



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 56 Number 4 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> April 2008

April General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will hold its general meeting on Wednesday, April 23rd, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville, Maryland. Our speaker for this month will be Phil Normandy. His topic will be **“Viburnums and Their Use in the Landscape”**.

A native of North Carolina, Mr. Normandy received his BS degree in Ornamental Horticulture in 1974 from North Carolina State University. After that, he was a horticulturist for the 100-acre arboretum of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories in Charlotte, NC. From 1977-1979 he was a fellow in the Longwood Graduate Program sponsored jointly by Longwood Garden and the University of Delaware. After leaving Longwood, he was on the staff of Brookside Gardens, where he developed plant collections. In 1986 Mr. Normandy became the grounds supervisor for McCrillis Gardens in Bethesda. Mr. Normandy has been an instructor of woody plants in the Landscape Design Program of George Washington University. He is also a member of the Gold Medal Plant award committee of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

As always, refreshments will be served after the meeting. Bring a plant or plant-related material for the club's door prize table. Feel to bring a friend and introduce them to the club. Hope to see you on April 23rd!

Condolences to Bill Rhodes on the death of his wife Cay Rhodes on March 25, 2008. Cay was a long-time member of BGC. She was instrumental in helping with the club's 50th anniversary celebration in 2002. We mourn her passing. Please consider sending a card to Bill at Riderwood Village.

Greenhouse Committee

Some of our greenhouse plants are in their transition quarters now, out in the courtyard. Several cold frame constructions are preparing some herbs for life outdoors. One has a roof of 6-foot long panes of glass clad in frames of 2x2 lumber. They rest on concrete blocks. Discarded 8-foot panes that were in the courtyard for several years (no one in the school seems to know where they originated) were cut and mounted by Bob Pechacek.

The work on the Nature Trail went well. Some woodland plants are in place. Each planting required clearing out the area of honeysuckle. The soil is fortunately a sandy loam and not a heavy clay. We were also glad to see no evidence of poison ivy. If you have some time to give during the week to help tackle the honeysuckle problem, stop by the school and follow the path to the garden. By the way, a recent article in the magazine *Horticulture* (May, 2008, p. 61) has an excellent update on what a gardener should know about this American native plant. A special thanks to Bob and Helen Pechacek, Joe Burge, Joan Simons, Kathy Fitzgerald, and Sue and Bill Koppes for their help with the nature trail clean up.

Nominations

Nominations for officers for the 2008-2009 club year will be presented at the April meeting. Dan Marinelli and John Lydon have put together a slate of names for officers. In addition, we will take nominations from the floor. We are especially in need of a secretary. Officers are part of the executive board and attend monthly meetings to conduct the club's business. We will vote on officers at the May meeting and new officers will take over in September 08 and serve through May 09. If you are interested in becoming more involved in club activities, please consider volunteering. Our club is only as strong as the people who are willing to take on a leadership role.

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2008

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 Notes

By Sandy Lange

Tired of hosta in your shade garden? Many other plants are available. Consider groundcovers such as pussytoes with silver gray foliage, moneywort which has small golden leaves and ajugas with burgundy leaves. Also wild gingers have pretty heart-shaped green leaves. An easy plant that grows in clumps in deep shade is the rohdea or sacred lily with solid green strap-like leaves and red berries in the fall. Other favorite woodland plants are goatsbeard, columbines, sweet woodruff, hardy orchids, foam flower, northern sea oats, toad lilies, spiderwort and Solomon's seal, to name just a few.

Slugs are a menace to young plants in the spring garden. There are many ways to trap them. A shallow tray filled with beer is an effective trap but needs to be replenished after it rains. An alternative is mixing dry yeast in two cups of warm water. Stir in a teaspoon of salt and sugar. Put the mixture in two jars and place them in the garden at an angle so that the liquid slightly drips out. The slugs will crawl in and drown. Other methods are wrapping thin copper strips around the base of plants or plant pots. You can also spread sandpaper, coffee grounds, crushed eggshells around your most susceptible seedlings. Slugs don't like to crawl on rough surfaces.

The club's March speaker, Susan Bentz, discussed the history and future of the American elm. The American elm was widely planted throughout the United States because of its many attributes: stately architecture, easily transplanted, tolerant of salt and air pollution, and adaptable to a variety of weather conditions. However it is prone to the deadly Dutch elm disease, a fungus which enters the crotch of the tree and eventually kills it. The U. S. Arboretum where Bentz works has conducted experiments on thousands of elm trees, inoculating seedlings with the Dutch Elm Disease fungus in order to develop resistant strains. So far, several elms have proven to be more tolerant than others. These include the named varieties "Valley Forge", "Princeton", "Delaware" and "New Harmony". The hybrids "Pioneer" and "Homestead" have also proven to be tolerant. However, Bentz stressed that no perfect elm has yet been developed. She cautioned about over planting one type of tree i.e. the dogwood which can be wiped out by an insect, fungus, virus or other disease as yet not introduced or prevalent in the environment. One elm tree is memorialized in Oklahoma City because it is located near the site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and survived the April 1995 bomb

Hospitality for April

The following members have volunteered for Hospitality for the April meeting: Mike and Carole Bordelon, Louise DeJames, Charlotte Shomburg and Bill Koppes—sweets; Nancy Nickell, Julia Wolz, and Katherine Fitzgerald—non-sweets; Jose Martinez—drinks; Helen Pechacek—centerpiece.

