



DFGC 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Winter garden picture – Hope for an early Spring! Photo by Ken Arni

Well, I am all for Phil the groundhog who did not see his shadow and I am looking forward to an early Spring! I must admit though that the past almost two years have just flown by and I do hope the next few remaining weeks of winter will fly by quickly as well. We have accomplished a lot!

Our NGC award winning and successful TREE-mendous TREE planting at the DBG has 124 tree plantings to date and counting thanks to all our DFGC members and friends! The TREE project was voted on by our board to continue for two more years. Cannot wait to see the Woodland Garden at the new DBG this fall knowing that the flowering trees are all possible due to you, our DFGC clubs and members. Also, our TREE-mendous Membership Growth project has succeeded in presenting our DFGC the prestigious membership growth award at the CAR-SGC meeting this October in Ohio. We had a 16% increase in membership! We are pleased to have our new clubs and all the efforts being made by our existing clubs to increase their membership. Our next DFGC state meeting is on April 17, 2019 when we will be installing our new officers and introducing our new board. Early May is our NGC Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi and our state report will be given at this convention. Thank you all for your support and allowing me to be your DFGC president. I am honored to have taken on this role and very proud to represent our Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs during my tenure. Our success is due to the support of our entire board and also our club members. I am very proud of you and all you do in your communities!

Lisa



DFGC APRIL 17, 2019 MEETING

Location: **Wild Quail Golf and Country Club**
 One Clubhouse Drive
 Wyoming, Delaware 19934

DFGC meeting registration opens at **9AM** on the day of the meeting. Coffee and a snack will be available. The meeting starts at **10AM** followed by lunch and then the program. You are welcome to invite a friend to this meeting. The cost is only **\$30** per person. All reservations must be made through your club's treasurer!

Please write your check to your garden club to attend the April DFGC meeting. Your Club Treasurer will then submit one check and a list of attendees to the meeting registrar to be received by Friday April 5, 2019. Your treasurer will also email the registrar at DFGCregistrar@gmail.com the list of your club attendees and advise the registrar of any food restrictions. The registrar will confirm receipt of the reservation email. If your treasurer does not have email access your treasurer must call the registrar 302 632-2434 when the check is sent.

The Host Club for the April meeting is Potpourri Garden Club. The registrar for this meeting is Debbie Rouse. The deadline for meeting reservations is Friday April 5th.

Mail reservation list and check to:

Debbie Rouse
100 Quail Run
Wyoming, De 19934

Email registration list: DFGCregistrar@gmail.com
Phone: 302 632-2464

Program: "Decorating with Houseplants"
Speaker: Ginny Rosenkranz-Television personality from
DelmarvaLife, Master Gardener Coordinator,
University of Maryland Extension Educator

DFGC Will Host the 2020 CAR-SGC Conference

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs will host the 2020 CAR-SGC Conference in October 2020. Oksana Hoey of Saltaire Garden Club will chair the event, with Margaret Woda of Plantation Lakes Garden Club as the Vice-Chair. Each of Delaware's twenty-four garden clubs will have an important role in planning for and hosting the event, and we'll be knocking on your door in the coming weeks to seek volunteers for a variety of roles.

If you've never attended a Regional Conference, you may want to attend the next CAR-SGC Conference, October 25 and 26, 2019 so you know what to expect when we host the following year. A Capital Harvest is the theme for this year's Conference, hosted by the National Capital Area Garden Clubs. This event will take place at the Arlington Hilton, which is located atop the Ballston Metro Station - a short commute to everything D.C. has to offer and within walking distance of several restaurants.



CAR-SGC Conference
October 25 and 26, 2019

The price they've negotiated for the 2019 Conference participants is \$119 daily plus tax, single or double occupancy, and you can extend that rate for three days before and after the Conference for a wonderful fall vacation in our Nation's Capital. Approximately half the rooms in that block have already been booked, so go to the CAR-SGC website (under EVENTS) to book your hotel room now. The market rate, after the reserved block sells out, is about \$235 daily plus tax. Registration for the Conference and the Symposium that follows will not begin until May 2019, but hotel rooms at this rate will likely be gone by then. For more information about the 2019 Conference visit CAR-SGC.org/conference-2019.

DFGC Website Updates If your Delaware garden club does not have its own website, you now have an option to expand your landing page on the DFGC website to include a link to your own password-protected "Members Only" page. This might include your Member Directory, Minutes of the last meeting, or Announcements, for example - up to three documents. For more information, please contact DFGC webmaster Margaret Woda using the contact Tab at the top of the home page.

See DelawareGardenClubs.org/coastal-gardeners for a sample.

