

# THE DIGGERS

Winter 2018-19

## Mark Your Calendars

### FEBRUARY 2019

- 9 **DGC Monthly Meeting “Four Points of Design”**  
Eastern Shore Hospital Center. Presented by  
4 District 1 Garden Club Speakers. Entries  
9:30-10:30. Meeting 11 am
- 20-21 **Master Gardener Training Course** Wye Mills  
contact Emily Zobel 410 228-8800 or  
[ezobel@umd.edu](mailto:ezobel@umd.edu) for more information
- 26 **Talbot County Garden Club Winter Lecture Series**  
Talbot County Free Library 1:30 pm with Greg  
Teper. Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek

### MARCH, 2019

- 2-3 **Maryland Home and Garden Show** Timonium  
Fairgrounds
- 4 **DGC Bus Trip to Philadelphia Flower Show** contact  
Sue Jones or David Adams
- 6 **District I Annual Meeting** Roland E Powell  
Convention Center. Hosted by Worcester Garden  
Club. Program “Gardening for Good” Jessica  
Schuler of NY Botanical Gardens
- 8 **DGC Annual Meeting “Successful and Sustainable  
Gardening in a Changing Climate”** Dr. Sara Via  
Eastern Shore Hospital Center. Entries 9:30-10:30.  
Meeting 11 am
- 27 **Talbot County Garden Club Winter Lecture Series**  
Talbot County Free Library 1:30 pm with Botanical  
Artist Charlotte Heathe

### APRIL, 2019

- 3-4 **Environmental School Course 3** Sheraton Town  
Center Columbia MD. Contact  
[LindaHarris355@aol.com](mailto:LindaHarris355@aol.com) for information



### APRIL CONTINUED

- 12 **DGC Monthly Meeting.** Details to come
- 23 **Symposium Presented by Talbot Garden  
Club.** The Milestone. Easton 9-4. \$90  
Speakers, lunch, vendors. Reservation  
required by April 10
- 24-25 **Maryland Daffodil Society Show**  
Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum  
4/24 2-8pm. 4/25 10am-3pm
- 30-5/2 **Flower Show School, Course 1.** Bowie, MD  
Designs: Traditional Line, Line Mass and  
Mass. Chaired by Susie Middleton and Judy  
Slaughter

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## From DGC President, Jeanne Bernard...

Our Club enjoyed a very busy and festive holiday season beginning with our annual wreath workshop in late November, chaired by Ching Stanton and Gloria Brake, and the decorating of a beautiful and creative, oyster-themed Christmas tree for display in the Maryland Statehouse. The committee, led by Fran Collins, outdid themselves! On December 1<sup>st</sup>, club members and guests who traveled to Annapolis for a special guided tour of the Statehouse were wowed by our contribution to the beautiful holiday display. We next enjoyed by a lovely lunch in the Capital city and then a fascinating tour of the historic William Paca house and garden decorated for Christmas. Our bus trip participant numbers were fewer than usual, perhaps because of the time of the year, but everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and David Adams and Sue Jones did their usual terrific job coordinating.



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We capped off our seasonal celebration with our annual holiday luncheon, *“Visions of Sugarplums,”* on December 6<sup>th</sup> which delighted attendees with a décor reflective of the glittery deliciousness the theme suggested. DGC committee members crafted boxwood tree centerpieces which were lighted and decorated with candies and jewel-toned ornaments. Sparkly [real] candy trees helped set the ‘sugar-plummy’ mood on the buffet table which also featured tall topiary designs of mixed greens, jewel-toned ornaments and glittered pined cones nestled on a snowy base. What a wonderful day we enjoyed with great vendor shopping (especially our Club’s own Diggers’ Boutique), spirited entertainment by the North Dorchester High School Band, a delicious catered lunch and then a stunning design program by David Powers of Potomac Floral Wholesale in Silver Spring. David presented an inspiring, educational and entertaining program on design which thoroughly captivated the packed house. He created ten gorgeous and unique holiday arrangements ‘on-the-spot’ which were raffled off to lucky guests. In addition, the remaining floral material from Potomac was auctioned to benefit the club’s scholarship fund and brought in an impressive \$850!



