



Gardenline

FALL

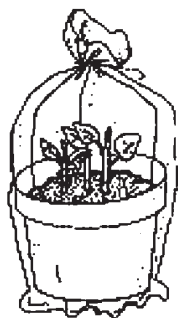
2014

LAST CHANCE FOR CUTTINGS

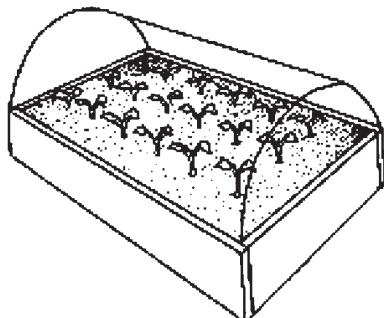
THIS YEAR, consistent summer rainfall resulted in large and beautiful plants in our gardens. Most of the tender plants that you enjoy at Green Spring as well as the splendid array of hardy salvias throughout the park are produced through cuttings. The propagation polyhouse is rapidly filling with cuttings that we have been taking over the last few months. Although fall is well underway, you can still propagate many of your favorite plants for next year too. It's not too late to take cuttings of coleus, salvia, cuphea, lantana, alternanthera, pelargonium, chrysanthemums, dahlias and more. However, cool nights tend to cause stems to become woody and tropicals begin to sulk, so don't procrastinate!

A greenhouse is not necessary for successful propagation by stem cuttings but maintaining high humidity around the cuttings is crucial. If you are rooting only a few cuttings of your favorite plants, you can use a large plastic flower pot. However, if you have heavy or large stemmed plants, you may want to use clay to provide more stability.

Maintain high humidity by covering the pot with a bottomless milk jug or by placing the pot into a clear plastic bag. Cuttings can also be placed in plastic trays covered with clear plastic stretched over a wire frame. The plastic will help keep the humidity high and reduce water loss from the cuttings. Make sure that all pots and trays have holes in the bottoms for drainage.



Flower pot with plastic bag



Tray with wire hoop

Taking Cuttings

Take cuttings from healthy, disease-free plants, preferably from the upper part of the plant. Try to obtain plant material from this season's growth. Avoid material with flower buds if possible. If that is not possible, remove any flowers and flower buds so that energy can be used to produce new roots rather than flowers. The condition and health of the stock or parent plant can influence rooting. Avoid taking cuttings from plants that show symptoms of mineral or nutrient deficiency. Plants that have been fertilized heavily, particularly with nitrogen, may not root well. Avoid leggy stems. The stock plant should not be under moisture stress. In general, cuttings taken from young plants root better than cuttings taken from more mature plants. Also, cuttings from lateral shoots often root better than cuttings from terminal shoots.

It's best to take cuttings in the morning, because the plant is fully turgid. Keep the cuttings cool and moist until they are stuck. An ice chest or dark plastic bag with wet paper towels may be used to store cuttings while you work. If there will be a delay in sticking cuttings, it's best to keep them in a plastic bag in the refrigerator.

Take cuttings that are 3 to 5 inches long. Use a sharp knife or pruning shears. If necessary, dip the cutting tool in rubbing alcohol or a mixture of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water to prevent transmitting diseases from infected plant parts to healthy ones.

Remove the leaves from the lower one-third to one-half of the cutting. On large-leaved plants, the remaining leaves may be cut in half to reduce water loss and conserve space.

For best results, use a rooting hormone powder. Rooting hormone powder is available at garden centers and big box stores. Put a small amount of rooting powder on a flat container—we use coffee can lids—to prevent contamination of the entire bottle. Discard any

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Manager's Message



Interns and Internships Are Valuable

THINK BACK on those experiences you had in your youth that influenced your career choices today. Was there an early employment experience that brought you where you are today?

For me there was a federal government internship program for high school students at the United States Department of Agriculture in Beltsville working with the well-known medicinal herbs expert, Dr. Jim Duke, that started me on the path toward agriculture. That connection led to three years employment with the Seed Research Lab in Beltsville as an undergraduate co-operative education student. Although I never pursued a career in agricultural research, that employment experience certainly influenced the career path I took.

This summer we were fortunate to have six student interns. In the Winter 2014–15 issue of *Gardenline* you will get a chance to hear from some of them directly. Not likely to come through in their descriptions is the generosity of our local community that enables us to offer this program. This year three and a half of our internship positions were supported by you, the members of FROGS. Your generosity in renewing your memberships and attending Green Spring Gardens events has enabled us to host a horticulture intern, Holly Miller; a children's

education intern, Zeinab Safi; a historic resources intern (this winter); and half of a rock garden horticulture intern, Victoria Neff. The other half of the rock garden internship is supported by the North American Rock Garden Society, Potomac Valley Chapter.

