

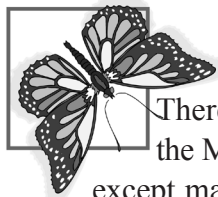


Gardenline

SUMMER

2015

Saving the Monarchs



There is no mistaking the Monarch butterfly—except maybe with the Viceroy, the American Painted Lady and the Queen butterfly. This iconic species is in danger, and I saw first hand what lack of habitat does to its eastern U.S. population.

This past spring I had the fortune of tracking and tagging migrating monarchs between the Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge and Kiptopeke State Park. This is the best place in the world to see migrating monarchs, as well as birds. Three weeks into the project, on my daily rounds of the refuge, I came upon the yearly roost at the very tip of the Delmarva peninsula. I could paint a picture, but just imagine over 400 monarchs fluttering in the sunset around a single pine tree overlooking the bay. It could not have been a more satisfying end to the day.

The Delmarva peninsula acts as a funnel for migrating species. The immature monarchs get blown off the mainland and into the coast, whereupon they get flushed to the southern end. They use this as a refueling station, eating and resting until more favorable winds will take them across the bay, back to the main coast and down to the wintering grounds high in the Sierra Madre

Mountains of Central Mexico 3000 miles away.

The nine confirmed roosts in the Mexican mountains are subject to illegal logging, ecotourism, and intensifying winters due to the climate change and the thinning of the forest's 'blanket effect.' These hazards pale in comparison to the agriculture industry's effect on milkweed habitat. Corn and soybean monocultures have made what was once thriving monarch habitat poisonous and barren of milkweed.



There were one billion monarchs in 1997. Today there are a little over 30 million. This drastic decline has led biologists and concerned organizations to come together and make a difference. The Fish and Wildlife Service has given \$1.2 million to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarch Conservation Fund, as well as a \$2 million donation to

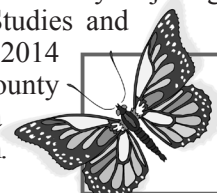
fund conservation projects. One of these projects is planting milkweed along Fish and Wildlife controlled territory. This land includes tens of thousands of acres along Interstate 35, which runs from Texas to Minnesota. This is a major migration corridor used by over 50 percent of the migrating population on its way to and from Mexico. This will provide habitat to the monarchs who lay the first generation's eggs when coming out of the winter roost in order to repeat the cycle once again.

That's not the only beneficial thing happening when it comes to monarch conservation. President Obama has signed a memorandum to instruct over a dozen government agencies to enact a plan to further conserve pollinators.

Gardeners in every community play an integral role in any conservation effort. Planting milkweed and bringing awareness to the issue provides endless help in the search for monarchs' continued way of life.

Cole Gandee

Note: Cole Gandee is a senior at Virginia Commonwealth University majoring in Environmental Studies and was an intern in 2014 with the Fairfax County Office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension.



Manager's Message



What Plants Do I Buy?

WHO ELSE, BESIDES ME, is drawn immediately to the latest thing in bloom and feels a desperate need to have it for your own garden? Even after buying plants a-plenty at Spring Garden Day, there may yet be a need for filling in a hole or two or three with purchases from the Garden Gate Plant Shop.

Horticulturist Judy Zatsick and Garden Gate Shop Coordinator Diana Shannon review the latest horticulture magazines and catalogs, consult with their colleagues, and seek ideas from their volunteers to select the plants to entice you to come to Green Spring Gardens again and again for plants for your garden. From the vantage point of my office with its view of the Horticulture Center front entrance, this has become the place to shop. Wagon loads of plants move from the plant shop to your car right before my eyes.

The Garden Gate Plant Shop started in the 1990s as a card table sized operation to sell surplus rock garden plants propagated by former Green Spring manager, Don Humphrey. The operation shifted gradually, first selling surplus, then generating stock from garden seeds and cuttings, and finally to supplementing the offerings with plants purchased from wholesale nurseries. Over the past 10 years, sales have doubled, growing to just over \$50,000 gross revenue by the end of 2014. More than 6,100 plants

were sold. That's a lot of garden and window sill enhancement!

