



Greensburg Garden Center

July/August 2019 Newsletter

"Where Gardeners Grow"



The always popular Monarch butterfly release is sponsored again in 2019 by 1st Energy Foundation. Free Monarch butterflies can be reserved now by calling the office. Every year gets more exciting. Rick Mikula, assisted by his wife Claudia, will entertain all with his colorful exhibitions and lively tales of butterfly adventures.

The release of hundreds of Monarchs is a breath-taking sight.

The Garden Center offers all sorts of butterfly fripperies for sale, plus our popular flower wands to entice a butterfly to land and sip a bit of nectar. Enjoy children's activities and walk the nature trails. The Monarch Butterfly Release is a joint venture of the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve and Greensburg Garden Center.

Butterfly Release

At Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve at Saint Vincent College

Saturday, August 3rd, 2019
10:00 am-3:00 pm

FREE FOR ALL AGES!

Live butterfly releases, vendors, children's activities, exhibits, presentations and more!

To reserve a butterfly to release, please call or email the Greensburg Garden Center.
**No butterflies available the day of event.*
Phone: 724-837-0245
Email: ggc951@live.com

Schedule
Rick Mikula
"The Butterfly Guy"
Presentations at
11:00 am & 1:00 pm
with Butterfly Releases Directly Following

TAKE A CHANCE!! Fall Raffle Tickets Included in this Newsletter!!

Our popular fall raffle offers a chance to win one of 5 prizes that include four \$25 gift cards for area restaurants. Treat yourself to a ticket and offer chances to your friends and co-workers. The winners get to enjoy a lunch or dinner out --- no messy kitchen and no dishes to clean!!

The fall raffle gives us a chance to breathe a little easier going into the end of the year so we can meet our budget. Please consider buying at least one ticket to contribute to another successful year. And...you may be a winner!!

Calendar Corner

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| July 2 | Membership Mtg. 6:00 PM
Held in the Butterfly Garden
Program by Becky Griffith |
| Aug. 6 | Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM
Program on Dahlias |
| Sept. 10 | Membership Mtg. 11:00 AM
Plant Auction |

Our programs are FREE and open to the public!!

Membership Meetings...

....The July 2 membership meeting will be held at 6:00 PM in our beautiful Butterfly Garden located behind the GGC building. Come out and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. Becky Griffith of Shadowwood Gardens will be on hand to answer any questions and talk about the plants in the Butterfly Garden. She is a wealth of information and very entertaining.

.....In August will see Drew Graham from the Pittsburgh Dahlia Society.

FALL BUS TRIP FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



We are offering a second chance for an exciting and educational trip to the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. This incredible facility

features: Bonsai and Blooms and Butterflies exhibits along with glass-blowing demonstrations. Don't forget the Children's Garden for kids of all ages. Stroll through the greenhouse and the Botanica Gift Shop. Take advantage of the freshly made offerings at the Garden Café such as homemade soup, salads, sandwiches and daily specials. Or, if you want a more casual eating experience, stop at the food truck.

After three hours at the conservatory, we bus 10 minutes away to the County Living Fair. Oh, my! What a feast for the senses! Something for everyone, just stroll along and stop at anything that catches your fancy.

This festival features the Country Living Magazine style come to life! Antiques, hand crafted goods, art, furniture, clothing and jewelry. Plus...plenty of food!

Seating is limited so don't hesitate! We need your reservation by August 15.

We will leave GGC at 7:00 AM and arrive home approximately 8:30 PM.

Cost to members: only \$99. Non-members: \$109

Scholarship deadline extended....



Due to a poor response to our \$1,500 scholarship announcement, the board members voted to extend the application deadline until September 15th, 2019. This extension was announced at the June 4th membership meeting with Deneise

Snyder seeking ideas from members on how to remedy the lack of applications. She welcomes your suggestions by contacting her or the office.

Application and announcement information are available on greensburggardencenter.net. Click on "ABOUT" heading to find the 2019 application and qualifications.

Remember it is not too late to apply!

Welcome new member Kathy Malanowski.

Spotlight on.....GREENRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



Greenridge Garden Club was established in 1962 and originally met in members homes. Membership was strictly limited to only 25 members and open to residents of the Greenridge housing plan only. Flower arranging was the main activity. The women were formally known as Mrs. (husbands name). (How times have changed!)

Today the club meets at West Hempfield Middle School at 7:00 PM on the fourth Monday of the month. Membership is open to everyone and the main focus is gardening. The club members are now known by their own names.

Monthly meetings include a horticultural program and refreshments. The only fundraiser is the yearly participation in Greensburg Garden Center's May Mart, where perennials from members gardens are planted and sold in milk jugs. And of course, the club is known for Rita Yoder's heirloom tomatoes. She starts them from seed and club members nurture them to maturity.

In the past, the club has landscaped for Habitat for Humanity and the local schools. In addition, the club has donated money for benches placed at the Flight 93 Memorial. Their goal is to promote horticulture and love of nature, as well as friendship.

Garden Tour

Thank You! to Mary Ann Artman for organizing a fantastic Garden Tour. It takes a tremendous commitment to research, visit and organize such a memorable day. There were seven exceptional gardens with unusual features at each stop. From a stunning waterfall to a funky Tiki Bar, mix in a luxurious "She Shed", a shimmering swimming pool and plenty of colorful flowers along a meandering path and you get a winning tour.

Hours of time and effort were spent by the owners to ensure a beautiful landscape at their homes. Many thanks to them and all the volunteers who together created a delightful day.

SPA Treatment for your Hanging Baskets



Take the basket down from its hanger and soak it. Fill a bucket and place the basket bottom in the bucket for 20 minutes. You can use a bucket, a foot bath container, a clean oil pan, etc. Want a relaxed plant? Let the plants wiggle their roots in the water when needed during the hot summer months. Ahhh, the SPA treatment for your baskets!

“What I Learned”

The inspiration for this column came as I was weeding out a never-ending production of jewell weed. I let just that one volunteer bloom in the herb garden; what could it hurt? Plenty is what! Jewell weed produces an untold number of seeds which it shoots out artillery style. So what I learned is never let a volunteer, no matter how pretty, stay in your garden until you know its intentions.



In all the demands of gardening in June it is easy to overlook perennials that are getting too tall. Cutting them back by half or a third serves several purposes. It helps prevent floppiness by making a stockier plant and reduces the need for staking. I've discovered that cutting back the front half of a large grouping will extend the flowering season. The ones uncut will bloom first followed by those cut back. Last week I took the old hand hedge trimmers to patches of bee balm being sure to leave some uncut for earlier bloom. In a yellowed piece of newsprint tacked to the wall Jessica Walliser's 2013 column suggests plants you can cut back. She lists phlox, monarda, asters, fall-blooming sedums, veronica, ironweed, balloon flower, and goldenrod as all good candidates. I was surprised to see this same topic covered in the June issue of Fine Gardening with a name new to me: The Chelsea Chop. The Chelsea Chop is so named because in England it is typically done in late May, the time of the famous Chelsea garden show. Here I've also seen mid to late June recommended. Along with Jessica's list of plants Fine Gardening suggests also bellflower, yarrow, echinacea, rudbeckia, shasta daisy, and penstemon. I'm not so sure about the penstemon though, I cut mine back last year and it didn't bloom at all. This year I accidentally cut it back - too close to the phlox. It's not looking too promising; I'll have to wait and see. So timing might be important. Also if a plant is stressed especially by drought or disease, the Chelsea Chop might be better saved for another year.

Well, those are two things I've learned that I wanted to share. Hope you find them useful. Sandy T

Editor's note: This is a new column that I hope will inspire all gardeners to share ideas, so let me know what YOU think! Send your thoughts to our office.

LIBRARY NEWS



Members and visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the wonderful resource in the office that is available on literally every type of garden or floral design. Many interesting new books have been purchased or donated.

For example: *The Exuberant Gardener* by Wm. H. Frederick, Jr.; *Growing Fruit & Vegetables* by Richard Bird; and *Classic Garden Design* by Rosemary Verey. Butterflies and pollinators now have their own special shelf! Want to identify that crazy looking bug on your flower (Ick!)? *Good Bug Bad Bug* by Jessica Walliser has colored pictures of common garden insects! *The Family Butterfly Book* and *Butterflies of North America* by Rick Mikula are entertaining and informative. A special new addition to our library is *Natural Areas in and around Westmoreland County*, edited by Dick Byers. GGC was fortunate to have Dick Byers as speaker this past March and were offered the opportunity to purchase a copy of the book. Take time to learn about opportunities to explore close by.

Library hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10 AM – 3 PM. Special arrangements can be made if those hours don't suit. Call the office.

2020 GGC Calendar



The deadline for submitting photos for the 2020 calendar is nearly here. Deadline this year is June 30th. This lets us get the calendar printed in time for the fall annual meeting.

If possible try to take shots of multiple plants. While shots of single plants can be absolutely wonderful, the object of the calendar is to share photos of our gardens. 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 plants you want to feature. Garden flags can be distracting. Some submissions have over-exposed areas due to too much sunlight. The best light for photos is a slightly overcast day. Groupings of white can be problematic. We may ask you for a digital copy of your photo if it is chosen and doesn't scan well. Or we might have to go to the second choice. Mail or take in your 4 x 6 glossies to the office with your name and phone number on the back. Address stickers work well. The photos must be of your own garden taken by you, an amateur photographer. Br. Mark Floreanini, St Vincent Associate Professor of Studio Arts will select the winning photos which will be available in the office for pick up later.

A chance to win one of 5 local restaurant
gift packages valued at \$100.00 each!



Name _____

Phone _____

\$5.00 Please return this portion of ticket with
DONATION your payment. Checks made payable
to "GGC". Thank you!

Greensburg Garden Center



Prizes awarded October 1, 2019

Official registration and financial information of
Greensburg Garden Center may be obtained from
the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling
toll free within PA, 1-800-732-0999.

Package #1: J. Corks
Rialto
La Vita's
Rizzo's

Package #4: Jaffre's
Szechuan Garden
Parkwood
Dino's

Package #2: Mauro's
Chipotle
Longhom
Red Lobster

Package #5: French Express
Sunset Cafe
Spitfire
Bar Nine

Package #3: DeNunzio's
Ianni's Pizzeria (Delmont)
Olive Garden
Giannilli's

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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.