



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

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New Greenhouse Still Not Ready

While the framing and the glass are completed, much work still needs to be done on the inside of the greenhouse at the Duckworth School. (The old greenhouse was destroyed in Snowmageddon). Bill Koppes reports that the plants that spent the summer outdoors have been sprayed and are ready to come inside. Unless the new greenhouse is available soon, propagation will be limited and club income reduced.

Stroll the Wooded Hillock on Sunday

On Sunday, October 17, 2-4 pm, join other BGC members for a personalized tour of the Wooded Hillock at the University of Maryland. Park in Lot K-4 or Comcast lot which has unrestricted parking on week-ends when there are no football games. If you park elsewhere, check the signage. Meet Sara Tangren, PhD, at the UMD Greenhouse. The 22.4 acre wooded hillock has many native plants and trees, and attracts migratory birds.

Washington DC Green Festival

The Green Festival will be held on October 23 & 24 at the Washington Convention Center. It boasts over 300 exhibitors, a marketplace, organic food, music and 125 speakers including Ralph Nader and Amy Goodman. Free admission is available with a \$25 or more purchase from MOMs (My Organic Market). The Festival focuses on issues of social justice, ecological balance and a sustainable economy. See www.greenfestival.org for more details.

October 27 General Meeting

BGC members and friends will meet on Wednesday, October 27 at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the James Duckworth School.

Nikki Thompson, a member of BUMBA (Bowie and Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Assoc.) will speak on **"Native bees: Keeping Bees in Your Garden"**. Nikki has kept honeybees at her home garden since 2002. Her interest is in pollination rather than the harvesting of hive products. She is determined to promote this little recognized yet highly desirable group of insects and encourages the presence of native bees in the landscape, benefiting our personal garden space and the environment as a whole.

Please join us to hear this informative speaker. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. **Please bring a plant or related garden item for the club's door prize table.**

Save the Date — December 8

Mark your calendars for the **BGC Holiday Party** on December 8 with December 15 as the snow date. Details in November newsletter.

Time to Pay Your Dues for 2010-2011

Fall is here and so is the BGC annual dues year. The dues is still \$10 per year per family which covers mailing costs, some refreshments, and our annual events such as the Peach Festival and the Holiday Party.

Please see page 3 of this newsletter for the Membership Form. Fill it out and mail it in today or pay at the October meeting.

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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Greenbelt's 20th Annual Pumpkin Festival

Celebrate the season at Greenbelt's 20th anniversary of the Pumpkin Festival. On Friday, Oct. 22, 4-8 pm, there will be a Pumpkin Carving Party including a pie contest, bake sale and live music in the Roosevelt Center. The carved Jack-o-Lanterns will be used to light the path in Northway Fields for the Pumpkin Walk the next day, Saturday, Oct. 23, 6-9 pm where spooky characters will delight and scare the participants. The event emphasizes the recreational use and protection of the woodlands surrounding the historic city of Greenbelt. Participation in all events is free.

Gardening News & Tips by Sandy Lange

Plant bulbs now before the first frost—usually around the end of October in our area. Plant in clusters for dramatic effect in soil with good drainage. Top dress with 2-3 inches of compost. Don't use bone meal which attracts rodents and digging dogs. Use slow release fertilizer (i.e. Osmocote)—not regular fertilizer which can burn roots. Add mulch or pine bark. Water and wait for spring.

Fall To Do List

- * Keep your garden hose connected until the ground freezes. Perennials will need watering throughout the winter. Disconnect and empty the hose after each use. *Discard any insect or disease infected garden debris in the garbage. Do not compost it. *Check tropical plants brought indoors for whiteflies and spider mites. Apply insecticidal soap spray as needed. *As cooler weather approaches, stop deadheading roses. Allow the rose hips to form to encourage hardening of the canes and in preparation for dormancy. *When the leaves change color, you can safely dig and transplant shrubs. *Place netting around your pond to prevent leaves from decaying in the water. *Divide perennials such as iris, peonies and ornamental grasses. *Pick tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables that can ripen on your window sill, and harvest herbs. *Bring amaryllis into a cool, dark basement or garage. Do not water until new growth appears. *Collect seeds from annuals to store in cool place or refrigerator until spring. *Collect leaves for new compost and turn old pile.

Rachel Carson Talk by Sandy Lange

At the September BGC meeting, Dr. Diana Post spoke on **Gardening in the Footsteps of Rachel Carson – Nature’s House Rules**. Dr. Post is the president of the Rachael Carson Council. She traced Carson’s influence on present day growing practices based on her visionary 1962 book *Silent Spring*.

Carson’s personal garden had no formal beds. She loved a wild tangle of Virginia bluebells, wood hyacinths, bleeding hearts, azaleas, daffodils. She also loved to listen to the spring peepers near her suburban Silver Spring home.

Her seminal research into the use of herbicides and insecticides warned that some very dangerous chemicals were in the marketplace and could lead to disastrous results. Her compelling message alarmed the public to consider the human and environmental dangers of the herbicides “Agent Orange” and “2,4-D”. She warned about the destruction of weeds such as goldenrod, mustard and dandelion which are important pollinators for honeybees. She reasoned that adding pesticides to water endangered the lives of migratory birds. Post stated that Carson believed that birds are sending a message about the health of our planet.

“Carson’s great concern for birds was one of the reasons she undertook the daunting writing (of *Silent Spring*) and saw it through to completion despite serious illness,” Post noted. Carson died of cancer in 1964.

Carson’s visionary core message that all life on the planet is interrelated and needs to be considered in every major policy decision resonates today. *Silent Spring* alerted the public to the use of nonselective chemicals that have “the power to kill every insect, the ‘good’ and the ‘bad’, to still the song of birds and the leaping of fish in the streams, to coat the leaves with a deadly film and to linger in the soil....” Everyone who gardens today has been influenced by Rachel Carson who caused many chemical contaminants to be eliminated from the market.

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

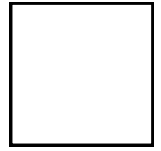
Consider donating to the BGC Scholarship Fund 2011 for the benefit of a University of Maryland student enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Scholarship Donation Enclosed: _____

Dues Amount Enclosed: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

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



Gardening Events

Sat., Oct. 16, 1-5 pm & Sun., Oct. 17, 9 am-3:30 pm, Chesapeake Chrysanthemum Society Plant Show, Brookside Gardens Visitor Center, Wheaton.

Thurs., Oct. 21. 1 pm. Fall Conservatory Tour. Free. Brookside Gardens, Wheaton.

Fri., Oct. 22 & Sat., Oct. 23, Greenbelt's 20th Anniversary Pumpkin Festival. See details on page 2.

Sat., Oct. 23 & Sun., Oct. 24, 10 am-5:30 pm, USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo on the National Mall. 500 science & engineering organizations plus U.S. Botanical Gardens & Smithsonian's Dept. of Botany showing plant evolution & relationship of plants to living things. Also, the **Green Festival** at the Washington Convention Center.

BGC Calendar of Events

Sun., October 17, 2-4 pm, *Stroll the Wooded Hillock*, UMD. Meet at the UMD Greenhouse. Park free in Lot K-4 or Comcast Center Lot off University Blvd.

Wed., Oct. 27, 7:30 pm, *Native Bees in Your Garden*, Nikki Thompson, speaker, Duckworth School

Tues., Nov. 2, 7:30 pm, *Executive Board Meeting*, Home of Bob & Helen Pechacek

Wed., Dec. 8, *BGC Holiday Party*

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.