Greetings

I trust your 2014 has started off well. It certainly began wet and snowy. But spring is right around the corner . . .

Just in case you are paying close attention, I will begin renaming the newsletter issues. Instead of calling them Summer (7/1-12/31) & Winter (1/1 – 6/30) issues, I’ll call them Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. They will still cover the same timeframes, 1/1 – 6/30 (Spring/Summer) and 7/1-12/31 (Fall/Winter). So this is the Fall/Winter issue, covering last fall and this winter.

Certified Landscapes

According to my records, there have been twenty new Bay-Wise Master Gardener landscapes certified as demonstration sites since our last newsletter. This includes six (yay, Anne, Beatrice, Richard, Peggy, Sandy and Beth) who just completed the Bay-Wise advanced training this fall or spring!

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.
2013 Certified Landscapes Between 7/1 & 12/31/13

(alphabetized by last name)

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<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>County</th>
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Bay-Wise Advanced Trainings
Since our last newsletter, we conducted one Bay-Wise Advanced Training session in Cecil County in November and graduated 11 new Bay-Wise Master Gardeners. Congratulations to Nancy Bentley, Olive Daniell, Judy Duffy, Linda Foster, Ron Hartman, Sandy Phillips, Karen Rita, Liza Sanford-Crane and Teena Vaughn from Cecil, Terri Ferguson, from Baltimore and Valynda Kingsley from Queen Anne’s Counties, for becoming our newest Bay-Wise Master Gardeners.

Upcoming Advanced Trainings
As of press time, there were four Bay-Wise advanced training sessions scheduled for the beginning of the year. Queen Anne’s County hosted training in February; Harford and Calvert Counties in March; and Charles County in April. If you haven’t been to an advanced training in a while and would like a refresher, you are welcome to sit in. Visit the Bay-Wise website, www.extension.umd.edu/baywise, for specific dates, sites and times. Look for the link in the top right corner. 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 MaLachlan 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 1,056 client landscapes and 118 non-residential landscapes. In addition, 476 of you have had your landscapes certified as demonstration sites (of which 396 are still maintained as such)!

To date, we have trained a total of 1,079 Master Gardeners as Bay-Wise and 315 of you are still actively participating on your local committees.

News From the Counties:

Anne Arundel

Co-chairs, Jim MacNicholl and Robin Gill, are happy that their committee has maintained its’ 27 members. They’ve certified 19 landscapes since last July, including one Bay-Wise demo site and three belonging to Master Gardeners. They have five additional ongoing consultations that will probably lead to certifications soon. Jim and Robin additionally report, “Sharon Schroer and Robin Gill presented to the Anchorage Home and Garden Club, Four Rivers Garden Club, Naval Academy Garden Club and Shipley’s Choice Garden Club for a total of 117 contacts. Already, we visited and certified some of these club members’ yards and expect to visit many more this summer.

“In partnership with the Water Stewards Academy (WSA), Jack Weaver represented Bay-Wise at the South County Festival on June 15, and at Wooten’s Landing Park during Jug Bay’s Community Days on June 29. In conjunction with WSA’s theme ‘Keeping Your Water at Home,’ Jack demonstrated rain barrels and provided Bay-Wise literature. Jim MacNicholl represented Bay-Wise at WSA’s Brooklyn Park cleanup day on October 26 as we continue to build synergy with the Watershed Stewards.

“Denise Elliott and Brenda Darr are representing our committee on the Village Garden project at the Extension Office. They are advising during the installation phase to ensure a Bay-Wise garden and will provide ‘Best Practices’ information for signage throughout the space. When complete, the Village Garden will be an excellent place for the public to see Bay-Wise principles at work.

“Robin Gill has been working with Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District 2 in supporting an initiative for member garden clubs to promote Bay-Wise Certifications within their clubs. As the first Bay-Wise Coordinator for the District, she is working to make this 20-club, 5-county District synonymous with responsible, bay-friendly gardening. So far, the initiative has garnered 16 certifications.”

Baltimore City

Co-Chairs, Gail Ritscher and Cathy Thompson share that their committee of 9 has certified one demo and one client landscape. They also certified five non-residential sites, including the Duns Grove Community of Cross Keys Village, Cylburn Arboretum bio-swale and rain garden, Eric Waller
Community Garden, and Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center.

