



## Upcoming Events

March 4-11

Philadelphia Flower Show

March 9

District II Annual Meeting

"Let's Get Wet with Water Gardening"

Kelly Billing, Maryland Aquatic Nurseries  
Bowie Comfort Inn

March 27

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland

State Annual Meeting

Suburban Club, Baltimore

April 3, 4 & 5

District II Landscape Design School

Course II

Hilton Inn, White Marsh

April 6 & 7

London Town Daffodil Show

April 17 & 18

Maryland Daffodil Show

Shops at Kenilworth, Towson

April 21

Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage

Charles County

April 28

LCGC Star Memorial Garden Dedication

(Look for more info. in the next few months. We'll need everyone's help!)

May 5

LCGC Plant/Yard Sale

(Start thinking about plants you want to share and items you want to donate!)

May 9

Landscape Design Spring Bus Trip

Arlington National Cemetery/Brookside Gardens

(410) 771-4799, Karen Offutt

# The Latest Dirt



LaPlata Community Garden Club February 2007

## President's Message

It's a shame that the weather was so bad that we had to reschedule our November meeting. A wonderful time was had by all who were able to join us on Friday evening. Paula Winkler performed the installation of officers, in the absence of Nicki Schwab, Director, District II. I want to thank our hosts, Tom and Jane O'Farrell, for opening their lovely home to us and for being such gracious hosts.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Years, celebrated with family and friends. Now that that's behind us, though, I bet you are starting to think about your gardens. Probably perusing garden catalogs for that special plant you can't live without? It won't be long until we are digging in the soil again.

We have a wonderful program planned for 2007. I look forward to seeing you at our February 22nd meeting.

Dianne Shisler

## Save the Dates!

Your Program Committee is hard at work putting together our monthly programs for 2007. We'll have a little bit of everything from culinary herbs to conifer gardens. You won't want to miss any of these exciting programs, so you may want to put these 2007 meeting dates on your calendars!

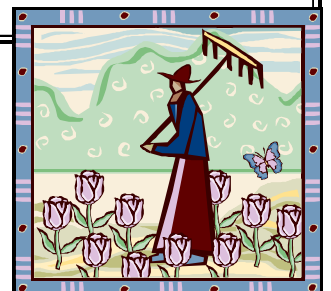
February 22 - Culinary Herbs with Chef Gary from Casey Jones

March 22 - Baywise with Rhonda Goldman, Master Gardener

April 28 - Star Memorial Garden Dedication

May 24 - Visit to Waverly Creek Farms in Newburg

Winter Garden Maintenance - Need something to get you reconnected with your garden? There are several things that you can do on those warm winter days -- prune your deciduous trees, cut back those grasses, rake the leaves and/or clean out your



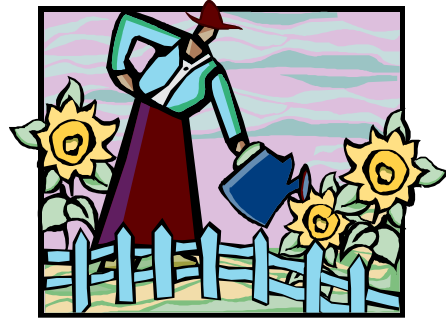
# Treasurer's Report

November 6, 2006 thru January 20, 2007

Balance from previous month	\$18,448.74
Income	
Town of LaPlata	7,000.00
Membership - 2007	1,540.00
Expenses	
Spring Dell (Oct & Nov Newsltr)	174.17
Gift Expense	104.52
Hall Rental (Feb Mtg)	50.00
Federated Garden Club Dues	343.00
Supplies (Historical Book)	10.48
Refreshments (Nov Mtg)	39.48
District II Annual Mtg.	84.00
Star Garden (Longwood Gardens & Automatic Rain)	13,801.25
<b>CURRENT BALANCE</b>	<b>\$12,381.84</b>

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## Garden Update

### Memorial-Star-Courtyard-Garden

Catch that title? Our little garden has evolved into a grand space worthy of an impressive name! The title above reflects all the components of our special space, and eventually a suitable and hopefully shorter name will come about. After four years in the making, the garden is a reality. It is beautiful, functional and a real bright spot for the town of La Plata.

After long delays, a few false starts and the hard work and dedication of over twenty of our club members, we can be proud of the finished product. The support and generosity of so many individuals and groups to give financially along with materials and labor was heartwarming.

The benches are here, ready to be installed. The dedication plaque has been ordered. The "Pot" committee is finalizing plans for containers on the hardscape.

Plans are underway for the dedication of the garden on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be a big celebration and we hope that all our members will be able to attend. The time will be about 10 a.m. or so-details will be forthcoming. A full report will be given at our February meeting for completing all the arrangements for the dedication.

Mary Beth and I wish to thank all of you for your hard work, good ideas, and commitment to this project.

Sincerely,

Sherie Zimmer



*Above:* Judy Ruth, Linda Lockhart, Dianne Shisler, Leesa Myers and Gloria Groeger take a break from their gingerbread man making activities to smile for the camera.



*Left:* Danielle Webber, Dianne Shisler, Leesa Myers, Linda Lockhart and Elaine Miller gathered at Jane Grove's house to make the gingerbread men used to



*Above:* The La Plata Train Station, all decorated for the holidays by members of the La Plata Community Garden Club.

*Right:* A few tasty treats are left on a plate inside the station for the enjoyment of Santa and/or





## Update on Whooping Crane Population

It is always a positive experience for me to report on successes with valiant struggles with a particular species of bird, which is having problems staying off the endangered list. As I have reported earlier, the conservation efforts at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas are really paying off for the threatened whooping crane. In the December 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the "Washington Post", it was reported that a larger number than ever were back at the refuge after having flown 2,400 miles from Canada's Northwest Territories. Amazingly, they were back in the largest number of the century and with a record 45 youngsters in tow, including an even rarer seven pairs of twins. How touching is that? Last year's count of the whooping cranes at the refuge was nearly 200; this year they number 237. Combined with the number of birds in captivity in three special flocks raised for reintroduction to the wild and those in zoos, the crane population now numbers 518. This is the first time in more than one hundred years that whooping cranes have numbered more than 500.

From the mid-1970s to the late 1980s, whooping crane eggs were placed in sandhill crane nests in Idaho so the sandhill cranes could teach the whoopers how to survive in the wild, when to migrate and where to winter. But that whooping crane flock never paired or reproduced, and the last whooper in the Rocky Mountains died in 2002. As I have previously explained in earlier editions of the newsletter, after extensive training by costumed handlers, young cranes have been led in migration every fall by gliders flying from the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin to the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, 1,200 miles away. The cranes return on their own in the spring. This is a joint effort by various groups, which are dedicated to the rewarding task.

Despite all these efforts, there are lots of threats to the regal birds (who stand 5 feet tall, with a 7 foot wingspan), and they are likely to remain on the endangered species list until the migratory flock numbers more than 5,000. We might have a long time before the human race can pat themselves on the back, especially as there are so many others species in dire need of help. If only someone could come up with a good idea as to how to save the shrinking ice cap for the survival of the polar bear, for example.

A garden is a friend  
you can visit anytime

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more information on the club, see  
[www.laplatagardenclub.org](http://www.laplatagardenclub.org)

