

THE DIGGERS

Spring early Summer 2019

Mark Your Calendars

MAY 2019

- 10 **DGC Monthly Meeting “The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife”**
Eastern Shore Hospital Center. Presented by journalist, editor and naturalist, Nancy Lawson
Entries 9:30-10:30, Meeting 11 am, Program 1pm
- 11 **Worcester Garden Club Plant Auction and Sale** Sturgis Park, River ST., Snow Hill 10am-3pm
- 15 **DGC Floral Design Workshop with Jeanne Bernard**
Neck District Firehouse 10-noon. \$25 DGC members, \$30 guests. Pre-registration required
- 18 **Great Chesapeake Bay Wellness Race and Family Walk**
8am Hyatt Cambridge
- 25 **Flag Placement Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery, Hurlock.** 8 am. Volunteers needed to place flags
- 28 **DGC Hillwood Estate Museum and Garden Bus Trip**
\$90. Contact David Adams.

JUNE, 2019

- 1 **Secret Gardens of Oxford** 10 am Tour Guide Books and Tickets at Town Park 9 am.
- 5 **DGC Board Meeting** 10am-noon. Chesapeake College, Race St. Cambridge. All welcome
- 8 **“Life on the Chesapeake” Floral Interpretations of the Paintings of George Wright,** DCA 5-7pm
- 14 **DDGC Annual Picnic and Awards Presentation** at the home of Helen Saum 11am-2pm. 1 Sandy Acres Rd, Cambridge

JULY, 2019

- 12 **DGC Monthly Meeting “Fun Flower Frenzy”** design competition at Immanuel United Church of Christ, Whitehall Road, Cambridge. Master of Ceremonies Jeanne Bernard, Entries 9:30-10:30. Meeting 11 am, Program 1pm
- 14 **DGC Pit Beef Sale Fundraiser**



Dorchester County Courthouse Pots all spruced up for Spring and Summer, thanks to DGC. Kudos to David Adams, Cheryl Willey and their team!

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From DGC President, Jeanne Bernard...

Happy Spring All! It's been a very busy time with meetings and training opportunities inside and outside of the Club. We closed out last year's programs in March with an amazing talk by Dr. Sara Via (below right) on our changing climate and how it affects us all as gardeners. She was so engaging, informative and funny on what is a very serious topic.



Also at the March meeting, our new (some old!) slate of officers was inducted by Immediate Past District I Director Anne Foss.



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April's meeting featured a beautiful array of daffodil exhibits in our mini-flower show, as well as many other wonderful horticulture specimens and some incredible low profile designs which wowed everyone, including many ESHC patients who viewed the exhibit.



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Our April Meeting presenter was Award-winning photographer, Karen Klinedinst (above), who shared some of her secrets for digital photography—picture taking *and* editing. The program wasn't for everyone, but all enjoyed the meeting and the tips we learned about nature photography will help us in the Botanical Arts Division of future flower shows.



Speaking of Flower Shows....major kudos to Susie Middleton and Judy Slaughter who co-chaired the NGC Flower Show School. Course 1 was recently held in Bowie, MD (to be followed by courses 2 through 4) over the next year or so). The amount of work planning and executing such an undertaking was readily apparent and appreciated by the record-setting student participation of in excess of forty garden club members. The speakers were exceptional and the amount of material overwhelming, but those of us who participated learned a great deal, not only about flower show procedure, but about certain types (genus/epithets—used to be called species!) of horticulture. David Adams, Mari Stanley, Karen Cartwright, Evelyn Renquist

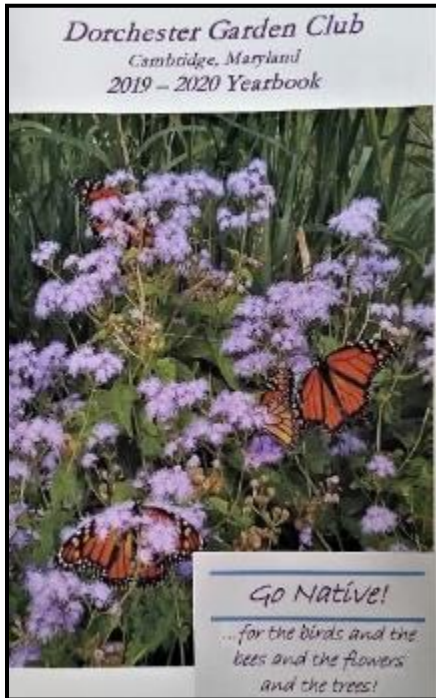
and I were in attendance.

