



Trumpet Vine

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
District VII**



FEB-MARCH – 2013

Jackie Stempfer, Editor

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



I hope that all garden club members of District VII are anxious to break out of Winter's embrace and attend the "Spring" Membership Tea to be held March 21st. All presidents need to give me the actual number coming to the tea by March 14th. Please e-mail (imcisarik@aol.com) or call me (412-841-5100) before or no later than March 14th. Also, any garden club member or members are welcome to enter the Trash to Treasure contest. If you do intend to enter "It's for the Birds" please bring your entry to the Spring Membership Tea where it will be judged by a panel of judges. All presidents should have the rules to the contest. The rules can also be found on the GCFP website, pagardenclubs.org. There is an award of \$150.00 this year to the winner. The winning entry at the Membership Tea on March 21st will be entered in the GCFP state contest. One last reminder, again this year we will have a jewelry 'counter' so you may bring any jewelry you would like to get rid of or buy jewelry that you find you like at the Tea.

Hope to see all of you March 21st and also hope that all District VII garden clubs have members attend.

Iris Cisarik, GCFP District VII Director



Events & Meetings

Please submit your clubs information to:
jstempfer@comcast.net or by mail:
 Jackie Stempfer
 4469 Bulltown Road
 Murrysville, PA 15668



*A PERSON OF WORDS AND NOT OF DEEDS
 IS LIKE A GARDEN FULL OF WEEDS.*

WEB SITES
 GCFP
www.pagardenclubs.org

NGC, INC
www.gardenclub.org

CAR
www.ngc/car.org

District VII Director: Iris Cisarik
imcisarik@aol.com

Many of the clubs do not meet in January/February and are just now are working on their programs. I have included some April announcements in this issue as it will be too late for the next one.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Mar 1-3 | <u>PA Garden Show of York "Nature's Symphony"</u> |
| Mar 3-10 | Philadelphia <u>International Flower</u> Show " <i>Brilliant</i> " |
| Mar 19-20 | <u>Gardening Study School, Course III, Best Western Genetti Inn & Suites, Hazleton, PA</u> |
| Mar 21 | PA State Bird Day |
| Apr 21-23 | <u>GCFP Convention, Double Tree Hotel Philadelphia, King of Prussia, PA</u> |

Check the GCFP website for more details.



BURRELLTON GARDEN CLUB

PRESIDENT : Mildred Schorr
V. PRES: Susanne Graham
SEC: Nancy Shremshock
TREAS: Diana Acre



GARDEN CLUB OF FOREST HILLS

PRESIDENT: Carolyn Reuter
1st V. PRES: Kathy Koroskenyi
2nd V. PRES: Iris Cisarik
SEC: Joyce Kareen
TREAS: Kathy Bauer
March 7th: "The Pennsylvania Cana;" with William Paxton
April 4th: Guided tour of "Art in Bloom" at Carnegie Museum of Art.
April 11th: **90th Birthday Celebration**
The Garden Club of Forest Hills will celebrate 90 years of serving the community at a birthday party on Thursday, April 11, 2013, at The Restaurant at Grandview, North Braddock, PA. Festivities, including a look at the club's history and a program of fascinating "Floral Rhythms" as well as lunch, will begin at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$25 per person. **Reservations** (with a choice of three entrees and checks payable to the Garden Club of Forest Hills) are **due by March 28**. For an invitation with reservation form, contact Amy Shugerman Glasser (412-271-1697 or asg59@juno.com) or Carolyn Reuter (412-243-8384 or cbreuter@verizon.net).



GARDEN CLUB OF MCKEESPORT

PRESIDENT: Carolyn Monyok
V. PRES: Jane Miller
SEC: Mary Ann Hall
TREAS: Chris Keefe
March 9th and 16th: Stained glass stepping stone classes 10am till 2pm each day. Cost is \$50. Call 412-672-1050 or visit web site.
April 6th and 13th: Hands on rose pruning demonstration.
April 20th: Spring craft sale from 9-2 pm.



GARDEN CLUB OF MONROEVILLE

PRESIDENT: Shirley Brody
V. PRES: Lois Davies
SEC: Lynn Chandler
TREAS: Lois Davies
The club charitable group is "Building New Hope" which is a free trade community in Nicaragua where organic coffee is grown. In addition to coffee, they help promote handcrafts made by the community. Conservation and civic projects are 2 entrance gardens to University Park at College Park Drive and Illini Drive which they built and have maintained for the last 54 years.



HOME GARDENERS GUILD

PRESIDENT: Haddie Weber

V. PRES: Nancy Price

CORRES SEC: Kathy Ingel

TREAS: Margaret Cant

Focus this year will be on the different kinds and styles of gardening.



