



# 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

## JUNE 2022

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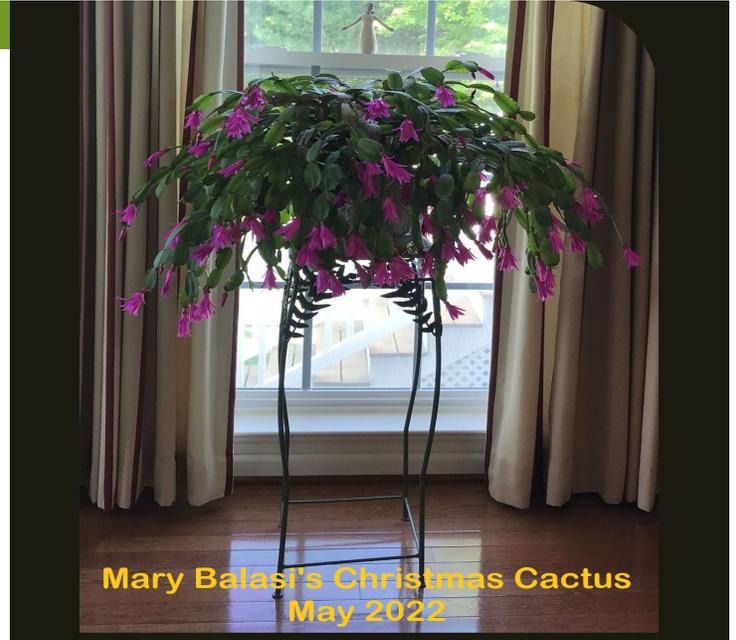
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Mary Balasi's Christmas Cactus  
May 2022

### June Celebrations

- 14<sup>th</sup> Flag Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> Father's Day
- 26<sup>th</sup> Carol Batson
- 30<sup>th</sup> Kim Stavely



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

### JUNE PROGRAM

#### Thursday, June 2nd - St. Michaels Boat Tour

9:00 am General meeting Flex Room  
at **The Landing**.

10:30 am Depart for St. Michael's

**Driving time to St. Michaels is 1.5 hours.**

12:15 pm Board Patriot Cruise Ship.  
Cruise time: 12:30 - 1:35

GPS Address: 213 N. Talbot Street  
St. Michaels, MD 21663

The Patriot is berthed on Navy Point next to The Crab Claw (which is a restaurant).

Additional directions can be found at:

[www.patriotcruises.com/directions/](http://www.patriotcruises.com/directions/)

One of the best characteristics of a plant - it makes its own blooming schedule!

# ACTIVITIES

## MOTHER'S DAY LUMINARIES

Mother Nature had other plans for the weekend display of Luminaries in memory or in honor of loved ones. Due to continuous poor weather conditions, the luminary display was delayed,



but once it cleared somewhat, we were able to adjust the display plans and when finally lit they looked fantastic lighting up

the night at the community center. Such a wonderful way to honor mothers and important people in our lives. Thank you, Shawn Ferrell, for the beautiful photos!



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## COMMUNITY FUN DAY - YOUTH GARDEN

We were kept busy with children's activities. Almost 50 children planted a vinca border around the Youth Garden by the playground. Each child who planted received a certificate they can display in their homes acknowledging their help with our pollinators. We hope we start a seed (pardon the pun) for young gardeners to begin planting on their own. Other art and craft activities at the Youth Pavilion included wrapping and decorating tin cans to use to take home a plant as well as several craft projects.



## COMMUNITY FUN DAY - PLGC INFORMATION BOOTH

The lyrics from *Kiss Me Kate* come to mind when speaking about the Community Fun Day event where the stalwart Membership Committee/Blue Star Memorial Chair along with one of the committee members and



Penny Pines Committee Chair represented PLGC - it was just TOO DARN HOT - especially for May! The Blue Star Memorial and Garden in the community is one of the PLGC projects

that interests many of our neighbors.

One new member was recruited, and several community members expressed interest in joining. They will be on the list for follow-up over the summer months. A number of community members signed on for the field trip to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Patriotic Cruise Boat Tour in St. Michaels. Please make them welcome!



## ESPOMA GRANT UPDATE

We made a small dent in the \$250 Espoma grant we were awarded with our pickup of products on May 9<sup>th</sup> for the Youth Garden.



Several members (and a spouse) turned the soil and then added fertilizer to prepare for youth flower planting on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

# NEWS FOR MEMBERS

## PLGC Members Honored

Members of Plantation Lakes Garden Club who joined in 2016 and 2017 were honored at our April meeting with the presentation of a magnetic name tag that features the club logo. Time constraints prevented listing all the contributions these members have made to our membership, affiliates, and the community. Each month two members will be featured in this section.

**Mary Balasi (2017)** Mary chaired the first **PLGC Horticulture Therapy Committee for Patient Activities** at neighboring Atlantic Shores Rehab and Health Center. She planned the design for each activity, met in advance with committee members to preview the design, and gathered all the



flowers and containers for the activities. Mary currently chairs the **PLGC Penny Pines Committee**, an NGC project in partnership with the National Forest Service to reforest areas that suffer from severe damage from fires, floods, or other natural disasters. Mary also served on the **Bylaws Committee** in 2021, helping to simplify the bylaws and standing rules.

**Gale Harley (2016)** Gale chaired the **PLGC Salute to Veterans Committee**, 2016-



2020, working together with the program presenter to prepare for the hands-on workshop at our November meetings. She hosted this committee at her home for the last-minute preparations of the

containers and assisted in delivering the completed arrangements to nearby senior centers for distribution to Veterans. Gale has served on the **Ways and Means Committee** since 2016 providing support for the plant sales and other fundraising activities. More recently, Gale served on the **Bylaws Committee**, helping to simplify the bylaws and standing rules during the summer of 2021.

