



**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](http://www.gardenclubofmonroeville.org/trumpet_vine_gcfp_district_vii_newsletter)**



**May-Aug2018**

**Jackie Stempfer, Editor**

***DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE***

**A RECAP OF THE GCFP CONVENTION – BY MARILYN C. BACKUS, DISTRICT VII DIRECTOR**

*Dear Garden Club members --- Our District VII of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) has 12 Federated Garden Clubs and 1 Affiliate. Thirteen (13) of our District members attended this year's outstanding Convention at the Meadowlands, chaired by Haddie Weber, who is a member of District X as well as District VII's Home Gardeners' Guild. The workshops, which included the personalized attention by On Thai in his design workshop, the quality of the exhibits and food, the variety of vendors and innovations to the award ceremonies made it outstanding!*

The following is a summation of the GCFP and NGC (National Garden Clubs, Inc.) Awards won in District VII: 10 of our 13 organizations received 31 GCFP awards. This involves 1 more club and 16 more awards than last year.

1. Haddie Weber won the GCFP's top award "GCFP Gold Seal Award" after 44 incredible years of GCFP service and influence! Congratulations, Haddie!
2. GC Forest Hills sponsored a winning applicant (Colleen Elizabeth Mauro) for a \$1,000 GCFP Marilyn L. Whitmore Scholarship.
3. In the Youth Poetry Contest called "Let It Grow", Pucketos sponsored First Place Winners in the Second, Third and Fourth Grades. [Second Grader went on to place Second at CAR (Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.) and the Third Grader placed Third at CAR. The Fourth Grader placed First at CAR. Pucketos won an NGC Certificate of Appreciation for their work in Poetry.] The GCFP also awarded their Third Graders with a Second and Third Place Winner. Meanwhile, Monroeville sponsored a Second Place Winner in the Fifth Grade.
4. In the Youth Sculpture Contest, Monroeville GC sponsored Fifth Graders from St. Bernadette School who won First, Second, and Third Place. [The First Place winner won \$10 and the Third Place winner won an Honorable Mention from NGC.]
5. GCFP sent \$100 to each of 3 Clubs: Forest Hills GC and Pucketos GC for their 85<sup>th</sup> year anniversaries, and Gardens LTD for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
6. For Yearbooks, Monroeville won Third place for a club under 20 members and Forest Hills placed Third for clubs with 30-44 members.
7. For Newsletters, Forest Hills won Third Place for its "Petals" Newsletter.

**Some newer award categories were won this year that were not won last year:**

8. The District VII Newsletter, "Trumpet Vine" created by the Board of Directors (Editor, Jackie Stempfer), won First Place. [It also won a Certificate of Appreciation from NGC.]
9. For Publications, Monroeville won First Place for a special booklet containing all of St. Bernadette fifth graders' poems. [It also won a Certificate of Merit from NGC.] Monroeville won Second Place for its Membership Brochure.
10. For Websites, Monroeville won Second Place for a small club.
11. Burrellton won Second Place for its Plant Sale under Special Recognition State Award E.
12. For Therapy Gardens, Pucketos won First Place.
13. For the Honor Roll of Exceptional Horticulturalists, our Five Honorees were from Forest Hills, Joyful Bloomers, McKeesport, Murrysburg and affiliate Greensburg Garden Center.
14. Seed Money was awarded to Burrellton, Forest Hills and Monroeville.
15. For Flower Show Evaluation, Forest Hills won Second Place for "Hoedown in the Hills" and won Third Place for a Standard Flower Show sponsored by 21-49 members."
16. Iris Cisarik received a Presidential Citation for her work in Pennsylvania on the BEE GAP Project! WOW, IRIS!

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** A District Director (DD) gets invited to so many interesting, worthwhile events in District VII and meets a lot of hard-working, talented club members! I highly recommend becoming a DD, so think about it if you ever served a term on the Board of Directors as a Club President or Chair or Officer. See below:

Apr 30: Participated in the Designers' Guild workshop focusing on Instructor Joyce Peterson's "Petite" floral arrangements.

