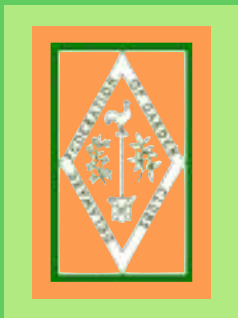
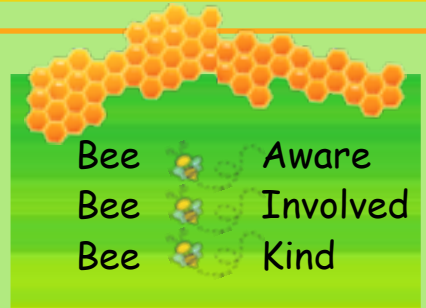


DFGC Newsletter - March 2024



Ginny Cardona
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs
President

President's Message



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"Show me your garden."

Terror. I was a relative newbie at garden clubs, and my small, older club merged with another club. Several members of the new club were at my house to plan for the year. "Show me your garden." After the initial panic – I might have blanked out for a moment – I decided just to own it. They got the full tour: the empty pots on my deck, last fall's decorative pumpkins growing where I left them and the highlight of my backyard, the thistle garden.

This is exactly why I am in a garden club. I benefit so much from our speakers, experienced designers, and long-standing members. I learn not only from their finished product, but stories of their learning curve. I know not to use daylilies in a design. I know how to fix a design if I cut a stem too short. My best horticulture successes are those I have received from club members who explain where to plant and how to care for it.

At the Federation level, we plan programs that are beyond the reach of individual clubs. At our April 17 meeting, Julia Clavett will dazzle us with her designs. Julia is the premier design instructor at the National Garden Clubs' Flower Show Schools. In June, Gregg Tepper will return with a rare plant auction to benefit our scholarship fund. This is an opportunity to purchase rare horticultural specimens you won't see anywhere else.

Twenty years later, my yard is still a work in progress. As tempting as it sounds to have the world's most perfect and pristine garden, where is the fun in that? I like trying new plants, seeing what works where, and frankly, just getting dirty. The biggest joy, however, is in the garden club experience, with the fellowship and trading of ideas with other gardeners. You are my inspiration.

Ginny 



April 17, 2024 State Meeting

Location: The Executive Banquet and Conference Center,
205 Executive Drive, Newark, DE 19702
Host Clubs: Duck Creek and Coastal Gardeners
Cost: \$40

SPECIAL GUEST: Monica Hansen, Director, Central Atlantic

Program: Julia Clevett, - *A Little Bit of This and a Little Bit of That*
Traditional and Creative Floral Designs.



Julia is originally from the United Kingdom and now lives in Powhatan, VA, which is west of Richmond. Julia is a Master Judge, holding Life and Master Certificate and a National Design Instructor. Julia has traveled extensively and her designs have received the highest rated honors.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and win Julia's designs.

Clubs send member RSVP to dfgcregistrar@gmail.com

Registration opens March 11 through March 2

Looking ahead....

June 19, 2024 State Meeting

Location: Heritage Shores, One Heritage Shores Circle,
Bridgeville, DE 19933
Host Club: Spade and Trowel

Special Event: Club President's Centerpiece Challenge
Presentation of DFGC Awards

Cost: \$40

Program: Auction of Select Rare and Unusual Plants,
led by Gregg Tepper



Proceeds benefit the DFGC Scholarship Program

Gregg is currently the Senior Horticulturist at Laurel Hill East and West Cemeteries in Philadelphia PA



Edited from NGC *Toolkit For Success* and submitted by Alva Hutchison, 1st Vice-President

<https://www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/toolkit-for-success.pdf>

A Message from NGC President Mary Warshauer: National Garden Clubs. Inc. 2021-2023

Toolkit for Success is a collection of inspirations, installations, Blue Star dedications and useful tips. The Toolkit was created as a reference to assist clubs planning meetings and conducting events. To all who participated, your submissions are appreciated. As you refer to the Toolkit, may it be a helpful source and inspiration. Additional submissions for this reference are welcome at any time. A special thanks to Robin Pokorski for her willingness and enthusiastic effort creating the Toolkit for Success.



