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[AA COUNTY
MASTER
GARDENER
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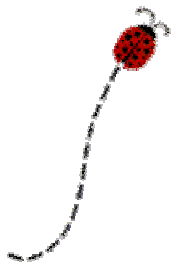
[Newsletters](#)

[Training Calendar](#)

[EAB Minutes](#)

[Policy &
Procedures
Handbook](#)

[Timesheets](#)



February 2010 Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2010
Place: Elks Lodge
1506 Defense Highway
(on Rt. 450 between Rt. 3 and Rt 424)
Crofton, MD 21054

Time: 7. p.m. Business Meeting

There will be Refreshments!

In this Issue:

[The Coordinator's Corner](#)

[Photo Directory](#)

[Philadelphia Flower Show Excursion](#)

[2nd Annual AA Master Gardener Advanced Training Day](#)

[Candidates for EAB](#)

[Anne Arundel Master Gardener Project Reports](#)

- [Apprentice Garden](#)
- [Ask A Master Gardener](#)
- [London Town Propagation](#)

[MARYLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL](#)

[From the State Office](#)

Anne Arundel County Extension
(410) 222-6757 ☎ FAX (410) 222-6747

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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

Please take note that our FEBRUARY MANDATORY MEETING of the year is the 3rd Tuesday of the month rather than the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Also note that the MEETING LOCATION has changed for this month due to growth of the organization. The meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and will take place at the Bowie Elks Lodge located at 1506 Defense Highway, Gambrills, Maryland 21054.

The format of this event will be similar to other years. There will be introductions, a brief business meeting, recognition of volunteers, and presentation of the 2010 EAB slate of officers. Upon conclusion of the formal part of the meeting, there will be opportunity to visit and sign up for projects and talk informally with Project Chairs at the individual project tables.

Please make sure you pick up your handouts as you enter the hall. These include the membership directory, database sheets, intern rotation schedule, mentor sheets, etc. The 2010 project description sheets this year will be posted on the website in early February to review prior to the mandatory meeting. Last but not least at the mandatory meeting, light refreshments will be served. Also please stay tune for other information in this newsletter and the newsflashes concerning the mandatory meeting.

Please also mark your calendars for some special events listed below for all Anne Arundel Master Gardeners! Details can be found throughout this newsletter and future newsletters and newsflashes as events get closer and registration information becomes available.

March 3, 2010

Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip for Anne Arundel Master Gardeners, contact person, Marilyn Kinkel

March 13, 2010

Anne Arundel Master Gardener Advanced Training Day, contact person, Anne Nourse

May 26, 2010

University of Maryland Master Gardener Day, contact person, Robin Hessey

Also on another note, Unity Garden Grant Applications are accepted in the spring and fall. Grant applications for the Spring 2010 Grant Cycle will be accepted February 1, 2010, through March 30, 2010. I would strongly suggest that project chairs who expect to be spending more than \$200 on their projects throughout the year apply. Google the Unity Garden Grant website for further information.

I also want to thank all of our Master Gardeners for a "JOB WELL DONE" for your many talents and time that you have devoted to the Anne Arundel Master Gardener Program.

Master Gardener DIRECTORY

An Updated Photo Directory should arrive via e-mail before the end of January. If you have not provided or don't care for the photograph in the directory, we will take photographs during the February 16, meeting.

With over 190 Master Gardeners in the Anne Arundel organization, the photo directory is a real plus in getting to know each other.

The online directory without photos is posted and requires a password

Philadelphia Flower Show Excursion

Make your reservations now for the Master Gardeners trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show—Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Don't wait, because seats are going fast! And it's a real deal, including bus fare, coffee and treats, show tickets and the outstanding company of



other master gardeners.

Make out your check to the University of Maryland for \$75 each person and send with the names of guests, if any, and their phone number. Please mail to Marilyn Kinkel.

