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## A Commitment to Grow Behnke Nurseries New Production Facility at Lothian

— By Larry Hurley, Perennial Specialist

The year 2005 was a big one for Behnke Nurseries' nursery and greenhouse production. After almost 30 years at our Largo, Maryland location, we decided it was time for a move. The Largo property was sold to the Glen Arden Baptist Church, which already occupied the adjoining property. Throughout the spring, we continued to grow and ship plants to our garden centers, as crews worked to dismantle the greenhouses. The majority of the dismantling was done over a three month period, during the height of spring and into early summer. We felt strongly that we must remain a nursery that grows much of what we sell, and it was critical that we rebuild. To this end, we located a new piece of land that was perfect for a nursery. This land is near Lothian, Maryland, along the Patuxent River in Anne Arundel County.

The Lothian property had been operated for many years as a gravel pit, and much of the paving material for the Washington Capital Beltway came from here. We purchased 153 acres, including Spyglass Island in the Patuxent River. The most recently mined area became the foundation for our new greenhouse ranges, while much of the land is to remain as conservation stream buffer. All water used at the facility comes from on-site ponds, and all run-off water is recaptured for reuse. Additionally, we are working with state and federal officials to set aside wildlife areas, as there is unique habitat on the property that many native bees and other insects find inviting for nesting and whatever else insects do to pass the time.

*continued on page 7*



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Garden Center hours change seasonally. For the most current information, please consult our website, [www.behnkes.com](http://www.behnkes.com) or call specific store locations at the numbers listed below.

**BEHNKE'S AT BELTSVILLE**

11300 Baltimore Ave. (U.S.1)  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
(Two miles north of  
Exit 25, Capital Beltway)  
**301-937-1100**

**Landscape Division**

**301-937-1100 ext. 6733**

**BEHNKE'S AT POTOMAC**

9545 River Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(Two miles north of the  
Capital Beltway on River Road)  
**301-983-9200**  
**Florist 301-983-4400**



# A New Year Brings New Product Innovations

— By Mike Bader, Buyer

## *At the heart of every garden are flower and vegetable seeds...*

Behnke's 2006 seed shipments begin to arrive in early January. I carefully choose seed suppliers for their consistency, reliability and quality, as well as their commitment to developing innovative and garden-worthy plant varieties. Thompson & Morgan Seed has been packaging their expertise for over 150 years. Their seeds are hermetically sealed, for freshness, and are not found at home improvement stores or supermarkets. Look for Thompson & Morgan's new collection from The Royal Horticultural Society, England's top source of gardening expertise for over 200 years. These are award-winning varieties of flowers and vegetables selected for their outstanding garden performance, pest and disease resistance, or best taste. Burpee Seed, the most recognized name in seeds, has been sowing success for over 128 years. They embrace the importance of creating new and unique varieties to add excitement to your gardens.

## *For gardeners who love to cook and cooks who love to garden...*

Check out the *Cook's Garden* assortment. Each packet includes a unique culinary recipe and photograph utilizing that packet variety.

## *New varieties, new colors, and bold new variegations are the life's blood of your garden...*

In early February, our flowerbulb suppliers begin to ship their best new varieties as well as their classic heirlooms. Not to be confused with the bulbs you may see in your gardens soon (crocus, daffodils, and tulips), these introductions include dahlias, gladiolus, lilies, cannas, caladiums, begonias, and more. Simple Pleasures Flowerbulbs strives to be creative and innovative. You will not find their products in a mass merchant, food, or discount stores. For our customers who want something out of the ordinary, try "Perfect Partners." Like the name suggests, these packages contain very special combinations, blends or mixtures of flowerbulbs that are complimentary in height and color, and bloom at the same time. Langeveld Bulb, our largest supplier of quality flowerbulbs, trials each new variety in their test gardens before they sell them to ensure a top quality product. In addition, they test current varieties to verify their performance from year to year. Their package design provides information for the novice and expert gardener alike.

