



The Latest Dirt

LaPlata Community Garden Club

May 2008

www.laplatagardenclub.org

Upcoming Events

May 30th

Bus trip to Maymont and Agecroft Hall in Richmond

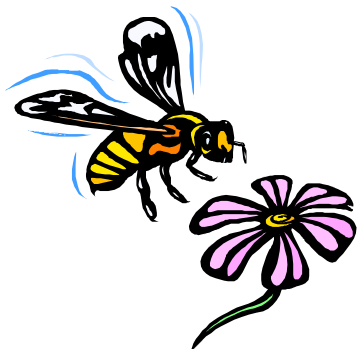
June 4

National Garden Week
Tree Planting at 1:00 pm in Annapolis
to honor past District II Directors Doris White and Nicki Schwab

June 14

Tables & Then Some
9:00 - 4:00, Severna Park
Design workshop (how to) for Exhibition Types I and II

Reminder -- If you're going on the trip to Maymont & Agecroft Hall, you need to be at Walmart in La Plata by 7:00 am on the 30th! Don't be late!



President's Message

Our club has reason to celebrate. We received the prestigious Governor's Beautification Award at the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland annual meeting in Baltimore. It was awarded for developing the Star Memorial Courtyard and Garden. In addition, we received the Civic Development Award for the garden and a Publications Award for our newsletter.

Our very own Cindi Barnhart won first place in the Harry C. Reynolds award for a photograph of a tree or shrub. Cindi's was a photograph of her snow covered Harry Lauder's walking stick. Next year, I look forward to our club winning many more awards. For those who are photographers, get your cameras ready to snap some pictures.

Due to low reservations, we had to cancel our spring luncheon. We substituted an evening at Longwood Gardens where we learned about flowering trees from Joann Golding. It was a beautiful evening and many members purchased plants before leaving the meeting. We have many interesting and informative programs still ahead for 2008, and I hope you won't miss any.

Don't forget our bus trip to Maymont and Ashcroft Hall scheduled for May 30. The last I heard, there were only a few seats left. Don't miss the bus.

Happy gardening!

Dianne

Save the dates for our upcoming meetings -- all of which are being held at members' homes ---

June 26 - "Vegetable Gardening" by and at Mary Ann Wade's home*

July 24 - "Pruning" by Joe Clements, owner of Heaven's Garden Nursery at Maureen Chiarizia's home

August 28 - "Bay Wise Rain Garden" by Jessica Milstead, at the home of Mike and Joyce Rose

(*see Mary Ann's comments about the meeting on page 2)

**La Plata Community Garden Club
Treasurers Report
For Period of February 1, 2008 thru May 12, 2008**

Balance from previous month	\$8,311.50
Income	
Membership	100.00
Raffles	114.00
Ornaments	12.00
Hall Rental	28.00
Bus Trip	2,015.00
Yard/Plant Sale	1,518.50
Memorial Garden-Pro-Mix Sale	95.01
Total Income	3,882.51

Expenses	
Hall Rental	50.00
Printing	346.50
Postage	54.40
Supplies	40.56
District II, Meeting	112.00
Federated Garden Clubs, Annual Meeting	160.00
Bus Trip/Balance	1,100.00
Domain Name	12.00
Speaker Gifts	150.00
Natural Disaster USA	25.00
Cyburn Visitor Center	25.00
Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage Tickets	70.00
Yard/Plant Sale	37.12
Memorial Garden	709.80
Total Expenses	2,892.38

CURRENT BALANCE **\$9,301.63**

*Of the above balance, \$1,917.01 is the balance of the Star Memorial Garden account. This leaves a balance of \$7,384.62 in the club's general account.
Melissa Leitner, Treasurer

Membership/Member Info.

