Hello Master Gardeners,

The weather this summer has been remarkable. Some hot days, but a lot of rain and inclement weather at the right time. It’s been a pleasure to work outside. And the garden is paying off.

We had a terrific Advanced Training Vegetable class on pest and virus ID last month - 20 Master Gardeners scoured my garden for pests! There was lots to see, including what Jon Traunfeld feared was late blight on my tomatoes. It wasn't, but a bit of a scare nonetheless. The lab report said I had “buckwheat rot” - who knew such a thing existed!

Anyway, it's been a pretty productive year. Tomatoes are doing "ok" - I'm not awash in tomatoes, but they're hanging in there. Potatoes were terrific, as were radishes, carrots, cabbage, onions, and greens. I'm picking lots of beans - I put them in late to avoid the Mexican bean beetle and succeeded. Instead the Japanese beetles devoured them. However, I've decided I prefer the Japanese to the Mexican - they are not as voracious as the Mexican beetle larva which, practically overnight, strip all the plants. The Japanese beetles were unsightly and ate a lot of the leaves - but they did not bother the lower leaves and the plants continued to grow and flower. And I have lots of beans. The Japanese beetles are just about gone now and a couple of Mexican beetles have moved in - but frankly the plants aren't very attractive to them for laying eggs and I don't think they'll be much of a problem.

Best news of all this summer - to date I have seen 1 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug! There have been several native stink bugs, but virtually no brown marmorated stink bugs. Absolutely astonishing. And no harlequin bugs either. I guess they could still appear between now and the end of the summer, but so far so good.

As for my bees - they have been busy! The honey supers are so heavy, I literally can hardly lift them. I'll harvest honey sometime in the next few weeks and begin to get ready for the fall and winter. It's such a treat to be in my garden and see the honeybees buzzing around all the plants and flowers. The reward for all that work!

I want to thank everyone who has participated in all of the activities this summer - farm fair, various classes for GIEI and the Garden Series, farmer's markets, Liriodendron, Eden Mill, Rockfield Manor, Brightview, - it's a long list and takes a lot of volunteers to keep everything running. We're making a good impact in Harford County and it's because so many of you are such faithful volunteers. Thanks!!

Joan Parris ’09
SAVE THE DATE

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

BAY-WISE GARDEN TOUR

What: Presented by Howard County Master Gardeners
When: September 20 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Where: 6401 Saddle Dr, Columbia, 20145

You are invited to tour a local garden in Columbia featuring many Bay-Wise practices designed to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Visitors will enjoy native plantings, storm water management practices including rain gardens, stream management practices, permeable pathways, wildlife habitats including a pond and child friendly play areas.

This is a free event sponsored by The Howard County Master Gardeners of The University of Maryland Extension.

For more information email Holly McFarland at hmc7249@gmail.com

MG ADVANCED TRAININGS

Plant Diseases - One-Day Workshop

When: Date: Thursday, September 4, 2014; 9:30am-3:30pm
Where: UME Frederick County
Registration Fee: $35    Registration Deadline: August 31
Class limit: 25

Instructor: David Clement, Ph.D, Regional Specialist in Plant Pathology, Home and Garden Information Center, University of Maryland Extension

Plant diseases often seem like exotic mysteries left up to the experts to solve. Well, guess what- we MG’s can now begin to unravel some of these mysteries ourselves. In this course you’ll learn all about the bacteria, fungi and viruses that cause plant problems. You’ll also learn about their symptoms, cycles and controls.

In addition to the lecture and handouts you will get hands-on training using samples. We hope that you’ll feel comfortable enough with the basics of plant diseases to be able to recognize problems in your own gardens and to use the information to competently help clients at plant clinics. This class counts as your Plant Disease requirement for your Plant Diagnostics certificate.
Native Landscaping for MD Shade Gardens
(Coastal Plain Study)– Prince Frederick, Calvert County- September 30, October 7 & 14 (almost full)
9:30-3:30 pm; Registration deadline 9/23/14

Youth Vegetable Gardening
Presenters: Jon Traunfeld, UME Specialist in Vegetables and Fruit
Heather Buritsch, UME Associate Agent, FSNE Gardening for Nutrition

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

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

This class counts as 1 day towards your Advanced Vegetables Certificate.

