



The GRAPEVINE

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Programs— by Ingrid Blanton and Marybeth Guerrieri

March 1, 2018—Samantha McCall, owner of “Fleurish” and a member of the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, will discuss and demonstrate the newer trends and techniques of flower arranging.

Upcoming Dates of Interest—by Pat Jessup

March 7, 2018 FGCMDC, District I will hold their semi-annual meeting at Prospect Bay Country Club in Grasonville.

March 27, 2018 FGCMDC, Inc. will hold their annual meeting at the Turf Valley Country Club.

April 7, 2018 - **The Somerset County GC** Small Standard Flower Show,

April 17, 2018 - **Talbot County Garden Club** presents "Nature's Symphony" held at Miller Hall, Trinity Cathedral, Easton.

June 6, 2018—**Queen Anne’s Garden Club** “Queen Bees, Spelling Bees & Wanna Bees” to be held in Grasonville.

June 13, 2018 - **Dorchester** Garden Club presents “Along the Garden Path” to be held at Immanuel United Church of Christ.

Further information on these Flower Shows can be obtained by calling the Club President listed in the OGC current Yearbook..

If you are not familiar with flower shows, any one of these would be great to attend. In fact, I encourage everyone to attend as many as possible. Most shows are open to the public in the afternoon, after judging is complete so 1:30 p.m. or after is usually a good time to go. Also, it is important to note, that Garden Clubs depend on each other to fill classes. So, please say “yes” should you be asked to help fill a class. Help is always available if you need it and there is always something new to be learned.

Continuing Education—by Phyllis Rambo

Celebrate National Garden Week

Back by popular demand after last years successful day, the four FGCMDC councils will present a half day program at Clyburn Arboretum on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. Doors open at 8:30, a.m. the program begins at 9:15 a.m.

Environmental Council will present Keri Wixted, Education and Outreach Specialist with DNR who will present ‘On the Brink, Maryland’s Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species’.

Landscape Design Council will have Kirk Brown discussing ‘No Water Required – Sculptures in the Landscape’

Judges Council will have Extraordinary Floral Designs and a discuss the 2017 Handbook for Flower Shows.

Gardening Council will present a power point on Clyburn Arboretums grounds, followed by either a guided or self-guided tour of their fabulous gardens.

Cost for this event is \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to FGCMDC Councils Program and mailed to FGCMDC, PO Box 65172, Baltimore, MD 21209-0172. If you would like to be included in the guided tour, please indicate that with your reservation. You are welcome to bring your lunch to enjoy at the Vollmer Center.

Horticulture Report—by Sue Betzs

3 Friends of Winter, Pine, Bamboo and Plum. Which symbolize steadfastness, perseverance, and resilience.

The Pine says - "May your prosperity be as constant as the green of my mantel and may your friends stand a I do, steadfast against the adverse winds of the world.

Bamboo offers - "May your hopes rise fresh and strong like the young shoots that spring from my rugged trunk, and may your life flower with loveliness.

Prunus mume - Japanese apricot or Japanese plum. It has been cultivated for 1500 years. It blooms from Mid January through February even with snow on the ground. It welcomes spring for the people of Japan. A time for the renewal of life. Prunus mume is grown for ornamental value. Fast growing, deciduous and normally grows to 15-20'. Its blooms are shades of pink to white. Suitable for a smaller garden or multiplies in a larger garden.

Conservation/Legislation—by June Middleton

Governor Hogan announced that Maryland is now joining the U. S. Climate Alliance, a coalition of states committed to lowering greenhouse gases. Maryland is expected to meet the 2020 goal of reducing climate altering emissions by 25%. Maryland state legislators are now working on a plan to reduce these emissions by 40% by 2030. Ben Grumbles, the state Secretary of the Environment, announced that Maryland will continue to oppose any Trump administration efforts to cut funding and regulations protecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is a new invasive species expected to appear in Maryland this year. It was first imported to Pennsylvania three years ago in stone shipments from China. There is now a confirmed infestation in central and southeast Pennsylvania. The lanternfly impacts grapes, fruit trees and certain hardwoods. The lanternfly hatch nymphs which feed on tree phloem exuding large quantities of very sticky honeydew which is quickly infected by fungi. To date the lanternfly seems only able to produce viable young when feeding on the phloem of the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*) which is a recognized invasive species.

