



Chesapeake Garden Club Newsletter

Gardening For All Seasons

April, 2007

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>

Design by Jenny Wolf 3rd place London Town Daffodil Show



Dates to Remember

April

- 12 Master Gardener Training Program
- 6-7 27th Annual London Town Daffodil Show at London Towne
- 12 Master Gardener Training Program
- 13 Daffodil Flower Show School course III
- 17-18 MD Daffodil Society Show
- 17 Garden Club Meeting
- 22 Earth Day

May

- 1-2 Flower Show School
- 5 Prince George's County MHGP
- 12 Baltimore County MHGP
- 13 Somerset & Worcester Counties MHGP
- 19 Anne Arundel County MHGP
- 15 Chesapeake Garden Club Meeting
- 24 National Garden Club Convention
Boston MA



April Birthdays

- Carolyn Balderston April 14
- Sande Wolf April 19

Plantings from the President

I'd like to thank all the members for attending the March meeting we had a great turn out. We were able to clean up the Appreciation Garden it is starting to fill in. We inducted our new members and elected our new officers. Congratulations to Kitty Walker President, Sybil Russell, Vice President, Marybeth Krovisky Recording Secretary, Mary Alys Sweetman, Treasurer, and Rosanna Noyes, Corresponding Secretary. Thank you, Ladies for your dedication to our club. We will support you as you begin your new term in September. Some of us attended the District II meeting and we won numerous awards for our activities this year.

We have a busy April coming up. The London Town Daffodil Show took place this weekend and our members had a very successful show. Our April meeting will be at the Jefferson Patterson Park. The Maryland Daffodil Society will be having a show on April 17 some of our members will be entering designs. Marybeth and her committee will be working on the 50th Anniversary celebration. They had their first meeting and lots of brainstorming took place. You'll hear more about the wonderful suggestions they came up with at our next meeting!

Peggy

April Meeting

April 17, 2007

Time and Place

10:00 AM

Jefferson Patterson Park

Lusby, Maryland

Program:

Tour of the Jefferson Patterson Park and Historic Gardens

Business Meeting

Committee Reports

Hosts

Lunch at a local restaurant

Horticultural Events

March 6, Apr. 12

Master Gardener Training Program 6:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Maryland Cooperative Extension 150 Main Street, Suite 300 P.F., 410-535-3662

Design Events

April 17 - 18

MD Daffodil Society Show, at the Shops at Kenilworth in Towson

April 30 May 1-2

Flower Show School Course III Holiday Inn Timonium

Go to the following link for more information <http://hometown.aol.com/fgcofmd/schoolssymposiums.html>

Federated Garden Club News

The new officers were elected. Awards were presented and the following awards were presented to the members of Chesapeake Garden Club:

Dessie Moxley – Photograph, Beauty of flower, fruit, or leaf (close-up)
3rd place JoEllen Youngblud Dogwood blossom

**Book of Evidence in Competition
NGC Award**

#63 Website – Certificate of Merit

Garden Therapy Award - Fall Workshop at Calvert Pines

Community Service Award - Appreciation Garden

Civic Development Award - Appreciation Garden

Publications Award – Newsletter

Yearbook Award – 2nd Place



Celebration

We had our first meeting on March 26th, 2007. It went very well. We had about 10 people attending and were able to brainstorm some ideas for the celebration. I will present our suggestions at the next meeting for your approval. We also had a chance to organize some of the historic documents and photographs that date back to the beginning of our club. As we browsed through them, we realized how much we have accomplished over the past 50 years and how exciting it will be to plan a gala celebration. Since we are still in the planning phase, any additional ideas or suggestions are appreciated. .
Marybeth



Treasurer's Report

Disbursements \$546.96

Deposits \$477.00

Balance on Hand March 20, 2007 \$4,069.25

Submitted by Sybil Russell

London Town Daffodil Show

Design Awards

For a up close and personal look at our designs go to

the link on our webpage.

