

Frederick County

Master Gardener Newsletter



Have a Happy Green Holiday!

December 2009

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attention! 

**December 15th
- DEADLINE
for getting your
volunteer sheets
submitted.**

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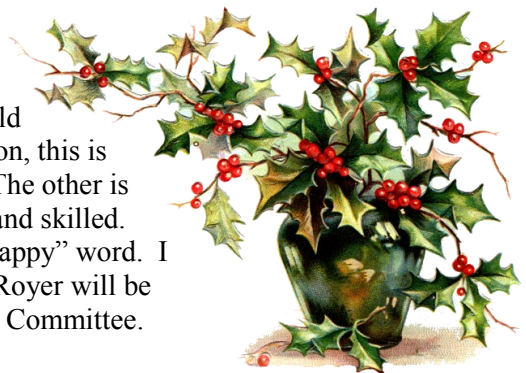
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Trice's Tidbits

Happy! Happy! Happy! That seems to be the magic word these days. To be politically correct during the holiday season...we say *Happy Holidays!* However, I would like to add "Congratulations" to the mix. Congratulations to all of you on another successful year. Most of you have done a tremendous amount of work to carry out our mission, which, please not later in this newsletter has changed a bit. In January, some of you will be recognized for your 3, 5 and 10 year milestones. This includes the classes of 2000, 2005, and 2007. Yes, my first class is now ready for their three-year pins! Can you believe I have been here that long? My first day was December 6, 2006. The transition team already had the class lined up and ready to go. All I had to do was come in, look like I knew what I was doing, and learn as I went along.

My analogy as to how I would be functioning as your Coordinator was right on. I said to look at me as a "Train Conductor" who strolls from one car to the next. Each car represents a committee. I check to see if the car is on track and moving along smoothly. If I saw the need to question, make suggestions or remind you of a few things, I would do that. As times have changed, we have had to adjust, too. You have done that very well because all of you have the mindset of a Master Gardener who is here because you believe in what we are doing. You are all 'team players.' You all have terrific positive attitudes. I have often witnessed meetings where several different opinions have been expressed, discussed and voted upon. Not once have I heard of anyone sulking outside of a meeting room. I have witnessed folks who weren't afraid to give something a try. When folks needed help with something, they spoke up and asked for help. Those who took on responsibilities took them seriously. And, if life got in the way, they let us know so we could find a replacement. In my opinion, this is one of the keys to our success. The other is the fact that you are so talented and skilled.

Let's get back to that "Happy" word. I am happy to announce that Lee Royer will be serving as Chair of the Advisory Committee.





Elyse Phillips has taken on the task of recognizing folks at the January meeting. Dawne Howard will be handling the incoming applicants for the 2010 Class. So, between December 21st and January ?, when I return from leave, your questions can be directed to one of these three people. I'll be in constant communication with Jenna if you have other needs. Though the evening is to recognize you and your accomplishments, I really want to be there and will try my best to put in an appearance. I'll probably need a box of tissues!

Volunteer Hours: Last call for the volunteer hours. They are due December 15th. Avonell and Audrey are anxiously looking forward to entering your hours so we can determine if you are still in good standing and receive credit for another year.

Activity Booklet: In an effort to create something to showcase the many activities we do and the impact we make upon the residents of Frederick County and other areas to our County Commissioners, Dawne Howard (EAC Representative) and I created an activity booklet. It can probably use some improvement, but it's a start. Copies will be available at the December meeting. Other copies will be made for the 2010 classes. If you would like a copy, let me know. I will get that ready for you and let you know when it is ready for pick-up.

News Articles: If you have been reading the papers lately, you probably noticed that at least one person reads them and took the time to share his opinion in a letter to the editor. Joan Kobetz did a wonderful job of pushing a point pretty hard in her article titled, 'Tackling the Green Monster.' Just as with forcing open a tight jar lid, sometimes we have to apply extra force to get it to budge. Please keep in mind that we do teach people how to have lawns that are Bay-Wise. Our stand is that we are giving the public 'research based' accurate information. On a more positive note, we get lots of positive feedback from our articles. They are also posted on the Emmitsburg.net web site. According to Michael Hillman, we generate about 3,000 to 3,500 hits per day! Many thanks go to those of you who wrote articles in the past and present. Check it out. On the home page, click on 'Master Gardener' and use the search function or index. There is a ton of excellent information in there.

Fall Seminar Series: Many thanks go to the seminar series committee headed by Linda Moran. It seems they were able to arrange for another successful series. I think they were all excellent. It is a great feeling to see people smiling, and having fun while learning at the same time. I also wish to thank all of the people who work behind the scenes, so to speak. The committee members, who come to set up and run the programs, meet and plan the events, create the brochures and flyers, and solicit donations. Many of you donated evergreens for the last seminar which was wonderful. There was some evergreen leftover which will be used on Monday by the 4-H'ers so nothing will go to waste.

