Hi everyone,

Spring is springing and my daffodils are in bloom. It is time to get out in the garden and work on some Master Gardener projects. This newsletter is packed with fun, interesting and educational projects available in the coming months.

So come join in.

Pamela B. King
University of Maryland Extension
Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Those of you who have read my articles in the past know that I usually write a light-hearted tale of my woes in and around the garden. However, this time I want to write a serious thank-you to all the Master Gardeners who helped me after my husband Richard died shortly before Christmas. The outpouring of cards, calls, prayers, offers of help and donations of funds in remembrance of Richard certainly have helped me during this most difficult time. I truly have been blessed, overwhelmed and humbled by the support and comfort the Master Gardeners have provided and I can only say thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who thought of me during this sad time. Although Richard’s death has left a gaping hole in my heart, the love and support shown to me by you all has helped in the healing process.

In Sincere Gratitude,
Linda Lockhart

Graduates pictured are, from left to right, back row, Neal Johnson, Debbie Sindt, Rosemary Ewing, Mary Cocke, Cheryl Kasunich, Carolyn Chlosta, Louise Barr, Lamay Adams, and Ray Tomasky; front row, Terry Thir, Marty Eldredge, Joyce Grey, Edward Chamberlain, and Debra DeZarn.

Mother Nature’s Test - Training Class Perseveres
By Barbie Walter

Can’t say as I minded the snow this February. Oh yeah, it pressed all my stress buttons, but the beauty and quiet visible through every window in our house was as calming as the re-scheduling of the 2010 MG training classes was stressful. In spite of Mother Nature trying her best to upset our cart, we successfully graduated another class on schedule. This class of 14 was the smallest we have ever had, but they brought as much to the MG program as we taught them. They showed tremendous interest in every topic we covered, and asked really good questions.

They seemed to have a lot of fun too, and I enjoyed every day of the program.

Three advanced training classes were built into the program this year. Not only do these offer active MGs a chance to get some advanced training hours, they give the new students a chance to see, meet, and greet some veteran MGs.

One of the enrichment classes was Art in Landscape Design, presented by Shelley Gaskins of the Smithsonian Institution’s Enid Haupt Garden. MGs have com-

(Continued on page 18)
Repairing Winter-Damaged Trees and Shrubs

By Pam King
County Extension Agent

First -- assess your situation and decide what needs to be done and by whom. In general, large trees should be handled by professional tree services. Most homeowners do not have the equipment or the training to remove large limbs, as some large branches can weigh over 2,000 pounds. Leave such jobs to reputable, insured professionals.

A special word of caution: be aware of the location of overhead utility lines. If broken branches are touching utility wires, stay away from the tree completely and notify the local utility company.

Should the Tree or Shrub be Saved?

● Minor damage (only small branches injured):
  - Clean up broken twigs and branches, and prune lightly to restore a pleasing shape.

● Severe damage (large broken branches, split crotches and/or bark removed):
  - Take the time and effort to save a tree or shrub only if a substantial portion remains intact and if, when repairs are made, it will still be attractive and of value to the property.

● Uprooted trees and shrubs:
  - Large trees cannot be saved and should be removed.
  - Some smaller trees (25 feet or less in height) may be straightened and braced with guy wires or cables. Results are mixed.

Broken Branches

If the job is very large consider:

Should I seek professional help?

Plan which branches must be removed & where the removal cuts should be made.

Remove all damaged branches at the nearest lateral branch, bud, or main stem, and not in the middle of a branch. A bare stub will be ugly and will serve as an entry for disease.

Branches smaller than 1 inch in diameter can best be removed with pruning or lopping shears.

(Continued from page 5)

Repairing

Repairing together, or protective structures may be used over them to prevent buildup from ice and snow.

If limbs are bent but not cracked, don’t cut the whole limb off right away. Instead, remove extra weight from the limb by cutting off smaller expendable side limbs. Then leave it alone. With time, the limb may straighten out.

If impatience gets the best of you, prop up the branch with wood or use rope to tie the branch back up into its natural position (be careful not to girdle it). Over time you can sometimes reposition it back near where it is supposed to be.

In addition, stakes, guy wires and roping can be installed in the spring if evergreens do not return to their normal shape.

