

November 2008

MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Time: 6-8 p.m

Place: **Homestead Gardens**
743 Central Avenue
Davidsonville, MD 21035
homesteadgardens.com

Volume 12--Issue 10
November 2008

MG's should meet at the main entrance under the green awning. The sign-in will be at the guest sign-in by the entrance.

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For More Information Call:

Anne Arundel County Cooperative
Extension Office at 410-222-6757

NOVEMBER SPEAKER
AND
TOUR GUIDE

Gene Sumi

Gene Sumi is the Educational Coordinator at Homestead Gardens, a full-service nursery, garden, landscaping and outdoor living center, located in Davidsonville, MD. Gene's primary responsibility is to manage educational programs offered by Homestead Gardens to benefit customers and staff. Included in these programs are garden seminars and workshops, on and off the nursery premises, coordinating group tours at Homestead Gardens, as well as overseeing the Golden Spades, a gardening group of for senior gardeners, that meets monthly for gardening programs at Homestead Gardens.

Gene grew up in a gardening environment. In fact, it was the family business. He started working at an early age in his father's landscape maintenance business in Garden Grove, CA. After graduating from high school in 1963, he got his first job as a seasonal nurseryman to pay his way through college. He worked at L&M Nursery stores in Costa Mesa and Anaheim, CA. He worked in every area of the nursery, not only with plants, but as a cashier, deliveryman and even cleaning bathrooms.

After graduating from Chapman College in 1967, he

enlisted in the U.S. Army. He received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers through Officer Candidate School. In 1972, he transferred to the Signal Corps and received a commission in the Regular Army in 1982. His many assignments gave him the opportunity to garden in many interesting places in the world, including South Korea and Germany. After his retirement in the rank of major in 1989, Gene went to work in the defense electronics industry as a purchasing manager. In 1993, he accepted a horticultural sales position at the Behnke Nurseries Company in Beltsville, MD. He started in the Woody Plants department and later became the nurseries' Customer Service Manager. In 1996, he assumed the duties of Staff Horticulturist, which allowed him to provide helpful gardening information to customers, train nursery staff in retail nursery skills and offer programs in horticulture subjects.

Gene joined the staff of Homestead Gardens in the spring of 2002, as its Garden Horticulturist. Although he still retains many of his horticulturist duties, Gene was appointed Education Coordinator in August, 2004. In addition to his BA in History, Gene holds a MA in Psychology from The Catholic University of America. He is a Maryland Certified Professional Horticulturist and is an adjunct instructor in Horticulture in the Continuing Education Division of Prince George's Community College.

Gene and his wife, Jan, live in Severn, MD. They have two married daughters, Michele and Anne, and a grandson, Jason.

THE COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Mike Ensor, Coordinator

As our project chairs are submitting their 2009 Project Proposals and 2008 Year End Reports please keep the following criteria in mind. According to our Associate Director of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Dr Nick Place, there are four criteria for future Extension programs:

Must address real issues; new and emerging issues. What are the needs and how can we deliver practical outreach education that is learner-centered.

1. Well-resourced with staff, partners, and grants. Emphasis on inter-disciplinary teamwork.

2. Effectively marketed.
3. Significant, measureable outcomes and tight accountability.

In an effort to capture program impacts under current economic climate, I am asking all our Project Chairs to consider these 4 major criteria in their Project Proposals and Year End Reports.

On another note and upon thinking about the above mentioned criteria, the new Statewide Vegetable Gardening Initiative Meeting scheduled for November 11, 2008 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Maryland 4-H Center comes to mind and strongly encourage as many of our Anne Arundel Master Gardeners to attend as possible. Several of our Anne Arundel Master Gardeners have registered to attend but if there are others interested in attending, please contact Robin Hessey at HGIC at rmhessey@umd.edu or call 410-531-1754. Please let Mike Ensor know if you are attending as well as there are several in the county interested in carpooling. This initiative truly is a real issue when one talks about food safety (people wanting organic local food); food security (prices are climbing, loss of Maryland farmland, access to fresh produce); improve water quality and protect natural resources (promote home and community food gardening that is Bay-Wise, sustainable, and organic); energy alternatives and address climate change (reduce fossil fuel use in gardens).

