



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 54 Number 8 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> October 2006

October General Meeting

Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, October 25th, 2006 at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville, Maryland. The guest speaker for this month will be Rose Ann Davis who will again share her talents with us by demonstrating "Seasonal Floral Design". She will also discuss the three C's in floral arrangements: Containers, Customs and Creativity. Ms. Davis will be working with seasonal greens and suggests that everyone who plans to attend bring in a small branch or two for the demonstration.

Rose Ann was a teacher, working with young children, and the mentally challenged. She also owned a flower/gift shop in Pennsylvania and has combined both interests by teaching floral design to groups like the Beltsville Garden Club. Ms Davis has been employed by the National Arboretum for the past five years.

Please join us for this informative speaker and have some fun in exploring ideas about decorating for the holidays. Bring a plant for the door prize table and stay for refreshments after the meeting. The public is welcomed and admission is free.

Roadside Pick Up

Come join other BGC members and volunteer to help with the Roadside pickup on Saturday, October 28, 2006. The club is responsible for the section of Powder Mill Road between McDonald's and High Point High School. Several times each year we get together to clean up trash and debris which has accumulated along the road. We meet at McDonald's at 9:00 am and are generally done by 10:30. If you have children who need to do community service, this is a great opportunity. For questions, contact Geoff White at 301-937-1539. Hope to see you on the 28th!

Fall Plant Sale

Mark your calendar for BGC's Fall Plant sale scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2006 from 8-noon in the parking lot of High Point High School. This is the perfect time of year to plant. Vendors will have a large variety of houseplants, perennials and shrubs. Tell your friends and neighbors too!

Desperately Seeking Newsletter Editor!!

BGC is looking for someone to take over the position as Newsletter Editor. The current editor has been on the job for five years and is looking for a well-deserved break! The position requires about 10 hours each month for attending the Executive Meeting, writing the newsletter, taking it to the Printer, and mailing. You should have familiarity with Microsoft Publisher. It's a terrific way to learn more about the club and its history. For more information, contact Marcy Marinelli, 301-937-3683 or at talkdoc52@msn.com

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2006

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.

Hospitality

Thanks to the following BGC members who provided refreshments for the September general meeting: Lori Snyder, Maggie and Cynthia Schmidt, Bob Pechacek and Marcy Marinelli. Thank you for your generosity!

Martina Lydon

Greenhouse News

By Bill Koppes

Our greenhouse cleanup extended into a second Saturday of scouring floors and benches with a pressure sprayer, followed by brushing the bench boards with a solution of 1 cup of 5% NaOCl in a gal. of water. We removed all of the plants and shut off the ventilation in the greenhouse for a period of a week prior to starting the washing. Any resident organisms were thus put through desiccation, scouring, and bleaching. Incoming plants were sprayed with oil and soap insecticides. Any pots that have persistent pests will be treated with granules of imidacloprid systemic insecticide. The automated mister system and roof vent are still operable. Some of the mist nozzles are clogged. Mineral deposits are a constant nuisance. Our storage issues for pots and soil supplies are still being worked. Bob Pechacek is almost finished with a storage area for the pots out in the courtyard. A roof-raising is planned soon. We could use another person with a ladder. This would be a half-hour job.

Thanks to Bob for the scouring job on the benches and floors, and to Joe Burge for the loan of the power washer. John Lydon procured the Marathon insecticide and a box of labels

With Sympathy

We are sad to report that Jim Nickell, husband of long-time club member and former president Nancy Nickell, passed away on October 6th after a long illness. A memorial service was held on October 15 at Fleck Funeral Home in Laurel. Members of the club were well represented and a floral arrangement was sent on behalf of the club. Please extend your sympathy to Nancy.

News from the Home and Garden Information Center

The Home and Garden Information Center (www.hgic.umd.edu) is a terrific website that has a wide variety of tips for the home gardener. Here are some items from the website's Timely Tips for the month of October:

Did you know that Prince Georges County is under a quarantine for the Emerald Ash Borer? This invasive pest is an exotic beetle from Asia which has killed million of ash trees in the Midwest and is has been found in Prince Georges County. It destroys ash trees by boring into the trunk causing the bark to crack, leaf dieback and The Maryland Department of Agriculture is seeking the help of home gardeners who might have ash trees in their yard. If you want to learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer and how to identify native ash trees go to the Department of Agriculture website at: <http://www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/eab/>.

Now is the perfect time to divide and transplant perennials. It's important that when you transplant the perennials you keep to root system moist at all times. To insure that the plants establish themselves well before the cold weather arrives, be sure to water the plants frequently.

Shade trees, shrubs, and fruit trees should NOT be fertilized at this time. This is the time of year when perennial plants are entering dormancy and fertilizing them now would cause new growth that could be damaged by winter weather.

This is a great time to buy or build a compost bin. There are still grass clippings available, as well as fruit and vegetable peelings from the kitchen and spent plants from the garden. And the falling leaves can be mixed in to create a rich mix that will be ready in the spring. Be sure to keep the pile moist.

FloraBytes

In a recent Washington Post article by Adrian Higgins the subject was the new varieties of plants that breeders and growers are currently offering or will introduce next year. He listed the following sites to view descriptions and photos:

<http://www.plantsthatwork.com/>

www.itsaulplants.com

www.provenwinners.com

A USDA online encyclopedia profiles some 43,000 species and varieties of native and introduced plants. In separate sections you can find invasive plants and endangered species:

<http://plants.usda.gov/>

Fall Foliage

As the seasons change, many of us enjoy taking in the beauty of the changing leaves. If you want to enjoy the season but don't want to travel far, here are some places within the metro area that offer great opportunities for viewing fall foliage:

C & O Canal—whether you start at Great Falls or Georgetown, the C & O Canal will offer you the opportunity for a hike to enjoy the changing leaves.

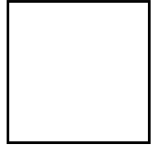
Mount Vernon—George Washington's family home on 500 acres overlooking the Potomac River includes mature trees as well as four gardens which showcase plants common in the 1700s. (Attendance Fee)

Great Falls National Park—Across the Potomac River is Great Falls Park which offers spectacular views of not only trees, but the river as it cascades over several waterfalls. Some of the trails are wheelchair accessible. (Attendance Fee).

National Arboretum— The Arboretum boasts 446 acres of trees! See how many species you can identify. (Admission free).



Beltsville Garden Club
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Beltsville Garden Club

Fall Plant Sale

**Saturday, October 21,
2006**

8:00-12 noon

**High Point High School
Parking Lot**

BGC Calendar of Events

- Sat. 10/21/06 Fall Plant Sale, 8:00 am
High Point High School Parking Lot
- Wed. 10/25/06 General Meeting, 7:30 pm
Duckworth School, Rose Ann Davis,
Seasonal Floral Design
- Wed. 11/8/06 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm
Home of Bill & Sue Koppes
- Wed. 12/6/06 Holiday Party, 7:00 pm
Duckworth School
- Wed. 1/3/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm
Location TBA
- Wed. 1/24 /07 January General Meeting, 7:30
pm, Duckworth School, Cactus, Bob
Stewart