POINSETTIA FACTS

- Poinsettias are part of the Euphorbiaceae or Spurge family. Botanically, the plant is known as Euphorbia pulcherrima.
- The showy colored parts of poinsettias that most people think of as the flowers are actually colored bracts (modified leaves). The yellow flowers, or cyathia, are in the center of the colorful bracts. The plant drops its bracts and leaves soon after those flowers shed their pollen. For the longest-lasting Poinsettias, choose plants with little or no yellow pollen showing.
- Joel Roberts Poinsett introduced the poinsettia plant to the United States from Mexico. Poinsett was a botanist, physician and the first United States Ambassador to Mexico.
- In Mexico the poinsettia is a perennial shrub that will grow 10-15 feet tall.
- There are more than 100 varieties of poinsettias available today. Poinsettias come in colors like the traditional red, white, pink, burgundy, marbled and speckled.
- The Paul Ecke Ranch in California grows over 70% of all Poinsettias purchased in the United States and does about 50% of the world-wide sales of Poinsettias.
- Poinsettias contribute over $250 million to the U.S. economy at the retail level.
- Poinsettias are the best selling potted plant in the United States and Canada.
- Poinsettias are the most popular Christmas plant. Most Poinsettias are sold within a six-week period leading up to that holiday, representing some $60 million worth.
- It is estimated that women account for 80% of Poinsettia sales.
- The most common question people have about Poinsettias is how to get them to rebloom in successive years.
- December 12th is Poinsettia Day, which marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett in 1851.

Source: http://urbanext.illinois.edu/pumpkins/facts.cfm
Coordinator’s Corner

Time Sheets—Please submit time sheets if you have not already done so or have a few more hours to add. I am continuing the process of approving and entering hours still and would graciously accept more. Please email, post mail, or bring them by the office before December 19th.

Talisman Birdhouses—Our group of MGs at Talisman Therapeutic Riding are in need of more Bird Houses for the “Over the Top No Self Respecting Bird would live here Tree!” This visual/ornamental element in the landscape brought joy and a smile to everyone who saw the tree, students and faculty alike. We now need more bird houses for a new tree, which will be around the Veterans cottage. If you have any bird houses you would like to donate, please bring them to the Holiday Luncheon at Prospect Bay or drop it off anytime at the Centreville office.

Youth Programming—Starting in January of 2015 we will begin working with youth groups at the Kent Island Library and Sudlersville Middle School. We will be teaching a variety of topics from Bay-Wise practices to vegetable gardening and many in between. If you are interested in working or assisting with the youth programming at either of these locations, please contact Molly mgarret1@umd.edu, 410-758-0166 for more information.

Many Thanks,
Molly

A drop of water to feed the mind...

People to know Places to see Words to read

Gardenista Editors’ Favorite Gardening Books

Onward and Upward in the Garden by Katharine White
Natural Companions by Ken Druse
Green Thoughts: A Writer in the Garden by Eleanor Perenyi
Bringing Nature Home by Ngoc Minh Ngo
Natural Garden Style by Noel Kingsbury
Garden Anywhere by Alys Fowler
Garden People by Ursula Buchan
The Essential Earthman by Henry Mitchell
Petal and Twig by Valerie Easton
A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants by American Horticulture Society

http://www.gardenista.com/posts/10-easy-pieces-editors-favorite-gardening-books

Links to Know

University of Maryland Extension Home & Garden Information Center
1-800-342-2507
http://www.extension.umd.edu/hgic
They answer gardening and pest questions!
Specialists available Monday through Friday, 8am to 1pm

University of Maryland Extension Sea Grant Extension Watershed Educators
http://www.extension.umd.edu/watershed
QAC MG Holiday Lunch

Happy Holidays 2014

Queen Anne’s County Master Gardener Recognition Luncheon

Wednesday, December 17th
Social hour 11:30am - 12:30pm
Lunch served at 12:30pm
Presentations to follow

Prospect Bay Country Club House
311A Prospect Bay Drive West
Grasonville, MD 21638

Menu
Chicken Capri
Vegetable medley and roasted potatoes
Dinner rolls with butter
Mixed berry truffle

Coffee & water will be provided
Other beverages available for purchase

*Anyone with specific dietary limitations or requests should contact Molly Garrett at the time of your RSVP

Cost $24 per person
Please make checks payable to QACEAC

RSVP by Thursday, December 16th

Please mail or bring check to the Centreville office by December 11th to reserve your seat
Demonstration Gardens
September and October found us at the Centreville Library Rain Garden again with a great group of MG’s to help us get started on our fall and winter preparations for this bed.Normally, the edge of the bed facing the parking lot is filled in with weeds and we start there to give a good first impression. This month, to our surprise, the weeds were very few in this area. We were able to start deadheading and pruning some of the larger perennials and shrubs. The county provided us with a cart for disposal of the debris which was quickly filled. The county has promised to mulch around the edges and anywhere it’s needed. They will also clean out the dry river bed and move the stones away from the outfall pipe.

Many thanks to Margaret Gardner, Judy Geggis, Liz Hammond, Cheryl Huyck, Jackie Kelly, Laura Klinger, Susan Seth and Louise Shearer for helping out this month. Many hands really did help us to accomplish much more than usual.

Hope to see you next year!- Debbie Pusey

Kent Island Plant Clinic
Thanks to Nick Stoer for staffing the KI market table in November. Looking ahead to next year, once again I am hoping that various committees sign up for one of the months to showcase their expertise….I especially need help during the summer months when we have to set up the tent and table outside.

