



Bethesda Community

GARDEN CLUB

"Ninety-three Years of Brightening Lives and Landscapes"

www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org

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Member of
The National Capital Area
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The next meeting of the club will be **October 26** at 10:30. We will gather in the fellowship hall of St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda. Our speaker will be **Kathy Jentz**, editor and publisher of the *Washington Gardener Magazine*, a publication you might be familiar with. It's been published since 2005 and seeks to inspire and aid gardeners in Washington, DC and its suburbs. The articles are written by local gardeners who provide information that is vital, useful and appropriate to our location. And in that vein, Kathy's talk is all about getting your garden prepared for the looming cold season. She will offer tips and advice on how to accomplish essential tasks that will ensure fewer springtime chores and that your garden will survive the winter to thrive when spring return—truly news you can use. Check out Kathy's blog at washingtongardener.blogspot.com for more information about her. Her website is www.WashingtonGardener.com.

Lunch follows Kathy's presentation and a short business meeting. Please remember to bring a sandwich to share and if you're participating in the plant swap, remember to bring your plant. You must bring a plant to exchange if you want to take part. If, sadly, at the end of the swap your plant is an orphan, you can't abandon it and must take it back home or otherwise discard it.

What To Do with Those Unwanted Garden Books

Suzanne Grefsheim

One of the questions that came up at the September Round Robin, was, "where can I donate garden books I no longer want or need?" At its recent meeting, the Board came up with the following suggestions.

- The Montgomery County Library Friends of the Library: take donations to their Wheaton Library or Boiling Brook book store. The latter is located in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center, 4886 Boiling Brook Pkwy, Rockville, MD 20852
- The Women's Club of Chevy Chase: Jane Boynton welcomes donations of books for the club's annual book sale. Bring them to a general meeting.
- The Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School annual Used Book Sale: Drop off at B-CC HS driveway off East West Highway leading to the main entrance on the following dates and times:

Oct 8, 10 am - 2 pm
Nov 19, 10 am - 2 pm
Dec 4, 12:30 - 4:30 pm
Jan 7, 10 am - 2 pm
Feb 5, 12:30 - 4:30 pm
Feb 25, 10 am - 2 pm



Learn about an opportunity to hear Larry Weaner speak about his experiences in creating Revolutionary Landscapes (page 3).



**The Euonymus 10
performed during the
September Member Forum.**

Thank You for a Great Start

Judith Graef

A huge thanks to the newly minted “Euonymus Ten” (pictured above) for starting off our garden club year with a lively serenade. The performers included Penny Luborsky-Wechsler, Carol Meyers, Judy Termini, Barbara Roberts, Janet Fernandez, Deb Peck, Belva Finlay, Marge Pray, and Barbara Collier, with Phyllis Daen at the piano. The two-song presentation was memorable and meant an investment of time to arrange, practice and come up with the smart costumes and clever props. (Rumor has it that if the group name were “The Perennials” there might be repeat performances, if the group is given the proper attention!) Everyone did look as though they were having a good time. Thanks to all of you good sports!

Bethesda Community Garden Club members have so many diverse talents, such as musical ability, including voice and instrumental, photography, and art to name a few. Most likely, many of us aren’t aware of fellow members’ “outside interests.” Many of the Euonymus Ten have performed in area groups such as Encore Chorale/Glen Echo, the Levine Women’s Chorus, Voices of Levine, and Levine Community Singers. Undoubtedly, they could direct you toward a chorus that might meet your needs. The word is that many groups do not require auditions! Again, as a group we have many, many resources to call upon.

Davis Library Never had it So Good

Janet Fernandez

On Thursday morning, Oct. 13, Davis Library plantings got much basic and loving care. Sharon Wright, Judith Graef, Irene Sinclair, Margaret Edison and Janet Fernandez planted daffodils, pruned the Abelia and Winter Jasmine, removed some spent Rudbeckia leaving some for the birds, and did some hand weeding. Thanks to Margaret’s determination, the library is getting some needed basic care, getting ready for the library opening after renovation early next year. Let us know when you are free to join us.



*Larry Weaner's
Revolutionary
Landscapes at
American University
on Nov. 1*

"Minimizing intervention and letting the indigenous vegetation dictate plant selection...produces a garden landscape that flourishes without the traditional injections of irrigation and fertilizers and is better able to cope on its own with weeds and pests." - Larry Weaner

Hear Larry Weaner speak on this topic when the Garden Conservancy presents:

Larry Weaner's Revolutionary Landscapes

Tuesday, November 1

7:00 p.m. illustrated talk

followed by book signing and reception

American University

School for International Science

(Nebraska and New Mexico Avenues intersection)

Founders Room, Terrace Level

Washington, DC

By understanding the ecological process of change in our native landscapes and incorporating it into our designs, we can create beautiful, dynamic landscapes that require less labor and are more aesthetically rewarding and environmentally sound. Larry Weaner's ideas apply in any climate and will change the way you think about what a garden should do and be. Forget about nonstop weeding, fertilizing, and watering. It's time for a garden revolution!

Registration

\$20 Garden Conservancy members and Friends of American University Arboretum and Gardens

\$25 General admission

About the speaker

Famous for his meadows, Larry Weaner is a leading figure in North American landscape design. He is the founder of the educational program series New Directions in the American Landscape and his firm, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, is known for combining ecological restoration with the traditions of fine garden design. He has received the top three design awards from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change, a new book co-authored by Weaner and Thomas Christopher, was published by Timber Press in May.

This event is presented in partnership with American University Arboretum and Gardens.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

The Flowers of Fall

Carole Ottesen

Asters have a hard row to hoe: Not only do they have to struggle under a ponderous, new botanical name—*Symphyotrichum* (I ask you!)—they have to compete in our affections with mums.

Mums are everywhere and everything that asters are not. They are grown into low, well-behaved and very symmetrical mounds. Their flowers come in all of the traditional colors of autumn. They are neat and solid and can often be found in containers on the front porch.

By contrast, asters are airy, wispy, and dance in the wind. They are almost always a pale pastel. Sometimes a tad rangy, they are almost never found in a container on the front porch. Many are native plants that will never completely dissolve their ties to this continent's ancestral meadows.

Tatarian aster (*Symphyotrichum tataricum*), an Asian native, is the tallest of the tribe. A six-footer, it waits until October to produce ponderous billows of flowers that nod under their weight and bounce in the wind. This plant is a spreader that swiftly multiplies into giant ground cover. Definitely a back-of-the-border individual, Tatarian aster's flowers are blue with the ubiquitous lavender tinge of blue flowered asters.

One that is truly sky blue is the smooth aster 'Blue Bird' (*Symphyotrichum laeve*), a very well-behaved subject. It grows to just under three feet and holds its flowers on very upright stems, making it look like it is trying hard to be a good citizen despite the havoc that surrounds it. Its quiet dignity always makes me smile. This small, neat plant hasn't spread about in fifteen years in my garden.

For a low, ground-covering blue aster, I've heard great things about the aromatic aster 'Raydon's Favorite' (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*). I have not grown it—yet. I plan to use it for a low meadow. Its aromatic leaves and blue flowers grow into a floriferous, thirty-inch mound.

With some exceptions, asters are not docile and particularly compliant individuals. They billow and can sprawl over neighbors in the border—not always a bad trait. One thing is certain: Wherever they grow, asters light up the garden.