



Garden Club Newsletter

Gardening For All Seasons

April, 2008

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>

You can access your newsletter here also.



Dates to Remember

April 2008

April 10-11 Londontown daffodil show

April 21-23 Daffodil show, Shops at
Kenilworth, Towson, MD

May 2008

May 10th House and Garden Pilgrimage

May 20th CGC Meeting (All Saint's Church)

June 2008

June 5-6 CGC 50th Birthday and Flower Show
Celebration



April Birthdays

Carolyn Balderston April 14th

Sande Wolf 19th

Aprils Meeting

Location: All Saints Church

Hosts: Self supplied Please bring a sandwich
drink and desert will be provided

Program: Committee Reports

Horticulture: Bring some Horticulture
examples for meeting. This will be a dry run
for our Flower show in

FYI.....

Jo Ellen has placed the flower show
schedule on the website so if you need a
copy you can get it there.

Plantings from the President

Hi Everyone,

Well, we made it through March with
flying colors and I am so glad it is over.
Again, many thanks to everyone for all the
help at District II meeting.

We have the London Towne Daffodil
show April 11 & 12th, we can still use a few
more clerks for the judges, if you can help
please let Patti know. Several of our
members will be entering in designs and
Last year Dorrie "took the show" with best
design. We also had other members place
very well amongst the competition from
around the area.

May 10th takes us to the House and
Garden Pilgrimage and once again I will
need just about everyone to help.
Chesapeake Garden Club is responsible for
three houses and St. Paul's church. We will
be makings flower arrangements for the
houses, put up directional signs to show
parking and probably 4 to 6 hostess at each
house both morning and afternoon shift.
Also it must be a garden club person at the
door to sell or take tickets.

I know everything will work out with
this great club.

Thanks for your help,
Mary Alys

Flower Show Update

Hi Members,

For those of you that may have had to miss the meetings about the Flower Show let me get you up to date.

A few of our group have been planning and working hard for this to be a great success.

What we need now are **all members** to sign up for the designs and I stress the importance in knowing what horticulture you plan to bring to the show. I will have signup sheets in design and horticulture specimens so we can have a feel on what space we need for set up. If you can do that for me the job would be made easier. I thank you in advance.

We will get recognition for 100% participation, so let's check our gardens and show off our plant material. Signups will start at the March 15 club meeting. If you have any questions please, don't hesitate, just call me and I'll do my best to answer it.

Quick reminders, also at the club meeting, if anyone would like to practice, bring in a traditional mass arrangement that's no more than 8" tall and wide. Also there will be a plant exchange so bring in some plants to start sharing.

Many thanks for the help with the District II arrangements; I believe they were a big success. Actually, one showed up at the Art Blooms at the Walters but with a different floral design.

Thanks,

Peggy Zachousky
Flower Show Chairman



Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Sybil Russell

Balance on hand Feb 19th 2008: \$8,540.11
Disbursements: \$1,059.83
Deposits: \$802.00
Balance on hand March 18th 2008: \$8,282.28

A Little Boid Told Me



Male House Finch
Carpodacus mexicanus

Help Your Neighborhood House Finches

By Bernie Halloran

Nancy, the House Finch, is just as comfortable as can be in her newly built nest with her four newly laid eggs all of which reside in the wreath on our front door.

This has happened before. And while Nancy is a lovely House Finch, and I'm sure she'll make a fine mother, House Finches are not the tidiest housewives.

Just like any other bird, nesting House Finches' poop is contained in little, membranous sacs. For the first five days after the babies hatch, the mom and pop Finches eat the sacs, just like most other songbirds. After all, "waste not, want not" is a songbird motto.

After those first five days, most songbirds will carry off their fecal sacs and dispose of them, but not our House Finches. The sacs will accumulate around the rim of the nest, pretty much making a mess of an otherwise quite lovely wreath. It's all happened before.

When I looked inside the nest just a few days ago, there was only one small specked blue egg. Last night there were four, little, half-inch eggs and there's still a possibility of one or two more. They'll hatch in about 13 days and fledge two weeks later.

These nests are easy enough to look into because the birds are generally gregarious, very sociable, not people shy at all; their nests are open saucer-shaped, made out of grass stems, leaves, thin twigs, string, dryer lint and feathers. Even though Saucey spends most of her afternoons on the front porch that's where they are, preferring nesting locations like hanging baskets, or tree cavities, or bird boxes, or building ledges or ornamental wreaths..

While females are rather doughty grayish-brownish things, the males with their bright red to pale yellow crowns, throats and rumps look pretty cool. People with normal hearing claim they make a "cheep, cheep" sounds when calling one another, but their regular "songs" sound more like a rapid, hoarse warble that goes up and down. Cute and friendly as they are, the House Finch population has been cut in half over the past decade from eye disease. Avian pox and conjunctivitis are the culprits.