I also want to remind our Master Gardeners of a few important dates. Please also read the rest of the newsletter for details of special events:

November 1, 2008 – Project Proposals for 2009 due
December 31, 2008 – Year End reports for 2008 due
December 2, 2008 – Monthly Master Gardener Meeting
“A Holiday Celebration”, 6 PM to 9 PM
at Village Commons Community Center,
1326 Main Chapel Way, Gambrills, Maryland
(Please note that the December meeting is one week earlier than our normal monthly meeting time that being the 1st Tuesday of the month rather than the 2nd Tuesday of the month).

Please stay tune for future information concerning the “Holiday Celebration”.

I wish each of our Master Gardeners to take time this fall to enjoy the beauties of nature of our fall color here on the East Coast. Many thanks to all of our Master Gardeners for all that you do!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST MASTER GARDENER

**Marcia DeFalco
Stevanne Ellis**

WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN...TIME FLIES!!

Tell me all about it in your timesheet. I would like to include your activity in the report that the Maryland Cooperative Extension requires at the end of the year.

Send your timesheets to
rebeedle@verizon.net

28 chapters, including 9 new chapters (e.g. ecology, weeds, invasive species, alternatives to turf, landscape design, water quality and conservation). The cost is \$69 and includes shipping and handling. Mail your order form and check made payable to the University of Maryland to Robin Hessey at the Home and Garden Information Center at 12005 Homewood Road Ellicott City, MD 21042. Order forms can be found on the HGIC website at:

<http://mastergardener.umd.edu/Handbook.cfm>. For more information contact Robin Hessey at 410-531-1754.

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.

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

HELP, HELP, HELP

If you are in need of a couple more hours, we are still in need of a few more volunteers to assist with special composting demonstration for three groups of children from one of our local schools on Wednesday, November 19 from 10 am to Noon at the Quiet Waters Park Composting and Native Plant Gardens site.

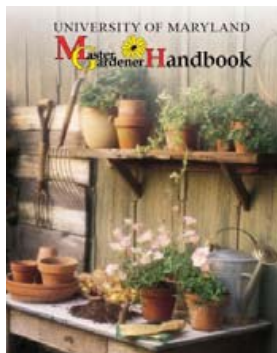
If you can help please contact Susie at mrsbntx@aol.com or Kathleen Cornell at ktpartners@aol.com.

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 newflashes. Ralph will send email concerning MG volunteer hours.

MENTOR PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We still need a few more (about 10) mentors for the incoming intern class. It is a great way to support beginning Master Gardeners. Those of you who experienced the rotation schedule would be prime candidates because you have navigated those waters. Many of us have not. Of course all Master Gardeners are encouraged to mentor one intern for the year. Please contact Scott Doran at 410-757-3628 or obismom@comcast.net if interested.

NEW MASTER GARDENER HANDBOOKS



The new handbook is 640 pages and includes 400 color photos. All material has been completely revised and updated. There are

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.

MG Vegetable Garden Initiative Starts Tuesday Nov. 11

We outgrew our meeting room space at HGIC and had to find another venue. After trying 4 locations in the area, we had to look farther afield and found space at the 4H Center in College Park. We realize that this may be more difficult for some, but will be easier for others. We also realize some people may never get word of this change and will show up at the wrong place. However, we will all definitely be more comfortable at the 4H Center rather than all crammed into our small space at HGIC. The 4H Center is just north of campus proper, easy to find and has plenty of free parking. You do not have to go onto campus to get here!

VEGETABLE GARDEN INITIATIVE PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10am-1pm

New Location:
4H Center
8020 Greenmead Drive
College Park, MD 20740 (Directions below)

At the last MG Statewide strategic planning meeting on Oct. 7 (at which 8 counties were represented), there was a groundswell of enthusiasm among MGs for vegetable gardening. It just bubbled up, in a totally unplanned way, from around the room. It bubbled up so much we could not stick to our planned agenda at all.

This interest seems to have arisen by what we are hearing

from the public. The economy seems to have created a tremendous resurgence of folks who want to try and grow some of their own food. The MG's in the room overwhelmingly expressed the desire to have this be the focus for the MG program statewide for 2009. Who better than MG's to help folks plan and implement simple vegetable gardens all over the state.

Our demo gardens, salad gardens, container gardens, kitchen gardens, edible landscapes would all play into this. One idea (among many) was working with scouts or other groups to do veggie gardening for soup kitchens. Words like "family sustainability" and "victory gardens" came to mind. HGIC is also talking about possibly joining the effort. Jon may initiate his very own beginning vegetable gardener blog. This collective effort may very well interest funders.

