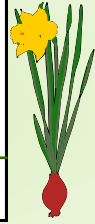


April 2011

GARDENSCAPE

Charles County Garden Club of Maryland



From My Desk to Yours

APRIL says come outside and play. The garden says sit with me and stay.

I hope everyone is excited about Spring finally being here. I know the beginning for me was the Annual meeting. The beautiful decorations and flowers seem as if I was in a Spring garden. Thank you Judy Norris and your committee of Paula Winkler, Kay Volman, Judy Mudd, Marge Mayer, Ellen Davis and Courtenay Wilson.

The meeting was made very special by District II Director Marjory Glennan's attendance and her installation of officers.

Congratulations to Peggy Schaumburg for being selected to receive the Fletcher Memorial Bowl and Mollie Gieseman for the Niessen Hall Award.

Awards, Awards, Awards, yes we did wonderful. Congratulations to Peggy Schaumburg, Diane Kramer and all who helped to earn the Rae B. Weeks Historic Preservation Award Silver Bowl for the Friendship Project. Thank you Mary Pat Berry for writing and submitting the application.

Also the club received awards for the Flower Show "Travel the World", Publications Award for the newsletter "Gardenscapes", Community Service Award for the Countywide Beautification Program, Civic Development Award for Countywide Beautification Program including a Green Initiative to encourage the community to practice environmentally sensitive growing measures, and Historic Preservation Award for the Friendship House Garden project at the campus of College of Southern Maryland.

I hope everyone gets a chance to attend the April meeting. Tom Ross has an extensive background in "The Origins of American Landscape". I am certain you will enjoy listening to Tom and afterwards talking to him.

Thank you everyone for all your support,

Sybil

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CCGC Officers

President:	Sybil Alger
1st Vice President:	Gail Manuel
2nd Vice President:	Ronda Goldman
Recording Secretary:	Robinette Ross
Corresponding Secretary:	Rose Haft
Treasurer:	Michelle Pence



Happy Easter

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH ANNUAL MEETING

March 14, 2011

Cindy's at Hawthorne - La Plata, Maryland

Call to Order: Mary Pat Berry called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Pat thanked the outgoing officers that had served with her, namely, Sybil Alger, Gail Manuel, Barbara Carpentier, Susie Marshall, Joyce McDevitt, Liz Schifflette, Peggy Schaumburg, and Diane Kramer.

Mary Pat also thanked Judy Norris, Paula Winkler, Kay Volman, Judy Mudd, Marge Mayer, Ellen Davis, and Courtney Wilson for hostessing.

Treasurer's Report – Joyce McDevitt: The checking account balance as of January 31, 2011 was \$9,999.86. There were no receipts. Disbursements for Awards, Bus Deposit, Cabinet Refurbishment, District II Meeting, Garden Therapy, PO Box Rental, Treasurer's Expense, and the Young Garden Program totaled \$1,108.98, leaving a balance as February 28, 2011 of \$8,890.88. The savings account balance as of February 28, 2011 was \$5,057.82, which reflects .31 in interest. The Certificate of Deposit balance as of February 28, 2011 was \$10,249.36. There was no interest earned. Total cash on hand as of February 28, 2011 was \$24,198.37, less estimated committed funds of \$10,785.00 with estimated total uncommitted funds of \$13,413.37

Invited Guests were introduced by Jan Spotz for Judy Tomison and Kate Zabriskie by Paula Winkler.

President's Report and Remarks –

Mary Pat Berry, outgoing President, reported that she was leaving CCGC financially fugal and stable, and emphasized a few of the Club's highlights from the previous year, such as one of the last things Anne Weaver did for the Club before her passing was completion of the Blue Star Memorial at Port Tobacco Courthouse; the success of the Maryland House and Garden Tour held on May 8, 2010 that included such homes as Mt Zephr and Delegate Peter Murphy's home, Greenweigh; the installation of the Friendship House Garden at the College of Southern Maryland; the Charles County Standard Flower Show's theme of "Travel the World" which was well received; the 11th year for our Beautification Committee; the Greens Workshop led by Mollie Giesman, that netted over \$2,000; Robert Eaton's presentation adjacent to the Champion Oak tree; as well as Doug Vogel's presentation for the program "Celebrating the Holidays." Mary Pat concluded by sharing that it was a rewarding position to serve as the Club's President.

