



The Coastal Bloom

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Members

Upcoming Events

9/14 – 5:30-8PM

Regular CG Meeting
MBTS Clubhouse

9/16 – 6–7PM

OCC Kick off meeting
MBTS Clubhouse

Newsletter Committee

Tina Siatkowski

Pat Rainer

Linda Barbour

We learn from our gardens to deal with the most urgent question of our time: How much is enough? -Wendell Berry

A Bloomin' Summer

Wow...did Summer just fly by or what? But here it is—September—soon the leaves will be changing and we'll be wearing sweaters and attending garden club meetings. What did some of the gardeners get up to these past few months?

OK, I'll start! In July, my husband Dave and I took an amazing cruise, joined by six friends, on the Cunard Queen Anne to Scandinavia. We departed from Southampton, England and cruised to Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Estonia for 14 days. My favorite part was temperatures didn't get above 78 degrees and the sun didn't go down until 10:30 pm. Oh—and the food!

Sandy Daniels, her husband Jack, and her son and his husband went scuba diving in Cayman Brac.

Mary Alice McNamara introduced grandnephews and grandnieces to the fun of crabbing and fishing off their dock and boat. She's been enjoying lots of swimming and time with the dogs on the beach in the early morning, along with pickleball and reading. And a relaxing trip to the Thousands Islands in Canada with her husband, Tom, and friends in August.

Renee Simons spent 2 weeks in Maine enjoying the local traditions of lobsters and clams. Plus visiting the infamous Hussey's store where you can buy a wedding dress, a gun and a beer all at the same place!

This is just a snippet of the fun that took place this summer for some members. On to Fall!



Scuba-diving Sandy.



Tina and husband Dave in Lüneburg, Germany.



Renee's lobster in Maine.



Mary Alice and husband Tom in Canada.

Photos submitted by members.

In the Garden

What's New at Delaware Botanic Gardens

Since opening in 2019, Delaware Botanic Gardens has consistently undergone expansion. Last year, substantial emphasis shifted to include the creation of purposeful defined spaces.

- A pumphouse for small group education opportunities and a multipurpose building with a covered patio area was constructed.
- The Annette Pennoni Pavilion for large events was completed.
- A Gallery Garden for outdoor events for up to 150 people, now offering music, lectures, yoga and meditation.

With the addition of “sunset evenings” on Monday and Thursday to the summer 2026 schedule, the gardens are open until sunset. Visitors can now enjoy evenings in the gardens.

Visit [Delaware Botanic Gardens](#) for detailed visitor information.



Photo courtesy of DBG

Goldenrod at the Delaware Botanic Gardens.

Getting to Know ...

Ruth Boggs



Photo courtesy of Ruth Boggs

Ruth's early childhood was spent on her grandparent's farm in Dundalk, MD. She later lived on a farm in Queen Anne, MD, until attending the University of Maryland for her nursing degree. Among her various career specialties, her favorite was hospice care.

Ruth is a 12th generation Maryland farm family member originating from Todd's Inheritance Historic Site (TIHS) on North Point, MD. This farm, established in 1663 by her ancestor, a ship's captain, is one of only 10 in the United States farmed by the same family for over 300 years.

The Todd farm also played a pivotal role in saving the U.S. from the British during the Battle of Baltimore in September 1814. The state of Maryland now owns the site, where Ruth regularly reenacts a lady of 1814. For more information on TIHS' living history events, visit [Todd's Inheritance Historic Site](#).

Ruth and her husband, Jay, have lived in The Estuary since 2020. Their yard includes many container gardens, featuring geraniums, lantana, zinnias and portulaca. Ruth discovered last year how much Black Swallowtail butterflies love her “fennel jungle” —she witnessed 17 of them emerge from their chrysalises!

Besides gardening, Ruth's passion is golf, so you may find her on the greens—as well as in the garden “greens.”

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR!

September marks the beginning of the Coastal Gardeners activity calendar. Ours is a vibrantly active club with many opportunities to get involved in community events, along with speakers and activities on a wide range of gardening topics. Here's a rundown of some projects and activities you may wish to volunteer for:

Operation Christmas Cheer, or OCC, which brings holiday joy to 125 senior citizens in the Roxanna area who receive Meals-on-Wheels. Coastal Gardeners members provide these seniors with practical and fun gifts, funded in part by the Sip and Shop event in November. You can support this year's event on Saturday, November 21st, by visiting the participating vendors, or volunteering on the committee.

If community gardening interests you, Coastal Gardeners has several projects to choose from. The club maintains the planters at Beebe Emergency and Cancer Center on Roxanna Road, the gardens at the entrance to Tower Road Beach off Route 1, and the Dagsboro Town Hall garden. These projects are appreciated by the public, and volunteers are always welcome.

A chance to clean the environment by volunteering at the Adopt-A-Highway clean up on Piney Neck Road.

Coastal Gardeners also supports students at Philip Showell Elementary School in Selbyville through two programs. Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids teaches students about the benefits of gardening: they plant and harvest vegetables, then prepare and eat them with help from the cafeteria staff. Building on that relationship, Coastal Gardeners also collects school supplies each summer to distribute to Philip Showell students throughout the school year. This year's drop off is pictured below.

Additional projects to get involved in include the Biden Environmental Center and Beach Grass Planting in March. New projects are always developing, and we need volunteers to step up and take an active role in these varied and important efforts. Thank you for your energy and enthusiasm and making a difference with Coastal Gardeners!



On August 31, Mary Alice McNamara (single-handedly!) delivered cartloads of donated school supplies to Philip Showell Elementary School—part of Coastal Gardeners' efforts to support the school and students. Donations had been dropped off at Inland Bays Garden Center and Water Lili shops.

Jessica Ford, the school counselor and supplies coordinator, pictured, was thrilled by the generous outpouring of donations and grateful for our efforts to ensure students have what they need for a successful school year.