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To cap off a terrific 2018-2019 club year, in March Dr. Sara Via, a professor of biology at UM, will discuss ‘Successful and Sustainable Gardening in a Changing Climate.’ This topic is a perfect segue into our next program year, the theme of which will be *“Go Native...for the Birds and the Bees and the Flowers and the Trees!”* Throughout the year, our schedule of nationally-recognized horticulturalists, landscape and floral designers includes: Karen Klindinst who will teach us about taking digital photographs in our gardens (well, okay, she’s a photographer!); Nancy Lawson who will share humane gardening practices to attract wildlife; Holly Shimizu and Ruth Clausen who will offer unique takes on landscaping with native perennials in two separate programs; Carrie Engel who will introduce us to a variety of ‘minor’ or underutilized bulbs to supplement the usual suspects (tulips and daffodils) most of us have in our gardens; and Susie Creamer who will speak about attracting birds to our gardens. A special design competition will be featured at our July meeting—you won’t want to miss the fun. In addition, several hands-on design workshops will be offered including a Floral Design 101 class for those new to arranging flowers, a reprise of a very popular leaf manipulation workshop and instruction on creating traditional designs. Claire Jones will join us in November for a very special program highlighting her experiences decorating the White House for Christmas, an apt way to get us into the holiday spirit. It should be a great year, program-wise—we appreciate the hard work of the Program Committee: Martha Keating, Kathy Slaughter, Linda Rossi, Mari Stanley, Cheryl Willey, Judy Slaughter and Jeanne Bernard.

2020 is the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dorchester Garden Club, a milestone we will most assuredly celebrate! Plans are still underway and we will keep you apprised, however, we hope to have ‘all hands on deck’ to ensure a memorable and most enjoyable experience.



Don’t forget to sign up for our bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show—it should be a great experience. The theme is ‘Flower Power’ and the show will pay tribute to the enormous impact of flowers on our lives. In addition to beautiful landscape vignettes, the show features extraordinary horticulture exhibits and floral designs in competition, educational exhibits, workshops and

demonstrations and terrific vendor shopping! We need club member support if we are to continue organizing these trips. They are excellent fundraisers which support things like our civic improvement projects and increasingly more expensive program speakers, the caliber of which our club members have come to expect. Please invite your friends to join in!

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## Remembering Other 2018 Fun Times for the Dorchester Garden Club!

Adding to all the wonderful memories and photos Jeanne Bernard shared in her article, who can forget Garden Guru Kent Russell's presentation at the Eastern Shore Hospital Center in late September. Will we ever see shoes the same way again?? Here are some photos from that day, along with photos from Trish Reynold's Container Bulb Planting workshop in November and the 2018 Wreath Workshop at Zion United Methodist Church. Thanks to Publicity co-chair Linda Rossi and to Kay Karminski for sharing photos of the workshops. Enjoy!

### Kent Russell, Garden Guru





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## Container Bulb Workshop with Trish Reynolds



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## Wreath Workshop



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## Cookie's Much Requested Corn Crab Chowder Recipe from the Workshop Lunch...



### Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons butter and 1 Tablespoon olive oil  
1 large chopped onion  
½ diced red pepper  
1 pound red skinned potatoes unpeeled and diced  
2 ½ cups bottled clam juice  
Bay leaves  
3 ½ cups half and half,  
1 pound fresh or frozen corn kernels, 1 pound crabmeat  
3 Tablespoons chopped fresh thyme  
Old Bay and salt and pepper to taste

### Preparation:

Saute onion and red pepper in olive oil and butter in heavy soup pan over medium heat for about 3 minutes until softened. Add potatoes and stir until coated. Add clam juice, bay leaf. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium low. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Add half and half, corn, crab, fresh thyme and simmer until potatoes are tender. About 5 minutes. Season to taste with Old Bay, salt and pepper.

Makes 6 dinner size servings.

YUM!!!!

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## Saving your Holiday Amaryllis

*...The Small town Gardener, by Marianne Willburn*



With a little bit of care, you can extend their lives well into the years to come.

I've been saving my amaryllis for years now, but this week I spoke with Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs to ensure my methods were above board and to see if there was anything I was missing.

Brent is one of the friendliest and kindest men I know, and although he was standing in a field directing the planting of thousands of daffodils in their display gardens in Gloucester, VA, he was happy to answer my questions if it meant encouraging others to enjoy their amaryllis for many seasons to come.

### Amaryllis lifecycle



Before we get to those tips, I want to take a quick minute to explain why amaryllis behaves the way it does. Please resist the temptation to skip ahead – understanding a plant's life cycle goes a long way towards helping us remember what to do and why to do it. Amaryllis is a tropical bulb, 2-5 inches in diameter. It begins its growing season with a flowering spike (up to three) and then immediately follows up with long, strappy leaves that grow strongly over the warm months. Under bright sunny conditions, that foliage produces food to be stored in the bulb for next season's flowers and seeds. The bigger the bulb the more flowers it produces.

