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The 2018 CC MG Plant Sale was a great success, thanks to the many dedicated CC MG volunteers who gave generously of their time and worked extremely hard. Initially, Terry Thir, Barbara Hill and Rose Markham took the native plants that were bought for the sale and raised them in a greenhouse in Melwood. This involved daily trips to care for and water them. It was a labor of love and took a lot of time and effort. Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Melwood Organization, and especially Suse Greenstone, HTR, Manager Horticulture Therapy, who graciously allowed us the use of their facilities.

CC MGs Terry Thir, Rose Markham, Janet Jenkins, Pam Sarvis, Jan Lakey-Waters and MG Intern Mary Beth Leaf also dug up hundreds of lilies on a property owned by a family member of Terry’s, to donate to the sale. It made a significant difference to our bottom line. Thank you again!

In the days leading up to the sale, MGs delivered plants and staging materials to MG Kathy Jenkins home. We would like to thank Kathy especially for providing a great space to accumulate and sort all the plants. Thank you also for watering and taking care of them for the whole week.

Also prior to the sale, MGs Sue Brewer, Dianne Shisler, Terry Thir, Tina Bailem, Rose Markham, Sherie Zimmer, Jan Lakey-Waters, Sally Hopp, Mary Beth Leaf, Rosemary Ewing and Amanda Tellechella sorted and priced all the plants.

On the day of the sale, MG and MG Interns Terry Thir, Carol Teets, Tina Bailem, Brent Burdick, Kay Redman (also in charge of transportation), Karla Costello, Barbara Hill, Paris Davis-Reed, Barbara Hays, Marguerita Harding, Sue Brewer, Jerry Reed, Rosemary Ewing, Cindi Gariepy, Ongisa McKenzie, Amanda Tellechea, Jackie Jenkins, Theresa Nielsen, Jennifer Godlewski, Sherie Zimmer, Sandra Reissig, Beth Grem, Rose Markham, Sally Hopp, Andrew Hosier, Mary Beth Leaf, Sally Matts, Wanda Jones, Linda Ivko, Bill Allen and CC MG County Coordinator Luke Gustafson all helped to make the sale a resounding success. Thank you all - including those of you who dug up and donated plants, for your hard work, you are wonderful!

Article by CC MG Tina Bailem

Photos courtesy of CC MGs Rosemary Ewing and Terry Thir

Snails are not a favorite of gardeners, but they can be beautiful.
COORDINATOR’S CORNER

This growing season certainly has been up and down, but the end of May brought record wet weather to Southern Maryland. The rains tapered off later in June and ushered in a hot and very dry first half of July.

Rains returned in the second half of July with many places receiving at least 10 inches of rain in a few days. During this time, we had a great Plant Sale, the Extension Office moved to Bel Alton, there was a hands-on workshop at Melwood, 4-H Day Camp was a success, MGs conducted a Plant Clinic at the La Plata Farmers Market and much more. It’s been a full first half of the year!

This fall the County plans to host an open house here at the new location. I will pass the information along to everyone as soon as I have a date. As we look forward to the rest of the summer and fall, I hope to make use of our nice, large conference room. It opens up a lot of opportunities for workshops and presentations. Is there a topic that you might want to cover in a class or an idea that you have for an event? Contact me at Ing@umd.edu.

Thanks for all the great work you do in the community!

By Luke Gustafson, CCMG Coordinator

CELEBRATE LA PLATA DAY

On April 28, CC MGs Doris Santimays, Theresa Jones, Rose Markham and Janet McGrane represented the Master Gardeners at the Celebrate La Plata Day.

They worked with about 70 children with the caterpillar-butterfly identification board, the praying mantis and butterfly photo boards, and helped them to make pipe cleaner caterpillars.

They also talked with about 60 adults answering questions and advising.

Article and photos by CC MG Janet McGrane
The K Kids Club at Higdon Elementary meets before school at 8:00 am every Thursday. They are a service group affiliated with the Kiwanis Club. The Club has conducted various fundraisers by selling items that members have made and then donated the money to good causes within the community. Recently club members presented a check for $500 dollars to the Veterans Museum. What an impressive group of 3-5 graders!

