As you read this, there may be snow on the ground or in the forecast. The grass may brown and the trees bare. Yet, spring is just around the corner. While you are pruning your roses or considering which vegetables and herbs to seed, I want to reflect on last year and look forward to 2015.

In 2014, Charles County Master Gardeners put in over 4,400 volunteer hours and logged more than 1,100 hours of continuing education. From the homes of county residents to schools, to the Detention Center and beyond, Master Gardeners make a big impact in the community. Thanks for your service!

The 2015 Master Gardener Basic Training is off to a start on February 3 and finishes with graduation on March 31. It looks like we will have another great class of Master Gardener Trainees. Thanks to those who are helping out with the class. I encourage you all to reach out to the new class this season as we welcome them aboard. Spring is not only growing season for plants but also for the program.

I look forward to a successful 2015!

Luke Gustafson, Charles County Master Gardener Coordinator

NEW OFFICERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:
TERRY SHELTON THIR

VICE-CHAIRMAN:
ROSE MARKHAM

SECRETARY POSITION IS STILL OPEN

TREASURER REMAINS
NEAL JOHNSON

Special points of interest:

- New Steering Committee Officers
  Page 1
- Message from:
  * MG Coordinator
  Page 1
  * New Chairman
  Page 2
  * Record Keeper
  Page 4
- 2014 MG of the Year
  Page 2
Message from our New Steering Committee Chairman

First I want to thank all of you for voting me Master Gardener of the Year! I am still numb and full of gratitude. Thank you so much!

Also, I just want to thank everyone for your confidence in selecting me to serve as your new Chairperson. I am really looking forward to working with our MG Coordinator, Luke Gustafson, our new Vice-Chairperson Rose Markham, our Treasurer, Neal Johnson and our Record Keeper, Pauline Spurlock. I feel very fortunate to have such an energetic and talented group of people to work with this year. We have many new ideas that we are exploring. My main goal this year is to develop a public community educational speaker series involving our Master Gardener (MG)s. We are looking for MGs and Interns who enjoy public speaking who would like to conduct talks and demonstrations on horticulture, gardening, composting, rain gardens, Bay-Wise and more, at our county libraries. If you are interested, please contact me. We welcome your ideas and input. Spring is just around the corner and we have so many wonderful community projects and activities. I have attached a copy of our new draft project chart for your information. Our intention was to group projects under the known UME volunteer timesheet activity codes. We recognize that tasks under the projects will overlap (i.e., education, outreach, etc.). In March our project leaders will highlight these projects and seek your involvement. As you can see, there is plenty of work and fun for all!! We look forward to a great and productive year!!

Terry Shelton Thir
thirccmg@aol.com

Monthly Meetings

Master Gardener general membership meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10am at the Extension Office.

CCMG new Inclement Weather Policy. UME Charles County office follows the Charles County (CC) Government inclement weather policy. If Charles County Government (not schools) is Closed, we will not have a meeting. If there is a two hour delayed start then we will meet at our regularly scheduled time of 10 am.
Horticultural Education

Several activities combine to form the Charles County Master Gardeners project at the Charles County Fair. First, Master Gardeners design and build an educational display booth housed in the Flower Building at the Fair, on a topic of general interest related to horticulture, environmental science, or home gardening. Master Gardener volunteers are on-hand at the booth during public hours at the Fair to answer fairgoers questions about the display topic and explain the Master Gardener program.

Second, a display is presented in the Drury (Canning) Building, usually with the topic of Grow-It-Eat-It. Master Gardener volunteers are on-hand in the Drury Building during public hours at the Fair to explain the secondary display, and to provide supplemental monitoring for the display items in the building. Finally, Master Gardeners provide a hands-on children’s program related to gardening.

Work on any aspect of the Master Gardener project at the Charles County Fair counts as volunteer hours toward your annual volunteer service requirement. Many volunteers are needed, and Master Gardener Interns are especially welcome and encouraged to participate. Interns are paired with experienced Master Gardeners to work in teams. For more information, contact Bob Peregoy.

Spring Plant Sale!

