

WVGCI Horticulture Projects/Programs – 2025

Ansted Garden Club: Margaret Horrocks @ 304-575-5338

Club has their meetings at restaurants and they enjoy lunch together. Proposed future activities: Purchase and install feeders for local Anstead nursing home. Country Roads Festival in September and make flower arrangements for front desk. Hawks Nest Tram. Club members also proposed providing bingo prizes at Veterans hospital in Beckley. Margaret did a program on birds, bees, and baths ... and recycle...She also did a slide show on plants, where she planted, and landscaping. Club plants trees for deceased Club members.

Country Road Garden Club: Janet McLaughlin @ 304-573-2016

Old Mill Village Entrance (housing development) Garden is where Club was originally started. Completely gutted entrance down to bare bones to start with a clean slate and added lights. Picked plants that wouldn't grow fast, low maintenance, and added flowerpots and shrubbery to be more self-containing. Club has had Home and Garden tours with members. Each household donated, in total, about \$800.

Club made Pine Lodge nursing home courtyard more visually appealing. Two club members had a parent there, and one of the Club member's mothers came out and enjoyed the courtyard upgrades.

Club has 7 flower containers at Shady Springs Library entrance. Containers have been a joy to Library staff and public. Try to plant perennials so Club isn't constantly buying new plants.

Judy's Garden Club: Pat McPherson @ 304-678-6820

Invited Doug Jolly to speak at Club meeting about plants, birds, and butterflies; has botanical expertise and is very passionate. Club members donated items for gift bags (honey and soap).

Backyard Weston trip to see Teresa of YouTube's "Gardening on the West Fork." Teresa gave Club a tour of her garden, as well as her neighbors' gardens. Teresa shared tips on a variety of plants and landscaping techniques with shade and companion planting. Club was able to use bus transportation from local Senior Center.

Sutton Farmer's Market is where Club has a table and we discuss plants and provide recommendations for gardening to public, how to improve plant health, and compare feedback on what works and doesn't work. Members donate flowers, vegetable/flower starts, and planters to sell at market.

Hosted a Garden Program to locally homeschooled 4-H group and gave out tomato and pepper plants, and marigolds. Provided demonstration on how to take care of plants.

Community Garden with Sutton students where children are shown how to plant, care for, harvest, and save seeds for future gardening.

Webster Springs Garden Club: Misty Rule @ 304-644-6197

Leverage Club members' expertise and present programs at Club meetings. Support local Extension Service with seed distribution. Horticulture Table at County Fair. In conjunction with County Fair, have Flower Show and educational table (backyard gardening). Utilize Google and Extension service for resources.

Woodland Oaks Garden Club: Co-Presidents Sadie Brash @ 304-469-9393, Kathryn Wickline @ 304-767-5777

Darlene Uhl (spelling?) presents horticulture projects and has gone to Lowes and found unusual plants to educate Club members. Field trips and future meetings: Numerous wild flower field trips (Cunard, Fayetteville), new shop in High Cove (house plants, plant foods); Chrysanthemum field trip in September; scheduling an arborist to come speak at October Club meeting; organized plant exchange at club meetings, and have grown and sold plants as fundraiser; Green River Nursery has beautiful plants, and if you let them know ahead of time, they'll do a program for Club; visited Lewisburg, went through Greenbriar, and ate at Food and Friends; visited Gritts Greenhouse, near Huntington, have fabulous plants; field trip to Capitol Market, ate at SoHo. Market has plants in Summer, and mums and pumpkins in Fall; organized garden therapy at local Nursing home (flower arrangements); organized auction at Christmas in December (covered dish); new plant place in Hico "The Garden Sheddy" named after her past cats.

Savannah Garden Club: Stacie Cornett @ 804-304-6832

Primary Horticulture Project is 78 Begonia hanging baskets in Lewisburg, with two baskets per lamp. Collect donations from local restaurants for dinner vouchers, and local farms for guest house lodging, and local vendor vouchers and Club sells \$20 raffle ticket as a Club Fundraiser. Club sells tickets at their Home & Garden Tours gardens and supplement with Club dues. Club then partners with Williamsburg Road Greenhouse and buys the Begonia baskets. City of Lewisburg waters the baskets through the Summer. The baskets go back to Williamsburg for the Winter and are reseeded. Club took pictures of baskets and will make stationary/cards to sell at their Homes & Garden Tours garden. Plan to have two garden beds for people to tour at Homes & Garden Tour in 2026.

