

Alva Hutchison
President
Delaware Federation
of
Garden Clubs

PLANT AMERICA:
CULTIVATE

Loveliness

GROW.
PREPARE.
ENCOURAGE.
CONNECT.

DFGC Fall News

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Greetings!

I recently made an incredible garden and food trip to Italy with the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. I joined 26 others to visit the Lake Como area, Italian Riviera, Cinque Terre, Tuscany and Florence. We visited gardens and villas and attended a garden show, made pesto, pasta, and learned about olive oil and winemaking. At Cinque Terre I had the opportunity to meet Alfredo Rebizzio, the president of the equivalent of the national garden club of Italy! See the picture. President is on the left, accompanied by her daughter and sister.



The Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs was October 19 to 22 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake in Cambridge Maryland. Donna Donnelly, president of the National Garden Clubs was able to attend! Beverly Kazickas is the Director of the Central Atlantic Region.

We had a group of 28 plus guests at this Conference. The speakers were outstanding, educational and entertaining! We had fun! We came out in force in "loveliness", many wearing our ladybug costumes.

Joy Ericson was assisted by Bob Howatt to design this beautiful Floral Tribute. Joy shared that Delaware is the Diamond State and gave a historical perspective of that nickname.



My President's Projects this year is to place a Gold Star Families Memorial on the wall of Garden of the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base. Your baskets at our meetings will fund the project. [Thank you for your help to fund this garden for the families of those who Gave Their All for our Freedom.](#)

Alva 



OUR NEXT STATE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

Location: Plantation Lakes Club House, 20301 Charlotte Blvd., Millsboro, DE

Time: Welcome at 9:30am, meeting starts at 10am

Host Club: Plantation Lakes

Cost: \$ 55

Fundraising for Presidents Project: Winter Wonderland/Holiday Basket

Topic: Floral Design

Program Speaker: Claire Jones, Garden and Landscape Speaker, Author, Floral Designer, Garden, Travel Leader

Title: Seasonal Transition Floral Design: Creative Arrangement Ideas

Claire will inspire us with the transition from fall to winter as rich earth tones give way to the jewel tones of the holiday season. We will learn to blend both palettes into unique, seasonal designs using fresh greens, gourds, branches, and unexpected elements. Claire will demonstrate 3–5+ arrangements, which will be available at the end. A slideshow of seasonal designs will run during the demo for added inspiration.



Claire is a Horticulturalist, a Landscape Designer, a garden travel leader around the world, and photographer. Her designed gardens have appeared in WSJ, Chesapeake Home, and APLD Designer. A writer at her award-winning blog, The Garden Diaries, and the newly published, "The Beekeeper's Guide", Claire maintains an active apiary at her home along with a greenhouse, meadow, and perennial borders. Chosen for many years to decorate the White House for Christmas, Claire is also a Master Judge with National Garden Clubs and is a member of GardenComm, the Perennial Plant Society, and the Horticultural Society of MD.

Clubs send member RSVP plus any dietary restrictions to dfgcregistrar@gmail.com

Two-week open registration period begins on October 27th and closes on November 7th.



Website Access for a wealth of information

DFGC password for members: DFGC-3210

NEW CAR-SGC password for members: 2527@CARegion

NGC - please go to www.gardenclub.org to create an account. The link to the website where you will find Member Login at the upper right corner of the home page. Click and then find the spot at the bottom to CREATE AN ACCOUNT with a username and password.



Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH)

The **Youth Environmental Summit! (YES!)** saw double the engagement from previous years, due to adding a more engaging tabling aspect (a test-your-tree-ID board). The staff also added more STEM horticulture learning at more of the events and enhanced the information that students can take home with them

Piloted programs with Forest Oak's 1st grade class received great feedback from the teachers:

- "This is incredible! This fits perfectly with our curriculum and class lessons. This program has been perfect!"
- "This [DCH] is such a hidden gem! I never would've thought to come here, but it's incredible!"

The *Arbor Day Celebration at Rockwood Park* with 200 students from Maple Lane and Mount Pleasant was the largest to date. A 5th station with a research group from Swarthmore College learning about children's perceptions of nature was added. Children then engaged in loose parts play with natural materials.

Because there was a student attending who uses a wheelchair, Rockwood investigated – and purchased – an off-roading wheelchair for future visitors of the park to use to better their accessibility. This was the first program at DCH (in recent years) with a group of students who will be using wheelchairs for a youth program at DCH.