DFGC will be accepting membership dues, now. In accordance to our bylaws, dues collection starts May1, to be in good standing they must be paid by June 30. Please submit your club dues payable to Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs at a rate of \$10.00 per member, along with your list of member names and if possible addresses (no phone numbers or email addresses).

Send check and information to:
Joan Simon, DFGC Treasurer
104 E. Minglewood Drive
Middletown, DE 19709



WE WANT YOU

TO APPLY FOR THE DOTTIE HOWATT FLOWER SHOW GRANT

We are now accepting applications for the Dottie Howatt Special Flower Show Grants for 2023-2024. This grant is open to all Delaware Garden Clubs and Maryland District 1 Garden Clubs.

The grants of \$1,000 are awarded for the first five garden clubs that apply. The sole purpose of the grant is to help fund an NCG Standard, Small Standard or specialty Flower Show consistent with the Current NGC Handbook for Flower Shows. The application must be submitted no earlier than 18 months or less than 12 month from the date of the actual Flower Show.

All instructions and application are available on the DFGC website. You must log in the members area (password DFGC-3210) and download the information from Forms.

Thanks

Joan Simon, Treasurer DFGC

Environmental Concerns: Conserving Water in the Kitchen

The following is found on the city of Newark, DE household conservation web page.

For more ideas, click this [link](#).



Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water. Every drop counts.

- Do not waste water waiting for it to get hot. Capture it for other uses such as plant watering or heat it on the stove or in a microwave.
- Instead of letting the water run when hand washing dishes, use a dishpan or fill the sink with water. Also use less soap for less rinsing.
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. Use it to water your indoor plants or garden.
- Running the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads can save 1,000 gallons of water a month.
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator. Don't let the tap run while you are waiting for water to cool.
- Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator or microwave, not under running water.
- Use a bowl of water to clean and prepare vegetables, rather than letting the faucet run.
- Use your garbage disposal less often and compost instead.

Submitted by,

Suzanne Smith, Environmental Concerns

Passwords for Membership Access
to DFGC, CAR Websites:

DFGC-3210

2325@CARregion

DFGC Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 103

Middletown, DE 19709



Delaware Nature Society

Celebrating 60th Anniversary: 2024

Founded in 1964, Delaware Nature Society (DelNature) is a state-wide, environmental nonprofit organization, working to protect the environment and connect people to nature for **60** years. DelNature delivers hands-on environmental education programming in Delaware with staff at four sites: Ashland Nature Center, DuPont Environmental Education Center, Coverdale Farm, and Abbott's Mill Nature Center. Over 2,000 acres of land, including four nature preserves are managed and conserved by DelNature.

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary and build strong connections between people and the broader natural world, these themes are identified as important and urgent. Activities and events are designed to recognize each of these themes.

Grow with It – (April and May) – Focus: The importance of sustaining the biodiversity of plants, animals, and ecosystems.

Water Is Life – (June and July) – Focus: Protecting what is most critical to our way of life in Delaware: water.

All Things Winged – (August and September) – Focus: Protecting habitats for birds, bees, and butterflies as they capture our imaginations.

Food for Thought – (October and November) – Focus: Growing our food sustainably for health, clean water, and a stable climate.

Back to the Land – (December and Beyond) - Focus: Championing the protection and care of Delaware's natural lands.

Please check the [DelNature website](#) and other communications in the coming weeks for more information about this exciting celebration of our work protecting natural lands, habitats, and healthy waters.

Submitted by,

Suzanne D. Smith

Delaware Nature Society Representative

Scholarship

Michaela Somers, of Wilmington, is the DFGC \$2,000 Scholarship recipient. In the fall, she will be entering her junior year at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. Michaela is majoring in Earth and Environmental Science with a minor in Environmental Educator/ Environmental Science teacher and has a GPA of 3.63.

Michaela's application has been forwarded to NGC with the hope she will be a recipient of one of their scholarships. National determines the amount and number of scholarships annually. Up to 45 NGC Scholarships are available, each in an amount up to \$4,000. So fingers/toes crossed that we have another NGC winner.

