

The Compost

A Newsletter celebrating Charles County Master Gardener Projects

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CCMG Coordinator Update

by CCMG Coordinator Kaitlyn Baligush

Summer weather is officially here! We had a great turn out for the Summer Grow It Eat It Meeting at the St. Mary's Fairgrounds. It was great to catch up with many of you. We're still in the process of hiring a new Master Gardener coordinator, but I know you all have stayed busy. This is a great time of year for entering your volunteer hours, but please remember to only submit hours for approved projects. You can reach out to me or Pauline (spurlockp@gmail.com) with any questions. Please share the Master Gardener Coordinator position announcement with your communities! If you are interested in learning more or applying, you can view [the full job description here](#).



Peter Rabbit Puppet Show by CCMG Terry Thir

Charles County Master Gardeners has been invited to present the puppet show "The Misadventures of Peter Rabbit in Farmer McGregor's Vegetable Garden" on Saturday, September 16 at 10:00 am at the Charles County Fair located on Fairground Road, La Plata, MD.

This is a lively interactive puppet show. Kids in the audience really get involved. Farmer McGregor and Peter Rabbit talked to kids about how to grow vegetables, how food is prepared with vegetables, what are good bugs and bad bugs, why you should eat vegetables, and most importantly -- why you should listen to your parents and more. We have three vacant positions. If you're interested, please send an email to Terry Thir at thirccmg@aol.com. These parts, while very important, have small scripts.

Our current cast of puppeteers: Jerry Reed, Farmer McGregor; Paris Reed, Mrs. McGregor, Gail Walker, Peter Rabbit; Terry Thir, Ripley Rat; Sally Matts, Mother Rabbit; Teresa Jones, Butterfly; Rose Markham, Praying Mantis; and moderator, Kathy Jenkins.

Vacant positions: Japanese beetle; Lady Bug Beetle; and the Busy Bee.

Our plan is to share the script with cast to review and practice. We will hold several Zoom readings and meet in person for several dress rehearsals in August and early September.

This is really a fun experience and I hope you'll join the cast.



Gail Walker as Peter Rabbit



Jerry and Paris Reed as Mr. and Mrs. McGregor



Teresa Jones as Butterfly, Kathy Jenkins as Moderator and Gail Walker as Peter Rabbit

Bay-Wise Landscape Management

Article and photos by CCMG Rose Markham



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Happy Summer Master Gardeners:

It's hard to believe that after one of the best springs Maryland has enjoyed in many a year, we are now in the midst of hot, humid and stormy weather. Our Bay Wise team has been busy since our last Compost newsletter, but before I share our activities, I have some great news. Wanda MacLachlan has been rehired on a part time basis to assist Bill Hubbard in the future planning of our program! In April, we set up a master gardener display and shared handouts and literature about our program at the Residential Rain Garden Summit Conference sponsored by the University of Maryland and Charles County. Jackie Takacs schooled us on the value of rain gardens and how they need to be maintained. I want to thank our volunteers Terry Thir, Kathy Jenkins, Elena Wilcox and June Leyland for their assistance in handing out information and answering questions during the conference. After the summit, our members teamed up with Carol Teets and her team at Christ Church. In addition to distributing master gardener program literature, we also served as garden docents for folks who visited the Church during the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tour. I have shared a few photos here of these events.



Bay-Wise Landscape Management, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Rose Markham

After a two-year absence, Port Tobacco Market Day finally arrived so we eagerly signed up and set up our information booth in early May. We met early, and I want to thank those of you who came out to help set up our tent and tables. We had a great turnout. It was a very busy day and we were lucky to be next to the Southern Maryland Audubon Society booth led by Lynne Wheeler. We complimented each other's program and shared information as folks moved from one booth to the other. We also helped give away the leftover trees from our April give-a-way. I want to thank Bill Allen for coming to help set up, as well as Sally Matts, Matt Perez, June Leyland, Jade Madison and Kathy Quimby for all the time and effort they shared with us. I have a few photos here for you to enjoy.



Bay-Wise Landscape Management, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Rose Markham



CCMGs Barbara Hays, June Leyland, Rose Markham, Terry Thir and Matt Perez

New Bay-Wise Team Members

Welcome to Matt Perez and June Leyland as they join our Bay-Wise certification committee. Matt and June, who took their Bay-Wise Training in November, completed their training by certifying Connie Nesbary's landscape and vegetable garden in Newburg. They were assisted by Terry Thir, Barbara Hays and myself. They were well prepared and had some additional ideas on how to improve our yardstick. I shared those ideas with Bill Hubbard who now leads our program.

