



ARTICLES

Letter From the President

From the President

*Hard to believe we're halfway through February, headed for the Ides of March. Surely each of us has been observing the buds forming in our yards and elsewhere. Maples and witch hazel are blooming, daffodils are coming up and even my *Salix humilis* (Prairie willow) has followed suit. Winter into spring is a beautiful time of discovery and rebirth. It's such great fun perusing catalogues, making lists and plans. It's even hard to pass a seed display without picking up a few packets. In the coming months may we all be well enough to dig in the dirt and enhance Mother Nature's renewal. You know where I plan to be!*

When March arrives Melinda Hudson will be installed as President. To say we have worked closely over many months seems trivial. Creativity, compassion, and energy exude from every pore of her being, including her passion for plants, bees, and the Oxford Garden Club! She will have my FULL support over the next two years. Please join me in recognizing her on March 7th!

Marilyn Reedy

Remembering the Holidays

News!

Vive La France

Ask a Master Gardener

Remembering the Holidays

Even though December was just a couple of months ago, it seems like much longer, mostly because we are longing for spring! Lest we forget though, OGC members participated in several activities during December: wreath laying at the Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock, the club's annual holiday party at Dodi Sutton's house, and making small arrangements for shut-in's to accompany Holy Trinity's lunch deliveries.

This year, like last, all 5,000+ graves at the cemetery received a wreath. Let's keep it up Eastern Shore! District 1 Director, Terry Holman was one of the speakers who addressed a crowd of approximately 1,000 before the wreath laying began. The District Directors role in the program is now a permanent fixture.

Additionally, OGC spearheaded the Oxford's Veterans Day memorial service in November which was previously managed by the town's Parks & Recreation Committee. The 2023 service was small but heartfelt and befitting the occasion. All veterans, past and present were honored, and those attending received a handshake and thank you for their service from attending OGC members.

Following are a few photographs of these events. Many thanks to Dodi Sutton for hosting the holiday party in her beautiful home and a huge thank you to Roberta Maguire for chairing the holiday party event. It was a smash!

November 2023



Veterans Day. Remarks by District 1 Director, Terry Holman followed by the playing of TAPS. Oxford veterans recognized: standing behind Terry: Howard Lapp, Larry Paz, Connie Vaught, Rick Richards, Dick Deerin, Tony Passarella, Dick Rawlings. Can you ID the others?

Christmas 2023



Left: Floral designers Ingrid Blanton, Dorothy Williams, Dodie Sutton, Sandy Wrightson making arrangements for the Holy Trinity lunch bunch.



Valentines 2024

Left: Gail Jackman, Melinda Hudson, Sandy Wrightson.

Right: Sue Betz, Ingrid Blanton, Jane Seldon. Not pictured: Michelle Mactavish



HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 2023



“Drinkees” and nibbles before lunch. Enjoying the fire are guest (L to R) Michelle MacTavish, members Susie Dial, Gail Jackman, Melinda Hudson, Sheila Egan, Reenie Rice, Meryl Nolan and past President & founding member, Lisa Johnson.



OGC President Marilyn Reedy looks on while Event Chair, Roberta Maguire opens her “whatever can this be?” present.



Fabulous food...always!

This Just In

Mt. Cuba just completed its 10-year research study of Amsonia. The study evaluated 20 types of Amsonia varieties, hybrids and cultivars. Mt. Cuba’s Trial Garden Assistant, Laura Reilly, says, “the range of sizes, from a few inches to several feet high, combined with a variety of textures, means there is likely to be an ideal *Amsonia* for every garden.” Native *Amsonia* are great for sunny locations, are good in a mixed border, and lovely planted *en masse*.



Amsonia photo: Mt. Cuba

Mt. Cuba Center’s Trial Garden evaluates native plants and related cultivars for their horticultural and ecological value. This research aims to provide gardeners and the horticulture industry with information about superior plants for the mid-Atlantic region and highlights the important ecosystem services native plants provide. Mt. Cuba has conducted Trial Garden research since 2002, including previously completed evaluations of *Carex*, wild hydrangea, *Echinacea*, *Helenium*, *Phlox*, *Monarda*, *Baptisia*, *Coreopsis*, *Heuchera*, and masters. These reports and additional information about some trials are available on Mt. Cuba’s website: www.mtcubacenter.org.

Looking Ahead

Earth Day, **April 22nd**, OGC will honor and commemorate those members who have passed on. Plans are in process and include a “permanent” memorial. If you have questions or would like to help, contact Event Chair, Meryl Nolan.



June 7 . It’s a party!!!

OGC will celebrate its 20th anniversary. A big party is in the planning process with invitations extended to the public, especially those in the Oxford Community. The event will highlight the history of the club, its accomplishments, and feature horticulture and floral design exhibits. A bubbly will be hoisted! Committee chairs: Pat Jessup, Trish Reynolds, Sandy Wrightson. Please join us in planning