Seed catalogs are coming in...a sure way to forget about our winter outside. Pretty soon we’ll be in full swing planning for the plant sale, which will be the first Saturday in May this year. It will be here before you know it!

Raised Beds

Terry Shelton Thir provided these websites as good information on raised beds….enjoy!

http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/how-to-build-a-raised-bed#.VKSD5KacXWc.mailto
http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/high-and-mighty-raised-beds#.VKgWR9bHdek.mailto
Letter from the Record Keeper:

Charles County Master Gardeners logged 4456.33 volunteer hours in 2014

Educational Hours logged: 1140.65

Congratulations to 12 of our 18 interns who earned their required 40 hours by the end of the year. In total, our interns logged 981 volunteer hours this year—almost a quarter of the total for Charles County.

I want to thank all of you who worked so hard this past year in volunteering your services to the Charles County Master Gardener Program. Your logging in your own hours have been invaluable to me. For those of you who have yet to avail yourselves of this opportunity, I will be scheduling a workshop at the Extension Office to help you with logging in your 2015 hours. I will email you with the exact date and time.

PAULINE SPURLOCK, Record Keeper

Logging Hours Q&A

Q: I have not yet used the online tracking system for recording hours. I would like to record them online this year. Where do I start?

A: Contact Pauline Spurlock (spurlockp@gmail.com) or Luke Gustafson (LNG@umd.edu) to set up a username or to reset your password. If you need the address to the online tracking system or the step by step tutorial presentation, visit the Extension webpage for Charles County.

Q: Do I include drive time in my volunteer hours?

A: Yes, round trip drive time to volunteer events counts as volunteer time but not drive time to and from continuing education events. If an event – such as the MG holiday dinner – is half volunteer and half education, you can still count all the drive time as volunteer time.

Q: What is the purpose of the demographics section on the volunteer log?

A: We want our activities to reach a representative portion of the community, and the demographics section is used to record who we taught or interacted with. To avoid double counting, only one person per event should record contacts. For example, if three MGs do an activity at a school, only one MG who was there (usually project lead or designee) should record demographics of the people taught or contacted. Ethnicity can be difficult to tell, but if you are unsure you can record the individual as “Undetermined”.

Q: I just want to serve in my community and not get bogged down with all this reporting of hours. Is it OK if I just record enough hours to meet the minimum requirements?

A: Accurately reporting your hours and contacts is a valuable way to see where we have been working each year. It helps demonstrate the value of Master Gardeners and Extension to the community as well as the county, state and federal governments that support us. The more accurate the hours are the better.

Article by Luke Gustafson, Charles County Master Gardener Coordinator
Charles Co-chairs, Ronda Goldman and Janet McGrane inform us that their team is 37-strong! In the last six months of the year they certified 11 landscapes: 4 demo sites and 7 client sites (5 belonging to Master Gardeners). They also had 13 consultations that have not yet led to certifications. Ronda and Janet report that “Bay-Wise in Charles County toured the Heron’s Flight in the latter part of 2014 and made stops at the Charles County Fair in La Plata, MD and Monarch Mania on Cobb Island. Gearing up for 2015 brought organizational meetings for our first Bay-Wise Garden Tour and our first SMART Tools training session. We added thirteen new sites to the roster and are looking forward to building more community connections and strategic partners. “The Charles County Fair proved to be a rewarding opportunity to connect with residents. The fair brings the community together through demonstrations, shows, and contests. It is the beginning of the holiday season and we were able to garnered thirteen interested residents. It also provided an opportunity to educate the community and share Bay-Wise principles. “Monarch Mania was spearheaded by the Citizens of Cobb Island and has taken place annually for the last three years. The event is held to increase awareness of the migration of Monarchs and the importance of maintaining a healthy environment. Monarch butterflies, like all other butterflies, cannot exist in environments that are toxic. Their habitat calls for native flora, clean air, and clean water. The state of Maryland often judges its toxicity levels by documenting the number of butterflies that frequent each year. The Monarch population is currently declining and the festival tracks their migration through tagging. Bay-Wise was present to provide information about native plants and how to maintain a healthy ecosystem. “The next adventure for BWCC is to launch its first Bay-Wise Garden Tour. Historic and modern sites are being selected as well as sites that provide a multigenerational experience. The project is scheduled for October 2015 and will be an educational and fundraising opportunity. “SMART Tool training is the next leg of training for our team. SMART stands for Stormwater Management and Restoration Tracker, a tool used to monitor the number and impact of properly functioning practices. All information can be used by municipalities to determine efficacy of resources and efforts. Adding this level of training will further equip team members and enable them to educate and assist Charles County with stewarding our 300 mi. of shoreline.”

