

# Chesapeake Garden Club Newsletter

## June 2009

### Gardening For a All Seasons

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>



**Dates to  
Remember**

### June 2009

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.**

**The Hammond Harwood  
House Secret Garden Tour  
Annapolis, MD**

**7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> National Garden Club  
Week.**

**16<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 a.m.**

**CGC Monthly Meeting  
Annamarie Garden  
Solomons, Maryland  
Optional lunch at noon.**

### July 2009

**21<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 Pot Luck Picnic**

**No formal meeting.**

**Sybil Russell's Home**



Above is a photo of two North American River Otters just like the two that are currently living in the pond behind Denise's house. They are so cute and playful we can't stop watching them.

### Plantings from the President

June is beginning to bring warm weather, lush growth and flowers so now is the time to visit some gardens! The Secret Garden Tour will be in Annapolis June 6 and 7. The National Arboretum is hosting some Bonsai events that you might want to attend and Homestead is having a Ladies Night Out in July. Check out their websites for more information you can find the links on our website.

We will be traveling to Annmarie Gardens for our June meeting and program. Don Dement will give us tips on how to get the perfect shot of our flowers and landscapes and he will give a slide show of photographs he has taken. Lunch will be at 12:00 for those of you planning to eat there. Our business meeting will start at 12:30 sharp and the program will follow. Please call Susan or Grace Gay if you can't attend. **Please note the time is different from what is in the yearbook.**

Don't forget June 7<sup>th</sup> begins National Garden Clubs week..... get the word out to your friends and neighbors that garden clubs are fun organizations and they are welcome to our meetings.

Our trip to Merrill Center will have to be rescheduled since they are booked on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Please check your email weekly for updates on club events.

Those who attended the Design workshop at Christ Church had a great time. Linda Masland gave a great presentation and had so many good suggestions. She supplied the flowers and everyone had a ball creating designs. Calvert Garden club out did themselves with the luncheon everything was delicious. I can't wait for the next workshop.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Virginia during this sad and painful time with the death of her son Brian. Virginia we are here for you.

May your weeds be wild flowers,  
JoEllen

## June/July Birthdays

June 15<sup>th</sup> – June Petty

## June Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

AnnMarie Gardens  
Solomons, MD

Optional Lunch at 12 Noon

12:30 PM Business

Meeting and program to follow.

### Hosts:

Susan Charbonneau

Grace Gay

Please call if you can't attend.

### Program:

Nature Photography Don Dement  
Professional Photographer, Instructor

### Design:

“Triple Crown” A creative Line Design in which line direction is dominant, Characterized by an open silhouette, a minimum of plant material and other (optional) components. Dominant feature is the movement in any direction either, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Note these are the corrected HB requirements 7/08 for HB p 199. Staged on a 32” high table space allotted 20” no height requirement.

### Horticulture:

Herbaceous Perennials. See pg.82 of handbook.

- a. Flowering
- b. Foliage



## Conservation Corner

## Once More: The Bay

By Bernie Halloran

Last month, right before I left for a two-week sailing adventure on the brown-half-dead-Chesapeake, Governors Tim Kane of Virginia, Martin O'Malley of our fair state, the Mayor of the District, and the governors of four other states met with Lisa Jackson, the new head of the EPA to agree to new deadlines for restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

With a recent health score of 28 out of 100, nobody needs to be told that the goal of having the Bay off the EPA's endangered waters list by 2010 will not be met. The new, ultimate goal calls for a healthy Bay by 2025.

Looking very hard, we can find a kind of bright side to this seemingly endless postponing of real action. After 25 years of failed local and state cleanup efforts, the federal government has offered that magical missing ingredient: money.

President Obama has ordered the EPA to bring to bear “the full weight of the federal government,” by creating a federal Bay leadership committee headed by Jackson and including senior representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security and the Interior.

And still, some of us are not impressed. Even though Federal intervention means more money for the newly set short and long term goals, there's still an out. Even though Jackson said, “We will make full use of our regulatory authority and laws,” she added that states would not lose their federal money if they failed to meet their cleanup goals. Ooops.

