FREDERICK COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR ITEMS

Every Monday, Help Desk, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
January 5, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 pm., Lincoln Elementary, 'B' Building at 250 Madison Street, contact Bunny LaDouceur for information, ktbun@aol.com, 301-620-0641
January 6, 9:30 a.m., Seminar Series Committee Meeting (will be rescheduled)
January 6, 12:30 Advisory Committee Meeting
January 13, 7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting, Master Gardener Recognition
January 15, 10 to 2, Grow It, Eat It Meeting at 4H Center in College Park
January 22, 10 to 2 Plant Clinic Statewide Meeting
January 27, 10 to 1, MG State Baywise Meeting at MD Department of Agriculture
February. 2, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 pm., Lincoln Elementary, 'B' Building at 250 Madison Street, contact Bunny LaDouceur for information
February 5 – April 21, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 to noon, 2009 MG Training Class
February 10, 10 to 1, MG State Strategic Planning Meeting at HGIC in Ellicott City
February 10, 1:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting
February 24, 1:30-5:00 p.m., Grow It-Eat It, Train the Trainer Class at Fred. Cty. Office
March 3, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting
March 9, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 pm., Lincoln Elementary, 'B' Building at 250 Madison Street, contact Bunny LaDouceur for information,
March 10, 7:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting
April 14, 1:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting
April 15, First quarter volunteer sheets due; Chair reports due
April 24, Plant Sale Work Day
April 25, Plant Sale
May 5, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting
May 12, 10:00 a.m., Monthly Meeting
May 28, Master Gardener Annual Training Day
June 9, 6:00 p.m. Plant Exchange and Potluck
July 14, 7:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting
July 15, Second quarter volunteer sheets due; Chair reports due
August 4, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting
August 11, 10:00 a.m. Monthly Meeting
September 8, 7:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting
September 15, Third quarter volunteer sheets due; Chair reports due
September 18 - 26, The Great Frederick Fair
October 13, 6:00 p.m. Plant Exchange and Potluck
November 3, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting
November 10, 10 a.m., Monthly Meeting
December 1, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting
December 8, 6:00 p.m. Potluck and Monthly Meeting
December 23, Fourth quarter volunteer sheets due; Chair reports due including End-of-Year report to me

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NOTES FROM MARY RIESCH

Beginning in January 2009, I will be the new Chair of the Advisory Committee and Lee Royer will be the Co-Chair.

The annual Master Gardener Recognition Night will be held on Tuesday, January 13 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend and help celebrate as the interns are awarded their Master Gardener status. It's always a fun night as we recognize all of our successes from the past year and thank everyone for their contribution.

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TRICE'S TIDBITS

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a great holiday. Now that we have started a new year, its time to look back and see what we still have to wrap up from the previous year and what to look forward to this year.

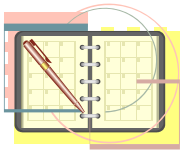
Everyone should have submitted their **volunteer hour sheets**. Here is the link, to obtain a form on-line: http://frederick.umd.edu/MG/MG_Administrative_Info.cfm Scroll down the page and choose a sample, pdf and/or excel version. If you send it to me electronically, be sure I respond and let you know I printed it. If you haven't submitted all of your hours for 2008, you may still do so. Here's an idea: Why not bring it with you to the meeting on Tuesday?!!

Remember, January 13th, Tuesday is the '**RECOGNITION NIGHT**'. The new Master Gardeners will be recognized and you probably don't want to miss seeing their recognition awards! (We do not give 'gifts'.) I'm envious already. Also, I will be awarding 3, 5 and 10-year pins. Please note that if you are a member of the 2006 class, you are eligible for the 3 year pin if you submit your hours and met the 20/10 qualification. And, likewise, the 2004 class will be receiving the 5-year pin. There is one person to receive the 10-year pin. The 3-meeting rule was not counted for this year, but will be included for next year.

Elyse Phillips will be handling the committee recognitions. So, if you were a chairperson for 2008, please be in attendance and ready to recognize your people. If you have not done so, please let her know your intentions either way.

Committee Chairs of 2008, need to submit your '**End-of-the-Year' reports** to me this month. Many thanks go to those who have already done this.

The **Class of 2009** will begin on February 5th. A schedule is posted on our website. So far, we have people interested via their letters of interest but no completed applications have been submitted to me as of this posting.



For your notations, **dates for the entire year** are posted at the beginning of this newsletter. Naturally, this is incomplete but may prove to be helpful to you. In

TRICE'S TIDBITS (continued)

future newsletters, only a few months will be included. Please, get your calendars marked so you don't miss out on some exciting chances to do what Master Gardeners do---and I must say Frederick County does them very well!

Many thanks go to those of you who completed and responded to the **survey**. This information is very beneficial to me in understanding your end of our operation. If you have not completed the survey, you still have time. If you do not wish to contribute your comments, please let me know. Otherwise, I will be calling you and conducting the survey on line. I want to hear from all of you. I have learned that some people are not on the listserv and wanted to be; many people read this newsletter (Yeah), some people expressed a desire to be involved in something and were never contacted, etc. So, please let me hear from you.

