

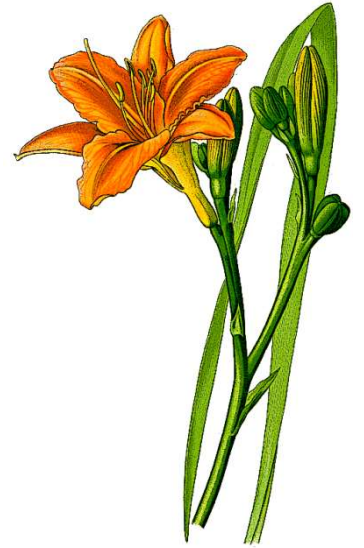
South Schuylkill Garden Club

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: Folklore for the Season When deer are in a gray coat in October, expect a **hard winter**. Much rain in October, much wind in December. A warm October means a cold February.

October Gardening: October is all about ending the harvest and storing your crops.

- Brush your root crops clean of any soil and store in a cool, dark place. Never refrigerate potatoes and apples together; the apples give off ethylene gas, which will spoil the potatoes. Clipping the tops of parsnips, carrots, beets, and turnips will keep them fresher longer.
- Put some parsley plants in a box and place the box in a light cellar or shed.
- Dig up and store dahlias, gladioli, and other tender plants after the foliage is killed by a frost. Store over the winter.
- Plant hardy spring-flowering bulbs such as tulip, daffodil, and hyacinth bulbs and crocus corms. Don't be too quick to cover them with mulch or it may attract animals. Wait until the ground freezes.
- Paint any garden structures that need it. Repair garden fences.
- Be sure to remove any leaves from your lawn to help reduce lawn problems; use as mulch for plants; shred leaves and add to compost.
- Clean up your lawn and garden. Remove any dead or diseased plants, leaves, and twigs; a clean garden means fewer diseases next spring.
- Harvest any remaining vegetables sensitive to frost, including winter squash, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes.
- Look for slug egg masses under mulch and destroy.
- Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs.
- If your peony isn't blooming, or it is too large or misplaced, consider moving it now.
- Prune everbearing raspberries.
- Transplant trees, shrubs, and rosebushes.
- Plant garlic now for harvesting next summer.
- Begin preparing tools for storage by cleaning them once you're finished with them.
- Place chicken wire on the ground over newly planted bulbs to deter animals from digging.
- Plant snowdrop, hyacinth, and star of Bethlehem bulbs.
- Did you test your soil? If you need to raise or lower the pH of your soil, add the required amendments, such as sulfur or lime, this fall because they take some time to work.
- Harvest brussels sprouts when ready to eat; they'll sweeten through the cold snaps.
- Cut perennials 3 to 4 inches from the ground once the flower stalks have died and turned brown.
- Leave seed heads on asters, sunflowers, and cosmos for birds to eat over the winter.
- Remember to edge your garden borders if you have not already done so.

Schuylkill Haven Borough Day was on



Saturday, September 25, 2021-
The Garden Club lined the posts
of Schuylkill Haven Borough

Station with corn stocks and fall dried plants at one
end of the borough to the SSGC tables at the other
with dried flower bundles and door decorations.
The jam and jellies brought many to the table along
with bee wax candles and small aloe and jade
plants (a popular item of the younger crowd).
Thanks to the many volunteers who helped and
those who stayed the whole day.-Jane



Operations at First UCC

As we become more familiar with our **new environment** at First United Church of Christ, there are a couple of items to adhere to. Doors are unlocked and locked at a pre-determined time. Expect not to enter before 6:00 and leave no later than 9:00.

It is our responsibility to return the rooms to a clean and prior set up arrangement, therefore, chairs from the kitchen will need to be taken down by those who will use them for each to know the return spot. Tables need to be returned to prior location. Floor should be swept and use of one trash can (outside of the kitchen) to be taken to the outside dumpster.

It is suggested that each month's Refreshment Committee retrieve the two tubs with SSGC cleaning supplies and eating paper goods and take them into the kitchen for the evening. In the cleaning supply tub is a bucket for washing down table, clothes, paper towels and saran wrap. The eating supply tub should contain a supply of white plates, hot and cold cups, napkins, eating utensils, coffee filters, decaffeinated coffee, powder cream and sugar.

Each refreshment committee is responsible for starting the coffee (instructions in the eating supply tub), supplying the tablecloth and centerpiece for the table. If the refreshment crew chooses, more decorative plates or napkins can be used at your choice. Cold beverage, hot tea, liquid creamer, and food is each Refreshment Committee's choice.

-Jane

October 19 Meeting

October 19, 2021, at 6:30 pm is the next Garden Club meeting at First United Church of Christ. A wonderful display of photography will accompany a narration by **Larry Moyer** on predatory insects – the work of spiders in our environment. The title "Life on Silk." Public is invited to Larry's program. So, bring along a friend to see this fascinating program.

"Life on Silk" will also be the **Floral Challenge** for the evening. Remember it is October and approaching Halloween. Pull together an arrangement from what you can salvage with the fall theme of Life on Silk.

