



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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Japanese Garden at Maymont. *Photo by Mary Clive*

Spring Trip on June 1 to Maymont Mansion and Gardens, Richmond, VA

Experience the magic of Maymont. Join BGC on Thursday, June 1, for this special garden tour of Maymont Mansion and Gardens. Highlights of the garden include luxurious landscapes designed in the English pastoral style. The Italian Garden features exquisite stonework and granite, with geometric shaped beds filled with flowers, fountains and urns. The Japanese Garden is said to be designed by a famous Japanese gardener, Muto, who designed gardens for many estates on the east coast. The fairy tale mansion built in 1893 tells the story of one of Richmond's powerful families during the Gilded Age. **SIGN UP TODAY. SEE PAGE 2 FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS.**

Door Prizes and Refreshments

Please bring something to exchange: a plant, cutting, garden tool or magazine. Bring something, take something! Also, please bring something sweet or savory for the refreshment table. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

April Program on Therapeutic Herbs

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at 7:30 p.m., in the multi-purpose room of the Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville, MD.

Please join us for a program titled: "Growing, Harvesting, and Preparing Therapeutic Herbs for Self-Care." In this talk, Donna Koczaja will share how herbs can be amazing healers, and how herbal 'medicines' need not be complicated to make at home. This lecture will highlight best methods of harvesting different plant parts and how to make simple preparations such as teas, syrups, and oils, as well as topical salves and poultices. Example herbs and their growing habits will also be highlighted for each preparation discussed.

Donna Koczaja graduated from Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUIH) (formerly Tai Sophia Institute) with a Master of Science in Therapeutic Herbalism and a Post-Master's Certificate in Clinical Herbalism. Now practicing as a Clinical Herbalist at MUIH in North Laurel, Donna combines the rigor of her original scientific training (as a mechanical engineer) with the traditional healing art of herbal medicine to partner with her clients to uncover the root cause of their underlying health issues.

Her primary interest is in inspiring others to improve their health and sense of wellbeing through the joys of gardening and the power of natural medicine. To learn more, visit www.greenhavenliving.com. The public is welcome and admission is free. Bring a friend to learn more about this interesting topic and about our club.

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

The Beltsville Garden Club is a not-for-profit organization designed to promote gardening interests of its members, increase their knowledge of horticulture, add to their enjoyment of gardening, and to encourage ornamental planting by individuals, community and business groups. Club dues is \$10 per family per year. The dues year begins in September. Send checks to: BGC, P.O. Box 1953. Beltsville, MD 20704-1953.

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BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB Spring Trip To Maymont Mansion and Gardens

Thursday, June 1, 2017

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

email _____

Lunch: Vegetarian ___ Non-vegetarian ___

Cost is \$85 per person which includes coach bus transportation, guided tour of Maymont Mansion and Gardens, lunch, beverages & snacks. Following the guided tours, and lunch in the Stone Barn, you will have leisure time to stroll the gardens, visit the Nature Center, and commune with the farm animals.

Meet the bus at 7:15 a.m., in the Calverton Tower Office Building Parking Lot, 11785 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville (just past the shopping center; office building has a blue roof). Park in the rear parking lot. We return by 6 p.m. Deadline for registration is May 22. For information, contact Sandy Lange at 301-474-1402 or e-mail at salange1940@yahoo.com.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

**Make check payable to the Beltsville Garden Club. Mail check and registration form to: Sandy Lange
12 Pinecrest Court
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

BGC Seeks to Become a Non-profit

A plan to incorporate the Beltsville Garden Club and make application to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit will be presented to members at the April meeting. This was prompted by a Prince George's County Public Schools requirement that all who meet in school buildings must be non-profits, and have liability insurance. Upon investigation it appeared that to facilitate gaining non-profit status, and for liability reasons, it would be best to incorporate. This requires a change in our constitution and by-laws. An update on our work to this end will be presented, and questions/comments are invited on April 26.

Another benefit of the Beltsville Garden Club becoming a non-profit 501(c)(3) under Title 26 of the United States Code is that the club could apply to qualify as a charitable organization that participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). By participating in the local section of the CFC charity list, the club would have the opportunity to accept donations for either the Duckworth School or its University of Maryland scholarship fund to support worthy horticulture students. To participate in one of the 200 plus local CFC campaign areas, the club would need to demonstrate that it had a "substantial" program presence.

Tips from Scott Aker, U.S. Arboretum

- ◆ There is no scientific evidence that phosphorous makes plants bloom;
- ◆ Too much phosphorous is harmful to the Chesapeake Bay;
- ◆ Leaf margins that are yellow have too much potassium;
- ◆ Plants with all yellow leaves need nitrogen.
- ◆ Fertilize when plants roots are established, not when you first plant;
- ◆ Don't dig large holes for new plants; most of the nutrients are in the topsoil.
- ◆ Don't put pot shards in the bottom of containers because the pot will hold too much water and the roots will die.
- ◆ Rain gardens are desert habitats so coneflowers and Joe Pye Weed do not thrive. Plants that like dry soil grow best in rain gardens.

