Good Bugs Have Interesting Stories! In preparing for a Good Bug/Bad Bug presentation for our Bel Air Library Garden Series, I noticed one thing about Good Bugs- they are all voracious eaters! And they eat mostly bugs or insects that we don’t want. No matter how they catch their buggy prey, either by mandible, jaw, stinger or parasitism, they all seem to eat (or parasitize) large, very large numbers of unwanted insects. These unwanted insects often include aphids, and stories abound about how aphid colonies wiped out by Good Bugs.

Good Bugs have very interesting stories of their own. Lacewing larvae have an interesting story. The Pacific Horticulture website noted that some lacewing larvae camouflage themselves by attaching pieces of lichen, bark, moss, and even the dead bodies of their prey, to spines on their back. This allows the Lacewing to invade the prey territory and to also serve as protection against predators. [https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/lacewings-and-their-kin/](https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/lacewings-and-their-kin/)

Ichneumon wasps are parasites which means they lay “parasite” eggs in Bad Bugs. Here is an interesting story from Science Magazine. The large blue European butterfly *Maculinea rebeli* produces larvae that are brought into red ant colonies because they smell like just like red ant larvae. [http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2002/05/treacherous-wasps-turn-ant-against-ant](http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2002/05/treacherous-wasps-turn-ant-against-ant)

Once inside, the red ants are tricked into feeding, grooming and protecting the butterfly larvae. The Ichneumon Wasp comes to the rescue – it invades the ant nest (only entering those nests with a host larvae), lays wasp eggs on the larvae and escapes from the colony untouched. How does the Ichneumon Wasp escape unharmed? The wasp secretes a specific chemical that makes ants fight with each other, creating a distraction so the Ichneumon wasp may move in and out unharmed. What a story!

Have a great month!

~Ellen Haas – 2013
Within hours of returning home with my new puppy I was searching for my book *AMA Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants*. While planting Easter weekend pansies I kept my puppy next to me, she could get some sun and fun, and I would do some gardening. “Spit that out” I screamed and grabbed the discarded daffodil bulb out of her mouth. In the fall I had divided daffodil clumps and neglected to pick up the littlest ones leaving them on the mulch. My new, 8 week old, Lucy found them quite attractive. That was my first rude awakening to poisonous plants in my yard.

My horticultural knowledge expands every day as she explores the landscape and woodland… and wants to eat everything! My deck seemed like a good doggy pen with gates at the exit. I hoped that would be a safe place. The lovely 15 year old ‘Dorothy Wycoff’ *Pieris* screens the deck nicely and was just in reach of puppy. Watching her pulling the branches in through the railing my husband yells “Is this plant poisonous?” as he indiscriminately breaks off the branches by hand. Quickly referencing my handbook I find that all of the *Pieris* species (Andromedea) have toxic leaves and nectar. I took my pruners and cleaned up the broken branches and cut back risky stems that called out to my puppy. More trouble on the deck included that lovely vine crawling up the deck railing. In summer it is full of beautiful honeysuckle flowers for the humming birds. Now the Honeysuckle vine is reduced to ground level due to Lucy’s pulls and tugs. *Lonicera* species (Honeysuckle) are only a danger if they have berries. Birds are not affected but humans and pets should not ingest the berry. Now my deck is a safe puppy playroom.

One spring morning I thought it would be nice to sit on the front brick steps with my new buddy in the warm sun. Quickly she lost my attention and next thing I notice are yew bush branches swinging violently with Lucy in play. Oh no, poisonous Yew shrub (*Taxus baccata*)! I am well aware of this one. Many a horse has been killed browsing on the yew shrub or eating clippings which an unsuspecting gardener threw into a pasture. The entire Yew plant, except the red coat on the seed, contain poisonous taxine alkaloids. Chemists have found these compounds useful as an anti-cancer compound and are they are currently used in the drugs Tamol® and Taxotere®.

On that same morning, forced off the steps by the dangers of yew, we moved out to puppy play in the lawn. Shortly she pressed to the end of her leash to shred the newly emerged rhubarb leaves. I use rhubarb in my landscape beds as a coarse texture contrast next to the phlox ground cover. The rhubarbs, *Rheum rhabarbarum*, raw leaves are toxic in large quantities containing the toxin anthraquinone glycosides, soluble oxalates. I was beginning to view my yard as an enemy mine field!

