Mistaken Identity…
Ragweed vs. Goldenrod
By: MG Betty McAtee

A....choo!!!!!...a familiar sound from seasonal allergy (hay fever) sufferers this time of year. The culprit is the lightweight pollen easily carried by wind currents for miles from greenish-yellow flowers of the ragweed plant/weed. The yellow blossoms of the native herbaceous perennial, goldenrod, is commonly mistaken for those of ragweed, possibly because both plants bloom at the same time of the year - late August/fall. The goldenrod pollen moves from place to place mostly by passing animals; it is too heavy to be carried by air currents. These native plants provide pollen and nectar for the benefit of over a hundred species of butterflies and moths, plus other pollinating wildlife in the Mid-Atlantic region. Monarchs depend on goldenrod nectar as an energy source prior to pre-winter migration. Goldenrod seed heads are an important food source, attracting over-wintering birds. Finally, many native pollinating bees visit the goldenrod blossoms for nectar and pollen before the oncoming winter season. The below photo shows a Symphony Village natural “meadow-like” habitat in late August, prolific in goldenrod, plus other native beneficial pollinators. This pond embankment was recently mowed. If left intact until early spring, it would have provided food and shelter for active or hibernating winter wildlife.
Hello Everyone!

Well the first day of fall has come and gone. As we look ahead, the next few months we will be working on several things.

⇒ Registration for the Holiday Luncheon is on page 4.  
⇒ Our November meeting will be in the morning at the Centreville Library. Our speaker will be Chester River Aronia and they will be speaking about Aronia. 
⇒ Don’t forget to enter your volunteer hours. It is imperative that all hours are entered into the MG database by December 15th.  
⇒ The MG Directory will be available at the UME Office and at our monthly meetings.

Best,

Rachel

Volunteer Opportunities

⇒ Ask a Master Gardener:

  Kent Island- Please come out and join us from 3:30-6:30 at 830 Romancoke Rd, Stevensville, MD 21666. The plant clinic booth is usually located inside. To sign up contact: Liz Hammond 410-758-2992 er93hammon@aol.com or Deane Horowitz 410-604-0969 deanoch@yahoo.com

  Thursday, November 9 (2 people needed)  
  Thursday, December 14 (2 people needed)

⇒ 2018 Monthly Speakers: I am on the hunt for speakers for our 2018 meetings. If you have any special requests please let me know!

Maryland Grows is the blog of the Home & Garden Information Center (HGIC), a program of the University of Maryland Extension (UME). We educate Maryland residents about lawn care and ornamental plants, food gardening, and the services provided by our statewide Master Gardener Program. Through our website, online Ask an Expert service, and network of 1,700 Master Gardeners, HGIC delivers science-based sustainable gardening and integrated pest management education for better human and environmental health. https://marylandgrows.umd.edu/
## November Monthly Meeting-Aronia

Our monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, November 15th at 9:30 A.M. Our speaker will be Roy with Chester River Aronia and he will be speaking about Aronia.

## 2018 Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 17, 2018</td>
<td>Topic: Dishing the facts on Delmarva Poultry Speaker: Jenny Rhodes and Jon Moyle, UME</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>Centreville Library</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 21, 2018</td>
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<td>9:30-11:30</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 21, 2018</td>
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<td>Wednesday, April 18, 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
<td>WYE Research and Education Center</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 16, 2018</td>
<td>Topic: Native Foraging Speaker: MG Shane Brill</td>
<td>5:30-7:30</td>
<td>Centreville Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 20, 2018</td>
<td>Picnic</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 18, 2018</td>
<td>MG Business Meeting</td>
<td>5:30-7:30</td>
<td>Centreville Library</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 15, 2018</td>
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<td>5:30-7:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 19, 2018</td>
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<td>5:30-7:30</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 17, 2018</td>
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<td>9:30-11:30</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 21, 2018</td>
<td>2019 Planning Meeting</td>
<td>9:30-11:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 12, 2018</td>
<td>Luncheon</td>
<td>12:00-2:00</td>
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Master Gardener
Holiday Luncheon

