May Apple, American Mandrake
*Podophyllum peltatum*

**In Full Bloom:** A perennial native herb found in Eastern North America to Southern Maine to Florida, west to Texas and Minnesota. This plant grows 1–1½ feet tall, some unbranched with a single leaf on a long stalk, others produce two leaves. Stalks light green, round, hairless. Leaves, umbrella-like, to one foot long and across; palmately lobed, 5-9 lobes per leaf, deeply divided, hairless.

The best places to look for May apple plants are moist, open woods and the edges of boggy meadows. Keep your eyes open for a cluster of greenery, rather than lone specimens. These pictures were taken just recently along the trails at Adkins Arboretum.

In June or early July, the attractive blossom gives way to a smooth, fleshy "berry" the size and shape of a small lemon. The little globe is at first green, but — within a matter of weeks — ripens to a distinct yellow. Strangely enough, the plant’s foliage dies off at about the same time so that, come apple-hunting season (mid-July or August) often only the dry, bare stems and the fruit remain. Which, incidentally, is why it's a good idea to "scout out" and actually map May apple patches in the early spring, when the distinctive green leaves make positive identification easy.

The fully ripe fruit is eaten raw, cooked or made into jams, jellies, marmalades, and pies. It is very aromatic, and has a sweet, peculiar but agreeable flavor. May Apple seeds and rind are not edible, said to be poisonous. The root and plant contain valuable constituents that are being studied for their healing, anticancer and other properties.

**Sources:**
http://www.motherearthnews.com/real-food/may-apple-zmaz77jazgoe.aspx?PageId=1
http://www.atlnature.com/gallery/mandrake.htm
COORDINATOR’S CORNER

Huge THANK YOU to all those that came out and supported our efforts for your 2015 Spring Plant Sale, Saturday May 2nd! We couldn’t ask for a better day of weather and with a wider variety and increased number of plants offered we surpassed last years profit both in number and outreach within our community. Well done QA MGs!

A drop of water to feed the mind...

People to know  Places to see  Words to read

For those planning summer vacations and looking to do a bit of exploring or touring, one resource to consider is the Cultural Landscape Foundation: www.tclf.org

What are Cultural Landscapes?

- Provide a sense of place and identity; they map our relationship with the land over time; and they are part of our national heritage and each of our lives.
- They are sites associated with a significant event, activity, person or group of people.
- They range in size from thousands of acres of rural land to historic homesteads.
- They can be grand estates, farmlands, public gardens and parks, college campuses, cemeteries, scenic highways, and industrial sites.
- They are works of art, narratives of cultures, and expressions of regional identity.

There are four types of Cultural Landscapes: Designed Landscape, Vernacular Landscape, Historic Site, and Ethnographic Landscape—Have you checked any off your list of sites to see?

Karen Wimsatt bought a new lawn chair for her yard and well it looks like the cat might be enjoying it a bit more than Karen herself! Moral support or just the cats way of keeping Karen busy working away in the yard rather than sitting, you decide!

Garden Friends:

Anyone else capture their pet out in the yard keeping them company?
Send me your favorite shot!
Demonstration Gardens—Mystery in the Rain Garden

Every year when we first come out to the Centreville Library Rain Garden, we wonder what we are going to find. Will this plant be back or will another one shove it out and take its place? Will there be any new plants in there? Some plants we can readily identify as their new shoots come forth. Others are not so easy to figure out. A lot of them look similar in when first sprouting.

This year we had what we thought was a new mystery plant. Two inch red shoots were all over in an area where a little bit of *asclepias* had been growing the previous year. We thought, WOW, there is a lot of this coming back. Then we noticed it was ALL OVER the garden. And we thought it must not be *asclepias* because we didn’t think it would spread like that. So Denise Malueg and I started playing a game of ‘guess this plant’. Nothing seemed to fit, so I went back to the garden a week later to see how much this mystery plant had grown and if it would be more easily identifiable.

What a difference one week made in the way the garden looked. The phlox was in full bloom as was the tiarella and narrow-leaved sundrops. The dogwood tree was also in bloom. And our mystery plant shoots were now a foot tall! I broke one off to take to Molly for help in id- ing this plant. It had a milky discharge where broken – a clue! After looking through various websites on plant pictures, we determined that it best fit the description of our first guess of *asclepias*.

Note from your editor Sabine (yes, I do read everything before it goes into the newsletter!):
Upon reading this description alarm bells went off. What looks exactly like asclepias, has milky sap and spreads all over the place? Hemp dogbane!! *Apocynum cannabinum*, family: Apocynaceae. It spreads both by seed as well as by a very tenacious system of rhizomes. Although it could be milkweed’s identical twin, monarchs CANNOT feed of this plant. Just what you wanted: more work to be done.

Many thanks to the following MG’s who contributed in the efforts to get our garden neated up and ready to show its face to the public: Kit Foster, Judy Geggis, Cheryl Huyck, Laura Klingler, Denise Malueg, Susan Seth and Louise Shearer. Special thanks to Judy Conley who came and worked for an hour from 7:30 to 8:30 before going to her real job for the day. We also had some help from a young man named Harry who stopped and donated about 45 minutes of his time before heading into the library.