It is not always possible or preferable to save all damaged trees and shrubs. Sometimes “pruning with a chainsaw at the ground” is the kindest cut of all. Then you can replant with a plant that will enhance your landscape.

Where to get more information about repairing storm damaged trees:

University of Maryland System’s Home and Garden Information Center 1-800-342-2507.

Suggested trees for Maryland (if you need to replant) and other information on the care and maintenance of trees are available from the local County Extension office.

Helleborus foetidus

‘Miss Jekyll’

Hellebore
Zones 5-9
24"-36" tall

Named for famous British plants-woman Gertrude Jekyll, it has more of an upright, standard, habit. Reportedly, ‘Miss Jekyll’ has green flowers rimmed in maroon and they are very fragrant, the intensity varying with the time of day. This is the first year I have grown this plant, so I will take photos of the flowers and print in the next newsletter.
2010 Master Gardener Advanced Training

March 30, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm Youth Gardening Class, Wye Research and Education Center (WREC) Queenstown, Md., $25, for course description and to register go to [http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/index.cfm](http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/index.cfm) Registration deadline March 24

May 5, 11, 13, and 18, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Ask a Master Gardener Practicum, multiple sites in Queen Anne's County, $45, for course description and information go to [http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/AskAMG2010.cfm](http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/AskAMG2010.cfm) Registration deadline April 28

May 26, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm MG Annual Training Day, Adele Stamp Union, Colony Ballroom, Chemistry Building & Plant Sciences Building University of Maryland, College Park, for course descriptions and information go to [http://mastergardener.umd.edu/MGAnTrDay2010/index.cfm](http://mastergardener.umd.edu/MGAnTrDay2010/index.cfm) Notification will be sent out when registration opens

June 1, 8, and 12, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Landscape Design for Water Management, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills (Baltimore Co.), $45, for more information go to [http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/WaterManage.cfm](http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/WaterManage.cfm) Registration deadline June 21

June 7, 14, and 21, Plant ID/Taxonomy, Prince George’s Co., 4H Center, College Park, Md., $35 (plus text), for course description and information go to [http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/PlantID10.cfm](http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/PlantID10.cfm) Registration deadline May 31

June 22, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm Entomology: Getting Intimate with your Foe, Montgomery County Extension, Derwood, Md., $30, for course description and information go to [http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/Entomology10.cfm](http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/Entomology10.cfm) Registration deadline June 16

July 12, 19, and 26, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm; Plant ID/Taxonomy, Anne Arundel Co., St. Margaret’s Church (Annapolis), $35 (plus text), for course description and information go to [http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/PlantID10.cfm](http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/PlantID10.cfm)

July 14, 6 pm - 8:30 pm Vegetable Diagnostics and Demos, Calvert County, Chesapeake Ranch Estates Lusby, Md., $15, for course description and information go to [http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/VegDiagDemo.cfm](http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/VegDiagDemo.cfm) Registration deadline July 7

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**Repairing (Continued from page 4)**

Use a sharp saw to remove larger branches without causing further damage to the tree by using the 3-cut procedure - undercut (A), over cut (B) and final cut (C). A good pruning saw will make the job easier.

Make final cuts just beyond the “collar” of bark where the branch meets the trunk. Do not damage the collar or try to make the cut flush with the trunk, as this will interfere with healing.

If a branch has torn off, leaving a cavity, trim it carefully, retaining as much of the “collar” as possible. Keep an eye on it. If water accumulates in the cavity, you can drill a small drainage hole upward into the cavity to allow it to drain and dry out.

**Torn Bark**

Carefully trim away all loose bark back to the area where it is solidly attached. Try not to expose any additional inner bark and keep the wound as narrow as you can to hasten wound closing.

**Wound Dressing**

Wound dressings are not needed. They do not prevent decay and do not keep out insects. Some products can actually damage the tree and make decay problems worse.

**Split Forks**

Valuable trees can be repaired and strengthened using a technique called cabling and bracing. If the break is even, with adequate amounts of wood tissue on each portion, it is often possible to draw the split portions back together and secure them with a large diameter steel bolt or threaded screw rod placed through the split section. If you have the equipment and the skills, you may be able to do this job yourself, but for best results a professional has a better chance of saving a valuable tree.

