



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 64 Number 7 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> October 2017

Coming Events

HOLIDAY PARTY ON DECEMBER 6

BGC's leaders are planning now for the annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 6. While more details will be available at a later date in November, we now are asking members to bring holiday/decorative containers to the October 25th meeting. The containers will be offered to anyone who will use them to create decorative centerpieces for the tables at the Holiday Party. The centerpieces then become door prizes awarded at the end of the evening.

SPECIAL MEMBER PROGRAM

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 24, when three BGC members will be presenters. Victor Lazco will talk about "Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden". Sandy Lange's talk will showcase a Japanese Moss Garden in a Buddhist Temple in Kyoto, Japan. Mary Clive will present a medley of photos "Remembering Past BGC Garden Tours".

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

BGC's membership year runs from September 2017 through August 2018. If you have not already renewed your membership for the coming year, please fill out the form on page 2 and mail it to BGC today. Remember, the dues is only \$10 per family and entitles you to receive this newsletter as well as invitations to the annual Holiday Party and summer Peach Festival. Also, when you pay your dues, please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund which supports a student at the University of Maryland's School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Program on Endangered Ash Magnolia

Please join us for a program titled, "*Magnolia ashei: Understanding the Need for Conservation*" on Wednesday, October 25, 7:30 p.m., at the James Duckworth School, Beltsville. Kevin Conrad will speak about the Ash Magnolia tree, an endangered species endemic to the Florida Panhandle. It is considered by many horticulturists to be a garden aristocrat.

Ash Magnolia is found in gardens from Maine to Florida. However, very little is known of the genetic diversity of this species or the connection between cultivated and natural populations.

Kevin Conrad is the curator of the germplasm program for the U.S. National Arboretum, and is responsible for the conservation of over 200 genera. His research project undertakes to understand the need for conservation of this endangered species of magnolia. He will offer insight and preliminary findings as the project nears completion.

Mr. Conrad has worked for the National Arboretum for 24 years in various capacities including herbarium collections manager and assistant curator of the Asian Collections. He has extensive experience in domestic and international plant collecting and has worked in China, Russia and Azerbaijan.

Refreshments and Door Prizes

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

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
mmackey@pgcps.org

Vice President

Sue Shawhan 301-980-6514
sue@shawhans.us

Treasurer

Paul & Kathy Fitzgerald
kathy_fitzgerald@verizon.net
paul_fitzgerald@verizon.net

Secretary

Mary Clive 302-587-1615
maryclive@verizon.net

Committee Chairpersons

Greenhouse

Dorothy Cichra 301-585-9827
dcichra@verizon.net

Hospitality

Mary Ann Canter 240-396-7973
Mary Washington 301-937-8941

Membership & Electronic Newsletter

Victor Laczó, 301-490-2680
vlaczó@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Sandy Lange, 301-474-1402
salange1940@yahoo.com

Publicity

Suzette Agans
suzflower29@gmail.com

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

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 Holiday Party and 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 _____

September's Presentation On Bees by *Sandy Lange*

Despite a nonworking projector which prevented the September speaker from showing her visuals, BGC members learned a lot about bees from Alison Gillespie's presentation. She stated that 85% of all plants depend on pollination from bees. She reminded us that honey bees are non-native and most pollinators are small bees the size of gnats.

Regarding honey production, Alison commented that one honeybee produces only 1/4 teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. Native bees do not produce honey as many live in the ground rather than in a hive. Some people believe that if you purchase honey from a beekeeper in your zip code, it will help you with your particular allergies. However, Alison stated there has been only one study on this matter and the results are anecdotal.

Alison stressed these points: 1) All bees are super sensitive to pesticides, especially in lawns. 2) Don't spray your plants or lawn with insecticides containing neonicotinoids. Though not proven, this product (related to nicotine) may cause colony collapse. Also, don't buy seeds treated with neonicotinoids. 3) Provide a habitat for native bees by reducing use of mulch. Solitary bees and bees in colonies do not like the granular feel of mulch. 4) Provide areas in your yard for bees to obtain water. 5) Don't use insecticidal sprays for mosquitoes as sprays are harmful to bees. Mosquito dunks are safe, however.

Be a bee champion by planting flowers all year long. Bees can obtain nectar from almost any native plant. Nectar provides carbohydrates while pollen provides protein. Plants that Allison recommends are butterfly weed, sunflowers, maple trees, cone-flowers, phlox, great blue lobelia, pink turtlehead, asters, helianthus and joe-pye-weed.

