



# The GRAPEVINE

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### Programs—Ingrid Blanton and Marybeth Guerrieri

**November 2 2017**— Dede Hoopes will present a program on her new native garden farm located in Bachelor's Point, Oxford.

**December 7 , 2017**—Holiday Party hosted by OGC member Dodi Sutton. Marybeth Guerrieri is the culinary hostess and you will be hearing soon what to bring for sharing. Please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$20.00 for the gift exchange, otherwise known as stealing from each other.

**January 4, 2018**—"Seed Banks and Why They are Important" presented by University of MD extension agent, Sara Ann Tangran. Sara will discuss seed banks and native seed cleaning and storage. This is an open meeting, so please feel free to invite friends.

### Conservation Committee Report – by June Middleton

1. A report was issued by the RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative). The RGGI is a working group composed of 9 states in the northeast and mid-Atlantic. The goal of the initiative is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions generated by fossil fuel fired plants and thus improve air quality. The RGGI is regarded as the best regional clean air/ climate change control measure in the United States. The RGGI met its current annual reduction goal of 2.5%; the goal has been raised to 3.0% for next year. Since 2009 there has been a 40% reduction in regional carbon dioxide emissions; a further decrease of 30% is anticipated from 2020 to 2030. Reduced carbon dioxide emissions correlate with reduced co-pollutants including nitrous oxides, particulates and sulfur dioxides. A reduction of these co-pollutants contributes to increased public health benefits. (Source: [www.mde.maryland.gov](http://www.mde.maryland.gov).)

2. NOAA issued a report on sanctuary oyster beds in Talbot County. Sanctuary beds in Harris Creek were created between 2013 and 2015. Granite was used as substrate for spat when oyster shell, the ideal substrate, was unavailable in the quantity needed to build beds. These sanctuary beds cover less than 8% of Harris Creek. Of 30 reefs surveyed 29 showed at least the minimum target oyster density while 80% exhibited greater than 50 bivalve per square meter. Granite beds supported four times more oysters than those of other substrates. Talbot watermen are fighting the use of granite in beds citing concern for damage to boats and equipment. (Source: Bay Journal).

### Horticulture Report—by Sue Betz excerpted from the Washing Post, June 22, 2017 edition written by Adrian Higgins

At the National Arboretum, the renovated Friendship Garden which was funded and planted in 1991 around the Arbor House by The National Garden Clubs. Ellen Spencer is chairman of a \$130,00 restoration project by the National Gardens and its local branches, and National Capital Area Garden Clubs.

After many years nature took its course. Several old trees came down and an invasive plant called butterbur "petasites japonicus variety giganteus took over. A backhoe was used to remove it.

What makes the new garden shine is it has an array of sophisticated shrubs, grasses, and perennials. Some of them are large and planted in masses to give visual punch. Plants such as agastache Purple Haze are planted in drifts. Using just turf and foundation shrubs should no longer be the model for our own landscapes.

The original garden at the Arboretum was designed by Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden who wanted to show the public plantings in a naturalistic way. They too have found improvement in their selection of plants. No longer is the invasive miscanthus grasses used. They are out! Sedum Autumn Joy has been replaced with Autumn fire, Rudbeckia Goldsturm grew sickly and a hardy Rudbeckia fulgida var. deamii took its place.

Scott Aker the arboretum head of Horticulture and education said, "What this garden and this movement did for perennials is truly amazing.— Sue says "let's go visit".

## Environment and Conservation Report—by Phyllis Rambo

Maryland is the first state with gas deposits to enact a total ban on hydraulic fracturing, or ‘fracking’. Although this primarily affects the western part of the state there are several significant gas deposits under the Chesapeake Bay and the coastal and piedmont areas, so this was an important win for the entire state.

Our state is the second to enact a ban on the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics in agriculture. Unnecessary use of these antibiotics in our food sources contributes to antibiotic resistant infections and threatens our waterways through agricultural run-off.

The Keeping State Pollinator Habitats Free of Pollinator Killing Pesticides bill does just that. This bill closes a loop-hole in the Pollinator Protection Act passed last year which would have allowed state agencies to use neonicotinoids and other pesticides harmful to pollinators in designated pollinator habitat areas.

The legislature also overrode the governor’s veto of the 2016 Clean Energy Jobs Act which expands the states commitment to purchase renewable energy.

The 2018 session of the General Assembly convenes in January and this chair will follow environmental issues and update clubs as appropriate.

There are a several upcoming opportunities to learn more about our environment and I urge our members to take advantage of some of them.

The FGCMDC Environmental Council will be offering ‘The Living Earth’, Course 1 of the Environmental Studies School, at Cylburn Arboretum on September 26 and 27. Participants can attend one or both days. The course schedule and registration are on the FGCMDC website.

This weekend, Adkins Arboretum will hold their fall native plant sale Friday through Sunday, and Environmental Concern in St. Michaels native plant sale will be Friday and Saturday. EC will have a Friday workshop on ‘Monarch Rearing’ and on Saturday they will present ‘Late Season Nectar Sources for Monarchs’. Information on both can be found on their websites, and pre-registration is required for the EC workshops.

Jim Brighton, son of Dorchester Garden Club member Jane Brighton, and co-founder of the Maryland Biodiversity Project will speak at Adkins Arboretum on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Projects goal is to catalog all species in the state and since it’s inception in 2012 they have cataloged over 17,000 species.

Adkins is also offering a monarch tagging event on September 30<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to join Arboretum naturalists in tagging monarchs as they stop for rest and nectar during their migration south to Mexico and to learn how to protect monarch habitat in your backyard or community.

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> Adkins will hold their fall garden tour, ‘Celebrating Natives’. This year’s tour covers Talbot County and Oxford Garden Club’s Marie Davis’ garden will be included.

