



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 66 Number 1 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> March 2019

Spring Trip to Ladew Gardens on May 15

Join BGC members on Wednesday, May 15, for the spring trip to Ladew Topiary Gardens in Monkton, Md. (See Page 2 for Sign-Up Form.) The “little” Harvey Ladew (1887-1976) said he knew about gardening, now covers 22 acres of formal gardens and reflects his style, elegance and sense of humor. In 1929, at the age of 43, foxhunting drew him to this 200+ acre property in rural Maryland.

In addition to the English-inspired garden rooms including the [Rose Garden](#), [Pink Garden](#) and [Yellow Garden](#), to name a few, off two long-vista cross axes, there are over 100 topiaries on the property. Ladew’s introduction to topiary came early one morning while riding to a hunt in England. As he rode alongside a tall yew hedge bordering a large estate, he was astonished to see sculpted out of the



top of the hedge several hounds chasing a fox! He wrote that he knew he would never be happy if he “could not reproduce this marvelous piece of living sculpture in his garden...” And in true Ladew fashion, not only did he re-create [the fox and hounds](#), he also added [two riders and their horses](#).

Don’t miss this special spring tour of the famous Ladew Topiary Gardens.

It Could Have Been an Embassy

The Past, Present, and Future of the American Horticultural Society’s River Farm

Please join us on Wednesday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the James Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, to hear Dan Scott, Associate Director for Horticulture at River Farm, discuss the exciting history of River Farm, the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society. Along the way, he will share his favorite plants for the DC region, and tips and tricks for the home gardener. He will also share a glimpse of what is to come for River Farm.

Mr. Scott grew up in rural Ohio. He has a degree from Hiram College, interned at the Cleveland Botanic Garden, and has been the Historic Landscape Manager at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. Working under Dean Norton, Dan managed about 400 acres of historic landscapes, naturalized areas, native plantings, and woodlands. He supervised installation of the landscapes at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. Since May of 2017, he has been the Associate Director of Gardens and Facilities at the American Horticultural Society’s River Farm, a place he says is near and dear to his heart.

The public is welcome, admission is free. Contributions of a plant or plant-related item for the door prize table, and a refreshment to share are appreciated.

Condolences

We were saddened to hear of the passing of long-time member Elaine Jones. We extend our sympathy to her husband John Henry Jones and to her family.

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
melissahmackey@gmail.com

Vice President

Sue Shawhan
sue@shawhans.us

Co-Treasurers

Joan Simons & Albert Nunez
joanesimons@gmail.com

Secretary

Open

Committee Chairpersons

Greenhouse

Dorothy Cichra
dcichra@verizon.net

Hospitality

Mary Washington

Membership & Electronic Newsletter

Victor Laczó
vlaczó@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Sandra Lange
salange1940@yahoo.com

Publicity

Open

Webmaster

Ron Sabatini
saba22033@gmail.com

Member At Large

Kiki Theodoropoulos

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

Beltsville Garden Club Spring Trip

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Ladew Topiary Gardens

Monkton, MD

- 7:45 a.m. Board Bus
8:00 a.m. Bus Departs IKEA, College Park
10:00 a.m. Guided Tour of Gardens & Manor House
11:00 a.m. Guided Tour of Manor House & Gardens
12 Noon Lunch at Ladew Café & Explore Gardens on Your Own
3:00 p.m. Depart for Putnam Hill Nursery
4:30 p.m. Return Trip to IKEA, College Park
6:00 p.m. Arrive at College Park

Cost is \$85 per person, which includes coach bus transportation, guided tour of the English-inspired topiary gardens and Harvey S. Ladew Manor House, lunch at the Ladew Café with a choice of sandwich or salad, chips, beverage and dessert. We will stop at Melanie Ruckle's Putnam Hill Nursery to shop for hard-to-find cultivars. Beverages and snacks on the return bus trip.

Meet the bus at 7:45 a.m. at the IKEA parking lot on the side of the building near the main entrance, which is next to the covered parking access. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ No. Persons _____

Make check payable to Beltsville Garden Club. Mail check and registration form to: Joan Simons
803 Thayer Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

For information, contact Joan Simons at 202-271-5001 or e-mail at joanesimons@gmail.com

Invitation to Jim Dronenberg's Garden

Dan and I are having an Open Garden at our house, 3536 Cemetery Circle, Knoxville, MD 21758, on Saturday March 23, rain date Sunday March 24. 9 a.m. to whenever. There will be munchies and desserts. The world is invited, *as long as they RSVP to 2rutlands@comcast.net*. The 6 Prunus mume which should have been in bloom three weeks ago are still in tight bud, the 12 wintersweet bushes are almost all still in tight bud, most of the spring snowdrops are not yet open AND we have something like 400 clumps of hellebores. There should be a good show from the Eranthis also, and we may see the Helleborus thibetanus blooming. In addition, I will have some plants available to buy.

