

DGC October Newsletter

Earth laughs in flowers.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dear Members,

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 15 at 1:00PM in the CCD Parlor. Our program this month features Bill Erdmann of Hidden Ridge Plants who will speak about Perennials, "The Good, The Bad and the Invasive".

At 9:30AM on October 15 we will have our workshop in the Fellowship Room of CCD. This workshop will be conducted by Fred Gerber of the Queens Botanical Garden. He will guide us in planting a cacti and succulent dish garden. All materials will be supplied. The cost per member is \$10. The rest of the fee will be subsidized by the DGC. There are a few spaces left. Please contact Rosemarie Robertson, rosemarier7@gmail.com or 718-224-3999 if you are interested in participating. As a courtesy, if you have already signed up for this workshop but find you will be unable to attend, please let Rosemarie know ASAP so that we can make the necessary adjustments.

This month's hospitality:

Tea Sandwiches:

Margaret Warren
Mary Barran
Gloria Brehl
Cecilia Cody

Cookies:

Fran Bello
Bunny Bollon
Irma Bishay
Gloria Bodie

Centerpiece:

Josephine Cespon

Thank you in advance for your donations. Remember, disposable platters only. Please bring your hospitality offerings to the meeting no later than 12:30PM.

For our Ways and Means table this month, Mary Taylor has suggested we donate accessories; belts, bags, hats, scarves, shoes, gloves, etc. Check your wardrobes for new items (tags still on if possible) and/or gifts that you have not been able to use. And let's not forget to accessorize the men we know. Ways and Means netted \$255 at our September meeting. Your participation really makes a difference. Many thanks to all who made contributions and to those of you who made purchases. Mary and the DGC thank you!

Important Dates:

October 12 - Queens SAFE Disposal Event at Cunningham Park, Ball Field Parking Lot from 10AM to 4PM rain or shine. Get rid of your harmful household products safely. Contact nyc.gov/safedisposal or call 311 for more information.

October 19 - DGC Bake Sale 10AM-2 PM in front of the HomeNY Real Estate office of Doug Montgomery. Members who have volunteered to bake can drop off their items on Friday, between 4-6PM or before 10AM on Saturday at the Real Estate office. Not a baker? Please come and buy. We also appreciate monetary donations.

October 19 - Electronics recycling at St. Anastasia from 10-4. Contact Doug Montgomery for more information at Douglas@HomeNY.com.

October 26 - It's My Park Day Fall CleanUp and Bulb Planting at Glenwood Landing. This event will be run by the Westmoreland Association with the Parks Department. All are welcome to come and participate. There will be pizza, water, give aways and community service will be honored. Sounds like a great opportunity for those of us who know high school students, kids in scouting or any one interested in maintaining our neighborhood green spaces. Patricia Yoon (yoopatrícia3@gmail.com) has contacted Parks to ensure that a good fall cleanup is done at CTR Park as, unfortunately, we had to cancel the DGC's participation this year. We look forward to partnering with Parks again in the Spring.

October 26 - paper shredding event at the Home NY Real Estate office of Doug Montgomery (Douglas@HomeNY.com).

June 25, 2020 - Save The Date: a DGC day trip by bus to Grounds for Sculptures in Hamilton, NJ. The cost and more information will be provided in the weeks ahead.

See you on the 15th!

Best Regards,
Lori Hinchey
President
Douglaston Garden Club
douglastongardenclub@gmail.com

HORTICULTURE TIDBITS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019.
BY MARY TOBACCO

Apparently, the hot dry weather has shocked our flowers, lawns, trees and shrubs. To keep them happy and alive, PLEASE check them regularly and make sure they are watered often.

If you're looking to have a beautiful Spring garden, it's time to prepare for the coming of Winter: repair bad patches in the lawn (if needed feed autumn weed and moss killer). Spring bulbs should be planted while the ground is warm and before the ground freezes - Not all spring bulbs bloom at the same time. The early Spring bulbs, snowdrops and crocuses, are the first to appear. Mid-Spring brings daffodils and fritillaria imperialis. In late Spring tulips, iris and lilies bloom. Clean and rake all debris. Now is the time to dry hydrangeas by hanging them upside down. You should stop fertilizing, deadheading and pruning roses. Instead, gently remove petals from your roses. Make sure you keep watering them.

Next time you see a bee buzzing around, remember he is moving pollen to help sustain our environment. Bats, birds, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals and most importantly, BEES are POLLINATORS. Pollinators are animals that move pollen from the male anther of a flower to the stigma of a flower. This helps fertilization of the ovules in the flower by the male gametes in the pollen grains. Only fertilized plants can make fruit or seeds, and without them, Plants can not reproduce. Pollinators are declining in numbers due to loss of habitats, pesticides, pollution and invasive species. Soooooooo... Please go natural!! HELP save our pollinators and the environment.

HINTS AND INTERESTING FACTS

This is a winning combination - especially for Thanksgiving. Brusselkale, also known as kalettes and lollipop kale, is a cross between brussels sprouts and kale. Their mild nutty flavor becomes sweeter after frost. "Autumn Star"[matures in 110days] Grows well in nitrogen-rich soil amended with well-aged manure or compost. Place transplants 18 to 24 inches apart in the garden.

On Halloween, according to folklore, a juniper planted beside a home's front door discourages a witch from entering, because she would have to correctly count the juniper's needles. Remember: October- breezy, November - wheezy, December -freezy.

If you don't have oasis for arranging flowers, cut a large raw potato in half and place it flat side down for a base. Poke holes in the potato large enough for your stems. Insert the stems in the holes and voila!! a beautiful arraignment! You win first prize! If you want, you can cover the edges with ribbon or cloth.

If your tulips, mums, or other flowers have drooping heads, try sticking a straight pin just BELOW the bottom of each flower to keep it upright on its stem (Sharpened toothpicks also work).

Slugs like their liquor, fill a bowl with beer and plant the bowl in the garden so the lip of the bowl is RAISED ever so slightly above the ground. The slugs will seek out the beer and drown in it.

Flowers love soft drinks: rejuvenate the water with a mixture of EQUAL parts water and a citrus-flavored carbonated soft drink with sugar. They will perk up after drinking the mixture. To keep cut flowers fresh a little longer, add a solution of 2 drops of household bleach, 1 teaspoon sugar, and 1 quart water to the vase.

When the backs of the heads on your sunflower plants are brown, it's time to harvest the seeds for planting next year. With a toothbrush, brush the tops - this will release all the seeds from the head.

We can preserve our fresh grown herbs by chopping them up, placing them in an ice cube tray, filling the trays with water, and freezing them. An average cube holds about a tablespoon of chopped herb and a tablespoon of water. You can simply add the herbed ice cubes to many recipes.

ENJOY THE FALL WEATHER, WATCH THE BEAUTIFUL COLORS ON THE TREES, BEFORE ALL THE LEAVES DISAPPEAR.

Remember if it's hard work your doing and need advice

Call: CORNELL UNIVERSITY 1-516-228-0467 ext.7 Mon-Thurs 10-12.30

NEW YORK STATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 1-866-640-0652

Have a blessed month! Happy GARDENING! MARY TOBACCO