



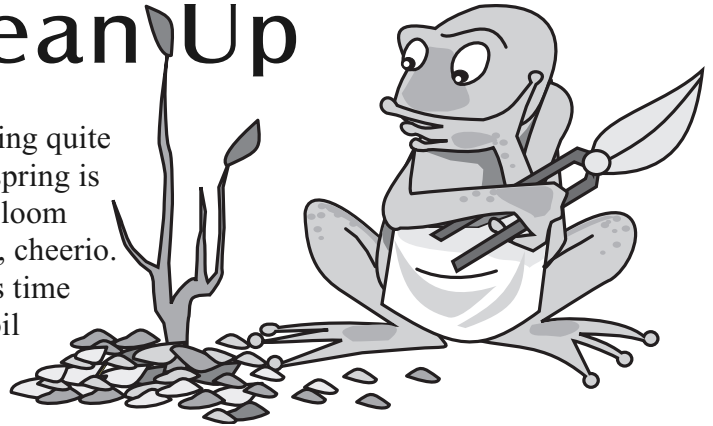
Gardenline

SPRING

2013

Spring CleanUp

THOUGH ALL FOUR SEASONS have their benefits, nothing quite compares to the first, warm spring day. We know spring is here when bluebells light the woods, ephemerals bloom beneath bare branches, and robins sing cheerily, cheeriup, cheerio. For gardeners who see endless potential in soggy soil, it's time to get our hands dirty once again. Preparing plants and soil for a bountiful season of growth means starting early, before summer heat taxes our bodies and our landscapes.



Hopefully, gardeners think about four seasons of interest, but it's understandable if spring chores get the bulk of our attention. Focusing on the overall health of the garden in spring can ensure a long season of growth. First, walk around and take in the long view of the landscape. Are shrubs and perennials overgrown? Are there dead branches that should be pruned? Winter snow and ice can take its toll on trees and shrubs. Before pruning, sharpen and clean garden tools. Clean, sharp tools prevent the spread of disease and make quick work of gnarly branches.

Start by pruning branches that pose a danger to people, or to the health of the plant. If grasses and other herbaceous perennials were left standing in fall, prune them to the ground once you begin to see new growth. Shrub roses may be pruned back to two feet in early March, or even late February. Evergreen and semi-evergreen perennials, such as hellebores, heuchera, and epimedium can be trimmed to remove unsightly foliage and encourage new growth. Remove and

compost any annuals still in the ground. Push mulch away from emerging perennials, so they get air and sunlight.

When pruning woody shrubs, note whether they bloom on new or old growth. Plants that bloom on last year's growth should not be pruned before they flower. These include: azalea, bridal wreath spirea, lilac, mountain laurel, serviceberry, hydrangea, beautybush, magnolia, and weigela. Prune these plants, if they need it, after they've bloomed. It is a good idea to prune and shape dormant trees and shrubs that will bloom on new growth, if necessary for the health of the plant, or for esthetics. Plants to prune before they bloom include: *Spirea japonica*, abelia, dogwood, and redbud.

Spring is a great time to prepare soil for new plants by spreading composted leaves and an organic weed preventer, such as corn gluten. Take note of particularly soggy or dry areas and consider soil amendments for moisture control later in the season. A soil test is always helpful in determining what types of

amendments to add. Placing soaker hoses in garden beds before plants emerge and mulch is in place will ensure that your plants receive the right amount of water. A timer attached to the spigot is enormously helpful in directing water through the garden on the hottest days. To conserve water, attend one of the rain barrel making workshops offered by Fairfax County Extension.

If you love fresh, organic vegetables and herbs, start a kitchen garden in a raised bed or sunny area of your yard. Prepare your soil with equal amounts of decomposed manure, humus, and garden soil. Plant peas, potatoes, kale, radishes, onions, carrots, pak choy, spinach, and lettuce in late March. Consider starting tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant in indoors, under lights.

Finally, make sure you have a quiet place to rest and contemplate your garden. 🌻

Brenda Kouyoumdjian
Green Spring Master
Gardener



Manager's Message



SUBTLE FRAGRANCE is a calling card for winter walks, and many witch hazels have their name on that card. More than 160 witch hazels beckon you to visit Green Spring Gardens during their peak bloom season, January through March.