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At the end of the growing season, the bulb goes through a dormancy period when water is scarce, temps are cooler and light levels are low. The foliage dies back and the bulb remains dormant for 2-3 months until rains resume, temperatures increase and those stunning flowers begin to emerge 4-6 weeks later. When you or I pick up an amaryllis bulb at the store or in our mailbox in October, they have already gone through their foliage growing season on someone else's dime and stored food in that bulb. The grower has also put them into a dormancy period for 8-10 weeks, and thus we are gifted pure papery-husked potential in need of a shot of water and a bit of warmth.

Once they have flowered on our tables and counters, they must once again produce foliage to create and store food for next year's blooms. And that's where we come in.

## Repotting Your Amaryllis



Unless you ordered by mail and then potted up your bulbs in your own good potting soil, most amaryllis 'kits' come with a disk of compressed peat that expands with water to form the growing medium – and which is almost completely free of nutrients. This year I impulse-added to my collection with ridiculously cheap bulbs in glass vases and sphagnum moss at Costco. They bloomed beautifully, but didn't love the temporary lodging.

All of these must now be re-potted into good soil with slow-release fertilizer. Brent uses and recommends Organic Mechanics potting mixes which not only contain an OMRI-listed fertilizer, but team with microbial life beneficial to your bulbs.

Snip the faded flower scape off to prevent the bulb putting energy into making seeds. Plant the bulb two-thirds below the soil, head and shoulders above. A layer of granite grit, rice hulls or perlite can help with fungus gnats if your houseplants suffer from them. When I asked Brent about the old adage of crowding amaryllis bulbs in small pots much like agapanthus, he was familiar with the saying, but didn't find it made a difference. What is more crucial is where you place the pot to benefit from the most light.

## What a bulb wants: light and moisture

"You're basically growing a sun lover in dense shade." Brent told me "So you've got to give it as much light as you can." That means south-facing windows. If you don't have them, or a heated greenhouse at the ready, it might be time for a shop light in a back bedroom.

The long, strappy leaves of amaryllis (two to seven) can certainly cope with a lower level of light, but unlike other houseplants, they are using what they get to store energy in that bulb for next year's bloom. Cheat them here and they'll cheat you there.

Water your bulbs when the top inch of soil has dried, but don't let them completely dry out.

## Planting your amaryllis outside

By the time the date of the last frost rolls around, your amaryllis have hopefully been growing well and just like you, are ready for sunlight and a bit of fresh air. Time to take them outside. Although the bulbs can be planted straight into the garden, I find that it's easier if I leave them in their pots or put many of them in one

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pot and keep them with other sun-loving potted plants for ease of watering. As they are not particularly showy, it can be easy to forget them. Do not cut back any food-producing foliage unless it has yellowed or is obviously dead.

## Starting the bloom process

Now the timing part begins. In late August or early September, bring your pots (and that's why I keep them potted) into a cool garage or dark basement and withhold water. Here they will live for 8-10 weeks in a state of dormancy. The foliage will yellow and die back. If you're pulling them out of garden beds, plant them in pots with water to settle the soil, but do not give them further care. Amaryllis bulbs take about 4-6 weeks to bloom when given heat, light and water after dormancy. So make your calculations accordingly (mine are almost always off), and begin that process by cleanly cutting off the foliage (don't cut into the neck of the bulb), and giving them those elements. If you're aiming for Christmas bloom, start them at the end of October or early November. Brent recommends giving them bottom heat with a heat mat at 70°F to get them going quickly. Some cultivars can be notoriously slow. He also recommends leaving any off-sets (baby bulbs) connected to the parent bulb to prevent a scar that fusarium might penetrate. Let them naturally disconnect themselves. If you have the room and a shop light, you can take care of much of the waiting period somewhere other than your dining room table – and benefit from straighter blooming stems that didn't have to reach toward the light.

