FREDERICK COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Monday, Wednesday & Thursday Help Desk, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
May 4, 6, 12, 18, Advanced Training, *Ask a MG Practicum*** Registration Deadline: April 27
May 5, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting
May 12, 10:00 a.m., Monthly Meeting, *Vegetable Talk by Moira Weldon and Ted Lambert*
May 20, 1:30 p.m., Photography Committee Meeting
May 28, Master Gardener Annual Training Day- registration deadline extended to May 4
June 4, 11, 25, Advanced Training, *Plant ID/Taxonomy***, Howard County, Registration Deadline: May 27
June 8, 10, 12, Baywise Training, Frederick and Washington Counties
June 9, 6:00 p.m. Plant Exchange and Potluck, *Botany for Gardeners Lesson III by Susan Trice*
June 10, 17, 24, Advanced Training, *Landscape Horticulture: Flowering Shrubs***, St. Mary's Co., Registration Deadline: June 3
June 17, 7:00 p.m., Photography Committee Meeting
June 23, Advanced Training, *Entomology-Getting Intimate With Your Foe* ** Carroll County, Registration Deadline: June 16
July 8, 1:30 p.m., Photography Committee Meeting
July 13, 20, 27, Advanced Training, *Landscape Horticulture: Ornamental Trees & Vines***, Queen Anne's County, Registration Deadline: June 9
July 14, 7:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting, *Botany for Gardeners Lesson IV by Susan Trice*
July 15, Second quarter volunteer sheets due; Chair reports due
July 15, 22, 29, Advanced Training, *Landscape Horticulture: Shade Trees***, Prince George's County, Registration Deadline: July 8
August 4, 12:30 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting
August 11, 10:00 a.m. Monthly Meeting, *Carnivorous Plants by Regina Baker, Intern*
September 8, 7:00 p.m., Monthly Meeting, *Bartlett Tree Expert, Dan Yates*
September 9, 7:00 p.m., Photography Committee Meeting
September 18-26, The Great Frederick Fair

** Advanced Training. Refer to mastergardener.umd.edu/Advanced Training for details. Some courses will be held in additional locations.

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TRICE'S TIDBITS:

Hello all,

As I write this I am sitting at home enjoying the first day of my vacation. As you can see, I have a hard time separating myself from you. I also take my responsibilities seriously and this newsletter is one of them. For this one time, I am merely going to do some proofreading and perhaps a little bragging.

Did you know that I have answered the most eXtension questions in the state? I had the opportunity to address a session at the State Maryland Cooperative Extension conference because of it. Of course, most of the questions coming in are 'horticulture related'. I enjoy doing them and can access them from any computer.

Did you also know that we have one of the best Master Gardener groups in the state? I may be a little biased here. I am so proud of all of you. No matter how significant or insignificant your role, it's important to the success of our program. Many of you are doing things behind the scenes, stepping up to the plate, making plans, implementing them, pooling our resources and the like. You guys make me look good. And, I thank you sincerely. Today, I received my yearly faculty evaluation. I actually received the coveted distinction of achieving the 'Outstanding' rating from my three supervisors. This entitles me to feel proud and appreciated. Before the financial crisis, it also entitled me to some merit pay. But, money doesn't mean everything. I just know that I try to do my best and I believe in our mission. The pride I feel for you as your Coordinator in conjunction with the chance to fulfill my role as the Horticulture Educator, can not be matched. I also appreciate the many notes of well wishes all of you extended to me for my break. I hope that my RAM will have a chance to clear and will be functioning much better when I return and re-boot.

Please keep checking other parts of the website for information concerning our activities.

With that, I will see you all on Tuesday, the 12th for the monthly meeting.

Susan Trice

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NOTES FROM MARY RIESCH;

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday May 12th, at 10:00 a.m. The Business meeting will follow the educational presentation.

Contact Mary Riesch mkrdesigns@aol.com or 301-2712-9290:
If you would like to be a moderator for the May meeting. It's easy and fun.

If you have an item for the meeting agenda. Do you have a brief committee update or announcement?

If you have an 'Adventure in the Garden' to show.

BAY- WISE Training

(County groups joined for each session)

June 8 -- Washington County Extension
9am-3:30pm 7303 Sharpsburg Pike
Boonsboro, MD 21713

June 10 Frederick County Extension
9am-3:30pm 330 Montevue Lane
Frederick, MD

June 12 Certifications
9am-12 noon

Fee: $45.00 includes all materials

Please, bring a lunch. A small snack, coffee, and tea will be available. (We often watch a video about Bay-Wise stuff while we eat).
Email me to sign up mulchmover@comcast.net

Send your check made to '**Frederick County EAC'** to 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD, Attn: Bay-Wise Training.

