



Message from the President

June 2020

It certainly has been a difficult few months! Unfortunately, reading the paper, watching and listening to television or going on-line have only made our lives more confusing and gloomy. If you are like me, you are looking for the “*old normal*” and not interested in “*the new normal!*”

But life goes on, thank goodness, and “now that “June is busting out all over,” with warm and sunny days, life can revolve around porches, decks, swings, planting fresh flowers, fresh strawberries, ice cream, swimming pools, lakes, boating, and picnics.

Let’s hope and pray that our country heals quickly from the pandemic and from the present social ills and unrest, and that our hearts will be full of the possibilities of June.

One of our dear members, Judie Senio, is ill. Please keep Judie in your thoughts and prayers.

~Mary

Mini Grant Project

The MVGC will soon begin to offer a MINI GRANT PROGRAM for area teachers. The objective of this opportunity is to encourage and support teachers who have creative ideas for promoting the love of nature and the care of environment by enhancing learning experiences for students.

This effort is replacing the Annual Scholarship that has been previously awarded to two local high school seniors. The Board unanimously felt more students would benefit from this project as they grow to become environmentally aware, responsible citizens.

It was hoped we would begin with the 2020-2021 school year but COVID-19 has made that start tenuous.



If you have not yet paid your dues, please send a check for \$30 to:

Mountain View Garden Club
PO Box 81
Clifford, PA 18413

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 27.

Rail-Trail Nature Hike

We will meet at the Rail-Trail office in Uniondale at 10AM and then caravan up to the Buck Falls area. Attendees are asked to wear masks and remember to maintain social distancing. If you plan on participating, we ask that you RSVP to Janelle at:

janelle@nep.net

COVID-19 update

Our counties are still under yellow COVID-19 restrictions and our meetings and activities will reopen accordingly. As we do become active again, information will be sent through email.

Clifford News

The Mountain View Garden Club has written letters of support in applying for State Grants that would help with improvement efforts to be made at the Clifford Township Park. The MVGC is already involved in maintaining the Veterans Memorial in the Park, has donated a park bench to the project area, and has held the Annual Marketplace and Plant Exchange there. We wish them

success in their efforts and will continue to support their projects.

Forest City News

A beautification grant was recently awarded to the Greater Forest City Business Association. The funds were used to purchase new planters to be placed along Main Street. Members Katie Cicilioni, Colleen Bobrovcan and Susan Haff helped to fill them with flowers.



Rail Trail Events....

...are planned for June. Walking, biking and yoga are a few of the activities offered. A full schedule is available from the Rail Trail Council. Due to COVID-19 participants are asked to pre-register by calling the Rail Trail office at

570.679.9300 or emailing
trails@nep.net



June:

Mary Tomaine 19st

July:

Louise Guszich 7th

Lenore Walsh 10th

Bill Maitland 17th

August:

Gene Wendolowski 13th

Elaine Burman 18th

September:

Colleen Bobrovcan 1st

Norma Genevich 10th

Deb McNamara 26th

Don't see your name on our birthday list? Send your name, birthday month and day to:

suze.haff@gmail.com

and we will happily add you to the list

MEMBERS ONLY PLANT EXCHANGE

Judging from the number of plants left at the Clifford Community Center on Friday many members participated in this year's plant exchange. Thank you to all who took part in the event, and we definitely look forward to next year with hope and prayer that we will again be able to present the Plant Exchange and Marketplace to the wider community.



Continue to be vigilant and on the lookout for the Spotted Lantern Fly. The invasive and destructive pest continues to be a threat to crops and gardens. The insect has not yet been reported in our area, but the Penn State Extension reports that it continues to spread throughout Pennsylvania and neighboring

states. If you spot one, report it to: 1-888-4BAD-FLY.

Gardening for butterflies

Janelle Zigon reports that she had been watching a lot of gardening webinars lately. She particularly enjoyed a presentation by Ray Moranz of The Xerces Society.

Some interesting points were:

- Most butterfly caterpillars are host plant specific, meaning that each butterfly species only lay their eggs on a certain plant. So, if you plant it they will come!
- Butterflies are insects, so avoid using pesticides! Be careful, plants you buy at a nursery may be treated with insecticide when you buy them.
- Many species of butterflies are in danger of extinction. Gardeners can make a difference!

Some examples of butterflies and their hosts are:

Black Swallowtail uses plants in the carrot family (carrot, dill, parsley, fennel also numerous native plants).



Favorite host plants of **Spicebush Swallowtail** include spicebush and sassafras.



There are over 100 species of milkweed which are hosts for monarchs.



While they only lay their eggs on their host plant, butterflies feed on nectar from other various plants.

Some great native nectar plants are:

- Milkweed
- Thistle (beautiful but picky! Make sure you do not plant the non-native and invasive varieties)
- Joe Pye Weed
- Echinacea cone flower (natives are better than some cultivars)
- Sunflower
- Liatris Blazing Star
- Goldenrod
- Asters
- Verbena

Zinnias and chives are also great but not native.

Leave clover for a pollinator friendly lawn.

Xerces has a U-tube channel with lots of great information if you feel like delving deeper!

Thank you, Janelle, for this important information!

We asked you to share pictures of your gardens. Here are the photographs from our members. The summer is just starting and the gardens keep growing. Send more pictures to be included in the next MVGC Newsletter.



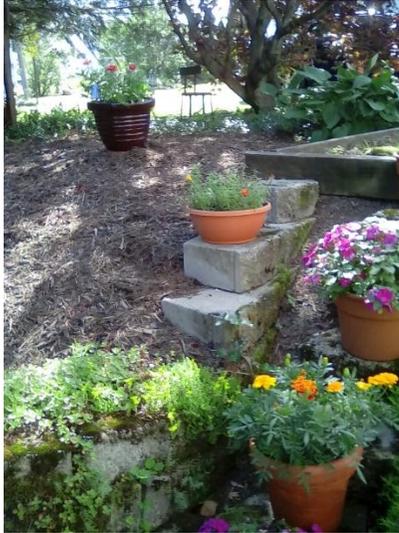
Ethel Breuche in Her Garden



Ann Marie Noone's Vegetable Garden



Julianna Piccini with Her Cat, Steve McQueen



Mary Pucul's Container Garden



Janelle Zigon's Garden

Cantaloupe Salad with Sliced Feta

- 1 small shallot, finely chopped
- 5 tbsp. white wine vinegar
- 1 cantaloupe, peeled, seeded & sliced
- 1 English (seedless) cucumber, sliced
- 6 oz. feta cheese, thinly sliced
- 4 tbsp. olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped toasted almonds (optional)
- kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper

Stir shallot & vinegar in a small bowl. Let stand 10 minutes.

Arrange cantaloupe and cucumber on a large platter. Top with feta.

Whisk 1 tsp. salt, olive oil into shallot-vinegar mixture. Drizzle over salad. Top with basil, almonds, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt, pepper. **Serve** with grilled ciabatta bread.

Do you have a favorite recipe?
 Share it with the MVGC members!
 Send your recipes to:
suze.haff@gmail.com
 Look for it in our next newsletter!

The Cantaloupe

By Ogden Nash

One cantaloupe is ripe and lush,
 Another's green, another's mush.
 I'd buy a lot more cantaloupe
 If I possessed a fluoroscope.

We all need a little humor in this age of Corona virus. May we present a few fractured medical definitions.

Artery:

The study of paintings

Cauterize:

Made eye contact with her

Colic:

A sheep dog

Dilate:

To live long

Enema:

Not a friend

Fibula:

A little lie

Stay safe, stay healthy, and hopefully we can soon get back to our mission of promoting the knowledge and love of gardening.