

July 2008

MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, July 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

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Unity Gardens Tour Flyer
 State Office Report and Upcoming Courses

Addition to the Newsletter:
Calendar of Events
EAB Minutes

**“Damsel Flies
and
Dragon Flies”**

Joanne & Bob Solam

Joanne, a Wisconsin native and lifelong naturalist, taught history and English and then became editor of the North American Bluebird Society journal for several decades. She is active in the Howard County Bird Club including serving as president, county co-coordinator of the recent five-year breeding bird atlas, wrote Birding Howard County, Maryland and with Bob has studied the dragonflies of the region for the last decade.

Bob, also a Wisconsin native, has been a naturalist for many years and wildflower photographer. He is retired from the Department of Defense and currently stays occupied as webmaster for the Howard County Bird Club.

THE COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Mike Ensor, Coordinator

I want to thank and congratulate everyone for a "job well done" with this year's 2008 Master Gardener Open House.

A special salute goes to Lisa Winters for serving as chair of this year's event. Kay Ford and her volunteers cleaned and refilled 6 outside flower and shrub beds which were wonderful. Much thanks goes to all our project chairs and their committee members for the wonderful displays. Our own Master Gardeners Beki Howey and Lisa Winters along with Steve Barry from Arlington Echo did a superb job presenting. Susie Blackwell and her committee Scott Doran, Margaret Karnes, Mary Ellen and Paul Keck, Ginny Klocko, Elizabeth Mararese, Pat Morrison, Jim MacNicoll, and Dottie Oliff did a fantastic job with food and beverages despite the heat. Our plant sale coordinators Stacy Church and Sharon Schroer did an awesome job. Please read the minutes of the EAB for further information on this year's event.

A big thank you goes to Alice Neily-Mutch for opening her home and garden to the AA Master Gardeners for the June monthly meeting. Also much thanks goes to Susan Smith for handling refreshments and the valet service provided by Trish Lilek and her husband and Lisa Winters. I am sorry I missed this event but was delayed for several hours flying back to BWI that evening due to storms on the East Coast.

Please mark your calendars to attend the Annual Field Crops Research Twilight Barbecue & Ice Cream Social scheduled for August 7, 2008 at the Upper Marlboro Research Center. Wagon tours of research include Vegetable IPM; Weed Control; Vineyard Projects; Corn Stalk Nitrate Test Study; Phyto-Remediation Grain vs. Forage Systems; Apple, Peach, & Beach Plum Research; Blueberry Project; High Tunnel Specialty Vegetable Production; and Strip-Till Vegetable Techniques. Please call my office at 410-222-6757 primarily for food count for the barbecue and ice cream social. Again this event is free and you will receive credit hours.

I hope everyone has a great summer and finds time to enjoy family and friends!

Holiday Party

I have stepped up to the challenge of organizing the Holiday Party this year. Anyone interested in assisting or helping in anyway, please be prepared to stay after the July meeting for 15 to 20 minutes.

Thank you, Lisa Winters

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

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 and Ralph Beedle at 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.

OPEN HOUSE

Lisa Winters, MG

I would just like to take a minute to thank everyone who helped with the Open House. I appreciated the assistance even though it was the hottest day of the year! I would like to ask that you send me feedback on the event; good and bad. Since this was my first year at organizing it and our first year at the fairgrounds, I'd like to know what you think went well and what could be improved upon next year. Thanks in advance for your input.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
FOR MASTER GARDENERS AND INTERNS
WITH WORKING KNOWLEDGE IN A SPECIFIC
AREA OF GARDENING**

Unity Gardens Master Gardener Consultant
In partnership with Unity Gardens



Unity Gardens is a locally based, non-profit organization that supports the building of community partnerships through the creation of greening projects, environmental enhancement and education in Anne Arundel County. Projects are generally funded up to \$1,000 to qualified non-profit organizations such as neighborhoods, churches, schools, scout troops, and community organizations. Unity Gardens is the single largest grantor for Anne Arundel County Master Gardener Projects.

A Master Gardener Unity Gardens Consultant would give steerage and/or horticultural advice, upon request, to a Unity Gardens grantee to ensure the successful execution of a greening project funded by a Unity Gardens Grant. For example a MG may be asked to give guidance to a Boy Scout troop in the installation of a rain garden or advise a community association in the selection of plants for erosion control or recommend native plants for a sunny restoration project or for a shady neighborhood park.