Giving up on outdoor play time I returned to the house when she found the Iris. Tall iris leaves flicked her in the face as her sharp puppy teeth shredded the emerging foliage. Iris leaves are not harmful but Iris storage roots are toxic. As I searched my poisonous plant handbook I would say, as a general rule, beware. Many bulb plants are toxic.

The flowers on the PJM rhododendron also became a victim of Lucy’s. Swallowing small pieces of azaleas or rhododendrons is unlikely to cause any serious poisoning. Lucy is proof of that. The pretty lavender flowers of the PJM Rhododendron find their way into her mouth every time we walk by the plant. Nectar from these flowers has reportedly produced “mad honey” causing very low blood pressure and heart rate. Leaves and flowers contain grayanotoxins.

Plant toxicities prevail in the home garden and in the most common houseplants.
Here are a few more of my injurious garden plants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptisia species</td>
<td>(Blue Wild Indigo) perennial; entire plant is toxic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calycanthus sp</td>
<td>Allspice shrub; seeds are poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clematis species</td>
<td>the whole plant is toxic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daphne species</td>
<td>the whole plant is poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datura species</td>
<td>the whole plant is toxic; belladonna alkaloids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euonymus species</td>
<td>minor toxicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euphorbia species</td>
<td>the annual 'Diamond Frost' in my patio containers; the latex of some species is poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galanthus species</td>
<td>(Snowdrops) bulb is poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helleborus species</td>
<td>(Lenten Rose) the whole plant is poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrangea species</td>
<td>flower buds are poisonous, even the dried hydrangeas have toxic cyanogenic glycosides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex species</td>
<td>(Hollies) the fruit is poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornithogalum species</td>
<td>(Star of Bethlehem weed in my yard) all plant parts are poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus species</td>
<td>(peach, cherries, nectarine, apricot, almond) seeds of all of these are poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranunculus species</td>
<td>(Buttercup weeds) the sap is toxic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambucus species</td>
<td>(Elderberry shrub) the whole plant is poisonous. The ripe fruit are harmless when cooked and is generally considered to have no adverse effect if limited amounts are eaten raw. Flowers are probably nontoxic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~Joyce Browning 2008

Resource for this article: American Medical Association Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants Dr. Kenneth Lampe, Mary Ann McCann copyright 1985

Adventures of the Harford Bird Club

In a cooperative project with Harford Bird Club and Harford County Master Gardeners, students in the Hands on Highlands program created an Eastern Bluebird nest box trail throughout their campus. Mary Murray, Education Coordinator for HBC, her husband, Greg Murray and Highlands teacher, Jane Howe, both master gardeners, worked with the students from grades 3 through 11. Everyone had a great time and the Highlands students are ready to begin being Citizen Scientists!

Reprinted with permission from Harford Bird Club newsletter, Wrenderings

May 5, 2018 - 8:00 am – 12 Noon
Harford Waste Disposal Center
3135 Scarboro Rd., Street, MD
Future 2018 Dates (not including shredding): August 7 & November 3
For a list of acceptable items, visit:
Master Gardener Food Preservation Survey

As a UME Master Gardener, you may be asked food preservation questions. Shauna Henley, PhD, is a UME Family & Consumer Sciences Educator who teaches food preservation classes and would like to learn more about your interest in and experiences with this subject. Shauna and I invite you to participate in this 3 minute, 13 question survey. Your participation will help us better understand your needs and your clients’ needs for information and training. This could lead to future food preservation collaborations between the UME Master Gardener Program and Family & Consumer Sciences.

Please click HERE to take part in the survey.
The survey may also be found online at extension.umd.edu/mg/volunteer-resources/newsletter: April 2018.

The survey will close on May 18, 2018. We ask that those who take the survey are UME Master Gardeners, MG Interns, or MG Trainees.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Shauna Henley at shenley@umd.edu or Jon Traunfeld at jont@umd.edu. Thank you for your time and valuable input.

- Jon Traunfeld

Grow It, Eat It, Preserve It – Harford County Classes

This food preservation series provides a hands-on learning experience for Beginners and Advanced canners at the Harford County Agricultural Center.

MAY 17 11:00 am – 2:00 pm  Strawberry Jam
JUN 13 11:00 am – 2:00 pm  Cherry Jam
JUL 18 11:00 am – 2:00 pm  Pickles
AUG 11 11:00 am – 2:00 pm  Peaches

There will be a typical workshop class lecture, followed by participants going into the kitchen to make the canned produce to bring home that day.

