

TRUMPET



VINE

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania – District VII
A FREE newsletter distributed via Club Presidents to ~338 club members and via
http://www.gardenclubofmonroeville.org/trumpet_vine_gcfp_district_vii_newsletter

Mar-Apr2018



Jackie Stempfer, Editor

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A RECAP OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TEA

Dear Garden Club members ---I was pleased to welcome 82 (or 22% of the district) club members plus 3 non-members at the District VII Spring Membership Tea on that cold morning of Thursday, March 15. The GC of McKeesport had the highest number of registrations with 18 or 39% of their members attending, while Joyful Bloomers had the highest percent attendance at 56% with 10 members in attendance.

Certified National Garden Club Flower Show Judge and former GCFP President (2009-2011) Angie Raitano engaged attendees as she presented her treasured vases holding Armature, Horizontal, Parallel and Cascade designs.



Photographer Gil Brody attempted to capture a picture of every attendee, thus all of the club presidents were emailed ~80 photographs as a result.

*This year it was **uncontestable** that the Garden Club of Monroeville won First Place in the District's Trash to Treasure "Saddle Up" contest with "Triffy, the Trojan Horse" made out of prescription and supplement bottles. Read the Director's Report regarding the Tea/Lunch/Program on the next page.*

Check the Event Calendar in this issue and visit the plants sales. To grow your knowledge of rose propagation, do not forget to visit GC of McKeesport on Rose Day, June 9 (1-4PM). Also make time to visit their Flower Show on July 21st at the McKeesport Regional History and Heritage Center. And be sure to ask about reserving space on a tour to several outstanding local gardens with the Murrysville Garden Club also on July 21st.

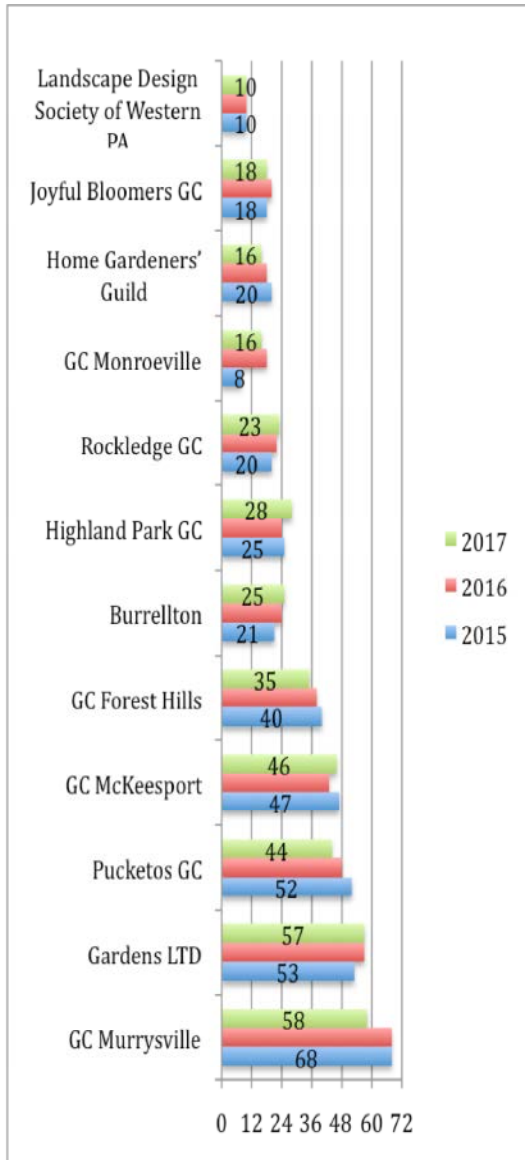
Try your hand at growing Mason Bees this year or at least learn about it for next year! I plan to get a "swarm" at the Convention from Iris Cisarik, our BEE GAP Chair. Read another of her articles in this issue.