In addition, there will be several upcoming Youth Environmental Summits over the summer with students/campers ranging in age from 6-18 years old (*Green Jobs Wilmington and Urban Promise Summer Camp*).

DCH will be piloting a new youth program called *Growing Gardeners*. The first event will be in August – All About Apples. This event will be 1 hour aimed at families with children between 4-9 years old. Storytime, snack, and educational nature-based activities are built around the same theme.



This has been DCH's most successful year teaching youth about horticulture – the STEM way! By Summer's end nearly 800 children will have begun to show nature helps us survive, helps with climate and our own well-being!

Marybeth Johns, DCH Chairperson

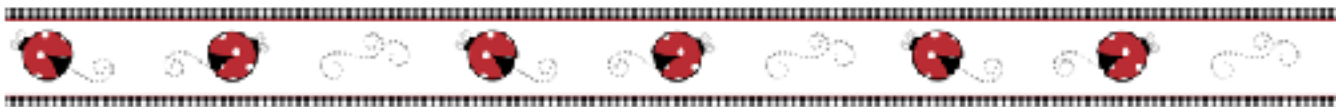
Dottie Howatt Special Purpose Flower Show Fund

I recently read a clip from a National Garden Club President's speech, (Guy Austin, 2019-2021), who featured a 10 year old girl, who was interviewed because of her artistic talent. "What do you like to do?" her response was simple...."paint, play, and working with flowers". Don't we all like working with flowers?

With that said.....I would be delighted if more garden clubs would call me expressing an interest in having a flower show. We have three clubs that are having flower shows in 2026. Milford GC next June, Kent Island GC, Fall of 2026, and Somerset County GC in June. They are taking advantage of the Dottie Howatt generous gift of, \$1,000.00, to help fund their shows. As the 10 year old girl once said, "I like working with flowers", so let's join her and exhibit our talents in horticulture, and artistic floral designs by organizing a flower show.

Please, let me hear from you.

Joy Ericson, DHSPFSF, Chairman
903 Barley Drive
Wilmington, DE 19807
302-475-1777
jelericson@aol.com



"GIFT BASKET BONANZA"

Come enjoy our upcoming State meeting on November 19 and participate in our fall fundraiser. We will have 13 Baskets overflowing with Wine, Cozy blankets, Money, Plants and many other items to help keep you warm in the coming season.

The pricing for chance tickets will be
\$5.00 for one, \$10 for 3 and \$20 for 7 chances.

That's not all !!! Our guest speaker, Claire Jones, will be demonstrating and creating several floral designs and we will be selling chance tickets to win one of her creations. **Those tickets will \$5.00 each.**

So let's all work together helping Alva reach her Presidents goal. A Gold Star memorial at the Dover AFB would be a wonderful addition to the Memorial garden.

Register to attend and come try your luck.

Carole Rompala
Fundraising Chairperson



A Lovely Cactus Duo for the Holidays: Thanksgiving and Christmas

Gregg Tepper

A Holiday Bloom with a Sub-tropical Origin

While many associate cacti with deserts, and understandably so, the Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) and Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera* × *buckleyi*) both evolved in the shady, subtropical rainforests of southeastern Brazil. There, they grow “epiphytically,” perched in the forks of trees and “lithophytically”, in rocky crevices — thriving in cool, humid environments under the forest canopy. Their shared natural habitat explains the need of filtered light and disdain for direct sun, making it a perfect plant for bright indoor spaces during our short winter days. There is also an Easter cactus (*Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*) and I’ll be featuring that in our April DFGC newsletter.

Distinguishing the “Holiday Cactus” Duo

The name “Thanksgiving Cactus” (TC) often gets muddled with its close cousin the “Christmas Cactus” (CC). However, the Thanksgiving cactus blooms as early as late October and as late as mid-November, hence its common name. The Christmas cactus blooms in mid to late December. Yet, when not in bloom, they can easily be discerned by the unique shape of their stem segments, known as phylloclades.

It is rather common to see the two species named incorrectly in stores since their bloom periods can be manipulated by how they are grown. Nursery suppliers do this in order to provide a “fresh, new” prolifically blooming product, for florists and grocery stores, over the several weeks leading up to the holidays.