## Did you know?

Lastly, a bit of post-holiday pedanticism for the horticulturist in you. The bulbs we commonly refer to as amaryllis are actually *hippeastrum* (hip-ee-AS-trum) and are native to Central and South America. True amaryllis (all two species) are much less commonly seen and hail from South Africa. Perhaps this matters only to botanists and trivia kings, but I find it amusing that one incorrect four-syllable scientific name should edge out the correct term of equal difficulty in the public vernacular. It just proves to me that, given enough repetition in common parlance, botanical nomenclature can be absorbed fairly painlessly. But that is another lecture for another day. (And one that you shouldn't bring up with friends if you wish to keep them.) Today I'd like to urge you to take care of those post-holiday bulbs – whatever you may call them. If you feel like a bit of post-holiday browsing, Brent & Becky's Bulbs specializes in all manner of bulbs for every season of the year. Visit them at [www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com](http://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com).





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## Fun Information about the Philadelphia Flower Show



As you've seen in emails and Lynne Davis' wonderful weekly Buzz postings, the Dorchester Garden Club is planning to host a trip to this year's Philadelphia Flower Show. This year's theme at the show is "Flower Power" and our club's bus trip is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>. The 2019 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show, "Flower Power" will pay tribute to the enormous impact of flowers on our lives.

Visitors to the 2019 Philadelphia Flower Show will also have the opportunity to witness one of the world's most prestigious floral design competitions, which hasn't been held in the United States since 1985. The FTD World Cup 2019 brings together the world's top floral designers, representing 23 countries, for an intense floral design competition where the winner will be named Interflora World Cup Champion. The breathtaking creations will be on display throughout the week of the show. More info to come at the February meeting. Some fun things you may not know about the history of the Philadelphia Flower Show....

The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is an annual event produced by The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) and held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in early March. It is the "largest indoor flower show in the world," attracting more than 250,000 people annually. The show features large scale gardens, which range from elaborate landscaped displays to individual and club entries of a prize horticultural specimen. Each year there is an official theme which serves as the inspiration for most exhibits. The exhibits are submitted for judging in many categories, and are highly competitive.

The amateur division of the show known as the Competitive Classes often have an assigned theme, related to the overall show theme. The 2007 Show, Legends of Ireland, featured Pressed Plant Material (i.e. dried flower

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pictures) that "incorporated a Celtic Knot." The first weekend's Medium Niche theme was Wish You Were Here "Exhibitors will be sent Irish postcards for inspiration. A copy of the postcard will be mounted next to the exhibit." Entrants for that class typically have a mockup of the niche at home, where they practice assembling and lighting their entry in the months preceding the show. In a Challenge class, entrants bring only pruning shears, and must use show-provided materials to interpret a theme within a limited amount of time. Three typical Horticulture classes are: Clivia, flowering. Pot 8" or under: Clivia, flowering. Pot 8"-10", and: Clivia, foliage. (There was also a Clivia entered in 2007 under Exceptional plants 10–20 years old, to be judged against "perfection" for their species/cultivar.)

A popular part of the show floor is the Garden marketplace where visitors can buy plants and seeds, cut flowers, craft items, and other flower, landscaping and horticulture-related items.

The Show boasts fabulous floral and garden design, live entertainment, culinary events and extraordinary gardening how-to workshops and lectures by experts.

Here are some fun facts about the incredible scope and magnitude of the show from last year's event!

1. 2,500 gallons of water are used for the Flower Show waterfall entryway.
2. 200 pieces of bamboo were harvested specifically for the Flower Show.
3. 3,500 feet of rope were used for the suspension bridge that guests will walk across in the green rainforest.
4. There are 2,000 leaves in the hanging ribbons of the rainforest canopy.
5. There are 4,000 butterflies in the Butterflies Live exhibit.
6. There are 9,000 bags of tea ready to be brewed in the Garden Tea room.
7. The Philadelphia Flower Show has a \$65 million economic impact on the city of Philadelphia.
8. 3,500 volunteers lend a hand at the Philadelphia Flower Show.
9. There are 350 exhibitors in the Horticourt.
10. \$1 million is raised each year by the Flower Show to support the community greening programs of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.
11. 531,000 trees have been planted by PHS and its partners in Pennsylvania, South Jersey and Delaware as part of the Plant One Million initiative.

Cost for the bus trip is \$75 for members and guests. Contact David Adams or Sue Jones to reserve your spot or see them at the February meeting!

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## Spotted Lanternfly Update and Alert for Maryland



photo credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

### Marylanders Urged to Be Vigilant for New Invasive Species

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Maryland Department of Agriculture has confirmed that a single adult spotted lanternfly has been found on a trap in the northeast corner of Cecil County near the border of Pennsylvania and Delaware. This is the first confirmed sighting of the invasive species in Maryland, and the department does not believe there is an established population of the pest in the state.

