



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Please join us on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at 7:30 pm at Duckworth School for our February general meeting. Our speaker will be Carol Hamelink who will speak on "Growing African Violets Indoors."

Ms. Hamelink is a member of both the Baltimore African Violet Club as well as the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society. She has won numerous awards for both African Violets and other gesneriads that she has entered in local and regional shows. Some of her awards include Best in Show, Best Standard Violet, Best Semi-miniature Violet, and Best Gesneriad. She currently grows over 100 cultivars of African Violets and over 50 different varieties of gesneriads on lighted plant stands in her home. She will be bringing some of her plants to sell after the meeting.

The meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room of the Duckworth School on Evans Trail in Beltsville. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. We will also be drawing names for members to choose a plant or plant-related article from the door prize table. Last month the door prize table looked a little bereft of plants! Bring some of your extra plants or cuttings to share with other club members.



HOSPITALITY

Hospitality Chair Martina Lydon writes that we have a hospitality crisis! Only four members volunteered at the last meeting to provide refreshments for the next meeting. Usually we have at least seven members contribute. It's not too late to volunteer for this month. If you can bake or bring something for the hospitality table, please contact Martina Lydon by phone at 301-595-1066 or e-mail at mw.lydon@verizon.net. Please be sure to take your turn when the hospitality clipboard comes around at the meetings.

The following people volunteered to bring refreshments for the February meeting: Eleanor Butler, Katherine Fitzgerald, Marcy Marinelli and Geoff White. Martina Lydon will provide the centerpiece for the evening.

Thanks to the executive board for providing refreshments for our January meeting. Thanks also to Charlotte Schomburg, Bob Trumbule, and Dan and Marcy Marinelli for helping with the hospitality table.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Time is running out! According to BGC by-laws, if your dues aren't paid by March 1, your name is deleted from the club membership roll. Don't miss out on the club's educational and social activities. Send your dues today! You can mail your dues or pay at the February general meeting. \$7 per year is a bargain!

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.

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Submissions to the newsletter are due by the second Wednesday of the month and should be submitted to the editor at 12217 Castle Pines Drive, Beltsville, MD 20705 or by e-mail.

Volunteers Needed

The award winning, beautiful garden at Fairland Library is looking for a few good gardeners! Volunteers are needed for spring help with weeding, mulching, watering, etc. If you've never been to the Fairland Library garden, it is one of the nicer library gardens in the area. Designed and planted by Alan Moore, who has done several gardens for the DC Historical Society, the Fairland garden includes tree peonies, magnolias and other lovely perennials. If you're interested in volunteering, you'll work with a fun group of fellow gardeners at a time that is convenient to your schedule. In addition, you'll help maintain a lovely community asset. Contact BGC members Polly and Rob Wright at 301-421-9287.

BEHNKES NURSERIES GARDENING SEMINARS

Each year Behnke Nursery sponsors a variety of gardening seminars for the public. Many of the seminars are free of charge, however registration is required. To register contact Behnkes at 301-937-1100. Upcoming seminars include:

New Woody Plants Sat. 2/25/06 1:00 pm Dan Czarniak of Pride's Corner Farm talks about up and coming plants.

Perennial Garden Maintenance Sun. 2/26/06 1:00 pm Horticulturalist Martha Pindale helps you learn how to keep a tidy perennial garden with a minimum of effort.

Perennial Garden Techniques Sat. 3/4/06 10:00 am Mark Huber of Riverbend Nursery gives tips on growing perennials.

Deer Resistant Plants: Bambi's Brussels Sprouts. Sun. 3/5/06 1:00 pm Randy Best of Behnke's shares tips on using deer resistant plants in the landscape.

Plant Horrors. Sat. 3/11/06 10:00 am Janet Draper, horticulturalist with the Smithsonian, talks about some of the more outlandish uses of plants.

Turf's Up. Sun. 3/12/06 1:00 pm John Peter Thompson and Larry Hurley of Behnke's share tips on what to do now to keep your lawn in good shape all year.

For further information about the seminars, go to the Behnke website: www.behnkes.com.

Garden Events

Thanks to Bill Koppes for keeping us up-to-date on local and regional garden events.

