palmer 22nd

Gail Cobb 27th

Maria Stapleton 27th

Katy McClevey 31st

November

Carla Silas 3rd

Betty Gitlin 5th

Kathy Sahlburg 5th

Rebecca Bittner 11th

Susan Scott 23RD

Lu Selfridge 25th

Officers 2024-2025

President Florence Pullo

Secretary Cecilia Carroll

Treasurer Susan Kruyne

Committee Chairs

Programs/Events

Joan Flaherty

Member Care

Cecilia Carroll

Plant Sale

Gale James & Barbara Ball

Fire House Garden

Bev Houston

Secret Garden/Garden Therapy

Ro Carlsen & Kathy Fisher

NCAGC District II Rep

Susan Scott

PWACGC Rep

Barbara Ball & Wanda Simpson

Website

Martina Crichton

Facebook

Lu Selfridge

Shutterfly

Betty Gitlin

Publicity

Donna Seckar



TECHNOLOGY REFRESH

During our September business meeting, Martina Crichton reviewed our updated Club website that features easy access to the following new tabs: Activities and Newsletters; Community Gardens; Membership & Member Care; Plant Sale; and Horticultural Tips and Resources. The "SignUp" process was reviewed with members and take-home instructions for use after the meeting were provided. The "SignIn" process has been renamed to "LogIn" and there is now a "LogOut" tab found under the member's name in the upper right-hand corner. The Member Photo Directory is the only password protected information on our website. Several members have already shared their "selfie" for inclusion in the Directory. Additionally, begun during our September meeting and continuing during our November and December meetings, we will photograph members for inclusion in the directory. Members are encouraged to begin using the website for easy access to the latest club information including programs/events, newsletters, and community garden sign up. The SignIn process for both the newly updated National Capital Garden Club and National Garden Club websites was also reviewed. Please begin using the links below to access the most current format of all these websites:

- <https://www.gardenclubofmontclairva.org/>
- <https://www.ncagardenclubs.org/>
- <https://gardenclub.org/>

Normal Gardeners vs Obsessed Gardeners

In going through some old Garden Scoop newsletters, I came across a fun way to tell if gardening is a healthy pastime for you or an all-consuming passion. The article I read offered guidelines for determining what side of the perennial bed you fall on. I think I'm a Normal Gardener... what about you? 😊

- Normal Gardener: You won't leave town when your tulips are in bloom Obsessed Gardener: ... or your daffodils, your lilacs, your wisteria, your roses, your clematis, your hydrangeas, or your asters!
- Normal Gardener: You have a charge account at the local garden center. Obsessed Gardener: Your friends and family buy all your Christmas gifts there!
- Normal Gardener: You know the Latin names of plants. Obsessed Gardener: You use them regularly in conversation!
- Normal Gardener: You have a compost heap. Obsessed Gardener: You take its temperature daily!
- Normal Gardener: You buy well-composted cow manure to top dress your garden. Obsessed Gardener: You buy a cow!
- Normal Gardener: You love gardening more than anything. Obsessed Gardener: ... and sometimes you hate gardening more than anything!



GCM September 2025 Business Meeting

Gale James and Pat Charron presented our September program entitled *Preparing Your Garden for a Successful Fall and Spring Season*. Topics covered were assessing your garden's current state, preparing for next spring by dividing and transplanting your perennials now, and other helpful tips such as ordering your spring flowering bulbs now and planting them between Halloween and Thanksgiving and resisting the urge to fertilize your trees, shrubs, and ornamentals until spring. Most of all... remember our Annual Perennial Plant Sale as you are dividing your perennials as this growing season ends! All members have received the slide deck with the September Minutes. This presentation can also be found on GCM's website.

GCM Attends Prince William County Area Council of Garden Clubs

What a wonderful presentation by Holley Green at the recent PWACGC meeting! Holley is a student of the O'Hare School of Ikebana and gave a delightful talk and demonstration of various designs. She emphasized the use of natural materials found along roadsides and in your backyard. Ikebana celebrates nature and designs imitate nature by varying heights, textures, working with odd numbers and even using materials that have blemishes. Holley demonstrated how to use mechanics to lengthen stems, provide more structure and stability. She included many tidbits of information along the way. Holley also recommended the book, "Ikebana for Everybody", for those who would like more information.



Until next time... see you in the garden! *Florence*