



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 56 Number 2 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> February 2008

## February General Meeting

Please join us for our February general meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the Duckworth School. Our speaker will be Dr. Paula Shrewsbury of the University of Maryland. She will be speaking on Ornamental and Garden Pest Management

Dr. Shrewsbury is an associate professor and extension specialist on ornamental and turf integrated pest management in the Department of Entomology at UM. Her research is on the development of alternative, less toxic control tactics, biological control and community ecology. A major focus of her research is to identify methods to restore plant and insect community dynamics to create more sustainable landscapes and nurseries.

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 February 27th!

## Spring Plant Sale Dates Set

Mark your calendars for the BGC Spring Plant Sales and let your friends and neighbors know. The first plant sale will be on Saturday, April 12, 2008; the second sale will be on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Both sales are from 8:00 am to noon in the parking lot of High Point HS.

## Spring Garden Tour To Scott Arboretum

Sign up now 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.

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.

The tour includes transportation in an air conditioned 48 passenger bus with bathroom, a gourmet box lunch, and a guided tour by garden professionals. Check out the arboretum on its website: [www.scottarboretum.org](http://www.scottarboretum.org). See the reservation form included in the newsletter for cost and details.

## Dues are Due!

If you haven't submitted your dues for 2008, please remember to do so. Dues have been increased to \$10 per family. You can submit your dues at the February meeting or you can mail a check to the club's PO Box. Don't forget to include a donation to the Scholarship Fund.

## **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.

### **Officers**

#### President

Sandy Lange 301-474-1402  
salange1940@yahoo.com

#### Vice President

Bob Trumbule, 301-474-8426  
rtrumbule@erols.com

#### Past Presidents

Dan Marinelli, 301-937-3683  
gopackers1113@msn.com  
Sue Shawhan 301-434-6666  
sue@shawhans.us

#### Treasurer

Bob Pechacek 301-384-2415  
rpechacek@comcast.net

#### Secretary

Kiki Theodoropoulos 301-345-7855  
theodoropoulosv@gao.gov

### **Committee Chairpersons**

#### Greenhouse

Bill Koppes 301-434-6380  
bilsukopp@verizon.com

#### Historian

Bill Nickle 301-937-7917

#### Hospitality

Joan Simons 202-271-5001  
solarngman@gmail.com  
Helen Pechacek 301-384-2415  
hpechacek@comcast.net

#### Membership

Susan & Joe Burge 301-937-6085  
JoeRBurge@hotmail.com

#### Newsletter Editor

Marcy Marinelli 301-937-3683  
Talkdoc52@msn.com

#### Publicity

Louise DeJames, 301-890-4733  
lrdejames@msn.com

#### Sales

John Lydon, 301-595-1066  
j.lydon@verizon.net

#### Plant Sales

Geoff White, 301-937-1539  
king-ghidorah@earthlink.net

#### Electronic Newsletter

John Lydon 301-595-1066  
J.lydon@verizon.net

#### Webmaster

Doug Bolt 301-93703112  
dbolt@dboltassociates.com

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.

## **Greenhouse Committee**

By Bill Koppes

We completed our first stage of activity by producing houseplants for the University of Maryland sale, and we now turn our attention and use of bench space to the spring sales of April 12 and May 10. We will again use a cold frame treatment for some of the herbs, perennials, and vegetables to ease the transition from the comfort of the greenhouse to the outside.

Our courtyard space is also used to encourage visits by birds to suet and seed feeders and to the heated bird bath. Later the three serviceberry trees will supplement their diet with fruits. Seed-bearing perennials are there for added variety in the summer. All of this feeding activity can be observed by the staff and students through the glass doors and windows. A nature walk on the outer school grounds was established last fall by an Eagle Scout troop. It makes a loop trail through a wooded section. See elsewhere in the newsletter for information on how you may participate in making this an interesting place for the students to visit.

## **Hospitality for February**

The following members have volunteered for hospitality for the February meeting: Sue Koppes, Kathy FitzGerald, Jean Craigwell (sweets); Glory Houck, Suzette Agans, Mary Ann Canter, Helen Pechacek (non-sweets). Questions? Contact Joan Simons or Helen Pechacek.

Thank you to the following members who supplied refreshments for the January meeting: Matthew Burge, Charlotte Shomburg, Marcy Marinelli, Elaine Jones, Julia Wolz, Nancy Nickell, Mary Washington and Kiki Theodoropoulos.

