

Chesapeake Garden Club Newsletter



Dates to Remember

February 2010

5th-7th – Flower Show School
16th - 10:00 a.m.
CGC Monthly Meeting

March 2010

4th - 10:00 a.m.
Oxford Garden Club Presents
Roger Cole, "All about Orchids"
Call Phyllis Gaiti for details:
410-226-5922

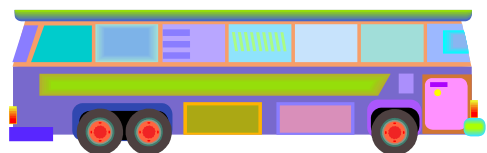
12th – 10:00 a.m.
District 11 Annual Meeting

16th – 10:00 a.m. CGC Meeting

23rd – 10:00 a.m. State Annual Meeting, Turf Valley, Hosted by District II

27th – 10:00 a.m. Moonflower Garden Club Bus Trip, Gloucester, VA – Daffodil Festival.

28th – Philadelphia Flower Show, trip of the month by bus.



February 2010

Gardening For a All Seasons

<http://www.chesapeakegardenclub.org>

Plantings from the President



Hope you are all staying warm and enjoying a good book or looking over garden catalogs spring will be here before you know it. I will be back for our April meeting so while I'm gone you will be in the very capable hands of Sybil. Please help her out as much as possible☺ She's already been busy hosting the February 5th Presidents' meeting. Thank you partner.

During our last executive board, meeting the 2010 budget was presented and passed on by the board and now it just needs your okay. We have a nice program planned for February, The Path to Aromatherapy, which will be presented by Marilyn Potter. We also will be welcoming a new member at the February meeting, Blanche Thompson. Kathy and Susan presented letters of recommendation and she was voted into the club at the executive board meeting. She will be a wonderful member.

Sybil has been working on the programs for next year and we think they are set. She has done a great job of selecting programs from the suggestions that you gave us at our September meeting. I've completed the revisions of the yearbook and will send them to Rick for printing. This year we will only be inserting the revised pages not the total book. The year ahead looks exciting for the garden club we have lots of fun stuff planned and a couple of new projects.

I received a lovely letter from Mary Porter she will be celebrating her 98 birthday on February 18th. I know she would love to hear from all of you. I will give Sybil the letter so she can share it at the February meeting.

Winter is a time when we especially need to keep in touch with some of our housebound members and those who are having health issues. It really means a lot to hear from garden club friends when you're not feeling well.

Thank you so much for the beautiful dish garden I received from the club after my knee surgery. All the well wishes and prayers worked. We were able to leave for Florida on January 14. If anyone is in the Mount Dora area this winter please be sure to give us a call. We love visitors.

May your weeds be wildflowers,
JoEllen

Philadelphia Flower Show

It's time again to register for Homestead Garden's annual trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. Space is limited so sign up now to reserve your seat on the bus.

Register at Customer Service or by calling 410.798.5000.

Bus Trip: Tuesday, March 2, 2009

Cost: \$65 (\$58.50 with your Garden Club discount)

Theme: Passport to the World

Check-In: 9am

Time at Flower Show:

12:30pm – 6pm

Cost includes round-trip bus fare, admission ticket, and light snack

February Meeting

Tuesday, November 16th, 2009

All Saints Church Hall

Sunderland, MD

Host: Rosanna Noyes &

Virginia O'Neil

Business: Induction of New Members

Program:

The Path to Aromatherapy

Marilyn Potter, Flower Show

Instructor, Mt. Airy and New

Market Garden Clubs.

Design:

"First Love" A small design, may be of any design type but not to exceed 5" in height, width or depth.

Horticulture:

Seeds for spring planting exchange.

Small packets should be identified with cultural requirements.

Conservation Corner



A Modest Proposal

By Bernie Halloran

Months ago, I recommended to our President that we rethink our Appreciation Garden and consider turning into a sustainable garden that would support wildlife, since so many of our native birds, insects, and mammals are suffering from loss of habitat.

Madame President thought I ought to write up the proposal and present it at a meeting. Since then, we've had Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, no meeting in January and in the meantime, I've climbed tombs and wandered ancient temples; so I guess this is as good a time as any to lay out the whole idea. Then we can all talk about it and vote.

When I first joined the Chesapeake Garden Club and was given a couple of jobs to do, the committee called "Civics Projects and Conservation" was a standing committee as it is now, but the folder I inherited with the job of committee chair contained mostly bits and pieces related to historic preservation.

Under the heading, New and Continuing Activities, we find "Historic Preservation and Conservation," which includes:

Recycling plastic through the Aveda Program

Maintaining the Appreciation Garden

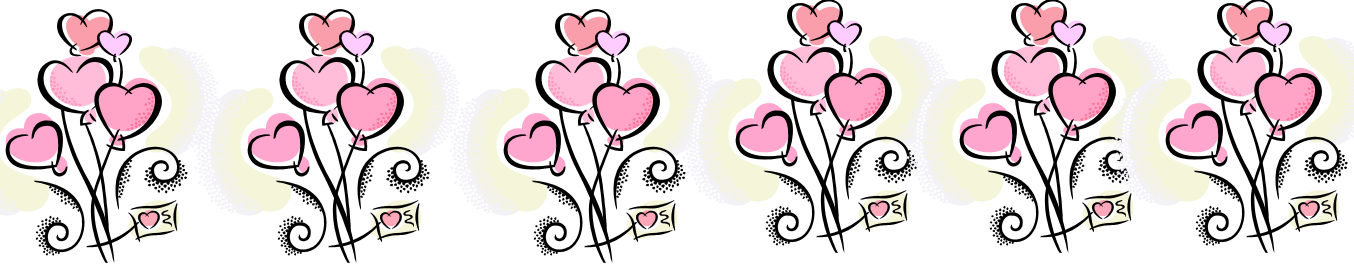
Working with the Environmental Club at Huntington High

Creating Environmental Displays at the Prince Frederick

Library

Contributing to Penny Pines

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It seems to me that “Civics Projects and Conservation” gets mixed up with our “continuing projects” and when you get right down to it, there’s no budget set forth to do any of these things with any sort of real planning. My observation would be that we get less than optimal results when projects are funded ad hoc. And that’s not hard to correct.

