



THE FLOWER PRESS

PENN-CUMBERLAND GARDEN CLUB MAY- JUNE 2021

Member of District IV, GCFP, CAR & National Garden Clubs, Inc.

WE ARE ... PENN-CUMBERLAND!

My term as president is winding down but the PCGC activities are not! So pleased with how we have weathered this Pandemic Storm. We have a full summer of garden tours of planned and are excited to have the return of our special annual **Spring event PCGC Plant Sale on May 15th, held again in the N.B. Liebman parking lot.**

We will be having a modified **Bertha P. Reppert Herb Tea Party** at our regular meeting on **Monday June 21st, 2021**. It will be a Luau boxed lunch. Please do sign up ahead of time at the April or May meetings so we have the appropriate amount of food.

As vaccines are being distributed we are slowly increasing our regular activities – committee meetings, garden walks and more. It has been quite a year and while the Pandemic is not over we are starting to come out from underneath it all. As we are enjoying the light at the end of the tunnel, so to speak, be sure to join us at a meeting or a summer garden tour day. Our meeting venue is spacious and allows for social distancing. We are still masking!

One important request: Our Historian, Terri Maclay, has asked that each of us document how our love of gardening, flowers and nature helped us push through this past year. What helped you manage this unique time? Was it the satisfaction of pulling weeds? Or the enjoyment of bird watching? Did you finally get back to canning or bread baking? Please jot down your thoughts. It does not need to be a polished paper – just your feelings of how your gardening, appreciation of nature or flower arranging helped you. If you wish, it can even be anonymous. It is an important record for our club. This is certainly a first in our 60 year history. Please email or mail your pandemic thoughts to Terri Maclay, teresamaclay@aol.com or 117 North 20th Street, Camp Hill 17011. I started my journal page and am already surprised at how much I have forgotten, so it really is important to create a record. **Thank you in advance for your participation in this unique club project.**

Whew, Presidency has been an interesting journey to say the least but I am so proud of Penn-Cumberland and believe it or not – wouldn't trade my two years as President for anything. It was challenging with all of the uncertainty, but Penn-Cumberland members just keep smiling and supporting each other and myself and YOU all make it easy to be PCGC President even in a challenging year and I can't thank you enough!!

In June, the gavel is passed to Kay Yniguez and a whole new slate of officers. I know you will show them the same level of support because :

"We are Penn-Cumberland!"

Susanna



April 26th – Tropical Flower Arrangements

McBie Church – 1050 South York Street, Mechanicsburg

Our meeting for this month will feature Robin Reynolds who is a Floral Designer and the owner/operator of Garden Bouquet in Mechanicsburg. She will demonstrate basic elements, shapes and styles of floral design using tropical flowers. Please note that this month was to have been our annual Herb Tea with a luau theme ... rescheduled from last year! Robin was the featured speaker then and has graciously agreed to return a year later! We will be doing a modified Herb Tea as part of the June meeting with the luau theme and boxed lunches will be served.

Please arrive prior to 10 a.m. as our speaker is scheduled to begin at that time. Arriving early allows you time to sign in, peruse our displays, shop at the Pressers table, buy your raffle tickets, greet your fellow club members and get a front row seat! Our business meeting will follow the speaker. This month is election of officers for the next two years.

Membership



We welcomed one new member last month. Her name is Anne Birch. This brings our current PCGC Membership to 128. Our members continue to be a viable source for increasing membership. Spring is here and our gardens will soon be flourishing. What a great time to introduce new members to our organization. So members, please continue to invite prospective members to our regular meetings and to our many activities.

Anne was invited by and is mentored by Sue Zalesky. Anne signed up for the following committees: Birds, Butterflies and Wildflowers and Flower Show. She can be reached at 4821 Virginia Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3075, Phone number 717-525-2342, and email address: annebirch@verizon.net. **Please take the time to introduce yourself to Anne and make her feel comfortable with our organization.**



Just a friendly reminder. Our 2021-2022 membership renewal is now due. The deadline for payment is May 31, 2021. Membership Renewal Forms have been emailed/mailed out to all members. If you have not received your renewal information, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Dues for Regular (active) Members are \$30.00 and dues for Associate Members are \$40.00.

