

February 2025

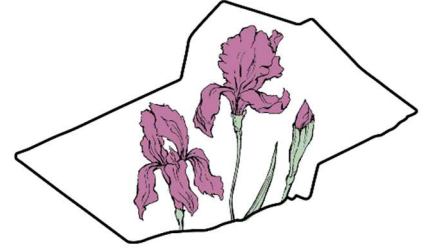
South Schuylkill Garden Club

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 PM

First United Church of Christ, Schuylkill Haven

www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com

www.facebook.com/soschuylkillgardenclub.com



Cultivating the Community Newsletter

FUN FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY

February is the shortest month: February has 28 days, except during leap years when it has 29 days.

February is named after a Roman festival: The month is named after Februa, a Roman festival of purification and sacrifice.

February is the only month with an even number of letters: February is the only month in English with an even number of letters in its name.

February is home to Black History Month and Valentine's Day: February is a time to celebrate the contributions of African Americans and to show love and affection to loved ones.

February is American Heart Month: February is a time to raise awareness about heart health.

February's birthstones are amethyst and bloodstone: Amethyst is said to signify love, and the word Amethystos translates to "not drunk" in Ancient Greek.

February is home to Groundhog Day: Groundhog Day is celebrated on February 2nd.

February is home to the zodiac signs Aquarius and Pisces: Aquarius is for people born between January 20 and February 18, and Pisces is for people born between February 19 and March 20.

February has historical significance: Significant events that happened in February include the signing

of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution by President Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

Coming Events

- **February 7**

Executive Committee Meeting 11 AM at Hoss's in Cressona. Yearbook plans, budget, and programing for 2025.

- **March 8**

Spring has Sprung

Tour Ebersole Farm/Greenhouse on Saturday, March 8 at 1 PM. Owen Ebersole of 16 Lingle Homestead Road, Pine Grove, will explain the process of how he raises flowers and vegetables from seed to mature plants.

- **March 18**

Limber Up at the Meeting

Our own **Pat Schuettler**, yoga instructor, will take us through a series of stretching exercises that can be used to limber our stiff muscles from not being in our gardens over the winter months. These stretching exercises can be used every time before going out to work in the gardens. If we follow what Pat prescribes, maybe we will not feel the strain of those muscles. Pat also shows some sitting yoga that will also work for our muscles in the gardens. Dress comfortably.

- **May 15**

Bus Trip/Tour

Chanticleer and Jenkins Arboretum

A guided tour through the historical gardens of Chanticleer. The tour guide will give the group a perspective on Chanticleer as well as describe the different types of gardens and philosophy behind the gardens at Chanticleer.

Jenkins Arboretum is a self-guided tour of 20 acres of natural woodland and gardens, including a gift shop and native plant sale. Please contact Carol Haldeman 570-345-2423 or 570-640-7511 for more info.

- **May 17**

Plant Sale

The reason for mentioning this now is that it is a good time to procreate any plants that you might have indoors as well as start some plants from seed.

- **May 20**

Wayne Twp. Community Park
1549 Long Run Road, Schuylkill Haven

Picnic

Wayne Twp. Community Park will be our setting for a spring club picnic. Under the cover of the Lions Pavillion, we can picnic and then take a walk to enjoy the lovely California Poppy fields.

Please bring along shareable picnic food.

Set up time 5 PM

Picnic 6 PM

Clean up by 8 PM

SSGC Aprons

Orders are being taken for South Schuylkill Garden Club Aprons. They are dark green with two pockets on the front - one size fits all. Below is a photo of the apron with our logo on it. The cost of the apron is \$12.00. Orders will be taken by March 2025. The **last day to**

order an apron will be our March 18, 2025 meeting. The hope is to get the order back from Mystic Screen Printing in time to use at our April Tea. Please reach out to Kim via email at kamorgan11@gmail.com



Top 10 Gardening Trends for 2025

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society recently unveiled its top 10 gardening trends for 2025.

1. **Gardening Goes Viral** – Garden influencers are taking social media by storm sharing exciting, educational contents on apps and online platforms. Influencers inspire gardeners with creative tips, while organizations offer expert advice through DIY tips, gardening demonstrations, plant recommendations and more to help gardeners cultivate their green thumb.
2. **Bringing Nature Home** – This trend emphasizes climate-friendly and ecologically diverse home gardening anyone can implement. Gardeners are turning to approaches that preserve, protect and restore local ecosystems. This is being done mostly through incorporating native and pollinator plant species and adopting climate-friendly maintenance.
3. **Gardening Under Glass** – Creating gardens under glass is making a comeback among house plant

enthusiasts. Ranging from simple terrariums to large-scale greenhouses, the interest in gardening using glass environment has boomed.

4. **Utilizing Wall Space** – living “green” walls and vertical gardens are popping up as both outdoor and indoor installations.
5. **Urban Gardening** – Gardening is no longer thought of as a suburban or rural activity. Urban gardening is flourishing as city-dwellers transform small spaces-courtyards, stoops, window boxes, and containers into vibrant gardens.
6. **Horticulture as Therapy** – Gardening is gaining recognition as a powerful tool for wellness, with research showing its benefits for mental health and overall well-being.
7. **Water-Wise Gardening** – As droughts impact more regions, water conservation in gardening is gaining traction worldwide.
8. **Houseplant Phenomenon** – Since COVID-19 pandemic, houseplants have become a global obsession, making gardening accessible for anyone regardless of space.
9. **Backyard Fruit** – Growing fruit is gaining popularity alongside vegetable gardening, appealing to both professionals and hobbyists. Many gardeners are incorporating fruit trees to combine delicious harvests with garden bounty.
10. **Tropical Foliage** – While many think drama in the garden comes from bountiful blooms, impact foliage can be just as stunning. Incorporating plants with great foliage is a simple way to create long-lasting ornaments in a home garden, stoop garden, containers or window boxes.

Lancaster Farming

What Flowers Do Florists Want?

This is an excerpt taken from *Lancaster Farming* where our own Schuylkill County Native Kenny Fetherolf of Forget-Me-Not Florist spoke about this topic.

1. **Sunflowers** – smaller- head, orangish petals, dark center.
2. **Lilies** – local grown lilies are superior to those from across the country.
3. **Lisianthus** – locally grown lisianthus have shorter stems and that is the preference.
4. **Celosias** – not commonly grown.
5. **Eucalyptus** – popular with florists because of their scent but when shipped in, they lack the smell where a local supply is usually used.
6. **Gladiolus** – back in fashion
7. **Sweet Williams/Dianthus**
8. **Statice** – dark blue/ purple is popular but looking for those other colors.
9. **Sorghum/Sudan Grass**
10. **Asters** – locally grown can compete with those shipped across the country. Kenny also is looking for the following flowers that did not make the top ten list and they are dahlias, ranunculus, anemones, peonies, liatris (white), kale, ornamental grass and hydrangeas. Winterberry is another common floral that Kenny looks for locally grown. This provides an opportunity for growers to reach out to florists during the colder off season. Fetherolf said he has received an increased interest in bright-colored flowers, like hot pinks and yellows, but the opposite is true for wedding season. Pinks, blushes and mauve-colored flowers are commonly requested for those.