

DFGC September 2021 Newsletter



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President Message



Dear Garden Club Members,

Hopefully the colors of fall and cooler temperatures will soon arrive and will truly be appreciated by most. Now that we have all had the opportunity to be vaccinated we are gathering and enjoying the company of others again.

In June we held our first zoom State meeting. Those who attended were entertained by Kirk R. Brown's presentation on Frederick Law Olmsted: 200 Years of growing America.

November will be our first in person State meeting since November 2019. The meeting will be held on November 17, 2021 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. Garden Gate Garden Club is the host club who will provide the centerpieces, nametags, place markers and onsite registration. Each club must ensure that their list of attendees is emailed to dfgcregistrar@gmail.com. Questions respective to registration must be emailed to dfgcregistrar@gmail.com. The deadline for registration is **November 3, 2021**. A representative from each Club will need to bring the Club check along with a list of their attendees and hand this to the DFGC treasurer (Joan Simon) who will be seated by the registration desk. This is a trial procedure. Remember once a count is sent to the registrar you must pay for the total given.

Please email Ginny Cardona mgckcard@aol.com if your club would like a sales table. The profit split continues to be 60% Club / 40%DFGC. You must supply a table covering, and tables must be ordered in advance. So happy that there will be the opportunity for clubs to raise funds again.

Dottie Howatt, chairperson of the Delaware Flower Show Judges Council (DFSJC) will provide the program titled "Twisted Trash". The program will present simple designs constructed of recycled/repurposed materials suitable for table centerpieces at a State meeting. DFSJC will challenge clubs to volunteer to host a DFGC meeting (April, June or November 2022). Each hosting club will receive \$50 from the DFSJC to help fund the centerpieces. The three participating club's centerpieces will be judged. The winning club will be announced at the April 2023 State meeting and will receive \$100.

I'm excited to remind you that Mary Warshauer the National Garden Club President is scheduled to attend our first in person post Covid November meeting. It will be interesting to get an update on her theme "PLANT AMERICA – Play Outdoors".

My President's Project "Grow Locally" has had applicants and at least one club has used the funding to complete a project. The DFGC is offering grants of up to \$100/club. Please apply and use the grant to grow membership, grow awareness, grow a garden. Contact Presidents Project chair Betty Kramarck for more information.

Hopefully the State will not mandate a shut down. But these are different times and we will do what needs to be done. I have enjoyed seeing faces again and gathering safely. See you November 17th at the State meeting!

Barbara DeRue

Consider This Underused Resource

Looking for a printer or a place to have special event materials made up? Consider Delaware Correctional Industries. Many folks don't know the Department of Corrections can do this work because they're not permitted to advertise. Middletown-Odessa GC gets their yearbooks done there every year. They are priced very reasonably and get done quickly. They can do print jobs, create t-shirt designs and all kinds of wood items. You can contact Officer Donnell M. Winder, Sales & Marketing donell.winder@state.de.us for more information.

Betty Kramarck
Middletown-Odessa Garden Club

DFGC 2021-2023 Officers

President	Barbara DeRue	jbderue@aol.com
First Vice President	Susan Newark	swnewark@gmail.com
Second Vice President	Ginny Cardona	cgckcard@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Linda Peters	tandlptrs@verizon.net
Corresponding Secretary	Maureen Eisenhart	irishmom08@gmail.com
Treasurer	Joan Simon	sjoan10@aol.com
Parliamentarian/Bylaws	Dottie Howatt	dehowatt@aol.com
Advisor	Connie Raymond	joeandconnier@gmail.com

National and Regional 2021 - 2023 Officers

NGC President
Mary Warshauer

mwarshauer@gardenclub.org

Theme: PLANT AMERICA – Play Outdoors

CAR-SGC Director
Betty Cookendorfer
bcooken@aol.com

Theme: PLANT AMERICA – Let's Get Growing!

CAR-SGC Alternate Director
Mary Lou Smith
mlsmith6@cinci.rr.com

~COMMITTEE REPORTS~

Awards

During the last 40+ years, I have put my share of bulbs and plants in the ground and reaped the rewards – the priceless therapy of being rewarded with beautiful flowers. It wasn't until I became one of the founding members of Plantation Lakes Garden Club in Millsboro in 2016 that I realized that sharing gardening experiences can also be very rewarding. The founding members took on responsibilities that suited their abilities. Having been an office manager for a small private equity firm gave me a solid background in bookkeeping and honed my organizational skills. Awards Chair and Treasurer were the logical choices for my skills. In accordance with PLGC's bylaws, after my tenure was completed, a new Treasurer was elected. However, I stayed on as Awards Chair.

