

The Compost

A Newsletter celebrating Charles County Master Gardener Projects

Inside this Issue

- 1 CCMG Coordinator Update
- 2 Seed Saving Workshop
- 3 Holiday Greens
- 5 Senior Education Programs
- 8 GIEI Education Project
- 10 Melwood Horticultural Therapy Program
- 11 Southern MD Food Bank
- 16 Bay-Wise
- 18 Jr Master Gardeners
- 19 Save the Dates
- 20 End Notes

CCMG Coordinator Update by CCMG Coordinator Julia Rycyna

This edition of The Compost is the first one of 2025. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and I hope that everyone has stayed warm in this cold winter. In the previous year volunteers contributed 4844.29 volunteer hours and 716.63 hours of continuing education. As the Project Leads are working with me to help develop the plans for their projects this year, I hope to make sure that the Master Gardener program provides plenty of opportunities to volunteer in the community and for continuing education.



Above: CCMG Pat Biles demonstrating how SAV data is collected from a kayak with the help of CCMG Janet McGrane for CEs for Bill Allen, Gail Black, Beth Grim, Carol Teets and Patti Faulkner with Julia Rycyna seated (Nesbary photo).

This past October, CCMG Pat Biles presented on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) and the work that is done to educate the public on SAV and help collect data for Bay scientists and managers. Her presentation included the importance of SAV, how to identify different SAV, and how data is collected. I was impressed and learned a lot from Pat. My specialty is terrestrial plants, and I understand that aquatic factors can be complicated. Pat's demonstration pointed out how complex and interconnected nature is.

CCMG Coordinator Update, cont.

by CCMG Coordinator Julia Rycyna

This winter quarter has had few activities, and the year started off rough with the rescheduling of the Winter Sowing Native Seeds Workshop. However, it has been exciting to work with the Project Leaders on all the outreach they plan to do this year.

Other new things worth celebrating, we have a new Master Gardener Class starting on February 4, 2025. I will be planning an event so that the current members can get to know this new class of volunteers.

Native Seed Saving & Cleaning Workshop

Article and photos by CCMG Terry Thir

On November 9, the Demonstration Garden Project hosted a seed saving & cleaning workshop for the public at the Extension office. Our new Home Horticulture Educator and Master Gardener Coordinator, Julia Rycyna, provided introduction on native plants, care and seed cleaning instructions. Kathy Jenkins, Demo Project Co-leader, took groups outside to the gardens to show them the native plants and how to collect seeds.

Prior to the event, MGs had collected a large variety of native seeds from our demonstration gardens. Flower identification signs were provided to show the actual flower and growing conditions. Participants selected the native flower seeds they were interested in planting. Demo team members assisted participants at their tables on seed cleaning techniques. It was a very successful and fun workshop.

Photo below: Coordinator Julia Rycyna with workshop guests cleaning seeds.



CCMG Pruning Workshop, Holiday Greens Workshop and Holiday Potluck

Article and photos by CCMG Carol Teets

How Faithful Are Your Leaves...The 2024 holiday season was celebrated by a gathering of Master Gardeners cutting greens at St. Ignatius Church in Port Tobacco. Church member and Master Gardener Patti Faulkner has been the key to our partnership on this project.

They are green when summer days are bright

They are green when winter snow is white

The annual tradition of proper pruning practices by our volunteers has been a gift to the health of the historic boxwood garden and to the participants of the Charles County Master Gardener Greens Workshop.

On Dec. 3rd the Charles County extension office was bursting with fresh greens and colorful ribbon. Volunteers gathered with cheer to create a festive wreath and table arrangement. A wreath making demonstration was led by CCMG Carol Teets and a table arrangement demonstration was led by CCMG Emeritus Jan Lakey-Waters. A special thank you to Jan for her service to the organization. All the creative juices generated a hearty appetite which led us to our Holiday Potluck dinner. We could then reflect on another successful year and look forward to 2025. Best wishes for the New Year!



CCMG Carol Teets demonstrated wreath making.



Pruning volunteers l-r: CCMGs Linda Ivko, Kathy Jenkins, Kathy Davis, Patti Faulkner.



Greens Workshop Volunteers CCMG Emeritus Jan Lakey-Waters and CCMG Terry Thir.

