From the Desk of Mikaela Boley

Spring has most definitely sprung. I think it is safe to say that March was a roller coaster for weather, but April has been like sky-diving. Amongst the extremes in both heat and cold, April has also been packed full of activity and excitement for the growing season.

I’d like to take a chance and thank those Master Gardeners who have been particularly motivated this spring—there have been some wonderful individuals who have taken charge and have served as great leaders. Know that the work done is immensely appreciated. The Master Gardener Program is malleable, and can be designed based on the interests and pursuits of it’s volunteers and community members. So I hope that this organization can address the many different facets of interests out there.

Along with being busy, spring is also a very demanding time of year! Everything “needs” something. Bees need tending, gardens need cleaning, everything needs to be weeded, lawns need cutting, and need, need, need. Usually, we are happy to oblige, since it has been a long winter and we get impatient to be outside. But it can also be overwhelming. In this edition of In the Garden there are plenty of suggestions for what to watch for this spring, or what should be accomplished before the weather turns too hot to bear. There are also many good articles and updates contributed by Master Gardeners, for which I thank you!

Articles for the newsletter are always needed and appreciated.

Enjoy the weather while it is fair — summer will come soon enough.

Cheers!

Mikaela Boley
PWEC’s Conservation Corp intern – Matt Felperin – received a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant to install a buffer and rain garden at the Oyster House project site on Tilghman Island.

The Oyster House Project is a major initiative to preserve a working waterfront and integrate it with aquaculture and environmental education programs. The initiative will demonstrate how watermen, scientists, educators, and a dedicated community can work together to help restore the Bay to productivity – and assist the next generation of watermen to make their living on the water.

The approximately 250 square foot garden site is shown in the photo to the right. The site will be transformed into a hybrid buffer and rain garden with trees and shrubs on the upper portion and grasses and herbaceous plants in the rain capture component.

This project will be the first of several phases to establish extensive demonstration garden and conservation landscape techniques at the 2.25 acre property. A concept view for the entire site is shown in the rendering below:

Talbot County Master Gardeners advised Matt on his CBT grant application and will be assisting in the implementation process.

For more information about the PWEC projects in conjunction with the Master Gardener Program, contact George Yurek.

Phillips Wharf Environmental Center’s mission is to inform, inspire, and involve those who live near the Chesapeake Bay to take action by becoming good stewards of the Bay and its inhabitants. PWEC offers a variety of programs and is open to the public Thursday–Sunday, 10-4 pm. It is currently located at 21604 Chicken Point Rd. in Tilghman, MD.
Bay-Wise Rejuvenated for 2013!

The Winter is over and Spring has sprung. Master Gardener Bay-Wise Consultants are revving up for a new year of consultations and certifications for residents throughout Talbot County.

Consultants are inspired for many reasons to partake in this volunteer work that is free to the public. Some enjoy the opportunity to educate residents about gardening practices that benefit the Bay. Others feel energized when homeowners understand that native plant alternatives are not only easier to manage once established, but that they also provide beautiful landscapes and offer wildlife habitat. Some enjoy helping residents solve problems such as storm water runoff and soil erosion.

In addition to their Master Gardener training, consultants have gone through an intensive state Bay-Wise training. They will have access to additional training in several meetings planned throughout the summer. The first class to take place Wednesday, May 1 at 10am, will review the best practices for conducting a Bay-Wise consultation and certification.

By the end of April, Consultants will begin working with residents who engaged in consultations last year and expressed an interest in obtaining a Bay-Wise certification. Consultants will also be contacting a handful of residents that were not contacted last year for an initial consultation, as well as generate new leads for consultations.

The Master Gardener Bay-Wise Vision is “a healthier world through environmental stewardship”. The Mission of the group is to support the University of Maryland Extension Vision by educating Talbot County residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, Chesapeake Bay tributaries and communities.

