

DFGC February 2022 Newsletter



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President Message



Dear Garden Club Members,

I wish everyone a Very Happy, Healthy, Safe New Year! I hope you are all doing well and that this New Year will bring joy and happiness to everyone.

November 17th, 2021 was our first in person State meeting since November 2019. The meeting was held at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. Attendance exceeded 100 members. Thank you to Garden Gate Garden Club members for hosting and providing the centerpieces which were made with recycled materials. We also had the pleasure of the company of Mary Warshauer the National Garden Club President. Mary spoke briefly on her theme “Plant America – Play Outdoors”.

One highlight of the meeting was the remembrance of the dedication at the Memorial Garden for the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base which was held in May 2011. The DVD produced of the dedication was played continuously prior to the meeting. The garden is a private place for the families of the fallen. The DVD included pictures of the garden and important attendees. Joy Ericson who co-chaired the memorial garden project with Donna Curtis spoke of the Memorial Garden’s history. Both Alice Witterholt (DFGC President 2009-2011) who initiated the Memorial Garden project and Regina Brown (DFGC President 2011-2013) who completed the project were recognized for their involvement in the Memorial Garden.

The main highlight of the meeting was the Delaware Flower Show Judges Council (DFSJC) program titled “Twisted Trash” presented by Dottie Howatt chairperson of DFSJC. The program presented simple designs constructed of recycled/repurposed materials suitable for table centerpieces at a State meeting. DFSJC challenged clubs to volunteer to host a DFGC meeting (April, June or November 2022). Each hosting club will receive \$50 from the DFSJC to help fund the centerpieces made with recycled/

repurposed materials. The three participating club's centerpieces will be judged. The winning club will be announced at the April 2023 State meeting and will receive \$100.

The trial DFGC State meeting registration procedure was a success and will continue. Registrations were made through the dfgcregistrar@gmail.com. A representative from each Club delivered the Club check to Joan Simon the DFGC treasurer. Joan sat near the registration desk collecting the checks. This process eliminates changes of contact information for every meeting.

Two clubs had sales tables at the meeting. The profit split continues to be 60% Club / 40% DFGC. Your club might want to consider a sales table for the next meeting. The tables must be ordered in advance. Contact the Fundraising Chair Ginny Cardona to order a table.

Please consider applying for My President's Project "Grow Locally". The DFGC is offering grants of up to \$100/club. Use the grant to grow membership, grow awareness, grow a garden. Contact Presidents Project Chair Betty Kramarck for more information.

NEWSFLASH - I just received an email from David Robson the NGC Plant America Committee Chairman and want to share with all the good news. Coastal Gardeners has received a Plant America Community Grant for 2022-2023 year. These awards will be announced on the NGC website this week (Jan 24). Congratulations to Coastal Gardeners!!!

Please continue to send cards/notes to Dottie Howatt. Dottie appreciates everyone's concern. The cards and notes have been wonderful. Bob reads her the paper in the mornings and afternoon they read the notes and cards. Please respect her wish for privacy, no visits, no calls.

Another shout out for the MIA bag. The bag was brought to the Board and President's meeting held in July in Milford. If you were in attendance, please check to see if you have it. The bag contained DFGC letterhead and envelopes. Please contact Maureen Eisenhart if you should come across it.

I believe we all truly enjoyed seeing everyone and gathering safely at the November State meeting. I am looking forward to gather with you all again at the April State meeting!



"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring" (Lilly Pulitzer)

Barbara DeRue
DFGC President

First Vice President

The speaker for the April 20, 2022 DFGC meeting at the Executive Banquet Center in Newark will be Meghann Matwichuk, from the Delaware Ornithological Society. She will present the program "Backyard Birding in the First State". As always during this pandemic a lot will depend on mandates in effect at the time of our meeting.

Susan Newark
DFGC First Vice President

Second Vice President

We are back and in person! Mark your calendars!

April Delaware Federated Garden Clubs General Meeting

Date: April 20, 2022

Place: The Executive Banquet and Conference Center
205 Executive Drive
Newark, DE 19702

RSVP: Clubs respond to dfgcregistrar@gmail.com BY Thursday, March 31, 2022
Reservations open March 11th.
All reservations should be made through your Club Treasurer.

Cost: \$30 per person

We will follow the procedure used at the last meeting. The club treasurer or selected club representative will bring to the meeting (1) the club's single check made out to the DFGC and (2) the list of attendees sent to the registrar. The check and list will be given to the DFGC Treasurer (Joan Simon) who will be seated near the Registration Desk at the venue. The club is responsible to pay for all reservations sent to the registrar.

Registration opens at 9am with the meeting to begin at 10am. Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the business meeting with the program to follow.

The newly renovated Executive Banquet and Conference Center is easily accessible and offers plenty of space. Parking is plentiful and close to the building. The venue is all on one floor.

Sales tables will be available for a 60/40 split. Please contact me at MGCKCard@aol.com if you are interested or would like more details.

Ginny Cardona
DFGC Acting Second Vice President

~COMMITTEE REPORTS~

Awards

The DFGC Awards Committee met in late November to judge the award applications submitted by member clubs. Sixty-one (61) applications for DFGC awards were reviewed. Two NGC award applications were submitted and have been forwarded. Thirteen clubs submitted applications with at least three clubs from each of the four groups (A – less than 20, B – 20-29, C – 30-44, and D – 45-59) in 17 of the 21 categories.

