



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 58 Number 8 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> November 2010

Fall Stroll Through the Wooded Hillock

Seventeen BGC members and friends met on a beautiful fall afternoon at the University of Maryland for a personalized tour of the Wooded Hillock. Dr. Sara Tangren, founding president and Director of Research at Chesapeake Natives, Inc., also showed off the native plant garden in front of the UMD greenhouse. The garden is maintained by Chesapeake Natives. She then led the walk through the 22.4 acre wooded hillock near the greenhouse

Tangren discussed the geology of the area, noting that the group was standing on terrain that was over 100 million years old. The crest of the hillock still shows tree damage caused by the tornado that tore through the University campus several years ago.

Photo: BGC members and friends hike the wooded hillock. Photo taken by Steve Tuttle, Tuttle & Tuttle Photography, www.springtimelove.com.

Holiday Party on Wednesday, Dec. 8

All members are invited to the Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m., at the James Duckworth School, Beltsville. The club will provide drinks, appetizers and all paper products. Members are asked to bring a main dish, vegetable, salad or dessert to serve 8 people. Members who invite guests should plan to bring a dish serving 10 people. Food may be reheated in the microwave only.

Each family also is encouraged to bring a holiday centerpiece to decorate the tables. The centerpieces will be the door prizes. There will be only one door prize per family.

In case of inclement weather, and public schools are closed on December 8, the Holiday Party will be held Wednesday, December 15. If anyone needs a ride to the party, contact Marcy Marinelli at 301-937-3683. Membership directories also will be handed out at the party.



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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Gteenhouse News by Bill Koppes

Plants from outside storage have been moved to the greenhouse. Unfortunately there is no heat yet. The inspection of the baseboard heaters by the county facility services will hopefully occur soon. The hot water pressure was shut off after the roof collapse last winter. There is likely damage from expanding ice in the pipes. The contractor did install a supplementary electric heater, but it is not wired to a power source. This also would require work by the county facilities service personnel. The good news is that we will have our shading upgraded to include the option of having more extensive coverage, with control of the area of shading by access to outside control cords. The motors to lift the vents were upgraded also. Previously only one undersized motor *slowly* lifted the glass with much audible protest. The remaining electric and plumbing work will be done by the county. Our concern now is with what priority.

Gardening News & Tips by Sandy Lange

Mark your calendars for *Washington Gardener* magazine's 6th Annual Seed Exchange on Saturday, January 29, 2011, 12:30-4 p.m. at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton. The seed exchange will include seed swapping, door prizes, planting tips and gardening workshops. Details are at www.WashingtonGardener.com.

During the winter months, do not fertilize plants you brought indoors until they show signs of new growth. Fertilize hibiscus, flowering maples (abutilon) and other tropical shrubs brought indoors at half strength every fourth watering. Water outdoor plants if there is a long dry spell. Water the compost pile too. Prune overgrown boxwoods and evergreens lightly for holiday wreaths and swags. Xmas cactus needs 6-8 weeks of uninterrupted darkness each day if it is to bloom during the holidays. Temperatures should be 50-55 degrees F even at night. Once the plant sets buds, you can bring it out of the dark room. Keep it cool and water when dry.

Talk About Native Bees by Sandy Lange

Nikki Thompson, a member of BUMBA (Bowie and Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Assoc.) spoke at the October BGC meeting on **"Native bees: Keeping Bees in Your Garden"**. Nikki has kept honeybees at her home garden since 2002.

Highlights of her talk include the following:

- ◆ Only the female bee has a stinger;
- ◆ Bee tongues are all different, some tubular and some bushy;
- ◆ Bees have highly-developed, hairy hind legs to carry pollen;
- ◆ Pollen is the bee's protein source;
- ◆ Nectar is the bee's energy source;
- ◆ Only female bees have pollen-collecting apparatus;
- ◆ Solitary bees comprise 72.2% of the population; social bees 4.6% and parasitic bees 23.2%;
- ◆ Parasitic bees lay their eggs on another bee's nest, sometimes killing the other bee;
- ◆ Honey bees come out on any warm day in winter;
- ◆ Bees are most active March 15-October 15;
- ◆ Bees live everywhere from the arctic to the desert;
- ◆ Native bees work harder and longer than non-native bees;
- ◆ Bees will live anywhere there are flowers;
- ◆ Each bee species tells a different story about the health of the environment;
- ◆ Going native with landscaping promotes more bee activity in the habitat;
- ◆ Bees prefer open areas and sloping banks with some deep sand and bare soil;
- ◆ Scrubby areas are natural nesting sites;
- ◆ Plant diversity encourages different types of bees to visit your yard;
- ◆ Avoid using pesticides during plants' bloom times;
- ◆ Consult Wikipedia to learn more about native bees;
- ◆ Another resource is *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Douglas Tallamy.

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.**

**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

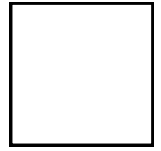
Consider donating to the BGC Scholarship Fund 2011 for the benefit of a University of Maryland student enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Scholarship Donation Enclosed: _____

Dues Amount Enclosed: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

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



Garden Holiday Events

Nov. 26, 2010-Jan. 9, 2011, Garden of Lights Display, Brookside Gardens. Week-days, 5:30-9 pm, Week-ends, 5:30-10 pm. Open New Year's Eve until 10 pm. Closed Dec. 24 & 25, and Jan. 3-6. Admission: \$20 per car, weekdays; \$25 per car, week-ends. Cash only at entrance. Last car admitted 30 minutes before closing.

Nov. 25, 2010-Jan. 2, 2011, Annual Holiday Exhibit, U.S. Botanical Garden, Washington, D.C. Celebration of the plant world showing how humans use plants in holiday traditions. Exhibit features replicas of popular Washington landmarks created with plant materials amidst poinsettias and holiday plants. A miniature railway runs through landmarks from Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. Free, 10 am-5 pm every day. Extended hours through the holidays. See www.usbg.gov.

BGC Calendar of Events

Note: There is no General Club Meeting in November.

Wed., Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m. BGC Holiday Party, Duckworth School.

Tues., Jan. 4. 6:30 pm, BGC Executive Board Dinner Meeting, Home of Dan & Marcy Marinelli

Wed., Jan. 26, 7:30 pm, General Meeting, Topic TBA, Duckworth School.

Tues., Feb. 1, 7:30:pm, BGC Executive Board Meeting, Home of Bill & Sue Koppes.

Wed., Feb. 23, 7:30 pm, General Meeting

Tues., March 1, BGC Executive Board Meeting, Home of Judy Shanefelter.