Has Spring Sprung!!! We all know how Mother Nature is here in Maryland and this year January felt more like spring than February and March. As April arrives we all hope for those “April Showers” to bring those “May
I want to thank all of our Master Gardeners for attending the March monthly meeting. A special thanks goes to Jon Traunfeld, our State Master Gardener Coordinator, for being our guest at our March monthly meeting and bringing us up to date on what is going on at the state level.

I also want to welcome Bob Stewart for being able to be our guest Speaker at the April 11 monthly Master Gardener meeting. Bob is a retired County Extension Horticulture Agent from Prince George’s County and will be sharing with us his expertise in growing cacti and succulents. Bob is a well known Horticulturalist across the state and country and has done much media work with TV, Radio, and Newspaper. Please join us in welcoming Bob at our April meeting.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar and refer to last month’s newsletter in The Coordinator’s Corner for the details. I hope that many of you will be able to attend these state and national events to help represent the Anne Arundel Master Gardener Program.

*Maryland Ag Day at University of Maryland – April 29
*Annual Maryland Master Gardener Day at University of Maryland – May 25
*Annual Anne Arundel Master Gardener Open House at Quiet Waters – June 3
*Northeast Master Gardener Conference at Newport, Rhode Island – June 5 – 8

Much thanks goes to all of our Master Gardeners for a great start with the 2006 projects and hope that all have an “Educational and Fun” filled year of gardening activities.

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**BOOKIE NEEDED!**

Debbie Lyons is moving overseas in August and needs a replacement. Training is easily done in ten minutes, you just need to use your credit card (after you have received payment from others) to ensure fast and prompt service. Time is counted as Administrative Volunteer. It's a worthy service to help us gardeners save a lot of money by directly ordering from the publisher! If you are interested, call me at 410-349-4645. Thank you!!

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**MASTER GARDENER OPEN HOUSE PLANT SALE**

The first Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale will be held on June 3rd in conjunction with the 2006 Master Gardener Open House at Quiet Waters Park. We’re excited about this new activity which will give us a chance to show off our Master Gardener skills to the public, raise awareness of the Master Gardener Program, and raise money to put towards our Master Gardener activities.

This is a great opportunity to clean out some of the overflow in your gardens while helping the M.G. Program. And if you plant vegetable or flower seeds you can show off your propagation skills.

What do we need? We’re asking every Master Gardener to try and donate at least two plants. We are looking for Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables and House Plants. These can be mature specimens or those that you’ve grown from seed and are still in 6 packs. Just be sure that their condition reflects well on the skills of the Master Gardeners.

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**QUIET WATERS COMPOSTING/NATIVE PLANT GARDENS**

We’re off to a very busy month in April! We’ll be having an organizational meeting April 8 at the QWP visitor’s center at 10 AM. We plan to have our first work/cleanup session on Saturday morning, April 15. April 22 is Earth Day at Quiet Waters Park and once
again our volunteers will talk to visitors and give away compost bins provided by Anne Arundel County. The following weekend on Saturday, April 29 we will present our first public demonstration of the season.

All Master Gardeners and friends are welcome to visit our site. The descriptive signage by compost units and plants ensure an educational experience anytime you visit. But if you come to a demonstration you’ll receive a free compost bin and goody bag! Please direct inquiries to Susie Blackwell (410 757-7780; mrsbntx@aol.com).

NEW 2006 SHORT TERM PROJECT AT GIBSON ISLAND COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Master Gardener Bonnie Pavlak has been selected to represent AA County Master Gardener's as a consultant/advisor in the planning and selection of plant material for the restoration of a shoreline butterfly garden, damaged by hurricane Isabel.

Bonnie has enthusiastically started to work on the planning of the garden with Courtney Leigh, Science Teacher and Environmental Studies Coordinator at the Gibson Island School. Planting will be done by students, teachers and school volunteers.

The Gibson Island County School’s 2006 goal is to be certified a Green School by the Maryland Association of Outdoor Education. Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners are dedicated to helping educate students to be stewards of the environment; and we thank Bonnie Pavlak for representing us to assist the school in attaining their goal.

