



# DFGC May 2022 Newsletter



*"Blossom by blossom,  
the spring begins."*

-Algernon Charles Swinburne

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## President Message

Dear Garden Club Members,

I wish everyone a Very Happy spring. I hope you are all are surviving the pollen, the cold and the wind and getting ready to play in either your gardens, pots or house plants if that is what you love. How fun to wander about the nurseries and local plant sales this time of year.

Speaking of plant sales, I hope some members were able to attend some of the Flower sales and/or events announced at the April State meeting. I forwarded flyers to Board members and Club Presidents to share with their friends and members from The Barefoot Garden Club, Brandywine Garden Club, Duck Creek Garden Club and Milford Garden Club.

Delaware Garden Clubs has lost a very important, irreplaceable member. Dottie Howatt passed on February 15. For members who were not at the November State Meeting, you missed an amazing program by Dottie Howatt promoting the Trash to Treasure Centerpiece Contest.



November 2021 Meeting



60h Anniversary - Happy Blingy Ladies

There is a Dottie Howatt Special Flower Show Fund that has been set up for donations in her memory. Dottie was an avid promoter of flower shows. She was always available to provide design workshops/show set ups, anything to support all clubs to have a flower show. Dottie and all she did for everyone will be sorely missed and is irreplaceable.

The Delaware Flower Show Judges Council has changed the name of the Flower Show Endeavor Award (effective for shows in 2022) to the Dottie Howatt Award

for Flower Show Excellence in her honor. Three awards could be given by the DFSJC each year. One to the highest scoring NGC Standard Flower Show, one to the highest scoring NGC Small Standard Flower Show and one to the NGC Specialty either Design or Horticulture Show.

April 20, 2022 was our second in person State meeting since the Covid shut down. It was held at the Executive Banquet and Conference Center in Newark with more than 85 in attendance. It was an exciting, busy, busy meeting. We had the “Trash to Treasure” Centerpieces to enjoy, a club’s plant sales tables, an exhibition NGC Small Standard Flower Show presented by the Delaware Flower Show Judges Council, Salt Air Garden Club shared a power point presentation of their project Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids (an NGC Plant America Grant Winner), and Meghan Matwichuk a speaker from the Delaware Ornithological Society presented a power point program about back yard birding. Whew! And..... everyone enjoyed visiting with each other in person.

Many thanks to Duck Creek Garden Club for hosting/providing the name tags, place cards and registering attendees. Duck Creek was the first club of three clubs entered in the” Trash to Treasure” centerpiece contest. The centerpieces were delightful. The Trash to Treasure centerpiece contest will continue at the June and November Meetings. The winner will be announced at the April 2023 State Meeting. Good luck to all the clubs that have entered!!

Please consider applying for My President’s Project “Grow Locally”. The project deadline has been extended to November 15, 2022. Use the grant to grow membership, grow awareness, grow a garden. Contact Presidents Project Chair Betty Kramarck for more information.

Thank you to those who responded to information requested by me on behalf NGC respective to planted trees both native and not. A total of 509 trees were planted. 425 of those planted were native.

The list below is what is currently on the NGC Web Page respective to Blue Star Memorials in the State of Delaware. I have forwarded two changes from the responses I received. Change 4/27/2013 Delaware Fed. Of GC to Duck Creek G.C. and 5/31/2011 Memorial Garden For The Fallen at Dover Air Force Base / Delaware Federation of GC.

## Delaware

Date	Location/Club	Marker Type/Quantity
9/29/1981	Spade & Trowel G.C.	HI
3/20/1997	F.G.C. of Delaware, Smyrna Rest Area	H I
3/28/2006	F.G.C. of Delaware	HI
8/31/2006	Hoe “N” Hope G.C.	BI
4/27/2013	713 Smyrna-Leipsic Rd., Smyrna/ Delaware Fed. of GC	BI
9/19/2013	Veteran’s Hospital, Elsmere/ Garden Gate GC	BI
7/14/2016	Fenwick Island Town Hall, Fenwick Island DE/ Barefoot Gardeners GC & Fenwick Island Town Hall	BBy-Way/I
11/9/2019	Bethany Beach Park, Rte 26 & Kent Ave., Bethany Beach, DE/ Gardeners by the Sea GC, VFW Post 7234, Town of Bethany Beach	BMemorial/I
6/8/2021	29787 Plantation Lakes Blvd., Millsboro, DE/ Plantation Lakes GC, Plantation Lakes HOA	BBy-Way/I

The President's Award of Excellence (included near the end of this newsletter) must be received by June 1, 2022. Presidents please submit your applications to:

Barbara DeRue  
17 East Bullrush Dr  
Milford, De 19963

Board Member Reminder The May Board Meeting will be held via zoom on Wednesday May 11 at 10am. I am looking forward to gathering with you all again at the June State meeting!

