



# CHESAPEAKE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER GARDENING FOR ALL SEASONS

APRIL MAY JUNE 2011

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>

## Blue Bayou Designed by Dorrie McDonald\*

### Dates to Remember

#### April

- District II Daffodil Show 4/4-6, Our Sheppard Church, Severna Park, MD
- Art Blooms at the Walters Art Gallery 4/8-11
- Ikebana International Baltimore Chapter 4/15
- Maryland Daffodil Society Show at Kenilworth 4/19-20
- CGC meeting 4/19
- Earth Day 4/22
- Flower Show School, Course 1, 4/27-29, Bowie, MD

#### May

- Garden Study School, Course IV 5/3-5, Baltimore
- MD House/Garden Pilgrimage Calvert County 5/7

- Historic Annapolis Plant sale 5/7-8 at William Paca House
- CGC meeting/Field trip to National Arboretum 5/17, Washington, DC
- District III Iris show 5/21 at Kenilworth
- Crofton Village Flower Show 5/21 at the Library

#### June

- Hammond Harwood House Secret Garden Tour 6/4-5, Annapolis
- National Garden Week 6/5-11
- Kent Island Flower Show 6/8
- District II Iris Show 6/16 at Kenilworth
- CGC picnic/meeting 6/21 at Anne Marie Gardens

**For additional dates, go to the Federation website and CGC website**

**\*The National Garden Club selected Dorrie's entry for the Vision of Beauty Calendar which will be published for the year 2012. It was chosen out of hundreds of entries. Congratulations Dorrie.**

## Birthday's

Carolyn Balderston – April 14

Sande Wolf – April 19

Marybeth Krovisky – May 26

## Plantings from the President

I would like to thank Sande and Grace for making the induction ceremony and luncheon so memorable. In addition to their words of wisdom, the light hearted tone of their remarks made for a fun-filled morning. The gifts of candy/nuts and their symbolism were right on target and made club members really think about how everyone's contributions (in addition to the officers) are needed to make a garden club grow and prosper.

I had the privilege of reading JoEllen's report at the District II meeting in March. What a year of accomplishments for our club! Our club is small but our accomplishments stood up well against other larger clubs with more members. Think of what we accomplished this year both in terms of special projects and long-standing projects such as maintaining the Appreciation Gardens and the Butterfly Garden at the Battle Creek Nature Center, and participating in the Jessup pre-release prison program and the garden therapy programs at the North Beach Senior Center. In addition, the Club pulled off three big projects--- the Hospice Tree, the Greens Show, and last, but not least, the CGC Flower Show spearheaded by Dorrie. This last show

highlighted the talents of all of our member designers in addition to those members who regularly win prizes at other flower shows. What a group!!! A special thanks to JoEllen for her leadership these past two years. She will be a tough act to follow.

Now, for the hard part. We must grow our club in terms of membership and revenue. It is no surprise that we all felt tired at the end of last year. We are few in number and that places a big workload on individual members. Let's put our heads together to take a look at how we can grow our club. Kay is working on the 2011-12 programs which will emphasize more field trips and gardening activities. We look forward to your input and are always open to new ideas. We hope to have our program books at the April meeting. Thanks again for all your hard work and support.

Happy Spring!

Marybeth

## Words from Sybil

I appreciate the support you provided throughout my tenure as Vice President. It was enjoyable to work with all of you ladies. And that support was especially appreciated when I filled in for Jo Ellen.