GARDENS LIMITED OF PITTSBURGH

PRESIDENT: Ellen Primis

CO. PRES: Esther Amper



JOYFUL BLOOMERS

PRESIDENT: Donna Prizner

V. PRES: Ruth Carroll – Betty Lucot

SEC: Lana Kling

TREAS: Donna Soltis

The Joyful Bloomers Junior Gardeners enjoyed a trip to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. It was an exciting day as we toured the many displays. The Dinosaurs in Their Time display provided a look at what plants are still in existence today compared to what was dinner for the herbaceous creatures of long ago! We were greeted by a docent who encouraged the girls to study their science! "BugWorks" gave them an up close look at what they might find in

their gardens and many other unusual insects from around the world. North American Wildlife provided a hands-on exhibit of small animals including the pesty groundhog. The Hall of Botany exhibit included the largest pine cone (I believe it was called a sugar pine?) they have ever seen and the Family Gallery was just the place to talk about bird banding. The Joyful Bloomers Jrs. will sponsor a Bird Banding at the Powdermill Nature Reserve. This will bring their attention to the bird migration research. The Jrs. were all given individual assignments to research a different bird for a report during our next meeting.

Plans were made to make collection containers to begin our fund raising efforts for the Blue Star Memorial Marker to be placed during the 2014 Memorial Day Ceremony in McKeesport. Mayor Cherepko enthusiastically endorsed this project and the kids are excited to be a part of history. The children were also asked to make Valentines at home for patients in local nursing homes. We will meet again in March to start herb gardens and an Easter Craft.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN SOCIETY OF W. PA

PRESIDENT: Angela Raitano

TREAS: Joyce Peterson

May, June, August and October events in future Trumpet Vine newsletters.



MURRYSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

PRESIDENT: Margie Wolff

V. PRES: Barbara Cseh

SEC: Denise Quittmeyer

TREAS: Valerie Wilson

March 7th: Doug Oster; "Preparing for Your Best Garden EVER".

April 4th: Diane Harrell of Oakmont Garden Club – World Wide Gardening featuring tulips.



PUCKETOS GARDEN CLUB

PRESIDENT: Gretchen McKelvey

V. PRES: Marsha Ewing

SEC: Susan Buell

TREAS: Norma Hawk

Seed money application being submitted to expand the "Plant It Pink" garden at City Hall honoring breast cancer survivors.

First \$500 scholarship was awarded to a Penn State New Kensington biology major. Club is participating in "Art in Bloom" in April.

On September 20, 2012, The Pucketos Garden Club took a "field trip" to Laughlintown and enjoyed what this small Ligonier Valley town has to offer. Club members toured the Compass Inn and Museum, an authentically restored stagecoach stop built in 1799, which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The PGC members also shopped at the

Conservatory, a local floral and gift shop, and bought homemade desserts at the Pie Shop, a Laughlintown fixture for 26 years. The Laughlintown Antique Mall, featuring a multitude of vendors offering primitives, stoneware, furniture, and vintage holiday decorations was also a popular stop on the tour. A great time was had by all!



GREENSBURGH GARDEN CENTER

PRESIDENT: Angela Raitano

V. PRES: Carla Rusnica

SEC: Sandra Truckner

TREAS: Elizabeth Pesci

From: GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER

To: MEMBERS and Non-Members

Re: **BUS TRIP to OGLEBAY PARK, Wheeling, WV**

When: Friday, April 12, 2013

Details: Depart GGC at 8:45 AM
Garden Tour

Lunch at Wilson Lodge

(Deli Buffet Sandwich, Soup, Dessert, Beverage)

Mansion Tour

Depart Oglebay Park at 2:30 PM

Cost: Member - \$60.

Non-Member - \$65.

For Reservations: 724-837-0245

Greensburg Garden Center is hosting a bus trip to the PHS Philadelphia International Flower Show on March 6. The bus leaves the Greensburg Garden Center at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, and returns about midnight. The day's schedule allows for about 5-1/2 hours at the show to visit the many English gardens and to shop at the

numerous vendor booths selling everything related to gardening! Cost is \$110 for GGC members and \$120 for nonmembers which includes admission ticket, bus travel, and snacks. Food and meals at the flower show

are on your own, shopping too! But hurry, the flower show bus trip sells out quickly! Call the Greensburg Garden Center at 724-837-0245 for reservations.



**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW IS
MARCH 2-10, 2013**



PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER



“DON'T FORGET”



SPRING TEA

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013, 9 am

MCKEESPORT HERITAGE CENTER

Joyce Peterson obtained Barbara Eckstein to present a program on flowers

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD MEETING

Presidents are requested to provide a headcount of attendees for the spring tea as soon as possible (definitely before March 14.) The tea is free and only members may attend due to space constraints. If someone cannot attend unexpectedly, another member should attend in his or her place or please have the courtesy of cancelling the reservation.

