



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 56 Number 8

<http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> October 2008

October General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville, Maryland. The speaker will be Nick Weber whose topic is "**HERITAGE ROSES**". Mr. Weber became infatuated with old garden roses and in 1985 purchased 5.5 acres of land to devote to caring for and displaying roses. Over the years he has developed rose gardens surrounding his house. There are two main display gardens, each with a lily pond, one of which has an elevated pavilion to view its half acre of old and new roses. There are other smaller specialty rose gardens such as a kitchen garden, children's garden, climber garden and the bride's garden. He currently has 600 to 700 varieties of roses. Mr. Weber has limited formal education in garden design and plant selection, but his passionate desire is to add beauty to his surroundings and to inspire anyone who stops by to smell and see the roses.

Garden Tips

Trim shrubs that bloom on new growth. Buddleias (butterfly bushes) can be cut back hard in February. Also remove old canes. Mop head hydrangeas can be moved now to allow time for new roots to grow before the ground temperature reaches 40 degrees.

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail, contact John Lydon at J.lydon@verizon.net.

BGC Secretary Needed

The BGC is desperately seeking a secretary to take minutes at the monthly Executive Committee meetings. The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month, November 2008-May 2009, at 7:30 p.m., in the homes of various members. Each meeting is followed by refreshments and socializing. This is an opportunity for a new or older member to become more involved in the club and contribute to the outstanding successes of the BGC. If interested, contact Marcy Marinelli, at Talk-doc52@msn.com or 301-937-3683.

Pay Membership Dues Now

The 2008-2009 membership year began in September. If your newsletter label has 2008 or 2007 by your name, it means that your membership has expired and \$10 dues (family membership) is due by the October General Meeting. Dues may be paid by mail or at the October membership meeting. Your dues covers the cost of newsletter mailings, and items purchased for the holiday party and Peach Festival. Please consider adding an additional amount to be applied to the BGC Scholarship Fund. For the past several years, the club has awarded \$1,000 to a University of Maryland horticulture student. Many students receiving this award have gone on to careers in horticulture. Contact Sue Burge (301-937-6085) if you have questions about membership.

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2008-2009

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 by e-mail.

Fall Garden Events

October 17-19 Maryland Home & Garden Show. Maryland State Fairgrounds. Timonium, MD (610) 388-1000, ext. 507.

www.mdhomeandgarden.com.

October 23 Horticulture Symposium on Smaller Gardens: Real Solutions. Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. 1 (877) 436-7764.

www.gardenprogram@hortmag.com

October 31. Mutations and Freaks. Plants with Skeletons in the Closet. 1-3 p.m. Walk & lecture. Brookside Gardens. Wheaton, MD. (301) 962-1427. www.brooksidegardens.org.

November 7. Less Lawn, More Natives. Free lecture. 10-11:30 a.m. Brookside Gardens. Wheaton, MD. (301) 962-1427. www.brooksidegardens.org.

November 8-9. Green Festival. Washington Convention Center. 400 exhibits. 125 speakers. Green technology, renewable energy, conservation, recycling, natural home and garden, fair trade, organic food/agriculture.

Hospitality for October



The club will provide donuts and cider for the October meeting. We will be asking for volunteers to sign up to bring refreshments for the January-May meetings. Please do your part and volunteer to bring refreshments during the winter and spring months!

Thanks to Elaine Jones, Mary Washington and Sue Shawhan for bringing refreshments to the September meeting.

Greenhouse Report

By Bill Koppes

In addition to the usual sales at High Point H.S. and the winter sale at the University of Maryland, the Behnke Nursery festivals provided another venue for plant sales this year. During the summer we continued to maintain the courtyard landscape, the new butterfly garden and the plantings along the nature trail in the nearby woods. The trees that the club planted to establish some shade relief in the playground behind the school have continued to suffer from the periodic summer drought conditions. The generally poor soil surrounding the trunks was given a top coating of compost obtained from the College Park composting facility. The amount of leaf drop was less this year, but then the water shortage was probably not as severe as experienced in previous summers. With continued top dressings we hope to reduce the moisture stress on the trees and gradually improve the soil in their root zone.

Eight Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping

From the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council

A conservation landscape:

- Is designed to benefit the environment and to function well for human use;
- Contains locally native plants that are appropriate for site conditions;
- Has an ongoing management process to remove existing invasive plants;
- Provides wildlife habitat for a variety of species through the use of such elements as in-ground water features and large beds of perennial flowers and evergreen shrubs for natural food and protective cover;
- Promotes good air quality and is not a source of air pollution;
- Conserves water and promotes good water quality;
- Promotes healthy soils, composts plant waste on site;
- Works with nature to be more sustainable.

Discovering the Joys of Daylilies

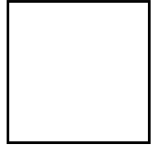
At the September meeting, Tom and Irene Case presented a talk on daylilies. The speakers called hybrid daylilies "the perfect perennial for the mid-Atlantic" because they are tough, trouble-free, tolerant of summer heat, humidity and drought. Daylilies should be planted in full sun, but will tolerate light shade. They prefer good garden soil, but will grow in clay or sandy soils. They are relatively pest and disease free, but are occasionally attacked by thrips and slugs. Clumps may be divided every 2-3 years, generally in the fall. Hybrid daylilies should not be planted with the common orange, roadside daylilies which are invasive and spread by runners.

Creating More Biodiversity

As we learn more about creating a balance between plants and insects, we recognize the importance of using more native plants in our gardens. Thousands of insects depend on particular plants for their survival. With more and more of our woodlands becoming housing developments, shopping centers and parking lots, we lose the habitats that birds and insects depend on for their food and often their survival. Reducing the size of our lawns and planting more natives will help to restore our natural environment.

Consider creating piles of leaf litter this fall to provide food for thrushes, robins and wrens. Many birds thrive on the tent caterpillars that inhabit choke cherry trees in the spring. Birches, poplars, and crabapple trees are important native trees that provide food for a variety of birds and insects. The white oak supports over 500 species of wildlife. Perennials that promote biodiversity include asters, sunflowers, morning glories, sedges and honey-suckle vines, as well as bee balm, milkweed, veronica and lobelia. Plant diversity maintains the balance between good and bad insects.

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Garden Mysteries

In addition to colony collapse of the honeybees, the Washington Post reports the disappearance of the 9-spotted ladybug in the Northeast. Scientists wonder if the extinction of the 9-spotted ladybug may be due to the introduction of the Asian ladybug, a beetle that varies in number of spots and ranges in color from yellow-orange to crimson. It was introduced by USDA to help fight foreign pests on crops, according to the Washington Post article. It is surmised, but not proven, that the Asian ladybug may be pushing the native ladybug out of its normal habitat. Another theory is that parasitic wasps may have increased with the introduction of alien ladybugs. Some commercially sold ladybugs are infected with parasitoids which infect native populations and also will destroy the purchased ladybugs.

BGC Calendar of Events

- Wed. 10/22/08 October General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Duckworth School, Heritage Roses
- Wed. 11/12/08 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Home of Bill & Sue Koppes
- Wed. 12/3/08 Holiday Party, 6:30 pm, Duckworth School
- Wed. 1/7/09 Executive Meeting, 7:00 pm, Home of Dan & Marcy Marinelli
- Wed. 1/28/09 January General Meeting, 7:30 pm Duckworth School, Topic TBA
- Wed. 2/4/09 Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Location TBA
- Wed. 2/25/09 February General Meeting, 7:30 Duckworth School, Topic TBA