



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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Is Rubber Mulch Sustainable?

Horticulture magazine recently discussed the use of rubber mulch made from re-cycled tires. While it can be useful as a soil amendment in turf grass sports fields, it is not recommended for use in the garden. It eventually breaks down, releasing toxic compounds into the ground. "Most problems occur from contamination run-off and subsequently, the local aquatic communities...Zinc is a by-product of rubber decomposition, and can accumulate in plant tissue to toxic levels," stated *Horticulture*.

February 24 Hospitality

The following people have signed up to bring refreshments: Sweets; Bill Koppes, Anne Hardman, Katherine Fitzgerald, Non-sweets: Ellen Farr, Judy Shanefelter, Victor Lacto, Maggie and Cyndi Schmidt and apple cider, Mary Clive. Please let Helen Pechacek 301-384-2415 if you would like to bring a centerpiece. Thanks to Peggy Fields, Nancy Perkins, Elaine Jones, Hank Howe, Sue Shawhan, Aileen Goldman, and Joan Simons for bring refreshments to the January meeting.

Tour Botanic Gardens Production Facility

Once a year, the U.S. Botanic Gardens holds an Open House at its production facility at 4700 Shepherd Parkway, SW, D.C. The facility has the largest greenhouse complex supporting a public garden in the U. S. On Saturday, March 6, visitors can tour greenhouses filled with orchids, medicinal plants, insectivorous plants, rare and endangered species. You must pre register by calling 202-225-1116. Tours are free for Friends and \$5 for non-members. Tours are scheduled at half hour intervals beginning at 10-30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

February 24 General Meeting

The **BGC will meet on Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.**, in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School. Our guest speaker will be **Beth Bishop** for a hands-on session about **"Growing Orchids in the Home"**.

Besides giving hints on buying good quality healthy plants, Ms. Bishop invites members and guests to bring orchids in need of TLC for problem analysis and repotting. She has graciously agreed to repot up to 20 plants. Members will be given priority and are asked to limit themselves to one plant. If too few plants are available, then the one-only limit may be relaxed. She will bring potting medium. Members should bring their own pots. Ms. Bishop will also be bringing several types of orchids for sale.

Beth Bishop is a professional grower who has been with Arbec Orchids since 1997 and has exhibited at National Capital Orchid Society shows. Arbec will be exhibiting and selling March 12, 13 and 14 at the Maryland Orchid Society Show in Timonium, Maryland State Fair Grounds during the Maryland Home and Garden Show.

Bring a Plant for the Door Prize Table

Door prizes are one of the highlights of the BGC meetings. So, bring a plant or other garden related item (i.e. magazines, books, seeds) and participate in the fun of giving a door prize, and taking one home as well.

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 2010-2011

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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Submit newsletter articles by the second Wednesday of the month. Mail to Editor, 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or e-mail to salange1940@yahoo.com

Greenhouse Committee By Bill Koppes

We have ordered 100 jumbo-sized caladium bulbs again this year. The varieties *Candidum* and *Frieda Hemple* are the most popular among customers according to our supplier. The former is a white leaf variety that does well in shade, while the latter is a green leaf variety with a large, red marking on the leaf. It can be used in areas with more sun exposure.

The chrysanthemums this year from Bob Howell will be *Mildred White* and *Raquel Ruby Red*. We also have spring bulbs emerging from pots that will give displays of white and yellow daffodils mixed with blue grape hyacinths for sale in early spring.

Gardening Tips and News by Sandy Lange

A few days of warm weather in January saw the sprouting of hundreds of acorns in my yard. If you don't want a forest of oak trees rooting in your garden, pull them out whenever the ground is still wet and the weather temperate.

Some shrubs can be heavily pruned in winter because the flowers bloom on new growth. These include: hydrangea *paniculata* 'Tandiva', hydrangea *arborescens* 'Annabelle', *buddleja* (butterfly bush), *caryopteris* (blue spirea) and hibiscus *syriacus* (Rose of Sharon).

In early February, buds begin to swell on flowering quince, dogwood, crabapple and pussy willow. Branches can be cut to force flowering indoors. Forsythias and quince can be pruned. Also, February is a good time to prune hollies to rejuvenate their shape and growth habits. Begin to fertilize tropical hibiscus plants that were brought indoors for the winter. Hibiscus branches can also be cut back to half their length.

