



April 2008

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2008

**Time:** 7 p.m.—Business Meeting  
7:30 p.m.—Guest Speaker

**Place:** St. Margaret’s Church, Parish Hall  
1601 Pleasant Plains Road  
Annapolis, MD 21409

**For More Information Call:**  
Anne Arundel County Cooperative  
Extension Office at 410-222-6757

**Volume 12--Issue 4  
April 2008**

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 State Office Report and Upcoming Courses**In**

**Addition to the Newsletter:**  
**Calendar of Events**  
**March EAB Minutes**

**APRIL GUEST SPEAKER**

**“ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

**BENEFICIAL INSECTS**

**IN THE GARDEN”**

**Dr. Michael Raupp**

Dr. Raupp is a Professor and Extension Specialist in ornamental horticulture, integrated pest management, and entomology with the University of Maryland.

## THE COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Mike Ensor, Coordinator

Many thanks for a great turnout at our March Master Gardener monthly meeting. Also congratulations to our new 2008-2009 EAB members. The first meeting of the new EAB was held on March 20. The position of Chairperson was accepted by Trish Lilek. The position of Vice Chairperson was accepted by Joe Ann Kuhn. Jeanne Brush accepted serving as Secretary/Treasurer. Kay Ford, Marilyn Kinkel, and Lisa Winters will serve on the Board as Advisors. Please also see the attachment of the EAB minutes for further information.

On another note, all checks previously written to the AAEAC will now have to be written to the University of Maryland. As to payments to reimburse University of Maryland volunteers including Master Gardeners, checks will be written by the University of Maryland. The Anne Arundel Extension Advisory Council (AAEAC) is converting their account into a University of Maryland, College Park Agency account. As to the payments to reimburse volunteer Master Gardeners, there is no flexibility about the SSN requirement on Miscellaneous Payment Request (MPR's). The State requirement and therefore University requirement is to include the SSN or FEI or EIW on these payment requests. Hopefully with time the transition will work smoothly.

Please keep the MG Annual Training Day & 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on your calendar for May 29 at College Park. Details for registration should be coming out from the State Office in the near future.

Also another important date is our Annual Anne Arundel Master Gardener Open House. This year's event will take place on Saturday June 7 at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds. Please be on the lookout for update information in the very near future. Lisa Winters will be chairing the event this year along with Marilyn Kinkel serving as co chair. Also Joe Kuhn is serving as liaison with the fairgrounds.

Finally it feels like "spring has sprung" and I wish each of you a great gardening season and a great Master Gardener year.

## MG OPEN HOUSE – REFRESHMENTS

Susie Blackwell, MG

We are looking for a few volunteers to bring light refreshments for the upcoming Master Gardener Open House on Saturday, June 7 at the Anne Arundel County Fair Grounds. If you would like to volunteer please contact Susie Blackwell at 410 757-7780 or [mrsbntx@aol.com](mailto:mrsbntx@aol.com).

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Help us keep you informed. If you change your address, phone number and/or email address, or if you have just come on line, please notify Ralph Beedle at [rebeedle@verizon.net](mailto:rebeedle@verizon.net)

**Many Master Gardeners use a SPAM/Junk Mail filter that screens email. One of the features of these systems is to send to the Junk Folder any mail from an addressee that is not in your address book. If that is the case, please add Rose Mary Swartwood at [swartwrm@pgcc.edu](mailto:swartwrm@pgcc.edu) and Ralph Beedle at [rebeedle@verizon.net](mailto:rebeedle@verizon.net) to your address book. Rose Mary sends the MG Newsletter and the MG newsflashes. Ralph will send email concerning MG volunteer hours.**

## ADKINS ARBORETUM SPONSORS SPRING GARDEN SYMPOSIUM MAY 16

Adkins Arboretum will host the 2008 Spring Symposium on Friday, May 16 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Chesapeake College, in Wye Mills, MD. Titled *Earth's Green Mantle—How It Works*, the Symposium will provide an introduction to the fundamental scientific principles behind pressing conservation issues. Participants will spend a day with some of the region's most respected scientists and teachers and will learn about carbon footprints, pollinators and native plants, soil fundamentals, plant genetics, water resources and more.

Keynote speakers Dr. Doug Tallamy, entomologist and chair of the University of Delaware's Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, and author and photographer Rick Darke will share their passion for conservation practices that protect nature while enriching our lives. Whether gardeners, land stewards, teachers, community planners, landscape designers, homeowners, horticulturists or naturalists, participants will learn the tools to better steward the earth's natural resources.

