



September 2007

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 11, 2007  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Margaret's Church, Parish Hall  
 1601 Pleasant Plains Road  
 Annapolis, MD 21409

**Volume 11--Issue 8**  
**September 2007**

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

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

**SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKER**

**Dr. Tom Blessington**  
**Professor and Regional Extension Specialist**  
**Post Harvest Floriculture**

**“INTERIORSCAPES”**

**THE COORDINATOR'S CORNER**

**Mike Ensor, Coordinator**

I first want to thank all of our Master Gardeners for a true success with the “Lobster, Lore, and Horticulture” expedition to Maine. A special thanks goes to Alice Mutch for all her work in making this possible. Alice truly deserves a “big pat on the back”. Our Master Gardeners had the opportunity to meet the Master Gardeners of Maine to share programs and ideas. Our Master Gardeners toured the horticulture of Maine and the lobster was out of this world. The Maine Master Gardeners truly were appreciative of hearing about the Maryland programs and appreciated the fantastic basket of gifts and certificates presented. Also, I want to thank Liz Stanley, Coordinator

in Maine, and the Maine Master Gardeners for their work in putting together the educational sessions and tours at the Botanical Gardens. They did an outstanding job! It is hope that this will be an exchange program in that the Maine Master Gardeners will be coming to Maryland in the near future and that we will continue to be able to have these exchange kinds of programs in other parts of the country. Last but not least a special thanks to Richard and the Sprucewold Lodge for their gracious hospitality.

Now that I am getting back to the real world after my trip to Ireland this summer and the Maine Expedition, it is time to focus on Intern Master Gardener Training. Training will begin September 18, 2007, and run through November 1, 2007. This year we are doing day classes and evening classes. The day classes will be from 9 a.m.–noon at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center and the evening classes are 6-9 p.m. at the Extension Office in Glen Burnie. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for both locations.

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer and time to relax despite the hot dry weather and look forward to the fall.

## MASTER GARDENERS EXPLORE MAINE HORTICULTURE

Alice Neily Mutch, MG

**A recent ambitious expedition to Maine resulted in the return of 41 well educated and “horticulturally” satisfied adventurous souls. Master Gardeners from across Maryland and the District of Columbia explored horticulture sites previously undiscovered by most regional gardeners.**

The expedition began with the Garden in the Woods at the Northeast Wildflower Society, with supper and a history lesson at the famous Longfellow’s Wayside Inn and Gardens in Massachusetts. The tour ended at the Vanderbilt Estate Gardens and the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park New York.

While returning from Maine, after an acclaimed “best herbology course ever” at Strawberry Banke, New Hampshire, the group savored the CIA’s efforts to integrate edible flowers and herbs into a culinary delight. The results were Salad with Pansies, a Pear Ice Wine Vinaigrette; Corn Risotto Cake with Crispy Mushrooms stuffed in a Zucchini Blossom; Pan-Seared Salmon with Edamame, Soybeans, Shiitake Mushrooms and Orange Soy Glaze; Marinated Chicken Breast with Savory Apple Chutney; Red Pepper Coulis; and finally, Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp with Lavender Infused Ice Cream.

While in Maine, horticulture opportunities were absorbed under clear crisp blue skies in a variety of outstanding venues which included famous Monhegan Island, Camden’s Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. Park, Mount Battie, Merryspring Gardens, and the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, now the largest botanical garden in the northeastern United States.

Thanks to the talent and capable hands of the Maine Master Gardener Program under the UMCE / Knox-Lincoln & Waldo County, an exchange of absorbing projects completed a day of awesome geological and horticultural education.

All this was integrated with traditional Maine food and all you can eat lobster. There was time for shopping at the

### 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 or 410-841-6472. Thanks to all who volunteer.**

famous LL Bean and views of the Maine coast from Pemaquid Point and the shores of Boothbay Harbor.

The expedition was described as “incomparable” and an “outstanding success”. Best of all, it brought together many new friends from Maine and Maryland’s horticulture communities.

Maryland Master Gardeners received advanced training credits for this program. These new friends from across the State will reconvene this fall to share their photographs and follow up on their new knowledge.

The Maryland Master Gardener Program has informally invited Maine Master Gardeners to organize a similar trip to Maryland in the upcoming year. We look forward to hosting them!

**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.**

**CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION  
LANDSCAPING COUNCIL TO OFFER  
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING  
CONFERENCE THIS NOVEMBER**

ANNANDALE , VA – Discover what municipalities, businesses, and developers are doing to preserve a healthy environment for future generations. Following an extraordinary inaugural conference in 2006, The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council will present its second annual conference, entitled “Turning a New Leaf,” on **Friday, November 9, 2007, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.** at the **Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia**. This is a *conference for landscaping professionals to promote and learn about sustainable landscaping and development practices.*

Conference Tracks include:

- The Green in Green Development

- Creative Stormwater and Shoreline Management
- How-to for Nursery and Landscape Businesses
- Designing and Maintaining Native Landscapes

The conference will also feature an eco-marketplace. CEU credits may be available.

