



Greensburg Garden Center

March, April 2023 Newsletter

“Where Gardeners Grow”



Calendar of Events

- Mar. 7** **Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM**
Jim Kolka from the Hosta Society
of Western PA
- Mar. 25** **Spring Tea 11:00 AM**
- Apr. 4** **Membersip Mtg. 11:00 AM**
Chris Kubiak from the Audubon
Society of Western PA

Longwood Gardens Bus Trip



Would you like to visit Longwood Gardens in Spring? It is arguably the premier public garden in Pennsylvania if not the U. S., and it's less than 4 1/2 hours from us.

We are planning a bus trip on **Wednesday May 17** and will leave the garden center at 7:30 AM and return approximately 10:30 PM.

We should have about 5 hours to tour the gardens. We're hoping to see the Wisteria garden in full bloom. All meals will be on your own. There will be a stop for a quick breakfast halfway to and a supper stop about halfway home. There is a cafe at the gardens.

Price is \$130 for members and \$140 for nonmembers. Call the office at 724 837-0245 for reservations.

Save These Dates...

....Our biennial **Garden Tour** is being planned for **June 24**. This is a great afternoon of visiting meticulously cared for gardens in the area. More info will be in the next newsletter.

....**Bus trip to Lavender Hill Farm** near Deep Creek, MD. on **July 12**. It's only a 1 hr, 45 min. trip and will include a gourmet lunch. More information will be announced in the next newsletter.

GGC Annual Spring Tea “Together Again”



Signs of spring are popping up everywhere as we announce the date for the Greensburg Garden Center's Annual Spring Tea; **Saturday, March 25th**.

Featuring beautifully decorated tables, we are happy to report that this much anticipated event is being held this year at the **Greensburg Garden Center, 951 Old Salem Road, Greensburg, in the Laurel and Iris Rooms. Doors open at 11:00 AM with tea served at 12:00 Noon.**

Tickets are \$30 each and include tea sandwiches, scones, cookies and other delicious treats, as well as entertainment by **Mary McCormack and Jessie Glover**, door prize and a wide array of raffle baskets.

By popular demand we will once again be offering a limited amount of our lovely Tea-To-Go boxes this year, also **\$30, Tea-To-Go boxes must be preordered.**



Tickets are selling fast, so tell your friends and reserve your seat today at one of our lovely tables by calling the G.G.C. office 724-837-0245.

G.G.C. MEMBERS – The Spring Tea is a big fundraiser and we need lots of help to make the event a success. Volunteers are needed to host tables, make sandwiches, scones or cookies, donate raffle baskets or to help the day of the event. Please call the office today and sign up as a volunteer. Remember: many hands make light work.

“Life is like a teacup, to be filled to the brim and enjoyed with friends.”



A big thank you to any and all who helped make our **Christmas Sale** a success this year—it does take a village! In regard to that fact, we are requesting decorations of items for specific creations we are planning for the 2023 sale.

- Saucers or small plates—even child size. Preferably printed but plain can be used also. Vintage look is a plus!
- Mini pine trees—any color, but we do have lots of green.
- Small figurines (animals, people, snowmen, etc.)
- Frames—any size but small are mostly needed for this activity. Ornate is good, even ones without glass can be used.
- Candle holders with round flat tops, any size, especially small.
- Glass Oui yogurt containers, small or medium clear glass vases with at least 3-5” opening. Small/medium glass cloches would be welcome but these are hard to come by and even harder to give up!
- Ornate beads and knobs, 3/4” to 1 1/2” in diameter. These will be glued on top (bottom) of vases to give a finished look.
- Tiny dried flowers or pinecones.

If you are disposing of extra Christmas items or ornaments, please throw them our way. We can either find them a good home as is or turn them into something completely different. Thank you for helping in this endeavor!

**GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION of
PENNSYLVANIA 2023 CONVENTION
“THYME to Garden”**

For the first time, The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Annual Convention will be a **weekend** convention, starting on FRIDAY, APRIL 21 and ending on SUNDAY, APRIL 23.

The Convention is being hosted by GCFP District VII, of which GGC is an Affiliate Member, and it will be held in Monroeville, PA...just around our corner! This is a great opportunity for GGC members to take advantage of the education, entertainment, and enjoyment that a state convention offers, everything from afternoon tea to garden design.

I urge you to attend a state garden club convention... anywhere in the state...but especially when it's being held nearby: The **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Monroeville**, 101 Mall Boulevard, Monroeville, PA 15146... (just off Route 22), a short ride from Greensburg.

More details and the convention registration form are available on the GCFP website: pagardenclubs.org.

Angie Raitano

Volunteer Committee

Now that the Christmas Gifts & Greens sale is over for 2022 and all the expenses and income tallied up, the GGC Board is looking back at what worked, while looking ahead in ways to improve the 2023 Christmas sale.



People working the volunteer workshops in September, October and November have noted that they have not been well attended. There is a core group of helpers that persevere through the season, but more volunteers are needed and would be much appreciated.

It has been noted that some people don't feel they have the skill to help or that an hour of time won't make a difference – But it does! If ten people give one hour each, that is TEN HOURS of much-needed volunteer time.

In an effort to prepare more efficiently for the 2023 holiday sale, which is one of GGC's biggest fund raisers for the year, the volunteer committee is going to schedule several 'crafting get-together's' on a more regular basis.

The committee is considering a meetup every 4 – 6 weeks with a specific focus on making one item at each session. It has also been suggested to have a 'make one-take one' crafting meetup. This will be a fun time making a Christmas craft or ornament and creating a second to take home with the volunteer.

These workshops will save time and give GGC a step-up on the minutia of the holiday season in autumn. By spreading out the craft preparations we hope to be ready for the final rush in September, October and November for the sale.

Also, do you have an idea for a Christmas craft sale item? Please let us know! We are open to all ideas in an effort to keep the sale fresh for our holiday shoppers.

Volunteer crafting gatherings will be announced when scheduled. If you are interested in being involved or have an idea please feel free to contact us.

“I've Been Framed”



Members are invited to stay after the April Membership Meeting to participate in a fun activity. This should only take 1-2 hrs. depending on how creative you want to be! We will be framing pictures, cards, collages, etc. to be sold at the Christmas Sale.

If you have any materials (bits of lace, ribbon, copies of sheet music, Christmas cards, beautiful pictures, vintage photos, frames, etc.), please bring these with you. Thank you to those who choose to stay.

Light Therapy, by Sandy Truckner



We've read about how using high powered light boxes can help with seasonal affective disorder (SAD). But I'm going to suggest a different kind of light to help beat the winter blues - Garden Grow Lights. A simple light garden can cheer you up as you tend the plants. Whether fluorescent or LED, it will let you grow a wide variety of plants year round in a controlled environment.

Years ago Bill built me a wooden fluorescent light garden with four tiers of fluorescent lights. I just use the inexpensive shop light fixtures with cool light bulbs, nothing fancy. There is always something to do in the light garden. Basil needs harvested, trimmed, repotted, as well as cuttings taken and rooted to extend its life. Coleus can be grown in four packs over the winter to be ready to put out next spring. They are always needing cut back to stay a reasonable height. Cuttings of favorite but hard to find or expensive plants can be rooted and grown over the winter. Propagation via cuttings is so easy, sometimes it is hard to control yourself.

And all the time you are working in this light garden you are getting a good dose of bright light. Sometimes when you are in a hurry the garden can be a pain because it does demand regular watering. But the rewards far outweigh the drawbacks. Because the plants demand attention you have to spend a bit of time taking care of them. It can be as little or as much as you want. Working with the plants just makes you feel good. I'm sure there are scientific reasons for this but if you are reading this newsletter, you enjoy gardening, and it stands to reason you would find this satisfying.

You don't need as extensive a garden as Bill made for me. On the cheap you can just get a couple shop lights and hang them in the basement or spare room. On the other hand, there are many light set ups available commercially. For Christmas our son presented me with a small hydroponic light garden with LED lights. Right now there is dill and basil as well as lettuce growing, with thyme yet to sprout. A whole new venture. I notice with these broad spectrum lights the red basil I moved under them is actually much redder than it was under the cool white fluorescents.

I nearly forgot to mention seed starting. Seedlings grown on windowsills stretch for the sun but in a light garden can be moved close to the lights to optimize growth. Many six-packs can be used to start tomatoes, peppers, zinnias, marigolds, tropical milkweed, and so many others. By starting them in the light garden six to eight weeks ahead of planting them in the garden, flowers and vegetables can be enjoyed that much earlier. Some of the plants, especially tomatoes, will outgrow their six-packs and need transplanted into larger containers before their actual move to the outdoor garden. I might note that while white light is fine for foliage plants and starting seeds, a warm spectrum light helps set flower buds and keep plants short.

If you think you would like to venture into light gardening and have questions, there is so much information in books and on the internet. I just wanted to get you thinking about it.

Accepting applications for our \$1,500 scholarship now!

The Greensburg Garden Center is accepting applications for the Katherine Mabis McKenna Scholarship until May 31st, 2023. Applicants must reside in Westmoreland or its bordering counties and have completed at least one year at an accredited college or university before the application 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 may also apply.

Information can be found on our website www.greensburggardencenter.net. Access the application by clicking on the heading MENU. To help spread the word about our scholarship, LIKE and SHARE the picture of our flyer on FACEBOOK; another option is to pick up and share our colorful flyers available in our office.

This scholarship is only possible thru the support of our members and local communities. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, a personal check or credit card are accepted at the office. Please designate that your donation is to be used for our scholarship fund. The office number is 724-837-0245.

Thank you from Katherine M. McKenna Scholarship Committee.

National Garden Club Convention



The National Garden Club will be holding their annual convention

at The Greenbriar Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, W VA on May 2,3 and 4, 2023. Deadline to register is April 14. All information is on their website.

This is a chance to stay at this beautiful, historic hotel at a discounted rate and enjoy all the classes and programs that the convention offers.



A warm welcome to new member Anita Simpson.

Greensburg Garden Center
951 Old Salem Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-3:00
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Co-Presidents: Carla Rusnica, Diane Dale
Co-Vice President:s Judy Geary, Nadine Mason
Newsletter Editor: Diane Dale

GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER 2023
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.