In his opening plenary session, Tallamy will provide an overview and introduction to his environmental message of life's interconnectivity and the power of native plants to sustain wildlife. Sessions include Sex in the Garden—The Role of Pollinators; Plant Physiology—More Than the Parts; Soils are Alive; From Genes to Fossils—Evolution in Action; Ecosystems—Life Support Systems for All of Biodiversity; and Our Finite Fresh Water Resources. Darke will wrap up the day with a high-energy presentation that points toward a positive role for humans as stewards and gardeners.

Native plants will be for sale, and local environmental organizations will exhibit during the day.

Registration for the Symposium is \$75 for Arboretum members, \$90 for the general public, \$50 for students, and \$110 for registration and new individual membership. Lunch is included in the registration fee. To register and for additional information, visit [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org), call 410-634-2847, extension 0 or e-mail [info@adkinsarboretum.org](mailto:info@adkinsarboretum.org)

Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve at the headwaters of the Tuckahoe Creek in Caroline County. Open year round, the Arboretum offers educational programs for all ages about nature and gardening. Through its *Campaign to Build a Green Legacy*, the Arboretum will build a new LEED-certified Arboretum Center and entranceway to broaden educational offerings and research initiatives promoting best practices in conservation and land stewardship. For additional information about Arboretum programs, visit [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org) or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.

**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@comcast.net](mailto:costasrt@comcast.net).



Dave Clement, HGIC Plant Pathology Agent, shows a class how to track down plant diseases."

**PLANT DAMAGE DIAGNOSIS**  
(A Followup to the Plant Pathology Course)

Elizabeth Matarese, MG

No matter what the cause of plant damage, most gardeners look for a culprit with a few legs....insect damage is the first focus for most gardeners. But! Even though insects do cause damage to plants, much of what causes damage to plants is virtually "legless." Plant diseases occur during all seasons, and for us in the Mid-Atlantic states, winter can bring on just as many serious situations with our plants as all the summer months combined. And, to be factual, there aren't that many insects flying through the air in winter. So what should we be looking for?

If we go back to September and recall how we prepared our gardens for the winter, one of the groups of infectious vectors occurs frequently in wet leaves. Fungal leaf spots

emerge from a variety of fungi, including *Alternaria*, *Cercospora*, and *Myrothecium*. These fungi are fairly common in the landscape, and the most common one, with which gardeners quickly identify is Black Spot. For roses, this is not only unsightly, but it spreads easily when conditions are favorable. *Diplocarpon rosae*, an Ascomycota division fungus, over-seasons as *mycelia*, *ascospores*, and *conidia* in infected leaves and canes. That is why it is critical that roses be protected from detritus of the previous season. Of course, the gardener has to have an eye for prevention as well, as airborne infections in the spring can be just as significant.

The beautiful Endless Summer bigleaf Hydrangea has been found to harbor *Cercospora* leaf spot on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces. Iris leafblades, sporting *Mycosphaerella macrospora*, will have a distinct reddish border on each spot.

*Botrytis* blight or gray mold, is another fungal infection that takes a toll on ornamentals as well as a wide range of flowering plants.

The fungus *Phytophthora* species causes one of the most common disease problems in the landscape for rhododendron and azalea plants. It can affect various parts of the plant: the root, stems, and/or leaves...and when wet conditions prevail, either in the soil or during extended periods of wet weather, this fungus thrives to the detriment and eventual death of the plant.

Gray leaf spot on corn is becoming a more common occurrence. This is a *cercospora* fungus. The infection resembles streaks on the corn leaves and these change from tan/brown to silvery gray, as they mature.

Recognition of leaf spot infection is important. The spots can be bordered with red rings or have small black dots within the affected tissue. It is important not to confuse them with bacterial leaf spots, which also can appear on the foliage.

But the difference is important, because they move differently. A wet leaf surface allows a fungal spore to swell, germinate, and penetrate the plant; a wet leaf surface allows the bacteria to float or move to a natural opening in the leaf (a stomate) and invade the leaf's system. At first, a leaf spot caused by bacteria may appear light green in color, later turning darker to brown or black with definite margins. Fungal leaf spots are usually brown or black and may sometimes have the look of concentric rings, with the

margin of a different color than the center of the spot. Fungal infections are usually most severe on new growth during periods of drizzle and/or rain.

