University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.
SPRING 2012

Did You Know?

From Carol Teets, Class of 2003:

In the Fall of 2011 the St. Mary's Arboretum Association was formed. The Arboretum's primary purpose is to beautify and better the grounds of St. Mary's College. For more information and a Calendar of Events go to www.smcm.edu/arboretum/index.html. They even have a walking tour of the campus that can be accessed on your smart phone. To download the Arboretum Walking Tour Map, go to www.smcm.edu/arboretum/tour.html.

From Jessica Milstead, Class of 2002:

Are you a fan of the Fish & Wildlife Service's Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed? Even if you have the beautiful printed version of this guide, there's a new website you should know about: www.nativeplantcenter.net. This website appears to have the same content as the book, but it's searchable and some of the information is a bit more detailed.

As best I can judge, they're using the same photos as in the book, but they're larger and clearer. It's easier to get a sense of what the plant actually looks like. This one is going onto my Favorites list.

Compost: A collection of unattractive materials that, when mixed together and properly treated, becomes something useful and enriching.
PLANT DISEASES - ONE DAY WORKSHOPS
(offered at different locations)

Location: Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD
Date: Tuesday, June 12; 9:30 am-3:30 pm
Registration Deadline: June 5

Location: University of MD Extension, Derwood, MD
Date: September 5
Registration Deadline: August 29
Instructor: David Clement, Ph.D, Regional Specialist in Plant Pathology, Home and Garden Information Center, University of Maryland Extension
Registration Fee: $35
Class limit: 25

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN and full descriptions of every class listed here and other available classes are found at the state MG website: mastergardener.umd.edu
Click on “Advanced Training” on the left side of the page.

SAVE THE DATE
MG ANNUAL TRAINING DAY
Wednesday, May 23, 2012  8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
University of Maryland College Park

• 33 wonderful workshops to choose from
• Laugh with the HGIC Players
• You can stay in one building the entire day, if you choose
• Pre-order and pick up all of your MG branded merchandise*
• Enjoy the fabulous trade show and purchase plants, books, jewelry and more

Parking, breakfast and lunch included
$69 if you register by 4/30/12
($79 after that date)
*You must have all MG Merchandise orders in by April 30

Register online: mastergardener.umd.edu
click on Annual Training Day on the left.

The Right Plant in the Right Space Aids IPM

By Sue Brewer, Class of 2008

On Friday, February 24, 2012, Master Gardeners were invited by Barbie Walter to sit in on one of the MG Training classes held at the Social Services Building at 200 Kent Ave. in La Plata. Dr. Mike Raupp, of the Department of Entomology at UMD was giving a lecture on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Dr. Mike said that the first information related to monitoring an insect pest on non-food crops can be traced back to E. Leopold Trouvelot who brought the gypsy moth to America in the 1860’s to use them in a “silk making plan” that failed. The gypsy moths are still with us!

Synthetic pesticides DDT, Orthene, and Sevin were developed as chemical weapons in World War II and re-purposed for insect control. After the book The Silent Spring was written by Rachel Carson, scientists took a better look at DDT and eventually it was removed from the retail market. Dr. Mike shared a story of one of his professors who used to eat DDT crystals in front of his classes to show that the chemical in low concentrations was not toxic. He explained that as plankton ate the DDT it became more concentrated in their “bodies”. And as one species after another ate a smaller organism on the food chain, the
Dr. Frank Gouin Is a Fount of Information

By Sue Brewer, Class of 2008

Composting started out as a hit or miss proposition until the Clean Water Act was enacted in 1968. Then it turned into a science. Increased population and density of cities began to demand creative solutions for waste treatment and so composting became big business.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPOSTING TO WORK

Humans need around 21% oxygen to survive compared to the 2-5% oxygen needed by the microorganisms in compost to work properly. A steady supply of oxygen is accomplished by turning the compost frequently.

Between 40% and 60% moisture is also critical for compost success. Dr. G. described the “sponge” test to evaluate the moisture content of the compost pile. He said to completely wet a sponge and then squeeze it out. The feel of the sponge at this point is about 50% moisture. If sponge feels dry, you have below 40% moisture. If sponge is still dripping, you have 60% or more moisture. Then feel your compost! Dr. G. said he had been doing this test for moisture for more than 50 years and he still has all his fingers intact!

