



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 57 Number 8

<http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org>

October 2009

## Pay Dues Now!

Yes, it's time to renew your membership in BGC. The annual \$10 dues per family is payable each September. Don't delay. Your prompt renewal will ensure that there will be no interruption in your receipt of the BGC newsletter and other club information. BGC is one of the oldest and most active garden clubs in the Washington area. It provides scholarship funds to a University of Maryland horticulture student. It sponsors two popular spring plants sales annually. It hosts a Holiday Party and a summer Peach Festival, two favorite activities that members look forward to each year. Monthly meetings attract expert speakers who present informative topics that generate active discussions.

Fill out the membership form on page 3 and mail it today together with your check. Keep BGC viable and growing.

## Fig Tree Available

Have you always wanted to pick your own figs from your garden? BGC member Jerry Snyder is giving away a Marseill (Jefferson) fig tree. For information, contact him at 301-890-1393 or 240-481-7492 or [JeromeSnyder09@gmail.com](mailto:JeromeSnyder09@gmail.com)

## Holiday Party on December 9

Mark your calendar now for the 2009 annual Holiday Party on **Wednesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.** In case of inclement weather and school closings, the party will be held on Thursday, December 10.

## October 28 General Meeting

The **BGC will meet on Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.**, in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School. The speaker will be Kathy Jentz, editor and publisher of the *Washington Gardener Magazine*. Her topic will be "**Small Trees and Large Shrubs for Urban Yards**".

"Trees can be part of everyone's garden," Kathy stated, "even if you have room for only a few pots in which to plant them." Kathy will focus her talk on what grows best in the greater DC region and will include natives, edibles, and ornamentals. Kathy's work is featured in the *Washington Examiner* and *Washington Women*. In addition she is a regular guest on **Channel 9, Channel 4** and **WAMU radio**.

**Please bring a plant for the door prize table.**

## Greenhouse Committee by Bill Koppes

The greenhouse was emptied weeks ago and the benches scrubbed with a vinegar solution, followed by closing all vents and letting the temperature rise to 110 degrees. Plants were kept in backyards and in the courtyard of the school. While still outside, they were treated with a systemic insecticide spray that we normally do not use due to odor and toxicity. With healthy stock plants, we can begin to build our inventory through cuttings and divisions. The nature walk will get some attention as its status as a woodland lot is evaluated for understory trees and native perennials. We will probably introduce some sapling trees and more shade perennials. Please consider donating some plants for this project.

## 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.

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Submit newsletter articles by the second Wednesday of the month. Mail to Editor, 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or e-mail to salange1940@yahoo.com

## **It's Time to Bring Your Houseplants Inside**

Behnke Nurseries provides some helpful hints on caring for your houseplants plants that have summered outside you . Expect leaf drop as the plants receive a lot less light when you transfer them into the house.

- ◆ To minimize the shock of lower light conditions, move plants into a shadier area outdoors for a few days. When you move them inside, put them close to a window for maximum light.
- ◆ Spray for bugs with low toxicity and organic products such as oils and soaps.
- ◆ Water only if the soil conditions are dry and the pot is light when lifted. Standing plants on a tray of gravel helps a little.
- ◆ Do not fertilize plants. Fertilizer will only encourage spindly growth or burn the roots.
- ◆ Cut off dead branches and leaves. Don't do anything too drastic. Save radical pruning for spring.

## **Stink Bug Invasion**

As cooler weather approaches, shield-shaped insects congregate on doors, windows and siding, invading homes. These are the brown marmorated stink bugs, natives of China, Korea, Taiwan and Japan. They are serious pests to soybeans and 70 other species of plants in North America by consuming liquefied food from plant leaves. To prevent these pests from invading your home, seal up and eliminate points of entry. Vacuum away intruders.

## **Train Exhibits Open at Area Gardens**

The U. S. Botanic Gardens fanciful garden-train exhibit opens on November 26 and runs through January 10, 2010. There will be a storybook garden with Snow White's cottage and the Owl and the Pussy-cat's pee green boat. Also featured will be a replica of the Obama children's swing set and Washington's largest indoor holiday trees.

