



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 2026

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A NEW SEASON OF PLGC BEGINS

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| October 1 | PLGC Cape Water Taxi Tour |

🌸 *Details on page 3.*

REMINDER FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd –
Bring \$40 cash or check payable to PLGC for the
October 1st Cape Water Taxi Tour.



There is something special about September. It feels like a fresh start—a time to reconnect, make plans, and look forward to all that lies ahead.

And PLGC has a lot to look forward to! From fascinating speakers and hands-on workshops to outings, special events, community service, and holiday celebrations, the months ahead promise to be filled with interesting experiences and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the company of fellow members.

Coming up this year:

-  Interesting Programs
-  Fun Trips & Outings
-  Creative Workshops
-  New Things to Learn
-  Community Service
-  Friendship & Fellowship

PLGC yearbooks for 2026–2027 will be available at the September 3rd meeting. It's shaping up to be another wonderful year!

Activities

PLGC OPEN HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 3rd

Come See What's Growing at PLGC! Know someone who might enjoy joining us? Stop by our Open House on **Thursday, September 3rd** at 10:00 am at *The Landing*, and learn more about our club, upcoming programs, activities, and the many opportunities to get involved. It's a wonderful chance to reconnect with friends, meet new people, and kick off another exciting year together!

YOUR CLUB AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Thursday, September 3rd
The Landing Bar & Grille
20301 Charlotte Blvd., Millsboro, DE
10:30 am Gathering
11:00 am Business Meeting
11:30 am Program

A new garden club year is about to begin, and there is so much to discover! Join our very own Lori Kaupus for an interactive tour of the Plantation Lakes Garden Club website. With cell phones in hand, we'll explore the many resources and features available right at our fingertips—from upcoming programs and club news to gardening ideas, helpful information, and photos celebrating the beauty of our community.

Whether you're already a frequent visitor to the website or have never explored it before, you're sure to discover something new! Lori will show us how easy it is to stay informed, stay connected, and make the most of everything our club has to offer.

We'll also be pleased to welcome Nadine Timpanaro, President of the Millsboro Chamber of Commerce, who will share information about the Chamber and the many ways membership supports local businesses, organizations, and our community.

DINE, DONATE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE SEPTEMBER 3rd

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 3**, and join us for a **Dine & Donate event at The Landing from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Enjoy lunch or dinner with friends while supporting the Plantation Lakes Garden Club. **Be sure to tell your waiter that you are participating in the Dine & Donate.** It's an easy—and delicious—way to help our club!

GARDEN DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION HONORING JACK PREHM

Plantation Lakes Garden Club invites residents, friends, and family to join us for a special Garden Dedication and Celebration honoring the life and legacy of Jack Prehm on **Thursday, September 10, at 10:30 a.m.** in the Plantation Lakes Veterans Garden.

Thanks to the generosity of Suzanne Worrall, the Veterans Garden has been enhanced with two memorial benches, three newly planted trees, and a beautiful stone walkway. These thoughtful additions have created a peaceful place where neighbors may gather, reflect, and enjoy the beauty of our community for years to come.

Jack, a veteran and early supporter of the Plantation Lakes community, was known for his love of gardening, golf, music, and community. His memory and the values he shared with so many will live on through this beautiful tribute.

Following the dedication ceremony, light refreshments will be served. The Plantation Lakes Garden Club is deeply grateful to Suzanne for her gift and for helping create a lasting place of beauty, reflection, and remembrance.

Together, we will celebrate Jack's life, honor his service to our country, and dedicate a beautiful garden that will continue to bring peace and enjoyment to generations of Plantation Lakes residents.

News for Members

DFGC FLORAL DESIGN SEMINAR

DFGC is sponsoring a seminar in Rehoboth Beach on September 30th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm featuring Frances Thrash who serves as Chairman for the Virginia Flower Show Schools. She is a Master Judge, and a Design and Flower Show Procedure Instructor for NGC flower shows and symposiums. Frances will demonstrate three designs: Illuminary, Reflective and Parallel. She will also spend some time on staging panels. She will prepare two designs of each type spending about 35-40 minutes on each one. Names will be drawn for participants to take home the designs (the containers do not transfer). Fee is \$35 and includes a box lunch. A registration form can be found at the end of this newsletter or register and make payment online at www.delawaregardenclubs.org.

