In June I attended the MG Daytime Study Group where the theme was Art in the Garden. Diane Mitchell gave a wonderful talk and described how to acquire and place garden art to please your own gardening sensibilities and sometimes those of your housing association. Diane provided wonderful pictures of her own garden as well as pictures of gardens that she has visited. Afterward, the class discussed our thoughts about garden art. The class discussion brought to mind a trip that I took to Seattle last year that introduced me to glass art in the Chihuly Garden.

On a trip to Seattle, husband Gary and I found ourselves at the Seattle Center, under the shadow of the famous Space Needle.
We wondered whether it would be worth buying a ticket to the Chihuly Garden – we had never heard of it or Dale Chihuly and were unaware of the surprises that awaited us. Inside the conservatory we found a room-sized garden with life-size glass sculptures that reminded us of green-spiked agave and yellow-leaved plants, surrounded by spires evocative of red bamboo.

Outside was more of a surprise – garden plants were surrounded by glass sculptures that resonated with the plants themselves. Blue sea holly perennials were surrounded by blue glass spikes and a blue ball rested on the ground in the middle. The colorful shaded glass was an exquisite match to the flowers. And if you select the picture with your cursor and enlarge it you will find a golden sculpture of an insect - perhaps a bee? By the way, the flowers were crowded with bees from the Garden’s own apiary.

The glass garden sculptures didn’t always match the plants. Several sculptures in the garden contained spires, squiggles and balls that stood out from the landscape. As you can see, the glass sculptures take the eye up a hill (left), to the center of a garden surrounded by trees (center), and over a hedge (right).

All in all, the Chihuly glass sculptures reminded me of one of the points that Diane made during the MG Study Group discussion – the importance of art is taking the eye through the garden, to make one appreciate the surrounding plants, the terrain as well as the art. Diane’s talk reminded me of these pictures from last year’s trip and now I look at them with a new eye. The Daytime Study session gave me, and the other Master Gardeners, a way to see with understanding, how art can tell the story of our gardens.

p.s. – Thanks very much for your volunteer hours. Please read on through the newsletter for the newest section “Caught in Action”- pictures of Master Gardeners at work!

Ellen Haas 2013
The ancient New Zealand Kauri is an amazing tree – it has a large circumference and is long lived. The wood does not rot in the manner of most trees and can lay in swamps for years. The dead trees found in the New Zealand (NZ) forests and swamps provide scientists information aids in their climate change quest which is currently ongoing in New Zealand and throughout the world.

In 2011, 27 ancient kauri trees were excavated from a swamp in northern New Zealand. These trees were cut into segments and then moved to the Kauri Museum at Matakohe where the international scientific community can study the 11,000 year old trees. Dr. Jonathon Palmer is one of the scientists studying the trees to determine climate changes in the past. He shares his research with overseas universities and other institutions involved in climate change studies.

The Kauri can supply information for the 1,000-year gap when almost all of the trees in the northern hemisphere were destroyed by glaciers. The Kauri survived because of New Zealand’s temperate climate.

Through the study of growth rings, which trees add each year, the scientists can determine weather conditions during their growing years, thereby providing vital information on the climate at that time. Since Kauri trees are slow growers and live hundreds of years they contain old records of the changes in the climate. One of the recovered trees had an estimated record span of 1500 years and there are others that could be far older.

The hope is to learn from the past, with the NZ research being part of the global effort. Within the tree rings is a preserved span of time that is enormous, potentially spanning more than 130,000 years. Matching the thin-thick patterns of fossilized wood samples, a team of researchers has been able to establish a chronology for the local area which extends back in time. How cold was it thousands of years ago? Were changes in climate abrupt or gradual?
Dr. Palmer said “they are trying to learn from the past – not predicting the future. The international funding of climate change may help us be better prepared for what may come in the future. By unlocking the secrets of the past and comparing the growth patterns of the trees to the growth patterns in current trees, where the climate has clearly been recorded.” (Kaipara Lifestyler, January 27, 2011).

The study was expected to be completed the middle of 2011, after which the scientists would start the interpretation phase of the project.

