



# Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 65 Number 1 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> January 2018

## Happy Faces at Our Holiday Party



## Three Members Present January Program

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 7:30 pm in the multi-purpose room of the Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville, MD.



Please join us for a program titled, "Members' Talk: Mosses to Wildlife Gardens to Photos of Past Club Trips." Sandy Lange will share with us her visit to Kokodera, a world-famous Japanese moss garden in Kyoto. Victor Laczó will share photos of a Wildlife Friendly Garden and Mary Clive will take us on a photo tour of past Beltsville Garden Club visits to gardens and arboretums.

**REMEMBER: PROGRAM IS ON THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF JANUARY**

You are encouraged to bring something to exchange: a plant, cutting, mazine or garden tool for the door prize table. Also, contributions of sweet or savory refreshments are appreciated.

Photos at left. Top: Peggy Field, Aileen Goldman, Helen Pechachek; Middle: Kathy Jentz and friends; Bottom: Elizabeth Olson and Martina Lydon.

Photo Above: Mary Clive, one of the January speakers.

*Photos by Doug Bolt*

## 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.

### Officers

#### President

Melissa Mackey 301-509-7629  
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Submit newsletter articles to Editor, 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or e-mail: salange1940@yahoo.com

## BGC Membership Renewal

**Annual dues is \$10 per household per year. The membership year runs from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. Renew NOW to continue to receive monthly email notices and invitations to special events such as the summer 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in serving on a committee:

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

### BGC Scholarship Fund

Please give a **tax-deductible donation** to the BGC Scholarship Fund for the benefit of a deserving University of Maryland student enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. BGC has contributed \$1,000 annually.

Suggested Donation: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

\$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Scholarship Fund Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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

**The *Maryland Grows Blog* posted the following reply to the question of whether expensive seeds are better than cheap seeds.**

The *Federal Seed Act* (1939) requires accurate labeling and purity standards for seeds in commerce and prohibits the importation and movement of adulterated or misbranded seeds. Seed packets in the commercial trade must have the species, cultivar, "year packed for" date, and meet federal minimum germination standards.

The Maryland Seed Law (1912) pre-dates the Federal law. The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Turf and Seed Section "conducts regulatory and service programs, including seed inspection, testing, certification and quality control services, designed to ensure the continued availability of high-quality seed to Maryland's seed consumers. Maryland's seed inspectors visit both retail and wholesale seed dealers throughout the state. Lots found in violation of the Maryland Seed Law are placed under a stop sale order until they are brought into compliance".

**Thus, cheap seeds must meet the same minimum germination standard as expensive seeds.**

Bindweed, which wraps itself around trees and shrubs, is one of the most difficult plants to get rid of because its rhizomes can reach as much as 20 feet underground. According to horticulturist Scott Aker, the best way to remove bindweed is with a nonselective herbicide containing glyphosate. Established plants may have to be sprayed throughout the growing season. Black plastic or cardboard can also be used to smother the root system.

Poinsettias are not considered poisonous, but it is probably best to keep small children and pets away from them. Many plants in the spurge family ooze a milky sap from leaves and stems that can cause irritation.

**Anyone interested in volunteering in the Greenhouse to work with the students, water, help take care of the plants, grow plants, sell plants or otherwise help out call Dorothy Cichra at 301-585-9827 or talk to her at the BGC meeting.**

## **Greenhouse News by *Dorothy Cichra***

Work in the greenhouse up to now has been focused on maintaining the plants that were carried over. We have up to four Parkdale High students coming in four days a week for about an hour. The students are all new this year as is the aide coming in with them so they have had to be taught what to do and how to do it. The aide has changed often this fall so it has been difficult to get into a rhythm. The students have a good attitude though and seem to be enjoying the experience. The plants are groomed regularly. The houseplants have been repotted while the scented geraniums have been repotted if needed and cut back. The cut off parts have been put in soil to see if they will root although this time of year that can be iffy. The tropical bedding /container type plants such as the plectranthus have been repotted and cut back.

The begonias Kathy Fitzgerald started from leaves/cuttings are growing well and will soon be ready to sell. The plants in general are looking good. We hope to do a sale at the school for the staff and bus drivers soon. The clivias which were donated by Doug Bolt and divided by a group of volunteers are looking good. Kathy repotted all the orchids which he also donated and she has been working to find buyers for them. We were given a very large spathiphyllum which Kathy divided.

The fall and winter is a difficult period in the greenhouse since the plants on the back of the benches by the baseboard heat get quite warm and often dry out while other parts of the greenhouse can be cold. We have no control over the heat other than with a small auxiliary electric heater hanging at one end of the greenhouse. The holidays also mean there are long stretches where we can't get into the school at all. In preparation for this the plants were put on newspaper on plastic to help keep the from drying out.

It is time to start seeds. I will probably do the usual vegetables and herbs. They take quite a bit of work and sell at a low price but people seem to enjoy buying them. I may try some in standard seed starting cells to save time and work. Maria continues to come in to water and help out. Kathy makes up soil mix as needed, buys supplies, fills in with watering when needed and does assorted other things that need doing.

## Potting Party

Suzette Agans, Melissa Mackey and



Joan Simon are repotting some of the clivia plants donated by BGC member Doug Bolt before he and wife Marie moved to Riderwood.



Kathy Fitzgerald, Dorothy Cichra and Victor Lacz also join the potting party. *Photos by Doug Bolt*

## Garden Events

**Free Talks at Behnke's: Saturday, January 27, 11 a.m.,** *Squirrels, Groundhogs and Rabbits*. **January 28, Noon,** *Terrariums and Container Gardening*. **February 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** *National Capital Orchid Society Orchid Auction*. Pre-register at Behnke's website: <http://behnkes.com/upcoming events/events-sign-up/>

**Saturday, January 27, 12:30-4 p.m.** *Washington Gardener Seed Exchange*. Brookside Gardens. Register at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3210705>. \$15 for Washington Gardener subscribers. \$20 at the door. Limited to 100 registrants.

## BGC Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.** *Members' Talk: Mosses to Wildlife Gardens and Photos of Past Club Trips*. Sandy Lange will share with us her visit to Kokodera, a world-famous Japanese moss garden in Kyoto. Victor Lacz will share photos of a Wildlife Friendly Garden and Mary Clive will take us on a photo tour of past BGC visits to gardens and arboretums..

**Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.** *TBA*

**Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.** *Perennials*, Richard Olsen, Director, U. S. National Arboretum.

**Saturdays, April 21 & May 12, 8 a.m.** *BGC Plant Sales*, High Point High School.

**Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.,** *Native Terrestrial Orchids*, Dennis Whigham, Founding Director, North American Orchid Conservation Program.

**Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.,** *Daylilies*, Christopher Von Kohn, U. S. National Arboretum.

*All programs are held at the James Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville. Programs are free and open to the public. Contributions of refreshments and door prizes are appreciated.*

**Donations of plants to the BGC Greenhouse and/or to the Scholarship Fund are tax-deductible.**

