

J U L Y 2 0 1 2

CARDEROCK SPRINGS COMMUNITY NEWS

50 Years of Modern Living – A Community Celebrates!

The Carderock Springs Citizens' Association invites everyone in the community to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration of the original groundbreaking of Carderock Springs. The event will be held on Saturday, September 8, 2012, from 6:30–10:30 pm at the Carderock Springs Clubhouse. We will start with a look back at the early years of our community, with photos, films, and memorabilia from the early 1960s, at a reception with beer, wine, soft drinks, and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner catered by Spilled Milk Caterers and live music and dancing to the sounds of Carderock's own Jonas Carnemark and his band, HusBand. Come

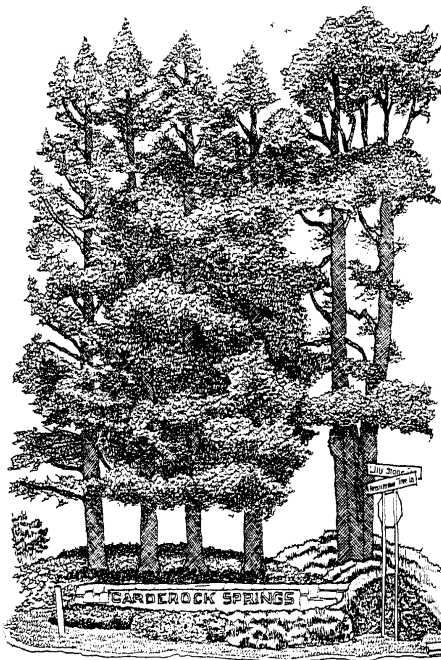
learn about the history of Carderock and party with your neighbors!

The event is for adults, age 21 or older only. The dress is casual. The event will be held rain or shine. Tickets can be reserved for \$35 per person. Please send a check (payable to Carderock Springs Citizens' Association) with names of attendees to attention of Carderock Springs Citizens' Association, 50th Anniversary Celebration, P.O. Box 237, Cabin John, MD 20818-0237. We will need to receive payment by August 25 to inform the caterer the number attending.

If you are in touch with any former residents of Carderock, please feel free to invite them and encourage them to come.

We would still welcome any old photos and memorabilia from the early years you may have stashed away, as well as additional help with decorations and set up at the Club that day. If you are interested, please contact Jack Orrick at jorrick@linowes-law.com or Mary Lou Shannon at maryloushannon@mrisc.com

Jack Orrick, Member-at-Large



Carderock Springs Board Members

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Newsletter Editor

Residents of Carderock Springs and surrounding areas may join the Citizens Association for an annual due of \$50 for a membership year ending December 31, 2012. Dues and family information for the Carderock Springs telephone directory may be mailed to the Carderock Springs Citizens' Association at P.O. Box 237, Cabin John, MD 20818-0237. Our Association represents the Carderock Springs community and implements its land covenants.

Property Values

There has been discussion on the CSA chat about property values as they relate to the general appearance of the neighborhood. I'm not sure what the debate could possibly be about. Could anyone doubt that the physical appearance of a neighborhood would influence the property value of everyone's home? Of course, this only becomes a personal issue when we are trying to sell our own property. Suddenly, the junk our neighbor has accumulated on the side of his house becomes an issue because we realize it is influencing our ability to sell our home, at least at the price we would like to get. Obviously, this is a very self-centered reason to think about keeping our properties looking attractive.

Personally, I would like to suggest that the appearance of our community needs to transcend any focus on property values. It seems to me that the simple thought of living in a beautiful environment should appeal to us all. Is there really anyone who doesn't appreciate living in a neighborhood that looks attractive and inviting?

When I enter Carderock Springs off of River Rd. (or at least used to before it was closed), I feel like I am entering a sanctuary. There is that short passage through the trees. A transition from the hustle and bustle of the world into the quiet and pastoral setting of Carderock Springs. I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels these few moments of unwinding peace. Then, to drive (or walk) along the streets with beautiful yards and gardens, I feel further drawn into a sanctuary I call "home."

I don't think it takes much to keep our properties looking nice, for our own selves and others. We don't need to spend thousands on landscaping or having the "best" looking yard. All that's needed is to do some simple and inexpensive things like keeping the lawn mowed, or picking up stuff that clutters a yard, or trimming a bush. If you can't do it yourself, then hire someone, including some of our youth who are willing to do yard work during the summer. You'll be supporting them and our community.

My hope is that we will all be committed to doing what it takes to keep our community looking attractive and inviting, not only for possible buyers, but much more so to our own selves and neighbors.

