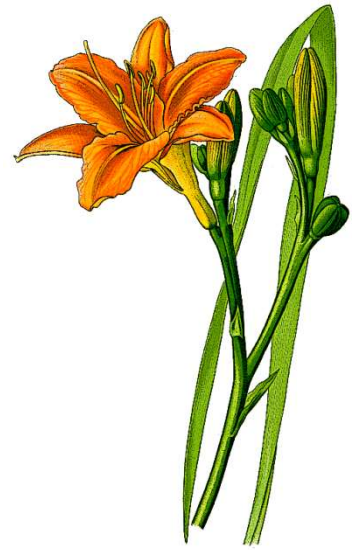


February 2021



South Schuylkill Garden Club

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:30

Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven

www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com

www.facebook.com/soschuylkillgardenclub.com

Cultivating the Community Newsletter

Weather Folklore: The higher the clouds, the finer the weather

Planning for 2021

Planning is ongoing for 2021. Jane and I have roughed out a tentative schedule for the coming year with no meetings for March or April due to the current situation. We are hopeful that an outdoor meeting will be in the cards for May and a plant sale to go along with the meeting. Let us all be hopeful that spring will bring a rebirth for all of us.

April Tea

With the uncertainties of restriction with may extend into the early spring months, the April Membership Tea will not be planned. How the rest of the year opens up to more friendly gatherings will determine efforts to invite new prospective members into the club.

Seedling Sale

The Schuylkill County Conservation District will be holding their annual Seedling Sale. The sale of sapling trees has a list of 10 ornamental trees and evergreens for **delivery on April 24th**. This is a benefit of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. **Order by March 20th**.

Evergreens are: Austrian Pine, Norway Spruce, Concolor Fir and Eastern Red Cedar. Red Oak, Winterberry, White Flowering Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, Lilac and Dappled Willow (in a 3 inch pot) rounds out the deciduous. Ground Myrtle or Periwinkle is available in 5 bundles.



Order Forms and plant description can be found on Sweet Arrow Lake website or contacting Pat McKinney at Schuylkill County Conservation District 570-391-3326.

Plant Sale

South Schuylkill Garden Club is planning to host an outdoor plant sale at the Schuylkill Haven Recreation/Senior Center on Saturday, **May 22**. Consider what you would like to contribute. More on this as the plans materialize. - Jane

2021 Philadelphia Flower Show

The Show has moved to an outdoor presentation from **June 5 to 13** in the FDR Park located in southwest section of the city.



(For those who did not know the park here is a description: **Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Park** (originally named League Island **Park** and locally known as "The Lakes") is an aesthetically designed **park** located along the Delaware River in the southernmost point of South **Philadelphia**, Pennsylvania, comprising some 348 acres.) Tickets are now on sale at \$45. Space is limited due to social distancing restrictions. So if you are interested you are advised to register early. Check online at phsonline.org/the-flower-show.

Description from the website reads:

“Safely enjoy 15 acres of world-class landscape and floral designs, shopping, plant displays, exciting food and beverage options, entertainment, and educational sessions — all with the exquisite backdrop of FDR Park. The Flower Show will make ample usage of the grand architecture and natural environment of FDR Park as a canvas for colorful inspirational displays.

“FDR Park includes open space, gentle hills, huge shade trees, and the sparkling water of Meadow Lake among many other amenities. Plan your Show visit to include a walk through the Park, explore the architecture, bird watch, or take the kids to a playground. Beyond the Flower Show designated area, FDR Park will remain open and accessible to the public during the Flower Show.”

Interests of local community

Through the years, each local garden club found a respond to their membership and community's interests. Holding flower shows, hosting garden tours, having plant sales, conducting field trips, featuring guest speakers and conducting membership teas are common ways of interacting with the public.

