

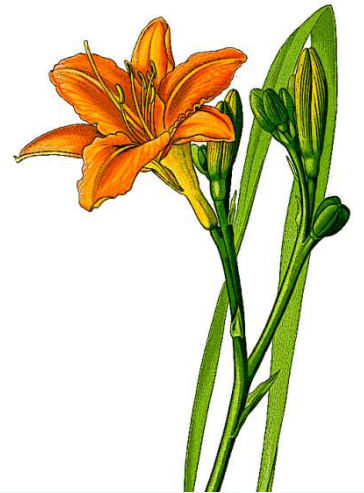
South Schuylkill Garden Club

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: December/Christmas Weather Lore **Rain** before Mass on the first Sunday in December means rain for a week. On St. Thomas's Day (December 21) the winter takes its full power. When Christmas Eve is clear, our Lord will give us an abundance of wine and corn.

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- White Christmas, green **Easter**. Green Christmas, white Easter.
- If December is rainy, mild and unsettled, the winter will not be harsh.
- If December is cold and the earth is covered with snow, next year's rye will be in abundance.
- If there's thunder during Christmas week, the winter will be anything but meek.
- The nearer the New Moon to Christmas Day, the harder the winter.
- If Christmas Day be bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year.
- A green Christmas brings a heavy harvest.

- A green Christmas makes a fat churchyard.
- So many hours of Sun on Christmas Day, so many frosts in the month of May.
- If the Sun shines through an apple tree on Christmas, there will be an abundant crop of apples in the coming year.
- If it rains on Christmas, there will be four weeks with no sun.
- The wind at the end of Midnight Mass will be the dominant wind in the coming year.
- A windy Christmas is a sign of a good year to come.
- If there is much wind on Christmas Day, trees will bear much fruit.
- If the wind grows stormy before sunset on Christmas, expect sickness in the coming spring and autumn.
 - If it snows on Christmas night, there will be a good crop of hops next year.
 - If at Christmas, ice hangs on the willow, then clover may be cut at Easter.
 - Light Christmas, light wheatsheaf; Dark Christmas, heavy wheatsheaf.
 - A bright Christmas foretells that hens will lay well.

- A dark Christmas foretells that cows will give much milk.
- If St. Lucy's Day (December 13) be bright, Christmas day will be dark with snow; but if the snow falls on St. Lucy, Christmas will be clear and sunny.
- If ice will bear a man at Christmas, it will not bear a mouse afterward.

Presidential Farewell.

As with the seasons, the end of the growing season does not mean the end of enjoying plants. Hardwood structures, evergreens, dried grasses, and perennial seed heads continue to provide color and form, especially on snowy days.

Look indoors and an abundance of leaf shape, size and tones abound. Flowers even give a surprise with the Thanksgiving/Christmas/Easter cactus, African violets, begonias and even geraniums can flower. For those liking more of a challenge, start an amaryllis, cyclamen, clivia or plant paperwhites and spring bulbs. Herbs make a nice distraction with their smells and culinary uses.

The end of one season means the beginning of another. As with the leadership of South Schuylkill Garden Club, one presidency is closing, but another is actively planning and preparing for another year. Await with anticipation and a new year will soon unfold. Your support and participation mean a more vibrant club.

Jane Kruse

Dues for 2022 can be payable by check to South Schuylkill Garden Club for \$18.00. Bring the payment to the November meeting or mail to the treasurer prior to December 31 to be included in the 2022 Yearbook. -Jane

November club meeting was a workshop to make seasonal floral arrangement. The make and take seasonal arrangement workshop will consist of a zinc lined birch bark pot with an oasis, ribbon, beeswax rolled candle, and fresh seasonal greens.

It was cost to club members. Thank you to all members that provided a mountain of greens. Gave those who participated a variety of to choose from.

Christmas Party at Blu Tavern, 1323 Bunting Street, Pottsville is on Route 209 just outside of Llewellyn. Gather at 5:30 for social time and be sitting at 6:00 for dinner of roast top round of beef, broiled flounder with lemon or stuffed chicken with filling. Give your choice and check for \$25 payable to South Schuylkill Garden Club to Mary Ann Uranium by the end of November. – Jane

Refreshments for 2022. May, June, July, August, and November are months that can use members to help with refreshments at meetings. Have your calendars ready. The monthly refreshment list will be passed around at the November meeting. -Jane

Dahlias are not hardy cooler than Zone 8, so they need to be dug up and stored in a cool environment until spring. After a good freeze, cut the stalks to 1 inch above the ground. Place a spade a foot from the stock as roots grow and multiply during the year. Discard weak or damaged tubers.

Shake off dirt and allow to air dry for a few days. Tubers can be divided in fall or spring. Look for eyes to be on each tuber when dividing. Store in a cool, dark room at 40-45 degrees and medium humidity. Place in a paper bag or wrap in newspaper. Keep tubes from touching each other. Vermiculite, wood shavings or moist sand can surround tubes. Leave box open or cover with air holes in the lid if the environment is dry.

Check for moldy or shrivelled tubs every few weeks. If too dry, add moisture by sitting an open lid jar of water in the storage box.

As temperatures warm, eyes will expand. Start indoors 4-6 weeks before the last frost and then move outdoors or plant directly into the ground after last frost. An array of color and blooms awaits.

PA Phasing in Ban of Invasive Japanese Barberry

The PA Department of Ag has added Japanese barberry to a list of noxious weeds that cannot be legally sold or cultivated in the state. By the fall of 2022 merchants will no longer be able to sell or carry Japanese barberry.

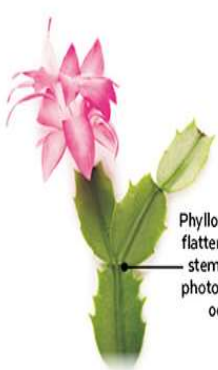
Japanese barberry was originally brought to the U.S. from Japan and eastern Asia in the 1800's to be planted as an ornamental. It is widely used as a landscape shrub because of its fall coloring and resistance to deer. It has garnered attention in the past several years as a prolific invader that can easily spread into woodlands, pastures, fields and natural areas.

Also, effective October 8, 2021 the Department of Ag added two other plants to the noxious weed list: garlic mustard and Japanese stiltgrass. These plants are generally not sold in nurseries but are invasive and common in Pennsylvania. Landowners with these plants on their property are encouraged to remove them.

Some photos from the Workshop



IDENTIFYING HOLIDAY CACTI



Thanksgiving cactus
Schlumbergera truncata



Christmas cactus
Schlumbergera bridgesii

Christmas cactus have tubular-shaped flowers.



Easter cactus flowers are more star-shaped than tubular like the others.

Easter cactus
Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri

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

Please Share photo from your gardens.
Email photo to: kamorgan11@gmail.com
or text to 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 know you are a gardener when*
_____.

Stay Safe by staying socially separated from others by at least 6 feet. Wash hands frequently and above all do not touch your face, but with clean hands.

**Have a Blessed and Safe
Christmas
as well as a
Happy and Prosperous
New Year**