Bay-Wise Certifications

We are proud to present three of our master gardeners who were certified since our last Compost. They all have beautiful landscapes and each of them put a lot of energy and time into their properties.

Connie Nesbary, and her husband Dale, have spent a lot of time creating their gardens and are working on designs for a rain garden, pollinator garden and other future gardens since moving to the property in July 2022.



Bay-Wise Landscape Management, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Rose Markham

At long last we were able to certify Brian Larson's property and vegetable garden. Brian is one of the busiest master gardeners in our program. He is always ready to help everyone so when we visited his property, I could not believe where he had found the time to create a beautiful landscape of his own. It was a treat to visit his flower and herb gardens. His vegetable garden is thriving because the electric deer fence keeps the deer out. I'm sure when you see these photos, you will agree.



We also had the opportunity to certify Kathy Davis's home and honestly, I was so moved by the beauty of her landscape that I had a hard time leaving. Kathy has created an oasis of charm and has taken so much care to provide a happy home for all the plants and flowers she grows. She even designed and built her own fishpond. She has created a charming outdoor "room" by bringing hardscape, structure and planting design together to create an oasis -- definitely a true eye for master gardening. The photos I am sharing with you will really make you wish she was your neighbor.

Bay-Wise Landscape Management, cont.
Article and photos by CCMG Rose Markham

Kathy Davis created a charming outdoor "room" by bringing hardscape, structure and planting design together to create an oasis -- definitely a true eye for master gardening. The photos I am sharing with you below will really make you wish she was your neighbor.



Bay-Wise Landscape Management, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Rose Markham

Recently, I had the pleasure to attend the June monthly meeting of the Charles County Garden Club at the invitation of Lisa Marcus, the District II Director for its Bay-Wise Program, to speak about our Charles County Bay-Wise Program and to give a status report on our Bay. The meeting was held at the home of one of its members in Newburg, Md. During lunch I managed to take a few pics of the landscape and thought you would enjoy the Osprey Nest that seemed to be quite busy while I was there.



While I was in Newburg, I discovered these insects swarming on one of the crepe myrtle trees. Can anyone guess the species and whether they are a good or bad bug? Feel free to send me an email with your answer to rosemarkham38@gmail.com.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you all to fill out your yardsticks and set up your certifications. It's easy, and most importantly, it may save you money on your property taxes. Click here for [Bay-Wise program information](#) and [this link provides information on the Stormwater Remediation Fee Credit Application](#).

We will be glad to do pre-visits to assist you with any issues you may have. Better yet, talk to some of the master gardeners who have been certified as they will tell you how easy the process is.

Until next time, happy gardening!



CCMG Demonstration Gardens

Article and photos by CCMG Terry Thir



Our gardens have flourished during the spring. After three years, all gardens have matured. We have had lots of on-going beautiful blooms and pollinator visitors. Since the gardens are established, we did not need to set-up a watering schedule -- one of the key benefits of growing natives. The garden team volunteers got together on several occasions to pull weeds and clean-up the gardens. We added additional stones on the spiral herbal garden and planted lots of fresh herbs. We also added a few vegetables in front of the herbal garden. Terry's son, Eric, installed wood boards across the trellis to allow the coral honey suckle to grow on top. We encourage all to drop by the gardens and enjoy the flowers, aroma and pollinators. Self-guided tours are available since the plants are identified.



Butterfly weed
(*acelipias tuborsa*)



Dwarf Joe Pyeweed
(*Eupatorium purpureum*
"Little Joe")



Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) on trellis

Melwood Horticultural Therapy

Article and photos by CCMG Barbara Hill



As temps start to rise, we are turning to our gardens and getting them ready for use this coming growing season. We have more beds thanks to the enlargement efforts completed by T.E.Woods outlined in the Winter 2023 Compost. So we got to work weeding and getting them in shape.