The spotted lanternfly poses a major threat to the region’s agricultural industries as they feed on over 70 different types of plants and crops – including grapes, hops, apples, peaches, oak, pine and many others. Originally from Asia, the spotted lanternfly is non-native to the U.S. and was first detected in Berks County, Pennsylvania in the fall of 2014. As a known plant-hopper and hitchhiker, the spotted lanternfly has spread to 13 counties within Pennsylvania and has confirmed populations in Delaware, Virginia, and New Jersey.

“The spotted lanternfly has been on our radar since Pennsylvania’s first sighting in 2014,” said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. “The Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Plant Protection and Weed Management Program and our partners have been proactively monitoring for spotted lanternfly across the state in an effort to keep the destructive pest from establishing a population in Maryland. By staying ahead of the spotted lanternfly we can keep our farmers’ crops and the state’s agricultural industries safe.”

The department’s Plant Protection and Weed Management Program continues to work with the University of Maryland Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), and others to monitor the insect in Maryland via trap

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surveys. The department has also launched outreach and education campaigns aimed at agricultural operations and the general public. There is no spotted lanternfly quarantine for businesses or homeowners in Maryland at this time.

“Luckily, we found the first spotted lanternfly towards the end of the season and the confirmed spotted lanternfly is a male, which means it did not produce any egg masses in the state,” said Kim Rice, the department’s Plant Protection and Weed Management Program Manager. “It is extremely important that businesses, agricultural operations, farmers, and homeowners in Maryland, especially in Cecil County, are aware of this pest, its potential consequences, and how to identify it. Early detection is key to stopping the spotted lanternfly from spreading.”

Throughout the fall and into the winter the department will continue to conduct surveys and visual inspections for spotted lanternfly egg masses on the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)—the spotted lanternfly’s preferred tree to feed on. As cold weather continues to set in, adult spotted lanternflies will start to die off, and egg masses can be seen from now until late spring. Come spring time, egg masses will hatch producing 30-50 black and white-speckled nymphs.



## What should you do?

If you suspect you have found a spotted lantern fly egg mass, nymph, or adult, snap a picture of it, collect it, put it in a plastic bag, freeze it, and report it to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at [DontBug.MD@maryland.gov](mailto:DontBug.MD@maryland.gov). Deceased samples from any life stage can be sent to the Maryland Department of Agriculture—Plant Protection and Weed Management at 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis.

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## On a Lighter Note!

Remember to take in your ceramic pots. I feel this pain. I did not heed this advice and one of my favorite pots is now destroyed and in the trash!!!!



## What an interesting article from Longwood Gardens!

*Phantasm of the Forest* By Peter Zale, Ph.D. Longwood Gardens, on January 7, 2019



Many guests visit Longwood Gardens to appreciate, enjoy, and study our carefully curated, world-class collection of more than 11,000 kinds of plants. Occasionally, plants find their way to the Gardens without the assistance of horticulturists—some of these are native species not previously found at Longwood that have found a happy home in Longwood’s natural lands, while others are unwanted invasive species. Very rarely, a plant is found that defies logic and provides insight

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into the horticultural history and ecological health and capacity of the interface between Longwood's gardens and natural lands.

In July 2018, Longwood's Director of Library and Information Services David Sleasman spotted the bright red fruits of a ghostly, striking plant growing along an access road in one of Longwood's naturally forested areas and immediately queried the curatorial office about its identity. It was identified as *Cyrtosia* (syn. *Galeola*) *septentrionalis*, a hardy, Japanese native orchid known for its medicinal properties and peculiar life history. While it is not unusual to see orchids in the Conservatory or outdoor gardens, the occurrence of this species is truly an anomaly due to its highly specific requirements for seed germination and growth. In fact, it's considered impossible to cultivate and has never previously been found in the United States. So what makes *Cyrtosia* so special—and how did it come to be at Longwood?

*Cyrtosia* belongs to a highly specialized group within the orchid family known as mycoheterotrophic orchids, which obtain some degree of their food or nutritional needs from fungi, rather than making it themselves through photosynthesis. *Cyrtosia* is an obligate mycoheterotroph—all of its food comes from parasitism of a common parasitic fungus called *Armillaria*, known commonly as shoestring or honey fungus. The reliance on fungi is evident by appearance of the plants; they are achlorophyllous, meaning that they don't produce leaves and chloroplasts necessary for photosynthesis. Without the fungus, these orchids cannot survive. This relationship is extremely difficult or impossible to replicate in cultivation, begging the question: how did these these orchids find their way to Longwood Gardens and how long have they been there? Although Longwood has a rich history of importing and promoting plants from Japan, how *Cyrtosia* arrived at the gardens remains a mystery. Since it is impossible to cultivate *Cyrtosia* in a garden setting, it is also impossible to purchase from Japanese nurseries, and accordingly there are no official records of its introduction in the plant accession database.

