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"A Message from Mariah"

Submitted by: Mariah Dean

It has been so good seeing everyone in person at events again! I have really been enjoying getting out in the community and learning so much lately! The Master Gardener volunteer open house at Historic St. Mary's City was awesome! I really enjoyed the tour and learning more from Peter about their recent discoveries. The reasoning about why they have the 6" digging rule makes a lot of sense because of all of the history still being researched there! I appreciate the swag Howie Grube gave us and have been using the travel coffee mug all the time! The tour at Kathy York's cut flower farm was awesome! She was so sweet to host us and teach us so much! One of my new favorite flowers is the chocolate cosmos she grows and taught us about! We also did a tour at a sunflower farm in Chaptico called Goldpetal farms. Jerry Spence taught us a lot about growing sunflowers and zinnias, bringing mazes to life, and when monarch roosts arrive at the farm and what trees they prefer to spend the night in during their migration south.

If there are any in person or virtual events that you would like to create or participate in, please let me know! You all make the Master Gardener program. I am just the person to help guide you, help figure out what adheres to University standards, as well as provide support and programming to suite your interests. I appreciate everyone's support that they have offered me while I navigate this time of many changes. I'll keep sending out emails for volunteer and continuing education opportunities.

We will be going with a hybrid style programming for the foreseeable future. There are certainly some things that it has been nice to do online instead of driving long distances. We are hoping to have our September meeting in person. Please check your emails for more information about specifics!

Thank you all for all that you do for our community. Can't wait for our next potluck!



Life in the Time of Covid ***By: Brenda Songy***

The garden started with the way all life begins; one sister whose job it was to treat disease, and the other whose goal it was to prevent it. Monika Lee approached her sister Meena Brewster, the Director of the St. Mary's County Health Department, to ask if she could do something for all the employees who had been putting in overtime for close to a year to stop the spread of Covid-19 in our community. Perhaps a breakfast.



“How about planting some flowers in the courtyard?” she replied. Monika phoned her friends Brenda Songy and Sue Tyner, each of whom are Master Gardeners as well as Presidents for the local and county garden clubs, respectively. Brenda was able to procure a few hundred dollars from her garden club, and Susan not only received a generous \$1,000 donation from St. Mary's County Garden Club, but she also reached out to Chaney Enterprises who doubled the contributions, providing them a budget of \$3,000.

Trips to Costco, Green Acres, Chesapeake Natives, Butterfly Alley, and donations from club members amassed more than 200 plantings, not including the hundreds of seasonal annuals planted under the oak and dogwood trees. The courtyard is designed to be perpetually in bloom, from the Yuletide Camellia and Lenten roses in winter to azaleas, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, and natives for pollinators from spring through fall. The County generously provided soil and mulch, and fellow gardeners, friends, family, and workers from the health department pitched in. Garden statuary and tables were added, which also contained plaques in appreciation to front line workers, the brainchild of Dr. Brewster that their efforts be set in stone.



A dedication and ribbon cutting was held on June 15th with Commissioner Guy and representatives from all first responders in attendance, including police, the school superintendent, fire and rescue, St. Mary's Hospital, and essential workers, all of whom stood strong in the face of fear and suffering. A magnolia tree was planted in memory of those who lost their battles, and a plaque

was designed and installed in honor of everyone who struggled and adapted the best they could through this horrific year. It is for the innumerable lives saved that the dedication plaque ends, “May this perennial garden be a constant reminder of the beauty of life and health.”

For as Helen Keller once said, “Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of overcoming it.”



St. Mary's County Fair and the Fairground Gardens!

By: Ann and John Richards

Master Gardeners and Friends of the Fair came together on Monday evening the first of August to begin grooming the grounds for the Fair which is September 23-26 this year. Plan your exhibits and volunteer to man the Master Gardener booth in the Extension building. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to meet and encourage others to become a part of the MG Program.

If you are interested in volunteering at the MG booth at the Fair, please email Mariah at mrdean@umd.edu. The volunteer shifts are 3-4 hours long each. Please feel free to sign up for as many or few as you'd like! We could also still use one or two more people to help with judging 4-H entries.

We still haven't gotten the ok to have our MG potlucks, sadly. But the fair has really good food! I hope that everyone enjoys it and I hope to see you all there!