Barbara DeRue  
DFGC President

Acting Second Vice President

**Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:**

**June 15, 2020 State Meeting**

Location: The Modern Maturity Center, 1121 Forrest Avenue, Dover, DE 19904

Host Club: Middletown-Odessa Garden Club

Cost: \$30 per person

Program: "Jump Starting the Garden with Exquisite Wildflowers for Flowers, Foliage and Fragrance".

Speaker is Rick Lewandowski, the former Director of Mt Cuba and Shangri-La Botanic Gardens and Nature Center in Texas.

Whatcha Got Growing? - Show off your horticulture by bringing in cut specimens from your yard. Bring in and display in a plastic bottle (prefer no glass). Labels not required. No prizes – just bragging rights and lots of ooohs and aaahs.

\*\*RSVP to [dfgcregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:dfgcregistrar@gmail.com). Registration opens May 10th through May 31st.

**November 16, 2022 State Meeting**

Location: Lighthouse Cove Event Center at the Hyatt, 1301 Coastal Highway, Dewey Beach, DE 19971

Host Clubs: Countryside Garden Club and Salt Air Gardeners

Cost: \$30 per person

Program: to be announced

\*\*RSVP to [dfgcregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:dfgcregistrar@gmail.com). Registration opens October 7<sup>th</sup> through October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sales tables will be available at both meetings.

\*\*PLEASE TYPE [dfgcregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:dfgcregistrar@gmail.com) INTO YOUR BROWSER AND DO NOT TRY TO LINK. E mails sent via link are not received.

Ginny Cardona  
Acting Second Vice President

Treasure

**ATTENTION: CLUB PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS**

DFGC will be accepting membership dues, now. In accordance to our bylaws, dues collection starts May 1, 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).

Send check and information to:

Joan Simon, DFGC Treasurer

104 E. Minglewood Drive

Middletown, DE 19709

Currently, there are two major legislative initiatives underway in Delaware to address environmental/conservation issues.

I. **The Justice40 Initiative** was created by the Biden Administration through [Executive Order \(EO\) 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#). The Justice40 Initiative is a whole-of-government effort that requires that disadvantaged communities receive at least 40% of all benefits from federally funded projects related to renewable and clean energy, pollution reduction and protection against climate change. In Delaware, communities that bear the burden of pollution, red lining, climate change, and health issues resulting from prior environmental neglect will receive 40% of funding from federal and state agencies to mitigate these long-term hazards. Rep. Larry Lambert (District 7) chairs the General Assembly's Justice40 Oversight Committee. Click [here](#) to read an interview with Rep. Lambert and learn more.

**2. Delaware Land Preservation Coalition: Advocating for \$25 million in new state open space funds** - Conserving open spaces protects our natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources and helps mitigate climate change through carbon absorption. Organized by the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays (CIB), the Delaware Land Protection Coalition (DLPC) is a group of conservation-focused organizations advocating for \$25 million in state open space funds. In addition to CIB, DLPC members include The Nature Conservancy, Delaware Wild Lands, Delaware Nature Society, Kent County Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Sussex County Land Trust, Preservation Delaware, Native Species Council and representatives from New Castle County and Kent County.

Currently Delaware only appropriates around \$10 million each fiscal year for open space, and funding investments can vary depending upon the economic situation. More concerning is the purchasing power of \$10 million has significantly decreased due to land values increasing markedly and the intense development pressures in some parts of the state. While \$10 million dollars was a large investment 20 years ago, this same amount of funding expended today protects significantly less property and, in some cases, might only enable protection of a single property. This problem will only become more challenging as land prices continue to rise. **Now is the time to act to ask the General Assembly to appropriate \$25 million for open space before lands are lost. Contact your state representative and senator and request they support this.**

◇ Note: Adapted from The Nature Conservancy DE/PA webpage.

**Sierra Club Delaware** now has a [Sussex County section](#)! If you are in Sussex County or nearby and are invested in caring for and protecting the environment as well as meeting like-minded individuals, consider getting involved.

### **DNREC Advocates for Red Knots**

Red knots are among Delaware's most endangered species, according to Samantha Robinson, Avian Conservation Program Manager at DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife. In total, there are 86 species included in the state's endangered list.

She wrote [an article](#), published last week, about the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's advocacy for these endangered species. There's currently a lack of funding to properly implement plans to address the conservation needs for these species, though legislation is being considered to distribute \$1.5 billion more each year to states for this purpose.

A [companion article](#) was released at the same time, highlighting the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan and describes DNREC's programs throughout the state. It was written by Joe Rogerson, Program Manager for Species Conservation and Research at DNREC.

◇ Note: from *Delaware Audubon*: <https://delawareaudubon.org/news/2022/1/30/dnrec-advocates-for-red-knots>

### Events:

#### Delaware Nature Society [Native Plant Sale](#) – May 6 and 7 – Coverdale Farms



**International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW)** is the largest and most comprehensive education initiative of the compost industry. It is celebrated nationwide and in other countries each year during **the first full week of May**. The goal of ICAW is to work together to raise public awareness on why we all should be composting our organics recycling and using compost. The program includes poster and video contests in the fall and activities and events held during the week in May. Throughout the week of ICAW, community and business events are held to encourage and celebrate composting - all types of composting – from backyard to large-scale are promoted. Click [here](#) for more information.

