

# Calvert County

## Master Gardeners

### Annual Report 2019



*Our Vision is a healthier world through environmental stewardship.*

*Our Mission is to support the University of Maryland Extension by educating residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.*

#### Summary of Activity Data

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Active CCMG Volunteers	80	75	81
CCMG Trainees	16	10	12
Total Contacts	4,756	6,792	6,066
Adult Contacts Made (includes educated)	3,243	4,055	3,643
Youth Contacts (includes educated)	1,513	2,737	2,423
Total Educated in Classes/Workshops	949	1,365	1,388
Youth Educated (of the Total)	N/A	493	650
Pounds of Produce Donated to Food Banks	7,000	3,708	3,822
CCMG Volunteer Hours	3,889	3,888	4,485
Estimated Value	\$104,186*	\$106,920*	128,495*

Independent Sector data rates for Maryland: 2017 @\$26.79 (2016 data); 2018 \$27.50 (2017 data); and 2019 \$28.65 (2018 data).

### Introduction

The International Master Gardener Program began as an outreach program to home gardeners at Washington State University in Tacoma, Washington in 1972. The University of Maryland Extension (UME) joined the Program in 1978 to extend science-based knowledge to the general public by providing horticultural and pest management expertise to help protect and improve Maryland’s natural resources. The Calvert County Master Gardener (CCMG) program began in 2002, and just as plants grow, it has grown in numbers of Master Gardeners and scope of activities and programs. Today, this popular program can be found in 20 Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

Calvert County is bordered on three sides by the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River, and we are keenly aware of the impact gardening has on the health of the waterways. As global warming brings environmental changes, the challenges facing us become greater and require revisions in our ways of thinking and gardening and caring for our home landscapes. More than ever, the science-based information that Master Gardeners bring to the community is essential in helping cope with those changes and reducing environmental damage. Through demonstration gardens, Garden Smarter classes, workshops, literature, our Speakers’ Bureau and our Bay-Wise Yard Certification program, we educate our residents about Best Management Practices in our gardens and yards. As we move into the ‘20s, we look back at our accomplishments and look forward to meeting new challenges.

## Garden Smarter Program

The **CCMG Garden Smarter Program** began in the winter of 2003 at the request of a Calvert County Librarian who envisioned it as an outreach program for the Library in partnership with CCMGs. The Program allows us to share our knowledge and experience with the Calvert County community and residents of nearby counties. Our citizens come to these events to ask questions, learn tested Best Management Practices for their own gardening, share ideas, exchange knowledge and make suggestions. Our programs have changed minds and expanded the knowledge of our community as shown by our guests' discussion and comments. And, they provide social interaction for people with like-minded interests.

During the 10 years that Denise Moroney served as coordinator, we added new and varied lecture subjects each year. We received requests to present at other garden clubs in Calvert and other counties, and our programs have served as a model for Master Gardener programs in other counties. We look forward to the guidance of Elisa Miller as we go into the '20s.

We have no data from the early days before it was referred to as Garden Smarter, but only two or three lectures were given in 2003. By 2007, nine (9) presentations were made at the Prince Frederick Library, and our first Garden Smarter flyer was created by Kathy Rose. We do not have attendance records until 2008 when there were nine (9) lectures, held only in the Spring, with a total attendance of 126. Our first professionally printed program, designed by Suzanne Shelden, appeared in 2009. In 2010, we made a big leap to 19 programs that ran through September. As CCMG membership has grown and our gardening knowledge expanded, the number of sessions has expanded to 24 or 25 sessions each year. In 2020, we have 24 scheduled GS programs.

We have presented at all the Calvert County Libraries and at the Community Resources Building and have given on-site tours of demonstration gardens. All programs are free and open to the public.

The **Garden Smarter Program** won the 2011 **Search for Excellence Award** from the **International Master Gardeners** for outstanding achievement in programming and won first place in the workshop presentation category. Winning projects were chosen for their originality and creativity; practicality of the program; simplicity of replication by other Master Gardeners and their significant impact on their communities. The award was accepted by Nancy Radcliffe, former coordinator, and Denise Moroney, coordinator, and the plaque hangs in the Prince Frederick Library.



**Community Seed Swap.** Our Sixth Annual Seed Swap was held in 2019. Begun in 2014 by Nancy Radcliffe, the active program first included musicians playing and singing garden-themed songs. It was an immediate hit and is our most popular Garden Smarter program. Master Gardeners come from other counties to learn how we organize and to take home ideas for their own seed swaps. The fame of this program garnered an invitation in 2018 to participate in the *U.S. Botanic Garden Fall Festival*. Five CCMGs created a display showing the importance of harvesting and saving seeds.

It is now run by Mimi, Elisa and Jennifer Miller. They begin in the fall with a Garden Smarter program teaching how to clean, sort and package seeds that are collected. Seed Swap day is usually the third Saturday in January. Choosing seeds is tightly programmed so that each person gets an equal chance to select seeds. The

four-hour program includes mini lectures and educational programs. Door prizes donated by local businesses are given through a drawing. Over 20 Master Gardeners are involved in support and staffing tables the day of the event.

**Outside Speakers.** In 2019, we hosted Greg Kearns, MNCPPC Naturalist, who presented *Ospreys on the Patuxent* at an evening event at the Calvert Library in Prince Frederick. In the past, other presenters include David Brinker, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, *Birds of the Assateague*; and Greg Bowen, American Chestnut Land Trust Executive Director, *Land Trusts and Saving the Bay*. In 2017, Sam Droege, of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Center, spoke about *Native Bees* with an attendance of over 100 guests.

**Attendance at Garden Smarter Sessions by Year Beginning in 2008**

YEAR	LECTURES	ATTENDANCE
2008	9	126
2009	10	186
2010	19	353
2011	19	362
2012	21	436
2013	20	436
2014	22	390
2015	21	440
2016	21	465
2017	25	493*
2018	25	626**
2019	23	579*
<b>Total</b>		4,892

\*1 evening lecture by outside speaker, \*\*2 evening lectures by outside speakers

**Kiosk for Environmental Education Programs  
(KEEP)**

R.T. West received a grant from Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth (CETY) in 2018 to purchase a touch-screen laptop to use for environmental and gardening quizzes at our events. The programs were up and running in 2019, and KEEP was taken to six events: Children’s Day on the Farm at Jefferson Patterson Park Farm, Nature Fest at American Chestnut Land Trust, Insectival at Annmarie Gardens, Eat Local Challenge Celebration at Spider Hall Farm (this event alternates between Southern Maryland Counties), Youth Day at the Calvert County Fair, and Patuxent River Appreciation Days at the Calvert Marine Museum.

