



Trumpet Vine

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
District VII**

APRIL-MAY-JUNE – 2013

Jackie Stempfer, Editor



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear District VII Members,

Thank you all who came out to our Spring Membership Tea. It was a lovely and most interesting program on Sculpture in Space with flowers! I'm sure we gained a lot of information through Barbara's Eckstein's outstanding visual floral designs. We had over a hundred people attend with no food leftover! All the GCFP Districts in the state do not have a Spring Membership tea so that is a real treat for us- and it was free! It was most interesting and exciting to hear of all the work and garden club projects that go on as continuing activities year after year. It is most encouraging to hear all the work that our garden clubs do continually. Keep up the good work and invite me to see and hear more about them. Hope to see you at our 2013 GCFP Convention or Art In Bloom at the Carnegie Museum April 4, 5 and 6th.

Iris Cisarik GCFP District VII Director

Please submit your clubs
information to:
jstempfer@comcast.net or by mail:

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Murrysville, PA 15668

**Always keep your words soft and sweet,
just in case you have to eat them.**



WEB SITES
GCFP

www.pagardenclubs.org

NGC, INC

www.gardenclub.org

CAR

www.ngc/car.org

District VII Director: Iris Cisarik

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Events & Meetings

Apr 21-23	<u>GCFP Convention, Double Tree Hotel Philadelphia, King of Prussia, PA</u>
Apr 21-24	<u>Landscape Design Refresher, Double Tree Hotel Philadelphia, King of Prussia, PA</u>
Apr 26	Arbor Day
May 7	<u>2013 Wildflower Tour, Mt Cuba Center, Hockessin, DE</u> <u>Wildflower Tour Registration Form</u>
May 24-26	NGC Convention, Sheraton <u>Seattle Hotel</u> , Seattle, WA
Jun 10-11	GCFP Board Meeting, Yorktowne Hotel, York PA

"AGE": A HIGH PRICE TO PAY FOR MATURITY"





BURRELLTON

April 9: *"What is that one called?"*

Bird program with Bob Chilko, Nature artist.

May 14: *"Discovering the medicine wheel garden"* by Pat Selinger, Lenape Nation.

June 11: *"Where have all the iris gone?"* by Len Lehman, North American Rock Garden Society.



GARDEN CLUB OF McKEESPORT

April 6th and 13th: *Hands on rose pruning demonstration.*

May 11th: *"Community Gardens and Greenspace"* – Gavin Deming, Western PA Conservancy

May 4th: *Plant and Gift Sale for Mother's day. (call 412-672-1050 for more information for both occasions).*

May 9th: *"Post Gazette Garden Contests"*. *How entrants are selected and judged.* Kevin Kirkland, PPG Editor.

June 27th: *Becky Griffith, Shadowwood Nursery. The latest things for your garden. She will have plants to purchase.*



GARDEN CLUB OF FOREST HILLS

April 11: *"90th Birthday Celebration" featuring "Floral Rhythms" at The Restaurant at Grandview, North Braddock.*

May 2: *"Creative Floral Designs" with GCFP accredited flower show judge Mary Jane Martucci*

May 8: Perennial sale at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.

June 6th: *Tour of Greensburg Garden Club members home gardens.*

June 27th (evening instead of July 4th): *"Bog Workshop" with Margaret Reed.*



GARDEN CLUB OF MONROEVILLE

April 10: *"Everyday Floral Arrangements" Club members will bring a bunch of inexpensive flowers and will demonstrate how to use them effectively.*

May 8: *Field trip to Rachael Carson Homestead*

June 12: *"Pesticides" Penn State graduate, Suzanne Slack, will discuss various facets of using pesticides in responsible ways.*



JOYFULL BLOOMERS

April 3rd: *meeting will be at the Boston Shoppes for a Spring Tea and walk along the Yough Trail to identify wildflowers.(well, maybe)*

May 1st: *Meeting will be at U.S. Steel Clairton Works for the annual clean-up of the Butterfly Garden and a butterfly habitat observation with the life cycles and needs of the butterfly discussed. And also a spring planting at Kane Regional Center in McKeesport will take place in May.*

June 5th: *will be a trip to the National Aviary in Pittsburgh. We are in the process of purchasing a female pin-tailed whydah finch for the male pin-tailed finch currently residing at Kane Regional Center. The theme for the year is Birds, Blooms and Butterflies.*



LANDSCAPE DESIGN SOCIETY OF W. PA.

May 31st: Meeting at Chatham University, guided tour of gardens which were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Landscape Architect of Central Park, NY

June 28th: Tour the Garden at Historic Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs, PA.



MURRYSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

April 4th: Diane Harrell of Oakmont Garden Club, World-Wide Gardening featuring tulips

*May 2nd: Eric Oesterling, soil/dirt prep, etc.
June 6th: Cindy Fink, moss gardening.*



PUCKETOS

April 1st: A member will share her 2012 trip knowledge of the Galapagos Island.

We are participating in Art in Bloom in April 20th: Arbor Day Celebration honoring the Boy Scouts of America

May 6th: bulb container workshop

June 3rd: annual workday at Memorial Park were the June meeting is held.



Love like you've never been hurt.



Dance like nobody's watching.



Sing like nobody's listening .



GREENSBURG GARDEN CLUB (AFFILIATE CLUB)

April 2nd is our semi-annual meeting—please bring a covered dish to share. Mary Jane Martucci will present a program on "Basic Traditional Design with a Few Changes to Add Creativity". Mary Jane is a member of the Charleroi Garden Club, Valley Garden Club, Pittsburgh Area Judges Council, The Designers Guild, Creative Floral Arrangers of America, and is District Director of District X of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania.

