



March 2008

MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 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 3
March 2008**

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In Addition to the Newsletter:

**Calendar of Events
The Maryland Master Gardener Program
Policies and Guidelines**

MARCH GUEST SPEAKER

“Environmental Stewardship”

Steve Barry

Arlington Echo’s Outdoor Educator

THE COORDINATOR’S CORNER

Mike Ensor, Coordinator

I first want to thank everyone for coming out to our February monthly meeting. What a turn out and congratulations to all!

I also want to apologize to the class of 2002 and the class of 2004. I made a big mistake and will make this up to you with your 5 and 3 year pins at the March Master Gardener monthly meeting.

ATTENTION PROJECT CHAIRS

If your Master Gardener project requires funding this year then please access the information for Unity Gardens Grants by going to unitygardens.org. The application acceptance for this spring ends March 14. Please submit applications as soon as possible in order to make the deadline.

As we move forward with the 2008 project year let us continue to focus on the mission of extending services and expertise of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension to the general public; specifically, to educate citizens about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Over the past several weeks there has been some concern about the Master Gardener Program Policies and Guidelines. The concerns seem to be statewide as of our last State Master Gardener Coordinator's Meeting at HGIC. As of February 2008, our State Coordinator has sent out an update. Therefore I am sending out an attachment along with this newsletter so that everyone has an updated version to place in your Anne Arundel County Master Gardener Policies and Procedures Handbook. Most of the issues that I am aware of that pertain to some of our Anne Arundel Master Gardeners are addressed in the section of "Becoming a Master Gardener" and the "Transfers" section of "The Maryland Master Gardener Program Policies and Guidelines". Please read the attachment and if anyone has any questions then please feel free to give me a call at 410-222-6757 or email me at mentor@umd.edu and hopefully I will be able to answer your question or find the answer for you.

I just have one more reminder as we begin the project year! Any documents, presentations, etc. given to clientele on Master Gardener time do need to be approved by the Coordinator and/or EAB Member. Also original copies do need to be kept on file at the Extension Office. Many of you are already doing this but we still have a few that need that reminder. I sincerely appreciate everyone's cooperation on these matters.

I wish everyone "full speed ahead" with your Master Gardener project year and again many thanks for all that you do!

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

THE HAMMOND-HARWOOD HOUSE SECRET GARDEN TOUR

The Secret Garden Tour sponsored by the historic Hammond-Harwood House will be held Saturday, May 31, 2008 from 1–6 p.m. and Sunday, June 1, 2008, from 1–6 p.m. featuring gardens of homes in Annapolis' Historic District built before 1800.

Throughout the City, garden enthusiasts will enter the intimate and charming outdoor spaces of these early residences. They will see for themselves why Annapolis is recognized worldwide for its 18th century architecture including outdoor spaces.

The gardens of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence featured on this tour exemplify the "Golden Age" of Annapolis. Between the 18th c. mansions & vernacular homes on this tour, the gardens range from formal, old boxwood to informal perennial; from a truly secret retreat to a quiet park on a busy street. The gardens are an interesting mix of sun and shade with an array of plants, statuary, and ponds created in many different urban spaces. Each garden is unique and demonstrates the personality and needs of the individual garden owners.

The tour gives attendees the chance to gather information for their personal use in their own gardens. It also provides the opportunity to discover and examine some of the wonderful treasures of Annapolis that have only been glimpsed when strolling through the historic district.

Refreshments will be provided by local pastry shops and the kitchens of our volunteers. Parking is within easy walking distance from the Hillman Garage on Main Street and the Gott's Court and Knighton garages on Calvert and West Streets respectively.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 day of the event. All ticket pickup & day of event sales will be at the Charles Carroll House, 107 Duke of Gloucester Street., behind St. Mary's Church.

Reservations can be made by check, cash, Visa or MasterCard through the Hammond-Harwood House, 19 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401.

For information go to www.hammondharwoodhouse.org or phone Jeanne Langdon at 410/263-4683 x 15 or e-mail officemanager@hammondharwoodhouse.org.

After March 1, tickets can be purchased online at; www.hammondharwoodhouse.org. This is a rain or shine event.

