



# 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 2021

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### November Celebrations

21st Pat Kircher

29th Pat Minnigh

PLGC Holiday  
Luncheon  
Thursday,  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Victoria's  
Restaurant

## NOVEMBER 2021 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### Thursday, November 4

**10:45 am** Arrive at East Coast Garden Center

**11:00 am** Short business meeting followed by Terri Bouvier, a manager at East Coast Garden Center, who admits to owning a few too many houseplants and will share with us her tips on their selection, care and lighting requirements.

### Saturday, November 6

**11:00 am** Plant spring-blooming bulbs and general clean up of Blue Star Memorial Garden and Youth Garden.

### Thursday, November 11

**11:00 am** Veterans Day Ceremony at the Blue Star Memorial followed by light refreshments at the Community Center.

# EVENTS

## ABBOTT'S MILL FIELD TRIP

The re-scheduled PLGC October field trip to Abbott's Mill Nature Preserve was worth the wait!! Our beautiful October weather was the perfect setting for those who were able to attend.



Led by our 'little leprechaun' tour guide, Nora, the serene settings within the Preserve were enjoyed by the PLGC members who were able to attend. Lush natural greenery of all sizes and descriptions could be seen along the boardwalk and the sounds of the trickling brook provided tranquility and contrast.



Nora enthusiastically jumped in and out of the plants describing them to us. The red hearts shown here is a small example of the many varieties at the Preserve.



Field after field of native plants and grasses too numerous to name provided



insight that our little Delaware has more to offer than beaches.

## DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Program Committee is delighted that the venue selected for PLGC's holiday luncheon this year is Victoria's Restaurant at the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel (on the Boardwalk) in Rehoboth Beach. For your GPS, use this address: 2 Olive Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971.

For those who have not yet been there, it's a beautiful venue and well-suited for a festive holiday gathering.



Members are invited to create a small holiday centerpiece for their place setting. Upon arrival, you will be given a number to place on your creation. At the end of the luncheon, each participant will draw a number and take home the corresponding centerpiece. Dollar Tree stores have supplies that can help you create something for under \$10. A sheet of sample ideas will be available at the meeting on November 4th and many more can be found on [Pinterest](#).

# NEWS FOR MEMBERS

## Welcome New Members

The PLGC Membership Committee spent much of this past summer planning a schedule of activities aimed at recruiting new members to the club. The kick-off for this effort occurred on September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Plantation Lakes Community Day, where information, handouts, a free raffle and invitations to our first “Open House for Information” were offered to everyone who visited our table in the parking lot.

Over the new few days, committee members went door to door to invite new Plantation Lakes residents to attend the Open House and handed out more than 150 invitations. They also posted information about the event on social media and on our website.

Their effort paid off, as a dozen prospective members attended our first “Open House for Information” held in the Flex Room at The Landing on September 30, 2021. Betty Baeschlin, Mary Balasi, Debbie Darr, Patti Kircher, Pat Minnigh and Margaret Woda welcomed them, participated in the program agenda and simply made them feel welcome.

Four of the attendees at our September event were installed as new members at the October meeting.



Left to Right: Lorraine Monakey, Irina Giller, Denise Clark, Shawn Farrell.

Two guests of Patti Kircher attended the October meeting and will be installed as members at the November meeting, which will be held at East Coast Garden Center.

The September Open House was the first of three that are scheduled for this garden club year, with another planned for January and a third one in April. But don't wait for one of those events – bring a neighbor to one of our meetings. We have some fun activities and at least two field trips planned in the new year.

## Upcoming DFGC Meeting

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs is meeting on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> in Dover at the Modern Maturity Center. Registration opens at 9 and the meeting starts at 10 am. Mary Warshauer, the president of National Garden Clubs, will be the special guest.

Registration and \$30 payment **MUST BE MADE** through our TREASURER – Pat Minnigh. Make your check out to PLGC and send to Pat at 25345 Shelby Court, Millsboro, DE 19966. **Registration deadline is NOVEMBER 3rd.**

Also, the very talented Dottie Howatt will present a program on simple designs constructed of recycled / repurposed materials suitable for table centerpieces. Dottie never disappoints! Debbie or Margaret will provide additional details and answer any questions about the state meeting. PLGC members are encouraged to attend!

## Looking Ahead

### November 18 (date change!)

2:30 pm PLGC Board and Committee Chairs meeting at the Community Center

### December 2

11:30 am Holiday Luncheon at Victoria's Restaurant

Reservations required by November 18. Menu available on PLGC website. (\$30/per person \*)

**\*Reservations and payments should be sent or given to Pat Minnigh, Treasurer, unless otherwise noted.**

## PLGC Meetings and Events

Members are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor to any garden club event whether a beginning gardener or an expert. Please remember to notify Margaret or Pat in advance so there are enough handouts for all guests. PLGC welcomes the opportunity to make new friends. Suggest that family and friends follow PLGC on Facebook.



