



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 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

PAGE 2

ACTIVITIES

PAGE 3

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

PAGE 4

THIS AND THAT

September Celebrations

- September 2nd Labor Day
- September 9th Kathy O'Halloran
- September 14th Nancy Ferrone
- September 28th Linda Baker

NEW NAME – SAME IDEA

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is in the process of renaming their Penny Pines program. The new name will be "Plant A Tree". Our processes will remain the same, i.e., Mary Balasi will circulate a donations jar at meetings. Collected funds will be forwarded to NGC. See Mary for more details.

Yearbooks 2024-2025 will be available for members at the September meeting. See Mary Williford for your copy. Payment due: \$12.00.



SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

All About Birds

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

In a lecture, Maureen Kennedy, owner of *My Backyard* in Ocean Pines, Maryland, will explore the rich avian life in Delmarva, offering insights into the habits, habitats, and identification of the region's most captivating species.



Activities

MONTHLY MEETINGS RESUME

The Membership Committee hosted an open house last month at the North Shore Community Center where six attendees expressed interest in joining Plantation Lakes Garden Club.

Throughout the summer, the Program Committee met several times to plan and finalize the schedule for the upcoming club year. These details can be found in the yearbook and will soon be available on the website.

To help us prepare for upcoming activities, we're asking you to sign up so that we can have an accurate headcount. Sign-up clipboards will be available on the tables at our meetings. Sheets printed on white paper are for regular club meetings, while those on colored paper are for optional events. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please reach out to Pat Minnigh or Debbie Darr (contact information can be found in the Member Directory). Please remember to bring your wallet or checkbook, as the following sign-up sheets will be available at the September meeting.

For Club Meetings:

- Committee Selections
- October 6th - St. Michael's Boat Trip
- November 7th - Centerpieces for Cheers
- December 5th - Holiday Lunch at Cottage Café

Other Sign-Ups:

- September 18th - Educational Speaker Series
- November 20th - DFGC Meeting
- National Garden Club Vision of Beauty Calendar

FLOWER SHOW

Flower shows are a vibrant and celebrated aspect of garden clubs, often embodying what many people associate with these groups. In May 2018, the Plantation Lakes Garden Club hosted a flower show titled "Celebrate Spring" at the Plantation Lakes Community Center East. Members were tasked with creating specific designs, showcasing their talents in table arrangements, horticulture, and small-scale designs. The club members truly excelled, earning numerous award ribbons and recognition from both the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc. An impressive achievement for a club that was just two years old.

Next month, one of the newer clubs in our area, formed with the guidance of Margaret Woda and Alva Hutchison, will be hosting its first flower show. If you're curious about the intricacies of a flower show or simply want to enjoy the displays, you're invited to attend the Four Seasons Garden Club's event at Heritage Shores in Bridgeville. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience the creativity and skill that goes into these beautiful exhibits.

Fall in Love with Gardening

**An NGC Standard Flower Show
Presented by**

**Four Seasons Gardeners of Heritage Shores
and
Spade & Trowel Garden Club**

**Friday, October 4, 2024
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Open to the public - Admission free

**Heritage Shores Ballroom
1 Heritage Shores Circle
Bridgeville, DE 19933**

**For more information:
Wendy Calvin 301-751-8730
Leeann Wells 302-228-5800**

News for Members

BRITTINGHAM FARMS EVENTS

Just a stone's throw from Plantation Lakes, Brittingham Farms is quickly becoming a popular spot for local events, including the upcoming flower arranging workshop from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Friday, September 13th hosted and led by Spectrum Farms. This floral arranging workshop



will provide the opportunity for attendees to build their own centerpiece flower arrangement using 100% Delaware grown flowers and greens harvested from Spectrum Farms. Attendees will enjoy a glass of Salted Vines' Lavender Riesling, a wine collaboration using Delaware grown culinary lavender from Brittingham Farms. While you sip wine and design florals, the workshop will also include elegantly composed charcuterie by Brittingham Farms on large French boards to satisfy the appetite. For details and registration:

<https://www.brittinghamfarms.com/product/floral-arranging-workshop/>

Another floral arranging event using pumpkins will be held from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, October 4th. An overview of locally grown flowers and floral arranging basics will be provided, along with guidance as you use fresh cut locally grown cut flowers and greens to create your own pumpkin centerpiece floral arrangement. A glass of Salted Vines wine (or equivalent fall inspired beverage) is included with the price of the event, along with access to Brittingham Farms' fall Friday happy hour event. The fall Friday happy

www.plantationlakesgardenclub.org

hour event will tentatively include a food truck and live music. For details and registration: <https://www.brittinghamfarms.com/product/spectrum-farms-pumpkin-centerpiece-floral-arranging-class-at-brittingham-farms-october-4-2024/>



