Hello Master Gardeners,

By the time you read this it will be fall and hopefully we'll be savoring the crisp autumn air along with apples and pears! Gardens will soon be put to bed - always a bittersweet time. In a way it's nice to shut things down, clean up the yard, and prepare to "rest" for the winter - that is when we're not raking leaves, shoveling snow, or planning for spring! Still, I love the fall and enjoy all its tasks.

As the summer closes, the tomato beds outside my garden are finally ripening and are they ever delicious! Yesterday I harvested a dozen Cherokee Purple, Green Zebras, Great Whites, and San Marzanos - my best harvest of the summer. For some reason the tomatoes inside my vegetable garden failed to thrive. They gave a first flush of fruit and then stopped producing. Other plants have done great. It's really annoying as this is the first year in several that I haven't had stink bugs. A soil test this fall will show if the pH was off or some nutrient was missing that tomatoes need.

I harvested honey from the bees a few weeks ago- quite an experience. Suffice it to say, the normally docile honeybees get downright ornery when you take their honey. A couple got up inside my jacket and stung me! But I have about 2 gallons of honey that should last us for the year! I've been giving honey to my neighbor using the opportunity to educate them about pesticide use and other bee-friendly practices. It is nice for them to be supportive of the bees.

This past month several of us participated in Children's Day at Ladew Gardens. Other than the brutal heat, it was a lot of fun. We were located in the meadow outside the butterfly house and had LOTS of kids. Our children's activity was twirling pipe-cleaner caterpillars. Our education focus was for kids to understand that butterflies come from caterpillars - seemed to be eye-opening for those who stated that they "hated" caterpillars. Parents received flower seeds and pollinator plant lists. All in all a worthwhile endeavor.

I look forward to our autumn activities - lots of fall fests, classes, and mark your calendar now for the annual Winter Holiday dinner at Liriodendron on December 4! As always, thanks for volunteering and making Master Gardeners a vital presence in Harford County.

Joan Parris ‘09
DAYTIME STUDY GROUP

The Daytime Study Group has been invited to tour McLean Nursery in Parkville on Wednesday, October 15th at 10:30 a.m.

McLean Nursery has specialized in hollies since 1946 and features many cultivars of *Ilex opaca* the American Holly. The nursery contains hundreds of holly trees with many old stock plants cultivated for as many as 70 to 80 years.

Owner, Bill Kuhl, will share his expertise and answer our questions. He will display his registered American Hollies ‘Glen Ellen’ and ‘Baltimore Buzz’. Bill says hollies should be ‘coloring up’ by then. We are invited to shop for hollies and other native plants available in the nursery.

Interested MGs should plan to meet at the Harford Road and Rt. 152 Park n Ride at 9:30 a.m. on Oct.15. Car pools are encouraged as there is limited parking. There are a number of places nearby for lunch.

Please notify Jane Bognaski @ 2gardeners@comcast.net by October 4th. Signup is necessary for tour preparation. Directions will be distributed at the Park n Ride.

MG ADVANCED TRAINING

*Native Grasses*

UME Harford Co. (Forest Hill)
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Reg. Fee: $30; Reg. Deadline: October 14th
**Presenter:** Sara Tangren, Ph.D., MG Trainer and Associate 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 Indian grass, little bluestem, switch grass, purple-top, bushy beardgrass, purple lovegrass, and more. For each species we will discuss design/aesthetic considerations for use in garden beds. Plant discussions will include their 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.

Shake The Persimmons Down

by Thomas W. Talley

De raccoon up in de 'simmon tree.  
Dat 'possum on de groun'.  
De 'possum say to de raccoon: "Suh!"  
"Please shake dem 'simmons down."  
De raccoon say to de 'possum: "Suh!"  
(As he grin from down below),  
"If you wants dese good 'simmons, man,  
Jes clam up whar dey grow."

Photos of the local persimmon trees at the intersection of Rt 23 and Rt 24 Forest Hill.  
Notice the heavy production of persimmon fruits this year!
Native Plant Foundation Bed Workshop

Imagine a long landscaping bed full of wildflowers or native grass. Perhaps it's part of a demonstration garden, school garden, or in a local park. With just a little extra effort, you can turn that landscape bed into a native foundation bed. Native foundation bed refers to plots used to produce genetically diverse, locally native seed. In this class you'll learn how to collect seeds, rescue mature plants, and use them to establish a native foundation bed.