Elva Davidson
Scholarship Chair

3.13.24



The Garden Club

The Garden Club is the place to go
To tell about the things you grow,
And what is a shrub, and what is a weed, and
When to plant each bulb and seed.
The iris needs a drink,
Should we mulch or prune the Pink.
When should we hoe the tulip bed, and
Rake the leaves now brown and dead?
But of all the things we ever do
This is the secret I'll tell to you,
Tho' leaves may die and the flowers fade



***The friends in Garden Club that we've made
Will be with us to the shining end
For a gardener is a faithful friend.***

~Author unknown



February 2024 In the Holiday Spirit



To support Delaware Hospice's annual Festival of Trees, the Salt Air Gardeners decorated two Christmas trees festooned with blue and silver ornaments, ribbons, and stars. The décor's themes were "The Coastal Towns of DE" and "All Things DE." SAG members hand-crafted dozens of ornaments and ribbons to complete the trees.



Celebrating Grandparents Day
SAG created 15 dramatic centerpieces to grace the dining room tables at Brandywine Living for Grandparents Day. Using a combination of hydrangeas, leafy foliage, and other natural materials from members' home gardens, SAG volunteers filled crystal vases found at local thrift shops. "It shows you that with a little imagination, you can create something beautiful at no cost," said member Terry Crumb.

Annual Giving Goes to Paul Magnus Foundation

Each holiday season SAG raises funds for a local charity. This year group members donated almost \$1500 for the Paul Magnus Foundation, a local non-profit that helps families pay for housing while their children with severe heart defects receive pediatric cardiac care, often far from home. Nick and Stephanie Anderson, Paul's parents, started the Foundation to honor their son, who passed away while awaiting a heart transplant. SAG president Oksana Hoey said, "When we heard about the Andersons, it was an easy decision, and our members gave generously."

It's Party Time



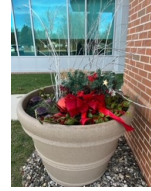
More than 40 SAG members celebrated another year of learning and friendship at their 2023 Holiday party. Held at the Bay Forest community clubhouse, the party featured festive decorations, delicious food prepared by members, and holiday cheer, including Santa hats.

Road Trip!

In September SAG members boarded the bus for a day at Winterthur, the storied estate of Henry Francis DuPont. The mansion features one of the country's largest collections of American decorative arts, a library, and extensive gardens. Members toured the house, strolled the grounds, and enjoyed lunch al fresco.



Coastal Gardeners



Beebe Medical Center Planters Project

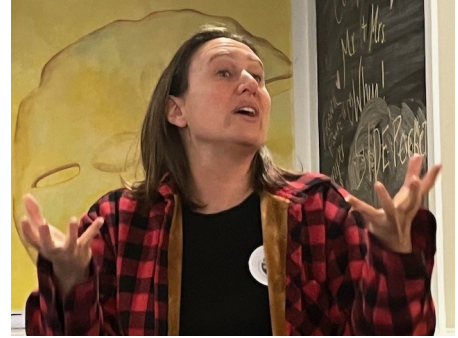
GUEST SPEAKERS



The Coastal Gardeners hosted Carol Kinsely, Master Gardener, for their September kick-off meeting. She gave an informative talk about the benefits of *Composting: Cultivating Black Gold*.



The speaker at the October meeting was Luke Wingate of Millville Organic Center. He spoke about the benefits of using mushroom soil to enrich lawns and gardens.



Chantal Bouchard gave a presentation about preparing our gardens for Spring with Fall Garden preparation at the November meeting.

PROJECTS



Coastal Gardener members, Susan Dohoney, Lynne White, Mary Kunst, and Jenn Martin at a Dine and Donate to benefit Operation Christmas Cheer (OCC), a Club program that provides holiday gifts for senior citizens receiving Meals On Wheels.



Co-President, Sandy Daniels explains the process of filling gift bags for OCC.



Members of the Club participated in wreath-making at Bearhole Farms.



Coastal Gardeners Holiday Party



Moonflower Garden Club

Much work has already been accomplished for our joint upcoming Flower Show: THROUGH THAT DOOR which will be held on Saturday June 15, 1:00-4:00. Moonflower Garden Club and Countryside Garden Club will be pleased to see many DFGC members attend in June. The planning team has submitted a schedule and has made (we hope) final revisions. Our flower show chair Ann Perry has shared tips about hosting and submitting specimens to a flower show at each of our meetings. Ann is a founding and life member of Moonflower, a past president of DFGC and a veteran flower show organizer.