Many of our members enjoyed other excellent training programs offered by District I clubs and the FGCMD, including “Wild and Neat” with Claudia West, author of *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, a talk and tea on “English Gardens” by well-known, British garden tour guide, Katherine Astor and presentations by the Perennial Diva, Stephanie Cohen and floral designer, Jennie Love, at the Talbot Garden Club’s Symposium. The District and State Annual meetings featuring

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excellent presentations were also well attended by DGC members. Members are reminded to take advantage of these opportunities as DGC cannot always afford the same caliber of speakers in our programs and it's fun to gather with other gardeners from around the region.



We are looking forward to lots of great fun and educational offerings as we enjoy our *Going Native* program year. There is a hands-on floral design workshop coming up on May 15th and another fabulous excursion by bus, this time to the stunning Hillwood Estate and Gardens in Washington DC.



In June we will all convene at Helen Saum's lovely home for our Annual Picnic and Awards Program. This is a "friendraiser" so don't forget to bring a guest who might like to know more about our wonderful club. The July meeting should be a real hoot as teams of experienced and novice designers will create four designs during a timed exercise using the same mechanics and floral materials, but their own unique styles to create beautiful floral arrangements which will be auctioned off.

Lots to do! Our community service projects are underway by hard-working committees, helping to make Dorchester County a more beautiful place to live in so many ways. We've raised a significant amount of money towards the purchase of permanent garden signs at all our civic improvement sites and we look forward to seeing the first signs placed very soon. We are also working on a Member Handbook to fill in the information gaps for members, new and old, about how and why our club operates as it does. This was to be introduced at a Member Tea the end of May, but unfortunately your President must travel to Ohio on that very day to help deal with her husband's health issues. We promise to reschedule and Jennie Rideout has graciously offered to host as soon as possible. A special commemorative cookbook is in early production in anticipation of next year's 90th anniversary year. Members are asked to photograph their gardens at this beautiful time of year for inclusion in our print and on-line publications. And we will soon begin planning for our participation in the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage in 2020. Everyone is invited to participate in all of these endeavors and to help our club grow and become even more vibrant than it already is. Thanks for all you do!

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Horticulture and Design Entries and Awards for March and April, 2019

Dorchester Garden Club Mini Flower Shows Here is a recap of the Horticulture and Design Awards for our March and April meetings at the Eastern Shore Hospital Center, along with photos of the many beautiful entries...

March 8th Meeting – Division I Horticulture



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Class 1 Forced Branches

- b. Pussy Willow 1st Cheryl Willey
- c. Any Other 2nd Cookie Brohawn

Class 2 African Violets

- b. Pot diameter more than 3" 1st Kathy Miller

Class 3 Conifers

- a. With cones or berries 1st Beverly Shelly
- b. Without cones or berries 1st Cookie Brohawn, 2nd Beverly Shelly

Class 4 Broadleaf Evergreen Tree or Shrub

- a. Flowering 1st Bobbie Tamplin
- b. Foliage 1st Kathy Slaughter, 2nd Cheryl Willey, HM Ching Stanton
- c. Fruited 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Cookie Brohawn

Class 5 Ilex (Holly)

- a. Foliage 1st Beverly Shelly
- b. Fruited 1st Cookie Brohawn, 2nd Jane Parks, 3rd Beverly Shelly, HM Cheryl Willey

Class 6 Container Grown Plants

- a. Flowering 1st Sue Jones, 2nd Kathy Miller, 3rd Dee Terry, HM Cookie Brohawn
- b. Foliage 1st Cookie Brohawn, 2nd Barbara Hubbard, 3rd Beverly Shelly, HM Susan Matthews, Karen Cartwright

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Class 7 Open Class

- a. Annual 1st Jane Parks
- b. Perennial 1st Kathy Slaughter, 2nd Linda Easter, HM Gloria Warner
- d. Bulb, corm, rhizome, tuber 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Cookie Brohawn
- c. Vines 2nd Cookie Brohawn, 3rd Beverly Shelly

