



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MARCH 2025

Upcoming Events

- **Mar 14/Fri: 9:30-12 PM**
NCAGC District II Spring Mtg
Messiah Methodist Church
6215 Rolling Road 22152
Carpooling Available
- **Mar 26/Wed: 11 AM – 1:30 PM**
50th Anniversary
Commemorative Tea
3561 Waterway Dr. 22025
- **Apr 8/Tues: NCAGC**
Spring Awards Mtg
National Arboretum
Carpooling Available
- **Apr 5 & 12: 9:30 -12:30**
Weather Permitting
Potting Workshops at
Gale James' Home
- **Apr 28th/Mon: Virginia Historic**
Garden Week in Middelburg
Carpooling Available
Advanced online tickets now
available: \$50/person
- **May 3/Sat: 9 AM -1 PM GCM**
Annual Perennial Plant Sale



Say goodbye to those dark and gloomy winter evenings! We have officially “sprung ahead” and have started to enjoy longer days and lighter moods. Soon to follow will be warmer evenings, the sweet scent of cherry blossoms, trees leafing out, carpets of early woodland wildflowers like Bluebells and Primrose, and the long-awaited return of tulips, daffodils and other spring bloomers! As we welcome this season of renewal, we also welcome the return of an active year of programming for our Garden Club of Montclair.

March marks the start of a new program year!

The 2025 kickoff event for our 50th anniversary year begins on March 26th with a catered Commemorative Tea at the Montclair Property Owners Association building from 11 AM -1:30 PM. As has been our past practice, March is a time for recognizing members for their dedicated community service. Join us as we instituted a brand-new award for our club members, the *GCM Presidential Excellence Award*, honoring members for their long-standing volunteer contributions. Come prepared to enjoy a full tea, a brief business meeting, and a presentation that highlights the rich history of GCM as we **Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Look to the Future.**

• GCM Honorary Memberships Awarded

The Executive Board, as per our Club Bylaws, has moved Linda ‘Lin’ Stauffer and Susie O’Neal, 2 of our long-standing members to Honorary status as a gesture of appreciation for their faithful community service over the years. Honorary members retain the same privileges as Active members except they do not vote, hold office, or pay dues. Welcome to our newest Honorary members!

• New Member Meet & Greet Coffee Scheduled

A tentative date of June 10 has been set for our first 2025 New Member Coffee Meet & Greet. These informal orientation gatherings allow the Member Care Committee an opportunity to share helpful information with newcomers about how our Club works and opportunities to participate in, while offering time to meet and socialize with Officers and Care Team Leaders. Invitations to follow!

• QR code

Found on the bottom of the next page. It’s a direct link to our web page. We’re making baby steps in updating the content... check it out for the latest on event date/time/place!

• PWC Seed Library Coalition

GCM has always had an eye on the future for opportunities to serve or beautify Montclair and surrounding neighborhoods. We have successfully applied for 12 months of sustaining grant money to fund the existing and quickly growing Seed Library initiative found in several local libraries in PWC. This collaborative project between local garden clubs, the Master Gardener Program, and the PWC Library System is designed to expand the existing seed libraries housed in Montclair, Chinn Park, Central, Potomac, and Haymarket-Gainesville Libraries. Garden clubs feature trained and certified Master Gardeners who can help inspire, educate, and grow a community network of home gardens and gardeners to address food insecurity in the county. Free seeds will also be shared to grow pollinator plants integral to successful gardens. Volunteers will be asked to help with cataloging and replenishing seed collections at libraries and helping to develop educational materials and programs.... and lots more! Let me know if I have any volunteers reading this... more info to follow!

Birthdays

March

Lyn Kennedy 9th

April

Linda Arvin 16th

Andrea Harris 20th

Sam Gooding 29th

Officers 2024-2025

President Florence Pullo

Secretary Cecilia Carroll

Treasurer Susan Kruyne

Committee Chairs

Programs/Events

Joan Flaherty

Member Care

Anna Worrell

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

Publicity

Donna Seckar

Shutterfly

Betty Gitlin



FUN AT THE ANNUAL PLANT SALE PLANNING MEETING!

Not only did Gale and Barbara start to organize us for the plant sale in May, but Pat Charron introduced an updated spreadsheet she designed to help track the plants at all 3 sites and Pat Contrades led us in an 'energy break' with fun exercises from the traditions of Taichi and Qi-gong.



Blue Star Memorial Garden Refresh Gets Underway

During 2024, members of the Anniversary Planning Committee chose to refresh and rededicate the Blue Star Memorial Garden to commemorate our 50th Anniversary. Dedicated in 2001, a refresh of this garden space was long overdue. Beginning early last Fall, Linda Arvin has tirelessly shepherded the approval effort through Montclair's governing bodies. A landscape design using natives that provide year-round seasonal interest has been approved and the first phase of removing old and worn plant material got underway on the afternoon of March 4. Many thanks to Linda Arvin, Martina Crichton, Andrea Harris, Susan Kruyne, Gale James and Florence Pullo for making quick work of preparing the site for mulch and replanting!



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