Greetings from Alicia -- your friendly neighborhood Advanced Training Coordinator

Hello fellow Master Gardeners! I would like to take this opportunity to again introduce myself as your new Advanced Training Coordinator. I began this position on January 5th, and I have to say it has been a wonderful whirlwind of an experience so far! You may have seen Jon Traunfeld’s introduction of me in the Home & Garden Information Center (HGIC) January 2015 Newsletter. If you missed that, but still wanted to take a look, you can find it here.

I’ve have had a chance to meet and talk with a number of you already, and I’m looking forward to meeting many more of you. You’ll see me at the Statewide Meetings, Advanced Training classes, and the Annual Training Conference at UMCP on June 4th. Until then, if you have any questions for me, please send me an email at aliciafb@umd.edu or give me a call (410-531-1754). Looking forward to an innovative and productive 2015!

The Master Gardener website has a fresh new look! Check it out at http://www.extension.umd.edu/mg

In the past few months Dan Adler (HGIC’s Web and Communications Coordinator) and I had a chance to create this new look, which is representative of what you will also see on the HGIC and GIEI home pages on April 1st. (No joke!) Our team at HGIC is excited to create what we believe will be a more user-friendly platform to find answers to horticultural questions and concerns.

As you can see below, the Master Gardener webpages have been organized into three main categories: The Program overall, the Training opportunities, and all those resources that assist you in the Management of the program in your counties, cities, and communities. We hope this helps!
The Master Gardener and Master Naturalist 17th Annual Training Conference is June 4, 2015

Many of you have been patiently (or maybe not so patiently!) waiting for more information about this year’s Annual Training Conference. Here are some of the major details that I can share with you now:

- **This year the event will be on Thursday, June 4th, 8:00am to 4:30pm.**
- Just by the way, in case you are wondering, I can assure you that Wednesday, May 25th is the scheduled date for 2016.
- **We will be at the University of Maryland College Park campus -- Stamp Student Union and Plant Sciences Building.**
- **Online registration will begin on March 23rd.** The early registration cost this year is $74.00 and registration after May 8th costs $84.00. Included with your registration is the Keynote presentation, 3 workshops, a Master Gardener Expo (more details to follow soon), Tradeshow Exhibits, breakfast, lunch (with vegan and gluten-free options), and parking.

- **We will be using Eventbrite for the registration process.** Please see Page 4 for more information about this.

- **Our Keynote Speaker is William Woys Weaver, Ph.D.,** who will be discussing *The Kitchen Garden for Culinary and Cultural Research: The Roughwood Seed Collection and Baker Creek Alliance.* (See Featured Speaker on Page 3.)

- **You will have 41 workshops to choose from.** Among many others, the topics include:
  - Native and non-native trees on the UMD campus (Ms. Carin Celebuski will provide a custom tour around campus.)
  - Invasive species updates (Mr. Stanton Gill)
  - Foraging and fermentation (Dr. Bill Schindler will be bringing foraged and fermented edibles to share.)
  - Solutions for planting poor quality nursery stock (Mr. James Urban)
  - Reducing fertilizer on turfgrass (Dr. Mark Carroll)
  - Microgreens (Mr. Jon Traunfeld)
  - Increasing the natural enemies in your garden (Dr. Jerry Brust)
  - Secrets of the pollinators (Dr. Mike Raupp)
  - Growing uncommon fruits (Mr. Michael Judd)
  - Climate change and the native plant garden (Dr. Sara Via)
  - Plantings and native landscapes for Maryland’s bees (Mr. Sam Droege)
  - Exploring the world of spiders (Ms. Kerry Wixted)
  - The most common reptiles and amphibians of the DC metropolitan region (Mr. Alonso Abuggattas will be bringing live critters to the presentation.)

- The Tradeshow will have exhibits from (among others) Meadowsweet Native Plant Farm, Powerful Plants (see Featured Vendor on Page 3), Green Heron Tools, Ecologia, McDaniel Honey Farm, Tower Garden by Juice Plus, Tsarina jewelry, and Forever in Bloom watercolors.

- **Merchandise sales will be handled through an online store hosted by Corporate Exposure. Ordered items will be shipped directly to your home.** A link to the online store will be posted on the Master Gardener Annual Training Conference website. We intend to open the online store on March 23rd. More information will be available soon.

- Please see below for a few examples of the clothing items that will be available for purchase. You will be able to select from options for denim shirts, polo shirts, t-shirts, fleece vests, and fleece jackets -- all embroidered with the Master Gardener state logo. We will also offer a branded tool bag, water bottle, license plate frame, apron, and baseball cap. The apron and cap will also be available with the GIEI brand.
Annual Training Conference:
Featured Speaker
William Woys Weaver, Ph.D.