It was encouraging to see that member clubs made efforts to overcome the challenges of social distancing and other COVID-19 related limitations. Even though there were no flower shows, our communities continued to benefit from the efforts of individual members and clubs to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility, fulfilling the mission of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

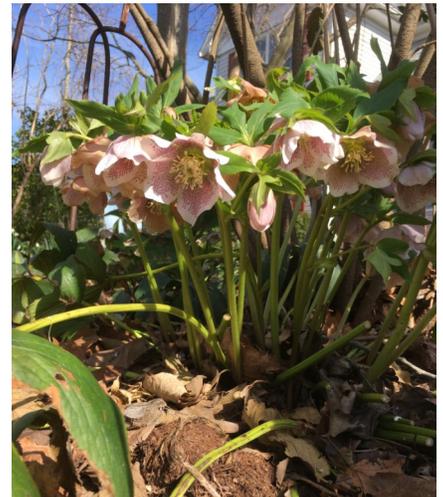


Thank you for your efforts and our sincere thanks for all that you do and for taking the time to document and submit awards applications so that you can be recognized and provide inspiration to others.

Submitted by: Mary Williford
DFGC Awards Chairman

Horticulture

In the middle of winter beautiful flowers in the garden are rare, but not totally missing. Usually in early February flower buds are popping if you know where to look. Under ratty, tatty semi-evergreen palm tree shaped leaves, the Lenten Roses are starting to bloom. Hellebores are about to begin their reign as Queen of the Garden before it warms. This is our time to crawl over the dried leaves and carefully prune away the hellebores' leaves from last year. It is best to snip stems off one at a time, to the basal rosette, making sure not to damage any new growth. Today, hellebores come in many colors and forms thanks to breeders and the plants own desires to share with each other.



If you don't already have a collection of winter garden hellebores – please check them out at your favorite plant places.

Some people consider them pricey, but they are very long termed in the garden after a little special care as youngsters. All readily available species and varieties of hellebore prefer highly organic, woodland soil, i.e., lots of compost and leaf mulch. Plants fare best in morning or dappled light. Hot summer sun could stress them. Most love growing under deciduous trees. They will take some drought if well-established but should not be allowed to become overly dry in their first three years. Hellebore roots will rot if they are in soils that are constantly wet. Most experts do not consider hellebores as short-term container plants. They tend to suffer any time their roots are disturbed. Hellebores do not need artificial fertilizers but enjoy an annual side-dressing of leaf compost in late fall. Make sure not to cover the center rosette or rot may occur.



Hellebores can be a cut flower – BUT should never be cut before the seeds have been set. Individual blooms taken earlier do not last a day. Seed-set branches can be treated with one tablespoon flower preservative + two tablespoons ethanol + one quart warm water. Do NOT increase the ethanol!

Hellebores will bloom for a month or more but hold their form until their seed is ready. This fact tells why they are showy in the garden for about three months. Often the color of the blooms will fade to a soft green while holding their shape.



I hope you enjoy some of the different hellebore varieties I have photographed in previous years in my February Garden. The hellebore is Queen only until the spring ephemerals emerge. Enjoy each beauty in her turn.



Submitted by: Marge Huntzinger
DFGC Horticulture Chair

Club Programs

Need ideas for your garden club meetings? Check out "DFGC Club Program Information" on the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs' webpage. <https://www.delawaregardenclubs.org/dfgc-forms-and-templates> Under PROGRAMS: click on "Program Guide for Local Clubs" to download the file. Or, if you've had a great speaker or field trip that's not on this list, please share it with other garden clubs by sending it to Marjorie Crofts at macrofts@aol.com. Thanks!

Marjorie Crofts
DFGC Club Programs Chair

Environment/Conservation/Legislation
Update Winter 2022

Legislation Updates

The Delaware Clean Water Trust oversees \$50 million in the fiscal year 2022 for water quality projects. The trust's strategic plan will be the major topic of discussion at the virtual public meetings,

as DNREC and the trust oversight committee seek input on the strategic plan through public comment. The committee was created by the [Clean Water for Delaware Act](#) to advise the Governor and the General Assembly, provide oversight of the Clean Water Trust account, and publish an annual report and strategic plan for clean water. The virtual public meetings were held Jan. 25, Feb. 2, and Feb. 10.

“A draft of a strategic plan framework is available at de.gov/cwi and will be presented at the meetings, but only as a starting point for public discussion. Public input and ideas are needed and encouraged to form the basis of the plan for Trust spending.

Clean Water Trust funding will touch almost every aspect of water quality improvement and water-related projects in the state including infrastructure for drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater; drainage programs; waterway management and beach preservation, and many other projects funded by state and federal resources such as the conservation reserve enhancement program, conservation cost-sharing and tax ditches.

The Clean Water Trust also collaborates with Governor Carney’s Clean Water Initiative for Underserved Communities that is a major component of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control’s environmental justice work with the state’s low-income, disadvantaged and underserved communities.”

(from [Delaware.gov News Release](#) webpage)

To cut down on electronic waste, a **Right to Repair** bill was introduced in 2020. Several amendments have been added and the bill is still active. HB22 creates the Delaware Digital Right to Repair Act. Currently when an electronic product such as a phone or electronic game breaks, it is only allowed to be repaired by the manufacturer. Parts are not available whether you are a consumer or a local repair shop. This act requires the manufacturer to make parts, documentation, tools, and updates available on fair and reasonable terms. The genesis of these type of bills around the country began when John Deere made repairing its tractors impossible for farmers who own them. However, manufacturers often lobby to prevent these “fair and reasonable” terms.

Conservation

Plastic Free Delaware is an organization Working toward a First State free of single use plastic pollution and a "Zero Waste First State." For more information and to get involved, visit their [website](#).