At PLGC's first Blue Star Memorial fundraiser, the new director for the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs was in attendance. We had a great conversation about gardening and garden clubs. Then she recruited me to be Treasurer for CAR-SGC, a position that I still hold today. I also continue to provide part-time bookkeeping services for a handful of clients. I like to keep busy!

And now another challenge has been presented – Awards Chair for DFGC. I am looking forward to this new challenge and getting to know more about the projects that my fellow Delaware gardeners and garden clubs enjoy.

A reminder that yearbook award applications are due October 1, 2021. Clubs are to submit TWO copies of the yearbook with a DFGC Award Application. Complete only the top of the form. DO NOT answer the questions for yearbook award submissions. Award application information is in the "Members" area of the DFGC website under forms. Please send yearbook award applications to me at the address on the form. Feel free to email any questions. Due to the post office slow down, I would appreciate an email indicating that you have mailed your award applications – both yearbook and all other awards.

The DFGC website is updated frequently so be sure to check the website for the most current award application information. Special Holiday Projects with preapproval are due December 15 per DFGC Award schedule noted under forms on the web page, all other award applications are due November 11, 2021.

Submitted by: Mary Williford
DFGC Awards Chairman

Club Programs

Need ideas for your garden club meetings? Check out "DFGC Club Program Information" on the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs' webpage. Or, if you've had a great speaker or field trip that's not on this list, please share it with other garden clubs by sending it to Marjorie Crofts at macrofts@aol.com. Thanks!

Submitted by: Marjorie Crofts
DFGC Club Programs Chair

Environment/Conservation/Legislation Update Summer 2021

Legislation

The following legislation was passed in this recent and active legislative session. All are awaiting Governor Carney's signature, except where noted. Thanks to the Delaware Sierra Club, the Delaware Nature Society, and the Delaware General Assembly websites for this information.

SB 21 will help expand the availability of public EV charging stations at state-owned property including state service buildings and state parks. The public will have access and be charged a small fee to use these charging stations when state vehicles are not using them.

SB 187 would require any municipality with a population over 30,000 to develop a way for individuals to install charging stations outside their homes for those who rely on street parking. This is awaiting action in the House.

Clean and Safe Water

HB 8 directs the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Controls (DNREC) and the Division of Public Health to work together to set a maximum allowable limit for PFAS chemicals, also known as “Forever Chemicals,” in our drinking water.

HB 200, the Clean Water Act, finally passed to create a Trust which establishes a framework for assessing needs and planning and implementing projects that support Delaware’s efforts to improve the quality of the State’s water supply and waterways.

Senate Joint Resolution 2 instructed DNREC to engage with federal agencies to investigate what would need to be done to establish a state nontidal wetlands permitting program, effectively shifting the permitting program from the federal to the state level. This would help ensure that the protection of our wetlands does not rely on shifts in political power at the federal level.

Consumer Behavior and the Environment

HB 212 closes a major loophole in the plastic bag ban that went into effect in January of 2021. The original law allowed plastic bags over a certain thickness, which led many chain retailers to distribute those rather than encourage customers to bring truly reusable bags or make the switch to paper bags.

SB 22 bans the sale or transfer of invasive species to Delaware to help stop the ecological destruction that these plants have had on our state. The efforts of Senator Hanson, along with the Delaware Native Species Commission worked to ensure that invasives would no longer be available for purchase, distribution, export, or import. Currently there is a list of 37 invasive species on this list. This goes into effect July 1, 2022.

Environmental News

Delaware’s Attorney General, Kathleen Jennings, settled a \$50 million suit with DuPont, Chemours, and Corteva over water pollution and the presence of “forever chemicals” in Delaware waters. These PFAS chemicals are toxic and carcinogen compounds found in many household and personal items as well as firefighting foam. The money will be placed in a trust fund to fund special water filtration systems to filter out the chemicals to a certain level with grants available for the hardest hit communities. Environmental sampling and testing will determine levels of PFAS and other chemicals in water, soil, and air.