Other programs include bringing in local speakers about butterflies and moths. One speaker, Tracey Stoner, collected flowering weeds on the roadside and made arrangements with their Club.

Google Appalachian head waters (non-profit), on Rte 60, has a Zen garden and they grow everything (native plants). In March, Club visited and plants were beginning to pop; Club needs to go back to see how garden looks.

Edgewood Garden Club: Bobbi Holland @ 304-542-1712

In January, Club enjoyed watching the making of a flower arrangement. Arrangement was raffled off to one of their members.

In February, Pam King did a Program for Club on how to make a Japanese moss ball. Pam had kits on hand for purchase.

Fort Hill Garden Club: Susan Watkins @ 304-356-0004

Member of Club is the Director for WV Nursery & Landscape Assoc, and presented a Program on organization. They just published a free booklet "Landscape Plants for WV." Organization offers scholarships to high school seniors that have been accepted to WVU Horticulture Program and Junior/Senior College students that are studying horticulture.

Club has three planting beds they maintain in neighborhood. In 2019, after getting permission from City, Club put in a pollinator garden at an area at top of earth works fort (from Civil War). Distributed a letter to the neighborhood and got over \$1,000 in donations. City tilled top of hill and Club bought pollinator seed and members/community donated plants...filled out pretty quickly. Club has asked the City to clear the right of way, and they also brought wood chips. Local company donated discarded brick for edging and Club installed. Mrs. Watkin's husband built a bench and Club has ordered a sign about pollinators.

Midland Garden Club: Mary Jane vredeveld @ 304-389-2756

Club maintains a city garden in downtown Charleston. Garden has two trees and a variety of plants...the Club maintains season to season. Club uses perennials and they fill in with annuals. Funded by Club (used to fundraise with Christmas bizarre proceeds). Looking at Grants to replace a tree that didn't survive last year's drought.

Golf Plaza Garden Club: Patty Merinar @ 304-203-1080

We toured Phipps Botanical Garden in Pittsburgh

Patty gave a demo on kokedama

Another member gave a tour of her Orchids and care at her home

We have also toured a local greenhouse "Freed's"

We had the Vice president of the American Iris society speak (we have also done this with peonies)

Our local extension service and WVU are great resources. We have toured their gardens and had them speak at meetings.

We also had a guided tour of the WV Botanical Garden in Morgantown

Valley Hills Garden Club: Rebecca Mattern @ 304-282-2022

Club supports Botanical Garden in Morgantown.

Organized a nice program on making a succulent garden and we made at a meeting. Speaker came with all the materials, and they provided funding.

Researched and organized a "pressed" flower activity for our Club and did framing.

Organized a garden tea party to celebrate 50-year anniversary of Club and made teacup floral designs.

Toured and had a meal at Farm to Table: "Mountain Harvest Farm."

Club made arrangements in real/ceramic/plastic pumpkins and donated to local nursing home.

Club has organized a visit to Phipps Conservatory in November.

Visited Modern Homestead Garden Center and Nursery in Reedsville and had lunch at small cafe.

Last activity this year will be at Botanical Garden in Morgantown; Club member is a board member and able to secure venue.

Beverly Hills Garden Club: Sally Kopanski @ 502-417-7867

Some of our many Huntington projects: Police Department flower garden, Fire Administration Office flower bed, Huntington in Bloom - Flower Pots throughout downtown Huntington, and Gallaher Library perennials.

