



# Bethesda Community

GARDEN CLUB

*"Ninety-three Years of Brightening Lives and Landscapes"*

[www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org](http://www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org)

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The National Capital Area  
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Garden Clubs, Inc.

President:  
Suzanne Grefsheim  
(301-946-5529)

Vice President:  
Judy Termini

Secretary:  
Nancy Davidian

Treasurer:  
Regina Fitzgerald

Bulletin Editor:  
Lois Brown  
301-365-7419

Photographer:  
Vickie Baily

Send news to:  
[dnleb@aol.com](mailto:dnleb@aol.com)



You can make a charming teacup garden like this one at the club outing on October 11. Details are in the article, at right. Sign up now!

## TOGETHER AGAIN for the MEMBERS FORUM on September 21, the 3rd Wednesday in September

*Jane Malish*

Welcome back! Members gather in a circle to share gardening tips, favorite tools, gardening experiences and other nuggets of wisdom. Come prepared to collect great ideas to try in your own garden and perhaps learn what hasn't worked. Members of the board are preparing a salad lunch for all of us to enjoy and there's some buzz about a surprise?...hmmm...be sure to come EARLY to the meeting to find out. And you can also collect the new directory, ably put together by Barbara Shaw; Holly Joseph will hand them out. We will gather at St. Mark Presbyterian Church just off Old Georgetown Road and just past the access to Route 270. The address is 10701 Old Georgetown Road and the meeting starts at 10:30am.

Please note: Wednesday, September 21 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in September, a departure from our usual meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.

## WELCOME OUR OFFICERS FOR 2016-17

At the general meeting in April, Carol Meyers announced the slate of officers for 2016-17 that she and her committee (Judith Graef, Suzanne Grefsheim, Holly Joesph, and Sharon Southerland) developed. The members present unanimously approved the slate. As of September, these are your new officers.

President: Suzanne Grefsheim

Vice-President: Judy Termini

Treasurer: Regina Fitzgerald

Secretary: Nancy Davidian

## A WORD ABOUT THE WEBSITE

*Jane Boynton*

We now have a Members Login page on the website ([www.BethesdaCommunityGardenClub.org](http://www.BethesdaCommunityGardenClub.org)), which will be used for posting minutes of Board meetings and Garden Club meetings and other information that is for members only. The password for the page is daisy.

## On October 11—Make a Teacup Garden: Easy to Tend, Always in Season

Whether you're giving up on your garden for now, planning changes for next year, occasionally wishing you still had a garden, or just wanting a fun garden-related play date, this outing is for you.

Anne Shonnard has a fun day planned for us in the delightfully funky atmosphere of Old Lucketts, VA. She will have our green thumbs playing in the dirt and creating one-of-a-kind teacup gardens. That's something everyone can

tackle, regardless of her living space, aging body, and horticultural abilities.

A popular trend Anne calls thinking-outside-the-terra-cotta-pot, this garden-craft workshop using ever-resilient succulents is set for October 11. Anne is collaborating with workshop expert Michele Wymouth who will share her plant knowledge. Together they will walk us through the steps to build our own living teacup. We can choose from many of their favorite succulents and a colorful array of china teacups and saucers for our creations.

Anne's happy place is at the vintage hip Old Lucketts Store. Her 17 years there inspired her to follow her passion for everything garden. Under the red umbrellas, Anne offers workshops on succulent and teacup gardens. This fall she will be ultra-focused on porch décor and providing classes on wreath making and show-stopper container gardens.

The BCGC workshop will start at 11 am and last about an hour. Then we'll have a light buffet lunch. If we're a large number, we'll be divided in two groups. You're in for a surprise if you aren't familiar with Lucketts; just wandering around is a unique treat. Allow yourself plenty of time to investigate the antiques, architectural discards and other goodies offered for sale. Ideally, we'll be gardening outside in Anne's inviting shop; in case of rain there's indoor space.

Cost for the workshop and lunch is \$30. If you want to participate, please email Candy Kessel (candykessel36@gmail.com) to RSVP, then pay her \$30 at the September 21 meeting. (Checks preferred, made out to BCGC with Lucketts in the memo line.) If you won't be at the 9/21 meeting, please mail her your check or give it to another member attending. Deadline for reservations and payment is Friday, Sept. 23.

Carpools from RRUUC at River Road and Whittier will be organized with departure at 9:30 am. Plan on an hour+ drive, whether you go via the Dulles Greenway, Point of Rocks, MD, or White's Ferry, a picturesque, winding route with lots of 30 mph spots.



The photos above, taken by Candy Kessel during a visit to Old Lucketts Store, show some of the lovely container gardens that workshop leader Anne Shonnard has created.