Delaware Wild Lands Tree Planting Event

With the National Garden Club’s emphasis on tree-planting, here is a wonderful opportunity of Delaware’s garden clubs to get involved. Delaware Wild Lands, Inc. is organizing a large tree planting event to be held two Saturdays in a row, November 13th and 20th. The event will take place on land owned by Delaware Wildlands located east of Odessa, along Route 9, adjacent to the intersection of Route 9 and Staves Landing Road. This 11-acre area has been used as an agricultural field in the past and connects two currently forested areas.

What will we be planting?

We will be planting about 4,000 trees and shrubs, including: white oak, northern red oak, tulip polar, black cherry, American beech, hackberry, redbud, flowering dogwood, Washington hawthorn, persimmon, American holly, black gum, willow oak, pin oak, black willow, button bush, silky dogwood, hazelnut, witch hazel, spice bush, elderberry, arrowwood viburnum, and black-haw viburnum.

Why here?

Restoring this land to forest will connect adjoining forested areas. The restoration will also create wildlife habitat, support pollinator species, increase native plant diversity, and help to improve water quality in the wetlands surrounding the Taylors Bridge land complex.

Where should I park?

The street address for parking is 124 Stave Landing Road, Townsend, DE 19734. People can park in the grass along the driveway.

What should I bring?

Water, work gloves, and work clothes.

Other details of the event (like the precise timing) are still being worked out, but I will update you when I have them. In the meantime, you are welcome to reach out to:

Brigham Whitman

New Castle County Conservation Programs Manager

Delaware Wild Lands

Office: (302) 378-2736

Cell: (203) 859-0835

bwhitman@dewildlands.org

Submitted by: Suzanne D. Smith

DFGC Environment/Conservation/Legislation Chair

Horticulture

HELP OUR GREEN BY ADDING SOME BLUE

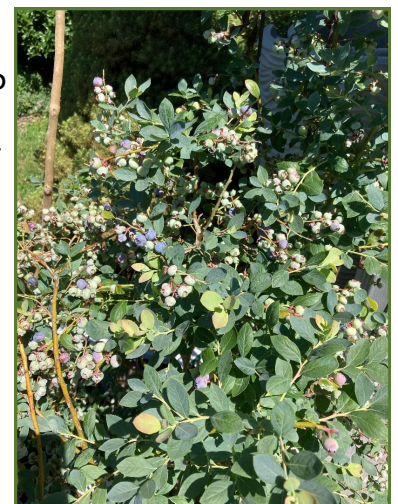
As gardeners, we know Fall is the best time to plant most perennials, shrubs, and trees. Please, this year (and into the future) add some native plants to what you are installing in your gardens. One of my favorites has many attributes beyond being listed among Dr. Doug Tallamy's top ten plants for promoting biodiversity in the Mid-Atlantic states. It is the genera *Vaccinium* - or what most people know as blueberries. They are basically separated into two types: Highbush (southern) or Lowbush (northern). All are North American natives. They support over 300 species of animals in the Mid-Atlantic Region - insects, birds, and mammals. Although blueberries are a very important native plant group, my reason for promoting its spread here is the great garden plants they can be. These sun-lovers come in various sizes and shapes. There are varieties that can be used as groundcover in damp or rocky locations. Other types can grow over six feet high and wide and make a wonderful addition to a shrub border. Most blueberry bushes grow between those extremes.

Some recent crossbreeding has produced blueberry types that grow happily in containers for years.

Blueberries have visual interest all year. In spring lovely cream-colored bells cover the plants along with bluish green leaves. Summer brings the high antioxidant, deep blue round berries for weeks on end. The leaves of the shrub turn brilliant reds and golds in the fall. Their young branches show red against winter snow. The members of *Vaccinium* offer the garden their changing beauty all year.

When growing blueberries in your gardens, it is best to grow three or more varieties to improve the fruit size and quantity. More variation helps with the yield per plant and extends the harvest season. In our area different types can produce fruit from early June to mid-October. Each variety has its own time to produce fruit.

Always grow more than you may want to eat because many songbirds and small mammals will thin out the harvest. Blueberries are also good pollinator



plants. When the bells bloom, the whole bush can hum from nectar hungry insects. Our native blueberries have many creatures that enjoy their bounty. Add more life to your gardens.

There are many other useful native plants that I do encourage you to add to your gardens. However, to me, there are none tastier and more versatile in the garden than blueberries. Plant NATIVE locally!

