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.
Hello Everyone,

Summertime... And the living is easy. An old song goes that way and it may be true—unless you are a Master Gardener. This is a busy time. So, identify some insects. Take on a new project (you won’t be alone and you’ll make new friends). Pull some weeds. There is so much to do to help our community be productive and beautiful, so join in.

Pamela B. King
University of Maryland Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Correction:
In The Compost, Spring 2010 edition, page 19, Meredith Sweet was omitted from the New Master Gardeners list. I apologize for the oversight.

Submit articles, photos, reports, and other items to Cindi Barnhart by September 1, 2010 for publication in the Fall 2010 newsletter. Articles and pictures may also be submitted at any time for future publication. Submit calendar items to Janet McGrane by August 27, 2010. Information should include: event, date, time, cost, location, and contact information.
Seeds, Sprouts and Blossoms...
How our program grows and flourishes

There are lots of opportunities arising in the community for the Master Gardener’s to develop our GROW IT EAT IT education program. We are in need of a volunteer to lead this effort. As a result of our EAC Commissioners breakfast we have an opportunity to partner with the Commissioners of Charles County to provide a community garden on county land, and the Charles County Health Department also has a tentative site for a community garden in La Plata. If you are interested in leading/co-leading or volunteering for this effort please contact Carol Teets.

An order has been placed and paid for in advance for fifteen salad boxes. These boxes will be planted as a project through Dale Bowling, Extension Program Assistant in the Charles County Extension office and the Juvenile Drug Court. If you can help build these boxes please contact Carol Teets.

Jan Lakey-Waters and Ronda Goldman represented Master Gardeners and Bay-Wise, under one canopy, on June 12 at River Artsfest in Indian Head, Maryland. Ronda was pleased with the interest of the attendees wanting information on the program or to have their property be Bay-Wise certified. This was our first year participating and plans are underway to have two areas next year.

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement from University of Maryland Extension as of June 30, 2010. I am happy to be moving into a new phase in my life- and everyone I know who has retired recommends it. But after 31 years of showing up, it feels weird to think that it won’t be expected anymore.

Never fear- the Master Gardener Program will continue through the Charles County Extension office. Karol Dyson, our County Director, will provide the administrative support required and Brian Clark, the Agriculture agent in Prince George’s County, will provide subject matter assistance when needed. And Marcia will help to hold it all together. The Steering Committee will continue to keep things moving and Barbie Walter is already planning the new intern training for 2011. The Charles County Master Gardener Program is all grown up and will do just fine with the support of all of our dedicated volunteers.

Southern Maryland is my home and Roger and I plan to stay. (Anyway, I can’t move—I have too much stuff. And I’m adding the stuff from my office- which, as you know, is legendary.) I will continue teaching basketry classes, so if you want to learn to weave (or just have some fun), let me know. I am also planning to make more bad pottery (I have no talent) and reupholster a sofa (I don’t know how, but I can learn). And maybe my own garden will finally get a little bit of attention.

All of you have enriched my life in so many ways and I am very grateful. It has been from the people who volunteered to help me that I have learned to be a volunteer for others. Watching all of you put your time, energy and talent into making people’s lives better and improving the community, has made me determined to do the same. You show me every day that we have an opportunity and an obligation to make a difference.

Thank you all for your friendship and for allowing me to be a part of your lives. May your gardens always flourish. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rains fall soft upon your fields. Until we meet again.

Pam
The Visitor Was Definitely Not Invited To Dine

By Carol Teets

On Saturday, May 22nd, a perfect day in the garden. I had completed my vegetable garden planting. All gardeners know how good that feels. Relaxed and refreshed from a shower, I return to the first floor of my home and as I step foot in my dining room my eye is drawn to a visitor. There is a LARGE BLACK SNAKE stretched out on an urn of artificial orchids. YES, in my dining room looking out the window! And yes, gardeners should be honored to have a snake make an appearance. But NOT in my dining room!!! WHAT DO I DO?

