Autumn is here after another successful Spring and Summer. As we wind down the year, we are thankful for many things, including a new MG coordinator, an improved process for project approvals, and a great new class of Interns. This is also the time of year to reflect on our leadership. Gale, Cindi, and Terry are all stepping down from their positions as Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. They have all done an outstanding job in supporting and leading, not only the Master Gardener Program in Charles County, but most importantly, the Charles County Master Gardeners. Again, a big thank you to our current officers!

As we say thank you to our officers, we must also look to the future. Elections will be at next month’s general membership meeting on Nov 25th.

NEW THIS YEAR: Early voting will also be available online. CCMG Coordinator Luke Gustafson will email a link to the ballot form once it has been finalized. Online voting will be available from 12:01 AM on November 18th to 11:59 PM on November 24th. Those who do not cast a vote online will be able to vote at the November 25th general membership meeting.

Bob Peregoy and Terry Thir are nominees for Chairman, Rose Markham is nominee for Vice-chairman. We are still looking for someone to serve as Secretary, so please consider volunteering!! Nominations are open until November 14th.

It’s also time to vote for the Master Gardener of the year 2014. You can vote either by ballot at the Extension Office, or on-line. Luke will be sending an email with the online voting link. The person selected will be announced at the holiday party. Closing date for voting will be the monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 25th. All of us have somebody in mind who has added to the MG program so plan on voting—one time—before Nov 25th.
Holiday Party Announcements

CCMG holiday party will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Our event will be held at the Colonial Charles Community Center located on McDaniel Drive in St. Charles, MD, beginning at 6 p.m.

Please bring a main course, side dish or dessert to share. We will also collect can foods to donate to a local food bank.

Guest/spouse are welcome to join us. Please RSVP the name(s) and number attending and the food contribution for the potluck dinner to Terry Thir at thirccmg@aol.com by Nov. 20.

Know anyone who Should be Invited to our Holiday Party?

Please provide names and addresses of anyone you know who has been instrumental in helping or advocating for our Master Gardeners to invite as VIP guests to our Holiday Party. Please send the name, title, and full address to Gale Kladitis by Nov 14th.

Map to Colonial Charles Community Center
Announcements

Have you posted your MG Volunteer and Training Hours?

As of end of September, 15 Master Gardeners and 5 MG Interns have yet to log hours for 2014. If you want to enter your own activity log data, send Pauline Spurlock an email requesting username and password!

**********************************************************************************

Do you purchase items for the Master Gardeners?

If so, the item(s) need to be on a separate receipt from your personal item(s) and provided to the Charles County MG Treasurer, MG Neil Johnson.

Basic Training Class Update

Like usual, the Master Gardener Basic Training Class for 2015 will be held February through March. This year, however, we are excited to offer it for the first time as an evening class from 6 to 9 PM. The course will be at Thomas Stone High School in Waldorf.

Now for the first time, those who hold a Maryland teaching certificate will be eligible to receive 3 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits for successfully completing the course. This is big news for the Master Gardener Program! Thanks to Dawn Schaeffer, Coordinator of Staff Development with Charles County Public Schools who submitted the application to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Any teacher can get credit with MSDE for the valuable knowledge gained in the training class as they take the first step to becoming a Master Gardener.

If you know of someone who is interested in become a Master Gardener, have them contact me for the application.

Luke Gustafson, CCMG Coordinator

Harriett Beck and Kathy Jenkins are the new Events Committee Chairmen—if you have ideas on events you would like to see planned, please let them know.

Ideas for 2015 Article Series

The Summer edition of the Compost completed the series on Monthly Calendar Events in the Garden and this edition completes the series of articles on Invasive Species of Concern in Maryland. If you have ideas on the type of series of articles you would like to see in 2015, please send them to compostsubmissions@yahoo.com. Additionally, the Summer edition will focus on Great Gardens—if you have pictures of any garden you have visited you think others would like to know about or see photos of, please send them as well.

Thanks, Deborah
Change can be a good thing

It has been quite a good and productive year for the Charles County Master Gardeners. We graduated 17 fine interns and finally were granted a full time coordinator, Luke Gustafson. We had a fantastic Plant Sale in both La Plata and Waldorf, assisted with Christmas in April, continued our Plant Clinics with the Farmer’s Market in Waldorf, won 1st place in our educational display at the County Fair, got a tax credit for being Bay-Wise certified and made plans for the 1st time ever evening Master Gardener Training Classes to be held at Thomas Stone High School. Public school teachers will now be able to receive CPD credits for taking the class. Now folks, that’s not all, we were so accomplished this year that we completed all of our continuing projects as well as some new projects and ideas.

