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GARDENER
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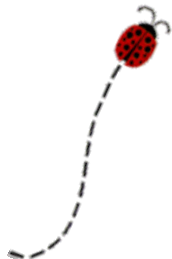
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April 2010 Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2010
Place: St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Parish
1601 Pleasant Plains Road
Annapolis, MD 21409-5928

Time: 7 p.m. Business Meeting
7:30 p.m. Speaker

"How to Identify Trees in our Region"

Lisa Maranto

**Associate Professor of Biology
Prince George's Community College**

Ms. Lisa Maranto is an associate professor of Horticulture at Prince George's Community College. She has also instructed in the Horticultural Sciences for several years at the USDA's Graduate School, where her woody plant identification classes were legend, and her knowledge of trees and shrubs that grace the grounds of the National Arboretum inspiring.

Ms. Maranto earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Horticulture at the University of Maryland.

Her areas of expertise include: woody ornamental plant materials, turf grass management, basic plant science, soil science, insect and disease identification, and landscape installation and management.

She is a member of the Landscapes Contractors Association and the Professional Grounds Maintenance Society.

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[From the State Office](#)

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THE COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Mike Ensor, Coordinator

Many thanks for a great turnout at our last month's Master Gardener monthly meeting as we all learned about the Dairy Farm and Hammond's Connection and the relationship with Master Gardeners.

Our first meeting of the new EAB was held on March 16. I am pleased to announce the positions of the new board. The position of Chairperson was accepted by Susan Kniseley and the position of Vice Chairperson was accepted by Lisa Winters. Deb Stevens has accepted the position of Recording Secretary and Elizabeth Matarese will serve as Financial Advisor. Joe Marsala and Anne Nourse will serve on the board as Advisors. Congratulations to all of our new board members.

Please mark on your calendars the Annual Master Gardener Day at the University of Maryland scheduled to take place Wednesday, May 26, 2010. Please register ASAP to be sure to get the classes you would like. Registration information may be found by going into the www.hgic.umd.edu website.

Finally it feels like "spring has sprung" and many of the Master Gardener projects are up and going. I wish each of you a great gardening season and a great Master Gardener year.

Has your contact information recently changed? Update your info today!
 All it takes is an email to rebeedle@verizon.net

Executive Advisory Board for 2010

Susan Knisely	Chairperson
Lisa Winters	Vice Chairperson
Elizabeth Matarese	Fiscal Advisor
Deb Stevens	Recording Sec.
Joe Marsala	Member Support
Barbara MacNemar	Member

**WELCOME TO THE NEW
EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD**

The new year for the Executive Advisory Board (EAB) kicked-off on March 16th with a new slate of officers and three new members. We are sorry that Anne Nourse is leaving the Board after one year because of her duties at work. However, we are very lucky to have Barbara MacNemar join the EAB and fill that position for the next year. Many thanks Anne for her work on the EAB over the last year.

We are very enthusiastic about plans for this year. The EAB is here to support the work of the committees and each Master Gardener. Our committees and members are the heart of our organization. Each committee was established by Master Gardeners who saw an opportunity to make a difference. They partnered with the schools, parks, churches, or others; developed plans and wrote grant applications; recruited other Master Gardeners to help; and set to work and created gardens, classes, clinics, events, and activities throughout the county. Not only are our members taking new courses to increase their skills and effectiveness, but they're also the experts that are developing new courses and teaching others. With the creativity, entrepreneurial spirit, and hard work of the Master Gardeners in Anne Arundel County, we are making a real difference in our community.

So the top priority for the EAB is to do whatever we can to support the great work you are doing! With almost 200 members, one of our priorities for the next year is to improve communication and build 'esprit de corps' among the Master Gardeners. We want to use the business portion of our monthly meetings to learn what different committees are doing, provide an opportunity for members to recruit more help for their projects, and share information on the best training and upcoming events. We want to increase our fundraising, improve our websites, and explore other ways to market Master Gardener activities. We also want to have more social events to get to know each other better. We'll be updating you on these activities in the monthly newsletters and meetings.

And we need to hear from you! Please feel free to contact any one of us with your ideas, feedback, and suggestions on how we can help you and your committees.

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING AT THE MONTHLY MEETINGS

Doing some Spring cleaning and want to recycle in a good way? This is an activity that has long been a favorite with Annapolis Horticulture Society Members, and it helps offset fees for good speakers as well.