**Baltimore County**

Co-Chairs, Leslie Erickson and Carolyn Vane inform us that they now have 22 active committee members. The committee has certified a total of 11 landscapes in the past six months. These include one Bay-Wise demo site, 10 residential client sites and one certification is pending.

In August their team gave the ‘Who Polluted the Potomac?’ presentation at the Master Garden Fest, reaching 18 people (including 10 youth). Carolyn and Leslie also inform us: “We continue our successful partnership with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. Their Bay-Wise Stewards are hosting Certification Parties where we leave with most everyone having filled out their Yardsticks and Applications. We’re formulating plans to try this party idea with other Community Associations and our new MG Training Class.”

**Calvert**

Long-time and faithful Chair, Judy Kay, has been grooming a new Chair, Dom Braino to lead their loyal committee. Thank you, Judy for your years of leadership.

**Carroll**

Chair, Dick Heiger, and his committee of 11 certified four sites: one site belonging to a Master Gardener, one site belonging to a client and two non-residential sites. These two sites are the Sykesville Community Garden and the Historical Society of Carroll County. Dick’s report is as follows: “Our certifications for 2013 were very interesting. The properties of Barbara Walker and David Flora were about 98% wooded with a great variety of native trees and shrubs and plenty of food, water and shelter for wildlife. Then the Sykesville Community Garden was a very interesting initiative by a few community members to provide free vegetables to anyone in the community plus food and water for our feathered friends. The property of Robin Crouse, a future MG, was also interesting in that she has included many native plants and heirloom vegetables. And then there was the Historical Society of Carroll County that maintains a unique garden of native plants and shrubs in a very beautifully landscaped setting for everyone to enjoy.”

Look for more activity here in the next newsletter as the Carroll County committee has nine certifications pending.

**Cecil**

Bay-Wise Master Gardener Coordinator, Doris Behnke, reports that although they are still in the process of officially forming, they are doing great things. Since the beginning of July they’ve certified one demo site, and two client sites (one belonging to a Master Gardener). They have also reached over 50 middle school students and 300 residents during the Cecil County Wade-in.

Doris reports, “Cecil County would like to congratulate Master Gardener Judy Duffy as our Bay-wise Committee Chair person. Since our Advanced Bay-wise training in November, our group has had many discussions about how to get Cecil County on the map for Bay-Wise yard certifications, and we look forward to 2014.”
Charles

Co-chairs, Ronda Goldman and Janet McGrane, are proud to report that their committee of 27 members certified 29 sites the second half of the year. Nine were demo sites, 19 were client sites (with 13 belonging to Master Gardeners) and one was non-residential: the Potomac Branch Library. According to Ronda, “Bay-Wise is working to connect! 2013 saw tremendous growth as we certified over 25 new gardens and landscapes. We partnered with the Commissioners in the facilitation of the new Stormwater Remediation Fee Credit, which allows property owners with Bay-Wise landscapes the opportunity to apply for a 50% tax credit towards the stormwater fee.

“Another way that Bay-Wise connects with the community is through educational partnerships. Currently, we are working with JC Parks Elementary School and Thomas Stone High School in an effort to construct outdoor classrooms and training programs that empower teachers and students. In September 2013 Governor Martin O’Malley visited JC Parks and planted a tree in their outdoor classroom and visited a nearby stream and conducted water quality testing. He declared that JC Parks was the first ‘schoolshed’ in the state of Maryland. Their comprehensive plan to transform turf into a functional wetland classroom has been extremely successful with the restoration of a meadow, forest, and wetland. What used to be a soggy ditch is now an environmental oasis that teems with native flora and fauna. This effort is being led by their science teacher, Deanna Wheeler, who secured over $130,000 in grants to fund the initiative. The JC Parks Wetland Classroom was Bay-Wise certified in October 2012.