VERY IMPORTANT FOR NEXT YEAR'S YEARBOOK: If you have any changes for our records, contact me at betpisano@aol.com or call 717-732-4631.

Betty Pisano, Membership Chair
Sandy Green, Co-Chair

Upcoming May Events - Mark Your Calendars Now!

Monday, May 3rd – 6 p.m. We are collaborating with the **New Cumberland Library** to sponsor a walk on the library grounds and a discussion of the Longwood Gardens Community Read selection: *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* by Drew Lanham. Each year Longwood Gardens gives books to local libraries along with some passes to Longwood Gardens when the library sponsors a program related to the books. Our club members will talk about the trees at the library, gardening for birds and we will showcase our Civic Beautification efforts at the library where we have five distinct spaces we have "adopted." Free and open to the public. Please plan to attend to support the efforts of our club members who will be speaking Terri Maclay, Susan Wilder, Karen Schwarzbauer and Sheri Goff. There will be a drawing for the passes – each pass is good for 4 people to enjoy Longwood! Free program, bring lawn chair, we will meet inside at Foundation House on the grounds if the weather does not cooperate. 1 Benjamin Plaza, New Cumberland.

Wednesday, May 5th – 9 a.m. to Noon – Pressed Flower Designers will meet at McBIC.

Sunday, May 9th – 11:30 a.m. Susanna Reppert Brill, PCGC President and Gary Neubaum, Plant Sale Chair are scheduled to appear on the Bob Carey's "Garden Talk Show" on WIOO AM1000, WEEO AM1480, 97.9 and 93.9 FM; it streams at WIOO.com. They will be discussing our plant sale on the 15th.

Monday, May 10th – 10 a.m. – Birds, Butterflies and Wildflowers/Conservation sponsoring a walk at Trout Run. See article later in this newsletter!

Wednesday, May 12th – another of our tours of members' gardens. **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** we are invited to visit the gardens of **Betty Wilson**. She and her husband specialize in rhododendrons and this is an opportunity not to be missed! Drop in and enjoy. Masks and social distancing please. **18 Conifer Lane, Mechanicsburg.**

Friday, May 14th – SET UP for the Plant Sale – 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please bring your plants at that time and that time only! Also bring your gently used gardening-related items and your willingness to WORK! Many hands are needed to get the tents and tables set up, plants organized and priced and ways and means items displayed. NB Leibman Furniture Store parking lot, 4705 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg.

Saturday, May 15th – our annual Plant Sale is back! **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at NB Leibman Furniture Store parking lot**, 4705 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg. See details later in this newsletter!

Monday, May 17th – our monthly meeting will feature **David Vica, Caretaker of the Harrisburg Cemetery**, with a Power Point presentation of the **Horticultural Treasures** found on the cemetery grounds. The history of the cemetery is fascinating and the trees are also of historical interest. **10 a.m.** at McBIC church, 1050 South York Street, Mechanicsburg.

Thursday, May 20th – tour of the Harrisburg Cemetery at 10 a.m. This will be a wonderful follow up to our May meeting. This is the time of year when many of the trees are blooming and it's an interesting and historical place to visit. 521 North 13th Street, Harrisburg.

Community Gardens Exit



The Ames Community Gardens were not allowed to open in 2020 due to the covid pandemic. While we understood the reasons, we were saddened as the gardens were a source of food and education for 129 families, many of whom depended on their plots as a major source of sustenance during the growing season. While they were in operation, the gardens were so successful that we donated tons of surplus produce to New Hope Ministries to help feed families in need in our community.

