

November 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 November

The month of November is very much known as a transition month, as fall blends into winter. Leaves have left the trees and nature prepares for cold.

If there be ice in November that will bear a duck, there will be nothing thereafter but sleet and muck.

As November, so the following March.

Thunder in November indicates a fertile year to come.

November 25th foul or fair, so will be the next February.

November 11th is fair, dry, and cold, the cold in winter will not last long.

If the geese on November 11 stand on ice, they will walk in mud on Christmas.

If the leaves of the trees and grapevines do not fall before November 11, a cold winter may be expected.

November 21, 2023

6:00 PM -- A Memorial Walk at Schuylkill Haven Recreation Memorial Garden (behind Sch. Haven Rec Center) to place bricks in memory of friends and family.

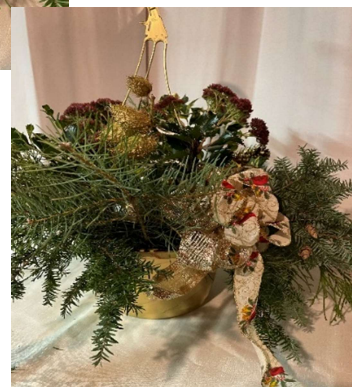
IN LOVING
Memory

6:30 PM -- Program: "Winter Greens" (Held At the Church)

Create and take a holiday hanging basket that can be repurposed, or not, for use from the holidays through Valentine's Day of February.

Please bring your own special decorations, hand pruner, gardening gloves and scissors. Also, if anyone would like to bring greens to the workshop, please do so as this is how the workshop this time of the year operates. Below are three examples of what you will be creating.

Refreshments: Bonnie Bernat, Leah Zerbe, Joyce Carlin, Porcupine Pat, Missy Seigfried





Note: Novembers Club Meeting will be short due to the workshop, but there will be a vote taken for the election of officers for 2024-2025. A slate of officers was announced at the October meeting.

Meeting Held on October 17, 2023



Our October meeting program was an *Herbal Brew*. We were challenged with a blind taste test by our presenter to identify what herb was in the tea samples. A few of our members were spot on in identifying the herbs. In addition to the blind taste test, we learned about harvesting of teas and herbs from Ben Wissinger of Katydid Hill/Tooth of the Lion Farm, an organic farm producing herbs and flowers for harvesting, drying and blending of teas.

The refreshments were spectacular. A thank you goes out to Bernie Francaviglia, Joan Medlinsky, Pat Wishowsky, Regina Freiler and Pat Pitkin.

Other Notes:

Frog Hollow

Walk in the Woods



Walks in Frog Hollow at 170 Stone Mountain Road, just outside of Friedensburg, have been organized by Friends of Frog Hollow.

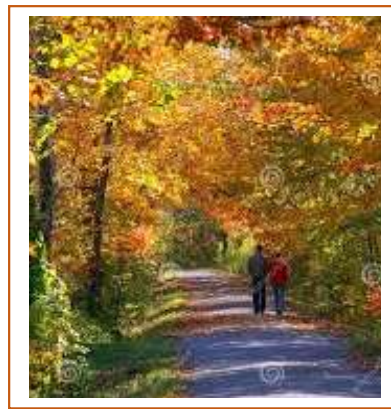
2023-2024

Nov 11 Sat	1:00	Animal Habitat and Survival Hunt	Audrey Wells Lee Wells
Dec 2 Sat	10:00	Animal Tracks – Who Is There?	Barbara Ritzheimer Sue Reier
2024 Jan 1 Mon	10:00	First Day Hike – Polar Bear Amble	Jerry Bowman Steve Hepler Barbara Ritzheimer
Jan 20 Sat	6:30 PM	Night Owl Prowl Jan 27 snow day	Dave Kruel Audrey & Lee Wells

Register by leaving a verbal message at **570-527-2502** if you plan to attend. Parking at Frog Hollow is limited. There is no cost for the Nature Walks.