With our new coordinator and our growth it has been necessary to reconsider our governing structure and our current by-laws. When the program began in 1998 we had a small group and the by-laws generated at that time fit CCMG needs. Your Steering Committee met on October 21st and proposed modifications to the by-laws more in keeping with today’s active requirements. The most important change is your governing body, it would no longer be a steering committee, but rather a smaller group to be labeled and defined in the new by-laws. The by-laws committee is Terry Thir, Jessica Milstead and Robert Peregoy as observer. The committee plans to have the by-laws completed and ready for review in a few weeks. As we close the door on the old year as well as the old plans, keep in mind that with your energy, enthusiasm and joy we have gained this growth and with change we will become stronger.

Coordinator’s Comments

Thank you all for the work that you have done this season! You have put in many hours of volunteer service.

If you have not kept up to date on logging your hours, please take the time to do so. As you know, you can do enter your hours on paper or online at http://www.agnr.umd.edu/mg/. Pauline Spurlock or I would be happy to set you up with a username and answer your questions about the online system.

From the plant sale to Plant Clinics to Bay-Wise and all the other projects, thank you for the ways that you impact the community. I have been encouraged to see the energy and enthusiasm of the Interns. Many have plugged in and contributed significantly to the program. If you have not already, please take the time to write articles for the Compost and share with other Master Gardeners the highlights of your projects.

As the cooler weather moves in and we wrap up things for this growing season, I have been reflecting on the various Master Gardener activities and projects of the year. I encourage you all to be thinking about ideas and plans for the coming year. How can we make our existing projects more educational, engaging and relevant to our community? What areas are we not reaching now where we could have an impact?

Again, thank you for all your service to our community this season.
# Invasive Species of Concern in Maryland: Viruses, Fungi, & Other Organisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Code</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>* Beech Bark Disease Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cryphonectria parasitica</td>
<td>Chestnut Blight</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>* Geosmithia morbida</td>
<td>Thousand Cankers Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>* Phakopsora spp.</td>
<td>Soybean Rust</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>* Phytophthora spp.</td>
<td>Sudden Oak Death</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>* Plum Pox Potyvirus, D Strain</td>
<td>Plum Pox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>Puccinia hemerocallidis</td>
<td>Daylily Rust</td>
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<tr>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>* Raffaelea lauricola</td>
<td>Laurel Wilt</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>* Ralstonia solanacearum r3b2</td>
<td>Southern Bacterial Wilt</td>
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<th>Key code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Currently regulated by state and/or federal law</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Widely recognized by biologists and natural resource managers to degrade natural resources and/or negatively impact native species</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Known to have a negative economic impact on agricultural or natural resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Known or potential negative impacts on human (or animal) health</td>
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* Red Alert species: Species not yet established in Maryland but considered to be of high risk.

Information courtesy of The Maryland Invasive Species Council (MISC)  [http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/invasive_species_md.html](http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/invasive_species_md.html)

Photographs courtesy of extension.umd.edu, Wikipedia, walnutcouncil.org, apsnet.org, fs.fed.us, and ces.ncsu.edu
Bug Day Recap

Bug day was held at Dave Lewis’ house on September 9th and was attended by about 40 Master Gardeners. The day was overcast so it made for a very comfortable stroll through the woods. The Group was led by Daryl “Doc” Faustini, a retired forensic entomologist, who is currently teaching at Westlake High School. With Doc’s expert eye the group managed to spot over 50 different insects on the property. After the expedition the group had an enjoyable bag lunch on the patio. The following is a partial list of the bug spotted:


*Article by MG Dave Lewis*

MG Dave Lewis (host) greeting everyone

Daryl “Doc” Faustini giving a brief work and bug interest bio

Grasshopper

MG Bob Eppley inspecting a bug

Doc Faustini, MGs Jessica Milstead, Rose Markham, Leesa Meyers, Millie Havrilla, Rosemary Ewing, and MG Intern Harriett Beck

Milkweed Bug

Paper Wasp

Monarch Caterpillar

Photographs by MG Terry Thir
The Charles County Master Gardeners had a very successful weekend at the 2014 Charles County Fair. Our educational display in the Flower Building garnered a first place blue ribbon, along with a special educational excellence ribbon, equivalent to a best-in-show.

