Queen Anne's County Master Gardener Newsletter

The Watering Can

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 9 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2008

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September Trip and Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2008

WE NEED YOUR HOURS — Please get those timesheets in today! See page 4.

Trip to Sinking Springs Herb Farm
Wednesday, September 24
Trip includes: garden tour, tea & sandwiches luncheon and a small souvenir
Luncheon and tour cost is $15

We already have 15 people and drivers signed up. We will have cars leaving from various areas. Departure times and places will be decided and announced to participants depending upon where the cars are departing from; and to achieve an arrival time about 15 minutes prior to the beginning of our tour. Our tour is scheduled for 10 AM, followed by lunch at about noon. We will have a brief business meeting at lunch. Driving directions will be provided.

The deadline for paid registrations is Friday, September 6. Please mail your check, payable to QACEAC, to Karen Wimsatt, at 140 Benton Court, Stevensville, MD. 21666. Because we are in between coordinators, Karen will collect the checks and give them as a batch to Sheila at the office so that she can deposit them for us. This is the method she suggested to make it easiest for everyone. If you have any questions, want to make a reservation or volunteer to be a driver, please contact Karen Wimsatt at 410 643-7404 or at deadrise@friend.ly.net

The **October meeting** will be held on Wednesday, October 15th, at the Health Department. Dell Sadler of St. Michaels will speak on natural organic lawn care. There will also be a trip on October 1 — see page 6 for details.

MG of the Month: Nominations Sought

Please submit your nomination for "MG of the Month" to Carol Jelich. Include the activities the MG has been engaged in and a little something more about them. E-mail Carol at jrj_csj@mindspring.com

Coordinator's Corner

The Master Gardener Coordinator position has been advertised! Please advise anyone who might be interested.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

University of MD Cooperative Extension, Queen Anne's County. Faculty Extension Assistant – Home Horticulture (Contractual). Bachelor's degree required, in the related field of interest. Salary/benefits commensurate w/qualifications & experience.

Candidate to administer the horticulture program, provide leadership and educational programs to county residents, specifically the Q.A. Co., Master Gardener Program, provide strong working relationship with community organizations, community groups and agencies that work with horticulture. Computer skills required. Must have automobile and valid driver's license.

Send signed resume or curriculum vitae, copies of transcripts, names, addresses and telephone numbers of three (3) references to Christine M. Johnston, County Extension Director, Queen Anne's County Cooperative Extension, 505 Railroad Avenue, Suite 4, Centreville, MD 21617. Include name, address, phone number, fax number and email address, by: Monday, September 15, 2008.
Position will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified.
EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

Thanks To: All the volunteers who helped with the Queen Anne's County Fair (in order of appearance) — Judy Conley, Linda Sheetz, Carol Romano, Betty McAfee, Jack Doub, Edith Lewis, Kate Greer, Fran Peters, Naomi Buckalew, Bonnie Dixon, Cass Smith, Kathleen Phillips, Judy Geggis, Julie Tompkins, Gayle Jayne, Nancy O'Conner, and especially Sue D'Camera for organizing the volunteers. Thanks to Debbie Pusey for her consultation on the Sudlersville Elementary rain garden, on short notice. Thank you to Debbie Pusey, Cheryl Huyck, Jackie Kelly, Susan Seth, and Cass Smith for helping out in July at Millstream Park.

As always, thanks is due to all of you, but if we missed a deserved thank you or if you wish to express your appreciation to someone, please let Carol Jelich know and it shall be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

QACMG Steering Committee

The following Master Gardeners have accepted responsibilities to keep the program going until a new coordinator is hired. Please contact them if you have questions/info about these areas and keep dialog flowing!

MG Meetings: At present, Sue D'Camera and several others are coordinating meetings. Meeting times are set at the Centreville Health department for Sept 24 (trip/meeting), Oct 15, Nov 19 from 9:30-11:30. The Extension office has audiovisual equipment available if requested ahead of time. December's Christmas party is TBD.

Newsletter compilation: Send items for the newsletter to Carol Jelich jrj_csj@mindspring.com
Newsletter distribution: the Extension office—Shelia Shorter Dorsey sshorter@umd.edu or Sue Wolff swolff@umd.edu. 410 758-0166. Sue D'Camera and Debbie Pusey will provide additional assistance.

Publicity: Karen Wimsatt –deadrise@friend.ly.net, 410 643 7404

Volunteer Hours Entry: Send to Extension Office or directly to Pat Bowell. (410) 212 0114

Distribution of New Handbooks to interns (when they come in): Extension office Staff, Shelia or Sue 410 758-0166

Sales of Season's Best: Handled through Extension office. Neenah and Debbie Pusey will inventory and leave a sign out/sign in sheet at front desk.

