

July 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

July 18, 2023

#### Weather Folklore for July

- **July 3rd** marks the beginning of the “Dog Days of Summer.” Spanning from July 3rd to August 11th, this period marks when the Sun aligns with Sirius, the Dog Star. In ancient times, people believed that this celestial event resulted in scorching hot weather when Sirius and the Sun worked together.
- **July 4th** — Knee-High by The Fourth of July – This is an old saying once used by farmers to measure the success of their corn crops—if it had grown knee-high by Independence Day, it was a good sign and meant they could count on high yields for the year. Today, due to the advancements in agriculture, growing techniques, and better disease and pest control, corn farmers can expect plants to reach 8 feet by July, according to the Iowa Corn Growers Association. Now, knee-high doesn’t quite measure up!
- **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.
- If the sky beyond the clouds is blue, Be glad, there is a picnic for you.
- When wind comes before rain, Soon you may make sail again.
- For I fear a hurricane; Last night the moon had a golden ring, And tonight no moon we see.

#### Program: *“Drying and Pressing Flowers for Pictures”*

**Linda Bollinger** will discuss picking, drying, and pressing flowers to use in paper designs. Common flowers to press are pansies, larkspur, and daisies.

Take home your own self-made greeting card.

**Refreshments:** Kim Morgan, Kaye Moyer, Karen Huff, Jean King

### July 31-Aug 5 Schuylkill County Fair

#### SSGC Scholarship Recipient

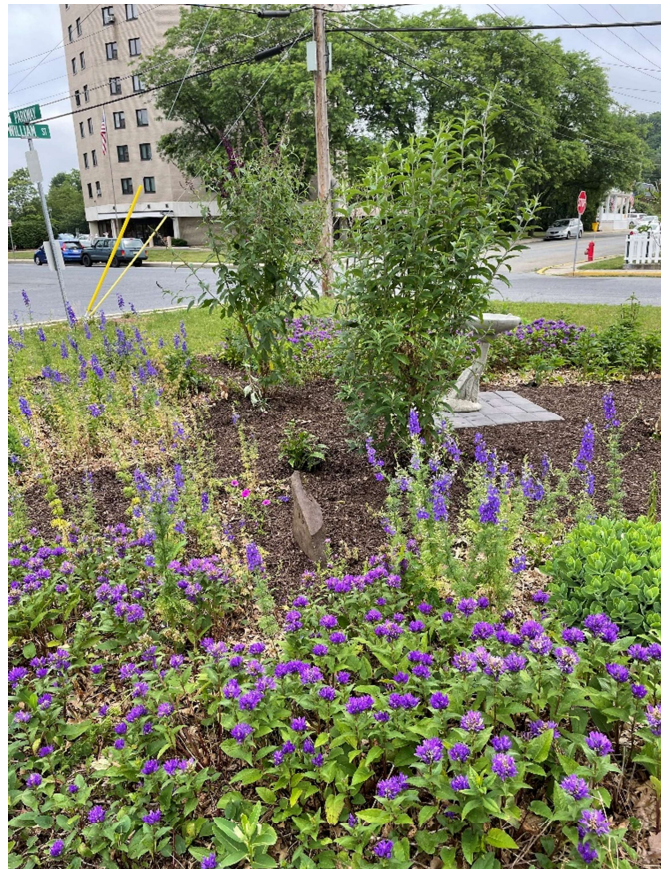


**Haley Mae Dietrich**, a recent graduate of Tri-Valley School District, received a check in the amount of \$1,000.00. Haley will be attending Penn State (main campus) this fall to study plant science. Thank you, Pat Wishousky for overseeing the scholarship program.

## Photos from the Butterfly Garden on Parkway in Schuylkill Haven



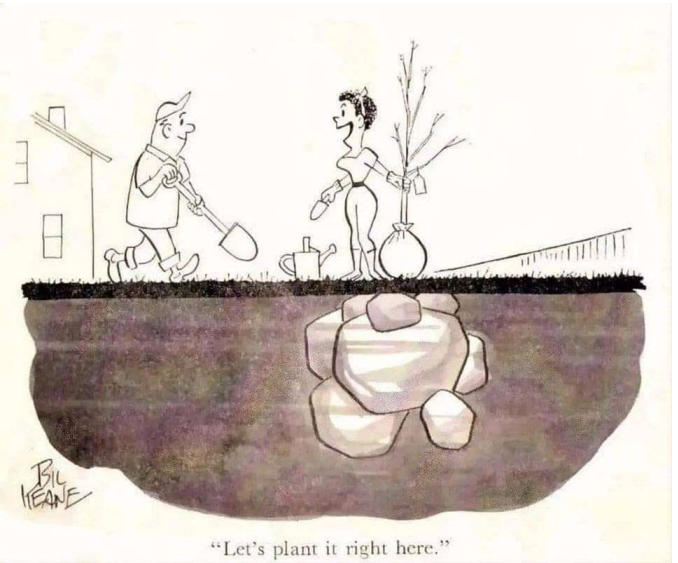
Regina and Jane laying block



Thanks to Carol Haldeman, Regina Freiler, Karen Huff, Jeanne Zulick, Jane Kruse, and Kim Morgan for enhancing the Butterfly Garden.