***Highly recommended***

Native Grasses
Where: UME Harford County (Forest Hill)
When: Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 9:30-3:00PM
Registration Fee: $30; Registration Deadline: 10/14
Field Trip: TBA
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 indiangrass, little bluestem, switchgrass, purpletop, bushy beardgrass, purple lovegrass, and more. For each species we will discuss design/design aesthetic considerations for use in garden beds,

- use in native meadows,
- soil and light requirements,
- availability, establishment, and
- maintenance techniques.

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

The course is available only as an online course. It is organized into separate lessons. 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.

The entire course will take approximately five hours to complete, but you can proceed at your own pace. Lesson content is introductory in nature, and you might want to explore some issues in more depth. One of the wonderful things about working with native plants is that they provide a lifetime of enjoyment and discovery. 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.

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

Reducing Lawn Fertilizer Use and Storm Water Runoff

A special field workshop for the establishment and management of lawns in new and existing residential developments

When: September 17, 2014; 8:00 – 3:00 pm

Where: University of Maryland Paint Branch Turf grass Research and Education Facility; 395 Greenmead Drive College Park, MD 20740

Who: This field workshop is designed for: Landscape Managers and Contractors, Builders, Environmental consultants, Individuals having 1) HOA or municipal grounds management responsibilities 2) Landscape related storm water management responsibilities.

Questions contact, Dr. Mark Carroll; UMD Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. mcarroll@umd.edu 301-405-1339

Registration deadline: September 10 or 60 participants; Fee: $40.

dx.umd.edu/news/events/wed-2014-09-17-0800-reducing-lawn-fertilizer-use-and-stormwater-runoff

Information about all MG Advanced Training Classes can be found at:
http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training or call Ria Malloy at the Home and Garden Information Center 410-531-1754
The twenty-two new trainees begin class on September 4th! Class filled up early this year. For the first time in recent years the training class is being held on Thursdays which means it will coincide with two monthly MG meetings. The new trainees are being encouraged to attend the October 2 and Dec 4 evening meetings. This would be a great place for you to meet and greet our new members!

The gardeners in this class range from home, hobby gardeners to dedicated plant enthusiasts. Some students are already enjoying retirement but most in the class are in full time employment. Three of our retirees are previous school teachers. Two of the students are tenders of vegetable plots at their local community garden sites. Other student hobbies include quilting, sewing, photography and birdwatching. They all have many talents to offer.

All Master Gardeners are welcome to attend the classes. Class time will count toward your needed ten hours of MG Education. See the attached schedule and you will note that often we have two speakers scheduled with the first starting at 6 pm and the second at 7:30 pm. Each week a break will occur between the two talks.

During early March we will have a special meeting for all the MG’s and new interns to learn about the many opportunities to serve here in Harford County. All project area committee chairman will set up a table to advertise their activity and ask MG’s to commit service hours. We will make this a fun event similar to Island Night. More information later.

