



DFGC May 2021 Newsletter



President Message



Dear Garden Club Members,

I am looking forward to the challenge of being the DFGC President in this era of change. Joy Ericson installed our new Executive board on April 21, 2021. The date we would have had our annual meeting pre-Covid. We gathered outside in the gazebo by the lake behind McGlynn's in Dover for the installation with 13 members in attendance.

There are clubs who still are not meeting due to venue restrictions and members comfort. It is comforting to know that most have been vaccinated now. I truly hope that we are all moving away from the fear that Covid 19 has instilled in us. We are now changing our lives, into a vaccinated and more normal life. I am happy to know that some clubs have met via zoom during this past year. I am also grateful to all the clubs that have continued their outdoor community projects adhering to State mandates (masks/ distancing) for safety. Garden Clubs rock, a wonderful thing!



Spring is a wonderful, colorful and sometimes a warm time of the year. I hope you are all enjoying it.

June will be our first zoom general meeting. An invitation will be sent out to board members, then Club Presidents to share with their members. RSVPs are required. The meeting will be limited to 100 people. Perhaps some will gather safely and share the zoom meeting. Details will come. Please be kind and remember this is new to us and understand that anything might happen.



Frederick Law Olmsted: 200 Years of Growing America

We have a speaker for the June meeting. Kirk R. Brown. He will do a presentation on Frederick Law Olmsted. For the zoom presentation he will not be in costume. Frederick Law Olmsted: 200 Years of Growing America' Travel across America to discover what gardeners should recognize about the art and practice of high design and low dirty work. In celebration of the anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth in 1822, this topic surveys how agriculture became urbanculture...

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what national parks return to 'We the People'...why cemeteries commemorate more than famous people... when public gardens disappear...and who gardens best. This will be forty-five minutes of unblinking honesty about the importance of sowing, growing, and owning green in our lives.

As a 'Green Achiever,' Kirk has worked with a nationally-recognized landscape designer, an internationally-celebrated public garden, a world-famous non-profit association, and still found time to cultivate his own private display garden. He is known socially as GRDNTRAVLR. Join him as he unveils his many views on Gardening America.



Included below is program/registration information to attend free Delaware Master Gardener workshops virtually.

Delaware Master Gardener Workshops

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

Vegetables 101 Workshop via Zoom

The Kent County Master Gardeners have been offering a series of short, online workshops that will cover a different vegetable each week. They will talk about variety selection, soil, water and light requirements, direct seeding vs. transplanting, fertilizing, potential pests, and diseases, harvesting, and more for each specific crop. Workshops remaining on the schedule: Cucumbers (Thursday, May 13) and Pole Lima Beans (Thursday, May 20) Register at: <http://www.udel.edu/008197>

Container Gardens with Master Gardener JW Wistermayer

It's all container gardening, it just depends on the size of the container! Learn the basics and pick up some tips. Join in for an informative discussion on how to create a container garden for your own personal use whatever that use may be – growing flowers, herbs or vegetables – there is something for everyone! Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 12:00pm Register at: <https://ud-pcs.events.idloom.com/2021-master-gardener-workshops>

Caterpillars to Butterflies Workshop via Zoom

Master Gardener Marie Fletcher raises caterpillars that turn into butterflies. It's easier than you think. All you need is a caterpillar, some of its favored food, and a suitable container. Marie will share her techniques and experiences. Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6:30pm. Register at: <http://www.udel.edu/007938>

Ask a Master Gardener Workshop

Monday, June 7, 2021, 10:00am, Karen Abate, Karla Boulter and Linda Sperry. Have you done your spring garden preparations? Are you prepared to deal with the coming on slight of garden pests and diseases? Do you have mystery plants that need to be identified? The Kent County Master Gardeners are here to help you get ready for summer. We welcome questions and photos submitted in advance to our email at kentcountymastergardeners@gmail.com Register at: <http://www.udel.edu/008143>

My President's project will be announced soon. Stay tuned.

Please stay safe. Hope to see you all soon!

Barbara

DFGC 2021-2023 Officers

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| President | Barbara DeRue | jbderue@aol.com |
| First Vice President | Susan Newark | swnewark@gmail.com |
| Second Vice President | Janet Point | janetmpoint@gmail.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

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

Theme: PLANT AMERICA – Let’s Get Growing!

Treasurer

ATTENTION: CLUB PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS

Club membership dues are due, now. Please submit your club dues payable to Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs at a rate of \$10.00 per member, along with your member names and contact information (if possible).

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

Corresponding Secretary

Advertise your events to all of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs Presidents by sending your event flyer to irishmom08@gmail.com for distribution.

The Pandemic is lessening and we, as gardeners, love the visual and scent of flowers.

Thank you,
 Maureen Eisenhart

Dedicated to Delaware Project

In 2018, prior to selecting my President’s Project, I met with an official from Kent County Parks and Recreation to discuss the possibility of restoring an existing pollinator garden in Brecknock Park. I was referred to the Park Naturalist. I have had the pleasure of working with this enthusiastic, energetic young woman for the past 3 years. Together, we developed a vision for the Children’s Garden. It would be a place where children would be encouraged to explore the world around them. They would be able to get “up close and personal” with pollinators and plants. Programs and docents will provide appealing, educational opportunities. I also approached the Visitor Center’s special activities coordinator to discuss a beautification project at the entrance to the Welcome/Visitor Center.



