President’s Message

Hello Master Gardeners!

Spring is here at last. It feels so great to be back outside planting and working in the garden. Everyone is on tenterhooks about what has survived or not after the brutal winter. Hydrangeas, Cherry Laurel, and Crape Myrtle (just to name a few) seem to have been especially hard hit. My hydrangeas are putting up growth from the roots, but most of the stems have died back. Looks like no blooms this year. And the jury is still out on my Crape Myrtles - no sign of life as yet. Wait and see seems to be the order of the day.

Did I tell you all that I started 30 milk jugs of winter sowing seeds? I’ve planted out the arugula, radicchio, spinach, kale and lettuce. The leeks and shallots didn’t sprout. The others are mostly flowers - the germination has been spotty but I’m giving them time to catch up. But I guess I really can’t complain - they were buried under 2 feet of snow for a very long time! Hopefully I’ll get them planted out in the next month. I’m harvesting asparagus at last - 3 weeks later than last year. And my peas have almost recovered from the April snow. Tomatoes, eggplants and peppers are in the make-shift cold frame of hay bales, waiting their turn for planting - I’m waiting until late May to set them out this year!

Last month I reported that one of my bee hives had survived the winter and was going gang-busters. I regret to say that proved not to be the case. While there were lots of bees, when I examined the hive, I found that the queen was not laying any eggs - a death knell for the hive. So, I have installed a new package of bees to replace my first dead hive and have installed a "nuke" to incorporate into the hive that lost its queen. Once again, I have 2 hives that appear to be thriving and hopefully they will continue to do so. Did I mention I extracted 3 gallons of honey from the first hive that failed? Incredible!

We’ve been busy Master Gardeners this spring as well. The GIEI classes have had reasonable attendance - although we are thinking to go in a different direction with our course offerings next year. We had huge attendance at the Earth Day celebration in Aberdeen - thanks to Fred Wolfe and all his volunteers who made that happen. In addition there have been other Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations, Garden Day at Ladew, Bay-Wise talks, and volunteers working at Liriodendron, Eden Mill gardens and the Farmer’s Markets. Thanks to all of you who participate so faithfully.

Joan Parris ‘09
Need a Rain Garden?—There’s an App for That!

*By Jennifer Dindinger & Krisztian Varsa, Watershed Restoration Specialists, Sea Grant Extension Team*

Have you ever thought about putting in a rain garden but worried the process was too complicated? Do you need help but don’t know where to turn? Now there’s a great solution – the Regional Rain Garden app! Designed by the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) at UCONN and brought to Maryland by the Sea Grant Extension Watershed Team, this free app walks users through the process of learning about, designing, planting, and maintaining a rain garden.

The Regional Rain Garden app uses videos, diagrams, text, and maps to help users make the best decisions for their individual site. The video tutorials demonstrate each of the steps involved in creating a rain garden including digging, performing a soil test, and long term maintenance. A sizing calculator, soils map, and cost calculator help users decide where to put the rain garden and how much it might cost to do the installation.

Rain Garden Continued...
The native plant guide is customized for the state of Maryland (selected in the Settings options or when you first download the app). The plant catalog is extensive and allows you to choose plants based on the desired plant type, bloom color, and sun availability in your yard. Most importantly, the maintenance section depicts how to do proper maintenance and even has an option to set reminders for yourself. Lastly, the app encourages potential rain garden owners to call Maryland’s Miss Utility with just a tap of the screen to ensure excavation won’t damage utilities. The app does everything but get out there and build the garden for you!

The Regional Rain Garden app is free and available for both Android and iOS products. Visit extension.umd.edu/watershed and click on “Regional Rain Garden App” for download instructions. Happy rain gardening!

Book Review by Linda Baker, ’05

American Home Landscapes: A Design Guide to Creating Period Garden Styles


I read a book review in Horticulture Magazine September/October 2013 issue for American Home Landscapes: A Design Guide to Creating Period Garden Styles. It sounded so interesting I requested the book for Christmas. Since I live in an old Forest Hill farmhouse I like to ponder what the surrounding gardens were like when my house was "young". I was also curious about my family home in New Jersey which was built in the 1920's. The book opened my eyes to history.

American Home Landscapes is divided into 6 different American history eras from the 1620's to 2000. Over time it was amazing to see how the home landscapes changed.

Changes occurred in all areas from foundation plantings to driveway outlining and attitudes about whether flowers were frowned upon in the front yard. You will see in the book those families who had time for ornamental gardens and those who were just producing necessary food.
You may not have an old house, but it is still interesting to envision areas like old downtown Forest Hill with its numerous older homes. What did it look like? The book contains many old photographs, old postcards, plant listings by era, and garden diagrams which take you back to an earlier day.

It has me thinking of all the old gardens and gardeners of the past while I sit inside, snowbound in the winter of 2014. I’m sure when my house was “young” the residents were busy producing food. With an occasional flowering plant put in by the farmer’s wife, just because!

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**Upcoming Advanced Training Classes**

**ENTOMOLOGY: ECOLOGICAL IPM**

**Location:** UME Baltimore County, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030  
**Date:** Mondays, June 2 and June 9; 9:30am-3:30pm  
**Registration Fee:** $49  
**Registration Deadline:** May 23, 2014  
**Instructor:** Michael J. Raupp, Ph.D., Professor and Extension Specialist, Entomology  
University of Maryland

**Course Description:**

Bugs are fascinating. Learn how to recognize them, how they work, and how to safely deal with them as you begin to better understand how they fit into the ecology of the garden. Join the University of Maryland's pre-eminent bug man, Mike Raupp, as he teaches you the wonders of the bug world and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as only he can do. We are planning some hands-on experiences, outdoor explorations and new learning tools.

