Greetings

Are all these crazy weather patterns beginning to feel like the norm, or is it just me? This spring was rather wet, which is great for our water table, landscape plants and gardens. That was followed by a week of oppressively hot weather, then more rain, then weather that felt more like fall with extra low night temperatures and unbelievably low humidity. Then it’s back to our typical hot and humid summer weather. And last night we broke a record for the lowest temperature for the date, 7/24. What’s next?

Instead of fretting about the unpredictable weather, let’s focus on something more reliable – Our Bay-Wise efforts. This spring/summer issue covers the first half of this year (1/1 through 6/30).

Certified Landscapes

According to my records, there have been twelve new Bay-Wise Master Gardener landscapes certified as demonstration sites since our last newsletter. The proud owners, the counties, and dates of certification of these special landscapes are listed on the following page.

Listed in the following chart are those that have recently had their landscapes certified. Added to the list are those who somehow fell through the cracks in past reports. Congratulations to all, for your landscape certifications.
Bay-Wise Advanced Trainings

So far this year we conducted four Bay-Wise Advanced Training sessions adding 65 new Bay-Wise Master Gardeners to our rolls. The first training concluded in Queen Anne’s County where we graduated 15 new Bay-Wise Master Gardeners and 10 returnees sat in for a refresher. Congratulations to Sheila Delaquil and Mary Yee from Anne Arundel; Barbara Flook from Kent; Joyce Anderson, Susan Goward, Deane Horowitz, Laura Klingler, Gerald Phillips, Cathy Tengwall, and Karen Wimsatt from Queen Anne’s; Deborah Danser, Pamela Keeton, Carol Meholic, and Mary Revell from Talbot Counties and Elaine Maugham from Burlington, NJ.

By mid-March, 13 more joined our ranks. Congratulations to Bryan Lightner and Gail Sentman from Cecil County and Wallace Chaillou, Beatrice Filburn, Charles Filburn, Paul Hardy, Carole Lancaster, Barbara Matusky, Diane Russell, Joanne Spicer, Katheen Wheeler, Jody Youll, and Margaret Beain, from host site Harford County.

The first week of April brought 24 new and 4 returnees (for a total of 28) Master Gardeners to the advanced training in Charles County. Bill Santiff, Joanna Hastings-Kiessling and Anne Drissel of Calvert, Baltimore and St. Mary’s Counties, respectively, joined Jean Aden & Anne Biddle from Anne Arundel County, Harriet Beck, Pat Biles, Patricia Faulkner, Millie Havrilla, Kathy Jenkins, Roseanne Markham, Connie McClanahan, Laura Meffley, Lin Murray, Robert Peregoy, Sandra Reissig, Doris Santimays, and Mary Sims from the hosting county; Ernestine Ashley, Julianne Bethea, Eric Kaika, Renee Padmore-Baccus, Cotty Smith and Sharon Williams from Prince George’s County to round out the new Bay-Wise volunteers.

And finally, despite a snow cancellation and speaker rescheduling issues, in May, Deborah Berbert, Merle Blair, Lawrence Braswell, Melanie Crowder, Helen Downey, Lisa Feusahrens, MiMi Fowler-Coristine, Andrea Ann Lavezzo, Gay Ludington, Cindy Mallonee, Eileen McVey, James McVey, and Denise Moroney from Calvert County became our newest Bay-Wise Master Gardeners.

Congratulations to all.
Upcoming Advanced Trainings
Currently, there is one Bay-Wise advanced training session scheduled for the first two Saturdays in September. Baltimore City and County are joining forces to conduct an advanced training. For specific dates, sites and times, visit the Bay-Wise website, www.extension.umd.edu/baywise and look for the link in the top right corner.

Also, if you haven’t attended one in a while and would like a refresher, you are welcome to sit in on this training if space is available. Ask the contact person whether there is room in the class for you. You don’t have to pay the registration fee but you must bring your own HomeWork binder because you won’t receive a new one (unless you pay the registration fee).

