

May 2024

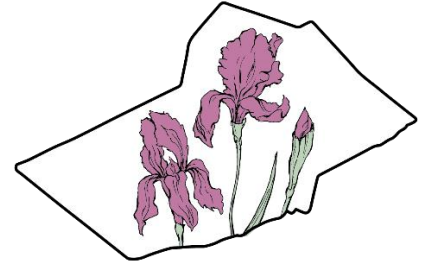
South Schuylkill Garden Club

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 MAY

May is known as a month of transition. If you live in the northern hemisphere, the fresh cold winds are gone, as are the rains of early spring.

By the time May comes around, the spring flowers are blooming, birds are chirping, and life is starting to seem a little more joyful day by day!

If you're on the other side of the world, in the southern hemisphere, then it's a time when summer is long gone. The fall winds have swept by, and the nights are getting colder and darker.

It's a time of change, yet still delightfully warm.

Again, May is a time of change, no matter where in the world you are.

What is it about May that's so significant though? Let's take a look at this a-may-zing month!

The name *May* is the modern-day English adaption of the Latin word *Maius*, which has origins going back to the time of the ancient Greeks. They named the month of May (or Maius) after the Greek goddess of growth.

A Roman poet by the name of Ovid had different ideas surrounding the etymology of the naming of May. He claimed that it was from the word *Maiiores*, the Latin for "elders," that the month gained its name

The word *May* wasn't actually used until the Middle Ages were on their way out, around the 15th Century AD. Up until then, the Roman word *Maius* was still used.

May used to have a very different name in Old English. Back then, the month was referred to as the "month of three milkings." Unsurprisingly, this meant that during this month, you could milk your cows up to three times per day!

May was once considered an incredibly ill-omened time to get married. There's an adage for it, which goes: "*Marry in May and you'll rue the day.*" It's not clear where exactly the saying comes from, but there must have been a pretty good reason not to get married in one of the most beautiful months of the year!

May isn't just a bad time to get married, though. There's the Cornish superstition that buying a new broom in May is unlucky. Oh, and apparently, you shouldn't wash any blankets either!

May is the month that the Eurovision song contest is held every year. For those not in the know, Eurovision is an international song contest that has been held every year since 1956. Some of the contest winners over the years have gone on to be incredibly successful groups, with the most notable being ABBA!

May is a special time for *Star Wars* fans worldwide and always a good reason to re-watch the movies. May the 4th is celebrated as Star Wars day, due to the way the date sounds similar to "*May the Force.*" We won't start the debate over whether the old movies are better than the new ones, because we all know the answer to that!

Every year there is a particular meteor shower in May called the Eta Aquariids meteor shower. Discovered in 1870, this meteor shower passes by Earth between April 19 and May 28. It's easiest to view it from the equatorial regions of the world and can be glimpsed passing by just before dawn.

It is said that those born in May have a greater chance of being more successful in life and experience more love. While this may not be scientifically factual, it has been noticed that people born in May understand the importance of love and success more than others.

Bus Trip

South Schuylkill Garden Club
Educational Bus Tour
Morris Arboretum & Gardens
Tuesday, May 7, 2024
Day Trip 8 AM – 6:30 PM

Plant Sale

NOW IS THE TIME

Now is the ideal time to dig out your excess perennials as they are starting to “peek out” of the ground and pot them for the **Plant Sale on May 18**. Plants will grow faster and healthier if given individual attention. You should have all plants that you are bringing to the plant sale in pots by May 1st that will give them time to adjust to their new surroundings and look healthy on sale day. If you have house plants that are looking a little crowded, why not separate and share them with the plant sale.

Here are some of the plant categories for the sale that the committee is looking for: Annual plants, native plants, herbs, house plants, daylily, dahlia bulbs, sun perennials, shade perennials, succulents, vegetables, canna bulbs, gladiolus, hanging planters, trees, and shrubs.

We should consider thinning out some of the plants in the Pine Grove Butterfly Garden. These plants can then be sold at the plant sale. **HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED!** Please contact Nancy Russial at 570-573-9787 or Kim Morgan at 570-617-0808.

Lots of help is also required on Friday, May 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to setup, sort, price and display plants. Then on Saturday, May 18, 7:45 to 2 p.m. (clean-up from 1-2 p.m.) **ALL PLANTS ARE TO BE LABELED WITH NAME AND COLOR BEFORE BRINGING TO THE PLANT SALE. (mark “N” if native plant).**

May 17 Drop off plants at Brubeck Park/Stoyer’s Dam between the hours of 10 AM to 2 PM.

May 18 Plant Sale from 8AM to 1 PM at Brubeck Park/Stoyer’s Dam - 1-2:00 cleanup.

Please contact Kaye Moyer for the hours you are going to help with the Plant Sale. A plant sale sign up was at the Tea and no one signed up for either day to help. Your commitment to this venture is greatly appreciated. So please sign up to help.

Contact Nancy Russial, Chairman, (570-573-9787) for additional info.

May 21, 2024

Program: “Tour of Natives in Frog Hollow”

Audrey Wells will give us a tour of the native plants through the trails of Frog Hollow. We will be gathering for an earlier start on this day set for **6 PM** at the pavilion by the creek.

