Hello Master Gardeners! I have to say, this spring has been as lovely as the winter was difficult. My garden has never looked better - but it always does at this time of year. So far my experiment with combining different plants in different beds seems to be working ok. I have potatoes in 4 different places and only one of them is plagued by the Colorado Potato Beetle. Maybe they'll find the other beds, but so far, so good. The real test will be how the tomatoes fare with blight, stink bugs, and other nasty pests.

Some crops have ended - I've pulled up my bolting lettuce and I am letting the asparagus go to fern. I'm growing a couple of new items this year and am really pleased with both. I have golden sugar snap peas growing and they are gorgeous. The blossoms are pink/purple and the pods are bright yellow - really stand out from the vine and are easy to pick. Delicious too!

Fava beans are my second new crop. They are a most interesting-looking plant because they stand up straight with pretty blossoms forming along the stalk - white with black tips. Enjoying the flowers I almost don't even care if I get any beans. I just noticed that they are beginning to flop over, so guess I'll have to go put up some support for them. Anyway - I've included a couple of photos which don't really show off the plants to their best, but you can get an idea. You can also see them in person if you sign up for the Vegetable Garden Pest Diagnostic class on July 15. My garden will be the "field study" - we'll be starting the class here and then moving on to the Extension Office.

My bees seem to be doing well. The hive that I started from a nuke this year is really active - it has so many honey super boxes on it that it is my height! I'll need help lifting off the top box for the next inspection. It's so gratifying to be working around in the garden and see both the honey and bumbles buzzing around doing what they're supposed to be doing!

I had the pleasure of awarding this year's scholarship to Jimmy Foster, a graduate of North Harford High School. Jimmy was president of his class and did lots of volunteer work, including working with youth at the Isaak Walton Leagues and Harford Glen. This fall will find him at St. Mary's College where he will pursue a
degree in Environmental Science and hopes to study river grasses as part of the St. Mary's River Project. He considers himself a "Steward of the World" and is a fine recipient of our scholarship.

Summer time is still full of Master Gardener activities. We'll be at APG on July 7, at the farmer's markets in Havre de Grace and Bel Air, Ask a Master Gardener plant clinics at the libraries, and, of course, the Farm Fair at the end of July. Call Joyce if you want to help with any of these activities and she can direct you. Hope to see you all throughout the summer.

Joan Parris ’09

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 3, 2014</td>
<td>Monthly Master Gardener Meeting, HCEO, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>July 5, 2014</td>
<td>Plant Clinic, Bel Air Library, 10-Noon</td>
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<td>July 10, 2014</td>
<td>APG Training Day</td>
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<td>July 19, 2014</td>
<td>Garden Series, Bel Air, Library, 10:15-Noon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dealing with Drought: Watering Priorities, Use of Rain Barrels, Planting for</td>
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<td>a Dry Summer Climate</td>
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<td>Plant Clinic, Abingdon Library 10am - noon</td>
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<td>July 24, 2014</td>
<td>Evening Study Group, HCEO, 7-8:30 PM</td>
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<td>July 31- Aug 2</td>
<td>Harford County Farm Fair</td>
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Anita Leight
Wade-In 2014
MG’s
Judy Merritt
Mary Greveris
Why We Need Bees

UMD Researcher Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Ph.D. gave an inspiring, awesome and truly fascinating keynote address at MG Annual Training Day last May 29 on Why We Need Bees. He gave us permission to post the address on YouTube, but not to put links to it anywhere. There are a couple borrowed photos in the presentation, so he can’t give it out or post it everywhere. But he does want all MGs to have it, watch it, re-watch it and work to make our landscapes as bee-friendly as possible. Consider using this for one of your educational monthly meetings perhaps showing it with a local bee expert. Or, just watch it and use it the best way you can. It’s about an hour long.

Here is the unlisted link http://youtu.be/ahrdHvPEOUM. Only those given this link can view the address – it will not show up on the HGIC channel or be searchable.

Special Speaker visiting Harford County Library

Dr. Sara Via is scheduled to speak on “Climate Change and the Gardener” on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at the Bel Air Library starting at 6:30PM. I was lucky to get a preview of her presentation at Advanced Training Day. She spoke to a packed room about how climate change is affecting all of us, from the back yard gardener to corporate farmers. Dr. Via is a University of Maryland Biologist and has trained with the Climate Reality Project. She was kind enough to forward links to nine separate research documents that she used for her power point presentation. If you would like to access them, contact janehowe@aol.com.

