



# THE HORT REPORT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND, INC. | SEPTEMBER 2019



THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY:  
*A Grand Celebration  
at  
Cylburn Mansion*  
*Good friends, good food,  
a good time had by all.*  
See more pictures on our web site:  
[mdhorticulture.org/special-events](http://mdhorticulture.org/special-events)



**Top:** left, Society presidents, including Max Bloom, Mary Jo Sherrod, Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Nancy Raskin, Peter Bieneman, Leigh Barnes and Muffin Dell; right, Margaret and Tim Wright with Susan and Bill Yonkers. **Middle:** left, Nancy Raskin, Sarah Atherton and Chris Bangs; center, president, Peter Bieneman; right, Donna Watts with Pat Sherman. **Bottom:** left, Paula Simon and Crystal Patterson; right, door-prize winner Clare Stewart with Kathryn Shea.

PHOTOS: Robin V. Wilner



## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### ANNUAL PLANT & SEED SWAP

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Starts 6:30 p.m. and ends at 7:15 p.m.

For members and their guests. This is the “one for one” swap before the September lecture. Take your plants and seed packets—marked with botanical name—to the front of the Vollmer Center, then look for plants to add to your garden.

### PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND SEMINAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020

8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sheppard Pratt Conference Center, Towson, MD  
Please join us for the annual winter seminar.  
Details to come.

### PORTUGAL GARDEN TOUR

MARCH 26 - APRIL 4, 2020

Spring in Portugal: Treasures of Porto, Lisbon and the Douro Valley. For more information, contact Claire Jones at [jonesb1@comcast.net](mailto:jonesb1@comcast.net) or 443-927-6285, or visit [mdhorticulture.org/programs-events/trips](http://mdhorticulture.org/programs-events/trips)

### ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

Details to come.

For more information,  
visit [www.mdhorticulture.org](http://www.mdhorticulture.org)



HSM President Peter Bieneman, left, with Emma Reisinger of Yellow House Farm, Mariya Strauss, executive director of the Farm Alliance of Baltimore, and Elizabeth Crespi, program coordinator of the Farm Alliance. The Farm Alliance, a membership collective of 17 urban farms, was the beneficiary of the Society's May 2019 Tool Drive.

PHOTO: Lenel Srochi-Meyerhoff

## FALL LECTURE SERIES:

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 10, 7:30 p.m.

### TONY DOVE

#### *Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for Beautiful and Beneficial Landscapes*

Native plants are the keystone for beneficial insects, birds and mammals. Tony Dove, horticulturist and co-author of *Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States*, will discuss how properly selected, cultivated and sited native trees and shrubs guarantee long-term aesthetic and environmental rewards, with less maintenance and expense. Book sale and signing.

Tuesday, OCTOBER 15, 7:30 p.m.

### JENNY ROSE CAREY

#### *Glorious Shade Gardens: Dazzling Plants, Design Ideas and Proven Techniques for Your Shady Garden*

Jenny Rose Carey, senior director of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Meadowbrook Farm Gardens, will discuss shade-specific design ideas. She will present some of her favorite native and non-native, but well-behaved, shade plants. Her personally tested tips for planting and maintaining a shade garden will round out this talk, which is based on her book *Glorious Shade*. Book sale and signing.

Tuesday, NOVEMBER 12, 7:30 p.m.

### SAM DROEGE

#### *Your Property and What You Plant is Key to Saving the Bees*

Bees are neither big nor well known. For example, do you realize that there are more than 450 species of bees in Maryland? What do they eat? Flowers. Yes, saving the bees is all about what flowers you plant and, no surprise, those flowers require some new bee-centric thinking. Wildlife biologist and bee expert Sam Droege will introduce you to the magic of bees and the flowers they need you to provide.

Tuesday, DECEMBER 10, 7:30 p.m.

### JANE GODSHALK

#### *Nature Inspired Holiday Design*

The patterns of nature influence creativity in art, landscape and floral design. Noted floral designer Jane Godshalk's program will be part video presentation, part hands-on arranging. Godshalk has a uniquely American style, fresh and uncomplicated. Her book, *Flower Arranging Secrets—Natural Designs for Everyday Living*, demystifies floral design in an environmentally friendly way. Book sale and signing.

Lectures are held in the Voller Center auditorium, Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209. Lectures are free for current members and one guest; non-members pay \$10 at the door.

