



October 2007

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 9, 2007  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Margaret's Church, Parish Hall  
 1601 Pleasant Plains Road  
 Annapolis, MD 21409

**Volume 11--Issue 9**  
**October 2007**

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

**OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER**

*Dr. David Clement*  
*Senior Agent, Plant Pathology*  
*Director, HGIC*

**“THE FIRST DETECTOR PROGRAM”**

David L. Clement is a regional specialist in ornamental plant pathology in the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension program since 1989.

The Center is an innovative program that provides environmental horticulture information to the public regionally and nationally using a diagnostic web site, by answering questions over the web and by answering questions within the state over a toll free 1-800 phone system.

His applied research incorporates the use of novel pathogen control strategies that build on integrated pest management strategies (IPM) for disease control. He has collaborated with Ethel Dutky and Stanton Gill on a 304-page book published by Ball Publishing, entitled Pests and Diseases of Herbaceous Perennials, The Biological Approach. He also co-wrote a CD-Rom with IPM disease control strategies for herbaceous perennials with the above authors with the company Horticoopia.

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**In Addition to the Newsletter:**  
**Calendar of Events**

Dave earned his BA in biology from Wittenberg University, his MS in plant virology from Rutgers, and his Ph.D. in plant virology from Purdue. He was a post doctoral fellow at Oregon State.

Dave has been an active member of the American Phytopathological Society and has served as the chair of the APS Diseases of Ornamentals committee, served as a paper session chair and organized a symposium on movement of plant diseases across national borders. He has served as president of the Potomac division of the society and has served on various program committees.

**ENTRANCE EXHIBIT**  
**OCTOBER 10**  
**SUDDEN OAK DEATH**  
Lew Shell

## THE COORDINATOR'S CORNER

**Mike Ensor, Coordinator**

I hope that everyone had a great summer with some time to relax and wish everyone a wonderful fall as we enter the season of spectacular foliage color.

Our new Master Gardener Interns have begun their training. This year we have both day and evening classes. The classes are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They began on September 18 and will continue until November 1, 2007. Our day classes are once again being held at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center from 9 a.m. until noon and the evening classes are being held at the Extension Office from 6 to 9 p.m. Please welcome our new interns!

Please mark the date October 6, 2007, to attend the AGNR Central Maryland Research and Education Center (CMREC) Open House in Clarksville. This is also the home of HGIC. All Master Gardeners are invited to view first hand research taking place. This is FREE and you

will receive TRAINING HOURS for participating in this event.

Project Chairs and Future Project Chairs--soon it will be time to be thinking about those "2008 PROJECT PROPOSALS" and the "END of the YEAR REPORTS" for 2007.

- The 2008 project proposals that are already in existence for 2007 are due by NOVEMBER 1, 2007 to your EAB Advisor with a copy to Mike. Also, new 2008 project proposals are due to Mike as well. Please note that the due date is a month earlier then previous years.
- The end of the year reports are due by DECEMBER 31, 2007 to your EAB Advisor with a copy to Mike.
- Both of these forms are on our local website by going to <http://Anne.Arundel.umd.edu>.

Also, please report all your volunteer service hours and training hours to Ralph Beedle. Even if you have passed your required hours for the year, these extra hours still need to be reported. If you find that you are shy on hours call me and I will be glad to give you some administrative hours. The more hours and impacts that are reported within the county and across the state, the better off we are when justifying the funding of the Master Gardener Program. Many thanks for your cooperation in meeting these tasks.

### Will You Be a Mentor?

**The Mentor Program for new Interns will be organized for the class of '07-'08. Seventeen MG's were mentors this year for our current class. With both morning and evening classes being formed, we will need more.**

**A Mentor's responsibility is to make an Intern feel comfortable within our MG program. Call and welcome them. If one lives nearby, meet and talk. Answer questions. Remind them of meetings. Invite an Intern to see your garden. Be a strong shoulder if needed. Be a friend!**

**If you are interested in helping our new Interns and have a warm, fuzzy heart, PLEASE VOLUNTEER. E-mail or call Marietta Schreiber at [Hilltop520@comcast.net](mailto:Hilltop520@comcast.net) or 410-841-6472. Thanks to all who volunteer.**