This year a decision was made to use T-Posts and Cattle Panels for plants to be tied or climb up. This seems like it will work out great, so for the OP-T (Operation Tohidu) group on May 19th, the focus is on Support Systems: financial, spiritual, physical, emotional, etc. The exercise will be for these women Wounded Warriors to help us install more T-Posts, Cattle Panels, which will support our plants and begin planting tomatoes and cucumbers. Everything needs and depends on support!



Melwood Horticultural Therapy, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Barbara Hill



And for those not physically able to stand, they planted large grow bags containing smaller tomato plants and peppers. These women are truly amazing in their efforts. I am always gratified working with these women!



CCMG Brian Larson starting acorn and butternut squash seeds with Connectors HT adult group.



CCMG Brian Larson demonstrating to Camp youth and staff how to plant summer squash

Camp Accomplish, the 8-week summer camp for youth with and without disabilities at the Melwood Recreation Center, began Monday, June 26. Camp youth participate in group gardening sessions every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Here are CCMGs Linda Bronson and Brian Larson teaching camp youth to plant climbing butternut squash on a cattle panel trellis on June 27.



Melwood Horticultural Therapy, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Barbara Hill



CCMG Intern Tiffany Daniel and CCMG Brian Larson led a workday with Suse Greenstone on June 19th with 12 men and 3 staff from the Jude House. Jude House participants planted tomatoes in the Learning Garden, prepared the new Circle Garden and started succession plantings of sunflower seeds in the greenhouse for planting in the Learning Garden. July 8 was a workday with CCMGs to plant the sunflowers the men started and other flowers for cutting in the Learning Garden.



Melwood Horticultural Therapy, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Barbara Hill

Time to see some growth in the Pollinator Garden!



If you would like to work at Melwood in Nanjemoy, you must be vetted. Contact Suse Greenstone at sgreenstone@melwood.org or by phone or text at 240-882-5280.



Suse Greenstone, HTR
Manager Horticultural Therapy Programs
5606 Dower House Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
sgreenstone@melwood.org O: 301-599-2716 | C: 240-882-5280
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Dr. Samuel Mudd House

Article by CCMG Patricia Faulkner

Charles County Master Gardeners have long maintained an herb garden at the historic Dr. Samuel Mudd House. Two years ago, the herb garden was restored after Covid restrictions were lifted. Despite this year’s drought, it is doing fairly well.

This past spring, additional pruning was done to boxwood, forsythia and other bushes on the property. The iris beds were cleared, and the peony deadheaded.

There is a “mailbox” at the herb garden listing all of the herbs in the garden and offering free seed packets. CCMG volunteers are welcome to join us on scheduled workdays the first Wednesday of the month from April through October, 10:00 am to noon.

The Dr. Samuel Mudd House is located at 3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Rd in Waldorf just off Poplar Hill Rd. Tours of the home, museum and gift shop are on Wednesday and Saturday from 11-4 pm and on Sunday from noon-4 pm.

Native Plant Clinic

Article by CCMG Molly Moore
Photos by CCMG Molly Moore and CCMG Marlene Smith

Huge shout out to Charlie Reilly and the team at Pop Pop’s Greenhouse in Newburg, MD for hosting our native plant clinic on July 8th at their colorful plant pavilion.

Enthusiastic participants came prepared with great questions about natives, birds and beneficial insects. Charles County Master Gardeners Marlene Smith and Molly Moore shared the benefits and beauty of growing native plants.



Southern Maryland Food Bank

Article and photos by CCMG Brent Burdick

The Southern Maryland Food Bank "Seeds of Hope" Community Learning Garden is off to an excellent start this year. So far (as of 7/13/23), we harvested 170 pounds of produce for the Food Bank! This is more than double the 68 pounds harvested by this time last year!



During late spring and early summer, our CCMG volunteers and Interns amended the soil in our raised beds, planned crop rotations, built several styles of trellises, laid out the gardening-by-the-square-foot demonstration bed, modified the demonstration patio garden, and, thanks to CCMG Alex Mudry, planted two large demonstration kitchen herb gardens. We did some repainting – the tire planters and the front kiosk blackboard. Some new signage was also incorporated into the garden so visitors could identify some of the plants and/or gardening techniques demonstrated.



CCMGs Elena Wilcox and Alex Mudry prepping beds for planting.



CCMG Gail Black discovered a bean or a worm?

Southern Maryland Food Bank, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Brent Burdick



Left: CCMG Linda Ivko planting “square-foot” garden bed.