Another interesting part of each of our meetings is Garden Talent Tips. Two members share some tips which could be about a specific houseplant, a specific outdoor garden plant, design information when planning a new garden or enlarging a current one, sustainable ways to deal with pests, composting, delicious varieties of a veg to plant for harvest. This is very open and it is always nice to include all members' voices. Everyone has some tips to share.

In October, Barb Borleske, founding and life member of Moonflower and president of The Delaware African Violet and Gesneriad Society, led a challenge workshop. We each got cuttings of *Nematanthus* and made a mini-growth chamber in which the cuttings would grow roots.

In November, Brigid Gregory of Plastic Free Delaware gave us an interesting presentation on Food Scrap Composting 101. 25% of what Delawareans send to the landfill is food waste, which produces methane which, we all know, is a harmful greenhouse gas. She was an engaging speaker and provided time for our questions.

In January, we needed to pivot from the program in our yearbook. Our knowledgeable gardeners Barb Borleske and Ann Perry put together a program to inform us about the flower show. Part 1: everyone could bring 1 plant and these 2 experts gave tips



on grooming and making the plant "show-ready". Part 2, slides from a previous flower show and the judge's comments about the designs and horticultural specimens.

Our most recent meeting will be led by Marcia Kelly, a life member of Moonflower. She will show a video and discuss "Roses Other Than Knock-Out". Which roses are suitable for the mid-Atlantic region? Which roses will do well with our humid summers? What are benefits of some newer varieties?





Annual Harvest Dinner and Fundraiser-October 20, 2023

Barefoot Gardeners and their guests gathered at the Lighthouse Lakes clubhouse to enjoy socializing, dinner, drinks and a silent auction at the annual fundraiser. A delicious buffet dinner was catered by Bethany Blues. The silent auction was a great success and yielded over \$1900!

Brandywine Senior Living at Fenwick Island-November 11, 2023

The Barefoot Gardeners held their annual "Giving Back to Brandywine Day" where they helped the senior residents make fall flower arrangements to take back to their residences. This event always brings joy to club members as well as the Brandywine ladies.





Sussex Gardeners wrapped up 2023 with Holiday Season activities. Continuing the tradition of decorating the Zwaanendael Museum for the Holiday Tour and inspired by the Museum's program: "A snack by any other name: A brief history of marshmallows", Sussex Gardeners provided a whimsical "It's a Marshmallow World".



The December meeting convened on December 14. The business meeting was followed by a workshop. Members formed two groups: one to assemble wreaths that were donated to Brandywine Senior Living Facility, The Moorings and State Police Barracks Troop #7 and the other group to create 210 nosegays for Meals on Wheels.

The program for the January meeting presented by Co-Vice-President, Susan Mielke was "Planting an Italian Themed Garden and Cooking with the Harvest". In addition to discussing the types of vegetables and fruits in Italian gardens, Mielke took the members on virtual walks around Lake Como and the Gardens of Ninfa. Following the presentation, the hostesses, Abbe Barbato, Gina D'Alfonso (Co-Vice-President), Diane Shawley (President), and Mielke provided an Italian feast of antipasti, focaccia, and minestrone. Cannolis and lemon biscotti were served as dessert. Homemade Limoncello topped off the Italian experience.



The February meeting was held at the East Coast Garden Center. After the business meeting, the Club participated in a workshop "Spring Prep" presented by employees of East Coast. We all left the meeting inspired and ready to plant!

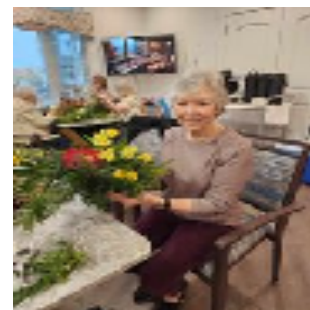


Middletown-Odessa Garden Club

MOGC. We assist the Historic House of Odessa both by decorating a storybook tree for their display and by creating wreaths for the doors of the houses, including the doghouse! This year our storybook was "Give a Mouse a Cookie".



In December, the MOGC partnered with MeadowCrest Independent Living, located in Middletown, for a presentation of "Centerpieces for the Holidays". Our Vice President, Carla Guager guided MOGC Members and MeadowCrest residents on how to make a centerpiece that can be used for Thanksgiving, then with just a few changes, can be transformed for Christmas. The Club purchased containers, floral foam, flowers, and some decorations and club members brought in plant material from their gardens. The residents got to keep the arrangements they made and club members donated several of theirs for the MeadowCrest dining room.