Games were played by 334 Youth and 203 Adults. Small prizes, such as very realistic rubber insects were awarded. R.T. demonstrated it to staff in the Calvert County Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, and the Calvert County Natural Resources Division Chief, where a partnership may be established. It was also demonstrated at the UME statewide GIEI meeting.



## BAY-WISE YARD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

This popular program offers homeowners the opportunity to have a Bay-Wise qualified team of Master Gardeners visit their yards to advise them about environmentally-sound garden practices that can improve water quality, conserve natural resources, and save money. We believe that each individual effort adds to the improved health of the environment. **By changing a few simple landscape practices, we can help keep Maryland communities healthy.**

The Calvert County program began in 2004 with the certification of the Solomon's Victorian Inn and a CCMG yard under the direction of Katherine West. In 2005, six CCMG went through Bay-Wise Advanced Training and had their yards certified, making them eligible to lead Bay-Wise yard visits, and Judy Kay became coordinator. That year, we certified 10 yards, four of which belong to Bay-Wise Certified Master Gardeners, making them Demonstration yards.

The program grew even more in 2006 as CCMGs visited and certified the yards of contacts made through the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning Watershed Planner's "Mill Creek Nutrient Reduction Strategy" program. CCMGs visited 36 yards in the Mill Creek watershed to educate homeowners about practices to follow to control stormwater runoff and keep pollutants out of the waterways. Fourteen of those were certified as Bay-Wise.

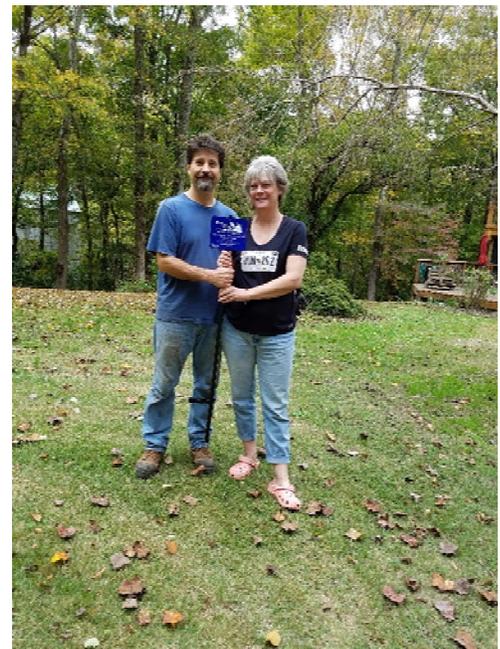
Dom Raino took over the position of coordinator of the Bay-Wise Committee in 2014 and successfully led us through another period of growth. We worked with Garden Clubs in Calvert to meet the Garden Clubs of Maryland challenge to their members to have their yards certified.

By 2014, we had certified 130 residential yards and 5 non-residential sites as Bay-Wise. By 2018, we added 49 residential and 5 non-residential certifications. Nine (9) yards were certified in 2019, making a total of **192 residential and 11 non-residential certifications**. Non-residential sites: American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) Double Oak Farm vegetable garden, Annmarie Garden, Bowensville Farm and Nursery, CCMG Demonstration Gardens at the Community Resources Building, Calvert Marine Museum, Calverton School, Calvert Well Pet Clinic, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, Fishing Creek Trail in Chesapeake Beach, North Beach Sunrise Garden, and Solomon's Victorian Inn.

In 2018, Dom turned over the coordinator position to Melanie Crowder who is ably guiding us as we work with more homeowners who face erosion problems brought on by severe rain events. We added materials and source information to the Calvert County Bay-Wise site: <https://extension.umd.edu/calvert-county/master-gardeners/bay-wise-resources> We are working with watersheds in Calvert County and participating in more outreach events. In 2019, we participated in the following activities.

**Bay-Wise Training.** In March 2019, Calvert County Master Gardeners hosted Bay-Wise Advanced Training classes that produced 19 new Bay-Wise trained Master Gardeners, eight of whom are from Calvert. **The Bay-Wise Committee increased from 24 to 32 members.**

**Calvert Garden Club.** Denise Moroney and Mary Ellen Romney made a Bay-Wise presentation to the Calvert Garden Club, attended by 48 members which resulted in 3 Bay-Wise visits with 2 certifications.



**Calvert Health Medical Center’s Earth Day.** Denise Moroney, Dom Raino and Deborah Noyes talked to 45 visitors. The Hospital Green Team asked CCMGs to make plant suggestions for a Pollinator Garden to be installed after the new hospital wing is completed.

**North Beach Farmers Market.** Bay-Wise is one of the programs we feature at our booth. Eight Bay-Wise requests resulted from this activity.

**CCMG Annual Plant Sale.** A Bay-Wise information table is always staffed at the plant sale. This year, 8 homeowners asked for Bay-Wise Visits.

**ACLT ‘Nature Fest.’** Held at Double Oak Farm, CCMG provided Bay-Wise information and displayed an interactive model demonstrating storm water runoff. Also featured was the KEEP touch screen computer with games about nature and gardening that were enjoyed by adults and youth alike. Almost 120 visitors stopped to talk to the 7 CCMGs who staffed the booth.

**Watershed Awareness: ‘Saving the Bay One Yard at a Time.’** Sponsored by ACLT through a grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), this packed house event was targeted toward homeowners living in the Hunting and St. Leonard’s Creek Watersheds. Greg Bowen, Executive Director of ACLT, described a watershed and outlined the problems with pollution and runoff that have detrimental effects on our waterways. ‘Saving the Bay, One Yard at a Time’ was presented by CCMG Judy Kay. CCMG gave away native grasses—Little Bluestem and Woodland Oats, and ACLT provided door prizes of gardening and nature books. There were 51 attendees and we received 12 Bay-Wise requests for yard visits. It also resulted in a similar program to be presented to the North Beach community, scheduled for March 28, 2020, and to include the University of Maryland Sea Grant Watershed Stewards.



In 2019, thirteen residential yards were certified; and  
Twenty advice visits were made.  
From 2004 through 2019, CCMGs have certified:  
192 Residential yards, and  
11 Non-Residential sites;  
And completed over 98 consultations (figures for consultations are not available for every year).

