November 2026

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

Hello fellow gardeners,

Here are a few helpful tips for gardening in the month of November:

Plant Spring-Flowering Bulbs

- Last Chance for Bulbs: November is the final window to plant spring bulbs like tulips and daffodils before the ground freezes.
- Critter Defense: If squirrels are a problem, layer daffodils (which pests dislike) over deeper-planted tulips. Choose firm, healthy bulbs that feel solid, not paper-dry.

Protect and Mulch the Garden

- Winter Insulation: Spread a thick layer of shredded leaves, straw, or wood mulch around perennials and ornamental beds to buffer temperature swings.
- Tender Plants: Dig up tender perennial bulbs like dahlias and store them in a cool, dry place. Cover fragile shrubs or move potted plants closer to the house.

Clean Up and Tool Maintenance

- Disease Prevention: Clear out spent summer vegetables and diseased plant debris (especially if you had late blight on tomatoes) to stop pests and spores from overwintering.
- Tool Care: Clean, sharpen, and oil your garden shears, shovels, and trowels so they are ready for spring.

Support Local Wildlife

- Feeder Stations: Install or clean winter bird feeders and add fresh water sources to help local birds through the colder months.

Please find the SSGC 2026 schedule of events listed below:

- November 17: Meeting
- December 2: Christmas party – Wednesday Dec 2

Club Monthly Meeting
October 20, 2026

Program: ***"Plaster Leaf Casting"***

SSGC's **Kim Morgan** showed us how to do leaf casting with plaster of Paris, a simple and creative process that allows you to create beautiful 3D leaf decorations.

Refreshments: Thank you to Regina Freiler, JoAnne Mercuri, Pat McKinney. The soup was delicious and the bread was flavorful. You will have to share your recipes for the newsletter.

Club Monthly Meeting

November 17, 2025

Program: ***"Winter Greens Workshop"***

Make a winter greens wreath on a grape vine form. Participants are encouraged to bring gloves, pruners, and any embellishments.

Like always, this is done with greens gathered from our homes. If you can condition your greens, that will make for a lasting wreath. Also, smaller quantities of branches work better for this project.

Note: Please note that you need to contact me by **November 5** if you plan to participate in the upcoming wreath workshop, as the wreaths must be ordered in advance.

If you attended the October meeting and raised your hand during the head count, you do not need to reach out—your wreath has already been counted.

Otherwise, please reach out to me directly if you would like to participate.
Refreshments: Kathy, Nancy, Linda.

Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 2, 2026
Summit View Restaurant

Arrival: 5 PM with Appetizers

- **Bruschetta**
- **Fruit Tray**

Entrée: 5:30 PM

- **Chicken Marsala**
- **Glazed Ham**
- **Garlic Mashed Potatoes**
- **Glazed Carrots**
- **Salad and dessert**

A flyer will be in your in-box soon. Please make a check out to SSGC to confirm your reservation in the amount of $35.00.

The club is paying for your meal, but to confirm that you are attending and secure your spot, you must make a check out to the club. The check will be returned to you upon attending the party.

Autum Stroll

Thank you to everyone who participated in making the Autumn Stroll a success again this year!

While the weather was not the greatest, those of us who participated in selling the jams, jellies, baked goods, and dried floral arrangements still had a very productive day. Your support and hard work are greatly appreciated.

PSU Master Gardeners Series

The Penn State Master Gardeners invites the South Schuylkill Garden Club to a series of free information sessions at Cressona Agway, 22 S. Second Street, Cressona.
The sessions are held on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Here are the upcoming topics:

November 14 - Bonsai with Nick Watt

The sessions are free and open to the public.

Plant Sale

Although the plant sale seems to be far off since it is not until May of 2027, it is never too soon to start planning. Please take a look at your gardens and tag plants that will make good candidates for the sale.

For the next week or so, it is a great time to look at

your gardens and transplant items to better growing areas. While doing this now, it might also be a good time to transplant some of those plants into pots and place them in a protective area for next spring's plant sale. That way, you will not have to dig them up in the spring.

Native plants are always in great demand. I have attached Jeanne's list to help you identify those natives.

Jeanne Z's Garden

Please find below a list of native flowering plants provided by Jeanne Z. Jeanne is hoping that members will consider growing and sharing these natives for our upcoming plant sale.

Natives

Asters:

- New England
- Smooth
- Sky blue
- Big Leaf
- Heath
- Crooked Stem
- Calico
- Heart Leaved
- White Woodland
- Stores

Weed:

- Butterfly
- Common
- Whorled Milk
- Showy Milk

Lily:

- Carmassi
- Turks Cap

Cone Flower

Black Eyed Susan

Bergamot:

- Monarda Punctata or Dotted Mint
- Monarda Fistulosa
- Marada Didyma

Pen Stemson

Cup Plant

Senna

Goldenrod:

- Stiff
- Ohio
- Showy
- Blue Stem
- Anis Scented
- Zigzag

Tall Blue Larkspur

Baptisia or False Indigo

Coreopsis:

- Stiff
- Lance leaf
- Rose

Phlox

Bottle Gentian

Amsonia

Joe Pye Weed

Cardinal flower

Blue Lobelia

Iris:

- Wild
- Blue flag
- Virginia

Iron Weed

Obedient Plant

Black Cohosh

Goat beard

Columbine

Gild Ginger (USA)

Foam flower

Mayapple

Wild Geranium or cranesbill

Jacobs Ladder

Bleeding Heart (Native)

Fern:

- Cinnamon
- Ostrich
- Maiden Hair
- Lady

Helenium

Turtle head

Jack in the Pulpit

Swamp Rose Mallow

Rose Campion

Wood Poppy

Oat Grass

Filipendula Rubra or Queen of the Meadow

Nurseries

Prairie Nursery

Prairienursery.com

800476945

Plants with Appetites

Here is a summary of the provided information about caring for carnivorous plants:

Overview
In the wild, carnivorous plants grow in nutrient-poor, wet habitats and survive by attracting and digesting live prey (mainly insects). Caring for them at home requires specific conditions:

- Water: Use only distilled, reverse-osmosis, or rainwater. Tap water (even filtered) will kill them.
- Light & Soil: They require bright sunlight and highly acidic soil with zero added nutrients or fertilizers.

Types of Traps

- Snap Traps (e.g., Venus Flytrap):

  - Features jaw-like hinged leaves that attract insects with a sweet smell and bright interior.
  - The leaves snap shut when triggered, and digestive enzymes break down the insect.

- **Flypaper Traps** (e.g., Sundews and Butterworts/Pings):

  - Uses sticky, tiny hairs to catch small insects.
  - Recommendation: Butterworts ("pings") are great for beginners because they are small, easy to propagate, bloom frequently, and effectively catch bugs.

- **Pitcher Plants** (Trumpet Pitchers & Tropical Pitchers):

  - Feature open, bulb-like leaves.
  - Insects fall inside and cannot climb out due to slippery walls, eventually being digested at the base.