Even though we're still getting some cold, windy days along with snow, spring really is on the way! I'm delighted to see the bulbs appearing in the woodland and skunk cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus) in my wetland.

Eighty-eight attendees participated in a workshop called "Easy Gardening" in March. It was a collaborative program with Transition Howard County. Thanks to Ann Coren, Jim Lumsden and Roy Turner for presentations. A survey of attendees may provide feedback as they prepare for repeats on April 15 and May 12.

GreenFest will be Sat., April 21 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Howard Community College. We will have several tables: Bay-wise, GIEI, composting and AAMG. A native plant sale will be supported by MGs who will provide plant information to visitors. It's an interesting and fun event! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered.

The 2018 Interns have completed classroom work. Now it’s time for them to start earning their volunteer hours. I hope you will welcome them into the Howard County MG group.

Reminders: Here is a link to the protocols for using the MG listserv. You’ll find tips and guidelines for sharing email messages with your MG colleagues. And here’s a link to the MG logo page. It has our new logos, including the six subset logos (Bay-wise, GIEI, Composting, Plant Clinics, Natives and Pollinators) in color and black & white. The updated presentation slides are on the same page. Be sure to add them to all of your presentations. Send me an email if you have any questions about how to use them.

Georgia

Georgia Eacker
MG Coordinator
April is a busy month for vegetable gardeners who plant cool season vegetables. All of the brassica (cauliflower, broccoli, kale, collards and turnips) transplants and seeds can be placed in the soil during April. Most members of the brassica family tend to be medium to heavy feeders and benefit from the addition of some nitrogen fertilizer. Planting and cultivation recommendations can be found on the HGIC website by searching for a specific vegetable, such as broccoli.

Early spring plantings will benefit from being covered with row cover, not only to retain a couple of degrees of warmth during cool spring nights, but also to protect brassicas from insect predation such as the larva of the imported cabbage worm. Other cool season vegetables that can be planted in April in Howard County are beets, carrots, lettuce, arugula, onions, shallots, parsnips, parsley, potatoes and spinach. A full listing of planting dates can be found on the HGIC website at HG 16 Planting Dates for Vegetable Crops in Central MD or GE-007 Vegetable Planting Calendar for Central MD.

Early April is a perfect time to start warm season transplants such as peppers, eggplants and tomatoes. Information for last frost dates in Maryland can be found here. For Clarksville, the 10% chance of frost is May 17, so I plant my eggplant seeds 8 weeks prior to that date, peppers 7 weeks prior, and tomatoes 5 weeks prior. You can also start your squash plants three to four weeks prior to your last frost date. They can be started 4 seeds to a four-inch pot or 2 seeds to a two and a quarter inch pot ultimately thinned to 3 plants per hill.

Finally, GreenFest will be held April 21 at Howard Community College. MG Kathy Rosendale will coordinate the GIEI table with her crew. Be sure to visit the table while you’re at GreenFest.

Kent Phillips, Class of 2009, kent.a.phillips@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

Here’s all that’s going on this month

Go to the calendar. Click on the event you’re interested. Find times, locations, and contact info. It’s a simple way to look for volunteer opportunities and the monthly continuing education sessions.

Click here for a direct link to the calendar. Remember, you can view the MG electronic calendar in your preferred format: Month, Week or Agenda.

April

4 Pests in Veggie Garden @ Savage library
5 Whipps garden workdays begin
6 HCC workdays in demo garden begin
7 AAMG Plant Clinics begin
7 Compost demonstrations begin
9 Bay-wise meeting at UME
10 Continuing Education session at UME
17 Enchanted Garden workdays begin
20 LooseLeaf deadline
21 GreenFest at Howard Community College
24 Conservation Stewardship at MPEA
28 MG talk at Savage library
The Bay-Wise yardstick encourages us to plant groundcovers and native plants wherever we can to suppress weeds, prevent erosion and increase biodiversity. But which one should you choose? Here are a few that I use – some are clump-forming, others are spreaders; all are native to Maryland and all are perennials. The first photo is what they look like the week of March 13th, 2018. The second photo shows them in spring or summer – can you match them? There is a native plant for every site condition!