## *As the garden grows, so shall the gardener...*

For over 25 years, I have grown with our customers and unearthed (excuse the pun) many of your gardening needs. Beginning in early March, new tool lines will arrive making your gardening experience faster, easier, and more enjoyable. Real product innovation starts by understanding your needs. Over the

years, I have spoken to many customers concerned about arthritis or weak arm strength. With your help, I have chosen several new tool lines which maximize your power and comfort levels while minimizing your hand and wrist stress. People inherently have different sized arms and hands that our tool handles and grips seem to mirror. I tend to lose tools in the garden, so some tool companies are making their handles and grips in bright colors which are easier to see. I invite you to try some of these non-traditional tools and tell us what you think. You can expect more new gloves, hats, and shoes in 2006, more new garden furniture and accents, and more new garden gadgets and remedies. Whether you purchase our seeds, bulbs, or tools, your gardening success is guaranteed at Behnke's.





## Work Where You Love to Shop!

A career at Behnke Nurseries is fun and rewarding. Full and part time positions are available for cashiers and sales associates at our Beltsville and Potomac locations. Put your "green thumb" to work and enjoy:

- **Competitive compensation**
- **A fun work environment**
- **Great customers**
- **Substantial employee discount**
- **Flexible schedules**

To find out more, attend one of our Job Fairs this Winter:

Wednesday, February 15, 5 to 8PM at both our Beltsville and Potomac locations.

Saturday, February 18, 9AM to 2PM at both our Beltsville and Potomac locations.

## Enjoy a Beautiful New Landscape this Spring

Spring is just around the corner! Now is the perfect time to beat the rush and schedule a consultation with the award-winning Landscape Design and Installation Department at Behnke Nurseries.

A beautiful landscape will add beauty and value to your home, and provide your family with years of enjoyment.

Behnke's Landscape Design & Installation Division, located at our Beltsville store, offers a wide range of services, including consultations, finished landscape designs, and the installation of plants, as well as garden features such as walkways, retaining walls, patios, and much more.

Consultations and designs scheduled now will be first in line for installation as soon as spring arrives.

**For more information contact us by phone at 301-937-1100, ext. 6733, or by email: [landscaping@behnkes.net](mailto:landscaping@behnkes.net)**

Visit Behnke's at the Washington Home & Garden Show, February 9-12 at the new Washington Convention Center.

## Meet: Larry Bristow

Larry Bristow, Operations Manager for our Beltsville location, was raised in Beltsville. He worked part time for Behnke's as a teenager attending High Point High School and accepted a full time position after he graduated.

Over the years, Larry has always been willing to undergo training to acquire a wide variety of skills, including passing exams to become a licensed pesticide applicator and computer repair professional. In 1994, he became a Maryland Certified Horticulturist.

Larry has held many different jobs in more than 25 years at Behnke's, from fieldman to his current position, his hands down favorite. Larry says the job "has presented me with the greatest challenges and the greatest rewards of my career. Every day brings a new problem to be solved, a new deadline to meet, and a new opportunity to grow."

Even more than the rewards of his job, Larry enjoys the people, both co-workers and customers, that his job puts him in touch with. "Behnke's seems to bring out the best in its employees and customers. We have a truly dedicated staff willing to go the extra mile to make Behnke's a success," he says.

In addition to gardening, Larry enjoys 1960's era muscle cars, motorcycles and photography. Six years ago he bought a beautiful Starburst Fender Stratocaster "American Standard" electric Guitar. "Someday I might even learn how to play it!" he says.

Larry has the best of all possible commutes to work, he simply walks out his front door. He lives in the caretaker's residence on Wicomico Ave, on the nursery property. He moved in with his wife, Lynne, and 2 young children in 1996. The kids, his 18 year-old daughter,



ter, Leslie, a recent High Point High graduate, and son Logan, 15, spent their childhoods in the idyllic setting. Larry enjoys every aspect of on-site living. He says, "the only downside is I haven't left work in almost 10 years. That's gotta be a record!"