Environmental Entomology

Traps and Trap Placement May Affect Location of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) and Increase Injury to Tomato Fruits in Home Gardens

Chris Sargent, Holly M. Martinson and Michael J. Raupp 1Department of Entomology, 4112 Plant Sciences Building, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

ABSTRACT

The invasive brown marmorated stink bug, Halyomorpha halys (Stål) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), is an important pest of field crops, fruit orchards, commercial vegetables, ornamental plants, and home vegetable gardens. Pheromone-baited
traps designed to attract, trap, and kill *H. halys* are marketed for use in home gardens to reduce damage to plants. To test this assertion, we conducted the following experiment: One group of 15 gardeners placed stink bug traps at the end of a row of tomatoes, *Solanum lycopersicum* (L.), in their vegetable garden and another group of 14 placed no traps in their garden and served as controls. Gardeners with traps were no more or less likely to have *H. halys* on tomato plants than those without traps, but the abundance of *H. halys* on tomato fruits was marginally greater in gardens with traps. However, tomato fruits grown in gardens with traps sustained significantly more injury than tomato fruits grown in gardens without traps. Furthermore, tomato fruits on plants near the trap housed more *H. halys* than tomato fruits on plants at the end of a row away from the trap. Traps may be useful in identifying gardens where *H. halys* is likely to be found and ones in which stink bug injury to tomatoes is likely. We found no evidence that stink bug traps protected tomatoes from *H. halys*, and it appears that the addition of traps to gardens may increase injury to tomato fruits.

**Maryland Agricultural Research Council**

Forty-five acres of the Baltimore County Ag-Center Farm Park have been planted in corn, soybeans and sunflowers. While most farms are privately owned, this farm is your farm. The Ag-Center offers unfettered access to agriculture. Through a public private partnership, the proceeds from the sale of the crops will be used to develop additional agricultural education and demonstration programs and projects. Make plans to visit the Farm Park on your own or take part in one of the many unique upcoming events:

- **July 12**: Family Guided Crop Walks
- **July 20**: Eat-Drink-Go Local with Hard Ciders, Mead & Fruit Wines
- **August 3**: Family Guided Crop Walks
- **September 21**: 5th Annual Family Farm Day
- **October 4**: Family Corn Field CAMP OUT
- **October 11**: Art AG-stravaganza - Food Truck Gathering & Art Show/Sale

**CORN TRIVIA...**

- The world record for corn eating is 33 and a half ears in 12 minutes.
- An ear of corn averages about 800 kernels in sixteen rows.
- Fresh corn on the cob will lose approximately 40% of its sugar in only 6 hours at room temperature storage (it is rapidly converted to starch).
- Corn is a member of the grass family, and is therefore relatively closely related to regular turf grass.
- In the early 20th century, a farmer could hand pick approximately 100 bushels of corn in a nine-hour day. Today, a modern combine can pick this amount in 7 minutes.
- Humans began cultivating corn in what is now Mexico approximately 9,000 years ago.
- In ancient times, corn cobs were only about the size of your thumb. Through selective breeding, humans massively expanded their size to what is considered normal today.
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Upcoming Advanced Training Class here at home!

VEGETABLE PLANT AND PEST DIAGNOSIS
with Jon Traunfeld
Tuesday, July 15 from 9 am to 4 pm; HCEO; Deadline 7/8

The MG ADVANCED Vegetable Training class is being held here in Harford County at the Forest Hill Extension Office and it includes a Vegetable IPM tour of our President Joan Parris’s garden! Registration deadline is Tuesday July 8 and there are still a few openings for the class. The fee is $35. Call the state office for information or email Robin Hessey at rmhessey@umd.edu

Please use the state registration form to sign up for the class:

https://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training/registration-form

Class Outline
Part I-Morning tour at the Joan Parris Vegetable Garden
How come I’m not getting any squash this year? What’s killing my tomato vines? Are there any good organic controls for stink bugs? The gardening public looks to us for answers to thousands of food garden questions each year. Now we’ll be better equipped to answer all of them!

Part II Indoor Instruction at the Extension Office
Sharpen your plant diagnostic, pest identification and control strategy skills in the vegetable garden. We plan a collaborative, hands-on learning experience with troubleshooting in a vegetable garden, examination and diagnosis of samples, and discussion and effective prevention, monitoring, and control strategies. We’ll take a close look at non-chemical controls.
and the effectiveness of available organic pesticides. There will be some pre-class online assignments so we can maximize our hands-on learning time in class.

This course will count as one of the units you will need to get the advanced vegetable gardening certificate.

OTHER MG CLASSES

Check the MG website http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training for all of the details on these upcoming classes.

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**MG ADVANCED TRAINING**

**Summer/Fall 2014**

**Plant Diseases**

**UME Frederick County:** Thursday, Sept 4, 9:30-3:30  
**Registration Fee:** $35  
**Deadline:** Aug 28  
**Presenter:** Dave Clement, Ph.D. Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology

Plant diseases often seem like exotic mysteries left up to the experts to solve. Well, guess what- we 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. This class counts as your Plant Disease requirement for your Plant Diagnostics certificate.

