



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 57 Number 4 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> April 2009

Riversdale House Museum & Garden Party

BGC members are invited to Riversdale House Museum and Garden Party on Sunday, May 17, 3 p.m. The free event celebrates gardening past and present. Riversdale was the 18th century home of Rosalie Stier Calvert and her husband George Calvert. Riversdale docents will be offering special tours of the house and the Elizabeth Graefe Gossett Memorial Garden. Light refreshments will be served. Riversdale is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD. RSVP by Monday, May 11, to 301-861-0420 with the number of people attending. Identify yourself as a BGC member.

April Hospitality

Thanks to Becky Pease, Bill Koppes, Nancy Perkins, Mary Washington, Nenita Sagirlioglu, Katherine Fitzgerald, Sue Shawhan and Louise DeJames for bringing refreshments to our March meeting. Doug Bolt and Bill Koppes donated flowering clivias as centerpieces and they were auctioned off. A total of \$43 was raised to benefit the Scholarship Fund.

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the April 22 meeting:

Sweets: Linda Jaehnigen, Mary Washington, and Mary Ann Canter, **non-sweets:** Elaine Jones, Lori Snyder, and Peggy Fields; Juice: Aileen Goldman. **Centerpiece:** Helmut Jaehnigen. Additional refreshments are always welcomed. **Also, everyone, remember to bring a plant for the door prize table.**

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School at 11204 Evans Trail in Beltsville.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Michael Raupp, Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland. His topic will be "How Low Diversity and Invasive Plants Conspire to Destroy the Landscape".

Michael Raupp is a pioneer in Integrated Pest Management. He is dedicated to creating sustainable landscape systems with minimal dependence on synthetic pesticides through the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity. He places special emphasis on creating natural enemy communities.

UMD Celebrates "Maryland Day" April 25

Visit the UMD College Park campus, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 25., for the 11th Annual Maryland Day celebration. Programs of interest to gardeners include:

- Grow It! Eat It! Master gardeners show how to start and care for a vegetable garden
- Beekeeping—How Sweet It Is! Learn basics and observe bees in hives
- What Types of Soils Do You Have at Your Home? Speak to a soil scientist about improving your soil

More information including the full day's schedule is at: www.marylandday.umd.edu

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2009-2010

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.

Officers

President

Marcy Marinelli 301-937-3683

Talkdoc52@msn.com

Vice President

Joan Simons 202-271-5001

solarnrgman@gmail.com

joansimons@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 (vacant)

Committee Chairpersons

Greenhouse

Bill Koppes 301-434-6380

bilsukopp@aol.com

Historian

Bill Nickle 301-937-7917

Hospitality

Helen Pechacek 302-384-2415

hpechacek@comcast.net

Sue Koppes, 301-434-6380

bilsukopp@aol.com

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

John Lydon 301-595-1066

J.lydon@verizon.net

Webmaster

Doug Bolt 301-93703112

dbolt@dboltassociates.com

Submissions to the newsletter are due by the second Wednesday of the month and should be submitted to the editor at 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or by e-mail salange1940@yahoo.com.

Garden Events

By Sandy Lange

April 18-25, Virginia Garden Week. Various homes & gardens open throughout the state. Check the website at www.vagardenweek.org for schedule of events for each Virginia county. Free.

April 17 & 18. Spring Garden Market. River Farm, Alexandria, VA.

Sun., April 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Green Expo: What's New & What You Can Do. Behnke Nurseries, Beltsville. Free

Fri., April 24 (members only) & Sat., April 25, FONA Plant Sale & Garden Fair. World-class collection of hellebores will be sold as well as many other garden plants. U. S. National Arboretum.

To April 26, 15th Annual Orchid Show: Orchids through Darwin's Eyes at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. Free.

Sun., April 26, 1-4 p.m., Friends of Brookside Gardens Silent Auction. Visitors Center. Wheaton.

Sat. May 2, 1-5 p.m. & Sun, May 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Azalea Show, Brookside Gardens Visitors Center, Wheaton.

