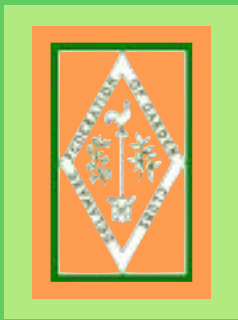
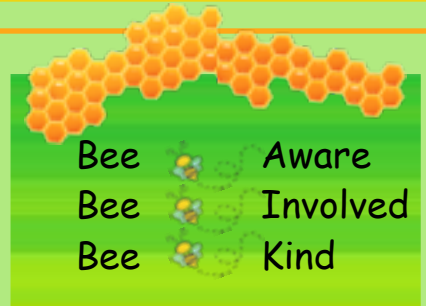


DFGC Newsletter - September 2023



Ginny Cardona
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs
President

President's Message



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There is something about September. As a Florida Native, I admit that summer is my favorite season. I love nothing more than summer under the palm trees. But September is the whoosh of fresh air before the chill of winter. Maybe it is the back-to-school vibe and the energy of a new garden club year. Your clubs are in back-to-school mode, scheduling meetings, projects, and programs for the coming year. One of my favorite meetings of the year is when we unveil the club activities for the year. Receiving the new yearbook and seeing the creative cover is as exciting as picking out a new lunchbox or finding out who my teacher is. The challenge of adulting is to keep the energy and excitement going all year.

The Brandywine Valley is full of activities that we can take advantage of. From the Delaware Botanic Gardens all the way to Winterthur and Longwood Gardens, you can find events every week before we transition to holiday mode. We have highlighted a couple in this newsletter but there are many others. Check out their websites for details.

The DFGC will round out our fall with a raffle at the November 15, 2023 meeting in Rehoboth Beach. Do you like winning as much as I do? Bring your money and let's have some fun. Ten of our clubs are designing fun, themed baskets which will be raffled to raise money for our President's Project. This is the perfect opportunity for a little early holiday shopping or perhaps the chance to treat yourself. The more money we raise, the more schools we can help. We want to provide teachers with funding for outdoor learning projects. This is available for any school in the state. Schools will make their applications through the Delaware Association for Environmental Education. This is a DFGC project, but the DAEE will manage the application process for us.

This newsletter is full of ideas from our Clubs and Board members. Many, many thanks to Peg Irish for her work in putting it together. Happy (early) fall and see you in November.

Ginny

2023 – 2024 Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs Meetings

Time: 10am to 2pm, registration begins at 9am.

November 15, 2023 State Meeting

Location: Kings Creek Country Club, 1 Kings Creek Circle, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Host Club: Sussex Gardeners

Cost: \$40

Program: Delaware Botanic Gardens: A Harmonious Blend of Evolution and Care

Stephen Pryce Lea, Director of Horticulture at Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek, Dagsboro, DE

Clubs send member RSVP to dfgcregistrar@gmail.com

Registration opens October 9 through October 27



April 17, 2024 State Meeting

Location: The Executive Banquet and Conference Center, 205 Executive Drive, Newark, DE 19702

Host Clubs: Duck Creek and Coastal Gardeners

Cost: \$40

Program: Julia Clevett, - *A Little Bit of This and a Little Bit of That* Traditional and Creative Floral Designs.

Julia is originally from the United Kingdom and now lives in Powhatan, VA, which is west of Richmond. Julia is a Master Judge, holding Life and Master Certificate and a National Design Instructor. Julia has traveled extensively and her designs have received the highest rated honors.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enter and win Julia's designs.

Clubs send member RSVP to dfgcregistrar@gmail.com

Registration opens March 11 through March 29



FUNDraising



Let's kick off the
Holiday Season with some fun.

For the Presidents project this year we
thought you all would like to have a little
fun taking a chance for a prize
instead of writing a check!

We will have 10 Baskets to
be raffled at our November
State Meeting. These
baskets are being donated
by several clubs and will
show their creativity. So, start
saving your money to
participate in this first
FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR.



Tickets will be \$5.00 each, 3 for \$10 or 6 for \$20.
All proceeds will benefit the Presidents project
for this year.

