



Clippings

2007

July / August

News and information for members and friends of the Greater Baltimore Master Gardeners Association

Calendar

GBMG sponsored events are in bold.

May-June Plant Clinics, Jones Falls Farmers Market, Sundays

July 26 GBMG Board Meeting, Cylburn, 7p.m.

July 28 City Farms Supper, Conservatory

August 30 GBMG Board Meeting, Cylburn, 7p.m.

September 6 Fall Intern Class begins, Baltimore County Cooperative Extension Office, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call 666-1025 for more info.

September 8
Fall Lawn Clinic, 9 a.m. Fall is the best time to seed, sod, lime, fertilize, aerate and thatch the lawn. Our representative from Jonathan Green will help lawn rangers be successful in their quest for the perfect lawn by providing timetables and exploring lawn care options for this time of year. Bring along a soil sample for a free pH analysis. A door prize will be awarded. 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

September 12
Garden Design, 8 p.m. Nancy Sinton, at Director of Programs, Symposiums, and Travel for Horticulture magazine will speak about garden design to the Maryland Horticultural Society. Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Rd, Lutherville, 410-821-5561. \$15 non-members.

September 15

(Continued on page 6)

City Farms Supper—July 28th

3:00—6:00 p.m. at Cylburn Arboretum

The City Farms Supper represents what Urban Agriculture is all about. All of the education, sweating, aching muscles, prayers for rain, and tender loving care culminate in the HARVEST. And what better way to celebrate the harvest than to share it with others.

During the City Farms Supper, all members of city farms and community gardens are invited to bring dishes made from their beautiful crops....broccoli, beans, tomatoes, peppers, melons, and more. In addition, gardeners are encouraged to submit their finest specimens to the produce judging contest.

During the supper, the winners of the best City Farm and Community Garden are announced. Gardens are awarded in two different categories: Vegetable gardens and Beatification--ornamental and flowers gardens. There is going to be a special category for Youth gardens.

The Greater Baltimore Master Gardeners, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, and The Cylburn Arboretum work together to host and provide the setting for this festive event.

This year, the supper will be held at Cylburn Arboretum on July 28 from 3-7.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER to help for this most important event. We need a crew (20-30 people) to set tables, grill burgers and hot dogs, mix and serve tea and lemonade, greet and register guests, judge produce, monitor trash, serve food, replenish napkins, hand out dessert, and clean up. Setup starts at 2 pm and clean-up ends at 7 pm. Plan to stay for dinner if you volunteer.

It's a long day, but a great way to enjoy some home cookin' and to earn those valuable volunteer hours. **CONTACT MARY LEWIS TO VOLUNTEER** maryplaysindirt@aol.com



Clippings

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Deadline for next *Clippings* Issue:
August 15, 2007



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XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

Letter from the President

Dear friends,

Recently it has become more popular to be 'green'. Global warming and energy conservation are, at last, on almost everybody's agenda. Farmers' markets are growing exponentially not only because the produce is so much fresher and tastier, but also since we realize that we can help save energy. We learn that the food we eat travels an average of 1,500 miles until it reaches our tables, and we save 90% of the energy by buying local ¹. Some people also realize that big money can be made by selling 'green' products. TerraCycle, a small company that opened just two years ago, in the first 5 months of this year, sold already more than \$2 million in plant food consisting of liquefied worm poop ². We Master Gardeners know of the benefits of composting with worms, but it obviously takes a young, hip entrepreneur to come up with the idea to bottle the product (in recycled soda bottles) and sell it for a profit.

All along, Master Gardeners have been environmentally conscious, teaching Bay-wise Gardening, replacing invasive plants with native ones, using IPM, composting, and growing vegetables in our own backyard and in Community Gardens. Our whole 'reason for being' is to educate the public in environmentally safe gardening techniques. We do all this without being paid, and we should pat ourselves on the back that we spread the word: 'Green is good', and our efforts contribute to making this planet a little bit more livable.

¹ AARP Magazine May & June 2007

² The New York Times 5/20/07

Ursula Scheffel

Contribute an article, news or notes to the next *Clippings!* The deadline is August 15th for the September / October issue.
Contact Rebecca Snyder at
rebecca.snyder@mddailyrecord.com
or at 410-448-7443.

Important Notes:

The GBMG Association does not endorse or receive funds from any of the books, web sites, forums, organizations, community resources, etc. that we present in this newsletter. All articles and references are prepared strictly for informational purposes.