Suzanne D. Smith  
DFGC Environment/Conservation/Legislation Chair

### Horticulture

#### Click on Containers

by Margie Huntzinger – Horticulture Chair

Everywhere on the internet people are putting together incredible containers that pop as soon as they go together. They are set with their incredible mature plants (EXPENSIVE) into their artisan pot. But do they show you that same container in six weeks. No way! They did not select plants that should ever been tucked into the same pot. Mixed plant containers should always be filled with plants that have the same likes and dislikes. Don't combine sun worshippers with shady characters, unless you slide them underneath the sun-lover's large leaves. Don't put something that would want to live in a rain forest with arid climate plants. No one will be happy for long. But you see them often do this on you-tube to great effect, for the first few days. If you wish to display plants with conflicting needs in the same area, plant each in its own similar container and arrange them artistically together. Single plant specimen pots can be beautiful alone or mixed together.

If you do want a mixed plant container, start with a container with good drainage. There needs to be holes in the bottom. (That is unless you want a bog pot – which can be very interesting.) Go large or water twice a day in July. Anything can be a container. Garden pots, artisan creations, old boots, a backpack, a basket, an old rusty bucket, your imagination and good drainage are your limit. Next needed is to partially fill

with light weight, quality potting (NOT garden) soil. No gravel or pot shads in the bottom – research tested. Set the plants you have chosen with their similar needs for sun, water, fertilization, and temperature around on the soil. The classic way to arrange the plants is by “thriller, spiller, filler”. That is the showiest one in the center, the ones that will sprawl, close to the edge, and the bushy ones around the center. After you arrange them to your liking, pop them out of their pots and tease their roots to loosen. Then add more soil to fill so the plant rests at the same level in the soil as it was before. Don’t fill the pot too high with soil – allow an inch or so of pot to show between the soil and the rim. Gently water in the young plants.

Growing plants in containers is a necessity for those who do not have ground to till but want to nurture plants. For the rest of us, we see the benefits of growing plants we can move around. Those great tropical beauties you love can be enjoyed on the patio during the summer and kept alive in the garage in the winter. Containers come in many sizes to accommodate plants from young succulents to street trees. They can be used with or without plants to be a focal point to guide the eye to or through a garden. Containers work well to transition from one part of a landscape to another. They can define garden rooms and guide the paths. Containers have many places in the garden. Enjoy them!

Margie Huntzinger  
Horticulture 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](mailto:judy@dayhoff.org) before each deadline. Questions? Phone: (302) 988-2061

**Deadline Dates: February 1<sup>st</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Publish Dates: February 15<sup>th</sup> - May 15<sup>th</sup> - September 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

Judy Dayhoff  
Publicity Chair

## Scholarship

A big THANK YOU, to all clubs that made direct donations and the clubs that have given Life Memberships, without your support we could not give this scholarship.

DFGC will be giving a \$2,000 scholarship this year, so please think of eligible college students that would qualify and contact them. This might be someone you know that has a child or grandchild in a Delaware college. Juniors, seniors or graduate students currently enrolled in a Delaware college are eligible to apply. Applicants must have a 3.25 GPA and major in Agriculture Education, Horticulture, Floriculture, Environmental Concerns, Wildlife Science, Habitat of Forest/Systems Ecology, Land Management and/or other related or allied subjects. Deadline for applications is February 1<sup>st</sup>. For further information go to: [delawaregardenclubs.org](http://delawaregardenclubs.org) or [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org).

Elva Davidson  
Scholarship Chair

## Delaware Nature Society

The mission at Delaware Nature Societies is to Educate, Advocate and Conserve. Founded in 1964, DNS is a state affiliate for the National Wildlife Federation and is renowned for their education programming.



Some exciting news happening at the Delaware Nature Society!! Summer Camps season will open June 13 to August 26.

Nine to 12 year olds are offered full-day camps. Choose from outdoor adventures, learning survival skills, target sports, camping, fossil hunting, canoeing, outdoor competitions, horseback riding, collecting stream animals, fishing, nature photography, and trips to nature preserves, and much more. Camps usually run from 8:30 to 3 daily. Registration is now open for everyone.

Instructors are all full-time school teachers, DNS staff, and Teacher Naturalists. All are trained professionals and experts in the outdoors and education who go through intensive training in working with children, environmental education techniques, natural history, van driving safety, canoe and Kayak safety.

### **Attention teens, 14 – 17 year olds, may become a summer counselor!!**

For all the exciting programs and especially the summer camps, contact [delawarenaturesociety.org](http://delawarenaturesociety.org). Enjoy your camping experience at Delaware Nature Society.

Joy Ericson  
DNS Representative

## Delaware Center for Horticulture

The Delaware Center for Horticulture has begun its planning for the renovation of their public gardens located at 1810 DuPont St in Wilmington. “Rooted in Resilience”, a concept created by the Executive Director, Vikram Krishnamurthy, outlines some elements of this exciting project.