News from Winterthur Museum:

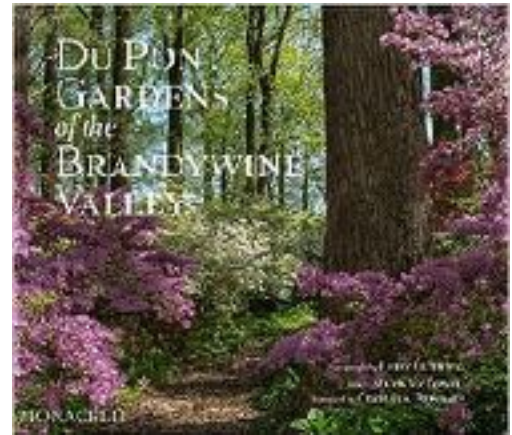
Book Signing and Lecture: DuPont Gardens of the Brandywine Valley

October 1, 2023

1-2:30 pm

With stunning photographs by acclaimed photographer Larry Lederman, text by garden historian and writer Marta McDowell, and foreword by founder, president, and CEO of The Cultural Landscape Foundation Charles A. Birnbaum, the book's individual chapters are dedicated to five of the family's estates open to the public, showcasing the exuberant fountains and horticultural displays at Longwood Gardens; the naturalized woodland at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library; the Beaux-Arts elegance of Nemours Estate; the tantalizing fragments of the Crowninshield Garden at Hagley; and the picturesque native plant gardens and scenic trails of Mt. Cuba Center.

Join Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library to toast the publication and enjoy a lively discussion with McDowell and Lederman during a book signing and lecture at Winterthur on October 1. McDowell will share stories and histories of the gardens, while Lederman will describe his approach and experience photographing these beautiful places. A selection of photos from the book will be on display and select tickets include a signed copy of the book. Learn more at <https://www.winterthur.org/calendar/book-signing-and-lecture-du-pont-gardens-of-the-brandywine-valley/>.



Party in the Garden

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 5-8 pm
30220 Piney Neck Road, Dagsboro, DE 19939

Meet us Under the Sail Cloth Tent
Lisa and Scott Kammerer, Honorary Co-chairs

- SoDel Concepts presents an amazing array of delicious selections
- Wine presented by Bin 66
- Music under the tent by Musician in Residence Vince Varrasi and Fifth Avenue
- View the Magnificent Meadow Garden created by Piet Oudolf
- Stroll through the new Monarch Meandering Meadow

Celebratory glass of bubbly upon arrival.

TICKETS:
Single \$150 | Members \$140
Couple \$290 | Members \$270
Tables of 10 \$1,500 | Members \$1,400
For more information, please contact Sheryl Swed at sherylswed@delawaregardens.org

DELAWARE BOTANIC GARDENS
AT PEPPER CREEK

Photo by Anna Blinn



2023 CAR-SGC Conference
"SEVEN STRONG ON A FALL ADVENTURE"

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York invite all CAR-SGC members to attend the 2023 CAR-SGC Conference.

WHERE: Corning, New York

WHEN: October 23-26, 2023

WHY: Three full days of outstanding programs and presenters, activities, tours and an opportunity to meet and mingle with other garden club members across the region who share your interests.

BRENDA MOORE, the President of National Garden Clubs, will be the guest of honor! Did you know that Brenda is the author of a series of books for children K-4 that are offered through the NGC website? Brenda's books are *The Frightened Frog*, *The Saved Seed*, *Network with Nature* and *My Green is Gone*. Each book focuses on youth and leadership.

Brenda will be available to meet and mingle and to sign her books. She is the speaker at the dinner on Tuesday to share her thoughts on **Youth and Leadership**.

DELAWARE ATTENDEES: *Join the 9 of us already registered for the Conference!*

Brenda Moore's commitment to Youth and Leadership reminded me of how the Ladybug became the State Bug for Delaware. Do you know the story?

The 2nd grade class of students at Lulu M Ross Elementary School in Milford were studying about states. They discovered that many other states had "state bugs"...but Delaware did not. That was about to change, thanks to the intensive efforts of the young students and their teacher, Molly Brown-Rust. The students chose the ladybug. They learned the process of presenting their idea to the state legislature and how a bill is passed. On April 25, 1974, the Ladybug was adopted as our official State Bug!

Costumes are suggested for the Tuesday evening dinner at the Conference.

At our President's meeting in July, we learned that a group or swarm of ladybugs is called "Loveliness". Perfect!!



