



Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 65 Number 6 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> September 2018

Greetings BGC Members

Welcome BGC members to a new year of interesting speakers, trips, philanthropy and fellowship. Over the summer, your planning committee has been hard at work. Dynamic speakers for the 2018-19 meeting year have been arranged; see list on page 4. A number of speakers have offered tours/visits to compliment their presentations. The popular "Members Speak" evening will return in February with Elizabeth Olsen and Lynn Title.

Our spring trip will be to the iconic Ladew Topiary Gardens in Monkton, Md., an area that also has great nurseries to visit. Trip details will be published in future newsletters.

We are on track with support for the Duckworth School through greenhouse sales, and our scholarship for a University of Maryland student in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture has been awarded for the current school year.

It was wonderful to see those who attended the Peach Festival at Helmut and Linda Jaehnigen's lovely home and arboretum. It will be just as satisfying to see everyone at the September 24 meeting where we will learn about American Garden History from Justin Shapiro. Until then!

Door Prizes and Refreshments

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

On September 26

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

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, September 26 at 7:30 pm at the James Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville. Please join us for "Tending One's Own Garden: Continuities in American Garden History", a presentation by Justin Shapiro, Environmental History Doctoral Candidate at the University of Maryland-College Park.

The American garden has historically stood as a place of refuge. More than a provider of beauty, shade, and the occasional ripe tomato, Americans have also seen the garden as a powerful mental and spiritual retreat from the hectic pace of change in the outside world.

In his presentation, Mr. Shapiro traces the ideological significance of the garden for Americans over the course of the past two hundred and fifty years. In that time he believes the garden as an idea has remained remarkably stable: it has stood as a place separate from the outside world.

This talk is divided into five distinct chronological periods: Early Republic (1781-1850); Industrialization (1860-1910); Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945); Suburbanization (1945-1960) and Environmental Movement (1965-1980). In each period American societies at different times understood the garden as something that stood in opposition to larger environmental changes. Although each society understood the value of the garden differently, the notion of the garden as a refuge from the world outside remained remarkably consistent.

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
melissahmackey@gmail.com

Vice President

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

Treasurer

Joan Simons & Albert Nunez 202-270-5000
joansimons@gmail.com

Secretary

Open

Committee Chairpersons

Greenhouse

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

Hospitality

Mary Washington 301-937-8941

Membership & Electronic Newsletter

Victor Laczko, 301-490-2680
vlaczko@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor

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

Publicity

Open

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, 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 _____

Garden Notes by Sandra Lange

Thank you to Helmut and Linda Jaehnigan for once again playing host and hostess for the August Peach Festival. Your generosity in opening your home and garden is much appreciated.

Thanks also to Sue Shawhan who donated pots, and Bill and Sue Koppes who gave various items to the greenhouse, and donated the proceeds from the sale of a rotating composter to the Scholarship Fund. Also, thanks to Bonnie McClellan who brought the items from the Koppes' home and helped transport plants to the May Plant Sale.

It is membership renewal time. Our club year begins in September. Please complete and bring the form on page 2 with your dues to the next meeting, or you can mail it to the post office box address. We would like to update our membership list. If you are still interested in receiving this newsletter, please be sure your dues and information are up-to-date.

Special get-well wishes are sent to Mary Ann Canter who is recovering from a lung transplant surgery. She welcomes your cards sent to her home at 13 Greenway Place, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Also, we send greetings to John Henry and Elaine Jones. We missed seeing them this year at the Peach Festival and hope they are doing well.

Our Program Committee (Melissa Mackey and Sue Shawhan) could use help prior to the start of the Wednesday evening programs. Specifically, they need help with setting up all the electronics i.e. microphone, computer, and with cleaning and arranging the tables.

Garden Chores for September: Peruse catalogs to order spring bulbs. Divide and transplant perennials. Take cuttings from coleus and begonias to overwinter them for the next growing season. Leave hummingbird feeders out until mid-October. Bring Amaryllis inside before the first frost. Store in a cool dark place and do not water until flower buds or leaves emerge. Put netting over your pond to catch the falling leaves. Cut back summer annuals, fertilize to prepare them for the last hurrah of the season.

