



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 55 Number 3 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> March 2007

## March General Meeting

Have you ever heard of Chiritas? If not, come to our March general meeting on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30 pm in the James Duckworth School multipurpose room to learn more about these popular relatives of African Violets.

Carol Hamelink will be speaking on "Chiritas: An Excellent Houseplant." Chiritas are the most popular plants in the Gesneriad family, which includes African Violets, Gloxinia, Lipstick Plants, and Goldfish plants. Ms Hamelink has been a member of the Baltimore African Violet Club for five years and a member of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Gesneriad Society for seven years. During this time she has won numerous awards for both African violets and gesneriads that she has entered in both local and regional judged shows. Carol won best in show, best standard violet, best semi-miniature violet, and other violet categories. She currently grows more than one hundred cultivars of African violets and more than fifty different varieties of gesneriads. She spoke to the club last year on African Violets.

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!

## Spring Plant Sales

Mark your calendars now for our spring plant sales. They will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 and Saturday, May 12, 2007. Both sales will be held in the parking lot of High Point High School on Powder Mill Road. The sales run from 8:00-noon each day. The April sale will include perennials, shrubs, and trees. The May sale will include annuals, vegetables, and herbs in addition to perennials, shrubs and trees. Let your friends and neighbors know so that they can make their spring gardening plans.

As a BGC member, you are entitled to be a vendor at the sale. This is a terrific way to thin your perennial collection and make a little extra money. Vendors pay a 7% commission to the club. Club members who wish to be vendors should contact Geoff White.

## Roadside Pick Up

The club's spring roadside pick up will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the McDonald's on Powder Mill Road to clean up our section of Powder Mill Road. Sue Shawhan has promised to work with McDonald's to get breakfast for those who are volunteering to help clean up the road. If you have questions, contact Geoff White. If the weather is bad that day, contact Geoff by 8:30 a.m. to see if the pick up will be held.

## 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.

## Garden Events

Thanks to Bill Koppes, here are some local gardening events that you might be interested in attending.

**MAR. 30.** Basic Gardening Series: An Introduction to EcoSavvy Gardening. Lecture. Green Spring Gardens. Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 642-5173. <http://www.greenspring.org>.

**MAR. 31.** Native Plants: Compelling Landscapes. Lahr Symposium. U.S. National Arboretum. Washington, D.C. (202) 245-5898. <http://www.usna.usda.gov>.

**APR. 4 & 5.** Daffodil Show. The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club and The Garden Club of Virginia. Fredericksburg, Virginia. (540) 371-5656.

**APR. 17.** Native Fruits. Lecture. The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College. Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. (610) 328-8025. <http://www.scottarboretum.org>.

**APR. 18.** Our Backyard Wonder: Rare Plant Communities of the Potomac River Gorge. Lecture. United States Botanic Garden. Washington, D.C. (202) 225-8333. <http://www.usbg.gov>.

**April 14-15.** Daffodil Show. Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD; Sat. 2-5:00 and Sun. 9:00am-5:00pm.

**APR. 27-29.** Garden Fair. U.S. National Arboretum. Washington, D.C. (202) 544-8733. <http://www.fona.org>.

## HOSPITALITY

Thanks to the following members who volunteered to provide refreshments for our February meeting: Ron & Nita Nabors, Matthew and Susan Burge, Eleanor Butler, Anne Hoffman, Mary Margaret Freeburne, Elaine Jones, Judy Shanefelter, Marcy Marinelli, Alan Ballard and Doug Bolt.

The following members have volunteered for the March meeting - Sweets: Bonnie Cronkhite, Matthew Burge, Sandy Lange, Cyndi and Maggie Schmidt, Geoff White; Non-Sweets: Suzette Agans, Victo Laczó, Julia Shawhan; Drinks: Louise DeJames; Centerpiece: Joan Simons.

Questions?? Contact Joan or Anna (numbers in column to the left). Thanks everyone!

## Spring Garden Trip

This spring the Beltsville Garden Club will travel to Maryland's Eastern Shore to visit Adkins Arboretum. The trip is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2007 from 9:15 am until 5:00 pm. The cost for the trip is \$30 and includes deluxe bus transportation and admission to the Arboretum and tour.

Upon arrival we will enjoy a guided tour of the Arboretum which features native plants and spring ephemerals, spring wildflowers and the vibrant colors and diverse textures of the native gardens. The walk will last 60-90 minutes and covers 1-2 miles across wide and easily accessible dirt and gravel trails. Adkins focuses on plants native to the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain. 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 meet at 9:15 am at the Calverton Shopping Center parking lot, 11701 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville, and travel by air-conditioned bus to the arboretum. We will return around 5:00 pm. Space is limited to the first 47 people. You must be a member of BGC in order to go on the trip. Please complete the reservation form below and mail it with your check, payable to BGC, for \$30 per person to Sandy Lange.

## Gardening Tips

By Sandy Lange

At the February 28 General Meeting, BGC speaker Robert Howell stated that symmetry, that nice rounded shape one sees in photos, in chrysanthemums is achieved by pinching the new growth. He advised that mums should be pinched two or three times during the growing season. The first pinching occurs when the plant is a few inches high. He said that you should pinch the new growth after counting five leaves up from the bottom. Two or three weeks later, pinch the new growth again. The last pinching of new growth should be done toward the end of July, but no later than the first week in August to assure that the buds will grow and bloom before the first frost.

Ever wonder why daffodil buds sometimes dry up on the stems? The buds fail to open when warm spring days alternate with freezing temperature. This is called "blasting" and is most prevalent in double cultivars. Early blooming single daffodils are less susceptible to blasting.

Some people use pipe cleaners, the kind found in craft stores, as an alternative to using old stockings or plastic coated wire to wind around long stems or vines to hold them in place. Green pipe cleaners will blend in with the plants and provide a soft surface that won't damage stems.

### 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): \_\_\_\_\_

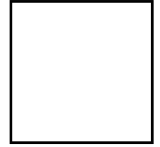
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$30 per person

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

Reservations must be received by May 8, 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***

**2007 BGC Membership Drive**

Most of all the members have renewed their memberships for 2007. However, a few 2006 memberships have not renewed. Check the address label. Your dues are due if the date is 2006. If so, renew soon so that you don't miss out on future newsletters.

**BGC Calendar of Events**

- Wed. 3/28/07 March General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Duckworth School, Carol Hammerlink, Chiritas: An Excellent Houseplant
- Sat. 3/31/07 Roadside Pick Up, 9:00 am  
Meet at McDonald's on Powder Mill Rd.
- Wed. 4/4/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Home of Bob & Helen Pechacek
- 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
  
- Sat. 8/11/07 Peach Festival, Home of Sandy & David Lange, Greenbelt, MD. Time TBA