

For the Birds... and Bees!



Weeders and Seeders  
Garden Club  
Ligonier, PA  
2017

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Cover Photo “Yellow Warbler with Pear Tree Blossoms” courtesy of Marcy Cunkelman.

Weeders and Seeders Garden Club  
Ligonier, Pennsylvania  
District VI  
2017-2018  
Organized 1982      Federated 1988

***Theme: For the Birds... and Bees!***

Membership: 14

**Regular Monthly Meetings**

*When:* Third Tuesday of each month

*Time:* 6:00 P.M.

*Place:* Ligonier Valley Library

120 W Main St, Ligonier, PA 15658

*Dues:* \$25

**Member of:**

***Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania***

1525 Cedar Cliff Drive, Suite 103

Camp Hill, PA 17011-7707

717-737-8219

[www.pagardenclubs.org](http://www.pagardenclubs.org)

***Central Atlantic Region (CAR)***

[www.carsgc.org](http://www.carsgc.org)

***National Garden Clubs, Inc.***

4401 Magnolia Avenue

Saint Louis, MO 63110

314-776-7574

[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)



## **The Mission of Weeders and Seeders Garden Club**

- To stimulate the love of gardening by promoting educational programs open to the public
- To aid in the protection of native plants, birds and pollinators
- To encourage civic planting and beautification via local projects, thereby increasing the club's relevance and visibility in the community
- To foster an interest in Floral Design

## **National, Regional, and State Officers**

### **National Garden Clubs President**

**Nancy L. Hargroves**

1235 Dover Creek Lane

Manakin Sabot, VA 23103-2532

Phone: 804-784-0109 (c) 804-363-0771

Theme: Plant America

Projects: Grant Programs for Clubs  
Second Book for Youth

### **Central Atlantic Region Director**

Regina Brown

116 N. Main St

Smyrna, DE 19977-1428

Phone: 302-670-8333

### **Garden Club Federation of PA President**

Christine Leskosky

1921 St. Joseph Drive

Hazle Township, PA 18202-3076

Phone: 570-459-0239 (c) 570-956-7849

### **District VI Director**

Claire Hope Leichter

221 Paradise Lane

Bedford, PA 15522-6144

Phone: 814-356-3158 (c) 706-975-3776

## **Weeders and Seeders Garden Club Officers**

Co-President:

Paula Heming

107 Lake Drive, Ligonier, PA 15658

Phone: 724-238-3713

Co-President:

Linda Santry

39 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Latrobe, PA 15650

Phone: 724-804-5152

Vice President:

Mary Leppold

199 Old Distillery Rd. Stahlstown, PA 15687

Phone: 724-593-3730

Secretary:

Judy Ridgway

127 Timberlane Dr. Ligonier, PA 15658

Phone: 410-533-6465

Treasurer:

Wilma Light, MD

515 Summit Avenue, Ligonier, PA. 15658

Phone: 724 238 7041

## **Membership Roster**

Diane Coleman  
59 Ramsey Road Ligonier, PA 15658  
Phone:724-238-5101

Kimberly Green  
1655 Route 259 Ligonier, PA 15658  
724-238-2069

Angela McDonnel  
224 E. Main Street Ligonier, PA 15658  
Phone: 724-238-9851

Bill Pieringer  
114 Deerfield Road, Ligonier, PA 15658-9718  
Phone: 724-238-7501

Lisa Pieringer  
114 Deerfield Road, Ligonier, PA 15658-9718  
Phone: 724-238-7501

Cynthia Shank  
P.O. Box 384 Bolivar, PA 15923  
Phone: 724-676-5621

Louise Sprowls  
631 Gregg Avenue, Ligonier, PA 15658-1305  
Phone: 724-238-2673

Linda Visosky  
330 Franklin Street, Ligonier, PA 15658  
Phone: 724-995-8211

Ann Woodall  
Box 216, Laughlintown, PA 15655  
Phone: 724-238-5867

**Weeders and Seeders membership is open to all, and is not restricted by gender, age, religious affiliation, or ethnicity.**

