

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



July-September, 2019

Jackie Stempfer, Editor

CLUB EVENTS AND



Murrysville Garden Club

Experience a standard judged patriotic themed flower show “Born in the USA”. Entries will be taken July 13th from 3-6 and judging July 14th from 8:30-9:30. Viewing by public is from 1-5 at Redstone in Murrysville.

Greensburg Garden Center

The always popular Monarch butterfly release is Saturday, August 3 from 10-3. Free Monarch butterflies can be reserved now by calling the office (724-837-0245 or email ggc951@live.com) . Every year gets more exciting. Rick Mikula, assisted by his wife Claudia, will entertain all with his colorful exhibitions and lively tales of butterfly adventures from 11-1 with release directly following..

The release of hundreds of Monarchs is a breath-taking sight.

The Garden Center offers all sorts of butterfly fripperies for sale, plus our popular flower wands to entice a butterfly to land and sip a bit of nectar. Enjoy children’s activities and walk the nature trails. The Monarch Butterfly Release is a joint venture of the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve and Greensburg Garden Center

FALL BUS TRIP FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - GGC

We are offering a second chance for an exciting and educational trip to the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. This incredible facility features: Bonsai and Blooms and Butterflies exhibits along with glass-blowing demonstrations. Don't forget the Children's Garden for kids of all ages. Stroll through the greenhouse and the Botanica Gift Shop. Take advantage of the freshly made offerings at the Garden Café such as homemade soup, salads, sandwiches and daily specials. Or, if you want a more casual eating experience, stop at the food truck.

After three hours at the conservatory, we bus 10 minutes away to the County Living Fair. Oh, my! What a feast for the senses! Something for everyone, just stroll along and stop at anything that catches your fancy. This festival features the Country Living Magazine style come to life! Antiques, hand crafted goods, art, furniture, clothing and jewelry. Plus...plenty of food!

Seating is limited so don't hesitate! We need your reservation by August 15. We will leave GGC at 7:00 AM and arrive home approximately 8:30 PM.

Cost to members: only \$99. Non-members: \$109



Benefits of Using Native Plants

There are compelling reasons why you should plant natives in your garden:

Native plants preserve Pennsylvania's biodiversity.

Biodiversity means the number and variety of living things in a specific region. Our native wildlife, especially birds, butterflies, pollinators, and other organisms, evolved with the plants here; many can only feed on plants they co-evolved with. Unfortunately, unwise development has led to large expanses of lawn and exotic (nonnative) plants replacing natural areas. If your garden has no native plants, it becomes an ecological desert for the pollinating insects that are essential to our survival. Without insects to pollinate our crops, we would have none, or humans

would need to perform the task. This is occurring in China where they use costly hand pollination for some fruit crops due to the lack of pollinating bees. Additionally, native plants are needed to support songbirds by supplying food for the insects that most baby birds require. They provide the habitat (food, cover, and places to rear their young) that wildlife needs. Without native plants, our wildlife is at risk of extinction.

Native plants are not invasive.

A nonnative plant is one growing outside its natural range. Some exotic plants have become invasive, aggressively spreading into natural areas and threatening our native plant communities. Some native plants are certainly more aggressive than others, but that does not make them invasive. Using regionally appropriate, site appropriate native plants, reduces the risk of introducing an invasive exotic.

Native plants are generally easier to grow and cheaper to maintain.

While some native plants, like the lady slipper orchid (*Cypripedium* spp.), have exacting requirements and are best enjoyed in the wild, native plants are well adapted to our climate and soils because they evolved here. This means they are generally easier to care for once they are established, needing little or no pruning, deadheading, watering, or fertilizing. Large lawns and showy exotic plants demand high levels of fossil fuel use, fertilizers, pesticides, and supplemental water, making natives a less costly option. Another consideration is that a native plant garden reduces noise pollution from mowers, blowers, and trimmers. Site your native plant in a spot that provides the conditions it prefers — soil type, water amounts, sun, or shade — and it will thrive. It is always important, however, to remember the mantra, “Right plant, right place.”

Native plants provide year-round beauty.

From flowers in spring and summer, to brilliant fall color, and interesting bark in winter, native plants give four seasons of beauty. You can find a native alternative with similar color, texture, or habit for most exotic plants. It is easy to have a beautiful garden and benefit the ecosystem at the same time.



When nothing is going right, go left.

Judy's Jottings

Chincoteague Ponies – “American Treasures”



One of my favorite books was called *MISTY OF CHINCOTEAGUE* written by Marguerite Henry in 1947. This story about the wild ponies of Chincoteague Island has remained one I still remember. (Even at my ripe old age) NOTE- The book was named a 1948 Newbery Honor Book.

I have always been fascinated by horses and actually spent time at Dude Ranches in Colorado. My riding achievements include being tossed into a mud pile wearing white jeans and shiny new boots and having a horse throw me over its head at the top of a mountain, when it stumbled into a hole. I expected the wranglers to quickly rush to my aid as I lay on the ground, but it was the horse that drew their attention, not me. Souvenirs from that trip included aches and pains and pains and aches!