Today, while the stock has shifted to a higher percentage of purchased plant stock, plants propagated from our seed and cuttings still occupy the sales benches. From seed, we offer African lily *Agapanthus*; purple poppy mallow *Callirhoe involucrate*; and 'Mesa Peach' blanket flower *Gaillardia x grandiflora* 'Mesa Peach.'

Come August and September, the gardens literally become cutting gardens as the horticulturists select materials for rooted cuttings to generate plants for the next season. Very popular among the plants propagated from cuttings are a wonderful selection of several *Salvia* spp. for an extended bloom season, a beautiful array of variegated leaf coleus, butterfly-attracting lantana, and cuphea with their unusual tubular-shaped flowers.

A selection of seed-propagated vegetables will help fulfill your edible garden needs. Get ready to make a fresh salad with our selection of heirloom tomatoes, peppers and lettuces. Enliven all of your cooking with fresh herbs, such as parsley and basil, right from the Garden Gate Plant Shop to your garden.

What happens to the funds generated from your purchases? The funds go directly to the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) and are then budgeted to restock and enhance the gardens. We enjoy adding new and interesting plants that entice you to buy from the Garden Gate Plant Shop. Did you know that our plant purchases for the display gardens are almost entirely supported by the generosity of FROGS and other donors? The enhanced bulb display

Continued on page 3

Gardenline

MANAGER:
Mary Olien

EDITORS:
Sunny Greene, Susan Voss

DESIGN AND LAYOUT:
Don Christian

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

Please contact us through

Gardenline
Green Spring Gardens
4603 Green Spring Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22312
703-642-5173
TTY: 703-803-3351

Gardenline is a newsletter published jointly by Green Spring Gardens and Friends of Green Spring (FROGS). Green Spring Gardens is administered by the Fairfax County Park Authority's Resource Management Division. For more information, call the park at

703-642-5173

or write:

Green Spring Gardens
4603 Green Spring Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
TTY: 703-803-3351

A publication of
Fairfax County, VA



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



FROGS Talk

Susan Voss, FROGS President

By the time this issue comes out, the renovation of the gazebo should finally be complete. The contractors, Southern Asphalt, did an outstanding, highly professional job, which is set off perfectly by the trellises built by Green Spring's own Frank Jankauskas. There are so many to thank for contributing to this effort: first and foremost the FROGS membership, but also a \$20,000 Mastenbrook Grant through the County, a grant of \$2,500 from the 495 Express Lanes Community Grant program, a \$2,500 donation from the National Capital Area District III Garden Clubs, and a contribution of \$10,000 from the County Resource Management Division.

Another addition is *two* new work vehicles. Thanks to our members, the 2014 annual appeal was so successful—bringing in over \$23,000—that we were able to purchase two “Club Cars.” They look a bit smaller than the Cushman, but carry all but the heaviest loads. The gardeners are delighted.

The Garden Gate Plant Shop had another successful opening on April 11, with over \$4,000 in sales benefiting FROGS. The Plant Shop is a joint effort between FROGS (which pays for all the plants and materials), Green Spring staff members Judy Zatsik and Diana Shannon, and volunteers (who provide the expertise and labor). The Plant Shop

has increasingly become the go-to nursery for quality plants.

In Board news, we have welcomed three new board members—Becky Super, Mindy Nash and Edie Beitzel – and look forward to their involvement in our very active board.

Looking ahead, our annual summer concert on Tuesday, June 30, at 7:00 pm will feature the New Mountain Fever Band playing folk, bluegrass and original music. This year we will have a food truck available for your picnic, as well as cake and lemonade, which will be provided by FROGS. 🌸



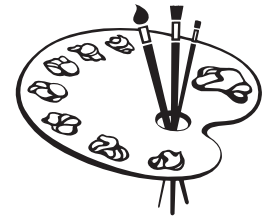
Manager's Message

Continued from page 2

this year was provided through the generosity of landscape designer Terrence Joyce.

Have a look at what your garden needs, and then come to the Garden Gate Plant Shop at Green Spring Gardens to see what your heart needs. There will be plenty with beguiling blooms to become that must-have plant for your garden. 🌸

Mary Olien
Park Manager



Summer Art Shows



Through June 28:

Potomac Valley Watercolorists fill the Horticulture Center as well as the Historic House with their talents.