Sussex County has a renamed conservation headquarters, **The Vanderwende-Evans Conservation Center**, named after two long-serving and influential members of the Sussex Conservation Board. Today the District implements conservation practices through our agriculture, stormwater, and heavy equipment programs.

Delaware Land Preservation Coalition seeks \$25 million in new state open space funds. In the past, \$10 million was the annual investment but with the cost of land increasing, the buying power of that amount has decreased. Please contact your elected State officials to appropriate \$25 million before it is too late, and lands are lost to developers.

Delaware’s quiet conservationist: [Mt. Cuba](#). Check out this clip from WHYY on Mt. Cuba’s role in protecting wild lands in the First State.

Delaware Wild Lands owns and manages over 21,600 acres of land on Delmarva, that is a big job for a small staff! If you are interested in helping in our land management or volunteering at events, please fill out the new [Volunteer Interest Form](#) to receive updates about volunteer opportunities!

Suzanne D. Smith
DFGC Environment/Conservation/Legislation Chair

Membership

Why not consider the awarding of the DFGC Life Membership to an outstanding member of a your club as an honor for exceptional service or perhaps your outgoing president, etc. The \$50 for a state life membership donation will go directly to our DFGC scholarship fund for a deserving horticulture student. This scholarship is very important for a young student as it can be one way to actually change their life. Such a worthwhile project. The form for submission is on our DFGC website.



Membership recruitment! Our DFGC website has been receiving several requests for possible club membership and this information is then sent by me to each club president in the immediate area of the request. It is imperative that you or your membership chair reply to the individual in a timely fashion and then get back to me as to whether or not they have indeed become a new member. Please email me at: Lma2010@verizon.net if I can assist you in any way.

Lisa Arni
DFGC Membership Chair

Newsletter/Publicity

Many of our Clubs have had administrative changes during this past year. Not only new Presidents but Publicity Chairs as well. Sometimes the Newsletter Guidelines are passed on but sometimes they are not so I thought this may be a good time to see that all Clubs have this information for future issues. If any changes have occurred, please e-mail me your new information.

Guidelines for Articles Submitted for Inclusion into the DFGC Newsletter

Photos and images should be in .jpg format.

Please insert the photos in their proper place in the article. If you are not able to do so, please let it be known where they are to appear.

Submitted articles should be created in either MS Word, MS Publisher or as an Adobe PDF file.

Format: Arial font - size 12 - single spaced.

Garden Club articles are limited to one page.

Officer and Committee reports or articles are not limited in size.

The newsletter will be created in MS Publisher but it will be distributed in Adobe PDF format by the DFGC President via e-mail to all Club Presidents.

Please submit articles to Judy Dayhoff at judy@dayhoff.org before each deadline.

Questions? Phone: (302) 988-2061 or email.

Deadline Dates: February 1st - May 1st - September 1st

Publish Dates: February 15th - May 15th - September 15th

**The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes but the content will not be changed.

Judy Dayhoff
DFGC Newsletter Editor

Delaware Nature Society

“Spring 2022 Native Plant Sale”



Please circle on your calendar the upcoming dates, May 5 to May 7, 2022 for the annually Spring Native Plant Sale event. The sale will be held from 9am to 3pm at Coverdale Farm Preserve in Greenville, Delaware. For many who are native plant enthusiasts, the plant selections are from several local vendors, and will definitely enhance and make your garden a special place.



Don't forget to check out fabulous summer camp schedules for children by going on line to Delaware Nature Society <https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/> Also, view the list of activities for learning activities for all ages in the coming months. DNS is truly, “A Hidden Gem in Delaware”.

Joy Ericson, Representative
DFGC Delaware Nature Society

Delaware Center for Horticulture

Exciting events planned for the Winter and early Spring have been scheduled and registration is now open!

The upcoming events focus on the DCH's ongoing Mission - “Inspiring individuals and communities through the power of plants.” For those of you who are new to DFGC, DCH is the *ONLY* nonprofit organization in Delaware that mobilizes and inspires community greening statewide in urban and suburban environments.

Sign up for these events are accessed through their website: www.thedch.org

2/1/2022 - 3/25/2022 9:00 am - 5:00 pm DCH Art Gallery: From the Sticks to the Bricks, to the Sea
The art by Margarete will be on display and the Art Loop Opening is scheduled for Friday, 3/4, 5:50 - 8 pm

2/15/2022 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm 2022 Landscaping and Horticulture Job Fair
During this event job seekers are encouraged to come and meet with employers hiring for the 2022 season.

This fair is a chance to find out about DCH's Branches to Chances green jobs training program for unemployed, underemployed, and previously incarcerated men and women.

3/2/2022 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm In Honor of Black History Month -Intersections of Gardens and Culture with Wambui Ippolito. This is a *Virtual Lecture* with Wambui Ippolito on this topic.

She is an East African-born, New York-based Horticulturalist and a graduate of the New York Botanical Gardens School of Professional Horticulture. She was the first graduate immigrant Black woman to win Best in Show at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

March - April Part I-3 12:00 pm -12:30 pm Tree Stewards Lecture

Marybeth Johns, Representative
DFGC Delaware Center for Horticulture



SNACK TIME

As you peruse your seed catalogs this winter, you might indulge in an occasional snack. I have a new taste sensation for you. Go into your wallet, take out a credit card, and start munching on it. Got your attention now don't I? As unbelievable as it sounds, you are probably already doing the equivalent of this.

Because of the proliferation of microplastics, it is estimated that we ingest a credit card's worth of plastic each week. Microplastics are in our food and water. Even organic products contain them. But what are microplastics and how have they become incorporated in our food?

