April 22nd 2015—Earth Day’s 45th Anniversary

Each year, Earth Day -- April 22 -- marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970

The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda.

As a result, on the 22nd of April, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It also prompted President Bill Clinton to award Senator Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1995) -- the highest honor given to civilians in the United States -- for his role as Earth Day founder.

What can I do for Earth Day?
The possibilities for getting involved are endless! Volunteer. Go to a festival. Install solar panels on your roof. Organize an event in your community. Change a habit. Help launch a community garden. Communicate your priorities to your elected representatives. Do something nice for the Earth, have fun, meet new people, and make a difference. But you needn’t wait for April 22! Earth Day is Every Day. To build a better future, we all must commit to protect our environment year-round.

Article Source: http://www.earthday.org/
COORDINATOR’S CORNER

YES, Spring is here! Lots of upcoming events, please read this issue front to back and take part. Congratulations to the new Class of 2015 Master Gardener Interns who have officially graduated as of today! May you all give them a warm welcome and help them find their way within our awesome group of volunteers and programming. Happy digging and planting!

-Molly

A drop of water to feed the mind...

For those of you who may have missed Jared Parks birding talk at February’s monthly meeting or want to become more birdy yourself, don’t miss this coming weekends bird walk at Adkins Arboretum and Tuckahoe State Park from 8 a.m. till about noon.

This is a great time to bird Tuckahoe Creek for a wide variety of early spring migrants such as Louisiana waterthrush, prothonotary warbler, hermit thrush, blue-grey gnatcatcher, and others as well as many continuing winter visitors. It is usually very wet along the creek, but the birds don’t seem to mind. Boots will be a necessary accessory for this walk.

Register online http://www.eslc.org/event-registration/?regevent_action=register&event_id=34 or contact Carin Starr at cstarr@eslc.org or 410-827-9756 ext. 171.
Cost is $10 payable online, or the day of the walk by check or cash.

Sue Goward, her husband, and Jane Chambers at an early March bird walk with Jared. Images provided by Sue Goward

In next months issue I would like to feature all those garden buddies or rather that other shadow of yours that keep you company while you spend hours working away in your yard… I am talking about your pets! Please send me a picture of your garden buddy out in the landscape to be featured in next months issue.

Here is my sidekick, Darby. Among her own birding skills and squirrel stalking hobby; she is also a relentless expert at always dropping the tennis ball within arms reach of whatever I am doing in the garden—right in the hole I just dug, on the pike of debris I am raking, directly over the next weed I am about to pull, in the wheel barrow, and even inside the bag or bucket of potting mix I am using! Never a dull moment with her around!

Next Month:

THE WATERING CAN
**QAC MG Volunteer Opportunities**

**SPRING PLANT SALE, SATURDAY MAY 2ND, 9AM-NOON**

**Plants Needed:**
Please drop off any labeled plant donations at the QAC Extension office during office hours 8am to 4:30pm from April 27th to May 2nd (Natives, Perennials, Annuals, Vegetables, Herbs, Shrubs, Trees)

**Volunteers Needed:**
Set-up 7:30am to 9:00am
- 4 people to help set up tables and tents first thing in the morning.
- 6 workers to sort plants into designated areas (sun, shade, native, groundcover, etc)
- 4 people to price and mark containers.

Sale 9-noon
- 6 people as salespeople to stroll around and help advise customers in their choices of plants.
- 2 people to sit at Ask a Master Gardener Table & Kids activity table

Break-Down noon to 1:00pm
- 6-8 people to break down and clean up after sale.

**BLESSINGS BLENDS (CHANGE OF PICK UP)**
To be delivered to QAC Extension Office, contact Molly for your order request. Checks should be written out to Blessings Blends and bags can be picked up beginning **Monday, April 20th at the office**.

Deadline for orders, Wednesday April 15th
$6.00 for 30lb bag of compost
$7.50 for 1 cubic ft. bag of potting mix

**KENT ISLAND PLANT CLINIC**
*Sign up for May 14, June 11 from 3:30 until 6:30pm*
May 14 Grow It Eat It will be our theme
Please consider volunteering at YOUR MG table ONE day this year!
Nick Stoer 301- 219-9098  nciksroer@gmail.com
Cathy Tengwall 443-994-2523  cathy1542@gmail.com

**CENTREVILLE FARMERS MARKET PLANT CLINIC??**
Are there any interested volunteers who might want to give this another chance?
Once a month on either day of the market from April to 27th through October 30th
Wed:  3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sat:  9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Please contact Molly, mgarretl@umd.edu
What sets the Master Gardeners Plant Sale apart from nurseries or mail order catalogs, is that our stock is often the hard-to-find varieties or old fashioned favorites that have matured in the yard of a master gardener. Most likely, these plants will be planted in our same zone, so have a high chance of survival in their new gardens, winning over the hearts of our shoppers.