## Welcome New Members!

Dunlea Bates  
Kelly Billing  
Jane Bognaski  
Scott Carbone  
Henry E. Dugan Jr.  
Meredith Forney  
Joann Hatch  
Shelley Hicks  
Lauren Hyde

Steven Klink  
Anthony Lehman  
Matthew Phillips  
Laura Beth Resnick  
Catherine Siperko  
Jean Sobus  
Robert Trumbule  
Greer Verheyen

## It's Time to Renew Your Membership



Watch for a renewal reminder  
in your email box

OR simply go online to:

[mdhorticulture.org/join-us/membership](http://mdhorticulture.org/join-us/membership)

## PLANT PROFILE

# *Cercis canadensis*, Eastern Redbud

By Harry Merritt



Whether its flowers are purple or pink or white or somewhere in between, *Cercis canadensis*, Eastern Redbud, is one of the glories of springtime in Maryland.

But not one Redbud, it seems, flowers in a true red. "Whoever coined the common name 'Redbud' must surely have been colorblind," wrote Kenneth B. Robertson in *Arnoldia*, a publication of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. "But 'Redbud' is certainly more euphonious than 'Magentabud.'"

Eastern Redbud is native to the eastern United States, from New York state south to Florida, west through the Great Lakes region and southwest to Oklahoma and Texas. In the wild, it grows as an understory tree in moist, rich woods and along streams.

September is an ideal month for planting a Redbud. The tree thrives in full sun to part shade. It prefers average, moist soil, well drained, not too acidic. Once you plant a Redbud, leave it. A mature Redbud seldom survives being transplanted.

Redbud makes an attractive "street tree," but it needs a bit of shelter from strong winds, a lesson I learned the hard way. A decade ago, I planted my first Eastern Redbuds: one each on the east and west sides of our property, the other on the north, or street, side. The east and west trees flourished. The street tree, planted in an exposed area near the driveway, lost several branches to high winds, including that infamous "derecho" of a few years ago. (It recovered and looks fine now.) When I planted a fourth Redbud this year, I made sure to give it a little shelter alongside a low stone wall.

The Redbud's pea-like flowers appear as bits of color along the branches in early spring, then present their full-blown magic over a couple of weeks. There is a brief ugly phase

LEFT AND CENTER: Eastern Redbud in flower; RIGHT: 'Forest Pansy'

as the heart-shaped leaves begin to appear, often reddish, turning a dull green. Elongated seed pods appear in summer, green turning to brown (also kind of ugly). Fall color is not fabulous, except perhaps in a cultivar such as 'Forest Pansy,' which the Royal Horticultural Society says is "grown mainly for its striking foliage effect." Its leaves, "a deep red-purple," turn orange, brown and redder purple in autumn.

Other cultivars include 'Withers' Pink Charm' and 'Pinkbud,' with pink flowers, 'Alba,' with white flowers, and 'Ruby Falls,' compact and weeping with dark maroon leaves that deepen to purple in summer.

The Redbud is, alas, susceptible to diseases such as canker, verticillium wilt and leaf spot, especially in hot, humid climates. Insect pests include aphids, webworms and scale.

**PLANT FACTS:** *Cercis canadensis*, Eastern Redbud

**Hardiness:** USDA Zones 4 through 8

**Family:** *Fabaceae* (Legume)

**Culture:** Full sun to part shade. Prefers moist well-drained soil; does best in soil with a pH of 7.5 or above. It can reach 25 feet in height, 25 feet in spread.

**Bloom time:** Spring

**Potential problems:** Vulnerable to canker, verticillium wilt, mildew, blight, and leaf spot and to damage from aphids, webworms, scale and other insects.

### REFERENCES:

"*Cercis canadensis*," Missouri Botanical Garden.org

Eastern Redbud, Plant Guide and Plant Fact Sheet, usda.gov

Kenneth B. Robertson, "Cercis: The Redbuds," *Arnoldia*, Volume 36, Number 2, March 1976, arboretum.harvard.edu

Royal Horticultural Society, rhs.org

# Highlights and More from Half a Century

**November 1969:** Nancy Long Boyd and her husband, J. Cookman Boyd Jr., are hosts for a small group of garden enthusiasts at their home, 1000 Winding Way in Baltimore. The purpose: to organize a horticultural society.