<https://www.facebook.com/PlantationLakesGardenClub>



## THIS AND THAT

*An interesting article by Mikaya Borchert*

### **Why Is There Mold on My Houseplant Soil and How Do I Fix It?**

You might find mold on houseplant soil after bringing your plants in for the winter, or it might grow in containers that are inside year-round. It can pop up on new additions to your urban garden, or it can appear on established members of your leafy collection. Mold occurs on soil for several reasons. Understanding what caused the problem and how to get rid of it will keep your garden and home happy.

Plants have natural microorganisms that exist around them just like we have within our bodies and on our skin. Many of these microorganisms are necessary for proper plant health. When you start to notice mold emerging on the surface of the potting soil, there's an issue.

**What Causes Mold Growth on Houseplant Soil?** Mold and other fungal diseases thrive in moist, dark and stuffy environments. Unfortunately, it's easy to create those conditions, especially when gardening indoors. Try to avoid the following:

**Overwatering.** Fungus will consume any extra water lingering in a potted plant, and too much water can cause roots to rot. Houseplants usually require less water than their outdoor counterparts. While direct sunlight and wide-open spaces allow outdoor plants to dry out quickly, indirect sunlight and enclosed rooms within a home let plants retain water longer.

**Poor Drainage.** Poor water drainage can also lead to excess moisture. There are a few things that cause poor drainage: incorrect pot size, lack of drainage holes and dense soil.

Many decorative pots come without drainage holes, which allow excess water to run through the soil and out of the pot. When they're missing, all that moisture stays around the roots, where mold and fungus can use it.

If your soil is too dense, water will have trouble escaping. Potting mix is specially formulated for container gardening. It has lightweight peat moss and perlite, which help drain water. You can amend dense soil with plain peat moss, or just repot your plant in better potting mix.

**Poor Air Circulation.** Indoor plants don't always get adequate air circulation, especially in the winter when windows are closed. Plants that are kept in dark corners or on cramped shelves are particularly susceptible to this issue. Air movement helps plants dry out between waterings.

**Contaminated Soil.** Your potting soil itself can cause mold problems. While soil should have some microorganisms, it's possible for it to become contaminated before it even lands in a pot. Always inspect your bag before potting a plant, for even a well-stored soil can absorb moisture when punctured.

**Decomposing Leaves on Surface.** Mold and other fungal infections feed on decomposing plant matter, so a buildup of dead leaves will encourage mold on soil. Remove dead pieces of the plant before they pile at its base.

**Will Moldy Soil Harm My Plant?** Mold on soil may or may not harm your plant. It depends on the type you're dealing with. White mold is relatively harmless to the overall health of a plant while fungal mycelia can be a real issue. Although fuzzy, white mold on its soil may not hurt your houseplant, the conditions that allowed such mold growth will. And some molds and fungi do cause plant diseases.

**How Do I Get Rid of the Mold on My Plant Soil?** Some gardeners swear by cinnamon as a natural anti-fungal. Simply wipe off the mold and sprinkle the spot with some cinnamon from your spice drawer.

If cinnamon doesn't work, try a houseplant fungicide spray or a homemade baking soda and water mixture. Test any solution on a small part of your plant to be sure it isn't too strong. Once you've removed and treated the mold, it's important to address what allowed mold growth in the first place. Find the root cause, then adjust your plant care accordingly.

**How Can I Prevent New Mold from Growing?** Getting the right combination of sun, air, soil and water will keep the natural balance of your soil in check. Start by watering only when necessary. Many houseplants come with care instructions, but that guidance is usually for where the plant was grown, not necessarily your area.

Instead of watering on a rigid schedule, stick a finger a few inches into the soil to check its moisture level. Hydrospeaks are another option for forgetful plant owners.

Avoid pots without drainage holes. If you fall in love with a decorative pot that doesn't have holes, there are a few things you can try. One common solution is to add landscape rocks beneath the potting soil so that water has a place to pool. You can also try to drill holes into the pot, but clay or ceramic pieces may shatter. Be aware that these solutions are not guaranteed, so you may end up repotting your plant due to mold on its soil.

Finally, place your houseplant where it will get enough sunshine and air circulation. This means that tight spaces and forgotten corners might need fake plants. If an open window is out of the question, consider using a fan to mimic a natural breeze.