Submitted by: Marge Huntzinger
DFGC Horticulture Chair

Membership

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

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



Here are some ideas from some of our DFGC presidents that have been successful with new members. "Contact them via phone using the number on the submission. Explain who you are and a little about the club. Ask them about their interest in joining and a little about their background...i.e. where they live, came from, family, hobbies etc. Then follow up with an e-mail which includes our current year's list of Programs along with a copy of our by-laws. When we get information from DFGC to be send to members, include them in on the e-mail as a CC: until they become a member. This keeps them informed about what's going on state level. Also include them on e-mails about our club's own projects, events, programs. Flyers around town, at garden centers, etc., one-page, nice picture to capture their interest with your information about your club."

Publicize your projects and events! Submit articles to local papers, post on Facebook and other sites, let the public see what we as garden clubs do in our local communities. Why not hold a local event with the goal of attracting new members. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Submitted by: Lisa Arni
DFGC Membership Chair

Newsletter/Publicity

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

If any changes have occurred, please e-mail me your new information.

Guidelines for Articles Submitted for Inclusion into the DFGC Newsletter

Photos and images should be in .jpg format.

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

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

Format: Arial font - size 12 - single spaced.

Garden Club articles are limited to one page.

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

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

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

Questions? Phone: (302) 988-2061

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

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

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

Submitted by: Judy Dayhoff
DFGC Newsletter Editor

Blue Star Memorial

HAS YOUR CLUB MADE THE LIST?

The National Garden Club's website (<https://www.gardenclubs.org> > blue-and-gold-star-memorial) now has a complete listing of Blue and Gold Memorial markers throughout the United States. Anyone wanting to check if a club's name is registered should click first on "Blue Star and Gold Star Markers by State" and then on "Delaware" at the bottom of the Excel page.

For clubs unfamiliar with the Blue Star Memorial Project, these garden sites honor all American military service men and women of the past, present and future. The project began with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees in 1944 by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs and was officially adopted by the National Council of Garden Clubs in 1945. Since then, the mission has expanded to cover thousands of acres across our nation. Large metal markers are placed to designate the memorial site, which is often surrounded by a plot of ground planted appropriately with flowers, bushes and/or trees.

Garden clubs interested in creating a Blue Star Memorial will find important information on the National Garden Club website, including *Guidelines for Memorial Markers* (Revised April 2020) in addition to other suggestions for fundraising and finding a location.

So, which clubs are already on the list? According to the NGC website, the following Delaware clubs have established Blue Star Memorials: Spade & Trowel (1981); Hope 'N Hoe (2006); Garden Gate (2013); Barefoot Gardeners (2016); Gardeners by the Sea (2019); and Plantation Lakes (2021). The Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs has also funded Blue Star Memorial Markers at several sites in 1997, 2006 and 2013. In 2018 Spade & Trowel Garden Club refurbished its original memorial site, an experience that led to numerous unique challenges for its members.

The DFGC Board is seeking information from Delaware's garden clubs regarding any Blue Star Memorial projects undertaken in past years. The purpose of this effort is not only to collect official documentation about existing memorials in Delaware but also provide "experienced" assistance for those clubs who would like to plan a project.

As always, your questions, input and help are welcome.

For more information, please contact:

Vicki Carmean, Blue Star Memorial Chairman
at 302-539-3532 or vlcarmean@verizon.net.

Submitted by: Vicki Carmean
DFGC Blue Star Memorial Chair



President's Project

GROW LOCALLY - SO MANY WAYS TO GROW

DFGC is offering grants of up to \$100 to clubs for projects to help you "GROW" in your community. Each club may apply once over the 2021-23 term. Applications must be submitted by March 15, 2022 with a brief description of what you intend to do with the money. Funds will be distributed on a first come first served basis until all funds are depleted. Applications can be found on the DFGC website or contacting the Project Chairman Betty Kramarck at kramarea@msn.com or 302-378-2088

GROW MEMBERSHIP by engaging a special speaker open to the public, hold workshops at a public place such as library or garden center, place notices/flyers in local papers or businesses with your meeting information.

GROW AWARENESS by printing brochures about your club's projects, print signs to place at your outdoor projects, rent a table or booth at a local event, give away a plant or seed packets with your business card.

GROW A GARDEN by creating a new garden, revitalize an old garden with new plants or planted section, create a container garden or put arrangements in public buildings weekly, monthly, etc.

