President’s Message

Last week I visited the gardens at the Eden Mill Nature Center to say hello to MG Cheryl Roettger, visiting from her new home in Virginia. Eden Mill, located in the northern part of Harford Co., hosts the vegetable and butterfly gardens in which Master Gardeners have worked as volunteers for the past several years. The vegetable garden is of special interest because it is a demonstration garden for the Harford County Master Gardeners. Started several years ago by Cheryl, and now under the very able leadership of Ginger Huller, Ennise Bloom and many MG helpers, the garden has grown, and is something to see!

If you were to go there, you would walk down mulched paths by raised beds with tomatoes, garlic, beets, cabbage, beans, and more. You’d see half-barrels of potato plants and burlap bags planted with wildflowers. Beautiful sweet potato leaves overflow the sides of a bed ringed by hay bales. Another long bed hosts the three sisters (corn, squash and beans) growing on small hills. Past the strawberry and asparagus beds, you’d see sprawling pumpkins, squash, and corn. At the other end of the garden, there’s a teepee made of long poles, with native honeysuckle growing upwards. There’s a fence ringing the garden, and outside you would see native pollinator plants of cone flowers, monarda, and false indigo. All planned and planted by the MG volunteers. Jerusalem Artichokes guard the front gate, next to three active compost bins. On given days, you’d probably see groups of children visiting and learning about the gardens, in a class taught by Master Gardener volunteers.

The Eden Mill Demonstration Garden is home to a wide variety of vegetables and pollinator plants and has benefited from the loving care of many MG volunteers. Please visit and/or volunteer to help. The Eden Mill gardens are a place that Harford County Master Gardeners can be proud of.

~Ellen Haas - 2013
August 7-13 National Farmers Market Week

Bel Air Farmers Market
Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
2 South Bond Street, Bel Air, MD

Catonsville Farmers Market
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
730 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD

Edgewood Farmers Market
Thursday 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
1918 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD

Fell’s Point Farmers Market
Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Broadway and Thames Streets
Baltimore, MD

Havre de Grace Farmers Market
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
217 Congress Ave, Havre de Grace, MD

North East Farmers Market
Friday 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
308 South Main Street, North East, MD

Pratt Street Farmers Market
Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Corner of Pratt and Light Streets, Baltimore, MD

Top Places for Seeing Lotus Blooms

If you see the American lotus in bloom, with petals spread wide to the sun, you might also be seeing a gift from the past.

Each pale yellow flower hovers above Chesapeake waters for just a few days each summer, but the seed from which it grew may have been dropped centuries ago.

"Lotus seeds lie dormant for a very long time," said Doug Rowley of the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in Washington, DC. "There are accounts of seeds in a dried-out lake bed in India that were 800 or 900 hundred years old, and the seeds were still viable."

Here in the Chesapeake, this year's blooms may spring from a seed head that nodded over the water as American Indians paddled by.
Most established lotus plants spread by tube-like roots called rhizomes. But seeds are nature's back-up plan for this shoreline plant that is both a lovely sight and a biological wonder.

With one of the largest flowers in North America, American lotus can form spectacular "fields" in protected shoreline areas. Paddlers are often thrilled to work their way among them in July and August, when blooms are at their peak.

They grow in shallow water, often taking root in 6–12 inches of water and then moving out to depths of 5 or 6 feet.

Large round leaves grow on the surface, reaching the size of a pizza pan. They look a bit like lily pads, but the lily pad leaf has a slit, while the lotus leaf is a large, unbroken circle with a stem at the center.

In July, flowers emerge with layers of pale yellow petals. As the plant grows and blooms, it pushes upward so that both leaves and flowers can hover up to 4 feet above water.

The flowers breach the surface in a curled blossom.

"It's like popcorn," Fowley said. "You get a few here and there, then everything in bloom, then the rest here and there. Sometimes you get a second flush and see blooms into September."

For several days, they open in the sun and close at dusk. Some reach 10 inches across and sport more than 20 petals.