Microplastics are small particles of plastic, the largest being the size of a rice grain and going down to microscopic sized. They are the result of the breakdown of plastic products and bags into smaller and smaller pieces. At each laundering, clothes incorporating polyester shed microscopic particles. All this eventually ends up in the environment.

As the plastic breaks into smaller and smaller pieces, it is ingested by fish who mistake it as food and animals as microscopic particles on their food. The smallest particles are actually picked up and incorporated into the tissues of vegetables and animals. Even organic food is not immune, as the particles are wind driven onto the organic farms.

While there is not much you can do to prevent existing microplastics from contaminating your food, you can prevent increased and future contamination. Avoid using plastic bags whenever possible. Purchase products in glass, paper or metal packaging, and if unavailable, purchase products that use as little plastic packaging as possible, and purchase larger sizes of plastic packaged products to decrease the amount of plastic per unit of product. Avoid polyester or polyester blend fabrics whenever possible, and launder on the gentlest cycle practical. It would also help to launder as infrequently as possible, but that is rather impractical. When an article of clothing is dirty, you have to clean it. All these actions will help reduce future microplastic contamination, and eventually reduce the amount of plastic ingested by us.

Reduce your use of plastic to reduce your ingestion of plastic. It's the healthy thing to do for yourself, your family, humanity in general and the environment. We're all in this together, so let's do something for the good of us all.

Submitted by John Kramarck
Middletown-Odessa Garden Club

TREE-mendous Tree Project

How can we honor someone with a TREE planting? Just fill out the form on our DFGC website and attached. ** Please consider a tree planting dedicated in honor of or in memory of some deserving person or your club or other organization. We have received tree dedications from others outside our DFGC as well. With the new improvements at the DBG such as the new restroom facilities, beautification of the entryway to the gardens, and other newly developing areas, trees are needed to enhance these areas. To date we are getting close to 200 tree plantings sponsored by Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs state NGC award winning project. Why not plant a tree right here in Delaware at the DBG! **You can also find the form on page 27 of this newsletter.



Lisa Arni
Tree project at Delaware Botanic Gardens



Of Interest to All Gardeners

The Delaware Master Gardeners are offering Free workshops via zoom. You must register for each workshop. The zoom login information will be provided to registered participants prior to the workshop. Pre-registration is required. An email to participants will be sent out with a zoom link/phone number prior to the scheduled workshop.

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 1:00pm Backyard Sweet Potatoes Sweet potatoes are very easy to grow in small spaces - in the home garden, raised beds, or even containers! This workshop will take you through the process, from propagation to planting to harvesting, storing, and cooking, including recipes for enjoying the results of your labor. Register here: <https://forms.gle/CElQykcC5pBPUEwK8>

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 12:00pm Seed Starting Learn or review the How To's of indoor seed starting, and create a greenhouse like environment in your home using easy to source, inexpensive items. Register here: <https://www.pcsreg.com/2022-delaware-master-gardener-workshops/register>

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00pm Growing Vegetables in Containers We will discuss the types of containers, growing media, crop selection and crop maintenance to ensure you have a successful vegetable garden in containers. Containers are a good option for those of us who no longer want the work of a large garden; but still want to experience the good flavors and satisfaction of growing your own vegetables. Register here: <http://www.udel.edu/009139>

Monday, March 7, 2022 at 11:00am to 12:00pm Spring Garden Startup Are you ready for Spring? It's just around the corner, so now is the time to plan and prepare your vegetable gardens, lawn, flower beds, and more. We'll walk you through our handy checklist so you'll know exactly what you need to do when, along with timely tips and suggestions for a successful 2022 gardening season. Register here: <https://forms.gle/CElQykcC5pBPUEwK8>

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00pm Growing Food from Kitchen Scraps Growing tasty produce from clean kitchen scraps can save money, cut down on food waste, and teach valuable lessons about nature and sustainability. Register here: <http://www.udel.edu/009139>

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:00am to 11:00am Pawpaws in Delaware
An Introduction to Pawpaws: A beginner's guide to growing North America's largest edible fruit. In this workshop, you will get information on cultivar differences, proper site selection, care and maintenance, and pest management, as well as fruit processing and best uses. Register Here: <https://forms.gle/CElQykcC5pBPUEwK8>

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:00pm Shade Gardening is Cool
Wondering what plant or plants to use in that shady area of your garden; there are a number of plants that love the shade from which to choose. This workshop will help you decide. Register here: <http://www.udel.edu/009139>

Submitted by: Linda Peters
DFGC Recording Secretary
Master Gardener Speaker



BAREFOOT GARDENERS



Winding up in 2021 was all positive for the Barefoot Gardeners...and not from a Covid point of view!

In October, we held our annual End of Summer Party and Fundraiser for the first time since the Covid outbreak. It was nice to have 53 members and their spouse's come together at Lighthouse Sound for a dinner and celebration. A committee of 8 members made the



arrangements for what was a memorable evening. Everyone got to look over the silent auction items and made bids. Others purchased 50/50 raffle tickets or bought the hand painted centerpieces. All in all, our club raised \$3,473.00. Great Job!!!

In mid November, 16 members and 2 guests assembled at the Club House in the Estuary, to make centerpieces for residents of Brandywine. One member then delivered the floral arrangements to the assisted living center due to Covid restrictions. It's always a heart warming experience to do something like this for the residents of Brandywine Senior Assisted Living.



Working Together to Bring Joy to Others



In late November, about one dozen members gathered to decorate the town pots which line Coastal Highway in Fenwick Island. Members collected local greenery and branches along with previously donated starfish to make the 10 pots look festive for those driving through town this holiday season. The picture to the right is just the beginning - the gathering of greens for the Town Pots.

