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Charles County Budget Hearing

By Gale Kladitis, Chairperson

For those of you not familiar with the most recent CCMG request for funding for a part-time coordinator, it began in January. Mary Grant and Jessica Milstead composed a justification, and Karol Dyson wrote a detailed letter, to go with the Extension budget request, asking approval of a budget item for the Charles County Master Gardener Program. Most of the counties in Maryland have allocated funding for such a position and it was felt that our program should be funded as well. Karol Dyson added a line item on the Extension Office budget for a Master Gardener coordinator.

The budget hearing was held at the Government Building in La Plata on Tuesday June 12 at 7pm. Many people spoke on behalf of the budgets for the school system budget and the Sheriff’s Department, but by far the most compelling presentations came from our own Ronda Goldman and Carol Teets. It may not happen today or even tomorrow but the plan is to continue to ask until our request is granted.

Submit articles, photos, reports, and other items to Cindi Barnhart by September 1, 2012 for publication in the Fall 2012 newsletter. Submit calendar items to Janet McGrane by September 1, 2012. Articles and pictures may also be submitted at any time for future publication.
Butterfly Project Was a Flutter Success

By Pat Biles, Class of 2009

Seventeen second graders from Potomac Heights Christian Academy (PHCA) participated in a project to raise and release Painted Lady butterflies.

On April 23, 2012, our Vanessa cardui, Painted Lady butterfly, larvae arrived in two cups with six larvae each, and enough media to feed them through to the chrysalis stage. The larvae grew from about 1cm (0.4 in) long to over 4 cm (1.6 in). Of the six larvae in the PHCA class, five were grown to butterflies and released. Of the six larvae in my home six were grown to butterflies.

These six were kept in a flight cage for one week, and then released. A honey water solution and a water wick were placed with a flowering cosmos plant and Canada thistle inside the flight cage. The Canada thistle is a host plant for the Vanessa cardui. The butterflies were very active during the day and mating did occur. In five days small green eggs were observed on the thistle. Three days later larvae hatched out and began to eat the Canada thistle.

We did other things while the butterflies were growing. We learned quite a bit of entomology, including the genus and species with Latin binomials. I had the children read out loud and was pleased to hear some great readers. We went outside and collected insects. The teacher, Mr. Bongiorni, pinned them to a board. There are some budding young entomologists here. I took lots of photos but I missed the actual emerging butterfly.

Mr. Bongiorni got to see three butterflies emerge. I had coached him on what to look for and asked him to take photos. He was so engrossed in the process he forgot to take any pictures. It is still very exciting. He was able to tell the children what he saw and said he will never forget the experience.

To watch a butterfly fly free is a beautiful thing. To share it with a child is a blessing.

Thank you, Master Gardeners, for funding this project.
Understanding a Soil Test Report

The following article is reprinted from the May 2012 Annapolis Horticultural Society Newsletter with permission from Dr. F.R. Gouin, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

A soil test report is only as good as the sampling method used. The proper method for taking soil samples is to take no fewer than 5 core samples from different areas that appear to exhibit uniform plant growth and mix them together as one sample. For gardens and lawns each core sample should be taken from soil beneath mulch or sod to a depth of 6". Each core sample should represent that 6" layer. For core samples taken from shallow-rooted species such as boxwoods, azaleas, rhododendrons and related species, the depth of sampling should not exceed 3" from the area within the drip line.

Each core sample should equal 1/4 cup in volume. If you have good areas and bad areas, take core samples from each area, and keep separate. This will make it easier to diagnose any problems.

If your soil is loamy sand or sandy loam, consider having the soil tested for trace elements, especially boron (B). Should you be having difficulty with growing azaleas and have been applying hardwood bark mulch for several years around these plants, it is advisable to have the soil tested for manganese (Mn).

The samples should be air-dried before packaging for shipping. Each sample to be tested should equal about one cup in volume. Depending on the number of tests being requested, the laboratory will use less than half of the volume you send. Prior to testing, each sample will be crushed, blended and screened.

