

# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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## Spring Trip To Lewis Ginter Gardens

On May 2, BGC is sponsoring a trip to Richmond to tour the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. (See page 3 for sign-up form). Highlights of the garden tour will include the Conservatory with its exotic display of orchids and tropical plants, the Sunken Garden, and the Healing Garden. The Asian Valley was created by Osamu Shimizu and features an inspirational arrangement of stones, water and Japanese maple trees.

The Rose Garden has over 1,800 roses with over 80 fragrances. In early May, we will be treated to displays of tulips as well as an array of spring bulbs and ephemerals. The tour will include a boxed lunch, and snacks on the bus.

After lunch there will be free time to stroll through the garden or peruse the gift shop. We will depart by 1 p.m. to visit an enchanting nearby nursery, Sandy's Plants, with 30 acres of growing beds and display gardens. Sandy's Plants is a working farm, and it is recommended that you visit their website to look over the plant selections beforehand so that, when we arrive, you are ready to hop onto a golf cart and drive to the area where the plants you crave are growing. Visit their website at [www.sandysplants.com](http://www.sandysplants.com)

We are excited about this trip which welcomes the beginning of another gardening season. We have kept the trip cost at the same level as last year so we look forward to filling the bus with all our enthusiastic members and gardening friends. Non-members are welcome.

## February 27 Is BGC General Meeting

BGC's next general meeting is Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 p.m., at the James E. Duckworth School, Beltsville. Janet Koles will enlighten us on *How Plants Get Their Names*.

Koles notes that some plants have interesting stories behind their names while others like bluebells are easy to see why they are called such. Other names provide a history lesson of medical and/or everyday use of plants.

Koles is a self-employed gardener working in over 30 private gardens. For 13 years she has been a volunteer at Brookside Gardens. She likes to say that she attended "Brookside Gardens University for my gardening degree!" She has been interested in plants since she was a teenager and her first paying job was weeding.

At the University of Maryland, she took a "living off the land" class which inspired her to learn more about identifying plants and determining how their common names are chosen. Koles also lectures on animal-named plants (*It's a Zoo Out There!*), shade gardening and the five senses of the plant world.

**Please remember to bring a plant or other garden-related item for the door prize table. Thanks to all who brought refreshments to the January meeting. You are wonderful! Members who signed up to bring refreshments—as well as others who would like to—are encouraged to bring sweet or savory "goodies" or drinks to the February meeting.**

## 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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### Gardening News & Tips by Sandy Lange

Planning to divide your plants in the spring? Consider becoming a vendor at the BGC April 20 and/or May 11 plant sales. The more vendors the club has, the better the sales. Contact Marcy Marinelli at 301-937-3683 for more information on selling plants.

According to an article in the February issue of *Horticulture* magazine, milk has been used successfully to deter deer from grazing on plants. The author suggests that you spray one part milk to three parts water on the foliage and flowers. It doesn't matter whether the milk is fresh or sour, whole or 2%, buttermilk or skim. The deer don't like any of it and it, remains on the plants through several rains. In summer, apply on a sunny day. In winter, undiluted milk can be used November-March. Try to avoid drenching the soil as the milk can deter beneficial decomposition of organic matter.

A new webpage has just been launched by the University of Maryland plant science department. Check out [www.rbh.psla.umd.edu](http://www.rbh.psla.umd.edu) to learn more about identifying woody plants in Maryland. It is maintained by the Norton-Brown Herbarium and contains digitized herbarium specimens and more.

BGC's January speaker, Dr. Bob Howell, recommends Poast Plus, a post emergence grass herbicide, to get rid of bamboo, and electric fencing to rid his yard of animal pests such as groundhogs.

### Greenhouse Committee by Bill Koppes

The recent cold snap has challenged the heating system in the greenhouse. The hot water baseboard heaters were shut off due to a water leak in a hallway and the supplemental heater/fan is not sufficient if the wind is strong enough to penetrate all the entry gaps that exist in a glass structure with aluminum/glass contact points. Some of the plants are now in a very congested potting room. Some plants in the greenhouse are showing signs of wilt because of the low nighttime temperatures.

Not all the news was bad. Bob Pechacek researched mister designs and found one that eliminates scale buildup. The water stream is directed upward to a baffle so that when the water is shut off there is no pendant water drop to later evaporate and concentrate the dissolved salts.