HELP NEEDED ON SAT., OCTOBER 14

BGC member Doug Bolt is donating four of his very large clivia plants to the club. BGC will be dividing these plants and repotting them on Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. If you are able to help repot (for future raffles to benefit the Scholarship Fund and sales), please join other members at Duckworth for the repotting event.

Greenhouse News by *Dorothy Cichra*

The greenhouse plants survived the summer reasonably well. They had been on newspaper placed on plastic to help keep them wet during the hot weather. The shade cloths had also been down to try to lower the temperature. The paper and plastic were removed a couple of weeks ago and the shade cloths were raised except in a few places where more shade loving plants are located. The plants are much happier with the cooler weather and require less water. A number of the succulents and houseplants such as ficus, dracaena and cordyline will be repotted. Kathy Fitzgerald brought in small begonias she had started at home. They are always popular at plant sales.

Many of the perennial herbs will be potted and placed in the courtyard in an improvised cold frame for the winter. They will be divided and repotted in the spring before the plants sales. Cuttings will be taken of annuals from the school grounds so they can be propagated. **If you have any interesting annuals in your yard that can be propagated by cuttings, please bring some to the next meeting.** The annuals and tropical plants in the greenhouse need to be sorted through. Some will be repotted and saved as stock plants; others will have cuttings taken and the parent plant will be discarded; some will just be discarded.

This year we have two students from Parkdale High School and an aide helping at the greenhouse for about an hour four days a week. They came one day during the first week in October for an orientation session to learn where things are located and what they will be expected to do. The students will help with repotting, grooming, watering and other tasks that seem appropriate.

The sunflowers planted in the courtyard produced large seed heads. The tomatoes have done well. The eggplant did fine as well as the basil, pineapple sage and dill. The peppers were probably crowded out by the sunflowers. The plants were attacked by large grasshoppers whose appearance in the courtyard was surprising. They have been dispatched when successfully caught. Another intriguing arrival has been a preying mantis which is a welcome predator of spider mites, mealy bugs and other undesirable insects.

Garden Events

Wednesday, October 25, 1-2:30 p.m. Join Phil Normandy for a *Fall Garden Tour of Brookside Gardens*. Fee: \$7, FOGB \$6. Register online at ActiveMONTGOMERY.org.

Saturday, November 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. *Exhibit. Autumn Bonsai: Falling Into Winter*. Also, **10 a.m.-9 p.m.** Aki Maturi *Autumn Festival: Bonsai and Beyond*. Free lectures, tours and activities including *Ikebana Demonstration*, **10 a.m.-Noon**. Evening *Moon Viewing*, **6-9 p.m.** requires registration and fee: \$25, \$15 FONA member. U.S. National Arboretum.

Tuesday, November 23, 1-2:30 p.m. Make a *Thanksgiving Centerpiece* at Brookside Gardens. Fee: \$50, \$45 FOGB. Register online at ActiveMONTGOMERY.org.

Saturday, November 25, 10:30-Noon. *Wreath Making Workshop*. Behnke's Nursery. Beltsville. Fee: \$50.

Garden News and Notes by Sandy Lange

The University of Maryland Extension Service reminds us of October chores.

- To lessen shock, houseplants that have spent the summer outdoors should be placed in a bright spot in the house before moving them to their more permanent location. Water sparingly. Spray with horticultural oil or insecticidal soap before bringing them inside.
- Tree and shrub branches should be pruned only if they are dead or damaged. Wait until the leaves have dropped before cosmetic pruning. Powdery mildew is common on dogwood, lilac and other trees. Using a fungicide in the fall does no good. Wait until next year to spray. Choose resistant cultivars when selecting new plants.
- Plant lettuce, spinach, arugula, and kale through the middle of October. If possible, provide a temporary greenhouse or a floating row cover. Be sure to fertilize.

BGC Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. *Magnolia ashei: Understanding the Need for Conservation*, Kevin Conrad, Curator, Woody Landscape Plant Germplasm Repository, U. S. National Arboretum.

December 6, 6:30 p.m., Annual Holiday Party. Duckworth School.

Wednesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m. *Three members share photos of Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden, A World-Renowned Moss Garden in Japan and Remembering BGC Garden Tours.*

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 now tax-deductible.