Cost: $20. Space is limited so register early. Includes lecture/instruction, and all the equipment and produce to process your own preserved jar!

For tickets, go to www.eventbrite.com. Search “Preserve It” in Street, MD. Or call 410-887-8090.
All-America Selections

All-America Selections is an independent non-profit organization which tests new, never-before-sold varieties for the home gardener. After a full season of anonymous trialing by volunteer horticulture professionals, only the top garden performers are given the AAS Winner award designation for their superior performance.

AAS was founded in 1932 and the first AAS Winners were announced a year later, after the results were tabulated. Today, independent AAS Judges determine the AAS Winners by judging and scoring the entries. Judges look for significantly improved qualities such as earliness to bloom or harvest, disease or pest tolerance, novel colors or flavors, novel flower forms, total yield, the length of flowering or harvest and overall performance. In the last ten years, an entry needs to have at least two significantly improved qualities to be considered by Judges for an AAS Award.

The Judges score each entry from 0 to 5 points, with 5 being the highest. Only entries that meet scoring criteria is considered for a possible Award.

New, never-before-sold varieties with proven superior qualities are announced three times each year as AAS Winners. Once new varieties are announced as AAS Winners, they are available for immediate sale and distribution. Home gardeners will find seeds available from their favorite catalog or online seed source or as young plants at their favorite garden retailer.

Visit: all-americaselections.org

Education Opportunities

May 4, 10:00 am – 12 noon
**Trees for Bees**, Mt. Cuba Center, Main House Lecture Rm. 2
While prairies, grasslands, and meadows are critical habitats for pollinators, there are many other opportunities to support our insect allies and increase plant diversity in our gardens. In the Northeast, where creating wildflower meadows can be challenging, the value of woody plants in pollinator conservation is often overlooked. Kelly Gill of the Xerces Society presents a suite of high-value trees and shrubs that provide habitat for native bees, butterflies, and other flower visitors. A tour of Mt. Cuba Center’s gardens to see these plant-insect interactions first hand completes the day. Rain date for this class is Friday, May 18, 2018. This class qualifies for the following professional credits: 2 APLD, 1 CNP credit with DNLA, ISA, and 2 NOFA AOLCP. Two professional development hours (PDHs) have been approved for this class through LA CES. This class meets LA CES standards for HSW subject matter. Visit [https://mtcubacenter.org/](https://mtcubacenter.org/) to register.

Fee: $30.00

May 8, 7:30 pm
**Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style**, Horticulture Society of MD Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209
Inspired by the tiny plants and dramatic, rocky landscapes found on mountain tops, rock gardening uses a range of unusual, small plants in combination with beautiful stones to create miniaturized landscapes. This approach to gardening is water-wise, perfect for containers, small gardens, and for gardeners interested in exploring a whole new group of plants. Joseph Tyconievich, author of Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style, will discuss the basic principles of creating rock gardens and suggest easy-to-grow rock garden plants to get you started. Book signing. Come early to check out our plant raffle and stay for light refreshments after the lecture.

A life-long gardener and lover of plants, Joseph earned his degree in horticulture from Ohio State University, worked at specialty rare plants nurseries in Michigan and Japan, and was named by Organic Gardening
Magazine as one of “...six young horticulturists who are helping to shape how America gardens.” He is the author of Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener (Timber Press, 2013), Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style (Timber Press, 2016) and is the editor of The Rock Garden Quarterly.

For more information, call: 410-821-5561 or email programs@mdhorticulture.org
Members and their guest: Free. Admission for non-members: $10

May 10, 5:30 – 7:00 pm
**From Lawn to Landscape**, Mt. Cuba Center, Main House Lecture Rm. 2
An exciting new trend in landscape design recommends we devote less space to lawns by adding more ecologically diverse plantings. The incentives are many: water conservation, reduced fertilizer and pesticide use, increased biodiversity, and enhanced curb appeal. Learn how to create year-round visual interest, save time and money, and increase your property value by replacing parts of your lawn with hardy groundcovers, perennials, and shrubs. This class qualifies for the following professional credits: 1 CNP credit with DNLA and 1.5 NOFA AOLCP. Visit [https://mtcubacenter.org/](https://mtcubacenter.org/) to register.
Fee: $25.00

May 12, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Did you know that there are new fertilizer rules in place for homeowners? Learn what they are and how they encourage correct fertilizer usage to promote long-term lawn health and protect waterways, including the bay. Fertilizer selection, application, timing, types of spreaders, calibrating spreaders, avoiding common costly mistakes, and more will be covered. Guided tour of Grass Roots Exhibit included.
Free, registration encouraged; space is limited. Call 202-245-5965 to register.