Freebies! Freebies!

Look for the Freebie Table at the next MG monthly meeting! We hope you will join us contributing interesting gardening magazines, catalogs, free seeds or labeled cuttings. You never know what you might find waiting for

you at every meeting. We'd like to have donations from the membership for this table each month. Come early enough to drop off your extras and browse for your own freebie! Remember...one man's trash is another's treasure.

Raffle Table

Buy a RAFFLE ticket and you may be picked to select an item from the raffle table. Contributions to the raffle table may be various and sundry items of horticulture nature such as books, potted plants, vases, notecards, birdhouses, etc. for our exciting table. They will find a new home with a happy

MG member! Tickets are placed in a basket and drawn individually till the table is empty. It's EASY and FUN and always something different every month.

So don't forget, come early to the April meeting, bring an item for either the freebie or raffle tables. And...don't forget to buy your tickets—\$1 each or six for \$5. What a bargain!



2nd Annual A.A. Co. Master Gardener Advanced Training Day

Anne Nourse, MG

It was a gloomy rainy day on Saturday, March 13, 2010, in Annapolis until the Master Gardener Committee members began arriving and started buzzing about moving tables, arranging chairs, filling gift bags, getting food ready and setting up the registration table. In no time at all the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) building was transformed into a lovely charming area for our 2nd Annual A.A. Co. Master Gardener Advanced Training Day.

As one entered the lobby MGers were greeted by the pleasant and effective Registration Committee headed by Sandy Patterson and included Bonnie Pavlak and Patti Muir. A poster created by Anne Nourse featuring the events of the day was placed nearby. After checking in, registrants were given the sought-after special lime-colored pen with the A.A. Co. logo inscribed on it, a program written by Pat Morrison and a gift bag that contained deer repellent and heirloom tomato seeds thanks to Sharon Shreet's incredible ability to get fantastic donations. Helping Sharon fill the gift bags were Carole Fullagar and Pat Morrison.

Approximately 75 MGers had registered for the guided tour portion of this special once a year event and close to 100 came to hear Mike McGrath, our local "Garden Guru" and "Yard Warrior" of WTOP 103.5FM speak on the "Seven Steps to Successful Organic Gardening."



Co-leader Jim MacNicholl did a wonderful job of organizing the registrants into three groups for their tour of the award-winning “green” building.

The Merrill Center, which opened in 2001, is one of the world’s most energy-efficient buildings, incorporating natural elements into a fully functional workplace which has minimal impact on its Bay- and creek-front surroundings. The center and its sophisticated systems have won international acclaim as a model for energy efficiency, high performance, and water conservation. The first group, led by our very own MG Melissa Simmons led the group upstairs to the offices on the second floor where they were exposed to the green features of sustainable building. Other trained tour guides that unraveled the mystery of eco-design were CBF volunteers Julia and Ed. MGers explored how building design, construction, alternative energy sources, and re-using and recycling materials can reduce our footprint on the earth.



As tour groups returned to the registration table they were led to the Canvasback Conference Room where appealing healthy snacks and drinks had been arranged and placed on cheerfully decorated tables by Refreshment Chair Barb Crispen and her helpers Sarah Birdsong, Kim Briggs and Joyce Miller. One also couldn’t help noticing the beautiful floral arrangements with large sunflowers and tall Bells of Ireland with accentuating grasses that were made and generously donated by Sue Betz. Seating had already been organized by Lisa Winters, Bob Bates and Malcolm Doying so MGers could take their refreshments, sit down and chat with each other while preparations were being made for the guest speaker’s arrival. Time was also set aside for visiting the Sanctuary Garden display and learn about this MG project on CBF grounds by Patsy Peters. Once all tours were finished and everyone settled into their seats, AA Co. MG Coordinator Mike Ensor welcomed everyone and introduced the Project Leader of this Advanced Training Day, Anne Nourse.



After welcoming and thanking the group for attending, Anne pointed out that this day was ultra- special and better than last year's inaugural training day because of its high attendance, ability to provide the much requested CBF tour, more and better door prizes and have another well-known and respected guest speaker. Mike McGrath was then introduced not only as the Friday morning Washington DC radio station gardening expert but also as a regular presenter at Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville, weekly host of his Public Radio show "You Bet Your Garden" former editor of *Organic Gardening*, author of gardening books and more. Then the program began.

