

# *DGC February Newsletter*

The hum of bees is the voice of the garden.

Elizabeth Lawrence

Dear Members,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a joyful holiday and some restful time off. Now we can look forward to resuming our enjoyable activities at the DGC.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18 at 1:00PM in the CCD Parlor. Our program will feature Richard Hesseler who will speak about the care of orchids.

February Hospitality:

Centerpiece: Theresia Fischer

Cookies: Vincenza Dispenza, Maria Falco, Bette Gallo, Sharman Gummer

Tea Sandwiches: Maria DiChiara, Fumiko Gabriele, Claire Goldstein, Ruth Harrigan

Thank you in advance for your contribution. Please have your donation at the meeting by noon.

For our February Ways and Means table Mary Taylor has suggested we donate women's wear - sweaters, shawls, scarves, ponchos, knit tops and blouses. New or gently used, please.

Looking Ahead:

March 3, 2020, Philadelphia Flower Show, a one day coach bus trip from Long Island.

In lieu of Mary Tobacco's usual interesting Horticultural and Environmental Tidbits, she is sharing this wonderful information from the Bayard Cutting Arboretum with us. Enjoy!

See you on the 18th!

Best Regards,

Lori Hinchey

President

Douglaston Garden Club

[douglastongardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:douglastongardenclub@gmail.com)

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## WINTER WALK AT BAYARD CUTTING ARBORETUM

The Arboretum offers a free tour on Saturdays at 11:00am. Meet at the main desk in the Manor House or experience at your own pace the elegant plant and wildlife in their winter habitat.

Every season of the year the Bayard Cutting Arboretum offers something of beauty and interest to its visitors. Join an arboretum guide for a look at plants with winter interest in the landscape.

**Discover the beauty of winter trees.** Take a brisk walk this winter and stay healthy and connected to the Arboretum at a time when the landscape is pared down to its beautiful bones. Enjoy a stroll through the Holly Walk. It is approximately 100 yards long. Each side is planted with the selection of various hollies. With the sun at your back it is a breathtaking site. Then follow the pinetum path with its lush green trees sprinkled with the remnants of the last snowfall.

**An Arboretum is a promise to future generations.** Just as we are enjoying mature and wonderful trees that were planted many years ago, the trees we plant today will grow to provide shade, beauty and value for decades and centuries to come. The Bayard Cutting Arboretum is a living laboratory where anyone can enjoy trees and plants that are both familiar and unexpected and can easily be incorporated into our home landscape.

### WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION

Not that we need a reason to go out and explore the arboretum this time of year, but it is the opportune moment to develop tree identification skills. Deciduous trees may have limited revealing traits in January but learning winter characteristics enables the horticulturist to identify trees at any time of the year.

Aspects that are most often considered are branching pattern, bark, buds, and twigs. Branching patterns are classified as opposite, alternate, or whorled. Oak trees, *Quercus* spp., possess alternate branching and viburnums, *Viburnum* spp., are an example of opposite branching. Bark is often divided by color and texture. The most obvious being smooth bark as found in the American Beech, *Fagus grandiflora*, (Oak Park) and rough bark as found in the Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra* (Oak Park). There are many characteristics of buds to consider. Species within the dogwood genus can be identified through bud shape. *Cornus kousa* (Old Pinetum) has pointed buds and *Cornus florida* (Royce Rhododendron Garden) has round buds. Twigs of some trees possess significantly different characteristics. The eastern redbud, *Cercis canadensis* (Four Seasons Garden), has a zigzag stem and the burning bush, *Euonymus alata* (Westbrook Wall Garden), has a winged stem. When all this learning is said and done, do not forget to bask in the botanical beauty that fills the winter landscape. My favorite buds can be found on the anise magnolia, *Magnolia salicifolia* (Old Pinetum). There are numerous tools to assist in winter tree identification. However, I would suggest talking to on Bayard Cutting Arboretum's horticulturists or exploring our new interactive collections map, which enables users to identify all our trees. [https://bayardcuttingarboretum.com/interactive\\_map/](https://bayardcuttingarboretum.com/interactive_map/)