Below are some guidelines for you to label the plants and seedlings prior to dropping them off for sale. Proper labels on each plant will help shoppers make their decisions and provide a consistent look to our offerings. You can pick up blank labels from Molly Garett at the QAC Extension Office or at the MG monthly meeting. The labels, which are plastic mini-blind slats, can be cut to any size to fit your pots or the amount of information you include; 4-6 inches seems enough. The labels are easily written on with either a pencil or marker.

The MINIMUM amount of info we'd like you to include on the label:

- Botanical name
- Common name
- Plant type—use a letter to correspond to this code:
  - A = Annual, P = Perennial, B = Biennial, H = Herb, V = Vegetable  T = tree, S = Shrub
- Bloom color if any
- Sun requirements (full sun, part shade, shade, etc.)
- ‘Aggressive’ if needed noting

For extra credit, you may also want to include these:
Water requirements (dry, wet, medium, med-dry, etc.)
Bloom season/length
Height & spread

When in your garden over the next few weeks, keep an eye out for perennials that need dividing. If you start seeds, try to make room for an extra cell pack or flat. The MG Plant Sale is relying on all of our contributions to make the sale on Saturday, May 2, a success!
QAC MG Volunteer Opportunities

Chesapeake Home & Garden Show
Talbot County Community Center
Saturday April 18th (9am to 5pm) and Sunday April 19th (11am to 4pm)
We have two booth spaces side by side which we may share with Talbot County. We will be there to answer any plant questions similar to the plant clinic as well as display our program offerings including Bay-Wise consultation sign-up to Vegetable Gardening and Plant Sale information.
We will need 2-3 Volunteers for AM and PM shifts for both days, please email Molly if you are available and willing- mgarret1@umd.edu

Kent Island Days: Saturday May 16th 10am to 4:30pm
Volunteers needed to walk in parade around truck as well as a few to join Karen Wimsatt and Jane Chambers at booth. If it a fun filled day with the parade, children’s activities, displays, food, vendors and more. Please contact Karen (jimandkaren.wimsatt@gmail.com) or Jane (earljane@atlanticbb.net) if you are able to help.

Bay-Wise Committee
The Bay-Wise committee is getting ready to move forward with an active season. We already have seven visits to schedule as well as meeting with the group at Talisman Farms. Our March meeting was a brain-storming session which resulted in several new ideas to promote our program. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 20th, immediately after our regularly scheduled Master Gardener meeting. All are welcome to attend. Contact: Debbie Pusey debbiepusey@verizon.net

Demonstration Gardens
The calendar says it’s Spring, but Mother Nature is teasing us this year, alternating a day or two of warmth mixed with days of colder than normal weather. While our gardens may be getting a little later start this year, the daffodils are working their way up and so are a lot of other perennials.

Our first demonstration garden workday this season will be Thursday, April 16th. We’ll meet at 9am at the Centreville Library Rain Garden. We will need to trim the shrubs, especially the red-twig dogwoods, and cut back the leftover old growth of perennials that were not taken care of last fall – a general spring clean-up. We hope to be able to find some plants we can divide and pot for our plant sale in May as well. Bring your pruning tools, weeders and any extra pots you may have for the plants we can divide. We try to get as much done in 1 – 1 ½ hours as possible, so the more helping hands we have the more we can accomplish. Mark your calendars!

Fair Grounds Demonstration Garden
Volunteer(s) requested to help with a planting plan and cost estimate in which QAC will reimburse for our loss last year and then have us re-plant and maintain. Any interest in this fresh start, pollinator and native planting ideas… please contact Molly, mgarret1@umd.edu so we can coordinate a group visit to the sight.
QAC MG Volunteer Opportunities

**QACMG Youth Gardening + GIEI**

**Centreville Middle School Earth Day Celebration**
—Natives in my Backyard:
What are Natives? Why should we use them? How can I use them in my garden?