Please welcome our three new members -- and add their names to your yearbook membership roster:

Susan Brewer 5304 Lily Court La Plata, MD 20646 sjbrewer@boo.net	Mary Dent 6330 Bryantown Drive Bryantown, MD 20617 mpdent@earthlink.net (301) 932-1190
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Janice E. Lakey-Waters
1703 Brightwell Court
Waldorf, Md.
(301) 632-6708

Also, we are very pleased to have an old member rejoin the club. Please welcome her back and add her name and contact info. to your list.

Ann Morgan
9454 Silver Oak Rd.
LaPlata, Md. 20646
(240) 359-2504
annieireland@comcast.net

Please make the following membership info. corrections in your yearbooks --

Millie Head
milliehead@hughes.net

Thomas & Karen Hidgon
khigdon1@verizon.net
(the 1 is underscored)

Jessica Milstead
jmilstead@hughes.net

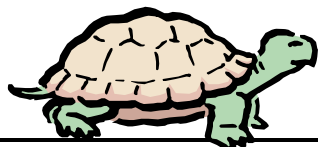
**Nan Stout
Membership**

Hi Gardeners,

This Spring is so beautiful! My garden looks great and I wish you were coming NOW -- who knows what will happen in five weeks! Our June meeting will be here at my home and I am excited -- and a little nervous -- (nothing here is perfect) but I am looking forward to our "veggie" meeting. Here are a few reminders about the meeting.

1. Rain Date -- Friday, June 27. Cancellation on Thursday will be for constant heavy rain only, not a shower. If in doubt, give me a call at (301) 934-9691.
2. Wear old shoes (this is rural America.)
3. Please don't bring a chair -- we will have chairs for you.
4. Parking -- If you like to hike, you can park at the historic Port Tobacco courthouse across the road, but otherwise, I think we have space for everyone to park. If you have trouble walking, tell my husband when you get here and drive to the top of the hill. Try to enjoy every moment of this beautiful time of year and remember the words of Will Rogers -- "What America needs is cleaner minds and dirtier fingernails."

Mary Ann Wade
Horticulture



Sincere condolences go out to our members who have recently lost loved ones.

Mary and Patrick McGarry recently lost Mary's mother, Mary Burke.

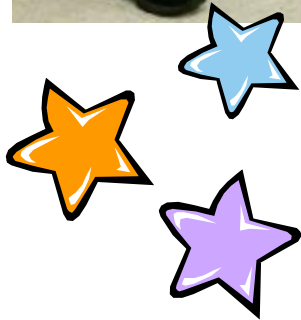
Tom and Karen Higdon recently lost Tom's mother, Mary Hidgon.





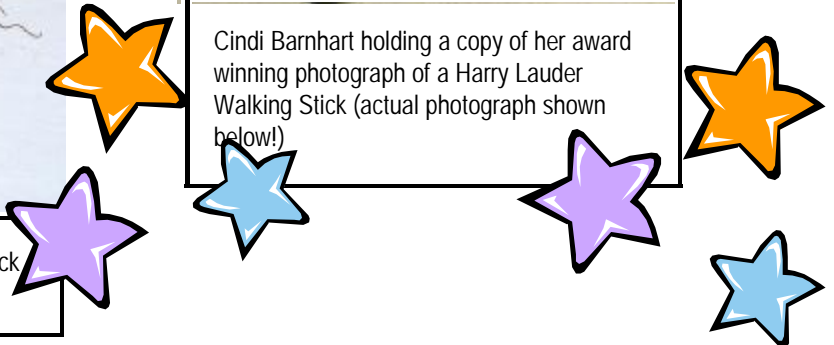
The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc. held their annual awards meeting on March 25th. The La Plata Community Garden Club was awarded the Governor's Silver Beautification Bowl for its 'complete restoration and replanting of Memorial Courtyard and Garden at Charls County Firehouse'.

The photo of Dianne, Mary Beth & Sherie shows The Bowl.



Cindi Barnhart holding a copy of her award winning photograph of a Harry Lauder Walking Stick (actual photograph shown below!)