Place each soil sample in a zip-lock plastic bag and identify each sample to be tested with a code that is meaningful to you. I suggest drawing a map of your landscape, including the codes.

I prefer A & L Eastern Labs because they are fast to respond, accurate, reasonable and they automatically include percent organic matter in all of their testing. Most soil testing laboratories will only perform percent organic matter upon request. Percent organic matter is not important to corn, soybean, vegetable or pasture farmers, but it is important to those who grow perennials, woody ornamentals and blueberries. Most planting instructions suggest planting perennials in deep, rich organic soils.

The only method of determining

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MG’s, and as we learned, lunched, shopped, and talked, the day passed by quickly. Most of us left taking away a lot more than just the knowledge we gained, dragging books and native plants to our cars that we were just itching to get home and into our gardens. But, hey! That’s why we became Master Gardeners, isn’t it?

[Editor’s comment: We need to at least pretend it’s also because we wanted to become volunteer horticulture educators.]

June Nature Walk—Keying the Common Fern

By Marge LaMar

Once again, the Master Gardeners returned to the Indian Head Rail Trail for a June nature walk. This time, the walk was in search of native ferns. Jessica Milstead had already contacted John Snow, the park supervisor, to verify that the wildflower sections of the rail trail had not yet been mowed.

To key the common ferns along the rail trail, the participants looked to the basic fern shapes and structures: broadest at the base, tapering to the base or semi-tapering to the base.

Once the shape was identified, the question was whether the fern had once cut, twice cut or thrice cut pinnules.

Among the ferns found along the rail trail were huge Ostrich Fern usually found in private formal gardens, New York Fern growing in their usual zigzag pattern, tree-like Bracken Fern, moisture-loving Netted Chain Fern, the red-stemmed hairless Lady Fern, the drought-loving Hay-Scented Fern, and the favorites Cinnamon Fern and Royal Fern.

Those Master Gardeners enjoying the nature walk were Mary Grant, Larry Martin, Leesa Myers, Marge LaMar and Jessica Milstead, the group leader.

Jessica Milstead consults Key To The Common Ferns of Maryland info sheet to help her group identify this fern.
Early is not my thing, but there we were meeting up to carpool in the parking lot at Shoppers’ Food Warehouse. Everyone looked really good in their sharp new Master Gardeners shirts. Everyone clutched a cup of coffee, tea, or chai and looked a little bleary, but we climbed aboard our rides and headed off to College Park.

Training day is great for several reasons. One, you get to learn about new things that interest you. Two, you get to network with like-minded people who share your passion. Three, it isn’t a day that takes itself too seriously so it can be a lot of fun; and four, you get to shop! We sold our soaps, but there were all kinds of other wares available. Lots of seeds and native plants! Neat garden gadgets, gloves and paraphernalia were also for sale, as well as books on all aspects of gardening, plus book-signings by favorite garden authors, such as Tracy DiSabato-Aust and Dr. Doug Tallamy.

Lots of different courses were offered, and this time I was lucky enough to get some really good ones. The guest speaker for the morning was DiSabato-Aust, and following that, she taught a seminar and signed her books for us. Talley discussed the importance of creating a network of corridors for wildlife to protect biodiversity. Claudia West of North Street Nurseries explained the mechanics of successful rain gardens; and much, much more knowledge was offered by specialists in all aspects of gardening. Our new shirts made it easy to spot other members of the Charles County Annual Training Day-Knowledge & Know-how

By Brenda Elmore, Class of 2011

As you increase the organic matter to 5% and above, pH will become less critical to those species that perform best in acid soils and you will need to apply less fertilizer. For every percent of organic matter present in the soil, the soil releases 10 lbs. of nitrogen per acre per year. This means that if you have 5% organic matter in the soil, the organic matter will release 50 lbs. of nitrogen per acre per year. If your soil contains 8% organic matter, it means that the soil will release 80 lbs. of nitrogen per acre per year. Having a soil that contains 8% organic matter means that most of the nutrient needs of your plants are satisfied. In addition, a soil with 8% organic matter is more accommodating to a wider variety of plants because its high humic acid concentration accommodates those species that perform best in acid soils, as well as plants that grow best in nearly pH neutral soils.