Division II Design

Class 1 “The Bright Colors of Spring” Illuminary Design



First Place, Cheryl Willey

Class 2 “March Madness” Designer’s Choice using oranges as Featured Objects



First Place, Judy Slaughter

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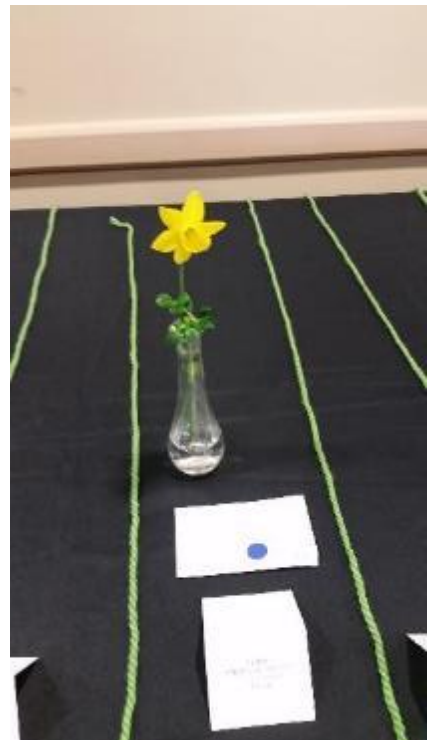
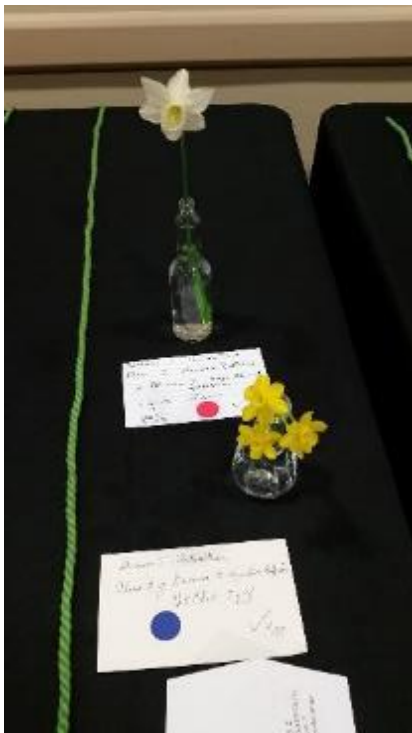
And of course, a lovely lunch provided by the Eastern Shore Hospital Center Catering Staff!



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April 12th Meeting – Division I Horticulture



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Class 1. Standard Daffodils

- a. Division 1 – Trumpet 1st Jane Parks
- b. Division 2 – Large Cup 1st Fran Collins, 2nd Cookie Brohawn
- d. Division 4 – Double. 1. One bloom per stem 1st Ellen Higgins, 2nd Fran Collins, 3rd Miriam Zjip-Koedijk, HM Helen Saum, Gloria Warner, Jane Parks, Maura Manley
- d. Division 4 – Double.2. More than one bloom per stem 1st Sandy Lucas, 2nd Susan Matthews
- c. Division 5 – Triandus 1st Beverly Waggoner, 2nd Martha Keating, 3rd Gloria Warner
- g. Division 7 – Jonquilla and Apodanthus 1st Cookie Brohawn
- h. Division 8 Tazetta 1st Faye Phillips, 2nd Fran Collins

Class 2 Miniature Daffodils

- a. Division 1 Trumpet 1st Jane Parks
- c. Division 3 Small Cup 1st Evelyn Renkwitz
- g. Division 7 – Jonquilla and Apodanthus 1st Faye Phillips, 2nd Cookie Brohawn

Class 4. Conifers

- b. Without cones 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Cookie Brohawn

Class 5. Broadleaf Evergreens

- a. Flowering 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Martha Keating, 3rd Jane Parks, HM Susan Matthews, Ellen Higgins
- b. Foliage 1st Patti Hopkins, 2nd Cookie Brohawn, 3rd Cheryl Willey
- c. Fruited 1st Cookie Brohawn

Class 6. Deciduous Tree or Shrub

- a. Flowering 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Jane Parks, 3rd Cookie Brohawn, HM Cheryl Willey, Helen Saum, Sandy Lucas

Class 7 Ilex (Holly)

- a. Foliage 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Kame {arls
- b. Fruited 1st Beverly Shelly, 2nd Beverly Waggoner

