

March 2022

## South Schuylkill Garden Club

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:30

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

#### Weather Folklore for March

- March weather lore has many old sayings to guide us: ' **When March comes in like a lion it goes out like a lamb.** ' ' A dry March and a wet May
- So many mists in **March**, so many frosts in May. April borrows three days from **March** and they're all ill. A wet **March**, a wet Spring. As it rains in **March**, so it rains in June.
- Thunder in March betokens a fruitful year.
- Dust in March brings grass and foliage.
- A March Sun sticks like a lock of wool.

#### March Club Meeting

Coming out of the winter chill into the winds of March will find us gathering for our first club meeting for the year 2022. **March 15** is our club meeting date with the meeting held at the church. Our speaker will be Tom Reed, Master Gardner and his presentation will be "Garden Technology."

Members on the refreshment committee for the March Meeting are Linda, Carol, Larry and Jeanne.

**Speaking of March don't forget that Daylight Saving Time is March 13. Spring forward and lose that hour of sleep. Spring Equinox is March 20. For some of us we think of this date is the start of spring.**

### Bus Trip 2022

The Bus trip has been planned for Thursday **May 5, 2022**. It is to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve with a guided tour which lasts 1 -1/2 hours. Theme for tour is "Spring Bloomers." Walking on your own after the guided tour is encouraged. The trails are not handicapped accessible. Plants will also be available for purchase. Second stop will be at Paxson Hill Farm Garden or take a self-guided tour

for \$5.00. Registration deadline is **April 5, 2022**. Cost is \$60.00 and checks are made payable to SSGC. Mail registration to Carol Haldeman, 105 Beuchler Lane, Pine Grove, PA 17963. The bus is filling up quickly so if interested, contact Carol.

### April Tea

Linda Bollinger has graciously agreed to Chair this committee. Members of this committee met the end of February to start planning this event. So, plans are underway. The theme for this year's tea is "Step into Spring." At this point with freezing rain coming down this morning, I am sure we are looking forward to spring. Victor Perez Master Gardner will be the presenter. He will be speaking on Dahlias. April 19 is the date for the Tea, mark your calendar for a lovely evening of social interaction with fellow gardeners. Before we know it, April will be here. The committee is currently looking for donations for the raffle table. Other members that serving on this committee are Bonnie Bernat, Kathy Townley, Nancy Russial, Barbara Malewski, Jeanne Zulick, Larry Moyer, Helen Moyer and they may be contacted for more

information on what they are looking to fill the raffle table with.

## Plant Sale

Before we know it, we will be out separating plants for the annual plant sale. Nancy Russial has agreed to chair this committee. She had a lot of support from Carol, Kaye, and Larry who will play a major role again this year. Members who signed up for the Plant Sale are Linda Bollinger, Kim Morgan, Lillian Patten, MaryAnn Uranium, Bernice Francaviglia, Carol Haldeman, Larry Moyer, Nancy Taylor, Pat Wishousky, Joan Medlinsky, Kaye Moyer, Kathy Townley, Jeanne Zulick, Regina Freiler, and Jane Yeasted. Nancy had a meeting this past week and lot was established. Starting with the hours of operation for the Plant 8AM to 1PM on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Friday drop off of plants is from 9AM to 2PM on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

The committee is currently looking for those 4-inch square pots and those rectangular trays that hold the pots for the plant sale. The committee is also looking for gently used or refurbished decorative pots as well as lawn and garden ornaments. As the sun warms the ground as gardens, we will be finding ourselves out and about working in our gardens dividing plants. If you are looking to donate those divided plants to the plant sale, please try to get them into pots by May 1<sup>st</sup>. This gives the transplant time to establish themselves as per recommendation of the Committee. If you are looking for help digging out plants that you are looking to transplant, please reach out to Nancy and a team of club members will be available to help you.



This what the 4-inch pots we are looking for.



These are the trays we are looking for.

## Jams and Jellies

Just wanted to let you know if you want to stock up on Sure Jell, jelly jars, lids and other canning needs-  
----**Walmart's shelves are stocked now!**  
Hopefully some of our members will be making some jams and jellies for Borough. Day and the Autumn Stroll. Get your supplies while they last.  
-Carol Haldeman

## Desk of District II/III Director

570-628-4802 or [pachejane@verizon.net](mailto:pachejane@verizon.net)

## Sweet Pea Challenge

The once thought of flower as old-fashioned, the Sweet Pea is making a comeback. South Schuylkill Garden Club is up to the challenge. Pick up some Sweet Pea seeds at the March meeting (or secure your own if desiring to plant earlier) and start indoors. This is the first of several articles which will describe sweet pea history and growth to help you along the way.

With the prominence of cut-flower farm flowers recently, sweet peas are making a comeback. Varieties are improving from the purple and white selection. As an ideal flower with variety of color to include pink, red, white, and purple, they have fragrance and delicate forms.