We simply call her 'Jelena,' as in, "Did you see 'Jelena' in the parking lot?" She is beautiful decked out in her copper-colored fringe. A reliable bloomer and stunning. 'Jelena's full name is *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena', and she's a hybrid witch hazel whose parents, *H. mollis* and *H. japonica*, are of Asian origin. She has greeted visitors in our garden since 1996. However, fragrance is not her thing.



To beguile you with a sweet fragrance, can we entice you to walk west of the Historic House? In the grove nestled between the House and the path to the ponds, you'll find a fine collection of more than 20 witch hazels. The Chinese witch hazels are among the most fragrant, and here two yellow witch hazels won't disappoint, *H. mollis* 'Early Bright' and *H. mollis* 'Kort's Yellow.'

Among the witch hazels, the strap-like petals and cup-like calyx both contribute to the color effect. The color ranges include yellows, oranges, reds and purples. The combinations, such as red blending to yellow found in *H. intermedia* 'Feuerzauber' and purple blending to cream found in *H. intermedia* 'Strawberries and Cream,' add intrigue and depth.

The impetus to develop a strong collection of witch hazels came with our successful application to the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC) project. Through this project, 65-member gardens focus on a particular group of plants, providing a documented repository of plant types for that particular group. We specialize in witch hazels.

The witch hazel collection started with a gift of 6 witch hazels from the Chapel Square Garden Club in Annandale. In our collection we now have selections from all the *Hamamelis* species, including the native eastern witch hazel, *H. virginiana* and the Ozark witch hazel, *H. vernalis*, and many of their hybrids. Our collection of varieties of the well-known Asian hybrid, *H. intermedia* will soon top 100 specimens.

For many of you that I see regularly strolling the garden in the winter months, you know how the witch hazel beckons, furling and unfurling its petals as the day warms and emitting a come hither fragrance. If it has been a while since you visited, let our witch hazels be the calling card that brings you back to explore. ♻️

Mary Olien, Park Manager

Gardenline

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If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days before the event.



Volunteer Tribute

My tribute to volunteers is inspired by the humorous poem by Scottish comedian Billy Connolly, in which he extolls the virtues of the Wellington boot.

*If it wasn't for your wellies where would you be
You'd be in the hospital or infirmary
'Cause you would have a dose of the flu or even
pleurisy*

If you didn't have your feet in your wellies

~ Excerpt from "The Welly Boot Song" by Billy Connolly

Ode to Our Volunteers

If it wasn't for our volunteers where would we be?

We'd be in the hospital or infirmary

'Cause we'd be faint with overwork, I think we all agree

If we didn't have our volunteers to help us.

If it wasn't for our volunteers where would we be?

We'd be stuck with 40 thirsty guests all clamoring for tea

And tons of washing-up to do and no one there but me
If we didn't have our volunteers to help us.

If it wasn't for our volunteers where would we be?
We'd have no help maintaining our historic property

We'd be at the tender mercies of the Park Authority!
If we didn't have our volunteers to help us.

If we didn't have our volunteers where would we be?
We'd have tours without a docent to impart our history
To inspire our guests with passion....or identify that tree

If we didn't have our volunteers to help us.

If it wasn't for our volunteers where would we be?
Without a source of bonhomie and creativity
And there'd just be less enjoyment and conviviality!
If we didn't have our volunteers to help us.

So, I say to you in earnest and with deep sincerity.....

We can't do without our wellies on a day that's wet and rainy

We can't do without our volunteers on ANY day, so help me.



*Debbie Waugh
Historic House Coordinator*



Photo by Kathy Trichel; all rights reserved

Green Spring Welcomes New Volunteer Coordinator

MEEETING KRISTINE MOSUELA is a real delight. As Green Spring Gardens' new volunteer coordinator, Kristine Mosuela has already made her mark. Using her excellent communication, computer and Internet skills, Kristine is keeping her Green Spring audience informed, active, and enthusiastic.