Bay-Wise consultants take their leadership role in the community seriously. They are open to answering any questions residents have to substitute unhealthy practices with Bay-friendly practices. These practices lead to results such as a more beautiful garden capable of enduring the area’s weather swings, creating wildlife habitat, and building aquifer reserves and clean surface water.

By Lisa Marie Ghezzi and Lynn Freeburger

Bay-Wise Consultation Request
Please email lsfrebgr@verizon.net for a Bay-Wise team to come and visit you!
APRIL-JUNE VEGETABLE GARDEN:

April-
- Continue to sow lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, beets, and other salad vegetables.
- Thin seedlings of leafy greens to a few inches apart— you can eat the ones you pull.
- Plant seeds of carrots, turnips, and parsnips in deeply worked/well-drained soil.
- Start Brussels sprouts indoors, under lights, to be planted in late May.
- Start seeds of tomato plants indoors under lights— ready for transplanting in 6-8 weeks.
- **Don’t jump the gun.** Warm season crops should only be planted when night temps are above 45 degrees.
- Sow beans and corn outdoors late in the month, or early May, when soil temps above 50 degrees.
- Start squash, melon, and cucumbers indoors to be planted in 2-3 weeks. Otherwise, direct plant in late May through mid-June.
- Start herb seeds of rosemary, thyme, lavender, sage, basil, and tarragon.

May-
- Pinch blooms off tomato, pepper, and other plants before setting out in garden. This promotes root and stem growth.
- Put cardboard or plastic collar around each plant to discourage cutworms from cabbage, broccoli, and other susceptible plants.
- Weed and thin plantings, mulch with dried grass clippings, newspaper and straw, black landscape fabric, etc.
- Pick tender pea pods to continue production.
- Don’t let transplants or seedlings dry out— use drip irrigation, soaker hose, sprinkler, or handheld hose with a shower head to keep beds evenly moist.
- Plant warm-season crops (tomatoes and peppers) after frost danger is past. TIP: Mix 1/2 cup of lime with soil in planting hole to prevent blossom-end rot.
- Inspect plants daily for cucumber beetle, cabbageworms, vine borers and flea beetles. They can be discouraged by using row covers, but plants requiring cross-pollination will need the covers off when in bloom.

*Continued on page 5...
(continued from page 4…)

**June**
- Plant additional crop of beans
- Continue to water and weed—mulch new crops
- Keep an eye out for beneficial insects as well as possible infestations
- Hand pick cabbage worms or spray with Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) if necessary
- Hand pick Colorado potato beetle adults, larvae, and orange egg masses on potatoes and eggplant
- Hand pick harlequin bugs, their eggs, and Mexican bean beetles (includes yellow egg masses on underside of leaves
- Deter flea beetle infestations with row cover. Pyrethrum or neem oil are also available as organic insect control.
- Watch squash and pumpkin leaves for squash bug eggs—destroy.
- For slugs, set out tuna cans full of beer or a brew of molasses, water, and yeast. This will drown slugs.
- Pinch off tomato suckers to encourage larger, earlier fruit.

“**Having trouble planning your vegetable garden?”**
**There are resources to help!**

Try different interactive Kitchen Gardener Planner—choose from pre-planned gardens or create your own! Allows you to estimate what plants, and how many, can be included in your garden plot.

Visit:
**Garden Supply**- http://www.gardeners.com/Kitchen-Garden-Planner/kgp_home,default,pg.html

**Kitchen Gardener's International**- http://kgi.org/kitchen-garden-planner
Are You “Busy as a Bee” This Spring?

Nobody is quite as busy as a bee this time of year. Which means the bee keeper should be busy at work as well! Whether you keep bees as a hobby, for pollination purposes, or for honey production, there are important practices to maintain through the early year period.

**February-March:**
* Early inspection of hive
* Remove any dead bee colonies that died over winter
* Clean bee entrances and bee yard
* Feed colonies heavy syrup (made from sugar and water) in early February, and lighter syrups in March.