Registration closes on September 18th.

MT. CUBA BUS TRIP SALT AIR GARDENERS

Salt Air Gardeners (Fenwick) has secured a coach bus that will depart from Bay Forest in Bethany Beach at 7:30 am on Thursday, September 17th. The fee of \$95 includes transportation, lunch, admission to Mt. Cuba, and two tours – one in the morning and one in the afternoon, returning at 6:30 pm. The bus will accommodate 54 people. Contact President Sue Giusto, sfjiusto@gmail.com or 609.213.0692. Payment by VENMO or she will pick up. **Deadline: September 3rd.**

BAREFOOT GARDENERS FLOWER SHOW

Barefoot Gardeners has rescheduled their Flower Show that was postponed last year due to weather. "Seaside Treasurers," an exhibition of plants, flowers and table design will be held on Monday, September 28th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway in Ocean City. **Free** to the Public. Refreshments available. Raffles will benefit the Club's Scholarship Fund and Fenwick's Pollinator Garden.

www.plantationlakesgardenclub.org

DFGC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026
INCLUDING AN NGC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW
"THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR"

9:30 am Welcome
10:00 am Meeting followed by lunch
1:00 pm Flower Show Opens
Location: Modern Maturity Center
1121 Forrest Avenue, Dover, DE 19904

Special guest: Donna Donnelly, President, National Garden Clubs. Plantation Lakes Garden Club will participate in the flower show with a floral design in the category **"Sharing the Holiday Spirit."** Our entry will feature a festive, functional holiday buffet table beautifully set for six. The registration period begins on October 26th and closes on November 6th. Please notify Debbie Darr if you plan to attend. Checks for \$55.00 should be made payable to PLGC.

CAR-SGC 2026 CONFERENCE - OHIO



"Ohio – The Heart of It All"

October 18 – 21, 2026
The Holiday Inn
Cleveland, Ohio

Registration closes September 20, 2026. Details at: www.car-sgc.org or ask Mary Williford or Debbie Darr.

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS

Reminder that we now have a permanent mailing address at Community Center East: **29787 Plantation Lakes Boulevard, Millsboro, DE 19966.**

PLANT A TREE

Mary Balasi or her designee will circulate a donation jar at meetings. Collected funds will be forwarded to NGC. See Mary for more details or to add the name of an honoree.



This and That

BREAKING THE RULES

As August winds down, many gardeners still follow the familiar routines of spring and early summer: deadhead, feed, prune, weed, and tidy up. Those chores become habits, and habits can be difficult to break. However, late summer is a transition period in the garden. Some tasks that encourage healthy growth in June and July are no longer helpful in August—and, in some cases, can interfere with a plant's preparation for fall and winter.

Plant growth has naturally begun to slow. Energy and nutrients are increasingly being directed below ground, toward roots, crowns, and stored reserves needed for the coming months. The goal now is not to encourage a burst of new growth, but to allow plants to complete the season at their own pace.

That does not mean abandoning the garden. It simply means changing the approach. Late-summer gardening is less about pushing plants to produce more and more about knowing when to leave well enough alone.

(Don't) Deadhead Every Spent Bloom. Deadheading in June encourages many flowering plants to continue producing blooms. By late August, however, leaving some spent flowers in place can be far more beneficial.



Coneflowers, sunflowers, and rudbeckias produce seeds that provide an important late-season food source for birds, particularly goldfinches. Goldfinches nest later than many other songbirds, timing the nesting season to coincide with the availability of seeds. Leaving mature flower heads standing provides a natural food source with no extra effort.