When: Wednesday, December 13th
Time: 11 A.M.
Where: Chester River Yacht Club, Chestertown MD
Cost: $29 per person

The choice of one Entrée
◊ Broiled Crab Cake served with Red Bliss Potatoes & Medley of Seasonal Vegetables
◊ Grilled Vegetable Ravioli in Garlic Oil with Roasted Red Peppers & Medley of Seasonal Vegetables

Salad: Mixed greens, mandarin oranges, dried cranberries, goat cheese, candied pecans, raspberry vinaigrette

Dessert: Assortment on Each Table

Drinks: Coffee, Tea, and Lemonade

I, ____________________________, WILL ATTEND

_________ TOTAL number of guests, including myself

_________ TOTAL enclosed ($29 x number of guests)

Please contact Rachel for health concerns regarding the meal

All checks should be made payable to QAC EAC (Queen Anne’s County Extension Advisory Council. Please return this form and payment by Monday, December 4th
Grow With Us

Become a Master Gardener

Interested in improving the Environment?
Avid Gardener or wishing you had a green thumb?
Dedicated Volunteer?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, you should consider becoming a University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener volunteer and joining the next class of enthusiastic horticulturalists! This rigorous 40+ hour course is designed to give you the basic information in preparation for volunteering as a University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Volunteer. Topics will include: ecology, botany, soils, propagation, diseases, insect pests and control measures, among others. This program emphasizes community involvement and outreach as well as environmental stewardship. A fee of $200 is charged to cover all costs including the University of Maryland Master Gardener Handbook. This class is held in conjunction with the University of Maryland Extension in Dorchester, Talbot and Queen Anne’s Counties.

Classes are held: February 22 - April 21, 2018
Thursday Evenings 5:30 to 8:30 P.M.
Saturday Mornings 9:00 to Noon
Location: Eastern Shore Higher Education Center, Wye Mills

For More Information Contact-
Queen Anne’s County Master Gardener Coordinator
Rachel Rhodes
(410) 758-0166
rjrhodes@umd.edu

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all persons and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religious ancestry or national origin, material status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.
Recording MG Hours

It’s time to go into the Online Tracking System (OTS) and record all of your 2017 hours. Please don’t delay. This is an essential responsibility of all UME Master Gardeners. In 2016, QAC MG’s recorded 2,485 volunteer service hours! This equated to $58,546 in monetary value to Queen Anne’s county residents. I can’t wait to see and share our results with our State MG Program and other MG Coordinators.

Here are a few reasons why every MG should faithfully record their volunteer/continuing education service hours and contacts:

1. This is your program! These are your hours that we ask you to record. They can help you see what you have accomplished over the past year and where you have put your time and effort.
2. Only through accurate record-keeping can we determine when you reach Master Gardener status and whether you maintain that status year to year. The OTS tells us when you have reached milestones, so that your efforts can be recognized. The recorded hours provide a comprehensive picture of MG program areas that are thriving or areas that may need revitalization.
3. Accurate data illustrates to our Queen Anne’s County officials and our University of Maryland administrators that the program is vibrant and worthy of continued support and funding.

To add in some incentive for entering your hours in the OTS, those of you who turn in hours from October 1-31 will have your name added into a basket to win a prize. Additionally, if you came the October Monthly meeting and the October Mentoring meeting your name will be added into the basket. That’s 3 chances to win! The name will be drawn on Wednesday, November 1st and will be announced via google groups. I will repeat this giveaway for hours turned in during November 1-30th. If you attend the November Monthly meeting your name will added in as well. Giving you 2 chances to win in November! The November winner will be announced on Friday, December 1st and will be announced via google groups.

