

Trumpet Vine

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania District VII



MARCH 2016

Jackie Stempfer, Editor

The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It's not about the circumstances, but rather what you are made of.

I know most clubs don't start at the beginning of the year so I have limited information and only include March in this quarter. So far I have received 1 yearbook and information from another club. The next quarter will include April/May and June so please get yearbooks (by email) and/or information for those months by March 21 for that quarters Trumpet Vine.

Thanks



[STANDARD FLOWER SHOWS in 2016](#) (from Angie Ritano)

INGOMAR G.C.

“OCEANS TREASURES and PLEASURES”

Location: Sherwood Oaks Retirement Community

100 Norman Drive

Cranberry, PA 16066

Open to the Public:

Friday, September 9, 2016 1:00-7:00 PM

Saturday, September 10, 2016 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

VALLEY G.C.
“GLOBETROTTING”

Location: Monessen Public Library
326 Donner Avenue
Monessen, PA 15062

Open to the Public:
Thursday, June 9, 2016 Noon-6:00 PM

GREENSBURG GARDEN CENTER
“FUN-tastic PLANTS OLYMPICS”

Location:
Redstone Highlands
6 Garden Center Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601

Open to the Public:
Saturday, June 25, 2016 1-5 PM

LAUREL HIGHLANDS & PITTSBURGH AREA JUDGES COUNCILS
“SAIL the SEVEN SEAS”

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Location:
Greensburg Garden Center
951 Old Salem Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Open to the Public – 1-2 PM



FOREST HILLS GARDEN CLUB:

March 3: “Get Ready to Grow” and “Raised Bed Gardening,” with Lisa O’Toole, Master Gardener and Landscape Design Consultant

April 7: “The Wonderful World of Orchids,” with Demetria Marsh of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

GARDEN CLUB OF MCKEESPORT

April 9: Pruning in rose garden at 1:00. Rain date is April 16. Free, Open to the public.

DID YOU KNOW?



If you were to stand face to face with an owl, after a while it would start to move its head, bobbing rhythmically from side to side, then forward, then back, or almost completely upside down, all while still looking at you, with its body still facing the front.

Is the owl trying to communicate something? Is this, perhaps, some kind of dance?

All these varied head movements help the owl judge the position and distance of things around it—essentially, to triangulate on objects, including potential prey, and to build a composite picture of its surroundings. This head-bobbing helps make up for an anatomical limitation: An owl's eyes are fixed in position, so they simply can't move the way our eyes do. To look up, down, or to the side, an owl has to move its head. They have very flexible necks and can do 270 degrees of a full head turn, looking over one shoulder, around the back, and almost over the opposite shoulder. And after a few of these head-bobs to triangulate on their prey, they rarely miss.

It's not only owls that measure the world this way. Most other birds of prey, like falcons and hawks, have the same intent, fixed, predator's eyes, and so they, too, perform their share of head bobs, figuring out what's what and what's where.



Judy's Jottings "Make An Entrance"

I enjoy decorating the outside of my townhouse all year round, not just for special holidays. The entrance features a small stoop leading to the front door which faces my two parking slots located beside a busy road in Lower Burrell. I park my car in the first allocated slot so

that drivers passing by have a perfect view of my entrance. I strive to keep it eye appealing for all seasons.

To find out just how welcoming your entrance is, pretend you are a visitor. What catches your eye? Take some photos. A photo can show things differently. Is the overall effect that you want to achieve displayed in the pictures?

In the summertime it is easy to arrange decorative pots filled with vibrant colored plants and flowers to dress up the walkway. Once Mother Nature changes seasons, wreaths become my decorating option. I still want my front door to look and feel welcoming. Another way to accessorize your entrance is to include a welcome mat. It is a must to keep dirt out of the house. I also have purchased a variety of welcome mats which change with the seasons.

The word wreath comes from the Middle English word – WRETHE. It is an assortment of flowers, leaves, fruits, twigs or other materials constructed to resemble a ring. They were used in ancient times primarily in southern Europe, utilizing plants such as ivy, oak, olive leaves, myrtle, laurel, wheat and vines.

The wreath that was commonly used as a crown was the laurel wreath. In 776 BC, wreaths made of laurel leaves were used to crown victors of Olympic Games. Later, when the Games began to move to different cities, a host city would award garlands made of branches of local trees. It is likely that awardees simply hung the leafy headbands on their walls as souvenirs. Today wreaths can be hung throughout the house. Harvest wreaths, a common household decoration today, are a custom with ancient roots in Europe. It could be hung by the door year-round. A harvest wreath in Poland called (WIENIEC) comes in different shapes and sizes, using harvested grain, plants, fruit and nuts. The wreath is then brought to a church for a blessing by a priest. A girl or young woman brings it home and hangs it.

In the early days in Europe, people would put wreaths on their doors to identify their homes in the same manner that house numbers are used today. Each house would have a different wreath made of flowers, most likely grown by the home owner.

Today's wreaths come in all sizes, shapes, materials and colors. I have a different one to hang on my door for every month of the year purchased at craft fairs or stores like Pat Catans or Michaels. Crafty people (which I am not) will design their own wreaths. Using natural materials such as pine cones or nuts can also include unwanted critters which you don't want in your home.

Here are some techniques to use to deter unwanted friends.

Bake pinecones, acorns in 200 degree oven for 30 minutes. Cover the baking sheet with foil or a paper bag. This will get rid of bugs, open pinecones up and clean away unwanted sap.

Wash pinecones in a sink full of warm water mixed with ½ cup to 1 cup of vinegar. Soak 20-30 minutes. Air dry the materials. You can then spray with clear varnish or acrylic.

Need some ideas of how to decorate with wreaths both inside and outside your home – try some suggestions listed.

Use a wreath as a plant stand to conceal plant saucers.

Turn a wreath into a mobile for porch ceilings.

Use several wreaths to design a snowman sculpture to be placed on a door or in your yard.

Have a wreath become a candle charger.

Make a wreath become a clock frame.

Design a wreath to become a bird feeder. Follow these instructions:

Make a twig wreath and hang crafting bells all over it. Suspend it from a branch of a living tree in a visible spot. Sprinkle the twigs with bird seed and keep it replenished. When a bird sits on the wreath, the bells will ring announcing a feathered friend to watch.

Make the entrance the visual focal point of your home. Design it your way, using flowers and plants when available, but be sure it always visually expresses one word – WELCOME!

Submitted by Judith Schaffer
Pucketos Garden Club



DRUG PROBLEM

A friend asked me, 'Why didn't we have a drug problem when we were growing up?'

I replied that I had a drug problem when I was young:

I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather. I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the pastor, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flower beds. I was drug to the homes of neighbors to help mow the yard, repair the clothesline, and if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, my dad would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin, and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, this world would be a better place.

Bless the parents who drugged us, and for those that didn't, I am really sorry.