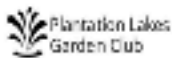




Plantation Lakes Garden Club

2024 has gotten off to a great start at PLGC. At our January meeting we learned the true meaning behind May baskets. We created a few samples to be filled with treats or flowers for sharing with our neighbors and friends on May 1.

Also, in January, we hosted the first of our Winter Public Educational Speaker Series with Laura Brittingham from Lavender Farms in Millsboro. Laura plants & processes Lavender for many uses and raises heritage sheep for their wool. A combination of 42 ladies enjoyed the presentation and luncheon at The Landing Restaurant & Grill.



Presented by: Laura Brittingham, Owner, Lavender Farms

Story Hill Farms

Presented by: Helen Raleigh

Let's come learn with Helen Raleigh as she shares her knowledge and expertise on the topic of raising heritage sheep for their wool.

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With this first success we will host a second speaker and luncheon in February with Helen Raleigh from Story Hill Farm.

In February we had a wonderful presentation from Jay Meadows with Bella Terra, in Ellendale about preparing our gardens for Spring. He shared his knowledge of the

challenges of planting in Sussex County and how we differ from other parts of DE. He answered many questions we had and gave us valuable information on the different fertilizer available for plant growth, protection and plant health.



April is a busy month for PLGC with a Dine & Donate on April 10 at The Cottage Cafe in Bethany Beach, a trip to Adkin's Arboretum on April 4 and a bus trip to Longwood Garden's on April 24.

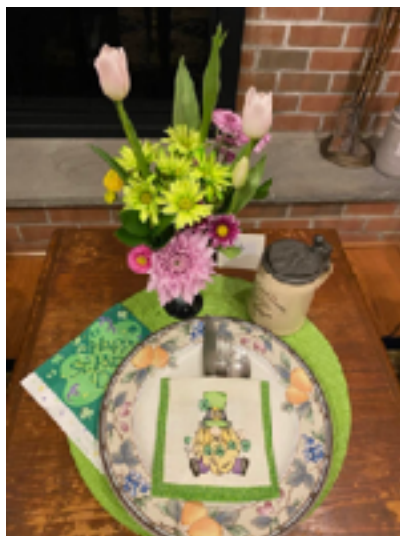


Silver Pine Garden Club

Silver Pine Garden Club did a one day FUNDRAISER event on Dec. 9 at Peniel United Methodist Church social hall in Newport. Event featured 9 vendors, club-made Wreaths, Holiday Cemetery Decorations, a club Flea Market table and fabulous Bake Table! Several members also had tables of their own items. We had a lunch menu of Pizza and Subs and the event was well attended for such a busy time of year. Club earned over \$700 at this one day event and we raffled off a wreath to a lucky winner (Bob Gregg) who hasn't won anything since 1959!



Our ongoing community Garden Pot at Kirkwood Highway Library changes with the seasons and at Christmas we featured a pot titled "Silver and Pine" in honor of the club name. March 1 it was decorated with colorful branches, eggs and early spring bulbs and pansies. We'll change it again soon for Spring!



At our March meeting we held a fun competition for creative place settings that included placemat, dinnerware and small floral arrangement with a theme of our choice for any event we chose- birthday party, child's tea party, Mother's day breakfast, romantic dinner, etc. The table scaping was fun and got us thinking in very creative ways! Top 3 winners won prizes!



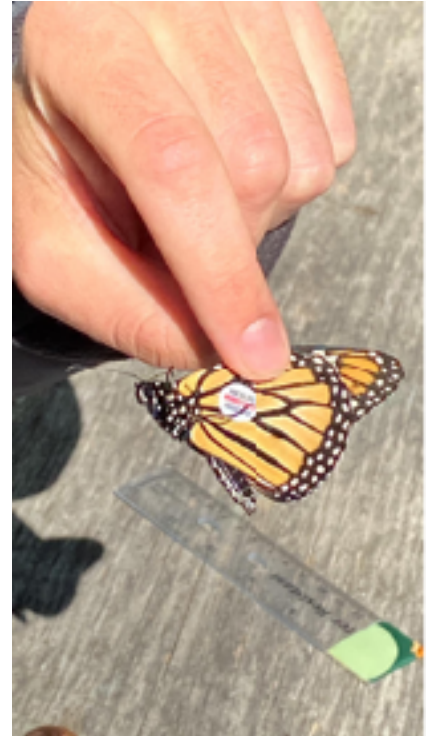
Our April meeting will explore the role of the EASTERN WHITE PINE- a tree of History!- played in forming America since the Mayflower landed to harvest these giant timbers for English Masts for their sailing ships! While not quite SILVER PINES, these trees were instrumental in our history and we hope other clubs will take time to watch this fascinating documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQs7novlvtA>

