



Garden Club Newsletter

Gardening For All Seasons

April 2009

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>



Dates to Remember

April 2009

- 9 -11 London Towne Daffodil Show
- 12 Easter
- 21 **CGC meeting**
- 21 Daffodil Show @ Kenilworth
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Towson Garden Days
- 25 MHGP Queen Ann County
- 25-26 Garden Fair at Sotterly
- 26 Bowiefest Day (visit to Lisa's Wild Bird Center)
- 29-30 Garden Study Course 2

May 2009

- 1 Garden Study course 2
- 1 May Day Celebration Annapolis
- 2 MHGP St. Mary's County
- 3 MHGP Harford County
- 5 Naval Academy Flower Show
- 6 Green Walled Flower Show
- 7 **CGC Spring Garden Tour**
- 9 MHGP Homeland Baltimore City
- 10 Mother's Day
- 13-18 NGC Convention Houston, TX
- 16 MHGP Anne Arundel County
- 17 MHGP Baltimore County
- 19 **CGC Meeting**
- 20 Design Workshop @ Christ Church
- 25 Memorial Day



Treasurer's Report

Balance On Hand March 2009 \$4,398.43

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

I would like to thank you all for a great 2 years in the club as your treasurer. I was great to be so involved in all the activities. I am looking forward to serving as Vice President with JoEllen for the next 2 years.

Thanks again, for everything.

Sybil

Meeting April 21st

Time and Place All Saints Church 10:00 AM sharp
Hosts Jenny and Sande Wolf will provide a light luncheon.

Business

1. Yearbooks will be available for dues paying members. Our dues will be \$40 this year.
2. Two or three Volunteers are needed for the CGC Spring Garden Tour (member gardens) on May 7th.
3. Induction of Officers 2009 – 2011 by Marjorie Glenan District 2 VP.

Program Design a May Basket

Materials needed: Basket (this may be a hanging basket) Assortment of Flowers, Ribbons, Watertight container to insert into the basket

Trip of the Month:

May 7th Chesapeake Garden Club Spring Garden Tour (member gardens)



Plantings from the President

Hi My Fellow Garden Clubbers:

Our Birthday luncheon at Old Field Inn was so nice! Thanks to Patti for making all the arrangements.

Ten of us went to the District 2 meeting in Bowie, another great event.

When, as Club President I have to stand up there and give a little talk, it is so nice to look out and see a whole table of club members. Thank you all for your support.

Chesapeake Garden Club "Change of Command" meeting will be April 21st, 2009, at All Saints Church, 10am. I understand it is the same date as the State

Daffodil Show and I am excited that several of you are entering arrangements. We wish you all the best!

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 20th, 2009

There will be a Design Workshop at Christ Church - Brooms Island 10am - 3:00pm lunch included \$25 We need to get our reservations in as this is for Calvert Garden Club and St. Mary's Club also. Limited seating to 40 and Calvert has already reserved 17 seats. You can send a check to Sybil - made out to Chesapeake Garden Club. Thanks.

See you all on April 21st - Mary Alys

Maryland Federation of Garden Clubs News

Chesapeake Garden Club is in the News!

We won the following awards at the March meeting.

Publication Award 4A Chesapeake Garden Club for "Our Golden Years" booklet created by JoEllen

Flower Show Schedules: Chesapeake Garden Club for "Our Golden Memories" written by Sande

Certificates of Recognition for Flower Shows: Chesapeake Garden Club "Our Golden Memories Chesapeake Garden Club Celebrates 1958-2008"

Garden Therapy:

Chesapeake GC chaired by Melissa

Congratulations to all our club members who participated in making these events happen.

More Up & Coming Events

Orchid Workshop on April 18th 10:00am-2:00pm at St. David's Church on 4700 Roland Ave. Balto. The admission price of \$15.00 includes lunch and must be paid in advance. Mail your check to : Maryland Orchid Society

P.O. Box 5651, Baltimore, MD. 21210

Make check payable to: Maryland Orchid Society
If you have an orchid that needs repotting, you may bring it. For more information, call 410-366-9365.

