



Bethesda Community

GARDEN CLUB

"Ninety-eight 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
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Secretary:
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Photo by Dawn Landesman

Barbara Collier carries pots to the Big Dig at Karen Fricke's house. See more photos from this event on page 3.

FINALLY! April's General Meeting IN PERSON at St. Mark!

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

10:00 AM Time to Catch Up with Gardening Friends

10:30 AM Meeting Begins

St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road

St. Mark has lifted their restrictions on capacity and mask mandates, so our last general meeting of the 2021-22 year will be held at the church, followed by a bring-your-own lunch.

St. Mark requires that anyone who attends must be fully vaccinated and have received at least the first booster. Masks are optional, but please don't hesitate to wear one if you will be more comfortable.

Out of an abundance of caution, we ask everyone to bring their own lunch and beverage, as we will be providing tables and chairs, but nothing else.

This is an important meeting! Besides the wonderful speaker that our program chair, Jane Malish, has scheduled (see description below), we look forward to personally welcoming our new members and conducting the election of the board for 2022-23. If you have yet to pay your annual \$45 dues, our treasurer, Margy Tritschler, will be there to accept payment.

Of course, if you are feeling unwell or suspect you may have come in contact with someone infected with Covid, please stay home.

And, as we all know, the situation may change, even up to the last minute.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns by emailing me directly.

Karen Fricke

President

The Latest on Natives

Our April speaker, Lauren Hubbard, holds a Ph.D in plant biology and is the founder of Butterfly Bandwagon, a neighbor-to-neighbor information-sharing approach to promote and support the use of native plants. She also offers sustainable landscape services and small scale installation.

Lauren is on the board of the Maryland Native Plant Society and runs a small nursery producing local eco-type native plants. In addition to sharing information about her favorite natives in her presentation, she hopes

to bring a couple varieties to our meeting to sell; if the plants are of sustainable size she will let me know the varieties and I'll eblast you the details. The plants are \$7.50 per quart size pot if they're available. So keep your eye on emails and don't miss an opportunity to maybe purchase that native plant you always wanted.

Slate of Officers for 2022-2023

The Nominating Committee* is pleased to announce the following slate of officers for the 2022-2023 membership year

<i>President</i>	Jeanne Weiss
<i>Vice-President</i>	Stella Gordon (incumbent)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Margaret Tritschler (incumbent)
<i>Secretary</i>	Betsy James (incumbent)

The election will be held at the April general meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting provided the consent of the proposed nominee has been obtained.

**Judith Graef & Suzanne Grefsheim (co-chairs), Betsy James, Suzanne Shwetz, and Sharon Southerland.*

A Real Picnic – Oh My!

Suzanne Grefsheim

Yes, there will be an annual picnic this year on **June 8** after a two-year hiatus. It may be our first opportunity to share a meal since the pandemic began and the Picnic Committee thought that was reason enough to hold it. We also thought making it a potluck lunch with everyone contributing their favorite picnic dish will add to our sense of community and mean there will be no cost or limits on attendance. The Club will provide all supplies and cold drinks.

To accommodate everyone who wants to attend, we have reserved the picnic pavilion at the Carderock Recreation Area. For our special program, we are planning guided nature walks along the nearby footpaths. For more adventurous or independent-minded attendees, self-guided walks on one of the Billy Goat trails is also an option. (Be sure to wear appropriate footwear if you plan to take advantage of the guided or self-

guided walks. And the birders among us should bring binoculars!)

Carderock requires that we leave no trace, and we as a club are committed to cutting our environmental impact, so we will be composting all food and paper waste. If you plan to use aluminum foil or plastic containers, be prepared to take them home with you.

To pull this off we're going to need help from other committees and members. When we send out sign up sheets for various tasks, please sign up.

Here are the details:

Date: June 8, 2022

Time: 11:30 – 2:30

Place: Carderock Picnic Pavilion (plenty of parking available)

Who: BCGC members and their guests

What: Bring enough of whatever (salad/main/dessert) to serve at least 6. If bringing a guest maybe a little more. If you don't want to prepare anything, fruit, nuts, or chips are good options.

Annual Plant Sale

When: **Thursday, May 12**, from 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Montgomery Farm Women's Cooperative Market, downtown Bethesda.

The Plant Sale is our biggest annual event and our only fundraiser. The success of the Plant Sale depends on you!

Sign up for one or more of the varied volunteer activities: There's something for everyone!

- Donate your plants to the sale (closing soon!)
- Bring your plant donations to the drop off site
- Help spread the word by sharing flyers with your favorite groups; and putting up posters and flyers in appropriate public places. Load and unload cars at the donation drop off site
- Help transport plants from the drop off site to the sale
- Help provide food for volunteers at the sale
- Help with setup, sentinels, sales, and cleanup at the sale

You can find links to all of these sign-up sheets in email blasts from the Plant Sale committee. Please find details for each activity on its sign-up sheet.

Spread the word!

A printable copy of our flyer is included in this newsletter. We also will make copies of the flyer available at the April general meeting. Please consider putting a copy on your car, and posting community bulletin boards.