My husband is on the golf course, and fellow golfers would understand that you wouldn't ruin a round of golf with a snake in the dining room call. In a panic I call my brother, who lives in Pennsylvania, to get emergency advice. My brother logically reminded me - Do not take your eye off the snake and call the extension office in your area. Its 4:30 on a Saturday and my first thought was where is Marcia Wakefield when I need her? I decided to call the Charles County Sheriff's Department (301-609-6400), as recommended by my husband (who I finally called and is now on the 19th hole of the golf course. All this time I have NOT taken my eye off this snake. Before placing a call to the Sheriff’s department it occurred to me... my parents had been visiting, they had just left that morning and maybe my father was playing a trick on me. Could this snake be a fake?? It was stretched out so perfectly (4 feet long and growing in my imagination) from one stem of the orchid to another. How embarrassing it would be to call the Sheriff’s Department to learn it was a family prank! I tried to reach my traveling parents who are on route to my grandmother’s house and clear up this prank. My luck; they had visited my grandmother but were now on their way to see other family. But older and wiser, my grandmother recommends that I go outside and tap on the window to see if this snake is real. Tap, tap, on the dining room window and yes the tongue of the snake flicked at me! Dad is off the hook. It is a REAL SNAKE! The Sheriff’s Department, without hesitation referred me to G2 Wildlife Control Services. And yes, I am still keeping an eye on the snake!

G2 Wildlife Control Services is an independently owned business.

(Continued on page 5)

FREE COFFEE GROUNDS... from STARBUCK’S

Thank you to our newest supplier of Starbuck’s coffee grounds:
3053 Waldorf Market Place
Waldorf, MD 20603
Phone: 301-645-2503

Both Waldorf and La Plata supplied us with coffee grounds for our Plant Sale on May 8, and customers as well as MGs quickly picked up the bags.
2010 Master Gardener Advanced Trainings

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
Registration deadline July 5

July 14, 6 pm - 8:30 pm, GIEI, 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
Registration deadline July 7

July 19, 8:30 - 4:30; Pollinators, Baltimore Co., Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Cockeysville, Md, $10, for course description and information go to: http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/Pollin2010.cfm
Registration deadline July 12

July 20, 8:30 - 4:30; Pollinators, Queen Anne’s Co., 4H Park, Cockeysville, Md., $10, for course description and information go to: http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/Pollin2010.cfm
Registration deadline July 13

July 22, 6 pm - 8:30 pm, GIEI, Vegetable Diagnostics and Demos, Prince Georges County, Master Peace Garden, Riverdale, Md., $15, for course description and information go to: http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/VegDiagDemo.cfm
Registration deadline July 15

August 23, 8:30 - 4:30; Pollinators, Washington Co., Keedysville, Md., $10, for course description and information go to: http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/Pollin2010.cfm
Registration deadline August 16

September 16, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Plant Disease Workshop, with Dave Clement, Ph.D., UME Plant Pathologist, Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s County, http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/PlantID10.cfm
Registration deadline September 9

Phone the HGIC hotline between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. weekdays to talk to a horticultural consultant toll free 1-800-342-2507. Or visit the HGIC home page (http://hgic.umd.edu/) or plant diagnostic website (http://plantdiagnostics.umd.edu/)

VISITOR (Continued from page 4)
located in Port Tobacco. Their business is to remove, prevent, and control damage caused by wildlife. The owner, Dan Gimler, was quick to respond to my call, arrived to my home within 30 minutes and confirmed that it was a harmless black snake. In a matter of seconds he had my visitor in a cloth bag and out the door. Mr. Gimler assured me that he would let the snake go in a farmer’s field where he would be very welcome. WHEW! G2 Wildlife Control Services saved the day!

At the end of the day my husband couldn’t be my hero, my grandmother is a little shaken, my father was blamed for being a prankster, and my brother made good recommendations. Did I mention there is a fee associated with snake catching? The fee started out at $4,000.00 and I agreed to any amount during that time of panic but the real fee was $70.00. How fair is that? Based on my experience you may want to add G2 Wildlife Control Services to your speed dial!