Oxford Day Activity by Dorothy Williams

April 28, 2018—Oxford Day Botanical Craft Class for Children of all ages from 3 p.m.—4p.m. in Room 4 at the Oxford Community Center: This fun activity free and open to the public is sponsored by the Oxford Garden Club. Learn how to make jewelry, butterflies, bumble bees and much, much more using plant material found outside in nature and seeds and spices found in everyone's kitchen. Add a bit of glue and paint and it's a fun-filled hour of creating art to take home! It could be that you make a great Mother's Day gift. Just a thought! Call the OCC at 410-226-5904 to reserve a space.

A message from Adkins Arboretum



Dreams of sunshine, flowers, and digging in the warm earth remind us that spring planting is just around the corner.

The Arboretum's Spring Open House & Native Plant Sale is April 27-29. Presale orders are available now ending April 8. Placing a presale order affords the best selection of landscape-ready native trees, shrubs, ferns, vines, grasses, and flowering perennials.

As always, membership has its advantages! Members at the Contributor (\$100) level and above save 20% by using the promo code PLANT20 at checkout. Members at the Individual, Household, and Grandparent levels save 10% by using the promo code PLANT10. Join, renew, or upgrade your membership today to take advantage of these significant savings. Presale orders will be ready for pick-up on Friday, April 27.

Thank you for supporting the Arboretum and its goal to make available the region's largest selection of native plants for the Chesapeake gardener. We hope to see you at the Open House!

Updates from OGC Committee Chairs

Awards— by Phyllis Gaiti

FGCMD, Inc. Awards submitted by OGC members.

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD ENTRIES

Marie Davis (2 photos)
Phyllis Rambo (2 photos)
Ingrid Blanton (2 photos)

MARYLAND LANDSCAPE COUNCIL AWARD ENTRY

(Oxford Museum Garden) prepared by Pat Jessup

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD ENTRY

(Habitat for Humanity Choptank Women Build Fundraiser) prepared by Phyllis Rambo

Historian—Ginny Wagner

Ginny has been working through records beginning with the year 2003 to bring everything up-to-date.. Anyone who has materials that would record OGC history such as celebrations, awards, special events, etc. should pass them on to Ginny.

Membership Committee – by Trish Reynolds

Over the past several months members this Membership Chairman, along with OGC President Pat Jessup and VP, Dorothy Williams, and others, have been working to enhance the overall membership process for OGC. Just a few things we have accomplished:

- Revised the OGC Membership Application to provide OGC with more information about the applicant and to determine the interests of the applicant has in joining OGC. The new application will be introduced in March 2018.
- Changed our Membership Badges - we will be no longer provide the needlepoint badges but have moved to a more universal badge. At each meeting our members will pick up their badges and return them at the end of the meeting....no more lost badges, or I forgot to bring my badge! The new badges were introduced at the February meeting.
- Dorothy Williams conducted a meeting with several new members to discuss what we as a club can do to enhance their introduction to OGC activities. One of the ideas tossed around was providing each new member with a having a mentor to work with the new member in such as activities as picking a committee to work on, flower show entries both design and Horticulture. More on this will be developed over the coming months.

Work has also begun to revise our By-Laws and Policies to reflect the above changes.

Yearbook Update—by Chris Myles-Tochko

The Oxford Garden Club voted last year to have the yearbook span a two-year term instead of the single year as has been done in the past. The update to the yearbook for 2018-2019 will be distributed as paper copy and as a Word email attachment.

All members present at the February meeting were asked to review their yearbook information and provide any updates. A few changes were made. The update will only have changes to members information – not an entire new listing. Please keep this in your present yearbook. Also included will be the list of new programs (April 2018 – March 2019) and a calendar of special events.

