March 28 Seminar - Practical Structures in the Garden
Raised Beds in the Demo Garden

Local Events

April 25, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale
   Frederick News Post, 351 Ballenger Center Drive
   Joanie Poddo and Pat Strawder, Co-Chairs

Heirloom and hybrid vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials, native plants and shrubs,
Free children’s activities, flea market and MORE!

Reminder: Flea Market Donations
Place donated garden items on or around the table in the Extension Office basement. Drop off larger
items at the FNP on Thursday April 23 from 3:30 -5pm or Friday April 24 10:00 am -3:30pm. If you are
not able to drop off any items, please email or call Joanie Poddo at 301-732-6402.
Carts: Please advise if you can bring a cart or wagon to help transport plants.
Boxes: Please advise if you are bringing box/flats for plants.

To sign up to help with this important MG fund-raising event:
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4babad2aa20-plant

May 16 and 17, 1:00-5:00 pm  Beyond the Garden Gates Tour
   Frederick MD
   Featuring MG information table
   http://www.celebratefrederick.com
MG Committee Meetings

Bay-Wise
March 18, 5:00-7:00 pm
May 19, 1:00-3:00 pm

Yardening
April 8, 5:30-7:30 pm

Youth Gardening
March 3, 12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm
April 7, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Speaker: Natasha Bowens, author of The Color of Food: Stories of Race, Resilience and Farming. Natasha works with the City of Frederick Housing Authority of The City of Frederick on projects including Lucas Village, and spoke about their plans for that location.

April 29, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
May 5, 12:00 Noon – 2:00 pm

Demo Garden
April 11, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Spring Clean-Up – All MGs Invited

For updated MG calendar: https://agnrgroups.umd.edu/frederick-county-mg/fc-mg-calendar

Special Programs

Ask A Master Gardener Plant Clinics
Starting April 11, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Saturdays
Spring and Summer 2015
University of Maryland Extension Office
330 Montevue Lane, Frederick MD
Note: April 25 Plant Clinic at Frederick News Post building in conjunction with Annual Plant Sale.

Masters in the Garden Visitation Program – Don Ludke
(Schedule subject to change)
May 3, 1:00-3:00 pm Regina Baker
May 17, 2:00-5:00 pm Suzy Bailey
June 6, 1:00-3:00 pm Harriet Wise
July 12, 1:00-5:00 pm David Sullivan
July 19, 3:00-5:00 pm Donna Scherer
Aug 9, 1:00-5:00 pm Don Ludke
Aug 30, time TBD David Donley
Sept 27, time TBD Cyndy Jones

What Can We Do For You? - Newsletter about Master Gardener Events and Services
To subscribe, email fgardenersnews@gmail.com (write “subscribe” in the subject line)
Seminars

May 30, 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon  Container and Small Space Gardening
Pat Strawder, Joyce Church
http://2015fcmg-seminar-may30th.eventbrite.com

Seminar Notes

February 7  How to Create Terrariums

Regina Baker brought warmth and wit into a cold winter by demonstrating how to make your own green space in miniature. She brought materials for six audience members to take away their own terrarium. A number drawing and some friendly negotiation helped select the six winners and all gathered around to watch the assembly. There were about 25 in attendance, 3 were MGs, and the majority from Community Living.

Kim Wallace

February 28  Succession Planting

Don Ludke, with back-up from Penny Huth, brought his trade-mark enthusiasm to a possibly record-breaking crowd of 41 eager to hear tips on how to plan for succession planting and extension of their growing season. The entertaining program went the full two hours without a break with questions throughout and at the end. Attendance was so great that MG helpers brought thirteen extra chairs from the basement (because the storage closet was inaccessible). Attendance was also perhaps remarkable for the number of men, just under half the total.

Kim Wallace
This lively, interesting, fun and informative seminar was a great example of Master Gardeners that like to educate and share personal knowledge with the public.
Laura showed examples and shared experiences from her many beautiful gardens. She shared a personal experience why we need to be “buyers beware” of what can happen if you purchase a yard service. She also showed how to use and plant native plants so that something is blooming every week of the growing season.

Dedra described how the birds see our yards while flying over. A lot of animation from this presenter! She gave 10 steps how to make our yards a safe haven and food source for birds and shared pictures of her baby bird bouquet from her backyard.

