



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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BGC News and Notes

BGC is in desperate need of someone to step up and be the club's secretary for approximately five planning meetings per year. Two meetings have already taken place. We are also in need of a publicity chair to send out meeting announcements to the local media. These jobs are currently being performed by our president, Melissa Mackey. Please contact Melissa at melissahmackey@gmail.com if you can help.

Planning is now underway for the Holiday Party scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, at 6 p.m. Traditionally, this is a pot luck event with members providing entrees and the club providing appetizers and beverages. **Please donate one or more containers at the October meeting** for use by other members to create holiday centerpieces for the tables. The containers can be plain or decorated in a holiday motif.

Planning is also underway for the annual spring trip. While the exact date has not been selected yet, the Ladew Topiary Gardens and Historic Mansion is the destination. Joan Simons is planning the event. Ladew features more than 100 larger-than-life topiary forms in a series of garden rooms as well as a butterfly house and other magical garden highlights. More information will be available in the January newsletter.

If you have not renewed your membership, please fill out the form on page 2 and mail it to BGC or bring it to the October meeting.

Thanks go to members Margaret Poore and Kiki Theodoropoulos for their generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund.

October 24 BGC Meeting

Grow Your Own Microgreens

Please join us for the Beltsville Garden Club's monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 7:30 p.m. at the James Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville. Speaker Kayla Agonoy will



explore how to grow microgreens in the home setting, to include creating the right growing conditions, sources for supplies, maintenance and harvesting.

Microgreens are easy to grow and packed with nutrients. Samples of ECO City Farms' microgreens will be available for tasting. Join us for an informative, delicious and nutritious evening!

Kayla Agonoy is the Deputy Director of ECO City Farms, a non-profit educational urban farm in Prince George's County. She is deeply connected to the communities of Riverdale and Bladensburg, where the ECO City farms are located, allowing her to connect her passion for the environment and food justice to her roots.

Kayla earned a degree in Biological Sciences from Salisbury University, and started her journey in urban agriculture with an apprenticeship at ECO City Farms, working alongside the farm manager on day-to-day operations. She now leads organization operations and youth environmental education.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Please bring a plant or plant-related item for the door prize table. Also bring something sweet or savory to share. Your contributions are welcome.

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

BGC Membership Renewal

Annual dues is \$10 per household per year. The membership year runs from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. 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 _____

Greenhouse News by *Dorothy Cichra*

Time in the greenhouse has recently been spent sorting through the plants, checking for insects, grooming and removing moss and weeds. The yellow flowered weed oxalis (clover like) is a problem. If it is not caught before it flowers and goes to seed, it spreads and is hard to get out because of its running habit. It has still been hot on some days so it is hard to spend a lot of time in the greenhouse itself. The shade cloths were raised so the plants are responding well but it does allow it to get hot on sunny days. Some perennials and shrubs such as acuba, camellias, yellow jasmine, and white snakeroot were started from cuttings. In past years toad lilies were started from pieces that were broken off with the hose in the courtyard or in my yard by the rabbits. Those "accidents" have not happened this year and it is difficult to decide to intentionally sacrifice blooming stems for cuttings. Decisions will soon have to be made as to which annuals to bring in to overwinter or to take as cuttings.

The large light garden stopped working. Two of the three light fixtures have been restored but one is still not working. Kathy and Paul Fitzgerald concluded that it may need to be replaced. It is not so important now but when it is time to start vegetables it will be. We received perennial seeds that were brought to the Peach Festival. Some of them need to be chilled which in the past has been done out in the courtyard after the seeds were planted and the pots placed in plastic containers for protection. It is tempting to plant milkweed seeds to raise plants to sell or give away. It is not known whether the monarch caterpillars seen in the courtyard this summer formed chrysalises and morphed into butterflies. Hopefully they did. Next year it might be tempting to put some of the caterpillars on milkweeds in a protective enclosure and try to raise them to the butterfly stage.

Ms Collins' students have washed and sorted pots and potted up some rooted aloes. The potting room looks much better after she cleaned and organized it. Her students helped sweep and vacuum. She hopes to have them doing some hoeing and weeding outside. The Parkdale students have not yet started working in the greenhouse but Ms. Collins hopes that there will be jobs her students can do with them. Students have been harvesting some of the vegetables from the courtyard. The plants there have not done as well as last year, possibly due to the hot wet weather. I need to cut back the leaf fennel since it is leaning into the walkway but I need to collect the seeds first. There are some seedling leaf fennels coming up which I may try to pot up just to see if they will grow.

