

April 2022

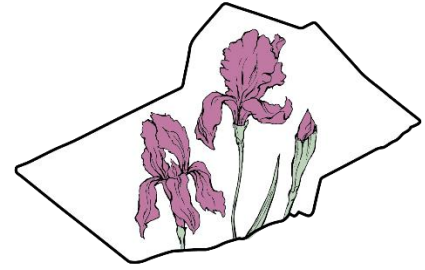
South Schuylkill Garden Club

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:30

First United Church of Christ, Schuylkill Haven

www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com

www.facebook.com/soschuylkillgardenclub.com



Cultivating the Community Newsletter

Weather Folklore for April

- *If it thunders on All Fool's Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay.*
- *A cold May and a windy April, a full barn.*
- *March'll search ye, April try ye; May'll tell, whether live or die ye.*
- *If the oak is out before the ash then we are in for a splash;
But if the ash is out before the oak we are in for a soak.*
- *April cold and wet fills barn and barrel.*
- *When April blows its horn
Then it stands good with hay, rye, and corn.*
- *A cold and moist April fills the cellar and fattens the cow*

Bus Trip 2022

The Bus trip has been planned for Thursday **May 5, 2022**. It is to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve with a guided tour which lasts 1 -1/2 hours. Theme for tour is "Spring Bloomers." Walking on your own after the guided tour is encouraged. The trails are not handicapped accessible. Plants will also be available for purchase. Second stop will be at Paxson Hill Farm Garden or take a self-guided tour for \$5.00. Registration deadline is **April 5, 2022**. Cost is \$60.00 and checks are made payable to SSGC. Mail registration to Carol Haldeman, 105 Beuchler Lane, Pine Grove, PA 17963. The bus is filling up quickly so if interested, contact Carol.

April Tea

Linda Bollinger has graciously agreed to Chair this committee. Members of this committee met again in March to finalize planning for this event. The theme for this year's tea is "Step into Spring." At this point with gusty winds and snow in the forecast, I am sure we are all looking forward to spring. Victor Perez Master Gardener will be the presenter. He will be speaking on Dahlias. April 19 is the date for the Tea, mark your calendar for a lovely evening of social interaction with fellow gardeners. Before we know it, April will be here. The committee is currently looking for donations for the raffle table.

Get your reservations to Linda for a delightful evening by April 12. Reservations are \$18.00. Make check payable to SSGC and mail it to Linda Bollinger 552 Schwartz Valley Road, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972. Evening begins at 5:30 with a Meet and Greet. Followed by Tea with the program at 7 PM.

Other members that serving on this committee are Bonnie Bernat, Kathy Townley, Nancy Russial, Barbara Malewski, Jeanne Zulick, Larry Moyer, Helen Moyer and they may be contacted for more information on what they are looking to fill the raffle table.

Plant Sale

Before we know it, we will be out separating plants for the annual plant sale. Nancy Russial has agreed to chair this committee. She had a lot of support from Carol, Kaye, and Larry who will play a major

role again this year. Members who signed up for the Plant Sale are Linda Bollinger, Kim Morgan, Lillian Patten, MaryAnn Uranium, Bernice Francaviglia, Carol Haldeman, Larry Moyer, Nancy Taylor, Pat Wishousky, Joan Medlinsky, Kaye Moyer, Kathy Townley, Jeanne Zulick, Regina Freiler, and Jane Yeasted. Nancy scheduled another meeting for 11 AM on the 30th of March at Hoss's. Starting with the hours of operation for the Plant 8AM to 2PM on May 21st. Plants should be dropped off on Friday from 9AM to 2PM on May 20th.

The committee is also looking for gently used or refurbished decorative pots as well as lawn and garden ornaments. As the sun warms the ground as gardens, we will be finding ourselves out and about working in our gardens dividing plants. If you are looking to donate those divided plants to the plant sale, please try to get them into pots by May 1st. This gives the transplant time to establish themselves as per recommendation of the Committee. If you are needing help digging out plants that you are interested in transplanting, please reach out to Nancy and a team of club members will be available to help you.

Desk of District II/III Director

570-628-4802 or pachejane@verizon.net

APRIL

The month of **April** has several designations. Earth Day on April 22, Arbor Day on April 29 and the 200th birth date of Frederick Law Olmsted on April 26. To this end, the National Garden Club has designated the month of April 2022 as "Plant America Month" and encourages all clubs to plant a tree and learn about a pioneer in making public parks available to the everyday person.

Frederick Law Olmsted is known as the father of Landscaping Architecture. He developed such parks as Central Park in New York, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, the Emerald Necklace in Boston, designed the Columbian Exposition in Chicago and redesigned the landscaping around the Washington, DC Capitol building. He re-engaged the Pastoral Landscape Design which uses plant material native to the location, preserved magnificent large trees and added water elements to his pieces.

