



Greensburg Garden Center

July, August 2021 Newsletter

“Where Gardeners Grow”



Calendar of Events

July 6	Membership Mtg. 6:00 PM In the LeFevre Butterfly Garden
July 31	Garden Tour 10:00 AM
Aug. 3	Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM Crimson Creek Apiary
Aug. 14	Butterfly Release

Membership Meetings.....

...Our July 6 meeting is in the LeFevre Butterfly Garden at 6:00 PM. Come and enjoy the beautiful garden and new water feature! Light refreshments will be served.

...On August 3 we welcome Linda & Norman Lachimia from Crimson Creek Apiary. They sell 100% raw honey and honey goods. This will be a really interesting program and as always, free and open to the public.

Biennial Garden Tour!!



Don't forget to mark your calendar for this year's garden tour, Saturday July 31, rain or shine.

We have seven beautiful and interesting properties to showcase. There is much to see and learn in these distinctly different gardens between Delmont and North Huntington.

We've extended hours this year from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, so there's plenty of time to meander through all seven gardens. Brochure/tickets will be available on July 1, by calling 724 837-0245. Price is \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00, sold in GGC office from 9:30 to 11:00, on day of tour.

MAGNIFICENT MONARCHS !

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 14
11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**



The ever-popular Monarch Butterfly Release will take place in the beautiful LeFevre Butterfly Garden again this year. There's always a variety of flowers in our garden to entice the released Monarchs to land and take a sip of nectar. New this year is an amazing water feature which replaces the original fountain. The new gently flowing "river" is pollinator friendly and gives off a relaxing ambience.

There will be plenty to see and enjoy:

- ~Monarch larva will be happily munching milkweed in one of our troughs.
- ~Novelty items will be available at the butterfly marketplace.
- ~Educational displays and butterfly books are on display inside the Garden House.
- ~Hot dogs and butterfly cookies will tempt your palate.
- ~Turner Dairy is providing free drinks.
- ~Buy a flower wand to coax a Monarch to land.
- ~Bring your camera for a snapshot on our Monarch butterfly bench.

Only 200 Monarch butterflies have been ordered. Reserve your Monarch – a \$7.00 donation this year. Choose a release time to attend. A short presentation will precede the release. Treat yourself and your family to the breath-taking sight of butterflies fluttering all around! Admission is free and open to all! Everyone is invited! Bring your family and friends.

Mother Nature is at her best in our colorful LeFevre Butterfly Garden, located behind the main building at the bottom of the parking lot.

Katherine M. McKenna Scholarship Scholarship Selection to be Announced



The deadline to apply for this year's \$1,500 award has passed. The scholarship committee will be voting on our awardee later this month. The selected applicant will need to be contacted before we make a public announcement. If all goes well, I'm hoping to share the good news during our next monthly meeting in July.

The Katherine M. McKenna Scholarship has been awarded annually to a local college student for many years. The funds raised for this scholarship are a result of the hard work by our members and the valued support of our community.

Thank you all,
Deneise Snyder, Scholarship Chair

2022 Calendar



We hope to have a calendar featuring pictures from members gardens available for the 2022 year.

However, we need your 4 x 6 glossy photos no later than our July 6 meeting. This gives us time to get the pictures to the printer and have the calendars printed and available by our October Annual Meeting. Thank you!

Happiness is a green tomato turning red!!



Welcome new members....Florence Whetsel, Linda Thompson and Janet McNerny. We need lots of help, let us know what you are interested in.

"It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside."

—Maud Hart Lovelace,

Mike Kelly



Along with being instrumental in helping with the revitalizing of our Butterfly Garden, Mike volunteers in the community wherever he sees a need. He recently trimmed the trees in Greensburg between the Dept. of Health and the Sunoco station. What an improvement! He is quite a gardener as is evident in his own garden!

Thanks, Mike for ALL you do.

Don't go through life, grow through life. Remember the weeds are there to grow your character.

Fall Raffle

The Fall Raffle tickets are included in this newsletter. This is an annual and important fundraiser for us. If all who receives this newsletter buys them, we wouldn't have to work so hard!!

Thanks to Marian DeBone for her work in purchasing the gift certificates to all the restaurants, the money for them is donated by our board members.