Class 193 May Day Parade Pot-et-Fleur
3rd Place Dorrie McDonald

Class 194 Labor Day Parade Creative Design
2nd Place JoEllen Youngblud

Class 196 Thanksgiving Day Parade Stretch
Design
2nd Place Peggy Zachousky

Class 197 Christmas Day Parade vibratile
design
2nd Place JoEllen Youngblud

Class 198 Rose Bowl Parade Miniature
2nd Place Dorrie McDonald

Class 199 Super Bowl Parade Small Design
3rd Place Jenny Wolf (see design on 1st page of
this newsletter)
4th Place Peggy Zachousky

Horticulture Awards

Division 4 Double Daffodil Tahiti
3rd Place JoEllen Youngblud

Division 11 Split Corona Daffodil Valdrome
2nd Place JoEllen Youngblud

Youth Exhibits

**Youth Design Award
given to Parker Steadman Wolf**

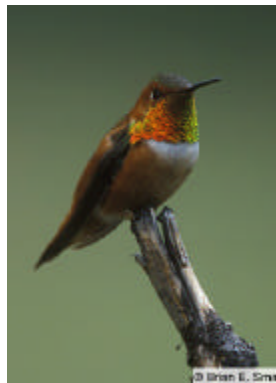
Exhibit 1 Disney On Parade
A. Junior Award
Tyler Sparrow 1st Place
B. Intermediate Award
Brittany Bender 3rd Place

Exhibit 2 Opening Day Parade
A. Junior Award
1st Place Parker Steadman Wolf
3rd Place Brittany Bender

B. Intermediate Award
2nd Place Kaylee Bender

A Little Bird Told Me

by Bernie Halloran



Over-Wintering Hummers, What?

Loyal readers of this column know perfectly well that the Ruby-throated hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*, is the only kind we have around here. Archie breeds in the Eastern United States and heads south in the winter, zooming over the Gulf of Mexico, heading further south for Central America and the West Indies.

Well, stand by for change. Not all the hummers are leaving North America for Central America and beyond. *Selasphorus rufus*, or just-call-me-Rufous, like their Ruby-throated cousins, are migratory hummingbirds that breed from the Pacific Northwest clear up into Alaska. (Rufus, in Latin bird-speak, means brown, kind of cinnamon-brownish, sometimes.) And mostly, that's what these birds are, except for the green. They winter, again like their cousins, down in Mexico or further south. Their migration can be a 12,000 mile round-trip. Gosh, just think of the frequent flier miles! Or, compare that to a Canada Goose, which most of us think of when someone says 'migratory bird.' Shucks, geese only migrate a few hundred to a couple of thousand miles a year.

As for the old wives' tale about hummingbirds migrating on the backs of geese, well, please don't spread that to your grandchildren. It simply isn't true. And even if it was, the geese don't go far enough.

Often described as "feisty," Mister Rufous may have the ideal size-to-weight ratio among North American hummingbirds (3-4 inches and 0.07-0.18 ounces.) It out flies all the other species, and usually gets its way at feeders at the expense of slower, less-maneuverable hummers. Birders consider the Rufous the hardest of all the hummer species that nest in the United States and Canada. Or as Bob Sargent of the Hummer/Bird Study Group put it, "They are beautiful and hateful, real 'junk yard dogs'." But boy, are they difficult to identify. Immature and mature, males and females have a pesky way of not

wanting to be photographed, and even when caught and tagged, the results can be confusing, so if you see a hummer and it doesn't have a red-throat, if you're confused by the coloration, don't feel all washed-up. If you catch a hint of brownish blur with iridescent green glittering in the sun, you've probably found yourself a Rufous.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, my original source for this story, the activities of the Hummer Bird Study Group (www.hummingbirdsplus.org) have played a large part in determining that a growing number of hummingbirds, ordinarily found in the West, are turning up in eastern states during the winter.

Rufous hummies from the Pacific Northwest are the most common, but birders are also seeing calliope hummingbirds from the northern Rockies, black-chinned hummingbirds from throughout the West, and buff-bellied hummies from south Texas and Mexico. Along the Gulf Coast, they are reporting thousands of these western hummers each winter, and birders even in states as far north as Pennsylvania and Massachusetts are finding dozens.

These birds were once dismissed as oddball vagrants, hopelessly lost and (everyone agreed) certainly doomed. But in recent years, thanks to pioneering researchers who have ignored conventional wisdom, we're learning that these "lost" hummingbirds are actually surviving the winters easily, and returning year after year. (Remember, hummies remember exactly where our feeders are, so don't move them.) The birds may even represent the leading edge in the evolution of entirely new migratory paths.

"It's clear that we have already witnessed an historic change in the winter range of rufous, black-chinned, calliope and buff-bellied hummingbirds," says ornithologist Van Remsen of Louisiana State University, who's been studying the phenomenon for several years, without even mildly suggesting that global warming is having still another effect.

To document these changes, ornithologists first need to catch some of the birds, which is what about 200 federally licensed hummingbird banders in the United States and Canada are doing.