We also produced two special displays for the Drury (Canning) Building, a Grow-it-Eat-it display featuring lettuce boxes and a sweet potato basket, and a Bay-Wise awareness display. A picture of our educational display board and an article about Master Gardeners were featured in the Maryland Independent.

A big thank you goes out to the design team for the educational display: Tina Bailem, Karla Costello, Ellen Gustafson, Angela Mackie-Smith, and Sandra Reissig, all of whom are 2014 MG Interns. Great job! Thanks also go out to Harriet Beck for creating the Bay-Wise display board and to Janet McGrane and Anne Gillespie for setting it up. Thanks to Carol Teets, Gale Kladitis, and Ellen Gustafson for providing the Grow-it-Eat-it vegetable displays. And finally, none of our success would be possible without the dedicated volunteer MGs and MG Interns who provided expert assistance to by staffing our displays, answering questions from the public, and recording public interest in the MG training program and the Bay-Wise certification program: Tina Bailem, Denise Bauman, Harriet Beck, Mary Cocke, Karla Costello, Bob Eppley, Jane Groat, Ellen Gustafson, Marguerita Harding, Millie Havrilla, Millie Head, Kathy Jenkins, Neal Johnson, Jan Lakey-Waters, Dave Lewis, Angela Mackie-Smith, Rose Markham, Sandra Reissig, Doris Santimays, Dianne Shisler, Terry Thir, and Caridad Vicente. Thank you all.

Article and Photographs by MG Bob Peregoy

Master Gardener Educational Display at the Charles County Fair
Pictured from left: MG Intern Jane Groat, MGs Bob Peregoy, Dianne Shisler, and Rose Markham
In early June, MG Annie Sires and Intern Brent Burdick started a new project assisting Bay Community Support Services (Bay-CSS) with a vegetable garden at a residential group home for individuals with disabilities. The project came about through the efforts of Jackie Gray, Nutrition Educator and Project Leader, Maryland Food Supplement and Nutrition Program, University of Maryland Extension, Calvert County. Ms. Gray worked with the Bay-CSS agency in food/nutrition training and provided support to a Charles County residence with four disabled clients and staff on Nicholas Road in Pinefield, a subdivision of Waldorf. Ms. Gray contacted Luke Gustafson, Master Gardener Coordinator in Charles County, for Master Gardener assistance on a small raised bed project she initiated late the previous summer with some fall veggies. That was their first attempt to involve the residents in gardening, and to grow vegetables for their own consumption. The clients and staff were interested in trying again with a summer garden. Luke solicited volunteers – Annie and Brent stepped up to challenge to help plan and manage the garden.

During their first site visit to the residence in June with Ms. Gray, Annie and Brent found that the veggie garden consisted of a 4’x4’ raised bed in the backyard that Ms. Gray had installed the previous summer. The backyard was mostly shade, but the bed, which was in the sunniest location, would get some sun during the day but not enough for some fruit vegetables. Further review of the residence revealed a small patch in the front of the house that had more sunlight and could support a few plants.

Annie, Brent, and Luke worked with Ms. Gray over several weeks to establish gardens at the residence. Square foot gardening was introduced to the backyard raised bed. Some square-foot sections held transplants while others were started from seed. The bed had peppers, green and yellow wax beans, carrots, broccoli, parsley, basil, sage, oregano, and chives. Marigolds and nasturtium were planted to hopefully cut down on certain garden pests.

A small patch of ground on the front right side of the residence was developed into a veggie garden. Cherry and larger-size grape tomatoes were planted along with Egyptian eggplant and cucumbers. Marigolds were added for pest control.

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The gardens were monitored throughout the summer. Only one resident was interested in gardening so watering was somewhat haphazard. Overall, the garden had mixed results. The residents grew and ate tomatoes, eggplants, green and yellow wax beans, peppers, and the herbs and spices. Cucumbers succumbed early due to lack of water, as did the carrots and parsley and their subsequent reseedings. Ms. Gray used the harvested vegetables to introduce new recipes and other nutritional cooking tips to the staff and residents – so, the garden was a success!

Ms. Gray and Brent surveyed the residence gardens in early October and established a plan for late season cleanup and fall soil enhancement. They also started plans for early spring chores, early planting of spring crops, and veggie selection for next season, which would include a salad box.

