



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 54 Number 5 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> May 2006

May General Meeting

Our final meeting for this year will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 in the Multi-purpose room at the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail in Beltsville. The speaker for this month is Dr. Frank Gouin and his topic will be **"GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR COMPOST"**.

Dr. Gouin served on the faculty of the University of Maryland Department of Horticulture as an extension specialist in ornamental horticulture. He pioneered the development of Osmocote 18-6-12 and the use of composted biosolids in the production of nursery and greenhouse crops. He has published numerous manuscripts ranging from journals, national magazines, newsletters and book chapters.

Please join us to hear this informative speaker. As always we have plants for our door prize table and refreshments after the meeting. The public is welcome and admission is free.

Our next meeting will be in September when we reconvene after our summer break. Happy Gardening!



Benefits of Compost

Since our May meeting is on compost, here are some benefits of composting that you might not know. These come from a great web-site called www.earth911.org. Composting has physical, chemical and biological benefits. It improves soil structure, manages moisture, modifies soil pH, provides nutrients, helps retain nutrients longer, provides soil microorganisms, suppresses plant disease, helps control weeds, helps control erosion, aids in wetlands restoration, plus many more! Interesting in learning more about how to use compost? Be sure to come to our May general meeting.

Lewis Ginter Garden Trip

**There's still space available on this trip!
See page 3 of the newsletter for important information on this upcoming BGC day trip!**

Plant Swap

Are you interested in swapping plants? BGC member Rod Hendricks is interested in trading plants with other BGC members. If you have plants that are in need of thinning and would like to trade for something else, contact him. His phone number is in the BGC directory.

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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.

Garden Events

Thanks to Bill Koppes for keeping us in the know on area garden events. Here are some upcoming events that you might be interested in.

MAY 27. Knowing Native Plants: Flowering Shrubs. Tour and lecture. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. New Hope, Pennsylvania. (215) 862-2924. <http://www.bhwp.org>.

JUNE 1-3. Native Plants in the Landscape Conference. Millersville University. Millersville, Pennsylvania. (717) 872-3030. <http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org>.

JUNE 6-9. Cultivating the Written Word: Creative Garden Writing from Production to Publication. Course. Longwood Gardens. Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. (610) 388-1000 ext. 559. <http://www.longwoodlearning.org>.

Brookside Gardens Herb Fair and Plant Sale
June 10, 1000-1600

Brookside Gardens
45th Annual Lily Show
Potomac Lily Society
June 17, 1230-1700
June 18, 0900-1600

Brookside Gardens Course:
The Beauty of Herbs
Holly Shimizu, Executive Director,
U.S. Botanic Gardens
Course 11261
June 9, 1000-1130
Free, but registration required

See the Brookside catalog of events and courses:
http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/brookside/publications/xper_sp06.pdf
for more information on their events.

Hospitality for May

A special thank you from hospitality chair Martina Lydon to everyone who helped with hospitality at our April meeting: Elizabeth Ogden, Sue Shawhan, Mary Ann Canter, Ron & Nita Nabors, Louise Clemens, Matthew & Susan Burge, Barbara Hall and Julie Wolz. Joan Simon made a beautiful centerpiece and Susan Burge, Elizabeth Ogden and John Lydon assisted in the kitchen.

The following people have volunteered to help with hospitality for the May meeting: Matthew Burge (kitchen helper), John Lydon (centerpiece), and bakers Matthew Burge, Mary Ann Canter, Rose Haldeman, Anne Hoffman, and Sue Shawhan. Thank you all for your help. See you at the May 24th meeting!

Lewis Ginter Garden Trip

There are still seats available on the BGC sponsored day trip to Lewis Ginter Garden in Richmond, Virginia on Thursday, June 1, 2006. We will leave from the Calverton Shopping Center parking lot at 8:00 am and travel by bus to Richmond. There we will have a box lunch and enjoy a guided tour of the spectacular 40 acre gardens and classical conservatory. Following the tour we will have the opportunity to visit the Great Big Greenhouse to purchase plants. If you've never been to Lewis Ginter Gardens you will surely enjoy the trip. At this time of the year they will be wrapping up their display of spring flowering plants so it should be a terrific trip. We will return to Beltsville around 6:30 pm.

The cost for the day is \$65.00 and includes admission to the gardens, a box lunch and bus transportation. You must be a member of BGC to go on this trip so if you haven't renewed your 2006 dues, add an additional \$7 to the cost. Seats are limited so send your reservation ASAP. Fill out the form below and return it to Louise DeJames no later than May 22, 2006.

Scholarship Update

Thanks to the generosity of so many BGC members we have been able to increase our donation to the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. We have made a \$1000 donation to the College for the Beltsville Garden Club Scholarship. The College will make a decision on which worthy student (or students) will be awarded the scholarship. Again, thank you to all of you who have made a donation. With the rising costs of tuition we have been able to increase our support for the past couple of years for a deserving student who is choosing a career in horticulture.

Plant Sale Thanks

A special thanks to everyone who made our two spring plant sales successful. Geoff White, John and Martina Lydon, and Louise DeJames helped out with the vendors, membership table and coffee and doughnuts. A special thank you goes to Raulin's Bakery, which donated the donuts for both sales. Give them your support! Also, thanks to our greenhouse crew for their hard work.

Reservation Form for BGC Lewis Ginter Garden Trip (detach and return)

Name: _____ **Number of people @ \$65 each:** _____

Telephone Number: _____ **Total Remittance:** _____

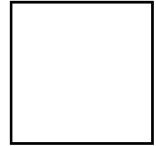
E-mail Address: _____

Lunch preference: Turkey _____ Chicken Salad _____ Ham _____

Note: Include \$7 per person/family to join the Beltsville Garden Club if you are not currently a paid up member. All those going on the trip must be BGC members.

Mail form to: Louise DeJames, 2912 Marlow Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904. **Reservation must be received by May 22, 2006.**

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



2006 Peach Festival

***Join your BGC friends on
Saturday, August 12, 2006
at the home of
Helmut and
Linda Jaehnigan***

***Details and directions will
be mailed out in a special
Peach Festival Edition
of the
BGC Newsletter in late July***

BGC Calendar of Events

- Wed. 5/24/06 7:30 pm General Meeting,
Getting the Most from Your Compost, Dr.
Gouin,, Duckworth School
- Wed. 8/2 7:30 pm Executive Meeting, Home of
Sandy Lange
- Sat. 8/12 Peach Festival, Home of Helmut &
Linda Jaehnigan, time TBA
- Wed. 9/6 7:30 pm Executive Meeting, Home of
Dan & Marcy Marinelli
- Wed. 9/27 7:30 pm General Meeting, Topic
TBA, Duckworth School