



# Bethesda Community

GARDEN CLUB

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

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

Vol. 49, No. 7 ■ April 2023

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

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Celandine poppy is a welcome native, but watch out for Lesser celandine! Learn more in Carole Ottesen's Horticultural Notes on p. 4.

## Lizzy Glidden-Boyle Arranges Flowers

Lizzy Glidden-Boyle is a BCGC club member, who grew up on a ranch in Arizona, trained as a nurse in England, worked as an interior designer in New York, and later joined the American Refugee Committee helping to re-settle refugees in Washington, D.C.

For 15 years she was head of the Flower Guild at St. Columba Episcopal Church and is presently head of the Flower Guild at St. Johns Norwood Parish in Bethesda. When she's not pursuing the lady-like activity of making lovely bouquets she can be found digging, planting, and pruning with fellow BCGC volunteers at Oak Hill Cemetery. In her spare time she is planning an urban native garden for St. John's which she hopes will attract pollinators, birds, and all kind of beneficial wildlife as well as provide a gathering place for parishioners.

Lizzy has lived a life of variety and has seen much in the way of flora, experiences that inform her flower designing in a way that's hers alone. Be sure to come and see how she does it and learn from her tips you can use in your own arrangements. AND there will be a hot lunch to follow Lizzy's talk – so come and enjoy our last regular meeting before the Plant Sale, the picnic, and the long summer break.

The meeting is **April 26** at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, North Bethesda, and will begin at 10:30.

## Plant Sale: Our biggest annual event and only fundraiser

When: Thursday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to noon

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

*The success of the Plant Sale depends on you!*

*Donate your excess plants to the sale.*

- Assure that each pot is labelled with the plant's name, flower color, and light requirements.
- Keep them watered, especially as the weather warms.

*Sign up for volunteer activities.* There's something for everyone!

- Put up posters and flyers in appropriate public places
- Load and unload cars at the donation drop off site
- Transport plants from the drop-off site to the sale
- Provide food for volunteers at the sale
- Set up, sentinels, sales, and cleanup at the sale

Find links to sign-up sheets in upcoming email blasts from the Plant Sale committee. More details for each activity on its sign-up sheet.

*Spread the word!*

- Get printed copies of the flyer at the April general meeting.
- A printable copy of our flyer is included in this newsletter.
- Tape the flyer on your car window and post on community bulletin boards and your neighborhood listserv.

*Questions?* Contact Elaine Hope or Judy Termini

**Annual Picnic Sign-Up**

The annual Club picnic at **Meadowlark Gardens on June 7** will begin at 10:00am when you will meet up with the group at the Lilac Pavilion for coffee and conversation. The tours will begin at 10:30am. One of the tours will be accessible, i.e., not as strenuous. Tours are limited to 20 people each. Carpooling is recommended and a list of attendees willing to drive will be posted so you can arrange your own. Back at the Lilac Pavilion a buffet lunch featuring an array of sandwiches and salads will be served after the tours.

You can sign up to attend at the April meeting or by mail. The cost is \$20 to cover lunch. Cash or check only are accepted. The deadline for signing up is May 7. Checks, made out to BCGC, can be sent to Suzanne Shwetz. Check your BCGC Directory for address.

We, the Picnic Committee (Suzanne Shwetz, Kathy Benjamin, and Suzanne Grefsheim) can't do this alone, so we will be asking for volunteers to help set up and clean up, pick up the coffee, make table decorations, and this year to even make desserts – something for everyone. Look for an email for your chance to volunteer.

We hope to see you on June 7.

**Meet new member P. Anna Johnson**

Anna Johnson was born and grew up in Niagara Falls, New York. She has enjoyed two careers: first as a studio potter in Sydney, Australia (1960s - 70s), then as the founder and publisher of Open Hand Publishing Inc. in Seattle, Washington and Washington, DC (1980s-90s). She retired to Portland, Oregon and wrote two memoirs,

**The Nominating Committee\* is pleased to announce the following slate of officers for the 2023-2024 membership year:**

*President*            Jeanne Weiss (incumbent)

*Vice-President*    Milagros (Millie) Laurente

*Treasurer*           Margaret Tritschler  
(incumbent)

*Secretary*            Ginger Macomber

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.

*\*Kathy Benjamin, Lou Olin, Betsy James, Meme Lincoln, and Gwen Stewart.*

*Australia Years: The Life of a Nuclear Migrant*  
and *Publishing Years: The Story of a Small Press.*

In 2022 Anna moved to Bethesda from Portland where, for about 15 years, she had volunteered at the Oregon Food Bank Learning Gardens. She became a Master Gardener and taught "Seed to Supper" classes, a part of the Oregon Food Bank's educational program. Anna also created a community garden for her condo association.