2nd Annual Anne Arundel County MG Advanced Training Day

Date/ time: Saturday, March 13, 2010 1 – 5 pm

Speaker: Mike McGrath on “Seven Secrets of Successful Organic Gardening”

Tour: Award winning Chesapeake Bay Foundation Merrill Center

Location: Canvasback Conference Room at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Fees: \$15 for speaker and \$5 for the tour.

Refreshments and Door Prizes are included in the fees.

Advanced Training Credit: 1 hour (tour) and 2 hours (lecture)

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

MIKE McGRATH is the nationally syndicated host of NPR's “You Bet Your Garden”. He also hosts “Garden Plot” on Washington DC news radio WTOP (103.5 FM) at 43 minutes past the hour every hour between 5:43 am and 2:43 pm on Saturday. In the past he has served as editor of *Organic Gardening* and currently edits the quarterly newsletter *Greenprints*. Mr. McGrath has authored several books on gardening particularly emphasizing organic methods. We are fortunate to be able to have him as a speaker for our Training Day. There will be time for questions and a book signing.

In addition to the speaker, we will have the opportunity to tour The Philip Merrill Center at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). The center and its sophisticated systems have won international acclaim as a model for energy efficiency, high performance, and water conservation. The tour will be conducted by CBF tour guides who will show you the construction and workings of a genuine “green” building.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS A MUST and fees must be paid ahead of time (no refunds). No registration will be available on Training Day.

For any questions, contact Anne Nourse (aonourse@verizon.net) or Jim MacNicholl (jmacnich@comcast.net).

The Registration Form and instructions are on the next page.

REGISTRATION FORM
for
2nd Anne Arundel County Advanced Training Day
Saturday, March 13, 2009 1:00 – 5:00 PM
Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)

This year Master Gardeners have an opportunity to hear radio personality **Mike McGrath**, “Garden Guru” of WTOP (103.5FM) speak on “Seven Steps to Successful Organic Gardening” **AND** take a tour of the award-winning “green” CBF Building before Mr. McGrath's presentation.

Please register by placing an “X” by one **OR** both activities below.

_____ I would like to take a tour of the CBF (1:00 – 2:15pm).
(FEE: \$5.00)

_____ I would like to attend Mr. McGrath's talk (2:30 – 5:00pm).
(FEE: \$15.00)

_____ Total Fee
(Includes Refreshments & Door Prizes)

ONLY CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ACCEPTABLE
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: “UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND”
(Mail must be postmarked by Fri., Feb. 26)

Send to:
SANDY PATTERSON
113 OTIS DRIVE
SEVERN, MD 21144

Name _____ Phone No. _____

To receive confirmation that your check has been received, please include your e-mail address:

Candidates for EAB

Joe Marsala

I began as a Master Gardener in 2003. I have participated with the Baywise, Habitat for Humanity, Composting, Speakers Bureau, and Ask a Master Gardener committees. The major part of my service has been dedicated to the Ask a Master Gardener program as a team member, team leader, and committee chairperson. I am a great believer in advanced education and have completed the courses in Weeds, Taxonomy (Plant ID), Grow It –Eat It, Baywise, and Composting. As an instructor I have taught Weeds, Plant Disease, and Pruning. In the Speakers Bureau I have given talks on, garden Maintenance, Composting, Weed Control, and Shade Plants.

I am currently retired, and I dedicate a large part of my time to both my gardening and the Master Gardener program. I believe I can make positive contributions to the EAB in the areas of monthly programs and advanced education. I am proud to be a Master Gardener and I look forward to serving on the EAB.

Deb Stevens

Deb Stevens, who wanted to be a MG for a long time, took her intern class in 2006 after her youngest child went to all day school. Her interest in gardening started with her first home and the landscaping classes she took at AACC. Deb's husband said it was the most expensive \$90 he ever spent as most of you know the price of plants when you landscape a home. She started her first veggie garden about 18 years ago and now gardens organically at Kinder Farm Park. Currently, she chairs the Science in The Garden project and has worked on the Apprentice Garden for several years. She also currently volunteers at both her sons' schools after being the PTA treasurer and president at Benfield Elementary.