American Plant Food Co Annual Winter Orchid Fair (Sat. and Sun. Feb 18th and 19th, from 9am to 6pm). 5258 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland 301-656-3311

<http://www.americanplantfood.com/Pages/OrchidFairFlowerShow.html>

Brookside Gardens Orchid Festival
March 18, 10:00-4:00
March 19, 10:00-3:00
Visitors Center
1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD

Through-APR. 2. Simply Sublime: Orchids in an Art Deco Garden. Exhibit. United States Botanic Garden. Washington, D.C. (202) 225-8333. <http://www.usbg.gov>.

FEB. 16-19. New Jersey Flower and Garden Show: "Gardens Near and Far." Edison, New Jersey. (800) 332-3976. <http://www.macevents.com>.

FEB. 24. Green Matters: After the Rain. Course on stormwater management. Brookside Gardens. Wheaton, Maryland. (301) 962-1470. <http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/brookside>.

MAR. 5. Water Gardening. Workshop. Green Spring Gardens Park. Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 642-5173. <http://www.greenspring.org>.

MAR. 5-12. Philadelphia Flower Show. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (215) 988-8800. <http://www.theflowershow.com>.

MAR. 9. Tidewater Garden Symposium. Seminar sponsored by The Garden Club of Norfolk, The Virginia Beach Garden Club, and Virginia Beach Public Libraries. Virginia Beach, Virginia. (757) 428-5166.

MAR. 10. Public Horticulture Matters: Connecting Purpose and Presence with Future Perspectives. Symposium. Longwood Gardens. Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. (302) 831-2517. <http://www.udel.edu/longwoodgrad>.

MAR. 10-14. Springfest Flower & Garden Show. Augusta, New Jersey. (973) 948-9448. <http://www.springfestgardenshow.org>.

Chrysanthemum Society Plant Sale

The Potomac Chrysanthemum Society will be selling rooted mum plants of many cultivars on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at the Bank of America parking lot in White Oak. This is near the intersection of Route 29 and New Hampshire Avenue. The price is \$1.25 per plant. Contact Bob Howell at 301-937-3720 for information.



BGC Plant Sales: Vendor Advantages

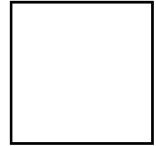
After a number of years in the garden, and for some plants only 2-3, that perennial in your garden needs division to make space or to promote more flowering. At this point your choice is clear. Divide, pot some portions in good soil, and replant others for the garden. Those divisions in pots will soon outgrow the others in the cold soil, especially with some fertilizer and some protection against cold nights. A row cover or sheet of plastic will accelerate growth so that your plants will look better than those at the nurseries. Typically your plants have a larger root mass and, if they have been pampered with more hours of warmth, they will be irresistible at the April 22nd sale. A few hours of potting will pay for the original plant that you bought, with cash remaining to purchase new plants at the nursery or from that BGC vendor selling next to you!

Greenhouse committee members will be at the Feb 22nd meeting to answer any questions about getting started as a vendor, and we will have pots available that you can use.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If PG County Schools are closed or dismiss early, all club activities will be cancelled for that night. Check the club website for updates.

Beltsville Garden Club
P. O. Box 1953
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Beltsville Garden Club

Spring Plant Sales

Saturday, April 22, 2006

Saturday, May 13, 2006

8:00 a.m.

Parking Lot of

High Point High School

BGC Calendar of Events

- Wed. 2/22/06 7:30 pm General Meeting,
Growing African Violets Indoors, Carol
Hamelink, Duckworth School
- Wed. 3/1/006 7:30 pm Executive Meeting,
Home of Bob & Helen Pechacek
- Wed. 3/22/06 7:30 pm General Meeting, Topic
TBA, Duckworth School
- Sat. 4/1/06 9:00 am Roadside Pick Up, Meet
at McDonald's on Powder Mill Road
- Wed. 4/5/06 7:30 pm Executive Meeting, Home
of Louise DeJames
- Sat. 4/22/06 8:00 am Plant Sale, High Point
High School Parking Lot
- Wed. 4/26/06 7:30 pm General Meeting, Topic
TBA, Duckworth School
- Wed. 5/3/06 7:30 pm Executive Meeting, Home
of John and Martina Lydon
- Sat. 5/13/06 8:00 am Plant Sale, High Point High
School Parking Lot