Carol’s black snake lounges on her windowsill. Photo by Carol Teets

To view videos and for more information on snakes of Maryland go to: http://www.hgic.umd.edu/content/SnakesofMaryland.cfm
Detention’s Groundbreaking 2010 Curriculum
By Gale Kladitis

Last fall the Master Gardeners were asked if we would consider a vegetable garden for the spring sessions. The answer was an overwhelming YES. We had looked at several areas with a garden in mind and were shown the area directly behind the Main Building. It was perfect. The first clear day in March Jessica Milstead, Jeff Merchant, Jimmy Robey of Charles County Public Works and I ventured out with stakes and string to mark the garden. We all agreed not to get carried away with the size too soon so we settled on a 40’ X 60’ area. Jimmy Robey’s father plowed the area in April and had 3 tons of compost dumped in along with 5-10-10 fertilizer and plowed it to perfection. Class began on May 4 and so did the planting. Corn, beans, onions, carrots, turnips and spinach seeds were all planted. The following week the students planted the tomatoes, peppers and potatoes and finished at the annex with MG plant sale donations. The third session we planted the squash the students had seeded in cups during the first session. For the fourth session, Ronda Goldman presented the Bay-Wise program and certified the Annex as Bay-Wise. The students will continue caring for the garden for the outdoor activities and the last session for the spring is June 15. The volunteers enjoy checking the progress of the garden so I’m sure we will be visiting thru the summer. If enthusiasm counts, our garden will produce fantastic vegetables.

A final word from volunteer Joyce Rose: “The raised beds around the complex had developed quite a few weeds in between the perennials and small plantings. When I arrived Tuesday for the last class and graduation, I thought I was late because I saw was astounding. There were the students of our class outside weeding the gardens around the complex. They already had a full wheelbarrow of weeds. When I checked it out with one of the guys, they said they wanted the place to look nice.”

“A Swarm in May is Worth a Load of Hay…”
By Mary Call

This year we decided to try our hand at raising bees. We researched hives online and found one that we really liked. It is a Kenyon top bar hive. This type of hive is a bit unusual for first time beekeepers but we hope that it will work out well for us. What attracted us to this particular hive is the glass viewing window. We are able to view the bees working inside and check on them often without disturbing them. Getting the hive was the easy part. Once it was ordered, I started calling around and looking online for bees. Everyone was “sold out long ago”, I was told. I was worried we would have a hive but no bees this year. Tayloe purchased a swarm trap with the hopes of catching a swarm in the wild. No such luck. On May 8th, plant sale day, my husband along with our two girls attended a meeting for the Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers. There, Tayloe, my husband, met Karen Cooksey, President of the ASMB. She put our name on her “Swarm waiting list”. We were so excited that we would have bees! Karen arrived at our home with a cardboard box containing the swarm. She helped us introduce the bees to the hive. We have been checking on them daily. The bees built an amazing amount of comb in the first 36 hours. We have all enjoyed watching them fly around the garden and trying to keep sight of them as they soar high into the sky.

An old rhyme:
“A swarm in May is worth a load of hay, A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon, A swarm in July is worth not a fly.”

Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers website http://gworrell.freeyellow.com/asmb.html
The next meeting is July 13th from 7-9 at the Charlotte Hall Library.
She Wanted To Grow Butterflies... So We Did

By Pat Biles

My youngest daughter decided she wanted to grow the butterflies from the kit we got for Christmas. I decided it would be a worthwhile project for her second grade class. In March we began ‘The Butterfly Project’. I don’t know who had more fun: the kids, the teacher, or me! I had to do real research, and best of all - it worked! Five of the six butterflies were released on April 16. The class felt really proud and happy when they flew away. We even got our picture in the paper in the May 19 issue of the Maryland Independent.