Please remember, all hours must be entered into the OTS by December 15th!!!! This is a hardline date. Volunteer hours can be submitted by logging into the MG database: http://extension.umd.edu/mg/program-management/tracking-volunteer-hours If you need help entering your hours please contact Rachel.
An Easy Way To Store and Ripen Fall Tomatoes

Submitted by MG: Karen Iplenski

A friend of mine told me today “I still have tomatoes...I just picked some ripe ones over the weekend, but most of them are still green.”

I am almost convinced that it should be a federal crime to let all of those end-of-season green tomatoes go to waste, end up in the compost pile or freeze in the garden. It is quite easy to coax a green tomato to turn red (actually, more of a dark pinkish orange) for a winter treat of fresh, home grown tomatoes. First, pick all of the green tomatoes from your garden before a hard frost or freeze. I usually wait until the day before a hard frost is expected. If the tomatoes are very, very green, and still quite small, they will not ripen adequately. So, I generally pick the tomatoes that are closer to full size for storage. It is always good practice however to try to store various types, sizes and degrees of ripeness to find out what works best for you. There are different varieties available that are grown for their better storage qualities. Longkeeper, as its name suggests, is such a variety. It is reported to be able to store through winter and still be good as late as March!

To store the tomatoes after harvest, first wash them. Do not soak them, simply wipe them with a cloth saturated with an antibacterial dish soap and water solution. Then, rinse and dry. Let them sit out on a counter top or table for a day to be sure they are thoroughly dry. Next, wrap each tomato individually in a piece of newspaper, and place them in a cardboard box with a lid. Put the box in a dark, mildly cool place. I put mine in a kitchen cupboard or in a hallway closet. Remove the box from its spot to unwrap and inspect the tomatoes weekly. Return unspoiled, unripe tomatoes to the box, and keep the ripe or nearly ripe tomatoes out for use. Discard any that have spoiled. I place the nearly ripe ones on the top and the greener ones on the bottom of the box. I then return the box to its cozy spot until next week when I re-inspect. I am always surprised and amazed at how red the green tomatoes turn. I am always happy that I had decided to pick those green tomatoes earlier in the month.

Using this method, I usually have tomatoes from my tomato box from November into January. Perhaps the tomatoes would actually keep longer, but we tend to gobble them up before they have a chance to sit in my closet, wrapped in newspaper through full storage life. This year I will attempt to refrain from eating one or two to test just how long a shelf life they have while nestled in paper tucked in a box in my closet. This is a fabulous technique for rescuing end-of-the-season tomatoes and extending your supply of home grown tomatoes into the winter. That being said, I must warn you that although these winter tomatoes are tasty and certainly as good as those purchased in a grocery store, they can not rival the juicy deliciousness of a mid summer tomato ripened on the vine in the hot July sun (but then again, nothing can match that)! Enjoy!
Galilee Garden at Harbor View has almost finished our first year of gardening. We will have our first-year birthday celebration on Saturday, Nov. 4, with a meeting and potluck luncheon. We have added fresh vegetables to many tables, canned or frozen food, enjoyed fresh herbs and even some surprise arugula that popped up, and enjoyed the activities in our pollinator bed. Our watermelon in our specialty bed did not produce well, but the Mexican sunflowers were a hit...with the bees and butterflies and with people walking through the garden. The most amazing part has been seeing people work together to build this garden. Our inspiration started with the president of the Galilee Lutheran Church, Lois Miller, wanting to see a garden on this empty lot and contacting Master Gardener Coordinator Molly who got the ball rolling. Coincidence put me in the spot to take over with the project. I have many Master Gardeners who joined our advisory group and helped with the work along the way. Thanks Deane Horowitz, Karen Wimsatt, Jane Chambers, Lizzie Riffe, Cindy Reigel, and intern Rudy Lukacovic and Tina Schroyer. We had several members of the Harbor View community as well as a few professionals in the area. Our thanks also go to the Boy Scout troop 495 and Scouts Ricky Strucko and Hadyn Blanchard for picking Galilee garden as the place to do their Eagle Scout project. And naturally, without the support and encouragement from all of you, this project would never have made it. Thanks for your help. It is so amazing to look at our garden back in February before we started and what we have now. This past week the Bay Wise team was invited out and we now are a certified Bay Wise Garden. Thank you, BW team, for visiting our garden. We look forward to showing off our new sign and spreading the word that what we do is important for the health of the Bay and of our soil and us because of the food we eat.
Discover Oxford’s Native Gardens on Adkins Arboretum’s Annual “Celebrating Native’s Tour”