To raise the organic matter concentration by 1% requires the application of 100 lbs. of green manure per acre. Once the soil has achieved an organic matter level of 5%, you can start to think about adding compost in order to keep the organic matter level at that level. Compost is a great way to add organic matter to the soil, and it also helps to improve the soil structure. When applying compost, it is important to mix it well into the top 6 inches of soil. This will help to ensure that the compost is broken down and becomes part of the soil structure. Each year, the soil test results should be reviewed to see if any adjustments need to be made to the compost application rate. For example, if the soil test results indicate that the organic matter level is below 5%, the compost application rate should be increased. If the organic matter level is above 5%, the compost application rate can be decreased.

Others had questions about the Master Gardener program itself.

We handed out our literature, talked, laughed, and visited as we helped people learn more about us. It was a great day and a great way to get to know the people in the community we serve.

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Application of 3 to 4 cubic yards of compost per 1,000 sq. ft. When treating clay or silt loam soils never apply more than 4 cubic yards of compost per 1,000 sq. ft. Increasing the organic matter concentration in clay or silt loam soils must be accomplished by repeated applications over several years. In sandy soils it is safe to apply 6 to 8 cubic yards per 1,000 sq. ft. These levels of compost will generally provide adequate phosphorus and potassium as well as nitrogen for the coming growing season.

If your soils are very acid, having a pH of 4.5 or below, you will need to add lime, which contains calcium (Ca). The type of liming material you use will depend on the amount of magnesium (Mg) present in the soil. If the Mg is low, you will need to purchase dolomitic or high magnesium limestone. The amount of lime needed will depend on the type of soil and pH. This information is provided by the soil testing laboratory or by your county agricultural agent. Never use a hydrated lime.

If the pH is adequate, such as between 5.5 and 6.5 but the magnesium concentration is low to medium, you should consider applying 10 to 15 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. of either Epsom salts or magnesium oxide per 1,000 sq. ft. Should the soil have a high magnesium but low calcium reading with an acceptable pH, consider applying gypsum (land plaster) at the rate of 15 to 20 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

For most ornamentals, if nutrient levels for phosphorus and potassium are in the medium range or above, there is no need to apply additional amounts. If you are amending the soil with compost, most compost will provide adequate levels when applied at the specified rates of application. ENOUGH SAID.

Soap and T shirts
Please contact Terry Thir for our handmade soap Lavender, Lemon Verbena, and Cinnamon—$4 each and CC Master Gardener women’s polo-shirts for sale (Med, Large, XL)—$23 (2XL)—$24 Available at the Extension Office

Recent Opportunities to Teach & Earn Hours
By Brenda Elmore, Class of 2011

Artsfest
On Saturday, June 9, the Charles County Arts Alliance celebrated its annual festival on the Town Hall Green in LaPlata. Tucked in between the Sierra Club pavilion and the Save the Mattawoman Creek site was the striped awning of the Charles County Master Gardeners.

The crowd visiting our booth was pretty steady all day, and the salad box and the potato basket were the big draws. Lots of people were interested in the potato basket and we quickly gave out all of our flyers, but we continued to give out oral directions on how to use the concept.

Lots of questions were asked by concerned gardeners. We answered when we could, and we also gave out lots of information on contacting Extension or HGIC.

Though it was unseasonably warm, the steady breeze kept us comfortable while we talked and laughed with the visitors to our booth. We received an unsolicited testimonial from a gentleman who was very pleased with the results of a site visit. It’s always good to hear things have worked out well based on MG recommendations. A young lady recognized two of us from the rain garden we put in at Camp Winona, and local political figures came up and introduced themselves, thanking us for all of the projects our organization of MG’s has taken on. Many people expressed a desire to take our course if it were available in the evenings instead of during the work day.