# Behnke's Workshops and Winter

## The Benefits and Cautions of Herbs

S100

*Saturday, January 21 at 10am*

Dr. Arthur Tucker, Co-Author, Encyclopedia of Herbs

What does Ginseng *really* do for you? An expert discusses medicinal herbs and cuts through the clutter. Book signing to follow presentation.

## The Culture of Invasive Plants

S101

*Saturday, January 21 at 1pm*

John Peter Thompson and Larry Hurley, Behnke Nurseries

Accumulated cultural traditions lead us to today's gardening styles, with a resulting clash between some garden plants and wild areas. Take a walk through history to better understand the problem.

## Gardening for Wildlife

S102

*Sunday, January 22 at 1pm*

Lisa Bierer-Garret, The Great Outdoors

Attracting birds and other wildlife to the garden is easy when you garden with nature in mind.

## Workshop: Herbal Soap Making

WS103

*Saturday, January 28 at 10am*

Leslie Plant

\$30 fee includes all materials. Pre-registration required. Learn to make marvelously fragrant soaps with an assortment of natural ingredients. Students should bring safety goggles, rubber gloves, and an apron. Must be at least 18 years of age. Approx. 2½ hours.

## Winter Gardening

S104

*Saturday, January 28 at 1pm*

David Culp

Renowned plantsman David Culp will show you how to claim a fourth season for your garden. Discover the best plants for winter displays.

## Horticultural Secrets Revealed

S105

*Sunday, January 29 at 1pm*

Behnke Staff

Several trained Behnke horticulturists will be on hand to answer your questions. Send your questions in advance: email to [behnkes@behnkes.net](mailto:behnkes@behnkes.net).

## Diagnosing Plant Diseases

S106

*Saturday, February 4 at 10am*

Alex Dencker, Behnke Staff

Learn to recognize trouble brewing in the garden, methods of control, and ways to prevent future problems. Bring in samples from home for diagnosis.

## Monarch Butterflies: The Journey

S107

*Saturday, February 4 at 1pm*

Jim and Theresa Gallion, Wildlife Gardening Adventures

Attract these winged wonders by creating a Monarch-friendly garden. Learn about their amazing migration and the difficulties they face in the modern world.

## Houseplants for Everyone

S108

*Sunday, February 5 at 1pm*

Karen Upton, Horticulturist

Anyone can have a green thumb if they follow the advice of this horticulturist and houseplant expert.

## Growing Orchids in Your Home

S109

*Saturday, February 11 at 10am*

Carol Allen, Orchid Expert

Orchids have become the most popular houseplant. Carol will give you the basics of care and explain how to get the most out of your new (or old!) orchids.

## Native Flowers & Grasses for Wildlife

S110

*Saturday, February 11 at 1pm*

Dr. Sara Tangren, Chesapeake Native Nurseries

Our ecosystem depends on native plants as a foundation. Maryland native plants are featured in this presentation.

## Native Trees for Color

S111

*Sunday, February 12 at 1pm*

Lisa Bierer-Garrett, The Great Outdoors

Dogwood, Serviceberry, and Sourwood are just a few of the native trees that reward us with flowers and colorful foliage. Discover the best of the best.

## Orchid Habitats in Costa Rica

S112

*Saturday, February 18 at 10am*

Tom Mirenda, Orchid Expert

Learn about orchids by observing them in their native habitat. Slide and lecture presentation chronicles Tom Mirenda's travels.

## Workshop: Repotting Orchids

WS113

*Saturday, February 18 at 1pm*

Tom Mirenda, Orchid Expert

\$30 fee, pre-registration required. Learn the tricky business of repotting orchids. Various orchids types will be discussed, as will media and pot choices. Bring one orchid from home to repot. Materials provided.

## Fragrance in the Garden

S114

*Sunday, February 19 at 1pm*

Randy Best, Behnke Staff

Choose the best plants to create a wonderfully fragrant garden. Randy will reveal his picks for the most reliably fragrant garden subjects.

## "Elder Plant" Care

S115

*Saturday, February 25 at 10am*

Bill Mann, Behnke Landscape Design and Installation Dept. Manager

Bill will impart many pruning and other plant care secrets that will keep your garden in peak condition as plants age.