Between now and 2011, the states and the District are bound to reduce their nitrogen and phosphorus dumping, but not by a whole lot. Maryland, for example, is supposed to reduce nitrogen pollution from 54.78 million pounds to 51.03 million pounds and phosphorus pollution from 3.77 million to 3.58 million pounds.

How much will it cost between now and 2011 to meet these new, modest initial goals? Here's the breakdown by jurisdiction: Delaware, \$17 million; District of Columbia, \$266 million; Maryland, \$774 million; New York, \$15 million; Pennsylvania, \$68 million; Virginia, \$1.2 billion and West Virginia, \$22 million.



Male and female house finches

## A Little Boid T old Me

**Bernie Halloran**

### Another Father's Day

It pays to do things right. And just because of that, come later this month -- but not much -- I'll be a daddy again. Or a step-daddy.

Out under the front porch, are the quadruplet bobble-head House Finches. They're getting ready to fledge. The baby Cardinals in the rose bush on the south side of the house just fledged. There are baby Blue birds in the second box in my backyard, and there is some number of baby Robins pooping from deep inside the English Laurel out front.

And all it takes is following a few simple steps. Think of what you need and then provide that for the birds. A car, cell phone and basic cable are not basics we're pushing here, but food and water are, as is shelter from the weather and a safe place to raise a family. Provide these basic elements in your backyard bird habitat, and you'll start attracting winged visitors just like mine.

In the food department, nothing beats *native* vegetation to feed our birds. So plant a variety of *native* plants in combinations that supply food year-round. Think of native fruit bearers like holly, dogwood, serviceberry, cherry, elderberry, red mulberry,

hackberry, bayberry, raspberry, blueberry, high-bush cranberry, pokeberry, Virginia creeper, and grape. Plant even more and you'll have some for yourself too.

In the seed department, plant pine, spruce, fir, maple, alder, sunflowers, coneflowers, asters, goldenrod, and native grasses. For the nectar lovers, fill in with red tubulars like columbine, lobelia, penstemon, azalea, fuchsia, trumpet vine, bee balm, and native honeysuckle.

### Did I mention **NATIVES**?

Lots of birds, like Robins and Blue birds, are insect eaters, but will supplement their diet with nuts, seeds, fruit, or nectar, depending on what's available, which means you don't have to increase the grubs in your lawn to feed these colorful little critters. But isn't it nice to know that they're out there working for you? Just don't use insecticides

Just like us, birds need fresh, clean water. By providing clean fresh water, you'll attract more species than just those who hang at the bird feeders without the neighborhood squirrels. As of now, I've now got two small ponds, two fountains, a gurgler and a bird bath to keep these guys hydrated and freshly bathed. They love splashing around, and I love watching them.



Birds will remain in your habitat during the breeding season if they have safe places to nest and raise their young. Different species have different requirements. Some nest in cavities while others prefer open nests and will build on ledges, in crotches or tree tops. Get to know your birds and what their preferences are by Googling them.

If you haven't done it already, include a mix of evergreen and deciduous plants in your landscape, a hedgerow and vines. For grassland species such as meadowlarks, make sure you let a meadow grow all season, if your neighbors can stand it. Where safety permits, allow snags — dead trees — to remain standing. Woodpeckers and others excavate the rotting wood looking for insects; the resulting holes are used by cavity-nesting birds. Everything starts falling into place.

Finally, birds need places where they can hide from predators and inclement weather. Trees, shrubs, meadows and rock walls provide just that kind of shelter. I've finally got all the parts working together and not only are the birds coming and staying but so are the frogs and lizards and the snakes. It's like paradise.

## Trivia Contest Winner

Dorrie was the winner of last month's newsletter trivia contest. She knew the answer was a 1300 year old lotus seed. Dorrie prize was a bottle of wine, and although she doesn't drink wine, we hope she will be able to pass it on to someone that does.

## Helpful Hints

Kay would like all of us to know about a new safe and effective snail bait marketed by Bonide called "Slug Magic". It's harmless to pets & children, and can help protect our hostas and lettuce plants from those pesky bugs. The active ingredient is Iron Phosphate.