Congratulations to three outstanding clubs on their Federation anniversaries this year: GC of Forest Hills and Pucketos GC celebrate 85 years, and Gardens LTD. celebrates 50 years!

Marilyn Backus, District VII Director

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: As of January 2018, District VII clubs are mostly maintaining their memberships at + or – 10 members over the past three years as noted in the Membership Chart. There was an overall net loss of eight members since January 2017. Club Members, keep the focus on bringing value to our communities and members, invite and welcome guests and publicize everything!

Members/Club (Jan2015-Jan2017)



The Board of District VII hosts the Annual Membership Tea to offer a heartfelt thank you to all members for all they do for other club members in GCFP and their community. Here is what happened on March 15 at the Membership Tea, Buffet and Program ...

Since there were no applications, as chronicled in a Book of Evidence of the activities and participation of members from Jan. 1, 2017 – Dec 31, 2017, District VII could not award the **BLUE ROSETTE AWARD** to the most outstanding District VII club. Start a Book of Evidence now to enter your club for next year.

TRASH TO TREASURE:

“The Trifecta-Saddle Up” Contest
 1st Place for the only Entrant – GC of Monroeville
 “Triffy, Can She Win?” (Marilyn Backus, Lisa Rettig)

Free-Will Charitable Collection for **NATURAL DISASTERS - \$72.90** (per Sharon Bryner, Joyful Bloomers)

RAFFLE ITEMS - \$168 per Margie Wolff (Murrysville GC) WINNERS:

- Betty Monyok (GC McKeesport) won GC of Monroeville’s Yard Decorations basket
- Mary Lou Rostand (Murrysville GC) won Landscape Design’s Soc. \$50 cash
- Carla Rusnica (Greensburg Garden Center) won Highland Park GC’s Gardening Items and Plant Basket

50/50 CASH - \$107.50 per Valerie Wilson (Murrysville GC) Awarded to Mildred Schorr (Burrellton GC)

RAFFLES OF ANGIE’S FLORAL DESIGN BOUQUETS - \$37.00 per Iris Cisarik (GC of Forest Hills)

Marilyn Backus (GC of Monroeville); Margie Wolff (Murrysville GC); Leeanna Ryba (Burrellton GC); Diane Maschok (GC of Monroeville); Debbie Foster (GC of Monroeville); Linda Diss (Murrysville GC); Amy Shugerman Glasser (GC Forest Hills); Joyce Peterson (GC Forest Hills)

USED JEWELRY SALE - \$45.00 per Anna Zamule (GC of Forest Hills)

USED BOOK EXCHANGE AND SALE - \$1.50 per Marilyn Backus (GC of Monroeville)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DECORATORS AND MANAGERS:

Kitchen Manager: Nancy Price (Home Gardeners’ Guild)	Decorators/Setup/Centerpieces: Iris Cisarik, Joyce Peterson & Anna Zamule (GC of Forest Hills) AND Shirley Brody, Marilyn Backus & Arlene Madray (GC of Monroeville)
Reception Manager: Arlene Madray (GC of Monroeville)	Membership Chair: Lana Kling Photographer: Gil Brody (spouse of Shirley Brody (GC of Monroeville))
Chaplain: Betty Monyok (GC of McKeesport)	Horticulture Judging: Joyce Peterson, Iris Cisarik and Margie Wolff District VII Treasurer and Name Tags: Leeanna Ryba (Burrellton GC)
Bee Exhibit & Program Chair: Iris Cisarik (GC of Forest Hills)	Program Presenter: Angie Raitano (Landscape Design Society of W PA)

2018 CLUB OFFICERS



BURRELLTON GARDEN CLUB
PRESIDENT Leeanna Ryba
VICE PRESIDENT Dorothy Suatoni
TREASURER Diana Acre
SECRETARY Charlene Mahu
HISTORIAN Rosalie Kupec



GARDEN CLUB OF FOREST HILLS
President: Karen Lukas
1st VP: Judy King
2nd VP: Margaret Reed
Treasurer: Kathy Bauer
Recording Secretary: Angie Owen
Corresponding Secretary: Carolyn Reuter

**Garden Club of Forest Hills: Annual plant sale: Saturday, May 5 – 9-2
Annual plant auction: Wednesday, May 23 – 7-9 a.m.**

Murrysville Garden Club plant sale is May 10&11 (Thur/Fri only) at Murrysville Fireman's Field

Burrellton Garden Club May Mart: May 19th at Lower Burrell City Hall Garage. Sales of perennials from member's gardens as well as annuals, food, flea market, and garden items.



