

June 2024

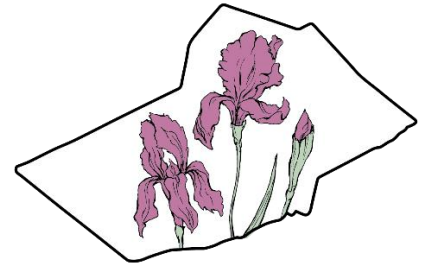
South Schuylkill Garden Club

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 JUNE

- June is the month with the longest daylight hours of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, and conversely, June has the shortest daylight hours of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.
- June's birthstone is the pearl, the Moonstone and the Alexandrite.
- The June birth flower is the Rose and the Honeysuckle.
- In 2009 June was the 662 most popular name for girls in the USA.
- June is derived from Juno, the goddess of marriage.
- In both common and leap years, no other month begins on the same day of the week as June. Weird, isn't it?
- June is international men's month.
- June is accordion awareness month, as well as candy, dairy and papaya month.

contributing members who helped make it a success. You may have donated time, money, plants, muscle, family members, display tables, canopies or other, but it all plays an integral part in the success of our sale. All contributions are very much appreciated.

We had plant donations from former members and friends of the garden club and strangers who offered up their bountiful garden extras. We also had a student volunteer from the Schuylkill Haven Area High School Biology Club volunteer time to help at the sale.

A big thank you to the garden shoppers who came out so early on a rainy Saturday morning when they could have slept in. I saw many familiar faces who support our annual sale and many new ones who I hope will return next year. I believe Bubeck Park was an ideal site for our plant sale this year and I hope we can use this site for future sales.

Nancy Russial

Plant Sale

Plant sale day has come and gone for 2024. Although it rained on our parade today, I found it to be an enjoyable day and I believe quite successful considering the weather. We will know how successful after Kaye pays expenses associated with the sale.

Much work goes into the planning, advertising and execution of the sale and I would like to extend many thanks to the planning committee and all

May 21, 2024

Program: "Tour of Natives in Frog Hollow"

The May meeting at Frog Hollow was a beautiful evening for our informative wildflower walk.

Thank you for Refreshments: Sue Williams, Nancy Russial, Jane Kruse

Berry Season



Berry season is beginning early with strawberries in season now. It's time to think of jams and jelly for Schuylkill Haven Borough Day and the Pine Grove Autumn Stroll.

Yes, I know we just finished the plant sale and all the work that was involved. However, fruit is ripening through the summer.

As I have in the past, I will make jams and jelly for the events for anyone who donates fruit and sugar. SSGC purchases the jars. I know some of our members do not process fruits and vegetables, and I enjoy doing it.

Thank you Margitta for your donation of some unique fruits, and the sugar, I look forward to using them to make jellies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Cell number 570-640-7511---text or leave message.

Carol Haldeman

June 18, 2024



Program: *"Basics of Bonsai"*

Carl Ackhammer, Jr. of Zenchaser Bonsai will enthusiastically engage all of us in a program on the basics of the Japanese art of raising bonsai trees.

Refreshments: Kim Morgan, Linda Bollinger, Barbara Malewski, Maryann Hoffman-Krammes

July 16, 2024

Program: *"Floral Design"*

Kenny Fetteroff of Forget Me Not Florist will make flower arrangements according to the themes set forth for the 2024 Schuylkill County Fair. Kenny will be doing this with flowers grown and taken from our **own** gardens.

Refreshments: Karen Huff, Jean King, Joan Medlinsky, Bernice Francaviglia

If you read the program above for the month of July, then you have an idea of what is to come. The club

needs your help to do this program. The following are the artistic themes at the Fair this year. We will be looking for many of these items to make this program happen.

17 8 1 **"Summer Picnic"** Fresh flowers & greens arranged in a picnic basket

17 8 2 **"Gone Fishing"** Fresh flowers & Greens that include a "Gone Fishing" sign (or sign of your choice) with a fish as an accessory (can be in arrangement or used as an accessory)

17 8 3 **"At the Beach"** Fresh flowers & greens in a clear vase with seashells in the water.

17 8 4 **Fair Theme "Flourishing with Opportunity Rooted in Agriculture"** Fresh flowers & greens arranged in the center of a cabbage (green or purple)

First up in the needs category will be:

- Flowers and greens from your garden
- Glass vases
- Vessels to fit into a cabbage head
- Cabbage heads
- Picnic basket
- Vessels to fit into picnic basket
- Gone fishing sign
- Fish accessory
- Seashells
- Much more ??????

Community Service Project Wayne Twp. Planters

Some photos from Wayne Twp. Planter boxes.



Planters were filled with Cannas, Dahlias and Vinca



Planter base secured with brick and sand.



Planters will need to be watered regularly with a gallon per container.



Summer Bulbs Bring Quick Color to the Garden

If you are looking for plants that offer great garden drama, but aren't divas, give summer bulbs a try.

Lillies, gladiolus, cannas and dahlias are extremely easy to grow. As the weather and the soil warms, it's time to plant them.

Summer-blooming bulbs share the same needs and growing requirements as the tulips and daffodils you plant in the fall. Most require full sun to light shade and soil that doesn't stay wet. When planting first loosen the soil to a depth of 8 inches to allow for root growth. Mix in some compost.

Plant them about three times as deep as the bulb is tall. Water the soil and plant and cover with a couple inches of mulch.

Dahlias, cannas and elephant ears grow to be big plants, so give them room.

Some of the most popular summer bulbs include:

Caladiums: Grown for their colorful leaves in patterns of pink, red, green, and white. Plant in early June. Most require part to full shade.