On Saturday, April 24, 2021 volunteers met at the Children’s Garden in Brecknock County Park. It was a cool, sunny Spring day. Everyone was excited to install the plants and hardscape items. Each group was assigned to a specific quadrant of the garden. While some volunteers created a stepping stone path through the “soon to be” milkweed garden, others removed weeds and prepared the areas for plants. Purchased plants included winterberries, switch grass, Cardinal flowers, baptisia, aster, swamp milkweed, fern, red honeysuckle, coreopsis, and sedum. A birdbath and a small bolder were placed to provide a water source and a resting place for butterflies. Flags indicate established plants sprouting and locations for new plants. Old oak barrel planters showcase colorful flowers. Shepherd hooks hold hummingbird feeders. Sign labels identify each species. Colorful signs mark the milkweed garden for monarch butterflies. Children will have opportunities to explore the different areas during each season. Thanks to each member of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for donating \$5. Your investment in future nature lovers and potential gardeners is



appreciated. The Children’s Garden is in its infant stage. We look forward to its growth and support from visitors and volunteers. We hope you will visit the garden and see its potential for the future.

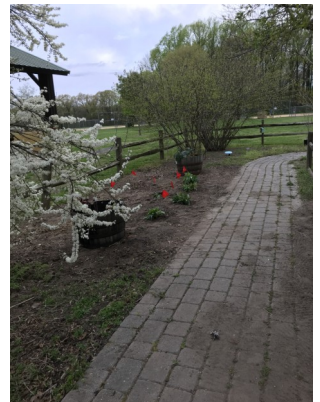


On Saturday, April 24, 2021 work began on the Welcome Center Garden. This very visible garden is located in front of the entrance to the Delaware Archives and Visitor Center. What was formerly grass is now a perennial garden. The centerpiece of the area is 3 oak leaf hydrangeas. In each peak of the triangular garden a soft touch compact holly anchors the space and provides winter interest. Variegated liriopes extend out from the hollies. Perennials include lavenders, shasta daisies, black-eyed susan, phlox, blanket flowers, coreopsis, yarrow, salvia, coneflowers, and bee balm. Annuals, yellow strawflowers, provide additional color. In a shaded area to the left of the perennial garden, liriopes, hostas, and painted ferns were installed. Plants in bloom will be featured on the Archives website.



The “Dedicated to Delaware” project included the installation of these 2 gardens. The initial installation has been completed. The final step will be to place the signs indicating the sponsorship of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Thank you for your support and encouragement over the past 2 years.
Sincerely, Connie Raymond, 2019-2021 DFGC, Inc. President



Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs New Sign at the Delaware Botanic Gardens



We took an early Spring visit to the Delaware Botanic Garden to place a sign acknowledging the TREE-mendous Tree project plantings in the Woodlands by DFGC members, clubs, friends and loved ones. The sign was placed near some nice Magnolia trees. The woodland paths are now easy access to view all the plantings and seemed magical during this visit.



This NGC award winning project started in 2017 has been voted on by the DFGC board to be continued for the next 2 years. Our tree planting focus of our DFGC TREE-mendous Tree project at the DBG is now to plant trees near the entry, the new restrooms and then near the new main building which is in the planning stage. It is through your generous donations to this project that we were able to honor or remember a loved one, a member, a club, a friend, etc. What started out as a hope for a few trees to be planted at the new botanic garden, has now grown to over 180 tree plantings. Thank you all who



have chosen to support this Tree planting project.



As the old saying states, the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time, today!

Please note that our new updated form to donate is included in this newsletter (page 23) and will be available on our DFGC website.



Submitted by Lisa Arni

~COMMITTEE REPORTS~

Club Programs

Has your club had a speaker or field trip in the last two years that everyone enjoyed? Please share these excellent resources with the other clubs in the state. The "Program Guide for Local Clubs" is being updated and we would love your input. Please send the speaker name (or location if a field trip), topic, contact information, and if there is a charge for the speaker or entry fee. No need to include amount. Send to me at macrofts@aol.com. Thank you!

Marjorie Crofts, Club Programs Chair

Environment/Conservation Legislation

Legislation

The **Invasive Plants Bill**, SB22, passed unanimously and was signed by Gov. Carney in March 2021.

The bill's synopsis:

This Act prohibits the import, export, sale, transport, distribution, or propagation of any plant identified by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, with the advice of the Delaware Native Species Commission, as an invasive plant. This Act also requires that plants identified as potentially invasive be sold with a tag that identifies the plant as potentially invasive. A violation of this Act may result in a civil penalty of \$50 to \$500, but only after the person has had the opportunity for an administrative hearing and the opportunity to come into compliance with this Act. This Act takes effect July 1, 2022.

Initially 37 invasive species are on the list, which can be expanded. Nurseries will no longer be permitted to sell items like English Ivy, Creeping Jenny, Norway Maple, or Callery Pear, to name a few.

Delaware's renewable energy portfolio standards (RPS) are established by the **Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards Act** ([26 Del.C. § 351 – § 364](#)), first adopted in 2005, and most recently amended by [Senate Bill 33](#), which was [signed into law by Governor Carney](#) on Feb. 10, 2021.

The Act is intended to establish a market in Delaware for electricity from renewable sources and to lower the cost of renewable energy to consumers. The Act allows utilities to meet their portfolio standards by buying renewable energy credits (RECs) and solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) from wind, solar and other renewable sources.

Senator Stephanie Hansen hosted a series of stakeholder workgroup meetings to determine how Delaware can implement the RPS and being solar to all Delawareans, regardless of type of home or economic status.

Delaware's **Plastic Bag Ban** went into effect Jan. 1, 2021. Officials at DNREC are pleased with the reduction in single-use plastic bags but are concerned that stores using the "reusable" plastic bags are not realizing the reuse factor from customers. Legislation is now considered to strengthen the ban, targeting bags under 10 mil thickness. Currently, the "reusable" plastic bags are 2.5 mils thickness.