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MG HOURS

Q:	<i>How often should I submit my time sheet?</i>
A:	Submit a time sheet at least once every three months or when the timesheet is almost full.
Q:	<i>Should I report attendance at a monthly meeting?</i>
A:	Sign-in at the meeting. Record entries are made on that basis. You <u>do not</u> need to report MG monthly meeting attendance.
Q:	<i>Does travel time to a monthly count?</i>
A:	The monthly meeting is a Training Activity. Travel time does not count for training activities.
Q:	<i>Which training and education events count for MG training?</i>
A:	In addition to Monthly Meeting and UMD Day of

	Training, the Monthly Newsletter lists the training opportunities available. Not all are accepted for training hours. Only those with the asterisks (*) count for hours.
Q:	<i>How is the monthly meeting credited for an Intern?</i>
A:	The monthly meeting for an Intern is counted as volunteer time. This is also true for the UMD annual day of training.
Q:	<i>Can I use the Activity Report from the UMD web site?</i>
A:	No. The AA county Project Codes are not the same as the State Site Codes. We track activity by the Project and when hours are reported to the State at the end of the year, the database program converts the data as needed for use by the State.
Q:	<i>Can I send my 'hours' in a plain e-mail (saves money)?</i>
A:	Yes, but you must provide all of the information called for on the timesheet.
Q:	<i>Will I get a response every time I send an e-mail to you?</i>
A:	When I process the Excel timesheet or your plain text e-mail, I will 'reply'. Since I only process when I have about 15 reports, the 'reply' may not be sent for several weeks.
Q:	<i>When I mail a timesheet to you, do you send an acknowledgement back to me.?</i>
A:	No. If you want an acknowledgement, enclose a self-addressed and stamped post card.
Q:	<i>Interns are required to have 40 volunteer hours within 12 months from the first day of intern training. When does that 12 months period start?</i>
A:	To be consistent with the active master gardener reporting period, the start date is 1st of January following the Classroom training phase. This is based on a Fall MG Training Class.
Q:	<i>If an Intern volunteers between the end of the classroom and the first of January, will those hours count toward the required 40?.</i>
A:	Yes, hours accrued by an intern during this period are carried over.
Q:	<i>How much detail is needed in the 'Description of Activity' on a timesheet?</i>

A:	Be brief. DO NOT use more than one line.
Q:	<i>Should I leave blank lines between entries on the timesheet?</i>
A:	NO, it creates more work to enter the data in the database.
Q:	<i>What if I need more space to add activity entries?</i>
A:	Use another timesheet if you fill the first one. These timesheets can not be 'extended' since the format is 'protected'.
Q:	<i>If I have a question about the acceptability of hours for an activity, who do I contact?</i>
A:	The first step should be the database coordinator and then the MG Coordinator, Mike Ensor.
Q:	<i>Is the format for entries important?</i>
A:	Yes. When you don't follow the format shown at the top of the timesheet columns, it creates problems when transferring data to the database.
Q:	<i>If I have a question about the acceptability of hours for an activity, who do I contact?</i>
A:	The first step should be the database coordinator and then the MG Coordinator, Mike Ensor.

**THOSE HORRIBLE WEEDS!
THEY'RE COMING! THEY'RE COMING!**

The February 2008 issue of *National Geographic Magazine* features an article on weeds and how they have overcome the threat posed by *Roundup*! Yes, noxious weeds have become resistant to *Roundup*, the trade name for glyphosphate. The article points out that this safe and effective herbicide became cheap enough that its use became overuse....and it was only inevitable that weeds would mutate to overcome the repeated sprayings that are associated with no-till farming.

Further, genetically modified crops were deliberately made resistant to *Roundup* so that they could resist the sprayings. While no-till farming has become the best method for preventing loss of soil nutrients and erosion and for time and cost-savings, it was also dependent on effective weed

control....and *Roundup* was the herbicide of choice.

In 1996, the first resistant weed species showed up in Australia. In 2000 in Delaware, horseweed was found in soybean fields. It has quickly been spreading, and other weeds have followed. Nearly a dozen or so weeds are now glyphosphate-resistant....and more will follow, inevitably. The article mentions Brazil, Argentina, along with the U.S. as locations where the recurrence of weeds has been documented.

The problems have also become greater, as these weeds have not only overcome the herbicide, but also have grown larger and taller, blocking out sunlight and soaking up the soil nutrients and water that result in stunting the crops that were planted. Moreover, some can grow to 5 or more feet, higher than corn, and most are considerably taller than soybeans and cotton.

The worst offenders, the article notes, are, besides horseweed or mare's tail (*Conyza canadensis*), common water hemp (*Amaranthus rudis*), giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), and johnsongrass (*sorghum halepense*). Currently, the glyphosphate-resistant johnsongrass is found in Argentina, but Ohio farmers fear it will spread to the US soon.

What can be done? Experts recommend crop rotation, the use of different herbicides, and a return to plowing. And they note: the farm of the past! So, Master Gardeners should be hearing more about this subject in the near future, as it probably will be more prevalent among farming efforts in the area.

Submitted by Elizabeth Matarese, MG

**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.

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 you can come.

PROJECT REPORTS

Ask a Master Gardener

Joe Marsala, MG

Spring is upon us for Ask a Master Gardener volunteers! Our first plant clinic will be April 19th! This year we are beginning coverage at the Severna Park and Piney Orchard Farmers Markets. We now have 10 teams covering 13 plant clinics per month! We hope our outreach effectiveness improves yet again this year!

