

Trumpet



Vine

**Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania
District VII**

JULY/AUG/SEPT 2016  *Jackie Stempfer, Editor*
Beauty has no face



REMINDER

September 15 - District VII Annual Meeting
Hillcrest Country Club - Lower Burrell, PA



**I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is
when you still have something on the ball but you are just
too tired to bounce it**

PUCKETOS GARDEN CLUB



AUGUST: "LIVING SMALL"

Speaker: Millie Pipman

Millie will discuss recycling, up-cycling, and repurposing in our daily lives. This ties in with the theme for her biennium, "Living Small."

SEPTEMBER: "A VISIT TO CHAUTAUQUA"

Speaker: Kathy Wescoat.

Pucketos will visit Chautauqua, an idyllic piece of heaven located in Western New York.....a place to explore new ideas and old. All members who have experienced Chautauqua are invited to help share this experience with PGC

FIELD TRIP TO FREEDOM FARMS, BUTLER, PA

Thursday, September 8, 2016

We will carpool to Freedom Farms. We will have lunch (at our own cost) at their Event Center. Then at 1:00 pm, there will be an information session with Farmer Tim King and then a tractor ride out to the tomato field to pick tomatoes and go home with 4 quarts of tomatoes per person.

The cost to each member is \$15.00

MURRYSVILLE GARDEN CLUB



JULY 7, 2016: ANNUAL PICNIC - Covered Dish

"Plant Swap and Hands-on Flower Arranging!"

Featuring: Jean Streeter, member and Flower Show Blue Ribbon Winner (many times!)

Members are invited to bring plants to swap with other members for that variety missing from their garden! Also, members are invited to bring flowers from their garden (and the mechanics) to make a floral arrangement under the guidance of our own Jean Streeter!

AUGUST 4, 2016: *"Sweater Pumpkins!"*

Featuring: Linda Haas

Linda Haas, also know as "Fairy Garden" speaker, Author, blogger, Professional Landscape Designer and Artist will guide members as they make a pumpkin from an old bulky sweater! Members wanting to participate in this fun craft will want to bring that old sweater that's been in your closet for years and repurpose it for the fall season!

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016: *"Just Grow Up! Vertical Gardening"*

Featuring: Bill Goff, Penn State Master Gardener and chair of the Penn State Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau

Although the concept of vertical gardening is thousands of years old, an increase in urban living has created the need for new and efficient ways to grow vertically. Living walls, tuteurs, pergolas and wall pockets can be utilized to maximize space. Come learn what's up in the world of vertical gardening.

FOREST HILLS GARDEN CLUB



JULY 7: Tour of the National Aviary (Club will underwrite a portion of fee for members.)

AUGUST 4: "Edible Flowers," with Denise Schreiber, greenhouse manager for Allegheny County Parks

SEPT 1: Picnic in the Park, with Member Show-and-Tell

JOYFUL BLOOMERS



JULY : The Joyful Bloomers will meet at Lana Wisniewski's poolside cabana to continue working on crafts for the club's September 17 fundraiser. Members will tour Lana's garden to look for bee's hard at work.

AUGUST: Members will meet at Kane Regional where residents will join in viewing the acclaimed "Bee" movie" by Jerry Seinfeld. The comedy explains the importance and struggle of our declining bee population and its effect on nature.

SEPTEMBER: Fundraiser !!!!! Saturday, September 17, 2016 "Girls Just Want to Bee Fun" 11:00 am-3:00 pm Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church featuring the "Bee Beautiful Boutique" "bee sweet cookie room and the junior gardener's "bee market"

BURRELLTON GARDEN CLUB



JULY 9: Breakfast in the Park

AUGUST 9: "Squirrels in our Environment: with Janet George – "The Squirrel Lady"

SEPTEMBER 13: "Seasonal Flower Arrangement" with Rosie Mildren, club member.

GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER

“Tea Time in the Butterfly Garden”

Make your reservation. Seating is limited. The cost is \$10 per person. The dates include:

Tuesday July 19th 11:00 AM

Wednesday August 24th 11:00 AM



EVENTS CALENDAR

Thurs, July 14: GC McKeesport – High Tea @ Clubhouse in Renzie Park

Thurs, July 14: Laurel Highlands & Standard Flower Show “Sail the Seven Seas” 1PM--8 PM Pittsburgh Area Judges @ Greensburg Garden Center, 951 Old Salem Road, Councils Greensburg PA 15601

Thurs, Aug 11: GC McKeesport High Tea @ Clubhouse in Renzie Park

August ?: District VII Executive Board Mtg @ ?

Thurs, Sept 8: GC McKeesport High Tea @ Clubhouse in Renzie Park

Fri-Sat, Sept 9-10: Ingomar GC Standard Flower Show “Ocean Treasures and Pleasures” Fri (1PM---7PM) and Sat (9AM---1PM) @ Sherwood Oaks Retirement Community, 100 Norman

Drive, Cranberry, PA 16066

Thurs. Sept 15: District VII Fall Annual Mtg 9 AM Registration & Networking/9:15 Presidents’ Mtg/10 AM Business Mtg @ Hillcrest Country Club

Sat. Sept 17: Joyful Bloomers GC Girls Just Want to BEE FUN! 11AM---2PM @ Sampsons Mills Church Hall, White Oak, PA. Tickets \$10. Details to follow from Ann Stromberg



JUDY’S JOTTINGS

“B- is it Bison or Buffalo”

President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act on May 9, 2016 making the bison our first national mammal. Is it officially called bison or buffalo? The song-Home On The Range-says – “give me a home where the buffalo roam and the deer and the antelope play”. All through the West, this animal is known as a buffalo!

How did the word buffalo originate? Some historians say that the French word for beef is boeuf and since its meat is used like beef, the name became buffalo. Another idea is that English military men wore buff coats made of thick, soft, undyed leather and the animal itself resembled their coats and thus was called a buffalo.

Buffalo or bison, it is now our national mammal. Let's learn about this new United States symbol.

Did you know-----

Bison is the largest land mammal in North America with a life span of 11 to 20 years.

This animal weighs 900 to 2,000 pounds, but can run up to 35 miles per hour.

It has a humped back, a large head with a long beard and is nearsighted, but has a keen sense of smell and hearing.

This mammal has a brown, shaggy coat and short upturned horns.

Bison have 32 teeth and feed from 9 to 11 hours a day on grasses, sedges and herbs. They chew their cud like cows.

Though millions of bison once thundered across the Great Plains, they were almost entirely wiped out. In the 19th Century the U.S. Army had a policy of killing bison in order to harm and control North American Indian Tribes. By the

20th Century only 1,000 animals remained in remote pockets of habitat. Yellowstone National Park is the only place where bison have continuously lived since prehistoric times.

Locally buffalo once ranged the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Coast including Pennsylvania. The last reported animal of this species killed in PA was in 1801. Bison were extirpated (extinction of a species in a particular geographic region) by 1825 in PA. I learned a new word!

In my area a local restaurant called Jack's raised a small herd of buffalo for many years. We thought it was an advertising gimmick. I loved driving past its property close to Route 28, to see if I could spot the herd grazing. Little did I know that these private owners were helping to preserve the species and are still doing so today.

Care to adopt a buffalo? The Defenders of Wildlife offer an adoption program to stop the slaughter of wild bison that while grazing leave the borders of Yellowstone and restore them to more places across the Great Plains. Adoption kits start at \$20.00.