The stem in the center of the leaf draws oxygen into the plant. The stem is hollow. "It takes the air in right to the rhizomes, like a straw," Fowley said. "If you were to snip the tube below the water, you'd see bubbles of air coming up."

Lotus leaves have a unique coating that causes water to collect in droplets on the surface. Because the leaves are turned up, the droplets pool in the center until their weight tips the plant and spills off the accumulated water.

The seed head forms from the center of the flower. Many botanists compare it to a shower head, with round recesses that each hold a hefty, hard-shelled seed. Most parts of the American lotus are edible, and the seeds are no exception. In Louisiana, they call them "Cajun peanuts," and they are plucked and eaten before the shell turns hard.

American Indians in the Chesapeake region likely made great use of the lotus plant, but the tradition was lost as European colonies took hold.

Today, lotus seeds may best serve as a bank for tomorrow's plants. Natural stands of the American lotus have become hard to find around the Bay and its rivers, but those that remain are well worth a look.
Looking for Lotus?

Here are some places to see the American lotus in the Chesapeake region.

- **Turner's Creek Park**, Kent County, MD: View the lotus from the shore or launch a paddle craft from this park, located next to the Sassafras Natural Resource Management Area and part of the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. Stop by the nearby visitor center at historic Knock’s Folly.

- **Mattawoman Creek**, Charles County, MD: View the lotus from a footbridge at [Smallwood State Park](#) or launch a paddle craft from [Mattingly Park](#) in Indian Head and head upstream.

- **Sassafras River**, Cecil County, MD: View from the grounds of historic [Mount Harmon Plantation](#) along McGill Creek and the Sassafras River. Visitors can arrive by car, dingy, canoe or kayak. A launch site is available to members. The annual Lotus Blossom Art & Nature Festival takes place in August.

- **Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens**, Washington, DC: The gardens include a sampling of American lotus among larger displays of Empress and East Indian lotus.

- **Lotus Garden Park** at 1289 Sandbridge Road, Virginia Beach, VA: View the lotus from shore or use the canoe/kayak launch to paddle among the flowers.

- **Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve**, Stafford, VA: The site has limited access but paddlers can launch from the trail-head located at the Brooke Road access point.

*This article was originally published on the Bay Journal website on July 14, 2013. Lara Lutz is a writer and editor who specializes in the environment, heritage, and outdoors of the Chesapeake region.*

**Mount Harmon Lotus Blossom Art and Nature Festival**
Saturday, August 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Lotus at [Friends Park](#) in Forest Hill 8/1/16
Probably the non-native Shirokunshi, Hardy Tulip Lotus, says Kelly from MD Aquatics. Stop and see them. Easily viewed from your car!
Advanced Master Gardener Training

Thursdays, August 4th and August 11th – 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Bay-Wise Advanced Training**, UME Washington and Frederick County Offices

The MD Bay-Wise Program focuses on water quality. It comprises a comprehensive set of environmental topics that affect the quality and quantity of water here in Maryland. Most of these topics relate to **landscape management**, however, a few, like hydrology, wells & septic systems, hazardous household products and water conservation, address household issues. [https://extension.umd.edu/baywise](https://extension.umd.edu/baywise)

Fee: $50 - To register, contact Susan Trice (strice@umd.edu(link sends e-mail)) or 301-600-1596

Education Opportunities

Thursdays – 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**Let’s Talk Gardens!** East Walk of the Smithsonian’s Enid A. Haupt Garden

**August 4, 2016 – Orchid Repotting** - To repot or not? Learn what potting materials and techniques you can use to ensure your orchids have a comfortable home so they’ll reward you with beautiful blooms.

**August 11, 2016 – House Plants 101** - We’re bringing it back to basics with this session for hopeful houseplant gardeners. Take away tips on watering, light, soil, and container selection that will help get you get growing indoors.

**August 18, 2016 – Floral Design: Building a Winning Arrangement** - Prepare to wow your friends with your next floral arrangement. Our speakers will highlight the elements of a winning display. This session will meet on the East Walk of the Enid A. Haupt Garden and then walk over to the nearby Sackler Gallery to see a breathtaking example.