New Members' Welcome - Paula Winkler introduced Michelle Pence as a new member to the club.

Liz Schifflette led the prayer written by Marie Coulter, Past Maryland State President and Past Central Atlantic Regional Director.

Award Presentation: Judy Mudd and Linda Dyson presented and explained the origins and purpose of the awards.

Toni Niessen Hall Award: Mollie Giesman

Mrs. Frank J. Fletcher Memorial Bowl: Peggy Schaumburg

Rose Plaque: Louise Turner

Mary Pat Berry was given the President's Bowl for serving as the President from 2008 until 2011.

Announcements - Mary Pat announced that to date, 30 club members had signed up for the July trip to the Lavender Farm, but that there was still room for more. To contact Lisa Gillespie for details.

Doris White reminded members about the District II Daffodil Show to be held at the Sheppard Lutheran Church, Severna Park, Maryland, on April 5 and April 6, 2011. She stated that entries needed included the following categories: water, stretch, and parallel. The theme is "You Ought to Be in Movies."

She also stated that there was space available at the upcoming Flower Show School scheduled on April 27th through 29th.

Peggy Schaumburg mentioned the Friendship House dedication on May 16th at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM). Bradley Gottfried, President, CSM, will be the presenter, and stated a joint partnership with CSM, the Historical Society of Charles County, and CCGC, will select an outside table for students and faculty to enjoy.

Mary Pat mentioned that Homestead Gardens currently has a Mediterranean retreat theme highlighting herbs that should be enjoyed.

Installation of new officers was presented by District II Director, Marjorie Glennan, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland. The incoming officers are Sybil Alger, President; Gail Manuel, 1st Vice President; Ronda Goldman, 2nd Vice President; Robinette Ross, Recording Secretary; Rose Ann Haft, Corresponding Secretary; Michelle Pence, Treasurer. Each was given a flower and asked to light a candle.

Remarks by Sybil Alger, New President – Sybil stated the theme for the year was “Landscape and Artistic Design”, and thanked the yearbook committee Ronda Goldman, Mary Pat Berry, Lisa Gillespie, Diane Kramer, Judy Norris, Robinette Ross, and Paula Winkler. The Standing Committee Chairmen were thanked and acknowledged as outstanding individuals managing equally outstanding projects.

Sybil mentioned a new Club project was landscaping the entrance to the Charles County Fairgrounds. The Club’s efforts will be acknowledged in a plaque at the entrance as well.

To encourage new members, Sybil announced that the Membership Committee would offer a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate from a drawing of all sponsors.

Sybil adjourned the 2011 meeting.



CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT *by Rose Haft*

Stephanie Flack, the project director at the Nature Conservancy for the Potomac River questioned the richness of the Potomac Gorge on nature.org and it made me wonder, what is richness at all? Is it the depth of diversity and fortitude that lie within the basins of life, the care, tenderness, beauty and enrichment that go into each moment or is it each inch of soil, every opportunity for growth, possibility and life? Is there anything but richness in an environment where something changes or dies, to become the benefit of all, transforming death into life, not to start over, but to continue? As each season on the river brings a richness of change and circumstance, the richness of life in the Potomac’s Gorge has been the growth and culmination of natural diversity and rare species in the variety of terrains in a small area. Living together in the abundance of dissimilarity and in a wide variety of landscapes has brought richness to the river, and the Gorge, as it would to any life.

