Welcome...from Jon

Dear Fellow MGs-

Despite the cold and snowy winter MG classes and educational programs are ramping up across the state. We’ve had great attendance at state-wide meetings for the Ask a MG and Grow It Eat It programs and lots of advanced training opportunities are coming your way. I look forward to working with you in 2014 on the excellent and innovative projects, events, and excellent and activities that define the MG program.

Here are some things you might like to know: The Fertilizer Use Act of 2011 was fully implemented Oct. 1, 2013. MGs should be familiar with the provisions that directly affect homeowners and UME turf fertilization recommendations.

Grow It Eat It starts its 6th year! 2014 is the Year of Cucurbits- You can access a cucurbits Powerpoint presentation to use for teaching classes. We are also going to have a GROW100: GIEI’s Food Gardening Challenge for gardeners that should be fun and educational. Details to follow… Btw- last year MGs taught 105 GIEI classes to 2,150 people and the amazing GIEI blog had over 81,000 page views! Please check out the blog- there is an incredible amount of practical and interesting information AND photos. Erica Smith, the blog leader, is always looking for new bloggers and she accepts guest posts.

New online system for recording MG hours- It’s finally here thanks to Ann Lavigna, Calvin Buster, and the database people in each MG program. Ann has been working closely with the state MG office and county/city MG offices to develop and implement the new online system. See Ann’s article in this newsletter (page 5).

Note on volunteer activity categories: All volunteer time spent on Grow It Eat It, including youth food gardens, community gardens, teaching, displays and demonstrations, work in vegetable demo plots, writing articles, creating or

MG Annual Training Day - May 29, 2014

The Maryland Master Gardener Sixteenth Annual Training Day will take place this year on Thursday, May 29 at UMCP (8am-4:30pm), Stamp Student Union and Plant Sciences Building.

As most of you know this is the one MG event you just can’t miss- and it only happens once a year. See pages 3 & 4 for the lowdown on this great event.

Master Gardening for All Life’s Seasons

by Maryanne Arthur

Master gardening is a perennial pursuit. One that spans all ages and connects all people at all stages of life. At age 22 or 92, master gardeners can gain new skills, volunteer in the community, meet like-minded people, fill a niche after a life-changing event and make a difference in this world.

Celebrating 30+ years of service with the UME Baltimore City Master Gardeners, Betty Stran (1982), Mary DeGray (1983) and Al DeGray (1990), fully embody the pursuit of master gardening through all of life’s seasons.

Continued on page 6.

Bringing Diversity to Your MG Program

We asked Kelley Oklesson, a young MG from Prince George’s County with lots of good ideas, to write a short article about attracting a younger and a more diverse audience to the MG program. While she doesn’t cover multicultural aspects, she has some interesting thoughts for us. She shares her ideas on page 6.

Continued on page 4.
MG Identity Items Available

Show your MG pride and bring more awareness about the MG program and all that we do for the community by wearing MG branded clothing.

New this year: The testudo pin “Outstanding in his Field” was designed to represent our College of Ag and Natural Resources. Since Testudo is the UMD mascot and because this sculpture was horticulturally inclined (and outstanding), it seemed the perfect pin and symbol linking the University of MD and the MG program.

In addition to this pin, we’ll have a wide assortment of shirts, hats, toolbag, MG patches, tumblers, fleece vests, etc.

There will be a list of these items with tiny pictures coming to you in the mail in your MG Annual Training Day brochure. It would be preferable to go to state website to see color pictures and get a fuller description of the items.

We only order merchandise once a year, so this is your chance! You do not have to attend Training Day to order - we will send merchandise that’s not picked up back to city/county MG offices.

You can order online or use the annual training day brochure to order (once registration is open mid-March).

extension.umd.edu/mg

Click on “Advanced Training Day” then on “MG Merchandise”.

Help Wanted - MG Annual Training Day

As with every Annual Training Day, the volunteers are what makes the whole thing come together. While we have some key positions filled, there is still more help needed.

Day of:
1. Help with registration and check-in (you must be able to come early).
2. Help with lunch (should only take about 30 minutes or less).
3. Helping sell MG merchandise before event (you’ll need to come early) and during lunch.
4. Help with clean up at the end of the day.
5. Ushers and a few other very short jobs.

After Event
- Someone who can enter evaluation scores and comments into database (5-10 hrs - can be done at home).
MG Advanced Training Day - Featured Speakers

Dennis VanEngelsdorp, Ph.D.

What’s killing the bees and what to do about it is one of the most important topics of concern for MGs and people everywhere. Because there is so much controversy on this complicated topic, and it’s an area of such large concern, we have chosen a U. of MD Research Scientist who’s in the thick of the controversy to help us understand what exactly is going on – to separate the facts from hype.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Dennis VanEngelsdorp, Research Scientist from the University of MD

Keynote Address: Why we Need Bees

Leading apiarist and U. of MD Research Scientist Dennis vanEngelsdorp will look at these gentle, misunderstood creature’s importance in agricultural and natural ecosystems and the alarming evidence of their “mysterious” decline. He will cover the latest theories behind honey bee losses, the evidence supporting these theories, and present ways in which all of us can help ensure a robust and healthy pollinator supply in our own communities. This talk will have important ramifications for all aspects of what MGs do.