## ***An Open Garden Party***

*Let's plant our yards to lure the bees,  
butterflies and chickadees,  
fill branches hosting grateful birds  
singing for joy in avian words.  
Orioles and waxwings present their art  
noisily welcomed within our heart.  
Meet with a thrush, its eyes like a fawn.  
Join larks and robins enjoying the lawn.  
Too early for nighthawks, (they visit at night)  
and thrill with their cool call to please and delight.  
Here flock tuneful finches. Some ravens, too.  
They're not without homes, yet seek havens new.  
You can wish hard for hummers, tiny and light,  
and instead get loud grackles whose size is less  
slight.  
Let's offer them flowers, some suet and seed.  
Corn, millet and nectar are just what they need!  
Provide them a birdbath, a cover for nesting,  
protection from all that could upset  
their resting.  
These creatures indeed are a lovable lot.  
They bless us with more than we ever sought!*

***Angela McDonnell***

## **Club Programs / Presentations**

Programs and presentations are selected in response to member and public requests and the club's aim to further NGC goals and objectives.

March 21, 2017, 7 PM. Ligonier Valley Library:  
"Colonial Gardens: Cultivating the Ingredients for Sallets, Salmagundi, and Fried Cymlins."  
Jennifer Eppolito, a Penn State Master Gardener who has been updating the Colonial Garden at the Winnie Palmer Nature Center, will offer a slide show presentation and teach us about Colonial gardening practices and how they can be employed in our own gardens today. We hope Jennifer's presentation will also include the proper pronunciation of those words, and she has generously agreed to bring samples for us to taste.

April 11, 2017, 7 PM, Ligonier Valley Library:  
"Floral Design – Part I"  
Mary Jo Gardill, member and former officer of the Garden Club of Johnstown and Accredited Judge with the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, will share her award winning floral design techniques, beginning with the basics of floral design. In addition to the hands-on demonstration, many photos illustrating varied and unique designs will be available to view. This is the first in a series of design classes offered in preparation for our Standard Flower Show in July.

May 16, 2017, 7 PM, Ligonier Valley Library:  
“Floral Design – Part II”

Mary Jo Gardill will build upon the information shared in Part I, teaching more advanced floral design concepts with hands-on demonstrations and member participation. Attendees will bring samples of their personal creations to view and discuss. In addition, “How to Conduct and Participate in a Standard Flower Show” handouts will be provided by our own past Co-President, Angela McDonnell, a Penn State Master Gardener and flower show veteran.

June 13, 2017, 7 PM, Ligonier Valley Library:

“Propagation of Rhododendrons & Azaleas”

Eric Oesterling, a Horticulture Consultant and retired Penn State Extension Agent, will be offering a PowerPoint program on how to successfully propagate and care for rhododendrons and azaleas. We will also finish up our series on floral design at 6:00 PM with, “Floral Design – Part III” by Mary Lou Colussy. Her presentation will cover conditioning and miniature designs, and tie together all the skills we’ve learned to give us the confidence to create attractive arrangements to enter in our Flower Show.

July 18, 2017, 6 PM: Club fieldtrip to Root 22  
Hydroponic & Garden Center

We’ll explore the benefits and techniques of growing plants hydroponically and have the opportunity to purchase all the supplies necessary to try it out ourselves.

July 29, 2017, 10 AM, Southern Alleghenies

Museum of Art:

Standard Flower Show

Flower Show Chairperson Angela McDonnell has worked tirelessly to prepare for our first flower show in several years. Our theme will be “For the Birds...and Bees!” It will be open to the public and promises to be an exciting and educational event for all. A “Green Elephant Sale” fundraiser will also take place, with orders taken for hypertufa troughs.

August 15, 2017, 7 PM, Ligonier Valley Library,  
co-sponsored with the Loyalhanna Watershed  
Association:

“Native Bees – Garden Superheroes”

Dr. Wilma Light, our Treasurer and past President, is a Penn State Master Gardener and popular speaker on a variety of topics pertaining to ecology and gardening. This program includes a PowerPoint presentation and handouts and will teach us about providing the proper habitat to attract and nurture native bees and the vital role they play in our gardens and our world.

