



# Garden Club Newsletter

## Gardening For All Seasons

### February 2009

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>



### Dates to Remember

#### February 2009

14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day  
16<sup>th</sup> Presidents Day  
17<sup>th</sup> CGC Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday

#### March 2009

8<sup>th</sup> Daylight savings time  
17<sup>th</sup> CGC Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> ST. Patrick's Day



### February Birthdays

Lisa Garrett Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sybil Russell Feb 7<sup>th</sup>  
Nancy Cook Feb 17<sup>th</sup>



### Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Sybil Russell

Balance on hand Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 2009: \$5075.93  
Disbursements: \$737.66  
Income: \$210.00  
Balance Oct 08: \$4578.27

### February's Meeting

Location: All Saints Church  
Hosts: Kathy Trimble / Mary Alys Sweetman  
Program; Butterfly presentation  
Present By: Lisa Garrett  
Horticulture: Foliage Container Grown plant



### Plantings from the President

Mary Alys is on vacation in FL this month, but here are a few things of importance:

JoEllen Youngblud, Bernie Halloran, and Patti At Lee have arranged for the storage of club materials in the St. Leonard storage facility. Boxes are labeled and arranged according to usage and an itemized list is posted on the web-site the link is:

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org/supplies.htm>. Discretion will be used regarding giving out codes, etc. The cost will be \$48.17 per month.

The CGC's 51<sup>st</sup> birthday will be held at Old Field Inn in Prince Frederick on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Patti At Lee will follow up re booking, entrée choices, favors, and cake. An announcement of these arrangements will be made at the next club meeting.

Tickets are available for sale for the 2009 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. Ticket cost is \$30.

Jenny and Sted Wolf had their 4th baby boy on Wednesday night January 28<sup>th</sup> his name is Nathaniel he weighed in at 8 lbs 4.9 oz. Baby and mother are doing well.



## 2009 Greens Show

Submitted by JoEllen and Melinda

The greens show is on for this December 5, 2009 so please put it on your calendar now. Melinda and I have volunteered to co chair it again this year. We will need everyone to help in some way.

We'll be having a silent auction so please keep your eyes open for some auction items. Sande and Sybil have graciously agreed to co chair that committee so see them for suggestions.

We also will have a raffle table that was very successful at the last show. If you think you have something that you can donate for a raffle item please put it aside and we will collect them before the show. It's never too early to start.

We have some pleasant surprises for you but more on that when we get back this Spring.

### The following are updates for your current yearbook:

Denise Wesolowski (Mark)  
820 Monarch Lane  
Huntingtown, MD 20639  
[weso820@comcast.net](mailto:weso820@comcast.net)  
H 410 535 9214  
C 301 466 1405  
Birthday September 5

Susan Charbonneau (David)  
3510 Deep Landing Rd.  
Huntingtown, MD 20639  
[charbonnea@comcast.net](mailto:charbonnea@comcast.net)  
H 410 535 5714  
Birthday January 9

Peggy Zachousky  
10718 Chatham Ridge Way  
Spotsylvania, VA 22551  
[pannz@comcast.net](mailto:pannz@comcast.net)  
H 540 972 4672  
October 31

## Conservation Corner



### No More Platitudes, Start Pressuring

By Bernie Halloran

Question Number 1: Why did the District of Columbia emblazon its license plates with the slogan, "Taxation Without Representation"?

Answer: The Citizens of the District thought the message would embarrass Congress into giving it voting representation. District residents still don't have voting rights in Congress and are still paying Federal Taxes.

Question Number 2: Why did the Maryland legislature agree to sell "Treasure the Bay" license plates?

- a) To save the Bay
- b) To make a few extra bucks
- c) Because of its strong commitment to conservation
- d) To increase tourism

Answer: Definitely not **a**. The Bay still isn't saved yet, is it? If the Maryland legislature was serious those tags would read: "Save the Bay, Stay Away." More development has only dumped more nitrogen, phosphorus and other chemical waste in our water.

You may recall, last year, some wild-eyed optimists celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the very first legislative initiatives that were supposed to save the Bay. And in those 25 years, millions of dollars worth of reports have been written. It's now known that the EPA purposely lied about Bay progress, and the water got deadlier, chocking off more life beneath its surface.