Youth Gardening Conference: Growing Gardens into Programs: Did you ever wonder why several phases of Extension were working with youth about 'youth gardening' and how they coordinate their activities? For instance, we have a Junior Master Gardener program, as does 4-H. Some of the Family and Consumer Science folks are teaching about 'growing food.' All are good things. All are a part of the new framework that groups us into "Impact Teams." This particular item fits into the "Grown Healthy Habits" curriculum which is part of the "Health Smart" and "Food Smart" teams. In an effort to let the left hand know what the right hand is doing and provide direction and resources, there is a conference being held on Tuesday, December 8th. Only educators are invited due to a limit of space. I will be attending along with Donielle Axline, our 4-H agent and Nancy Lewis, FCS Educator. I'll keep you posted and let you know what I learned.

Grant Possibility—if someone would like to take this on: Listed below is a grant passed on from Julia Cubit. Let Lee Royer know if you wish to pursue this.

[Fiskars Project Orange Thumb Grant Program to Provide Gardening Grants to Group Across the United States and Canada.](#)

Grants of up to \$2,000 in garden tools and green goods will be awarded to community groups with gardening projects geared toward community development, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture, and/or horticulture education. Deadline: February 19, 2010.

Susan M. Trice

Our Committees @ Work

Bay Wise Committee Report

Hello all- It's that time of year we set aside for being Thankful and for remembering. Bay-Wise has had a very successful year- our committee is coming on strong, our early Training, landscape certifications both homeowner and Master Gardener, landscape surveys, a presence at the Fair, a successful presence at the yearly Plant Sale and our own native plant sale. As individuals and collectively we answered questions and brought information to many at the annual Go Green and Fox Haven events. So....Thanks to all who are making this committee so successful (if I try to name everyone I know I'll miss someone). I'm proud to be associated with all of you and look forward to 2010 with great optimism.

Dates to remember—Please Update Your Calendars!

April 17- Brunswick Co-op

May 10 & 11- Bay-Wise Training

June 7- Go Green-Frederick Fairgrounds

July ?- Fox Haven

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and May your Holidays be the Most Joyous Ever

Elyse Phillips

Bay-Wise Committee Chair

Advisory Committee Notes

On December the Advisory Committee held a short meeting at which Mary Riesch retired as Chairman and Lee Royer, her Co-Chairman became Chairman. Janet Madsen will be the new Co-Chairman. Harriet Wise and Gabrielle DeSilva are the newest members.

Other members include Devra Boesch, Audrey Cooke, Earlene Duncan, Elaine Feinberg, Becky McMullen, Elyse Phillips, Chris Stimac, Avonell Watson and Steve Roth.

Dates for the 2010 Advisory Committee meetings were decided.

It was decided to give as a door prize at the December general meeting a special calendar. This year's Bach Realty Co.'s calendar contains pictures taken by Harriet Wise many of which are of Frederick County Master Gardeners' gardens. Also at the meeting all present will receive a Frederick County Master Gardener personalized pen.

Susan reported that she attended the 2009 MG Coordinator's meeting. At that meeting there was stated a change in MG Mission Statement: **Our Mission: to support the University of Maryland Extension mission by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.**

SUNSHINE

Help keep our Master Gardeners informed on births, illness, etc. in the group. Send information to Avonell Watson, aswatson2@verizon.net, 301-834-7269. 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 COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 17, 2009 – CONDENSED NOTES

Those attending the meeting were; Ted Lambert, Patti Grove, Natalie Gipson, Moira Weldon, Lois Royer, Susan Trice, and Meryl Benenati.

We are now officially a separate committee with a budget of \$300 instead of functioning under the Special Events committee.

We moved on to a discussion about what worked well this past year, and what improvements/changes were needed.

The fair presentations were successful.

Our presentations as part of the seminar series were well attended .

The library presentations during the summer had mixed results but the county library system has decided not to do adult programming next year due to their budget cuts.

Lois gave other presentations to garden clubs, and we have requests for more, and will continue to do these as people volunteer.

The "Meet me in the Garden" series of hands on learning/planting sessions in the demonstration garden were considered a positive effort.



Based on our discussion the following were chosen as priorities for next year.

1. Meet me in the Garden series:

- Planning a vegetable garden
- Starting seeds inside and transplanting seedlings
- Seed/plant selection and reading/understanding seed catalogs
- Soil preparation
- Seed planting outside

2. Communicating with those involved in community gardens.

3. Salad boxes and plant information at the plant sale and plant clinics.

4. Presentations as part of the continuing education program. We could provide this as requested.

5. Newspaper articles. Writing articles would provide information that could potentially reach a great number of people. Possible topics suggested include:

- Tomatoes
- Community Gardens
- Services provided by the MG program
- Selecting plant varieties from catalogs/stores
- Organic vs. IPM gardening

A topic that is coming up in a seminar or "Meet Me in the Garden" series

6. Attending the state GIEI meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend. Dates are on the state website. The next meeting is January 13 with the 20th as a snow date.