Nancy and Cookman Boyd

## Present at the Creation

*Who attended the "founding" meeting of the Horticultural Society of Maryland at the Winding Way home of Nancy and J. Cookman Boyd Jr.? The Nov. 19, 1969 edition of The Evening Sun listed:*

Mrs. Albert E. Baker, Guild of Flower Artisans; Robert L. Baker, horticulture faculty, University of Maryland; Mrs. Chauncey B. Bosley; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hakes (she was a past president of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.); Mr. and Mrs. Griffin Morrel, "orchid enthusiasts"; Gerard J. Moudry, horticulturist, Baltimore Bureau of Parks; James W. Poultney, Professor of Classics, The Johns Hopkins University; Judge and Mrs. Joseph Sherbow; Nicholas M. Stephin, Baltimore County Extension Agent; Tom Stevenson, garden writer; and Frederik van Hogendorp.

**April 5, 1970:** The Society's first lecturer is Ernesta Drinker Ballard, executive director of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, discussing "Year-Round Color in the Garden." According to Nancy Boyd's handwritten notes, "At least 200 people attended, with much enthusiasm, and we felt that the Society had started off well." The event launches a remarkable, still-running series of lectures by speakers of regional and national renown in the world of flora.

**Spring 1970:** The Society's first newsletter—two legal-size pages, typewritten on one side only—makes its debut. "We are eager to have a catchy title for our newsletter," writes Elmer Worthley, the Society's president. "Your suggestions are invited."

**Oct. 1, 1970:** First Christian Church, 5802 Roland Avenue, becomes the venue for Society lectures. It will remain so for more than two decades, followed by the Church of the Redeemer (1998-99), Trinity Assembly of God in Lutherville (1999-2000), the Conference Center at Sheppard Pratt and the Three Arts Club (2001), Loch Raven High School (2002-05) and Towson Unitarian Universalist Church (2005-10).



First Christian Church in Roland Park

**1970:** One of the Society's early goals is to have a lending library of garden books. Books are donated but newsletters and correspondence do not indicate what happens to them. In 2018-19, a similar effort will be made, with books housed in the Cylburn Arboretum classroom.



**May 4, 1971:** The Society's Articles of Incorporation call the organization the Horticulture Society of Maryland. The inadvertence is soon fixed.

**June 13, 1971:** The Society's first field trip is to My Lady's Manor, with stops at Breezewood, the Asian garden of Alexander Brown Griswold, Ladew Gardens and Bluemont Nursery. The tour leader: Richard Simon of Bluemont. "The weather was quite threatening and indeed a few raindrops fell, but nothing dampened the group's enthusiasm," the newsletter reports.

**1970s:** Bus trips gain popularity, starting with an annual visit to the Philadelphia Flower Show. Future trips will take members to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and to the Eastern Shore, Washington, D.C., Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina (to name just a few).

PHOTO LEFT: PETER BIENEMAN

PHOTO ABOVE: Courtesy of Jane Boyd Carr



### 1973:

From the Summer 1973 newsletter...

### That Pesky Peter Rabbit

The first thing we were asked after questions were invited in the last newsletter was, "How does one discourage rabbits?" Your correspondent asked innumerable gardeners and here are some of their suggestions:

1. Use dried blood on the border of the beds. Rabbits dislike this.

2. Rig up a line hung with glittering disks of tin which jangle in the wind.

3. Sink disposable bottles in the edge of the border with only the neck showing. The wind will make these sound like an aeolian harp. This frightens rabbits.

4. Plant dwarf Marigolds as a border for the beds. Rabbits hate the scent.

5. Fence the bed with pigeon wire at least 2 feet tall.

### 6. WHAT IS YOUR METHOD?

**1970s-early 1980s:** A yearly repotting party and plant exchange is held at the home of Margaret and Rodney Brooks. This is a forerunner of the Annual Plant and Seed Swap, launched in September 2007 and continuing to the present day.

**1970s-1990s:** Another early tradition: The annual family picnic, held at the homes of such members as Francis and Adelaide Rackemann and Elmer and Jean Worthley. In 1983, however, the picnic is held at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa. Records do not indicate that a bus was provided.



### 1970s-1990s, perhaps beyond:

The Society operates a booth at the annual Cylburn Market Day.

