

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

Calendar

GBMG sponsored events are in bold.

March 24

The Natural Lawn, 9:00 a.m. Grow a natural lawn by learning good cultural practices and using organic sources for lawn fertilizers and herbicides. Kevin Brandt of Woodstream, a leader in the natural garden solutions industry, will discuss the benefits of using organic fertilizers and herbicides on our lawns. Valley View Farms, 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

Growing Plants for Cut Flowers, 11:00 a.m. Learn about the many plants from Achilleas to Zinnias that can be grown as beautiful cut-flowers all season long. Pat Sherman, a cut-flower gardener, will talk about varieties of seeds, bulbs, annuals, perennials and woody plants that work great in a vase. Pat's enthusiasm for her flowers is contagious, so be prepared to go home inspired! Valley View Farms, 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

March 26

Garden Club of Greater Baltimore, 7-9 p.m. The Garden Club of Baltimore meets on the 4th Monday of the month at Cylburn. All are welcome to join knowl-

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Recognition Dinner—April 12th

6:30—9:30 p.m. at Govans Presbyterian Church

Come one, come all to celebrate the achievements of the past year and to kick off the initiatives of 2007. At our annual Recognition Dinner held at Govans Presbyterian Church at 5826 York Road on April 12th, we will salute veteran MG's who have contributed significantly to our program. Also, our 2006 interns who have completed their hours will be formally welcomed as official Master Gardeners and will receive their certificates. Our 2007 interns having finished their class only two weeks before will find out what festive gatherings we enjoy. They will also reunite with the friends they have made in their class and start new friendships with veteran MG's.

Please note that the April date marks the beginning of a new tradition. Our educator, Josue Lopez, wanted the 2006 interns to have a full year for completing their volunteer hours. The bonus is that we now avoid the February snowstorms which often interfered with our celebration.

Festivities begin at 6:30 with dining beginning as soon as the tables are set. Awards begin at 7:30.

The Board will provide drinks and desserts. Everyone else is asked to bring the tastiest hors d'oeuvres to share. In the past, this has equaled a hearty meal.

To RSVP, please email Roberta Strickler at robstrick@aol.com or leave a message at 410-367 0449.

To volunteer for set-up or decorations, contact Paulette Kirkpatrick at 410-628-0633.

Directions to back parking lot next to Church Hall: Immediately south of the Church with its formal stone pillars and front access is a modern office building. Take the driveway beside this and turn right beyond building into Hall parking. Or, enter from Bellona between York Road and Northern Parkway. Marked driveway is south of cemetery on the eastern side.

Please send any photos of MG activities to Paulette Kirkpatrick, paulettemg@comcast.net for inclusion in the slide show!



Clippings

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Plant Clinic: Ellen Tiano & Ellen Frost
Community Gardens: Patricia Foster

Contact the editor at:
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Deadline for next *Clippings* Issue:
February 15, 2007

Important Note

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.



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XXXXXX
XXXXXX

Letter from the President

As I am writing this letter, it is bitter cold in Baltimore. After a very warm January when I discovered crocuses blooming in front of my house and forsythia bushes showing some yellow blossoms, winter has come at last. But now is the time to think of spring, its chores and its pleasures for all of us gardeners.

The Maryland University Home and Garden Information Center (www.hgic.umd.edu) suggests, among other things, that we now start planning our vegetable and flower garden on paper, start our pepper seeds indoors under lights the end of February, sow spinach, radishes and salad greens in late March, and divide and move our perennial plants the end of April.

In the meantime, the Vegetable Demonstration Garden Group at Cylburn has already been busy since the first week in February, planting vegetables and herb seeds (parsley) in the green houses. The plants will be sold on Cylburn Market Day (May 12th), and some of them will also be available for our Community Gardens.

As we are preparing our own gardens for the new growing season, getting rid of the weeds (that even grow in winter!), turning over the soil and applying compost, the pleasures of spring are all around us, - the first, light green leaves on the trees, blooming cherry trees, and spring flowers galore. Don't miss the oceans of daffodils at the Cylburn Arboretum that usually bloom around Easter time!

Enjoy spring, enjoy the awakening nature, and enjoy gardening.

Ursula Scheffel

Book Club

Thanks to Vicky and Larry Kloze for hosting January's Master Gardener Book Club. They provided a delicious choice of quiches, slaw, and fruit for our enjoyment. And we agreed that the book was amazing on so many levels! We tentatively set

Join us March 27th as we read Silent Spring by Rachel Carson. This will be interesting in light of the global warming discussion going on. The meeting will be at Paulette's house at 13724 Princess Anne Way, Phoenix, MD.

Here's a little test to see how much carbon you are contributing to global warming....and the test will tell you how to offset your 'contribution'. Also, there are tips for reducing your 'Carbon Footprint'

<http://gocarbonzero.com/>

Contribute an article, news or notes to the next *Clippings!* The deadline is April 15th for the May / June issue.