Conversations with former Longwood employees and students involved in past plant exploration and importation efforts have suggested that the introduction of this species was accidental. It is plausible that the tiny, long-lived seeds of *Cyrtosia* hitch-hiked their way to the Gardens on the roots of other plants imported from Japan. This makes sense considering the location of the plants near the experimental greenhouses, the first place many imported plants would have been first grown at the Gardens.

While it may seem unremarkable, the fact that appropriate fungi exist to support the germination and sustained development of this orchid cannot be understated. There are at least 10 individuals of *Cyrtosia* growing in widely scattered parts of the naturally forested area and some of them are large clumps of multiple stems—suggesting that not only have the plants been there for a long time, but they are thriving! Their presence provides clues to the quality and plasticity of the historic woodlot ecosystem where they were found, suggesting that it has been stable and healthy over a long period of time. Coincidentally, the three birds orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*), a very rare native orchid in Pennsylvania, was also found in the same historic woods. rchids find their way to Longwood Gardens and how long have they been there?

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**Cross section of a Cyrtosia fruit showing the thick, fleshy part of the fruit meant to attract birds and the tiny winged seeds. Photo by Duane Erdmann.**

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(*Triphora trianthophora*), a very rare native orchid in Pennsylvania, was also found in the same historic woods. orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*), a very rare native orchid in Pennsylvania, was also found in the same historic woods.



***The three birds orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*) pictured left, was found historically in the same area where *Cyrtosia* was discovered. © 2018 Jim Fowler.***

*Cyrtosia* is also unique in other ways. The bright red, banana-like fruits are meant to attract birds. Birds feed on the sweet, fleshy fruits of the orchid and, in doing so, eat the seeds. The seeds are then dispersed as they pass through and out of the bird's digestive tract, making *Cyrtosia* one of a handful of the 25,000 to 30,000 orchid species in which seeds are not dispersed by wind. Unlike other orchid seeds, which are dust-like, *Cyrtosia* seeds are comparatively large (although still very small!) and possess a circumferential wing, making them look like miniature flying saucers upon close inspection. We have not found evidence that birds are eating the

seeds of *Cyrtosia* at Longwood, but while searching the woods for plants, many partially eaten fruits were discovered throughout the woods and sometimes at appreciable distances from the parent plants. It appears that squirrels, not birds, can also use the fruits as a food source and may be responsible for distributing them throughout the woods.

As introduced species carry the potential to be invasive, we are closely monitoring the *Cyrtosia* to prevent further spread in our natural areas and beyond. After discovering this species on our grounds, our natural lands team scouted the entire property for additional plants. All of the plants we have found are confined to a single woodlot that is bound on all sides by roads. This appears to serve as a barrier to further spread, although we are still gathering information. We will monitor all of the plants at flowering and fruiting time and continue to scout other forested portions of the property in the coming years. Since this species has such a specific relationship with *Armillaria* fungus, we also wonder if further spread may be limited because the fungus it is associating with is limited in distribution. We are currently growing the fungus in our tissue culture lab and have partners that will use molecular tools to provide an identification. With this we can learn much more about the potential ecological breadth for the orchid in our region and begin to determine its invasive potential.

At this point, we don't feel that *Cyrtosia* is displacing any native species or displaying invasive potential. In the event that it appears the *Cyrtosia* is aggressively spreading into natural areas surrounding Longwood, we will eradicate it. Over the years this has been done for several plant species introduced to the Gardens and we constantly monitor our natural lands for invasions. We also discuss potentially invasive species with other public gardens in our region so we can prevent them entering the property.



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The photo to the left illustrates the comparatively large size and vibrant color of *Cyrtosia*. Photo by Duane Erdmann.



Another interesting trait of mycoheterotrophic orchids is their ability to enter prolonged dormancy. Some of these orchids are known to flower one year, but may not be seen again in the same place for a number of years, only to reappear and flower after a substantial length of time. Longwood Research and Conservation division staff members will census the plants each year to determine if they also display this trait and determine the extent of and record variations in yearly flowering and fruiting patterns. In the meantime, staff scientists will attempt to propagate this species by growing the fungus and the seeds in strictly controlled laboratory conditions to learn more about them and how they arrived and have persisted at Longwood. This effort will support other current research initiatives to learn more about the conservation horticulture and collections development of Pennsylvania native orchids that will one day be used in garden displays and in the restoration of Longwood's natural lands.

