



Bethesda Community

GARDEN CLUB

"Ninety-two Years of Brightening Lives and Landscapes"

www.bethesdacomunitygardenclub.org

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Member of
The National Capital Area
Garden Clubs and
The National Council of State
Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Vickie Baily took this lovely photo of a camellia from Candy Kessel's garden. Read more about it on page 2.

At our April 27 meeting, members will hear about *Gardening in the Golden Years* from **Mary Stickley-Godinez**, as she talks about staying healthy while creating a beautiful garden in, well, the golden years that some of us have reached. Mary has broad experience in garden design, installation, and management; she and her husband now operate Countryside Farm and Nursery, northwest of Charlottesville, Virginia. She writes on gardening topics for various publications, and lectures and teaches throughout Virginia.

The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. in the education building of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, in North Bethesda.

This will be a sandwich lunch; bring a sandwich to share. Providing the sides are Amy Prywes, Sue Gagner, Tricia Klosky, Anna Masters, Arlene Howard, Barbara Marin, and Yvonne Orkin

High Glen Gardens Event: Waiting List and Carpooling

Betty Cochran

Our June 1 tour and picnic at High Glen Gardens in Frederick is now fully booked, but we are compiling a waiting list. Forty-five persons have registered for the event, which is the maximum that High Glen can accommodate.

In previous years, some members who signed up for the picnic event found they had to drop out, for various reasons. **If you've registered but find you can't go, please notify Betty Cochran or Carol Meyers right away so that another member can take your place.** (Contact Betty at b23cochran@rcn.com or 301-652-7836, or Carol at carol.meyers@starpower.net.) We can fill vacancies until May 18.

You can put your name on the waiting list by e-mailing Betty or signing up at the April 27 meeting.

Jane Malish is organizing a carpool for High Glen. If you've already registered, please tell Jane if you would like to be a driver or a passenger. Please also let her know if you are organizing an independent carpool, and for how many, as *we need to tell High Glen how many cars will arrive as well as how many registrants.* (Parking space at High Glen is limited.) Also, if you're organizing an independent carpool, Jane will send you directions to High Glen in late May.

High Glen is a private estate that's being developed into a large and lavish garden. It is not open to the public, but does accept groups like ours for tours. If there's enough interest, we can arrange an additional tour later (without a catered lunch), for a minimum of ten persons. Early fall is another good time to visit.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE May 12

As most of you know, our annual plant sale will be held on Thursday, May 12. Please help to spread the word via any clubs, organizations, churches, etc. that you may belong to, and also on social media and list serves. If you like, you can use the following for posting:

Event Name: Bethesda Community Garden Club Plant Sale

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2016 - Rain or shine

Time: 7:00am - 1:00pm

Location: Bethesda Farm Women's Market, 7155 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda

Description: Large selection of perennials, native plants, herbs, annuals and shrubs grown in members' gardens.

Gardeners and anyone who loves plants won't want to miss the Bethesda Community Garden Club's annual plant sale. Find wonderful buys on a large selection of locally grown plants. Plentiful metered parking is available in the lot behind the Market. For more information, go to www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org. The Bethesda Community Garden Club is celebrating over 90 years of community service.

DUES NOW!!

Dues are due for the 2016-2017 program year! Since a portion of dues must go to the National Capital Area Garden Clubs by May 1, it is important that they are paid promptly. We now have 113 members and so far only 71 have paid. Please pony up now!! The dues amount is \$40; non-residents pay \$20.00. Please make check payable to BCGC and mail your payment to Carol Meyers, 8304 Whitman Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817. (Do NOT make out your check to Carol!) Second best option: bring your payment to the April 27 meeting. Also, let Carol know either by phone (301-365-1749) or email (carol.meyers@erols.com) if you are not continuing your membership so she will not hound you!

Elections for Club Officers at April Meeting

Proposed Slate of Officers

The nominating committee (Judith Graef, Suzanne Grefsheim, Holly Joseph, Carol Meyers, and Sharon Southerland) has selected a slate of officers as follows:

President: Suzanne Grefsheim

Vice-President: Judy Termini

Secretary: Nancy Davidian

Treasurer: Regina Fitzgerald

Officers will be elected at the April 27 club meeting for a one-year term. Nominations may also be made from the floor.



Alonso Abugatt as spoke on "Gardening with Wildlife in Mind" at the March meeting.



Candy Kessel brought a camillia from her garden to celebrate Zena McCallum's birthday.

The food committee outdid themselves at the March meeting: beef, sausage, and two kinds of vegetarian lasagna. Plus salads and brownies. Now that we have 113 members, it takes a lot of food to feed us all!

More on Mason Bees: A note from Janet Fernandez

I had never heard of Mason bees till this morning [March 23 BCGC meeting] and now looking at my Kinsman Company catalog I see that they sell nest kits...rounds with little rounds inside like the one we saw at the meeting. You can visit them at www.kinsmangarden.com to watch videos of Mason Bees at work.

Mark your Calendar

■ The Garden Club of Chevy Chase presents A Spring Garden Tour

On Saturday, May 14th, from 10:00 - 4:00, the Garden Club of Chevy Chase will host a tour of gardens in historic Chevy Chase Village. Seven beautiful gardens will be open for visitors, rain or shine. Highlights of the tour include:

- a recently designed garden by award-winning North Carolina architect Chip Calloway
- a garden with features originally designed in 1929 by Rose Greely, the first female licensed landscape architect in Washington
- the garden at one of Chevy Chase's most elegant and historic properties

Tickets may be purchased on the day of the tour for \$25 at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue, where there will also be an herb sale and light refreshments from 12:00 - 4:00.