Celebrate La Plata Day
All in all, on April 28, it was a pleasant visit with the community, introducing our program to some, and revisiting prior acquaintance with others. Charles County is learning who we are and what we can do to help them with their gardening questions, thanks to our volunteers who give their time to promote the Master Gardener program.

Sharing a tent with the CIVISTA people was a big advantage in getting set up for the people coming to visit us on Celebrate LaPlata Day. Once our displays were ready and the Plant-a-Seed materials were out, the people started coming! Children, eager to get dirty and plant a garden in

(Continued on page 20)
Front Row: Barbie Walter, MG Training Class Coordinator; Mary Anne Lenker; Karol W. Dyson, County Extension Director; Ann (Beverly) McDonald; Mona Segrer; Denise Bauman; Millie Head; and Pat Caroleo. Back Row: Robert Perego; Commissioner Debra Davis; Celine McLaughlin; Sheila Kristiansen; Laurie Meffley; and Ananias (“Blue”) High.

Left: Five year pin recipients; Louise Kearns, Carole Raucheisen, Maggie Tieger and Barbie Walter.
Right: Decal created by Mike Vitanovec for our organization.

Take the Bay-Wise Challenge
By Ronda Goldman, Class of 2006

Summertime is the right time to go Bay-Wise. Have you taken the Bay-Wise Challenge? Well, if your answer is no, then it’s time to grab a Yardstick, survey the land, and send in an application. The process is wonderfully simple and some Master Gardeners have the added advantage of advanced training, which helps to prepare you for the process.

In order to begin this great adventure, you must keep in mind that nine categories are subject to evaluation: controlling storm water run-off, planting wisely, integrated pest management, protecting the waterfront, mowing efficiently, fertilizing wisely, encouraging wildlife, mulch appropriately, watering efficiently and recycling yard waste. If you practice many of these strategies, then it is possible that your property will pass the test.

One practice that is great to implement in the summer is proper watering. During the hot thirsty dog days, it is easy to saturate your property with too much H2O. The best time to water is in the morning before the sun comes out. Watering during the day will be an exercise in futility as most of it will evaporate before early evening and watering late in the evening could cause decay.

Direct the hose to the base of the plant so that the roots receive the most benefit. In the case of lawn space, make sure each watering is deep and not shallow. Shallow watering encourages weed germination and a shallow root system. Ample hydration ensures the opposite. This step is essential because a healthy root system means less watering during the season. Using native plants also helps to reduce the need for extra water. Because they have adapted to their habitat, natives are drought tolerant and resilient. So, what’s keeping you from making the call or sending the email? Be the first Master Gardener of the summer to get certified and we will shout it from the rooftop or the garden.
A Rain Garden for Camp Winona Has Promise

By Brenda Elmore, Class of 2011

Answering a request from the Extension Office, I lucked into a really delightful project. When the Girl Scouts’ Camp Winona received a grant to put in a rain garden, they requested help from the Master Gardeners to advise and oversee the installation of the garden, and intern Denise Bauman and I took on the job. Creating the rain garden was one of the activities for groups of girls ranging in age from kindergarten to middle school who would work on it in their daily rotation at the camp held during spring break.

Each day each group came to put in their allotted rotation time. At first there was only a dismal scrape in the surface soil of the site, uneven and ugly. Yet from the start, the girls were eager to learn how a rain garden worked, and how they could make one. The girls dug and leveled, built a bank around three sides of the garden, added, leveled, and watered the soil, layer by layer. On Friday, our final day, we put the plants in the ground, mulched and watered, and stood back to look at our joint creation. Was it an impressive sight? No---but it held the promise of a garden that would grow and spread until it could soak up the runoff rushing down the hill below, rather than eroding a hillside and silting up a nearby stream.

The girls of all ages had worked diligently and were delighted with the results of their efforts. For many of them it was their first experience with gardening. All of them planned to do more, having learned that a garden doesn't come into being overnight, that it begins in the mind's eye, starts with the soil and the site, and is planted finally with a purpose. This rain garden will be special, having been created with the willing hands and eager hearts of so many girls, whose love of nature and gardening expertise is just beginning to grow.
questions and getting the material back by the designated date; confusion, errors, and a lot of work to clean up the mistakes resulted.