Topics will include: Eco-friendly lawns, garden design, green development, raingardens, stream restoration techniques, native plant nurseries, and promoting beneficial insects. Keynote speaker Keith Tomlinson, director of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, will speak on “Ecologically Smart Landscaping for the Chesapeake Basin: Good for Business and Good for the Environment.”

Check out [www.chesapeakelandscape.org](http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org) for detailed program and registration information. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

General Information: Jane Cooke (410) 634-2847 ext. 41  
[jcooke.cclc@gmail.com](mailto:jcooke.cclc@gmail.com)

*The Council is committed to fostering changes in public attitudes and the implementation of practices that result in a cleaner, healthier and more beautiful environment benefiting residents and the region’s biological diversity.*

**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).

## THE GARDEN BUZZ

Trish Willis, Chair  
Lisa Winters, Co-Chair

### PROJECT REPORTS

#### APPRENTICE GARDENS

Scott Doran, MG

The Apprentice Gardeners are starting to look at summer's end. Most of the squash plants are finished bearing fruit, but we are still getting lots of cherry tomatoes. Our herb garden has done very well and we will have sage, thyme and rosemary through the fall. Thanks to Lois Steinfort we have many large gourds growing over the "bean tunnel." They are not quite ready for harvesting, but they will provide an interesting fall harvest.

We want to do some planning for next summer, so we would like to hear from anyone who would like to join our group next year. We realize it is too early to make a commitment to a project, but if you are interested, please contact Scott Doran at [obismom@comcast.net](mailto:obismom@comcast.net). We will have a meeting in late September to decide what we need to do in the gardens this fall to prepare for next year.

#### COMPOST/NATIVE PLANT GARDENS PROJECT

Susie Blackwell, MG

We are at the halfway mark for this season's scheduled activities and continue to have excellent attendance at our composting demonstrations. Thanks to Joyce Anderson, Kathleen Cornell, Carol Proudfit, Sharon Schroer, Amy Svrjcek, Deb Diddlemeyer, Barbara Tibbs, Woody Boyd, Sue Betz, Susan Guyaux and Diane Mairs for all their hard work. (A special thanks to Kathleen Cornell and Carol Proudfit for all the extra hours they put in down at the site watering the native plants during the recent drought.)

We will continue to be at Quiet Waters twice monthly (see the calendar for time and dates) through the first weekend in November. Please tell your friends and neighbors about our project and be sure to tell them they will receive a FREE compost bin and goody bag when they come to one of our demonstrations (so will MGs and interns!). Contact Susie Blackwell at [mrsbntx@aol.com](mailto:mrsbntx@aol.com) or 410-757-7780 for more information.

It is with good cheer that I bring you the news that our bees are in abundance and thriving at Hancock's Resolution. They have multiplied so much so that we purchased another hive body box. Every Saturday either Lisa or myself--along with any committee members or interns that are able to attend--feed the bees their sugar water--homemade by Chef Lisa. I have also observed upon visitation that the bees are busy in the plantation's gardens--YEH!!! The members of Hancock's Resolution are happy to have us there and their beekeeper, Jim Calvert, has been invaluable to our learning and growth in the art of beekeeping.

Since this is a new colony, most likely we will not yield the production of honey until next year. There is a possibility we may expand our beekeeping operation to other sites. However, if that does occur, we will need at least two (2) members to commit to the care of the bees at that location--so we will see what unfolds. If you are truly interested in beekeeping, I encourage you to sign up for the beekeeping course offered in March 2008. You may contact Mr. Luna, the President of AA County Beekeepers Association, at 410-757-5797.

Next year I am looking forward to more participation from the committee members when our honey is overflowing! Please feel free to contact either Lisa or me at any time. Please do not wait for us to contact you. Anyone is welcome at our feedings. Hancock's Resolution is open to the public on Sundays--it would be rewarding for you and your family/friends to visit this historic property.

A final note to our 'buzz off'--we are most pleased with the results of our project to date.

#### GERMANTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

Sandy Patterson, MG

We have a full Fall planned!

**DIRT DAY--September 16** We'll be removing the current greenery from the front entrance gardens and

moving it to two other school sites (the portable entrance area and the bus entrance area) and readying the entrance area.

**PLANTING DAY—October 6** We'll be re-planting both sides of the school entrance area.

As well, the Master Gardeners will be **replanting parts of the Welcome Garden area on October 4** with those plants that were previously unavailable as well as those that just didn't perform well.