This quality of life extends far beyond the immediate footprint of the river, into the watershed where it becomes the drinking water for over 40 million people. The path that the water takes, running through trees, grasses, soils and rocks, through waste and thunderstorms, provides the nutrients for all living along the river’s edge, and under the river’s surface. It also provides refreshment and replenishment for all that get to experience its shore lines. Its scenic views provide a haven and opportunity for rejuvenation for those who drink in its beauty,

take time for recreation, exploration and experience its depths. This naturally arisen beauty becomes a refuge for those who choose to experience the “oasis” and those who choose to be “outside and reconnect with nature.” For many of us and our neighbors the river is a place of plenty, refreshment, rejuvenation and refuge, a home, not just a resource. The quality of our lives in the cradles the river, depends on the quality of life elsewhere in the watershed, and the quality and brilliance we bring into our lives is no less of an influence.

While nature is great at being what many lives need, cycling its richness and wealth as necessary and possible, we still have a part in helping to create and maintain beauty, bringing in the pristine and awesome, leaving behind any doubts of not being beneficial to all or holding the power of creation. Realizing the interconnectedness of all things, and the influence and nourishment we can bring, the spring, the river and the Gorge act as reminders of the meaning of recycling, refreshment and conservation. “We all need to make choices to enable us to live more in concert with the land and water that we depend upon,” remembering that we are apart of the connection, creation and beauty, with every inch of power to influence the water, and the world for the better. For some of us, it means planting our favorite flowers so we don’t have to buy them or travel to see them; for others it’s carpooling, changing light bulbs, eating less meat, buying local and even calling an old friend to let them know how much we missed them in our beautiful gardens of life.

Be sure to check out our website: charlescountygardenclub.org Webmaster: Melissa Willett

For nature, it is a matter of picking up along the way, putting things where they provide the most benefit, or keeping them as a reserve for later opportunity.

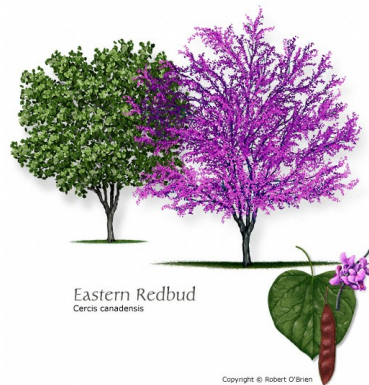
To better protect and preserve the river, its basin and resource, the Nature Conservancy recommends that habitats be restored, and that the proper amount of water be able to flow into the river in the right areas. For city and town planners, this means more pervious surface and making sure the needs of ecosystems and species are fulfilled. For others of us, it is remembering that we are an integral part of the flow, an “elaborately choreographed dance.” As a species that has evolved to know the dance, and the flows of the river [that] are the music, there is this interplay between [us and other] species and what are naturally variable flows...sometimes high and sometimes low. Our job as conservationists is to get to understand what the score is, and how to read the music, in order to protect and restore those flows that are important for species to complete their lifecycle,” as Stephanie notes. In the balance of conserving the things we love, appreciate, want and need, we have the opportunity to build the many worlds we live and thrive in. By protecting the river, we have a chance to provide and influence the natural beauty that has surpassed us by ages and through ages.

The Potomac River and its Gorge have richness in creating with what it's given, and provided, and with what it shares, maintains and creates. While we may feel vastly small in comparison, the choices we make help create (and in some instances deter) the flows that bring new life and opportunity for the river and future generations. By taking care of resources such as these, we can help to create the richness and reserve of resources that not only provide health to the river and its dwellers but to us and our legacies. By making better choices further up stream in the watershed, we can bring more to the lives between us and the river's edge and bring new breath to old growth. Let us not wait until tomorrow to create the lives and landscapes we always imagined, but let our imaginations take shape on our lawns, inspiring each moment to be grown for the greater good of our communities and ecosystems. In hopes of passing on a bit of inspiration from Stephanie, thank you for doing your part in creating the beautiful shore lines and underbelly of the Potomac River and its Gorge.

Spring - Can You Dig It!

March winds and unsettled weather have given way to April's promise of warmer weather and Spring flowers. Garden stores are filling up with annuals and perennials. Be sure to check the requirements of the plants you purchase. Pansies and sweet peas can go in the ground now but wait for warmer soil to plant out marigolds and tomatoes. Cold soil will stunt and hinder their growth and your “jump start” will end up being a set back.