Keynote speaker and food historian, William Woys Weaver, Ph.D., will be sharing the inspiring story of his Roughwood Seed Collection.

The collection began in 1932 by Weaver's grandfather, but the current existence of the collection is the result of a number of factors -- one of which was the discovery of a large number of very rare heirloom seeds that Weaver's grandfather had stored at the bottom of a deep freezer.

Since that initial discovery, Weaver has spent many years maintaining the collection. He has had many failures, but also many successes. The collection has since grown to include over 4,000 varieties of heirloom flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

Biography: William Woys Weaver received his Ph.D. in food ethnography from University College, Dublin, and is the author of 16 books and hundreds of articles on foods and foodways. He served as Associate Editor of Scribner's award-winning Encyclopedia of Food and Culture, and until recently served as Contributing Editor to Gourmet. He is presently a Contributing Editor to Mother Earth News and The Heirloom Gardener. He is on the board of GMOFree Pennsylvania and The Experimental Farm Network, as well as Director of the Keystone Center for the Study of Regional Foods and Food Tourism. Dr. Weaver has received many publishing awards, including three IACP cookbook awards, and maintains the Roughwood Seed Collection of over 4,000 heirloom food plants begun in 1932 by his grandfather. Selections from the Roughwood Seed Collection may accessed for purchase from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds at http://www.rareseeds.com/store/vegetables/william-woys-weaver

Examples of Weaver's very rare heirloom varieties: Quaker Pie Pumpkin and Sehsapsing - Delaware Black Flint Corn

Annual Training Conference:
Featured Vendor

Powerful Plants is a new healthy lifestyle brand for children. The company's mission is to get kids interested in plants and inspire them to grow and prepare their own food.

Powerful Plants' initial products are an interactive storybook and thirty-six varieties of organic heirloom vegetable seeds.

When viewed using the free app on a smartphone or tablet, the characters come to life to share growing information, preparation tips, and other fun facts. You have to see it to believe it!

Go to http://www.PowerfulPlants.net to see the magic in action!

Look for the informative and entertaining Powerful Plants exhibit at the Tradeshow!
Advanced Training Conference Registration Overview

Registration begins at 8:00am on March 23rd!

To register, go to: https://mgatc2015.eventbrite.com

The event will be password-protected until 8:00am on March 23rd.

I’ve taken some screen captures of the registration pages to give you a sense of what you will see when you register for the MG/MN Annual Training Conference.

You will be able to pay securely with a credit card or you may pay with a check instead. To pay with a check, just click on the “Show other payment options” link under the Register icon. You will then be given further instructions to complete your payment.

I will provide descriptions of each presentation on the MG website before registration begins. You may make decisions about your preferred workshops as you read those descriptions. Then, when you register, you will be shown the titles of the presentations for Session 1, Session 2, and Session 3. (The example below is only for illustration.)

When you register, just select the box next to your chosen workshop for each session. Your ticket will list your chosen workshops -- and your lunch choice too!

On May 18th we will also be able to use Eventbrite to provide you with the room locations for your workshops. If you have questions, contact Alicia at aliciafb@umd.edu.
Educational Resources for Master Gardeners

http://www.extension.umd.edu/hxic

All home horticulture and pest management questions directed to the University of Maryland Extension are answered by our staff of Certified Professional Horticulturists at the Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC). This state-wide resource will provide you with free information and consultation services that will help solve your garden, landscape, and pest problems. You can:

- Send pictures and questions through the Ask Maryland’s Garden Experts link
- Download and view dozens of factsheets, tips, videos and archived newsletters by clicking on the Information Library tab on the HGIC home page
- Diagnose your plant and pest problems by clicking the Diagnostics tab on the HGIC home page
- If you have not done so yet, be sure to sign up for the HGIC electronic newsletter that is sent out monthly to keep you informed of important events, topics, and breaking news. This e-newsletter will alert you to plant problems and pests, new gardening techniques and ideas, and direct you to great sources of information on the HGIC website and other related websites.

In order to prevent anti-spam software from blocking the e-newsletter, be sure to add listserv@listserv.umd.edu to your address book or to your “safe senders” folder. Only HGIC faculty and staff members will post to the Home and Garden LISTSERV.

Grow It Eat It LISTSERV
If you would like to receive the internal MG GIEI news, send Alicia an email (aliciafb@umd.edu) and you will be added to the LISTSERV. You may receive approximately two posts per month.

