



GROWING TOGETHER

Plantation Lakes Garden Club, Millsboro, Delaware

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

NOVEMBER 2023

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November Celebrations

November 8 th	Denise Roth-Clark
November 11 th	Veterans Day
November 23 rd	Thanksgiving
November 28 th	Lorraine Monakey
November 29 th	Pat Minnigh
November 30 th	Linda Pellerano

PENNY PINES



Donate your coins for the National Garden Clubs' Penny Pines project – saving forests \$68 at a time. Please contact Mary Balasi, PLGC Chair, to add a name on the “in honor of” or “in memory of” list for our next certificate purchase.

<https://www.gardenclub.org/penny-pines>

www.plantationlakesgardenclub.org

NOTE TIME AND PLACE!!!

NOVEMBER 2nd PROGRAM

Preparing Small Fresh Flower Arrangements for Veterans – **Community Center East**

11:15 am	Pre-meeting gathering
11:30 pm	Business meeting and preparing for making floral arrangements
12:30 pm	Joe Fulco, Community Manager
AND	Making the Arrangements

Margaret Woda, PLGC Founder, former President of PLGC and a member of the DFGC and CAR-SGC Boards will oversee a community service project to honor veterans in our community. Veterans will receive a small flower arrangement featuring a red, white and blue patriotic theme.

Activities

October Program: Photography

Our October program presented by Michele Walford was a wonderful photography lesson. Members learned essential techniques to capture the beauty of plants, flowers and nature. The session covered topics such as composition, lighting, and close-up shots, emphasizing the importance of



patience and attention to detail. Participants were encouraged to experiment with angles and backgrounds to create visually stunning images. The lesson also included practical tips for using

various camera settings or smartphones to achieve professional-quality results. Members left with newfound skills to better showcase the botanical wonders in their gardens.

Plantation Lakes Craft Show

Our garden club members are passionate individuals who share a love for gardening and all things related to plants and outdoor spaces. They often consist of people from diverse backgrounds, age groups, and gardening experience levels. However, the creative talents of our members are not limited to gardening. Tables containing small flower arrangements, pressed flower luminaries and bling sticks



celebrate our shared love of gardening and the benefits of being a member of Plantation Lakes Garden Club. The visually appealing exhibit provided an opportunity to demonstrate our community

created by our members were on display to showcase, promote and



involvement and encourage others to get involved in the community and gardening. Informational brochures about joining PLGC and our Blue Star Memorial Garden were also available.

Blue Star Memorial Garden

Members of the Blue Star Memorial Garden committee took advantage of the beautiful warm October days to



revitalize the cherished Blue Star Memorial Garden. They meticulously pruned, weeded, and replanted vibrant blooms, infusing new life into the space. These dedicated members are forging

connections between nature and patriotism, ensuring the Blue Star Memorial Garden remains a tranquil sanctuary and heartfelt tribute for all who pass through. Their enthusiasm for this project



demonstrated their commitment to maintain and refresh the garden in preparation for the upcoming November 11th ceremony. Thank you, everyone!

East Coast Garden Center Class

East Coast Garden Center hosted a wonderful class for those new and new-ish to Delaware. The class was called **Welcome to Delaware!** Penny was very knowledgeable about what to plant and where to plant it as well as knowing your soil and how to amend it. Everyone went home a lot wiser!



News for Members

CAR-SGC 2023 ANNUAL MEETING DEEMED A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

Four members of Plantation Lakes Garden Club were among the over 160 attendees at the recent conference in Corning, New York. Garden enthusiasts, friends, and members of the seven states that comprise the Central Atlantic Region came together for meetings filled with inspiration and community.



Registrants had the opportunity to sign-up for glass-blowing a pumpkin or ornament at a local studio. Many signed up for the ghost tour provided by the Paranormal Association of the Southern Tier. No, we didn't see any ghosts, but we did witness the spirits present in three different venues.

A leaf manipulation workshop provided attendees an opportunity to learn the skill of making specialty designs using leaves.

A tri-refresher was offered for master gardeners to get credits required to maintain their master designation. All attendees benefitted from the workshops on Birds of Prey, Landscape



Design for Wildlife and Native Plants, and Urban & Suburban Landscape Design. A bus tour to Taughannock Falls State Park, Cornell University Botanical Gardens, Oechsner Organic Grain Farm, and lunch and wine

tasting at Americana Vineyards on Thursday rounded out the events of the week.