To schedule an advanced training for your county, assemble a group of at least 20 Master Gardeners (don’t forget you can work with other counties to reach your minimum of 20 attendees), select three training dates and a venue and then contact Wanda MacLachlan to work out a schedule.

Bay-Wise Statistics
Thank you to each and every Master Gardener who has taken the Bay-Wise advanced training. Since the beginning of the program in 1996, you have certified a total of 1,291 client landscapes and 158 non-residential landscapes. In addition, 565 of you have had your landscapes certified as demonstration sites (of which 450 are still maintained as such)!

Since our inception, we have trained a total of 1,188 Master Gardeners as Bay-Wise volunteers and 324 of you are still actively participating on your local committees.

News From the Counties:

Anne Arundel
Co-chairs, Jim MacNicholl and Robin Gill, report that their committee has maintained its’ 27 members for the past year or so. Since the beginning of the new year, they’ve certified a record 41 landscapes, including two Bay-Wise demo sites and nine belonging to other Master Gardeners. They have seven additional ongoing consultations that will probably lead to certifications soon. Jim and Robin additionally report, “Continuing our public outreach efforts, we presented to 6 more garden clubs this year including: Crofton Village, Chartwell, Severn River, Annapolis Roads, Gibson Island, and Shipley’s Choice, as well as at Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District II’s Annual Meeting.

“Reaching out to new audiences, we spoke about bay-friendly gardening to the ‘Adults Loving Life’ group at Severna Park Methodist Church in April. Members Nancy Landers, Brenda Darr, Marietta Schreiber, Robin Gill and Jim MacNicholl presented to these clubs and group. To date we have contacted 481 individuals from our outreach effort.

“Last year Sharon Schroer and Robin Gill spoke to Shipley’s Choice Garden Club about “Bay-Friendly Gardening Practices” and mentioned the importance of rain barrels in the garden. The garden club invited us back this year to talk about that subject. Jim MacNicholl developed a new presentation ‘Controlling Storm Water Runoff with the use of Rain Barrels,” and instructed the members on how to install a rain barrel.

“Anne Biddle led a group to design an interactive exhibit for use at public events. Team members Denise Elliott, Mary Yee, Kay Stringfellow, Jean
Aden, Judy Thompson, Marietta Schreiber, Christine Scee and Interns Liz Seabrook and Pat Mitchell developed and used the exhibit at the Davidsonville Green Expo on March 15. Our team garnered 15 requests for Bay-Wise yard visits that day.

“On May 9, Kay Stringfellow, Judy Thompson, Carolyn Keenen and Cherie Loustaunau represented Bay-Wise at the Senior Forum: Pascal Center Garden Party in Glen Burnie. Their efforts encouraged another 13 people to invite us for yard visits for a total of 28 visits gained from these two events.

“We had 92 requests for visits and certified 41 yards so far having contacted 545 residents through our presentations and visits.

“This year more Master Gardeners pledged to take the right steps to clean up the Bay and become Bay-Wise Certified. They include Serena Boyd, Julie Brown, Janet Clauson, Marthena Cowart, Sheila DeLaquil, Joni Miller, Pat Mitchell, Cyrena Simons, Mary Yee, Maida Bilson, and Sue Owens. We now have 126 Bay-Wise Certified Master Gardeners in our Anne Arundel County program. We welcome these newly certified Master Gardeners to our ever-expanding community of sustainable gardeners. We appreciate every Master Gardener who displays their Bay-Wise sign as a source of inspiration and information for their neighbors and friends.

“We are rewarding our committee members with a heron pin as recognition for leading at least 6 visits. Becky Peterson and Nancy Landers have already earned their herons.”

Baltimore City

Co-Chairs, Gail Ritscher and Cathy Thompson share that their committee has grown to 10. They certified ten client landscapes, five belonging to other Master Gardeners. Six ongoing consultations will likely turn into certifications later this year. They also reached 95 city residents during the Hopkins Bayview Green Team Lunch & Learn, MG Garden Expo at Cylburn, Morgan Park Garden Tour, and/or JFX Farmer’s Market. In addition, Gail and Cathy share, “On May 18th a Bay-Wise and Beautiful Garden Tour was held in conjunction with Cylburn Arboretum featuring 13 gardens that were both lovely to look at and also demonstrated Bay-Wise practices. The tour started at the Bay-Wise certified vegetable garden and rain garden at Cylburn and continued through six gardens in Mt. Washington and six gardens in historic Dickeyville. There were 33 attendees from the public and over thirty master gardeners also participated.”