## **Inclement Weather Policy**

We're not out of the woods yet regarding winter weather. Remember that if Prince Georges County Schools are closed or dismiss early on a day that Garden Club is scheduled to meet, we will not meet. When in doubt, check the Beltsville Garden Club website at [www.beltsvillegardenclub.org](http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org) or call any member of the Executive Board.

## Garden Events

Thanks to Bill Koppes for sharing these upcoming garden events:

**Through APR. 13.** An Alphabet Garden of Orchids. Exhibit. United States Botanic Garden. Washington, DC. (202) 226-4082.

<http://www.usbg.gov>.

**FEB. 23.** EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium: Techniques for Keeping our Planet Healthy. Green Spring Gardens. Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 642-5173. <http://www.greenspring.org>.

**FEB. 29-MAR. 2 & MAR. 7-9.** Maryland Home & Garden Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds. Timonium, Maryland. (410) 863-1180.

<http://www.mdhomeandgarden.com>.

## Duckworth Clean Up Project

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Executive Board decided to discontinue the club's participation in the county's roadside pick up program. However we still have a desire to contribute to the beautification of our community. The opportunity presented itself at Duckworth School with the creation last fall of a nature trail around the perimeter of the school grounds. An Eagle Scout project, this nature trail will allow Duckworth students (and community members) to experience the wonderful world of the outdoors. In the past, BGC has helped with plantings and beautification of the Duckworth site, so we thought this would be a terrific way to contribute to the school in a different way.

Here's where you can help! On Saturday, March 29, 2008 we will gather at Duckworth at 9:30 in the morning for phase one of our clean up. We will pick up trash along the nature trail in preparation for stage two (coming later in the spring) when we will add plant materials to the trail. Bring your own gloves and tools and be ready to do some lifting and clearing. At stage two, we would be happy to accept any donations of plant materials from your own garden that can be added to the trail. As you start to thin out your own plantings in the spring, think about what you might contribute! Individuals participating in the Duckworth clean up will be eligible for the coveted "Priority Door Prize" certificates which will give you first crack at the door prize table at our general meetings. More details will be discussed at the February and March meetings.

## Gardening Tips and News

By Sandy Lange

Think spring! The Philadelphia Flower Show is the week of March 2. It is the largest indoor flower show in the world. This year's theme is "Jazz it Up" and features New Orleans-style walled courtyards, cast iron balconies, fountains and canals. Brookside Gardens sponsors reasonably-priced bus trips to the show on Tuesday, March 4 and Thursday, March 6. Check it out on their website at [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org).

Since February and March are typical months for snow in our area, consider spreading sand or wood ash on slippery sidewalks instead of harsh chemical salts. Salt damages lawns, shrubs and perennials. A product called "Salt Buster" can mitigate the effects of harmful salt cast by trucks along city streets by removing them from the soil solution.

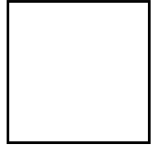
Ordering plants by mail this spring? Check out Garden Watchdog, a website where gardeners share their experiences. There are comments and ratings on more than 5,800 gardening vendors. Go to [www.davesgarden.com](http://www.davesgarden.com) and click on Garden Watchdog. The website also contains information on hundreds of plants, especially new varieties you might be interested in ordering or knowing more about. Dave highly rates Old Country Garden nursery where the BGC tour bus will stop after visiting the Scott Arboretum.

## Member Updates

Thanks to Maggie Schmidt who shared news that long-time member Harry Dewey is out of the hospital and recuperating after a stroke in December. Harry would certainly appreciate cards. You can send them to his address: 4605 Brandon Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Congratulations to Bill Koppes on his retirement from the Naval Surface Weapons Center in early February. We'll probably see a lot more of Bill in the greenhouse this spring!

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



## **Spring Plant Sale Dates**

**Saturday, April 12, 2008**

**Saturday, May 10, 2008**

**8:00 am—12 noon**

**Sales Will Be Held at  
High Point High School  
Parking Lot**

## **BGC Calendar of Events**

Wed. 2/27/08 February General Meeting,  
Paula Shrewsbury, Ornamental and  
Garden Pest Management, 7:30  
Duckworth School

Wed. 3/5/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm,  
Home of Doug & Marie Bolt

Wed. 3/26/08 March General Meeting, 7:30  
Duckworth School, Topic TBA

Wed. 4/2/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm,  
Location TBA

Sat. 4/12/08 April Plant Sale 8:00-noon,  
High Point High School parking lot

Wed. 4/23/08 April General Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Duckworth School, Topic TBA

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