CCMG Pruning Workshop, Holiday Greens Workshop and Holiday Potluck

Article and photos by CCMG Carol Teets



Left to right: CCMGs Linda Ivko, Coordinator Julia Rycyna, Intern Ebony Malone, Sally Matts, Brent Burdick, Janet McGrane, Terry Thir, Kathy Davis, Kathy Jenkins, and Carol Teets.

Senior Education Programs (SEP)

Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault

The **Richard R. Clark Senior Center's Senior Plus** gardening program's 3rd year concluded on October 30th with the Clark Gardeners completing the 12-class curriculum. The SEP Team is very proud of the work, commitment and engagement of the Senior Plus group. The last class started with a Lasagna Bulb planting activity with flowers including tulips, crocus, daffodils, and hyacinths. These plantings will beautify the patio garden in the spring. Right: Kathy Davis instructs on how to plant bulbs.



Each Clark Gardener received a certificate of completion, a bud vase (donated) of fresh flowers and some special refreshments with a horticulture twist. Recipes, provided by CCMG Janet McGrane were [Lavender Lemonade](#) and [Rosemary Shortbread](#) – Yum!!

In two events, we provided horticulture instruction to over 35 independent seniors during 2024. For 2025, we plan to expand this to four events with Clark Gardeners participating.

Right: CCMG Janet McGrane. Photo below: Clark Gardeners receive their certificates of completion with CCMGs (l-r): Kathy Davis, Donna Ball, Janet McGrane and Michelle Chenault in background with Terry Thir in front of Michelle.



Senior Education Programs (SEP), cont.

Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault

Indian Head Senior Center

The SEP team is continuing to provide consultation for the Green Thumb Gardeners. Michelle Chenault provided a presentation on November 15th entitled: "Soil Tests" to the Green Thumb Gardeners and other seniors. Next steps will include amending the soil based upon the commercial soil test results. We will follow up on January 28th with the Green Thumb Gardeners to present "Soil Tests Part II" and discuss their gardening plans for 2025. A new Center Director has been appointed, and a meeting will be scheduled soon to obtain her input and plan for 2025. CCMG Lori Guido is serving as the SEP liaison to the Indian Head Senior Center.



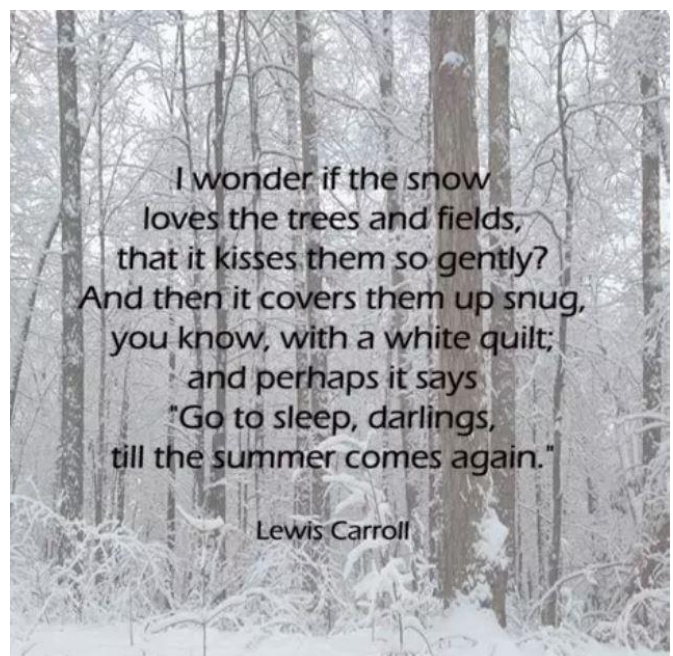
Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) juvenile male sitting on a Holly (*Ilex sp.*) branch. Stock photo.

Waldorf Senior and Recreational Center

On December 4, 2024, we introduced a new workshop entitled: "Holiday Posies Using Winter Evergreens" at this center. Kathy Davis proposed the idea to SEP to teach seniors to make posies (small bouquets of evergreens) for themselves and for the gravesites of veterans. Ten people attended and enjoyed the activity. They made almost 3 dozen posies for placement on headstones and more for hanging and use at their homes. We hope that this will become an annual event. Two presentations and one hands-on workshop are tentatively planned for this center in 2025. This includes providing a repeat of the 'Lettuce Celebrate' workshop to commemorate Earth Day in April 2025.

