

Sow and Tell

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Member of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Central Atlantic Region, District III

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's November; it's time for nature's last HOORAH of color before going dormant for winter. I just love the brilliant maple tree along the west end of Maple Avenue. If I were to pick a tree friend, it would be that tree. Have you made a tree friend as Jane Schmiedekamp recommended in her October newsletter article?



I volunteered at Meadowlark Gardens with our club this month. The gardens offer such peace! Club member Willow Prall, Volunteer Coordinator for Meadowlark, selected an excellent assignment for us. We planted various kinds of bulbs and pansies. I enjoyed working with Willow, Noreen Linnemann, Lura Marshall, Val Plisko, and Nancy Walker. Thank you, ladies. Our club's volunteering there the first Tuesday of each month will take a break until March.

This morning I watched "Morning of Design" presented by the National Capital Area Judge's Council and sponsored by District III. Five Hills' members Betty Ann Galway and Deneen Wilson were demonstrators, and Betty Ann served as host for the program. They offered some valuable tips on creating holiday designs. The program was recorded and will be available for delayed viewing.

Thanksgiving is upon us. With it comes thoughts of gratitude. As I frequently say, I am grateful for each of you and the talents you share with us. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Shelia

Upcoming Events

- Nov 9 Board Meeting**
10am
- Nov 16 General Meeting**
10am
- Dec 1-7 Drop off greens at Noreen Linnemann's**
- Dec 4-7 Pick up Wreath Supplies if not making them on the 7th**
- Dec 7 Greens & Wreath Workshop**
- Dec 10 December Newsletter Deadline**

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Program For November 16th Meeting

Time-Traveling in the Plant World (Brian Huber)

Accompany Vienna neighbor, fellow gardener, and noted research geologist, Dr. Brian Huber, as he traverses deep time back to the beginnings of plant life on land. Brian, Curator of Foraminifera at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, will lead the remarkable journey, starting almost a half a billion years ago. He will guide our discovery of how the plant world of the past, present, and future connects to all other life on Earth.

Val Plisko - Program Chair

Greens Workshop - December 7th

The first Tuesday in December is our traditional day for making wreaths. This year that date is **December 7**. We usually meet at Vienna Presbyterian Church but to provide a more open-air space, we will be making our wreaths at Noreen Linnemann's house and garage and Jane Schmiedekamp's garage. They are neighbors. Assistance will be given to those new to wreath making.

Following the making of the wreaths there will be social time to include a pizza party. Those not able to help with making the wreaths will be asked to sign up on a Sign-Up Guru to contribute in other ways.

Everyone is asked to provide greens. No holly or berries please! Greens can be dropped off at Noreen's any time after December 1.

If two wreaths are requested for your chosen location, please plan to work with a partner so that the wreaths match.

Those who prefer to make their wreaths at their home or another location can pick up the wreath forms and bows at Noreen's from **December 4** through 7 to be delivered by **December 7**. Let Noreen know when you want to come by.

Thanks for all you do to make our greens project a success again this year.

Field Trip Report: Thursday October 21, 2021

"Fine Arts & Flowers 2021" VA Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) , Richmond, VA

Submission by Betty Ann Galway



*Photos courtesy of Lura Marshall
and Val Plisko*

Field Trip (continued)

"Fine Arts & Flowers 2021"
VA Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) , Richmond, VA

*Photos courtesy of Lura Marshall,
Anne Nelson, and Val Plisko*



A bit about Kathy Snead: recently retired from a higher education association (American Association of State Colleges and Universities) . Enjoy gardening (vegetables, pollinators) , bird-watching, hiking nature trails and family travel trips. Thanks to my work travel and being spouse of former Army officer, I have traveled to all 50 states and visited the beautiful national parks and preserves.



This summer's gardening experiment was growing dahlias in our small yard. Learned a lot, but much more still to learn. Here's one of my favorites, a Rembrandt dahlia.



Valerie Wrobel

I am a Nurse Practitioner and a spouse of a retired military member. We lived in several places in the past including San Antonio, Germany, and Michigan, but have now been in Vienna 20 years. We have 2 grown children who are living and working on their own. I am very active in my local professional organization, and participate in a monthly book club. I am currently working part time, enjoy gardening, cooking, the German language and traveling when possible.

