



Bethesda Community

GARDEN CLUB

"One Hundred and Two Years of Brightening Lives and Landscapes"

www.bethesdacommunitygardenclub.org

Vol. 52, No. 2 ■ October 2025

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

Co-Presidents:
Barbara Collier & Carolea Logan

Vice President:
Blanca Luisi

Secretary:
Betsy White

Treasurer:
Gwen Stewart

Bulletin Editor:
Margaret Hadley

Photographer:
Dawn Landsman

Send news to:
Margaret Hadley, editor



Sourwood
(*Oxydendrum*
arboreum) contributes
beautiful fall color to
the garden. Read about
other autumn pleasures
in Barbara Collier's arti-
cle on pages 3 and 4.

The second meeting of the year: Wednesday October 22

Where: St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road,
Rockville MD 20852.

Time: 10:00 AM - Silent auction Day! Please come early to pick up your name tag, and donate your well-loved garden items that need a new home. Our meeting will begin at 10:30. Dr Charles Miehme will be speaking to us about Dahlias.

Lunch: Please bring a sandwich cut in quarters to share. Dessert and salads will be provided

Halloween: Join the fun and wear a costume or halloween hat to our meeting....**not required but it will be interesting to see what your fellow gardeners come up with!**

AUCTION TIME!

Unusual birdhouses, assorted trellises, plant hangers, attractive pots, plus. These are just a glimpse of what Dee Lertora has accumulated in her many years of gardening in Kensington. An active 15-year BCGC member, Dee is selling her house and has donated these delights and more to our silent auction October 22.

You probably have knickknacks, pots, tools and other garden-related items you don't use or want any more either. Please gather them up and bring them to our October meeting. And bring your checkbook and/or cash so you can purchase the auction items you will want to bid on. We will not be accepting credit cards to avoid paying the fee to Square.

Please **do not bring** garden books or florist vases. Most everyone has plenty of those.

Items that are unsold because they don't get bids will be delivered to Humane Together, the Montgomery County Humane Society Thrift Store.

You won't want to miss the auction as BCGC does it only occasionally. And as always, you're welcome to bring friends to the meeting who are garden enthusiasts.

Holiday Greens Workshop

WE WANT & NEED YOU!!!

We need YOU and all garden club members..... to create holiday magic at the Holiday Greens Workshop on December 10th.

Signups for helping with the workshop will take place at our meeting on October 22. Please consider how you can help with this ambitious community project. We need volunteers to assist with setup, prepping oasis, cleaning up, and delivering the holiday arrangements to the many local charities who deeply appreciate our generosity and support. Think about asking a fellow member to join you as a "two-person delivery team."

So, please consider how you can help out on December 10th and sign up at the October meeting. Also, why not ask a friend or neighbor to join us? For many members, the greens workshop was their first introduction to the club. It is a fun day of camaraderie, creativity and "giving back." It starts off the holiday season on a high and "giving" note.

Questions about volunteering?

Contact Karen Eppinger, Volunteer Coordinator (kneppinger@msn.com or 301-587-6635).

Plant Sale News:

Ongoing Preparation for May 14, 2026

Fall preparation for the Plant Sale is in full swing. Thank you to all members who have been digging plants to overwinter, from their own gardens. Also, big thanks to those who have assisted with fall digs. This preparation helps to ensure that the Plant Sale (BCGC's biggest fund raiser) is a success.

Please continue to assist, as there is still time in November to dig perennials from your gardens that overwinter well and can be stored in a shady location. Typically, digging perennials can occur before the first frost. Plants that tend to overwinter well in 6-10 inch pots include Joe Pyle weed, daylily, hosta, aster, goldenrod, peony and more. Look for email announcements regarding possible Fall digs where help is needed and opportunities for members to purchase plants from a dig.

Kindly look ahead and *mark your calendar to volunteer the day of the sale, on May 14, 2026*. Many BCGC volunteers are needed to assist on the day of the sale. Your time is greatly appreciated.

If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out to the Plant Sale Committee, send a brief email to:

Elaine Hope: paris71197@gmail.com or

Mary Horan: mfhoran@gmail

Round Robin notes from September 24, 2025

Carolea Logan: Saker Battery operated Chainsaw—will cut branches 2 ½-3 inches—best thing ever. Easy to use. Wear goggles when using.

Betsy White: Root Slayer shovel. Candy Kessel introduced it to her. Great tool.

Japanese anemone: aggressive plant—taking over the yard.

Carole Gelfeld: Head net – keeps the gnats and bugs away. REI sells them.

Lilly of the Valley: very aggressive plant, invasive.

ohDEER is a company that provides an all-natural spray treatment for deer, ticks, and mosquitoes using a proprietary blend of plant-based repellents. They are not cheap, but it worked. A sound repellent device did not work. She had a deer staring at it in her yard.