If you have a particular gardening interest or area of expertise and would like to be an advisor/consultant for a short term educational project, please email Susan Smith sbswhs@aol.com to have your name added to the list. Please specify your area of interest.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Help us keep you informed. If you change your address, phone number and/or email address, or if you have just come online, please notify Ralph Beedle at rebeedle@comcast.net.

If you are a member of our Yahoo group, also notify Robin Costas at costasrt@comcast.net.

Add to directory:
Allenby, Kathleen
3067 Aberdeen Road

2006 SCHOOL YARD HABITAT SHORT TERM PROJECT COMPLETED

At the request and in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation School Yard Habitat initiative, Master Gardener, Judy Wilson was selected to advise teacher, Shira Dowling on soil preparation and plant selection for the restoration of butterfly gardens in the courtyard at Cape St. Clair...
Annapolis, MD 21403
410.263.4862
allenby@juno.com

Corrected in updated directory:
Marilyn Kinkel
204 Marlbrook Rd.
Severna Park, MD 21146

Want an easy way to communicate with your fellow Master Gardeners?

If you would like an easy way to send a message out to the whole MG group or see messages sent by others, think about joining our Yahoo MG email group. This is a way for anyone to send or respond to messages or announcements (separate from the newsletter). All you need to do is to let me (Robin Costas) know you want to be on the list…send me an email at costasrt@comcast.net.

And, there is more….if you want to be able to access the Yahoo MG website…all you need is a yahoo ID. (This is separate from the HGIC MG website.) There you will find a list of all of our members and their email addresses, see all of our past correspondences and be able to access our past newsletters. If you are interested, I can send you more information or even help you get set up…just let me know!

Robin Costas

STATE MASTER GARDENER NEWS

Robin Hessey

MG Annual Training Day May 25

By now everyone should have received their registration form for the Master Gardener Annual Training Day coming up this May 25. If you did not get one in the mail, go to www.mastergardener.umd.edu and click on Annual Training Day for a schedule, list of workshops and a registration form. You can also get biographical information on all of our speakers.

We are very excited to offer such a great range of topics in our 29 different workshops. We’ve got everything from green buildings and rain water systems to “waist high” salad gardening, landscape design and horticultural therapy. Check out the schedule! May you all get your first choices is classes!

You’ll also enjoy the breakfast and lunch, the marketplace/tradeshow, special MG presentations, and our keynote speaker, Dr. Peter H. Hildebrand, Ph.D., Chief, Hydrospheric and Biospheric Lab, NASA Goddard speaking on "Water for Life on Earth" - How the global water cycle changes as climate changes.

Registration fee is $59 for this event and registration closes on May 1. Join 100’s of other MG’s for food, fun, camaraderie and lots of learning this May 25. For more info contact Robin, 410-531-1754, rmhessey@umd.edu.

MG Identity Items now available!

Over and over again we’ll hear that the MG’s need and want more publicity, more visibility, more recognition. Putting an MG License Plate on your car or wearing your MG apparel can really help. You could be wearing them EVERYWHERE!

You can order MG T-shirts (both long and short), Denim shirts, Sweatshirts, Hats, Mugs, and Totebags using the order form that comes with your Annual Training Day Brochure. Or you can go to the MG state website (mastergardener.umd.edu), clicking on Annual Training Day and then on “Identity Items”. We’ve got some new colors this year too. Orders will be delivered at the MG Annual Training Day, May 25. Any orders not picked up then will go back to the county MG Coordinators for distribution.

To get information on the MG license plate, go to state website and click on the Administrative button then on “master gardener license plates”. The plates are easy to get and really attract some great attention.

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MG Volunteer time is worth a lot!

Estimated Dollar Value of Volunteer Time in 2005-$18.04; (In 2004 it was $17.55) http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

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New MG Brochures are now available!

The MG Strategic Planning Committee and the Marketing and Promotion Committee have developed and printed two new full color MG brochures.

