



<http://www.bcgardenclub.org>

<http://www.meetup.com/Bowie-Crofton-Garden-Club/>

The aims of the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club shall be to promote interest in and develop skills in gardening through cooperation, joint efforts, and good fellowship.

March 2010

Next Monthly Meeting

By *Neil Potash*

The next Garden Club meeting will take place in the multi-purpose room of the Bowie City Hall, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, MD 20715 on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 7:30 PM.

The speaker will be our own founding member, Jesse Smith, a master gardener, who will present her wonderful Pruning Demonstration. She has been giving this always informative and joyous lecture-demonstration for many years and there is always something new to learn from her. She has done many gardening projects at the Bowie High School, St. Matthew Methodist Church, and all over town. I do not know how many awards Jesse Smith has garnered for her pruning and gardening work but they are many. Don't miss it! I am so glad she has consented to do it.

Presidents Comments

by *Jesse Terres*

I received a phone call from a Dennis Hofmman, owner of a Greenhouse Installation and Repair Company, 443-844-5928. We talked for a few minutes about our garden club and I agreed to pass the information on. If anyone is looking for someone to build or repair a greenhouse you may be interested in contacting him

After last month's meeting was adjourned a few of us entered into a brief discussion about Moms Organic Market that opened recently at Hill Top. We thought that perhaps we could establish some kind of relationship with Moms, but none of us knew what or how. I took it upon myself to visit the store, one of my wife's favorites, next to Aldi, another of her favorite stores, and speak with the manager. The manager's name is Nick Hardee who shares our interest in establishing a relationship. We thought earlier that being a garden club and our interest in growing vegetables there should be some common ground. For more information you can Google momsorganicmarket.com or better yet, pay the store a visit.

Several years ago I read that the greatest contribution to the longevity of mankind was moving the outhouse fifty feet from the well. I believed it then, but today I wonder if it's true. Since then we have moved the outhouse into our homes, in a room called the bathroom, and frequently flush the waste back into the estuaries from where we get our drinking water, and yet we continue to live longer. Doesn't make sense to me. Does it to you?

Then in The Washington Post, Thursday, March 3, was an article about environmentalist activists filing suit against Perdue Farms and an Eastern Shore farm where Perdue chickens are raised contending that the farm is polluting the Chesapeake Bay with manure-laden runoff (What else is new?). The article also states that federal data show the bay's pollution has actually been reduced by 20% over the past 25 years (Where have the environmentalist activists been the past 25 years?). At this rate all pollution should be gone from the bay in another 100 years. Apparently that meager donation I make every year at tax time is beginning to pay off. I hope I can continue to donate to the bay fund another 100 years. What I can't understand is why someone hasn't bagged the manure and sold it to us gardeners. I've been to the Eastern Shore in the past looking for a place to buy chicken manure without success. Best I've done recently is buy bags of compost with chicken manure in it, but that isn't like the real stuff. If it's fresh just let it compost for a year and it will be just fine. It's too 'hot' to use fresh.

I used to love to eat oysters on the half shell, but not anymore. I can just imagine those nice plump oysters being harvested at the end of a sewer pipe. Now I only eat them fried.

Meeting Minutes, February 23, 2010

The Tuesday, February 23rd meeting of the Bowie Crofton Garden Club was held at the Bowie City Hall.

Jesse Terres, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

The January Minutes were unanimously approved.

Program

Neil Potash introduced the speaker, Sandra Porterfield of Patuxent Nursery in Bowie. Sandra is a Master Gardener and discussed new plants and ideas for our spring garden. She motivated us to get ready for the upcoming growing season. Sandra bought in several plants to amaze us and encouraged us to add them to our spring garden planning. She answered many of our questions and awarded several prizes that included plants and gardening calendars. Sandra provided three handouts: (1) Winter Workshops schedule at Patuxent (2) What's New for 2010 (3) Patuxent Nursery, March 2010 Newsletter, early Spring issue.

Neil announced that the March speaker will be our well known BCGC member, Jessie Smith who will speak on pruning.

Committee Reports

Membership: Brian Swetnam reported that BCGC is on the meetup.com website. We have between 104-108 members. We have new members and visitors at the meeting tonight. In fact, the guest speaker, Sandra Porterfield signed up at the meeting and became the newest member.

Hospitality: Gaye Williams reported that she purchased snacks for the Philadelphia Flower Show. Gaye also requested that Kathleen Beres, Secretary send a letter to Starbucks requesting them to donate coffee for our Plant Sale. Gaye is securing the permit for the summer picnic in June and she contacted St. Matthew's to reserve a date for the Christmas party. St. Matthew's will inform her regarding the date for the party. Gaye shared that she is resigning as Hospitality Co-Chair, since she is involved in the Plant Sale effort.