The number six butterfly required an extra week before it could leave. Its chrysalis had fallen and it was a few days before I could get it to hang properly. Did you know those things move? It wriggled like an angry bee. When it did emerge one wing was smaller and the angle was wrong. I named it Runty. At first ‘Runty’ could not fly. It was sad that the best it could do was hang upside down. After a week of sugar solution feeding I found Runty on the top part of the butterfly netting. I released Runty a week late and not a perfect flyer. I have a few pictures of the last sightings of Runty. I truly believe he was happier spending the last days amongst the flowers. Now whenever we see Painted Lady butterflies (Vanessa cardui) I will think of Runty. I think I am bit more like Runty - not quite perfect, needing an extra week, but give me wings and I can fly - or die trying. Thank you Runty.

Photo By Pat Biles
Painted Lady butterflies grown by the Bileses.

Photo from Wikipedia
Painted Lady caterpillar on thistle.

“The plan was to work in the garden after class on June 8 and fertilize the garden. However, when I saw how the garden had grown since last week (inset) and the brilliant green colors it just didn’t seem necessary to add fertilizer.” Gale Kladitis

On Graduation Day, June 15 the garden was glowing with good health as Joyce Rose and Neal Johnson admire all the hard work done by students as well as the Master Gardeners.

Gale Kladitis and Pam King examine the cucumbers for traces of a cucumber beetle.

The winter session’s pergola receives a moonflower (Ipomoea alba) to climb and shade the seating.
Spring Cleaning At Nanjemoy Creek Center

By Terry Thir
April 16, a hot spring day, several Master Gardeners (MG’s) and three 2010 Interns helped clean up the native garden at the NCEEC. According to the Heather Burk, Environmental Education Assistant, CCPS, NCEEC, this is the fourth consecutive year that Master Gardeners have volunteered in spring and fall to help the staff plant, weed, and mulch to maintain the native garden around the center trailer. One brave MG even helped to remove weeds around the two bee hives on the property. In return, the staff kindly served all volunteers lunch. A guided nature tour was provided to observe the newly built pier crossing over the marshlands. Staff pointed out various aquatic vegetation, bald eagles, osprey and waterfowl living in the wetlands. In addition, we got a close up view of a new Red-tailed Hawk and several eagles and owls that are being cared for by the staff on the property.

The NCEEC is a school site within the Charles County Public School System. The Center provides meaningful outdoor learning experiences for 5th graders to promote the development of a lifelong environmental ethic of stewardship. NCEEC offers students the opportunity to experience the richness of forest, coastal, meadow and wetland habitats and to explore their own connections to the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

Participants included NCEEC Staff, Sue Brewster, Ann Gillespie, Rosemary Ewing, Terry Thir, and Cheryl Kasunich.

More information on Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center can be found on line at http://www2.ccboe.com/nanjemoycreek.

By Jessica Milstead
Tallamy’s Book On Why Grow To Native Plants

Rather than just writing up another plant that we wish weren’t invasive, I’d like to share impressions of a book that may open your eyes, just as it did mine. The basic point of Dallas Tallamy’s Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens, published by Timber Press, is that our suburban plots have severely fragmented the spaces that wildlife needs to prosper, but it’s not too late for individuals to take action in their own back yards.

Our plants and wildlife form a complex web. Removal of any one species may have unexpected effects that cascade throughout the entire ecosystem, from the microscopic life in the soil and the first-level herbivores, up to the top predators such as raptors (and us). The exotic plants that we like because they are “pest free” keep their perfect leaves and flowers throughout the season because the primary herbivores – the insects - can’t live on them. And if the insects can’t eat the plants, then there is nothing for the birds to eat. You get the idea.

The classic example is the “butterfly garden”, often centered on a Buddleia, or butterfly bush. This shrub offers nectar to the butterflies, and so we think we’ve somehow brought back a little bit of nature. But how do butterflies start out? As caterpillars. In many butterfly gardens the only butterflies are those whose larvae managed to find something to eat somewhere else.