A "Loveliness" of Delaware Ladybugs will be spotted in the crowd at the Conference!
You don't want to miss it! www.car-sgc.org

DFGC Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 103
Middletown, DE 19709

PARLIAMENTARIAN ROLE

Congratulations! You have been appointed to the position of Parliamentarian in your garden club.

The parliamentarian should be well versed in parliamentary law and the club's Bylaws and Standing Rules. The parliamentarian has the same duty as the chair to maintain a position of impartiality, and therefore does not make motions, participate in debate, or vote on any question except in the case of a ballot vote. He does not cast a deciding vote since that would interfere with the chair's prerogative to do so. If a member cannot forgo these rights in order to serve as parliamentarian, he should not accept the position.

It's very important to know that the parliamentarian is a consultant who advises the president and other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure, if requested. The parliamentarian's role during a meeting is purely an advisory and consultative one—since ***parliamentary law gives to the chair alone the power to rule on questions of order or to answer parliamentary inquiries***. It is also the duty of the parliamentarian—as inconspicuously as possible—to call attention of the chair to any error in the proceedings that may affect the rights of any member or may otherwise do harm.



The president, knowing in advance the business to come before the members, should confer with the parliamentarian before the meeting opens, and during recesses, in order to anticipate any problems that may arise and to avoid frequent or obvious consultation during the meeting.

The parliamentarian should be seated next to the chair, so as to be convenient for consultation in a low voice. After the parliamentarian has expressed an opinion on a point, the chair has the duty to make the final ruling as to whether or not to follow the advice or to disregard it. The chair should avoid requesting the parliamentarian to speak to the members unless the matter is very involved.

The above information can be found in RONR 47:46-56.

Regina Brown
DFGC Parliamentarian
(302) 670-8333

August 17, 2023

Environment/Conservation Concerns

Delaware is making progress toward tackling climate change. In July, Gov. Carney signed important legislation to reduce carbon emissions 50% by 2030. These bills are designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:



- [House Bill 99](#): Lays out targets to reduce net emissions by 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.
- [House Bill 10](#): Sets targets for purchasing electric school buses.
- [House Bill 11](#): Ensures large commercial buildings are equipped for solar installation.
- [House Bill 12](#): Expands the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program
- [SS 1 for Senate Bill 103](#): Amends Delaware code to make it easier to bring EV chargers into residential areas.
- [Senate Bill 170](#): Commitment to study offshore wind with neighboring states and PJM.
- [SS 1 for Senate Bill 7](#): Expands the Delaware State Energy Office.

Another environmental bill passed in June eliminates the use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) in food packaging. SB51 bans expanded polystyrene foam (EPS) and plastic picks, as well as making plastic straws available only upon request in Delaware dining establishments. The effective date of July 1, 2025, gives restaurants who have not yet already done so plenty of time to make the shift away from EPS and toward a future with less waste that is not recyclable.

What is DCCI?

[Plastic-Free Delaware](#) is promoting the Delaware Community Composting Initiative. Community composting occurs at a communal site and utilizes food scraps and yard waste from several residents or a nearby surrounding neighborhood. Community composting benefits include:

- Composting opportunities for people dwelling in multi-unit housing,
- Strengthening community relationships and partnerships,
- Replenishing local soils and gardens with nutrient-rich, locally made compost,
- Reducing landfill matter.
- For more information, contact **Brigid Gregory** at bgregory@plasticfreedelaware.org.

The Delaware Nature Conservancy: Protecting Land and Biodiversity

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Pennsylvania and Delaware announced in June 2023 that it has closed on the purchase of 7.5 acres to expand Ponders Tract at its Pemberton Forest preserve in Sussex County, Delaware. TNC will retain ownership of the new parcel, and the acquisition marks its first new land purchase in Delaware since 2004. Located within the Broadkill River headwaters, [Ponders Tract](#) serves as an important biodiversity refuge within the Delaware Bayshore landscape. The preserve acts as a critical stopover for neo-tropical migratory birds such as the black-and-white warbler and the ovenbird.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne D. Smith

Environmental Concerns Chair

Delaware Nature Society News



Delaware Nature Society's (DelNature) mission is to connect people with the natural world to improve our environment through education, conservation, and advocacy. DelNature envisions a healthy and sustainable environment for all.