Finally, we are glad to say that we had 9 new members join our club and still have 4 others who have expressed an interest in joining the Barefoot Gardeners next year.

That's great to see the interest in our club and gardening.





BRANDYWINE GARDEN CLUB



Brandywine Garden Club has been very busy despite the difficulty of Covid-19. In **Sept 2021**, we held a Small Standard Flower Show at The First Unitarian Church in Wilmington. We all wore masks, but we felt we had a successful show! Pictured below are the Best in Design, blue ribbons in Table and Petite designs, the Award of Horticultural Excellence, a selection of our photography division, and our Educational Exhibits.



In **October** we had a workshop with Christopher Scott making succulent gardens in oasis on bark. These are two of our creations. In **November**, Carol Callahan gave a program on Houseplants.

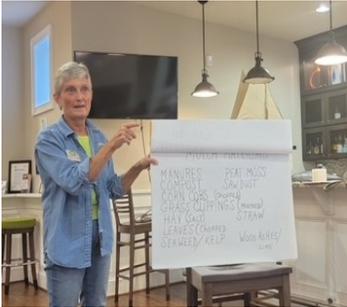


In **December**, some of the garden club members enjoyed doing Christmas in Odessa with lunch at Cantwell's Tavern. In **January**, we had a program on Native Orchids, and it looks like we will be using Zoom for our next meeting. Programs on Herbs and Butterflies, then a trip to the Delaware Botanic Garden, and we hope to have a plant sale in May.



COASTAL GARDENERS

September Meeting:
Growing vegetables with lasagna gardening technique. This technique involves layering of different natural compostable products,



Karen Wilkens
Master Gardener

Bearhole Farm Visit on October 1 as owner, Cindy Stevens, explained about Aquaponic gardening.



Members: Sally Scarangella, Robyn Zagone, and Diane Novick.

October Meeting:
Presentation
"Right Tree, Right Place"



Elizabeth Reves
Master Gardener

November
Healthy Food For Healthy Kids. At Phillip Showell elementary school in Selbyville. The beds were cleaned up for winter on November 16. Our club also won a \$1000 grant from the National Garden Club-Plant American Grant to help continue our work with the school and HFHK.



Garden Beds Growing!

December 12 - Holiday Party



We have placed large flower pots at both entrances to the new **Beebe Healthcare** on Roxanna Rd and change them with the seasons.



Finishing touches by Jack Daniels



Coastal Gardeners 4th Holiday Gift Giving

to help CHEER seniors have a brighter holiday.

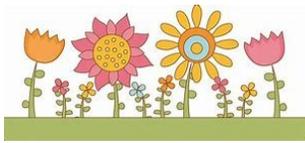
These gift bags are for the Meals on Wheels program at Roxana CHEER Seniors in Frankford, DE. The need for 2021 increased to 160 homes this year. Each Holiday gift bag has a holiday card by the Coastal Gardeners garden members. The gift bags were filled with; tissue paper, gloves, hats, socks and leggings for women, shaving cream, razors for men, and sweatshirts donated by Lili of Water Lili. In addition, members provided; hand cream, tin of cookies, a bag of Lindt Chocolates or Ghirardelli Chocolates, and paperbacks of crossword puzzles/Sudoku/word search for everyone.



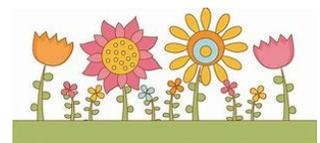
Donna Buono, Cheryl Quirk, Sharise Franklin (Roxanna Center Director), Darlene Boerlage, Ellen Treem, Mary

December 4 Decorating Dagsboro Town Hall





COUNTRYSIDE GARDEN CLUB



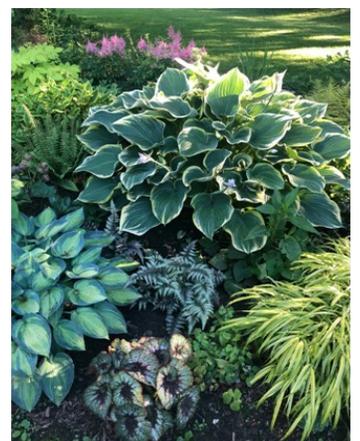
Countryside Garden Club in Hockessin devoted much of the fall to community outreach. We were active with projects with Friendship House, the Delaware Center for Horticulture, church plant exchanges, the American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk and the Delaware Hospice Festival of Trees.

Our tree with the Festival of Trees was as fun to decorate as it was popular with the attendees. With a theme of “Oh Christmas Bee! Oh Christmas Bee!”, we created ornaments of bees, hives and skeps during workshops. We generated a lot of buzz among our fellow decorators!



For a little inspiration for your spring and summer gardens, check out Fine Gardening online. Countryside Garden Club’s co-President, Jill Beringer, was featured recently for the second time.

For the full article, copy and paste the following link into your browser. https://www.finegardening.com/article/jills-delaware-garden?source=W4489ENL&tp=i-1NHD-BC-SF0-lcx14O-l0-6fV6-lc-1RPa-lO7LMe-l6zWYLygZi-lK2kg&sourcekey=W4489ENL&utm_campaign=gpod&utm_source=email&utm_medium=eletter&cid=108562&mid=1491864360





GARDEN GATE GARDEN CLUB



Garden Gate Garden Club, like most other clubs, has had challenging times during the pandemic, but with the help of some of our very IT savvy members we have worked out a good balance of zoom and in-person meetings.