**March 1980:** The Society honors the late Robert Lewis Baker, founding member and associate professor of horticulture at the University of Maryland, by recreating part of his Federal Hill garden at the Baltimore Flower and Garden Show. For many years thereafter, the Society will sponsor the Baker Memorial Lecture to raise money for the Baker Scholarship for Maryland students of horticulture and landscape design. Baker lecturers will include Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden ("*The New American Garden*") in 1987 and Michael A. Dirr ("*Woody Landscape Plants*") in 1990.

**1970s-1980s:** Still another early tradition: Members' Night, at which Society members show slides of their gardens. "This is always one of our most enjoyable meetings, so do plan to join in the fun," says a newsletter touting the 1984 version of the event.

**1980:** Membership dues: Student, \$3; individual, \$10; family, \$15; contributing, "\$20 and up." Almost four decades later, the rates include student, \$25; individual, \$50; and household, \$75; with other categories for businesses, organizations, patrons and benefactors.

**1987:** The Society's board "opposes the taking of any land from Cylburn Arboretum" for the Coldspring New Town housing development. "Only public opinion can stop this rape of Cylburn," writes Adelaide Rackemann. In the end, however, Mayor Clarence "Du" Burns arranges a "compromise" solution: The city will acquire 21 acres to enlarge the arboretum while taking 10.7 acres from Cylburn for the development.

**1988:** Society membership climbs above 200 for the first time.

**Fall 1988:** "Both the recently scheduled trip to Great Britain and the Trough Workshop had to be cancelled for lack of sufficient participation," the newsletter reports with a touch of sadness. In future years, however, overseas trips, coordinated with the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc., become a rousing success.



In Monet's garden, Giverny, France 2010

**Spring 1989:** Member tours of area gardens are self-directed. The newsletter lists gardens "willing to welcome" Society members: four are "open anytime," seven will open "within an hour's notice," and 12 will need to be notified "well ahead."

**1989-90:** The Society is among the many donors to a fund to preserve the Merryman property next to Oregon Ridge Park. The effort is successful.

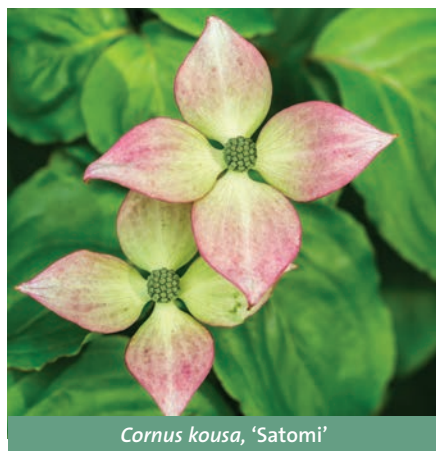
**Feb. 11, 1990:** Ann Daudon and Nancy Greenewalt Frederick of the Garden Club of Wilmington present "Taxonomy for Cowards, or How to Succeed in Plant Identification Without Really Trying."

**1990s:** The annual Members' Garden Tour becomes a more formal, one-day event. In June 1993, with Nancy Brewster as "host," the tour features visits to three large hilltop gardens. The following year, members get to visit six "small,

PHOTO ABOVE: Paula A. Simon

intimate" gardens, five in Mount Washington and one in Ruxton, but not if it rains. By 1991, the tour is well established and takes place rain or shine.

**October 2000:** *Cornus kousa* 'Satomi,' Pink Kousa Dogwood, and a collection of Kingsville Boxwood are among the highlights of an auction of rare and choice trees and shrubs. The event raises money for scholarships for horticulture students at Dundalk Community College. A similar auction in 2002 raises more than \$22,000 for the Society's educational programs. The Society's scholarships continue but the college is now the Community College of Baltimore County.



*Cornus kousa*, 'Satomi'

**Oct. 1, 2001:** "Eastern Shore Gardens by Oehme and van Sweden," a trip so memorable that old-timers mention it still.

**Early 2004:** The Society awards \$5,000 each to the Amazing Port Street Youth Initiative in East Baltimore and to the Edible School Yard at Dr. Raynor Brown Elementary School. Both projects aim to interest children in gardening.

**Fall 2004:** The newsletter features landscape designer Ann Lundy writing about the scourge of invasive plants and trees. (Plenty of familiar plant names, all scourges still.)