WHAT ARE THE 7 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL ORGANIC GARDENING?

Mike explained them in his unique down-to-earth humorous and entertaining style which, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Highlights of his presentation:



#1. Make raised beds. This will warm up the soil faster, drain it better and control weeds. One of its biggest benefits is as a visual reminder not to walk by a plant's roots which, compacts the soil and prevents the plant from breathing. He warned not to use pressure treated wood or old railroad ties. Dimensions should be as long as you want but never wider than 4 feet. About 1-1 ½ feet high is ideal and should be filled with half rich black top soil and half compost. Water thoroughly when needed and not frequently with a small amount. They can be covered with shredded leaves or a cover crop may be planted in them for winter.

#2. Feed the soil. Use yard waste compost of about 2" deep in one-half of the bed. Nothing else is needed in our garden zone as well as many others.

#3. Beneficials. The best animal to have in your garden that eats pests are the nocturnal toads. They eat slugs and moths; a pregnant one will eat 5-10 times its weight daily. To encourage them to stay, use bricks as supports and then place a board across them under a damp area. Ants aerate the soil but toads will also eat them. Birds are carnivorous and will eat pests so place a bird bath in the center of your garden filled with clean water. There is no need to give seed to birds as squirrels, voles, etc. come, instead leave seed heads on plants for natural feeding. Ladybugs, big-eyes, praying mantis and lacewings drink water; so place some in a saucer/plate filled with pebbles on top of the ground. Plants that bloom with compound flowers (umbrelliferae family) also attract beneficial insects as they eat pollen and drink nectar.

#4. Have constant blooms all year long in your garden. The blossoms encourage pollinators. A good plant to have in your garden are pansies that can provide color all winter long and re-bloom after a hot summer.

#5. Mulch versus weeds. Since food is stored in plant leaves, nutrients fall to the ground in autumn making good food for your lawn and soil. Leaves are a natural herbicide so don't need to be raked. Worm castings will be found on fallen leaves that make them more nutritious for plants.

#6. Water wisely. Plant roots need to dry out a little. Water only in the early morning before the sun comes up for 20 minutes for deep ground penetration. Watering once a week for lawns is plenty causing roots to grow down into ground helping with plant stability and preventing root rot and disease. Set coffee cans out while watering and stop when the cans are full to 1" depth with water.

#7. Have Fun. This is the most important step. You should grow what you like and enjoy it.

After his delightfully informative presentation filled with experience and scientific information, he answered questions from the audience, Mike was then presented with one of our Master Gardener Training Manuals. He also received an honorarium for his visit.

If you'd like to hear more of Mike's wit and wisdom, go to his radio show's website at <http://www.youbetyourgarden.org/>. He'll also be back at Homestead Gardens giving a workshop on April 25

Next, another highlight of the afternoon was the drawing of door prize winners by Sharon Shreet. A wonderful selection of gardening books, bird feeder, handmade botanical cards, etc. along with Sue Betz's floral arrangements were given away to very pleased Mgers. Please see the listing after this article.



The final activity of the day was having the opportunity to purchase one of Mike's latest books on composting entitled "Mike McGrath's Book of Compost" (2nd printing) and "You Bet Your Tomatoes" (latest updated edition). There were also several copies of his "Kitchen Garden A-Z" book that was beautifully illustrated with colorful photographs of vegetables and fruits. Several MGers took the opportunity to have a photo taken with Mike. While his book signing was going on, MGers continued to enjoy each other while munching on veggies, chips, salsa, fruit, cookies and more. Clean-up went quickly under the direction of chair Joyce Miller, Kim Briggs and other MGers.

Thus, what started out as a wet dark day turned into a bright, fun-filled afternoon that sparkled with animated MGers visiting each other and learning how to be better educators teaching about "green" buildings and growing bigger and better plants. And, without the assistance of MGER Lynda Tison we wouldn't have been able to have the beautiful location we did. The evaluations are in and counted. Overall, they were very favorable with many good suggestions for next year's training day that everyone wants to have. Many volunteers have already signed up! Enjoy the great photos in this newsletter that Lisa Winters took of our very own training day. We hope to have more MGers joining us at our 3rd Annual Advanced Training Day.

