The Potting Shed

December 2021/January 2022

The Master Gardener Newsletter for Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware



Happy Holidays!



MASTER GARDENERS CELEBRATE 35 YEARS!

Please read the entire article and the history of Master Gardening in Delaware at:



https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/news/2021/december/master-gardeners-celebrate-35-years/

MASTER GARDENERS CELEBRATE 35 YEARS AND A NEW CLASS OF VOLUNTEERS was written by Michelle Walfred, Communications Specialist — Carvel Research and Education Center on 12/10/21

Master Gardener Banquet 2021!

We had a wonderful in person and virtual banquet on Saturday December 18th. We are happy so many of you were able to join us to celebrate the accomplishments of the Delaware Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program in 2021. After all the introductions by class, we gave out the annual awards. Special thanks to the banquet committee for a job well done: Charlotte Mathis & Janella Newman, Co-Chairpersons Committee Members: Sharon Cohee, Christina Cuffee, Terry Dupuis, and Janis Gaddis

We recognized the volunteers that have served 500 hours to the Master Gardener program thus earning them a silver-plated name badge:

Kent

- Karen Abate, 2017
- Janis Gaddis, 2001

Sussex

• Jerry Jurewicz, 2015

Recognized were the volunteers that have served 1000 hours to the Master Gardener program thus earning them a gold-plated name badge

<u>Kent-</u>Debbie Nicol, 2017 <u>Sussex-</u> Lynda Dunham, 2007

The Master Gardeners receiving the Master Gardener of the Year Award are nominated by their peers.

Kent

This year has been challenging for us all, but this MG went above and beyond in her efforts to master the technology necessary to create and maintain the Square account and website that allowed the virtual scholarship plant sale to be so successful. This was a monumental task that she cheerfully led leading to one of our most successful plant sales. she worked hard to learn the system, then organize and post the plants for sale in a time crunch. In addition, she researched and acquired a Post Office box for the Master Gardeners to receive donations and other correspondence. She shares her knowledge and expertise on vegetable gardening and a variety of other topics and as the organization's treasurer, she carefully managed the budget with detailed bookkeeping skills and competence. She was also the coordinator of the Modern Maturity Center Green Thumb Program for several years. When she was no longer able to work with the program, she transitioned it flawlessly to the new chairperson. The programs' previous success was due to Ellen's coordination and outgoing personality. She is also doing a fabulous job in her relatively new role as treasurer. She is efficient and a pleasure to work with. For these reasons and many more I would like to say Congratulations to Ellen Trier for being the 2021 Kent County Master Gardener of the year.

Congratulations Ellen Trier, Class of 2015

Sussex

This MG is always ready with a smile, she is willing to tackle any project that comes her way. She worked diligently in the Demo Garden with her own areas but if someone needed help, she was usually the first to respond. Even though this MG is from the class of 2019, she has jumped in and proved herself a true leader and supporter of the Master Gardeners of Sussex County. She has chaired or co chaired 4 of the demonstration gardens this past year, showing up every workday and staying till the end. In addition to her gardens she was always willing to help others by holding ladders, blowing leaves, moving furniture and stones and pruning branches. She was a major force in cleaning out and reorganizing the back shed. In the spring of 2020, fresh out of her MG training, she helped put together the PowerPoint slides for the annual planning session with garden chairs, presented for the first time on Zoom. She also prepared and presented the composting section of the presentation. And this year she helped to reorganize an Excel spreadsheet for the garden. During this time of online meetings, she has helped take attendance and monitored the chatroom every monthly meeting and

during some MG trainings. She helped prepare and present a Vermiculture workshop on zoom and then took it on the road to a garden club in person. And finally, she coordinated ordering of Lands' End MG merchandise by keeping track of when they had the 40% off sale and free logo and getting the word out to everyone, as well as consolidating an order. She has contributed in so many ways over the past year, No job is too hard for her - including jumping into the fish pond with her hip waders to clean it out this spring. She is always the first to say, "I'll help you...". She deserves this award for all she does. Congratulations to Marian Reedy, Class of 2019

2021 Master Gardener Lifetime Awards

(10 years and/or 1,000 volunteer hours)

Kent

- Mary Lou Bass
- Theron Boots
- Ed Hynes
- Lois Seyler
- Kate Ruffer

Sussex

- Wendy Ferranti
- Dixie Gildon
- Carol Kinsley
- Marianne Metz
- Maureen Ryan

Thank you all for the willingness and dedication that you devote to the Master Gardener Program.

Chairperson/ Presidents Award

Being a Master Gardener takes dedication, a desire to expand your knowledge, and a volunteer spirit. It isn't simply a designation for someone who is good at gardening, but rather a specific title achieved through skill, hard work, and a passion for people. Today we recognized Janis Gaddis for her service to our program and our KCMG community. During the last 12 - 18 months, as chair of the sunshine committee, Janis has spread cheer to so many members who were affected by health issues of their own or family members. Her cards allowed us to keep in touch and meant so much to our members when we were unable to see each other due to various restrictions. We appreciate her effort and remembrance of all of us across some of the most difficult days.

Kent County- Janis Gaddis

Chairperson/ Presidents Award

If I could, I would give all of you the Chairperson's Master Gardener of the Year Award. In yet another year of uncertainty and change, each of you have pulled "your oar" to keep the SCMG's afloat. My hat goes off to all of you, and especially the Class of 2019, who have jumped in and made themselves a force throughout our organization. You have integrated yourself without any of the normal activities that make that job easier. Thank you for all you are doing each and every day.

My job as president would have been impossible without the help and support of the Advisory Committee. If you do not know who they are, let me take a moment to introduce Maureen Ryan, Sandi Dew, Judy Pfister and Linda Peters. Along with Tracy and Megan, they worked to keep us moving forward in this time of uncertainty and were always willing to help when called upon.