“Thomas Stone High School certified their landscape and vegetable gardens in April 2011. With a new Bay-Wise focus they launched a comprehensive plan entitled “Nature’s Revival,” which entails the transformation of turf into outdoor classrooms, installing an orchard, protecting local streams, and constructing an outdoor kitchen in their vegetable gardens. Boneetta Adeeb and Chris Rooney have done a marvelous job of leading the effort and engaging young students in the stewardship of our natural resources. They have also partnered with BWMGs to connect their students with local chefs who teach the students how to turn their kitchen garden harvest in culinary masterpieces.

“As we move forward into 2014 we are looking forward to establishing training programs in our local schools, hosting Bay-Wise Garden Parties, and adding more certified landscapes and Bay-Wise Master Gardeners to the committee.”

Dorchester

Chair, Jim Leech, reports that the 12 committee members have certified one demo landscape since July. They have two more sites awaiting certification in 2014. Stay tuned.

Frederick

Chair, Regina Irizarry reports a record number of committee members: 58! The committee is so large they’ve named two vice chairs, Jann Rabin, Vice Chair for Landscape Certifications and Suzanne Hill, Vice Chair for Education. They’ve certified two demo and four client landscapes for a total of six since last July 1st.

Additionally, Regina Irizarry reports, “Bay-Wise Master Gardeners Betsy Mahmassani, Suzy Bailey and Mary Price participated in Frederick City’s
annual In the Street Festival on September 14, 2013. This year’s celebration of the downtown Historic District and “the best of what Frederick has to offer,” drew 50,000 people, according to the Frederick News Post. Our participation was coordinated by Betsy Mahmassani, Chair for Special Events for Frederick County Master Gardeners. Betsy writes:

“Assigned to the “Going Green” block, we choose to highlight the Bay-Wise program through displays, handouts, and a give-away of native flower seeds (Rudbeckia hirta and Echinacea purpurea)...our seed giveaway was very popular and provided a great way to start conversations about seed germination methods, wildflower meadows, and attracting bees, butterflies, and birds into the garden – among many other topics. We gave away about 100 packs of seeds, 70 WCWDFY (What Can We do for You) newsletters, and recorded contact with 42 men, 69 women, and 30 children...Not measured in these numbers is the enormous benefit of the FCMG organization being seen as an enthusiastic participant in the life of our community and as a source of information and support to anyone with gardening questions.

Department of the Environment’s Stormwater Innovations Tour. This outreach event will be used by the MDE to promote stormwater innovations. See below for details, per the MDE’s Office of Communications:

“Join Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Robert M. Summers for the fourth stop of the MDE Stormwater Innovations Tour on Wednesday, December 18 at 11 a.m. Secretary Summers will highlight the Master Gardeners of Frederick’s Bay-Wise Yard Stick Program, a free community education program that educates citizens about best stormwater management practices in landscaping and the benefits to homeowners’.

Harford

Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, Joan Parris informs us that their committee has grown to 25 members. Since last report they have certified 1 non-residential and 10 client (7 belonging to a local Master Gardeners) landscapes. If that isn’t enough, they have 11 consultations pending. Joan shares this: “Master Gardeners in Harford County focused again on new certifications during this period. We certified 10 residential and 1 non-residential sites, including many of our new intern class and generated a great deal of interest in the Bay-Wise program. In addition, Ruth Luebecker gave a talk on Bay-Wise at a Green- Clean seminar. She spoke
to 11 residents and had interest from 2 participants for a home certification. We once again staffed a table at the Eden Mill Fall Fest in November - several hundred residents were exposed to the Bay-Wise program.

“The big news from Harford County is that we are offering Bay-Wise Advanced Training at the HC Extension Office on March 11, 18, and 25. Master Gardeners from all counties are invited to attend the training. To register, call the HC Extension Office at 410 638 3255, or email Joan Parris at joanparris52@gmail.com.”

Howard
Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, Linda Decker reports that their committee of 35 has certified three demo landscapes, one client landscape, and have 22 landscape consultations pending. They have also taught 66 county residents (including 14 school children) Bay-Wise principles in 4 different sessions in addition to reaching over 175 and 250 residents at the Howard County 50+ Expo and the CMREC Open House, respectively.

