

New Club Website Launches!

Happy New Year!

Hill Garden News

January, 2014

The Capitol Hill Garden Club Announces

All New Website and eNewsletter

The Capitol Hill Garden Club has been bringing area gardeners together since 1952. And for as long as anyone can remember, we have had an award-winning newsletter and blog to keep members informed and involved in our many activities. Starting now, our Club's communications will migrate to an all new website with eNewsletters and eBulletins to ensure that you get the most from your Club membership.

The new website allows members and those curious about our Club to easily navigate to the information they want. From the history of our Club to the next big event, all the information is right there for you.

What does this mean for existing members?

The new website will be your primary resource for all information about your Club. And, you'll receive this eNewsletter via email (just like this one) each month with information about recent and upcoming events, as well as other timely information about the Club. A PDF version of the eNewsletter will be available on the website for those who want it. Please note that persons with no computer access and/or special needs will be mailed copies of eNewsletters, and will receive assistance with all of the automated activities on the new website.

What are some of the other features of the new website?

A discussion forum will allow members to ask questions of other members and share their gardening knowledge. If you want to know what volunteer opportunities are available, the website will tell you what they are and what you'll be doing when you volunteer. We'll also be automating membership applications and renewals, surveys, volunteer sign-ups, billing of dues, and registration for special events like the Deck The

Halls Greens Workshop.

What must I do now?

Be sure to visit the website today and spend a few minutes exploring. To log in for the first time, all current Club members will need to click Forgot Password on the home page and follow the prompts. If you have not yet paid your dues for this year then you are not yet in the database and you'll need to click Join Now and follow the prompts.

What if I need help logging in for the first time?

We want everyone's sign-on experience to be easy and successful, so if after following the log in prompts above you have any problems, you may contact Joseph Purdy, 202 547-0779 or Elizabeth McClure, 202 550-4799. They will be pleased to help you.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them along. Remember, it's your Club and your website.

[Click Here To Visit The CHGC Website Now!](#)

Our Fundraiser:

Capitol Hill Garden Club Bulb Sale Sweet Success

Because of your diligence and effort, the gross receipts were: week one \$1401 (\$839/\$565); week two \$1140 (\$509/\$631); week three (Sunday only) \$582; week four \$1130 (\$644/\$486); week five (\$1130 (\$597/\$533); and the November meeting \$232. The gross profit was \$5418* Our total net profit is \$2,177.



Thank you to all who made this fall's bulb sale smashing success. A special thanks to Co-chairs Carol Casperson and Leanna Fenske for excellent leadership and hard work.

Many thanks to our Club members who: served as Officer of the Day, sold bulbs, selected bulbs, priced bulbs, transported bulbs, set up and dismantled the sale booth, recruited volunteers, tracked the money, and provided storage space.

For the complete [list of the members who worked so hard to make this a success](#), please visit our website.

Our Next Meeting:

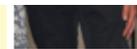
Seasonal Interest for Winter Gardens

Our featured speaker will be James Gagliardi, Horticulturist, Smithsonian Gardens.

Just because it is winter does not mean that gardens or gardeners get a rest. At Smithsonian Gardens visitors are welcomed year-round. These visitors include many tourists, but also wildlife as our gardens serve as an important urban habitat for birds, insects, and mammals.



James will show how the gardens at Smithsonian maintain their appeal in winter beyond impressive annual displays of pansies, violas, and kale. He will highlight important garden features in this bleaker season including berries, grasses, seedheads, stems, bark, evergreens, and even some flowers.



[James' biography](#) is on our website.

January 14, 2014
Church of the Brethren
221 North Carolina Ave SE
(use 4th Street entrance)
Washington, D. C. 20003

Our Last Event:
Deck The Halls Greens Workshop

This is one of our most popular events where members make holiday wreaths, swags and table arrangements using a beautiful assortment of holiday greens and ribbons.

This year's event was very well attended, with many beautiful holiday arrangements going home with the members who made them.

Sandra Bruce has done a wonderful job chairing Deck The Halls for the past 2 years, many thanks to her for making this event a success. Now would be a good time for another member to volunteer to chair this event next year. Please reach out to Sandra to find out more about what you would need to do, or to Carol to sign up for 2014!



[Photos from the event are available on the website.](#)

Our Last Meeting:
Favorite Perennial Introductions

Our featured speaker were Jessica Bonilla and Drew Asbury from Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.