Think about adding a tree to your landscape-



The Eastern Redbud is a small understory tree, happy in partial shade, that ultimately can reach 20 to 30 feet with a rounded crown. Its early spring flowers that bloom before the leaves emerge, begin as a reddish-purple bud and turn to a rosy pink bloom. Attractive heart shape leaves shine all summer and the tree ends the year with wonderful yellow Fall color.

MP Berry-Horticulture Chairman

Friendship House Garden

After unsuccessfully trying to find an on-line company to deliver a concrete patio table approved by the board for the Friendship House Garden at a reasonable price, a light bulb went off when Joan Wooddy suggested Southern Maryland Statuary in Charlotte Hall. It worked and the table and benches have been ordered and will be here in time for the dedication on May 16. The Historical Society is helping fund the table and benches.

Hope to see you at the dedication.

Peggy Schaumburg

Membership info

Yearbooks - We will have yearbooks at the April meeting if you have paid your dues and not yet received one. Mailings will be made after that date unless a specific request is made to receive it sooner.

Sponsor Incentive - To help increase the Club membership, an sponsor incentive will be offered for this coming year. Those members that sponsor one member during the year will be eligible for a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate at the annual meeting.

Joyce McDevitt and Judy Norris, Membership Committee

Good Cheer

Betsy Parbouni recently had knee surgery.

We hope you are back on your feet again soon and off the crutches!



Plant Sale Info

Saturday May 14, 2011

Port Tobacco Court House from 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Set-up Friday May 13, 4:00-7:00

We need everyone's help for our sale to be a success! Please e-mail Danielle Webber (rwebber122867@comcast.net) or Gail Manuel (gdm5561@hotmail.com).

There will also be sign up sheets at our April Meeting .

LANDSCAPE DESIGN *by Ann Draper*

My job is to disseminate information concerning Landscape Design. The problem is where do I start? This is a tough subject if you are starting with a full landscape like 100% of you are. Unless you have a problem like a tree or shrub dying or getting to large or too tall for its location, or you hate a shrub or tree you probably will not be getting rid of your already-in-place landscape. I will try over the next year or so to give you some thoughts to help you improve on what design you already have.

My thoughts for April -

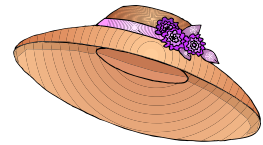
Start a gardening diary – it will take you 5 minutes a week. I jot down things like what is in bloom that week, what I have planted (new) or divided that week, what I have harvested (veggies) and how much rain we have received (every gardener should have a rain gauge). I started a gardening diary about 7 years ago and it is the best gardening decision I even made. It has taught me a lot and it is fun to compare weeks (i.e. 3rd week in July) from one year to the next.

PLEASE START POTTING UP YOU PLANTS FOR THE PLANT SALE ON MAY 14TH. IF YOU WAIT UNTIL A COUPLE DAYS BEFORE THE SALE, YOUR PLANTS WILL WILT AND WILL BE UNSALABLE. We need hundreds of plants to have a good sale.

Begin a garden diary!

Divide some plants for the plant sale!

Have you trimmed your rosebushes?



Many Thanks

2011 March Annual Meeting

We had a great turnout at the March luncheon at Hawthorne and I want to say thanks to the many members for their compliments enjoying the lunch that was served, I sent a note to Cindy expressing the same. And, to my committee a special thanks for making the table arrangements look so pretty and spring like! *Judy Norris*

Award Recipient

I would like to thank the club members for awarding me the Mrs. Frank J. Fletcher Bowl. It is an honor to receive it and it is a pleasure serving with the hard working members of this club in the many projects in which the club participates for the benefit of the community. Thank you.

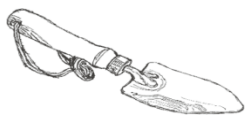
Peggy Schaumburg



Birds, Butterflies and New Beginnings...