Contact Rebecca Snyder at
rebecca.snyder@mddailyrecord.com
or at 410-448-7443.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Minutes of the Board Retreat

January 13, 2007

Present: Ursula Scheffel, Janice Herschman, Paulette Kirkpatrick, Josue Lopez, Ellen Tioano, Rebecca Snyder, Lawrence Kloze, Roberta Strickler, Allan DeGray, Joan Sadler, Mary Lewis, Mary Cerino.

Minutes: The November 30th, 2006 minutes will be reads at the next Board meeting on February 22, 2007.

Budget: Ursula reported that the current balance of the Master Gardener account is

\$ 2,417.17. The total income from membership in 2006 was \$ 2,130.00, with an additional \$ 410.00 in gifts. Because of the increase of the expense in printing and mailing the "Clippings", the annual membership fee will be increased from \$ 20.00 to \$ 25.00.

Chair reports

Calendar: Paulette Kirkpatrick researched the calendar thoroughly to check the dates of meetings and the variety of activities that Master gardeners participate in. The new intern class will start January 22, 2007.

Special Events: Mary Lewis and Al DeGray reported that the new theme for Special Events presentations in 2007 is the "The Good, Bad and the Ugly – or Should I Stomp on It?" In support of this theme Josue will provide a television with a VCR to show a bug movie at the Home and Garden Show on March 9-11. Jon Traunfeld will conduct a "Container Gardening" (Salad Table) class at Cylburn on April 24 from 9:00 to 3:30. The following events and the dates of their occurrence were shared:

- Home and Garden Show March 9 – 11
- Flower Mart May 4 – 5
- Baltimore Herb Festival May 26
- State Fair August 24 – September 3.

The GBMG Board meetings will be the last Thursday of each month.

GBMG Workshops: Vice presidents Mary Cerino and Ellen Tiano are in the process of lining up the speakers for the workshops/Member Meetings. In 2007, the workshops will be held five times, the first two on February 8, March 8, 2007.

Communication: The "Clippings" is published every other month. Members are encouraged to send in articles for this paper. To keep the expense of the paper down, members will be asked on their membership forms if they would be satisfied with the electronic version of the paper or would they prefer the hard copy. Presently

the paper costs more to produce than members pay for membership. This fact caused the \$5.00 raise in the fees. To attract more volunteers, descriptions of the volunteer opportunities listed will be very specific.

Plant Clinic: The Plant Clinics and Special Events will receive banners from the Extension Service. The theme on these will be "Helping Baltimore Grow". The Plant Clinic also needs to buy tablecloths with the GBMG logo.

Demonstration Gardens: Al Degray is concerned about a suitable site at Cylburn for the Vegetable Demonstration Garden. Discussion centered on using a portion of the AAS plot. GBMG will need to discuss this with the people at Cylburn. The composters at Cylburn need to be replaced. We are looking for volunteers to approach companies for donations of compost bins.

Community Gardens: Roberta Strickler's project was the most successful this year. The success at this garden was said to be related to a very dynamic community person who encouraged people to work. Another factor impacting success was having a very organized approach and specific assignment of tasks. At this time it is unclear as to whether or not the garden Roberta was involved with will continue. A recurring issue in Master Gardening has been that the GBMG do far more work in the community gardens than do the community people.

New Business: Josue described the Unit Plan being developed by the MCE Baltimore City Office, Maps were provided to show the targeted neighborhoods that need the most help and support. Districts 1, 5, 11, and 14 are to have help from volunteers for training and support for after school programs, urban greening projects, open space and community gardening programs. Larry Kloze expressed concern that GBMG were not offered enough professional guidance and inspiration. Manu board members discussed not being comfortable with the Unit Plan without the structure and guidance of the Extension Service. This Unit service plan is still in a developmental stage.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Herschman

Minutes of the Board Meeting

February 22, 2007

Present: Ursula Scheffel, Paulette Kirkpatrick, Ellen Tiano, Patricia Foster, Eileen Lankford, Nick Read.

Absent: Rebecca Snyder, Jan Herschman, Al DeGray, Joan Sanders, Mary Cerino, Mary Lewis, Josue Lopez.

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Special Events

By Mary Lewis

May is a very busy month (see below). There are many opportunities for interns and veterans to earn volunteer hours. Our theme for this year is BUGS: The GOOD, The BAD, and The UGLY. We have a 3-sided display board filled with useful information and we have appropriate handouts. If you are going to work at a special event, it might be a good idea to read up on IPM (integrated pest management) and become familiar with what is available on the HGIC web site (fact sheets, diagnostic help, etc) pertaining to pests. Our goal is to teach the public that bugs are an important part of the ecosystem....don't squish or spray them unless you are absolutely sure they are BAD!

- Flower Mart at MT Vernon, Friday May 4 and Saturday May 5 from 11 AM-7 PM.