Yard waste is the most common addition to the home compost pile. Dr. G. shared that a 20-25:1 ratio of carbon to nitrogen is the most effective. He mentioned that home gardeners have difficulty balancing the ratio due to the fact that grass clippings and...
WOODY PLANT LEVEL II  CERTIFICATE CLASSES
Three of the four courses in the “Landscape Horticulture: 200 Common Landscape Plants” will be offered this spring and summer in the series: Flowering Shrubs, Ornamental Trees and Vines (2 locations), and Shade Trees (2 locations).

FLOWERING SHRUBS
Location: Baltimore County Extension Center
Dates: Wednesdays May 30, June 6 and June 13 (Field trip on 6/13)
Time: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Instructor: Wanda MacLachlan, Area Extension Educator
Registration Fees: $45  Registration Deadline: May 23

ORNAMENTAL TREES AND VINES
Two locations: (same basic class, different locations, speakers and field trips)
Location: Charlotte Hall Library (St. Mary's county)
Dates: Tuesday, June 5, June 12, & June 19 (field trip)
Times: 10 am-1 pm
Instructor: Bob Stewart, UME Educator, Retired
Registration Fees: $45  Registration Deadline: May 30, 2012

Location: Harford County Extension
Dates: Wednesday, June 20, Thursday, June 21, 10 am-1 pm,
Friday, June 22, 9 am-12 noon
Field trips to: Manor View Farms, and Ladew Topiary Garden,
Instructor: Steve Dubik, MG Coordinator, Montgomery County, and Professor, Montgomery College
Registration Fees: $48 (includes admission fees)
Registration Deadline: June 14, 2012

GOUIN  (Continued from page 4)
downed leaves often don’t occur at the same time. He shared that commercial applications often collect fall leaves in wind piles/rows about 20 feet apart. The next spring they make wind piles of grass clippings between the piles of leaves. When the length of these rows matches, they mix them and add water and an inoculate (medium which delivers active micro-organisms to the new pile….he suggests previous compost as a source for this). He said that if a person mixed a bushel of shredded leaves and a bushel of grass clippings, the result would be a ratio of 35-40:1 carbon to nitrogen.

Compost needs a pH of 5.8 to 7.3 to be effective.
Phosphorus must be present for compost to work.

CHALLENGES WHEN BEGINNING TO COMPOST
Inoculate is needed to get started. Dr. G. suggested getting your hands on some previously composted material to begin this process or it will take a long time for micro-organisms to build up on their own. This lengthens the time necessary for the pile to break down the organic material.

Trying to introduce water on dry leaves is difficult. They are hydrophobic. Dr. G. suggests filling a 5 gallon bucket with water and adding ¼ cup of the cheapest dish detergent you can find. He said that it is also helpful to add a couple shovels full of garden soil. This mix helps the water adhere to the leaves, making for a more effective composting process. He also mentioned that if you can shred or break down the leaves, composting is more efficient. Dr. G. said he used to enlist his children and their friends for this process. He raked the leaves and had the kids run through, jump on and generally break down the leaves.

DO NOT put yeast, sawdust, lime, or fireplace ash on a compost pile. For different reasons, each interferes with composting process.

Efficient compost piles can get quite hot. Be sure to turn the pile often and keep the water level high so the pile doesn’t burn.

Generally, dog and cat waste should not be used in compost piles due to the danger of hookworms. If your compost temperature is 155 degrees or higher, you can compost dog and cat waste, weeds and tomatoes. This temper-
temperature is high enough to kill typhoid, diphtheria, worms, weeds and seeds. Warning: 155 degrees is very unusual in a backyard compost pile!

Cardboard can be composted in small amounts. The glue used in cardboard contains boron which can be tolerated in small amounts by plants.

Compost barrels work well in warm weather but in cold weather, the organisms cease to work. The barrel must be brought into a warm place in the winter to keep functioning e.g. a barn.

**mulch**

Dr. G. warns about using hardwood or softwood mulches on shallow rooted plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, boxwood, perennials, or annuals. Many mulches are newly shredded materials and so leach nutrients from the soil or deposit a large amount of manganese as is the case with hardwood chips. He named Big Red Mulch as one of the worst as it comes from untreated shredded pallets.

