

# Greensburg Garden Center



Feb./Mar./Apr. 2020 Newsletter

“Where Gardeners Grow”



## Bus Trip

**Philadelphia  
Flower Show  
Wednesday,  
March 4, 2020**

**Cost:  
\$130.00  
members**

**\$140.00  
non-members**

**Call the GGC  
office to reserve  
your seat at  
724-837-0245**



## It's a Riviera Holiday!

The Greensburg Garden Center annual bus trip on Wednesday, March 4 will make you forget about winter and embrace your inner romantic. The 2020 theme “**Riviera Holiday**” reflects the green mountains, stunning coastlines and colorful blooms of the Riviera.

Enjoy the exhibits which showcase aromatic Mediterranean gardens and citrus groves. Wander through spectacular landscape displays, judged floral vignettes, and large- and small-scale designs. Stunning plants abound: everything from delicate orchids to succulents and cacti. Plus, there's over 100 vendors! Ride along on a luxurious Elite Coach. Members cost: \$130, Non-members: \$140. Includes cost of bus, entrance ticket and tasty snacks!

Don't miss this chance to escape to the Mediterranean and enjoy a “**Riviera Holiday**”.

### Extras to enjoy at the Flower Show:

**Bloomin' Brunch** – Escape to Saint Tropez with a flavorful Mediterranean inspired brunch experience. The new Bloomin' Brunch takes place in a garden setting and features a 3 course menu of salad, quiche entrée and fruit tart dessert. Reservations are required in advance for this 2:00 PM delight. Cost is \$35.

**Butterflies Live!** – Walk among beautiful and exotic butterflies. Learn how to attract butterflies to your garden. Be ready! A fluttery butterfly may land on you! Cost is \$5. No advance registration required.

**Make and Take** – This craft experience has three choices: Recycled material container with succulent, Lavender or rosemary with a recipe card in a recycled container or small DIY mosaic tile. Cost is \$10. No advance registration required.

## Calendar Corner

No Meeting in February

March 3      **Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM**  
                 **Program by Bill Powers**

March 14     **Spring Tea**

April 7        **Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM**

## Membership Meetings

The March 3rd meeting will feature a program by Pix Controller Bill Powers. His cameras record the Peregrine Falcons in Pittsburgh, plus other wildlife shots.

## 2019 CHRISTMAS SALE



Shiny ornaments, beautifully decorated trees of all sizes and shapes, fun vignettes and soft, fluffy polar bears and owls. All were on display and sold at our sale this past December. Offered also were our (almost) famous kissing balls, bountiful baskets of assorted greens, wreaths of all sizes, branches and colorful bows. The atmosphere was festive!

To create this much festivity, it takes many dedicated workers offering helping hands, ideas and materials. The list is long, but to name a few:

Those who created permanent decorations starting in September under the direction of Nadine Mason. Nadine scoured the bargains for materials that were not only attractive but also fit within our budget. Her positive attitude creates a fun atmosphere to learn and create.

The ordering of live wreaths and assorted greens by Horticulture Chair Elizabeth Pesci. Cutting branches in a field of trees on a brisk Sunday morning were Elizabeth Pesci, her son David, Becky McGee and her 90+ year old delightful father, and me and my faithful red truck. Sandy Truckner and husband brought pine branches in from their neck of the woods. Carol Ross and Bill gathered red berried branches from their landscape holly. Terry Rogers supplied boxwood branches. Fr. Fred Byrne brought magnificent magnolia branches. Linda Austin allowed us to "trim" her curly willow tree in her back yard.

After all the gathering of live materials, the fun began!! Helpers came to our downstairs workroom to assemble baskets, kissing balls and enjoy the camaraderie! Agnes Lapa created one-of-a-kind Christmas table decorations.

There were many, many volunteers from our "family" of members. Thank you to all those who showed up to contribute to the success of the 2-day event!!

And, finally, thank you to building manager, Jan Barsoum, who invites us to decorate the halls of the Center with our wares and gave us the nod to start the set up in the Laurel Room early.

## 2020 Membership

Your membership in Greensburg Garden Center can brighten your world.

A membership offers a chance to take trips/tours with people who share your interests. You will also get a discounted rate over non-members.

Expand your knowledge with interesting monthly programs. For example: Orchids, Dahlia, Fall Blubs, Taking Pictures of your Garden, etc. Also, we feature an extra special program at our Annual Meeting; Our most recent speakers at the Greensburg Country Club for our Annual Meeting were Doug Oster in 2019 and Jessica Walliser in 2018.



Want to learn about planting for butterflies in your garden? Visit our Lefevre Butterfly Garden located by the Garden House at the rear of the parking lot. Sit on a bench.

Learn to trim the roses. Plant annuals. Watch the Monarch larva in their special elevated trough.

Have fun helping with the Hypertufa Workshop or how about learning to make a kissing ball? Join in the Flower Show and bring us your most perfect blooms from your garden. You may win a prize!

Stop in at the office. We have a shelf of interesting butterfly reading and thousand of books and magazines on gardening, floral design, roses, on and on.

While you are learning and having fun, you will meet interesting people and make new friends.

And, finally, you receive this newsletter which tells you what's going on here.