Baltimore County

Co-Chairs, Leslie Erickson and Carolyn Vane inform us that their ranks have grown to around 25 active committee members. The committee has certified a total of 10 landscapes in the past six months. These were all residential client sites, including 8 belonging to other Master Gardeners.

In June their team taught Bay-Wise principles to 25 county residents as part of their “In the Garden” series, which takes place in the demonstration garden located at their Extension office. Carolyn and Leslie also inform us: “We have been busy in the Bay Wise Demo Garden this spring. We had a general spring clean-up in April so the gardens would be visitor ready for our Plant Sale May 10 and a visit from the Monarch School on May 11. About 50 elementary students visited the Baltimore County Demo Garden on a field trip. The
group was broken down into 6 smaller groups and they rotated throughout the Demo Garden. Carolyn presented a mini version of Who Polluted the Bay. They were very familiar with composting, pollution, and the Chesapeake Bay and ways we can help the bay. They were very interested in Rain Garden, the rocks in the Bird Bath for the Butterflies to get water, plus many of them do have gardens they help with at home.

“We continue our partnership with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy in the Middle River/Tidal Gunpowder watershed. A new grant has been written to expand into the Bird River watershed.”

Calvert
No report. New Chair, Dom Braino took on the challenge of coordinating and hosting a Bay-Wise advanced training. Despite many challenges, he pulled off a wonderful training for new and returning trainees, alike.

Carroll
No report.

Cecil
New Bay-Wise Committee chair, Judy Duffy, reports that their committee of four has closed out their $1,000 Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) grant from the county for buying Bay-wise signs, yardstick printing and mileage Bay-wise MG volunteers that travel to do the yard certifications. Additionally, they certified one demo site and one non-residential site so far this year. They have also reached over 250 residents (including 130 youth) during the Cecil County Wade-in.

Judy reports, “Our Bay-wise committee has been working with a few Elementary Schools that are applying for Green School status, so they have been working with us to get Bay-Wise certified this coming fall. Bainbridge Elementary School managed to receive their Green School Status this year and we participated in a school wide celebration where we certified the school in front of the entire school body. Representatives from each class joined us for a picture outside the school. We look forward to having more school pictures to share. At this celebration we set up an exhibit on how to attract wildlife to your backyard and a way the students could take Bay-wise action in their own yards at home. We had roughly 300 students stop by our exhibit that day.”

Bainbridge Elementary School students on Bay-Wise certification day

Charles
No report.

Dorchester
No report.

Frederick
Chair, Regina Irizarry reports that their 51 committee members certified three landscapes so far this year, one each – demo, MG & client. Bay-Wise Master Gardeners, Suzanne Hill, Suzy Bailey, Betsy Mahmassani and Ellen West, have been busy teaching Bay-Wise principles to 86 residents around the county, including 43 Master Gardeners.

Additionally, Regina Irizarry reports, “The Bay-Wise Committee participated in the second annual Green Neighbor Forum on February 22, 2014. This environmental event is organized by the Friends of Baker Park and held at Hood College and “introduces homeowners and business owners to
practical steps we can take now to improve our local environment, reduce storm water runoff, make our back yards more hospitable to local fauna, and more.” (Green Neighbor Forum brochure)

“This year’s program, which emphasized water quality in the landscape, attracted 120 participants. The Bay-wise team staffed an information booth and offered a workshop that introduced the Bay-Wise Yardstick and landscape certification process, with information on planting wisely, using IPM, attracting wildlife, and managing storm water. We hope to participate again next year.