Are you donating plants?

Assure that each pot is labelled with the plant's name, flower color (if applicable) and light requirements. Please keep them watered, especially as the weather warms.

Questions? Contact Judy Termini or Elaine Hope



Photos by Dawn Landesman



Environmental Concerns

Barbara Collier

Paths to Propagation

I am hardly the first to note the inclination of many plants to propagate themselves in the garden path—a source of mingled consternation and delight. It may be wearing to weed out the more rambunctious ones, but there is much to be said for having a consistent source of new plants. Even if you are rich enough (in money or kind gardening friends) that you can easily acquire boatloads of plants for your garden, the garden path is a convenient, constantly replenishing nursery.

Most of my own paths are lined with logs and filled with deep wood chips, as I need something fairly robust to keep down weeds and my own aggressive plantings, busily competing amongst themselves. If you have a more calm type of woodsy garden, paths of leaf litter and pine needles are excellent for encouraging such self-seeding plants as Jacob's ladder, phacelia, and wild geranium. (If your paths are brick or stone, you probably still have self-sown plants, but rescuing desirable volunteers from among stones may be tricky.)

A lot of the things that I've harvested from my garden paths are ground covers: I've written about the virtues of *Salvia lyrata*, pussytoes, and the ubiquitous golden ragwort. (Does anyone still need to propagate golden ragwort? *Tip*: These prolific self-seeders are good cut flowers and have a nice scent. Start filling vases with them now!) Among the many plants that happily self-seed or creep into my wood chip paths, some gems have appeared: I've even found Virginia bluebells. (*Tip*: my mother's wildflower book © 1951 recommends transplanting these just as the foliage dies.)

Other good path plants are sedges, and some of the shorter sedges especially are useful path liners. I bought a clump of *Carex appalachica* several years ago whose many offspring are now inspiring me to find new uses for them as I clear out undesirables like English ivy from the far reaches of the garden.

Another happy example is Christmas fern. These robust evergreen ferns are wonderful in the shady garden. They do become bedraggled in winter, eventually laying their tired fronds on the ground, but in the spring it is lovely to see the fuzzy fiddleheads emerging and uncurling into fresh fronds. Like all ferns, these can reproduce themselves by spores. And it turns out that an excellent spot for propagating them without any effort is in the shelter of a log (at a path's edge or elsewhere); the damp undisturbed soil there is perfect for spores to land and begin the process of sexual reproduction. The initial structures are small enough that you probably won't notice them as they nestle under your log, until one happy day you realize there are ferns in the path. (Other good spots are the north side of a wall or hedge, once you've pulled out all the competition.)

Early spring is the best time to move and divide Christmas fern (mid to late March?), preferably before the fronds start to appear. If you get ferns growing by the logs lining your paths, don't follow my example and delay moving them year after year. Big clumps require moving a lot more earth. And the longer you wait, the more compacted the earth in your path is likely to be, which makes dividing the fern more challenging.

Paths play so many roles in the garden: they define garden structure, they save our plantings from compaction by keeping (most) visitors out of the beds, and they act as nurseries. There is more than one way to be led down the garden path.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Outings

Candy Kessel

- Spring has been sporadic and summer has popped up a few times, inappropriately, but we're hoping the trillium will persist nevertheless. The G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area, noted for its extensive trillium display, is our scheduled outing on **May 4**. The 4,000-acre tract is in Markham, VA, about 60

miles away, so carpooling will make the drive more pleasant. We'll gather at St. Mark Presbyterian Church at 9:30. Please email Candy and indicate if you are willing to drive or would like a ride.

- On **June 26-27**, we'll be heading to Lewes, DE, to visit the Delaware Botanic Garden at Pepper Creek; the private garden of Holly and Osamu Shimizu; and Mill Pond, the private-public garden of Buffy and Mike Zajic. Members who want to enjoy all the area has to offer and spend the night should book accommodations promptly. Those who want to partake of only Monday events are welcome to do so, too. We'll try to organize carpools for both options.

- On **July 11**, we'll visit Freddi and Dick Hammerschlag's enchanting garden in Highland, MD, and enjoy all of their daylilies, cardinal flowers, black-eyed susans, hostas, ligularias and turtleheads.

The hardy members who bundled up March 28 for the garden (and house!) tour of Jim Dronenburg and Dan Weil's homestead were treated to an incredible display of hellebores, hardy cyclamen, bloodroot, fritillaria and much more.



Images from Karen Fricke's garden were captured by Dawn Landesman during the Big Dig event. Karen donated many specimens for the Plant Sale as she prepares to move.



Bethesda Community Garden Club

PLANT SALE

Thursday, May 12 9 AM – NOON
Montgomery Farm Women's Market
7155 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda MD 20814

Plants that thrive in the metro area
Native plants | Collectors' corner

CASH – CHECK – CREDIT CARD



Plants dug and potted from gardens of members and friends. Sales support local horticultural and conservation organizations, and our work in the gardens at Davis and Connie Morella public libraries.

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