Break-out Session - Creating Pollinator-Friendly Yards: hands-on learning activities that can engage the public in restoring pollinator habitat in their own communities. There will also be a chance for open discussion and Q&A about bees.

Dennis VanEngelsdorp, Ph.D. is research Scientist at the University of Maryland, a recent appointment he obtained after 7 years with Penn State University where he served as a Sr. Extension Associate and Acting State Apiarist. Dr. VanEngelsdorp is one of the leading researchers attempting to understand poor colony health. His research focus involves using epidemiological approaches to understanding and (importantly) improving honey bee health. These approaches are multi-faceted, requiring understanding both the etiology of individual bee diseases and large scale colony monitoring.

Currently Dennis is the lead PI and the director of the Bee Informed Partnership (BeelInformed.org) which attempts to identify management practices and environmental factors (such as proximity to different crops) which correlate to higher or lower colony mortality through cross sectional surveys. He is also on the leadership team of APHIS national honey bee health survey which attempts to determine the prevalence of disease, pesticides, and parasite loads in US operations.

David George Haskell, Ph.D.

Featured speaker: David Haskell, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology, U. of the South

The Forest Unseen: Learn how the speaker’s research and study on one square meter of forest for one year contains amazing revelations for our past, present and future. “Invite a great rush of wonder into your life” as you learn from Haskells’ personal and scientific insights. His research and teaching examine the evolution and conservation of animals, especially forest-dwelling birds and invertebrates.

David George Haskell holds degrees from Oxford and from Cornell and is Professor of Biology at the University of the South, where he served as Chair of Biology. His scientific research on animal ecology, evolution and conservation has been sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the World Wildlife Fund, among others. Haskell’s work integrates scientific and contemplative studies of the natural world. His book, The Forest Unseen: A Year’s Watch in Nature (http://theforestunseen.com; Viking Penguin, 2012), was winner of the National Academies’ Best Book Award for 2013 and a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in non-fiction. The book was the winner of the 2013 Reed Environmental Writing Award, the 2012 National Outdoor Book Award for Natural History Literature, and was runner-up for the 2013 PEN E. O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award.

A profile in The New York Times said of Haskell that he “thinks like a biologist, writes like a poet, and gives the natural world the kind of open-minded attention one expects from a Zen monk rather than a hypothesis-driven scientist” (http://ow.ly/ojNZq).

MG Annual Training Day Timetable

• Schedule and registration form will be coming to you in March.
• Online registration will open up mid-March.
• You must register by 5/1/14 to get the $69 price. It’s $79 after this date.
• Your personal schedule, maps, and meal tickets will be mailed to you mid May.
adapting power point presentations, should all be recorded as Activity #6- “Backyard and Community Food Production”

A huge number of hours are recorded under Activity #10 “Special Events” and Activity #12 “Subjects Not Covered Above.” When there is a MG focus or theme for a special event the hours should be assigned to that subject area- IPM, Food Production, Environmental Horticulture, etc. For example, if rain barrels and rain gardens are the focus of a county fair display the volunteer hours should be entered under Activity #4 “Environmental Horticulture”.

Free Stuff- we have a full supply of HGIC/GIEI laminated business cards, MG tri-fold brochures, and soil test bags. E-mail Jon (jont@umd.edu) or Robin (rmhessey@umd.edu) to order them for your programs.

Storm water management fees and offsets- this is a hot topic. Please visit http://extension.umd.edu/watershed/watershed-resources to find the incentives fact sheet (fees and offsets for some counties) that has been published (FS 976). UME’s Watershed Protection and Restoration Specialists are working on a series of fact sheets on all storm water BMPs, maintenance, and also the information for the storm water remediation fees and credits available for each county. You can also check out their new Rain Garden Apps: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id588712983?mt=8 for iPhone https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.uconn.raingarden.ada for Droid

And a special thanks to all of the MG Coordinators, Committee Chairs, and Project Leaders for their hard work and leadership in 2013. We could not have accomplished as much, and as well, without you!!

Resources for Staying Updated
- Brown marmorated stink bug- www.stopbmsb.org
- Fertilizer Law- MDA site- http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx
- Kudzu bug- http://mdkudzubug.org/
- MD Invasive Species Council- http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/
- National Pesticide Information Center- http://npic.orst.edu/

Are You Receiving the HGIC Newsletter?

Not getting the HGIC monthly e-newsletter??
Well, you should be! It’s free and full of good gardening information. We want to dramatically increase distribution this year so please go to HGIC website and subscribe: http://extension.umd.edu/hgic/subscribe-hgic-enewsletter.

Get your county/city residents signed up too!
You can download this handy sign-up sheet for clientele when you teach a class or work at a plant clinic or public event. Ask people to write down their name and e-mail address. Scan and email lists to Jon (jont@umd.edu), fax them in (410-531-5567), or mail the to HGIC. They can also go to the home page of the HGIC website to sign up. Bring a copy of the latest issue to whet their appetite. An archive of newsletters can be found here: https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/resource-library/e-newsletter-archive

Jon...Continued from page 1.

