



newsletter

april 2008

the 1st LDG garden tour of 2008

LDG members will enjoy an early start to the garden tour season with a visit to Jeff and Patsy Stann's woodland garden in Chevy Chase on April 23. Jeff and Patsy have lived in their house for 18 years, enjoying their half-acre garden. The front was a fairly standard front garden for the neighborhood (with azaleas, dogwood, and pachysandra), which they have kept largely intact; recent additions include *Loropetalum*, *Cotinus*, *Hydrangea*, *Sarcococca confusa*, and *Camellia*. The rear garden is divided into two parts. Closer to the house are two fountains flanking the patio; beyond that, a lawn and mixed shrub/perennial borders fall away to an intermittent creek. The creek and beyond were overgrown neck-high with brambles and vines when they purchased the property. The creek banks have been planted with *Chasmanthium*, *Hypericum*, *Hosta*, *Iris*, *Itea*, and *Matteuccia*. They built a bridge and gradually cleared and planted a woodland garden, featuring a second patio and spring ephemerals such as *Aconitum*, *Mertensia*, *Dicentra*, and *Narcissus*; as well there are *Geranium*, *Pulmonaria*, *Helleborus*, *Ruellia*, etc. Farthest back they have planted *Oxydendron*, *Cladastris*, *Asimina*, *Acer pennsylvanicum*, and other trees, as well as an area of grasses (*Panicum* and *Spirorobolus*). In this last area is the temple recently featured in the Washington Post. In all, there are somewhat more than 300 species and cultivars.

Jeff also designed the garden next door. The front portion was destroyed last autumn when the owners demolished their house, now being replaced with a much larger one. The remaining portion can be seen from the rear of the Stanns' garden. There is an arched bridge designed and built by Jeff that leads over the creek to a very shaded woodland garden. Plants include *Cercis*, *Ternstroemia*, *Sarcococca*, *Cephalotaxus*, *Hydrangea*, *Ilex*, *Rhododendron*, *Dryopteris*, *Epime-*

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march meeting summary

Like a breath of fresh air, Jane MacLeish's program encouraged us to look beyond the mundane and the ordinary for new and artistic ways to give life to our garden designs.

Using photographs taken from her travels to gardens around the world, as well as from gardens she has designed during her career of over 30 years, Jane illustrated the opportunity to borrow shapes derived from nature to inspire the creation of beautiful gates, walls, topiaries, and mazes.

She gave examples of how columns, ruins, unique seating and pathways entice us into a garden where perhaps the viewer would otherwise not go. These artistic

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Deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. The LDG meets the fourth Wednesday of the month except August and December.

dium, Heuchera, and other shade species. And, yes, deer are a problem in both gardens.

when: Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 6:30 PM

where: 3421 Raymond Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

directions:

from the Beltway: Take exit 33 South onto Connecticut Avenue, and continue through about 5 lights to East-West Highway (Rte. 410). Turn left on 410 and continue for three streets; as you come over a hill take a right onto Brookville Road (Rte. 186). Continue south on Brookville to the third stop sign, then go another 50 feet and turn left onto Raymond. Go 1 block and look for a blue door on your left. Parking is only on the right side of street. Walk directly down the driveway to the rear.

from Downtown: Proceed north on Connecticut Avenue to Chevy Chase Circle, exiting east onto Western Avenue. Take an immediate left onto Brookville Road (Rte. 186). After you pass Bradley Lane and just before the fourth stop sign, turn right onto Raymond Street. Go 1 block and look for a blue door on your left. Parking is only on the right side of street. Walk directly down the driveway to the rear.

from Northern Virginia: Cross over Chain Bridge at the end of North Glebe Road. Turn right on Canal Road, left on Arizona Avenue, left on MacArthur Blvd, and right onto Manning Place. Turn left onto Palisade Lane and left on Loughboro Road. Turn right onto Dalecarlia Parkway and follow for 1 mile. At Westmoreland Circle, take the third exit onto Western Avenue and go 2 miles. Bear left on Brookville Road (MD-186) and go .7 miles. Turn right onto Raymond Street and stop at 3421 Raymond Street on the left.