Ron Dudley shared information about bees. What is a native bee? Why are they important to our existence? He showed examples of how to make friendly nests and habitats for native bees in our yards. He also shared information and personal experience about which bees will sting.
Suzanne asked “Why do you like butterflies?” She said there are over a 100 species in Maryland. She described how to attract specific species to our yards and showed many photos of native plants that lure butterflies.
Jann Rabin

March 28  
Practical Structures in the Garden

Thirty people (21 women, 9 men, not including the 4 MGs on volunteer duty) turned out for the Spring 2015 seminar "Practical Structures in the Garden" presented by Don Ludke with back-up from Ron Dudley. Don encouraged the audience to use creative practicality in making their own garden structures, including raised beds, arbors and trellises. He illustrated his talk with props and photos from his home garden and wove in many tips--on attracting pollinators, composting, row cover methods, companion planting, tomato staking, season extension and deer management. His examples demonstrated whimsical,
adaptive re-use of materials and practical advice such as incorporating indentations and kneeling boards for easier access in raised beds. There were a number of questions and the audience was so engaged that the entire group braved the late March cold and wind outside to see more examples in the demonstration garden at the end of the talk and slideshow. Kim Wallace

Ron Dudley describes garden cold frame.  

Don Ludke creates garden structures.  

Garden Structures

April 11  

*Beginning Vegetable Gardening and IPM*

Twenty nine people participated in this seminar. Dan Kuebbing led off with a presentation titled “12 Simple Steps For Starting a Vegetable Garden,” which guided the audience through each step from planning the garden to harvesting vegetables. By referencing his own gardening experience and showing slides of his vegetable garden and containers, Dan was able to relate to the audience in everyday, understandable terms, with plenty of questions and answers.
Regional Events

March 12, 7:00 pm  Monarch Butterflies
Byrd Auditorium, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherd Grade Road, Shepherdstown, WV.
Speaker: Robert Pyle, butterfly expert and author of The Monarch of the Americas: Chasing, Saving and Understanding our Most Iconic Insect

April 11, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  Back Yard Buffers Day
Free Workshop – Carroll County Extension
700 Agriculture Center Drive, Westminster MD 21157 (Carroll County Ag Center Complex)
Registration required: contact University of Maryland, Carroll County Extension 410 386 – 2760 or hortman@umd.edu

April 14  State Horticulture Contest – Susan Trice

May 12, 7-8:30 pm  “Rebuilding Nature’s Relationships at Home”
Howard County Master Gardeners announce that Professor Doug Tallamy will serve as the Keynote Speaker for its Continuing Education Series on Tuesday, May 12th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Howard County Conservancy - Gudelsky Center. Professor Tallamy will present “Rebuilding Nature’s Relationships at Home,” focusing on how the community can create ecologically sound landscapes for their local conditions.

This free presentation is open to the public, but due to limited seating requires registration at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rebuilding-natures-relationships-speaker-professor-doug-tallamy-tickets-16219867059

May 22 and 29, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Bay-Wise Landscape Management Advanced Training co-hosted by the Frederick County and Washington County Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners are certified to perform landscape certifications by completing the Bay-Wise Advanced MG Training program anywhere in the State. The program involves three sessions--two days of class work and a field day spent certifying at least two landscapes.

Penny Huth followed with presentations on two subjects: “Seed Starting and Transplanting” and “A Basic Introduction To Integrated Pest Management (IPM).” Like Dan, Penny was able to draw heavily on her experience of many years of gardening. Among the topics Penny touched on were: Seeds best started indoors, seeds best started outdoors, last frost date, best soil temperatures for planting, seed planting depths, and transplanting techniques. In the IPM portion of her presentation, she covered the six basic components of a well-designed IPM program.
All Master Gardeners are welcome, including those already certified (but would like to attend for a refresher). Previously certified Bay-Wise Master Gardeners do not have to pay the registration fee but must register and bring their “homework” binder from their previous training. If you would like a new binder you will pay the full registration fee.

Locations:
May 22 at Washington County UME office, Boonsboro
May 29 at Frederick County UME office, Frederick
Field Day - TBD
Fee: $50.00

To Register: register on line at https://agnrgroups.umd.edu/frederick-county-mg/bay-wise-landscape-management-advanced-training or contact Susan Trice, strice@umd.edu, 301-600-1596.