Now is the time to trim those Chrysanthemums back so your plant will build stronger stems and delay flowering until fall.

## Flower of the Month



Peace rose

The rose known as the Queen of Flowers is often associated with love and is certainly a fitting flower for June, the month of weddings.

## Shutter Bugs Unite!

### "Our Winged Friends - Birds and Butterflies in Flight" Art Show.

For those photographers amongst us, District II Director, Sylvia Deck, is proud to present an opportunity to showcase your passion and talent! Here is all you have to do:

1. Take a picture(s) of a bird or butterflies or both in nature.
2. Print it out in a 8 ½ x 11 size.
3. Frame it....doesn't need to be an expensive frame.
4. Call or e-mail Virginia White-Jones by **Sept. 15, 2009** and reserve your spot at the District II Semi-Annual Meeting's "Our Winged Friends - Birds and Butterflies in Flight" Show.

Here are the rules:

1. You must be the photographer.
2. You must enter a picture of either a bird(s) in nature or a butterfly(s) in nature.
3. You can enter as many times as you want.
4. You must provide the easel(s) to sit your framed picture(s) up on display. They will all sit on a 6 foot table draped in a white tablecloth.
5. You do not have to be present to win. You may have one of your garden club members bring your entries/exhibits – they will also have to take it home. Entries will need to be in place no later than 10 a.m. on Friday.

Here's how one might win

1. It will be People's Choice – so those in attendance will get a chance to vote for their favorite Bird picture and favorite Butterfly picture.
2. The one in each category that has the most votes will receive a prize courtesy of Sylvia Deck.
3. All photographs will return home that day. Any unclaimed photographs will be the property of the district to be used as a silent auction item.

So what are you waiting for? Load the camera and tri-pod up in the car and set out for the wilds of nature and start on your way to winning the first ever B&B Art Show!

## Upcoming Events

### Lunch Bunch

The first Thursday of each month anyone interested in meeting at a local restaurant to catch up with club members is invited.

The first gathering will be held July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., at the Prince Frederick Panara's.

Please contact JoEllen if you are planning to attend, so we can hold enough seats for everyone.

### Hammond Harrow House Secret Garden Tour

The 2009 Secret Garden tour Features more than a dozen gardens in the Murray Hill neighborhood of Annapolis.

Saturday June 6th, 1-6 PM

Sunday June 7th 1-6 PM

Tickets can be purchased by calling 410 263 4683 x10

or online at

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

Tickets price:

\$25 in advance

\$30 day of event



One of Kay's Rhododendrons.



## Temperate Rain Forest of Alaska

by JoEllen

We just returned from Alaska and I was so awestruck by the beauty of the mountains and the forests. We toured a temperate rain forest (Tongass National Park) climbing 500 feet through the most beautiful and wondrous place. You don't often hear about the flora and fauna of Alaska so I was pleasantly surprised by it's beauty. The old growth trees towered over us and everything was covered with lush moss. As we went by the many fallen trees and branches, you'd see seedling growing out of the moss that covered them. The size of the plants was amazing skunk cabbage and ferns 3 and 4 feet high and pretty little wild flowers popping out from every nook and cranny. Little did I know that Alaska is the home of the largest Temperate Rain Forest in the world 22 million acres. It lies on the Southeast coast and receives 8 to 10 feet of rain a year and the mean annual temperature is 39 and 54 degrees. It also is the home to many wildlife including bear, salmon, the bald eagle, marbled murrelet (bird), wolf, moose, and sitka deer to name a few. As we wove our way back down the mountain, we were struck by the fact that this was just a small part of a wonderful American wilderness.

## Chesapeake Bay Foundation

### Gardeners for the Bay

I just received my gardening gloves and decals from the Foundation for joining *Gardeners for the Bay*. They are encouraging people to join. Membership is free and includes enrollment in the CBF Action Network, which provides alerts on legislation affecting the Bay, a quarterly newsletter, and discounts at the CGF online store. The newsletter will include a gardening column. Just go to their website and join. A link is on our website.