In the Henry story Paul and Maureen, young children work odd jobs trying to purchase Misty, the colt of the mysterious Phantom by Pony Penning Day. Their hopes are dashed when a stranger proposes to buy the pony for his son.

Every last Thursday in July the “Saltwater Cowboys” of the Volunteer Fire Company swim their pony herd during low tide from Assateague Island to Chincoteague for a fund raising auction. On July 25, 2019 the 94th five minute swim will take place.

I talked my family into driving to this event from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware as part of our vacation many years ago. What looked like a short driving jaunt on the map became three hours one way. Oh, Garmin, where were you back then! We only caught glimpses of the ponies as we arrived rather late.

One question that is always asked is – “How did the original ponies get on the island?”

The most favored explanation is that they are survivors of a Spanish galleon wrecked off the coast. In the book, **THE HIDDEN GALLEON** by John Amrhein, the La Galga wrecked in 1750 and shortly after “Beach Ponies” appeared.

The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company became involved when their fire fighting equipment in 1925 was inadequate for several disasters. They started with a carnival held during Pony Penning Days to raise funds.

NOTE- Penning began as a way for livestock owners to claim, brand and break their loose herds.

In 1947 they began building their own pony herd and Henry wrote her famous book. They moved the herd to Assateague where the government allowed publicly owned herds to graze. The herd must not exceed 150 to retain a grazing permit. Each year most of the foals are auctioned off to buyers.

Interested in buying a pony at the yearly auction-typical selling cost is \$3,800.00.

NOTE-EQUINE NOW, a horse selling site recently offered a one year old pony named Hawk for sale by an owner in Meyersdale, PA. It was purchased at the Chincoteague auction..(Maybe Marilyn can make a good deal for her family farm!)

Have you ever seen a real Chincoteague Pony? It became a registered breed in 1994. Their height is between 12 and 13 hands. They are stocky, with short legs, thick manes and large, round bellies. The Ponies primarily eat salt water cord grass growing on Assateague Island. To compensate for the high salt content eaten, they drink twice as much water as a normal horse and their bellies appear so bloated.

Assateague Island is 33 miles long and divided into areas claimed by both Maryland and Virginia. The fire company maintains their herd on the Virginia side. A barrier keeps the other herds separate.

In October, 2018 a disease nicknamed “swamp cancer” began to be seen on some of the ponies. Pythiosis is an infection caused by a microorganism which produces tumor-like lesions, often on the lower legs as well as the abdomen, chest and face. The organism grows on dead or dying grass and plants and is present near water. It is attracted to a ponies’ hair or cuts.

Assateague Island is a perfect breeding ground for the disease.

Seven ponies have died or have been euthanized since it first was detected. Early detection and treatment is the only cure to date, while veterinarians search for a possible vaccine. Since the Chincoteague Ponies roam freely over 4,000 acres, early detection is hampered.

Horse owners everywhere can prevent pythiosis developing in their animals by eliminating standing water or restricting horses’ access to ponds and stagnant water.

Chincoteague, Virginia has become a popular vacation destination and has developed special tours of the pony herds from both land and water.

Protecting these ponies called “American Treasures” is the ultimate goal of the local residents and tourists. About 35,000 people appear just for the famous pony swim.

NOTE- For travel information contact-
Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce
6733 Maddox Boulevard
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
757-336-6161

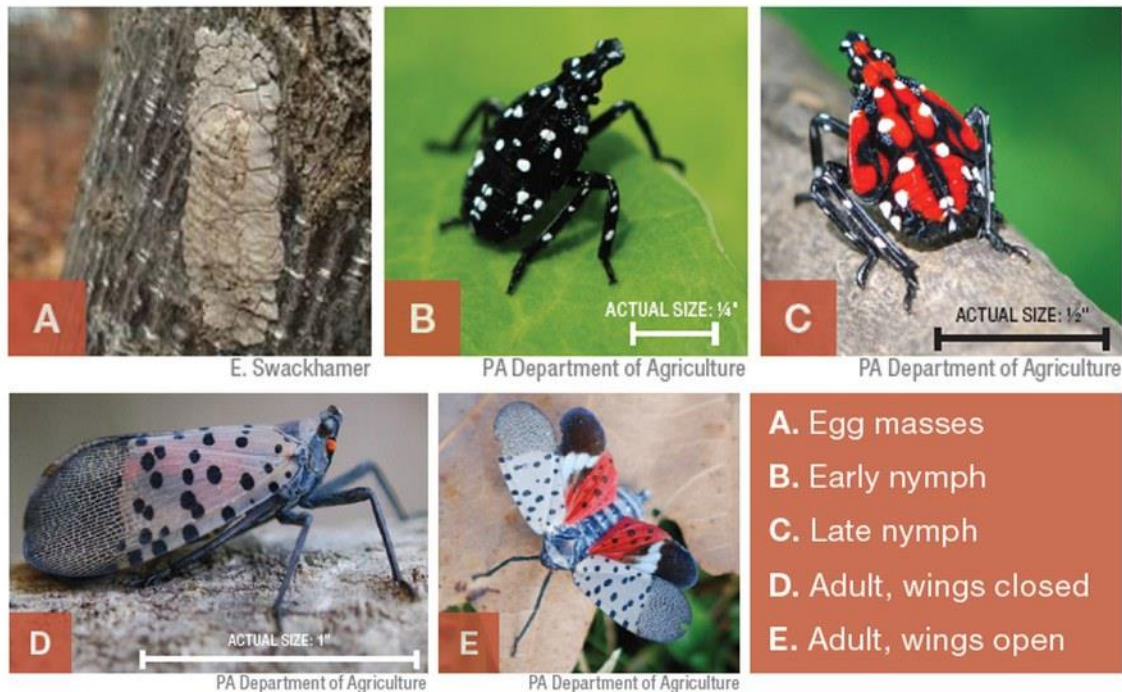
Plan a 2019 Road Trip to view these famous ponies.

