



March 2025

"I LOVE the winter!" ...

exclaimed my new friend after I had recently moved to Forest City in January of 2020. I thought, "*Hmmm, I don't know if I've ever heard anyone say THAT before.*" However, after some time passed, I could see her logic that summer was filled to the brim of festivals, get-togethers, and outdoor activities. She said that for her it was a time to rest and have indoor fun. Since then, I have tried to cultivate my winters for reflection and to enjoy cozy activities inside. I also have our local Rail-Trail to thank for learning how to fully appreciate our beautiful surroundings in the winter. Books like *The Little Book of Hygge* and *How to Winter* are wonderful resources to help us learn from the Scandinavian culture on embracing the dark and cold months. After all, research consistently shows that they are some of the happiest countries in the world!

For gardeners, winter is a time to rest our hands and to dream. I trust you have had a chance to ponder about new additions or even omissions, in your spaces. Our Board has also been active planning for our special 20th Anniversary year. The Planning Committee has put together many

educational sessions, a trip to Lehigh Valley, garden hopping, and more. Our annual Plant Sale will be June 1st and proceeds continue to fund our grants. Over the winter, we awarded Carbondale High School and Fell Charter School with Educational Grants. Lastly, we will celebrate this milestone year with an Anniversary Dinner, looking back over the years of accomplishments and fellowship.

I hope you'll join us for this special year of programs and events!

Looking forward to growing with you,
Katie Cicilioni
President





August 19, 2025



The MVGC is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this summer and we would love for you to join us in observing the event! The committee is working on plans for the celebration and as soon as they are finalized you will be the first to know!

For the latest details, check your email, future newsletters and our website

<https://www.mountainviewgardenclub.org>

Do you have photographs (hard-copy or digital) or other memorabilia from past Mountain View Garden Club events and activities? The anniversary committee would like to use them as part of this year's celebration.

Contact Janelle Zigon,
Janelle@nep.net

February:

Joan Reading - 1st
Joann Hall - 4th
Susan Haff - 13th
Matilda Gavalis - 23rd
Louise Venturella - 26

March:

Ann Marie Noone - 4th
Ethel Breuche - 10th
Kim Ezman - 14th
Lisa Thomas - 24th

April:

Ann Marie Warren - 3rd
Jane Mathews - 5th
Dona Warner - 8th
Josephine Copp-Salko - 12th
Nicole Crawford - 14th
Mary Ann Opecko - 20th
Mary Sue Salko - 27th

May:

Bobbi Achey - 3rd
Juliana Piccini - 9th

Mountain View Garden Club 2025 Programs

MARCH 18

Winter Sowing presented by MVGC members Louise Guszick and Janelle Zigon

APRIL 15

Pruning presented by Retired State Forester Jim Kessler

MAY 20

Recycling presented by Markieann Muncie from Lackawanna County Recycling and Environmental Sustainability Center

JUNE 1

Plant Exchange/Sale and Marketplace at the Clifford Community Center

JUNE 17

Trip to Edge of the Woods Native Nursery and Neighboring Rose Gardens (members and guests)

JULY 15

Garden Hopping co-hosted by JoAnn Hall and Janie Mathews (members and guests)

AUGUST 19

20th Anniversary Celebration

Check email and future newsletters for further information and updates! (members and guests)

SEPTEMBER 16

Vermiculture Composting presented by Master Gardener Tammi Smith

OCTOBER 21

Report from this year's Educational Grant Recipients

NOVEMBER 18

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

DECEMBER 10

Holiday Party (Wednesday) at Pettinato's Restaurant, Carbondale (members and guests)

Join us for the first meeting of the year on March 18th when Janelle and Louise will demonstrate the technique of winter sowing. Start cool weather seeds early for an early harvest regardless of the weather. Bring a one-gallon milk jug or a similar sized transparent or translucent container to the meeting. Also, if you have any early vegetable seeds (such as spinach, lettuce, cabbage, onions, Swiss chard) or hardy annual flower seeds (marigolds or snapdragons) bring them as well.

The Mountain View Garden Club usually meets at the Clifford Township Fire House at 6:45 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Some of this year's programs are scheduled for a different time or location. Be sure to check your email and future newsletters for updates and additional information.



Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday March 9, 2025.

Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour!

PLANT SALE/EXCHANGE AND MARKET PLACE

Sunday June 1, 2025

The local meteorologists may still be calling for freezing temperatures, but our gardens will soon be sprouting and our busy gardening season is about to begin! That means it will soon be time for the Plant Sale/Exchange and Marketplace. This yearly event is the main fundraiser for the Mountain View Garden Club and helps to fund our many programs and activities, as well as the Community and Educational Grants we are able to award each year.

There are many ways you can help toward the success of the event.

- Save 8-gallon plastic plant pots for our digs. Bring them to the April and May meetings.
- Donate unwanted garden and household items to the Second Hand Rose table.
- Dig, divide and pot perennials to donate.
- Join fellow members at scheduled digs.
- Donate a basket for the raffle
- And, of course, volunteer to help with the event. There are many jobs to be done!

The Mountain View Garden Club is looking for vendors and crafters who would enjoy being part of the Marketplace on June 1st? If you, or anyone you know, would like to be part of the day, contact JoAnn Hall at jodihall@nep.com.

