



DFGC 2017 NEWSLETTER

www.delawaregardenclubs.org Volume 7 Issue 27 October 2017



Happy Fall!

I was able to attend the National Board meeting in St. Louis in September and enjoyed getting to know our CAR-SGC state presidents a bit more and spending some time with them. It seems that we are the same, but different. We share the same experiences but the size of our states makes us different. It was unfortunate that we were unable to visit the NGC Headquarters due to construction. Maybe next time.

Our TREE-mendous Delaware Tree Planting project at the Delaware Botanic Gardens is off to a great start. We have 24 tree plantings donated to date and I hope to have many more. In addition to honoring and memorializing club members, this project has evolved to gift giving for Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc. for extended friends, relatives, and neighbors. With the holidays coming it might be just the right gift for someone on your gift list who is hard to buy for. Why not leave a lasting gift that can be enjoyed for generations to come. Of course there is a nice certificate for presenting as well. I have several of these certificates to give out at our November 15 meeting where we will be hosting our National President, Nancy Hargroves.



Our TREE-mendous Delaware Membership Growth project has had some great progress as we will be adding a new club to the DFGC at our November 15 meeting. Please be sure to stop by and meet our newest members and make them feel welcome.

We will be busy making plans for our DFGC 60th Anniversary Celebration April 2018. Stay tuned for more on this extra special meeting that will highlight the last 10 years and club history for the past 60 years. Our very own Delaware Judges Council will be doing a program on Design through the Decades—which you will not want to miss.

Hope to see you all at the November 15, 2017 DFGC meeting at Dover Downs for more fun.
Lisa

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the new 2017 Flower Show Handbook, please contact Dottie Howatt. She has offered to obtain a group order of these new books for any DFGC member who would like one.

OUR NEW WEBSITE



Delaware Garden Clubs

The Official Website for Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs

MEMBER LOGIN 

HOME

ABOUT

JOIN

ACTIVITIES

RESOURCES

SCHOLARSHIPS

CONTACT



Members of Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. demonstrate our commitment daily to the objectives of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

We achieve this through the many programs, projects, and activities offered by Delaware garden clubs that promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

HOME

ABOUT

JOIN

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DelawareGardenClubs.org

Submitted by Margaret Woda

A MEMBER LOGIN button at the top right of the homepage will connect you with the passwordprotected members only section of the website. (Password: DFGC3) This will open to the homepage of a website within the website that contains confidential contact information for DFGC and garden club leaders, plus several other pages of information that is important to DFGC members. You can navigate within this Section using links in the left column of each page.

WEBSITE USER TIPS:

1. Refresh your browser every time you visit DelawareGardenClubs.org so you have the most recently updated version, i.e., new announcements, forms, and information.
2. Use the Member Login button in the header of the website for access to the password-protected Members Section of the website. (Password: DFGC3)
3. Frequently check the Announcements page in the Members Section of the website. Newest announcements will always be at the top, but read them all the first time you visit that page.
4. Use the Contact button at the top of the page to notify the webmaster if any link doesn't work for you or if you see a typo or incorrect information.
5. Please "Like" [facebook.com/Delawaregardenclubs/](https://www.facebook.com/Delawaregardenclubs/) and click through any time there is a link that goes to our website. This activity will eventually help advance our website in the search engines so people can find us. (prospective members, the press, other garden clubs, etc)

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs State Meeting

*Please Join Us on Wednesday,
November 15, 2017*

*At Dover Downs, Diamond Room to meet our
National Garden Clubs, Inc. President*

Nancy L. Hargroves

Registration and Coffee begins at 9:00am

Business Meeting at 10:00am

Luncheon at 12:00 noon

Program at 1:00pm

*Our program, "Fall and Winter Container Gardening",
will be presented by President Hargroves*

WITCHES, TURKEYS AND REINDEER Fall and Winter Container Gardening

Container gardening doesn't have to come to an end when Fall arrives. Extend ordinary summer container gardening into year-round container gardening with creative holiday highlights for Halloween, Thanksgiving & Christmas. There are unlimited possibilities that exist in container design, no matter the season.

Pine branches stuck into an empty window box do not a container garden make! Thoughtful plant selection can result in less work & longer-lasting results to carry you far beyond summer. A few simple tips will help you rethink container design and find your own unique style that may be bold, whimsical or elegant. See items that you never imagined transformed into one-of-a-kind containers that set a holiday mood. Learn how Fall and Winter containers can also provide make-ahead holiday decorations for inside and outdoor containers that can capture natural elements or inspired holiday elegance. It's easier than you think!