MASTER GARDENER PROJECT REPORTS

Apprentice Gardens

Anne Nourse, Chair, MG

It has been quiet and still in The Apprentice Garden at Kinder Farm Park (KFP) in the Millersville/Severna Park area since December when our area was covered with a blanket of carpet, wooden boards and straw for wintertime. Last time I visited about three weeks ago, snow was still covering the ground and only some blades of winter rye could be seen above it.

With little to do in the garden except to wait for winter to be over, in January, my co-leader Rosie Tucker and I started planning for this season's program, which will be similar to last year's only with more exciting projects. Some families have already contacted us saying they are returning. We're also looking forward to meeting other MGers at the MG Mandatory Meeting who would like to hear more about The Apprentice Garden. Although we focus on an educational program for

children AND their parents by teaching good sustainable vegetable growing by getting dirty in the soil, we like to have other fun by having special guests visit and talk about different gardening topics. Arts and crafts activities and games are all part of our program as well as tasting the crops we've tenderly cared for to maturity. If you would prefer to work in the garden without much interaction with the families, we can provide that. This year a special sub-project is being developed for our rainy-day haven, the Severna Park Jaycee Community Center also located at KFP.

Please do stop by our display table on February 16 at the Elks Lodge in the Crofton/Davidsonville area on Rte. 450. We'd be happy to share last year's experience at The Apprentice Garden and our plans for the new season. Wednesday

evenings from 6:30pm till dusk are our meeting days and times. Interns and those recently graduated MGers are most welcome to join us

Ask a Master Gardener

Joe Marsala, Chair, MG

2009 was a great year for us, and we are planning an even better year in 2010! We started this year off with a great party at Dottie Oliff's home. Our final total number of educational sessions for last year was 3,724 our fourth straight annual increase! Our volunteers and Team Leaders made this happen, and the best part is we had a great time doing it! Our Team Leaders last year were: Robin Costas, Lillie Harrison, Lew Shell, Joyce Anderson, Lisa Winters, Kay Ford, George Lambert, Dottie Oliff, Bonnie Pavlak, Linda Martinich, and I.

We should be able to provide plant clinics every Saturday from mid-April through mid-October in

LT Propagation

Margaret Karnes, Chair, MG

The LT Propagation Committee met Friday, January 22, to separate and repot some cuttings we took awhile back; they included different varieties of Coleus and Purple Salvia. We also sowed some vegetable seeds—cabbage, lettuce and leeks. This was our last meeting until March 12 when we will meet to sow approximately 65 different varieties of heirloom tomato seeds which will be sold at the London Town Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, April 24, 8 a.m. to noon.

The group of new members who joined us in 2008 have completed their two years with the LT Propagation Group and will leave us to experience other endeavors within the Master Gardener Program. They are: Marietta Schreiber, Marilyn Bandy, Sarah Birdsong, Sue Maher, George Anne Diehl, Lillie Harrison, Dick Inman and Barbara Inman. Each of the above who were in attendance at our luncheon after our workday on January 22, were presented with a Certificate of Recognition. Cathy and I will miss you all, but the two-year program gives more people the opportunity to gain knowledge in all propagation aspects from such a knowledgeable person as Cathy Umphrey. We also said goodbye to Barbara Zellin who has been with us

and see what we're all about. Our first meeting will be held sometime during the last week of February.

all three of our current venues (Severna Park, Annapolis, and the Crofton Library). Additionally, if we have sufficient volunteers this year we plan to provide coverage in either north or west county.

Our education program for Ask a Master Gardener volunteers will be held February 27, March 20 and March 27 in the fellowship hall at St. Margarets. This year we'll be covering 'Weeds', an 'Introduction to Plant Pathology', 'The Diagnostic Approach', as well as 'Improving Use of Our reference Materials'.

for about three years. She is leaving to join other MG Programs, and she will be missed as well, especially when it comes time to wash the greenhouse again!!!!