Self-sowing annuals deserve similar consideration. Cosmos, larkspur, nigella, and other annuals can drop seeds and produce a welcome crop of volunteer plants the following year. Another option is to collect mature seed heads, save the seeds in labeled envelopes, and choose exactly where to plant them next season.

(Don't) Feed the Perennials and Shrubs. Fertilizer, especially products high in nitrogen, encourages fresh green growth. That is beneficial in spring but can be counterproductive as fall approaches.



Tender new growth may not have sufficient time to mature and harden before cold weather arrives. Early frosts can damage or kill soft shoots, leaving plants more vulnerable to winter conditions.

Late summer is generally the time to allow established perennials and shrubs to slow down naturally rather than encouraging a new flush of growth. The emphasis should shift from producing more foliage to allowing existing growth to mature and prepare for winter.

(Don't) Prune for Shape. Late-summer pruning can trigger shrubs to produce new growth at exactly the wrong time of year. Fresh shoots may have only a few weeks to mature before cooler temperatures arrive.



Heavy pruning also uses energy that plants are beginning to store for winter. In addition, removing a significant amount of the outer canopy can suddenly expose interior branches and bark to intense late-summer sunlight.

Broken, dead, or diseased branches should still be removed whenever discovered. Removing damaged material is different from cosmetic pruning. Major shaping and rejuvenation pruning can usually wait until the appropriate dormant-season period for the plant.

Feeling organized is one of the core secrets of life if you hope to be productive. You may sow seeds helter-skelter, but that doesn't mean a gardener can completely ignore organization.

This and That

(Don't) Pull Every Last Weed. Spring weeding can make a tremendous difference because young plants are competing for water, sunlight, and growing space. By late August, established plants have generally claimed the resources needed to finish the season.

That does not mean weeds should be completely ignored.

Any weed that is flowering or preparing to set seed deserves immediate attention. A single pigweed, for example, can produce an astonishing number of seeds and create years of future work.

For weeds that need removal, a weeding knife or similar tool can help remove a deep taproot without disturbing an unnecessarily large area of soil. However, a few small, non-seeding weeds are unlikely to cause major problems in an established late-summer garden bed.



(Don't) Cut Back Yellowing Foliage Too Soon.

Yellowing foliage can look untidy, but the change in color is often part of a plant's natural preparation for dormancy. As leaves and stems begin to decline, plants can move stored nutrients and sugars downward into the roots and crown.



Removing green or partially green foliage too early interrupts that process. Waiting until stems and leaves are fully dry and brittle allows more time for the plant to complete the transfer of stored energy.

A little late-season untidiness can be a sign that important work is taking place below the surface.

(Don't) Keep the Lawn Green. A brown lawn in August is not necessarily a dead lawn. Cool-season grasses can enter a natural state of dormancy during periods of intense heat and drought. Top growth slows or stops while crowns and roots remain alive.



Established lawns can tolerate periods of summer dormancy. Frequent, shallow watering in an effort to maintain a perfectly green appearance can waste water and encourage shallow root growth.

During extended drought, occasional deep watering may be enough to help maintain the lawn without forcing continuous active growth. As temperatures moderate and rainfall returns, healthy grass often begins to green up again.

(Don't) Clear Beds Down to Bare Soil.

A perfectly clean garden bed may look tidy, but bare soil provides few benefits to the garden ecosystem. Fallen leaves, seed heads, and hollow stems can provide winter shelter for beneficial insects, native bees, beetles, and moth pupae.



Removing every bit of natural material in early fall can also remove some of the pollinators and beneficial insects that will be needed the following year. Bare soil is more vulnerable to erosion, compaction, and the impact of heavy fall rains.

Leaves that accumulate heavily on lawns can be raked and removed, while leaves and plant material that settle naturally in garden beds can often remain in place. A light layer of shredded mulch can provide a more finished appearance while still protecting the soil.

The cleanup can still happen. In many cases, the best time for major cleanup is spring, after overwintering insects have had an opportunity to emerge.