To remedy this problem and help trainees get to know some of our MGs, I asked my Facilitator Coordinators, Mary Grant and Terry Thir, to have extra facilitators in the first afternoon. With Deborah Carpenter and Madelene Weinberger as authorities on all those forms, and some MG facilitators, the students had plenty of help. By the end of the first day the paperwork was almost done, and the new students had begun to get to know some MGs.

As the program was coming to an end, I scheduled a class day with Gale Kladitis to coincide with our monthly general meeting so the students could attend. Mary and Terry arranged to have a picnic for everyone, and after lunch the students were introduced to each committee and encouraged to join.

My planning for next year’s training begins about August, but it will involve the work and commitment of many others. My Facilitator Coordinators, Mary Grant and Terry Thir, were indispensable this past year. I can’t say enough to tell you how hard they worked and helped me during the 2012 training, beginning months in advance of February. They were “The Wind Beneath My Wings.”

There were others working behind the scenes helping to make the training and graduation a success. They should not go unmentioned.

Thank you to:
Pauline Spurlock, who mulled over the records for hours to make sure we got it right at graduation;
Madelene Weinberger and Deborah Carpenter, who put together the notebooks; review and follow up on all the paperwork after interviews to make sure it is complete; and contact references;
All the Facilitators who came in for every class to take care of whatever came up, and something always did;
And all the little elves who selflessly pitched in when needed.

And a big thank you to our fearless leader, Karol Dyson for her patience and for being there.

Editor’s Note:
We celebrated not only our graduates but those of us achieving milestones within the Master Gardener Program.

Spring Program at the CC Detention Center
By Gale Kladitis, Class of 2008

Our Spring program began this year on May 9 and ended with a big celebration on June 20. The class had eight students for the first session; by the third session two of them had been released from the Center. Both of those students had also been in the Fall program and really wanted to learn about the vegetable garden. One of the released students is responsible for maintaining the vegetable garden for a local restaurant and was interested in getting more information on growing different vegetables.

We planted potatoes, peanuts, tomatoes, beans, peas, onions, asparagus, cucumbers, squash, both green and yellow, and peppers. The onions were the first to be harvested and some peppers were picked after our graduation celebration. The Master Gardeners will be checking in weekly, with the assistance of our students, to harvest and maintain the garden. This Fall we plan to have the students design the garden on graph paper and determine what they would like to plant and when they will need to start for next season.

A question and answer period was conducted after graduation to find out what they had learned and where they had the most interest. With the exception of one student, the members of this class had never started or worked in a garden before. Most were surprised at how fast the plants grew and how easy it was to start seed. All went away with greater respect for what they eat and where it comes from. Dave Lewis and I wish to thank all our volunteers for making this project so enjoyable and so much fun. We look forward to seeing all of you in the Fall program.
Annual Plant Sale
Ongoing
Contact: Gale Kladitis/Terry Thir

By Terry Thir, Class of 2011

Once again, our annual plant sale was a success. Our industrious MG’s held two plant sales simultaneously at the Farmer’s Market in LaPlata and the PD Brown Memorial Library in Waldorf. The plant sales were a great success, grossing over $1,700. The project leaders, Gale Kladitis (LaPlata) and Terry Thir (Waldorf), want to personally thank all of you for your contributions and participation.

