



This photo by Michelle Davies won honorable mention at the Bloomsburg Fair

Inside this issue

- 2 *Meet the 2025 board*
Garden Manager notes
- 3 *Wildlife at the garden*
- 4 *R.E.C. Campers Return*
- 5 *SU GIVE Lends a Hand*
- 6 *4th Grader grows a 50 lb.
Pumpkin*
- 7 *Harlequin bugs ruin
crops*
- 8 *HS floriculture class visits
again*



About the Cover Photo

Michelle Davies is an amateur photographer from Watsontown, PA, who got into photography a little over a year ago. She loves being out in nature and photographing wildlife. In addition to this honorable mention, another one of her pictures received first place at the Bloomsburg Fair this year. She also won first place and honorable mention on her pictures in 2023. One of her photos was featured in the 2024 Service 1st Federal Credit Union calendar for the month of August. Another one will appear on the 2025 calendar for the month of February. She has started taking senior pictures and family portraits and is currently developing a webpage and social media presence.

Meet the 2025 Board

By Dan Ressler



Photo by Arden Miller

2025 Board members from left to right:
 Vice President: Dan Ressler, Treasurer: Jennie Ressler, Garden Manager: Roy Swazey,
 Secretary: Bill French, President: Tim Nicholas

Elections for the 2024-2025 East Snyder Community Garden board members wrapped up at the garden picnic held at the garden on September 8. Seventeen members of the garden voted either online or in person for the slate of candidates. Here are the new garden board members:

William (Bill) French has been gardening for a long time. He started with mail-ordered strawberry plants as a kid and dug a bed for them at his parents' house). While he is new to Pennsylvania, he's found that the people he's met and interacted with at the community garden have been very warm and welcoming and he thanks them for helping him to get used to a new place. He hopes to be part of creating a sense of community as a board member.

Tim Nicholas and his wife Debby live in Selinsgrove in the summer and Port Charlotte, Florida in the winter. He has a degree in accounting and has 40+ years of management experience. He began gardening at age 12 when he started picking strawberries on a neighboring farm. He hopes to contribute his skills and expertise to further the mission and success of East Snyder Community Garden.

Dan Ressler earned a Ph.D. in Soil Science at Iowa State University and teaches at Susquehanna University. He is entering his second year on the board as Vice President and has enjoyed serving the garden community. He started gardening with his parents as a boy and

returned to gardening in Iowa and again here in Selinsgrove. He helped with garden rosters and plot maps over the last few years.

Jennie Ressler has been gardening with Dan for about ten years at ESCG but started gardening with her parents growing vegetables in the back yard. She has served as treasurer and will continue in this position. She values the community garden and would like to do her part to help it continue.

Roy Swazey has been a founding member of the East Snyder Community Garden and has worked as Garden Manager in recent years. He hopes to provide gardening spaces for people into the future.

Notes from the Garden Manager

By Roy Swazey

There are more than a few hoses spread out around the garden. They will be collected and drained before winter sets in in earnest. Many will be coiled and tied in ovals that will fit into our three hose boxes. Some will be coiled and stored inside for the winter. Anyone wanting to help with that should talk to me,

To reuse our garden fencing, it must be cleaned of vegetation, rolled and tied and moved to some storage area.

Sorry about the rabbits and deer! There were just so many more of them than ever before.

There is some cardboard around (some still needs detaped), plus a good bit of newspaper if you need that to help with preparation for next year.

2024 Produce Donation Report

by Arden Miller

The rabbits and deer did not eat all our produce. As of the end of September, 497 lbs. of quality produce was donated to various organizations in eastern Snyder County. Our gardeners enjoy sharing.



Fawns whose mom taught them which garden vegetables are the tastiest.

Photos by Edie Cox

Fox at the Garden

by Arden Miller

A fox caused great concern at the garden. The fox bit three people in the neighborhood surrounding the garden before being found in the cornfield near the garden and dispatched on July 25th. Gardeners were alerted to the danger by state police who recommended not gardening until the fox was killed. The fox was given to the Pennsylvania Game Commission for rabies testing. While confirmation of rabies was not shared with the garden board, normally foxes are not dangerous and will usually flee from humans unless they are rabid.



Photo by Freepik

According to the Centers for Disease Control, rabies is a rare but serious public health concern in the United States. Before 1960, several hundred people died of rabies each year. The decrease in human deaths from rabies to fewer than 10 annually is directly related to vaccination of pets and animal control programs, public health tracking and testing of human and animal rabies cases. While rabies is uncommon in humans, three out of four Americans live in a community where raccoons, skunks, or foxes carry this deadly disease.

While this fox was a concern, in general foxes are welcome in the garden. Foxes hunt and eat rodents, rabbits, mice, rats, and other animals that can be considered pests. All community gardeners who have found bites taken from their root vegetables are happy to have a form of pest control! 🦊

REC Campers Return

The Regional Engagement Center (REC) campers and their counselors had an end of the summer camp visit to garden on August 10th. The campers dug up their underwear, checked out their tomato plants, ate fresh carrots/green tomatoes and green beans and did flower art. It was good to see them again.

