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## National Capital Area Newsletter

# *In the Know*

November 2023

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### **Breaking News from the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs Conference**

#### **Congratulations to our winning clubs!**

- Tanta Cove Garden Club (Small Club)
  - Overall winner and \$25 for an NGC Small Standard Flower Show Schedule Award
- Woodmoor Garden Club (Medium Club)
  - Jean Ladson Outstanding Achievement Award and \$100
- Ayr Hill Garden Club (Large Club)
  - Jean Ladson Outstanding Achievement Award and \$100
- Seedling Garden Club was also honored
  - (more to come – their certificate went to Maryland by mistake!)



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## NCA Opportunities

Who's interested in taking a road trip to see the greenhouses of [Chadwick's Orchids](#)? We will be carpooling to the Richmond area. No date is set yet. No obligation!

Email me if you might be interested! Barb [kiker01@verizon.net](mailto:kiker01@verizon.net)





**District I Fund Raiser**



# District I Day at Franklin's Tuesday, November 28, 2023

## FRANKLINS Restaurant • Brewery • General Store

### A District I Fundraiser

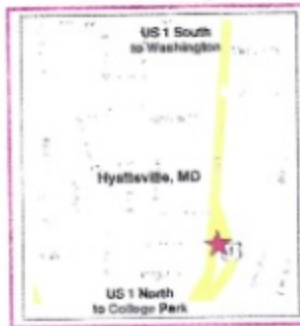
that is fun for all! A casual atmosphere which is kid friendly, accepts credit cards and has a city lot along the side for parking. Note: parking is free at night but quite reasonable during the day.

When anyone pays for food, drinks, and/or merchandise at Franklin's and mentions "District I" when paying, Franklin's donates 20% of the receipt\*

\*excludes tax and tip

### Franklin's Restaurant, Brewery, and General Store

On Route 1  
5123 Baltimore Avenue  
Hyattsville, MD 20781  
301-927-2740  
Restaurant & Store Hours: Tues, 11am - 9pm  
Bar closes at midnight.



The unique **Franklin's Restaurant, Brewery, and General Store** is foremost a family restaurant, although it was Prince George's County's first brew pub. It gets written up in Washington and Maryland media as a place worth visiting. Franklin's serves up inventive dishes and American fare at reasonable prices. The adjoining general store stocks plenty of penny candy, toys, and magic items, and funky, kitschy, and useful finds for all ages – a great place to shop for the gifts and stocking stuffers needed in December.

## Come Join District I for some fun!

## Youth Poetry Contest

**Youth Poetry Contest 2023-2024 Theme: "I Spy With My Little Eye, Something Green Outside - Celebrating Our Green World"**



**Excite and encourage our Youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry. NGC's Poetry Contest enables our Youth to embrace their creativity through the art of writing. Be imaginative and join the winners to see your poetry in a booklet.**

Only regional winners are considered in the judging for national winners. Contest winners will not be allowed to win two consecutive years. All of the winning entries will be compiled into a booklet, which will be made available to the winners.

**Eligibility:**

- **Special Education: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.**
- **English as a second language: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.**
- **General Education: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.**

**Dates for Submission:**

- **Club entries must be sent to Jo Sellers.**
- **State Winners must be sent to Regional Chairman by February 1.**
- **Regional Winners must be sent to National Chairman by March 1.**

**Guidelines:**

- **All entries must be typed and titled**
- **Include name, address, age, grade, and school of participant on the back of entry.**
- **Sponsoring garden club and state garden club name must also be identified.**
- **Sponsoring garden club may be that of a grandparent.**
- **All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.**
- **Poems do not have to rhyme.**
- **Poems may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or Haiku.**
- **The theme should not be used as the title to any poetry. When judging, the title is worth 10 points.**

**Scale of Points Title: 10% Content: 40% Creativity: 30% Style: 20% Total: 100%**

**For more information, contact: Jo Sellers josellers@cox.net 703 451-7037**

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**From NGC**



## NGC President's Project

### Planting for Pollinators

National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore wants to encourage NGC members to make our gardens more than just beautiful. That's why she created the National Garden Clubs Pollinator Garden Certification program. Our gardens can support birds, bees and other insects, and this program provides the incentive to take additional steps to make sure we're providing all the components to help pollinators thrive.

We've created a checklist to make sure you have everything you need to support pollinators:

Food sources    Water Source    Areas to raise young

You probably already have several plants that provide pollen and nectar. But could you add a few native plants that are perhaps a better source of food? Could you add a shrub that has berries for wintertime nutrition? You don't have to install a pond, but what about a birdbath? Consider adding a heater for fresh water in the winter. Many of us have birdhouses in our gardens, but if not, a small, inconspicuous log or brush pile can provide a safe place for insects to nest.

In addition to providing food, water, and shelter, think about your gardening practices and what you can do better to support pollinators. Naturalists are encouraging us to "leave the leaves" in the fall for insects that overwinter in leaves, and to wait until spring for garden clean up since some insect larvae stay in hollow stems until spring.

We all want to do what we can to support pollinators—their lives depend on us. By making a few tweaks to our gardens we can make them feel right at home!

Apply on line at [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) (under programs tab) to have your yard recognized as a National Garden Clubs Certified Pollinator Garden! Once approved, you will have the option to order an NGC Certified Pollinator Garden Yard Sign!

### **Gardening for Wildlife**

As garden club members we should be aiming to practice sustainability in our personal landscapes. Habitats are being lost to development and we can hold the key to preserving them for future generations. As development pushes natural habitats further and further back, we can encourage wildlife to co-exist with us in our own landscapes. Biodiversity is a key to successful wildlife habitat. You get to choose the wildlife you want to encourage. It may be only birds, small mammals, and insects. You can provide food, water, cover and places for animals and insects to raise their young. Work to reduce areas of lawn. Make conscious choices when choosing plants for your garden. Look for plants that are native and keep away from invasive species. Good plant choices provide fruit and seeds for native wildlife. Native trees make good choices. Keep a clean water source such as a small fountain or birdbath, or if you have enough property, build a pond. Provide a wood pile or leave a dead tree. Check the NGC website for the application and get YOUR GARDEN registered as a National Garden Club Certified Wildlife Habitat. You will receive a certificate and may purchase a plaque to display in your garden. I am looking forward to seeing these plaques in member gardens across the United States.

Apply on line at [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) (under programs tab) to have your garden registered as a National Garden Club Certified Wildlife Habitat! Once approved, you will have the option to purchase the NGC signage below to display in your garden.

### **The National Gardener**

The official publication of National Garden Clubs, The National Gardener, appears quarterly. We highlight articles of interest to environmentalists, gardeners, landscapers, floral designers, educators, and even nature photographers. Featured columns provide our readers with leadership advice, seasonal recipes, and garden club lore.

Have The National Gardener delivered directly to your inbox - it's free!

[www.gardenclub.org/national-gardener](http://www.gardenclub.org/national-gardener)