As a side note, at least 55 different kinds of orchids are native to Pennsylvania. Some of these, such as the coralroots (*Corallorhiza*), are mycoheterotrophic and superficially similar to *Cyrtosia*. At least one of these, *Corallorhiza maculata*, can be quite showy in flower. However, these orchids are impossible to grow in garden settings and should be left in their native habitat for all to enjoy.



***Corallorhiza maculata***, one of at least 55 different kinds of orchids native to Pennsylvania. Photo by Duane Erdmann.

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## Bumble Bee Watch Project

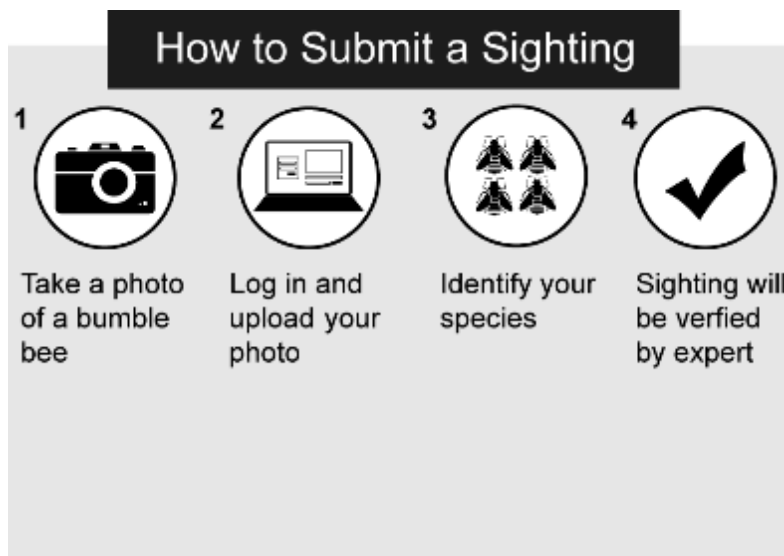


Bumble Bee Watch is a collaborative effort to track and conserve North America’s bumble bees. This citizen science project allows for individuals to:

- Upload photos of bumble bees to start a virtual bumble bee collection;
- Identify the bumble bees in your photos and have your identifications verified by experts;
- Help researchers determine the status and conservation needs of bumble bees;
- Help locate rare or endangered populations of bumble bees;
- Learn about bumble bees, their ecology, and ongoing conservation efforts; and connect with other citizen scientists.

### How can you participate?

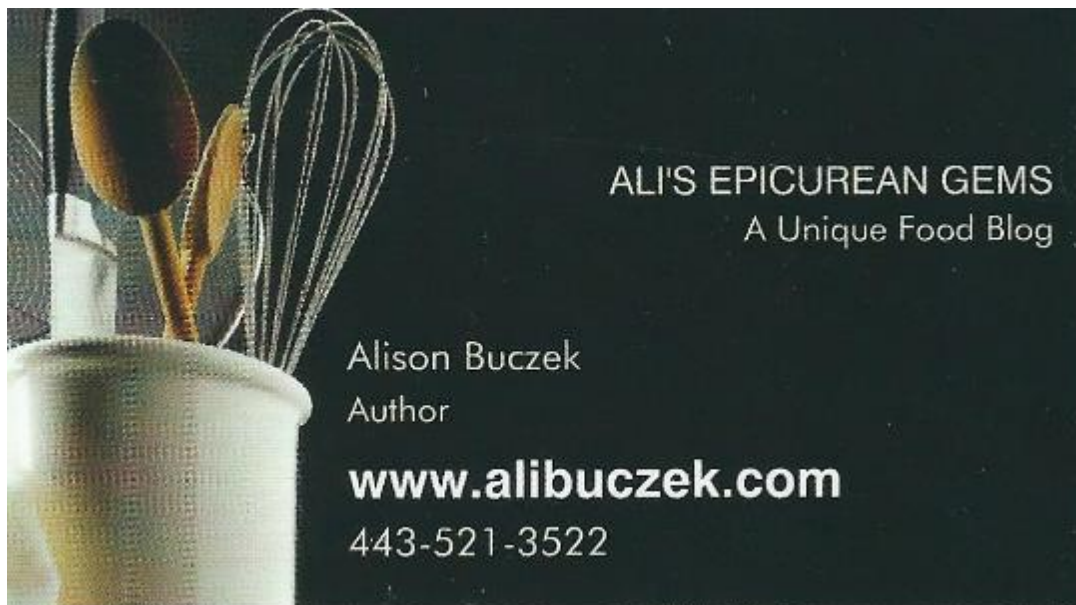
We need your help! Because these animals are widely distributed the best way to keep track of them is with an army of volunteers across the country armed with cameras. With any luck, you might help us to find remnant populations of rare species before they go extinct. Participating in Bumble Bee Watch is simple and you can get started now by creating an account via the “sign in” tab at the top of the page. Once you have an account, go out and check your garden, in parks, or any other natural areas you frequent for bumble bees. Be sure to snap a photo (learn more about how to photograph bees here) and then sign in and submit your data via our Bumble Bee Sightings form. Have fun while learning more about bumble bees and the vital role they play in our environment!



