



November 2025

President's Message:

2025 has been a rewarding and successful year for our Club. As we begin to close out our 20th anniversary, we have much to celebrate!

We have had some practical hands-on workshops including: winter sowing, pruning, recycling, and vermiculture. During the warmer months, we toured multiple gardens with our field trip to a native nursery and rose garden, allowing us to be inspired, especially about growing pawpaws! We had beautiful weather for neighborhood garden-hopping, which is a favorite amongst members.

Two of the most rewarding events, in my opinion, were our annual Plant Sale and the Educational Grant Presentations. The Sale took in a record-breaking amount and we had a chance to hear how faithful attendees continue to treasure the perennials they have planted. Our Educational Grants would not be possible if it were not for the funds raised at the Sale. Recently, teachers from Carbondale High and Fell Charter Schools presented their projects to our Club, sharing that collectively over 100 students from Grades K-12 have been given the chance to learn more about gardening in the classroom and with hands-on learning projects.

All of this would not be possible without YOU! Thank you to our members who volunteer to make our Plant Sale, Community Clean-ups, Monthly Events, and Board Committees possible. My hope is to be planting the seeds in the next generations to care for our communities and see MVGC celebrate another 20+ years.

Looking forward to growing with you,
Katie Cicilioni



Winter Morning Poem

“Smooth and clean
And frosty white,
The world looks good
Enough to bite.
That’s the season
To be young
Catching snowflakes
on your tongue.”

~Ogden Nash



Mountain View Garden Club 2025 Programs

NOVEMBER 18

****Fall Centerpiece Making**

Demonstration presented by members
Janelle Zigon and Louise Guszick (members
and guests)



****Bring fall items (dried flowers, grass
plumes, or other bits and pieces from nature)
to decorate your pumpkin**



**We are collecting dues for the 2026
season.**

Checks can be mailed to:

**Mountain View Garden Club
PO Box 81
Clifford, PA 18413**

**Or better yet, bring them with you
to the next meeting!**

The MVGC does not meet during the winter months of January and February. In the meantime, committee members will meet to plan interesting programs and exciting activities for the coming year. Meetings will continue in March. Check your email for the date of our first meeting in March, 2026.



Mountain View Garden Club Holiday Party

Join your fellow members for a

FROZEN

Evening of socializing and
celebrating!

December 10 at 5 PM
Pettinato's Restaurant
78 Dundaff Street, Carbondale

RSVP by December 1st to:

MountainViewGC2005@gmail.com

\$40 per person, guests welcome

Send payments to:
MVGC

PO Box 81, Clifford, PA18413

*We will be collecting cash gifts which
will provide needed supplies for
several special needs horticulture
projects conducted by Lackawanna
County Master Gardeners*

Be sure to check your email for the
official invitation and any last minute
updates.



Birthday Greetings Update

Beginning in January 2026 the MVGC will no longer send birthday cards to members through the US mail. Instead, our corresponding secretary, Juliana Piccini, will send e-card greetings to our members.

The board looked at the rising cost of postage and greeting cards and, after a serious discussion, it was decided that the cost cutting move was in order. Birthday listings will continue to be a feature of the newsletter.

Don't forget to "check your email" during your birthday month!

If you don't see your name in the newsletter, we don't know your birthday. Let us know and your name will happily be added to birthday list!

November

Linda Leber – 1st
James O'Pecko – 6th
Jennifer Mayers – 15th
Joyce Lomma – 23rd

December

Sally Roberts – 1st
Rachel Bembas – 2nd
Helene Tinsley – 4th
Debbie Edwards - 10th
Mary Hayes – 21st
Mary Pucul – 24th
Sue Bidwell – 26th
Lynn Bott – 29th
Maureen Kupiec – 30th

January

Jennifer Wohlgemuth - 6th
Janelle Zigon - 11th
Melody Droppa – 13th
Carolyn Johnson – 22nd
JohnStahl – 27th
Judy Borosky – 28th

February

Joan Reading – 1st
JoAnn Hall – 4th
Susan Haff – 13th
Rachael Knowlton – 19th
Matilda Gavalis – 23rd
Louise Venturella – 26th

Count your age by
friends, not years.
Count your life by
smiles, not tears.