Phil Rider, President CSCA

The Carder-Eco Column

Summer grilling:

With the summer season upon us, it is important to avoid using toxic or harsh chemicals, artificial fragrances, and orange impostors (d-limonene) for cleaning your grill. The easiest way to keep your grill clean is prevent it from getting dirty. Preheat the grill for 15 minutes, scrape the large pieces with a special grill cleaning brush, wire brush or sturdy spatula/spackle knife, and then use tongs to wipe a paper towel or wad of fabric wet with vegetable oil over the grates to pick up the smaller bits. The oil will also help prevent foods from sticking. Avoid using plastic utensils...stainless steel gives you the best results and longest life. Clean the outside with a sponge or paper towel and citrus-based degreaser.

Pets, fleas and ticks:

Rather than summarize here, check these two links

[http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/pets-pesticides-47042304?](http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/pets-pesticides-47042304?click=square)

click=square

<http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/community-news/pets-nontoxic-fleas-ticks-88101401>

Gardening hints:

Repurposing/reusing various household waste have been shown to be successful in our efforts to protect our flowering plants and vegetables.

Slugs: place an aluminum pie pan/small dish/plastic clamshell lid into the soil and fill with some stale beer. The critters will at least enjoy their drowning!

Crawlers: crushed eggshells, spent coffee grounds and nut shells placed around your plants may discourage the creepy crawlers. Make collars for plants such as tomatoes by using "old" aluminum foil, newspaper, toilet paper tubes, or aluminum cans with both ends removed. While not particularly decorative, they are free and organic. If your plants grow well, they will soon "hide" the collar

Aphids: these critters are apparently attracted to chopped banana peel mixed into the top few inches of soil....and they will add potassium as well.

Deer: Now that I have your full attention.... there are so many organic and non-organic ways to try to deal with them. Even in my wildlife garden, deer are not welcome, and I have been sometimes (not always) successful with such things as purchased coyote urine, special deer repellents, and netting. Amazingly, I have never caught a bird in the netting I use to protect hosta, although once I had to rescue a snake. It is said that constant changing from one method to another works best, or the deer will become accustomed to what you are using. You and your neighbor should be using different methods, for example. Try these repurposing suggestions....fragrant soap hung in pantyhose from 2-4 feet above the ground, or mix rotten eggs with water or use straight human urine and spread around the perimeter. If you would like a "recipe" for a home-made deer deterrent (instead of using the expensive products sold), send me an e-mail and I will send it to you.

Comprehensive sources for organic information:

I have discovered a few fantastic websites for questions on foods; products you use for your body, home, or pets; farm and garden; and animal welfare.

Thedailygreen.com covers all sorts of topics, including home recipes for green cleaning products in case you missed previous newsletter information.

Organicitsworthit.org

GenerationsofOrganics.org

Upcoming Events (thanks in advance for your responses)

I would appreciate hearing from CS residents and others who receive either or both the CSCA newsletter and CS-chat, if they would be interested in either or both of the following events we are contemplating. Please respond to dianekarlik@verizon.net

1. Sept/October neighborhood yard sale at the club...for sales, bartering, trading, gifting non-needed items to your neighbors...no fee, bring own table, set up and clean up responsibility of each neighbor, local kids' charity bake sale (the only "fee" for a table), possibility of donation truck to collect items at the end of the event. Interest (no additional work needed by you), concerns, ideas are welcome. This would be a real easy and neighborly way to get together for a purpose....keeping items out of the landfill and seeing them used again.

2. Crafting event for kids... easy projects using repurposed trash items that we all tend to throw away or recycle. Good way to inspire creativity and repurposing. Let me know what age group you think we might target.

Diane Karlik, Environmental Committee

Gardening in Carderock

Great plants for a great neighborhood

Hazy, Hot, and Humid – Plants for Carderock's Tough Summers

Here in the D.C. area, the hot dry summer weather is inevitable, and Carderock is no exception. Although most gardeners worry about the cold-resistance of the plants they buy, in fact it is just as common for plants to fail due to their lack of heat resistance, especially as our summers get warmer and warmer. In my garden there is everything from hot dry sun to dry full shade and many plants struggle, but the truly hardy stand up to the heat. Here are some plants with summer interest that work for me.

For those of us with dry sun, there are a number of excellent choices. All of these are deer-resistant, at least in my garden:

1. Crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia* sp.) This large family of trees and shrubs is already an obvious favorite in Carderock, and selections come in all sizes from dwarfs of about 2 feet to medium sized trees of 25-30 feet. Although they prefer full sun, they can actually do with half to 2/3 sun and still bloom nicely. If you don't have much room, look for the smaller ones such as 'Pocomoke' or the 'Dazzle' series. The beautiful fall color on most varieties and the shapely winter branch structure and bark give crape myrtles great multi-season interest. Consider carefully whether to trim them back severely in early spring – this spoils the natural branching structure and ultimately can weaken the plant (I call it 'Crape murder').