Karen Wimsatt

We have moved!
John Ittu has moved to North Carolina, but sends his encouragement and continued support for the QAC Master Gardener program!

Stephanie Simpson has moved up to Plymouth County, Massachusetts for her husbands new job. She sends best wishes and happy gardening to everyone in the new year!

Jack and Linda Doub have continued on with their adventures to the west, however their new home base location will now be Millsboro, Delaware. I am sure we will see them around as they are hopeful to stay in the QAC Master Gardener family!
From the Victory Garden

We had a good year in the Victory garden at Kent County Middle School. First and foremost I must thank the following people (both MGs and friends) for their faithful support all summer long: Joy Eliassen, Barb Flook, Connie Metcalf, Vida Morley. Boy, what a difference a few extra hands makes!

The students had planted a large variety of vegetables and we continued to harvest all season long. Although it was the Year of the Cucurbits, I must admit, we have failed somewhat in that department. The watermelons grew beautifully, but the cucumbers and summer squash, including the much praised Trombocino, that was a different story. Between the squash vine borers, the squash bugs, powdery mildew and downy mildew, they simply performed miserably. Something tells me that a school garden simply is not a good spot for a vegetable that kind of needs constant attention.

We made some major improvements in the garden. Apart from the outdoor classroom that was built last fall, this year we added professional drip irrigation! Both students from KCMS as well as Master Gardeners who came for an advanced MG training got hands-on experience installing drip irrigation. It seemed daunting at first, but it really was not that difficult at all. If you are curious to see how it works, just come on over to the garden!

For next year, especially during the summer, it is my goal to use the Victory Garden for demonstration purposes and for some “educational events”. I would most certainly like to organize a tomato tasting event in the middle of August. If you have any other ideas or request, just let me know.

Sabine Harvey, Horticulture Program Assistant sharvey1@umd.edu
GROW IT EAT IT 2015: YEAR OF THE LEGUMES

Year of the what? Another one of those difficult words, just like cucurbits. Legumes are beans, peas, lentils, anything that can be harvested as a nice pod! These vegetables will be so much easier to grow than squashes. Not only are they easier to grow, but they will also be very good for the soil in your gardens. The reason is that plants in the legume family “fix” nitrogen. The nitrogen gets stored in nodules on the roots. This nitrogen will be available to plants that will grow there in the future. In order to receive this benefit, you do need to CUT the plants once they are done, rather than pull them.

STATE-WIDE GROW-IT-EAT-IT MEETING

Master Gardener from all over the state will meet on Tuesday, December 9th from 10am—1pm.

These are some of the agenda items:
- Guest speaker: Dr. Rufus Chaney, Research Agronomist and Soil Lead Expert; USDA
- County/city updates
- Meet our new Advanced Training Coordinator
- 2015- Year of Beans and Peas
- GROW 100 update
- Donations to food banks and pantries 2015 training needs
- Initiatives to reach and teach underserved residents

The meeting will be held at the Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740

Next Advanced Bay-wise Training

Saturdays- May 23 & 30, 2015 9:30am to 3:30pm
Maryland 4-H Center, 8020 Greenmead Drive, College Park, MD 20740
Fee $50.00 To register contact Ester Mitchell estherm@umd.edu

ANNUAL MASTER GARDENER TRAINING DAY

Please mark you calendars for the 2015 Annual Master Gardener Training Day: Thursday, June 4, 2015

Information about all MG Advanced Training Classes can be found at: http://extension.umd.edu/mg/advanced-training
Outside the Garden Gate...

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

Ladew Topiary Gardens Christmas Dreams  
Friday thru Sunday December 12-14th 2014  
For more information and to register, call (410) 557-9570

Longwood Christmas  
November 27th until January 11, 2015  
http://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/exhibits  
For more information, call (610) 388-1000

Mt. Cuba Center Fall and Winter Events  
http://www.mtcubacenter.org/calendar/

FIELD TRIP TO LONGWOOD GARDENS

On Wednesday, November 19th, a group of Master Gardeners took a trip to Longwood Gardens to admire more than 80,000 chrysanthemum blooms inside the 4-acre Conservatory.  

Among the displays a docent explained how Longwood created the thousand-bloom chrysanthemum as well as a hundred cultivar grafted chrysanthemum. Here are just a few snapshots of that chilly on the outside, yet simply stunning day from inside the Conservatory.

The Festival ended November 22nd in which all the blooms were composted to make way for the Longwood Christmas bird-inspired display that runs through January 11th followed by the Orchid Extravaganza that goes from January 24th to March 29th. Well worth the trip for children and adults of all ages!

---

Thousand-bloom Chrysanthemum  
Main Conservatory  
Hundred Cultivar Grafted Chrysanthemum
Are you interested in the Grow-It-Eat-It program? Perhaps you would like to:
- help out in a demonstration garden
- provide programs for adults or youths
- write for the GIEI Blog
- organize an event
- ?

If any of this sounds interesting to you, please come to a brainstorming meeting on **Wednesday, December 10th** at the Kent County Extension Office. The office is located on Rt. 291, 709 Morgnec Road in Chestertown.

For more information, please contact Sabine Harvey, sharvey1@umd.edu or 410-778-1661.
# DECEMBER 2014

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January Newsletter Deadline:
December 18, 2014

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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Queen Anne’s County
505 Railroad Ave.
Suite 4
Centreville, MD 21617

Vision Statement: A healthier world through environmental stewardship