Upcoming Events
February 28- Green Matters Symposium; Gardening in a Shifting Climate: Brookside Gardens (not Manor Country Club) Learn the details and how to register. brooksidegreen.org

April 2- Sowing Seeds: New Ideas for Sustainable Partnerships Between Libraries and Master Gardeners; Miller Library, Ellicott City, MD (See page 6 of this newsletter for more details.)

2015 MG In’t Conference. Go International- Taffy Turner, Montgomery Co. MG, was one of the 20+ MD MGs who attended the attended the 2013 International MG Conference. The conference was an Alaskan cruise and Taffy reported that it was a smashing success. Start thinking about the 2015 conference that will be jointly hosted by Iowa and Nebraska.

Also: Seed Savers Exchange offers monthly gardening webinars that may be of interest to MG’s. Go seed savers. org and choose “education then webinar” from the drop down menu. Follow instructions for registration. Webinars are free. There is also a link to titles of previous webinars that can be viewed now.

Hello and Goodbye
Welcome aboard…
Molly Garrett- UME, Queen Anne’s Co.- Faculty Extension Assistant, Horticulture & MG Coordinator
Mikaela Boley- UME, Talbot Co.- Faculty Extension Assistant, Horticulture & MG Coordinator
Naima Jenkins-El- UME, Baltimore City- MG Coordinator
Luke Gustafson- UME, Charles Co. - Faculty Extension Assistant, Horticulture & MG Coordinator
Dr. Stephen Wright, new Associate Dean & Associate Director for UME

Sorry to see you go…
Katie Dott, who served superbly for three years as MG Coordinator for Baltimore Co. We wish you the best and hope to see you at MG events.

Page 4
**Online Master Gardener Tracking System**

by Ann Lavigna

The following comments and suggestions were compiled from emails and conversations shared by our Prince George’s County master gardeners.

**Facts:**
- Young people and working folks need flexibility
- Young people are very inclined to be involved in addressing social justice issues
- MGs need better marketing capabilities to get information out
- We are in a new social and technological time

**Creative Solutions:**
- There is a new groundswell of interest in the areas of Environmental Conservation, Social Awareness and Diversity in Problem Solving.
- Offer classes and trainings after work (6pm and later).
- Offer trainings online. The University of Maryland could provide the technical assistance needed to enable people to join in to live classes from their homes.
- Start a MG training class for High School kids, call them “MG Juniors.”

Let’s promote Master Gardening programming to high schools, reduce the class fee for students through 12th grade and frame it as a path to community service credits for volunteering in your community. This could be presented as an opportunity for students to have the skills to help those around them as well as a way to learn fun and useful info. This is also a way to help people throughout life have specialized knowledge that can help them in ecofriendly career and lifestyle. These classes could be taught as a summer program cooperatively with a couple of counties pitching in for a class that would cover their jurisdictions. **Continued on page 6.**
“Never stop gardening!” says Elizabeth “Betty” Stran, who has loved flowers for as long as she can remember. Growing up in “a very small town with a very large garden” in rural West Virginia, Betty’s family raised flowers and food organically. Once settled in Maryland, she dug her own backyard garden, bursting with fresh flowers. In 1982, she attended the FIRST Master Gardening Course in Baltimore City; and took classes, year-after-year, just for fun! Throughout the next 30 years, Betty served as treasurer and committee chair for Baltimore City’s inaugural Master Gardener Board; she visited city homes to answer gardening questions; she raised vegetables and flowers for Demonstration Gardens at Cylburn Arboretum and the State Fair; she judged neighborhood gardens and 4H projects; and she worked in Cylburn’s greenhouses, planting and nurturing seeds to grow for education and profit. An organic gardener, now in her 9th decade of life, Betty plants and tends three 9’x9’ gardens with tomatoes, lettuce and flowers – lots of flowers!

Mary DeGray exclaims, “There’s nothing non-farm girl about me!” A 4-H youth from a dairy farm in western New York, Mary has raised cows and chickens, handled family farm chores (including plantings and manure), and canned her own fruits and veggies. “When you grow your own food, pick it and eat it right away,” says Mary, “nothing is as wonderful as that!” After relocating to Baltimore City, Mary took the 1983 Master Gardening class and became good friends with Betty Stran. For the next three decades, she spent countless hours raising flowers from seed and sharing plants with friends and fellow MGs --- “Just for the love of it!” Mary admits. She joined Betty in Cylburn’s Greenhouse, planting and nurturing veggie and flower seeds in winter, then selling plants at Market Day each spring. She also judged city gardens, traveled to various gardening conferences, and worked at the State Fair. “Enjoy gardening!” says Mary. “You never know who you might touch.”

While Al DeGray was working full-time in Maryland, his wife, Mary DeGray, introduced him to Jon Traunfeld. Al grew up on a family farm in Connecticut with cows, chickens, veggies and huge compost piles; and Jon was enthusiastically interested in Al’s composting expertise. By 1990, when Al retired and took the Master Gardener class in Baltimore City, he was already working with Jon to secure funding and solidify plans for a compost demonstration site at Cylburn Arboretum. Soon after, Al joined Betty Stran’s blossoming vegetable demonstration garden as the first man to help plant and nurture seeds for the annual Maryland Home and Garden Show. During the 30 years that followed, Al built an impressive master gardener resume: teaching composting; co-chairing the Baltimore City speakers’ bureau; planning and coordinating activities at various Annual Training Days; hosting the hospitality suite at the Northeast Master Gardener Conference; working in Cylburn’s Greenhouse, demonstration gardens and Market Day; raising funds for the program at the State Fair; attending hundreds of board and member meetings; and tackling a multitude of projects with friend and fellow master gardener Larry Kloze. “Give it all ya’ got!” is Al’s philosophy about gardening.