Thanksgiving cactus (*S. truncata*) have pointed, claw-like tips on the edges of each stem segment



Christmas cactus (*S. × buckleyi*) have rounded, scalloped edges.

Photoperiod and Bloom Timing

As a short-day plant, *Schlumbergera truncata* initiates flower buds when nights exceed about 12 hours of darkness and temperatures hover between 55–65°F (13–18°C). For gardeners aiming to time the display for the holidays, providing uninterrupted dark nights for six to eight weeks is key. Even a few hours of artificial light can disrupt bud formation.

Once buds appear, plants should be kept in bright indirect light and moderate humidity — mimicking the conditions of their native forest canopy. Consistent watering without allowing the soil to dry completely, as well as misting with distilled water, helps the buds develop fully and prevents drop.

Cultural Care and Propagation

The Thanksgiving Cactus rewards steady care with years — even decades — of bloom. Key cultural notes include:

- Soil: Use a well-draining potting mix with organic matter, such as a fine-textured orchid or succulent blend amended with peat or composted bark.
- Water: Keep evenly moist while actively growing and budding, allowing the top inch of soil to dry between waterings. Misting every other day keeps the humidity high. Reduce watering slightly after flowering.
- Fertilizer: Apply a balanced, diluted fertilizer monthly from spring through late summer.
- Repotting: Every 2–3 years, preferably in late winter after blooming.
- Propagation: Easily rooted from stem cuttings; a segment or two placed in damp mix will root within a few weeks.

A Legacy Plant

Few houseplants connect generations quite like the Thanksgiving Cactus. Many gardeners treasure family heirloom plants, passed down from grandparents and still blooming faithfully each autumn. This plant’s enduring popularity lies not just in its ease of care and seasonal beauty, but in its ability to bridge horticulture, memory, and tradition.



Youth Committee

Happy Fall

It's great to hear from clubs as they engage youth groups this year. So exciting to see!

Shout out to Connie Jones, Youth Chairperson of the Middletown/Odessa club for trying something new and different for her club. Connie worked with a group of local children this summer at her local library for a variety of activities, all centered around the NGC Youth Recycled Sculpture Contest.



The youngsters created several sculptures over 2 sessions. She was able to engage kids from Grades 4-8 in creating the sculptures, as well as highlighting the importance of recycling through several fun activities and read - a-louds. Check out their creations below!



There are so many ways to engage our young Delawareans in gardening. Scout groups, Boys and Girls clubs, libraries, schools, home school groups and organizations like HFHK and the Delaware Horticultural Society are all good resources to reach out to for opportunities.

Each newsletter, it would be wonderful to highlight some of the fabulous work that is going on throughout the State with our youth. Please send your information to mbkunst47@gmail.com

It's also awards season! If your club has completed any of the CAR/NGC contests - ie: poetry, Smokey the Bear, or sculpture - please forward all entries to me by 1/1/2026. They will be judged and the winning entry will be forwarded to the CAR Youth Awards chair. Please include the following award application with your award: https://www.delawaregardencubs.org/files/ugd/74658d_a03f259665aa404ba59c20b2b13d95e8.pdf. It can also be found at the DFGC website, under "Members Only," under the "Forms and Templates" section.



DFGC Newsletter: Environmental Concerns

October 2025

DNREC updated the **Delaware Wildlife Action Plan for 2025-2035**. It is in draft form for public comment. Listed are Species of Greatest Need for Conservation (SGNC). This list includes animals, birds, fishes, invertebrates, herptiles, and, for the first time, **plants**. Tier 1 designation denotes those most in need of conservation.

Species of Greatest Conservation Need in 2025-2035 Delaware Action Plan						
Taxa	Number of SGCN	Tier 1 species	Tier 2 species	Tier 3 species	Assessment priority species	Extirpated species
Birds	164	53	57	43	10	1
Fishes	101	45	24	14	18	0
Invertebrates	356	141	74	42	94	5
Mammals	26	13	0	2	10	1
Plants	326	64	223	18	21	0
Herptiles	36	17	14	4	1	0
Total	1009	333	392	123	154	7

[This article](#) from *Outdoor Delaware* explains this project and how the various species were selected. For a complete listing of all species included and their tier designations, click [here](#). The Table 5 listing of plants begins on page 41 and ends on page 58 of the table. This includes scientific name, common name, reasons, tier with 1 being most in danger, and ecological group. Those interested in birds should check Table 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Smith,