National Arboretum Events

Here are a few and here is the link for more

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html>

18th Annual Friends of the National Arboretum Garden Fair and Plant

Sale

April 24, Members-only day (Friends of the National Arboretum)

Saturday, April 25, 9:00am-4:00pm

All types of garden supplies for all types of gardeners are on hand at the annual Garden Fair. You'll find unusual plants, tents full of garden supplies, live family entertainment, and food vendors. National Arboretum staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer all of your garden questions. While you're here, take advantage of thousands of azaleas in peak bloom. Sponsored by the Friends of the National Arboretum. Free.

Walk & Talk: Azalea Collection Tours

Friday, April 24, 10:00am-12:00pm

Monday, April 27, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Join our knowledgeable, long-time curator of the Azalea Collection for this special tour through thousands of blooming azaleas. Pick up expert growing tips, learn about all aspects of azaleas, and find out how the arboretum has developed new varieties for gardeners worldwide. Fee: \$19

May Day Tour of Annapolis

May 1st

Tour the May baskets on display throughout the day, starting as early as 9 a.m. See the map for an indication of where most of the baskets will be.

Bazaar Noon to 3 p.m. A wide variety of artisans will be selling their wares in the Skipjack.

Lunch Buffet 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd deck.

Menu: Seafood Pasta, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salads, Vegetable, Variety of Desserts, Coffee and Tea.

Bazaar and Lunch Annapolis Yacht Club, 2 Compromise Street.

Cost \$35 per person. Wine tickets may be purchased - CASH ONLY

For more information contact:

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Wmcintyre22@aol.com
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Steve-Evie@msn.com

2009 - 2011

by JoEllen

I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to be your president. Sybil and I have taken some of your suggestions and have planned some exciting events for the next year. As your president, I will have an open mind to your suggestions and ideas. I feel in that way we will continue to grow as a club that will not only meet the needs of our membership but also the objectives of the National Garden Clubs of America. We have a strong group of women on our Executive Board and I know they will make my job easier.

As you look through this year's Yearbook (which you will receive at the April meeting), please take note of committees that you would like to participate in and volunteer. We need everyone's help. At our September meeting, we will have an open forum so that we can discuss what projects and activities are ahead and set some goals for our future. (This is the teacher coming out in me☺)

These past 2 years working with MaryAlys have been very inspiring as I have seen how our club has been able to come together to successfully meet some very demanding tasks with great success. I have always been very proud to be a member of the Chesapeake Garden Club not only because I love gardening and floral design but because of all the wonderful friendships that I have made. I know that we have some hard work and fun times ahead of us but I also know that we have a strong nucleus of members and mentors to meet our goals. We will need everyone's help to make these next two years successful and fun with the emphasis on **FUN!**

A Little Bird Told Me



Snowy Owls Return By Bernie Halloran

So rarely does it happen, that even the Associated Press reported the appearance of Snowy Owls in tundra-free, non-snowy Maryland.

According to Bob Ringler, the editor of *Maryland Bird Life*, it's been at least 24 years since more than one Snowy Owl was last seen in Maryland. This year there were at least four of them in and around the Eastern Shore.

The first was noticed at Assateague about November. 10. The next bird was spotted on Poplar Island. Another showed up in Assateague right before Christmas, and finally a fourth bird came to Oxford, which has since attracted bird watchers from Virginia, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Delaware, but none from Owings.

According to the folks at Cornell Ornithology, these big fellas usually live at the extreme northern margins of the arctic. *Bubo scandiacus* is the biggest and heaviest, and most distinctively marked owl of North America, weighing in at three and a half to six and a half pounds and having a wing span of up to 57 inches.

Being diurnal and not nocturnal, Snowy Owls spend the day perched silently on prominent lookouts, waiting for prey. This makes me wonder, what do people mean when they say, "You're a night owl." I'm more diurnal than nocturnal too, although sometimes not. Don't people know Owls are diurnal?