It is the policy of the University of Maryland, Agricultural Experiment station and Maryland Cooperative Extension, that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the ground of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital or parental status, or disability.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Minutes of the Board Meeting

April 26, 2007

Present: Ursula Scheffel, Joan Sadler, Paulette Kirkpatrick, Al DeGray, Mary Lewis, Josue Lopez, Janice Herschman, Jon Traunfeld, Nick Read, Ellen Lankford

Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Membership: Paulette reported that there are 89 active Master Gardeners.

Chair Reports

Special Events: Al DeGray said he needed more help for the Flower Mart on May 4th and 5th. Barbara Schofield is in charge of Market Day at Cylburn.

Demonstration Gardens: Eileen Lankford sent a written report for the Demonstration Garden at Cylburn. The weather finally allowed work to be done in the vegetable garden at Cylburn. The garden was in a state of disrepair because of no fall cleanup. Paulette provided a tiller which was invaluable to the workers at the vegetable garden. Glenda Weber has already brought several groups of children through the garden

Advanced Training: Jon Traunfeld conducted a "salad table" workshop in which the class either assembled a salad table or salad box. The salad table in the handicapped area behind the Cylburn mansion has been planted and there will be earthboxes planted when the weather permits. A day in May is needed to clean up the compost site.

Community Gardens: There seems to be a lack of coordination about how things are getting scheduled. All communications regarding community gardens need to go through Josue's office.

The Community Gardens committee has asked master gardeners to each adopt a garden. Three garden sites at Police Athletic League Centers will be part of the Food Stamps Nutrition Education Gardens. Chrissa Carlson is requesting a master gardener or intern to adopt one of each of these sites. The sites are at the Dundalk, Mars Estates and Winfield PAL Centers. At present, there are more projects than personnel to cover all projects. The Heritage Crossing community has scheduled a planting/beautification day.

Speaker's Bureau: Four talks were given during April and two are scheduled for May.

Plant Clinic: 80 visitors were seen at the Mt. Washington Plant Clinic. At each plant clinic we are asked by the State office to have 5 clients fill out surveys to rate usefulness and value of advice given.

Old Business: Ursula reviewed the success of the Recognition Dinner.

New Business: Jon Traunfeld described events at the state level and encouraged Baltimore master gardeners to participate in State planning sessions. Jon mentioned that he was promoted to be Director of the Home and Garden Center besides being the State Coordinator for the master gardeners.

Fees for advanced training sessions need to be charged to offset Robin Hessey's salary. It is hoped that in the future, Robin's salary will come from the University of Maryland. Al DeGray expressed his concern that volunteers are being used to fill responsibilities that the University is no longer doing. He further disagreed with the fact that master gardeners are charged for advanced training that they, in turn, use this knowledge for training the public.

A new Master Gardener Manual is being written and will soon be sold to interns and active master gardeners at cost.

A green building is being built at the Central Maryland Training and Research Facility.

There is an emeritus certificate for people who have been very active and can no longer volunteer.

The question was presented about the division of Josue's work schedule. His position commits 70% of his time to the City and 30% to Baltimore County. His position is a tenure track one. Nick Read's role is as an assistant to Josue, he is also an intern.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Herschman

Squ-worming through Kitchen scraps

Al De Gray was on WYPR on June 22 at 9:20, talking about worm composting (and his PET worm 'Jennifer'). If you want to hear him, the interview can still be heard on the web under WYPR, Maryland Morning with Sheila Kast. The title: squ-worming through Kitchen scraps.

Special Events

By Mary Lewis

It's that time again....time to organize the MASTER GARDENER BOOTH at the STATE FAIR. We will be in the Farm & Garden Building at Timonium from August 24 to September 3, from 11am-8pm daily.

This is a great opportunity to share our knowledge with the public, as we are able to reach so many people from all over the state. The Fair is a wonderful place to check out the bounty of Maryland Agriculture and to have fun with your master gardener friends.

Again this year, The Greater Baltimore Master Gardeners will be coordinating the event and organizing volunteer opportunities. (We share the festivities with other surrounding counties ~ Harford, Howard, and Anne Arundel).

GBMGs are responsible for August 24,26,27,28,29,31 and September 2 and 3. Volunteer times are 11am-2pm, 2pm-5pm, and 5pm-8pm and we have two people working per shift.

All volunteers must provide their name and address IN ADVANCE, so that we can mail maps and parking passes (free up-front parking...and free admission to the fair), before the fair starts.