Contact the following:

Defenders of Wildlife
2016 1130 17th St. NW
Washington D.C. 20036
800-385-9712

Commercial farms are now raising buffalo and selling its meat to consumers. The Sioux Indians utilized all portions of this animal for years. They knew its value. We are now just catching up! Buffalo has a slightly more flavorful taste than beef, but has less fat and more protein. Finding a store to purchase the meat may still be a challenge. A reputable dealer such as the following can be a source:

Bison Ranch
6036 OH-45
Canfield, OH 44406

If you purchase buffalo meat, many recipes can be found via the internet. Here is a recommended one to try---

Ellen's Buffalo Meatloaf

Ingredients-

1 slice multigrain bread
1 pound ground buffalo meat
1 onion diced
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp. mustard powder
¾ cup diced tomatoes, drained
1 tsp. salt
1 dash ground black pepper
1/3 cup ketchup

Directions –

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Crumble bread slice into crumbs and set aside. Grease 8x8 inch baking dish.
- 2) Mix buffalo meat, onion, egg, ground mustard, tomatoes, salt, pepper and bread crumbs in a large bowl.
- 3) Form the meat mixture into loaf shape about 8x4 inches and place in middle of the baking dish. Apply ketchup to top and sides of the loaf.
- 4) Bake in the preheated oven until the meat is no longer pink and the ketchup forms a glaze over the meatloaf.
Normally baking time is 1 and ½ hours. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

P.S. Check with Haddie Weber. I think she has made buffalo chili and has a good recipe.

Finally, if you ever encounter a buffalo, make sure you can see its tail. If it hangs down and switches naturally, the animal is in a calm mode, even though you might not be.

If its tail is sticking straight up, do not stick around – RUN!

Whether you call it Buffalo or Bison, this animal has played an important role in our nation's history and deserves the honor of being selected as our national mammal.

Just a reminder that we have other National Symbols –

Bird – BALD EAGLE
Floral Emblem - ROSE
Tree – OAK

Submitted by Judy Schaffer
Pucketos Garden Club



“Free fertilizer”: Save the water you use when steaming vegetable. It’s full of phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium, which makes perfect fertilizer for your plants. Also save water from boiling eggs as it is calcium rich. If you spread them around the bases of your plants, you can nourish the soil.. On top of that, eggshells actually repel certain insects, so they protect your plants from pests

Insects can’t stand plants such as garlic, onions, chives and chrysanthemums. Grow these plants around the garden to help repel insects.

One of the easiest ways to grow roses is by taking cuttings. You can grow roses in potatoes. You stick the rose cutting into a potato, and then push both into the ground. The potato keeps your cuttings moist while roots are developing.

Add baking soda to the soil for sweeter tomatoes. Make sure you only sprinkle it on the soil, not the plant. The baking soda is a base and counteracts the acidity in the tomatoes.



ARE SEEDS STILL GOOD?

1. Run a paper towel under water then ring it out so it's damp.
2. Place seeds on top of the paper towel while it's still wet. Put the seeds and paper towel inside a plastic bag to keep moisture in.
3. Place the plastic bag with seeds somewhere warm (the top of your dryer machines one suggestion).
4. Wait a few days (usually around three) and check to see if your seeds have sprouted.



Learning Gardening the Hard Way
(by Marilyn Backus, District VII Assistant Director)

The Caterpillars

After I retired, but before I joined the Garden Club of Monroeville in 2011, I had let wild milkweed spread itself in my side kitchen garden, which also

encloses an 8x10 greenhouse I had bought on sale from Harbor Freight a few years earlier. Milkweed flowers, I knew, filled the yard with a sweet fragrance for several weeks every summer and were visited often by bees that were experiencing colony collapse.

One day I saw that my precious milkweed leaves were skeletons of their original forms and that something was eating them. Horrified, I saw a horde of exotic looking caterpillars crawling up the side of the green house and getting in it! They reminded me of those ugly horned green tomato worms that occasionally visited my tomatoes. I thought I had better kill these things. So I found insect spray and killed them all.

The next month I joined the garden club. That day, the garden club viewed Monarch butterflies and discussed the need to protect them and provide food such as milkweed and butterfly weed for their larva. Then I saw the larva. (Gasp, Oh no!) I sadly realized then that the caterpillars I killed en masse the previous month were Monarch caterpillars! I was too embarrassed to tell the club what I had done until much later.

I have not seen any Monarch caterpillars since that day, although milkweed now grows in two of my gardens.

Ignorance is NOT bliss!!! Thank you, garden club!