By the fall of 2020, a forest of weeds had grown in and around the garden plots and Ames notified us that they would be responsible for removal of the weeds and that no one could be allowed on the property without permission, except for a two-week period during which we were allowed to schedule and supervise the gardeners who wished to harvest any crops still in their plots. Our Penn-Cumberland Garden committee members who have worked together for the past ten years to manage the operation of the gardens supervised the activity during scheduled times to maintain safety protocols. Several weeks later weed removal was done with large equipment that mowed down the weeds. Fences, tomato cages and other personal property of the gardeners were removed. The result looked nothing like the beautiful gardens we had helped to manage.

We have all heard that community gardens throughout the country have thrived, as families seek healthy ways to feed their families, get fresh air and find hope during a frightening time. While our community gardens were not able to provide participation during the pandemic, they did at least offer hope for the future. These gardens are unique in that they were planned to assure success. The arrangement of the raised plots maintains ample space to allow for mowing and to keep distance for working. The gazebo and common areas afford a place to provide outdoor garden programs and water hoses are available to reach all plots to further ensure success.

We hoped the gardens could be allowed to open this season, and that with much work they could be restored. However, we recently learned from Ames that their corporate leadership requires that only Ames employees be allowed on the property at this time.

Susan Wilder, Sheri Goff and Duane Greenly recently met with the local plant manager who has worked out a possible plan to allow the gardens to reopen and to satisfy the demands of the corporate leaders. It requires moving the entry gate and parking area for the gardeners to keep separation from the plant. It will also require that the tool shed be kept locked and off limits, although tools will be available on the outside wall of the shed. It is not ideal, but it is workable and we are grateful that it makes it possible for the gardens to reopen in May.

After 10 successful years, Penn-Cumberland Community Garden members will work with new volunteers to transition the management of the gardens to a committee made up of garden plot holders.

We have been fortunate to be a part of a very successful public garden operation since 2011 when it began as a community project by the CEO of Ames at that time, Duane Greenly. Penn-Cumberland Garden Club has many other community efforts on which to focus and we see this as the right time to shift the responsibility to the gardeners working with Ames directly. For the current growing season, we will be involved and assisting to ensure a successful transition. We believe that the successful management of the gardens by Penn-Cumberland these past years has established a pattern for Ames and a new committee of garden advisors to go forward to oversee and maintain the gardens to be beautiful and successful once again.



Susan Wilder – Community Gardens Chair

From the Keystone Gardener ... congratulations to "one of our own"



THE MARY ALICE WHEELER SCHOLARSHIP OF \$1,000 is awarded to **Angelica Brill** of Mechanicsburg. She is a junior at Penn State University studying Environmental Studies/Public Policy with a double major in Spanish. Angelica is described as having excellent communication and research skills, resourcefulness, ability to organize and present complex information and arguments. She has a GPA 3.33. Penn-Cumberland Garden Club of District IV sponsored this upbeat, can-do student. Angelica is the daughter of our President, Susanna Reppert-Brill.

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 15th 9am to 1pm
at the NB Liebman Parking Lot, Carlisle Pike.
Set up is Friday, May 14th 3pm to 5pm.



Start thinking about what can be divided in your yard that can you can pot up for the plant sale.



April meeting - **bring** clean pots, boxes and plant trays.



Lend us tables, tents and wagons.



Start **baking and freezing** now to donate baked goods.



Set aside gently used Garden Treasures - such as tools, vases, baskets, garden books etc.



Sign up to help at the plant sale.