If you are interested in working, please select the date(s) and time(s) and email your request to Lisa Lubomski (llubomski@jhmi.edu) by AUGUST 11. The sooner you decide, the more likely you will get the times and dates you want.

“Master Gardener Day” at the fair is August 30, and we give a series of 15 minute talks throughout the day. Feel free to volunteer to give a talk on your favorite gardening topic. Contact Al DeGray (a.degray@att.net) if you have a topic and are willing to participate.

Our theme this year is BUGS: The GOOD, The BAD, and The UGLY. We will have the GBMG Bug display and insect/IPM information sheets, as well as the MG display board from HGIC, magnets, book-marks, and fact sheets. The displays stays up for the entire run of the fair and volunteers just show up at specified times. Please try to read up on IPM and insect issues before you work at the fair.

(Interns: this is a great way to complete those volunteer hours you need to finish the program). Hoping to hear from you SOON!

Cylburn Ivy Brigade

By Kristopher Madore

I just wanted to remind everyone about the wonderful third Saturday of the month volunteer opportunity: Ivy Brigade. It's from 8:30 a.m. - noon (roughly), and its focus is on invasives removal. We've been working the past year under the Japanese maples, and will continue to do so until the whole area is cleared out and replanted with native material. Next sessions are July 21st, and August 18th. Though Ivy Brigade practically runs year-round, if you are looking to do something this summer that's a low commitment (only one Saturday a month), and want the satisfaction of making an impact on the Arboretum through invasives removal, then come out and join us! We meet at the Mansion front porch. Bring water, work gloves, and wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. There is poison ivy, so it's up to you if you want to wear long sleeves or not, but we have (or please bring) poison ivy block. If you have preferred tools, bring those as well. Otherwise, we provide everything else. Hope to see you there!

Get Dollars for Flowers and Veggies

By Pam Spencer

The Maryland State Fair is August 24 through September 3 and will be here before you know it. The Fair is offering you the chance to earn some money for your hard summer labors. Simply go to www.marylandstatefair.com and enter in any one of the four flower shows or the vegetables.

The premium money you could receive will probably pay for those new varieties you want to try next year! The deadline for entries is August 3, 2007 and there are no entry fees. The flower portion of the Farm & Garden section is expanded this year because of the increased entries. My husband entered some nasturtiums one year, despite my admonition that they weren't good enough, and won first place...and \$8.00 premium! Join the fun and earn recognition for your work. I hope to see you there.

Report Gypsy Moth Damage—Field Survey Beginning

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Maryland is currently experiencing the worst gypsy moth outbreak in a dozen years. Despite the spraying of more than 50,000 acres of public and privately owned land in May by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), wooded areas of Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, Carroll, Frederick, Washington, Allegany and Garrett counties are having problems with defoliation by the gypsy moth. MDA encourages landowners to call the nearest regional Forest Pest Management Office to report gypsy moth damage.

"Many areas that were not expected to have gypsy moth damage and have not had any problems in recent years are now being defoliated unexpectedly," said Mary Ellen Setting, MDA assistant secretary for plant industries and pest management. "We are asking landowners to report defoliation and egg masses to their nearest MDA field office so that we can prepare next spring's gypsy moth suppression program to protect against further damage to our forests and neighborhood trees."

The increase in gypsy moth populations this year can most likely be attributed to dry weather the last two seasons. Dry weather generally benefits the gypsy moth because it discourages the spread of the virus and fungal diseases that can infect and kill gypsy moth caterpillars.

Many residents and homeowners are seeking advice to combat the heavy populations on their properties. At this time of the year, gypsy moths are mostly full grown and have already done their damage, so spraying and other preventative measure are not likely to be effective. The best actions to take are those which preserve the health of the trees. Trees that have lost 60 percent or more of their leaves to the gypsy moth are at the greatest risk. These trees may try to re-foliate, and will be in a weak and vulnerable condition. Trees can benefit greatly from being watered with a slow trickle of water over several hours. Water flow should be slow enough so that there is not run-off, but that allows the water to pool and soak into the ground. Homeowners are encouraged to also seek the advice of an arborist or Licensed Tree Care Expert. A list of Licensed Tree Care Experts is available on line at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/tree_expert_search.asp More information about the gypsy moth, what homeowners can do, and current conditions is available on

line at www.mda.state.md.us/go/gypsymoth.com or by calling the North East Regional Office (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Cecil, Harford, and Kent counties) 410-879-8034.

Homemade Pesticide?