1. Silene virginica: D/M, Sun/PS
2. Chrysogonum virginianum: D/M, Sun-Sh
3. Mertensia virginica: M/W, PS/Sh
5. Carex appalachica: D, PS/Sh
6. Sedum ternatum: M, PS/Sh

~Alison Milligan - MG 2013

Answers: A5, B4, C2, D1, E6, F3
Workdays in the demonstration garden at the Howard County Conservancy are every Friday from 9:00 am until 11:00 am except when it’s raining, of course. The garden is near the barn which is the first thing you’ll see when you drive into the Conservancy. Bring your favorite garden tools and garden gloves. If you are new to the garden we recommend that you dress in layers since we often have a wind blowing up the hill at this time of year.

Spring planting will begin as soon as we get the beds cleaned up. And we would like to enclose one more narrow bed at the bottom of the garden where a large log was removed during the winter. Hopefully, removal of the log will limit hiding places for the groundhogs!

**VOLUNTEER HOURS OPPORTUNITY.** The Conservancy will celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 21, by planting trees and removing invasives. You can earn volunteer hours for helping Conservancy staff with those activities. And we’ll need help with our MG plant sale – setting up, during, and cleaning up near the garden area. Let me know if you can help.

JoAnn Russo, jrusso1104@comcast.com

**2018 Continuing Education Speaker Series**

MGs, Watershed Stewards, Master Naturalists and their guests are welcome to attend. All sessions will be held on **Tuesdays at the UME office**, except for the field trip on September 11. Check the [MG electronic calendar](mailto:mg@howardconservancy.org) for updates. For questions, contact: MG Karin DeLaitsch at kdlaitsch@gmail.com or MG Joanna Cumbie at rladywalking@msn.com

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Growing Microgreens</td>
<td>Gul Behsudi, MG, Grow and Learn, LLC</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Year of the Bird: Attracting Maryland birds to your backyard</td>
<td>Clare Walker, MG who works in education and outreach for the DNR</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>Invasives</td>
<td>Judy Fulton, MG</td>
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt at The Howard County Conservancy</td>
<td>Join us for a scavenger hunt at The Conservancy prior to the annual MG meeting/luncheon</td>
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<td>October 9</td>
<td>Gardening and Climate Change / Climate Change and Its Implications</td>
<td>Sylvia Huestis, MG and Carolyn Cradler, MG</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
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Conservation Stewardship Project
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA)

Tuesday, April 24 from 9:00 to 11:30 am
South Wind Circle Trailhead

You don't want to miss this one — our most popular event of the season — Spring Flowers & Garlic Mustard! This month, Garlic Mustard is secondary to our search for the emerging ephemeral wild flowers of Spring. With any luck, this event will coincide with the annual showing of the gorgeous Virginia bluebell blooms along the river's edge. Our walk to the river will be guided by the ephemerals we find, all the while keeping a vigilant eye out for (and pulling) the garlic mustard we see along the way.

No experience necessary • One-time volunteers welcome • Wear long pants and water resistant boots or shoes • Gloves and tools provided

We start at 9:00 am at the South Wind Circle trailhead. Take Route 29 to Route 108 west toward Clarks-ville, or Route 32 to Route 108 east. Turn onto Trotter Road, go about one mile to South Wind Circle. Enter the circle and proceed to trailhead opposite Misty Top Path.

The MPEA (Middle Patuxent Environmental Area) comprises a diversity of habitat types, including upland and bottomland hardwood forest, fields, wetlands, ponds and riparian habitats. MGs partner with Howard Co Recreation & Parks for the Conservation Stewardship Project from March to November (except July and August) on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Clare Openshaw, MG 2012, hellocclare@comcast.net

Preparing for Spring at Whipps

Our annual spring kick off meeting and volunteer appreciation luncheon was held at the Miller Library to review upcoming events.

Work at Whipps continued throughout the winter. The daffodils and other early flowers have started to pop up as we prepared for our eleventh Daffodil Day on March 31. This year, in addition to the Demonstration Garden featuring all 12 divisions of daffodils and thousands of bulbs blooming throughout the cemetery, the entrance of Whipps was enhanced with 800 new daffodils.

Many Easter gift-giving potted bulbs were offered including Hellebores, Virginia bluebells, daffodils, tete-a-tetes, tulips, hyacinths, Easter lilies, calla lilies, and hydrangeas.