Andy Bothwell - Membership Chair

Jane Schmiedekamp - Horticulture and Design Chair

The “Socratia Exorhiza” palm is unique because it moves from one place to another until it reaches more sunny places. And the way of its movement is that new roots grow in the foreground, and the old ones die and are displaced from their place. The distance covered in a year may be 20 meters. It is found in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.



Copperhead in Oakton

Always be on the lookout for venomous snakes!

Horticulture: Display and name dried plant material from your yard or neighborhood.

Design: Create a small, dried arrangement from materials found locally.

Photos from Anne Nelson



Puzzler

Here are 16 individual leaves from Sporcle. See if you can identify them. 10 or more gets you a job at the US Forest Service.

Answers:

- 13) Beech
- 14) Willow
- 15) Pine
- 16) Tulip Tree

- 9) Sycamore
- 10) Holly
- 11) Mulberry
- 12) Maple

- 5) Oak
- 6) Locust
- 7) Gingko
- 8) Hickory

- 1) Chestnut
- 2) Giant Sequoia
- 3) Japanese Maple
- 4) Palm

November at Meadowlark

Five Hills volunteers had a great time working at Meadowlark this November. Under the leadership of Willow Prall, five other Five Hills members planted a variety of spring bulbs including tulips, giant alliums and pansies around the new conservatory. This is a new garden and Five Hills is the first group of volunteers to plant around the new building. It will be exciting next spring to visit Meadowlark and see all the colorful flowers that our members had the opportunity to plant. This month's volunteers were Shelia Creswell, Noreen Linnemann, Lura Marshall, Val Plisko and Nancy Walker. In addition, we had some help from a group of Canada Geese. Their contribution will surely help the flowers grow nice and big.



Tulip Poplar

Submitted by Elizabeth Huebner

(Article courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden)

Tulip Poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, family Magnoliaceae, native range: Eastern North America, zone 4-9, height 60-90 ft., spread 30-50 ft., bloom time May-June, tolerates: rabbit, deer, clay soil, wet soil, black walnut. Likes full sun, tolerates part shade.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Liriodendron tulipifera, commonly called tulip tree or yellow poplar, is a large, stately, deciduous tree of eastern North America that typically grows 60-90' (less frequently to 150') tall with a pyramidal to broad conical habit. It is widely planted throughout Maryland and Virginia, there are at least 16 in my yard (there are over 100 trees in my yard) . Trunks of mature trees may reach 4-6' in diameter, usually rising column-like with an absence of lower branching. It is named and noted for its cup-shaped, tulip-like flowers that bloom in spring. Flowers are yellow with an orange band at the base of each petal. Although the flowers are 2" in length, they can go unnoticed on large trees because the flowers appear after the leaves are fully developed. Sometimes the flowers are first noticed when the attractive petals begin to fall below the tree. Flowers are followed by dry, scaly, oblong, cone-shaped brown fruits, each bearing numerous winged seeds. Four-lobed bright green leaves (to 8" across) turn golden yellow in fall. Wood is used inter alia for furniture, plywood, boatbuilding, paper pulp and general lumber. Native Americans made dugout canoes from tulip tree trunks. This is the state tree of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana.

Genus name comes from the Greek words *leirion* meaning a lily and *dendron* meaning a tree for the flowers.

Specific epithet means tulip bearing for the form of the flowers.



Photo courtesy of
Winnie Frost (GFGC)



Tulip Poplar (continued)

Problems

Watch for aphids (in my yard they bring an army of ladybugs) and scale. Potential diseases include verticillium wilt, mold, mildew, and canker. Large aphid infestations result in honeydew secretions on the leaves that provide the growing medium for sooty mold. Trees are fast-growing and somewhat weak wooded, making them susceptible to limb breakage in high winds or from ice/snow. Shallow root system limits the types of plants that may be grown within the drip line (daffodils grow well under tulip trees) .

Uses

Very large shade or lawn tree for large landscapes. Generally, not recommended as a street tree.