April is a good month to plant Sweet Peas outdoors, or indoors if at the very beginning of the month. Allow the plant to be 6 hours of sunshine and stretch on a fence or trellis. At 6 inches of growth, pinch off the top two leaves for a bushier stalk. Give each plant a two

foot root space to grow. Milford Garden Club is looking for many sweet peas to adorn their horticulture table at the September 14 Annual District Meeting.

Speaking of District Info.

We will be hosting the **District II/III meeting for June**. The date for this meeting and program will be **13th** with the hours of approximately 9:30 to 1:30. Jane is chairing the committee for this event. Carol and Linda have graciously agreed to coordinate refreshments. As always, help is needed with this event and if any members are interested in helping, please contact Jane. A meeting is scheduled at Jane's house on April 8 at 10:00 A.

Was asked to share this information to members that might be interested:

Colonial Williamsburg's 75th Annual Garden Symposium

RESPONSIBLE GARDENING:

Sowing Seeds for a Bright Future

April 28–May 1, 2022

Virtual & Limited In-Person Options available!

We invite you to **register** for this year's 75th Annual Garden Symposium: Responsible Gardening: Sowing Seeds for a Bright Future, to be held at the Hennage Auditorium and Colonial Williamsburg gardens April 28—May 1, 2022.

This year's theme is inspired by Audrey Hepburn's quote, "*To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.*" Now more than ever it is important that we, as gardeners, create healthy landscapes for all living creatures for the future of our planet. Join featured speakers and Colonial Williamsburg staff as they commemorate 75 years of our renowned Garden Symposium and share methods and techniques for creating gardens that benefit both humans and wildlife.

This anniversary year begins by celebrating the past with the iconic Governor's Palace Gardens, originally conceived by noted American landscape architect Arthur A. Shurcliff and informed by the discovery of the "Bodleian Plate" in 1929. Celebrated author, and Shurcliff biographer, **Elizabeth Hope Cushing** gives our opening keynote on Thursday evening, followed by the opening reception, after which, attendees are encouraged to venture back to the Governor's Palace Gardens to enjoy the highly acclaimed Williamsburg Lights and a rare view of the Palace Gardens at night!

Friday's lectures include **Laura Viancour**, former director of landscape for Colonial Williamsburg, as she looks back on her time and the many changes over the years to our celebrated gardens, as well as the new Director of Landscape **Joanne Chapman**, with an update on current gardening initiatives. **Rebecca Lindenmeyr** gives insight into biodiversity and designing regenerative landscapes, and we delve into the art of sustainable organic gardening of plants to please both the eye and the stomach with **Brie Arthur** and **Matthew Benson** as they discuss foodscaping and growing beautiful food, respectively. Bringing art to life, **Katie McKinney**, the Margaret Beck Pritchard Associate Curator of Maps and Prints discusses Robert Furber's botanical prints accompanied by a live re-creation of the iconic style by **Libbey Oliver**, retired manager of floral services for Colonial Williamsburg.



Jeannie has some blooms

On Saturday morning we encourage our attendees to get up early and visit the Williamsburg Farmer's Market in Merchants Square before joining us in the Hennage Auditorium as distinguished horticulturalist **P. Allen Smith** gives a talk followed by Q&A on sustainability in gardening practices. Saturday morning will conclude with a fascinating look by renowned garden designer **Renny Reynolds** at the influence of English gardens on his creation of the 60-acre garden of Hortulus Farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.



Saturday afternoon, in person attendees may choose from a variety of breakout sessions, while our virtual-only audience has access to the lectures taking place in the Hennage Auditorium. Breakout sessions include hands on demonstrations of plant propagation, celebrating Williamsburg's holiday decorations, the Custis Square archaeology site, photographing and sketching plants, and so much more!

A Semi-annual Plant swap will be held on May 14 at Waterfall Pavilion off Waterfall Road at Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. Check out the county park website for more information.

<http://www.sweetarrowlakepark.com/>

Virtual-Only Registration \$150

In-Person Registration \$325

Register by March 4 for a Special Early Bird discount of \$25!

Please visit the [Conference Website](#) for details regarding fees, schedule, and to register!

If you have questions after visiting the conference website, please email us at educationalconferences@cwf.org

Please share photo from your gardens.

Email photo to: kamorgan11@gmail.com

or text to 5706170808

Growing Edible Greens

This article discusses types of lettuce and other greens, such as kale and chard, that should be planted in early spring.



Photo credit: Diane Diffenderfer

Early spring is the perfect time to get outside and start your first plantings of salad greens. The earlier in spring you plant, the better.

Lettuce is a cool weather crop that thrives when the average daily temperatures are between 60 to 70°. You can plant again in the late summer for a second harvest. Once the days become hotter, lettuce growth will slow down, the leaves will taste bitter, and the plant will produce an elongated seed stalk. When you see this happen your lettuce has "bolted." It is time to pull out your plants, compost them and mark your calendar to plant seeds again later in the season. (Check out this article for tips on [growing late summer lettuce](#) .)