First and foremost, the DCH will be making the gardens more accessible to the surrounding community, schools and non-profit organizations interested in garden-related activities and space for their community/education events.

Secondly, the gardens will feature landscaping with sensory experiences, i.e., sounds, (plants, water, bees), smells, textures of plants, and tastes (safely). Quiet spaces with seating for meditative visitors will be built into places where visitors can enjoy the peacefulness of nature.

Third, the paths, walkways and spaces will be redesigned; more areas of shade, cooler spaces from plantings will be designed. DCH would like to focus on messaging that will tie together storm water management features for public education of water conservation and smart water usage.

Finally, nutrition classes, how-to-workshops, demonstration of garden techniques, and ways for all to stay active are important.

DCH has hired RAS Landscape Architects to develop the plans and work with us on this amazing project!

Finally, the Countryside Garden Club has a group membership with DCH. We have held business meetings there, June picnics, and most recently, a Flower Show during the Monthly Art Loop.

Marybeth Johns

Delaware Center for Horticulture Chair

### Special Interest

#### FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

##### Plant Three Rows of Peas:

Peace of mind  
Peace of heart  
Peace of soul

##### Plant Four Rows of Squash:

Squash gossip  
Squash indifference  
Squash grumbling  
Squash selfishness

##### Plant Four Rows of Lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful  
Lettuce be kind  
Lettuce be patient  
Lettuce really love one another

##### No Garden is without Turnips:

Turnip for meetings  
Turnip for service  
Turnip to help one another

##### To Conclude our Garden We Must Have Thyme:

Thyme for each other  
Thyme for family  
Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Submitted by: Betty Kramarck

### TREE-mendous Tree Project

How can we honor someone with a TREE planting? Just fill out the form on our DFGC website also attached on page 23. 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!

Lisa Arni

Tree project at Delaware Botanic Gardens





# BAREFOOT GARDENERS



The Barefoot Gardeners started the year on Saturday, April 9th on a positive note with an in person meeting and program at the Fenwick Island Town Hall. Our meeting was filled with many discussions on what the club can expect in the future. Then our very own, Karen Ebert, demonstrated how to make a seasonal wreath with tulips...raffled off at the end of the program to one luck winner for display in their home at Easter.



Then on Saturday, April 23, 8 club members gathered on the beach of Fenwick Island, to clean their adopted 8 street length portion of the beach of any unwanted debris. To our great surprise, there was not a lot of trash found on the beach and very few cigarette butts (based on years past).



We are looking to expand our community efforts by having monthly gatherings at Brandywine to have a 3 of our members meeting with 10 residents to help them make floral arrangements for their units within the facility.

We are also looking to expand our beautification efforts along Coastal Highway in Fenwick Island.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be happy to resurrect our Annual Plant Sale to the surrounding areas as one of our major fundraisers for our club.

All very exciting events and we look forward to other planned activities this summer.



## Brandywine Garden Club Trip to Delaware Botanic Garden



Several members of the Brandywine Garden Club visited the Delaware Botanic Garden on Wednesday, April 27, a sunny, but windy day. The first picture are the ladies sitting in the Bird's Nest, which is made of the sticks and small logs collected during clean-up of the woodlands. Paths are lined with larger branches and bricks from the remains of the original farmhouse.

The second picture is of the Dragon which is the fanciful addition to the work done to preserve the water line. Instead of riprap, 8 ft. stakes were driven into the muddy bottom about 8 ft. apart and then branches harvested from the woodlands floor were woven in. This has saved about 20 ft. or more of woodlands from erosion.



Standing in the Folly Garden to the left, you can see in the background the meadow garden designed by Piet Ouldolf. With all the various textures and subtle pallet of colors, it's exquisite.

In the picture to the right, large driftwood pieces dot the Folly Garden creating interesting additions to the plant life.



To the left, this man-made water feature is home to much wildlife including many bullfrogs.

The ladies of the club had a wonderful day and assured those who did not make the trip that they had missed a great experience!

# COASTAL GARDENERS

## Coastal Gardeners has had a busy start of the year!



February speaker Judy Pfister (on the left) gave a Power Point presentation on Deer Resistant Native Plants.



March meeting with Jan Poli (on the right) gave a presentation on Planter designs. She made several beautiful arrangements with ideas that we could use for our own pots.



March 28 our club went to the Roxanna Cheer Center and assisted the seniors to plant seeds. We will be going back to help transplant them to take home. To the left is Master Gardener Penny Huth assisting with the seed planting. Pictured to the right is Cheryl Quirk assisting a senior from the Center.



We did our Adopt A Highway pick-up on Piney Neck Road on April 26. Shown are members with the trash pickup in front of the Delaware Botanic Gardens site. On the left is Cheryl Quirk, Sandy Daniels, and Jackie Dietrich. On the right is Suz Saez, Damien Golden, Arleen Inyard, Robin Zagone, Mary DeHahn, and Jackie Dietrich.