The fall garden is a study in contrasts. Fiery color competes with the subtle structure of stems that have shed their flowers. Tall grasses turn golden in sunlight, while berries and fruits hang low on vines and branches to tantalize wildlife. On Sat., Nov. 4, discover the colors and textures of the fall garden when Adkins Arboretum brings its fifth annual “Celebrating Natives” Garden Tour to the Oxford area. The self-guided driving tour features five private gardens and two public areas in and around Oxford, each demonstrating varying commitments to native plantings and uses of sustainable practices such as rain barrels and composting. The gardens range from Preservation Green—an in-town research center for horticultural studies—to a 3.5-acre “sanctuary” garden that takes found objects to a new level, to stands of pines mingled with organic vegetable beds and native perennials on Island Creek. Explore the new Oxford Conservation Park, an 86-acre parcel planted with more than 5,000 native plants and 800-plus native trees and shrubs to provide habitat for wildlife and appeal to local pollinators. Hop on the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, established in 1683 and the nation’s oldest privately owned ferry operation, to explore a rambling 5-acre freeform garden on Plaindealing Creek near the mouth of the Tred Avon River.

The first garden tour of its kind on the Eastern Shore,

“Celebrating Natives” focuses on sustainable approaches to Eastern Shore gardening and exemplifies the Arboretum’s mission of teaching about and showing by example the importance of using native plants in restoring balance to the ecosystem and fostering community relationships. Native plants are those that grew and thrived on the Eastern Shore before the introduction of European settlers. Because these plants have adapted naturally to the region’s ecology of climate, insects and wildlife, they are a better choice than non-native plants. The tour not only highlights the beauty of the gardens but emphasizes their importance in a biodiverse landscape. “Celebrating Natives” will take place rain or shine on Sat., Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are $25 in advance at adkinsarboretum.org or $30 the day of the tour at the Oxford Community Center, 200 Oxford Rd. Check-in will begin at 10 a.m. at the Community Center. Refreshments and restrooms will also be available there. A list of local restaurants will be provided. For more information or to order tickets, visit adkinsarboretum.org or call 410-634-2847, ext. 0.
The October Kent Island Plant Clinic featured a “Halloween” themed display about “Spiders – Friend or Foe?” and bats. Inspired by Emily Zobel’s talk at the recent Master Gardener Meeting about spiders, it was impossible to resist making a display board about the various spiders we encounter almost daily in our gardens and homes. Unfortunately, we didn’t have any live spiders to display, but Deane brought a “bug house” and we put a fake spider inside with some leaves and twigs to make it look as real as possible. We faked out quite a few people, too! We handed out information sheets about why spiders are friends (not foes) to several people, and we had some spider coloring pages for the little kids. It was interesting how some people were adamant in their appreciation of spiders and also how some didn’t mind them but were still “creeped out” by them. I don’t think we encouraged anyone to go home and actually pick one up, but, hopefully, we did educate people as to their beneficial qualities. In addition to the spider display, we had a bat house, and handouts about bat facts and instructions on how to build and install a bat house. We also had a “What Is This” display comparing a human skeleton (very, very small, of course) to the exoskeleton of a cicada. It was a good opportunity to educate the little ones again on insects. Although, our table was mostly geared to children, we didn’t leave out the adults and had several handouts for October gardening tips. The Kent Island Farmers Market was celebrating its sixth birthday celebration which helped to bring in quite a lot of customers. We had one of the busiest months ever with almost 70 people stopping by!! We stayed pretty busy and were thankful that Bob Liss (intern from Howard County) joined us along with interns, Suzanne Eaton, and Barbara Graham. Other Master Gardeners stopping by to visit were Karen Wimsatt, Nick Stoer, and Denise Malueg. Thanks to all of you for helping to make the October “Ask A Master Gardener” a success! The November plant clinic will be held on Thursday, November 9, from 3:30 to 6:30 and will feature a display about composting. We welcome all master gardeners and interns who would like to help out and have some fun with us – so please join us!