So, we are calling a special meeting (not sure what to call it: The veggie initiative?) to create a plan that we can invite all MG programs and interested partners and funders to take part in.

We hope that all interested MG's will join us at this planning meeting. You don't need to RSVP, but if you could email Robin Hessey (rmhessey@umd.edu; 410-531-1754) to let her know you are coming, it would be helpful. We will supply coffee and some light snacks.

Directions to the 4H Center

8020 Greenmead Drive
College Park, MD 20740
301-403-4248

Go to the northside of 495 and get off at the Route 1 South College Park exit** Go south on Rt. 1 for a very short way until you get to the light at University Blvd. (193) where you will make a right. Go for about 1/2 mile and turn right onto Metzert Rd. Proceed 1/4 mile to Greenmead Drive; make a right and follow Greenmead Drive a very short way until you see the 4H center off to your left.

** If you are coming down I-95 from the North, be sure to get in the right set of lanes as you come up onto 495 where the highway splits to go around DC. Try to stay in the middle lane of the lanes that go to the right. Then just follow the signs to route 1 south to College Park,

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MG STATEWIDE BAY-WISE MEETING

**Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008
10 am – 1 pm**

**MD Dept of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy
Annapolis, MD 21401**

The Bay-Wise program is one of the strongest state-wide Master Gardener programs. Participating counties have

adapted the state Bay-Wise materials and developed their own unique approaches to helping homeowners achieve and maintain sustainable landscapes.

Many Bay-Wise participants have expressed a desire to get together with MGs in other counties who are also working with this program to share their experiences, approaches and materials.

This will be our opportunity to decide where we want the program to go; to discuss program and program tool evaluation and possible changes to the certification process, review drafts of new yardsticks, determine what additional training, materials, or administrative actions may be needed and how to obtain them, and share what we have been doing.

Please join us and bring the materials that you use for publicity or for homeowners including banners, brochures, or anything that your county/city may be using that is different from what Wanda has supplied.

Coffee and snacks will be provided, but please bring your own bag lunch and drink if you like. No need to RSVP, but if you could let Robin know you're coming, it would be helpful. 410-531-1754; rmhessey@umd.edu.

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have made good progress on the Photo Directory but we still need more pictures. Please arrive a few minutes early or plan to stay a few minutes late and we can take a picture for the first time or another picture if you don't care for the current one. Smile!

PROJECT REPORTS

APPRENTICE GARDENS

Scott Duran, MG

Congratulations and thanks to Anne Nourse and Rosie Tucker who have agreed to co-chair Apprentice Gardens for next year! It is a fun project and I know they will do a great job.

We will have a final garden clean up on Saturday, October 25 at 9:00 a.m. If we have inclement weather or do not finish on that date we will work again on November 1. Any interns who did not have the opportunity to work in Apprentice Gardens are welcome! A few rakes, shovels and hand tools (trowels, garden snips) will be helpful.

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Joe Marsala, MG

2008 has been an amazing year for our group. For the fourth consecutive season our client outreach statistics have increased! The thing about this year is that we not only exceeded last year's total, but we also went over 3,000 (3,036). To say the least, I'm exceptionally proud of our group! We also opened an additional venue this year – the Severna Park Farmers Market. In all we completed 69 plant clinics in our four venues: the Annapolis, Severna Park, and Glen Burnie Farmers Markets as well as the Crofton Library. As you can see, it's been a busy, but productive year!

Each of our volunteers made this possible, but our team leaders: Robin Costas, Kay Ford, Lew Shell, Susan Knisely, Bonnie Pavlak, Lillie Harrison, Carol Dowling, and Lisa Winters worked exceptionally hard to make us this successful! I cannot say enough about these folks; they are the keys to our success!

I am so very fortunate to work with such a dedicated and talented group! I hope 2009 is every bit or even more successful!

BAY-WISE COMMITTEE

Judy Graham, MG

Just a short conclusion of our most successful year:

Our goals at our first meeting in March were ten Bay-Wise talks and 40 yard visits with the expectation that each member would participate in at least six visits. So far this year, we have presented ten talks to Garden Clubs, neighborhood associations, civic groups, and at our own Open House. By the end of October, we have visited 67 yards and public spaces, 47 of which have been certified as helping our Bay. Eleven of the members have gone on six visits or more. Obviously the committee has been

exceptionally busy and I am so pleased that no request languished for any length of time before one of us stepped up to lead. We have spread a lot of information around, we are getting the word out.