The Club attended a tour and lunch at Mt Cuba April 23. The tour was wonderful and beautiful. The whole group enjoyed the day at the gardens.



We opened the beds at Phillip Showell Elementary School on March 3. We are partners with Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids and the school to allow all grades to be involved in a vegetable garden. Pictured to the left is Jen Cipolla HFHK program manager and Darlene Boerlage. Pictured to the right preparing the garden soil is member Cheryl Quirk.





Four Seasons Gardeners have had another busy month for April. We started the month with a field trip to Lewes, Delaware for their wonderful Tulip Festival. Our guided tour not only showed us the many Tulips but pointed many of the historical buildings and monuments in Lewes. Very educational program.



We then prepared for our Home and Garden Expo on April 9. This Expo had been scheduled for March 2020 but because of covid was cancelled and rescheduled 5 times. Our main fundraiser was a challenged but extremely successful with over 400 people from the surrounding areas visiting our 26 vendors and participated in our Silent and Chinese auctions we were able to profit very well from the endeavor.

We finished the month and began May with the installation of our new officers for 2022. I was asked by the membership to continue as President for another year however we were able to fill many needed positions. Our State President Barbara De Rue came to our meeting and handled the installation. We followed the installation with a presentation by Linda Peters, master gardener, and recording secretary of the state with a very informative presentation on butterflies.

We are so very proud that since 2020 we have increased our membership from 18 to now 41 members.

I believe our success is because we have a regular meeting each month with a field trip also planned.

This gives everyone the opportunity to make a choice if they cant do both.

Carole Rompala, President





## GARDEN GATE GARDEN CLUB



We have had a number of excellent programs and a lot of fun this year. We have been very fortunate to have been able to have in person meetings and no reports of Covid among our members – good news indeed.

Professor Sue Barton, specialist for Ornamental Horticulture in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at University of Delaware, gave an exceptional program on “Plants for a Livable Delaware”, discussing problems of invasives in the landscape and provided us with alternative choices to replace the popular invasives found in stores and in many home landscapes.

We are looking forward to visits at the fabulous Chanticleer in May and a tour of Andrew Bunting’s wonderful garden, Belvidere, in June. Andrew is VP of Public Horticulture at PHS. His home includes a gravel garden, ornamental containers, a summer house, Mediterranean-like garden, tropical and woodland gardens, and the last time I was there, he was also raising chickens!

Near the end of April, we had a wonderfully lively and successful “Spring Fling” auction, featuring hats and fascinators for spring – a nod to Point to Point Races at Winterthur. The auction items included: numerous large gift baskets (wine, garden items, spa, baby, BBQ, and many more), a stay at a vacation home, Phillies tickets, homemade cookies and free-range eggs for a year, many indoor and outdoor planters, garden and home consultations, elegant teas, luncheons and dinners provided by club members and much, much more.



Sadly, we lost one of our members of 23 years, **Dottie Howatt**. She was a friend and mentor to all in our club and to many in Delaware and across the country, in addition to being a very creative and generous international flower show judge and parliamentarian. Her distinctions are many, including DFGC Life Member, CAR-SGC Life Member, FSS Symposium Chair, DFSJC Chair, Schedule Evaluation Chair, and Judges Credentials Chair. She was a patient mentor to all of us, had a great sense of humor and laugh, and was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and so very much more. She will be missed by many as a “one of a kind”.

**Godspeed, Dottie!**



## GARDENERS BY THE SEA



**Scholarship winner** - Gardeners by the Sea presents an annual scholarship to a student studying horticulture at Del-Tech. Our current grantee, Emely Mendoza, attended the April meeting. Emely is in her last semester at Del Tech, studying ornamental horticulture. Emely plans to continue her education. It was a pleasure for our members to get to know Emely.



**Tree Grant!** On March 29, 2022, GBTS was awarded a \$5K matching grant for the 2022 Urban and Community Forestry Grant Application that GBTS submitted to Delaware Department of Agriculture on behalf of Evans Park in the Town of Millville. On Tuesday, April 12, GBTS members (Lisa Arni, Maureen Eisenhart, Maryanne Green (grandson James); Lonni Scully (grandson CJ), Mary Beth Besosa, Martha Gallagher, and Joan O'Day (photographer) met at Evans Park to perform soil tests at 5 locations for 10 species of trees (23 in total) to be planted at Evans



Park in May 2022. The majority of trees (10 species) are native to Delaware. Left: Community Projects chair Maureen Eisenhart directs members to areas to take the soil test. Right: Former Vice-President Maryanne Green is the key contact for the grant. Maryanne is working with her grandson James to take the soil tests.



**Habitat of Humanity** - On April 20, GBTS members (Chair, Eileen Quigley, Members: Ria Carraro, Charlotte Whidden, and Maryanne Green) attended the Habitat for Humanity's Clever Family House Dedication in Milton. The program's greeting remarks were delivered by Habitat's CEO, Kevin Gilmore, followed by presentation of the key, The Cleaver family (father and 2 daughters) were grateful and appreciated this opportunity to live together as a family. It was a beautiful, emotion-filled day promoting civic beauty, adding beautification to this newly built home, and giving back to the local community.