Conservation

The **Delaware Botanic Garden at Pepper Creek** is open Thursdays – Sundays, 9:00am – 1:00pm.

Address: 30220 Piney Neck Rd, Dagsboro, DE 19939.

Membership and admission details at their webpage: <http://www.delawaregardens.org/>

Organizations throughout Delaware are instrumental in advocating and conserving our environment. DFGC members may consider supporting one or more of these organizations to further the improvement of our natural world.

[Delaware Audubon Society](#)
[Delaware Center for the Inland Bays](#)
[Delaware Invasive Species Council](#)
[Delaware Native Plant Society](#)
[Delaware Nature Society](#)
[Delaware Ornithological Society](#)
[Delaware Wild Lands](#)
[The Nature Conservancy / Delaware](#)
[Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#)
[The Sierra Club / Delaware Chapter](#)
[The Sussex County Land Trust](#)



Suzanne Smith, Legislative/Conservation Liaison

Horticulture

Many of us put some of our indoor plants outside during the summer. Many more could. It is time to prepare your inside garden for their summer camp outdoors. We need to do this very slowly to avoid plant damage. Our brightest windows only permit about as much sunlight as under a shade tree. Our plants need to be eased into the bright light of the sun. Leaves will sunburn and plants can be seriously damaged if the change happens too quickly.

When we first bring out our indoor plants, they need to hide from direct sun. They should be set in shade – tree, porch, or umbrella, during the day then brought inside. In and out for about a week. Then, if the night temperatures remain above 50°F, we can start to leave them out in the shady parts of our yards. If we experience a cold snap, our botanical pets need to come inside until temps moderate.

Some tropicals want full sun, i.e. hibiscus, angel trumpet, lantana. Start by allowing them direct sun during the early or late day for a couple hours. Gradually increase their exposure over a week or more until full sun – full day. As sun is increased remember to water more.

Orchids can spend their whole summer hanging from trees similar to their native areas. They and many other houseplants enjoy the shady areas around our gardens or porches. They like GOOD LIGHT - NOT SUN.

As with all our garden plants we need to check regularly for pests, water and feeding. Houseplants can grow very happily outside through the summer with a bit of care. As evening temperatures approach 50°F, we need to prepare to move our tropical plants inside. Christmas cactus can take in cooler, but not freezing. Before we bring in our plant friends, check them and their soil for possible hitchhikers. Treat as necessary.

Don't be surprised if the plants have grown over their summer break.

Marge 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 before each deadline.

Questions? Phone: (302) 988-2061

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

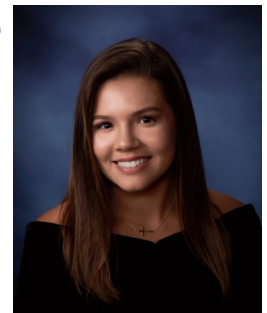
Publish Dates: February 15th - May 15th - September 15th

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

Judy Dayhoff, Newsletter Editor

Scholarship

I'm pleased to announce we had 3 applications for our \$2,000 scholarship. Many thanks to Barbara, Margie and Connie (ex-officio) for helping me judge the entries. Leslie Webb of Greenwood is our winner. She is presently a sophomore and will be entering her junior year in the fall at University of Delaware. Her major is Civil and Environmental Engineering with a minor in Environmental Soil Science and has a GPA of 3.748. She was very active in 4-H and FFA on the High School and State level and has continued to be active in the UD Collegiate 4-H and FFA. And, we can call her Queen!. She is the Mar Del Watermelon Queen for 2020 and again for 2021. Leslie lives on a small farm where her father and grandfather manage five grow-out chicken houses and 1,100 acres of land used for grain production. I thought you might like to read her letter so you can find it at the end of this newsletter. As you can see, Leslie is well qualified for our scholarship. Her application has been forwarded to NGC with the hope that she will be one of the 44 NGC \$4,000 Scholarship recipients.



Elva Davidson, Scholarship Chair

Virtual Resource

Zoom can be a great resource and can work well if everyone follows a few simple guidelines.

You will have the best experience using a PC or laptop with a large screen. You will be able to see more and see it more clearly. You can utilize Zoom on a tablet or phone but the view will be limited and the host will not be able to direct you to the various buttons and options on your screen.

Know where your MUTE button is. It is considered Zoom etiquette to have yourself muted if you are not the speaker. This prevents the speaker from being interrupted when your dog barks, your grandkids rush in with a prized item, or your husband asks how to start the oven. Remember to turn MUTE off when it is your turn to speak.

Know where your video on/off button is. During a featured speaker presentation, it is best if all videos are off. Use the Chat feature to ask a question or make a comment. If you would like to speak, raise your hand or use the Raise Hand feature and wait to be acknowledged.

Oksana Hoey, Virtual Resource Chair

Delaware Nature Society: Moving Forward

Delaware Nature Society successfully pivoted during the past year to provide both virtual and in-person activities while carefully adhering to COVID-19 protocols. Courses migrated online, a Fall Native Plant Sale was added, Christmas trees were sold at Coverdale Farm Preserve, to name a few changes. The staff worked tirelessly on behalf of nature and Delaware residents.

Plans are underway for in-person summer camps for children and teens and in-person programs for families and adults at all four of the DNS sites: Ashland, Coverdale Farm, DEEC, and Abbott’s Mill.

By visiting www.delawarenaturesociety.org, a full listing of programs and activities is easily available. Information is also available at DNS’s Facebook page.

