



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 59 Number 4 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> April 2011

Nominations for 2011-2012 Officers

The following people will be nominated at the April meeting to be on the Executive Board of BGC for the year beginning in September 2011.

President: Bob Pechacek
Treasurer: Dan Marinelli
Secretary: Judy Shanefelter
Vice President & Program Committee: Joan Simons and Nancy Perkins

The following people agreed to serve as committee chairpersons:

Greenhouse: Bill Koppes
Newsletter Editor: Sandy Lange
Membership: Joe and Sue Burge
Hospitality: Helen Pechacek and Sue Koppes
Publicity: Louise DeJames
Plant Sales: Geoff White
Webmaster: Doug Bolt

Elections will be held at the May 25 general meeting.

Warning on Use of Rain Barrels

Horticulture Magazine advises that "Rain barrels are not recommended for watering vegetable gardens because the water in them is not considered potable (drinkable). Water coming off your roof can carry bacteria from the waste of birds, squirrels or other animals that traverse the roof. However, if you still want to use rain water on your vegetable garden, aim it directly into the ground—don't spray it on the plants."

BGC General Meeting April 27

On Wednesday, April 27, at 7:30 pm, at the James Duckworth School, Beltsville, **Kimberley M. Knox**, Community Outreach Manager for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and a member of the Beltsville Garden Club will speak on "**Water Conservation and Gardens**".

Kim is the editor of "Landscaping for Water Conservation: Xeriscape!" She is responsible for coordinating WSSC's demonstration garden, which highlights native plants for birds and butterflies. She will also speak about the seven basic principles to incorporate into your landscape to ensure that you save water, money and time.

Please join us to hear this informative speaker. BGC welcomes visitors and new members. If you have a gardening friend or neighbor, invite him/her to our meeting.

Also, bring a plant or plant-related material for the club's door prize table.

April Refreshments

We thank the following members have volunteered to bring refreshments on April 27, 2011:

Sweets: Sue Koppes, Mary Washington, and Mary Clive. **Non-sweets:** Aileen Goldman, Peggy Fields, Victor Laczko, Jerry Synder
Drinks: Christine Masuoka and Bernie Spalding.

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.

Officers

President

Marcy Marinelli 301-937-3683
Talkdoc52@msn.com

Vice President

Joan Simons 202-271-5001
Solarnrgman@gmail.com
joanesimons@gmail.com

Past Presidents

Sandy Lange, 301-474-1402
salange1940@yahoo.com
Dan Marinelli, 301-937-3683
Gopackers1113@msn.com

Treasurer

Bob Pechacek 301-384-2415
rpechacek@comcast.net

Secretary

Judy Shanefelter 301-384-7636
jshanefelt@aol.com

Committee Chairpersons

Greenhouse

Bill Koppes 301-434-6380
bilsukopp@aol.com

Hospitality

Sue Koppes, 301-434-6380
bilsukopp@aol.com
Helen Pechacek 301-384-2415
hpechacek@comcast.net

Membership

Sue & Joe Burge 301-937-6085
Joerburge@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Sandy Lange, 301-474-1402
salange1940@yahoo.com

Publicity

Louise DeJames, 301-890-4733
lrdejames@msn.com

Plant Sales

Geoff White, 301-937-1539
king-ghidorah@earthlink.net

Electronic Newsletter

Marcy Marinelli 301-937-3683
Talkdoc52@msn.com

Webmaster

Doug Bolt 301-937-3112
dbolt@boltassociates.com

Submit newsletter articles to Editor, 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or e-mail to salange1940@yahoo.com

Garden News and Tips by Sandy Lange

Garden writer and world renowned plantsman Dr. Allan Armitage was the keynote speaker at the Lahr Native Plant Symposium on March 25 sponsored by the U.S. Arboretum. He stated that there have been huge strides made in showing the benefit of native plants for erosion control, insect and bird habitats, water conservation and pollution abatement. He also commented that "to think that all native plants are great is to think that all men are handsome." His advice to gardeners when a plant dies is "to mourn it for an hour, then think about what you can plant in its place."

Landscape designer Carole Otteson spoke on "The Joys of Moss." She advised those interested in growing a moss garden to start small, banish the lawn and be patient. Moss will arrive on its own if the soil is low in ph, there is good drainage and the area is shady.

Another speaker, Scott LaFleur, commented that "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

The New England Wild Flower Society provided the following tips on growing native plants:

- ◆ Pick plants according to the light you have.
- ◆ Match the soil and drainage to your plants.
- ◆ Decide whether colors should be bright and active or cool and restful.
- ◆ Match the plant height and width to your container.
- ◆ Decide whether you like symmetry or asymmetry.
- ◆ Look for plants with contrasting leaves. Mix tiny and massive foliage; green-leaves and colored forms; or smooth, fuzzy, and crinkly leaves.
- ◆ Look for plants with contrasting flower forms i.e. large and small, bright and pale, tubular and ray flowers.
- ◆ Look for structure. Mix plants with strong upright lines; verticals; with plants that are low and wide; plants that spill and trail over the edge with plants that mound neatly in one spot. Look for features such as spiny, twiggy, silvery, glossy, fuzzy, arching, creeping.

