

Greensburg Garden Center

Jan., Feb. 2022 Newsletter

“Where Gardeners Grow”



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 was an unconventional year. Covid 19 was rampant as the year began. The GGC Board struggled to maintain the status quo, such as it was. However, the membership embraced our events.

- The Spring Tea (with the introduction of our “Tea To Go” box) plus those who attended in person was a success and gave the Board hope for future attendance, plus much needed funds to pay the bills.
- The bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, outdoors for the very first time, was lively and fun! While not a great money-maker, the GGC did not want to break tradition by missing it! It was a cool, rainy day but HEY! we are gardeners! Also, it was nice not to worry about snow on the roads!
- May Mart was held on the Garden House grounds. So very convenient to show off our newly designed Le-fevre Butterfly Garden with its lazy river fountain. It was a sunny, mild day, quite unusual for May Mart! Hot dogs from Bardine’s were sold out – twice!
- Seven unique, beautiful and distinctly different properties were offered on the biennial Garden Tour in July. People were ready for fresh air and beauty. This was the most attended garden tour ever!
- The Monarch butterfly release is always popular. Thanks to sponsors, John and Melinda Sherid, the 200 butterflies were offered free with a reserve deposit. The program offered by Diane Sanner was geared to children (young and old). Novelties, wands, books and an educational film with live larva on display plus drinks donated by Turner Dairy at the hot dog booth were enjoyed by all.
- Our Annual Meeting was again held at the Greensburg Country Club. It was a delight to witness Gary Pratt of Le Jardin Floral create innovative floral designs. Heirloom pumpkin centerpieces decorated the tables to set the mood for Fall.
- A new “Perfect Holiday Party” was planned with much hope and trepidation. It was a sell-out evening thanks to participating stores: Le Jardin Floral, Wight Elephant, Raspberry Acres, Spa 309, McFeeley’s Chocolates, Susan’s Cookies, Sam’s Club, Eclectique and the Greensburg Country Club. Attendees were treated to a festive Christmas theme with floral design, a fashion show, wine cocktails and a variety of hor’d’oeuvres prepared by chef Michael Thomas. The evening was brought to a close with Gary Pratt singing favorite Christmas carols. Fun!!
- To close the eventful year, our Christmas Sale was better than ever. The gals who created the permanent designs used quality materials in creative ways. Decorated trees in assorted sizes and styles were snapped up quickly. Of course, our signature hanging baskets and kissing balls were sold as quickly as they were created. Pre-orders were plentiful.

Our year, while challenging, was successful in demonstrating that we at the Greensburg Garden Center are resourceful and attuned to the wants and needs of our membership while fulfilling the mission of the Center. Education, conservation and environmental awareness. Thank you to all members who selflessly gave of their time and talent to make 2021 a successful year.

Happy New Year!

Calendar of Events

Jan. 4	Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM
	Installation of Officers
Feb. 1	Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM
	Program to be announced

Membership Programs.....

...Our January meeting is the installation of our new officers for year 2022-24! Hard to believe those dates! Lunch will be prepared by the board. This is a meeting to show our appreciation for those willing to serve. Bring a friend!

...Yes, we are having a meeting in February. In the past we have not because of the weather but we are going for it this year! Program is yet to be announced. By then, it will be fun to get out! Remember the "winter dol-drums" after the holidays?

8 Things to Remember

1. The past cannot be changed.
2. Everyone's journey is different.
3. Overthinking will lead to sadness.
4. Happiness is found within.
5. Kindness is free.
6. You only fail if you quit.
7. Whatever goes around comes around.
8. Smiles are contagious.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting was held on October 5th at the Greensburg Country Club and was well attended. Everyone enjoyed the food, raffle prizes, pumpkin centerpieces and floral design program presented by our local florist and song writer/singer, Gary Pratt of Le Jardin Floral. Special thanks to everyone that donated a raffle prize and to Joan Stairs for providing the pumpkins for the centerpieces.

The following Directors were elected and will be installed at our January Membership meeting:

2 Year Directors—Barb Cseh and Barb Yohman
1 year Directors—Penny Turner and Becky McGee

Raffle prizes are winners are as follows:

1. Planter with Plant (donated by Barb & Margie) - Janet Defelice
2. Everything Pumpkin (donated by Garden in the Woods) - J.D. Peterson
3. Fall Pillow & Glass Pumpkin (donated by Joan) - Iris Cisarik
4. Fall Basket (donated by Barb & Margie) - Margie Sheffle
5. Tea Basket (donated by Eastwood) - Tiffany Horvat
6. Garden Basket (not sure who donated) - Angie Raitano
7. Trick or Treat - (donated by Joan) - Angie Raitano
8. Wine - (donated by Joan) - Donna Lee
9. Lottery (donated by Joan) - Cindy Lucente
10. Steeler (donated by Nadine & Carla) - Penny Turner
11. Car Care (Garden Center) - Mike Kelly

Door prizes - Arrangement by Gary Pratt (Barb Yohman); Mum (Janet DeFelice)

THERE'S STILL TIME!!!



