



Skullduggery

March 2010

The Official Newsletter of the Susquehanna Mysteries Alliance

Mystery Books
UFOs & Aliens
Cryptozoology
Preserving History
Psychic Abilities
Unsolved Murders
Vampires
Mystical Locations
Angels
Interesting Crimes
Werewolves
Ghosts & Hauntings
Time Slips
Mythical Creatures
Telepathy
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Life After Death
Legends
Haunted Places
Magic
Miracles
Premonitions
Telepathy
Halloween
Lost Treasures
Time Travel
Necromancy
Folklore
Zombies
Anomalous Zones
And More ...

Get a Clue

This month's meeting subject.

Gruesome Gardens, Wicked Weeds & Bizarre Botany

Not all flower gardens are an oasis of beauty and serenity--some are down-right scary! Perhaps you prefer a Halloween-theme garden or a moonlit path garden. Dare to be different! This month, we'll present some unusual gardening ideas in time for this spring's planting season.

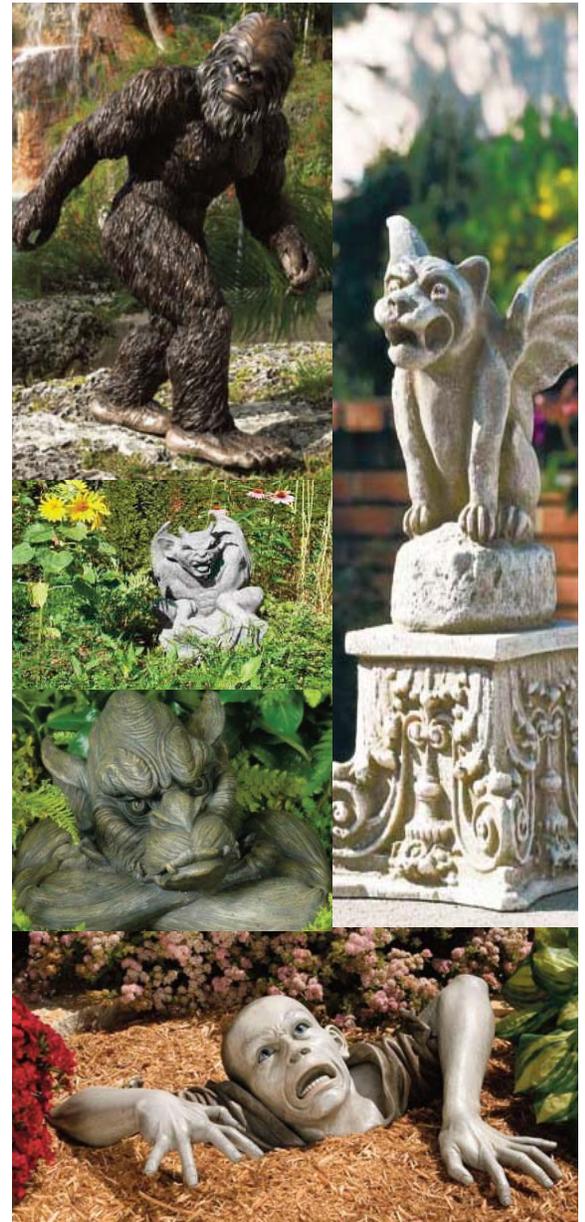
Also up for discussion will be bizarre, stinky and poisonous plants. We will also learn about some gardening decor still used today that has a gruesome history.

Hear spooky tales of herbal lore that has been handed-down for centuries and the unique qualities of certain herbs. For instance, did you know that it was once believed that carrying lavender allowed the possessor to see ghosts?

Whether you have an acre of gardens, a backyard flowerbed or simple plant boxes on your property--you can impress (or terrify) your friends and neighbors with your creepy new knowledge of botany.

Kiss your mundane landscaping goodbye and adopt a new view on your outdoor patio, porch or deck--make it gruesome by using information from our presentation at March's meeting.

Weird Statues for your Garden of Strangeness ...



Soothe Your Spirit at the Five Senses Garden

Also a great place for a picnic or to just sit and read a good mystery book!

Although you will want to wait until spring has sprung to visit, Five Senses Garden is one of Harrisburg's best kept secrets and ... it's FREE!

A one-of-a-kind sensory experience started on the Capital Area Greenbelt in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1996-- Five Senses Gardens has held its ground (and flowers and wildlife) despite torrential floods and environmental adversity, with help from volunteers and the skillful hands of its groundskeepers.

Like the butterflies drawn to the variety of plants in each of the gardens, visitors flock to the gardens to experience the natural sensations, carefully cultivated to challenge the five senses. An intense, personal connection with nature has prompted some visitors to utilize the Five Senses Gardens as a site for vow exchanges or as a final resting place for ashes of beloved family members.

