February Garden To-Do List...

- When you see the first crocus open, consider it time to set out transplants of lettuce, cabbages, and onions; cover them on cold nights.
- In the garden, sow seeds of radishes and cold-hardy lettuces.
- When daffodils "pop," plant seeds of spinach, turnips, and peas. Cover the pea bed with clear plastic until sprouts begin to emerge; then, immediately switch to a floating row cover to protect the seedlings from weather and birds.
- Start herb seeds indoors under lights. Also indoors, start seeds of annual flowers such as ageratum, petunia, and snapdragons that need 8 to 10 weeks to reach transplant size.

Source: www.organicgardening.com

To help get your seeds started, why not make your own grow table for under $50—DIY PVC Table-top Light Stand
Visit the Grow It, Eat It link below for complete directions!
**COORDINATOR’S CORNER**

**HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY** for many gardeners is also a good date to officially start your Countdown to **Spring... 35 days away**! If you have not already done so, it is definitely time to start planning for and planting those seeds as well as getting your tools and supplies ready for clean-up over the next month.

**Welcome Intern Class of 2015!** Yesterday, twelve new Interns from our own QA, Kent, and Anne Arundel Counties took on their first class of Basic Training alongside eleven new Interns from Talbot, Dorchester, and Caroline Counties. With this many on board, I am still in need of a few more Interns. Please consider volunteering your time and helping them become more familiar with their new role as Master Gardeners.

**2015 Online Hours:** With the 2014 hours completed, you may now login and start entering your hours for 2015. I will be updating site codes and discussing a few requests on activity descriptions at our next meeting this month. If you have any questions or recommendations please feel free to ask.

*A drop of water to feed the mind...*

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<th>People to know</th>
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<td><strong>Euell Gibbons</strong>— Author, outdoorsman/naturalist, and proponent of natural diets; devoted a considerable part of his life to the adventure of “living off the land.” He sought out wild plants all over North America and made them into delicious dishes. His books are full of recipes, tips, and identification drawings for bringing the wild nature to your kitchen table!</td>
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| “Stalking the Wild Asparagus”  
“Stalking the Healthful Herbs”  
“Stalking the Blue-eyed Scallop”  
“Euell Gibbons’ Handbook of Wild Edible Plants” |

**Links to Know**

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION**  
HOME & GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER  
http://www.extension.umd.edu/hgic  
They answer gardening and pest questions!

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION**  
SEA GRANT EXTENSION WATERSHED EDUCATORS  
http://www.extension.umd.edu/watershed
Bay-Wise Committee
Submitted by Debbie Pusey
Our last meeting, on January 21, was very well-attended by more than 15 MG’s – a great start to the new year!

At the meeting, we updated our information folders, we compiled a list of homeowners who signed up for Bay-Wise certification visits and we choose our area leaders.

Our main focus this meeting was to discuss different ways in which we can promote the Bay-Wise program. We would like to establish a working arrangement with the Chester River Association, the Corsica River Conservancy and the QAC Department of Public Works to promote ideas that we have in common. In addition, we will participate in the following:
- Display at the Kent Island Library in March.
- The KI Farmers’ Market
- Kent Island Days
- Press releases

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 18, 2015 immediately following our regular monthly MG meeting. All are welcome to attend!
We are hoping that the weather then will allow us to start planning visits for consultation and certification. In the meantime, stay safe and warm and enjoy perusing all the garden catalogs!

Kent Island Plant Clinic
Sign up for March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11
Thank you to Cathy Tengwall and Nick Stoer who have stepped up to take over the Kent Island Market. They will need one or two others and volunteers on an occasional basis to help them with planning, manning the booth at the market, choosing/making handouts and displays. Please consider this opportunity to get our message out on Kent Island. Cathy’s phone is 443 994-2523, Nick’s is 301 219-9098.

We hold our plant clinic every 2nd Thursday from 3:30-6:30pm. If you are a Committee Chair, please use the Kent Island Market as an opportunity to showcase your program. Perhaps you have some special interest or maybe you have been running some interesting experiments in your yard. The market is a good place to share your knowledge!

Display at Kent Island Library
The Master Gardeners will be decorating the display cases at the Kent Island Library in March. We could use displays about Bay Wise, GIEI, Storm Water Management, plant clinics or general info about the Master Gardener Program. The display goes up on Monday March 2. Please contact Karen Wimsatt for more information, jimandkaren.wimsatt@gmail.com
Educational and Volunteer Opportunities

Kent Horticulture Lecture Series

**Kent Co. Public Library, 408 High Street, Chestertown**
Friday mornings, 10—11:30am

- **March 6**
  - “Food Gardening Fun ~ For Pollinators to People”
    - Laura Sanford, Land Protection Specialist, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

- **March 13**
  - “Straw Bale Gardening”
    - Master Gardeners of UME Q.A.’s/Kent Co., Presentation on straw bale gardening followed by a panel discussion.

