

April 2023

## South Schuylkill Garden Club

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 PM

First United Church of Christ, Schuylkill Haven

[www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com](http://www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com)

[www.facebook.com/soschuylkillgardenclub.com](http://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.
- The louder the frog, the more the rain.
- 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.
- March'll search ye, April try ye; May'll tell, whether live or die ye.
- Rain before seven, fine before eleven
- Sounds traveling far and wide; a rainy day will betide.
- A cow with its tail to the west, makes weather the best; a cow with its tail to the east, makes weather the least.
- A cold and moist April fills the cellar and fattens the cow.

And then the one we all know:

*April Showers Bring May Flowers.*

#### District II/III News - Jane Kruse

- Consider volunteering at the Philadelphia Flower Show in 2024. As a volunteer, you will receive one free admission ticket. Many tasks are before opening such as staging plants, helping with judging, placing ribbons. There are a cluster of clerk tasks such as ticket sales and such. Claire Kukiela will share her volunteer experience in the May Buds and Blooms as well as give contact information.
- GCFP 2023 Convention is excited to announce 252 registered attendees. Much goes into

state convention planning. Support by attendees is the reward.

- Wednesday, June 7 starting at 10:00 will be the next District Meeting hosted by Parkland Garden Club at St. John's Lutheran Church, 40 S. Second Street, Slatington, PA. Wear your red, white and blue attire as Parkland focuses on Flag Day.
- Link to photos from Janet Hurlbrink of GC of Reading from the 2023 Philadelphia Flower Show.  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/v2q2Hn8MSBKmzGPU9>

### Spring Membership Tea April 18, 2023



#### Program: "*ENCHANTED APRIL*"

**Patricia Reppert**, a Certified Floral Designer, will be presenting floral design. She is from Sinking Springs, and her program is entitled "Making it Floral".

#### ENCHANTED APRIL

Spring Membership Tea

Hosted by South Schuylkill Garden Club

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Doors open at 5:00 PM

Designer: "Making It Floral"

Location: First United Church of Christ

Route 61, Schuylkill Haven adjacent to PSU Campus

Mail reservation with \$18 check payable to SSGC

to Nancy Russial, 1222 Schuylkill Mountain Road,

Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Contact: [nmkrussial@gmail.com](mailto:nmkrussial@gmail.com) 570-573-9787

**Reservations will be taken until April 5.**

**We are looking for help with the Tea.** In need of **raffle items** and **food** (**sandwiches** using one loaf of bread and **desserts** cut to fit into cupcake liners).

Contact Linda Bollinger  
223-270-6413 or [lkayb731@verizon.net](mailto:lkayb731@verizon.net)

**May 16, 2023**

**Program: "JJ's Woodcraft Birdhouses and Feeders"**

**Jack Jones** salvages old barn wood and other treasures to create one-of-a-kind, bird-friendly structures. In addition to showing his creations, he will share valuable information on birds and their habitats.



**Refreshments:** Terri Reppy, Sue Williams, Margittta Stevens



**Mt. CUBA  
CENTER**

**GARDENING ON A HIGHER LEVEL**

**Educational Bus Tour Hockessin, Delaware**

Thursday, May 11, 2023  
Day Trip 7 AM – 6:30 PM  
Rain or Shine Event  
Cost \$65.00

For information/reservations: Carol Haldeman  
570-345-2434/570-640-7511  
[chaldyjr@gmail.com](mailto:chaldyjr@gmail.com)

**Registration deadline is April 11.**

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE  
SOUTH SCHUYLKILL GARDEN CLUB**

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023**  
8 AM to 1 PM  
RECREATION/SENIOR CENTER  
Haven Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA

Hundreds of plants including:  
Daylilies, Hens & Chicks, Sedum, Vegetable Plants,  
Heirloom Tomatoes, Peppers

Herbs- basil, dill, thyme, cilantro, parsley  
Select Annuals - petunias, marigolds, coleus,  
zinnias, others  
Big variety of Perennials for Sun and Shade  
Shrubs and Small Trees  
Annual Bedding Plants  
Native Plants  
New and different perennials  
Succulents/House plants  
Many plants grown **LOCALLY** -- **GREAT PRICES**

SSGC Gardeners and Master Gardeners on site  
to answer your gardening questions  
For more info, call or text 570-573-9787

**May 12 Drop off plants** at Schuylkill Haven Rec Center from 10AM-2PM. **Lots of help is needed to label, arrange and set-up for Plant Sale. Notify Nancy Russial (570-573-9787) if you will be there.**



Prepare pots of perennials, natives, shrubs and trees at least two weeks in advance of the sale for healthy looking plants. Label each and water well before dropping off plants on May 12.

