



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 64 Number 1 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> January 2017

## Melissa Mackey's Reflections On Holiday Party

Thank you all for helping make a delightful evening. I have often thought back to it... We missed our friends who could not be there and they are in our hearts as much as those who were. I don't believe we have ever had so many hands to do so many different tasks as we saw in the preparation and set-up for this event. It is due to the energetic leadership of members like Lori Snyder and Sue Shawhan who have widened our circle in the last few years.

Thank you Sandy Lange for taking the time to make the invitation. Thanks to Victor Laczó for the new directory; now we know who to call!, and also to his lovely wife Patricia who helped with membership and name tags while Victor distributed the directories. Thanks to Sue Shawhan for the charming surprise entertainment. Watching the enthusiasm for music, history, personality, and performance from 13-year-old girls is so life-affirming and joyous. I loved every minute.

The poinsettias were lovely and Sue did so much to coordinate success. Thanks to Mary Ann Canter for hospitality. She and Lori knew what needed to be done and everything looked inviting. Thank you to Kiki Theodoropoulos for finding the punch bowl! and filling it so satisfactorily, for the appetizers, and for all the organizing. Many apologies for not noticing that Kiki was accidentally left off the Leadership group as an At Large member in the directory. Kiki, you are much appreciated always. Thanks to Carol Galati and her good friend for so much set-up help, especially with tablecloths.

Dorothy Cichra's boxwood tree was amazing. Thank you for sharing your talent to benefit the Scholarship Fund. So many other contributions of things and time were made by others and give us an appreciation of community. The wreath and Smithsonian poinsettia were welcome surprises. I apologize for not knowing/remembers all the names.

All the best to every member in 2017.

*Melissa Mackey, BGC President*

## January 25 Movie Night with Pots & Tools Swap

The next BGC program will be Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 7:30 p.m., at the Duckworth School. It will be a movie night with popcorn and hot cider and cocoa. We will watch the apple and tulip parts of the documentary "Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye-View of the World" based on the best-selling book by Michael Pollan.

To quote the book reviews, "In *The Botany of Desire*", Michael Pollan argues that there is an intimately reciprocal relationship between people and plants. In telling the stories of four familiar plant species that are deeply woven into the fabric of our lives, Pollan illustrates how they evolved to satisfy humankind's most basic yearnings -- and by doing so made themselves indispensable. For, just as we've benefited from these plants, the plants, in the grand co-evolutionary scheme that Pollan evokes so brilliantly, have done well by us. The sweetness of apples, for example, induced the early Americans to spread the species, giving the tree a whole new continent in which to blossom. So who is really domesticating whom?

Weaving fascinating anecdotes and accessible science into gorgeous prose, Pollan takes us on an absorbing journey that will change the way we think about our place in nature".

Following the showing of the film, we will engage in a pot and tool swap. Bring some nice plastic or ceramic pots that you are not using and exchange them for other garden-related items.

**Also, contributions of sweet or savory refreshments are always appreciated. Visitors are welcome. In case of bad weather and schools are closed, the January meeting is canceled.**

## 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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## BGC Membership Renewal

**Annual dues is \$10 per household per year. The membership year runs from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017. Renew NOW so you continue to receive monthly newsletters and invitations to special events such as the Peach Festival.**

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

**Mail to: P. O. Box 1953  
Beltsville, MD 20704-1953.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I am interested in serving on a committee:

\_\_\_\_ Publicity      \_\_\_\_ Plant Sales  
\_\_\_\_ Newsletter    \_\_\_\_ Membership  
\_\_\_\_ Hospitality    \_\_\_\_ Greenhouse

The BGC newsletter is sent electronically to everyone with an email address. If you do not have an email address, check below:

\_\_\_\_ I want to receive the newsletter *in the mail.*

### BGC Scholarship Fund

Consider donating to the BGC Scholarship Fund 2016/2017 for the benefit of a University of Maryland student enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Scholarship Donation Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

## **Greenhouse Report By Dorothy Cichra**

With great help from the students and aides who come from Parkdale High School and Maria Miles, the plants in the greenhouse are looking good. The students have been repotting, grooming, potting up cuttings and rooted plants, and washing pots. They also did most of the work getting the plants ready for the long holiday break - taking down the hanging baskets and placing them on the floor and putting most of the plants on plastic covered with paper to help keep them moist - and then restoring things to order after the break. Maria has been faithfully watering the plants once a week. Kathy Fitzgerald came in over the holidays to water.

The students did a sale at Parkdale (aided by some Best Buddies) in early December which was a great experience for them in giving change, interacting with the customers and talking about the plants. We hope to do another sale in winter at Parkdale and also one at Duckworth.

It is time to start seeds of vegetables and herbs for the spring sales. These take a lot of work and are sold at low prices so how many and which to grow are being reconsidered. If anyone has input or thoughts on this it would be appreciated.