Class 8. Open Class

- a. Annual 1st Beverly Shelly
- b. Perennial 1st Faye Phillips, 2nd Gloria Warner, 3rd Beverly Shelly
- b. Subdivision 1 1st David Adams, 2nd Patti Hopkins, 3rd Sandy Lucas
- d. Bulb, corm, rhizome, tuber 1st Linda Chandlee, 2nd Cheryl Willey, 3rd Martha Keating, HM Beverly Waggoner, Susan Matthews, Fran Collins
- d. Subdivision 1 1st Cheryl Willey, 2nd Linda Easter, 3rd Cookie Brohawn, HM David Adams
- e. Vines 1st Cheryl Willey

Class 9. Group of three perennials in one container

- a. Same cultivar 1st David Adams, 2nd Sandy Lucas

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Division II Design

Class 1 "Capture the Blooms" Designer's Choice Using Camera as Accessory



First Place
Kay Karminski



Second Place
Mari Stanley

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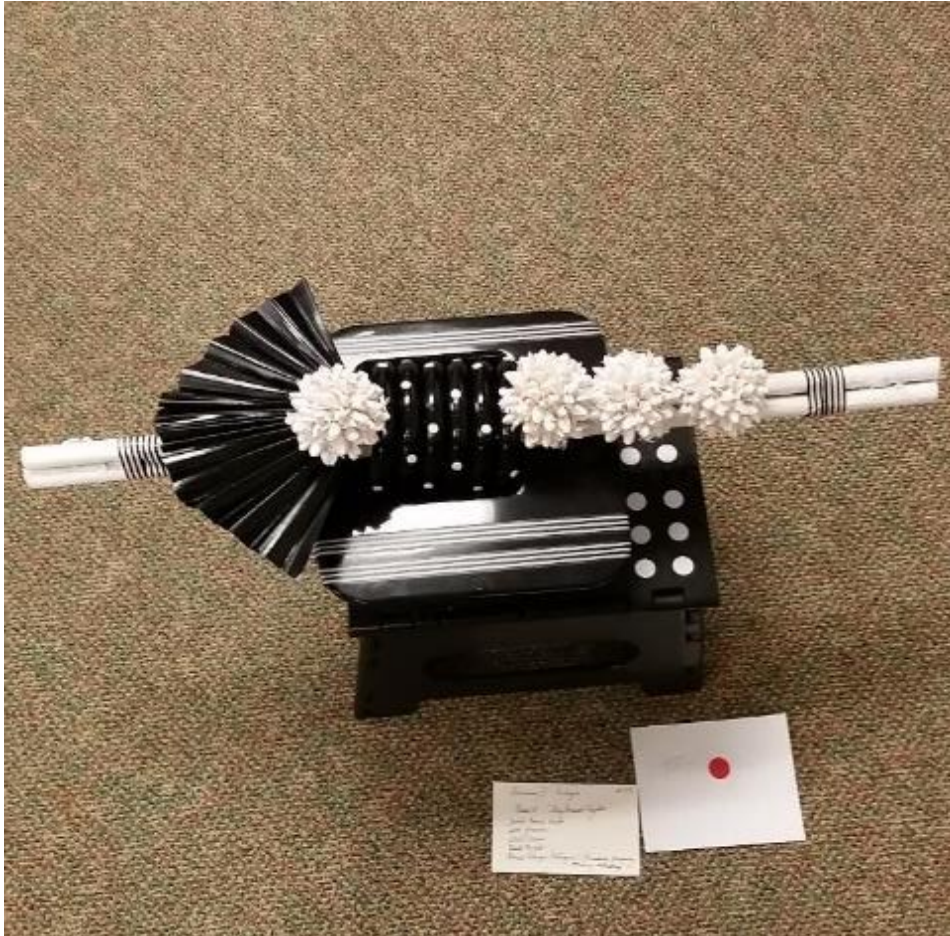
Class 2 "Stay Focused Together" Black/White Low Profile Design



First Place, Judy Slaughter

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2nd Place
Faye Phillips



3rd Place
Beth
Burton

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Honorable Mentions: Karen Cartwright, Lynne Davis, Mari Stanley



Congratulations to all for these stunning designs!

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“Lasagna Pots” Helped Welcome Spring in Dorchester!