- **March 20**
  - “Simply Orchids”
    - Roger Cole, Owner/Operator Arbee Orchids, Queen Anne’s MD

- **March 27**
  - “How To Save Seeds From Your Favorite Plants”
    - Sabine Harvey, University of MD Extension Kent County, Program Assistant

**SEED SWAP AT THE LIBRARY IN CHESTERTOWN—MARCH 7**

Do you always end up with too many seeds? Let’s face it, who has room for 400 carrots or 50 tomato plants of one variety. Here is your change to share your left overs with others and maybe pick up a few new seeds in return!

We are holding a seed swap at the library in Chestertown. Please consider helping out with this event (either in advance or on the day itself).

**Date: March 7, 11am-1pm**

You do not need to bring seeds in order to receive seeds
Contact Sabine Harvey if you would like to help, greenbien@hotmail.com

**2015 STATE WIDE GIEI MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, February 24, Howard County
- Wednesday, September 9, Anne Arundel County
- Tuesday, December 8, TBA

*All meetings are from 10am-1pm*
Not Too Late!

By Denise Malueg

Yep, I am later than usual, later than I wanted to be, but not later than I ever have been.... I am talking about planting spring bulbs. As long as the weather is warm enough to be outside, and the ground is workable, go ahead and get those bulbs in the ground! If you don’t have time right, dig a trench and pile the whole lot in, to redistribute in spring when they start blooming.

Well into the fall, I thought that the weather was too warm and too wet. That’s why I kept delaying planting the 1000 bulbs I ordered. Then “the holidays” arrived, and I was swamped with the usual fixin’s, trimmings, and wrappings. Before I knew it, January was here.

My husband & fellow MG intern, Dave Kyger, and I envision drifts and rivers of colors naturalizing in our struggling front lawn. Several 100-year-old oaks slurp up any moisture and shade everything that tries to grow below, except moss. We plan to let the moss and the trees win the war. However, in the spring, before the trees leaf out, we picture head-turning beds of bulbs like the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland. The display should start in February with a whisper of diminutive, nodding white Galanthus. Those should be followed by some short, yet robust Crocuses and a trumpeting explosion of 200 multi-stemmed Narcissus.

Finally a river of blue Camassias will flow in June.

I finally managed to get outside on some nice days in January. I prefer to dig all the holes first, resting the little plug of soil near the hole. Then I load them with bulbs and I put the soil back in the holes at the end of the day. I like to see the full picture of what goes where. Sure, I try to capture each hole on graph paper, but that goes by the wayside pretty quickly.

My tool of choice is the step-on, tall bulb planter (see photo). This planter allows you to remain upright most of the time, although there is a lot of bending involved to remove each plug of soil. I have found that it’s also easier on your palm and wrist than the standard shortie bulb planter. We do have the gizmo that attaches to an electric drill, for digging bulb holes. I may need to revisit that equipment to judge it fairly, but the time I used it, soil spewed in all directions for 25’. However, that was after a drought summer and the soil was as hard as concrete. The other tool that came in handy yesterday, was Dave’s headlamp! Yep, it was after sundown when I was still padding the soil plugs back into their holes, and that extra bit of light really made the job easier.

This year, relying on what I’ve read in magazines or seen on BBC garden shows, I opted not to add any nutrients to the holes – promising myself that we’ll top dress the bulbs later in spring. I’ve still got a lot more bulbs to plant – many are slated for pots (bulb lasagne, they call it!). And today it is snowing. I got those bulbs in just in time! Did you?
MY VIEW FROM THE COUCH – TV GARDENING

by Denise Malueg

Oh, the weather outside may be frightful, but don't despair - you can still get your garden fix from the couch! I discovered that YouTube has more than just videos of kittens – it's also got gardening programs produced in the U.K. Once you start surfing YouTube, you'll find many shows, but let me suggest a few to head you in a good direction.

WEEKLY SERIES

**Gardener’s World**: presented by Monty Don, organic methods, laid back style, golden retriever Nigel usually lends a paw in their own home garden, with a team of other garden experts presenting segments from various locations. New season starts in early March. This program is decades old, so it’s great to look up previous episodes with other presenters.

**Beechgrove Garden**: presented by a team based in Scotland (accents can be a little tricky), with lots of great advice and comparison gardening (testing growing methods and plant varieties). Mostly organic. New season begins early April, so watch old episodes until then.

**Love Your Garden**: Alan Titchmarsh, long-time TV personality and gardening expert. This series has evolved over the years from simple “how-to” in people’s own gardens to a full-out transformation a la “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” of a garden for a viewer in need. Sometimes a tear-jerker.

