



# FREDERICK COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Every Monday, Help Desk, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

February 2, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 pm., Jr. MGs, Lincoln Elementary, 'B' Building at 250 Madison Street\*

February 3, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m., MG State Baywise Meeting at MD Department of Agriculture

February 5 – April 21, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, 2009 Master Gardener  
Training Class

February 6, 10:00 a.m., Plant Sale Committee Meeting

February 10, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m., MG State Strategic Planning Meeting at HGIC in  
Ellicott City

February 10, 1:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting

February 16-21, Ag Week at FSK Mall

February 17, Registration deadline for *Grow It-Eat It, Train the Trainer Class*

February 19, 7:00 p.m., Spring Seminar, *Getting a Head Start: Pruning and Soil Preparation*

February 24, 1:30-5:00 p.m., Grow It-Eat It, Train the Trainer Class at Frederick County

March 3, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting

March 5, 7:00 p.m., Spring Seminar, *Eating Well from Small Spaces: Growing Your Family's Produce*

March 9, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 pm., Jr. MGs, Lincoln Elementary, 'B' Building at 250 Madison Street\*

March 10, 7:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting

March 19, 7:00 p.m., Spring Seminar, *Turf Alternatives: How to Go Native*

April 2, 7:00 p.m., Spring Seminar, *Buying Your Plants: When, What, and How*

April 14, 1:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting

April 15, First quarter volunteer sheets due; Chair reports due

April 16, 7:00 p.m., Spring Seminar, *Do-It-Yourself Water Projects for the Garden*

April 24, Plant Sale Work Day

April 25, Plant Sale

April 30, 7:00 p.m., Spring Seminar, *Sedum Gardening: Containers and Techniques*

May 5, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting

May 12, 10:00 a.m., Monthly Meeting

May 28, Master Gardener Annual Training Day

September 18-26, The Great Frederick Fair

\*Contact Bunny LaDouceur for Jr. MG information, [ktbun@aol.com](mailto:ktbun@aol.com), 301-620-0641

Maryland Cooperative Extension, Frederick County • 330 Montevue Lane • Frederick, Maryland 21702  
Telephone 301/600-1594 • TTY 301/600-1672 • Fax 301/600-1588 • <http://www.Frederick.umd.edu/>

**INDEX** –  
**Notes from Mary Riesch**  
**Good News**  
**Trice's Tidbits**  
**2009 Training Class Hosts**  
**Special Events**  
**Ag Week**  
**Spring 2009 Seminar Series**  
**Sunshine**  
**Grow It, Eat It Classes**  
**State Meetings**

**NOTES FROM MARY RIESCH**

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10 at 1:00 p.m.

The Business Meeting will follow the educational presentation.

Contact Mary Riesch, [mkrdesigns@aol.com](mailto:mkrdesigns@aol.com) 301-271-9290 if

- you would like to be a moderator for the February or March meetings. It's easy and fun!
- you would like to be a scribe for the February or March meetings. Our regular scribe will not be able to attend the February and March meetings.
- you have an item for the meeting agenda. Do you have a brief committee update or announcement?
- you have an *Adventure in the Garden* to share. What are your plans for the garden this year? Have you discovered any new sources for seeds and plants?



**GOOD NEWS**

Elaine Feinberg is home from the hospital, though she is still weak. She sends thanks to everyone for all their good wishes.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TRICE'S TIDBITS**

**Buzz Word for the Month:**

As I sit here thinking about what magic buzz word to use for this newsletter, the only word that comes to mind is LOVE! I have much love for what I do, in that I get to serve and work with such a wonderful group of people. I also love the fact that a new class is about to start. I love the fact that my extension reports are finished. I love the fact that so many people were recognized for many hours of dedication to the Master Gardener program. Am I starting to sound like a broken record? Ok, it seems the year actually ends in January and begins in February. Now we can love the start of a new year!

