



Letter from the President

Autumn... the year's last, loveliest smile." - William Cullen Bryant

What a glorious time of the year! If you're an artist, you are chasing the ephemeral colors of the season. If you are a gardener, you're tidying up, saying goodbye to the highs and lows of this past year and dreaming, digging and 'leafing' for the coming one. And if you are a conservationist, you are of the above AND pretty. happy! More and more of the garden rags are focusing on natives, planting for the pollinators as well as the blooms, Re-wilding is a 'thing'. And Maryland native plants are easier to find. From a local perspective, we are all 'jumping in our pile of leaves' with the latest post from the Port of Oxford! (THE FLIER). None of this would have happened without the Garden Clubs, nationally, statewide and locally. After a lively, creative, beautiful, productive fall, read about what's ahead - all to fulfill our love of gardening and floral design, commitment to environmentally sustainable principles and practices, celebrating those who have made this community such a special place. And enjoy our fall offerings!

Darling Dahlias

Did you know that all parts of the dahlia are edible? Of course only if they have not be treated with pesticides!

The petals are a colorful addition to any salad and add a peppery taste. The leaves, likewise, impart a mild, peppery or nutty flavor and can be added to stir-fries or other dishes. The real "meat" however is the tuber. It can be cooked like a potato and has a flavor similar to chestnuts.



Dahlias are native to Mexico and Central America. They were grown by the Aztecs as a food crop and for medicinal purposes. The Spanish brought them to Europe in the 16th century where their ornamental value was prized more than its culinary attributes.

Although modern varieties have altered the taste of the dahlia, some heirloom varieties are still cultivated as a food crop in Mexico. Still, with current varieties, the petals would dress up a salad nicely. Why not give it a try?

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A man in a dark military uniform with a white cap is seen from the back, saluting with his right hand. He is standing in front of a large American flag. The text of the poster is overlaid on the image.

**PLEASE JOIN THE
TOWN OF OXFORD
on
VETERANS DAY**

**“HONORING THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO
ARE SERVING AND HAVE SERVED OUR
COUNTRY”**

**NOVEMBER 11, 2025
Service at 11:00 am**

**Assemble at Oxford Town Park 10:45 am
Across from the Oxford Museum**

**Rain location will be held at
11:00 am at ST. Paul's Church
Corner of S. Morris St. & South St.**

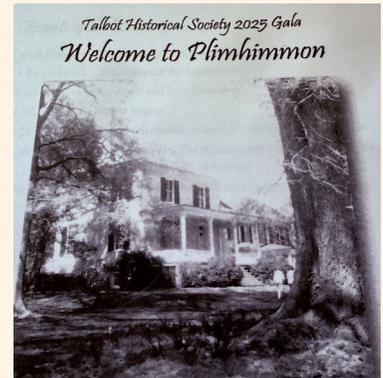
**You are invited to visit the Oxford Museum to view the
wonderful Veterans display immediately follow the service.**

Celebrating History in Our Own Backyard

— Trish Reynolds

Rarely do we get to celebrate history in our own backyard, but this past September, September 20, the Talbot County Historical Society, working closely with the Oxford Museum, had the opportunity to do just do that!

The new owners of Plimhimmon, Ryan and Amanda Dearborn of Houston, TX, opened up the first floor of their magnificent home to the community.. An evening gala was planned and various community groups were asked to participate with the Oxford and Talbot County Garden Clubs providing the flower designs for the table under the tent.



Guests were welcomed with warmth and enthusiasm, as neighbors, history enthusiasts, and friends gathered to share in the festivities and admire both the beautiful surroundings and the historic significance of Plimhimmon.



Throughout the evening, lively conversations echoed under the softly lit tent, while the exquisite floral arrangements provided by the Oxford and Talbot County Garden Clubs added a vibrant touch to the celebration, reflecting the collaborative spirit of both organizations.



This special occasion not only showcased the generosity of the Dearborns but also highlighted the community's deep appreciation for its shared heritage.

Just a bit about Plimhimmon – “Originally comprised of 600 acres along the Tred Avon River and Town Creek on Oxford’s eastern edge as pa 1659 land grant from Lord Baltimore to Henry Morgan. In 1718 the property was sold to Richard Conward of Bristol, England for 470 pounds of Tobacco. In 1787 the property was once again sold to Matthew Tilghman, patriot of the Revolutionary War for 4000 pounds ...and on it went through several families to the current owners who purchased the estate in 2022

The Plimhimmon estate preserves an exceptional record of 18th and 19th century architectural traditions. The oldest section, a two-story side hall brick block, was built in 1787 for Anna Mariea Tilghman (1755-1843), widow of Revolutionary War Lt. Co. Tench Tilghman. Its construction followed the purchase of the property from Thomas Coward. With rare architectural survivals and ties to a prominent Maryland family, Plimhimmon embodies local, state, and national significance. (source Program for the Gala)

OGC Participates in OCC Fall Fest

Pat Jessup

On October 18, members of OGC participated in the OCC Community Fall Festival, offering pumpkin decorating activities for kids AND adults. We even made a few of our own to “demo” what could be done. In addition Melinda donated native plants as “give-aways”. Everyone had a blast including us! Fingers crossed that new members may be forthcoming. Thank you Melinda, Jane, and Roberta.



Melinda's "Hot Lips" creation



Amaryllis: The Ultimate Winter Pick -Me-Up!

By Terry Holman—Photos by T. Holman and C. Pitard

Winter Blues? Amaryllis to the Rescue!

When winter has you dreaming of spring, the Amaryllis bursts onto the scene with huge, dazzling blooms in every color of the rainbow. Whether single, double, or semi-double, these beauties are the perfect antidote to cold-weather gloom—and the best winter gift you can give or get!

A Family Heirloom That Blooms

Did you know Amaryllis bulbs are often passed down through generations? Some have thrived for 25, 50, even 75 years! With a little care, your Amaryllis can become a cherished family tradition, blooming year after year and spreading cheer when its needed most. Some sources have cited Amaryllis bulbs that have been continuously growing for over 125 years.



Fun Fact: What's in a Name?

The “Amaryllis” we all love isn’t technically an Amaryllis! The Amaryllis we know is in the *Hippeastrum* genus, discovered in South America in the 1700s. The flowers were thought to resemble the African Amaryllis genus. Vendors still call them Amaryllis, but now you know the truth.

Bigger Bulbs, Bigger Blooms

Go big! Larger bulbs mean more flower stalks and bigger blooms. Good vendors will typically offer two sizes of bulbs. I recommend going for the big ones. Quality counts: Reputable vendors offer deals, and gifting a bulb is a surefire way to spread joy. One of my personal favorite vendors of Holiday bulbs is John Scheepers. This online company is a sister company of Van Engelen and requires smaller quantities for purchasing customers. You can order 5 different Amaryllis cultivars and with shipping and tariff costs, it equates to \$47.91 in total cost or \$9.58 per bulb. (Such a deal). I have priced Amaryllis bulbs at up to \$30 each.

Planting Made Easy

1. Pick a clay pot (6–8” diameter). Clay pots breathe much better than plastic or ceramic pots. Clean and disinfect used pots with a 10% bleach solution and some dish washing soap and let soak for an hour—don’t forget to bleach some rocks to go to the bottom for ballast, too! Scrub the pots and rinse well and let them air dry. I have also used my dishwasher to clean and sterilize pots sans dishes. Works great! Amaryllis bulbs prefer growing in tight quarters. A 6” pot will suffice. Really large bulbs can take an 8” diameter pot. You can plant multiple bulbs in a larger diameter clay container but note it will be hard to lift but will not flop over.
2. Use sterile, soilless mix with fertilizer for happy roots atop at least an inch of sterile rocks on the bottom of the pot. We don’t want your floral beauties to flop over.
3. To quickly start the growing process, place roots in a shallow container of water to rehydrate for a few

hours. Don't soak the entire bulb.

4. Plant the bulb so one-third of the pointy tip peeks above the soil and let those roots stretch out below. Tamp the soil around the bulb and roots. Water from the top and let drain. Always have a saucer to catch drainage to avoid furniture damage.

5. When the soil feels dry down to the depth of your first finger digit, water using a 50% liquid fertilizer solution from the top of planting, avoiding wetting the central tip. Never let the pot sit in water as bulbs can develop root rot and die. These bulbs like it dry and airy.

Grow, Rotate, Celebrate!

- Move your Amaryllis to a bright room.
- Give it a quarter turn every few days to promote even leaf growth.
- Continue to water bulb planting with a 50% diluted liquid fertilizer for the most vibrant blooms and leaves.
- When those flowers pop, invite friends over for coffee or cocktails—because winter should be celebrated with blooms and friends!