*Article from BW Fall/Winter 2014 Newsletter*
2014 Charles County Bay-Wise Certifications

Charles County Master Gardeners
Rosemary Ewing
William and Mary Cocke
Barbie Walter
James and Margery LaMar
Millie Head
Esther Reaves

Bay-Wise Master Gardeners
Patti and Ed Faulkner
Roseanne Markham
Harriet Beck
Mary Gaskins
Sandra Reissig
Doris Santimays
Kathleen Jenkins

Non-Master Gardeners
Waldorf West Library
Patrick and Helga Burns
Judy and Joe Thomason
Lisa Gillespie

Do You Know this Plant?
Provided by MG Bob Peregoy (answer on page 7)

Do You Know these Bugs?
Provided by MG Dave Lewis (answer on page 12)
The Story of an Intern – My first year with the Master Gardeners:

My first year with the Master Gardener program, in some aspects has been more than I expected, in some, less. I very much enjoyed the initial training. All of the presenters knew their subjects well, and most were able to fire us up and wanting to be “a part of it all.” Barbie Walters kept us going when panic set in with the realization that we really didn’t know anything, a fact that became clearer every day. I also appreciated the kindness of the seasoned Master Gardeners who attended the sessions as facilitators. In addition, I very much enjoyed getting to know some of my fellow students. My biggest challenge was that I still knew relatively little about how the whole organization worked and how to actually get involved. What did I want to focus on? There are so many different projects and initially they all sound wonderful and you want to sign up for everything. When things quieted down and after attending a couple of General Membership meetings, I had a better idea how the organization functioned.

My first project was the “Christmas in April” event. I worked with Celine McLaughlin and Bob Peregoy in a team and, although we worked very hard all day, had a marvelous time. This is a very worthwhile project that produces satisfying results almost immediately, helps the community and builds team spirit. I loved it.

During the next few months I participated in the “Plant Sale”, joined Luke Gustafson and a couple of other interns in teaching children at a summer camp on the Naval Base in Indian Head how to make “Seed bombs” and finally, together with Bob Peregoy and four other interns, created and designed a new display for the Charles County Fair. We met several times and had a lot of fun thinking up ways of how to draw fair goers to the Master Gardener’s booth and how to raise the interest of the adults and also, on a different level, of the children. At the actual fair we all had a great time interacting with the visitors and explaining who we are, what we, as Master Gardeners, do, and how to get involved. It was a joy to work with the children and our display and teaching ideas really came into their own.

Later in the fall, I visited North Point High School with Jessica Milstead, Rhonda Radford, another fellow intern, and Luke Gustafson, in order to determine if we were going to be able to help with a larger tree planting project there. That is still an ongoing project and I hope to get more involved when it continues in the spring.

Overall, I am happy with what I have done and learned during my first year. I still have a long way to go, sometimes it seems a little bit overwhelming, but I will take one project at a time. During the next few months I hope to become a “Pruning buddy” to Carol Teets who really impressed me with her knowledge of the subject. I also signed up to be a facilitator at two sessions of the upcoming annual training program and, of course, want to be part of this year’s “Plant Sale” and “Christmas in April”.