Centerpieces - Carolyn, Betty and Joyce are providing the centerpieces with the theme, "Spring Break."

Jewelry - Presidents are requested to ask members to contribute any unwanted jewelry for sale at the Tea.

Raffle Baskets – Leeanna will check the schedule and contact by email the clubs that are expected to contribute baskets for the Tea

2013 Trash to Treasure – Iris distributed the district level contest rules. The entry (that uses items you would normally TRASH (pop cans/bottles, bottle caps, plastic bags, newspaper, etc.) to create a **birdhouse, a bird feeder or a birdbath**) will be judged at the district level at the spring membership tea on March 21st. The district winner will be sent to the 2013 state convention and can win \$150 from the 2013 Convention (not from GCFP.) The rules are also located at <http://www.pagardenclubs.org/clubcontests.html>

Exceptional Horticulturalist Award - Iris Cisarik distributed for viewing the Exceptional Horticulturalist award rules. The applications are to be sent to Mrs. [Frank C. Dickson, II](#) by August 1 for the purpose of awarding winners at the Autumn Annual Meeting. See the rules at <http://www.pagardenclubs.org/clubcontests.html>

District VII Annual Meeting - will be held at the Double Tree in Monroeville on September 9, 2013.

GCFP Flower Show Schedules - Angie Raitano announced an April 10 Charleroi show at the YMCA and the Judges Council are to host a July 11 show at Greensburg.

Club President's Annual Report 2012 Form - Presidents are to submit their 2012 Annual Report before March 1 using the form on the GCFP website. Send a copy to Iris and to Gail Corle.



Judy's Jottings **Some Like It Hot – Do You?**

My father really enjoyed his hot stuff! He loved the canned yellow wax peppers which my mother made each September. Growing up we hated that canning day, because the whole house smelled of hot vinegar

and spices which irritated our eyes. Mom learned the hard way about wearing rubber gloves when cleaning hot peppers. She paid for it with burnt hands and irritated eyes. Dad always reminded us that what you enjoy eating spicy hot will also exit from your body hot and will not be enjoyable. It never stopped him from enjoying his hot peppers, but it did reduce his intake.

Chile peppers are New Mexico's signature crop and in 2010 produced 1/3 of the nation's output. (Spelling can be chili or chile) Hatch, NM (population 1,648) is the Chile Capital of the World. Each Labor Day weekend, Hatch residents celebrate the Chile Fiesta, attracting up to 20,000 people annually. Even the North Hills area of Pittsburgh has caught the chile fever, as local businessman, Nic DiCio now sponsors his Pepper Farm Festival. He sent a driver to fetch 300 sacks of chile peppers from Hatch for his roast.

Chili peppers originated in the Americas. The first cultivation was around 3000 BC. They love heat and sunshine and will do well as a field crop or planted in a container. Be they hot, medium or mild, chiles add flavor, heat and color to foods.

Have you tried to grow them? Add them to your winter gardening plans in 2013.

Chile plants can be easy to grow but you first need seeds. You can buy them from your local garden center or just pop down to a local supermarket, buy a couple of peppers and then scrap out the seeds. If you are a serious spicy food lover, order the Heirloom Chili Pepper Seed Pack which has 12 varieties of hard-to-find, yet easy-to-grow chili's from all over the Americas. Cost - \$49.00

Heirloom Organics 877-980-SEED
1806 NW 6th St. Unit A
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Sow your seeds by placing them on the surface of the soil, then cover them over with more soil but only so that they are just below the surface. Water the surface of the soil, keep it moist not water logged. Place above a radiator or an airing cupboard, anywhere reasonably warm will do. Depending upon the variety that you are growing, your seeds will take anywhere from a few days to several weeks to break the surface. Place plants in a south facing window or a warm greenhouse. Chile plants generally produce sets of leaves in pairs. The first set are called the seed leaves, the next set will be the first true set of leaves. Now you need to move them to a larger pot to grow. Leaving in a small pot will check the growth of your chili plant. When your plant produces flowers you are in business. When there are several flowers open on your plant, rub your finger around the middle part to pick up the pollen and repeat a couple of times for each flower. This will move the pollen to the stamen and start the chemical reaction needed to make the fruit.

Keep your plant happy, and it will continue to produce fruit well into autumn and beyond.

Even if you don't want to eat them, harvest them and string your chile pods to make a RISTRAS for a colorful decoration.