If the fork or main branch cannot be pulled together, remove it.

**Evergreen Shrubs**

Evergreens often become heavily laden with snow and ice, and are more susceptible to damage than deciduous plants. If branches are not broken, it’s best to let the snow and ice melt so the evergreens regain their shape naturally. An attempt to restore bent branches to shape while they are still frozen and brittle may cause them to break.

Before the snow and ice arrive, light roping may be wound spirally around plants to hold them to-
Bay-Wise Takes the Challenge This Spring
By Ronda Goldman

The Bay-Wise program will be very active during the spring season. We will begin our spring adventure by participating in the JC Parks Earth Day groundbreaking ceremony. The festivities will mark the beginning of an outdoor project that includes a wetland classroom, an arboretum, and an amphitheatre. The campus will be buzzing with students, faculty, politicians, and community partners. We are excited about helping the elementary school achieve various certifications and install outdoor learning centers that will be used by all disciplines.

The ceremony will be followed by our bi-monthly meeting at the Royal Tea Room in La Plata, Maryland on Friday, April 23, 2010. This will be a start to increase certifications in the county.

The month of May is also Wetlands Education Month and the Master Gardeners have been invited to assist with planting wetland plants at JC Parks on May 17. The project will be headed by Environmental Concern, which focuses on educating citizens about the importance of wetlands and helping to lead restoration projects. The JC Parks project includes the installation of a wet meadow, a wetland classroom, and 2400 plants. Many hands will be needed on this day; so, if you want to participate please contact Ronda Goldman by April 15, 2010.

Rubber boots at the ready.

So about once or twice a year, whenever business takes me to Baltimore or Annapolis, I “donate” several large bags to their office, located above the PNC Bank on Cronson Blvd. On my most recent visit, I was told that others have been more enterprising, organizing annual or semi-annual EPS drives through their church or other civic group. Perhaps recycling EPS is finally catching on.

As Master Gardeners, we can also reduce the impact of EPS on the environment and save money in the process. Rather than buying the more expensive soilless potting mix with vermiculite, we can take advantage of EPS’s light weight and durability, and break it up or grind it up ourselves to use as a vermiculite substitute. If you find a clever way to make EPS more usable in potting, you can share it with your fellow MGs via The Compost.

For more information on AFPR and their recycling program, go to their website: http://www.epspackaging.org/ or email me.

CHARLES COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Hazardous household materials are common products you may use around the home almost every day. A substance is considered to be hazardous if it ignites easily, reacts or explodes when mixed with other substances; is corrosive or toxic. Check for labels that bear the words caution, warning, danger, poison, or toxic.

Hazardous household materials could pose an unnecessary health and safety risk. Unwanted materials should be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

Every first Saturday of the month from April (April 3) through December (December 4), residents can take poisons, gas, paint, chemicals and the like to Charles County Landfill’s hazardous waste collection site from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for proper disposal.

Household tips:
- Buy only what you need
- Use less toxic alternatives
- Keep materials in original labeled containers
- Give unused products to someone who can use them
What is Expanded Polystyrene?

By Meredith Sweet

You’ve finally decided to upgrade the family room with a flat screen TV or get a replacement microwave that actually heats food. After unpacking your new electronic gadget, what do you do with the packaging it came in? We all know we can recycle the cardboard box and the plastic bag, but what about all that white Styrofoam stuff?

What we call Styrofoam is actually expanded polystyrene, or EPS, an aromatic, petroleum-based polymer which has been literally “blown up” to around 40 times its original volume into the lightweight packaging we are all familiar with.

EPS has properties which make it an invaluable part of modern life: it is lightweight, shock-absorbing, heat and moisture resistant, and insulating; and can be molded into virtually any shape. Uses include food packaging and storage; transporting fragile, perishable, or expensive items; and building insulation. It can be found in marine flotation devices, child car seats, and even bicycling helmets.

EPS is virtually inert and does not biodegrade, one of its biggest plusses and biggest minuses. With thousands of uses, very long life expectancy, and relatively low amount recycled, it is not surprising that EPS has become an abundant form of solid waste pollution, especially along our shorelines. This can potentially cause problems for marine wildlife, which may ingest small pieces and possibly suffocate or starve.

