

THE DIGGERS

Dorchester Garden Club

Spring/Summer 2021



DGC President, David Adams, welcomes members to the first indoor meeting the club has had since the start of the pandemic. Held at the Cambridge Yacht Club on July 9, 2021

It's good to be back, DGC!

From DGC President, David Adams



Just when we were beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, wham, it was extinguished very quickly. While I could go on and on with statistics and preaching, I will simply say please, be careful, protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID19. We aren't out of the woods yet.

I can proudly say that even though 2021 got off to a rocky start, with the determination and help of DGC officers and program committee members, we successfully hosted 2 outdoor meetings, (April and May 2021), the Annual Picnic (June 2021), a trip to a local lavender farm (June 2021), and our first in person meeting at The Cambridge Yacht Club (July 2021). Attendance has been high, and everyone seems to enjoy being together once again.

While we do not know what the future holds, our September 10, 2021 meeting at the Cambridge Yacht Club is still on track with a program presented by Terry Holman on "Microgreens in the Kitchen". We have programs confirmed for the remainder of the calendar year. I will be sending that information to you soon, and it is also available on our redesigned website: <http://www.dorchestergardenclub.com>.

In addition to monthly meetings, other upcoming events include:

- The District 1 semi-annual meeting on October 6 (Virtual)
- A tour of local gardens on October 9
- "Holiday on the Choptank" Gala at the Hyatt Regency on December 2
- Wreath Making Workshop on December 7th.

Look for detailed information in the coming weeks and on our website about these events.

It has been a great challenge putting together club meetings and events during these challenging times. I appreciate the kindness and patience you have shown to all of us who are learning to "work outside of the box" to bring you the best experience possible.

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Please welcome some of our newest members to the Dorchester Garden Club!

Susan Klise...



My husband Michael and I moved to Cambridge in 2014 from Montgomery County Maryland, where I grew up. While in Cambridge one weekend, we were so fortunate to discover our home on Hambrooks Bay off the Choptank, surrounded by beautiful gardens. Inheriting the fabulous gardens created by the former owners of our house, the van Huizens, I continually feel the need to broaden my gardening knowledge. I also look forward to having the opportunity to meet new people and learn about how I can engage with the Garden Club. Before retiring, I was the event/facility coordinator at Glenview Mansion in the City of Rockville. Prior to the birth of our two sons, I spent a dozen years working at the National Endowment for the Arts. My husband Michael is a retired natural resources attorney who was in private practice in Washington DC. Our sons live in Boston MA (age 32, the senior photographer for America's Test Kitchen) and Brooklyn NY (age 30, an editor at Penguin-Random House).

My passions include cooking, art, bicycling, traveling, and reading. Indulging those passions, I have board and volunteer positions with WHCP Radio, the Main Street Gallery, the Dorchester Center for the Arts, and the Friends of the Dorchester County Library, all here in Cambridge.

Carol Smith...