And, if the above are not enough to convince you that the "legless" invaders are invading your garden, consider powdery mildew and downy mildew! This fungus needs only a few hours of wetness. As soon as the sun comes out and warms the leaves on which the fungus has settled, spores are released to infect more plants. Powdery mildew infects both surfaces, while downy mildew eschews the top for the bottom of the leaf. Where powdery mildew does best with moist, cool (65° F) nighttime temperatures and moist, warm (80° F) day temperatures, downy mildew like consistently cool and moist conditions. They both belong to the Peronosporaceae family.

So, what can you do to fight the fungi? Clean up debris and dispose of it properly, especially in the fall and in the spring. Check the plants you buy for signs of fungal infection. When watering plants, water early in the day and confine as much of the water to the base of the plant. Maintain good fertility for your plants! A healthy plant can fight off disease successfully. And remember, too, that fungicides may be on the shelf of every garden supply shop or on every plant nursery counter. Many are fungal infection specific, and diagnosing exactly which fungal agent is causing your problem can be difficult. So the best advice most professional horticulturalists give to home gardeners is to stay away from using them. Prevention is the best tried and true action.

## **FOUR RIVERS GARDEN CLUB**

**Annual Flower Mart  
at the**

**Annapolis City Market on Wednesday,  
April 30th from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM.**

**We will be selling native plants, perennials,  
herbs, annuals, cut flowers,  
basket arrangements, baked goods, and a few  
surprises.**

**We will also have an  
"Ask a Master Gardener" booth there.  
Come early for the best plant materials.  
Hope to see you there.**

(This article was brought to our attention by Dottie Oliff, MG, and reprinted with the permission of the author, Kit Flynn, Editor, Durham, North Carolina, March 2008 Master Gardener Newsletter.)

Recently I have been reading about earthworms. Now as a gardener I appreciate earthworms but as a human being I keep my distance from them. I refrain from picking them up, as I have never remotely had a particular desire to feel one; in short, I keep earthworms in my garden, letting them do their thing while I am doing mine. Then I picked up *The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms* and realized these are truly remarkable creatures. In the first place, there are over 7,000 species of earthworms, ranging from one inch to two yards in length. They are hermaphroditic, meaning that an earthworm is both male and female and they are terribly old, as they predate the dinosaurs and, like the cockroach, will undoubtedly outlast us all.

Along the way to earthworm discovery, I learned many things: for instance did you know that those scientists who study earthworms are oligochaetologists? There is even a scientific journal devoted to the study of worms called *Megadrilologica*. Having no lungs, earthworms breathe through their skins; lacking eyes they are nonetheless sensitive to light. Earthworms, because their preferred habitat is damp, cool soil, are not found in deserts or under glaciers. One remarkable feature of the earthworm is its ability to regenerate—although a worm cut into two pieces will not develop into two separate worms. “This is one of the marvels of an earthworm’s cycle: its ability to grow new body parts, to spontaneously heal from injury.”<sup>1</sup>

Earthworms are old, probably existing in the Carboniferous Period, 350 million years ago. During the Permian Mass Extinction 248 million years ago, many species of life became extinct but the earthworms survived unscathed as they did during the end of the Cretaceous Period 65 million years ago when the last of the dinosaurs died off. When Pangaea broke off into separate continents 200 million years ago the earthworms sailed off on their various continents: “Earthworms living on those continents today are so much alike that their very similarity confirms that they once lived together on the Pangaea land mass” [36]. How else can we explain the similarity between Australian and South American earthworms, for example? Charles Darwin, after completing *On the Origin of Species*, turned to the

earthworm as an object worthy of study; in 1881 he published *On the Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms with Observations on Their Habits*. Over the years, Darwin became quite fond of his subjects as he “could spend hours out in the fields around his house, watching earthworms and collecting their castings.” Scientific colleagues would also send him earthworm specimens along with their castings in the mail [15]. In his book, Darwin demonstrated how earthworms could pull objects, such as leaves and pine needles, into their burrows, although even he “could not grasp the importance of the earthworm’s impact on the soil’s ecosystems [18].