So what can be done?

About two years ago, I asked this same question and did some basic research. I was surprised to find that EPS naturally lends itself to recycling and can be easily ground up to be reused again and again. In countries like Australia and the UK, there are extensive recycling programs. In this country, I found the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers (AFPR), which oversees a nationwide chain of EPS recycling centers. There are not yet any dropoff locations in Maryland. However, AFPR is headquartered in Crofton, MD, and they accept EPS directly from residents at this location. The packaging has to be clean, “fitted” (shaped), with the recycling number “6”.

(Continued on page 23)
Detention’s Groundbreaking 2010 Curriculum

By Gale Kladitis

The Spring Sessions for the horticulture program at the Detention Center will begin on Tuesday, May 4, and will continue through Tuesday, June 15. We have an exciting curriculum planned for the students, as well as new outdoor activities. We will be developing a new landscape area at the Detention Center Annex, and will continue maintenance on the existing beds. The Detention Center will also begin groundbreaking on a vegetable garden at the Main Building in March or April. The plan is to have everything ready for planting by the first two sessions of the class. It’s a big project and with the assistance of all involved it will be a success.

We continue to be encouraged by the actions and reactions of our students and find this to be a rewarding project. All new Master Gardeners are invited to join the faithful volunteers and enjoy this worthwhile endeavor.

For additional information and requirements please give me, Gale Kladitis, a call.

Arbor Day Foundation has a great new animation identification device, What Tree is That?. Go to http://www.arborday.org/index.cfm, scroll down to the bottom. The link is in the first column, second from the bottom.

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

A Pretty Plant We Wish We Didn’t Love

By Jessica Milstead

Why plant Maiden Grass when you could plant Switchgrass?

Maiden Grass (Miscanthus sinensis) is widely planted as an ornamental. There are small, tall, and variegated varieties with different kinds of seedheads. And it’s the seedheads that are the problem. If you have Maiden Grass, your neighbors probably do too. Worse, any woods nearby are at risk. Fellow Master Gardener Margaret Schmid found some Maiden Grass that had been bequeathed to her property by previous owners. And it was really paying interest, with new clumps coming up in her woods. Some varieties are claimed not to be invasive – but then Bradford Pear was claimed to be sterile and we know what happened there.

Fortunately, there are other choices. My favorite is the native Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum). There are a number of varieties that can be used in many situations. Cultivars vary from three feet high to six feet or so, and may have a bluish or reddish cast. Like Maiden Grass, it’s a clump-former, gradually enlarging from year to year.

If you decide to plant a new grass, check out the listings in Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service publication that can be downloaded from the web (http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/).

Photos / drawings used in this article were gathered from free sites on the internet.
Fungus In Our Forests

By Jan Lakey-Waters

While my husband Jim (an ardent photographer) and I were walking in the woods of Cedarville State Park in mid-January this year, we noticed the variety of fungi. I have always looked to see what kind, color, and size I can find anywhere trees grow.

Years ago my cousin in Maine gave me an artist fungus (also called a shelf or bracket fungus). It is rough on top, but smooth and soft underneath. She showed me how to take a pointed object, such as a pin or a nail, and draw a picture on the lower surface. Once it’s dry, you have a picture.

Now, twenty years later, I have a nice memory of that Maine trip.

I am very curious as to what trees have the prettiest and most unusual fungi. They can be very bright and bold -- red, yellow, orange, blue, and various other colors; or they can be dull beige, brown, or grey, or just white.

These colorful fungus photographs were taken in Cedarville State Park.

Maryland MGs — Ahead of the Cultural Curve

By Ria Malloy

Excerpt from Fall/Winter 2009 issue of MOMENTUM—the official publication of the College of Agriculture and Natural resources on the Grow It Eat It campaign. The GIEd article is on pages 18 and 19; - http://agnr.umd.edu/media/Momentum/Momentum09Fall.pdf

Maryland Master Gardeners were ahead of this cultural curve, cultivating the idea of a food gardening education program back in November 2008. By the time First Lady Michelle Obama planted her vegetable garden on the White House lawn, 500 Maryland Master Gardeners had already been taught how to teach basic food gardening to the public. That group of Master Gardeners then taught 159 classes to more than 2,500 Marylanders in 18 counties and Baltimore City on how to grow their own healthy food. Among the “students” was Maryland’s First Lady Katie O’Malley, who started her own kitchen garden in Annapolis with the help of Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners. At the Maryland State Fair, Gov. O’Malley said they were still enjoying fresh vegetables from the garden.