## PLANT PATHOLOGY CLASSES

Elizabeth Mataresse, MG

Hi, there! Did you read the Course Announcement in the July/August MG Newsletter? Did you read the part about why "we" don't sign up for *Ask a Master Gardener* sessions? Well, read on, because there's an answer to this question. In a nutshell it's because we don't know enough...and we will never know enough. After listening to and trailing after two of the foremost plant pros, Mary Kay Malinoski and Dave Clement, for the first two sessions of this course, it is plainly evident that if it isn't a canker, a spider mite, a borer, a leaf hopper, a midge, a virus, a bacterium, a fungus, or Southern Blight...you have only three to eight hundred other options to consider. Between the two of these "plant pros" and several acres of Howard County, about 25 of us wound up feeling depressed.

You...yes, you!...should see what is going on out in the landscape! So much of what these two "plant pros" pointed out to us results from our own ignorance and a failure to influence the people who do landscaping. Even if you cannot correctly diagnose leaf miner activity from a virus or a canker from a borer, there are some practices that beg to be scuttled to obviate the problems they create.

Case #1. Would you believe that with all the publicity that has been given to mulching practices, landscapers are still burying the trees about 6-10 inches above the flare of the trunk? If this doesn't provide a great place for insect infestations to start, it provides for roots to girdle the trunk.

Case #2. Appropriate selection is a fantasy. Most landscapers select their plants according to cost. They buy cheap. So redbuds are planted in the sunlight; Green Ash trees are planted with grates around them in islands so that they die slowly after being attacked by the banded ash clearwing. (You should look this up and see how waspish the adult looks.) You don't want to know about the hemlocks.

Case #3. Caring for what you have planted. Wouldn't you think, in this day and age, the county planners would include watering devices to ensure that trees get the moisture they need to grow to maturity and provide the intended shade? After all, drought is a recurring

phenomenon here. Islands in parking lots we visited at the mall were notoriously without any means of watering; the waterbags around trees at the college, along walkways, were ....you got it...empty. Well, we did find one broken watering device near a dying dogwood. Maintenance is a whole other subject...

So, you are wondering...what *did* they learn in this class? A lot. First, we learned to say, "I don't know!" But we also learned that there are resources...books, websites, people, all sorts of diagnostic tools. And we learned to ask questions. How old is it? Where does it grow? Is this a branch or part of the trunk? How long have you noticed this condition? Is this an established plant or a new addition to the landscape? What have you done to try to correct the condition? Have you sprayed anything near it? Do you mulch?! What does the rest of this plant (shrub, tree) look like? When did you notice this? (Most answers are like "Yesterday, when it died.")

We also learned to be more aware of the season's weather conditions.....has it been dry? Cold? Hot? Wet? and not to jump too fast to a conclusion, to look globally and then to a more detailed examination if necessary.

And we learned that we mustn't get too depressed; there's a lot to do out there *for* the plants, the trees, these living things. And if we MGs don't go to bat for them, who will?

***Tip of the 'Week from the NY Times...To assure healthy spring flowering, soak the roots of azaleas for good bud growth in the fall.***

Seeing as we are still having a dry, dry time of it, I thought this might remind people to water their prized possessions.

**Seeking Chairperson for proposed new Master Gardener project for 2008 for St. Margaret's Episcopal Church--where we now hold our monthly MG meetings & holiday parties! Call Catherine Waterman @410-757-2402 for more details of what's involved now and how the church's landscape budget can support new plantings. Catherine has agreed to be Co-chair, if needed.**

## ADDRESS CHANGES

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

### WANT AN EASY WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR FELLOW MASTER GARDENERS?

If you would like an easy way to send a message out to the whole MG group or see messages sent by others, think about joining our Yahoo MG email group. This is a way for anyone to send or respond to messages or announcements (separate from the newsletter). All you need to do is to let Robin Costas know you want to be on the list by sending her an email at [costasrt@comcast.net](mailto:costasrt@comcast.net).

## PROJECT REPORTS

### APPRENTICE GARDENS

Scott Doran, MG

Apprentice Gardens has just about wrapped up for the season. We have been cleaning up the garden and picking the last of the produce. We still have some gourds to harvest, but we're now thinking about next year.