DIRECTIONS: Set your GPS to 3542 Cemetery Circle, Knoxville MD, 21758. This is the stone house up the hill; they have more parking than we do and are graciously allowing us to use their uphill area. To come from DC and points north—take your best route to Frederick, MD and from there take Rte 340 W/Route 15 S. Go approximately 14 miles, staying on Rte. 340 when Rte. 15 splits off to the left. Exit at Rte 17. There is only one ramp. At the top, go around the traffic circle, cross 340, and at the circle on the other side, take the **FIRST** exit. You will leave with Sheetz gas on the left, and McDonalds on your right. This is Rte. 180. Go approximately 1.5 miles. At the end, you will come down a long slope and into Knoxville. Go very slowly. Houses are on the right set back behind little bridges, then two houses right **AT** the road with two-story porches, then a tiny little stone AME Zion church and then a tiny little alley. That is Cemetery Road. Turn right, go 1/10 mile up the hill, **DISREGARD** “Cemetery Circle” just behind the church. **DO NOT GO THERE.** At the 1/10 mile mark, Cemetery goes sharply up and right. Go up the slope and take the first driveway on the left, to a stone house. This is 3542, where we are having people park. **DO NOT PARK ON THE DRIVE OR IN FRONT OF THE GARAGE.** Go halfway in the driveway and you will see a ramp going up to a grassy parking area. Park, and walk down the hill past the stone house, to our brick and frame farmhouse. If lost, call 301 834 6515 and we can talk you in.

Greenhouse News By Dorothy Cichra

One of the Duckworth teachers, Ms Collins, has been bringing some of her students in to water, wash pots, and repot plants. They seem to enjoy it. One of the other teachers has started bringing her students in also but their opportunities during the winter are limited since they are in wheelchairs. They have been able to water plants in the potting room and repot some. Before the weather got cold they were able to water outside and they planted some tulip bulbs that the Duckworth principal bought. It is good to see the Duckworth students getting involved in various ways with the greenhouse. Melissa Mackey has been repotting plants and watering when needed. Maria has continued watering and grooming. Kathy Fitzgerald has made soil, repaired lights that were not working and ordered supplies.

With money from an anonymous donor, Kathy has replaced or repaired several light fixtures. Now, all the lights are working. They are being used for starting vegetable, herb and flower seedlings, for succulent cuttings, for starting cuttings and gesneriads.

We also are growing perennials started from seeds or cuttings and some shrubs that were started from cuttings. Most of them have spent the winter in the courtyard under plastic. There is a large selection of small succulents which will be used for dish gardens and there are many jade plants which were started from donated cuttings or plants obtained from someone who was moving. The herbs which were carried over will be used for cuttings, divided or repotted as appropriate. When the weather warms up herbs in the courtyard (mostly mint but also some leaf fennel) will be potted up.

In general work is being done to prepare for the spring sales. There is always more that can be done and any volunteers are more than welcome. It can be a one-time effort, coming occasionally or coming on a regular basis.

News From Melissa Mackey, BGC President

Many thanks to BGC members Lynn Title and Elizabeth Ogden for their engaging presentations for the February "Members Speak" program. The stone walls Lynn built herself framed plant groupings that are clever and interesting. The lush denseness, she explained, prevents weeds and includes carefully curated and seasonal constellations of bloom, color, and texture. Her plant list is appreciated.

Elizabeth Ogden surprised us with her story of how a volunteer work visit provided inspiration to build her own greenhouse/market business to support a community development project in an Appalachian region of Kentucky. She has quietly worked to provide this generous gift to others for many years. The photos from Kentucky and of the Jack Creek Plants greenhouses were wonderful and allowed us to see beyond the farmers market to the origins of the plants and why she grows them. We enjoyed Robin Everly's contribution to the talk with her account of supporting Elizabeth at plant sales.

We welcome member vendors to share the products of their talent and horticultural skill on two Saturdays, April 20 and May 11, and look forward to being their customers. Please mark your calendars! Remember, the sales start at 8 a.m. sharp and plants disappear quickly.

A much-appreciated donation of \$300 has provided new lights for plant tables in the Duckworth greenhouse workroom. Thanks to Kathy Fitzgerald's purchase of lights and materials and her building skills employed to create a frame, the lights are now installed over vegetable seedlings, cuttings that are rooting, and succulents. Kathy says it is amazing how fast and well plants grow with adequate light.

Board of Directors vacancies will be announced at the April general meeting and nominations will be voted on at the May meeting. Please consider volunteering to be on the board. Positions to be voted on are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Other positions are Publicity, Newsletter and Membership.

BGC Programs—2018-2019

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m. *It Could Have Been An Embassy: The Past, Present and Future of River Farm.* Dan Scott, Associate Director, Gardens and Facilities, American Horticultural Society, River Farm, Alexandria, VA. May/June tour of River Farm. Date TBA.

Saturdays, April 20 & May 11, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
BGC Plant Sales, High Point High School

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. *Irises for the Long Bloom*, Carol Warner. Tour to be scheduled.

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. *From the Ground Up*. Jim Dronenburg. **Jim and Dan are hosting an Open Garden on Saturday, March 23, 9 a.m. to whatever. Rain date is Sunday, March 24. See details on page 3.**

Garden News and Notes by Sandy Lange

Reminder: BGC dues year begins in September. If you have not paid your 2018-2019 dues, please send your check to the BGC post office box or bring your payment to the next meeting. If you are not sure whether or not you are paid up, please contact the membership chairman, Victor Laczó, at vlaczó@hotmail.com.

Vendors are needed for the April 20 and May 11 plant sales. All vendors must be BGC members. To publicize in the April newsletter the plants that will be offered for sale, contact Sandy Lange at salange1940@yahoo.com.

Donations of plants, gardening books and other garden related items are also needed for the BGC table at the plant sales. Proceeds from these sales benefit the Scholarship Fund. Bring donations to the April 20 Plant Sale and the May 11 Plant Sale. Note that the times for the plant sales are 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Volunteers are needed for help in setting up the tables at 7:30 a.m. Also, contact Melissa Mackey at melissahmackey@gmail.com or 301-509-7629 if you have a van or truck and are able to assist in transporting greenhouse plants to the plant sales.