**Backyard Buffer Bundles.** To encourage homeowners to plant more native trees, Melanie Crowder got in touch with Brian Stupak, Project Manager of the Forest Service in Prince Frederick, Department of Natural Resources about the Backyard Buffer Bundle program. We offered Calvert residents one hundred bags of shrub/small trees and eighty large tree bundles, with a limit of two bundles per person. The program proved to be wildly popular and we had a waiting list.

Nineteen CCMGs and ACLT Master Naturalists bundled 2100 seedlings in an afternoon in the rain on the deck of the CRB. We have reserved the Extension Conference Room in 2020 and will be bundling a total of 2,550 seedlings.

It is essential to plant more native trees in the landscape to help prevent erosion, control stormwater runoff, keep the precipitation in the ground, clean the air and provide much-needed food resources for wildlife.

## Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens (MGDG)

**WHAT A TRANSFORMATION!** When the Extension Office moved into the newly renovated Community Resources Building (CRB), the old Library, in 2007, CCMGs were asked to plan and install a landscape on the grounds if we could obtain funding. Under the leadership of Kathleen Mickley, Committee members Karen Anderson, Pamela Blair, Judy Kay and Carol Shomette, a proposal was submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT).

We received a grant of \$10,000 and monies were received in July 2008. With this achievement, the Department of Public Works Stormwater Management Grant Program awarded \$30,000 to enhance the stormwater management infrastructure by installing a retention pond at the lower end of the gardens.

Excavation was completed at the end of 2009. In Spring 2010, the Master Gardeners began planting native shrubs and trees recommended by CCMGs and provided by the Calvert County Departments of Public Works and Buildings and Grounds. Intense heat and drought conditions delayed planting the plants funded by CBT until Fall. From late September until the weekend before Thanksgiving, Master Gardeners planted and mulched over 1,500 shrubs, small trees, grasses and perennials.



Planting the hillside 2010.

The grant from CBT covered four informational signs about Native Plants, Rain Gardens, Watersheds, and Stormwater Management. The four signs, designed by Suzanne Shelden, were installed by the County Department of Buildings and Grounds in 2013.

The County Department of Buildings and Grounds (County DB&G) built a raised bed at the west corner of the CRB in Fall 2014. We began choosing the plants for a Sensory Garden to be planted there the following Spring. We met with a Boy Scout who proposed installing a boardwalk in a wet area for his Eagle Scout project. Members of the MGDG committee made and installed signs identifying the plants with names and descriptive information about their role in the ecosystem.

In May 2015, after designing and obtaining county permits to build the boardwalk, Matthew Koelbel, with the aid of several Scouts, built it, giving better access to an area that is frequently very wet and muddy. Also, that Spring, the Sensory Garden was planted with plants that stimulate the senses of touch, smell, and sight, and we began giving tours of the Gardens as part of the Garden Smarter program.



The hillside in 2013.



Fifteen (15) CCMGs attended the Bay-Wise certification of the Gardens in 2016. The County provided sturdy posts to proudly display the sign in the lower garden near the steps, making it easily visible from Duke Street. That year, two tours of the Gardens were held, with ten brave people who came out on the hottest day of the year to walk through to see butterflies and bees that were attracted to the native plants.

In 2017, the County built a retaining wall along the Duke Street sidewalk to contain the soil that had been washing down the slope onto the sidewalk. Plants had been removed by CCMGs the previous fall. The County also improved stormwater control around the building so that it was better directed into the rock swale and carried into the retention pond in the lower gardens, helping control erosion in the gardens. CCMGs purchased a rain barrel and another was donated by the UME Watershed Restoration Specialist.

The year of the rains came in 2018, making work in the gardens difficult but Carol Shomette, Karen Anderson, Donna Barrett and Deborah Noyes, with the help of 24 volunteers, kept the gardens looking good. The two rain barrels were installed at the Southeast corner of the building to collect runoff from the roof. The UME Extension-Calvert provided the funds to purchase a bench that was installed in the shade of the magnificent Southern Magnolia. We all appreciated the boardwalk as it allowed us to get into the wet areas without walking in mud or water. A Garden Tour was held in May to showcase the gardens and to sell native plants left from the Plant Sale. A special tour was given to the Chesapeake Garden Club.

We held one Garden tour in early June 2019 and sold native plants remaining from the Plant Sale. Two Invasive Plant Tours were conducted in August by Carla Porter as part of the Garden Smarter program. We also added a bench in front of the Sensory Garden next to Duke Street. The native Trumpet Honeysuckle growing up over the bed sheltered a bird's nest last summer, and everyone enjoyed the Hummingbirds that came to sip nectar from the Honeysuckle blooms.

We began working with Suzanne Shelden in the fall of 2019 to develop a self-guided tour to the gardens. These brochures will be completed by Spring 2020 and will be placed in sheltered kiosks for visitors to pick up and use as a reference as they walk through the gardens.

Carol Shomette became Coordinator of the gardens in 2014. Under her dedicated guidance, the gardens have flourished and changed as all gardens do. The MG Demonstration Gardens may look messy to those who are accustomed to seeing plants surrounded by mulch, but here plants grow next to each other, sharing space and supporting each other, shading out weeds, keeping the soil protected and moist, and growing as plants should grow. As a result, most of the gardens fared well without watering during the severe drought at the end of the summer. Birds, butterflies, bees, frogs, and a myriad of insects that are so important to our well-being find needed, protected habitat.

We have plans to improve and change the gardens beginning in 2020. We want to extend the boardwalk up the hill on the other side of the wetland garden, move the compost bins down to make them more convenient and hold a composting demonstration or two, redo the bed along the driveway from Duke Street to the parking lot, and create experimental demonstration beds.

As always, the CCMG continue their dedicated stewardship of the Gardens, learning from the challenges and using them as teaching tools.



## CCMG Youth Gardening Project at Annmarie Gardens

At the MG Meeting in March 2013, Veronica Cristo asked if CCMGs could provide fresh produce to local food banks. Jim McVey followed up on this suggestion and found space for us to create raised beds at Annmarie Gardens. That Spring, Jim and R. T. West, with the assistance of several CCMGs built four raised beds in the area between the parking lot and the entrance to the Gardens. These beds were funded by the Master Gardeners and are maintained by them as teaching tools for the public and as part of the Annmarie Youth Summer Camp where we instruct children about gardening and nature and nutrition. The vegetables are donated to local food banks.

The Spring class painted the sides of the frames with colorful art and added soil to the beds. Over 90 children planted bedding plants when they came to the Green Expo in early May. That first year, 166 children learned about all aspects of gardening, and over 300 pounds of produce were donated to SMILE.