Garden News and Notes *By Sandra Lange*

The May general meeting will welcome Patricia Cunniff, from the, Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild, who will describe one of Washington's hidden gems. Also, Ms. Cunniff has invited BGC members to a free special tour of the Monastery on Friday, June 23. (Time to be determined.) The tour will include parts not usually open to the public. These include the century old greenhouse.

The Monastery is the only working farm in D.C. It produces tons of vegetables which it donates to foodbanks and Martha's Table. Those going on the tour must provide their own transportation. Carpooling is advised. There is a large parking lot to accommodate cars. The Monastery is located at 14th and Quincy Streets. It is also accessible by Metro, Brookland stop on the Red Line. Then take the #6 Fort Lincoln bus and get off in front of the Monastery.

On March 29, Lori Snyder and Mary Ann Canter represented the BGC at a University of Maryland reception for 2016-



2017 scholarship recipients. Over wine and delicious snacks they had a delightful chat with Amelia Loeb, our current scholarship recipient. Amelia is majoring in Horticulture and has plans to intern this summer for Driscoll's Berries Inc. She is originally from Gaithersburg,

Several of her professors stopped by to express appreciation for the scholarship award. **Remember to donate to the Scholarship Fund.**

Our March speaker, Scott Aker, sent us a copy of his power point presentation on ***Understanding Soils and the Impact on Gardening***. Any BGC member who did not receive it, contact Victor Lazco at vlazco@hotmail.com. If you had trouble opening the file, try using chrome.

Greenhouse News by Dorothy Cichra

We are getting ready for the April plant sale. For the April sale we will have some nice looking baskets of spider plants, begonias and wandering jews. There are also a few baskets of plectranthus and purpleheart and a few mixed baskets. We will have scented geraniums of various types, a wide variety of coleus and a variety of plectranthus for beds and containers. There will also be a variety of houseplants such as begonias, ficus, ferns and gesneriads (African variety relatives). We will have a variety of succulents including some dish gardens.

We will bring some peppers and tomatoes. There will also be oregano, mint, lavender, rosemary, thyme and some other herbs. We do have some perennials including silenes, toad lilies and yellow flowering jasmines. There are some smaller perennials from seeds which may or may not be of suitable size for this sale. If not they will be brought to the next sale. We have a variety of seedlings in addition to the tomatoes and peppers coming along under lights including eggplants, rhubarb, basil, sorrel, parsley and others.

We have to work around the school closing for Easter and spring break to get ready for the spring sales which presents some difficulties. The plants from the greenhouse are very reasonably priced and the profits go to Duckworth so come to the BGC sales and support us.

Garden Events

Sunday, April 23. *Earth Day Festival & Plant Sale.* Volunteer in the morning for planting activities. In the afternoon, there is a plant sale, green craft activities, food vendors, family games, a drum circle & guided tours. Brookside Gardens .

Sunday, May 7, 4-5 p.m. *Labyrinth Journeys.* Film screening and discussion of Cintia Cabib's documentary featuring children, teens and adults who use seven Washington area labyrinths as tools for healing, meditation, rehabilitation and exploration. Register at activemontgomery.org, program # 30487. Free. Brookside Gardens.

BGC PLANT SALES

The Beltsville Garden Club (BGC) will hold its first plant sale of the Spring on **Saturday, April 22, 2017**, in the parking lot of High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville, Md.

The sale runs from 8 a.m.-12 noon and will be held rain or shine. Come early for the best selection of quality plants at reasonable prices from our members. A variety of annuals, vegetables, herbs, houseplants, shrubs, perennials and trees will be available. Plants grown by BGC volunteers in the James E. Duckworth School greenhouse will also be for sale. All proceeds from greenhouse plant sales will benefit the school.

Next Plant Sale is:

**Saturday, May 13
High Point High School
Parking Lot**

Contact Melissa Mackey, 301-509-7629, or email mmackey@pgcp.org if you have questions

BGC Calendar of Events.

Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. *Growing, Harvesting, and Preparing Therapeutic Herbs for Self Care.* Donna Koczaja, speaker.

Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m. Leaders' Meeting.

Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m. *Franciscan Monastery Gardens.* Patricia Cunniff, speaker. Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild. **Free** tour of the Monastery gardens scheduled for June 23. More information in the May newsletter.

Thursday, June 1, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. *Tour of Maymont Mansion and Gardens.* See page 2 for details.

Friday, June 23, Time to be determined. Tour the Franciscan Monastery.