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## Shades of Green: In Appreciation of the Leaf

— by Miri Talabac, Woody Plants Specialist; Entomologist; Certified Professional Horticulturist

Flowers are with little doubt the showmen of the garden, flamboyantly broadcasting color and perfuming the air with myriad fragrances. After all, that is their purpose — to achieve pollination for the propagation of their species. But the lowly leaf, oft forgotten and comparatively blasé, the powerhouse behind all the blooms and growth, deserves just as much attention. There is something to be said for the subtlety of foliage. And yet, some foliage is anything but subtle. Whether from breeding or the unique adaptations of nature, leaves are fashioned in such an array of shapes, textures and hues, they should rival flowers for sole ornamental interest and fashion.

Although some flowering plants will put on a display for months on end, most are more fleeting, and one is left with the foliage to quietly occupy the garden the rest of the season. Why not choose a plant for its rich foliage first, and enjoy the flowers as a bonus? Conifers and other evergreens are especially appropriate for this consideration since their flowering often goes unnoticed. While interesting foliage can certainly be found in bulbs, annuals and perennials, it is groundcovers, vines, shrubs and trees that deserve more contemplation. As major elements in the garden — and sometimes the briefest of bloomers — these plants deserve the most attention to leafy appeal.

The basic attributes of foliar interest are leaf size, shape, texture and color. Some of these will even change with the seasons or the age of the leaf or the plant. To thoroughly enjoy the diversity of foliage types, mix them together. Play one element off another for pleasant harmony or bold contrast. A foliage garden can easily be more interesting than a flower bed, as the foliage can change with the seasons more than the flowers. How do you decide where to begin? Look at each element of design and consider your options.

*continued on page 3*





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## Meet: Miri Talabac



Miri began working part time at Behnke Nurseries during high school and joined up as a full-time employee in 2002 when she graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, with a degree in Entomology. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Miri is also a Certified Professional Horticulturist in the State of Maryland.

Working at a retail garden center entails an interesting mix of responsibilities, including plant care and meeting and helping the customers. "I like working both sides of the fence," Miri says, and describes her favorite aspects of the job: "It never fails that there are interesting people and unusual plants (or is that the other way around?) that we bring together. It's like merging art with science... helping others achieve beauty with plants."

In her free time, Miri enjoys sketching, cross-stitch and dabbling in writing poetry. Her passion, however, is raising moths and butterflies. "I'm crazy enough to go perusing around the park for hours in 90-degree weather with my net and a cage to find more butterflies." She takes lots of pictures and proudly emails them to family and friends. She is fascinated by all insects, but her favorites include praying mantids and dragonflies (a new addiction!). Did we mention Miri was an entomologist? Of course, she also enjoys gardening. For now though, she only has a small plot in the yard — mostly growing caterpillar food.

Miri comes from a family of science fiction fans, and is actually named after a character on *Star Trek*. (Miri is her nickname, her given name is Mira.) But really, she's just your average young woman. For example, she is obsessed with origami...especially modular/unit origami. You know, where you fold modules and interlock them to form 3D shapes and structures. (No glue!) She has over 30 books and piles of 6-inch paper everywhere. She currently has over 100 3D models and flat quilts, rings, and stars in her room, mostly hanging from a grid on the ceiling or taped to the wall. "I'm out of control!," says Miri.

We're delighted to have this remarkable young woman on our staff here at Behnke's. And we've just discovered yet another of her talents — writing. Check out her stories on page 1 and page 4, and then pay her a visit at Beltsville in the Woody Plants Department. You can also check out the Butterfly Garden she is in the process of re-designing — it's sure to be a popular feature at Behnke's. *✿*



## *In Appreciation of the Leaf, continued from page 1*

Color is probably the element of foliage interest that stands out as the most noticeable. Winter is the season when interest is least expected in the landscape, and so makes the best use of colorful evergreens to really enhance garden appeal. While deciduous plants have lost their colorful autumn leaves, some evergreens will go through a color change during the colder months. Junipers, whitecedar, Hinoki cypress, arborvitae, cryptomeria, microbiota, boxwood and yew can flush with orange-bronze or lavender-infused mocha-brown. Nandina actually maintains its fall scarlet. Come spring, other evergreens will surprise you with new growth in bright colors. Pieris, leucothoe, osmanthus, nandina, mahonia, and some hollies send forth new leaves in rosy red, plum or copper. Yakushimanum varieties of rhododendron have new leaves so covered in fuzz they look tan. 'Rainbow's End' dwarf alberta spruce has creamy new needles while those of 'Saunders Blue' and 'Alberta Blue' are soft blue-green. Once spring arrives, deciduous plants can also contribute. Lime-leaved spirea's leaf out in rose, melon-orange and yellow. 'Autumn Brilliance' serviceberry, 'Chocolate' mimosa and 'Forest Pansy' redbud have purple-plum new leaves.