A single book written in 1947 has made a huge difference in these animals and hopefully will keep interest in their care alive while a cure is researched. Their existence is important for animal lovers everywhere!

Submitted by - Judy Schaffer
Pucketos Garden Club



Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, is a new threat to Pennsylvania and the United States, and experts are still learning how to combat it.



The [spotted lanternfly](#) has found its way into York County, and now the United States Department of Agriculture is getting involved.

The lanternfly has been found west of York city, prompting a number of USDA surveyors to see how prevalent the invasive insect has become.

“When we have a positive sighting of the spotted lanternfly, which we have in the area, we try to visit every property within a quarter-mile radius of that individual sighting,” said Jeremy Newland, a plant health safeguarding specialist with the USDA.

Newland and other specialists are particularly looking at the Tree of Heaven, a non-native plant brought to Pennsylvania over 200 years ago. The Asian plant is a favorite of the spotted lanternfly to feed upon.



The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is encouraging hunters to take action by scraping Spotted Lanternfly egg masses while they are out hunting. (Photo: Submitted)

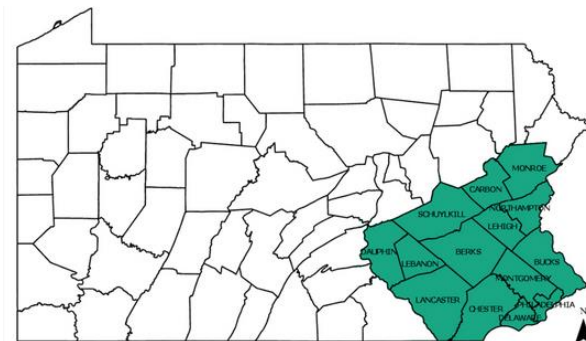
More specifically, the USDA is looking for the nymphs of the lanternfly, a small, tick-shaped insect with white spots on its body. The nymphs become adult lanternflies sometime in later summer or early fall.

York County is not currently in the lanternfly quarantine zone, but if egg masses are found in the area reported, that could change.

[Spotted Lanternfly quarantine zone expands into Central Pa.](#)

The following counties are currently under quarantine:

- Berks
- Bucks
- Carbon
- Chester
- Dauphin
- Delaware
- Lancaster
- Lebanon
- Lehigh
- Monroe
- Montgomery
- Northampton
- Philadelphia
- Schuylkill



The Spotted Lanternfly quarantine map expanded to Dauphin County on March 15, 2019. (Photo: Pa. Department of Agriculture.)

The spotted lanternfly can adversely affect various industries, including grapes, apples, hops and logging. There's a potential \$18 billion impact on Pennsylvania's business, trade and economy.

"When its population increases to a large degree, it secretes a substance called honeydew, which is very sticky and sweet, and it promotes mold growth," Newland said. "When this mold gets on the plants, farmers are unable to sell their products."

A high number of lanternflies also means more feeding upon plants, which could weaken fruit output as well as higher beer and wine costs

Spotted lanternfly expert at Penn State offers advice on using tree bands

Posted: 19 Jun 2019 01:39 PM PDT

According to Heather Leach, spotted lanternfly extension Associate in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, one of the most effective traps for catching spotted lanternflies is a sticky band wrapped around the trunks of trees. Nymphs and adults are trapped on the sticky barrier as they crawl up the trunks to feed on newer growth higher in the tree.

Doing nothing is hard, you never know when you're done.



**I may not have lost all my marbles yet,
but there's a small hole in the bag somewhere.**

This bird becomes an umbrella



When the Black Heron hunts for the small fish that make up most of its diet, it steps into shallow water, tucks its head down, and...turns itself into an umbrella.

Not literally, of course. But that's the effect its spread wings have over sunlit water, creating a shady spot that may attract its prey. This is really neat to watch them put their head in the water and curl their wings around.



The manager of the garden center overhears one of his nurserymen talking to a customer.

'No, we haven't had any of that in ages,' says the nurseryman. 'And I don't know when we'll be getting any more.'

The customer leaves and the manager walks over to give him a telling off. 'Never tell a customer we can't get them something,' he says. 'Whatever they want we can always get it on order and deliver it. Do you understand?'

The nurseryman nods. 'So what did he want?' asks the manager. 'Rain,' replies the nurseryman.