Nanjemoy Senior and Community Center

Two presentations and one hands-on workshop are tentatively planned for this center in 2025. The group is keenly interested in planting crops in the spring. The discussion about plans for their on-site garden plot is ongoing. This site will need a very sturdy fence to protect the garden from wildlife.



Senior Education Programs (SEP), cont.

Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault

The last SEP team meeting for 2024 and holiday celebration was held on December 20th at Galazio Restaurant. Thirteen people attended! We had a lot of fun with some corny pun-loaded plant markers, a raffle, great conversation ending with a project meeting and lots of shared ideas. A wonderful way to close out the gardening season!



The project team includes the following CCMGs and Interns: Michelle Chenault (Project Co-Lead), Donna Ball (Project Co-lead), Tiffany Daniel, Kathy Davis, Elveta Gibson, Lori Guido, Jeanine Harrington, Barbara Hays, Linda Ivko, Kathy Jenkins, Brian Larson, Aileen Lennon, Rose Markham, Janet McGrane, Meg MacDonald (representing Grow It Eat It - GIEI), Laura McManus, Kay Redman, Jerry Reed, Paris Reed, Jessica Richards, Stacey Sheffey, Terry Thir, Karen Trundle, Gail Enid Walker, Laura Walker, Karen Westhead, Teri White, Julie Nethon-Williams, and Karina Willette.

Grow It Eat It Education Project

Article and photos by CCMG Meg McDonald

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Fall and Winter Gardening

Can you grow food in the fall and winter? Well, maybe – depending on the crop, the weather, and the garden set-up. At the Fall Vegetable Gardening workshop held Oct. 5, 2024, the CCMG GIEI EDU project provided information about growing cold hardy crops and extending the growing season through the use of row covers, low tunnels, and more. Crops like kale, collards, brussels sprouts, certain lettuces, and others can be cold hardy, especially if given some protection.



And in Maryland, garlic can be planted through the fall to overwinter and be harvested in the early summer. The photo above shows Music Hardneck Garlic planted in containers on Nov. 17th and then under the snow on Jan. 6th. Music Hardneck Garlic needs winter chill in order to grow in the spring. Participants were shown the [HGIC video on planting garlic at this link](#).

The mildness or severity of the winter temperatures will impact the success of your winter garden – Mother Nature gets a vote – but even if crops don't thrive in winter weather, you can get a bit head start on spring harvests by nurturing a winter garden plot.

Lettuce and greens (kale, collards) were planted in a raised bed on Nov 17, 2024. Seeds were started indoors on Oct 28th. Seedlings were planted and covered with lightweight floating row cover (0.55 oz) directly on top of plants and then heavier weight (1.2 oz) row cover on low tunnel hoops.



Two photos show the lettuce and greens on Dec 17th. They have grown a lot in one month! Harvested some leaves for salad in mid-December.

The last photo shows the raised bed in the low tunnel under 9" of snow on January 6, 2025.



Grow It Eat It Education Project

Article and photos by CCMG Meg McDonald

Other Winter Vegetable Garden Tasks

Take Inventory of Your Seeds – Before you give in to the temptation of those beautiful seed catalogs that come in January, check your seed supply from previous years.

Test the Germination of older seeds by placing them on a damp paper towel inside a plastic bag and setting them in a warm place (such as the top of a refrigerator). Check them periodically to see how many have germinated so you will know if they are worth planting. Here is a good resource from the [University of Illinois: Are My Seeds Still Good?](#)

Organize and Store Seeds - When you buy new seeds, label them with the year of purchase and store them in a cool dry place. Many gardeners like to organize their seed collections, so they are easy to track and catalog. Photo right shows an example of a seed storage organizer.

Clean, Disinfect, and Sharpen Garden Tools you will need in spring. Cold winter days are perfect for getting your containers, materials, and tools ready. You will also find what needs to be repaired or replaced before you need to use them. Your future self will thank you!