Advice from Jon Traunfeld on starting seeds:

For most vegetable seeds it is not necessary to buy a special growing medium for starting seeds. These tend to have very fine particles and are easy to overwater, causing risk of root death and damage from water molds, like pythium, that can kill seedlings. **All-purpose soilless growing media** for transplants have larger particles, therefore larger pore spaces and better movement of air and water. This helps to promote rapid seed germination and root growth.
Two Plant Sales Will Double Our Outreach

The Charles County Master Gardener’s annual plant sale will be held on Saturday May 8, rain or shine. Once again we will have two locations—at the La Plata Farmers Market and a Waldorf location to be announced soon. We managed through all the snow to have a meeting. Meredith Sweet volunteered for advertising and publicity and Dianne Goodrich will take care of transportation. Sue Brewer has once again graciously offered her home for staging, plant delivery, saw horses, planks, etc., and the plant ID day. Start thinking about the plants you can share or grow for the sale.

Linda Lockhart and Elaine Miller will chair the Waldorf location and Gale Kladitis will chair the La Plata location. Please let Linda, Elaine or Gale know what location you are interested in working on this beautiful sunny Saturday morning. Remember this is our biggest fundraiser and we will need everybody to participate.

It is always a FUN DAY.

Editor’s note:
As in the last two years we will be donating all leftover plants to the Charles County Detention Center for our Horticultural Education project.

The vegetable plants (if we do not sell all of them) will be a good start for the new Vegetable Garden being planted this Spring.

All other plants will go to good use around the Annex and other buildings.

Perseveres (Continued from page 18)

Congratulations to the following Master Gardeners for earning their Longevity Pins:

5-Year
Robert Epplley
Mary Gaskins
Lois Manning
Karen Patterson
Carol Washeleski
Madeleine Weinberger

3-Year
Alberta Carson
Barbara Hill
Janet McGrane
Judy Norris
Joyce Rose
Carolyn Sauer
Margaret Schmid

New Master Gardeners
Patricia Biles
Mary Call
Janet Cooney
Gina Durgin
Anita Goehringer-Pannon

Clarification for Submitting Your MG Hours

MG Hours are not to be emailed to Caridad. They can be faxed to (301) 753-1857, but if you do, please follow up with a phone call to confirm that your fax and ours worked correctly (301) 934-5403. Or they can be mailed to University of Maryland Extension, Charles County Office, 9375 Chesapeake St., Suite #119, La Plata, MD 20646.

Please keep a copy of your hours for yourself. You ask why they can’t be emailed? Caridad has hours for 100+ MGs to record. To stop and print off individual sheets is very time consuming. Caridad has a new email address for MG correspondence (MG Hours only):

mgcharlesrecords@umd.edu

Photos by Cindi Barnhart
Top photo (new interns); Joyce Grey, Marty Eldredge, Neal Johnson, Debbie Sindo and Carolyn Cholsta. Above photo; Barbie Walter with new intern Ed Chamberlain.

Dianne Goodrich
Barbara Kane
Jan Lakey-Waters
Nancy Maude
Caridad Vicente
Perseveres  (Continued from page 3)

mented that they would like to learn more about landscape design, and this presentation seemed an appropriate place to begin this training. As Shelley pointed out, planning a landscape is nothing more than another form of art. Some artists paint landscapes with water colors and a brush; others do it with different plants.

Continuing our training on Going Green, the optional enrichment training this year was on Water Re-use and Gray Water, presented by Robert Stahl, La Plata’s Director of Public Works. I was amazed at what goes into handling water issues locally, and how pure the final product is. Bobby gave an extensive overview of all the water that comes from homes, run-off, and sewage; and then explained how it is handled and finally made available for re-use after treatment. Currently Maryland does not allow use of gray water, such as that from washing machines, for such purposes as watering lawns. Other states allow this practice with no ill effects.