Environmental Concerns Chair

Clubs, please send the name and contact information for your club's Conservation/ Environmental Concerns chair to me at

suzannedsmith3@gmail.com



Countryside Garden Club

"Gardening: Lessons for Life"

Countryside Garden Club had the honor of hosting James Brayton Hall, President and CEO of the Garden Conservancy, at the Delaware Center for Horticulture in



July. James drove three hours from Garrison, New York, to share his enthusiasm and spread the word about his organization's mission to preserve, share and celebrate America's gardens. He provided highlights of the conservation efforts at various public and private gardens and the desire to document the history and stories for future generations. Most recognizable though is the Open Days program which helps to raise awareness of the need for conservancy by providing opportunities for the public to visit inspiring private gardens across the country. (gardenconservancy.org)



Countryside members along with James Brayton Hall enjoyed lunch in Wilmington, and a tour of the Marion Coffin Garden at 'Gibraltar' led by Garden Manager Liz Allen. Liz and her team have made great strides in the garden so far and James suggested there might be grants to help as well. Garden Conservancy at work!





Bayees Honey Field Trip June

The Barefoot Gardeners (BG) were delighted to have a field trip and apiary presentation from nationally-known Baybees Honey owner, Lauren Pascarella.



Barefoot Gardeners Storytime in the Pollinator Park - Summer

BG Member Suzie Henicle made the Club's Summer Reading in the Park a hit for the local children. August's event had over 25 children attend!



"Lewes in Bloom" Tour - September

BG Members learned about this non-profit citizen group who promote and maintain the Historic Lewes public gardens and parks.



Summer Soirée in Pollinator Park-June 21

A joint effort of BG and the Town of Fenwick's Environmental Committee, the Pollinator Park was the site for a summer party featuring music, refreshments, and the community.

BG members (starting 3rd from left)- Vicki Carmean, President Audrey Serio, Colleen Wilson, Liz Lear.



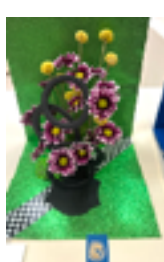
Delaware Botanic Garden Fundraiser -September

Delaware Botanic Garden's magnificent new pavilion was the backdrop for its annual fundraising party held September 18th. The BG contributed \$2500 to its successful, beautiful evening under the stars ... and the pavilion!

BG Member and Botanic Garden Board Member Carol Zonko and husband Charlie Zonko, far right.

Delaware Federation of State Garden Clubs Flower Show-June

Flower Designs from BG members:
Ann Christ, Debbie Micsky, Missy Brassel





Coastal Gardeners

DFGC Meeting

Nine members represented **Coastal Gardeners** at the June meeting. The Club was honored with several awards for their work throughout the year. First place was awarded for maintaining the flower pots at Beebe Hospital in Roxanna and the garden at Dagsboro Town Hall as well as Adopt-A-Highway and Operation Christmas Cheer.

First Speaker in September

David Crosby opened our new season with his talk about carnivorous plants (CPs) and how to create bog gardens. David brought a variety of CPs for our members and guests to explore.

Spring Gathering

To end another successful year of gardening and civic involvement, members of **Coastal Gardeners** gathered at Salted Vines Vineyard in Frankford. Greg Tepper spoke to the Club about using sensory perception in gardening.





The Brandywine Garden Club Blooms Through Every Season!



The Brandywine Garden Club didn't take the summer off — we were out in full force! Members kept the Children's Garden at the Brandywine Hundred Library thriving with plenty of weeding, trimming, and watering. At Martha House, the homeless shelter in Wilmington, our volunteers tended the beds with care, planting cheerful mums and adding pumpkins to bring autumn warmth and smiles to the residents.



We kicked off our new program year with a delightful visit to the Renegade Flower Farm in Garnet Valley, PA. Owner Erin Cech shared her passion for sustainable flower farming and gave us a behind-the-scenes tour of her blooming fields. In addition to her "pick-your-own" offerings, Erin designs stunning arrangements for weddings and special events.



October brought a touch of holiday cheer as we gathered for one of our favorite traditions — craft day! This year, we created charming snowman faces for the tree we decorate annually at the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington. With our theme, "*Out in the Snow*," the tree will sparkle with mittens, snowballs, our snowmen faces and plenty of club spirit. Craft days always fill the room with laughter, creativity, and a whole lot of glitter!





