



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 59 Number 2 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> February 2011

## February General Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will hold a general meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2011, at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, and Beltsville, Maryland. Our guest speaker this month will be Christopher Puttock and his topic will be "HAWAII WETLANDS". Dr. Puttock will discuss the types of wetlands found in Hawai'i, including those found nowhere else in the United States. He will take you on a biodiversity tour of plants (and some animals) that make wetlands unique habitats.

Dr. Puttock was born in England, lived in Australia for 34 years as a botanist and flora writer for "Flora of Australia". From 1998 he was Collections Manager of Botany at Bishop Museum, Director of Pacific Center for Molecular Biodiversity; and in 2005 he became Coordinator of the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance, where he became a leader in Hawai'i conservation efforts. At the present time he is in the DC area, where he is a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution, Executive Director of Chesapeake Natives, and Chief Botanist for the Monarch Sister School Program. Please join us to hear this informative speaker.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Bring a plant or a plant related material for the door prize table. The public is welcomed and admission is free.



## Mt. Cuba Garden Spring Garden Tour

BGC is partnering with the Takoma Horticultural Club to sponsor a spring trip to the fabulous Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware, near Wilmington. The trip is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, in time to experience the emergence of both rare and common wildflowers.

Mt. Cuba is home to 55 species of rare native plants including the swamp buttercup, nodding trillium, big leaf aster and spring chickweed. Mt. Cuba researchers are among the foremost authorities on trillium and thousands of trillium are found in this woodland setting. Other wildflowers growing at Mt. Cuba include blue phlox, bellworts, wild indigo, Canada lily. There are 25 cultivars of French lilacs and many native shrubs and a wide variety of ferns.

The 2-hour guided tour takes the visitor through a wooded hillside garden and along uneven and unpaved paths. The total walking distance is about one mile. Free strolling is not permitted. There are no food or picnic facilities at Mt. Cuba.

After the tour, we will enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant, followed by a visit to a Delaware nursery.

The tour bus will leave Calverton at 7:30 am and will return by 6 pm. Trip cost of \$65 includes bus transportation, guided tour, lunch and snacks.

**Fill out the Registration Form on page 3 and reserve your spot for this special spring tour of Mt. Cuba.**

## **BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB**

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. Club dues is \$10 per family per year. The dues year begins in September. Send checks to: BGC, P.O. Box 1953. Beltsville, MD 20704-1953.

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## **Greenhouse Committee**

By Bill Koppes

Almost a year after "Snowmageddon" we are still not up to speed with the greenhouse. Our access to water has degraded further. After the greenhouse collapse the plumber shut off all of the water in the greenhouse, leaving only the potting room sink tap that provided hot water only. The potting room floor became a storage area for many gallon jugs of water since the hot water could not be used directly.

Recently a pipe failure occurred in the greenhouse that shot a stream of hot water out into the benches. Fortunately Kathy was in the potting room at the time. Now we load a flat bed truck with the jugs at the custodian closet down the hallway, or we use the closet spigot to partially fill 40 gallon trash cans. This allows for watering the plants with a hose connected to a submersible pump, which is better than the slower process of watering with container of water, but has the disadvantage of having to wrestling the heavy waste container off of the truck.

The heat in the greenhouse is still a concern. The baseboard hot water heating needs to be replaced. The temperature dips into the low sixties at night. The caladium bulbs may be slower in breaking dormancy.

## **Hospitality for February**

Since our January meeting was cancelled, we are hoping that those people who volunteered to provide refreshments in January would be willing to do so this month. Please contact Helen Pechacek (301-384-2415) or Sue Koppes (301-434-6380) to let them know if you are able to contribute this month.

Thanks for your flexibility (and let's hope that we won't be snowed out again!). Remember that if PG County Schools are closed, we will not meet. Check our website for updates!

