Hello Master Gardeners,

Can you believe it's September? By the time this newsletter comes out, summer will be winding down. How it has flown by! My garden blog continues and it has been a challenging month. I've managed to get early blight under control on my tomatoes (although some of the vines are looking pretty pathetic). Tomatoes are at last starting to ripen at a good clip but the stink bugs are at the top of their game. It is a running battle to see who gets to the tomatoes first - me or the stink bugs! Most of my harvest has damage from those miserable pests.

I'm awash in cucumbers. I hope those of you who benefited from my bountiful harvest enjoyed the ones brought to the August meeting. I continue to make pickles and give away cukes at a great rate. Eggplant and peppers are coming in and I have started fall crop seedlings. Overall things are ok for the moment. We are really enjoying the summer bounty.

My bees are buzzing along, filling supers with beautiful white-capped honey. If you've never had the opportunity to look into a hive and view their handiwork, you are missing a treat. Perhaps we can arrange a hive tour this fall. They're amazing insects!

Yesterday, Jane Howe and I had a terrific experience. We were asked to be judges for a Baltimore City Community Garden competition. The Baltimore City Master Gardeners serve as mentors for many community gardens throughout the city and they have an annual, friendly contest to determine the top-rated garden. MG's from outlying counties act as impartial judges. Three teams of judges visited 5 gardens each for a total of 15 gardens in the competition. The gardeners were ready for us - many were out tiding up their sites and lobbying for points - Great Spirit!

It was wonderful and amazing to see the diversity of garden styles all nestled among the Baltimore neighborhoods. Traveling into the middle of blighted areas, suddenly we’d find a gorgeous vegetable/flower garden. One garden was particularly multipurpose with residents raising chickens, rabbits and bees! We viewed some very innovative solutions to resolve the compost rat problem, a
perpetual city challenge. And they utilized creative solutions to get water to their gardens. Another site reflected the international make-up of its community gardeners as we viewed kiwis growing along with bitter melon and calaloo. The vegetables looked terrific with beautiful corn, squash and tomatoes among other things. It was fun day and I'm glad I was able to participate.

Coming up in the fall there are lots of activities for which we will need your help. Three new events are on the MG calendar. The Healthy Harford Day on September 28, the Health and Wellness Fair at Aberdeen Proving Ground on November 5. And a new youth education STEM program in January/February (an evening of hands-on activities for middle-school children). Many new opportunities for volunteers! I hope that many of you will get involved. Thanks to you all for your great work!

Joan Parris '09

STATE NEWS

MG Advanced Training Classes - For full detail about each class and for registration forms, go to [http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training](http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training)

PLANT DISEASES
UME Howard County (Ellicott City)
Thursday, September 5, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Presenter:** Dave Clement, Ph.D., Plant Pathologist, University of MD Extension
Registration Fee: $35; Registration Deadline: August 29

Cedar Apple Rust Gall
Brown Rot on Flowering Cherries

Plant diseases often seem like exotic mysteries left up to the experts to solve. Well, guess what- MG’s can now begin to unravel some of these mysteries ourselves. In this course you’ll learn all about the bacteria, fungi and viruses that cause plant problems. You’ll also learn about their symptoms, cycles and controls. In addition to the lecture and handouts you will get hands-on training using samples. We hope that you’ll feel comfortable enough with the basics of plant diseases to be able to recognize problems in your own gardens and to use the information to competently help clients at plant clinics.

To register, please send $35 (check or credit card) payable to the University of MD. Please include all of your contact information and the name of the class you want to take. You may use the registration form, if it is easier for you. Please send to MG Classes, 12005 Homewood Rd., Ellicott City, MD 210

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” Chinese Proverb
GARDEN SERIES CLASSES

HCMG’s continue to hold classes throughout the year at the Bel Air Library. Mark your calendars and take advantage of these very informative classes, from 10:15 am to noon. Don’t forget to call the library at 410-638-3151 to register.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>September 21</th>
<th>Turf Grass and Your Lawn</th>
<th>Tom Scott, Joyce Browning</th>
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<td>October 19</td>
<td>Bulbs</td>
<td>Jeanine Smetana, Germaine Vadas</td>
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<td>November 16</td>
<td>How to Plan and Install a Rain Garden</td>
<td>Cindy Porter</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>The Shade Gardener</td>
<td>Anne Lee and Becky Cody, Jerry Hudgens</td>
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THE LIRIODENDRON IN SEPTEMBER BLOOM

Did you get to Liriodendron’s Larry Franz Wildflower Walk this summer? You didn’t need to weed with us, but I hope you came to visit our blooms and wandering garden paths. We boast about our diverse gardens such as the Blue Garden and the Rock Garden. And now we have some new publicity. The Liriodendron staff along with HC Parks and Recreation, have put up a new sign at the edge of the upper parking area, near the house, advertising and pointing to our garden.