For other timely gardening tips, check out the [University of Maryland Extension's Monthly Gardening](#) tips here.



GIEI Education Project Reviews 2024 and Sets 2025 Schedule

The Charles County Master Gardeners Grow It Eat It (GIEI) Education Project Team met Nov. 22, 2024, to review the 2024 Workshop series and to determine the topics and schedule for 2025. The mission of the GIEI Education project is to educate Marylanders on how to produce their own affordable and healthy food using sustainable gardening practices in their homes, communities, and school gardens.

Last year, the GIEI Edu project held four formal workshops: Starting Vegetable Seeds (Feb); Vegetable Garden Planning (April); Vegetable Plant Pests and Diseases (July); and Fall Vegetable Gardening (Oct). The workshops were well attended, and feedback was very positive. Participants noted they appreciated having time for questions and answers, and for the many hands-on demonstrations and samples provided by CCMGs. All of the 2024 presentations can be viewed on the [Charles County Master Gardeners website at this link](#).

For 2025, the team plans to hold six workshops for the public. Please see this list in the Save the Date box (page 19).

Melwood Horticultural Therapy Programs

Article by CCMG Barbara Hill, photos by Suse Greenstone

It's winter season and the outside gardens are sleeping. The majority of Master Gardener work at the end of 2024 was assisting with greenhouse plant care and pest control monitoring, and assisting with educational programs as MG schedules allowed. Melwood now turns toward more inside events with some Seed to Table activities.

Photos below show instruction and activities with seasonal herbs and spices. CCMG Teri White assists in this activity and a participant shows ginger root.



For the Christmas Holiday, centerpieces were created to take home. CCMGs Barbara Hill and Laverne Madison made a sample arrangement that the participants used as an example to follow in the class days that week to create their own beautiful arrangements. In all, 35 arrangements were made during the week. Look at those smiles! Nice idea Suse Greenstone and thanks for the pictures!



Work has begun on the planning for the 2025 season. With seedlings under the lights and in the greenhouse. Come join us!



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Southern Maryland Food Bank Project

Article by CCMG Brent Burdick, photos by various parties.

Our History

"Wanna get your hands dirty? Wanna do backyard vegetable gardening? Wanna promote community food production? If so, we have just the project for you! The CC MGs have a new project under the Grow It Eat It Program. We will be helping the Southern Maryland Food Bank's Community Learning Garden with its programs."

This is how we started back in March of 2019! Here is our story:

The Southern Maryland Food Bank and Outreach Services provided a supply of bulk food to nearly 30 food pantries in Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert counties. Among its many Outreach Programs, the Food Bank operated its "Seeds of Hope" Community Learning Garden. The Food Bank started the garden in 2017 behind their warehouse in Waldorf. They used the garden to demonstrate home gardening and gardening techniques; to educate youth and other activity groups, to include home schoolers; and to harvest produce for use in their Food Truck operation and for fresh supplements to their pantry bags. The garden included raised beds and containers, a compost area, and rain barrels, all surrounded by a fence composed of recycled pallets.

Food Bank staff tended the garden for two years. In March 2019, then-Director Brenda DiCarlo of the Food Bank contacted then-UMD-Extension MG Coordinator Luke Gustafson to request Master Gardener assistance with the training programs their Community Learning Garden conducted throughout the growing season, and with operation of the garden itself. Below is a photo of the Garden in March 2019. CCMGs and Interns initiated the project and CCMG Brent Burdick became the Project Leader.



CCMG Burdick worked with Director DiCarlo on the project. The two started cleaning up the garden area and prepping for early spring veggie plantings. CCMGs Burdick and Kay Redman cleaned up the beds and later, along with CCMG Gail Walker, started sowing the first plantings of lettuces, spinach, radishes, and peas, along with some herbs and wildflowers. CCMGs Tina Bailem and Inette Furey were Project Co-Leaders for a couple of years and other CCMGs and Interns started helping. The team repainted the pallet fencing, prepared the rest of the beds, and got the garden going for the summer of 2019.



Photo left: CCMGs Kay Redman and Gail Walker taking a break in the garden.

Southern Maryland Food Bank Project, cont.

Article by CCMG Brent Burdick, photos by various parties.