#1 is meant to let everyone know who MGs are and what we do.

*2 is meant to let someone know how they can become an MG. One panel has been left blank so that each MG program can overprint their own information onto it. You could put your own contact info there, a notice about your next basic training, or information about your own local projects.

Call the state MG office at 410-531-5556 if you’d like to get a supply of these brochures.

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UPCOMING STATEWIDE MEETINGS
You are all invited!

Tues. April 11; 10-2- Composting Interest Group- HGIC

Tues. May 9; 10-2- MG State Strategic Planning Meeting, 4H Center in College Park.

This is a very dynamic group that’s working in so many ways to improve the MG program for all of us. We need participation from more counties to make this group even more effective. Come learn what’s going on and meet with others who seek to make the MG program the best it can be.

Wed. May 17; 10-2- Organic Vegetable Gardening Work Group- Cylburn Arboretum

Thurs. June 15; 10-2 – MG State Political Advocacy work group HGIC. This group could use more help. We are seeking to identify who in the political world we need to influence and how to do it. This process will truly strengthen every county program.

For more info contact Robin, 410.531.1754, rmhessey@umd.edu.

MG Advanced Training Level II is available in lots of locations this spring.

Plant ID/Taxonomy

Locations:
Anne Arundel Co. - 6-9 pm, Wed. 6/7, 6/14, 6/21,
   Tawes Office Bldg
Howard Co. - 9am-noon, 6/13, 6/20 and 6/27-
   Extension Office
Registration Fee: $35; Registration Closes 6/1;
Primary instructor: Wanda MacLachlan
Required Text: A Field Guide to Trees & Shrubs (Peterson Field Guide) by George A. Petrides ($16)

This course is a very important basic tool for Master Gardeners in that it teaches all of the basics needed to identify woody plants in the landscape. Being able to identify plants is the first step in knowing how to diagnose problems or give growing advice. Whether you want to learn 200 plants, 20 plants, or just want to learn techniques to identify plants in the field, this is the course for you. The course will be made up of approximately 9 hours of class work with lots of hands-on practice and a field walk. You will also receive a specially prepared booklet of course materials.

Material to be covered will include the following:
*Morphology- the study of the structure of external plant organs (e.g. leaf shapes)
*Nomenclature- the systematic naming and classification of plants
*Taxonomy- the general principles of classification
*Keying- using a dichotomous key to identify plant by specific characteristics

To Register, just send $35 (made out to the University of MD), with your name, address, MG county, phone, email, and location in which you want to take class to: MG Spring, 12005 Homewood Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042.

Master Composter Course
Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore
EVENINGS & WEEKEND CLASSES; Registration Closes 6/1/06;

Registration Fee & Book: $55
  Mondays June 12, 19, 26; 6-9 pm
  Saturday, June 17, 9-12 field trips- home sites and area landfill; exact site TBA

Class presenters:
  Lew Shell, AA County MG; Sam Parish, Montgomery Co. MG, Susan Schleuderberg- Harford Co. MG; and others

Learn all about composting from dedicated Master Gardener Master Composters. This advanced course, designed to teach the teacher, will not only enable you to improve your own composting techniques, it will empower you to share your knowledge with novices and experts alike. You will be given instruction in both the science and the art of creating compost and be given the opportunity to hone your own personal teaching skills. As a graduate “Master Composter”, you will be able to seek out new and innovative ways to present ‘backyard composting’ to both MG interns and to the public at large.

Master Gardeners are among a very small number of spokespersons for Integrated Pest Management. Our mandate goes well beyond the sensible use of pesticides; we are also charged with educating homeowners in areas of Water Quality, Nutrient Management, Soil Conservation, and Recycling. Backyard Composting is an endemic part of each of these areas and thereby has a crucial role to play in all of our programs and projects.

Registration fee: $55 (includes NRAES’44 page ($10) booklet Composting to Reduce the Waste Stream as well has course handouts)

To Register, just send $55 (made out to the University of MD), with your name, address, MG county, phone and email to: MG Spring, 12005 Homewood Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042.

