



# 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

## JANUARY 2023

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### *January Celebrations*

- 14<sup>th</sup> Kathy Komyanek
- 16<sup>th</sup> Crystal Chamberlain
- 21<sup>st</sup> Janet Parham

### 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>

## PLEASE NOTE

LOCATION CHANGE  
FOR  
JANUARY 5, 2023 PROGRAM

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 10:30 AM | EAST COAST GARDEN CENTER<br>30366 CORDREY ROAD<br>MILLSBORO, DE 19966 |
| 11:00 AM | BUSINESS MEETING  |
| 11:30 AM | BIRDSCAPING 101<br>PRESENTED BY DONNA PRICE                           |

# Activities

... and a Happy New Year!

Club members and invited guests thoroughly enjoyed the December 1<sup>st</sup> holiday gathering and membership appreciation luncheon at The Restaurant at Lighthouse Sound. The beautiful day complimented the beautiful vista of the Ocean City, Maryland skyline that could be seen from all the windows. New members were introduced to former members, and all enjoyed visiting with several non-garden club guests, including HOA manager, Joe Fulco and assistant manager, Antoinette Paytas.

On behalf of the PLGC Executive Committee, Debbie Darr brought unique gift bags for all the guests. Each guest chose a bag. Then the surprise! Pass your selected bag to the person on your left. There were lots of oohs and laughs from every table. Unfortunately, the photo of Debbie in her holiday headdress was too blurry to share!



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*Abridged from the book Fahrenheit 451 ~*

Everyone must leave something behind when he dies. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built, or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched, some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there.

It doesn't matter what you do, so long as you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that's like you after you take your hands away. The difference between the man who just cuts lawns, and a real gardener is in the touching. The lawn-cutter might just as well not have been there at all; the gardener will be there a lifetime. ~Ray Bradbury



# News for Members

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The new year brings exciting opportunities for members to share their interests and ideas in all things PLGC. This year members will select and elect a new Board of Directors for the 2023-2025 term.

In 2016, twelve neighbors who barely knew each other, embarked on a journey that created Plantation Lakes Garden Club. Only two of those in attendance at the first meeting had ever belonged to a garden club and neither ever served in a leadership role. That didn't stop any of us, however.

Each member brought unique talents and life experiences to embrace a board member or other leadership role. Those tentative first steps into unknown territory led to friendships and learning opportunities which continue to this day. It was literally a group learning experience for every PLGC member!

Pre-COVID, the monthly board and most committee meetings were held at a member's home. We were all anxious to see our neighbors' new homes and the camaraderie enjoyed by members was both nurturing and enjoyable. Could the future include a return to this practice...field trips or programs we've never considered before or favorites that we'd like to repeat...perhaps potential collaboration with other garden clubs for field trips or other events? With a healthy mix of previous and new members in leadership roles and as committee chairs, anything is possible.

According to PLGC Bylaws, officers and committee chairs serve a two-year term beginning and ending in odd-numbered years. It is time now for us to identify potential members of the executive board: President, First Vice President (Program Committee

Chair), Second Vice President (Membership Committee Chair), Treasurer (Finance Committee Chair), Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Parliamentarian. The PLGC Board of Directors includes all members of the executive board and the chairperson of each committee.

Every member of the club will receive a call from a member of the Nominating Committee in January to request participation in the nominating process, to answer any questions about the board positions, to determine any interest in a board member position and to encourage recommendations for other members for a role on the executive board. PLGC needs and wants you and your unique talents!

## 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!

## DFGC MEETINGS

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. The Executive Banquet and  
Conference Center in Newark

Hosted by: Countryside Garden Club

Program: *The How's and Wows of Longwood*  
Presented by Jim Sutton

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

10:00 a.m. Heritage Shores in Bridgeville

Hosted by: Four Seasons Gardeners Garden Club

Program: TBD



## THIS AND THAT

### Propagate houseplants to expand an indoor garden.

Would you like to green up your indoor space, but lack the greenbacks for more plants? Make new ones quickly from those you or your friends already have. According to Merriam-Webster, to propagate means “to cause to...increase by sexual or asexual reproduction.” Since most houseplants grow from divisions or cuttings rather than seeds, let’s focus on the latter method.

For success with cuttings, use sharp, sterilized pruning shears, garden scissors, or a utility knife and make cuts at 45-degree angle. Allow succulent divisions or cuttings a couple of days for their wounds to callus over before potting and keep new transplants out of direct sun for about 10 days to allow time to recover.

**ZZ Plant** (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*) ~ Before attempting to propagate a ZZ houseplant with cuttings, consider whether the “parent plant” really is a single plant or actually several crowded together in the same pot. Though its name might sound like a snore fest, this recently introduced plant can make more plants easily. Simply pull it from the pot and gently tug its rhizomes apart before giving each specimen its own container full of potting soil.



**Burn Plant** (*Aloe vera*) ~ The burn plant does all the work of propagation for you by “whelping” pups around its base. They can be weaned from their mother, each to be top dog in its own container. Accomplish this type of division by easing the root balls apart, using a sharp knife to slice where necessary.



**Queen’s Tears** (*Billbergia nutans*) ~ As with succulents, some bromeliads make offsets – this one so much so that it often is called “friendship plant” for the ease with which growers can share it. Keep in



mind that the original queen will die after she flowers. Hence the tears, which actually are droplets of nectar in those blooms! You can divide the plant and repot the royal offspring when they are 6 inches tall.

**Spider Plant** (*Chlorophytum comosum*) ~ The spider plant also makes babies, but hers dangle from her “apron strings” (runners called stolons). Encourage a sperling to put down roots of its own by setting a small container full of potting soil beside the mother plant. Bend a stolon and pin a plantlet – with its knobby base down – onto the surface of the soil with a landscape staple. Leave it in place until it becomes rooted to the spot – after which you can cut its apron string.



**Flaming Katy** (*Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*) ~ Katy can grow lanky after blooming, but often considerably makes new roots at her joints (call adventitious or aerial roots). Cut one of those stems off below the roots and position it in a pot of cactus potting mix so that the roots are beneath the surface. Alternatively, you can place a cutting without roots in a juice glass containing an inch or so of water, keeping it in bright indirect light until it produces some roots.



**African Violet** (*Saintpaulia ionantha*) ~ Take a leaf from your grandmother – either figuratively or literally – and root it to produce a new African violet. To do that, fill a small juice glass nearly to its top with water and cover it with a small piece of aluminum foil. Then punch a hole in that foil with a pencil and suspend the leaf in the hole so that its ½-inch-long stem dangles into the water while the leaf itself remains above.



*Reference: Stallsmith, Audrey featured in Lawn & Garden newsletter at Bob Vila online.*

*Photos: iStock Photos*