**Mid-March—Early April:**
* Try not to work in the hives unless temperatures are above 50 degrees
* Look for eggs (indication of queen present)
* Check for diseases and treat as necessary (but treat at least 15 days prior to honeyflow period)
* Installation of new bee packages
* Remove entrance reducers
* Reverse boxes as needed to give bees room to expand upward

**Late April—Early May:**
* Maintain brood rearing
* Continue to feed light syrup until end of April (this is when Black Locust starts to bloom)
* Check hives every 10 days for swarm control— queen cells are indication of swarming tendencies

**May:**
* Reverse hive bodies weekly until honey supers are added for honeyflow
* Maintain 10 day swarm inspection
* Capture wild swarms!
* Add supers as needed (once 8 out of 10 frames are filled out of the deep boxes)
* Provide ventilation by cocking lid or providing notches
* Check for diseases like European Foulbrood and Chalkbrood

The honeyflow period lasts from May to mid-June, and frames of supers should be provided as needed. Remember that the 1st year all honey belongs to the bees! They need food to survive through winter, which is a tough period. As soon as the honeyflow is done (around June 15th), Small Hive Beetle traps should be placed within the hives.

Information provided by Mike Embry of University of Maryland– Extension.
Alexander Marshal was a gentleman of independent means in 17th century England who became well known for his flower paintings, but he was also a horticulturalist and an entomologist. His circle of friends included aristocrats, artists, botanists and plant collectors. He produced one florilegium (a painted record of flowers) for his wealthy partner, John Tradescant the Younger, another famous gardener of his time. (Mr. Tradescant held the royal post Keeper of the Gardens, Vines and Silkworms at Oatland Palace near Weybridge, Surrey.) Nothing remains of this early florilegium.

However, Marshal produced a second florilegium for himself that is the basis of this book. This is perhaps the first recording of flowers still existing. Most pages of the book are made up of pictures of plants, hand-painted by Marshal. The colors are still magnificent, as you can see from the enclosed double page. The book is arranged in four seasons with 40 pages of original plates, about 120 pages of details of flowers from original plates and a 35-page introduction.

Plants were arriving in England at this time from all over the world. Some of the plants were collected in the Americas by British plant collectors. This was also the time when big country houses were built outside London with lavish gardens. The new, exotic plants were particularly sought after for these gardens.

Marshal had two rented gardens, one in Islington (greater London area) and one in Northamptonshire where he had an 18 year lease on 50 acres of land at Castle Ashby. In these gardens, Marshal grew many of the native and exotic plants that he painted in the florilegium. The florilegium was a way to record how the flowering plants looked and disseminate this knowledge.

Henry Compton was another of Marshal's important friends. When he became Bishop of London Marshal accompanied him to Fulham Palace. Compton resided there for 38 years and Marshal helped him with this important garden, parts of which survive to this day. Marshal married late in life and continued to live at Fulham Palace with his wife. He died there in the early 1780's.