Plastic trays that hold 12-15 of the 4-in. potted plants are needed for the plant sale. Looking for those old mini blinds to cut and label for plant markers. Also, need sturdy cardboard, shallow boxes to pack purchased plants into.

**Again, lots of help is needed to help customers with plants and answer questions (and clean-up at the end of the sale). Please let Nancy Russial (570-573-9787) know what times you can help.**

**On To Other News: Yearbooks**

Yearbooks for 2023 are published and were available at March Club Meeting. For those of you who did not pick up a yearbook at the March meeting, we will see that you receive one.

*Welcome*

**To-  
South Schuylkill Garden Club**

**New Members:**

Kathleen Evanchalk  
613 Mountain Road  
Pine Grove, PA 17963  
570-449-1174  
leenieev1@hotmail.com

Dana Glunz  
47 Waterfall Road  
Pine Grove, PA 17963  
570-449-9001  
dana\_glunz@yahoo.com

Lisa O'Neill  
1148 Running Deer Drive  
Auburn, PA 17922  
570-294-8057  
isoneill95@gmail.com

**Some blooms for all to enjoy from  
Pat Pitkin.**



*12 blooms on 3 stems*



**Enjoy the Backyard Benefits of  
a Moon Garden**

Learn what to plant for nighttime beauty and why a moon garden is so beneficial for pollinators, such as moths, bats and bees.

Most of us notice how gorgeous gardens are when the sun is shining, but how often do we see what a

garden looks like at night? Between dusk and dawn, when moonlight illuminates the plants, visitors can enjoy unique insight in a garden's personality. Night pollinators such as moths, native bees and bats are attracted to plants in a moon garden with white and pale-colored flowers that are intensely fragrant and produce a lot of nectar. As you walk through the moon garden, you will be able to watch these varied and industrious third-shift pollinators as they go about their important work.

### **Moon Garden Pollinator Benefits**

#### Moths

White flowers show up well in moonlight, so moths flock to them. Moths also have an amazing sense of smell. They love flowers that are highly scented. Some moths hover over the plants to sip nectar with their very long tongues, and others land on flowers while they feed. Many kinds of moths, like sphinx moths, will visit honeysuckle, columbine and amsonia blue star.

#### Bats

In the arid Southwest, three kinds of nectar-feeding bats pollinate night-blooming plants. They prefer the nectar of large flowers, such as agave, yucca and many types of cacti. Blooms of white, purple and green, along with very strong scents, will attract these beneficial nighttime creatures.

#### Native Bees

Although most bee species, including domestic honeybees, do their pollinating during the day, a few native bees, such as small sweat bees, work by night, using the moon and starlight to navigate through the garden. They pollinate evening primrose, monarda and campion.

### **Night-Blooming Flowers for Moon Gardens**

A moon garden should include flowers in pale hues of yellow, blue, purple, green, white or cream, and pink, along with plants that have either silver or gray foliage. The pale blooms and silvery foliage reflect the light of the moon and stars, giving the garden a delicate glow. Plants with flowers that bloom at night, such as yucca, or blossoms that open at dusk and close in the morning, such as evening primrose and moonflower, are magnets for night pollinators.

*Birds & Blooms*  
*Tammi Hartung*

### **Grandma's Tips for Gardeners**

We are starting a new column, "**Grandma's Tips for Gardener's**", and are looking for those gardening tips that may have been passed on to you or a gardening tip that you have found works for you. You are invited to share your tips for successful gardening.

- Place moth balls in your flower beds to keep the rabbits from eating your flowers. - Grandma Stump.
- To get rid of slugs, place hollowed-out orange rinds upside-down in the garden. The next morning, collect the rinds. They're usually full of slugs and snails. It's a quick, easy and safe solution.
- After picking up black walnuts or husking them, use a cut green tomato to remove the stains from your hands.
- When harvesting broccoli heads, cut the stalks at an angle to prevent the remaining stalk from filling with water and decomposing. The side shoots can then produce better broccoli.
- Keep bugs from your rose plants by planting chives around them. It looks pretty, plus you can clip some of the chives for use in salads.

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**Life is simple: Eat, Sleep,  
Garden**