These different types of *Grows* can be combined. A garden plus signage. A booth with brochures and a Banner. A workshop with giveaways. These are just a few suggestions.

I'm sure your members can come up with many wonderful ideas to *GROW LOCALLY*.

Once your project is completed we are asking that you submit detailed information on how the money was spent and strongly encourage pictures of your project. At the end of this President's Project we will be doing an exhibit with all the clubs projects so we to need you to include printed or hard copies of your pictures along with your project information.

Submitted by: Betty Kramarck
DFGC President's Project Chair

Delaware Nature Society

As fall approaches, Delaware Nature Society has many programs that may appeal to gardeners, like Invasive Species Identification and Control which has virtual and in-person. The listing is available on the website under Activities Calendar. There are many learning opportunities at all DNS sites and through OLLI as a virtual option.

There is the annual Farm-to-Fork dinner on September 18th at Coverdale Farm. On Saturday, October 2nd, there will be a Native Plant Sale at Coverdale Farm Preserve and also at Greenville.. For additional information, go to DELNature.org. For a fun time for families, you can sign up for hayrides at both Coverdale and Abbott's Mill, kayaking at both DEEC and Abbott's Mill, and birthday parties at all sites. DNS reimagined learning during the pandemic and closely follows all necessary protocols.

Submitted by: Joy Ericson
DNS Representative to DFGC

TREE-mendous Tree Project

How can we honor someone with a Woodland Garden planting in the Delaware Botanic Gardens? Just fill out the form on our DFGC website and attached! Please consider a planting dedicated in "honor of" or "in memory" of some deserving person in your club or another organization. We have received 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, plantings are needed to enhance these areas. Why not donate a planting right here in Delaware at the DBG!

Submitted by: Lisa Arni



BAREFOOT GARDENERS



Barefoot Gardeners June meeting was held at the family-owned Roots Landscaping in Selbyville, DE. Catherine Winkler, one of the owners, shared information about air plants and demonstrated how to make a living wreath with decorative air plants.



In July, our President, Debbie Micsky, went to a President's meeting in Dover, DE where she received two awards for our Club and a check for \$150.00. The awards were for #3 Conservation for our Coastal Clean Up efforts and for #4a Horticulture Therapy for our efforts in making floral arrangements for residents at the Brandywine Assisted Living Center in Selbyville, DE.



Barefoot Gardeners July meeting was held at the Bay Forest Herb Garden in Ocean View, DE. Bebe Reines and Jan Melton talked about the garden as we toured the beautiful and relaxing garden filled with an impressive array of flowers and culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs. Bay Forest Herb Garden events are held throughout the year and open to the community.



The club's August meeting was held at Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery (www.windmillcreekvineyard.com) in Berlin, MD. The owner, Brittany Mariner, took our gardeners on a tour of the grounds which included the vineyard, wildflower, and victory gardens as they sipped a glass of wine. Barefoot Gardeners club members also toured Mariner House, the original, beautifully restored 1958 homestead. Offering a Tasting Room, Farmers Market, Wine Shop, and private events, the Winery officially opened in 2018 and welcomes visitors.

Several Barefoot Gardeners combined efforts to clean up the Butterfly Garden outside the Fenwick Island Police Station so it would be more presentable to the public. While we were not able to hold the normal weekly readings for children's story time in the park, we wanted to make sure that those who did visit the gardens would see thriving flowers and vegetables being grown there.



Interested in joining Barefoot Gardeners? Visit www.delawaregardenclubs.org/barefoot-gardeners to apply online.

Happy Gardening!

COASTAL GARDENERS



On June 3 our group went to the Delaware Botanic gardens in Dagsboro. This had been postponed since May. We had a great guided tour of the gardens.



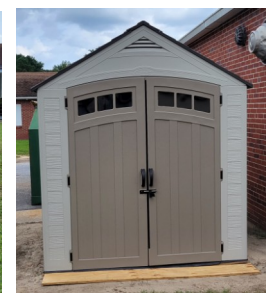
June 5 our group wanted to beautify the entrance of the new Beebe Emergency Department and Cancer Center on Roxanna Rd. Also to enhance the healing experience for patients and families. A donation from one of our members, Doug Isaac, contributed greatly to the start of this project. We continued with watering until drip lines were installed.



June 16 we had our induction of the new co-presidents Sandy Daniels and Jamie Healey. An end of the year celebration was Included at this time at the Crab Shack in Millville by the Sea. It was great to see everyone together.