As perennial gardeners, Al, Mary and Betty have certainly done that for eight and nine decades respectively! In 2013, all three retired from their active posts as Baltimore City Master Gardeners. For their next season of life, they are directing energy to smaller plots, just outside the doors of Oakcrest Retirement Village in Northern Baltimore County. Congratulations Betty, Mary and Al!

“Diversity...” Continued from p. 5.

- Try mapping your projects and events using Google maps. This makes your events visible to the public and accessible to people who are more tech savvy, allowing for flexibility and a transparent form of communication.
- Advertise the MG program to local universities. Students should be able to get credit for joining the program, but there needs to be creative conversations about the mutual benefits brought to the program. Just a few examples of majors that could benefit from the program include: Horticulture, Agriculture, Communications, Public Health, Art, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Science, Journalism, etc. There are plenty of majors that intersect the Master Gardener mission.
- Market to professional landscape companies, environmental organizations, social organizations, construction companies and design firms. We need organizations that could potentially have a variety of resources to boost programs.
- Don’t forget about making your programs and classes accessible to those who have physical disabilities. The meeting locations should be ADA accessible spaces or alternative options should be made available.

Sowing Seeds: New Ideas for Sustainable Partnerships between Libraries and MGs

Wed., April 2, 2014; 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Miller Library, Ellicott City (Howard Co.)
Who: Master Gardeners and public library staff state-wide
Learn about exciting and innovative collaborations across the state related to gardening, agricultural and environmental programs in libraries, gain access to valuable resources, and learn how to facilitate a seed swap by participating in one!
Link to agenda and registration (free, lunch provided): https://sites.google.com/site/sowingseedsmdlib/
Please register yourself and share the site with other MGs. (Note to MGs: enter “n/a” for the last two required fields in the online form.) Contact Jon if you have any questions. (jont@umd.edu)
CONGRATULATIONS!! MG Advanced Level II Certifications Awarded

Your MG training does not end with basic training—it just begins there. It’s essential (and fun) to continue your education in as many ways as you can. Many courses are “stand-alone”, others can be grouped to obtain an advanced certificate.

The following MGs have completed classwork, homework and community service to achieve their Certifications in 2013. Congratulations!!

Woody Plants Certificate
Jim MacNichol - Anne Arundel
Gay Luddington - Calvert
Janet McGrane - Charles
Earnestine Ashley - Prince George’s
Sharon Williams - Prince George’s
Suzanne Patterson - St. Mary’s

Plant Diagnostics Certificate
Gay Luddington - Calvert
Carolyn Puckett - Carroll
Molly McElwee - Howard

Master Composter Certificate
Elissa Parish - Allegany
Virgil Twigg - Allegany
Betty Bryant - Anne Arundel
Ginny Klocko - Anne Arundel
Cherie Loustaunau - Anne Arundel
Brenda Coates - Baltimore City
Linda Myers - Baltimore Co.
Emma Williams - Baltimore Co.
Christa Pusater - Carroll
Esther Reaves - Charles
Ronald Dudley - Frederick
Deirdre Lang - Frederick
Betsy Minnick - Frederick
David Muns - Frederick
Donna Scherer - Frederick
Martha Sullivan - Frederick
Janine Grossman - Howard
Gordon Clark - Montgomery
Suzanne Grefsheim - Montgomery
Fred Seitz - Prince George’s
Marie Bikle - Washington

Vegetable Gardening Certificate
Denise Bauman - Charles
Paula Knepper - Montgomery
Suzanne Grefsheim - Montgomery
Fred Seitz - Prince George’s
Jane Chambers - Queen Anne’s
Pat Gannon - Queen Anne’s
Judith Geggis - Queen Anne’s
Carol Jelich - Queen Anne’s
Betty McAtect - Queen Anne’s
Deborah Pusey - Queen Anne’s
Carol Romano - Queen Anne’s
Cassandra Smith - Queen Anne’s
Catherine Tengwall - Queen Anne’s
Karen Wimsatt - Queen Anne’s
Carol Sargeant - Talbot
Phyllis Rambo - Talbot
Jane Ward - Talbot

How to Get Advanced Certification

Woody Plants
You will need to take 5 courses:
- Plant ID/Taxonomy and all 4 of the 200 Common Landscape courses:
  • Shade Trees
  • Ornamental Trees and Vines
  • Flowering Shrubs
  • Evergreen Trees and Shrubs

Plant Diagnostics
You will need to take 4 courses:
- Plant Diseases
- Entomology
- “Ask a MG” Practicum
- Plant ID/Taxonomy.

Master Composter
Requires class attendance, project completion and 10 hours of volunteer work.

Landscape Design for Water Management
Requires class attendance, and 5 hours of volunteer work.

Vegetables
Requires 5 days of MG Advanced Training in Vegetables (this would include Youth Vegetable Gardening).