## TRICE'S TIDBITS (continued)

### Survey Results:

Many sincere thanks to all 92 people who completed and returned the survey forms. Some of my thoughts were confirmed and new unexpected insights were gained. So, I feel better knowing that we are on the right track. Also note that some people only completed the last page. And, not all questions were answered by each person. Here are the results:

#### **Volunteer Hours:**

The vast majority of people said they have been active but needed to submit their hours. As of this posting, 82% of those who volunteered this year have submitted their hours for 2008. Five people decided to go on 'hiatus' for various reasons mostly due to personal or financial reasons. You may notice a few names on the roster belonging to people you don't see. Please know that I am following the proper protocol concerning their options.

#### Helpful Hints in Keeping Track of Hours:

1. I carry a calendar with events marked ahead of time. Even if I don't record exact hours, I at least know what days I committed to the Master Gardeners.
2. Keep a folder of MG papers in your car and write your hours in it, then turn them in!
3. I record my hours the day I earn them. I submit time sheets as soon as I fill them.
4. Write it on time sheets when I volunteer for anything. (Submitted twice)
5. Mark them on my calendar. (Submitted several times)
6. I record hours as completed on a calendar and submit them at the end of the month.
7. Do it all on PC and email.
8. I write them down as soon as I get home.
9. I log dates/times/miles in 'notes' on my iphone.
10. I keep the file on the 'desktop' of my computer and fill in as the year goes on. Then, I can email each quarter.
11. Use a pocket folder- In one pocket, log training, meeting, volunteer hours, etc. Use the other pocket for current minutes, opportunities, etc.

#### **Three Meetings Per Year:**

45 people indicated that they could attend 3 meetings per year.

2 said they could not

The rest did not answer

#### **Continuing Education Credit Hours:**

34 Have no problem meeting the 10 CE hour requirements

5 Indicated that they have difficulty

The rest did not answer

Note: Please know that you can count time spent researching for your Presentation/talk as CE time.

#### **Communications:**

49 People indicated that they read their emails including the listserv

1 Person does not use email.

The rest did not answer

How often email is checked:

7 all the time

27 once a day

10 once a week

Most people may be contacted by email or home phone.

## TRICE'S TIDBITS (continued)

### **Newsletter:**

35 People read the newsletter all the time. YEAH for you guys.

9 People read the newsletter sometimes. Interestingly enough, some of these same people are usually a bit confused as to what is happening. It is especially helpful to read the newsletter before coming to the meetings.

### **Committees:**

A few Master Gardeners have very hectic schedules as thus have difficulty getting involved in a particular committee.

15 People indicated that they Chair or Co-Chair a committee

30 Help with Plant Sale

30 Help at the Fair

26 Work at Plant Clinics

22 Help in the Demo Garden

8 Master Gardeners minus interns help with Help Desk.

(As was stated at the January meeting, these folks help me from a distance but their input is invaluable. If I have a question about a particular subject, I have a bank of people to call upon for help.)

My apologies to those of you who may have felt neglected by excluding your committee. I purposely chose the above listed committees as I was considering a new directive to help the committees who don't usually get many volunteers. Unfortunately, I didn't accomplish what I had hoped for in this case. I will keep you posted as more thoughts come to mind. I have decided to require the interns to serve on a committee other than the above mentioned ones.

### **Speakers Bureau:**

I will be submitting the list of folks and their topics to the speaker's bureau committee. Thank you all for your input.

---

### **Volunteer Hours:**

I have to submit the 2008 volunteer hours to the state office by February 6<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to all of you who submitted your hours. At present we have a total of 4,018 volunteer hours and 887 continuing education hours. Yeah for our TEAM! And a big thanks to Audrey Cooke and Avonell Watson for volunteering many hours to enter them into the database. If you see either of these people, be sure to extend your thanks as well. Please know that these should be submitted on a quarterly basis. All extension reports are submitted mid-January. It also makes it difficult for me to recognize pin recipients if they are not submitted on time. FYI: 63 of a possible 83 people have submitted hours. I am still waiting on a few people to submit their hours before Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Committee Chairs:**

Please review your committee guidelines. Use the information that was left by the previous chair. Chris Stimac gets a copy of all transactions. If you want to know about them, or double check numbers, please give him a call. You may come in here and view my red book where I keep my copies.