## DFGC Meetings

### Wednesday, June 15, 2022

10:00 a.m. Dover Modern Maturity Center  
1121 Forrest Avenue, Dover, DE  
Awards Presented

### Wednesday, November 16, 2022

10:00 a.m. Hyatt Place – Dewey Beach  
1301 Coastal Highway

## CAR-SGC Annual Meeting

November 2 – 3 **SEVEN SUPER BLOOMS THAT CHANGED OUR WORLD**  
Seven Springs Mountain Resort  
Champion, Pennsylvania  
<https://www.car-sgc.org/conference>

The CAR-SGC annual conference rotates among the seven member entities. Due to COVID restrictions, Delaware was cancelled for 2020 and Pennsylvania was postponed for 2021. There will be workshops and tours. One tour will be to the Frank Lloyd-Wright House at Fallingwater and the other will be to the Flight 93 National Memorial. Registration and hotel reservation information is on the CAR-SGC website.

## Looking Ahead



## UPCOMING PLGC PROGRAMS

Coming Soon ~ Information from the PLGC Programs Committee on enjoyable programs for next year.

### Thursday, September 8, 2022

10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting



## THIS AND THAT

### MULCH TIPS AND TRICKS

Picking the right type of mulch for a garden or around a tree and then hauling it in place is no easy task.

#### Easy Mulch Spreading

It's easier to use buckets or small containers to mulch around flowers and bushes in tight places. Consider putting the containers in a wheelbarrow, fill them with mulch and take to their destination.

#### Easier Mulch Unloading



If you drive a pickup truck, the mulch you buy in bulk probably gets dumped into the bed with a front-end loader. You can shovel the mulch onto your driveway and haul it from there or you can load the pickup bed with five-gallon plastic buckets. Have the mulch dumped into the truck bed as usual. Use a rake to even out the load so every container is filled. When it's time to unload, do it one bucket at a time and dump the mulch exactly where you want it. Store the buckets and use them for all sorts of projects.

#### Invest in a Heavy Duty Tarp

Nothing is quite so useful in landscaping projects as a durable tarp. It's excellent for moving mulch, leaves, weeds, soil and small rocks quickly and safely when working in the yard. It can also be used to cover plants or landscaping materials. Just don't leave a tarp laying out on the lawn for too long or it will kill your grass.

#### Keep Mulch Away From Your Home

While you can't entirely prevent a termite infestation, avoid keeping piles of wood or mulch around your home to help reduce the risk. For termites, it's an easy trip from mulch to siding and internal wood. Don't give them any "springboards" into your home. Keep piles at least 20 feet away from the house whenever possible.

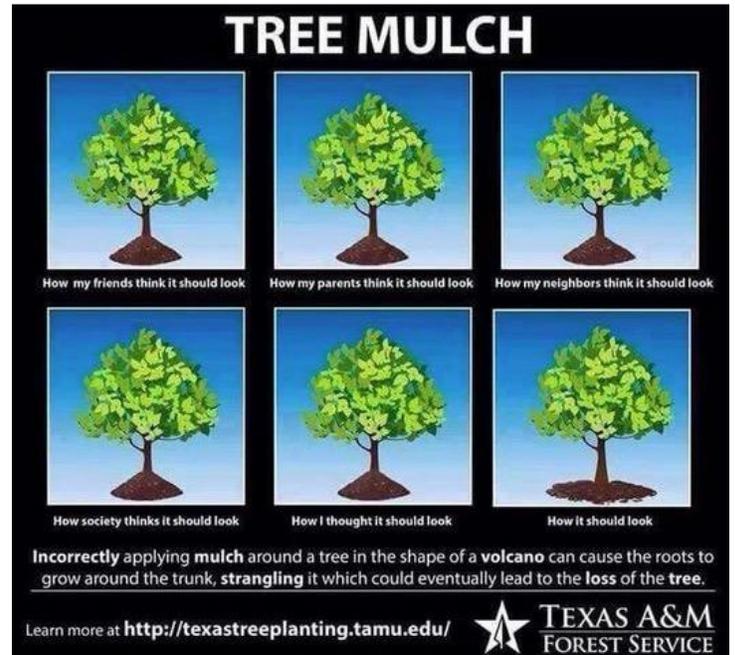
#### Spread Mulch to Protect Perennials

Spread mulch among perennial flowers and plants. This will help insulate them against frigid temperatures and provide extra protection against hungry creatures.



### Mulch Wide, But Not Deep

Mulch holds moisture, moderates soil temperatures, reduces competition from grass and weeds and prevents lawn mowers and trimmers from nicking the trunk. Mulch also insulates the ground, keeping it cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.



HINT: The picture on the bottom right is the recommended method for tree mulch.

### Which Mulch Keeps Its Color Longest?

Most natural organic mulches turn gray in about a year, depending on the amount of sunlight that hits them. However, if you want more color to accent your plants and flowers, buy custom-colored organic mulches. They're processed with vegetable dyes in several colors. Expect the color to last for two to three years.

### Calculating How Much Mulch You Need

Easily calculate how much mulch you'll need by multiplying the length and width of the garden bed (in feet) and dividing the result by three. This will give you the volume needed in cubic feet for about 4 inches deep.



The volume of mulch in a bag will be printed on the label.

Reference: Shoemaker, Alex (Updated April 18, 2022) Family Handyman Online.

Photos: Getty Images