



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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Good News on the New Greenhouse

by Bill Koppes

When we returned to the school after the May 8 plant sale, we were encouraged to see the broken glass and bent aluminum struts of the snow damaged greenhouse being taken away by the Greenhouse Special Services Company. We were told that our Janco greenhouse is going to be replaced by a fully-equipped Lord and Burnham greenhouse. With access to automated misters and other systems in a functioning greenhouse, we can return to producing the quality plants that will interest our community of buyers.

The plants for the May plant sale were largely generated from seed this year since our stock plants were lost when the greenhouse roof collapsed this past winter. We used fluorescent light fixtures donated by club members over the years to generate new plants in the room that we previously used to create new plants from rooted cuttings taken from stock plants.

Our propagators, Kathy Fitzgerald and Dorothy Cichra, were also involved in this process at their homes. The result was five tables, 75 sq. ft., of herbs, vegetables, and flowers. It looked like we hardly missed a beat in our plant production. Of course, on closer inspection you would recognize the difference between these seedlings and the more mature plants of previous plant sales that came from cuttings.

Door Prizes

Please remember to bring a plant or garden item for the door prize table. This is our last general meeting until the August Peach Festival.

May 26 General Meeting

The BGC general meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 pm**, in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School. Our guest speaker will be **Joshua Nadler** whose topic is **"Mitigating Tree Hazards from Snowmagedon"**. During the winter of 2010 our area had the snowiest year on record. This caused unforeseen tree care complications that are not usually experienced on an annual basis. Nadler will discuss the strategies regarding tree "clean up" that were used by the University of Maryland. He will also discuss arboricultural topics of which homeowners should be aware including how to prepare for record snow accumulations. He will also identify tree species that are particularly acceptable to heavy snow loads.

Nadler enjoys promoting and discussing trees and shrubs for the ornamental landscape with emphasis on the newer selections. He became a certified arborist in 2004. The *Kindred Spirit* hybrid oak is a tree on which he holds a patent.

May 26 Hospitality

Thanks to Mary Washington, Christine Masouka, Judy Erickson, Nancy Perkins, Sue Shawhan and Sue Koppes for the April refreshments. Thanks to Joan Simons for bringing the beautiful centerpiece of azaleas from her late father's garden. **For May, bringing sweets** are Sandy Lange, Cyndi and Maggie Schmidt, Mary Ann Canter, Lorraine Aldridge, Susan Birge. **Bringing non-sweets** are Judy Shanefelter, Mary Washington and Lori Snyder. Call Helen Pechacek at 301-384-2415 if you can bring a centerpiece.

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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Volunteers Needed for Native Plant Areas

If you attended our April meeting, you were treated to a very interesting presentation about Chesapeake Natives. Our speaker, Dr. Christopher Puttock, discussed native plants for gardens in shade, sun or damp conditions that utilize plants native to our area. The advantage of native plants is that they have lived in a particular habitat for hundreds, if not thousands, of years and have adapted to the particular ecosystem and its pests and predators.

Dr. Puttock is director of Chesapeake Natives which has three demonstration gardens: one at the University of Maryland, one in Takoma Park, and one in Annapolis. They are in need of volunteers so if you have an interest in working with this organization and learning more about native plants, check out their website at www.chesapeake natives.org. Volunteers with Chesapeake Natives often get seeds and plants in exchange for their services.

Attend Riversdale Garden Party on May 23

BGC members are invited to Riversdale House Mansion's Garden Party, a free celebration of gardening past and present, on Sunday, May 23, at 3:15 p.m.

Begun in 1801, Riversdale was home to Rosalie Stier Calvert and her husband George Calvert. Rosalie enjoyed a lifelong love of gardening, a legacy that has been treasured and preserved. Share the legacy as you learn about new projects taking place in Riversdale's interpretive garden. Mingle with fellow local gardening clubs as you take part in activities, specialized tours of the house and historic kitchen garden and orchard, and enjoy a foodways demonstration in the open hearth dependency kitchen.

