



September 2021

Barcroft News

Vol 119, Issue 1

Fewer Inputs to Your Landscape, More Butterflies and Birds

By the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

As more and more people buy native plants to beautify their yards, control storm-water, and attract birds and butterflies, they are discovering additional opportunities to harmonize their property with the local ecosystem while maintaining a beautiful landscape. They are dropping some of their standard yard chores in favor of a more relaxed approach.

Maintenance of native trees and shrubs is little different from maintenance of non-native ones, but chemical fertilizers are not generally recommended, and of course pesticides would be counterproductive, as they destroy the ecosystem that native plants are installed to enhance. The value of the native trees and shrubs is greatly increased if their fallen leaves are left in place. Within that leaf layer is where fireflies, butterflies, and many other interesting and beneficial insects complete their life cycles.

Flower gardens with native plants also can be treated much as any other, as long as gardeners recognize that most of these plants are perennial and not annual. The advantage of perennials is that they only need to be planted once. The disadvantage is that weeding will be needed, along with the ability to distinguish emerging weeds from emerging desirable plants, a task made easier for beginners by limiting the number of different species planted to three or four, or by sticking to native ground-covers. These gardens cannot be handled the way maintenance crews typically deal with the plantings in public spaces. That method consists of removing all the plant material each season, installing new annuals, mulching heavily, then spraying bare mulch with herbicides to kill everything else.

Of course, leaf mulch can be used in

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 2, 7:30 p.m., On Zoom

Topic: The Missing Middle Housing Study

Send an email to zoom@bscl.org to request an invitation to the meeting.



Barcroft News

Editor: Alyssa Ford Morel
703-907-9318,
editor@bscl.org

Advertising: Jack Mayer
jackmayer09@gmail.com

*Publishers/
Mailing:* Theresa Schweser and
Kirt Miller
publisher@bscl.org

Next Deadline: September 15, 2021

BSCL Officers

President: Deborah Wood, 703-892-1243
president@bscl.org

Vice President: Daniel Weir

Treasurer: Jennifer Lis
jenlis@comcast.net

Recording Secy.: Chris Siple

Membership Secy.: Linda Gaines, linda@bscl.org

Board Members: Paula Levin Alcorn, Susan
Cohen, Keith Fred, Eric Parker

Contacts and Committees

Community House Rental Manager:
Barbara Swart
barcrofthouserental
@yahoo.com

Web: Daniel Weir,
webmaster@bscl.org

Fundraising: Chris Ditta

Landscaping: Scott Brinitzer, 703-892-0308

Traffic Committee: Vacant

4th of July Parade: Heather Meade and Jim Moran

Columbia Pike: Keith Fred, Charlie Smiroldo

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Signs: Doug Mueller

NCAC Rep.: Vacant

NCAC Alternate: Deborah Wood

Arlington Civic Fed. Delegates: Eric Harold,
Christopher Hoh, Randy Swart, Deborah Wood

Alternates: Gary Mason, Daniel Weir

Visit Us Online: www.bscl.org

President's Message

By Deborah Wood

Greetings, and welcome to the 2021-22 Barcroft School and Civic League season! In the early part of the summer, it looked promising that we would be able to resume meeting in person. However, the highly transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19 now sweeping through the United States has forced a reconsideration. For the time being, the BSCL will continue to meet via Zoom. At least we won't have to wear masks, and those who have health conditions that make the risk of infection by COVID-19 a serious concern can participate.

The Board of Directors is in the midst of deliberations about how to reopen the Barcroft Community House for rentals. Our community is fortunate to have this asset, which members of the BSCL are able to rent at a reasonable rate, and where we (usually) hold our monthly meetings. (For more information, see <https://www.bscl.org/rentals>.) The closure of the Community House started in March 2020, which means the BSCL has not had its usual revenue stream from rentals for one and a half years. By our September meeting, the Board hopes to have a plan and at least a tentative schedule for reopening. Our Treasurer, Jennifer Lis, will also report on the impact the closure has had on the BSCL budget.

One issue that needs to be addressed

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Barcroft Elementary School Starts a New Year

By Gretchen Odegard

We are so excited to welcome students back to school on August 30! School will be five days a week in person for the first time since March 2020.

A key strategy for helping to keep students safe at school is encouraging an outdoor lunch option. Just recently the Barcroft PTA purchased four additional picnic tables to expand our “outdoor café.” We are so lucky to live in a community like



(Top, right) Principal Judy Apostolico-Buck and Vice Principal Gabriela Rivas take delivery of school supplies donated by Staples. (Above) An expanded “outdoor café” features new picnic tables.

Barcroft, where once again several generous neighborhood volunteers helped assemble these tables for our school.

Barcroft families are also looking forward to the return of our Back to School Picnic on Friday, September 10, complete with food trucks and water balloon games. Stay tuned for more opportunities to support our neighborhood school in future newsletters! ●



Professional Dog Walker/Sitter Available

I am an experienced Dog Walker in my late 20’s and a fellow Barcroft resident. I am available for early morning, late afternoon and weekend walks. I have lovingly cared for multiple breeds of dogs and cats over the past four years.