For further information contact:
Liz Hammond 410-758-2992  er93hammon@aol.com
Deane Horowitz 410-604-0969 deanoch@yahoo.com

Kent Island Farmers Market “Ask a MG” Schedule:
Thursday, November 9 (Need 2 People)
Thursday, December 14 (Need 2 People)
Bay-Wise Committee Updates
Submitted by: MG Debbie Pusey

October was a very busy month! We certified three public areas: Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC), Wilmer Park in Chestertown and Galilee Garden at Harbor View in Chester. We set a goal of certifying five public spaces this year and exceeded our goal, doing six gardens. Participation in the CBEC certification included Joyce Anderson, Pat Gannon, Deane Horowitz, Lois Noonan, Nick Stoer and Interns Phyllis Eaton, Suzanne Eaton, Barbara Graham and Dora Hanna. Wilmer Park participants included Shane Brill, Kit Foster, Gayle Jayne, Laura Klingler, Ruth Menefee and Louise Shearer.

Galilee Garden at Harbor View is a community vegetable garden organized by Nancy O’Connor. Helping with this certification, in addition to Nancy, were Jane Chambers, Pat Gannon, Liz Hammond, Lois Noonan, Jane Smith and Karen Wimsatt.

In addition, we also had consults or certified a number of private properties including interns Dora Hanna and Elaine Studley. Joyce Anderson, Kit Foster, Barbara Graham, Dawn Harris, Gayle Jayne, Laura Klingler, Betty McAtee and Kathy Sexton also participated in these and other Bay-Wise visits. We are still actively trying to complete as many visits as possible before Thanksgiving. We’ll resume again in the spring.

Thank you everyone for an exceptional year of participation. If I missed anyone, I apologize. The meeting schedule for next year has been set for every other month starting in January on the Tuesday afternoon at 1:30pm before our monthly MG meeting. Dates will be available in the monthly Watering Can. Our last meeting for this year will be Tuesday, November 14th at 1:30pm in the Extension Office. All are welcome to attend.

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Centreville Library Demo Garden Updates
Submitted by: MG Debbie Pusey

The Centreville Library rain garden has been put to bed for the 2017 season. October found us pruning back the large stalks of hibiscus and joe pye weed along with other unruly perennials. We neatened it up for the winter so it won’t be so unmanageable when we start back in the spring. The county has mulched the edges making a huge difference in weed control. They also did some work on the dry river bed in the center of the garden. The area around the outflow pipe has been opened back up, but more stones are still needed for the rest of the bed. Thank you to Margaret Gardner, Judy Geggis, Jackie Kelly and Laura Klingler for helping out this month and to all those who contributed their time and efforts throughout the season. Thank you also to Laura Rocco and Liz Sipala for taking on the Tuesday evening shifts. We receive a lot of compliments from library patrons about how wonderful this garden is. It certainly does its’ job in filtering the pollutants in the storm water runoff from the parking lot. We will resume maintenance of this garden in March or April depending on the weather and will continue with the bi-monthly maintenance on the first Tuesday evenings and the third Thursday mornings.
Class Description

If you think tree identification is normally difficult, you'll probably think winter tree identification is even harder! Actually, the opposite is true. Join us and learn the secrets that make winter tree identification easy enough for beginners to tackle!