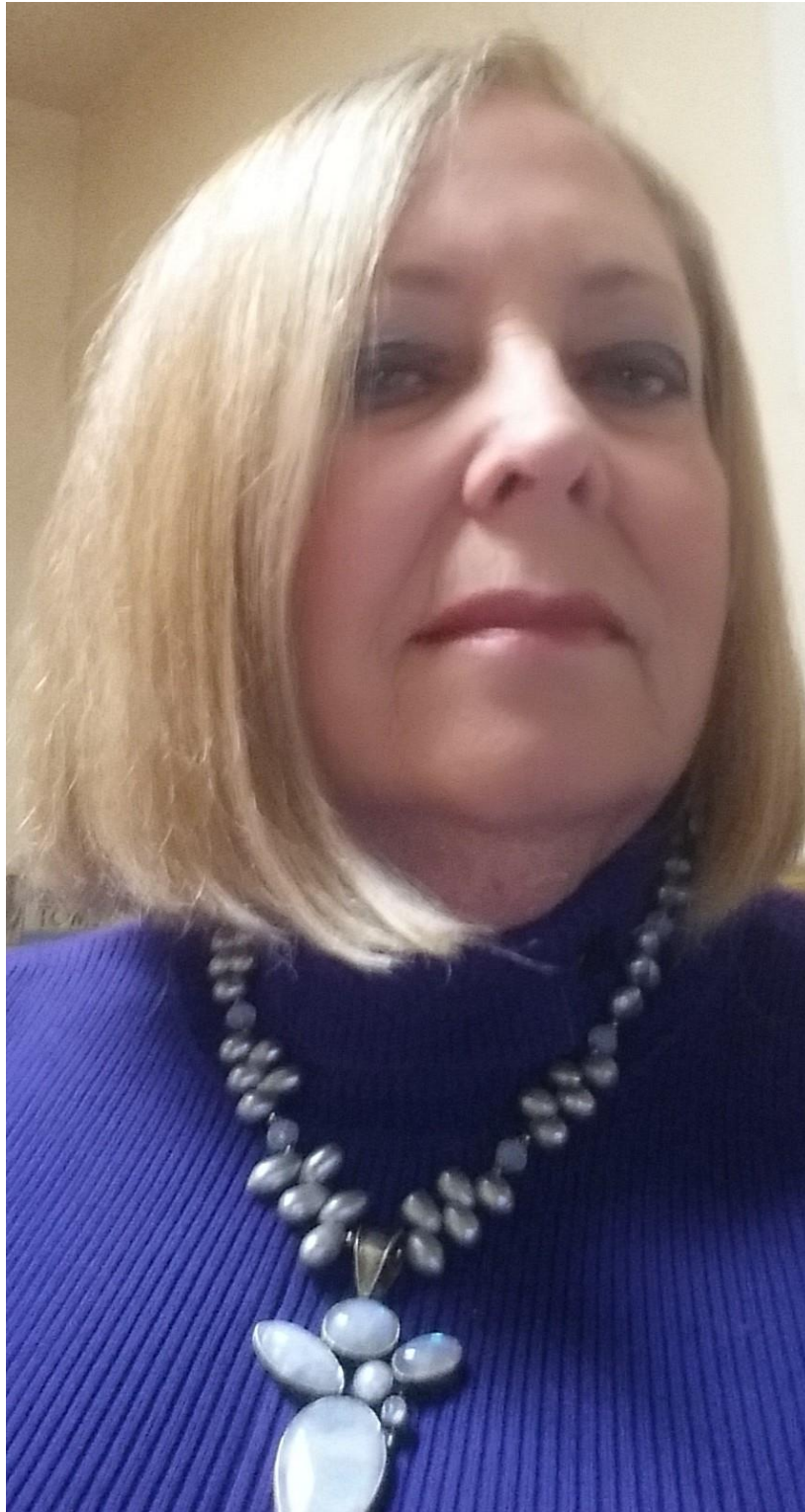
We arrived on the Eastern Shore from Atlanta, Georgia in 2018 – but were still part-timers at that point. I retired from a 30+ year career in the finance industry in 2016, but my husband (a Professor at Emory University) had not yet retired. However, we knew we wanted to leave the busy city of Atlanta. Our criteria included a smaller town where we knew at least one other person! We had been frequent visitors to the home of friends here in Cambridge since 2015 and during one visit in 2018, our friends insisted we go out looking with a Real Estate agent. To humor them we did. And of course, we found the perfect place only ½ mile from their house! We love the peace and tranquility of being on the Little Choptank River and the wildlife we see every day is incredible. I have always loved to “play in the dirt” and growing up I was my father’s designated helper in the yard. So, gardening has been a passion from a young age. However, when I moved to Cambridge and realized what a different environment this is, I knew help was needed!

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I hope to learn from the garden club – especially about the native plants and grasses, as well as what to do with soil that isn't soil at all – just clay! Since I believe in the calming power of nature I am most interested in Civic Improvement – beautifying our town for all to enjoy!



Fay Singer...

I am retired from my job as a Senior SQL Server DBA/Developer. My husband, our 4 cats and I moved to Cambridge from Capitol Hill in Washington, DC in August 2020.

I did some gardening when I lived in DC. I had 20 rose bushes – mostly hybrid tea roses. My favorite roses are Mr. Lincoln, Chrysler Imperial and Double Delight. Mostly I pulled weeds. I'm still mostly pulling weeds.

I enjoy gardening and want to learn about it. I am especially interested in learning what works in Dorchester County and what doesn't work. I am also interested in garden design and would love to see what others have done in their gardens.

I look forward to learning more about environmentally friendly gardening – especially weed control.

We live with 4 fabulous felines. There are 2 Persians (Rudy Patootie and Smudge) and 2 Maine Coon Cats (Sasquatch and MC). My favorite cut flowers are fragrant red roses. My favorite garden annual is flowering vinca because it is beautiful and low maintenance.

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Former DGC President, Jeanne Bernard installed as new District I Director via Zoom at March Meeting!



As a sign of the times we've been living in, Jeanne Bernard was inducted as the new Director of District 1 of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland at the March Annual Meeting which took place **via Zoom** this year. Shown left, she is delivering her remarks to District 1...

You are viewing Susie Middleton, 2nd VP's screen View Options

District I Board 2021 - 2023

 Director Jeanne Bernard Dorchester GC	 Assistant Director Terry Holman Oxford GC	 Recording Linda Elias Kent Island	 Corresponding Secretary Ann Street Four Seasons/Somerset GC
 Treasurer Pat Jessup Oxford Garden GC	 Parliamentarian Susie Middleton Dor/Oxf/Talbot GC	 Immediate Past Director Doris Key Queen Anne's County GC	 Advisor Anne Foss Queen Anne's County GC