May 8: With Margie Wolff and Iris Cisarik, visited Gardens' Limited informal flower show at Phipps Garden Center (President, Roz Markovitz).

May 10: Visited Home Gardeners' Guild business meeting (President, Kathy Ingles).

May 23: Participated in GC of Forest Hills' Plant Auction (President, Karen Lukas).

June 11-12: Reported to the GCFP Board of Directors regarding District VII's GCFP Awards and Distributed Registration Flyer for District VII's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 12. (Registration Due Date is Wednesday, September 5.)

June 21: Hosted the District VI Board Meeting at GC of McKeesport's clubhouse.

July 14: Participated in Duo's and Creative floral designs at Greensburg Garden Center Redstone Flower Show.

July 21: Participated in Duo's and Exhibition Tables floral designs at GC of McKeesport Flower Show at McKeesport Regional Heritage Center (Chair Dorothy Zenkovich and President, Marsha Pratt).

August 1: Visited Joyful Bloomers GC Regular Meeting (President, Sharon Bryner).

August 3: Attended Pucketos GC's Victorian Wedding Dress Fundraiser for Club Scholarships (President, Pat Lance).

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**HURRY! PARTNER UP AND COME TO THE DISTRICT VII'S ANNUAL MEETING, Register by Wednesday, Sept 5.**



**Garden Club Federation of  
Pennsylvania  
- District VII -**

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the  
Central Atlantic Division of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Club Presidents meet with GCFP Officers  
upstairs at 9:15 AM!**

**Annual Meeting, Lunch & Program  
Wednesday, September 12, 2018 (10AM – 2:15PM)**

**Doors open at 9:00 AM** for coffee/tea, exhibits & snacks

at

**Palmieri's Restaurant Banquet Hall (down ramp)**

951 Old Frankstown Rd, Plum, PA 15239  
(724) 387-2444; [www.palmierisrestaurant.com](http://www.palmierisrestaurant.com)

**Forget Phil !!! Force Flowers For February!**

Join Phipps Master Gardener **Linda Roos** as she tells how  
certain plants can be forced to bloom in early spring. (Bulbs and  
a limited number of vases are available for take-home.)

Free pictorial **Guide for Identifying & Controlling Common Noxious & Invasive Weeds**  
Free Succulent Babies, New Exhibits, 50/50, Raffle baskets or items,  
Used jewelry, Used Book Exchange

Buffet Lunch (a waitress is available for those requesting help getting lunch; GF= Gluten Free):  
Eggplant Parmigiana, GF Roast Chicken Breast and/or GF Potatoes Parsleyanna, GF Tossed  
Italian Salad, GF Cole Slaw, GF Red Beets, GF Potato Salad, GF Raw Vegetable Tray, GF  
Apple Sauce, GF Gardenieri, Pudding, Bread/Butter, GF Dessert ,

Detach -----

To attend, send a **\$23.00 check made out to "GCFP, District VII"** via your club treasurer or  
individually, **before Wednesday, September 5, 2018** to Marilyn Backus, District VII Director,  
925 Wood Street, Pitcairn, PA 15140.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

\$23.00 (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check (# \_\_\_\_\_)

## THE GREAT SUNFLOWER PROJECT

By Iris Cisarik, Chair of GCFP Bee Gap

The Great Sunflower Project (GSP) is a program of citizen science in which non-scientists were involved in collecting data in quantities that scientists couldn't possibly gather on their own. This project was initiated by Gretchen LeBuhn of San Francisco University to learn more about the well-being of pollinators across the country. She focused mostly on the 4,000 bee species native to the United States and Canada because the bees are the queens of the pollination world.

Even though the pollinator study is one small area, it still takes years to complete with much needed money, time and expertise. This is where the Great Sunflower Project comes in. The object of the original project is to get a baseline of pollinator visitations---the number of pollinator visits per hour per flower---on the same kind of plant all across the country. She chose to use the sunflower because they are easy to grow and are visited by many kinds of pollinators, thanks to their clever design. A sunflower usually consists of hundreds to thousands of flowers. An outer rim of ray flowers, each with one prominent petal pointing out surrounds a banquet of tiny disc flowers. The pollen and nectar in these florets are easy to remove and each day new ones open creating a wonderful smorgasbord for pollinators.