In October we were lucky to have had a presentation on attracting monarch and swallowtail butterflies to our gardens. Our club's newly planted butterfly garden was gorgeous and constantly abuzz with a large variety of beauties. All new plants were natives and they grew quickly in a hot, sunny island near the Delaware Art Museum. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful colors and activity again this summer.



Patrick Cullina, Founding VP of Horticulture for NYC's Highline, was our November speaker. We learned a lot about dynamic plants and garden accessories to spice up our own gardens. We also contributed a beautiful blue star marker wreath to the VA this month.

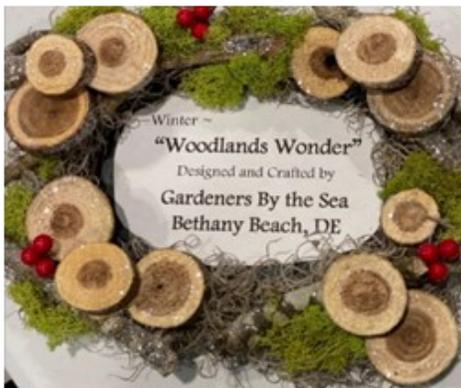
Also in November we gathered at the Delaware Federation of Garden Club's membership luncheon where our own Dottie Howatt (the Federation's Parliamentarian and master flower show judge and horticulture instructor) showed us how to design with recycled and repurposed materials during her talk "Twisted Trash". We all got great ideas of how to use our cast-off trash to make amazing, inventive and fun table designs.

Our December gathering was a traditional fabulous lunch in the country at a member's lovely home. January's fascinating talk was given by an executive of the worldwide Vistaflor Colombia, educating us about the #1 and #2 flower producing countries in the world, Colombia and Ecuador, and the flower import business in general.. Among other things we learned in which stores to purchase the freshest flowers in the area. Hint, its initials are TJ.





In October, a group came together to tackle the Lord Baltimore Elementary School's Water Garden. With hard work, the overgrowth now has been removed the garden has a chance to thrive!



On another beautiful fall day, Club members gathered for a workshop to decorate wreaths using picture frames as the base. Creative FUN!



Barbara Borleske (seated), speaker at our November Meeting "African Violets and Their Gesneriad Cousins". Barbara brought an assortment of plants for our members to purchase.



Decorating a tree for the Delaware Hospice is always a favorite project. This year's tree was filled with handmade ornaments from nature
Winter Woodlands Wonder!



GBTS members created wreaths and greenery to decorate Coastal Towns village in Ocean View for the season and the official ribbon cutting of the Hall Store. Our Holiday Luncheon was held at Victoria's at the Boardwalk Plaza in Rehoboth. The Poinsettia door prizes are a highlight.

Members donated \$1000 to the Food Bank of Delaware!



MIDDLETOWN-ODESSA GARDEN CLUB



Happy New Year from our Club to yours. Our Club continues to have in person monthly meetings including a variety of guest speakers and tours and continue to keep our members informed of conservation efforts and community engagement. We are looking forward to getting our hands dirty in a few short months.

Although this year's Christmas in Odessa was different from past years, our members still gathered together to make wreaths to adorn the historic homes in Odessa. This year our Club decided to make wreaths to sell at the Middletown High School holiday craft fair rather than in the barn for Christmas in Odessa. It was lots of fun and was a huge success.



In the fall and continuing into the winter, members were able to come help maintain the Native Gardens at the Corbit Calloway Memorial Library, Middletown's Pocket Park, the historical Corbit Sharp Gardens in Odessa and Cochran Square in Middletown. Our Club also received a plaque for the Native Garden at the Corbit Calloway Memorial Library along with a \$500 check in appreciation of all of the work and events we do at the library.



Our Committee Chairs are always keeping us abreast of local initiatives including recycling programs, clean water programs, upcoming legislature and more. Our Chairs also keep members current on our nearby parks, local organizations, ways to volunteer their time and fundraising efforts. Our small state of Delaware and surrounding areas has much to offer!



MILFORD GARDEN CLUB

In September things seemed as if they were back to normal in Milford. The Milford Garden Club could meet in the regular location. Garden care and Craft projects were worked on at scheduled times. We did postpone our Flower Show until October 2022 but set up a project to work toward its success.

We worked on the rehab of the entry gardens at the Milford Senior Center. All plants were removed, landscape stone sieved out, soil improved and regraded, drainage issues were addressed, mulch spread, then replanting started. We are looking forward to the bulbs installed for spring color.

In conjunction with our October and December meetings, members prepared lovely seasonal arrangements for residents at Genesis under the leadership of Cyndy Born. Over two dozen bouquets were shared on each occasion.

On the Friday before Veterans Day, MGC members congregated at the Delaware Veterans Home to install hundreds of bright yellow pansies for the residents' pleasure. We also planted some cool-season vegetables in their plant boxes for them to enjoy.

At the DFGC November meeting we were happy to surprise Donna McCarthy with a Life Membership for work she has done and doesn't want others to be aware that she does. Also, at the meeting we had a table with products of our Craft Group. Thanks to all our helping hands.

This year we were again able to have a Christmas Tree at the Milford Library fund- raiser to help a local family. Cindy Mullarkey coordinated the design, preparation, and implementation of a nature themed tree.



The annual Poinsettia Tree at the MSC was again prepared and installed by volunteers from Milford Garden Club.

Our Greens Crew made roping, wreaths, and a Williamsburg-style pediment to decorate Parson Thorne Mansion (Silver Hill) in era authentic holiday dress.

The Milford Garden Club's final activity for 2021 was to enjoy a wonderful Holiday Luncheon at the beautifully decorated Benvenuto Restaurant right in Milford.