Late-summer gardening is a lesson in restraint. The garden does not always need another round of feeding, pruning, cutting, pulling, or cleaning. Sometimes the most beneficial task is to observe the changes taking place, remove only what truly needs attention, and allow nature to finish the season on its own schedule.

Source: Tyler Schuster, Gardening Know How Features, August 2026

Photos: Getty Images.



Garden Dedication and Celebration

Honoring the Life and Legacy of Jack Prehm

January 21, 1943 – October 8, 2024

A Lasting Legacy at Plantation Lakes



Please Join Us

The Plantation Lakes Garden Club warmly invites friends, residents, and family to join us for a special Garden Dedication and Celebration honoring the life and legacy of Jack Prehm.

Through the generosity of Suzanne Worrall, the Veterans Garden has been enhanced with two memorial benches, three newly planted trees, shrubs, and a beautiful stone walkway, creating a peaceful place where neighbors may gather, reflect, and enjoy the beauty of our community for years to come.

Jack was a veteran and an early supporter of the Plantation Lakes community whose love of gardening, golf, music, and neighbors left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

These enhancements serve as a living tribute to his memory and the values he shared with so many.



Dedication Ceremony

Thursday, September 10, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Plantation Lakes Veterans Garden

Light refreshments will be served following the dedication ceremony.

~ With Appreciation ~

The Plantation Lakes Garden Club gratefully acknowledges Suzanne Worrall for her gift to our community in memory of her beloved Jack. Her thoughtful contribution has created a lasting place of beauty, reflection, and remembrance for all who visit the Veterans Garden. Together, we celebrate Jack's life, honor his service to our country, and dedicate a beautiful garden that will continue to bring peace and enjoyment to generations of Plantation Lakes residents.

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." ~ Ancient Greek Proverb



Floral Design Seminar: Tips, Tricks & Techniques

September 30, 2026

\$35.00

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
20276 Bay Vista Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE
(just one block off DE Route 1, behind Big Fish Grill)

Complete your registration and payment by September 18th

Name

Cell Phone #

E-mail

Garden Club

Boxed Lunch, chips, fruit salad, cookie and bottled water. Please check one.

- Tuna Salad Sandwich
- Chicken Salad Sandwich
- Pesto Mozzarella Sandwich
- Salad (mixed greens, tomatoes, cheddar, carrots, ranch dressing)
- Salad with Shrimp

Registration must be received by September 18th. Payment will not be accepted on the day of the event.

Please save this form to your computer and E-mail registration with choice of lunch to [Registrar](#).

Indicate payment method below.

Paid by Check # _____ made payable to "DFGC".

Mail to: Michael Lotz, DFGC Treasurer, 13 Oscar Mill Lane,
Smyrna, DE 19977-4725 (include a copy of this form)

Click Pay Pal or use QR Code (with camera on your cell phone).

Enter Pay Pal Confirmation number _____



How to Pay with PayPal

1. Click the Pay Pal link or scan the QR code using the camera on your cellphone.
2. You will be taken to a secure PayPal payment page.
3. Click **your payment option (PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, Debit or Credit Card.**
4. **You do NOT need a PayPal account to pay.**
 - o If you have a PayPal account, you may sign in and pay through PayPal.
 - o If you do not have a PayPal account, select **Pay with Debit or With Credit Card** (sometimes shown as **Guest Checkout**).
5. Enter your payment information and complete the transaction by clicking the **blue** "Pay \$35.00" button
6. You will receive a payment confirmation from PayPal. Please save this confirmation for your records and copy the number to the registration form.
7. Save the registration form to your computer and send it as an attachment to Ray at dfgcregistrar@gmail.com

Questions? Please contact Mary Williford at: mewilliford@verizon.net or (301) 943-1626 (phone or text).

Dear Members,

We are testing a new registration system, so we welcome your feedback. Even if you are sending your check by USPS, please email your completed registration form to the DFGC Registrar. We ask you to do so because it will help us to know from whom to expect checks if payment was not made on-line.

Thanks for your patience and cooperation.

Sandy, Ray, Michael and Mary