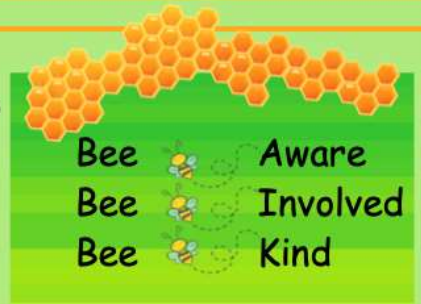




Ginny Cardona
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs
President

President's Message



A very happy spring to everyone! Even with the surprise temperature drops, the weather has cooperated so we could get our beds ready and plants in the ground. Whether you have vast spaces or containers on a porch, get outside and enjoy all that nature has to offer.

The theme for this administration is "Bee Aware, Bee Involved, Bee Kind". The goal is that we continue to learn, that we make a difference in the community and we are kind to each other and work as a community of gardeners. The opportunities in the community are virtually limitless. In the first month of this administration, I have been contacted by a good number of schools, community centers, state agencies, museums and the like asking for help or advice. Just this week, I received this request: I am the Principal of a small school. I would like to form a school garden club and plant raised beds. Can someone help me get started? What would your club do with that request?

There is no shortage of outdoor events to enjoy. Plant sales and plant exchanges are everywhere. They are the best places to find additions to your gardens and new members for your clubs. Is your club planning an event? There will be an opportunity to share at the June 21st meeting. For a little indoor inspiration, Longwood Gardens has free, on-line, live classes via AARP available at the end of May and June. Did I say FREE?

5/31: How to Keep the Bees Buzzing:
<https://local.aarp.org/vcc-event/how-to-keep-the-bees-buzzing-wynzy5pcmvv.html>

6/26: Spectacular Spring Blooms
<https://local.aarp.org/vcc-event/spectacular-spring-blooms-and-beyond-tynjytsf79p.html>

Do you remember The Frightened Frog and The Saved Seed, books written by our current National Garden Clubs President, Brenda Moore? She has written a new book; My Green is Gone. A limited number of copies will be available for sale at our June 21st meeting. The price is \$10. Should we need more, or if you wish to order any of Brenda's earlier books, we can do a group order and save on shipping.

I am looking forward to seeing you at your Club events and our June 21st State meeting.

Ginny Cardona
DFGC President

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1st VP

June 21, 2023 DFGC State Meeting

Location: Heritage Shores, One Heritage Shores Circle, Bridgeville, DE 19933

Host Club: Four Seasons Gardeners Garden Club

Cost: \$40

Program: The History and Horticulture of Laurel Hill, Gregg Tepper, Senior Horticulturist, Laurel Hill

Cemetery. With his enthusiasm for horticulture and engaging talks, Gregg is the most requested speaker for the DFGC. In addition to his current position at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Gregg brings his experience with the Delaware Botanic Gardens and Mt. Cuba.

Registration starts at 9. Business meeting at 10, followed by lunch, and then the Program.

RSVP to dfgcregistrar@gmail.com . Registration opens May 20th through June 3rd

Reminder: Bring one check per club to the meeting, payable to DFGC



Treasurer



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 contact information (if possible, no phone numbers or email addresses).

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

Newsletter

I am collecting the email addresses of each of the clubs newsletter contact person so that they can be contacted directly with information about deadlines, etc. If you haven't submitted for the newsletter yet, please send me, Peg Irish, an email at peganni72@gmail.com so that I can add you to the newsletter mailing list.

Don't worry if you aren't sure about your layout, I would be happy to help you put the text and pictures together for you and will send you a copy for approval before publication if I make any changes.

Also, don't hesitate to send your club news if you don't have a full page. I will make your smaller article work.

Looking forward to your submissions,

Peg Irish



Four Seasons Gardeners again have been very busy since January. We started the year with a trip to Homestead Gardens in Smyrna to learn about the care and differences of indoor plants.

February we created floral arrangements in small Tea Cups that we distributed to those in our community who have been ill or have had a tough time recently. We wanted to brighten their day.

The end of March we had our annual Home and Garden Expo. This is our largest fundraiser of the year to help our community. We bring in several local businesses to showcase their business. We combine that with our members working together to build huge themed baskets for our Silent Auction. In addition we solicit many additional prizes for our Silent Auction and the garden club sold many different types of floral arrangements including the T Cups and succulents in decorated pots. We decided to share some of that profit with the Delaware Botanical Gardens as well as local tornado victims. The tornado was extremely close to our community and we wanted to show our close neighbors that we care.

April we had a visit by the "Suburban Beekeeper" who brought us a very informative presentation on the challenges of the honey bee. He also reviewed what we need to plant in order to help these pollinators survive. We all need to do our part.