Here is recipe for Pickling Chili Peppers: Taken from Michael Hultquist cookbook- CHILI PEPPER MADNESS

INGREDIENTS

28-32 ounces mixed chili peppers, sliced
4 cups white vinegar
2 Tablespoons sugar
2 Tablespoons pickling salt
1 Tablespoon dried basil
2 large bay leaves
1 Tablespoon fresh minced garlic

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

To a large pot, add vinegar, sugar, salt, basil and bay leaves. Bring to boil.
Reduce heat to simmer. Add chili peppers and garlic, then remove from
heat. Allow to cool.
Pour into quart containers and seal.
Refrigerate
Lasts 2 to 3 weeks in refrigerator or longer.

Are you ready to take the plunge into the world of chili pepper enthusiasts?
Be a daring gardener add this unique plant to your summer designs.

In conclusion – What do you get if you cross a chili pepper, a shovel and a small terrier?
A HOT-DIGGITY-DOG!



The following may be a little long, but I thought you would enjoy the story.

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being..

She said, 'Hi handsome. My name is Rose. I'm eighty-seven years old. Can I give you a hug?' I laughed and enthusiastically responded, 'Of course you may!' and she gave me a giant squeeze..

'Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?' I asked. She jokingly replied, 'I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, and have a couple of kids...'

'No seriously,' I asked. I was curious what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age.

'I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!' she told me. After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate milkshake.

We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this 'time machine' as she shared her wisdom and experience with me..

Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she revealed in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up.

At the end of the semester we invited Rose to speak at our football banquet I'll never forget what she taught us. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her three by five cards on the floor.

Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, 'I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for Lent and this whiskey is killing me! I'll never get my speech back in order so let me just tell you what I know.'

As we laughed she cleared her throat and began, ' We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy and achieving success. You have to laugh and find humor every day. You've got to have a dream. When you lose your dreams, you die.

*We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it!
There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up.*

If you are nineteen years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn twenty years old. If I am eighty-seven years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything I will turn eighty-eight. Anybody! Can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding opportunity in change. Have no regrets.

The elderly usually don't have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets..'

She concluded her speech by courageously singing 'The Rose.'

She challenged each of us to study the lyrics and live them out in our daily lives. At the year's end Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those months ago.

One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep.

Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.



**2012-2013 GCFP DISTRICT VII
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
October 2012**

| NAME | POSITION | ADDRESS/PHONE | E.MAIL |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Iris Cisarik Garden Club of Forest Hills | District VII District Director | 1138 Wightman St. Pittsburgh, PA 15217 412-841-5100 | imcisarik@aol.com |
| Leeanna Ryba Burrellton Garden Club | Assistant Director | 2777 Leechburg Road Lower Burrell, PA 15068 724-337-8372 | rybar@nb.net |
| Haddie Weber Home Gardeners Guild | Treasurer | 1009 Broughton Road Pittsburgh, PA 15236-3425 412-655-3469 | haddie.weber@comcast.net |
| Marilyn Backus Garden Club of Monroeville | Recording Secretary | 925 Wood St. Pitcairn, PA 15140-1614 412-389-2113 | marilynbackus@gmail.com |

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|--|--|--|--|
| Valerie Wilson Murrysville Garden Club | Corresponding Secretary | 3443 Burnett Drive Murrysville, PA 15668 724-327-7922 | vmwilson7@windstream.net |
| Betty Monyok Garden Club of McKeesport | Chaplain | 229 Thistle Drive West Mifflin, PA 15122-2939 412-466-5407 | None |
| Judith Schaffer Pucketos Garden Club | 2014 Convention Planning Former District Director District VII advisor | 2849 Edgecliff Road Lower Burrell, PA 15068-2516 724-337-8043 | judlees@hotmail.com |
| Eleanor Chodelka Pucketos Garden Club | Awards | 786 Kennedy Ave New Kensington 15068 724-337-8209 | eachodelka@yahoo.com |
| Mary Jane Hickman Garden Club of McKeesport | Birds | 411 Oliver Dr. White Oak, PA 15131-1919 412-672-5525 | mjhickman@comcast.net |
| Margie Wolff | Conservation | 612 Concord Drive Export, PA 15632 724-325-4133 | mgwolff@windstream.net |
| Betty Grossheim Burrellton Garden Club | Garden Therapy | 228 Claremont Dr. Lower Burrell, PA 15068-2703 724-335-0988 | Sophiesmom1991@yahoo.com |
| Angie Raitano Landscape Design Society of Pa. | GCFP Flower Show Schedules | 74 Hillcrest Ave Charleroi, PA 15022-2516 724-483-6724 | Angie.raitano@comcast.net |
| Joy Johnson Joyful Bloomers Garden Club | Historian & Tours | 300 Sherman Ave Dravosburg, PA 15034-1256 412-466-4492 | None |