I have done some work on the pothos and goldfish plants. We need to cut back and groom the Wandering Jew plants. Suitable cuttings from them and the other plants in baskets will be potted up. The coleus will need sorting through and cutting back and possibly repotting. There have been questions from some of the teachers about when we might do a sale. There are numerous houseplants that can be sold. Once they are repotted and groomed.

As always if you have suggestions, comments, complaints, questions or donations of supplies or plants/cuttings they are very welcome. If you wish to work in the greenhouse or courtyard or front of the school on a one time basis or regularly (or any other frequency) please let me know or contact the school office. Gabriella in the office is always looking for people who are willing to help with gardening type projects.

Tending One's Own Garden: Continuities in American Garden History

Justin Shapiro delivered an engaging talk at our September meeting about the history of gardens and what they have meant to Americans in the last several hundred years. His talk was accompanied by paintings from the 19th century which illustrated the belief of the time that nature should present a balance between the human tamed landscape, and small remnants of the wild. He explained that to 18th and early 19th-century settlers the wilderness was frightening, dangerous and bad; untouched by the human. Gardens as a refuge, seemed more understandable in an agrarian society. Later in the century came the incursion of technology to upset the Arcadian balance and bring about anxiety. I have not looked at a mid-19th-century landscape painting with a train steaming through and recognized the anxious symbolism! The industrial revolution blighted the urban landscape and prompted the city beautiful movement, when Frederick Law Olmsted and others created so many great gardens for cities, such as Central Park in New York, the lakefront park in Chicago, and the Washington D.C. Mall. The constant Mr. Shapiro spoke of is that in our society gardens have always been seen as a refuge from the outside world.

Melissa Mackey

BGC Programs—2018-2019

Wednesday, October 24, 7:30 p.m. *Grow Your Own Microgreens.* Kayla Argonoy. Deputy Director of ECO City Farms.

Wednesday, December 5, 6 p.m. *Annual Holiday Party.* More information will be emailed in November.

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 p.m. *Enjoying the Art of Bonsai.* Michael James, Curator, U.S. National Arboretum.

Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 p.m. BGC Members Speak. Elizabeth Olsen & Lynn Title. Ms. Title's topic is *Color Vignettes: How to Make Your Garden Pop.*

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. *BGC Plant Sales,* High Point High School

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. *Irises at Draycott Gardens,* Carol Warner

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. *From the Ground Up.* Jim Dronenburg. Open Garden in March, Date TBA.

Note: All programs are held at the James Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville. Programs are free and open to the public.

Visitors are welcome. Contributions of refreshments and donations of door prizes are also welcome.

Garden Events

Saturday, October 27, 9 a.m.-Noon. *50th Anniversary Planting of 50,000 Daffodil Bulbs* at Brookside Gardens. Call 301-962-1429 to volunteer to help plant.

Saturday, October 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. *Oaktobefest Fall Festival.* U.S. National Arboretum. 5K run, guided tours, workshops (photography, terrarium making), food & vendors. Rocknocaros Band. Great for kids & adults. Free/

Garden News and Notes by Sandy Lange

Beware the burning bush. It seems that *Euomyomus alatus* is considered an invasive species in Maryland. Yes, this deciduous woody shrub with its brilliant fall foliage, beloved by many, is a garden thug. With its dense growth habits and production of hundreds of seedlings, it is successfully competing with native plants in forests, fields and coastal habitats. Nurseries in Maryland that sell burning bush plants are required to indicate that it is invasive.

Another popular shrub that we should avoid purchasing is the Japanese barberry. (*Berberis Thunbergii*) Like the burning bush, it is highly invasive. It grows in sun or deep shade. Colors range from green to red to deep purple. It produces bright red berries in late summer. Deer don't eat it so its thousands of seeds are spread by small mammals. A single shrub forms a dense mass that crowds out native plants.

If you have a pond, it is time to cover it with netting to prevent leaves and other debris from falling in. Plant your spring bulbs. Divide perennials. Transplant trees and shrubs. Bring in your indoor plants.

Gratitude to Bill and Sue Koppes

Longtime greenhouse guru and former BGC president (1990 and 2002) Bill Koppes is struggling with the effects of Parkinson's Disease. Sue is recovering from surgery. We send them both our good wishes. We miss seeing them at club meetings and sharing their vast knowledge about the workings of the club and growing plants. Their stewardship of the greenhouse was monumental.

HUGS.