

Coastal Gardeners
Meeting Minutes
Millville by the Sea Clubhouse
March 23,2026

President Michele Crane welcomed five guests to our meeting.

Program: Member Deb Kleiner demonstrated how to sow seeds in the winter, using recycled jugs. Members then planted their own seeds in jugs to take home, so they can transplant the plants in the spring.

Business Meeting:

Executive Committee Reports

President: Michele Crane

- Michele made a motion to pass the minutes from the February meeting. The motion was seconded and passed by the members present.
- Michele discussed the Philadelphia Flower Show which she and some members attended.
- The DFGC Meeting is on April 15th in Newark. The cost of DFGC is \$55 per person and \$110 provided by our club will be refunded back to participants evenly. So far, Michele and Mary K. plan to go.
- The centerpiece originally intended for the April meeting has been created by a group of members. Due to the difficulty and expense of acquiring fresh flowers for this centerpiece, the group used artificial flowers instead. The resulting centerpiece was displayed at the meeting, and will be a raffle item at our Dine and Donate fundraiser in April.
- Our September meeting has been moved to September 14th so as not to conflict with Yom Kippur.

Treasurer: Linda Barbour

- Linda reported that \$140 has been sent to the DFGC scholarship fund. This is from the donations from members at each monthly meeting.

Standing Committee Reports

Fundraising: Michele Crane/Renee Simons

- Raffle items for the upcoming Dine and Donate will include a liquor gift basket. The event is April 14th at Matt's Fish Camp in Fenwick from 3pm to closing.
- There will be a bake sale at MBTS on Friday July 3rd , with hot dogs, chips, and baked goods for sale.
- A plant swap may take place in the Fall.

Nominating Committee: Mary Kunst

- Mary reminded members to let her know if they would like to make a change from a current club position.

Social: Janet Green/Joyce Keller Uy/Susan Dohony

- Janet informed members that next month's program at our meeting will be a flower arranging demonstration.
- There will be a container planting activity at Bear Hole Farms on Friday, May 8th at 3:00. The cost is \$35, cash or check only. Appetizers will be provided. Participants should bring a container for planting. Signup info will be emailed to members.

Community Projects: Bev Boies/Chris Coppa

- ***Beach and Bay Cottage Tour:*** Michele noted that a few club members plan on volunteering for this event. Sandy Daniels asked members to reconsider participating in this event as a club. Michele indicated that she will email the information to members in order to ascertain if there is renewed interest in volunteering for this .
- ***Beach Grass (Janet Green/Mary Alice McNamara):*** Janet reported that 12 people (club members, family and friends) participated in this event on Saturday March 21st. Participants spent about two and a half hours planting the grass at Indian River Inlet.
- ***Beebe Pots (Pat Rainier/Cathy Veale):*** New spring plants (pansies and Hellebore) were added to the pots by the committee on March 14th. Also, some spring decorations have been added. Club members are asked to consider signing up to help with watering; this can be done on our club website.
- ***Dagsboro (Jackie Dietrich/Bev Boies):*** The town hall garden plot will be updated for Spring.
- ***HFHK (Mary Kunst):*** Mary reported that the garden at Phillip Showell Elementary was opened up for the year on March 17th. She added that our club's involvement with this project is becoming less and less. She suggested that we explore some other ideas for working with youth groups as a club.
- ***Tower Road (Sandy Daniels):*** Sandy stated that the plants are starting to come up, and provided the following upcoming dates and times for club members who can help with the garden: Spring cleanup, May 5th 9am-12pm (rain date May 7th) and May 12th 9am-12pm (rain date May 13th). Delaware Seashore State Parks is providing a \$300 budget for plants, and for signs in the garden to identify the plants.
- ***Biden Center (Terry Czerwinski):*** Michele reported that since the volunteers for this project include members from other garden clubs with much experience in planning landscaped areas, our club will focus more on planting and helping to maintain the project.

At this point in the meeting, there was some discussion regarding possible gardening activities with youth and/or seniors that our club could organize. Deb Kleiner stated that some underserved libraries in the area might be places to offer activities or programs. Deb also mentioned Botanical Gardens. Mary Kunst noted that since Botanical Gardens charges a fee, perhaps any program there should be free for participants. Sue Jordan noted that there are many outdoor/natural areas that could be available for possible activities or programs that our club might offer to youth and/or seniors. Sandy Daniels also brought up the possibility of planning a club activity at Inland Bays Garden Center.

Meeting Adjourned
Submitted by Cathy Veale

Additional Information:

Passwords: Coastal Gardeners Website-Gardeners123
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs Website-DFGC-3210