Sybil

## Committee Reports

### CHESAPEAKE GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Birds Grace Gay

Conservation Patti At Lee

Historian Jenny Wolfe

Horticulture/Design Dorrie McDonald

Garden Therapy Mary Alys  
Sweetman/Sybil Russell

Legislation Grace Sturdevant

Publicity Susan Charbonneau

Newsletter Rotating

Programs Kay Parris

Awards Sande Wolfe/Marybeth Krovisky

Hospitality Kathy Trimble

Telephone/Email Tree Sybil Russell/Jenny  
Wolfe

## District II News

The newly elected District II board  
members are as follows:

Director - Marjorie Glennan, Shipley's  
Choice GC

Assistant Director - Liz Williams, Chartwell  
GC

Treasurer - Linda Dyson, Charles County  
GC

Recording Secretary - Mary Carruthers,  
Four Rivers GC

Corresponding Secretary - Evie Renz,  
Garden Club of Annapolis

Advisers Sylvia Deck Moon

Flowers/Crofton Greenery GC and Nicki  
Schwab, Gibson Island GC



District II Meeting in Bowie



Club Members with the outgoing District II  
Director Sylvia Deck

## Federation News

President - Linda Masland  
First Vice President – Jacquelyn Handley  
Second Vice President – Nickola Schwab  
Recording Secretary – Pat Gordon  
Corresponding Secretary – Margye  
Precht-Hixson  
Treasurer – Joy Shamburek  
Parliamentarian – Mickey Slasman  
Advisers – Marie Coulter and Lou  
Whittington

## Gardening Tips

**Dorrie and Steve McDonald**

### **Sowing seeds indoors, or getting a head start on your growing season**

Who needs a greenhouse when you have a kitchen table? If someone tries to sit at the table just yell out, “Hey, don’t sit there and eat. Can’t you see I am trying to grow my seedlings there? Go use the coffee table to put your plate of food on or use the end table. Oh wait I have a flat on those too, well just sit on the couch with the plate on your knees, it will only be for a couple of months, then I will plant them all outside.” While this may sound outlandish, it has been the way that I have started my seeds for years. So just find a sunny window, preferably facing the south, and pull those curtains back and let the sun shine in. It’s not a cooking class, so don’t let them bake, just keep them warm and cozy. You could also hook up a grow light to hang over the plants if it is not sunny enough. You could also start your seedlings in the basement using a grow light or even florescent light. Leave the lights on no more then 12-15 hours a day

and let them rest at night. If you are using a florescent light make sure it is about 1-2 inches above the seedlings and raise it each day as they grow. After they get about 2-3 inches tall, fertilize them. Fertilize them with ¼ strength Miracle Grow or a natural organic fertilizer once a week. You can put the tomatoes outside in the garden as early as April, yep that’s right I said April; you will need to harden them off for a week or so before you kick them out of the house. To harden them off set them outside for 1-2 hours in the warmest part of the day, be sure to keep them out of the wind. Once they are outside for good you will need to protect them from the wind. To do this you can cut the bottom of a large milk or juice jug, leaving the top off so they can breathe. I use a tomato cage over mine wrapped in clear plastic or plastic cling wrap around the cage. I staple the plastic around the cage to allow it to be easily removed, I have never had to cover the top and have never had them succumb to frost damage. The biggest challenge is the wind damage, you have to make sure that the tomato plants are protected from the wind, if you take it off too soon you can damage the plants. I usually take mine off for good in late May. Your neighbors will be green with envy as you begin to pick fresh ripened garden tomatoes as early as June 15th. Gardening season is right around the corner and you can use this technique to get a head start on the season. Good luck and Green Thumbs to all. P.S. Put some lime (to keep blossom rot away) and a little compost in each hole when planting the tomatoes and your growing will start off with a bang.



Dorrie's kitchen table.

Problems with cannas -Quoted from **Garden Gate** "**did you know?**" we are warned to be aware of problems with cannas: "**World- wide canna trouble.** Be on the lookout for a virus that's affected canna populations around the world. Canna virus disease doesn't kill plants, but it can weaken them enough that rhizomes don't survive winter. Symptoms include white streaks on the flowers and light green streaks parallel to the leaf veins that turn brown and eventually die.

Because it's so difficult to know whether a plant is infected it's growing, some nurseries such as Old House Gardens, have stopped selling cannas for now. For this reason, you might find it harder to find cannas in the coming years. If you do buy new ones, keep a close eye on them as they grow. If you notice symptoms, rip them out and discard them. For more information, check out the blog posts from the holder of the National Collection of Canna in the United Kingdom:

[www.cannanews.blogspot.com/2008/01/thoughts-on-virus-from-hart-canna.html](http://www.cannanews.blogspot.com/2008/01/thoughts-on-virus-from-hart-canna.html)."