Thanks to co-chair Carol Dowling for keeping me civil, special thanks to Margaret Karnes for keeping the log, and thanks to the committee of leaders: Bob Bates, Diana Keener, Anne Kennedy, Ann Leipold, Jim MacNicholl of the class of 2007, Carol Miller, Patti Muir, Christine Scee, Diane Scherer, and to Marilyn Kinkel, Nancy Landers, and Marietta Schreiber, who also gave talks, and to Beki Howey, who gave talks and assisted ably at yard visits. We are ready to celebrate!

QWP COMPOSTING AND NATIVE PLANT GARDENS PROJECT

Susie Blackwell, MG

There is one more scheduled work session/demonstration on Saturday, November 8 beginning at 8:30 am. The compost demonstration will begin at 10 am. If you haven't had a chance to come to one of our sessions this season come and join us then. You'll leave with a wealth of information, a free compost bin and goody bag.

Immediately following the compost demonstration, there will be a brief wrap-up meeting at 11:15 in the Quiet Waters Park Visitor's Center to discuss this past season's activities and recommended changes for next season.

We will conclude our activities for the season by hosting three groups of third graders for a special demonstration at the composting site on the morning of Wednesday, November 19. They will learn about composting, get to turn compost with big plastic scoops and play our traditional compost game. It's always a fun time for the children as well as the Master Gardener volunteers.

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.



Exotic Pest Threats Training

Thursday, October 30, 2008

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

WHO: This training is directed towards Master Gardener Coordinators, Master Gardeners, HGIC horticulturists, and County Extension faculty and staff.

WHAT: The workshop will provide information, educational materials, and hands-on diagnostic training about several of the most serious exotic pests currently threatening the trees and ornamental plants of the citizens of MD and the U.S. Master Gardeners and County Extension faculty and staff are the “eyes and ears” most likely to first encounter these pests. The training objective is to provide them with the knowledge to help identify potential exotic threats early.

Participants will be certified as First Detectors with successful completion of the training and a post-test. Each participant will receive a notebook of handouts on the identification and biology of these pests, as well as typical symptoms of the damage they cause.

WHERE: The Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740-4000

For Information and to Register: Contact Avis Koeiman either by email at akoeiman@umd.edu, or by phone at 301-405-3913, with your name, affiliation, email address and phone number. There is no fee for the training, but class size is limited.

DIRECTIONS

The Maryland 4-H Center is located just north of the UMD campus on Greenmead Dr., just off Metzerott Rd. where it runs between University Blvd. (MD 193) and Adelphi Rd. Approaching from University Blvd., take the first right off of Metzerott Rd. onto Greenmead Dr. Approaching from Adelphi Rd., take the last left off of Metzerott Rd. onto Greenmead Dr. The 4-H Center is on the left. View a map of the area at:

http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=8020+Greenmead+Drive+College+Park,+MD+20740&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&resnum=1&ct=title

This is an equal opportunity program offered by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the USDA CSREES.



You and a guest are cordially invited to

The Anne Arundel County Master Gardener Holiday Party

***Tuesday
December 2, 2008***

**Village Commons Community Center
1326 Main Chapel Way
Gambrills, MD 21054**

6:30 until 9:30 p.m.