We can help change the law by informing citizens and our Congress members so that they can better understand the value and safety of this practice.

Our grand finale this year was a presentation on Propagation by Dr. Frank Gouin, Professor Emeritus at the University of MD. As always, he made the subject clear and understandable, while throwing in a dose of humor. There were a lot of valuable questions from those present, and he had fun with his answers. He insulted my baby-less Nandina, for example, by telling me that I had an “odd” plant. I am never sure whether to refer to Dr. Gouin as a teacher or entertainer. He does both so well, and the students love him.

In addition to Dr. Gouin, Graduation Day included awards of certification to last year’s interns, and presentation of 3-year and 5-year pins.

Pam presented her special awards based on what “a little bird told me,” and we had the usual outstanding potluck lunch, hosted by the CCMG Membership Committee.

Welcome, all of you in the class of 2010, and we look forward to working with you throughout the year!  
(Continued on page 19)
Educational Nature Walks Planned for 2010
By Jessica Milstead
On last year’s monthly nature explorations in Gilbert Run Park we saw many interesting plants and watched the changes throughout the season. This year I’d like to try it again, with a little more advance planning and some changes in location. The dates aren’t cast in stone, because these walks are for fun. Rain or excessive heat will result in rescheduling. Watch your email for updates.

Saturday, April 17: Gilbert Run Park. Last year we found the Cranefly Orchid in flower in August. Its interesting leaves live over the winter and die back before the flowers bloom. We’ll look for this plant’s leaves, and early spring flowers.

Tuesday, May 18: Accokeek Foundation shoreline. A living shoreline is being built here. With luck construction will still be underway and we can see how one is constructed.

Saturday, June 26: Rail Trail. This walk will be exploratory. I haven’t checked out the vegetation along the trail, but it goes through wooded and swampy areas, so there should be something interesting to see.

Wednesday, July 21 and Saturday, August 28: TBD. These dates are tentative. Hot weather cancels.

Tuesday, September 21 and Saturday, October 23: TBD. Late summer and early autumn bring new interest and better weather.

Attention MGs: These walks are classified as Advanced Training. Interns are always welcome to participate for the education.

FREE COFFEE GROUNDS... from STARBUCK’S
By Carol Teets
Thank you to all the MGs who are picking up FREE coffee grounds for your garden from the Starbucks in La Plata. Please continue to stop by and pick up your grounds as often as possible and tell your friends and neighbors. Coffee grounds are a nutritional additive to your soil. During the brewing process most of the acidity is removed, leaving used grounds with an average pH of 6.9 and a carbon-nitrogen ratio of 20:1.

So... just add grounds directly to your garden or your compost pile. Starbucks recommends that you use grounds within 2-3 weeks of brewing to capture the most nutritional value.

Starbucks has a display featuring the FREE coffee grounds in a metal bucket on their counter and educational information from the Extension office concerning composting is nearby.

La Plata Shopping Center
6675 Crain Highway
La Plata, Maryland 20646
301 392-5212

Dig & Divide (Continued from page 16)
they will be ready for pickup for the sale bright and (real) early on Saturday, May 8. Louise Kearns will be recruiting for the workday sometime in April. Not knowing much is a reason to come, not a reason to stay away. We all team up and help each other. When the workday is over you’ll know more, both about plants and about your fellow MGs.

People are given to calling this the “work party day”, and that’s because it feels much like a party. We get a lot of work done while enjoying each other’s company. We’re usually finished by noon, when everyone breaks out their lunch and the party proper begins. Desserts and drinks are supplied.

New interns: This is an opportunity to start getting your hours and meet MGs, and several slots are reserved specifically for you.
It’s Time To Dig & Divide for the Plant Sales

By Jessica Milstead

By the time you read this, it will be spring and many of the plants in your garden will be showing new growth. This is the time to dig and divide for your plant sale donations. We’ll be looking for nicely potted healthy plants, labeled with their names. Since the plant sale is on May 8, and the plants should have at least two weeks to settle into their pots, you have most of the month of April to get the job done. Good news: the time you spend digging and potting counts as volunteer hours; in fact, everything you do for the plant sale counts as volunteer hours.