June 4 - UME Annual Training Day
You may still register for Annual Training Day and choose your classes.
Thirty one Frederick MGs have signed up or contacted Deb indicating that you want to ride on a Wolf Coach Bus. We have gotten the approval and are ready to receive your payment. You may mail your payment (except for cash), give it to Lisa Strong, Deb Keimig or Susan Trice. Just write a check for $15 to ‘Frederick County EAC’ or submit cash in the exact amount, before April 14 (monthly meeting).
Starting April 15, other MGs may sign up to take the bus, including interns who are awaiting this opportunity.

You can access the information by clicking on the Annual Conference link from the MG homepage (http://extension.umd.edu/mg)

Or go directly to: https://extension.umd.edu/mg/training/master-gardener-and-master-naturalist-17th-annual-training-conference

To register: https://mgatc2015.eventbrite.com

Keynote speaker and food historian, William Weaver, Ph.D., will be sharing the inspiring story of his Roughwood Seed Collection. The collection began in 1932 by Weaver’s grandfather, but the current existence of the collection is the result of a number of factors -- one of which was the discovery of a large number of very rare heirloom seeds that Weaver’s grandfather had stored at the bottom of a deep freezer. Weaver has spent many years maintaining the collection, with many failures, but also many successes. The collection has since grown to include over 4,000 varieties of heirloom flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Weaver’s keynote, The Kitchen Garden for Culinary and Cultural Research: The Roughwood Seed Collection and Baker Creek Alliance will provide an in depth discussion of the history and current status of his collection. Weaver will also be presenting in Session One on the topic of Heirloom Food Plants: What are They and Why are They Important to Our Health?

Sustainable Ag Tuesdays
April 7 - University of Maryland Sustainable Ag Tuesdays lectures of 2015 "Aquaculture and Aquaponics" Dr. Andrew Lazar, Sea Grant Extension Programs, University of Maryland Extension; Mchezaji “Che” Axum, Muirkirk Farm, University of the District of Columbia
For those who would like to join us virtually, the lecture can be viewed via Adobe Connect at https://webmeeting.umd.edu/sustainableagtuesdays/.
Free lectures hosted by the Institute of Applied Agriculture as part of the INAG248 Topics in Sustainable Agriculture course. Co-sponsored by the IAA and the Office of Sustainability.
**Penn State Extension**
July 19, 3:00-5:30 pm
1811 Alms Farm
Several acres demo garden, old buildings
MGs there would like to meet Frederick MGs 3:00-5:30 pm
Contact: Donna Scherer

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**Announcements**

**High Glen Gardens Visit**
June 19, 10:00-12 Noon - The Yardening Committee has arranged a tour of High Glen Gardens for 20 master gardeners. If you would like to attend but all the signup genius spaces are filled, please email Betsy Mahmassani. [emahmassani@comcast.net](mailto:emahmassani@comcast.net)
High Glen Gardens is located at a private home on Christopher Crossing about 10 minutes from the extension building. Check out their Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/HighGlenGardens](https://www.facebook.com/HighGlenGardens)

**Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs Wanted!**
The University of Maryland Dively lab is in need of adult stink bugs for research projects. It’s that time of year where those pesky stink bugs start to become active and come out in buildings. If you have a large stink bug population in your home/office/school, our lab would appreciate you capturing the little invaders. Bugs can be collected in a variety of household items: plastic food containers, old coffee cans, etc. Just scoop them into the container of your choice, throw a piece of apple inside for food, and poke some holes in the lid. Just make sure not to throw them together in confined spaces like ziplock bags. They will ‘stink’ each other to death! Please contact Dr. Galen Dively by email (galen@umd.edu) or call (202-812-9828) if you can collect at least 50 stink bugs into a container. We can arrange to pick up the containers at a location convenient for you. Jon Traunfeld, Extension Specialist, Director, Home and Garden Information Center, State Master Gardener Coordinator.
Create A MG Flyer and Brochure?  Susan Trice
Brochure to illustrate the Early Spring Weeds for identification and control.
Flyer to give people who are brand new to vegetable gardening or just new to the area to guide them to our resources.
This can count as CE credit time while researching and volunteer time when creating the document.
Please let Susan know if you are interested in taking on either of these information projects.

Online MG Store
Master Gardener and Grow It Eat It branded merchandise
The web address is: http://univmastore.mybrightsites.com/
The site and orders are being managed by Corporate Exposure. Questions about the site or your orders should be addressed to Jennifer or Jimmia at 301-663-0333. Individual and group orders.