**Some Pat Pitkin Humor:**



**District II/III News - Jane Kruse**

- District Raffle tickets have arrived (6 tickets for \$5 or 1 ticket for \$1). Please see Carol Haldeman to purchase tickets.
- **SSGC** Item donated for the District Raffle



**Thanks to Schuylkill Haven Recreation Crew for donating mulch and helping with the garden.**

## District II/III Calendar

June 21 1:00-8:00	Open House at Community Benefits Garden – music at pollinator and community vegetable garden of Upper Perkiomen Valley GC	Kistler-Bitting Park 1000 East 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street East Greenville.	Diana Rudloff 215-541-4929
July 15 9:00-4:00	Garden Tour by Parkland GC Tickets \$20 or \$25 that day	Lehigh Valley Area	Brenda Aubert 610-653-6363
July 21 3:00-8:00 July 22 9:00-4:00	Flower Show - Café La Fleur Standard flower show Bethlehem GC	First Presbyterian Church 234 Center St, Bethlehem	Liz Lorenz 484-892-1800
Aug 4-5	Blueberry Festival Supporting county library fundraiser Montrose GC	Susquehanna County	Janis Winschuh 908-674-4333
Aug 2 1:00-8:00 Aug 3 10:00-5:00	Emmaus in Bloom Flower show of Emmaus GC	Emmaus Public Library 11 E. Main Street Emmaus, PA	Becky Short 610-395-0903
Sept 11	District Annual Meeting Lights to Remember, Flowers of Hope Host: Wyomissing GC	Double Tree by Hilton 701 Penn Street, Reading Have license plate # at registration table for free parking.	Beverly Bowman 610-698-6123

## Sweet Arrow Lake Restoration Celebration

has been moved to October 15, 2023, to coincide with other activities going on at the lake. More information to come.

## Grandma's Tips for Gardeners

We started a new column, "*Grandma's Tips for Gardener's*", and are looking for those gardening tips that may have been passed on to you or a gardening tip that you have found works for you. You are invited to share your tips for successful gardening.

- Place moth balls in your flower beds to keep the rabbits from eating your flowers. - Grandma Stump.
- To get rid of slugs, place hollowed-out orange rinds upside-down in the garden. The next morning, collect the rinds. They're usually full of slugs and snails. It's a quick, easy and safe solution.
- After picking up black walnuts or husking them, use a cut green tomato to remove the stains from your hands.
- When harvesting broccoli heads, cut the stalks at an angle to prevent the remaining stalk from filling with water and decomposing. The side shoots can then produce better broccoli.
- Keep bugs from your rose plants by planting chives around them. It looks pretty, plus you can clip some of the chives for use in salads.
- Hang a hummingbird feeder above your rose bushes to keep aphids away.
- Spring bulbs can be planted in areas that are typically shaded by deciduous trees.
- Do not over fertilize inpatients or they will only produce leaves. If this happens, just wait. In time they should start blooming again.

## Other Notes:

**Berry time of the year** – The luscious berries like blueberries, raspberries, and black berries are in season now. Soon to follow are the tree fruits for making made into jams and jellies. Time to start thinking about cooking up a batch of jam or jelly for selling at Sch. Haven Borough Day which is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Wrap strips of newspaper around the roots of cabbages before planting. This prevents cutworms from getting at the plant.
- When gathering seeds, always take them from the largest, healthiest blooms. Leave the flower on the plant until it is completely faded, and the seed head is dead. Then remove the head and place it on a paper plate to dry. Shake out the seeds into a bag and store them in a cool dry place.
- When planting carrot seeds, put the seeds in a row but do not cover with dirt. Instead, walk down the row. That presses the seeds into the soil just enough.

#### **WATER YOUR PLANTS AT NIGHT IN THE SUMMER**

- If you water your garden at the peak of the sun's heat in summer, your plants will likely become dehydrated. Our grandparents knew that the best time to water the garden during the hotter months is at night. This gives plants enough time to absorb the water before the sun rises again in the morning, while the lower humidity at night reduces the risk of disease.

#### **ADD CRUSHED EGGSHELLS TO YOUR SOIL**

- Just like banana skins, eggshells harbor a surprising quantity of nutrients, including calcium, that can benefit your garden. Grind your rinsed eggshells down finely and sprinkle the fragments onto the soil. A layer of shell is also said to help deter many pests and moderate the soil's acidity, resulting in happy and healthy crops.

#### **HOW MUCH WATER?**

- Most in-ground garden plants grow best with 1 to 2 inches of water per week. If not enough rain falls, water deeply once a week instead of lightly each day. Frequent, shallow watering only moistens the top of the soil and encourages the plant's roots to move there instead of growing deeper.

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### **How to Conserve Water**

So, I was thinking since we are in a drought this year, why not come up with a list of how you conserve water as several of us are on wells and it becomes a priority for us personally to conserve water for fear of running the well dry. Please send your water conserving list to [kamorgan11@gmail.com](mailto:kamorgan11@gmail.com) and let's see how we can help each other.

#### **Conserve Water:**

- I conserve some water by emptying my dehumidifiers and water plants both inside and outside the home with that water.
- I use a rain barrel to collect water runoff.
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### **Flowers Feed the Soul**

