

Beltsville Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 62 Number 3 <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org> March 2015

Spring Trip to Chanticleer June 4

Join BGC for a special guided tour of Chanticleer, a premier pleasure garden, located near Philadelphia. Chanticleer features a beautiful garden tapestry of textures, fragrances and colors. There are seasonally ephemeral flowers, lush tropical plants, containers filled with delicate finery.

Each garden area has a spectacular display. The woodlands, pond, perennials all present a complex display of summer blooms. One of the most amazing areas of Chanticleer is The Ruin Garden, a folly built on the foundation of a home fallen into disrepair. There is a flooded room with walls reflecting the watery floor, a "library" with stone books, a great hall with a large black granite table resting on a mosaic floor. The Ruin Garden is described as "landscape theatre".

Following a 90-minute tour of the historic house and gardens, we will enjoy a catered box lunch. There will be time to explore the gardens on your own before departing for our second stop at Mostardi's Nursery for plant shopping. **See Registration Form on page 2. Sign up today! Space is filling up fast.**

Spring Plant Sales April 11 and May 9

BGC members are eligible to become vendors and sell plants at the April 11 and/or May 9 plant sales. The plant sales run from 8 a.m. to noon at the High Point High School parking lot. Many plants sell out by 10 a.m. So, come early to purchase and tell your garden friends about the sale. Contact Marcy Marinelli: 301-937-3683 or via email at talkdoc52@msn.com to become a vendor.

Growing Camellias is Topic of March Meeting

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose room of the James E. Duckworth School on Evans Trail in Beltsville. Carole Bordelon, Supervisory Horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum, will speak about "Growing Camellias". Ms. Bordelon will address the history of the Camellia Collection at the National Arboretum and its renovation over the last 20 years. She will highlight camellia cultivars that do best in our area, and address diseases and cultural requirements.



At the National Arboretum since 1990, Ms. Bordelon is responsible for oversight and development of the Asian Collections, representing wild and cultivated plant material from China, Japan and Korea. Ms. Bordelon has participated in collecting trips to China in support of the two-acre camellia collection. She is also responsible for the Azalea, Holly/Magnolia, and Flowering Tree Collections, and the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.

Members are requested to bring a plant or plant related item for the door prize table. Also, contributions of sweet or savory refreshments are gratefully appreciated. Thanks to all who contributed refreshments at the February meeting.

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

The Beltsville Garden Club is a not-for-profit organization designed to promote gardening interests of its members, increase their knowledge of horticulture, add to their enjoyment of gardening, and to encourage ornamental planting by individuals, community and business groups. Club dues is \$10 per family per year. The dues year begins in September. Send checks to: BGC, P.O. Box 1953. Beltsville, MD 20704-1953.

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BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB Spring Trip To CHANTICLEER A Pleasure Garden

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

e-Mail _____

Lunch: Vegetarian ___ Non-vegetarian ___

Cost is \$75 per person which includes coach bus transportation, guided tours of the house & gardens, box lunch, beverages & snacks. We will stop at Mostardi's Nursery for shopping for hard-to-find cultivars and other interesting plants on the way back.

Meet the bus at 7:30 a.m., in the Calverton Tower Office Building Parking Lot, 11785 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville (just past the shopping center; office building has a blue roof). We return by 6:00 p.m. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, May 15. For information, contact Sandy Lange at 301-474-1402 or e-mail at salange1940@yahoo.com

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

**Make check payable to the Beltsville Garden Club. Mail check and registration form to:
Sandy Lange
12 Pinecrest Court
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

Campaign To Promote Gardens and Gardening

In order to raise awareness of gardening and gardens in the D.C. area, a group of local gardening writers has started a new website: *DC Gardens—Beyond Cherry Blossoms*. To fund their outreach efforts, they are seeking \$25,000 in donations through *indiegogo*. Most of the funds raised will pay for a digital communications expert (Kathy Jentz of *Washington Gardener* magazine) who will provide monthly updates on garden-related events in our region. The website will also identify volunteers, clubs, native plant societies, garden designers and plants. Another goal is to promote the U. S. Arboretum as a tourist destination and strive to restore the three days that the Arboretum is now closed to the public.

For more information on garden resources and on how to donate, go to www.DCGardens.com.