## Garden Trip to PA Garden for Fall Bulb Show

*Candy Kessel*

BCGC members have a chance to see a notable private garden **October 18** when a dozen species and countless different variants of cyclamen are blooming at Edgewood, the Lonsdale Garden in Exton, PA. The 1.5+ acre garden belongs to John Lonsdale of Sheffield, England, who relocated to the U.S. in 1995. The garden he's created is far from the alpine garden he nurtured in southeast England. He calls his habitat there "a wonderful climate for growing in-character hardy plants, especially bulbs" so October brings out the blossoms of sternbergia, colchicum and crocus as well as the cyclamen.

The gorgeous pictures of thousands of *Cyclamen hederifolium* are what captivated Sharon Southerland, Nina Stark-Slapnik, and me when we heard and saw John's bulb presentation in July. He showed slides of five-year-old cyclamen corms, large as a

dinner plate, sprouting 150-200 gorgeous blossoms. Incredible!

A PhD microbial biochemist, John also propagates and sells cyclamen, cactus and other succulents, hellebores, trillium, and many other plants. He points out that "propagation is vital to the well-being of any successful garden," so he sows close to 450 pots of seed each year, mainly from bulbs.

Obviously we need to see Edgewood Gardens in spring, too, so BCGC has booked a double trip. We'll return there in April (tentatively 4/12) in hopes of seeing hellebores and trillium as well as buttercups, slipper orchids, trout lilies, etc., plus daphnes, magnolias, and other flowering shrubs.

The October 18 tour is scheduled for 1:30 pm, so you can do it as a day trip or do an overnight, driving up Monday, October 17, to visit other gardens in the area. Suggestions include Morris Arboretum, Meadowbrook Farm, Bartram's Garden, and perhaps another private garden.

**Due to the strong early response to the eBlast, we've been able to increase the head count. We can take up to 30, and first dibs go to BCGC members. We have about 20 registered now, so if they all still want to go and pay Candy \$10 at the September 21 meeting, there will still be space. If there are still slots left by the end of lunch on 9/21, we'll open those to friends and partners/spouses of members.**

Checks are preferred, made out to BCGC with Edgewood in the memo line. **Deadline for RSVP and payment is Tuesday, September 27.**

Whether you pay Candy at the meeting on 9/21 or mail her your check (3626 Veazey St., NW, DC 20008; candykessel36@gmail.com), please indicate if you:

Will drive and take riders, arrange your own transportation, or prefer to ride with others

Will go for the day or overnight 10/17

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER BARBARA NALLS

Barbara writes: I'm originally from New England and have lived in the DC area for over 30 years. Raised five daughters (21-29) in Bethesda, all but one have graduated and I'm very lucky to say that they have all planned careers locally, so my family is here. I have been a realtor for almost 25 years, most

recently with TTR Sotheby's International Realty <http://barbaranalls.ttrsir.com/eng/details>

More importantly, I have been a gardener most of my life, and have been through many phases—annual and perennial flowers, historic recreation, food production. My home garden now is only two years old, but already reflects a passion for beauty and sustainability through integration of vegetables, herbs and other edible plants into a large mixed border. It's an interesting challenge. I also have a large vegetable garden at a weekend house in the Shenandoah Mountains that makes a substantial contribution to what we eat. My style tends to a slightly funky, native, cottage garden look, mostly because I don't know that I've ever seen a flower or plant I don't want to find a place for. I also have a small koi pond in my current garden and am learning about water plants. I am passionate about sustainability, organics, protecting our pollinators, and food preservation, particularly fermentation.

I deeply miss the weather and gardening rhythms of New England, where I am as I write this, and fight with mid-Atlantic August disease and pests every year. I do, however, really appreciate the trade off of the length of our DC season.

Looking forward to meeting everyone.

## A Garden Metaphor

*Marjorie Pray*

A few months ago my Yoga teacher began our session with a reading that I found inspirational. I especially enjoyed her use of a garden metaphor to describe the importance of patience and perseverance, coupled with the need for understanding and the acceptance of imperfection in our endeavors. I also see this as a metaphor for life.