The garden is located at the Miller Branch of the HC Library System. It's a lovely place to visit...and to earn some volunteer hours! There are seven raised beds, a pollinator garden, native plants, berries, compost bins and many other features which means there's always something that needs attention in the garden. And we have plans underway to create a color wheel garden this season.

MGs may drop-in on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The tool shed has a variety of tools, but you may want to bring your favorite garden gloves and water.

Mark your calendars for MG Demonstration Day on June 30. It will be our 4th annual event that showcases the garden and the Master Gardeners program. We'll be looking for lots of volunteers to assist our garden visitors. The event hours are 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Plan now to attend!

Ann Hackeling, Class of 2013, ann.hackeling@hclibrary.org

The Enchanted Garden Will Open April 17

The Enchanted Garden
Will Open April 17

(Continued on page 6)
Highlights of the event included entertainment by the Camerata Musica Madrigal Singers. Horticulture talks in the Woodland Theatre included Hidden Bulb Treasures and Spring Container Gardening. Guided tours highlighted cemetery history, the restoration of original iron work and recent Eagle Scout Projects.

Preparation for our annual plant sale began. It will be at the First Lutheran Church on May 11, and May 12 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Please don’t forget our need for donations! The upkeep and maintenance of Whipps is done through donations and fund-raisers only. Every plant counts.

**CALL FOR PLANTS!** Please share any extra garden perennials and small shrubs (*no invasives, please*) you are dividing. *Plants can be delivered to Whipps Garden Cemetery at 3651 St. John’s Lane starting in May.*

Please have the plants potted nicely and labeled with the common and Latin name if you know it. We have large wooden craft sticks available, if needed. It would also be helpful if you indicate “Native” or “Sun” or “Shade.”

If you have plants and cannot pot them, please call me. We will not refuse them, but will need time to pot them so they get well established before the sale. For more Information, call or text 410-274-7795 or email me.

Aleta Gravelle, Class of 2009, agravelle@verizon.net.

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**Patuxent Research Refuge – Pollinator Gardens (Schoolyard Habitat)**

We are starting the new year with a new name for our gardens. While it is still the Schoolyard Habitat outside the National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop in Laurel, the name Pollinator Gardens is more descriptive of our activities. We are turning a neglected area into smaller landscapes that will demonstrate to homeowners how to landscape with native plants to promote wildlife, specifically pollinators.

Please email Ann Coren at anncoren@hotmail.com before you come to the Refuge to work, especially if the weather is iffy. Put PRR in the subject line. Bring your gloves. Tools are provided.

**SPRING WORK DAYS**

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Join us during a Spring Planning meetings if you would like to be on the design team, work on a photography project to benefit the gardens, write a grant, or participate in event planning. Meeting are scheduled from noon to 1:00 pm on April 4 and May 2.

There are also gardens at the North Tract of the Refuge. For workday dates and times, contact MG Joe DiGiovanni.

Ann Coren, Class of 2013, anncoren@hotmail.com
Three Bad Bugs: If You Find One, Report It!

Be on the lookout for the spotted lanternfly, Asian longhorned beetle and the viburnum leaf beetle. They’re all very destructive. To help you learn more, we’ll briefly cover the spotted lanternfly in this issue, and write about the others in the next two newsletters.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is greatly concerned about an invasion of the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). The Spotted Lanternfly, a native of China, India, and Vietnam, is almost on our doorstep and is currently raising havoc in Pennsylvania, where it was first detected in 2014. It feeds on a variety of trees and fruit-bearing woody plants. Be alert if you have pine, maple, oak, sycamore, dogwood, walnut, and willow or stone fruit trees in your landscape. This bug also feeds on grapes, rendering them inedible, which could be devastating to Maryland’s vineyards.

A major host of this bug is the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), an exotic invasive typically seen along many roadways. If you do see this insect, please send an email message to DontBug.MD@maryland.gov.

The noxious adult with colorful, butterfly-like appearance is approximately 1” long and 1/2” wide with distinctive and colorful wings. Although it has two pairs of wings, it jumps more than it flies. Dr. Raupp, professor of entomology and UMD extension specialist, featured the spotted lanternfly on his “Bug of the Week” website back in November. Here’s a link. He noted that it’s actually a planthopper, not a fly. Even though Raupp reports that 1.5 million spotted lanternflies have been killed by volunteers in and around Bucks County, PA, there is a continuing quarantine in the area. Beware and be on the lookout!