Being on a radio show, issuing awards for landscaping efforts, engaging in civic activities, offering encouragement with horticulture therapy, adopting a trail project, hosting discussion on water, land and air issues are alternative means of demonstrating the extent of gardening concerns.- Jane

Houseplants

Don't know if you are able to visit this webinar, but I am sending it to all in the hope that it might work and that you will find it informative. -Kim

Houseplant Master Class: Houseplant Basics
https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Houseplant+Master+ClassA++Houseplant+Basics+01.19.2021/1_bx7dl6yj

Choosing Native Plants for the Garden

Is something wild missing from your garden? I have pursued wildness in my landscape for twenty years. More precisely, I pursue wild type genetics. Wild type genetics is the variation that wild populations produce for success. These are our best strength for ecologically productive landscapes. I strive to increase the number of wild type species on my property. I am rewarded when I combine these populations with good design. Good design may be by chance, but more often it is deliberate. What are your design challenges for this season? Which natives would elevate your efforts beyond restoration? Can we create nativescapes that inspire more natives in design?

This year I have decided to seek natives for ground cover and natives with tones of pinks. My landscape includes invasive species so I need plants with sharp elbows that can hold their ground. I was recently astonished by a photo of a yellow stone home fronted by blue flowering perennials. I consider flowering color among the last variables in design. My favorite color, pink, will be my indulgence this season. First choice is prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), a native from the Finger Lakes region of New York. In that region, prairie smoke associates with stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*), prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), and downy phlox (*Phlox pilosa*). These associated plants are native to our region. Prairie smoke's low stature holds the outer edge of the sunny border. The pink nodding flowers warm my house exteriors while dramatic pink seed heads finish the season. Where can I find a source for prairie smoke? Let's query the [University of Minnesota online plant finder](http://www.umn.edu/plantfinder). It returns several nurseries offering *G. triflorum*. Plus, if I am interested in particular ecotypes, it lists their

state of origin. Ecotypes are ideally suited for their local habitat.

Sometimes a native ecotype has a characteristic that better realizes a design feature. Shrub masses are one of the best strategies for covering ground with less maintenance. However, most of our native shrubs are larger than our scaled designs require. When you need a lower shrub, look for native clones with a smaller stature. Clones have specific characteristics that are propagated by cuttings. Ground Hog™ aronia (*Aronia melanocarpa*) tolerates the pressure of invasives. This clone exhibits the traditional three-season display of flower, fruit, and fall foliage, but remains small. I can use full-sized wild type native shrubs away from high traffic areas.

Ground Hog™ aronia is on my January wish list for my local garden center. Yes, share your list in January! Wholesale nurseries have their availability and pricing ready by then. Retailers finalize their spring orders in February. By giving your wish list to your retailer in early January you accomplish many things. You will support a local business and save on freight by combining with their order. Usually, the early product is the best quality as it is the first out the door.

Once you identify your design goals for the new season, try these resources to locate plants. Ask your local gardening supplier if they can source your material.

- The Penn State Flower Trials at Southeast Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SEAREC) [Trial Results](#). I will look into the Woodlander pink phlox (*Phlox paniculata* Woodlander 'Pink'). This is an evergreen phlox with an extended flowering period, larger blooms, durable foliage, pink color and groundcover habit!
- [Mt. Cuba Trial Gardens](#)
- For those in the cooler climates of Pennsylvania, check out Richard Hawkes' [trial garden results from Chicago Botanical Garden](#).
- Are trees in your design plans? Michael A. Dirr and Keith S. Warren's *The Tree Book*

lists notable selections of woody plants cultivated for the nursery trade.

- Two wholesale nurseries cultivating native shrubs are Bailey Nursery in Minnesota and Spring Meadow Nursery in Michigan. Check [Bailey Nursery Find a Retailer](#) if your supplier does not carry their offerings. To source [Spring Meadow's New Vision for Native Shrubs](#), use Proven Winners' [Find a Retailer](#).

Happy new gardening year everyone; go wild!

Dawn Stelts

Extension Educator

Creating Your Own Terrarium - It's Easy!

Again this is a webinar I sat in on, and found interesting. Hopefully you can access it and learn something new. Don't know if it will work, but I am hopeful. –Kim

https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Creating+Your+Own+Terrarium+-+It%E2%80%99s+Easy%21+webinar+-+11.04.2020/1_an9rf3op

Cozy up to your loved one.

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