CCMG Furey paints part of the pallet fencing. The garden cleaned up in 2019.

The garden planting areas were fairly small. The raised beds were either 4'x4' or 2'x8' in size, but only 4"-5" high. Strawberries were growing out of pallets on the ground, and a few pots and tire planters were positioned around the garden. Several trellises were installed for cucumbers, pole beans, peas, and tomatoes. CCMGs also established a demonstration 4'x4' Gardening-by-the-Square-Foot garden bed, and a demonstration Patio Garden using various pots to grow vegetables and attract pollinators.

The CCMGs also introduced "potato baskets" to the garden to demonstrate other ways of growing vegetables. That first year, approximately 90 lbs. of produce were harvested and provided to the Food Bank for its operations. In addition, CCMGs conducted Outreach Training Programs in the garden with several youth groups.

In early spring of 2020, CCMGs got the project going for the year with planning sessions. However, before any planting actually occurred, all UMD-E MG projects were shut down due to the COVID pandemic. The Food Bank did not have the staff to continue the garden in 2020, so the project remained dormant the rest of the year.



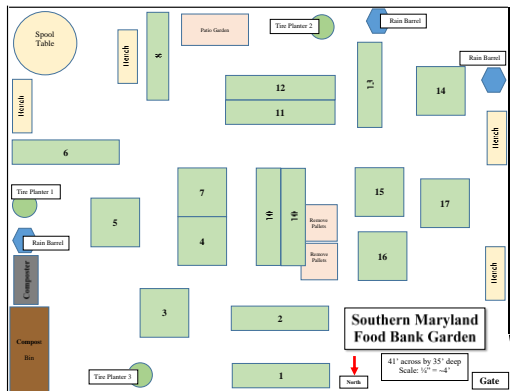
In March of 2021, UMD-E MG projects were allowed to continue. Director DiCarlo had funds to increase the size of the beds. CCMGs, Interns, and some of their spouses helped Food Bank staff build bigger raised beds. The new beds were all 4'x8' or 2'x8', but 15"-18" high. The crews removed the old beds, cleaned up the old garden footprint, and repositioned the new beds to better utilize the space inside the pallet fencing.

Southern Maryland Food Bank Project, cont.

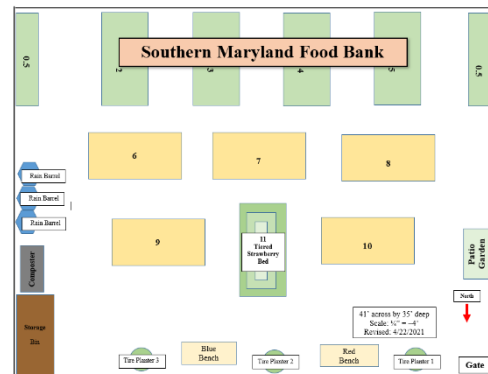
Article by CCMG Brent Burdick, photos by various parties.



The Food Bank also obtained a truck load of garden soil for the new beds. CCMGs and Interns spent a great deal of time getting the garden ready for planting (photos above).



Garden Footprint in 2019



Garden Footprint in 2021

CCMGs and Interns harvested bamboo to make trellises for the garden to hold squash, cucumbers, pole beans, and other vegetables. CCMG Bob Perego had several sessions teaching the crew how to lash bamboo together using sisal twine for sheer, square, tripod, round, and diagonal lashing knots. An art student from Chopticon High School in St. Mary's County helped with a garden face-lift by painting designs on the garden's composting bin area and rain barrels (photo right).



Not many Outreach Programs were conducted in 2021. Most groups were still leery of doing group activities due to COVID still being present in the community. However, we did have 4-H groups visit the garden in October. The garden was a big success in 2021 and we harvested 379 lbs. of produce for the Food Bank.

Southern Maryland Food Bank Project, cont.

Article by CCMG Brent Burdick, photos by various parties.

The Food Bank Garden prospered during 2022 and 2023. Due to a deer problem (with them jumping over the pallet fencing), we had to install a bamboo deer fence above the pallets. We used those same lashings techniques used to build the trellises. We started concentrating efforts to have actual spring, summer, and fall crops, and even tried wintering-over kale and spinach for early spring harvests. We increased the number of potato baskets we had been planting and tried different techniques to improve the garden's yield.