Try ordinary kitchen flour in a canister (a rose duster from the nursery shop is a good one). Dust early in the morning when plants are wet with dew, or use the hose for 15-20 seconds. Since the leaves and stems are wet, flour sticks to them (get the undersides also). The flour stops the bugs from moving, and it's gooey enough to catch some of them. Most bugs will die in about an hour, if they can't get carbohydrates/sugar. Of course, if it rains shortly after you've dusted the plants, insects will live for another day.

Remember what makes this dusting work:

- Plants must be wet with dew or having been hosed down;
- Use only kitchen flour and nothing else"

—www.jackeden.com

Upcoming Baltimore County MG Class

By Josue Lopez

Know any Baltimore County residents who want to become Master Gardeners? Come September, they can join a class that will be held in the County. Josue reports an update about the Baltimore County MG class. The updated class schedule is from September 6 to November 8 on Thursdays 9-3:30 at the MD Cooperative Extension, Baltimore Co. office, 1840 York Rd, Suite J, Timonium, MD. The phone number for further information is 410-666-1022.

Horticultural Therapy Program Volunteer Information

by Al DeGray

Interested in volunteering to teach at the Patuxent Institution? Here are a few things to keep in mind:

We welcome your time and expertise as a Volunteer for the Patuxent Institution Horticultural Therapy Program!

Patuxent Institution is a co-educational, maximum security correctional facility located in Jessup, Maryland. Since this may be your first visit to our facility, we would like you to know that:

- Patuxent is a smoke-free Institution.
- Parking is available in either of the two parking lots in any area not designated for special parking, such as handicapped or employee of the month.
- Personal belongings should be left in your car, or if you choose to you may temporarily store them in the lockers located in the Main Gate area (free tokens for the lockers can be obtained from the Main Gate officer).
- You need to have your driver's license or photo identification to be admitted into the Institution.
- A Research Department staff member will meet you at the gate to escort you into the facility.

Because Patuxent Institution is a maximum security institution, all institutional volunteers are subject to a criminal background check prior to entering the Institution. By agreeing to volunteer, you are consenting to



the check. For security reasons, certain items may not be brought into the Institution, including:

Alcohol/drugs (other than prescription) • glass containers • cigarette lighters • cameras • sharp objects • chewing gum • excessive cash/valuable items

However, certain items and tools may be brought into the Institution with prior approval. Call at least a week before you are scheduled so we can obtain approval. Finally, you should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled course.

We look forward to having you as a volunteer. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please call Kim Turner at (410) 799-3400 x4231.

Upcoming Schedule:

- June 7—Herbaceous Plants—Todd Arterburn
- June 21—Fruit Gardening—Jon Traunfield
- July 5—How to Prune
- July 12—Landscape Design—Linda Lark
- August 2—Woody Plants
- August 16—Lawns
- August 23—Shade Gardening
- August 30—Ponds
- September 6—Houseplants
- September 20—Wildlife Gardening—Linda Lark

9365, baltchapter @ mdflora.org for more info.

September 22

Fall is For Gardening, 9 a.m. Gardening is a pleasure during the cool days of autumn. We'll discuss fall projects like tree, shrub and perennial planting, pansies, mums, bulbs and much more during today's seminar. Valley View's Carrie Engel will lead the discussion. 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

September 27 GBMG Board Meeting, Cyllburn, 7p.m.

October 10

The Garden in Fall, 8 p.m. Stephanie Cohen, former director of the

(Continued on page 12)

Calendar

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Plan a Spring Bulb Garden, 9 a.m. Take our test to determine your gardening style. We'll generate a list of bulb favorites to keep your garden blooming with gorgeous bulbs from early through late spring. Cindi Fielder, our in-house bulb expert, will provide some hints and tips for garden design as well. 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

September 19

Maryland Native Plant Society, Baltimore Chapter meeting, 7:30 p.m. We hold most meetings at The Irvine Nature Center, 8400 Green-spring Avenue, Stevenson, in Baltimore County. Ann Lundy, 410-366-

Gardeners eager to find root of their problems

by Marcia Ames

Reprinted from the *Catonsville/Arbutus Times*,
June 13, 2007

When guests touring a Relay garden June 10 complained of gypsy moths invading their neighborhood, Catonsville resident Mary Lewis advised them to call the University of Maryland's Home and Garden Information Center.

"I would call them and report it," Lewis said after several women noted the moths' occurrence as unusual for Relay. "If it's unusual, they want to know."

Although Lewis' current home is a condominium with scant space for a garden, she has years of experience as a gardener and is a 2002 graduate of the university's master gardener program.

