



# Greensburg Garden Center

## September/October 2019 Newsletter

### "Where Gardeners Grow"



#### Greensburg Garden Center's ANNUAL MEETING

Greensburg Country Club

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

"The Magic of Fall Planted Bulbs" by Doug Oster



Well known Pittsburgh gardener *Doug Oster* will be our guest speaker at our Annual Meeting presentation at Greensburg Country Club.

Doug Oster is manager and editor of Everybody Gardens with a passion of gardening and a love of sharing his experiences with other gardeners. You will also find Doug's gardening contributions in the Tribune-Review each week.

He's an Emmy Award winning producer, television host and writer. His Outstanding Documentary Emmy was awarded for "Gardens of America", a one hour special he conceived for the PBS affiliate WQED.

Oster is co-host of The Organic Gardeners Radio Show every Sunday morning at 7:00 AM on KDKA radio in Pittsburgh. He also appears every Thursday morning on KDKA-TV's Pittsburgh Today Live at 9:00 AM.

"Gardening is fun," he says. "Enjoy every day spent tending vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees."

Doug will have copies of his book Steel City Gardens available to purchase. Don't miss the chance to have your book signed personally.

Purchase tickets for unique raffle prizes. A special addition to our raffle prize table will be an exclusive one-hour consultation on your garden by Doug paired with a copy of his book.

Our regular meeting will begin promptly at 11:00 AM in the Fireside Room and will include election of 2020 officers. At 12:00 Noon, enjoy a delicious lunch in the Ballroom followed by Doug Oster's presentation.

Autumn will be in full regalia with tables festooned with pumpkins and fall colors, provided by Joan Stairs. The regular meeting is free, of course. Lunch and presentation is \$30.00.

Come to enjoy the sumptuous lunch and lively, colorful program, an all-around relaxing and educational day in an elegant setting. We will pull the winning tickets for our Fall Raffle. Call the office for reservations (724-837-0245) by September 25, 2019. Or email at [ggc951@live.com](mailto:ggc951@live.com).

#### Calendar Corner

- Sept. 10**      **Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM**  
Plant Auction
- Sept. 17**      **Christmas Workshops begin**  
every Tues. & Thurs., 10:00-3:00
- Oct. 1**         **Annual Membership Meeting**  
Program by Doug Oster



#### Bus Trip

The bus trip to Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens on September 15 is sold out! We thank everyone participating in this fun day trip!

## Sept. 10 Membership Meeting

By fall the lovely summer garden in your backyard is looking a little tired and “seedy”. That astilbe that was so colorful suddenly has many offspring. Who needs 10 astilbe, anyway?

How about that one cucumber seed or tomato you planted? Yikes! The neighbors hide now when they see you coming with more veggies! If you have dried seeds from your favorite marigolds or zinnias, bring them on! Sharing our favorites makes gardening fun!

Bring all your “extras” to the **Tuesday, September 10 Plant Auction**. Gardeners love a bargain as much as they love to share their plants. Our favorite auctioneer, Sandy Truckner, makes it fun to buy those extras from members gardens. Bring a friend, do some haggling, have a bite of refreshments. It all adds up to another enjoyable meeting at GGC! See you there!



Longtime member **Mike Kelly** drives through downtown Greensburg every day.

The trees planted along Main Street are naturally stressed from the poor conditions that city trees experience. “Suckers” sprouting along the trunks made them unsightly and indicate their struggle for survival. Most people are busily driving and don’t pay much attention.

Mike Kelly noticed. A true gardener, Mike was bothered by all the “suckers” and the plight of the trees. He decided to help the trees survive while enhancing their beauty.

Over the summer, Mike dedicated many hours and days, walking the length of Main Street and taking gentle care of the trees.

So, the next time you are sitting at a red light on Main Street in Greensburg, take a moment to notice the trees, nicely trimmed.

Thank you, Mike!! Greensburg Garden Center is proud of you!

## Christmas Greens Sale Workshops

Only 19 workshops till our 2019 Christmas Greens Sale!!

We are adding 4 extra workshops to give of our elves extra time to prepare for this year’s sale. Workshops will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM beginning Tuesday, Sept 17.



We have lots of beautiful supplies to use in making unique holiday decorations. Please join us for a day or an hour. All talent levels needed and appreciated. Bring your ideas and/or helping hands.

## Still time to apply for our scholarship!!

The Greensburg Garden Center is offering the Katherine M. McKenna 2019 scholarship of \$1,500.00. The deadline to apply has been extended to September 15th, 2019. Applicants must reside in Westmoreland County or its surrounding counties.



Applicants must have completed at least one year at an accredited college or university by May 31, 2019 and be pursuing a 2- or 4-year degree or graduate studies in one of the following fields or a related field: horticulture, botany, forestry, landscape architecture, etc. Previous applicants and awardees may apply.