However, while so many of you have done so much, one small group stood out as they guided so many of us during this trying time. To receive the Chairperson's Award, I have chosen "The Garden Trio"; Tina Donofrio, Karen Kollias and Gaye Mara. They have worked tirelessly, even after it was closed during the pandemic, to enhance our Demonstration Garden. These three did not let a "little pandemic" slow them down. They continued, even when it was almost certain we would be banned from the garden in

2020, to recruit and plan for when we would be able to return. When all hope of getting into the garden in 2020 faded, they moved on to planning for 2021, revising their garden plan and recruiting new workers and garden chairs. The three of them communicated weekly to continue to plan and organize the work needed. Using that information, Gaye started a weekly email that kept the garden team members informed and engaged. She started adding educational items and that grew as so many of you got into the spirit and forwarded interesting articles, podcasts, or educational sessions that you had found. All in all, it was a wonderful way to keep us together when getting together in person was not possible.

Finally, April 27, 2021, the garden was opened, if on a very restricted schedule. So many rules, so much to organize. They went to work. A process was set up for scheduling time in the garden which Tina managed well. Twice a week the email would come from her with available slots and the necessary health check which needed to be completed before coming to Carvel. It was all up and running in no time and worked well throughout the garden season. They made it look easy although I know that when you are dealing with so many people, that is most often not the case. Along with her scheduling and organizing duties, Tina was also in charge of the Garden Under The Tree and the Kindness Rock Garden.

Karen took on the job of managing the "Free Rangers", those gardeners who were not assigned to a garden but could be moved where the need was greatest. She is a great organizer and motivator and her enthusiasm and dedication to the Demo Garden in tangible. Karen also wrote several articles about the work being done and the people doing it for The Potting Shed so that even those not actively engaged in the Demo Garden would know what was happening there. She also chaired the management of the Dry Shade Garden.

Gaye continued her weekly emails even after the garden was open and worked her magic in the vegetable garden. Until they were able to get the weeds under control and get plants in place and producing, she continued to encourage the foster gardeners who had started in 2020 (and continued in 2021) to plant vegetables to share with local food banks. While we were not able to match our numbers from years past, the combination of the produce from foster gardeners and the demo garden made a substantial contribution to our local food banks.

Speaking of weeds, anyone who saw the pictures of the garden as it looked in May of 2021 could not help but be moved. The garden that was "put to bed" in the fall of 2019 was a tranquil and beautiful place. How could this have happened in such a short space of time? Tina, Karen and Gaye could have let the

magnitude of the job in-capacitate them but they did not. They made a plan and they worked it. Then, to add a little more spice to their lives, it was decided that we could have an Open House in person in September! They worked even harder. When the day of Open House, September 25, came around, most people who came would have no idea of the amount of work necessary to return the garden to such beauty. While many of the long term garden workers could still see areas of need, the majority of us saw only a garden well-loved and well-tended. The Open House was a huge success, bringing in about 200 people who not only enjoyed the beauty but learned a lot from the information provided and the gardeners available to answer their questions.

The last day in the garden this year was November 18. Many hands have made the magic that occurred there but that does not happen without planning and organization. Tina, Karen and Gaye led the way and for that we are all grateful. This award is only a small way of saying thank you for all your hard work and dedication over the last two years. Congratulations!

Sussex County-Tina Donofrio, Karen Kollias and Gaye Mara

2021 Kent and Sussex County Total Hours

Kent -

- 28 active volunteers
- 2621total hours
- 529.25 advanced training hours

Sussex -

- 70 active volunteers
- 5928 total hours
- · 1336 advanced training hours

Combined Kent and Sussex has 98 active volunteers and earned 2394.50 advanced training hours in 2021. Your combine efforts totaled **8,549 total hrs.** for DE Cooperative Extension (DSU and UD) enhancing outreach to citizens by **\$239,372.00**

Thank you all! We are looking forward to a wonderful 2022

(For anyone that was not able to make it to the banquet, please look for your awards in the mail from Megan and Tracy.)

Photos of the Awards Banquet can be viewed by clicking this link: https://www.flickr.com/photos/udextension/albums/72177720295383415



UD Daily Features MG's

CALL IN THE MASTER GARDENERS
Article by Dante LaPenta December 13, 2021

Wilmington church creates community garden, donates produce with the help of UD's Master Gardeners

In 2016, fresh produce had dried up at the Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry in Wilmington, Delaware. So New Castle County churches were asked to plant a small garden strip and contribute the harvest. But Linda Ulmanis and Becca Gulino, members of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in North Wilmington, said they thought they could do more. They applied for and received a grant to put in three 18-by-4-foot raised beds.

As the church began its first foray in the garden, the duo contacted <u>University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners</u>. Little did they know that right down the street lived <u>Carrie Murphy</u>, extension agent and lawn and garden program leader at UD. "She answered a lot of questions for us and was very encouraging and just wonderful in that Carrie Murphy way," said Gulino.

The garden produced 3,400 pounds of food for the Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry in Wilmington.

Murphy provided not only expert advice, but also connected the church with several contacts to help with technical assistance, support and funding to further their initiative. In its inaugural campaign, the garden yielded nearly 700 pounds of food.

"We began this garden as a project to become more outside of our building. One of our missions is fooding poorly. This is fooding.

people in a healthy way," said Ulmanis. "It's feeding people in a different way than just writing a check. Getting your hands in the dirt in the garden, there is something special about that."

Linda Ulmanis took advantage of UD Cooperative Extension's Beginning Farmer and Master Gardener programs.

Through Murphy, the church connected with their Delaware Master Gardener committee specifically assigned to assist schools, community gardens and urban farms. Partnering with the Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition, these Master Gardeners have developed loads of resources and workshops. Longtime Master Gardener Karen Curtis co-chairs the committee and works closely with Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

"What is notable is [Linda's and Becca's] continued interaction with UD Cooperative Extension. First, it was assistance for the Shepherd Garden. Then taking [Extension's] Beginning Farmer class. Now it is Master Gardener training, so they can use their experience and knowledge to help other community gardeners," said Curtis, who retired from UD's School of Public Policy and Administration. "Their faith-based experience will be very valuable for other faith-based gardeners."

