



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 57 Number 1 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> January 2009

## January General Meeting

Ring in the New Year by attending the Beltsville Garden Club meeting on Wednesday, January 28, at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville, MD.

Our speaker this month will be Kathy Jentz, editor and publisher of the *Washington Gardener Magazine*. Her topic will be "**Small Trees and Large Shrubs for Urban Yards**". Kathy will explore the uses of small trees and large shrubs planted in urban lots, focusing on what grows best in the greater DC region. Plant selections will cover natives, edibles, and ornamentals.

Kathy feels that everyone can find a tree that will fit in his/her garden. Some people may have room for only a few pots in which to plant trees, but trees can be part of everyone's sun or shade garden.

Kathy's work is featured in the *Washington Examiner* and *Washington Women* in addition to regular guest spots on **Channel 9, Channel 4** and **WAMU radio**.

## Don't Forget to Bring A Door Prize

Everyone likes to go home from the meeting with a special treasure. So, if you have a plant to share, a magazine, or other garden related item, please remember to bring it to the January 28 meeting for the door prize table.

## Is Your Membership Current?

The 2008-2009 membership year began in September. If your newsletter has 2008 or 2007 on the mailing label, your membership has expired. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, complete the enclosed membership form and send it with a \$10 dues payment to the BGC mailing address, or bring it to the January meeting. Consider also sending a donation to the BGC Scholarship Fund. BGC annually awards \$1,000 to a University of Maryland horticulture student.

## January Hospitality

**The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the January 28, 2009 meeting:**

Nita Nabors, Julia Wolz, Susan Burge, and Elizabeth Ogden: cookies, cakes, candies; Marcy Marinelli will bring fruits, veggies, or cheese and crackers. Joan Simons will bring the centerpiece. Additional fruits, veggies, or cheese and crackers would be welcomed.

Thanks to all who helped with the holiday potluck dinner on December 3. The committee consisted of Marcy Marinelli, Susan Burge, Helen Pechacek, Sue Koppes, Sue Shawshan and Joan Simons. Herta and Giovanni Bernardis came early to help with set-up. Lots of people helped with clean-up activities. Everyone's efforts made the evening a culinary and joyful success.

## BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2009-2010

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.

## Winter Garden Events

**January 17-April 12.** 10 am.-5 pm., daily. Brookside Gardens Conservatory, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD. **Spring display** of snapdragons, cymbidium orchids, stock, florist geraniums, and petunias. Also view leaf ornaments and hypertufa trough containers created by garden staff. Free.

**January-February 22.** 10 am.-5 pm., daily. U.S. Arboretum, New York Avenue. D.C. National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Members of the **Potomac Viewing Stone Group** display viewing stones, Suiseki and Scholars' rocks from private collections. Free.

**January 31, Saturday, 12:30-4 pm. 4th Annual Seed Exchange** sponsored by Washington Gardener Magazine. Visitor's Center, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. You bring extra seeds and swap them with other gardeners. Plus gardening talks, door prizes and goodie bags. Gardeners without seeds to swap also are encouraged to attend. Limited to 125 attendees. Register by Jan. 23. Discount for Friends of Brookside Gardens or Washington Gardener Magazine subscribers. Registration form at [www.washingtongardener.com](http://www.washingtongardener.com).

**February 8, Sunday, 2-3 pm.** U.S. Botanic Gardens, Washington, D.C. **Wildflowers in Africa:** Adventures in Compiling the First Wildflower Guide for Zambia. Artist Doreen Bolnick discusses her work on African wildflowers in Zambia. Free. Pre-registration required on line @ [www.usbc.gov](http://www.usbc.gov).

**February 13, Friday, Conservatory, U.S. Botanic Gardens, Washington, D.C. Flowers and Chocolate.** Explore Valentine's Day traditions (cards, chocolates & flowers) and their relationship to plants. Make a valentine, learn the chocolate making process and attend a free cooking demo, or discover the secret meaning of flowers. Free. No registration required. Details @ [www.usbc.gov](http://www.usbc.gov).

**February 27, Friday, 8:30 am-4 pm. Green Matters Symposium,** Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org) for details or call 301-962-1470.