Here are a just a few upcoming highlights:

- 40th Anniversary Celebrating Abbott’s Mill Nature Center – May 22
- DNS will offer a Nature Preschool at Ashland beginning in September 2021
- Harvest Moon Festival - Coverdale Farm Preserve - First Saturday in October

Three Advocacy Programs will be offered to better enable citizens to have their voices heard to promote clean water, environmental and social justice, and how to better address critical issues of climate change and COVID.

Coverdale Farm is readying for a robust season of “Weekend Farmer” programs, hikes, family and mini-events, and shop for Coverdale-grown food at the NEW Farm Market.

Members support the three-pronged mission of Delaware Nature Society of education, conservation, and advocacy. Please consider becoming a DelNature member.

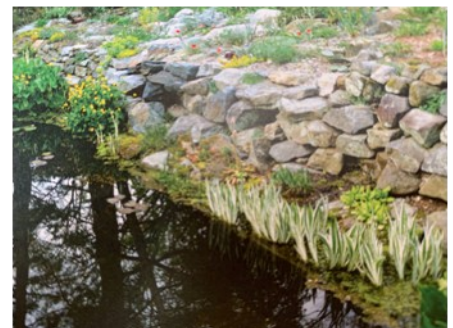


Joy Ericson, Delaware Nature Society Chair

Delaware Center for Horticulture

The Delaware Center for Horticulture has welcomed Spring and has continued many of the precautions for safety reasons. Keeping with its ‘Partnering for People and Plant’ theme, DCH continued its collaboration with Jewish Family Services. Together they will deliver an eight-week session to individuals in the Branches to Chances (BtC) program, focusing on stress, anger management, racial injustice, grief and loss. In addition, hands-on classes, in the field horticulture and arboriculture skills training will resume after putting a hold on the program in 2020. BtC is a horticultural job training program for the underserved, incarcerated and unemployed.

In addition, the 2021 Learning from Great Gardens Series has begun and will end June 26. A total of 5 gardens are on the tour. The first tour was held by bulb expert Charles Cresson at Hedleigh Spring (Swarthmore, PA) on April 24. Also featured this year is Andrew Bunting, Vice-President of Public Horticulture at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Located in Belvidere (Swarthmore, PA), he has designed a Mediterranean garden, tropical garden, woodland garden, a joint project with a neighbor and so much more on his 1/3 acre property .



DCH website: www.thedch.org

Marybeth Johns, Delaware Center for Horticulture Chair



BAREFOOT GARDENERS



It's all about working together to bring joy to others during this pandemic.

Like so many other clubs, our first meeting was held via Zoom - which some joined in upside down or sideways - technical challenges we all had to overcome. But with the creativity of our incoming 1st Vice President, we have a full schedule this upcoming year covering a wide variety of topics. All programs are scheduled to take place in outside venues in compliance with CDC guidelines. This means our club members can once again gather in person in a safe environment for some much needed camaraderie.



In March, our club joined the efforts of four other local Sussex County Garden Clubs (Salt Air Gardeners, Gardeners by the Sea, Coastal Gardeners and Sussex Gardeners) to create more than 80 festive wreaths to decorate the doors of residents at the Brandywine Assisted Living Facility in Selbyville. The jubilation with which they were received was truly rewarding.



Then in April, we again joined efforts with a local non-profit to help bring joy to the graduating seniors at Indian River High School (IRHS) this May 2021. In 2004, an Honor Garden was created on the grounds of IRHS in memory of Russell White. White was a 2002 graduate of IRHS who joined the Marines and went off to service in Afghanistan. However, his career ended suddenly and tragically. After his death, not only was the Honor Garden created on the grounds of IRHS but a foundation was also established in White's name, which provides a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating student at IRHS who has given back to the local area with a community service project. However, the garden has weathered over the years, but with the help of Emily Harne who graduated with White in 2002 and, whose mother, Sue Lyons of Coastal Point and also a Barefoot Gardener, approached the club to help in the beautification of this garden. This proposal was combined with the staff at IRHS who intend to use the Honor Garden as their focal point for their upcoming senior prom and graduation ceremonies. The Barefoot Gardeners agreed to donate \$400 for the purchase of the shrubs, flowers and mulch used to spruce up the existing garden. Lords Landscaping joined in this effort by providing the necessary materials at cost and together with 10 volunteers, the garden was restored to a beautiful and joyous setting.



Combining efforts with other local groups has turned out to be truly rewarding during these trying times
Happy Gardening!

COASTAL GARDENERS

Unfortunately, we didn't have a meeting in February.

In March we were able to participate in making wreaths for residents at Brandywine Living at Fenwick Island with other garden clubs in the area. Salt Air Gardeners, Barefoot Gardeners, Sussex Gardeners, Gardeners by the Sea and us, Coastal Gardeners. There was a very nice article and picture in the Coastal Point when a representative from each garden club presented the wreaths.



Our March Zoom meeting consisted of a Garden Trivia game developed by member Liz Nalle and a "Plant Talk " by member Mary DeHahn

During our April Zoom meeting we had a presentation by Ernie Ritchie about Rain Gardens.

We took part in the Adopt a Highway pick up on March 27. We picked up litter along Piney Neck Road which is the road leading to the Delaware Botanical Garden.





COUNTRYSIDE GARDEN CLUB



Greetings from Countryside Garden Club in Hockessin Delaware!

We have managed to continue to meet, but safely, utilizing a local church and spreading out with love in their gymnasium.



Our last meeting on sustainable gardening was well received by the speaker who gave it and shared how it was nice to be in the presence of people again and NOT Zooming!