As the garden grew, in its first few years, the duo wondered about interest in a community garden. They posted an ad for 15 beds, which were filled almost immediately. The community gardeners are asked to donate 10% of their produce to the food pantry, but gladly donate much more, tipping the scales at more than 3,400 pounds. The once blank space surrounding the church has transformed into a productive and community-oriented landscape as the thriving garden has more than doubled in size.

"Now we feel that we have education behind it," said Ulmanis. "We're looking forward to putting what we're learning in the Master Gardener program to use in the garden next year on crop rotations and extending the seasons and succession planning."

Church member Karlis Ulmanis was a chief builder in the garden.

The team has also started a meadow with native trees and pollinators on the property as their coursework has shown them the critical roles played in local ecosystems. The location has unsurprisingly become a favorite for worship.

Talk to the experts

For Delawareans interested in starting or expanding a garden, Delaware Master Gardeners are ready.

"When you contact us, interested in starting a new garden, we will connect you with a Master Gardener to talk about your needs and how we can help," said Murphy.

The help includes on-site counsel and a bevy of resources on how to plant, water and harvest. What do you do once the food is ready to

harvest? UD Cooperative Extension has that covered, too, through its <u>Master Food Educators</u> and <u>Master Wellness Volunteers</u> programs.

If your organization would like Master Gardeners' counsel, contact <u>Carrie Murphy</u> or call the New Castle County Garden Line at 302-831-8862.

This article can be found at:

https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2021/december/master-gardeners-wilmington-community-vegetables-food/?
utm_source=allstaff&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weeklyUpdate121521



Horticulture to Advance Health and Well-Across the Greater Philadelphia Region

Upgrades and Enhancements Announced for 2022 Philadelphia Flower Show

We hope to see you June 11-19!

We can't wait to welcome you to FDR Park for the 2022 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show! Based on customer feedback from last year, we've made a number of enhancements to the Show to provide an even more enjoyable experience for guests throughout the duration of the outdoor event.

Here are just a few of the upgrades we have in store:

- More flexible ticketing
- · Enhanced transportation and parking availability
- · Ouicker entrance into the Show
- Re-imagined Show layout highlighting more floral and garden displays
- Better accessibility throughout the Show grounds and exhibits
- Additional shade and seating considerations
- · Additional options for water and staying cool
- · More bathrooms throughout the site
- More menu options for dietary considerations

Tickets will go on sale in mid-December. Visit our website to learn more about the changes we are making to the Show for 2022.

2FS

https://phsonline.org/the-flower-show? utm_source=Mailchimp&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=2

Spotted Lanternfly Distribution

Spotted Lanternfly Reported Distribution Map has been updated November 17, 2021, is located at: https://nysipm.cornell.edu/sites/nysipm.cornell.edu/files/shared/images/SLF-reported-distribution-11-17-21.pdf

This article was located on

https://news.delaware.gov/2021/11/09/governor-carney-launchestree-for-every-delawarean-initiative-tedi/

Public invited to enter trees they plant in new TEDI tracker



NEW CASTLE, Del. – Governor John Carney on Tuesday launched a new program that aims to plant a tree for every Delawarean as part of the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This initiative was originally announced in Governor Carney's <u>2020 State of the State Address</u> and discussed in <u>Delaware's Climate Action Plan</u> as a strategy to support local communities' enhancement of urban greenspaces.

"Last week, when I announced Delaware's Climate Action Plan, I said that as the country's lowest-lying state, climate change is a very real threat to Delaware's future," said **Governor Carney**. "Reducing emissions is essential to our efforts to deal with climate change, and the Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative – TEDI – helps us move forward on accomplishing one of the strategies outlined in the Climate Action Plan."

"We all have a stake in improving our environmental health to ensure a stronger and healthier Delaware," said **Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long**. "By involving the community and encouraging Delawareans across the state to plant trees, we are taking steps to mitigate carbon emissions and their impact on our state, our children and future generations."

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Secretary Shawn M. Garvin and Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Secretary Michael T. Scuse joined Governor Carney, Lt. Governor Hall-Long, state and county officials, and stakeholders at a tree planting at Lieutenant Szczerba Memorial Park in New Castle to help launch the program. The two state agencies are partnering on the initiative.

DNREC and the Delaware Department of Agriculture partnered to develop a new website where residents can access information on selecting, planting, and caring for their trees. In addition, residents, non-profit organizations, and municipalities can visit de.gov/tedi to enter information and photos of their tree plantings to help count the trees planted throughout the state.

Healthy and resilient forests are a vital part of the efforts to combat the negative impacts of climate change. As part of a comprehensive approach in Delaware's Climate Action Plan that includes energy efficiency, clean transportation and transitioning to clean energy sources. Planting and nurturing trees is a nature-based solution to reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

"Along with our programs that help Delawareans reduce their energy use, TEDI provides an opportunity for everyone to contribute to our statewide effort to improve air and water quality, preserve soil, and support wildlife – all while reducing the harmful greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change," said **DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin**.

Urban trees and forests help decrease energy use and emissions by providing shade, cooling temperatures and changing wind speeds. <u>Studies have shown trees can reduce temperatures</u> by 9 degrees and energy and heating costs by \$7.8 billion a year in the United States.

Encompassing 1.25 million acres, Delaware has nearly 360,000 forested acres. With 78 percent of the state's forests privately owned, the Delaware Forest Service provides technical assistance, funding and education to serve as a foundation for tree planting, conservation, reforestation, forest management and wildlife protection throughout Delaware.

"We are proud to have the Delaware Forest Service as part of the Department of Agriculture. With

over Delaware to harness the power of trees to transform communities," said **Secretary of Agriculture Michael T. Scuse**. "The Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative is an important investment in our state's forestland that will help improve our economy and public health. Every \$1 million invested in tree planting and reforestation efforts creates 40 forest-related jobs. And from a health perspective, research has shown that trees absorb 17.4 million tons of air pollutants a year, helping to prevent 670,000 cases of asthma and other acute respiratory symptoms annually."

DDA's Urban and Community Forestry Program works to increase tree canopy in communities statewide. The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program has provided more than \$1.86 million in matching tree grants for more than 588 projects in the First State – with more than 16,000 trees planted. Municipalities, communities and organizations can assess their current level of tree cover as a starting point to explore opportunities to plant new trees using the Delaware Forest Service's online tree canopy tool at de.gov/treecanopy.