Linda reports, “As elsewhere in Maryland, the imposition of a Storm Water Utility fee in Howard County became a very politically charged topic. Originally the county plan called for a fee that was based upon the amount of impervious surface on each homeowner’s and business property, but in the end it evolved into a flat fee based on tiers of property size. The Howard County Bay-Wise team was gearing up to assist in educating homeowners about techniques to mitigate the impact of storm water and apply for credits against the assessed fee. Because of the change in fee structure the projected demand for homeowner assistance was significantly decreased and our resources will be limited to providing education. However, the University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program developed a SMART tool to track small-scale storm water practices that improve water quality and reduce water quantity entering the Chesapeake Bay watershed system. Besides facilitating homeowners’ application for credits it is a tool to aggregate the impact of actions taken in the community to support efforts in achieving the goals set by the EPA. Along with representatives of Howard County, Linda Decker and Georgia Eacker reviewed the SMART tool and provided input.

“It was determined that in our role as educators we needed to review our talks and visuals and make a more proactive effort in 2014 to get our message into the community. We reviewed our catalog of talks and determined that there was a need for a comprehensive talk on trees. A team is in the process of pulling together a talk and associated handouts which we plan to debut at the 2014 Howard County Greenfest.

“Once again in a cooperative venture with the Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services and Dryers Ice Cream manufacturing facility in Howard County, large food-grade barrels are recycled as rain barrels. Twice a month, April through October, Barb Schmeckpeper leads a team of Bay-Wise Master Gardeners managing the distribution to the public. They explain how to convert the barrels and provide information on their use and impact. Coincident with this activity, we also manage the distribution of free compost bins to the public. This year with the heightened awareness of storm water impacts we “sold-out” and had our most successful give-away to date.

“The Alpha Ridge Landfill has developed into an ideal location for public interaction. In addition to the give-away, we have a “working” compost pile and a demonstration rain garden. Bay-Wise Master Gardener Gaye Holcomb designed the demonstration Rain Garden and assisted by other Bay-Wise Master Gardeners maintains the
plantings. We staff these locations on Saturdays to explain their functionality and engage citizens in discussions about better practices for their home landscapes.

“A new issue emerged during the second half of the year: rain garden maintenance at our public schools. Over the past several years a number of parent groups, environmental companies, ecology classes etc. have installed gardens on school property. In many cases the folks motivated to initiate them have moved on and the maintenance has been neglected. We have received calls from several of the schools asking for assistance. Starting with a few schools we are working through the issues of contacts within the school system and county for resources and looking to match schools with Master Gardeners who will provide guidance, information and a long term commitment to assure the gardens are viable as a teaching tool for students and a model for visitors.

“During the second half of 2013, we staffed a Bay-Wise booth at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center, CMREC, open house. Several of the members of the Bay-Wise team were also active in making Bay-Wise presentations around the county.

“In the first half of the year we hosted an advance Bay-Wise training class at our UME location. Since then three of the participants have certified their properties as demonstration landscapes. Several other participants have already submitted paperwork and will complete the process in Spring 2014. We honor these successes at our monthly Bay-Wise meetings.”

Prince George’s
Franchella Kendall, Chair, reports that their committee of 18 members certified two residential sites since last report. Franchella adds that “The Prince George’s County Bay-Wise Master Gardeners certified two yards one of the homeowners is a Master Gardener (Julianne Bethea) she has incorporated native plants and trees into her landscape. Several Master Gardener interns came along to observe the certification and learn more about Bay-Wise practices. Lucy Duff, Bay-Wise Master Gardener assisted with the certification.

“We also participated in the Prince George’s County Master Gardeners Gardening Expo and Fall Festival in September. The Bay-wise Master Gardeners provided information and answered questions from those in attendance.”

Queen Anne’s
New co-chair Louise Shearer joins Debbie Pusey, Pat Gannon, and Vida Morley to co-lead their county’s group. The committee of 26 has certified 6 client landscapes since last report. They also taught/reached 35 county residents in 4 different classes.

They report the following impacts:
“The Bay-Wise presentation to the Corsica River Conservancy (CRC) resulted in that organization’s Board of Directors agreeing to have consults/certifications. Six of the board members have had their properties certified as bay-wise. The remainder will be done in the spring. CRC will post an article in their newsletter to their general membership about partnering with Master Gardeners to offer Bay-Wise consultations.
“Several attendees to the Prospect Bay talk signed up for Bay-Wise consultations which will be done in the spring.

