

From the Office.....

Thanks to all who attended our quarterly meeting on July 22. We had a great discussion about getting our community excited about gardening and being stewards of the environment. Attendees shared memories, anecdotes, and books which inspired their gardening journey and I've included several titles below for your consideration.

We also revisited some MG Best Practices and agreed to trying a new process of submitting a Google form to account for incoming requests for volunteers, programming, and events. This info can be found in the meeting minutes.

We are trying a casual meeting in August which I am affectionately calling a "Garden Gab". Only an hour, with the goal of connecting and workshopping new ideas. We'll meet at a different garden each month, beginning with the Container Garden at the Fairgrounds on August 12th. Hope you can join us!

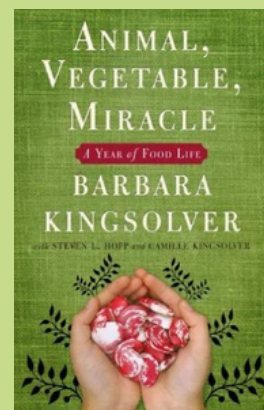
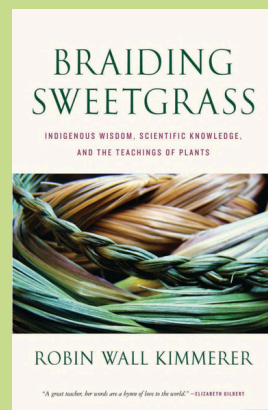
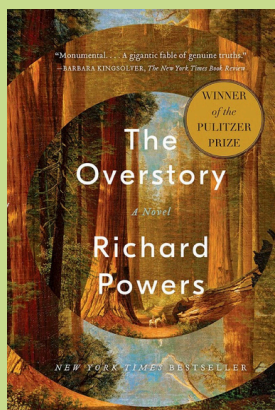
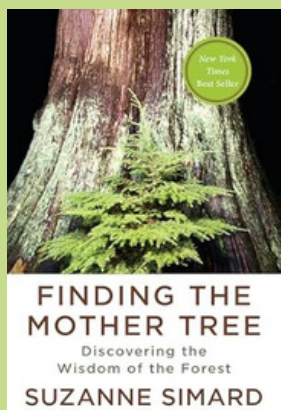
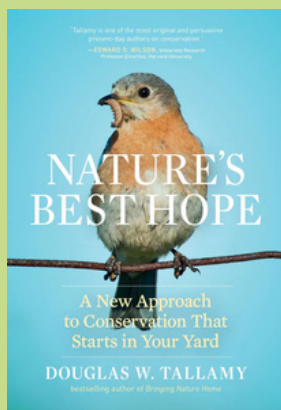
-Liz

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER

Upcoming Events

- **Aug 12** - Garden Gab @ Fairgrounds 6 PM
- **Aug 16** - As a Master Gardener @ Homegrown Market 9 AM - 1 PM
- **Sept 18-21** - St. Mary's County Fair
- **Sept 27** - RiverFest @ HSMC 10 AM-3 PM



Featured Program

LMPP COMMUNITY GARDEN



Garden Manager, Carla Wilson, accepting the BayWise certification plaque on behalf of the LMPP Community Garden

I have to admit at least a small amount of bias for the Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden...after 4 years of planning and finally opening for the 2024 season, it felt like a hard-won victory. Now in its second year, the garden is thriving under the management of Carla Wilson, one of our 2024 MG Class Interns.

It's also truly an intersectional space, supported by so many community programs, it's hard to list them all. But most importantly, there are a number of Master Gardeners who support the garden as voices on the Steering, Planting, Educational, and Composting Committees. Notably, Janet Marks has taken the helm of the Planting Committee, planning spring and fall crops for the approx ~3700 sq ft of publicly managed space within the larger garden (**see Spotlight below).

Some of our other 2024 MG Class (Gena Wade, Darcy White, and Sandy Witham) have been knocking out volunteer hours by teaching students from the Building Bridges Program using the garden as an educational space for the kids to get their first hands on gardening experience. Other students from Bay Montessori, under the expert guidance of Deb Pence, have a plot, as well.

The welcome addition of a native garden, planted just outside the gates last fall, is a joint effort of St. Mary's Co Master Gardeners (Marlene & Bill Smith, and Liz Ward) as well as members of the SOMD Audubon Society (Molly Moore, a Charles Co MG!), St. Mary's County Master Naturalists, and the Natural Resources Management class from the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center.

A wholesome tapestry of community collaboration, the garden is truly part of the "ecosystem" of Lexington Park. Environmentally, it scored high on the Baywise Yardstick and qualified for certification. Thanks to our Baywise MGs, Linda Crandall and Deb Pence (again!), for facilitating that process.

Want to get involved? The garden is open to the public twice a week for drop-in volunteering. Wednesdays and Sundays from 5-8 PM. For more information, feel free to reach out to Liz Ward or Carla Wilson.



Janet prepping bean trellises at the LMPP Community Garden Public Section

Volunteer Spotlight

JANET MARKS

Methodical. Committed. Downright funny.

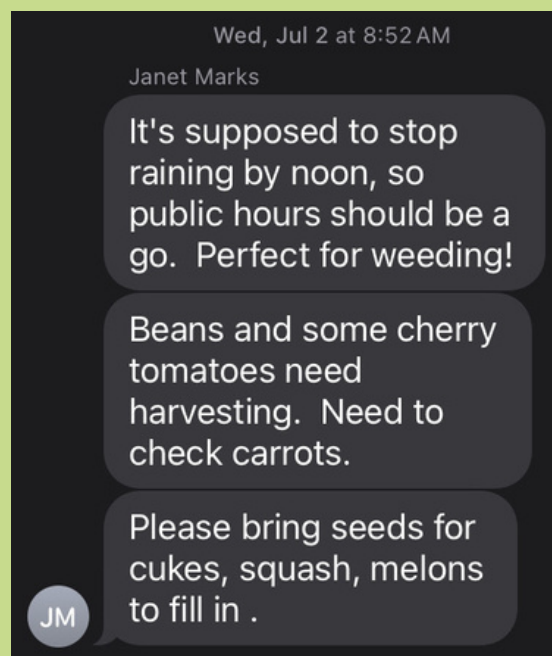
Janet Marks has been one of the gardeners most dedicated to the LMPP Community Garden program since she joined the project planning committee, even before ground was broken. In the garden's inaugural year, she was integral to the Planting Committee, arriving with extra large paper (pre-measured to scale) and seed catalogs to plot the first crops in the public section. Although she makes a serious first impression and is always ready to get down to business, her wit and comedic timing make gardening with her less chore and more cheer. I know she's in the garden when I see her repurposed kitty litter bucket which serves as her gardening toolbox and briefcase.

This year, Janet accepted a promotion to Planting Committee *Chair*. She led the charge on meetings, seed selection and, as you can see from the adjacent example, she regularly assesses and communicates the Garden needs to the rest of her committee and the Garden manager.

Janet became a Master Gardener in 2022 and in addition to her service to the Community Garden, she hosts the Plant Clinic at the Homegrown Farmers Market along with Tracey Pintell-Quade on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Want to hang with Janet? She needs 1 or 2 volunteers at this month's AAMG clinic on Aug 16 from 8:30 AM - 1 PM.

Email Liz to sign up.



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