Community Forklift Garden Party

BGC has been asked to participate in Community Forklift's Garden Party on Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. at their Edmonston facility. Community Forklift, a project of **Sustainable Community Initiatives**, is a nonprofit reuse center for home improvement supplies. Community Forklift's mission is to lift up local communities by making repairs affordable, reducing waste, promoting reuse, and creating green jobs. They sell a wide variety of materials to the community and also accept donations. Their website is www.communityforklift.org.

Their spring garden party is an annual event that draws over a thousand people. BGC has been asked to participate and we are one of the few vendors that will be allowed to sell plants. The executive board is interested in this event as a way to spread the word about BGC and to increase membership in the club. This is where we need your help. Volunteers are needed to staff the BGC table at the event. We'll need two people per shift to sell plants, answer questions and talk about the club. Shifts are 8:30-10:30 a.m.; 10:30-12:30 p.m.; 12:30-2:30 p.m., and 2:30-4:30 p.m.

If you can give a couple hours to the club for that day, please contact Marcy Marinelli at 301-937-3683 or via email at talkdoc52@msn.com

Garden News and Notes by Sandy Lange

The Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) and Arboretum staff are working to reopen the facility to seven days a week. The Arboretum reduced its hours in May 2013 as part of the federal government's sequestration plan. In part because of its location and lack of public transportation, the Arboretum remains a hidden secret to many visitors who come to Washington, especially during cherry blossom season. Visitors to the Arboretum can enjoy the forty types of flowering cherry trees growing there, as well as the outstanding camellia collection, the world class Bonsai and conifer collections. All fare free and—hopefully—soon open everyday!

Another hidden gem is the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. This 12-acre sanctuary has more than 45 ponds surrounded by 70 acres of freshwater tidal wetlands. Herons, egrets and other water birds abound. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is the only National Park Service area dedicated to water plants—and it is only minutes away. How many of us have been to this scenic wonder in the past year or two?

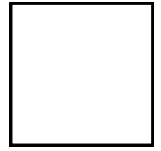
Now is the time to plant pansies as well as to cut perennial and ornamental grasses to within two inches of the ground. With snow melt and March rains, the soil is too wet to do any serious planting. It is important to avoid compacting the soil and losing airspaces needed by plants to grow and thrive.

BGC's February speaker, Dr. Thomas Turner, stated that turf-type tall fescue and zoysia grass are the most promising turf grasses for our area. These turf grasses provide disease and pest resistance and are more drought tolerant than other grasses. Kentucky bluegrass is not recommended unless small amounts (under 10%) of seed are mixed with tall fescue.

Garden chores this month include removing plant debris from flower beds and dividing perennials. Plant and prune roses. Cuttings of forsythia, quince, bittersweet, redbud, and pussy willow can be brought indoors for forcing into bloom.

Fight fungus on orchids with cinnamon. Dip your finger in cinnamon and gently rub it over the affected leaf area. Don't use too much as it can burn leaves.

Beltsville Garden Club
P. O. Box 1953
Beltsville, MD 20704-1953



Garden Events

Saturday & Sunday, March 15 & 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., *Brookside Gardens Orchid Show & Sale*, Behnke's Nursery, Beltsville.

March 20-April 12. Cherry Blossom Festival. Ongoing events in D.C. Cherry blossoms expected to bloom between April 11 and April 14.

Thursday, March 26, 4-7 p.m. or Friday, March 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., *Rain Garden Workshop*, Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection. Brookside Gardens. Fee. Registration required. www.ParkPASS.org or 301-962-1451

Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11. *American Horticultural Society Spring Garden Market*. River Farm. Alexandria.

Thru April 26. *Orchids: Interlocking Science and Beauty*. Exhibit. National Museum of Natural History. Washington, D.C. Free.

BGC Calendar of Events.

Wednesday., March 25, 7:30 p.m., *Growing Camellias*, Carole Bordelon, speaker

Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m. *BGC Executive Board Meeting*, Home of Lori Snyder

Wednesday., April 22, 7:30 p.m. *Seed Starting, Planting, Using Cold Frames*, Christopher Lewis, speaker

Wednesday., May 6, 7:30 p.m. *BGC Executive Board Meeting*

Wednesday., May 20, 7:30 p.m. *BGC program TBA.*

BGC Plant Sales: Saturday, April 11 & Saturday, May 9, High Point High School, 8 a.m.-Noon.