I am looking forward to all of it, not in the least because I enjoy the people. The volunteers are definitely the backbone of this organization and it is a privilege to work with them. I am also determined to attend as many advanced training sessions as I can; improving on my knowledge is one of my biggest goals. I keep having this recurring nightmare that I stand in front of a class and someone asks me for the Latin name of this plant in the picture…

Article by Tina Bailem, MG Intern
Charles County Master Gardeners Scholarship

Charles County Master Gardeners will award a $1,000.00 scholarship to one graduating or transfer student from the College of Southern Maryland who plans to continue studying a field in agriculture or natural resources at a four-year college or university. The following fields of study will be accepted: animal and avian sciences, applied agriculture, agricultural and resources economics, environmental science and policy/technology, plant science, and landscape architecture, etc. Other related fields of study may be considered for acceptance.

**Application Deadline:** The completed application and all required documentation must be delivered or postmarked by **April 30, 2015** to CCMG Scholarship 9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite 119, La Plata, MD 20646. For additional information, send questions to Luke Gustafson at lng@umd.edu or Terry Shelton Thir at thirccmg@aol.com.

**Eligibility Criteria: Applying student must:**
- be a resident of Charles County
- have a 3.0 or above cumulative Grade Point Average
- be a graduating or transfer student from the College of Southern Maryland
- have been accepted to continue at a four year college or university in an appropriate field of study in the subsequent fall semester

**Required Documentation:**
- a completed CCMG Scholarship Application Form
- a detailed resume listing your extracurricular activities, work, and/or community service activities
- an essay stating the applicant’s career goals, name of the college the student plans to attend, the appropriate major to be pursued, and explanation how the CCMG Scholarship will support the student’s future plans.
- at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, guidance counselor, or advisor who is familiar with the student’s academic and talents/skills related to the appropriate field
- an official transcript of student’s courses and grades, verifying a 3.0 or above cumulative GPA

**Student awarded the CCMG Scholarship:**
The student who is awarded the CCMG Scholarship will be notified at his/her CSM Awards Ceremony with a letter of final instructions. The awardee must then submit: 1) a .jpg headshot for publicity purposes, 2) an official letter of acceptance from the college he/she plans to attend in the subsequent fall, and 3) information where the CCMG Scholarship payment should be sent. Failure to comply with the requirements by July 15, 2015, may result with forfeiture of the CCMG Scholarship.

Article by Kathy Jenkins, MG Intern
2015 Charles County Master Gardener Scholarship Application

The completed application and all required documentation must be delivered or postmarked by April 30, 2015 to CCMG Scholarship 9375 Chesapeake Street, Suite 119, La Plata, MD 20646. For additional information or to submit application by email, contact Luke Gustafson at lng@umd.edu or Terry Thir at thircmg@aol.com.

Part A: Complete the following information. Please print or type.

Applying Student Name

Address

City __________________________ State _______________ Zip Code ____________

Phone Number ___________________ Email Address __________________________

CSM Graduation/Transfer Date ___________________ Date of Award Ceremony __________________

Intended College or University and Field of Study to be pursued* __________________________

*The following fields of study will be accepted; other areas may be considered: animal and avian sciences, applied agriculture, agricultural and resources economics, environmental science and policy/technology, plant science, and landscape architecture, etc. Other related fields of study may be considered for acceptance.

Part B: Submit the required documentation to the Charles County Master Gardener (CCMG) mailing address below by the deadline.

1. a completed CCMG Scholarship Application Form and all documents by the deadline
2. a detailed resume listing organization memberships, extracurricular activities, work experience, and community service
3. an essay stating the applicant’s career goals, name of the college the student plans to attend, the appropriate major to be pursued, and explanation how the CCMG Scholarship will support the student’s future plans.
4. at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, guidance counselor, or advisor who is familiar with the student’s academic talents and skills related to the future field of study.
5. an official transcript of student’s courses and grades verifying a 3.0 or above cumulative GPA

Part C: The student who is awarded the CCMG Scholarship will be notified with a letter of final instructions. The awardee must submit: 1) a .jpg headshot for publicity purposes, 2) an official letter of acceptance from the college to be attended in the subsequent fall, and 3) information where the CCMG Scholarship payment should be sent. Failure to comply with the requirements by July 15, 2015 may result with the forfeiture of the CCMG Scholarship.