The miracle of nature fosters a sense of peace and tranquility that has led to therapeutic relief and wonderment for all ages. A lovely place to meditate, read or traverse the stone labyrinth while contemplating your life path.

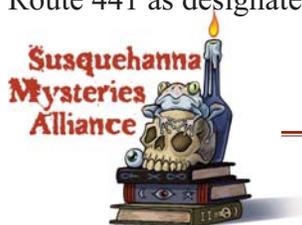
"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order." -- John Burroughs

Open Sunrise to Sunset Daily (including holidays). Free tours are held by appointment. Call Shirley Disend (717) 526-7962 or email caga@caga.org with "Five Senses" in the subject line.

Directions: From Harrisburg, take Interstate 83 North to Exit 45 (Paxtang Street, Harrisburg Mall). From the exit, go to the traffic light and turn left. Go straight to second traffic light (Mall Road) and turn right. Go past the Dauphin County Prison on the right. At the stop sign, turn right. The Five Senses Gardens will be visible on the right as you cross the bridge over Spring Creek. The Five Senses Gardens entrance is 100 yards from the bridge. Free Greenbelt parking for the Gardens is available across Route 441 as designated by signs.



The Labyrinth
Follow the Stones ...



MockBeth: The Scottish Gardening Manual

Flowers bloom as black as night
Removing color from your sight
Nightmarish vines block your way
Thorns reach out to catch their prey
And by the pricking of your thumbs
Realize that their poison numbs
From frightful blooms, rank odors seep
Bats and beasties fly and creep
'Cross this evil land, ill winds blow
Despite the darkness, mushrooms glow
All will rot and decompose
For something wicked this way grows ...



It's a Mystery to Me



Books of the Month

Poisoned Petals

Joyce & Jim Lavene

Peggy Lee is just about to deliver some endangered sunflowers to Darmus Appleby when a gas explosion blows out his door-and Peggy finds her fellow botanist dead on the kitchen floor.

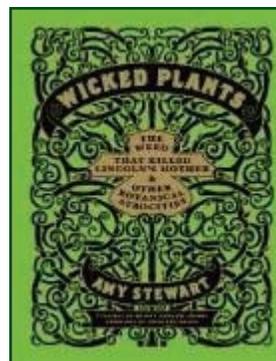
Two weeks later his brother dies, with an overpoweringly sweet purple hyacinth tucked in his pocket. Now Peggy must follow her nose-and some cryptic clues from an internet informant-to root out a killer before he strikes again.



Perfect Poison

Joyce & Jim Lavene

When drowned bodies start surfacing with an unusual plant caught in one of the victims' hair, forensic botanist and detective's widow Peggy Lee is on the case.



Beware! The sordid lives of plants behaving badly!

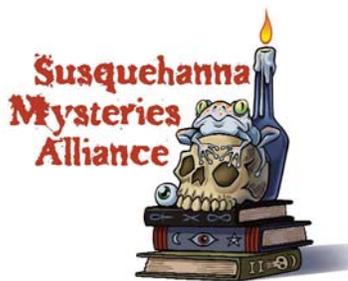
For more creepy, bizarre garden stories, check out the book

Wicked Plants

By Amy Stewart

Menacing botanical illustration render a ghastly portrait of evildoers that may be lurking in your own backyard. Drawing on history, medicine, science and legend, this compendium of bloodcurdling botany will entertain, enlighten and alarm even the most intrepid gardeners and nature lover.





2010 Meetings

- April 28** Local Lost Treasures
- May 26 Fairies, Gnomes, Pixies & Sprites
- June 23** Get a Clue:
Sherlock Holmes Deciphered
- July 28 Superstitions, Curses & Hexes
- August 25** You Don't Know Jack!
Crimes of Jack the Ripper
- September 22 UFOs & Aliens
- October 27** Area Haunted Locations
History of Halloween
- November 24 Strange Creatures in Pennsylvania
- December 22** Holiday Gathering
Showing of "A Christmas Carol"

Did you know ...

A human fetus develops fingerprints at 18 weeks.



A very special thank you to our hosts at:

The Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop

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Web: mysterybooksonline.com



- 3/4 lb. Butter
- 1 3/4 Cups Confectioners Sugar
- 1 12 oz. Jar Peanut Butter
- 1 8 oz. block Cream Cheese, Softened
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla
- 1 Bag of Chocolate Chips
- 1 Tablespoon Shortening

Cream together butter and confectioners sugar. Add peanut butter, cream cheese and vanilla. Cream well and chill for an hour.

Shape into eggs or balls; place on wax paper on top of a cookie sheet and refrigerate for one hour. *If mixture is soft to handle, add confectioners sugar until you reach desired consistency.*

In a large microwave-safe bowl, melt chocolate chips and shortening on high for one minute. Stir well. If not completely melted, microwave for 15 seconds at a time stirring between each session, until completely melted.

Dip eggs into the chocolate, place back onto the wax paper and refrigerate until the chocolate hardens.

