



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

OCTOBER 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

PAGE 2

ACTIVITIES

PAGE 3

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

PAGE 4

THIS AND THAT



October Celebrations

- October 21st Maureen deQuevedo
- October 22nd Irina Giller
- October 23rd Mary Balasi

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>

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Garden Photography – Flex Room at *The Landing*

- 10:30 am Pre-meeting gathering.
- 11:00 am Business meeting.
- 11:30 am Program.

Through meticulous composition and an unwavering dedication to her craft, Master Gardener and Communications Specialist, Michele Walfred, invites you to explore the enchanting world of flora in ways you’ve never imagined. Her work transports viewers to a realm where petals become poetry, and the ephemeral beauty of flowers is forever frozen in time.

Activities

Pressed Flower Creations

Garden club members participated in a creative and eco-friendly workshop, where they crafted unique pressed flowers on to glass jars that can be used as



a decorative luminary containing a small battery-operated candle. Guided by their love for nature, participants carefully

selected and pressed vibrant dried flowers supplied by the program committee to the small jars. It was an experience of artistic expression and bonding, as garden club enthusiasts shared stories and techniques. The resulting containers showcased the beauty of flowers, and the event served as a reminder of the club's commitment to sustainable and imaginative gardening practices.



Plantation Lakes Fall Craft Fair

PLGC will be participating in the upcoming Craft Fair. Members are encouraged to join in the fun. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase our garden club and creative talents.

Members are encouraged to be part of this exciting event from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 22nd at **The Landing**. We've already created many pressed flower luminaries to sell. We will be gathering at the Community Center East on Saturday, October 21st to make flower arrangements to sell. Together, we can make our booth bloom with beauty and charm.

Let's cultivate a vibrant presence at the fair and spread our love for gardening. Hope you will join us in making this Craft Fair a blooming success!

www.plantationlakesgardenclub.org

Salute to Veterans

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 floral arrangement featuring a red, white and blue patriotic theme. Finished containers will be delivered to a local facility for distribution to veterans.

Members are reminded to save their tuna can size containers for the arrangements. Bring them to either Pat Minnigh or Margaret Woda by Sunday, October 29th.

Margaret is a life member of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs and the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs. Margaret designed and implemented the website for PLGC and CAR-SGC. Margaret has worked with other garden clubs on their websites and membership drives. Margaret currently serves as Chair of the DFGC Membership Committee. Margaret is also an active member of Gardeners By The Sea Garden Club in the Bethany Beach area and is currently working on the Blue Star and Gold Star memorial ceremony and dedication at the Evans Park Center on October 14th in Millville.

Veterans Day Ceremony

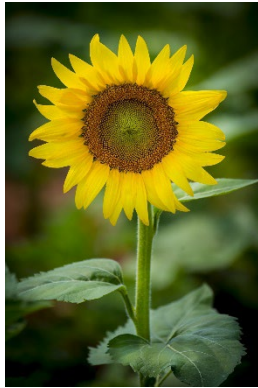
Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 11:00 am. Members of Plantation Lakes Garden Club Blue Star Memorial Committee coordinates an event each year honoring veterans of the armed forces and those killed in the country's wars. Veterans Day commemorates the service of all U.S. veterans. Additional details will be provided at upcoming meetings.

News for Members

SUNFLOWERS TO THE RESCUE!

The sunflower, or *Helianthus annuus*, from the Greek helios, meaning “Sun,” is a powerful plant in the world of industry and art. There are few people in the world who would be unable to recognize its shining yellow face in a garden or field.

This bright, cheerful flower has given us a delicious and hardy seed, a versatile cooking oil, leaves for cattle feed, a stem strong enough to make paper, and of course, much beauty. It has also, as of late, brought us something even more special: the ability to remove harmful toxins from our



soil, helping us to handle the earth more safely around us and grow food for ourselves and our communities.

The sunflower is one of many plants that are now known to aid in “phytoremediation,” a process that employs various types of plants to remove, transfer, stabilize, and/or destroy contaminants in our soil, water, and air. Compared to other cleanup methods, such as soil excavation or pumping polluted groundwater, phytoremediation has become a clean, cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to reclaim and reuse land that has been tainted by poisonous chemicals and heavy metals.

Sunflowers are not only able to absorb lead, but other dangerous heavy metals such as arsenic, zinc, chromium, copper, and manganese. Probably the most astounding example of phytoremediation was the use of a type of sunflower to clean up contaminated soil in the Ukraine following the Chernobyl disaster. Project Sprout based out of Tulane City Center in New Orleans, focuses on planting bio-energy gardens that include plants like sunflowers as a way to remediate the soil and to support urban revitalization in New Orleans after hurricanes.