For the past two years, CC Master Gardeners have joined the children on one Thursday a month, or less frequently during the winter months, to help in their courtyard. Together we have battled wire grass, planted, pruned and learned about pollinators and host plants for butterflies in our region. The garden now features milkweed, coneflowers, monarda and sunflowers as well as annuals and shrubs.

On June 29, CC MGs Rose Markham, Doris Santimays and Mary Gaskins were invited to the home of CC MG Barbara Hays in Port Tobacco for a possible Bay-Wise certification of her residence. As we walked her property and observed all the different and interesting gardens that Barbara has created, it became clear that she had taken all the principles she learned in the MG Bay-Wise Training Class and applied them wisely to her recently purchased home.

We were captivated by her arrangement of native plants in each of her small gardens, creating an oasis for wildlife throughout her property. Her landscape is home to many beneficials like birds, butterflies and the like; we are hoping to soon see many Monarch's and pollinators searching for all the nectar her flowers will provide during the summer to prepare them for their journeys home come the fall. Congratulations Barbara!
NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK AT MELWOOD

I cannot think of a better way to kick off National Pollinator Week (June 18-24, 2018) than the Pollinator Workshop event held at the Melwood Recreation Center in Nanjemoy on Saturday, June 16.

The weather was perfect (after five consecutive weekends of rain) and the Melwood Pollinator Team was excited to be hosting the event to highlight the projects underway at the Melwood Rec Center. The team, led by Suse Greenstone, HTR, Manager Horticulture Therapy, is a collaborative effort between Melwood and Charles County Master Gardeners.

CC MGs who spent many hours in preparation and hosting the event included Barbara Hill, Jackie Jenkins, Rose Markham, Pam Sarvis, Marlene Smith, Terry Thir, and Jane Tyson. Topics covered during the event included the following educational presentations (available on box.com at https://app.box.com/folder/50447120535):

- Introduction by Suse Greenstone
- Plant Selections for Pollinators, Suse Greenstone
- Solitary Bee Biology, Jackie Jenkins
- Bee Safety, Roseanne Markham
- Pollinator Garden Design, Terry Thir
- Honeysuckle Trellis, Pam Sarvis
- Herb Spiral, Marlene Smith and Jane Tyson
- Taming Milkweed & Mint, Suse Greenstone
- Herb Selections, Suse Greenstone

Charles County Master Gardeners interested in participating in the Melwood Pollinator project at the Melwood Recreation Center in Nanjemoy should contact Suse Greenstone at SGreenstone@melwood.org.

PORT TOBACCO MARKET DAY

On May 5, CC MGs Tima McGuthry-Banks, Harriet Beck and Janet McGrane shared Bay-Wise best practices with people attending the Port Tobacco Market Day. They set up an information booth with Master Gardener materials, Bay-Wise information and free seed packets. It was a well attended event that allowed them to inform homeowners about the benefits of following sustainable gardening practices to protect the health of local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

Article by CC MG Janet McGrane
Photo courtesy of CC MG Rosemary Ewing
“Where is that Rabbit?” Well we did it again! The CC MG’s performed our wonderful puppet show on June 2 at the Potomac Branch Library in Indian Head, Maryland.

Several very enthusiastic children actively participated in the presentation, which made it so much more fun for us!

Farmer McGregor brought fresh vegetables to show the kids what he grew in his garden. Peter Rabbit told them how we use vegetables in our daily meal planning. Ripley Rat learned that vegetables taste good and are good for you.

After the show the children were given a Peter Rabbit sticker and also took home vegetable seeds and fresh vegetables to eat at their homes.

Cast members included: Peter Rabbit, Gail Enid Walker; Mother Rabbit, Sally Mattis; Farmer McGregor, Jim Cobey; Ripley Rat, Terry Thir; Moderator, Rose Markham; Busy Bee, Janet Jenkins; Butterfly, Pam Sarvis; Praying Mantis, Rose Markham; Ladybug Beetle, Karla Costello; and Japanese Beetle, Sherie Zimmer.

Our next performance will be on Saturday, September 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the Charles County Fair.

