

November 2022

South Schuylkill Garden Club

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:30

First United Church of Christ, Schuylkill Haven

www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com

www.facebook.com/soschuylkillgardenclub.com



Cultivating the Community Newsletter

Weather Folklore for November

- A heavy November snow will last till April.
- Thunder in November, a fertile year to come.
- Flowers in bloom late in autumn indicate a bad winter.

Here are some timely garden tips for late fall:

- Sow cover crops such as winter rye after vegetable crops are harvested.
- Spring bulbs for forcing can be potted up now and stored in a cool, frost-free place until it is time to bring indoors, usually 12 to 15 weeks.
- Container grown and B & B trees and shrubs can be planted. Loosen the soil in an area 2 times the diameter of the root ball before planting. Mulch well after watering.
- Harvest winter squash and pumpkins before frost. For best storage quality, leave an inch or two of stem on each fruit.
- Lawn seeding should be finished by Thanksgiving.
- Protect newly planted spring-flowering bulbs from squirrels and dogs that can dig them up by covering the areas with chicken wire.

FYI for 2023

Membership Club Dues are due to Kaye Moyer, 754 Mountain Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963 by December 31 for the coming year. They are still only \$18.00 for the year. You can always pay Kaye at the November club meeting for 2023. Kaye will not be taking dues at the Christmas Party so she can enjoy the evening like the rest of us.

Club Committees for 2023 All members are requested to sign up for refreshments and club committees for 2023. A sign-up sheet at the October meeting was circulated and will do so again at the November meeting. Please help the club by signing up.

Pine Grove Autumn Stroll

Autumn Stroll was held **October 15**, at the Union Canal Park, with our stand next to the SSGC Butterfly Garden. The day started off cold, but as the day went on the weather became spectacular. All in all, it was a good day for the club. We sold almost 250 jams and jellies (combined at Schuylkill Haven Borough Day and Autumn Stroll), with only 11 jars not sold. Baked goods went over well and thank you go out to Bonnie, Kaye, Carol, Nancy, Linda, and Pat. Dried hydrangea arrangements were sold as well and a thank you to Kathy, Jeanne, and Kim for the contribution. Thank you to all who worked the stands: Carol, Kaye, Kim, Linda, Jeanne, Bonnie, Margitta, Nancy, Mary Ann, Pat, and Frank.



October Meeting

We had a real treat at our meeting on October 18. "Pawpaw's: The Forgotten Native Fruit" was presented by our own Larry Moyer and Carol Haldeman.

The program was a power point along with a hands-on presentation. We learned how to grow a native, and once commonly used fruit and experienced a fresh fruit flavor in baked goodies. The program was very informative as well as delightfully tasteful.



Thank you to the refreshment committee of Bernie Francavilla, Joan Medinsky, Helen Moyer and Pat Wishowsky for presenting all with an array of fall delights.

November's Club Meeting

The club meeting will be held at the church on November **15** at 6:30 PM, and the program is to make **Winter Greens Swags**. Members can make a winter swag for their door or that of a friend with greens gathered by Garden Club members. The following have stepped forward with "greens" to be donated: Sue, Linda, Jane, Kathy, Kim, and Jeanne. The club is providing wire and ribbon bows. Thank you to Linda for donating a lovely supply of ribbon to make the door swags festive. Club members are asked to bring garden gloves, pruners, and any personal items they might want to add to their swag. A sign-up sheet for the swags was circulated at the October meeting. If you were not in attendance and would like to also make a swag, please reach out to Kim at 570-617-0808 or 570-739-2627 and leave a message. Or email her at kamorgan11@gmail.com it's always easier to prepare for a program like this if a number of interested participants are known.

Refreshment Committee: Nancy Russial, Missy Seigfried, Mary Ann Uranium, Sue Williams.

Christmas Party

South Schuylkill Garden Club
Invites You and Your Guest to
"A Winter Twilight Garden" Christmas Party
Tuesday, **December 13, 2022**, at 5PM

Hoss's Steak & Sea House
Cressona, PA

Please reply by **November 30th** with meal choice
and check made

out to SSGC. Checks and dinner choices will be
collected by Nancy

nmkrussial@gmail.com

570-573-9787

Members \$25.00

Guest \$30.00

Meal Choices:

Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast

Steak Tips

Maryland Style Crab Cakes

***As of this newsletter the invitation has been sent
out to the membership electronically.***

District II/III - Jane Kruse

The month of November is time to consider what this Garden Club has done through the growing year and look through the awards listing on GCFP website – www.pagardenclubs.org The Awards Manual can easily be downloaded. Awards Applications are there to complete and save and send. Many awards are transmitted via the website, a few still go by US Postal Service. Due date for many is December 1st.