This two day event is a wonderful place to showcase our educational display and mingle with flower lovers. Parking is a real problem on Friday, so volunteers are encouraged to ride public transportation. On Saturday, parking is easier to find. We will divide the days up into shifts of 9-11, 11-2, 2-5, 5-7. The early and late shift will have to help set up the display and take it down. Make sure you allow yourself extra hours to enjoy the vendors and food. FYI: <http://www.flowermart.org>

- Market Day at Cylburn, May 12 from 8 AM-2 PM. We will join a large group of plant vendors and craft people for a fun day on the lawn at Cylburn. Shifts will be 8-10, 10-12, 12-2.
- Baltimore Herb Festival, May 26 at Leakin Park from 10 AM- 4 PM. We talk to more people at the Herb Festival than anywhere else. Shifts will be 9-11, 11-2, 2-4. Allow extra time for shopping! FYI: <http://www.baltimoreherbfestival.com>

To sign up to help, please email Mary Lewis (maryplaysindirt@aol.com)

Coming later this summer:

- City Farms Supper at the Conservatory July 28
- Maryland State Fair at Timonium Fairgrounds on August 24-Sept 3

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

When you click on the plant of interest, information on pests, care, etc are listed. There are great pictures of pests and diseases, and solutions.

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/crops-agriculture.html>

Vegetable MD—<http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/cropindex.htm>

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Chair reports

Community Gardens: This year, Patricia Foster will be assisted by Amanda Cunningham and Lynelle Noll in organizing all Community Garden (C.G.) projects. 26 new interns have signed up for work in the Gardens.

Several new projects will be started in collaboration with 'Parks and People'. The projects will be announced at the next C.G. meeting on March 12.

A few projects started last year, e.g. Mt. Vernon beautification and the Garrison Forest School vegetable garden will be continued in 2007. Planting of the vegetable garden at the Food Bank is presently on hold.

Membership Renewal: Paulette has received approx. 75 renewal applications. A few more may still be coming in.

Treasurer's report: So far, \$2415 was received from renewals. Checkbook Balance as of today is \$4,620.87

Vice President's report: Speaker for the March 8th Meeting is Kathy York. There will be a Plant swap that evening and refreshments served. Ellen attended a 'Plant Clinic' meeting at the State Master Gardener Office. One County (?) has Plant Clinics every Saturday at a Public Library.

Demonstration Gardens: Planting of vegetables in the Cylburn greenhouses is in full swing.

Recognition Dinner – April 12th: Discussion about who should be honored. Names proposed: Roberta Strickler, Ellen Tiano and Ellen Frost.

We have to search the database to find people with 10 and 20 year of service.

Ellen Tiano suggested honoring people who have worked the largest number of hours in 2006.

Slides of our 2006 activities will be shown at the dinner. Ursula will try to get photos.

Next Board Meeting: March 29 at 7 PM.

Weather Station Volunteers Needed

Bruce Sullivan bruce.sullivan@noaa.gov or
bruce.sullivan@cocorahs.org

Interested in weather? Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) has an exciting program for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds that have an interest in weather. Within the past year this program has expanded into Maryland. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, the aim of CoCoRaHS is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications.

CoCoRaHS has several goals. 1) provide accurate high-quality precipitation data for our many end users on a timely basis; 2) increasing the density of precipitation data available throughout the country by encouraging volunteer weather observing; 3) encouraging citizens to have fun participating in meteorological science and heightening their awareness about weather; 4) providing enrichment activities in water and weather resources for teachers, educators and the community at large to name a few.

As a meteorologist with the National Weather Service for over 25 years and current volunteer Maryland State Coordinator for CoCoRaHS, I am contacting Master Gardeners to seek out new volunteer weather observers for our program. Weather, and especially precipitation, has an important impact on gardening and our program allows gardeners to keep track of not only their own precipitation but they can see what nearby observers nearby may have received, plus the data they submit may help provide important weather warning information for the National Weather Service.

Information and training sessions are available for anyone interested.. You can find out more about us at www.cocorahs.org and please contact me if you have any questions regarding our program. A recent press announcement about the organization can be found at http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/release_cocorahs.pdf.

Baltimore Green Week

May 5—11th

Baltimore Green Week (BGW) is a week-long program comprising community events, hands-on activities, forums, and lectures throughout Baltimore city. BGW kicks-off with an inspiring and enlightening Saturday festival, called the EcoFestival. During the rest of the week, events are focused on interesting and practical sustainability topics that will affect your lifestyle, health, environment, and community.

This year marks the fourth year of Baltimore Green Week (BGW). Started by regional volunteers, it remains a volunteer-driven event. BGW strives to increase public awareness of environmental sustainability topics. Throughout BGW, local residents are taught about lifestyle changes that will increase Baltimore's environmental sustainability. We help to further the voice of organizations that promote a healthy living environment, green space, clean water, air, and land, alternative energy options, public health, nourishing local food, a slowing in climate change, beneficial sustainable living products, and especially a planet which will be sustainable for our children and all living creatures.

EcoFestival, Saturday May 5th, Druid Hill Park, Noon to 5 p.m.

Dozens of earth-friendly and environmental groups will be participating with demonstrations, exhibits, local food, music, and family activities. Take a nature walk, fly a kite, or learn about the green efforts of the city. And when the day's activities make you hungry, get recharged with healthy snacks and food provided by local farmers and restaurants.