~John Lennon

Spotlight on Members

All of our members have wonderful and personal stories to share about their life and love of gardening. We thank Juliana Piccini for sharing hers with us.

I am Juliana Piccini, the Corresponding Secretary for the Mountain View Garden Club; the person who sends the birthday cards! I have been a member for over 10 years. My husband Ed and I have lived in Greenfield Township for 36 years. Our daughter Sarah lives in Scott Township.

I was a member of the 1st graduating class of Valley View, then received a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's in Reading Education, both from Marywood College. My first and only teaching job was in Valley View, teaching 1st grade then I became a Reading Specialist (Title 1) teacher. I retired after 35 years of service to pursue things I didn't have time for before.

I became a docent for the Lackawanna Historical Society and lead walking tours around downtown Scranton, and also lead tours at the Anthracite Heritage Museum for school groups. That is the closest I come to teaching now! On weekends you can find me at craft shows where I sell fabric purses and kitchen accessories, aprons, potholders, etc. I am also a quilter, making patchwork quilts and tee shirt memory quilts. Since 2006, I have made 86 quilts. Lastly I have my garden – both flower and vegetable. As you know that takes up a lot of time from April to October. I enjoy attending garden club meeting and various activities and am grateful for all the wonderful people I have met and spend time with.

Grant Committee

The MVGC awards both Community and Educational Grants to organizations and teachers in the local communities whose projects reflect the goals of the garden club.

The Susquehanna County Masters Gardeners received a community grant to support the Seeds to Supper Program in Forest City. Twenty-six participants were enrolled in the beginner vegetable gardening program. The link below gives details to the program:

[Seed to Supper Program Grows New Gardeners — Susquehanna County — Master Gardener](#)

Two teachers, one from Carbondale High School and the other from Fells Charter School, received an educational grant for the 2024-2025 school year. They presented their programs at the October meeting.

Recently, it was decided to extend the opportunity to apply for an educational grant to teachers in the Susquehanna School District Area. This better reflects the mission of the MVGC to “share our knowledge and love of gardening while beautifying the Elk Mountain area and surrounding communities.”

Several applications have been submitted by teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. The grant committee will soon review and evaluate the teacher's applications. The recipients will be announced in the next newsletter.

Clifford Community Center Cleanup September 30, 2025



Much to be done!



Hard at work!



Fruits of our labor



Thanks to our hard working crew!

A Few Poems for Winter

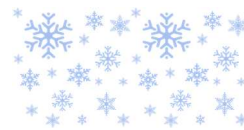


Dust of Snow

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree.

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

~Robert Frost



Snowflakes spill from heaven's hand
Lovely and chaste like smooth white sand.
A veil of wonder laced in light
Falling Gently on a winters night.

Graceful beauty raining down
Giving magic to the lifeless ground.
Each snowflake like a falling star
Smiling beauty that's spun afar.

Till earth is dressed in a robe of white
Unspoken poem the hush of night.

~Linda A. Copp



August 19, 2025

It was a delightful evening as members of the Mountain View Garden Club gathered at Rosaliano's in Carbondale to celebrate the club's twentieth anniversary. Memories were shared and friendships rekindled as members spoke of their treasured experiences with the club's many activities and events.



A few memories from the past on display



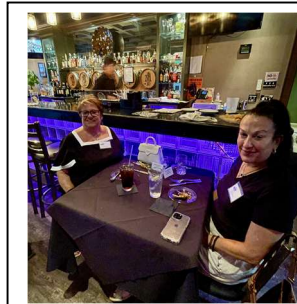


Our president, Katie Cicilioni, welcomes all and shares her excitement about the anniversary.



Thank you Katie and JoAnn for organizing this special evening.