For more information about purchasing tickets in advance at \$20, please call (301) 657-1278 or email GardenClubofChevyChase@gmail.com. Tickets are tax deductible. Proceeds from the tour support conservation and beautification projects in Chevy Chase.

■ FONA Garden Fair April 29-30

Your garden club is invited to attend this year's Garden Fair and Plant Sale, hosted by Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) from April 29-30. Located in the U.S. National Arboretum and held in conjunction with Arbor Day, this year's event offers both traditional favorites and rare plants from nurseries across the country, including everything from perennials, annuals and heirloom vegetables to many rare and new offerings. One example, a beautiful evergreen introduced by horticulturalist Dan Hinkley, is the *Schefflera taiwaniana* 'Yuan Shan'.

Hailing from the high mountain areas of Taiwan, this hardy container plant will provide distinctive texture to shade gardens.

FONA's Garden Fair and Plant Sale, which is free to attend, offers the widest range of plants and vendors of any gardening event in the area for those in search of that perfect plant. In addition to the hand selected offerings, FONA and its vendors are proud to offer expert advice on-site to guide event-goers through selecting the best plants suited for their individual interests. A full list of this year's plant offerings will be available in the beginning of April, a few weeks prior to the event.

For more information please visit www.fona.org/gardenfair.

Schedule:

April 29, 2016

10am-1pm: Members Only Hours

1pm-4pm: Garden Fair and Plant Sale open to the public.

April 30, 2016

9am-4pm: Garden Fair and Plant Sale open to the public.

Volunteer Opportunities at Arbor House Gift Shop

Arbor House is the gift shop at the Arboretum that features mostly garden-related items. In the past, the club was assigned "fifth Mondays" for volunteers to work there. Now there are no assigned dates.

BCGC members who want to volunteer should pick their preferred dates and contact Barbara Kiker, Arbor House Volunteer Chairman, at kiker01@verizon.net. She's also the one to direct questions to.

There's also a link on the NCAGA website, https://www.volunteerspot.com/group/97634333006?utm_source=group-badge-volunteer-green.

Davis Library Work Day

Despite the overnight lows in the high 20's, nine garden-club members showed up to work at Davis Library on April 6th: Janet Fernandez, Margaret Edison, Joanne Straceski, Vickie Baily, Kasia Massie, Sharon Wright, Marty Fears, Irene Sinclair and Dee Letora.

Margaret Edison and newly rejoined member Sharon Wright (who helped with library clean-ups in the past) tackle one Yew. Vickie Baily spent a long time pruning another.



Above, Kasia fights with a holly bush from the inside. Dee had to keep telling her what to cut because Kasia was trapped and couldn't see. When they finished, the holly looked fantastic!



Some of our new members may not know that our club put in the original landscaping of Davis Library at the time it was built. Here Dee Letora is handily using a holly branch as a broom!



Janet Fernandez always brings hot coffee and treats for her workers. It's so lovely to have a basket, a checked tablecloth, and a Thermos, as well as the homemade oatmeal cookies and wheat-free cheese crackers.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

Chinese Scholar Tree (*Sophora japonica*): the good, the bad, and the ugly

by Carole Ottesen

Ten years ago, desperately in need of shade, I blithely agreed to the installation of a Chinese Scholar tree (*Sophora japonica*) over my back patio. I will not name the person who recommended it, but he should have known better.

The good: It seemed like a good idea at the time and seemed so for the first five or six years of its residence.

The tree grew fast. The shade was wonderful. The tree bloomed and its seeds were showy. At first, everything about the tree was hunky-dory.

The sorta bad: The tree started sending out sloppy-looking, awkwardly placed, drooping limbs. Too high for me to trim, the limbs required professional pruning.

Little by little, the tree became more and more annoying. Every summer, thousands of flowers fell on the patio below and turned black. They also fell on and stained the white porch.

The bad: After the flowers got cleaned up, the seed pods developed. They, too, fell, covering the patio floor with beige-yellow blobs that resembled over-ripe cylindrical grapes.

In fall, a zillion petioles dropped on the patio and had to be cleaned up, along with hundreds of over-ripe cylindrical grapelike seeds.

There are still seeds on the tree. They have turned a dark rusty-brown. They will drop soon.

Three days ago, as if responding to a signal, the beds below the tree popped up a thousand tiny Chinese Scholar trees. I am pulling them out—one by one.

The ugly: When my basement sink stopped up, after hours of snaking, the plumber identified the culprit: The roots of the Chinese Scholar Tree.

The future: In September, the Chinese Scholar Tree will be cut down.



Carolyn Randall took this photo of birds at her suet feeder—a Bluebird and a Yellow-bellied sapsucker. She writes, "It was a real treat for me to be able to catch them there at the same time!"

Vickie Bailly is adding to the collection of member photos printed in the 2015-2016 Yearbook. Please see Vickie if your photo has not yet been taken. Please clip out and add the following photos to your Yearbook:



Yvone Orkin



Jeanne Weiss