Much of Tallamy’s book consists of descriptions of major types of insects that inhabit our yards and gardens if permitted, and how they contribute to sustaining the web of life. He doesn’t suggest that we all go out and rip out the exotic plants we already have. He simply encourages us to make new plantings native, and to let parts of our properties go “wild”. That corner of “weeds” may contain just the plants that let the caterpillar of a spring azure butterfly grow to maturity. Or it may nourish a number of less charismatic insects, and some robins and bluebirds will be better able to raise their young on the results.

All life is interwoven, and we can help to support this web by adding native plants and by not trying to keep every leaf perfect. This isn’t a recipe book for making a native plant garden; it’s a challenge and a guide, and it will open your eyes to a broader view of the little forms of life around you, just as it did mine.
Lahr Symposium On Native Plants
By Marge LaMar, Jessica Milstead, Caridad Vicente and Barbie Walter

Native Plants: Now was the theme of the 24th annual Lahr Symposium on March 27, 2010 at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington D.C. Four Charles County Master Gardeners attended the sessions.

The symposium featured a round-up of nationally known speakers, including William Cullina on The Botany of Design, and Darrell Morrison on Where Art and Ecology Meet. Concurrent sessions included a tour of the Fern Valley native plant garden, a session on mosses, and another session on changes in plant naming.

Barbie, Caridad, and Marge attended the session on Mosses for Beginners, presented by Ann English. In her presentation, we had an opportunity to examine moss under her three microscopes. One of the microscopes had a dry moss and a spray bottle for us to use to see the moss hydrating. She demonstrated the life cycle and reproduction of mosses using volunteers from her audience. Caridad was most effective in her role as an archegonium (the female organ).

Caridad’s experience:

The speakers’ varying perspectives allowed for the proverbial “something for everyone”. I found that my school work in environmental science dovetailed with Kim Winter’s presentation; the other two presenters complemented my interest by using an aesthetic eye when looking at solutions to environmental problems.

For a newly minted Master Gardener, the exposure to the Arboretum’s programs was a plus. By attending the symposium I heard different perspectives; i.e., homeowners and landscape architects, that will help me refer questions I might get from the general public when volunteering in the county as a Master Gardener. My comfort level will be higher because I have a sense of what to ask a homeowner and to whom to refer them once I understand their issue.

For other educational programs and opportunities at the United States National Arboretum go to: http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html.

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New Gardens for the Nanjemoy Creek Center
By Cheryl Kasunich

On May 12, three interns from the class of 2010 and one Master Gardener from 2009, joined by one intrepid husband and a curious grandson, assembled at the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center to prepare, lay out, and plant in four raised beds they had built. NCEEC staff was particularly interested in an herb garden. With the assistance of Gale Kladitis and the volunteers at the annual plant sale, herb plants that were not sold were donated to start the garden.

To provide the children a sensory experience, one bed was planted with a variety of mint. Beebalm was added to a bed already planted with Joe Pye weed (Eupatorium) and False Blue Indigo (Baptisia australis). One of the empty beds was planted with tomatoes and pumpkins that should be ready for the fall school programs and the final bed was planted with herbs including borage, sage, basil, dill, rosemary, parsley, garlic chives, horehound and nasturtiums. Additional seedlings will be added in the next month.

A brief description of each herb was prepared for the center to be included in their educational material.

Participants included Rosemary Ewing, Ann Gillespie, Cheryl Kasunich, and Terry Thir.

This is the second garden project this year that the Charles County Master Gardeners have assisted with at NCEEC.

Left to right: Ann Gillespie, Cheryl Kasunich, Rosemary Ewing, Terry Thir and Terry’s grandson plant a bed with herbs.