We just started back having refreshments but made sure they were personalized packaged snacks and fruit that could be peeled open along with our normal beverages of tea and coffee consumed by a member bringing their very own cup or special mug.



This helps us continue on with our recycle and reuse motto and keep our waste down during meetings.

So yes, meetings can still be done folks, but with some creativity.

We will not allow this pandemic to steal our joy.

Our next meeting will be outside in a local park pavilion to study bats!

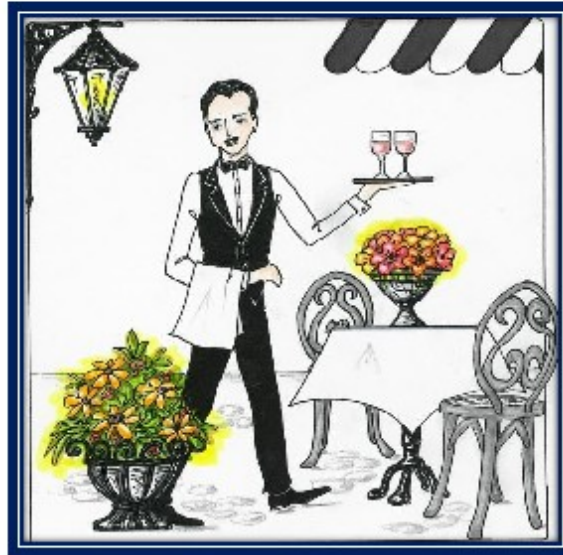
HAPPY SPRING!



Bon Appétit

*An NGC Standard Flower Show
Presented by
Garden Gate Garden Club*

Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 2-4 PM



A Progressive Flower Show at the Homes of:

*Joy Ericson - 903 Barley Dr. Kelly Koontz - 904 Barley Dr.
Wilmington, DE 19807 Wilmington, DE 19807*

*Laura Scanlan - 1011 Barley Dr.
Wilmington, DE 19807*

Open to DFGC garden club members & invited guests. Free admission.

Safety and Protection Requests

Please Note:

For the safety of all visitors and for the protection of the show homes Garden Gate requests you wear comfortable shoes, leave big bags in your car, no photos, socially distance, wear a mask, car pool and park on the right side of the street, **please**.

Gardeners by the Sea continues to G-R-O-W our membership!



Since May 2020, we have welcomed **FIFTEEN NEW MEMBERS!!**

The Membership Committee chaired by **Karen Plis** recently held a New Members Reception. With changes in the CDC recommendations, we were able to meet together outside at the chair's home.

It was Karen's birthday! Here she is encouraging the new members to sign up to serve on one or more of our many committees. We salute the Membership Committee for mentoring our new members!



Birds of a Feather Flock Together... the purpose of the Reception was to get to know one another. We discovered new gardeners, some are enrolled in college horticulture classes, take landscaping classes, Student

Judge, going to NGC Schools, Master Gardeners, past Blue Ribbon Prize winner from Philadelphia Flower Show, several former caterers, dog owners, others have kitty cats, gardens where deer graze, shade gardens, vegetable gardeners, GBTS Charter Members, serving on CAR-sgc Board, DFGC board, past presidents, & our corresponding secretary is moving to Tennessee near new grandson!



GBTS Scholarship winner Caitlin Molnar is now on Horticulture staff with the town of Bethany Beach! The town was in full bloom with beautiful tulips, including at our Blue Star Memorial Garden! We get to appreciate our investment in horticulture scholarships!

GBTS members created 20 Wreaths as part of the joint project of 5 Clubs to provide a variety of spring wreaths for residents and staff at Brandywine Assisted Living at Fenwick.



Our Community Project partnering with **Ocean View Historical Society** has expanded to include planting an herb garden, the new Memorial Garden at Hall's Store and helping with Spring Cleanup of the grounds around the Historical Village. **Maureen Eisenhart**, second from right, chairs of our Community Projects Committee.

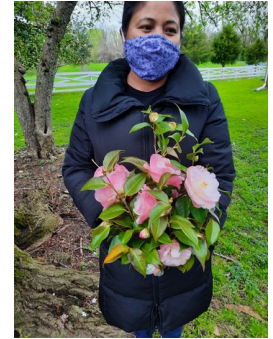




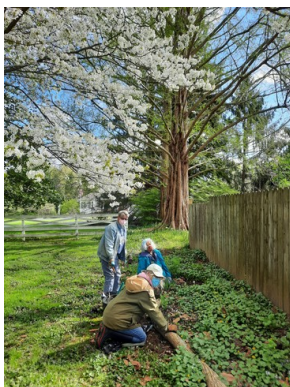
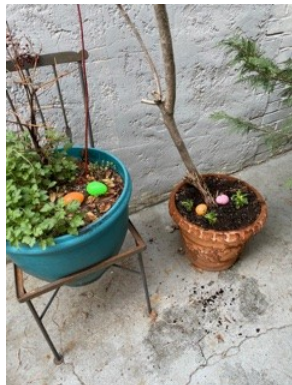
MIDDLETOWN-ODESSA GARDEN CLUB



Middletown-Odesa Garden Club's Crop Swap last year was a huge success in its first year and we are looking forward to hosting it again this spring and summer. The events are held at the Corbit Calloway Memorial Library and is open to the public. Bring your abundance of crops that you would like to share and take home some as well.



This spring, members were able to come help maintain the Native Gardens at the Corbit Calloway Memorial Library, Middletown's Pocket Park, the historical Corbit Sharp Gardens in Odessa and Cochran Square in Middletown. The colors are delightful! As always, we are grateful to all who participated and continue to do so.