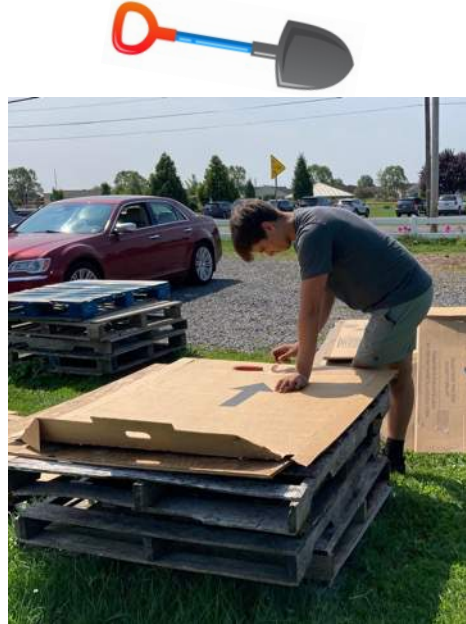


Photos by Arden Miller

The Regional Engagement Center, or REC, is a community center in Selinsgrove that offers a free Youth Drop-In Program, a summer camp, exercise classes, and intergenerational programs to ignite the human spirit and connect all ages. To learn more about this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, please [visit their website](#).

SU GIVE Lends a Hand

Hurrah, Susquehanna University freshman are again participating in [SU GIVE](#) (Susquehanna University: Get Into Volunteer Experiences). SU G.I.V.E. introduces freshman to the Selinsgrove community and promotes unity between both the students and local agencies like East Snyder Community Garden. On August 24th, the SU freshman who “gave” at the garden weeded, moved mulch, de-taped cardboard, dug potatoes and enjoyed fresh produce and snacks. We are thankful for their assistance.



“No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another. Thank you.”

~Joseph Addison

My Pumpkin

by Alannah G.
Fourth Grader at Selinsgrove Intermediate School



My pumpkin was a class project through the summer to see which student could grow the largest pumpkin. The high school greenhouse gave each third grader a pumpkin sprout to plant and nurture over the summer to see which student could grow the largest pumpkin. My grandma let me plant it in her garden at the East Snyder Community Garden. I watered my pumpkin plant and put newspaper under the pumpkins as they grew. It was fun watching them grow and exciting to see it get bigger and bigger. (It was fun chasing rabbits too.) When my pumpkin was big enough, we put it in the back of my grandma's car and drove it to the high school greenhouse to be weighed. My pumpkin weighed 50 lbs. and was one of several larger pumpkins. I won 3rd place!!



Photos by Linda Hickman



Designed by brgfx / Freepik

We love to hear from kids!
Send your garden drawings, photos, or creative
writing to escgpanews@gmail.com.

Nightmare in the garden; Harlequin cabbage bug

by Arden Miller; poem by Deborah Reed Filanowski

To add insult to the injury of deer and rabbits, the harlequin bug (*Murgantia histrionica*) has decided to make East Snyder Community Garden a home. Harlequin bugs came to the US from Central America. They can now be found in all states and some parts of Canada. The expansion of the harlequin bug's habitat underscores the adaptability and resilience of this pest.

The harlequin bugs that survived the winter at the garden found overwintered kale to eat, multiplied and then, searching for food, took over the Cleomes and turned them into brown stalks and crunched their way through horseradish and rutabaga leaves. Fall planted brassicas were ruined in most plots. Many gardeners gave up on their brassicas, so the harlequin bug found nasturtiums and is experimenting with other crops such as tillage radish. They are hungry and will move to other plants and vegetables in search of food.

Management of these voracious, destructive bugs includes hand picking (a difficult task), crushing eggs on the underside of leaves, use of approved organic insecticides, and planting under insect netting or light weight row covers. It requires vigilance and time. The garden board is exploring having an educational session about trap cropping for insect management. Trap crops consisting of early planted, kale, mustard or rapeseed have been used to divert overwintering populations. Adults begin depositing eggs about two weeks after becoming active in the spring so a trap crop, used properly, may help prevent widespread infestation. Because adult harlequin bugs remain throughout the winter in plant debris, gardeners should bury plant debris from the affected areas.

Click on these links to learn more about this devastating insect and how to control them. [Bug of the Week blog](#) and [Bug Guide.net](#)

Murgantia Histrionica

The Harlequin makes his way across the stage,
 silent in his approach,
 gaudy in appearance,
 thwarting his master's plans
 and entertaining the audience.
 Not so welcome, harlequin bugs,
 noisy insects, call out to mates,
 with songs of sex and promises of food.
 A hard-black shell shimmers red and orange,
 does homage to its namesake.
 This is no benign bug,
 chewing and chomping its way
 through cruciferous vegetables
 sparing none with a voracious appetite
 and plenty of progeny.
 As if to add insult, the carapace is hard
 and difficult to crush and beware this
 insect is weaponized with stink bombs.



Photo by Arden Miller

Deborah Reed Filanowski is a resident of Selinsgrove since 2020. She is the author of one chapbook, "...and guppies eat their young," has been published in online and print journals and was recently awarded first prize in the 2024 Perry County Poetic Excellence Contest.

High school floriculture students visit the garden

East Snyder Community Garden is happy to be a resource for the community. This is the second year the Selinsgrove High School floriculture class under the direction of Valerie Fry has cut flowers for class projects. We look forward to seeing photos of their finished work.



Photos by Arden Miller



pikisuperstar / Freepik



Photos by Arden Miller

We invite you to share your wisdom, photos, stories, or creative writing. Please email newsletter submissions to Lori: escgpanews@gmail.com

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Photo by Sarah Moore

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