In 2022, we started winter sowing seedlings (photo left) for transplanting into the garden. We kicked it off on Valentine's Day (now an annual kick-off event that includes generating sweet potato slips) and that first year had started a total of 39 jugs of seeds. This has grown to 92 jugs in 2024. We ended up harvesting 530 lbs. of produce for the Food Bank. Produce harvested in 2023 totaled 573 lbs.

Early in 2024, we noticed that the pallet fencing had deteriorated and probably would not last the season because it was rotting away. We had previously noted that the trees on the south side of the garden had grown so much that they were providing too much shade for the garden. We decided to move the footprint of the garden. CCMGs and Interns removed the old pallet fencing and moved the back and middle 4'x8' beds to new locations to the right side of the existing garden (photo right). Some other 2'x8' beds were also relocated. The beds were moved by emptying them of the soil, flipping them on their sides, and then dragging them into position before refilling with the soil.



A new bed was established in the front of the garden by using a rubber caterpillar-tread (photo left) that was found in the woods near the garden. It was planted with 15' sunflowers and acorn squash.

Southern Maryland Food Bank Project, cont.

Article by CCMG Brent Burdick, photos by various parties.

The Food Bank found a person to donate a 6' cyclone fence to enclose the new garden area. New trellises of wire mesh were used to lap trellises from one bed over the walk-ways to another bed. Some held pole beans, while others supported Butternut Squash and cucumbers. Another wire-mesh trellis graced the garden entrance way with Moonflowers and Morning Glories.

We hosted some youth groups to tour the garden and conducted other Winter Sowing workshops as part of Food Bank Outreach activities. The garden was quite lush in 2024 and we harvested 723 lbs. of produce in 2024 for the Food Bank.



So, that is our history – the CCMGs have come a long way on this project. Numerous CCMG and Intern volunteers have made this project a success over the years – it could not have been done without them!

We are starting our sixth year and are already off to a good start with the 2025 garden. We have a reflection and general planning meeting scheduled for mid-January, our annual Valentine's Day Winter Sowing workshop is 'on the books,' and arrangements have been made with a local business that supports the Food Bank for us to conduct a Winter Sowing Outreach activity in March at their facility to generate plants for the garden. We are going to try to out-perform last year's harvest! *Wanna get your hands dirty?*

Food Bank Tours

MG and UME-related program groups can schedule Food Bank Garden tours/activities by contacting the CCMG Project Coordinator. Other community members and groups can schedule garden tours and other gardening learning activities by calling Monica Bumbray, the Food Bank Community Outreach Program Manager, at (301) 274-0695.

Bay-Wise Land Management

Article by CCMG Rose Markham, photos by Barbara Hays

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Wow, what a welcome surprise the snow brought to us. Personally, all I could think of was how much our landscape was enjoying a well-deserved drink, especially after the beating our grasses, flowers, and vegetables went through during the drought. Let's hope that this snow brings us a decent spring and summer crop for all our plantings. Since my last update, we certified two Charles County demonstration gardens.

Star Garden

The first one being the Star Garden located right in the middle of the town of La Plata. The garden is stewarded by the La Plata Garden Club and supported by the Town of La Plata. It was erected in 2002 as a memorial to the victims of the two tornados that devastated La Plata in 1926 and 2002. The garden completed an updated renovation recently with the assistance of a dedicated town employee who designed and provided all the materials. Thanks to the Garden Club's artistic and garden consultant, the garden is full of pollinator plants, native shrubs and trees.



Below l-r: Kathy Hettel, CCMGs Barbara Hays and Rose Markham, and MaryBeth Chandler. Kathy and MaryBeth are with the La Plata Garden Club (photo by Rose Markham).



Bay-Wise Land Management, cont.