May 7th is an evening meeting at 6:30 PM. Jane Conklin will present the program, "Roses 101." Jane is a member of the Pittsburgh Rose Society and has over 300 roses in her home garden. She will talk about the culture of roses, including location, mulching, fertilizing, pruning, spraying, insects and diseases, and rose varieties including the new modern 'disease resistant' shrub-type roses



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION REQUEST PER ANGIE RAITANO:

DISTRICT X FUNDRAISER /LUNCHEON

Thursday, JUNE 20, 2013

SOUTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

11:30 am -2:30 pm

Floral Design Program: LYNN FRONK, Master Flower Show Judge and Flower Show School Instructor, from Worthington, Ohio

Inquiries to Angie Raitano, 724-483-6724 angie.raitano@comcast.net



Penn State Master Gardeners of Westmoreland County Weekend Gardener Horticulture Classes Westmoreland Community College, Youngwood

7:00 PM- 9:15 PM

April 2 - Small Trees for Residential Properties NTRX 8021-01 By Dr. Xuri Zhang, Professor of Horticulture, WCCC. Dr Zhang will share his knowledge of Asian maples and small flowering trees. Tuesday, **April 9, Myths and Urban Legends in the Garden** NTRX - 5326-01 By Denise Schreiber, Mrs. Know-It-All of Organic Gardeners on KDKA radio and member of the Garden Writers Assoc. Denise will share myths, legends and truths in gardening practices. Tuesday, **April 16, Rhododendrons and Azaleas for Pa. Landscapes** NTRX - 8009-01 By Eric Oesterling, retired Extension Educator, Penn State Extension, Westmoreland County. The talk will cover cultural requirements and include evergreen and deciduous azaleas and variety recommendations and sources of plants and information. Cost is \$15 per class for Westmoreland Co. residents. Registration is required by course number through Westmoreland Community College. Call 1-800-262-2103.



Judy's Jottings A Tree to Remember

For several years growing up, my family lived in a Speck housing plan located on Mohawk Drive in Arnold, PA. I was lucky to have a vacant lot across the street from our house which still had trees growing naturally. They were tall, slender with black spots and had peeling white bark. My friends and I would play, pretending to be Indians and make weapons and utensils from the trees. Today I know that the trees I remember were white birch. The black spots that made them so unique are called lenticels or horizontal pores which the Indians thought were eyes through which the spirit of the trees watched over them.

The White Birch is also known as Paper Birch or Canoe Birch. Few trees have been so important to so many people. Historically, birch, were possibly the most important trees to many indigenous people

across the northern latitudes around the world. It was used for wigwams, canoes, writing material, medicines and even burial shrouds.

The Druids often called the birch tree “Lady of the Woods” because they believed it to be beautiful and graceful. Witches utilized birch by bundling its twigs and binding them with ash to make their broomsticks. Birch was given to couples just after being married to ensure fertility, and was often used as a pole for a Maypole. In Wales, the birch was and still is a “Tree of Love” and wreaths of birch were and still are woven as love tokens.

Birch bark is one of the ingredients of the historical and modern day Root Beer. The “Beer”, like other sodas, was originally designed as a tonic to bring about great health. Most modern day root beers and birch beers are not tonic at all; in fact they are detrimental to health. The Amish farmers around Lancaster are still selling home-made birch beer from their homesteads.

The white birch tree is a popular gardening choice. It is known for its beautiful leaves, distinctive barks and cool shade that they offer. One does not need to take extensive care as they do not need to be fussed over by a gardener. Homeowners, however should plant this tree using the following four basic steps:

- 1) **PROPER SITE** – Place birch trees in locations where soil will be shaded, cool and moist, but where the tree will also receive full sunshine on its leaves for much of the day (East and North sides of a home). Never plant near black walnut as a chemical from its roots is toxic to birch roots.
- 2) **APPROPRIATE VARIETY** – Remember that birch trees reach 40-50 feet in height—display yellow leaves in the fall – and can be single stemmed or clumps. Pick the right spot! Be aware that white-barked birches are more susceptible to attacks by bronze birch borer.
- 3) **MAINTAINING THE TREE** – Mulch with wood chips, shredded bark and leaf compost or rock or stone mulch. **DO NOT PLACE PLASTIC** under the mulches since it can retard water movement and oxygen diffusion into the soil. Give the tree a long watering session weekly. No pruning between May 1 – August 1.
- 4) **PEST CONTROL** – Birch borer is a tree killer. It is a small beetle that thrives on weakened trees. Once attacked, it is very difficult to save and should be removed.

The birch is not only of ornamental value in your garden, but also feeds over 30 of Mother Nature’s children. Porcupines eat the bark, rabbits feed on seedlings, yellow-bellied sapsuckers eat the sap, squirrels and hummingbirds feed on the sap off the wells made by the birds.

Robert Frost made The Birch Tree famous in literature. Do you recognize these lines-

“I’d like to go by climbing a birch tree,
And climb black branches up a snow-white trunk
Toward Heaven, till the tree could bear no more,
But dipped its top and set me down again.
That would be good both going and coming back.
One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.”

Frost wrote this famous poem while visiting England, not here in New England.

Here are some facts to remember about the Birch Tree. Did you know –

The tallest birch tree is said to be growing in North Dakota and is 61 feet tall and its Canopy is spread over 40 feet.

The bark of this tree is reddish brown when the tree is young. As it grows old, the bark turns papery white with color and peels like a paper.

The paper birch is the state tree of New Hampshire.

The wood of the paper birch is excellent for starting a fire and can burn even when wet in high temperatures.

Paper birch is used to help dropsy, rheumatism and is playing a vital role in cancer research.

This is truly a Tree to Remember! Visit Mellon Park in Pittsburgh to see these trees growing in a natural environment.