GARDEN CLUB OF MCKEESPORT

President: Marsha Pratt

1st VP: Jane Miller

2nd VP: Mary Jane Hickman

Secretary: Carolyn Monyok

Corresponding Secretary: Karen Badstibner

Treasurer: Christine Keefe



GARDEN CLUB OF MONROEVILLE

Co-Presidents - Shirley Brody & Marilyn Backus (District Director)

Vice President – Eileen Smeltz

Treasurer - Arlene Madray

Recording Secretary - Deborah Foster

Corresponding Secretary – Shirley Brody

GARDENS LTD

President –Roz Markovitz

Vice President - Jan Engelberg

Treasurer – Ina Sable

Recording Secretary – Mimi Halpern



HIGHLAND PARK GARDEN CLUB
President - Susan Ryan
Treasurer - Nancy Schultz
Recording Secretary – Laura Bartoletti (acting)



HOME GARDENERS' GUILD
President - Kathy Ingel
Treasurer – Joan Driscoll
Recording Secretary – Marla Kalning
Corresponding Secretary – Bonnie Stern



JOYFUL BLOOMERS
President: Sharon Bryner
Vice President: Ruth Carroll
Treasurer: Diane Soltis
Recording Secretary: Lana Kling
Corresponding Secretary: Andrea Rice



LANDSCAPE DESIGN SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

President: Angie Raitano
Vice President: Pat Ptasick
Recording Secretary: Leeanna Ryba
Treasurer: Joyce Peterson



MURRYSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

President: Pat Morrison
Vice Presidents: Nina Damato and Linda Diss Thompson
Recording Secretaries: Linda McCune, Barbara Cseh, Margie Wolff
Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Ostrowski
Treasurer: Mary Ann Artman
Assistant Treasurer: Valerie Wilson



PUCKETOS GARDEN CLUB

President – Pat Lance
Vice President – Martha Sproul
Recording Secretary - Judy Rhine
Treasurer – Betty Grossheim
Parliamentarian – Marsha Ewing

ROCKLEDGE GARDEN CLUB

President: Jim Lindsay
Vice President: Mary Lindsay
Recording Secretary: Lauren Goodman
Treasurer: Dana Overmyer



GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER (CLUB AFFILIATE)

Co-Presidents: Carla Rusnica, Barbara Cseh, Margie Wolff
1st Vice President: Diane Dale
Newsletter Editor: Diane Dale

Heads Up or Team Up

By Iris Cisarik, GCFP BeeGap State Chair

A group of bee producers are claiming Mason bees are better pollenizers [sic] because the pollen they collect falls from their bodies more readily than it does from honeybees. Jim Watts, an owner of Leafcutter and Mason Bees in Bothell, Washington said it takes only 1,000 Mason bees per acre versus 40,000 to 50,000 honeybees per acre to pollinate fruit and nut trees. "We're not trying to put honeybees out of business but Mason bees have been known to be good pollinators for 30 years. It's only been in recent years that Watts and his collaborators have figured out how to propagate them. Their idea is in its infancy- they will only have enough bees next year to pollinate 500 acres- but they think they're a good alternative to honeybees that have been diminishing from colony collapse disorder and varroa mites in recent years... *Adapted from an article by Dan Wheat, Capital Press, October 31, 2014*

This actually is a lead into my main idea of interest I hope you will find at our GCFP Convention in April. For on display will be at least a dozen bee houses -some homemade and some commercial. The commercial can be bought. The homemade can easily be duplicated. There will also be dozens and dozens of pictures in the exhibit of commercial houses . There are actually hundreds of bee houses on the market. The price range can go as high as \$90. The ones I will have on display are very inexpensive. More can be ordered. Mason bees are a better alternative to honey bees for pollinating fruit and nut trees.