The **roster** is constantly being updated. If you wish to receive an electronic copy of it, please just email me. It only takes a few clicks to respond. If you want a hard copy, there are many ways to obtain one which include: attend monthly meetings, stop by, hand or postal delivery, etc.

Opportunities:

Certified Professional Horticulture (CPH) Training and Qualification- Several of you have expressed a desire to obtain this certification. I have agreed to help you learn the material. Upon reviewing the application form, I noticed you must meet two qualifications. First, you must be sponsored by a Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association Member, and secondly, you must be employed or an owner in the horticulture industry, or volunteer at least 500 hours in the industry. This may decrease the size of our interested group. However, I am still willing to work with those who wish to pursue this. I need definite names real soon. It was suggested to me that I offer courses to help all folks learn the 'identification' of the materials. Anyone wishing to be on my committee to help gather materials, advertise, brainstorm, etc. please let me know. Congratulations go to Jane Talarico, Fred. Co. Master Gardener and help desk staff employee at HGIC, who recently obtained her CPH certification and Pesticide Certification. Jane has volunteered to continue to help us in anyway she can.

In lieu, of all the new items and changing of chairpersons for this year, I have decided to hold the **Summer Master Gardener training class in 2010**. This will give up more recruitment time as well. For the first time in my two years with you, I am addressing the Frederick County Agriscience Teachers in person at their county meeting. There is already interest expressed by one of them to become a Master Gardener. Since many of these teachers are 12-month employees, I want to get dates in which they are available, then schedule the classes. This should open more doors of opportunity for us. I will also be showing the valuable on-line tool, the HGIC website.

'**Waste Not**' at the Frederick Library on March 28th. This is a one-day educational exposition geared to involve families and how they can reduce waste. It will include recycling, composting, and vendors with eco-friendly products on display. Speakers will be included. We have been asked to participate with a display. See Devra Boesch if you are interested in helping.

TRICE'S TIDBITS (continued)

Worm Compost Bin: Many thanks to Tillie Fleming for babysitting the worms during the holiday. She will be turning that bin over to the new vermi-compost guru- Bethany Dellagnello. Bethany will be teaching the 'Vermi-Composting' to the Class of 2009. Also, we at Extension will be keeping a bin in the kitchen shortly after the presentation. This is due to the environmentally friendly Extension staff.

2009 Beginner's Beekeeping Short Course

Traditionally, beekeeping associations offer courses in the winter months for those interested in learning how to keep bees or wanting more information on bees and beekeeping. Frederick County Beekeeping Association (FCBA) will be offering a beginning beekeeping course covering beekeeping basics, to prepare the student to establish and maintain bees.

Classes are held each Saturday from 9-3 PM from January 17, 2009 through January 31, 2009. In addition to these three lecture days, there will also be a Saturday field day where we'll cover course material with bees and hives. (Date and location TBD). Lecture classes will be located at the Frederick County Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702
Cost of the course is $35.

The curriculum will be presented in bound booklets for note-taking, and there will be a guest speaker from the MDA Apiary Program for one lecture session. Registration will also cover annual dues to the FCBA.

Besides learning from lecture information, membership in FCBA is a great way to meet and discuss beekeeping with other local beekeepers. FCBA's website:**www.ibiblio.org/bees/fcba**
SPACE IS LIMITED: enrollment is on a first come, first served basis.
Please send your check made out to FCBA to:
FCBA Short Course c/o Mary Riesch
6900 Eylers Valley Flint Rd.
Sabillasville, MD 21780

Please call or email with questions:
Adam Finkelstein adamf7@gmail.com OR
Mary Riesch at MKRDesigns@aol.com 301-662-4844 301-271-9290

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JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME ! For more Info CALL BUNNY at 240-409-6542

FREDERICK NEWS POST ARTICLE –

What Does a Gardener Do in the Winter?

Phyllis Heuerman
Frederick County Master Gardener

I have finished putting my garden to bed for the winter. I have cut back and mulched plants, caged young trees and shrubs against hungry winter animals, raked leaves, cleaned out my rain barrels, tidied my compost bins and cleaned and oiled my tools. What will I do to feed my gardening needs in the winter?

After the holidays, the house can look gloomy during the grey winter days. I warm up my home by forcing flowers into bloom. January is a good time to purchase at half-price the Amaryllis and Paperwhite Narcissus bulbs that did not sell over the holidays. They will still flourish. Amaryllis bulbs, which are about the size of a grapefruit, grow best in tight quarters. The pot should be about one inch wider than the bulb and have a drainage hole in the bottom. Fill the pot about half full; put the bulb in and fill with additional soil. Pack the foil firmly as Amaryllis can be top heavy. The top one-third of the bulb should be exposed. Water the bulb well after planting, but do not allow the soil to remain soggy. Place the pot in a bright window and water only when the soil feels dry. Amaryllis typically bloom 6 to 8 weeks after you plant them.

Paperwhite Narcissus can be forced in soil or in water. They take only about 4 weeks from planting time to full bloom. To plant Narcissus in soil, simply fill a shallow pot with soil, place the bulbs in it close together, and partially cover the bulbs with soil. About one-fourth to one-third of the bulb should be exposed. Water the bulbs and place the pot in a sunny window. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Once in bloom, the flowers will last longer if you keep the plants in indirect or filtered light. A cool room at night will also prolong bloom.