Registration Deadline: Friday, November 3, 2017

***Registrar: Linda Peters, 23 Marathon Drive Seaford, DE 19973,
302-629-6205, tandlptrs@verizon.net***

Thanks to Linda Peters and the Laurel Garden Club for hosting the DFGC November 15th meeting at Dover Downs. Each club sends one club check to registrar Linda Peters with a list of attendees. Food allergies must be noted with all reservations. There will be coffee and snacks available at 9:00AM. The meeting will start at 10:00AM. Luncheon and program will follow.

November is a wonderful month for your club to make some money by reserving a sales table at this meeting. The sales **profit** split is 60% for your club, 40% for the DFGC. Sales table reservations are taken by Mary Noel the Fundraising Chair, 302 337-1054, leave a message. Tables must be reserved by November 3rd.

Wouldn't it be "Tree Mendous" if every DFGC club was represented at this meeting?

Barbara DeRue



CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES

Share a speaker/program you enjoyed with
your fellow Garden Clubs.
Please provide the speakers

Name _____

Topic _____

Contact information _____

Marie Van Der Wall, Programs Chair
mavanderwall@gmail.com
302-934-6528

YOUTH

Consider Adopt-A-Seedling Award

As Youth Activities Chairperson, I want to bring the **Adopt-A-Seedling Award** to your attention. No gardening clubs have applied for this award in the last couple of years. It's a great way to involve our youth in the joy and education of gardening and you may earn \$25 for your club. This award was started by Hoe & Hope Gardening Club several years ago and is for DFGC clubs only.

PURPOSE: To encourage an interest in horticulture, flower arranging and conservation within the framework of an already existing youth organization, i.e., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, Church Groups, 4-H Clubs, Day Care Centers, etc.

REQUIREMENTS: Clubs must present a minimum of three (3) programs and a maximum of five (5) programs to the youth group during the year in order to qualify as an "Adopt-a-Seedling" sponsored group.

Clubs who sponsor a Junior Garden Club are not eligible for this award.

Applications for this award will be available soon on the DFGC website. The deadline for this year is **November 11, 2017**. Questions? Contact Barbara Boyce,

For more questions, information or to place an order, contact Barbara Boyce
Youth Activities Chairman 302-743-6336 barbarab@systemsapproachLtd.com

TAKING BOOK ORDERS NOW FOR DISTRIBUTION AT DFGC NOVEMBER 15, 2017 MEETING



~\$13 each

(\$13 is an estimated cost per book; books are \$10 each plus shipping)

Payment is due at DFGC November meeting.

The Saved Seed is an early reader new book from National Gardening Clubs written to educate elementary children (K through 4th grade) about the life cycle of seed plants. It is written and beautifully illustrated by the same two women who did *The Frightened Frog* book which DFGC promoted in 2015-16.

The Saved Seed follows the journey of a pumpkin seed from a Halloween pumpkin through the year becoming a seedling, a vine, and eventually a new pumpkin. Children learn how to care for seeds and how to become successful gardeners.

This book can be distributed to schools, libraries, youth groups, schools, grand kids, and others. You'll even want your own copy. Place your orders **before the end of October, 2017**.

Youth Activities 2017-18



CONTEST	DEADLINE	THEME for 2017-18	MORE INFO*
Poetry	January 1, 2018	<i>"Let It Grow"</i>	K thru 9th grades (including Special Ed and ESL)
Essay	January 1, 2018	<i>"Community Gardens—A Solution to Blight, Crime and Hunger"</i>	9th thru 12 grades; \$1000 to national winner; 600 to 700 words
Sculpture	January 1, 2018	<i>Encouraging youth to keep our planet green</i>	4th thru 8th grades
High School Distinguished Service Project	Early December	<i>No theme. Any civic project that makes significant public improvement to environment, landscape, horticulture, recycling, etc.</i>	9th thru 12th grades; \$100 for 1st place; \$50 for 2nd place
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster	Early January	No theme. Allows students to show their understanding of wildfire protection and basic environmental principles.	1st thru 5th grades
Youth Pollinator Garden Grants	No deadline; ends when money has been given out	For garden clubs working with youth to plan and plant pollinator gardens; must had educational component	Grants up to \$200;

* Full details on all of these contests on the National Gardening Clubs website (www.gardenclub.org).

For more information contact:

Barbara Boyce, Youth Activities Chair
 302-743-6336, barbarab@systemsapproachltd.com

**OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL PUBLISH
 February 20, 2018
 THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING INFORMATION IS
 February 10, 2018
marysuecolaizzi@comcast.net**

WAYS TO USE VINEGAR IN YOUR GARDEN

These tips were originally provided by HGTV and were presented to the Middletown-Odesa Garden club at our September meeting by Ruth Reynolds.