Treasurer: Joan Walker was absent and no report was provided to the President.

Programs: Neil Potash reported that BCGC member, Jessie Smith will be the March speaker who will give advice on pruning techniques.

Field Trips – Karen Anadol provided meeting details regarding the BCGC trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 1 leaving from the Target parking lot at 8 am.

Garden Tours – Kent Winterson reported that none are scheduled at this time.

Newsletter – Jesse encouraged us to send news to Don Sminkey. The deadline for articles is March 8, 2010.

Publicity – Dorothy Bice had no new news to report.

Hospitality – Barb Eberstein, our Chair was absent since she is under the weather herself and recovering from a virus that also causes the chicken pox. Our get well wishes are extended to Barbara!

Old and New Business:

Jesse shared that he plans to have a Board meeting to discuss changing the by-laws to reflect the change in financial reporting – fiscal year vs. calendar year.

Jesse made a deposit to the Bowie Community Center for our October (Halloween) meeting, so that we can have food and drink at the meeting since it is prohibited at the Bowie City Hall.

Jesse requested a volunteer to form a nominating committee to consist of three people to identify a slate of officers to be voted for in April. Since Rich Dodson was absent, Jesse teased that he was nominated to head up the committee!

Highway Clean up: Linda Snow reported that the next Highway Cleanup will be on March 13 from 8:30am – 11:30am and the group will meet at the Burger King between 8:15 to 8:30 am. Please mark your calendars for the following dates March 13, May 15, September 11, and November 6, 2010. Please come for as much time as you can spare.

Door Prizes were awarded and additional plants, bulbs and gardening items were available for the taking.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Beres, Secretary

Treasurer's Reports

By *Joan Walker*

JANUARY 31, 2010		February 28, 2010	
Starting Balance/Checkbook	\$2,016.56	Starting Balance/Checkbook	\$782.59
Expenses		Expenses	
Brian Swetnam/Stamps	\$44.00	Stamps	\$44.00
Dillons Bus Service	\$1,135.00	Donald C. Sminkey	\$240.00
Bert Shankman	\$50.00	Crofting Printing	\$36.97
Brian Swetnam/6mo.meetup	\$54.00	Gaye Williams-snacks/Philly	\$144.05
Crofton Printing/jan.news	\$36.97	Cash-Driver Tip/Philly	\$100.00
Gaye Williams/Picnic deposit	\$200.00		
PHS/Flower Show tickets	\$1,218.00		
TOTAL	\$2,737.97	TOTAL	\$565.02
Deposits		Deposits	
Membership	\$54.00	Membership	\$0.00
Philly Trip	\$1,050.00	Philly Trip	\$850.00
Tickets/Dep.	\$400.00	Philly Trip	\$200.00
		Philly Trip	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$1,504.00	TOTAL	\$1,150.00
Checkbook Balance	\$782.59	Checkbook Balance	\$1,367.57
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$782.59	AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$1,367.57

Plant Sale

By *Gaye Williams*

The 2010 BCGC plant sale will be held on Saturday, 24 April 2010, at the Bowie library parking lot. Start spreading the word. We will have outside vendors, environmental information, rain barrels and lots of suitable plant material, lovingly homegrown by our own talented club members. That last part is where YOU really make the sale. Please look under the broken branches and snow remnants to see what you can divide, pot, label and contribute. It's still a bit soggy out there, but at least go out and speak encouraging words of warmth and Spring to your perennials. Promise them new homes with other friendly gardeners who will tend them tenderly, the way you did as plantlets. Promise warmth and sun. Promise whatever it takes, to trick them into exploding into vigorous, profitable growth for the plant sale.....more announcements/pronouncements to follow at March club meeting and in April newsletter.

Trip to Philadelphia Flower Show

I want to let everyone know what a great trip it was for me up to the Flower Show. Many, many thanks to everyone who helped out -- a shout-out to Gaye, Joan and Jesse for all their assistance.

As most of you know, this was my first time planning and organizing for such a large group trip. All in all, I think it went really well. I tried to keep everyone posted with the details. I certainly learned quite a bit and will incorporate what I learned into future planning!

I was completely wrong about the door prizes - they were a lot of fun and I think everyone enjoyed them. Plus, how wonderful was it that Phyllis won a beautiful water color, done by Margaret Boles, a guest, on her birthday!

