

ISSUE

02

March

2025



The Coastal Bloom

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Members

Thanks to everyone who voted on our newsletter's name! *Coastal Bloom* won after receiving 21 votes.

Upcoming Events

3/17 5:30pm
Monthly Meeting
MBTS clubhouse

4/21 5:30pm
Monthly Meeting
MBTS clubhouse

Next speaker:

3/17 Lisa Swanger,
Director of Outreach
and Education, DE
Center for Inland Bays

Mission Statement

We affiliate with DFCG, CAR-SCG and the NGC to aid in the protection and conservation of wildlife, natural resources and native plants, promote interest and knowledge in all phases of gardening, study and advance the fine arts of gardening including landscape, floral design and horticulture, and promote community beautification.

Newsletter Committee

Pat Rainer
Linda Barbour
Tina Siatkowski

There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.

Janet Kilburn Phillips

Growing food from kitchen scraps

Master Gardeners Linda Peters and Susan Trone gave a delightful presentation on *Gardening from Kitchen Scraps* at our monthly meeting on January 20. Their engaging banter made the lecture enjoyable and informative.

Linda and Susan began experimenting with growing food from seeds and vegetable scraps in their kitchens during COVID. They soon learned gardening indoors is a fun hobby for people of all ages—their grandchildren found it fascinating—and requires no exotic supplies. With water, small jars, clean cans, toothpicks, grow pots and potting soil (the kind that doesn't hold water) one can easily start an indoor fruit and veggie garden.

Some of their tips on gardening indoors include maintaining temperatures of 65 to 70 degrees, keeping humidity at 40 to 50 percent if possible (don't use a mister), a good light source and much patience. Using organic produce is preferred, as non-organic plants are sprayed with a no-growth chemical that prevents budding.

Easier plants to grow include lettuce, herbs, green onions, celery, leeks, mint, carrot greens and beet greens. Harder to grow, yet doable, are sweet potato, ginger, avocado, pineapple and Chinese cabbage.

To begin, cut the plant about two inches above the root source. Have your container with water ready. Insert toothpicks into the base of the plant to hold it so it's just touching the water. Changing the water regularly is important so the roots don't rot. Let the plant produce roots and then transplant it to a grow pot to finish off. Be careful with the tender new roots.

Some vegetables don't require starting in water. Potatoes and garlic (with paper skin on) are started in soil.

To learn more visit [Kitchen Scrap Gardening: Regrow Your Fruits and Vegetables! | Flowers, Fruits, and Frass | Illinois Extension | UIUC](#)

Bird Flu Alert!

Delaware avian influenza is back in 2025 affecting geese and commercial chickens.

To stop the spread and protect yourself, dispose of a dead bird while wearing disposable gloves, goggles and a mask. Place the bird in double plastic bags and place it in your trash. You can continue to feed backyard birds as usual. Wash the bottom of your shoes if you come in contact with chickens and large birds. To learn more visit [Delaware Avian Influenza Information Center - Delaware Department of Agriculture - State of Delaware](#)



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Pineapples can be grown indoors, but the actual fruit can take three to five years to bear.

Send article or Q&A Corner suggestions to: Tina at tsiatkow@comcast.net

In the Garden



Photo by Linda Barbour

Hellebores

The late winter months are often bleak for garden enthusiasts. Most of our plants are waiting until the warmth of spring to begin budding and growing. However, there is one plant that can brighten your garden in cold weather from late January until early March—Hellebores.

Hellebores are perennials and members of the buttercup family (*Ranunculus*). Varieties can begin blooming as early as November. They are not native species to our area, but are well worth considering. Their blooms are long-lasting, often up to a month. But beware! The plant is poisonous and has a mildly irritating effect on skin. All parts are toxic if ingested.

Coastal Gardener member Linda Barbour has grown Hellebores for many years and they are among her favorite plants. “There’s so many different varieties and they bloom throughout the winter months,” Linda says. “Even when snow falls on them, they bounce right back.”

After becoming established in your garden, Hellebores can be easily divided and transplanted. Hellebores prefer partial to full shade during summer, but require more sunlight in winter.

Dine and Donate event

Our Dine and Donate event was held at Ocean View Brewery on January 8 with Michele, Tina and Renee taking turns manning the donation table.

Despite extremely cold temperatures, many of our group showed up to participate, and although the brewery saw a slower than normal crowd, we received \$500 from the brewery and \$60 from the 50/50 raffle.

Getting to Know ...

Jackie Dietrich

A native of Wilmington, Jackie enjoyed visiting Rehoboth as a child. Life took her to Rockville, MD where she met and married husband Ron. During her time in Rockville, Jackie was a nurse and loved her many varied positions in nursing.



Photo by Tina Siatkowski

After moving back to Delaware in 2017, Jackie became a founding member of Coastal Gardeners. At the time, her knowledge of gardening was limited to growing vegetables, and she was eager to learn about flowers.

Jackie took the lead in two original club projects that are dear to residents of Dagsboro—Adopt a Highway that brings visibility to the Delaware Botanic Gardens, and the beautification of Dagsboro Town Hall. Under her leadership these projects are still going strong. Despite challenges during the pandemic, other early projects included plantings at James Farm and the Center for Inland Bays.

Plants in Jackie’s sunny garden today include echinacea and Black-eyed Susans, but her goal is to expand her garden as she learns about other sun-loving plants.

Note: Jackie’s photo taken at the Coastal Gardeners get-together at the lovely home of Chris Coppa on February 13. Chris hosted 18 gardeners. A wonderful night of talking, laughing, eating and enjoying each other’s company.

Q&A Corner

What vegetables are best to start in early spring?

Now that we’ve learned about gardening indoors, let’s take it outside! Don’t worry about lingering frost because these vegetables are perfect to plant in an early spring garden:

Artichokes / Arugula / Asparagus / Beet / Broccoli / Carrots / Celery / Swiss Chard / Fennel / Garlic / Kale Lettuce / Radishes / Rhubarb / Sugar Snap Peas / Spinach / Spring Onions / Scallions / Shallots / Nettles

Plant now for a bountiful harvest later!