“Meanwhile scientists in other parts of the world are still doing research on climate change. We know of nowhere else in the world with such a rich resource of subfossil wood that is capable of capturing the complete range of radiocarbon. The time span preserved within these bogs is truly enormous; spanning more than 130,000 years. “These trees are of vast proportions and almost perfectly preserved; individual trees can measure up to 13.1234 feet across and live for up to 2000 years. Within this precious archive is an annual record of changing atmospheric radiocarbon levels and past climate. This is a unique resource. Unfortunately, however, the timber is also highly-prized for household furniture, arts and crafts. The result is the buried wood is being mined at an alarming rate and will be exhausted within ten years. In this project, we will collect and analyze the kauri before it is lost forever. We will focus on undertaking comprehensive dating of the tree rings to determine changing levels of radiocarbon in the atmosphere using ancient logs that have been collected within the period spanning 30,000 to 11,700 years ago. The results from this study will help to precisely calibrate radiocarbon-dated sequences of past climate, environmental and archaeological change, thereby helping us to improve our understanding the Earth system.” (http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/project/535FBED2-70B5-4815-BB01-BBA3B1FE8307)

The trees being studied will continue to reside at the Matakohe Museum as scientists continue their work. Meanwhile scientists in other parts of the world are continuing research on climate change through other means. However, there is nowhere else in the world with such a rich resource of subfossil wood that is
capable of capturing the complete range of radiocarbon. The time span preserved within these bogs (when the Kauri tree was located) is truly enormous; spanning more than 130,000 years, making these trees extremely valuable to the continued study of climatic change. (Information from the Matakohe Museum staff)

While in NZ in 2014, I visited the Matakohe Museum and viewed one Swamp Kauri that is being used for climate change studies. Needless to say, I found it very interesting. One of the museum staff said they felt that these pieces of Kauri are helping the museum to conserve the past while looking to the future – that their involvement is important. This is quite a task for a small rural museum in a small country in the southern hemisphere, but they are up to the task.

**Note:** New Zealand’s temperature has increased by 4 degrees in the last few years, with the greatest impact being in the North Island. Temperatures were the highest ever this year with both the North and South Island experiencing mid to high 70’s (and a few 80’s degree days) for an extended period. This may not seem high to Americans, but to Kiwis it is a heat wave. In addition, they are experiencing rising sea levels, more frequent extreme weather events, such as floods and drought, which has been a problem in recent years, and the climate change has had an impact on the economy since they rely heavily on products produced from the land for income. I am interested in following New Zealand temperatures since I was a resident for many years.

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**Sumer is i-cumin in** (or The Cuckoo Song)

Sing, cuccu, nu. Sing, cuccu. *(Cuckoo) (Now)*
   Sing, cuccu. Sing, cuccu, nu.

Sumer is i-cumen in –
   Lhude sing, cuccu! *(Loud)*

Groweth sed and bloweth med *(meadow blossoms)*
   And springth the wude nu. *(Wood)*
   Sing, cuccu!

Awe bleteth after lomb, *(Ewe bleats)*
   Lhouth after calve cu, *(calf cow)*

Bulluc sterteth, bucke verteth – *(leaps, farts)*
   Murie sing, cuccu!
   Cuccu, cuccu.
   Wel singes thu, cuccu.
   Ne swik thu naver nu! *(Final plea. Don't ever stop, now)*

An anonymous English “round” or rota from the mid-13th to 14th century. It is one of the oldest known Middle English lyrics and the oldest known musical composition featuring six-part polyphony. The word "icumen" means it has come, referring to summer and the annual summer Solstice on June 21st. Summer is the season when the call of the cuckoo is heard. In Russian folklore says the number of times you hear the cuckoo's call represents the number of years you have left to live. By asking the cuckoo never to stop, the singer may just be wishing that summer could be never ending. Maybe the English had the same superstition about the cuckoo? You can hear the tune sung at https://davidwarinsolomons.bandcamp.com/track/summer-is-i-cumen-in
Master Gardeners Caught in Action!

Maxine’s Garden Tour

Eden Mill Vegetable Garden
All class descriptions and registration links can be found at:
https://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training

July

**Carroll County**
Topic: Organic Vegetable Gardening
Presenter: Mr. Jon Traunfeld and members of the Carroll County GIEI Team
Location: Carroll County Extension Office and Demonstration Garden (Westminster)
Date: July 1 ~ Time: 9:00am-4:15pm
Registration Fee: $45.00
Registration Deadline: June 24
For more information and to register: http://ovgcc.eventbrite.com/

**Anne Arundel County**
Topic: Native Ferns
Location: Tawes Garden (Annapolis)
Presenter: Mr. Jon Traunfeld and members of the Carroll County GIEI Team
Date: July 1 ~ Time: 9:00am-12:00pm
Registration Fee: $20.00
Registration Deadline: July 9
For more information and to register: http://nftawes.eventbrite.com/

**Baltimore County**
Topic: Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis
Location: Baltimore County Extension Office and Demonstration Garden (Cockeysville)
Presenter: Mr. Jon Traunfeld
Date: July 20 ~ Time: 9:00am-3:30pm
Registration Fee: $40.00
Registration Deadline: July 13
For more information and to register: https://vppdbco.eventbrite.com/