What better reason do you have to get out, finally, and enjoy a nice, relaxing dinner! With each \$5.00 ticket, you have a chance of winning (4) \$25.00 certificates to the most popular restaurants we could find. This is a \$100.00 value!

The winning ticket will be drawn at our Annual Meeting in October at the Greensburg Country Club.

Thank you to Fotorecord Print Center for donating the printing of the tickets.



Birth flowers

According to the language of flowers, introduced to England in the early 18th century by Mary Wortley Montague, flowers had meanings. Each month has a symbolic flower whose characteristics may be "inherited" by anyone born in that month. Later authors have been inspired by this tradition to create lists that associate a birthday flower with each day of the year.

The birth month flower for June is the rose and honeysuckle, meaning romance and love. July is larkspur and water lily, meaning positivity, dignity and grace.

What I've Learned.....Multiplying Your Perennials



Ever wish you had more than one of a favorite perennial but didn't want to dig it up to divide it? Actually it is easy to increase your plants using the technique of cuttings.

Here's one method I use. Fill a 4" pot for with soilless mix, get it wet but let all the excess water drain away. Take four 4 - 6" cuttings from a non-flowering stem; or you could just cut the flower off. Remove the lower leaves. If the cutting has large leaves I like to cut about half the leave off to help with moisture loss. Rooting hormone can be a help but usually is not necessary. You can dip two cuttings and try two without. Shake off any excess powder. Make four holes with a pencil or similar tool. Insert each cutting in a hole. Gently firm the soil around the stem. Place the pot with the cuttings in a clear plastic bag using plant markers to keep the bag above the cuttings. Seal the top with a twist tie. Place in a warm very bright spot that will not receive any direct sun.

Check periodically and remove any that might start to rot. I like to blow in the bag to change the air from time to time. When the cuttings have rooted, open the bag to let the moisture level equalize with the outside air. If they wilt, close the bag and wait a bit longer. Gradually expose the rooted cuttings to more light adjusting their exposure as they mature. Finally move each cutting to its own pot or plant in the garden protecting it from the sun if necessary.

The end of June is about the latest that is recommended to take cuttings. While they will probably still root, I suspect they will not be mature enough to make it through the winter. These new plants will benefit from extra protection against changing temperatures and harsh conditions throughout the winter. A mulch of pine boughs is a tried and true method of protecting plants. Apply after the ground has frozen. They are usually not happy spending the winter in their original 4" pot above ground.

I have saved numerous plants using this method. Having found the original plant to not have survived the winter, I was thrilled to find the new plant had survived. My Blue Fortune anise hyssop, Alma Potschke aster, and Pink Delight butterfly bush are still around because of cuttings. This year I've already rooted cuttings of Cinderella Swamp Milkweed to replace other swamp milkweeds that didn't survive. Here's hoping they achieve some size before the monarchs arrive!

Sandy Truckner

Gardening Tip From Susan Wisneski....



Give hanging baskets a good soak! When they get too dry, take the basket down and set in a pan or bucket of water for 10 minutes. Then rehang and let them drip dry.

Epsom Salt for your plants.

Epsom Salt is magnesium sulfate. If my soil is deficient, I use 1 table-spoon, sprinkle around base of plant, blend into the soil and water thoroughly. I use this around my peppers and tomatoes early in the season. Works for me!



Pinch your petunias.

Make them fat and sassy! I do this around July 4th. Trim off the growing tip using scissors or your fingernail. This will force the petunia to produce two new growing tips below the cut.



We are planning a BIG event that is... Exciting! Festive! Unique!



We're having a party!! A "Perfect Holiday Party"!! We hosted this event five years ago. It was a huge success then and those who attended have been asking for it again and again. This year, we are making sure it is bigger and better!! It will be the talk of the town!

There will be a demonstration on preparing holiday hors d'oeuvres, sample tasting of wines, elegant or flirty party fashions, festive florals by a local, well-known florist, and lively music. You will want to take a chance on fabulous raffle prizes. Add in an elegant setting and you have a "Perfect Holiday Party"!

Shh! Some details are still in the works so we can't tell yet! Be sure to mark the evening of Thursday, October 21 on your calendar. You won't want to miss this!

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.