When we are doing sales during late fall and winter houseplants and succulents (especially small ones which are sold to the students in "K-cups" at low prices) are the focus. Any donations of cuttings (or plants which can be used for cuttings or divisions) and small pots or "K-cups" would be appreciated.

**Volunteers to help at the greenhouse are always needed.**

## **February 22 Program on Garden Design**

BGC's February 22 program is titled: "5 Designer Secrets to Take Your Garden to the Next Level." In this talk, Carolyn Mullet will explore five key areas that will help you see your garden with fresh eyes. She will show us how to make our gardens more beautiful, comfortable, and functional.

## **Integrated Pest Management Is Earth-Friendly**

The University of Maryland Extension Services advises biological (e.g. natural enemies), cultural (e.g. planting disease resistant varieties), and physical (e.g. hand removal of insect pests) approaches to control pests and diseases at acceptable levels. Monitoring and using organic pesticides only when pest and/or disease levels are unacceptable are also part of this management approach.

## **Garden News and Notes by Sandra Lange**

Thanks to all the performers who sang at the BGC Holiday Party. They include Dana Graham, Madeline Graham, Liv Dussere, Mary Shawhan, and Val Graham. Thanks also to their families who brought them to highlight our evening. Thanks also to the Parkdale High School greenhouse volunteers who sold plants, raising \$205.50 to benefit Duckworth.

Like our BGC Facebook page [www.facebook.com/beltsvillegar](http://www.facebook.com/beltsvillegar). Another favorite garden site is [www.GardenRant.com](http://www.GardenRant.com). One of our members, Susan Harris, is a knowledgeable and prolific writer for this blog. Other writers come from all parts of the country and have a plethora of expertise on visiting gardens, growing plants, and garden design. To quote their site, it is "often pithy, hysterically funny, with poignant videos."

Always thought Hellebores were easy plants to grow and brighten our January/February gardens. Now, I learn that there is Hellebore black death, a virus spread by aphids feeding on infected plants. If your Hellebores have blackened leaf veins and black streaks on the flowers, dig them up and destroy.

Winter is a good time to prune maples, dogwoods, elm and walnut trees. For icy sidewalks and driveways, spread non-clumping kitty litter. Never use salt or chemicals which can harm your plants, trees and lawn.

For a garden "fix", attend *Washington Gardener* magazine's 12th Annual Seed Exchange on Saturday, January 28, 12:30-4 p.m., at Brookside Gardens. If you have seeds to exchange, bring at least 20 seeds in a plastic bag, labeled with name, color, and planting guide. Annuals, perennials, exotics and woodies are accepted. If you don't have seeds, attend anyway. There is always a lot to learn from speakers and plenty of seeds to share. This year, there also will be a crafting table as well as door prizes and goody bags.

The fee is \$20 for non *Washington Gardener* subscribers and \$15 for subscribers. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Save Our Monarchs Foundation. Register online at [WGSeedExchange-Brookside.brownpapertickets.com](http://WGSeedExchange-Brookside.brownpapertickets.com).

## HELP GROW OUR CLUB

BRING A GARDENING FRIEND TO THE

NEXT BGC MEETING

January 25, 2017

*Become a BGC Volunteer*

### Garden Events

**Through May 14. Smithsonian/U. S. Botanic Garden Annual Orchid Show** at the Hirshhorn Museum on the Mall. The Smithsonian Gardens and United States Botanic Garden 2017 Orchid Exhibition, showcases over 100 orchids in a limited-time display amidst the Hirshhorn's unique architecture. Selected from the collections of both Smithsonian Gardens and the U.S. Botanic Garden, these stunning blooms are presented as colorful time-based installations, constantly changing throughout the exhibition's four-month run. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the exotic assemblage as a whole as well as each orchid as it stands in that moment, and return again and again to enjoy the display as it evolves.

**Monday, February 13, Noon-1:30 p.m. Chocolate Decadence** cooking demonstration by sisters, Adrienne and Danielle Cook. The sisters will cook up an all chocolate dinner. Brookside Gardens Visitors Center. Fee is \$31 for FOGB members. Register in advance at [ActiveMontgomery.org](http://ActiveMontgomery.org).

### BGC Calendar of Events.

**Wednesday, January 25, 7:30 p.m. Documentary film, "Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye-View of the World"** based on the best-selling book by Michael Pollan. Also, Pot and Tool Exchange. Refreshments. Open to all members and their guests.

**Wednesday, February 22, 7:30 p.m. "5 Designer Secrets to Take Your Garden to the Next Level"** by Carolyn Mullet, Garden Designer.

**Wednesday, March 1, 7 p.m. BGC Executive Board Meeting**, Place TBA.

**Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m. "Understanding Soils and the Impact on Gardening"**. Scott Aker, U. S. Arboretum.

**Saturdays, April 22 & May 13, 8 a.m.-noon. BGC Plant Sales.**