Consulting activities would be at a mutually agreeable time as set by the Master Gardener and the grantee. A MG Consultant may be asked to help a Unity Gardens grantee once a year - twice a year - or perhaps not at all within the fiscal year. In general, the need for Master Gardener expertise would depend on the horticultural knowledge of Unity Gardens' grantees in a grant cycle.

To volunteer please sign-up at the entrance table at the July meeting or email Susan Smith sbswhs@aol.com and include your area of horticultural expertise.

Need more information? Questions? Just email me at sbswhs@aol.com Thanks!

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 with a web listing so the offering can be reviewed and added to the Calendar of Events as eligible for advanced credit

FOOD-SAFETY PRACTICES, TOO

Submitted by Master Gardener Susan Smith with permission from the editor of Penn State Ag Sciences News, Luke F. LaBorde, Associate Professor, Penn State University Department of Food Science

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. -- The recent tomato contamination outbreak has many people thinking about growing their own garden-fresh fruits and vegetables. But a food-safety specialist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences says it's not where the produce is grown, but how it's grown, so amateur cultivators should know a few important tips about home-garden food safety.

Since many of the bacteria and parasites that make people sick are transmitted through animal and human waste, it's important to protect your garden from wild animals and household pets, says Luke LaBorde, associate professor of food science. While you're sharing your harvest with them, they could be sharing potential illnesses via saliva and droppings.

"It's just common sense," LaBorde says. "We don't want droppings to contact the produce, particularly if we're going to be eating it raw -- which we often are.

"Treat your garden like something you want to eat," he adds. "You don't want birds and animals snooping around your food. Deer are cute, and they'll be attracted to your lettuce and green peppers. But they'll leave something behind, so try to divert them to another area."

LaBorde says it's also important to keep cats, dogs and other pets out of the garden. While you might think they're sampling the fresh, young plants, they may see your patch as a litter box or porta-potty. "During the growing and harvesting seasons, especially, you have to keep a watchful eye," LaBorde warns. "People who grow fruits and vegetables at home should be aware

of good agricultural practices, such as washing their hands after harvesting and avoiding using composted animal manure in their gardens, especially dog and cat droppings. They contain parasites that aren't killed by the composting process."

After harvesting fruits and vegetables, use the standard food-safety practices recommended for any home kitchen. Other tips include:

--Don't allow piles of decaying plant matter to collect in the garden. "Neatness in the garden is a good idea," he says. "Cuttings and garden waste can attract insects that can transfer bacteria. So keep your garden neat and clean, take cuttings to the compost pile and keep the animals out. And be sure the compost pile is separated by some distance from the garden area, to guard against contamination in the event of heavy rain or flooding."

--Don't place feeding stations for birds, squirrels or other wild animals in or near your garden. "Having a bird house or feeder in your garden may look nice, but that's not a good idea, because bird droppings contain harmful bacteria," LaBorde says.

--Be cautious about using rain barrels and other sources of collected precipitation. "We can't be sure of the quality of water we collect from a rain barrel or stream," LaBorde says. "It may very well be safe, but it can be contaminated with pathogens from roof-dwelling birds or other creatures - or possibly chemicals released by the roofing. We just don't know, so you should treat this water as nonpotable."

Using collected water in a drip irrigation system is usually fine, he says, since water-borne bacteria will die when they get into the soil. But don't spray that water on any edible part of the crops - especially close to harvest time. LaBorde also cautions against using rainwater on root crops that might be eaten raw, such as green onions or carrots. "Municipal water is safest," he says, "and well water is usually safe if you have your wells tested every year, which is the norm."

--Locate the garden away from areas where wild animals or pets might congregate to rest or nibble on shrubs. "This is the same problem that commercial growers are facing," he says. "For a small garden, it's easy to put up a small fence for dogs, but it's hard to keep deer out - they're going to browse no matter what. So just be on the

alert for droppings."