Application and details can be found at: [greensburggardencenter.net](http://greensburggardencenter.net) and clicking on the heading ABOUT.

## The 2020 Calendar

The Calendar Committee, Agnes, Charlene, and I want to thank everyone who submitted photos for the 2020 calendar. It was fun to visit all the gardens through the photos. We want to extend once again our sincere appreciation to Br. Mark Floreanini, Associate Professor of Visual Arts at St Vincent College, who selected the winning photos. There were many beautiful photos and it was at times difficult to eliminate some of them.

The winning photos have been selected, but we will wait until the calendar is published to announce the winning photographers. After all important dates are noted it will go to Fotorecord for the initial printing and then later proof reading. They will be available for purchase at the annual meeting on October 1st.

We have three businesses who support the calendar project by each donating \$100 to help cover the cost of printing. Please shop at these businesses and tell them you appreciate their support. They are Shadowwood Gardens, Country Farms and Silvis Landscape and Lawn Care.

The calendars make nice Christmas gifts, stocking stuffers, and hostess gifts for friends and family. Consider buying at least one to support the project. The calendars sell for \$5.00 each and contain discount coupons from each of the sponsors.

## Membership Meeting Minutes

If you would like to receive minutes from membership meetings via email, please contact Sandy Truckner at [trucktsf@verizon.net](mailto:trucktsf@verizon.net).



## “What I Learned”.....What Plant is That Anyway?



You've got a hosta you really like and you want to share it. Your friend asks what its name is. You used to know it. There was a tag with it. But, alas, that information has slipped away. There are several ways to keep track of a plant's identity, some easier than others. Here is a simple foolproof way to always be able to identify any plant in your garden.

When you get your plant make a simple plastic label by writing its name with a Sharpie on a plastic marker. Well, you've made labels before and the Sharpie faded to nothing in the sunlight. Here's the trick. Bury the label upside down with just a bit of plastic showing. Now sunlight will never hit the writing and it will be preserved. Need to know the name? Pull up the tag and read it. Finished? Push it back in.

What if the tag gets buried with mulch and you don't know where it is? Always bury tags at the same compass point, i.e., always bury the tags on the north side of the plant, or other direction you might prefer. Then you'll know just where to dig for the tag.

The tag that came with the plant? Copy both sides of it, punch holes in the paper and file in a notebook. Or put the copy in a folder. Or if you're really in a rush, just toss the original tag in a shoebox where it will always be in fine shape for referral; the sun won't have faded it or made it brittle. And the wind won't have blown it away.

I have one bed that is chock full of daffodils. This summer when I was planting a zinnia over the daffodils I dug up a plain white tag that said "Meeting". That reminded me that daffodils named "Meeting" were planted where I was working.

Suppose it's winter and you want to know what plants are just where you want to plan a path. The ground is frozen and you can't dig up any labels, besides there's a foot of snow on the ground. What to do? Pull out the diagram you made earlier with plant names and locations indicated and you'll know almost immediately what is planted where.

I have a folder titled Garden Layouts and it is full of just that, some made years ago that are more elaborate and on grid paper. Ones made more recently are usually hastily sketched on notebook paper or even the back of an envelope. The important thing is to get those names on paper in the location they are planted. You'll need to know the orientation of the bed for the sketch to be meaningful. Note a nearby shrub, tree, drive, walk, or building. Marking north and south is another way.

We gardeners are always changing things so the diagrams need to reflect that. Note plants that you've added or taken out as well as expansions.

Now if you visited my garden you wouldn't see all this organization in action. In spite of my best intentions, there are some plants I just can't put a name to.

~Sandy T.

## THERE'S STILL TIME!



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Don't miss a chance to purchase a Fall Raffle ticket for only \$5. You could win one of 5 prizes of \$100 worth of gift cards to area restaurants. Take a chance; sit down and be waited on! Oh, so relaxing!

Call the office with your credit card number or send a check. Nicky will be glad to deposit your entry into the raffle bowl.

Buy a ticket, **support the Garden Center**. Winners will be drawn October 1, 2019.

*“October gave a party;  
The leaves by hundreds came,—  
The Ashes, Oaks and Maples,  
And leaves of every name.  
The sunshine spread a carpet,  
And every thing was grand;  
Miss Weather led the dancing;  
Professor Wind, the band...  
The sight was like a rainbow  
New-fallen from the sky...”*  
~George Cooper

*“The bright summer had passed away, and  
gorgeous autumn was flinging its rain-  
bow tints of beauty on hill and dale.”*  
~Cornelia L. Tuthill

*Welcome*

We welcome new members....

M J Laura, Lisa Lauer, Penny Turner,  
Tony Arlotta and Mary Ann Curley.

**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,  
1st Vice President: Judy Geary  
Newsletter Editor: Diane Dale

**GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER 2019**  
**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.*