My personal thanks for a terrific, efficient and friendly group of MGers who worked together closely and smoothly to make this a memorable and rewarding event for all.



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Our sincere thanks go out to the following organizations and individuals who generously provided gifts and door prizes for our Anne Arundel County Advanced Training Day:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds – *donated heirloom tomato seed packets for all participants*

Ryan Outdoors – *donated Shake-Away deer repellent for all participants*

Impressive! Promotional Products – *donated carry bags for all participants*

Mike McGrath – *donated his card set, Kitchen Garden Box*

Paint It Pretty, LLC (owned by MG Sharon Smith) – *donated hand painted botanical note cards*

Creative Homeowner – *donated Jim Wilson's and Walt Chandoha's new book, Homegrown Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs*

Bradford Organics – *donated Tasty Tomato Organic Fertilizer*

Contech Electronics, Inc. – *donated Scarecrow Motion Activated Sprinkler Animal Repellent*

Lisa Winters (MG) – *donated Brown & Brown's Herbaceous Plants of Maryland*

Longwood Gardens – *donated tickets to Longwood Gardens*

Droll Yankees – *donated their new Ring Bird Feeder*

Brookside Gardens – *donated tickets to their 2010 Wings of Fancy butterfly exhibit*

Sue Betz (MG) – *donated floral arrangements*

Pat Morrison (MG) – *donated program paper*

The garden fair

**The 19th Annual Garden Fair at the National Arboretum
April 23rd and 24th, 2010
Brought to you by the Friends of the National Arboretum
(FONA)
Entrance at New York Avenue (Rte. 50)**

This is a “Must not Miss” event! Would you like to see new plant Introductions? Unbeatable prices on exotics? And “just regular” plants?

Thirty-three (Yes! 33!) vendors with some of the most beautiful garden ornaments, herbs, planting ideas, horticultural information, and gifts will be there.

Under the huge FONA tent, anything and nearly everything you can think of in the Plant Kingdom is represented. Aisles and aisles of plants that will capture the real meaning of Horticulture....and more!

The Food Court features an array of goodies to tease the weekend palate-on-the-go. Everything from a neat little meal to ice-cream...

So pack it up! Take stock of what you need to restore your garden to its pre-winter of '09/'10 beauty. Or just come to see what your Arboretum has amassed for the Garden Fair...

Remember.....If you miss it, you'll be ~~green~~-brown with envy.....

ANNE ARUNDEL MASTER GARDENER PROJECT REPORTS

AA County Fair Flower Department

Joe Ann Kuhn, Chair, MG and Susan Gyaux & Claudia Poor, Co-Chairs, MGs

The County Fair needs you! As you plan and start your gardens this year, help continue the Anne Arundel County farm and garden heritage by planning to enter flowers, plants or vegetables that you have grown. Start now to grow that blue ribbon winner. The Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners have the responsibility for the Flower Section of the Fair and we have recently included a category on Maryland Native flowers with a goal of showing how beautiful native plants can be. Help us by entering your most lush, gorgeous fall blooming native or perhaps a berried branch. In addition to the native category there are sections on house plants, perennials, and annuals, hanging baskets, and many more categories.

All of you "Grow It, Eat It" people can let your vegetables shine by entering your produce in the Farm and Garden Section. Bring your fruit, vegetables and nuts and see how our Master Gardener methods stack up against the competitors. Attending the Fair is always fun but much more so when you see how your prize flower, hanging basket, flower arrangement, fruit or vegetable compares to others growing the same thing. So join your fellow Master Gardener members or neighbors as they support the fair, compete for cash prizes and blue, red or white ribbons and have fun doing it.

Apprentice Gardens

Anne Nourse & Rosie Tucker, Co-Chairs, MGs

As we all anxiously waited for the first day of Spring, the Apprentice Garden Committee held its first meeting on March 10 at the Severna Park Jaycee Community Center. Co-leader Rosie Tucker and I explained the background of the program, what we did last year and our plans for the new season to returning members: Jim MacNicholl, Jacqui Rouse; new members: Kim Briggs, Carole Fullagar, Joyce Miller, Trish Lilek, Barb Tibbs; and March interns: Harry Caldwell, Kelly Hitzelberger, and Sue Lindsay.