**Green Expo** always draws a lot of visitors who have to walk past the CCMG Youth Gardens to the Expo entrance, greatly broadening our educational outreach to the public and giving more children a chance to dig in the soil to plant a vegetable seedling or starter plant.

Four more beds were added in 2014 to accommodate the growing numbers in the classes. This more than doubled the amount of produce with over 1,100 pounds taken to SMILE and other food banks for distribution. A pollinator garden was added along the end of a building next to the gardens.

Many children who attended one summer camp returned for another one because they enjoyed it so much. They knew all the answers to the quizzes about good gardening practices and soil, pollinators, pests, and watering, which meant the CCMGs had to develop new information and questions! And, they enjoyed being able to give back to the community, greatly pleasing their parents.

Over the years (including 2019), we have taught about 1,425 youth. They have been able to observe the role of pollinators in the garden and to learn that beneficial insects can control garden pests without the use of pesticides, that soil is more productive if it is enriched with organic matter than with fertilizer, and how important microbes are in creating healthy soil. In 2018, they were able to watch a bumper crop of Monarch caterpillars munch their way through the milkweed in the nearby pollinator garden.

The eight raised beds are filled with rich soil created from composted leaves mixed with topsoil and enriched with composted chicken waste. Such rich soil allows immediate replanting with a new crop after one is harvested. Produce includes tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, string beans, summer squash lettuces, and snow peas. Fall crops in cooler weather usually include Pak and Bok Choi, Potatoes are grown in bags. Through drought, too much rain, and attacks by insects, the garden now provides about 1,000 pounds of produce annually.

Thanks to the dedication of Jim and Eileen McVey who coordinate the project and the many volunteers who plant seeds for starter plants, plant and clean up the gardens, teach the sessions with youth, and harvest and distribute the produce, this program brings fresh, healthy vegetables to many who would not otherwise have them. Just over 1,000 pounds of produce were donated in 2019, making an approximate total of *5,850 pounds* over 8 years.



## CCMG Annual Plant Sale

We've come a long way, CCMGers!! From the first plant sale in 2003 in the parking lot of the Prince Frederick Shopping Center, our Annual Plant Sale has increased in size and scope about 25 times from the few plants we first offered from our yards. In the beginning, there were very few native plants and almost no educational material available. But grow, we did, and the results are astounding. Within two or three years, with more CCMG members, more plants, including native, were taken from our yards and offered for sale and we started bringing literature and other handouts to be distributed.

By 2006, we began making plant markers giving both botanical and common plant names, date of bloom, size, etc. As an Intern, Pat Terlisner took on the big job of setting up the labels. The next year, we made photo signs for each species of plant, giving plant information and planting requirements. A few garden clubs liked the idea and began making labels for their plants.

In 2008, the UME Calvert moved to the newly renovated Community Relations Building (the old Library) and we were able to hold our Plant Sales in the parking lot behind the building. This gave us a place to store plants the day before, have access to the Conference Room and to water and electricity, if needed.

To meet the demand for more native plants, we began purchasing about 700 or more herbaceous perennials each year from reliable, native plant nurseries. We also purchase preprinted markers for plants if they are available.



Our Plant Sale has become known as a source for organically grown vegetable plants and heirloom tomatoes. Many of our customers will buy only from us, knowing the plants have not been exposed to pesticides or grown in crowded conditions making them more susceptible to disease or damaging insects. Speaking of customers, about 53 came to buy plants in 2008, the first year we have records. We now welcome close to 300 eager customers who show up before 8:00 AM (opening time) to have first pick of our plants.

We made and sold salad boxes between 2009 and 2016 and held salad box and composting demonstrations. We now have information booths for Bay-Wise and Non-Native Invasive Plants, information about how to make a salad box, and we have dozens of handouts about native plants, pollinator gardens, growing vegetables and other gardening information. Carla Porter and Rose Thompson give walks to identify non-native invasive plants on the grounds of the CRB.

The Plant Sale is held the first Saturday in May, and we hold prepping sessions for three afternoons prior to the sale to clean up the plants, put markers with prices in each one, and have them ready to be carried to the stands early Saturday morning.

We added a Bake Sale table to sell delicious goodies brought by some of the terrific CCMG bakers. Volunteers working the sale may be most appreciative of them. Beginning work at 7:00 AM makes us all hungry by 9:30 and we know we are buying good food from our own members.

For the first few years, the plant sale was organized by Katherine and R.T. West, then by Judy Kay, and Mary Edington ran it in 2013 and 2014. Deb Berbert became coordinator in 2015 and set up guidelines to follow, provided

layouts for setting up the display stands, oversaw the selection and purchase of professional plant stands, organized the potting parties to pot the purchased seedlings, recruited volunteers for specific jobs and made sure everyone followed up on their assignment! Under her guidance, we have been more successful than ever. Wendi Paterno did an awesome job of alphabetizing and standardizing Plant Labels, and Donna Rea keeps the Photo signs organized. Anita Bruno takes charge of the Cashiers, Carol Santivasci runs the Bake Sale table, Cindy Mallonee writes the Press Release, Judy Kay works on plant purchases with Deb, Mimi Miller coordinates with Linda's Greenhouse for herb purchases and hanging basket consignment, Penny Moran takes care of the Plant Sale Banners, and between 30 and 40 CCMGs assist each year by growing, potting, prepping and providing support for the Plant Sale.

For our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale in 2019, we purchased over 600 herbaceous native perennials and almost 100 shrubs to supplement the 1000 plants that came from our yards, the MG Demo Gardens, or were propagated by CCMGs. We offer a few hundred of always-popular tomato and pepper plants and other vegetables.