The Sussex Gardeners (SG) have planned a year of exceptional programs and activities as we kick off our 88th year in Rehoboth Beach. We started with a new slate of Officers! DFGC President Alva Hutchinson was the honored guest at our June 2025 end-of-year luncheon at Kings Creek Country Club. Alva conducted the installation of our Officers for the 2025-2027 term - Dianne Shawley, President; Crystal Selway, Vice President; Carolyn Snyder, Corresponding Secretary; Chris Emmell, Treasurer; and Lois Gillespie and Elva Davidson, Co-Recording Secretaries. Elva will also continue to serve as our Parliamentarian.



We are starting the year as the Second-Place recipients of the DFGC President's Award for "Excellence." We intend to build on last year's success by strengthening ties with our community through education, garden therapy and civic beautification. Sussex Gardeners is also one of five Clubs who will participate in the "Biden Center for the Environment," design and landscaping project at Cape Henlopen State Park. ***



At our September meeting Bob Lyons, Professor Emeritus, University of Delaware, was our guest speaker. Bob presented a program on digital photography entitled, "Seeing, Composing & Creating the image. His photos of flowers and landscapes were stunning.

We switched gears in October with a hands-on project, We switched gears for October with a hands-on project, the Japanese art of Tataki Zoome, which translates to "Flower Bashing." Fresh Flowers are carefully arranged on paper then lightly hammered to transfer the flowers' pigment onto paper. We had a few successes.



This week we are hosting an Autumn Picnic with our members at Nassau Valley Vineyard in Lewes. It's a celebration of the harvest and a chance to enjoy the beautiful setting at outdoor tables adjacent to the vines and the winery.



Plantation Lakes Garden Club

WELCOME TO "THE LANDING"

PLGC members are looking forward to hosting a DFGC meeting for the first time on November 19. It will take place at The Landing Bar & Grill at 20301 Charlotte Blvd., Millsboro, DE 19966. (Photo attached). Details will be distributed by DFGC.



PLGC ACTIVITIES

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT - The topic of our September program was presented by local Master Gardener Penny Huth. Penny is passionate about this topic and actively applies sustainable practices in her own garden. The information she shared was new to many of our members, who enjoyed this program and have already begun to follow Penny's guidance in their fall gardens.



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO FLOWER ARRANGING - Following our October business meeting, PLGC members welcomed Gregg Tepper as our program presenter. He came armed with buckets of flowers and suggestions for arranging flowers in a pumpkin. Prior to this meeting, about a dozen members prepared pumpkins to use as containers for fall flowers. Each of the arrangements was stunning, with many participants adding the pumpkin top as a feature in the design.

VETERANS APPRECIATION - PLGC members will gather on November 6 for a hands-on activity, with PLGC members assembling gift bags for residents at the Milford Veterans Home. Each gift bag will be thoughtfully filled with donated toiletries and personal care items as our way of thanking and honoring local Veterans.

VETERANS DAY - On November 11, at 11:00 a.m., PLGC members and local residents will observe Veterans Day for our fifth annual ceremony honoring Active Duty Service Members, Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and Gold Star Families. This event will be held at the site of our Blue Star Memorial, followed by an informal reception inside with light refreshments. For the first time, we will introduce to our community the concept of a Gold Star Memorial and initiate fundraising for it.





The month of June was filled with flower shows for Garden Gate Garden Club. We hosted a small standard flower show at the Delaware Center for Horticulture on June 13, 2025. The theme was Mother Goose in the Garden. Bob Howatt was the Chairperson.



After the flower show we had a ceremony to install our 2025-2027 officers. DFG past president Ginny Cardona led the installation. New officers for GGGC are President Kelly Koontz, First Vice President Bob Howatt, Second Co-Vice Presidents Barbara Dinsmore and Margie Prueitt, Recording Secretary Maria Robino-Watkins, Treasurer Laura Snead Berry and Joan Dubin and Corresponding Secretary Jane Hollingsworth.



On June 18, 2025, four members of the Garden Gate Garden Club participated in the Specialty Flower Show sponsored by the Delaware Judges Council. The theme was Summer Road Trip, and our category was 'Cruising the Mighty Mississippi'. Not only did Bob Howatt win the blue ribbon for his design, but he also won the Award of Merit and Tri-Color award. Congratulations to all who participated.



