



# GROWING TOGETHER

Plantation Lakes Garden Club, P.O. Box 904, Millsboro, Delaware 19966

A Member of National Garden Clubs, Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, and Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs

## Thank you!

Hostesses Mary Balasi, Geri Walkowski and Joanne Strasser.

Horticulture Exhibitors Jonnie Mann, Susan Maxwell and Brenda Joyce who will exhibit in a clear glass vase a cut flower from their yard or garden.

## September Birthdays

Happy Birthday Ginger Esposito (4) and Laurie Walsh (6).

## Coming Events

### • PLGC Expo & Fall Plant Sale

Friday and Saturday, September 28 (1-4) and 29 (9-noon) at the Plantation Lakes Community Center. Pre-orders and payment due on or before September 14. Visit the EVENTS page of our website for a link to the pre-order form.

### • It's All About Veterans

Saturday, November 3, 7-9 p.m. at the John J. Williams Center, 105 State Street, Millsboro. This will be a Wine & Cheese party to raise funds for the Millsboro Blue Star Memorial that will be located in the new Millsboro Park across Rt. 24 from Plantation Lakes.

A history of the Blue Star and the Blue Star Memorial is attached to this newsletter.

### • DFGC Meeting & Jewelry Jumble

Wednesday, November 14. Details are available on the DFGC website, [DelawareGardenClubs.org](http://DelawareGardenClubs.org). The member password is on the last page of your 2018-2019 yearbook.



## Welcome Valery!

PLGC will kick off our 2018-19 Programs with *PLANT AMERICA - Beginning in Our Own Back Yard*. Valery Cordrey, Co-owner of East Coast Garden Center, RSC Landscaping, and the Cordrey Center will share with us her suggestions for small trees to plant in Plantation Lakes. Our own Marie Van Der Wall, Chair of the HOA Architectural Review Committee, will answer our questions about limitations and requirements for tree planting in our community. This is a program that will leave garden club members with no excuses for procrastinating on planting a tree this fall.

## New Website Features

Visit the MEMBERS section of our website to sign up for anything from plant sale pre-orders to attending a DFGC meeting or our own club events. You'll also find a new page with links to forms and templates used for conducting garden club business. The Member Directory is updated as new members join and current members change their email address or phone number.

An EVENTS section was added last spring to publicize activities that are open to the public such as our plant sales, It's All About Veterans at the historic John J. Williams House, and a presentation in March by Gregg Tepper on the topic of *Native Plants for Native Birds*.

Spend some time exploring our website and yearbook over the next few days and weeks, and invite your friends to do the same!

# President's Report

## Yearbook 2018-2019

A garden club yearbook is prepared annually for several users:

NGC, CAR-SGC, and DFGC:

The garden club yearbook is effectively an annual report to our affiliates for a specific year and it is evaluated by each of these organizations. The judging criteria is Programs (50 points), Projects (35 points), and Format (15 points). There are specific minimum requirements for each category, and these specifications are addressed in the yearbook template we use - one that evolved through eight years of trial and error in my previous garden club.

PLGC Members:

The garden club yearbook is a directory for members that provides a handy reference for the new garden club year. It includes a calendar, meeting details, project descriptions, and information regarding members and affiliates. The Appendix in our yearbook includes information that is important to members but not considered in judging for an award: updated bylaws and standing rules, passwords for the member sections of the PLGC website and our affiliates' websites, meeting etiquette, a hostess guide, committee descriptions, rules for monthly horticulture/design exhibits, and descriptions of monthly exhibits.

Many thanks to Program Chair Marie Van Der Wall and her committee for starting in May to plan our programs, contact the presenters, and confirm them by July. Thank you to Mary Williford, Sylvia Heidbreder and Janet Parham, who proof-read the yearbook several times throughout the summer. Each of them contributed to the final product, as well as Jonnie Mann, who provided the names of hostesses early in the summer, and photographers Sylvia Heidbreder and Pat Minnigh, whose photos appear on the cover and divider pages. Other Committee Chairs contributed, as well, and members confirmed their contact information early in the summer. Our yearbook really has been a team effort. THANK YOU for your help with this massive undertaking!

## Awards 2017

Plantation Lakes Garden Club continues to be a BIG winner, when it comes to State awards and even four National awards. Many thanks to Sylvia Heidbreder, Mary Balasi and Sylvia Heidbreder who attended the DFGC Meeting and Awards Presentation in June. It was really nice to have a cheering section there! We also accepted on behalf of Mary Williford a certificate in recognition for her Life Membership. Mary was chosen for this honor through a survey of members.

In addition to the PLGC awards, Delaware won several National awards including First Place for the membership brochures I designed and First Place for the Delaware website that I built. Participation at the State, Regional, and National level creates good will for our club, and I encourage PLGC members to get involved.

## Announcements

- Congratulations to Janet Parham, the newest member of our Executive Board. Janet is our new Corresponding Secretary.
- Pat Minnigh has accepted the challenge of chairing a committee to work with Habitat for Humanity. This is a new committee and she will develop this project in collaboration with other volunteers for the organization. Pat will continue to assist Sylvia with taking photos of garden club activities.
- Sylvia Heidbreder will prepare the quarterly articles about PLGC activities for the DFGC newsletter.
- Fran Lauve will take the lead for our first Poinsettia Sale. This will be pre-sale orders only. Pick-up will be Friday December 7, 12-1 p.m. (after our December program - *Deck the Halls*, a wreath-making workshop).

# History of the Blue Star



**1916:** A Blue Star Banner displayed in the front window of a home during World War I told others that a family member was serving in the Armed Forces.

Captain Robert B. Quiesser, an Ohio National Guard veteran of the Mexican Border, is credited with designing the original flag.

**1917:** The Congressional Record stated: "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother — their children."

Also known as the Service Flag, the blue stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold one representing their sacrifice. A silver star indicated that a loved one had been incapacitated during the war.

**1943:** The Blue Star Banner made its appearance again in WWII and, on October 17, Congress authorized this flag as an official design.

It virtually vanished during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

**1991:** The Blue Star Banner appeared again during the Persian Gulf War in Iraq and the War on Terror.

## History of the Blue Star Memorial

A National Gardens Club Project since 1945

**1944:** The New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs planted 8,000 dogwood trees to create a living tribute to men and women who fought in World War II.

**1945:** The National Council of State Garden Clubs (now National Garden Clubs, Inc.) adopted the New Jersey program and the Blue Star symbol when they created a Blue Star Highway System across the Continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii.

**1951:** The program was updated to honor all who had served, were serving or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

**1981:** The program was expanded beyond highways to National Cemeteries, Veteran Administration Medical Centers and appropriate civic locations.

**1994:** Wording on the marker was changed to "A tribute to the Armed Forces of America."

**1996:** An official Byway Marker was designed and authorized for use.

**2004:** The program was expanded again to include parks, historical sites and other civic locations or facilities.

**2016:** A Blue Star Memorial was the first NGC project adopted by Plantation Lakes Garden Club.