The rise in Covid cases had Milford close all city buildings to the public as of New Year's Day. Our standard meeting location is in a city meeting room. Milford Garden Club has suspended meetings through January and February 2022. We hope to get back together some time soon.





Moonflower Garden Club

The garden club season started out with us meeting in person. We had a **September** tour of a member Jennifer Christy's postage-sized garden filled with native plants that supply pollinators with different stages of life cycles and have blooms from early snow drops and hellebores to late blooming asters. Alliums from a club fund raiser and dahlias from a program last year led by member Kevin Fenimore added new plants to her garden.

In **October** we met at North Creek Nurseries for a tour of this wholesale propagation nursery, specializing in plugs of perennials, ornamental grasses, ferns, vines and shrubs with an emphasis on Eastern US native plants. North Creek Nurseries promotes sustainable horticultural systems. Since our club meets in the evenings, the tour was shorter than we would have liked. There was much to see.



Marcia Kelly, a long-time member, led a workshop in **November** using dried flowers, grasses and other materials. Marcia supplied tissue paper, brown bags, small bottle and colorful ribbon. She told a delightful story that inspired her to use a long-ago present as the model for this workshop. Members contributed dried materials so we had quite a variety from which to build our arrangements. Marcia also taught us how to tie a perfectly horizontal bow (it works every time).



In **December** we had our annual holiday party and a great time was had by all. Mid-December several members attended the ground-breaking for the Hockessin School 107C. The C stands for "colored" and this segregated school from 1920's is being reimagined as a center for diversity and equity. Moonflower Garden Club is working



with their board on the design and installation for their landscaping. Physical work on gardening won't start until after construction of the building but plans are underway.

As the pandemic has picked up, we decided to return to zoom for our meetings. For **January** we once again enjoyed "Show and Share" from our homes as we did last year. It really is a wonderful way to get to know each other better as each member shares some special objects and their stories.

In **February** founding member Barb Borleske discussed her hybridizing techniques. She now has a registered hybrid, Primulina "Minnie Pearl".

I continue to marvel at all the talent in this garden club and appreciate everyone's willingness to share. There is much to learn in the gardening world and it's all the better to learn together.



PLANTATON LAKES GARDEN CLUB



The PLGC Membership Committee spent much of this past summer planning a schedule of activities aimed at recruiting new members to the club. The kick-off for this effort occurred on September 25th at the Plantation Lakes Community Day, where information, handouts, a free raffle and invitations to PLGC’s first “Open House for Information” were offered to everyone who visited our table in the parking lot.

Over the new few days, committee members went door to door to invite new Plantation Lakes residents to attend the Open House and handed out more than 150 invitations. They also posted information about the event on social media and on the PLGC website.

The efforts paid off, as a dozen prospective members attended the “Open House for Information” held at *The Landing Restaurant* on September 30, 2021. Betty Baeschlin, Mary Balasi, Debbie Darr, Patti Kircher, Pat Minnigh and Margaret Woda welcomed them, participated in the program agenda and simply made them feel welcome.



The Plantation Lakes Community Day event on Saturday, September 25th was certainly a success for Plantation Lakes Garden Club as they showed off their love of community, gardening and youth. More than 30 young members of the community assisted with planting purple pansies in the flower bed designated by the HOA. After planting, the youth were invited to participate in garden themed craft projects to take home. Club members had a blast, too!



On Saturday, November 6th, several garden club members gathered at the Community Center to plant

bulbs, clean up the Blue Star Memorial Garden and plant pansies in preparation for the Veterans Day commemoration. The day was a bit blustery, but everyone was in good spirits as they worked together to beautify the area. When Spring arrives, there will be a cacophony of blooms rewarding the efforts. PLGC hosted the first annual Veterans’ Day commemoration on November 11th at the recently installed Blue Star Memorial Garden in the community. The PLGC planners, participants, hostesses and attendees contributed their time and talents to demonstrate to the Plantation Lakes community PLGC’s commitment to honoring our neighbors and their families who have served and continue to serve our country.





POTPOURRI GARDEN CLUB



FROM PUMPKIN CARVING AND DECORATING CONTESTS TO . . .



Pen and Ink Pumpkin by Thelma Taylor



Flower Pumpkin by Jan Hobb



All Tied Up by Diane Crom



Susan Wujtewicz's Pumpkin



Connie Raymond's Family Pumpkins

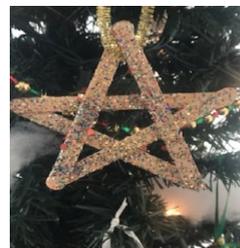
CORNUCOPIA'S – NOV. MEETING DOVER PLACE – NOV. / DEC.



DECORATING TREES AT DOVER PLACE



WOODBURN





RED CLAY GARDEN CLUB



Our Club is proud to have continued with activities over the past year, enhancing our members' education, as well as continuing to serve our local community.



Providing a beautiful poinsettia to the Bear Library was front and center to welcome those visiting the library over the holidays.

The Club Members created flower arrangements and presented them to other members for critiquing, obtaining valuable feedback on their arrangements from some of our expert florists.



Creating pumpkin boxes was great fun, where the members were able to put their own personal touch on their fall decorating.

Our guest speaker from Ashland Nature Center provided an educational session on attracting Birds and Hummingbirds in our local area.

The members closed 2022 with a Christmas Silent Auction, sharing home-made crafts and enjoying a wonderful evening of fun and food.

We are looking forward to upcoming, interesting programs and crafts in 2022, especially with our new members.





Blue Star Memorial in Ocean View

In October, the Salt Air Gardeners (SAG) held a fundraising concert to raise funds for a Blue Star By-Way Memorial Marker. The concert was a huge success. Over \$6,800 was raised.