It trains volunteers to provide horticultural education to the public, which accounted for her presence during the tour of John and Linda Kacur's garden, which was part of the Relay Improvement Association's Victorian tea fundraiser.

Lewis listened sympathetically as guests described droppings from the gypsy caterpillar.

"It was raining on us, all this black stuff," a neighbor said, recalling an outdoor party she had hosted the previous night. "It was horrible."

Others wanted to know why Lewis recommended native plants over non-native varieties such as the Bradford pear, a flowering tree developed from a species native to China.

Native is preferable, she said, because such plants support the native ecosystem, including birds, butterflies and insects.

"Before the landscaping businesses took over our yards, we had whatever grew there," she said, referring to native vegetation.

Marylanders would do better in planting a walnut

tree than a Bradford pear.

"There are about 130 species that are supported by a walnut, nothing with a Bradford pear," she said.

The Kacurs' garden reflected their mutual love of roses, which accounts for the 1860s-era, Victorian style house's name: Victorian Rose.

"It's a big blossom," John Kacur said of the rose-colored, three-and-a-half-story house on more than an acre of land.



Mary Lewis volunteered at the Relay Gardens Day, dispensing advice from everything from Gypsy moth control to native plants.

The couple tends the garden and yard together, spending about an hour a day on average to keep it in order.

"A garden is a lot of physical work," Linda Kacur said. "You don't have to go to a gym."

Catonsville native and amateur gardener Danae McDevitt would agree.

A third-generation gardener and past president of the Catonsville Garden Club, McDevitt learned the skill from her father and grandfather as well as through a landscape design course offered by the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland.

Although she gardens as a hobby, McDevitt takes the job seriously and spends hours tending her Osborne Avenue yard.

She notes that vines, for example, take a lot of work.

"The problem with vines is, you've got to train them and you have to work with them," she said. "Kind of like having a baby."

E-mail Marcia Ames at Marcia_Ames@patuxent.com

“Team 30” for the MG 30th Anniversary Celebration!

In 1978, the first Maryland MG program was launched in Carroll County. That means we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary next year!! Wow, we'd better get busy because this is a golden opportunity to:

- raise the program's visibility- we want everyone to know who we are and what we do. This is also a chance to attract new recruits.
- educate the public, especially with new and important messages (e.g. ecologically gardening and natural resource stewardship.)
- recognize and celebrate our accomplishments and have FUN!

A group of 13 volunteers and staffers met on June 13 to get the ball rolling. The next “Team 30” planning meeting will be Monday, August 27, 10-1 at HGIC. This is going to be a memorable, state-wide effort and we need a large number of volunteers to be part of the action.

We would like to come up with a slogan to use for this event. Could you please send in some ideas that the committee could consider at our next meeting? It's got to be short and sweet (fit on a bumper sticker.) Please send ideas to Robin at rmhessey@umd.edu, or 410-531-1754. Some of the ideas that come up in our first meeting were:

- Maryland Green – MG
- Maryland MG- Keeping MD green
- MG's Growing for 30 years; Still growing
- MG's 30 years of service and growing
- MGs united to educate and serve
- MGs educate and serve Marylanders
- 30 years of success, one goal- a better future
- MGs- the Next Generation

What we need is lots of help from around the state. Please let us know if you can work on one of the committees or would like to work on any particular function (but perhaps not work on larger committees. You could work at night or on your own schedule). Some of these functions would be:

- videographer
- organize silent auction for May 2008
- organize any one aspect of the day of Excellence (May 2008) (see below)

- organize an event or two in your county that would become part of our official statewide list of events.
- writer
- event planners

30th Anniversary Celebration Planning will involve the State Strategic Planning Committee (and some sub-committees), the state office, and all of the county/city MG programs.

We will divide this effort into 3 work teams- 1. Day of Excellence (May 2008); 2. Communications; 3. Events around state that we will promote statewide.

Day of Excellence- (May 2008- exact date TBA- a bigger and better Annual Training Day) that may include:

Night events • Food • Silent auction- objects, unusual plants • Trade show • Keynote & presenters • Video of MG history • Fun/skits • Room host • Site selection • Shirt selection

Communications

- Put together historical/promotional videos and power points
- Write press releases and news stories with a hook
- Get photographer now to take pictures for use next year.
- Maintain contact management database
- Coordinate with other work teams
- Contact with media (Print, tv radio)
- Community newsletters
- Contact with legislators
- Promotional items- bumper sticker, shirts, patches- coordinate with marketing/promotion committee
- Events around the state
- Ask MGs and coordinators to come up with events/tours

One person for program will identify really good programs and public events that we can be highlighted on MG website and reported on by the media.