Founded in 1964, DelNature, a state affiliate for the National Wildlife Federation, is renowned for educational programming, conservation, and advocacy. DelNature provides the tools for communities to take action and promote the health of the environment through land preservation, wildlife protection, and watershed stewardship.

Currently, thousands of members and over 1,000 volunteers assist the core staff and interns to support DelNature's mission and help with year-round educational programs, conservation, and advocacy efforts to improve and grow.

Consider becoming a [member](#) and visiting one or more of our sites: [Ashland Nature Center](#), [Abbott's Mill Nature Center](#), [DuPont Environmental Education Center](#), and [Coverdale Farm Preserve](#).

A wide variety of fun and interesting [activities](#) for individuals and families are planned for the Fall at all of DelNature's sites. Give one or more a try!

The Fall Native Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th at Coverdale Farm, 9:00am – 2:00pm. Members shop early!

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne D. Smith, DNS Liaison

Sussex Gardeners



It has been an active summer for the Sussex Gardeners of Rehoboth Beach. We ended the year with a "Baked Goods and Plant Sale" at the 2023 Mid-Atlantic Sea Glass & Coastal Arts Festival on June 3rd. The weather was a challenge! Our tables were set up at the Lewes CanalFront Park, where we battled the chilly wind and rain! The weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of visitors for the annual event. It was a fundraising success for the Club, and as always, we enjoyed our time together.



Our new slate of Officers had an opportunity to meet and greet Club members at a Summer Social, hosted by President Dianne Shawley. Each guest brought a stem from their garden to add to our centerpiece. The results were lovely – our bouquet had everything from Hydrangeas to Rosemary! The remainder of the summer has been a very busy time for new Co-Vice Presidents Gina D'Alfonso and Susan Mielke. Gina and Susan have been hard at work planning a well-rounded and interesting

2023-2024 program year. Something old, something new, and lots of hands on! We are very excited to get started! Happy fall!



Passwords for Membership Access
to DFGC, CAR Websites:

DFGC-3210

2325@CARegion



Plantation Lakes Garden Club

This was a busy summer for the Program & Membership Committees plus the Blue Star Memorial Garden & Youth Garden maintenance crew. We're happy to report that we have added seven new members through the hard work of our Membership Committee and we have many wonderful programs lined up for the 2023-2024 year. In September we will be making tea lanterns with pressed flowers. Members were encouraged to press flowers from their own gardens over the summer.



The two gardens that we maintain, Blue Star Memorial & Youth Garden, started off very well this summer. Unfortunately, our HOA had a sprinkler problem and it flooded our beautiful Youth Garden which will be re-established! The Blue Star Garden is doing well and we invite you all to join us as we honor all veterans on Veteran's Day, November 11 at 11:00am.



We're ending this summer and beginning Fall with a group luncheon at The Landing. This will give our committee chairs an opportunity to talk about their ideas and plans. What a great way to kick off our year!

Coastal Gardeners



The Coastal Gardeners Summer Social was held on June 19th at the Crab Shack in the Millville By The Sea Community Center.



Coastal Gardeners hosted the Beach and Bay Cottage Tour in Bethany Beach.



On May 26th, Coastal Gardeners participated in creating container gardens with Cindy Stevens, owner of Bearhole Farms, and Sue Kohl, a member of CG Club. Pictured from left are Sue Kohl, Robin Filipides, Beverly Boies, Lynn White, Mary Kunst, Cheryl Quirk, and Donna Plunkett.



Coastal Gardeners' Projects at Tower Road Beach (left) and Beebe Emergency Health Center and Cancer Center (right).



Coastal Gardeners Members Jackie Dietrich, Donna Buono,, Mary Kunst, Darlene Boerlage, and Cheryl Quirk help clean and close the gardens at Philip Showell Elementary School for the *Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids* Program.



"Rejuvenate Your Garden with Fall Color"

by
Nancy Bell

Garden Coach, Gateway Gardens Nursery
Master Gardener

Is your garden looking lackluster now that the summer annuals and perennials have run their course? Nancy has some ideas for you that are sure to create some fall interest in your garden!

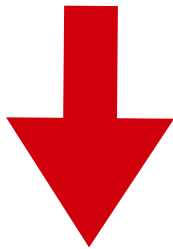
You may want to catch this interesting program...