Shredded leaves can be used to mulch but for best results, deposit the leaves on the surface, do not mix with soil. An inch to an inch and a half is adequate.

He mentioned that his preference for weed control is to avoid mulch altogether and apply horticultural vinegar which is 20% acetic acid. He said the vinegar is very effective in controlling weeds and it has low buffering so it does not injure plants. He named A.M. Leonard or Fleischmans online as sources of this special vinegar. It is NOT the same as the vinegar we get in the supermarket.

Pine needles are OK to use for mulch for acid loving plants.

Rubber mulch is OK to use as it leaches very little into the soil.

Shredded cedar mulch is no better than other mulch despite its tendency to repel insects. Dr. G. said that the only major insects it discourages are termites and termites do not live in mulch due to the small size of mulch pieces.

Using grass clippings increases nitrogen in soil but use sparingly as thick applications don’t get enough oxygen. This causes the grass to go anaerobic and smell.

Do not use white marble or blue stones to mulch shallow rooted plants like azaleas, rhododendrons, boxwoods, annuals or perennials as these stones deposit excess calcium that can kill or weaken the plants.

(Continued from page 5)

(Continued on page 7)

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**Reporting Time Increments Under An Hour**

By Pauline C. Spurlock  
Record Keeper

According to the University of Maryland Master Gardeners:

“If someone reports 2.5 hours, the report will show that they have 2.5 hours. You can report any number with up to two digits after the decimal. Therefore, .25, .50, and .75 are no problem, and will show up on reports with the decimals.” You can now report your volunteer activity hours in increments of less than one hour.

**Your Volunteer Activity Logs for the first quarter ending March 31, 2012, are due in the Extension Office.**

Your logs can be mailed, dropped off at the Extension Office, or faxed.

Please pick up your tables and materials at Barbie’s after the sale by 6 p.m. on Saturday May 5

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(Continued from page 18)

**STAGING**

Table and Staging Materials Drop-off: April 21 - April 28

Plant Drop-off: April 29 - May 4 by 12:00 noon

Plant Sale Day: May 5

Please pick up your tables and materials at Barbie’s after the sale by 6 p.m. on Saturday May 5
Have You Ever Heard of a Straw Bale Garden?

By Brenda Elmore, Class of 2011

Looking for something a little different? Look into horticulturist Joel Karsten’s method of gardening. His email is joelkarsten@comcast.net. You can take a look at what his gardens look like at the website www.strawbalegardens.com. Unfortunately, he teaches his methods in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but he has authored a book detailing how to garden without weeds, without pesticides, and with very little bending so it’s good for seniors and the disabled.

I’m really kind of curious about it, so I think I’ll give it a try and let you know how it’s going in the next Compost. It might not be so crazy after all, because before I joined the Master Gardeners last year, I had never heard of composting a cow (Dr. Gouin, UMD) or growing potatoes in a laundry basket, or growing salad in a box! Gardeners get pretty creative with their gardening and that’s part of the fun. So someone show me where to buy some bales of straw and I’ll see what happens. Happy gardening to you!

STAGING (Continued from page 13)

All staging items need to be delivered to Barbie’s house April 21-28, the week before plants begin to be dropped off. People will be dropping off their plants during the entire week (April 29-May 4) before the sale and we will need the “tables” set up before the plants arrive. If you would like to help set things up on April 28, please let me know by email or phone so that I can contact you with more information.

One last thing—just as what goes up, must come down, everything you lend us for the plant sale must be retrieved from Barbie’s yard by the end of the day on Plant Sale Day. Barbie has been gracious enough to allow us to use her yard as the staging area for a week, and we don’t want her to regret being so generous. So if you lend things, make sure you understand that we are just borrowing them, and that you or your representative must take back the items by Saturday evening. That is why it is important that you label them with your name and phone number before you drop them off. Thanks in advance for your help in continuing to make our Master Gardener Plant Sale a red-hot success!

GOUIN (Continued from page 6)

If using compost, Dr. G. suggests 5% compost application to plants. This amounts to an inch to an inch and a half layer. At room temperature, this is a release rate of 8-9% nitrogen which is the same as applying 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre. You don’t need fertilizer if this is done annually.

