From Georgia’s Desk

As I mentioned in my June notes, the MG data logging system is now online. A copy of the data logging instructions is included in this *Looseleaf*. If you encounter problems using the system, please let me know the issue and I’ll work with Kathy Hartley on providing assistance. My thanks to Kathy for doing this task. By the way, seventeen of our folks are using the Online MG Tracking System.

Wasn’t it a great Annual Training Day? I hope you found it worthwhile! As you may have noted, Howard County MGs were right there with the vendors, selling Butterfly, Bird and Bug Guides plus Loupes and the US Fish and Wildlife books. This resulted in income of $1414.00. These funds support our MG expenses such as equipment and outreach materials. Our deepest thanks to Corliss Glennon, Betsy Grater and Loren Savino Muhr for transporting and selling these items. They are available at UME if you wish to purchase these items.

Hope you are enjoying the pleasant weather.

Georgia Eacker
Master Gardener Coordinator
410-313-1913
ggeacker@umd.edu
2014 Continuing Education Speaker Series

Please join us on Tuesday, July 8, 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Extension office for an informative presentation on Controlling Ornamental Plant Diseases, by Dr. Roger Lawson. Dr. Lawson will discuss how methods of controlling disease and insect problems have significantly changed over the past twenty years. We will learn about the increased emphasis on natural products and the application of more environmentally acceptable synthetic chemicals. The presentation will also include examples of new ornamental crops developed for U.S. consumers. Master Gardeners and guests welcome!

Controlling Ornamental Plant Diseases
Dr. Roger Lawson, retired Agricultural Research Service, USDA, former National Program Leader for Horticultural Crops, and Branch Chief, Floral and Nursery Corp, Tuesday, July 8, 9:30 to 11:30 am; meet at Extension Office.

Robinson Nature Center Tour
Robinson Nature Center, Wednesday, September 10, 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Flower Transfer, Betsy Grater, MG
Tuesday, October 14, 9:30 to 11:30 am; meet at Extension office.

Global Warming
Dr. Sara Via, Dept. of Biology and Dept. of Entomology, University of Maryland College Park, and Climate Reality Leadership Corps.
Tuesday, November 11, 12:30 to 2:30 pm; meet at the Extension office.
Note: This presentation is in the afternoon.

SUBMITTED BY KARIN DE LAITSCH, MG

Howard County Master Gardener Fundraisers

We have the following materials to offer as our fundraisers: Butterfly Guides (laminated), Bug Guides (laminated), Bird Guides (laminated), Jewelers Loupes - 10X (not 20X as stamped), triple glass lens, metal casing, and our U.S. Fish & Wildlife Native Plants booklet.

The Butterfly and Bird Guides are $6.00 each (no tax), the Bug Guides and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Native Plants are $5.00 each (no tax), and the Jewelers Loupes are $8.00 each (no tax).

SUBMITTED BY CORLISS GLENNON
**Doings at the Howard County Conservancy at Mt. Pleasant**

With July we are into our summer harvest season. So far, through the end of May we have sent lettuce, spinach, broccoli and Jerusalem artichokes to the Howard County Food Bank. If you have extra produce in your garden we would be happy to add it to what we pick. We go to the Food Bank every Friday morning. As the spring crops finish we continue to replant with summer and fall crops. With the automatic drip irrigation system our crops are flourishing. We continue to have regular workdays every Friday from 9-11 am and welcome your help to plant, weed and harvest crops. Please come and spend an enjoyable couple of hours working in the garden.

Now that warm weather is here come out and explore the grounds, see what is in bloom and join us in working the gardens. Find additional information on upcoming activities on the website at www.hcconservancy.org.

By **Jo Ann Russo**, MG

---

**Plant Identification Labs Open to MGs**

Master Gardener Judy Fulton and Charlie Davis, a well known Maryland botanist, are running plant identification labs at the Natural History Society of Maryland on Belair Road in Baltimore. The labs are scheduled for 7:00 - 9:00 pm on second and fourth Monday of every month. These labs are part of a plant survey that Judy is conducting at the Baltimore County Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park. The specimens used in the labs are being collected throughout the year from various environments (e.g., fields, woods, stream banks and strips bordering paths) on the Ag Center property. At the moment, participants are having fun identifying flowering plants collected this spring.

Participants with all levels of experience are welcome to attend the labs, and the only prerequisite is knowing how to use a plant key. You can find the full description of the labs and sign up for them on Meetup by clicking on the events listed on the calendar at www.meetup.com/marylandnature/events/.

In addition, Judy and Charlie will be running periodic workshops to collect and press specimen plants from the Ag Center for use in the labs. These collection workshops may include some plant identification and botany instruction. The next collection Meetup will focus on summer flowering species and is going to be scheduled for 9:30 am – 1:30 pmon Thursday June 26 with a rain date of Tuesday July 1.

---

**Submitted by Judith P. Fulton, MG**

**Rue anemone (Thalictrum thalictroides )**
in bloom at the Ag Center in April.
Photograph: Judy Fulton
Another busy fund-raising year has come to an end with both Daffodil Day and the Plant Sale. With help from many volunteers and many plant donations, our annual plant sale was a huge success.