Four Seasons Gardeners of Heritage Shores



Our Fall season started off by taking a trip to Cape May and tagging butterflies before they go on their journey to Mexico. Then a community service was done by many of our members by cleaning up a ½ mile roadside.



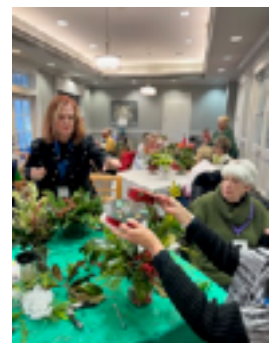
We felt the fall air coming upon us , so we knew it was time to plant bulbs. 700 daffodil bulbs to be exact was planted throughout our community. We then donated several hundred bulbs that were planted at our Bridgeville Historical Society Park and others planted in our local garden.



Our pressed flowers and plant sale was a big success at the craft show that we participated in November and our poinsettia sale in December is always a sell out.



As the holidays approached, we made holiday arrangements with greens from our own backyards. Then we organized a Holiday House Tour whereas 8 houses in our community opened their doors for viewing. This is a great fundraiser for the club to end the year. Planning now has begun for our major fundraiser the Home and Garden Expo that will be held at Heritage Shores March 23. We are busy at work preparing for this exciting event.





Reflective of the Milford Garden Club's commitment to service in the Milford community, these photos highlight some of those activities:



We did fall plantings by the entrance to the Delaware Veterans Home in Milford. The gardens by the Milford Senior Center and the Riverfront Theater were tidied twice each month throughout of the season.



We planted porch pots to brighten up the entrance to the Milford Chamber of Commerce. We helped contribute to the November DFGC by donating a basket to their fundraiser and help build the poinsettia tree for the Milford Senior Center.



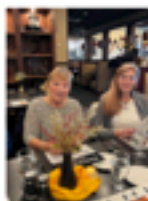
We decorated the Parson Thorne Mansion for Christmas in period style. Club members decorated a White Christmas themed tree for the Milford Public Library.



For our major club fund raiser, all of our members participated. Some harvested fresh greens, others donated pinecones/paint/decorations, assembled holiday decor, assembled greens, designed the centerpieces, or sold them to friends at the Milford Stroll. We are thankful for all of our wonderful elves!



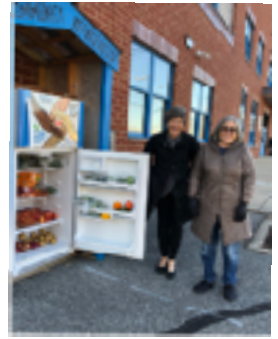
Members relax and enjoy a lovely holiday luncheon!





Garden Gate

Garden Club



Garden Gate Garden Club has elected to participate in the National Garden Club's *Plant America-Feed America* project. On December 13, following our club's monthly meeting, Garden Gate delivered 65 pounds of fresh vegetables and fruit to the two community refrigerators at REACH Riverside and Kingswood Community Centers in northeast Wilmington.

Plant America - Feed America is designed to fight food insecurity by encouraging garden clubs across the country to donate food to those communities which are food insecure. The Riverside neighborhood of Wilmington is a low income community with a median income of less than \$10,000, for those in subsidized housing, and roughly \$25,000 for those in non-subsidized housing. Riverside is now being transformed thanks to substantial public and private investment to create: mixed-income housing, a cradle-to-college education pipeline, and community wellness.

Garden Gate Garden Club will stock these two community refrigerators on a monthly basis, joining a broad cross-section of community organizations seeking to support this neighborhood. We also contribute food and clothing monthly to Sojourners, a local residential program that assists homeless men and women on their journey to self-sufficiency.



