



# 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

## SEPTEMBER 2023

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### *June - September Celebrations*

June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Lori Kaupas
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen Appleman
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Kim Stavely
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Herbert
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Darr
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Speirer
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Williford
August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Catherine Gratton
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Ferrone

### SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

#### *Pressed Flowers – Flex Room at The Landing*

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

*Don't forget to bring your own pressed flowers!*

### 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](http://www.plantationlakesgardenclub.org)



# Activities

## Bearhole Farms Experience



Although our tour of Bearhole Farms did not go quite as anticipated, we made the best of it and spent quality time getting to know our new members, Catherine Gratton, Peggie Dowling and Connie Speier. While Bearhole Farms continues to provide year-round fresh lettuce and other vegetables, we were quick to observe that the loving attention to detail from owner, Cindy Stevens, to some degree has declined due to her illness. We wish her a full recovery and continued success.



## Mother's Day Luminaries

Just like last year, Mother Nature had other ideas for our planned Saturday evening, May 13th display of the Mother's Day Luminaries. She gave us a much better day on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and it was worth the wait. The illuminated bags stayed out until Tuesday morning. It was a very moving experience to see our neighbors/friends gathering at the display waiting for the sun to go down on Sunday night. Our

[www.plantationlakesgardenclub.org](http://www.plantationlakesgardenclub.org)

community has been very generous and kind in connection with our activities such as this fundraiser for the youth garden. We are very grateful for their continued support. Stop by the youth garden on your way to the East Side pool this summer to check on our progress.

## August Open House

Our new Second Vice President and Membership Chair, Janet Parham, organized a very successful open house for those interested in learning more about Plantation Lakes Garden Club and possible membership. **SEVEN** new members will be installed at the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We are looking forward to getting to know Maureen deQuevedo, Nancy Ferrone, Corlean Harvey, Leslie Herbert, Lori Kaupas, Mary Marcum and Maryrose Walsh.

President Debbie Darr presented an overview of PLGC's five core objectives, club activities, projects and programs, including the youth activities and garden, public education, ways and means fundraising. First Vice President and Program Chair Pat Minnigh provided a brief outline of the programs for the coming year as well as information on the Blue Star Memorial and the annual Salute to Veterans. Mary Williford shared information about our affiliates and leadership opportunities.



The guests asked great questions of the presenters and showed enthusiasm for home gardening, community beautification and conservation while adapting to a different environment. Now that they've had some time to think about it, perhaps several of the others will be joining us soon!

# News for Members

## GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY

The program for our October meeting will focus on photography of our garden flowers and plants. Our current yearbook contains photographs taken last summer by some of our current members. The Yearbook Committee would love to use your photographs for next year's book.

## VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will take place on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at the Blue Star Memorial Garden adjacent to the Community Center East. Co-Chairs Pat Minnigh and Denise Roth-Clark will be seeking volunteers to assist at the ceremony and reception afterwards.

The Blue Star Memorial program honors all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Services. National Garden Clubs (NGC) adopted this program in 1945. The Blue Star was adopted because it had become an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes, churches and businesses for sons and daughters away at war.

## PHOTO DIRECTORY

The photo directory of members provided in the current yearbook will be updated as photographs are received. Most of the photos were taken outside the Flex Room at *The Landing* in early June with the pond in the background. 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

The annual conference rotates among the seven member entities. Workshops and tours are regular features. Don't miss an opportunity to experience the many facets of garden clubs from our neighboring states. Although the glass-blowing events are marked as 'sold out', we have the inside scoop that individuals may make their own arrangements at the same price.

The CAR-SGC website, [www.car-sgc.org](http://www.car-sgc.org), has the agenda, program details and conference registration information. If you've ever considered a trip north to see the fall foliage, this conference is a great opportunity to not only take in the fall foliage but to expand your knowledge in a fun and festive atmosphere. **Registration ends September 20<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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 27<sup>th</sup>!**



## THIS AND THAT

### Gardening Myths

Gardening is an age-old practice and is therefore filled with ancient wisdom and mythical legends. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or a budding gardener, it's easy to fall for these quirky bits of gardening lore, sprinkled generously throughout books, blogs, and neighborly advice. After all, if it worked for Grandma, it would work for us, right? Put on your gardening gloves and get ready to dig in.

#### **Bury Rusty Nails to Improve Soil Quality.**



This myth seems to have emerged from a basic understanding of chemistry. Iron is an essential plant nutrient, so why not add iron to the soil using some old nails? Yes, plants need iron, and yes, nails rust because iron reacts with oxygen. However, the resulting iron oxide, also known as rust, isn't a form plants can readily absorb. Iron needs to be in a soluble form for plants to take it up from the soil. If plants are displaying signs of iron deficiency, consider adding compost or a specially formulated iron-rich fertilizer to the soil.

#### **Human Hair Deters Pests.**



In an age-old attempt to cohabitate peacefully with nature, some gardeners began to look for humane ways to deter wildlife from their precious plants. The idea was simple: by scattering clippings of human hair around their gardens, they hoped the smell would mimic human presence and frighten off critters like deer and rabbits, keeping their gardens safe. It turns out there's a strand of truth to this one. Some gardeners report success using human hair as a deterrent, with the theory being that the smell of humans can help keep certain wildlife at bay. Not to mention, as hair decomposes, it releases vital nutrients into the soil.

#### **Bury Banana Peels to Help Roses Thrive.**



Bananas are a nutritional powerhouse, and it seems that their peels, which are often overlooked, have been recognized by gardeners as a

potent secret weapon. High in potassium – an essential nutrient that roses love – banana peels are often touted as an eco-friendly and affordable solution for robust, blooming roses. While banana peels do contain good amounts of potassium, phosphorus, and other nutrients, burying them near roses isn't the most efficient way to boost plant health. A better approach is to use a balanced rose fertilizer that contains all the necessary nutrients in the correct proportions – and just add banana peels to the compost pile.

#### **Beer Will Help the Lawn Grow.**



This myth bubbles up from the belief that the sugars and yeast in beer can feed the lawn, encouraging lush green growth. It's an appealing thought and almost too good to be true, right? Alas, as appealing as the myth might be, beer is not a magic potion for a beautiful lawn. While it's unlikely to harm grass, it won't significantly aid growth either. The trace amounts of nutrients in beer don't compare to those in specially formulated lawn fertilizers.

#### **Coffee Grounds Acidify Soil.**



Coffee lovers, this one's for you. It's well known that coffee is acidic, so it's easy to make the leap and assume that used coffee grounds must be too. The myth suggests that these grounds could be a great way to acidify soil for plants that prefer a lower pH, like azaleas or blueberries. But it turns out this myth is false. While coffee is indeed acidic, by the time those grounds have been brewed, most of the acid has leached out, leaving the grounds nearly neutral in pH. However, that doesn't mean coffee grounds are destined for the landfill. Used coffee grounds can be a fantastic addition to the compost pile or garden in other ways. They are rich in organic material, which improves soil structure, enhances water retention, and supports a healthy population of beneficial microorganisms.

Reference: Savannah Sher Published July 31, 2023. Bob Vila "The Dirt" Online Newsletter. Photos: istockphoto.com.