Bio Cycle is a magazine that Dr. Gouin recommended to find sources of compost for home application. They track sources. He mentioned Compro, Leaf Gro, Argrow, and Leaf Pro.

If you notice small leaves or red blotching on azaleas, look at trace elements. Often, hardwood mulch leaves a manganese toxicity in the soil.

Home compost is good to use as mulch but Dr. G. warns that 1 to 1.5 inches is adequate as a deeper application can cause it to become slimy.

Dr. G. noted that compost has 3 naturally occurring fungicides in it. It can help to protect plants.

FERTILIZERS

Dried blood, plant meal, seaweed, inorganic forms of nitrogen, Nutricoat, and Plantcoat all have uses in the garden. Some fertilizers have nitrogen which releases over an extended time frame.

Fertilizers with coated nitrogen make the nitrogen slow release but the other nutrients are available immediately.

If you use a fertilizer with high magnesium, don’t use lime with it for a container application. This combination is acceptable in a field application.

In a “urea form” fertilizer, nitrogen is usually mixed with formaldehyde. Bacteria in the soil neutralize the toxicity of the formaldehyde.

CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity) refers to the amount of organic material available in soil. A sandy soil, for example, would have low CEC due to the limited organic materials. Clay soil has a higher CEC. It does take a lot more fertilizer and lime to make a change but the clay soil retains the nutrients for a much longer time.

It’s CRITICAL to have a soil sample done before putting fertilizer down. Dr. Gouin suggests cores of 6 inches for a lawn area. He suggests that you take at least half a dozen samples, mix them together and then dry them out. He sends a half pint of this soil for testing. He uses A & L Labs in
Richmond at a cost of $13 per sample. Results come back within a week and show not only nutrients but also CEC. He also said that if you are testing the soil for shallow rooted plants like azaleas only take 3” soil samples which is where their roots lie. If testing around a tree, test at the drip line, NOT near the trunk.

He discussed Osmocote and the importance of using an 18-6-12 ratio fertilizer for container plants.

He mentioned that new EPA regulations limit the use of phosphorus to new lawn applications and documented deficiencies.

GENERAL PLANT TIPS/QUESTIONS

When growing asparagus, let the plant die naturally. As the plant dies it transfers any nitrogen to its roots to ensure a strong crop of spears for the next season.

General plants grow best in pH of 6.5.

Azaleas, blueberries, Japanese holly, rhododendron and leucothe grow best in pH of 5.0. These plants are susceptible to nitrate toxicity when ammonium nitrate fertilizers are used on them instead of ammonium sulfate.

Since plants of mixed varieties are often combined in a single bed, Dr. Gouin recommends using an inch to an inch and a half of compost instead of fertilizer around the plants. He explained that since compost has a range of nutrients in it, different plants can take what they need. It is more forgiving.

Dr. G. suggests that you plant a cover crop in your vegetable garden to replenish lost nitrogen. Rye is very effective. It is turned under at the beginning of the season.

Shallow rooted plants such as holies, boxwood and azaleas root in the upper 3 inches of soil. They need potassium and magnesium to thrive. Dr. G. suggested using Epsom salts as a source of nutrients if needed, but did not say how much to apply.

One of the MGs shared a lawn problem with a ring of dead grass forming in a very established sunny lawn. Dr. G. said it sounded like a “fairy ring” and could be treated by applying an inch or 2 of compost and rototilling it into the soil.

If azaleas are not thriving, Dr. G. said an application of Epsom salts will most likely improve their appearance. He recommends 2 ta-

If you would like more information on a project, please contact the project leader by referring to your Membership Directory.
concentration became higher and higher until it was toxic. Dr. Mike warned about using broadcast sprays in our gardens. He gave the example of someone spraying for aphids. The spray they used for aphids was effective on the adult aphids but the spray also killed beneficial insects that ate aphids. So, the gardener actually ended up with a worse aphid problem due to the fact that when the baby aphids hatched, there were none of their normal predators alive so they thrived!

IPM basically trades poison for knowledge. The steps in developing an IPM Program are:

● Development of an IPM policy
● Designation of pest management roles
● Establishment of IPM objectives
● Knowledge of key pests, plants and locations (Master Gardener Expertise)
● Setting decision making guidelines
● Intervention and Evaluation

Dr. Mike described the main trees and shrubs with problems, and explained that many of the varieties are very old and have been bred for their fruit, thus screening out plants with natural immunity to insects and diseases. Shrubs with multiple problems are: firethorn, lilac, boxwood, roses and euonymus.