Day by Day Events

Following the festival, Baltimore Green Week continues May 7th through May 11th with free or low cost events focused on the following topics:

- Monday, May 7th – Food
- Tuesday, May 8th – Green Building
- Wednesday, May 9th – Climate Change
- Thursday, May 10th – Public Health
- Friday, May 11th – End of Baltimore Green Week Celebration!

Please visit (www.baltimoregreenweek.org) for additional information.

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:

- April 5—Vegetable Gardening
- April 19—Garden Pest & Diseases
- May 3—Integrated Pest Management
- May 17—Herb Gardening
- 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

Native Plants: Compelling Landscapes

by Josue Lopez

The 21st Annual LARH Symposium will be held on March 31, 2007 in the US National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave. NE, DC. The symposium title is Native Plants: Compelling Landscapes. In case someone is interested to attending, check this web page www.usna.usda.gov—this is the National Arboretum home page, then click on Events and Education, scroll down to Current events and programs and you can see the symposium information. You can click right there for brochure and registration form.

Calendar

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edgeable guest speakers and enthusiastic gardeners in discussing all aspects of gardening while enjoying light fare. Free.

March 29

GBMG Board Meeting, Cylburn, 7p.m.

March 31

Native Plants, American Beauties, 11:00 a.m. Dale Hendricks, owner of North Creek Nurseries, has partnered with the American Wildlife Federation to encourage the use of native plants to provide beauty in the landscape and a habitat where wildlife will flourish. He will talk about the many perennial and woody plants that thrive in our eastern seaboard landscapes. Dale is a much sought after speaker on this subject in the United States. Valley View Farms, 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

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Planning and Planting your Garden

by Josue Lopez

As the spring season gets closer, many of you may need to sit down and make plans to give the vegetable garden a good start. A back yard or some other plot near your home in full sunlight is the most convenient spot for a home vegetable garden. However, poor drainage, shallow soil, and shade from buildings or trees may mean the garden must be located in an area farther from the house.

In planning your garden, consider what and how much you will plant. The size of your garden is likely to be dictated by the dimensions of your property. Beyond that, it is well for beginners to start with a small plot. When experience brings both confidence and enthusiasm, then is the time to make the garden larger. Most crops need 3 feet of space between rows. So a 30-foot wide garden will grow 10 rows of vegetables. This will give you space to walk between the rows. Adding up the length of each of the 10 rows will give you the total feet of row. For instance, if each of the 10 rows is 10 feet long, you will have 100 feet of row. But remember, it is better to have a small garden well maintained than a larger one neglected and full of weeds.

Selecting a site

- Choose a place where the soil is loose, fertile, level, dark-colored, and well drained. If water covers this area during the fall or spring, your garden may be flooded out during the gardening season. So don't choose a spot there. Heavy, clay soils, like the soil from basement diggings, are not good for gardens. Crops will not grow well. Beware of areas where weeds won't grow. Vegetables probably won't grow either.
- Sunlight is needed to grow healthy vegetables. Provide 6 to 8 hours of sunlight daily. Don't plant your garden near buildings, trees, or shrubs that will shade your garden. Vegetables won't grow well without sunlight.
- Trees and shrubs that are close to your garden



will also rob your vegetables of nutrients and water. Don't plant vegetables near trees.

It is not important to have your garden near a water supply. But if there is a hose that will reach your garden, this will be helpful when the weather is dry, when you plant seeds, and when you transplant seedlings or plants.

Few people are lucky enough to have the perfect garden plot, so just look for the best plot you can find.

Getting your Garden Ready to Plant

Pick up a handful of soil. Squeeze it in your hand. If the soil stays in a ball or water oozes through your fingers, it is still too wet to work. Wait several days and feel the soil again. If the soil crumbles and does not feel sticky, it is ready to plow or rototill.

Measure an area that is 10 feet long and 10 feet wide. If you did not take a soil test, use a spreader to sprinkle 3 or 4 pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer over the area. You can also incorporate organic material, manure or compost by deep digging or rototilling into the soil about 8 inches deep. Break up the big clods of soil with a rake or hoe. This method will put the fertilizer evenly in the soil. It also makes the soil deep enough for plant roots to grow easily. Additions should be made in the spring prior to soil preparation and again in the autumn when garden refuse and summer's organic mulches may be turned under after harvest is completed.

Plant your Vegetables Right

There are three things to remember when planting vegetables. Vegetables must be planted at the right time. They must be planted at the right depth, and at the right distance apart. Vegetables with small seeds, such as carrots, cabbage, radishes, and lettuce, should be planted ½ inch deep. Vegetables with medium size seeds, such as beets and okra, should be planted ¾ inch deep. Crops with large seeds, such as beans, corn, and squash, can be an inch or 1½ inches deep. You can refer to the following publications for further information on planting dates, distance between plant and rows, depth and type of vegetable: *Dates for Vegetables Crops in Maryland*, and *Recommended Vegetable Cultivars for Maryland Home Gardens*, available in the Baltimore City Cooperative Extension (410-856-1857) or the Home and Garden Information Center (1800-342-2507).

