



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 54 Number 1 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> January 2006

January General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, January 25th, 2006 at 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evan Trail, Beltsville, Maryland. The speaker for this month will be Christopher Erb; his topic will be **"Ten Ways To Avoid Killing Your Trees"**. He will also discuss in a question and answer session the use of repellants to protect trees from browsing deer.

Mr. Erb has worked with the Bartlett Tree Company since May, 1991. He received his AAS degree in Forest Recreation at Paul Smiths College in New York. Chris is an ISA Certified Arborist and a Maryland tree expert.

Please join us for this informative speaker. We will have plants for the door prize table, and refreshments after the meeting. Why not bring a friend to the meeting and introduce them to the club?

Officers for 2006

At the December holiday party meeting, the slate of officers for 2006 was approved. The club is delighted to have last year's officers return for a second term. They are: Dan Marinelli, President; Joe Burge, Vice President; Bob Pechacek, Treasurer; and Sandy Lange, Secretary. If you have an interest in running for office next year or becoming more involved see president Dan Marinelli.

Membership

Now is the time to renew your BGC dues for 2006. BGC is one of the best bargains in the area! For \$7 per year per family, you can attend all our meetings, improve your gardening knowledge and skills, receive quality plants as door prizes or purchase them at our plant sales, and attend social events where there is terrific food and fellowship! A renewal form is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience. Please note that the year beside your name on your mailing label indicates the year through which your dues are paid. If it says 2005 you need to renew now. If it says 2006, you are paid up through the end of this year. You can either mail your renewal to the club or bring it to the next meeting. If you have any questions about membership, see Sue Koppes, Membership Chair, at our next meeting.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Although it feels more like spring, there is no doubt that winter will make an appearance. Please remember that if PG County Schools are closed or have an early dismissal due to snow, any BGC functions scheduled for Duckworth School that night will be cancelled. If in doubt, contact one of the club officers.



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.

Greenhouse Committee

By Bill Koppes

Our palette of plants will be enlarged in the future by the propagation of some perennials. The display beds in the courtyard have not been used effectively in terms of being a source of sale plants, as well as for appearance. We split some clumps of daylilies and Joe Pye weed for last season sales, but the potential for perennial propagation is certainly greater in these beds. This last fall we started some hostas, geranium sanguineum, coneflowers, heuchera, lavender and some herbs for future divisions. In the greenhouse we continue with the foliage and flowering houseplants, herbs, succulents and cacti, and tender perennials. We bought a number of spring bulbs that we are forcing in pots stored on the shady side of the courtyard.

We invite participation in the greenhouse committee. The donation of even a few hours of time can be valuable to us. There is a wide range of things to do. We have tasks involving the plants, of course, but also transport to sale sites, landscaping chores in the courtyard, inventory, labeling, general housekeeping, developing of signs for sales, maintenance of greenhouse equipment, sorting of pots, and continuing with projects for new storage facilities for pots and our bags of ingredients for soil mixes.

BGC Scholarship

This year the Beltsville Garden Club Scholarship was awarded to Kristen Sikorski. Kristen is a Landscape Management major at the University of Maryland and resides in College Park. BGC President Dan Marinelli received a very nice thank you note from Ms. Sikorski. The text of that note is below:

Dear Mr. Marinelli:

I would just like to thank you for awarding me the Beltsville Garden Club Scholarship. I am a senior and from the Chicago-land area. As you can imagine I have acquired some very large loans over the past 3-1/2 years. This scholarship has helped to lighten that burden. Thank you again and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely, Kristy Sikorski

As you get ready to send in your membership renewal for 2006, please remember to add a little extra for the BGC Scholarship fund. Because of the generosity of club members, BGC has been able to raise the amount of the scholarship over the past couple years. This is a real boon to students who have had to pay ever-increasing tuition costs. Remember that your scholarship donation is tax-deductible.

Regional Floral Events

Winter blahs got you down? Why not take a road trip and visit a local or not-so-local garden event and start to gather ideas for springtime. Thanks to Bill Koppes for sending these events.

JAN. 20–22. “Magical Gardens” Virginia Flower & Garden Show. The Virginia Horticultural Foundation. Virginia Beach Pavilion. Virginia Beach, Virginia. (877) 882-0057. <http://www.vafgs.org>.

JAN. 22. How NOT to Screw Up Your Yard. Lecture. Green Springs Gardens Park. Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 642-5173. <http://www.greenspring.org>.

JAN. 21-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. 14. Lunchtime Lecture: Gardens of Italy. Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. (610) 328-8025. <http://www.scottarboretum.org>.

MARCH 5-12 Philadelphia Flower Show. “Enchanted Spring...A Tribute to Mother Nature”, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2299, 215-988-8899 (recorded information), <http://www.theflowershow.com/home/index.html>

Plant Sale Dates

The 2006 Plant Sale dates have been set. They will be Saturday April 22, 2006 and Saturday, May 13, 2006. As in the past the sale will be held from 8:00 am to 12 noon in the parking lot of High Point High School. *In order to be a vendor at the sale you must have been a paid up member for at least 90 days before the sale.* If you have questions, contact Geoff White.

Holiday Party Update

Close to 70 BGC members attended the annual holiday party on December 7th. They enjoyed a delicious pot-luck dinner, holiday music (thanks to our resident DJ, Leo Goulden) and great fellowship. The holiday centerpieces were very creative this year. Clearly our October meeting on wreathmaking has had an impact on club members! The centerpieces as well as poinsettias were the door prizes for the evening. Thanks to all who helped make the party a success this year. Whether you cooked, made a centerpiece, helped set up or clean up you helped make the party a success!

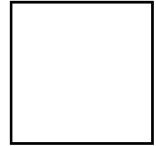
FloraBytes

Pollinators are in danger and we can help. Visit the site of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. The Pollinator Conservation Handbook provides information on how to do your part in the garden. It is available through the website or Amazon.com. <http://www.xerces.org/>

Information on wildlife-friendly gardens in general appeared in the local magazine Washington Gardener, Nov.-Dec. issue, wherein the authors also listed the following sites for more information on this topic: www.mdflora.org. > www.audubon.org. > www.nwf.org

A federal government portal has hundreds of annotated links to botany Web sites. Learn about plant diseases, anatomy of a fern leaf, or read Gregor Mendel's 1865 paper that revolutionized genetics. www.nbio.gov/disciplines/botany/index.html There are sites for gardening, botany for kids, and other more general sites - as well as those with a more scientific slant.

Beltsville Garden Club
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Beltsville Garden Club

Spring Plant Sales

Saturday, April 22, 2006

Saturday, May 13, 2006

8:00-noon

Parking Lot of

High Point High School

BGC Calendar of Events

- Wed. 1/25/06 7:30 pm General Meeting, Chris Erb, Ten Ways to Avoid Killing Your Trees, Duckworth School
- Wed. 2/1/06 7:30 pm Executive Meeting, Home of Bill & Sue Koppes
- Wed. 2/22/06 7:30 pm General Meeting, Topic TBA, Duckworth School
- Wed. 3/1/06 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