Trees with problems are peach, crabapple, apple, flowering cherry, and American dogwood.

Trees that are relatively pest free are: hickory, tulip poplar, white oak, black gum, and black locust. He said that viburnum, arborvitae, barberry and yew are mostly pest free.

While insects are a major issue in our area, Dr. Mike showed us studies conducted at UMD 30 years ago, that showed the same insects were pests that we still see now. Basically, he said that if we can identify characteristics and damage done by 10 insects we will be able to assist the community with 76% of the damage done to their plants. These include: spider mites, azalea lace bug, scales, dogwood borer, Japanese beetle, aphids, bagworms, galls, boxwood leaf miner, and arborvitae leaf miner.

Regular monitoring of your plants is very important. You need to check for insects, diseases, weeds, air flow between plants, water levels, and beneficial organisms. The single most effective way to protect plants is to make sure you put the right plant in the right spot. Example: If you

(Continued on page 3)

Detention Center Spring Garden Begins Again
By Gale Kladitis, Class of 2008

Plans are already underway for the Spring vegetable garden at the Detention Center. Mr. Merchant, the project coordinator for the Detention Center, has contacted both Mr. Robey and Mr. Goldsmith of Charles County Public Works for rototilling and obtaining County compost. The seeds will have been purchased by the time you read this, with plant varieties selected by both the Detention Center and Master Gardeners. Mr. Merchant expects at least 8 students to be joining us for class and lab work because of a change in the selection policy. The new design last year for trenching was very successful and allowed retention of water to the garden rather than runoff and will be incorporated in this year’s layout. The Spring classes will all be held on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. starting May 9. I have received many emails from our cleared Master Gardeners interested in continuing with our program. Please be assured that all who wish to join us, can. The vegetable garden does not require a clearance and if you have not decided to commit you might be interested in coming by on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and taking a look. I am looking forward to the new students and the vegetable garden this year.
On Monday, March 5, Gale Kladitis presented a lesson on growing plants from seeds and cold crops to the Thomas Stone Garden Club.

Gale’s methods have been honed by experience during her long gardening career.

Her advice on seeding was slightly different than what you’ll see on the back of a Burpee seed pack. She prefers the method of sowing seeds directly on the planting medium, with the seeds overlaid in a straight line. As the seedlings begin to sprout and grow, which they do in profusion, she gently pulls out a clump of seedlings, teases the rootlets apart, and plants each strong little plant in its own container. Peat pots, cardboard egg cartons, or other such material can be used. The trick is not to let your seedlings grow too long in their first home or they may become leggy. They need to be hardened off and planted where they will stay. If planted early, they will require protection with Agribond or some similar material.

Gale advises against planting tomatoes too close together as this seems to promote early blight. She also advises soaking the soilless medium for 24 hours before you start your seedlings, as the medium can be “hydrophobic”, meaning it resists absorbing water until it is already damp, similar to trying to get a dry sponge to absorb water before it is dampened.

Gale had tips for using moonflower seeds to grow annual vines that will cover or climb profusely, but can be disposed of when the leaves have fallen so that you will get a neater look all season round. Before planting the seeds, which are covered with a hard shell, you need to clip off one end (she uses nail clippers) and then soak the seeds. This insures germination. She advises soaking spinach seeds before planting, as well.

Being from Indiana, it had never occurred to me that I was far enough south to grow peanuts, but (Continued on page 11)

**GOUIN ADVICE**

(Continued from page 14)

the process some of the practices we take for granted as gardeners were shown to be counterproductive.

Take mulch, for example---yes, just take it away! You are much better off spreading 1-2 inches of compost around your plants than you are spreading 2-3 inches of mulch. Hardwood mulch is the most damaging, causing magnesium toxicity. His advice? Introduce the above-mentioned amount of compost around your plants, and if you must mulch, use relatively fine pine mulch to a depth of only an inch or so! And that is just for show. Marble chips? No way. Their chemistry is wrong, too. Use pea gravel which comes from granite which won’t harm the soil. Having mulch stood on its ear was a bit hard for some of us to take, but whatever Dr. Gouin tells you, you can take it to the bank!