Sweet Arrow Lake Restoration Celebration

was held on **October 15, 2023**, to coincide with other activities held at the lake. Thank you to Kaye, Carol, and Kim for assistance in this project. The county park is really coming along to become one of the diamonds found here in Schuylkill County.



Autumn Stroll

was held on **October 21 from 10-4.** We survived a windy day. Despite the forecast for rain, which

thankfully did not materialize, there was a good attendance at the event. We were able to sell a sizeable quantity of jams and jellies, baked goods, and dried floral arrangements. Thank you to all who helped make the day a success. **Thank You** goes out to Carol, Kaye, Linda, Kim, Regina, Pat W., Dana, Jane, Margitta, and Maryann.



Christmas Party

*South
Schuylkill Garden Club*

Invites You and Your Guest to

“CHRISTMAS MEMORIES”

Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Meet and Greet 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Blue Tavern Restaurant
Route 209, Minersville, PA

Members must secure their reservations by
November 30 with a check for

\$25.00 payable to SSGC.

Mail or turn money into:

Linda Bollinger
552 Schwartz Valley Road
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Along with your entrée choice.

Note: Installation of officers for 2024-2025 will be
done by Jane Kruse, District Director.

SSGC in 2024

Where has the year gone? So much to do and so little time left in 2023. Time to think about 2024. In a recent email, you were sent a membership renewal form for 2024. On the form you were asked for your information and to select committees that you are willing to serve on for 2024, along with helping to provide refreshments for a particular month. The document was sent both in word and a PDF format. If none of your personal information has changed since last year, you can simply put your name on the document and just write the word “same” at the top. Please take the time to renew membership for 2024.

Paper copies of the membership renewal form will be available at the November club meeting.

Reminder: Dues are still only **\$18.00** and payable by check to SSGC by **December 31**. Checks with membership form can be given or mailed to:

Kaye Moyer
754 Mountain Road
Pine Grove, PA 17963

Does Your Garden Need a Trim?

As we move more into fall, it is crunching time for fall cleanup of the garden. That means it is time to look at the perennials in your garden and prepare them to winter over.

Cutting back foliage protects flowering plants from disease and provides a clean start for regrowth. In contrast, there are many perennial plants worth leaving up if they are healthy. Letting them stand for winter can increase their hardiness and benefit wildlife.

Here are some tips for getting perennials ready if you choose to trim them. So, grab a pruner and start cropping the following plants:

Iris is a showy early summer favorite and is vulnerable to infestations of iris bores. These bores tunnel into the base of the rhizome to lay eggs. Trim the fan of sword-shaped leaves at an angle so they slope upward into a center peak no higher than 6 to 8 inches. Then remove any dead or dried leaf debris.

Cutting back **Bee Balm** keeps it healthy for the hummingbirds and butterflies that flock to it in mid-summer. Bring it right down to the soil to discourage problems such as mildew. Dispose of cuttings that show signs of mildew.

Peonies are vulnerable to mildew. Grab the leaves and prune stems to a few inches after the first frost.

Clip back **Daylily** leaves by reaching down near the base of each plant to secure a tight handful of leaves and cut.

Look at the leaves of the **Lily**. Prune them after they discolor. Clip the stalk near the soil line. Sometimes the stalk comes off with a gentle twist.

Phlox, like beebalm, likes to spread and can be vulnerable to mildew. Take the plant down to the soil to prevent disease.

Blazing Star plant, which appears in butterfly gardens, can be trimmed to the base.

Chrysanthemums, the fall favorite, can be cut back after they bloom or are hit by a hard frost. Cover over with leaves or other mulch which will insulate the plant from harmful freeze and thaw cycles.

Prune **Hosta** leaves near the crown to keep the shade-loving perennial healthy.

Bring **Hollyhock** down to about 6 inches high to reduce the risk of leaf rust. If you have seedpods, scatter them in the fall for more plants to come in the spring.

Finally leave these five plants upright in colder months: Coneflowers, Hibiscus, Ornamental grasses, Russian sage, and Sedums.

How lovely is the silence of growing things.