If you can volunteer in any specific or general way, please let Robin (rmhessey@umd.edu; 410-531-1754) know and we will try and plug you in, or come to the next planning event at HGIC on August 27.

Announcements from the State MG Office

MG Annual Training Day Wrapup

MG Annual Training Day was a huge event this year. We had about 470 attendees and about 30 speakers for an event total of about 500 participants. That's at least 100 more than last year. We'll probably have to move to a larger facility next year. All of the comments and evaluations are being summarized now, so we don't know how it really went until we read what you had to say about your classes and the event.

Thanks to all of our many volunteers- particularly from Montgomery, Howard and Anne Arundel Counties. You amaze me and you made it all possible. Special thanks to our 4 Master Gardener presenters who gave talks- Shelley McNeal and Louisa Thompson from Howard Co. and Joan O'Rourke and Marie Rojas from Montgomery.

Don't forget- next year will be the 30th Anniversary of the MG program so we hope to plan a very special MG Annual Training Day. We don't have the date yet- but I hope all of you will plan on coming. Also, you are our eyes and ears for good speakers. If you go to an event and hear a really good speaker, please let Robin know about them 410-531-1754; rmhessey@umd.edu. It was a Master Gardener (Fran McClure) who recommended this year's keynote speaker.

About your MG Identity items: If you ordered an item, but did not pick it up on 5/31, call your county MG coordinator. However, if you ordered a MG travel mug or a man's denim shirt, these will be mailed to you since they were not available for pick up on 5/31.

NEW MG CERTIFICATE

New MG State Advanced Training Certificate Course in Plant Diagnostics

Due to the overwhelming popularity and usefulness of "Ask a Master Gardener" plant clinics and the demand for more education for those staffing the clinics, we are initiating a new set of courses that can earn you a "Ask a Master Gardener" plant diagnostic certificate. To get the certificate you will need to take Plant Diseases, Entomology, and an "Ask a MG" practicum. We are planning on offering these courses in various places around the state.

Currently, 2 in the series are being offered: The Ask an MG Practicum in Howard County this summer and the Plant Diseases Train the Trainer class at MDA in Annapolis in September. We also hope to offer the first Entomology classes next spring.

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

To Register: Please send your name, address, email, phone, MG county you work with, name of class you want to take, and a check (payable to the University of MD). Mail to: MG classes, HGIC, 12005 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042. For more information contact Robin at 410-531-1754; rmhessey@umd.edu.

Ask A Master Gardener Practicum

Location: Howard Co. Extension Office

Dates: Tues. 7/31; Wed 8/1 9-1; Wed 8/22 9-11;
Wed 8/29 9-1

Instructors: Dave Clement, Ph.D- Regional Specialist, Plant Pathology

Mary Kay Malinoski- Regional Specialist, Entomology

Lew Shell, Horticulture Consultant, HGIC, Anne Arundel Co. MG

Registration Fee: \$40, Registration Deadline: July 20

We would all like to be able to better answer questions at our "Ask a Master Gardener" events. Some of us don't even sign up to help out at these events because we feel like we don't know enough.

Now's your chance to learn more, hone your diagnostic skills and feel comfortable with your abilities and with the public.

Course Schedule:

Tues 7/31- (9am-1 pm; Dave & Mary Kay) – introduction to entomology diagnostics; intro to disease diagnostics; learning to use references; abiotic factors; top 10 pests; top 5-10 diseases

Wed 8/1 (9am-1pm; Dave & Mary Kay)- Field walk at site TBA; Mock plant clinic

Wed 8/22 (9-11; Dave & Mary Kay)- Plant Diagnostic walk

Wed 8/29 (9am-1pm; Lew Shell)- Weeds; practice and exercises; dealing with the public; the nitty gritty of plant clinics.

This class fills the Ask an MG practicum requirement for the new Ask an MG Plant Diagnostic certificate. (The other 2 requirements for the certificate are Plant Diseases and Entomology).

Plant Diseases - Train the Trainer Class

Location: Maryland Dept of Agriculture offices in Annapolis

Dates & Times: Thursday, Sept. 6 and
Tuesday Sept. 18; 9:30am-3:30pm

Instructor: David Clement, Ph.D, Regional Specialist in Plant Pathology

Registration Fee: \$45

Registration Deadline: August 27, 2007

Plant diseases often seem like exotic mysteries left up to the experts to solve. Well, guess what- we MG's can now begin to unravel some of these mysteries ourselves. Not just unravel, but really learn and teach too.