Hoe 'n Hope Garden Club

**Limestone Presbyterian Church
3201 Limestone Road 19808**

**September 11th, 2023
10:30 am**

Now Hoe 'n Hope Garden Club will be having **TWO** very special programs this fall. We would love to share them with interested Garden Clubbers, so if you would like to attend one or both of these great programs, just RSVP by email or give Peg Irish a call with the contact information provided below. We are a very small club and want as many as possible to have the opportunity to enjoy these programs!



"The History and Horticulture of Laurel Hill"

presented by Gregg Tepper
Senior Horticulturist, Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Did you miss the State meeting in June? Do you wish you could have caught Gregg's program? You have a chance to remedy that!

Hoe 'n Hope Garden Club

**Limestone Presbyterian Church
3201 Limestone Road 19808**

**November 13th, 2023
10:30 am**

Please plan to join us for refreshments and our program.

Reservations:
contact Peg Irish
peganni72@gmail.com
302 239- 9837

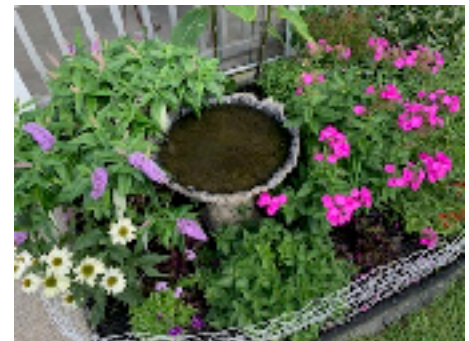
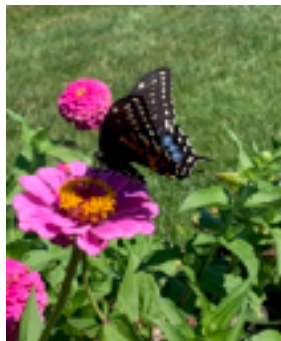




If you never been to a lavender field, you must make the trip. The sights and fragrance are breathtaking. As our club members wander the fields at Smokey Cat Lavender Farm, they picked lavender for their wreath. They were given instructions how to twist and turn the lavender into a beautiful wreath that they could take home. A beautiful memento to bring back from a fun filled day.



We also visited the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium at the Delaware State University located in Dover, Delaware. It houses over 200,000 plant collections and research for educational purposes. Interesting fact is that it is the only public herbarium on the Delmarva peninsula.



Summer blooms were everywhere as we walked the garden tour hosted by the Four Seasons Gardeners of Heritage Shores. Many residents opened their beautiful gardens to the garden club for viewing on a very hot day in July. Residents and club members strolled through the yards of unique and colorful landscaped creations. Much work and time went into these magnificent gardens as they were admired by all.



In August the members took a ride over to Baywood Greens and had a private tour of the gardens and landscape that encompasses the neighborhoods and golf course. We were given the names of all the plants and flowers that I'm sure none of us could repeat. We were all so well versed in horticulture.

BRANDYWINE GARDEN CLUB

Our club members took a road trip to Lavender Fields at Warrington Manor in Milton, DE in June. Our guide gave us an in-depth tour of the lavender & dahlia farm. We heard about the history of the farm as well as tips for taking care of these beautiful plants. It is incredible how efficiently this farm is run & we were happy to purchase their products, many of which are made on site. It was a beautiful spot to hold an impromptu installation ceremony for our newly elected board, we couldn't have planned anything more perfect!



Our children's garden at the Brandywine Hundred Library keeps us busy each summer, planting, weeding & watering. This summer we added our hand painted rock critters among the flowers for the children to find. Our hand painted book titled rocks are hopefully an inspiration for our young readers to check them out of the library.

Each summer we also help the mothers & children of the Martha House women's shelter in Wilmington plant a vegetable garden along with flower & herb pots. They maintain & enjoy the garden throughout the summer. We also maintain their small front yards which we've filled with perennials. We'll spruce up the yard with mums & ornamental cabbages come fall.



We're looking forward to kicking off our new season in September with a trip to Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne, PA. We're welcoming 2 new members & are excited to have them join our club!