Grow It Eat It Blog
You can receive GIEI posts by entering your email address in the FOLLOW BY EMAIL textbox once you are on the on the Grow It Eat It blog page. First go to http://extension.umd.edu/growit then click on the blog.

This blog has many interesting posts from various authors. Gardeners just like yourself who are sharing their successes and failures and interesting experiments. Consider signing up today if you haven’t already. If you would like to write for the blog, please contact Jon Traunfeld at jont@umd.edu.

Master Gardener Advanced Training Classes
Sponsored by the State Master Gardener Program

The Maryland Master Gardener Program leads the nation in Advanced Training opportunities for Master Gardeners. This year there will be at least 25 different classes offered, covering a variety of topics:

- Organizing a Native Plant Rescue
- Fruit Pruning and Grafting Demo
- Wild Native Beans & Peas
- Ornamental Plant Diseases
- Entomology-Ecological IPM
- Ask a MG Practicum
- Veggies: Intensive Techniques & Small Space
- Organic Vegetable Gardening
- Native Plant Essentials
- Native Ferns
- Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis
- Native Grasses
- Beginning Native Trees
- Wild Native Seed Collection
- Native Plant Foundation Bed Workshop: Milkweeds
- Winter Native Trees

All of these courses will help satisfy the 10 hours of required Advanced Training / continuing education necessary to maintain a status of Active Master Gardener.

I will also be maintaining the six existing Advanced Training Certificate options:

- Native Plants
- Woody Plants / 200 Common Landscape Plants
- Plant Diagnostics
- Advanced Vegetable Gardening
- Master Composter
- Landscape Design for Water Management

I recently made slight modifications to the certificate descriptions on the MG website, but only for clarification. Any classes that you had previously taken as part of a certificate will still count towards your certificate.

Registration Details
We are happy to announce that online registration for Advanced Training classes is now available.

In the pages that follow you will see that each class has its own Eventbrite link that you will use to register yourself for the class. Many MG county programs have already been using Eventbrite for their events, and we at HGIC also appreciate the convenience and security that this registration platform allows.

In this newsletter I will be providing the information for the six Spring 2015 Advanced Training classes that have been scheduled. I will also post this same information on the MG Advanced Training webpage.

Specific information about Summer, Fall, and Winter 2015 Advanced Training classes will be available on the MG website and also in a MG e-newsletter on May 1st.
ORGANIZING A NATIVE PLANT RESCUE

Presenter: Sara Tangren, Ph.D. Agent Associate and MG Trainer

Registration Fee: $20.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Howard County Extension Office (Ellicott City) and Roscoe Property</th>
<th>Friday, March 27, 10:00am - 4:00pm (Snow Date: Friday, April 3)</th>
<th>Registration ends March 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

For more information and to register: [http://organizingaplantrescuemarch27.eventbrite.com](http://organizingaplantrescuemarch27.eventbrite.com)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Howard County Extension Office and Roscoe Property</th>
<th>Friday, April 17, 10:00am - 4:00pm (Snow Date: Friday, April 24)</th>
<th>Registration ends April 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

For more information and to register: [http://organizingaplantrescueapril17.eventbrite.com](http://organizingaplantrescueapril17.eventbrite.com)

In this class you will learn how native plant rescues provide us access to locally-adapted materials, species that are not commercially available, and to mature, landscape-sized plants. We will spend the morning in the classroom first discussing: How to find worthy rescue sites, what conservation value is derived from rescuing native plants, the ethical considerations of rescuing native plants, some uses for the rescued plants, suggestions for working with property owners, and tips for organizing volunteer labor.

In the early afternoon we will head into the field for a practicum in plant rescue deployment. The property is a Piedmont site which is slated for subdivision development. Plants on this site are in need of rescue, and attendees of the class may choose to stay with the instructor and engage in native plant rescue that afternoon. Prerequisite: Native Plant Essentials (In person or Online) This class will count as 6 hours towards the Native Plants Certificate.

FRUIT PRUNING AND GRAFTING DEMO

Presenter: Stanton Gill, University of Maryland Extension Specialist in IPM and Entomology

Registration Fee: $15.00

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<tr>
<th>MacBride and Gill Falcon Ridge Farm, LLC (Westminster, Carroll County)</th>
<th>Saturday, March 28, 12:30 - 4:00pm Rain or shine</th>
<th>Registration ends March 21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

For more information and to register: [http://fruitpruningandgrafting.eventbrite.com](http://fruitpruningandgrafting.eventbrite.com)

This is an opportunity to learn from experts who own and operate their own productive fruit farm. The class will begin with a lecture on fruit varieties that are good for home production. You will then be able to watch an indoor demo that covers the techniques of pruning peaches, apples, pears, thornless blackberries, and raspberries. The second half of the class will involve a trip out into the field for a demonstration of infield pruning of fruit trees, blueberries, and cane fruit. If you bring your good quality, sharp pruners, you may be able to practice your new skills in the field as well!

