

AA COUNTY
MASTER
GARDENER
PROGRAM

Newsletters

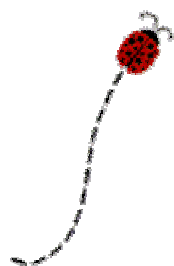
Training Calendar

EAB Minutes

2009 Meetings

Policy &
Procedures
Handbook

Timesheet



November 2009 Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Place: St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Parish
1601 Pleasant Plains Road
Annapolis, MD 21409-5928

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

"Edible Landscaping"

Pam King

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Extension Agent

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It is the policy of the University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, and University of Maryland Extension that all persons have equal opportunity and access to programs and facilities without regard to race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or parental status, or disability .

THE COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Mike Ensor, Coordinator

Am I the only one who cannot believe how quickly this gardening season is coming to a close – it becomes all about the leaves? Getting leaves off the grass before the turf is smothered, raking leaves into bags and onto tarps, mixing leaves into the compost, spreading leaves over layers of newspaper to keep the weeds down, pulling handfuls of leaves out of the gutter before they turn to an earthy crumble – sound familiar? However in spite of the seemingly continuous battle, there will be glorious days in November that will make those weeks of raking worthwhile. The leaves that have turned to gold, orange and red and glinting against a crisp sky, will for magical hours thickly flutter through the sunlit canopy to the ground.

I want to thank everyone for a “job well done” with all of the wonderful projects that our Master Gardeners have participated in over the past year that have kept that vision of *a healthier world through environmental stewardship*. Also many thanks for getting those project proposals for 2010 in by November 1st. On another note please have those end of the year of reports in by December 31st in order to have for reporting to the county, state and federal levels.

Master Gardener Project Chairs sometimes have questions concerning the ‘who and how’ of counting and entering contacts on the Master Gardener volunteer log. Count and enter the total number of people you taught or advised at the event. Examples include classes, workshops, demonstrations, garden tours, field days and discussion groups. One on one instruction at fairs, farmers markets, plant clinics and bay-wise site visits also count -- also, one on one instruction over the telephone or using electronic mail with a client count. Some situations are difficult to quantify but the issue is have you provided information to your client.

As we come to the close of the Master Gardener project year, please keep in mind the University of Maryland Extension mission of *Educating People to Help Themselves*. Also keep in mind that the Maryland Master Gardener mission is to *educate Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities*.

Please stay tune for news concerning the December 8th Holiday event at Homestead Gardens. This will be in place of our monthly Master Gardener meeting. Also stay tune for the bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 3rd.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Pamela B. King serves as an Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent in Charles County with University of Maryland Extension (1988- present). Her previous assignment was in Baltimore City as an Urban Gardening Agent.

She holds a Master's Degree in Entomology and a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture, both from the University of Maryland.

In additional to educational programs for farmers, she advises the Charles County Master Gardener volunteers and works on public issues and outreach in agriculture and natural resources. She has a special interest in working with people to protect, preserve and enhance our environment and in agricultural security and emergency management as a result of the 2002 La Plata tornado.

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REPORT ON THE SEED EXCHANGE!

The Seed Exchange had the best door prizes! From signed photography art to Wildbirds Unlimited's really neat donations and other goodies, the winners added to their seed collections and knowledge of growing from seed on Saturday, September 26th, at the Elks Hall in Crofton.

Co-chairs Anne Nourse and Elizabeth Matarese praised the committee for the way everything was executed. Angela Gallup's Flower Information Binders, the seed planting demonstration, and the signs, professionally done by Mary Beam, were class acts. Melissa Simmons provided music--cool, listenable blue grass, which was perfect for the seed exchange!

The entire committee, including also Lisa Winters, Rebecca Theberge, Jackie Rouse (arranger extraordinaire), Sheila Gallagher, and Rose Love, has big plans for next year's seed exchange. "We'll start even earlier next year, so we can get the word out to everyone, and make sure all Master Gardeners understand the value and fun of growing from seed," was the unanimous decision at closing.