One of the easier applications is to submit the Club Yearbook. No need to insert updates, just include two Application forms. Newsletters are another avenue to consider as well as those websites and social media pages. Most youth contests and flower show achievement awards become due by December 1st. Consider your community gardens, garden tours and educational efforts.

It is OK to give yourself a little pat on the shoulder for what you have done.

Schuylkill Herb Society- Kathy

Fall Road Trip

Kathy T. organized a fall garden trip to MeadowBrook Gourd Farm on Tuesday, October 11. The Gourd Farm, one of the largest in the nation, is in our backyard, outside of Carlisle. We carpooled with Nancy and stopped for a light lunch before proceeding to the Gourd Farm for a tour. It was another beautiful day allowing us to take in the crisp fall air in the beautiful Cumberland Valley. We treated ourselves to last of the season's sunflowers growing at the Gourd Farm.

Book Review: Wicked Plants

Wicked Plants by Amy Stewart provides the gardener with valuable information on some unsavory plants that may or may not be good for the garden.



Wicked Plants. Photo: Mandy L. Smith, Penn State

Amy Stewart's *Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities* (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2009) is a valuable resource for any gardener. The book is 336 pages of fact-filled, entertaining information and includes end notes with a section on "Antidote," short biographies of two artists who contributed to the book, a list of poison gardens, and a bibliography. The book won the American Horticultural Society Award in 2010.

Wicked Plants is serious in content, and the author points out obvious and hidden dangers of the plant

world, but Stewart's intent is not to scare people away from the outdoors. She writes of living on the Pacific Coast and of the dangers of turning one's back on "sleeper waves" that sweep the unsuspecting out to sea. Just as people should not turn their backs on the ocean, they should not turn their backs on nature because plants "can nourish and heal." Caution is needed however: "they can also destroy." The book is a warning but should not be a deterrent to enjoying nature. Unsurprisingly, according to information on the outside back cover, Stewart tends her own poison garden in northern California.

The table of contents is broken down into profiles of specific plants, such as the "Betel Nut" or a group of plants, such as "This Houseplant Could Be Your Last." Specific plants are in bold type, while classes are sepia toned. Each profile starts with a header that describes the kind or kinds of plants portrayed. Aconite is labeled "Deadly," while the jimson weed is labeled "Dangerous." Other designations include "Illegal," "Intoxicating," and "Painful," among others. Each specific plant profile starts with a sidebar that includes the plant family, habitat, origin, and common names. Stewart addresses problematic plants from around the world, including Asia and Africa.

As well as Stewart's elegant writing, the book is filled with illustrations, instead of photographs, by artists Briony Morrow-Cribbs (etchings) and Jonathon Rosen (drawings). Illustrations have the advantage of showing a standard plant rather than variations found in the wild.

In addition to containing well-researched information, Stewart includes many anecdotal accounts of troublesome encounters with plants, but there are no in-text citations as to the origins of the information. The book makes the gardener think about what plants in their garden may be poisonous, such as all parts of the lovely rhododendron. Or how peppers, tomatoes, and potatoes are members of the nightshade family. And yes, green spots on potato skins can indicate increased levels of solanine, a naturally occurring poison that is killed when a potato is cooked.

The organization of the book is a little problematic. It might be beneficial to readers for the plants to be arranged geographically or even in order of toxicity. Another thing the book lacks is an index. It is difficult to pinpoint plants due to the groupings Stewart has created, such as "Arrow Poisons" and "Deadly Dinner," unless the reader remembers what kind of plant it is and where it would be located in the book. But these are small quibbles, and if the book is reprinted, perhaps these issues can be addressed.

Despite some drawbacks, the book is beautifully written and illustrated and contains a wealth of valuable information.

Authors

Louisa Fordyce

Master Gardener, Indiana County

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 Gardner 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 or text it to me at 570-617-0808

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 irises 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
- 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 are anywhere that you see drying seed pods on a plant, and you wonder if you can get away with collecting some and where you can try planting them. -Kathy T.
- You know you are a gardener when your dog digs a hole going after a varmint and then you place a plant in it – Jeanne
- You know you are a gardener when you light 8 candles in your greenhouse so your peppers and tomatoes do not freeze on a cold night. - Carol H.
- When you are walking by the restaurant entrance and see weeds in the flowerbeds. Your husband turns to you and says, “Don’t even think about it.”- Linda
- When talking in your neighbor’s yard and you bend down to pull weeds.
- When you are watering plants with the dehumidifier water.
- When you stop everything, you are doing to watch it rain.
- You know you are a Gardner when “you do container gardening on an elevated deck and front porch to keep plants deer safe. Deer haven’t learned to do steps to date”
- *You know you are a gardener when*
_____.

Life is Simple: Eat, Sleep, Garden