**July 28, 2016 – Rose Care** - Join us for tips on rose care appropriate for budding and seasoned rose enthusiasts alike. Our rose expert will also talk about how to choose companion plantings for your rose garden.

[http://www.gardens.si.edu/whats-happening/lets-talk-gardens.html](http://www.gardens.si.edu/whats-happening/lets-talk-gardens.html)

August 2, 2016 – 9:30 a.m.

**In the Garden Series: Garden Hand Tool Maintenance**, Ladew Gardens, Monkton

Learn advanced gardening skills directly from the Ladew professional gardeners in “behind the scenes’ gardening demonstrations

Members: Free, Non-Members $13, includes admission to the Gardens and Nature Walk

[http://www.ladewgardens.com/EDUCATION/Adult-Education/In-The-Garden-Series](http://www.ladewgardens.com/EDUCATION/Adult-Education/In-The-Garden-Series)

August 2, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Hummingbirds & Other Pollinators**, PHS Meadowbrook Farm, Jenkintown, PA

Join Meadowbrook Farm Head Gardener Glenn Ashton as he talks about the best plants to attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies in your garden. See the lush gardens at Meadowbrook.

Fee: $10 PHS Members; $20 Non-Members

[http://phsonline.org/events/hummingbirds-other-pollinators-in-your-garden](http://phsonline.org/events/hummingbirds-other-pollinators-in-your-garden)
August 3, 2016 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or August 5, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Wonders of the Waterlilies**, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA
Learn about this outdoor display that features a wide variety of aquatic plants from all over the world. Tucked into a protected courtyard within the Main Conservatory, the waterlily pools are filled with more than 100 types of day and night-blooming tropical waterlilies, hardy waterlilies, lotuses, giant water-platters and other aquatic and bog plants. Free with Garden Admission
[http://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/events/wonders-waterlilies-talk](http://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/events/wonders-waterlilies-talk)

August 4, 2016 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**The Art and Science of Hugelkultur**
Chanticleer & Pennsylvania Horticulture Society Wayne, PA
Often employed in permaculture, Hugelkultur uses fallen branches and woody debris as a resource to enhance nutrient cycling and soil health. Przemyslaw Walczak will explain how to incorporate Hugelkulture into your garden for ornamental or vegetable purposes. The class will outline styles and materials and tour the extensive Hugelkultur beds in the native plant garden, Bell’s Woodland.
Fee: $20 PHS Members; $30 Non-members
[http://phsonline.org/events/the-art-and-science-of-hugelkultur](http://phsonline.org/events/the-art-and-science-of-hugelkultur)

August 9, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Summer Orchid Care**, PHS Meadowbrook Farm, Jenkintown, PA
Join orchid enthusiast and author Barb Schmidt as she talks through best care practices for your orchids during the summer months. Included in this class are Barb’s book, Orchid Care for the Beginner, and supplies to repot any orchid you would like to bring to this class from home.
Fee: $20 PHS Members; $30 Non-Members
[http://phsonline.org/events/summer-orchid-care](http://phsonline.org/events/summer-orchid-care)

August 13, 2016 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Native Meadows from the Ground Up**, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA
Through a step-by-step look at two specific projects, this lecture and extended walk covers the why, how, what, when, and where of what it takes to develop and manage an aesthetically rich, environmentally functional, thriving native plant community. Fee: $63 members; $70 non-members
[http://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/events/native-meadows-ground-class](http://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/events/native-meadows-ground-class)

August 13, 2016 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Wild Walks: Precious Pollinators**, Ladew Gardens, Monkton, MD
This walk will encompass Ladew's meadows and Butterfly House as we discuss the wonderful variety and importance of our local pollinators.
Members: $5. Non-Members $15, includes admission to Ladew for the day.