Thank you to the following members who supplied refreshments for the March meeting: Linda Jaehnigan, Bill Koppes, Sandy Lange, Marcy Marinelli, Kathy Fitzgerald, Glory Houck, Martin Lydon and Lori Snyder. Remember to take your turn and sign up to help with refreshments at the April meeting.

Garden Events

April 18, 19 – Plant sale, also at River Farm. More than 30 vendors will be providing a variety of new and uncommon trees, shrubs, herbs, perennials, annuals, and other plants. 9 AM to 5 PM Friday and 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday.

April 19 – Nature's Sacred Spaces: The Gardens and Grounds of Washington National Cathedral, a presentation and guided tour by the director of horticulture and grounds at 10:00 AM. Joe Luebke explores the Bishops Garden and the recently restored Olmstead Woods. Reservations are required: register at www.nationalcathedral.org or call 202-537-6397.

April 27 – Presentations and garden walks with the horticultural staff of Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens from 1:00-5:00 PM. Beginning April 8 there are also Spring Garden Tours Tues-Sat, 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM. Select Sunday tours also on April 13 and 27 at 2:30 PM.

May 17 – 10:30 AM at River Farm, location of the American Horticultural Society. Glenda Booth, president of Friends of Dyke Marsh, will discuss the preservation and restoration of one of the few freshwater tidal marshes along the Potomac still remaining. Pre-registration is required and tickets are \$12 for members or \$15 for non-members. Space is limited, please contact Courtney Capstack at (703) 768-5700 x 118 or ccapstack@ahs.org to register.

Spring Garden Tour To Scott Arboretum

This is your last reminder to sign up for the BGC-sponsored tour of the Scott Arboretum on Tuesday, May 13. The Scott Arboretum is on the campus of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania (10 miles southwest of Philadelphia). It encompasses more than 300 acres of gardens featuring 3,000 kinds of ornamental plants. There are magnificent displays of trees, shrubs, vines and perennials. Plants are labeled and grouped in collections to make identification easier. There are 18 different gardens including outstanding tree peonies, over 300 rhododendrons, tapestries of groundcovers, 320 different hollies, a cherry collection with sweeps of bulbs, herbaceous perennials and ferns. Check out the arboretum on its website: www.scottarboretum.org.

Following the tour, we will board the bus for garden shopping at Old Country Gardens Nursery in Wilmington, DE. This is a large garden center with a greenhouse selling ornamental trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials.

We will meet near the Giant at the Calverton Shopping Center in Beltsville on Powder Mill Road and depart at 9:00 am by bus. The tour includes transportation in an air conditioned 48 passenger bus with bathroom, a gourmet box lunch, and a guided tour by garden professionals. The reservation form for the tour is below. Simply complete and mail with your check payable to BGC to Sandy Lange at the address below. Reservations must be received by May 6, 2008.

Please cut and return to Sandra Lange at the address below by May 6, 2008:

Reservation Form for BGC Scott Arboretum Tour

Name(s): _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-Mail Address _____

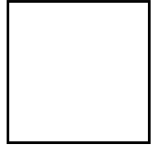
Number of people at \$50 each: _____ *BGC Membership Dues at \$10 each _____

Total Remittance: _____

One person in your group must be a paid up member of the Beltsville Garden Club. Membership is \$10 per person/family. Guests are welcome to come along on this tour.

Mail form and check, payable to Beltsville Garden Club, to Sandra Lange, 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Reservation must be received by May 6, 2008.

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



May Plant Sale

Saturday, May 10, 2008

8:00 am—12 noon

Sale Will Be Held at

High Point High School

Parking Lot



BGC Calendar of Events

- Thurs 4/17-Sun. 4/20—Behnke's Azalea Festival, BGC will have a table at the Festival
- Wed. 4/23/08 April General Meeting, 7:30 pm
Duckworth School, Phil Normandy,
Viburnums & Their Use in the
Landscape
- Wed. 5/7/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm,
Home of Louise DeJames
- Sat. 5/10/08 May Plant Sale 8:00-noon,
High Point High School parking lot
- Wed. 5/28/08 May General Meeting, 7:30 pm
Duckworth School, Paul Bassett, Rain
Garden 101: How to Build a Rain
Garden
- Sat. 8/9/08 Peach Festival, afternoon, home
Of Helmut & Linda Jaehnigan,
Columbia, MD