Like most of us animals, Snowy owls are sensitive to the food supply and about every four years that supply crashes, which instead of sending them to Overeaters Anonymous, usually forces the birds south. During those years, Marylanders will typically see just one of these big birds, so having four in the region is not all that overwhelmingly shocking but obviously newsworthy.

The birds that have been identified in Maryland this winter seem to be all teenage males

that won't breed this spring here or anywhere else. They're essentially teenagers doing what teenagers do when without access to Facebook or MySpace. They're hanging out or wandering around eating what they can.

The teen Snowy at Oxford has been seen at Bachelor's Point, near Pier Street, by the Community Center and around the Cooperative Oxford lab, all of which seems appropriate for a single guy in a new place.

Snowy Owls are used to open habitats, water and coastal areas and especially like to chow down on live lemmings when back at home in the tundra, but they'll happily eat fish, birds, eggs or small mammals.

Considering that neither the eastern nor western shore has a particularly abundant lemming population, they are apparently doing just fine with squirrel, fish and who knows what. I mean, they are teenagers.

Teenagers or not, Snowies do have sharp and powerful talons that measure a good one and a half inches long, yet when pressed, ornithologists will claim they have not been known to text.

Only the Great Gray Owl is a more fearsome member of the owl family, which makes me curious about owl-eagle-cat interactions.

I won't find out about the owl-eagle thing this year, because by the end of March, these birds will be on their way back home, hopefully avenging their genus against that great bird killer, the predatory carnivorous species of crepuscular mammal, known as *Felis catus*.

Conservation Corner



The Big Lie: Clean Coal

By Bernie Halloran

Most of the nation's electric power comes from coal-fired generating plants. Here in America, coal is cheap and plentiful. And the coal lobby is powerful.

So what happens when a new generation of clean, electric cars arrives? Where will the electricity come from to power them?

If you watch television, you've seen "clean coal" commercials. They're subtle. You may have even seen a snip with Barack Obama saying 'clean coal.' Clean coal is a vast lie.

Carbon capture and sequestration technology does not exist in a single coal-fired plant in America and probably never will unless an aggressive climate cap and trade law is passed, something vehemently opposed by the coal industry and its pocketed politicians.

The so-called "clean coal" advertising campaign, funded by the euphemistically called "American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity," is a \$45 million propaganda campaign designed to permit the continued poisoning of the air, the water and our children.

One to 1.5 million Americans now suffer from autism, which is occurring one in every 150 births and costing Americans \$90 billion and untold pain and anguish annually.

Links to increased rates of autism in our children and grandchildren have been clearly established.

Direct exposure to mercury from burning coal is causing an alarming rate of autism in children as recently established by a study recently published by the University of Texas Health Center and Our Lady of the Lake University.

Larry Schweiger, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, has included the Texas findings in his new book: "Last Chance, Preserving Life on Earth."

The Texas studies looked at mercury releases from 39 coal-fired power plants and 56 industrial facilities and compared the mercury emissions to autism rates in 1,040 Texas school districts.

It was found that autism prevalence was linked to mercury emissions and is reduced by 1 to 2 percent with each 10 miles of distance from the pollution source. For every 1,000 pounds of mercury released by power plants in 1998, there was a corresponding 3.7 percent increase in autism rates in Texas school districts by 2002.

Poisoning from coal burning plants fly ash wastes, have been in the national news recently with events in northeast Alabama and in Tennessee where

1.1 billion gallons were released covering 300 acres and poisoning the Clinch and Emory Rivers.

Locally, laboratory technicians found toxic ash residue everywhere they looked as part of a study on exposure to airborne fly ash near a coal ash disposal facility in Gambrills in Anne Arundel County.

A report released by Environment Maryland last January documented the presence of fly ash in dust samples taken in and around homes in Gambrills where Constellation energy has dumped 4 million tons of fly ash since 1995.

Yes, the contamination is in Gambrill's well water.

Save the Bay? Sure. But how about save the children? How about save the grannies?

Get on your phones and keyboards and let our legislators know that you will not abide any new coal-fired plants in Maryland and want the Federal Government to enforce the clean air act!