We'll spend the morning in the classroom at the University of Maryland Extension Carroll County office, working on our twig ID skills. We'll use a combination of lecture, individual study, and team activities to build our powers of observation and comparison on fresh samples of tree twigs and seeds. We'll use the *Winter Tree Finder* booklet to practice keying out our twigs to species. (If you don't have a copy of *Winter Tree Finder*, don't worry, the booklet will be available for purchase before class.)

This will be a beginners’ class, designed to help people who've either never attempted winter tree ID, or who have studied it and found that it "didn't stick." Accordingly, we'll limit our focus to a dozen species. However, the booklet you use in class, combined with the skills you acquire in class, will allow you to amaze your friends and family by accurately identifying the majority of Maryland's trees – even in winter!

We'll spend the afternoon honing our skills on real trees. We have a field trip planned to view the venerable old trees on the historic McDaniel College campus in Westminster.

Tentative Class Schedule

9:30-10:00am | Attendees check-in and enjoy light refreshments
10:00am-12:00pm | Classroom lecture, individual study, and team activities to facilitate tree identification skills
12:00-12:30pm | Lunch break (bring your own lunch)
12:30-3:30pm | Identification practice on outdoor trees on the McDaniel College campus | 2 College Hill, Westminster, MD 21157

DATE AND TIME

Mon, December 4, 2017
10:00 AM – 3:30 PM EST

LOCATION

University of Maryland Extension Carroll County Office
700 Agriculture Center
Westminster, MD 21157

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-native-tree-identification-carroll-county-registration-38014655859
Winter Native Tree Identification

December 4
10:00pm – 3:30pm

UME Master Gardeners: $20
UME Master Naturalists: $20
General Public: $30

University of Maryland
Extension Carroll County
700 Agriculture Center
Westminster, MD 21157

Find out more and register at wintertreeid.eventbrite.com
Advanced Training Certificates

Did you know that you can earn Advanced Training Certificates? Here’s a complete list of Certificates that you can earn as a UME Master Gardener:

- Landscape Design for Water Management Certification
- Master Composter Certification
- Native Plants Certification
- Plant Diagnostics Certification
- Vegetable Gardening Certification
- Woody Plants Certification

To receive a certificate, a Master Gardener must have attended at least 75% of the required classes, and also completed any of the assigned coursework. For more information visit: http://extension.umd.edu/mg/training/advanced-training-certificates

20th Anniversary Planning

Planning for our 20th Anniversary is underway. Debbie Pusey has graciously agreed to be the program chair for this event. Here is a list of things we will be covering:

- May event with the plant sale
- October social event

**MG History** – MG Linda Doub will be collecting antidotes on these past years being a Master Gardener to put into our past 20 years portfolio. It can be funny experiences-messages that got across to people to change their way of gardening or just what has being an MG done for you. Send to: lindadoub@gmail.com

**Social Event** – Margaret Gardener and Jane Smith will be helping plan this portion of our 20th celebration. Our social event will be in October and will be in place of our Holiday event.

Several other MG’s may be contacting you regarding MG programs that you may have been involved in over the past 20 years. Our planning meeting schedule is in the works. Stay tuned for more information.
Over 25 MG’s from across the Mid-Shore attended beginning Native Tree ID on October 26th in Easton. This class focused on identifying 12 native trees most commonly found in our landscape.
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- **November 2017**

- **November 10:** UME Office Closed
- **November 11:** UME Office Closed
December 2017

- 4 RSVP due to Rachel for Holiday Luncheon
- 13 MG Holiday Luncheon
- 15 MG Hours DUE
- 31 UME Office Closed

UME Office Closed
December Newsletter
Submission due on
November 20th

University of Maryland Extension
505 Railroad Avenue, Suite 4
Centreville MD, 21617
Phone: (410) 758-0166

QACMG Website: http://extension.umd.edu/
queen-annes-county/master-gardener-home-gardening

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University of Maryland Extension

Queen Anne’s County

505 Railroad Ave.

Suite 4

Centreville, MD 21617

Vision Statement: A healthier world through environmental stewardship