

July 2021

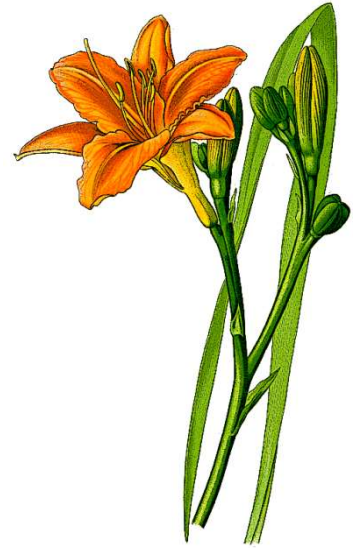
South Schuylkill Garden Club

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: July is a month with some good weather lore. First, July 3rd marks the beginning of the “[Dog Days of Summer](#),” the period between July 3rd and August 11th when the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the Dog Star. It was once believed that due to the star’s position at this time of year that it somehow conspired with the Sun to make the days hotter.

- **July 15** — St. Swithun Day — if on St. Swithun’s Day ye do rain, for forty days it will remain.
- **July 25** — Puffy white clouds on this day foretells much snow in the coming winter.
- **July 26** — St. Anne’s day — Rain on St. Anne’s will continue for a month and a week.
- *If ant hills are high in July, winter will be snowy.*

JULY Club Meeting

At the June meeting, it was decided that the July meeting will be moved from Island Park in Schuylkill Haven to **Schuylkill County Fairgrounds** to better accommodate hypertufa workshop. **July meeting is set for July 20, 2021.** Please bring along a mold if you have a particular shape in mind for your hypertufa. Some molds to choose from will be provided. Instruction will be given by Kim Morgan on how assemble on site and cure the hypertufa. Guests are welcome. Let Kim know the number to attend. There will be plenty of supplies. So no worries there. Guests are asked to make a check payable to SSGC for \$10.00 and turned over to Kaye Moyer that evening to cover the cost of supplies.

The Fairgrounds address is 2270 Fair Road, Schuylkill Haven 17972. GPS will take you right to the grounds if you place address into the GPS. Fair Road is Route 895. Fairgrounds is on 895 about 1.5 miles from the village of

Summit Station. Fairground’s driveway is on your left. Proceed down the driveway and come past the ticket booths. Proceed onto the fairgrounds and the Horticulture/Flower building is at the east end of the Fairgrounds. It sits to the right of the FARM FOOD STAND.

The business portion of the July 20 meeting starting at 6:30 will be short to allow plenty time for hypertufa workshop.

TERMINOLOGY

Gardeners use a language of their own. Here are a few gardeners’ language.

- You know *hardening off* of a plant is the time to ready plants for the *beds* during the *zone hardy* period. Allowing the plant time to accumulate to the temperature and

environment in which it will be placed in the beds.

- *Dead heading* is done in the summer and not in the winter. It is the process of removing old blooms so that the plant will produce more blooms.
- *Perennials overwinter*, meaning that they come back next year.
- *Annuals* are once and done.
- *Biennials* have a two-year life cycle. - Jane

Here are a couple you may be less familiar gardening language:

- **Guttation** – Roots sending up water to leaves after a rain or watering and excess seeps out of the leaves.
- **Companion Planting** are plants that supplement or complement each other when planted in close proximity. Once thought a folklore, there is now scientific basis for such planting.
- **Pricking out** is the term for thinning out seedlings to allow one plant to grow without competition.
- **Cuttings** or **slips** (pieces of plants used for asexual propagation) can be taken as **softwood cuttings** (late spring cuttings of perennials, shrubs, or vines), **semi-ripe cuttings** (summer when the base of shoots are hardened but the tips are still nimble) or **ripe cuttings** (hardening off on full stem). -Jane

2021 Schuylkill County Fair – August 2-7,2021

If you are interested in entering items in the Fair. Fair Premium Books which list all the various classes you may be interested in entering are available in limited quantity. Pick up point is at Moyer's Exxon on the corner of 183 and 443. The 2021 SCF Premium Book can also be found online at www.schuylkillfair.com under the exhibitor tab.

An exhibitor can download the premium book at the fair website as well as obtain exhibitor entry forms. You may also request a hard copy of the premium book sent to you by mailing \$3.00 to Denise Mullin at 505 ½ Ridge Road, Pottsville, PA 17901 to cover the cost of postage and receive a hard copy of the premium book. All of you are so

talented, I am sure that there are many items that you can exhibit in the Fair. **Pre-registration date is July 19**, or you can just bring your exhibits to the **Fairgrounds on July 31 from 11 to 4 PM.**

The following are some of our members pride and joy.
Carol H.- Ruffled Iris



Another of Carol H – Ruffled Iris



Carol H.- Clematis and Iris

WOW!



