



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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Holiday Pot Luck Dinner Dec. 3

The Beltsville Garden Club will hold its annual Holiday Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 3, 2008, at the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville, Maryland.

The Club is providing appetizers, sliced ham, rolls and beverages. Members are asked to bring a vegetable casserole, salad or dessert to serve 8-10 people. Parties consisting of more than two people should plan on bringing an additional food dish. Also, bring a serving spoon.

Members are asked to contribute a centerpiece of greens or other holiday decoration for the tables. The centerpieces will be the door prizes.

Anyone who can help with set-up should come to the school at 5:30 p.m. Dishes can be kept warm in the kitchen. Appetizers will be served at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

In case of inclement weather which causes Prince George's County school closings on December 3, the Holiday Dinner will take place on the following Wednesday, December 10.

Rototiller to be Ruffled in January

The club acquired a Craftsman 5 hp rototiller from the Bob Stewart estate. It has been refurbished and is in excellent condition. It will be offered to club members at the January 28 general meeting for a minimum bid of \$400. Proceeds will go toward the BGC Scholarship Fund.

Tour of National Agricultural Library

BGC will join the Silver Spring Garden Club on Saturday, January 24, 10 a.m.-noon, for a free special tour of the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville (across from IKEA). Attendees will tour the facility and explore the collections. Reservations must be made in advance for security purposes. Identification will be required. Guests are welcome. RSVP by January 14, 2009, to Joan Simons at solarngman@gmail.com or call her at 202-271-5001.

Garden of Lights At Brookside Gardens

Garden of Lights—Season of Light is one of the area's premier holiday events. It runs from November 28, 2008 to January 4, 2009, every evening, 5:30-9 p.m., except December 24 and 25. Now in its 12th season, Brookside Gardens, in Wheaton, features over 700,000 colorful lights shaped around the trees and shrubs. Displays feature sunflowers, falling autumn leaves, winter snowflakes, spring flowers, rain showers with thunder and lightning, wild and imaginative animals including the Loch Ness monster. On New Year's Eve, Brookside will celebrate First Night by keeping the Garden of Lights open until 10 p.m. Tickets for cars and vans cost \$15 Monday-Thursday; Friday-Sunday, cars/vans cost \$20, cash only at the entrance. The Conservatory, also, is filled with holiday poinsettias, flowering plants and evergreens. A train exhibit inside the Conservatory is another popular exhibit. Trains run through tunnels to emerge into colorful landscapes. Garden of Lights Hotline: 301-962-1453.

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2008-2009

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 or by e-mail.

Garden Events

November 28-January 4. Brookside Gardens Garden of Lights Show. Wheaton, MD, 301-962-1453. www.BrooksideGardens.org

December 1-January 16, Holiday Tree Display at George Washington's River Farm, Alexandria, VA. Estate and grounds are filled with lights, poinsettias, holiday decorations. American Horticultural Society. 800-777-7931. www.ahs.org

December 4-December 30, U. S. Botanic Garden's. Daily: Train exhibit with miniature buildings crafted with natural plant materials. Special Holiday Evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Musical performances are free and open to the public. **Schedule:**

Thursday, Dec. 4 — Conservatory open until 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 9 — Harper's Bizarre (harps and singing) 5-8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11 — Lox and vodka (Klesmer music) 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16 — Convivium (a Capella) 6:30-8 p.m.)

Thursday, Dec. 18 — Downtown Quartet (male a capella) 5-8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 23 — Project Natale (jazz) 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 — Frederick Chorale 6:30-8 p.m.

January 24 & 25 Winter Workshops at Homestead Gardens Nursery, Davidsonville, MD. **On the 24th,** Gardening Done Right: Soil Amendments (10 a.m.); Bay Wise Gardening (noon); Winter Containers That Work (2 p.m.). **On the 25th,** Composting (10 a.m.), Orchids for Beginners (2 p.m.). Each workshop costs \$5. Call 410-798-5000 to register.