On Saturday, March 20, our first Clean-up Day of the garden was held at Kinder Farm Park (KFP). We were thrilled that three of our four returning families joined us as Rosie, Trish Lilek, Jacqui Rouse, and Deb Stevens filled and pushed wheelbarrows full of KFP compost (with cow manure!) to create a stockpile while Kim Briggs, Joyce Miller and Barbara Tibbs turned over the winter cover crop of annual rye and pulled weeds at the same time. Other tasks included removing the floor boards that covered the garden's walking area, relocating straw and taking down the twine used to hold cloth tags to chase away deer. This year we are making raised beds with the expectation of growing bigger and tastier veggies to eat and display at the County Fair. We are very lucky and fortunate to have had the help of one of the KFP Sawmill Club guys to cut the boards he and his co-club members donated from pine trees that they felled while one of the fathers and Joyce's husband, Joe, fashioned structures used for three of the beds.





Come on down and see how beautiful they look! On another day more structures will be made so each family will have their own raised bed. The day ended with a grandmother removing all the drawers from our storage cabinet to take home and clean. Everyone's hard work has been documented by the photos I took. A sampling of what was done is shown in this newsletter. The first day of Spring proved to be a great beginning for a new season of Apprentice Garden and we are looking forward to a fun-filled productive program.

Although Harry Caldwell wasn't able to join us that day he is going to be our official painter as he gives the bulletin board, post, and railings a coat or two of fresh paint that will make them sparkle.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 31 beginning at 6:30pm at the Severna Park JCC to discuss plans for our first informational meeting with interested families on April 14. E-mail reminder messages will be sent to the committee and April Interns however, all Mgers are welcome. If you would like to come, please contact us at aonourse@verizon.net or helenrosetucker@hotmail.com



Ask A Master Gardener

Joe Marsala, Chair, MG

Spring has arrived, and the Plant Clinic season is about to begin! As most of you know, our group holds clinics in three venues: the Annapolis and Severna Park Farmers Markets as well as the Crofton library. This year we will be at all three venues every Saturday from mid-April through

mid-October! We also occasionally do clinics by invitation (such as Earth Day at Quiet Waters Park).

We recently completed our spring training program. We held classes in:

- *Abiotics and the Diagnostic Approach
- *Weeds and Their Control
- *An Introduction to Diagnosing Plant Disease

We averaged more than 30 students per class!

Bay-Wise

Judy Graham & Carol Dowling, Co-Chairs, MGs

Bay-Wise Tip of the Month: Attracting Wildlife to your Yard

Maryland has a great diversity of wildlife, including many species that benefit the landscape by eating harmful insects, pollinating fruit and vegetables and improving the soil structure in your garden. You can attract these helpers by providing the necessities of life: food and water, accommodation for nesting and protection from predators.

Attract insect-eating birds by providing clean water in a shallow birdbath, warming it in the winter with a heater to provide drinking and bathing year-round. Empty and refill the water source every other day in the summer to prevent mosquitoes. (You will probably have to do this anyway as the birds will splash all the water out

BeeKeeping

Lisa Winters, Chair, MG

THE YEAR OF THE BEE...Well, not really but I feel like it should be. When other hives died over the winter due to the cold and starvation, our hive thrived. We opened it up for the first time this year and found a lot of activity. Not only was there honey and pollen but our bees are already reproducing! A worker bee was spotted returning

This year we are fortunate to have over 50 volunteers! This allows us to form the 12 teams necessary to staff plant clinics every Saturday at our three venues. We are anticipating a great plant clinic season!

that often.) Feeding the birds is optional, but is especially valuable in the winter. Squirrel-proof feeders are available and suet is appreciated by many species.

Beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, lacewings, spiders, bees, butterflies, moths, ground beetles and centipedes are attracted by maintaining a diverse landscape with adequate food, shelter and water. Learn to tolerate some aphids and other insects on your plants so that these beneficials will have food and stay around. Don't use insecticides except in rare cases, and then use insecticidal soap and horticultural oil in preference to more harmful chemicals.

Check this space next month for more information on attracting other helpful creatures – frogs and toads, bats, bees and butterflies.

home with pollen on her legs. It seems like we have a very strong hive and are hopeful the new hive will be just as strong.

Don't forget, the new bees will arrive around May 15. Everyone will be invited to Hancock's Resolution when the bees are installed. Watch for a newflash of their arrival!