By mid-May, all the Winter Sown jugs with plants grown from seeds since Valentine’s Day were transplanted into the garden. Some Winter Sown seed jugs were not successful. We had to purchase green peppers and direct seed some snap peas and bush green beans. Additional successive plantings of kale, chard, and carrots were done by direct seeding. The Wills Group, a major sponsor of the Food Bank, donated plants grown in their offices for the garden, such as cabbage, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Some of our CCMGs/Interns also donated dill, specialty tomato and pepper plants, dahlias, and some varieties of marigolds. New items in the garden this year included Brussel Sprouts, okra, cabbage, and eggplant. This year, 90% of garden plants came from our Winter Sowing activities – it turned out to be a very successful endeavor!



New garden signage



CCMG Sandra Heredia and Intern Karen Hile tend bed that “wintered” over.

Southern Maryland Food Bank, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Brent Burdick

Early harvests were from spinach, kale, and carrots that wintered over in the garden. By the end of June, all 11 potato baskets with Yukon Gold, red, and Adirondack Blues planted in March were harvested. The baskets were all replanted for a fall potato crop. The harvests provided to the Food Bank so far this year have consisted, then, of spinach, kale, Swiss chard, carrots, zucchini, cucumbers, potatoes, green peppers, green beans, snap peas, mint, basil, parsley, cilantro, and (as of mid-July) the first of the okra, acorn squash, cherry tomatoes, and tomatillos.

The red, white, and blue tire planters in the garden were again planted with sweet potatoes – Garnet, White Hannah, and Jewels, respectively. The vines are being directed to grow onto the bamboo deer fencing.

For our CCMGs/Intern volunteers in the garden – normal workdays are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays starting at 7:00 a.m. We have crews to check watering needs scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays who set their own hours. Come on out and get your hands dirty!



CCMGs Sally Matts and Donna Bell tie up cherry tomatoes.



Demonstration kitchen herb garden.



CCMGs Elena Wilcox and Karen Westhead "train" cucumbers to use a trellis.

Southern Maryland Food Bank, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Brent Burdick



Brothers harvest potatoes.



CCMGs Brian Larson and Derex Thompson practice IPM by hunting for squash bugs.

The Food Bank normally hosts community outreach events in the demonstration garden. When all such activities stopped during the COVID pandemic, community groups have been slow to return though the pandemic is over. As a result, the garden has had few outside visitors other than Food Bank sponsors. An exception, however, has been two young brothers who harvested produce in the garden on a few occasions while their mother was picking up foodstuffs for her food kitchen. The boys had never worked in a garden and were so excited when they were able to harvest strawberries, potatoes, and carrots! Another routine visitor to the garden is "Debra," a resident of Victoria Park Senior Apartments where CCMGs have a raised-bed project. She stops by to get gardening tips for her own patio garden and her raised-bed garden plot.

MG and UME-related program groups can schedule garden tours/activities by contacting the MG Project Coordinator. Other community members and groups can schedule garden tours and other gardening learning activities by calling Monica, the Food Bank Community Outreach Program Manager, at (301) 274-0695.

Garden mascot "Oswald" received a face lift courtesy of CCMG Karen Westhead



Senior Programs (formerly Victoria Park Senior Apartments Project)

Article and photos by CCMG Michelle Chenault

Happy Summer, Fellow Gardeners!

The project team has several exciting announcements to share:

- The scope of this project has expanded to include all senior oriented Master Gardener activities, events, and projects in Charles County. We are working on an appropriate name change. For now, the project will be called 'Senior Programs' (SP).
- The CCMG Grow It Eat It (GIEI) Project (Project Leads- Meg MacDonald and Beth Grem) and the Senior Programs Project have formed a partnership teaching senior populations in Charles County about growing food. Ongoing presentations were scheduled throughout the summer.
- Donna Ball is working hand-in-hand with me as co-lead for this project. Thank you, Donna!!
- The project team has grown! The group now includes, in addition to Donna Ball: Tiffany Daniel, Kathy Davis, Lori Guido, Jeanine Harrington, Linda Ivko, Kathy Jenkins, Brain Larson, Aileen Lennon, Janet McGrane, Laura McManus, Paris Reed, Jessica Richards, Stacey Sheffey, Terry Thir, Karen Trundle, Gail Walker, Karen Westhead, Teri White, Julie Nethon-Williams and Karina Willette.