The female adults lay egg masses in the fall. Newly laid egg masses may have a grey, waxy covering. Old egg masses appear as rows of 30 -50 brownish seed-like deposits in 4-7 columns on the trunk, roughly an inch long. Eggs hatch in spring. Nymphs and adults suck fluid from the stems and leaves of plants. Adults excrete honeydew, a sugary substance that attracts ants and wasps.

MG Susan Bishop will tell us about the Asian longhorned beetle next month, and MG Elaine Kielman will cover the viburnum leaf beetle in June. A special thanks goes to Mary Kay Malinoski, entomologist and UMD Extension Specialist, for her guidance. We hope this has been informative and helpful, especially to the volunteers at the MG table at the 2018 Howard County Fair.

For more information, search for spotted lanternfly on these sites: HGIC, bugoftheweek.com, mda.maryland.gov.

Since Pennsylvania is the epicenter for this invasive, I have also included their website: http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Pages/search.aspx?searchBox=spotted%20lanternfly%20pda

Carol Spencer, MG 2006

Source: photo gallery on HGIC page.
This fact-filled book is a wonderful guide for Chesapeake Bay gardeners, at all skill levels. The premise underlying the content is that we can only save the world with a belief in the salvation of gardening. The author makes clear that this book is not a guide for gardening with native plants, but, for gardening with native plants and other non-invasive but beneficial plants, chosen for their ecological function. Rather than sitting down with this book and reading it cover to cover, I found it more useful to read it by sections, paging through to discover ideas that caught my interest, or taking inspiration from the beautiful and captivating photographs and plans included for illustration.

Ellis provides a wide selection of topics, organized into sequential sections. She takes a ‘ground up’ approach. She starts with the essentials of beneficial gardening, these being reducing the lawn, creating plant diversity, growing native plants, managing water runoff, and welcoming wildlife. Ellis then segues into the nuts and bolts of creating and then building a Chesapeake garden. The importance of first developing a plan is stressed and here she details the necessary steps prior to actual planting. Her careful attention to landscape design and the essential elements to consider, e.g., reading the landscape, soil, invasives, the planting, is clear and useful, with detailed photographs and charts complementing the data.

In Part Two, the author details specific plans for the variety of landscapes inherent to the Chesapeake area. She covers shrubs, trees, vines, ground covers, flowers, shade gardening, water and rain gardens, and how to make the garden welcoming to local wildlife. Again, Ellis offers the reader detailed description and photographs to accompany this section. I especially appreciated the section on the importance of welcoming wildlife to our gardens. It somehow integrates the entire theme of the book; the benefits of integrating the landscape, the design, and the ecology to create a living space for wildlife.

Ellis comes to this subject with a wealth of personal and professional knowledge. The book comes to us under the aegis of the Adkins Arboretum. It is a beautiful and timely celebration of our Chesapeake landscape, of gardening with a sense of place.

Pattee Fletcher, MG 2014, patteefletcher@yahoo.com
Native Plant Sale
Howard County MD GreenFest
10:00 am – 4:00 pm Saturday April 21, 2018

A native plant sale sponsored by University of MD Extension Howard County Master Gardeners will be held as part of the Howard County MD GreenFest 2018. The sale will be located on the Quad at Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD 21044

Four native plant vendors will participate this year:

Go Native Tree Farm http://www.gonativetrees.com/

Keystone Wildflowers http://www.kestonewildflowers.com

Lauren's Garden Service http://www.laurensgardenservice.com

Meadowsweet Native Plant Farm http://www.meadowsweetnative.com

For further information about GreenFest in Howard County, MD:
https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Community-Sustainability/GreenFest

For directions to Howard Community College:
WHIPPS ANNUAL PLANT SALE

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
(Corner of Chatham/Frederick)

The plant sale will feature many native perennial flowers, including many butterfly, shade-loving, deer-resistant, day lilies, and rain garden plants. Many of the plants, including natives are donated from the gardens of Master Gardeners. The sale is a favorite of Ellicott City gardeners because it features many unusual and hard-to-find varieties. Free compost bins will be available on Saturday morning.

Friday, May 11, & Saturday, May 12, 2018
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sponsored by

For more Information,
Call 410-274-7795,
text or email agravelle@verizon.net
www.whippsgardencemetery.org

WHIPPS GARDEN CEMETERY