Clean clay pots...1 C white vinegar, 4 C water... soak pots 1/2 hr. to remove mineral deposits.

Preserve fresh flowers.. 2T white vinegar, 2T sugar, 1 qt. water.

Ant repellent... fill spray bottle with 1/2 & 1/2 white vinegar and water... spray on flower pots and edges of flower beds.

Germinate tough seeds... Soak stubborn seeds overnight in bowl of water with a few drops of white vinegar, plant the next day.

Deter fruit flies... make a trap...jar of apple cider vinegar with some dish soap...vinegar lures them and soap causes them to sink to the bottom.

Clean rusty garden tools... spray with undiluted white vinegar. Let sit a few minutes and wipe down... coat with vegetable oil to help prevent future rust.

Deter unwanted animals... soak a few items in white vinegar, post around the garden.

Water acid-loving plants (hydrangeas, rhododendrons)...1C white vinegar to 1 gallon water.

Eliminate snails & slugs... spray with water and distilled vinegar mixture.

Remove water lines from old vases... fill with 1/2 water, 1/2 vinegar... let soak. Adding a few small stones and shaking vases will aid in removal of tougher deposits.

Clean birdbaths & fountains... scrub with white vinegar, safe for birds, they don't pick up bacteria and spread it throughout the garden.

Remove berry stains after harvesting... wash up with a bit of white vinegar.

Clean and wash fresh vegetables after harvest... 1T white vinegar to 1 qt. water... vinegar will kill bacteria.

These are safe non-poisonous alternatives to dangerous chemical compounds used as insecticides, herbicides and cleaners. With the exception of the fruit fly trap, you could safely drink a shot of any of these mixtures. Don't try doing a shot of Round-up, Raid or Clorox to see what happens.

Once again, thank you to Ruth for this information. If any members have other non-toxic suggestions please inform me and I will pass them on.

John E. Kramarck, Jr
Environmental/Conservation/Legislation Chairman

Milford Garden Club

The Milford Garden Club has planted the Veteran's Home planters in pansies for winter enjoyment. A commemorative plaque was also installed at the site. Pictured are President Susan Newark and members Donna McCarthy and Ann Burton.



The Milford Garden Club awarded Garden of the Month for September to Jeanne and Russ Brittingham who live on Matthews Circle. Pictured is one of the oval gardens that adorn their front yard.

The Milford Garden Club has a sales table at the Fall Antiques Market at the Parson Thorne Mansion in Milford.



Gardeners By The Sea

Lemon Social – On August Friday, August 11, 12:30 – 2:30, it was a time to just kick back, relax and enjoy all things lemony at Ria Carrara’s (Ways and Means Chair) home! Ria wanted to thank all the women who worked so hard this year in planning the Flower Show. Members relaxed and enjoyed all the wonderful lemony treats which were made by members of our Ways and Means Committee.



Delaware Botanic Garden – On September 5th and September 7th members of our club, Jean Sewald and her husband, Max, worked at the garden. On September 7th members of our club, Lisa Arni and her husband, Ken, Kathy Lesperance, Peggy Ravida, and Maureen Ryan worked at the garden. All helped with the planting of 17,000 plants in the meadow designed by the renowned meadow designer Piet Oudolf.

Habitat for Humanity - On 9/13/17 a group (with friends) went to Ellendale, DE to plant flowers and shrubs for a new Habitat homeowner, Arica. We worked steady for around three hours. In that time we transformed a front flower bed covered with crab grass into a beautiful garden. There were approximately 25-30 plants and bushes that, when completed, had mulch spread. The homeowner was amazed and thankful for our efforts. It was a very rewarding experience.



International Coastal Beach Cleanup – On Saturday, September 16, Kathy Esperance, Martha Gallagher, Pat Powell and Donna Gray volunteered to represent Gardeners by the Sea in International Coastal Beach Cleanup Day. Volunteers collected assorted items, and trashed the evidence of beach debris on the South Indian River beach. Did you know that the nicotine of one cigarette butt will kill a bird when ingested? We saved many birds.



Silver Pine Garden Club

We are a small club, but have made a mighty impression!

Because we could not continue to pursue larger and more strenuous projects, we decided to form a committee and do something for the community on a smaller, more manageable scale.

We contacted the Kirkwood Highway Library in 2014 and asked if we could put a flower pot at the site. They were very receptive and offered to pay for half of the cost of the container. Since 2014, our Library Pot Committee has put fresh flowers into this pot three times a year -- spring, summer, and fall. We also put evergreens in the pot for the Christmas season. Seven women do the task of choosing the flowers, planting them, and making sure they are watered -- almost daily in the hot summer.