LED Holiday Lights Save Energy, Last Long

Decorate your Xmas tree this year with new LED lights. LEDs are cool to the touch and won't be subject to starting fires. They are now as bright as incandescent lights, but use only 10 percent of the electricity. They contain no mercury and can be thrown away when they burn out. They will last seven to eight years without burning out or fading.

Arboretum Releases New Viburnum

Researchers at the National Arboretum recently released to the trade a new viburnum called "Nantucket". "Nantucket" grows large (12 feet high by 7 feet wide), in an upright manner. It is mildly fragrant with white flowers and dark semi-evergreen narrow leaves. It is hardy in our area and will grow in full sun or light shade.

The National Arboretum has released many new viburnum cultivars through its world famous breeding program begun by Don Egolf in the 1950s. "Nantucket" marks the 50th anniversary of the Arboretum's production work of this important genus.

The Friends of the National Arboretum are part of the Combined Federal Campaign. Tax deductible contributions may be made to FONA to support the research and educational activities of the Arboretum. Congressional funding for the Arboretum has remained flat over the past several years. While costs have increased, the Arboretum's staff has declined. Garden displays, exhibits, services and programming are all at risk. Contributions can be mailed to FONA, 3501 New York Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Fall and Winter Garden Tasks

- Rake and compost leaves
- Water and turn compost pile
- Collect dried flowers and grasses for indoor vases
- Collect plant seeds for trading
- Water newly planted evergreens
- Pull all spent annuals; add to compost
- Divide and transplant perennials
- Attend BGC meetings

Former Member .Conrad Liden

Conrad Liden passed away on Oct. 28. He is remembered for his volunteer work in the greenhouse. Our deep sympathy to his family.

A Few Resources for Going Green

Recycling

- Earth911.com Any item you want to know where to recycle
- eiae.org Electronics
- Freecycle.org a network of 4,616 nonprofit groups with 5,973,000 members across the globe. It's all about reuse and keeping stuff out of landfills. Membership is free.

Garden

- safelawns.org
- gardensalive.com
- compostguide.com

Office

- greenbiz.com

Junk Mail

- dmaconsumers.org/egi/offmailinglist
- www.donotcall.gov or 1-888-382-1222
- catalogchoice.org —stop catalog
- greendimes.com —stop junk mail & catalogs

Organics

- ota.org Organic Trade Association
- rodaleinstitute.org

Green Lifestyle

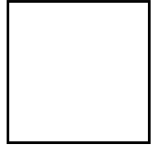
- treehugger.com

Consider wrapping gifts in newspapers, napkins, colorful fabrics, cloth bags, dish towels.

Tips on Storing Tender Tubers

Tubers such as dahlias, cannas, elephant ears, tuberous begonias, gladiolus, caladiums and bananas can be overwintered and replanted in the spring. After the first frost, dig up the tubers, wash away the soil and let them dry for a week. Place the tubers in bags of peat moss or wrap them in newspapers. Label them. Store them in a dark part of the basement or garage where the temperature remains cool, between 35-45 degrees. Check them periodically and discard any that appear to be moldy or shrunken.

Beltsville Garden Club
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*Happy
Holidays
To All BGC
Members*



BGC Calendar of Events

- Wed. 12/3/08 **Holiday Dinner, 6:30 p.m.**,
Duckworth School. In case of school
closings, dinner will be re-scheduled to
12/10/08
- Wed. 1/7/09 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.,
Home of Dan & Marcy Marinelli
- Sat. 1/24/09 Tour of the National Agricultural
Library in Beltsville, 10 a.m.-noon
- Wed. 1/28/09 January General Meeting,
7:30 pm Duckworth School, Trees and
Shrubs for the Small Garden, K. Jentz
- Wed. 2/4/09 Executive Meeting, 7:30 p.m.,
Location TBA
- Wed. 2/25/09 February General Meeting, 7:30
p.m., Duckworth School, Topic TBA
- Wed. 3/4/09 Executive Meeting, 7:30 p.m.,
Location TBA
- Wed. 3/25/09 March General Meeting, 7:30
p.m., Duckworth School, Topic TBA