Revive Premium Compost available at Frederick County Landfill
John Day reported getting a full-sized pickup truck load of the Revive Premium Compost at the Frederick County Landfill. 1,680 lbs. for just pennies over $13.00. On April 4 there was a very big pile of it, so this is a good time to get it while it's available. If you want to check on availability before you drive out there, you can call 301-600-2955. John Day
Frederick County Landfill
9031 Reichs Ford Road, Frederick MD 21704
http://frederickcountymd.gov/529/Landfill-Information
http://frederickcountymd.gov/5061/Mulch-Premium-Revive-Compost-for-Sale

MG Outreach - MG Videos in Spanish? – Susan Trice
Interested in helping to produce MG videos in Spanish? The IPM Impact Team is discussing ideas for reaching diverse populations. Susan has suggested the 'Soil Testing' video that Jon Traunfeld created, so the script is already made. Contact Susan with your ideas.

Entomology Studies at University of Maryland
The Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland, College Park will be offering four new online graduate certificates and an online Master of Professional Studies in Applied Entomology starting this fall. All of the programs are administered through the Office of Extended Studies at the University of Maryland. Specifics can be found at http://oes-entm.umd.edu.
Sibylle Stosch-Most  sibylles@umd.edu  |  301-405-1027

Recent Requests for MG Speakers/Participation

April 16, 11:30 am -1:30 pm  Health and Wellness Fair, Frederick Community College
College students of varying ages, and FCC faculty and staff, many of whom may be beginning gardeners. MGs to offer information to encourage individuals about growing their own food. Cyndy Jones

Vendor Appreciation Breakfast - Amanda Addington, Real Estate Agent, RE/MAX Results
May 12, 9-10:30 am, Marriott Residence Inn, Frederick – MG to speak on general getting ready for Spring in the home yard/garden topics. Cyndy Jones

Frederick County Health Department - Staff lunchtime series to promote wellness
May 21 - MG to speak on growing fruits and vegetables with an emphasis on small space gardens.
Betsy Mahmassani
MOM's Events
Denise Russell at MOM’s (My Organic Market) contacted the MG office to request MG help with the store’s events. Betsy Mahmassani
- Composting, diverting food and yard waste from landfills.
- “Save the Dandelions” event on natural ways to deter pests without pesticides.
- Edible Weeds – later in May, including ways to support pollination and saving the monarch butterflies – they will be giving away milkweed seeds.

The Potter's Guild
June 1, 7:30 pm, Common Market, 5728 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick – MG to speak on what type of pots are used for various plants. There is an AV hook-up and projection screen if needed but they are also open to a more casual presentation with examples of different pots. Cyndy Jones.

Committee Notes and Ongoing Activities

Ag Week - February 16-21
Penny Huth reported the event was successful with 432 contacts, despite having to close up early on Saturday (with Dave Sullivan’s help) due to heavy snow. Activities included lettuce cups, seed starting, butterfly rings, and cone bird feeders. There were displays of herbs, containers, and other committee topics. The lower display boards contributed to more contacts.
A volunteer is needed to manage Ag Week in 2016.

Youth Gardening - Dave Sullivan

Glade Elementary School – Seventeen students met with MGs to name the garden (Glade Garden Spot) and taste veggies to determine what they want to plant. We have some excellent champions at Glade and think this will be a very successful endeavor.

Photos: Jenni Gilroy

March 24 – Food Supplement Nutrition Education (FSNE) Training for Master Gardeners
Haylee Staruk, FSNE Educator for Frederick County (and part of Howard County) gave a special training for Master Gardeners only at the Extension Office. She has trained many FCPS teachers and others about FSNE, Growing Healthy Habits, and opportunities for funding related to FSNE. A week-long Summer FSNE Teacher Training will be held at the Extension Office in Frederick for the first time this year. The Master Gardener Team will be helping Haylee in developing the Gardening Curriculum for the training.
March 10 - Youth Gardening Committee Highlights

- C. Burr Artz Library Project: The Library will be partnering with Dedra Salatrik and the Yardening Committee to plant ornamentals in containers on the Terrace Garden. This will be coupled with seminars for adults in both growing and planting (hands-on) ornamentals. More to come on opportunities to participate.

Josie Ritchie and her project to delineate honey by color and origin (her Mom is the secretary of the Frederick County Beekeepers Association).
Her results were displayed at the March 21 Walkersville Science Fair at Walkersville High School. Josie is pictured practicing her science fair presentation.