Sat., May 2. Wings of Fancy Butterfly & Caterpillar Exhibit opens. Brookside Gardens Conservatory. Exhibit continues thru Sept. 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. Wheaton. Fee.

Sat., May 9, 1 p.m., My Favorite Perennials for the Home Garden, talk by David Culp of Sunny Border Nurseries, Behnke Nurseries, Beltsville. Free. Call to register: 301-937-1100.

Sun., May 17, 3 p.m., Riversdale House Museum & Garden Party., 4811 Riverdale RD., Riverdale Park. Free. RSVP at 301-864-0420.

Sun., May 17, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Azalea Sale, Brookside Gardens. Outside Visitors Center. Wheaton.

Bay Friendly Lawn Care Tips

Follow these guidelines to have a beautiful yard in addition to protecting creeks, rivers and streams:

- Test your soil to determine what your lawn needs
- Choose natural, organic fertilizers
- Mow high to prevent weeds, reduce run-off, and stay green during drought
- Pick the right grass seed for your lawn
- Water judiciously; allow grass to grow dormant (brown) during the summer
- Remove weeds by hand, or with natural products such as corn gluten or vinegar
- Minimize pollution from lawn equipment. A gas-powered mower used for one hour equals the pollution of ten cars driven in the same amount of time
- Reduce your lawn by enlarging flower beds, planting native shrubs, letting fallen leaves decompose, and creating a rain garden.

Information from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation—Save the Bay

Compost Available from College Park

Order your screened compost from College Park Dept. of Public Works, 301-474-4194. Compost is delivered to your home for an additional fee.

Greenhouse Committee by Bill Koppes

We have 100 pots of caladiums in various stages of growth. *Frieda Hemple* and *White Queen* will be joined by a new variety this year, *Rosebud*. The *Candidum* variety was in short supply. We always purchase the largest bulbs, described as Jumbo. This year *Candidum* was only available in a size two grades lower. An inventory of the greenhouse plants will be on the BGC website soon. We had an opportunity to display some of our plants at the Behnke Senior Expo event. Our booth had a 5x3 foot poster that included text and photos explaining the BGC connection with the Duckworth School. The recent cleanup of weeds and trash in the Nature Walk and the front of the school yielded a number of filled bags and a discarded car

Spring Trip to Maymont Mansion

Just a few seats remain on the bus for the BGC spring trip on May 14, to Maymont Mansion and Gardens in Richmond, VA. Trip cost includes a horticulturist-led walking tour of the gardens, guided tour of the mansion, box lunch and transportation. Bus departs from the Calverton Shopping Center, Beltsville, at 7:30 a.m. and returns to Beltsville by 6:30 p.m. Complete the form below and mail it today.

Reservation Form for BGC Spring Trip to Maymont Mansion & Gardens Thursday, May 14, 2009

Name(s) _____

e-mail address _____ Phone #: _____

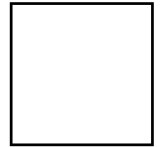
Number of people at \$68.00 _____ Total: \$ _____

Mail form and check, payable to Beltsville Garden Club, to Sandra Lange,
12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Reservations must be received by May 7, 2009.

Cost of tour includes transportation in a comfortable, air conditioned 47-passenger bus with bathroom, a horticulturist-led tour of the gardens, tour of the opulent Victorian style mansion, and a box lunch.

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



BGC

Spring Plant Sales

Saturday

April 11 & May 9

8 a.m. - Noon

High Point High School

BGC Calendar of Events

Sat., 4/11/09, BGC Plant Sale, High Point

Wed., 4/22/09, General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.,
Lack of Diversity & Invasive Plants
Can Conspire to Destroy the Landscape,
Michael Raupp, PhD

Tues., 5/5/09 Executive Meeting, 7:30 p.m.,
DeJames residence, Silver Spring

Sat., 5/9/09 BGC Plant Sale, High Point

Thurs., 5/14/09 Tour to Maymont, Richmond

Wed., 5/20/09, *Heritage Roses Plus*, Nick
Weber; tour his garden on Memorial Day
week-end. More details in the next
newsletter **(Meeting on 3rd Wednesday of the month)**