Behnke's Garden Day—Saturday, June 4

BGC will join other area garden clubs with a table at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville on June 4, 10 am-4 pm, to celebrate Garden Day. Garden events will include a plant swap, vendors, master gardeners giving advice and a raffle for the Friends of Brookside. Perennial expert David Culp will be a featured speaker.

Garden Educator Training Course

April 19-21, 9:30 am-2 pm, Montgomery College is offering a course on gardening basics, outdoor education techniques, and ways to integrate the garden with classroom curriculum. The three part series will focus on Gardening with Children, Container Vegetable Gardening, and Schoolyard Ecosystem. Contact Montgomery College, Workforce Development and Continuing Education, at 240-567-5188 for more information and fees.

The Gardener — A Poem

BGC member Lois Morris provided this poem written by Linda Pastan

He's out rescuing his fallen hollies
After the renegade snowstorm,

Sawing their wounded limbs off
Quite mercilessly (I think of the scene

In "King's Row," the young soldier waking,
To find his legs gone).

He's tying up young bamboo—
Their delicate tresses litter the driveway—

Shoveling a door through the snow
To free the imprisoned azaleas.

I half expect him to tend his trees
With aspirin and soup, the gardener

Who finds in destruction
The very reason to carry on;

Who would look at the ruins
Of Eden and tell the hovering angel

To put down his sword
There was work to be done

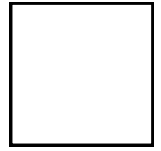
Spring Garden Chores by Sandy Lange

- ◆ Transplant seedlings started indoors.
- ◆ Lift and divide last year's garden mums, discarding the old centers.
- ◆ Transplant trees and plant new ones.
- ◆ Prune late-blooming shrubs.
- ◆ Apply organic fertilizers as soil warms i.e. Hollytone, Plant-tone and compost.
- ◆ Apply chopped leaves, rotted manure, or other organic matter once or twice a year in a one or two inch layer.
- ◆ Re-seed lawn as needed.
- ◆ Move containers of tropicals outdoors.
- ◆ Add dry leaves, wood chips, straw or any material that will create porosity to your compost pile. Large air gaps improve air flow and help the microbes do their job.
- ◆ Remove old stems on hellebores but allow the flowers to remain and drop seeds to the ground to germinate.

Greenhouse Committee by Bill Koppes

The nature trail in the woods next to the faculty lot is within a forested area of 2.6 acres bounded by Evans Way and a fence barrier to I-95. At the entrance to the trail we established a butterfly garden. The dominant tree is the Virginia Pine. Maple and Oak trees form a second tier in number, with smaller quantities of Tulip Poplar and Sycamore. An inventory showed 145 trees, including small numbers of locust, ailanthus, and black cherry. The soil is a sandy loam that extends to 15-18 inches. There is no standing surface water, even in the spring period. The current food sources for wildlife include blackberry, greenbrier, poison ivy, and acorns. Dogwood, Black Gum, Blueberry, Holly and Spicebush are planned as additional food and nectar sources. We are looking for these and other food sources to plant in the woods. An increase in wildlife is desirable for the enjoyment of the students on the nature walk. A water source is planned in the form of a pond with a plastic liner. If you can contribute plants, pond liner sheet, PVC pipe for protection of starter trees, or labor to this effort it would be much appreciated.

Beltsville Garden Club
P. O. Box 1953
Beltsville, MD 20704-1953



Garden Events

Sat., April 17, Noon to 4 pm. Celebrate Earth Day at Brookside Gardens.

Sat., April 23, 10 am. Raised Garden Beds. Master Gardeners talk on pros & cons of using raised beds. Behnke's Nursery. Free.

Fri. & Sat., April 29 & 30, FONA Garden Fair & Plant Sale. U.S. Arboretum, D.C.

Sun., May 1, 11 am-4 pm, Audubon Nature Fair. Activities for kids, native plant sale, bird walks, entertainment. Woodend.

Events at the U.S. Botanic Garden:

Fri., April 22, 10 am, Earth Day Open House.

Fri., April 29, Noon, Arbor Day Tour of the National Garden.

Sat., May 1, 10 am, Annual Herb Day.

BGC Calendar of Events

Wed., April 27, 7:30 p.m. BGC General Meeting: *Water Conservation & Gardens*, Kimberley Knox, speaker.

Tues., May 3, 7:30 pm, BGC Executive Board Meeting, Home of Sandy & David Lange

Sat., May 7, 8 am to Noon, *BGC Plant Sale*, High Point High School, rain or shine

Wed., May 25, 7:30 pm. *Butterfly Gardening and Habitats for Monarchs*. William Dent, speaker.

Sat., August 6, 2 pm, *Annual Peach Festival*, Home of Linda & Helmut Jaehnigen