Town and Country Garden Club: Bobbie Hayes @ 304-266-8937

Club's project/program theme is "our blooming world." Take 10 minutes at Club meetings and talk about "our blooming world" topics, and we finish with a door prize. Topics included National Flowers from different countries (where they came from, what they stood for, and how people used flowers to represent their struggles). Club had a program on "Rainbow Eucalyptus." Recently, did a project on the Jackaronda tree (it rains purple), took on-line pictures and had 8x10s printed and took to Club meeting. Other projects included Golden Rain tree, lavender, cardinals, daffodils, birdhouses, and hummingbirds. November speaker will be about Honeybees and will also have a "Veteran's" theme. October will have a "Breast Cancer Awareness" theme and pink ribbons will be given out, with roses going to those members who have battled cancer (have also had a program on mammograms). Club will have Christmas party at December meeting, and they've invited the Milton Garden Club.

Lubeck Acres Garden Club: Lynn VanFossen @ 304-210-1309

Club's project/program theme is "little things mean a lot". Organized a Conservation Club at Lubeck Elementary school (meet once a month). Donated a hydroponics system and children grew, cleaned harvest, chopped the lettuce and made a dressing and ate the salad. Also grew wheat grass and had "Billy the Beta fish" that took care of the tank.

Club had a program on bats and how they're pollinators and provide insect control; read "Stellaluna" book. Had a bat activity and did a matching game where you ask a question and you match answer to question.

October will be a spider activity ...again, "little things mean a lot" and how they affect our environment. Club donates books to Library for the children. When program is complete, children do a craft activity (spider glasses for Halloween (from Oriental Traders). Next program is with ants. Club has an ant farm that is made out of gel that feeds them and children can watch the ants build tunnels.

Future program will be on "how to clean your water" station, using cotton batting, gravel, sand, activated charcoal, and a coffee filter. Will use creek water and see how clear it becomes.

Club does a lot of outreach to community (local assisted living) and have "hands on" activities.

North Hills: Rosemary Shrewsbury @ 304-481-1147

Club organized a visit to a sunflower farm and bought sunflowers and pumpkins.

Club bought pumpkins and gutted and made flower arrangements from resources in their own gardens and decorated pumpkins. Club invited town to their local picnic shelter to view decorated pumpkins; incorporate town as much as possible.

Enjoy working with local grade school “Vienna.” Visited with kindergarten class in the Spring and planted seeds (Marigolds) in red cups and talked to them about planting seeds. Donate an age-appropriate book on gardening to each class.

Thinking about doing an upcycling project: buying vintage vessels/cups and plant succulents to sell at garage sale. Town of North Hill has a garage sale/bake sale in May and is a big fundraiser for Club.

Paden City Garden Club: Linda Duke @ 770-846-3644

Club maintains 12 barrels on Main Street, in Paden City. Also includes grafted lilac trees, planted in 2003, along the street. Club maintains (trims) trees and is working with City on replacing places where trees have died (2x2ft squares) and having squares filled with concrete. Club maintains a flower garden by local Dollar Tree where they plant flowers every year. Also maintain a Butterfly Garden at the city park (took over from Eagle Scout). Did have a spot in front of City building where they planted perennials, but currently redoing mural and organizing a celebration with City and local nursery owner. Maintain Blue/Gold Stars at Library.

Gateway Garden Club: Sue Ann Palmer @ 304-886-4171

Club is doing a birdhouse project and selling them at yard sale. Sales \$ will go to National Garden Club Program to replenish trees (along with USDA).

Club made arrangements with the tenants of a local nursing home, and used as Centerpieces in their dining area. Club also made arrangements and donated to other nursing homes.

Speaker presented Club with a Program on tomato plants, and spoke about the origin of tomatoes. Speaker brought different tomato varieties and had a tasting.

Olde Berkeley Garden Club: Sheri Lincecum @ 410-375-3418

Visit to a working flower farm, with a focus on Dahlias

How to force bulbs, with a focus on Amaryllis

Designing gardens for birds and pollinators

Sustainability culture – visit to the Agricultural Innovation Center at

Shepherd University with a focus on “green goals”

Visit to a peony garden; pointers on how to grow them

Succulents – how to grow them and use them in artful ways

How to grow and care for Orchids

How owls, bats and other creatures contribute to our ecosystem

How to enrich and improve our butterfly garden to support pollinators

Visit to a fabulous private home garden that features a variety of spring and summer flowering shrubs, trees and perennials

Windflower Garden Club: Ann Workman @ 304-671-0995

Cool Springs Reserves Park has a lot of walking trails and educational programs. Park has a small house on property and is grown up with weeds and wildflowers. Club is clearing out everything Park doesn't want to save, and plan is to eventually plant WV native wildflower plants.