Native Plants
You will need to take 2 courses and 2 classes and give volunteer time.
- Native Plant Essentials
  (in person or online)
- Shade plants (Coastal or Piedmont)
- Sun plants (Coastal or Piedmont)
- One elective class
- 10 hours of volunteer work.

Look for when and where these classes will be held in this newsletter or check the Master Gardener State website under Advanced Training. In 2014 we will not be offering woody plants, master composter or water management classes. However, we are offering a new set of classes that would lead to the new advanced certification in Native Plants.
Thank you, MG’s, for Your Years of Dedicated Service 2013

Congratulations and a sincere thank you to all MG’s who have achieved an anniversary milestone in the MG program in 2013. You are the ones that really provide the continuity, expertise, and glue that hold the entire program together. We are pleased that we have so many MGs to recognize for their 5, 10, 15th and 20+ anniversaries.

Cont’d on next page
Order your MG license plate - Let the World Know about MGs

MG license plates are a very easy and handsome way to promote the Master Gardener Program. Any certified Master Gardener may register their passenger car, multi-purpose vehicle, truck (1 ton or less) and motorcycle with Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles.

1. Motor Vehicle Administration charges you a regular registration fee and gives you a current sticker.

2. If you want new MG plates it will cost $45 total ($25 to MVA and $20 to UMD). It doesn’t matter when your registration expires. If you buy new plates, they will send you a replacement for your current sticker as well. In other words, your registration expiration is irrelevant to your getting new plates.

3. The $45 you pay for new plates is a one-time fee. You’ll never pay it again as long as you have the same plates.

After this initial purchase you will continue to pay the same registration fee for the sticker that you would if you had regular plates.

Here’s how the process for obtaining your new MG plates works:

Step 1- Obtain the forms
These are old-fashioned 3-part forms that are not available electronically. Please send your name and contact info (email, phone, address, and MG county) to Robin Hessey, 410-531-1754 or rmhessey@umd.edu. Robin will send you the necessary paperwork and instructions.

Step 2- Fill in the MVA form (Application for Organizational License Plates) once you receive it. Follow the instructions on the form, write two checks and return them to Robin Hessey (address on form). She’ll sign off on the form, mail it to MVA who will, in turn, send you your new plates and sticker.
Welcome to MG Advanced Training
by Robin Hessey, State MG Advanced Training Coordinator

There’s always more new and exciting information out there - knowledge that will help MG’s fulfill their mission to teach folks about how to have more sustainable gardens and landscapes, how to manage stormwater, how to pick and cultivate plants in ways that enhances the natural environment, how to grow their own food, how to always be mindful of the Bay, how to recognize and deal with insects and diseases in the safest, most effective manner and, how to appreciate and marvel at the wonders of our world.

The State MG Program works to develop courses that will help trainees quickly become more seasoned, and will help more experienced MGs learn advanced techniques and become more knowledgeable. These courses will help satisfy the 10 hours of required advanced and continuing education necessary to be a MG in good standing.

This year we are introducing new native plant classes and a new MG Advanced Training Certificate in Native Plants.

Please look carefully at all of the offerings in this brochure and sign up for them early since most do fill up. On-line registration is not available. However, you can use the form at the end of this brochure or go to the MG state website (extension.umd.edu/mg) to obtain a “typeable” form that you can then email, fax, or mail back.

Educational Resources for the MG

The Home & Garden Information Center

All home horticulture and pest management questions directed to 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 HGIC pictures and questions through the “Ask an Expert” link
- call the HGIC toll-free “hotline”, Monday-Friday, from 8am-1pm: 1.800.342.2507 and speak to a Certified Professional Horticulturist
- Download and view dozens of fact-sheets, tips, videos and archived news-letters by clicking on the “Information Library” button
- Diagnose your plant and pest problems by clicking the “Diagnostics” button on the home page.

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 web site and other web sites.

In order to prevent spam software from blocking our 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 homeandgarden listserv.

extension.umd.edu/hgic
1-800-342-2507

Grow It Eat It Listserv: If you want to get all of the latest GIEI news (internal MG GIEI news), send Robin (rmhessey@umd.edu) an email and she’ll add you to the listserv. You’d get about 2 posts a month.

Grow It Eat It Blog

You can get GIEI posts sent right to your inbox by entering your email address in the “Follow By Email” box on the blog page. (To find the blog page, go to the Grow It Eat It website- current address is extension.umd.edu/growit - or google it.)

This is a great blog with lots of variety and interesting posts about what’s happening in the garden at any particular point in time, successes and failures and interesting experiments. If you follow by email, you’ll always be kept up-to-date.
**ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 9am - 4pm**  
UME Montgomery Co. (Derwood)

**Main presenter:** Jon Traunfeld, Extension Specialist, Fruits and Vegetables; State MG Coordinator and Center Director, HGIC.

You too can have a successful organic vegetable garden! In this program we will define the terms “organic” and “sustainable” and teach you about the products and techniques that will help you succeed. We’ll also discuss contaminants, safety, climate change, reading labels, soils and fertilizers. Get this important overview and the specific information you’ll need for both your own garden and for teaching others.

This is an intensive, interactive class where we will be doing pre-class assignments on-line so that we can spend more class time doing hands-on activities. Participants will need to make arrangements to have computer access to complete pre-class learning assignments. This class will count 1/2 day towards your Advanced Vegetable Gardening Certificate.