Even without color changes, there are a plethora of foliage hues and variegations available. Emphasize color contrasts or harmonies to diversify your palette of "green." Variegated leaves come adorned with white, cream, yellow, lime, pink or rose — whether margined, streaked, striped, spotted or stippled. Let's bring some candidates into focus. Although cultivars are always being introduced, commonly variegated standbys include aucuba and liriope. Surprising options are found among osmanthus, holly, boxwood, pieris, leucothoe, azaleas, abelia, hydrangea, daphne, butterfly bush, cotoneaster, dogwood, beech, tulip poplar, pine, mondo grass and more.

Then there are the leaves that do not seem to bother with green at all. Reds and

plum-purples accent loropetalum, weigela, ninebark, elderberry, sandcherry, smokebush, Japanese maple, beech, redbud and flowering plum. Near-black resides in black mondo grass, silvery white washes over 'Moonlight' climbing hydrangea and caryopteris. Gold or lime are found in juniper, arborvitae, threadbush, Arizona cypress, Hinoki cypress, Leyland Cypress and hydrangea. Blue infuses Japanese mahonia, various junipers, Colorado spruce, Arizona cypress, atlas cedar and limber pine. Blue hollies have their own unique inky darkness. Browns hail from the undersides of southern magnolias, leatherleaf viburnum and Yakushimanum rhododendrons.

Leaf texture provides more refined contrast than color, and usually requires closer inspection to fully appreciate. The variations here also abound: bristly, raspy, spiny, scalelike, fuzzy, quilted, smooth, glossy, stiff and pliable. To best appreciate the diversity, use the dissimilar next to one another in the garden so their differences are more apparent. Let sunlight add deeper texture for you — the scales and needles of conifers produce interesting artistic effects when the lit foliage tips stand out from the darker interior. Sunlight also emphasizes the gloss of southern magnolia, cherry laurel, mountain laurel, sarcococca and cross vine leaves. By contrast, to the touch, elm and weigela leaves have a raspy surface. Several viburnums have depressed veins giving their foliage a quilted feel.

Playing a part in the plant's texture as a whole are leaf size and shape. These elements alone can make for very pleasing combinations, even in monochromatic green. For interesting detail, site intricate, large and bold, or fine and dainty leaves near

more simple, modest ones. From a distance, for example, bamboo, nandina, 'Nikko' deutzia, bald cypress, dawn redwood, heather, arborvitae, cedar, pine, spruce and juniper all give varying degrees of a feathered look to the landscape. Yucca, liriope and mondo grass add strong linear accents. The curves in the tracery of holly, osmanthus, ninebark, oak, sweetgum and maple leaves draw the eye. Magnolia, aucuba and hydrangea offer big, simple foliage. Tiny leaves arise from creeping cotoneaster, dwarf spiraea, bearberry, Japanese holly, boxwood and boxleaf euonymus. The shape of ginkgo's fans have their own uniqueness.

With so many possibilities, this may seem overwhelming. But concentrate on the desired effect, and your choices are simpler. Bold leaves in intense, warm colors of gold, copper, red, rose and plum will convey a feeling of energy and stand out from their surroundings, calling attention to the garden. For a calmer, cooler retreat, use finer foliage in shades of purple-black, blue, mint, dark green, olive, white and silver, which will settle into the quieter corners of the garden.

While beauty is certainly in the eye of the beholder, harmonious results are generally achieved by working with only one or two variables at a time — leaf size, shape, texture, or color. Varying plant height and growth habit will add to the variety without detracting from the points of interest. In all, simply learn to take foliage into consideration if you find yourself concerned with gaps in flowering — or cut to the chase and just plan around foliage alone! Flowers are not the only show in town — many plants contribute to the garden throughout seasons, offering beauty and interest in a variety of surprising and rewarding ways. *~*





# Gardening for the Future: Nati

*As it has been said many times, gardening is all about the future. We plan for our plants to grow and mature, we look forward to new introductions, and we pass on our achievements and lessons learned to the next generation of gardeners.*

Part of that forward-thinking mentality is the advent of organic gardening and the gaining popularity of *BaySafe* gardening – using environmentally-friendly gardening practices and including more native plants. In our area in particular, this means protecting our treasured Chesapeake Bay and surrounding lands.

