

May 2023

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

Weather Folklore for May

- Dry May, wet June.
- Cold, wet May, Barn full of hay.
- A cold and windy May makes a barn full and findy. ("Findy" means plentiful and substantial.)
- A May flood never did anyone good.
- Cold weather always falls on May 11, 12, and 13.
- St. Pancras Day (May 12) never passes without frost.

District II/III News - Jane Kruse

- District II/III has six recipients of the Seed Money awards. Each will receive \$50. The Clubs are: Bethlehem, Emmaus, Hazleton, Parkland, **South Schuylkill**, and Upper Perkiomen Valley.
- Awards and certifications received will be distributed at the Wednesday, June 7, 2023 District meeting hosted by Parkland Garden Club. There will be a president's meeting at 9:00 ahead of the 10:00 start for the district meeting. The district meeting will be at a church different from the Parkland meeting location. It is at St. John's Lutheran Church, 40 S. Second Street, Slatington, PA. The program is floral designs by Chris Leskowsky. It is asked that clubs indicate the number of people to attend on parklandgardenclub@gmail.com. A lite lunch fare will be provided.
- District Raffle tickets will be arriving soon. Each club is asked to provide a gardening item of

value around \$50. Looking for light fixtures that light up the garden) Take a photograph of the raffle item and send it to Cynthia Dunton at allco@ptd.net. *South Schuylkill has their tickets.*

- Burpee Seeds can be purchased with this year's date at a 20% discount by using the **coupon code PAGC23** to order up to 50 plant seed packets. Burpee Seeds ensures that their seed packets are good beyond the first year, however they cannot be sold with the prior year's date. Clubs can obtain "Free Seeds" from Burpee by submitting a request on club letterhead by US mail to: W. Atlee Burpee & Company, ATTN Donation Request, 300 Park Avenue, Warmister, PA 18974. Include your contact's name and email address. State the number of packets, knowing large seed volume requests may not be filled.
- Consider volunteering at the Philadelphia Flower Show in 2024. As a volunteer, you will receive one free admission ticket. Many tasks are before opening such as staging plants, helping with judging, placing ribbons. There are a cluster of clerk tasks such as ticket sales and such. Claire Kukiela will share her volunteer experience in the May Buds and Blooms as well as give contact information.

Spring Membership Tea was held on April 18, 2023. The program was “Enchanted April” with Patricia Reppert, floral designer, who designed three arrangements. It truly was an enchanted evening with the lovely decorations and luscious foods. We even had a visit from the good fairy (aka Pat Pipkin). Hope all who attended had a good time.



Special thank you goes out to Linda Bollinger and her team of ladies who did an exceptional time of hard work and effort into the Tea. Thank you, to the following club members who helped to make this event such a success: Nancy Russial, Kathy Townley, Jeanne Zulick, Pat Pitkin, Kim Morgan, Regina Freiler, Jane Yeasted, and Carol Haldeman.

Thank you to those of you who provided food for the Tea and raffle items and did so out of the goodness of your heart and asked for no recognition.

Much Gratitude to All

Some photos from the Tea





**Mt. CUBA
CENTER**

GARDENING ON A HIGHER LEVEL

**Educational Bus Tour Hockessin,
Delaware**

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Day Trip 7 AM – 6:30 PM

Rain or Shine Event

Bus is Filled

May 16, 2023

Program: "JJ's Woodcraft Birdhouses and Feeders"

Jack Jones salvages old barn wood and other treasures to create one-of-a-kind, bird-friendly structures. In addition to showing his creations, he will share valuable information on birds and their habitats.



Refreshments: Terri Reppy, Sue Williams, Margittta Stevens

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE
SOUTH SCHUYLKILL GARDEN CLUB**

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023

8 AM to 1 PM

RECREATION/SENIOR CENTER
Haven Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA

Perennials
Annuals
Hanging Baskets
Succulents
Houseplants
Grasses
Native Plants
Shrubs
Small Trees
Vegetables
Herbs

Many plants grown **LOCALLY** -- GREAT PRICES

SSGC Gardeners and Master Gardeners on site
to answer your gardening questions
For more info, call or text 570-573-9787

Friday, May 12 Drop off plants at Schuylkill Haven Rec Center from 10AM-2PM. **Lots of help is needed to label, arrange and set-up for Plant Sale.**

Notify Nancy Russial (570-573-9787) if you will be there.