74TH ANNUAL

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ILLUSTRATED BY ABIGAIL GRAHAM
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Gardening at HSMC

By: Jacqueline Fournier and Mariah Dean



Our very first in person gathering since Covid was a volunteer open house at Historic St. Mary's City. It was so great to see everyone again! We are also very happy to be doing some volunteering with Historic St. Mary's City again!

Jacqueline Fournier has been volunteering at HSMC as a Master Gardener! She said she is "Enjoying my time volunteering at Historical St. Mary's City. A peaceful environment."

Historic St. Mary's City has many native plants, historical demonstrations, and so much more. It is right on the St. Mary's River and you can often feel the cool breeze coming off the water while volunteering there. They are still accepting volunteers. Please email Mariah if you're interested and we'll get you out there!



Vegetable Gardening that Pleases the Eye

By: Mariah Dean and Jacqueline Fournier



Jacqueline Fournier has beans growing in the shape of a heart in her greenhouse! How cute! She said “This is the first time I grew beans, this extended garden is dear to my heart. It was a surprise that they grew in a heart shape. What a surprise.”

Mariah Dean has been helping with some heirloom tomato research this summer. At the Twilight tour at the Upper Marlboro Research Facility, she said “these heirloom tomatoes are gorgeous! If I were an artist I would want to just paint a picture of them or something!” Someone else pointed out that some are known for actually being “ugly”. Hey, beauty is the in the eye of the beholder I guess!

Personally, I think these heirloom tomatoes are really pretty! They are in many shades and some even have interesting shapes to them! I am happy to say that I donated this box to the St. Mary’s Caring food bank this week. It is good to be able to do in person things again and donate to the food pantries again!



Pollinator Gardening Tips

By: Linda Crandall

Here are some tips to help you plan and plant a garden bed and landscape for pollinators:

- ◇ When planning your bed, choose plants that benefit pollinators and work to remove any invasive, exotic plants.
- ◇ Increase diversity by adding multiple species of plants.
- ◇ Remember, “If you build it they will come.” BUT, to build it you need to know that pollinators need nectar from April through October. Plan and plant your garden to always have something in bloom during those months. If you include a variety of flowers that bloom throughout the different seasons, you will accommodate different pollinators' preferences and provide a sequence of pollen and nectar sources throughout different life cycle stages. Consider incorporating shrubs and trees, such as dogwood, blueberry, cherry, plum, and willow that provide nectar or pollen in early spring when other food is scarce.
- ◇ Use native plants that will have a succession of blooms throughout the year. Native plants are four (4) times more attractive to native pollinators than non-natives. This information comes to us from a 2002 study at UC Berkley and it confirms something that makes sense. Native plants and pollinators (insects) evolved together and by attracting pollinators, the plants are able to assure reproduction. For their services pollinators receive food. Some plants have even developed an exclusive relationship with a pollinator. Both are dependent upon each other for survival.
- ◇ Don't forget to include the larval host plants. Several trees and herbs are good for this! Host plants are the different plants that meet the life sustaining needs of pollinators at different stages.
- ◇ By providing plants with various shapes that are good nectar sources you are ‘inviting’ many different pollinators.
- ◇ Avoid hybrids that do not provide any resources for pollinators.
- ◇ Plant in groups, layers, or ‘drifts’ and use plants with several different colors of flowers. Bees are attracted to blue and yellow, many butterflies are attracted to red, yellow, and orange.
- ◇ Create a more complete habitat with some bare ground, rock piles, and dead wood. Remember to include sites and materials for native bee nesting.
- ◇ Remember pollinators need overwintering sites. Instead of doing garden cleanup in the fall, do it in the spring.
- ◇ Provide a water source.
- ◇ Limit or eliminate pesticide use.