**Baltimore County**
Topic: Plant ID/Taxonomy
Location: Baltimore County Extension Office (Cockeysville)
Presenter: Ms. Wanda MacLachlan
Date: July 21, 28, and August 4
Time: 9:30am-12:30pm
Registration Fee: $35.00 (plus book)
Registration Deadline: July 14
For more information and to register: http://plantidbco.eventbrite.com/

**St. Mary’s County**
Topic: Plant ID/Taxonomy
Location: Charlotte Hall Branch Library (Charlotte Hall)
Presenter: Ms. Wanda MacLachlan
Date: July 23, 30, and August 6
Time: 9:30am-12:30pm
Registration Fee: $35.00 (plus book)
Registration Deadline: July 16
For more information and to register: http://plantidchl.eventbrite.com/
Kent County  
Topic: Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis  
Location: Kent County Extension office and field location in Chestertown  
Presenter: Mr. Jon Traunfeld  
Date: July 24  
Time: 9:00am-3:30pm  
Registration Fee: $40.00  
Registration Deadline: July 17  
For more information and to register:  
http://vppdkco.eventbrite.com

Frederick County  
Topic: Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis  
Location: Frederick County Extension office and Demonstration Garden (Frederick)  
Presenter: Mr. Jon Traunfeld  
Date: July 25  
Time: 9:00am-3:30pm  
Registration Fee: $40.00  
Registration Deadline: July 18  
For more information and to register:  
http://vppdfco.eventbrite.com

August  
Washington County  
Topic: Ornamental Plant Diseases  
Location: Western Maryland Hospital Center  
(Hagerstown)  
Presenter: Dr. Dave Clement  
Date: August 12  
Time: 10:00am-3:00pm  
Registration Fee: $35.00  
Registration Deadline: August 5  
For more information and to register:  
http://opdatwmhc.eventbrite.com

Baltimore County  
Agriculture Center Classes available  

Mid-Summer Plant Walk + ‘What’s this Plant’ Informal Workshops
- Mid-summer Plant Walk and Collection on Saturday July 18 from 9 AM to noon at the Baltimore County Ag Center: Join us for a walk to check out what’s blooming in mid-summer. For three hours, we'll be looking closely at plants, and collecting them for an inventory of the Baltimore County Ag Center. The walk will be led by botanist Charlie Davis and researcher Judy Fulton.
- ‘What’s this Plant’ – Plant identification lab every second and fourth Mondays of the month from 7 to 9 PM at the Natural History Society of Maryland: Learn to identify plants in an informal setting with other inquisitive people while consulting with botanist Charlie Davis. You can bring plants from your backyard or elsewhere. Or, work on identifying a plant collected during the ongoing inventory of the Baltimore County Ag Center. The July sessions are scheduled for the 13th and 27th.

Find full descriptions and sign up via Meetup by clicking on events at www.meetup.com/marylandnature/events.
**Food Preservation Classes-Harford County 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Produce</th>
<th>Recipe</th>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Cucumbers</td>
<td>Reduced sodium</td>
<td><strong>USDA Home Canning Guide 6 pg 34</strong></td>
<td>7/7 12pm-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>sliced dill</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Peaches</td>
<td>Salsa</td>
<td><strong>So Easy to Preserve pg 74</strong></td>
<td>8/20 12pm-3pm</td>
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<td>Sept</td>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>Hot Pack</td>
<td><strong>So Easy to Preserve pg 52</strong></td>
<td>9/17 12pm-4pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>halves/whole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Pumpkin/winter squash</td>
<td>Cubed</td>
<td><strong>So Easy to Preserve pg 87</strong></td>
<td>10/22 12pm-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Apples</td>
<td>Butter</td>
<td><strong>Balls Blue Book 5th ed.</strong></td>
<td>11/6 12pm-3pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For information call Harford Co. Extension 410-638-3255

Or register online at http://gieipihc.eventbrite.com

Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder has announced the official start of the **2015 Maryland’s Best Ice Cream Trail**. The trail is made up of eight dairy farms across the state that produce and sell ice cream directly to consumers. The eight farms on the Ice Cream Trail stretch more than 290 miles from Ocean City in the east to Washington County in the west. Creameries on the trail include: Broom’s Bloom Dairy (Harford County); Chesapeake Bay Farms (Worcester County – with two locations); Keyes Creamery (Harford County); Kilby Cream (Cecil County); Misty Meadows Farm Creamery (Washington County); South Mountain Creamery (Frederick County); Prigel Family Creamery (Baltimore County); and Rocky Point Creamery (Frederick County). Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA); abridged.


**July Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>10 am HCEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Harford County Extension CLOSED for the holiday</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Planning Meeting</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Daytime Study Group</td>
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<td>HCEO</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Topic: Open Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>No July</td>
<td>Evening Study Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Planning Meeting</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>HCEO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

THE MARYLAND MASTER GARDENER MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Master Gardener mission is to support the University of Maryland Extension by educating Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities.