



Greensburg Garden Center

Nov., Dec., 2020, Jan., 2021 Newsletter

“Where Gardeners Grow”



CHRISTMAS SALE!!!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 - 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Free Admission! Free Parking!
Holiday magic can be found here! Shop early!



The GGC office is festooned with the latest holiday creations of our talented members. We have decorations that are glittery and sparkle, are rustic and chic, or are the ever-popular traditional. You will find something that fits your style!

Trees! Trees! Trees! There is no other place around that you can find the amazing array of tastefully decorated artificial trees. They are as little as 12 inches and as tall as 4 foot. It’s so nice to take home a beautifully adorned tree

for instant holiday enchantment!

For early shoppers, the office decorations as well as “Deck the Halls” starts **November 2**. Come in during office hours or stop in during building hours (Monday – Friday 9:00 – 5:00, Saturday 9:00 – 3:00) to browse our amazing hall display of festive, colorful wreaths, swags and imaginative creations to decorate for the season. We beat the big box stores in creativity, styles and prices. Each display has an envelope to slip under the office door with your payment.

On December 4 and 5 all decorations are on display in the Laurel Room which is festive with the aromatic scent of pine. Sale days will have our usual display of hanging baskets, kissing balls, wreaths, and live green bundles.

The live greens can also be ordered by pre-sale!! It’s wise to order by pre-sale as our reputation for the freshest greens means they sell fast! Our fresh baskets and kissing balls are one-of-a-kind! Call the office for a pre-order form.

Calendar of Events

Nov. 3	Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM Program by Jim Shawley—Curly Willow
Nov. 18	Pie Pick-up Noon—2:00 PM
Dec. 1	Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM Program by “Swarmin Norman”
Dec. 4	Christmas Sale 3:00-7:00 PM
Dec. 5	Christmas Sale 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Jan. 5	Membership Mtg. 11:00 PM Installation of Officers

Need some relief from “Pandemic Boredom”?

1. Attend a Christmas workshop.
2. Choose some craft materials from our stocked shelves.
3. Create a unique item to be offered at our annual sale.
4. Repeat!

Workshops will continue on Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 am—3 pm. through November 24. Bring a friend or make some new ones. Snacks and drinks are provided, masks will be worn and social distancing observed. It’s a lot of fun!!!

Membership Meetings



At our November meeting we will have the pleasure of watching **Jim Shawley of the Curly Willow** design a fall and a holiday arrangement.

Jim is an awesome designer and a very entertaining person. This is a program not to be missed!



In December we have “**Swarmin Norman**” from Crimson Creek Apiary who will talk about honeybees and beekeeping. Norman Lachimia is an expert craftsman in building Langstroth hives, patented in 1852. He will bring local honey and other products to sell.



Also, December is our **annual pot-luck luncheon** and we ask all members to bring a dish to share! For safety, we will have servers wearing gloves. This is a fun way to start off the holiday season!

We all look forward to lunch following our meetings, right? For a long, long time all the behind the scenes work has been done by Nancy Nemeth and Peggy Annas along with monthly volunteers. Sadly, both Nancy and Peggy have retired and moved out of state to be near family and we wish them all the best and will miss them dearly. Fortunately, we have a new committee, Mary Ann Artman and Mary Louise Silvis have stepped up to carry on our tradition.

The Spirit of Giving

Every holiday season, the Garden Center gives donations from our members to a worthy organization. This year we are collecting non-perishable items for the Westmoreland County Food Bank.



High protein foods are much needed: peanut butter, tuna and other canned meats, packaged dinners that are quick and easy to make. Plus, those elusive paper products are in high demand.

Donations can be brought to the Garden Center office during office hours. The Civic Center building is open Monday-Friday until 5 PM and Saturday until 3 PM. Items may be left at the office door during building hours.

Greensburg Garden Center Annual Spring Tea
***IMPORTANT QUESTION: Will there be a GGC 2021 SPRING TEA?**

***ANSWER: Yes....tentative date, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021.**

The location is still in question. Indeed, the entire event is still in question! Everyone is hoping that the COVID-19 threat existing now, will have changed... and, hopefully, will have eased, and that our Garden Center activities can resume. We were lucky in March 2020 to successfully hold the TEA. Hopefully, we will be lucky again in 2021. However, despite realizing the possibility that we may be forced to change plans, we need to think positively and start, now, to make tentative plans for the next GGC Spring Tea!

