



## Upcoming Events

### August 4

La Plata Community Garden Club's  
*Evening Garden Party under the  
Stars, 7:00 - 9:00 pm* (See page 3  
for more info!)

### September 24 - 26

Flower Show School Course IV  
Timonium

### October 5

LPCGC Trip to Lewis Ginter  
Botanical Gardens (See page 5 for  
more info!)

### November 10

Moonflower Garden Club's There's  
no Place Like Home for the Holidays

### December 1

Design Show, 12:30 - 3:00 pm

# The Latest Dirt

LaPlata Community Garden Club

July 2007

## President's Message

I was just reading Burpee's guide to planting annual seeds. It said to work the soil, add compost, make a shallow trench and sew your seeds, water well and wait. Nowhere did the instructions state that you should invite your neighborhood squirrel to roll around on top of the seeds you had just sewn. That happened to me this year. I guess all my seeds just stuck in the squirrel's fir and went home with him. I wonder if he has zinnias growing in his nest.

The May meeting at Waverly Creek Farm was well attended and the weather was perfect. I found it interesting that in January Willie and Debbie begin the process of "plugging" so that we can have plants to buy the first warm days in April. I saw lots of members cramming their cars full of beautiful plants.

Our June program, *Creating A Butterfly Habitat*, was wonderful. Judy Slaughter is a fantastic speaker and her butterfly pictures were spectacular. Thanks Joyce for finding Judy. Look for Judy's handout *Butterflies – What Attracts Whom?* on page 6 of the newsletter.

Don't forget to join us for an *Evening Garden Party Under the Stars*, August 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the Star Memorial Garden.

The annual bus trip is scheduled for October 5 to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA. Look for additional information in the newsletter.

Dianne Shisler

## Our Next Meeting

July 26, 2007, 7:00 PM,  
La Plata Firehouse

Our own Carol Flowers, a member of the Rhododendron & Azalea Society, will discuss the propagation of azaleas!

## Save the Dates for our upcoming meetings!

There's still lots of fun flower and gardening information to look forward to in our upcoming meetings. Remember to write these dates on your calendars so you don't miss any of them!

July 26 - Azalea Propagation (Carol Flowers)

August 23 - Ornamental Grasses (Joe Clements)

September 27 - Conifer Gardens (Tom and Sue Lewis)

## Treasurer's Report

For Period May 4 thru June 26, 2007

<b>Balance from previous month</b>	<b>\$9,447.69</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Plant/Yard Sale	1,467.81
<b>Expenses</b>	
News Letter	231.95
Fire Hall Rental	50.00
Printing	8.40
Gift Certificate	50.00
Star Garden	847.10
<b>CURRENT BALANCE</b>	<b>\$9,728.05</b>

Melissa Leitner, Treasurer

## Membership Updates

Jessica Milstead's e-mail address should be changed to [jmilstead@hughes.net](mailto:jmilstead@hughes.net)

## Garden Update

### Floral Design & Roadsidenia

We had 28 club members attend the floral design classes. I hope everyone came away from the sessions with knowledge of basic designs and enjoyed sharing time and flowers with each other.

Now is the time to be looking out for all those wonderful roadside wildflowers to practice your designs. The Queen's Anne Lace is in bloom as well as the salmon trumpet vine and orange butterfly weed. Next month be looking for wild blue ageratum and early goldenrod. All these flowers require very little conditioning and last a longer time.

Hydrangea is in full swing now but must be cut early in the morning and conditioned for several hours before using in designs. Be sure to recut stems and put flowers in cool water up to their neck and remove the lower leaves. They prefer your pin holder to oasis.

Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and lamb's ear are a welcome addition to any design. Let your creative juices flow and enjoy bringing the outside indoors.

Mary Beth Chandler, Artistic Design Chair



## Bird Talk

I reported last time that the eagle population seems to be at a healthy level now, even in Charles County. I am happy to report, as you may also have seen on a recent newscast, that the bald eagle has now been taken off the endangered list. It is, however, still protected which means that it cannot be hunted. I hope it stays on that list! Who would want to shoot at our national symbol?

Some bad news though for Charles County bird enthusiasts. It was recently reported by George Jett that Charles County is in danger of losing its last remaining nesting population of whippoorwills in the northern part of Charles County when a new housing project is started there. This is just another case of destruction of habitat of one of Nature's beautiful creatures. Mr. Jett went on to say that it took millions of years for the whippoorwill to establish an equilibrium and become a viable species in Southern Maryland. In his opinion, and as most of us would agree, none of us has the right to destroy that equilibrium and species because with intelligent planning and education, we can live in harmony with nature. Another birder commented that the fragmentation is terrible, and it is only going to get worse. Well known birder, George Wilmot says that is why it is even more important to continue to spread awareness of bird habitats through the Audobon Society's activities in our region. One way they have accomplished this is with the 50-acre Nanjemoy Wildlife Sanctuary, which is owned and operated by the organization. The sanctuary is mostly made up of tidal marsh, which is important for birds such as the blue heron to maintain healthy populations.

