

Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 55 Number 4 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> April 2007

April General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at 7:30pm in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School at 11204 Evan Trail in Beltsville, Maryland.

The speaker for this month will be Carole Bordelon, and her topic will be "Hydrangeas and Their Relatives". Ms. Bordelon will discuss the various species of Hydrangeas, highlighting the cultivars of the more popular species as well as share some information on plants related to Hydrangeas. She will also discuss cultural requirements, pruning and disease problems of Hydrangeas.

Ms. Bordelon is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a BS in Agriculture, with an emphasis on Botany and Entomology. Ms. Bordelon has worked at the US National Arboretum since 1990 and is currently serving as a member of the Classical Chinese Garden Design Team and a representative of North American-China Plant Exploration Consortium.

Please join us to hear this informative speaker. Remember to bring plants for the door prize table. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Admission is free and the public is welcomed. Bring a friend with you and introduce them to the club!

Thank You McDonald's!!

We offer a special Thank You to McDonald's on Powder Mill Road. They fed breakfast to 13 BGC members who took part in the roadside pick up on 3/31/07. Thanks for your support of the club.

Plant Sales

As you probably already know, our spring plant sales are set for Saturday, April 21 and May 13 from 8:00-noon in the parking lot at High Point High School. If you are interested in being a vendor, contact Geoff White. Have you thought about being a vendor but feel that you don't have enough plants to make it worth your while? Or maybe you need to thin out a few of your perennial beds and would like to get rid of some of the plants. Well, we have a solution for you. At the May Plant Sale we will accept donations of plants (to benefit the Scholarship Fund) and will sell them at the BGC Membership table. Plants should be marked with their name and a suggested price. You'll need to bring the plants to High Point before the 8:00 start. All money made will go to the Scholarship Fund. This is a great way to thin out your gardens and support a worthy cause.

Website Update

Our webmaster, Doug Bolt, has done a great job with the website. Check it out for pictures from the Roadside Pick Up on 3/31 as well as pictures from the March general meeting. Did you know that you can find out information about our meetings, access the newsletter and obtain other information about the club by accessing the website?

Doug asks that you send any pictures from club activities that you would like posted on the website to him so that we have a good selection of pictures representing club events. Thanks Doug for your hard work!

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2007

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

Brookside Gardens is looking for volunteers to help out at the Gardens. A variety of opportunities are available throughout the Gardens. Whether you want to work as a nursery aide, a gardener assistant, a turf mower, or work with the public through such opportunities as being a docent, school guide, children's story time volunteer, event assistant or parking assistant, there are plenty of opportunities to share your talents and learn more about gardening. Brookside Gardens is especially in need of volunteers to help out with the Wings of Fancy Butterfly Exhibit which runs from May 5-September 16, 2007. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Asian, South and North American butterflies that will be part of the exhibit. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ellen Hartranft, Volunteer Coordinator at 301-962-1429 or ellen.hartranft@mncppc-mc.org to request a volunteer application or get more information.

Upcoming Events of Interest

The Friends of the National Arboretum will have their annual plant sale on Saturday 4/28 from 9-4 at the Arboretum. On Sunday 4/20 from 12-2 they will offer leftovers for sale. Check it out for unusual plants!

The University of Maryland will sponsor the 9th annual Maryland Day on Saturday April 28 from 10:00-4:00 on the College Park Campus.

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to the following members who volunteered to provide refreshments for our March meeting: Bonnie Cronkhite, Matthew Burge, Sandy Lange, Cyndi and Maggie Schmidt, Geoff White, Suzette Agans, Victor Laczó, Julia Shawhan, Louise DeJames and Joan Simons.

The following people signed up to provide hospitality for the April meeting: Sweets: Herta Bernardis, Jean Craigwell, Sarah Forbes, Elizabeth Ogden; Non-Sweets: Katherine Fitzgerald, ABob Pechacek; Drinks: Bob Trumbule; Centerpiece: Joan Simons.

If every club member volunteered once to provide food or drinks, we would be in good shape. Be sure to take your turn. Questions?? Contact Joan or Anna (numbers in column to the left). Thanks everyone!

