

The Shaler Garden Club was founded in 1921. A meeting sponsored by the Garden Club of Allegheny County was held at the Braun School in September 1921 to promote Herbert Hoover's initiative for conserving food by growing vegetable gardens and canning. The late Mrs. W. L. Davis attended, and shortly thereafter, Mrs. Davis invited women in the community to a meeting in her home. Ten women attended and formed the "Shaler Township Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association".

You are now an important part of this proud tradition. We warmly welcome you and hope that you will take an active role in this worthwhile organization. Our purpose is: to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to aid in the protection of our natural environment, to encourage civic planting, and to promote these aims with our gifts and talents.

The club holds nine meetings per year, starting in March and ending in December. There is no meeting in November. The meetings are held at the Glenshaw Presbyterian Church, 300 Glenn Avenue, Glenshaw, PA 15116, at 12 noon, unless otherwise indicated. All members are invited to serve once annually as Hospitality hosts, helping to provide the light refreshments we enjoy during our club meetings. Five Board Meetings are open to all members and include elected officers (President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President Advisors) and Committee Chairpersons (Arbor Day, Civic and Conservation, Finance, History and Scrapbook, Hospitality, Library, Membership, Publicity, Shaler Garden Tour, and Ways and Means). Officers are elected and sworn in at the December meeting and serve for two years, beginning in January. The First Vice President chairs the Program Committee. The Second Vice President produces a yearbook annually, which includes all meeting information, field trips, a directory of all members and the History and Bylaws of the club. Each member receives their copy of the yearbook at the March meeting.

"Perennial" Projects of the Shaler Garden Club:

Annual Plant Sale – Held on the first Saturday in May at Kiwanis Park, our members divide and share their perennials. This sale, coordinated by the Ways and Means Chair, helps stimulate gardeners to try new plantings, recruits new members and serves as our main fundraiser to support our charities and club projects.

Arbor Day Project – Pine seedlings are distributed to all kindergarten students in Shaler Township, to inspire a love of gardening in young hearts.

Shaler North Hills Library Gardens – Members maintain and weed the hillside garden and Kier Garden at the library twice per month throughout the growing season, coordinated by the Civic and Conservation Chair.

Shaler Great Gardens Tour – Begun in 2008, this fundraiser benefits the Shaler North Hills Library, and allows community residents to tour five spectacular area gardens.

Great Gardens Contest – Community residents are encouraged to compete for first, second and third place awards. The first place winner is asked to participate in the Great Gardens Tour.

Horticultural Therapy Program- We annually host a flower arranging contest for residents of Hampton Fields Retirement Village. Our members create arrangements and residents enjoy voting for their favorites.

Decorate Christmas trees at the Shaler North Hills Library – We erect three trees, one decorated with ornaments handmade from natural dried plant material, one with gingerbread cookies made by members and one with traditional ornaments.

Fairy Garden Workshop – Held for children, ages 4-8, at the Shaler North Hills Library, to ignite a love and fascination for gardens by building fairy houses out of natural materials.

The Shaler Garden Club is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP). The GCFP is a charitable, volunteer organization of women, men, and youth who share interests in gardening, civic beautification, floral design, conservation of natural resources, environmental and legislative issues through local clubs. It has approximately 5300 Pennsylvania garden club members. Membership in any of the garden clubs of the GCFP is open to all regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or religious affiliation.

There are many benefits for a club to be a member of the GCFP. The Federation provides educational opportunities and conventions with excellent speakers and workshops. Clubs also fall under the GCFP's umbrella liability insurance and do not have to provide their own insurance, with the exception being for a large special event. The GCFP also handles the filing of 501-(c) (3) 990 forms for all clubs in good standing. If a club does not file this form with the IRS for three consecutive years, they lose their tax exempt status.

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania is divided into eleven (11) districts. Each district has a Director, Executive Board, and District Chairman who try to assist clubs in whatever way they can. Each district holds an annual meeting featuring an outstanding speaker in the fall of the year, and most districts hold three additional meetings yearly. District newsletters are mailed to clubs three times per year, prior to meetings.

The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania holds an Annual Convention generally in April. This three day event rotates yearly to various parts of the state and features notable speakers on horticulture, floral design, and related topics. Workshops and tours are also included in the program. During the convention, the GCFP recognizes its members through an extensive Awards Program for both adults and youth. It promotes participation in Central Atlantic Regional and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Awards and Scholarships.

The GCFP communicates with all of its members through The Keystone Gardener, the state publication, which is published and mailed to all members quarterly at no additional charge. The magazine and the website, www.pagardenclubs.org keep members well informed of GCFP projects and activities.