We asked the Apprentice Gardeners to write a short piece about what they learned in the garden. These were some of the comments:

*"I learned many things in the garden this year. One thing is that it's good to share crops. For example, when I would get too many tomatoes, I would share with other gardeners who didn't grow any. Also sometimes some crops grow slower than others; I remember waiting about 4 weeks for lettuce and having to wait at least a month for carrots. I learned a lot in Apprentice Gardens this year."*

We also asked them how their families worked together:

*"My family worked together by pulling weeds, pulling bugs off plants, and spreading mulch. For example one time when we came, there were bugs all over my tomatoes so we picked them off. Also the most invasive weed we had to deal with was morning glory, which would not go away. That is how my family worked together."*

### BAY-WISE YARD CERTIFICATION

Jerry Crawford and Judy Graham, MGs

Hey, all Master Gardeners, we of the Bay-Wise committee would like you to get your yard certified as good for the Chesapeake Bay. We think we **all** should take the lead on this project; we all live near The Bay and it needs our help.

Yards do NOT have to be showplaces. It is Bay-Wise horticultural practices, not beauty, that gets a yard certified. Some of the most eye-pleasing landscapes are maintained by the applications of fertilizer and pesticides; this practice does not help our Bay. Rather, more efficient and sustainable practices are the keys and our "yard stick" check list shows you these.

Our Bay-Wise landscape sign in your yard can generate interest among your neighbors and encourage them to do their part to improve our Bay.

The certification process is a great opportunity for free advice and problem solving, education for you, not a graded exam. We try to make it a friendly experience and an hour well spent.

Let's have the MG program of AACo be in the forefront. Email Margaret Karnes [baywise2005@comcast.net](mailto:baywise2005@comcast.net) with your name and address to get started.

**QUIET WATERS PARK  
COMPOSTING/NATIVE PLANT GARDENS  
PROJECT**

Susie Blackwell, MG

We have four more Saturday morning work/demonstration sessions scheduled for September 29, October 13, 27 and November 10 (see the calendar). There is plenty to do to finish up the season. We get started about 9 a.m.; demonstrations are at 10 a.m. If you haven't been down to the site lately you are encouraged to stroll by and see the new art sculpture by the pond area. Come for one of the demonstrations and receive a free compost bin and goody bag -- now is the perfect time to turn those fall leaves into compost.

If you know of a group who would like to arrange a special composting demonstration please contact Susie Blackwell (410 757-7780 or [mrsbntx@aol.com](mailto:mrsbntx@aol.com)).

**SCIENCE IN THE GARDEN**

Phylis Veillon, MG

The success of the "Science in the Garden" program with local schools has resulted in it being expanded from the Spring to now include the Fall.

This means there are some additional opportunities, October 9, November 28 and December 5, for interns or others to observe or participate in teaching 3rd-5th graders about using scientific evidence and observation to study plant and animal interactions and plant defense.

All sessions are held at Historic Londontown and Garden. If you are interested in participating please contact Phylis Veillon at [phylisv@verizon.net](mailto:phylisv@verizon.net).

**Holiday Party Raffle Baskets**

**IT'S TIME!** What scrumptious baskets do you want to donate for this year's MG Holiday Party Raffle?

Some ideas from past years are: Italian food basket, pet lover's basket, gardener's dream baskets, luxurious spa baskets, wine lovers basket, exquisite handwoven basket, baskets of books (for children or gardeners).

The limit is only your imagination!

It's not too early to get your basket idea in to Mary Young, 410-923-0242 or [mtyoung1947@gmail.com](mailto:mtyoung1947@gmail.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](mailto:swartwrm@pgcc.edu) and Ralph Beedle at [rebeedle@verizon.net](mailto:rebeedle@verizon.net) to your address book. Rose Mary sends the MG Newsletter and the MG newsflashes. Ralph will send email concerning MG volunteer hours.

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.