News from the State MG Office

For more information on anything listed on this page, contact Robin Hessey 410-531-1754 or rmhessey@umd.edu or go to the state MG website mastergardener.umd.edu

MG State Advanced Training - Level II

Upcoming State MG Advanced Trainings. Please note that the top 4 classes listed below have registration deadlines in April. For registration form and complete class descriptions go to the MG state website at mastergardener.umd.edu and click on "Advanced Training" or "Annual Training Day" If you need additional information you can contact Robin at 410-531-1754, rmhessey@umd.edu

Class	Location	Dates & Times	Instructor	Price	Registration Deadline
Landscape Hort. Evergreen Trees & Shrubs	Charlotte Hall & Nat'l Arboretum	Mondays 4/16, 4/23, 4/30; 9:30-12:30 & 5/7 10 am	Bob Stewart	\$40.00	Reg. Deadline: 4/2
Weed ID & Control	Charlotte Hall Library	Wed. 4/18, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11; 9/12; 4-8:30pm	Betty Marose	\$115 +Text	Reg. Deadline: 4/4
Container Vegetables	Cylburn Arb., Baltimore	Tues. Apr. 24; 9-3:30	Jon Traunfeld	\$35;	Reg. Deadline:4/16
Container Vegetables	Frederick Co. Ext.	Thurs. May 3; 9-3:30	Jon Traunfeld	\$35;	Reg. Deadline:4/23
MG ANNUAL TRAINING DAY	UMCP	Thurs., May 31 7:45-4:15	30 presenters	\$59 (Registration opens mid Mar)	
Plant ID/Taxonomy	MontCo. Ext. (Derwood)	M. 6/4; T. 6/5; W. 6/6 9:30-12:30	Steve Dubik	\$35 + Text	Reg. Deadline: 5/25
Plant ID/Taxonomy	Baltimore (Cylburn)	Wed. Jun 6, 13, 20; 6-9p	Wanda MacLachlan	\$35 +Text;	Reg. Deadline: 5/25
Plant ID/Taxonomy	Queen Anne's (Wye)	Thurs. 6/7, 14, 21 9:30-12:30	Wanda MacLachlan	\$35 + Text;	Reg. Deadline: 5/25
OrganicVegetable Gardening: Learn/Teach	Harford Co. Ext.	Tues. July 10; 9-3:30	Jon Traunfeld	\$25	Reg Deadline: 7/3
Organic Vegetable Gardening; Learn/Teach	Howard Co. Ext.	Thurs. July 12, 9-3:30	Jon Traunfeld	\$25	Reg Deadline 7/3
Landscape Hort: Shade Trees	Montgomery Co. Ext. & Brookside Gardens	Tues. July 17, 24; 9-12; 7/31 Field trip	Wanda MacLachlan	\$40	Reg. Deadline: 7/3

Upcoming Statewide Meetings

- **Training Subcommittee**
Wed April 25, 2007; 10-2 HGIC
- **Marketing, Public Relations/
Political Advocacy Workgroup-**
Thurs. April 26- HGIC
- **Youth Gardening**
Tues, May 15, 10-2 at HGIC
- **STATE STRATEGIC PLANNING
COMMITTEE**
Tues. May 22, 10-2, HGIC
- **MG 2008 "30th Anniversary"
Celebration Planning,**
Wed. June 13, 10-12 at HGIC

Signage for MG Programs

Do you need more or better signage for your MG project? Does your current signage mention Maryland Cooperative Extension or the University of Maryland (it should in order for you to have the highest credibility).

One of the prime ways to achieve recognition for what we do is good signage. The need for more MG signage has come up frequently in the last round of state MG planning meetings.

Tell us what kind of signs you want. Send info to Robin- rmhessey@umd.edu

- Approximate size:
- Desired material (if known)
- How would you like to use them:
- What would you like on them:

**See Advanced Training
Registration Form on
state MG website at
mastergardener.umd.edu.**

MG Annual Training Day May 31

May 31 at the University of Maryland College Park

Every MG should have received their brochure and registration form for this event sometime in the 3rd week of March. If you haven't received one by April 1, contact Robin and she'll send you one, or go to the MG state website (mastergardener.umd.edu) and click on "Annual Training Day". Registration Deadline is May 1.

- **Keynote Speaker-** Dr. Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware. His topic: "Fighting Extinction with Native Plants: A New Role for the American Garden" - Discover how biodiversity is dramatically influenced by simple planting choices.
- **30 Workshops to choose from**
- **Continental Breakfast & Delicious Box Lunch**
- **Tradeshow/Exhibits**
- **350+ MGs from across the state**
- **Registration Fee still only \$59; parking included**

Order your MG Identity items by May 1

Ordering your MG shirts (golf, denim, long sleeve T, short sleeve T), sweatshirts, hats, travel mugs and tote bags by May 1. Perhaps you've seen other MG's wearing some of these items. We only order once a year, so this is your chance. You can order items (using the registration form for MG Annual Training Day), even if you aren't able to attend. Items will be distributed on May 31 or sent back to your county/city MCE office for pick up. To see color pictures, go to mastergardener.umd.edu and click on either "Advanced Training" or "Identity Items".

