



TRUMPET VINE



**National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania – District VII**



JUNE 2021

Jackie Stempfer, Editor

DEADLINE FOR JULY ISSUE IS JULY 15, 2021

*HAVING SOMEWHERE TO GO IS HOME,
HAVING SOMEONE TO LOVE IS FAMILY,
AND HAVING BOTH IS A BLESSING.*



“THE BEST THING TO HOLD ON TO IS EACH OTHER”





Mildred Schorr of the Burrellton GC received the Perennial Bloom Award for her years of service to the Burrellton GC and District VII. In December the Co-Presidents of the Burrellton GC, Patti Giordano and Rosalie Kupec presented Mildred with the Perennial Bloom Award certificate and a poinsettia. On Saturday, April 24, six students from Burrell High School planted a kousa dogwood tree at Grace Community Presbyterian Church in honor of Mildred receiving the PB Award. The lovely tree was a gift of GCFP District VII.

Courtesy of Leeanna Ryba

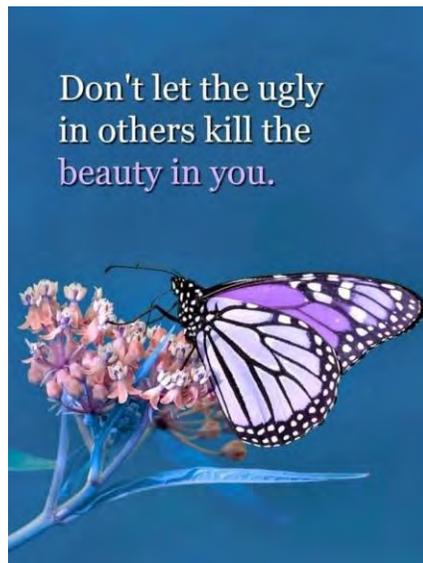
"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans."

Garden Club of Forest Hills

We have received AWARDS from the Garden Club Federation of PA: \$50 Seed Money, two Legacy Awards – one for educating members of GCFP and guests through a plant sale “Growing Together,” and the other for a connection for improving a corner triangular lot between two Avenues (A & E) at the request of the Borough of Forest Hills with the help of garden club members and non-members. Also, from the GCFP, our YEARBOOK received a Fourth Place Award and our NEWSLETTER received a Third Place Award.

Our garden club also received \$500 from the Foundation of Rick and Karen Stein, who live in Forest Hills, for beautification in the Borough. We are thankful for this gift and are planning what to do with this generous donation.

Sandy Brake, Awards Chair



Garden Club of Monroeville's 4th Annual

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 22nd

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Community Park West (Tilbrook Rd)

Pavilion #4

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS from Local Gardens
HERITAGE Vegetable and Fruit Plants
UNUSUAL, HERITAGE Flowers
Shrubs, Herbs, & Houseplants
All Season Wreaths, Pots
Raffle Items, Flea Market

RAIN
or
SHINE



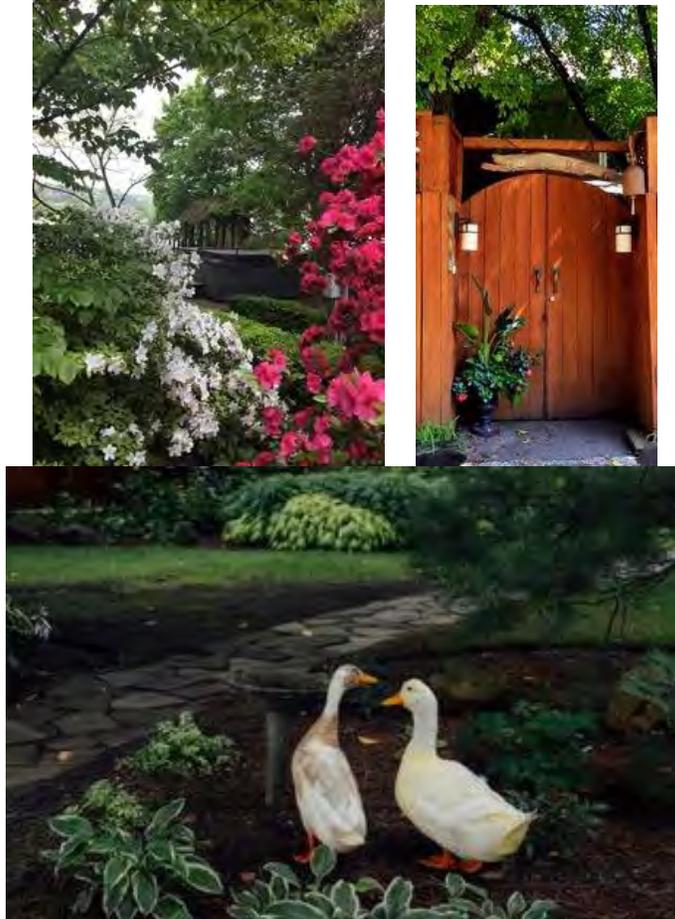
JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE IN YOUR CIRCLE
DOESN'T MEAN THEIR IN YOUR CORNER



Patti Giordano, Co-President of the Burrellton GC, shows her kokedama ball planted with a variegated pothos. Patti attended the virtual Kokedama workshop on Sunday, April 18th as part of the GCFP "Zooming Into Spring" Convention.

The First Ever Highland Park Secret Garden Tour





Date: Sunday, July 11, 2021

Time: Noon - 4:00 PM

Location: Highland Park Entrance Gardens and Fountain

Tickets: \$15 in advance through Eventbrite; \$20 on Tour Day.