**Glorious Gardens from Above**: horticulturalist host Christine Walkden drops in on grand estates throughout the U.K. in a hot air balloon! Not so much hands-on gardening as touring and history of each region. Series began in Nov 2014.

**The Big Allotment Challenge**: contorting gardening to a competition in which gardeners are weeded out weekly through challenges based on their growing, flower arranging and cooking skills using products from their allotment. It’s much better than I thought it would be!

**A Year at Kew**: narrated by Alan Titchmarsh, each program follows a few projects at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. Meet the gardeners and crew and see what is involved in running a 300-acre botanic garden with a centuries-old history. Not so much how-to, but very interesting. 2004-2007

SPECIALS & MINI-SERIES

**The Great British Garden Revival**: January kicked off the second series of this terrific hour-long program that highlights two themes of a plant or garden style that may have fallen out of fashion but is worth another look. Topics include stumperies, irises, knot gardens, kitchen gardens, climbers, roses, conifers, bogs and more. Binge watch the first series and catch up with the second this weekend!

**Big Dreams – Small Spaces**: last fall, in five episodes, Monty Don shared the struggles of everyday gardeners trying to make their small gardens into their dream spaces. Can you relate?

**Around the World in 80 Gardens**: Monty Don globetrots to exotic locales, including one on the Eastern Shore in the episode featuring the US. Aired in 2008,

**Britain’s Gardening Heroes**: produced around 2005, featuring a handful of today’s most influential gardeners: Christopher Lloyd, Beth Chatto (right plant in the right place), John Sales (restored 168 gardens), John Brookes (gardens as an extension of the home), Joy Larkcom (veg growing for everyone, all year round), Jackie & Alan Gear (organic gardening), Roy Lancaster (plant hunter).

Pop some corn, silence your phone, snuggle up on the couch and enjoy the show!
Outside the Garden Gate...

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 Orchid Extravaganza
January 24, 2015 until March 28th
http://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/exhibits
For more information, call (610) 388-1000

Mt. Cuba Center Winter Classes & Lectures

Garden Wise 2015
York County Master Gardeners Annual Conference
The 2015 GardenWise event is scheduled for March 14th at the Central York Middle School in York. Featured speakers:
• Dr. Elaine Ingham: The Soil Food Web
• Jim McCormac, Ohio Fish and Wildlife: Milkweeds, Monarchs and more
• Scott Weidensaul, author and naturalist: The Miracle of Bird Migration
Morning and afternoon breakout sessions

Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show
Submitted by Nick Stoer
On January 15 I enjoyed a full day of learning at the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) in the Baltimore Convention Center. More than 3,000 exhibitor personnel staffed booths with information about trees, flowers, grasses, fountains, ground covers, garden and nursery equipment, fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides. I encountered dozens of other MD Master Gardeners, either as visitors or as staff at a particular booth.

My feeling about the show was that it was very “Bay Wise”. Several dozen vendors had booth displays and handout materials that emphasized native plants, storm water management, integrated pest management (IPM) and many other themes consistent with what Master Gardeners teach. I picked up a lot of material that I will be able to incorporate in our MG presentation to the QAC Garden Club on April 14 at the Prospect Bay Country Club. The topic is “Foundation Plants for Wet Areas”.

The show runs for three days every January and is open to the public.
STATE-WIDE PLANT CLINIC MEETING—RESCHEDULED
Get your Ask a MG program off to a great start by joining us for this state-wide MG meeting:
Date: Tuesday, March 10
Time: 10am-1pm
Place: Howard County Extension office (free parking); http://extension.umd.edu/howard-county
Light refreshments will be served.

Some agenda items (please send additional items to Jon)
• Ornamental Insect Pest and Disease Update - Dave Clement, Ph.D. and Mary Kay Malinoski
• Vegetable and Fruit Update and IPM Resources - Jon Traunfeld
• New Home Horticulture IPM Action Team and MG training needs - Steve Allgeier
• Reports from county/city MG programs
• Recording contacts at plant clinics - What is a “teaching event?”
Rsvp to jont@umd.edu.

2015 QACMG Meetings— Held the Third Wednesday of each Month
February 18th, March 18th, 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 mgarret1@umd.edu or 410-758-0166.

ANNUAL MASTER GARDENER TRAINING DAY
Please mark you calendars for the 2015 Annual Master Gardener Training Day:
Thursday, June 4, 2015

FIND MG’S ON FACEBOOK!
Queen Anne’s County Master Gardeners
School and Community Gardens in Kent County
UMD: Home and Garden Information Center
UME: Grow It Eat It
### FEBRUARY 2015

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March Newsletter Deadline: February 23, 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