# Free Gardening Seminars

## 2006

### **New Woody Plants**

S116  
*Saturday, February 25 at 1pm*  
Dan Czarniak, Pride's Corner Farms  
Up and coming plants are discussed in detail. Be the first on your block to grow these new and exciting varieties in your garden.

### **Perennial Garden Maintenance**

S117  
*Sunday, February 26 at 1pm*  
Martha Pindale, Horticulturist  
Learn to maintain a tidy perennial garden with a minimum of effort by working smarter, not harder.

### **Perennial Garden Techniques**

S118  
*Saturday, March 4 at 10am*  
Mark Huber, Area Manager, Riverbend Nursery  
Basic perennial gardening tips from an expert. Discover easy-to-grow perennials, the best time to plant, propagating procedures and much more.

### **Shrubs 101**

S119  
*Saturday, March 4 at 1pm*  
Roger Zinn, Behnke staff  
Learn the basics to easily grow healthy, lustrous shrubs. Feeding, pruning, winter care and much more will be discussed.

### **Deer Resistant Plants: Bambi's Brussels Sprouts**

S120  
*Sunday, March 5 at 1pm*  
Randy Best, Behnke staff  
Deer resistant plants are part of the strategy for battling everyone's favorite herbivore. If they eat it anyway, at least they won't enjoy it!!

### **Plant Horrors**

S121  
*Saturday, March 11 at 10am*  
Janet Draper, Horticulturist, Smithsonian Institution  
One man's trash is another man's treasure. Smithsonian gardener Janet Draper will discuss some of the more outlandish uses of plants.

### **Growing Cactus and Succulent Plants**

S122  
*Saturday, March 11 at 1pm*  
Bob and Nicole Stewart, Horticulturists  
In addition to being terrific houseplants, there are many winter hardy cacti that do well in Maryland gardens. Discover this largely untapped source of wonderful plants.

### **Turf's Up!**

S123  
*Sunday, March 12th at 1pm*  
John Peter Thompson and Larry Hurley, Behnke Nurseries  
Spring is the time to renovate your lawn. Join the Garden Gurus to find out what to do now and throughout the year to maintain your lawn beautifully.

### **Winged Things in the Garden**

S124  
*Saturday, March 18 at 10am*  
Lisa Bierer-Garrett, The Great Outdoors  
Learn to identify butterflies, hummingbirds and winged insect visitors to your garden. Lisa will discuss the usual suspects as well as recommended field guides to use in learning their names.

### **Container Gardens**

S125  
*Saturday, March 18 at 1pm*  
Eric Morrison, Horticulturist  
Eric discusses and demonstrates the finer points of container gardens, from choice of soil and pots to pleasing plant combinations.

### **Mixed Containers for all Seasons**

S126  
*Sunday, March 19 at 1pm*  
Joan O'Rourke, Brookside Gardens  
Container gardens can be a four season affair with the proper selection of containers and plants. Demonstration of selection and techniques

### **Grow Your Own Cut Flower Garden**

S127  
*Saturday, March 25 at 10am*  
Jill Gonzalez and Marian Parsley, Behnke Staff  
Make beautiful floral arrangements using flowers from your own garden. Enjoy fresh, fragrant flowers in every room — or give them as gifts! Jill and Marian will get you growing and suggest some of the best plants to grow.

### **Seminar TBA**

S128  
*Saturday, March 25 at 1pm*  
Please visit our website, [www.behnkes.com](http://www.behnkes.com), for up to date information about this time slot.

### **Attracting Butterflies & Hummingbirds**

S129  
*Sunday, March 26 at 1pm*  
Andre Viette, Nationally Recognized Perennial Expert  
Nurseryman and radio personality Andre Viette reveals the best plants to attract hummers and butterflies to your garden. Book signing to follow presentation.

**All presentations are free unless noted otherwise. Pre-registration is required to reserve your seat. Please call 301-937-1100**

Workshops and seminars are held at our Beltsville store: 11300 Baltimore Avenue (U.S. Route 1), 2 miles north of Exit 25, Capital Beltway.