Plan to bring your plants to Sue Brewer’s home during the week of May 2-6. The labels needn’t be fancy; just tell us what they are so that we don’t risk guessing wrong.

Also needed: staging materials: sawhorses with boards, old doors, or anything that’s sturdy and can stand outdoor conditions. Please bring these April 25-May 1. We need to have them in place so that there’s a place to put the plants as they arrive. It can get really hairy if we’re short of staging and have to shift things back and forth to make room in shade or sun.

Not needed: more pots. Everyone was very generous last year in donating their used pots, and hundreds of them spent the winter in my garage. I will already have started bringing them to the office by April 1. You can just come and take what you need. If we run low on a particular size I’ll put out a call for that size of pot.

There will be email reminders about plant sale donations, complete with email addresses, dates, times, and so on. Louise Kearns, Sue Brewer, and I take responsibility for gathering the plants, holding them for a few days before the sale, labeling, pricing, and general cleanup so that those responsible for the sale itself can just gather them up and go.

On Friday, May 7, there will be a Plant sale workday. About a dozen people will be needed to sort, label, and price the plants so that

(Continued on page 17)
### Spring / Summer 2010 Events

#### April

- **7**   Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.; Dr. Mudd herb garden maintenance
- **17**  Saturday, Walk with Jessica at Gilbert Run Park; See page 12
- **24**  Saturday; Christmas in April, contact Carol Teets
- **27**  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.; Membership Meeting at Extension office Open to all MGs
- **29**  Thursday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Composting Seminar by Pam King; call Extension office to register
- **30**  Friday, 4:00 p.m. until dark; Farmer’s Market at O’Donnell lake area, St. Charles, Waldorf

#### May

- **4**   Tuesday, Detention Center Horticultural Education classes start
- **5**   Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.; Dr. Mudd herb garden maintenance
- **5**   Wednesday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm; *Ask a Master Gardener Practicum*; See page 24
- **7**   Friday, Plant Sale work party (plant ID and labeling), Time TBA, To volunteer please contact Louise Kearns. Questions on plant material contact Jessica Milstead; See page 11
- **8**   Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; MG Plant Sale, *Volunteers needed*; See page 10
- **11**  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; *Ask a Master Gardener Practicum*; See page 24
- **13**  Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; *Ask a Master Gardener Practicum*; See page 24
- **18**  Tuesday, Walk with Jessica Milstead at Accokeek Foundation shoreline; See page 12
- **19**  Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Plant ID/Taxonomy*, Anne Arundel Co.; See page 24
- **21**  Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Entomology: Getting Intimate with your Foe; See page 24
- **22**  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.; Membership Meeting at Extension office Open to all MGs
- **25**  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.; Membership Meeting at Extension office Open to all MGs
- **26**  Wednesday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm MG Annual Training Day; See page 24

(Continued on page 15)

#### June

- **1**   Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.; *Landscape Design for Water Management*; See page 24
- **2**   Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.; Dr. Mudd herb garden maintenance
- **7**   Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Plant ID/Taxonomy*, Prince George’s Co.; See page 24
- **8**   Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Landscape Design for Water Management*; See page 24
- **12**  Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; *Landscape Design for Water Management*; See page 24
- **14**  Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Plant ID/Taxonomy*; See page 24
- **21**  Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Plant ID/Taxonomy*; See page 24
- **22**  Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Entomology: Getting Intimate with your Foe; See page 24
- **22**  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.; Membership Meeting at Extension office Open to all MGs
- **26**  Saturday, Walk with Jessica at Accokeek Foundation shoreline; See page 12

#### July

- **12**  Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Plant ID/Taxonomy*, Anne Arundel Co.; See page 24
- **14**  Wednesday, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; *Vegetable Diagnostics and Demos*, Calvert Co., Chesapeake Ranch Estates, Lusby, Md.; See page 24
- **19**  Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Plant ID/Taxonomy*, Anne Arundel Co.; See page 24
- **21**  Wednesday, Time TBD; Walk with Jessica Milstead; See page 12
- **26**  Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Plant ID/Taxonomy*, Anne Arundel Co.; See page 24
- **27**  Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.; Membership Meeting at Extension office Open to all MGs