We at Behnke Nurseries take pride in helping you to achieve that goal. Not long ago, we partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's *BayScaping* initiative to create our *BaySafe* program. Its goals are to educate you on some of the fauna native to the Chesapeake watershed, to inform you of any plants that pose a threat to these ecosystems, and to suggest ways to manage an ecologically sound garden. In keeping with these goals, we have worked to bring you a greater variety of native plants to choose from and are always ready to offer advice about products which will have a lesser impact on the environment. We have also determined to stop offering particularly troublesome invasive plants for sale at our garden centers.

Every year, we strive to offer a good selection of native plant species and their cultivars. A cultivar is a cultivated variety; a variety is a subset of the population having certain characteristics different from the typical form – like flower color or growth habit – that are passed down through the generations. There is always controversy over whether cultivars of native plants should be considered native. Often times, cultivars are more widely available in the horticultural industry, as they are considered improvements or

interesting alternatives to the wild type with regard to ornamental use. In terms of wildlife value, they usually provide comparable food or shelter resource as their wild counterparts.

The information signs we display with our plants mention, if known, whether or not a given plant is native. Along with this notation, our *BaySafe* logo is present to identify native plants at a glance. For the time being, we include cultivars derived from native species, and in a few cases, naturally-occurring hybrids between natives. Our main reference for native ranges are the Maryland Native Plant Society and works by Michael Dirr, although other sources may be used. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay also provides us with handouts on uses for native plants and responsible gardening practices.

Our signs treat invasive ornamental plants similarly, bearing mentions of caution in their use and an invasive logo. In this we reference publications of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Maryland Invasive Species Council. Global plant populations are always in a state of flux, but human-assisted displacement disrupts ecosystems much faster than they can recover or adapt. We therefore encourage the use of alternative plants when confronted with potentially invasive species, especially for those gardeners living near parks or undeveloped areas, as we are concerned about the movement of these plants from the garden into the adjacent park lands. Exotic plants that behave invasively tend to thrive without

their natural predators and competitors and can out-compete native flora – displacing many members of the ecosystem and interfering with ecological succession. Some of the most problematic plants in this category we do not stock, to keep from contributing to this form of biological pollution.

Whether you garden with natives or not, however, there are still many gardening practices that reduce environmental pollution, wasteful resource use, and

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*Once you have accurately which remedies will be best – small populations usually significant damage, and the of the pests will keep pre situation in check. In essence the most reasonable approach*

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personal cost. We encourage you give them a try – you may just find that your garden is more beautiful, attracts more wildlife, and you have more time to relax and enjoy your efforts. The bulk of garden-related products are pesticides and fertilizers, and here is where the most education and reformation of garden practices can be accomplished.

Before reaching for the pesticides, the best cure for any garden ailment is a proper diagnosis. The easiest and most accurate way to achieve this is to bring a sample in to Behnke's, as a lot can be learned from examining the patient. Familiarity with the plant's growing conditions helps greatly in pinpointing the problem, as stressful growing conditions can invite pests and



# Invasive Plants and BaySafe Practices

— by Miri Talabac, Woody Plants Specialist, Entomologist, Certified Professional Horticulturist

disease. Often no pesticide is necessary, as symptoms result from unexpected causes such as weather or malnourishment. With a correct diagnosis, we can recommend the most effective course of action and help you to avoid the situation in the future. This not only saves you time and money, but also the unreasonable use of inappropriate chemicals that may harm innocent wildlife and pollute the watershed.

When pests are the cause of problems in the garden, tolerance of their presence

*identified a culprit, find out  
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situation in check, a measure of tolerance is  
the best approach.*

and better use of biological controls are the future of effective and ecologically sound pest control. Insects in particular are often the source of detriment and expense, although it is ironic that the most diverse group of garden visitors has perhaps the fewest number of true pests. Once you have accurately identified the culprit, find out which remedies will be best for keeping it under control – small populations usually don't cause noticeable or significant damage, and the presence of a small number of the pests will keep predators around to keep the situation in check. In essence, a measure of tolerance is the most reasonable approach. Limiting pesticide use reduces runoff pollution and keeps these natural predators around to manage

pests in the future. Diversifying your garden and including native plants will attract more beneficial organisms and encourage them to stay by providing alternative food and shelter.

