



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 60 Number 1 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> January 2012

## **Spring Trip to Dumbarton Oaks Plus High Tea & Garden Tour at Green Spring**

On Thursday, May 17, join BGC club members on docent-led tours of two outstanding local gardens plus high tea in an historic house at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, Va.

We first will visit Dumbarton Oaks located in residential Georgetown. The original Federal-style house was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss in 1920. They added the Music Room in 1929 and the wing in 1940 to house their Byzantine collection. In 1963, the Pre-Columbian wing, designed by Philip Johnson, and the Garden Library were added.

The gardens were designed by legendary landscape gardener Beatrix Ferrand. Working in close collaboration for almost thirty years, Mildred Bliss and Beatrix Farrand planned every garden detail, each terrace, bench, urn, and border. We will experience the garden in its full spring glory.

Our second stop will be Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, VA. We will enjoy high tea in the historic house followed by a docent-led tour of the gardens. The gardens feature a woodland stream valley, native gardens and 20 thematic demonstration gardens. We also will have time to peruse the Garden Gate Plant Shop.

The cost of the day-long bus trip, admissions, tours and high tea is \$70 per person. See page 3 for details. The trip is limited to 38 people. Sign up now to reserve your place for this special BGC spring trip.

## **January BGC General Meeting**

Ring in another year of informative gardening topics by attending the Beltsville Garden Club meeting on, **Wednesday, January 25**, at **7:30 pm** in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville.

**Dumbarton Oaks: An Oasis of Calm in the City** will be covered by speakers David Keil and Christine Blazina, docents for the Dumbarton Oaks Historic Garden in Washington, D. C. This interactive lecture will focus on the development of Dumbarton Oaks as a study center, museum and planned garden. It is the prelude to the club's spring garden tour to Dumbarton Oaks and Green Spring Gardens.

David Keil is 20-year docent with a strong interest in the garden, the history of the site and the Pre-Columbian collection. He works in the greenhouse with the orchids, and is a retired Smithsonian horticulturist.

Christine Blazina has worked for 12 years at Dumbarton Oaks as a docent coordinator. She is an experienced educator and will add to Keil's discussion on the history and design of the house and gardens. Don't miss this informative lecture.

**Also, please bring a plant or plant related material for the club's door prize table.**

**Refreshments will be welcome too. Please bring a sweet or savory delicacy to enjoy with others after the 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

The Holiday Party was a huge success. Everyone had a wonderful time despite the torrential down-pour. About 50 people contributed to the pot luck dinner and white elephant exchange.

During winter, reduce watering of leafy houseplants and cacti. Plants need a rest period and require less water when days are shorter. Pinch tips of begonia and geraniums if you brought them indoors to prevent them from becoming leggy. Water your poinsettia to maintain growth.

Remember not to use de-icing salts on walkways as it is harmful to plants. Use sand or kitty litter.

Consider purchasing a clivia plant which will bloom in late winter and doesn't mind dry air or dry soil. It can be grown in indirect light and likes being pot bound. It will produce clusters of bright orange or yellow flowers. Roots sometimes appear above the soil. The plant can summer outdoors in a shady or semi shady location.

### Greenhouse Committee by Bill Koppes

The trees planted by BGC at the Duckworth School include those in front of the property, the playground area in the rear, and in the wooded section that has a nature walk. Crimson King and October Glory Maples were planted in the playground area for shade. Ornamental plum and Dawn Redwood were also planted there. A Deodar Cedar tree will be added this winter.

In the wooded area Tupelo trees were planted as 10-15 inch saplings that will establish themselves as understory trees. They also are known for their value as an important source of food for wildlife and as a prolific producer of cavities for birds. They are also a good honey tree.

The nature walk is being replenished this year with wood chips. An initial deposit of chips was spread recently. A larger pile will be delivered soon and we would appreciate some help in distributing these on the path.