Article by CCMG Rose Markham

Bird City Pocket Park

The second demonstration garden we certified is the Bird City Pocket Park located on St. Mary's Ave in La Plata. The land was donated by the Wills Group through a \$25,000 grant. A second grant from The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay enabled the town to buy all the woody plants. After much planning, the town came up with the design and name for the park. The garden will be a self-maintenance park once all the new plantings mature. For now, the Town is providing all the maintenance, including watering and other services, as needed. It truly is a Bay-Wise heaven of many native flowers, shrubs and trees and a well-designed stone rain garden full of little Blue Stems that add to the beauty of the artwork. Garden pathways and benches make for a beautiful design. If you are in the area when the weather is warmer, it is worth a visit. It sits in front of what use to be the Facchina Building. Right: CCMG Rose Markham and Chris Wagon, Bird City Park Consultant (photo by Barbara Hays).



If you are interested in having your property **Bay-Wise certified**, which will give you a property tax credit, please click the link to visit our website for information on how to apply.

Bay-Wise certifications will be starting again this spring, April 1, and our goal this year is to certify as many properties in Charles County as possible. When your property becomes certified, you receive a certificate and sign, and we can assist you in applying for a 50% stormwater remediation fee on your property taxes. This fee automatically increases every year and is worth applying for. This program is a perfect example of how local government, organizations and homeowners can work together to help reduce the negative impact our gardens and landscapes may have on our environment.

Questions? Email baywiseccmg@gmail.com to request a visit to discuss the yardstick and suggestions to assist you in getting your property certified. In fact, if you maintain a vegetable garden, we can certify that too.



Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Project

Article by CCMG Rose Markham

We are very excited to report that our second semester with the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center "Especially for Homeschoolers" (EFH) began on January 14 with a group of excited returning students. Before we left in December for the Christmas break, the class participated in a bean cup planting exercise and their task was to report back on how the plant progressed during our time off. It turned out to be a great way to begin our first class. The new students felt very welcomed, especially those who were new to the EFH program.

Our main theme before year end will explore the delicate balance between people and other living things and end up exploring the world of insects. The newer students have picked up nicely and our older students are great role models. They are participating and working on their leadership skills by helping their classmates when we are doing hands-on activities.

The JMG National Leadership Training Conference is offered every February by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, College Station, Texas. It is modeled after the adult master gardener program and offered to students from elementary schools to adolescent ages. As a reminder, the **2025 training sessions will be held virtually on Feb 18 - 19.** [Click here for registration information.](#) Registration ends on Feb. 10th. As we hope to expand our program in the future, I encourage anyone interested to sign up to become JMG instructors. Teachers can get CE credits.

It's not just rewarding, it is FUN!!!!



thehappygardens · 29m



Save the Date

The following GIEI workshops are free and open to the public, but because of space limitations, registration is required. Email Julia Rycyna at jryccyna@umd.edu to register or for additional information.

Feb 1, 2025 - Starting Vegetable Seeds Indoors at College of Southern Maryland La Plata Campus, CE Building Room 107, 10:00 -12:00.

March 8, 2025 – Winter Sowing Vegetables – at the Charles County Extension Office, 9501 Crain Highway, Bel Alton, MD from 10:00 -12:00.

April 5, 2025 - Vegetable Garden Planning 10:00-12:00, Venue TBD

July 19, 2025 – Vegetable Plant Problems 10:00 – 12:30, Venue TBD

August 30, 2025 – Fall Vegetable Crops 10:00 – 12:00, Venue TBD

October 18, 2025 – Winterizing the Garden and Composting -- 10:00-12:00, Venue TBD

Other Public Events:

February 18-19 – JMG National Leadership Training

April 5 – Charles County Health & Wellness Fair, 11-2pm, County Fairgrounds.

April 12 – Backyard Buffer Program, 9-noon, Extension Office.

April 26 – Celebrate La Plata Day

May 17 – Plant Sale Fundraiser at La Plata Farmer’s Market

2025 is The Year of Herbs

The Home and Garden Information Center at the University of Maryland Extension has declared 2025 “The Year of Herbs,” and GIEI projects around the state will be celebrating all things herbs. Information on selecting, growing, and using herbs will be a part of our workshops and events. More information can be found here: [Year of Herbs | University of Maryland Extension](#).

If you have a landscape, insect, or plant disease question, please use the [Ask Extension webpage](#) to submit photos and other details.



The Compost

is published quarterly by the
Charles County Master Gardeners
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Click on photo above to visit our website.



The mission of the Charles County Master Gardeners is to support the University of Maryland Extension service by educating residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

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