**The Annual Plant Sale is our only fundraising event—SUPPORT IT!**

**MG Years of Service Pins**

For the first time, we gave Master Gardener Years-of-Service Pins to our many dedicated Master Gardeners who have been active members for 5 years and more. Almost 40 Master Gardeners have given volunteer service for more than five years and those numbers will increase in 2020. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SERVICE IN SERVING THE CALVERT COUNTY RESIDENTS.**

**FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE**

Niki Baker  
 Melanie Crowder  
 Judy Ferris  
 Louisa Koppers  
 James McVey  
 Penny Moran  
 Mary Anna Phillips  
 Avis Vesely

Donna Barrett  
 Jan Degeneffe  
 Romona Hobar (posthumously)  
 Cindy Mallonee  
 Elisa Miller  
 Lisa Oswald  
 Betty Seifert

Deborah Berbert  
 Kathleen Ellwood  
 Curt Hules  
 Eileen McVey  
 Jennifer Miller  
 Pat Paytas  
 Rose Thompson

**TEN-YEARS OF SERVICE**

Karen Anderson  
 Norma Imershein  
 Denise Moroney  
 Nancy Radcliffe  
 Carol Shomette

Anita Bruno  
 Judith Kay  
 Lucy Muehleisen  
 Dom Raino  
 Katherine West

Lin Gauchet  
 Elizabeth (Mimi) Miller  
 Carla Porter  
 Suzanne Shelden  
 R. T. West

**FIFTEEN-YEARS OF SERVICE**

Kathleen Mickley

Mary Ellen Romney

## Community Events

The Calvert County Master Gardeners participate in as many appropriate Community Events as possible. We have participated in events in the past that either no longer exist or have changed. They offer us the opportunity to increase our educational outreach efforts and promote our programs to diverse members of the Community. We engage children in activities such as planting seeds in Dixie cups, quizzes, and artwork, and we have just added the KEEP computer games. We give away prizes as rewards for playing games and frequently give away native plant seedlings to those who stop by our booth. Visitors are drawn by displays for the Bay-Wise program, pollinator information, and native plants. They choose from our many handouts and ask gardening questions, and we aren't shy about promoting our programs and intentionally engaging passersby in conversation.

**CHILDREN'S DAY ON THE FARM.** Held annually on the First Sunday in June to coincide with National Children's Day, this event has been held on the grounds of Jefferson Patterson Park for 34 years. CCMG have participated since the Master Gardener group was formed in 2003-04. We let children choose a large seed, such as watermelon, pumpkin, bean or tomato, then plant it in a peat pellet, place it in a Dixie cup and water it, so it can be taken home to grow over the summer. This activity is always popular with the kids, many of whom report on the success of their plant when they visit the following year.



In 2008, our records show that about 200 children and 100 adults came by the CCMG table.

In 2014, Veronica Cristo borrowed a "farm to market" display from the Economic Development and Agricultural Commission. It was an instant hit, and we have been fortunate to borrow it each year since then. Kids can gather eggs from the nesting hens, pick apples held in pockets on a tree, harvest carrots and onions and other vegetables from a plot, then take them all to market to "sell". In 2019, insect and frog toys were given as "payment." After harvesting, all the items are returned to their place for the next wave that comes through to harvest them.

Children's Day on the Farm always draws large crowds with at least 600 adults and children coming by the CCMG booth, except during the Nor'easter in 2018. That year, we huddled in the pavilion and talked and played games

with the 81 children and 83 adults who braved the weather and stopped at our booth.

In 2019, the KEEP computer was brought to add another activity and was enjoyed by both youth and adults. Penny Moran coordinated the booth, and she and the 13 volunteers were kept hopping trying to work with the kids and talk to the record number of 370 adults and 450 children who stopped by the booth. We gave away handouts on all aspects of gardening. Most of the visitors arrive between noon and 3:00 PM, and we need to increase the number of volunteers in 2020.

**EAT LOCAL CHALLENGE CELEBRATION.** Sponsored by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, this event was held for the first time in Calvert County. It moves from one county to another and it will be five years before it returns to Calvert. It was a very hot Monday afternoon and evening and attendance was moderate. We took an assortment of handouts about vegetable gardening and gave away packets of lettuce seed. Several people stopped to talk to us and play games on KEEP. We gave away more insects which were as popular with adults as the children.

**GREEN EXPO.** The first **Annual Calvert County Green Fair Expo** was held at Jefferson Patterson Park in 2009, and CCMG were there with a booth featuring composting, native plants and Bay-Wise along with information about our many activities. A PowerPoint about composting was given by Jean McDougall and hands-on demonstrations were given throughout the day by Jean, Lin Gauchat and Nancy Radcliffe at our booth. We gave away native perennials and talked to 96 adults and 15 children.

By 2011, Green Expo was moved to Annmarie Sculpture Garden which is now its permanent home and it is now run by the Annmarie Garden Staff. Visitors to our booth totaled 175 that year. Activities for children included painting pots or rocks and planting large seeds in peat pellets. We gave away between 100 and 150 native perennial plants and promoted Bay-Wise and Master Gardener programs.

When the Youth Gardens were first established at Annmarie, Jim and other CCMGs asked the children who attended Green Expo to plant seedlings in the garden beds. The garden location drew so much attention that we now set up a tent next to the beds each year with handouts and displays. Because of its location along the path from the parking lot to the entrance, this booth attracts more visitors than the one inside. In 2019, the staff at the booth by the Youth Gardens talked to over 300 visitors (over 100 were children), and the booth inside the grounds greeted about 175 visitors.

This event is sponsored by the Calvert County Green Team. CCMGs have had a member representing them on the Green Team since 2010. The name Green Expo was changed to Green Living Festival in 2018 and will change to Green Life Festival in 2020.



**INSECTIVAL.** Annmarie invited CCMGs to participate for the first time in 2018, and we all enjoyed it immensely. Jim McVey found Monarch caterpillars in the CCMG Pollinator Garden next to the Youth Gardens and we gathered milkweed leaves for them to eat. Our display included a tri-fold board telling about the importance of insects, and we gave away a lot of literature about insects, but the caterpillars munching away on the milkweed drew all the attention. We gave away insect stickers and rubber insects to 42 children accompanied by 43 adults.

In 2019, attendance doubled. Our most popular handouts were “Planning a Butterfly Garden,” “Bee-Friendly Garden” graphic, and other information about bees and butterflies. We also had two Black Swallowtail and two Buckeye caterpillars in butterfly keepers chomping away on Parsley and Snapdragon respectively. The caterpillars were taken home, formed chrysalises and emerged successfully.

And, the KEEP electronic games were a big draw for youth and adults alike. They played all the games, whether they included insects or not, and were given prizes of plastic insects or colorful frogs. The insect prizes are the most popular ones we give away.

We talked to 126 adults and 73 youth for a total of 199 in 2019!



#### **MUD DAY AT ANNMARIE GARDENS.**

Annmarie Gardens has hosted this event for kids to come play in the mud for several years and decided to expand the activities in 2019 by inviting the Master Gardeners to participate. Jim McVey, along with Mariah Dean, Jennifer Miller and Elisa Miller, spent the afternoon fielding questions about gardening and talking about soil. With a total attendance of 457, including 193 children, they were kept busy helping children harvest potatoes from the potato bags from the Youth Gardens and replacing them for the next round of harvesting. They used a demonstration of soil profiles taken from Jim’s yard that showed topsoil, a clay layer, and then a gravel/clay/sand layer that illustrated the typical soil in Calvert County. The event broadened our outreach to another segment of the public and we plan to attend next year.