Check the garden for perennial plants that have heaved up during the freezing and thawing during January. Especially susceptible are the *heuchera* (coral bells) and other perennials that were planted this past spring and summer.

Spring Trip to Chanticleer Garden

The Beltsville Garden Club is joining with the Takoma Park Horticulture Club to sponsor the 2010 spring trip to *Chanticleer, A Pleasure Garden*, in Wayne, PA, on Thursday, June 3, 2010.

Chanticleer has it all. Whatever exotic woodland plant you desire, whatever lush tropical container you admire, whatever perennial you covet, you will find it all at Chanticleer. Every week throughout the spring and summer, the 35-acre gardens at Chanticleer are awash in color, texture and fragrance.

Trip participants will tour the Teacup Garden and Main House, Ruin Garden, Pond Garden and Rock Ledge, Asian Woods, Tennis Court Garden & Bog Garden. Blooming plants include poppies, magnolias, primroses, climbing roses, baptisias, rhododendrons, tropicals and native wildflowers. The Woodland Garden is carpeted in Asian groundcovers. The Ruin Garden has sculptural furniture. Benches, wrought iron fences, and bridges highlight the uniqueness and personal nature of the garden.

The estate is the former home of Christine and Adolph Rosengarten, Sr. Their son, Adolph, Jr., left the property to be enjoyed as a public garden. It opened in 1993. The garden is accessible to persons with trouble walking. Garden writer Adrian Higgins called it "one of the most interesting and edgy gardens in America."

We will leave the Calverton Tower Office Building Parking Lot in Beltsville at 7:30 a.m. We will arrive at Chanticleer by 10:30 a.m. to tour the house and garden.

Bring your own bag lunch. We will eat in the picnic area at Chanticleer. Beverages will be provided. After lunch we will have free time to leisurely stroll through the gardens. We will depart Chanticleer at 2 p.m. for plant shopping at a nearby nursery. We will return to Beltsville by 6 p.m. Sign up for the trip now. Don't miss seeing this spectacular garden.

Registration Form

Beltsville Garden Club and Takoma Park Horticulture Club

Invite You to Join Us for the

SPRING TRIP TO CHANTICLEER

Thursday, June 3, 2010

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

e-Mail _____

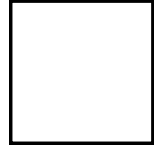
Cost is \$55 per person which includes coach bus transportation, guided tour of the garden, beverages and snacks. Bring your own bag lunch.

Meet the bus at 7:15 a.m., in the Calverton Tower Office Building Parking Lot, 11785 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville (just past the shopping center, office building has a blue roof). We return by 6 p.m. Deadline for registration is Monday, May 24, 2010. For information, contact Sandy Lange at 301-474-1402 or e-mail at salange1940@yahoo.com

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

**Make check payable to the Beltsville Garden Club. Mail check and registration form to: Sandy Lange
12 Pinecrest Court
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

Beltsville Garden Club
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Gardening Events

Feb. 20 to May 22, Begonias. Display of rare and special begonias in the collection of the U.S. Botanic Garden. Free.

Sun., Feb. 28-Sun., March 7, Philadelphia Flower Show. Theme: *Passport to the World*, Pennsylvania Convention Center. Tickets are \$23 per person, available on line & at the door.

March 6 & 7, 12, 13, & 14. Maryland Home & Garden Show, Timonium Fairgrounds. Orchid Show only the second weekend. Fee is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors.

Sat., March 6, 10-30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Open House at U.S. Botanic Garden Production Facility, 4700 Shepherd Parkway, S.W., Washington, D.C. (across #295 from Blue Plains Treatment facility.) Call 202-225-1116 to register. \$5 fee for non-members.

BGC Calendar of Events

Tues., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting, home of Bill & Sue Koppes.

Wed., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., General Meeting. Growing Orchids in the Home, Beth Bishop, speaker.

Tues., March 2, 7:30 p.m., Executive Board Meeting, home of Helen & Bob Pechacek

Wed., March 25, General Meeting, Topic TBA

Tues., April 6. 7:30 p.m., Executive Board Meeting, home of Judy Shanefelter

Sat., April 10 & Sat. May 8, 8 a.m.-noon, BGC Plant Sales, High Point High School Parking Lot