In keeping with the expanded project scope, a presentation for over 35 people from the county's Diabetes Education group was given at the Waldorf Senior Center on Monday, June 5th. Michelle Chenault and Meg MacDonald were the speakers. Participants were provided with general information about growing food at home. The presentation included a demonstration of growing basil in a container and all participants received their own basil grow kit. The feedback was very positive. A second Diabetes Education session will be held on Monday, August 7th at the Waldorf Senior Center. The speaker is Teri White. **Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and other administrative tasks.**

Raised beds
with beans,
tomatoes, and
peppers.



We may think we are nurturing our gardens, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us. – Jenny Uglow



Senior Programs, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Michelle Chenault

The project team has taken the lead and is actively involved with many events and activities for the Charles County Senior Centers. CCMGs were contacted by the Clark Senior Center in La Plata to develop a program and plan for the patio garden that included a handicapped accessible, treated wood, 8 x 4 ft. raised bed garden received by donation. The 2023 program participants are 16 physically and or mentally challenged seniors. Their garden, with plants and seeds donated by MGs, includes vegetables, strawberries, herbs and a variety of flowers with a focus on native plants and pollinators. The SP and GIEI are working together to teach the sessions on edibles and each session includes a hands-on activity. This is an expanding and ongoing effort through the summer and possibly early fall and starting again in the early spring of 2024. The goal is to provide an interesting, stimulating activity for these special needs adults and potentially produce a small harvest of edibles that will be prepared by the staff dietician for the enjoyment of these senior participants. The patio garden at the Clarke Senior Center has received a lot of interest from other seniors at the center and in the county. A 'Cool Weather Crops' presentation for all county senior center registered seniors will be held on August 23, 2023. The speaker is Paris Reed. **Again, volunteers are needed.** Master Gardeners volunteering with GIEI and SP are creating "Fact Sheets" for each plant growing in the senior center garden to produce a Clark Senior Center Patio Garden Encyclopedia. These sheets will potentially be used for other GIEI programs and will also be available for other MG activities. Below is a sample.


Parsley

Parsley is an herb often used in salads, as garnish, and is used to make pesto. It is also a host plant for the swallowtail butterfly in pollinator gardens, and attracts predatory wasps. Parsley is high in vitamins A, K, and C.

- ⇒ Botanical name: *Petroselinum Crispum*
- ⇒ Height mature plant: 9 to 16 inches
- ⇒ Width mature plant: 9 to 14 inches
- ⇒ When to sow: Early spring to early summer
- ⇒ Sow 1/4 inch deep and keep the soil lightly moist
- ⇒ Sow seeds thinly and thin to 6 inches apart when the seedlings are around 2 inches tall
- ⇒ Seedlings emerge in 14 to 21 days
- ⇒ Once seedlings emerge keep in Full Sun (6 to 8 hours of direct sun per day)
- ⇒ Keep young seedlings well watered until they are established to encourage strong root growth
- ⇒ Time to harvest is about 10 weeks

How to grow seeds: See work sheets "It Starts With a Seed - Learning to Grow A Plant from Seed Outdoors!" or, if you are starting early in the year, see "It Starts With a Seed - Learning to Grow A Plant from Seed Indoors!"



University programs, activities and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, and protected veteran status. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

It has been an active growing season for the gardeners at the Victoria Park (VP) Senior Apartments site. We have continued in 2023 with the "Best Practices for Raised Bed Gardening" series. The Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) was in a container at Kathy Davis' house to grow indoors until it was warm enough to move outside. This plant, fondly named 'Ginger Rogers' by Kathy, is now living with Gail Walker until it is ready to harvest. Garlic (*Allium sativum*) cloves are planted in containers and placed on the teaching bed to winter over. Both will be ready for harvesting in the summer.

Senior Programs, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Michelle Chenault

The first training session was in May and included a demonstration of the water delivery system, information on watering, soil remediation and crop selection. The team completed the installation of one complete 3 level free standing water delivery system for the raised bed garden. The system will consist of 3 daisy chained and elevated rain barrels with a siphon pump and rain catchment device. So far, one station is complete, however, there are barrels with siphon pumps and 2 daisy chained barrels at 3 locations and the 4 stations adequately cover all 6 raised beds. The next step is to assist the managers with ordering all the materials and estimating the timeline for completion of the entire 4 station system. Thanks again to the great team of CCMGs that are working above and beyond at the VP site building the delivery system, monitoring the demonstration garden and watering: Donna Ball, Linda Ivko, Brian Larson, Gail Walker and Karen Westhead. We also worked on the teaching garden. New ideas are welcome!