Planning a plant sale is a big project and would not be possible without the individual contributions and team efforts. MGs and Interns rolled up their sleeves and planted seedlings, and dug up plants, shrubs, flowers and trees. Volunteers helped with setting up and breaking down staging, pricing plants, transporting plants, and working onsite at the actual sale. We want to thank Barbie Walter for allowing us to use her yard to stage the plants and keeping them watered. Special thanks to Jessica Milstead, Sue Brewer, Beth Grem, and Louise Kearns for all the time spent organizing the sale, identifying plant species and for leading teams to price and label the plants prior to the plant sale. Our Interns really benefitted from participating in this process and they gained valuable knowledge. Thanks to Janet McGrane for handling the publicity, Brenda Elmore for coordination of staging materials, and Dianne and Chuck Goodrich for coordinating transportation. MG Mike Vitanovec designed and donated two new MG “Ask the Experts” banners, and 10 new street signs to help publicize the plant sale. As a result, we had signs on Rt. 5 and throughout St. Charles at major intersections directing patrons to our plant sale and brought in a lot more new customers! Thank you Mike!!!

Our plant clinics were very busy this year. Plant gurus, Jessica Milstead and Maggie Tieger, were busy responding to patrons’ gardening and landscape issues. Several people brought samples of (Continued on page 11)

The Magical Children’s Garden Made of Love!
By Terry Thir, Class of 2010

This year my family planted a garden. I had previously dedicated the only flat land on my property to make a kids’ outdoor playground. Last fall, I placed a large tarp over the area to kill the grass and weeds. When we took the tarp off this spring, the first thing I saw was a black snake that had made that warm space his home. The ground was in perfect condition for a garden. All the weeds had died and the soil was rich dark brown. I had planted a much smaller garden in that same spot about 15 years ago. So I was excited to plant a garden and include the entire family, especially my sweet grandkids.

First, we rented a large tiller and plowed the land---we found old dog chains, chains from prior swings, several of my old dog’s toy bears, railroad ties, pieces of decaying wood, and much more! Who knew? Finally, the soil was ready to add other nutrients. My grandkids (ages 2-4 years old) were really excited to help. We bought small gloves, knee pads and a kid-size hoe and shovel. Each grandchild picked out some seeds they wanted to plant...they chose string beans and sunflowers!!! Next, everyone took turns turning the soil and mixing in the compost and fertilizer. The soil was ready! Next, we placed the four raised beds (thanks to Beth Grem) and added weed fabric around the planters.

The planting was a lot of fun, and each grandchild helped to plant vegetables bought at the CCMG plant sale. This will be an ongoing educational activity to share with my grandkids. We now have tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini, eggplant, cucumbers, and many herbs growing. We purchased red, green, yellow and blue tomato cages to add color to our garden. My son helped to put a fence around the garden. All the grandkids jumped in the back of the tractor wagon and enjoyed riding around the yard as he hauled landscape stepping stones that we put in the garden to provide a nice walkway!!! Finally, we added wind chimes, angel and fairy statues, and other moving ornaments to the garden to chase away unwanted visitors and add a mystical magical touch to our magical garden.
But questions are asked because someone wants an answer so we gave them our best answers and referred them to HGIC when we didn’t have an answer for them. Plants sold briskly, especially among the MG’s in attendance. Being unable to resist plants or books for sale, of course I bought quite a few for my own garden.

This year we did not sell any invasive species and even went so far as to try to raise the consciousness of our patrons by providing displays and literature to educate them about the effects of planting these aliens. It will take a much bigger campaign than this to do the job, but it has got to start small in order to grow.

Staging went well with the cooperation of our Master Gardeners group and almost everything was removed from Barbie’s yard that day, with the rest soon following. Thanks to all of you for helping with that.

The Master Gardener program provides a wonderful service to the community, and every time we make the effort to get out there and contact the public at large, more people find out about us and what we can do for them. I am grateful that I heard about it at a time when I could be available for the training. It benefits the community, but it benefits us even more.

More to Be Said About the Plant Sale
By Brenda Elmore, Class of 2011

Call me crazy, but I just love plant sale day! This year was no exception. Loading up and heading out from Barbie Walter’s house in the early A.M., I was thinking we should be playing the song from _Rawhide_.

When we got to the P.D. Brown Library lawn and set up shop, customers began arriving, looking over the plants, asking questions about what certain plants would like in their new homes, and checking out the salad boxes. The questions ran the gamut from very sophisticated to “Do I remove the pot before I put it in the ground?”