PHOTO ABOVE: STOCK

**Sept. 12, 2004:** The Members' Garden Tour features the gardens of Gilbert and Helene Clapperton, Arthur and Nancy Valk, Winfield and Lorraine Cain and Joel Cohen and Richard Cole.

**2006:** The Society, the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, the Cylburn Arboretum Association and Baltimore Recreation and Parks unite to plan for a horticultural program center at Cylburn. A \$1 million gift from Pauline Vollmer, in the name of the Society and the Federated Garden Clubs, spurs the fundraising efforts. (The center will be named in her honor.) The Society's fundraising committee includes Richard Cole, Leigh Barnes, Helene Clapperton, Frances Horich, Rae Ann McInnis, Paula Simon and Mary Jo Sherrod.



Helene Clapperton, 2007 fundraising event

**2006:** Helene Clapperton, the Society's longtime treasurer, develops mdhorticulture.org, the Society's web site.

**March 10, 2007:** Designer and author Julie Moir Messervy presents an all-day design seminar and workshop titled "Outside the Not So Big House: The Art of Integrating Your Landscape With Your Home." It is the first of five annual garden design seminars.

PHOTOS, ABOVE AND RIGHT: Paula A. Simon

**February 2009:** Paulette Kirkpatrick, organizer of the 2009 garden design seminar, is killed in a traffic accident 10 days before the seminar is to take place. The 2010 and 2011 seminars will be dedicated to her.

**Jan. 31, 2010:** A Spring Catalogue Workshop, with experts including John T. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., and Michael Rosendale, is the first Society event at the new (but unfinished) Vollmer Center.

**March 6, 2010:** The Society's first annual award for "Best Garden Design Utilizing Plants With a Purpose" goes to Jeff Sachs of Kroh's Nursery in Aberdeen for his display at the Maryland Home and Garden Show. He receives a plaque, a Society membership and two tickets to the winter design seminar.

**March 9, 2010:** The first lecture at the Vollmer Center features Wolfgang Oehme and Carol Oppenheimer. Topic: "Daring Joyous Landscapes." The event draws 220 people. "We're now holding our monthly meetings in the raw space while looking forward to the completion of the beautiful building," says Society President Mary Jo Sherrod.

**May 1, 2010:** The grand opening of the Vollmer Center features a ribbon-cutting and dedication, a reception for donors and a talk by William Moss, greening expert and television personality.



Mary Jo Sherrod with Mr. & Mrs. William Moss



**Summer 2011:** The Society joins the Federated Garden Clubs and the Cylburn Arboretum Association to sponsor a garden intern at Cylburn. Each organization pays \$2,500.

**Feb. 25, 2012:** The Society and the Perennial Plant Association co-sponsor the first Winter Seminar, with five speakers. The seminar will become a popular annual event, and a scholarship given in memory of Sidney Silber will allow a horticulture student to attend free of charge.



2014 Winter Seminar at Sheppard Pratt

**May 2012:** The Society holds its first annual tool drive, gathering donations of garden implements to help support community garden groups.

**Summer 2012:** The Society's newsletter gets a new name, *THE HORT REPORT*, and a new look that features two-color capability.

**January 2014:** The first January Plant Forum features Jack Lowry, David Thompson and JoEllen Troy. The members-only event takes the place of the January Catalogue Workshop.



Vollmer Center Entrance Garden, 2014

PHOTO, ABOVE: Janet Draper; BELOW: Paula A. Simon

## The 2019 Cylburn Intern



Mia Quinto, a landscape architecture student at Morgan State University, was the summer 2019 garden intern at Cylburn Arboretum.

Mia expects to graduate with a Master of Landscape Architecture degree in 2021. She attended the Community College of Baltimore County, Essex campus, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geography and environmental planning from Towson University in 2018.

In addition to her studies, Mia works the counter at Gibby's Seafood and Gourmet Market in Timonium and volunteers at the Nolan Robison Foundation. The foundation helps pay for therapy for underprivileged children who have a diagnosis of depression, anxiety or attention deficit disorder.

**Sept. 9, 2014:** Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and other dignitaries dedicate the Vollmer Center Entrance Garden. The garden was designed by John Fitzpatrick and planted by Gibson Landscapes in the spring and summer of 2014.

**2014-15:** The Society donates \$1,200 each to Community Gardening Day at the Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Friends of Great Kids Farm Inc.