The Green Neighbor Forum audience listens to the Master Gardener presentation which focused on Planting Wisely, Using IPM, Attracting Wildlife, and Managing Stormwater

“The Bay-Wise-certified landscape of MG Linda and Spedden Hause was featured on the Beyond the Garden Gates Tour, organized by the City of Frederick and held on May 17-18 this year. Thanks to the Frederick County MG Yardening Committee, which coordinated master gardener participation in the event, 110 participants visited the Hause’s landscape over the course of the weekend. With the help of Bay-Wise committee members and handouts, visitors learned about the Bay-Wise program and how they can participate.

“The Frederick County Bay-Wise committee hosted 47 Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and guests at a June 25 presentation titled ‘Introduction to Native Pollinators & Other Beneficial Insects’ by Dr. Nancy Adamson, Pollinator Conservation Specialist with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service East National Technology Support Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. The presentation was followed by a tour of the Frederick Master Gardener Native Hedgerow & Pawpaw Patch Demonstration Gardens.

Nancy Adamson leads a tour of the Frederick County MG Demonstration Gardens Native Hedgerow and Pawpaw

Harford
Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, Joan Parris informs us that their committee has grown to 28 members. Since last report they have certified 2 demonstration, 2 non-residential, and 5 client landscapes. They also reached 35 middle school students in two winter classes. Joan shares this: “Harford County Master Gardeners had a great start to 2014. We hosted a Bay-Wise training which had 12 participants, many of whom are already involved in certifications and committee work. We certified Ladew Topiary Gardens and a local church, which should generate a lot of good publicity for the Bay-Wise program. In addition, we certified seven other properties. We participated in the annual Anita Leight Wade in and spread the Bay-Wise word to many youth and adults. That event generated 5 certification requests. Ruth Ann Luebecker gave a presentation on Bay-Wise to 35 members of the Havre de Grace Garden Club which resulted in 5 certification requests. Perhaps the
most fun events of the year so far were the two STEM nights in which we participated. Joyce Browning used a watershed landscape display to demonstrate water runoff and how to deal with and lessen its impact. The kids had a great time and MG’s spoke with the parents about Bay-Wise while the demonstration was going on.”

Howard
Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, Linda Decker reports that their 35-member committee certified one client landscape and they have 16 landscape consultations pending. They have also taught over 370 county residents (including 134 school children) Bay-Wise principles in 9 different venues including community fairs, school classrooms, garden club and village center meetings, in addition to reaching over 100 residents at the Howard County GreenFest in May.

Linda reports, “In late 2013, we set a goal to increase our visibility in the community through presentations and participation in events affording an opportunity to interact with the public. Several members of the team made presentations on Bay-Wise Landscaping and water management at Village Centers and libraries in Columbia and at local Garden Clubs. As part of the science curriculum for our middle schools, Paul Beares presented a webinar on Rain Gardens that was broadcast from Elkridge Landing MS to several other middle schools.

“More than 2,000 people attend the Howard County GreenFest in April of each year. We again staffed a booth on Bay-Wise Landscaping. Master Gardeners rotated throughout the day answering questions and providing Bay-Wise Gardening advice. To support them we refreshed our Bay-Wise display to incorporate up-to-date Bay statistics and information about the new fertilizer rules as well as more eye-catching graphics. We also organized a native plant sale that flanked the entrance to the exhibit hall. Vendors from Maryland and Pennsylvania participated and we had a team of Bay-Wise MG’s assisting the public with their questions about native plants. Twenty of our Bay-Wise Master Gardeners participated in this event.

“A number of schools in Howard County have had rain gardens installed. Over time, the parent groups instrumental in building them have moved on and the maintenance group for HCPSS is neither staffed nor skilled for the maintenance of rain gardens. Over the past few months an effort has been made to clarify responsibilities and make a plan of action to tackle several of the gardens. With the assistance of READY (Restoring the Environment And Developing Youth), a summer jobs program, the badly overgrown rain garden at Fulton Elementary was restored. Silt was removed, weeds pulled, shrubs pruned, edges trimmed and new mulch and stone installed. This was done with the assistance and oversight of Bay-Wise Master
Gardeners. Over the summer, our MGs with support from the local garden club will maintain the site until school is in session and we can engage the school administration and PTA in ongoing maintenance. Similarly, we are providing summer support at Rockburn Elementary School. Other school rain gardens have been referred to READY and we anticipate similar joint efforts over the summer.

