



Chesapeake Garden Club Newsletter Gardening For All Seasons

March, 2007

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>

Design by Nicki Schwab



Dates to Remember

March

- 4-11 Philadelphia Flower Show March 6
- Park and Recreation Trip
- 6 Master Gardener Training Program
- 9 District II Annual Meeting
- 10 Residential Landscape Workshop
- 8-11 Washington Home and Garden Show
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 Garden Club Meeting
- 27 Federated Garden Club Meeting
- 29 Art Blooms at the Walters

April

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



March Birthdays

- Rosanna Noyes March 14
- Vicky Trego March 26
- Deb St. John March 29

Plantings from the President

I'm sorry that I was unable to attend the February meeting. From all the feedback, that I received it sounds like things went very well. It sounds like our guest speaker Dru Schmidt-Perkins of "A Thousand Friends of Maryland" gave an excellent presentation. Thank you, Dorrie for doing such a great job hosting the meeting.

In order to keep informed about special events and activities check the newsletter, website and yearbook and make a note of them on your calendars.

I'm having a meeting on March 7th with Marcia at the Prince Frederick Library to plan the planters. I'll keep you informed on the plans and when we'll need help. In addition, once the weather changes we'll need assistance with the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp planting beds.

As you know our March 20th meeting at the Church Hall will be a Pizza and Salad 49th Birthday Celebration. After the celebration we will do some Spring cleaning up and planting at the Appreciation Gardens at All Saints Church. So please come dressed to do some gardening.

The annual FGCM meeting will be at the Suburban Country Club in Baltimore again this year. If anyone wants to carpool let me know

See you soon,

Peggy

March Meeting

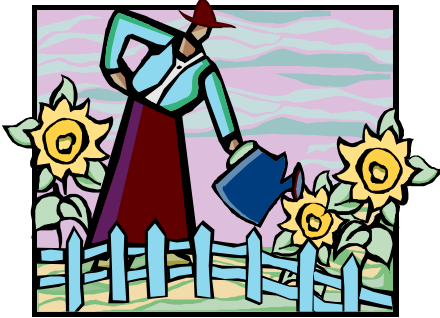
March 20, 2007

Chesapeake Garden Club's 49th Birthday
Pizza Party

Time and Place

All Saint's Church in Sunderland
10:00 AM

Program:



Birthday Celebration and Spring Clean up of
the Appreciation Garden

Business Meeting

Election of Officers
Introduction of New Members

Design:

A creative design using at least 3 daffodils.

Horticulture:

Flowering Shrubs:
Azalea
Quince
Your choice

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

March 10

Residential Landscape Workshop Saturday
Charles County Master Gardeners
Fee \$30 before Feb. 23, \$35.00 after 23rd of
Feb.

April 3,4,5

Landscape Design School Course II

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

Design Events

April 6-7

27th Annual London Town Daffodil Show at
Historic London Town House and Gardens
in Edgewater, MD. The Show will be
"Daffodils On Parade," A Standard Flower
Show

April 13

Daffodil Flower Show School Course III is
being offered at Chartwell Country Club.
Contact Marie Coulter for info. 410-647-8971

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

Annual Meeting March 29, 2007 at the
Surban County Club in Baltimore



Celebration

As I discussed at our February meeting, I
would like some help in planning and
carrying out our big birthday celebration next
year. We need ideas and volunteers to
make this a truly gala happening.

We will need two groups initially to start this project off--one group could be a planning group to come up with ideas for specific events, celebrations, etc. A second group will work on documentation and history. Ideally, both groups should have representation from both newer and older members. As we get closer to the actual time, the entire club can be pulled in to help out and participate in the celebration.

We can meet either at people's homes and/or the church. Here are some initial proposed dates. You let me know what dates are good for the 1st meeting for each group. At the first meeting, we can set up other dates. My phone number is 410-586-2620 or email me at jmbkrovisky@comcast.net.

Planning Group:

- 11:AM on March 7th, 14th or 28th

Documentation Group:

- 11:AM on March 8th, 15th or 29th

I look forward to hearing from you.
Marybeth



Treasurer's Report

Penny Pines

Collected \$159.65

Paid out \$136.00 for 2 Trees @ \$68.00 each

Balance \$23.65

Memorial Fund

Collected \$163.00

Certificate of Deposit

7 month CD paying 5.25% interest



A Little Birdie Told Me

by Bernie Halloran

Mister Meanie

The Northern mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*

A new guy has moved into the neighborhood, and I call him Mister Meanie. He's a two-fisted, fight-starting, bully of a wise guy who thinks he owns the place. His family name is *Mimus polyglottos*, (*Mimus*, the enigmatic, occasionally spiteful, and unpredictable court jester Theodo and *polyglot* or speaking in several languages), but his "songs" sound more like the squeaky noises my computer makes. But that's probably because it's not mating season.