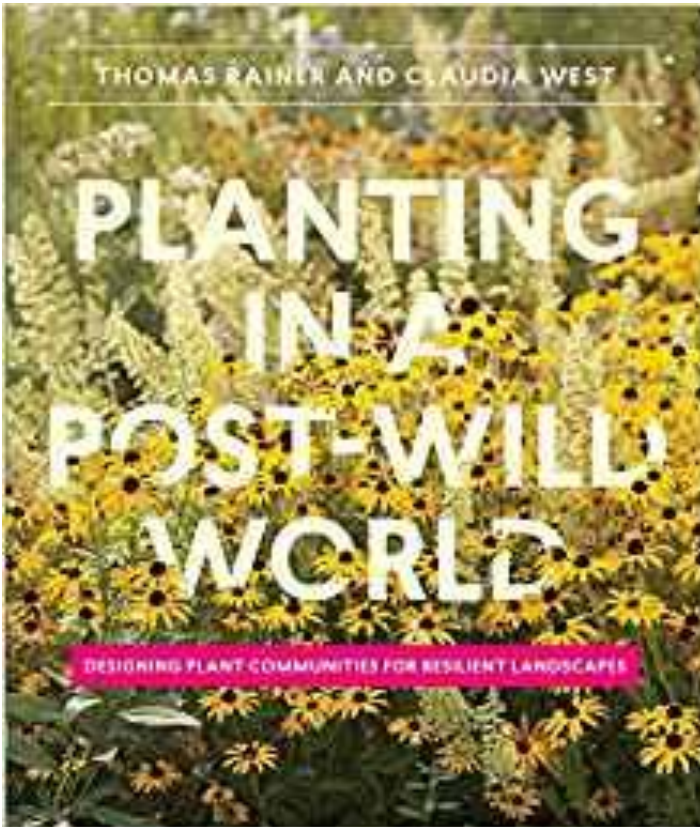
A few lovely examples that were shared by DGC members of their “Lasagna Pots” planted at Trish Reynold’s Container Bulb Workshop last Fall... (clockwise from top left Mari Stanley, Cookie Brohawn, Jeanne Bernard)



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Go Wild, with a wonderful new book “Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes” by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West



In keeping with our club’s theme for the 2019-2020 Program Year, here is a wonderful book to recommend to all. What follows is the review by Gail Hamsher, Garden Club of America Library Committee...

The lush, densely planted landscapes photographed in Thomas Rainer and Claudia West’s *Planting in a Post-Wild World* are a testament to the authors’ unique philosophy of selecting planting groups and their arrangement. Rainer, a registered landscape architect and West, a landscape designer and consultant, focus on “plant communities” and their proper arrangement or “layering.” The book is a detailed description of their philosophy of plant choices, how they are installed and why lots of maintenance is not necessary if proper choices are made. The authors use the term “plant communities” to describe groups

of overlapping populations of plants that co-exist and interact. These populations do not have to be native plants exclusively. The authors are “agnostic,” to use their word, about the origins of the designed plant communities. They can be native or “international,” another of their word choices. The authors explain that plant species have specific ecological niches that become communities when they are chosen to survive in similar environmental conditions. This is one of the foundations of the authors’ landscaping philosophy. The book presents five essential principles for successful ecological performance: 1) choose plants that are related populations, not isolated individuals; 2) use stress as an asset so, for example, it is unnecessary to embellish the soil; 3) cover the ground densely by vertically layering plants as bare soil is an opportunity for weeds; 4) layer the plants for a more attractive design; and 5) manage, don’t maintain the planting. The book elaborates on these five guiding principles and provides many useful, easy to use charts that reinforce the details of each of these principles. The authors saved the absolute best part of the book for the last chapter: “Creating and Managing a Plant Community.” They share with the reader insider tips on soil preparation options, how to choose the best form of plant materials for the site, how to lay out the design of the plant communities and creative management techniques for keeping the design in place. The book is worth purchasing just to keep the last chapter as a guide.” (*Available on amazon.com*)

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Will Continued Climate Change Affect our Communities?

... Pat Rupiper, Environmental Schools Chairman article for "Keeping in Touch"



First, is there science proving that there is an issue or is it all hype? Short answer – Yes. There is science to prove that climate change is real. The latest report issued came out right after Thanksgiving last year: the Fourth US National Climate Assessment.