Liaison to State Office: Carol Jelich, (410) 827-7759, jrj_csj@mindspring.com.
Anyone may contact State Coordinator Jon Traunfeld, jont@umd.edu or Assistant. SC, Robin Hessey, rmhessey@umd.edu at 410 531 5556, but Carol has agreed to attend coordinators and state strategic meetings if possible.

Extension Advisory Council (lets extension office know what MG program needs are) Roger Tilden, Linda Doub, Sue D'Camera (410) 758-4290

2009 Training Coordination: will be at WREC on Thursdays from Feb 5– April 16th. 9-3. Linda Doub is the contact: jackd@toad.net, 410 827-8613

3rd Thursday Centreville Demonstration Garden Cleanups will continue. Debbie Pusey will advise as to time and location. debbiep@dapelectric.com, 410 758-8623

Plant Clinics
Alternate Saturdays At Chestertown Farmers Market: Dave Gauntt, dvgauntt@yahoo.com, 410-778-4559 or Sabine Harvey, greenbien@hotmail.com, 410- 810-3890. see volunteer page for details. Alternate Wednesdays at Centreville Farmers Market: Sue D'Camera

Bay-Wise Certifications– Annie Ittu, annibay@aol.com, 410-643-5997 or Vida Morley, vidamorley@verizon.net, 410-810-0340

ANYONE MAY SEND MESSAGES TO THE WHOLE GROUP BY SENDING TO QACMG@googlegroups.com

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO!

Please send any changes to Martin Appel at kitraveler@yahoo.com and ALSO to Shelia at in the extension office to print out for Pat to enter.
sshorter@umd.edu
505 Railroad Ave, Suite 4, Centreville, MD 21617
or fax: (410) 758-3687

Sue D'Camera's new email is gardenbear@baybroadband.net

Suzanne Davis's new email is suzannedavis@wildblue.net

TIME SHEET ALERT

Pat Bowell made good use of the hot spell and went in to the office to type in hours (THANKS Pat!) Unfortunately, after putting in everything she could find, there were only 856 hours reported. Last year, we had over 4000 hours! We need to meet and exceed this number in 2008 so that we can continue to convince the County Commissioners that the MGs are a great investment for the community.

Please, do take some time this week to get your hours recorded and sent in – especially interns who are earning their Master Gardener credential. We know the hours are out there, between the open house and the county fair. It will be very helpful to Pat to have the hours now rather than all at the end of the year, as it does take time to enter them into the computer.

You can mail timesheets to the office (Maryland Cooperative Extension, 505 Railroad Ave, Suite 4, Centreville, MD 21617) or email them to Pat at bowell74@verizon.net If you have any questions about codes, just put a good description of what you did and Pat will interpret it for you. You can find timesheets at http://mastergardener.umd.edu/Administrative1/index.cfm There is a "pdf" version that you can print out, and also a version that opens into Microsoft Excel, that you can fill out and email.

Karen Wimsatt also has an Excel version that is very usable. Contact her for an email copy at deadrise@friend.ly.net

Let's get those hours in!

NEWS FROM THE STATE

Carol Jelich and Annie Ittu attended the state MG Coordinators meeting in August. In adition to the new Handbooks (see page 7), there is much to report. We will report at our meeting/field trip on September 24th, and in the next newsletter.

BOOK REVIEW

We all believe that our gardens have some "magical" properties…where else are we so calm and collected, where else can we see the hummingbirds and butterflies feasting on nectar, and where else can we see the beautiful colors of our flowers? I just read a charming little book *Garden Spells,* the first novel written by Sarah Allen, about a garden that has a very special apple tree and flowers have some special properties… nasturtiums that aid in keeping secrets, pansies that make children thoughtful and snapdragons intended to discourage unwanted attention from a potential suitor. It won't teach you anything about classification, gardening techniques, what works or what doesn't, but that isn't its intent, even though there is a list of plants at the end and their special properties, known and understood only by the family that owns the garden. It is available at the Queen Anne's County library.

-- by Karen Wimsatt, MG

RECIPE FROM JULY MEETNG

Pineapple Cake

1 Duncan Hines or other prepared Pineapple Cake mix
3 large eggs
1/2 cup oil
1 can sliced pineapple, with juice
1-1/3 cups water (about)
3/4 cup brown sugar
5 or 6 pineapple sage leaves
1/4 cup chopped walnuts
10 cherries

In a mixing bowl, pour the cake mix. Add the eggs and oil. In a measuring cup, pour the juice from the sliced pineapple. Add enough water to make 1-1/3 cups. Pour the liquid into a blender. Add the pineapple sage leaves and blend until leaves are chopped, about 20 seconds. Add this to the cake mix and beat for 3 minutes or until mixture is blended. Use a 13x9x2 cake pan. Rub soft butter to the sides and rub the bottom of the pan with a thick layer of butter. Sprinkle 3/4 cup of brown sugar in the bottom of the pan. Add the pineapple, arranging it in a pattern. Add the cherries and the walnuts, Pour the cake mixture over the fruit and bake at 375 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until done.