Our next workday will be Thursday, May 21st at 9:00am at the library again.
**Bay-Wise Committee**

It looks like we are going to have a very active spring with Bay-Wise visits. Now that the weather has finally gotten warmer, we will begin scheduling.

Louise Shearer met with the Chester River Association (CRA). They will promote our program in their newsletter. Louise gathered information on the Bay-Wise program for them which was printed in their last newsletter. Two CRA board members have signed up for Bay-Wise visits. We hope this will prompt them to encourage their membership to follow suit.

Margaret Gardner, Nick Stoer and Debbie Pusey met with the Prospect Bay Garden Club to present our “Let It Rain” power point. On a very rainy Tuesday, in a community that is always inundated with water, we discussed ways to work with the rain water on their properties. We also, of course, promoted our Bay-Wise Program. We received very positive feedback from many members. As a result, six members signed up for Bay-Wise visits. We hope that as the season progresses more members of this community will sign up as word gets around.

In addition, several MG's and Molly met with the QAC Parks Department Director Chip Price and Nancy Scozzari. Discussion started with our Bay-Wise Program and moved to how we can work together to promote Bay-Wise concepts within the park system. There are a lot of park areas that we were not aware of. As a result, the Parks Department will plan a joint venture with us to tour some of these parks and see what can be done to improve them.

To all new MG Interns: our meetings are open to all and you are welcome to attend. In addition, we hope that all new interns will consider signing up for a Bay-Wise visit and possible certification. We feel that, living on the Eastern Shore surrounded by water, this is a significantly important part of our Master Gardener 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

**4-H Fair Grounds Demonstration Garden**

For the past few years we have had a raised bed garden in the 4-H Park near the flag pole. Last year the Fair Committee decided to brick over the area around the flag pole. Unfortunately, they did not tell the contractor that our raised bed was not part of the area to be paved. One week the garden was there; the next week it was completely gone! The County has agreed to pay for plants and supplies to redo this garden since it was their miscommunication that led to its demise. They would like to see it planted again.

I have a list of plants that were originally planted in the garden – most were donated by various MG’s and some came from the county greenhouse. At our next monthly meeting, we can discuss this garden and how to go about establishing it and maintaining it.
QAC MG Volunteer Opportunities

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 nickstoer@gmail.com
Cathy Tengwall 443-994-2523 cathy1542@gmail.com

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 is 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.

Tea Party Festival Information Booth, May 23rd
Volunteers needed This is a great place to showcase Master Gardeners and lots of fun.
Sabine is still looking for people for the following times:
- 10—noon: one person
- Noon—2: two people
- 2—4: 1 person
If you are interested, please contact Sabine, greenbien@hotmail.com or 443-480-8576

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, mgarret1@umd.edu

Great First Plant Clinic
In Chestertown
Thank you to Connie Metcalf, Susan McRae and Louise Shearer for helping out with the first outdoor plant clinic of the season. It was a gorgeous day and we talked to lots and lots of people. Louise brought the watershed model which was great fun for lots of interested kids!

Talisman Part-Time Garden Employee
Anne Joyner at Talisman is looking for a part time garden employee to work 2 hours a day with the garden and horticultural therapy program. This would be a nice part time position for anyone with gardening skills. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact anne@talismantherapeuticriding.org or (443) 239-9400.
QACMG Volunteer Opportunities

QACMG Youth Gardening + GIEI

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 24th 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

Kennard Elementary Garden Club

Three energetic young girls have decided to start a garden behind their school and they have asked if we could be a resource through their process. They have already tilled up the area approximately 20’ x 10’ and are working on their planting plan and list of desired plants this week. So far they have decided to divide it into four quadrants, a veggie patch, a berry fruit patch, a pollinator flower patch, and last one... to be determined. If anyone is interested in helping with this new school garden please let me know!

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:
Wednesday May 13th

Image Source: sagelandscapes.net
**MG ANNUAL TRAINING DAY 2015**

**JUNE 4TH, COLLEGE PARK**

**Cost:** $84 until May 15th  
**Online registration:** [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-gardener-and-master-naturalist-17th-annual-training-conference-registration-8455736335](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-gardener-and-master-naturalist-17th-annual-training-conference-registration-8455736335)

**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——SUMMER 2015**

- May 27th: Ornamental Plant Diseases  
- Entomology/Ecological IPM  
- Ask a MG Practicum  
- Veggies: Intensive Techniques and Small Space  
- Organic Vegetable Gardening  
- Native Plant Essentials  
- Native Ferns  
- Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis  
- 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.
Outside the Garden Gate…

**Adkins Arboretum Programs & Events Calendar**
https://adkinsarboretumorg.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.

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

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April Newsletter Deadline:
May 22, 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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University of Maryland Extension
Queen Anne’s County
505 Railroad Ave.
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Vision Statement: A healthier world through environmental stewardship