In this course you'll learn all about the bacteria, fungi and viruses that cause plant problems. You'll also learn about their symptoms, cycles and controls. You'll learn from samples, from the Powerpoint lecture used for basic training, from web resources, handouts, and your own references.

We hope that you'll feel good enough about your grasp of the subject matter to feel comfortable presenting this information to incoming MG interns.

This class will not only qualify you to teach basic training, but it can count as your Plant Disease requirement for your "Ask an MG" Plant Diagnostics certificate.

Digging Deeper: Kate Joyce

By Josue Lopez

Another exciting person to tell you about -- she grew up in Baltimore, went to Mali to teach agriculture for the Peace Corps, learned to speak French and Banakara, got married in Mali and is now working as a landscaper and urban garden organizer for Bon Secours!

Her husband **Baysson Coulibly** has learned English and is working as a landscaper. Gardens are a woman's business in Mali, but back in the States, one day Kate asked him to make a garden in her mother's back yard. A neighbor loved it and had him work for her, then another neighbor told a landscaper about him and he was hired (and Kate hired as a translator until he knew enough English). Things really fell into place! Kate Joyce did many things in Mali, and was involved in the life of a small village teaching companion planting (millet and beans) and healthy food methods. She raised chickens as a demonstration of better methods -- such as larger chicken houses that could be kept cleaner, and vaccinating the chicks. She also had many different foods while there--snake, field rat, hippo, lizard, pigeons, but no crocodile (as far as she knows) along with millet, beans and sometimes rice.

There she had a plot of her own and grew tomatoes, peppers, papaya and sunflowers. Here she has a garden and grows vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and artichokes--the latter she has found are a perennial in Baltimore's climate and come back each year, with a little mulching. She also grows enthusiasm for backyard food gardens in the inner city. Bon Secours and Hopkins found that poor health had to do with diet and sponsors Clean and Green, which rescues city abandoned lots and maintains them, training community members who need job skills. She teaches them about native plants and trees and how to care for them, and job skills such as writing resumes, dressing for a job interview, punctuality, and workplace behavior (Goodwill is a sponsor). After 6 months, most are ready to move on to a better life with their new skills. And they and the community have benefited from making vacant lots beautiful. Her garden club has taught city neighbors to raise their own food. Some have use 'earthboxes' to grow plants and vegetables - and kept journals through which they then share results at the club meetings. Surplus is sold at a food stand, with



Quick Click

www.jackeden.com

By Patricia Martin

For a site that gives gardening information relative to our area--try Jack Eden's site. For years he wrote a column that appeared in newspapers in the DC area, and went out over the radio. Since 2000, Jack has taught consumer horticulture to adults at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA.

Articles are updated weekly and archived for future reference. Monthly reminders help planning out your year-round gardening calendar. There is a section of Q & A information that answers some of your most frequently asked questions. There are a large number of data sheets--one on the worthlessness of 'beetle traps', making potpourri, stopping cucumber beetles, growing wonderful ferns, stopping 'creeping charley', and so on-in a very readable style. Try it, you'll like it!

Did you Know?

I wonder if MG's know that this information is there:

www.hgic.umd.edu/TIMELYTIPS: current hort issues on a variety of subjects

www.MDINVASIVE.org: Invader of the month

www.raupplab.umd.edu/bugweek: weekly bug pictures and facts

half going to the seller, and half going back to the garden group as tools, seeds, etc.

Soon Kate Joyce will be moving on herself -- to an MBA at Smith School at U of MD. Then she may be the first international Green Consultant to megabusinesses!

On the garden side, she advises you to go into your garden every day -- and weed!

Tree Lilac with colorful bark

By Patricia Martin

Lilacs are common landscape plants, and while lilac shrubs get most of the attention for their colorful and fragrant flowers, tree lilacs, while lacking fragrance, have their own merits. The Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) has been grown for years as a multi-stemmed, medium-sized tree. It's equally effective in the home landscape and as a street tree. Now there is a tree lilac that features not only the billowy, creamy white flowers in early summer, but attractive bark as well.

