

# THE GARDENER



Newsletter of the Bowie-Crofton Garden Club

February 2019



## President's Notes

**Hi BCGCers** – Interesting start to the year since the weather caused us to cancel January's meeting. The Club's policy is to cancel a meeting if the evening activities for Prince George's County Public Schools are cancelled. The easiest and most timely way to find this PGCPSS cancellation information is on radio, TV or most directly at the website <https://www.pgcpss.org>. Everyone's safety is the primary concern. Even when we hold a meeting, please attend only if you can do it safely.

**Speakers** We needed to work the speaker schedule. Elmer has pulled together a schedule for the next 6 months. Unfortunately, because of the meeting cancelation we were unable to hear Linda Conboy's presentation about becoming a Master Gardener. Linda will be rescheduled for later this year. This month you will hear about 5G Gardening.

**Vote on 2019 Proposed Budget**  
To put the 2019 budget in place, your vote is needed. We will be voting on the proposed 2019 budget at Tuesday's meeting. The proposed budget was in the January Newsletter and it is repeated on page two of this newsletter. Please review the proposed budget. Remember that a budget is a financial plan. If the plan does not work as anticipated, budget revisions have to be made. Come with your questions and prepared to vote.

**STILL THE BIGGEST POINT:** The plant sale is 27 April. It is the Club's largest fund raiser of the year. Please start planning what plants you will donate. Backward plan your planting schedule from April 27. Donated member-grown plants are even more important this year because Shelby Nursery, which has provided about 25% of the Club's net sales income, is no longer in business.

For information about how Club members can help other Club members pot plants for the Plant Sale, see page 2 "Members Helping Members Pot Member-grown Plants."

As always, your help is needed before, during and after the plant sale. Remember to bring your excess gardening items for the Plant Sale Flea Market, which has been a great success.

### Road Clean-up Coordinator Needed

A coordinator is needed for about 2 hours, 4 times a year. It's easy and interesting—you never know what you will find. The next clean-up is April 6. Before the current coordinator, Deb Forespring, moves, she wants to pass along all the information necessary to coordinate road clean-up. Talk with her at our meeting or call her at 301-821-6696.

### Pictures and Mini-talks Needed

Please email me your pictures. Let me know when you want to do your mini-talks.

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Garden Plan  
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## Upcoming Club Meetings

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Kenhill Center multi-purpose room

Topic: **5G Gardening—**

Growing in a greenhouse, Growing under lights,  
Growing perennials from seed, Getting soil tested,  
and Giving back

Speakers: **Melissa Vice and Elmer Dengler**

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Kenhill Center multi-purpose room

Topic: **Please Eat the Daylilies and Berries Too!**

Speaker: **Open discussion lead by Elmer Dengler (USDA Retired)**



## Proposed 2019 Budget

January 1, 2019 Checkbook Balance \$ 5,743

### Income

Membership dues \$ 1,070

Spring Plant Sale \$ 6,118

Fundraisers \$ 500

Miscellaneous \$ 26

**Total Income \$ 7,714**

### Expenditures

Operations Equipment \$ 343

Insurance \$ 525

Membership supplies \$ 44

Office supplies \$ 80

Post office box rental \$ 96

Speaker fees \$ 100

Sunshine \$ 28

**subtotal \$ 1,216**

Sales Spring \$ 2,589

Advertising \$ 300

**subtotal \$ 2,889**

Community Service/  
Promotion Green school support \$ 500

Service projects \$ 700

Printing \$ 50

**subtotal \$ 1,250**

Parties Summer picnic \$ 175

Halloween food \$ 27

Holiday food \$ 137

**subtotal \$ 339**

Donations UMD scholarship \$ 1,000

Bowie Food

Pantry \$ 1,000

**subtotal \$ 2,000**

**Total Expenditures \$ 7,694**

**Ending checkbook balance \$ 5,763**



## Member-grown Plants Needed

We recently learned that Shelby Nursery is no longer in business. The proposed 2019 budget assumes that approximately \$800 of the Club's net income comes from sale of Shelby Nursery's plants at the Spring Plant Sale. If members donated an additional 200 plants that are sold at \$4 each, the \$800 would be made up.

## Members Helping Members Pot Member-grown Plants

If you have plants that you would like to donate but you need help getting them potted for the Plant Sale, other Club member volunteers will pot them for you. The plants need to be potted by the end of March or the first week in April to be ready for sale on April 27.