**NORTH BEACH FARMERS MARKET.** The Friday night Farmers Market in North Beach provides a venue for vendors selling produce, fresh food and other items and seemed an ideal place for a Master Gardener booth. In 2012, Lisa Oswald made the contacts and arranged the dates for a CCMG booth. Families came by to ask questions, to pick up

interesting gardening handouts and posters and other items of interest to the children. Many yard visits came from our promotion of the Bay-Wise program.

Lisa managed the booth until 2016 when Deborah Noyes took it over. Due to the popularity of the market, we are given a schedule for our display, and we are usually there 9 or 10 evenings during the summer growing season. For many years between 200 and 300 people stopped by the booth each summer. In 2019, we contacted 393 adults and 74 youth, down from 462 adults and 78 youth in 2018. This may be due to fewer times being at the market. We have found it a very effective location for providing educational materials, promoting the Bay-Wise Program and furthering our contact with the public.

**PATUXENT RIVER APPRECIATION DAYS (PRAD).** The Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) began sponsoring PRAD in 1978 to encourage the residents of the area to respect and protect the Patuxent River. In 2008, CCMG staffed a booth at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual PRAD where we hosted 270 visitors and gave away 90 native plant seedlings. This established the practice of giving away seedlings at PRAD. We also provided visitors with lots of handouts about gardening, Best Management Practices and the Bay-Wise Program.

Attendance at PRAD has varied over the years due primarily to the weather. In 2012 heavy rain limited attendance on Saturday and closed it for Sunday. Again in 2013 a storm cancelled PRAD. We rebounded in 2014 with 580 visitors to the booth over the two-day event. We gave away 165 native plants and had bamboo sections for kids to make Mason Bee Houses. In 2016, severe rain on Saturday dampened us but not our spirits and 100 hardy people braved the weather to visit us. The wind blew like a banshee on Sunday, and we were invited to set up indoors and were pleased to talk to another 200 visitors, and we gave away 180 plants. Numbers ranged around 450 for the next two years; however, the attendance was low on Sundays, and it was changed to a Saturday only event in 2019. Almost 500 adults and youth stopped at our booth which was in a prime location in front of the entrance to the Museum.

Over the years, we have offered many children's activities: making bee houses, painting rocks and leaves, painting pots, and turning plastic soda bottles into self-watering containers with a start of lettuce to plant in them. We estimate we have given away at least 1,300 native plant seedlings at PRAD over the years to promote the interest in and use of native plants in the landscape. In 2019, we added KEEP and several played the games; however, we learned that we need a person dedicated to it to encourage its use and to have a banner or sign that draws people to it.

Penny Moran took over the organization of our booth at this annual event from Chuck McMillan who provided an excellent set of guidelines to follow.



**YOUTH DAY AT THE CALVERT COUNTY FAIR.** CCMGs have had a presence at the County Fair since 2008 and our booth is usually located near the building with 4-H exhibits. Children love to Spin-the-Wheel, then answer questions based on a variety of gardening subjects. Different levels of questions accommodate the range in ages. We give away fruit snacks, onion sets, Narcissus bulbs, Iris tubers, and other non-edible items as prizes for playing the games

This is another event that is controlled by weather, and a Nor'easter closed it down in 2015. Attendance in 2017 rose to 615 adults and children—a record that hasn't been broken.

Rose Thompson took over coordinating the booth and volunteers from Jean McDougall in 2013

and continued for 5 years until Pat Paytas ran it in 2019. It was a lovely, sunny day in 2019 and about 390 adults and children came by the CCMG booth to ask questions and play games. Very young children could name a vegetable; older ones could Spin the Wheel to answer gardening questions, and they could play the touch screen KEEP computer to match caterpillars with adult butterflies or other matching games. Everyone who played received a prize, including the popular plastic insects and frogs, making many children happy with something to put in their pockets to take home.

## Work with Partners

**DOUBLE OAK FARM VEGETABLE GARDEN AT ACLT.** CCMG interaction at the Double Oak Farm Garden began in 2015. That year, R.T. West managed the garden and led 30 children through the gardens. Over 4,000 pounds of fresh produce were donated to the St. John Vianney Food Bank.

In 2016, almost 4,000 pounds were donated to St. John Vianney and more groups visited the gardens. In August of 2017, 30 youth and 16 teenagers and adults went through the gardens. R. T. worked with 14 youth from Tidewater to teach gardening. Birgit Sharp began creating the Food Forest at the edge of the woods.

By 2018, 110 youth and about 40 adults visited or participated in the gardens in some way. Groups included Tidewater School 4-H, John Hanson Montessori, Latter Day Saint Church, Huntingtown Elementary 4-H, Patuxent High School and Imagination: Bayside Destination group. Over 4,500 pounds of produce were donated to St. John Vianney's Food Bank

In 2019:

- 13 Girl Scout Daisies (and 10 adults) planted, tended and harvested Sweet Potatoes. At the County Fair, they were awarded a red ribbon for largest sweet potato and a blue ribbon for the youth sweet potato entry.
- The 4-H group of 14 from Tidewater School, along with 7 adults, planted Cotton in the spring, tended it and harvested some of it to take to the County Fair and were given a blue ribbon for their cotton exhibit.
- Cub Scouts planted and tended Peanuts and harvested them in September. They won a red ribbon at the County Fair.
- The Imagination: Bayside Destination group of 7 and 1 adult planted a Pizza Garden in the spring, harvested it in early October and made delicious pizzas.
- 2,200 pounds of produce were given to the St. John Vianney Food Bank.

**PROJECT SPUDNIK.** Project Spudnik was begun by Sherrill Munn and others in 2016 on the grounds of All Saints Episcopal Church to train youth from All Saints and Broadview Baptist Churches about soil and growing potatoes in containers. Youth came together to compost, learn about soil composition and how to improve it, prevent and control disease, companion planting, watering, and fertilizing. The potatoes that year were donated to Heart F.E.L.T (Filling Empty Little Tummies).

Many garden vegetables, including tomatoes and herbs, have been added and the size of the gardens has expanded. In 2017, eight other vegetables were grown along with the potatoes. Twelve youth and 6 adults participated in the program and 145 pounds of produce were distributed to three food pantries.