Canna lilies: Plant two weeks after all chances of frost. Plants get tall and wide, so space tubers at least 18 inches apart. Deer resistant and extremely heat tolerant. Full sun.

Crocsmia: Also called montbretia. The flowers attract hummingbirds. Full sun. Plant once any chance of frost has passed.

Dahlias: With thousands of cultivars, the choice of color flower shape and plant size is endless. Plant tubers two weeks after all chance of frost. Plants often need staking, which should be done when planting to avoid skewering the bulbs later. Full sun.

Elephant ears: Plant in early June. Full to part sun.

Gladiolus: Plant any time after frost. Planting in batches a few weeks apart will give you flowers all summer. Taller varieties will need staking. Hummingbirds love them and they make a great cut flower. Full sun.

Lilies: Bulbs can be planted in fall or early spring. They are not susceptible to frost. Some require staking. Toxic to cats and dogs, but deer find them delicious.

Tuberous begonias: Bulbs should be planted outdoors in mid-May. Because they are slow growers, planting them indoors earlier is recommended. Can grow upright or trail. Ideal for containers. Shade to part shade.

As for care, deadhead spent flowers to keep plants from going to seed, which saps energy from the bulb. Like tulips and daffodils, lilies and gladiolus

need their leaves to store energy in the bulb for the next year's bloom.

Once the leaves and stems wither, you can cut them back to the ground. Dahlias, elephant ears, caladiums, begonias, and others will grow until frost.

Except for lilies and crocosmia, the bulbs will not survive the winter. Dig them up in the fall and store them in peat moss or sawdust in a cool, dark, dry place.

Strategies for a Weed Free Garden

Pull weeds as soon as you see them. During the main growing season, I spend a lot of time in my vegetable garden. Some of that time is spent tending the crops, other times I just want to hang out and relax in that beautiful space. I often take a mug of tea up to the garden and wander around the beds, checking the growth of my crops and taking a peek for potential problems – like weeds. One of the keys to a weed free garden is to pull weeds as soon as you spot them. When immature, most weeds are easy to remove with a quick yank or the help of a garden tool. Don't make weeding an occasional chore, pull them as soon as you see them to minimize the risk that they will spread.

Never let them go to seed. I don't want to alarm you but did you know there is a weed seed bank in your soil? That means there are seeds in your soil just waiting for the right conditions to germinate. And they can lay dormant for years, sometimes decades! The best way to reduce garden weeds is to never let them set seeds in your beds. Even if you're super busy and don't have time to pull up all the weeds, at least clip off any flowers or seedheads that have developed on weed plants. You can break them off by hand or use garden snippers. If you're gardening in a new site, you can reduce the weed seed bank in your soil by tilling or hand tilling the soil, watering, and then waiting.

Many of the weed seeds in the soil will germinate. Pull them out as they appear.

Mulch, mulch, mulch for a weed free garden.

Mulch is one of the most important tools in a weed free garden. It doesn't matter if you're growing trees and shrubs, perennials, annual flowers, or vegetables, a layer of mulch will be your best friend. Mulch blocks light from reaching the soil, reducing weed seed germination. For ornamental plants, the most common mulching material is bark mulch, which is made from shredded bark. In food gardens, straw or shredded leaves are popular for reducing weed growth. Generally, a two-to-three-inch-thick layer of mulch is enough to reduce weeds.

Check and inspect! Have you ever bought or been given a new plant only to discover there were weed roots or seeds hiding in the soil? That's how I got goutweed in my flower border. Frustrating! Before you introduce new plants to your garden, give them a good 'once over'. Check the soil surface for any signs of weeds and if they came from a neighborhood plant sale, which can increase your chances of weeds, break apart the root ball. I've learned what goutweed roots look like (fleshy, white or light brown that break apart easily) and checking the soil allows me to inspect for invasive weeds.

Never leave bare soil in the garden. Bare soil is an invitation to weeds. No matter what type of garden you're growing cover bare soil with mulch or plants to limit weeds. In a shrub or perennial garden where plants are spaced to allow for growth, use bark mulch or a similar material. In my vegetable garden, I use shredded leaves, straw mulch, or interplant to create a living mulch. Interplanting is simply planting more than one type of crop in the same space. Between slower growing crops like tomatoes or broccoli, I plant quick growing crops like arugula or leaf lettuce. By the time the slower growing plants need the space,

the greens have been harvested. I also plant my vegetables intensively. High-intensity planting means seeding or transplanting crops close together. You don't want them to compete for sun, water, and nutrients, so read seed packets to discover recommended planting distances. You do, however, want them to grow densely with healthy root systems so they can choke out weeds.

Grow healthy soil. Healthy soil that is rich in organic matter is the best way to encourage plants to grow well, and in the case of vegetables, produce good harvest. When plants are growing well, they're more able to compete with weeds. That said, if you're getting organic matter, like rotted manure from a farm, be sure to monitor beds closely for weeds in the weeks after applying it to the soil. Compost or manure bought in bags is typically sterilized and free of weed seeds.

Water smart for a weed free garden.

Implementing smart watering techniques, especially when plants are young, is a good way to restrict weeds. Whether you've planted a lilac or a tomato plant, water the plant, not all the soil in the garden bed. If you water the whole garden, you're also watering weeds and weed seeds. You can use soaker hoses or DIY your own watering system to direct water to the roots of your plants to encourage a weed free garden.

Niki Jabbour, Savvy Gardening



"Don't wear perfume in the garden unless you want to be pollinated by bees"

Anne Raver