## Preparation for Potting

1. Identify plants you want to donate.
2. Collect pots and digging tools for transplanting.
3. Request potting help or volunteer to help.

If you are volunteering to help pot plants or if you are requesting help with potting, give your name and phone number to Verna Teasdale.

## 2019 Membership Dues Due

Membership dues are the second major source of Club revenues. Each dues payment moves the Club closer to providing the total income the Club needs to operate and provide community services.

Dues are still only \$10 per year for individuals and \$12 per year for a family.

2019 membership cards are issued to members who pay 2019 dues. The 2019 membership card enables a member to receive substantial discounts at Patuxent Nursery. Some members have received discounts significantly greater than the annual dues.

In addition to Patuxent Nursery discounts, members also receive "The Gardener Newsletter" and current email updates from Brian Gollsneider, the Club president.

Failure to pay current dues may result in being removed as a member. Check with Verna Teasdale at the membership table or online at [membership@bcgardenclub.org](mailto:membership@bcgardenclub.org) to see if your dues are paid for 2019 or beyond.

## Spring and Fall Frost-Free Dates and the Length of Our Growing Season

By John Teasdale

In the spring, do you wonder how soon you can plant without worrying about frost? In the fall, do you wonder how long your plants will last before frost kills them? Because frost events can vary considerably in our area, the tables below give dates associated with the probability that a frost will occur. Frost is defined here as a minimum daily temperature below 32° F. The information in the tables was derived from the National Climatic Data Center records covering the 30-year period from 1971-2000 for Beltsville and Upper Marlboro, the closest stations available to Bowie.

The date after which there is only a 10% chance of a Spring frost is May 1 for Beltsville and April 29 for Upper Marlboro. If gardeners are willing to take a 50% gamble to obtain an earlier harvest, they could plant between April 15 and 18 at these locations.

In the fall, gardeners should expect the first frost to occur 50% of the time after October 20 to 22.

**The effect of climate change.** To estimate the changes in frost free dates caused by climate change since the 1971-2000 period, I used weather data that I had compiled from a long-term experiment at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center covering a 19-year period from 1996-2014. This information also is shown in the tables below. Results show that the Spring frost-free dates arrived approximately 5 days earlier, the Fall frost-free dates arrived about 2 days later, and the season length has extended about 8 days during the more recent 1996-2014 period than during the 1971-2000 period. This evidence indicates that our planting season is arriving earlier and lasting longer than in previous decades.

Table I. Date of Last Spring Frost.

Probability level: 90%, 50%, or 10% that *frost will occur after* the date listed.

Location	Date of Last Spring Frost		
	at probability level		
	90%	50%	10%
Beltsville, MD	Apr-5	Apr-18	May-1
Beltsville 1996-2014	Apr-1	Apr-13	Apr-24
Upper Marlboro, MD	Apr-1	Apr-15	Apr-29

Table II. Date of First Fall Frost

Probability level: 90%, 50%, or 10% that *frost will occur before* the date listed.

Location	Date of First Fall Frost		
	at probability level		
	10%	50%	90%
Beltsville, MD	Oct-9	Oct-22	Nov-4
Beltsville 1996-2014	Oct-9	Oct-27	Nov-6
Upper Marlboro, MD	Oct-5	Oct-20	Nov-3

Table III. Season Length: Number of Frost-Free Days

Probability level: 10%, 50%, or 90% that *frost will not occur*

Location	Frost-Free Days		
	at probability level		
	10%	50%	90%
Beltsville, MD	208	186	164
Beltsville 1996-2014	213	194	175
Upper Marlboro, MD	212	187	162



## State Legislature Considering Three Bills to Protect Maryland Forests

According to Anna Mudd, Chesapeake Bay Foundation Maryland Advocacy and Outreach Manager, the State Legislature is currently considering three bills intended to help protect Maryland's forests.

Here is a short summary of each bill.

- **Defining Forests** identifies "forest land" as the goal of "no net loss of forest," since forest land reflects a full ecological system that supports healthy soils and habitat.
- **Reforming the Forest Conservation Act's (FCA) Fee-In-Lieu Program** requires local governments to replant the same amount of forest that the developer was required to replant but didn't and increase transparency around fee-in-lieu programs.
- **Creating a Forest Conservation Task Force** to quantify and address future deforestation and make recommendations to prevent forest loss without overly disrupting growth and development.

*Editor's Note: Thank you to Linda Conboy for providing this State Legislature information which she received from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.*

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