



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
Garden Clubs and
The National Council of State
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

Dues Are Due!

Officially our garden club year is July 1 to June 30. However, we collect dues beginning in March with a May 1 deadline so that we can send an official membership list with dues payment to the NCAGC by then.

Regina Fitzgerald will collect dues, which are \$40, at the March and April meetings or you can mail her a check made out to BCGC.

Regina Fitzgerald
4413 Windom Place NW
Washington DC 20016



This artistic arrangement, which decorated a table at the March meeting, calls to mind the lush still life paintings of the Dutch masters.

Longing for a tropical ambiance or even just a token tropical touch to exoticize your garden?

Then be sure to join us for our last "formal" meeting before the May 11 plant sale when **Mr. Joe Seamone** will share insider info he gleaned while working in landscape management not only in our area, but also in Florida and the Bahamas. He knows all about what varieties of palms, citrus, amaryllis and eucalyptus, to name a few, are hardy, and if you fancy the less hardy varieties of to-die-for exotics, he can tell you how to take care of them so they survive the bleak winter. Mr. Seamone has also provided us a handout and it'll be emailed it to you a few days before the meeting

The 10:30am meeting on **Wednesday, April 26** is at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda. Be sure to bring along a sandwich, conveniently sliced into four pieces to share. And meanwhile you can anticipate learning how to cultivate tropical plants that will make your garden remind you of Margaritaville or Mar-a-Lago or maybe just your last trip to Florida....

ANNUAL PLANT SALE May 11

Carol Meyers

As most of you know, our annual plant sale will be held on Thursday, May 11. 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 11, 2017 - 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.

ELECTION OF BCGC OFFICERS – 2017-2018

The Nominating Committee (Holly Joseph, Sharon Southerland, Carol Meyers, and Judith Graef) has prepared the following slate of Officers. The Election will take place at our next General Meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting. Please note that anticipating a revision of our current Bylaws, the Committee is proposing Co-Secretaries.

President:	Suzanne Grefsheim
Vice President:	Judy Termini
Co-Secretaries:	Carol Meyers Judith Graef
Treasurer:	Regina Fitzgerald

Bylaws Clarification

Mary Ellen Bittner, bylaws committee chairman

The nominating committee and the executive board have discussed amending the draft bylaws revision to provide for two secretaries so as to share the tasks of taking minutes at the club and board meetings. The following proposals to amend the draft revision you received prior to the March 22 club meeting are intended to (1) permit there to be two co-secretaries; (2) leave it up to the nominating committee to decide whether there should be one or two secretaries in a given year; (3) provide that at board meetings the co-secretary functioning in that role has the vote; and (4) provide that no board member can carry more than one vote, i.e. an appointed chairman who is also an officer does not have two votes.

Here are the proposed changes, which will be considered along with the remainder of the draft at the April 26 club meeting:

In Art. V, Sec. 2, insert at the end: "If there are two secretaries, at Board meetings the secretary functioning in that role carries the secretary's vote. No member of the Board may carry more than one vote."

Insert in Art. V, Sec. 1, after the word "vice-president," the words "one or two."

In Art. VI, Sec. 4, change the first word from "The" to "A."

Insert in Art. VII, a new Section 3 and renumber subsequent sections accordingly:

Section 3. The nominating committee may, but is not required to, nominate members for election as two co-secretaries.

Update on Davis Library Gardens

Margaret Edison

Davis Library has reopened after a nine-month restoration. We of the Bethesda Community Garden Club took the time before the opening to do some heavy work like pruning, mulching, weeding and more. We had three really nice days to do the work in March and a group of garden club members worked until we could barely get to our cars to drive home each day. First we lowered the burning bushes by about 4 feet—no small job there!! Also removed dead wood and lowered the Abelias in the

front, deeply cut the huge butterfly bush back, removed the stumps and suckers of the Bayberry bush, weeded where needed and spread 10 bags of mulch. You should have seen Kasia attack the huge Kerria bushes!! So I would like to give a giant "THANK YOU" to Judith Graef, Marge Pray, Irene Sinclair, Diane Beverly, Sharon Wright, Kasia Massie, and of course my co-partner, Janet Fernandez. I am sorry if I missed anyone—all were appreciated and we will have more times this season to keep the gardens in top shape and commune with Mother Nature.



Thanks to All for Silent Auction Success

Candy Kessel

At the meeting on March 22 club members bid on 89 unwanted garden-related treasures donated by other members and raised nearly \$600 for the 11th Street Bridge Project. Great job ladies!