After the Show

- Break off faded florets as they wain and cut the stalk just above the bulb when all florets have been removed
- Don't let it go to seed—it'll drain all the energy from your bulb and the bulb will likely die
- Keep growing those leaves; more leaves mean more blooms next year!

Pro Tips & Fun Tricks

- *Want all stalks to bloom at once? Try the seed heat mat trick for a spectacular display.*

Place potted up Amaryllis bulb in a cardboard box and plug in a seed starting heat mat under the pot and cover box and planting with a towel in a warm room. Check to ensure the soil is moist every few days and as soon as the bulbs start to grow flower stalks, remove from the seed mat heater box and place in a bright room. Otherwise, flowering stalks will often come up in sequence for a longer bloom display.

Did you know that cut flowering Amaryllis will keep longer than keeping it attached to the plant? 'Tis true. The tip is to have floral preservative solution ready, Cut the flower stock with a sharp, clean knife and then invert hollow stalk and fill with the floral preservative and then top with a clean cotton plug, and place into a vase, slowly inverting the cut end. Enjoy the bloom for a longer time or share with a friend.

Big, mature bulbs can produce 2–3 flowering stocks with 4–6 flowers each—sometimes even more! Note that typically, for every 4 leaves grown, expect a flowering stalk for the next year's bloom. More leaves = more future flower stalks and blooms.



Bonus: Indoor and Outdoor Adventures

Many of us have continued to grow our Amaryllis in pots after they bloom as an indoor container plant. This method of growing Amaryllis encourages the growth of leaves to increase the bulb size and potential number of flowering stalks. We do NOT let them rest in July to go dormant to be replanted in October for December blooms. We encourage the leaves and bulbs to grow and then enjoy the blooms in spring or whenever the plant decides to bloom on its own.

When spring arrives and temperatures stay above 50°F, move these potted Amaryllis outside to bloom. See the photo from Chloe Pittard's patio above. Some gardeners have even grown them as perennials with a cozy mulch blanket. Chloe, from TCGC, has planted and grown a yellow blooming Amaryllis in a sunny, well-protected area of her garden for 5 years and check out the 4 flowering stalks! As the climate warms, who knows—maybe Amaryllis will become a regular in outdoor gardens soon in our region?



So, whether you're looking for a splash of color, a family tradition, or just a reason to throw a winter party, Amaryllis is your go-to flower. Happy growing!



You're Invited!

Oxford Garden Club Annual Christmas Holiday Party

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We're excited to invite you to our Annual Holiday Party. Come celebrate the season with us and enjoy an afternoon filled with joy, laughter, and good company.

Event Details

- Thursday, December 4, 2025
 - 12Noon – 3:00 PM
 - Easton Village Clubhouse

7979 Maiden Point Court, Easton, MD 21601

- CAR POOL as parking is limited

What to Expect

- Delicious Potluck holiday food and drinks
- Infamous Gift Exchange (bring a wrapped gift, \$25 limit)

Dress Code

Festive holiday attire is encouraged!

RSVP

Please let us know if you'll be joining by December 1, 2025.

RSVP with your appetizer, main course, side dish or dessert to Roberta at robertadmaguire@gmail.com

We can't wait to celebrate the holiday season with you!

With Warm wishes,

The Holiday Party Planning Committee



PLANT AMERICA GARDEN—UPDATE

The Plant America garden, now OGC's civic project in lieu of the Museum side garden, got a much needed clean up recently. The garden's design had been all but obliterated by the euphorbia which had crept across the hosta boundaries, intermingling with the hostas and hellebores.

Now that the "wedges" shape of the garden has been restored, it will be dormant and no further activity required until spring when replacement hostas and hellebores will be needed. If you have either plant you can share, please do so. Michelle Mactavish, new garden manager, will let everyone know when a spring work-day is scheduled. The three varieties of hosta currently planted there are *Stained Glass*, *Blue Ivory* and *Gold Standard*. If you have any of these you can share, that would be a real plus but whatever you have would be appreciated (hosta or hellebore variety).

We are looking forward to Spring when the 600+ daffodil bulbs will be in full bloom. Thank you to those whose clean up efforts have saved the garden: Michelle Mactavish, Earl Segal, Sandy Wrightson, Gail Jackman, & Pat Jessup. Apologies if anyone was missed.



You can see in the photo where some of the hostas have not fared well. Some died. Not sure if the problem was lack of water or being smothered by the euphorbia.

Michelle is working with the town to find a solution for the needed water source. The pump building nearby has a spigot, but the water pressure is insufficient and would require hours using a hose.

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