The Committee will take five new members in February who will work with us for the next two years. Please sign up at the mandatory MG meeting on February 16. Some things to remember before you sign up: (1) We meet on Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon. Please ensure that time is free on your calendar. Promptness is important; members need to be there by 10 a.m. If you have something to do on Fridays and you can't arrive until 10:15 or later, you need to find something else within the MG Program that meets your schedule better. (2) Once we sow the tomato seeds, we need someone at London Town each day (including most holidays) until around second week in November to water and check the greenhouse. I do a watering schedule usually every three months and everyone takes their fair share of days to water. Please take that into consideration when you sign up also because it can add six more days during a three-month period that you will need to be at London Town. We also work extra days the week of the plant

sales getting ready for the plant sale doing all kinds of things like labeling and staging. The Friday before the plant sales all committee members who are working at the plant sale must attend the walk-through/tutorial presented by Cathy. This usually occurs toward the end of our workday (around 11 a.m. or later) when Cathy walks with us and tells us about every plant for sale; i.e., some history of plant if it's rare and its horticultural requirements. This is when we take notes so we can be well-informed when we meet with the public at the actual plant sales. Also, you must attend 50% of all propagation activities, including plant sales, Friday workdays, and training sessions (of which there are at least three

a year), and take your fair share of watering days, in order to remain a member of the Propagation Committee. This year we have one group who will work all year instead of the two group concept we had last year when each group only worked certain months of the year. We don't work in extreme heat or cold. So there will be several weeks in a row when we don't have workdays. The above information tells you a lot of what is expected of you if you join our group—we have a lot of fun and enjoy each other's company, but we also work hard, and you will learn much more than you ever expected to know about PROPAGATION and greenhouse management during your two-year period with us!

A list of 2009 Projects with descriptions can be found on the web ([click here](#))

REPORT ON THE INVASIVE SPECIES OF GREAT INTEREST

From Alice Neily Mutch, MGP representative to the Maryland Invasive Species Council, here is the latest alert from the Maryland Invasive Species Council. All credits go to Bud Reaves, of Anne Arundel County. It is a ***Familiar and Easily Overlooked Intruder***, the Norway Maple

Maryland has been characterized as the United States in Miniature. Starting at the Atlantic Ocean, the state spreads west through the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, to the Appalachian Mountains. What's significant about this is the diversity in forest types and habitats it represents. The coastal plain forest supports the southern pine and bottomland hardwood types that are found through out the southeastern United States. The Piedmont region is home to the oaks and hickories common in the Mid Atlantic region. The mountains also support oaks and-hickories, but also the forest types more closely associated with northern forests such as the white pine, hemlock and sugar maple. This diversity of habitat makes it ideal for a potential invader such as Norway maple to take over and dominate the forest and for that reason Norway maple has been chosen as the MISC Invader of the Month for January.



Photo: Norway Maple Foliage
Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Norway maple, *Acer platanoides* L., was first introduced to the eastern United States in the mid to late 1700's as an ornamental. and has become one of the most widely planted shade and street trees. The tree has been found here for so long most folks believe it is a native. Norway maple is a species of maple native to eastern and central Europe and southwest Asia. The wood is hard with no heartwood and is used for furniture and other wood products. A handsome tree, Norway maple grows to about 40-70 feet tall and has large leaves and distinctive bark. The leaves on Norway maple are very similar to those of the native sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*. They can be distinguished from sugar maples leaves by the fine hair like



Photo: Norway Maple Sap
www.northshorewx.com/images/2005/nature/Leave

bristles at the end of the lobes and the milky sap that is exuded when the petiole is detached. The fruit is a samara that is 3-4 inches long. The two sides of the samara come together at a 180 degree angle; sugar maple samaras have about a 60 degree angle and resemble a horse shoe. The seed is very flat on Norway maple whereas native maples have thick seeds. The bark on older trees is distinctly furrowed with interlacing ridges, often turning a sooty 'Crimson King', 'Schwedleri', which has dark purple leaves and 'Drummondii' which has variegated leaves.