Learn your flowering shrubs (about 45) both in the classroom and outside in some of the most beautiful Maryland outdoor locations. Viburnums, Weigelia, Spirea, Sumacs, Witchhazels, Cotoneaster, Winterberry, Quince, Crape Myrtles, and so many more. Lots of field time in this course. We’ll be studying one group of plants indoors, followed by a walk to see them in the field. We will repeat this procedure until we have finished with all of the groups to be studied. Also- learn how to propagate Azaleas and Rhododendrons, skills applicable to many other trees and shrubs.

Presenter:
  Steve Allgeier, Carroll Co. MG Coordinator; Ed Riley, Past Pres. Amer. Rhododendron Society. Tuition: $40;

Registration Deadline: 4/24
Class 1 & 2- Monday, May 8 and May 15 at Brookside Gardens Wheaton, MD; 9:30-2:30
Class 3-Thurs. 5/18 at Ed Riley’s Rhododendron and Azalea Farm; time TBA

Ornamental Trees and Vines:
Learn the identifying characteristics and cultural requirements of such plants as serviceberry, hornbeam, yellowwood, Hawthorne, larch, magnolias, cherries, clematis, wisteria, and so many more (about 40 trees and 11 vines). Your professional instructor and a visit to Maryland’s premier arboretum make this a course not to be missed.

Presenter:
  Steve Dubik, Montgomery Co. MG Coordinator
  Tuition: $40; Registration Deadline: 6/1
Class 1 & 2 Wed. 6/8 and 6/15; 10am-1pm,- Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s Co.
Class 3- Wed. 6/28; 10am-1 or 2 pm- Field Trip to National Arboretum

To Register, just send $40(made out to the University of MD), with your name, address, MG county, phone, email, and indicate which class you are registering for, to: 12005 Homewood Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042

For more info contact Robin at 410.531.1754, rmhessey@umd.edu.
We will be providing more information at the next monthly meeting, but wanted to get you information so that you can think about your donation as you begin your spring garden work. If you’d like more information, contact Sharon Schroer at sharon.schroer@baachrobinson.com, or Lois Steinfort at steinfort@msn.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE USEFUL TO MGS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS MONTH, THE COMPLETE CALENDAR OF EVENTS HAS BEEN COMPILED AND DISTRIBUTED AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT FROM THE NEWSLETTER.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THIS HELPS YOU IN KEEPING INFORMED OF ALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

PLEASE CONTINUE

NEWSLETTER ATTACHMENTS ON PAGE 8

It is the policy of the University of Maryland and Maryland Cooperative Extension that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or parental status, or disability. Equal opportunity employers and equal access programs.
Composting Demonstrations
and
NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

QUIET WATERS PARK on the WILDWOOD TRAIL
Near Forest and Hillsmere Drives
2006 SEASON

presented by
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Wednesday Evenings at 6 PM:
May 10       July 12
June 7       August 9
September 6

Saturday Mornings at 10 AM:
April 29      August 26
May 27        September 23
June 24       October 7
July 29       October 21
November 4

• Learn how to do home composting and get answers to your composting questions
• Demonstrations last about an hour
• Receive a free composting bin and goody bag!
• Visit our native plant gardens adjacent to the composting site. See what plants will grow in your own garden.

Note: Park admission $5 or with Anne Arundel County Parks season pass.
Demonstrations canceled in the event of rain!
The Anne Arundel County Master Gardener Open House
Saturday, June 3, 2006
10:00 Am until 3:00 PM
In
The Galleries at Quiet Waters Park
In partnership with
The Maryland Federation of Art
The Art of the Garden
An invitational Art Exhibition
May 11 – June 18, 2006
Opening Reception: May 21, 2006
And
Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation

.... To celebrate the love of gardening through the visual arts while promoting safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens and landscapes

No park admission to attend the Master Gardener Open House

For Directions to QWP please go to: http://www.friendsofquietwaterspark.org/directions.html