New Product—submitted by Susan Fitzgerald

Amazingly effective treatment for Buxus problems...Topbuxus Health-mix is a wonderful natural tonic for keeping your Box bushes healthy, green and strong. Developed by Europe's largest Box grower for their own use we are now making this professional product available to all.



Excerpted from Topbuxus website:

- Folia feed in the form of a dissolvable tablet
- Developed by market leading Box growers as a solution to common Buxus problems
- Feeds your plants as well as increasing their natural resistance to diseases such as Box Blight
- Quick and easy to use
- The 'Buxus Health-Mix' brand is a distributor for Topbuxus Health-Mix across the UK

Ikebana lesson with Sue Betz

Sue doing a demonstration



Sue is a member of OGC and kindly offered to share her vast knowledge of this flower arranging style with interested members of OGC. Sue has received many certificates for her completion of course studies over the years and has fun sharing her knowledge with others. Using various styles of containers, we learned the placement and angles, first of branches or stems, then placement of flowers, and finally the placement of "juices" or fill-in materials. Here are the results of participants first attempt:



Classes will be ongoing.....

OGC Supports Wreaths Across America—by Marie Davis

Since members of OGC began participating in Wreaths Across America Project five years ago, the number of graves at Hurlock Veterans Cemetery have increased from 5,000 to over 7,000. It was indeed heartwarming to see so many volunteers, young, old, and in the middle participating in laying wreaths on a cold and dismal December day. There were so many participants at the event that the service was held outdoors instead of the Chapel as it was too small. Each year this event grows in participation and number of wreaths purchased. This seems like such a small recognition for such a large loss.



My top Zinnia Picks for 2018—by Terry Holman



Last summer was spent growing 21 different zinnia cultivars of all shapes, colors and sizes. I had to admit that I really enjoyed the sunny disposition that these flowering annuals gave me every time I came near them. They were easy to plant, easy to grow and they flowered until first frost came, providing plentiful nectar for beneficial insects throughout the summer through fall season, when most of my other summer plants had vanquished. With spring rapidly approaching, I would suggest that each of you consider planting at least some zinnias in your gardens, containers or window boxes. Another bonus was admiring all the insects that fed off the plentiful nectar of these flowers ALL summer and fall. My garden was filled with many butterflies, moths and bees. I learned that the inner flower florets of yellow would open a new ring of florets/nectaries daily for

about 14 days from each flower. Being mindful that I wanted to plant flowers in my garden that benefitted insects and my personal interests, I found that the fully double zinnia cultivars had the same amount of feeding butterflies as the single petaled zinnias. Proof that these nectar laden flowers benefit insects regardless of their petal forms.

Zinnias require a minimum of 5 hours of full sun with weekly deep watering and become more floriferous if you cut these flowers every week. I found that most of these flower stems lasted at least a week by cutting them in the morning and subjecting the cut ends into a flame for 5 seconds and then plunging them into a vase of cool tap water, sometimes adding some floral additive, I gifted these weekly cuttings to plenty of neighbors and friends and had ample bouquets left for my own pleasure.

I thought I would share my favorite cultivars with you so that you might enjoy the benefits of my little experiment as you plan for your upcoming summer gardens. Try to order your seeds now to ensure you get the color and types of zinnias you desire from a reliable seed provider.

Overall, zinnias are typically subject to powdery mildew which often shows up on leaves after the sweltering summer rains come. I had only 1 zinnia cultivar that NEVER displayed any typical zinnia disease due to recent hybridization efforts from the University of Maryland: *Zinnia marylandica* 'Raspberry Lemonade,' This zinnia cultivar is a successful hybrid of *Zinnia angustifolia* x *Zinnia elegans* that produces a 12" H bushy plant with 3.5" flowers ALL summer long. Other cultivars of *Zinnia marylandica* to try are any from the Double Zahara or Zahara strains offering intense colors of orange, rose, coral, yellow and white with raspberry stripes, all atop compact floriferous plants. The internodes of this cultivar are short so this flowering zinnia isn't too great for cutting but boy, did this zinnia shine growing in a small space! Not one single part of this plant developed powdery mildew or any other sort of plant disease. It was also surprisingly drought tolerant and received only 4.5 hours of full sun each day. It would make an incredible front border plant paired with taller plants of any kind and performed well in my container trials. This cultivar comes in a mix and I highly recommend this cultivar to you.



