Greetings From Jon

I hope your growing season has been productive so far. More importantly, I hope that any gardening disappointments were at least educational! There were many terrific MG projects and programs this summer across the state. Thank you for all you did to support the MG program and educate people in your community. Here are a few items I want to share with you...

New websites:
I just looked at UME’s home page and was happy to see that 6 of the 17 “Upcoming Events” listed are MG events! One of the big plusses with the new Drupal web platform is that articles and events can be posted on multiple web pages, and searched on no matter where you are on the UME website.

We continue to work on the state MG website. Maryland Master Gardener Policies and Guidelines are now posted in two places: under “Become a MG” and “Admin/Reports.”

Online reporting of volunteer hours:
Thanks to our College’s Information & Education Technology staff we will be moving the MG volunteer hours database online starting January, 2014. The plan is to beta test the new system with a handful of MG programs in September and October and work out the kinks. The goal is to have all county/city programs switched by the end of 2013. Training will be provided to the person(s) responsible for entering data and managing the database. Online reporting has been a long-term goal for our program and I am very pleased that we are almost there. MGs who do not have internet access will be able to continue to submit hours by other means. Please be patient as the new system is rolled out. Step-by-step instructions will be shared through this newsletter, the state MG website, and local learning sessions.

On-line MG training:
There have been increasing requests for basic and advanced online training. We’ll be looking at some existing models—basic training offered by the University of Minnesota and Oregon State University, eXtension webinars, and online garden-

(Cont’d. on Page 3)

Using the right URL
by Robin Hessey
The University of Maryland has changed it’s web platform so all of our state, county, city web addresses have changed.

The new state MG website address is extension.umd.edu/mg.

Please check the logos you are using on your websites, printed materials, signs, etc. to be sure that you are not using logos with the old URL (mastergardener.umd.edu). You could use the logo above-with or without the URL; or you could use your city/county version of the logo.

City/county logos can be found on the state MG website under the “admin/reports” tab. You’ll find logos in 3 different resolutions. http://extension.umd.edu/mg/adminreports/mg-and-ume-logos. If you need a different format or a higher resolution, please contact Robin at rmhessey@umd.edu.

Using “Drupal”
Our new web platform is called “Drupal”. MG City/County websites should all be moved over to this new platform by now. Most MG websites are maintained by Extension staff, but a few MGs are also creating and maintaining content for their programs. MGs can be given a University ID to enable them to work in this system, but must first talk to MG coordinator and office staff to get approval. The University hosts periodic trainings in Drupal.
Introducing...Sara Tangren, Ph.D, MG Trainer
by Robin Hessey

We are so pleased to announce that Sara Tangren, Ph.D., has accepted a position as MG Trainer at the state Master Gardener office (located at HGIC in Ellicott City, MD). Sara will be specializing in teaching her passion: native plants, ecology, sustainable horticulture. Sara has a wonderfully diverse background and an expertise in many subjects MGs want to know more about. She doesn’t just have book learning either, she’s been out in the field growing her own natives, propagating, maintaining, studying – finding out what works. She’s also been active state-wide with both native plant educational efforts and in initiatives that that would lead to more local eco-types being available for sale in MD. Many of you have probably attended one of her workshops, or even one of her presentations at MG Annual Training Day.

For many years Master Gardeners in all parts of the state have sought better and more thorough education about native plants and their use in the landscape, in conservation efforts, in rain gardens and elsewhere. The last time the state office offered comprehensive native plant education was in 2005/6 – so we’re way overdue! Sara just started work this month (September) and is already hard at work developing classes for Master Gardeners. We’ll start off in October with “Wild Collecting Native Seeds” in two locations and “Basic Native Tree ID Skills and Landscape Tour” in 4 locations. Each of these subjects will have one class scheduled on Saturday. (See page 4.)

As you probably have noticed, we charge a small fee for all MG Advanced Training Classes. These small fees in addition to funds collected from MG Annual Training day, sales of merchandise and MG Handbooks, a few small grants and a couple other sources, have enabled the Master Gardener Program to fund both my position and now Sara’s position. We’ve worked very hard to be able to do this – but it’ll be worth it for all of the important information and training that Sara can bring to us.

Sara will also be working with the HGIC staff to get more sustainable horticulture and native plant information onto the HGIC website and into our staff’s hands. Between classes and more information available through this website, it is our hope that MGs will be much better equipped to educate the public and fulfill their mission. We are also hoping that Sara can begin to develop on-line classes as well, since she also has experience doing this. So Sara is not a regular “Extension Educator” who goes out and teaches both MGs and the public, but an Associate Agent working with the MG program.

MG Advanced Training in 2014 will look a little different from the past few years since we will be concentrating more in Sara’s areas of expertise.

