



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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Spring Trip on June 1 to Maymont Mansion and Gardens, Richmond, VA

Join BGC members on Thursday, June 1, for a special tour to Maymont Mansion and Gardens. The fairy tale mansion built in 1893 is surrounded by 100 acres of luxurious landscapes highlighted by a classical Italian garden. Maymont is a diverse landscape with rose arbors, bowers, specimen trees, a cave grotto, an ornamental lawn, herb garden and a native Virginia garden. There is also a Japanese Garden, an Arboretum, Nature and Visitor Centers.

The opulent Romanesque Revival-style mansion has 33 rooms and features a Swan Bed, 15-foot high Tiffany windows, and many treasures of the Gilded Age. Tour includes the behind-the-scenes areas where the skilled domestic staff worked as well as the grandeur upstairs rooms.

In early June, we can expect to see rhododendrons, azaleas, roses, waterlilies, daylilies, laburnum, lots of other perennials and blooming annuals.

Trip cost includes a horticulturist-led walking tour of the gardens, guided tour of the mansion, box lunch, snacks on the bus and coach transportation. Bus departs from the Calverton Shopping Center, Beltsville, at 7:30 a.m. and returns to Beltsville by 6:00 p.m. Sign up form is on page 2. For more information, contact salange1940@yahoo.com.

Door Prizes and Refreshments

Please bring something to exchange: a plant, cutting, garden tool or magazine. Bring something, take something! Also, please bring something sweet or savory for the refreshment table. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Scott Aker is BGC's March Speaker

The BGC will meet on Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 pm in the multi-purpose room of the Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville.

Please join us for a program titled, "Nutrients Aren't Plant Food!" In this talk, Scott Aker will discuss how healthy plants require many of the elements found on the periodic chart to grow and develop properly. Amounts are important, and plants may even be particular about the form in which the nutrients are delivered and when. We'll examine the signs and symptoms of the most common nutrient deficiencies, learn how different soil systems store nutrients and make them available to plants or tie them up, dig into the misconceptions surrounding one nutrient in particular, and learn about those times when nutrients can be detrimental to the plant.

Scott Aker is Head of Horticulture and Education at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington DC. He manages curators, technicians, educators, and horticulturists and provides oversight for some of the most notable plant collections in North America. He earned his Master's Degree in Horticulture from the University of Maryland and his Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota. A native of the Black Hills of western South Dakota, Aker served for a short time with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service in Howard County, MD after completing his Master's thesis.

Aker wrote *Digging In*, a weekly garden question and answer column in the *Washington Post*. He now writes *Garden Solutions*, a column in *The American Gardener* magazine.

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

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB Spring Trip To Maymont Mansion and Gardens

Thursday, June 1, 2017

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

email _____

Lunch: Vegetarian ___ Non-vegetarian ___

Cost is \$85 per person which includes coach bus transportation, guided tour of Maymont Mansion and Gardens, lunch, beverages & snacks. Following the guided tours, and lunch in the Stone Barn, you will have leisure time to stroll the gardens, visit the Nature Center, and commune with the farm animals.

Meet the bus at 7:15 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). Park in the rear parking lot. We return by 6 p.m. Deadline for registration is May 22. For information, contact Sandy Lange at 301-474-1402 or e-mail at 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**

Greenhouse Report *By Dorothy Cichra*

The Parkdale High students -Sherry, Samson, Ahmed, Sunita, and aides, Ms. Collins and Ms. Kitt, have been very busy repotting, potting up cuttings, potting up plants in baskets, and grooming. Sometimes it is challenging keeping them busy but they seem to enjoy it and hopefully are learning from it. With their help, Dorothy has more time for working with the more delicate plants, checking for insects, planting seeds and repotting seedlings. Melissa Mackey and Sherry recently potted up silenes that had self seeded in the area used for vegetable gardening.

The students and aides had a plant sale at Parkdale early in February. The emphasis was on small, less expensive plants that the students could buy without spending much money. The students gained experience talking to the "customers", answering questions and dealing with money. We had many small succulents for the sale. Having the students work at the greenhouse adds another dimension to the BGC effort in addition to growing and selling plants to earn money for Duckworth and providing plants for various occasions.

Seeds have been started and many are growing well. There are peppers, tomatoes and eggplants (just started), some perennials, a few herbs and some sensitive plants. With the erratic temperatures lately and our lack of control over the temperatures in the greenhouse and potting room (where the light gardens are located that are used for cuttings and seeds) it can be a challenge. Help at the greenhouse is always appreciated as are donations of pots or things that can be used as pots for small plants, cuttings. Ideas for things to grow are also appreciated.