The SMAS has regular field trips as well as their monthly meetings, and to find out more you can go to the group's Web site at [www.geocities.com/smdaudubon](http://www.geocities.com/smdaudubon). We can all do our bit to help Mother Nature.

Gloria Groeger, Bird  
Chairman



## Evening Garden Party

### Under the Stars

*Enjoy an evening of music, wine, cheese and fruit in our new  
Memorial Star Patio Garden  
Located on Firehouse Road.*

*Saturday, August 4, 2007*

*7:00 - 9:00 p.m.*

*Rain Date Sunday, August 5, 2007*

*\$ 20.00 per ticket*

*\$ 35.00 for two*

*Contact Jean Middleton*

*301-934-2931*

*Make checks payable to:*

*LaPlata Community Garden Club*

*Mail to:*

*Jean Middleton*

*P.O. Box 267*

*LaPlata, MD 20646*

## Recording Secretary's Minutes

The June 28<sup>th</sup>. meeting of the La Plata Community Garden Club was called to order by President Dianne Shisler at 7:35pm. The meeting took place at the La Plata Firehall.

Dianne reminded members to sign the attendance sheet. There were no guests present. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were approved.

Dianne thanked Mary Beth Chandler for teaching three classes in artistic design to the members. Mary Beth said that more classes will be held in the Fall.

**Special Projects:** Judy Ruth reported that her committee was working on getting vendors for a "Design for the Holiday" fund raiser which will take place in December. The next meeting of the committee will be on July 11<sup>th</sup>. at 7:00pm. at the old train station.

**New Business:** Joyce Rose announced that the club will hold an "Evening Garden Party Under the Stars". This party will be a wine and cheese fund raiser and will be held in the new Memorial Star Patio Garden on August 4<sup>th</sup>. from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Reservations for the event will cost \$20.00 per person or \$35.00 for two people. We hope to have 100 people attend the party. Reservations will be open to La Plata Community Garden Club members until July 9<sup>th</sup>. At that time, members of the Charles County Garden Club and the Master Gardeners Program will also be invited to attend. Reservations can be made by calling Jean Middleton at 301-934 – 2931. Gary Fick, Chef at Casey Jones Restaurant, has agreed to prepare the food. We are also hoping to have music at the garden party. Linda Lockhart passed out a flier with garden party information to the members. Cheri Brady offered to provide 15 tiki torches for the evening. In event of rain, the party will be held the following evening, August 5<sup>th</sup>. If it also rains on that night, we will hold the event in the La Plata Rescue Squad Building on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Joyce introduced the members of the committee working with her on this fund raiser. They were: Linda Lockhart, Elaine Miller, Jean Middleton, and Jane O'Farrell.

Dianne announced that plans have been made for a bus trip on October 5<sup>th</sup>. to the Louis Ginter Botanical Gardens near Richmond. She asked for a volunteer who would purchase snacks and goodies for the bus trip.

Sandra Mitchell shared information with the members about osteoporosis and vitamin D requirements which she had learned after attending a program at the Clark Center presented by Donna Bailey of the Extension Office. She also wanted members to be aware of the following concerts, to be given at the Town Hall at 7:00pm. this summer : June 29 – United States Naval Academy Band, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. – United States Navy Band "The Cruisers", August 17<sup>th</sup>. – United States Air Force Band "Silver Wings", August 31<sup>st</sup>. – United States Navy Band "Sea Chanters".

Dianne reminded members of the Flower Show School Course IV which will be held September 24<sup>th</sup>. – 26<sup>th</sup>., at the Holiday Inn Select in Timonium, Md.

The next meeting of the La Plata Community Garden Club will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>. at 7:00pm. at the La Plata Firehall. Carol Flowers will present a program on Azalea Propagation. The meeting was adjourned.

Joyce Rose then introduced Judy Slaughter who presented a program on Creating a Butterfly Habitat. Judy has been a master gardener since 1999 and a member of the Dorchester Garden Club since 2003. The main topics discussed in the program were: Butterfly Habitat, Garden Design, Resources, and Wings of Fancy. Judy stressed planting flowering plants that provide nectar as well as petals for butterfly resting and nesting. March through October is the best time to observe butterflies in your garden. She suggested not to wear black when working in the garden since it is the one color known to attract bees. Judy circulated several good reference books that she had found useful. She also suggested that we go to enchanted learning. com to check out interesting butterfly and gardening related materials. She passed out a flier entitled Butterflies - What Attracts Whom. This flier listed 23 plants and the individual butterflies that each attracts. She also suggested that we plant white turtle head. This plant attracts our official Maryland butterfly, the Baltimore Checkerspot. She encouraged us to plant a butterfly garden that will accommodate all stages of the butterfly life cycle. Judy closed her program by showing a lovely CD entitled "Nature's Miracle". The CD was filmed by Gordie Corbin and Judy Switt of Gaithersburg, Md.

