

May 2025

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 was originally named for the Greek goddess Maia.
- May has 31 days in the Gregorian calendar.
- May is a time of beginnings and fertility.
- It is customary to wear a rose in your hair on May Day.
- May is one of the most deadly months for tornadoes in the United States.
- Mother's Day is celebrated in May in the United States.
- No month other than May ever begins or ends on the same day of the week, in the same year.
- May is the month of Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere, and spring in the Northern Hemisphere.
- The birthstone of May is emerald, which signifies love and success.
- The birth flower of May is the Lily of the Valley.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

South Schuylkill Garden Club

Annual Spring Plant Sale

May 10, Rain or Shine

8 AM to 1 PM

Brubeck Park/Stoyer's Dam

Receiving your plants

at

Bubeck Park on May 9

10:00 AM to 12 PM

For more details, call or text 570-573-9787

SSGC Bus Trip

Chanticleer Gardens

And

Jenkins Arboretum

May 15

If interested, contact Carol Haldeman

570-345-2423 / 570-640-7511

May 20 - SSGC Picnic

Wayne Twp. Community Park

1549 Long Run Road

Schuylkill Haven



Wayne Twp. Community Park will be our setting for a spring club picnic. Under the cover of the Lions Pavillion, we can picnic and then take a walk to enjoy the lovely California Poppy fields.

Please bring along shareable picnic food.

Set up time **5 PM**

Picnic **6 PM**

Clean up by 8 PM

June 17, 2025

6:30 PM – Program: Natural Alternatives

Concerned about personal items and products you use in your home? Katie Holden will give a presentation on growing and foraging plants to be used as natural alternatives in lotions, sprays, etc. and healing products.

Refreshments: Linda Bollinger, Marlene Fischer, Mary Ann Uranium, Sue Williams, Jennie Breitigan

April Tea Recap

Another Successful Event





**A Big Thank You to Linda, Carol, Charlotte,
Pat, Regina, JoAnne, Jane, Pat S., Jeanne, Sue,
Kim, Kaye and Kathy.**

**SCHUYLKILL HAVEN BUTTERFLY GARDEN
Thank you, Jane, for your help and direction.
The tarps worked.**

Before



Half way there



Japanese Barberry: It grows so successfully that it turns a forest understory into a monoculture. Raises soil pH. Deer won't eat it. The dense foliage is favored by ticks.

Replacement: Virginia Sweetspire The white flowers explode in early summer and attract butterflies and bees. Songbirds eat the seeds. Leaves turn red and yellow in fall. It prefers moist, acidic soil and full sun to filtered shade. It can grow to 10 feet; however, dwarf varieties are available.

Butterfly Bush: It is a seed making machine. That spread far and wide.

Replacement: Summersweet Fragrant white or pink flowers later in summer. Leaves turn yellow and gold in fall. Prefers moist soil and full sun to part shade. Favored by bees and hummingbirds, but not deer. It can get up to 6 feet tall.

Norway Maple: the large leaves form colonies and a dense leave canopy. It shades out other plants, while shallow roots hog moisture.

Replacement: Sugar Maple spectacular fall foliage, with red, orange, scarlet and yellow on one tree. Can reach 60 to 80 feet with 25 to 50 foot spread. Butterflies and other insects will feed on its sap, as does the yellow-bellied sapsucker. Host plant for the imperial moth. Needs full sun to part shade and well-drained soil.

Callery Pear or Bradford Pear: Flowers smell terrible. Wood is weak and breaks easily in storms, and the tree is relatively short-lived.

Replacement: Serviceberry Some of these species can grow up to 25 feet tall, other are more shrub-like. White spring flowers attract butterflies and bees. Dark purple berries in summer are edible, though it likely birds will get the first. Vibrant orange red fall foliage. Serviceberry is very cold hardy. Requires full sun for best berry production, though tolerates part shade. Host plant for viceroy, Canadian tiger swallow tail and striped hairstreak butterflies.

10 Hacks for the Spring Gardener

Tarp as Gardening Tool – Use a tarp as a multipurpose tool to pile on debris as you wake up your gardens.

Then dragging it away for disposal to spread out before potting. Use a tarp to cover the mulch pile if the rain is in the forecast.

Test old Seeds- Put seeds on a damp towel in an enclosed plastic clamshell or clear bag. A few days later, check whether seeds have germination has occurred.

Milk jugs for winter sowing - Plant seeds in protective vented containers like milk jugs outside while tis still cold. Put in a few drainages holds and keep the soil moist. Cut a hinge in the milk jug and keep it taped closed until time to transplant. Seeds that respond well to this method are cold-tolerant vegetables, some herbs and flowers such as poppies, marigolds and cosmos.

Seedling swap – Have a seedling swap with friends or neighbors. Start the whole packet of seeds and trade the extras.

Create Roomier Beds- Divide perennials like rhubarb, black-eyed Susans, hostas and daylilies in early spring and share with friends.

Protect seedlings with household items – Protect vegetable seedlings from cut worms with toilet paper tubes or cut out tuna or cat food cans.

Milk Jugs stave off birds - Shield seedling from hungry birds with cut off milk Jugs or green mesh berry boxes

Use color and light to keep Away birds – Set up fluttery, shinny, bight objects to deter birds form snacking in your garden. Foil pinwheels or pie pans, strings of tiny mirrors, light curls of shinny gift-wrapping ribbons.

Old Pantyhose in Lieu of zip ties and twine Tie up fragile plants with pantyhose, a softer alternative.

Create Raised Bed with Pallets – Use a pallet for a raised bed. Place it flat on the ground with slats up. Optionally, put landscape fabric under it, fill with soil and plant leafy greens and herbs with shallow roots.

SSGC PLANT SALE SIGNUP SHEET (FRIDAY)

FRIDAY MAY 9, 8:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. TO SET UP ALL TABLES, CANOPIES, SIGNS, ETC.

Please email your name and time you can help to Carol, Nancy or Kim

Name

Time

MEMBERS ARE TO BRING THEIR PLANTS BETWEEN 10 A.M. & 1 P.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M. TO PRICE, SORT AND DISPLAY ALL PLANTS

Please email your name and time you can help to Carol, Nancy or Kim

Name

Time

SSGC PLANT SALE SIGNUP SHEET (SATURDAY)

PLANT SALE IS FROM 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

CLEANUP IS FROM 1 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

MEMBERS NEEDED SATURDAY MAY 10, 7:30 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.

Please email your name and time you can help to Carol, Nancy or Kim

Name

Time

MASTER GARDENERS (To assist buyers on Saturday)

Name: _____

Time: _____