The cherished lawn is also something of a contradiction to ecologically wise gardening, and people are slowly beginning to realize this. Lime, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizers, watering and mowing...turf grass is likely the most expensive, time-consuming (and uninteresting) plant in your garden. We create huge monocultures of it, often in locations where it doesn't prosper, and continue to trim, overfertilize and overwater it to oblivion. True, grass makes for good play areas and aesthetic surroundings for other plantings. But for those not using lawns for that purpose, wouldn't an array of groundcovers or expanded planting beds be far more interesting? A diverse planting makes better use of nutrients and water, controls erosion, and has fewer rampant pests and diseases. Stepping stones and groundcovers can be used to maintain walking paths through the yard. In Mid-western states, for example, mini-prairies and meadows in the yard are an appealing alternative to turf. In this region, shade gardens are the best candidates for recreating a natural woodland floor of wildflowers and other understory plants.

For an exciting new look of the future of gardening, consider growing over your head — literally. Green roofs, most popular now in Europe, aim to beautify a home while reducing its environmental impact. Rainfall is absorbed by the plants and soil instead of running off and taking pollutants with it. The living mass adds insulation against cold and heat while reducing the "heat island" effect of traditional roof materials. Roofs that are structurally engineered for such capacity can harbor a whole population of low-growing plants that are adapted to living in thin soils. The effect is a beautiful colorful tapestry of

foliage and flowers. Today office buildings, libraries and parking garages are adding balcony or rooftop gardens to their construction to bring in that extra bit of green.

Gardening for wildlife is also gaining ground. Butterflies, birds and pond denizens all have their advocates eager to provide for these beautiful creatures. People are beginning to include nectar and host plants for butterflies; berry, nut and seed-producing plants for birds and small mammals; and water features for frogs, salamanders, dragonflies and other animals. Here, again, we see natives come into their own, as these animals have evolved to rely on these species as vital resources and shapers of their habitat.

A growing number of schools are also creating gardens with which to teach of ecology, plant biology, soil science and agriculture. We often have students from elementary school to college contacting the nursery with questions for plant-related projects, collections and reports. Teachers and parents will ask for advice in creating wildlife gardens, edible plantings, and so forth. In response to that, some of our winter seminars this year were geared toward introducing children to the garden. What better an audience upon which to impress a responsible stewardship of the environment?

And so with this we look toward a more exciting future...a BaySafe future, with restoration of habitat, reduction of waste and pollution, and more harmonious coexistence with the environment we live in. It will certainly not happen overnight, and it may not be easy to adjust to or accept, but we dare say it will be well worth it in the end!

*Editor's Note: Attend our free seminar on invasive plants to learn more about this problem. Details are on page 7.*



# The Easter Lily — Beauty and Simplicity

— by Larry Hurley, Perennial Specialist

*T*he Easter lily, *Lilium longiflorum*, is a symbol of the Easter observance all around the world. Well, actually, as it turns out, it's more of an American tradition. And here is how it came to be.

*Lilium longiflorum* is native to the southern islands of the Japanese archipelago, and was first described by a western botanist in 1798. Samples were sent to England, and eventually bulbs were sent to Bermuda, where commercial cultivation was carried out in the late 1800's. As time went by, plant virus problems resulted in the demise of the industry. But, by that time, there was an established market for the bulbs in the United States. Japanese farmers began to grow the plant for export, and they became the primary supplier until World War II caused an end to trade between Japan and the United States.

It was soon found that the west coast of the United States in the vicinity of the border between Oregon and Washington provided ideal conditions for growing the bulbs. Today, about 11 million bulbs a year are harvested from a handful of farms, clustered at that border. Ninety-five percent of the bulbs are sold in the United States. While this lily is used for cut flower purposes in Europe (for example), its culture as a potted plant for Easter has not caught on there.

This is odd, as it is an excellent plant, offering beauty with its glistening white, fragrant flowers. And it is predictable in culture. Easter is a movable holiday, occurring at the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, and as such, changes from year to year (Western Church calendar). Also, the blooming period is shorter than for poinsettias, so growers need to be on their toes when timing the crop. *Be thee neither too early, nor too late.* To monitor the crop, the grower goes to the greenhouse every few days, and literally dissects a lily plant, counting the leaves. Based on the stage of development, the temperature of the greenhouse is raised or lowered to control how fast the leaves (and plant and flowers) are developing.

