

Calvert County Master Gardeners Annual Report 2017



We support the University of Maryland Extension (UME) mission by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities.

We envision a healthier world through environmental stewardship.

GARDEN SMARTER PROGRAM

In partnership with the *Calvert Library System*, Calvert County Master Gardeners (CCMGs) have been sharing their experience and expertise with the public for fifteen years. The free lectures cover gardening and environmental subjects that are as wide ranging as our diverse group of volunteers. A record number of twenty-five sessions was held in 2017 at the Calvert Libraries in *Prince Frederick, Fairview, Southern (Solomons) and Twin Beaches Branches*, and the *Community Resources Building (CRB)*. Two tours of the CCMG *Native Plant Demonstration Gardens* at the CRB were given.



For the first time, CCMGs and the *Prince Frederick Library* co-hosted a guest speaker. Sam Droege, of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Center, spoke about “Native Bees,” which drew over 100 attendees from the community. This will be followed in 2018 with two guest speakers.

Denise Moroney has coordinated the Garden Smarter programs for several years. During that time, the number of sessions and variety of subjects has grown and the average attendance has increased.

In 2017:

- 24 programs were given;

Summary

	2016	2017
Active MG Volunteers	80	80
MG Trainees	13	16
Contacts Made	3,072	3,243
Total Classes/Workshops	1,010	949
Youth Reached	968	1,513
Volunteer Hours	3,500	3,889
Estimated Value	*\$93,240	*\$104,186

*Independent Sector data rates for Maryland: 2016 @\$26.64 (2015 data) and 2017 \$26.79 (2016 data)

- 32 CCMGs presented and/or supported the programs, volunteering more than 350 hours; and
- 493 guests attended the sessions, with an average attendance of just over 20 per event.

BAY-WISE YARD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Able led by Dom Raino, who is resigning as Coordinator after five years of service, CCMGs carried the message of Best Management Practices in the Garden and Landscape and the benefits of having your yard certified as Bay-Wise to the public at several events.

- Calvert Memorial Hospital Green Team invited CCMGs to participate in an Earth Day event at the hospital. Over 200 hospital employees came by the CCMG table to learn about the Bay-Wise program.
- Twin Beaches held a new event called “Taste the Beaches” and CCMGs talked to visitors and gave out information about the Bay-Wise program. Over 120 adults came by and 19 left contact information.

- While not a Bay-Wise event, Bay-Wise qualified CCMGs were at the North Beach Sunrise Garden to answer questions and talk to the judges from “America in Bloom.” CCMGs had been very active in plant selection and giving advice on the establishment of the garden.

Nine advice consultations were held with homeowners and nine client yards were certified as Bay-Wise and two CCMG yards were certified as Bay-Wise Demonstration yards.

Melanie Crowder will take over as Bay-Wise Coordinator in 2018.



HISTORIC AND DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens Community Resources Building

The Calvert County Office of Building and Grounds made physical changes and upgrades to garden areas. A retaining wall was built along the front of the building on Duke Street. Replanting of the beds will be done in Spring, 2018. Storm water management was improved so the runoff would flow into the rock swale at the back. The faces of the signs providing information about the gardens had faded and deteriorated. Replacements were provided by the company and installed by *Building and Grounds*. At PRAD, CCMG purchased a rain barrel and another was donated by the *UME Watershed Restoration Specialist*. These will be installed by *Building and Grounds* at the East end of the building in 2018.

Two tours of the Gardens were held with a total of 24 visitors. Native plants from the CCMG Plant Sale were sold to visitors attending the Spring tour.

Carol Shomette has been a devoted guide of the CCMGs in maintaining, organizing and planting the gardens for several years. Under her guidance,



garden plots now have their own caretakers, new plant signs are being made and diagrams of the plots are being drawn to better coordinate the care of the gardens.

Work at Other Demonstration And Historic Gardens

*U. S. Arboretum
American Chestnut Land Trust*

Jefferson Patterson Park (JPPM) Mansion Garden. The *JPPM Mansion* will soon undergo a lengthy period of renovation. The volunteers spent most of the summer moving and otherwise protecting plants to prevent their being killed or damaged during the renovation process.

Calvert Marine Museum “Yard Arms.” Work centered on removing invasive plants from the Rain Garden, installing pavers along the gardens at the Administration Building, and rebuilding the raised bed at the *CMM* entrance. The group gave a tour of the gardens for 20 children and their parents during spring break.

Community Beautification And Greening

Solomon’s Riverwalk

CCMG YOUTH GARDENING PROJECT AT ANMARIE GARDENS

Initiated and built by CCMG in 2013 and managed by Jim McVey with the invaluable assistance of

Eileen McVey, these beds increase their production of vegetables each year. Over 900 pounds of fresh produce were given to six food pantries during the growing season that began in April of 2017, and ended with the harvest of 265 pounds of Pak and Tot Choi, lettuce, peppers, and beans in October.

