



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 58 Number 4 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> April 2010

Tour the UMD Campus Arboretum May 1

Our March speaker, Karen Petroff, will lead a group walk of the University of Maryland Campus Arboretum on Saturday, May 1, 10 am to noon. Meet at the Main Administration Building facing McKeldin Mall. Many parking lots are open to parking without permits on week-ends. Campus maps and directions are available at the UMD website: www.umd.edu.

The UMD campus has been designated an Arboretum and Botanical Garden as well as A Tree Campus USA. The campus is home to over 6,550 trees including the Wye Oak, Maryland's state tree. The willow oak is the most plentiful single tree species and the campus has a 96.6 foot specimen. The tour will include native plantings, rain gardens, stream valleys, wetlands and forested areas. The Garden of Reflection will be a tour highlight.

Petroff is Manager of Operations, Landscape Services and Facilities Management. She oversees maintenance of the arboretum collection. She noted that the campus has become a repository for native plants. All trees, bulbs and shrubs are being inventoried.

Chanticleer Trip Completely Booked

Thanks to all those BGC and Takoma Horticultural Club members and friends who signed up for the spring trip on June 3 to Chanticleer Gardens. The bus is now completely filled. If you wish to be placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations, contact Sandy Lange at 301-474-1402 or e-mail salange1940@yahoo.com.

April 28 General Meeting

The BGC general meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 pm**, in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School. Our guest speaker will be **Christopher Puttock** and his topic will be "**Gardening with Chesapeake Natives**".

Dr. Puttock will discuss some of the local perennial species that are finding their place in garden habitats and how they are bringing back native biodiversity.

Dr. Puttock was born in England and lived in Australia for 34 years. He worked as a botanist and flora writer for *Flora of Australia*. In Maryland/DC he is engaged in flora projects as a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution, designing gardens as Chief Botanist for the Monarch Sister Schools Program. He also is the Executive Director of Chesapeake Natives, Inc.

Remember to bring a plant for our door prize table. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

April 28 Hospitality

We thank all who brought the wonderful refreshments to our last meeting. The following people have signed up to bring refreshments for the April 28 meeting: sweets: Mary Washington, Christine Masuoka, Judy Erickson; Non-sweets: Sandy Lange, Nancy Perkins; drinks: Sue Koppes. Anyone wishing to bring a centerpiece, please call Sue Koppes at 301-434-6380.

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2010-2011

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.

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Earth Day Festival at Brookside Gardens

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, on Sunday, April 18. Daytime activities begin at 8 am with a planting project. Other activities include a morning bird walk, kids story time and an educational exhibit fair. Free tree seedlings will be given away to the first 500 visitors. Learn about what people are doing in your community to promote environmental stewardship. The day will end with a 6 pm showing of *The Future of Food*, a documentary film that discusses genetically modified organisms in food production. The film and reception require registration. For more information, go to www.montgomeryparks.org.

Gardening Tips and News by Sandy Lange

Indoor seedlings need strong light. Outdoors, stems become strong by moving with the wind. Indoors, this can be achieved by "brushing" your seedlings with a piece of folded paper twice a day.

It's time to pinch back mums, tall asters and large flowering sedums (i.e. Autumn Joy). Do this three times until mid July to reduce the leggy effect.

Plant tender flowering bulbs and tropicals started inside or purchased at garden centers. Stake the lilies and mulch them to keep their feet cool. Caladiums can be planted outdoors when daytime temperatures are in the 70s. Deer love caladiums, so best not to plant them if deer visit your garden.

Indoor plants can be moved outside when nighttime temperatures are in the 60s. Place them in indirect light in a sheltered spot for the first week. Houseplants will get sunburned if placed in direct sun too early. This is especially true for orchids.

Thin seedlings of perennials started in the garden. When new shoots of common phlox are 8-10 inches high, remove all but 4 or 5 stems. This will encourage bigger and better flowers, and will keep air circulating to help prevent powdery mildew. Fill gaps in the rose bed by planting annuals such as wave petunias, salvias and sun coleus.