The Senior Programs Project meeting is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm via ZOOM. Contact Michelle Chenault (cell 301-526-3225 or email: vmchenault@gmail.com) for more information about **volunteer opportunities** and to receive email invitations to the meetings. Everyone cannot or does not come to all the meetings or workdays or serve as speakers or writers, but each person listed above makes a meaningful contribution. You can, too! No task is too small or trivial. Many hands make light work. Again, sincere thanks to all for your efforts.



Eggplant



Squash



Containers with beans, potatoes, and zucchini.

Grow It Eat It Education Project

Article by CCMG Meg MacDonald, Photos by CCMG Terry Thir

The CCMG Grow It Eat It Education project held the second in a series of food gardening workshops on July 22, 2023, at the Waldorf West Public Library. The topic of the workshop was Vegetable Garden Problems. A presentation with information on common pests and diseases found in Southern Maryland home vegetable gardens was delivered by the CCMG GIEI team. A Plant Clinic followed the presentation, allowing members of the public to ask questions and submit pictures and/or samples of their own garden problems. Many thanks to the Master Gardener and Intern volunteers who helped with the July 22nd workshop: Laura Walker, Marguerita Harding, Derex Thompson, Brian Larson, Sandy Heredia, and Kathy Davis.

In addition to the presentation and question and answer sessions, the team provided a display table, where items used in food gardening, such as row cover, insect netting, shade cloth, self-watering containers, etc. were available for perusal by the participants. The CCMG GIEI team also displayed examples of common problems on vegetable crops, including sunscald, stinkbug feeding damage, and blossom end rot, gathered from the gardens of our own Master Gardeners.

Sixteen adults and some children attended the presentation; feedback from the audience was overwhelmingly positive. Evaluations are in the process of being collected and will be used to inform future workshops.



Left: CCMG Beth Grem. Below: CCMG Laura Walker. Right: CCMG Kathy Jenkins.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

GROW IT · EAT IT A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

The CCMG GIEI EDU Project was formed in November 2022, based on results of a survey of the public conducted at the Charles County Fair, in which respondents indicated that Food Gardening was the topic on which they most wanted MG assistance. Team members include Beth Grem and Meg MacDonald (project co-chairs), Kathy Jenkins, Lori Guido, Terry Thir, and Michelle Chenault. This team is working with the Charles County Public Library’s Office of Community Engagement to plan and deliver a series of workshops and presentations on food gardening. Workshops have been held in April and July and are planned for the Fall and Winter with seasonally appropriate topics related to vegetable growing. Presentations are available on the [Charles County Master Gardeners website](#).

Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

Article and photos by CCMG Carol Teets

On Saturday, April 29, Charles County hosted the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of architecturally significant properties in Maryland. The Master Gardeners were proud to participate in this event which was established in 1937.

The 2023 springtime tour included Christ Church which is in LaPlata next to the Charles County Courthouse. Steeped in history, this Episcopal Church is the home of a Meditation Garden. Several years ago, the Charles County Master Gardeners partnered with the Port Tobacco River Conservancy to install a demonstration garden. The garden features native plant material which is well identified for educational purposes. There is also a rain barrel and a rain garden which are effective in demonstrating proper horticultural practices.

On the day of the tour, Master Gardener volunteers provided outreach support to visitors of the garden. This was all made possible by the ongoing maintenance of the garden led by Christ Church members, Port Tobacco River Conservancy and the Master Gardeners. If you haven't yet visited the garden, please accept this open invitation to spend some quiet time enjoying the season (bench provided)!

A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers as we look forward to future partnerships in our community.