### Earth Day at Evans Park in the Town of Millville!

Gardeners by the Sea joined the Delaware Master Gardeners to host the Farmer McGregor puppet show and a Scavenger Hunt. Packets of seeds were available for all. Peter Rabbit was a special guest!



### New Member Reception

Gardeners by the Sea welcomed 15 new members this year. The Membership Committee recently held a reception for the newest members and their mentors to get to know one another. Thank you to Kathy Lesperance for hosting and to Karen Plis, chair, along with other members of the Membership Committee. Bravo! L-R Back row Cindy Ream, Joan, Marybeth Panik, Marybeth Besosa, Carol Batson, Fran Smutniak, Marian Augustine, Jacqui Milizia. Front row: Charlotte Whidden, Linda Kall, Lonie Sculley, Kathy Leone. Unable to attend, Edward Shlikas, Linda Wieland, and Sharon Iannacone.



**Garden Therapy** committee visited Atlantic Shores in Millsboro and created many smiles on resident's faces and our own. Chair Margaret Woda gathered and prepared baskets and materials for the arrangements.

Committee members: Carol Batson, Ria Carraro, Margaret Woda, Linda Kall, Mary Williford, Janet Sabo and Charlotte Whidden





# MIDDLETOWN-ODESSA GARDEN CLUB



## 65 YEARS!

That's right, 65 years! The Middletown-Odesa Garden Club is celebrating that wonderful milestone this year and we have a lot to be grateful for and proud of.

At our April meeting, the Delaware Federation of Garden Club's President Barbara DeRue spoke on her priorities and initiatives and the first MOGC President, Marylouise McNaughton, took us all back to the founding of our Club. Dating back to the year that our Club was created in 1957, the object of our Club was to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening in both its members and the surrounding MOT community. Our Club Chairs communicate the importance of protecting plant and bird life, natural resources and encourage preservation and civic planting. These are still our goals that we instill in our members today and will continue to do so in the future.

Club projects and participation continue to grow. Not only does our Club continue to maintain the Main Street Pocket Park, Cochran Square, Native Plant Garden and Corbit Sharp Garden on a monthly basis in season, but also the holiday decorating, making of bows and holding workshops. The Crop Swap and Seed Library also continue to draw interest and are both very successful community projects.

There aren't enough words to say how thankful we are to our members past, present and future as this is how we are evolving into the wonderful, close-knit Club that we are.



# MILFORD GARDEN CLUB

The year 2022 started out slowly for Milford Garden Club. Our normal meeting venue was closed to the public due to elevated COVID cases in our area. We canceled the January, then February meetings. In March MGC managed to get together at an alternate location for a meeting with an enjoyable butterfly presentation by our own Linda Peters. Our April meeting was finally able to be back at our home base, the Milford Parks and Recreation Building. The staff there was as happy to see us as we were to be there.

Even before meetings got back to normal, the Milford Senior Center invited our Club members to set up and decorate for their Spring Blooms sale. Their display was so effective that all the flowers were gone in no time.

In April for the first time in two years, the local Genesis facility allowed MGC members into their building to reestablish our Garden Therapy activities with their residents. Before Covid, a devoted committee of our members would regularly assist the residents with floral designs from the supplies brought to share with them. While the facility was closed our members prepared the arrangements and took them to Genesis for distribution among the staff and residents. Getting back to letting each person arrange her own flowers is a very good step toward normal and a welcome activity for those living at Genesis.



May promises to be active with Club elections, our annual Spring Plant Sale at Parson Thorne Mansion on Saturday May 7 (9 to 3), finishing up the plantings for our President's Project, making stepping stones with the Garden Crafts group, and doing our spring plantings at Delaware Veterans Home.





# Moonflower Garden Club



Late in the fall we had a fund raiser and sold a variety of amaryllis bulbs within the club. We shared photos of the blooms we've gotten over several months. Members continually share ideas throughout the months. A few days ago we got an email about harvesting garlic mustard and making a yummy pesto with this weed.

A wonderful program on HYBRIDIZING TECHNIQUES was presented by life-member Barb Borleske. She explained the process of creating new varieties from already established plants. She now has a registered hybrid, Primulina "Minnie Pearl". Barb grows many species of plants in the Gesneriad family. Since that meeting was held in March the hosts used Mardi Gras as the theme for our refreshment table.



If we are not on a tour or not on zoom, then we have a raffle at our meetings. We randomly get a chance at some plants or other items for outside or inside. In March we also had a sale table which turned out to be a great fund raiser. It turned out to be a great way to find new homes for no-longer-needed items that were worth more than the \$1 raffle ticket.



Our membership is quite diverse and we are happy to have men and women, young and well, not so young. Here we have Karri Mast, Kathe Worrell, Barb Borleske, Roy Mills and his granddaughter Annabelle Fones showing a banner for our club.