Some of the visitors are among the most charismatic in the bee world, especially those in the genus *Melissodes*. They are called long-horned bees because of the males' antennae. The females' antennae are shorter but they are fat and fuzzy carrying much pollen on their hind legs, looking like legwarmers. The Great Sunflower Project began in 2008 when LeBuhn sent an email to people in southeast United States asking for volunteers willing to plant Lemon Queen sunflowers and then count the number of pollinators visiting them. She got 20,000 responses from people all over the country. She did not need etymologists, she just needed people who could count! (*Excerpts from "Horticulture" March/April 2018 issue.*)

## District VII Club Reports

**GC of Forest Hills** – Karen Lukas announced these club activities:

May - two substantially successful fundraising events: a plant sale and a plant auction for funding:

1. New Avenue Project
2. Hillside Garden, created in 1993, at the Braddock Road entrance to the Forest Hills Main Park. The garden needs repair following the state's drainage project.

June - Club supervised ~ten members of Cub Scout Troop 90's planting of annuals around Borough's clubhouse flagpole and pool to earn community service badges.

### The Club's programs for rest of year:

July - field trip and lunch at GC McKeesport Rose Garden

July 4 - Forest Hills Community Day event with an info booth/raffle.

August - gardening with native plants presentation and flower arranging with residents of Juniper Village assisted living.

September - is annual picnic in Park

October - presentation, using garden leftovers to make decorative accents

Nov - Joyce Peterson and Iris Cisarik making holiday decorations in November

Dec - Holiday Party

**GC of McKeesport** – Marsha Pratt reported these activities:

June 2018 - extremely busy with bookings and weddings and garden tours, including a bus group from Mt. Lebanon Library for a tour and luncheon  
- The big event for the summer is the Flower Show held on July 21, 2018 at the Regional Heritage Center (next door) chaired by Dorothy Zenkevich. The July Tea was cancelled to concentrate on the show.  
- A "Thank you for your Time" celebration is planned for September 8. It is a picnic for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beautiful Arboretum that will include few dignitaries and volunteers.

**GC of Monroeville** – Marilyn Backus and Shirley Brody, reported:

April - held first annual Garden Sale Fundraiser at Monroeville Community Park West and set up two tables at the Flea Market at Independence Court of Monroeville. Independence Court generously donated all of their proceeds from the sale to the GC of Monroeville. The adult education presentation at Monroeville Library was "Attracting Monarchs and Other Butterflies into your Garden."

May - discussion on "Annuals" based on NGC's Publication

June - adult education presentation by Bartlett was "Trees and Shrubs Current Pests and Diseases." The regular meeting program will be "Designing with Dried Material."

July - a workshop on "Create a Traditional Vertical Line/Line-Mass Design"  
August - adult ed. presentation on "Invasive Plants in Pittsburgh", and "Healing Treasures and Caution Botany" field trip at Boyce Park Nature Study Center and a meeting discussion on "Plant Native".

September - adult ed. presentation by beekeeper, John Yakim, will be "A Peek Inside the Beehive", the meeting discussion will be NGC's "Spring Flowering Bulbs"

October - meeting discussion on "Houseplants".

Nov - PowerPoint presentation on "Floral Designs and Color."

Dec - Holiday Party

**Greensburg Garden Center:** Carla Rusnica

/Barbara Cseh / Margie Wolff reported:

- live butterfly release will be Saturday, August 11 AM,
- Tea in the Afternoon will be Wednesday, August 11 AM, and a
- bus trip to Country Living Fair and Franklin Park Conservatory is Friday, Sept 14.