7. Photography. We would like to take more photographs of our activities to document what we are doing and for possible future use.

8. Recruit new members for the GIEI committee.

We plan to have meetings in Jan., Feb., Mar., and Oct. of 2010. We will try a night meeting to see if more people might be interested in attending. The next meeting is for January 6 at 7:00 pm in the Small Conference Room.

Statewide MG Meetings for January

Grow It Eat It – Wed. Jan 13, 2010; 10am- 1 pm; 4H Center in College Park, (Snow date Wed. Jan 20)

Join this on-going statewide committee to help Maryland residents grow more of their own food. This very successful outreach was created to meet the high public demand for food gardening information in tough economic times. Our one-year-old effort is now more organized, has more resources and is picking up speed. However, we need lots of help to successfully bring our efforts to the public. Please join us for this meeting to find out what's happening and be part of the coordinated spring effort.

Plant Clinic Annual Meeting- Thurs. Jan 14, 2010- 10 am- 1 pm; 4H Center in College Park (Snow date Thurs. Jan 28)

Once a year, Plant Clinic (Ask a MG) coordinators and participants gather to discuss what's worked, what hasn't, to share resources and plan coordinated efforts for the coming year. If you are working in or in charge of a plant clinic, please join us. This is a great way to meet and share information with MGs in other counties.

Multicultural Outreach – Tuesday Jan 19, 2010- 10 am- 1 pm; 4H Center in College Park, (Snow date Tues. Jan 26)

The communities around us are becoming more and more diverse. The MG State Strategic Planning group, in turn, has decided that the MG program needs to become more multicultural in its approach and serve many we don't usually reach. We are gathering anyone who can help us- whether MG or not, to discuss and plan an outreach strategy. Please join us if you'd like to be part of this initiative.

- Do you have any helpful resources about these communities?
- Would you be willing to interview experts to see what the best approaches might be (before this meeting)
- Would you be willing to talk to these communities to see what they are growing, what their needs might be, how we can serve them? Anything you can find out before this meeting would be helpful.

For more information about any of meetings above, contact Robin Hessey, 410-531-1754, rmhessey@umd.edu. Snacks and beverages will be provided at each meeting, but you may want to bring your own lunch and drink. Also, please wear your MG name badge.

MG Handbooks make great holiday gifts- don't let any of your friends or relatives garden without one! You can order one online or download a form to mail in at <http://www.mastergardener.umd.edu/handbook.cfm>. If you belong to a garden club or other interest group, please remind them about the Handbook and refer them to the Handbook webpage, or print that page out and give it to anyone you think would be interested in the Handbook.

Get the HGIC Electronic Newsletter for free.

This 6-times-a-year publication will keep you updated on what's happening in the garden and landscape. It's written by HGIC (Home and Garden Information Center) staff and updates you on pests, diseases, vegetables, Grow It Eat It, timely tips and other information useful to MG's and the public. If you'd like to subscribe, just go to the HGIC website <http://hgic.umd.edu/> and click on the link in the middle of the page. If you'd like to see previous newsletters, click on the link on the left called "What's new".



MG CALENDAR



HELP DESK: Every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| December 8 | Potluck and Monthly Meeting, 6:00 p.m. |
| December 15 | DEADLINE – ALL VOLUNTEER HOURS MUST BE SUBMITTED/
ALL COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE DUE |
| December 23-31
January 1 | Extension Office closed due to UM furloughs and winter break |
| January 12 | Monthly Meeting, 7:00—9:00 p.m. |
| January 15 &
January 18 | Extension Office closed due to UM furloughs and MLK holiday |
| February 2 -
April 15 | Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-12:00, Winter Master Gardener Training |
| February 9 | Monthly Meeting, 1:00—3 p.m. |
| March 9 | Monthly Meeting 7:00—9:00 p.m. |
| April 13 | Monthly Meeting, 1:00—3:00 p.m. |
| April 24 | MG Plant Sale |
| May 10-11 | Baywise Training, Washington County |
| May 11 | Monthly Meeting, 10:00—12:00 Noon |
| May 25 or 26 | MG Annual Training Day 2010 |
| June 8 | Monthly Meeting, 6:00—9:00 p.m. |
| July 7 –
August 14, 2010 | Summer Master Gardener Training Class (dates are: July 7, 10, 14, 17,
skip a week, 28, 31. August 4, 7, skip a week, 18, 21, 25, 28) |