Our Club hasn't been able to meet in person during the past year but we hope to do so in the very near future. On the horizon will be a new slate of officers and Committee Chairs who always keep us engaged and current on many local initiatives.



MILFORD GARDEN CLUB

The Milford Garden Club has not been as active as usual this past winter. With our youngsters in their 60's, Covid shots and their availability tempered interacting a lot.

At our December meeting it was voted to suspend meetings until most could be treated against COVID 19 virus. Our Board meetings have been either outside or by ZOOM all year.

We resumed group meetings (socially distanced) in early April. Barbara DeRue and Susan Newark, both Accredited Flower Show Judges and DFGC's new President and First Vice President, presented a program on "Floral Design" looking forward to our Flower Show on October 26, 2021.

Barb, Susan and Linda Peters are all Milford Garden Club members of the DFGC Executive Board, just having been installed on April 21, 2021.

At our May meeting members will prepare floral designs for the patients and staff at our local Genesis facility. Holly Heverly will present "Garden Décor", a program previewing various garden related projects that our Crafts Group will be undertaking over the next few months. Come join us.

We have returned to some of our ongoing Community Projects this spring. Milford members volunteer on a regular schedule at areas we are developing and maintaining in downtown Milford, including gardens at the Milford Senior Center, the Riverfront Theater, and our new Native/Educational Garden. We will be installing new flowers and vegetables in about twenty containers at the Delaware Veterans Home in mid May. Mayor Campbell will present his proclamation for National Garden Week in June.

This summer Milford Garden Club will add fun events like the Club Picnic, a Garden Tour, and the Summer Social.

Margie Huntzinger, MGC President





Moonflower Garden Club

The **Moonflower Garden Club** has been active, even this year with the pandemic. Meeting over zoom, we still engaged in meaningful interactions, sharing our love of gardening and learning from each other as well as from speakers. Kerri Mast, club Vice President put together a varied set of programs for our monthly meetings. Like everyone this year, we pivoted some while still enjoying many different topics.



One of our on-going projects is maintaining gardens around two Welcome to Hockessin signs. We did a fall clean up, masked but still enjoying the hard work and companionship that a community garden provides.

▶ Left to right: Barb Borleski, Suzanne Smith (club Secretary), Ellie

Furry and Ann Perry worked to clean up the garden. Barb and Ann are both founding and life members. Ellie keeps a schedule for regular maintenance during the growing season.



We held a fundraiser by selling Allium bulbs of 4 different varieties. This was a no pressure fund raiser and we felt it was quite successful at adding to the club's coffers as well as to our gardens.

◀ This photo shows Jennifer Christy (club President) sorting the bulbs which were distributed at the fall meeting at a local winery Galer Estates. We toured the vineyard and heard about the grape varieties and wine making process, ending with a tasting.

Other programs included a presentation by Ian Stewart of the Delaware Nature Society on local owls. We were then presented with a tray of pollinator-friendly seeds of native plants. Members could chose Bidens anistosa, Tickseed sunflower; Senna hebecarpa, Wild senna; Chamaecrista fasciculata, Partridge pea. Dr Matt Fischel presented a program on succulents, describing his research at the University of Delaware. His slide show from a trip to South Africa demonstrated his passion for growing and hybridizing succulents. Julia Kline, a Moonflower member, gave a program on containers emphasizing textures and colors to enhance the winter garden, a time when many are not thinking of gardens at all.

Kevin Fennimore, also Moonflower member, presented a program on Dahlias. Kevin showed how to plant the 2 tubers we had each received for speedy growth and gave tips on how to maintain dahlias for maximal enjoyment. We are looking forward to these new additions to our gardens. We look forward to gathering in person again on a regular basis but we all agree that our gardens have provided solace during this year of social isolation.

Happy gardening this Spring!

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Christy, President Moonflower Garden Club



Planting the Children's Garden

After a year-long delay because of COVID-19, the Children's Garden in Plantation Lakes has finally become a reality. PLGC secured various gardening tools for the children's planting with a grant awarded to Mary Williford. Our club provided the flowers, along with materials needed



for social distancing. With their gloves, masks and energy, the children planted marigolds and butterfly bushes the first weekend in May. We hope the Children's Garden will instill the love of flowers while teaching the importance of pollination.



Blue Star Memorial Byway Marker & Garden

Planting will begin shortly under the direction of Judy Pfister, Master Gardner. The Blue Star Memorial committee will be preparing for the Dedication Ceremony, scheduled for June 8 (rain date of June 10). The garden is located at the Plantation Lakes Community Center, 29787 Plantation Lakes Boulevard in Millsboro. This is a joint project with The Homeowners Association. The HOA installed a flag pole in the garden layout, and will assist with garden maintenance.

May Day Baskets

6th Annual Community Beautification Project

PLGC members look forward to showing off their creativity and talents with May Baskets displayed at their door or on a lamppost on May 1st. Some members use live plants to create their display, others keep to the tradition of a cut flower arrangement in a basket or creative container. To "spread the joy," members of the community are encouraged to join PLGC members by displaying their own basket. Instructions were posted on the PLGC website, and Chairperson Betty Baeschlin and Sylvia Heidbreder created this cut flower basket for display at our Plantation Lakes Clubhouse. Betty and Patti Kircher were invited to Four Seasons Gardeners in Heritage Shores on April 22nd, to present a "How To" demonstration of both live plant and cut flower baskets, "spreading the joy" to a sister club!