Grant Committee

The Mountain View Garden Club is, once again, pleased to be able to help teachers in local school districts with educational grants. Area teachers are encouraged to apply for a grant of up to \$500 to help supplement their instruction in curriculum areas related to gardening, the environment and other related disciplines. This year's recipients are:

- Carbondale High School's Greenhouse Project. The students in the hydroponics class will take a trip to The Greenhouse Project at Nay Aug Park, Scranton. After touring the greenhouse students will bring plants back to the classroom where they will continue to nurture and grow them.
- Fell Charter School Bloom and Grow Project. Students in kindergarten through 8th grade will be involved in planting, maintaining and harvesting a garden. Students will be able to sample the foods grown in the garden.

We are pleased and proud of our efforts to reach out and help local teachers to enrich their students educational experience and to help further develop the student's understanding and appreciation of the environment and love of gardening.

Spotlight on Members

*This month we feature JoAnn Hall
in the "Spotlight!"*

I am honored to have been asked to tell you my story for the garden club newsletter. I'll start at the very beginning...

I was born in Kansas City and at the age of eight, my family moved to Pennsylvania. My mom's great uncle had started the NEP Telephone Company in 1900 and my grandmother convinced my dad to come north and learn the telephone business. We moved to Crystal Lake in 1952. I started working at the phone company as a teenager (after school and summers) and thought it was pretty cool to be able to pick up a pay phone and say to the operator "Hi. This is JoAnn. Can you please ring the house for me?" I graduated from Forest City High School in 1962 in the first graduating class of the "new school" on the hill. My only college education was an executive secretarial course at Lackawanna Junior College.

Fritz Hall's family bought a cottage at the lake in 1954. Fritz and I "liked" each other when I was 13 and he was 15, then went our separate ways until the summer of 1964 and got married in 1965. Fritz and his father were in cast iron manufacturing in Hallstead so that's where we settled (of course, always spending summers at our favorite place, Crystal Lake). We had two children and I was one of those stay-at-home moms which I think are now a thing of the past. In addition to raising kids, I did a lot of

volunteer work with the school, the church, the library and scouting.

Fritz's dad had a partner in the foundry business which seemed to work okay until there were seven guys from the next generation who didn't seem to have the same management plan. So in 1975, we moved to Dallas (PA) and Fritz and his brother took over a smaller foundry that the company had acquired in Benton which is out past Ricketts Glen. And in Dallas I found myself volunteering for the same basic groups as in Hallstead but on a much larger scale. I started the Closet Boutique where we sold kids' used clothes at the church, I organized a drug and alcohol education organization in the school, had cub scout meetings at our house, delivered meals on wheels, worked at blood drives, served on multiple boards over the years, formed the Teddy Bear Patrol where I worked with police departments and emergency responders in getting teddy bears into their vehicles to give a child (and sometimes even adults) who found themselves in a traumatic situation and did a lot of church work (which I still do). I thought about printing up name cards that identified me as "Domestic Engineer and Fanatic Volunteer". Probably one of the most fun and interesting things I got involved in after my kids left for college was Celebrity Luncheons where I had the opportunity to meet and work with names such as Soledad O'Brien, Henry Winkler, Charlton Heston, Doris Kearns Goodwin, John Stossell, David Baldacci and Rue McClanahan.

About my kids...my son Jeff graduated from Drexel, got an MBA at Wilkes and joined his father in the foundry business where he is now following in Fritz's footsteps, constantly expanding and modernizing the business which employs 275 people. My daughter Kimberley graduated from Elizabethtown, got her masters at College Misericordia, worked for Wilkes-Barre General Hospital in marketing for many years and is now working with an interior designer and loving (almost) every minute of it. I have five grandsons ranging from ages 14 to 27 who are a huge part of my life.

Fritz passed away in 2013, following which my mom moved in with me for four years. Probably one of the most rewarding things I've done in my life was having that special time with her!

We moved back to the lake on a relatively full-time basis in 2002 and I've continued to volunteer by serving in various different capacities with two lake associations and in 2008 I organized an annual Luncheon with a Local Author to benefit the Forest City Library. In 2005 I was a founding member of the Mountain View Garden Club, where I have served two terms as president...and I don't have to tell you the rest of that story!

~Thank you JoAnn for sharing your story.



Community Clean-Up

May 20, 2025 at 10 am

Join your fellow club members at the Clifford Community Center to beautify the flower bed area for the Memorial Day celebrations. We will then move on to the Clifford Twp. Fire Co. Rain date is Thursday May 22 at 10 am.



If you haven't paid your dues yet, please send them to:

Mountain View Garden Club
PO Box 81
Clifford, PA 18413

OR bring them to the March 18th meeting!
Dues are still \$30



Tinsel Trail

The Mountain View Garden Club once again participated in the Tinsel Trail Program sponsored by the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds from the program are donated to a local food pantry. Thank you Juliana Piccini for once again coordinating this project.

Kissing Ball Project

November 19, 2024

Members hard at work



Greens ready to be transformed into original creations!



Janelle offers suggestions on making the Kissing Balls.



Just a few examples of beautiful Kissing Balls.
We are a creative group!



Holiday Party

December 11, 2024

Good Friends, Good Times
& Good Food



Thank you Helene, Janelle and Joan for a wonderful evening!



Thank you all for your contributions to the American Red Cross for hurricane relief.