Coastal Gardeners

Autumn was beautiful and busy time for CG members. A “Make & Take” at East Coast Garden Center highlighted members’ creative side. Planting 22 trees and watering them throughout the fall at the James Farm Ecological Preserve emphasized our members’ dedication to helping DNREC to increase native specimens in the Ocean View area.



Looking forward to a fabulous 2019!

In mid-October, members assisted the Civil U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to plant 350 Spartina cord grasses and 30 seaside goldenrod in coir matting at Bubble Gum beach behind Delaware Center for the Inland Bays as part of the Living Shoreline Project to prevent erosion.



CG aren't too proud to TRASH talk and lots of it.... In November members held their first Adopt-A-Highway clean up on Piney Neck Road collecting 20 bags of trash – including bottles, cans, car fenders, and a power washer! Another clean-up is planned for spring! CG wound up 2018 by participating in operation Christmas CHEER – donating 70 gifts for our Senior Citizens.



Milford Garden Club

The Milford Garden Club has had an active late Fall and Holiday season. There was a bus trip to Longwood Gardens in late October to see the Chrysanthemum Festival.



Members made wreaths and holiday decorations which they sold at the November Farmer's Market in Downtown, Milford. They also had their annual cookie sale which is a major fundraiser for their scholarship fund and other civic projects. Each member baked 8-10 dozen fancy Christmas Cookies which were subsequently boxed up and sold. Members also constructed a Poinsettia Tree in the Senior Center Lobby.

The club also decorated a tree for the annual Christmas Tree Festival at the Milford Public Library. This tree, with others, are in a competition to raise funds for a worthy cause. This year's recipient was a young man who had been in a serious accident and had a lot of medical expenses. Their annual Christmas Luncheon was held at King's Creek Country Club.

Barefoot Gardeners

Happy 2019 from Barefoot Gardeners of Fenwick Island!

Like the plants and flowers we worship three seasons out of the year, The Barefoot Gardeners go into somewhat of a dormant stage in the winter months with no meetings until Spring. Like our flowers and plants, our Club will return in the spring ready to blossom! Before the first big freeze, we managed to fit in a few activities:

Four of our members attended the November, 2018 DFGC meeting. Kudos to our Club which received the CAR-SGC Civic Development Award for our summer reading workshop on environment, conservation and recycling. We also received four life memberships in DFGC and also were able to sponsor five more trees for our wonderful Botanic Garden.



On Saturday, November 10th, The Barefoot Gardeners enjoyed another great visit to the Brandywine Senior Living Center in Selbyville, DE. This visit was our fifth year of "Giving Back to Brandywine". Our members and the residents of Brandywine enjoyed a morning of fun, creating beautiful fall centerpieces. Seeing the smiles on the residents faces as they work is always a joy.



Above: Esther Streett and resident picking out the perfect stems.

Left: Debbie Micsky with Brandywine resident and their arrangement.

Our Civic Development Committee once again decorated the Fenwick Island town pots for the holidays. For the Fall, the Committee, headed by Janet Hess, added pumpkins to the already beautiful beach grass, and then for Christmas, added a wreath to the grass and large bow. Very festive! (Picture to the right).

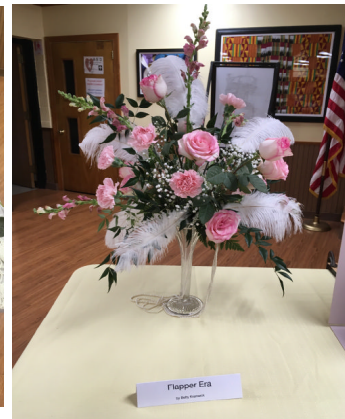
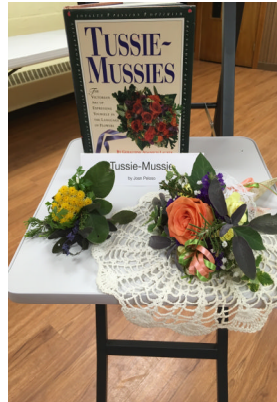
One of the Clubs most favorite activities is decorating our beloved Fenwick Island Lighthouse for the holidays. Due to necessary construction, we were unable to decorate this year, which means it will be extra special next year!

Keep warm friends, and we look forward to Happy Gardening in the Spring.