The Misadventures of Peter Rabbit

Article and photos courtesy of CC MG Terry Thir

CC MG Annual Hot Dog Social

When: Tuesday, Aug 14 (previously scheduled date was rained out)

Time: Dinner at 6 pm

Where: Gilbert Run Park, Southside Pavilion, 13140 Charles Street, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. The park is located 8 miles east of La Plata, MD on Route 6.

RSVP: Please use the sign-up app (Luke will send out a notice) and indicate the number of people attending by Aug 12 as well as the dish you plan to share. Children are welcome! We will provide beef and chicken hotdogs and water.

We have reserved the Southside Pavilion. The pavilion is available for our use from 8:00 am until 7:30 pm. The park has public bathrooms and a playground. You can also rent a paddle boat, kayak and fish from the shore. There are scenic wood parkland, hiking and nature trails. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Thir at thirccmg@aol.com or by phone 240-441-4920 (cell).

I hope we have a great turnout!!
REBUILDING TOGETHER

On April 28th, CC MGs, in partnership with the ‘Rebuilding Together’ Organization (formerly known as the ‘Christmas in April’ Organization), celebrated spring by participating in a day of beautification at the Dr. Mudd Elementary School.

‘Rebuilding Together’ Charles County is a national non-profit organization with a mission to repair homes and revitalize communities. We are pleased to better satisfy the Master Gardener Mission by this new partnership.

On April 20th, there was a site visit performed by CC MG Interns Kathy Davis, Mary Beth Leaf and myself at the Dr. Samuel Mudd Elementary School trailer campus.

This temporary trailer campus had the foundation of a school garden that needed beautification. While meeting with teachers and parent liaisons we identified the soil conditions and made recommendations for appropriate plant material for the site. The Master Gardener volunteers for this project then enjoyed the morning of April 27th in the Lowe’s nursery department selecting materials for the project.

Project day was Saturday April 28th. Upon arriving at the school in the morning with plants, mulch, hats, gloves and tools, I was greeted by 25 smiling faces eager to garden. There were MGs and Interns, teachers, parents and students from the Dr. Samuel Mudd Elementary School, two North Point High School students, Girl Scouts and their leaders from the Hughesville Troop # 12020, and three LaPlata United Methodist Church youth group members and their leader.

Prior to "Digging In" I educated all volunteers on safe gardening practices and proper planting, mulching, and watering techniques. This was the foundation to a successful beautification project.

I want to thank everyone who supported this event and look forward to building on this new partnership in 2019. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27, 2019.

Carol Teets

Article and photos by CC MG Carol Teets
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>08/03</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Bees, Wsps, Hornets, Oh My! ('All Bugs Good and Bad' Series)</td>
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<td>08/04 &amp; 08/18</td>
<td>09:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Plant Clinic</td>
<td>Waldorf Farmer's Market</td>
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<td>08/14</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Hot Dog Social</td>
<td>Terry Thir</td>
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<td>08/16</td>
<td>6:00 pm - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Plant Clinic Training</td>
<td>Luke Gustafson</td>
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<td>08/21</td>
<td>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Fall Vegetable Gardening Workshop</td>
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<td>09/01 &amp; 09/15</td>
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<td>Plant Clinic</td>
<td>Waldorf Farmer's Market</td>
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<td>09/13 to 09/16</td>
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<td>Charles County Fair</td>
<td>Luke Gustafson</td>
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The Herb Spiral presentation by Marlene Smith and Jane Tyson was adapted from the book 'Edible Landscaping with a Permaculture Twist' by Michael Judd. It highlighted the benefits of planting in a spiral structure, gave basic instructions for building the spiral and the plant selection.

Benefits of an Herb Spiral:

- Creates micro-climates;
- Allows for companion planting and integrated pest management;
- Allows plants with different needs to thrive close to each other (unlike traditional gardens);
- Provides habitat for beneficial insects and bugs;
- Walls store solar heat and pass it back to the plant at night, extending the growing season;
- Space and water saver;
- Water flows down so the top dries out quickly, supporting those herbs that like it dry, while the bottom can be shady and moist;
- High productivity in a small space;
- Can fit anywhere, even on patio or deck;
- Easy to make;
- Easy to harvest and maintain;
- Adds year round architectural interest to the garden.

