



# SCGC

holiday 2008

## SEWICKLEY CIVIC GARDEN COUNCIL

### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The Sewickley Civic Garden Council is off to a great start this year; with three meetings behind us, I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress. I feel fortunate to have such a wonderful Executive Committee: Ellen Hitchins, First Vice-President; Susan Craig, Second Vice-President; Amy Lang, Secretary; Sandy Moore, Treasurer. We are all getting settled into our respective roles and look forward to working together to make this a productive team. We also have a number of new representatives: Mary Francis, Christine Cohen, Laurie Bly, Carol Schurman, Mary Lou Scholl and Emily Willets. Because they have an active role on our board, they are helping us to make thoughtful decisions that will benefit each of our garden clubs and our community.

Prior to our first SCGC meeting this year, I met with all of the garden club presidents to find out how they would like us to allocate our funds and to determine how SCGC can better serve the members of our clubs. The clubs have reported back to us, and many agree that re-landscaping Park Place is a high priority. We are in the process of developing a task force to actively engage in that process. The other request from the presidents was to recreate a mission statement for the Council that would reflect our collective ideals and goals in a more concise manner. Thanks in large part to Susan

Kaminski, with the help of a small task force, we were able to accomplish this. Our newly stated mission is to **"preserve and improve the aesthetic quality and unique character of the green space of the Sewickley area through beautification projects, education and community involvement."** A donation was made by SCGC to Fern Hollow Nature Center in honor of Susan for her help on this project.

Last year, we developed a new website, [www.sewickleygardens.org](http://www.sewickleygardens.org), so that members can access information more easily. It is our hope that we, as an environmentally concerned group, can leave a smaller carbon footprint by cutting down on the number of newsletters we print. We will update our website information regularly, and we encourage our members to use it.

Some numbers: May Mart proceeds totaled \$4,144.56, and the Garden Gala netted \$32,261.39. Thanks to all who helped make these events the successes they were!

Enjoy the holidays, and if the season gets too overwhelming, remember that winter gardening and/or making plans for your spring garden can bring some tranquility to your life:

Gail Becker



From left: Peggy Standish, Riverfront Park rep.; Emily Willets, GCAC rep.; Mary Lou Scholl, Village rep.; Gail Becker, President; Amy Lang, Secretary; Ellen Hitchins, First Vice-President; Christine Cohen, Trowel & Error rep.



## PLEASE SHOP SEWICKLEY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

It's no secret — retail business in all areas has been hurt by the recent downturn in the national economy, and Sewickley is not immune to this trend. Unlike the mall stores, most of Sewickley's businesses are locally owned and have always supported the fundraising efforts of SCGC and other local non-profit organizations. So why fight the traffic and crowds at the mall? Now is the perfect opportunity to show our appreciation to our local stores and to get our holiday shopping done, as well.

## RIVERFRONT PARK



**R**iverfront Park is now a member of the Three Rivers Water Trail, sponsored by the Friends of the Riverfront. This group promotes recreational boating and safety on our three rivers, and its purpose is to highlight river access for the boating public. The park is one of three on the Ohio River that meet the requirements to be included in the *Three Rivers Water Trail Map & Guide*. Riverfront Park will contain directional red paddle signs that orient paddlers from both land and water. Boat ramps, interpretive signs, and canoe and kayak racks are also part of each location. For more information, contact Friends of the Riverfront at 412-488-0212 or [www.friendsoftheriverfront.org](http://www.friendsoftheriverfront.org).

Walnut Landing

## CHRISTMAS AT OLD ECONOMY

**CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE: A CENTURY OF CHANGE** will be held on Saturday, December 6, from 2:00-8:30 p.m. Explore some of the scientific and technological changes that occurred during the 100 years of the Harmony Society—a period of wonder and excitement in the fields of electricity, phonographs, photography, etc. Tour Old Economy Village, decorated in traditional 19th century German style. Enjoy musical performances, shop at the Weihnachtsmarkt for unique gifts and handmade items from our tradesmen and ride in a horse-drawn carriage. There will be crafts for children, family activities and wonderful, authentic German food prepared by members of St. John's Lutheran Church.



Come have a **GREEN CHRISTMAS**, saving greenbacks and our natural world at a fun, family style Village market

## THE VERY MERRY GREEN ELEPHANT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 9:00 A.M.-NOON, AT  
FERN HOLLOW NATURE CENTER

1901 GLEN MITCHELL ROAD, SEWICKLEY, 412-741-6136



**CRAFT & ARTIST SALE:** Come shop for holiday presents from local arts & craft vendors. Merchandise will include clothing, jewelry, art work & much more.

If you are interested in being a vendor, the fee is \$25 & includes a 6' table & a parking space. Call 412-741-6136 for a spot. Space is limited.

**TRUNK SALE:** Local residents will sell gently used merchandise, including art work, jewelry, kitchen gadgets, books about nature & cooking, holiday accessories & decorations, collectibles, arts & craft supplies, sports equipment, boxed games, & anything still in its wrapper.

If you are interested in being a vendor, the fee is \$25 & includes a 6' table & a parking space. Call 412-741-6136 for a spot. Space is limited.

**CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY WORKSHOP:** Bring the kids & let them enjoy Fern Hollow's Holiday Workshop. Each child will be able to make up to three home-made, nature-themed holiday presents while they enjoy holiday treats & stories.

Admission is \$10 per child. Reservations are requested.

## GARDEN CLUB NEWS

**EDGEWORTH GARDEN CLUB** started the new year with a September meeting at Stonebridge Farm Nursery. Owner Jan Lopes ordered a beautiful, sunny morning for us. Following the business meeting, Jan took us on a tour of the grounds. In October, landscaper Mark Gilmore gave a presentation on the trees and plantings on the Masonic Village property. Unfortunately, rain prevented the planned walking tour, but it will be rescheduled for spring. November took us to the meeting area on the second floor of the New Penguin Book Shop. They have a great selection of garden books. We invite all garden club members and friends to our annual Holiday Auction on Wednesday, December 10, at 9:30 a.m., in the Linden Place Party Room. There will be a Chinese auction, crafts, found treasures and homemade food items for sale. A live auction will begin at 10:30.



planting of Appalachian Spring dogwood trees at Sewickley Heights Borough Park. The event included cocktails, dinner and a silent auction for the 70 guests from both garden clubs. Rebecca Earlewine and Fran Merryman chaired the committee. Years ago, native dogwoods in this area were destroyed by a blight, and Little Garden Club decided that the restoration of this flowering tree would make a meaningful impact on the local environment and encourage the return of native songbirds. Consultation with Thad Jones, Sewickley Heights Park Ranger, and Peggy Joyner, Little Garden Club member and landscape and tree expert, resulted in the choice of the new, disease resistant dogwood cultivar, Appalachian Spring.

The **GARDEN CLUB OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**, under the direction of Chair Nancy McGough and Co-chair Kathy Testoni, hosted PIZZAZZ 2008 on October 15, 16 and 17. This much anticipated annual shopping extravaganza featured 30 unique designer boutiques from around the country. GCAC has a strong commitment to funding innovative environmental projects that will improve the quality of life throughout the Pittsburgh community. This year, 75% of the proceeds from PIZZAZZ was awarded to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to support development of a master landscape plan for the redevelopment of the new Environmental Center at Frick Park. This wide-reaching, community focused initiative will provide hands-on educational programming for school-aged children. Past projects funded by PIZZAZZ include the keynote speaker at "Body and Soul": Parks and the Health of Great Cities, an international conference hosted by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in September 2008; the preparation, printing and postage for 5,000 Sycamore Island brochures for the Allegheny Land Trust; with **VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB**, the allée of 18 Prospector Wilson elms at Walnut Landing, Riverfront Park; and the Family Naturalist Program at Fern Hollow Nature Center. Next year's PIZZAZZ, which will be held October 21-23, 2009, will be chaired by Kathy Testoni. For more information, visit [www.pizzazzpgh.org](http://www.pizzazzpgh.org).



Little Garden Club members and guests enjoying the "Evening for the Dogwoods in the Park." From left: Fran Merryman, Barbara Burge, Dana Foley, Annie Gensheimer, Gail Becker, Dolores Barber, Rebecca Earlewine, Elyse Wright, Maddie Braksick, Austin Braksick, Leslie Braksick, Thad Jones.



**LITTLE GARDEN CLUB** recently held a fundraiser at the home of Leslie and Matthew Braksick, members of Little and **VILLAGE** garden clubs, respectively, to purchase and maintain an initial

The members of **TROWEL & ERROR GARDEN CLUB** have, for years, overseen the maintenance and planting of Wolcott Park, a focal point for the Village and a gathering place for community events. The club has received a \$2,500 grant from SCGC for assistance in funding a much needed irrigation system for the park.



## IN MEMORIAM

"Flossie" Hayes Manning

Edith "Edie" Paffard

Caroline Roberts

Joan Rose

Garden clubs of the Sewickley area and their members were, and remain, important elements of this non-profit organization. However, anyone who is interested in the goals of the Sewickley Civic Garden Council and in working for the beautification and conservation of Sewickley Village, whether or not a garden club member, is invited to support the Council's work. Your contribution or memorial gift will help us put appropriate action behind our purpose. We need your help!

Mighty Oak	\$250	_____
Patron Hydrangea	\$100	_____
Sustainer Yew	\$50	_____
Supporter Rose	\$25	_____
Member Lily	\$5	_____
Other	\$	_____

Please return this form with your check to:

**SEWICKLEY CIVIC GARDEN COUNCIL**  
**P. O. Box 103**  
**SEWICKLEY, PA 15143**



I would like to designate this gift:

\_\_\_\_\_ As a contribution

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish my gift to remain anonymous.

The *SCGC Newsletter* is produced by Susan Holton and Peggy Standish.  
 Email articles to [sholton1@verizon.net](mailto:sholton1@verizon.net) or [standish@nauticom.net](mailto:standish@nauticom.net) or mail to SCGC, P. O. Box 103, Sewickley, PA 15143.

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