April meeting was the election of new officers and as of May 2023 we will have a new President. This will be my last article as President of the Four Seasons Gardeners and I must say the past 4 years has gone by quickly. I have fully enjoyed the friends that I have made with many of the Garden clubs in the Federation as well as here at Heritage Shores. I am looking forward to just being a participant and wish our new President, Kathy Polley, much success.

Submitted by Carole Rompala..





Starting off the Planting Season for the Healthy Plants for Healthy Kids Program by uncovering the garden beds and turning the soil: From left to right are Arleen Inyard, Cheryl Quirk, Mary Kunst, & Suz Saez. Darlene Boerlage also assisted.

On March 20, 2023, Stephen Pryce Lea, Director of Horticulture and Educational Programming at Delaware Botanic Gardens, gave an in-depth description of five perennial plants which add interest to the garden throughout the year at the monthly meeting.



Coastal Garden members, Cheryl Quirk and Peggy Dennis help students decorate planters and plant marigold seeds at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, 2023.



On March 18, 2023, a cold and windy Saturday, 21 members representing Coastal Gardeners assisted with planting Cape American Beach Grass at Tower Roads Beach, part of the Delaware State Park system.

Coastal Gardeners Spring Clean-up near Delaware Botanic Garden.





Moonflower Garden Club

Spring gets everyone's fingers itchy to start gardening outside again. Members enjoy sharing stories about their gardens at home, new or well-established. We also enjoy sharing plants as we divide and move some around. We have had several members lead programs this year.

Our on-going project to garden around the Welcome to Hockessin sign is organized by Ellie Furry (at far right). The whole club works on this project; these regular helpers are Scott Forrest, Gena Timmer and Kathe Worrell. The daffodils looked fabulous when they were in bloom and there will be a succession of flowers throughout the growing season.



For our April program, member Gena Timmer (3rd from left in photo on the left) led a watercolor workshop and taught about choosing and mixing paints, transferring a pattern, type of paper to use, aspects of design and more.



Our May program was led by member Tracy Lea Dorsey and we all made Wabi Kusa = moss balls with an emergent semi-aquatic plant. It was a messy and thoroughly enjoyable workshop. Tracy introduced us to a new product, bio-soil, a pelleted charcoal and potting soil which works well in terrariums. She also encouraged us to embrace Wasi, the practice of accepting imperfection and enjoying what is.



Brandywine Garden Club

While the winter weather was fluctuating wildly, our club was busy having fun and planning for our May flower show. We started off with a meeting in February at which our long-term members, Carol Callaghan and Karen Batt lectured and demonstrated design techniques in preparation for the flower show. Being judges themselves, they were able to share the elements that need to be included and considered to compete for the coveted ribbons.



In February, we were all treated to high tea at club member, Sue Hodges' home. We were greeted at the door with Sue in her lovely fascinator and invited to don our own hats from her extensive collection. A tour of her husband, Tom's woodworking workshop was the focus of our education where we saw a very professional looking layout of every tool you could imagine. His gorgeous turned bowls support their "Hand to Hand" charity that provides funds for computers for youth who have aged out of foster care who are going on to post-secondary education. If you want a great gift, these bowls are beautiful and are a steal.



High tea followed the tour and you would have thought you were at Buckingham Palace with such elegant tables, tasty finger sandwiches, delicious teas and pastries. Did some ladies leave with a British accent? We'll never tell.

In March we started planning our programs for the 2023-2024 season with so many ideas that it was hard to choose from. We won't tell them now as that would ruin the suspense, but we have a great year lined up for sure. We also had a meeting at which members, Susan Barefoot and Shirley Stout presented elements and ideas for the table settings category in the flower show.

Our April meeting included a presentation by Sherie Styles, Master Gardener who works at Bellevue State Park. We learned about native plants and how they enhance our environment as well as information about invasives and what is being done to limit them in Delaware.

Our flower show titles "The Earth Laughs in Flowers" was a wonderful success despite our concerns with the early blooming weather this year. It's a lot of work but we all agreed, it was well worth it and fun.



We are ending this season with a visit to the Lavender Fields at Warrington Manor in Milton, DE. Another great year of fun, learning and enjoying each other! Happy Summer everyone!

Spade & Trowel Garden Club

The Spade & Trowel Garden Club will hold a flower show on Tuesday, June 6, from 1 to 7 p.m. at Ross Station, 585 North Market Street Extended in Seaford. The show will help the club celebrate National Garden Week, June 4 through 10. It is open to the public, and admission is free. The expansive venue at Ross Station was made possible thanks to a grant from the Dottie Howatt Special Purpose Flower Show Fund.

Tea cup plantings of succulents and herbs will be available for purchase, along with a limited selection of perennials. General chairman of the show is Sharon Christopher. Questions may be directed to her at 410-310-5994.

Club members have planted flowers in 20 containers throughout the town of Seaford as part of the club's annual beautification project. Baskets on two bridges downtown also will be planted in May.

Spade & Trowel will wrap up activities for the year with a picnic at the home of Mary Noel, where officers will be installed by DFGC President Ginny Cardona. New officers are president Carol Kinsley; vice-president, Leeann Wells; recording secretary, Sandy Blackwell; corresponding secretary Betty Jean Johnson and treasurer, Barbara Fletcher. Members' floral arranging skills will be challenged with a "Brown Bag Make and Take" activity in which components for an arrangement are provided in a grocery bag by one member and put together on the spot by another.

Spade & Trowel Garden Club members Norine Donahue, Pat Bonniwell and Mary Knauss complete planting of three containers at the entrance to TidalHealth Nanticoke Hospital as part of the club's annual downtown beautification project



The Language of Flowers

*An NGC Small Standard Flower Show
Presented by Spade & Trowel Garden Club
www.seafordspadeandtrowelgardenclub.org*

*Tuesday June 6, 2023
1:00 PM - 7:00 PM*

*Ross Station
585 N Market St Ext. Seaford, DE
Free, open to the public ♦ (410)310-5994*





Sussex Gardeners



Sussex Gardeners have been celebrating the return of Spring and decorating the Zwaanendael Museum for the Tulip Festival in Lewes. Our theme was "Spring Blooms...Naturally." We used a mixture of live and silk tulips combined with other spring blooms to transform the space into a floral wonderland. Sussex Gardeners' Garden Therapy Team has consistently provided floral instruction at The Moorings & Brandywine Assisted Living throughout the Spring. Our Garden Therapy Team was honored by Brandywine for their hard work and for the pleasure it brings their residents. Pictured L-R, Elva Davidson, Joan Boraski, Lois Gillespie & Abbe Barbato being honored at Brandywine Assisted Living. At Zwaanendael Museum L-R, Gina D'Alfonso, Terri Rumble & Kathy Ackerman.

Garden Gate Garden Club was thrilled to have one of our newest



members, Bob Howatt, join our club. He is very generous, sharing his talents and is our go to guy on design, mechanics, carpentry and all things useful, clever, and beautiful. Thank you, Bob, for carrying on Dottie's passion and helping all of us with our projects. Welcome!

Our February speaker was Lucy Dinsmore, horticulturist, certified arborist, and garden designer. Her topic was 'Garden on the Verge of...' which covered how we must feed the collapsing numbers of birds, bees and insects in our gardens and our world, and we learned of interesting perennials, shrubs and trees that nurture our gardens to be resilient ecosystems.



The Philadelphia Flower Show was a real highlight for our Club! Joy Ericson was a judge, Bob Howatt was a clerk and Anne Aleman was our student judge. Kelly Koontz won a Blue Ribbon, first prize for her fall Halloween door display with Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross as trick or treaters, and also won a Doorways Class outstanding Blue Ribbon. The door wreath was decorated with a skeleton torso, and the porch pots were filled with plants that are still festive in fall and early winter. Ben, of course, was holding his string (with tiny lights attached) and key, enjoying his discovery. Betsy was holding her newly created flag.

Laura Scanlan hosted a lovely new member tea, we had a meeting and luncheon at Goodstay Garden which was in full glorious bloom of lilacs, azalea, tulips and budding peonies. We later had a guided tour of the park which is undergoing complete renovation; it is a lovely green oasis of quiet and beauty. In April we attended the DFGC meeting and were proud to be there to see Elaine Hickey presented with a Life Member Award. Recently we had a great and quite soggy tour of Ladew House and Gardens in Maryland horse country – the topiary and beautiful gardens were a real treat. Now we are preparing our horticulture and design displays for our own Dottie Howatt Memorial Flower Show, which will take place in June.



Earth Day was celebrated at Evans Park in Millville and we were there! Dianne DeForrest read "Compost Stew" written by Mary McKenna Siddals at story time and our members planned activities that were enjoyed by about 100 children.



We are partnering with the Town of Millville to place both a GOLD STAR AND BLUE STAR MEMORIAL in front of the community center at Evans Park in October 2023. Exciting!

We have a Blue Star in Bethany Beach.

Maryanne Green is shown offering an opportunity for the community to remember and recognize veterans. The committee created decoupage oyster shells as a thank you gift for our donors.



It was a beautiful day for the community's first annual SPRING FLING at John West Park in Ocean View, Saturday, May 6th.

Our Members brought in flowers, garden plants, gift items and baked goods. We held a 50/50 Raffle. It was a great success!

Pictured above is our Ways and Means Chair, Barbara Ware and this event chair, Steve Zimmerman, counting the money!



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

Email Address of Donor

Phone Number of Donor

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)