Also, it's great that you are scheduling committee meetings but be aware of the weather predictions and closings. If the public schools are closed, we will not be having MG training classes. If there is a 2-hour delay, we will start at 10:00. It is your responsibility to notify your committee members.

## TRICE'S TIDBITS (continued)

### **Office Courtesy:**

Please be sensitive to the idea that we, as extension employees, have many responsibilities. This includes the administrative assistants. This is not a reprimand. I just feel its better to educate before the fact, then afterward. If you need something from any of us, it is best to call or email your request ahead of time. For instance, if you need copies made for your presentation, submit them a few days in advance or (even better) come in a copy them yourself. If you need names, numbers, figures, etc., again; give some advance notice even if it's only a couple of hours. It should increase your efficiency. If necessary, we may need to place your requested information in the mailbox outside, so you can get it at your convenience. I love it when my fellow staff members say, 'Oh, those Master Gardeners are so polite.'

### **Certificates and Pins:**

If you would like your certificates from this year or previous years, they may be found in your folder. The box is in my office and is usually in the meeting room during our monthly meetings. Pins will need to be gotten from me directly.

### **Requests for Help:**

4-H Record Book Judges in the areas of entomology and gardening are needed. Give me your name, or contact Donielle Axline, [sinskeep@umd.edu](mailto:sinskeep@umd.edu).

Gentleman in the Middletown area needs advice in his mother's vegetable garden.

### **New Community Added to eXtension!**

eXtension is pleased to announce that the eOrganic Community of Practice has launched publicly today as a part of two national or regional conferences: the Eco-Farm Conference in Pacific Grove, CA and the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSWAG) annual conference in Chattanooga, TN. Go to <http://www.extension.org> and choose Organic Agriculture to see the variety of content the community of practice has developed.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2009 TRAINING CLASS HOSTS

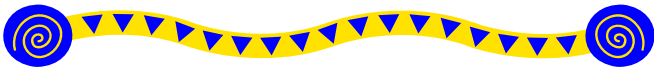
We are looking for volunteers to act as 2009 Master Gardener Training Class Hosts to help with set-up and clean-up. Set-up duties (between 8-9 am) are making coffee (instructions will be left), heating hot water for tea, setting out cups, milk and sugar. You will also need to set up the meeting room including audio visual equipment. Clean-up duties (between 11:45 - 12:15 pm) include cleaning and putting away pots and supplies, loading the dishwasher and cleaning up the meeting room.

Volunteers are needed for all training classes and if you volunteer please feel free to stay for the training class. You may volunteer for either set-up or clean-up or both.

This is a great way to get volunteer hours and to meet the NEW Master Gardener Training Class.

I am taking volunteer requests for specific Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 5th through April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please contact me, Sally Dillon, [sallysgarden9@hotmail.com](mailto:sallysgarden9@hotmail.com) with your choices.

We greatly appreciate all of your help.



## SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

by Devra Boesch

As you come across one-time events in the County that could be considered opportunities for the Master Gardeners to participate in, please contact me at fboesch@erols.com or 301-371-6410. I will send out an announcement and request for volunteers on the LISTSERV and the Newsletter. Those interested in participating in any of these one-time events may contact me for details. I will help organize volunteers for the Special Events we agree to participate in. There is no guarantee that the Master Gardeners will participate in each and every event, but I hope you will contact me to volunteer to participate in those events that appeal to you!

Here are some upcoming Special Events for 2009:

**Ag Week** at the FSK Mall is from February 16 - February 21. Alma Boyer is the person in charge of this event and she is soliciting Master Gardeners to "man" a table during that week. Please see the AG Week paragraph for all the details.

**'Waste Not'** at the Frederick High School on March 28<sup>th</sup>. 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. Is anyone interested in taking the Master Gardener display board to this event?

**Earth Day** is April 22. Last year we set up a display in Winchester Hall for that week. Robin Santangelo will have the Frederick County Commissioners issue a Proclamation on April 21 at 8:30 at Winchester Hall. Any and all Master Gardeners are encouraged to attend. Looking for a volunteer to set up the display board and hand-outs on April 17 and take down on April 27.