**Highland Park Garden Club - Susan Ryan**

reported:

- April: The club enlisted the help of a local Boy Scout troop to transport 16 planters to Bryant Street, the commercial street of Highland Park. Members planted pansies in them for spring blooming until June, followed by summer flowers.
- March - program "Designing with Color in the Garden without Flowers"
- April - program "Gardens in China"
- May - program "Basic Flower Arranging". Member and Master Gardener, Jamie Contis, wrote an article for the Highland Park Community Council Newsletter that featured an interview with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Horticulturalist responsible for the flower beds at Highland Park Reservoir Gardens.
- June - a summer garden visit to a residential Japanese garden in Tarentum,
- July - a trip to Highland Park a residential Bonsai garden,
- August - visit to a garden club member garden.

**Home Gardeners' Guild - Kathy Ingel/Haddie Weber** reported:

- The HGG will continue their visits to the residents of St. Angelo's Manor, a personal care facility in McKeesport, making crafts, enjoying a summer tea, planting summer flowers, and having a Christmas Party complete with gifts for each of the residents.
- HGG Garden Therapy Committee will expand on their current outreach program, working with the students at McKeesport High School and two of the Intermediate Schools, planting different seeds and enabling these students to harvest their own vegetables.
- HGG Garden Therapy Committee will begin a new program at the Carnegie Library in McKeesport. They are in the process of working to finalize this program.
- Our programs for 2018 include a wide variety of speakers, informative and fun tours, and several do-it-yourself projects.
- HGG will be working on how to recruit new members. Their plans include having a "meet and greet" meeting where we will ask each member to bring a friend to the meeting. We are hoping for some success in gaining new members.

**Joyful Bloomers - Sharon Bryner/Ruth Carroll** reported:

- March - two county park rangers presented a program on the Allegheny Parks System, the history on Round Hill and White Oaks Park.
- April - toured Bidwell Center with a focus on the Horticulture area.
- May - the club completed their Kane Regional Center Courtyard project at the main entrance with pavers, mulch and additional planters and fixing door.
- June - club members learned how to make a macramé hanger.
- July 21 - Joyful Bloomers has been invited to be a part of GC of McKeesport Flower Show.

**Murrysville GC - Pat Morrison** reported:

Saturday, July 21 is the Murrysville Garden Tour. Murrysville GC is selling tickets (\$12, available 9 AM-5 PM at "Contemporary Concepts Too" 4542 William Penn Highway, Murrysville PA 15668 at 724-519-8725) for access to 5 houses + Tollhouse gardens in Murrysville and 2 properties in Monroeville and a snack.

**Pucketos GC - Pat Lance** reported:

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Judy Schaffer presented "Straw Bale Gardening".
- April: I attended the GCFP conference in Washington PA.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> - regular meeting featured Andrea Jackson presenting "Herbs Sweet Herbs".
- June 4<sup>th</sup> - regular meeting will be held in Memorial Park, New Kensington. This will be a morning of working in individual gardens and having lunch under a pavilion.
- June 26<sup>th</sup> - field trip to Chatham University- Eden Hall Farm Campus
- Aug 3 - the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pucketos Garden Club Tea is our primary fundraiser for the club's scholarship. All tickets have been sold and a waiting list prepared.
- August 6<sup>th</sup> - regular meeting will feature Sandy Truckner "More Buzz About Pollinators."
- August 21 - Field Trip to Succop Conservancy

## **CRAYON INITIATIVE**

**Save those unwanted crayons (from local restaurants and homes), bring them to the Annual Meeting or give them to your club President(s) so that they can give them to Judy Schaffer, Chair of Garden Therapy.**

Judy graciously agreed to deliver them to the drop-off site (Carol and Dave's Roadhouse) in Ligionier.

Did you know that restaurants typically throw crayons out after only one use? The Crayon Initiative collects donated crayons from restaurants, schools and homes across the country, melts them and remanufactures them to reduce waste. They recycle the remade crayons to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, among others.

Crayon Advocates help keep the earth clean because the waxy sludge is not biodegradable and clogs landfills. A half million pounds or 60 million individual crayons are discarded annually.