'Copper Curls' Pekin lilac (*Syringa pekinensis* 'SunDak') is a 20- to 25-foot-tall single or multi-stemmed tree with the same white flowers as the Japanese tree lilac. Plus, 'Copper Curls' features curly, coppery orange, peeling bark that adds interest to this tree in fall and winter. 'Copper Curls' Pekin lilac, like the Japanese tree lilac, is hardy to USDA zone 3, adaptable to a wide range of growing conditions, and has few insect and disease pests.

For more information on 'Copper Curls' lilac, go to: [North Dakota State Research Foundation](#)

Emerald Ash Borer Update

By Patricia Martin

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has announced quarantine measures (for Butler, Beaver, Lawrence, Allegheny counties) to control the emerald ash borer, which has now been detected in PA. Only a few years ago PG County was trying to contain and eradicate it in Maryland. (It is an invasive beetle that destroys ash trees.) The quarantine restricts moving ash nursery stock, green lumber, and any other ash material, including logs, stumps, roots, and branches, and all wood chips and hardwood firewood.

It was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Emerald ash borer arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material probably from China, carried in cargo ships.

The beetle has been blamed for the death and decline of more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Virginia, and Illinois since July 2002. Typically, emerald ash borer can kill an ash tree within three years of initial infestation.

People who suspect they have seen emerald ash borer should call the toll-free pest hotline at (866) 253-7189 (PA), University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center -- 1-800-342-2507 or the Maryland Department of Agriculture -- 410-841-5920. For more information, visit: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>.



Hunt for the Emerald Ash Borer

Join the hunt for the emerald ash borer in Maryland. Volunteer to be on the E-Team! Learn to detect emerald ash borer, and sample trees for their presence. When suspect emerald ash borer damage is reported by a stakeholder, the nearest E-Team will be deployed to examine the tree and contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) if further investigation is needed. In some cases, bark may need to be completely peeled from a suspect ash tree that is being removed to look for evidence of emerald ash borer. Training will be provided and travel expenses will be covered by the MDA. For more information, contact Darlene Hallett, MDA, 410.841.5920.

Volunteers Needed!

Master Gardeners are in demand! Your knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening and greening are powerful community service tools for the many new urban greeners in Baltimore. All it takes to connect is a little initiative and determined follow through to make your volunteer experience a success.

Demonstration Vegetable Garden, two or three Master Gardeners/Interns sought for working on Saturday mornings (starting on May 26th) in the Demonstration Vegetable Garden at Cylburn Arboretum. Contact Ursula Scheffel at 410-542-5553.

Compost Equipment donations, The compost site at Cylburn is in dire need of new equipment. Hopefully, we will find a Master Gardener willing to write to companies for donation of new bins and will take care of repair of existing compost bins. *Request received 1/13/07.*

West Indian Dance & Cultural Assn's Coppin Heights Garden, Southside and rear of the 2400 blk of W. North Avenue 21216. Contact: Herbert Clarke 410-728-0332 2409 W. North Ave. Located on a

parcel behind of 2400 blk W. North Avenue where garages once stood. It's almost directly across from Coppin University. Garden has been in place for about 8 years. Project this spring is to improve garden by constructing concrete steps, adding 3 more raised beds, repairing the fence and painting the timbers. Herbert Clarke, who runs the West Indian Dance & Cultural Assn, is the garden leader. In addition to growing veggies and flowers, Mr. Clarke has construction skills and knows how to work with concrete. Learn from him and help these neighborhood gardeners get ready for a new growing season. *Request received 3/15/07*

Garrison Middle School's Growing Girls and Gardens Program, 3910 Barrington Road 21207. Contact: Martha Barss 410-323-5500 x2102 barssm@rpcs.org. The program started in the summer of 2005 as a way to link bright city public school students with students and resources of a private school in the city. Academic activities take place at the private school and gardening is undertaken at the public school. Language arts, math, and science are taught within the context of gardening. They have realized two years of



GBMG - Clippings
UMD Cooperative Extension
6615 Reisterstown Road, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21215

Calendar

(Continued from page 6)

Landscape Arboretum at Temple University and author of two gardening books, will discuss the beautiful flowers, berries, leaves and grasses that herald the season's last hurrah. Maryland Horticultural Society meeting, Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Rd, Lutherville, 410-821-5561. \$15 non-members.

October 11 GBMG Workshop/ Meeting, Cylburn, 7p.m.

October 22 Make It Beautiful Day. 8 a.m. Cylburn Arboretum.

October 25 GBMG Board Meeting, Cylburn, 7p.m.

November 29 GBMG Board Meeting, Cylburn, 7p.m.

December 13 GBMG Workshop/ Meeting, Cylburn, 7p.m.