Other community partners have contributed to host our other interns. The Virginia Native Plant Society, Potowmack Chapter has supported the native plant garden intern, Allison Hay. The Exxon-Mobil Community Summer Jobs program offers a competitive grant program to fund an intern.

We were fortunate to win, once again, one of these grants to support our farmers market intern, Sarah Liu. Less than 4 miles from Green Spring Gardens is a shady enclave of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias known as the White Gardens. With generous support from the Azalea Society of America, Northern Virginia Chapter, the White Gardens intern, Ashlan Smith, filled our newest intern position.

Just as my early employment helped shape my career, I hope that the generous support from our community will not only help Green Spring Gardens advance, but also foster success among the interns who have begun their careers with us. 🌸

Mary Olien
Park Manager



Gardenline

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Contributions? Comments?
The editorial staff would like to hear from you.

Please contact us through

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Alexandria, VA 22312

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703-642-5173

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

Last Chance for Cuttings

Continued from page 1

powder that you do not use; don't return it to the original container. Be sure to tap the cuttings to remove excess powder before sticking the cutting.

The rooting medium should be sterile, low in fertility, and well-drained to provide sufficient aeration. It should also retain enough moisture so that watering does not have to be done too frequently. Here at Green Spring, we use coarse builder sand. A 50 pound bag can be purchased at a hardware store and can be used for cuttings, making soil mixes, and on ice on your driveway. Don't use white play sand; it is too fine. Alternatively, a mixture of one part peat and one part perlite, or one part peat and one part sand works well too. Vermiculite by itself is not recommended, because it compacts and tends to hold too much moisture. Media should be kept moist while being used.



Dip the stem in the rooting hormone, and insert the cuttings one-third to one-half their length into the medium. It is important to maintain the vertical orientation of the stem. Check the direction of the buds to ensure they are pointed upward. Space cuttings just far enough apart to allow all leaves to receive sunlight. Water well after inserting the cuttings to ensure good contact with the medium. Finally, cover the cuttings with plastic and place in indirect light. Avoid direct sun. Keep the medium moist until the cuttings have rooted. Rooting



FROGS Talk

Susan Voss, FROGS President

SUMMER may be almost over, but not for gardeners. You've heard it before—fall is the best time for planting, especially woody plants and perennials. What better time to fill in your garden with plants that will be established for next year than at our Fall Garden Day on Saturday, September 13th. In addition to many regional plant vendors, we will again feature an exciting silent auction with something for everyone, as well as the ever popular bake sale, live music and food. This is one of FROGS' main fund raising events, and one we hope you will support. See the insert for details.

Speaking of fund raising and garden days, FROGS netted over \$17,000 from Spring Garden Day in May, our best ever. Many thanks to the volunteers who made this such a success and to those who joined the over 2,000 attendees who braved the crowds (and parking) to shop.

will be improved if the cuttings are misted on a regular basis.

If you keep your house cool, you may want to use a heating pad turned down very low to speed things up. Make sure you check the moisture level of the medium if you do as heat quickly dries it out. Rooting time varies with the type of cutting, the species being rooted, and environmental conditions. ☼

*Judy Zatsick
Propagation Horticulturist*

Thanks also to Cox Communications and their award of \$2,500 to FROGS and Clint Fields as a Cox Conserves Hero nominee. Despite the impressive response by our community, Clint was not the overall winner, but to be nominated at all is a reflection of Clint's ongoing service to Green Spring Gardens. He remains our "hero."

The first phase of the gazebo renovation is under way. The engineers, Burgess & Niple, have surveyed the site; next step is drawings of the patio, steps and ADA ramp. Construction will begin after Fall Garden Day.

This summer brought a long awaited addition to the garden with the new Beatrix Farrand mixed border behind the Historic House. Thanks to the Garden Club of Virginia, the border is now full of plants that typified Farrand's garden designs. Be sure to take a look.

Another feature that will be in the garden until frost is the southwest garden along the patio wall which is full of a variety of succulents. And don't miss the delightful paintings by Nancy Olney's volunteers that brighten up one of the townhouse gardens.