DFGC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

10:00 a.m. The Executive Banquet/Conference Center
205 Executive Drive, Newark, DE 19702

Program: Selecting Shrubs for Four Seasons of Interest, Eva Monheim. Eva teaches at Longwood Gardens for the professional horticulture Program. Registration period: October 28 – November 11. Reserve with check payable to PLGC to Irina Giller, Treasurer.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

10:00 a.m. Kings Creek Country Club
1 Kings Creek Circle, Rehoboth Beach DE

Installation of Officers for 2025-2027

Program: Flower Show Floral Design Tips and Tricks with Anna O'Kelly, Past President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland and President of the Maryland Judges Council.

CAR-SGC 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

October 21-24, 2024

The Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, New Jersey

Details on www.car-sgc.org.

Registration ends September 20th.



PERENNIALS TO PLANT IN SEPTEMBER

Fall is not typically the season that comes to mind when we think about putting new plants in the ground. However, there are some gorgeous perennial plants that perform great when you plant them in September. It's a great time to plant fall flowering plants and many spring bloomers that flower on old wood.



Astilbe should go in the ground at least eight weeks before the first expected frost date with a hefty layer of mulch to give them time to establish roots. Bloom in summer with large plumes of highly textural flowers. Full sun to full shade. Height 24"-36".

Anemones are members of the buttercup family. They have long stems and delicate attractive flowers. Bloom time varies according to species. The tall flower sprays stand high above the dark green foliage, which has a purple tint. Full sun to partial shade. Height 3'-4'.



Helleborus, also known as Lenten roses, is the rose of the winter garden. Plant at least four or five weeks before the first expected frost date. A winter bloomer and an evergreen, their deep green foliage will keep things looking alive in the cold weather. Full sun to full shade. Height 12".

There are many varieties of rudbeckia, all in warm shades. The 'Chocolate Orange' variety is fancier with a deep red center that fades to bright orange at the ends of the petals. Rudbeckia greatly benefits from vernalization, which is an initial period of cool temperatures, to become established. Full sun. Height 24"-36".



Perennial tickseed is very cold tolerant. Plant them now to help them get established before winter. They will hold their foliage longer. The 'Moonbeam' variety forms a lush mound of lemon-yellow flowers for most of the summer. Works well in beds and containers. Full sun. Height 1'-2'.

Helenium, also known as sneezeweed, is a great perennial to sow in the fall. Sprinkle seeds on moist soil two to three weeks before first frost. Another plant



that likes vernalization. The seeds need to experience some cold weather to germinate. 'Waltraut' has lovely brown eyes and brick-red petals tipped with the slightest bit of yellow. Full sun. Height 2'-4'.



Late September is perennial peony planting time. In warmer areas, planting can be done into November. Fall-planted peonies tend to have a stronger constitution. 'Pink Hawaiian Coral' flowers heavily and has strong stems, perfect for cutting. Full sun to partial shade. Height 2'-3'.

September marks the end of iris planting season. These bulbs need some cold weather to grow. Planting them while the soil is still warm will help them to establish some roots before the cold sets in. Full sun. Height 2'-3'.



Chrysanthemums are perfect for fall planting. They can go in the ground as soon as the weather begins to cool, preferably while they're still blooming. Give them at least six weeks to establish before winter. 'Clara Curtis' are large and daisy-like, with soft, pink ray petals and a cheerful, yellow eye. This variety also goes by the name 'Country Girl.' Water your mums at the soil level to avoid fungal issues on the foliage. Full sun. Height 18"-24".



Hostas make beautiful borders in partially shaded areas. Some tolerate full exposure, but the afternoon sun can burn the pretty leaves. The sweet spot for planting these perennials is while the soil is warm, and the air begins to cool. Give them at least three weeks before the first freeze arrives. 'Fire and Ice' is a variegated hybrid and a smaller variety. Full sun to partial shade. Minimum height 8".



If you have six weeks to spare before the first freeze rolls in, you have time to plant coneflowers. They need this amount of time to establish roots, so they will return in the spring. These long bloomers are great for the pollinator patch, and they make long-lasting cut flowers. 'Secret Affair' is no average coneflower. Its voluminous flower heads practically glow in neon pink. There is no keeping them a secret. Unlike the standard, single-petal form flowers common in nurseries, these are much showier. They have a large, rounded cluster of petals covering their spiky cone. Full sun. Height 1'-2'.



Reference: Strauss, Melissa, Epic Gardening which is a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program (epicgardening.com), September 1, 2024. Photos: shutterstock.com