“Civic Projects” is another whole bag and could be a very full one all by itself. Maintaining the library garden is a civic program. So is participating in the hospice festival and reaching out to senior centers.

1) I would move to change the title of the “Civic Programs and Conservation” committee to “Conservation and Sustainable Gardening” and give it the explicit mission of maintaining the Appreciation Garden as a sustainable garden intended to feature native plants and provide wildlife habitat.

2) I would further move to provide the “Conservation and Sustainable Gardening Committee” with an adequate two-year budget so that native plants can be planned for and obtained and maintained to encourage the community in the use of native plants, sustainable gardening and in appreciation to All Saints Episcopal Church.

3) I would move that we establish a “Civics Projects Committee” and that it would be responsible for all of our civic out-reach programs, including those to hospice, senior and junior members of the community and the public libraries.

4) I would move that we agree that our club is too small to engage in what’s usually understood to be “historic preservation” and retire the term from club use.

5) Lastly, I would move the appointment of multiple committee “chairs” be done away with and that committee volunteers be enumerated

If we think about this last item for just a moment, it becomes pretty clear that multiple chairs like multiple presidents or multiple supervisors is a sure-fire prescription for confusion. What we really want to do is encourage cooperation, planning and understanding while eliminating confusion and wasted or inadequately supported efforts.

Well, ladies, I hope you can find it in your hearts to forgive a new guy like me, but it’s all a function of combat stress, war wounds, and being a bit compulsive.

Yearbook Notes

Please check for any correction that need to be made in the yearbook, spelling of your name, address, phone number, cell phone number, birthday, etc. Give any changes to Sybil at the February meeting. We would like to make the changes before the yearbook goes to the printer.

Christmas Party



This year's party was hosted by Bernie at his lovely home in Chesapeake Beach. Everyone had a wonderful time. The food was great, the decorations Beautiful and who doesn't love the Secret Santa game. What a great way to end the year.

February Birthdays

Lisa Bierer-Garrett – 2nd

Sybil Russell - 7th

Nancy Cooke – 17th

Flower of the Month

The **Violet**, represents modesty.

Often used as an ingredient in the perfume industry, the violet's scent is said to stimulate love.



A Question for the Birders

By Bernie Halloran

On one of those especially cold, dreary, dark wintery mornings after June had gone off to work, I lay in bed, hugging my puppy, thinking deep thoughts. And then it came to me, a question for the ages: "How many nuts could a nuthatch hatch, if a nuthatch could hatch nuts?"

Okay, so maybe this isn't a question for the ages, but it's an innocent enough question to pose to an ornithologist at a cocktail party, that is, if we still had cocktail parties.

I'm sure Miss Manners would agree it's the kind of silly question you could ask a shy birder to break the ice. And he or she would answer, "Ah, ha, the nuthatch," and there you have it, broken ice.

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Talking about cute, little nutty birds is the kind of politically neutral talk that's perfectly suitable for idle cocktail conversation in this post-political-correctness era. All you have to do is mention how you think this little songbird looks rather silly climbing in circles, headfirst down the bark of a tree. Yes, the Nuthatch is looking for bugs other birds have missed because of their rather routine heads-up perspective.

The little White-Breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) weighs in at only 0.7 ounces and is by far the largest, yes, largest and most widespread of the North American Nuthatches. They are mostly monogamous, solitary critters who will sometimes hang out with their mates or form small colonies, but mostly you'll see them alone and won't see them often unless you've got a suet cake out. They do spend most of their time in the trees, roosting in little tree cavities in winter and in the crevices of bark in the summer.

The only other critter, that I know personally, who sleeps upside down in a tail up position like the Nuthatch, is my nutty pit bull. Some mornings I'll wake up and there's Saucy's head next to mine on the pillow, but usually it's her tail and her head is down by my knees.

If you have a pair of very powerful binoculars or a fixed telescope, you'll find Nuthatches in the same trees as chickadees, downy woodpeckers, and brown creepers. Think about luring them closer with bird feeders rigged with suet cakes, which they'll accept quite willingly. Nuthatches will feed with other species, but these little guys will often attempt to intimidate other birds by spreading their tail and wing feathers and swaying back and forth. Well, seeing a 0.7 ounce little Nuthatch sway could be really intimidating, depending on your perspective.

Like everything else on Planet Earth, *Sitta carolinensis* is suffering from habitat loss as deciduous woodlots and mixed coniferous-deciduous woods in our part of the world become builders' lots or parking lots.

Be on the lookout all the same and keep those suet cakes coming. The White-Breasted Nuthatch does have a white breast and face with blue-gray upper parts, a black cap, and nape that extends down its back like a collar, and its wings are blackish blue with white edging.

And so today, we will learn one more thing: Nuthatches cannot hatch nuts.

Mark your calendar!

The 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count is just a few weeks away.

It's your chance to count for fun and count for the future, from Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15. Whether you participate once or several times, by submitting your list of the birds you see at www.birdcount.org, you will help scientists learn more about how birds are faring in your neighborhood.

Chesapeake Garden Club
c/o Denise Wesolowski
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Huntingtown, MD 20639