



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 59 Number 1 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> January 2011

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.**

BGC General Meeting January 26

On Wednesday, January 26, at 7:30 pm, at the James Duckworth School, Beltsville, Kimberley M. Knox, Community Outreach Manager for Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, will speak on *Creating a Water-Conserving Landscape to Save Money and Time*.

Kim is the editor of *Landscaping for Water Conservation: Xeriscape!* and is responsible for coordinating WSSC's demonstration garden which highlights native plants for birds and butterflies. She will speak about the seven basic principles to incorporate into your landscape to ensure that you save water, money and time. Kim is also a member of the BGC

Door Prizes and Refreshments

You are encouraged to bring a garden-related door prize to the meeting. The following people signed up to bring refreshments in January: Sweets: Christine Masuoka, Mary Washington, Nita Nabors, Bill Koppes, Peggy Fields. Non-sweets: Nancy Perkins, Marcy Marinelli, Aileen Goldman. Fruit juice: Marcie Burroughs. Drinks: Sue Shawhan. Centerpiece: Joan Simons.

Did You Skip the Annual Holiday Party?

We missed seeing some of you at our Holiday Party on December 9. Tell us why you didn't come or what we can do to make it better next year. Contact Marcy at talkdoc.52@msn.com or Sandy at salange1940@yahoo.com. Give us your feedback on food, time, venue, etc.

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 News by Bill Koppes

A group from Prince George's County facilities arrived on January 7 to evaluate the installation job to be done on the greenhouse. Three of us on the committee were there that day and we outlined what would have to be done to restore our greenhouse operations. These include carpentry, electrical and plumbing tasks. The committee is also changing the tops of the benches from wood boards to a network of interlocking plastic grids. These allow for better drainage of the pots after watering and reduce algae growth that were safe harbors for insects and slugs.

There was a substantial loss of stock plants when the greenhouse collapsed last winter. We need to restore the diversity of our inventory. Cuttings taken from the following plants would help us: syngonium (aka nephthytis, arrowhead) - red/pink varieties; begonia; fuschia, fern-leafed, Benigo, rex, rhizomatous, cane types, basket types, unusual types; peperomia - especially unusual ones; also acalpa, pseudanthemum, alternanthera, fittonia, grape ivy, pilea varieties, rex begonia vine, plectranthus 'EmeraldLace', aeschynanthus, nematanthus, crossandra, and if you have leftover holiday cyclamen, amaryllis, or succulent plants we would be happy to have those also.

These donations can be brought to the January-March meetings, or directly to the greenhouse during school hours.

Gardening News & Tips by Sandy Lange

Did you notice the new turn signal at Evans Trail and Powder Mill Road? It makes driving to meetings at the Duckworth School much safer.

The BGC Plant Sales are scheduled for Saturday, April 9 and Saturday, May 7, at High Point High School. All vendors are club members so think about selling as you divide plants this spring.

Have you ever been attacked by your cactus plant when your finger pierced by one or more hair-like thorns? Remove these painful projections with a piece of scotch tape. **Remember to feed the birds during these cold winter days.**

Volunteers Needed By Marcy Marinelli

BGC has a long history of providing gardening knowledge and gardening fellowship to members of the community. We are fast approaching our 60th anniversary in 2012. The club has prospered because members have stepped forward to volunteer their time and talents to insure that the work of the club continues. As we enter the second half of our club year, we will be looking for volunteers (as well as nominations for officers) to help run the club in the 2011/2012 year. Officers and committee chairs attend a monthly executive meeting, usually about 2 hours, held at a board member's house, with socializing and refreshments after the meeting. Also, you'd need to attend the monthly general meeting. So for as little as 5 hours a month you can help move BGC into its next 60 years! New officers are elected in May. If you have questions, contact past president Sandy Lange or current president, Marcy Marinelli. Their phone numbers and e-mails are on page 2 of the newsletter.

U.S. Botanic Garden Production Facility

On Sat., March 12, the public is invited to see the U.S. Botanical Garden's growing facility, the largest greenhouse complex supporting a public garden in the United States. The site includes 85,000 square feet under glass divided into 34 greenhouse bays and 16 environmental zones. You'll see all of the USBG collection orchids, medicinal plants, insectivorous plants, and rare and endangered species. Times are 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Pre-register by calling 202-225-1116 or at www.usbg.gov. \$5 charge. Directions provided at registration.

New Orchid Exhibit Opens January 29

Orchids: A View from the East is the new exhibit at the Museum of Natural History in D.C. The theme celebrates the orchid in Chinese culture, reflecting its beauty and fragrance, and use as a symbol for nobility, friendship and refinement. An extravaganza of orchids will be displayed to show their use in Chinese art and culture, and in Chinese medicine. China and Taiwan are now mass cultivators of orchids that are distributed worldwide.

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.**

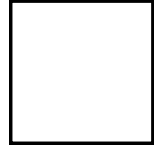
Meet the bus at 7:15 a.m., in the Calverton Towers Office Building Parking Lot, 11785 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville (just past the shopping center, office building has a blue roof). We return by 6 p.m. Deadline for registration is Monday, April 18, 2011. For information, contact Sandy Lange at 301-474-1402, e-mail at salange1940@yahoo.com or Carole Galati, 302-588-2743, e-mail at 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**

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P. O. Box 1953
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Garden Events

Sat., Jan. 29, 12:30-4 pm. *Washington Gardener Magazine's 6th Annual Seed Exchange* at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton.

Jan. 29-April 24, *Orchids: A View from the East*. Exhibit at Museum of Natural History. D.C. Free.

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.

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

BGC Calendar of Events

Wed., Jan. 26, 7:30 pm, *Creating a Water-Conserving Landscape to Save Money and Time*., Kimberley Knox, speaker, James Duckworth School.

Tues., Feb. 1, 7:30:pm, *BGC Executive Board Meeting*, Home of Bill & Sue Koppes.

Wed., Feb. 23, 7:30 pm, *General Meeting. Topic TBA*

Tues., March 1, *BGC Executive Board Meeting*, Home of Judy Shanefelter.

Wed., March 23, 7:30 pm. *General Meeting. Topic TBA*

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