In 2018, 17 youth worked in the gardens and over 200 pounds of produce were donated to Chesapeake Cares and Saint John Vianney Food Pantries. Project Spudnik was the proud recipient of a grant of \$1,000 from the Calvert Garden Club that supported teaching teens about gardening by making it fun and challenging.

In 2019, a pollinator garden was planted nearby that attracted Monarch butterflies. Over 460 pounds of produce were given to two food banks in Calvert County. Other churches have adopted the idea of growing produce in containers as a way of supplying fresh produce for food banks. A grant of \$1,000 was received from Keep Maryland Beautiful, a Department of Natural Resources program, and the Calvert Garden Club made a gift of \$750.

The youth who work in the gardens are also members of #OurCommonCalvert, and their work with Project Spudnik was a major factor in receiving a Service Award from the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism in September. In addition to the recognition, tickets to a Raven's game were included!



The Project has become very popular and 29 teens and 6 adults worked in the gardens and were able to deliver over 460 pounds of produce to two food banks in Calvert County.

## **WORK WITH SCHOOLS.**

- Calverton School. Karen Moreland taught 40 youth and 5 adults about Vermicomposting.
- Northern High Garden Club. R. T West taught 11 youth about Vermicomposting and Judy Kay taught the group about Pollinators.
- Huntingtown Elementary School. R. T. West hooked up the KEEP laptop to a screen allowing 112 kids and 8 adults to either play or watch someone else play the matching games.

## **Community Gardens**

**CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM.** In 2009, Peg Dann was asked by CMM to choose plants for the Rain Garden that was to be installed to catch runoff from the new Corbin Pavilion. Native plants were chosen that could withstand having wet feet for two or three days, then adapt to much drier conditions. This set the precedent for using native plants on the grounds. In 2011, the CCMG and CMM volunteers, then known as “Yard Arms” removed and replaced some of the old plantings with locally native plants, redid bedding edges, and made plant identification signs. A Pollinator Garden was added near the street entrance with a replica light house in the center. This bed has signage about pollinators and plant identification signs for each species.

In 2018, the volunteer group changed its name to Calvert Marine Museum Garden Guild. In April that year, they hosted 22 children and their parents during spring break.

**JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK (JPPM) HOUSE GARDEN.** In 2005, the curator of the Jefferson Patterson home and gardens made an appeal to the public, and specifically to the Calvert County Master Gardeners, for assistance with restoring the gardens that surround the Patterson home. The original landscape drawings were discovered and CCMGs and others spent many hours researching the specific plants used in the original gardens. The cold frame was restored, beds were cleared and replanted, and the gardens opened to visitors. Dr. Francis Gouin, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland, held several pruning classes there. The greenhouse was restored in 2009.



CCMGs have been a part of the team effort taking stewardship of the grounds with Betty Seifert, Curator of the Patterson House Collection and a Master Gardener, leading them. The House is undergoing renovation and restoration and gardening activity is reduced until 2021.

**SOLOMONS ISLAND RIVERWALK GARDENS.** A total of 15 “island gardens’ are maintained along the Solomons Riverwalk through a collaboration with several organizations and the Calvert County Government. CCMGs Jean McDougall and Lin Gauchat assisted in planning the gardens, planting annuals in the spring and fall and maintaining them. Work in these gardens goes back to 2008. The Solomons Citizens Association issued a plaque recognizing the work done by the CCMG.



## Other Activities

### *CCMG Speakers Bureau*

**SOUTHERN PINES COMMUNITY CENTER POLLINATOR GARDEN.** Melinda Gaines, Director of Office of Aging, is working with volunteers at SPCC to clean up the Pollinator Garden installed by Peg Dann in 2005 and make it beautiful again. Judy Kay talked to a group of 12 volunteers at the Center about the connections between native plants and insects, and she helped them identify some of the plants and replace some of the identification signs that were missing or had been moved.

**JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH.** In June, Jennifer, Elisa and Mimi Miller gave a presentation on Herbs to an audience of 21 females. They took samples of 10 herbs and talked about their uses: culinary, medicinal, pollinator, attracting good insects and repelling pests, and for use in a container garden.

### *Work with Vulnerable Citizens*

**HEAD START AT BARSTOW ELEMENTARY.** Master Gardeners have assisted Jackie Gray, UME Calvert Nutrition Educator and Project Leader, at the summer camp with the Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE) program since 2011. Recently, the program has been held at Barstow Elementary. The Summer Camp teaches 4 and 5-year-old children about nutrition and encourages them to eat fresh fruit and vegetables. They grow vegetables and harvest them, and lessons are taught about soil and pollination and food is served that is appropriate to the subject taught. Everyone is encouraged to take “two bites.” Each year, about 30-50 children go through the program.

### *Advanced Master Gardener Training*

All Master Gardeners are required to complete ten hours of advanced training and 20 hours of volunteer work each year.



Visiting the Chester River Field Research Station

In 2019, CCMGs completed 832 hours of advanced training to further their knowledge of sustainable gardening and protecting the environment. In addition to speakers at our monthly meetings, we also use webinars given by accredited sources, such as universities in other states that oversee the Extension Services.

A unique training experience on Meadow Habitat drew 7 or 8 CCMGs to the Chester River Field Research Station run by Washington College on the Eastern Shore. This is the largest conservation easement in the state of Maryland, and it is working to re-establish meadow habitats to promote the populations of birds such as Quail, Meadow Larks and 15 other species. Jim McVey told us what they learned in a presentation to the CCMGs at a monthly meeting.

### *Master Gardener Training*

Twelve trainees completed the 2019 Master Gardener Training Class in Calvert County. Judy Granzow, Celia Anderson, Jeff Corteville, Toni Healey, Jennifer Taubert and Chris Seubert all completed 40 hours of volunteer service and became Calvert County Master Gardeners!

## Administration

**Budget Committee.** In 2013, we realized we needed guidelines for spending for our many projects and a Budget Committee to approve and control the requests for funds. A committee of 5 volunteers was formed, and Guidelines for CCMG Spending were written and approved at our monthly meeting in 2014. With her years of experience of tracking finances and budgets, Mimi Miller was an obvious choice to coordinate the committee. She continues in that role along with the current committee members: Anita Bruno, Jan DeGeneffe, Norma Imershein, and R. T. West.