The workshops were incredibly informative, with expert speakers providing valuable insights and practical tips for garden enthusiasts. The meetings were productive and encouraged collaboration. It's inspiring to see so many like-minded individuals come together to work towards common goals.

The speakers were a highlight of the conference. Brenda Moore, current President of National Garden Clubs, attended all the meetings and presentations. Brenda gave her own presentation on Tuesday. The theme of her inspiring talk was 'Say YES'. Her speech started with 'no one is a born leader'. Her talk was very motivating as she told us how she found out about her leadership skills. Brenda Moore has written four books for National Garden Club.



A suggestion that attendees dress in costume for the Tuesday dinner was well-received and there were many creative costumes, including the Delaware delegation who were all dressed as ladybugs representing Delaware's state bug. Did you know that a group of ladybugs is called a 'loveliness'?

A very talented floral designer from Virginia Beach demonstrated six different approaches to unique floral design at the luncheon on Wednesday. A terrific former teacher spoke about the art and history of horticulture on Wednesday evening.



There were beautiful floral tributes to the seven state presidents, vendors with all types of merchandise. Each state donated a raffle basket. Raffle tickets for the beautiful designer creations were also sold and went home with six very happy participants.

Overall, this conference was a resounding success. Kudos to the organizers for creating a memorable and enriching experience for all of us.

Mark your calendars for the 2024 conference which will be hosted by New Jersey at the Old Mill Inn in Basking Ridge October 22-23, 2024.



THIS AND THAT

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE THAT THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY POPULATION IS DWINDLING



In July 2022, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature added the migrating monarch butterfly to its “red list” of threatened species and categorized it as ‘endangered’ due to its dwindling numbers.

With its black veins, orange and yellow wings, and white spots, the monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable butterfly species in the world. Sadly, this categorization is just two steps away from extinction status. The good news is that there are several actions you can take now to help the monarch butterfly population rebound.

Why Monarch Butterflies Are So Important.

Monarch butterflies are known for their extraordinary annual migration, in which they travel as far as 3,000 miles. Eastern monarchs travel from the northeastern U.S. and southeastern Canada, where they breed, to hibernate in the mountain forests in central Mexico.



Monarch butterflies benefit all people. “As pollinators, the monarch butterfly migration across the continent provides an invaluable service, essential for many ecosystems to thrive,” explains Mary Philips, head of Garden for Wildlife at the national Wildlife Federation. “It is thanks to pollinators, such as butterflies, that we have many of the flowers and dietary staples that we enjoy, like squash and blueberries.”

Wildlife at the national Wildlife Federation. “It is thanks to pollinators, such as butterflies, that we have many of the flowers and dietary staples that we enjoy, like squash and blueberries.”

Why Monarch Butterflies Are Endangered. Several factors have contributed to the decline of monarch butterflies. Monarchs are threatened by widespread habitat loss. Deforestation caused by agriculture and urban development have destroyed areas in Mexico and

California where the butterflies spend the winter months. Pesticides and herbicides used in agriculture are killing butterflies and the pollinator-attracting milkweed plants they rely on. Changing weather patterns driven by climate change are making some monarch habitats less suitable, causing changes in migratory patterns.

What Your Garden Can Do to Help. A few tweaks to our home gardens can help support monarch butterflies.



Plant milkweed. Milkweed is the only plant that monarch caterpillars eat, and its leaves are where the adult butterflies lay their eggs. They rely on the plant for survival. Not all milkweed varieties will thrive in our location. Identify

regionally specific native milkweed by visiting the Garden for Wildlife website.

Choose native nectar plants. Monarchs need other plants, too, especially those with nectar-bearing flowers.

Avoid pesticides. Pesticides and herbicides can harm wildlife, including caterpillars and butterflies. Be sure to ask how plants are treated before purchasing them at the local garden centers.

Set up a butterfly puddling station. Create a mud puddle (or add water to sand) in a sunny spot in the yard and set a flat stone beside it. Butterflies will be attracted to the area to sun themselves on the stone and sip the water.

Other Ways to Help Monarch Butterflies. In addition



to our own gardens, advocate for native habitat restoration, alternatives to pesticides, and local policies that benefit monarch butterflies. Make an effort to educate others about declining monarch butterfly populations and encourage

them to take steps to protect this precious species.

Reference: Schwartz, Sandi (Published August 2, 2022) Bob Vila Online Newsletter.

Photos: istockphoto.com