As a result of this project, we have received the praise of the Library and occasional checks from them to help defray the flower cost. We also have met so many people going into and out of the Library who have thanked us and have even lent a hand, now and then. It has convinced us over and over that this effort is much appreciated.

It is fun, not too taxing for us, and very rewarding in every way.



Plantation Lakes Garden Club



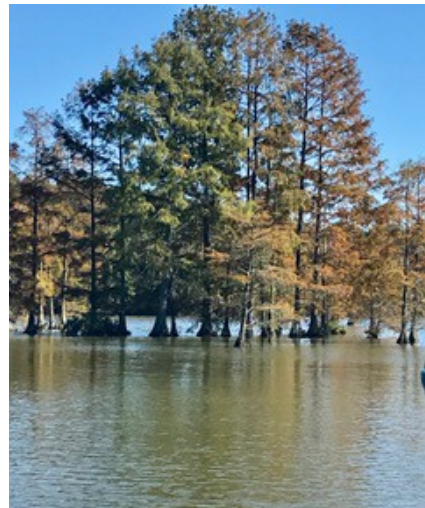
Two patient gardens at Atlantic Shores Rehab

and Health Center in Millsboro received a fall facelift in September from Joanne Strasser, Janet Pallas-Dudley, Debbie Darr, Pat Kircher, Tina Latshaw and Margaret Woda. They replaced the geraniums potted by PLGC volunteers in spring with mums and planted or potted several additional mums and pansies. In addition to the planting, they also spent a lot of time weeding shrubbery beds that had been neglected.

What an improvement!

Trap Pond Boat Tour - The best field trips may be closer to home and less expensive than you think. Plantation Lakes Garden Club members and guests toured Trap Pond in Sussex County by boat on a mild and sunny October day. In fact, three consecutive one-hour tours were needed to accommodate us all.

In addition to exploring the northernmost stand of native bald cypress trees, we enjoyed seeing wildlife indigenous to the area, including a bald eagle, osprey, great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, red-belly turtles, and an active beaver lodge in this beautiful Delaware State Park.



Plantation Lakes Garden Club 2nd Annual Fall Expo and Plant Sale

took place on Saturday, September 23, at the Plantation Lakes Community Center. Our objective for this event went beyond fundraising, however. We wanted to introduce ourselves and our club to our neighbors by meeting them personally and through signage describing some of our projects. Our Rain Barrel Initiative, Plant it Pink, and the Millsboro Blue Star Memorial were featured at this event.

In addition to selling mums in 9" pots and pansies in 6" pots to our neighbors, PLGC members sold Plantation Lakes notecards that featured community photos taken by club members, raffle tickets for a potted mum, and The Frightened Frog and The Saved Seed children's books. A Master Gardener was on hand to answer garden questions for community residents and an art exhibit of work by Plantation Lakes residents lined the walls.



Congratulations to Ways & Means Committee Chair Debbie Darr, who chaired this event. (Just look at the size of this mum plant!)

Barefoot Gardeners



News from the Barefoot Gardeners...

The Barefoot Gardeners Garden Club continue a very busy gardening season. The very successful garden tour in June provided funds in excess of \$5,000 that were donated to the Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek. Pictured at the right are the Club's immediate past president, Carol McCloud, Delaware Botanic Gardens horticulturist Gregg Tepper, and our current president, Judy Dayhoff, at the presentation of the check.



The Club is also a big supporter of the Botanic Gardens and the Delaware Federated Garden Club President's "Tree-mendous" project. Donations from Club members have, most recently, honored Club members, Barbara McCoy, pictured at the left, and Jeannie Nedwick, pictured at the right. In addition to the trees to be planted in the Club members' honor, the president provided funds to remember another individual, Vicki



Helman, a personal friend of the Club's president, and a native of Delaware.

In early September the Club participated in Operation SEAs the Day, an annual project that provides opportunities for families of wounded warriors to vacation at the beach. This year the Club assembled 30 potted plants, like the one pictured to the left. With the plant we included two seed packets, one for butterfly attracting flowers and one of wildflower seeds. Below is a picture of some of the Club members who gathered to assemble the pots.



Our Club's official programs for 2017 will have a grand finale



with a meeting at the

Brandywine Senior Living at Fenwick Island, an assisted living facility. This has become a most enjoyable recurring event each year. The Club assists residents in putting together flower arrangements for their individual apartments. Because this year's meeting will occur on Veteran's Day, the flower arrangements will have a patriotic theme. This is a picture of several of the residents and Club members at the 2016 final meeting.



The Barefoot Gardeners Garden Club wishes everyone a wonderful 2017 holiday season. May your gardening be "Tree-mendous"!