



Bethesda Community

GARDEN CLUB

"Ninety-two Years of Brightening Lives and Landscapes"

www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org

Vol. 42, No. 8 ■ May-June 2016

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

President:
Candy Kessel
(202-363-0478)

Vice President:
Suzanne Grefsheim

Secretary:
Nancy Davidian

Treasurer:
Carol Meyers

Bulletin Editor:
Lois Brown
301-365-7419

Photographer:
Vickie Baily

Send news to:
dnleb@aol.com



An arrangement of
spring flowers graced
the speaker's table at the
April meeting.

*Photos by Vickie Baily,
except picnic, as noted*

BCGC Plant Sale 2016 a Record-breaking Success!

Judy Termini

After a record number of rainy days, Mother Nature smiled at us, and in return we had our most successful plant sale ever. Treasurer Carol Meyers reports \$10,286 in total receipts, with net receipts of \$8,272 – both records for our beloved major project!

With Chair **Nina Stark-Slapnik** and **Kay Hager** leading the charge, we began digging plants for this year's sale last summer. Volunteers dug throughout the fall and into the winter, and more members than ever volunteered to shelter those plants through the winter. The digging and prepping continued through our cold and wet April, and then it was time to gather, price and label the plants. Those of us who spent the day before the sale in the rain at Carolyn Kulick's house wondered if we'd have any customers if the weather didn't change. But Thursday was dry, and the crowds appeared, early as always, and sales were brisk!

As Nina told the group at our recent picnic, we showed once again that we are an energetic, talented community of women. And the community extends beyond us to the many people who bought plants (and made donations beyond their purchase prices), as well as to the groups who received the plants left at the end of the sale (see Candy's report below).

Even as we celebrate this year's success, Nina and Kay are searching for tear-down properties with plants to rescue, and we all can do the same. Remember, too, that we'll gladly help any of your neighbors who'd like to thin their plants – spread the word!

Thanks to all of you who helped in so many ways. We truly are a community!

Leftover Plant Donations

Candy Kessel

First picks went to the Audubon Naturalist Society who selected only native plants. They use the plants around the mansion at Woodend "in our efforts to show that we can have beautiful suburban landscapes using native plants," per Alison Pearce, manager of volunteer programs.

Next in line were representatives of the Sustainable Literary Garden for the Kensington Park Library. They were primarily selecting plants for the in-progress "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" garden whose goal is to educate the public on seasonal changes in plants, all while sticking to a yellow color theme (yellow flowers, yellow foliage, yellow fall color, etc). Our plants may also be contributing to the "There's No Place Like Home" garden there, about wildlife habitats and the relationship of plants to their environment, and to the fauna that need them to survive.

Other leftovers were taken by a member of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association for planting in tree boxes along Connecticut Ave.

An Arboretum gardener friend of mine took a few plants for a garden she's created outside the Adas Israel preschool on Quebec St. in the District, a previously long barren strip beside a huge parking lot.

Sharon Washburn Southerland took the remaining plants for selling by the Potomac Valley chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society (several other club members also belong) and the Four Seasons Garden Club at their booths at Green Spring Gardens' plant sale on May 14.

Members Invited to Open Garden

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016 10 am - 1 pm

Debbie Shakelton has very graciously agreed to have members visit her garden. This is how Debbie describes what you will see and it certainly sounds appealing! Can we ever learn enough about shade gardens!

"The garden is primarily a shade garden that includes a variety of hostas, ferns and other shade loving perennials. In the bit of sun that's available we have found a few roses that will bloom in partial sun. There are a lot of old dogwoods, azaleas and camellias. Hardscape consists of a number of stone retaining walls that helps to shape a sloping lot."

Directions to 5307 Wriley Road, Bethesda
(301) 229-7255

From Little Falls Parkway at intersection with Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda:

1. take a left onto Massachusetts Avenue,
2. take 2nd left onto Baltimore Avenue - at the light between Brookview and Newport,
3. Once on Baltimore, bear left at the second left and then make an immediate left onto Wriley Rd.

No need to RSVP. We'll hope for a sunny day but if you have questions, please call Judith Graef at 301-652-0794 (H) or 301-641-0323 (C).

Hope to see you there!

Vickie took this photo of a bloodroot in bloom in Rock Creek Park near Lake Bernard Frank.



BCGC Web Site Helpful to Young Gardener in Oregon

Pam Gates

Of the many queries I receive weekly from the "Contact Us" feature of our website, most concern membership or are from those who, "for a fee," would like to address us. Some are from people seeking gardening advice or our help with community garden projects.

I always respond immediately, thanking them for their interest and forwarding their query on to appropriate club chairs or members for a more detailed response. I often hear back from people thanking us for our quick and helpful responses.

A recent query really touched me and is a great example of how our presence on the Internet extends our reach and helps us meet our objectives.

This is a portion of a note I received:

"My name is Erica Jacobs, I am a stay at home mom in Oregon. My husband, our kids, and myself are working on a garden in our yard for the first time this year, and so far are really enjoying it. I want to thank you for the great information on your page, <http://bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org/resource-links/>. We've had a lot of questions and your page was definitely a big help for us. Gardening is a great summer activity for my daughter Katie, it will keep her outdoors and involved in the environment. Hopefully it will become her life-long hobby!"

I told Erica we were delighted that she and Katie found our webpage helpful. A small thing — just one child — but in the same spirit as our annual Ivymount School garden therapy program.

Again, it is most rewarding to get this note, it reinforces my belief that our website can be helpful to seasoned and novice gardeners alike.

The big excitement at the April meeting was the offer of beautiful bloodroot plants to members, discovered at a tear-down by Nina and Kay.