Garden Gate celebrated its 60th anniversary, exactly to the day, of its founding. We feted ourselves with an elegant luncheon, a visit and words of congratulation from DFGC President, Ginny Cordona, beautiful garden-themed cupcakes, and a Prosecco toast. Past President Paula Hill was presented with an honorary DFGC lifetime membership.

Other fascinating programs included a field trip to a lovely natural garden in Villanova, on the lands of the Lenape Indians. The property has been placed under conservation easement with Natural Lands ensuring that this beautiful place will be preserved. Cat Meholc, founder of the group Women in Horticulture and now Director of Gardens and Horticulture at Hagley Museum, conducted a program describing plant and animal life that she has observed while residing on the 500-acre property, Granogue, formerly a DuPont family estate. Our latest program was a presentation by Sarah Rafferty, founder of Atwater Designs, during which we learned of the cyanotype process and saw a number of her creative botanical works on paper. We all were very excited by her energy and creativity and hope to follow up on our plans to visit her studio for a class.

This month we had a trip to Delmar to visit one of the only biodynamic farms on the Eastern Shore. Our hostess lives off the grid and grows only organically seasonal plants, seeds and nuts, dried food and herbs. In addition to getting to know her ducks, geese, chickens and a horse. She shared her experience with herbal medicines, tinctures and crafts made from the vines, herbs and weeds on the farm as well as her methods of composting and organic and biodynamic gardening methods. We had a gorgeous spring day for our trip and enjoyed the fresh air and sunshine and being outside.

Our entire club is now preparing for our semi-annual auction to be held at the end of April. Our theme is a blast from the past - Flower Power. We are including for the first time a Chi Chi She Shed - a garden shed with garden related art, books, tools, containers, tote bags, pots and vases and garden objects. We will enjoy, i.e. rock out to, familiar music of the 60's and many are planning to dress in wild colors and clothes that will harken back to the 60's. Here come bell bottoms, tie dyed shirts, big hair, granny dresses and blouses, headbands, beads, birkenstocks, etc. If you can attend, please come on along and join us on April 26th - a flyer of the event is included in this newsletter.

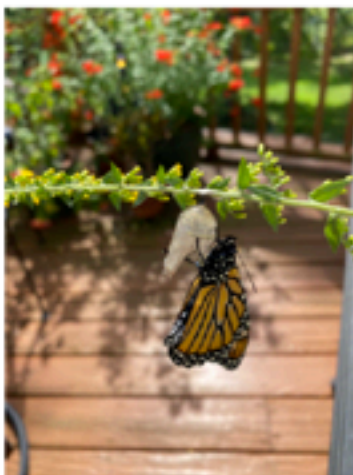


Countryside Garden Club

Countryside Garden Club does not convene during the months of January and February, but pre-Christmas events included instruction on 'How to Press Flowers' in preparation for a Pressed-Flower Design activity in May, an October visit to Stoneleigh- the newest local estate (Villanova, Pa.) focused on growing native plants for biodiversity.



Our November Meeting included a lesson in winter sowing *Asclepias incarnata* in milk bottles to aide the struggling Monarchs combined with a tray tablescape challenge among our members. This will get us primed and ready for the joint Countryside/Moonflower Flower Show scheduled for June 15th at Cokesbury Village in Hockessin, De. Entitled "Through That Door- Journey to Equality". All are welcome and invited!!



Finally, a March powerpoint about Cactus and Succulents presented by our own very qualified Veronica Lewandowski is the precursor for a later "Succulent Dish Garden" activity to come.



Our club has been as busy as bees this season, starting off with a wonderful visit to Chanticleer Garden. We were guided through this forty-eight-acre botanical garden built on the ground of the Rosengarten estate in Philadelphia's historic Main Line and admired the varied aspects... an Asian garden, woodland gardens, an architectural ruin garden and much more delighted us as did the tour of the house.

In October, club member Shirley Stout taught us how to make note cards using decorative paper luncheon napkins. Our club enjoys doing craft projects and the results of this one certainly pleased all participants.



Another craft project we did was in preparation for trimming the holiday tree at the Ronald McDonald House which we do every year. This year's theme was "Fairies". We made fairies out of pipe cleaners and silk flowers and trolls out of flowerpots and yarn. It's always a time full of fun and laughs as some of us are "craftier" than others. The results were highlighted beautifully on the tree.