Basically earthworms fall into three groups: (1) **endogeic worms** are yellowish-brown in color and exist only around plant roots. These worms are little known as they rarely surface, feeding almost entirely on soil. Because they can survive tilling, farmers appreciate these worms; (2) **anecic worms** are the nightcrawlers that exist deep in the soil, only surfacing at night; and (3) **epigeic worms** are those red wrigglers that break down our compost. These are “the most studied worms today,” thriving on the “rotten mulch on the surface of the ground but never deep in the soil” [22]. The epigeic worms multiply quickly in their two-three year life span, depending upon the availability of food, climate, and environment.

Darwin concentrated his study on the anecic worms, who create vertical burrows in the soil, leaving their castings at the openings. These worms can create burrows up to eight feet in length, only surfacing at night to look for food. These are the worms that are the tillers of the earth, miniature plows in motion. Surviving periods of drought by burrowing deep into the soil, the anecic worm lives twice as long as the epigeic worm and it also reproduces at a slower pace than its cousin. Darwin was a great admirer of these worms: “They allow the air to penetrate deeply into the ground. They also greatly facilitate the downward passage of roots of moderate size; and these will be nourished by the humus with which the burrows are lined” [26].

Because our continent was covered with ice sheets after Pangaea broke up most of the worms in our gardens are not indigenous to American soil, as the ice sheets killed them; there are no native Canadian worms. “Dig up an earthworm from any backyard in the United States, and that worm will most likely be nonnative” [87]. How did these non-natives reach American soil? They simply hitched a ride in potted plants or ship ballasts, or

embedded themselves into wagon wheels. In like manner, earthworms gradually extended their territory to the Pacific coast, “a feat that would have taken the worms about 1.5 million years to accomplish by themselves had they simply been released on the East Coast and allowed to migrate towards California at their leisurely rate of a few yards per year” [88].

As gardeners we know that earthworms are a blessed addition to our soil. Essentially the worm is a long intestine: one end consumes while the other end expels castings. Some leave their castings on top of the soil while others leave it in the soil. The castings are very nutritious, containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, and calcium. The worm tunnels enable air to spread through the soil. All these attributes benefit our clay soils.

However, earthworms can destroy the understory of a forest. They “can—and do—consume the entire leaf fall of a forest in a single season,” thereby destroying the duff; it is this spongy duff layer that nourishes seedlings and small plants[100-1].

Surrounded by all this leaf litter, the earthworms logically expand their population in order to devour it. Those plants that can survive—estimated at only 10%—will not survive the deer. “Earthworms are great in a compost pile. They’re wonderful for agriculture. They do till the soil. They do add nutrients. They do all the wonderful things everyone has always believed them to do. But when they move into a forest that has evolved without earthworms, they can actually have negative effects on the native plants” [101]. One way earthworms have found their way to the Land of a Thousand Lakes is as unused fish bait: fishermen (and fisherwomen) simply dump their unused bait on the ground. Other ways are via potted plants, transplanted turf, and tires caked in mud.<sup>3</sup> The upshot? “They can be so beneficial, or so destructive. They are literally ecosystem engineers. They are at the very base of the ecosystem. Their actions drive everything else that happens. And yet there are a lot of ecologists out there who pay no attention to earthworms at all”[103].

The good news is that earthworms are extremely beneficial to both gardeners and farmers, proven by tests conducted in New Zealand, a land of few earthworms, which makes it a perfect place to study the impact of imported earthworms on agriculture. “Pastures that were thoroughly populated by European worms grew twenty times more ryegrass and produced more grass for livestock to graze than those that

had been left untouched” [127]. Ewe numbers doubled, thanks to the proliferation of grass, allowing for increased wool production. “The worms fed the grass, the grass fed the ewes, and the ewes fed the farmer, who in turn fed the worms” [127].

Many earthworms are hard to grow commercially. Epigeic worms, those worms that live in the compost, are easy to raise but they can only survive on the ground if there is plenty of mulch spread on a regular basis. Anecic worms, the ones Darwin studied, are more difficult to raise on a commercial basis. Most worm experts will testify, “introducing worms into the soil is not worth the trouble, especially given the limited variety of species that are commercially available”.

[128]. To introduce earthworms to your soil, the New Zealand method of transferring turf works reasonably well. Growing clover, which increases the nitrogen in the soil, attracts earthworms. To discourage the earthworm population, plough the field and double dig the flowerbeds: ‘there’s nothing a worm hates more than disturbed soil....[D]isturb the soil and you’re guaranteed to cut down your worm population” [131-2].