WILD NATIVE BEANS AND PEAS

Presenter: Sara Tangren, Ph.D. Agent Associate and MG Trainer

Registration Fee: $25.00

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shad Landing State Park (Snow Hill, Worcester County)</th>
<th>Wednesday, May 6, 12:30 - 4:00pm</th>
<th>Registration ends April 29</th>
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For more information and to register: [http://wildnativebeansshadlanding.eventbrite.com](http://wildnativebeansshadlanding.eventbrite.com)

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<tr>
<th>Anne Arundel Extension Office (Gambrills) and nearby property</th>
<th>Friday, April 17, 10:00am - 4:00pm</th>
<th>Registration ends April 10</th>
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For more information and to register: [http://wildnativebeansannearundel.eventbrite.com](http://wildnativebeansannearundel.eventbrite.com)

With this class we’re commemorating the Grow It Eat It Year of Beans and Peas! Beans and peas not only play a central role in our vegetable gardens, they are a critical component of our native plant communities too. Native legumes are beautiful wildflowers that provide nitrogen to the soil and support many birds, bees, and butterflies. Join us in this class as we discuss: the basics of legume taxonomy, the ecological role of native legumes, the bean and pea species that are most useful for our gardens and meadows, and the conservation needs of wild and endangered sundial lupines.

After the lecture we will take a very special field trip to see and appreciate Maryland’s endangered sundial lupines in peak bloom. This class will give you a greater understanding of our wild native legumes, and you may develop some ideas for using them in your own garden as well. Prerequisite: Native Plant Essentials (In person or Online) This class will count as 3 hours towards the Native Plants Certificate.
In this course you will learn all about the bacteria, fungi and viruses that cause ornamental plant problems. You will also learn about their symptoms, cycles, and controls. In addition to the lecture and handouts, you will receive practical training using both samples and a field walk.

This class will help you become more familiar with the basics of ornamental plant diseases. With this new knowledge you will be more likely to recognize sources of problems in your own gardens and landscapes. In addition, your knowledge will enable you to assist clients at Ask a Master Gardener Plant Clinics. **This class will count towards the Plant Diagnostics Certificate.**

This class may be offered again in August 2015 (Washington County)

**SUMMARY - STATE MASTER GARDNER SPRING 2015 ADVANCED TRAINING**

Below is a summary of the Spring 2015 classes. All of these classes count towards your 10-hour continuing education requirement. Any MG or MG intern is welcome to take any class offered. **TO REGISTER PLEASE USE THE EVENTBRITE LINK LISTED WITH EACH CLASS.** You may pay securely with a credit card or you may pay with a check. If you would like to pay with a check, click on the “Show other payment options” link on the Eventbrite Event registration page (under the Register icon). You will then receive further instructions to complete your payment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Registration Fee &amp; Deadline</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organizing a Native Plant Rescue</td>
<td>UME Howard Co. (Ellicott City)</td>
<td>Friday, March 27 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$20.00 Reg. Deadline: 3/20</td>
</tr>
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<td>UME Howard Co. (Ellicott City)</td>
<td>Friday, April 17 10:00am-4:00pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$20.00 Reg. Deadline: 4/10</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fruit Pruning and Grafting Demo</td>
<td>MacBride and Gill Falcon Ridge Farm</td>
<td>Saturday, March 28 12:30-4:00pm</td>
<td>Stanton Gill</td>
<td>$15.00 Reg. Deadline: 3/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Native Beans and Peas</td>
<td>Shad Landing State Park (Snow Hill)</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 6 12:30-4:00pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$25.00 Reg. Deadline 4/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Native Beans and Peas</td>
<td>UME Anne Arundel Co. (Gambrills)</td>
<td>Friday, May 8 12:30-4:00pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$25.00 Reg. Deadline 5/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Plant Diseases</td>
<td>College of Southern MD - La Plata</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 27 10:00am-3:00pm</td>
<td>David Clement, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$35 Reg. Deadline 5/20</td>
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**SUMMER 2015 TRAINING -- REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN MAY 1ST**

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<td>Mike Raupp, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis</td>
<td>Jon Traunfeld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask a MG Practicum</td>
<td>David Clement, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Mary Malinoski</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Organic Vegetable Gardening</td>
<td>Jon Traunfeld</td>
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