Both photos courtesy of Cheryl Kasunich

Rosemary Ewing is planting tomatoes donated from the May 8 plant sale of the Master Gardeners.
Outstanding Participation Leads To Success
By Gale Kladitis & Linda Lockhart

WOW, what a Plant Sale! Folks, we really out did ourselves this year. Thanks to all the hard work everyone put in we grossed over $1,600. A special thanks goes out to Gale Kladitis, Jessica Milstead, Sue Brewer, Louise Kearns and Beth Grem for the many hours they spent organizing the sale. We had a special feature this year salad boxes for sale. The MG husbands, some of whom refer to themselves as “yard husbands” (no kidding), built 12 boxes; 9 were sold at the plant sale and I understand all have now been sold. Thank you to all you “yard husbands” out there and in particular Joe Tieger, Chuck Goodrich and Warren Teets. A special thank you also goes out to everyone who dug, potted, priced, transported, sold and bought our plants. Without everyone’s help this success would not be possible.

The La Plata Farmer’s Market seems to be an excellent venue for our sale but we would still like to branch out into the Waldorf market. We looked at several different sites early this spring including Festival Way, the mall and the shopping center where Shopper’s Food Warehouse is located. The green “park” area at the entrance to Festival Way was our first choice. We felt we could be seen by all traffic traveling Route 228. Management told us that they were leasing the area for a temporary greenhouse. A lease that never happened.

Our second choice was the shopping center at Shopper’s Food Warehouse. Management there informed us that the area we were interested in was to be torn down but they suggested the mall parking lot in front of the Food Court. We were really excited about this prospect and envisioned fabulous exposure for our program as well as great traffic for our sale. We met with the management team and provided them with copies of our newsletter, The Compost, as well (Continued on page 11)

ANNUAL TRAINING
(Continued from page 18)

THE “SYSTEM”
1. No till: minimize soil disturbance during preparation, planting, and cleanup
   • Keeps weed seeds buried and dormant
   • Better water use
   • Preserves humus
   • Less labor
2. Designate separate and permanent areas for traffic and for plants
   • Avoids soil compaction
   • More production
   • Looks attractive
3. Cover the ground with some weed-free, organic mulch, replenished as needed, or a cover crop
   • Smothers weed seedlings
   • Protects surface from sun and rain
4. Where regular watering is needed, use drip irrigation
   • Water is not wasted minimizing weeds between plants and on paths
   • Easily automated
   • Promotes feeder roots

INITIAL PLANTING
1. Flatten or mow vegetation, then fertilize or lime if necessary.
2. Cover area with wetted paper, four sheets or more overlapped thickness, avoid colored inks.
3. Cover paper with about two inches of weed-free organic materials, the kinds depending on materials available, appearance desired, and whether covered areas are for traffic or for planting.

MAINTAINING A “WEEDLESS GARDEN”
1. Fertilize if necessary.
   • Spread materials on the surface
   • Soy meal at 2#/100 sq. ft. is a good general N fertilizer, if needed
2. Keep ground covered
   • One inch of compost in vegetable planting beds
   • Cover crops are another possibility
   • Flower beds: buckwheat hulls, wood chips, sawdust, etc.
   • Paths: any nutrient-poor, weed-free covering; well-behaved lawn; pebbles
3. Clean up weeds and spent plants. Minimize soil disturbance by removing only stems and large roots, coaxing plants out of the ground, if necessary, with a trowel or cutting them free with a garden knife. And weed regularly.
Master Gardeners Annual Training Day 2010

A few voices and their thoughts:

Charles County was well represented again this year at the Annual Training Day held at University of Maryland. Over 600 Maryland Master Gardeners attended the event, which included classes on everything from social networking to growing vegetables in containers.