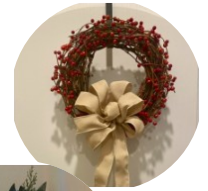
The speaker for our April meeting was Janet Schule, owner of Folly Flower Farm. She spoke about the ups and downs of maintaining a business growing flowers and the joy she has working in the flower industry. She gave us lots of tips and recommended books. Yet another very interesting program at Moonflower Garden Club!



# PLANTATON LAKES GARDEN CLUB



Cancellation of the in-person Door Décor workshop for the January meeting due to COVID restrictions did not deter President Debbie Darr and Program Chair Margaret Woda who took to the roads to deliver bags to all members containing small grapevine wreaths and instructions. Upon completion of their wreath, members were encouraged to share photos of their creation. These photos are examples of member originality. The wreaths make great housewarming gifts or a cheerful display in a guest room.



A flurry of activity in April included a presentation on Moon Gardening, a plant sale, May Basket demonstrations and refreshing our Blue Star Memorial Garden. A moon garden is designed to be enjoyed after dark and usually planted with white blooming flowers. We were treated to an interesting concept which included many varieties of showy white flowers and filler greens that set the scene for a flourishing moon garden.

Our plant sale exceeded expectations and was met with great enthusiasm by friends and neighbors. A variety of plants and flats were available for pre-order. The additional plants provided at the last minute by our supplier sold out quickly. Proceeds from the plant sale support our community projects.



In conjunction with the two-day plant sale, our resident May Basket designers, Betty Baeschlin and Sylvia Heidbreder, provided a demonstration each day for anyone interested in learning more about how to make a May Basket. We were pleased by the near capacity turnout at each presentation. Our community is going to look beautiful on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

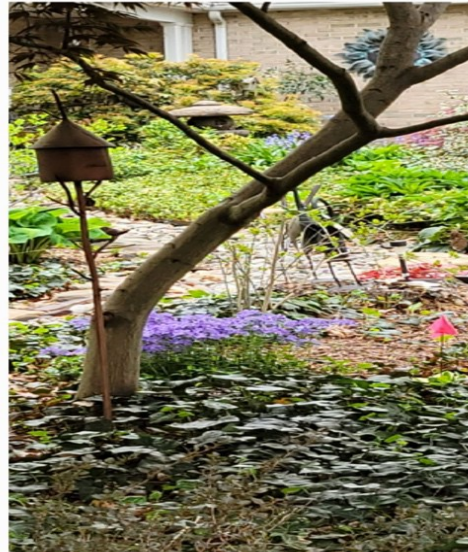
Our Blue Star Memorial Garden received a refresh after the Winter. Members took inventory of the pollinator perennial plants that survived their first Winter season. Our memorial is in a prominent place in the community thus it receives an abundance of attention from the HOA and the landscaping crew. With assistance from several spouses, members removed the smothering mulch and adjusted the existing plants. Colorful annuals were added that will also attract bees and butterflies.





**Our Members Are Busy with:**

**Home and Gardens: Susan Wujtecwicz's Beautiful Garden**



**Meetings: Houseplant 101 and Container Gardening**



**Celebrations: Zachery and Potpourri Members Spring Door Decorations**





## May 2022 New Board

Welcome to our new officers for 2022- 2024.

President – Oksana Hoey;

Vice President – Suzanne Moussa;

Treasurer – Nancy Martus;

Board Secretary – Bebe Reines; and

Membership Secretary – Barbara Brown

## Tip Toe Through the Tulips



Our March meeting featured a presentation by the Town of Bethany Beach Horticulture team. Caitlin Ware, Jessica Brittingham and Edward Shilkas shared with us how they design, create, and maintain the beautiful blooms in Bethany Beach. Every season this team creates incredibly beautiful displays!



This was an informative presentation and we all walked away with many tips for our own gardens. They were so knowledgeable and have a passion for gardening. Here is one tidbit. They plant 18,000 tulip bulbs each year.

## Organic Farming



Our April meeting was held at the new Dickens Parlour Theatre and our guest speaker was Susan Ryan, owner of Good Earth Market. Susan created the second USDA certified organic farm in Delaware. In addition to standard organic principles, Susan found growing what works in your garden to be the most useful principle.

She talked about how she grew her business organically too. What started as a small working farm and farm stand has grown into a grocery store, restaurant, place to stay, and now entertainment venue. Their motto is Eat, Shop, Stay, Party.

After the talk, we learned about the new partnership with Dickens Parlour Theatre. We had a tour of the facility and were treated to some magic performed by Rich Bloch. Lunch was yummy too!





## SPADE & TROWEL GARDEN CLUB

Maintaining interest in a club that doesn't seem to be doing anything is difficult, but the Spade & Trowel Garden Club of Seaford, Delaware, did not close down entirely during the COVID pandemic, even when our meeting room at the library was off limits. We are now back to meeting in person, resuming normal activities and going places! And our membership is growing.

