

**Next Meeting: May Garden Walk**

Mark Your Calendars For Our Spring Events

# Hill Garden News

May, 2014

## President's Message

Two of the garden club's most popular activities are coming soon. Our May garden walk reminds us to appreciate tiny jewels of Capitol Hill gardens. Although small, many dazzle with exquisite surprises like Faberge eggs. This year we have a rain date in case the weather proves more cantankerous than we would like.

The U.S. National Arboretum will again be the site of our annual garden party. This event demonstrates the many attributes of the Capitol Hill Garden Club fellowship, collaboration, contribution of effort, garden beauty, good food, and fun. Please plan to join your neighbors on May 31 and bring a potential new member as your guest.



On a serious note, at the April meeting we asked for members to give the garden club a vibrant future by volunteering to take on leadership roles for committees and activities. I am pleased to report that enough club members answered this appeal by volunteering to be one day managers for the annual bulb sale in October to cover all four weekends. We also filled one co-chair position for the 2014-15 Program Committee. **Thanks to all of you who volunteered for one of these positions.**

We still need one volunteer to co-chair the Program Committee. Without this committee, we will have no speakers for the 2014-2015 meeting. If you are willing to co-Chair the committee please contact me immediately, [cedwards00@comcast.net](mailto:cedwards00@comcast.net). If you have an alternative suggestion for organizing speakers for the garden club's monthly meetings, which you are willing to lead, please let me know.

**We still need two volunteers co-chairs for the Bulb Sale Committee and we need them immediately, too!** These positions are designed to be manageable in time and effort.

## Election Results

At the April 8 meeting the membership unanimously elected **Ed Peterman** as Vice President and **Carol Marks** as Secretary. **Donna Brauth** was re-elected for a second term as Treasurer. Due to a miscommunication during the nominating process, Margaret Missiaen's name was withdrawn by the Nominating Committee for the position of President and no election was held for this position.

Congratulations to all of the new officers! Their 2 year term begins on June 15. Any updates regarding the office of President will be posted on the website as they occur.

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### **Our Next Meeting: May Garden Walk**

Join us for the annual May Garden Walk, a is a tour of our Capitol Hill neighborhood with stops at several carefully selected homes showcasing the beauty in their springtime garden.

We will meet at the northwest corner of E Street Northeast and Fifth Street Northeast, and travel down Fifth Street to G Street and up Fourth Street, stopping to enjoy several gardens along the way and end the walk at club member Sharon Ferguson's garden at 424 Fourth Street, NE with refreshments.



Thanks to Susan Thompson and Sharon Ferguson for organizing this year's walk. In case of inclement weather (e.g. heavy rain), the walk will be postponed to the following Tuesday, May 20, at the same place and hour.

**May 13, 2014  
6:30 PM Sharp!**

**Meet at the northwest corner of E and 5th Streets NE**

### **Our Last Event Of Season, The June Garden Party**

Mark your calendars carefully, because the **June Garden Party will be held on May 31st** at the National Arboretum where our members will enjoy al fresco dining in a beautiful garden setting.

If you are attending, please contribute a dish to the potluck-style dinner. Here is a chance to show off your special appetizer, entrée, side dish, salad, or dessert. Please plan for enough to serve eight people. To ensure a variety of dishes, please contact food coordinator Donna Brandes, [donna.brandes@verizon.net](mailto:donna.brandes@verizon.net) or 202-232-6740, to discuss the dish you plan to bring.



This event is open to members only, with one guest per member permitted. Registration is required and can be done [Clicking Here Now](#), and when you get to the website, clicking the Register button to the left and following the instructions.

A \$10 donation per attendee is requested.

Please contact the [webmaster](#) if you have any difficulties registering.

## Our Last Meeting: Designing with Texture to Make a Shady Garden Shine

Featured: Janet Draper, horticulturist, Smithsonian Gardens

Submitted by Sallie Strang

Opening the April Capitol Hill Garden Club presentation with a slide of a sunny summer garden in full flower, Janet Draper asks, "Is this the garden you are imagining? If so, the shade gardens I have to show you will not meet your expectations. But they can offer you a beguiling path to walk down."

A self-acclaimed "plant geek," Draper frequently quotes English gardener Beth Chatto, author of *Beth Chatto's Woodland Garden: Shade-loving Plants for Year-round Interest*, in touting the rewards and sumptuous pleasures of gardening in shade. Draper speaks from 15 years experience with the Ripley Garden, a deciduous shade garden where "all spring bulbs do well," but as spring moves to summer, the shade becomes darker and darker. Then, says Draper, contrasting texture becomes the focus, and flowers, if they appear, are merely bonus.



Draper offers visual suggestions with the slides and plant combinations that almost overwhelm until she offers her simplified approach. "When I start a garden," she says, "I begin with three plants with different textures that appeal to me. Then I add another three and another three and another three." That one hint let each of us leave the meeting with inspiration and the impetus to follow those directions on the first sunny day.

So visit the Ripley Garden or look at online plant sources (Draper recommends The Perennial Farm or Plant Delights among others) or visit a local nursery. Pick three with different textures. Start making peace with your shade.

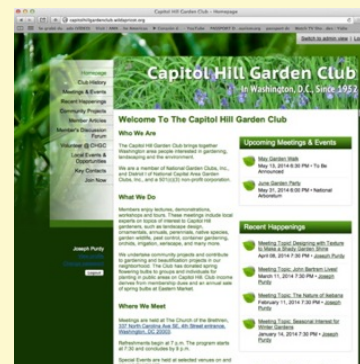
For more information on our speaker, [click here](#). And, for a list of Draper's plant suggestions, visit our [website](#).

### Other News from the Club:

#### Volunteering To Be On The Communications Team

Openings exist to be a part of the Communications Committee who develops and executes the Communications Plan for the Club. This involves the coordination of external and internal communications via the Club's website, eNewsletters, eMail blasts, brochures and other communications vehicles as needed. From writers to webmasters, we need your help.

As a writer/contributor, you'll be able to meet new friends, and spend quality time with some of the people that you already know. Rest assured, if you've never worked on a committee like this, those members who have are always pleased to share their experience with you.



To be the 'webmaster' may sound like a daunting task. But your website and emails are created in templates that are just a tad more complicated than understanding Word, PowerPoint, or any of the other software packages that you probably use already.

So, if you enjoy writing and making deadlines, please call the current Chair of this committee, Joe Purdy, to find out more.

## **The Spring Season Has Begun, Send Us Some Photos!**

We very much want to build a library of photos taken in our member's gardens or in public spaces near your home. You can help by snapping photos throughout Spring, Summer and Fall and sending them to the webmaster.

These can be photos of your bulbs, perennials, annuals, shrubs, trees, garden sculpture, koi pond, you-name-it!

We'll feature some of your photos on our website, in the eNewsletter or in promotions for future bulb sales.

**We Want Your Photos!**



## **Watering Coop**

Spring is here and it is time to organize the 2014 Capital Hill Garden Club Watering Co-op. The Co-op, which is starting its 6th year, is made up of garden club members who water each others gardens during vacations and other travel. If you are interested in participating, please contact Julie Rios at [jriosdc@gmail.com](mailto:jriosdc@gmail.com) or 202 546.8598.

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## **Upcoming Local Events**

### **Opportunities Aboard**

The Club's website posts under [Local Events & Opportunities](#) page on the website. To find out more about what might interest you, visit the website today.

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## **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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