Would you like to have a table at MG Annual Training Day?

We hear our vendors do quite well. Everyone who's had a table that sold and something has wanted to return the next year. Tables are free for MG programs and only \$50 for individuals- and you don't have to miss any classes. Let Robin know (410-531-1754) by May 1 if you are interested in this opportunity.

MG 30th Anniversary Celebration- 2008

**Kick off planning meeting:
Wed. June 13, 10-12 at HGIC
in Ellicott City.** Join Us.

2008 will be the 30th Anniversary of the MG program in Maryland and we want to really take advantage of this fact to promote the MG program in every way we can with every county/city program. We are very excited about this, and would like to pull together some party animals, event planners, movers, shakers and helpers to do some planning. What kind of events do we want to have? Perhaps we could do a real bash for the Annual Training Day (coincidentally it will be the 10th anniversary of that event).

We'd like to really have fun with this, so if you have any ideas, or if you can simply carry out some of the ideas, we'd love to have you on-board.

Here are some initial thoughts from Paul Beares, Harford Co. MG and chair of the PR/Marketing committee: Our goal would be to maximize public recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Maryland Master Gardener Program, and to generate a positive image for the program.

State level Marketing and Public Relations campaign to include:

1. Ask Governor to declare May, 2008, Maryland Master Gardener Month
2. Resolution of recognition by the State Legislature
3. Special recognition by University of Maryland officials

Help Needed for Annual Training Day

1. Need someone to help with pre-registration (data entry and check processing at HGIC in Ellicott City in late March though early May).
2. Folks to help with a mailing (about 2 weeks before May 31.)
3. Folks to manage various tasks (will not interfere with your taking classes).
 - a. Managing the trade show (communicate with sponsors, figure out table set up). Requires phone calls in advance & help with set up.
 - b. Other general help on 5/31 like clothing sales, crowd management, food lines.
 - c. Table and chair set up on 5/30.
4. Someone to process all of the evaluation forms (probably a solid week of work- can be done from your home after 5/31). Good team project.

If you can help, call Robin at 410-531-1754; rmhessey@umd.edu.

4. Special promotional items, banners, signs, etc. highlighting the 30th year anniversary
5. Series of Press Releases to all local media promoting the MG program, the 30th anniversary, and any special events.
6. Celebration party following 2008 Annual Training Day
7. Trade show as part of the Annual Training Day inviting vendors and partners

County level Marketing & Promotion:

1. Co. Commissioners/Executives, mayors, etc. to declare special MG month/week/day
2. Special anniversary events including county legislators, local leaders, and mission partners
3. Coordination with other MCE promotional activities.

Digging Deeper: Ellen Tiano

Master Gardeners are an interesting lot—we have a civil engineer, a member who raises and shows West Highland White Terriers, an internet researcher, members who enjoy renovating old houses, travelers and stay-at-homeers, and now a CPA and consultant. Ellen Tiano is an organized person, as you would guess from her career. She was born in Baltimore, but moved as a child to Frederick. She and her husband met in college, where he was studying zoology. (She says opposites really do attract!) She got her degree in accounting at the University of MD, and also has a Masters in Finance. Currently she works part-time for SMART doing taxes and auditing work. Her husband Bob works for Purdue, and their mini-poodle Lacey watches both of them. They have lived in Towson for 17 years, and she claims all the flowers are the work of her husband. She feels that she did too much vegetable gardening (her mother canned much of their food) as a teenager for her to find it exciting now.

However, she enjoys working with children, and is enthusiastic about the work she does as a volunteer for the Brown Memorial Presbyterian tutoring program in Bolton Hill. It has one of the oldest tutoring programs in the area. Inner city kids are bused to the center and Ellen and other volunteers help increase their reading skills, working one on one. She works Wednesday morning and afternoon with elementary students. She listens to their problems as well as helping them read better. She also finds time to co-chair the Plant Clinic with a fellow student from her gardening class. When asked if she had problems getting enough volunteers to man the booth on weekends, she said no, it was just a matter of calling people and then reminding them of when their assignment was.

Does she have other activities—yes, including a once a month Bunco game with other friends, and sewing on her Singer. (Hers is almost as old as mine.) She really enjoyed the composting class, and advises everyone to have a compost pile or barrel to turn the yard waste into “gold” for the garden.



Quick Click

www.yarddoctor.com

By Patricia Martin

For practical, environmentally reasonable lawn and yard care tips, this Briggs & Stratton yardsmarts Web site (www.yarddoctor.com) is easy to navigate and helpful. For time-strapped homeowners, the site suggests "Get the kids to help. Water more efficiently. Cut your grass less often." (Not genius, but commonsense.) The section about diagnosing and curing lawn care problems explains why it's difficult to grow grass in the shade, deals with yellow-brown dog spots, and more. There's information about allergy-free landscaping, environmental steps, equipment know-how, a maintenance reminder e-mail service, and sections for new homeowners and women. Yard maintenance advice is region specific. There is even a spot to brag about your yard!