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**NATIVE PLANT ESSENTIALS - repeated in 3 locations**

**Presenter:** Sara Tangren, Ph.D., MG Trainer and Asso. Agent in Native Plants and Sustainable Hort.

**Registration Fee:** $35

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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Cyburn Arboretum</td>
<td>Sat. Mar. 15, 2014</td>
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<td>(Baltimore)</td>
<td>9:30am - 3:30pm</td>
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<td>UME Washington Co. (Boonsboro)</td>
<td>Tues. Mar. 18</td>
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<td>(Boonsboro)</td>
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<td>UME Anne Arundel Co. (Dairy Farm- Gambrills)</td>
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**Course Description:** This course will serve as the basic introductory course to all of the MG Advanced Training native plant classes and as a survey course for folks who want to know what it’s all about. Our presenter, Sara Tangren, Ph.D., will consider what’s native and why, soils, ecology, climate and the concept of native plant communities. Why are native plants important and what does their preservation and success mean for all of us. We will also have a hands-on component at the end of the day with either a field walk or identification exercises.

This class is a prerequisite for future multi-day native plant classes, counts towards your advanced Native Plants Certificate. This class will also be available online.

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Learn how to educate about vegetable gardening with updated information on resources, methods and issues. While powerpoint presentations and giving classes are important, we can also teach through school and community gardens, creating demos and demo gardens and more. Learn about different types of gardens, where to find resources, proven teaching methods, and answers to the most common questions and issues.

We’ll share GIEI training presentations for the public including a new cucurbits presentation because 2014 is GIEI’s “Year of Cucurbits.” MGs have made GIEI a hugely successful program over the past five years and it’s still going strong. Join us to find out what we’ve learned and how to take it to the community.

This class will count 1/2 day towards your Advanced Vegetable Gardening Certificate.

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**THIS PROGRAM IS FULL**  
(now waiting list only)
New Courses on Native Plants

In 2014 we will offer “Native Landscaping for Maryland Shade Gardens” (for both wet and dry areas) in three different locations, one in the piedmont, one in the coastal plain (Eastern shore) and one in the coastal plain (southern Maryland). In 2015 we will offer “Native Landscaping for Maryland Sun Gardens” (both wet and dry) in three different locations.

Prerequisite: You must take the Native Plant Essentials class either in-person on line.

### NATIVE LANDSCAPING FOR MD SHADE GARDENS- repeated in 3 locations

**Presenter:** Sara Tangren, Ph.D., MG Trainer and Associate Agent in Native Plants and Sustainable Horticulture

**Registration Fee:** $59

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Registration by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont Howard Co. (Ellicott City)</td>
<td>Tuesdays, April 22, 29; May 6 9:30am - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Apr. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Plain - Eastern Shore Adkins Arboretum (Caroline Co.)</td>
<td>Thursdays, June 5, 12, 19 10am- 4pm</td>
<td>May 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Plain - Southern MD UME Calvert Co. (Prince Frederick,)</td>
<td>Tuesdays, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14 9:30am - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In each of these workshops we will have 3 days to explore the beautiful and diverse plants native of your region, and practice using them to design sustainable native shade gardens.

In this course you will:
1. Learn how the ecology and history of Maryland’s flora can inform native landscape design decisions today.
2. Learn the most useful shade garden plants for your area including identification, cultural requirements, wildlife use and more. You will also learn basic research skills that will enable to expand your plant palette in the future.
3. Enjoy field trip(s) to observe native gardens and natural areas.
4. Practice shade garden design by selecting plants that
   - are appropriate to site conditions (moisture, pH),
   - provide year-round interest, and
   - benefit wildlife and wild plant population

- **Prerequisite:** You must take the Native Plant Essentials class either in-person on-line
- Each of these courses will count towards your Native Plants Advanced Certification.

### NATIVE GRASSES

**Tuesday, October 21, 2014**  
**UME Harford Co. (Forest Hill)**  
**9:30-3pm**

Fall is the time that our native grasses strut their stuff! Join us for a fun, non-technical class: light on grass taxonomy and heavy on work with fresh specimens of indiangrass, little blue-stem, switchgrass, purpletop, bushy beardgrass, purple lovegrass, and more. For each species we will discuss
- design/aesthetic considerations for use in garden beds,
- use in native meadows,
- soil and light requirements,
- availability, establishment, and
- maintenance techniques.

By the end of class you will be able to recognize the most popular native grasses for Harford Co. and include them in your garden/meadow designs with confidence.

***Highly recommended: Native Plant Essentials class (in person or on-line)***

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**Blackhaw Viburnum**  
*Viburnum prunifolium*

**Cinnamon fern fiddle**  
*Osmunda cinnamomea*

**Cardinal Flower**  
*Lobelia cardinalis*
ENTOMOLOGY - ECOLOGICAL IPM

Mondays, June 2 and June 9, 9:30am-3:30pm
UME Baltimore County (Cockeysville)

Presenter: Mike Raupp, Ph.D., Professor and Extension Specialist, Entomology, University of Maryland
Reg. Fee: $49; Reg. Deadline: 5/23

Bugs are fascinating. Learn how to recognize them, how they work, and how to safely deal with them as you begin to better understand how they fit into the ecology of the garden. Join the University of Maryland’s “bug man”, Mike Raupp, as he teaches you the wonders of the bug world and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as only he can do. We are planning some hands-on experiences, outdoor explorations and new learning tools.