Prepare pots of perennials, natives, shrubs and trees at least two weeks in advance of the sale for healthy looking plants. When labeling the plants for Plant Sale, a photo is very helpful in identifying the plant and gives the person purchasing the plant a better handle on what the plant will look like when blooming. So please label each and water well before dropping off plants on May 12.

Also, we need sturdy cardboard, shallow boxes to pack purchased plants into.

Again, lots of help is needed to help customers with plants and answer questions (and clean-up at the end of the sale). Please let Nancy Russial (570-573-9787) know what times you can help.

Other Notes:

- **Jane** is looking for a few persons to walk through Frog Hollow every month or so during the spring season to determine which wildflowers are remaining on the property. April was done so she is looking for coverage for May and June. When I did April, I took photos of what I found and then passed them along.
- **Jane** is looking for help dressing up the Walborn Children's Garden and Pine Grove Butterfly Garden. Please reach out to jane if you can help.



Sign recognition from the Green Goose

Playground for the oak tree which the club donated last fall.

Pat Pitkin sent this in and thought it was very appropriate.

HOW TO BE A GARDENER

Lean toward sunshine.

Dig down deep - Raindance.

Hum along with the bees.

Wear crazy hats - Stay rooted.

Blossom wildly - Mend fences.

Get earthy - Make Magic.

Share the harvest.

Be Thankful.

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.
- Wrap strips of newspaper around the roots of cabbages before planting. This prevents cutworms from getting at the plant.
- _____

10 WAYS TO USE EPSOM SALT FOR YOUR GARDEN

Grow Bigger Tomatoes

- Epsom salt can be used to provide magnesium sulfate to tomatoes, which increases yield and size. Mix 2 tablespoons Epsom salt in 1 gallon of water and apply 1 pint to each plant when blooming begins.

Jump-Start Your Pepper Plants

- To boost production of green pepper plants, sprinkle them with an Epsom salt solution soon after planting. Mix 3 to 4 tablespoons in a gallon of water. Continue sprinkling until the peppers set.

Pest-Free Root Crops

- When planting root crops like radishes, turnips and onions, sprinkle Epsom salt over the area to be planted, and you won't be bothered with bugs.

Sweeten Melons

- Epsom salt and borax can sweeten cantaloupes. Mix 7 tablespoons Epsom salt and 4 tablespoons borax in 5 gallons of water. Spray when the plants begin to vine and again when the cantaloupes are baseball size.

Stop Tomatoes from Splitting

- To prevent tomatoes from splitting, dig a hole about 6 inches from the plant, 4 to 6 inches deep. Pour in 1 tablespoon of Epsom salt, cover with dirt and thoroughly water.

Keep Bugs Off Flowers

- Mix 1 cup Epsom salt, ¼ cup Ivory liquid soap, 2 tablespoons liquid fertilizer and 5 gallons of water. Use watering can to sprinkle on flowers.

Use Epsom Salt for Big Garden Yields

- To grow huge flowers (and lots of veggies), use Epsom salt for garden. Mix 6 tablespoons Epsom salt and 6 tablespoons Miracle-Gro fertilizer in a hand sprayer attached to garden hose.

Water Potted Plants

- Mix 1 tablespoon Epsom salt in a gallon of water for watering container plants.

Use Epsom Salt for Rose Garden

- Scratch ½ cup of Epsom salt into the soil around each rose bush in spring. Garlic planted around roses is also a great way to keep pests away.

Add Epsom Salt When Planting Bulbs

- Add a pinch of Epsom salt to the hole when planting bulbs. It helps the bulbs get started and keeps squirrels and moles from digging them up.

Birds & Bloom Lori Vanover

Grab a Hoe & Get Dirty