



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 56 Number 5 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> May 2008

## May General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will hold its general meeting on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School. What's buzzing in your garden? In addition to the honeybee, thousands of native bees visit blooms throughout the growing season. Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Annette Meredith who will share with us information about these beneficial insects and why they love to frequent our gardens.

Annette Meredith recently completed her PhD at University of Maryland-College Park in the Marine Estuarine Environmental Science program. Her primary interest is finding common ground between agricultural and environmental interests and her research focuses on promoting pollinators on working agricultural lands in the Mid-Atlantic. In the past Annette has worked for the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, The Nature Conservancy's Carpenter Ranch, as well as an environmental engineering firm and an environmental education center. She holds a M.S. in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland and a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Michigan in addition to post-bachelors coursework from Colorado State University in Ecology and Wildlife Biology.

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 May 28th!

## Election of Officers

At the club's general meeting on May 28 we will be voting on new officers for the 08-09 year which will start in September 2008. Marcy Marinelli has been nominated for President; Bob Pechacek has volunteered to continue as Treasurer.

We are still in need of nominees for two positions: vice president and secretary. The vice president is responsible for finding speakers for the monthly meetings. The secretary takes minutes at the monthly executive meetings. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the May meeting. If you have an interest in becoming involved more in BGC, please consider volunteering. Officers attend monthly executive board meetings that generally last a couple hours the first Wednesday of the month.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the above positions, please contact John Lydon or Dan Marinelli (phone numbers on page 2).

## Peach Festival

BGC's annual Peach Festival is scheduled for Saturday, August 9, 2008 at 2:00 pm at the home of Helmut and Linda Jaehnigan in Columbia, Maryland. Helmut and Linda have graciously opened their home and garden to the club again this year. More information will be sent to you in late July with directions and details. This will be the last newsletter until July as the club goes on its summer hiatus. The executive board will meet in August to get ready for the Peach Festival. Until then, happy gardening!

## **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

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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.

## **Greenhouse Committee**

Our two main sale events were successful, although the May sale caused apprehension due to the Friday rain continuing into Saturday. We had an abundance of plants and the prospect of many in the community not attending the May sale was in the minds of vendors as the rain was constant in the hours before the sale. Dorothy Cichra and Katherine Fitzgerald filled the greenhouse in preparation for the sales, mainly from stem propagation of our stock plants. Bob Pechacek and Rod Hendrick provided the truck transport of our plants and sale tables.

The Nature Trail now shows evidence of a good crop of Poison Ivy, as the temperature rises in the woods. The predominant vine is Honeysuckle and it is pervasive. The bird house (Bob Howell donation) is filled with twigs. No sighting yet of the bird. Some of the Poison Ivy was sprayed so that we can avoid it as we introduce more plants.

## **Gypsy Moths**

You've probably heard that gypsy moths are making an appearance this year. For useful information on this devastating pest, go the Maryland Home and Garden Information Center (<http://www.hgic.umd.edu/content/GypsyMoth.cfm>) for a variety of fact sheets and information on how to control the gypsy moth.

## **Hospitality for May**

The following members have volunteered for Hospitality for the May meeting: Judy Shanefelter, Mary Ann Canter, Kathy Fitzgerald, and Susan Burge—sweets; Kiki Theodoropoulos and Sue Shawhan—non sweets; Louise DeJames—drinks; and Joan Simons—centerpiece.

Thank you to the following members who supplied refreshments for the April meeting: .Mike and Carole Bordelon, Louise DeJames, Charlotte Shomburg , Bill Koppes, Nancy Nickell, Julia Wolz, Katherine Fitzgerald, Jose Martinez and Helen Pechacek.

## Garden Events

Here are some upcoming garden events to check out if you are not too busy in your own garden this summer!

May 3-Sept. 21 Wings of Fancy-World of Flight, Live Butterfly Exhibit, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton Regional Park; 10-4 daily. Fee \$5, adults; \$4 ages 3-12.

May 24 –Oct. 31 At the National Garden and Bartholdi Park of the U.S. Botanic Garden an exhibit entitled "One Planet-Ours. Sustainability for the 22nd Century" Visit <http://www.usbg.gov/education/events/One-Planet-Ours.cfm> for more details.

May 19. Rhododendron Show. United States National Arboretum. Washington, D.C. (202) 245-2726. <http://www.usna.usda.gov>.

June 5-7. Native Plants in the Landscape Conference. Millersville, Pennsylvania. (717) 872-3030. <http://www.millersvillenativeplants.org>

June 29. Daylily Show—sponsored by the National Capital Daylily Club; Brookside Gardens, Wheaton Regional Park; 1:30-5:00 pm

July 12-13. Potomac Lily Show—sponsored by the Potomac Lily Society; Brookside Gardens, Wheaton Regional Park; 12:30-5, Saturday; 9-4 Sunday.

## From the Editor

In last month's newsletter I reported on the death of long-time club member Cay Rhoads. Unfortunately, I spelled her name incorrectly. Apologies go to her husband Bill Rhoads.

## Garden Tips and News

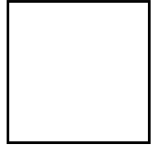
By Sandy Lange

The May/June issue of Washington Gardener magazine contains an article and photos about the history of the BGC. Washington Gardener is a very informative magazine about horticulture in our area. Each issue has articles written by local gardeners. When it lists new plants for 2008, they are ones that will grow in our climate and soil. Dependable bulbs and shrubs are described with sources where they can be purchased. A recent issue had an article about the horticultural treasures at the National Agricultural Library in College Park. Washington Gardener is printed on recycled paper and the magazine sponsors many activities such as an annual seed exchange and the horticultural shows at Behnke's. Yearly subscriptions are only \$20.

Washington Post garden writer Adrian Higgins stated that "An environmental group called American Forests recommends planting a shade tree on the east, south and west sides of your home (<http://www.americanforests.org/planttrees/howto.php>). This will shade the home and reduce air conditioning needs as the trees mature by as much as 50 percent. Air conditioning contributes to global warming because electricity generating plants that use fossil fuels emit greenhouse gases. Make sure you leave enough room for trees to mature and place them away from overhead and underground utility lines," Higgins advises.

The University of Maryland is working to establish itself as an Arboretum and Botanical Garden by showcasing its 52 species of trees, heritage landscapes and early beginnings as an agricultural college. An arboretum would enable the university to seek grants to study urban tree growth, ecological relationships and landscape design as well as sustainability. Educators and students would strive toward conservation and preservation of our natural environment. A brochure describing the Campus Tree Walk will be available at the next BGC meeting.

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**Our next general meeting will be on Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30 pm at the James E. Duckworth School**

**Have a great summer!**



### **BGC Calendar of Events**

- Wed. 5/28/08 May General Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Duckworth School, Annette Meredith,  
Native Bees in the Garden
- Wed. 8/6/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm,  
Location TBA
- Sat. 8/9/08 Peach Festival, 2:00 pm, home  
Of Helmut & Linda Jaehnigan,  
Columbia, MD
- Wed. 9/3/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm,  
Location TBA
- Wed. 9/24/08 September General Meeting,  
7:30 pm Duckworth School, TBA
- Wed. 10/1/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm,  
Location TBA
- Wed. 10/22/08 October General Meeting,  
7:30 pm Duckworth School, TBA
- Wed. 11/5/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm,  
Location TBA
- Wed. 12/3/08 Holiday Party, 7:00 pm,  
Duckworth School