



Chesapeake Garden Club Newsletter

Gardening For All Seasons

June, 2007

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>

Dorrie McDonald receiving her top awards at the FGCM
Petite Standard Flower Show June 2007

Dates to Remember

June

- 3-9 National Garden Week
- 6-7 Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland State Flower Show
- 8 Garden Club of Frederick Flower Show—
Buckingham's Choice, Adamstown
- 11-13 Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland trip to The Biltmore
- 14 "Flag Day" Dedication of the District II Blue Star Memorial Highway, Pasadena, MD
- 15 President's meeting
- 16 District III/Francis Scott Key Iris Society Show at Kenilworth
- 19 Chesapeake Garden Club Meeting**
- 23 Perennial Workshops at Homestead Gardens
- 29 State Office Closes

July

- 7 Jefferson Patterson Point Farm Garden Restoration - help with restoration 9am to 12
- 13 Crapemyrtle Festival begins at Homestead
- 14 Jefferson Patterson Point Farm House and Garden Tour
- 17 Chesapeake Garden Club Meeting**
Tour of Hillwood Gardens
Washington, DC
- 28 Native American Garden Day Jefferson Patterson Park create a garden like Native Americans might have.



May and June Birthdays

- Myda Snyder May 21
- Marybeth Krovisky May 26
- June Petty June 15

Plantings from the President

We've had a very exciting spring starting at Greenstreet Gardens and their wonderful container demonstration, what fun, new techniques, containers, and educational products along with great ideas. Eleven of our members attended and we learned a lot and enjoyed the program. They had great refreshments too!!!

Our April meeting at Jefferson Patterson Park was fantastic and Betty Siefert gave us a delightful tour and information about the gardens and the Patterson Family. I'm looking forward to returning and if you're interested, I have information about the park and a schedule of events. They are looking for volunteers the first Saturday of each month to work on the Gardens from 9:00 to 12:00. We had our meeting before the tour and we voted to have a Green's Show this year and to participate in the 2008 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage with Calvert Garden Club but in a minor role. Marybeth Krovisky and her committee are eagerly working on the 50th celebration and will report at our June meeting.

Our May meeting had a surprising twist with a visit to the Patuxent Nature center

thanks to Vicki Trego who generously invited our club to use the tickets that she won. We toured the park and learned many interesting things that they do for the environment and wildlife. We had our meeting at the center after our tour.

Sybil Russell, vice president elect read a letter from Kitty Walker, president elect that explained Kitty's personnel reasons for not being able to take on the office of presidency for 2007-09. I have instructed the nominating committee to find another nominee to fill this important position for our club. We all were very surprised and saddened by this decision.

JoEllen and I set up the planters at the library so stop by and see how they look. They are temporary until the Friends of the Library purchase the permanent containers. The librarians were very pleased.

I'm looking forward to our next meeting, which will be a tour at Christ Church with Nancy Thompson who will be our guest speaker. Plan to have lunch at Stoney's after the meeting and bring some horticulture for a plant exchange!

Summer is just around the corner. Enjoy the wealth of beauty this time of year.

Peggy

June Meeting

June 19 , 2007
Time and Place
10:30 AM
Christ Church

Program:
Tour conducted by Nancy Thompson

Business Meeting
Committee Reports
Plant Exchange

Lunch
at Stoney's

Nominating Committee News

Bev Steadman

Due to the resignation of Kitty Walker the nominating committee met and came up with a new slate for President - Mary Alys Sweetman, Vice President - JoEllen Youngblud and Treasurer - Sybil Russell. The positions of secretary & corresponding secretary will remain as voted on. Since Sybil Russell has already served as Treasurer for 2 years we will have to make an amendment to our By Laws. There will be further discussion about this at the June meeting.



Treasurer's Report

Sybil Russell

Balance on Hand May 15, 2007	\$3790.94
Certificate	\$2658.25
Total	\$6449.19

Horticulture Events

National Arboretum

Ikebana Exhibit

June 25-July 1, 10:00am-3:30pm
National Bonsai & Penjing Museum
International Pavilion
Special Exhibits Wing

Curated by Sensei Sachiko Furlan, one of Washington's foremost ikebana instructors, this exhibit features the ancient art of Japanese flower arranging. This is a stunning exhibit of the region's most accomplished ikebana artists. Free.

Federation News

Bonnie Stevens was inducted as President.

District 2 News

Paula Winkler has set a theme for our District "Stewardship of our Native Treescape – Right Tree, Right Spot in our Urban Setting"

Flower Show News

Federated Show in June

Our Sande Wolf played a major role in organizing the Horticulture for the Show as the Horticulture Chairperson

Design Awards

Dorrie McDonald has put Chesapeake Garden Club on the Map!! Her design won The NGC Award for Design and the Sweepsteak Award from the FGCM congratulations Dorrie.

Patty Atlee and Peggy Zachousky won first place for their designs.

JoEllen Youngblud won a second place ribbon for her design.

Sande won an Honorable Mention.

Horticulture Awards

Peggy, JoEllen, Sande and Dorrie won multiple ribbons for their Horticulture.