For more information, please call 301-937-1100.

All events are held in our Assembly Room, which is on the second floor over the Landscape offices. We regret that this space is not yet accessible to handicapped persons.

We will however strive to accommodate anyone who may be inconvenienced.

# The Adkins Arboretum:

## Reaching Beyond Its Borders to Promote Conservation of the Delmarva Peninsula

— *By Amy Blades Steward, Development and Marketing Manager at Adkins Arboretum*

**B**alancing human development with preservation of the natural world is a daunting challenge that faces communities across the country today. With population pressures greatest in coastal areas, it is here where we need strong conservation organizations to protect our valuable natural heritage. To address this challenge, Adkins Arboretum, a 400-acre native garden and preserve on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and conservation of the rich and diverse native plants of the Delmarva Peninsula, a peninsula east of the Chesapeake Bay that encompasses portions of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

The Arboretum is unique in the Mid-Atlantic region because it is the only arboretum in the region that focuses solely on native plants native of the Coastal Plain. The Delmarva Peninsula boasts a diverse plant life because of its location at the junction of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain where northern and southern plant life overlap. The Arboretum's plant communities include



The Arboretum's Creative Kids Summer Camps allowed children to enjoy real summertime fun outdoors.

over 600 species of native shrubs, trees, wildflowers, ferns and grasses—a living museum where visitors gain an appreciation of the native plant habitats that provide food and shelter for wildlife, are fundamental to the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and enrich our lives by providing a beautiful and interesting environment.

### The Site

The Adkins Arboretum offers visitors the opportunity to learn about native plants, gardening, ecology, and wildlife. By displaying native plants in a natural setting, as well as in ecological restoration projects and in cultivated gardens, the Arboretum demonstrates land stewardship that can be practiced in our communities and in our own backyards.

The four miles of interpretive paths at the Arboretum lead visitors through a diverse setting of woodlands, meadows, wetlands, streams, and display gardens. Among the treasures to be found on the self-guided walk are patches of paw paw, skunk cabbage, tulip poplar trees, deerberry, ferns, Pinxter azaleas, mountain laurel and pink lady's-slipper.

### The Experience

Through its educational and science-based approach to land stewardship, the Arboretum is continually reaching out to broaden its audience—children, families, amateur and professional horticulturists, natural resource managers, land planners, the nursery industry and land developers—through such activities as seminars, nature walks, lecture series, children's programs, restoration demonstrations, plant sales, art exhibitions, a newsletter and seasonal community events. Special seasonal events include a Halloween



A view of the Arboretum's wetland.

Haunted Hayride, a Grand Illumination and Candlelight Caroling Walk during the Christmas holidays, and a Spring Garden Symposium. The 2006 Garden Symposium will feature two nationally known speakers: Dr. Allan Armitage, award winning author speaker, and horticulturist, and Julie Moir Messervy, acclaimed landscape designer, author and lecturer on outdoor sanctuaries that feed the spirit. The Symposium will be held on Friday, May 19, 2006 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Arboretum in Ridgely, MD.

If you are looking for a quiet walk in the woods, don't miss a visit to Adkins Arboretum. Each season offers a unique perspective of nature's wonders. Guided walks are offered at 11 AM on Saturdays from April through November, supplemented by a new audio tour to be offered beginning January 1, 2006.

Adkins Arboretum is located at 12610 Eveland Road in Ridgely, MD. The Arboretum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students ages 6 to 18, and free for Arboretum members and children five and under. For further information, call 410-634-2847 or visit the website at [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org).



## Valentine's Day Flowers Available from Both Behnke Locations

Valentine's Day is February 14 (mark that calendar before you forget!!). On the days leading up to Valentine's, and on the Big Day itself, we will have fresh flowers and beautiful arrangements available for you, not only at our florist at our garden center at Potomac, but also at our Beltsville garden center. Fresh roses and an assortment of other flowers and arrangements will really say "I Love You," or "Like, Whatever" to that special someone.