Even though Chicken Run was awfully silly, I think at that point we were all quite exhausted and enjoyed it. Gaye did a terrific job of getting the snacks together, there was plenty for everyone. Again, thanks to all for making it such a fun experience for me. Warmly, *Karen Anadol*

Plants Toxic to Cats and Dogs

Contributed by *Rich Dodson*

With Easter rapidly approaching, many of us will be adding traditional Holiday Plants to our homes. In our case, we contribute plants (Azaleas, Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas) to decorate our church, then are encouraged to take them home after Easter to decorate our own homes; unclaimed plants are donated to local nursing homes.

Holiday Plants:

Pet owners need to take extra care with holiday plants. We often get caught up in the holiday festivities and don't realize that we may be bringing something very dangerous into your home for your pets. Be aware of what holiday decorations may be toxic and avoid turning a happy occasion into a tragic one.

Azalea and Rhododendron Bushes: Azaleas and rhododendrons are among the most popular landscape plants. But ingesting their leaves or flowers can cause vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhea -- or worse.

Easter Lilies: Some members of the lily family of plants can result in serious illness in pets. Specifically, Easter Lilies, tiger lilies, Japanese show lilies, rubrum lilies, many lily hybrids have been known to cause kidney failure in Cats and Dogs.

Liliums can be LETHAL to cats, if they eat the foliage. **Daylilies** are NOT. Every part of the daylily can be eaten. Considerable confusion exists between the toxicity of daylilies, liliums and calla lilies; the biggest problem with such information is the failure to use proper botanical names.

Hydrangea: Leaves, buds can cause Irritation and inflammation of the digestive tract, diarrhea, and bloody stool.

Poinsettias: These plants are among the most popular of Christmas Holiday plants and are easily recognizable by their large red, white, pink, or mottled bracts. If you have Poinsettias still "Hanging On" from Christmas or that you will be attempting to summer over outdoors in your garden for next Christmas, these are NOT POISONOUS !!! Reports to the contrary are the unfortunately result of an Urban Myth that has been perpetuated for many years, based upon an anecdotal report in 1919 of a child in Hawaii dying after ingesting a Poinsettia leaves. In reality, it was never proven with certainty that the plant involved was even a Poinsettia nor the leaves the actual cause of death.

There are various plants that are poisonous to dogs both inside and outside of our homes (See the charts.).

PLANT	TOXIC PART	SYMPTOMS
HOUSE PLANTS		
Hyacinth, Narcissus, Daffodil	Bulbs	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. May be fatal.
Oleander	Leaves, branches	Extremely poisonous. Affects the heart, produces severe digestive upset and has caused death.
Dieffenbachia (Dumb Cane), Elephant Ear	All parts	Intense burning and irritation of the mouth and tongue. Death can occur if base of the tongue swells enough to block the air passage of the throat.
Rosary Pea, Castor Bean	Seeds	Fatal. A single Rosary Pea seed has caused death. One or two Castor Bean seeds are near the lethal dose for adults.
FLOWER AND GARDEN		
Larkspur	Young plant, seeds	Digestive upset, nervous excitement, depression. May be fatal.
Monkshood	Fleshy roots	Digestive upset and nervous excitement.
Autumn Crocus, Star of Bethlehem	Bulbs	Vomiting and nervous excitement.
Iris	Underground stems	Severe-but not usually serious-digestive upset.
Lily-of-the-Valley	Leaves, flowers	Irregular heart beat and pulse, usually accompanied by digestive upset and mental confusion.
Foxglove	Leaves	Large amounts cause dangerously irregular heartbeat and pulse, usually digestive upset and mental confusion. May be fatal.
Bleeding Heart	Foliage, roots	May be poisonous in large amounts. Has proved fatal to cattle.
VEGETABLE GARDEN		
Rhubarb	Leaf blade	Fatal. Large amounts of raw or cooked leaves can cause convulsions, coma, followed rapidly by death.
ORNAMENTAL		
Daphne	Berries	Fatal.
Wisteria	Seeds, pods	Mild to severe digestive upset.
Golden Chain	Bean-like capsules in which the seeds are suspended	Severe poisoning. Excitement, staggering, convulsions and coma. May be fatal.
Laureals, Rhododendrons, Azaleas	All parts	Fatal. Produces nausea and vomiting, depression, difficult breathing, prostration and coma.
Yew	Berries, foliage	Fatal. Foliage more toxic than berries. Death is usually sudden without warning symptoms.
Jasmine	Berries	Fatal.
Lantana Camara (Red Sage)	Green berries	Fatal. Affects lungs, kidneys, heart and nervous system. Grows in the southern U.S. And in moderate climates.
TREES AND SHRUBS		
Wild and cultivated cherries	Twigs, foliage	Fatal. Contains a compound that releases cyanide when eaten. Gasping, excitement and prostration are common symptoms.
Oaks	Foliage, acorns	Affects kidneys gradually. Symptoms appear only after several days or weeks. Takes a large amount for poisoning.
Elderberry	All parts, especially roots	Nausea and digestive upset.
Black Locust	Bark, sprouts, foliage	Nausea, weakness
WOODED AREAS		
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	All parts, especially roots	Like Dumb Cane, contains small needle-like crystals of calcium oxalate that cause intense irritation and burning of the mouth and tongue.
Moonseed	Berries	Blue, purple color, resembling wild grapes. May be fatal.
Mayapple	Apple, foliage, roots	Contains at least 16 active toxic principles, primarily in the roots.
Mistletoe	Berries	Fatal
MOIST AREAS		
Water Hemlock	All parts	Fatal. Violent and painful convulsions.
PLANTS IN FIELDS		
Buttercups	All parts	Irritant juices may severely injure the digestive system.
Nightshade	All parts, especially the unripened berry	Fatal. Intense digestive disturbance and nervous symptoms.
Poison Hemlock	All parts	Fatal. Resembles a large wild carrot.
Jimson Weed (Thorn Apple)	All parts	Abnormal thirst, distorted sight, delirium, incoherence and coma. Common cause of poisoning. Has proved fatal.

