



Greensburg Garden Center

March, April 2024 Newsletter

“Where Gardeners Grow”



Annual Spring Tea “Pure Gold”



Signs of spring are popping up and that means the GGC Spring Tea is near!! The date has been set for March 16 and will be held in the beautiful Laurel and Iris Rooms of the Greensburg Garden and Civic Center. The doors open at 11:00 PM for viewing of the elegantly decorated tea tables and tea is served at noon. The cost of the tea is \$30.

This year one of the tables will be hosted by The Lunch Lady on Wheels whose business is located in Irwin. She has a large catering menu and also caters teas.

Entertainment will be a program by Laurie Corbett, owner of Eclectique in Latrobe and The Artisan Marketplace in Ligonier. She has lots of interesting items in both stores and items will be for sale. There will also be LOTS of raffle baskets for you to buy a chance for.

We will once again offer Tea-To-Go boxes that must be preordered. The lovely boxes include all of the food that is served at our tea plus an antique tea cup and saucer. The cost for a box is \$30 and can be ordered by calling the GGC office at 724-837-0245. The office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-3:00 PM.

NEWS FLASH: The tea has sold out!!! However, you can be put on a waiting list in case of any cancellations.

Calendar of Events

- Mar. 5 Membership Mtg.—11:00 AM
“So You Purchased an Orchid”
Program by Lori McDermott
- Mar. 5 Butterfly Garden Meeting
(following membership mtg.)
- Mar. 16 Annual Tea
- April 2 Membership Mtg.—11:00 AM
“Trees That Talk”
Program by Todd Sherbondy

Membership Meetings...

...On March 5, Lori McDermott will talk on “So You Purchased an Orchid”. She will discuss some basics in keeping a newly acquired orchid happy and healthy. Lori is an active member in the Orchid Society of Western PA since 1995 and a member of Forest Hills Garden Club. She is also employed at The Frick Pittsburgh as an educator.

...On April 2, Todd Sherbondy from the Davey Tree Co. in Monroeville, will present “Trees That Talk”. Todd has worked with Davey Tree since 2000 and holds the position of Sales Arborist. He has a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Penn State and is a ISA Certified Arborist.

“Friends are the flowers in the garden of life.”

Programs are free and open to the public.

MAY PLANT SALE

Friday, May 3 – NOON to 7 PM
Saturday, May 4– 9 AM to 1 PM
Free Admission - Free Parking

Perennials - Herbs - Heirloom Tomatoes -
Dahlia - indoor Plants - and More!



Choose from a large selection of perennials to add color and variety to your garden! Elizabeth Pesci, Horticulture Chairman, has carefully selected new species as well as perennial favorites! See our website for an order form to choose early. Your order will be waiting for pickup.

Donated garden “Oldies but Goodies” dug from members’ gardens and ready for a new home will be priced to sell!

Greenridge Garden Club is selling home grown perennials and featuring their popular Heirloom tomato plants.

Bob McDonald will have the perfect plants to enjoy indoors or on a small deck.

Herbs of all varieties will be offered by Cassandra Reilly.
Dahlia tubers in a array of colors will be offered by Netherton Dahlias.

Bardini’s award-winning hot dogs will be hot and ready for shoppers to munch; with or without sauerkraut!

**SAVE THE DATES!
MORE INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER AND ON OUR WEBSITE!!**

Extra Perennials Welcomed!!

If your perennials have outgrown their space, share extras with other gardeners. Dig and pot up your extra hostas, lilies, sedums and more. Bring them to the Garden House any Tuesday in April. We can offer them to other gardeners at May Mart.

Katherine McKenna Scholarship



Attention members! We all hear that college costs continue to rise. Perhaps you know of a college student who has sought help in financing their education. Direct them to our website, www.greensburggardencenter.net to download an application.

Applications for the Katherine McKenna Scholarship will be accepted until May 31st, 2024. Students must reside in Westmoreland or its bordering counties and have completed at least one year at an accredited college or university before the deadline. Students pursuing a two or four degree in botany, forestry, landscaping, horticulture, or a related field such as environmental science should take this opportunity to apply. Graduate students and past winners are also eligible.

Don't delay in sharing this announcement with friends and family. This is not a loan; this is free tuition money. Help us get our announcement out to them.

Thank you, Scholarship Committee

Upcoming Events...