Any questions? Call Betty Pisano at 717-732-4631 or email: betpisano@aol.com

Gary Neubaum, Plant Sale Chair

Importance of Native Plants



Native plants have co-evolved with native insects, pollinators, and birds, offering habitat, food, and shelter. Exotic and non-native plants offer less benefit and can become invasive, especially if they have no pests to control them. **Native species are important for biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.** Native oak trees are host to over 550 species of moths and butterflies, according to Doug Tallamy.* Pollinators are important for the reproduction of plants, which we need to survive. The Monarch Butterfly larvae need milkweed to survive. Amphibians need insects. Native birds need specific insects that are only on native plants to feed their young. We have lost 3

billion birds from 1970 to 2019, and 6 million in one year, according to the latest Christmas Bird Count. **Native plants are also hardier than others, requiring less water and chemicals.** They clean the air, give us oxygen, sequester/recycle carbon, prevent erosion, lessen the need for mowing (and polluting the air). A beneficial thing gardeners can do is to let plant debris overwinter into spring, to protect the plants, and to allow insects for the birds and pollinators to multiply. And instead of discarding the waste, put it in a compost pile. If you would like to know what native plants attract certain birds go to audubon.org/plantsforbirds and audubon.org/native-plants. PA's DCNR website has information on native and invasive plants. The local Manada Conservancy website (manada.org) has valuable information on native plants and natural gardening, including plant lists. They also offer Gardening For Nature and Habitat For All programs.

*Doug Tallamy, professor at the University of Delaware, has written "Bringing Nature Home" and "The Living Landscape" along with having numerous You Tube talks.

Arlene Taylor, Conservation Committee Co-chair

Civic Beautification



The Mechanicsburg Museum Association (MMA) designed a garden on a lot adjacent to the Frankenberger Tavern (located on East Main Street) to be used for their public events. **Ben Grill is creating raised garden beds in the "Colonial" Section located in the front part of the lot for his Eagle Scout Project.** The colonial section will include herb, vegetable, and flower gardens (mainly flowers for dying textiles). The Civic Beautification Committee is Ben's contact point for the garden and we will take over the maintenance of the garden after the June 1st dedication. Being colonial gardens, Ben is looking for plant donations specific to that era. We are hoping that if you have any of the following plants to share that you will divide them into 2 pots--1 for the PCGC Plant Sale and 1 for Ben. If you could bring Ben's donation to the PCGC meeting on April 26th, it would be greatly appreciated. **Ben is specifically looking for.... Potatoes, Onions, Turnips, Scented Geranium, Camomile, Saffron, Horehound, Lemon Balm, Sage, Calendula, Madder (Rubia tinctorum), Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis), American Goldenrod, Queen Anne's Lace, Yarrow, Meadow Rue.**

Karen Schwarzbauer – Civic Beautification Chair

Horticulture Committee



The Harrisburg Cemetery, formerly known as Mount Kalmia Cemetery, is a prominent [rural cemetery](#) and national [historic district](#) in [Harrisburg, Pennsylvania](#), located at 13th and Liberty streets in the [Allison Hill/East Harrisburg neighborhoods](#) of the city. It was officially founded in 1845, although interments took place for many years before. The cemetery is also the burial ground for [American Revolutionary War](#) soldiers. The caretaker's cottage was built in 1850. It was designed by famed 19th Century architect, [Andrew Jackson Downing](#), in the [Gothic Revival](#) style. It was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1985.

PCGC is proud to support the efforts of the cemetery association by donating funds to the revitalization and creation of an arboretum at the cemetery. **David Vica will conduct a tour of the cemetery grounds for us on May 20th, 2021, at 10 AM. This historic landmark is steeped in rich history.** The tour will highlight the numerous flowering trees and will prove to be a relaxing walk. We hope you will join us for this delightful experience.



Carol Hollis – Horticulture Chair

Travel Committee



We are going to the Philadelphia Flower Show on June 8! The bus will be leaving the Radisson parking lot at 8 AM and leaving the flower show at 5 PM for an arrival back to the parking lot around 7:30 PM. If you are going and have not paid, you can pay me at the next meeting or mail your check to me. Thank you everyone for signing up so far in advance so the bus and tickets could be obtained in a timely manner. For questions, contact me at 717-479-0214.