Silver Pine Garden Club

Silver Pine Garden Club has 2 new members! They just joined our meetings in September, and we are excited to have them with us! We welcome Diane Elser and her friend Brenda Tunis- and they are now both OUR friends! Diane found us as we changed out our project pot at the Kirkwood Library in May!

And our club now has a wonderful NEW HOME: St. Phillips Lutheran Church on Limestone Road! They allow us to use their Brand New (completed Spring 2025!) meeting room with built-in video connections and large screen! The room is state of the art with automatic lights, entrance code and lots of parking! And all at NO COST! They truly serve the Community! Thank you St. Phillips and Pastor Patrick! We look forward to helping on your community projects!



"Tea for Two"



"Welcome Fall"

Our on-going community project at Kirkwood

Library is now decorated for Fall with a club-made darling little scarecrow (made from a repurposed wool scarf that had some holes in it) and sticks and straw! Member garden-grown pumpkins and corn stalks, plus Indian corn, with curly willow and last year's mums complete the pot! We have gotten MANY community and library compliments on it! We just wish the library would allow us to put an info box in the library with our contact info.....might get more new members!

Our next community project is the Festival of Trees Christmas tree for Delaware Hospice in November. This year's theme is "America the Beautiful celebrates the Type to enter text!" Our ornaments represent all 50 states as well as historical people, landmarks and events over the last 250 years! The Statue of Liberty will top the tree with a RED, White and Blue bunting skirt! Happy Birthday America!



Beach & Bay Cottage Tour

This year, our home was a modern build in South Bethany. Chaired by Ria Carraro and co-chair, Barbara Denny who was an enormous help from beginning to end. We helped the Friends of the



South Coastal Library make over \$100,000 and had a fun time doing it. The committee consisted of: Phyllis Halliday, Sabina Kelly, Barbara Denny, Kathy Lesperance, Sandra Lopez, Cathy Bowen, Janet Sabo and Bea Nelson. Later we celebrated with a cocktail party at Ria's home. There was also a coordinator get-together at the home of Laura Martin, one of the 3 Tour Coordinators.



Garden Plant Auction Meeting

As in past years, we had a wonderful Auction with lots of fun and yummy pizzas with side dishes. Thanks to all the participants who brought garden treasures. We were able to add \$645 to our club's coffers. Yippee! A special thanks go to Pat Milstead, our Fab Auctioneer, along with her assistants, Sabina Kelly and Janet Sabo, also, Cherie Dorfman, Plant-Identifier-in-Chief, Kathy Lesperance and Marilyn Adams for sales tracking, and our Treasurer Mary Williford for taking care of the money.



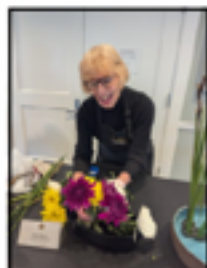
Garden Therapy Project



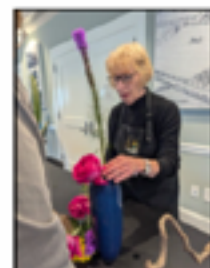
This month, Margaret Woda (Chair), along with Marian Augustine, Ellen Dowling, Joanna Haley, Pat Richard, and Audrey Young met at Ocean Grove Post-Acute Care in Millsboro, to put smiles on the faces of residents by helping them make flower arrangements. We bought cute little pumpkins instead of vases to hold the flowers. This month's flowers were donated by Gregg Tepper, as well as, others purchased from Parson's Farm Market. We're never sure who has more fun - the participants or our Club members!



October Monthly Meeting



At our October monthly meeting, we welcomed Ann Perry, master instructor in the Japanese flower arrangement art form known as the Ohara School of Ikebana. (生花) She is quite the personality, great story teller, funny, and an artist at her craft! Beautiful arrangements were simple but gorgeous. And, just like icing on the cake, she gave all the flowers to members to take home to create their own designs.