Here are a couple of excerpts from the story she read:

"Many years ago I moved into a derelict house. The back door was nailed shut and had not been opened for fifteen years; once pried open it revealed a six-foot wall of seemingly impenetrable blackberry bushes, vines, and crabgrass. I wanted a garden. For many months I looked in despair through the window of the back door. The task seemed too large and too difficult. Then I decided upon a strategy that my mind could grasp. I decided that I would divide the project into four-foot increments. Every



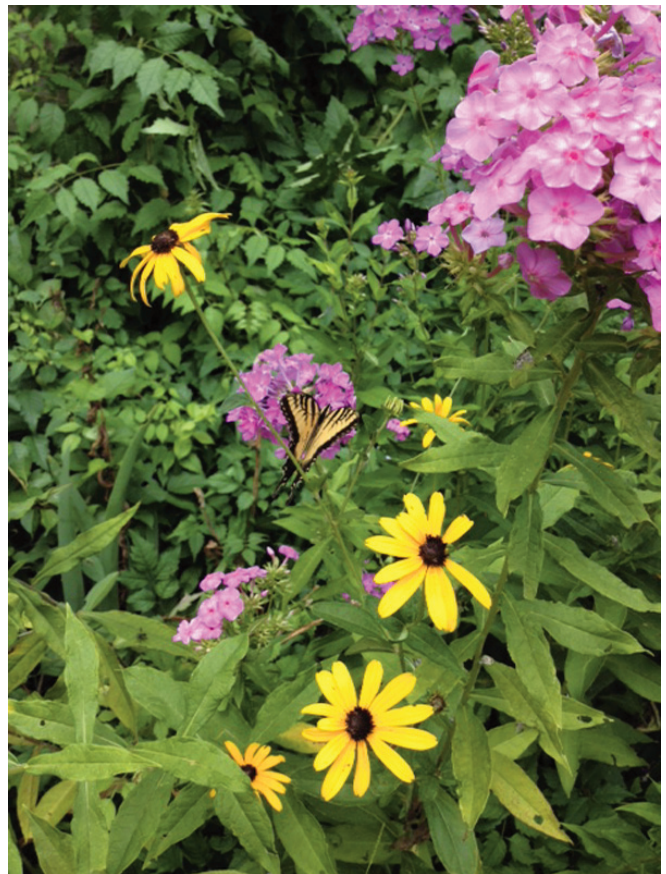
week I would clear a four-foot patch of garden. The backyard was sixty-five feet long! As I began to dig and root, cutting and pulling my tiny patch, I resolved that I would focus my attention only on the four-foot patch. I would not even look at the other sixty-one feet of garden left to clear. Within minutes of beginning I would become completely absorbed in the insects, the tiny plants uncovered, and the pleasure of digging my hands into the brown earth. Each four-foot patch took about three hours because the crabgrass had to be dug out completely and the earth was rock hard. But three hours a week was an easily manageable commitment. When I was finished with the patch, I would step back and admire my good work, never allowing myself to consider the chaotic mess left remaining. Each patch was a unique wonder."



"There's a moment when you can cheerfully accept the task and set to it with full vigor, or turn sour and miserable in the face of such work. There's a moment when you can resign yourself to the patient work ahead or give in to the impulse to pull on the stem before the ground has been dug deep enough. The first step is accepting that some deep work needs to be done and then deciding to make this a positive uplifting experience."

I hope you enjoyed this as much as I did.

Take a deep breath.....



Photos of irises and a butterfly from Lois Brown's garden in the country remind us of the richness of summer's bounty.



## HORTICULTURAL NOTES

*The terrible, horrible, no good, very bad weed*

Carole Ottesen

Ahh September! The leaves are turning. The sun is milder; the air, dryer; the nights, cooler. September would be a gardener's heaven but for a certain persistent weed.

In a desperate race against time to fulfill biological destiny, many weeds are still pumping out next year's seeds. The worst villain—the most heinous outlaw—is mulberry weed (*Fatoua villosa*), also called crabweed or hairy crabweed. This invasive thug from eastern Asia possesses procreative abilities that are truly frightening. It makes garlic mustard and stick-tight weed look like pikers.

Mulberry weed produces pompoms of flowers spaced along stems that can reach two feet or more. However, even a two-inch tall mulberry weed produces enough seed to reproduce itself a hundred times.

After an invasion of mulberry weed two years ago, I plucked four bushels—easily twenty-five pounds each—of it from the garden. They were growing in sun and shade, under conifers and walnut trees—anywhere and everywhere.

Last year, there were noticeably fewer, but in terms of mulberry weed eradication that means little. Just two or three plants will produce enough seed to carpet a garden.

This year, while still fewer are present, they keep coming. Daily, I find several dozen small ones, but also the occasional two-footer that has camouflaged itself in the foliage of a forsythia or a fern. Because they look innocuous and blend with everything around them, mulberry weeds often manage to escape detection.

If you find a single one, toss it in the trash. By all means, do not add it to your compost! This is a case of an ounce of prevention being worth four twenty-five pound bushels worth of care.