Kristine has been interested in environmental issues as long as she can remember. She comes to her love of the environment naturally; both parents are avid gardeners. A Virginia resident since childhood, Kristine is a graduate of Centreville High School and a 2011 graduate of the College of William and Mary. During college Kristine was involved in numerous service organizations, such as the Circle K International, the Filipino-American Student Association and the Student Organization For Medical Outreach and Sustainability (SOMOS: Spanish for "we are"). Although she graduated with a degree in international relations, Kristine decided that she wanted to pursue a career in civil, environmental, or water resources engineering. After college graduation she began taking prerequisite courses at NOVA for a master's degree in engineering.

Kristine also began an internship at NOVA Soil and Water Conservation District which perfectly reflects her specialized interest in environmental and water engineering and led to her current Green Spring job.

Commenting on her new job, Kristine notes, "My skill set meets my interests." Her talents weave beautifully with her understanding of Green Spring's needs. She hopes to see more youth volunteers and actively encourages volunteer involvement of all ages in the numerous Green Spring activities. Part of Kristine's work at Green Spring is that of FROGS membership coordinator; she is eager for your comments on "what FROGS can do to help you." Contact her at Green Spring 703-642-5173 or Kristine.Mosuela@fairfaxcounty.gov.

In what little spare time she has between work and

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Green Spring Library Resources

THE LIBRARY in the Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Center has a vast array of useful resources for the gardening public of Fairfax County.

The horticulture library houses over 3100 gardening books on a range of subjects. You will find a book on just about any subject that deals with home gardening or landscaping horticulture. At this time of year, some of the volumes most used by the Green Spring staff are those about trees, shrubs and evergreens written by Michael Dirr: *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs*, and *Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees & Shrubs*.

A revolving kiosk contains handouts on a variety of seasonal subjects written by specialists from the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) as well as selected other state extension services. These handouts are designed to provide home gardeners with eco savvy, easy-to-follow, and helpful instructions on various aspects of planting and garden maintenance.

One of the best resources of the library is the cadre of dedicated library volunteers. The library is usually staffed by Green Spring master gardeners on Friday, Saturday and

Sunday afternoons. These volunteers are just waiting to help the public take advantage of the resources of the library.

The Green Spring library is not a circulating library and is not affiliated with the Fairfax County library system. The Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) generously support and sustain the library through their used-book sale. Donations of gently used gardening books are welcome.

If you have questions about the Green Spring Garden library, please contact the librarian, Anita Johnson at anita.johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Anita Johnson
Librarian



Opens Saturday, April 6

Make sure you stop at Green Spring's Garden Gate Plant Shop for our opening weekend. We guarantee that you will find interesting and unusual plants to take home for your garden.

Our spring ephemerals include gorgeous yellow wood poppies, bloodroot, charming Virginia bluebells and native *Pachysandra*. We have several types of native ferns, including sensitive, cinnamon, and ostrich ferns and the ever popular *Spigelia marilandica*.

We'll have an expanded selection of salvia taken from cuttings here at Green Spring so you can grow some of these tough beauties in your gardens. Other sun lovers include *Paeonia* 'Coral Charm', *Leucanthe-*

mum 'Banana Crème', *Lobelia* 'Fan Scarlet', *Echinacea* 'Red Knee High', and the lovely *Baptisia* 'Blueberry Sundae'.

For shady spots, try the new yellow toad lily, *Tricyrtis* 'Golden Festival', or several lovely hostas selected for smaller gardens. Consider *Astilbe* 'White Gloria' or 'Glow', *Brunnera* 'Emerald Mist', and the favorite *Pulmonaria* 'Raspberry Splash' to brighten your shade garden. And be sure to include an *epimedium* for those dry, shady areas. We'll have 'Orange Queen', 'Lilafee', and rubrum available.