Anne Arundel County Master Gardener Program Coordinator: Mike Ensor
Master Gardener Open House Chair: Susan Smith
Master Gardener Open House Co-Chair: Lois Steinfort
Master Gardener Publicity: Cheryl Findlay
Maryland Federation of Art Exhibition Chair: Eva Carson, MFA Board
Superintendent of Quiet Waters Park: Michael Murdoch
Quiet Waters Park Staff Liaison for Open House: Ranger Chris Young

Objective
Promote Anne Arundel County Master Gardener projects by hosting an Open House in the Galleries of Quiet Waters Park to combine the love of gardening through the visual arts while educating country residents about safe, effective
and sustainable horticultural practices. Invite and encourage qualified and interested residents to apply to become a Maryland Master Gardener.

**Brief Overview**

Visitors to our Open House will have the opportunity to enjoy the love of gardening through the visual arts while talking informally with Master Gardeners about Anne Arundel County Master Gardener projects.................and

- Attend four 30 minute prescheduled horticultural presentations
- Purchase plants and ask gardening questions to volunteers at our plant sale
- Informally tour our Master Gardener composting site on the Wildwood Trail
- *Kids Gardening Corner*, two pre-scheduled sessions will teach elementary school aged children a little history of the Chesapeake Bay region and discover how human behavior, over time, has damaged one of our most prized resources. A water container to simulate the bay and vials of 'pollutants' to demonstrate, through interactive storytelling, how the bay has become polluted will be used. Color book-type handouts at the conclusion of the story will reinforce the learning
- Refreshments will be served throughout the hours of the Open House.

**SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2006**

- **4:00 SET-UP**
  
  Susan Smith and Bob Bates
  
  - Tables with tablecloths will be set-up throughout the Visitor Center Galleries and marked with the name of each project.
  - Plants may be delivered between 4:30 and 5:30 on Friday June 2, 2006. Volunteers may drive up the service road behind the Visitor Center to unload their plants. (See attached map)

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006**

- **9:00 – 9:45 PROJECT CHAIR SET-UP**
  
  - Project chairs may drive up the service road behind the Visitor Center to unload their visuals. **Cars must then be promptly moved and parked in the Visitor Center Parking lot.**
  - Project chairs are asked to staff their project table with volunteers throughout the hours of the Open House
  - **Directional Signage** to Open House Visitor Center Parking placed along the road - Susan

- **3:00 – CLEAN-UP**

  At the conclusion of the Open House project chairs or designated volunteers are asked to **please be responsible** for helping with cleanup by returning their table to the designated Visitor Center location. **Thank you!!!!**
• **10:00 – 3:00 INTERN GREETERS**

Scott Doran, Intern Class of 2005

*Location*: Visitor Center Main entrance. Volunteers from the class of 2005 will greet visitors to the Open House and be available to answer questions. They will also assist John Conners, as needed, to schedule the interviewing of prospective Master Gardeners.

10:00 – 12:00 MG Interns Judy Graham and Scott Doran
11:00 – 1:00 MG Interns Candice' Rockwood and Scott Doran
12:00 – 2:00 MG Interns Barbara and Richard Inman
1:00 – 3:00 MG Interns Carol Dowling and Linda Martinich

• **10:00 – 3:00 ART EXHIBITION DOCENT**

Marietta Schreiber

Marietta will be available to talk and answer questions about the exhibiting artwork with visitors to the Open House

• **10:00 – 3:00 PLANT SALE**

Lois Steinfort and Sharon Schoerer

*Location*: Blue Heron Sculpture Patio at the main entrance to the Visitor Center

Houseplants, annuals (to include both flowering and vegetable varieties) and perennials propagated, divided and donated by Master Gardeners. A limited number of hand-made cedar oriole feeders will be for sale (donated by Bill Smith)

- Plants may be delivered between **4:30 and 5:30 on Friday June 2**
- Master Gardeners may drive up the service road behind the Visitor Center to unload their plants;
- And between **9:00 and 10:00 on Saturday, June 3.**
  Master Gardeners may drive up the service road behind the Visitor Center to unload their plants. Cars must then be promptly moved and parked in the Visitor Center Parking lot. **No parking on the road behind the Visitor Center! (Thank you)**

*Ask a Master Gardener* volunteers will be at the plant sale to conduct horticultural exchange with the public. *Ask a MG* to provide their table.