“The presentation to Talisman Therapeutic Riding also resulted in their Directors wanting to have that property certified. MG’s will also work to identify and label trees and plantings on the property. A number of volunteers who attended the presentation expressed interest in having consults with possible certifications. Follow-up will be done in the spring.”

The co-chairs also report, “Queen Anne’s County is in the process of developing additional sources of outreach. We continue to participate in farmers’ markets in Chestertown and Kent Island. A July presentation to the Corsica River Conservancy resulted in their Board of Directors agreeing to consults and certifications of their properties prior to opening this program up to their general membership. Six board members were certified in the fall, including one Master Gardener. The rest will be certified in the spring of 2014. CRC will advertise this opportunity in their newsletter, website and at their annual general meeting.

“A December presentation to Talisman Therapeutic Riding in Grasonville also resulted in a desire for certification of the Talisman Farm. Many volunteers who attended expressed interest in Bay-Wise consultations and certifications as well. We will follow up with these in the spring. Master Gardeners will also work with the staff at Talisman to identify trees and plantings for labeling so that riders will know what they are seeing as they ride through the trails on the farm.

“We are looking forward to a very active spring.”

St. Mary’s
Longtime Co-Chair, Fran Cook is on hiatus for a while and Co-Chair, Linda Crandall, is carrying on in Fran’s absence. Linda reports that their committee of 10 members and have been quite busy. They’ve certified 17 landscapes. One belongs to a Bay-Wise Master Gardener; 15 are client landscapes (5 belonging to local Master Gardeners); and one is a non-residential site – Chesapeake Public Charter School. They also met with 35 St. Mary’s County Green School Coordinators in February to plan the St. Mary’s County Green School Celebration in June, in which they reached 215 people – 152 who were children. They also had a strong presence at the St. Mary’s County Fair and the St. Mary’s River RiverFest in St. Mary’s City, where they staffed their BWB display and spoke to many attendees.

Linda adds, “Although our team is made up of 10 people with very busy lives, we focused this fall on spreading the Bay-Wise message, and we certified 17 properties. When added to the 12 properties we certified earlier in the year, our team total for 2013 is 29. In addition, over the last 8 months, we have visited 8 properties that we hope to be certifying this coming year. We have set the goal again this year to beat our last year certification number... so we are hoping for at least 30 (!) certifications in 2014. We continue to extend and expand the partnerships we have worked to develop with both the St. Mary’s County Public Schools, and the St. Mary’s River Watershed Association. We will be working this spring with 2 new SMRWA neighborhoods, and towards the end of the school year we will be participates in the annual Green Team Celebration for St. Mary’s County Green Schools.”

Washington
Co-Chairs, Ruthanne Mills and Annette Ipsan, are pleased to add two more demo sites to their list. Additionally, they certified an additional client landscape.
More Assorted Stuff

Maryland’s New Lawn Fertilizer Law and Homeowners
Beginning 1 October 2013, Maryland residents are be 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.

New Bay-Wise URL
Have you notices something new about our webpages? Early in April, UME, University of Maryland Extension, switched its website management software to align with the rest of the university’s software. With this switch comes a new (and longer) URL. So now www.baywise.umd.edu has been phased out. Our new web address is www.extension.umd.edu/baywise. Let me know your thoughts about the new pages. As with anything new, there is always room for improvement.

How Do You Bay-Wise?
Lately, I’ve seen a few different versions of the term, Bay-Wise in print. There is only one correct way to print the term. Please note that the correct way to print the title is Bay-Wise, not BayWise or Baywise. Both words should be capitalized and separated by a hyphen. Ironically, the first time a reminder like this appeared in the newsletter was Fall, 2004!

Free Publications
The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides a variety of publications about conserving and preserving our natural resources, which fits right into our Bay-Wise philosophy. This is a great site for obtaining FREE publications on a variety of topics including soils, pollinators, wetlands, etc. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/home/?cid=stelprdb1045532
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

Bay-Wise Signs

A new shipment of signs has been ordered. The cost will remain $10.35. When you are ready to order more signs & posts, 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 new order form.

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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