Greenhouse News by Dorothy Cichra

This summer the main focus was just getting the plants to survive the hot weather. Many of the annual herbs and flowers were either sold at late sales or given away to staff and some Duckworth parents or at the Peach Festival. Remaining plants were kept in the greenhouse with the shade cloths down. Unfortunately the swamp cooler is not working so it gets quite hot in the greenhouse. Plants were watered, checked/treated for bugs and repotted if needed to aid their survival.

When the weather cools, more effort will be made to go through the plants and discard those not in good shape. We have a reasonable collection of house plants which will be offered at fall/winter sales. As previously, extra vegetable plants were put in the old vegetable garden in the courtyard along with some plants belonging to one of the Duckworth aides. There is always work that could be done in the courtyard if someone is interested in volunteering to do that.

Many people have helped out with the greenhouse this past year. Thanks to Maria Miles for her regular watering and weeding and Kathy Fitzgerald for making soil, looking after the orchids and watering when needed. Much appreciation to Kirsten Collins who first got involved as the aide who accompanied the Parkdale students for work at the greenhouse. She transferred to Duckworth last school year and was there for summer school. She often watered during the summer and has cleaned out and organized the potting room. For her observation at the end of the school year she did a little session on plants and had the students repot some plants. This was well received and she hopes to follow up on it this school year. Thanks also to Debbie Kuhn-Auxier for hoyia plant cuttings as well as jade, sanseveria and philodendron cuttings. Melissa Mackey helped with watering, sales and donated fancy geraniums for stock plants. We sold plants at Duckworth's Community Day and we displayed plants with a sensory aspect—feel/touch and scents.

In the courtyard outside the greenhouse, a mourning dove would noisily fly away from the area by the faucet. I consulted the Cornell Ornithology Lab *All About Birds* online and discovered that they sometimes nest on the ground. A nest was found under our large rosemary right under the faucet on the wall of the greenhouse with two eggs; both hatched. The young birds grew and presumably fledged. The students and staff got to see this all from the greenhouse. After school let out, the cycle was repeated with two more eggs and young. Now we have monarch caterpillars on the milkweeds growing in the courtyard. In late August we discovered about a dozen caterpillars, most on the *asclepias tuberosa* rather than the common milkweed. In my yard the caterpillars are on the *asclepias curassavica*. If anyone wants some seeds, let me know. If anyone is interested in touring the greenhouse or helping at the greenhouse, let me know. Donations of plants, cuttings, pots, plastic labels to reuse are always appreciated. We want new types of plants to grow to refresh our offerings. Suggestions as to what to grow - including ideas about vegetable varieties are welcome. Feedback as to what you may have bought from us that worked or did not work would be appreciated.

BGC Programs—2018-2019

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. *Tending One's Own Garden*, Justin Shapiro, Environmental History Doctoral Candidate. UMD.

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 in the October Newsletter.

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 p.m. *All About Bonsai*. Michael James, Curator, U.S. National Arboretum.

Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 p.m. BGC Members Speak. Elizabeth Olsen & Lynn Title.

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 door prizes are also welcome.

Garden Events

Saturday, September 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. *Children's Day at Brookside Gardens*. Free.

Friday, October 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. *Native Plants for Both New England and Mid-Atlantic Gardens*. Sponsored by the Takoma Horticultural and Four Seasons Garden Clubs. Brookside Gardens. Free.

BGC's Spring Trip Will Be To Ladew Topiary Gardens



REMINDER—PAY DUES NOW!

Dues for the coming year—September 2018 through August 2019 should be paid now. Your dues supports our greenhouse expenses, the Scholarship Fund, Duckworth School, the Peach Festival and Holiday Party. If you have not paid for two years or longer, this will be your last newsletter sent to you via email or snail mail. We need your continued support for BGC to grow and thrive. We also need volunteers for the positions of secretary, publicity and hospitality. Contact Melissa Mackey, melissahmackey@gmail.com.