Worms do one thing and they do it well: they digest. Living in both their food and their castings, worms transform the earth in the process of digesting. Worms also absorb whatever is in the soil, the good and the bad. It was Rachel Carson who demonstrated that when worms absorb large concentrations of DDT, they are able to render a robin infertile if eaten. “Earthworms have been used as biometers at toxic waste sites, where they quickly take up pollutants into their bodily tissues..., often surviving long enough to be collected by monitors and tested. In this way, worms become the canary in the coal mine” [167].

Like the cockroach, the earthworm survived many great extinctions, including the one that killed off the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Unlike the cockroach, the earthworm generally benefits man. “We should remember one thing: we need worms more than they need us” [174].

<sup>1</sup> Stewart, Amy. *The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms* (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2005), p. 75. Please note: future citations from this book will be placed in brackets [ ].

<sup>2</sup>For an interesting map of Pangaea go to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pangaea>

<sup>3</sup> For more information about the impact of earthworms

on the Minnesota forests, go to:  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/earthworms/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/earthworms/index.html)

If you are interested in taking a specific course or class for MG Advanced Training credit, please be sure that it is listed in the Calendar of Events. If it is not, send an email to [cfindlay@verizon.net](mailto:cfindlay@verizon.net) with a web listing so the offering can be reviewed and added to the Calendar of Events as eligible for advanced credit.

## PROJECT REPORTS

### APPRENTICE GARDENS

Apprentice Gardens is just getting started and will hold its first meeting with participants on Wednesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Severna Park Elementary School, 6 Riggs Avenue, Severna Park, MD 21146. Interns who may not be able to come to the gardens during their assigned month are welcome to attend, but please contact Scott Doran ahead of time. *Apprentice Gardens would greatly appreciate the donation of a used wheelbarrow.* We would be glad to pick it up.

### ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Joe Marsala, MG

Our group is off to a fast start this year! We have complete two of our spring classes with an average of 26 enthusiastic participants. The subjects covered to date:

The Diagnostic Process (thanks to Bob Stewart)  
Abiotics (thanks to Bob Stewart)  
Using Our Standard Reference Manuals  
(thanks to Susan Knisely)

Our last class (April 12<sup>th</sup>) will cover 'Spring Weeds' and 'A Reasonable Approach to Pesticides'. As always we will have an extensive hands-on lab.

This year we plan plant clinics at:

- \*Annapolis Farmers Market
- \*Severna Park Farmers Market
- \*Glen Burnie Farmers Market
- \*Piney Orchard Farmers Market
- \*Crofton Library
- \*Various 'special' plant clinics

In all we plan more than 80 plant clinics! That is about 33% more than 2007!

## CATCH THE BUZZ

Lisa Winters, MG

We have some bad news to report this month. An early spring inspection of the hives found one colony perished over the winter. We do not yet know the cause but we are waiting for someone more knowledgeable to respond and take a look to see if they can give us a possible reason. It may be as simple as the hot dry summer that we had last year. In any case, the second hive is still alive and buzzing so we will cross our wings and hope for the best. We will be installing a new package of bees to replace the dead hive and hope for better results this year.

Haagen-Dazs has launched a national campaign to create awareness for the plight of the honey bee. Nearly 40 percent of Haagen-Dazs ice cream flavors are linked to fruits and nuts pollinated by bees. As part of the "Haagen-Dazs Loves Honey Bees" campaign, the company created a new flavor of ice cream, Vanilla Honey Bee, and has committed a total of \$250,000 for bee research to UC Davis and Pennsylvania State University. The companies other flavors that have ingredients dependent on honey bee pollination feature an "HD loves HB" (Haagen-Dazs loves Honey Bees) logo on the container. They have created a website [helpthehoneybees.com](http://helpthehoneybees.com) to offer more information.

Trivia: Honey has been used for millenia as a topical dressing for wounds since microbes cannot live in it. It also produces hydrogen peroxide. Honey has even been used to embalm bodies such as that of Alexander the Great.

## GERMANTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

Sandy Patterson, MG

We've got a full Spring planned with **DIRT DAY on April 5** and **PLANTING DAY on April 19**, as well as a week of in-the-classroom hours with the kindergarden classes.

On April 19, we'll be installing a Butterfly Garden at the car rider entrance to the school. This part of the project began last fall and is spearheaded by Lois Tuwiner.