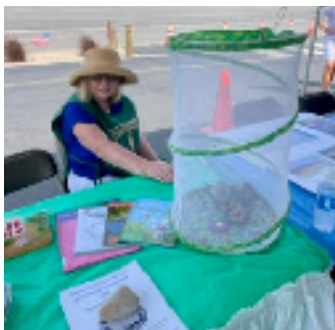
President Colleen

Wilson kicked off a terrific summer season with a meeting of the Barefoot Gardeners Club at the Inland Bays Garden Center, in Frankford, just a few miles from Bethany Beach. We had a tour from the owners who emphasized gardening with native plants and pollinators for the birds and bees!

The Club members enjoyed lunch at the Ocean View Brewing Company.



The Barefoot Gardeners were again proud to help host a home on the Beach & Bay Cottage Tour, which benefits the South Coastal Library. Twenty members were situated throughout the home and gave tours to hundreds of tour-goers! We were so lucky to be hosting a beautiful, PINK home right on the beach!



Fenwick Birthday Celebration - The Barefoot Gardeners were on hand to celebrate our Town of Fenwick's 70th Birthday Celebration! The table was adorned with butterflies, brochures and a raffle for a pollinator plant. Fenwick town Mayor Natalie Magdenburger was delighted that the Barefoot Gardeners are such an integral part of the town of Fenwick!



Judy Dayhoff created a Brochure about the Barefoot Gardeners and the Barefoot Gardeners scrapbook



Moonflower Garden Club

July 4th parade included Moonflower Garden Club again this year.

Club member Barb Borleske led the February meeting "Growing Your Own Food." She covered growing both during the summer months as well as year-round. This included starting from seeds and the advantages of pelleted seeds. We heard about many varieties to grow, especially for tomatoes and peppers, and how to care for our gardens. Barb encouraged us to expand our horizons by also growing more cool weather crops.

The club read The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here by Hope Jahren. This book is divided into 4 broad sections: Life, Food, Energy and Earth. It investigates the connection between climate change and our insatiable desire to consume



Club member Gena Timmer (3rd from left, standing) shared her incredible talents as an artist with step by step instructions to paint a botanical card. Not only did each member end up with a lovely card, we learned quite a bit about mixing paints to achieve the desired color during this workshop. She painted the moonflower used as a logo above.



Club member Tracy Lea Dorsey (center) presented a mossarium workshop on the art of Wabi-Kusa. Extending from Japanese, "wabi" describes "imperfect beauty", flawed and embraced because of it. "Kusa" translates to "grass" to emulate the landscape. We made the moss balls that held an emergent plant and placed in a glass container. Each one looked different and each had its own special beauty.



We intentionally had several programs over the 2022-2023 program year which were led by Moonflower Garden Club members. It was a great way to share expertise and get to know each other better.

Milford Garden Club



What began with a generous donation from local veteran Tom Peters, culminated in the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial Marker and garden at the Delaware Veteran's Home in Milford on May 23, 2023.

The program honors veterans past, present and future. The Milford Garden Club spent several years planning and fund raising for the project which included speakers, the First State Military Academy's Color Guard and concluded with Taps.



Club members enjoyed several craft projects during the year including pressing flowers for preservation and a balloon-based Easter basket.



Educational opportunities were also offered by the Club, both at meetings and as seen pictured on the right with Club President Margie Huntzinger offering a how-to-plant flowers, seeds and bulbs tutorial for the public at the Milford Public Library.



The club held its annual spring plant sale fundraiser at the Parson Thorne Mansion in Milford. Thank You East Gate Farm for their donation of various shrubs and perennials.



Club members like to get out and about and this year found us at Lavender Fields in Milton enjoying a guided tour of the Lavender and other plantings, the maze the owners built to be an exact replica of one in Europe and the country store offering everything (and more) Lavender.

Senior Center garden workers continued their efforts to beautify the Milford Senior Center and the Riverfront Theater. Floral designs were offered for garden therapy at the Genesis Milford Center. Beginning in April, the Beautification Committee presented a "Garden of the Month" award to local gardeners for their efforts and to inspire others.

Summer found members enjoying the Club's annual picnic in June. Past, present and future members were invited to the Club social in July held at a members garden.



September 2023 BROOKS TRANSITIONAL HOUSE'S SUMMER GARDEN



Brooks House resident Laura and manager Debbie with SAG members Darrie Anshel and Sandy Casentina at the completed garden.

For the sixth consecutive year, Salt Air Gardeners (SAG) volunteers met with residents of the Brooks Transition House in Georgetown to discuss what they would like to plant in their summer garden. The Brooks program assists vulnerable women in southern Delaware by providing safe, sober housing, supporting them to grow and to become empowered, independent, sober citizens.