## JOIN THE BEE REVOLUTION

*By Iris Cisarik, Chair of GCFP Bee Gap*

Since 2013 Crown Bees and National Garden Clubs, Inc. have partnered to add gentle mason bees to gardens. The World Resources Institute reports that by 2050 the world's population will grow to 9.6 billion and we need sustainable ways to increase food production by 69%. A simple and powerful way to increase crop production is by improving and ensuring pollination. By increasing the mason bee population for spring fruit, nut and berry pollination and leafcutter bees to gardeners and farmers, we are bringing superior pollination action for summer fruits and vegetables. Here are Programs that Crown Bees is offering in which everyone can participate.

**BEE BUY BACK:** In the fall, Crown Bees will accept healthy mason bee cocoons in exchange for cash or gift cards towards new tubes, reeds or other supplies. One person at our GCFP convention this year told me her 2 cherry trees were loaded with mason bees. Bee Buyback empowers you to help raise mason bees with the goal of growing more food and helping to protect our food supply. The Bee Buyback program typically runs from October to mid-December.

**NATIVE BEE SHARE:** Organizations and community groups can purchase a deeply discounted all-in-one BeeWorks kit to be placed in public gardens. This program includes weatherproof education signs that create awareness and provide education to visitors of the gardens while also providing pollination to the garden's flowers and crops. Participating food bank farms were surprised with a doubling or tripling of their crops!

**TALK & TEACH PRESENTATIONS:** You can help raise awareness by talking with a variety of audiences. Every bit of discussion benefits the bees, our ecosystems and our economies.

**SUPPORTING WILD BEES:** The future of sustainable agricultural pollination is bee diversity. North America is home to 4,000 native bee species and we estimate about 1,000 native bee species nest in above ground holes. Wild bees may move into your bee house. Native bees are better suited to pollinate our crops and supporting them gives us a more secure food future.

How can you resist one of these vital programs as caretakers of the sustainability of this planet? Join in the Bee Revolution!

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## POLLINATOR BASICS

*Adapted from Marcy Cunkelman, Chair of GCFP Conservation/Birds & Butterflies*

**A Pollinator** is one that pollinates; an agent that pollinates a flower such as bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, mammals, flies, ants, beetles. These are ultimately responsible for the seeds and fruits that feed everything from songbirds to bears and, of course, humans. **What can you do to help?**

1. AVOID insecticides and pesticides, and if you must use them, make sure they are organic.
2. Plant a wide variety of flowering plants, so there are blooms from Spring's snowdrops and crocuses to the last Fall blooms...like native asters and goldenrod.
3. Plant host and nectar plants (preferably native, single-petaled, non-sterile) for the types of butterflies and moths in your area.
4. Plant bulbs, perennials, shrubs, trees and annuals for year-long blooms that attract a diversity of pollinators. Bees love purple, blue, white, yellow, mauve and violet blossom colors in various sizes and shapes.
5. Don't tidy up or trim your garden in the fall...wait until Spring when bulb "noses" emerge. And wait until the warmth of May to chop garden vegetation for composting to protect eggs and insects in stems and seed heads.

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## AN UPDATE ON THE BALD EAGLE

*Adapted from Haddie Weber, Chair of Birds Standing Committee*

**DID YOU KNOW?** The Bald Eagle was removed from the Endangered Species Act list in 2007. By 2013, there were more than 250 active nests across the state, in nearly all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. The number of nests and the areas of the state where they are found have continued to climb. The bulk of the Bald Eagle diet includes birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and small mammals, fresh or as carrion.



### 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. Register by Wednesday, Sept 5 to Marilyn Backus. Master Gardener Linda Roos will present "Forget Phil!!! Force Flowers for February!"