Time to Prune your "bramble" bushes

How Brambles Grow. The plants' underground parts (the roots and crown) are perennial, but the canes (upright stems) that arise from the crown are biennial, meaning that they live just two years. In its first year, a cane grows vigorously, develops a strong structure, and stores energy. It produces fruit in its second year. After fruiting, the cane declines and dies, though some species called everbearing produce fruit late in their first season and again in their second year.

Since the 2-year old canes die after fruiting, you can cut them back to the ground immediately after harvest. Each category of brambles has a different growth and fruiting habit, so pruning practices vary. At any time of year, you can remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches and canes.

Note: the recommended pruned lengths are for untrellised brambles. If you provide support for your brambles, you can leave longer canes.

Summer-Bearing Red and Golden Raspberries.

These brambles produce tall, unbranched canes as well as root suckers (canes that spring from the roots rather than the crown of the plant).

In late winter or early spring before new growth begins, remove canes until there are eight strong canes per three feet of row. If your brambles grow in a bed rather than a row, thin them to six to ten canes per square foot

International Master Gardener Conference
May 2-5, 2007 • Little Rock, Arkansas



Go to <http://mg2007.uaex.edu/default.htm> to check the MG international conference, It'll be held in Little Rock, AR, May 2-5, 2007. See you there!

2007 Baltimore City Master Gardener Class Schedule

All Classes at Cylburn Arboretum from 6:30-9:00 pm.

	Day	Date	Class	Teacher
18	W	Mar 21	Turf	Harriet Tinker
19	Sat	Mar 24	Pruning Workshop 9-12	Bill Vondrazek
20	M	Mar 26	IPM/ Beneficial Insects	Mike Raupp
21	W	Mar 28	Take Home Test	Josue Lopez
22	M	April 2	Last Meeting	Josue Lopez

Weed Warrior Trainings

April 3rd & April 17th

Become a Weed Warrior and help rout out invasive species throughout Baltimore City. Attend Weed Warrior training in April with Amanda Holloway, Urban Weed Warrior Coordinator in the Office of Park Conservation & Community Outreach Baltimore City, Recreation & Parks 2600 Madison Ave., Baltimore City, MD 21217. Contact her at (410) 396-0359 or Amanda.Holloway@baltimorecity.gov for more info.

Community Gardening Update

by Patricia Foster

The first meeting of the new season was held at Cylburn, Monday, March 12 at 8:15. We have an extraordinary high number of intern volunteers (about 26) and thought to combine a meeting with their regular class time.

Amanda Cunningham and Lynnelle Noll have volunteered to help Patricia out this year with the organizational end of things. Building on the success of last year, we will have an experienced MG take on a specific project as the liaison with the community organizer or team up with another MG and recruit however many interns and other experienced MGs it will take to get the job done.

Parks and People will, as in past years, provide leads on appropriate projects, and Josue has been amassing suggestions. Not to worry if you missed the meeting. We will keep you in the loop for sure.

2007 Interns— What a Crop!

by Patricia Martin

Our new spring crop of Cylburn students is full of amazing and talented people. Bob Layton is a cactus and carnivorous plant enthusiast; Barbara Breslau admits to starting her gardening career collecting worms in Central Park (she did not eat them as far as I know); Tim Hardy loves his motorcycle as well as plants; Carrie Smith already has worked with Parks and People. You will notice that there are many interns who are of the “female persuasion” (as Radar used to say) in the spring class. Peggy—who proudly claims a “long line of Iowa gardeners” as her heritage; Sue Joyce who started gardening years ago in Memphis; Pat Thompson who practiced law and now will have plants as her ‘clients’; Rose Dailey who is already helping with a green house at a local high school, and these are just a few.

Nick Reed brought his wife and daughter to our first class and told us about organic gardening on his farm in Baltimore County. And who--really-- is the mysterious bearded student (nameless to protect his privacy) who resists all questions about his work—is he an international spy or jewel thief—or an author gathering background for his next book? (Keep an eye on him!) These are just a few of the lively people who will soon be called Master Gardeners, Class of 2007.

Calendar

(Continued from page 6)

Lahr Native Plant Symposium, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The 21st annual symposium at the National Arboretum explores why native plants are important to our natural and manmade landscapes. Administration Building Auditorium, National Arboretum. Fee \$85. Call 202-245-4521 for registration information. In conjunction with the symposium, there will be a native plant sale from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. across the street from the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Entry to the sale is free.

April 7

Pruning Matters, 11 a.m. Enhance the natural beauty of shrubs and small trees with Fran West's easy-to-learn pruning methods. Fran is a pruning specialist and lecturer for clubs and businesses. She has published a handy field guide and produced a DVD that gives gardeners the confidence to achieve great results. Valley View Farms, 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

April 10

Shade Gardening, 7:30 p.m. David Culp will speak to the Maryland Horticultural Society tonight. David is a frequent contributor to Horticulture and Fine Gardening magazines, and conducts new plant research for Sunny Borders Nurseries. Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Rd, Lutherville. Members admitted with membership card. Non-member \$15.00 For more information call: 410-821-5561

April 12

Recognition Dinner, Govans Presbyterian, 7p.m.

