

December 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 December

*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.*

*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.*

### November 21, 2023

Was our Winter Greens workshop. Several participants brought greens making the choices for creating the baskets more delightful. Below are a few photos.



**Thank you to members that brought Refreshments: Joyce Carlin, Linda Bollinger**

**Christmas Party decorating committee is meeting at Kim Morgans House on December 5 at 2 PM to put the favors and table arrangements together.**





## Christmas Party

*South  
Schuylkill Garden Club*

Invites You and Your Guest to

**“CHRISTMAS MEMORIES”**

Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Meet and Greet 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Blue Tavern Restaurant  
Route 209, Minersville, PA

Members must secure their reservations by  
**November 30** with a check for

\$25.00 payable to SSGC.

Mail or turn money into:

Linda Bollinger  
552 Schwartz Valley Road  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Along with your entrée choice.

**Note:** Installation of officers for 2024-2025 will be  
done by Jane Kruse, District Director.

### Other Notes:

## *Frog Hollow*

### Walk in the

### Woods

Walks in Frog  
Hollow at 170 Stone

Mountain Road, just outside of Friedensburg, have  
been organized by Friends of Frog Hollow.



### 2023-2024

Dec 2 Sat	10:00	Animal Tracks – Who Is There?	Barbara Ritzheimer Sue Reier
<b>2024</b> Jan 1 Mon	10:00	First Day Hike – Polar Bear Amble	Jerry Bowman Steve Hepler Barbara Ritzheimer
Jan 20 Sat	6:30 PM	Night Owl Prowl Jan 27 snow day	Dave Kruel Audrey & Lee Wells

**Register** by leaving a verbal message at  
**570-527-2502** if you plan to attend.

Parking at Frog Hollow is limited.  
There is no cost for the Nature Walks.

## 2024 SSGC Membership

In a recent email, you were sent a membership  
renewal form for 2024. On the form you were  
asked for your information and to select  
committees that you are willing to serve on for  
2024, along with helping to provide refreshments  
for a particular month. The document was sent  
both in word and a PDF format. If none of your  
personal information has changed since last year,  
you can simply put your name on the document  
and just write the word “same” at the top. Please  
take the time to renew membership for 2024.  
Reminder: Dues are still only **\$18.00** and payable  
by check to SSGC by **December 31**. Checks with  
membership form can be given or mailed to:

Kaye Moyer  
754 Mountain Road  
Pine Grove, PA 17963



**Tips for Keeping Your Holiday  
Poinsette Healthy**

- Keep your poinsettia in bright light and water it regularly so the soil stays moist but not overly wet – especially if your plant is sitting in a cachepot without drainage holes.
- Poinsettias do best in a temperature between 65-75 F. Be careful of chilly drafts if kept near a window.
- As the plant outgrows its container, transplant into a pot just one size larger using fresh potting soil.
- If you want your poinsettia to bloom next Christmas, you'll need to start a regiment of exposing the plant to darkness for 124 hours a day for a total of 40 days for the leaves to take on the red color.

crafts, educational offerings and curated shopping.

---

**Wishing all of you and yours the Very Best in 2024**

### **Conditioning Greens**

Below is how to condition greens and holly to increase their lifespan when brought indoors.

- Put fresh-cut greens or holly in a bucket of cool water and leave overnight in a cool place, like a garage. The stems will absorb water and last many weeks inside.
- Once soaked, dry the stem ends and dip the ends in melted candle wax, beeswax, or paraffin. This seals the resin, making them last weeks, as opposed to just days, in a warm house.

### **Philadelphia Flower Show**

The theme for the 2024 Philadelphia Flower Show is “United by Flowers.” The flower show is scheduled for March 2-10 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street.

United by Flowers celebrates the colorful community that comes together to share in their love of gardening, flowers and plants, and the impact they make on our lives all year round.

This year will be the 195<sup>th</sup> year for the Philadelphia Flower Show, which is a world-renowned gardening event, known for its stunning visual displays, world-class plant competitions, family activities, artisanal