**Volunteer Management System (VMS).** All CCMGs are expected to report their volunteer hours on an electronic tracking system supported on the University of Maryland UME server. Approval of those hours is done by Norma Imershein who is assisted by Denise Moroney. Norma does the detailed, sometimes arduous, task of determining if the hours reported are on qualified CCMG projects. She asks all CCMGs to use the Sites in the drop-down panel on the VMS, choose an appropriate Activity, and *clearly describe their work*. Entry methods and Activities have changed, and Guidelines “If You Do This, Record This” will be developed early in 2020.

**Facebook.** In 2014, CCMGs approved the creation of a Calvert County Master Gardener Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/calvertcountymastergardeners/> Elisa and Jennifer Miller created the page and keep it up to date with CCMG activities, beautiful photos, and interesting and appropriate materials. It provides an important means of promoting our activities, advertising our Plant Sale, and keeping the public informed about our activities. They are now assisted by Eileen McVey and Keith Ehman.

## In Summary and Looking to the Future

Numerical data are important in measuring accomplishments; however, there are other ways we see our impact on the community. Attendance at our Garden Smarter lecture series and requests for more subjects have increased. Customers return to our plant sale each year because they know we offer hard-to-find native plants, organically grown vegetable plants, and are there to answer their questions. Children return to the summer camps at the Youth Gardens at Annmarie Garden to learn more and contribute to the food bank for others. Project Spudnik has inspired other churches to create gardening-in-containers programs. ACLT Double Oak Farm Experimental Gardens host visitors who want to learn about sustainable ways to garden. Visitors come to the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens to see native plant landscaping. Citizens come to us asking for planting information and identification of plants. Other organizations ask us to give Bay-Wise presentations to their communities or groups and more and more Calvert County residents seek Bay-Wise evaluations and advice for their properties. We receive more invitations asking us to have a booth at community events and our advice is sought by those who want to install pollinator or native plant gardens.

Our work is dedicated to educating our citizens in ways to create healthier communities. Our future plans include increasing our educational outreach with hands-on demonstrations, working with youth, adding “Ask a Master Gardener” clinics, and expanding our lecture series to other venues. As we face Covid 19 and the many changes it has already brought and will bring to our lives, we know we must continue to encourage our citizens to practice safe and sustainable ways of gardening and caring for the landscape and to be good stewards of the land. As individuals, we are here for a short while, but the land will remain when we are gone. How we take care of it now will affect the health, happiness and well-being of those who come after us.

## University of Maryland Extension-Calvert Staff

Through retirement and expansion in 2019 and early 2020, there have been many changes in the UME-Calvert staff.

### We Welcome:

**Shelley King-Curry, Area Extension Director.** Shelley comes to us from the University of Wisconsin-Extension where she was Administrator and Educational Programming Specialist with strategic and tactical staff training and organizational leadership experience. She arrived in early Fall 2019 and immediately impressed us with her grasp of our needs and how the Master Gardeners fit into the overall UME goals. We enjoy working with her and appreciate her guidance through a period of change within the UME system.

**Kara LeClair, FSNE Project Leader, Nutrition Educator.** Kara moved here from Georgia and began in early November. We look forward to working with her.

**Priscilla Graves, Family and Consumer Sciences.** Priscilla teaches families and individuals to create budgets and take control of their finances. She comes to us from the Prince Georges Extension.

**Nicole Basenback, Watershed Protection Educator.** We know Nicole who has been doing the watershed education work in St. Mary's County for a few years. The position in Calvert County is new in 2020, making it a full-time position for her. She will have offices in both Calvert and St. Mary's Extension Offices, and her advice and assistance will be valuable when we need to make recommendations to our Bay-Wise clients about ways to control stormwater runoff on their properties.

**Nancy Radcliffe, Master Gardener Coordinator.** Nancy has been a Master Gardener since 2006 and was a teacher in the Calvert County schools for many years. Her gardening knowledge, enthusiasm and insight, and ability to work with and motivate others will help us grow and steer us through organizational changes that are being made in the UME Master Gardener program. We are so happy you are with us, Nancy!

**Michelle L. Lockett, Office Clerk II.** Michelle teaches us how to enter hours on the Volunteer Management System, keeps track of our records, makes copies for us, does research and helps us in so many ways. In just a few months, Michelle has learned all about the program, helped us determine years of service for awarding pins to the Master Gardeners, and takes on any challenge we ask.

### And we are so happy old friends are still with us:

**Elaine L. Bailey, Senior Agent 4-H Youth Development.**

**Christopher S. Dowell, Coordinator Agricultural Nutrient Management Program, Calvert and Prince George's Counties.**

**Janet Sefton, Extension Program Assistant 4-H Youth Development.**

**Ariana Strahl, Extension Program Assistant 4-H Youth Development.**

**Liz Laher, Administrative Assistant II.**

**Jacqueline Takacs, Senior Agent, Environment, Natural Resources and Sea Grant for Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties.** (She does not work out of the Calvert Office)

## And we said a fond farewell to:

**Chris Seubert, Area Extension Director.** Chris was the first Area Extension Director for the tri-county area. He was a tireless advocate for the Master Gardeners, meeting with County Commissioners and other officials to obtain the part-time Master Gardener Coordinator and Watershed Protection Educator positions. He was so enamored with the program he went through training in Spring 2019 and completed his 40 hours to become a Master Gardener before he retired and moved to Oregon in June 2019. We wish him well in his retirement in Portland, Oregon, and hope he enjoys gardening and learning the regional native plants, hiking and, of course, being near grandchildren.

**Jackie Gray, Food Supplement Nutrition Educator.** Jackie worked in the Extension Office for many years and we miss her smile and cordiality. She is well known in the County for her work with organizations and outreach to those in need and continues to work with 4-H groups, as she did for many years. We still see her occasionally and know she will always be doing good for others in the County.

**Laura Griffiths, Office Clerk II.** Laura cleaned up and updated files, took on the job of cleaning out and organizing the storage area downstairs, learned the VMS system, and was always there to help the Master Gardeners. We miss her smile, wit and enthusiasm and wish her well in her new job.

## We thank

**The University of Maryland Extension – Calvert Staff  
The University of Maryland Extension - Ellicott City Staff  
The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners  
The Calvert County Office of Building and Grounds  
Calvert County Government Departments and Staff  
And other state, local and community organizations.**

And

**We thank Liz Laher and Michelle Luckett for all they do for us,  
Always with a smile and a great sense of humor.  
We couldn't do what we do without them!**

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The Annual Report was compiled by Judy Kay and edited by Norma Imershein,  
Penny Moran, and Denise Moroney

Photos are courtesy of Judy Kay, Eileen McVey, Jennifer Miller and others.

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## Equal Access Programs