Knowledgeable, informative, and just plain entertaining, Dr. Gouin keeps a room full of gardeners raptly attentive. It was a delightful way to spend the morning, and now, since it is so nice outside, I’m going out to put what I learned into practice! Thank you, Barbie Walter, for inviting Dr. Gouin to address our group—it was well received, as always, and we look forward, hopefully, to seeing him again next year.

Dr. Gouin’s book, *Enough Said*, was offered for sale for $20.00. It is available from the Annapolis Horticulture Society. If interested, check online at www.AnnapolisHorticulture.org.
Great Gardening With Advice from Dr. Gouin
By Brenda Elmore, Class of 2011

March came in like a lamb this year. And to celebrate this early spring, Master Gardeners and Interns were invited to a workshop with Dr. Francis Gouin pronounced (“goin’”), a renowned agricultural research scientist who has spent the last forty years turning composting from an art into a science based on years of fieldwork (literally!) and his knowledge and love of chemistry.

It is always a pleasure to listen to what Dr. Gouin has to say, because you come away with new knowledge that you can put to use in your own garden. This is the man who invented the formula for Osmocote plant fertilizer, with the proper proportions of timed-release nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium so that people could successfully garden in containers.

Dr. Gouin, in retirement, does more than most people do before retirement. He has helped people, businesses, government agencies, and industries figure out how to grow plants better, improve soil, repurpose waste, and compost just about anything. He doesn’t just consult, he analyzes problems, then uses science and experiments to solve the problems, often blazing trails into new agricultural practice.

For someone so famous and knowledgeable, he is very open and accessible to his audience. He is especially fond of Master Gardeners, since he developed the program here in Maryland. At the workshop lots of questions were asked and answered, and in

(Continued on page 15)
Spring / Summer Events

April

14  Saturday, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Plant Walk, US National Arboretum, Fern Valley, contact Jessica Milstead

24  Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Membership Meeting, Extension Office, Open to all MGs

28  Saturday, Christmas In April, contact Carol Teets

28  Saturday, 12 p.m.–5 p.m., Celebrate La Plata and Smart Earth Day, La Plata Town Hall

May

4  Friday, Plant Sale staging and work group, contacts are Jessica Milstead, Louise Kearns, and Sue Brewer  Contact one of these MGs concerning plant donations

5  Saturday, 8 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Farmer's Market, La Plata, and P.D. Brown Memorial Library, Waldorf, For information and to volunteer contact Gale Kladitis (La Plata) and Terry Thir (Waldorf).

9  Wednesday, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; CC Detention Center classes begin, contact Gale Kladitis

15  Tuesday, Newcomb’s Wild Flower Identification and Key Walk, Time and Location TBA, contact Jessica Milstead  Rain date May 17

16  Wednesday, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; CC Detention Center class

22  Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Membership Meeting, Location TBA, Open to all MGs

23  Wednesday, MG Annual Training Day in College Park, Maryland, See page 22

30  Wednesday, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; CC Detention Center class

June

6  Wednesday, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; CC Detention Center class

6  Wednesday, Plant Walk, Time and Location TBA, contact Jessica Milstead  Rain date June 13

13  Wednesday, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; CC Detention Center class

20  Wednesday, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; CC Detention Center class

26  Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Membership Meeting, Location TBA, Open to all MGs

July

24  Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Membership Meeting, Extension Office, Open to all MGs

August

28  Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Membership Meeting, Extension Office, Open to all MGs

projects

Staging the Scene For the Annual Plant Sale

By Brenda Elmore, Class of 2011

As we begin to gear up for another busy spring of Master Gardener projects, it isn’t too early to begin thinking of the underpinnings needed for the Plant Sale on May 5. Once again we will be collecting all of the plants at Barbie Walter’s house, and this means that we will need boards, old doors, sheets of plywood, sawhorses, and folding tables. These will need to be set up as tables placed in shade or sun, ready for the beautiful donated plants as they arrive.

Start checking your garage, your shed, your storeroom, and see what you can find that could be used as good, stable support for the plants we will collect and then transport to our two sale sites, P.D. Brown Library in Waldorf, and the Farmers’ Market in the Courthouse Parking lot in LaPlata.

(Continued from page 13)