## Bird Articles

**Dorrie and Steve McDonald**

### **A Frank Talk about the Birds and the Bees**

Almost all of us are at the age where we think that as adults we have heard everything about the "Birds and the Bee's", but I am about to tell you some new facts.

Now on to the birds, our friendly little (and sometimes big) visitors will be showing up, so cut a little supply of string (do not use dyed string) and hang them outside so the birds can have a supply for their nests. Making your yard a friendly environment for our feathered friends can make it seem a little brighter, a lot more musical, and at the same time they are acting as a natural pesticide by eating lots of insects. Take the time to clear old nests out of the birdhouses making them clean and attractive for the birds as they reappear in your yard. A little time spent now can bring a lot of pleasure from now till fall.

Also without the bees we would not have the beautiful flowers or the luscious gardens we all have come to know and love; the bees are there to help pollinate many of the plants. With Spring just around the corner it is possible that you could be visited by some of these "winged wonders" in the form of a swarm. Rather than panic, why not contact a friendly Maryland bee keeper.

Before calling a beekeeper, please consider the following questions and be prepared to answer a few questions.



1. *Is this really a swarm?*

Consider these points.

- Time of Year
- Appearance

Swarms mostly occur in the Spring, rarely in the early fall, and almost never in the late summer.

A honey bee swarm can be described as a compact ball of bees, as small as a grapefruit (uncommon), to the size of a football (most common), to as large as a basketball (also uncommon). No nest materials will be seen or found. If you see a nest, it is not a swarm. If they are honey bees (see next question), then this is an established hive. It can be removed but is more difficult.

Swarms also appear suddenly. You may even see them settle onto the branch or bush. If you see this exciting moment, then you definitely have a honey bee swarm.

2. *Are these Honey Bees?*

Consider these points.

- Fuzzy or Shiny?
- Color - Yellow or Brown



Take a look at these two photos of honey bees.

Yellow Jacket wasps are frequently mistaken for Honey Bees. Yellow Jackets are YELLOW.

This is a yellow jacket:



Honey Bees can be

- GOLDEN
- BROWN or even
- GREY

Honey Bees also are furry. The fur helps the bees stay warm all winter. Yellow Jackets have no fur because they do not live through the winter. Instead, the only survivors are the individual queens who hibernate underground.

3. *Where is the swarm located?*

Consider these points.

- Inside or Outside?
- High or Low?

A swarm will settle on a branch, bush, or even objects like cars or hydrants. If the honey bees are INSIDE, then it either is an established hive or not honey bees. If it is an established hive, it may be very difficult to remove. Expect to pay a fee for removal. If the nest is underground, in Maryland, this is most likely a yellow jacket nest, but not honey bees. If the swarm is very high, it may be too difficult

to capture. Give the beekeeper an honest opinion of its height. If you are sure that you have a honeybee swarm:

Your local UMD Extension Office can put you in touch with a beekeeper in your County, or the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Apiary Inspection Service can provide you with a statewide list of beekeepers who can assist with swarms.

Bird Feeders - The following is a quote from **Garden Gate** magazine contributing naturalist Pat Sutton: "**You won't need to put up extra feeders to attract nesting birds.** All that activity around feeders can be disruptive to parents trying to raise a family. Plus, feeders attract predators looking for a meal. If you normally have a feeder in your garden, keep it filled. But don't add more feeders in spring hoping to attract more birds. And don't put a house on the same post or right next to where the birds will be flying in to eat. Once nesting season is over, put out more feeders if you like. A pair of birds that is comfortable visiting our garden to eat will be more likely to raise a family there too."



Sybil, Carol, and Bev shared a delightful day with Virginia



Installation of Officers/53<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Luncheon