Like gardeners everywhere, the gardeners at Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens have their favorite plants – the ones they have found work well and look good in both their public and home gardens. Since Hillwood's gardeners get a chance to observe new introductions before most of the rest of us do, they also are keenly watching for plants that might make the next "favorites" list. At the November Capitol Hill Garden Club meeting, Hillwood's lead gardener, Jessica Bonilla, and Drew Asbury, greenhouse and cutting garden grower, combined their observations and expertise to present an overview of 47 notable plants – some old, some new – along with hints about each plant's characteristics and cultural preferences.

Most fascinating tip of the evening?

Add foot powder (think Dr. Scholl's) to tulip beds to keep the squirrels at bay.

Picks for new and exciting plants?

There's *Thalictrum* (Meadow Rue) 'Black Stockings', best planted with lots of leaf compost and in dappled light. Or if you're looking for a plant for a hot, dry sunny spot, try the *Kniphofia* (Poker Plant) Popsicle Series that are smaller than many Poker Plants and rebloom in late summer. Another long-blooming plant is *Coreopsis* 'Mercury Rising', a red coreopsis that the Mt. Cuba Trial Gardens in Delaware found to be less susceptible to disease than many of the new cultivars. *Helenium autumnale* Mariachi Series was recommended as a "great late-summer-blooming Sneezeweed" that will add oranges and reds to the landscape. A new grass to consider is *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Standing Ovation', a Little Bluestem grass that grows 2' – 3' tall in a very upright form with the bonus of red and purple fall color. Another is the Giant Sacaton Grass, *Sporobolus wrightii* 'Windbreaker', recommended as a worthy replacement for Pampas Grass that is becoming a problem invasive in warm climates. (Several other new plants were also included in the evening's list (Joe add a link to the full list, which should be posted on the website.)

Some favorite perennials that perhaps you haven't considered yet?

Hillwood's gardeners found it difficult to settle on their favorite and reliable perennials but they finally winnowed the list down to 36. If you don't have a Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) in your garden, the recommendation was to go buy one for a dry shady spot. At bloom time, be sure to cut off the old leaves so you'll see the new leaves emerging. Another plant good for shade is the spring-blooming Barrenwort, *Epimedium perralchicum* 'Frohneiten', which holds its flowers above the green and red foliage.

Thinking beyond the usual ground covers?

Bonilla and Asbury suggested *Hakonechloa macra* 'All Gold' (Japanese Forest Grass) to add texture to the garden and which has more vigor than many of the other varieties of this plant. Also suggested for ground covers were *Lysimachia nummularia* 'Aurea', (Creeping Jenny), if you can supply the all-important moisture, and *Tiarella* 'Elizabeth Oliver', an 8" – 12"- tall Foam Flower that is suitable for shade and is stronger than the native.

Some recommended perennials that are perhaps less well known are *Acorus gramineus* 'Minimum Aureus', a Dwarf Golden Sweet Flag with a pleasing fragrance (but keep it moist if it's in the sun) and the Cranesbill *Geranium* 'Rozanne' that "blooms non-stop from June to November". The *Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina' (Angelina Stonecrop) rewards the gardener with foliage that changes color every season from green to yellow to orange in the fall. For bold foliage, one to think about might be the South African native *Eucomis* 'Sparkling Burgundy' (Pineapple Lily) that grows from a bulb and is an easy plant in part to full sun.

Thanks to Nancy Metzger from the Program Committee for organizing our speakers and providing this summary for our eNewsletter and website.

[Photos, notes, and a list of Jessica's and Drew's recommended cultivars are available on the website.](#)

Other News from the Club:

2014 Capitol Hill Garden Club Membership Directory

A draft copy of the directory will be available at the meeting. Please review your entry and place a check mark once you have finished or make any necessary corrections.

Upcoming Local Events

Opportunities Abound

Living in the Washington, D.C. area means there are many programs and opportunities for gardeners. From the U.S National Arboretum, United State Department of Agriculture, the National Capital Area Garden Clubs and more, we have many ways to learn and enjoy our hobby.

These types of opportunities are now posted to the Club's [Local Events & Opportunities](#) page on the website. To find out more about what might interest you, visit the website today.

Contact Information

[Carol Edwards](#), President

[Joseph Purdy](#), Webmaster

For More Information about the Capitol Hill Garden Club
please visit our [website](#).

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