We've got a great selection of woody plants for both sun and shade. And several of them are perfect for a smaller yard. Try out the new *Cotinus coggygria* 'Young Lady', a lovely dwarf with white inflorescence, or perhaps one of the smaller magnolias, 'Ann' or 'Henry Hicks'. We've got many hydrangeas including 'Little Lime', and 'Little Honey' for smaller spots. We are very pleased to offer the difficult to

find cultivars, 'Munchkin' and 'Ruby Slippers', developed by the National Arboretum. These small beauties are perfect for foundation plantings or in the border. *Physocarpus* 'Coppertina' has gorgeous coppery foliage, and *Itea* 'Little Henry' and *Ilex* 'Red Sprite' are both perfect for small yards. And for flowers with power, we've got the delightful *Chaenomeles* 'Orange Storm', and Knock Out roses in red and pink. In addition to lovely blooms, we have a great selection of organic herbs from Lavender Fields near Richmond. We will also have pots of mixed lettuces and greens to cut and enjoy.

See you in April!

Garden Gate Plant Shop open
Monday–Saturday 9:00–4:00
Sunday 12:00–4:00



Judy Zatsick
Propagation Horticulturist
Lori Hixson,
Plant Shop Manager

A Hidden History and Green Spring Gardens

THE SUMMERS FAMILY CEMETERY is located just over 2 miles from Green Spring Gardens, off Beauregard Street in a new development of homes and surrounded by large evergreens. Although it's not easy to spot nowadays, the cemetery is worth seeing because it's an important part of the history of Green Spring Gardens.

The Summers family of Fairfax descended from Sir George Summers, who commanded the Sea Venture, one of the ships that brought the Jamestown colony in 1607. John Summers was born in Maryland in 1688; he came to Virginia as a young man and built a cabin on the Potomac where the city of Alexandria now stands. He cared so little about the acquisition of land that he refused a deed from the patentee for that land and exchanged the land for a rifle.

Although John Summers felt that land was too plentiful to buy, in 1739 he and George Harrison patented 846 acres from Thomas Lord Fairfax, the British proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia, which included Alexandria. The land was equally divided between them in 1768. In a 1785 deposition John states that he and his wife moved four miles west of Alexandria, where he built a house of logs, weatherboard, and plaster and called it Cottage Farm. The area was known as Summer Groves. Southwest of the house was the family burial ground reserved by a perpetual deed.

Fairfax County at one time listed John Summers as the oldest resident of record; he lived to the age of 102. Summers deeded tracts of his land to each of his five sons, but none to his five daughters. The homestead

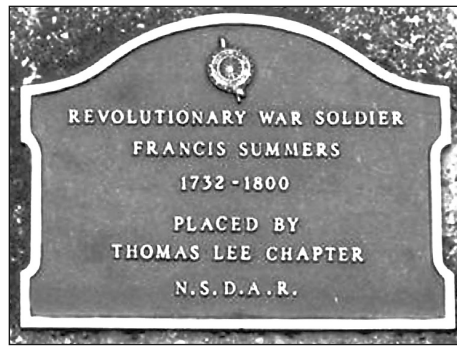


Photo by Jay Kelly; all rights reserved

was deeded to Francis Summers, who sold his land to Dr. Elisha Dick, one of the consulting physicians during George Washington's final illness. Francis Summers fought in the Revolutionary War. He and his wife are buried alongside his father, and his grave has been marked with a bronze plaque from the Thomas Lee Chapter of the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution.)

John Summers deeded the part of his patent that later helped formed Green Spring to his son Daniel. Daniel owned the land until he sold it to John Moss in 1777. John Moss added to the acreage and built the existing Historic House at Green Spring Gardens in 1784.

Although private property, the cemetery has long been used as a burial place for the neighborhood, leaving only a portion of it to the rightful owners. The cemetery contains some formal monuments and numerous footstones that mark the graves of twenty-six people. Depressions and other evidence suggest the presence of additional unmarked, or no longer marked, burials. Late into the Civil War the house was occupied by the Federal army and used as a hospital and a brigade headquarters, leaving both the house and burial site in a dilapidated condition. Many of the headstones were taken by the soldiers to be used as hearthstones in barracks

and tents, and others were ruthlessly destroyed.