Elyse Phillips

Bay-Wise Committee Chair

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Update for MAY Newsletter

By Devra Boesch, contact fboesch@erols.com or 301-371-6410

Thanks so much to Elyse Phillips (Going Green, First Saturday in March), Julia Cubit and Chris Judd (Waste Not in March), and Lois Royer, MJ Pavelko-Snyder and Moira Weldon (Day in the Garden in April). I am sure all of those events and the sponsors appreciated your efforts!

If you missed an event, here are some more one-time events that only last a few hours, but are full of fun! Those MGs interested in participating in any of these upcoming events may contact me (or the MG listed) for details.

Billie Homburg has volunteered to set up a Master Gardener table at Fountain Rock Park on **May 30** for their **"Nature Fest"** and she would appreciate any other MGs who would like to assist.

Lloyd Taylor, the manager at **Southern States Brunswick**, is still interested in the MGs doing something on site this spring. Janet Madsen will probably participate, but is looking for more MGs to volunteer before a firm date is set. Any takers?

Lee Royer may be working with Andy Highland of the Small Farmers group at this year's **Growing Green Field Day**. This year's event will be from noon - 4 on Sunday afternoon, **July 12th** at Fox Haven Farm in Jefferson**.** The MGs participated with a display board last year, and the farmers plan to have a lot more displays and farm booths for the community to enjoy and draw a larger crowd.

NEWSPOST ARTICLE

Grow It: Planting a Food Garden

Sherry Rodeheaver, Special to News Post

The next time you pick up that bag salad at the grocery store and lament its wilted contents, consider this: that bag has travelled an average of 1500 miles from "field to fork". At today's diesel prices, that is about $512 in fuel to get it here. So, not only is it expensive, but the end product has often lost its appeal by the time it hits the supermarket shelves. What to do? Why not grow your own food garden and have delicious, fresh produce for 6 to 9 months of the year?

Before beginning, remember that a little planning goes a long way toward success. How much space is required? What should I plant? Start small and leave room for expansion. An 8 ft X 8 ft garden can yield up to $175-300 of fresh produce in one season! No space for a garden? You can plant in containers on a deck or patio that receives at least 6 hours a day of direct sunlight. Plant what you like to eat. There are many tasty, easy-to-grow vegetables: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, beans, lettuce and leafy greens such as kale and chard.

Now that you have a plan, think about the four S's of food gardening: Site, Soil, Seeds and Sustainability.

Site:
The placement of your garden is as important as what you grow in it. Chose a location that is fairly level to minimize water/soil/nutrient runoff. Be sure to have a water source close by, as having to carry water may end your budding career as a food gardener. Southern exposure is best, to ensure plants get plenty of sunlight. Rabbits, groundhogs deer and other animals can seriously affect your crop yields, so you may want to put a fence around your garden. A good barrier, a fence also acts as a trellis for plants needing support, such as beans and peas.

Soil:
Here in our region we have clay, which is heavy and drains poorly. Soil can be improved by the addition of organic matter such as compost, farmyard manure, shredded leaves and chemical-free grass clippings. A sample should be obtained to determine the exact composition of your garden soil. The University of Connecticut offers a complete soil test for about $8 which includes lead testing, a must for any garden where food will be grown. Visit their website at www.soiltest.uconn.edu for more information.

Seeds:
Choose seeds that are packaged for the current growing season. Follow directions on seed packet for optimum results. Once plants come up, remember to thin them as directed. It is hard to 'waste' plants, but ultimately you will have a better crop if the remaining plants are given adequate room to grow. Buying transplants gives your garden a jump start, but be sure to purchase only healthy plants without signs of disease or pests.

Sustainability:
Nitrogen is the element which gives plants their dark green color and stimulates rapid growth. "Meals" (fish, cottonseed, alfalfa) are good nitrogen sources and may be used as soil supplements. When using fertilizer, follow the instructions on the label, and apply to the soil around the base of the plant to prevent leaf burn. Soaker hoses and drip systems are highly recommended. They minimize water use and deliver water slowly to the root system. Cover the hoses with mulch to prevent evaporation. Weeds are inevitable, but use of mulch and a little elbow grease can keep them manageable.

For more information please visit the Home and Garden Information Center at hgic.umd.edu and click on the "Grow it, Eat it" logo.

GROW IT EAT IT
Maryland's Food Gardening Network

Equal Opportunity Employer/Equal Access Programs