Brookside Gardens welcomes the Washington, Maryland and Virginia Garden Railway Society whose members construct their model "G" scale train exhibit inside the conservatory amidst flowering plants, towns and country settings. Show opens November 27 and runs through January 3. Free during the day.

### **Gardening Tips & News** by Sandy Lange

The entire University of Maryland has been designated an Arboretum and Botanical Garden by the American Public Garden Association. Several native plant gardens, a rain garden and a tree walk along McKeldin Mall are highlights. The campus is an urban forest with more than 6,500 trees and 400 acres of undeveloped forest. This environment creates an outdoor laboratory for students planning careers in landscape management as well as faculty performing research. New plantings are made with sustainability goals as well as diversity of the collection. There is a self-guided Tree Walk map that assists the visitor in identifying 56 trees on the campus. Go to [www.arboretum.umd.edu](http://www.arboretum.umd.edu) for more information.

*Washington Gardener's* Kathy Jentz gave tips on how to force bulbs to flower indoors:

- ◆ Select a few bulbs that you would buy to plant outdoors. Any type is okay.
- ◆ Place bulbs in cold storage (basement, garage or crisper drawer) for 12-16 weeks, at 40-50 degrees, with no light.
- ◆ Plant in soil, but at a shallower depth than outside. Top of bulb should be even with the soil line with 2 inches below bulb. Water and place plastic newspaper sleeves over pot to maintain a moist environment.
- ◆ Plant in garden after danger of frost ends.

### **Advice on Maintaining a Healthy Pond**

Steve Shinholser of Premier Ponds presented tips for a healthy pond at the September BGC meeting: 1) Pond plants such as water lilies should cover at least half the surface of the pond to inhibit algae growth 2) Fish should not be overfed. 3) Place rocks and gravel on top of the liner to promote beneficial bacteria growth and to have hiding places for fish. 4) Install biological filters to keep the pond water clear. 5) Place netting over the pond in the fall to keep leaves from decaying and producing toxic chemicals. 6) Clean the pond every year and replot pond plants every 3-4 years.

## **BGC Membership Renewal**

Annual dues is \$10 per household per year. The membership year runs from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

**Please make your check payable to:  
Beltsville Garden Club.**

**Mail to:  
Beltsville Garden Club  
P. O. Box 1953  
Beltsville, MD 20704-1953.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in serving on a committee:

\_\_\_\_\_ Publicity      \_\_\_\_\_ Plant Sales  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter      \_\_\_\_\_ Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality      \_\_\_\_\_ Greenhouse

### **BGC Scholarship Fund**

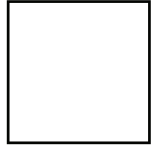
Consider donating to the BGC Scholarship Fund 2010 for the benefit of a University of Maryland student in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Scholarship Donation Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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



### Gardening Events

**Sat., Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Halloweenfest.**

Decorate a pumpkin, attend a Monster Meal cooking demonstration, or create a Creepy Craft. Participate in the costume parade at noon. Prizes for the best plant costume, best costumes for adults and children. Free. U.S. Botanic Gardens.

**Daily, Thru Nov. 29. Chrysanthemum Display—40th Anniversary Tribute.**

Elements of the last four decades of mum displays. See Japanese cascade mums grown into 6 foot tall phoenix, dolphin and dragon shapes, and hanging baskets. Free. Conservatory. Brookside Gardens.

**Sat., Nov. 14, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Xmas Open House and Craft Show.** Behnke's Nurseries. Beltsville. Benefits Autism Speaks. Also, Toys for Tots drop-off place.

### BGC Calendar of Events

Wed., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., **Small Trees and Large Shrubs for Urban Yards**, Kathy Jentz, editor, *Washington Gardener* magazine.

Tues., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m., Executive Board Meeting, Home of Sandra & David Lange.

Wed., Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m. **Holiday Party**, Duckworth School.

Tues., Jan. 5., Executive Board Meeting. Place TBA

Wed., Jan. 27. General Meeting. Topic TBA.

Tues., Feb. 2, Executive Board Meeting.

Wed., Feb. 24, General Meeting. Topic TBA