The seed produced by your foundation bed can be sold or donated for:

- starting plugs or pots of local genotype native plants, (for community greening projects and MG plant sales and demo gardens)
- providing parks with genetically appropriate seed for restoration of areas after invasives removal or other soil disturbance
- sowing native meadows
- making wildflower seed packets, or
- selling to produce income or raise funds.

In this series of fun and easy workshops, we will walk through each step of the process together over the next year. Rather than being exposed to all the information at once, you will get to learn the information you need when you need it. Each workshop will contain both a classroom and a field (or greenhouse) component.

- **Workshop 1: Plant Rescue**
  - October 23, 2014 (rain date October 24); 9:30am - 3:30pm
  - Topics: Methods of obtaining materials for foundation bed projects, includes a native plant rescue/wild seed collection field trip. 6 hrs.
  - Location (tentative): Home & Garden Information Center, Ellicott City

- **Workshop 2: Seed Sowing**
  - November 19, 2014 (snow date November 21); 9:30am - 12:30pm
  - Topics: Foundation bed planning and preparation, seed dormancy and stratification, and seed sowing. 3 hr.
  - Location: University of Maryland Campus Greenhouse (tentative)

- **Workshop 3: Greenhouse Seedlings**
  - March 2, 2015 (snow date March 3); 9:30am - 12:30pm
  - Planting foundation beds, maintenance concerns, inspection. Seed harvest. Includes time for prickling our seedlings into plug trays. 3 hr.
  - Location: University of Maryland Research Campus (tentative)

- **Workshop 4: Seeds and Certification**
  - November 19, 2015 (snow date November 20); 9:30am - 12:30pm
  - Topics: Seed cleaning, testing and certification. Uses for your seed. 3 hr.
  - Location: University of Maryland Campus Greenhouse (tentative)

This class will count as 15 hours of MG State continuing education credits. Master Naturalists should confirm acceptability for training credits with their host facility.
Pre-requisites: Native Plant Essentials (in person or online) See Below

Our instructor: Dr. Sara Tangren, Home & Garden Information Center, specialist in sustainable landscaping and native plants, began rescuing native plants for use in botanical gardens and as propagation stock in 1996.

Fee for four classes: $65 (includes supplies and use of UM greenhouse facilities.

Registration Deadline: October 16, 2014

Native Plant Essentials Online Class

Native Plant Essentials is an introductory native plant class available online. One of the wonderful things about working with native plants is that they provide a lifetime of enjoyment and discovery. The entire course will take approximately five hours to complete, and you can proceed at your own pace. This course and website are first drafts and for use only by Maryland Master Gardeners. For now, please do not share this URL with anyone else.

To enjoy all the features of this course, you will need access to an internet connection that is good enough to download files and watch video.

http://www.extension.umd.edu/mg/native-plant-essentials-online-class

By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Understand native plants in the context of their ecosystems.
- Teach the meaning of “native plant” and discuss the history of Maryland’s ecosystems.
- Teach why native plants are important and what their preservation and success mean for all of us.
- Work with native plants in disturbed landscapes.
- Teach the major threats to native plant communities.
- Direct the public to available literature and appropriate native plant lists.
- Discuss the future of our wild plant populations and our gardens, and how they are tied together.  http://www.extension.umd.edu/mg/native-plant-essentials-online-class

Sunday, October 19, 2014 ~ 11:00am – 3:00pm (Rain Date: Oct. 26)

Harford County Extension Office 2335 Rock Spring Road Forest Hill, MD

Join us at our Open House as we celebrate the past, present and future through a showcase of UME’s educational programs, historical displays, activity stations, giveaways and refreshments!
Cultivating New Growers by Scott Bailey

As I disbudded a few plants in the small dahlia patch located adjacent to the Forest Hill post office last week, I found myself engaged in conversation with a local man who stopped by to ask questions about the patch that is just beginning to bloom. The patch is a project that Joyce Browning, the University of Maryland Extension Office Consumer Horticulturalist for Harford County, and I were excited to help start. Like me, Joyce is a relatively new but enthusiastic dahlia grower. Back in May we had the opportunity to conduct a Beginners Workshop on growing dahlias for the Harford County Master Gardeners and interested 4-H clubs. Following the workshop, we helped the attendees plant the patch of 30 dahlias. Thanks goes to Nick Weber for generously providing most of the tubers!