You don't have to be a bird watcher to help researchers find out what's going on. In fact, I've

signed up with Cornell University's House Finch Disease Survey online. You might want to do the same. Everything you need is to be found at www.birds.cornell.edu/hofi/hofifaqs.html.

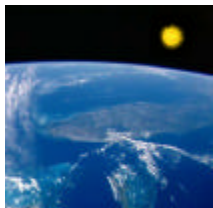
In the meantime, keeping House Finches fat and healthy is easy. These little critters usually live on plant material: buds, seeds from winter berries and occasionally an insect for a change of pace. They love to hang out at bird feeders stocked with good old Black Oil Sunflower seeds, thistle, plain, inexpensive birdseed and sometimes a piece of suet cake. Just make sure you keep your birdbaths clean and full of water.

In the meantime, if you want to keep our House Finches well fed, here's what you will regularly extract seed from winter berries.

FYI.....

CGC received 3 awards at the Federation Meeting last week. Our yearbook received a 2nd place award and our Newsletter and Website each received a Publication award and were sent on to Nationals for competition.

Conservation corner



Today's Most Important Conservation Issue

By Bernie Halloran

An international consensus has been forged. Global warming is real. It is already happening. Human activity has increased the greenhouse gases of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons through the burning of fossil fuels, tropical deforestation, agriculture, and by releasing other chemicals into the atmosphere so that Earth's heat is trapped.

The earth has already warmed 1 degree Fahrenheit, and scientists predict that the warming trend will continue in the decades to come. The simple truth is that the warming cannot be stopped, but it can be slowed.

The planet is at a tipping point: if the Earth warms 1 to 2 degrees Fahrenheit, the impact will be manageable, and we can adapt. But if the Earth warms 4 to 10 degrees, the effects will be catastrophic. The question

becomes, what can we do? The reality is that there is no silver bullet. There is no single solution. We need many answers and people of common purpose working together.

That is why it's important to know that a comprehensive package of legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – the leading cause of global warming – from all sectors of the economy has been introduced in the United States Senate. Every business, home, and industry will have to do its part.

You can do your part by notifying Senators McClusky and Harden that you support these five bills. Of course, if you don't, you can always sit back and watch the water rise.

Senate 317 would establish a cap-and-trade program to reduce emissions from the electric utility sector by 25 percent of anticipated levels by 2020. It is the most aggressive bill supported by industry to date.

The second bill, as yet unnumbered, would impose a mandatory cap-and-trade program for industrial and corporate polluters, modeled after the electricity sector program.

Senate 357 would also raise the average fuel economy of all cars and light trucks from 25 miles per gallon to 35 miles per gallon over 10 years. This would cut emissions by 18 percent by 2025.

Senate 1073 would increase the supply of bio-diesel, E85, and other low-carbon fuels. This bill would also effectively nationalize California's landmark tailpipe emissions law. Together, this would cut emissions by 21 percent below projected levels by 2030.

Finally an additional bill is in the works which would establish a national energy-efficiency program, modeled after California's current program. By 2020, the bill would reduce emissions from electric and natural gas utilities by 9 percent below projected levels. Updated building codes would reduce emissions from new homes and new buildings by 25 percent below projected levels.

Our friends in the European Union (EU) are far ahead of us. The EU has already adopted an action plan aimed at achieving a 20 percent reduction in energy consumption by 2020.

The EU action plan includes measures to improve the energy performance of products, buildings and services; to improve the yield of energy production and distribution; to reduce the impact of transport on energy consumption; to facilitate financing and

investments in the energy conservation sector; to encourage and consolidate rational energy consumption behavior, and to step up international action on energy efficiency.

The purpose of the European Union's action plan is to mobilize the general public, policy-makers and "market actors," and to transform the internal energy market in a way that provides EU citizens with the most energy-efficient infrastructure, including buildings; products, including appliances and cars; and energy systems in the world.

The United States needs to do no less. You, the general public, must make your voices heard to our nation's policy makers. It is not enough to plant xeric gardens in anticipation of more droughts, although that isn't a bad idea.

Given we all have a limited amount of time on planet Earth, limited physical energy and a limited ability to make a difference for future generations, it is vitally important to weigh in on this most important conservation issue.



50th Anniversary Update

We are continuing to meet and plan our club's birthday celebration. Here's what has been decided thus far. On Friday, June 6th, the club will meet for brunch at 10:15 at the Mama Lucia restaurant. We will invite former GCG members and officers from the State and District II Federated Garden Club to join us in a short program honoring our history, founding members and former presidents. Afterwards, we will go back to the Library where we have invited the County Commissioners to join us. With a little luck, hopefully, they will accept our invitation!

At the Library, we will have a continuous Power Point running detailing club history and activities. Several of the tables in the media room (adjacent to and part of the flower show) will have special exhibits, memorabilia and membership information. We will start dismantling the Flower Show and Media Room around 3 PM. After that, relaxation!!!!

Marybeth