UP Meadow Day and Nurture Natives

Article by CCMG Marlene Smith

Photos by MG Bill Smith (Videographer) and Georgia Bonney



On Saturday, July 8, Charles County Master Gardeners Marlene Smith, Marguerita Harding, and intern Jamila Barton, in collaboration with Nurture Natives team members Esther Bonney and Sam Rutherford, traveled to University Park in Hyattsville to participate in the 3rd annual UP Meadow Day. The highly successful community event was held at the UP meadow and hosted by UP Sustainability and attended by over 200 people. Charles County Master Gardeners provided outreach education on native plants and pollinators. Nurture Natives educated attendees on the Nurture Native mission to replace invasive trees with native trees. Also joining us at the event was St. Mary's Master Gardener Bill Smith, who captured the event on [video](#).



UP Meadow Day and Nurture Natives, cont.

Article by CCMG Marlene Smith

Photos by MG Bill Smith (Videographer) and Georgia Bonney



Creating floral crowns and light bugs – credit Bill Smith

The CCMG prize wheel was a huge success and at times had attendees waiting in line for their chance to win free native plants (donated by CCMG Molly Moore), native seeds, Maryland Native Plant Society's Landscaping with Native Plant brochures, bookmarks, stickers, tattoos, and more. In addition to the prize wheel, master gardeners offered a selection of outreach materials from the Maryland Native Plant Society and the Xerces Society. Popular among the younger attendees was our lightening bug craft for kids. Nurture Natives provided Nurture Natives informational flyers and DNR coupons, plus materials to make nature crowns.



Jamila, Marguerita, Sam, Esther and Marlene

UP Meadow Day and Nurture Natives, cont.

Article by CCMG Marlene Smith

Photos by MG Bill Smith (Videographer) and Georgia Bonney

In addition to the Charles County Master Gardeners and Nurture Natives, St. Mary's Master Gardener Bill Smith (right) was on site to provide videography for the event. Also present at UP Meadow Day were the following organizations:

- Anacostia Watershed Society
- UP Tree Committee
- UP Compost
- Native Bee Display - UMD Hooks Ecology Lab/ Bee City USA
- UP Native Plant Swap
- City of Hyattsville Butterfly Table
- PGC Sierra Club
- BUMBA
- UP Resident Native Plant Site Visit Sign Ups
- UP Mosquito Control
- Refreshment table (featuring Home-baked Muffins by Greta!)



Esther Bonney and Sam Rutherford



UP Meadow Day and Nurture Natives, cont.

Article by CCMG Marlene Smith

Photos by MG Bill Smith (Videographer) and Georgia Bonney

Not only did Charles County Master Gardeners and Nurture Natives meet and interact with hundreds of residents, but UP Meadow Day also provided us with the opportunity to connect with other like-minded organizations that support protecting our native species (both plants and pollinators). Participants of Meadow Day received high praise and gratitude from the UP Meadow Day organizers, MarySue Twohy and Kimberly Nugent, including a shout out for Charles County's collaboration:

"Meadowheads!"

"Kimberly and I thank you for all your hard work, sweat (it was hot!) and community spirit. Our team presented the most successful UP Meadow Day to date!"

"The Meadow is in top form and Mother Nature gave us agreeable weather! Over 200 attended and at least 200 native plants found new homes but the spirit of our event -- immeasurable and invaluable. And that is you! What a great day - thank you for making it such a cool event!"

"Thank you for the community effort on set up and break down, being ready to lend a helping hand and participate so fully! We also love the municipal and county collaborations with Hyattsville and Charles County! As always, we plan to get better at presenting UP Meadow Day- please send what worked and what needed improvement."

"Thank you for a great UP Meadow Day!"



Stay tuned for future opportunities to support the Nurture Natives team on their continued mission to "increase biodiversity through the planting of native trees and shrubs and the eradication of invasive plants."

Chelsea Garden Show in London

Article and photo by Molly Moore

What were the winning display gardens this summer at the most famous flower show in the world, the Chelsea Flower Show in London? Weeds and native plants!

The Royal Horticulture Society turned away from manicured gardens and flower beds to highlight the resilience of weeds growing through the cracks of urban cement, the ecosystems in fallen trees and the beauty of native plants.



As a nearly lifelong gardener, it has long been an aspiration of mine to visit this iconic flower show. As a native plant evangelist, I was blown away that the show was a near-total British embrace of sustainability and the mental and physical benefits of gardens.

The showcase gardens brimmed with weeds and wildflowers, brambles, nettles and dandelions. They demonstrated that so-called weeds and wildflowers can be used to create home gardens that are attractive to both humans and wildlife.