Ms. Gray supports two other Bay-CSS group residences in the Waldorf area. She would be contacting them this fall to see if they were interested in similar nutritional gardening programs. If so, Ms. Gray would have to survey their yards with Master Gardener assistance to see if the yards would be suitable for veggie gardens – the two residences were in older, established neighborhoods that had extensive shade cover. If gardens were possible, Ms. Gray would develop cost proposals for inclusion in her own agency budget to buy the raised garden beds, plants, and the like, for next season. She would then need additional Master Gardener help for those residences.

In an email to Luke on October 6th, Ms. Gray thanked Luke, Annie, and Brent “for [their] support in getting the Bay-CSS home garden up and growing in Pinefield this summer” . . . and "greatly appreciated all the effort and time [they] put towards this project."
Cobb Island Monarch Mania was held on October 4th. Volunteers were Lynne Wheeler, Mary Sims, Pauline Spurlock, Janet McGrane, Harriet Beck and Jan Lakey-Waters.

Several MGs supported the event including Maggie Tieger, Carol Teets, and Terry Thir with her grandchildren.
Photos from the Garden
Photographs by Terry Thir

Snakes in the Garden—Garter Snake on left, Black snake in Chinese maple tree sunbathing on right

Wheel Bug

Katydid

Do you have photos of interesting insects or other wildlife in your garden you think others would like to see? Please send to compostsubmissions@yahoo.com

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies."
- Gertrude Jekyll, garden designer

Where flowers bloom so does hope.
- Lady Bird Johnson
Recently my property was Bay-Wise Certified after weeks of false starts and delays on my part. Prior to my certification, I had encouraged others to have their yards certified. I had even assisted in the certification of others peoples’ properties. Why was I so reluctant to complete this task for my own yard?

Even I didn’t know the answer at first. I completed the training to become a Bay-Wise Certifier, and I believed in and practiced the Bay-Wise Principles. In class students were asked to complete a Bay-Wise Yardstick to see how many practices we could identify that we had incorporated into our own landscapes. At a demonstration landscape students completed yardsticks to put their training into practice. During a summer Master Gardener general meeting, everyone in attendance completed a yardstick. Each time I finished the exercise, my results showed that I had applied knowledge to my landscape to receive certification. But still I hesitated.

Somewhere between each yardstick exercise, I developed a dread of having other Master Gardeners/Bay-Wise Certifiers visiting my yard to observe my own gardening practices. That anxiety grew into the kind of dread one feels before visiting the dentist, knowing full well a cavity is lurking somewhere in a tooth.

I tried to understand my anxiety. All the Master Gardeners were people I liked. None of them were judgmental about other people’s landscapes and gardening techniques. If there were corrections to be made, the resulting solutions would be delivered with care and sensitivity. So the problem had to be in my own mind.

Eventually, I realized what caused my hesitation. The previous landscapes that I had visited for training and certifications were beautiful. They were the kinds of landscapes photographed for gardening magazines with glossy photos of settings that the reader would covet for her own yard. My yard was not like any of those photos. My aesthetic was not very tidy and traditional. I must confess: I was ashamed of my own yard.

My yard has trees - lots of sweet gum and Eastern red cedars. I love those tall gum trees with their deep taproots that allow them to stand up to heavy winds. I love those trees for the cooling shade they provide on the hottest summer days. I love that they are native in origin. On the other hand, I do not love the prickly seedpods that litter the ground underneath. The other trees, Eastern red cedars, draw cedar waxwings and other birds during their winter migrations. However, the surrounding ground under the cedars is often nearly barren, except for the money plant that self seeds abundantly in certain sections. Also, I do not love the how the grass around the trees, or lack of grass, grows. My lawn is really a collection of weeds and less attractive plants that only create the effect of a lawn if they are all mowed the same height.

Native plants have always fascinated me. Since my Master Gardener and Bay-Wise trainings, I have really come to appreciate the value of native plants for benefits in the landscape and for the local insects and animals. When I looked at my yard, I saw a few natives that I had incorporated since I had gained my newfound knowledge, but I also saw big box store plants that did not really fit in the design of my forest garden. Yes, I had also learned that my kind of landscape was called a forest garden.