You art lovers out there know that white lilies have been a symbol of the Virgin Mary for a thousand years, showing up in paintings of the Annunciation, for example. This is actually the Madonna Lily, *Lilium candidum*. This lily is native to western Asia, and over time was cultivated in the Middle East. It was important as an herbal remedy to the Romans, and was used in ceremonies honoring the goddess Juno. It is banded about that it made its way to northern Europe through the auspices of pilgrims returning from Jerusalem, or as booty from the Crusades. It does not lend itself to pot culture (that is, growing in pots for the Easter holiday), but the similar-in-appearance *Lilium longiflorum* performs just peachy.

While in the house, keep your lily in a comfortably cool room to ensure that the flowers last longer. Water when the soil surface becomes dry to the touch; do not allow the plant to stand in water in a non-draining pot or decorative pot cover. If you want to, you may plant it outside at the end of April in an area of the garden that is sunny or lightly shaded, in a good organic soil. You will probably get flowers the following summer.

Lastly, when the flower opens, the anthers which bear the yellow pollen can stain the flowers. They are easily removed by hand—just grab them and pull gently, the pollen-bearing tops just pop off in your hand. They can also stain clothing, so put them in the trash and wash your hands. Then, go back to your lily, inhale the intense fragrance, and be assured that spring is just around the corner.

*Editor's Note: To learn more about Easter Lilies, consider attending our free seminar on March 20 at Behnke's Beltsville. See next page for details.*



# Free Seminars Continue at Beltsville

*Please call to reserve your seat 301-937-1100*

## WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?

- #S33 *Tim Zastrow and Christopher Larkin;*  
*Saturday, Arborists, Bartlett Tree Experts*  
*Mar 19,* Discover the secret life of roots—  
*10 AM* where tree health begins. Maintaining  
 soil health encourages healthy trees.

## NEW ROSES AND HOW TO GROW THEM

- #S34 *Doug Ford; Jackson & Perkins Roses*  
*Saturday,* There's always something new in the  
*Mar 19,* world of rose breeders. Hear all about  
*1 PM* the best of the introductions.

## ALL ABOUT EASTER LILIES

- #S35 *John Peter Thompson*  
*Sunday,* Learn the rich history surrounding the  
*Mar 20,* Easter lily as well as information about  
*10 AM* growing them successfully at home.

## HUMMINGBIRD GARDENS

- #S36 *Lisa Bierer-Garrett; The Great*  
*Sunday,* Outdoors  
*Mar 20,* Delight to these "flying flowers" as  
*1 PM* they frequent your garden to visit their  
 favorite food sources.

## NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE LANDSCAPE

- #S37 *Dr. Sara Tangren; Chesapeake Native*  
*Saturday,* Nurseries  
*Mar 26,* Discover the best local native plants to  
*10 AM* use in your garden— and restore your  
 own little piece of Maryland.

## WONDERFUL WOODY PLANTS

- #S38 *Phil Normandy; Brookside Gardens*  
*Saturday,* A Brookside Gardens woody plant  
*Mar 26,* expert discusses some of his favorite  
*1 PM* plants for the mid-Atlantic garden.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BEHNKE TIME

- #S39 *John Peter Thompson; Behnke Staff*  
*Sunday,* The story of Behnke Nurseries is a  
*Mar 27,* classic tale of European immigrants  
*10 AM* realizing their dreams in America.

## INVASIVE PLANTS: LITTLE CROP OF HORRORS

- #S40 *John Peter Thompson; Behnke Staff*  
*Sunday,* John traces the history of our  
*Mar 27,* gardening traditions, plant exploration,  
*1 PM* and the appearance of (gasp!) invasive  
 ornamental plants.

## GARDENING TO PROTECT THE BAY

- #S41 *Carole Ann Barth; Environmental*  
*Saturday,* Planner  
*April 2,* Learn how you can have a beautiful  
*10 AM* garden accent and reduce runoff to the  
 Chesapeake Bay at the same time.

## SUCCESS WITH CAMELLIAS

- #S42 *Dr. Bill Ackerman, Camellia Expert*  
*Saturday,* Learn basics of camellia culture, and  
*April 2,* discover the cold-hardy cultivars  
*1 PM* which were developed by Dr.  
 Ackerman.

## FROM ANNUALS TO ZUCCESS!

- #S43 *Eric Morrison; Horticulturist*  
*Sunday,* Eric demonstrates his talent for  
*April 3,* creating beautiful potted gardens.  
*10 AM* Discover his tricks of the trade.