Scott Weidensaul, a licensed bander who's tracking the western hummies' movements in the East, recently had this to report in *National Wildlife*: "Most of my attention focuses on the rufous hummingbird, the most common winter-fall species in the Mid-Atlantic where my colleagues and I work. It was a report of a rufous that had drawn me to a backyard just south of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Where I had set up a cage trap baited with a sugar-water feeder on the owner's porch."

"Right on cue, the hummer showed up, bright green with a touch of orange on her sides and tail. At first she ignored the feeder, concentrating instead on the old apples—probing them repeatedly for the juice inside, or perhaps for cold-numbered insect larvae—but she finally zipped into the trap. Ten minutes later—weighed, measured and outfitted with a tiny numbered

band around her right leg—she was free again, one of a half dozen hummingbirds I'd banded that season."

Yes, I could go on and on, but I'm late getting my copy to Jo-Ellen. So, if you're still curious, go to the Hummer Bird Study Group website; in the meantime, here's the bottom line: put out some apples, leave your hummer feeders in place and try to keep them defrosted for the winter, because the hummers are still with us, at least, that's what a little bird told me.



Both are Rufous male tail feathers.

Editors note: Sorry for the delay in publishing this article. My fault not Bernie's!!!



Gardening Tips

submitted by Peggy Zachousky

I briefly mentioned pruning trees and shrubs in the February Newsletter and here's more information regarding punning trees the right way. A tree is best in its first two or three years in the garden. This technique, called formative pruning, will establish an optimum trunk and branch structure and will fix minor problems before they become major ones. It also makes the tree more attractive. You need to establish a single trunk, or leader. Prune nearly all trees and shrubs except those that bloom in the spring. You don't want to trim off the developing flowers. Wait to prune oaks and walnuts until July to prevent wilt disease.

First, remove and braches that are obviously broken or diseased or dead. To test for vitality, scrape the bark with a knife if underlying layer is green, the branch is alive.

Second, look for branches that are rubbing against each other or crossing and soon will be touching. Determine which of the two serves the tree better, and remove the other.

Third if one branch is located immediately above another, take out one of them. Uncorrected, the upper branch will shade out the other and make it weak.

Fourth, cut side braches that are growing toward the center of the tree. In deciding what to remove remember that branches with narrow crotch angles are structurally weaker that those with a wider junction. The main trunk should end in a central leader. If you have two competing leaders decide to leave the one that was the dominant and straighter of the two.

Manicure Tip:

Olive oil can help build strong fingernails and soften cuticles. Before bed, soak you nails in a mixture of lukewarm olive oil and lemon juice. Put on soft cloth gloves and let the oil penetrate overnight. Your nails will gradually become more resistant to breaking and chipping. This can help us with all the work we've been doing in the garden now, and keep those nails looking good.

Conservation Corner:

By Bernie Halloran

Did anyone happen to notice that Groundhog Day 2007 occurred on the same day that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations issued its report on global warming?

That report said that global warming was an unequivocal fact, likely to make summers hotter and winters warmer for the next few centuries, with potentially dire consequences for the ecosystem.

According to The New York Times, groundhogs around the country, including the legendary Pennsylvania groundhog widely known as Punxsutawney Phil, basically agreed by shunning their shadows, and predicting an early spring.

And that's about the end of the good news. In what has been rightly called a "grim and powerful assessment of the future of the planet," the leading international network of climate scientists has concluded for the first time that global warming is "unequivocal" and that human activity is the main driver, "very likely" causing most of the planet's rise in temperatures since 1950.

This report, the panel's fourth since 1990, is the first to assert with near certainty – more than 90 percent confidence – that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from human activities have been the cause of global warming for the past half century. We've only begun to see the results: climbing temperatures, melting polar ice, rising seas, and very unusual weather patterns. The continued buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere will cause greater damage to us, our children, and their grandchildren unless, said the report, "substantially blunted by prompt action."

For those who wish to quibble with a 90 percent confidence level, the panel's 2001 report claimed that human activity was the "likely" cause of global warming, using only a 66 to 90 percent confidence level. If you're not sure that 90 percent is good enough, both reports can be examined online at www.ipcc.ch.

The executive director of the UN Environment Program, which administers the panel along with the World Metrological Organization, concluded: "February 2nd will be remembered as the date when uncertainty was removed as to whether humans had anything to do with climate change on this planet. The evidence is on the table."

Since the chair of the standing committee on Conservation is supposed to "provide the club with information on conservation and environmental matters," it seems reasonable to not only bother you with facts at meetings but in this newsletter too, because it really is time to turn up the volume, pour on the facts, and pester people into action. Prompt action.

You can begin by talking about this report with your family and friends.