MG Needed to Help With Family Gardens

One of our Advocates for Homeless Families who has graduated from the program and lives of Crestwood Boulevard on 7041 Hames Ct, Frederick, MD 21703 needs a guardian angel for the growing season. We usually help them plant and make an appointment with the family every two weeks to see if everything is growing well and if they have any questions.
Ellen West, Youth Gardening Committee
• GREAT KIDS FARM (Catonsville) Field Trip will be June 2nd, departing the Extension office at 9am, and returning in early afternoon. Chrissa Carlson, Executive Director and author of Growing Healthy Habits will be hosting us. All Master gardeners are welcome. Please email Dave Sullivan (dbsullivan42@gmail.com) if you would like to join us. You can check them out at greatkidsfarm.org/.

Bay-Wise

Bay-Wise Certification April 7, 2015
Frederick City residents John Day and Peter Brehm have created a landscape that is both beautiful and earth-friendly, earning Bay-Wise certification from the Frederick County Master Gardeners program. Native plants are interspersed with non-invasive exotics, providing food and shelter for birds, butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects that are essential to the health of the environment.

Trees, bushes and flowering plants provide season-long color and sustenance. Brehm and Day use no insecticides or herbicides and rarely water, even in the heat of summer. A porous walkway, groundcovers and mulched beds reduce storm water run-off. Yard waste and food scraps are composted and used to enrich the soil, and organic fertilizer is applied to the grass and plantings based on the results of periodic soil testing.

“Ever since moving to Frederick, we have strived to actively promote environmental sustainability,” Brehm said. “And attaining Bay-Wise certification has been educational, fun, and satisfying,” commented Day, who is a Master Gardener.

John Day and Peter Brehm – Jann Rabin

Suzanne Hill reported a full house for the March 7 Bay-Wise seminar. The Yardsticks have been revised and applicants only need 36 inches to quality for certification. On May 22 and May 29, Advanced Bay-Wise training for certification is scheduled with Washington County and counts as MG continuing education hours. The training costs $50 and will be held May 22 in Washington County and May 29 in Frederick. MGs already certified who would like a refresher course may register at no charge if they bring their previous notebooks. Jann Rabin is helping to set up the training program.
Demonstration Garden

March 3 - Meeting Highlights
Vision: "The vision of the Demonstration Garden is to provide the public with a pleasant, comfortable, easily accessible garden where they may see and learn about different methods of growing flowers, fruits, vegetables, trees and shrubs."

Plans for installation of drip irrigation system were shared with the committee and plans for purchasing the drip irrigation supplies/equipment were discussed. A drip irrigation system for the container area will be installed.

April 8 - Meeting Highlights

The honey bees will not be moved to the Demo Garden at this time. The Frederick Bee Keepers Association is planning to work with the city to establish a "Community Apiary" and until those plans are finalized, so locating the MG hives to the garden might be premature.

The drip irrigation systems have been received. Installation of the full system will be accomplished during the latter part of April and/or early May.

Building management approved using the outdoor faucet at 330 Monteview. Hose protectors were purchased so vehicles will not damage the system where it crosses the driveway.

The deer fence expansion has been put on hold until more data is gathered. A game camera will be installed in the gardens to determine the extent of the problem.

Farm Frederick representatives will harvest vegetables from the Demo Garden and deliver the produce to distribution centers for the needy.
The Rain Garden will be a separate project due to some rather extensive trenching needed and materials will need to be purchased (Gravel and Sod) to support this effort.

THANK YOU to Suzy Bailey, Victor Bernard, Lori Davis, Dave Donley, Jerry Hamilla, Deb Keimig, Beth Propps, Mary Riesch, Pat Strawder, Ellen West, and Shurleen Zigler for all their hard work and support during the demonstration gardens 2015 Spring cleanup on April 11. Just an outstanding job done by all - great team.

Accomplishments:
Installed New Mail Box
Pruned Brambles
Removed Sand from Children's Area
Put sand around brambles and on pathways in vegetable area
Removed Broken Pipe from Children’s Area
Put about two inches of compost on Vegetable Beds
Weeded and put compost around grapes and fruit trees
Put compost in children's area
Filled old sand pit with compost
Staged Compost in Native area
Moved the Monarch Waystation Sign
Trimmed area
General Clean up of Children's and vegetable areas.
We had asked for about 2 CY of compost. The county, as usual, took extra good care of us and delivered about 6 CY - so we are through with compost this year. Thanks to the MG Truck Drivers:-)

Ron Dudley

Recent Frederick News Post Articles
http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening/mg-news-articles

Rototill Sparingly
Ron Dudley explained soil composition & effects of rototilling, an excellent review for new and experienced gardeners.

