

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Garrett County

August 2025 Newsletter

The Best Week Of Summer

This summer, 4-H Camp Algawa welcomed 132 campers to their enriching program at the Maryland 4-H Environmental Education & Camping Center. The camp was buzzing with excitement as returning adult staff volunteers facilitated a variety of engaging classes. Campers honed their skills in outdoor cooking, marksmanship, and archery, while also exploring their creativity in crafts and camp beautification. The challenge course and build-a-boat activities offered opportunities for teamwork and innovation, and the waterfront was a refreshing escape for all during the heat wave. Each day, campers embraced themed activities, donning vibrant attire for Hawaiian Day and Crazy Sock Day, channeling their inner heroes on Super Hero Day, and expressing their artistic flair on Tie-Dye Day. The camp fosters a lively environment that combines education with fun, leaving the campers with cherished memories and newfound skills.

2025 4-H Camp Algawa



The Golden Feather: Celebrating Teamwork And Achievement At Camp Algawa

As 4-H Camp Algawa concludes its 2025 session, this year's camp was guided by a robust leadership structure consisting of four tiers of leadership roles, totaling 58 older youth in leadership roles. Their efforts were instrumental in creating a supportive and enriching environment for the other 74 younger campers, allowing them to engage in activities and learn valuable life skills. Additionally, the camp's success was bolstered by the invaluable support of 22 adult volunteers, whose dedication and commitment ensured a smooth and memorable experience for everyone involved. As the camp season comes to a close, Camp Algawa reflects on the growth and camaraderie fostered among its participants, looking forward to another successful year ahead.

During 4-H Camp, youth are part of a cabin group at night, and a different *Order* group during the day, with the *Orders* named after the genus name of animals. Groups of three *Orders* make up a *Kingdom*.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Aqua Kingdom (Water)</i> | <i>Terra Kingdom (Land)</i> | <i>Aero Kingdom (Air)</i> |
| <i>Castor Order (Beaver)</i> | <i>Ursus Order (Bear)</i> | <i>Varia Order (Owl)</i> |
| <i>Testudo Order (Turtle)</i> | <i>Serpentes Order (Snake)</i> | <i>Optera Order (Bat)</i> |
| <i>Odonata Order (Dragonfly)</i> | <i>Lotor Order (Raccoon)</i> | <i>Bombas Order (Bumblebee)</i> |

Each activity, chore, task, and class is scored for groups based on leadership, participation, and results. This creates a structure for friendly competition, and development of responsibility, teamwork, sportsmanship, comradery, and pride in work. In addition, groups develop creativity during the week to create fun cabin skits, camp theme songs and cheers to also count towards group points.

The final campfire, feathers are given to groups based on these scores – which are earned as a group in fun creative ways. At 4-H Camp Algawa, the Golden Feather holds significant importance as it symbolizes the pinnacle of achievement through teamwork. This prestigious award is earned by accumulating the most points across various activities, including songs, cheers, cabin skits, leadership, participation, results, chore completion, sportsmanship, and cabin cleanliness. Achieving the Golden Feather not only fosters a sense of unity among campers but also instills valuable life skills such as collaboration, communication, and leadership.

This year's Golden Feather went to *Bombas Order*. The Golden Feather serves as a tangible reminder of the power of working together towards common goals, celebrating the spirit of camaraderie and shared success. Congratulations!



EAC On The Move

Members from our Extension Advisory Committee (EAC) visited 4-H Camp Algawa while it was in session. Lacie Ashby and Karen Wood facilitated the meeting. The members heard from several camp volunteers providing insights into the camp's success and personal reflections. It also offered a chance for the committee to see the direct results of their support and the positive influence it has on the youth involved.