Some of the Spectacular photo in Larry's presentation of "Life on Silk"





District II/III Annual Meeting in September found Pat Wishousky with the first drawing from the raffle with a \$35 gift certificate to Home Depot. Congratulations! The district profited \$2,175 to support their budget. -Jane

A note from Cynthia Barbedette (September speaker):

I had meant to say a word about pencils which came into being in the 1500s. Pencils were originally made from graphite, not lead based as the name implies. Pencils were super important because it could write on anything, could be erased with a piece of bread, but most importantly, it was waterproof. A piece of parchment or fiber-based paper with pencil marks could be sitting in water for a long time and not run or erase. It was

important for maps especially military maps because of these qualities. If a map fell in the mud or got rain soaked, it wasn't a problem. The information was not erased.

For a long time, England held a monopoly on graphite and pencil making because they had the only mine in the world with the best graphite. It was a big political deal for other countries to find alternative ways to use lower quality graphite mixed with clay and encased in wood to make pencils.

How to Cure Winter Squash

Fall brings an abundance of winter squash – acorn, delictata, buttercup, Hubbard ready for picking. Cure them by allow them to sit in the sun for a week with rotation to harden their skin. Inside the squash is converting starch to a sweet taste.

After the skins are firm, store in a cool (50-60 degrees), dry location with good circulation. Check on them, removing those showing rot or mold. Smaller and thinner-skinned winter squash will have the shortest shelf life. Try to use within the next three months.

Extracted from Empress of Dirt-Jane

Chicory - Weed or Flower?

Chicory is commonly seen on roadsides in mid to late summer. Discover the qualities and uses of this colorful plant.



Photo credit: Thomas B. from Pixabay

Common chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) is one of the few perennial plants that flowers from June until the first frost in the fall. During a dry summer you may notice that there are patches of light blue-purple flowers everywhere. Even when brown grass surrounds these little islands of hope, the chicory is thriving. Like its close relative, dandelion, chicory has a very long tap root. It can reach moisture in the soil even when nearby shallow-rooted plants are dying of thirst.

Early in the growing season, chicory is only visible at ground level as a rosette of irregularly-toothed leaves. At this state it is remarkably similar to dandelion. I realize now that, while weeding, I have probably pulled up many chicory plants, thinking they were dandelions! Chicory plants can grow 3 to 5 feet high, with tough, spiky, branching stems. When cut, the stems are hollow, and contain a milky sap. Chicory is mower-resistant. If you keep cutting off the plant, the stems and flowers will grow back, but they will be so low to the ground that the mower blades might miss them.

According to the [Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide](#), chicory "favors lime-rich soils, but tolerates a variety of soil types." It will grow just about anywhere, but "does not typically invade undisturbed natural habitats." According to [Susan Mahr, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison](#) "Each flower only blooms for a day; during hot weather they remain open only for a short time in the morning but on cooler or cloudier days may stay open nearly all day."

Chicory can be difficult to remove because it can resprout from pieces of the root. Chicory seeds are heavier and larger than dandelion seeds, and lack "fluff," so they cannot be carried by the wind. Thus, chicory is more likely to grow where the seeds are physically carried into disturbed areas such as roadsides, pastures, and waste areas.

Chicory is a member of the aster family (Asteraceae), which also includes asters, daisies, the afore-mentioned dandelions, lettuce, marigolds, sunflowers, zinnias, and more. Chicory is also called blue daisy, blue sailor, wild bachelor's button, blue or Italian dandelion, or even coffeeweed, to list just a few of its many names. Chicory has been cultivated to produce salad greens (*Cichorium intybus* var. *foliosum*), including

radicchio, radichetta, and Belgian or French endive. It has also been used as a forage crop for livestock in some parts of the world.

Chicory is grown to produce inulin, the active ingredient in some fiber supplements. If you have ever been to New Orleans, you probably have had coffee mixed with chicory. This blend produces mixed reactions. Some people think it tastes like scorched coffee. On the other hand, if you are a New Orleans native, you would probably miss chicory if it were absent from your coffee.

If you are a native plant purist, you might be disappointed to learn that chicory is not native to the United States. The *Ohio Weed Guide* says that chicory originated in the Mediterranean. The species name, *intybus*, is derived from the Egyptian word for January. Chicory eventually became distributed throughout much of the world and was cultivated for centuries. Since chicory could be grown in parts of Europe where coffee could not, it was cheaper and more readily available. It was carried to America by European settlers in the 1700's. Chicory has since become naturalized throughout the North American continent.

Is there any downside to having chicory growing on your property? It will make your lawn look "straggly" during dry periods when you have not mowed your grass for a while. Mahr suggests that "maintaining a thick, healthy lawn through proper mowing, fertilization, and irrigation will prevent establishment of new chicory plants." Chicory is not known to be toxic but may cause contact dermatitis in humans.

Although not a Pennsylvania native plant, chicory is frequently visited by bees, flies, and butterflies. Even though it is considered a weed by many, to me chicory flowers look like blue daisies, and I think they are beautiful.

Lois Miklas

Area Master Gardner Coordinator

Clinton County

Please Share photo from your gardens.
Email photo to: kamorgan11@gmail.com
or text to 5706179620.

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 5706179620

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 know you are a gardener when*
_____.



Stay Safe by staying socially separated from others by at least 6 feet. Wash hands frequently and above all do not touch your face, but with clean hands.