What Should I Plant?

- Microclimates in the spiral:
  - Mediterranean Top: Exposed to the sun and wind, the top of the spiral is great for crowning with Mediterranean herbs, such as rosemary, thyme, and oregano;
  - Delicate East: Coming down the spiral as it faces east and the morning light, we find a good place for more delicate plants, such as parsley and chives;
  - Sunny Southwest: Around the sunny south and west sides, basil, lavender and sages will do great;
  - Low North: At the low, moist, north-facing side, cilantro and cress will thrive;
- Plants that need a lot of spacing (room between neighboring plants) should be avoided, as a spiral is better used when well crowded;
- You should also choose plants you like, as it is useless to grow exotic plants if you're not planning on using them;
- Make sure that neighboring plants make good companions, referring to companion planting guides;
- Finally, take into account the final height of the herbs you want to plant, as this will affect how much shade they'll provide to other herbs (which may be a good thing, or not).

With such a variety of niches, the spirals can be planted with just about anything. It does not have to be utilized for growing herbs only or reserved for areas with lots of sun. Simply maximize on your location and plant interests.

After the presentation, CC MGs were invited to help build the herb spiral in the Melwood Pollinator garden. A special thank you to all who helped!

Article and photos courtesy of CC MG Marlene Smith
As Master Gardeners and lovers of nature we sometimes stumble onto a project that spreads like wildflowers. On May 15, Master Gardeners joined with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) in preparing and seeding a butterfly pollinator garden at the Port Tobacco River Park.

Charles County Parks and Recreation has done a fabulous job in providing plant and nature lovers a great place to play. Last fall, I found an opportunity for a great partnership for SMAS and the Master Gardeners (I am a member of both) after the park installed an informative sign about the Monarch butterfly and a surrounding garden area.

When I saw that the garden founders had planted the invasive Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia spp.*) in order to attract butterflies, not realizing just how undesirable this plant is, I knew I needed to do something to correct this gardening and nature nightmare. Budleia is a plant from Asia, and is currently spreading out of control along stream banks and other areas all over the country. Why take a chance when there are so many better native plants that butterflies will flock to and that are much healthier for them and for our fragile ecosystem? Each Butterfly Bush produces over 100,000 seeds which are distributed by the wind, so even though you may not see seedlings popping up in your garden, your Butterfly Bush is probably responsible for spreading devastation in natural areas like stream banks and disturbed industrial sites. We should not be the ones responsible for this damage to our ecosystem.

Yes, butterflies DO come to nectar at the butterfly bush, but this plant is not a larval host plant for ANY butterfly species. You are receiving only one ecosystem service for a few weeks every year, when, if you had planted native alternatives, you would be providing a wide variety of ecosystem services for all seasons of the year. And, if a wildlife garden offers a wide variety of native plants you will begin to see that the butterflies actually prefer natives and won’t even bother going to the butterfly bush.

SMAS volunteered to adopt the garden area and our fantastic friends in Charles County Parks gladly agreed. The Butterfly bushes were removed, and SMAS applied for a grant to the National Audubon Society to cover the cost of seed and plants. The best partner for us in this project was, of course, the Master Gardeners!

Finally, on May 15, six of us, with the help of Glenn Groves of County Parks and Recreation and my husband John, removed the mulch and weed barrier fabric. John roto-tilled the 25 x 15 ft area and we prepared our seed mixture and distributed it evenly. As the surrounding area with several *Solidago ssp.* grows, our seeded area with native plants will pop up and be a wonderful demonstration area to share our love and knowledge about the importance of native plants, as well as their beauty. So take a walk on the wild side, go to the park and watch how our garden grows. Thanks MG’s for holding hands with SMAS!!

We will have fun watching for the following: Common Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Blazing Star, Common Sneezeweed, False Sunflower, Wild Bergamot, Purple Coneflower, Obedient Plant, Coastal Joe Pye Weed and Whorled Tickseed.
MAY THE FORCE BE YOU!