Finally, this chair requests input from the board and all clubs on what type of information and programs they would be interested in related to conservation and the environment. Please email me with suggestions and requests.



### Autumn Poem:

"In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November."

- Rose G. Kingsley, *The Autumn Garden*, 1905

## Rare and Endangered Maryland plants – by Sarah Ramsey.

For a comprehensive list of native Maryland plants that are among the least understood, the rarest, and the most in need of conservation efforts, see [http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants\\_wildlife/rte/rteplants.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/rte/rteplants.aspx) . The list includes species occurring in Maryland that are on the federal list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), species currently on the State's Threatened and Endangered Species list, and additional species that are considered rare or under assessment by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The list was recently updated and is by county, so you review a list for Talbot.

New Restrictions on Two Invasive Plants. Invasive plants are at the opposite side of the plant spectrum, not being rare but rather aggressively taking over space from native plants. The Maryland Invasive Species Council has been reviewing invasive species to determine which ones are particularly problematic. It has developed two categories of plants, using a scientific weed risk assessment protocol Tier 1 plants may not be sold in Maryland. Tier 2 may be sold in Maryland, but must be labeled as invasive so that consumers will know what they are buying. *Nandina domestica* (heavenly bamboo) and *Cytisus scoparius* (Scotch broom) were recently added to Tier 2. Additional Tier 2 plants are :

*Euonymus alatus* (burning bush)

*Ligustrum obtusifolium* (blunt-leaved or border privet)

*Wisteria sinensis* (Chinese wisteria)

*Wisteria floribunda* (Japanese wisteria)

*Wisteria x formosa* (floribunda x sinensis hybrids)

For more information, see [http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland\\_invasive\\_plants\\_prevention\\_and\\_control.aspx](http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx)

## Remember our fallen US veterans, Honor those who serve Teach your children the value of freedom” by Luan Madary

Oxford Garden Club is asking you to support "Wreath's Across America" (WAA) again this year. The goal is to cover all grave of our men and women who served and died for our country.

\$15.00 for 1

\$30.00 for 2

\$75 for 5

\$150.00 for 10

For every 2 wreath's purchased WAA will donate another wreath. Check's will be made out to OGC and one check will be written. We then forward to District I and they will be sent together along with the other garden clubs. This will give us the advantage of the extra wreaths. Please send your check to PO Box 674, Oxford, MD 21654 or drop by my house, 217 S. Morris ST., Oxford, MD and put in the basket by the front door. Date to get to me is November 15. I then will forward to District 1.

Wreaths will be placed on graves at Hurlock Veteran's cemetery on Saturday, December 16th, the exact time will be announced later. Please mark your calendar and plan to join in this event. For more information please contact Luann Madary 410 226-5551.



## Flower Show Tips—by Susie Middleton

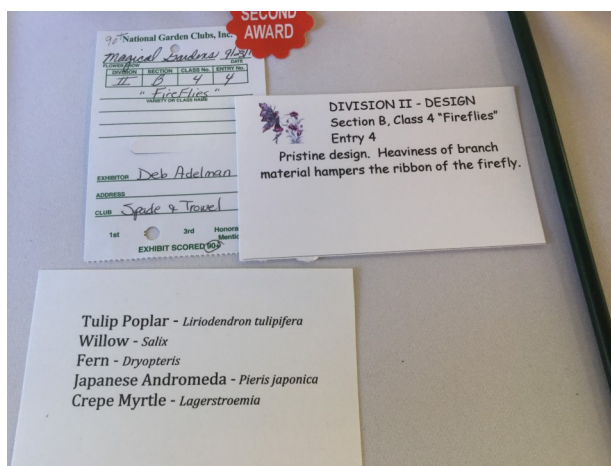
I recently judged a flower show at Longwood Gardens. They had several ideas I thought clubs could use.

1. When the schedule was mailed there was a color coded dot on the front pasted on the cover with the names of the other judges on my panel. Mine was blue.
2. Inside they had highlighted all of my judging assignments

The day of the show they announced our clerks would all be dressed in blue – the color for my panel

Some great ideas, but like most - there was a flaw or two in execution.....my clerks were all in hot pink!

Lastly, they took the judges' comments on designs and typed them up to make them easier to read.



## Something from our 2017 Garden Tour

Here is a photo of a repurposed item that was bought at the "Garden Shed" during our 2017 Garden Tour. Just amazing what folks can do with our old treasures. The settee is now in the back yard garden in Easton of Ginna Tiernan.



## Oxford Garden Club Annual Garden Party—by Marie Davis

Into everyone's life a wee bit of rain must fall. So, on Thursday, July 6 that really did happen. The hostess of the party, Dorothy Williams, bravely decided to go ahead with the party despite the rain. After all, we are gardeners and do appreciate that rain helps our flowers, trees, plants, and vegetables flourish. Everyone had a wonderful time and the rain actually did stop so that we could have a group photo. Members and guests all appreciated the work that went into putting the Garden Party together. Many thanks to Dorothy and Dick.



Oxford Garden Club receives National Garden Clubs, Inc. Award.

This is a first for our Club. Congratulations to everyone for a job well done.



## Federated Garden Clubs of MD District I Flower Show by Marie Davis

Members of OGC participated at all levels of the District I Flower Show by serving on committees, as clerks, entering photography, table designs, flower designs, and horticulture. The theme “A Blast from the Past” allowed many of us the opportunity to dress up in the fashion of the time. Lots of fun and a beautiful show was enjoyed by Club members and visitors alike. These photos are general and do not reflect all the OGC entries.



The Grapevine is published February, June, and October and produced by Marie Davis  
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