Garrett County Extension Advisory Committee



3rd Annual Tomato Festival

Do you love tomatoes? Do you love to grow tomatoes? If so, consider bringing a few tomatoes to enter in the annual Tomato Festival on August 22nd, held at Garrett College during the Deep Creek Farmers Market. There will be 5 awards given for the following categories: 1) Largest (size & weight) 2) Ugliest 3) Best Tasting 4) Cherry/Grape 5) Paste/Plum/Roma. Also, a taste test to see what varieties you like the best. Educational display on growing tomatoes, tips and tricks for picking out a tomato at the farmers market or grocery store, learn how to judge/enter tomatoes in a judging competition, and at 4pm a workshop about saving seeds for future years! Mark your calendar today!

Tomato Festival

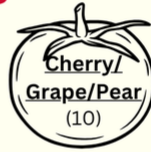
Location: Deep Creek Farmers Market from 3-5pm

Accepting entries from 2-4 pm for the judging contest in Room 111 of the CEWD Building at Garrett College.

August 22, 2025

Bring a tomato to enter in the contest, taste different varieties, workshops to learn more about gardening, Seed Saving class at 4pm, and choose new recipes! Free & fun for everyone!

Contest Categories:



Prizes and ribbons awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners!

Tomatoes must be grown by participants. Unripe tomatoes may be entered in Largest and Ugliest categories.

Tomatoes entered will not be returned. Open to anyone in tri-state area. Additional restrictions may apply. If you know tomato variety, please bring that information when you register your entries. 10 fruits needed for the cherry category, 3 fruits for the paste, just 1 for the other categories.

Judging starts at 4:00pm. Winners announced at 5pm. One entry per category. Tomatoes used for crowd tasting are not those entered into contest.



This Institution is an equal opportunity provider. 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. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact University of Maryland Extension 301-334-6960 before Aug. 20th.



Master Gardener Spotlight

Grace is an active volunteer with the Garrett County Master gardener program. Her dedication to the program reflects her love of plants and strong commitment to community stewardship. Grace states that "I continue to learn new things all the time and love sharing what I have learned with others." We are so grateful to have wonderful volunteers like Grace to make this program a success!

Interested in learning more and making an impactful difference in your community? Reach out to Ashley by dialing 301-334-6960 or email abachtel@umd.edu on becoming a Master Gardener!

Member Spotlight

GRACE MCKEARIN



Why I chose to become a master gardener :

"I had enjoyed being a "casual gardener" for most of my adult life. The basic training answered many of the questions I had and has helped me become more knowledgeable in the "how" and "why" of gardening."

My most memorable experience as a master gardener so far:

"Working with other Master Gardeners on Garden Fest showcases, the annual county fair, and monthly library presentations were all fun and interesting. But, my favorite experience was helping to plan and implement a new demonstration garden in my previous home county. It was much appreciated by passersby on Main Street and hopefully has continued to be used as intended."

The impact being a Master Gardener volunteer has had on me:

"Collaborating with and learning from other like-minded and enthusiastic people has been a joy! I have made many new friends in both counties where I have been a Maryland Master Gardener."

**Completed the Master Gardener
basic training in:
2017**

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER

MASTER GARDENER

Fresh Produce Coming To Your Community

Weekly free fresh produce and resource exchanges coming to a community near you! Servicing both Garrett and Allegany Counties through the summer and early fall. The fresh produce box supply is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis. In order to receive a free fresh produce box, participants will be asked to complete a screener.

Exchanges begin at 10 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. or until produce boxes run out. We are excited for the to share our season of Nourishing Neighbors and can't wait to see you there!