...Mary Ann Artman is planning a bus trip to the Penn State Arboretum in June.

The H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens are the jewel of the Arboretum, featuring 10 acres of themed garden spaces. Within the cultivated gardens, visitors will find seasonal displays, specialty gardens, water features, and a garden designed especially for children. The largest cultivated area comprises three acres of habitats and plants selected for their attractiveness to birds and pollinators. Benches and other seating are located throughout the gardens.

...Mary Ann and Angie Rataino are planning a **Flower Show** for July 6.

More information about both of these events will be in the next newsletter.

“The best time to plant a tree was 25 years ago. The second best time to plant a tree is today.” ~Eluid Kipchoge

Monarch Population Declines By Sandy Truckner



The forest area occupied by overwintering monarchs in Mexico declined 59.3% from last year. Monarch Watch reports that this is the second lowest number of overwintering monarchs with the smallest population having occurred in the winter of 2013-2014.

Monarch Watch authorities, specifically 'Chip' Taylor, founding director of Monarch Watch and Kristen Baum, new director of Monarch Watch said this news is a shock to monarch followers everywhere but does not mean the end of the eastern monarch migration. The numbers are at a all-time low because of drought conditions last fall from Oklahoma into central Mexico. Droughts reduce flowering and thus nectar production which the butterflies need to fuel their migration and for reserves to see them through the winter.

Catastrophic mortality due to extreme weather events is part of their history. The numbers have been low many times in the past and have recovered so they will again.

In answer to what can we do to help them recover, Kristen Baum said for the monarchs to recover they will need an abundance of milkweed and also nectar sources. She says we need to get more milkweed and nectar plants in the ground.

More information about the low population numbers including a graph illustrating population fluctuations since 1895 can be found on the Monarch Watch Blog <https://monarchwatch.org/blog>. Monarch Watch is a nonprofit program affiliated with the Kansas Biological Survey and Center for Ecological Research at the University of Kansas and relies on private contributions to support the program. See monarch-watch.org for how to contribute.

Monarch Butterflies will feed on many different flowers to take in the nectar they need to sustain them. However, they will lay their eggs on plants of only the milkweed family (*Asclepias*). These native plants include common milkweed, a spreading plant great for larger open areas, swamp milkweed, a non-spreading perennial with beautiful pink flowers, and butterfly weed, the striking orange native that we see in abandoned fields. Butterfly weed also stays in one place reproducing by seeds. See previous issues of this Newsletter for tips on how to reproduce butterfly weed from root cuttings. There is also Tropical Milkweed, a non-native annual that is easy to grow from seed. Shorter than swamp milkweed, it will bloom for a long time in the garden producing colorful flowers. See the previous issue for tips on growing this plant in a container.

In light of these recent findings on the steep decline of overwintering monarchs, not to mention their significant decline because of habitat loss, it is important for all of us to incorporate milkweed into our vegetable gardens as well as flower gardens and any open space available. While there may be a good supply of nectar plants in summer, it is especially important to provide nectar plants early and late in the season. They apparently don't reach our area until mid May so late summer and fall may be the most important time to add nectar producing plants here. These plants will help sustain the monarchs as they begin their long southerly migration to Mexico.



We welcome new members
Paula Kramer and Roxane Uhrin
to the
Greensburg Garden Center.
We thank them both for being brave enough do
a tea table for our Spring Tea!

Just a friendly reminder—if you haven't paid your dues, stop in the office or mail a check.

Greensburg Garden Center
951 Old Salem Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-3:00
Phone: 724-837-0245
www.greensburggardencenter.net
email: ggc951@live.com

Co-Presidents: Carla Rusnica, Diane Dale
Co-Vice President:s Judy Geary, Nadine Mason
Newsletter Editor: Diane Dale

GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER 2024
ASSOCIATE MEMBER - NEW MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

Date: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Type of Membership: New \$20 _____ Renewal \$20 _____ Student \$3 _____

Annual dues run from January 1 to January 1. Please make checks payable to:
Greensburg Garden Center, 951 Old Salem Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601

My interests are: ___ Gardening ___ Floral Design ___ Butterfly Garden ___ Workshops
___ Grounds ___ Social Media

Our Mission Statement

The Greensburg Garden Center is a non-profit educational organization whose goals are to support and educate our members and the community in horticulture, conservation, and related areas and provide an annual scholarship. GGC serves Westmoreland County and surrounding communities.