

Love Gardening and Gardeners? Just Do It: Join Frederick County Master Gardeners Now

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Frederick County Master Gardener

Oh, come on, you've been reading our column and wanting to join for years. Go ahead, just do it. Now is the time. There are still a few openings in the 2012 Intern Class which will start the first week of February.

Not clear on what Frederick County Master Gardeners (FCMGs) are about? Master Gardeners are gardening enthusiasts spreading the good news of scientific research from the University of Maryland and other agricultural colleges throughout the nation. We are gardening educators trained by and volunteering for the University of Maryland Extension. You have all heard the saying, "When the student is ready the teacher will appear", and lucky for you, FCMG classes are beginning the first week of February.

Still not sure what we're about? Read our mission and vision statements which capture it just right. Our Mission: to support the University of Maryland Extension by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. "Our vision is a healthier world through environmental stewardship."

Committees

Can't imagine where your talents and enthusiasm might fit within our program? Here are a few of our committees: BayWise, Demonstration Gardens, Grow It Eat It, Junior Master Gardeners, Multicultural Outreach, Newspaper Column, Plant Clinics, Seminar Series, Speakers Bureau, Therapeutic Horticulture, Horticulture Librarian, Photography, Growing Newsletter. And of course there is always need for support people in many areas, such as hospitality, computer work, and helping the County Horticulture Educator and County Master Gardener Coordinator, Susan Trice.

Yearly Events

FCMGs sponsor one major fund raiser, our Plant Sale, to be held this year on Saturday, April 28th. Also planned are our traditional information booths and "Ask A Master Gardener" clinics during Ag Week at the Francis Scott Key Mall February 20-25, 2012, and at The Great Frederick Fair September 14-22, 2012. These are fun events where MGs meet and greet the public, putting on demonstrations such as our composting worm bin which is always a hit with young and old alike.

Open to All

Each column we send an Equal Opportunity statement with our standard ending office information. Sometimes, for brevity the last line is omitted by our editors, and we understand,

there is only so much room each week for space in the paper. However, any discussion of joining MGs must emphasize that we are open to everyone, so here it is our official statement:

“University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.”

Just do it

If you hear fate calling your name to join FCMGs, don't ignore it this year, go ahead, pick up the phone, send an e-mail, come on, just do it. If you love gardening, learning about gardening, and spending time with other gardeners, you'll love FCMGs, I guarantee it.

For this column only, I offer my personal e-mail address, in case you have questions or would like to discuss the program with a member rather than office personnel. Feel free to contact me at stinkbugs@hiwaay.net If I don't know the answer to your question, I will do my best to help you find where the answer might be, which, by the way, is one of the guiding principles for all Master Gardeners.

For more information about the Frederick County Master Gardener/Horticulture Program, visit www.frederick.umd.edu/mg or call Susan Trice at the University of Maryland Extension Frederick County office, (301) 600-1596.

*Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland>
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