



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

MARCH 2022

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March Celebrations

17th St. Patrick's Day

19th Margaret Woda



Donate your coins for the National Garden Clubs' Penny Pines project – saving forests \$68 at a time.

<https://www.gardenclub.org/penny-pines>

Mary Balasi, PLGC Chair

Remember to Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time Arrives

2:00 am Sunday, March 13, 2022

MARCH PROGRAM

Thursday, March 3 – Flex Room at The Landing

11:00 am Gardening for Water & Wildlife
Presenter: Nora Childers
Lead Teacher Naturalist
Abbott's Mill Nature Center

Unsure about which invasive species to avoid? Nora's presentation will include information on this topic and show us how to create landscaping that provides safe, clean and healthy habitats for birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife.



HOUSEPLANTS

THE BEST HOUSEPLANTS TO PURIFY INDOOR AIR, ACCORDING TO NASA

Besides adding color to your living room, houseplants can help clean the air you breathe. A study by NASA to determine the air-filtering abilities of indoor plants – for us in future space missions – found that many common houseplants can significantly improve indoor air quality. Here are a few:

Areca Palm



This lush, tropical palm will help clean your house of the toxins xylene (from automobile exhaust, gasoline, paint varnish and rust preventatives) and toluene (found in paint thinners, paintbrush cleaners, nail polish, glues, inks and stain removers). Areca palm scored high in the tests NASA administered and is consistently mentioned as a top air-filtering plant in more recent studies. Yet this palm is probably best known for its ability to naturally humidify the air, which makes it an ideal fit for homes in particularly dry climates.

Golden Pothos



This low-light, vibrant green houseplant helps reduce air toxins such as formaldehyde, benzene (used to make plastics, resins, synthetic fibers, rubber lubricants, dyes, detergents, drugs and pesticides), and trichloroethylene (found in consumer products, including some wood finishes, adhesives, paint removers, and stain removers). Due to its extremely resilient nature, this plant is easy to care for and propagate. Just be careful with this plant around children and pets; golden pothos can be poisonous if ingested.

Peace Lily

This indoor plant needs indirect sunlight and will help reduce common volatile indoor toxins; it is also one of the few houseplants shown to reduce ammonia. Known for its teardrop-shaped, unique white flowers, peace lily can filter your air and look pretty while doing it.



Parlor Palm

This tropical plant can survive in low-light situations, and, like the peace lily, parlor palm can help remove ammonia from the air. Of all the plants on this list, it is the safest to keep around your house with its nontoxic leaves.



Dragon Tree

This shrub is recognizable by the unique red edges on its leaves. Studies have shown *Dracaena marginata* to be effective at reducing the toxins xylene, trichloroethylene, and formaldehyde. This plant is adaptable to lower light and can be placed in some of the less sunny spots in your house.



While these plants cannot, on their own, eliminate indoor air toxins, they can help make the air in your home safer to breathe. NASA recommends spreading an assortment of 15 to 18 large air-purifying plants around an 1,800-square-foot house for the best results. And it's probably wise not to argue with NASA.

🌸 ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE 🌸
🌸 APRIL 21 - 23 🌸

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

On Being a Member of a Garden Club

- You enjoy interesting and varied programs at meetings, while expanding your knowledge of gardening, the environment and floral design.
- You socialize with others with similar interests, exchange ideas, and develop friendships.
- You can attend garden club meetings at a Garden Center or other locations.
- You may choose to participate in civic beautification.
- You may choose to participate in flower shows.
- The greatest benefit is the opportunity for personal growth and knowledge.
- Congratulations on taking the first step in a worthwhile journey by joining a garden club.

MEMBERSHIP MEANING

More
Enthusiastic
Members
Bring
Energy
Resources
Skills
Help
Ideas
Participation



~ Marie Purser
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Next DFGC Meetings

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 – Annual Meeting

Time TBD	“A Few of My Favorite Things” Small Standard Flower Show Presented by the Delaware Flower Show Judges Council
Location	Executive Conference Center Newark, DE

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Time, Location and Program to be announced.
Awards Presented

Looking Ahead



UPCOMING PLGC PROGRAMS

Thursday, April 7 Monthly Meeting – Flex Room

11:00 am Moon Gardening Rescheduled?