Trumpet Vine Schedule

Send reports, pictures of events or gardens, and your articles to Jackie Stempfer by the Deadline Date at jstempfer@comcast.net or 469 Bulltown Road Murrysville, PA 15668-9510

2018 ISSUE	DEADLINE DATE	PUBLISHED
March April:	April 15	May 1
May-August:	August 15	September 1
Sept-Nov:	Nov 15	December 1
Dec 2018-Feb 2019:	February 15	March 1

Photographer, Gil Brody, sent eighty Membership Tea pictures to all of the Board members' computers. On the Mac, forward pictures as an Attachment to preserve the pixels and picture sharpness and double click on a Picture to Enlarge the

Size (at least on a Mac Computer). If possible, ask your District Board Club Presidents and Chairs to show them to you. Otherwise a few selected pictures are provided here.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mark your calendars because the District VII Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at Palmieri’s Restaurant 951 Old Frankstown Rd, Plum, PA 15239. Master Gardener Linda Roos will present “Forget Phil!!! Force Flowers for February!”

2018		
DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
Fri, Apr 27		Arbor Day
Sat, Apr 28	GC Monroeville	Plant (and Bare Root Tree) Sale in Monroeville’s new Tilbrook Park Pavilion #1 from 10 AM-2PM
Mon Apr 30	Designers Guild	“Petites” at Greensburg Garden Center on Old Salem Rd, ~10 AM-1PM
Sat May 5	GC Forest Hills	Plant Sale at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 1840 Ardmore Blvd (intersection with Braddock Rd) (9AM -2PM)
Sat May 5	GC McKeesport	Plant Sale and Crafts at Clubhouse in Renziehausen Park begins at 9 AM
Sat May 19	Burrellton GC	May Mart @Lower Burrell City Hall
Wed May 23	GC Forest Hills	Plant Sale at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 1840 Ardmore Blvd (intersection with Braddock Rd) (Doors open at 6:30PM for Preview and Auction at 7 PM until plants sold, usually ~8:30PM.
Sun-Thurs May 20-24	NGC/GCFP	2018 National Garden Clubs Annual Convention @ Loews Hotel in Philadelphia “Love Blooms in Philadelphia”
Sun-Sat, Jun 3-9	NGC	National Garden Week
Thurs June 7	GC Monroeville	Tree and Shrub Current Pests & Diseases in the Pittsburgh Area” free presentation at Monroeville Library Gallery Space (7PM-8:30PM)
Sat June 9	GC McKeesport	Rose Day at Clubhouse in Renziehausen Park at 10 AM
Mon-Tues Jun 11-12	GCFP	GCFP Board Mtg Atherton Hotel, State College PA
Mon June 18	Designers Guild	“Mono-Botanic” at Greensburg Garden Center on Old Salem Rd, ~10 AM-1PM
Sat July 21	Murrysville GC	Tour to Six Murrysville Gardens
Sat July 21	GC McKeesport	Flower Show at Heritage Center next to Clubhouse at Renziehausen Park
Sat Aug 4	GC Monroeville	“Invasive Plants of Pittsburgh” free presentation at Monroeville Library Galley Space (1PM-2:30 PM)
Sat Aug 11	GC Monroeville	“Caution Botany” – free Field Trip at Boyce Park’s Nature Center that views the plants discussed on Aug 4.
Wed Aug 29	Designers Guild	“Duos” at Greensburg Garden Center on Old Salem Rd, ~10 AM-1PM
Tues Sept 4	GC Monroeville	“Meet the Beekeeper II” and view his observation hive at Monroeville Public Library Gallery Space, 7PM-8:30PM.
Wed Sept 12	District VII	Annual Meeting at Palmieri’s Restaurant, Plum Boro
Wed-Fri Sept 26-28	NGC	NGC Fall Board Mtg, Orlando, FL