## Mt. Cuba Center Garden Tour

### Registration Form

**Beltsville Garden Club  
And  
Takoma Horticultural Club  
Invite you to Join us for the  
Spring Trip to Mt. Cuba**

**Thursday, April 28, 2011**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost is \$65 per person which includes coach bus transportation, guided tour of the gardens, lunch and snacks on the bus.**

**Meet the bus at 7:15 a.m., in the Calverton Towers 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, April 18, 2011. For information, contact Sandy Lange at 301-474-1402, e-mail at [salange1940@yahoo.com](mailto:salange1940@yahoo.com) or Carole Galati, 302-588-2743, e-mail at [cagalati@rcn.com](mailto:cagalati@rcn.com)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make your check payable to:  
Beltsville Garden Club**

**Mail Form & Check To:  
Sandy Lange  
12 Pinecrest Court  
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

## Gardening News and Tips

By Marcy Marinelli

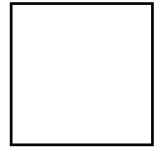
As the days are lengthening and warming up a little bit, our thoughts are turning to spring and getting back into the garden. I've enjoyed looking through seed catalogs to pick some new plants and vegetables that I'll try this summer. I'm constantly amazed by the variety of hybridized tomato and pepper seeds that are available. Now if I just had space to try them all! If you are planning to start seedlings indoors, remember to read the package directions and not start the seeds too early. Many seeds need 6-8 weeks of indoor growth under florescent lights before they are ready to be planted outdoors after the last frost (generally early May).

Many of us are dealing with the aftermath of snow and ice and are finding that our trees and shrubs are looking pretty sad. Here are some tips from the University of Maryland's Home and Garden Information Center for dealing with snow and ice damaged trees:

- Unless there are hazardous conditions or the plant is in severe danger, you can wait until the end of winter to prune.
- Remove dangling branches that are unsightly or will cause more damage; you can fine tune the pruning later.
- Once you can get out and do a final pruning, remember to cut all broken wood to the branch collar of the next healthy branch or a quarter of an inch above a live bud.
- Don't worry that the plant is broken; it doesn't mean that it will die. Try to make what is left of the plant as aesthetically pleasing as possible. Many plants can be cut to the ground if necessary and will regrow and be better than new!
- Refer to the HGIC's guide on pruning ornamental plants which can be found at:

[http://www.hgic.umd.edu/content/documentsHG84Pruningornamentalplants\\_000.pdf](http://www.hgic.umd.edu/content/documentsHG84Pruningornamentalplants_000.pdf)

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



### **Garden Events**

**Mon., Feb. 14, 12-1:30 pm. Chocolates: A Consumer's Guide & Tasting.** U.S. Botanical Garden. Members free. Others, \$5. Pre-register at 202-225-1116.

**Sat., Feb. 19, 1-3:30 pm. Winter Tree Tour of Capitol Grounds.** Free. U.S. Botanical Gardens. Pre-register at 202-225-1116.

**Sat., Feb. 19, 31st Annual National Capital Orchid Society Meeting,** Behnke's Nursery, Beltsville, MD. Sales begin at 8:00 a.m.; the meeting will focus on the Ladieslipper orchid

**March 6-13, Philadelphia Flower Show. Springtime in Paris.** Convention Center. Purchase tickets on-line or join a group tour.

**March 19-20, Orchid Sale,** Brookside Gardens, Visitor Center; Saturday 10-4; Sunday 10-3.

### **BGC Calendar of Events**

**Wed., Feb. 23, 7:30 pm, General Meeting. Christopher Puttock, Hawaiian Wetlands**

**Tues., March 1, 7:30 pm, BGC Executive Board Meeting,** Home of Judy Shanefelter.

**Wed., March 23, 7:30 pm. General Meeting. Susan Bell, Gardening in Small Spaces**

**Tues., April 5, 7:30 p.m., BGC Executive Board Meeting,** Home of Marie & Doug Bolt.

**Sat. April 9, 8:00 am—12 noon, Spring Plant Sale, Parking lot of High Point High School**

**Wed., April 27, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Topic TBA**