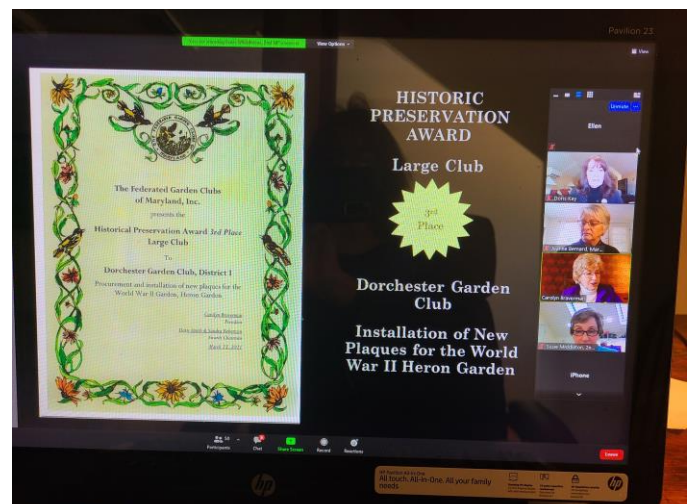
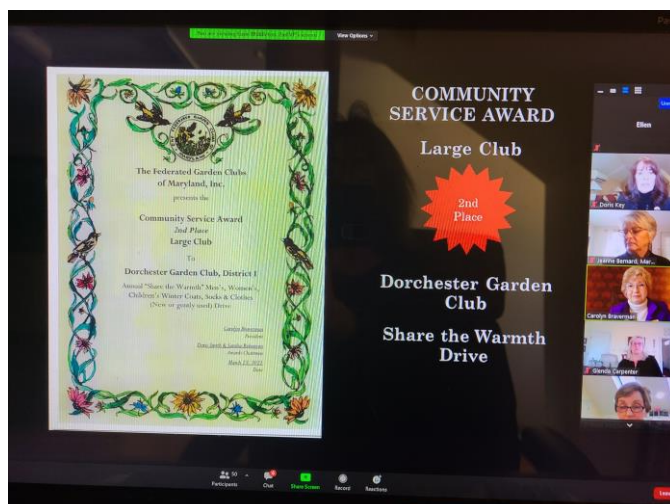
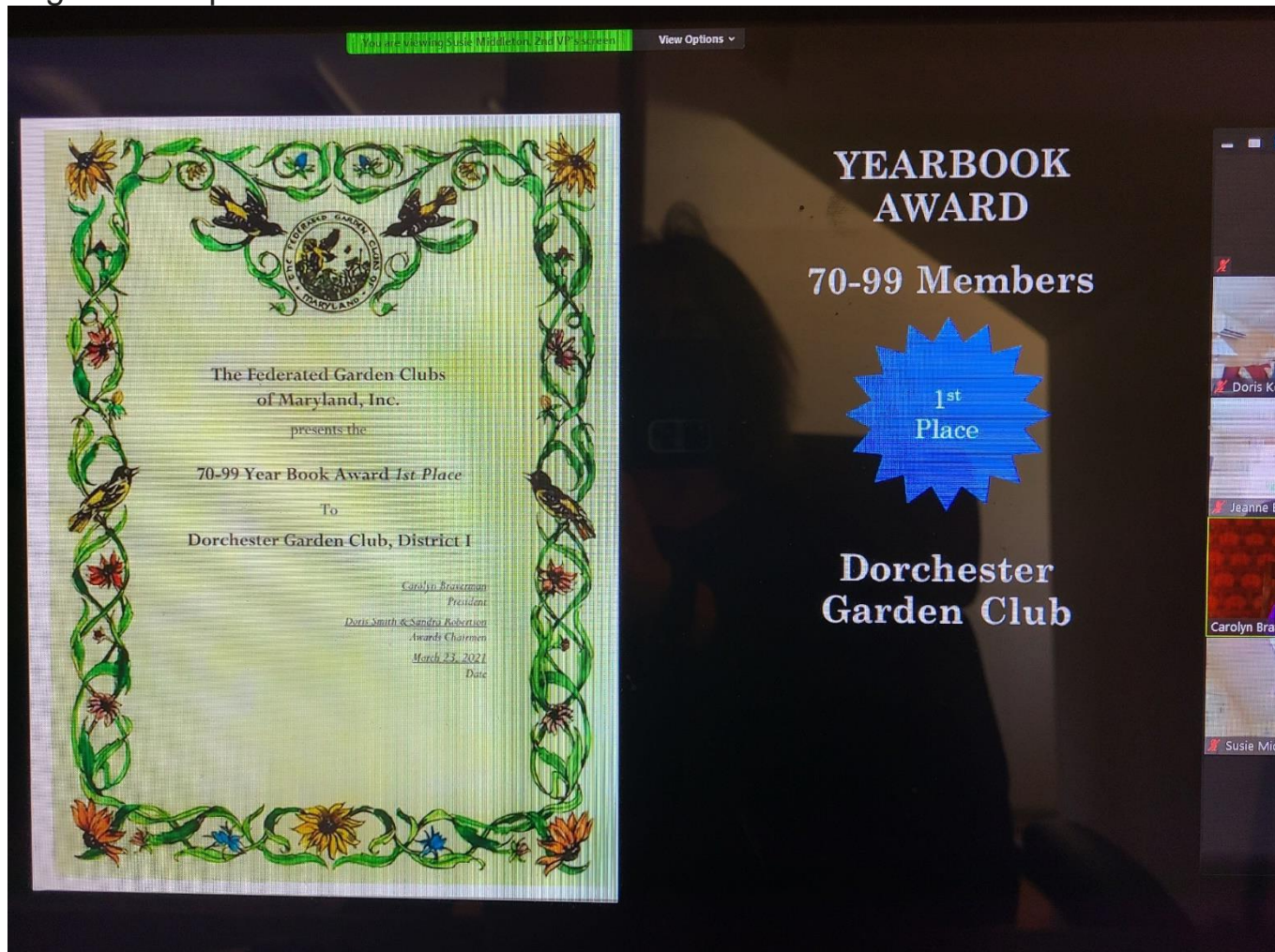
Participants 49 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions

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Annual awards were also presented at the March meeting, including some well deserved awards for our club... I think I may have missed some, but here's what I caught and captured!

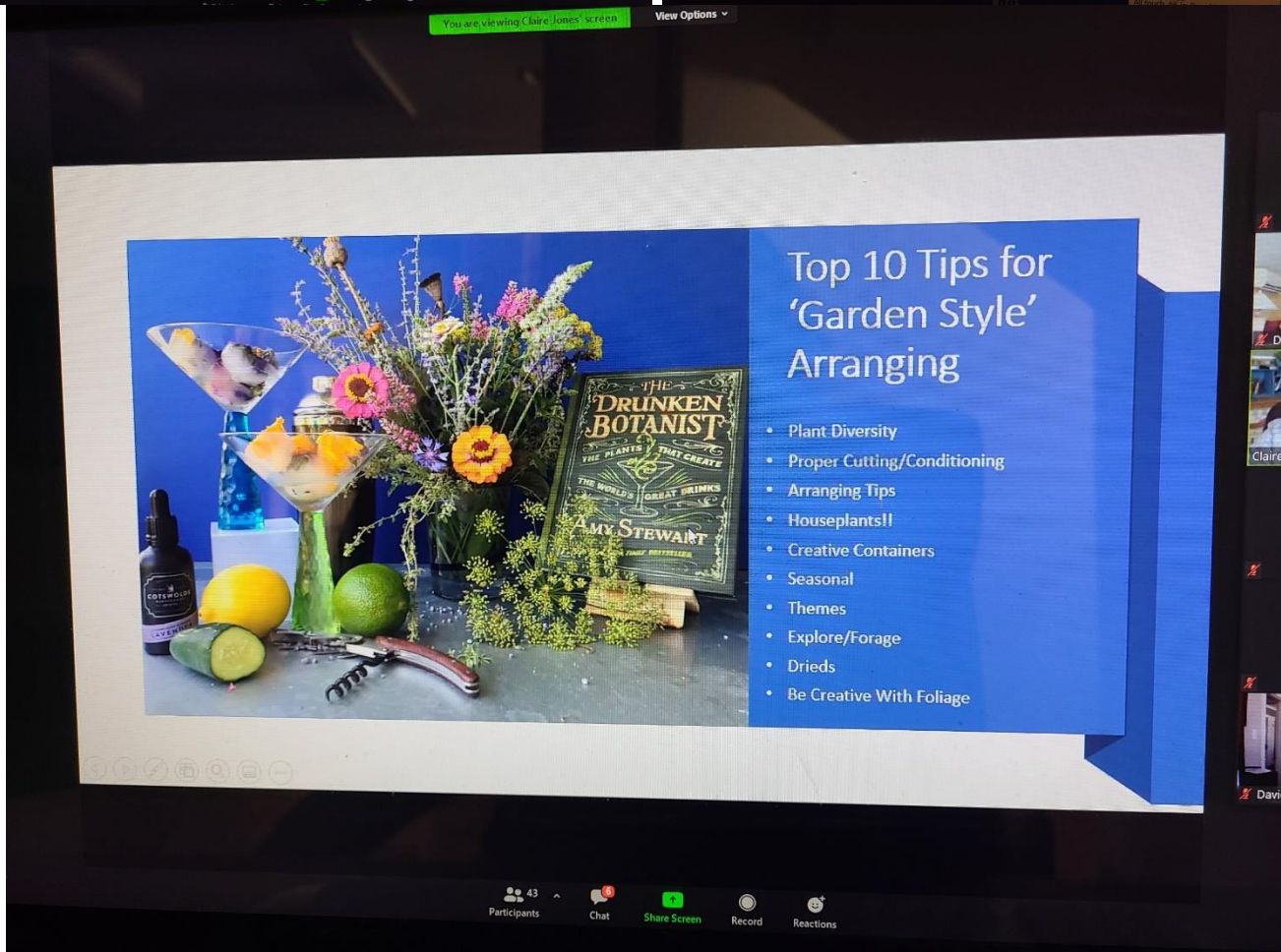
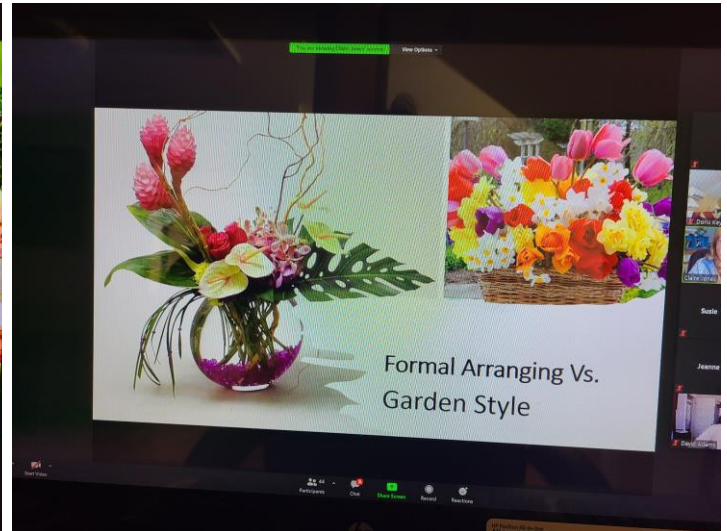


