



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 2021

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October Celebrations

7th Joan Conrad

23rd Betty Baeschlin



OCTOBER 2021 FIELD TRIP AND PROGRAM

11:00 am Following the business meeting, Cherie Lejeune, formerly President of the National Capital Area of Garden Clubs, Inc., and now Virtual Resources Chair for the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, will be presenting ideas for enhancing our marketing events, publications and program presentations to larger audiences.

Lunch on your own.

2:00 pm Abbott's Mill in Milford, Delaware guided tour through lush deciduous and Atlantic White Cedar woodlands. We may use their handicap-accessible boardwalk to follow a clear coastal plain stream to open meadows, picnic area, and a Garden for Wildlife. Attendees are asked to make a small donation to Abbott's Mill Nature Center.

Physical Address: 15411 Abbott's Pond Road
Milford, DE 19963

Website Address: delawarenaturesociety.org/centers/abbotts-mill-nature-center

Garden Club's
theme "Focus
on Community"
aligns with
Plantation
Lakes
Community Day.

YOUTH GARDEN

GARDEN CLUB AND YOUTH = A WINNING COMBINATION

The Plantation Lakes Community Day event on Saturday, September 25th was certainly a success for Plantation Lakes



Garden Club as they showed off their love of

community, gardening and youth. The results speak for themselves. More



than 30 young members of the community assisted with planting purple pansies in the flower bed designated

by the HOA. After planting, the youth were invited to participate in garden themed craft projects to take home. Club members had a



blast, too! These pictures are worth thousands of words!



NEWS FOR MEMBERS

Membership on the Rise ...

Garden Club members Patti Kircher, Betty Baeschlin, Mary Balasi, Debbie Darr, Margaret Woda and Pat Minnigh hosted our club's first Open House for Information on September 30th in the Flex Room at *The Landing*.



Eight prospective members attended, and another half dozen people expressed interest but were unable to attend the event. Of the eight attendees, seven came as a result of invitations delivered to their front door by committee members Pat Minnigh and Margaret Woda, and one came with a friend. Two of our guests submitted membership applications at the event and we expect to install them at our October meeting.

In addition to the 100+ invitations distributed to Plantation Lakes new homeowners since January of 2020, several invitations were picked up by attendees at the Plantation Lakes Community Day on September 25th. Other neighbors who expressed interest in our garden club saw our posts about the Open House on Facebook.



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>

Looking Ahead

October 7

2:00 pm Abbot's Mill Tour

November 4

10:45 am Brief business meeting followed by

11:00 am Presentation on house plants at East Coast Garden Center (\$10 fee).

November 6

Time TBD Blue Star and Youth Garden Cleanup and bulb planting.

November 11

Time TBD Veteran's Day recognition at Blue Star Memorial site.

November 26

Time TBD PLGC Board meeting at Community Center.

December 2

11:30 am PLGC Holiday Luncheon at Victoria's Restaurant. Menu to be available soon.

In August 2021, website visits to PlantationLakesGardenClub.org were up 210%. New visitors comprised 86% while 14% were return visitors.

The number of direct visitors were 32, 10 came from a Google search and 7 from Facebook for a total of 49 visitors.

Can we assume that at least a dozen of the returning visitors were garden club members?



THIS AND THAT

An interesting article by Melany Love.

IF YOU SEE WHITE STUFF ON YOUR MULCH, THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS

Don't let the icky appearance deceive you - that white stuff on mulch can be beneficial to your landscape.

Who doesn't love a beautiful, healthy yard? Some may opt for edible landscaping while others focus on the bright hues and fragrances of certain blossoms. No matter what you grow, it's important to take the correct steps for proper care.

So when it comes to mulch and compost, all you seasoned gardeners out there know a thing or two. But what's that white stuff on mulch?

THAT WHITE STUFF ON MULCH IS SLIME MOLD

Yes, that odd, spongy mass of white spores is actually a slime mold.



But a slime mold isn't actually a fungus in the sense of the word as we understand it. Instead, it's more like an amoeba and often appears as a giant, icky blob. They don't really identify

as either plant or animal and actually exist to decompose organic matter.

This particular type of slime mold spreads through individual spores. It may not look the prettiest, but it's beneficial to your organic mulch. The slime mold will actually work to return vital nutrients to your soil. It's not poisonous or toxic and typically dries up and spreads its spores elsewhere after a while.

HOW TO GET RID OF SLIME MOLD

There is no surefire way to prevent slime mold from appearing on your mulch. And, as mentioned before, it works to help instead of hurting the mulch. However, if you find the white slime is conflicting with your aesthetic, you can simply bury the mold into the mulch itself. You can also use a rake to remove the mold and dispose of it somewhere else, or if you'd prefer to wait for it to finish its job, let it dry out to powder and blast it with a hose. Just remember to say thank you for all the hard work it's doing for your beautiful flowers



PREPARE YOUR LAWN FOR FALL

A beautiful garden deserves a luscious lawn surrounding it. Most homeowners assume that at the end of the Summer, their grass care duties are over. The truth is that Fall is the time when your lawn needs you the most. That's the best time to get it ready for Spring. Follow these five steps and you'll have the healthiest lawn you've ever had next Spring when things start greening up again.

Water: If it's been a dry fall, make sure the soil is moist going into winter. It's very stressful for the root system to go for months in bone-dry soil. Even when it's cool, the soil is still losing moisture to the atmosphere, just not as quickly as it does when it's hot.

Rake: Don't leave dead leaves on your lawn. They'll only promote mold and smother the grass when it's trying to get started next Spring. Plus, it's much easier to rake them up in the Fall when they're dry.

Aerate: If you have heavy soil, Fall is the time to aerate. Do it when the soil is moist and before you fertilize. Aerating loosens the soil, which allows roots to spread and oxygen to penetrate.

Fertilize: Even though the lawn is beginning to turn brown, the roots are hard at work storing nutrients for the winter and the following growing year. Fall is the single most important time to fertilize.

Mow: For the last cutting of the season, the mower should be set to about 1-1/2 in. and cut the grass short. That will help prevent snow mold in your yard. ~ *Family Handyman*