Maryland Daffodil Show in May

Design Awards

Peggy Zachousky and JoEllen Youngblud took second place for their designs

Horticulture Awards

JoEllen Youngblud took 2 first place ribbons and 2 second place ribbons

A Little Birdie Told Me

by Bernie Halloran



The House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*

Very early this spring, we roped off the front porch so visitors wouldn't disturb the House Finches, who had built a nest in the wreath on our front door. I photographed the five tiny eggs and we waited patiently for the young to fledge.

When the nest was empty, I took the wreath down and found two partially decomposed chicks. What caused this?

Birds do get sick, of course. Disease is one of many natural processes affecting wild species. We don't like to think about it, but sick birds do show up at feeders, and spread disease.

Bird feeding seems like the perfect tree-hugging, super-green out-door activity. We can enjoy the silly antics, beautiful colors and charming behavior of all kinds of birds while actually helping the little critters thrive. As idyllic as bird feeding may seem, it carries some risks, not for us, but for birds who visit our feeders.

We need to be aware of four diseases that commonly affect those bird species that typically frequent feeders, because, obviously not all birds do:

Salmonellosis (sal-muh-nel-LOW-sis) is a general term for any disease caused by a group of bacteria known as Salmonella. Abscesses often form in the lining of the esophagus and crop as part of the infection process. Infected birds pass bacteria in their fecal droppings. Other birds get sick when they eat food contaminated by the droppings. Salmonellosis is the most common bird-feeder disease, and it kills quickly.

Trichomoniasis (trick-oh-mo-NYE-uh-sis) are a group of protozoan (one-celled microscopic) parasites that affect a broad variety of animals, including humans. One Trichomonads species afflicts only pigeons and doves, with Mourning Doves being particularly susceptible. Birds afflicted with Trichomoniasis typically develop sores in their mouths and throats. Unable to swallow, they drop food or water contaminated with Trichomonads that other birds then consume, and so the disease spreads.

Aspergillosis (as-per-jill-OH-sis) fungus grows on damp feed and in the debris beneath feeders. Birds inhale the fungal spores and the fungus spreads through their lungs and air sacs, causing bronchitis and pneumonia.

Avian Pox is more noticeable than the other diseases, because it causes wart-like growths on the featherless surfaces of a bird's face, wings, legs, and feet. The virus that causes pox is spread by direct contact with infected birds, by healthy birds picking up shed viruses on food or feeders, or by insects mechanically carrying the virus on their body. However, not all warty growths on birds are caused by the avian pox virus.

All four diseases can lead to death. Salmonellosis may kill the birds outright, and pneumonia from Aspergillosis is nearly always fatal. Trichomoniasis may obstruct a bird's throat. Avian pox growths on the face can become large enough to impair vision or eating ability and growths on feet and toes can affect a bird's ability to stand or perch. Thus, sick birds are more vulnerable to starvation, dehydration, predation, and severe weather.

You can spot sick birds in a crowd. They are less alert and less active. They feed less and often cower on a feeder, reluctant to fly. Their feathers look ill-kept. Despite these obvious symptoms, disease usually is overlooked as a complication of feeding birds. Certainly, the signs of illness are not as easily noticed as bright colors and cheery songs; but being inconspicuous does not make disease unimportant.

People who feed birds really cannot ignore the disease issue. Eight relatively easy steps can be taken to prevent or minimize disease problems at feeders.

Give them space. Avoid crowding by providing ample feeder space. Lots of birds using a single feeder looks wonderful, but crowding is a key factor in spreading disease. If birds have to jostle each other to reach the food, they are crowded. This crowding also creates stress which may make birds more vulnerable to disease.

Clean up waste. Keep the feeder area clean of waste food and droppings. A broom and shovel can accomplish a lot of good, but a vacuum such as you might use in your garage or workshop will help even more.

Make feeders safe. Provide safe feeders without sharp points or edges. Even small scratches and cuts will allow bacteria and viruses to enter otherwise healthy birds.

Keep feeders clean. Clean and disinfect feeders regularly. Use one part of liquid chlorine household bleach in nine parts of tepid water (a 10 percent solution) to disinfect. Make enough solution to immerse an empty, cleaned feeder completely for two to three minutes. Allow to air dry. Once or twice a month should do, but weekly could help more if you notice sick birds at your feeders.

Use "fresh" food. Discard any food that smells musty, is wet, looks moldy or has fungus growing on it. Disinfect any storage container that holds spoiled food and the scoop used to fill feeders from it.

Prevent contamination. Keep rodents out of stored food. Mice can carry and spread some bird diseases without being affected themselves.

Act early. Don't wait to act until you see sick or dead birds. With good prevention you'll seldom find sick or dead birds at your feeders.

Spread the word. Encourage your neighbors who feed birds to follow the same precautions. Birds normally move among feeders and can spread diseases as they go. The safest birdfeeders will be those in communities where neighbors cooperate with equal concern for the health of their fine, feathered friends.

Garden News

The following is a list of trees that are native to Maryland.