Our holiday outing was to the Reed House in Old Historic New Castle. Built in 1797, it was the largest and most sophisticated residence in the state at the time and is a significant example of high-style Federal period architecture. The detail work throughout the house awed us all. Lunch followed at the Jessop's Tavern with many laughs especially about the large size of some of the offerings.

The new year kicked off with a very informative presentation by Michael Holleran who is an arborist and landscape consultant with Davey Tree company. We learned much about trees and the environments they live in.



As always, our meetings are a beehive of warm companionship, interesting discussions, lots of fun and laughter and delicious luncheons. This includes bringing in 2 new members and changing our bylaws to allow us to create "honorary membership" for those who can no longer meet with us for various reasons.

We are looking forward to much more fun learning about more aspects of gardening and, as always, enjoying wonderful relationships with our fellow gardeners.



GARDENERS BY THE SEA

Santa Steve Zimmerman was the chair of a raffle that was our #1 Fundraiser this year. Tickets were sold in the Fall and the winning ticket was drawn at our Holiday Luncheon. The winner was our Club members! Steve and Laura Martin hosted a celebration at their home for our Members. GBTS has an annual tradition of gifting Poinsettias as door prizes at our holiday luncheon. FUN!!!



Garden Therapy is a favorite Community Service Project.

Margaret Woda is our chair. In March the committee did Terrariums with clients of the CHEER CENTER in Roxanna. In February, we were at Atlantic Shores where residents made terrariums, decorated with hearts for Valentine's Day.

Getting ready for Spring! Members cleaned the gardens at the **Ocean View Historical Village**. Janet Sabo, Martha Gallagher, Maggie Baker, Bill Ohriner. At the Sign are Kathy Lesperance, Anne McKinney and Cindy Ream.



Gardeners by the Sea and the Town of Millville honor Vietnam Veterans for VN Veteran Day which is celebrated on March 29. We planted 2 new Arizona Blue Cypress in our Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Garden.

Pictured: Alva Hutchison, Martha Gallagher, Maryanne Green, Diane Baxter and Maureen Eisenhart.



Announcements

Sussex Gardeners will host a Baked Goods and Plant Sale at the Mid-Atlantic Sea Glass Festival on [June 1-2](#) in Lewes, Delaware. The activities will take place in the Lewes Historic District and in Canal Park.

Brandywine Garden Club will have a Plant Sale [Wednesday, May 8, 2024. 1:00 to 4:00 PM](#) First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Rd., Wilmington. Featuring our beautiful daylilies, clivia & many other plants from our members' lovely gardens!

Plantation Lakes Garden Club is planning a bus trip to Longwood Gardens on [Wednesday, April 24th](#). All are welcome to come along. See flyer below.



Bus Trip

Hosted by



**Plantation Lakes
Garden Club**

for Spring Bloom at

LONGWOOD GARDENS

Wednesday APRIL 24, 2024

\$70

PER PERSON

\$75

PER PERSON

INCLUDING
Guided Tour
lasting 1 hr

PICK UP LOCATION

The Landing
20301 Charlotte Blvd
Millsboro DE

Check in: 8:30am
Leave: 9:00am
Departing Gardens: 6:00pm
Returning: 8:30pm

TRIP INCLUDES

- Roundtrip Coach Bus
- Snacks and water
- Lunch available on your own
- Wheelchair, Scooter and Stroller Rentals available (limited availability)

RSVP info@plgardenclub.org

***Non-refundable* Payment due March 31**

Flower Power!

Charity Auction

Christ Church 505 E. Buck Road, Wilmington DE
Friday April 26, 5:30pm

**A night of 60's music, food and fun.
Bring your inner flower child and
dress accordingly if you dig it!**

\$40 /person
**includes one drink ticket
and heavy hors d'oeuvres**

Garden Gate Garden Club
GardenGateDE@gmail.com



THROUGH THAT DOOR

Journey to Equality



A National Garden Clubs
SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

Cokesbury Village Retirement Community Atrium
726 Loveville Road
Hockessin, Delaware 19707

Saturday, June 15, 2024
1:00-5:00 p.m.

Presented by:

**Countryside & Moonflower
Garden Clubs**

Members:
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Garden Clubs Inc.

Contact Marcia at mkkelfam@aol.com for more information.