After the program, refreshments were provided by the Host Committee, Maggie Mahaffey, Irene Poole, Liz Shifflette, and Millie Havrilla.

Respectfully Submitted, Jane E. O'Farrell, Recording Secretary



Located in historic Richmond, Va., Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden offers year-round beauty with more than 40 acres of spectacular gardens and the mid-Atlantic's only classically styled Conservatory open to the public. Great shopping and dining plus a new Children's Garden with a Tree House make the Garden a fun place to visit anytime. Come see why Lewis Ginter is the place where plants-and people-grow! With something for all ages and interests, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is a place to learn about plants, to marvel at nature, to relax in a beautiful setting, to take gardening classes, or to have a wedding or a business meeting. A wide variety of experiences are offered through its diverse gardens and facilities. See <http://www.lewisginter.org/> for more information!

**Registration and Payment For  
The Bus Trip To  
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden  
October 5, 2007**

Our bus trip to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden will leave the parking lot at the La Plata Wal-Mart at 9:00 a.m., Friday, October 5, 2007. Please make sure you are at the parking lot no later that 8:50 a.m. so that you may be checked in and get your seat. Anticipated return is 4:30 p.m.

The price of the trip will be \$55.00 per person. This includes the bus fare, snacks in the morning and afternoon on the bus, a guided tour of the gardens and lunch. There will also be time to visit the Gift Shop. There will be no refund if a cancellation is made two weeks or less prior to the day of the trip. If, for any reason, you find that you will not be able to go, please contact Dianne Shisler at (301) 932-0251 or [dshisler@comcast.net](mailto:dshisler@comcast.net). We hope to have a waiting list so it is very important that you let us know if you will not be able to go.

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2007 Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Tour Lunch Menu

All Boxed Lunches are served with:  
Pasta Salad or Chips (chef's choice) Fresh Fruit Cup; Brownies;  
Beverage: 12 oz. Coca Cola, Diet Coke Sprite or Bottled Water

Please select your lunch and make a check by the item of your choice. Lunch will be served in a semi-private dining room.

\_\_\_\_\_ Turkey and Havarti with Cranberry Relish on Whole Grain Bread

\_\_\_\_\_ Tarragon Pecan Chicken Salad on Croissant

\_\_\_\_\_ Honey Ham and Swiss with Dijonaisse on Rye Bread

PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made to La Plata Community Garden Club and mailed to Dianne Shisler, 9850 Wellhouse Drive, White Plains, MD 20695.

Registration must be received by September 24, 2007.

## 2007 Annual Plant and Yard Sale

### Submitted by Carole Raucheisen

The 2007 annual plant and yard sale, held this year at the Old Safeway, made \$1,467.81 for the club. It could not have been done without the huge support of the whole club, those who worked, and those who donated and bought items. This was the first year the La Plata Community Garden Club joined with the Charles County Garden Club, and I think we all benefited. The Charles County Garden Club was pleased with their profits also, and Leslie Martin was a delight to work with.

I want to particularly thank the following club members who helped with the sale: **Mary Beth Chandler** for helping price plants and grease the wheels when needed; **Marge LeMar** for getting the word out in the newspapers and for being our ever-present roving photographer; **Maureen Chiarizia** for her cheerily-coersive selling style and for always being there; **Judy Ruth** who donated loads of beautifully-painted and tiled furniture, a set of 6 chairs (purchased by one of our members), shelves, candle holders, and yard ornaments (she made a lot of money for our club, and she was always there, pricing and selling); **Sharyn Suiter** who helped price and sell yard sale items (who can resist buying when Sharyn zeros in on a customer, whether it's a club member or not?); **Millie Havrilla** who helped set up and sell yard sale items; **Mary Paesch, Carol Flowers, and Karen Anderson** deserve a special thanks for their challenging task of installing roadside signs the night before and taking them down after the sale (when the ground was too hard to pound in the sign stakes, they just duct taped our signs to existing roadside signs - way to improvise!); **Nan Stout** for always being there, pricing and selling yard sale items, and a special thanks for hauling away the leftover yard sale items (she wanted to donate them to the Humane Society); **Joyce Rose** who was recovering from leg surgery and could not stand well, for collecting and keeping track of all the money, not an easy task when gardeners and yard-salers are in a frenzied buying situation; **Mike Rose** who helped set up and sell items, and who counted all the money and gave us the good news at the end of the day; **Jane O'Farrell** who had a great system with Joyce helping customers with their purchased plants and yard sale items, bagging and boxing them; **Leesa Meyers** for her cheery support all day, and for helping with the balloons; **Cathy Cornette** for always being there, pricing and selling yard sale items, and for her practical approach to situations (could her educator experience be partly responsible?); **Liz Shifflette** for graciously agreeing to learn how to inflate and display helium balloons, and for always being there to price and sell items; **Barbara Buchanan** for providing her previous-experience expertise, for pricing and selling items, and especially for loaning her son's GI Joe cash box (she also donated loads of plants); **Melissa Leitner** for donating, literally, a van load of plants, and for providing her past- experience expertise, and for