## Green Matters Symposium at Brookside

On Friday, February 22, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Brookside Gardens is sponsoring their annual Green Matters symposium, "The New American Landscape". Topics include "Integrated Design Strategies for Small Scale Sites and Residential Landscapes", "Ecological—and Beautiful—Stormwater Management", "Creating Diverse and Sustainable Gardens Inspired by Nature," and "Sustainable in the Material World". For detailed session descriptions, special bios, and registration information, visit Brookside-Green.org or call 301-962-1451. Fee is \$89.

## Progress on Restoring the American Chestnut

Researchers are having success with taming the blight that has nearly wiped out the American Chestnut. The *Scientist Magazine* reports that blight resistant trees have been hybridized by crossing original Chestnuts with the smaller Chinese variety that is immune to the disease. Some plant scientists are trying to create a genetically modified version with resistant genes inserted into the American chestnut from Asian chestnuts. Viruses are also being used to spread among closely related fungi which, in turn, might protect American chestnuts.

## Tips on Starting Seeds Indoors

It's that time of year again. February is the month to start seeds indoors under fluorescent lights. Here are a few tips:

- ◆ Earliest plant seeds to start are broccoli, cabbage, tomato and lettuce.
- ◆ Use Pro Mix or other light mix. Do not use garden soil which is too heavy, doesn't drain well and is not sterile. Peat pots and pellets often dry out too fast.
- ◆ Use fluorescent tubes, T-8 or T-5; one cool light and one warm light. Place trays 1 to 1 1/2 inches under lights.
- ◆ Use a thermostat to control temperatures.
- ◆ Allow media to dry out between watering.
- ◆ Fertilize after the first true leaves appear.
- ◆ In April, harden off in the shade for 7-14 days. Do not let plants dry out.
- ◆ Transplant on a cloudy day. Use a row cover to protect seedlings from frost and bugs.

## BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

### Spring Trip To Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden And Sandy's Plants Thursday, May 2, 2013

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

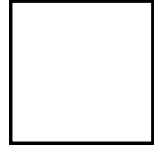
**Cost is \$70 per person which includes coach bus transportation, guided tour of the garden, box lunch, beverages & snacks. We also will stop at Sandy's Plants Nursery for shopping for rare and unusual plants.**

**Meet the bus at 7 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 6:30 p.m. Deadline for registration is Tuesday, April 23. For information, contact Sandy Lange at 301-474-1402 or e-mail at [salange1940@yahoo.com](mailto: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  
P. O. Box 1953  
Beltsville, MD 20704-1953



### Garden Events

**Fri., Feb. 22, 8:30 am-4 pm. The New American Landscape.** Green Matters Symposium, Brookside Gardens. Register at BrooksideGreen.org or call 301-962-1451. Fee.

**Sat., Feb. 23, 8:30 am-2:45 pm. Montgomery County Master Gardeners Mini-Conference.** Agricultural History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Rd, Derwood, MD. Fee.

**Sun., March 2-Sun., March 10, Philadelphia Flower Show,** featuring British Gardens. Philadelphia Convention Center. Tours sponsored by Behnke's, *Washington Gardener* magazine & Brookside Gardens. **Burtonsville Garden Club's** trip is Thurs., March 7, 9:45 am-8:30 pm, Fee: \$80 non-members, \$75 members. Contact Terri Yee, 301-421-0232 or terri-ye@verizon.net for information & registration form.

### BGC Calendar of Events

**Wed., Feb. 6, 7:30 pm. Executive Committee Mtg.** Home of Bill & Sue Koppes.

**Wed., Feb. 27, 7:30 pm. *How Plants Get Their Names*,** Janet Koles, speaker.

**Wed., March 6, 7:30 pm, Executive Committee Mtg.,** Home of Sandy & David Lange.

**Wed., March 27, 7:30 pm. *Rainscapes*,** Ann English & Dan Sommers, speakers.

**Wed., April 3, 7:30 pm. Executive Committee Mtg.,** Home of Doug & Marie Bolt.

**Wed., April 24, 7:30 pm, *Companion Planting, The Real Story*,** Janet Young, speaker.

**Sat., April 20 & Sat., May 11, 8 am-Noon., BGC Plant Sales. High Point High School parking lot. Rain or shine.**