Sweet Peas benefit from an early indoor start in our climate. Late January to early March are the ideal times. Starter pots should be 5 inches deep so the roots can go straight down. Sweet Peas do not like to be handled from small seed trays to larger pots. The least transplanting the better. Use

sterile potting soil that will drain well in pots of 5-inch depth. Plant only one seed per cell.

By March or April, harden the indoor plants by sitting them outdoors on to get the plants acclimated to the cooler nights. Sweet peas are cold tolerant while young. Seeds can be directly planted outdoors at the same time early edible sees are put in the garden.

Sweet peas need support on which to grow as they vine and desire 6 hours of direct sunlight for best results. To grow for large blooms, pinch out the main tip when the plant is three inches tall, leaving the first true leaves at the base.

The choice of how many stems to leave is up to the gardener. For one long stem with large flowers, allow only one stem to grow. If growing for cut flower, leave 3-6 stems for multiple cuttings of flowers.

### **Tree Planting Workshop**

Saturday, March 19th, 2-4 PM at the Waterfall Pavilion/Dam Breast Area of Sweet Arrow Lake Park.

Learn how to choose the right tree for the right location at your home or business. Also learn some general guidelines on planting trees to increase your success rate. Workshop is hosted by Master Gardener Kathy Townley. This program is free and open to the public.

### **Pennsylvania Bird Day**

Aware of the significance of birds in the landscape, the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania solicited the state government to declare a special day. March 21, the first day of spring in Pennsylvania is also known as Bird Day. The permanent bill was signed by Governor Shafer in 1968.

### **Speaking of District Info.**

We will be hosting the **District II/III meeting** for **June**. The date for this meeting and program will be **13<sup>th</sup>** with the hours of approximately 9:30 to 1:30. Jane is chairing the committee for this event.

Carol and Linda have graciously agreed to coordinate refreshments. As always help is need with this event and if any members are interested in helping, please contact Jane, Carol, or Linda.

### **Frog Hollow**

Efforts are underway to keep the jewel of Frog Hollow Environmental Center near Friedensburg open to the public. Drew Kline of Schuylkill County Parks and Recreation and Pat McKinney with Schuylkill County Conservation District have confidence for outside funds to purchase Frog Hollow for County ownership and return Frog Hollow to a natural passive park.

County Commissioners need to know that there is support for this public space in central part of Schuylkill County. Call or write the County Commissioners of your desire for the county to pursue the purchase of Frog Hollow.

Barron Hetherington at [bhetherington@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:bhetherington@co.schuylkill.pa.us)  
George Halcovage at [ghalcovage@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:ghalcovage@co.schuylkill.pa.us)  
Gary Hess at [ghess@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:ghess@co.schuylkill.pa.us)

Schuylkill County Court House  
401 N. Second Street  
Pottsville, PA 17901  
570-622-5570

**Please share photo from your gardens.**  
**Email photo to: [kamorgan11@gmail.com](mailto:kamorgan11@gmail.com)**  
**or text to 5706170808**



*Not a photo of real foliage, but I was trying my hand at leaf casting. Leaf Casting is the workshop for July. Took several attempts to get a leaf cast, but after some attempts, I met with some success. Learned that a little plaster goes a long way and best spread with a square paint brush. You create a yogurt out of plaster and water that is well mixed. Drop plaster on the back side of the leaf and spread with a paint brush. You must work quickly, but with patience. Plaster will set in about an hour to two. Then being very careful you peel the leaf from the cast with a sharp thin blade knife. You must be careful as the plaster is fragile. Found that the waxier and stiffer the leaf the easier to cast. Can't wait to do this as a workshop conducted by more of an expert than I in July.*

**So, I started this list below and I would love if all of you experienced gardeners would send me your ideas of “*You know you are a Gardener 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](mailto:kamorgan11@gmail.com) or text it to me at **5706170808****

### **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 are constantly checking the weather report
- You plant by the phases of the moon
- You cover your fall plants to protect them from the first fall frost
- You count on the first frost being in November
- You cover your plants before the frost hits.
- Clean your gardening equipment before putting away for the season
- You stare looking at seed and plant catalogues for next year
- *You know you are a Gardener ... When you go to the store for groceries and come home with some plants that just jumped into your cart. – Pat P.*
- *You know you are a Gardener ... when you can resist everything but temptation in a Garden Center. There is always room for one more. – Pat P.*
- *You know you are a Gardener ... when you smile YES when a gardener-friend asks you if you could use a few iris or daylilies that she is separating because they need thinning. – Pat P.*
- *You know you are a Gardener ... when the Plant catalogs arrive in the middle of winter. – Pat P.*
- *You know you are a Gardener ... when the plants in your garden have come from other gardening friends. Memories ... I plant my friends. – Pat P.*

- *You are out on those warm sunny days looking for the first signs of spring popping up from the soil.*
- *You are looking for the first robin to land in your yard.*
- *The March winds blow off your sun hat when you are out in the garden.*
- *You know you are a gardener when*  
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## **Life's a Garden. Dig it.**

**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.**