Kelly Gill is a Senior Pollinator Conservation Specialist with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and a Partner Biologist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She has shared the following with our organization:

"Here are some things to consider:

Spread the word! MGs are a source of information and often share their own expertise/knowledge when it comes to planting pollinator-friendly gardens, sharing our resources, or promoting pollinator conservation at your events.

You can participate in our <u>Bring Back The Pollinators Campaign</u> and take the <u>Pollinator Pledge</u>

Better yet, you can join forces with the like-minded people in your community and take steps to make your town, city, village, etc. a certified Bee City through our <u>Bee City USA program</u>. I imagine as MGs you might already be doing some of the things that can go toward certification.

Of course, creating pollinator gardens is great, and direct way to help. Do you have demo gardens where you already have pollinator-friendly plants or can add a section? We have a few in the area we use for educational programs and that is fun and gets more people excited about learning/doing more to protect bees and butterflies.

We have some community science programs as well that help us collect data on species we need to learn more about in order to document their status and population trends. This helps drive conservation priorities and larger scale initiatives. We are too small of an organization to do it alone. Check out bumble bee watch and we are also collecting observations of monarchs on nectar plants. Here is the blurb on that: You can help us improve them by submitting additional monarch nectaring observations submitted via our online survey. This can also be done as a group if others are interested (I think it would be fun!).

I know DNS was working on some pollinator projects. Not sure of the status or if you are already in the loop

https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/what-we-do/protecting-habitats-wildlife/supporting-pollinators/ "



MidAtlantic Nursery Trade Show scheduled for JANUARY 5-7, 2022 at the BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER

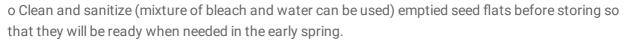
Information can be found at: https://www.mants.com/

Maggie's New Calendar for December 2021 & January 2022

By Maggie Moor-Orth

For the First Week of December:

- o Collect pine cones, old bird nests, any remaining seed heads, etc. to be used in making wreaths and other holiday decorations.
- o Spray seed heads and dried flowers with hair spray to keep them intact.



- o The holidays are just about three weeks away and there is still time to make herbal presents like herb vinegars and/or potpourri.
- o Visit your local Christmas tree farm; make your tree selection early and tag it.
- o Change the oil and do routine maintenance on your outdoor power equipment, such as rotary tillers and lawn mowers that use oil in their engines. Remember to recycle this used oil.

For the Second Week of December:

- o Order new plant and seed catalogs.
- o Have you done a soil test from your vegetable garden? Now is a great time for the results to come back and get an early start on next year's garden planning.
- o Check stored dahlia tubers and gladiolus corms; if sprouting, move to a cooler location. If they appear to be shriveling, rewrap them using a ventilated plastic bag. If there are signs of molding, change their environment; this is usually a result of moisture conditions.
- o After the ground freezes thoroughly, mulch azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias. These acid-loving plants prefer acid-loving materials like oak leaves or pine needles. If you do not have either of these, any mixture of dried leaves will do.
- o Scout your landscape for the small, buff, or yellowish velvet gypsy moth egg cases attached to trees, stones, walls, logs, and other outdoor objects, including outdoor household articles. Pick off and destroy them.
- o Remember, if you are going to feed birds this winter, once you start, try not to stop until winter is over. Birds need feed, water, and cover (discarded Christmas trees are great for providing bird shelter).

For the Third Week of December:

- o Help prevent fires by placing Christmas trees away from heater vents, fireplaces, television sets, and anything else that can cause the needles to dry out. In addition, be sure to keep your tree watered the entire time it is in your home.
- o Make evergreen arrangements with branches that have been trimmed from Christmas trees.



o Prune fruit trees anytime this winter. Keep in mind, it is easier on the tree if the temperature is 45 *degrees* or above.

For the Last Week of December:

- o Check around trunks of trees and bases of large shrubs for rodent damage.
- o Fertilize peach and apple trees any time after the leaves drop and before spring growth.
- o Give special attention to water, light, and feeding requirements of house plants.
- o Don't throw away your holiday tree yet; it has several good uses. The branches can be placed over spring-flowering bulb beds and/or perennial flower beds to help prevent heaving damage caused by the ground freezing and thawing, and, as mentioned above, placed outside next to a bird feeder, to provide shelter for birds.
- o If you are suffering from the end-of-the-year blahs, why not buy yourself a new house plant? *Be aware* of light, water, and feeding requirements, determine where it is going to be placed *in your home* before you buy.

January Delaware Garden Guide

For the First Half of January

- o On warm days, go outside and check your perennials and bulbs to see if they have been heaved out of the ground by freezing and thawing of the soil if we've had freezing temperatures. If any heaving out of the ground is evident, press down firmly and cover with at least two inches of organic mulch. o It is a great time to walk around your landscape and check deciduous trees and shrubs for broken and/or injured branches. Remove these on sunny days to prevent fungal diseases from entering fresh cuts.
- o Thoroughly check your house plants for pests. If you find any, treat immediately before populations get too high.
- o Another common problem of house plants this time of year is the low humidity that is in most homes during the winter. One way to increase the humidity is to place plants over, but not in, trays that have water in them.
- o In addition, low light levels in your home may be causing some problems and need to be adjusted. Plants that normally do best on the north side of the house move to an east window. For those plants which are ordinarily in the east windows, move to a south location.
- o Review your vegetable garden *plot plan from last year and compare it with the plan for the upcoming season.*
- o If you bought a live-ball rooted Christmas tree, remember to water it, and it can be planted outside as long as the soil can be worked.
- o Planning on starting your own seeds? Get your seed starting trays out of storage to clean and sanitize they will be ready when you are.
- o On mild days it is a great time to build or repair a cold frame.