Think ahead about participating! There are many ways to participate: Decorate a table; Prepare food (tea sandwiches, etc.); Help serve on the day of the event; Provide a Gift Basket (maybe partner w. a friend); Plan to attend; Ask friends to attend.

Let us know your thoughts: Phone Angie Raitano - 724-483-6724 or the GGC office - 724-837-0245. E-mail will work, too: agie.raitano@comcast.net or ggc951@live.com . Stay well!

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020

Every year, on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, people take time to kickoff the holiday season by giving back to their community. 2020 has been especially hard on people, businesses, and non-profit organizations due to the cancellation of events.

Online giving is a great way to show your support without leaving home! GGC is registered with Give Gab and Paypal. However, if you prefer a more traditional way of gifting, GGC is happy to accept your checks or call the office to give a credit card donation.

The Garden Center offers all its members quality programs and opportunities to learn about pollinators, flower design, wildlife and perennials among other things. Workshops to make hypertufa, kissing balls, fresh green and artificial designs to sell at our events offer members a learning experience while having a fun time with their fellow members.

PLANT A DONATION AND WATCH US GROW!

“The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us.”

“What I Learned” by Sandy Truckner

Squirrels may be cute but they can wreak havoc!



The squirrels in your yard have a different planting chart than the one you had in mind. They gather acorns and walnuts and bury them just in case they might need an extra one come winter. They could take them all back to their nest but apparently it might get too crowded. Sitting in the ground over the long cold winter those nuts have had a good period of stratification (chilling) and are ready to sprout. Which they do. Shingle oaks and red oaks make up a good number of the oaks that come up as volunteers for us. Walnuts make up the other nut tree widely planted by the squirrels.

Now I always thought black walnuts were a good tree. They reach good size, up to 100', provide food for wildlife and humans alike, and make beautiful furniture. On the other hand they produce juglone which has an allelopathic effect on some plants. Allelopathy is a way one plant can inhibit the growth of other plants, thus enhancing its chances to survive by not having to compete as much for water and nutrients.

Among gardeners it is fairly well known that black walnuts inhibit the growth of tomatoes. When a walnut tree sprang up in the rams' pasture we didn't give it too much thought. Then years later another one came up between that pasture and the lane. Being somewhat loath to cutting down trees unnecessarily we let them grow. Only to discover that tomatoes aren't the only plant that won't grow near a walnut.

In that same space between the pasture and lane we semi-cleared that area and put in four white pines, four white pines that we had bought small, repotted, grown on for a couple years and finally put out in a permanent spot. They grew fine for a year or so; then the one nearest the bigger walnut began to die. Well we figured it was too close to the walnut and mourned its loss only to discover a second pine turning brown. It seems white pine is very susceptible to the allelopathic effect of walnuts. In the case of the second white pine to die it was probably the small walnut tree growing nearby that did it in.

Rather than blame the walnuts I put the blame where it squarely belongs - on those datted squirrels. We didn't plant those walnuts and never would have put them in there. So now not only do I dislike the squirrels for their competition at the bird feeders, I'm really peeved with them for killing those two white pines.

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW NEWS

The Philadelphia Flower Show is breaking with tradition after 200 years! It was announced that the show will be held **OUTSIDE IN EARLY SUMMER!** Location has yet to be decided and will be announced soon.

The theme "Habitat" will revolve around pollinator gardening and wildlife friendly techniques.

Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Pie Sale



Order your pies now before the holiday! Bake them for Thanksgiving or have some extras in your freezer to bake at a later date. They are delicious and look homemade. Pumpkin rolls are also available. Just call the office and tell Nicky your order before Nov. 3 (not much time left!!) for pick-up on Nov. 18.

Who Doesn't Like Jewelry?

The GGC will be selling Christmas charm bracelets during Nov. and Dec. at a cost of \$16.00. The bracelets are similar to our garden bracelets but with five Christmas charms. They will be offered in gift boxes or bags ready to slip under the tree. Be sure to pick up one or two for a "Secret Santa" gift or that hard to shop for friend. Maybe even "yourself"!



Welcome new members Elaine Harmon and Linda Torbert who both joined in September.



“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you Happiness.” ~Helen Keller

Greensburg Garden Center
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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 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.