## Greenhouse Report

By Bill Koppes

This fall we had a problem again with the operation of the automated ridge vent. Bob Pechacek diagnosed the problem and new parts were ordered. The mister nozzles also need periodic attention due to mineral deposits that form in the small orifices. The glass panes have gaps due to loose caulking so that some wind and rain intrude into our greenhouse space. Still, we do have a functioning work space and we are looking forward to the lengthening days now. The plants will start to show more vigor so that we can prune and fertilize in order to produce salable specimens.

## Award Winning Rhododendrons

The American Rhododendron Society announced its 2009 winning rhododendrons. In the Mid-Atlantic regions, the winners are:

- Wheatley—grows to 5' in 10 years; blooms mid-season with rose-pink flowers, glossy leaves, hardy to -15 degrees.
- Landmark—grows to 4' in 10 years, blooms in early spring with purplish-red flowers, bronze-purple leaves in winter, hardy to -20 degrees, very sun-tolerant.
- Old Gold—light orange flowers, grows to 4' in 10 years, deciduous Exbury hybrid, hardy to -25 degrees.
- Komo-shikiibu—narrow purplish-pink strap-like petals, blooms mid-season, evergreen with hairy light-green leaves, low-growing to 4' in 10 years, hardy to -15 degrees.

## Contribution to Duckworth

BGC gave the Duckworth School \$2,500 as a contribution toward school needs, and in appreciation for use of the school cafeteria for BGC meetings as well as greenhouse space. Gifts of \$25 also were given to the three custodians who are so helpful after the meetings.

## Garden Tips

The Christmas fern is one of the easiest to grow in shade or part shade. Gardeners appreciate it at this time of year because it stays green throughout the winter months. Do not trim the old fronds until they turn brown and the new fronds begin to unfurl. Other ferns that remain green during the winter are autumn fern, tassel fern and holly fern.

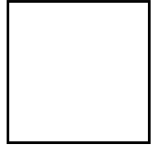
Seasonal cuttings for indoor and outdoor arrangements can be made with red or yellow twigs from the bush dogwood or the curling branches of Henry Lauder walking stick. Cuttings from the corkscrew willow tree and the pussy willow tree also make interesting arrangements along with red berries from hollies or nandinas. Also, remember that tropical houseplants as well as outdoor plants spending the winter inside need less water and usually no fertilizer during the winter months.

Freezing and thawing temperatures outside often cause plants to heave up out of the ground. Exposed plant roots can easily dry out so be sure to check your garden periodically and shove roots back into the soil.

Ever wonder what to do with the plastic tray and top that a rotisserie chicken comes in? The tray can make a great seed starting kit. Clean out the tray, puncture it with a few holes in the bottom and top, fill the bottom with soil, plant seeds, water and wait for the seedlings to emerge. After the second set of leaves come out, the plants can be placed in individual pots. This tip comes from Garden Gate magazine. More interesting ideas can be found on their website: [www.GardenGateNotes.com](http://www.GardenGateNotes.com).

Now is the time to examine your deciduous trees and prune the branches that look damaged or diseased. Also prune branches that interfere or touch other branches. Pruning will permit additional light to penetrate to understory plants, spring flowers and shrubs.

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**Spring Trip Planned**

**To Richmond's**

**Maymont Mansion**

**And Gardens**

**See details in the**

**February Newsletter**

### **BGC Calendar of Events**

- Wed. 1/14/09 Executive Meeting, 7 pm,  
Home of Dan & Marcy Marinelli
- Wed. 1/28/09 January General Meeting, **Small  
Trees and Large Shrubs for Urban  
Yards**, Kathy Jentz, editor, Washington  
Gardener Magazine.  
7:30 pm Duckworth School, Wed.
- 2/4/09 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm,  
Location TBA
- Wed. 2/25/09 February General Meeting, 7:30  
Duckworth School, Topic TBA
- Wed., 3/4/09 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm.  
Location TBA
- Wed., 3/25/09 March General Meeting, 7:30  
pm. Topic TBA
- Sat., 4/11/09 Spring Plant Sale
- Sat., 5/09/09 Mother's Day Plant Sale