



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

MAY 2023

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May Celebrations

- 1st May Baskets on Display
- 9th Cassie Camacho
- 14th Mother's Day
- 23rd Pat Gardner
- 29th Memorial Day

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

NO DIRT NEEDED!

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

- 10:30 am Carpools depart from *The Landing*
- 11:00 am Meet at Bearhole Farms
37756 Bear Hole Road, Selbyville, DE
for Aquaponic Gardening Demonstration
by Cindy Stevens, Owner
- 12:00 pm Business meeting

We will learn how aquaponic growing maintains and expands sustainable agricultural practices.



Members should bring a brown bag lunch.

Activities

Terrarium in a Jar

Alva Hutchison, our program presenter at the April meeting, who is also President of Gardeners By The Sea Garden Club in Millville/Ocean View/Bethany and recently installed as First Vice President of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs for the 2023-2025 term, vivaciously talked us through making our own terrariums in a jar.

We learned about the important components from the bottom up that are part of a healthy terrarium. Our member, Donna Williams, purchased the leftover materials then shared her learning experience with her granddaughters. The results below are their beautiful terrariums.



As members of PLGC, our monthly programs bring us together each month for rewarding experiences.

Spring Plant Sale

Our plant sale this year focused on pre-orders that were picked up on Saturday, April 22nd at the new Community Center in North Shore. Committee Chair Donna Williams with assistance from Debbie Darr collected the orders, coordinated with Lakeside Greenhouses and assembled the orders for pickup. On the day of pickup, members Shawn Ferrell and Linda Pellerano were assisted by Donna's granddaughters and Ralph Darr to get the orders into the hands of the purchasers. We determined that our previous plant sales in the past may have been more profitable because of the foot traffic and frequent notices that the HOA would send out in email blasts to the community. Thanks to all who supported the event.

Mother's Day Luminaries

The successful Luminaries fundraiser for the Youth Garden will be back this year. The committee will have 150 bags to sell and prepare for the event beginning on Saturday, May 13th. Order forms are available on the website and will be shared by the HOA. Committee members will be at the Community Center East on May 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and on May 5th and May 11th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm to take orders. The cost to reserve a bag in memory of or in honor of a special person is \$5.00. These bags from last year were waiting for the rain to stop!



News for Members



ELECTION RESULTS

Plantation Lakes Garden Club Officers 2023-2025 are:
 President Debbie Darr
 First Vice President Pat Minnigh
 Second Vice President.....Janet Parham
 Treasurer Irina Giller
 Recording SecretaryDenise Clark
 Corresponding Secretary Donna Williams-Paddock
 Parliamentarian.....*To be appointed by the President*



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

NOTE STARTING TIME is 10:30 am! The officers will be installed by DFGC President, Ginny Cardona, at a brunch on Thursday, June 1st in the Flex Room at *The Landing*. To get a head count for the brunch, a sign-up sheet will be available at BearHole Farms on Thursday, May 4th. The cost is \$22 per person. Debbie will send an email to everyone who has not signed up to confirm their attendance.



2023-2024 YEARBOOK

Over the summer months the Program Committee will be meeting to determine programs for the coming year. The information will be included in the yearbook that will be available for members in September.

Ideas and suggestions are welcome! What would you like to see or do? We need at least one field trip! Please contact Pat Minnigh with your recommendations. This is your club – your contributions are important!

A photo directory of members is in planning stages for the yearbook. Mary Williford plans to take photos at the meeting in June. Anyone who does not have their picture taken will be asked to submit a selfie by August 1st.



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 as well as going somewhere different!

The CAR-SGC website, www.car-sgc.org, will be updated in the next couple of weeks with 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.



DFGC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

10:00 a.m. Heritage Shores in Bridgeville
 Hosted by: Four Seasons Gardeners Garden Club
 Program: TBD

Awards will be presented at this meeting.

Sussex County is fortunate to have had a DFGC meeting last November in Dewey Beach and the upcoming DFGC meeting at Heritage Shores in Bridgeville in June. Typically, these meetings are held in either the Dover or Wilmington areas. Garden clubs from all over Delaware are represented. The meeting last November was a sell-out! If you’re thinking about attending in June, make your reservation early with a check for \$40 to Pat Minnigh before June 4th!



THIS AND THAT

Bee Attractions

Enticing bees to a garden helps flowers and vegetables grow and keeps the populations of these important pollinators robust. With recent declines in both native and non-native bee populations caused by colony collapse disorder, climate change, and pesticides, it's more important than ever to plant flowers that will seduce and sustain those essential pollinators. Flowers that attract bees tend to have white, yellow, blue, or violet hues, since these insects have difficulty seeing red. Bee-friendly plants aren't necessarily native plant types, however natives typically provide more nectar and pollen than hybrid plants.

Here are a few considerations with very brief descriptions. Get more information online or at a local nursery.



English Lavender is a fragrant plant that has both pollen and nectar. Typically blooms during a midsummer gap when bees are usually the hungriest but have fewer pickings.



Annual Sunflower draws bees to the smorgasbord of pollen and nectar found in the flowers' large centers. Requires yearly seeding and grows to impressive heights with bright blooms.



Lamb's Ear leaves that are soft and fuzzy on this hardy plant can tolerate a multitude of soil and sun conditions and sends up spikes of purple flowers in late spring and early summer.



Black-Eyed Susan is a honeybee favorite and a hardy perennial. Grows best in full sun or light shade. Dead head for more flowers and bee nectar.



Chives are early flowering plants that provide some of the first nectar for bees coming out of winter dormancy. Easy to grow and a flavorful herb for cooking.



Salvia comes in both annual and perennial varieties. The perennial is a low-maintenance plant, commonly called meadow sage, and performs best in full sun. Comes in several colors including deep purple-blue. Will rebloom if flower spikes are removed after the first bloom.



Grape Hyacinth is one of the most fragrant blooms in the early spring garden. This member of the lily family shouldn't be confused with hyacinth – a completely different flower. Plant bulbs in the fall for spring color choosing a spot with sun or part shade.



Sedum offers a late summer and autumn buffet to both bees and butterflies. There are more than 500 varieties of this hardy and drought-resistant plant.



Bee Balm in lavender or white varieties rather than red with their tubular blooms on the plants' tousled flowerheads bee-witch long-tongued visitors such as honeybees and bumblebees. Prefer full sun and can vary in size from 2 feet to 4 feet depending on the species.



Cosmos is an annual flower that typically blooms from midsummer until frost. Can grow to 8 feet with 3- to 4-inch blooms. Single blooms are usually easier for pollinators to access than fancier double blooms.



Sweet Alyssum with its scent of honey grows to between 3 and 12 inches with clusters of tiny white, pink or violet flowers is a low-growing bedding plant that makes a nice contrast when planted near taller flowers. It's a hardy annual that can bloom from spring through late autumn in full to partial sun although it may stop flowering during the hottest part of the summer.

Reference: Jennifer Noonan and Audrey Stallsmith Updated March 17, 2023. Bob Vila "The Dirt" Online Newsletter. Photos: istockphoto.com.