Why hasn't the Bay been saved? I submit there has been insufficient political pressure. Saving anything takes effort, effort costs money, money is what we pay taxes with. Taxes are bad. Regardless of how much the cost of things goes up, always vote to cut taxes, because taxes are *ipso facto* bad.

Who's going to scream if jurisdictions dump untreated sewer water into the Bay? It won't be the homeowners who would otherwise have to pay for water treatment plants. No way.

Last year, the county commissioners in Ann Arundel tried to pass a simple \$30 per household tax to raise money for storm water treatment. It failed.

This year, Congress may actually force fed the states -- most of which are broke -- a large

chunk of economic stimulus money with which to fund “shovel ready” public works projects. Wouldn’t it be just peachy keen if Maryland used part of this money to fund the water treatment plants we don’t have, to upgrade those we do have and offer cash incentives to homeowners to upgrade their aging septic systems?

Yes, it would be nice to stop furloughing state and county workers, and we will need improved electrical transmissions systems if we’re to avoid brownouts, but cleaning the water, stopping the runoff, curbing shore side development, development in general, upgrading sewer treatment plants and septic systems are the kinds of things that can be done, done quickly and actually have an effect, a good effect.

So let’s email and write our boys and girls on the Hill, the Governor and even that white-haired guy, Smiley Miller. Tell them you want to see “stimulus money” going into these kinds of projects.

To email Congressman Stenny Hoyer, the House Majority Leader, paste this address into your browser

[http://majorityleader.gov/email\\_and\\_rss/email\\_the\\_leader/](http://majorityleader.gov/email_and_rss/email_the_leader/).

To get through to Senator Barbara Mikulski, email her at

<http://mikulski.senate.gov/Contact/contact.cfm>.

Senator Ben Cardin will take your comments at <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>.

Try to keep your message short and to the point. And remember, the squeaky wheel gets oiled.

## A Little Boid Told Me

### My Slipmate,



### The Red Winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*.

By Bernie Halloran

I was on my way to my boat, the *Sailing Vessel Ariadne*, the very first time I saw a red-winged blackbird; and I can safely say, I had no idea what it was.

Down at the marina, one of my major concerns is keeping birds from nesting in my boom. It’s happened before and some little critters have died in there, so I usually stuff the open end of the boom with a ball of bronze wool, the non-rusting cousin of steel wool.

Well, this little guy was perching right on the boom. And a pretty little thing, he was too. Shiny black with what could have been a bold red and yellow trimmed unit patch on his shoulders. He looked very smart in a dress parade sort of way, and that red patch could just as easily have been a full dress epaulette.

As I got closer, he took off straight as an arrow into the marshes behind the dock and perched again on a tall reed stem, just as proud as all get out.

When I got home, I grabbed June’s window sill bird book: *Birds of the Mid-Atlantic* by Fred Alsop, a Smithsonian Handbook that bills itself as “The clearest recognition guides (sic) available” right there on its own, modest front cover.

It turns out that this bird I’d never seen before is one of the most numerous land birds in North America. And I had noticed the male. The females are a kind of dusky tan with brown and tan-streaked uppers. They’re not red-winged at all, not even a little. Must I say it? The females are drab.

If the shoulder patches looked military, it just fits the bird’s character. They’re known to aggressively defend their territory from intruders, like me, and otherwise behave like troops on leave. They hop around or run while foraging, and mate rather polygynously, leaving their sweethearts with two to three broods a year. And they’re not the smartest birds out there, kind of more like Marines than sailors or airmen.

Indeed, the male’s social dominance – sometimes called rank – is proportional to the amount of red displayed. The admirals and generals always wear the biggest epaulettes.

And like a good little troopers, these birds will eat what’s available: seeds, grains, berries, and wild fruit, and in the summer they’ll eat insects, caterpillars, grubs, spiders, mollusks and snails. Nature may not have made them very bright, but she gave them large intestines.

There’s always a bunch of them down at the Herrington Harbor South Marina. And their favorite nesting place seems to be just beyond where I dock my boat. Coincidentally, that’s where Lisa Garrett installed a Red-Winged Blackbird marker on the Herrington Harbor Nature Trail she helped open.