Camping Season Concludes at the MD 4-H Environmental Education & Camping Center

The Maryland 4-H Environmental Education & Camping Center is located here in Garrett County, along Rt. 495 in Bittinger, MD. The 2023 camping season has come to a close. This year, the camping center welcomed over 1,800 youth to the facility to experience nature at its finest. A total of six MD counties brought 4-H youth to the camp for week-long residential camps, along with numerous, public and private schools. Allegany County Public Schools utilized the camping center for six weeks for outdoor education for this fall. The Maryland Envirothon contest was held at the camping center this year, along with Maryland DNR Becoming an Outdoor Woman. GCPS AP Biology class also visited the bog, a unique feature of Garrett County. The center also hosts winter owl banding, bird walk with the MD Ornithology Society, and a variety of private event rentals at the rustic facility.
Garrett County 4-H Brings STEM Education & Smiles During First Robotics Class

Southern High School Special Education class enjoyed a lesson on robotics to align with their October theme “Objects on the Move”. Garrett County 4-H STEM brought Lego WEDO Prime Essential robotics and explored the unit on the Amazing Amusement Park. The students learned about the smart hub, motors, and color LED as they chose to build and program amusement park rides including a Ferris wheel, twirling teacups, and a giant swing. The students enjoyed selecting motor speeds, color, and sound options on iPads that were connected to their project build. The morning was filled with smiles and cheers as each group shared their creations with each other. Garrett County 4-H STEM plans to return this winter with another fun program for the class.
Youth will prepare their own loaf of bread and learn about the science of yeast and how it can change a dense mass of dough to rise high above the pan. To complement the bread, they will also make homemade butter. A gluten-free option is also available. Sign up today by calling the Extension Office at 301-334-6960!
Youth will learn introductory sewing skills like sewing a button on and hand stitching. By the end of the class they will have a homemade ornament to take home. Call the Extension Office today to register at 301-334-6960!

Local Youth Learn About the Ecosystem in Their Yard

On October 18th Master Gardener Vicki Teets and Home Horticulture Agent, Ashley Bodkins, provided a program called The Ecosystem in your Yard for children at the Kitzmiller Branch of the Ruth Enlow Library, where participants were able to learn about habitats in their own backyard through hands-on activities of painting their own American Toad house, seed bombs with native plants, and creating their own bird feeders.
Master Gardeners Tour Orchard & Nursery

Master Gardeners met at a local heirloom apple orchard and nursery in neighboring Preston County on October 16th. Paul and Karen Teets of Teets Orchard and Nursery have more than 150 different varieties of apples growing on their property. Apple taste testing to compare varieties and orchard tour to show the importance of planning, maintenance and pruning were part of the educational outing. The operation grafts their own trees and makes their own apple cider.

Fall Master Gardener Basic Training Completed

Six participants were part of the Fall 2023 Master Gardener Basic Training held at the University of Maryland Extension office in October. The basic training offers 40 hours of classroom presentations, hands on demonstrations, and projects to help prepare anyone that wants to become a certified Maryland Master Gardener.
Fall is a wonderful time when the leaves change colors, the weather turns cooler, and the aroma of delicious food fills our homes. In this blog post, we'll share some affordable and easy fall recipes that are simple to follow and can help you savor the taste of fall without feeling overwhelmed in the kitchen. Click HERE to get all the great recipes.

Fall Recipe Favorites from Maryland SNAP-Ed

University of Maryland Extension (UME) has launched an enhanced nutrient management planning process designed to adapt to modern farming practices and operations that better align with Maryland's agricultural regulations and environmental goals. Moving forward, UME will now administer and coordinate statewide nutrient management planning following the finalization of the agreement between the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Click here for more information.

Smart Choice / Smart Use Health Insurance Fall Series

Please join us for our virtual Fall Series of health insurance literacy workshops! Health insurance is confusing, but the Smart Choice / Smart Use Health Insurance™ program can help. There are still two sessions to sign up for. We'll cover everything you need to know about insurance, including:

- How do you select a health insurance plan that works for you and your family?
- How can you get the most out of your health insurance benefits?
- What is Medicare and what should you know about health care as you get older?

Sign up HERE!
If you are need of a nutrient management plan, please contact our office at 301-334-6960.

MidAtlantic Women In Agriculture November Newsletter

As the USDA reports, the number of women involved in agriculture has grown in recent years. MidAtlantic Women in Agriculture is dedicated to providing knowledge and resources to women who share a passion for agriculture.

Check out the November edition of the MidAtlantic Women in Agriculture Newsletter.

Maryland Safe Drinking WATER Study

The overarching goal of the Maryland Safe Drinking WATER (Water Analysis and Testing for Education and Research) Study is to characterize the drinking water quality of both public drinking water systems and private wells in Maryland’s communities. Our team aims to develop data on levels of PFAS, coliform bacteria, pesticide residues, metals, nitrates, and other contaminants in samples collected from homes across the state.

Please visit our website, https://sph.umd.edu/marylandsafedrinkingwater, or email us at safedrinkingwater@umd.edu to learn more. Click this link to enroll in the study or scan the QR Code below: go.umd.edu/safedrinkingwaterenroll
Are you interested in **FREE** at-home drinking water testing?

University of Maryland researchers are studying contamination that may be present in Marylanders’ drinking water.

**Participants receive:**
- At-home water testing kits
- Additional follow-up testing

Visit us online:
go.umd.edu/safedrinkingwater

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**Keeping Connected**

We are here to serve you in person, by phone, email, or by video conferencing. If you have questions, contact one of our experts to provide solutions.
UME-Garrett County

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