June 30-August 23

Chica Brunsvold 's

lovely and fun watercolors will be on display at the Horticulture Center. Reception: Sunday, July 19, 1–3pm.



June 30-August 23

Carolyn Gawarecki

will exhibit her splendid water color painting and photography at the Historic House. Reception: Sunday, July 12, 1–3pm.



August 25-October 25

Springfield Art Guild

will show off their various media talents at the Horticulture Center. Reception: Sunday, August 30, 1–3pm.



August 25-October 25

Vivian Attermeyer

will present her delightful watercolor painting and sketches at the Historic House. Reception: Sunday, August 30, 1–3pm.



Sumi-e and lantern painting

Children's Education



SPRING IS ALWAYS A BUSY TIME at a garden, but now Green Spring Children's Education has two new staffers to help manage the load: Linda Nordstrom, a 2014 Green Spring Master Gardener, and Elizabeth Waugh, a Green Spring volunteer for many years. They bring a wealth of talents, energy and enthusiasm to Children's Education.

Children's Education will remember this spring for its third annual Children's Cherry Blossom Celebration, held on Saturday, April 11. Turnout was greater this year than in previous years, due in part to more publicity and glorious weather. Fox 5 News interviewed Debbie Waugh, Ian Waugh and Mary Olien about our cherry blossom events on its April 10 broadcast. Mary deftly demonstrated the chopstick challenge, one of the children's events, and displayed origami ninja stars, which were a big hit among the news broadcasters.

More than 170 people participated in the event, which offered both free and ticketed activities. All 100 tickets offered were sold. Free events included an interpretive station with displays of Japanese artifacts, fish prints, a haiku station, scavenger hunt, an interactive Zen garden, and the popular chopstick challenge. Our paid events included stations where visitors could paint paper lanterns, make samurai headbands, or learn to fold origami. A new addition to the celebration:

artist Darlene Kaplan, a frequent exhibitor at Green Spring, demonstrated sumi-e brush painting and led a workshop for children. For the second year, Fox Mill Elementary School's Japanese immersion students performed traditional songs on the lawn.

Visitors left Green Spring with smiles, laden with artworks and plants from the Garden Shop. We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers Darlene Kaplan, Monica Arbacas, Carolyn Porter, Suzanne Cronquist, Sydney Degnan and her friend "Cherry Blossom", Eva Gomez, and Carola Fernandez for all their help. The sakura, or cherry blossoms, may be fleeting, but they leave lasting memories! ♻️

Ann DiFiore

Children's Program Specialist



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.

Summer Reading Puppet Show

The Blue Sky Puppet Theatre will present the *Barker of Seville* at Green Spring Gardens on Wednesday, August 5, at 10:00 am. This original musical comedy is sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring Gardens in celebration of summer reading. The ticket price is \$4.00 and reservations may be made online at www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/greenspring or by calling Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. This original musical comedy features an aspiring opera singer and is reportedly "A real HOWL!"

Green Spring Gardens is a participant in the annual Fairfax County Public Library Summer Reading Program. Children who complete their reading logs receive a coupon book for discounted and free items from local public and commercial establishments. Children bringing their coupons to Green Spring receive a free seed packet.



SUMMERTIME

LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER



HEAD OUTSIDE and make the most of summer's pleasures with a good book on horticulture. Or spend some relaxing time in the cool Green Spring Gardens library. A straw hat or maybe a watering can and a good book by your side may be all you need for a quiet interlude in a garden. Start your perusal with one of these books:

🌸 The big leaf hydrangeas are the superstars of the summer garden with their stunning flowers of blue, purple, soft shell pink, hot pink, reddish, ivory, or white. Learn more from the book *Hydrangeas, A Gardener's Guide*, revised edition by Toni Lawson Hall and Brian Rothera. This book is in two sections. In the first section entitled "The Genus Hydrangea," the history and natural distribution of hydrangeas are outlined. It also contains a chapter on cultivation, care and propagation. The second section describes 100 cultivars in detail with beautiful color photos.

WHO ISN'T INSPIRED by the magical world of butterflies?