Friday, April 17th 9am to 3:10pm
Volunteers interested in giving one or more short presentations on native plants and/or the Bay-Wise program throughout the day to small groups of 20-25 students, please let me know! mgarret1@umd.edu

**Kent Island Library Youth Summer Gardening Series**
—Be a Garden Hero for grades K-5

Wednesday, June 10th 4:30pm
**Composting: Let it Rot and Make it Grow!**

Wednesday, June 10th 4:00pm
**Basic Vegetable Gardening: Grow It, Eat It**

Wednesday, July 8th 4:00pm
**Bees & Butterflies: Gardening for Pollinators**

Wednesday, July 15th 4:00pm
**Natives in My Backyard: Gardening for the Ecosystem**

Volunteers interested in helping with any of these class presentations and hands on demonstrations with the kids, please let me know! mgarret1@umd.edu

**Join the Committee**
Interested in learning or becoming more involved with vegetable and herb gardening? Interested in offering your knowledge with our next generation of gardeners and ecologists? Interested in community gardening?

Come meet with us! The second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the QAC Extension Office conference room. All are encouraged to share your time or ideas for current and future events!

Next Meeting: May 13th
RESCHEDULED!
Food Gardening Fun ~ For Pollinators to People

**Speaker:** Laura Sanford, Land Protection Specialist, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
April 10, 10am, Kent Co. Public Library, 408 High Street, Chestertown

**MG Annual Training Day 2015**
**June 4th, College Park**

Cost: $74 until May 7, $84 from May 7-15

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. William Woys Weaver- The Kitchen Garden for Culinary and Cultural Research: The Roughwood Seed Collection and Baker Creek Alliance. [www.extension.umd.edu/mg](http://www.extension.umd.edu/mg)

**Bus to MG Training Day?**
Please contact Molly if you are interested to begin head count for cost/size of bus or vehicle as well as to determine pick-up location. This is open to MG’s from the surrounding Eastern Shore counties as well!

**Advanced MG Training—Spring 2015**
April 17: Organizing a Native Plant Rescue
May 6 or May 8: Wild Native Beans and Peas
May 27th: Ornamental Plant Diseases
For more information and to register: [http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training](http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training)

**Grow100 is Back!**
Just for fun - Unlike last year, this year's Grow100 is not a contest. We just want to create some conversation about gardening and inspire people!

Participating has been simplified: ONE entry at the end of your growing season. The submission form will be open from **August 1st through October 15th**. You can submit at any time - whenever your garden is done and you have compiled your photos and summary.

(Optional) **Sign up for our Grow100 email list:** We will periodically send out Grow100 info and ideas, plus reminders to send in your entry.
QAC MGs Report!

TALISMAN THERAPEUTIC RIDING/MASTER GARDENER PARTNERSHIP

We are off to a great start at Talisman Farm this year. After our first well attended meeting in early March, we developed a plan for Master Gardeners to partner with TTR to plant a garden and take first steps to use it as a part of the therapeutic program for the riders.

Deanne Horowitz and Gerry Phillips built a beautiful garden table to use in the hoop house to start plants for the garden and for other instructional uses. Two very hardy souls, Laura Klinger and Margaret Gardner, worked with TTR staff and riders from Benedictine School on a cold, rainy day to start plants for the spring garden.

Veterans and volunteers will prepare the garden and build a new raised bed for strawberries and asparagus. They will email a request for volunteer help, as needed. We hope to plant the spring garden by April 1st and the summer garden around Mother’s Day. Any donations of seeds or plants would be greatly appreciated. Contact Laura Klinger, Nancy O’Connor or Jane Smith to make donations.

Anne Joyner is working with her staff to add a horticultural component to the therapeutic program of all riders in her program. Genie Fitzgerald and I have provided resources and activities to use with children. If anyone is interested in getting involved with planning or implementing horticultural activities on your own schedule, please contact Anne Joyner at Anne@talismantherapeuticriding.org.

TTR is a full time, seven day a week program so there is always a way to volunteer that suits your schedule. Let Sue Goward at sg@atlanticbb.net know if you want to be included in our email distribution for the TTR committee. Your hours working in the garden or in therapeutic horticulture can be counted as Master Gardener volunteer hours and as TTR volunteer hours. Thank you to a great group of volunteers who are making a difference for so many in a very worthwhile program.

-Jane Smith

SEED SWAP A SUCCESS!
The seed swap at the Kent County Library was a big success! In fact, it was so successful that we have renamed it the “First Annual Seed Exchange”. We will most certainly do this again next year. Thank you to the following Master Gardeners for helping out: Barbara Flook, Carolyn Grotsky, Karen Iplenski, Laura Klinger, Alice Macnow, Pam McClean, Susan McRae, Connie Metcalf and Nancy O’Connor.

-Sabine Harvey
On March 14th, 2015, I attended a Master Gardeners Event in York, Pennsylvania with over 300 registrants. I particularly enjoyed the presentations by Dr. Elaine Ingham on a “Healthy Food Web”. This was my first introduction to her concepts. She advocates organic gardening by promoting a healthy food web, not using “dirt” with commercial chemicals, but a soil with a better balance between the plants, animals and microbes that will:

1) suppress disease (almost eliminate competition, pesticide use, etc)
2) retain nutrients (stop runoff, leaching)
3) keep nutrients available at rates plants require (eliminate fertilizer)
4) decompose toxins
5) build soil structure (increase rooting depth, water holding capacity).

This is possible in part because all the inorganic nutrients (compounds in the soil) are already there in plentiful quantities, but it is the biological activity of all the living creatures, great and small, that make them available to the plants. One method to more quickly enhance this activity in poor soils is to take compost that is in its most optimum state with an abundance of bacteria and fungi in the right proportions for the type of plants or soils one has, and make a liquid compost extract (LCE). Spraying compost extract on soil and plants that is quite barren can transform it in a matter of weeks. Dr. Ingham shared how her team transformed the Bush Library Landscape from what was essentially a parking lot, (big rigs had been parked on it, compacting it for years) into a thriving native prairie in the course of one year. One recipe called for 2 pounds of compost in a meshed bag, add 4 gallons of water, mix for a few minutes and then spray on the garden or lawn. It was interesting to me that even a smallish amount of great compost can be used as a starter to generate quite a large quantity of great soil amendment solution very inexpensively. By using compost extract you eliminate the need for fertilizer, water, etc., simply because the plants develop root systems that are much deeper than what most of our plants have and have no problems taking in the nutrients and finding water. So we end up feeding the plant hosts, from the tiniest of things, to the largest, bacteria, fungi, nematodes, worms, beetles, rodents, etc. and set things in the proper balance. Using compost extract will allow you to cover a greater area with the compost you have made as well as make its nutrients more immediately bio available to your plants and soil.

**Outside the Garden Gate...**

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**Adkins Arboretum Programs & Events Calendar**  
https://adkinsarboretum.org.presencehost.net/programs_events/event_calendar.html

**Ladew Topiary Gardens Lectures and Events**  
http://www.ladewgardens.com/EVENTCALENDAR.aspx  
For more information and to register, call (410) 557-9570

**Longwood Spring Blooms**  
April 4th until May 31st  
http://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/exhibits  
For more information, call (610) 388-1000

**Mt. Cuba Center Classes & Lectures**  
http://www.mtcubacenter.org/education/continuing-education/

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**CELEBRATING NATIVES: A GARDEN TOUR OF TALBOT COUNTY**

On Saturday, May 9, 2015, Adkins Arboretum will sponsor “**Celebrating Natives: A Garden Tour of Talbot County.**” The tour will take place from 10am to 4pm. Ticket price will most likely be set at $20 in advance and $25 or $30 at the door.

There are seven gardens on the tour in the Easton, St. Michaels, and Tilghman areas. Volunteers will be in the gardens helping to direct visitors and answer questions about the plants and practices. There will be a morning and afternoon shift for volunteers – 10 to 1 and 1 to 4. Volunteers will be assigned to one shift and will be able to visit the rest of the gardens, for free, during the other shift.

Volunteers will receive information about, and have an opportunity to visit, gardens ahead of time, to learn which features to highlight and what questions can be anticipated.

If you would like to volunteer for the garden tour, please contact Talbot County Master Gardener/Adkins Arboretum docent Mary Jo Kubeluis, at kubeluis@atlanticbb.net.

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**2015 QACMG Meetings— Held the Third Wednesday of each Month**

April 15th, May 20th @Tilghman Terrace  
9:30am to 11:30am

If anyone would like to sign-up as hostess for any of these dates, please contact Molly at mgarretl@umd.edu or 410-758-0166.
# APRIL 2015

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<td>15 Monthly MG Meeting, 9:30 Tilghman Terrace</td>
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<td>18 Earth Day Event, C’town. Home and Garden Show</td>
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# MAY 2015

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April Newsletter Deadline:  
April 24, 2015

University of Maryland Extension  
505 Railroad Avenue, Suite 4  
Centreville MD, 21617  
Phone: (410) 758-0166  
Fax: (410) 758-3687  
http://extension.umd.edu/queen-annes-county/about

QACMG Website:  
http://extension.umd.edu/queen-annes-county/home-gardening

Master Gardener Coordinator,  
Queen Anne’s County

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Vision Statement: A healthier world through environmental stewardship