If you are eager to meet the new interns please plan to attend the September 11th class from 6-7 pm. You may note that this is not the first meeting for the trainees. That is correct. Their first night, September 4th is reserved for orientation, required administration forms and time for them to meet a a class buddy. Please plan to attend Thursday night September 11th to meet our new friends!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
<th>TEXT READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>8-9 pm</td>
<td>Checkerspot Butterfly</td>
<td>MG Ruth Eisenhour</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>7-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Dennis Kirkwood Retired HC Biology Teacher</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>7-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Botany Workshop- flowers pollination</td>
<td>Joyce Browning UME</td>
<td>Chapter 3 pages 32- 37</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Bay-Wise Practices</td>
<td>Krisztian Varsha UME Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist</td>
<td>Chapter 25 Water Quality &amp; Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>7:30-9 pm</td>
<td>Pollinator Plants for Honeybees</td>
<td>Joe Lewis –Susquehanna Beekeeper</td>
<td>Chapter 15 Herbaceous Plants</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>6-7 pm</td>
<td>Volunteer Policy Training</td>
<td>Kathy Porcella Harford County 4-H Youth Development</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>7:30-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Critical Watershed Areas in Harford County</td>
<td>Bryan Lightner</td>
<td>Chapter 25 Water Quality &amp; Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>7-9 pm</td>
<td>MG Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>NO TRAINING CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>6-6:45 pm</td>
<td>Noxious Weeds in Maryland</td>
<td>Jim Calaco MD Dept. of Agriculture</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Invasive Species</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>7:30-9 pm</td>
<td>Wildlife in the Garden</td>
<td>Glenn Dudderar Enviromentalty</td>
<td>Chapter 28 Wildlife</td>
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Bay-Wise Training
Where: Baltimore County Extension Office (9/6) and Cylburn Arboretum (9/13)
When: 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM on Saturdays, September 6 & 13, 2014
Registration: fee $50.00 to register contact Leslie Erickson leerickson@comcast.net

By all these lovely tokens, September days are here, With summer’s best of weather,
And autumn’s best of cheer.

Dahlias from MG Nancy Cohen’s Garden

UPCOMING HARFORD COUNTY MG EVENTS NEED HELPERS

Healthy Harford on September 27th 8AM- 11AM. Ask a Master Gardener booth promoting Salad Boxes and healthy eating. Contact Joyce to volunteer part of the morning.

Ladew Gardens Children’s Day-Caterpillars and Butterflies!
Saturday, September 6; 11am – 4pm; Contact Joan Parris to volunteer.
IPM ALERT: INVASIVE WORM SPECIES

By Stanton Gill Extension Specialist in IPM and Entomology for Nursery and Greenhouse

This last week I got an email inquiring about invasive earthworms. We have to deal with invasive weeds, disease, mites and insects. To add to this list we have an invasive worm damaging native plantings that is spreading its range. This worm, Amythas agrestic, has many common names including “Asian jumping earthworm”, “Georgia Jumpers”, “Alabama Jumpers” or “Crazy Snakeworms”. I am not sure why people are trying to pin a state name on an invasive species. This worm is very popular with fishermen since it wiggles around on the hook attracting fish. In the south it is very popular for attracting catfish. Unfortunately, fishermen purchase the worms then discard them near streams and in wooded areas. The worm is changing the habitat of the forest.

The problem is this earthworm is much more destructive and aggressive than European species. This earthworm alters the soil structure and chemistry significantly. It is clear that introduced earthworms can significantly alter soil structural properties, organic matter and nutrient dynamics, and plant and animal communities above and belowground. In wooded areas it break down leaves and organic material so rapidly it reduces the growth of native understory plants. Often invasive species of plant move into this environment.

Amythas species are turning up in gardens in New England and even damaging golf courses greens in Kentucky. Dan Potter of Kentucky University is working on controlling Amythas species in golf greens where they create large piles on putting greens. Dan Gilrein, from Cornell University reported seeing wood mulch nature trails in Delaware where Amythas species churned the woodland mulch so the mulch paths were totally destroyed.

There is not a whole lot that can be done once the aggressive worms are introduced into a woodland but it is being recommended to fishermen that they dispose of Amythas worms when they are finished fishing and not release them into woodland soils.

DATES TO REMEMBER

| September 4th | 10:00 a.m. | MG General Meeting |
| September 17th | 1:00 p.m. | Day Time Study Group |
| September 17th | 7:00 p.m. | Evening Study Group |
| September 25 | 10:00 a.m. | MG Executive Meeting |
| September 25th | 10:00 a.m. | Garden Series Meeting |

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.

Joyce Browning
Master Gardener Coordinator