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**University of Maryland Master Gardener**

**Our Vision:** The Maryland Master Gardener vision is a healthier world through environmental stewardship.

**Our Mission:** to support the University of Maryland Extension mission by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.
Youth Vegetable Gardening

Presenters: Jon Traunfeld, UME Specialist in Vegetables and Fruit; Heather Buritsch, UME Associate Agent, FSNE Gardening for Nutrition Coordinator, Lisa Gonzalez (FNSE) and others.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>Registration Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UME Montgomery County</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 24</td>
<td>9am - 4pm</td>
<td>Register by 9/17</td>
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<td>(Derwood)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UME Anne Arundel County</td>
<td>Saturday, September 27</td>
<td>9am - 4pm</td>
<td>Register by 9/19</td>
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<td>(Dairy Farm- Gambrills)</td>
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Youth and school vegetable gardening are **hot** topics right now with many schools and organizations requesting MG help. You can be an effective, active part of this effort!

This course will help build your confidence as you learn effective ways to work with kids in the garden, Learn the nuts and bolts about school guidelines, building a gardening team, and starting and maintaining a school program. Our panelists will inspire you with lots of fun and thrifty curriculum ideas. Focus will be on elementary school and shoulder seasons. This class counts as 1 day towards your Advanced Vegetables Certificate.

Native Grasses

**Location**: UME Harford Co. (Forest Hill)

**Date**: Tuesday, October 21, 2014  **Time**: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

**Registration Fee**: $30  **Registration Deadline**: 10/14

**Field Trip**: TBA

**Presenter**: Sara Tangren, Ph.D., MG Trainer and Asso. Agent in Native Plants and Sustainable Horticulture

Fall is the time that our native grasses strut their stuff! Join us for a fun, non-technical class: light on grass taxonomy and heavy on work with fresh specimens of Indiangrass, little bluestem, switchgrass, purpletop, bushy beardgrass, purple lovegrass, and more. For each species we will discuss;

- design/aesthetic considerations for use in garden beds,
- use in native meadows,
- soil and light requirements,
- availability, establishment, and
- maintenance techniques.

By the end of class you will be able to recognize the most popular native grasses for Harford Co. and include them in your garden/meadow designs with confidence.

***Highly recommended: Native Plant Essentials class (in person or on-line)

Information about all MG Advanced Training Classes can be found at: [http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training](http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training) or Robin Hessey 410-531-1754; rmhessey @umd.edu
State MG Announcements

Robin Hessey (state office HGIC) is Retiring

My last official day with HGIC and the state MG program will be August 31, 2014. After that I’ll be officially retired. Please change my email address in your records or add rmhessey@verizon.net. The rmhessey@umd.edu address will cease to exist after 9/1/14.

I have been most privileged to work for the MG program for the last 17 years and look forward to continuing in a volunteer capacity as a Howard Co. MG. Working with the MGs has been a true privilege because

- MGs are inspirational. I’m constantly amazed at your wonderful ideas, creativity, resourcefulness.
- MGs are hard working. You get a vision, you get a job and you do it with all of your heart.
- MGs always want to help. Whatever, whenever, however. Whatever I’ve needed, there’s a willing, wonderful and skilled MG answering the call for help. And we in my office have needed a lot -whether it’s been for speakers, brainstormers, organizers, data entry, mailings, committee heads, researchers, communicators, writers or helpers on hundreds of varied projects. It’s a constant source of amazement to me that there are so many ultra-smart, knowledgeable, talented, skilled folks out there who want to help the program and the environment and who accomplish so much.
- MGs care about the earth and constantly strive to do what is right by it. This gives me great satisfaction because I have the hope that I’ve helped you along the way in your mission, which is also my mission. MGs are one of the best parts of the U. of MD Extension. We are the ones out in the community, assessing the needs, education ourselves and offering the best advice we can give, always striving for a better community and environment.
- Working with the MG program has also allowed me the great pleasure of working with Jon Traunfeld (best boss ever!) and the wonderful HGIC staff and to surround myself with plant and bug issues on a daily basis – to experience and learn about parts of the natural world that I might never have noticed or known about.

If you are interested in my job, please let Jon Traunfeld (jont@umd.edu) know. There will be an official job posting notice sent out sometime fairly soon, but I don’t know if everyone will end up seeing it.

Wishing everyone lots of success in their MG endeavors and in eliminating urban use of pesticides and herbicides. See you in the garden.

Robin Hessey, MG State Advanced Training Coordinator

Harford County Master Gardener Coordinator

Joyce Browning jbrowni3@umd.edu

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.