Judy McGinnis, Travel Committee Chair

Herb Tea – June 21st Meeting



As most of you know, the 2021 Herb Tea in its original format has been cancelled. However, we will be holding a **Hawaiian Luau-themed luncheon** after the June 2021 meeting at Mechanicsburg Brethren In Christ Church. It will be in the form of a picnic with the luncheon being held in the outdoor pavilion at the church. Please wear your tropical-themed clothing and enjoy the celebration. In lieu of the original speaker, we will be having a presentation on the **Wonderful World of Dahlias by Jerry Waln** and there will also be a **Bloom and Grow Mini-show!**

At the April 26th and May 17th meetings, there will be an attendance sign-up sheet. Since this is not following the normal Herb Tea format, **signing up to attend is very, very important.** We want to be sure to have sufficient food to feed those planning to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leah Hornung at 717-385-1327.

Leah Hornung – Herb Tea Chair

Pressers



After a lengthy hiatus, Penn-Cumberland Garden Club's Pressed Flower Workshop Monthly Meetings will recommence on **Wednesday, May 5th, 2021, 9 am-noon, at Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church (McBic) 1050 South York Street, Mechanicsburg.** We are so happy to be able to meet in person again and are looking forward to discussing new projects, as well as working on cards, masks, etc.. Please notify Lynn Garrett at garrett@epix.net if you plan on attending so that the appropriate number of tables will be set up. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

Lynn Garrett – Pressers Chair

Floral Design Guild

We had a great wreath workshop last month thanks to Terri Maclay who taught us some great tricks. Thank you, Terri, for a fun and educational experience. We all took home beautiful spring wreaths.

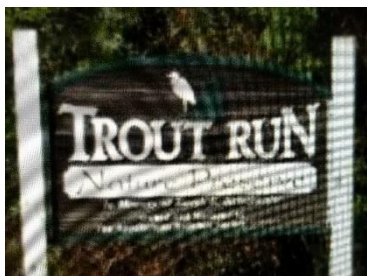
The guild members will be making designs for the June Herb Tea, using the containers passed out last fall. The designs will be given away. If you have questions or need oasis contact Judy McGinnis at 717-479-0214.

Judy McGinnis, Chair

Bird Walk to Trout Run Nature Preserve

Monday, May 10, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.



The Birds, Butterflies and Wildflower Committee, along with the Conservation Committee is planning a walk at **Trout Run Nature Preserve** where we hope to see wildflowers and birds and learn about a unique spring-fed wetland ecosystem in **Upper Allen Township**. It is home to many different kinds of birds, plants and wildlife – a green oasis in an increasingly developed area. **The wetland has been classified as an “exceptional value” site, protected and owned by the Appalachian Audubon Society.** A wetland is a transitional area between land and

deep-water habitats where water covers the soil or keeps it saturated for at least 2 or 3 weeks during the growing season. More than 80% of the animals on Pennsylvania's list of endangered and threatened species depend on wetlands during their life cycle. Wetlands are also home to most of Pennsylvania's rare, threatened, or endangered plants. Wetlands temporarily store, filter and clean runoff water from surrounding land, trapping sediments and excess nutrients and improving water quality. **Trout Run Preserve helps to clean the water that flows into the Yellow Breeches Creek.** Penn-Cumberland Garden Club will be supporting this unique preserve with a contribution for 2021 as one of our recipients as suggested by the Allocations Committee. Join us to see this jewel that is being preserved in the center of densely developed land. **Watch for an email closer to the time detailing where to meet for this walk!**

Susan Wilder – Birds, Butterflies and Wildflowers Chair

Benefit Update!

The 2021 Penn-Cumberland Garden Club **Scholarship and Community Projects Benefit** will be held **Monday, November 29** at the Radisson-Harrisburg in Camp Hill. The theme is **A European Christmas**. We still plan on having all the wonderful shopping stations and even more.

The speaker will be **Sarah Needham**. Sarah conducts floral design workshops at **Phipps Conservancy in Pittsburgh**. She is also owner of a floral shop specializing in weddings and events. She is acquiring her Master's Degree in European Studies.