Twenty CCMGs and Interns taught classes to over 250 youth, maintained the gardens, and transported produce to food banks. Several were repeat attendees who continue to be enthusiastic about learning more about gardening and tracking crop performance from year to year.



The gardens are located next to the path from the visitor's parking lot to the entrance to Annmarie Gardens, making them a magnet for those attending events. During Green Expo, 120 adults stopped to ask gardening questions and 64 children planted a vegetable starter plant or helped water.

The nearby pollinator garden attracted human visitors as well as butterflies and bees and other pollinators that increase food production and make it more nutritious!

15TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

The CCMG Annual Plant Sale has become known as a source for a wide range of native plants. We specialize in providing pollinator plants and encourage more of our clients to include native plants in their yards to increase habitat for wildlife.

CCMG were available to help patrons find plants and to give them advice about which plants would be good choices for their gardens. At information booths, attendees could ask about controlling invasive plants, how to make their yard Bay-Wise, how to build a salad box, compost, and other

gardening questions. And if they were hungry, they could purchase delicious home-baked goods at our bake sale table.

Organized by Deb Berbert, over thirty CCMGs volunteered their time to grow plants, pot plants, prep plants, make signs and labels, and to help during the plant sale. Labels and plant information signs were well organized by, relieving some of the chaos that inevitably occurs as CCMGs trundle plants down to the sale area to set up by 8:00 AM—the official opening time. CCMGs assisted over 200 guests make plant choices and helped transport plants to their cars.



This is our primary fund-raising event that supports our many programs that are free to the public.

OUTREACH TO YOUTH AND WORK WITH SCHOOLS

Children's Day on the Farm (JPPM)

Eight CCMGs guided children as they participated in harvest-to-market activities. They harvested vegetables from a small raised bed, collected eggs from chickens on their nests, picked apples, then took their harvest to market. A special thanks to the Maryland Economic Development Corporation for the very realistic hen house, apple tree, and market stand displays.

Children also planted watermelon, sunflower or pumpkin seeds in Dixie cups to take home to plant in their own gardens. Approximately 700 adults and children (split 50/50) visited the display. CCMG volunteers had a busy and tiring, but rewarding day.

Project Spudnick

Sherrill Munn led a group of 12 active youth and six adults at *All Saints Episcopal Church* in the planting of potatoes, melons, squash, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, beans, cucumbers, and fall greens in containers. The produce was grown on the

grounds of *All Saints Episcopal Church* and the youth were from there and *Broadview Baptist Church*. They learned about soil composition, preventing and controlling disease, companion planting, watering, and fertilizing. Over 145 pounds of produce were distributed to *Saint Anthony's Church*, *Ladies of Charity Food Pantry*, and *Saint John Vianney Food Pantry*.

Youth Day at the Calvert County Fair

Beautiful weather brought out the crowds to the Fair in late September and Rose Thompson and



seven other CCMG volunteers greeted over 600 visitors (adults and children) to the Master Gardener Booth. Spinning the Wheel to answer gardening and plant questions was very popular. Everyone won the choice of a prize—daffodil bulbs, iris tubers or fruit snacks.

St. John Vianney's Summer Camp at American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT)

Double Oak Farm at ACLT hosted thirty youth aged ten through twelve and six adults on a tour of the *Food Forest* created by Birgit Sharp. The group learned about weeding and composting and helped with those chores.

Tidewater School 4-H

RT West showed 14 children how to plant peanuts at *Double Oak Farm* at ACLT. They tended them over the summer, then harvested, roasted, and ate them in the fall.

WORK WITH VULNERABLE CITIZENS

Head Start Summer Camp.

Summer Camp was held at *Barstow Elementary School* and was attended by 57 children. Three

CCMG volunteers assisted in this gardening and nutrition program by reading to children, helping with gardening activities, and preparing snacks with food they had grown.

INFORMATION BOOTHS

Calvert Green Expo

This full day event drew about 1,000 visitors to *Annamarie Gardens*. The CCMG booth inside the Expo was run by Judy Kay, with able assistance from seven Master Gardeners and Interns. During the day, we talked to 177 visitors and CCMGs helped thirty-four youth plant seeds in Dixie cups. We gave away 130 native plants, sold a few native shrubs, and the last two salad boxes. The *Bay-Wise* exhibit drew a lot of interest, and handouts about gardening for pollinators and other gardening information were popular. Karen Anderson gave a talk about Pollinators and Judy Kay about *Bay-Wise*, *Dollar-Wise*.

As reported earlier, Jim and Eileen McVey were stationed by the gardens to talk to visitors who walked past to visit the Green Expo exhibits. Children were invited to plant a vegetable seedling in the beds.



Women's Health Fair

Held at the *Middleham Parish Hall* in Lusby on a rainy Saturday, twenty-six people stopped at the CCMG's table run by Pat Paytas. Seven salad boxes were sold.

Summer Reading at Prince Frederick Library

For this new event, CCMG were on the patio on the North side of the Library in the shade. Denise Moroney coordinated the four CCMG tables that

offered a range of activities and gardening information.