The club had to resort to connections by email and notices posted on our website, <https://www.seafordspadeandtrowelgardenclub.org>, when we could not meet. Our president, Mary Noel, started a weekly "Tuesday Morning Update" via email to keep members informed. We managed to safely hold our major fundraisers, the pecan sale and the greens sale, in the late fall, and decorated the Ross Mansion for the holidays as usual. We resorted to advertising for new members, but we've found that word of mouth works best.

In order to keep our name out in the community, we instituted a new project, "Give Some Flower Shine," in which members create a small arrangement or bouquet of flowers from their garden to give to someone to brighten their day. Cards accompanying the flowers say "Compliments of the Spade & Trowel Garden Club."

At our meeting in March, we welcomed our scholarship recipients, Mitchell Fluitt (left) and Elizabeth Roberts (right), who each received \$1,000 from Spade & Trowel Garden Club to continue their studies at Delaware Technical Community College in Georgetown.



On April 29, we planted a tree at Ross Mansion for Arbor Day.



On hand on Arbor Day for planting of a tree at Ross Mansion by the Spade & Trowel Garden Center were, from left, Tom Fletcher; Teresa Wilson, president of the Seaford Historical Society; Carol Kinsley; Mary Noel, club president; Margaret Alexander, club member and Ross Mansion manager; Jim Zeigler; Carol Owens; Peggy Breeden and Barbara Fletcher.

The club plans to get back into the full swing of things with a design luncheon with speaker, open to the public, in the fall and a small standard flower show in the spring of 2023.



### Civic Beautification at the Zwaanendael Museum Courtesy of Sussex Gardeners

In keeping with a Spring tradition that has lasted for nearly 2 decades, Sussex Gardeners, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, once again provided spring floral designs and finery for the Zwaanendael Museum. The museum, located in Lewes, Delaware, participates in the annual Lewes Tulip Celebration, April 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. The Gardeners’ designs are composed primarily of tulips, but also incorporate other spring blooms, using silk and fresh flowers, along with potted tulip displays.

The spring designs are created by the Civic Beautification Committee of the Sussex Gardeners. The Committee selected the theme, “Follow Your Muse,” for this year’s designs. A muse (*myooz*) is a noun, meaning “artistic inspiration for creative design.” For each design, Gardeners indicated the source or muse, that was the inspiration for their floral arrangement. The arrangements were displayed throughout the Museum. The Committee also provided a potted plant display with educational materials explaining the steps for creating a ‘living’ basket arrangement.

Bridget Warner, the Site Supervisor for the Museum, expressed her thanks to the Committee, “We truly appreciate the time and effort that goes into decorating the Museum. We love the way the Gardeners tie it all in with educational aspects to complement the arrangements.” Ms. Warner also commented that the beautiful outdoor wreaths and garlands attract the public’s attention. She reported that the Museum had 997 visitors during the 2022 Tulip Celebration.



Educational display on “living” basket arrangement



The “Z Team”, members of the Sussex Gardeners Civic Beautification Committee



“A Windy Dutch Spring” inspired by Delftware featuring windmills and tulips.

### Sussex Gardeners “Make and Take” Floral Designs in April



Sussex Gardeners hone their floral design skills

What’s Spring without some pretty flowers in the house? The Sussex Gardeners had floral design on the agenda at their April meeting, under the direction of Steven Johnston, a professional floral designer from *Windsor’s Flowers, Plants, and Shrubs* of Rehoboth Beach. It was great fun, educational, and we came home well-pleased with our creations.



“And here’s the finished design!”



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)



**Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.**  
**President's Standard of Excellence Award**  
**2021 – 2022**

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Four Clubs will be selected based on Total Points Earned

**Club Membership Participation**

Calculate % of Club Members by dividing the number of participants by the Club membership then multiply by 100. Example 10 members participated from a 100 member club. 10 divided by 100 times 100 equals 10 percent multiply by point value. If point value is 20 total points earned are 200

% of Club Members that attended	% of Members	x	Point value	Points Earned
<b>DFGC State Meetings</b>				
June 2021 (Zoom Meeting)	_____	x	_____ 20 _____	_____
November 2021 (Modern Maturity)	_____	x	_____ 20 _____	_____
April 2022 (The Executive)	_____	x	_____ 20 _____	_____
	<b>Quantity</b>		<b>Point value</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
Number of Life Memberships	_____	x	_____ 25 _____	_____
Awarded 6/1/21 – 4/30/22				
Garden Club submitted an				
Article to the DFGC Newsletter for				
May '21, Sept '21, Feb '22, May '22	_____	x	_____ 25 _____	_____
(max submitted would be 4x25 or 100 points)				
Garden Club Applied for a State Award	_____	x	_____ 10 _____	_____
For award year 2021				
Garden Club applied for the				
President's Project "Grow Locally" Grant	_____	x	_____ 100 _____	_____
				<b>Total Points</b>
				_____

Applications must be received by the DFGC President by June 1, 2022.

Barbara DeRue  
 17 East Bullrush Drive  
 Milford, De 19963