Plant Sale 2016



In preparation for the plant sale, the "sorters and pricers" (above) organized plants donated by members and Holly Joseph (left) placed signs on Wisconsin Avenue.



There were lines of customers waiting at 7 am. When Nina blew her whistle the yellow Caution tape went down, and the crowds rushed in!

Vickie Baily took a new angle on the sale this year, shooting the scene through a wind hole in the banner (right).



A handy new position this year was the Tallier. These people went to the plants, rather than bringing the plants to the cashier's table. It eased congestion for the cashiers (above).





This customer just bought her first house, in Fairfax. Her mother lives in Bethesda, so they came to our sale to buy plants for her landscaping. She said the place is bare now.



Because we all feared more rain, there were lots of rain jackets. Three of our members wore red ones, and sported both the old and new aprons.



Many of our members work hard with the customers—Elaine Hope is one of them.



This is the way to transport plants!



Cashiers for the first shift worked tirelessly—Victoria Porter, Cathy Wolf, Joyce Casso, and Carol Meyers.



Kay Hager carried a tree to the cashiers for a customer. Sabita Sankaran (in pink) brought a very welcome set of vegetarian sandwiches. She got up early so they would be fresh—cream cheese and olive, cucumber, and cheese-tomato. With the Starbucks coffee they were a treat!

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

A Diary in Green

by Carole Ottesen

Every garden is a diary written in green. Each garden's development parallels who is or was in our lives at various times and, generally, what was happening over the years. Each plant, each stepping stone recalls an event, a friend, or an enthusiasm.

When I moved to my house in 1978, there was nothing—absolutely nothing—beyond a green “lawn” of short weeds, some mature maples and sycamores, and two misshapen and overgrown Japanese hollies as foundation planting.

The garden began officially when a new friend brought over a seedling southern magnolia. It was just over a foot tall. That friend has since passed away, but her gift—now huge—recalls her generosity as it screens the road.

Originally the driveway had come right at the house. With an eye toward more privacy, I moved the driveway to the edge of the property through what was once a paddock. The bricks from the walkway that led from the former driveway were repurposed into what is now a circular patio in front of the house.

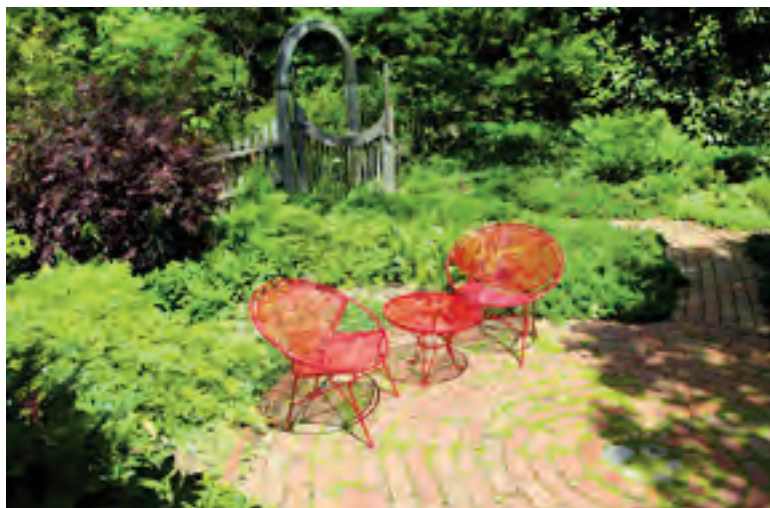
Ah! The patio. How well I remember its construction. I was married at the time. I remember digging out the circle, flattening the earth, and carting over the bricks—two by two—while husband looked on from time to time and made critical suggestions as to how it ought to be done.

With separation and divorce came euphoria and trips with friends to native plant conferences many hours away. The loot we carried back has now matured. Among the treasures is my prize silky camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*) in the front yard and the tangle of dog hobble (*Leucothoe fontanasiana*) in the area I call “deer central.”



With divorce, husband and mower vanished and the period of total ground cover began. A most glorious, kind man entered my life. He loved working outside, supporting my every effort, making garden arches, laying paths, erecting a deer fence. He brought me moss and mountain laurel. In the evenings, we sat on the porch surveying our efforts and drinking Grand Marnier.

My garden brings back the warm memories of dear friends in times past. It is peopled with the sweet ghosts of loved ones gone or far away.



The star of Carole's garden this time of year—a native *Stewartia malacodendron* or silky camellia (above). You can see that its flowers look like ironed sleeves with ruffles!

Many of the stone walk-ways and patios were laid by Carole herself, including this one outside what was once the front door.

Open Garden: Carole Ottesen



One expects to see a fox in Potomac, but everything about Carole's garden belied history. Not a scrap of grass in her garden, many native plants, and the bronzy leaves of autumn ferns everywhere!



One of the delights of Carole's garden was the view of an open field and huge sycamore from the back of her house, including this terrace. There were hawks calling in the sky, and she said they dive right down to take frogs from her pond.

Carole has lived in her house for 35 years, so trees like this Crepe Myrtle 'Natchez' (right) have had many years to grow. She said, beautiful though this tree is, she wouldn't plant it now. "It doesn't feed anything. Nothing at all."



Club Picnic: High Glen Garden, Frederick, MD



Photos above by Carolyn Randall



At left: Formal lily pond with bird sculpture and mountains beyond.

Below: peacock sculpture in the peacock garden, the semi-circular garden layout with peacock jewel plants like the peacock's tail.



Above: lovely fountain near the house.

At right: Candy Kessel opening her President thank you gift.

At left: work keeps up even when there is a tour. I love the "throw your yard waste bin over your shoulder" attitude.



Photos and captions this page by Sharon Washburn Southerland