Looking ahead, FROGS annual meeting will be on Monday evening, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Horticulture Center. All FROGS members are encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity to not only hear about board activities and our plans for the future but also to question and comment and join committees. We look forward to seeing you there. ☼

Scotland's Independent Spirit

THIS FALL THE HISTORIC HOUSE offers a taste of Scotland's independent spirit (pun intended) with a Scotch whisky tasting program. By then we'll know something very important about Scotland's future because on September 18 Scots will go to the polls to answer yes or no to one simple question: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" It's a question that resonates with this Scottish expatriate and with the Scottish diaspora in our region, which ardently preserves and celebrates its Scottish heritage—a heritage steeped in scotch!

Scotland has put its stamp on Virginia: communities with Scottish namesakes are dotted across the state ... Airlie, Edinburg, Dumbarton, Dumfries, even a town named Scotland. Closer to home, Alexandria was founded by 18th century Scottish merchants and named for Scotsman John Alexander (1603–1677), who owned the land chosen for the city. John Carlyle (1720–1780), a leading landowner and political figure in Northern Virginia, was born in Annandale, a Scottish village after which Annandale, Virginia was named in 1830.

These Scots-Virginians had a fiercely independent spirit and an aversion to government regulation: the civic tradition of the Scottish Enlightenment helped to shape the American Revolution. These enlightened immigrants also had a great fondness for whisky which was eagerly embraced by their adopted homeland! Centuries earlier, Scots had perfected the art of distilling the smooth amber liquid that the ancient Celts first named *uisge beatha*, the "water of life." Today, Scotch whisky is a powerful symbol of Scottish history and culture.

Virginia also has a rich history of distilled spirits dating back to George Washington's successful whiskey distillery at Mount Vernon. But don't confuse "whiskey" with "whisky." Scots spell it without the "e"



Scotch Tasting Party

Saturday, November 8, 4-6pm
\$38 (Adults, 21 and over)

Register online at:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes
Program code: 290 402 3101

and the plurals are different too: while there are many "whiskeys" in America, only "whiskies" are made in Scotland, and only they may be called scotch.

After the Civil War, small distillers began hiding in the backwoods to avoid paying the high whiskey tax. Government agents were dispatched to destroy illegal stills, and so began the legendary battles between moonshiners and revenueurs. One of these revenueurs was Fountain Beattie who, during his ownership of Green Spring (1878–1914), was a revenue officer who raided moonshiners in the Blue Ridge Mountains. At the same time he lived up to his Scots-Irish surname and operated his own government licensed still in the Spring House, where he fermented and distilled ciders and brandies.

As revenueurs became more aggressive, violence and retribution ensued. Newspapers reported on dramatic raids, exciting—and often fatal—shoot outs, and stiff prison sentences for moonshiners. Fountain may have enjoyed the opportunity to relive his Civil War exploits as a guerilla-style raider alongside his friend John Mosby. But his post-war line of work may have cost him dearly. As his grandson Butler Beattie recalled: "One time when my grandfather was out looking for illegal stills someone burned his barn down." This probable act of retaliation ended his livestock operations at Green Spring and may have given Fountain a new take on a common saying of the time: "Where there's smoke, there's bound to be whiskey!"

Today across Virginia, artisan distillers are creating award-winning whiskeys, using the traditions of the craft that came here from Scotland. So raise your glasses to celebrate the *original* "water of life" of the Highlands – Scotch whisky – and its birthplace. And toast the proud independent spirit that's characterized the Scots for centuries. Whichever way the vote goes.



Debbie Waugh
Historic House Coordinator

A SPECTACULAR SPRING GARDEN DAY

See the details in FROGS Talk



Photo by Kathy Trichel



Birds and Bees in the Library



A popular 1965 song starts out, “Let me tell you ‘bout the birds and the bees,
And the flowers and the trees, And the moon up above,
And a thing called “Lo-o-ove.”



WHILE I CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THE MOON UP ABOVE and a thing called love, I can tell you where you can find out a lot about the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees ... the Green Spring Gardens library. Okay, brace yourself, it's time for the ‘birds and the bees’ talk.

The Green Spring Gardens horticulture library has a variety of titles on birds, bees, butterflies, bats and other beneficial pollinators and wildlife that make possible the spring-blooming flowers and trees. Several titles cover creating a pollinator-friendly habitat in your home garden.

Attracting Birds, Butterflies & Other Winged Wonders to Your Backyard by Kris Wetherbee is a colorful book covering the complete scope of attracting birds and butterflies—from starting small (with containers) to dreaming big (assessing your property with its assets and limitations) to advice on enjoying the show after you've gone to the trouble to attract birds, butterflies, and other winged wonders to your yard. I especially like the lists of suggested trees and shrubs, and recommended perennials and annuals. The chapters on providing food and simple water sources are helpful.