For the Second Half of January:

- o Sit down on cold, snowy or rainy days with newly received garden seed catalogs. Compare new varieties. An important consideration is improved pest and disease resistance over old varieties. o Pull out and check your notes from last year's garden *journal*. Re-order the varieties that you had success with and order new ones you may want to try.
- o While looking through catalogs I make charts listing new and older varieties I want to grow, including cost, the number of seeds in each packet; be sure to write catalog name, early-bird discounts, and shipping cost. Keep this with your garden journal.
- o Start yourself a pot of shamrocks to have ready by St. Patrick's Day in March.
- o Start pansy plants from seeds indoors. They should be ready to transplant outdoors in mid-March to bloom with spring tulips and daffodils.

o Begin bringing in the pots of bulbs you prepared for forcing last fall. Place in a warm 60-65 degree shaded location. Move to a sunny spot when green leaves appear.

o Begin dormant pruning of fruit trees and grapevines now and try to finish them before March. o Winter is the ideal time to apply horticultural oil sprays to kill over-wintering mites, aphids, and scale. Use this oil on deciduous plants and hardy evergreens, but not on needle-leafed species. Spray horticultural oils when temperatures are above 40 degrees but not within 24 hours of a freeze (watch the local weather stations for this information). Read and follow all label directions.

Great Dover Extra MG Article! Amaryllis lily a star of winter

Amaryllis lily a star of winter By Linda Newsome Kent County Master Gardener



This article can be found at https://delawarestatenews-de-app.newsmemory.com/?
https://delawarestatenews-de-app.newsmemory.com/?
<a href="mailto:selDate=20211121&startEdition=Delaware+State+News&goTo=A33&selDate=20211121&startEdition=Delaware+Delawa

Nothing brightens a home better than houseplants that bloom during the dull winter months. The amaryllis lily is the star of these winter-blooming plants. Large colorful flowers burst open atop tall stalks that are surrounded by long green leaves. The flowers last a long time with very little attention. Just provide sunlight and a little water. Amaryllis lilies come to market in the fall in time for a Christmas show. You can purchase them from local nurseries, from catalogs, and even from grocery stores. You can purchase individual bulbs or a kit that contains everything you need to get the bulb to bloom. The flowers come in many different colors. Some varieties are striped. Plant the bulb in good potting soil, leaving one-third of the bulb above the soil. The pot should be slightly bigger than the bulb. There should be about one inch of space between the bulb and the edge of the pot all the way around. This ensures that the bulb will be held firmly in place by the roots so it can support the tall stalk and large flowers. Water once and set the pot in a sunny location. When the leaves begin to sprout, start watering regularly, but sparingly. Too much water will cause the bulb to rot. The flowers will appear in six to eight weeks. Many people discard the bulb after the flowers fade. However, it is quite easy to get amaryllis lilies to bloom year after year. The process is easy. Once the flowers die, cut the stalk about one inch from the top of the bulb. Do not cut the leaves. They make food for the bulb so that it will flower the next year. Continue to keep the pot in the sun and water when the soil is dry. The pot may be moved outdoors in the early summer when the nighttime temperatures are consistently 50 degrees or above. I bury my pots in a shady spot in my garden and leave them there until the fall. When the leaves begin to yellow, it's time to remove the bulb from its pot. Cut the leaves one to two inches above the bulb. Any loose paper-thin layers around the bulb may also be removed. Place the bulb on newspaper for a day or two so it can dry out. Then place it in a paper bag and store in a cool, dry, dark place like a cellar or a garage. The back of a closet will do as well. This forces the bulb into a state of dormancy. The great thing about amaryllis lilies is that you can choose the bloom time. Keep the bulb dormant for at least eight weeks. Longer is fine deSee Lily — Page 37 Lily Continued From Page 33 pending on when you want your flowers to bloom. Just plant the bulb, following the steps above, six to eight weeks before you want to see flowers. If you have more than one bulb, you can stagger the planting time by extending the weeks of dormancy, so you have flowers through the winter. been created. I have six bulbs now. I hope you will try to rebloom an amaryllis lily. Whether you have one bulb or many, you will enjoy its beauty from year to year and take pride in your new gardening skill.



Coordinators Corner

2022 Kent County Board of Directors and Sussex County Advisory Committee

Megan and Tracy would like to take the time to say congratulations to the 2020 Kent County Board of Directors and the Sussex County Advisory committee! The following individuals were voted on for Kent County in November: Charlotte Clive, Cheryl Fisher, Beth Peterson, Linda Sperry, Verna Thompson and Ellen Trier. The following individuals were voted on for Sussex County in November: Carol Kinsley, Joyce Romans, Judy Pfister and Robb Reyes. We wish you all the best of luck working together in 2022. We hope you have productive and successful year and thank you for your continued commitment to the Delaware Master Gardener Program.

No monthly meetings in December

Remember that there will not be any monthly meetings the month of December. They will continue as usual in January. Kent County will meet January 18th at 9AM and Sussex will meet on January 11th at 9AM.

UD/DSU OFFICES CLOSED

Both Universities will be closed December 23th thru January 3rd for the holiday break. Happy Holidays!

2022 Committee Sign ups

Tracy and Megan are working on an online sign up for 2022 committees. Please stay tuned for more information and be sure to join in our monthly meetings to find out more.

Vintage Master Gardener Merchandise

If you are interested in purchasing some Delaware Master Gardener Merchandise please call **Karen Abate**. <u>ksabate@aol.com</u>

Virtual Delaware Ag week January 10th-27th 2022

Delaware Ag week is free to the public, and will be hosted online. Many of the sessions can be counted toward Advanced Training opportunities. If you are interested in a schedule of events please click this link for more information

https://sites.udel.edu/delawareagweek/

Virtual Delaware Horticulture Expo – January 12th, 13th and 19th
The Delaware Horticulture Expo will be held on online. This is an
excellent conference to get all of your advanced training hours
completed in one session. More information can be obtained at
https://www.dnlaonline.org

DSU and UD will be closed on January 17th 2022

Offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Better Impact- The New Volunteer Recording System

In October each Master Gardener should have received an email from Megan with a link to go to the new online reporting system.

Each Master Gardener has a one-time user name and password. You will receive a "cheat sheet" that tells you how to create your new profile and password. Additional Training for Better Impact operations will be forthcoming as the Winter approaches. Please keep an eye out for training sessions. Tracy and Megan ask that you

November 1st 2021. Please let Megan know if you need the link to Better Impact resent.