(Continued from page 10)

PLANT SALE

was really excited about our second annual plant sale on their property and the joint educational partnership. They advertised the event on their website and had a large display featuring our UME CCMG banner along with other UME gardening and Bay-Wise literature. In addition, they featured recommended books that patrons could borrow to learn more about gardening, landscaping and much more. _It was a hot but fun day!!_ Thanks to everyone for your contributions!

PLANT SALE

(Continued from page 11)

diseased shrubs (roses, hydrangeas, and azaleas) seeking guidance. One person who lived in Pinefield community was concerned about the loss of beneficial bugs that had disappeared in her neighborhood over the past two years. We suggested she contact the HGIC to get their insight. Her property backs up to Cedarville State Park and we are hopeful there hasn’t been environmental damage in that area. The patrons were really impressed with the demonstration of the lettuce box and potatoes planted in laundry baskets and all the possibilities of growing vegetables in containers. Several patrons proudly told us about their success in growing potatoes in baskets from last year’s plant sale. It was so much fun watching the joy in the faces of families and children as they selected their vegetables and plants and their anticipation of planting them. Our Interns and MG teams were very busy helping patrons and sharing their expertise. What would we have done without all of you!

There are many people we want to thank: Heaven’s Garden for their plant donations, and PD Brown Memorial Library for allowing us to use their property to hold our Waldorf plant sale. The library staff

(Continued on page 14)
Saving and Fall Events

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

August
17 Friday, Tour of American Horticultural Society-River Farm Cost: $10.00 per individual (paid in advance) Deadline for signing up is July 10, contact Millie Head See Page 13
28 Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Membership Meeting, Extension Office, Open to all MGs

September
Plant Clinic Training, Bob Stewart, Time and Date TBD, contact Barbie Walter
9 Thursday, Plant Walk, Time and Location TBD, contact Jessica Milstead
13-16 Thursday-Sunday, Charles County Fair See page 13
25 Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Bug Day at the home of Dave Lewis, Open to all MGs

October
13 Saturday, Plant Walk, Time and Location TBD, contact Jessica Milstead
23 Tuesday, 10 a.m.; Membership Meeting, Extension Office Open to all MGs

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

If you would like more information on a project, please contact the project leader by referring to your Membership Directory.

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Save The Date
August 17, 2012
AHS River Farm Tour
The tour consists of a presentation of the history of American Horticultural Society River Farm in Alexandria, walking tours of all gardens (there are several) and the “Meadow”. A popular attraction for River Farm is a four-acre site which has been transformed into a meadow filled with more than 100 different species of grasses and herbaceous perennials.

The August "Bloom Times" listed on the AHS website (www.ahs.org) lists the following plants and flowers: ornamental grasses, crape myrtle, mahonia (fruit), passion flower, daylilies, pawpaw (fruit), purple coneflower and more!

Bag lunches can be taken as there are picnic tables on the grounds for our use.

Master Gardeners will be car-pooling.

More details will follow about making your $10.00 payment, the time we will leave the Extension Office and who will be driving. If you have any questions, call or e-mail me.

This does count as Advanced Training for MGs.

Mille Head, Intern

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Master Gardeners and Interns, we need your assistance !!!
Charles County Fair
September 13-16, 2012

The Master Gardeners staff a booth in the Flower building, and another Grow-It-Eat-It display in the Canning building. Last year, Master Gardeners won not one, but two first prize ribbons in the Flower building! We received a blue ribbon from the Charles County Fair Board for an Educational Exhibit & Table Display, and an Educational Award ribbon from the Charles County Garden Club. We can certainly be just as successful this year. We will need help from the MG membership to staff the booths, to answer questions from the public, and to hand out informative brochures, including information about the Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC).

Members, if each of you can spare a couple of hours during the Fair, we can have a fully-staffed booth. And remember, your work in the Fair booths counts as volunteer hours toward your annual total.

An email for sign-up will be sent soon. For more information, please contact Robert (“Bob”) Peregy via email or by telephone.