PROJECT REPORTS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ACTIVELY SEEKING CHAIRPERSON

Trish Lilek, MG

The 2007-2008 school session has ended for summer break and, once again, our committee has successfully brought its instructional programs to over 400 elementary grade students in 13 schools throughout the county. Our project has maintained a solid team of core volunteers, each with a particular fondness for a specific age group (the different group dynamics of kids ranging in ages from 5 to 11 vary quite a bit!), each with more expertise for one particular program or another. It has been a pleasure to work alongside all of these wonderful people. Not only have they given of themselves and their time, they have also been committed in the sense that they have been reliable, punctual, and good humored throughout. All of the Art Linkletter moments of "Kids say the darndest things" have also made the time more than worthwhile...like the time a 6 year old was asked to tell the rest of the group what a carpool was (as in, "People can reduce pollution by carpooling.") Would it surprise you to know that a carpool is something that happens when your car doesn't work and someone comes to 'pool' it for you? Ah yes, we live for those moments. Or imagine a child's anguish when the head of her freshly made dragonfly drops off in its maiden 'flight' around the gym, and you are there to doctor the situation with Elmer's glue. And joy reigns once again in the world!

As much satisfaction as this program has brought to all of its volunteers, I personally have felt the time well spent and am honored to have had the opportunity to work with such fine people. Like the volunteers of most projects, some of the After School program 'graduates' have moved on to other interests; however, our project has had the good fortune of both attracting and keeping a stable and experienced corps—Bob, Marilyn, Polly, Susan—thanks to you all, it worked! That said, I have mixed feelings about stepping down as chair. Other commitments, however, are demanding more of my time.

I don't want this ship to go rudderless, so if there is a Master Gardener volunteer who feels the calling and who enjoys working with kids, there is a terrific opportunity

waiting for you! Please call and talk. Hopefully, someone will stand and take the helm, and this worthy endeavor will continue in the fall. In the meantime, thanks to all the After School volunteers who have made this work such a pleasure!

APPRENTICE GARDENS

Scott Duran, MG

Woody Boyd helped the families plant a raised-bed square foot garden. Debbie Diddlemeyer prepared the gourds we grew last year and led the children in painting them to look like scarecrows. We harvested all of our lettuce, spinach, arugula and radishes and began planting beans—both pole and bush varieties. We also planted acorn squash and peanuts. We can't wait to learn about harvesting the peanuts.

QWP COMPOSTING AND NATIVE PLANT GARDENS PROJECT

Susie Blackwell, MG

This month I have a very special question to ask all MGs and Interns. **Are you interested in serving in a leadership role next season for this wonderful worthwhile project at Quiet Waters Park?** This is my third season heading this project and it is time for me to turn my attentions elsewhere, so I can not continue as chairman next season. A big plus is that Kathleen Cornell will continue as co-chair in charge of the native gardens.

Currently the Quiet Waters project involves scheduling and running public composting demonstrations at the site and managing compost production and the native gardens adjacent to the site. Currently we give away free compost bins (compliments of the County) and goody bags to those who attend our demonstrations. Background administrative functions, such as grant and report writing, short articles for the newsletter, publicity including flyer distribution, and liaison with QW Park and County personnel, are key components of our operation. Much of the developmental groundwork for this project has been completed and we will soon be able to operate in maintenance mode if desired. *All written grant applications, reports, flyers, meeting agenda, etc. will be available on CD to the new*

chairman so you can update if you prefer rather than originate.

Because this project is dear to my heart and I believe it embodies the goals of the Master Gardener program, I want to help ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership. We hope a new leader will be found before next year to facilitate planning. I am encouraging anyone who may be interested to contact Mike Ensor, or if you want to know more about what is involved, please contact me at 410-757-7780 or by email (mrsbntx@aol.com). I'll be happy to sit down and discuss the project with you.

In the meantime we encourage all of you to come down and take a tour of the QWP site. We continue to have record setting attendance at the compost demonstrations and the native gardens our thriving thanks to the hard work of our dedicated team of volunteers. Our next work session/demonstrations are scheduled for **Saturday July 12 and Wednesday, July 23** (see the calendar for details). And yes, MGs and Interns who come to the demonstrations will receive a free compost bin and goody bag. Hope to see you at the park!

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.



Invites you to join us for a tour of

***Chanticleer Garden
Winner of the 2007
Award for Garden Excellence
Thursday, September 18, 2008
8:00 am to 4:00 pm***

Chanticleer, located in Wayne, Pa, is a 35 acre garden featuring lush courtyards of tropicals, perennials and containers, a colorful cut flower and vegetable garden; water gardens, ponds teeming with life; exotic woodlands; and a spectacular rain garden. It is a site filled with surprises for every garden enthusiast!