Spring of 2011 is officially upon us and with it a new set of Garden Club Officers and Committee Chairs. I am still a new member and am constantly in awe of all the talent, energy, creativity, dedication and civic enthusiasm I observe in this club and I have been enjoying myself thoroughly as part of this wonderful organization. Thanks to all of you for making me feel so welcome and I look forward to what promises to be a very exciting program for the coming year. I am thrilled to be acting as the new Chair of the Birds and Butterflies Committee and I hope that I can live up to the wonderful and inspiring efforts of my predecessor, our dear Betty Levering, whose role I am attempting to fill. Thank you Betty for all your thoughtful commentaries, your sound advice and ever-delightful personality! I hope I can do justice to your legacy!

So in the spirit of new beginnings and the burgeoning life all around us, I begin my first newsletter contribution with thoughts on all the observable fruits of our efforts that we make in our own gardens. The signs of new life abound: the sedum are already plump and mounding, the peonies are poking the tips of their red spears from the ground and the flowering cherry trees are already bursting with fat blossoms in my yard.



The necessary springtime chores and tasks that we gardeners both loathe and adore begin as well: the clearing of the winter garden litter, shearing down the ornamental grasses, pruning the dead twigs from the specimen trees, working in the winter's supply of new compost and laying down fresh weed guard, adding new mulch and of course cleaning and repairing the bird houses and cleaning and filling the feeders and bird baths to prepare for our winged friends' migratory returns; as well as continuing to assist those varieties who stick around through the winter.



Our feathered visitors are already in full rhythm and are engaging in the lively courtship rituals that yield new generations of their species. The sparrows are vying with the bluebirds for real estate and scoping out the birdhouses that are a permanent part of my garden. I've had visits from blue jays, robins, juncos, mourning doves, sparrows, grackles, bluebirds and even a few black-capped chickadees. The purple finches are busy carrying their delicate twigs to nest-build again in the crook of my porch light. Last year my daughter and I saw 4 separate species of birds and 7 different nestings in our little 10th of an acre plot; and we anxiously await a repeat performance. Nothing is more endearing and delightful than observing this cycle of life with a young child.

So obviously garden size doesn't matter, but nest building requires demanding activity from birds and we can offer help to make their jobs a bit easier. Nests provide birds with support and insulation, concealment from predators, and shelter from rain. What could be more important? So with spring in our midst here are some tips for preparing for the season: Wild birds require three essentials to life. Work within their needs and you'll attract more of them to your yard.

1. Offer food.
2. Offer water.
3. Offer shelter.



You can bring the birds into your backyard really fast by attracting them with feeders teeming with their favorite foods and sturdy houses that offer protection and room for their specific needs and reliable sources of clean water. You can even attract the birds you choose simply by knowing ahead of time the types of food they favor and the feeders that they will (or will not) visit!

For example:



If Chickadees and Jays are your favorite, get your sunflower seeds out with a large enough perch for the heavy Blue and Gray Jays. If Mourning Doves are desired, provide cracked corn and breadcrumbs on a stable feeder - something large enough to accommodate their big feet. Providing petite houses mounted on posts and facing away from prevailing winds (and devoid of creeping foliage to protect the young from snakes and other climbing predators) will invite the sparrows and bluebirds to regularly nest and propagate.



The butterflies are also nuzzling their way into our warmer temperatures, and they need a place to lay eggs, food plants for their larva (caterpillar), a place to form a chrysalis, and nectar sources for the adults. (More on butterflies later.) So you can have both a beautiful garden and a place that birds and butterflies will love with just a little research and planning. Choose shrubs, trees and flowers with overlapping seasonal bloom times so that your garden is always pleasing to your eyes and ensuring that you attract them every season by providing consistent food and shelter for them year-round.

Thanks and Happy Birding & Bring on the Butterflies! I Look Forward to Your Comments and Suggestions!