FIRST, some great and easily available plants to include in the garden bed(s) you make to help pollinators

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Latin Name/Variety</u>	<u>Note</u>
Annual Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annual</i>	Annual - easy to grow from seed.
Basil		Herb - Many herbs are wonderful pollinator attractants. Basil and oregano bloom, as well as fennel and dill. They are all good in the pollinator
Catnip		Herb
Dill		Herb
Fennel		Herb
Larkspur	<i>Consolida ambigua</i>	Annual - An annual self-seeding plant, it seeds prolifically, but is very easy to control by pulling seedlings when they are young. It grows 3'-4.5' high. The seedlings germinate in late summer/fall. The flowers come in shades of blue, pink, and white. *Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds love this plant.
Oregano		Herb
Parsley		Herb
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia</i>	Common Landscape plant
Salvia	'May Night'	Common Landscape plant - Long blooming and likes full sun. It is not picky about soil and will attract a variety of pollinators.
Thyme		Herb
Zinnia	Many	Annual - Choose old fashioned varieties.
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Native/Tree - Can grow from 50'-80' tall in average soil that is moist to well-drained. It is an easy tree to grow. Maple flowers provide an early season nectar source for bees and other pollinators.
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium</i>	Native - There are several varieties of native blueberries that will provide three seasons of interest and food for

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All Native Oaks	Check reliable resource	<p>Native/Tree - Oaks are one of the most important trees for butterflies and moths. There are many native oaks to choose from – from Pin Oak, which grows on wet sites, to Chestnut oak, which inhabits uplands and slopes. <i>*Research done by Dr. Douglas Tallamy, U of Del. Serviceberry Amelanchier laevis A. canadensis</i> Native/Tree - Serviceberry trees are an understory tree that grow from 6' to 20' tall. Though they prefer moist sites, full to partial sun, and acidic soil they are quite adaptable to light and soil conditions. It blooms in early spring and is a great nectar source. Berries are relished by birds. The Fall color is excellent. Beware though of Cedar-Apple Rust!</p>
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	<p>Native/Shrub - Native to the coastal plain, and requires well-drained soil in a sunny site. Blooms in June. Attracts a huge variety of small pollinators, including small bees and also butterflies. Grows to 3' tall.</p>
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus</i>	<p>Native Bush or Tree - A wetland plant that is suitable for rain gardens. It can grow to 12' tall, although is usually shorter in drier soils. It attracts MANY different bees and butterflies.</p>
Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	<p>Native – A fragrant flower that attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.</p>
Woodland Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	<p>Native - A woodland wildflower that grows in openings in the woods. Grows in part shade with average soil and to about 9"-12" high. It blooms in April.</p>
Heart-leaved alexanders	<i>Zizia aptera</i>	<p>Native - A member of the parsley family and host plant for black swallowtail butterfly. It blooms in May, grows in average-moist soil, with full sun to part shade... 1' - 2.5'.</p>
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i>	<p>Native – Grows in full sun to part shade, rocky woods, and ledges. Can grow from 1'- 2' tall and self seeds. It is an important nectar plant for hummingbirds.</p>
Foxglove Penstemon	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	<p>Native - Prefers dry to average soil and full sun. It can grow to 3'-4' tall and the bloom time is May. Has the "landing pads" and "guide lines" for visitation by bees. Grows in association with other plants, so when the foliage looks ragged summer it is hidden by blooming plants.</p>

THEN, SOME NATIVE PLANTS AND TREES FOR POLLINATORS

Wild Bergamont	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Native – This is one of the best plants for bees! It likes moist soil but does well in average soil. Likes full sun and depending on the moisture available, can grow from 3’- 6’ tall. It is excellent when grown in a perennial border or meadow.
Blue False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Native – also look for Wild White Indigo, or <i>Baptisia alba</i>
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Native – Found in sunny openings and moist thickets. Grows 3’- 4’ high, likes sun to light shade and moist soil. All <i>Monardas</i> are subject to powdery mildew. Place them where they can get good air circulation, but also where they can hide when their foliage turns raggedy. Not as attractive to bees as <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> , but a great hummingbird attractor!
Nodding Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Native – Likes moist to dry soil, will grow from 12”-16”, and can grow in full sun to part sun. It blooms in summer. <i>Allium</i> is attractive to a number of small pollinators; it has a long bloom season. Try to plant it in combination with other plants; it looks particularly good with (another native) little bluestem grass.
Stoke’s Aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Native - For anyone that needs a shorter plant that looks a little more formal, <i>Stokes Is a</i> is a good choice. It tolerates sunny, dry sites and has a long bloom time in June and early July. It is very attractive to bees.
Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	Native - An outstanding pollinator plant! It is definitely in the top five (5), and Penn State’s number one (1). It is a mint, and <i>Pycnanthemum</i> will spread to form a large colony, but does not prolifically reseed. To maintain in a small area, simply divide the plants in spring. It grows in average to dry soil, prefers full sun. It can grow from 2.5’ - 3.5’ tall. Blends nicely with native grasses such as little bluestem.
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Native - Native to Midwest areas. <i>Echinacea</i> is attractive to bees and butterflies alike. It is easy to grow and adaptable to a variety of soils. It prefers full sun and will reseed into different areas of the garden.