[ANNE ARUNDEL MASTER GARDENER PROJECT REPORTS](#)

Descriptions of all Master Gardener projects can be found on the Web ([click here](#)).

Apprentice Gardens

Anne Nourse, Chair, MG

Apprentice Garden Families and Master Gardeners have been busy at work in October pulling weeds (do they ever stop growing?), cutting back plants, composting, sowing winter rye and much more preparing the plots for underground activity that will enrich next year's crops. In the midst of doing this, we have been pleasantly surprised to find that our cotton plant is still producing, our blueberry bushes will survive. In addition, we have actually been uncovering some crops like potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots that were still waiting to be harvested and eaten--a special treat for those who have helped after our formal recognition event.

We had a table at the successful yearly Kinder Farm Park Fall Harvest Festival held in early October. There were an estimated 8,000 attendees. Several MGers and AG Families aided by selling our cookbooks along with zucchini brownies and explaining our program.

Ask a Master Gardener

Joe Marsala, Chair, MG

What a wonderful year we have had! Our program is larger than ever; we cover our venues better

Several families were interested in what we do that they signed up for more information. It was an on-and-off rainy, windy Saturday and everyone's help was greatly appreciated!

Many thanks to those MGers who bought our cookbooks at last month's meeting at St. Margaret's Church. We value your support and hope you enjoy many of the tasty recipes. There are a few left that will be brought to November's meeting in case you would like to purchase one.

October's invaluable MGers that are to be acknowledged and thanked for their constant assistance are: Kathy Enderle, Carole Fullagar, George Lambert, Jim MacNichol, Jacqui Rouse, and Rosie Tucker.

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than ever; and, we completed more client educational sessions than ever! What's not to like!

All this is due to our amazingly dedicated volunteers! In particular, I would like to point out that our Team Leaders (Joyce Anderson, Robin Costas, Carol Dowling, Kay Ford, Lillie Harrison, George Lambert, Linda Martinich, Dottie Oliff, Bonnie Pavlak, Lew Shell, and Lisa Winters) are the backbone of all we do! The efforts of all our volunteers have made this fantastic year possible! But the best thing of all is we were able to do what we do and have a great time!

This year we set a new record for client educational sessions (3,350) for the fifth consecutive year!!

Beekeeping

Lisa Winters, Chair, MG

Sweet Success--I am overjoyed to report that our hive of honeybees is thriving. We had a scary moment in the summer when we could find no sign of the queen or any brood. Our hive proved to be a strong lot and re-queened themselves and took off like gangbusters; making lots of new baby bees! They have gathered their nectar and have a good store of honey that should get them through the winter.

Colonial Garden at St. Margaret's Church

Ginny Klocko, Chair, MG

Due to a combination of two Nor'easters the October work party was canceled. Fortunately, Kim Morrow and Suzanne Lewis have volunteered to take on any clean up chores during the week.

One of the church members has installed a geo cache under the bench at the garden. This device is used for treasure seekers using a hand held GPS device. Comments about the garden are then posted on a website for others to read. The tube directs treasure seekers to inside the church to pick up one of our brochures on the garden. Several postings have been shared with the committee via church members and the response has been very positive.

Next year we hope to expand some more: continue our coverage of the Severna Park and Annapolis Farmers Markets; increase our coverage of the Crofton Library (to every week); and lastly, establish a presence in North and/or West county.

For my part, it has been an honor and privilege to serve with such a motivated, dedicated, effective group!

To add to our excitement, we are proud to announce that next year the Master Gardeners will also be maintaining the other hive at Hancock's Resolution. The former beekeeper, Jim Calvert, does not want to leave the project completely so he will be able to keep his hands in the hive by being an advisor and unofficial member of our committee.

I want to thank my committee (Kim Morrow, Susan Barbi, Catherine Waterman, Susan Smith, and Sandy Patterson) for their hard work and their understanding of my inexperience on the job. Catherine served me well as a mentor and as well as a church member, a contact to the folks that would help me out. She also was instrumental in suggesting that we have a table at the joust and what needed to be done to make that a successful event. Many thanks also go to the interns who showed up and worked so hard (Audra Russell, Jaqui Rouse, Lorraine Carren, Mary Beam, Rose Love, Pat Logan, Pat Shema, Kathy Ederle, Lori Ross, and Carole Fullagar). I wish you success in your future as Master Gardeners and hope that you will find the colonial garden one that you would like to support.