We will travel by bus, departing from Maryland Hall, Constitution and Greenfield Sts., Annapolis, MD 21401 at 8 AM. Bring your own coffee and a light breakfast will be served on the bus. Following the tour, a gourmet box lunch will be provided. At 2 PM we will depart for Annapolis, arriving by 4 PM.

This event is a fundraiser for Unity Gardens, a non-profit organization that supports the building of community partnerships through the creation of greening projects. The price, which includes transportation, lunch, tour and treats, is \$90. For tax purposes, only \$45 is tax deductible. The balance of \$45 represents the fair market value for the event.

Please make your reservation and return this form no later than Friday, September 5th.

CHANTICLEER GARDEN RESERVATION FORM

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ **E-MAIL** _____

LUNCH PREFERENCE: (please check one)

- Grilled Flank Steak on French Bread with seasonal side dish, fresh fruit and dessert
- Chicken Salad, Imported cheese, Fresh fruit, Roll with butter and dessert
- Vegetarian Tortellini salad with feta cheese, red and yellow bell peppers, and Greek olives, Roll with butter, fresh fruit and dessert

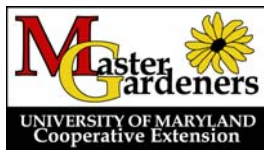
Please make your \$90 check to Unity Gardens, Inc. and mail to:
Frederica Struse, 120 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

For additional information please call 410-268-5560 or 410-269-5513.

For reservations and additional information please access the Unity Gardens website www.unitygardens.org

For more information on Chanticleer Garden please access their website www.chanticleergarden.org

Unity Gardens Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting Unity Gardens Inc. at P.O. Box 385, Crownsville, Md. 21032 or (410) 703- 7530. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State for the cost of copying and postage.



Advanced Training in Plant ID/Taxonomy

Annapolis (St. Margaret's Church)
Wednesday evenings, 6-9 pm; July 16, 23, 30
Registration Deadline: July 9

Registration Fee: \$35;

Primary instructor: Wanda MacLachlan

Required Text: *A Field Guide to Trees & Shrubs* (Peterson Field Guide) by George A. Petrides (\$16)

The Plant ID/Taxonomy and Keying course is very important basic tool for Master Gardeners in that it teaches all of the basics needed to identify woody plants in the landscape. Being able to identify plants is the first step in knowing how to diagnose problems or give growing advice. This course is open to all MG and MG trainees.

We hope this short course will suit everyone's needs- whether you want to learn 200 plants, 20 plants, or just want to learn techniques to identify plants in the field. The course will be made up approximately 9 hours of class work with lots of hands-on practice and a field walk. You will also receive a booklet of course materials.

You must take this course if you want to earn an MG Advanced Training Level II Certificate in Woody Plants. It is recommended that you take this course first before any of the four *Landscape Horticulture: 200 Common Landscape Plants* courses that will be offered (you need all 4 plus the ID course for the certificate). Material to be covered will include the following:

- Morphology- the study of the structure of external plant organs (e.g. leaf shapes)
- Nomenclature- the systematic naming and classification of plants
- Taxonomy- the general principles of classification
- Keying- using a dichotomous key to identify plant by specific characterists

TO REGISTER: Send your name, address, phone, email, name of your MG city/county, and name of class you want to take, along with tuition fee made out to the University of Maryland (\$35 for Plant ID or \$51 for Plant ID plus text) to: MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042. Or you can fax (410-531-5567) the same info with credit card info (type of card, name on card, number, expiration date). Or, feel free to call in or email your registration to: Robin Hessey at 410-531-1754; rmhessey@umd.edu

Other nearby MG Advanced Training classes- full details can be found at mastergardener.umd.edu. Click on Advanced Training.

ORNAMENTAL TREES & VINES- HOWARD CO.

Registration Deadline: June 9; Registration Fee: \$45

Presenter: Steve Dubik, Mont. Co. MG Coordinator and Instructor, Montgomery College;

Mondays June 16, June 23, 9:30am-12:30pm; Howard Co. Extension in Ellicott City;
Monday, June 30; 10am- 1 pm field trip to National Arboretum

ORGANIC VEGETABLES - LEARN, TEACH- ONE-DAY WORKSHOP – QUEEN ANNE'S CO.

Registration Fee: \$25; Registration Deadline: 7/1

Instructor: Jon Traunfeld

Wed. July 9; 9:30-3; WYE, Queenstown (plus field trip the same day)