Again this year, the two-day plant sale was held at the First Lutheran Church on Friday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10. The plant sale included numerous donations from our Master Gardeners as well as many hard-to-find plants from a local nursery. Volunteers met several days to dig, pot, label and price these items. All donations were transported to the church on Thursday evening, making it easier to organize the layout. The weather was perfect until an early afternoon downpour on Saturday. While we were gathering up the plants, sales continued. Fortunately most of the plants had already been sold. Many repeat community and master gardeners returned to help make this plant sale the best ever. Many, many thanks to ALL of you who helped make the sale so successful.

A special thanks goes out to all our Master Gardener colleagues, who helped coordinate, transport, set up, manage and tear down the sale. A special thanks goes to Betty Rice for her Ostrich ferns and many perennial donations. All proceeds will go toward maintenance at Whipps Cemetery.

Several new projects have been made possible at Whipps Cemetery thanks, in large part, to the success of the May plant sale. Special projects include the addition of a new teak bench, replacement roses for the Rose Garden, and a drip watering system, installed by Paul Kozjar. With deer and winter damage, we lost about 2/3 of last year’s roses. To remedy this issue, replacement roses were ordered in 2 gallon size this year and are already growing well. The rose garden is starting to take shape. We can now be proud of it.

(Continued on page 5)
During the past several years the boxwood throughout the country have suffered from ‘boxwood decline’. It has also hit Whipps. Several boxwood were replaced prior to Daffodil Day and additional boxwood will be replaced this summer. The symptoms of this decline are the loss of color in definite areas of the plant with the foliage becoming gray-green, then yellow or even straw colored. This results in the death of entire branches, generally in the apical and middle portion of the crown. This condition generally results in death of whole plants.

Thanks to volunteers Yvonne Howard, Pam Peters, Debi MacKay, Cindy Saber, Pattee Fletcher, Nancy McEvoy, and Aleta Gravelle, Whipps was well represented at the Howard County Greenfest on April 12.

Whipps Cemetery observed Memorial Day by placing American flags along St. John’s Lane to honor the sixty burials in the cemetery as well as our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Volunteers are needed to assist several hours with the Whipps exhibit at Hands on History at the Howard County Fair Grounds on Wednesday, August 6. Many historians and people with specialties and knowledge of Howard County and beyond will set up tables for the day in the 4H Activity Building (air conditioned). If you would like to volunteer for several hours, please contact me at agravelle@verizon.net.

If you would like to add your name to Whipps weekly workday announcement, please send Aleta Gravelle a message. 410-465-2398 (home) or 410-274-7795 (cell) or agravelle@verizon.net.
Dwight Johnson, our recent guest speaker, is a self-taught plant lover and an experienced Maryland Native Plant Society hike leader, but even he was excited to discover a very rare plant on our May 27 work day. Early on, Davey Rogner, recently hired at the MPEA, had pointed the group towards some fern sites he knew about where we saw sensitive, Christmas, New York and hayscented ferns. But then we saw it -- right alongside the trail -- a Dryopteris goldiana, Goldie's Wood fern or Giant wood fern. A deciduous fern, Goldiana is named in honor of John Goldie, an early Scottish botanist who discovered this fern in Montreal.

John showed great persistence in the pursuit of plants. In 1817, at age 24, he sailed from England for America. Three times he shipped back to Great Britain plants he collected, and three times these collections were lost during transport. Even some of his notes that he successfully carried back with him were destroyed later in a fire. He eventually returned to North America and lived in Ontario until he died at age 93.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources maintains a list of rare plants. [http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/pdfs/011514_BHWG_Report.pdf](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/pdfs/011514_BHWG_Report.pdf) and in the section Explanation and Key to the Maryland Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plant List, one learns that there is a global and state ranking system used by all fifty State Natural Heritage Programs.

Dryopteris goldiana has a Global rank of G4, which is defined as “apparently secure globally, although it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.”

It has a State rank of S2, which is defined as “state rare. Imperiled in Maryland because of rarity (typically 6 to 20 estimated occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres in the State) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to becoming extirpated.” Species with this rank are actively tracked by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. Examples in other states: CT, rare; listed as a species of special concern: IL, rare, although not currently listed as threatened or endangered.

(Continued on page 7)
A rewarding aspect of this outing was that a home schooled young lady and her mother had joined us and the daughter was especially interested in botany. Perhaps this morning’s find will inspire her to delve deeper into the field.

SUBMITTED BY AYLENE GARD, MG

Dryopteris goldiana close up.
Photograph: Davey Rogner

Reminder

Barberry and Basketgrass

Tuesday, June 24

Removal and talk by Towson’s Dr. Vanessa Beauchamp

Meet at the Trotter Road Entrance at 9:00 a.m.
New Online Calendar Will Launch on August 1, 2014

On 1 August 2014, the Howard County Master Gardener website will prominently display a menu click for our new online calendar. This development will replace the file version compiled by Robin Hessey and will bring us in line with many other University of Extension organizations that manage their calendars online.