I am very much looking forward to the upcoming season and year as the MGs, with Sara’s help, expand their areas of expertise into new and exciting areas of sustainable horticulture.

A Note from Sara...

Hello, fellow gardening enthusiasts!
Some of you will already know me from native plant talks, workshops and field trips you’ve attended over the years at the University of Maryland College Park campus. As of September, 2013, I’m happy to announce I’ve officially joined the Home & Garden Information Center team. I’ll be your new Master Gardener trainer, specializing in the field of sustainable horticulture with a focus on native plants.

I’ve lived in Maryland since 1987. My career in plant and soil science began with the study, delineation and creation of wetlands. After that I pursued a career in native plant horticulture, beginning with running a wildflower farm in Davidsonville. I’ve designed, installed and maintained several native gardens and wildflower meadows, with some of the more exciting locations including the Vice President’s Mansion, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. In 2009, I was hired by the University of Maryland Arboretum & Botanical Garden to study a state-threatened wildflower, the sundial lupine.

I’m very excited about our state and its unique and wonderful geology, soils, and plant communities, and I love to share this information and enthusiasm with others. Teaching and public gardening are great ways to do that. I’ve studied adult education methods at the University of Maryland, and taught soil science at Johns Hopkins University. As for public gardening, I’ve put much of my energy and spare time into founding the native garden program at the University of Maryland Arboretum & Botanical Garden.

Together we are going to teach Marylanders how to create and maintain some beautiful, sustainable gardens for our state. I look forward to working with all of you in the months to come, and to exploring with you Maryland’s wild areas and beautiful gardens.
Help Wanted: MG Merchandise Manager

Wanted: MG or a team of MGs who’d be willing to oversee the MG Merchandise ordering and distribution on and before MG Annual Training Day, May 2014. We’ve had wonderful and capable folks helping with all aspects of this, but we’d like to enlarge the job this year and we’d like to get started this fall. We can supply all past ordering and pricing information as well as past time tables, distribution efforts. The following is a list of what the job might entail. It sounds more difficult than it is – and you’d have lots of help.

1. Selecting merchandise to be sold.
2. Selecting a new vendor (our office could help with this once we know what items we’d be asking the vendor to give us prices on. They could be selected from one of the University’s “master contractors”).
3. Determining pricing of merchandise.
4. Obtaining photos from vendors of all merchandise and writing up blurbs for each item so they could be advertised and put in brochure and website.
5. After we get in MG orders, determine total order for vendor.
6. Stay in contact with vendor to make sure we get timely delivery of merchandise.
7. Improve or come up with new distribution system. (We currently take delivery the week before Annual Training Day, pack the MG orders into bags and take bags and extra merchandise to the event for sales before event and during lunch.) We’ll tell you about how this has been working.
8. Organize sales and distribution at MG Annual Training Day.
   a. We could solicit volunteers and tell you how this has worked, but you’d be in charge of them in 2014.
   b. Figure out signage and display.
9. Help with follow up. If MGs are missing items or need to be mailed items, you would help coordinate this.
10. Check invoice from vendor to see if it is correct in pricing and in quantities (based on what we actually received.)

**Time line:**
- Fall 2013 – make merchandise selections, colors etc.
- Late Dec., early Jan. – we put this out for bid
- January – vendor chosen, we get pricing, decide pricing
- Feb – get photos, descriptions of merchandise together
- Mar, April – brochures and web publicity go out from state office advertising what is available
- End of May – merchandise arrives; package up pre-ordered merchandise with volunteers
- MG Annual Training day and day before – oversee merchandise display, distribution and volunteers. You are finished at the end of lunch and you should not have to miss any classes.

If you are interested in being our Merchandise Manager or are willing to serve as part of a team, please contact Robin at rmhessey@umd.edu; 410-531-1754.

(Greetings from Jon- Cont’d. from page 1)

ing classes offered by various groups. Face-to-face training has been a strength of our MG program from Day 1. We can use online training to complement and augment basic and advanced training so we can focus more on hands-on learning when we are face-to-face. If you have expertise in online learning and would like to be involved please contact Jon at jont@umd.edu.

**Staff happenings:**
- UME, Queen Anne’s Co. office is interviewing candidates for the MG Coordinator/Horticulture position and will hopefully have someone on board by the end of the year.
- UME, Charles Co. office received county funding to hire their very first full-time MG Coordinator/Horticulture position!
- Best wishes on a speedy recovery to Esther Mitchell, MG Coordinator in Prince George’s Co. We miss you and hope to see you soon!

Open House at CMREC

Looking for something fun to do with your kids or grandkids?

Come to the College of Ag’s big Open House at the Central Maryland Research & Education Center Farm in Ellicott City (home of HGIC) on Saturday, October 5, 10am-3pm.