It's such a busy time of the year: shopping, writing cards, lunch with friends and family gatherings. There's barely a moment to sit down between taking the cookies out of the oven.

Thank you to all our members who have given up time, talent, and treasure over the past busy months. It is much appreciated!!

Giving Tuesday rushed by in a week of preparing for the Christmas Sale and on the heels of a busy Thanksgiving weekend. There was much Cyber Week shopping to do too! Perhaps you forgot to call the office with a credit card contribution.

Now that the end of 2021 has arrived, consider adding to your deductible contributions by writing a check to Greensburg Garden Center. By dating your check 12/31/21, you can your contribution to your 2021 tax return! Or call with a credit card contribution.

We are dedicating all donations this year to the Scholarship Fund, unless indicated otherwise. Each year a college student benefits from the \$1500 sent to further their education. We all know that the future of the environment is dependent a young mind full of hopes and ideals.

Please consider a donation of any amount.
Thank you and Happy New Year!!

Hardwood Cuttings



There's nothing quite like the feeling you get from starting new plants from seeds or cuttings. Sometimes I just can't stop myself from rooting cuttings of favorite plants. I've kept special coleus alive year after year by rooting cuttings in late August or September and growing them in my light garden till the next spring. I have one, *Honeycrisp*, that I never see for sale anymore but I've kept it going for a number of years. The cuttings from the coleus are called herbaceous cuttings and can be used for most herbs, many houseplants, even tomatoes. Herbaceous cuttings are taken when the plant is actively growing.

There are several other types of cuttings. used for propagation. The one I want to look at today is called a hardwood cutting. These are taken when the plant is dormant. Lewis Hill in *Secrets of Plant Propagation* said the he has successfully started grapes, currants, willows, spireas, cotoneasters, shrub roses, hydrangea, honeysuckle, mock orange, privet, ninebark, numerous vines, and certain evergreens from hardwood cuttings.

Hardwood cuttings can be taken any time between late fall and late winter. Some plants need a chilling period of several weeks in order to root well so don't take the cuttings too early. Here's precisely what to do. Take as many cuttings as you like; one branch can supply several. Make them 5 to 8 inches long, all the same length if possible. Cut the top end on a slant, slightly above a bud. Cut the bottom end also on a slant to expose more cut area to form roots. Do not let them dry out. Keeping the cuttings all going the same direction, bundle them together. Store them in moist, but not soggy vermiculite or sand in a sealed container in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator. Or wrap them in a wet but not soggy paper towel. They need to be kept cool but not frozen. You may have another storage location that will provide the same conditions. Label the container if you have more than one kind of cutting. Or label the bundle if you are doing several shrubs in the same container. A sturdy plastic bag should work well.

Toward spring the lower ends of the cuttings will form calluses from which the roots will eventually spring. Don't plant them until the callus is formed. Mr. Lewis has planted them directly in the ground without any special care but did suffer a high number of losses. He improved survivability by dipping the lower end of the callused ends in a rooting hormone powder and planting them in a well prepared bed four to six inches apart. The bed received sunlight only in the morning. Plant the cuttings so only one or two buds remain above ground and firm the soil around the cuttings. He also used a slightly cloudy plastic cover supported a few inches above the cuttings. I would vent the cover so the cuttings don't overheat under the plastic cover. You don't want to cook them. While Mr. Lewis used a spot with morning sun, I would recommend a spot in bright light. Sunlight hitting even cloudy plastic could be a recipe for disaster. Another possibility is to use nursery pots which can be moved later into a more sunny spot.

Keep them well watered. Until they have a well developed root system they won't be able to survive drying out. You can add a little fertilizer as soon as the roots begin to grow. When good top and root growth has been achieved you can remove any cover. Feed them regularly for optimum growth. Leave the little plants in their starter bed until the following spring and either transplant them to a new spot or pot them up.

You are probably already thinking of things you can do with hardwood cuttings. You could move an overgrown shrub into a different spot via the new plant. Start a plant for a friend or for a sale. Get your own copy of a coveted friend's plant. Many varieties come and go in the nursery trade, and old varieties tend to disappear to make room for new ones. With this technique you can bring some of these old favorites back.

Sandy



"Some people look for a beautiful place—
Others make a place beautiful."
Wish all of you a beautiful New Year!

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Co-Vice President:s Judy Geary, Nadine Mason
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GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER 2022
ASSOCIATE MEMBER - NEW MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

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

Type of Membership: New \$15 _____ Renewal \$15 _____ 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.