



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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October General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School at 11204 Evans Trail in Beltsville, Maryland.

The guest speaker for this month will be Betty Marose. Her topic will be "**WEED IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT**". She will give us a better understanding of weed management in fields, nurseries, gardens and home lawns using the least toxic chemicals and minimizing risk to human health and the environment.

Ms. Marose is a graduate of the University of Delaware, with a degree in Plant Science, and graduate studies from Cornell University. Presently, Ms. Marose is a Weed Scientist at the University of Maryland Horticultural Science Department.

Please join us to learn about how to identify and eradicate those weeds in your yard. Don't forget to bring plants or other garden materials for the door prize table. As always, refreshments will be served after the meeting. Admission is free and the public is welcome. Bring a friend with you and introduce them to the club!

October has five Wednesdays in it! Remember that Garden Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month!

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee has been hard at work identifying a slate of officers for the next year. So far the following members are willing to serve:

President—Sandy Lange

Vice President—Bob Trumbule

Treasurer—Bob Pechacek

We are still looking for a secretary. If you have an interest in getting more involved in the club, either as secretary or perhaps a committee chair, we need you! The club is only as good as its leadership. We welcome any member who would like to make a contribution to the continued success of the Beltsville Garden Club. Our 55 year tradition rests on the willingness of members to take responsibility for the club. Anyone interested in being nominated should contact Dan Marinelli, John Lydon or Sandy Lange.

Membership Dues Change

The executive committee voted to increase the annual membership dues from \$7 to \$10 per family. The increase will cover increased postage rates and newsletter printing costs as well as other club costs associated with the Holiday Dinner and Peach Festival. Members may elect to pay the new dues rate in the fall; the increase becomes effective in January 2008. We will send reminders in the November and January newsletters.

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.

Bylaws Changes Proposed

At the September general meeting, the executive committee presented Bylaws & Constitution changes to be voted on at the October meeting. The executive committee proposed two substantial changes. The first is that the club will switch from a calendar year (January to December) for membership and election of officers to a fiscal year (September 1 to August 31). Membership dues will be collected by the second meeting in October rather than in February. These changes will make it easier for people to remember when to pay their dues since membership will correlate with the beginning of the club's activities in September. It will also help the treasurer to more accurately develop budgets, facilitate audits and conduct club business. The second major change will require that new club officers will be voted on at the May general meeting and be installed at the September meeting. This change is necessitated by the switch from calendar to fiscal year. Also, the annual Christmas dinner will now be called the "Holiday Dinner". All changes will take effect in September 2008 assuming the membership approves them. Officers elected in January 2008 will serve a shortened term through August 2008.

Roadside Pick Up

It's once again time for our semi-annual Roadside Pickup. We will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at the McDonald's on Powder Mill Road. All you are asked for is an hour of your time to help pick up our section of Powder Mill Road (between McDonald's and High Point High School).

As a thank you for your help, McDonald's will provide breakfast and you will receive a priority door prize ticket. At the next general meeting, priority door prize ticket holders get first pick at the door prize table. All equipment, except gloves, will be provided. If you need any more information, feel free to contact Geoff White. Thanks in advance for helping out with this important club community service event.

Dealing with Drought

At a recent BGC meeting, talk centered on the drought and its impact on our gardens. Members commented on how bad their vegetables were this summer, and how trees, lawns, shrubs and flowers were showing signs of stress. With the summer's drought continuing, we are all concerned about the long-term effect on our lawns and gardens. The following information from the Home and Garden Information Center website (www.hgic.umd.edu) might help you and your garden cope with the lack of water.

Signs of Drought Stress

- Wilting
- Upward curling or rolling of leaves
- Yellowing and browning of leaves
- Undersized and off flavor fruits and vegetables
- Undersized leaves; limited shoot growth
- Blossom and fruit drop
- Interior needle and leaf drop on conifers and evergreens

Secondary Problems

- Spider mite infestations
- Blossom end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash and melons
- Increased wildlife feeding on fruits and vegetables
- Increased damage by insects

Long Term Consequences

- Increased susceptibility to attack by insect borers
- Increased susceptibility to certain plant diseases
- Root death
- Diminished winter hardiness
- Terminal die back; dead twigs and branches
- Eventual plant death

We all hope that rain will come and start to reverse the effects of this summer's drought. In the meantime, here are some tips for taking care of your plants. High priority items for watering should include plants that are valuable in terms of replacement cost, recently planted shrubs and trees that are in open areas, and plants which are prominent in your landscape. Established trees don't need extra watering unless the drought is severe or their root systems have been disturbed. Next in priority are perennials, (Continued next column)

Plant Tips

By Sandy Lange

Getting ready to plant spring bulbs? It's a good idea to soak the soil before planting or wait for a good soaking rain. Wait until November to plant tulip bulbs so the soil has a chance to cool and the bulbs can initiate strong growth.

Have you wondered whether it matters whether or not to buy cheap lawn fertilizer? According to Washington Post columnist Adrian Higgins cheap fertilizers are more likely to burn the lawn than more expensive fertilizers which have time release coatings.

Do you worry about your houseplants when you go away for several weeks? There are several products on the market which may help. One called SoilSponge is added to the potting mix and is said to keep the soil moist for several days longer than containers without it. Another is called Soil Moist and consists of polymer crystals which are sprinkled around the root zone. The crystals absorb water like a sponge; when the soil dries, the stored water is released to the soil over an extended period of time. The product is said to reduce plant watering by 50% and to last for several seasons.

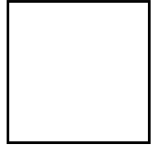
Check out the website called www.iloveplants for a web directory and garden resource guide. The site has information on favorite plants, garden types, on line garden shops, and links to other sites offering coupons, sale items and gardening newsletters.

Drought, Cont.

fruit and nut trees, and turf that is less than a year old. Finally, low priority for watering are annual flowers and herb plants, ornamental grasses, and established turf. These items are generally easily and inexpensively replaced.

For more details, go to the Home and Garden Information Center website. And pray for lots of rain this fall and winter!

Beltsville Garden Club
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Reminder -

No general meeting in November

due to Thanksgiving!

Mark your calendar for

the annual

Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

6:30 pm

BGC Calendar of Events

- Wed. 10/24/07 October General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Duckworth School, Betty Marose, Weed Identification & Management
- Wed. 11/7/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, home of Dan & Marcy Marinelli
- Wed. 12/5/07 Holiday Party, 6:30 pm, Duckworth School
- Wed. 1/2/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Location TBA
- Wed. 1/23/08 January General Meeting, 7:30 pm Duckworth School, Topic TBA
- Wed. 2/6/08 Executive Meeting, 7:3 pm, Location TBA
- Wed. 2/27/08 February General Meeting, 7:30 Duckworth School, Topic TBA
- Wed. 3/6/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Location TBA
- Wed. 3/27/08 March General Meeting, 7:30 Duckworth School, Topic TBA