My second favorite Zinnia was *Zinnia elegans* 'Zowie.' These plants grew about 18-20" tall (a medium height) and had a single row of lovely petals with deep dark pink bases turning to electric orange finished by a strong yellow. Simply stunning! These made lovely tropical looking bouquets. They did get a touch of powdery mildew and bloomed very well with 3.5" blooms with longer stems, perfect for the vase. I also found that the butterflies were typically drawn to this flower first.

My third pick would be ANY cultivar from the *Zinnia elegans* 'Benary's Giants' which grew about 5.5-6' tall with 6" + blooms with a fully double blooming habit on long sturdy stems. This cultivar has been hybridized for the floral industry and these flowers are incredible in a vase. They did get a touch of powdery mildew but it did not decline the flower production. They do a splendid job of filling in a back tall border of a garden.



Here are my PERSONAL recommendations for my zinnia picks for 2018 based on personal seed trials;

Zinnia marylandica also known as *Zinnia* 'Raspberry Lemonade Mix': Available from Burpee www.burpee.com

Zinnia 'Zahara' available from Park Seed in large variety of colors and mixes: www.parkseed.com

Zinnia 'Zowie!' available from Park Seed: www.parkseed.com

Zinnia 'Benary's Giants' available from The Gardener's Workshop: www.thegardenersworkshop.com

Don't miss District I's Second Annual Horticulture Day, "Planting America" a day dedicated to National Garden Clubs theme: "Plant America" – by Terry Holman



Wednesday April 18th, 2018 – 8:30am to 3:00pm at Easton, MD Volunteer Fire Department. The brochure/registration form is available on the FGCMD, Inc. website. Select Calendar and cursor to April 18th to download pdf file. Contact Terry Holman at therescholman@gmail.com for additional information or if you can come early to help setup or breakdown.

The day features four speakers on five topics, multiple vendors (plants, seeds, books, orchids, daylilies) and lunch all for \$42.00. There is truly something for everyone in this celebration of all thing Horticulture. Register now for this special event. Highlights of the day include:

Kathy Jentz, Editor, Publisher and Founder of *Washington Gardener Magazine*, published specifically for zones 6-7. A life-long Gardener, Kathy believes that growing plants should be stress-free and enjoyable. Her philosophy is inspiration over perspiration. She will be talking about "**Regionally Adapted Plants**"

Back by Popular demand Barbara Melera. Her first talk "**My Tomatoes are Ailing**" will help us all better understand how to grow bumper crops of this seasonal delight and her booth will feature heirloom plants, seeds and other gardening products. Later in the day she will talk about "**The Art and Science of Saving Seeds**"

Michaela Boley, Senior Agent Associate for the University of Maryland Extension service in Talbot County for Urban Horticulture will showcase "**Best Gardening Practices**"

Wendy Kiang-Spray, writer and speaker whose articles about gardening and food have appeared in national and local print publications. She gardens in Rockville, Maryland (zone 6). Her first book, *The Chinese Kitchen Garden*, was released by Timber Press and is about growing and cooking Chinese vegetables. Her talk on "**The Chinese Kitchen Garden**" show us how to grow and enjoy a wide variety of Asian vegetables such as chrysanthemum greens, luffa gourds, bitter melon and many more with growing tips.



Photo from the internet

You see, there is something to look forward to, Spring, it's just around the corner. I hope you find a place just like this to refresh and be reminded of the beauty around us. Marie.

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Contributors to this issue: Sue Betz, Ingrid Blanton, Marie Davis, Susan Fitzgerald Phyllis Gaiti,
Terry Holman, Marybeth Guerrieri, June Middleton, Chris Myles-Tochko, Phyllis Rambo, Trish Reynolds,
Ginny Wagner, and Dorothy Williams (who also edited this issue)