

Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 55 Number 7 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> September 2007

September General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School at 11204 Evans Trail in Beltsville, Maryland. The speaker for this month will be Justin Banford. His topic will be "**Aquatic Water Features**".

Mr. Banford is a 2006 graduate of the University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He majored in Landscape Architecture. Mr. Banford was the recipient of the Beltsville Garden Club scholarship award in 2005 and 2006. He is presently working in the family landscaping business called The Sharper Cut, Inc. Justin's website: www.sharpercutinc.com has some examples of some of the projects that his company has worked on. We are thrilled to have him come to the garden club as a speaker.

Please join us to learn about how to include aquatic water features 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 welcomed. Bring a friend with you and introduce them to the club!



Peach Festival

Thanks to all who helped make the Peach Festival a success. There was even a break in the sultry weather. Approximately 50 BGC members attended. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food prepared by attendees. Thanks to peach peelers: Mary Ann Canter, Lori Snyder, Doug Bolt, Sandy Littlejohn, Marcy Marinelli, and Bob and Helen Pechacek. Thanks to Mary Lou and Jim Williamson for hauling over tables, umbrellas, chairs and drink coolers. Also, thanks to Bob Pechacek for bringing five long tables from the Duckworth School. Special thanks to all who came early to set up and stayed late to clean up. These included super hospitality co-chairs Anna Ubeda and Joan Simon; Lori Snyder and Robin Everly. Thanks also to Sandy and David Lange for hosting the event. Check out the website for Doug Bolt's photos of each person attending the Peach Festival.

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 will present Bylaws & Constitution changes to be voted on at the October meeting. The executive committee proposes 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.

Greenhouse Update

By Bill Koppes

We will reoccupy the greenhouse in the first week in October. Our first goal is to build an inventory of houseplants for the first sale, which will be in February. We are always trying to introduce new plants into the greenhouse. We want to find new plants that people will take notice of and want to own. Do you know of such plants? If you have a plant that we can propagate by cuttings or by division please bring it to the meeting in September. If we divide your plant we will repot it for you and add slow release fertilizer.

The nine trees that the garden club planted in the Duckworth school playground had a rough summer. Some dropped all of their leaves. We have done some watering but find it difficult to give adequate repeat watering. Please contact the committee (see masthead) if you can help. It takes about an hour.

Founding Member Dies

Robert N. Stewart, 90, the last surviving founding member of the BGC passed away in August. Bob was president of the BGC in 1954. He had worked as a research geneticist at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, and is renowned for his pioneering work with poinsettias that transformed the industry. In the 1950s the poinsettia was a short-lived luxury plant enjoyed by only a few wealthy people. Bob developed strains of poinsettias to deepen their coloration and to grow larger and stronger bracts. Most importantly he discovered how to lengthen the time period that they would remain attractive. Soon poinsettias became a \$250 million industry and affordable to anyone who wished to purchase this iconic holiday plant. Bob is survived by his wife Maydelle, and three daughters. The Garden Club extends its sympathy to Bob's family.

Fall Garden Events

Listed below are a few garden events you might be interested in attending:

September 22—Brookside Gardens Azalea Auction; viewing starts at 10:30; auction at 11:00

<http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/brookside/calendar>

September 29 & 30 —Brookside Gardens Dahlia Show and Sale; 9:00-3:00 each day
<http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/brookside/calendar>

October 4-7 - Behnke Nursery's Fall Color Open House
www.behnkes.com

October 6-November 25—Chrysanthemum Display; Brookside Gardens Conservatory; 10:00-5:00 daily
<http://www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/brookside/calendar>

October 19 & 20 - SafeLawns and Landscapes Symposium; University of the District of Columbia; 8:00-4:30 each day
\$25 for Consumer Symposium (w/ lunch)
<http://www.safelawns.org/seminars2007/dc/index.php>

Garden Notes

By Sandra Lange

Falling leaves will soon fill compost piles. Other materials make good compost also. These include vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, vacuum cleaner dust, egg shells, hair, nail clippings, cut up paper and wood ash.

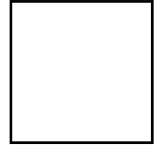
Ever thought about tossing a few flowers into your salad bowl, dessert or jam? Consider chrysanthemums, roses, pansies, lavender, nasturtiums in addition to chives, garlic and mint flowers. Nasturtiums are said to be the tastiest and can be sprinkled on vegetables, pastas, stir fries and meat dishes.

National Gardening Magazine reports on the number of calories that a 180 pound person would burn for every 30 minutes of gardening activities. For example, if you trim shrubs with a power tool you will burn 142 calories; raking burns 142 calories, bagging leaves burns 162 calories, pushing a power lawn mower burns 182 calories, trimming shrubs with a manual tool burns 182 calories. Mowing the lawn with a push mower burns 243 calories while digging, spading and tilling burns 202 calories.

Herb Tips

According to the Maryland Home and Garden Information Center (www.hgic.umd.edu), now is a good time to propagate herbs by stem cuttings. Cut six-inch stem pieces and remove all but the top leaves. Dip the lower ends in rooting hormone and insert the stems into a moist and loose, soil-less media. Cover the pot with a perforated plastic bag and keep outside in a protected location. Pull gently on the stems in two weeks to test for root growth. Pot the cuttings up individually after they start growing and bring them indoors.

Beltsville Garden Club
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Nominations for BGC Officers for 2008

Are Being Solicited

If you are interested

in becoming more involved in

the club, contact Past President,

Dan Marinelli, who will be

putting together nominations to be

announced at the October

general meeting.

BGC Calendar of Events

- Wed. 9/26/07 September General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Duckworth School, Justin Banford, Aquatic Water Features
- Wed. 10/10/07 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Home of Joe & Susan Burge
- 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
- Wed. 12/5/07 Holiday Party, 7:00 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/-9 February General Meeting, 7:30 Duckworth School, Topic TBA