Spring Garden Trip

Time is running out to sign up for BGC's spring trip to Adkins Arboretum. The final day to sign up is April 30. We need to have 30 people going in order to break even. If you've been waiting to sign up, now is the time to do so!! Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn more about native plants and spring ephemerals.

The date of the trip is Tuesday, May 15, 2007. We'll meet at Calverton Shopping Center on Powder Mill Road at 9:15 a.m. and travel by deluxe bus to Adkins Arboretum on the Eastern Shore. Upon arrival we will have a guided tour of the arboretum. After our tour of the Arboretum we will picnic at nearby Tuckahoe State Park which also has nature trails. Bring your own bag lunch. Finally, after lunch we will have the opportunity to shop at nearby Harrington's Nursery which features shrubs, perennials and annuals. We will return to Calverton around 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about the trip, contact Sandy Lange (phone number on page 2). We will be accepting reservations at the April general meeting so bring your check book. We hope that we will have enough people sign up so that we don't have to cancel.

Plant Tips—Chiritas

By Sandy Lange

Our March speaker, Carol Hamelink, talked about Chiritas, a group of houseplants similar to African violets. She recommended they be grown in areas with cool temperatures under fluorescent lights or in an east window with filtered light. Potting soil should be refreshed twice a year; the soil becomes more acidic as the plants age. Repot when you see the leaves and flowers becoming smaller, cutting the roots a little bit, and putting new soil in the bottom and top of the pot. Hamelink also said to use 20-20-20 fertilizer, ¼ tsp per gallon of water. Chiritas should dry out between watering. They like to be root bound and can be propagated from stem cuttings.

Thank You!

We're grateful to March speaker, Carol Hamelink, for donating so many beautiful African Violets and Chiritas to the club at her talk on March 28. We were able to raffle them off to support the BGC Scholarship and collected \$91 to add to the scholarship fund. Thank you to Carol and to our generous club members who supported the raffle.

Reservation for BGC Trip to Adkins Arboretum

(Please detach and mail form and your check to Sandra Lange, 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Checks should be made payable to Beltsville Garden Club.)

Name(s): _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

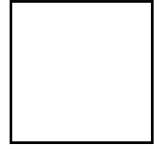
E-Mail Address: _____

Cost: \$30 per person

\$ 7 BGC membership dues for non-members Total Remittance: _____

Reservations must be received by April 30, 2007

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



**Spring Plant Sale Dates
Mark Your Calendar
Saturday, April 21, 2007
Saturday, May 12, 2007**

8:00-noon

**Parking Lot of High Point
High School
Quality perennials, shrubs, trees,
annuals, vegetables, and herbs
Spread the word!!**

Opening for Newsletter Editor
*If you have an interest in serving as the
Newsletter Editor, please contact Marcy
Marinelli, current Newsletter Editor.*

BGC Calendar of Events

- Sat. 4/21/07 First Spring Plant Sale, 8:00-noon
Parking Lot of High Point HS
- Wed. 4/25/07 April General Meeting, 7:30 pm
Duckworth school, Carol Bordelon, Hydrangeas
- Wed. 5/2/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Home
of Louise DeJames
- Sat. 5/12/07 Second Spring Plant Sale, 8:00-noon
Parking Lot of High Point HS
- Wed. 5/23/07 May General Meeting, 7:30 pm
Duckworth School, RoseAnn Davis, Strawberry
Pot Herb Gardens
- Wed. 8/1/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Location TBA
- Sat. 8/11/07 Peach Festival, Home of Sandy & David
Lange, Greenbelt, MD. Time TBA
- Wed. 9/5/07 Executive Meeting, 7 :30 pm, Location TBA
- Wed. 9/26/07 September General Meeting, 7:30 pm,
Duckworth School, Topic TBA
- Wed. 10/3/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Location
TBA
- Wed. 10/24/07 October General Meeting, 7:30 pm,
Duckworth School, Topic TBA
- Wed. 11/7/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Location
TBA