



The mission of the Mountain View Garden Club is to share our knowledge and love of gardening while beautifying the Elk Mountain Area and surrounding communities.

Membership in this club is open to any individual who actively promotes our mission. As a Garden Club member, you'll enjoy new friendships with people who love nature and exploring new gardening ideas. The Garden Clubs activities include lectures, field trips and tours, and fund-raising events such as the spring plant exchange and fall bulb sale. Projects in the community provided us the opportunities to show our commitment to share our knowledge and love of gardening while beautifying the area.

Here is a time line of our activities listed from the most recent to our forming in early 2005:

July 1, 2006, Clifford Township Bicentennial Celebration Parade

A float decorated with hay bales, potted flowers, garden furniture and a vine covered arbor carried club members dressed in vintage attire and straw hats. As the parade made its way from the cemetery to the picnic grounds, members, friends and family walked alongside the float passing out candy to spectators.

June 30, 2006, BBQ Dinner & Country Square Dance

The Garden Club was pleased to participate in Clifford Township's Bicentennial Celebration by hosting a Buffet BBQ Dinner & Country Square Dance from 6:30pm to 10:30pm at the Clifford Township Fire Hall. The menu included fireman style bbq chicken, spare ribs, penne with pink vodka sauce, corn on the cob, coleslaw, baked beans, mixed greens salad, rolls & butter, coffee & soft drinks. And sweat treats made by the garden club for dessert. Everyone danced to music for square dancing, polka, twist, cha cha, swing, and jitterbug in the rustically decorated fire truck bays. Tickets: \$22.50 per person; BYOB.

Project in Progress, Garden Club to Assist at Mountain View High School

The Garden Club will assist Chelsea Marcho, a student at the Mountain View High School, with an ambitious Senior Project to create an outdoor classroom and memorial garden. Currently a work in progress, the garden will be completed and dedicated during the Fall of 2006.

June 21, 2006, Township Tree Inventory

Trees throughout the Township were inventoried in preparation of Clifford Township's second grant application to Northeast PA Urban & Community Forestry Program. Members interested in assisting Donna Murphy and Lynn Conrad with the project, met at Clifford Farm Market parking lot. Information gathered including tree location, size, health, etc., was entered into a palm pilot and a database.

June 4, 2006, Second Annual Plant Exchange

The Second Annual Plant Exchange was held 1pm to 4pm at the home of Kathy Flora on Mud Road. Everyone was invited to trade two potted plants for two of equal size or buy inexpensive plants donated by club members. Plants were available for purchase from the beautiful selection of perennials from Marie's Perennials, herbs from In the Dell Herb Farm, or annuals from Gunn Hill Nurseries. Vendors included Clay Chic, Heather's Handpainting, Steve Buss / Metal Urge, Stony Meadow Pottery, and Whistlehill Watercolors. Free Refreshments and a Treasure Hunt, too!

May 27, 2006, Planting at Clifford Valley Cemetery

At our May meeting, we voted to dead head the bulbs that were planted at the cemetery in the fall and add some daylilies, periwinkle and violas. Members with these plants in their home gardens divided and donated them to the project. Within an hour time, the planting was complete and the garden rejuvenated!

April 21, 2006, Garden Club Plants Trees

The Garden Club assisted with a spring tree planting as the second stage of the Clifford Township Bicentennial Tree Assessment and Planting Project Grant. To enhance this community beautification project and honor the area's servicemen and women, the club donated and planted two Callery Pear trees at the Veterans Memorial. Members also planted eight trees at the cemetery and one tree along Creamery Road.

April 2006 & October 2005, Semi-Annual "Adopt-a-Highway" Cleanups

On Sunday, May 1, 2005, Garden Club members cleaned-up a two mile section of Routes 106 & 374 from Royal to West, countless large trash bags were filled with food wrappers, aluminum cans, bottles, cigarette packs, and a variety of large items. The club adopted that section of highway and pledged to hold annual seasonal clean ups. In return, PennDOT has posted signs along the highway giving the club full credit for our efforts. Since the original clean-up, two more cleanups have been held: October 2005 and April 2006.

April 12, 2006, Semi-Annual Meeting & Lecture: Invasive Plants

Our spring meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Clifford Twp. Fire Hall on Rt. 106. Donna Murphy of the USDA Forest Service gave a presentation & slide show on invasive plants. Our plans for Square Dance and parade float for the Bicentennial Celebration were discussed. Refreshments were served and door prizes awarded.

December 14, 2005, Garden Club Christmas Party

The successes of our first year were celebrated at Crystal Pines Restaurant near Crystal Lake as we enjoyed a champagne toast, delicious dinner and lively conversation intermingled with commentary and announcements by the club's president. After dessert, Christmas gifts were opened, admired, traded, and swapped amid laughter and holiday cheer.

