



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

FEBRUARY 2022

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February Celebrations

- 2nd Sue Love
- 7th Mary Balasi
- 14th Valentine's Day
- 16th Sylvia Heidbreder
- 21st President's Day



FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Thursday, February 3 – Community Center East

11:00 am Business Meeting

NOTE - PROGRAM CHANGE!!

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Heidi Carey, presenter for the scheduled February program "Moon Gardening" is unavailable. The program for February will be showing an informational PBS nature video entitled "Sex, Lies and Butterflies". Discussion and camaraderie after the video,

COFFEE AND DESSERT PROVIDED

YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING SNACKS, BEVERAGES, OR A BAG LUNCH

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

EVENTS AND INFO

JANUARY PROGRAM - DOOR DECOR

Cancellation of the in-person workshop for the January meeting due to COVID restrictions did not deter President Debbie Darr and Program Chair Margaret Woda who took to the roads to deliver bags to all members containing small grapevine wreaths and instructions. Upon completion of their wreath, members were encouraged to forward a photo of their creation to Margaret for the website and to share with others. No obligation for members to participate and any unused wreaths should be dropped off at 24898 Magnolia Circle. We hope that everyone enjoyed this activity. Here are a few photos that were received.



Betty



Debbie



Denise



Linda



Margaret



Mary B.



Mary W.



Patti



Shawn

PLGC, PENNY PINES AND TREE-MENDOUS DELAWARE

Clarification needed? In the formative years of PLGC, leadership looked to National Garden Clubs and the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs for projects that were not too complicated yet would encourage member participation.

If you missed the Zoom meeting in January, Mary Balasi gave an awesome presentation on NGC's Penny Pines Program which began in 1941 and is a partnership between NGC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service to restore forests to a healthy condition most often following a fire, flood, or other natural disaster. One \$68 donation provides 100 trees. Member donations are collected either at monthly meetings or by dropping off bags of coins to Mary Balasi at her home. When \$68 has been collected, PLGC writes a check that accompanies the donation form sent to NGC. The form offers options for the donation to be "In Memory Of" or "In Recognition Of" a person. Members are encouraged to provide names for future donations. *Penny Pines is an ongoing activity.*

Tree-mendous Delaware is a DFGC project which began during Lisa Arni's tenure as President (2017-2019). Donations are collected for a specific circumstance for a single tree to be planted at the Delaware Botanic Garden in Dagsboro. PLGC solicits donations whenever the need arises.

PLGC appreciates your donations to recognize the honorees you have sponsored in the past and those in the future.

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

The Meaning of Garden Club Work

For some it means the actual gardening, hands in the soil, body in the sun and vision of color and fragrance and form.

To some it means the use of flowers as a medium of artistic expression.

To some it means an opportunity to serve their community by turning ugly places into beauty spots.

To some it is a spiritual experience, whereby they may serve through their gift of flowers to churches and hospitals and the lonely forlorn.

To a few, it means the challenge of leadership and personal ability in group work.

To a very few, it is meaningless, a name on the membership list and a sometime attendance.

But to many it means making friends, meeting with the old and mingling with the new.

Garden Club work is as complex as the unfolding of a rose and as simple as the face of a daisy.

It is social. It is spiritual. It is educational. It is scientific. It is a way of life.

~ Author Unknown

Next DFGC Meetings

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Time TBD "A Few of My Favorite Things"
Small Standard Flower Show
Presented by the Delaware
Flower Show Judges Council
Location TBD

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Time, Location and Program to be announced.
Awards Presented

Looking Ahead



UPCOMING PLGC PROGRAMS

Thursday, March 3 Monthly Meeting

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

Thursday, April 6 Monthly Meeting

Time TBD Moon Gardening Rescheduled?

Thursday, April 28 - May Basket Workshop

6:00 pm Community Center

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

Thursday, June 2 Monthly Meeting

Time TBD Historic Tour of St. Michael's

❀ LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY ❀

❀ SPRING PLANT SALE ❀



THIS AND THAT

Snowy days often lead to daydreaming of flowering spring gardens.

Flowering trees and shrubs deliver vibrant color to the yard, but most varieties bloom for only weeks at a time. If you want extended curb appeal, a mix of annual and perennial plants are your best bet. Not only do they bloom all summer long, they're also easy to grow, versatile, and readily found at your favorite garden centers. In addition to petunias, geraniums, impatiens, begonias and other summer choices, here are a few unusual summer flowering plants.

Calibrachoa ~ resembling tiny petunias, blooms from spring until fall without a pause until frost sets in. The tender perennial (which is usually treated like an annual) is available in a dizzying range of colors. Plant in a hanging basket or use it as a filler or spiller in a large mixed container. No need to deadhead. They'll thrive with full sun, moist soil, and monthly fertilization.



Lantana ~ in areas with mild winters, grows into a large shrub, but most gardeners treat it as an annual instead. Blooms brilliantly from late spring through early autumn, with tiny individual blossoms clustering into "bouquets". Loves heat and direct sun, resists drought fairly well, isn't bothered by many insects and doesn't need much fertilizer.



Gaillardia ~ a short-lived perennial (also known as blanket flower) loves the summer heat. Butterflies often visit its daisy-shaped tri-colored flowers. Drought resistant and ranges in height from dwarf to three feet, it's a great choice for a large container, although it will thrive in any patch of well-drained slightly sandy soil that receives full sun.



Coreopsis ~ a tender perennial often treated as an annual (which goes by the common name of tickseed) blooms with solid blossoms. Usually grows in a clump, sending up a seemingly endless parade of flowers on long stems. Butterflies and other pollinators love them, and birds enjoy snacking on their seeds. Best in full sun, well-draining soil, and regular watering when first planted.



Globe Amaranth ~ stiff, pom-pom shaped flowers look glorious in any garden. Most varieties are magenta, can also be found in pink, white, purple and red. Versatility is one of its best features. The tall spiky plant looks great in a container but will also thrive in a flower bed or cottage garden. Prefers full sun, doesn't require much fertilizer, and withstands most plant diseases and insects.



Cosmos ~ may look fragile but is actually a hardy flower that blooms throughout the spring and summer. The most common variety can surpass two feet in height with dancing flowers on thin stems stretching above the ferny foliage. Prefers full sun with some afternoon shade as well as slightly dry soil that's not too fertile.



Zinnia ~ one of the hardest-working annuals in a summer garden with a stiff and upright growth pattern. These colorful plants like heat, full sun, and moderate moisture levels. On the downside, zinnia attracts mildew and rust; in fact, it can seem nearly impossible to prevent these annoying fungal diseases from spreading on your other plants, but they won't stop the flowers from growing. Probably best in a bed of their own.



Vinca ~ may not come in a wide variety of colors but you'd be hard-pressed to find a better flower for lining pathways, filling containers, or enhancing flower beds. While there are trailing varieties of annual vinca, most are short, mounding plants with glossy green foliage. Grows best with full sun, a hot climate, monthly fertilizing and limited water.



Moss Rose ~ a great trailing plant to edge containers or hang over a window box or small-scale ground cover for a rock garden, fairy garden, or gaps in a stone wall. A low-growing succulent that covers itself with papery blooms resembling roses. The flowers close at night and open with the sun and come mostly in bright shades of pink, red, orange, yellow, cream and white. A fairly drought-resistant plant, moss rose needs full sun and well-draining soil.