**RSVP with the name of your guest by November 28, 2008
to
Lisa Winters
Law864@ccconline.net**

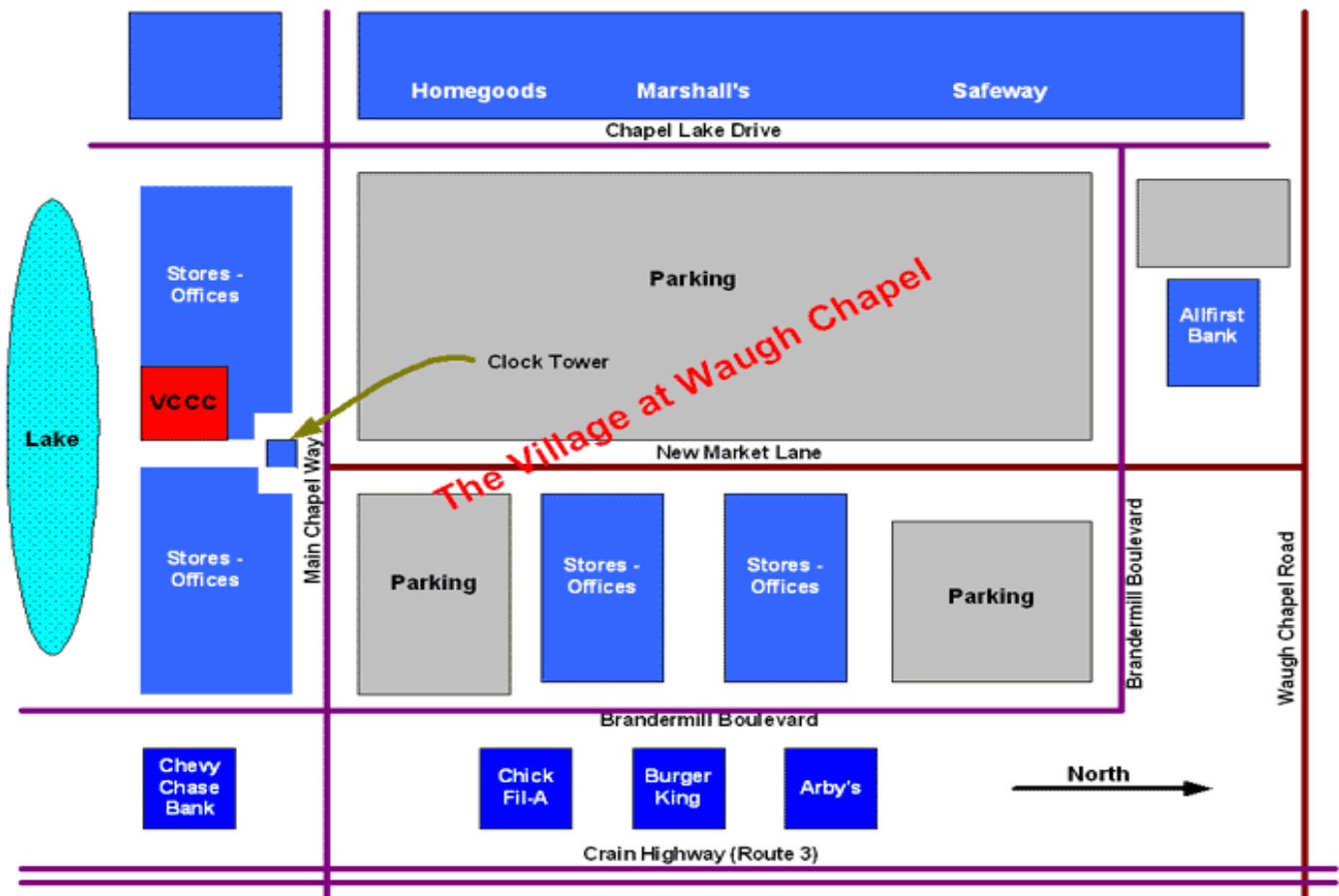
**Last names beginning with the following letters
Please bring a dish to serve 6-8 people:**

A-H -- Salad or Side Dish

I-L -- Dessert

M-R -- Hearty Main Dish

S-Z -- Appetizer



The center is at 1326 Main Chapel Way in the Village at Waugh Chapel Shopping Center, Gambrills, MD 21054.

GIFT BASKETS NEEDED FOR THE HOLIDAY PARTY

Donations are needed to raffle off the night or the holiday party. Ideas include: cat lover's basket, dog lover's basket, gardener's basket, basket of cheer, candy lover's basket, wine and pasta, golf lover's basket, movie night, evening of romance, etc.

If you can donate a basket, please contact Lisa Winters or Marilyn Kinkel.

You may bring the baskets with you on the night of the party. If you cannot attend but would like to donate a basket, it can be collect from you ahead of time.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone who can help with the Master Gardener Holiday Party

please make an effort to attend a planning meeting.

November 8, 2008

7 p.m.

Marilyn Kinkel's house

204 Marlbrook Drive

Severna Park

Please park on Riggs Avenue or in Marilyn's driveway

Any questions should go to

Lisa Winters

Law864@cconline.net

410-320-5239