🌸 *Butterfly Gardening, Creating Summer Magic in Your Garden*, by The Xerces Society and The Smithsonian Institution includes personal essays on the joys of butterfly gardening by eminent

entomologist Miriam Rothschild along with tips on butterfly watching and photography.

🌸 *Butterflies, How to Identify and Attract them to your Garden*, by Marcus Schneck, offers nature lovers and backyard gardeners the most comprehensive field guide written specifically for amateurs. Not only is it both an identification guide to 250 of the most common species in North America, but it also details how to attract them for close, intimate observation.

🌸 Include on your list *Butterflies of the East Coast, an Observer's Guide*, by Rick Cech and Guy Tudor, an informative and highly illustrated book that gives a fresh view of butterflies from the Atlantic seaboard to the Appalachians. Included is information on the host plants favored by particular species, plus 900 large-size color photos.

Whichever book catches your fancy, take a break and skip the weeding to enjoy a lazy summer day for a little reading time in the garden. Green Spring Gardens provides inspiration and a place for quiet contemplation. The library is located in the Horticulture Center and is open Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and on Sunday, noon to 4:30 pm. 🌸

*Pauline Perry, Librarian,
Green Spring Gardens
Horticulture Library*

Queen of Cuisine at Green Spring



Award-winning actress Mary Ann Jung wowed the crowd at Green Spring on March 14. Her lively portrayal of America's favorite TV chef Julia Child was featured at the third annual history symposium, "Food in America: Highly Seasoned by History."

Photo by Mary Olien; all rights reserved



SUMMERTIME IN THE GARDEN GATE PLANT SHOP

SPRING HAS PASSED and summer is here. We have a great variety of our tried and true perennials to attract those hummingbirds and pollinators to your garden!

How about adding a hibiscus to your garden? This year we have *Hibiscus* 'Cherry Cheesecake', a popular new addition to the Summerific® series. This long blooming perennial produces large 7-8" white flowers with magenta-tipped petals and veins radiating from a cherry red center. Undoubtedly the next amazing thing in your garden! Plant in full sun, with moist but well-drained soil.

We're also offering two cultivars in the Lo & Behold® buddleia series for all you butterfly bush lovers out there! We have 'Pink Micro Chip' and Blue Chip Jr' to add to your sunny gardens. This new series offers miniature bushes, only 18-28" tall, that rebloom all the way to frost with no need for deadheading. Perhaps the best thing about this series of buddleias is the fact that they are non-invasive, producing no suckers and few seeds. On top of that, they are deer resistant!

What about a deutzia for amazing purple foliage in the fall or next year's spring pink blooms? Deutzias

are small, pest resistant shrubs covered in flowers in late spring. They do best in moist, well drained soils, and in our area may benefit from light afternoon shade. Flower buds are set on last year's growth, so trim just after flowers fade. They may also benefit from periodic thinning to maintain their arching form. We have *Deutzia* 'Yuki Cherry Blossom' this summer.

For some year-round structure, how about an evergreen? We're offering *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Soft Serve' (6-10 feet) and two *Thuja oc-*

cidental cultivars, 'Filip's Magic Moment' (6-8 feet) and 'North Pole' (10-15 feet). Our 'Soft Serve' has green fernlike foliage flecked with silver blue underneath. For garden color, 'Filip's Magic Moment' has bright yellow evergreen foliage. The narrow columnar 'North Pole' would make a great specimen. Each offers something a little different for your garden or container.

Happy Shopping! 🌿

Diana Shannon,
Plant Shop Coordinator

WANTED

Items for the SILENT AUCTION at FROGS Fall Garden Day on September 19, 2015

The Silent Auction is a special feature at our Fall Garden Day fundraiser. We encourage all FROGS members to help us by donating goods and services for this annual event.

Examples of bestselling auction items:

Gardening Advice and Labor:

Think HELP!

- Landscape design or pruning consultation
- A day's worth of planting, weeding, or trimming
- Gently used gardening items

Getaways and Outings:

Think ESCAPE!

- A weekend at your vacation home or favorite resort
- Sailing excursions or hot air balloon rides

Sports and Entertainment:

Think FUN!

- Tickets to theaters, concerts, or exhibits
- Memberships to gyms, spas, or recreation centers

- Sports tickets or memorabilia (photos, balls, shirts, etc.)