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Landscaping with Natives, continued

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flower beds without herbicides and is valuable, cooling the soil and adding organic matter. As the plants fill in, mulch becomes unnecessary. The plants will shade the soil, and dead foliage and stems left over the winter add habitat for frogs and nesting areas for native bees. The days of fall cleaning so that only empty beds

remain are rapidly fading, as gardeners learn that this is unnecessary and somewhat harmful.

The watering needs of established native plants are generally light, if appropriate plants are chosen for the site. Native plants are suited to our climate and once mature, only require extra water during exceptionally hot and dry spells. •

Celebrate Fall at AutumnFest

The annual tradition of celebrating all things related to the Fall season returns to the Glencarlyn Library Garden on Sunday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with AutumnFest 2021. This outdoor event marks the return of tastes of herbal recipes, free crafts for adults and children, a look at local history, garden education, and select vendors offering native plants and one-of-a-kind items made locally.

“There’s been an incredible surge of interest in native plants over the past year,” says Glencarlyn Garden Coordinator Elaine Mills, “Native plants offer so much to the local ecosystem, to wildlife, and are best adapted to the challenges of climate change. We’re thrilled to have Hill House Nursery offering some of the best native plants at AutumnFest.”

Three educational talks are will be given during the event. “Climate-Conscious Gardening” will be at 11 a.m., a look at colonial gardens as demonstrated at the nearby Ball-Sellers House will be at 12 noon, and techniques for caring for garden tools will be offered at 1 p.m.

The Glencarlyn Library Community Garden is located at 300 South Kensington Street,

Arlington, 22204. The garden is one of the demonstration gardens maintained by the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia and funds raised at AutumnFest support the maintenance of the garden. •



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Barrett Elementary School
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<https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>
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Build a Healthy Community

President's Message, continued

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before rentals can restart, is to update the rental agreement to require that renters and their guests abide by current COVID-19 safety requirements for the Commonwealth of Virginia, per the website <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>. The Board is seeking a lawyer in the neighborhood who would be willing to do some pro bono work for the BSCL, to review our rental agreement and recommend updates. If anyone would like to help us, please contact me

at president@bscl.org or by phone at 703-892-1243.

I look forward to seeing familiar faces from our community -- and hopefully some new ones, as well -- at the first meeting of this season on September 2. Zoom invitations will be sent to BSCL members and the chatlist by Linda Gaines, the Membership Secretary. If you are new to the neighborhood, you can join the chatlist, or even better, become a member by visiting our website at bscl.org. ●

Your Neighbors are Industry Leaders!

Trent & Co at Compass Real Estate is honored to be included in the Wall Street Journal's annual REAL Trends + Tom Ferry's "The Thousand" -America's Best Real Estate Professionals for Medium Teams. With more than \$210 million in sales in 2020 and 302 transactions, we are proud to announce Trent & Co is ranked #1 in the DMV for medium size teams - both by volume and transactions!

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We cannot thank our clients enough for their continued support. We could not this without you!

If you are interested in selling or buying, please reach out to your Barcroft neighbor, Rick.
We're invested in our community which means we're invested in you!



Trent Heminger
Team Leader; Trent & Co
Executive VP; Compass



Rick Woler
Barcroft Resident
Agent
267.261.9932
rick@trentandco.com
@rickwoler



Ryan Isaacson
Barcroft Resident
Agent
904.309.2558
ryan@trentandco.com
@rforyan

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September Update from Our Savior Lutheran School

This year on August 24, we opened our doors for the 69th time in Barcroft. The theme of Our Savior Lutheran School this year is "Unshakeable" based off of the Bible passage from 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14 which says "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

We are continuing to accept applications for the 2021-2022 school year. The PreK

class will continue to be in session Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. We offer both before and after care. Stop by or call our school office if you have any questions or would like a tour. The website is osva.org.

We look forward to many activities throughout this new school year. Stay posted for upcoming events in which you can participate. •



Barcroft School and Civic League
800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204

Remote Work and Mobility

Working from home became the reality for many individuals during the pandemic. Recent data identified remote work and mobility as a huge influence on the real estate market.

The pandemic universally caused a movement away from urban cores for those who could afford to move and for lower-income folks seeking lower costs of living. Most of these relocations remained within their original region (84%) and it is unknown as to the permanence of these movements or whether they are a true urban exodus.

With the added mobility remote work offers, where people are moving and where they can ultimately purchase a home is less dependent on a physical office location. This flexibility is giving remote workers the opportunity to move to more affordable areas, buying more home for their money. For first time buyers, the low housing inventory home prices are growing almost seven times faster than renter incomes, making what was likely already the biggest challenge for first-time home buyers — saving for a down payment — even more difficult.

But there is good news for today's first-time buyers: With record low mortgage rates, monthly payments are affordable even with a smaller down payment, and flexible work options are providing new opportunities for many to buy a home in a less-expensive area if they don't have to commute to the big city. And while housing supply is still low, we are seeing steady increases in the number of homes coming to market, which gives hope to homebuyers. As the supply of homes for sale improves, buyers will have more options.

With me as your advisor and project manager, I can help you prepare and sell your home faster and at a higher price whether it's a private sale, an AS-IS sale, or a remodeled home.

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