The ASPCA's National Poison Prevention Control Center Lists the following Plants as being Toxic to Cats and Dogs:

- Aloe Vera
- Amaryllis
- Apple Leaf Croton
- Apricot (pit)
- Asparagus Fern
- Autumn Crocus
- Avocado (fruit and pit)
- Azalea
- Baby's Breath
- Bird of Paradise
- Bittersweet
- Branching Ivy
- Buckeye
- Buddhist Pine
- Caladium
- Calla Lily
- Castor Bean
- Ceriman
- Charming Dieffenbachia
- Cherry
(Seeds & wilting leaves)
- Chinese Evergreen
- Christmas Rose
- Cineraria
- Clematis
- Cordatum
- Corn Plant
- Cornstalk Plant
- Croton
- Cuban Laurel
- Cut leaf Philodendron
- Cycads
- Cyclamen
- Daffodil
- Devil's Ivy
- Dieffenbachia
- Dracaena Palm
- Dragon Tree
- Dumb Cane
- Easter Lily
(Especially in cats!!!!)
- Elaine
- Elephant Ears
- Emerald Feather
- English Ivy
- Fiddle-leaf fig
- Florida Beauty
- Foxglove
- Fruit Salad Plant
- Geranium
- German Ivy
- Giant Dumb Cane
- Glacier Ivy
- Gold Dieffenbachia
- Gold Dust Dracaena
- Golden Pothos
- Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy
- Heartland Philodendron
- Hurricane Plant
- Indian Rubber Plant
- Janet Craig Dracaena
- Japanese Show Lily
(especially cats!!!)
- Jerusalem Cherry
- Kalanchoe
- Lacy Tree Philodendron
- Lily of the Valley
- Madagascar Dragon Tree
- Marble Queen
- Marijuana
- Mexican Breadfruit
- Miniature Croton
- Mistletoe
- Morning Glory
- Mother-in Law's Tongue
- Narcissus
- Needlepoint Ivy
- Nephytis
- Nightshade
- Oleander
- Onion
- Oriental Lily
(Especially in cats!!!)
- Peace Lily
- Peach
(Wilting leaves and pits)
- Pencil Cactus
- Plumosa Fern
- Poinsettia (low toxicity)
- Poison Ivy
- Poison Oak
- Pothos
- Precatory Bean
- Primrose
- Red Emerald
- Red Princess
- Red-Margined Dracaena
- Rhododendron
- Ribbon Plant
- Saddle Leaf Philodendron
- Sago Palm
- Satin Pothos
- Schefflera
- Silver Pothos
- Spotted Dumb Cane
- String of Pearls
- Striped Dracaena
- Sweetheart Ivy
- Swiss Cheese Plant
- Taro Vine
- Tiger Lily
(Especially cats!!!)
- Tomato Plant (green fruit,
stem and leaves)
- Tree Philodendron
- Tropic Snow
Dieffenbachia
- Weeping Fig
- Yew

Dr. Jill Richardson
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Executive Committee			From the Editor Donald Sminkey All members of the Garden Club are welcome to write an article on a gardening-related subject. Please send via e-mail to: gardener@bcgardenclub.org. Include "B-CGC" or "Garden Club" in the subject heading; or mail to: Donald Sminkey, 508 Otway Road, Wake Forest, NC 27587 Deadline, April issue: Apr. 8, 2010
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