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Sunflower ‘Sun Queen’	<i>Helianthus</i>	Native
The Goldenrods	<i>Solidago</i>	Native – Goldenrod is often believed to cause hayfever when in fact it is ragweed. Plants responsible for hay fever are usually wind pollinated. The pollen is light and easily blown on light winds. Goldenrod’s pollen is fairly heavy, which means that for pollination it must be carried by insects. Goldenrod is an important late season source of nectar for pollinators. Canada goldenrod is not suitable for home properties as it spreads rapidly and is difficult to control but many species of goldenrod are beautiful additions to the home landscape. <i>Solidago sphacelata</i> ‘Golden Fleece’ stays very low and forms a gorgeous ground cover. It is native to areas just south of here. <i>Solidago rugosa</i> grows to 4’-5’ tall, forming a tight clump that is easily divided. You may also want to try <i>Solidago nemoralis</i> , Gray goldenrod, which short.
The Milkweeds	Native	Besides being terrific nectar plants, the milkweeds are the host plant for the monarch butterfly. There is an <i>Asclepias</i> for almost every environment, from wet to dry.
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Native
Whorled milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Native – This is a great little milkweed to combine with shorter native grasses. It grows from 1’- 2’ tall, produces fine, delicate looking foliage and attracts a large number of different pollinator species, from large to small. Well-drained but nutrient poor soil in full sun.
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Native - One of the most beautiful milkweeds, it requires well drained soil in full sun to thrive. It grows especially well in nutrient poor soils and does not do well in rich soil. It is great by itself or in combination with other plants that grow in nutrient poor soils and grows from 1’- 3’ tall. The taproot makes it difficult to transplant – but it is easily grown from seed.
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnate</i>	Native
Purple milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpurea</i>	Native

THEN, SOME NATIVE PLANTS AND TREES FOR POLLINATORS

Anise hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Native – This is native to western US, and is now a commonly cultivated plant. It is easy to grow in average soil, and the height usually depends upon the soil and moisture. It has prolific flowers July-Aug and is extremely popular with bees and other pollinators.
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum, E. dubium</i>	Native - All the Joe Pye weeds are favorites of bees and butterflies. It blooms in mid to latesummer and prefers moist soil, with full sun. <i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i> can grow to 7' tall, depending on the site, while <i>Eupatorium dubium</i> grows only 4'-5'. Shorter cultivars ('nativars') such as 'Little Joe' are available for smaller properties.
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Native - Like all Eupatoriums, boneset is a pollinator haven. It blooms in mid-late summer, tolerates a variety of soils, including dry, well-drained sites.
Common Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Native - Common in moist riverbanks, swamps. It blooms Jul-Nov, grows to around 3' tall, and does best in moist soil and full sun. Just about every possible pollinator seems to show up on this plant.
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Native
Smooth Aster	<i>Symphotrichum leave</i>	Native

A LIST TO REMEMBER AS YOU PLAN...

Annual Sunflower	Basil	Catnip	Dill	Fennel
Larkspur	Mexican Sunflower	Oregano	Parsley	Russian Sage
Salvia	Thyme	Zinnia	Red Maple	A Native Oaks
Serviceberry	Blueberries	New Jersey Tea	Buttonbush	Summersweet
Woodland Phlox	Heart-leaved alexanders	Wild Columbine	Foxglove Penstemon	Wild Bergamont
False Blue Indigo	Bee Balm	Nodding Onion	Stoke's Aster	Mountain Mint
Purple Coneflower	Sunflower – 'Sun Queen'	Anise Hyssop	Joe Pye Weed	Boneset

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Common Sneezeweed Cardinal Flower
Smooth Aster

Goldenrods - 'Golden Fleece', Solidago sphacelata, Solidago rugosa, Solidago nemoralis, Gray Goldenrod

Milkweeds – Common milkweed, Butterfly weed, Whorled milkweed, Swamp milkweed, Purple milkweed

Life, uh, finds a way
By: Liz Ward

Sometimes when I find myself surprised by nature, especially the resilience of a particular plant or animal, I find myself mentally replaying the scene from my childhood favorite Jurassic Park, where an inimitable Jeff Goldblume as Dr. Ian Malcolm says of the supposedly sterile dinosaurs, "I'm simply saying...life, uh, finds a way."