Information and a link to register is available at the Highland Park Garden Club's website: www.hpgcpgh.org

The First Ever Highland Park Secret Garden Tour will showcase 10 charming gardens each with its own unique features including ponds, “sheds”, outdoor living rooms, a compact urban vegetable garden, multi-level decks and a stunning pool. The selected gardens demonstrate the beauty and creativity of these Secret Gardens and you are invited to see them.

A highlight of the Secret Tour is the 1905 Lockmaster's garden “Choderwood” along the Allegheny River. You have probably passed this hundreds of times and never knew it was there. Let us introduce you to

this leafy green oasis within the City. Choderwood with its stone pathways, koi pond, stream, Greenhouse enclosed swimming pool, Mediation Hut and chicken and duck coops. More than a garden-it's a lifestyle.

The Highland Park Entrance Gardens and Fountain will be the first stop on the self-guided tour where Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy staff will be available to answer questions about the carefully restored fountain, reflecting pool and gardens. Homeowners will be available at subsequent stops to answer your questions and share gardening tips with you.

The Secret Garden Tour is sponsored by the Highland Park Garden Club and the Highland Park Community Council. Gold Sponsors of the Tour are Howard Hanna Real Estate and Huntingdon Bank.

Contact

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Greensburg Garden Center

Garden Tour We will have our biennial garden tour this year on Saturday, July 31. We have seven beautiful and interesting properties to showcase. Of course, the best part is meeting the gardeners and learning their secrets. There is much to see and learn in these distinctly different gardens between Delmont and North Huntingdon. Self tour at your own pace between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Price is \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 in the office on the day of tour. Call 724 837-0245 for advance tickets.



JUDY'S JOTTINGS

"STATE FLOWER"

Do you know what Pennsylvania's state flower is?

It can be called calico bush, ivywood, poison laurel, spoonwood or *kalnia latifolia*, but we know it as mountain laurel.

In 1933 the Garden Club of Allentown as a sponsor presented this evergreen shrub to the legislators to be chosen as the official state flower. Gifford Pinchot, as governor signed the legislation.

(Connecticut has also designated mountain laurel as their state flower since 1907)

Why was it chosen?

The reason given was that it grows wild in every Pennsylvania County.

Louisa M. Alcott wrote in her poem, "Mountain Laurel"-----

My bonnie flower, with truest joy

Thy welcome face I see,

The world grows brighter to my eyes,

And summer comes with thee.

My father and his buddy leased a piece of state land near Emporium when I was young and built on it a small camp. Mountain laurel grew in abundance on the designated site and many of the plants would be destroyed in the building process. We assumed it was a protected plant and could not be transplanted to other sites. I took one plant secretly back to our home, but it barely grew for many years. I recently discovered that on private land with the landowner's permission, it can be removed. On public land since 2018, it is illegal to cut, pick, dig or remove the plants. Since we had a lease, removing the plants was legal, but we didn't know that at the time.

In the 1920's over 20 million pounds of its foliage was picked annually for use by florists as decorations. Such mass stripping of the plant caused it to be slightly protected.

Our state flower is poisonous-in all its forms-to both humans and some animals. Deer ignore eating it, only as a last resort to avoid starving and then only in very small quantities. If ingested by humans, it is a death potion. Bees love the nectar, but even the honey is said to be toxic and to be avoided.

Mountain laurel is thriving so well again across Pennsylvania because of the following reasons:

- The blight of the American chestnut opened the forest canopy to low growth plants.
- The oak deforestation by the gypsy moth also affected the forest canopy.
- The use of fire suppression opened ground growth.

The shrub is a slow grower and normally reaches 6 to 15 feet in height and width. Its gnarled branches are so dense that wanderers who try to penetrate it, both human and animal, face laurel hell. Its pink and white blossoms bloom in May through early June. The dark green elongated leaves add winter color and cover for wildlife.

Lady Bird Johnson made the following statement-----

“I want us to know our world. If I lived in North Georgia through the Appalachians, I would be just as crazy about the mountain laurel as I am about the Texas bluebonnets.”

Here are some basic steps to grow a mountain laurel. Remember it is hardy to zone 5 and requires full sun or partial shade with moist, but well-drained acidic soil. Plant in the spring after all danger of frost is over. Do not position near lawns fed with high-nitrogen products. Amend the soil with compost when preparing the site. The shrub has a shallow root system and needs 2 inches of water each week during its first season. Use an organic mulch of pine needles or shredded bark around the plant to help the soil hold moisture.

There are any types of laurels sold at your local nursey. It can even be found on Etsy from AAC Nursery Seedlings of West Virginia. Select any of these for your shady garden spot.

- Carol Mountain Laurel
- Minuet Mountain Laurel
- White Flowering Mountain Laurel
- Starburst Mountain Laurel
- Raspberry Glow Mountain Laurel
- Nathan Hale Mountain Laurel

Don't want to actually grow it, but would enjoy seeing it! Visit the Kings Gap Environmental Center near Carlisle, PA or Clear Creek State Forest near Brookville, PA. Wellsboro, PA also sponsors a big week-long event and is the state's official Mountain Laurel Festival held in June.

Mountain laurel is a member of the heath family along with azaleas, rhododendrons, blueberry and huckleberry plants. It is very compatible with rhododendrons and can be intermixed with their growing area.

Learning that our state flower is poisonous really bothers me. Why have a state flower that people can only look at but really never touch? How do you feel?

In closing I have a book calling to me to read -----

MOUNTAIN LAUREL by Jude Deveraux

Judith Schaffer
Pucketos Garden Club



Inspire
Uplift

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE
GETTING OLD WHEN
"FRIENDS WITH
BENEFITS" MEANS
HAVING SOMEONE
WHO CAN DRIVE AT
NIGHT.**