**May 31, 2015:** Doug and Tsognie Hamilton open Tashiding, their stunning Baltimore County garden, to members. The event is a fund-raiser for the care of the Vollmer Center Entrance Garden.

PHOTO ABOVE: Patricia Foster

**Sept. 25-27, 2015:** Jean Silber, moving away from the remarkable garden she established with her husband Sidney in Lutherville, sells many of its plants, trees and shrubs to benefit the Society.

**September 2016:** The Society awards \$5,000 to Little Leaves, a science-based learning program for city second-graders at the Rawlings Conservatory.

**January 2017:** *THE HORT REPORT* publishes its first full-color issue, just in time to do justice to a Plant Profile picture of *Spigelia marilandica*, Indian Pink.



*Spigelia marilandica*, Indian Pink

**April 18-19, 2018:** Fergus Garrett, head gardener at the world-famous Great Dixter in Sussex, England, discusses "Designing With Plants the Great Dixter Way."

**July 7, 2019:** The Society marks its 50th anniversary with a celebration at Cylburn.



*Researched and compiled by Harry Merritt*

PHOTO ABOVE: Melanie Runkle

## GARDEN TOUR 2019: Personal Gardens from Passionate Gardeners



PHOTO: Paula A. Simon

The 28th Annual Horticultural Society of Maryland Garden Tour is history. Over 300 people took advantage of the perfect weather to enjoy the seven gardens on the tour. We thank the garden owners, volunteers and sponsors who made this tour so memorable. To see more photos, visit our Facebook page.

### Sponsors:

Eliasberg Family Foundation, Inc.	Grow Landscape Designs LLC
A&A Tree Experts, Inc.	Harvest Moon Landscaping L.L.C.
Betten Landscape Design	Live Green Landscape Associates LLC
Chesapeake Irrigation & Lighting	Lothorian Pools
Davey Tree	Maxalea Inc.
Foxborough Nursery, Inc.	North Hill Tree Experts
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Green Fields Nursery & Landscaping	Pinehurst Landscape Company
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Paula A. Simon, *Designer*

### VOLLMER CENTER GARDEN

Peter Bieneman, *Manager*  
Jackson Lehman, *Gardener*

### MEMBERSHIP

For information about membership or to join, please email Lauren Winship at [hortmembership@gmail.com](mailto:hortmembership@gmail.com).

### Benefits of Membership

Newsletters and membership directory; admission to the spring and fall lectures and the annual garden tour; and discounts on workshops, trips and special events.

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The Horticultural Society of Maryland, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) educational organization.

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: *Pat Cieslak*

By Peter Bieneman

Pat Cieslak is the first friendly voice you reach when you telephone the Horticultural Society of Maryland. A gardener since childhood, Pat eventually embarked on a journey to fulfill her vocation.

Growing up in Fells Point, surrounded by concrete and brick, Pat was drawn to plants. Impressed by the farmers selling produce at the Broadway Market, she was inspired to start a garden in her 8-by-12-foot concrete back yard. Borrowing her little brother's wagon, she would trek to Patterson Park to dig soil for her new interest. One day while happily heading home with her load, a police officer stopped her and made her return the soil. "He said that I should never come back for soil again...ever."

A short time living in Govans, where she had a larger yard, only reinforced Pat's desire to garden. After school, she would drop her books at the front porch and race to the garden to work.

Life moved on—marriage, children and work—but Pat never lost her interest in gardening.

Retiring from the insurance business, she decided to pursue horticulture. Joining the



Society in 2006 made her realize she wanted to "continue my education in a different, more enjoyable direction."

She enrolled in the horticulture program at the Community College of Baltimore County, immersing herself in the coursework and forming valuable friendships along the way.

Catherine Cook, a former classmate and current Society board member, asked Pat to answer the phone messages for the Society. In this role she responds to numerous questions, comments and occasional concerns. "Panic calls come usually when we are having an event," she adds.

She normally handles all the calls herself and, if not, emails the appropriate person to respond. The funniest message she remembered was "a man driving down 83 who wanted help identifying a tree."

If anyone could help a curious motorist with a gardening question, it would be Pat.

By the way, her beautiful garden in Baltimore County does not contain any soil from Patterson Park.

PHOTO: Robin V. Wilner