On August 31 we built and installed 12 X 4 garden beds at Phillip Showell Elementary School for the program Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids started by Dr. Manzara. This program is for the students to plant, maintain and grow food as part of the school curriculum. We also had help from friends and spouses to build the boxes and erect a 7X7 shed.





FOUR SEASONS GARDENERS OF HERITAGE SHORES HAS BEEN VERY BUSY THIS YEAR IN SPITE OF THE CHALLENGES OF COVID.

We have had continuous meetings whether by Zoom, outdoors or finally indoors at a regular meeting.



Some highlights include a community wide Container contest held early May Followed by a Flower sale on May 15 and the month concluded with a field trip to the Delaware Botanical Garden on May 21.



June was again active with a full Community wide Garden Tour. We had 15 Gardens participate this year and we completed the day with a Wine and Cheese party at the Sugar Beet club here at Heritage Shores

July 8 Out we went again to tour the Lavender fields. Exciting for sure how to nurture our Lavender plants but also watch them making Soap.

We followed the next day with our first indoor meeting entitled "Knowledge in the Room" Split the group into five teams to work on a specific question.



Questions were "What are your gardening challenges"? What gardening advice do you need?, What programs would you like to see?, What field trips would you like and What community service ideas can you suggest. This meeting came up with so many more ideas that we have not explored we will be busy for months.

August kicked off with a Make and Take workshop at the East Coast Garden center. How to put together a large outdoor container.



September 7 meeting was with Gaye Mara, Master Gardener with her program titled "Growing and Using Culinary Herb" this was an extremely informative program.

Next on the agenda for October we have members of the USDA coming to speak to us and another field trip to East Coast Gardens. Another make and take workshop for Succulent gardens is planned. We have many new members so we will keep busy throughout the year.



GARDEN GATE GARDEN CLUB



Like most of you, we had a mixed but successful year, with some meetings live and some meetings combined with zoom. But we got it down pat and mostly things went off without a hitch.

We had an amazing and lush Flower Show on June 9th, with 70 horticulture entries and 20 designs. The Show was held at 3 neighboring homes with a lavish reception at the end of the day which included installation of new officers. This photo is of The Chairman's Award.



During the year we had interesting programs including presentations by the founder of Second Chances Vertical Farm, a tour of the Hagley gardens, instructions on recycling from DNREC, small space gardening, a presentation on Backyard Habitats where we learned to care for our landscapes to protect native wildlife habitats, and a guided tour of Styers Peony Farm.

Current projects include the establishment and care of a butterfly garden in concert with the Delaware Center for Horticulture in a traffic island near the Delaware Art Museum. We also have donated seed monies to Goodstay Gardens to purchase plants to renovate 'The Park' which was a lovely spot in its heyday.

We look forward to more in reconnecting during in person meetings and visiting members' gardens in the fall and spring.





*Be like a tree.
 Stay grounded.
 Connect with your roots.
 Turn over a new leaf.
 Bend before you break.
 Enjoy your unique natural beauty.
 Keep growing.
 ~Joanne Raptis~*



This quote expresses both a testimony of our past year and an inspiration for Gardeners by the Sea for the coming year. We stay true to our Mission, connected by the roots of our National Garden Club, Central Atlantic Region and State organizations. It is and was a time for change and flexibility in order not to lose what is vital to our organization. We flourish in our uniqueness and the many gifts and talents of our active members...and we MUST KEEP GROWING.

GROWING OUR GARDEN CLUB'S FUTURE. We GROW by continuing the theme that "Members Matter Most! Active Members are the Key to Success". Growing our membership provides the seeds to sprout new ideas and interests. The branches from the stems are ALL members reaching out to offer garden advice, camaraderie and growing friendships. The leaves and flowers that ultimately grow and bloom is our Club working in harmony delivering our Mission. BE LIKE A TREE!

In June we held a Garden Party and annual Plant and Garden Item Auction. We gathered at Bearhole Farms in Selbyville for the first in-person meeting since March 2020. Great Fun!



Auctioneer Pat Milstead & Ellen Dowling



Members went home with arms full of new plants.
 Lee Blackwood



President Alva Hutchison & Ria Carraro Event Chair

The program for our September 2021 meeting was on Bonsai. Jim DeBastiani presented information about selecting the tree, pruning, soil preferences, and the tools needed and sited references. Maryanne Green, our Vice-President, showed her beloved Bonsai she is training in a class that Jim is leading as part of the Bonsai Club. The Bonsai Club meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at Inland Bays Garden Center.

Note the windswept style.





MIDDLETOWN-ODESSA GARDEN CLUB



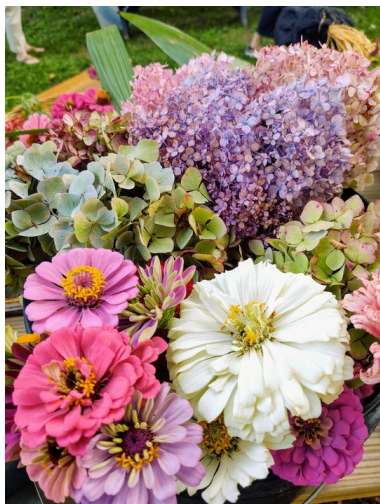
Our Club members met for the first time together, in an outdoor setting, for our May meeting as we installed our new officers. It was a perfect evening and we had lots to celebrate. Our members have planned the meetings for the upcoming year as well as excursions. We continue to keep our members informed of community engagements, events and conservation efforts.



Members have been maintaining the Native Gardens at the Corbit Calloway Memorial Library, the historical Corbit Sharp Gardens in Odessa, the Pocket Park on Main and Cochran Square in Middletown.



Crop Swap has been a very successful outreach program to our community and continues to grow. The Crop Swap has met safely every other week throughout the summer on the grounds of the Corbit Calloway Memorial Library.



MILFORD GARDEN CLUB

A SUMMER OF PROMISE

Milford Garden Club is happy to share three of our Club and Board members with the 2021-2023 DFGC Executive Board. Barbara DeRue assumed the DFGC Presidency on April 21, 2021. Susan Newark is serving as First Vice President and Linda Peters as Recording Secretary. This mid-state club is proud of their service to the Federated Garden Clubs all around Delaware.

Our Club get-togethers over the summer were fun events. In June we had our picnic in Holly Heverly's back garden. The town mayor presented the Club with a proclamation in honor of National Garden Week and updated us on Milford's expansion. July had us checking out three innovative gardens in Milford, then lunch at La Hacienda downtown. August brought together past, present, and prospective MGC members for a Garden Social at my home. Four past members have moved to the present category as a result. Over the summer MGC kept in touch and had some fun together too.

The MGC Board has been planning for the upcoming club year. We had hoped to sponsor a fall flower show, "Autumn Joy." Covid seems to have other thoughts. Our Fall Plant/Garden Goodies Sale is in the same state of flux. On the brighter side, we will be doing our fall flower installation at Delaware Veterans Home.

Then leading up to the holidays, greens will be manipulated into wreaths and roping to decorate the historic Parson Thorne Mansion (Silver Hill). We are hoping that in March, a very special program with Susie Middleton and her enthusiasm can take place in Milford. Other programs will feature design topics, butterflies, tropical flora, *kokedama*, and hands-on design.

For several months the MGC Craft Group has been making garden/plant related items in fun workshops. We have made hypertufa towel vases, concrete mushrooms, plastic plate garden flowers, beaded plant picks, smudge sticks, herb and hydrangea wreaths, preserved plants, and tea lights. No two resulting items are exactly alike, but they all complement each other, just like the ladies who made them. The members share their skills and senses of humor as we try different activities every session. Each month we will offer another project throughout the coming year.

I want to share my special appreciation to those who maintain our Senior Center and Riverfront Theater gardens throughout the growing season, no matter the weather conditions. You are very strong examples of true Gardeners.

MGC looks forward to the new club year with hope that it will be more open and inviting than last year, but we will muddle through any way it comes. We are Gardeners. Who has more faith in the future than those who put a small seed in the dirt and dream of the beautiful flower to come!





Moonflower Garden Club

When a planned program was not going to work over zoom last year, we pivoted to a very successful show-and-share program that we enjoyed so much it's one of the upcoming programs for this year. Each member took a few minutes to show either a plant with an important story or some garden-related item. We felt that not only did we hear some heartfelt, funny and/or fascinating stories, we got to know each other better.

The following photos are not a complete record of the diversity that was presented. We also saw a Christmas cactus passed down for generations, rosemary regularly used in cooking, plant bargains for those adding to gardens, terrariums used as centerpieces at a wedding reception and more.