# THE DIGGERS

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Winter 2018-19



To Bring Good Luck in the New Year!

My husband created a monster of sorts a few Christmases ago by gifting the “Encyclopedia of Cajun and Creole Cuisine” by Chef John Folse to me. The book is nearly 900 pages and weighs a ton. It is full of history, recipes and gorgeous photographs of the culinary Mecca in our country that I have written about a number of times. I can’t seem to put this book down. I’m even inspired to attempt a New Year’s resolution of preparing a new recipe daily (so far so good but most of you know I will struggle with this self-induced challenge due to time constraints).

The inspiration began on New Year’s Day with a recipe for black-eyed peas. I always thought they were to be eaten on this day for good luck but I also read they are to be eaten for good health ~ superstitions, yes, but fun myths just the same. The legend of luck is believed to date back to the American Civil War when soldiers left behind food supplies with black-eyed peas for the Southerners to forage. They considered themselves lucky with any found food as it helped them to survive the winter. Good health is most likely due to the peas’ nutritional value.

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Black-eyed peas, also known as the cowpea, are actually an African legume that was brought to our lower South around the time of slave trade. Obviously, the peas transported well as a non-perishable item. Thomas Jefferson also introduced them in Virginia via France after the American Revolution. Later, after the American Civil War, planting of the crop was used in African-American gardens to promote its soil building qualities ~ it is very high in nitrogen. The peas were harvested before the crop was tilled under as compost into the soil.

I surprisingly had the peas in my pantry but didn't have all the other ingredients in Chef Folse's recipe for Cajun Black-Eyed Peas. So as I always do, I made his recipe my own. A rather rustic looking dish but remarkably delicious and the preparation launched a whole new respect for the pea/bean and of course thoughts of what else I could create. Bon Appetit!



Ali's

**Black-Eyed Peas with a Kick**

# THE DIGGERS

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## Ingredients:

- 1 lb. black-eyed peas
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 T. butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 celery stalks, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 lb. Andouille sausage
- 1/2 lb. prosciutto\*, cut as thick as possible
- 1 bay leaf
- 4-6 cups water
- Sea salt and Cajun seasoning to taste
- Fresh parsley for garnish, if desired
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## Preparation:

1. Soak the peas in water overnight. (definitely cuts down on the cooking time)
2. Drain peas and rinse.
3. In a large Dutch oven, heat oil and butter over medium-high heat.
4. Sauté onion, celery, garlic, sausage and prosciutto until tender.
5. Add peas, bay leaf and water to cover peas 1-2 inches.
6. Bring to a low boil and cook 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
7. Reduce heat and simmer for 45 minutes more, stirring occasionally.
8. Smash all the peas with a potato masher for a creamy texture.
9. Season to taste and garnish with parsley.

\*Most Southerners would cringe at the thought of using 'Italian' ham in this dish. I wanted to prepare this on New Year's Day for the luck (LOL!) and all I had was prosciutto. The ham added a wonderful special saltiness with that 'cured' taste. It was outstanding if I may say so myself and I may continue to prepare it this way in the future. *Smithfield* ham cubed would be divine as well.

The dish made enough to feed an army. We rarely waste leftovers ~ too many starving people in this world ~ so I served it over rice for lunch. A Hoppin' John of sorts without adding a single ingredient. Some cooks might consider this dish a gruel of sorts; however, we enjoyed it and I would not hesitate to serve it again