Consider pairing your flowers with our Preferred Customer Card (see back cover). The card earns your sweetie gift certificates (\$50 worth!) and discounts throughout the year (10% on all plant purchases!). A thoughtful gift for those who plan ahead, and also you last-minute folks. (You know who you are.)

So: remember—we have everything you need for Valentine's Day, here at Behnke Nurseries: fresh flowers, beautiful plants, gift certificates, the Preferred Customer Card....Everything you need to be the suave suitor you were always meant to be.



### Lothian, from page 1

When you turn onto this property from Sands Road, you basically see nothing but a small trailer. Driving in a few feet more, you see the nursery spread out 50 feet below you—not in a pit or quarry, but on a gently sloping plane that ultimately reaches the Patuxent. Being a bit off the beaten path, and completely hidden from view, we decided that this site should focus on growing rather than retail, so it is not open to the public for sales.

We quickly set up to grow perennials, shrubs and trees at Lothian: we have a good crop ready to ship to our garden centers for Spring. But the real race for time was to construct greenhouses, which were to be a combination of reconstructed houses from Largo, and new houses.

The first to go up were the two new houses, the "Transport House" and the "IBG" House. These modern facilities are very tall and depend on natural ventilation for much of their cooling; in fact, the IBG House (cleverly denoted because it was manufactured by IBG) is a glass house with a roof that can be fully opened, to allow maximum light and easy cooling. Watering is done by computer-controlled booms rather than hoses. The Transport House is a "head house", a long house that is perpendicular to the attached greenhouse ranges such as the IBG, allowing sheltered entry, a place to

pot and ship from, and so on. The Transport House is pretty neat; it is 552 feet long and 41 feet wide, with an automated track system for hanging baskets overhead (enough room to grow 6,000 hanging baskets!).

We reassembled 28 free-standing greenhouses, each of which holds 3,000 square feet of plants. These are used to overwinter and grow some shrubs and perennials, but are mainly for poinsettias and various annuals. Two of the large greenhouse ranges from Largo were also reassembled (77,000 square feet), for poinsettia production and annual flowers production. Due to permitting and construction delays, this phase of the project came in about a month behind schedule, which resulted in a one-time shortfall in our poinsettia production. This was a real heart breaker for Behnke's, as we worked with our wholesale customers to identify alternate sources for 2005.

As of this writing in mid-November, construction is done and grower Sissy

McKenzie and staff are working to bring you lilies for the Easter holiday and annuals for Spring.

All in all, we wound up with a facility of which we are proud. Charlie Breitschwerdt, Vice-President for Production, Darrell Lively, Maintenance Manager, and a host of others devoted a year to the move and the construction; maybe more like three years squeezed into one. On one of those warm Spring days, when you are at the garden center thinking about how lucky we are to have "outside jobs," think about drilling holes in frozen ground for greenhouse supports. We do, every time we unload a truck of signature plants from Behnke Nurseries at Lothian.



# New Behnke Discount Card Rewards Loyal Customers

Save money every time you shop at Behnke's! Now you can add "best value" to the list of reasons Behnke's has been the local gardener's favorite nursery since 1930 — the best quality plants, the most knowledgeable assistance and the widest selection.

Behnke's Preferred Customer Card helps us reward gardeners who appreciate the great selection and top quality that has made Behnke Nurseries the premiere garden center in the Washington D.C., area. Enroll in our new Preferred Customer Program today. Membership is just \$35 per year, and you will immediately begin to enjoy many wonderful benefits, including:

- 10% off the regular price of every plant we sell, every time you shop,
- Two \$25 Behnke gift certificates that can be redeemed for up to 2 years,
- Members-only offers, coupons, events and sale opportunities (via email),
- Free delivery on any order totalling more than \$400 (within 25 miles).



*Renovate your old landscape or create a dream garden from scratch with the help of your Behnke Preferred Customer Card. Enroll at either Behnke location or online: [www.behnkes.com](http://www.behnkes.com).*

***2006 Schedule Inside!  
Workshops & Free Gardening Seminars***

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