Narcissus make very interesting displays if you grow them in a clear vase, in water. Simply place about 3 inches of gravel in the bottom of the vase and place the bulbs close together on top. Fill vase with water to just touch the bottom of the bulbs. Within a couple of days you will see roots begin to develop. You will have to add a little water each day to keep the water touching the base of the bulb. The roots will form a very interesting display as they entwine themselves among the pebbles.

Another way to bring flowers into your home during the winter is to force branches of flowering trees and shrubs. February is a good time to start doing this. After you have cut branches fill a sink with very warm water. Holding the stems under water, recut them at a sharp angle an inch or two above the original cut. Then put the branches in a vase of temperate water with floral preservative in it. Watch the buds slowly swell and spring into bloom. To keep the branches fresh, change the water when it discolors. Also keep the branches away from bright, direct sunlight and direct heat. Good candidates for forcing are ornamental cherry trees, Forsythias, Fothergilla, Bradford Pears, Redbud trees, Lilacs, Quinces, Magnolias and of course, Pussywillows.

Aside from keeping my home bright with live flowers, I spend my winter poring over the garden magazines and books I did not have time to read during the summer, and reviewing catalogs to place orders for new plants I want for the spring.

GROW IT, EAT IT

Train the Trainer - Schedule of Classes

Presenter: Jon Traunfeld, State MG Coordinator, Extension Specialist, Fruits and Vegetables, and Director, HGIC
Registration fee: $20.
Marylanders really want to grow their own food, but they don't know how. Master Gardeners are the perfect people to help. Come to this class to "get up to speed" whether you want to teach, or just help with the effort.
Course Description:
This one-day training (plus field trip) will help you become part of a state-wide initiative that will train the public how to begin their own food gardens. We will bring all necessary teaching materials and outlines to you, discuss commonly asked questions, concentrate on the 4 S's (site/sun, soil, seeds, and sustainability) and recommend the best ways to help a beginner become successful. We're even developing a special tool-kit for you. We'll have a variety of presentations to send you out with- from a one hour program to a more in-depth set of 4 presentations. Our daytime classes will be augmented by field trips held around the state in July. The field trips will help you learn about site and cultural considerations as well as pest and disease management issues. It is not required that you come to the field trip, but it is highly recommended. When you register for a class, we are presuming that you are registering for the field trip that goes with that class, but if you need to attend at a different location, please indicate that on your registration form.

Class Location		Regis.Deadline	Field Trip Location	
Baltimore Co. Ext.	Fri Jan 30; 9-12:30	1/23	Rockdale Park Comm. Garden	Th. Jul 16; 6:30-8:30pm
Montgomery Co. Ext.	Th. Feb 12; 9 - 12:30	2/5	Mont. Co. MG Demo Garden	Tu. July 14, 9-11am
Harford Co. Ext.	Fri. Feb 13; 9-12:30 (snow date 2/20);	2/6	site TBA in Harford Co.	Th. July 23, 9-11am
Carroll Co. Ext.	Wed. Feb 18; 9-12:30	2/11	Carroll Co. Farm Museum	Th. July 9; 9-11am
Frederick Co. Ext.	Tu. Feb 24; 1:30-5	2/17	site TBA in Fred/Wash Co.	Th. July 16, 9-11am
Washington Co. Ext.	Tu. Feb 24; 9-12:30	2/17	site TBA in Fred/Wash Co.	Th. July 16, 9-11am
Anne Arundel Co. Ext	Wed. Feb 25; 10-2	2/18	Kinder Farm Park	Wed. July 8, 7-9pm
Prince Georges Co.4H Center,College Pk.	Th. Feb 26; 6:30-9pm	2/19	Master Peace Garden	Th. July 9; 6:30-8:30pm
Eastern Shore-WYE	Tu. Mar. 3; 9-12:30	2/24	Pot Pie Garden (Talbot Co.)	Wed. July 22, 9:30-11:30
Baltimore City-Kennedy Krieger High	Wed. Mar 4; 6:30-9pm	2/25	Rockdale Park Comm. Garden	Th. Jul 16; 6:30-8:30pm
Western MDGrantsville Library	Th. Mar. 12, 12-3:30	3/5	site TBA in Fred/Wash Co	Th. July 16, 9-11am
Calvert Co. Ext.	Wed. Mar. 18; 12:30-4	3/11	Summerseat, St. M. Co (tentative)	Tu. July 7; 6:30-8:30pm
St. Mary's Co. Fairground	Wed. Mar. 18; 5:30-9	3/11	Summerseat, St. M. Co (tentative)	Tu. July 7; 6:30-8:30pm
Howard Co. Ext.	Tu. Mar. 31; 9-12:30	3/23	Lake Elkhorn Comm Gardens	Tu. July 21; 9-11am

Note from Elaine – I was unable to download the registration form. If you would like to register contact Robin Hessey at rmhessey@umd.edu or 410 531 5567.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Equal Access Programs