The Colonial Garden at St. Margaret's Church

Ginny Klocko, Chair, MG

On a beautiful first day of spring the master gardeners and interns had our first two hour work event at the colonial garden. Malcolm Doying helped out with chopping up the leaves that Pat Shema had raked. The leaves were then used as mulch for the garden and replenishment for the compost bin that Malcolm and Pat had renewed. Betty Bryant, Sue Owens and Pat Morrison were busy tidying up the garden and pruning back dead perennials.

The group also tried to assess the damage done to the garden by our recent storms. Some of the plants weathered the storms well, but one clump of rosemary has really taken a beating. Pruning of broken and dead branches as well as maintenance pruning was undertaken as well with expertise from the group. Sue Owens and Betty Bryant sharpened up the outside edges of the garden for a more finished look. The soaker hose was reburied as much as possible.

We have gotten permission from the church landscape chairman to add a small shade demonstration in a memorial area by the azaleas. This is dependent on receiving funding from the

church for additional soil amendments and some of the plant material. Pat Shema and Malcolm spread some of the chopped leaves in the area in anticipation of this. Hopefully, we can do an April installation with a brochure to follow.

**London Town Propagation**

Margaret Karnes, Chair, MG

On 12 March, the MG LondonTown Plant Propagation Committee met for the first time this year and welcomed five new members to our group. They are: Lorraine Carren, Marilyn Kinkel, Barbara MacNemar, Pat Parks, and Bobbie Kestenbaum. These new members will be with us for the next two years learning all the many ways to propagate new plants and the many facets of greenhouse management.

Cathy Umphrey, London Town On-Site Horticulturist, gave a short tutorial on basic seed starting. After the tutorial, our group proceeded to sow 25 seeds each for more than 60 varieties of heirloom tomato seeds. That's 1500 tomato plants which we will have to separate in a few weeks. These plants will be sold at the London Town annual Spring Plant Sale and are always a big seller. Thanks to Intern Jo Williamson who worked with us to sow the seeds.

Our group had a "How to Water Plants in Pots" tutorial, given again by Cathy Umphrey, on 19 March. I always thought watering was you take the hose or watering can and just give the pot in the plant some water and move on to the next one.

However, as we learned, it isn't that easy. There's really a lot to think about when you water. Some points of watering that Cathy taught us were:

1--Most important point to master is water thoroughly and let plants dry out before watering again. This makes sure water gets to bottom of pot, allowing for root growth throughout the pot.

2-- Freshly planted plants take less time to water and take longer to dry out than pot bound plants.

3--Plants in active growth use more water than those going into dormancy, dormant or coming out of dormancy.

4--Plants dry out from top down if sitting on benches or on ground and exposed to sunlight, but from bottom up if sitting on heat mat.

After our watering tutorial, we repotted some Delaware Sacred Tobacco, several varieties of Salvia and Sweet Peas. Interns Kelly Hitselberger, Sue Lindsay and Tara Fontz visited us and helped tremendously with the repotting. Kudos to them!!!!

Monastery Gardens

Dottie Oliff, Chair, MG

The Monastery Gardens sustained major damage with the snow we had this year.

We lost about one third of our 70-year-old boxwoods; that is the tops and sides of them, not the whole plants and lots of tree branches, some major, down.

We went in to clean up a few weeks ago but were asked not to do anything as they are waiting for the insurance company to come in.

We are lucky as two of the new interns who came that day know a lot about boxwoods and were showing us how to prune them.

I think we will be able to go in after Easter. Will let everyone know that will be working there.

Quiet Waters Park Composting & Native Plant Gardens

Pam Dennison, Chair, MG

The Compost/Native Gardens project is pleased to have such a large team this year and welcome many of last year's interns to our project.

We are gearing up for the 2010 composting season at Quiet Waters Park. We kick off the year with two composting demonstrations at 11am and 1pm on Saturday, April 24th. This is also the

day of the park's Annual Earth Day Festival which takes place from 10am to 3pm with many environmental exhibits and other fun activities. Hope to see you there!

If you would like more information please contact Pam Dennison at pamdennison7@verizon.net.

Woodland Garden

Bonnie Pavlak & Candice' Rockwood, Co-Chairs, MGs

The Woodland Garden has been added to the map of Kinder Farm Park. Witch Hazel 'Arnold's Promise' is in bloom, a sure sign of spring. (picture attached)

Twelve Jacob's Ladder plants just arrived in the mail and need to be planted. They were purchased with our Unity Gardens Grant last fall.

