

Greensburg Garden Center

March/April 2018 Newsletter

“Where Gardeners Grow”



Calendar Corner

Mar. 6	Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM Program on Orchids
Mar. 7	Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip
April 3	Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM Program—Tree Pittsburgh
April 14	Annual Spring Tea
May 1	Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM
May 4	May Mart 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM
May 5	May Mart 9:00 AM—1:00 PM



....Our March Membership Meeting will chase away those winter doldrums! Our speaker will be Gary Vangelder, President of the Pittsburgh Orchid Society. He will be talking about growing, watering, potting, fertilizers & light, etc. for orchids. He will also bring some

orchids to sell. This program will begin at 11:00 followed by our meeting and luncheon.

....In April the program is “Tree Pittsburgh” by Joe Stavish. He will speak on urban & community forestry, the benefits of having trees and the correct way to prune trees.

Allium “Millenium” 2018 Plant of the Year

The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title Perennial Plant of the Year 2018 to his herbaceous perennial, relative to the common onion. It is considered a “butterfly magnet” but attracts all pollinators.



This plant was selected, in part, for its late flowering mass of rose-purple blooms and shiny foliage that is attractive all-season long. It is best in full sun. The flower globes last as long as 4 weeks and dry to a light tan. Low maintenance and dependable, it is also drought resistant.

Philadelphia Flower Show 2018

Bus Trip Wednesday, March 7

The annual bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show will be on Wednesday, March 7. The bus will leave at 7:00 AM from the Greensburg Garden Center and arrive back at the center at approximately 11:30 PM. Tickets are \$120 for members or \$130 for non-members.



Call the office to reserve your seat early. We have a smaller bus this year and seating is limited.

The 2018 Flower Show, “Wonders of Water”, will celebrate the beauty and life-sustaining interplay of horticulture and water.

America’s leading floral and garden designers will create tropical jungles, temperate forests, native woodlands and landscapes showcasing the astounding plants that thrive in each environment, from exquisite orchids and flowering vines to luminescent desert blooms.

The Annual Flower Show is a top destination and a “must experience” horticultural event,. Attracting 250,000 visitors annually to the Pennsylvania Convention Center, a showcase of excellence that dates back to 1829.

While the hustle and bustle of the Flower Show is exciting and colorful, you may want a little respite in mid-afternoon. The Garden Tea may be just what you need. Perfectly timed at 2:45 PM, relax and enjoy light sandwiches with petite treats and an assortment of fine tea. Reservations are suggested at \$30.00 each (in advance). Tickets can be ordered thru our office or online.

Feeling crafty? Check out the Make and Take section and create a succulent planter. Only a \$10 fee; available the day of the tour.

The Flower Show also has demonstrations and seminars to inspire and educate gardeners.

“April is a promise that May is bound to keep.”

~Hal Borland

Spring Tea 2018 TEA-rific TABLEAU



COME...have a **TEA**-rific afternoon at the Greensburg Garden Center Annual Spring Tea, on **SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018** at Maplewood Presbyterian Church, 108 Woodland Road, Greensburg. Doors open at 11:00. Tea served at 12:00.

COME...and enjoy the beauty of stunningly decorated tables, adorned with pretty dishes and lovely flowers. Relish the pleasure of indulging in the delicious treats prepared by Greensburg Garden Center members. You will have a **TEA**-rific time witnessing the creativity and talents of your friends...members of Greensburg Garden Center.

Your support of this event will also support the educational activities of GGC. You will share in those successes. Some people will go home happy with door prizes or raffle prizes. Guaranteed: Everyone will go home happy.

A collection of costume jewelry will be on display for your perusal and purchase. This extensive collection was donated by a Garden Center member in memory of her mother. Truly beautiful!

Tickets are limited. Early reservations are suggested. Phone the GGC office – 724-837-0245. Angie Rataino, Tea Chair

2018 MAY MART – GARDENER’S FARE

FRIDAY, MAY 4 – 12:00 PM TO 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 5 – 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM



Mark your calendar to be sure not to miss this year’s May Mart! Plans are already perking along: the perennial order has been filled out, the vendors forms have been sent and a raffle prize is ready.

Do you have extra “volunteer” plants in your garden or need to “divide and conquer” plants that have outgrown their space? We welcome your unwanted extras! Bring them to the Center where our planting ladies will re-pot and fertilize them to plump them up for sale at the Gardener’s Fare.

Don’t toss out those unwanted, used garden items from your shed or garage. Give them a second chance at our Garden Flea Mart. Someone needs those throw-a-ways! Bring them in and we can set them out for someone else to buy and use.

If you or someone you know have a special talent to display and/or sell at May Mart, it’s simple to reserve a space. In 2017 we had 20 vendors; we have room for more!