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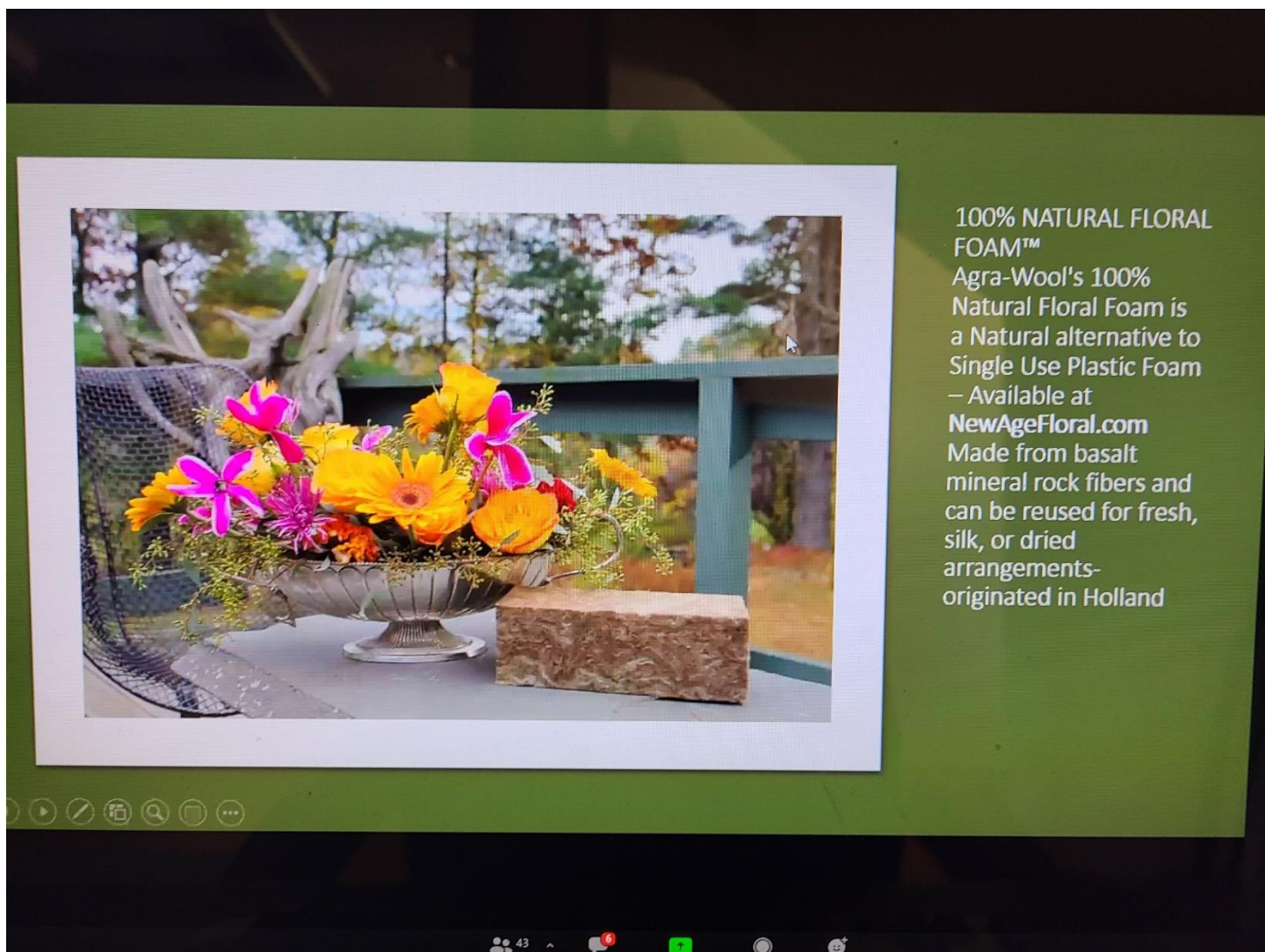
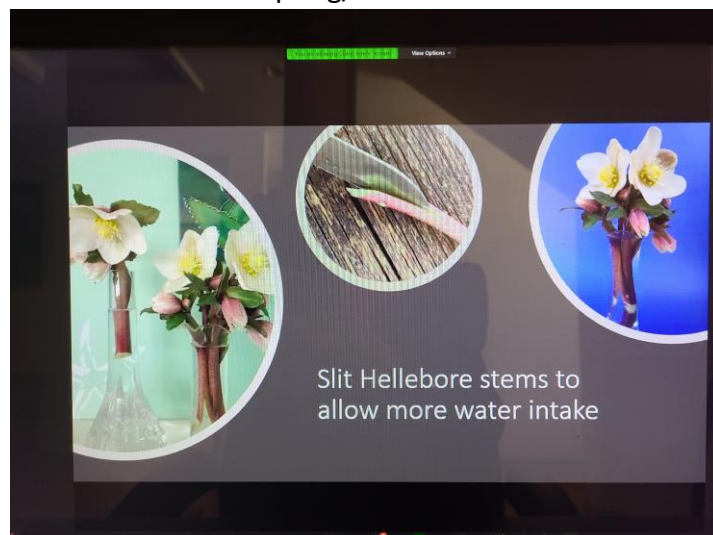
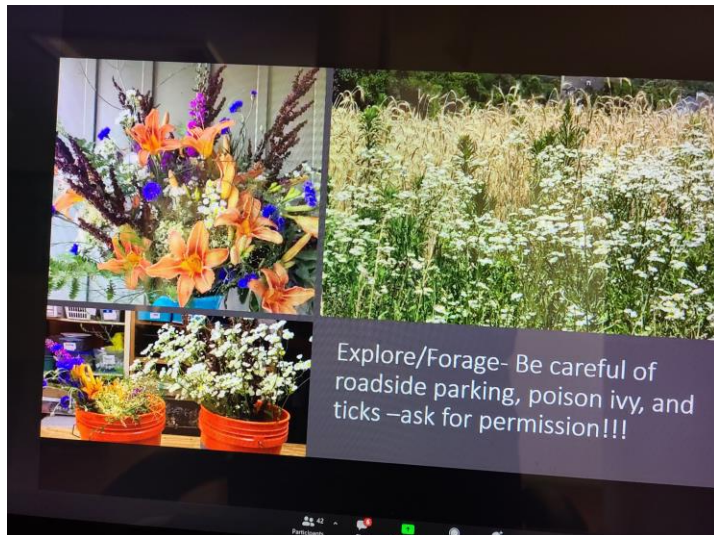
The awards and installation of new officers was followed by a delightful presentation by Claire Jones about creating floral arrangements from our home gardens. Claire also joined the DGC Zoom meeting on April 9th and introduced us to her "Bouquet of the Day" page on Facebook. Here are some screen shots from Claire's presentations. I listened to both and learned a lot each time!