Optional house tours begin at 2:15 p.m. Garden party festivities begin at 3:15 p.m. Riversdale is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD. **RSVP by Monday, May 17 to 301-864-0420.** Light refreshments will be served.

Growing Heirloom Tomatoes

Are you tired of growing hybrid tomatoes? If so, consider the heirlooms being promoted by several seed companies. W. Atlee Burpee has introduced a variety called Tye-Dye, a red and yellow marbled tomato that it says is not only flavorful but also has bigger yields, consistent form and is disease resistant. Park Seed Co. promotes a ribbed tomato called Country Taste as having a "meaty, flavorful, tangy bite of yesterday's tomatoes without the poor disease resistance..." Territorial Seed Co., offers Golden San Marzano, a yellow version of San Marzano, which is a classic heirloom plum tomato.

Unlike hybrids, seeds from heirloom tomatoes will grow to look like the parent. Home gardeners prize the weird shapes, funky colors and rich flavors of heirlooms in contrast to the uniform shapes and colors of the hybrids. Other heirlooms to consider include Ceylon, a ribbed red variety; Black Cherry, a maroon cherry; Flamme, a globe shape; Yellow Peach; Red Rose; Gold Medal and Opalka. Space plants 5 feet apart and water infrequently, but deep.

Seeking A Host for the Peach Festival

Are you interested in showing off your garden this summer? If so, consider hosting the annual Peach Festival held in August. BGC provides the drinks, the peaches and ice cream. Members bring a covered dish to share. Everyone has fun at this special event. If you are interested in hosting the Peach Festival, contact Marcy Marinelli at 301-937-3683 or e-mail her at Talkdoc52@msn.com.

BGC Directory to be Published Soon

In the fall BGC will be publishing a new directory of members' names, addresses and phone numbers. New members are encouraged to pay their dues as early as possible for the next membership year (2010-2011) in order to have their names included in the new directory. Fill out the form on this page and mail to BGC.

BGC Membership Renewal

Annual dues is \$10 per household per year. The next membership year runs from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011. **Renew NOW for the next membership cycle.**

**Please make your check payable to:
Beltsville Garden Club.**

**Mail to:
Beltsville Garden Club
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

Check only one:

____ I want to receive the newsletter **by e-mail.**

____ I want to receive the newsletter **in the mail.**

BGC Scholarship Fund

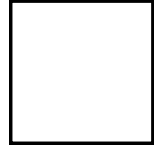
Consider donating to the BGC Scholarship Fund 2011 for the benefit of a University of Maryland student enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Scholarship Donation Enclosed: _____

Dues Amount Enclosed: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Beltsville Garden Club
P. O. Box 1953
Beltsville, MD 20704-1953



Gardening Events

Sun., May 23, 3:15 pm, Riversdale's House Museum Garden Party, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park. Free.

Friday, May 21, 11 am-2pm. Endangered Species Day. Presentation & tours showcase issues around our disappearing wildlife. U.S. Botanic Gardens, Washington, D.C.

May 29-June 13, 10 am-4 pm. Art Blooms: Satsuki Azalea Bonsai. National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. Blossoms on late blooming azaleas. U.S. Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

To September 19, daily, 10 am-4 pm. Wings of Fancy Butterfly Show, Brookside Gardens Conservatory, \$6, ages 13 & up; \$4, ages 3-12. Call 301-962-1453; **Sat. & Sun., June 26 & 27, Lily Show**, to 5 pm, Brookside Gardens Visitors' Center, Wheaton, MD

BGC Calendar of Events

Wed., May 26, 7:30 pm, Mitigating Tree Hazards from Snowmagedon, Josh Nadler, Arborist, Facilities Management, UMD

Tues., August 3, 7:30 pm, BGC Executive Board Meeting, Home of Marcy & Dan Marinelli

August (exact date & place to be determined)
BGC Peach Festival

Nominees for the BGC Executive Board

To be voted on at the May General Meeting:
President: Marcy Marinelli
Vice President: Joan Simons
Treasurer: Bob Pechacek
Secretary: Judy Shanefelter
Nominations will be accepted from the floor.