## BIG, BOLD CONTAINER GARDENS

- #S44 *Eric Morrison; Horticulturist*  
*Sunday,* Mix bold foliage plants with flowers  
*April 3,* in containers to create a splashy  
*1 PM* accents for your deck or patio.

## HOSTAS FOR THE MARYLAND GARDEN

- #S45 *Randy Best; Behnke Staff*  
*Saturday,* Back by popular demand, "Mr.  
*April 9,* Hosta" will expound on his very  
*10 AM* favorite topic — perennial hostas.

## THE CHEF'S ESSENTIAL HERBS

- #S46 *Roger Zimm; Behnke Staff and*  
*Saturday,* Professional Chef  
*April 9,* Plant herbs to enhance your meals all  
*1 PM* year round, and pick up tips to use in  
 the kitchen and in the garden.

## GARDENING FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC STATES

- #S48 *Andre Viette; Radio Personality/*  
*Sunday,* Author  
*April 10,* Andre, a popular speaker, lays out a  
*1 PM* monthly plan for successful gardening  
 as described in his new book.

## YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

- #S49 *Dave Culp; Sunny Border Nurseries*  
*Saturday,* Dave discusses all of the "Perennial  
*April 16,* Plants of the Year" and improved  
*1 PM* varieties now available.



*A Brief History of Behnke Time looks back on the first 75 years of your favorite garden center. The speaker is a grandson of founders Albert and Rose Behnke. (March 27 at 10 AM.)*

# Garden Gurus

Listen to the Behnke Garden Gurus,  
 Saturdays from 9 to 11 AM on 1160 WMET.  
 Call us with your garden questions!  
 Toll free: 1-866-369-1160



*The Garden Gurus: (from left) Ami Dorn, Miri Talabac, Patricia Manke, Producer Annie Williams, Larry Hurley and John Peter Thompson.*

## Wanted: Weed Warriors

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Forest Ecologist is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor and remove non-native invasive plant species in Montgomery County Parks, and we need your help! As a Weed Warrior volunteer, you will receive a short training session from the Forest Ecologist in the identification of, removal and control techniques for non-native invasive plants. Weed Warriors can then work at their own pace and choose a schedule that best suits them. Many current Weed Warriors live near a M-NCPPC Stream Valley Park or Regional Park and do their volunteer work while walking their dogs or taking an occasional hike through their neighborhood park. Whether you choose to work individually or in a group, your efforts will contribute to the control of non-native vegetation in the 28,000 acres of Montgomery County park land.

Please contact M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist Carole Bergmann at 301-949-2818 for more information or to sign up.



## Online Garden Shop at Behnkes.com!

We are pleased to announce a new feature available now on our website — online shopping! From the comfort of your living room you can shop for just about everything you could find in the Garden Shop at Behnke's, plus a few items which are only available online! Choose from books and calendars, garden apparel, including gloves, clogs and hats. You'll also find garden supplies, such as seeds, fertilizers, pots and soils. And you'll love the large selection of delightful accessories— both classical and whimsical.

There are lots of choices for gift giving, too, including a collection of gift baskets. Here you'll find bushel baskets chock full of items specifically designed for one particular area of interest. Choices include baskets for Bird Lovers, Houseplant Gardeners, Hunters, Water Gardeners and Weather Watchers. To view these baskets, simply click the word "shop" on the **Behnkes.com** home page. Then either type "gift baskets" in the search field, or click on "Gifts for Gardeners" and then "Gift Baskets."

The beautiful brass sundial shown at right is just one of a number of sundials available online. This model is 8½ inches in diameter and features a motif of butterflies, dragonflies and other friendly creatures. A butterfly gnomon completes the theme. To find it online, simply type "butterfly sundial" into the search field on the "shop" page, or to see the whole collection, simply type "sundial."

We know you will enjoy browsing the many items available at Behnkes.com. And be sure to check back often, new items are added regularly!

*At Behnkes.com you can browse our Garden Shop online for a variety of gardening supplies, accessories and gifts, such as this beautiful brass sundial.*

Shop with your Visa or MasterCard, all transactions are guaranteed secure. Shortly after you place an order, you will receive an email to confirm your order and an order tracking number. Items will be shipped via United Parcel Service (UPS) and can be delivered anywhere in the continental United States!

**Check it out today! Simply log on to Behnke's web page, [www.behnkes.com](http://www.behnkes.com), and click on "shop."**



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