The crowd was entertained with music by Mike White and Dave Mattheiss. Representatives from Ocean View and VFW attended. There was a surprise flyover by a “Bird Dog” plane from the Delaware Aviation Museum Foundation



The town of Ocean View has committed to provide a site and its preparation, and a walkway and bench. SAG will provide the By-Way Marker installed on a large boulder. They will also design, plant, and maintain the garden surrounding the marker. The goal is to have the marker in place by the Spring of 2022.

Hospice Tree

This year’s Hospice tree featured red, gold and buffalo plaid colors.



Holiday Celebrations

The SAG holiday party was held at one of our member’s homes. Each year, we support a local charity. SAG members donated \$1,440 to the Friends of Sussex CASA, Inc. (FOSC). FOSC supports children experiencing foster care.



12 Days of Christmas

Gifts were delivered to Brandywine Living for their “12 Days of Christmas” celebration.

Meetings and Workshops

We had two workshops during our October and November meetings. In October, Lisa Arni led a hands-on workshop on how to make paper roses. In November, two of our members led a holiday centerpiece workshop.





SPADE & TROWEL GARDEN CLUB

Despite the pandemic, the Spade & Trowel Garden Club was back in full swing with in-person meetings at the library in Seaford in September, October and November. We had two programs on design and a presentation on orchids.

We managed to hold a successful greens sale in December, our major fundraiser. Members gathered plenty of greens and had plenty of room to socially distance while creating wreaths, centerpieces, swags and cemetery mounds at the Ross Station. We celebrated with a lovely luncheon at Benvenuto Restaurant in Milford.



Vice-president Carol Owens and Past President Carol Johnson work on wreaths

Library entry was limited in January, which forced cancellation of our meeting, but we will meet again in person on Feb. 8 to see a floral design demonstration, "Hearts to You," by Susie Middleton. Members will bring their own valentine designs, featuring the color red, for the monthly flower show, and fall photos for a photography competition.

Del Tech students in Georgetown are growing plants for our downtown beautification project this spring. Can spring come soon enough for any gardener?

We are happy to announce that the Smokey Bear poster contest project we sponsored at the Western Sussex Boys and Girls Club resulted in first place winners in grades 3, 4 and 5 for the entire state!

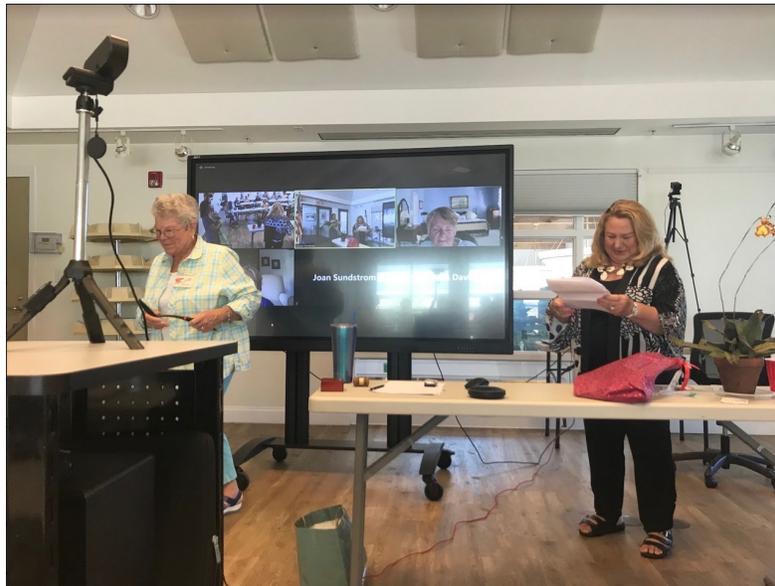


The winners posed outdoors where they could unmask briefly for a photo as they received their prize certificates and bags of Smokey Bear novelties



Sussex Gardeners Grow with “Hybrid” Meetings

The Sussex Gardeners adapted to the Covid-19 landscape by changing our meeting venue to make it easier to have hybrid meetings that are both in-person and on Zoom. We chose the Rehoboth Beach Public Library as our new meeting place because their upstairs meeting room has ample space for our club plus an excellent A/V set-up for zooming, with a large screen, cameras, laptop, and speakers. The librarians are always on hand to help us get everything up and running, which is much appreciated!



After each meeting, we leave a floral design at the library, with a card noting that the flowers were provided by Sussex Gardeners. This is part of our “Grow locally” project.



Since we switched to the hybrid format we have resumed having monthly meetings and have enjoyed seeing familiar faces. Also very happy to report that we have added two new members!





DELAWARE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

TREE-mendous
Woodland Garden Plantings
at Delaware Botanic Gardens



When you donate \$100 to Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs (DFGC) in support of TREE-mendous Woodland Garden Plantings at Delaware Botanic Gardens, you will receive a certificate “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone you designate. 100% of your donation will go toward plantings in the Woodland Garden.

Please complete this form and mail it with your donation, made payable to Delaware Botanic Gardens, in the amount of \$100 (or more in increments of \$100). You may request an additional certificate for each additional \$100 donation.

SEND TO:
DFGC c/o Lisa Arni
35548 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944

Date

Name of Donor and/or Garden Club

Amount

Mailing Address or Garden Club of Donor

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Name “In Honor of”

Name “In Memory of”

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs thanks you for your donation to TREE-mendous Delaware Tree Planting at Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek.

Certificates are distributed at our DFGC State meetings. You may request that your certificate be mailed to you.

Requested Date for Certificate: _____ (must be at least 10 days from receipt of donation)