2. Vitex or Chastetree (*Vitex agnus-castus*). This is a lovely and vigorous shrub for full to part (at least half) sun. It is a great substitute for the butterfly bush, which is marginally invasive and no longer planted by many designers. The vitex can be allowed to grow (it can reach 10-15 feet or even taller) or pruned as necessary to keep it under 5-6 feet, and is a lovely addition to the shrub border with brilliant long-lasting blue blossoms and interesting leaves. The cultivar 'Shoal Creek' is the most popular and one of my favorites. I have seen good-sized plants at Home Depot in Virginia for under \$20.00, so keep your eyes open.

3. Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa* or *flaccida*). This southwest US native can really stand up to our hot temperatures and extended dry periods. It also makes a great accent plant in the garden with its spiky leaves and tall eye-catching bloom stalk. The species is solid green and in my garden somewhat susceptible to aphids, so I generally recommend one of the showier variegated cultivars such as 'Color Guard.' The yucca stays primarily evergreen and so provides seasonal interest as well as a strong summer accent.

4. Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*). Another tough native that thrives in hot weather and less-than-ideal soil, the coreopsis provides long-lasting drifts of yellow summer flowers. I like the threadleaf varieties with the feathery foliage, although there are other cultivars with more traditional leaf-like greenery. I would stay away from the newer pink/red-flowered cultivars who do not seem to be as tough as the yellow ones. My favorite is 'Moonbeam,' a soft yellow that mixes perfectly with virtually any other flower color. Full sun for these perennials, and deadhead for longer bloom. You can also reduce the plant by 1/3 after blooming to encourage occasional blooms later in the summer.

If you have dry shade, here are some plants that work for me:

1. Annabelle hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle'). Once established, this tough native will perform with minimal sun and extra water. It is a true gem for our Carderock conditions and should be more widely used with its large, long-lasting white flowers. Unlike many other hydrangeas, it flowers on new wood so pruning does not remove next season's plants (which is an issue with many other hydrangea species). Caution: deer will sometimes eat this – use a spray or netting to keep them away – it is worth it.
2. Variegated Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum'). This perennial adds height and variegated color to the shade garden. It bears insignificant white blooms in the spring, but its main interest is the tall, arching flower stems which can light up dark corners. It can be slow to establish but worth the patience.
3. Ginger (*Asarum canadense*). This tough native is not the culinary ginger but a hardy and lovely ground cover. It can be slow to establish but you are rewarded with graceful round green leaves from spring to late fall. A great antidote to English ivy! I have it growing in nearly full shade underneath thick bamboo, where it gets little water, and it still performs.
4. Acanthus or Bear's breeches (*Acanthus hungaricus*). This perennial prefers sun but still does quite well in half shade. I included it because of its strong deer resistance. This is not a plant for the faint of heart – a rosette of huge green leaves bears a tall flower stalk with a large purplish white long-lasting bloom that has 1-inch thorns hidden in the blossoms. It is absolutely striking and the bloom interest can last well over a month. They can be a bit hard to transplant and move, and look a bit ragged by fall, but the unique flower and ability to foil the deer is ample reward.

I hope you can include some of these plants in your fall landscaping plans. Of course, despite their toughness, all plants need special attention and extra watering for their first year, and these are no exception. But once they are settled they'll reward you for many years!

Nancy E. Everett, graduate certificates in Landscape Design and Horticulture

Newcomers to our Neighborhood

Please welcome....

Joe and Olga Tobin recently moved into 7912 Park Overlook Drive, former home of the Schocks. You can reach them on Joe's email joetobin@hotmail.com or cell 917-454-8089.

Classifieds

Cabin John Dog Walker: Midday walks to keep your pets happy and healthy. Contact Carolyn at 301-257-1076.

Used Vehicle Needed: Do you have a used vehicle you can sell cheap? Your local dog walker needs one. If you can sell your used vehicle at a low cost to someone who really needs one, please call Carolyn at 301-257-1076.

Handyman: Jose Luis will help with any and all chores in and around the house and garden, including painting and drywall work, indoor repairs, gardening and clean up, mowing, mulching, edging, transplanting, power washing, fence, pathway or platform construction, and any other kind of heavy work, on a reasonable hourly basis. Contact Carderock neighbor Ray at 301-469-0192.

Celebrating Fifty Years Did You Know?

The clubhouse has been an integral part of the Carderock community, socially and aesthetically. We all know its social value, but “did you know” that it won the Award of Merit from the Washington Board of Trade in 1965 for excellence in architecture and that it was featured in *House and Home*, *Home Building* and *Professional Builder* magazines. In the January 1966 issue of *Esoterica*, a newsletter put out by Bennett, the clubhouse was praised for its excellent spatial relationship and scale to the site.

Mary Lou Shannon, Member-at-Large