The Stokes Bird Gardening Book, by Donald & Lillian Stokes, bills itself as the complete guide to creating a bird-friendly habitat in your backyard. This comprehensive guide is illustrated with 300 color photographs as well as charts for various regions in North America and tells you all you need to know to transform your yard into a paradise for birds.

Keeping Bees in Towns & Cities by Luke Dixon is a recent addition to our library donated from

the Green Spring Gardens Amazon wish list. The cover states that this book is “A passionate call-to-arms for more city dwellers to keep bees. This book is good for bees, good for plants, and good for the planet!” *Keeping Bees* provides the practical essentials for the first year of beekeeping, from assembling a hive and reassuring neighbors to harvesting honey. Details include the various types of bees, choosing a hive, buying bees, as well as stings and how to avoid them. The requirements, challenges, and rewards of urban beekeeping are all laid out in an easy-to-read format.

Attracting Native Pollinators, edited by Debra Burns for the Xerces Society, is a step-by-step guide of tangible ways for people to take an active, vital part in changing our stewardship of the earth. The foreword quoted in part states: “By creating floral and nesting habitat, bees, butterflies and countless other wildlife species will prosper. By attracting native pollinators you will be ensuring an abundance of locally grown, nutritious fruits and vegetables, you will beautify our cities, roadways and countryside.” The book provides practical instructions for designing, planting, managing, and maintaining habitat sites and is a clarion call for stewardship, starting at the grass roots by taking the first step of planting flowers.

Not to be overlooked is “*Birds & Blooms*,” which is one of the top bird and garden magazines in America. *Birds & Blooms* regularly contains articles on attracting pollinators to your home garden. A recent cover story listed 10 most wanted butterflies and how to create a butterfly-friendly backyard that will attract the flutter of tiny wings. Beautiful pictures of birds and flower gardens are in every issue. By the way, back issues of B&B are included for sale on the FROGS used gardening books and magazines racks.

So you see, the Green Spring Gardens library has the real scoop on the birds and the bees. The Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Library is supported entirely through the generous funding of the Friends of Green Spring. The library's mission is to provide horticultural information to the gardening public through books and publications. ♻️

Anita Johnson
Past Librarian



Busy Summer/Fall for Children's Programs



This past summer set records for Children's programming—nine full weeks of children's camps and a record number of campers. We added two new camps to our repertoire—"All-American Girl Living Dolls Camp" and "Living Wild: Animal Investigations." For the first time we ran three full day (six hour) camps. While we have a few tall tales to tell, our camps went very well and brought many wonderful new families into the Green Spring orbit. Enough of summer—what of fall 2014?

This fall's programming offers a mix of old and new. Our September family program line-up includes Garden Sprouts "Sunflowers and Scarecrows" and a Family Fun "Autumn Cider Activity Walk," as well as scavenger hunts with scarecrows, sunflowers, and other harvest-themed surprises and treats. Let's Grow Garden Club will resume every two weeks starting in September for three gardening sessions.

In October Family Fun brings the ultimate outdoor quest game, geocaching, to Green Spring. Participants learn how to use GPS to locate hidden caches at Green Spring and around the world. No October would be complete without a "Pumpkin Party" for our Sprouts. Also debuting in October is our first children's program held at dusk—"Night Wings and Twilight Things." This program offers a guided walk and activities that reveal the park's most secretive inhabitants. Our fall tea party program focuses on the autumn gardens, with a floral arrangement activity. Scouting programs will get underway in October with Daisy "Between Earth and Sky" and Junior Gardener programs.

November's Children's Programs spotlight the bird which might have been our national mascot—the wild turkey. Join us as we track this wily bird through history and down Green Spring's paths in our "Little Gobblers" and "Turkey Hunt" Family Fun programs. November's Scouting programs guarantee autumn fun with Brownie Letterbox and Junior Geocache programs.

December's family programs are familiar favorites: Garden Sprout's "Excellent Evergreens" and Family Fun's "Winter Solstice" will take our families on a stroll through the winter landscape to appreciate conifers and hollies and create a holiday ornament to warm their homes.

Last but not least, autumn signals the return of school field trips. Thanks to FROGS' generosity, we will be ready—with new display boards, easels, and other teaching materials to enhance our programming. We are looking forward to a great year! ☼

Ann DiFiore

Children's Program Specialist

The Trackless Train will be at Green Spring on the afternoon of October 25 and on Gardeners Holiday.