**Growing Native Effort** - John Smucker of Stream-Link Education is helping Fountain Rock Park organize an event on May 30 that will have a focus on the environment and will also include some on the history of the park. Would someone like to volunteer to set up the Master Gardener table and take hand-outs to this event?



## AG WEEK

I am again announcing and requesting volunteers for Master Gardeners to work the table at the FSK mall during the week of **Feb. 16 thru Feb. 21**.

Do you have a particular area of interest? Perhaps the topic you presented at the end of your MG training class?

Ag Week will not involve making a presentation on stage - simply manning a table with a particular topic of interest. Each person can present his or her own topic in the way he or she wishes. An attractive, easy to understand, eye-catching display is best. It does not have to be complicated.

I can have a TV with a DVD/CD player available. I do not plan on having a computer, but if you have access to a wireless laptop and wish to bring it *for your own use*, that would be great.

There has not been much info forthcoming as to our location in the mall, hours, etc., but since we have limited time to prepare, I am going ahead with my own ideas.

Please e-mail me if you have materials or info on, or are willing to prepare, any of the following topics:

- indoor plants, landscaping, shrubbery, trees
- why flowers have color, flower arranging
- vegetable gardening
- Junior Master Gardeners
- historic gardening (could be in Colonial times or early Frederick County), "victory gardens"
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- garden plots available for rent (name of contact)
- water cycle
- working with the elderly
- composting, soil testing, bugs and insects
- invasive plants
- plant clinic
- other topics of interest -

I anticipate two shifts each day Monday thru Saturday, one in the afternoon and one in the

## AG WEEK (continued)

evening. It would be best to have at least two people per shift. If you have a special buddy in our group, you could work together.

Time spent preparing information, traveling to and manning the booth will count towards your required volunteer hours for the year.

I am happy to report that Lois Royer will be working on Wednesday. Her main area of interest will be Vegetable Gardening. Other Master Gardeners may also present information on Vegetable Gardening on another day if they wish.

I look forward to being overwhelmed with ideas and volunteers for Ag Week!

Alma Boyer, [aboye3@verizon.net](mailto:aboye3@verizon.net), 301-845-8414



## SPRING 2009 SEMINAR SERIES

Spread the word!!!! File copies of the Spring 2009 Seminar brochure and poster were emailed to Master Gardeners via the listserv. You may also view and/or print the brochure on the Frederick County Master Gardener website, [www.frederick.umd.edu/MG](http://www.frederick.umd.edu/MG) and then click on Spring Gardening Seminars.

---

### Master Gardener Spring 2009 Seminar Series

Thursdays, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
330 Montevue Lane. Frederick, MD  
For reservations call 301-600-1595  
Cost: \$10. Per seminar or \$50 for all six

### The Seminar Schedule

#### **February 19 Getting a Head Start: Pruning and Soil Preparation.**

*Ted Lambert and Tony Murdock* Tools, techniques, seed and plant resources, and prepping for spring. Extra effort now will make your gardening easier.

#### **March 5 Eating Well from Small Spaces: Growing your family's produce.**

*Moirra Weldon and Ted Lambert* You don't need a farm to grow vegetables, herbs and fruits. With a little effort

and a partially sunny location, you can supply your family's produce all summer. Learn techniques and varieties that will grow in a small footprint or in containers.

**March 19 Turf Alternatives: How to go Native**

*Jim Gallion* Explore a variety of functional landscape elements and alternatives. Provide year round interest, encourage birds and butterflies, and relief from the routine of mowing and watering.

**April 2 Buying Your Plants: When, What, and How.**

*Phyllis Heuerman* When and where to purchase plants in the spring. What to look for in a healthy plant and how to treat them when you bring them home. Which plants do well in our area and the conditions they need.

**April 16 Do-it-Yourself Water Projects for the Garden**

*Lea Allen (Guest Speaker, Landscape Designer)* Design, install and maintain a simple self-sustaining natural pond. Learn how to layout your pond, the materials you will need and the subtle tasks you will have to perform to keep it alive.