August 19, 2017, 5 PM:

“Gardens and Grub”

Our Club Picnic/Progressive Dinner will be held at the homes of Club Secretary, Judy Ridgway, and members Bill and Lisa Pieringer. After a tour of their lush gardens, we can relax and enjoy a covered dish picnic with club members, family and friends.

September 14, 2017, 6 PM, Nimick Family Education Center, co-sponsored with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association:

“Planting for Wildlife”

Joe Costello, Owner and Nursery Manager of Friendship Farm, employs environmentally sensitive farming practices to provide native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses that are indigenous to our region. Joe will provide handouts and share his expertise on planting to attract and nurture the wildlife we want, as well as tips on discouraging those we don't. We'll also take a walking tour of the nearby Watershed Loop Trail where we can identify some of the key native plants in their natural habitat.

October 17, 2017, 7 PM, Nimick Family Education Center, co-sponsored with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association:

“Backyard Birds and Windows”

Luke DeGroot, Avian Ecologist and Bird Banding Program Manager at Powdermill Nature Reserve, will talk about Powdermill's research into the unfortunate phenomenon of bird strikes, and explain the science of how and why they happen and the latest technologies for preventing them. The program will include both a PowerPoint presentation and handouts.

November 14, 2017, 7 PM, Ligonier Valley Library,  
co-sponsored with the Loyalhanna Watershed  
Association:

“Pets, Plants, Pests and Prevention of Problems”  
Club member Henry L. Croft Jr., DVM has been  
serving clients and their pets with quality veterinary  
care since 1980. Dr. Croft will talk about ways you  
and your pets can avoid deer ticks and the Lyme  
disease they carry, as well as other parasites, and  
what to do if we do encounter them. He’ll also  
teach us why pets eat plants, which plants can  
actually benefit them and which to avoid at all cost,  
and what to do in the event your pet does make a  
snack of your begonia. Visual aids will be used to  
assist with identification.

December 5, 2017, 6 PM:

Club Holiday Party will be held at the home of Club  
Secretary, Judy Ridgway.  
Members and guests will gather to celebrate the  
holiday season with a covered dish dinner and grab  
bag gift exchange.

## HYPERTUFA CREATIONS BY WEEDERS & SEEDERS



Angela, Wilma and  
Linda mixing  
Hypertufa ingredients.



During our workshop  
sessions, we used  
fun-shaped molds

Completed  
Hypertufa  
adorned  
with  
seashells



## **Ongoing Community Projects**

### ***St. Clair Park***

As the eastern entrance to the borough of Ligonier, the St. Clair Park reflects welcoming colors, shade trees and a walking path. The community utilizes this park to relax on the benches and as a lovely sites for picture taking. Weeders and Seeders built a low wall to better define and protect the planting area and we maintain the annual and perennial flowers and shrubs.

### ***Valley Veterans Park***

This lovely, centrally located park was built upon the idea that Ligonier Valley was lacking a focal point to pay honor to its many military veterans. Dedicated in 2010, the site displays our Blue Star Memorial Marker, and is richly endowed with symbolism in its colors of roses and other flowers and siting of components such as sentinel pencil hollies Three benches provide places to rest and to contemplate the sacrifices and therefore the appreciation owed our many veterans.

### ***Ligonier Library Planters***

Container gardening is a favorite of many “Weeders”, so this was an easy responsibility to accept when planted containers were chosen to spark up the front of the library. The planters are filled, watered, trimmed as needed, deadheaded, and kept looking fine for the entire growing season.

### ***Ligonier Country Market***

Long an attraction to locals and out of towners alike, as the market grew, Weeders and Seeders and Penn State Extension Master Gardeners began to beautify the area surrounding the booths, adding bird and bee houses, raised beds, a patio to accommodate wheelchairs, stepping-stones and markers, and hand fashioned garden troughs planted with perennials. A children's garden was also added, which the children help to plant and later harvest (and paint the pumpkins). The club is a "feature" twice a season, answering questions and offering children's activities. The addition of native plants to support wildlife is an ongoing project and interest. To further that objective, our Treasurer, Dr. Wilma Light, was awarded a grant from the Ligonier Valley Education Trust in the amount of \$400 to help fund the Native Habitat Enhancement Project, in conjunction with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association.