Anna has two sons and three grandchildren.

**Environmental Concerns**

*Barbara Collier*

**Yikes! Spotted?**

Here's an environmental concern that is concerning in the "worrisome" sense: the invasive spotted lanternfly, which was first detected in the US in 2014 and in Maryland in 2018. In March of this year, the Maryland Department of Agriculture expanded its spotted lanternfly quarantine to include most of the state, including Montgomery County. To contain the pest's spread, the quarantine imposes permitting, training, and inspection

requirements on businesses and agencies that move articles in which lanternflies might be hiding (such as landscaping waste, packing materials, outdoor furniture, plants, and so on).

At this point Montgomery County is considered to be “lightly infested,” but to keep it that way requires vigilance. To guide us, the University of Maryland Extension has a helpful web page, Spotted Lanternfly Management for Residents (<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/spotted-lanternfly-management-residents>), which provides detailed information on how to identify spotted lanternflies, report them, and destroy them. (The page also has a checklist for inspecting outdoor items before moving them from or within the quarantined area:

<https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/SLFHomeownerChecklistMDA.pdf>.)

We as gardeners, and especially those of us sharing plants for the **plant sale** or other reasons, need to do our part by being alert for any signs of these pests. At this time of year, the lanternfly life cycle is just beginning. Overwintering egg masses begin to hatch in late April, with the young nymphs emerging and growing through spring; the flying adults don’t appear till late July.

When inspecting plants or other items now, look for egg masses: they’re about an inch long, with a grey mud-like covering that eventually flakes off to reveal 30 to 50 brown eggs resembling seeds aligned in 4 to 7 rows. To get a good idea of the various ways egg masses can appear, do a web search on “spotted lanternfly egg mass identification.”

Later, when the nymphs have started to hatch, they can be quite small (see picture). As the picture shows, the nymphs start off black with distinctive white spots.

Whether for the upcoming plant sale or a neighborly plant swap, we want to be sure we don’t share anything nasty, so watch out for these guys (as well as the usual hitchhiking weeds).



Photo: Wikipedia

## HORTICULTURAL NOTES

### *An Unwelcome Guest*

Carole Ottesen

Spring is here again. In the midst of all of its welcome attributes and gifts—the pleasant temperatures, the flowering bulbs and shrubs and trees, some of you may be surprised to find an unwelcome intruder popping up in your garden. It's the lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna* or *Ranunculus verna*) a member of the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae, also known as the fig buttercup.

As well as lawns and garden beds, the lesser celandine invades forests, wetlands, and uplands. It seems not only to thrive everywhere, but proliferate everywhere with gusto.

It forms spreading carpets of dark green shiny leaves similar in shape to violet foliage. An expanse of lesser celandine dotted with bright yellow flowers can be beautiful to behold. Don't be taken in. Destroy this invasive weed as soon as you spot a single leaf. Managing the lesser celandine becomes more arduous once it establishes—something it does at warp speed. If unstoppable, this perennial quickly multiplies into vast colonies that can take years, if ever, to eradicate.

A true ephemeral, the lesser celandine's leaves begin to emerge in very early spring, long before many native plants have started to make an appearance. This early emergence is a developmental advantage, allowing the lesser celandine to reach full maturity while many native species are just beginning to stir. By the time the natives emerge, the dense, ground hugging clusters of the lesser celandine crowd them out.

Even after the leaves and buttercup yellow flowers above ground disappear, the lesser celandine is far from gone. It lives on below the ground where the manifold tubers that supported its spring appearance survive, multiply, and outcompete the roots of natives.

If you are lucky enough to have only a small infestation of the lesser celandine, dig it out. Immediately. And carefully! Be sure to collect all the little white tubers attached to the roots. Do not compost them, but bag and dispose of them in the trash.

If you are unlucky enough to have a large colony, your work is cut out for you. Although it may be possible to destroy larger patches of lesser celandine by smothering or repeated burnings with a weed torch, eradicating them may require using a weed killer.



Photos: Carole Ottesen

Above, clockwise: Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) leaves, roots, and flower

Right:  
Celandine Poppy  
(*Stylophorum*)





*Bethesda Community Garden Club*  
*100 year anniversary*

# PLANT SALE

Thursday, May 11      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 our work in the gardens at Davis and Connie Morella public libraries, and local horticultural and conservation organizations.

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