In addition to excellent guest speakers and interesting topics the day allows fellow MGs an opportunity to get together with each other to learn about programs and events that other counties sponsor. Shopping opportunities also abound. There were many vendors selling plants, gardening books, jewelry and garden tools just to name a few. Normally, Charles County is one of the vendors, selling our beautiful homemade soap. Unfortunately this year our soap maker, Marsha Back, was just on her way to France when we called to place our order for the soap. Marsha assures us that she is still willing to continue making the soap so next year we will place our order early. Linda Lockhart

I attended the Landscape Disease Workshop. There were 26 specimens for us to study. After we all did our own diagnoses we went over them in class. Later, I was visiting with a friend and she told me about a problem she was having with her mayapple. I asked her a few questions and was able to diagnose a rust disease. I enjoyed the training day very much. It is exciting to be with over 600 Master Gardeners. I am already looking forward to next year and hope that even more Master Gardeners from Charles County will join us. Danielle Webber

Growing Veggies in Containers, taught by Cindy Brown, was a reinforcement of out dear Gale Kladitis’ methods such as planting potatoes in a basket to simplify the harvest process. She showed us how to create a trellis from bamboo to suit every plant and informed and educated us with humor. This was my final class of the day and I ended with an upbeat feeling to go plant and create a container oasis for my veggies. Cindi Barnhart

The keynote speaker, Lee Reich, PhD, gave the following instructions, as per his book Weedless Gardening, Workman Publishing, 2001:

(Continued on page 19)

PLANT SALE (Continued from page 10)
as other information about many of our volunteer projects. The mall management was very impressed and things looked very promising. That is until they found out we were not in a position to actually pay for the location. Oh well, best laid plans.

The Waldorf Farmer’s Market seems to be expanding and we are going to watch closely this year to see if the foot traffic there increases. If it does, then perhaps we can set up in that location next year. In the meantime if any Master Gardeners know of a good location in the Waldorf area and can talk with the management/owner about letting us hold our sale in that location next year, please let us know.

Editor’s note:

Thank you to our Starbuck’s in the La Plata Shopping Center and the Waldorf Market Place store for the supply of coffee grounds for our plant sale.

(Continued on page 19)
Seventh Annual Project Day Is A Big Success

By Carol Teets

I am proud to report that the Charles County Master Gardeners have continued their partnership with the Christmas in April organization in 2010. More than 900 volunteers in Charles County participated in this worthwhile effort and the Master Gardeners played an important role.

This year the clouds were threatening, a few drops of rain were felt but the weather seemed to have little effect on the volunteers as they raked, pruned, planted, and mulched at 18 homes throughout the county. We also had the opportunity to work with middle school students to design, plant, and mulch a Memorial Garden in Potomac Heights. Helping the needy and teaching the youth satisfies my goals as a Master Gardener.

Experience, organization, and the support of the site-visit volunteers made this year a standout. Thank you, both the volunteers who worked on the project day and all those who performed site visits, made material selections, and/or provided delivery services. This was a perfect example of a team effort which was truly a success. I look forward to the Charles County Master Gardeners being a part of Christmas in April in 2011.

Photos submitted by Terry Thir
Terry Thir, Carolyn Sauer (standing) and Mary Cocke in Potomac Heights.

Charles County Recycling and Drop Off Center Locations

Recycling Centers

24-Hour Oil/Antifreeze Drop-Off ONLY

IMPORTANT NOTE: Drop-off sites ONLY accept oil and antifreeze. Recycling centers accept oil and antifreeze as well as various other recyclable items.

Contact info: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES
301-932-3440
301-870-2778

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

http://www.charlescounty.org/pf/sw/recycling/
How Easing My Guilt Added Some Beauty
By Linda Lockhart
Cleaning out the house has always been one of my least favorite jobs but this spring I had an epiphany that incorporated the big “going green” concept of re-use/recycle. Lurking in my garage was the old crib which had been used by both my granddaughter and grandson. The thought of just throwing it in the trash seemed VERY unsentimental. That’s when the epiphany occurred. My daughter and I took the crib apart and made it into the planter pictured. The process was simple: we disassembled the crib, threw away the hardware, used the frame and corner pieces to make the frame of the flower box and then just cut the slats in half and screwed them around the outside. With a little coat of exterior paint and some soil we were finished. I’m not sure how long the new planter will last but at least we made use of it a little while longer and I don’t have the guilt associated with just summarily tossing out part of the grandchildren’s childhood “memories.”