Cold weather appears to be the limiting factor for Norway maple's growth or spread. Norway maple can potentially be found in the United States in the hardiness zones 4- 7. These zones stretch from New Brunswick and Cape Breton Island in Canada west to Minnesota and south to Tennessee and North Carolina. Maryland lies completely within these zones. Not all states are reporting Norway maple as invasive; however this covers the area in which Norway maple can potentially invade. In the West it is found in British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, and western Montana.

Norway maple is a very shade tolerant tree and prolific seeder that will rapidly invade roadsides and waste places, hedgerows and roadside thickets and will spread into adjacent forests. The seeds are persistent in the leaf layer of the forest and can germinate over several years after the parent trees are removed. Once established, Norway maple has demonstrated growth rates 2-3 times that of native trees growing in the same place. Although sometimes cited as alleopathic, research has shown it is not. However, Norway maple is very effective at keeping competing vegetation in check with dense shade, thereby reducing the growth of other species' seedlings and changing wildlife habitat. In the native forest, sugar maple and American beech are the only hardwoods as tolerant of shade.

The bad news about Norway maple is it has been planted extensively as an ornamental and can be found throughout Maryland. The good news about Norway maple is it is relatively easy to control if found invading forestland. The seedlings can be easily pulled by hand when the soil is moist. Saplings can be pulled if a weed wrench or similar device is used. If the ornamental value of an individual tree is substantial, the tree can be effectively managed if



Fruit
Paul Wray, Iowa State University
Bugwood.org



Mature Bark
Bud Reaves,
AA Co. Forestry Board

seedlings are diligently removed. Large Norway maples have a tendency to sprout vigorously when cut down so an appropriate herbicide is recommended if removal is required. Talk to a local forester or extension agent for recommendations, and as always follow the label directions and use appropriate cautions when using any pesticide. Norway maple has few disease problems but is fed on by many defoliating caterpillars. The Asian Longhorn Beetle (see the July 2009 Invader of the Month) is a serious pest to Norway maple, however it is a serious pest to many other desirable trees too, so no help from those herbivores is welcome!

Of course, the easiest way to prevent this seemingly benign and therefore overlooked invader from spreading is to not plant the tree in the first place. There are many native alternatives such as red maple, sugar maple, black gum, American beech, sourwood and

the many oaks that make attractive shade trees. Do your local forests a favor and turn to native canopy trees for your shade.

For more information about this and other Invasive Species of Concern, visit www.mdinvasivesp.org

black, whereas sugar maple has platy bark. Norway maple leaves turn a bright yellow in the fall, after most trees have lost their leaves. There are numerous cultivars including the very popular

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

[NEWS FROM THE STATE MG OFFICE](#)

Field Trip to the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, MD on Saturday, February 6th at 1:00pm-4:00pm

Please join us for a tour of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, MD (aka the tall building across Rt 1 from IKEA). The event will be on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 1-4pm. It will include a tour of the facility and then there will be time for attendees to explore the collections.

We did this tour last year and folks are STILL talking about it. Don't miss this rare opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at our nation's gardening knowledge repository.

They will be selling products from their collection at 10% off for us that afternoon only.

They accept cash or checks only. Here is a preview of what is on sale:

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/speccoll/products.shtml>.

The NAL is normally only open during regular business hours, and they are opening it special for local garden clubs who banded together to cover the costs necessary to pay the NAL security desk overtime.

This event is INVITATION ONLY for our garden club members and Maryland/DC Master Gardeners. Please do NOT forward this on outside these groups.

This is a secure government facility and *your Photo ID is required to enter the NAL*, so make sure to have ID with you.

***An RSVP is required to attend*. To RSVP please events@ars.usda.gov <mailto:events@ars.usda.gov> with your full name by February 1.**

PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME.

Sincerely,
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