Wines and Gourmet Items:

Think DELICIOUS!

- Catered dinners or prepared meals-to-go
- Wine tastings or vineyard tours
- Gourmet foods or drinks baskets (gift certificates preferred for the latter)
- Restaurant gift certificates

Underused Treasures:

Think REGIFTING!

- Housewares (china, crystal, pottery, or silver)
- Decorations (paintings, photographs, or sculptures)
- Antiques (toys, tools, or textiles)

Contact either one of the following people to arrange item pickup and storage, or to volunteer to help acquire auction items:

Bill Tuceling at tuceling@verizon.net or 703-350-3034

Ivy Sinaiko at asinaiko@cox.net or 703-256-6031

Thank you for your support!

Tea Programs at the Historic House: A Glimpse Behind the Scenes

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED a tea program at Green Spring Gardens? If so, you know they begin with a historical lecture or a garden tour, followed by a full English tea in the 1784 Historic House. The tradition of hosting tea programs at the Historic House began in 1995, after the building was renovated to include a catering kitchen. Today the Historic House holds up to 60 public and private tea events per year. It takes coordination, cooperation and forward planning to make these popular programs successful. Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at a tea program?

Setting the Scene

The setup for a tea program begins well before the day of the event. A seating chart is carefully designed according to the registration list. Tables are moved around and pushed together to accommodate parties of different sizes, then covered with white tablecloths. Individual table settings include a plate, a fork, a

Used Book Sale

The Friends of Green Spring Gardens welcome donations of gently used gardening books and magazines for the FROGS ongoing used book sale. Profits from the sale fund the purchase of new books for the Horticulture Library. The used book sale also provides Green Spring customers with access to low priced gardening information. The book sale is located in the corner of the shop, next to the library doors.



Tea host volunteers Darlene Thompson and Pat Shoop.

Photo by Don Sweeney, FCPA; all rights reserved

knife, a spoon, a decorative china tea cup and saucer, and a napkin shaped into a pyramid or a candlestick (folded in-house, by staff members). Place cards for each group are printed and positioned at the head of the table. Once all of the pieces are in place, the tea rooms look like carefully curated museum displays!

Volunteers

A fantastic corps of volunteers facilitates the tea programs. Each of the volunteers brings expertise - sometimes more than 10 years of experience working teas at the Historic House - as well as positive energy that makes the tea program experience organized and fun. Once the volunteers arrive at the house on the day of an event, everyone works together to complete the preparations for the tea.

The Day of the Program

It's easy to lose track of time throughout the flurry of activity that takes place just before the guests arrive. Jam and cream are parceled out into small glass bowls for each table, milk is poured into pitchers, and lemons are sliced. Teapots are heated with boiling water and then tied into "tea cozies", which were crafted by one of the wonderful house volunteers.

The three-tiered tea trays are each labeled ahead of time with a room

name (Michael and Belinda Straight or Fountain Beattie), the number of guests being served, and any special food requests that have been made, so that volunteers and staff members know which tray should go to which table. There are many special details to remember, from putting "drip catchers" on the spout of each teapot to preheating the oven to warm up the scones. An assortment of savory tea sandwiches and a variety of delicious pastries are arranged onto each tea tray. Edible seasonal flowers from the Historic House garden ornament the top tier, and everything is finally ready for guests to arrive.

Historic House Tea Programs at Green Spring offer a great opportunity for regular and new guests alike to learn something new, explore the gardens, and spend an afternoon in good company drinking tea. After guests head home for the day, volunteers and staff roll up their sleeves and prepare for the real work to begin. Everyone pitches in to clear away and wash each individual piece that was used for the tea program. Once everything has been returned to its place and the house is back in order, it's time to prepare for the next event! ☺

Katie Fishbein
Historic House Assistant



Gardenline

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

CONCERT IN THE GARDEN



Green Spring Gardens
Tuesday, June 30
7 pm-8 pm

Be our guests for a musical evening in the gardens with the New Mountain Fever Band, featuring “Banjo Man” Frank Cassel performing lively bluegrass and folk music.

Bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the lawn. A food truck will also be available. The Friends of Green Spring board will serve complimentary cake and lemonade.

Please join us for this free event.

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF GREEN SPRING.