Sussex County in November:

Carol Kinsley, Joyce Romans, Judy Pster and Robb Reyes. We wish you all the best of luck working together in 2022. We hope you have a productive and successful year and thank you for your continued commitment to the Delaware Master Gardener Program. No monthly meetings in December

Remember that there will not be any monthly meetings the month of December. They will continue as usual in January. Kent County will meet January 18th at 9AM and Sussex will meet on January 11th at 9AM.

UD/DSU OFFICES CLOSED

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(Change to thru Dec 31. We will re-open on January 3.)



Contacts Update!

Please be sure to update your contact list.

- MG Colleague Anita Smith has a new email address amsmith1947@outlook.com
- Victoria (Vickie) Thompson is now living at: 202 S. Winding Brooke Drive, Seaford, DE 19973

The Plant Exchange

The Plant Exchange is a new newsletter item where and Kent or Sussex MGs can share about any gardening-related item there are interested in giving away or selling.

Please send your items to Megan, Tracy, or Karen for submission in this section.









National Children & Youth Garden Symposium

The American Horticultural Society announced its 30th annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS), the only national professional development event of its kind where we are cultivating tomorrow's gardeners by energizing, inspiring, and training today's garden educators. It is an in-person conference where we can learn from each other in face-to-face interactive and hands-on ways, visit and tour gardens and greenspaces, and network in both the facilitated and unfacilitated ways that conferences provide.

Mark your calendar for **July 13-15, 2022** to join us for the 30th annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in Richmond, Virginia

Delaware State Parks Receives National Recognition

Article from Delaware Public Media | By Joe Irizarry

Delaware State Parks wins a national award.

DNREC's Division of Parks and Recreation won the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association 2021 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

Delaware beat Ohio, Tennessee and Texas to earn the Gold Medal for a second time. It also won in 2015. And Delaware joins Florida as the only states to win the award twice over the 13 times it's been awarded

DNREC wasn't given the exact reasons for winning, but the state parks system touts its tremendous growth, innovation, economic impact, and diversity

And DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin says the goal is to keep getting better.

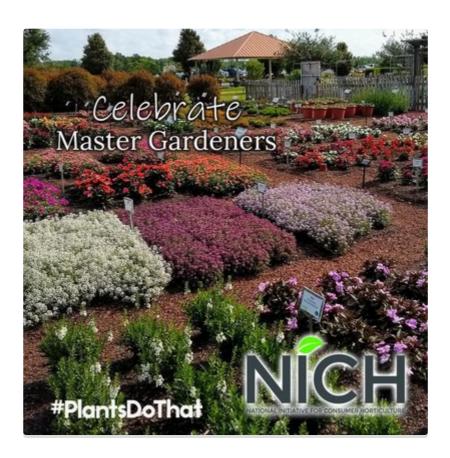
"We will do that by continuously improving our resources and adjusting to the needs of the visitors we serve," said Garvin. "We have met unprecedented challenges in recent years and even with this award we know there will be challenges ahead. We need to tackle our critical backlog which includes the largest number of historic structures maintained by any state agency. We need to expand strategically to meet our growing visitors base in demand for recreation and overnight accommodations."

Gov. John Carney thanked DNREC's Division of Parks and Recreation staff at a celebratory event in Brandywine Creek State Park.

"My job as your governor is really to enable all of you to do the work that you do and to do it first class, and this medal proves to me that you're holding up your end of the bargain by doing it first-class better than anybody in the country."

This year is the 70th anniversary for Delaware State Parks.

https://www.delawarepublic.org/politics-government/2021-11-16/delaware-state-parks-receivenational-recognition





Mushroom lovers – a group has been formed – we have not named ourselves yet but we are considering 1st State Fungi or Fungi Delmarva. Send your ideas! Join us on January 29 at Killens Pond at 10 am – meet in the parking lot. If it rains we will meet at my community club house, 31767 Marsh Island Ave, Lewes, DE 19958 – community name is Bayfront at Rehoboth. Questions? Email Michele the mushroom lady at mforzley@comcast.net.

We had our first meeting Dec. 7 when we listed to a talk on the legend and lore of mushrooms and shared ideas on what kind of a club we want to have here in the Delmarva peninsula.

We decided to have a foray January 29 at 10am – Killens Pond – meet in the parking lot. We will take a wonder through to see what is out in January. If it rains we will meet at my clubhouse. See below for directions.

We also decided to plan activities along the following ideas-

- Learn how to ID mushrooms in the wild
- Learn how to grow mushrooms
- Visits to local mushroom farms
- Travel to other countries to go mushroom hunting and eating
- Mushroom movies all should take a look at Fantastic Fungi if they have not already seen it. Gorgeous!
- Set up a mushroom area in the Demonstration Garden in Sussex County



Kent County Fall Workshops

Kent County Winter Workshop News

1. Backyard Sweet Potatoes

Presented via Zoom by Debbie Nicol, Kent County Master Gardener.

Have you ever thought of growing your own sweet potatoes at home? Sweet potatoes are very easy to grow in small spaces - in the home garden, raised beds, or even containers! This workshop will take you through the process, from propagation to planting to harvesting, storing, and cooking, including recipes for enjoying the results of your labor.

Register here: https://forms.gle/CE1QykzC5pBPUEwK8

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 1:00pm to 2:00pm

2. Spring Garden Startup- Presented via Zoom by Debbie Nicol, Kent County Master Gardener. Are you ready for Spring? It's just around the corner, so now is the time to plan and prepare your vegetable gardens, lawn, flower beds, and more. We'll walk you through our handy checklist so you'll know exactly what you need to do when along with timely tips and suggestions for a successful 2022 gardening season.

Register here: https://forms.gle/CE1QykzC5pBPUEwK8

Monday, March 7, 2022 at 11:00am to 12:00pm

It's not too late to volunteer to share your gardening knowledge this season. Please contact Debbie Nicol if you have a favorite topic you'd like to present.