2018		
DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
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	GCFP District VII Annual Meeting, Lunch and Program (doors open at 9 AM), Presidents meet Officers at 9:15AM, business meeting, lunch and program 10 AM-2:15 PM) at Palmieri's Restaurant, 951 Old Frankstown Rd, Plum, PA 15239 (724) 387-2444; <a href="http://www.palmierisrestaurant.com">www.palmierisrestaurant.com</a> . Meet GCFP President Chris Leskosky, 1st VP Joyce Milberg, 2nd VP Sheila Croushore. Get free Field Guides for "Invasive and Noxious Weeds". Learn how to force bulbs to bloom in February. Get free succulent "babies". Vases with bulbs for forcing will be raffled to those participating in the basket raffles. Send a \$23 check made out to "GCFP-VII" to Marilyn Backus before Wednesday, Sept 5
Thurs Sept 13	GC McKeesport	Tea at the Rose Garden, by reservation only, 12:30 PM
Fri Sept 14	Greensburg Garden Center	Bus trip to Country Living Fair and Franklin Park Conservatory
Fri& Sat, Sept 14-15,	MARTHA WASHINGTON GC	Flower Show, "RHYTHM & BLUES" at Washington Crown Center Mall, 1500 West Chestnut Street, Washington, PA 15301, 10:00 AM-7:00 PM,
Tue Sept 25	GC of Ohio	Register for SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN OHIO, Embassy Suites, Columbus-Dublin. Hotel 614-790-0000, mention "Garden Club of Ohio."
Wed-Fri Sept 26-28	NGC	NGC Fall Board Mtg, Orlando, FL
Tues Oct 2	Greensburg Garden Center	Annual Meeting Luncheon and Program with Steve Neubauer of "Neubauer's Flowers & Market House" will present Holiday Decorating with designs, tips and finds. Call for reservations (\$30) at (724) 837-0245.
Mon-Tues Oct 8-9	GCFP	Board Mtg Atherton Hotel, State College PA
Tues-Thurs Oct 16-18	GCFP and Erie Area, Pittsburgh Area, Laurel Highlands Judges' Councils	Flower Show School Course IV, Hampton Inn and Suites, Grove City, PA 16137.
Thurs-Fri Oct 25-26	Garden Club of Ohio - 2018 CAR-SGC Conference	SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN OHIO, Embassy Suites, Columbus-Dublin. Register by Sept 25 at hotel 614-790-0000 mentioning "Garden Club of Ohio." (Registration sent to Board Members on Aug 14. )
Tues Oct 30	Designers Guild	"Low-Profile Design" at Greensburg Garden Center on Old Salem Rd, ~10 AM-1PM. Catered lunch, plan 2019 meetings.
Thurs Nov 15	District VII	District VII Board of Directors Meeting at GC of McKeesport Clubhouse, 10 AM- Noonish at 1400 Pinoak Drive McKeesport, PA in Renziehausen Park.. Staying for \$10 lunch helps defray cost of using the clubhouse.
Thurs-Sat Dec 6-9	GC McKeesport	Holiday Sale of fresh greens, swags, kissing balls, creative designs, Kids Korner and bake sale. 10AM-7PM and Sunday, Noon to 7PM

2019		
DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
Thurs Jan 17	District VII BOD	District VII Board of Directors Meeting at undetermined location, 10 AM-Noonish.
Mar ?	District VII BOD	Annual Membership Tea
Apr 29-May 3	NGC	NGC Convention Biloxi, MS



Let's talk worms!

I grew up a fisherman's daughter. When my Dad began fishing for bass, he kept a worm farm located in our cool cellar. Every week he fed them old coffee grounds. Many nights after a gentle rain, we took flashlights and headed for a grassy area (even a cemetery) to search for night crawlers.

Have you ever handled worms? Pulling them out of the ground was always tricky. I recently discovered why. The worm anchors its tail in a tunnel opening so that it can pull down its food. A person has to twist and pull hard enough to get the tail loose.

When my father switched to fly fishing, the worm farm disappeared. He simply released them into our backyard. Bait fishing changed into a new hobby called fly fishing. Patrick McManus said the following:  
"There is no greater fan of fly fishing than the worm."

The word worm came from the old English "wyrm" meaning serpent. Caterpillars, millipedes, snakes, maggots, lizards and dragons were all considered worms. If it had a big body and little or no legs, it was called a worm. Remember the movie, Tremors? The creatures were based on giant worms that responded to vibrations on the surface of the ground. (It wasn't really scary, so I could watch them.) The setting was always a desert area.