**April 30 Sedum Gardening: Containers and techniques**

*Linda Moran* Learn how to use the versatile and drought-resistant sedum in your garden. Create your own container garden for year round enjoyment. Bring a trowel and a round, oval or oblong container 5-6" tall by 8-12" wide with drainage. **Additional fee for Materials - \$8.00**

Visit [www.frederick.umd.edu/MG](http://www.frederick.umd.edu/MG)



**SUNSHINE**

Please contact Avonell Watson, [aswatson2@verizon.net](mailto:aswatson2@verizon.net), 301-834-7269, with news of births, illness, etc. in our Master Gardener group. A card or call contact in the name of the Frederick County Master Gardeners will be made and the group at large will be notified. Thanks so much.

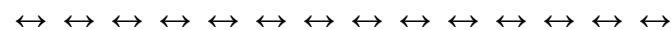


**GROW IT, EAT IT CLASSES**

Information on Train the Trainer Vegetable Gardening Classes was in the 2009 January Newsletter and can be found on Maryland Master Gardener website:

<http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/GrowTTT/index.cfm>

The registration deadline for Frederick County is February 17<sup>th</sup>.



**MARYLAND MASTER GARDENER STATE MEETINGS:**

**STATEWIDE BAY-WISE MEETING**

**January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting was postponed due to snow threat. New meeting date is:**

**Tuesday, Feb.3, 2009, 10 am – 1 pm**

[MD Dept of Agriculture](#), 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy, Annapolis, MD 21401

The Bay-Wise program is one of the strongest state-wide Master Gardener programs. Participating counties have adapted the state Bay-Wise materials and developed their own unique approaches to helping homeowners achieve and maintain sustainable landscapes.

Many Bay-Wise participants have expressed a desire to get together with MGs in other counties

**MARYLAND MASTER  
GARDENER  
STATE MEETINGS (continued):**

who are also working with this program to share their experiences, approaches and materials.

Following up from our Nov 18 meeting, Bay-Wise representatives from different counties and Baltimore City will get together on February 3, 2009 to work on materials they use in common and determine how to fund them. Other policies and issues of statewide importance will be discussed.

Coffee and snacks will be provided, but please bring your own bag lunch and drink.

No need to RSVP, but if you could let Robin know you're coming, it would be helpful. 410-531-1754; [rmhessey@umd.edu](mailto:rmhessey@umd.edu).

**GROW IT, EAT IT PLANNING MEETING  
Thursday, Feb 19; 10am-2pm, 4H Center in  
College Park**

We hope that all interested MG's will join us at this planning meeting. You don't need to RSVP, but if you could contact Robin Hessey ([rmhessey@umd.edu](mailto:rmhessey@umd.edu); 410-531-1754) to let her know you are coming, it would be helpful. We will supply coffee and some light snacks. Please bring a bag lunch and a drink.

We are trying to establish a network of beginning and experienced food gardeners in order to create a million new food gardens in Maryland. To do this we are starting by training MGs to teach the public how to food garden, present as many programs as we can throughout the state, and link all participants to a Grow It Eat It network.

This interest seems to have arisen by what we are hearing from the public. The economy seems to have created a tremendous resurgence of folks who want to try and grow some of their own food. The MGs in the room overwhelmingly expressed the desire to have this be the focus for the MG program statewide for 2009. Who better than MG's to help folks plan and implement simple vegetable gardens all over the state.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, February, 10, 2009, 10 am-1 pm, HGIC**

MG's from across the state gather to work on our on-going state Strategic Plan. Whether you've participated before or are new to the process, now would be an excellent time to join us as our subcommittees really begin their work. We have many areas that could use your input and your help. You'll also learn what is going on all over the state. Decisions made at these meetings are greatly changing and improving almost every aspect of the MG program on both the city/county and state levels.

It is very important that we have someone from every county participating in this process, because this is a "ground-up" process. The plans we make are the plans MGs want and need- so come to a meeting, see what's going on, and voice your opinion. Contact Robin Hessey ([rmhessey@umd.edu](mailto:rmhessey@umd.edu); 410-531-1754) to let her know you are coming

---

*Equal Opportunity Employer/Equal Access  
Programs*