Soil Tests: nothing was growing so she had obtained a soil test kit from University of Delaware and found there was no phosphorus in the soil, which plants need for root growth.

Lou Olin: Perennial geranium 'Rozanne' cranesbill, Babikow, blooms early summer to fall, sun to part shade. 20-24" tall

Nina Stark-Slapnik: native groundcover Texas frogfruit. The latin name is *Phyla nodiflora*. It has pink & white flower, tends to transplant well in the spring, part to full sun. Author-Steven Buhner- The Secret Teaching of Plants. Nina used to think she was in charge of the garden. She has found the garden is in charge and she has given in to it.

Rain gauge: bring indoors for the winter as the glass can break. The plastic one also cracked.

Judy Termini: *Carex Laxiculmus* 'Hobb Bunny Blue'.

Betsy James: the County will plant shade trees in your front yard and in your back yard; there is a waiting list.

<https://www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/SolutionView.aspx?SolutionId=1-6M6C9D>

Diane Beverly: Hand-held hose sprayer attachment works great for watering pots. Also Osmocote plant food every 6 months works well.

Joyce Casso: gorilla hose. Giraffe tools hose – works well

Ostrich fern have taken over

Container garden for apartment living: Plant *Plumeria*; stick cuttings in a pot and it will grow.

Carolyn Randal: Juan Marez, wonderful gardener and hardscaper, charges by the hour, \$35-45/hour

Sharon Washburn: had a teenager assist her in her garden and dug up iris, Eco—light purple flowers, good cut flowers

Jane Malish: Brass hose shut off valve. I got mine from Amazon.

Knife Sharpener in Kensington (at farm market): sharpens clippers & loppers

Milkweed is toxic to spotted lanternflies, with research showing that feeding on it can kill 60-80% of nymphs and adults within 24 hours, even when other food sources are available.

Jane Baluss plans to start planting “kick-ass containers”

Barbara Shaw: Mountain mint and native *Salvia azurea* are deer resistant

Deer ate my wild ginger.

Wendy: grew oregano around her Shasta daisies and the deer left them alone.

Jean: stated “the deer in my yard are gourmands”

Janet Lebrun: Norfolk Pine- 4feet tall and lives in an apartment- Looking for an idea for this tree.

Terry Schubert: put in every plant she has always wanted and it was really fun! Hummingbird moths are pollinators.

Carolyn: Figs have been prolific this year. Chop up figs; reduce and add Marsala wine. Serve with Chevre and crackers.

Susan Lass said the deer did not touch the Lantana in her yard.

Margy Tritschler said the deer ate hers.

Deer won't eat Amsonia or Euphorbia or herbs.

Environmental Concerns

Autumn Pleasures

Barbara Collier

There is always way too much to do at this time of year, especially in the face of the extended dryness we've been having. The fall planting and transplanting add to the already copious amount of watering needed, especially beforehand to get the soil workable. If, like me, you are trying to put more plants in bare spots, it becomes really obvious how very dry those spots can get. I am in the middle of planting 100 plugs, and it is much easier to tuck them into a bed that has or had lots of plants (even weeds!) than to crowbar them into a dried out bare crust—pre-watering is essential.

But enough complaining! Despite these obstacles, the great pleasure of this time of year is, of course, the changing colors. One of my delights is our *Oxydendrum arboreum* (sourwood), which we planted in 2019; a slow-growing tree, it is now big enough to make a satisfying display. As I look out my window while doing my morning exercises, seeing the leaves gradually reach their full glory has been an inspiration—to take pictures, if nothing else.



Oxydendrum fall color

Many plants providing colorful foliage are familiar friends such as Virginia creeper, dogwoods, grasses, blueberry bushes, spicebushes, redbuds, viburnums, and so on. They all change colors on their own schedule, so there is always something to be looking out for. Our Japanese maple is currently at its in-between stage: it isn't red yet, but the green is looking rather undecided.

This year, however, I have been surprised by a new source of color that I had not seen before. In our small "orchard" many rambunctious plants run riot, some less desirable than others. To combat the undesirables (stiltgrass, ground ivy, wild strawberries, and so on), I have been enlisting various volunteer natives often considered weeds (such as nimblewill and Carolina cranesbill). One that I allowed to grow for this reason is *Persicaria punctata* or "dotted smartweed"—once I managed to identify it as a native. Though similar to the common weed known as "lady's thumb," this persicaria has white rather than red seedlike fruits, and as it turns out, its stalks become an interesting red and show up nicely when its leaves fall. Left to its own devices, it gets a couple of feet tall (I think lady's thumb would probably do that too, if allowed). The persicaria patch made an orangish cloud turning to red under one of our apple trees. Fortunately, it is very easy to pull, so editing it out where it is not needed should not be a challenge. (Touch wood.)



Persicaria punctata a week ago



Persicaria punctata now