returning to help clean up (but we had cleaned up early and were gone); **Dianne Shisler** for always being there, pricing plants (even though she had spent the morning pricing plants for the Master Gardener sale), transferring plants, setting up, working the Master Gardener table, and for great support; **Gingie Winkler** who was not a member of the committee, but distributed flyers all around La Plata (and, for future events, she now knows how to advertise on Comcast); and last, but not least, **Sherie Zimmer** who was also not on the committee, but was always there helping wherever she was needed.

And a special thanks to everyone for staying and helping clean up.

It was fun to see the happy faces of customers getting a "find." The man who paid twenty-five cents for Sherie's Budweiser airplane. The people who bought David Gardiner's massive bags of ornamental grass that he had cut with an axe that morning. And for me, there was the 3-foot-tall plastic doll that had been a Christmas present for my youngest daughter. She never played with the doll because she was a little afraid of it, but for some reason, I couldn't throw it away. So when the grandchildren came along, I thought finally they would enjoy it. But they, too, were a little spooked by it. So I reluctantly donated it for the sale. It sat there with a ten cents sticker all day until just before the sale ended. An elderly lady dressed in a heavy coat, her head wrapped in a scarf tied under her chin, approached the cashier's table. Clutching the doll, she pulled a dime from her coin purse and handed it to Joyce, hugged and kissed the doll, and walked away patting its head.

The Latest Dirt is published in February, May, July, September & November by the La Plata Community Garden Club, La Plata, Maryland for its members. For more information on the club, see [www.laplatagardenclub.org](http://www.laplatagardenclub.org)

La Plata Community Garden Club  
PO Box 214  
La Plata, MD 20646

Established 2002  
Member of the Federated Garden Clubs  
of Maryland, District II

## Butterflies - What Attracts Whom?

Plant	Butterfly it attracts
Alfalfa	Eastern black swallowtail, orange sulphur, dogface, large wood nymph
Aster	Checkered white, common & orange sulphur, question mark, painted ladies, red admiral, buckeye
Black-eyed Susan	Great spangled fritillary, pearly crescent spot
Butterfly Bush	Swallowtails, mourning cloak, comma anglewing, painted ladies, red admiral
Daisy	Pearly crescent spot, red admiral, queen
Dandelion	Cabbage white, common sulphur, comma anglewing, red admiral
Dogbane	Spicebush swallowtail, checkered white, common & orange sulphur, gray hairstreak, spring azure, pearly crescent spot, mourning cloak, American painted lady, buckeye
Goldenrod	Common & orange sulphur, gray hairstreak, American painted lady, red admiral, viceroy
Lantana	Swallowtails, cabbage white, Gulf fritillary
Lupine	Common blue
Marigold	Milbert's tortoiseshell, American painted lady
Milkweed	Swallowtails, checkered & cabbage white, common & orange sulphur, gray hairstreak, spring azure, pearly crescent spot, common blue, great spangled fritillary, question mark, mourning cloak, painted ladies, red admiral, viceroy, monarch, queen
Mint	Swallowtails, cabbage white, gray hairstreak, painted ladies, red admiral, monarch, large wood nymph
Privet	Spring azure, painted ladies, red-spotted purple
Purple Coneflower	Silvery blue, great spangled fritillary
Queen Anne's Lace	Eastern black swallowtail, gray hairstreak
Red Clover	Cabbage white, great spangled fritillary, painted ladies, red admiral
Scabiosa	Painted ladies
Sweet Pea	Gray hairstreak
Sweet Pepperbush	Spicebush swallowtail, question mark, American painted lady, red admiral
Thistle	Swallowtails, dogface, Gulf fritillary, pearly crescent spot, Milbert's tortoiseshell, American painted lady, red admiral, viceroy, monarch
Verbena	Great spangled fritillary
Winter Cress	Checkered white, gray hairstreak, spring azure, pearly crescent spot