Recycled materials turn into a lovely planter.

Albert Carson Inventively Recycles All Items
By Alberta L. Carson
Welcome to my Innovative Trellis World. I and a group of young gardeners have learned to save space by “growing up” plants. More great examples and suggestions in upcoming issues.

A metal clothes horse with a metal shoe rack on top is wonderful for a Kiwi supporter

Mattress with all the padding removed leaving a great network for cucumbers and squash.

GIEI Initiative Is Alive & Growing In Our Area
By Carol Teets
On March 18, 2010 I represented the Master Gardener speakers bureau and held a Salad Box demonstration for the La Plata Community Garden Club. The event was held at the club’s regular monthly meeting at the La Plata Firehouse. The meeting was well attended by both men and women who were anxious to learn about growing in a Salad Box. Garden fever was building after a long, cold, snowy winter…REMEMBER??

Fellow Master Gardener and La Plata Community Garden Club member Mary Ann Wade must have been thinking spring when she called in January and invited me to speak. Between the two of us we planted a borrowed Salad Box, arranged for baby sitting the new seedlings while the two of us were off traveling with our families, and then constructed new boxes that were available for sale at the Master Gardener plant sale in May. Once the preparation was complete we had the opportunity to educate the garden club members on building a Salad Box and the proper planting and maintenance techniques that make this gardening project so rewarding.

If you have not had the opportunity to learn about the Salad Box I recommend you visit the Grow It Eat It website (http://www.growit.umd.edu/) and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, for fellow Master Gardeners who are interested in doing a Salad Box demonstration I have all the tools necessary to educate through our speakers bureau.

Best wishes to all our Salad Box Gardeners!
**Site Visits**
**Ongoing**
**Contact:** Jessica Milstead

When someone calls or visits the Extension office with a question about problems with their plantings, or for advice on landscaping, the call is referred to me. Mary Beth Chandler and I will share the task of putting together a team to go out to look and give advice.

**Gardener’s Soap**
**Ongoing**
**Contact:** Linda Lockhart

MG Marsha Back will be preparing a new batch of soap, with new designs to be available later this year. These fragrant soaps are great gifts and support our MG program.

$4.00 / bar

**Library Project**
**Summer 2010 and Beyond**
**Contact:** Barbie Walter

Staff an information table or give a presentation on a subject you choose. Set up a library display window (as available) for MG projects. We need you to jump in and help advertise our MG program and expertise.

**Charles County Detention Center**
**Horticultural Education**
**Ongoing**
**Contact:** Gale Kladitis

September 7 - October 26 are the dates for the fall session of classes. Join us to help with this ever-expanding project.

**Speakers Bureau**
**Ongoing**
**Contact:** Barbie Walter

Use your knowledge to educate the public or your fellow 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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**Summer / Fall 2010 Events**

**July**

2-30 Fridays, 4:00 p.m. until dark; Farmer’s Market at O’Donnell lake area, St. Charles, Waldorf

7 Monday, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.; *Plant ID/Taxonomy*, Anne Arundel Co., See page 24

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.; Grow It Eat It, 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

19 Monday, 8:30 - 4:30; *Pollinators*, Baltimore Co., Oregon Ridge Nature Center, Cockeysville, Md. See page 24

20 Tuesday, 8:30 - 4:30; *Pollinators*, Queens Anne’s Co. 4H Park, Centreville, Md. See page 24

22 Thursday, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Grow It Eat It, Vegetable Diagnostics and Demos, Prince Georges Co., Master Peace Garden, Riverdale, Md. See page 24

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

**August**

23 Monday, 8:30 - 4:30; *Pollinators*, Washington Co., Western Maryland Research and Education Center, Keedysville, Md. See page 24

24 Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.; Membership Meeting at Extension office Open to all MGs

**September**

16 Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., *Plant Disease Workshop*, Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s Co., See page 24

28 Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.; Membership Meeting at Extension office Open to all MGs