We'll also be installing four 6 x 20 foot themed raised garden plots outside the portable classrooms with the help of the 5th graders and their teachers. Susan Smith, Patti Muir, and Noreen Krispin are designing and installing an Herb plot. Polly Katauskas and I are designing and installing a Grasses Plot. Mary Young and Sandi Porterfield are designing and installing an Edibles plot. And Joyce Donlon and Susan Knisely are designing and installing a Succulents plot.

Several of our '07 Interns are already involved in both the Butterfly Garden and the Edibles plot, and many are planning to attend one or both of our April activities. We welcome you all!

## QWP COMPOSTING AND NATIVE PLANT GARDENS PROJECT

Susie Blackwell, MG

We're off to a very busy April! There will be a brief organizational meeting on Saturday, April 5 at the Quiet Waters Park Visitor's Center from 9:30 to 11:30 to discuss upcoming activities. April 19 is Earth Day at QWP and once again our volunteers will talk to visitors and give away

compost bins provided by Anne Arundel County. We will round out the month with our first official work session and public compost demonstration of the season on the morning of Wednesday, April 30. For more information please contact Susie Blackwell at [mrsbntx@aol.com](mailto:mrsbntx@aol.com) or

Kathleen Cornell at [ktpartners@aol.com](mailto:ktpartners@aol.com).

## SPRING PLANT SALE HISTORIC LONDON TOWN AND GARDENS

Saturday, April 26  
8 a.m. - 12 noon  
Edgewater, Maryland

## SCIENCE IN THE GARDEN 2008

Phylis Veillon, MG

Since "Science in the Garden" wasn't included in the intern rotation schedule, we invite all interns to come out and see first hand what "Science in the Garden" is all about, on any of the dates listed below.

We will be having an organization and training session on Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am-noon in the educational classroom at the Visitor's Center at Historic Londontown and Gardens. The training will include a walk through the woodland gardens.

Also we have several schools scheduled for the spring with the following dates and times.

1. Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-1:30pm
2. Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup> 1-3 pm
3. Tuesday May 20 9:45am-2:45pm
4. Thursday May 22 9:45am-noon
5. Tuesday May 27 9:45am-2:45pm
6. Thursday May 29 9:45-noon

Any interested interns or Master Gardeners should contact Phylis Veillon at [phylisv@verizon.net](mailto:phylisv@verizon.net) to let me know what dates you would be attending.

**It is the policy of the University of Maryland and Maryland Cooperative Extension that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or parental status, or disability. Equal opportunity employers and equal access programs.**



**MG Annual Training Day (May 29) is all about Maryland. Let's celebrate:**

- **30 years of the MG program in Maryland**
  - Party, displays, entertainment
  - Special 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MG merchandise
- **The natural wonders of Maryland**
  - Maryland wine tasting
  - Local Maryland hors d'oeuvres
  - Featuring workshops on Maryland geography, sounds of our gardens, our coolest and weirdest bugs, native bees, local food web, and 3 presentations featuring our native plants.
- **The University of Maryland.**
  - Almost 75% of our speakers are or have taught at the University, are part of MCE, or are former students at U. of MD.
  - Mike Raupp, our keynote speaker, from the Entomology Dept. has a nation-wide recognition and following.
  - Frank Gouin, our closing plenary speaker, Professor Emeritus from the Horticulture Dept. is a long time favorite teacher and mentor for MGs.

You should be receiving your registration forms in the mail by April 1. All information will also be up on the state MG website at that time. You only have 1 month to register (registration deadline is May 1) - so fill it in right away. This will also help you get into the classes you most wish to take. Remember that our day, this year only, will go from 9am (registration) through 8pm (party). Plan on attending it all so you don't miss anything.

**Use your registration form to order your MG merchandise** too (even if you are not attending the May 29 event). Let's show the world who we are and gain the recognition we deserve. Remember, we only order once a year, so now's your chance. All items will be pictured on state MG website by April 1 ([mastergardener.umd.edu](http://mastergardener.umd.edu)).

### **SILENT AUCTION ITEMS WANTED**

Carroll County MG's are coordinating our first ever MG Annual Training Day Silent Auction, and they would very much welcome contributions from you or from businesses you know that would like to be recognized in our program, or our MG website, and during the auction.

We are limiting the number of items to 50. No flea market items--just high quality, desirable items, services, B&B

offerings etc. To arrange for pick up of your item call: Debbie at 410-848-5499, Maryanne at 443-340-1000 or 410-751-1158; Kathy at 410-552-6263; or Steve Allgeier at 410-386-2760.