Don't forget to check out our virtual workshop recordings. You can see the list on the DSU Master Gardener web page here: https://cast.desu.edu/cooperative-extension/agriculture-natural-resources/delaware-master-gardeners/master-gardener.

2022 Delmarva Soil Summit

The 2022 Delmarva Soil Summit will be held at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury, MD with two options to attend either in-person or virtually.



ADVANCED TRAINING OPPORTUNITES!



Penn State Extention Opportunities

1. Woods in Your Backyard Series

The vast majority of landowners have small woodlots less than 10 acres in size. **Woods in Your Backyard Series** is designed specifically, but not exclusively, for smaller landscapes. Join us to learn how landowners can positively influence the environment by implementing simple stewardship practices. Registration deadline does apply

When - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM ET

Wednesdays

• Jan. 19 & 26, 2022

Format: online via zoom

• Feb. 2, 9, 16, & 23, 2022

• Mar. 2, 9, & 16, 2022

More information & registration information can be found at:

https://web.cvent.com/event/68112a4a-f269-48a1-be06-dac2ccb0241b/regProcessStep1

2. Botanical Photography and Growing Gardeners

Join us for **Botanical Photography and Growing Gardeners** to learn about botanical photography and how to get children interested in gardening. Sharon Lovejoy, an award-winning author and illustrator, will introduce you to the simple tools and methods you need in the world of gardening. Keith Adkins will share methods and practical advice from his years as a military illustrator and photographer. Registration deadline does apply

When: Sat., Jan. 8, 2022, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM ET

Format: online via zoom

3. Second Saturday Gardening Series: Creating a Year-Round Habitat for Birds and Their Friends!

You will learn about planting native trees, shrubs, and perennials that will provide food and nesting sites for birds and the creatures they depend upon. Registration deadlines do apply.

When: Sat., Feb. 12, 2022 - 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM ET

Format: Live Online via Zoom

More information & registration information can be found at:

4. Second Saturday Gardening Series: New Year's Resolutions for Your Yard

New year, new goals for your yard! Now is a great time to start researching how you would like to landscape your yard or add new planting to your yard. Join us for **Second Saturday Gardening**Series: New Year's Resolutions for Your Yard for tips on preparing your yard for the new year!

Registration deadlines do apply.

When: Sat., Jan. 8, 2021- 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM ET

Format: Live Online via Zoom

More information & registration information can be found at:

https://web.cvent.com/event/9ab04e77-caff-44fe-92cc-17bb7672f81e/summary

5. Second Saturday Gardening Series: Wake Up Your Garden - A Spring Task List

Spring is coming, and we're all getting excited to get outside and start gardening. It might be too cold to plant your annuals, but early spring is the perfect time to get a head start on a great growing season. Join us for **Second Saturday Gardening Series: Wake Up Your Garden - A Spring Task List** to learn spring gardening tips and more

When Sat., Mar. 12, 2022, from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM ET

Format: Live Online via Zoom

More information & registration information can be found at:

Advancing the Natural Landscape in a Modern World – Solutions for Sites & Situations

Advancing the Natural Landscape in a Modern World – Solutions for Sites & Situations Friday, February 18, 2022 9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET



*Live Zoom event

Join us for a fascinating day of presentations highlighting design strategies that make it easier and more effective to integrate native plants into a variety of landscapes.

Gardening for wildlife and designing landscapes that mimic nature are being embraced by homeowners and design professionals alike. But leveraging native plants for specific environments and design outcomes can often be challenging. Obstacles can range from tough site conditions to urban gardens with limited space for creating beneficial ecosystems. How can we protect the function and structure of the natural ecology by substituting natives for invasive species? Learn exciting and novel uses of plants, planting design, and application of ecological principles to overcome these roadblocks and achieve high-impact, environmentally sustainable designs.

For Registration information, please see this link: https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens/greenscapes/



Longwood Gardens Online Learning Opportunities

- 1. The World of Plants: Exploring Horticulture is a <u>free</u> online course. Plants have found their way into people's hearts in every corner of the world. Each of us has made some kind of connection to nature in our lifetime. Learn about the evolution and diversity of plants, the importance of plants to our lives, and glimpse some of the weird and wonderful plants at Longwood Gardens and beyond. https://longwoodgardens.org/events-performances/events/world-plants-exploring-horticulture-online-open-class
- 2. Additional online classes and workshop information is available at this following link. There is any associated cost information is also located here: https://longwoodgardens.org/events-performances/classes-lectures



Start the new year with some Online Workshops from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

1. Shalimar Gardens: A Gem of Islamic Garden Design Webinar

• Date: Wednesday, January 19

• Time: 6:00 p.m. ET

• Price: \$30 for non-members, \$25 for PHS members

The Shalimar Gardens are a historic and architectural wonder with origins dating back to 1638 in Punjab, India. Now located in Lahore, Pakistan, this breathtaking property boasts the greatest preservation of Mughal garden construction still in existence.

Join international award-winning landscape and garden designer and 2021 Flower Show exhibitor, Iftikhar Ahmed, for a virtual tour and exploration of the history, architecture, design, and plant life of this vast and beautiful landscape. Ahmed is a direct descendent of the noble Mian family, who were the custodians of the gardens for more than 350 years.

Registration and information can be found at: https://phsonline.org/events/shalimar-gardens? utm_source=Pennsylvania+Horticultural+Society&utm_campaign=677a301958-

<u>AEUPNM18NOV21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-677a301958-356483508&mc_cid=677a301958&mc_eid=6914192329</u>

2. Starting from Scratch: A Guide to Creating a New Garden Webinar

• Date: Tuesday, January 25

• Time: 5:30 p.m. ET

• Price: \$30 for non-members, \$25 for PHS members

When author and gardener Page Dickey left her celebrated garden at Duck Hill after over three decades, she anticipated the extreme undertaking of designing a new space completely from scratch — but what surprised her were the happy opportunities and discoveries that came with starting over.