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Composting and Native Gardens at QWP

Pam Dennison, Chair, MG

We are winding down after a busy and rewarding year at the Composting & Native Gardens site.

Additional plants have recently been installed in the native gardens. With the cooler weather, rain and a nice top dressing of compost, the native beds look exceptionally nice now. Many thanks to the team members and interns who have devoted so much time and effort to the gardens and a special "Thank You" goes to Kathleen Cornell, our co-chair, for selecting the native perennials and orchestrating the plantings.

Carol Proudfit has done a terrific job creating new individual signs for the native plants that describe each plant and includes a photo of the plant and flower.

If you haven't been by recently, please visit the site at Quiet Waters Park at any time. And, if you would like to attend the composting demonstration, our last one of the year will be Saturday, November 7th, at 10 am.

London Town Propagation and Plant Sales

Margaret Karnes, Chair, MG

Our group continues to meet weekly at London Town for a few more weeks.

Starting in November, we will move to our winter schedule, and watering will be every other day instead of daily. The plant sale held on September 12th was a success in that our Master Gardeners helped 140 people chose the right plants according to their horticultural needs and answered many miscellaneous gardening questions. During this past month, we had a training session by Cathy Umphrey, London Town's On-Site Horticulturist on Seed Saving, and we learned quite a bit from her on this subject.

We have also completed normal activities, i.e., taking cuttings from the gardens and repotting plants that have outgrown their pots.

Winter will soon be upon us and we are busy getting the greenhouse ready by moving plants in and out according to their temperature needs, and this past week we removed the shade cloth from the greenhouse to let in more light. Once the cold weather sets in, we will meet on an as-needed basis.

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Rainscaping Campaign at Chesapeake Ecology Center

Joyce Donlon and Susan Steele, Chairs, MGs

Thank you goes to Master Gardeners; Patti Muir, Sandy Patterson, Maureen Donovan and Interns Harry Caldwell and Debbie Werre. Zora was MOST appreciative of their hard work. Below is a message from Zora:

THANK YOU!!! to all the wonderful volunteers who truly "Made A Difference" on Saturday and installed a beautiful Shade Rain Garden and a Glenwood Street Rain Garden. Volunteers

planted 97 trees and shrubs throughout the grounds (approximately 2/3 of a total of 150 trees and shrubs) and helped remove the remaining rubble in the Shade Garden! We even had half a dozen visitors on Sunday who learned about rain gardens and toured the grounds.

On Saturday, several participants asked about additional volunteer days. So, by popular demand, we are scheduling another volunteer day

..
 Friday, October 30th (light rain or shine)
 9:30 a.m. – noon
 at Adams Academy/CEC
 245 Clay Street
 Annapolis, MD 21401
 (We may work in the back of the school building.)

Also, on Friday morning, we will also be joined by a Brazilian delegation, including three environmental enforcement professionals, an interpreter, and staff from the World Trade Center Institute. The visitors are interested in environmental protection and ecosystem preservation and have offered to volunteer!

The Woodland Garden in Kinder Park

Bonnie Pavlak, Chair, MG

The Woodland Garden received 2 grants this fall, one from the Friends of Kinder Farm Park, which I used to buy woodland perennials like lenten rose, dogtooth violet, bleeding heart, bloodroot, white trillium, wild ginger and others.

The grant from Unity Gardens has been used to purchase mountain laurel and rhododendrons,

Additionally, we will work with Adams Academy teachers and students tomorrow, Oct. 27th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. On Wednesday, Nov. 4th, 1:30 - 3 p.m., we will tour the gardens with Adams Academy teachers. Adams Academy has decided to become a Green School!