## HELP NEEDED FOR ANNUAL TRAINING DAY

1. **\*Urgent Need\*** Merchandise manager for MG identity items. We'll order everything and give you a possible distribution system. This job would require managing a group of volunteers to sort clothing a couple days before the event and a group of volunteers to distribute items on 5/29.
2. "Wedding Planner" We need someone who can help us plan out our evening festivities. Do we want music, decorations, where should we put the food, organize traffic flow, how long should our program be?, etc.
3. Evaluation processors. We need two people to process all of the evaluation forms (probably a solid week of work-can be done from your home after 5/29). Good team project.

### Small Jobs before May 29:

1. Help with pre-registration (data entry and check processing at HGIC in Ellicott City in late March though early May).
2. Table and chair set up on May 28.
3. Solicit or find donations for silent auction (see description to the left).
4. Help sort and bag MG Identity items on Tues May 27.

### Small Jobs on May 29:

Folks to manage various tasks (will not interfere with your taking classes). We will give 3 people scholarships if they agree to help out all day.

- \*Help with clothing sales
- \*Crowd management
- \*Set up/oversee food lines at lunch
- \*Set up/help with social hour food
- \*Set up/manage coffee service
- \*Clean up lobby space
- \*Clean up/wrap up and handling money at silent auction
- \*Help pour wine during social hours

**If you can help, call Robin Hessey at 410-531-1754; rmhessey@umd.edu.**

## UPCOMING STATE MG MEETINGS (OPEN TO ALL MGS)

**Thursday, April 3- Statewide Youth Committee meeting.** Are you interested in exploring ideas about how MG's can be better involved with youth? Then this meeting is for you. 10am-1pm at the Howard County Conservancy at 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock, Maryland 21163. Get directions on their website: <http://www.hcconservancy.org/direct.php>. Questions? Contact JoAnn Russo at [jrusso1104@comcast.net](mailto:jrusso1104@comcast.net) or 410-549-8403.



## **MG STATE ADVANCED TRAINING CLASSES FOR MARCH AND APRIL**

### **WEEDS IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL**

Central Maryland- Daytime classes

Tuesdays, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 9/9; 9:30 am-3pm.

Locations: MDA Annapolis, USDA Beltsville, 4H Center & nearby.

Primary instructor: Betty Marose, Extension Specialist

Registration Fee: \$115; Class limited to 25 people; Registration Deadline: Mar. 31.

Required course textbook: *Weeds of the Northeast*, by Richard Uva, Joseph C. Neal and Joseph M. DiTomaso. (\$25.00)

How to identify and control weeds is a topic of great concern (even fascination) for Master Gardeners, so we're again offering a multi-part course that will really "get to the root" of weeds. We'll be discussing the entire scope of weeds in the landscape, fields, turf, and forest and what controls are available and recommended. We'll also learn the biology of weeds, their lifecycles, and how to set up a garden or turf situation to minimize weed infiltration. Field walks will be included most days. Course will take place over a six month period so that participants can see the widest possible variety of weeds as well as understand what the same weeds look like in different seasons and at different stages.

There will be a strong component on IPM weed control, including specific organic and chemical methods. Betty is very knowledgeable and can help us untangle and understand a lot of information. Nowhere else will you get such comprehensive and accurate information on controls- something MG's are asked about constantly. Registration information below.

### **MASTER COMPOSTER**

**EVENING CLASSES- ST. MARY'S CO.** Charlotte Hall Library

Monday evenings 4/21 and 4/28 ; 4-9 pm; field trip site TBA

Class presenters: Lew Shell, AA County MG; Jay Spurling, Charles Co. MG

Registration Closes 4/11/08; Registration Fee & Book: \$55;

Learn all about composting from dedicated Master Gardener Master Composters. This advanced course, designed to teach the teacher, will not only enable you to improve your own composting techniques, it will empower you to share your knowledge with novices and experts alike. You will be given instruction in both the science and the art of creating compost and be given the opportunity to hone your own personal teaching skills. As a graduate "Master Composter", you will be able to seek out new and innovative ways to present 'backyard composting' to both MG interns and the public at large.