The most popular was painting pots and planting seeds for children. Mimi, Jennifer, and Elisa Miller helped 96 kids paint pots and got some paint on themselves, too. About 80 parents accompanied the children.

One-hundred visitors stopped at the salad box table, where directions and free lettuce seed packets were handed out. Mosquito dunks and information about controlling mosquitoes were also handed out.

Lisa Oswald brought her Beta fish with aquatic plants which attracted the attention of 100 children.

At the Pollinator/Bay-Wise table, CCMGs talked to thirty-four adults and gave butterfly stickers to fifty-four children.

North Beach Farmers Market

Throughout the summer, Deborah Noyes coordinated the staffing of the CCMG booth at the North Beach Farmers Market. Almost 200 visitors stopped by the booth to pick up information and ask questions.

Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD)

As always, PRAD was sponsored by and was held at the Calvert Marine Museum. Exhibitors and attendees reveled in the sunshine and dry weather at this year's event after a disastrous 2016 Nor'easter. Under the guidance of Penny Moran, our tents and displays were set up and ready to greet visitors on a very busy Saturday morning.



The 18 CCMG volunteers answered questions, handed out literature, and gave away native seedlings to 441 adults. Most of the 261 youth played the Garden Quiz game (adults enjoyed it, too) for treats. The children had fun choosing a rock to paint.

CCCMG SPEAKERS BUREAU

Container Gardening talk and demo to 19 members of the North Beach Garden Club.

Native Grasses to thirty-five women at the Calvert Garden Club, followed by a great Q&A session.

Shade Gardening with Native Plants to 15 at the North Beach Garden Club.

A tour of the MG Demo Gardens was given for eighteen members of the Chesapeake Garden Club, discussed the plants used, answered questions, and sold plants left from the Plant Sale.

Shade Gardening with Native Plants to twenty-five members of the Charles County Master Gardeners.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

American Chestnut Land Trust

CCMG have worked at Double Oak Farm for many years under the guidance of R.T. West. This year the farm produced 7,286 pounds of thirty-two varieties of vegetables and delivered 6,624 of them to *St. John Vianney's Food Pantry*.

Herb Reed began a research project at Double Oak Farm with grafted tomatoes. Several CCMGs helped with planting and maintaining them. An unofficial taste test was held at Dr. Reed's retirement party in August.

Art Blooms Floral Design Exhibit

For the first time, CCMGs designed floral arrangements for the Art Blooms event co-sponsored by the *Calvert Garden Club* and *Ann's Circle* at *Annmarie Garden*. Teams were Betty Seifert/Carol Shomette and Karen Anderson/Deborah Noyes.



Chesapeake Current

CCMG contributed articles in the fall issues on: *Gardening with Wildlife in Mind*, *Digging into the Sunrise Garden*, and *Be Garden Wise*. More were planned; however, the paper ceased publication.

Master Gardener Training

Sixteen students completed the 2017 MG training class in Calvert County. So far, Susan Hammond, Penny Jacobs, Karen Moreland, Carol Santivaschi, Patty Jones and Josh Tyson completed their 40-hour volunteer requirements to become Master Gardeners.

Advanced Master Gardener Training

All Master Gardeners are required to complete ten hours of advanced training and 20 hours of volunteer work each year. In 2017, CCMGs completed 814 hours of advanced training to further their knowledge of sustainable gardening and protecting the environment.

Retirement of Dr. Herb Reed

Herb Reed, Senior Agent Agriculture and Master Gardener, retired in August, 2017. Herb began the Master Gardener program in the fall of 2002 with the first Master Gardener training class. He encouraged the group through the early years of its growth and struggle to develop projects and an identity in Calvert County. With his support, CCMGs are now well known in Calvert County and our contributions to the UME Master Gardener program are recognized at the state level.

Herb is now Senior Agent Emeritus and continues teaching some Master Gardener training classes and participates in Agriculture-related events through UME-Calvert County.

University of Maryland Extension Calvert County Staff

Chris Seubert, Area Extension Director
Herb Reed, Senior Agent Emeritus,
Agriculture and Master Gardener
Elaine Long Bailey, Senior Agent,
4-H Youth Development
Ari Strahl, 4-H Program Assistant
Janet Sefton, 4-H Program Assistant

Jackie Gray, Senior Associate Agent,
Food Supplement Nutrition Educator
Chris Dowell, Nutrient Management Advisor
Liz Laher, Administrative Assistant II

We thank the UME-Calvert Staff
for their support and assistance.

We especially thank
Chris Seubert for his guidance and advice
and
Liz Laher for all the work she does for us!

In addition, we thank
The University of Maryland Extension
The Calvert County Board of County
Commissioners,
Calvert County Government Departments and Staff
and
Other state, local and community organizations.

The Annual Report was compiled by Judy Kay and
edited by Norma Imershein, Liz Laher, Denise
Moroney and Penny Moran

Photos are courtesy of Deb Berbert, Judy Kay,
Eileen McVey and Denise Moroney

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