October – November 2005, Garden Club Restores Wall and Plants Trees in Clifford

If you drove down Rt. 106, Main Street, Clifford, during late October, you would have noticed a beehive of activity at the Clifford Valley Cemetery. The women of garden club (and one helpful husband), started a restoration project. When the cemetery's retaining wall was built in the 1800s, there were actually two walls. In front of the main wall, about five feet out towards the road, was a second wall, about two feet high. This became totally covered with gravel and dirt from decades of snow plowing and eventually weeds predominated. Through the volunteer efforts totaling 70 hours of work, the 300 foot length of wall was uncovered, the top leveled, three tree stumps removed and a 100 foot section was planted with daffodil bulbs. Clifford Township's tree grant was in the first stage of implementation in early November. After 20 people watched a video on proper planting techniques, volunteers from the Clifford Township Community Alliance, the Mountain View Garden Club, and the Saint Pius Youth Group planted 33 trees.

October 12, 2005, Semi-Annual Meeting & Lecture: "Earthbox"

The Garden Club was pleased to host a lecture by Molly Philbin, education coordinator for the Earthbox Company at 7pm at the Clifford Township Fire Company Hall. The presentation touched on the Earthbox development, test trials and the resulting product. The advanced system allows for simplified watering, fertilizing and the elimination of weeding. Equally suitable for commercial and leisure gardeners, flowers and vegetables, the Earthbox can be used on farms, at public sites, on patios, and even to adorn bridges. After the lecture and Q&A, refreshments were served and door prizes presented.

September 23, 2005, Grey Towers Tour

On Friday, September 23, 2005, Garden Club members enjoyed a tour of the Grey Towers National Historic Site. Grey Towers was completed in 1886 and is the ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot. Together with President Theodore Roosevelt, Pinchot helped in the formation of the USDA Forest Service and became its first Chief Forester. He also twice served as the Governor of Pennsylvania. The guided tour took the group through the mansion and several garden areas. The Pinchots believed in blending structure with landscape, including walkways, patios, gardens and water areas around the home. After the tour, there was time to shop in Milford and later have lunch at Settler's Inn in Hawley.

June 24, 2005, Gibbs Perennial Gardens Tour

Garden Club members toured bank plantings, stone gardens, propagating beds for sun, and a special shade garden at Gibbs Perennial Gardens in LeRaysville. After the tour lead by the gardens owner, there was time to select plants - Gibbs truly does offer one of the largest selections herbaceous perennials in our area! The next stop was at Gilley's in Stevensville - a wonderful restaurant furnished with an unusual and charming collection of porcelain enamel topped tables. A delicious cold salad lunch plate and cold drink was enjoyed by all on this very hot day before heading out to a local bakery and antiques shopping.

June 5, 2005, First Annual Plant Exchange

Our first and very successful Plant Exchange was held at the home and gardens of Vicky & Jerry Lewandowski near Elk Mountain. Visitors were invited to peruse the spectacular gardens of the Lewandowski home. In addition to plants from local gardeners for exchange and sale, the event included a small country market with artists and vendors selling their wares. Club members provided a beautiful display of cookies and beverages for all to enjoy.

June 3, 2005, Union Dale Post Office Garden Planted

As a community project, the existing raised garden in front of the Union Dale Post Office was re-planted by club members with the assistance of Jaki Shearer, P.O. Officer in Charge. The bed was filled with fresh dirt then planted with shrubs and flowers including daffodils, rudbeckia, coreopsis, Stella Dora lilies, petunias, impatiens, and marigolds. Generous watering and a layer of mulch completed the project. Next door at the Masonic Hall & Phoenix Club the wooden flower barrels were also planted. Residents of Union Dale have volunteered to weed and water the garden and barrels so that everyone may enjoy the beautiful flowers throughout the summer.

May 22, 2005, Clifford Volunteer Fire Department Gardens Planted

Garden club members met with Jack Telep of the Clifford Volunteer Fire Company at the Fire Hall. After he prepared planting beds along the front of the building and under the carved wood sign with fresh dirt, both beds were planted with donations from garden club members including hostas, bleeding heart, Shasta daisy, rudbeckia, coreopsis, Stella Dora day-lilies, primroses and other perennials.

January 2005 – April 2005, Organizational Meeting

At evening meeting held in member's homes, initial discussions covered procedures to organize the group, goals and types of activities, dues, fundraising, membership, etc... A mission statement was suggested, discussed, and modified to: "The mission of the Mountain View Garden Club is to share our knowledge and love of gardening while beautifying the Elk Mountain Area and surrounding communities". Discussion on a name was lengthy with many ideas thrown about until the winner, "Mountain View Garden Club" was voted on. Committees were organized and members asked to fill positions. The amount for annual dues was set at \$25.00. We decided to hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month and everyone was encouraged to bring a friend or two with them. Suggestions for community projects were made and we decided to feature guest speakers at our semi-annual general meetings. Articles were published in area newspapers to let the community know what progress we had made, our future plans, and to invite everyone to join us!