Join Page as she shares the delights of cultivating years of horticultural knowledge while caring for an established garden to create a brand new one, with insights from her latest book, *Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again*

Registration and information can be found at: <a href="https://phsonline.org/events/guide-creating-new-garden?utm_source=Pennsylvania+Horticultural+Society&utm_campaign=677a301958-AEUPNM18NOV21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-677a301958-356483508&mc_cid=677a301958&mc_eid=6914192329

3. Respect for Insects: Gardening to Promote Beneficial Bug Life Webinar

• Date: Tuesday, February 8

• Time: 6:00 p.m. ET

• Price: \$30 for non-members, \$25 for PHS members

Insects get a bad rap! Most are not pests; in fact, we could not survive life as we know it without them. There are many ways to improve the health and beauty of your garden by creating a haven for beneficial insects, from supporting their habitat to selecting the right kinds of plant life.

Join author and professor of biodiversity science Dr. Dan Duran as he shares what insects do to benefit our ecosystem and how we can help them perform their biological duties.

Registration and information can be found at: https://phsonline.org/events/respect-for-insects?
utm_source=Pennsylvania+Horticultural+Society&utm_campaign=677a301958-AEUPNM18NOV21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-677a301958-356483508&mc_cid=677a301958&mc_eid=6914192329

4. Solutions for Invasive Plants in the Garden Webinar

• Date: Tuesday, February 22

• Time: 5:30 p.m. ET

• Price: \$30 for non-members, \$25 for PHS members

Invasive plants can seriously alter the ecosystem in your garden! These troublesome species crowd out the native plants that provide critical support to birds and pollinators.

Join invasive plant expert Christian Allyn for a look at some of the common characteristics of the worst offenders, and solutions to bring positive environmental change to your backyard.

For information and registration: https://phsonline.org/events/solutions-invasive-plants?
utm_source=Pennsylvania+Horticultural+Society&utm_campaign=677a301958-AEUPNM18NOV21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-677a301958-AEUPNM18NOV21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_490acf3d3f-677a301958-356483508&mc_cid=677a301958&mc_eid=6914192329





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Masterclasses for Norfolk Home Gardeners

New for 2022 Masterclasses for Norfolk Home Gardeners Seeking all Norfolk, VA garden enthusiasts! Join us for ten virtual classes, airing weekly on Tuesday evenings from 02/08/22 to 04/12/22. All ten hour-long classes for one price - \$25!

- Feb 8 Shrubs and Small Trees for Coastal Virginia
- Feb 15 Celebrate Trees
- Feb 22 The Truth About Pruning: Tips and Tools
- Mar 1 Healthy Soil: It's Not Just Dirt! Mar 8 Intensive Vegetable Gardening
- Mar 15 How Green Is Your Lawn? Mar 22 Resilient Landscape Design
- Mar 29 Good Bugs/Bad Bugs And Why They Matter Apr 5 Pollinators and Native Plants
- Apr 12 Natural Pest and Disease Control

See https://www.eventbrite.com/e/183779598727 or more details and registration or email masterclassinfo@norfolkmastergardeners.org

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Chris Epes at (757) 683-2816 / TDD*) during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

This program is brought to you by :Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.



Longwood Garden Community Read for 2021

"In our featured book *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* by J. Drew Lanham, the author examined his lifelong passion for birds, as well as his personal history and struggles. Lanham details his journey as a successful wildlife ecologist who along the way uncovers lessons about legacy and his own need to inject a deeper sense of human caring into his life and work."

More information about this book or the Longwood Garden Community Read program can be found at the following link: https://longwoodgardens.org/education/library-archives/community-read

<u>Do you have a great book, article, website, or blog you think our Master Gardeners would enjoy?</u>

<u>Please send your ideas to Tracy, Megan or Karen at the emails listed below.</u>





Free Tuition at Delaware Technical College!

Senior Citizen Tuition Policy

Did you know that if your 60 or older, you can take classes for free? This information can be found at https://www.dtcc.edu/admissions-financial-aid/tuition-fees

"Residents of the State of Delaware who are 60 years old or older may enroll tuition free in any credit course. Workforce Development and Community Education courses are excluded. Persons eligible for this privilege are not required to pay tuition and registration, late registration, and student services fees. They shall pay the cost of all books, supplies, and other fees. This privilege shall not apply for any course in which competitive admissions is required. This privilege is granted on a space-available basis. Due to limited space availability, the senior citizen registration period for tuition-free courses begins one week before the start of the semester. Senior citizens may request the tuition waiver by submitting the Senior Citizen Registration Form to the Registrar's Office. Registrations submitted prior to one week before the semester start will not be eligible for a tuition waiver. Students are not eligible for the senior citizen tuition waiver for any courses for which they were registered prior to the start of the senior citizen registration period."

Thoughts and Well Wishes

Please include the following MG in your thoughts and well wishes-

 Condolences to Tracy Wootten and her family on the passing of her father. Mr. Wheedleton's obituary can be found https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/22872783/thomas-harry-wheedleton



Delaware Cooperative Extension - Delaware State University & University of Delaware

<u>Please send your contributions to The Potting Shed Tracy, Megan, or Karen at the contact information</u>
<u>below. Thank you!</u>

- <u>Tracy Wootten</u>, Extension Agent Horticulture <u>wootten@udel.edu</u> 302.856.7303 (office) or 302.236.0298 (cell)
- Megan Pleasanton, Kent & Sussex Coordinator <u>mpleasanton@desu.edu</u> 302.857.6438 (office) or 302.242.5692 (cell)
- Karen Abate, Editor ksabate@aol.com 732.300.2167 (cell)

Kent Master Gardener Monthly Meeting

When

Tuesday, Jan. 18th 2022 at 9am

Where

This is an online event.

More information

Social begins at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom

Sussex Master Gardener Monthly Meeting

When

Tuesday, Jan. 11th 2022 at 9am

Where

This is an online event.

More information

Social begins at 9 a.m. via Zoom

Delaware Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners are working volunteers and are supported by Delaware Cooperative Extension through the University of Delaware and Delaware State University Extension offices. It is Delaware Cooperative Extension's policy that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran or handicap status. If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the office two weeks prior to the event.

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Delaware State University and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Distributed in
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Delaware Cooperative Extension