Call Nicky at the office if you would like to have a May Mart flyer to show around or post in your favorite store. Help to get the word out that Greensburg Garden Center’s May Mart should not be missed!

Scholarship Opportunity announced for 2018.



The Greensburg Garden Center is now accepting applications for the Katherine Mabis Scholarship until May 31st, 2018. This year’s award is \$2,000. 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, landscape architecture, horticulture, or a related field should take this opportunity to apply. Graduate student applications are welcomed.

As a non-profit educational organization one of our goals is to provide an annual scholarship to a student pursuing a degree in horticulture, conservation, and related areas. Thanks to community support and a lot of hard work by our membership, we have been able to meet this goal each year.

The application deadline is fast approaching. Don’t delay in sharing this announcement with friends and family. Deadline is May 31st, 2018. An application form and additional information is posted on our website greensburggardencenter.net. Contact Deneise Snyder at 724-568-3819 with questions concerning this scholarship.

STATE CONVENTION in "Little" WASHINGTON in APRIL

The **GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION of PENNSYLVANIA**, of which **GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER** is an **Affiliate Member**, will hold its **88th ANNUAL CONVENTION**, **Sunday-Tuesday, APRIL 15-17, 2018**, at the **DOUBLE-TREE by HILTON Pittsburgh/Meadowlands, 340 Race Track Road, WASHINGTON, PA 15301**.

Featured floral designers will include: **ON THAI**, award winner, from Schenectady, NY (*He will also be teaching a **MASTER CLASS** to the first 25 people who register); **LYNN FRONK**, Master Flower Show Judge and Instructor, from Worthington, OH.

Featured horticulture speaker will be: **GEORGE WEIGEL**, PA certified horticulturist, writer for several newspapers and garden magazines, recipient of the 2016 GCFP and the *NGC Award of Excellence*.

Other important features: Annual Business Meeting; Educational exhibits; Educational workshops - "*Straw Bale Gardening*"; "*Are You Up-to-Date?*" (new *NGC F.S. Schools Handbook*); "*Cannas*"; "*Succulents*"; "*Growing Your Own Medicine*"; "*Care of Your Hand and Power Tools*"; "*Milk Jug Mini-Greenhouses*"; "*Figs*"; **Shopping** at "*Bet You're Gonna Love It*" Vendors' tables; and **Entertainment** - "*Charlie Chaplin Silent Picture Show*", and "*West Mifflin Chamber Musicians*".

All pertinent information is available from *The KEYSTONE GARDENER*, GCFP News Publication, which is available in the GGC office... and on the GCFP's website: www.pagardenclubs.org . I will be there!

Angie Raitano, GCFP 2018 Convention Advisor

Calendar Photos



There are still excellent opportunities for taking photos of your garden blanketed in snow. Or possibly shrubs and trees coated with hoar frost. Or maybe a bush with berries coated with ice. The best opportunities are probably early in the morning before the wind and sun have had a chance to spoil the overnight precipitation. Photos taken while it is snowing can be quite attractive. With spring not too far away you can scout out the best backgrounds for shots of spring blooming trees, shrubs, perennials, and of course bulbs. Always look at what is in the background when you frame your picture. Make sure it is not too busy and doesn't detract from the plant(s) you want to feature.

White flowers present special problems when scanning for the calendar. The white appears over exposed and sometimes downright freakish. Pastel flowers can lose some color. So this year we are trying something new. We would like to have available digital copies of the photos you submit. Then if your photo is chosen you can send in the digital copy of the same photo. You can send it from your phone or from your computer if you've loaded your photos onto your computer.

Using a digital copy will allow an exact replication of your photo to go onto the calendar. No more over exposed whites or under exposed darks due to scanning. Submit 4 x 6 glossy color photos just as you've always done. But this year identify the photos you submit so if one of your photos is chosen we can contact you and ask you to send in the digital copy of the chosen photo. Store your pictures on your phone or computer and name each one. When you print out the glossy write that name on the back of the photo along with your name and phone number using a ballpoint pen. Then it will be easy for the calendar committee to ask for the digital copy of "Calendar Photo#101, Rudbeckias#1, Back Garden#3, etc." (whatever name you have selected). Do not send in any digital copies unless requested. We'll tell you where to send them later. You must still submit 4 x 6 glossies.

As always Brother Mark Floreanini, Assoc. Professor of Studio Arts at St Vincent College, will select the winning photos.

Thank you, The Calendar Committee: Agnes, Charlene, Sandy

"No matter how long the winter, Spring is sure to follow." ~Proverb

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, Barbara Cseh,
Margaret Wolff
1st Vice President: Diane Dale
Newsletter Editor: Diane Dale

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.

GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER 2018 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: ___ Horticulture/Gardening ___ Floral Design ___ Education ___ Workshops
___ Committee participation ___ Landscaping ___ Arboretum