**2020 Dues is now due. Send a check to the office or call Nicky with a credit card payment.**

## Amaryllis Year After Year



Ladies don't throw out your amaryllis! Here's how I make mine re-bloom year after year with minimal effort. When the flower fades, cut off the stem, but not the leaves, and move the plant into bright light; an eastern window works well. Continue to water the plant and in the spring start applications of half strength fertilizer. I use bloom booster by Miracle Gro. When danger of frost has passed move the amaryllis outdoors where it will receive morning sun and afternoon shade. Protect from the hot sun for a few days. Continue to keep it watered and fertilize it throughout the summer. In August stop fertilizing and begin to water less. In September stop watering (that includes rain) which will

tell the plant to go dormant. Before frost move the plant into a cool storage area such as a garage set at 45 or 55 degrees letting leaves dry up naturally. Let the plant dry out and store it until you are ready to have it re-bloom. I did read once that storing them on their side encourages them to remain dormant. The bulb does need a dormant period; I've read 6 - 8 weeks. When you are ready for it to start growing, bring it in the house, water it, and wait for it to begin to grow. No need to remove from pot. Repot or divide when it becomes too big for the pot. One inch max between bulb and side of pot is recommended. I usually don't bring mine indoors until after Christmas. Their bright blooms really lighten up a dreary winter day. If you can't meet the conditions that I use, experiment and see if you can bring your amaryllis back into bloom under your conditions. Let me know how this works for you.

## Nadine Mason's Blue Cheese Bites



Mix 8 oz. softened cream cheese with 3 oz. blue cheese and 3/4 c. dried Craisins. Chill 1-2 hours then

form into tablespoon sized balls and roll in toasted, chopped pecans.

Just before serving, place a pretzel stick in each ball.

Look for more recipes in the next edition!

Greensburg Garden Center Annual Spring Tea  
"MARCH into Spring"

**IMPORTANT NEWS ALERT: The GGC 2020 SPRING TEA will be held in MARCH.**



Translation: We are faced with the challenge of little TIME...less than two months...to plan, prepare, and promote. Can we do that? Of course we can! Our several years of experience serve to assure that we can fulfill all expectations of stunning tables decorated with pretty dishes

and pretty flowers, plus delicious treats and soothing tea. Besides prize/gift baskets, a special entertainment feature is being planned.

Your participation is essential to make this event a success and will support the Annual GGC Scholarship, as well as other GGC educational activities.

**DECIDE, now, to participate!** 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 me know what you decide to do:** Phone Angie Raitano - 724-483-6724 or the GGC office - 724-837-0245. E-mail [angie.raitano@comcast.net](mailto:angie.raitano@comcast.net) or [ggc951@live.com](mailto:ggc951@live.com).

**The TEA will be held on Saturday, MARCH 14 at Maplewood Presbyterian Church, 108 Woodland Road, Greensburg.** Doors open at 11:00. Tea served at noon. Tickets are \$30. It will be a special event, for participants and attendees! Early reservations are suggested.

Who's Afraid of FLORAL DESIGN?



GGC has a fabulous reputation for growing HORTICULTURE. The community participation in our Annual May Mart is proof! It is a community happening!

Now, GGC is growing a reputation for FLORAL DESIGN. Our member participation is evidence of that; as is attendance from members and non-members at GGC biennial FLOWER SHOWS. The fact that our past three flower show (during six years) has been held at REDSTONE HIGH-

LANDS may have helped somewhat in attendance, as has Redstone resident participation.

It is worth noting that some GGC members have been pleasantly surprised to experience the pleasure of participation in something that is both *educational* and *beautiful*. Some have been known to admit that it has been FUN! Of course, that's after the work has been done and they have garnered some award ribbon.

Whatever...2020 is our year for another FLOWER SHOW. The date isn't set, but likely it will be in June or July. Plan to participate. Disregarding the idea of competing for ribbons, you may be pleasantly surprised by the satisfaction that comes from mere participation. (more info to come!)

P.S. Want to learn more about FLORAL DESIGN? DESIGNERS GUILD is a floral design study group that meets four times a year at Greensburg Garden and Civic Center. Each meeting offers a WORKSHOP to further Creativity in DESIGN. Members create designs and critique them at each meeting. Non-members are welcome to attend (@ \$5.00; Membership dues are \$20/year), listen to the critiques and stay to create a design with the help of DG members.

If interested, contact Angie Raitano at 724-483-6724 or email [angie.raitano@comcast.net](mailto:angie.raitano@comcast.net).

FYI: DESIGNERS GUILD 2020 MEETINGS (10:00 AM at GGCC)  
Thursday, April 30 "Your Choice" (traditional or creative design)  
Tuesday, June 30 Mono-Botanic Design  
Monday, August 31 Underwater Design  
Friday, October 30 Framed-Spatial Design

Capital Campaign



Many members missed contributing to the Capital Campaign on the Day of Giving in early December. So we are extending the deadline for donations. Please give what you can. Any amount is helpful. You may like to recognize a fellow gardener or family member by giving your contribution in their memory or honor. Fill in the amount at the level you wish to contribute and list the person you want to recognize. A list of all contributors will be published in the next newsletter under the flower level chosen. You may give anonymously if you prefer not to be listed.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Orchid: \$500 and above in memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rose: \$300 - \$499 in memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dahlia: \$200 - \$299 in memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sunflower: \$100 - \$199 in memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Zinnia: \$50 - \$99 in memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Daisy: \$1 - \$49 in memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

**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  
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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.*