Hoe 'n Hope Garden Club

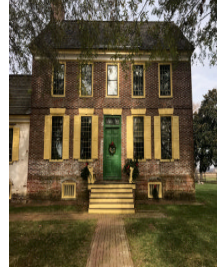
Hoe 'n Hope Garden Club's **Fashion & Flowers** event took place on November 12th and was well attended by state garden club members. We all had a great time and enjoyed so many different kinds of cookies,



The Potpourri Garden Club

The Potpourri Garden Club members hope you had a great holiday season with family and friends! We were busy before and after the holidays with decorating two historic building for the holidays, sharing and learning from our middle school youth and enriching our lives and the lives of the seniors at Dover Place Senior Living Community.

Before the holidays, our horticulture therapy related projects at Dover Place, residents and members joined together to create festive floral arrangements for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We enjoyed our Youth Enrichment Program meeting in November and middle school students created sculptures from recycled items, then entered a Sculpture Contest. Congrats to our winners! In early December, the Potpourri Garden Club members joined with the Friends of John Dickinson Mansion to create a festive environment for the public during their holiday visits. The Friends of John Dickinson decorated the interior of the grand home and we decorated the exterior with fresh greenery. The next week, we decorated Woodburn, the Governor's House interior and exterior for the Governor's family and public to enjoy during the holiday season. This year, we designed and decorated a Christmas tree using dried hydrangea from Thelma Taylor's garden; the outdoor entrance was decorated with fresh greenery; two live wreaths were designed for the Woodburn doors; two cone trees with fresh fruit were created and 14 natural floral arrangements with either fresh fruit, cut flowers or cut greens were designed for the festive activities during the holiday season. We welcomed in 2019 with a Youth Enrichment Program meeting with a pollinator picnic and presentation on pollinators. We enjoyed the food and good company. So, until next time, enjoy your cold weather and some down time, because before we know it, spring will be here, and we will be so..... busy – Gardening!



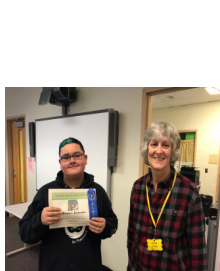
Decorating John Dickinson Mansion

Woodburn

Dover Place

1st Place-Sculpture Contest

Pollinator Picnic



Middletown-Odesa Garden Club

The Middletown-Odesa Garden Club was extremely busy during the holidays. Our many projects included decorating the Middletown Main Street Pocket Park, decorating Old St. Paul's and St. Anne's Church, making natural ornaments and decorating for the Storybook Tree for Christmas in Odessa and working and demonstrating wreath making at the much anticipated and highly attended Christmas in Odessa.

We also had a large attendance at the November DFGC Jewelry Jumble meeting, enjoyed having our own talented members show us how to make natural ornaments and décor at our monthly meeting and toured the historic George Read House in Old New Castle followed by a luncheon at Jessops Tavern



Sussex Gardeners



FUND RAISERS

Sussex Gardeners evaluates various worthy programs to offer financial support. The Gardeners held two fund raisers to support these causes. A bake sale was held at the Lewes Historical Society annual event in October. A craft sale was held at the Rehoboth Art League Holiday Craft sale in November.



“ALL ABORAD THE POLAR EXPRESS”

The Sussex Gardeners decorated the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes for the holidays again this year. The theme they chose was the wonderful children’s book “The Polar Express”. From Hospitality Night, November 29, through December 29, 2018, 627 people visited the Museum and enjoyed the Gardeners creativity.



HOLIDAY WREATHS AND NOSEGAYS

In support of Meals on Wheels the Sussex Gardeners assembled and decorated nosegays that were used to garnish the trays of the recipients. The members also fabricated wreaths from club donated greens. After adornment with ribbons and holiday embellishments the wreaths were donated to Gull House, Rehoboth Library, and Troop #7 Police Barracks.



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Sussex Gardeners held their annual holiday luncheon at the Victoria Restaurant on the boardwalk in Rehoboth Beach this year. The event was well attended by new and current members and provided an opportunity for new friendships to form.



Spade & Trowel receives National Garden Club grant

The Spade & Trowel Garden Club of Seaford has received a \$1,000 grant from the Plant America Community Project sponsored by the National Garden Clubs Inc. to create a serenity garden at Teen Challenge's Home of Hope in Bridgeville. The Home of Hope is a new residential facility for women struggling with drug or alcohol addiction, one of a few such facilities in Delaware. The serenity garden will be phase two of Spade & Trowel's efforts at the Home of Hope. The club provided shrubs for the first phase of landscaping there just before the facility opened last year. The grant will be matched by club funds and in-kind services, as well as plants donated by members to create a quiet garden between two dormitories. DFGC members who would like to contribute may call Carol Kinsley at 410-924-3582.