May 17, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
**Pest Identification**, Longwood Gardens
Explore Longwood’s vast outdoor landscape and observe and identify common pest signs and symptoms. Learn to recognize pest damage and differentiate between harmful and beneficial insects. Gain valuable information on pest life cycles and methods of natural, biological, and chemical controls as components of an integrated pest management program.
Fee: $79.00

May 24, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
"**Nature's Notebook**" Phenology Workshop, Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, MD
Help us take the pulse of our planet! Adkins Arboretum and the National Phenology Network are recruiting and training volunteers to join Nature’s Notebook, our citizen science program that collects information on plant and animal species at the Arboretum. Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, citizen scientists, and volunteers are welcome to join this free one-day workshop to learn about phenology, the study of life cycle changes in plants and animals. Your data and data from scientists will help to develop tools to support a wide range of decisions made routinely by citizens, manager, scientists, and others, including decisions related to allergies, wildlife, water, and conservation. The workshop is FREE, but registration is limited to 15 participants. Lunch is provided.

May 26, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
**American Landscape Institute Garden Tour Fundraiser**, Hunt Valley, MD
A rare opportunity to tour two private gardens in Hunt Valley, MD (Western Run Valley). The **Gary Brewster Estate** and **Tashiding Estate**: A Garden at the Center of All Things Auspicious by Doug & Tsogne Hamilton will be open to enjoy from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be served at Tashiding for lunch and is included with the cost of registration. Proceeds will go to the American Landscape Institute. The goal is to raise money to help more students attend college Horticulture classes and become the next generation of Horticulture Professionals!
Note: To respect the privacy of the estates, their addresses will be emailed to you after you register. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, as the gardens have a few hills and are not wheelchair accessible. Parking is limited, please carpool if possible.

Fee: $100 per person. The American Landscape Institute is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization; tickets or donations are tax-deductible. https://americanlandscapeinstituteinc.regfox.com/spring-garden-tour

June 3, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Rain or Shine

Horticulture Society of MD - 27th Annual Garden Tour, Sweeping Vistas and Intimate Spaces in Baltimore County

Spectacular views of the northern Maryland countryside and inspired plantings will be found on this year’s tour of some of the area’s finest gardens. Down winding roads, mostly hidden from view, these five extraordinary landscapes have been designed and maintained by serious horticulturists, each with a distinctive sensibility. Included are serene Asian-inspired gardens in a park-like setting, charming farms with colorful flower beds and historic farm buildings, the bucolic haven of a plant lover, as well as a stunning contemporary garden with native grasses in the New American style. Tickets have a map to the first garden where you will receive the complete tour program booklet.

MEMBERS admitted FREE with current membership card. NON-MEMBER TICKETS – $35, if purchased in advance by June 2nd, NON-MEMBER TICKETS – $40, purchased on the day of the tour, available at the first garden.

The first garden is located at 13901 Mantua Mill Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136.

June 6, 5:00 pm

Restoring Nature’s Relationships at Home with Doug Tallamy, Ladew Gardens

Special Evening Lecture & Dinner
5:00 – 6:45 PM (rolling admission) Dinner in the café & stroll the gardens
7:00 PM Lecture in Barn Gallery

Reservations should be made in advance and accompanied by payment. Registrants’ names are checked at the door on the day of the program. Tickets will be sent via email or smartphone. To register, contact Lecture Coordinator, Rachel Hebert at 410.557.9570, x261, or email: rhebert@ladewgardens.com

Specialized relationships between animals and plants are the norm in nature. It is specialized relationships that provide our birds with insects and berries, that disperse our bloodroot seeds, that pollinate our goldenrod, and so on. Native plants, in particular, provide wildlife with their basic needs better than non-native plants can. Tallamy will explain why specialized food rela-tionships determine the stability and complexity of the local food webs that support animal diversity, why our yards and gardens are essential parts of the ecosystems that sustain us and how we can use our home landscapes to improve wildlife habitat and make our landscapes living ecosystems again.

Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware for the past 36 years. He is an award-winning researcher, speaker and author, who focuses on better understanding the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. He is well known for his books Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens and The Living Landscape, co-authored with Rick Darke, which will be for sale.

Fee: $40 Members | $50 Non-members
Note: The JULY MG MEETING date has changed from July 5 to July 12.
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.