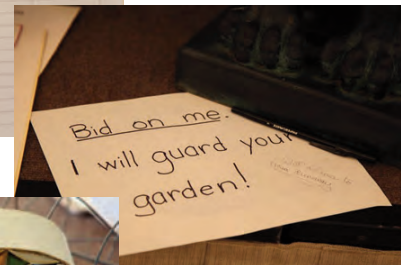
Bidding was vigorous on a few items and competitors kept the back-and-forth genial so that built fun and camaraderie. In addition, donors got rid of unwanted items and fellow gardeners found well-priced pretty and practical goodies to enhance their green space.

Only a handful of donations remained unsold when the auction ended and those were delivered to Wagging Tails Thrifts & Gifts. Wagging Tails is 12,000 square feet of donated goods sold to support the life-saving work of the Montgomery County Humane Society.

That spells success on many fronts. Sincere thanks to Debbie Shakelton for her legwork and enthusiasm in establishing this tradition and this year's helpers: Betty Bartky, Sue Gagner, Elaine Hope, Karin Kelleher, Susan Lass and Judy Termini.



This Griffin resided for about 20 years in Carol Metzger's garden before being adopted by Marty Fears. He spent about 10 years with her. He found his forever home with Carolyn Randall, who gave \$50 to The 11th Street Bridge Project for the opportunity.



The March speaker, Carolyn Mullet, had a drawing to win a copy of the book "The Spirit of Stone." When our president, Suzanne Grefsheim, won, some said it must be rigged! Others said it must be the universe's way of thanking her for what a wonderful job she is doing.



Jane Boynton (left) brought a salad to the March meeting that looked like a trifle! But it was much heartier—with bacon and cheese and sour cream, peas and red onions. A perfect spring treat.

Janet Fernandez (below) brought a show-and-tell *Euonymus* cutting from the recent work day at Davis Library. She said the bush may be invasive in home gardens, but that Davis is surrounded by so much cement that it is a nice addition there. If this is the amount that needs to be pruned every spring, it certainly seems happy there!



Botanical Art Show Features Club Member's Husband

If you like native plants, bees, and botanical art, you might be interested in a show at the Athenaeum in Alexandria. The show, "Natural Attraction: Virginia Plants and their Pollinators," runs from April 6 to May 14 and features both botanical art and a photography exhibit featuring bees.

Among the botanical artworks in the show are two watercolors by Jonathan Paul, husband of club member Barbara Collier. After taking up art in retirement, Jonathan has been specializing in botanical art, having followed the botanical art program at Brookside Gardens, as well as other local art courses. If you get out to Alexandria, check out his work and that of other local botanical artists.

Also happening in Alexandria is a Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 29 from 9-2. The address is 1701 Quaker Lane, Alexandria, 22302. For more information go to www.northernalexandrianativeplantsale.org.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

Mache

Carole Ottesen

Mache (*Valerianella locusta*) has been called “the mayonnaise of salad greens” for its tender, sweet, and nutty flavor. The green nearest in flavor is Bibb lettuce. For this reason mache is called “Doucette” in its native France where it has been a dedicated crop since the 17th century. Before that, its tendency to pop up in grain fields is a characteristic that gave rise to the English name “corn salad.”

Although Thomas Jefferson grew it at Monticello, mache disappeared from the American market until grower and innovator Todd Koons reintroduced it in the 1980s.

A cool-weather green, mache couldn't be easier to grow. I suspect before Koons marketed it and made it chic, mache had been growing in this country all along, but few knew what it was and probably weeded it out of gardens.

In our climate, plant mache in fall and expect low-growing rosettes of true green spoon-shaped leaves to appear in March. It will bolt in hot weather, but unlike many other lettuces, it does so attractively with tiny flowers that will produce the seeds to start many generations of this lovely green.

There are over 200 varieties of mache. Some varieties available here (try Johnny's Selected Seeds among many) are the large-seeded types that won't fade as quickly in the heat, such as 'Bistro' and 'Piedmont.' 'Verte d'Etampes' is a small-seeded variety that grows best in cool weather, but self-sows and has come back for me for over ten years.



Mache rosette

Harvest mache like cut-and-come-again lettuce. It will take time because the plants are small—under eight inches tall by only five inches wide. However, after a few years, the plants will make up in number what they lack in size. If you let mache go to seed, in a couple of years you will find its little rosettes everywhere. They are charming along garden paths! You'll be able to amble through the garden and cut yourself a quick salad every March and April.

Member Grown: Annuals Perennials Herbs Vegetables

BETHESDA COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB'S



Annual Plant Sale

Thursday

May 11

7am-1pm,
rain or shine

cash or check only

Proceeds help
landscape the
Bethesda &
Davis Public
Libraries

FARM WOMEN'S MARKET
7155 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda
(public parking in back)

www.BethesdaCommunityGardenClub.org