Next, will there be local United States effects expected to affect our homes and communities? Short answer, again, Yes. Effects of climate change have already begun and Americans are dealing with increased severity of hurricanes, wildfires, flooding from heavy rainfalls, and vanishing components in current ecosystems. The report confirms that we can expect more “frequent and intense extreme weather and climate-related events” that will cause severe damage to stressed ecosystems, unequal social systems, and deteriorating infrastructure. Rising temperatures create an environment that has the potential to threaten human health by increasing water and food borne diseases, heat related deaths, asthma and allergic illnesses. Climate change will alter the geographic range of disease-carrying insects, exposing a wider range of people to Lyme disease, Zika, West Nile and Dengue. The conclusion from the Green America report of 12/7/2018 is that a range of ecosystems will be severely impacted. Agriculture, fisheries, energy production, transportation infrastructure, and the healthcare system all are projected to be impacted by changing temperature, changing rainfall, and/or changing storm intensities.

So is there something that regular citizens can do to make a difference on the impact of climate change locally? Short Answer: YES. The choices that you implement can make a difference.

First: Do some research and become aware of what is affecting your own environment. There are many sources out there open to the “average human being.” Bring that information to your own garden club and decide if there is an action that your club wishes to pursue. Garden clubs have been the first line of defense for communities for decades. Second: Take a look at your own habits and plantings in your yards. Is there a way you can create a decrease in green house or carbon dioxide emissions? Can you create an increase in sequestration? Sure. Plant a tree! Encourage more green space in your community. Maybe even organize a “Climate Victory Garden.” I am a huge proponent of supporting local grown crops and locally owned small businesses.

Become informed and active in your community. Seek out science-based facts and create/promote decisions that reflect improvement of your own environment.

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It's Peony Season! Reminder of how to preserve blossoms for later blooming!

Author: Dixie Sandborn, [Michigan State University Extension](#)



Peonies are one of the most loved spring flowers. Lynn Byczynski calls peonies the “darlings of the spring flower world” in her book, “The Flower Farmer, An Organic Grower’s Guide to Raising and Selling Cut Flowers.”

Recently, I was talking with a friend about peonies and she told me her grandmother always had a fresh bouquet of peonies on her table at Thanksgiving. This was years before our favorite spring flowers entered the market in the fall from South America. We now routinely see flowers “out of season” as they are grown and shipped around the world daily. Even today, if it were possible to get peonies in November the price would be so exorbitant the bouquet would be more costly than the rest of the dinner combined. Those of us who love peonies long to have them as cut flowers longer than the few weeks they are blooming in season. How could my friend’s grandmother have a peony bouquet at Thanksgiving? What is the cut flower lover’s answer to extending the peony season?

Good news! You can cut peonies and store them for several weeks, even up to months depending on the variety. The key to storing peonies in the refrigerator and having them bloom at a much later date is knowing when to cut them and how to properly store them.

The first thing you need to know is when to cut the peonies. The timing needs to be precise. To store a peony for proper bloom and achieve a vase life of five to 10 days, you need to cut the flowers when the buds are showing some color and are soft like a marshmallow, according to Wilma Jackson from the Sunny Dale Spring

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Peony Farm in Valley Center, Kansas. During the bloom time of peonies, you must check them several times a day to make sure you are cutting at the proper developmental stage.

Once the peonies are cut, you should store them dry. [Michigan State University Extension](#) suggests stripping the leaves off the stem to reduce water loss. The next thing you need to do is wrap the peonies completely, stem to bud, in clear plastic wrap, sealing both ends of the wrap. Sealing the wrap helps to ensure minimal moisture loss from the flowers themselves. A good tight seal is imperative if storing them in a frost-free refrigerator.

Store them horizontally for up to three months. (Or, according to my friend, until Thanksgiving. Her grandmother stored hers in dampish newspapers.) When removing them from their cold storage, cut the stem and place in tepid water in a cool area. Once the peony is hydrated, it should bloom for about a week.

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On the Lighter Side...



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Native Plants and Climate Change

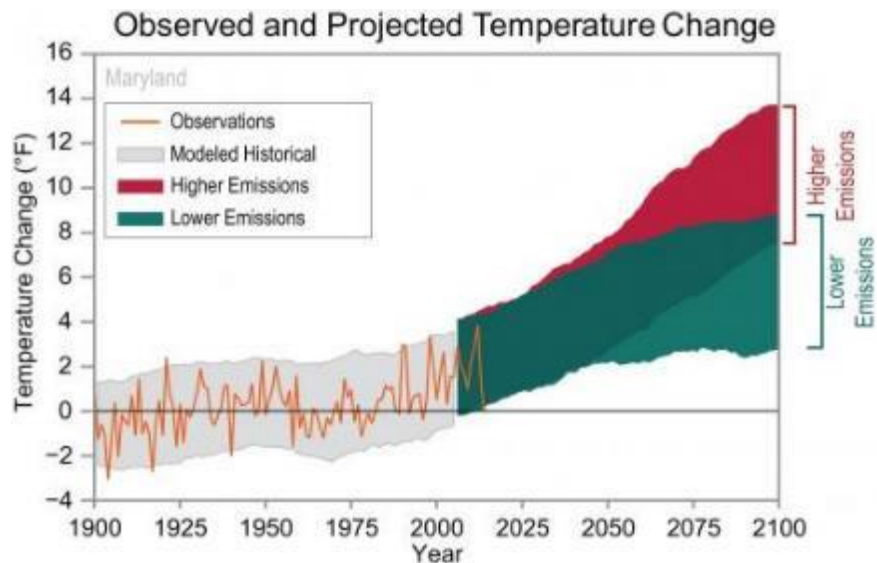
... *University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center*



Whether in natural areas or in our gardens, climate change is affecting native plants. According to the Maryland Climate Summary, our temperatures are expected to increase 5° F to 11° F by 2100.

- Higher temperatures cause native plants to experience more heat-related stress. Heat stress causes higher water demand, a situation made worse by longer droughts.
- Higher atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂ levels preferentially promote the growth of invasive plant species), decreasing the space needed to support natural areas.
- Elongated growing seasons cause earlier leaf out and bloom times, which in turn affects the animal species synchronized to the life cycles of native plants, especially pollinators.

Growing Conditions Are on the Move



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Each native plant species has a natural range. Within that natural range, there are specific habitats that contain the ideal combination of growing conditions for that species. With climate change, Maryland's precipitation and temperature conditions are changing.

This map shows how much the 30-year average temperature has shifted northward, expressed in terms of the familiar USDA Plant Hardiness Zones, in just ten years. Accordingly, the geographic range over which a native species' original growing conditions occur is moving. Native plant species will either adapt to new conditions, migrate to more favorable environments, or go extinct.

Over geologic time, native plant species have had to adapt and migrate as a result of climate change caused by glacial epochs. Can native plants adapt or relocate quickly enough to keep up with modern climate change?

Adaptation

Some species will evolve in response to the changing climate, allowing them to maintain or even expand their natural ranges. Native species that still thrive in your region, for example, have adapted to all the climate change that has occurred so far.

In cities, when the sun beats down on all the dark surfaces (rooftops, pavement), it creates heat. As a result, cities are much hotter than their surrounding suburbs. This makes cities good places to find native plant species that have the adaptive genetic diversity needed to cope with the big temperature increases to come. City native plants have not only adapted to all the climate change that has occurred so far, but they have also done so in just decades. Common milkweed, like the one shown thriving in Washington D.C. in the photo at top, is an example of a species that is doing well in urban areas. Herbarium studies indicate that common milkweed is even expanding its natural range southward despite climate change.

Migration

As the climate warms, the temperature conditions with which a species co-evolved will move north. But plants can't just get up and migrate the way some animals can. Plants migrate through seed dispersal. If seeds dispersed to the north find suitable growing conditions, good seedling survival will result in a successful migration. For northward migration to work there must be large, contiguous blocks of natural area.



Plant species in Maryland's mountainous regions will find more moderate summer temperatures at higher elevations, but species already located at the top of slope have nowhere to go. Species adapted to mountaintop conditions are more likely to experience local extinctions as a result of climate change.

Plants in tidal habitats must also cope with sea level rise. As of 2018, around the Chesapeake Bay, sea level is rising at a rate of 3/4 of an inch to 1 inch every 5 years. Additionally, tidal environments are being pounded by more intense storms.

Tidal plants that can disperse seeds upslope may migrate successfully. However, areas immediately above the tidal zone are often developed and therefore unsuitable for seed germination and growth. Plant species that are adapted to very specific conditions, as many imperiled plants are, are surrounded by unsuitable growing conditions, so they will often be unable to migrate.