Recently I had one of these exciting moments of revelation after I thought one of my native highbush blueberry plants had died. I had mail ordered six native shrubs this spring, including two highbush blueberries. I planted them in the same bed, a few feet apart without much preamble or soil amendments. I was waiting for my soil test for that particular bed, and wondered if I should add some acidity, but decided it was more important to get these bare root plants in the ground and amend later. Well, I'll be honest, the amendments are still on my "to-do" list, but of the two blueberry bushes, both came out of dormancy, but one quickly shriveled and one didn't. I thought my neglect in addressing the soil might have been to blame, but how could I explain the perfectly healthy plant a few feet away? Water, exposure to sunlight, soil, all the same. I thought maybe I should reach out to the company for a refund, but without knowing if the fault was mine or the plant was "defective" or diseased I didn't feel like that was an option.

Once again, due to a lack of hours in the day, days in the week, etc, I failed to pull the dead plant out of the ground. Finally, I got around to weeding that particular bed and resolved myself to pull the dried and shrivelled branches. But....life, uh, finds a way! On closer inspection I noticed that what I originally mistook for weeds around the base of the plant was actually new blueberry growth! I've rarely been SO grateful to be completely wrong about something!



Kids in the Garden — Part 1

By: Liz Ward

Most kids are more open-minded and outright fascinated about the same things that many adults seem to have formed negative opinions of over a lifetime of societal influence. Imagine, if you will, the child gifting their mother a handful of dandelions as a bouquet or the squeals of joy from the backseat of the family car as kids discuss bodily functions considering them the epitome of humor.

Bugs are another example, but are also an inherent part of gardening, at least gardening in the most environmentally conscious way. Yes, some are pests when found on our tomato plants (ie aphids or hornworms) or sucking our blood and being vectors of disease (ie mosquitos and ticks) but the overwhelming majority are serving a critical function in the environment. However, for some reason, modern society generally labels insects and arachnids as creepy, gross, dangerous, and generally undesirable, completely ignoring their value and indeed necessity in our ecosystems. As Master Gardeners this knowledge is shared with us in our training, but it's important that we share that knowledge with others, especially the next generation of gardeners.

When I was six years old, I remember finding daddy long-legged spiders in the basements and bathrooms of our house and curiously picking them up and laughing at how they tickled my skin. A few years later, I watched the movie *Arachnophobia* and true to the title developed an aversion to where I couldn't be in the same room as a spider and act rationally. As a more rational adult and gardening enthusiast, I've had to re-train my brain to accept insects co-existing in what I consider "my space"; the yard, the garden, even (in rare cases) inside! Being a mother, has given me the opportunity to see insects again through the eyes of a child. As my kids have grown, I constantly remind myself to encourage their innate curiosity. We Google fun facts, buy non-fiction and fiction books featuring bugs, and attend educational events like Ann Marie Garden's Insectival. Getting the kids excited about bugs creates more opportunities to call them into the garden to check out a cool specimen and maybe even talk a little bit about the symbiosis of the plants and the insects. Raising kids who can respect nature for what it is and understand it's delicate balance is the kind of legacy I want to leave behind.

So if you have little gardeners watching you, whether you are a parent, grandparent, or teacher...embrace the bugs (figuratively, not literally!). Your example will define the foundation of how they respond to these tiny creatures for the rest of their lives, so make it a positive one. Caterpillars, butterflies, moths, or pill bugs/rollie pollies are all good choices for the youngest entomologists. Of course, when graduating to bees, wasps, wheel bugs, and spiders, cautioning kids about natural defense mechanisms is an important part of the conversation, but frame it in a way that explains why bugs would need to defend themselves and how to avoid making them feel threatened rather than framing the bug as the "bad guy" and humans as their victims.