• **10:30 – 2:30 HORTICULTURE PRESENTATIONS**

*Location*: Conference Room on the second floor of the Visitor Center.

The conference room will accommodate 32 people. If chairs are available after our visitors are seated, Master Gardeners are more than welcome to attend the presentations,

Connie MacDonald will keep the presentations running smooth.

• **10:30 – 11:00: Do You Drink Rainwater?**

Whether your drinking water comes from an underground well, or from a surface reservoir, yes, you do drink rainwater. Discover what happens to the rain after it hits the ground and how it becomes our drinking water. Learn what we can do, as gardeners, to ensure a clean water supply for our future generations.
**Wanda MacLachlan** Area Educator, Residential Landscape Management  
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension  
**Assistant for presentation:** MG Patti Muir

**11:15 – 11:45: Bay-wise Landscape Management**  
The explosive growth in Maryland has taken its toll on our ecosystem, which includes the Chesapeake Bay. Our everyday actions have a negative impact on Maryland’s natural resources, air, water, soil, flora, and fauna. From driving our cars, to turning on our lights to fertilizing our landscape plants, we can adversely affect our environment. Learn the smart way to maintain a nice garden without harming environment in this session.

**Wanda MacLachlan** Area Educator, Residential Landscape Management  
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension  
**Assistant for presentation:** MG Patti Muir

**1:00 – 1:30: Shade Gardening**  
Discover the keys to making your shade garden glow. Learn what plants to choose for your particular type of shade, how to combine them into a great design, and how to keep them looking good all season.  

**Sharon Shreet** Arundel County Master Gardener  
**Assistant for presentation:** MG Intern Valerie Pawlewicz

**1:45 – 2:30: Managing Your Landscape – A Common sense Approach**  
Integrated Pest Management is a common sense approach to managing your landscape. It is based on the idea that we need to decide on a tolerable level of damage before taking remedial action. Learn how you can develop a sensible, low impact strategy for controlling pests and disease.  

**Joe Marsala** Anne Arundel County Master Gardener  
**Assistant for presentation:** MG Intern Lillie Harrison

**KIDS GARDENING CORNER**  
- **10:30 – 11:15 BAY POLLUTION PUZZLE**  
- **10:30 – 11:15 BAY POLLUTION PUZZLE**  
  Trish Lilek and Marilyn Kinkel

**Location:** Large porch adjacent to the Willow Gallery  

This hands-on activity accommodates up to 15 children per session. Age appropriate for Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Elementary school aged children will learn a little history of the Chesapeake Bay region and discover how human behavior, over time, has damaged one of our most prized resources. At the same time, this
interactive program provides simple changes to our habits and the way we live that can, over time, restore the quality and life to our once abundant estuary.

* INFORMAL TOURS OF MASTER GARDENER COMPOSTING SITE

Location: Wildwood Trail, Quiet Waters Park

Informally Tour the Master Gardener Composting and Native Plant Garden project on the Wildwood Trail throughout the hours of the Open House. (A walking map to the site will be available at the entrance table)
  • **12:00 – 1:00** – Master Gardeners will be at the site to answer composting questions

• **10:00 – 3:00 REFRESHMENTS**
  Donna Alexander and Susie Blackwell

Location: Garden Gallery on the first floor of the Visitor Center
  60-inch round table with tablecloth provided by the Art Committee of Quiet Waters Park

Please phone or email Donna or Susie to donate light refreshments.

• **10:00 – 3:00 PROSPECTIVE MASTER GARDENER INTERVIEWS:**
  John Conners

Assistance to John as needed: MG Interns Jeanne Paglee and Scott Doran
Location: Covered porch adjacent to the Garden Gallery