Mister Meanie isn't passing through. Northern Mockingbirds become permanent residents, who aren't necessarily easy to live with because they're very territorial and like to pick fights with any and all intruders, like other birds, cats, dogs and humans.

My wife June told me about this guy a month or so ago when he started attacking our over-wintering Bluebirds at mealy-worm breakfast time. Mister Meanie would go after all five Bluebirds, then sit atop the bird feeder all puffed up and looking very full of himself.

John van der Linden, the author of the Eastern Birding Central website (www.geocities.com/easternbirds/), says that 25 to 50 percent of the e-mail questions he's received are about how to deal with annoying mockingbirds.

I really don't remember if Scout or her brother Jem killed a mockingbird, or if Atticus did, or if anybody in Maycomb did. In fact, I don't even remember if Harper Lee was male or female, but killing mockingbirds, is clearly illegal. Scratch that solution.

Mockingbirds are not threatened; in fact they're thriving as never before with a range continuing to expand northward. Maybe they're thriving because they are so defensive, especially during breeding season, or throughout the winter

when their food supply – berries, bugs—is limited to what they can claim exclusively for themselves. And for sure they're thriving because they've adapted well to the disturbed habitats created by us. They're just as happy in the suburbs as they are down on the farm.

Not surprising, the Mockingbird is monogamous and a solitary nester. They form long-term pair bonds – I guess once a female bird gets used to her wise-guy mate, it's love for life. But when nesting season starts in March, they get even more aggressive than they are during the winter. Stories abound (www.bestofbbml.audubon-omaha.org/mockers2.htm) and they ain't pretty.

This little 9-inch bird will attack anything that enters its territory, including hawks. They kill squirrels, dive-bomb cats and dogs and aren't afraid of gardeners.

What to do? Move any berries you've been putting out for the winter to someplace far away. Move your suet feeders and use the kind these guys can't get into. The same with mealy-worm feeders: screen them in and move them out of what appears to be the Mockingbird's claimed territory.



Gardening Tips

submitted by Peggy Zachousky

Are you ready for the sunny days, budding trees and saying goodbye to the harsh winter cold? As the temperatures start to warm up get going with a little clean up and planting. Rake and gather leaves for composting, pull weeds and cut back perennials still standing as well as ornamental grasses.

This is a good time to keep a garden journal. Keep a notebook on hand to jot down selections of plants that pleased you so that you will be sure to buy them again. Record those that did not work well to avoid future disappointment. Include notes on planting dates, disease or insect problems and solutions, length of bloom, cold hardiness, tolerance of rainy weather, and anything else that will help you next time around. If you purchased a plant from a mail-order source, note the name of the company to

remind yourself where to order additional plants at a later date.

March Tips:

Tool Care – Spruce up hand tools and power tools. Also, sharpen your mower blades, something you should do three or four times a year. And Check oil levels and the filter. Some filters need to be replaced; others cleaned.

Start Seeds Indoors – Start seeds indoors, if you like, early this month for warm-season annuals, such as tomatoes, marigolds, peppers, cosmos, zucchini, impatiens, salvia, basil and others. Otherwise, wait until all chance of freezing temperatures has passed and buy established seedlings at the garden center.

Pruning Trees and Shrubs – Prune nearly all trees and shrubs except those that bloom in the spring. (You'll trim off the developing flowers!) And wait to prune oaks and walnuts until July to prevent wilt disease.

Prune evergreens any time from now until late summer. (Don't prune later than that or you'll prompt new, tender growth that will get zapped by winter's cold.)

Pruning Roses – Prune roses this month or next once signs of growth are well underway, that is the red leaf buds have starting to swell and are just barely starting to unfurl.

Fertilize your lawn with either an organic or a chemical product. (You can also simply rake a 1/2 – inch of compost over you lawn.) This is also the time to apply a crabgrass preventer, if you choose. Check out products that combine the two, saving on application time.

Late this month or early next, if desired, apply a pre-emergent weed killer to beds and borders. It will greatly reduce weeds later on. However, it works by preventing seeds from germinating, so don't apply anywhere you're planting seeds.

Before It is too Late

If you have a tender message or a loving word to say
Do not wait till you forget it
But Whisper it today.

The tender word unspoken

The letter never sent

The long-forgotten message

The wealth of love unspent

For these some hearts are breaking

For these some loved ones wait

So show them that you care for them

Before it is too late.

submitted by Kitty Walker