### ***The Chamber of Commerce Welcome Sign***

Placed at the entrance to Ligonier from the west, the garden is planted with colorful annuals and perennials. The easily seen sign and garden was accepted as a club task as another instance of club commitment to community and civic planning, with members deciding the components of the planting area.

### ***YMCA Gardens***

The “Y” gardens started out as a favorite project, primarily because there was something for everyone. Since its humble beginnings, the “Y” property has seen many changes, including the addition of a children’s garden, and most recently, a major construction project affecting half the property. The children’s area received new raised beds, and now that the new construction is complete, we look forward to helping plan and maintain the new beds.

### ***Fort Ligonier Days Float***

Members designed and constructed a float entry for the annual Fort Ligonier Days parade. The 2016 theme of “A Time to Remember” was reinvented as “A Thyme to Remember”, and our medieval garden float won 4<sup>th</sup> prize.



### ***The Festival of Lights***

It is a Christmas time celebration enjoyed by the community. The “Weeders” creative project is donated to the auction. Our decorated tree sells early in the auction, always at a price greater than the cost to produce it.

### ***Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow Contest***

“Flora” graced the Ligonier Diamond during the annual scarecrow contest, making friends and promoting the club.



Flora the Scarecrow greeted the Ligonier visitors during the 2016 Ligonier Scarecrow Contest



October 2016

### ***Charities***

A number of local charities have benefitted from club donations of cash, product, and/or volunteer hours. The organizations include Ligonier Food Bank, Ligonier Valley Society of Churches, Salvation Army, YMCA, Blue Bird habitat, Ligonier Valley Library, the 6 community gardens the club maintains, and children's activities at Country Market.

### ***Scholarships***

Weeders and Seeders awarded two \$500 scholarships last year to worthy college students who are pursuing careers in horticulture/forestry related fields, and will continue to seek qualified candidates for future scholarship awards.



## **New Community Projects**

### ***Pumpkin Spice Event***

Club members participated in the first annual “Pumpkin Spice” event sponsored by the Ligonier Valley Chamber of Commerce. Participants got to sample our homemade pumpkin muffins and received information on club activities and membership.

### ***Facebook Page***

Our Facebook page, “Weeders and Seeders of Ligonier”, has brought our club to the attention of a whole new audience. It features our programs, meetings, and a variety of interesting and educational gardening related tips and articles. It currently boasts nearly 200 members and has often reached over 800 people in a single day.

## Reminiscences of a Co-President

Linda and I joined the Weeders & Seeders Garden Club on the same night. Neither of us meant to. We were just there for the program. Or so we told ourselves when we left our respective homes that evening. An hour later, we were dues paying members assigned to the same garden committee. That's how it all began.

How did we get here? We come from very different backgrounds. My roots run deep in this valley. My ancestors immigrated to the Ligonier Valley over 200 years ago and we've apparently seen no reason to leave. Linda, on the other hand, is a welcome new addition to our community. After living many places, she and her husband chose Ligonier as their retirement locale, and we will be forever grateful they did.

So what was it that compelled both of us, despite our firm intentions to the contrary, to join this merry little band of gardeners? Well, I can't say for sure, but I think we both felt something special from the moment we walked into that very first meeting. We felt a family. A family joined not by blood and DNA, but by chlorophyll and the dirt under their fingernails. There was playfully bickering. There were jobs to be assigned. There was discussion and debate. There was agreement, disagreement and the sharing of ideas. It was like the family picnic or holiday dinner, everyone happy to just be together sharing their common passion. We recognized them as kindred spirits and we knew we were a part of this family. Like long lost relatives, we belonged here. And I think they recognized us too. They welcomed and embraced us like we were family. Maybe the crazy relatives no one talked about, but family none the less.

Now here we are, Co-Presidents of this little garden family. It's an honor and a privilege to be here, and we hope to extend to a new group of garden enthusiasts those same feelings of belonging that we felt, as we continue to learn and grow and build upon the work of the many great gardeners who came before us.