Tuesday, April 19 – Open House – Flex Room

5:00 pm Membership Recruiting

Sunday, May 1 – May Basket Display

All Day Front Porches in Plantation Lakes

Thursday, May 5 Monthly Meeting

11:00 am Delaware Botanic Garden Tour

Saturday, May 14 – Blue Star Memorial 11:00 am Garden Refresh

Saturday, May 21 – Community Day

Thursday, June 2 Monthly Meeting

12:30 pm Patriot Cruise Historic Tour of
St. Michael's

❀ ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE ❀

❀ APRIL 21 - 23 ❀



THIS AND THAT

Spring gardening is around the corner. These low-maintenance flowers work well whether you're new to gardening, have a brown thumb, or just want pretty plants without the work. The satisfaction a seasoned gardener enjoys is the result of patience, time, and experience: trial and error, taking some chances, watching things thrive—and sometimes watching them fail. But a beginning gardener needs a few sure things, plants that are easy to grow and maintain, and that will give them the confidence to move on to greater challenges. Many of these plants are available on Etsy!

Coral Bells ~ Once established, coral bells require very little maintenance and will return year after year with a mounding party of colorful foliage. The flowers come in reds, greens, yellows, oranges, purples, and even variegated varieties. The plant blooms with small spikes of flowers starting in June, but the leaves will make an impression from early spring through frost.



Marigolds ~ As far as annual flowers go, marigolds offer one of the best bangs for the buck. After you put them in the ground, you can leave them alone and they'll bloom until fall. Hardy and forgiving, marigolds tolerate most any soil condition and will even rebound after being nicked by the lawnmower. The plants can reseed themselves, so depending on your location, you may find marigolds popping up next spring. If you're so lucky, dig them up and move them as you see fit to enjoy them for another season.



Canna Lily ~ For an impressive splash of summer color, canna lilies make a bold statement. Bright red, orange, or yellow blooms top lush foliage that reaches six feet, easily. These plants will multiply each year and are easy to divide and share with friends and family.



Meadow Sage ~ This deer-resistant perennial is easy to care for and rewards the beginning gardener with long-blooming deep purple flowers. It's a favorite of hummingbirds and bees, and will become a favorite of yours, as it comes back year after year., well-draining soil, and regular watering when first planted.



Cat Mint ~ This non-culinary mint variety is a showy perennial that will bring pleasure to you—and your cat—for years to come. Blooming in early spring, it is easy to grow and tolerates both heat and drought. You don't need to do a thing for it, although if you prune the flowers after they're spent, you may get another show later in the season.



Lamb's Ear ~ Called Lamb's Ear for its soft, fuzzy foliage, this stalwart perennial will grace your garden as a border or ground cover. Though mostly grown for its low growing, mat-like foliage, it sends spikes of purple flowers up in spring. Once established, Lamb's Ear requires little maintenance. As with all flowering plants, it's best to deadhead blooms once they're spent, but Lamb's Ear will thrive whether you do or not.



Knock Out Roses ~ The Knock Out variety of roses lets gardeners of any skill level (and soil type) enjoy dazzling blooms. Knock Out roses can be planted individually, or as a colorful hedge. They bloom all summer long and well into fall with no special care. While they will perform best if pruned after the last frost, they'll come back year after year, even if you don't. If you do decide to cut them back for shaping purposes, do it any way you like—the plant won't mind!



Liriope ~ Also known as monkey grass, liriope provides evergreen color, seasonal flower spikes, and fall and winter berries. This ground cover will crowd out weeds and can spread to fill in bare spots with no effort from you. Just be sure to plant it in an area where you don't mind it spreading out or be prepared to prune it back.



Dusty Miller ~ Dusty Miller, with its lacy, silvery white leaves, makes a wonderful companion to many plants in the garden. Once established, it requires little care, and will happily tolerate heat and drought. It can just as easily create a beautiful border around taller plants like salvia or provide a lush backdrop for shorter plants like ageratum.