This family fun event is free to the public and includes hands-on learning for children, hayrides, bluegrass music, and loads of educational displays (including HGIC and Howard Co. MGs).

Visit: [http://agnr.umd.edu/openhouse](http://agnr.umd.edu/openhouse)
WILD COLLECTING NATIVE SEEDS

Wild seed collection is an imperative step in both native plant horticulture and in plant conservation. We will explore the practice and two important wild seed collection protocols established by the Assoc. of Seed Certification Agencies and the Seeds of Success Collection Protocol. In the afternoon, we will wild collect native local seeds from a meadow/forest edge ecosystem (wear tick protection). You’ll learn how to collect local native seeds (where, when, how much, from which plants) that you might not have access to otherwise. We’ll then return to the classroom for important information on how to clean, label and prepare our seeds for storage.

Some of the saved seed can be used for your own garden projects. The remaining seed collected will be used to make a contribution to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank, where it will be available for local restoration efforts; to the Seeds of Success program for long-term storage in the USDA’s national germplasm conservation system; and possibly to local “seed libraries”. This workshop is your opportunity to become involved in a unique and exciting regional seed collection network.

Primary presenter: Sara Tangren, Ph.D., UME Associate Agent
Registration Fee: $35 (includes all materials)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Field Trip</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UME Baltimore County</td>
<td>Tuesday, Oct. 15</td>
<td>Nearby powerline meadows</td>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Cockeysville)</td>
<td>9:30am-3:30pm;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H Center</td>
<td>Saturday, Oct. 26</td>
<td>University of Maryland Campus</td>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Park</td>
<td>9:30am-3:30pm.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BASIC NATIVE TREE ID SKILLS AND LANDSCAPE TOUR

Learn basic tree ID skills you can use anywhere as we focus in on about 12 natives. We will spend the morning using a mixture of individual and team activities to learn about native trees for use in landscape. Topics covered will include twig and leaf morphology, comparative morphology, species identification, natural history, and landscape use. Although the morning is targeted at MGs who are new to woody plant ID, MGs already skilled in this area will have the opportunity to expand those skills by assisting others. This will be a fun, interactive and discovery-filled class!

In the afternoon we will have a guided field trip focusing first on the dozen species we studied in the morning. You’ll hear from experts why they put what tree where, whether they chose a cultivar or straight species and why, as well as cultural considerations such as water, sun, soil, pH., and compaction etc. As time allows, the tour will include additional species.

Primary presenter: Sara Tangren, Ph.D., UME Associate Agent
Registration Fee: $35 (includes all materials)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Field Trip</th>
<th>Field trip leaders</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4H Center</td>
<td>Saturday, October 19</td>
<td>University of Maryland Campus</td>
<td>Carin Celebuski</td>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(College Park)</td>
<td>9:30am-3:30pm.</td>
<td></td>
<td>UMD Arboretum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYE REC</td>
<td>Tues. Oct 22</td>
<td>WYE REC and/or Wye Island</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Queenstown)</td>
<td>9:30-3:30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UME Frederick Co.</td>
<td>Tues. Oct. 29</td>
<td>Hood College</td>
<td>John Wichser</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Frederick)</td>
<td>9:30am-3:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hood College</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Farm (Gambrills)</td>
<td>Wed. Oct. 30</td>
<td>Dairy Farm</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Oct 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Arundel Co.</td>
<td>9:30am-3:30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Date: _____________  MG County: _______ Phone:___________________ Email_________________________________________
Name:_________________________________________________ Address: _____________________________________________
City: ____________________________________ State: ______________________________ Zip___________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Check</th>
<th>Am’t Enclosed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wild Collecting Native Seeds</td>
<td>Tuition- $35</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please indicate location:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UME Baltimore Co., Cockeysville, Tues. Oct 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-H Center, College Park, Prince George’s Co. Sat. Oct 26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Native Trees ID and Landscape Tour</td>
<td>Tuition- $35</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please indicate location:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-H Center, College Park, Prince George’s Co. Sat. Oct 19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WYE REC, Queenstown, Queen Anne’s Co. Tues. Oct 22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UME Frederick Co. Tues. Oct 29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dairy Farm, Gambrills, Anne Arundel Co. Wed. Oct 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Enclosed __________

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

**To Pay by Check:**

Make checks payable to the [University of Maryland](#).

Please fill in and return your application with check to: MG Classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042.

**To Pay by Credit Card:**

- Master Card
- Visa
- Discover

Your name on Credit Card:_________________________________________________

Card Number: ___________________________ Exp.Date: _______________

If paying with credit card, you can email this form to rmhessey@umd.edu; or you can mail form, or fax to HGIC, Attn: Robin Hessey at 410-531-5567