Other aspects of the Germantown Elementary School Living Classroom project underway are:

- \*Container Gardens for the portable classroom area
- \*Grant proposal for a labyrinth project
- \*Green School designation proposal
- \*Signage ideas
- \*Hardscaping plans

**LONDON TOWN  
PROPAGATION AND PLANT SALES  
COMMITTEE**

Margaret Karnes, MG

The London Town Propagation Group has been busy the last couple months getting ready for the fall plant sale. We have planted seeds from several different varieties of Columbine and have nurtured them into the healthy plants they are today.

Prior to sowing these seeds, Cathy Umphrey, On-Site Horticulturist at London Town, gave us a class on advanced seed sowing. Hopefully, the Columbine sell as well as the 35 different varieties of tomato plants did at the spring plant sale. We are looking forward to helping customers at the plant sale chose the right plant for their landscape. At the spring plant sale, we aided over 200 customers and answered a multitude of questions concerning the horticulture needs of the plants that were offered for sale and hope we get to help as many at the fall plant sale.

The new greenhouse is now functional since the electricity has been installed, and the new potting shed is wonderful too. Our group works diligently to nurture any seedlings we grow by ensuring they receive the right amount of

light, fertilizer, and water during their growing time. This means that someone from our group has to be at London Town almost every day to ensure they are watered, especially during the very hot part of the summer. Also, during the summer we have dug up from the gardens and repotted, such things as Dawn Redwood trees and VooDoo Lilies.

The Plant ID and Labeling Subcommittee has completed the identification of about 90% of the magnolias at London Town. The group will be meeting to discuss with Cathy Umphrey what kind of information to include on the labels for the gardens; i.e., what information would be helpful to the people visiting the gardens. The next group of plants to be identified and labeled will be the azaleas. This will be a very large undertaking, will be time consuming and probably take a couple years to do.

**UPCOMING STATE  
ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS**

**NEWS FROM THE STATE MG OFFICE**

**Two statewide meetings in September:**

**MG State Committee on Training  
Monday, September 10  
10 a.m.- noon at HGIC**

In recent meetings we revised the state MG Volunteer Orientation and Policy Training presentation, came up with Learning Objectives for the new MG Handbook, spearheaded MG Handbook sponsorships and came up with ways to improve basic training. At this meeting, we will be discussing Annual Training day for this year and next, and tackling the area of Leadership. How do we encourage, train, get leaders. If you have any ideas in this area, please attend or send them to Robin at [rmhessey@umd.edu](mailto:rmhessey@umd.edu). We may want to plan an entire day just for MG nuts and bolts training or special interest meetings.

**MG State Committee on Composting  
Wednesday, September 19  
10 a.m.- 1 p.m. at HGIC**

This group has sponsored lots of composting initiatives. How can we encourage more people across the state to

compost? We will be discussing a training coming up in Queen Anne's county in October, our most recent brochure revisions, and new initiatives.

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**Master Composter Class in Queen Anne's County  
October 10 & 24**

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

**Date:** Wednesday, October 10, Wednesday, October 24

**Time:** 9:30-3:30 p.m. (includes one field trip)

**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 & required text (and any additional texts you want) **made out to the University of MD** to MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042.

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.

**THE TIME HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!  
ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE  
of the General Forestry *Online* Course**

The Maryland Cooperative Extension has gone high-tech. **The General Forestry *Online* Course is now ready for launching.** The course begins September 1 and runs until December 15, 2007. **Registration opens August 1, and class size is limited to 10 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.**

Like the original paper version, there are no formal classes. You work from the comfort of your home, using your own woodlot, a friend's or a public forest while learning the basics of forestry, forest ecology, and forest health in this non-credit course. The course content is the same as that provided originally in binders. However, with the web-based version, the text and appendices are electronic; there are interactive exercises to aid in learning, plus access to Master Logger lectures in real time. You will learn how to protect your trees from insects, diseases and fire; step-by-step procedures will walk you through a forest inventory and stand analysis; and the details of the forestry business are presented, including tax nuances and the sale and harvest of forest products. Ultimately, the course exercises help you develop the framework for a management plan for your forest.

The cost for this excellent forestry course is **\$300.00**. Included in the cost are paper copies of the supplemental readings (A Sand County Almanac, The Woodland Steward, American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery, and a small pamphlet entitled *What Tree Is That?*), interactive discussion with other enrollees, and a CD of the text and appendices. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

But don't take our word for it. See it for yourself on our website at **<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/extension/elearning/generalforestry/>**. There you can read a lesson from the text, view an interactive exercise, read through detailed course information and FAQs.

For more information, contact Nancy Stewart at the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Wye Research and Education Center, P.O. Box 169, Queenstown, MD, 21658; phone 410/827-8056, ext. 112; or email [nstewart1@umd.edu](mailto:nstewart1@umd.edu). **Remember, registration opens August 1 and class size is limited to 10 participants. So, check out our website and mark the open enrollment on your calendar today!**