A few years ago the sandstone headstones of Francis Summers and his wife Jane were vandalized, but now remain safely in storage at the James Lee Community Center, which houses the Fairfax County Cultural Resource Office. The Cultural Resource Protection team inventories documents and protects and interprets the county's historic and archaeological resources. It currently holds more than three million carefully preserved artifacts. The headstones will remain in storage until they can be properly remounted in the graveyard.

The new housing development carries a bit of the history forward, being named "Cottage Farms." A paved path leads to the wrought iron fence directly behind the pine trees that encloses this hidden and historic cemetery. Here lie the remains of the first American owner of the land which is now Green Spring Gardens.



Dotty Stahl



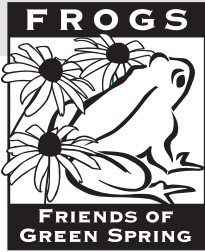
KRISTINE

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school, Kristine enjoys rock climbing and running among a multitude of activities. She is also developing her interest in cooking, undoubtedly inspired by the wonderful vegetables and herbs she sees cultivated in Green Spring's gardens.

Get to know Kristine at your earliest opportunity. You will find her to be a multi-talented, delightful and energetic addition to the Green Spring family. 🌸

Sunny Greene



Talk

Susan Voss, FROGS President

A new year, . . .

. . . a new board and new plans for 2013. But before looking forward, we need to take a look back at 2012. First and foremost was the leadership of our president Clint Fields, whose ideas and enthusiasm brought the board a renewed sense of commitment. As the new president, I am delighted that Clint will continue as our vice president. As for membership, three valued members have left the board – Judy Hilton, Camille Reilly and Bruce Nash. The hours that Judy spent as treasurer kept us on track, and her willingness to ask the hard question kept us on our toes. As our events chair, Camille has done more than anyone to make events such as the Gardeners' Holiday not only a success but also remembered occasions. Finally, Bruce Nash, a horticulture professor at NVCC whose skills teaching floral design classes at Green Spring as well as donating his efforts to Gardener's Holidays were extraordinary. Bruce is slowly recovering from a serious illness. We wish him a successful recovery. These board members will be sorely missed, but fortunately we have gained three exemplary new members, Julie Mendoza, Sandra Reichert, and Bevan Shimizu.

Despite the economy FROGS members' generous contributions to the annual appeal resulted in raising over \$16,000, which will be used to support the Frances M. Tyler Children's Education Fund. As you know, this fund provides scholarships for Title 1 school children to participate in field trips to Green Spring Gardens. On behalf of the

board, thank you for making this opportunity available to so many.

Speaking of the economy, it appears that Green Spring Gardens will not be affected by the proposed FY 2014 Fairfax County budget. We will keep a careful eye on the proposals, not only for the FY 2014 budget but FY 2015 as well.

In October 2012, the board held its first ever retreat to develop plans for the future. We identified five "organizational priorities" - communication and cooperation with Green Spring staff; finance; marketing; ed-

ucation; planning – and established committees to further those priorities. In the months ahead the committees will be setting goals and action plans to implement these priorities. We all came away from the retreat full of ideas and enthusiasm for moving ahead.

Among the plans for 2013 is the FROGS 20th anniversary celebration, which we will combine with the summer concert on June 26th. Save the date as it promises to be a memorable event. Other dates to note are the Garden Gate Plant Shop opening, Saturday garden markets beginning on April 6, and the BIG Spring Plant Sale on May 18. We look forward to seeing you at these events and thank you again for your continued involvement and support of FROGS and Green Spring Gardens. 🌱



ART SHOWS FOR SPRING AT GREEN SPRING

February 25 through April 29

CAROLYN GROSSÉ returns to display her splendid watercolors in the Horticulture Center multipurpose room as well as the atrium.

STEPHEN GAWARECKI exhibits his photography on the Horticulture Center ramp.

Reception for both artists is April 7. Their combined show is entitled "Duo IV".

CONCETTA SCOTT returns to the Historic House to highlight a variety of her talents in watercolor, alkyds and pastels. Reception to be held March 3.

April 29 through June 1

POTOMAC VALLEY WATERCOLOR SOCIETY displays their always-appreciated talents throughout the Horticulture Center as well as the Historic House. Reception to be held May 5.