Committee Chair Marty Shriver purchased the plants, which included peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, zucchini, and herbs. Just after Mother's Day the volunteers returned to help the residents plant. "It was pouring rain on our drive there," says Marty. "As soon as we arrived, the rain stopped, and we were able to plant everything. As soon as we finished, the rains started. Mother Nature decided to let us get on with our plans!"

NATIVE PLANT SEMINARS

SAG's last two meetings before their summer hiatus featured guest speakers Catie Soriano, Environmental Scientist II with DNREC, and Kate Patton, Executive Director of the Lower Shore Land Trust. They



Catie Soriano, DNREC

presented informative slide shows about the problems caused by invasive species and loss of natural habitats; the impact of declining pollinators on Delmarva's agriculture; and how home gardeners can help to restore bee and butterfly populations.



Salt Air Gardeners Meeting

Oksana Hoey, SAG president, said that members were visibly energized by the presentations. "The talks were extremely informative about the unique ecosystem here on the shore. As a result, many of our members added natives to their home gardens this year."



It has been a busy Spring and Summer for Duck Creek Gardeners!

Duck Creek Gardeners began the spring with clean up and planting at Historic Belmont Hall, a special events venue located in Smyrna. We planted colorful flowers in containers, flower beds and on the porches. A wedding was planned for that weekend after we completed this project. We hope this brought a smile from the happy couple!



Our annual plant and yard sale was on May 13. It was a beautiful day and thanks to the members and community support we raised over \$1,000 in support of our annual scholarship gift which is awarded to a local high school senior!

The scholarship award was presented on June 6 at our annual end of year picnic to Brooke Duke who will be attending University of Delaware in the fall. Congratulations and good luck to Brooke!



Duck Creek Gardeners had a booth at Smyrna at Night on June 17 educating people about the club. Our booth generated a lot of attention, and we gathered 73 signatures of people interested in attending and joining our meetings. We hope to gain some new members soon!

Garden week was celebrated by attending Story Time with Ms. Jordan at the Smyrna Library on June 23 where we taught the children to become new gardeners by helping the kids plant their own seeds that they could take home with them. Over a dozen kids attended and they enjoyed themselves! We also donated two books to the library.



At the June 21 State meeting, Duck Creek Gardens won third place for our Yearbook submission. Kudos to Regina Brown for her hard work putting it together!



Garden Gate Garden Club

Garden Gate Garden Club Partners with the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science.

Garden Gate Garden Club has partnered with the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science, on Route 52 in Greenville, DE for many years. Our first project was the installation of the Bobbee Vernon Memorial Garden. The garden was designed to enhance the entrance of the museum and honor Bobbee, a former president of Garden Gate Garden Club and active volunteer with the museum.



Garden Gate Garden Club rededicated the Bobbee Vernon Memorial Garden in 2022 with new plantings and new signage, in concert with the museum's metamorphosis of its galleries and exhibit space and rebranding to become the Museum of Nature and Science. Leadership of the museum, and members of Bobbee's family attended the rededication of the garden along with members of Garden Gate Garden Club.

In 2023, Garden Gate Garden Club members Anne Aleman, Elaine Hickey, Eda Ross Montgomery and Kelly Koontz met with museum staff to discuss ways in which we might continue to work together. Garden Gate offered to install plantings in empty beds beneath mature oak trees at the front of the building with no understory plantings. We added Sun King Aralia, Astilbe, Autumn Fern, Spiraea and two Redbud trees to add interest to the museum entrance. We also added landscaping to soften some fencing at the side of the building and around a mechanical area. We planted Cryptomeria, Green Arrow Cedar, Dragon Lady Holly, Caryopteris, Northern Sea Oats, Feather Reed Grass and Butterfly Bush. Over the summer, Garden Gate members volunteered to water the plantings.



Garden Gate applied for and received a \$4,160 State of Delaware Urban and Community Forestry grant to match our club's contribution of \$4,160, resulting in an investment of \$8,320 in this phase of the project.



Our Flower Show, "It's Not Easy Being Green" was a huge success with 24 designs submitted and a whopping 95 horticulture entries. The #1 house plant entry was a gorgeous, full purple gloxinia and the winning horticulture entries were (l to r) *Syneilesis aconitifolia*, *Osmanthus Goshiki*, and *Hosta*.