In addition to some fascinating insect CSI, this year's expanded 2-day course will include the fundamental concepts of population biology, community ecology, ecosystem functions and services as they relate to urban ecosystems and IPM.

Some topics to be highlighted:

1. Role of native plants.
2. Planting to conserve diversity and attract pollinators and other beneficial insects.
3. Managing water and soil resources for maximum benefit of insect populations and ecosystem function.

This class will satisfy the Entomology requirement for all of you going for your Plant Diagnostics certificate and will be of great help to those of you working at Ask a MG events.
VEGETABLE INTENSIVE TECHNIQUES AND SMALL SPACE GARDENING

Location: UME Kent County - 709 Morgnc Road, Suite 202, Chestertown, MD 21620.
Plus 3 field trips to nearby locations
Date: Saturday, June 21, 2014
Registration Fee: $49
Registration Deadline: June 13, 2014
Instructors: Jon Traunfeld, Director, Home and Garden Information Center and Specialist in Fruits and Vegetables, UME, Kent Phillips, UME Master Gardener, Howard Co., Sabine Harvey, UME Kent County and MG

Course Description: Get more out of your vegetable gardens with less work and expense. Find out how to increase production per square foot using sustainable and cost-effective practices. Learning for this class will be mostly hands-on and will take place in different gardens.

VEGETABLE PLANT AND PEST DIAGNOSIS

with Jon Traunfeld

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.

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 able to answer all of them! This course will count as one of the units you will need to get the advanced vegetable gardening certificate.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Register by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UME Harford County (Forest Hill)</td>
<td>Tues. July 15; 9am-4pm</td>
<td>7/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>UME Montgomery County (Derwood)</td>
<td>Wed. July 16; 9am-4pm</td>
<td>7/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince George’s County (Riverdale)</td>
<td>Sat. July 19; 9am-4pm</td>
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OTHER MG CLASSES

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

- Plant Diseases – September in Frederick Co.
- Youth Vegetable Gardening- September in Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties
- Native Grasses – October in Harford Co.

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**Lawn To Woodland: An Innovative Program for Maryland Homeowners**

![Image of wooded area with trees in autumn colors](Photo Courtesy of Arbor Day Foundation website)


The Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) has embarked on a partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation. The program, called *Lawn to Woodland*, is an expansion of the Rural Residential Stewardship initiative, which debuted in Baltimore County in 2005. With the assistance of funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the county and interested landowners restored trees to several small properties, thereby helping to improve air, water, and wildlife quality. The goal of the new program is to
build upon this initial project by converting large areas of turf to small woodlands across Maryland.

When property owners sign up for the free program, they are contacted by a forester from the Maryland Forest Service to schedule a property assessment. The forester will help locate areas suitable for tree planting, determine appropriate species of trees and shrubs for planting, and coordinate with a contractor who will perform the planting. The contractor fees are covered by the Forest Service. The Forest Service also pledges follow-up visits to monitor the plantings to determine survival rates and to schedule re-plantings if necessary.

The *Lawn to Woodland* program provides bare-root seedlings of eight particular tree and shrub species that have been produced by the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery. These species have been selected for their suitability in Maryland’s environment.

Interested property owners can learn more by seeing the brochure at: [http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/pdfs/50086101_Lawn_to_Woodland_1-10-13.pdf](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/pdfs/50086101_Lawn_to_Woodland_1-10-13.pdf)
Sign up through the Arbor Day Foundation’s website at: [http://arborday.org/partnerships/maryland/index.cfm#dForm](http://arborday.org/partnerships/maryland/index.cfm#dForm)
or by calling at 888-448-7337.

There are similarities and differences between the new DNR-Arbor Day Foundation partnership and the Woodland Stewardship Education’s *The Woods in Your Backyard* program. Both programs wish to encourage the conversion of large expanses of lawn to woodlands for the benefit of air, water and habitat quality. Both encourage planting trees and shrubs and working with professionals. However, *The Woods in Your Backyard* helps property owners to appreciate how their land is part of a larger eco-system, such as understanding that they can work with their neighbors to increase wildlife habitats, stabilize water-ways, and develop recreational access. *The Woods in Your Backyard* also promotes developing a long-term view of property management by fostering family participation. Learn more about “The Woods in Your Backyard” by visiting: [http://extension.umd.edu/woodland/woods-your-backyard](http://extension.umd.edu/woodland/woods-your-backyard)
MG POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
New to the MG program or unfamiliar with all of the MG policies? – be sure to read the MG Policies and Guidelines again for working with the public, using the MG title and other important topics.

GIEI NEWS- Year of the Cucurbit
We have declared 2014 to be the year of the Cucurbit so MGs working in the GIEI program are busy educating the public about this important vegetable group (includes the squash, pumpkin, cucumber, gourd, watermelon, and cantaloupe). You can go to one of their presentations or Jon Traunfeld’s presentation at MG Annual Training Day.

GIEI NEWS- 100 Square Foot Garden Challenge
We’d also like to challenge MGs and the gardening public to take the 100 square foot garden challenge. Enter the 2014 Grow It Eat It contest and show us “What Can YOU Grow in 100 Square Feet?” OPEN to all gardeners- city, suburban, country; experienced and first-time gardeners; backyard, community, or school garden. We have lots of examples and resources to help you. Use your imagination- the sky’s the limit. For rules, how to register and some great resources go to the Grow It Eat It website.

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.

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.