Located adjacent to the parking lot shared by the Extension Office and our local post office, the patch is in a great, visible spot. We are hoping that the dahlia patch will not only enable the Master Gardeners and 4-H’ers to get some practice growing dahlias, but will also help to generate greater interest in dahlias in Harford County. So far, it seems to be accomplishing its purpose! Each week as I drop by the patch to assist in this joint effort, I have had someone stop to ask questions about the project. Who knows? Maybe sometime in the future there will be enough dahlia enthusiasts in Harford County to establish a new society in northeastern Maryland.
SUCCESSFUL AND SUSTAINABLE GARDENING IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Dr. Sara Via of the University of Maryland-College Park studies how insects and plants interact with each other and with their environments. This makes her a great source for determining how to get the most out of your garden in these days of strange weather patterns and invasive bugs. Come out and pick her brain before you plant your next garden!

Because we have such a large room for the program at Bel Air, it will be registration suggested. People will not have to pre-register, but if they want to, they can call the branch beginning two weeks before the program at 410-638-3151. There is no fee. This program is for adults.

October 23, 2014 at the Bel Air Library from 6:30-8 pm

Topic: Successful and Sustainable Gardening in a Changing Climate

MAKE YOUR OWN FLOWER PRESS

Melody Karbley, 2003

(Most of this article was taken from an old un-named magazine or newspaper which my Mother saved)

It couldn't be simpler- just two pieces of wood held together by carriage bolts and fastened with wing-nuts. Whether your interest is pressing flowers for a picture, or acting the amateur botanist by preserving and cataloging flowers from the garden, this flower press should serve you well. It could make a Junior Master Gardener project or a senior craft project, with help.

Materials - Two 9 x 12 inch pieces of 3/8 or 1/2 plywood; Corrugated cardboard, 8 to 10 pieces; 4 to 6 pieces of blotting paper; and several sheets of black & white newspaper. Four 1/4 inch carriage bolts 3 inches long, washers, and wing-nuts. Tools needed - drill and a small saw. Other supplies - ruler; pencil; sandpaper; scissors; and white glue.

Directions - Cut the two 9 x 12 " pieces of plywood. Lightly draw a diagonal line from a bottom corner to the opposite upper corner. Draw another diagonal line from the other bottom corner to its opposite
upper corner. You’ll have an "X" to guide you in marking for the slots to hold the carriage bolts. On
the line of the "X", mark a point 1 1/4 inches from each corner. Drill a 1/4 inch hole at each point.
Saw a 1/4 inch wide slot from each drilled hole to the 12 inch edge of plywood. Sand the edges of
the plywood. You may stamp, paint or decorate the top piece, if you wish.

Cut the following material the same size as the plywood: 8 to 10 pieces of corrugated cardboard, 4
to 6 pieces of blotting paper, and several sheets of newspaper. Trim the corners diagonally to clear
the bolts. Assemble the paper in two equal stacks. To the inside of each piece of plywood, glue first the corrugate cardboard (one at a time), then the blotting paper (one sheet at a time) and last the black & white newspaper. Be sure there is no glue on the top of the sheets of newspaper. Put the two sections together. Slip the carriage bolts, washers, and wing-nuts into the drilled holes. Adjust the wing-nuts, and
the press is ready for use.

How to press flowers - It's best to gather plant material during the middle of the day after the sun
has dried the surface moisture. If you’re making a picture, select delicate foliage with lacy leaves
and tiny stems to make a nice arrangement. Colorful fall leaves could also be used or the skeletonized versions of leaves make an interesting picture. Choose flowers and leaves that are not too thick, so they will dry quickly. A thin-petal flower such as a pansy or daisy may dry in two to
three days, while a thick flower may take one or two weeks, or longer.

Press the plants as soon as you have picked them. On a piece of newspaper arrange the material
the way you want it to look when dry. Gently smooth down petals and leaves. Fold the end of the
newspaper over the plants, press gently again, and place in the press. Tighten wing-nuts. Expose
the press to sun and wind to hasten the drying process.

Open the press and replace plants on fresh newspaper about every 24 hours to remove moisture
and to prevent the flowers from turning brown. You can tell when a flower is thoroughly dry - the
stem and leaves will be brittle. Arrange your flowers/leaves in a frame, or store them in a safe, dry,
cool place until needed. (Cookie tins or stationary boxes with wax paper or parchment paper in
between work well.) Protect stored flowers with moth balls to prevent insects from chewing on your
plants.

All America Selections (AAS) has announced the first AAS Winners for 2015. The announcement
included four Regional and two National Winners, all edibles, which reflects a continuing interest
in vegetables. Also two of the winners, Sandy lettuce and Parisian Gherkin cucumber are
available as organic seed, reflecting the current gardening interests.

**Regional Winners**

**Brussel Sprouts Hestia F1** (Southeast and Mountain/Southwest)
This is the second Brussel Sprouts to be granted AAS Winner designation. This is an excellent flavored vegetable with a green exterior and a yellow interior. The plant has an erect habit that is maintained throughout the growing season and was judged notably more uniform than other varieties. *Hestia* tolerates cold temperatures and the flavor improves as the temperatures drop into the 30s.

**Cucumber Parisian Gherkin F1** (Northeast and Mountain/Southwest)<br>
*Parisian Gherkin F1* is an excellent mini or gherkin pickling cucumber which can be picked either at the midget size or small pickle stage. The sweet flavor cucumbers can eaten fresh in salads and slaws or processed into pickles. The quick growing vines can be planted in the garden or staked in patio containers. This gherkin is one of two AAS organic winners — a first for this organization!

**Pak Choi Bopak F1**<br>
In the history of AAS, *Bopak F1* is the first Pak Choi to become an AAS Winner! Compact plant habit for close spacing and early maturing. Variety matures about 5 days earlier than other varieties. As well as cooking in Oriental recipes, the tender leaves can be eaten raw in salads or sandwiches. Swap stalks for celery sticks, add to soups and stews, grill on the barbecue. Very nice flavor even into the warmer weather. Attractive upright, uniform, and dense plant. Early maturing when harvested as baby Pak Choi. Great for home gardener with limited space.

**Pepper Sweet Sunset** (Southeast, Heartland, West/Northwest)<br>
*Sweet Sunset* is a banana pepper which is a high yielding x3R sets a large amount of fruit that are attractive, colorful, tasty, and are great fresh or canned. These peppers grow in a compact upright form that does not need staking and will grow in containers. This AAS winner produces early and late in the season. The judges commented on the eating quality of the fruit.

**Lettuce Sandy**<br>
The first AAS winning lettuce since 1985, *Sandy* is an attractive oakleaf type lettuce with a multitude of sweet tasting frilly dark green leaves. Can be planted in patio containers with cool season edible flowers to enjoy. Typically not bitter when heat-stressed. Sandy has exceptional bolt resistance and is especially resistant to Powdery Mildew disease. Can be used for baby leaf cut and come again or grown to full maturity for loose salad heads.

**Radish Roxanne F1**<br>
*Roxanne* is a great tasting radish with no pithiness or bleeding even at a larger size. This radish grows well in a wide range of climates, as verified by our judges who have trial grounds all over North America. In mild climates *Roxanne* can be sown at intervals in fall and winter for harvest during these seasons. This radish can easily be grown in a pot at least 4 inches deep.

These six AAS Winners were trialed during the 2012 and 2013 growing seasons next to two current market favorites that are similar to the test varieties. The AAS Judges drew the entries and comparisons, then performed a side-by-side analysis of growth habit, taste, disease resistance and...
more to determine if these were truly better than currently available cultivars. Only those vegetables with superior taste and garden performance are given the AAS stamp of approval.

Home gardeners will find these seeds for sale in the coming months and young plants will be sold in lawn & garden retail stores next spring as supply becomes available. AAS Winners will be available in time for the 2015 gardening season.

Both Longwood Gardens and Baltimore’s Cylburn Arboretum are AAS trial gardens where you can serve as a judge. A complete list of trial grounds and judges can be found at http://all-americaselections.org/trial_grounds/index.cfm

### DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>General MG Meeting 7 pm</td>
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<td>October 15</td>
<td>Daytime Study Group Field Trip to McLean Nursery</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Evening Study Group HCEO 7-8:30 pm</td>
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<td>October 19</td>
<td>OPEN HOUSE Extension Office 11 am-3 pm</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td>Native Grass Class 9:30 am</td>
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**CHANGE:** The November Monthly Meeting has been moved to Wednesday, November 5 at the regular time 10 am – noon.

See the attached calendar for the educators teaching each Thursday night at the Master Gardener Trainings HCEO.

Joyce Browning, Urban Horticulturist, Master Gardener Coordinator, Harford County Office

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.