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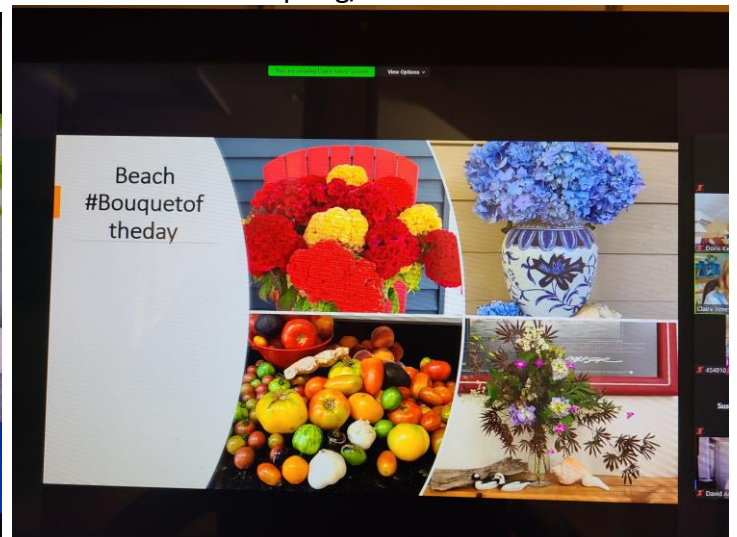
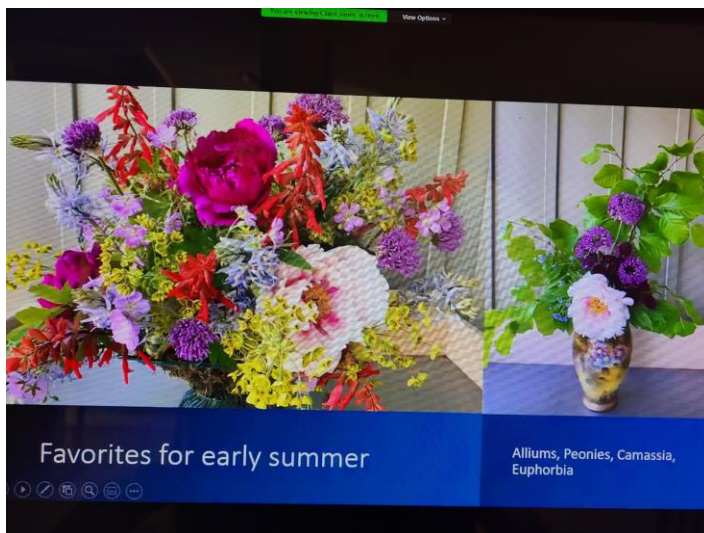
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Civic Improvement was hard at work this spring, as always...



Daffodils, donated by club members in 2020, were a lovely addition to the Heron Garden



Clean-up crew at work at the WW II Memorial Garden

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Getting together at Gerry Boyle Great Marsh Park...

In keeping with Social Distancing and needing to avoid indoor gatherings, the club met twice at Gerry Boyle Great Marsh Park. (Thanks to Cheryl Willey for making the arrangements!) First on Monday March 29th for installation of the new slate of club officers. Pictures are not great, but given the conditions and lighting, the best I could do!!! Can you feel the cold and wind?????



Jeanne Bernard conducts installation of new officers: David Adams-President, Cheryl Willey-Vice President, Barbara Massetti-Treasurer, Dee Terry and Lynne Davis-Recording Secretaries

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David Adams and Barbara Massetti add their floral elements to the arrangement



Jeanne presents a block of Oasis' new and quickly biodegradable floral foams, called Midnight, to try in their next design.

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David Adams thanks Jeanne Bernard for all she has done for the Dorchester Garden Club and presents her with a beautiful orchid, shown right, which due to the wind, had to happen in the parking lot!!!!



Some lovely thoughts from Jeanne as she turned things over to David and his team...

“Having served as your President these past four years, I am honored, humbled and grateful for the experience I’ve enjoyed as the leader of this extraordinary club. As your new District I Director, I am so pleased to conduct my first officer installation for my own club!

NGC’s Attributes of Design include Beauty, Distinction, Expression and Harmony. The Dorchester Garden Club is, itself, a work of design excellence as expressed by these attributes and they are exhibited in so many ways.

In keeping with the theme for this next administration—Back to Basics—our new officers will lead our garden club reflecting the Principles and Elements of Design.

The Elements of Design are the basic, tangible and/or visible qualities of all art and include Color, Pattern, Form, Size, Light, Space, Line and Texture. The Principles of Design are the basic standards used to judge all visual art. Their correct application is necessary for a well-executed design. They include Balance, Contrast, Dominance, Proportion, Rhythm and Scale. I am confident these officers will continue to create the well-executed design that is DGC based on these important principles and elements.

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Barbara Massetti, as Treasurer, you are tasked with fiscal responsibility. The Treasurer is custodian of all Club funds and keeps an account of all receipts and disbursements as budgeted and approved by the club. When you balance the budget and it is declared stable, your work reflects the principle of Balance. These flowers bring to mind important qualities of a Treasurer—Allium is indicative of Prosperity, Cabbage implies Profit, White Chrysanthemum-Truth and Daffodil-Honesty.

Linda Chandlee, as you continue in your role as Corresponding Secretary your efforts reflect Proportion. The principle of proportion is defined as a ratio between areas and amounts to the whole. You reach out to our members in their times of need or struggle with a proportionate response on behalf of the members of our Club, whether an expression of get well, sympathy or 'thinking of you.' These flowers represent important qualities in a corresponding secretary—Chervil/Fern means Sincerity, a Pear Blossom represents Comfort and Yellow Pansy literally means thinking of you.

Lynne Davis and Dee Terry, as you share the responsibility of fulfilling the duties of Recording Secretary, you are like the principle of Rhythm. In a design, rhythm is achieved by having a dominant visual path of line or of color throughout the design, making it appear alive. With your detailed records/minutes of what actions have been taken—the when, where, what and why of each meeting, you keep our interest and purpose alive. The iris is considered a message and Rosemary and the Gladiolus-represent remembrance. So try and remember everything pertinent that happens and send us a message with your minutes.

As Vice President, **Cheryl Willey**, you provide visual stability to our club through the principle of Contrast and the elements of Color and Pattern. You stand in support of our president, ready to step in to lead as needed, but will best serve him and our members by freely expressing contrasting views and enhancing our 'design' through your colorful enthusiasm and energetic patterns of action. Angelica represents Inspiration—something you will give to our President at every turn; your support will be constant and the Blue Hyacinth represents Constancy. Thyme represents Activity and bouvardia enthusiasm—and you are most certainly a bundle of that.

David Adams, as DGC's President, your leadership is one of Dominance. To achieve dominance in a design, there must be a greater force of one or more of the elements. Equal amounts of contrasting textures, colors or forms serve only to divide attention, destroying dominance. You achieve the principle of dominance in your office as President by managing all the workings of the club and by controlling the direction of club in keeping with our vision and mission. You are wished good luck as symbolized by Bells of Ireland; new beginnings and appreciation represented by the daffodil; fortune, devotion & friendship reflected by the alstromeria.

Nearly every sentiment imaginable can be expressed with the language of flowers. What is so remarkable is when you put them all together, creating a beautiful design based on the attributes, principles and elements, the club thus becomes reflective of design excellence. We bring together separate and unique parts to create something wonderful, meaningful and fulfilling for all. Thank you each for your service. I wish you well and great success in designing and leading the next two years of our club's development."

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May 14th back at Great Marsh Park ...

Thankfully, the weather wasn't quite as brutal when we came together in May. President David Adams welcomed attendees and provided important club updates. We were delighted to have a design commentary and demo from club member Judy Slaughter (lower left and right photos). Guest speaker, Suzanne Slear, President of Environmental Concern Inc (ECI) treated us to a wonderful "hands on" presentation about her group's work to help support the Monarch butterfly population in our area, and also brought along native plants for sale that provide the so needed habitat for Monarchs and other local species. ECI is committed to improving water quality and creating, restoring and conserving wetlands, living shorelines and other natural habitats through education and outreach, propagation of native plant species and professional design and installation.



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Suzanne Pittenger-Slear, President Environmental Concern Inc.



Martha Keating shared this photo of baby monarch caterpillars on fennel in her garden

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June 4th 2021 DGC Picnic and 2019/2020 Club Awards

As with so many things, the 2020 DGC Picnic and Awards event had to be cancelled. On June 4 2021, the club was able to convene for this delayed event. Club member Helen Saum and her husband graciously offered to host the club at their beautiful home. As usual, it was all about the food!



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Following lunch, President David Adams invited everyone to gather for the business portion of the meeting and the long-awaited club awards for the 2019-2020 period...



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Kay Karminski presents First Place Horticulture Award for Kathryn C Holt Cup for most points in Rosa Section to Patti Hopkins. 2nd place Cheryl Willey, 3rd place Sandy Lucas, 4th place Kay Karminski



Mari Stanley received First Place Award for Division II Design Competition for Tawes Bowl 2nd place Kay Karminski, 3rd place Judy Slaughter, 4th place Cheryl Willey

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Division I Horticulture Competition for Lednum Cup First Place awarded to Beverly Shelly.
2nd place Cookie Brohawn, 3rd place Joan P Johnson, 4th place Cheryl Willey



Top Award Winners left to right, Mari Stanley, Patti Hopkins and Beverly Shelly pose with their awards!

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Jeanne Bernard was recognized for her outstanding service to the club by current president, David Adams and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland's 1st Vice President, Susie Middleton, with hugs from Susie and applause from everyone



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DGC visits Smoky Cat Lavendar Farm in Federalsburg, MD... *thanks to Jeanne Bernard for sharing this in the Buzz!!!*



On June 7th, over 30 members carpooled to the Smoky Cat Lavender Farm in Federalsburg. Members enjoyed a delightful afternoon which featured picnicking with an intense lavender aroma in the air. Owner Debbie Brohawn spoke briefly about how the farm got started, its purpose and planting guidelines and uses for the variety of lavender cultivars she grows. Members picked lavender bouquets in the fields and shopped for plants and other lavender goodies in the gift shop.



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DGC July 9th Meeting at Cambridge Yacht Club

July 9th was a great day for DGC... our first "almost normal" meeting in over a year, held at the Cambridge Yacht Club!!! There was a nice turnout and a lovely lunch featuring salmon. David Adams welcomed everyone and club business and updates were shared.



The highlight was a wonderful presentation "Growing for Design" by Susie Middleton, encouraging everyone to plant a great variety of foliage and flowering varieties in their gardens that can be used for a wide variety of designs to be entered in our mini flower and design shows and also for our own home use. Susie is such an amazing treasure!!!!

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DGC Awards Scholarships to two Dorchester County Students

The Dorchester Garden Club presented College Scholarship Awards to two young women from Dorchester County this summer. Ja Nae Smith, a resident of Cambridge and a Cambridge/South Dorchester High School graduate and Rachel Widmaier of East New Market and North Dorchester High School. In August, Ms. Smith will be heading to the University of Maryland, majoring in Biology and Ms. Widmaier will attend New Mexico State University, majoring in Animal Science. This year's DGC scholarship committee included Bobbie Rideout and Billie Norton. DGC Vice President, Cheryl Willey was also on hand to facilitate the award presentation. This was the first year DGC awards were given out to applicants from both North Dorchester and Cambridge/South Dorchester High Schools.



Left to right, Cheryl Willey, Billie Norton, Rachel Widmaier, Ja Nae Smith and Bobbie Rideout

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“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.”

- Alfred Austin