NOURISHING NEIGHBORS

FREE FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION
& RESOURCE EXCHANGE

2025 EXCHANGE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - GLADES TOWN PARK, OAKLAND, MD
TUESDAY, JULY 15TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - CREEKSIDE PARK, WESTERNPORT, MD
TUESDAY, JULY 22ND: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - FRIENDSVILLE COMMUNITY PARK, FRIENDSVILLE, MD
TUESDAY, JULY 29TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - BETHEL PENTECOSTAL HOLY CHURCH, LONACONING, MD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - GRANTSVILLE TOWN PARK, GRANTSVILLE, MD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - GLADES TOWN PARK, OAKLAND, MD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - CITY PLACE, FROSTBURG, MD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - CRELLIN ELEMENTARY, OAKLAND, MD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - SOUTH PENN ELEMENTARY, CUMBERLAND, MD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - BROADFORD LAKE PARK PAVILION #5, OAKLAND, MD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - CITY PLACE, FROSTBURG, MD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD: 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M. - GRANTSVILLE TOWN PARK, GRANTSVILLE, MD

LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF FRESH PRODUCE BOXES
AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS

*limited to one box per household

Together We Eat Fresh



Tick Encounters On The Rise



At this year's Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival at New Germany State Park, Dr. Rebekah Taylor discussed the ticks of western Maryland, the diseases they carry, and tick prevention strategies. With summer officially here, outside activities are on the rise and so too are encounters with ticks. Those who find ticks on themselves or pets are encouraged to donate them to the tick research project run by Dr. Taylor at Frostburg State University. This research provides a better understanding about various ticks found in the region and what pathogens they carry,

such as the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease. Every donated tick is identified, mapped, and tested. All of the data is uploaded to an open-access website called FieldScope for the public to see - <https://fsutick.fieldscope.org/>

Donated ticks should be from the following counties: Maryland - Washington, Allegany, and Garrett; Pennsylvania - Somerset, Bedford, and Fulton County (or nearby); and West Virginia - Mineral, Hampshire, Grant, and Preston (or nearby). To donate ticks, place them in a freezer for at least one day to ensure that they are dead before being mailed. Tape the tick to an index or post card, and

note the date and the approximate geographic location where the tick was encountered. Mail the card to: Dr. Rebekah Taylor, Frostburg State University, 101 Braddock Road, Frostburg MD 21532.

Ticks are becoming more common as a result of warmer winters and the spread of invasive plant species such as Japanese barberry, a favorite home of mice, which carry ticks. Research has linked climate change to both expanded ranges and increased seasons of activity for ticks. Dr. Rebekah Taylor, Professor and Department Chair of Biology at Frostburg State University, trained as an immunologist. She became interested in tick-borne disease after her son contracted Lyme disease on a camping trip in western Maryland. She has engaged students and community members in both passive and active surveillance projects in the region since 2017. For more information, Dr Taylor can be reached at rtaylor@frostburg.edu

This information was provided by the [Friends of New Germany State Park](#) Facebook page.

Ketterman Presents At FFA Convention



OBSERVE



ENGAGE



SHARE

Dr. Ketterman presented an Observe-Engage-Share program at the 2025 FFA State Convention, which was held in June at Garrett College in McHenry, MD. His presentation addressed various mental health topics geared toward high school-aged youth.

A few questions discussed included, but were not limited to, the following:

- *What are we observing in our farming community that may be a sign of a mental health crisis?*
- *How do we engage in conversation with someone experiencing a mental health crisis?*
- *What resources are available that we can share with someone?*

For more information on Farm Stress Management for the agricultural community, check out the following link <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/integrated-programs/farm-stress-management/> or contact Jesse Ketterman at jketterm@umd.edu or by calling the Allegany County UME Office at 301-724-3320, if interested in related presentations to your community group.

Update AG Client Contact Information




Agriculture & Food Systems

Are you receiving our monthly AG Newsletter? If not, please [click here](#) to update your contact information and to stay updated on everything agriculture-related in Garrett County and the tri-state area.

Keeping Connected

We are here to serve you in person, by phone, email, or by Zoom. If you have questions, contact one of our experts to provide solutions.



| Area Extension Director Western Maryland Cluster | 4-H Youth Development | Agriculture & Food Systems | Family & Consumer Sciences | Maryland SNAP Ed | Environment & Natural Resources |
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Roberta Cvetnick

Roberta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters