

Greensburg Garden Center

Nov., Dec. 2021 Newsletter

"Where Gardeners Grow"



2021 CHRISTMAS SALE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3 - 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Free Admission! Free Parking!

Elves have been busy in Santa's workshop designing holiday decorations for every room of the house. Shop for welcoming wreaths for the front door, stunningly beautiful tabletop trees, festive centerpieces for the dining table or side table, available in traditional, elegant, eclectic or rustic designs. There's also many small hostess or thank-you gift items for someone special. The elves have been busy creating and having a merry time!



Create a holiday aura with mixed swags, kissing balls, table arrangements and hanging baskets created by Garden Center members. Enhance your front door or mantle with a fir wreath or white pine roping. Tuck in a few sprigs of seeded eucalyptus to add interest. Then, choose from an amazing variety of bows to complete a picture-perfect display!

Preordering will guarantee that you get the live decorations you want. If you are busy Friday, preordering will make sure the greens aren't sold by Saturday when you get to the sale. Order forms are available by calling the office. Preorders can be picked up as early as Thursday, December 2 or either day of the sale. The office and halls will be decorated throughout November for those who like to decorate early. Stop in to choose the perfect item for a favorite teacher, relative, friend or yourself!



Calling all elf wannabes! Tuesdays and Thursdays until Thanksgiving, Nadine Mason will be in our downstairs workroom with elf-training guidance while gathering materials and sharing ideas. No experience necessary! Come join in the elf fun!!

Then...the week after Thanksgiving is totally "fresh" greens! Learn to create our popular hanging baskets of assorted greens and/or kissing balls. It's great fun, very messy and a great learning experience. Meet fellow members, munch on a holiday cookie. Guaranteed to get you in the holiday mood.

WE NEED YOUR GREENS!!

The fresh green creations require an abundance of fresh branches. Work off that turkey and pumpkin pie! Trim your pine boughs, boxwood and arborvitae. All types of evergreens are needed including holly and rhododendron. We also love red twig dogwood and curly willow. Please tie bundles of branches or place in large garbage bags and bring the greens to the basement workroom at the rear of the Garden Center building beginning November 29. If no one is there, just leave them by the garage doors.

"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredient of a truly Merry Christmas." ~Peg Bracken

Calendar of Events

Nov. 2 **Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM**
Gary Daigle, Bidwell School

Dec. 3 **Christmas Sale 3-7:00 PM**

Dec. 4 **Christmas Sale 9:00-1:00 PM**

Dec. 7 **Membership Mtg. 11:00 PM**
Christmas Party
Holiday craft— Nadine Mason

See you all in 2022!!

Membership Programs.....

....In November, we welcome Gary Daigle from the Bidwell School, a new school in Greensburg with a rooftop garden.

....Our December Membership Meeting is our Christmas Party! Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Nadine Mason will demonstrate a holiday craft that we all can make to take home! Please join us as we celebrate the holiday after a really rough year, but we made it and made some new gardening friends along the way!



Get Your Calendar Now

The new 2022 calendars are in the office and a bargain at just \$5.00. Each calendar contains three coupons, one from each of our sponsors: Shadowwood Gardens, Country Farms, and Silvis Landscaping. While we seemingly get our monthly meeting room free it is actually supplied as part of our rent agreement. We pay extra rent for every special event not held in the garden house. If each of us reading this article would purchase just one calendar, our 310 members would generate \$1550 income which would help keep the lights on.

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos. Now it's time to think about taking fall and winter photos. Please grab your camera or phone and start shooting. There are some wonderful photos in the 2022 calendar making the calendar great wall art. Becky used a novel idea for her winter submission. Joan caught a black swallowtail with its wings spread wide. Carla made a colorful garden with containers. Actually there are so many nice shots you will just have to buy a calendar to see them all.

The Calendar Committee: Agnes, Charlene, and Sandy



Welcome new member Tiffany Horvat, We are so happy you are joining us!

“A Perfect Holiday Party”

Time to say “THANK YOU”.



What a wonderful evening at the Greensburg Country Club! Even though it was raining outside instead of snowing, it was Christmas inside!

The tables looked wonderful with the scent of fresh greens thanks to the centerpieces made by Mary Ann Artman, Agnes Lapa, Angie Raitano, and Margie Wolf.

A special thank-you to Victoria Piekut, owner of the Wight Elephant and her models; Laurie Corbett, Raspberry Acres Winery; Chef Michael Thomas, Greensburg Country Club; Debbie Pologruto, Events Coordinator, Jennifer Amundson, Spa 309; McFeely's Chocolates and Sharon's Cookies. And extra special thank-you to Gary Pratt, Le Jardin Floral and Gift Shop, for his wonderful floral arrangements and for singing Christmas songs to put us in the holiday mood.

Congratulations to the raffle winners and those who donated them. We had a Steeler Basket with 2 Steeler tickets, a Lottery Tree donated by GGC members, A Spode Hostess Set, Spa 309 gift card donated by Jennifer Amundson, Wine Basket donated by Raspberry Acres, Basket of Chocolates from McFeely's Chocolates, Smokeless Fire Pit donated by Sam's Club, Single Serve Keurig Coffee Maker with Spode Mugs donated by Karen Douglas, Golf Outing for 4 donated by Greensburg Country Club, 4' Decorated Christmas Tree, and a Christmas Gift Basket.

Thank you to the GGC Holiday Party Committee and our members who supported this event.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to all of you for being there and supporting the Greensburg Garden Center.

Fall Raffle Winners!!!



Congratulations to Nancy Haggertz, Elaine Harmon, Sandy Leah, Chris Hornen and Kitty Hagy.

Thanks to our Board Members for donating the tickets and to Marian DeBone for coordinating the raffle!!

GIVING TUESDAY—November 30, 2021



Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 by the United Nations Foundation and the 92nd Street Y. Their intention was to set aside a day that was all about celebrating the generosity of giving, a great American tradition.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™ This year Giving Tuesday is November 30th, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The idea behind this special day was to help the “giving season” get started, reminding all that there is more to holidays than consumerism and commercialization.

All non-profits had an especially hard time during Covid-19 trying to raise funds without social gathering. The Greensburg Garden Center is no exception. We are especially proud of the scholarship we offer to a college student studying a field related to our mission.

At this time, our scholarship account is lower than normal. Your donation on Giving Tuesday, or actually at any time, can be designated to build this account.

We also offer a yearly Monarch Butterfly Release (free to the public). Not only does this fun day educate young and old, it raises awareness of the plight of the dwindling numbers of this majestic butterfly.

The Greensburg Garden Center leases space in the Greensburg Garden & Civic Center. We are a volunteer organization. Our secretary works 10 hours per week.

Call the office at 724-837-0245 for a credit card donation or simply mail a check. Thank you in advance for your support!

Pawpaws, Milkweed, and Stratification

The other day a friend gave me a pawpaw fruit to sample. Cutting it open too soon, I missed that distinctive banana/mango/pineapple flavor. But that pawpaw did give me four seeds. We already have one pawpaw tree but two are needed for cross pollination so I'm planning on planting these seeds. The pawpaw tree, a native ranging from northern Florida into Canada, is an understory tree which means it likes a little shade. But as it matures full sun will lead to a larger fruit crop. If you want maximum fruit production, you can meet this diverse need by using a shade cover when the tree is young. Now back to Stratification, what is it anyhow? Stratifying seeds is to expose them to a moist chilling period in a dark place. Like butterfly weed and swamp milkweed, the seeds of pawpaw need a chilling period. In the case of pawpaw seeds they will grow if planted as soon as taken from the ripe fruit. Otherwise chill for three to four months at 40 degrees and plant in the spring. If planted outdoors after taken from the ripe fruit, they will go through a natural chilling period in the ground. Otherwise they can be placed in damp potting soil and chilled in the refrigerator.

Milkweed on the other hand doesn't require such a long chilling period. I have had success storing the seeds in a plastic container in the barn where the environment is naturally damp in the winter. Otherwise sprinkle some seeds on a damp paper towel, fold into quarters, and place in a quart freezer plastic bag. Label with the date and store in the refrigerator for thirty days. After the chilling period, plant the seeds in damp soilless mix. In the case of swamp milkweed it requires light to germinate so barely cover the seeds. Keep the medium damp by spritzing or using a clamshell container. If you are using a damp paper towel you might want to plan backwards from the date you want to plant them to calculate the date to begin stratifying. Shop lights and ordinary fluorescent bulbs provide good light for starting seedlings indoors. Or you can plan to plant them directly outdoors. Another tact is to plant the seeds in a clear plastic clamshell and store it outside in a protected place until they germinate in the spring. As they start to grow give them more light and transplant as needed. Learning about plant propagation can extend your enjoyment of gardening. Seeing new growth appear that you brought about is rewarding and just plain fun.
~Sandy

Natural air freshener



I used to have a rattan kitchen trash container. Then along came our new puppy with a real appetite for napkins, tissues, and paper towels. Tissues and napkins pretty much degrade and pass right through but paper towels are another story - much more durable. The container worked fine except when we left the lid open. We had to prevent her from getting paper towels and couldn't depend on our memory to always put the lid down. So enter a butterfly top metal kitchen trash can. Keeps the dog out really swell. But it also traps all the odors. They're not all bad but orange peel every time you open it gets old pretty quickly. So the other day I was trimming my scented geraniums and threw the trimmings in that trash can.

The next time I opened it, all I could smell was the refreshing scent of the scented geraniums. They stay fragrant for several days, especially if stirred up or crushed a bit. For me, another reason to grow scented geraniums

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 2021
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.