Gingerbread House Contest Returns

A Gingerbread House contest will again be featured at Gardeners Holiday, Sunday December 7. There will be five categories: individual children twelve and under, individual teens, adult, family and groups. Further information, rules and a sign-up form can be obtained on the Green Spring Gardens web site or at the Horticulture Center.




Entry forms must be submitted by December 1. Don't wait until the deadline because only 40 entries will be accepted. Size will be limited to a house that will fit onto an 18" square board. Start now to draw your plans and check out recipes. Ribbons will be awarded to the winners and runners-up in each category. ☼



Art Shows Await Your Visit to Green Spring

From now through October 27, feast your eyes on the wonderful mixed media throughout the Horticulture Center and Historic House, courtesy of the Springfield Art Guild. There will be a reception for these returning favorites Sunday, September 7 from 1–3pm.

From October 28 through December 28 enjoy the splendid works of the following:

-  On the wall of the Horticulture Center ramp: photographer Chris Federson
-  In the main events room and the atrium: mixed media from Don Joseph Difore
-  In the Historic House: pastels and oils from Erika Ridgway

Receptions for all three artists will be held Sunday, November 2, from 1–3pm.

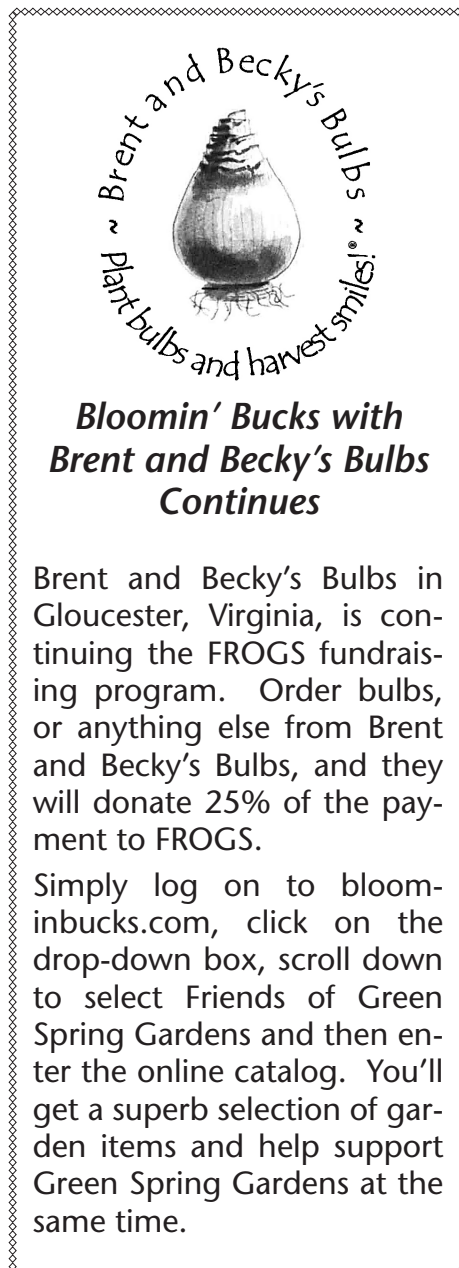
All of the artwork above is for sale and would make a special holiday gift!



Photo by Cox Communication; all rights reserved

HATS OFF TO CLINT FIELDS

See the details in FROGS Talk



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.

Coming Soon— An Easy Gift

Your FROGS membership committee is putting final touches on a new recruiting initiative that will make it easy for members to give a FROGS membership to family and friends. This idea was suggested by one of our current members.

Here is how it will work: **Give FROGS as a Gift** applications will be available in all FROGS publications; at the information desk at Green Spring Garden; and in all renewal notices starting in September 2014. FROGS members who wish to give a FROGS membership as a gift should simply fill in the application and leave it at the information desk, return it with their renewal remittance, or mail it to Green Spring Gardens, Attn: FROGS

A **Welcome to FROGS** package and membership card will be sent immediately to the gift recipient, and the giver will be notified that the gift has been sent. **Job done!**

This is a great way to share the benefits of being a member of FROGS, and at the same time provide support for our beloved Green Spring Gardens. 🌸



Gardenline

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



NOTICE

FRIENDS OF GREEN SPRING ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 27, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Center

- Learn about Board activities
 - Ask Questions
 - Comment
- Join Committees

All Members Encouraged to Attend