February Speaker Focused on Landscape Design

Carolyn Mullet presented her five designer secrets for creating an interesting and unified landscape. She stated that the first design principle is to plan your open spaces. Usually, the open spaces are lawn areas and might be circular or oval in shape. Second, define areas that are tucked away so you are surprised when you enter them. Third, plant tall trees or shrubs followed by smaller shrubs, and finally low growing plants. Fourth, create a diversified skyline with plants of various sizes in the background. And, last, establish focal points in the garden such as a stone planter or sculpture or water feature. To see more ideas by Ms. Mullet, go to carexdesign.com or her Facebook page at [facebook.com/gdbycm](https://www.facebook.com/gdbycm), Ms Mullet also offers tours of European gardens.

Garden News and Notes *By Sandra Lange*

Although the Smithsonian has collected about \$9,000 in donations to address the damage incurred by the Women's March in January, it is estimated that \$100,000 will be needed to restore the gardens along the National Mall. If you would like to donate to the garden recovery, go to <https://www.si.edu/giving/donate-now/unit?id=109>.

Birds carry beneficial microbes on their feet. So, when birds visit your bird feeder and poop in your garden, they are adding microbial particles to the soil and helping your plants survive.

Sheer hollies around mid-March to increase density of spring growth. Also, prune roses. Prune oak trees while they are still dormant to avoid incidences of disease. The U. S. National Arboretum advises that pruning oak trees from April to July should be avoided. Repot house plants and increase watering. Divide perennials i.e. hosta. Check for bagworms and remove.

On Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., there is a Seed Swap and Gardening Expo at Watkins Nature Center, Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro. The program will feature community, school and home gardening leaders, plant experts and a community gardener's panel. There will be activities for youth and adults, a seed swap, free gardening information, giveaways, door prizes, as well as container and vertical gardening demonstrations. If you have seeds to swap, bring them.

Amelia Loeb is the BGC University of Maryland scholarship recipient this year. She will be recognized at a Scholarship Reception on March 29 hosted by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Amelia is a junior Horticulture and Crop Production major. She stated that the \$1,000 scholarship helped her to focus on her schoolwork so that she didn't have to work three jobs as she did last year. Amelia's goal is to create a localized food chain through a farm to grocery store initiative.

The BGC Scholarship Fund is much appreciated by Amelia and other worthy students. Put a few dollars in the Donation Box at the BGC meetings to increase our support.

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.

Saturday, March 11 to Sunday, March 19. *Philadelphia Flower Show*. Philadelphia Convention Center. See website for tickets or join a group tour.

Saturday, March 11. *Special Event: U.S. Botanic Garden Production Facility Open House*

Rarely does the public get to see the growing facility, the largest greenhouse complex supporting a public garden in the United States. The site, completed in 1994, includes 85,000 square feet under glass, divided into 34 greenhouse bays and 17 environmental zones. In addition to foliage and nursery crops, you'll see all of the USBG collection not currently on display, including orchids, medicinal plants, carnivorous plants, and rare and endangered species. Register for one of the open house times to get a brief orientation to the facility, meet the gardeners, ask questions, and wander through this working wonderland of plants. Please note: Limit of 50 people per entry time. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. No registrations will be taken at the door. Doors open 15 minutes prior to entry time. The Open House ends at 2:30 p.m.

ENTRY TIMES: 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: USBG Production Facility (directions can be found with online listing) **Friend: \$5; Non-members: \$10** Register online now! www.usbg.gov

Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. & Sunday, March 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. *Orchid Show & Sale*. Brookside Gardens Visitors Center. Wheaton.

Saturday, April 22. *Earth Day*. See local media to determine what activities you might enjoy participating in.

Sunday, April 23. 12-4 p.m. *Earth Day Festival Plant Sale*. Brookside Gardens Visitors Center.

BGC PLANT SALES

8 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, April 22

And

Saturday, May 13

**High Point High School
Parking Lot**

Contact Melissa Mackey, 301-509-7629, or email mmackey@pgcp.org if you have questions about becoming a vendor at one or both Plant Sales. Otherwise, vendors just show up with your plants and table by 7:30 a.m.

BGC Calendar of Events.

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

Wednesday, April 5, 7 p.m. *BGC Leaders' Meeting*. Home of Sandy and David Lange, 12 Pinecrest Court, Greenbelt.

Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. *Growing, Harvesting, and Preparing Therapeutic Herbs for Self Care*. Donna Koczaja, speaker.

Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m. *Franciscan Monastery Gardens*. Patricia Cunniff, speaker. Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild. Tour of the Monastery gardens to be scheduled for June. More information in the April newsletter.