## October Talk on Edible Perennials

By Sandy Lange

October speaker Matt Cohen discussed a variety of edible plants that would grow in the average gardener's landscape. He noted that the black walnut tree is native to this area and will grow well along riverbanks. The Mulberry tree is drought-resistant and makes excellent jam. The Black Locust tree has tasty flowers which are edible for about two weeks. The Service-berry tree has fruit that tastes like blackberries, he said, and is also drought-resistant and native. The fruit of the American Persimmon tree must fall to the ground before it is edible. Otherwise it is too astringent. Other edible fruit trees are the Asian Persimmon, the common fig and the Paw-Paw, as well as the Russian Pomegranate and the Asian Pear.

Plants with edible fruit include the Black Raspberry, May Apple (only the fruit as other parts are poisonous), asparagus, Solomon's Seal (new shoots can be eaten raw, other parts are poisonous); milkweed shoots, flowers, buds and pods. However, the swamp and butterfly milkweed are not edible.

Edible weeds include wood sorrel (all parts), hairy bitter cress, choke weed and purslane.

## Seed Exchange Sponsored by Brookside And Washington Gardener Magazine

Swap seeds, vie for door prizes and listen to interesting speakers at Washington Gardener Magazine and Brookside Gardens' 7th Annual Seed Exchange on Saturday, January 28, 12:30—4 pm, at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton. You don't need seeds to exchange but, if you have seeds, place them in a re-sealable baggie, label with common and scientific name (if known), and designate plant requirements i.e. sun, shade, watering needs. Register at <http://issuu.com/washingtongardener/docs/seedexchange2012>. Cost is \$10 for Washington Gardener or Friends of Brookside Gardens members; \$15 for others.

## Registration Form

### Beltsville Garden Club

Invites You to Join Us for the

### SPRING TRIP TO DUMBARTON OAKS AND GREEN SPRING GARDENS

Thursday, May 17, 2012

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

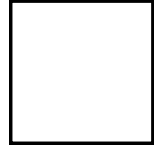
**Cost is \$70 per person which includes coach bus transportation, guided tour of the gardens, High Tea at Green Spring (this will be lunch), beverages & snacks.**

**Meet the bus at 8 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 5:30 p.m. Deadline for registration is Friday, May 10. 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

**January Events at Behnke's, Beltsville**  
**Saturdays, 10 a.m-4 pm.** Watch Korean Bonsai Master David Hong create Bonsai. Some for sale.  
**Jan. 21, 10 am-3 pm. Making Bath Bombs & Salts.** Explore principles of aromatherapy. Create a jar of bath salts with choice of essential oils. \$35.  
**Jan. 22, 2 pm. Build a Terrarium.** All supplies included. \$40. Also, at **2 pm, Forest Gardening with Lincoln Smith.** Free.  
**Jan. 28, 11 am. Growing Cacti & Succulents in Your Home.** Free. **12 noon. Growing Flowering Houseplants in Your Home.** Free.  
**Jan., 29. 1 pm. Making the Most of Your Vegetable & Herb Garden.** Free. **At 2 pm. Kitchen Herb Garden.** Create a container of herbs for your windowsill. \$25.  
**Sat., Jan. 28, 12:30-4 pm. 7th Annual Seed Exchange.** Brookside Gardens, Wheaton. Register at <http://issuu.com/washingtongardener/docs/seedexchange2012>. Fee is \$10 fee FOBG members & Washington Gardener subscribers.

## BGC Calendar of Events

**Wed., Jan. 11, 6:30 pm. Executive Committee Mtg.** Home of Helen & Bob Pechacek  
**Wed., Jan. 25, 7:30 pm. General Mtg. on *Dumbarton Oaks Historic Garden*,** David Keil & Christine Blazina, speakers. Duckworth School.  
**Wed., Feb. 2, 7:30 pm. Executive Committee Mtg.** Home of Marcy & Dan Marinelli.  
**Wed., Feb. 22, 7:30 pm. *Veggies in Your Flower Garden. Oh My!*** Miriam Mahowald, speaker. Duckworth School.  
**Wed., March 7, 7:30 pm, Executive Committee Mtg.**  
**Wed., March 28, 7:30 pm. *The Price of Liberty: Weeds.*** John Peter Thompson, speaker.  
**Wed., April 4, 7:30 pm. Executive Committee Mtg.**