Sand Michaels Park (using \$7,000 grant) to build a flower bed and plant trees. Club volunteered, along with Park employees and Job Corp.

Club also have a variety of Programs at meetings. Invited a Horticulturalist that spoke about working with trees and how to maintain and prune. Meeting was at a member's home, and Horticulturalist speaker looked at member's trees and included as part of presentation.

Wizard Clip Garden Club: April Weaning @ 304-671-1784

Club maintains Community garden in Middleway. Plant and maintain flower beds with annuals and perennials around Town signs at every entrance to town. In October, Middleway @ Margie's garden, Club will have a kiosk and Fall display (straw bales and mums). Just finished with local fair, and Club made arrangements, and Club donates time by working in floral building.

Fred Brooks Garden Club: Beth Post @ 304-472-3361

Getting some positive publicity in Buckhannon, from Club's projects/programs with Stockert Youth Center Summer Program (3rd year). We have grow boxes in Greenhouse attached to main building. Associated with Parish House, where they request you grow what you need in one bed and then donate from both beds & the attached greenhouse. Weather has been challenging this year with bad Winter, where kids missed a lot of school and delayed 1st day of planting. Children grow squash, zucchini, Marigolds, and peppers in grow boxes. Last year, children grew green beans and were disappointed because the deer ate every single green bean (except two). Children were excited, and competitive, about growing radishes until they ate them. Stockert Youth Center provides water sources, but Club has to organize who waters. Stockert Greenhouse has a flower border and Club is planning a major daffodil project.

Upshur County Public Library is in its second year of a Seed Catalog, from which patrons can take five packs of seeds per visit. We helped with the initial sorting & packaging of seeds & helped with this year's (in April) seed swap.

Local business owner "Three Little Buds" invited children to flower beds and showed children how to cut flowers and made arrangements in glass jars. Club members delivered arrangements to local nursing home.

A club member's husband is a chef and gave demonstrations to children: turned a radish into a rose, apple into a swan, and children made pasta sauce. Last year they made salsa. Nothing tastes better than the food you grow.

Fred Brooks Park has two flower gardens and Club organized a design contest and club members submitted designs with blind judging.

Club supports Upshur County Library, where one Thursday a month, Club does a Program with "little" kids and tie Program to season. Librarian picks a book to read based on Program.

Club supported Cloverbud Camp (4-H group in Buckhannon) where they painted rocks to look like cactus and placed in flowerpots. Leader is a former Science teacher and Program included a mini-lesson on succulents and cactus and where they store water.

Club maintains Courthouse flower beds (heritage project) where they plant Geraniums in time for Strawberry Festival.

Club has a Conservation Education and Youth committee where you can submit ideas for future projects.

One Club member is a former Botany professor from Wesleyan College and has done Programs on wildflowers.

Future Program Topics: "Split your plants, not your pants"; winterizing gardens and planting bulbs; in March, DNR is going to do a Program on Wild Yard.

Mountaineer Garden Club: Bonnie Smith @ 304-642-8773

Every year on Arbor Day, Club plants a tree and this year was at local 4-H Club site; 4-H kids helped plant the tree.

Maintain 42 large planter boxes in Town. City provides funding and Club buys the plants. In the Fall, Club takes out the flowers and plants mums. Club coordinates with High School Ag Program and went to high school and did starter mum plants. In September, when mum starters are bigger, they will be moved to Town planter boxes.

Big wall, as you come into town from North, Club has planted perennials to get them established. Club does artificial flower displays at the Bank, and communities come in and vote for which one they like the best.

Club made real flower arrangements on National Garden Week and took arrangements out to local businesses (~10) that support the Club (City Hall, both Banks, Library). Bouquets are made from flowers from Club members yards.

On Valentine's Day, we make cards and put little candies in for local nursing home.