The evening was enjoyed by all!



Vermiculture Composting

September 16

Presented by Master Gardener
Tammi Smith



The **red wiggler worm**, a litter dweller, is most commonly used in vermicomposting.

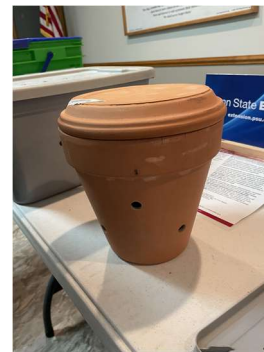


A few of the red wiggler worms from Tammi's worm bins.

A worm bin can be as simple as an opaque plastic tote with a secure lid and sufficient hole to insure aeration and drainage.

Tammi was a wealth of enthusiasm and information about earthworms, their biology, and benefits in the garden:

- Most earthworms are not native to North America; they came with the colonists.
- There are over 3,500 species of earthworms.
- There can be over 1,000 worms per square foot of a garden.
- Earthworms absorb oxygen and moisture through their skin.
- Earthworms are decomposers; their borrows help aerate the soil; their castings are rich in nutrients and help soil retain moisture.
- There are three types of earthworms; litter dwellers, topsoil dwellers, and subsoil dwellers



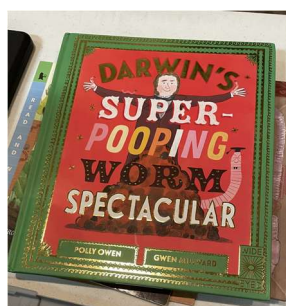
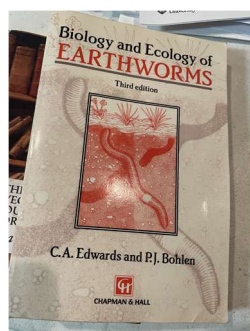
Invite worms into your garden. Drill a few openings into a clay pot, bury it even with the soil level, and add kitchen scrapes and other vegetation. A simple covering will help keep pests away and allow you to easily add more material.



Benjamin and Rachel observe the red wigglers!



Worm castings, rich in moisture and nutrients can help enrich the soil.



A few of the books Tammi brought with her.



Tammi brought "Worm Tea Bags" to share. Soak the casting in water overnight and use as a fertilizer!



Joan Reading shared some pawpaw fruit from her brother's garden. The pawpaw tree is native to North America and its fruit was quite popular with the early colonists. Member who were able to participate in the trip to *The Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery* in June were introduced to the pawpaw tree during the tour.

Our recording secretary, Maureen Kupiek, transcribed much of the vermiculture presentation. The link is below:

https://www.mountainviewgardenclub.org/files/ugd/7062a0_015f6495cdc9463296f3b57387c62630.pdf

Presentation by Educational Grant Recipients

October 21, 2025



The 2024-2025 grant recipients: Ms. Higgins from Carbondale High School; Ms. Wood, Ms Gaylets and Ms. Swartzfager from Fell Charter School



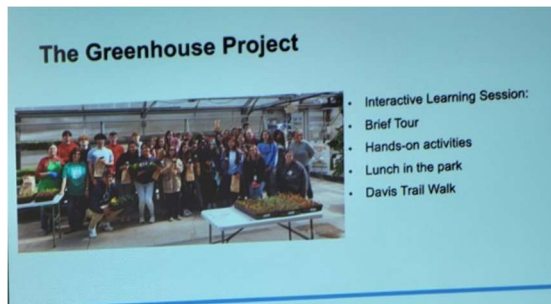
Fell Charter teachers explain their Pollinator Garden project. Students from grades K to 8 were involved in different aspects of the project.



Students from Carbondale's hydroponics class traveled to the Greenhouse Project in Nay Aug Park. The toured the greenhouse and were able to bring plants back to their classroom to nurture and grow.



One of the teachers is a bee keeper and brought them to the school for the students to see and hear.



*Thank you to Sally Roberts for providing the pictures from the evening.