

Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 59 Number 6 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> September 2011

Schedule of Events for the Coming Year

BGC program co-chairs Joan Simons and Nancy Perkins have been working hard during the summer to put together some exciting monthly talks and events. Mark your calendars now for the following:

- ◆ **October 26**—Persimmons, Pomegranates, and Other Edible Perennials, Matt Cohen, speaker.
- ◆ **December 7**—Holiday Party
- ◆ **January 25**—Dunbarton Oaks' Historic Garden, David Keil, speaker
- ◆ **February 22**—Veggies in Your Flower Garden, Oh My!, Miriam Mahowald, speaker
- ◆ **March 28**—The Price of Liberty: Weeds, John Peter Thompson, speaker
- ◆ **March/April**: Woodland Walk (tentative)
- ◆ **April 14**—BGC Plant Sale
- ◆ **April 25**—Language of Flowers, Amy Brecount White, speaker
- ◆ **May 12**—BGC Plant Sale
- ◆ **May 17**—Spring Tour of Dunbarton Oaks Garden and High Tea and Tour of Green Spring Historic House and Gardens
- ◆ **May 23**—USDA's People's Garden Initiative: A Growing Movement, Annie Ceccarini, speaker.
- ◆ **August**—Peach Festival

September Refreshments & Holiday Party

Only two people signed up to bring refreshments to the September 28 meeting. Additional contributions from members would be welcome. Also, BGC is seeking a new venue to hold the December 7 Holiday Party. Let any board member know if you have ideas for interesting new locations.

Lilies is September BGC Topic

BGC will meet on Wednesday, September 28, at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville, MD. The guest speaker will be Jim McKenney who will take "**A Modern Look at Lilies**" (not daylilies).

Lilies have been appreciated for millennia, but it was not until well into the twentieth century that a wide range of easily grown garden lilies emerged. Contemporary hybrid lilies go a long way in combining the beauty of the wild lilies with gratifying ease of cultivation.

Mr. McKenney has been gardening in Montgomery County for well over a half century and lilies have been an important part of his garden. More of his garden interests can be found at his website, www.jimmckenney.com titled "My Virtual Maryland Garden."

Please remember to bring a plant or garden-related item for the door prize table. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Condolences to the Rupp Family

Cecilia Evangeline Rupp, age 92, died on May 14, 2011. Mrs. Rupp was married for over 50 years to the late Francis A. Rupp, BGC president in 1992. Both she and Francis were lifetime members of BGC and were known for their passion for gardening, especially growing thousands of azaleas. They lived in Beltsville and also enjoyed the beauty of their farm in Bayard, DE, near the ocean.

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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Greenhouse News by Bill Koppes

Behnke Nursery again invited BGC to bring our plants to their summer yard sale and we did quite well. The president of Behnke's took note of the quality of one of our begonia varieties and said that he would consider offering us a contract to produce more of them.

The facilities of the greenhouse have not been fully restored. The automatic vents do not open completely, and the summer operations were also affected by the swamp cooler not having a water supply. The lack of a misting system makes it necessary to have someone there to water more frequently.

We sold nearly 200 caladiums at various venues during the spring and summer.

Gardening News & Tips by Sandy Lange

A big thank you to Helmut and Linda Jaehnigen for hosting the Peach Festival this year. Everyone who attended had a great time.

BARC's Plant Science Institute and the U.S. National Arboretum are partnering on a long term project to determine whether or not native plants make a better habitat for beneficial insects. They will compare native plants to analogous species native to Asia and Europe.

According to *Horticulture Magazine*, "the terms "part sun" and part shade" refer to a plant that prefers four to six hours of direct sun each day (best if it comes in the first half of the day). The terms are basically interchangeable. When you see "part sun" used, the grower is stressing that the plant requires at least four hours of sun and will likely do better with closer to six hours. When you see "part shade" used, the grower is stressing that the plant should not receive more than six hours of sun and will likely do better with less."

It's time to divide your perennials and give them fresh life. Look for plants that are overcrowded, have "doughnut" holes or dead spots and are not flowering as they had in the past.

BARC Hosts BGC Group Tour in August



Twenty-two people toured BARC, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, on a bright sunny day on August 16. The group learned about the many common products on the market that came about as a result of agricultural research at BARC and throughout USDA's regional centers. For example, plant geneticist developed the Yukon Gem potato which is widely used in fries and chips. BARC scientists also invented a new biodegradable plant pot out of chicken feathers. The group toured the Peoples Garden with special raised beds for vegetables, ornamentals, and even mushrooms. Due to budget cuts, BARC will no longer be giving group tours. Thanks to Bob Pechacek for arranging the tour.

Growing and Eating Healthy Foods

The publication *Earthjustice* warns consumers about the widespread use of methyl iodide, a toxic chemical that is injected into the ground prior to planting strawberries, tomatoes, peppers and grapes. Methyl iodide is thought by some scientists to be the culprit in late term miscarriages, thyroid disease and brain damage. California's strawberry fields are highly affected. The EPA is studying the chemical.

Nutrition Action newsletter names 10 super foods to eat for better health: sweet potatoes, mangoes, unsweetened yogurt, broccoli, wild salmon, crisp breads, garbanzo beans, watermelon, butternut squash and leafy greens.

BGC Membership Renewal

Annual dues is \$10 per household per year. The next membership year runs from September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012. **Renew NOW for the next membership cycle. New members will be invited to the 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: _____

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

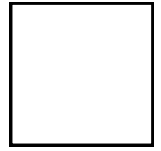
Consider donating to the BGC Scholarship Fund 2011/2012 for the benefit of a University of Maryland student enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Scholarship Donation Enclosed: _____

Dues Amount Enclosed: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

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



Garden Events

Sat., Sept. 17, 1-4 pm, *Bulb, Plant & Seed Exchange*, Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro. \$10 fee. Call 301-218-6702 to register.

Wed., Sept. 21, 7:30-9 pm, *How Insects Make the World Go Round*, Michael Raupp, speaker, Takoma Park Horticultural Club, Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. Free.

Sat., Sept. 24. 2-5 pm & Sun., Sept. 25, , 9 am-3 pm., *Dahlia Show & Sale*, Brookside Gardens Visitors Center, Wheaton.

Mon., Sept. 26, 7 pm. *Queen of the Sun: What are the Bees Telling Us.* film screening. A look at the global bee crisis. Brookside Gardens Visitors Center. \$8 fee.

BGC Calendar of Events

Wed., Sept. 28, 7:30 pm. *A Modern Look at Lilies*". Jim McKenney, speaker. Duckworth School cafeteria.

Wed., Oct. 5, 7:30 pm. BGC Executive Committee Meeting, Home of Bill & Sue Koppes.

Wed., Oct. 26, 7:30 pm. *Persimmons, Pomegranates, Polygonatums and Other Edible Perennials*, Matt Cohen, Speaker, Duckworth School cafeteria.

Wed., Nov. 2, 7:30 pm. BGC Executive Committee Meeting. Home of Sandy & David Lange.

No General Meeting in November.

Wed., Dec. 7, BGC Holiday Party.