Each month our garden has a different show and while May’s ephemeral wildflowers may be our best, each month has a highlight. In September we still have Azure Monkshood (*Aconitum carmichaelii*) and Toad lilies (*Tricyrtis* spp.) in bloom. The asters (*Aster laevis* ’Blue Bird’) and (*Aster divaricatus* ’Wood’s Pink’) will be in full bloom very soon along with our Turk’s Cap Lilies (*Lilium superbum*). See the pictures of each below.

Come see our show!
The High Line is a New York City elevated freight rail line transformed into a public park. Located on Manhattan's West Side, the pedestrians-only park is free and open to visitors from 7am to 11pm. The aerial greenway offers one and a half miles of naturalistic plantings with unexpected views of the cityscape and Hudson River. The park is owned by the City of New York and maintained and operated by Friends of the High Line.

The park was founded in 1999 by community residents who fought for the rail preservation and transformation at a time when the historic structure was under threat of demolition. The popular park was fashioned after a similar railway project in Paris in 1993 called the Promenade Plantee. The narrow green walking way is a contemplative space, above the city hubbub, where nature softens the views and sounds of the city. It is reminiscent of the quiet, contemplative nature of the self-seeded landscape and wild planting that once grew on the unused High Line railway.

History of the High Line

The west side of New York City, Manhattan, was the country's busiest industrial waterfront. To increase speedy movement of the freight coming in by the Hudson River, an inner city railroad track was authorized to be built in the 1940’s. The rail line greatly enhanced the transport of city goods, but by 1950, the track was so hazardous it was nicknamed "Death Avenue." The 105 railway crossings had become so dangerous to pedestrians that men on horseback were hired to ride in front of the train waving citizens out of the way!

To resolve the danger on the streets, an elevated railway was authorized to replace the street-level rail corridors. The ‘High’ Line, thus the name, reopened as an active freight rail line connecting directly to the upper-floor landing dock of factories and warehouses, allowing trains to roll through buildings with deliveries of milk, meat, produce and other goods. The elevated rail line reduced human fatalities and for three decades delivered so much of the city's fresh food that it was nicknamed the "Lifeline of New York."

In the 1960’s, the growth of highway systems and the trucking industry ultimately lead to reduced use of the rail systems throughout the nation. The High Line was no longer needed.
In 1980, the last freight train rolled down the High Line and the remaining track was left abandoned. Unused southern sections of the rail system were being demolished. Nature took over depositing grass and wildflower seeds to the elevated platform until a wild landscape developed.

Railroad interest groups actively sought to save the rail line from total demolition. In 1999, a non-profit organization formed called Friends of the High Line. They advocated transforming the elevated track into public open space. In 2002, Mayor Bloomberg committed to the preservation and redevelopment of the High Line as a city park. The Friends of the High Line chose a design team for their future park and handled the negotiations with the city and CSX track owners.

In 2006, construction began transforming the historic freight rail line into a public park. The initial work involved removal of everything on the High Line so the structure could be sandblasted and waterproofed. Original railroad tracks were saved and stored to be reinstalled later in the park’s planting beds. Landscape planting began in 2008 proceeding in stages. The design objective reflected the original self-seeded landscape that grew when the trains stopped running. Walking along the winding paths, you are navigated through a planting palette ranging from eastern meadows to western prairielands.

The Dutch planting designer, Piet Oudolf, designed the rail line with dramatic transitions for every season. Through the changing landscape, you will see the design objective to use native plants and grasses found in the gravel and stones along the original rail tracks. The 210 species of plants were chosen for their hardiness, adaptability, diversity, and seasonal variation in color and texture and not fully limited to American natives. The old train tracks were reincorporated into the landscape beds in varying designs. One patio vista has the rails holding rolling benches for visitors viewing the Hudson. Other benches in the park match the railroad theme. Visitors feel temporarily removed from the street side clamor to the grasslands and meadows of America.
Friends of the High Line advocacy group have modified their nonprofit status to become a conservancy organization. The non-profit group oversees maintenance, operations, and public programming for the park as well as raising essential funds to support more than ninety percent of the park's annual operation budget.