The members of the Communications Advisory Group have been researching appropriate calendar vehicles and selected Google calendar because it is so widely used, members can access it without having an account, and because it can be accessed by smart devices. We worked with Robin Hessey to understand the requirements of the members in displaying information and she will relinquish management of the calendar in August to Janine Grossman.

The new online calendar will be accessible 24 hours a day, can be updated at any time (by committee chairs and calendar admin), and recurring events can be submitted just once rather than every month. Users can click on an event and get far more complete information than is available on the current calendar, including a map and directions on how to get to an event’s location. They will also be able to look ahead (and backwards) for events rather than seeing just one month at a time.

Members who have limited access to computers and need a paper version mailed to them can specifically request that service. There will be a flyer in the July paper version of the newsletter which will canvas members to see if they will agree to get the newsletter electronically to reduce the expense and resource impact of getting paper copies mailed to them. At that time, members can express their preference for both the Looseleaf and calendar distribution.

Rules of procedure for getting items posted to the calendar are in the works and will be published soon in a separate email to members.

Roy Heath
Janine Grossman
Co-Chairs
Communications Advisory Group
**News from the State Office**

**Vegetable Plant and Pest Diagnosis with Jon Traunfeld**

Sharpen your plant diagnostic, pest identification and control strategy skills in the vegetable garden. We plan a collaborative, hands-on learning experience with troubleshooting in a vegetable garden, examination and diagnosis of samples, and discussion and effective prevention, monitoring, and control strategies. We’ll take a close look at non-chemical controls and the effectiveness of available organic pesticides. There will be some pre-class online assignments so we can maximize our hands-on learning time in class.

How come I’m not getting any squash this year? What’s killing my tomato vines? Are there any good organic controls for stink bugs? The gardening public looks to us for answers to thousands of food garden questions each year. Now we’ll be better able to answer all of them!

This course will count as one of the units you will need to get the advanced vegetable gardening certificate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Register by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UME Harford Co. (Forest Hill)</td>
<td>Tues. July 15; 9am-4pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>7/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UME Montgomery Co. (Derwood)</td>
<td>Wed. July 16; 9am-4pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>7/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince George’s Co.: Center for Educational Partnership (Riverdale)</td>
<td>Sat. July 19; 9am-4pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>7/11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Registration Form**

**Plant Diseases**

UME Frederick Co. – Thursday, Sept 4, 9:30-3:30
Registration Fee: $35  Registration Deadline: Aug 28

**Presenter:** Dave Clement, Ph.D. Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology

Plant diseases often seem like exotic mysteries left up to the experts to solve. Well, guess what- we MG’s can now begin to unravel some of these mysteries ourselves. In this course you’ll learn all about the bacteria, fungi and viruses that cause plant problems. You’ll also learn about their symptoms, cycles and controls.

In addition to the lecture and handouts you will get hands-on training using samples. We hope that you’ll feel comfortable enough with the basics of plant diseases to be able to recognize problems in your own gardens and to use the information to competently help clients at plant clinics. This class counts as your Plant Disease requirement for your Plant Diagnostics certificate.
News from the State Office

Youth Vegetable Gardening
Presenters: Jon Traunfeld, UME Specialist in Vegetables and Fruit; Heather Buritsch, UME Associate Agent, FSNE Gardening for Nutrition Coordinator and others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UME Montgomery Co. (Derwood)</td>
<td>Wed. Sept. 24; 9am-4pm</td>
<td>Register by 9/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UME Anne Arundel Co. (Dairy Farm- Gambrills)</td>
<td>Sat. Sept. 27; 9am-4pm</td>
<td>Register by 9/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth and school vegetable gardening are hot topics right now with many schools and organizations requesting MG help. You can be an effective, active part of this effort!

This course will help build your confidence as you learn effective ways to work with kids in the garden, Learn the nuts and bolts about school guidelines, building a gardening team, and starting and maintaining a school program. Our panelists will inspire you with lots of fun and thrifty curriculum ideas. Focus will be on elementary school and shoulder seasons. This class counts as 1 day towards your Advanced Vegetables Certificate.

Registration Form

Native Grasses
UME Harford Co. (Forest Hill)
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 9:30-3pm
Reg. Fee: $30; Reg. Deadline: 10/14
Field Trip: TBA

Presenter: Sara Tangren, Ph.D., MG Trainer and Asso. Agent in Native Plants and Sustainable Horticulture
Fall is the time that our native grasses strut their stuff! Join us for a fun, non-technical class: light on grass taxonomy and heavy on work with fresh specimens of indiangrass, little bluestem, switchgrass, purpletop, bushy beardgrass, purple lovegrass, and more. For each species we will discuss

- design/aesthetic considerations for use in garden beds,
- use in native meadows,
- soil and light requirements,
- availability, establishment, and
- maintenance techniques.

By the end of class you will be able to recognize the most popular native grasses for Harford Co. and include them in your garden/meadow designs with confidence.

***Highly recommended: Native Plant Essentials class (in person or on-line)

Registration Form

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

Submitted by ROBIN HESSEY, MG