Our mandate goes well beyond the sensible use of pesticides; we are also charged with educating homeowners in areas of Water Quality, Nutrient Management, Soil Conservation, and Recycling. Backyard Composting is an essential part of each of

these areas and thereby has a crucial role to play in all of our programs and projects. **Class participants are expected to give 10 hours of volunteer time in the next 12 months in the area of compost education in order to receive Master Composter certification.**

**Registration fee:** \$55 (includes NRAES' 44 page (\$10) booklet *Composting to Reduce the Waste Stream* as well as course handouts)

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS. See state MG newsletter or go to [www.mastergardener.umd.edu](http://www.mastergardener.umd.edu)

## **200 COMMON LANDSCAPE PLANTS: EVERGREEN TREES AND SHRUBS** section

Thursdays 4/24, 5/1, 5/15; 9:30 am-12:30 pm;

Crofton Library; field trip to the National Arboretum 5/22;

Presenter: Bob Stewart, Extension Agent (Retired) Tuition: \$45; Registration Deadline: 4/16;

Learn all about the woody evergreen plants that we usually see in the landscape- both native and non-native. These classes will combine lectures with hands-on activities in which you will learn to identify, understand the cultural requirements of, and select the very best plants for Maryland landscapes. Each student will receive a copy of *Common Maryland Landscape Plants*, a practical guide to selecting woody plants for Maryland gardens. This class counts towards your Woody Plant Certificate.

## **CONTAINER VEGETABLE GARDENING- SALAD TABLE**

WEEKDAYS-TWO LOCATIONS- QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY; CHARLES COUNTY

Locations: Tues. April 29- Queen Anne's Co. Queenstown; 9:00 am- 3:30 pm (Registration closes 4/18)

Tues. May 6- Charles Co. MCE in LaPlata; 9:00 am- 3:30 pm (Registration closes 4/28.)

Instructor: Jon Traunfeld, Regional Specialist, Fruits and Vegetables; State MG Coordinator

Registration Fee: \$35 (includes your very own salad box)

Earthboxes, bucket gardens, salad tables, salad boxes: - Grow vegetables and greens anywhere! Many Marylanders are pressed for time and adequate garden space. Others have limited abilities, too much shade or awful soils. Yet, most of us are excited about the prospect of fresh, nutritious veggies growing out our back door. This workshop will train you in new methods that make food gardening possible for all ages, abilities, and situations. Registration information below.

## REGISTRATION FOR MG STATE ADVANCED TRAINING CLASSES

(or go to [www.mastergardener.umd.edu](http://www.mastergardener.umd.edu) for complete description and registration form)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ MG County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail in your completed form with checks made **payable to the University of Maryland**. Please include your tuition and payment for any of the course books you'd like us to order. If you don't already have these texts you can purchase them on your own, or for your convenience, you can order them from us. We will deliver them to you the first day of class. Please fill in and return your application to: MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042.

Weed ID & Control Central MD	Tuition	\$115	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Req. Text: <i>Weeds of the Northeast</i> by Uva, Neal & Detomaso	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Master Composter (St. Mary's)	Tuition & NRAES Textbook	\$55	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Optional Texts: <i>Rodale Guide to Composting</i> by J. Minnich & M. Hunt	\$13	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	<i>Worms Eat My Garbage</i> by Mary Appelhof	\$12	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Landscape Horticulture	EVERGREEN TREES & SHRUBS- Anne Arundel Co.	\$45	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	SHADE TREES- Harford Co.	\$45	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	ORNAMENTAL TREES & VINES- Howard Co	\$45	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Container Vegetables	Tuition (Indicate location: <input type="checkbox"/> Queen Anne's <input type="checkbox"/> Charles)	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Total Enclosed				

Also coming up look for these classes:

Anne Arundel: Plant ID- Wednesday evenings 7/16, 7/23, 7/30 (place tbd)

Baltimore: Plant ID- Wednesday evenings 6/11, 6/18, 6/25

Charles: Organic Vegetables- Train the Trainer Tues July 15

Frederick: Ask an MG- Mon & Wed mornings: 5/5; 5/7; 5/12; 5/14

Frederick: Plant ID Monday mornings 7/14, 7/21; 7/28

Harford: Shade Trees; M & W mornings 6/2; 6/4; 6/9; 6/11

Howard: Ornamental Trees and Vines- Monday mornings 6/16; 6/23; 6/30

Queen Annes: Organic Vegetables- Train the Trainer - Wed July 9

St. Mary's: Plant ID- Charlotte Hall- Monday evenings 6/9; 6/16, 6/23

This fall we hope to offer an Entomology course, Plant Diseases course and another "Ask an MG" course.