I've submitted a new grant to Unity Gardens for plants:

- High Bush Blueberries
- Ferns
- Columbine
- Liverworts
- Weeping Willow
- Arrow Wood (Viburnum dentatum)
- American Hornbeam
- Mountain Laurel



Weather permitting, we will have our first workday on Friday morning, April 2, 2010, from 10 a.m. to noon. Project members please bring gloves, and a shovel, trowel, or rake. We will be moving woodchips to the pathway by the new bench, originally scheduled for last December.

A list of 2009 Projects with descriptions can be found on the web ([click here](#))

Want an easy way to communicate with your fellow Master Gardeners?

If you would like an easy way to send a message out to the whole MG group or see messages sent by others, think about joining our Yahoo MG email group. This is a way for anyone to send or respond to messages or announcements (separate from the newsletter). All you need to do is to let Robin Costas know you want to be on the list by sending her an email at costasrt@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE STATE MG OFFICE

MG ANNUAL TRAINING DAY **MAY 26, 2010**

We are very excited about Annual Training Day this year and hope every MG will try and attend this event. We will be centered in the Stamp Student Union at UMCP and breakfast, lunch and parking are all included in registration price.

Registration:

Online registration will begin at the end of March; Everyone should receive their brochures by end of March as well. Registration fee for anyone registering by May 1 will be \$69; Late registration will be \$79.

Speakers:

Lee Reich, a nationally known speaker and writer will be delivering a keynote address on "My

Weedless Garden" and a break out session on Landscaping with Fruit.

Other food gardening topics: organic weed management in the vegetable garden, culinary heritage gardens, food preservation, ethnic vegetables.

We'll also have lots of environmental horticulture topics like: effect of cultivars on native plant species, butterfly gardening, managing pests in a "green" manner; rain gardens, propagating natives, ecology of insects, Sustainable Sites Initiative, pollinators.

Also, 2 plant disease labs, one insect lab; 2 walks, sessions on tree anatomy, weeds, bed bugs, youth gardening, scale insects, woodland management, conifers, garden writing and social media.

Trade Show:

MG's really enjoy the trade show and patronize its vendors generously. If you know of someone appropriate who'd like to participate in our trade show, please have them contact Robin Hessey at 418-531-1754; rmhessey@umd.edu.

MG Advanced Training
200 Common Plants of Maryland-
Ornamental Trees and Vines

Dates & Times: Tuesdays, April 20 and May 4, 9:30 am-2:30pm

Location: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton

Presenter: Steve Allgeier, Horticultural Consultant and MG Coordinator, Carroll Co.

Reg. Fee: \$45

Reg. Deadline: April 13, 2010

Learn the identifying characteristics and cultural requirements of such plants as serviceberry, hornbeam, yellowwood, hawthorne, larch, magnolias, cherries, clematis, wisteria, and so many more (about 40 trees and 11 vines). Your professional instructors and field walks in one of Maryland's premier gardens make this a course not to be missed. Completing this course will give you credit towards your Woody Plants Certificate.

TO REGISTER: Send your name, address, email, phone, MG county/city you work with along with a check for \$45 (made out to the University of Maryland) to MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042, or use the registration form provided here on the MG State website under "Advanced Training" <http://mastergardener.umd.edu>.

MG Advanced Training
Ask A MG Practicum

Dates & Times: Wed 5/5 10-2; Tues 5/11 10-noon; Th 5/13 10-2; Tu. 5/18 10-2.

Location: Wye REC, Queenstown, and field sites

Presenters: Dave Clement, Ph.D- Regional Specialist, Plant Pathology; Mary Kay Malinoski- Regional Specialist, Entomology; Joe Marsala, Anne Arundel Co. MG; & Bonnie Pavlak, Anne Arundel Co. MG

Reg. Fee: \$45

Optional Text: \$25 *Weeds of the Northeast* by Uva, Neal, & Detomaso

Reg. Deadline: April 28, 2010

Get the hands on diagnostic experience you need in order to become a better plant diagnostician and a better "Ask a MG" team member. Now's your chance to hone your skills and gain confidence in your abilities as UME specialists in plant pathology and entomology and two seasoned Master Gardeners present practical information you need. You'll learn about plant diseases, pests, abiotic situations, weeds and vegetable problems as well as how to better deal with the public. Mock plant clinic and 2-3 field walks included.