Submitted by:
Lena Gill April 20, 2013
GARDEN CHORES FOR MAY AND JUNE

- Plant warm season annual plants and bulbs in early May
- Continue to divide and move perennials
- Attract beneficial insects by planting a wide variety of flowering annuals and perennials that will bloom over the entire growing season. Good choices are marigolds, daisies, asters, mums, dill, anise, yarrow, parsley and mint.
- Cut iris flower stalks to the crown when blooming is finished. Lift and divide them every 3 years in June or July to improve vigor and reduce problems from iris borers. When replanting, bury only the root end and don’t cover larger section. Don’t cover with mulch.
- Remove faded flowers of spring flowering shrubs like rhododendron, forsythia and lilacs to prevent seed formation and direct growth into flower buds for next spring. Prune to improve shape and reduce size as soon as possible after blooming is completed. Pruning after midsummer will cut off next year’s flower buds. Each year remove several of the oldest stems to maintain size and keep the plant vigorously blooming on new stems.
- Keep bird feeders and baths clean and provide fresh water regularly.
- If rabbits are a serious problem, try sprinkling commercial repellants, blood meal or hot pepper flakes around plants that are attractive to them.
- Discourage woodpeckers by draping nylon netting over small trees and loosely wrapping ¼” hardware cloth or burlap around trunks of large ones.
- Try commercial repellants to combat deer browsing. Use of deodorant soaps is sometimes effective. Grow plants which seem to be seldom eaten by deer e.g. thorny or odorous. However, a hungry deer will eat almost anything, and hostas and azalea buds are guaranteed goners. Methods to repel deer should be rotated, as deer adapt easily and are quick to recognize when a barking dog is confined.
- Keep newly planted trees and shrubs well watered during dry spells. Thoroughly soak the root ball every few days.
- In May, older leaves of hollies and magnolias till begin to yellow and drop. This does not usually signify a problem with the plant as it is a natural process of regeneration. Many pine trees also drop their older needles in May; others wait until fall.
- Thin out interior branches of boxwood to promote air circulation which helps prevent Volutella, a devastating boxwood disease.

Contributed by Joan Dickson
Insect and Disease Management for Spring

- Watch for the three major insect and mite pests of boxwood: boxwood mites produce small white spots on the leaves; boxwood psyllid cause new leaves to cup; and boxwood leaf miner produces blister and blotch mines on the leaves. Mites and psyllids can usually be controlled with horticultural oil. Leaf miner damage occurred the previous year and is generally not recognized until late summer. Consider applying a foliar absorbed insecticide in early summer if leaf miners have been detected.
- Bagworms hatch in early June. Heavy populations can defoliate entire plants and kill conifers. Handpick all you can reach and spray with Bt between June 15 and July 15.
- Tent caterpillars feed in May on wild cherry and crabapple trees. Destroy webs with a broom. Remove wild cherry trees from your property.
- Monitor dogwoods for anthracnose and roses for black spot development.
- Aphids are actively feeding in May, causing leaves to pucker, twist or curl downward. They usually can be controlled effectively by beneficial predators, but severe infestations can usually be controlled by knocking them off with a strong stream of water or with horticultural oil.
- Monitor conifers and broad leaf evergreens for spider mites by tapping a branch over a white sheet of paper. If small dots walk around, you have spider mites. Stippling and browning of leaves will occur and the leaves will eventually die. Some control can be obtained by a strong sprays of water. Use horticultural oil or insecticidal soap on high populations with emphasis on lower leaf surfaces.
- Wet weather in the spring will cause fungal leaf spot diseases to emerge. In most cases, they are not a threat to established plants, but newly planted trees and shrubs may need fungicide sprays on new growth to prevent excessive leaf loss until they become established. Prune to improve air circulation and remove all fallen infected leaves.
- Watch for powdery mildew which is a white powdery appearance caused by fungi which grows on plants when warm days are followed by cool humid nights. Registered fungicides many be needed if the infection is severe. Some horticultural oils are labeled for powdery mildew use. Prune to improve air circulation among plants.

Additional information on pests and diseases is available from the University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center. They can be reached by phone at 1-800-342-2507 on Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Primary sources for this article are Home and Garden Center publications and “Broadleaved Shrubs and Shade Trees” by Mary Kay Malinoski and David Clement.

HOME AND GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER
University of Maryland Extension
Upcoming Events and Dates 2013

**Master Gardener Annual Training Day – Wed. 5/22/13 - UMCP**
You can still register for MG Annual Training Day online until 5/15/13. ($69 rate is in effect until 4/30, $79 rate thereafter). Please make every effort to register by 5/7/13 because we will be mailing out the confirmation letters soon thereafter. After this date, we will have to process confirmations individually rather than in bulk.

[http://extension.umd.edu/mg/annual-training-day](http://extension.umd.edu/mg/annual-training-day) will have links to all workshops, speakers, MG Merchandise (Identity Items, brochures, and registration forms).