POTPOURRI GARDEN CLUB

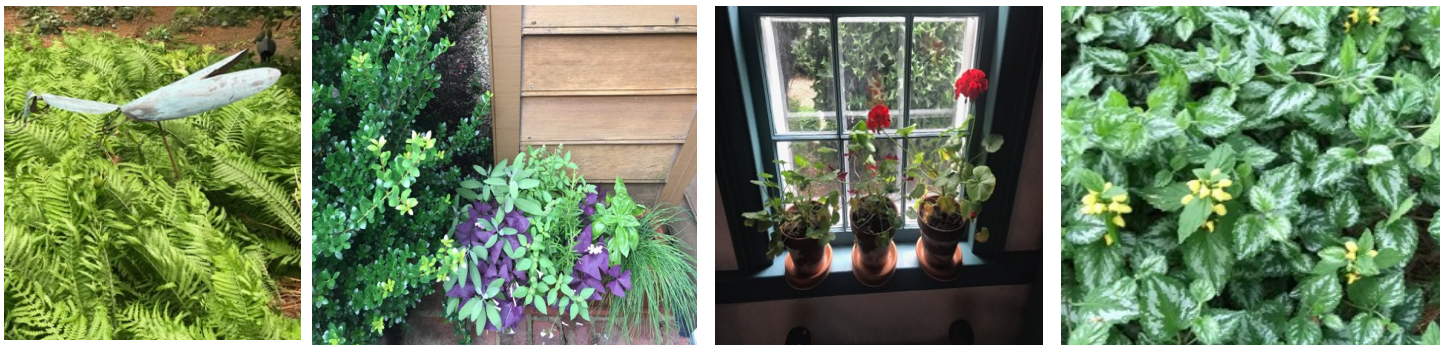


WELCOME TO SPRING

SPRING is always a time of change and renewal, but perhaps this year we are more ready than ever to usher in the new. In fact, revitalize and refresh were the words at the forefront of my mind, when planning this article, as we all embrace an optimistic mood.



The Potpourri Garden Club members have captured this positivity with their mood-enhancing new flower gardens and door decorations, with themes that reference the beauty of the natural world, artistic inspiration and heritage, often in bright color palettes. We also embrace the spring season with new additions to our gardens along with lawn ornaments that are both beautiful and useful for a spring garden.



To ensure our club stays strong, we have utilized zoom for our meetings during the pandemic and begin our scheduled program meeting in April. We are embracing the season with new ideas for meetings, engaging with each other and most of all creating programs that bring the beauty of spring flowers indoors. We hope that our upcoming meetings will put SPRING in our step and inspire all of us in the Potpourri Garden Club to make the most of all the season has to offer!



Indian River Life-Saving Station Phase IV Started

Work has begun on Phase IV at the Indian River Life-Saving Station. This phase includes creating gardens in front of the new entrance signs.

The design includes blue rug junipers, dewey blue switch grass, blanket flowers, yuccas, prickly pear and several varieties of sedum. Work should be completed in a few weeks. Stop by the Indian River Life-Saving Station and enjoy!



Speaker Programs

We hosted guest speakers at two of our recent meetings. Gregg Tepper shared his Sensory Appeal of Native Plants presentation. Our senses were tingling as he shared pictures of plants and we listened to his descriptions. We all imagined seeing, smelling, feeling, and tasting the plants.

In April, Chris Dominic, a local beekeeper in Ocean View, DE and member of the Delaware Beekeepers Association shared a wonderful presentation on Beekeeping and Attracting Bees to Your Garden.

Field Trip to Delaware Botanic Gardens

Several of our members went on a guided tour at Delaware Botanic Gardens. The gardens still shine even on a cloudy day.

May Day Baskets

The Salt Air Gardeners partnered with the Bay Forest Community Social Committee and hosted a May Day Celebration. Over 100 families displayed baskets on their front porches.



Spring Planting at Our Community Projects

Our gardeners have been busy planning and preparing our community gardens at Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce, Bay Forest Community Circle, Brooks Transition Home and Brandywine Living.





SUSSEX GARDENERS



In March, Sussex Gardeners happily joined four neighboring garden clubs to make wreaths for the residents of Brandywine Living at Fenwick Island. Colorful spring wreaths were created by Kathy, Lee, Lois, Dianne, Judy and Janet.

The Zwaanendael Museum was decorated by Terry Rumble, Kathy Ackerman, Janet Point, Marty Last and Dianne Shawley for the Annual Lewes Tulip Celebration. The April 2021 event enjoyed prominent coverage by the Cape Gazette and Coastal A&E with Host Michael Sprouse.





Five Sussex County Garden Clubs Bring Joy to Residents



Five local garden clubs in Sussex County joined together to bring spring joy inside Brandywine Living at Fenwick Island. Members of the Salt Air Gardeners, Gardeners by the Sea, Coastal Gardeners, Barefoot Gardeners and Sussex Gardeners created over 80 wreaths of spring and patriotic themes to hang on the doors of residents.

There was an overwhelming response from each of the garden clubs and very quickly each group committed to making unique wreaths for each resident. In addition, extra wreaths were created to be included in a raffle for the Brandywine Living staff. "Coastal Gardeners have enjoyed making these beautiful wreaths because we know they bring joy to others" said Sally Scarangella, Coastal Gardeners.



Wreaths displayed on Brandywine Living doors

Alva Hutchison, Gardeners by the Sea, said "Members of Gardeners by the Sea enthusiastically designed wreaths for the residents at Brandywine. This project has a special spot in my heart because my mother lived at Brandywine. From our experience, I know it is the love and care of the staff that makes it a beautiful place to live!"