Types of Lettuce

Lettuce can be placed into two categories: leaf lettuce and head lettuce.

Leaf lettuce has many different varieties. The colors range from green, green with red edges or red spots and pure red varieties. Leaf lettuces also have many different textures, and some are even ruffled. You can purchase individual varieties or better yet try a seed packet of gourmet mixes. Your result being a dramatic looking salad packed with wonderful colors, textures, and flavors.

Head lettuces include the popular varieties such as iceberg, romaine, and butter crunch. Iceberg has the least nutritional value. Romaine forms an upright elongated head that is very good in salads and sandwiches. Butter crunch has a looser more

delicate type head and has a sweeter flavor. Buttercrunch is perfect to use in salads, sandwiches, and can be used as a wrap. Look on the internet for Thai Lettuce Wrap recipes for a tasty low carb alternative to a traditional wrap.

Planting Lettuce

Directly sow leaf lettuce seeds by gently tapping the seed packet to sprinkle seeds about 20 seeds per square foot, lightly cover with 1/8-1/4 inch of soil and firm gently. Be sure to sprinkle with water to ensure germination. The seed coat must be moist for germination to occur. Do not overwater, or the seed will rot.

Plant head lettuce seeds further apart, ten seeds per square foot. Once the seeds have germinated, thin leaf lettuce by snipping or pinching the leaves at the bottom of the plant and use these tender baby greens for gourmet salads. New leaves will continue to grow. Ideal spacing for leaf lettuce in a square foot is about six plants. Thin every other plant (eating the baby leaves) until you have six plants remaining in one square foot.

Head lettuce needs more room. Ideally thin plants until you have four heads per square foot. Harvest the heads by cutting off at the rootstalk when they are the size you like. By staggering your plantings every two weeks you can have a continuous harvest of lettuce if the temperature remains below 80 to 85°. Try prolonging your growing season by using shade cover fabric clipped over a hoop to cool the soil and air temp around the lettuce plants. These items can be purchased at any good garden center or online.

Other Greens to Consider

Be sure to plant other leafy greens such as spinach, chard, kale, mustard greens, arugula, and beet greens. All these plants are delicious and packed with nutrition when harvested young.

Chard and kale plants will continue to grow all summer and into the fall. The larger leaves can be used in stir-fry recipes and soups. Both plants can withstand a mild frost. Some people think the taste improves after kale has been touched with a frost. Kale leaves can be stripped off from its stalk, then

rolled and thinly sliced to make ribbons for salads. Massaging the leaves makes kale more tender.

Harriett Perez Master Gardner

Montour County

So, I started this list below and I would love if all of you experienced gardeners would send me your ideas of “*You know you are a Gardner when . . .*” Let us keep the ideas flowing and add to the list. Let us see how many ideas we can come up with. Just email your ideas to me at kamorgan11@gmail.com or text it to me at 5706170808

You know you are a Gardner when:

- Your gardening gloves fall out of the car door
- You have gardening tools in trunk of your car
- You develop community gardens
- Your gardens are themed
- You weed your neighbors’ gardens
- You dead head your daughter’s flowers
- You empty the dehumidifier and use the water to water your potted plants
- You sprinkle your son’s hair from a recent haircut around your plants to keep the deer away
- Pull weeds in public gardens
- Carry a small set of pruners in your back pocket
- You are constantly checking the weather report
- You plant by the phases of the moon
- You cover your fall plants to protect them from the first fall frost
- You count on the first frost being in November

- You cover your plants before the frost hits.
- Clean your gardening equipment before putting away for the season
- You stare looking at seed and plant catalogues for next year
- You know you are a Gardner ... When you go to the store for groceries and come home with some plants that just jumped into your cart. – Pat P.
- You know you are a Gardner ... when you can resist everything but temptation in a Garden Center. There is always room for one more. – Pat P.
- You know you are a Gardner ... when you smile YES when a gardener-friend asks you if you could use a few iris or daylilies that she is separating because they need thinning. – Pat P.
- You know you are a Gardner ... when the Plant catalogs arrive in the middle of winter. – Pat P.
- You know you are a Gardner ... when the plants in your garden have *come from other gardening friends. Memories ... I plant my friends.* – Pat P.
- You are out on those warm sunny days looking for the first signs of spring popping up from the soil.
- You are looking for the first robin to land in your yard.
- The March winds blow off your sun hat when you are out in the garden.
- *You are anywhere that you see drying seed pods on a plant and you wonder if you can get away with collecting*

some and where you can try planting them. -Kathy T.

- *You know you are a gardener when _____.*

Bloom Where You Are Planted