Actual worms develop in size from less than an inch to three feet in the Pacific Northwest to eleven feet long in Australia. There are around 6,000 species worldwide, of which 180 types are found in the United States and Canada, some non-native types. They can survive anywhere, but in deserts and where the ground is frozen. Someone really made a mistake in the Tremor's locations. Ultraviolet radiation in sunlight will actually kill a worm; thus they spend their time constantly burrowing and tunneling in the moist earth.

Non-native species (60 kinds) were brought into the United States in the 1800's and early 1900's as ballast in ships. Each ship was filled with rocks and soil for weight which included as passengers, non-native worms. They also were delivered in European plants purchased by the colonists for landscaping.

Our gardens today host three kinds of worms – night crawlers, angleworms and rain worms. Their job is to gobble up dirt, bits of dead leaves, insects and other decaying plant and animal matter, grind it into mush and then produce castings. Castings are a nice way of saying poop! Each worm can recycle eight pounds of debris each year which becomes new rich soil. You definitely want them in your garden. They loosen dirt, their tunnels let air and water reach plant roots, they keep erosion down and they are food for birds, moles, frogs, salamanders and snakes.

A worm has no eyes, ears, or lungs and is both male and female. They must mate with another worm to produce offspring. Its body is divided into rings or segments. It can survive underwater for a short time because it absorbs oxygen from both water and air through its skin. It has two layers of muscles – one lengthwise and one running around the worm - which provides its movement.

Cut a worm in half and it will regenerate? True or False

The head of a worm may survive if it is cut behind the clitellum (around segment 30), and it will regenerate its tail. Cut it at the wrong spot and the tail portion will die.

In the book, HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS, by Thomas Rockwell, the main character, Bobby has to eat a worm a day for fifteen days. Would you eat a worm? Most people shudder at the mention of earthworms for food, but they are one of the most available and healthful foods outside your door.

Try this recipe-----I dare you!

#### EARTHWORM CHOW

##### Ingredients:

1 cup earthworms  
½ large onion, chopped  
½ cup water  
1 bouillon cube  
1 cup yogurt or sour cream  
3 tbsp. butter  
½ cup chopped mushrooms  
Whole wheat flour  
Salt to taste

##### Utensils:

Saucepan  
Cookie baking sheet

**Directions:**

Wash earthworms thoroughly and place in boiling water for three minutes. Pour off water and repeat process twice more. Bake on cookie sheet at 350 degrees F for 15 minutes. Roll the worms in flour, brown in butter; add salt to taste. Add bouillon and simmer for 30 minutes. Sauté onions and mushrooms in butter. Add onions and mushrooms to the worms. Stir in sour cream or yogurt. Serve over rice or noodles.

NOTE: Since worms eat anything even fetal matter, repeating the boiling process removes and cleans out their stomachs.

Non-native worm species have caused problems in our northern forests. They have been found to eat too much of the duff near the soil surface, thus leaving the ground very compact. Sugar maples, trilliums, rare goblin ferns and trout lilies are endangered because of these worms. They are also aiding the growth of invasive plants like buckthorn and Japanese barberry. Dispose of worms properly, especially after fishing and never release in forest areas.

Want to buy worms? Farms like Zippy's Worm Farm located in Boyertown, PA sell and ship right to your home. Composting worms sell for \$15.00 a pound, while night crawlers go for \$2.00 a dozen. Check out local bait shops for some types, but remember that fishing worms are non-natives.

Worms are natural recyclers, but be sure they are the correct species for your purposes.

Submitted by Judy Schaffer  
Pucketos Garden Club

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**Trumpet Vine Schedule**

Send reports, pictures of events or gardens, and your articles to Jackie Stempfer by the Deadline Date at [jstempfer@comcast.net](mailto:jstempfer@comcast.net) or 469 Bulltown Road Murrys ville, PA 15668-9510

ISSUE	DEADLINE DATE	PUBLISHED
Sept-Nov 2018	Nov 15	December 1
Dec 2018-Feb 2019	February 15	March 1