August 18, 2016 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Pruning Small Trees and Shrubs**
Chanticleer & Pennsylvania Horticulture Society Wayne, PA
Using the grounds of Chanticleer as a classroom, Doug Croft will demonstrate the basic techniques of pruning shrubs and small flowering trees. You will learn reasons for pruning, when to prune, and the proper use and care of tools. Doug will discuss correct timing to ensure optimum blooms, as well as accurate techniques to give your trees proper shape and improved habit.
Tour: Celebrating 10 Years of Trees in the National Garden

United States Botanic Garden, Washington, DC  
Alexandra Torres, USBG Education Program Specialist

In honor of the National Garden's 10-year anniversary, join Education Specialist and Certified Arborist Alexandra Torres to learn about 10 of our favorite native trees and shrubs. On this tour we will cover interesting identifying features, discover beautiful native trees and shrubs that can add year round interest to your garden, and talk about gardening tips to get your trees and shrubs growing to their full potential. Please note: Tour on August 25 is a repeat of the tour on August 18. This tour is held outdoors. We suggest bringing sunscreen, protective clothing, and water. The tour is canceled if it rains or during times of extreme heat (heat index of 95 degrees or higher/Code Red weather alert). Fee: Free - Pre-registration Required  
https://www.usbg.gov/events/2016/05/21/tour-celebrating-10-years-trees-national-garden-0

August 27, 2016 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Lecture: The Sinister Beauty of Carnivorous Plants

United States Botanic Garden, Washington, DC  
Matt Kaelin, Author

Join Matt for a discussion of his new book, The Sinister Beauty of Carnivorous Plants, which portrays the alluring nature of carnivorous plants in a collection of vivid botanical photography. Using images from the book, learn about the cultivation requirements for growing these fantastic specimens; carnivorous plants native to Matt's home on Long Island, NY; the threats to these plants' natural habitats; and the conservation organizations that are working to protect them. Fee: Free – Pre-registration Required  
https://www.usbg.gov/events/2016/05/21/lecture-sinister-beauty-carnivorous-plants

August 27, 2016 – 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lecture: Finding New Species in the Nation’s Capital: The George Washington Memorial Parkway All-taxa Biodiversity Inventory

United States Botanic Garden, Washington, DC  
Brent Steury, Natural Resources Manager, National Park Service

Join Brent as he summarizes 11 years of biodiversity inventory efforts from a National Park near the Nation's Capital. Highlights of these efforts include the documentation of 5,395 species, 100 species new to the flora or fauna of Virginia, 7 species new to the District of Columbia, 3 species new to North America, at least 71 species new to science, 106 species state listed for rarity, 3 federally threatened species, and 58 peer reviewed journal articles published in the last 11 years. Fee: Free – Pre-registration Required  
https://www.usbg.gov/events/2016/05/21/lecture-finding-new-species-nations-capital-george-washington-memorial-parkway-all

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August MG Study Group toured Ed Snodgrass’s green roof business, Emory Knoll Farms, located in Street.
## Calendar of Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Brightview Assisted Living</td>
<td>Brightview</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>MG Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
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<td>August 6</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Ask a MG Plant Clinic</td>
<td>Bel Air Library</td>
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<td>August 12</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Class-Flora Artscape</td>
<td>Kaufman Cancer Cntr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Daytime Study Group</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Garden Series: Invasive Plants</td>
<td>Bel Air Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Ask a MG Plant Clinic</td>
<td>Havre de Grace Library</td>
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<td>August 20</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>HdG Farmer’s Market</td>
<td>Havre de Grace</td>
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<td>August 24</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>GIEI Preserve It Class: Bloody Mary Mix</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
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<td>August 24</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>First MG Class</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>MG Steering Committee</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
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<td>August 27</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>MG Class</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>MG Class</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays</td>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Bel Air Farmers Market</td>
<td>Bel Air</td>
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**The Maryland Master Gardener Mission Statement**

The Maryland Master Gardener mission is to support the University of Maryland Extension by educating Maryland residents about safe effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities.

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Joyce Browning  
Urban Horticulturist  
Master Gardener Coordinator

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.