

# Our Third Season at The Garden



The Lewes Community Garden continues to expand and thrive. Our progress has been made possible with tremendous community support and encouragement. Thank you all!

- Added eight 4'x 8' garden beds
- 48 total beds for 2021
- 29 returning gardeners
- 35 people at information sessions
- Lottery held to assign available beds
- 13+ new gardener families
- 12+ volunteers



## Message From Perrin Smith - Chairperson



On behalf of the LCG Board members and our gardeners, I want to thank all friends of the Lewes Community Garden for the

generous financial and material support we have received from our community. Thanks to you, we are now able to seriously plan for a permanent fence in the near future. As we start our 3<sup>rd</sup> season, the Board will be busy planning for this expansion.

Despite reaching capacity “inside our current temporary fence” for garden beds, we are expanding in other ways: community partnerships. For the first time, we will be offering garden beds to community groups for both education and donation purposes. The Library’s teen Young Environmentalists group “Roots and Shoots” will be learning how to garden organically and donating their produce. Roots and Shoots is being assisted by one of

UD Extension’s Master Gardeners. The *Teach A Person To Fish Society* has asked us to be part of their network of local gardens growing food for donation. We have offered them a plot and will assist by providing volunteers. (This is an exciting new local nonprofit. Please look at their website [TAPTF Society.](#)) We hope to be able to offer additional beds for education and donation in the future.

We are expanding our partnerships in other ways; working to improve our educational offerings to gardeners and volunteers and exploring partnerships with local environmental nonprofits and businesses.

One year ago, we were all looking at a very uncertain future. The COVID pandemic brought hardships and personal loss to our LCG Garden community. We are very grateful the Garden remains strong. While we plan for the future our focus this year will be caring for our gardeners, making sure they have the all the ‘tools’ they need, and giving back to the community that has offered us so much support.

## Do More 24 Delaware A Big Success



Lewes Community Garden participated in the Do More 24 Delaware fundraising event on March 5-6, 2021. Thanks to generous supporters, \$7,583 was raised for the garden during the 24-hour event. The money raised is a great start to building our permanent fence.



# Fall 2020 & Spring 2021 Garden Workdays



Gardeners came together for fall and spring workdays. Work included ongoing care of the compost piles and continued garden maintenance inside and outside the fence.



COVID style garden meeting!





## Outside the Fence

A large part of maintaining the garden is pruning the non-native invasive species that encroach upon the garden area. Over the winter, species like the autumn olive were trimmed as part of an environmentally friendly tick control program. Cutting back the aggressive growth of the autumn olive also provides better growing conditions for native plants such as the American holly and sassafras.



Brush piles are one way to help restore damaged native ecosystems. They provide wildlife with areas for nesting, resting, escape from predators, and protection from harsh weather conditions. At the garden, we have constructed brush piles using cuttings from invasive non-native species like the autumn olive while, at the same time, clearing the walking path that is on the perimeter of the garden in the Great Marsh park.



We are working on partnerships to enhance our native habitat! Exciting developments are coming.

## Community Outreach

As in prior years, the garden will continue to have 4 community garden plots which will be planted, tended and harvested by gardeners and volunteers. This harvest will be donated to the [Community Resource Center](#) to help with their mission of aiding low-income individuals and families in times of need. Over 660 pounds of organic produce and food items were donated by the garden last season.

In the continued spirit of giving, the garden has offered plots to two community organizations that will also donate their harvests for people in need.

The [Teach Then to Fish Society](#) will have a garden plot, which will provide information and education about organic gardening. The goal will also be to donate their harvest to food pantries.

The Lewes Public Library's young environmentalist club, [Roots & Shoots](#), will also have a garden plot. Participating teenagers will work with Master Gardener, Karen Wilkins, who will be their mentor teaching them how to develop and maintain a successful organic garden. Roots & Shoots will then donate their harvest to local food banks to assist people in need.

### Lewes Community Garden Wish List

- Permanent fence
- Garden cart/wheelbarrow
- Spading forks
- Weatherproof bulletin board
- Table beds & ADA compliant path to the garden



Special Thanksgiving donation to the Community Resource Center



Bagging produce for donation



## Stay in Touch



[Lewes Community Garden](#)

[LewesCommunityGarden@gmail.com](mailto:LewesCommunityGarden@gmail.com)

Donations always welcome:  
Lewes Community Gardeners Fund  
PO Box 436  
Lewes, Delaware 19958

### Our Mission:

The Lewes Community Garden mission is to create a sustainable community garden in the greater Lewes DE area by sharing knowledge, experience, and friendship. The goal is to provide accessible garden opportunities for all ages and abilities. Members use organic practices to maintain the garden where we learn from each other, grow nutritious food, and share with the larger community.

