



The Tuneful Warbler

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With the Valentine's Day sale over, Maureen Foley and Fran Northrup are planning for the Holiday Bazaar. Maintenance built shelves to hold ribbon and modified used kitchen cabinets to provide storage for all the materials they collect and recycle during the year.

BIRD WATCH

Spring Is on the Wing

Migratory birds are coming north. It's time to start planning your garden. Birds and insects prefer native plants that are a digestible, nutritious food source. Nuts and berries from non-native plants cannot be digested by many species in eastern Pennsylvania.



Bird hitching a ride?

And since native plants are adapted to our microclimate, they don't need as much fertilizer, watering or pesticides.

Audubon.org/native-plants is an excellent guide for local gardeners. Birdtownpa.org also offers a wealth of resources

Birds, Too, Like a Soft Bed

According to *Bird Watchers Digest*, birds use human and animal hair to add insulation and softness to their nests. Ask your stylist to save your hair cuttings. Tie some strands together and hang them from a tree, or put some in a net vegetable bag. They will soon disappear.

Inside the Floral Studio: Nature Inspires Design

The Floral Studio's first Valentine's Day Sale brought a hint of spring and a flash of color on a drab February day. The 164 arrangements made by Floral Studio volunteers sold out in just one hour. Equally interesting, all included recycled material.

Walking into the studio for the first time is like a child walking into a penny candy store. Where to look first? Every inch is filled with material, from items to be recycled to silk flower and ribbons bought frugally at end of season sales.



"I'm the queen of recycling," says floral committee chair Fran Northrup. "We gather pine cones, vines, seed pods, acorns and bits of wood and bark from the campus. We also take apart donations, like used wreaths, garlands, and holiday décor, and repurpose them. Little is thrown away.

"We use silk flowers for several reasons," Fran continues. "The industry's demand for fresh flowers is exceeding availability, and consequently, the costs are sky high! The quality of silk flowers is improving every day. Here at Dunwoody, there is more of a demand for silks, as they last for such a long time, and are so much easier to care for. I also believe they are good for the environment."

Fran learned floral design at Longwood Gardens and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. For some years she was head of the Philadelphia Flower Show. She arrived at Dunwoody in 2015 with a truck full of materials and tools. Dunwoody let her use an empty apartment and Fran went to work, expanding the floral program that Ginny Price had started. The first sale at the Bazaar in 2016 was small—only a card table. Sales grew larger by the year.

Today Fran and co-chair Maureen Foley hold regular workshops to teach floral design to this year's group of 30 volunteers. Between them they know all the tricks of the trade and happily share their knowledge. The program is so popular there's a waiting list. Fran asks that people be patient. After Covid restrictions are relaxed, they will be able to welcome more volunteers.

Covid also closed down the annual holiday Bazaar. In its place the Floral Studio team went on Channel 1970 to sell arrangements, designed gifts for all our employees and with donated material created thank you arrangements for Delco teachers. There's always be a place for a well designed floral arrangement.

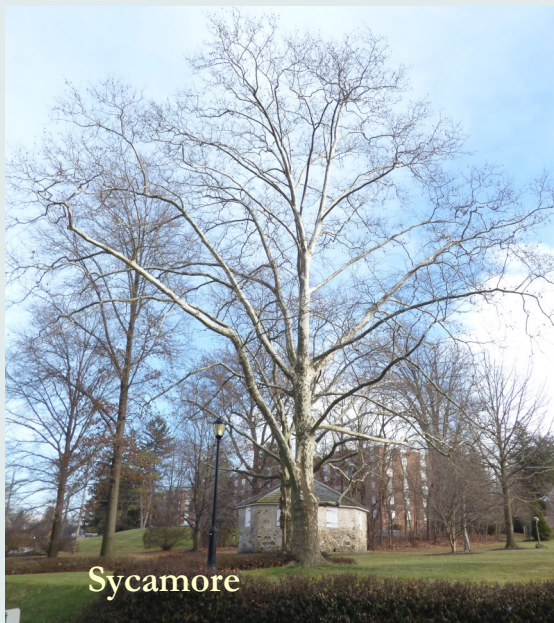
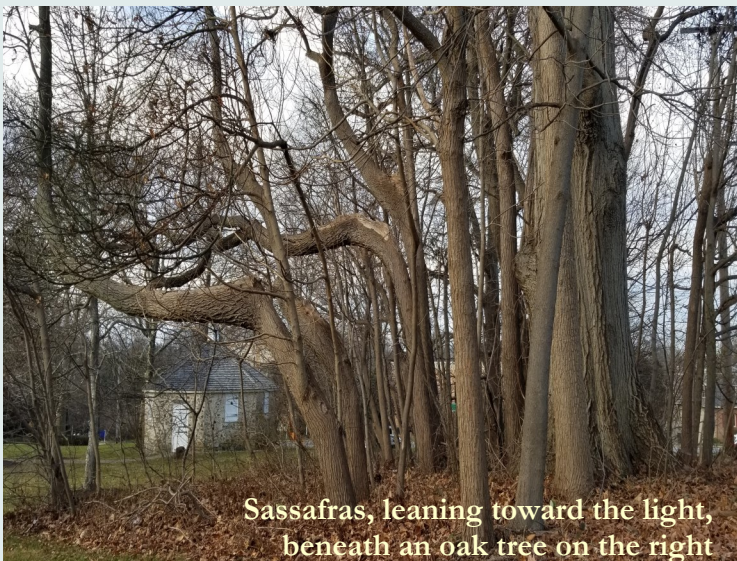


Fran Northrup and Brian Worthington from Maintenance. Brian lends his talents to the Floral Studio, leading workshops and designing arrangements. He learned floral design from his mother.

Trees in Winter

Like a beautiful woman
Shedding her clothes,
Trees in winter are shy,
I suppose.
Their bare arms stretch out,
Freed of their sleeves,
No longer encumbered
By blossoms or leaves.
Unmasked and exposed,
Stripped to their core,
Trees in winter!
Ah, yes, less is more!

— Linda Walters



The Tuneful Warbler is published quarterly by and for Dunwoody Village residents.

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