In March and April we will be holding three classes for our volunteers. Such topics as turf, reference resources, abiotics, and weeds will be covered. We have 13 new volunteers this year; they are:

Joyce Anderson	Woody Boyd	Barbara Bricker
Jerry Crawford	Michelle Corkadel	
Ann Fischer	Bobbie Kestenbaum	
Leon Kestenbaum	Ann Leipold	Catherine Salam
Susan Smith	Noreen Krispin	
Madeleine Tierney		

As ever, we are able to do what we do because of these fine people. Here's hoping for another outstanding year!

A COLONIAL GARDEN AT SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH

Anne Arundel Master Gardeners have a new project at St. Margaret's Church, our monthly meeting location. Please note the name change. During the approval process, the name of the project was changed from A Legendary Garden to A Colonial Garden at St. Margaret's Church.

A bit of history for everyone. St. Margaret's church was established in 1692 near the Magothy River in what is now Cape Saint Claire. In 1823, the church moved to the present location on land donated by the Ridout family. The family is still associated with the church.

The new garden will be developed utilizing native and heirloom plants - perennials, herbs, and shrubs - and will be reflective of gardens from the colonial period. An educational brochure will be written showing the design of the colonial garden and explaining the use of native plants and sustainable gardening practices.

Since the 3rd Saturday morning of each month is a scheduled "grounds work day" at St. Margaret's, we hope to begin the digging and preparation work on Saturday, April 19th. Weather permitting, garden work days for Interns and Volunteers will be scheduled weekly, including some Saturdays.

Please stop by during the early summer to see how we are doing.

Sandra Porterfield, Chairperson (410.340.2287)
Catherine Waterman, Co-Chair

QWP COMPOSTING AND NATIVE PLANT GARDENS PROJECT

Susie Blackwell, MG

The schedule has been set and it is shaping up to be another busy season for the Composting and Native Plant Gardens project. Special thanks to Kathleen Cornell who has volunteered to co-chair this season. We would like to thank to all the dedicated master gardeners who have signed up to help with the project this year. For any master gardener/intern who was unable to attend the sign-up meeting and would like to volunteer or get more information about the project please contact Susie at mrsbntx@aol.com or Kathleen at ktpartners@aol.com.

This season from late April through early November our twice monthly work sessions and compost demonstrations will take place on one Saturday and one Wednesday morning each month to allow more variety for both volunteers and demonstration attendees alike. Please see Calendar of Events for dates and times.

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

SAVE THIS DATE: MAY 29, 2008 for a special MG Annual Training Day at College Park. This is a very special year for us- our 30th Anniversary of the MG Program in the state of Maryland and the 10th anniversary of the MG Annual Training Day. In addition to all of the 30 or so workshops, and keynote speaker, this year we will be adding an optional late afternoon/evening program (to end by about 8 pm) featuring an end note speaker, a special wrap-up program that you'll really enjoy, and a 2-hour social featuring Maryland foods, a Maryland wine tasting, and a silent auction.

Some of our topics will be: native perennials, how to use a microscope (lab); diagnosing plant disease (lab), nine months of color in the shade garden, evergreens for screening, native bees, diagnostic skills for annuals and perennials, community greens, sounds of the garden and woodland, garden photography, propagation workshops, ID and diagnostic walks, solving the omnivores dilemma, compost tea, native plants tour; MD's best native plants; biological diversity and pests; MD geology, water management, ecology of the vegetable garden and more.

Look for your registration form in March. Register early to get your first choice of classes.

MG MERCHANDISE

Been wanting one of those stunning denim shirts with the MG logo embroidered on it? Or one of those fabulous golf shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts? How about one those really useful MG travel mugs and tote bags? Look for the order form along with your MG Annual Training Day registration information. We only take orders once a year...so this is your chance! Orders will be delivered May 29. We're proud to be MGs and we want the world to know about us- so wear your MG items everywhere!

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. 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. M.C. We need someone to help Jon Traunfeld with the MC duties during the program and social hour. Anyone out there up for this fun job?
4. 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. Help with a mailing (about 2 weeks before May 29.)
3. Table and chair set up on May 28.
4. Solicit or find donations for silent auction (see description to the left).

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
- *Help vendors set up
- *Set up/oversee food lines at lunch
- *Set up/help with social hour food
- *Set up/manage coffee service
- *Clean up of 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)

Tuesday, March 4--MG Statewide Strategic Planning Committee--10-2 p.m., HGIC

Thursday, March 20--Compost interest group will be making compost videos.
Want to join us? 10-2p.m., HGIC.



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

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 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.