

DGC March Newsletter

Patience is power.
With time and patience
the mulberry leaf becomes silk.
Old Chinese Proverb

Dear Members,

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17 (Happy St. Patrick's Day) at 1:00PM in the CCD Parlor. In honor of the occasion I hope to be seeing many of us wearing our green.

Our presenter, Pat Sayers, will be treating us to an interesting program about "Easy Natural Gardening and Old Farmers' Tales".

This month is the DGC's 99th anniversary so please come and help us celebrate.

March Hospitality:

Centerpiece: Aida Ieraci

Cookies: Doshi Banu, Carolyn Haseney, Joan Hellmann, Lori Hinchey

Tea Sandwiches: Bernadette Gabriele, Michael Gannon, Marta Gotz, Sandy Hart

Thank you in advance for your contribution. Please have your donation at the meeting by noon.

There will be no Ways and Means this month but it will return with a flourish in April.

On March 3 a group of our DGC members attended the Philadelphia Flower Show which was reported to be fabulous, a must see, so put it on your bucket list for next year.

Looking Ahead:

March 28 - It's My Park Day at Glenwood Landing sponsored by the Westmoreland Association. The DGC will be contributing daffodil bulbs and volunteers are encouraged to attend. More information will follow.

March 29 - Lions Club Gala at the Douglaston Manor honoring Catherine Touwsma.

April 20 - District 2, FGCNYS Annual Luncheon at The Bayview House at Captain Bill's, Bayshore, NY

April 25 - DGC Semi-annual Bake Sale in front of Doug Montgomery's Real Estate office on Douglaston Pkwy.

May 19 - DGC Spring Tea and Small Flower Show. This year's theme is all things love, romance and weddings.

May 25 - Memorial Day Parade honoring our veterans will also honor Doug Montgomery as "Man of the Year".

June 25 - DGC trip to Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ

See you on the 17th!

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

HORTICULTURE TIDBITS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020 BY MARY TOBACCO

Did you know that our precious dirt has ANTIDEPRESSANT MICROBES in it? Studies were conducted on cancer patients and they reported a better quality of life and less stress. Soil has been studied and it has been found that there are microbes in it that have similar effects on the brain as Prozac. So get out and play in the dirt and improve your mood and your life.

On cold, windy days stay indoors and concentrate on your indoor plants. Give them some LOVE, but don't **over** water them (this will cause wilt ,stunted growth, dropping of lower leaves, black or brown water spots on leaves and soft shriveled stems). The foliage should **NOT** touch cold window panes which may damage or even kill the leaves. Use a soft damp cloth to remove dust from pores, and don't use oils and polishes as these will clog pores and harm the foliage. Your AZALEA, BEGONIA, CACTI, ENGLISH IVY, FERNS, FREESIA, PALMS, NORFOLK ISLAND PINE, PHILODENDRON, PRIMROSE, SNAKE PLANT, SPIDER PLANT, and SUCCULENTS can tolerate temperatures as low as 55 degrees F. One way to know whether your potted plants need watering is to stick any long pointed object such as a knitting needle, a pencil eraser end first, or a chopstick, into the soil If the object comes up dry add water

Keep all houseplants **AWAY** from heat sources. **AVOID LOW HUMIDITY PROBLEMS** by watching for dropping of lower leaves, yellow lower leaves, or brown leaf tip. You can **RAISE THE HUMIDITY** by putting pots in trays on moist gravel or place a humidifier in the room and grouping plants together. **LIGHT** is an important factor in producing flowers. For **long day** plants, Calceolaria, philodendron, and tuberous begonias need 14 to 18 hrs. of light for flowering. **Short day** plants such as Christmas cactus, chrysanthemum, kalanchoe, poinsettia, and primrose need 10 to 12 hours light in order to flower. Indeterminate day plants, African violet ,amaryllis, azalea, cyclamen, geranium, and roses bloom regardless of the amount of light. Once amaryllis flowers are spent, remove the flower and stalk. Keep the plant in bright light. They last longer if kept in a bright room with an average temperature of 65 degrees F.

THESE HOUSEPLANTS ARE POISONOUS TO HUMANS AND ANIMALS WHEN EATEN; **lantana philodendron, dieffenbachia, and poinsettia**

It's never too late to plan your garden, so make some time and your rewards will give you great pleasures.

HINT: Flowers with hollow stems, poppies and dahlias, secrete a milky substance when cut. The stems have to be seared so they can last longer. Hold it against a hot chafing dish or in the flame of a candle. The flowers will last even longer if you set the stems in warm ---not cold---water after searing.

WHAT COULD BE POLLUTING OUR AIR?????

CARBON MONOXIDE is found in home heating , gas cooking appliances, cars in attached garages, fireplaces. Vent sources **DIRECTLY** Outdoors, install CO detectors for alerting you of unsafe levels.

NITROGEN DIOXIDE, a product of combustion, is found in home heating equipment, gas cooking appliances, cars in attached garages, and fireplaces. Vent sources directly outdoors, check the operation of appliances, seal cracks between your garage and home.

VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS [VOCs] are a variety of household chemicals including toluene, benzene, and formaldehyde. Cleaning products, building materials, paints, solvents, wood preservatives ,fuels, aerosols, air freshers, pesticides, dry cleaning fluid, scented candles ,printer ink, and adhesives. Ventilate. Look for no-VOC paints, building materials, and cleaning products, **PARTICULATE MATTER** tiny airborne particles small enough to be inhaled: those under 2.5 microns [denoted as PM2.5] are most dangerous. Wood-burning fireplaces, smoking, wood stoves, household dust, and pollen.

OTHERS ARE: **PARTICULATE MATTER, BIOLOGICAL POLLUTANTS, ASBESTOS, LEAD, AND RADON.** **TEST AND VENTILATE AND IF NOT SURE CALL IN A PROFESSIONAL FOR YOUR SAFETY. LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS HAVE SHOWN, THERE ISN'T ANY EVIDENCE THAT SOME PLANTS CAN REDUCE LEVELS OF SOME AIRBORNE CHEMICALS IN THE HOME AND IMPROVE HOUSEHOLD AIR. Please help save our environment. Shop natural plant natural.**

DON'T FORGET Plastic BAGS END MARCH1, 2020!

Call 1 516 565 5265-Cornell University- if you need gardening help.

Always stay safe.

GOD BLESS, STAY WELL,

MARY TOBACCO