And if you have a little guy or gal who's on the fence about spiders (or maybe YOU are not so comfortable with them yet), do yourself a favor and look up Lucas the Spider on YouTube. You can thank me later!



Plants Looking for New Homes
By: Ann and John Richards



Left—This Clivia in full bloom is looking for a new home. Needs some one to place it in bright mottled light outdoors in the Summer and return it to a slightly darkened cool area in Fall to dry out and rest for several months. Water and fertilize it in February and you will be rewarded with full bloom!



Right—I have too many orchids! They are light green, some are a pale pink and some are gold. They bloom January-February through Spring with the right conditions and can spend Summers out doors. I will need some help dividing them and repotting. They need new homes before frost so we have some time.

Where's the beef?!?! Or should I say Big Beef Tomato?
By: Bill Smith

I wanted to share my wife's winter sowing experience and our experience with growing and harvesting tomatoes from the seeds she saved from tomatoes we grew from plants purchased in the spring of 2020 from a local Amish farmer. She saved the seeds at the end of the 2020 season before she even knew of the winter sowing method.

- 5/14/2020 Big Beef tomato plants purchased from local Amish farmer; modest yield throughout the growing season.

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- Fall 2020 Seeds saved from one of the last ripe tomatoes.
- 3/3/2021 Seeds winter sown in gallon milk jug.
- 3/20/2021 Seeds germinated.
- 4/1/2021 Container opened and caught a whiff of the fresh, distinctive smell of the tomato foliage.
- 4/12/2021 Seedlings planted into raised beds; anxiety is high as to whether they will make it.
- 4/21/2021 Covered seedlings with cloches due to forecast of overnight freezing temps and winds.
- 4/22/2021 When the sun came out and the cloches showed condensation, removed them and found the plants were safe.
- 06/20/2021 Plants are growing slowly but surely.
- 7/15/2021 Plants are taller than me (6'3") and taller than the supports. Tops were pruned shortly after this picture was taken.
- 7/20/2021 First tomato harvested with a good "blush"; weight 11.8 oz
- 7/23/2021 Tomato has fully ripened inside on the kitchen counter; sliced and enjoyed on a BLT

It doesn't get any better than this! She has made me a true believer in the winter sowing process!!
Location: Southern Maryland, zone 7a

Epiphytes in New Orleans ***By: Mariah Dean***

This summer I took a trip to New Orleans to celebrate a friend's birthday! It was very fun! I was very excited to see some different scenery than what I have seen in St. Mary's after being here my entire life except for short trips elsewhere. The plants caught a lot of my attention!

While waiting to get into a restaurant, I used my time to observe the local flora. I was expecting to see a lot of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) but was amazed at all of the resurrection ferns (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*)! They get their name because during times of drought they can lose the majority of their water, turn brown, shrivel up (as seen below) and then once they get water they bounce right back to lively, green, and lush! It didn't rain much while I was there, so I only saw the ferns before their "resurrection" phase.



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I was so excited to visit City Park and Audubon Park! While at City Park, I visited the oldest mature southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) grove in the world. Live oaks are named such because they always appear lively and evergreen! They are actually deciduous, but by the time they drop their leaves, the next year's leaves are already growing. The parks, local flora, and fauna were beautiful and worth staying an extra day to see.



Thru the Garden Gate August 2021



Welcome ! This image captures summer in our garden. The hydrangea are in full bloom with huge white blossoms hanging over the garden path around the house. The rabbit recalls the cottontails who ate well, especially our marigolds! Only to be matched by local deer who certainly must be among the best fed in Maryland.

But, what a beautiful time of year to leave behind garden headaches and take your tea (or glass of chilled wine) outside to settle in a favorite chair and walk thru the garden gate. This month you'll find news of The

Philadelphia Flower Show, Fran Sorin's blog, "[GardeningGoneWild](#)," a review of the film "A Little Chaos," a peek into the pages of Ruth Rogers Clausen's classic, 50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants, and a definitive recipe for Gazpacho. Enjoy!

It's Not Too Late to Experience The Philadelphia Flower Show!