—Submitted by Sue D'Camera, MG

TOXIC CATERPILLAR

The Queen Anne's Extension Office has asked that MGs be alerted to a toxic caterpillar that has been found in a residential garden on Kent Island. It is the puss caterpillar, *Megalopyge Opercularis*. Francis Breeding, IPM coordinator for the Extension office, received a call, visited a garden on Kent Island and found at least ten of these highly toxic larvae. Since then, MG's Barbara Clarke, on southern Kent Island, and Linda Doub, in Queenstown, have reported finding this caterpillar in their gardens.

The puss caterpillar is teardrop-shaped, and resembles a tuft of cotton or fur or perhaps a cover on an insect egg mass. Color is generally tan though it can vary. It looks like a little furball but do not touch!

This is a stinging caterpillar. If any of the hairs penetrate your skin, there can be a strong, immediate reaction, so definitely do not touch. Francis told me the homeowner was pruning a tree and inadvertently brushed against the caterpillars. The reaction was immediate and required a trip to the emergency room. If stung, a recommendation is to try to pull the hairs from the skin using a piece of sticky tape, and ice the spot. If you are allergic to insect stings or bites, be especially careful. Be sure to look where you are putting your hands when you work among your trees and shrubbery.

Here are web sites with more information:
http://neuro.bcm.edu/eagleman/asp/
http://www.bugsinthenews.com/puss_caterpillar_092602.htm

Photos by Stanton Gill

FIELD TRIP OCTOBER 1

October 1, 2008, 10 a.m. From Rooftop to River: Saving the Watershed One Drop at a Time."

Field Trip to Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, Millersville, Maryland, Anne Arundel County. Tour and rain barrel demo.

Free 1-1/2 hour tour – see a variety of bioretention areas on the property: simulated coastal plain bogs; 96 rain barrels; swales and curb removal, green foor, pervious pavement, vernal pool, rain garden, living shoreline, freshwater tidal marsh, Atlantic white cedar bog, riparian forest.

Rain barrel demo – pre-order a kit at discount price of $60 per kit (price has been raised to $80 recently but lower price guaranteed to our group). Kit also can be ordered without a tour.

Tour is open to non-MGs for an extra $5 per person.

RESERVATIONS DUE BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th to Annie Ittu, 410 643-5997, annibay2@aol.com Annie will let you know about carpooling, meeting times, and check handling.

New Master Gardener Handbook Ready to Ship

The new MG Handbook will ship in October. Interns from the Spring 2008 class have already paid for this book with their class fees, and will be notified when their copies are ready to pick up. Other MGs and interns are eligible to purchase the new Handbook at a discount rate of $35. The Handbook will sell for $69 to the public, and to current MGs after December 1st. We would like to place a bulk order for these books. If you would like to order a new Handbook (they are chock full of information and color graphics), please get your check for $35, made out to "University of Maryland," to Carol Jelich by the September 24th MG field trip/meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities: Help Needed!

Adkins Arboretum Fall Plant Sale Sign up is open for the Fall Native Plant Sale. Daily preparation starts on Monday, August 25 and Members' Plant Sale day is Friday, September 5 and Public Plant Sale Day is Saturday, September 6. Contact Sue Wyndham, Landscape Stewardship Coordinator at swyndham@adkinsarboretum.org or call her at 410-634-2847, extension 23 to sign up or call Erica Weick at the Arboretum, extension 27.

Tuesday, September 16, 1:00 p.m., MCE Centreville office — MG Steering Committee meeting. MGs with committee or other oversight duties will meet to make sure the program is running smoothly until the new Coordinator is hired. All MGs who wish to help are invited. Contact Sue D'Camera, Karen Wimsatt, or Carol Jelich for futher information.

Volunteer Opportunity at Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge Butterfly Garden. This is a MG demonstration garden south of Rock Hall. We weed and mulch and prune and sometimes have educational programs with school children. Thursday mornings about 9-12; for other days and info, call Alice Macnow (410) 778-4275 or talk to Dave Gauntt at the Farmer's Market booth in Chestertown. The butterflies are swarming right now, it's a beautiful spot to see the Bay, eagles, osprey, and of course, native flowering plants. Hope you can join us.