CCMG Scholarship, 9375 Chesapeake Street, #119 La Plata, Maryland 20646 (301) 934-5403

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.
### 2015 Charles County Master Gardener’s Project Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAY-WISE (5)</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENT/HORTICULTURE</th>
<th>GIEI (Grow It Eat It) (6)</th>
<th>IPM/DIAGONISTICS</th>
<th>PUBLICITY &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yardstick Landscape/Garden Certifications</td>
<td>Schools Greening Landscape JMG/Wildlife Programs JC Parks Elementary Mt. Hope Elementary Gen. Smallwood M.S. Thomas Stone H.S. North Point H.S.</td>
<td>Farmer’s Market</td>
<td>Bug Day</td>
<td>Public Outreach Events Cobb Island Appreciation Day La Plata Fall Festival Waldorf Beautification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smart-tool certification</td>
<td>Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center</td>
<td>Sow Seed Exchange</td>
<td>Site Visits</td>
<td>All advertising-newspaper, Southern Md. Living magazine, signage, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BW Garden tour</td>
<td>Charles County Fair Gardens</td>
<td>Detention Center Garden</td>
<td>Plant Clinics</td>
<td>CCMG Website</td>
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<td>La Plata Memorial Garden</td>
<td>Community Gardens</td>
<td>Plant/Field Walks</td>
<td>Scholarship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Mudd House (9)</td>
<td>Therapeutic Group Home Gardens</td>
<td>Educational Events Planning for MGs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Charles County Fair Exhibits</td>
<td>Body of Christ Community Farm</td>
<td>Plant Sale</td>
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<td>Monarch Mania</td>
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<td>Compost Newsletter</td>
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<td>Christmas in April</td>
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<td>Advanced Training for MGs</td>
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<td>Camp Merrick Sensory Gardens</td>
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Spring is almost here!!
Calendar

February
3-26 & Mar 3-31  6-9pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays, MG Basic Training Class, Thomas Stone High School, Waldorf
24  10am; Membership Meeting Extension Office Open to all MGs

March
2  8am; Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip, pickup locations TBD, $116 to Action Travel Tours, information sent in email, contact Harriet Beck for more info (registration closed).
Feb3-26 & Mar 3-31  6-9pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays, MG Basic Training Class, Thomas Stone High School, Waldorf
19  10am; Smart Tool Training (part 1), Waldorf West Library
24  10am; Membership Meeting Extension Office Open to all MGs
31  6-9pm; Intern Graduation & Awards Ceremony & Potluck; Colonial Charles, Waldorf

April
25  8 am; Christmas in April, meet at house locations, contact Carol Teets for more information and to participate
28  10am; Membership Meeting Extension Office Open to all MGs

May
2  11am-2pm; Compost Bin & Rainbarrel Workshop & Document Shred Event (partnership with county govt), County Govt. Building Parking Lot, La Plata
2  8am-1pm; Annual Plant Sale, La Plata Farmer's Market and Waldorf Farmer's Market
23, 30, June 6  8am-3pm, Bay-Wise Advanced Training, 4-H Center, College Park, $50, contact Esther Mitchell estherm@umd.edu
26  10am; Membership Meeting Extension Office Open to all MGs

June
4  8am-4:30pm, MG Annual Training Day, U of MD, College Park
6  8am-3pm, Bay-Wise Advanced Training, 4-H Center, College Park
23  10am; Membership Meeting Extension Office Open to all MGs
Submit articles, photos, reports, events, and other items for publication to Deborah Determan at CompostSubmissions@yahoo.com by April 15, 2015 for the Spring 2015 newsletter. If you send a photo, please include a brief description of the activity and names of persons included in the photo, as well as the photographer’s name. If you send a photo of a plant, please include the scientific name, if known.

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Answers to “Do You Know…?”

Plant is commonly known as “Pumpkin on a Stick,” Pumpkin Tree,” “Pumpkin Bush,” or “Ornamental Eggplant.” Scientific name is Solanum Integrifolium, a relative of the cultivated edible vegetable eggplant.

Bug 1 is a grasshopper........Bug 2 is a katydid