The Vendor's Secret By Bill Koppes

Old timers will tell you that plant sales started in the early days of the club when people got together and shared plants. It evolved to include the larger community of Beltsville, who came with money instead of plants. It became a sale that drew people from around the metropolitan area. It was a sharing of good plant material and the knowledge of how to grow it. It was just diligent gardeners who in the course of performing garden chores, like tending to dividing perennials, or propagating beyond their needs, managed to generate an excess that they desired to share. Maybe so. But perhaps something else motivates also. Something dark and unspoken. They will say that the money is counted because of the seven percent due the sales manager. Yes. Well isn't it also nice to fan through the greenbacks, to go home that day and know that the next few trips to the nursery are free.

Become A Vendor At BGC Plant Sales

Do you have perennials that need to be divided? Maybe you have some plants that no longer fit into your landscape design. Consider potting them up and selling them at the BGC Plant Sale on May 8. You will be sharing your old plants with others while earning extra cash to buy new plants. You will also benefit the club by becoming a vendor. Call Geoff White at 301-937-1539 for information or just show up at the plant sale at High Point High School.

Arboretum Selling Surplus Books and Koi

The U.S. Arboretum will be moving out of the Administration Building in preparation for major renovations. As a result, surplus botanical and art books will be sold. Staff will also be thinning their koi population. Fish of all sizes, colors and prices will be sold. The event will be Saturday, April 17, 10 am-3 pm.

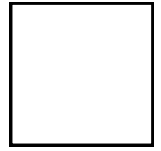
The Garden Doctor

Do you suffer from plumbago?
Is your back a little sore?
Or perhaps it's pyracanthus
Which you caught in Singapore?
You've a nasty little hosta
Which I think you'll have to lance,
And I notice a spiraea
Has been leading you a dance.
Are you getting forgetful?
Is nemesia the cause?
Does your antirrhinum pain you
When you're walking out of doors?
You've had skimmia rubella
I can see that by your nose
And cornus capitosa
Has played havoc with your toes!
How is your viburnum tinus?
Have you lost your sense of smell?
Use a syringe reflex
That should keep it well.
I'm afraid your macrocarpus
Isn't really up to scratch,
And do avoid nigella
It's a nasty thing to catch!
Still I think you're doing nicely,
Watch the quercus in your knees
Take your berberis twice nightly
Next patient please!

Invasive Plants—What to Do About Them

Non-native plants that jump from naturalizing to invasive are prolific seeders and can tolerate prolonged periods of drought and a wide range of soil types. Plants brought here from Europe or Asia arrived free of natural controls that kept them in check in their native lands. Some of these plants are causing great harm to our ecosystem. Human disturbance such as clearing forests for highways, housing developments or big box stores create edges for invasive species to proliferate. Deer are also seed vectors, spreading invasive plants through their digestive system. Reducing the deer population, buying natives for the garden, and pulling and killing invasives will help to control the spread.

Beltsville Garden Club
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Gardening Events

Fri., April 16, 9 am-6 pm & Sat., April 17, 9 am-3 pm, **American Horticultural Society Garden Mart**, Alexandria, VA.

Sat., April 17, 10 am-3 pm, **Arboretum Book, Art and Koi Sale**. U.S. Arboretum, DC.

Sun., April 18, 8 am-9 pm, **Earth Day Festival**, Brookside Gardens celebrates the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Variety of Events. Free.

Friday, May 7, 10 am-5 pm, **Second Annual National Public Gardens Day**. The USBC will host activities celebrating gardens. Conservatory. US Botanic Garden, DC. Free.

Sunday, May 9, **Tour the Azalea Collection on Mother's Day**. Join Barbara Bullock, curator of the Azalea Collection. \$12 Fee. Call 202-245-4521 to register.

BGC Calendar of Events

Wed., April 28., 7:30 pm, Gardening with Chesapeake Natives, Chris Puttock, Smithsonian Institution.

Sat., May 1, 10 am-noon, Walk the UMD Arboretum & Botanical Garden with Karen Petroff. Meet at the Administration Building facing McKeldin Mall

Tues., May 4., 7: 30 pm, Executive Board Meeting, Home of Judy Shanefelter

Sat., May 8, 8 am-noon. BGC Plant Sale
High Point High School Parking Lot

Wed., May 26, 7:30 pm, Recovering from Winter Snow Damage, Josh Nadler, Arborist, Facilities Management, UMD