Cindy Barnhart's photograph of a Harry Lauder Walking Stick



2008 Annual Plant and Yard Sale

The 2008 annual plant and yard sale, held jointly again this year with the Charles County Garden Club at the Old Safeway, sold \$1,528 worth of plants and yard sale items. That's a lot of \$2, \$3, and \$4 items. It could not have been done without the huge support of the whole club. I worry that eventually we will all get our houses cleaned out and there won't be anything left to sell. But, given that many of us are pack rats and collectors, I am told that is not likely to happen in our lifetime. I want to particularly thank the following:

- * All the club members who potted plants, and collected and cleaned yard sale items.
- * Marge LeMar for getting the word out in the newspapers and for taking photos during the sale. And thanks to her committee members who made signs: Judy Ruth, Cathy Cornette, Mary Beth Chandler, Millie Head, and Jennie Lewis.
- * All the members who priced and sold shabby chic yard sale items: Judy Ruth, Cathy Cornette, Jennie Lewis, Leesa Meyers, Karen Allison, Mary Grant, Millie Head, and Nan Stout.
- * And all the members who helped price, set up and sell plants: Dianne Shisler, Sheri Zimmer, Liz Shifflette, Mike and Joyce Rose, Mary Ann Wade, and Mary Beth Chandler.
- * Everyone who helped wherever needed: David and Ann Gardiner, Janice Clark, Polly Zimmerman, and Marcia Poling.
- * And thanks to Barbara Buchanan and Melissa Leitner for helping to sustain this event year after year by helping wherever needed.
- * And, we can't forget the members who installed roadside directional signs on Friday night: Mary Paesch, Irene Poole, and Millie Head. This is an especially difficult task, and we really appreciate their willingness to do this.
- * And, thanks to Dianne Shisler and Jane O'Farrell for conducting sales and helping customers with their purchases.
- * Also, I'd like to thank Jennie Lewis for conducting the cookie sale, and helping us find long tables.
- * And a few members brought truckloads of plants or yard sale items: Mary Beth Chandler, Barbara Buchanan, Melissa Leitner, and Cheri Brady. Thanks.

(Continued on page 5)



Plants, plants and more plants . . . and Carole Raucheisen, too!



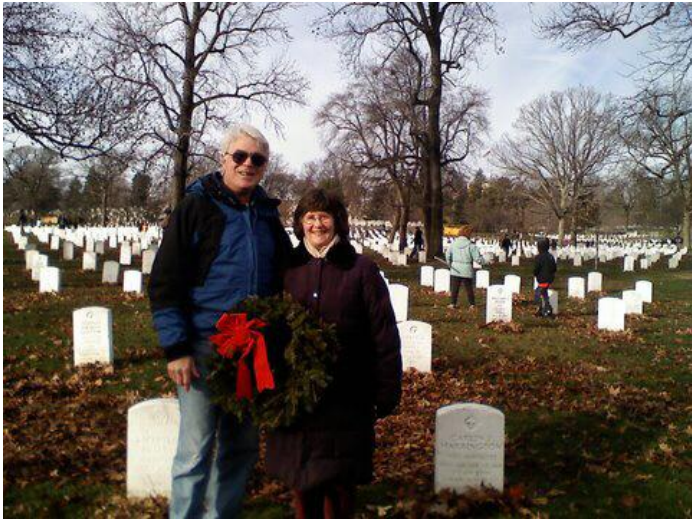
Dave Gardiner bringing in a plant for smiling Judy to price!



Our potted, uh potting, rather our president holding a pot!



The beautiful, sunny day of the sale. Thanks for the nice photos, Marge!



Al and Carole Raucheisen after helping remove 10,000 Christmas wreaths from Graves at Arlington National Cemetery.

We are smiling because at 9:15 a.m., February 2, all 10,000 wreaths had been removed from the graves and placed in dumpsters. That was 15 minutes before we were supposed to start.

