



# Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

It is difficult to write an "after Christmas" article a week before Christmas. As of now, I still am not sure who will be here to celebrate with us. I'd better be prepared for unexpected overnight guests.

It would seem that four bedrooms could accommodate everyone, but with girlfriends and boyfriends coming, I know someone will have to use sleeping bags. This duty usually falls on the youngest ones in the family.

We expect the youngest grandchild, who lives in Georgia and whom we have not seen as yet, to be here. And the two grandchildren from North Carolina will also stop in for their gifts.

Our busiest time is not Christmas Day but rather the weekend afterward when our extended families arrive and we have 30 or more people each day for a meal.

It takes me so very long to take the 24 pictures on a film and then get it developed. That is unless I go on a trip and then I use up several films.

Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting Longwood Gardens at

Kennett Square. As I and a friend walked along the flower garden walks, I saw many beautiful sights and took quite a few pictures. The main fountain garden and the large Christmas tree were especially wonderful.

We attended a concert on their very large organ with 10,000 pipes which ranged in size from one large enough for a person to crawl through and which is 40 feet tall to one the size of an eraser on a pencil. After an evening meal in the Terrace Restaurant we were entertained by the Wilmington Madrigal Singers.

Longwood Gardens were planted with ornamental trees by a family named Pierce in 1700. Then Pierre duPont purchased the property which now includes 1000 acres; 350 are open to the public. In the summer, I've always enjoyed the Italian Water Garden with 600 jets of water and also the colorful waterlilies.

NEWARK, Del. — Thirty-two master gardeners from Kent and Sussex counties were certified recently by the Delaware Cooperative Extension System in a ceremony held at Abbott's Mill Pond Nature Center, Milford.

The participants in this new volunteer program completed an intensive, 45-hour training course taught by extension specialists and faculty from the University of Delaware department of plant science. In return, they will donate 45 hours in support of extension gardening education programs.

The Kent County master gardeners include: Carol Anne Arnott, Dover; Chester L. Arnott Jr., Dover; Margaret Bacon, Hartly; Benjamin Bowings, Dover; Jeff Daniels Jr., Dover; Sarah B. Eidson, Dover; Mark Thompson Grambau, Camden; Charles M. Hughes, Dover; Ralph B. Johnson, Frederica; Freda Mesibov, Milford; Marianna Miller, Milford; Edward F. Plucenik,

Milford; Audrey L. Pugh, Dover; John D. Pugh, Dover; Lucille Rhodes, Dover; Kathy Rockafellow, Wyoming; Joseph Stracar, Harrington; Verna Marie Trump, Hartly; and Josh T. Williams, Dover.

Master gardeners graduating from Sussex County are James A. Ball, Selbyville; Burton B. Barr, Lewes; Marion L. Barr, Lewes; Patricia Ann Culleney, Millsboro; Beverly R. Fawcett, Millsboro; William R. Harris, Milford; Harry L. Mayfield, Bethany; Madlyn M. McPartland, Seaford; Lee Meinersmann, Laurel; Loretta L. Reese, Selbysville; Robert Victor Russell, Lewes; C. Donald Stump, Seaford; and Diane J. Tucker, Staytonsville.

The Kent-Sussex master gardeners have already made plans to set up a colonial herb and vegetable garden display at the Delaware State Fair next July.

Horticultural therapy programs are planned for both counties, and a televised gardening show is expected to begin in the spring. In addition to assisting with calls and office visitors to the county extension offices, the master gardeners will help design and install demonstration gardens at the extension offices, Hickory Hill Farm and Abbott's Mill Pond Nature Center. Two home garden short courses, open to the public, will be held in March.

The Kent County master gardeners will continue to meet monthly beginning Jan. 14. The Sussex group will begin its monthly meetings Jan. 21.

A second master gardener class is scheduled for Kent and Sussex counties next fall. For further information, contact extension agent Glenn Layton at the University of Delaware Research & Education Center (856-7303) or at Delaware State College (736-4949).

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