Be sure to include time enjoying the art during your next visit to Green Spring.

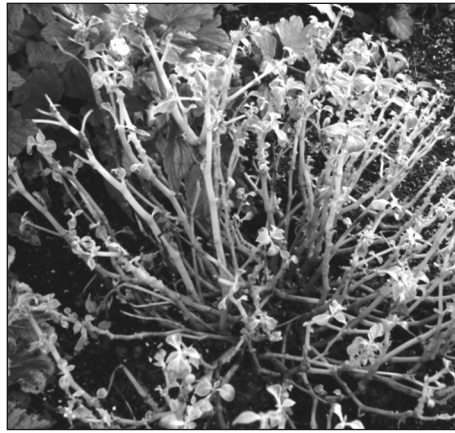
A Growing Problem

ONE OF AMERICA'S favorite annuals, *Impatiens walleriana*, has become the target of a destructive foliar disease sweeping the nation called Impatiens Downy Mildew. It is caused by a fungus-like microorganism called *Plasmopara obducens*. This pathogen is not easy to detect in its early stages so by the time you notice it, it's likely to have infected all of your impatiens. Warning signs of the pathogen are:

- stunted growth
- off color light green leaves
- white downy-like growth on undersides of leaves
- downward curling of leaves
- leaf and flower drop
- complete stem collapse

Impatiens Downy Mildew is specific to *I. walleriana*. It does not affect New Guinea impatiens or SunPatiens and it cannot infect other garden plants. There is no evidence that the pathogen is transmitted by seed. Caused by the water mold *Plasmopara obducens*, it thrives in cool, moist, humid conditions. It is spread by wind currents, water splash, and movement of infected plants. Spores of this disease have been shown to travel up to 600 miles in 48 hours. Short lived dispersal spores (zoospores) are produced in the downy-like growth on the undersides of leaves and will invade leaf tissue and begin an infection. They do not overwinter but will spread by wind. Resting, survival spores (oospores) form inside infected leaves and stems and are released into the soil as the plant debris decays. The oospores may survive for several years, so do not plant impatiens in the same garden bed or container if you had a problem.

Nurserymen and plant pathologists do not believe infected plants



are knowingly being shipped and sold, and are trying desperately to control and eliminate the disease before it even leaves the green houses. If you plan on growing them or if you had the problem last year, good garden sanitation is important. Do

not compost infected plants, place them in a plastic bag and throw away. Soil in containers should be discarded and the containers and tools washed with a 10% Clorox solution. Do not plant impatiens in the same place as last year. Remember this is an aggressive disease. Once it starts it is a death sentence for your plants.

The best way to avoid a recurrence is to plant something else. Maybe it's time to try something new. Here are a few tried and true annuals that will take some shade: begonias, coleus, New Guinea impatiens, torenias, iresines, and alternantheras. 🌸

Nancy Olney
Horticulturist



County supervisor Penny Gross receives an "I'm A Frog" bumper sticker from Clint Fields.

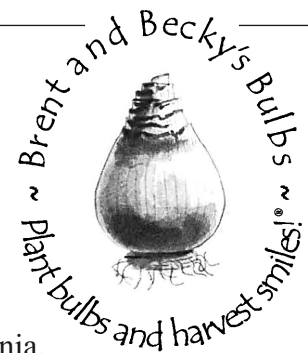
Advertising your support of FROGS

There's a happy new green FROGS bumper sticker available for FROGS members to display on car or bike bumpers. **FREE** at the Horticultural Center front desk. Pick one up today and proudly show your support.

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs Continues

Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, Virginia, is continuing the FROGS fundraising program. Order bulbs, or anything else from Brent and Becky's Bulbs, and they will donate 25% of the payment to FROGS.

Simply log on to bloominbucks.com, click on the drop-down box, scroll down to select Friends of Green Spring Gardens and then enter the online catalog. You'll get a superb selection of garden items and help support Green Spring Gardens at the same time.





Gardenline

Green Spring Gardens • 4603 Green Spring Road • Alexandria, VA 22312

Gardener's Holiday

All photos courtesy of Kathy Trichel.

