



SCGC

spring 2009

SEWICKLEY CIVIC GARDEN COUNCIL

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

A COMMUNITY OF GARDENERS...

The gray days of February and March are finally behind us, and the daffodils, tulips, crocuses and cherry blossoms are beginning to bloom! With anticipation of warmer temperatures in the next few months, our community of gardeners will transform the Sewickley area with their gardening expertise.

SCGC has been busy aiding this transformation with several significant projects, the first being our annual May Mart on Saturday, May 9th. This will be a perfect opportunity to buy plants and flowers for beautifying your property and container gardens. We have highlighted a few of the "Presales" on page 3 of this newsletter. Also, our hanging baskets are in Stonebridge Nursery's greenhouse, where they continue to thrive before they make their appearance on our streets in May. And, as we go to

press, a new irrigation system is being installed at Wolcott Park so that the plants and flowers there will stay green all summer long. SCGC is also re-landscaping a public space along Division Street, which includes a new bike rack for those wishing to bike to local area businesses. And finally, Village Garden Club is organizing a community-wide project to clean out invasives in a section of Sewickley Heights Borough Park. It is detailed below.



Location of proposed bike rack on Division St. sponsored by SCGC

The Sewickley Valley is fortunate to have so many gardeners involved in clubs and community gardening activities. As you spend time in our community, enjoy the attractiveness of our public spaces and parks and your neighborhood gardens.

Western Pennsylvania is an ideal place for gardening because of the vegetation and climate, and we should enjoy and applaud our gardeners' efforts.

— Gail Becker

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB'S "PARTNERS FOR PLANTS" PROJECT

The Village Garden Club is moving forward with a plan to attack a strip of forested land, roughly 70' x 200', to clear it of invasive species and plant native shrubs and perennials. The location is next to the parking lot in Sewickley Heights Borough Park. Workshops are planned at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, and Wednesday, May 20; more workshops will be scheduled over the summer. The initial objective is the removal of tartarian honeysuckle, privet, multiflora rose and glossy buckthorn from the site. The ultimate goal is to clear the entire parcel of invasive species and introduce suitable native plants.

Interested volunteers should contact Fran Blumenkopf at 412-741-0168. Please let us know if you can help!



Sewickley has always been rich in resources, in spite of its small size. When it comes to the watershed education of our young people, Sewickley boasts not one but three organizations that offer programs designed to teach area students about the value of clean water and a healthy watershed. Since its inception over 30 years ago, the Little Sewickley Creek Nature Guides program has introduced upper elementary students to the creek habitat. Fern Hollow Nature Center naturalist, April Claus, took this to the next logical step by developing a middle school watershed program. In addition, there are the popular summer watershed camps offered free of charge by the Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association for upper elementary students.

Now, under the sponsorship of the Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association in partnership with Creek Connections of Allegheny

College, April will be working with high school students to monitor the health of Little Sewickley Cree and its tributaries. Quaker Valley High School has set up the program to begin in September 2009 as an after-school environmental science internship for which participating students will receive half an elective credit.

How satisfying it is to see our community watershed association, school district and nature center all cooperating with environmental educators to offer our students, throughout their school years, the best in environmental education and awareness.

"Hands-on experiences like this new internship opportunity connect our community's young people with nature and help to encourage them to take a more active role in protecting their local watershed."

—April Claus, Fern Hollow Nature Center naturalist

WATERSHED PROGRAM FOR QUAKER VALLEY 6TH GRADERS

April Claus, Fern Hollow Nature Center naturalist, shows a corn snake to the students during the reptile and amphibian presentation, part of the all day Watershed Program.



April and Tony Magnelli, Quaker Valley 6th grade science teacher, walking with students along a stretch of Little Sewickley Creek, looking for a good place to do a "kick sample." Kick samples allow the kids to catch macroinvertebrates, which are indicative of water quality.



Tony and April raising a kicknet to reveal the macroinvertebrate sample to the students.



Photographs by Martha D. Smith, Quaker Valley School District

MAY MART PRESALES

GARDEN CLUB OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Friday, May 8th
at the home of Kathy Bantleon
422 Oliver Road, Sewickley (Edgeworth)
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Honor system sign-out sheet (checks preferred)

12" SALAD BOWL, Heirloom Mix — \$15

12" SALAD BOWL, Mesclun Mix — \$15

12" HERB BOWL, Assorted — \$23

ZINNIAS (chartreuse, cherry, apricot & State Fair assorted mix)

\$2/3 pack; \$10/half flat (six 3-packs)

\$20/flat (twelve 3-packs)

BASIL (Italian big leaf) — \$2/2" pots

ROSEMARY (upright variety) — \$4/4" pots

HEIRLOOM TOMATOES (yellow, pear, brandywine)
\$2/2" pots

TROWEL & ERROR GARDEN CLUB

Thursday, May 7th, & Friday, May 8th
at the home of Kathy Marlovits
449 Oliver Road, Sewickley (Edgeworth)
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

IMPATIENS (white, salmon, pink, lipstick [deep pink], mixed colors in one flat)

\$16/flat; \$14/flat for 5 or more flats

VINCA (peppermint, cooler grape [deep pink])

\$16/flat; \$14/flat for 5 or more flats

"COMBO POTS"

Pre-planted flower pots in medium and large sizes.
Ideal for front doors and porches.

Prices to be determined at the end of April

If you have questions, call Traudel Machatzke
at 412-600-7583.



LITTLE GARDEN CLUB

Friday, May 8th
at the home of Beth Straka
59 Beaver Street, Sewickley
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

"NO-BRAINER CONTAINERS"

ORCHIDS

A limited variety of interesting ANNUALS

PERENNIALS from members' gardens

GARDENING GLOVES

If you are unable to attend during these hours &
want some items set aside,
contact Beth at 412-749-3801.

SCGC thanks its contributors, whose support helps to preserve and enhance this community. Since the last newsletter, gifts have been received from the following:

Eugenia Devens,
in memory of Phyllis Semple

Peggy & Bill Standish,
in memory of ElysaBeth Higgins

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 or standish@consolidated.net or mail to SCGC, P. O. Box 103, Sewickley, PA 15143.

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