The Philadelphia Flower Show is the oldest and largest flower show in the nation. It was started in 1829 by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) in an effort to introduce the gardening public to thousands of plants, gardens, and design concepts. These three are still the areas of focus in each show as well as exploring the use of organic and

This year, due to Covid 19, the show took place in late June rather than in March, and was held outside at the city's FDR Park rather than in the convention center. While thousands still attended, it never felt crowded. The FDR Park site,

spread over 15 acres, is bordered by the park's boathouse and the Swedish Historical Museum. It was well planned, and the diversity and quality of the display gardens was exceptional with vendors and food venues divided between the three main areas: Gardens, Design and Plants. While a few days of hot weather and heavy rain did impact guests and plants alike, there were many more perfect June days when being outside was ideal.

No date or theme has been announced for next year's show, so stay alert, however it is suspected it may return to the convention center in March 2022.



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This was the first display visitors saw...the Olmsted Pavilion outlined with arms of dried, spray-painted ferns, baby's breath and mystical orchids hanging on strands within. It was magical and amazing to behold!

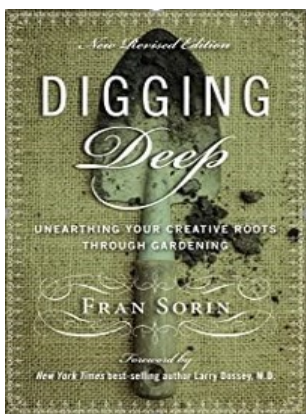


August's Gardening Blog: ["GardeningGoneWild"](#)

If you enjoy starting your day with coffee and a favorite blog, check out Fran

Sorin's blog, ["GardeningGoneWild."](#)

It features a weekly "infusion of garden passion" found in reflections on a variety of topics. This past week featured "12 Tips on How to Use Color Effectively in the Garden." In only a few pages, the reader learned that color is the easiest way of setting a tone and expressing one's personality in the garden. Sorin included additional authors and resources plus beautiful illustrative photographs and practical advice about the basic principles of color design.



In 2004, Fran Sorin wrote the classic,

Digging Deep: Unearthing Your Creative Roots Through Gardening. It has been revised several times, and is seen as the book that brings to gardening what Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way* brought to artists. That is, bringing one's individual and unique creativity, imagination and passion to gardening.

"Movie of the Month: "A Little Chaos"



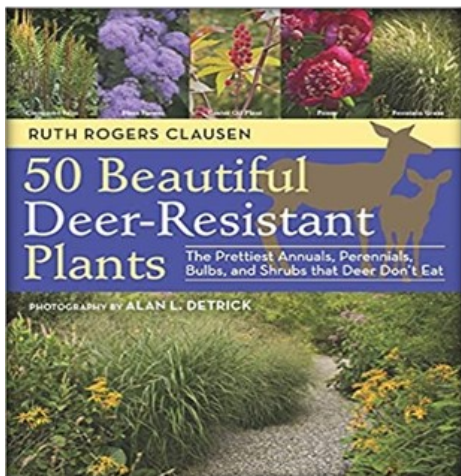
There aren't many films focused on garden designers. Although "A Little Chaos" is perhaps not a great film, it is an entertaining if fictionalized story of the designing of Rockwork Grove, an outdoor arena of tiered steps for ballet in the garden of Versailles during the reign of Louis XIV.

The head landscape architect Andre Le Notre (Matthias Schoenaerts) invites Sabine De Barra (Kate Winslet) to be his assistant as he is overwhelmed by the many garden projects and palace intrigue. Sabine, a simple and somewhat naïve woman, is assigned the task of designing Rockwork Grove, an outdoor area filled with fountains that play while orchestras provide music from behind the shrubbery.

While the king loves highly structured garden design, Sabine prefers a more modern naturalist approach to offset the uniform symmetry. There is romantic intrigue between Sabine and Le Notre, but also a good bit of dialogue about horticulture and garden design. This 2014 British period drama may be viewed on Amazon Prime. (It is rated R for sexuality and brief nudity.)