Source: *Blumenthal, Sherie. Farmers Almanac June 11, 2012.*

www.plantationlakesgardenclub.org

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATES

The directory is continuously updated online, and replacement pages will be provided at least quarterly. Anyone who would like to have their picture included in the directory should provide a photo in *.jpg format to Mary Williford.

CAR-SGC 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

October 24-25, 2023 Conference and Tri-Refresher
“Seven Strong on a Fall Adventure”
Radisson Hotel Corning, New York

CAR-SGC 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

October 21-24, 2024

The Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ

DFGC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

10:00 a.m. Kings Creek Country Club

1 Kings Creek Circle
Rehoboth Beach, DE

Hosted by Sussex Gardeners

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

Stephen Pryce Lea, Director of Horticulture at Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek in Dagsboro will be the presenter. DFGC meetings in Sussex County are very popular. Plan to make your reservation early with a check payable to PLGC for \$40 to Treasurer Irina Giller **before October 27th !**



THIS AND THAT

PLANTS FOR FALL COLOR

As summer wanes, so do the blooms on our favorite flowers, leaving us grasping for the last vestiges of natural color before winter takes hold. Those who hope to keep colors bright in their autumn yard can take heart. There are dozens of plants that can provide vibrant color and visual interest in an autumn landscape, even as cooler fall days give way to winter.

Ornamental Kale. Ornamental kale and cabbage are cultivated for looks, not taste. Their low habit and brilliant colors make them an optimal choice for cool-weather edging and ground cover. Though their flavor will not appeal to humans, they make a tasty treat for animals, so locate them appropriately especially if deer might visit. Kale and cabbage plants don't tolerate hot weather. Be sure temperatures have cooled before planting.



Coral Bells. Shade-loving coral bells send up delicate stalks of flowers in spring and summer, but their colorful foliage lasts through fall and beyond. Coral bells prefer rich, moist, well-drained soil and do better if they're shaded for a good part of the day. They'll grow as tall as 3 feet and as wide as 2 feet.



Strawflowers. The papery blooms on strawflowers make them a favorite with crafters who want to add a playful touch to potpourris or wreaths, and gardeners will find them easy to grow in sunny beds. When cared for properly, these fast-growing, short-lived perennials will return for 3 or 4 years. Plant them in full or partial shade in sandy or rocky soil that's neutral or mildly acidic.



Snapdragons. The tall columns of spectacular flowers emerge in spring in any of a wide variety of colors. Snapdragons are loved for their cold-hardiness, and while they generally take a break from blooming during the height of the summer, they'll start up again as the hot season eases into autumn. Plant them in sun or part sun in moist, well-draining soil.



American Beautyberry. Clusters of tiny, glossy purple berries make American beautyberry an autumn showstopper. In spring months, the shrub attracts pollinators like bees and butterflies with its flowers, and in fall its fruit adds color to the yard. The berries adorn the plant's draping branches well after the leaves have fallen. Requiring very little care, this low-maintenance shrub is the perfect choice for lazy gardeners.



Pansy. Hardier than they look, pansies are a graceful cold-season annual that can withstand the variable temperatures of fall. There's a color for every garden's palette. Thriving in rich, well-drained soil, pansies grow in compact mounds about 12 inches tall and wide. Plant them in an area that gets about six hours of sun daily.



Chrysanthemum. Sales start in August of this staple for fall decorating schemes. Many people treat mums as annuals, displaying them in container gardens to add color to a fall porch. They can, however, also be grown as perennials when planted directly in a flower bed. Remove perennial varieties from their pots and plant them before the ground freezes for a good chance they'll return.



Helenium. A member of the sunflower family, helenium is an herbaceous perennial that lights up with dense clusters of orangey-red flowers in the fall. Also known as sneezeweed, helenium sports long-lasting blooms that add color to the garden, or to centerpieces as cut flowers. Low maintenance and deer resistant, they will add cheer to the garden year after year.



Aster. With daisy-like flowers that bloom in late summer and fall, aster brings a shock of color to the garden as other bloomers fade. With a palette consisting of pink, purple, red, and white, these cheery perennials inject a jolt of joy when needed most. As a bonus, aster will attract butterflies to the yard. Plant these beauties in a sunny spot and keep the soil consistently moist but not saturated.



Reference: Noonan, Jennifer and Castelaz, Caitlin (Published August 29, 2023) Bob Vila Online Newsletter..

Photos: istockphoto.com