At the winning garden, the docents had visitors in tears with the back-story to a rambling native plant garden. "Horatio's Garden" was designed for people with spinal injuries, with layered plants that can be enjoyed from various vantage points, including by patients in wheelchairs or even on rolling hospital beds. The designers described the garden as "an immersive restorative haven—the antithesis of a busy, clinical hospital environment." But this was more than a show garden. It is now being installed at one of Britain's largest spinal centers to be enjoyed by patients, their families and staff.

There were of course the naysayers who posted diatribes on social media such as: "Too much philosophizing about meanings in the gardens. I want to see beautiful plants and spectacular flowers, not be lectured about the environment."

Just another reminder of how much work we Master Gardeners have left to do!

Thrillers

Garden Dictionary

Beneficial Insects

Insects that play a helpful role in the garden, such as acting as pollinators or eating pest insects. Common examples include bees, ladybugs, parasitic wasps, green lacewings, and praying mantis. Encouraging or releasing beneficial insects is common practice in organic gardening or part of an integrated pest management strategy.



Japanese Climbing Cucumber
Photo by Intern Connie Nesbary



Bees pollinating gourd plants.
Photo by Intern Connie Nesbary

Need a CCMG Shirt?

Members are asked to wear a Charles County Master Gardeners shirt at community events. Purchase a royal blue color polo or t-shirt and have it embroidered with our official logo at:

The Embroidery Factory
12150 Acton Lane, Unit A
Waldorf, MD 20601
301-885-0000

embfactorymd@gmail.com

<https://www.theembroideryfactorymd.com>

Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

The Embroidery Factory also has shirts available for purchase. Printing takes approximately 1-2 weeks. Once printed, there are no refunds.

Questions? Contact Terry Thir at
thirccmg@aol.com.

Save the Dates and Volunteer!

August 24-September 10 – 2023 Maryland State Fair

UME Master Gardeners are back at the Maryland State Fair this year! Master Gardeners will be serving as Garden Docents and staffing a tent next to the UME Master Gardener Learning Garden, a collaboration between Baltimore City and Baltimore County MGs! This is open to all MGs regardless of County/City of certification- Interns too! The garden is a spectacular showcase of many techniques. Our walk-in vegetable enclosure shows ideas for avoiding pest damage. We have various examples of raised beds and containers to show the variety of objects that can be used to grow plants, several methods for supporting climbing crops, and more! We will be located outside, but we also have a table inside the 4-H/FFA/Home Arts Building in case of inclement weather, or if you need to sit down and cool off. Fairground parking passes will be mailed to each MG who signs up to volunteer, so **please ONLY [SIGN UP AT THIS LINK IF YOU INTEND TO VOLUNTEER](#)** and no later than August 13. Volunteers are limited to signing up for 2 shifts. The fairgrounds are in Lutherville-Timonium. More [information on the State Fair is at this link](#).

September 14-17 – Charles County Fair

[Click on this link at Signup Genius to volunteer to staff the booth](#). The CCMG exhibit will be outside of the 4-H building.

The Misadventures of Peter Rabbit in Farmer McGregors Vegetable Garden Puppet Show will happen on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 10:00 am at the Fairgrounds. Contact Terry Thir for more information at thirccmg@aol.com.

October 8 – La Plata Fall Festival

This event runs from 12-3 pm.

October 9 – Indigenous People’s Day – Extension Office Closed

[2023 CCMG Calendar Link](#)

Note from the Editor:

This spring and summer it's been a treat to see what has grown up in our garden and yard. We have a section that we stopped mowing and it's a smorgasbord of plants!

As usual, the Charles County Master Gardeners have amazed me with all of the activities, dedication and hard work – not easy in this heat!

Take care and I look forward to more happy gardening!

Connie Nesbary



The Compost

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Phone: 301-934-5403 or 301-753-8195
TBD, CCMG County Coordinator
Connie Nesbary, Editor of *The Compost*

Click on photo above to visit our website.

The mission of the Charles County Master Gardeners is to support the University of Maryland Extension service by educating residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.



Submissions to The Compost - Submit articles, photos, reports, events, and other items for publication to the editor at thecompostofccmg@gmail.com by October 15, 2023, for the Fall 2023 newsletter. Please include a brief description of the activity, names of persons in photos and the photographer's name. Please include scientific names of plants.

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