Online registration can be found at [https://webtools.moo.umd.edu/mgatd/](https://webtools.moo.umd.edu/mgatd/)

**MG Advanced Training Classes for May-June 2013**
For full detail about each class and for registration forms, go to [http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training](http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training)

**Flowering Shrubs:**
This class is being offered in 2 remaining locations:

**LOCATION #1: 4-H Center in College Park**
- **Dates:** Wednesdays, Jun 12, Jun 19, Jun 26
- **Time:** 6-9pm
- **Presenter:** Wanda MacLachlan
- **Fee:** $45

**LOCATION #2: UME Washington Co., Boonsboro**
- **Dates:** Thursdays Jun 13, Jun 20, Jun 27
- **Time:** 9:30am-12:30pm
- **Presenter:** Wanda MacLachlan
- **Fee:** $45

**Course Description:** This class will cover approximately 45 flowering shrubs. We will go over identifying characteristics, distinguish between confusing look-alikes, and discuss cultural requirements and use in the landscape. Spring flowering shrubs are among our most beautiful and interesting landscape plants: itea, kerria, crape myrtle, mahonia, spirea, viburnums and so much more. Join us!

**Landscape Design for Water Management:** (2 remaining locations)
- **Registration Fee:** $49
- **Registration Deadline:** one week before start date for each course.

Goal of the course: To increase the knowledge and capacity of Master Gardeners so that they can effectively conduct water management outreach in their communities and provide assistance to other organizations and individuals who may wish to undertake a water management project, but not have the horticultural knowledge or critical understanding required for a successful project. You’ll learn how to do site assessment, install water barrels and rain gardens, and how to advise the public on choosing conservation plants.

**Queen Anne’s Co. - Wye Rec in Queenstown:**
- Wed. 5/8, 5/15, 5/29 9:30-3:30 plus optional field trips and exercises

Please contact Mikaela Boley, Master Gardener Coordinator with any question or to volunteer to help with a program at mboley@umd.edu or 410-822-1244.
**Ecological IPM:**

**Location:** Wye Rec, Queenstown, QA County  
Thursdays June 6 and June 13, 9:30am-3:30pm  
**Presenter:** Presenter: **Mike Raupp, Ph.D.**, Professor and Extension  
Specialist, Entomology, University of Maryland  
**Reg. Fee:** $49;  
**Reg. Deadline:** 5/30

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 “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. Some topics to be highlighted:

- Role of of native plants.
- Planting to conserve diversity and attract pollinators and other beneficial insects.
- Managing water and soil resources for maximum benefit of insect populations and ecosystem function.
- Changing public perception of what constitutes a healthy attractive landscape.

This class will satisfy the Entomology requirement for the MG Plant Diagnostics certificate and will be of great help to those of you working at Ask a MG events.

**For more classes....**
Visit [http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training](http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training) for the full list of classes, locations, and registration.

---

**May 31st – Part of “River Appreciation Week” in Oxford**

**Date:** May 31st, Afternoon  
**Location:** Oxford Community Center  
Rain Gardens

As part of River Appreciation Week, Talbot Master Gardeners are hosting a gathering in Oxford to talk about rain barrels, rain gardens, and have an evening kayak. We will gather community members to focus on correctly hooking up a rain barrel, take a tour of the local rain gardens, and then provide an opportunity for a kayak ride along the shore.

---

**WANT TO HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER??**

Do you have an interesting story to share?  
Are you working on a gardening project at home or in the community?  
Do you enjoy poetry, or sharing your favorite seasonal recipe?  
These are all materials that can be included in the next newsletter— earn volunteer hours broadcasting your experiences and knowledge. Pictures, articles, or interest pieces are encouraged and welcome!

Submit materials to: mboley@umd.edu
Current Resident Or:

If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, call our University of Maryland Extension Office at 410-822-1244 or visit the Maryland Master Gardeners website at http://extension.umd.edu/mg and the Talbot County Extension website at: http://extension.umd.edu/talbot-county.

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, gender identity or expression.