Attracting Pollinators
Dedra Boesch’s Home and Garden article about a pollinators’ garden was really a good lesson in finding ways to make effective and much needed use of otherwise wasted space.

Recent Master Gardener Monthly Meetings
Notes and Highlights

February 10, 2015

Continuing Education

Lois Royer spoke on Garden Journaling. Her power point presentation can be used by other MGs as the basis for a talk or seminar and is available to view or download from the Frederick County MG website (http://mgfrederickco.weebly.com).
Harriet Wise showed photos she has taken over the past three years as a way to document the evolution of her garden.

Deb Keimig reminded attendees that this would be the first in a series of MG meetings to focus in-depth on each of the committees and the opportunities available for volunteering.

**Focus: Grow It, Eat It (GIEI) Committee**

Dan Kuebbing, committee chair, invited new ideas for seminars and demonstrations. GIEI power point presentations are available to speakers.

GIEI seminars and demonstrations during 2014 included:
- Seed Starting
- Beginning Vegetables and Compost
- Aquaponics and New Urban Food Gardens
- Parade of Vegetables
- Container Gardening
- Herbs in the Garden
- Extending the Season/ Fall Vegetables
- Putting the Garden to Bed and Produce Storage

Topics for 2015 include:
- Basic Vegetable Gardening and Seed Starting
- Early Spring Planting, Succession and Planting Fruits and Berries
- Practical Structures in the Garden
- Beginning Vegetables Gardening and IPM
- Container and Small Space Gardening

Deb commended Pat Strawder, who has developed guidelines for and organized all of the MG displays. Lois Royer, John Day, and Betsy Mahmassani are now organizing the available power points, to make it easier for more people to participate in making presentations. Speakers can customize existing presentations.

**State GIEI**

Don Ludke attends the statewide GIEI monthly meetings and is looking for others to accompany him. The State GIEI program has many resources—videos, publications, and presentations—available to local MGs at extension.md.edu/growit which includes answers to many plant clinic questions, and there is a GIEI blog at growit.blogspot.com.

**Display Boards**

Pat Strawder showed the components for all displays, including a user guide, handouts, and talking points. Pat has created a how-to booklet for MG interns.

Existing GIEI displays include:
- Garden Here, There, Anywhere
- Companion Planting
- Tomato Time
- Garden on a Table
- Kitchen Herb Garden
- “Eat Your Yard” Edible Landscaping
- Lasagna Garden
- Container Gardening
“Bucket Brigade” Garden in a Bucket or Tub
Seed Starting
Garbage to Garden – Composting
When to Plant
Vermiculture
Row Covers

The wish list for additional displays includes: Growing Small Fruits, Garden Structures, Square Foot Gardening, and Herb Wheel or Herb Garden. MGs are encouraged to add other ideas.

Projects
Families served by Advocates for Homeless Families have been learning to garden, thanks to Ellen West and Meryl Benenati. In 2013, seven families in two locations participated; in 2014, 12 new families in 6 locations participated, using containers and raised beds. Meryl reported that Ellen secured grants to pay for seeds and raised beds. They also led workshops on growing herbs, youth gardening, and other topics.

MGs help AfHF plan their gardens for 2015.

David Muns is looking for additional volunteers for the community gardens project; eight MGs are currently involved—advising gardeners and also growing food for food banks and community organizations. The FNP community garden has expanded from 30 to 140 plots, costing $50 a year. Expansion plans include constructing a greenhouse and putting in a berry field with 21 raised beds.

At Lucas Village, MGs are working with an Americorps volunteer, Natasha Bowens. Plots at Lucas Village are $25 this year. There are also gardens at Lincoln and Carver apartments and at West Frederick. David is also working with Crossroads, located at the former Gabriel’s Inn on Ijamsville Road, which houses men coming out of rehab facilities. There are several gardens on 15 acres and the goal is to create gardens that make the program self-sustaining.
David reported that five MGs have completed the Frederick County beekeeping course and they are trying to get bees incorporated into community gardens.

**March 10, 2015**

Future monthly meetings will feature a social half-hour, before evening meetings and after daytime meetings. As noted at the February meeting, future meetings will include a half hour report from one of the major committees, a series to focus in-depth on each of the committees and the opportunities available for volunteering. This section will also constitute continuing education credit for attendees.

Lois Royer shared the news of the passing of Susan Trice’s friend David Mummert. Flowers and a card were sent on behalf of Frederick County Master Gardeners.

**New Addition**

The “Pass-Along table” courtesy of the Yarding Committee featured books, plants, and other garden items donated by MGs and others, which were distributed by a raffle ticket drawing at the end of the meeting.

**Continuing Education**

**Focus: Yarding Committee**

Lois Royer and Edee Tyler presented an overview of the committee’s activities and plans for 2015. Following the business meeting, Master Gardeners provided more continuing education by sharing and describing favorite gardening hats/books/tools.

Yarding was created in 2012 by Frederick Master Gardeners as a special committee to function like Bay-Wise and GIEI as topical committees devoted to teaching specific gardening topics.

Bay-Wise was introduced nearly 20 Years ago on the state level to teach environmental horticulture. It was developed by the UMD in 1996 as part of Master Gardener program (begun in 2003 in Frederick County).

GIEI was created in 2008 as another statewide effort to teach edible horticulture. It was decided that there was a need to serve the segment of ornamental horticulture.

**Mission and Goals:**
To teach safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices, Problem Solving Techniques, Plant/Material Selection, Garden Design Strategies, to residents who grow ornamental plants for pleasure, wellness, beautification, and care of the environment.
To expand the use of science-based, environmentally sound practices in county ornamental gardens.
To raise awareness of the benefits of growing ornamental plants.

**Education Topics:**
Ornamental Plant Care
Plant Selection
Garden Design
Enjoying Plants
Seminars:
Terrariums
Container Gardening
Yardening 101
Basic Garden Design
Dividing Perennials
Overwintering Plants
Garden Journaling

Talks to Garden Clubs and Other Groups:
Suggestions for groups are welcome. Powerpoint presentations are already prepared and available, though not required, for these talks; a hands-on demonstration can be combined with a powerpoint or substituted.

Events:
AgWeek
Plant Sale
Frederick Fair
Masters in the Garden open houses

Special Yardening Event 2015
Beyond The Garden Gates Garden Tour
Where: John Day’s Downtown Frederick Garden
When: Weekend of May 16 and 17, 1 pm to 5 pm
MGs can sign up soon on Signup Genius. They will have to purchase Garden Tour tickets to see other gardens on the Tour.

Current display boards:
Container Gardening
Deer Control
Turf Care
Planting for the Birds
Plant Propagation

Wish List for future boards: Making a Forsythe pot, Growing a wildflower meadow, Houseplant care basics, Top ten poisonous plants

Demonstration Garden:
Rework Native Walkway - Multi year project, MG Intern Involvement

Ideas to Showcase:
Pollinator Garden
Native Plants to Substitute for Common Invasives
Groundcover for Shade, Sun, Erosion Control
Create New Beds with Easy Lasagna Gardening
Cutting Garden

Potential new project for 2015:
C. Burr Artz Terrace Garden
Opportunity to teach and demonstrate ornamental container plantings on rooftop sitting area.
Started last year by MG Youth Gardening Committee
Field Trips for MGs:
Visit High Glen Gardens on June 19 (limited to 20) – Betsy Mahmassani
Hypertufa Planters How-to Workshop on August 15-Marianne Wilburn
See the Lotuses in Bloom at Lilypons on August 19-Dawne Howard
Other trip ideas include Brookside Gardens – Edee Tyler

April 14, 2015

Deb Keimig announced there will be a pass-along table at every meeting and everyone is welcome to contribute. Handbooks were distributed.

Michael Judd’s assistant Nicole Luttrell will offer a free workshop on permaculture for Master Gardeners on Tuesday, May 19, noon to 1 p.m., at the Extension Office. Details will be sent out soon.

The C. Burr Artz Library in downtown Frederick has asked the Master Gardeners to be responsible for container plantings on their second floor patio and to teach a series of classes at the Library on container gardening; Dave Sullivan is setting up an irrigation system. While the library is providing some funding for plants and the watering system, plants not sold at the Plant Sale will be used, and Deb suggested that MGs donate succulents from their yards. Details for donations will be sent out soon.

MG Marianne Wilburn announced new classes to be offered at Frederick’s C. Burr Artz Library on Fundamentals of Container Gardening, May 18 – June 1, 6:30-7:30 pm. MGs will also offer a summer class on keeping plants in containers alive throughout the summer. Jan Magill, Sylvia Nye, Billie Homberg, Regina Baker and Dedra Salitrik will lead the classes.

Masters in the Garden
Don Ludke provided the following schedule:
• May 3, 1-3 pm, Regina Baker
• May 17, 2-5 pm, Suzy Bailey
• June 6, 1-3 pm, Harriet Wise
• July 12, 1-5 pm, David Sullivan
• July 19, 3-5 pm, Donna Scherer
• August 9, 1-5 pm, Don Ludke
• August 30, David Donley, time to be determined
• September 27, Cyndy Jones, time to be determined

Committee Reports

Plant Sale
Pat Strawder and Joanie Poddo are still looking for ticket writers and holding area workers. They urged MGs to volunteer for any time they have available, even if it’s only two hours. They also are looking for outside groups (Boy Scouts, church groups) to help with carrying purchases to cars and loading them; anyone with contacts should get in touch with Joanie (joanie@poddo.com).

An ad will appear in the Frederick New Post soon; announcements have already appeared thanks to Devra Boesch. They also thanked the volunteers who have redone the signage for the sale.

MGs should bring cardboard boxes and items for the flea market to the FNP building on Thursday afternoon or Friday; small carts and wagons are needed the day of the sale. Lunch will be provided on Saturday.
Bay-Wise
Jann Rabin reported that Suzanne Hill spoke to the Rotary Club of Frederick on March 31. John Day’s yard was Bay-Wise certified in April, and openings are still available for Advanced Bay-Wise training on May 22 and 29, 9 am to 3 pm.

This committee is looking for a chair.

Grow It Eat It
Dan Keubbing reported that the seminars have been very well attended. Ellen West reported on the Community Gardens subcommittee, pointing out an article in Frederick Magazine on MG outreach to families served by Advocates for the Homeless. Help is needed for MGs to serve as mentors to families at Lucas Village. David Muns added that raised beds have gone in at Lucas Village this year and a community meeting for residents interested in gardening will be held May 18. Natasha Bowens, author of The Color of Food: Stories of Race, Resilience and Farming, is working with the Frederick City Housing Authority on multiple projects and will be speaking about plans for Lucas Village and other locations in the City.

Youth Gardening
In Dave Sullivan’s absence, Deb reported that the committee has been very active.

Yardening
In Edee Tyler’s absence, Deb reported that Yardening will be the focus of the MG booth at the Beyond the Garden Gates tour in Frederick City on May 16-17, 1-5 pm. Betsy Mahmassani suggested that one focus be on container gardening, which ties into the Library project and the upcoming May 30 seminar. (After the meeting, Deb was notified that the MG booth will be at 318 W. College Terrace, the home of John Day and Peter Brehm.)

Betsy announced that all of the slots for the trip to High Glen Gardens on Friday, June 19, 10 – noon, are filled. However, she is creating a waiting list, so those interested should contact her (emahmassani@comcast.net).

Demonstration Garden
Ron Dudley thanked MGs who volunteered for the recent cleanup and reported that the gardens are ready for planting. Installation of the drip irrigation system is under way, so there will not be a need for MGs to water this summer; the county will mow the grass this year; and interns will be involved in the native and vegetables areas.

What Can We Do For You
Margaret Hindman asked MGs to send ideas for gardening tips to include in the next issue, due to be published in early May (margarethindman@comcast.net). Linda Hause asked MGs who are on the WCWDFY mailing list to take their names off the list by sending an ‘unsubscribe’ message to fgardenernews@gmail.com); this will give us clearer idea of subscriber numbers.

Continuing Education
Ron Dudley gave a presentation on rain barrels and drip irrigation. Information on rain barrels, rain gardens and other useful resources is available online at https://www.frederickgreenchallenge.org/about-the-challenge/green-leader
Upcoming Continuing Education at MG Monthly Meetings:

May 12 – Maryland Hospital Garden, with a Therapeutic Gardening Committee overview

June 9 – Weed Identification, with a Bay-Wise Committee overview

July 14 - Good Bugs/Bad Bugs

August 11 - Tomato Tasting, with a Youth Gardening Committee overview

Glade Elementary School

The young gardeners at the Glade Garden Spot (the name they chose for their garden) with the seedlings that germinated (almost 100%) from seeds they had planted one week before. They assembled the light stand in the background, and the plants came up quickly under the lights.