With Warmest Wishes for Spring! - Lisa Gillespie

Calendar of Events

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland

April

- 31 - 9 Tulips and Windmills Tour
- 3 Sogetsu Ikebana Sunday Series Cylburn Arboretum
- 5 Spring Perennials 102 Cylburn Arboretum 3 sessions
- 4 - 6 District II Daffodil Show
Please note new venue. (Formerly London Town)
Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Severna Park, MD 21146
- 8-10 Art Blooms at the Walters
- 10 Sogetsu Ikebana Sunday Series Cylburn Arboretum
- 15 11:00 a.m. Ikebana International Baltimore Chapter 118
Cylburn Arboretum Greenhouse Classroom
- 16 "WHO POLLUTED THE POTOMAC?" 11:00 a.m.
[Cylburn Arboretum](#) for elementary and middle schoolers (in celebration of Earth Day)
- 17 Palm Sunday

- 18 Passover begins at sundown
- 19 Passover
- 19-20 Maryland Daffodil Society Show at Kenilworth
- 21 Landscape Design Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. London Town
Historic House and Gardens, Edgewater, MD
- 22 Earth Day
- 22 Good Friday
- 24 Easter
- 26 Talbot County Garden Club Symposium
"Floral Chic: Springtime Bouquets and White House Displays"
The Academy Art Museum, Easton, MD
- 27-29 Course I Flower Show School, Comfort Inn, Bowie, MD
- 28 Towson Gardens Day, 25th Anniversary



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Ladies—there are numerous events planned with our club and our District II and State. Please take the time to review all of the opportunities afforded to you - lots to learn, great shopping, and wonderful friendships and good food. Check out the websites.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT *by Diane Kramer*

Cornell University's Ornithology Department conducts the Great Backyard Bird Count every year on President's weekend. A total of 44 bird counts were submitted from Charles County this year. They were from Chicamuxen, Bryans Road, Indian Head, Port Tobacco, Nanjemoy, LaPlata, and Waldorf. There were 37 different species reported. The top ten birds viewed by these counts were: Grackle, Starling, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Canada Goose, Red Wing Blackbird, American Goldfinch, Mourning Dove, and Carolina Chickadee. Just enter "GBBC" on your computer to read all of the details of the bird counts across the US and to see beautiful photos.



Common Grackle

NGC EDUCATION

Flower Show School Course 1 April 27th-29th Bowie Comfort Inn Registrar: Lou Whittington @ 410.548.2641

Gardening Study School Course IV May 3rd-5th Baltimore, MD Registrar: Doris White @ 301.934.0999

The Virginia Garden Week looks like it will be something not to miss! There are a lot of great places to see!

April 16 - 23, 2011 ● Historic Garden Week
For more information please visit: www.vagardenweek.org

or contact:

Suzanne Munson, Garden Week Executive Director

gdnweek@verizon.net 804-644-7776



P. O. Box 1496
La Plata, MD 20646



April Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2011, 11:00 a.m. — Luncheon
Mattawoman Creek Art Center
5565 Upham Place ∞ Marbury, Maryland

Presenter: Mr. Tom Russ
Origins of American Landscape Design

Coordinator: Mary Pat Berry

Committee: Hummer; Lines; Mote; Rees; Turner, L; Zantzingher
Guests Invited

*Directions: From 301 N turn R (from 301 S turn L) onto MD 225. Continue 8.9 miles to L onto Chicamuxen Rd. *Travel 3.8 miles. Turn R onto Sweden Pt. Rd (Smallwood State Park). Turn R onto Upham and follow road bearing left to Art Center. From Rt. 210, turn L onto MD 225 to a R onto Chicamuxen— follow directions from * above.*

May Meeting

*Friendship House Landscape Dedication
Monday, May 16, 2011
1:00 p.m. - Light Fare*

*College of Southern Maryland
La Plata, Maryland*

Presenter: Dr. Brad Gottfried

*1:00 Meeting
2:00 Dedication Ceremony
2:30 Ribbon Cutting & Refreshments*

Coordinators: Diane Kramer & Peggy Schaumburg

*Hostesses: Chab; Chadwick; Clark; Coombs; Jackson,
P.; Manuel; Mitchell, S.*

(The campus is located off of Mitchell Road)