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When I looked around my front, side, and back yards, I saw practical, but ugly wire cages protecting shrubs from deer. I saw decimated plants eaten by deer and other critters; overgrown herb, vegetable, and flowerbeds; weeds pushing through the bases of plants that I had overlooked during my last weeding. And the invasive plants! Some I inherited when I bought the property, and some I introduced in my ignorance. I am duty bound to confess a few of both kinds: daylilies, vinca minor, Asian honeysuckle, and Japanese stilt grass. Fortunately, I had been able to pull all the English ivy that I had never planted, but found curling around tree stumps. Although it feels good to confess my sins, it doesn’t relieve my guilt. In other words, my property would never be photographed for a monthly magazine with glossy photos for others to ogle and covet.

The day of the certification, the Bay-Wise certifiers arrived: Rose, Pauline, and Terry, all wonderful Master Gardeners. I was in the hands of good people.

What did they see? First they saw my two rain barrels for watering between rainfalls. Then they saw the natives that had volunteered, or I had planted: spice bush, black haw viburnum, sweet pepper plant, milk weed, bee balm, cat’s paws, native honey suckle, Virginia sweetspire, red bud, native dogwood, and multiple varieties of fern. I could go on, but I won’t. They noted that I compost garden and kitchen waste and grasscycle during mowings. They saw how I continually use all those sweet gum leaves for mulch. They observed how I do not use pesticides and encourage the use of beneficial insects to rid my garden of pests. They saw how I kept brush piles for birds, kept the bird baths clean, and provided cover for other small animals. They gave me some suggestions about ways to remove the invasive plants and even admired some of my plantings. We joked that I would not lose points for the tacky fall decorations in the front yard. The certification was not only painless, but also fun! We shared information with each other that gardeners love to do.

After an hour and a half of observation, interview, and demonstration, the resulting inches/points from the yardstick were totaled. I PASSED well above the minimum 36 inches! I was overcome with pride that my pitiful landscape measured up to the standards, not just by my interpretation, but also by Bay-Wise experts whom I respect.

So the moral of the story is: get your property Bay-Wise certified! Be a good role model for your neighbors while you help clean the pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. If I can live through the certification process successfully so can you. And if you are really anxious, ask for me to be on your certifying team since I will know the mental worries you may be harboring.
2014 BAY-WISE CERTIFICATIONS

Esther Reaves
Mary Gaskins*
Doris Santimays *
Patti & Ed Faulkner*
Harriet Beck*
William and Mary Cocke
Barbie Walter

Kathleen Jenkins*
James & Margery LaMar
Rose Markham *
Sandra Reissig *
Rosemary Ewing
Millie Head
Kathy Jenkins

Bay-Wise Master Gardeners indicated with a *

Barbie Walter’s Thank You Luncheon

A “Thank You” Luncheon was held for MG Barbie Walters on September 17th at the Swan Point Country Club. There were approximately 35 MGs in attendance. Several special friends/current and retired UME Extension Staff also attended: Karol Dyson, Marcia Wakefield, Bob Stewart. Barbie’s husband Will as well as Barbie’s best friend Mary Reeves were also in attendance.

CCMG Coordinator
Luke Gustafson presenting
MG Barbie Walters plaque
“For her outstanding service as the training coordinator from 2007-2014”
November
8  11am-2pm; Composting Demonstration & Shred Event in cooperation with Department of Public Works Environmental Resources Division; Charles County Government Building Parking Lot 200 Baltimore Avenue La Plata. MG Coordinator Luke Gustafson leading a composting demonstration and other MGs available to answer questions on composting

December
2  10am; Membership Meeting Extension Office Open to all MGs

January
26  10am; Membership Meeting Extension Office Open to all MGs

February
23  10am; Membership Meeting Extension Office Open to all MGs

June
4  Thursday, 8 am – 4:30 pm, MG Annual Training Day, University of MD, College Park.

Training Opportunities

MGs Denise Bauman, Pauline Spurlock, Rose Markham, Caridad Vicente and Terry Thir attended the Calvert County 3-day Native Plants for Shade Gardens in September/October taught by Dr Sara Tangren (in photo). Dr Tangren provided info sheets on Maryland Ecoregions and on Native Plant Resources for Western Shore. MG Caridad Vicente held a Landscaping training session after the October Monthly Meeting in which she handed copies of these info sheets to the MGs present. Caridad is available to teach a more detailed session to groups of 4 or less. Please contact Caridad if interested.

What ecoregion is Charles County located in?

Answer: Western Coastal Plain
Submit articles, photos, reports, events, and other items for publication to Deborah Determan at CompostSubmissions@yahoo.com by January 15, 2015 for the Winter 2014/2015 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, if known.

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.