Pat P.- Lilac



Pat P- Lilac row.



Carol H- Fringe Tree



Pat P. – Crab Tree



Pat P. First Rose

Hope more of you will share photo from your gardens. Please email photo to:

kamorgan11@gmail.com or text to 5706179620.

Planting Pollinator-Friendly Gardens

One of the most important ways you can help pollinators is by provisioning your yard with plants that provide pollen and nectar. To attract butterflies, you will also need to include a variety of larval host plants for caterpillars to eat.



A successful pollinator garden includes a diversity of plants. Photo by Connie Schmotzer

Choose plants native to your region. Native plants share a long evolutionary history with their pollinators, so including a wide variety of natives will make your garden a favorite destination for pollinators. Choose carefully to match the site conditions; natives will flourish without the addition of fertilizers and pesticides.

Choose nectar- and pollen-rich flowers with a range of shapes, sizes, and colors. Diversity is the key to a good pollinator garden. Because each pollinator has its own techniques for sourcing nectar and pollen, flowers should be as varied as the pollinators that visit them.

Generalist pollinators can visit a wide variety of flowers. Others, referred to as specialists, need a quite different diet and may only be able to feed from one or two kinds of plants. Gardeners should strive to provide plants for both generalists and specialists. Choose plants with large, compound inflorescences of flowers, such as Joe Pyes, goldenrods, and milkweeds, to attract the most diversity of pollinators.



Plants with compound inflorescences of small flowers attract a diversity of insects. Photo by Connie Schmotzer.

Avoid modern hybrids. Many garden plants have been manipulated for larger blooms and a show of color and may have lost their ability to produce nectar and pollen. In the breeding process, some flowers may become so complex that pollinators cannot locate the nectar. When buying annuals, purchase older heirloom varieties known to have nectar and pollen.

Have several different plants in bloom from early spring through late fall. Some pollinators emerge in early spring, while others do not appear until mid-summer, but they all need pollen and nectar while they are active and rearing their young. To maximize the effectiveness of your pollinator habitat, have a variety of plants in bloom throughout the season. Overlapping bloom times will ensure there is always something in your garden to provide nutrition for pollinators.

Plant in drifts. Pollinators are more likely to find plants in gardens that provide larger drifts of color. When you purchase plants, get at least three or more of one kind—more if you have the room—and plant them near one another.

Avoid landscape fabric and mulch. Instead, place plants closer together. Plants of varying heights planted close together will form a weed barrier far superior to a bed of mulch. The bonus is that you will have room for many more blooms for pollinators.

Save perennial garden cleanup for spring. Pollinators overwinter in different life stages: eggs,

larvae, pupae, and adults. Some overwinter in hollow stems, while others attach to plants or overwinter in the leaf litter. To protect overwintering pollinators, do not cut down your perennial gardens until spring (early April), and keep beds of leaves intact through the winter.

Larval Host Plants for Butterflies and Moths

Without host plants for butterfly larvae (caterpillars) to eat, there will be no butterflies! So do not forget to provide this vital food source. Many butterfly larvae can only feed on one or two specific host plants—particularly native trees, shrubs, and perennials—that are vital to their survival. Here are some examples:

- Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed.
- Spicebush swallowtail caterpillars feed mainly on spicebush and sassafras.
- Black swallowtail caterpillars depend on plants in the parsley family.



Spicebush swallowtail caterpillar feeding on spicebush. Photo by Connie Schmotzer.



Monarch caterpillar feeding on milkweed. Photo by Connie Schmotzer.



Black swallowtail caterpillar on native Zizia, a member of the parsley family. Photo by Connie Schmotzer.

These caterpillars will eat the leaves of their host plants, so do not panic when you see some holes. It just means the plants are doing their job.

Many lists of larval host plant are available online. Dr. Douglas Tallamy of the University of Delaware has compiled a list of plants that support the most butterflies and moths at [Bringing Nature Home](#).

Purchasing Native Plants

Because most plants sold at garden centers come from Europe and Asia, you may have to do a little searching to purchase native host plants for butterflies. Call the Master Gardeners at [your local Penn State Extension office](#) or go to the [Pennsylvania Native Plant Society](#) website for a resource list.

Constance Schmotzer

So, I started this list below and I would love if all of you experienced gardeners would sent me your ideas of “*You know you are a Gardner is 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 5706179620

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 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.