The wreaths were presented to Heather Cronin, Escapades Producer at Brandywine Living on March 22, 2021 outside the facility. Heather remarked: "It was wonderful how five local gardening groups in Sussex County came together to make a personalized wreath for every resident at Brandywine. You can see the time and thought that went into each one"

The Salt Air Gardeners were unable to conduct gardening workshops with the residents due to the pandemic. With Spring coming, the group looked for a creative way to engage the residents and brighten up their days. The group decided to make wreaths that could hang on the resident's doors and reached out to other local garden clubs to join in the effort.



Pictured from left to right: Sally Scarangella, Coastal Gardeners; Janet Point, Sussex Gardeners; Alva Hutchinson, Gardeners by the Sea; Heather Cronin, Escapades Director at Brandywine Living; Debbie Micsky, Barefoot Gardeners ; and Oksana Hoey, Salt Air Gardeners

"Imagine the joy when every door has a wreath to welcome in spring. It will add some life and cheer to those who cannot have visitors, who cannot gather to eat in the dining room, who need something to lift their spirits each time they are able to leave their room" said Oksana Hoey, Salt Air Gardeners.



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)

WORD SEARCH - GARDENING

P E T A L S P R A Y E R B R I E
T W I N E H U P E R E N N I A L
S E H S I O B N B L O S S O M A
L E S E M V B K L E K A R Y C U
A D B E E E L O P N H O I P L N
B I R D X L U O O O M N I O N N
E N U R P O B U T T E R F L Y A
B C G H I J K A N T S E W L J L
M U L C H O S E R Y Z O D I R E
F R O G B S H E A R S F H N O W
A C V M N T T O Q U O L L A Z O
C L E A F A T R S U V W A T E R
L R S O A K X S T E M F R O O T
A C D F F E R T I L I Z E R S S

5 Garden Tools

3 Garden apparel

6 Parts of a plant

5 Garden necessities

4 Requirements for plants

4 Gardening activities

6 Garden creatures

2 Types of plants

Submitted by Connie Raymond

Gardners By The Sea

"Annual Plant & Garden Accessories Auction"

Friday, June 11 from 11:00 – 3:00

(Raindate: Friday June 18th)

at **BEARHOLE FARM**, 37756 Bear Hole Rd., Selbyville

We will follow current
CDC & DE State "Mask"
Guidelines

Cash or
Check
Only

- * Plant Auction
- * Silent Auction
- * 50/50 Auction
- * Garden Items
- * Bearhole Farm Veggie Shopping

Members & Guests are invited! Hospitality Committee will provide a "light" lunch! Wine will be served also!
RSVP to Sallie Melvin with guest count by Friday, June 4th for hospitality prep!

All members are asked to contribute plants from their gardens. Each plant should be neatly contained and identified as to perennial, annual, shade or sun lover and any particular care information! Garden accessory items can be identified also, if needed.

Bring your "for sale" items with you on the 11th. Ways & Means Committee will be at BearHole and begin "set-up" at 11:30.

Wear your "Garden Party" Hat!

I grew up on a small family farm. My father and his father manage five grow-out chicken houses and 1,100 acres of land used for grain production. I have been surrounded by agriculture since the day I was born. From a very early age, I knew how unique I was in my area that I lived on an actual farm. Even though some people didn't understand, I wanted to tell everyone about my passion for agriculture. I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in agriculture.

It was through a 4-H project that I realized exactly what I wanted to study in college. The Delaware Envirothon is a competition for high school students that tests knowledge on five different subjects: Aquatic Ecology, Wildlife, Soil and Land Use, Air Quality, and Forestry. I joined my 4-H club's team as an 8th grader and competed for the first time as a high school freshman. I volunteered to be my team's 'Soils Specialist' not realizing how much I would come to love the subject matter. In fact, I placed first in the Soils and Land Use portion of the contest in just my second year of competing.

I am currently majoring in Environmental Engineering at the University of Delaware and through my education, plan create new and innovative ways to conserve the environment which sustains all life. I have declared a minor in Environmental Soil Science and plan to promote healthy soil using my education. After my participation in the Delaware Envirothon, I realized that soil is the basis of agriculture and should be protected. I am also involved in Collegiate 4-H and Collegiate FFA to continue to engage with others interested in advancing agriculture.

My career goal is to use my background in environmental engineering to sustain and strengthen the agriculture industry on Delmarva. The agriculture industry is critical to Delmarva's economy and affects more than just farmers. Keeping the industry healthy and fully functioning is imperative to Delmarva's economy. A strong Delmarva agriculture industry is possible only if the industry is doing its part to sustain the natural environment. In my career, I plan to minimize the agriculture industry's negative impact on the environment, including land, water and air resources.

I also plan to be a 4-H leader in the future. As an active 4-H member for thirteen years, I have seen first-hand the impact that 4-H has on youth. As a junior leader in my club, county, and state, I love to watch younger members learn and excel in their projects. I am passionate about 4-H and youth development and would like to offer my skills and expertise to this organization in the future.

This scholarship will help to ease my financial burden so that I can focus more on my academics and further my education. After completing three semesters of college, I am aware of the monetary strain my entire family must undergo. I will also have a brother in college at the same time as me, which will increase the financial stress on my parents. In addition, half of my family's income is from a small family farm. Commodity prices as of now are below break-even and it is tough to make a profit. Income is highly variable year to year due to weather and commodity prices and it is difficult to budget financing college with variable income. Any scholarship money I receive will be a great help in financing my education and reaching my educational and career goals. It will also allow me to participate in agricultural related programs such as Collegiate FFA and 4-H and serve as the 2021 Mar-Del Watermelon Queen. These groups will help me better serve the agricultural community as an advocate.