Tickets will go on sale at our June meeting. The cost of the ticket will remain the same at \$38.00. Please remember to bring your checkbook to the meeting or mail a check to Betty Pisano, 15 Wetherburn Road, Enola, PA 17025. We also now accept credit card purchases.

Karen McAuliffe – Benefit Chair



Holland – A Horticultural Leader – Wanda Godar



In April 2017, my husband and I took a river cruise to Belgium and Holland. One of my goals for the Holland portion, was to see the internationally renowned “Keukenhof”, the large public garden that showcases primarily tulips in April and May. It was as breathtaking as I expected. The large swaths of tulips planted closely together look like an undulating stream.

As remarkable as the Keukenhof was, the visit we made to the nearby FloraHolland Flower Auction, was an equally breathtaking study in efficiency and scale. FloraHolland is a cut flower auction and warehouse. It is the largest covered flower market and its floor space makes it the fourth largest building in the world. Daily around 20 million flowers and decorative plants are traded here. Inside, the building is a beehive of activity. Endless numbers of small trains full of carts loaded with containers of flowers and plants are moved by electric-powered trucks or automated rails. It looks all chaotic with a highway system allowing the various wagons to be moved to where the schedules demand.



Flowers arrive from around 10 pm and are cooled and sorted during the night. The auctions are early morning with bought flowers distributed immediately. By late afternoon, all the flowers will have moved out and the warehouse is prepared for the next round. We had to get up early for this tour because all the work is done from 6 am on. As visitors we walked along a catwalk (elevated walkway) above all the warehouse activity below. What you see is row upon row of cut flowers (and some vegetables) in plastic buckets being picked and placed robotically into small carts and then driven to their destined truck to go somewhere either in Europe or anywhere across the globe. It is a beehive of activity of machines, with few humans in sight.

The Netherlands produces 1.7 billion cut flowers per year, which represents roughly 60% of global trade. The reason tulips, crocuses, daffodils, and hyacinths flourish in Holland is because spring flowering bulbs like the Dutch humid and salty air, the perfect aeration and acidity of sandy soil and the cold wet Dutch Spring. The enterprising spirit and infrastructure of the Dutch enabled them to be the ones to put the tulip on the map in the 17th century. The Dutch already had waterways and roads for transport, and gardeners became experts at developing new tulip varieties for their wealthy landowners. Today more than 80 percent of all flower bulbs worldwide are grown in the Netherlands.

It's a Small World

Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

At our June meeting we will be having a competitive show. It will be displayed during the regular meeting. It will be an official show with judges and ribbons. This is a great opportunity to participate in a show on a small scale and understand how it all works!

What do YOU need to do to participate? **READ the Schedule** which was emailed to you OR you can pick up a printed copy at the next two regular club meetings. As this is a “mini-show” there is only one division for displaying plant specimens. **Most importantly all plants must be dwarf, miniature or naturally small.** Note that in all sections at the end is “any other.” That means that if your plant that does not fit into the list it could still be eligible!

There are four sections, A, B and C and D. Within each section there are classes. They include all sorts of things in bloom or just the leaf of a plant. There is also a section that includes shrubs and roses plus any other dwarf plants. **YES, it sounds complicated but if you read the schedule you may be surprised at what you have in your yard that will qualify for the show.**

Containers for your specimens will be provided. Arrive early, please, so that we can get the show set up in a timely way. Must be fresh plant material grown by you. Please know as much as you can about your plant when you come so filling out the necessary paper work will be easy.

The photos are from a previous show to give you an idea of how it all works. Contact Joyce Wallen at wallenj7@gmail.com with any questions.



Joyce Wallen – Floral Design Co=Chair

Editor's Note: This is the last edition after six years under this editor. Please welcome Carol Heide as your new editor. She can be reached at carol.heide@aol.com or 717.230.9795. I have enjoyed putting this newsletter together 5 times per season. What wonderful cooperation I have always had with all of you!

Penn-Cumberland Garden Club – The Flower Press

www.penncumberlandgardenclub.org

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