A new slate of officers was also introduced, with Laura Scanlan (L) as our new President and Kelly Koontz (R) as our Vice President.





Spade & Trowel

The Spade & Trowel Garden Club in Seaford will kick off the year with a tea party and tour of the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the Carvel Research and Education Center in Georgetown. Each member will bring his or her own tea cup, saucer, plate and napkin.

Our first service project was removing suckers from crepe myrtles on the grounds of Seaford Public Library, scheduled Sept. 1. In October, we'll help students at Seaford High School make corsages to sell for homecoming, in conjunction with the Western Sussex Boys and Girls Club. It's a service project for us, a fund-raiser for the other two organizations.



We're taking orders for our pecan sale and keeping an eye out for places where we can collect greenery for our Greens Sale in December. These are our two major fundraisers.



At our first meeting in September, we'll learn how to dry flowers in preparation for decorating the Christmas tree at Ross Mansion like one we saw at Winterthur last year. October's meeting will feature an award-winning program, "Garden Smart Garden Easy," presented by a Master Gardener. In November, our speaker will be the retired director of DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife discussing wildlife habitat and birds.

Each month we'll have an in-house mini-flower show with a different design category and a display of the best horticulture specimens from our gardens, as well as occasional photography displays.

A new project we started this year was selecting a "Garden of the Month," admittedly so we can bring a little attention not only to a beautiful garden in our area but to our club by means of a photo in the local newspaper. The winner in August was 90-year-old Margaret Sipple of Bridgeville, pictured below with our Immediate Past President Mary Noel.

A major undertaking this year will be helping landscape Hardin Hall, a community center being built in Blades to replace a now-demolished building.



Middletown Odessa Garden Club



In June, the MOGC installed its new officers for 2023-25. From left to right: Rebecca Rendeiro, Treasurer, Hetty Cumba, Secretary, Carla Gauger, Vice President, and Karen Wood, President.



While the club didn't have any meetings in July and August, that doesn't mean we haven't been busy. The club maintains gardens at the Corbit-Sharp House in and a native plant garden at the Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library in Odessa.



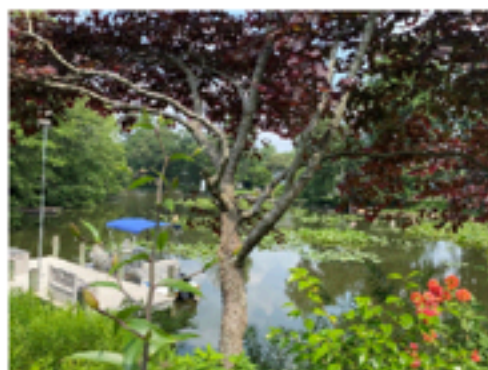
In Middletown, we take care of the raised garden in Cochran Square and the Pocket Park. The Club also hosts a bi-weekly crop swap, open to the public, at the Odessa Library. It's been a busy summer!



Gardeners by the Sea members enjoyed a guided tour of the Mill Pond Garden in June. Mill Pond Garden is located on Red Mill Pond within a neighborhood community near Lewes. It is only three-quarter acre and the smallest public garden in the American Public Garden Association. The garden is open to the public about monthly, throughout the year. Michael Zajic, the owner, designed this garden and led our private tour. "The garden operates to persuade people to the Romantic style of natural gardening, to educate about plants, use of native plants...and to include wildlife in the complete garden experience." We were educated and inspired!! Pictured is our group with Michael Zajic.



GARDENERS BY THE SEA



We are excited to announce that this fall we will dedicate a **Blue Star Memorial AND a Gold Star Families Memorial**, in Evans Park, Dukes Drive in Millville. Partnering with the Town of Millville, we are proud that this is very the first location in Delaware to place BOTH memorials in one location.

You are invited to attend the Dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 14th at 11 am.

If you are interested in honoring a veteran, please visit our website:

www.gardenersbythesea.com

Pictured is Maryanne Green, chair, testing the position of the boulders with a member of the Town staff. The two boulders mounted with the plaques are scheduled to be delivered in September and then the garden area can be planted. Lisa Arni is leading the design of our garden. We received an Espoma Grant through NGC for this garden project.





DELAWARE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS



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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.

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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.

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