In addition to some fascinating insect CSI, this year’s expanded 2-day course will include the fundamental concepts of population biology, community ecology, ecosystem functions and services as they relate to urban ecosystems and IPM. Some topics to be highlighted:

- Role of of native plants.
- Planting to conserve diversity and attract pollinators and other beneficial insects.
- Managing water and soil resources for maximum benefit of insect populations and ecosystem function.
- Changing public perception of what constitutes a healthy attractive landscape.

This class will satisfy the Entomology requirement for the MG Plant Diagnostics certificate and will be of great help to those of you working at Ask a MG events.

VEGETABLES: INTENSIVE TECHNIQUES AND SMALL SPACE GARDENING

Saturday, June 21, 9am-4pm
UME Kent Co., Chestertown, MD

Presenters: Jon Traunfeld, UME Specialist in Vegetables and Fruit
Kent Phillips, Howard Co. MG, Sabine Harvey, UME Kent Co.
Reg. Fee: $35; Reg. Deadline: 6/13

Get more out of your vegetable gardens with less work and expense. Find out how to increase production per square foot using sustainable and cost-effective practices. Learning for this class will be mostly hands-on and will take place in different gardens.

We’ll share, discuss and evaluate specific practices, such as interplanting, succession planting, vertical gardening, square foot gardening, drip irrigation, and season extension. You will be asked to complete some pre-class online assignments so we can maximize our hands-on time in class.

Field trips to Chestertown sites: Kent Co. Middle School, Food Pantry Garden at Victory Farm and a private home.

This course will count as one unit towards your advanced vegetable gardening certificate. (You will need a total of 5 units.)
PLANT DISEASES

**UME Frederick Co. (Frederick)**
**Thursday, Sept. 4; 9:30am-3:30pm**

**Presenter:** Dave Clement, Ph.D. Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology  
**Registration Fee:** $35  
**Registration Deadline:** Aug. 28

Plant diseases often seem like exotic mysteries left up to the experts to solve. Well, guess what—MG’s can now begin to unravel some of these mysteries ourselves. In this course you’ll learn all about the bacteria, fungi and viruses that cause plant problems. You’ll also learn about their symptoms, cycles and controls.

In addition to the lecture and handouts you will get hands-on training using samples. We plan a collaborative, hands-on learning experience with troubleshooting in a vegetable garden, examination and diagnosis of samples, and discussion and effective prevention, monitoring, and control strategies. We’ll take a close look at non-chemical controls and the effectiveness of available organic pesticides. There will be some pre-class online assignments so we can maximize our hands-on learning time in class.

How come I’m not getting any squash this year? What’s killing my tomato vines? Are there any good organic controls for stink bugs? The gardening public looks to us for answers to thousands of food garden questions each year. Now we’ll be better able to answer all of them!

This course will count as one of the units you will need to get the advanced vegetable gardening certificate.

**PLANT DISEASES**

**UME Harford Co. (Forest Hill)**  
**Tues., July 15; 9am-4pm**  
**Register by 7/8**

**UME Montgomery Co. (Derwood)**  
**Wed. July 16; 9am-4pm**  
**Register by 7/9**

**Prince George’s Co.; Center for Educational Partnership (Riverdale)**  
**Sat. July 19; 9am-4pm**  
**Register by 7/11**

**YOUTH VEGETABLE GARDENING- repeated in 2 locations**

**Presenters:** Jon Traunfeld, UME Specialist in Vegetables and Fruit  
Heather Buritsch, UME Associate Agent, FSNE Gardening for Nutrition Coordinator and others

**UME Montgomery Co. (Derwood)**  
**Wed. Sept. 24; 9am-4pm**  
**Register by 9/17**

**UME Anne Arundel Co. (Dairy Farm- Gambrills)**  
**Sat. Sept. 27; 9am-4pm**  
**Register by 9/19**

Youth and school vegetable gardening are hot hot topics right now with many schools and organizations requesting MG help. You can be an effective, active part of this effort!

This course will help build your confidence as you learn effective ways to work with kids in the garden, Learn the nuts and bolts about school guidelines, building a gardening team, and starting and maintaining a school program. Our panelists will inspire you with lots of fun and thrifty curriculum ideas. Focus will be on elementary school and shoulder seasons.