Middletown-Odessa Garden Club

Our Club held its first Recycling Sculpture Contest this year. Children in grades 4 through 8 participated. Our Youth Activities Chair, Connie Jones, held creation events where the participants learned about recycling and started crafting their sculptures. Prizes were given by grade levels. First Place for 4th Grade was Selan Hawkins for her Ferris Wheel, 5th grade to Amelia Furmanski for a dog with a hat, and 7th grade Juliana Baum for the Birthday Cake Sculpture. Donations from the Creation Station, Dairy Queen, Playla Bowl, Chick-fil-A and Brewster's Ice Cream were the prizes for the winners.



RED, W

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

That's the name of the MOGC's first Flower Show in 10 years! And what a time to hold it-during the Celebration of America's 250th Birthday! The show will be held on May 8th, 2026. The Design Division has three classes with four entries each-- a small 8" design themed Petals & Patriots, a table setting for two titled A Toast to 250 and a design class titled Floral Fireworks. The Horticulture Division has 15 classes including foliage perennials, flowering perennials and container grown plants. And it will be held at MeadowCrest Independent Living in Middletown and will be open to the public from Noon to 2 PM.



Moonflower Garden Club

Moonflower Garden Club is off to another great program year. In September we met at Unitarian Universalist Society of Millcreek to tour their 5 acres of Natural Lands. The



church has added 150 native trees since 2018, expanding the wooded edge around their open meadow. The meadow is composed of a wide variety of wildflowers and grasses which provides habitat for many insects, birds, reptiles and mammals. The weather was beautiful for an early evening walk through the meadow and we did, indeed, see many birds, butterflies and bees (but not the reptiles and mammals) taking advantage of the late season nectar and seeds.



In October Gary Liska presented a very informative program "Plight of the Monarch Butterfly, a Miraculous and Spiritual Journey." He pitched his presentation just right: lots of science, great photographs, information about his tagging program, etc. He has conducted research for 40 years and had both hopeful and crushing stories about these amazing butterflies. Gary is the designer of Cape Henlopen State Park's Migratory Monarch Butterfly's Refueling Station and Education Pavilion. His work in the park is phase one of a larger coastal Delaware initiative called the Delaware Gold Coast.



Looking for informative programs? These 2 are highly recommended!
Happy gardening
Moonflower Garden Club



GARDENERS BY THE SEA

Beach & Bay Cottage Tour

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Garden Therapy Project

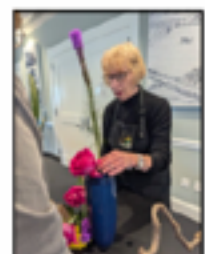


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October Monthly Meeting



At our October monthly meeting, we welcomed Ann Perry, master instructor in the Japanese flower arrangement art form known as the Ohara School of Ikebana. (生け花) She is quite the personality, great story teller, funny, and an artist at her craft! Beautiful arrangements; simple but gorgeous. And, just like icing on the cake, she gave all the flowers to members to take home to create their own designs.



Announcements:



Moonflower Garden Club

PLANT SALE

November 6-8:

Thurs. 9-5

Fri. 9-5

Sat 8-12 or until plants are sold out

Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church

500 McKennans Church Rd

Wilmington, 19808

Houseplants, perennials (it's not too late to plant outside),
small trees, dish gardens, terrariums

NOTE: check or cash only





from Barefoot Gardeners:

Flower Show ***Postponed***

BG has been working on their October Flower Show for months. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had the last say as the event was postponed because of the Nor'easter and a concern of safety for our members, judges, and community.

Please keep an eye out for the rescheduled dates.



from Peg Irish:

Many of you followed my Hoe 'n Hope Garden Club facebook page in the past. I have shut that down and instead formed a group page named "**Peg's Picks & Ponderings**" for the same purpose. Topics you will see shared include: gardens & plants, ecology & recycling, flower arranging, wildlife, crafty stuff and wallpaper pairings. When I see a posting that seems to be in line with our garden club interests, I share it with this group. You have to request membership in the group because it is closed to the public. I would like to invite you to join in this special interest group. If I don't know you, just send me a note in messenger to say where you heard about the group. I hope to see you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1446747653412240/permalink/1446747913412214>



As a overzealous collector of pictures of things that interest me, I also created a group to share some of them called "**Beautiful Things.**" Sometimes something is just so pretty I need to save it and this gives me an outlet to use them. I share pictures of historical fashion, jewelry, flowers, art, anything that I think is especially wonderful! As with my Ponderings, you will need to request membership and use messenger to tell me how you heard about the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/824965226622345>