Marcia Kelly's 50+ year old Sansevieria, too tall to bring to her laptop



Kevin Fennimore and Scott Forrest love variegated leaves



Sue Ellen Conway showed her blooming orchid, a present from a MGC party



Tracy Lea-Dorsey shows a folding trowel she keeps in her car for emergency digs



Barb Borleske shows her favorite pruners



Suzanne Smith shows a 1920's pitcher painted by her grandmother



Robin Chipman shows a compartmentalized vase



Gena Timmer showed us her talents with a botanical illustration of American holly

The Moonflower Garden Club remained active, even with the pandemic. We all agree that our gardens have provided solace during this year of social isolation. We have remained healthy and hope that each of your clubs have also.



Since we are all vaccinated, we met in person in a garage for a home garden tour in September. There was even an open moonflower on the vine. We are excited about the very diverse set of programs on our agenda for the coming year. Happy Gardening to all!



PLANTATON LAKES GARDEN CLUB



Youth Community Garden

This year PLGC projects will focus on our Plantation Lakes community. The kids had such a good time planting marigolds in The Children's Garden in June that the club has been approved to add a Youth

Community Garden for fall planting. Debbie and hubby Ralph Darr planted a weeping cherry tree as the garden center piece. Soil has been prepped and perennials will be in place before Plantation Lakes Community Day, September 25th. Our young gardeners will be planting pansies around the border and each child will be offered a few simple crafts to enhance his/her gardening experience.



Debbie & Ralph Darr
Patti Kircher



Blue Star Memorial Dedication

On June 8, the Blue Star Memorial dedication, at the Community Center in Plantation Lakes, was the culmination of five years of efforts from members of the Committee and club. Chaired by Margaret Woda, the Committee's final endeavor was to honor our veterans. The ceremony was well attended and well received.



Betty Baeschlin
& Pat Kircher



Betty Baeschlin, Chair Margaret Woda, Dwight Smiley, Pat Minnigh, Mary Williford, DFGC President Barbara DeRue, PLGC President Debbie Darr



Pat Minnigh &
Mary Williford



←
Honor
Guard



→
Taps:
Dwight
Smiley





Salt Air Gardeners Five (5) year Anniversary



We are celebrating our 5-year anniversary and have big plans. We will be hosting a Fall concert to celebrate and raise funds for our new Blue Star Memorial project. In addition,

we created limited edition t-shirts for our members.

Welcome Back and New Members



In June, we held our first in-person meeting since January 2020. It was a chance to welcome 14 new members and to share information about our plans for the year. It was very welcoming with beautiful flowers, delicious food and smiling faces.

Indian River Life-Saving Station Phase IV Completed

The final touches of shells make the front signs pop.



Brandywine Living Memory Garden



We are helping to revitalize the Brandywine Living "Memory Garden" used for Alzheimer's and dementia residents.

The committee planned, purchased, prepared, and planted edible herbs along with annual and perennial flowers to pique the resident senses as they stroll through the garden and enjoy their environment. Their kitchen will also use the fresh picked herbs for meals as well!

Summer Weeding



Summertime means beautiful flowers and weeds. Our team has been busy weeding at our various community gardens even in the hot temps



SPADE & TROWEL GARDEN

Now that the library where we meet can welcome us back, the Spade & Trowel Garden Club of Seaford has planned a nearly full schedule of meetings for 2021-2022.

We will take advantage of our Immediate Past President's training as a national flower show judge by having Sharon Christopher conduct three programs on design this year, including one hands-on workshop in which everyone will create a line mass design to take home.

We have another design program in February, and presentations on orchids, vegetable gardening, the Nanticoke Watershed and student support (college and 4-H) opportunities.

A quarterly photography show and monthly design and horticulture shows at our meetings will allow members to hone their flower show skills.

As usual, we will raise funds with a pecan sale in November and greens sale in December, as well as a plant auction at the year-end picnic in June. These activities will enable us to carry out projects such as beautification of downtown Seaford.



New officers for 2021-22 were installed at the Spade & Trowel Garden Club's June picnic: from left, Carol Owens, vice president; Betty Jean Johnson, corresponding secretary; Mary Noel, president; Barbara Fletcher, treasurer, and Sandy Blackwell, recording secretary.



DELAWARE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

TREE-mendous
Woodland Garden Plantings
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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.

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

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