Garrett County 4-H Receives Readers Choice Award
Thank you Garrett County for selecting our 4-H Youth Development Program as your 2023 Greatest Non-Profit Group for Kids & Young Youth Reader's Choice Award.

On behalf of the University of Maryland Extension- Garrett Office, we are truly grateful to everyone who voted for our 4-H Youth Development Program.

Pictured is Lacie Ashby, 4-H Extension Educator

Winter Birdseed Feeder Class Offered

Join us for a fun afternoon to make a birdseed feeder to take home and participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count that takes place globally on February 16-19th 2024. Youth will learn how to identify birds in our area and how to participate in the count using Ebird and Merlin ID. Contact our office at 301-334-6960 to register.

Festival of Trees Benefits GC Dove Center
Garrett County 4-H clubs recently participated in the 16th annual Festival of Trees event benefiting the Dove Center. 4-H members created unique wreaths and trees, both large and small. Entries were then judged at the event. Congratulations to Garrett Hoof Prints 4-H Club for earning Best in Show Wreaths, and to Hoppers 4-H Club with second place in the tall trees category. Thank you 4-H clubs for promoting 4-H while giving back to our community! Pictured above are entries from Trailblazers 4-H Club, Hoppers 4-H Club, and Garrett Hoof Prints 4-H Club.

December’s STEM Outreach at Swan Meadow

December’s 4-H STEM Outreach
Swan Meadow students enjoyed a lesson on circuitry to investigate and successfully make squishy circuit holiday trees. They created a functioning electrical closed circuit using a battery pack, LED lights, and conductive and insulating clay.
Master Gardeners are still tabulating volunteer hours donated in 2023. Their work is appreciated across the community in every season of the year!

The Power of Native Plants Symposium
Make the critical connection between native plants, people, and wildlife!

**April 11, 2024 - 9 am to 3 pm**
Garrett College Performing Arts Center - McHenry, MD

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**The Power of Native Plants**
Evidence-based Ecological Landscaping Approaches with Native Plants
Karin T. Burghardt, Assistant Professor, University of MD College Park, Dep't. of Entomology

- **Climate Resilient Gardening**
  - Pru Foster, PhD, MD Native Plant Society

- **Controlling Invasive Species**
  - Judy Fulton, Principal, EcoPlant Consulting & Vice President, MD Native Plant Society

- **Cultivating Place: Returning Natives to Your Landscape**
  - Linda Kramer & John Totten, Landscape Consultants and Woodland Plant Nursery Owners

Sponsored by: Mountain Laurel Garden Club, MD Native Plant Society, Garrett College CEWD, & University of MD Extension!

Register HERE: [https://cewd.garrettcollege.edu/modules/shop/index.html?action-section&OfferingId=714929](https://cewd.garrettcollege.edu/modules/shop/index.html?action-section&OfferingId=714929)

"Approved Maryland Master Naturalist and Master Gardener Advanced Training Event"

Join us for the Power of Native Plants symposium on April 11, 2024 and make the critical connection between native plants, people, and wildlife!

Don't delay registering as there is limited seating for this exciting event. Register HERE.

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**Deep Creek Lake–Arrowhead Cove Sediment Removal Project Update**

Deep Creek Watershed Foundation provided a virtual Brunch and Learn session, facilitated by University of Maryland Extension in Garrett County. Bruce Michael, Deep Creek Lake & Watershed Coordinator for Garrett County, provided a brief update on the Arrowhead Cove Sediment Removal Project. The presentation covered a summary of the dredging project, why Arrowhead Cove was selected, and slides of existing project site preparation, installation of the cofferdam to hold back lake water from the cove, and the construction of temporary roads/matts for equipment access. View the recording HERE.
Virtual Brunch and Learn Offered - How the Water Budget Model Works

On January 11, 2024 at 10 a.m., join University of Maryland Extension and the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation for the 1st virtual Brunch & Learn of 2024 - **How the Water Budget Model Works**. The Water Budget Model has been a multi-year project led by the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation and our partners that is nearing completion. This model will provide improved predictability of the amount of water in DCL to include calculated groundwater recharge from the watershed to satisfy stakeholders requirements through improved management.

Register in advance for this meeting: [https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlf-utpz4uGd1-ppFZv_1AkD9XssSG324t](https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlf-utpz4uGd1-ppFZv_1AkD9XssSG324t)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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Cooking With Young Kids

Are you looking for ways to involve your young child in the kitchen but aren’t sure where to start? Cooking with your child can be fun, help them learn traditions and skills, and lead to them trying new foods. But it can be tricky to figure out what they can do at a young age. Keep reading for some tips on cooking with kids under five years old. Click [HERE](#) for more recipes and tips to get your children involved.

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Tri-State Hay & Pasture Conference Registration Details
The Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference will be held at Garrett College, Garrett Information Enterprise Center located at 687 Mosser Road, McHenry, MD on Wednesday, January 17 from 9 am to 4 pm in room 111.

The annual event will feature regional experts and local speakers covering a variety of topics on growing and managing forages on the farm. A full agenda will be published in early January.

Participants will receive Nutrient Management recertification credits for licenses and applicator vouchers in Maryland and West Virginia. The cost for the event is $30 and will include a light breakfast and lunch.

To register for the event, please contact Continuing Education & Workforce Development at 301-387-3069. The registration deadline for the event is January 11. Registration is required, as space is limited.

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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.
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Roberta Cvetnick
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