Refreshments: Nancy Russial, Sue Williams, Jane Kruse

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: Kathy Townley, 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.

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 ??????

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)

April 16, 2024
Membership Tea

Wow! Where do we recap an event like the Tea! To all who participated and made this event a success, a

HUGE THANK YOU. Accolades came pouring in during and after the event. All of you need to pat yourself on the back. It was no doubt a lot of work, but kudos to you.

Thank you to:

Chairman Kathy Townley and Co-Chair Linda Bollinger

Committee: Regina Freiler, Nancy Russial, Barb Malewski, Kim Morgan, Patti Schuettler, Jeanne Zulick, Sue Williams, Pat Pitkin

Kitchen: Carol Haldeman
Set up and clean-up crew
Hostesses
Treasurer: Kaye Moyer

Greeters
Raffle Table
Photographer
Although you may have not been mentioned by name, you know what you contributed. **THANK YOU!**

Here are just a few photos from the tea.
Space is limited in the newsletter.
Nancy has many more.





New Blooms for 2024

1. Double Soop Watermelon Deluxe Coneflower
Zone 4-9
Hot pink double blossoms exploding in late spring through late summer. It is compact, grows up to 2 feet high and 20 inches wide and prefers well-drained soil.
2. Kalama Blood Orange Tecoma
Zone 8-11 Annual Elsewhere
Trumpet-shaped orange petals and a dark orange center ring. Fertilize every two weeks, and it will bloom from June until first frost. Grows up to 2 feet high and 18 inches wide.
3. Passion Fruit Lantana
Zone 8-11 Annual Elsewhere
Best suited for a basket as the abundant pink, orange and gold flowers will trail and spread all summer long in full sun. Its dark green leaves are shiny and scented. Place in well-drained soil and weekly fertilization is best.
4. Bressingham Dark Fire Crocosmia
Zones 5-9
Striking purple and bronze sword-shaped leaves with arching red and orange blossoms make hardy, clump-forming plant pop in a sunny bed with well-drained rich soil. Grows up to 2 to 3 feet tall and wide.
5. Red Pillar Rose of Sharon
Zone 5 to 9
Rich pink blooms with a dark red center creating a wall of lowers reaching 10 to 16 feet high. Prefers full sun and well drained soil.
6. Vanity Verbena
Zone 7-11 Annual Elsewhere
Compact cultivar with fragrant purple blue blossoms topping spiky stems. Flowers last until autumn. Grows 30 inches high and prefers partial shade to full sun and regular moist well-drained soil.
7. Tuff Stuff Top Fun Mountain Hydrangea
Zones 4-9
Sturdy burgundy stems are topped with pink or purple lace cap flowers. Blooms from early summer though first frost. Likes part shade to full sun and moist, well-drained soil.
8. Sweet Sunshine Magenta Sky Petunia
Zone 10-11 Annual Elsewhere
Semi-trailing durable petunias feature an intricate pattern with white and magenta speckled blooms that prefer full sun.
9. Premium Sun Coral Candy Coleus
Zone 9-10 Annual Elsewhere
Pink, green and bronze serrated foliage that grows 10 to 16 inches high. Place in full sun or full shade and fertilize in every two weeks.
10. Pharaohs Mask Colocasia
Zone 8-11 Annual Elsewhere
Hybrid plant has huge bright green foliage that appears to be three dimensional. Grows best in part sun and rich, organic soil and reaches a high of 4 feet.

New Perennials to Add to your Garden.

Silver Swirl Snowflake
Dusty Miller
Forever Midnight Coral Bells
Itsy Bitsy Peach Miniature Rose
Frostbite Brunnera
Bridal Veil Agapanthus

Potted Roses Made Easy

It is possible to have blooming roses from May through frost. Here are tips and tricks for planting and growing roses in pots.

Pick the Right Pot

For miniature and petite roses, the minimum container size is 12 inches in diameter. For larger roses, a minimum container size of 18 inches. The larger the pot, the more space the rose has to grow a strong root system. Choose pots that are made of thick plastic foam, or ceramic with drainage holes in bottom.

Use High-Quality Soil

Choose high-quality potting soil containing mycorrhizae to stimulate root growth. Choose mixes that include water storing crystals.

Steps to Success

Fill the pot about 2/3 full of the soil mix. Remove the rose from its original container by tipping it over and gently sliding it out. Loosen the root ball a bit and check it for circling roots. If you see any, cut them with a knife or use a sharp pair of shears.

Set the rose in the soil. Check to see that it sits 2 inches below the lip of the pot. If it does, backfill the pot with soil around the root ball. Keep the soil light-not packed down to maintain proper airflow for the roots.

When done filling the pot, sprinkle a granular slow-release fertilizer on the soil surface. Water the plant till the water comes out of the bottom of the pot.

Best Roses for Pots

All The Rage

Julia Child

Cinco De Mayo

Oso Easy Petit Pink

Petite Knock Out

At Last

Champagne Dream

Angel Face

Summer Surprise