You are welcome to join us on either date to learn about species of native trees and shrubs and proper planting techniques, and to tour the 26 (and growing) Native Plant Demonstration Gardens and Sites. Snacks and tools will be provided.

which are already in the ground. Spicebush is on order and Polly Katauskas donated some Cinnamon Fern, which are planted near the entrance to the Woodland Garden. Many thanks go to the Master Gardeners and Interns who have done all the work.

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NEWS FROM THE STATE MG OFFICE

Two New Statewide MG goals

The MG State Strategic Planning Committee met on Sept. 22, 2009 and adopted 2 new goals.

- 1) Increase and improve MG education in Environmental Horticulture
- 2) Improve our multicultural (non-Caucasian audiences) outreach

With these goals in mind we are planning two new ventures:

MG Environmental Horticulture Training Planning Meeting:
 Monday, Nov. 16, 2009
 10am-1 or 2 pm

MD Dept. of Agriculture in Annapolis

This meeting will be for any MG who wants to help us plan how to educate MGs (beyond Bay-wise) on so many of the important environmental and ecological topics for which we really need some training- from native plants to storm water management.

The state strategic planning meeting has adopted a goal to increase and improve MG education in Environmental Horticulture- topics like: native plants, advanced ecology, pollinator gardens, invasive removal, storm water management (rain barrels, rain gardens, other retention techniques); This is not the same as Bay-Wise.

We hope to bring folks from around the state to figure out how to devise and deliver a training program. We attempted to do this in early 2000, and ended up with a very intensive Native Plants course and Ecology Course taught by Louisa Thompson. This time we need to figure out exactly which topics to cover, how to order them, group them etc. to make a good series of courses that MG's can take one and that are comprehensive enough that multiple people could deliver them.

New statewide Muticultural Outreach Committee needs volunteers

Are you interested in bringing MG knowledge and help into many of our underserved non-Caucasian communities?

- Do you have any helpful resources about these communities?
- Would you be willing to interview experts to see what the best approaches might be?
- Would you be willing to talk to these communities to see what they are growing, what their needs might be, how we can serve them?
- Would you help us plan our approach?

If you would like to help us plan this outreach, please give us your name and contact information so that we can invite you to a meeting in early 2010. Send to Robin Hessey at rmhessey@umd.edu, or 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@gmail.com

PHOTO DIRECTORY

The Photo Directory will be updated soon to include the intern class of 2009. We still need some photographs of active MGs to complete the project. The Photo Directory will be distributed by email in late December. The online directory (without photographs) will be posted in January.

If you need a Photo, please arrive a few minutes early or plan to stay a few minutes late at the November 10 meeting and we can take a picture for the first time or another picture if you don't care for the current one.

Has your contact information recently changed? Update your info today!

All it takes is an email to rebeedle@verizon.net

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A Training Opportunity in January

Each January the Virginia Horticultural Foundation hosts a professional training event called the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course. Our event is held at the Founders Inn & Spa in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

This event includes a day for Home Gardeners on January 28, 2010. Because of the resources allocated to the Short Course, I am able to schedule professional university and industry speakers from all over the country, and use them as presenters for the Home Gardener Day as well.

Our title for the 2010 Home Gardener Day is "Get Down Under: Gardening Starts Below Ground" focusing the theme of root zone health and soil ecology.

A schedule and registration form is attached to the November Calendar of Events
or online at <http://www.mahsc.org/sub/hgp/index.htm>



Holiday Party 2009

Tuesday, December 8, 2009 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM.

Location: Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville, MD (Rt. 424 and Rt. 214). The location will be in the Old Pavilion, where the train will be set up.

The event will be a “mocktail” party. Mocktails will be provided. Attendees may bring one guest. All food must be a finger food and there will be no electrical outlets available. Please be prepared to take home your serving platters and utensils. Homestead Gardens has graciously offered the space to us and we need be as non-invasive as possible and clean up after ourselves.

For those whose last name begins with A-M, please bring a savory and for those whose names begin with N-Z, please bring a sweet.

We are seeking donations for basket raffles. Contact Lisa Winters or Marilyn Kinkel.

If you have any questions, you may contact Lisa Winters at law864@gmail.com.

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