<http://www.mdflora.org/publications/natplantsframe.html>

Tall Trees

OAKS ** are the dominant genus. If you have room for a tall tree, plant an oak. If you have plenty of space, plant in a ratio of several oaks to other tall trees. In addition to the obvious food value of the acorns, oaks provide food for approximately one thousand species of insects on the East Coast. Insects, in turn, are food for birds and other creatures.

- **White Oak ***, *Quercus alba* – shaggy bark on the middle portion of the trunk makes this tree especially ornamental in winter; excellent shade tree; leaves have rounded lobes. White oak acorns are sweet and sprout quickly so are eaten in Fall.
- **Southern Red Oak**, *Quercus falcata* – (more common on coastal plain) leaves have few lobes (pointed); bark appears striped; red and black oak acorns have a lot of tannin and are buried by squirrels to mellow before eating.
- **Northern Red Oak**, *Quercus rubra* – leaves have pointed lobes; bark appears striped
- **Black Oak**, *Quercus velutina* – very large leaves with pointed lobes
- **Red Maple ***, *Acer rubrum* – a very attractive tree with red/orange fall foliage, but now rapidly expanding out of its original swamp habitat
- **Mockernut Hickory ***, *Carya tomentosa* – very large terminal leaflet, aromatic foliage turns gold in late Fall
- **American Beech * ****, *Fagus grandifolia* – pale gray bark; young trees keep their leaves through the winter; beechnuts are high-quality food for mammals and large birds
- **White Ash**, *Fraxinus americana*
- **Tulip Poplar**, *Liriodendron tulipifera* – a "pioneer" tree, it needs full sun and shades out (and drops) its own lower branches. Don't allow it to grow close to a house. There is no need to plant tulip poplar – this species is doing just fine in contemporary Maryland.
- **Chestnut Oak ****, *Quercus prinus*, is the dominant tree, having replaced the American Chestnut. Other oaks may grow where soil has collected.
- **Pignut Hickory ****, *Carya glabra* (in mature forests)
- **Scarlet Oak * ****, *Quercus coccinea* – the brightest red fall foliage of our indigenous oaks
- Tulip Poplars and Red Maples without having to plant them. They are pioneer trees, brought by the wind, and now overrepresented because so much land has been cleared.

Medium Trees

- **Persimmon ***, *Diospyros virginiana* – checkered bark and fruits hanging on tree provide winter interest

- **American Holly** *, *Ilex opaca* (coastal plain only) – evergreen, handsome pyramidal shape when grown in the open, but found as an understory tree in the wild
- **Black or Sour Gum (Tupelo)** *, *Nyssa sylvatica* – bright red fall foliage
- **Black Cherry** * **, *Prunus serotina* – flowers are quietly ornamental, now showy; fruits are staple food for many birds; leaves are larval host for Spring Azure, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, and Red-spotted Purple butterfly and many other butterfly and moth species. Black cherry is a pioneer tree; if you have anything for birds to perch on, they will plant it for you. In fact, you may want to weed out its seedlings.
- **Sassafras** * **, *Sassafras albidum* – mitten-shaped leaves, brilliant orange fall foliage; larval host for Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly
- **Red Mulberry** **, *Morus rubra*, is now very hard to find because of competition from the non-native White Mulberry, which may also be the source of the root disease that kills off many of the natives. The native has large leaves with few or no lobes; the exotic has two or more lobes on most of its leaves, and usually has dark purple fruit. To preserve this native, weed out the other.
- **Post Oak**, *Quercus stellata* (on very poor, dry soils)

Small Trees

- **Dogwood** *, *Cornus florida*
- **Redbud** *, *Cercis canadensis* – deep pink, pea-like flowers all along stem, heart-shaped leaves
- **Black Haw** *, *Viburnum prunifolium* – creamy white, flat flower clusters in May; extremely scaly light brown bark provides winter interest
- **Serviceberry** *, *Amelanchier canadensis* (uncommon) – lovely white flowers in early spring
- **Hackberry** **, *Celtis occidentalis* (uncommon) – larval host for 7 species of Lepidoptera; sole larval host for the rare Hackberry Butterfly
- **Fringetree** *, *Chionanthus virginicus* (uncommon) – spectacular large clusters of aromatic white flowers in late spring
- **American Chestnut**, *Castanea dentata* – chestnuts still re-sprout from the roots, but rarely grow more than 20' tall before they are

killed by the blight. However, RESEARCH IS UNDER WAY TO INFECT THE BLIGHT WITH A HYPOVIRULENT STRAIN THAT ALLOWS THE TREES TO SURVIVE. If this becomes commercially available, please treat any surviving chestnuts on your property.

- **Redbud** * **, *Cercis canadensis* - can grow on steep slopes as long as the soil is rich (e.g., has some limestone in it) and well-watered; the nectar source for Henry's elfin butterfly, larval host for several butterflies and moths; Rhabdopterus beetles sometimes eat away the leaf edges in a dramatically scalloped pattern.

Compiled by Louisa Thompson
Maryland Native Plant Society
May 1999

Nature's Tapestries One Stitch At A Time



first place Horticulture
JoEllen



first place Design Patti



first place
Design Peggy