TO REGISTER: Send your name, address, email, phone, MG county/city you work with along with a check for \$45 (or \$70 if you want the text) (made out to the University of Maryland) to MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042, or use the registration form provided here on the MG State website under "Advanced Training" <http://mastergardener.umd.edu>.

MG Advanced Training
Landscape Design for Water Management

Dates & Times: Tuesdays June 1, June 8 - 7-9pm; Saturday June 12, 9am-3pm

Location: Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills (Balto. Co.)

Presenter: Jack Leonard, Principal of JGL Design Associates, Adjunct Professor at University of Maryland and Morgan State University, and a Baltimore County MG.

Reg. Fee: \$45

Reg. Deadline: 5/21

Does water flow off your property quickly? Does it pool in the wrong spots? What can and should be done? Excess water flow is creating critical environmental problems. Erosion, pollution, and run off are destroying water quality and native habitat.

Learn to design your landscape so that it manages water in the best possible way. In this course you'll learn

- How to make good design decisions including resource protections, microclimates, amount and type of hardscapes, material selections, maintenance requirements and best management practices (best design principles) for water management.
- See actual water flow and erosion problems, green roof, rain barrels in action
- Learn in-depth about rain-gardens
- Understand the scale of the problem and the role of the Master Gardener in the solutions.

This is a brand new course developed by the state Environmental Horticulture committee and our presenter, Jack Leonard. It will become part of

***MG Annual Training Day May 26**

***Landscape Design for Water Management- 6/1,8, 12- Baltimore Co. - evenings & Saturday**

***Plant ID Taxonomy**

- Carroll Co. 6/7, 14,21 - daytime
- P.G. Co- 6/7, 14, 21 - evenings
- Allegany Co. 6/17, 24 - daytime
- A.A. Co. 7/12, 19, 26 – evenings

a new native plants certificate program which will also include ecology and native plants/pollinators.

TO REGISTER: Send your name, address, email, phone, MG county/city you work with along with a check for \$45 (made out to the University of Maryland) to MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042, or use the registration form provided here on the MG State website under “Advanced Training” <http://mastergardener.umd.edu>.

What Else?

The State MG Advanced Training information and registration forms can be found at:

<http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/index.cfm>

Here's what else we have coming up:

***Ornamental Trees and Vines- 4/20 & 5/4- Montgomery Co. – daytime**

***Ask a MG Practicum, 5/5,11,13, 18- Q.A. Co. –daytime**

***Flowering Shrubs- 6/10, 17, 24 – A.A. Co. daytime**

***Entomology- 6/22 Montgomery- daytime**

***Vegetable Diagnostics and Demos- 7 locations – daytime and evening**

***Plant Diseases – 9/16, St. Mary's Co.- daytime**

***Shade Trees**

- Frederick – 9/28, 10/12,19 daytime
- Howard – 9/30, 10/7,14 daytime

STATE MG ADVANCED TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Date: _____ MG County: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Please mail in your completed form with check made payable to the University of Maryland. Return form to: MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042.

Course owed	Description	tuition	check box	total
Ornamental Trees and Vines	Tues., 4/20 and 5/4- Brookside Gardens (Montgomery Co.)	\$45	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ask A MG	5/5, 5/11, 5/13 , 5/18 (Queen Anne's Co.) (Optional Text <i>Weeds of the Northeast</i> by Uva, Neal, & Detomaso	\$45	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
		\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Landscape Design for Water Management	Tues Jun 1 and Jun 8; Sat June 12 (Baltimore Co.)	\$45	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

If you prefer to pay by credit card, please fill in below. You can then mail or fax (410-531-5567) the form

Credit card company: Visa MC Discover Your name (as it appears on card): _____

Number on card: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Questions? Contact Robin Hessey at 410-531-1754; rmhessey@umd.edu

Robin Hessey
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 University of Maryland Extension
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 410-531-1754
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Want an easy way to communicate with your fellow Master Gardeners?

If you would like an easy way to send a message out to the whole MG group or see messages sent by others, think about joining our Yahoo MG email group. This is a way for anyone to send or respond to messages or announcements (separate from the newsletter). All you need to do is to let Robin Costas know you want to be on the list by sending her an email at costasrt@gmail.com