



Opportunity . . . Choice . . . Support . . . Recovery
Skills of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.
www.skillscentralpa.org



Contact: Lori Lange; Public Relations/ Development Coordinator
(814)-238-3245 ext. 321
Public Service Announcement – For Immediate Release

Discovery Garden Series Highlights 2012

Gardening enthusiasts are invited to attend a series of gardening classes held in cooperation with Hollidaysburg Borough and Penn State Extension. Tom Ford, Area Commercial Horticulture Educator with Penn State Extension, Cambria County teaches the classes. The series of classes are free and open to the public. In return, participants are asked to volunteer 18 hours at the Discovery Garden throughout the growing season from May-October 2012.

Participants will receive a certificate of completion. After the classes are over the volunteer work days are scheduled on Thursday mornings throughout the growing season. A minimum of three to four volunteer hours per month from May through October will be expected. This is only one morning a month. Volunteer assignments include spring clean up, planting, weeding, deadheading, guiding garden tours and helping with special events. Other opportunities are available for volunteers interested in providing educational activities for Hollidaysburg Area School District students, individuals participating in the horticultural therapy program of Skills and other community groups.

Extension Educator, Tom Ford brings a wealth of experience and expertise. Class topics will include:

- Session I: Plant Health Care Begins with Soil Quality
 - Ford will discuss how gardeners can improve soil fertility through the use of cover crop, compost, and organic fertilizers.
- Session II: Plant Health Care Starts with Plant Selection, Planting, and Maintenance
 - Ford will discuss how to expertly select, plant, and maintain landscape plants.
- Session III: Plant Health Care: Using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Techniques in Landscape Settings.
 - Ford will discuss how to apply IPM practices/techniques in your garden & landscape.
- Session IV: Plant Health Care: Application of Horticultural Best Management Practices in Landscape Settings
 - Ford will demonstrate how gardeners can employ best management practices through hands-on activities at the Discovery Garden in Hollidaysburg.

Each session will be held in a classroom setting, except for the last one which will be held at Discovery Garden in Legion Park for hands-on gardening experience. This intensive, limited-enrollment program will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at the Hollidaysburg Borough Building
Thursday, April 12, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at the Hollidaysburg Borough Building
Thursday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at the Hollidaysburg Borough Building
Thursday, April 26, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at Discovery Garden, Legion Park

Built as a memorial to Courtney Claton, a Hollidaysburg resident, Discovery Garden, a project of Skills Foundation, is one of the area's most beautiful spots. Being handicap accessible, people of all backgrounds and ages can visit the garden for beauty, horticulture, solitude, discovery, and inspiration.

To register for classes or for more information, contact Patti Duron at the Hollidaysburg Borough Office at (814) 695-7543 ext. 308. Registration deadline is March 30, 2012.