PLANTATION LAKES GARDEN CLUB



Many Millsboro residents joined garden club members at the historic John J. Williams home for a fundraiser in support of a Blue Star Memorial for the future Millsboro Park. Attendees enjoyed a variety of wines and cheeses as they took a step back in time, appreciating the décor and political memorabilia from the Senator's four terms in the U.S. Senate (1947-1971). Our program recognized and thanked both Veteran attendees and relatives of attendees for their service. Pictured are members of the Events Committee who organized and hosted the event.

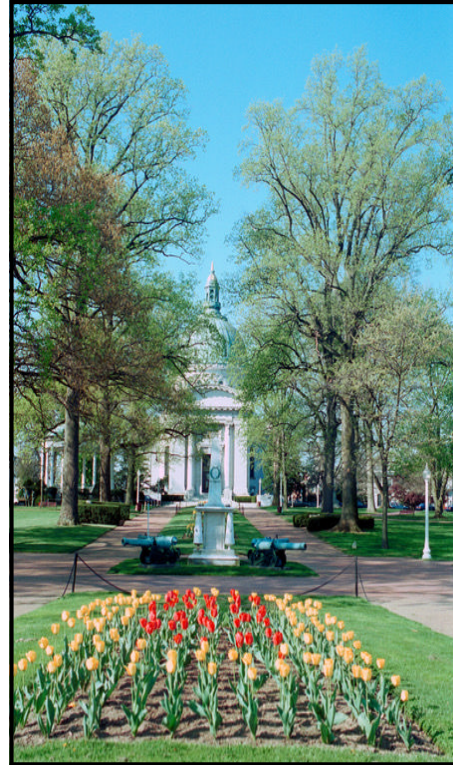


Our December 7th wreath making workshop provided an opportunity for fellowship and some lovely door decorations! Pictured above are workshop participants.

COME JOIN US!

Sussex County garden clubs are invited to join PLGC for our bus trip to Annapolis, MD

Wednesday, MAY 1st



You can choose to either (1) explore the streets of the city's historic residential and commercial areas to view the traditional May Basket display or (2) tour "The Yard" at the U.S. Naval Academy to enjoy the spring-blooming trees and spring bulbs. The cost of the bus trip is only \$35. If you choose to take a guided tour of the Naval Academy, the walking tour is \$11.50 and the riding tour is \$30. Your garden club members can register and pay online at PlantationLakesGardenClub.org/field-trip.

Gardeners by the Sea

HOSPICE TREE - The 2018 Hospice Tree Committee, consisting of 14 members, met once in May to come up with a theme for our tree & decide our crafts. Shopped for supplies in Aug, & had three workshops during Sept. & Oct. to work on & complete our crafts. Our committee had a great time at our workshops. Not everyone can attend each workshop but we usually had about seven members at each one. We designed & created more than 140 beautiful handmade ornaments. They are all day events that include lunch and lots of laughter ~ not to mention everyone goes home covered in glitter! On Nov. 28th we traveled to Dover, DE and decorated our tree for the DE Hospice Festival of Trees. Our tree looked fabulous.



YULE LOG WORKSHOP - Twelve members met to create yule logs for the Christmas season. We all had such a wonderful time & enjoyed the food & beverages that Maryanne provided for us. Jim also acted as our parking attendant. We really made a mess of their home but they were not worried about it. Each of us made one yule log, & some made two. At the end Peggie Ravida took the extras to distribute to the library, historical house & other sites. It was a lot of fun & hopefully we can make it a yearly tradition.

DINE & DONATE FUNDRAISER HELD - On January 10, 2019 a Dine & Donate event was held at Fins Ale House & Raw Bar in Bethany Beach for the Gardeners by the Sea Club. It was a packed house, including approximately 20 members, spouses, friends, & others from the community. Everyone enjoyed socializing & eating a delicious meal. 50/50 tickets were sold. The very generous donation made to us by Fins will go toward enrichment programs in the community such as scholarships for horticulture students. We also provide services for Habitat for Humanity, Hospice, & Lord Baltimore Elementary School.

MOUNT CUBA ROAD TRIP (Open to the public): Come join us on a breathtaking trip to Mount Cuba in Hockessin, DE. Originally farmland, it has been transformed into a lush botanical garden featuring the regions' most beautiful native plants; and has been the home for conservation & preservations since 1930. Visit <https://mtcubacenter.org> for more information, magnificent views & additional history. Date: May 1, 2019. Meet at Giant Town Center, Millville, DE 6:00 am. Bus leaves at 8:30 am, returns to Giant t 6:00 pm. Cost is \$65.00 & includes transportation & a box lunch with one drink. Pre-signup & payment is due by April 19, 2019. Contact Kathy Lesperance, email kathyles@mchsi.com.