Book of the Month

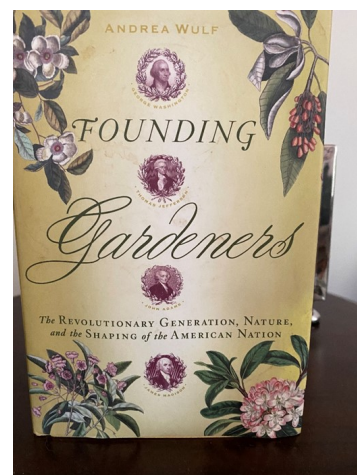


Ruth Rogers Clausen knows well of the challenge and pain of gardening in deer country...and St. Mary's County is definitely deer country! Written in 2011, her book is *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants: The Prettiest Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, and Shrubs that Deer Don't Eat*. It is a great resource! Looking over the list of plants included reveals many that are commonly found in Maryland gardens. So, there is hope in that dark moment when a gardener admits defeat in the face of an onslaught of hungry deer! The book would be improved if there were pictures of featured plants but this absence is offset by the "Quick Look" boxes which give quick reference of the hardiness zone, height and spread and deer resistance rating of each plant. It is available from St. Mary's County Library.

Founding Father's book review submitted by Veronica Spicuzza

It was given to me by fellow gardener, Liz DeLorme. For anyone who loves history, they will be intrigued by this book. Our "Founding Father's" not only wrote our Constitution but at the same time were exploring growing plants and trees. They believed growing our own would make us less reliant on England and produce our own exports.

It's available at our St. Mary's County library. "Founding Gardeners" by Andrea Wulf.



Classic Gazpacho

Submitted by: Claudia Knowlton—from *The New Spanish Table*, Anya von Bremzen, pg 99

Do you have too many vegetables from your garden? This is the best ever Gazpacho! Promise...

For the Soup: Serve 8



- 2 cups cubed day old bread
 - 2 garlic cloves
 - 1 small pinch of cumin seeds or ground cumin
 - Coarse salt (kosher or sea)
 - 3 pounds of ripest, fresh picked tomatoes, seeded and chopped
 - 2 small pickling cucumbers, peeled and chopped
 - 1 large green pepper, cored, seeded and chopped
 - 1 large red pepper, cored, seeded and chopped
 - 3 Tablespoons chopped red onion
 - ½ cup fragrant extra virgin olive oil
 - ½ cup chilled spring water
 - 3 Tablespoons sherry vinegar, preferably aged and Spanish
1. Place bread in bowl, add cold water and soak for 5-10 minutes. Drain and squeeze out the excess liquid.
 2. Mash garlic, cumin and ½ teaspoon of salt in mortar making a paste
 3. Place tomatoes, cucumbers, green and red peppers, onion, soaked bread, and garlic paste in a large bowl and toss to mix. Let stand for 15 minutes.
 4. Place half of the mixture at a time into a food processor and process until smooth, adding half of the olive oil to each batch. Once each batch is finished place in blender and puree.
 5. Place all of the puree in a bowl and mix in the vinegar and spring water. It should have the consistency of a smoothie. Taste for seasoning, adding more salt or vinegar as needed. Refrigerate for 2 hours for flavors to blend.

Garnish ideas: Finely diced cucumbers, Peeled Granny Smith apple, Under-ripe tomato Green bell pepper, Tiny olive oil croutons, Slivered small basil leaves

*Adapted from *The New Spanish Table* by Anya von Bremzen, pg. 99.

Save the Dates:

- ◆ Our next quarterly meeting is coming up! Check your emails for more details.
- ◆ St. Mary's County Fair September 23-26. Could use more help with this!
- ◆ Week of October 4th is the native plant install at the Northern Farmer's Market! Thank you everyone for all your hard work on this!
- ◆ Check your emails for more volunteer opportunities!
- ◆ "Consult Like a Pro with the Experts at HGIC!" a new continuing education opportunity to learn more about what goes into answering home horticulture questions. Register here at https://umd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_L-v54bnqSaOUscskoZ1pnw this will be September 27th 12:00-1:45pm
- ◆ The International Master Gardener Conference this year is virtual! To find out more information and register, please go to <https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/register/> It will be September 12-17, 2021 and the cost is \$150, with small additional fees for add-on workshops and t-shirts.
- ◆ Please keep checking your emails for more Master Gardener programming!
- ◆ Thank you all for all that you do!

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<https://extension.umd.edu/st-marys-county/home-gardening/master-gardener-program>



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