This class counts as 1 day towards your Advanced Vegetables Certificate.
Take a look at all of the good ways you can deepen your knowledge about some very important topics with in-depth, single day or multi-day trainings around single topics. Below is a chronological summary of classes. We hope that you will take advantage of as many of these offerings as you can. 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 - SEE LAST PAGE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Registration fee &amp; deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grow It Eat It - Train the Trainer</td>
<td>UME Washington Co. (Boonsboro)</td>
<td>Tues. Feb 25 9:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td>Jon Traunfeld</td>
<td>$15 Reg. Deadline: 2/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grow It Eat It - Train the Trainer</td>
<td>Cylburn Arboretum (Baltimore)</td>
<td>Wed. Feb 26 6-9pm</td>
<td>Jon Traunfeld</td>
<td>$15 Reg. Deadline: 2/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grow It Eat It - Train the Trainer</td>
<td>UME Calvert Co. (Prince Frederick)</td>
<td>Wed. Mar 5 5:30-8:30pm</td>
<td>Jon Traunfeld</td>
<td>$15 Reg. Deadline: 2/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Plant Essentials (FULL)</td>
<td>Cylburn Arboretum (Baltimore)</td>
<td>Sat. Mar 15 9am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$35 Reg. Deadline 3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Plant Essentials (FULL)</td>
<td>UME Washington Co. (Boonsboro)</td>
<td>Tues. Mar 18 9am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$35 Reg. Deadline 3/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Plant Essentials</td>
<td>UME Anne Arundel Co. (Gambrills- Dairy Farm)</td>
<td>Thurs. Mar 20 9am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$35 Reg. Deadline 3/13</td>
</tr>
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<td>Native Landscaping for MD Shade Gardens</td>
<td>UME Howard Co. (Ellicott City)</td>
<td>Tues. Apr 22, 29, May 6 9:30am -3:30pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$59 Reg. Deadline: 4/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG ANNUAL TRAINING DAY</td>
<td>University of MD College Park</td>
<td>Thurs. May 29, 2014 8:00 am-4:30pm</td>
<td>Over 40 different presenters</td>
<td>$69; Registration opens about March 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entomology- Ecological IPM</td>
<td>UME Baltimore Co. (Cockeysville)</td>
<td>Mon. 6/2 &amp; 6/9 9:30am - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Mike Raupp, Ph.D</td>
<td>$49 Reg. Deadline 5/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Landscaping for MD Shade Gardens</td>
<td>Adkins Arboretum (Ridgely)</td>
<td>Thurs. Jun 5, 12, 19 10am-4pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$59 Reg. Deadline: 5/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis</td>
<td>UME Harford Co. (Forest Hill)</td>
<td>Tues. Jul 15 9am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Jon Traunfeld</td>
<td>$35 Reg. Deadline: 7/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis</td>
<td>Prince George’s Co. (Riverdale)</td>
<td>Sat. Jul 19 9am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Jon Traunfeld</td>
<td>$35 Reg. Deadline: 7/11</td>
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<td>UME Frederick Co. (Frederick)</td>
<td>Thurs. Sep 4 9:30am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Dave Clement, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$35 Reg. Deadline 8/28</td>
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<td>UME Montgomery Co. (Derwood)</td>
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<td>Jon Traunfeld</td>
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<td>Youth Vegetable Gardening</td>
<td>UME Anne Arundel Co. (Gambrills - Dairy Farm)</td>
<td>Sat. Sep 27 9:am-4pm</td>
<td>Jon Traunfeld, Heather Buritsch &amp; others</td>
<td>$35 Reg. Deadline 9/19</td>
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<td>Native Landscaping for MD Shade Gardens</td>
<td>UME Calvert Co. (Prince Frederick)</td>
<td>Tues. 9/30, 10/7, 10/14 9:30am-3:30pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$59 Reg. Deadline 9/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Grasses</td>
<td>UME Harford Co. (Forest Hill)</td>
<td>Tues. 10/21 9:30am-3pm</td>
<td>Sara Tangren, Ph.D.</td>
<td>$30 Reg. Deadline 10/14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REGISTRATION FORM
State MG Advanced Training Classes
2014

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>
</table>
| Grow It Eat It -Train the Trainer              | Indicate site:  Wash. Co. 2/25  
  Balto City (Cylburn). 2/26  
  Calvert Co. 3/5               | $15  | ☐      | _______ |
| Native Plant Essentials                        | Indicate site:  Balto City (Cylburn). 3/15 (FULL)  
  Wash. Co. 3/18 (FULL)  
  Anne Arundel Co. 3/20         | $35  | ☐      | _______ |
| Organic Vegetable Gardening                    | UME Montgomery Co. - Tue Mar 25 9am - 4pm (FULL) (we can still add names to waiting list, however) | $35  | ☐      | _______ |
| Native Landscaping for MD Shade Gardens        | Indicate site:  Howard Co. (Piedmont) 4/22, 4/29, 5/6  
  Adkins Arboretum (Coastal Plain, Eastern Shore) (6/5, 6/12, 6/19)  
  UME Calvert Co. (Coastal Plain, Western shore) (9/30, 10/7, 10/14) | $59  | ☐      | _______ |
| Entomology- Ecological IPM                     | UME Baltimore Co., Mon 6/2, 6/9 - 9am - 3:30pm                       | $49  | ☐      | _______ |
| Veggies: Plant and Pest Diagnostics:          | Indicate site:  Harford Co. 7/15  
  Montgomery Co. 7/16  
  Prince George’s Co. 7/19     | $35  | ☐      | _______ |
| Plant Diseases                                 | UME Frederick Co. Sept 4                                            | $35  | ☐      | _______ |
| Youth Vegetable Gardening                      | Indicate site:  Montgomery Co. 9/24  
  Anne Arundel Co. 9/27         | $35  | ☐      | _______ |
| Native Grasses                                 | UME Harford Co. 10/21                                              | $30  | ☐      | _______ |
| 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