During the month of May, CC MG Gail Walker was responsible for the decorations in one of the windows at the La Plata Library. This vibrant display was the result. Thank you! Photo by CC MG Gail Walker

MG GARDENING PROJECT WITH 4-H CAMPERS AT CAMP MERRICK

During the week of June 18 - 21, CC MG Kay Redman and CC MG Intern Bill Allen conducted gardening projects with 12 young 4-H Campers at Lions Camp Merrick in Nanjemoy, MD.

On the first day, participants gathered leaves on a walk in the woods to create a SunArt project. The process uses photo film paper that captures and creates an image of a leaf or other object on paper.

Kay and Bill also taught the campers about various types of flower seeds (annual vs. perennial) and how to determine the zone in which what seeds grow best. Attendees were then shown how to make seed "bombs" with clay, potting soil and flowering seeds of their choice to grow in their own yards.

Another fun event was recreating Chia pet hair in cups with the faces of the children on them. They were able to observe how seeds germinate and grow in sunlight.

Finally, on the last day of class participants fashioned wind chimes and medallions from quick drying clay which they could paint and display at their homes.

“It was a fun-filled four days for all. We learned to work together and appreciate nature and creativity. Our environment is important to everyone, we all learned how to enjoy it.” CC MG Intern Bill Allen

Article by CC MG Intern Bill Allen
Now that summer is here and we are spending more time outdoors eating, you want to be prepared to keep bees away from your food. Remember that where there are food and smells, so are bees. Unlike mosquitoes, bees are not attracted by the odor of humans, they are attracted to color and smells in their environment. Bees are simple insects, actually, and they do have a purpose. They’re pollinators. Strong food odors, especially sweet smells, attract bees and all their buddies - the wasps and yellow jackets - and once they get a whiff of your picnic food they may be with you through your entire party and long after you have left the area. So, mindful of that fact, here are some ways that you can prep your eating area so you can enjoy your food and they can enjoy theirs

- Set up the food table away from where everyone will be gathered.
- Bring some mint leaves with you and sprinkle them around your eating area. Mint masks the sweet smell of your food so the bees will possibly ignore you and your feast.
- Avoid bright colors and floral prints for your tablecloth or picnic blankets. Choose white or non-floral plates and napkins. Bees notice bright hues as well as sweet smells, so if something looks like a flower, there is a pretty good chance you will have a few bees coming over to check it out.
- Put out 4-5 cloves on the table. Bees hate the smell and should stay away while you are eating.
- Place pots of marigolds on the picnic table as a centerpiece. They are not pretty, but they do repel bees and other bugs.
- Bees are territorial so they will avoid enemy hives. Trick them by making fake hives by blowing up a few brown paper bags and tie them off. Hang them around the area on tree branches or the like. You may fool them and keep them away.
- About 20 minutes before you are ready to serve, set out a bowl or cup of some flat soda, fruit juice, maple syrup or sugar water a few yards away from your picnic to attract them. Bees do talk to each other, so this will give them time to all gather at the same spot and hopefully keep them busy while you enjoy your picnic. It may not get rid of all of them, but it will distract most of them.
- Keep everything covered. Keep trash cans covered and use lidded cups for sweet beverages. You may want to cover plates of BBQ as well.
- Dispose of any garbage right away.
- Stay low key - wearing light colored clothing is a good idea.
- Don’t wear cologne! Enough said.
- Finally, if you are really bothered by bees, bring one of those netted tent canopies to seal the bees outside.

I hope these ideas and info help you to be able to enjoy your next outdoor party bee-free.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Article by CC MG Rose Markham
Submit articles, photos, reports, events, and other items for publication to Tina Bailem at CompostSubmissions@yahoo.com by October 15, 2018 for the Fall 2018 newsletter. If you send a photo, please include a brief description of the activity and names of persons included in the photo, as well as the photographer’s name. If you send a photo of a plant, please include the scientific name.

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

Check out the Charles County Master Gardener page on Facebook! If you haven't already, please like us and share with your friends. This will be a great way to expand our reach into the community!

http://extension.umd.edu/charles-county/home-gardening