Judy's Jottings "Gentle Giants"

"If I were a flower..... I would be a sunflower.
To always follow the sun, Turn my back to darkness,
Stand proud, tall and straight even with my head full of seeds."
Quote by Pam Stewart

I always get a smile on my face and a feeling of happiness when I see a bright sunflower in a bouquet of flowers or growing in a garden. A friend took me to visit a small sunflower farm in the Sarver area many years ago. I expected to see only bright yellow flowers and was very surprised to see red, pink, white, bronze, orange and bicolor ones growing in his gardens. There even seemed to be black ones! I walked the fields in amazement, viewing the different sizes and colors. He sold his sunflowers to a dealer in the Strip District of Pittsburgh. (He never even offered me one to take home. Boo!)

According to Greek mythology, a water nymph named Cyltia was madly in love with the God of the Sun, Apollo. She never stopped staring up at the sun, but he did not return her love. The other Gods, taking pity of her, turned her into a sunflower that could always follow the path of the sun.

Wild sunflowers were cultivated by Native Americans as early as 3,000 B.C. They are considered by many to be the Fourth Sister crop along with corn, beans and squash. The meaty seeds were eaten raw or roasted and pounded into meal for making bread or gruel.

Even today sunflower seeds are a big hit and can be roasted by following the directions below:

Roast the seeds at 275 degrees F for about 45 minutes. Crack and remove the shells or eat them.

Sunflower seeds are used in many recipes and can replace nuts for allergy sufferers. Try this recipe for

SUNFLOWER
COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup sunflower margarine (Promise)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
2 cups oats, rolled
1 cup coconut, flaked
1 cup raw or roasted sunflower kernels

DIRECTIONS

In medium size mixing bowl, combine margarine and sugars until well-blended. Add eggs and vanilla. Stir together the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt; mix well. Add to margarine mixture. Stir in oats, coconut, and sunflower kernels. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees F for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the cookies are brown around the edges. May substitute chocolate chips or raisins for coconut.

Makes 4 dozen cookies

Sunflowers can be grown to attract and feed bees and birds. They are actually a natural bird feeder! Plant sunflower seeds in a sunny site after the soil has warmed in the late spring. Each head can produce up to 1,000 seeds. Did you know that the plants contain a chemical that inhibits the growth of other plants? Watch what you plant around them! In a bird feeder if the seeds hit the ground, they will kill the grass. A solution is to mount a Plexiglas dome upside down under the feeder to catch the seeds.

Cucumbers and sunflowers can be planted together. Sunflowers provide the shade which cucumbers love and need. The cucumber vines make a living mulch around the flower's roots and discourage weeds. Dead-head spent sunflower blooms if you do not want them to self-seed.

Sunflowers are picked for market immature because they ship better. If the petals are still folded over the disk of the annual type, they will not open properly. Watch what you buy at florist shops and grocery stores. Remove all foliage from the stem if placing an annual type in an arrangement. They should last about 10 days in water. Always buy local grown, in season, and/or grow your own for better results.

Try presenting sunflowers and lemons for a fresh summery look!

Jessica Walliser, local plant expert and newspaper column writer, recommends adding double sunflower varieties to your garden. She suggests - Starburst Lemon Aura, Goldy Double, Teddy Bear, Sun-Fill Hybrid and Double Quick Orange.

I have grown sunflowers in large garden pots and in straw bales. Don't ask me what variety they are, as I buy a plant at any local Wal-Mart, K-Mart or Loews. If it looks pretty and is cheap, I will probably buy it. No matter what variety or where you plant them, add some Gentle Giants to your garden. Hummingbirds will love you!

Judith Schaffer
Pucketos Garden Club