## **“TEAM 30” FOR THE MG 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS UP AND RUNNING**

In 1978, the first Maryland MG program was launched in Carroll County. That means we will be celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year!! Wow, we'd better get busy because this is a golden opportunity to:

- raise the program's visibility- we want everyone to know who we are and what we do. This is also a chance to attract new recruits.
- educate the public, especially with new and important messages (e.g. ecologically gardening and natural resource stewardship.)
- recognize and celebrate our accomplishments and have FUN!

A group of 13 volunteers and staffers met on June 13 to get the ball rolling. The next “Team 30” planning meeting will be Monday, August 27, 10-1 at HGIC. This is going to be a memorable, state-wide effort and we need a large number of volunteers to be part of the action.

**We would like to come up with a slogan to use for this event.** Could you please send in some ideas that the committee could consider at our next meeting? It's got to be short and sweet (fit on a bumper sticker.) Please send ideas to Robin at [rmhessey@umd.edu](mailto:rmhessey@umd.edu), or 410-531-1754. Some of the ideas that come up in our first meeting were:

- Maryland Green – MG
- Maryland MG- Keeping MD green
- MG's Growing for 30 years; Still growing
- MG's 30 years of service and growing
- MGs united to educate and serve
- MGs educate and serve Marylanders
- 30 years of success, one goal- a better future
- MGs- the Next Generation

**What we need is lots of help from around the state.** Please let us know if you can work on one of the committees or would like to work on any particular function (but perhaps not work on larger committees. You could work at night or on your own schedule). Some of these functions would be:

- videographer
- organize silent auction for May 2008
- organize any one aspect of the day of Excellence (May 2008) (see below)
- organize an event or two in your county that would become part of our official statewide list of events.
- writer
- event planners

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Planning will involve the State Strategic Planning Committee (and some subcommittees), the state office, and all of the county/city MG programs.

**We will divide this effort into 3 work teams-** 1. Day of Excellence (May 2008); 2. Communications; 3. Events around state that we will promote statewide.

1. Day of Excellence- (May 2008- exact date TBA- a bigger and better Annual Training Day)

- Night events
  - Food
  - Silent auction- objects, unusual plants
  - Trade show
  - Keynote & presenters
  - Video of MG history
  - Fun/skits
  - Room host
  - Site selection
  - Shirt selection
2. Communications
    - a. Put together historical/promotional videos and power points
    - b. Write press releases and news stories with a hook
    - c. Get photographer now to take pictures for use next year.
    - d. Maintain contact management database
    - e. Coordinate with other work teams
    - f. Contact with media
      - i. Print, tv & radio
      - ii. Community newsletters
    - g. Contact with legislators
    - h. Promotional items- bumper sticker, shirts, patches- coordinate with marketing/promotion committee
  3. Events around the state
    - a. Ask MG's and coordinators to come up with events/tours
    - b. One person for program will identify really good programs and public events that we can be highlighted on MG website and reported on by the media.

If you can volunteer in any specific or general way, please let Robin ([rmhessey@umd.edu](mailto:rmhessey@umd.edu); 410-531-1754) know and we will try and plug you in, or come to the next planning event at HGIC on August 27.



## University of Maryland Master Gardener Master Composter Course

**Location:** Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown

**Date:** Wed. October 10 and Wed. October 24

**Time:** 9:30-3:30 pm (includes one field trip to set up a new demo compost site in Queen Anne's Co.)

**Presenters:** MGs Lew Shell (Anne Arundel Co.), Susan Schluederberg (Harford Co.), Jay Spurlin, (Charles Co. MG), and others

**Registration Fee:** \$55 (includes required text-NRAES' 50 page booklet *Composting to Reduce the Waste Stream*)

**Registration Deadline:** October 1, 2007

**Optional Texts:** *Rodale Guide to Composting* by J. Minnich & M. Hunt (\$13) & *Worms Eat My Garbage* by Mary Appelhof (\$12)

### Course Description

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 to the public at large. Master Gardeners are among a very small number of spokespersons for Integrated Pest Management.

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 endemic 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.**

**To register,** send your name, address, phone, email, your MG County, name of class you are registering for and a check for \$55 tuition (and any additional texts you want) made out to the University of MD to MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042.

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Mastergardener.umd.edu - 12005 Homewood Road, Ellicott City MD 21042- 410-531-5556

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