A second section of the High Line opened in 2011 which doubled the length of the park and provided interesting views of the cityscape and some NY architectural landmarks. Not only did the park double in size, but likewise the number of park visitors, exceeding 3.7 million people.

On April 1, 2010, the two-millionth visitor was welcomed at the High Line only one year after the first section opened to the public. This high visitor attraction put the park on par with the other major New York tourist attractions. A High Line Headquarters building is under construction and is to be opened in late 2013. The new building will be located at the southern end of the High Line and will serve both staff and visitors to the High Line.

Today the Friends of the High Line are advocates for the preservation of the entire historic High Line including a third and final section at the West Side Rail Yards. The rail yard still remains overgrown with wildflowers and grasses that grew up between the tracks when the trains stopped running. The Friends are looking toward future development of this third section of the High Line.

The park is a highly popular NY attraction and if you want to avoid the crowds visit early in the day. The walkway becomes narrow in some areas as it winds among the planting beds and grooves of small trees. You will enjoy birds feeding on the serviceberries and dozens of pollinator insects on the perennials. An additional bonus occurs after sunset when you can view the beautifully illuminated plant material and scenic views of the city lights. It is interesting to note that due to the high visibility of the park from windows overhead in the numerous apartments and businesses there is an infrequency of crime. A trip to the High Line is a must see for every gardener visiting New York City.

Joyce Browning

Note from Elaine Dodd: I was fortunate to meet designer, Piet Oudolf and his charming wife at their home while on a horticultural tour of Belgium and The Netherlands last year. Not only did we have time to talk with him and ask questions, but he gave us a tour of his studio. He explained his designing process and showed drawings progressing from a simple sketch to finished garden designs. Later we were told by people who knew him that it was very unusual for him to meet with visitors and show his studio. Needless to say we all felt very privileged. I must admit I took the tour in hopes to meet him having read about his internationally famous designs in both Europe and the US.

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. Marcus Tullius Cicero
MASTER GARDENER TRAINING CLASSES

Master Gardener Training begins next week and we have fifteen incoming interns! Classes are being held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Extension Office through October. The class times are from 1 pm to 4 pm which makes a more simple work schedule for Joyce! And maybe it will allow many of you to attend and pick up some annual education hours.

Check out the schedule below or view the attached calendar. Everyone is welcome to attend the sessions at any time. Feel free to stop in before or after the lectures or at the break time, 2:25-2:35, to meet and welcome the new student interns!

Tuesday, Sept 10 Ecology; 2:30-4 pm; Peggy Eppig, MD Agricultural Education Foundation
Wednesday, Sept 11 Turf Grass; 1-3:15 pm; UMD Specialist Dr. Gary Felton
Wednesday, Sept 18 Botany workshop Flower Dissection Lab; Joyce Browning 1-2:30 pm
Wednesday, Sept 18 Soil and Fertilizers; 2:30-4 pm; Nicole Fiorellino PhD student at UMD
Tuesday, Sept 24 Insects and Diseases; 1-4 pm; Dave Clement and Mary Kay Malinoski
Wednesday, Sept 25 Tour of Fern Dell shade garden with Jerry Hudgens 1-4 pm
Tuesday, Oct 29 Invasive Insect First Detector Training; Bob Tatman MD Department of Agriculture, Program Manager of Forest Pest Management

More speakers will be announced in the next newsletter.

2012 Intern Project
Landscaping the entrance of the Madonna Forestry Station
Carole Kesselring, Ginny Zahner, Stacy Kauffman and Forester, Chris

Will the real Marlene please stand up!
M Butler ’04  M Lynch ’05
M Bush ’01  M Stamm ’12
Congratulations to Jane Howe for successfully completing the entire course work for the **Advanced MG Certification in Vegetable Gardening**. She is the first Harford County MG to receive this certification!

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**REMINDERS**

The next MG meeting is at 10:00 AM on September 5, 2013. Planning Meeting at the Extension Office, September 26 – 10:00 AM, Everyone is welcome.

**NEWSLETTER DUE DATES**
Submit articles to: Elaine Dodd edodd3@yahoo.com
Articles can be submitted at any time, but time sensitive article submission dates are: Sept. 7, Oct. 5

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Joyce Browning, Urban Horticulturist, Master Gardener Coordinator, Harford County Office

**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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*A peaceful spot in St. Mary’s garden, Annapolis, MD*

*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.*