“Once again the Rain Barrel distribution program is in full swing at the Alpha Ridge Landfill. Twice a month, food grade barrels that have been cleaned and drilled are delivered to the site adjacent to our demo rain garden and we provide them to the public free of charge. Each recipient is given information on how to equip and use the barrels and asked to sign a pledge that the barrels will be put to use. Because of the success of the program, two of the hardware stores in Howard County have prepared kits for homeowners that include all the hardware needed to convert the barrels.

“We continue to provide on-site consultations for members of the Howard County Community to help them solve their landscaping problems. In addition to individuals seeking advice, the Stone Lake Community Association and the Windstream Place Condo Association also sought our assistance with common areas. These are larger scale than our typical consultations and have required multiple visits. We placed a moratorium on additional certifications in anticipation of a revised Bay-Wise Yardstick. Several of our Bay-Wise Master Gardeners who have taken the advanced training have expressed an interest in certification and these will be conducted in the second half of the year.”

Prince George’s
Franchella Kendall, Chair, reports that their committee has grown from 18 to 23 members. They have conducted a Bay-Wise training for their 24 interns in April. Franchella adds that “Prince George’s County added five new Bay-Wise Master Gardeners to the Bay-Wise Committee. They recently completed the Advance Training in Charles County. Congratulations to: Ernestine Ashley, Julianne Bethea, Eric Kaika, Renee Padmore-Baccus, Cotty Smith and Sharon Williams.”

Queen Anne’s
Debbie Pusey and Vida Morley co-lead their county’s group. Debbie indicates that because of various hardships, their group has not been as active as they would like. But despite all adversity, they’ve certified 2 client landscapes since last report. Here’s hoping the second half of the year is better for these hard-working committee members.

St. Mary’s
Chair, Linda Crandall, with administrative help from Master Gardener Coordinator, Jennifer Horton reports that despite their committee dwindling to 6 members, they’ve certified 6 landscapes. Two belongs to a Bay-Wise Master Gardeners and 4 are client landscapes (3 belonging to local Master Gardeners. They gave a Bay-Wise presentation to their 34 interns and informed the 12 members of their Extension Advisory Council about their efforts around the county. They also had a strong presence at the St. Mary’s County Earth Day, a popular annual event where they set up their Bay-Wise display and had B-W MG’s available to explain best management practices and answer questions.
Linda adds, “This has been a busy year for us in St. Mary’s County. During the early months of the year a new group of MG’s took basic training, and as a part of that program we did a Bay-Wise presentation for them. Of the 29 interns, 16 signed up for a Bay-Wise site visit, and we are getting those done as quickly as we can. One of our new interns was so interested in the Bay-Wise program that not only has she had her property certified but she also took the Bay-Wise Advanced Training in April. Welcome Anne! Anne Drissel has joined the team and over the next few months will be helping to create our first fall newsletter. The newsletter will be available to our clients, and featured on the new UME St. Mary’s County Bay-Wise web site. The web site which is currently being developed was the result of a brainstorming meeting the team had this spring. This summer the UME-SM MG office was able to place a public service announcement on our local cable access channel, Metrocast Channel 10. We provided a Bay-Wise tip and the link to the state B-W website. This has the potential to reach thousands of viewers! Along with new intern visits, newsletters, and web site development, we have continued our outreach efforts, participating again this year at Earth Day in Leonardtown, starting to make plans for what we will do for the county fair in September and a new event in our area, “The Country Life Outdoors Festival”, in August. With all this happy and productive activity, our team has had some bad news this spring. Due to health concerns and family issues three members of our group are leaving the team. Fran, Ann, and Pat we will miss you!”

Talbot
Co-Chairs, Lynn Freeburger & Lisa Ghezzi’s committee is 11-strong. They are pleased to add two more demo sites to their list. Additionally, they certified a client landscape, bringing the total number to three. They have 4 more possible certifications pending.

Washington
Master Gardener Coordinator, Annette Ipsan says that she is losing her chair – again. Ruthanne Mills is moving. So, the two of them are developing a strategy for reinventing and reenergizing the Bay-Wise program in Washington County. We wish Ruthanne the best of luck on her move and we’ll miss her leadership with our program.

More Assorted Stuff

Upcoming Anniversary
In 2016 the Bay-Wise Landscape Management Program will celebrate its 20th year of training. How can we mark the occasion? Confer with your fellow Bay-Wise committee members and let me know your thoughts.

WaterShed Sustainability Center
Put the Pepco WaterShed Sustainability Center on your field trip list. It includes the energy-efficient house designed and built by students and faculty from the University of Maryland that won first place in the 2011 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon on the National Mall, sustainable landscaping and accompanying signage. The center is open to the public and is a unique outing opportunity for students and educators. Visitors are encouraged to tour the Sustainability Center to see comfortable, sustainable and energy-efficient practices at work. For large groups, please contact Megan Kilgore at Watershed@pepco.com in advance of the visit.
The Pepco WaterShed Sustainability Center is located at 201 West Gude Drive in Rockville, Maryland and is open for guided tours Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bay-Wise Brochures
The new brochures should be in my office by the beginning of August. The good news is the cost was reduced from $0.24 to $0.08 apiece. The bad news is they have not been delivered to my office as of 7/25/14. The moment they arrive, as I did with the last version, I’ll send a complimentary 250 copies to each active Bay-Wise county committee. When you are ready to order more, visit the Bay-Wise website and click on the link For BW MGs Only and cursor down the page to the link where you can download the publications order form. You can order bundles of 100 or more.

Maryland’s New Lawn Fertilizer Law and Homeowners
Beginning 1 October 2013, Maryland residents are being required to follow University of Maryland recommendations when applying fertilizers to their lawns. Maryland Department of Agriculture has instituted a new law for commercial lawn care professionals and homeowners who apply fertilizer to lawns. The law requires applicators to follow many of Bay-Wise practices we have been espousing for many years, such as sweeping spilled fertilizer off of paved surfaces, not fertilizing within 15 feet of waterways and not fertilizing when heavy rain is forecasted. A relatively new requirement is that no phosphorous may be applied to turf unless indicated by a soil test or during seeding. Find out more about the law and how it affects homeowners by visiting this link: http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx. From this page you can download many useful publications. Although developed for the professional industry, the MD Professional Lawn Care Manual, http://mda.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/MDAProLawnCareManual6.24.13.pdf, is a good review of everything a Master Gardener should know about turf. Check out the first six chapters.

Interested in Planting Trees?
The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC) is a volunteer group of citizens, professionals, and government officials united to protect and enhance Maryland’s forest ecosystems. MUCFC is a sub-committee of the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards. Every county in the state has a Forestry Board. The primary functions of the Committee are to 1.) Promote and coordinate the Maryland Community PLANT award program that officially recognizes communities planting and caring for trees, and 2.) Administer grants to communities, through their local Forestry Boards, that promote planting and care of trees. If you are interested and would like more information about membership, please contact Wayne Lucas, 301-324-2684 or me, at 410-531-5973.

If you are interested in applying for a grant of up to $1,500, or learning more about MUCFC, visit: http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programs/urban/mcfc.asp
Is Your Landscape Certified?
Are you among the few, the proud, the “certified?” Has your landscape been certified as Bay-Wise yet?

If you answered “no” to these two questions, it is time to move into action. One of the successful indicators of the Bay-Wise Landscape Management Program is to have all Bay-Wise Master Gardeners’ landscapes certified as demonstration landscapes. So far 473 “demo landscapes” have been designated throughout the state. If yours isn’t one of them, and you know who you are, contact your county’s Bay-Wise committee chair to set up an appointment. The process is easy & fun and one of the rewards is increased visibility in your neighborhood as an expert on ecologically sound landscaping.

Wanda MacLachlan

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