Thursday, September 18 – Volunteers needed for "Third Thursday"

Centreville demo garden clean up. "Thank you to Cheryl Huyck, Jackie Kelly, Susan Seth, and Cass Smith for helping out in July at MIllstream. Many hands made the work go much more quickly." Please contact Debbie Pusey at debbiep@dapelectric.com or phone 410-758-8623. to find out meeting location and time.

Through the fall — Kent County Farmers Market Plant Clinics. 8a-12pm, Fountain Park, Chestertown. Every other weekend until fall. Help answer horticulture questions in an environmentally sound manner. A lively, community atmosphere.
Dave Gauntt, 410 778-4559, dvgauntt@yahoo.com or Sabine Harvey, 410 810 3890 or greenbien@hotmail.com will be main contacts.
Dates with volunteers currently needed:
Sept 20—2-4 needed
Oct 4, 18 –2-4 needed per date, weather pending

Wanted...Pictures!

For our scrapbook…digital or hard copy photos of MG activities, preferably labeled with the activity name, date and participants' names. Send pictures to Sue D'Camera or Karen Wimsatt. **For P/R**…we have had some success getting our photos published in local newspapers, Needed are digital pictures with a brief description of the activity, and names if possible. Karen Wimsatt has been trying to highlight our various activities so that the community can have a better idea of who we are and what we do. Keep 'em coming…send to Karen Wimsatt, deadrise@friend.ly.net

September 20th, 12 noon to 3 p.m. MG Bay-Wise booth at Corsica Watershed Awareness festival, Bloomfield farm, Centreville. Please contact Carol Jelich if you can staff the booth for this event. Set up and take-down will make the shift slightly longer than the event hours.

September 20th - Tree Giveaway at Corsica Watershed Awareness Day @ Bloomfield Farm, Centreville. 100 native trees will be given away and assistance is needed from 12 to 3. Tree planting guidelines will be provided but assistance is needed to help folks select trees and answer general questions. Call Cheryl Huyck at 410-758-4806 if you can assist (This is separate from the Bay-Wise booth, located elsewhere on the property).

September 28th, 9:30 to 5 — Rural Heritage Festival, 4H Park in Centreville. We will partner again with Adkins Arboretum at this event, sponsored by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Three shifts starting with set up from 9:30 to 12 noon; 12 to 3; and 3 to 5 with dismantle. Theme of displays will be conservation and native plants and the programs will have adjacent booths
Please call Erica Weick at the Arboretum to sign up. 410-634-2847, extension 27. Earn volunteer credits from both programs.

2009 Master Gardener Training will be at WREC on Thursdays from Feb 5– April 16th. 9-3. Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments. Contact Linda Doub — jackd@toad.net, 410 827-8613

Upcoming Meetings

-Sept. 16th: Steering Committee meets at MCE Office in Centreville

-Sept 17th: No regular meeting — will be replaced by field trip the following week

-Sept 24th: Trip to Sinking Springs Herb Farm. Karen Wimsatt is contact

-Oct. 1: Trip to Arlington Echo, Annie Ittu is contact

-Oct 15: MG Mtg 9:30- 11:30 At Health Department

-Nov 19: MG Mtg 9:30- 11:30 At Health Department

-Christmas Party TBD

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	21	3	4	5	6 Plant Clinic Ctown
7	8	9	10	11	12	
14	15	16 MG Committee MCE	17 NO MG MEETING	18 Centreville work day	19	20 Plant Clinic Ctown
1	22	23	24 MG Field Trip	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 MG Trip Arlington Echo	2	3	4 Plant Clinic Ctown
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 MG Meeting	16 Centreville work day	17	18 Plant Clinic Ctown
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Oct Newsletter Deadline:
Thursday, September 25
Send submissions to Carol Jelich
Jrj_csj@mindspring.com

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Fax: (410) 758-3687
http://queenannes.umd.edu/
QACMG Website:
http://queenannes.umd.edu/QACMG/index.cfm

TRIP TO SINKING SPRINGS HERB FARM
Elkton, Maryland

Plan now to take a trip with QAC MGs to Sinking Springs Herb Farm on **Wednesday, September 24** for a tea and sandwiches tour. Lunch is $15 and includes tea, sandwiches, dessert, tour and a miniature nosegay. See page 1for more information. RESERVE BY SEPTEMBER 6.

Christine Johnston,
County Extension Director for
Queen Anne's County

It is the policy of the University of Maryland and Maryland Cooperative Extension, that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or parental status, or disability. Equal opportunity employers and equal access programs.

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Vision Statement: A healthier world through environmental stewardship