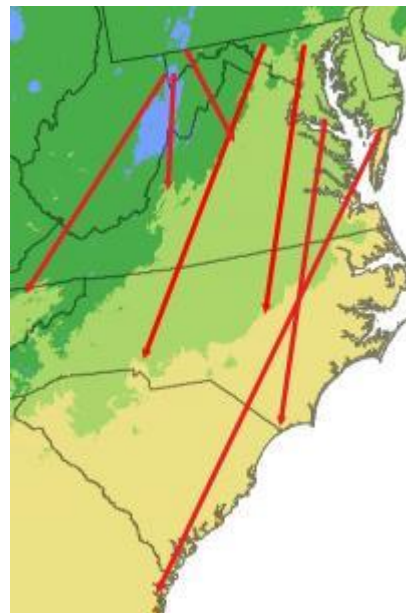
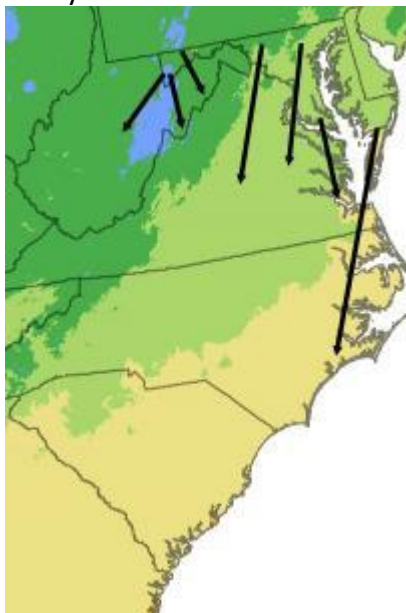
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Where resources allow, plant ecologists, work to relocate endangered plant species to places projected to have the appropriate growing conditions in the future. This process is called assisted migration, and it is only undertaken after careful study of all potential hazards. For example, relocated species could carry pathogens or insects that could interact in the new environment in unpredictable ways, they could hybridize with related species, or they could become invasive.

Maximizing the Garden Performance of Native Plants in a Changing Climate

- For most species, it works best to plant native plants in growing conditions similar to those found in the habitats they evolved in. Drier or sunnier conditions will exacerbate heat stress caused by rising temperatures.
- Select species that are, for your location, in the mid to northern portions of their range. For most species that are at the southern end of their natural range, your garden is becoming increasingly inhospitable. The natural ranges of native plants are indicated by the light green counties at the Biota of North America Program website. (below under resources)
- Purchase herbaceous native plants sourced from local plant populations. Locally native plants that are still thriving in natural areas near you have adapted well to current levels of climate change.
- If you live in Western Maryland, also take elevation into consideration.
- When local commercial sources are not available, purchase plants sourced from populations in the same or similar ecoregions of Virginia.
- Plants from further south than Virginia are not better. Plants from too far south will perform poorly due to different winter conditions and daylength patterns.
- Avoid purchasing plants sourced from populations to your north.
- Trees live for decades, sometimes centuries. Successful tree selection must be based on projections of future climate conditions. You will find guidance for successful tree species selection at the USFS Climate Change Tree Atlas. (below)
- Do not import southern species north of their natural range unless you are doing so as part of a large, well-researched conservation program. There can be adverse consequences for both the species itself and for local ecosystems.



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Sourcing a native tree from Maryland now means that it won't be adapted to temperatures here in 2100. If you assume we begin to curb climate emissions now (left), the black arrows indicate where you should source native trees from. If we do not change our emissions behavior, the red arrows (right) indicate where you should source native trees from.

How to Help Save Native Plants

- Support the conservation of large contiguous blocks of habitat that are needed for native plants and animals to migrate in response to warming temperatures.
- Avoid destruction of natural areas on your property. Destruction of natural areas not only eliminates native plants, it results in release of carbon from plants and soils back to the atmosphere.
- Preserve as much adaptive genetic diversity in wild native plant populations as possible, this is the diversity upon which species must draw to co-evolve with the modern world's rapidly changing conditions. Generally speaking, this means that if you are using native plants, use locally native plants, as described in the section above.
- Native plants cannot migrate through natural areas that are infested with invasive plants, so help to prevent their establishment and spread.