For weeks, e-mails had asked volunteers to arrive at 9:30 a.m., but an article in the Washington Post a day or two before had instructed people to arrive at 9:00. So, we arrived early along with about 200 other volunteers, and after carrying 3 or 4 armloads of wreaths, we were told it was all done. In disbelief, we searched the area and sure enough, the wreaths were all gone. And as we headed to our car, we had to tell the dismayed 9:30 arrivals that it was finished.

We don't know what happened. It was very organized and many people carried 20 or more wreaths at a time stacked on garden rakes and other poles. But, we were just glad to be part of it. Our 20 minutes' participation in this wonderful project was worth the drive, and we thank Bev Ward for organizing it. We happily waved to the many cars still arriving as we were leaving.

2008 Annual Plant and Yard Sale - Continued from previous page

* And a special thanks to everyone for staying and helping clean up. And we really appreciate Mary Ann Wade for hauling away the remaining 20 plants or so to be used in a Master Gardener project.

I don't know about anyone else, but I personally went crazy buying plants. I spent the whole next week planting, and still didn't finish before the rains came. It should be a colorful year in my garden.

It's never too early to think about next year. Start a yard sale box now with items you no longer want. And when you divide your plants, put some in pots. By spring, they look as good as the ones you see in the nurseries.

Thanks again to everyone for their support.

Carole Raucheisen



Our Website

www.laplatagardenclub.org

Most of you probably don't know, but we have received free hosting on our website for the past five years! Amelia Island Online (my brother) has provided not only free hosting, but also designed the website for the club and keeps it up-to-date for us -- when I remember to send him the information!

Please support the website by visiting it frequently. It's a great resource for information on the club including meeting dates and times, our by-laws, and other club information. The garden related ads on the site have some pretty cool items and also offer discounts at some of the retailers.

Also, if you have any ideas for information that should be on the site but isn't there, or information that is there but shouldn't be, send me an e-mail at granniegrant@verizon.net

Thanks!
Mary

BIRD TALK

I am always touched to hear about efforts to help bird populations or habitats and such a conservation project is happening in our own backyard. According to an article in the Friday, May 9, 2008 issue of the Maryland Independent, seventh-grade students at Theodore G. Davis Middle School are working with North Point High students to develop a plan to construct and place birdhouses to attract birds back to the campus that also includes William H. Diggs Elementary School. Davis students have observed an increase in insects and a decrease in the number of birds, which, in their opinion, has been caused by the building of the three schools in the area, the scarcity of trees and the low snowfall last winter. With the assistance of carpentry students from North Point High, the Davis students will construct the birdhouses which will then be presented to the principals of the three schools with the hope that the principals will commit to setting up the houses around the campus. In turn, Davis students will monitor the birdhouses and collect data as a research project with a view to seeing whether or not there is success in their creating a habitat for birds. My hat is off to all involved!

The above mentioned newspaper has been a further source of information for me, this time on the eagles on the base at Indian Head. Earlier in April, researchers from the College of William and Mary's Center for Conservation Biology visited the Indian Head base and the one at Stump Neck as the initial step in a three-year study to document the health of eaglets recently hatched. The testing of eaglets (this includes tagging, testing blood samples and taking biological measurements), will assist in ascertaining if dangerous chemicals are being ingested, which could lead to more research, considering the natural cycle of things. Incidentally, there have been no eagle fatalities on the Indian Head base since 2005 when officials learned that using reflective tape on areas where the eagles would land or perch, such as power lines, would be instrumental in lowering the death rate of the birds. I will end on the happy note to report that there have been no fatalities on base since 2005. Since there has been so much development in Charles County, federal installations are the only places left with the eagle habitat and the Indian Head base has 17 miles of shoreline which makes it a prime location for eagles and ospreys.

The hummingbirds are back so keep your feeders full!

Gloria Groeger
Bird Chairman

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