PARKING ADVISORY: Parking is permitted only on one side of Raymond Street.

and sometimes unusual garden décor, when combined with an overall planting design, allow the viewer to engage in the curiosity of who might have been in that garden before and what it was he or she was doing. They give a garden a sense of age and character.

Her suggestion that color and sculpture should be used more often to evoke a sense of life in the garden was well illustrated with photographs of brightly colored Adirondack chairs, a dark blue gate, and Dale Chihuly glass incorporated into a very special garden.

This program, which was well attended by our membership, was a spark that encouraged us as landscape designers to “think outside the box.”

We extend our sincerest thanks to Jane MacLeish and her colleague Kim Scott for putting together an educational, fun, and inspirational evening.

Submitted by Lynn Koch

Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer.

Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

save the date

Tour of Oak Hill Farm, Aldie, Virginia

Thursday, May 22 at 10:30 am

Last year, LDG members enjoyed a fascinating lecture on “proven perennials” by Karen Rexrode, former owner of Windy Hill Nursery and current director of grounds for Oak Hill Farm estate in Aldie, Virginia.

The owners of Oak Hill have graciously offered to show the home and gardens to LDG members on Thursday, May 22, at 10:30 am. The farm is about a 1-hour drive from Washington, DC. Please save the date and look for additional details in the May LDG newsletter.

low-maintenance gardens for a new book

Jane Berger recently put Melissa Clark, APLD in touch with Jacqueline Koch, a photographer who is working with Val Easton on a new Timber Press book. They are looking for gardens (or parts of gardens) to feature that would fall into the category of low-maintenance. Here's a description of what they are searching for.

"To try to summarize the concepts neatly—if that's possible—the book will feature gardens that offer a fresh and inspired vision of drought tolerant and/or native plantings, container plantings, innovative approaches to hardscaping, the use of recycled materials, and alternatives to lawns. Or, how garden owners have tamed an enormous garden into something manageable. I'm looking for gardens with fun, playful art and creative outdoor lifestyle spaces, which are satisfying but not necessarily plant focused.

"I'm also interested in gardeners who decided to down-size, simplify, garden smaller, smarter, in urban spaces, using natives, or going green.

"I'd like the book to represent young gardeners with innovative solutions to growing edibles, gardening on balconies, courtyards, or rooftops....or baby-boomers who want to garden, but with less work. And as we discussed on the phone, it isn't always an easy concept to convey, and not many gardens would fall strictly into the category of "low-maintenance." However, I've found many have elements that do. As you can also see, this outline is a starting point, and I'm open to any additional ideas, suggestions and contacts."

If any members have gardens that might work for inclusion in this book, please ask them to e-mail Jacqueline Koch at jacqueline@waptus.com or call her at 1-206-762-0302 or 1-360-556-1194. She will be traveling to the Washington DC area the week of May 5-10 to scout gardens for shooting and will, I gather, make other trips to the East Coast as well.

I told her I would share this information with our local APLD chapter secretary and the national office in the hopes we could circulate the information to see if there are members who would like to contact her.

from Melissa Clark, APLD

the AHS spring sale

The American Horticultural Society's Spring Plant Sale will take place on Friday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A preview sale for AHS members will be on Thursday, April 17 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. More than 20 vendors will offer a variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and other plants. Local artisans also will be selling crafts and other unique items. The AHS will be offering Diamond Frost® euphorbia from the Proven Winners collection. Parking is free for AHS members and \$3 for non-members. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the gardens and grounds of River Farm.

Concurrent with the plant sale, the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. District II Flower Show, "All Things Bright & Beautiful," will be held on April 17 from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and April 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the estate house at River Farm. This show will feature more than 50 designs and 300 horticultural pieces grown by garden club members. It is free and open to the public.

For additional information, visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 x 114.

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.

Henry Van Dyke
Fisherman's Luck, 1899