April 14

From Garden to Grill, 11 a.m. Exclusive! Wegmans' Executive Chef, Tom Schwarzweiller, certainly knows about cooking but did you know that he's an avid gardener as well? Tom loves his fresh vegetables--growing, grilling, sautéing, baking, steaming and combining them for his family and dinner guests. Join us for this fun, entertaining look at veggies from planting to preparation. 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

April 15

Pruning Workshop, 2-4 p.m. Through classroom training and hands-on practice, join instructors at Cylburn for a series of workshops. The Pruning Workshop will be an educational workshop where you can learn basic techniques at a hands-on practice session and take some materials home with you. This workshop is for ages 16 and older, and space is limited so pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5/Cylburn member, \$7.50 non-member. (All materials provided.) Please call 410-367-2217 or e-mail info@cylburnassociation.org to register.

April 21

A Year in the Rose Garden, 9 a.m. Roses are beautiful, fragrant, romantic and fun to grow. Learn about the best varieties of roses to grow from Bradd Yoder of Star Roses. He will teach us about the care and feeding of roses and the nuances of pruning. 11035 York Rd in

Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

Perennials: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, 11 a.m. Plant lovers unite and join us for a lecture and slideshow featuring David Culp of Sunny Border Perennials. David is a dynamic speaker and a true plant enthusiast. He will show us his favorite perennials and the Perennial Plant Association's past picks. 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

April 23

Garden Club of Greater Baltimore, 7-9 p.m. The Garden Club of Baltimore meets on the 4th Monday of the month at Cylburn. All are welcome to join knowledgeable guest speakers and enthusiastic gardeners in discussing all aspects of gardening while enjoying light fare. Free.

April 24

Container Vegetable Gardening: One Day Workshops, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Earthboxes, Bucket Gardens, Salad Tables, Salad Boxes: Grow vegetables and greens anywhere! Many Marylanders are pressed for time and adequate garden space. Others have limited abilities, too much shade or awful soils. Yet, most of us are excited about the prospect of fresh, nutritious veggies growing right outside our back door. This workshop will train you in new methods that make food gardening possible for all ages, abilities, and situations. Bonus: Everyone will take own their very own salad box! Today's Workshop will be at Cylburn Arboretum (registration deadline is April 16). The workshops will be presented again at the Frederick County Extension on Thursday, May 3, 9-3:30 p.m. (registration deadline is April 23). The instructor is Jon Traunfeld, MCE Regional Specialist, Fruits and Vegetables, State MG Coordinator. Registration is \$35. For more information, contact [Robin Hessey rmhessey@umd.edu](mailto:Robin.Hessey@umd.edu) 410-531-1754.

April 25

Training Subcommittee Meeting, 10 a.m.-noon This is one of the working subcommittees of the MGA. The subcommittees are comprised of MG's from different counties who come together to work in their areas of interest to better the entire state program. You can check the MG state website, mastergardener.umd.edu, for location, directions or a description of the committee. AT HGIC, Ellicott City. Email rmhessey@umd.edu for more info

April 26

GBMG Board Meeting, Cylburn, 7p.m.

April 28

Patio Plants with Pizzazz, 9 a.m. Create gorgeous container gardens using combinations of annuals, perennials, tropicals, small trees and shrubs. Our own Cindi Fielder will share her ideas and experiences for plantings in pots, window boxes and hanging baskets. 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

Vegetable Gardening, 11 a.m. Grow spinach, tomatoes, beans, peppers, artichokes and much more this season in your own backyard garden. Learn about varieties, growing from seeds versus growing from transplants and about the cultural needs of each plant. Valley View's Carrie Engel and Suzanne Barton will collaborate on this seminar. 11035 York Rd in Cockeysville, (410) 527-0700.

(Continued on page 14)

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.

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.*

Home & Garden Show at Timonium on March 10 from 10am-12pm, 12pm-3pm, and on March 11 from 1pm-2pm or 2pm-4pm. We will be sharing a 3 table booth with Harford and Howard County. Our contribution will be a display on BUGS ~ The GOOD, the BAD, and the UGLY. If you are interested in working at the booth please contact Mary Lewis for specific details. (maryplaysindirt@aol.com). *Request received 1/16/07.*

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 healthy harvests sharing the food with anyone who stops by to visit and/or to help. Over the last two summers, Master Gardeners have lent expertise to the young gardeners by helping with the soil preparation, fence construction and planting. This year the gardeners hope to get a water line extended from the school building to the garden. This is a winning school-based program that welcomes volunteers along every step of the learning process. *Request received 3/15/07*

Cut Flowers Fresh from the Garden

By Rebecca Snyder

The March member meeting (held March 8 at Cylburn) featured Kathy York from Scarborough Farm, who shared her secrets for fabulous and long lasting cut flowers from the garden. Here are some of her tips for keeping cut flowers fresher, longer. Thanks to Mary Cerino and Ellen Tiano for bring this speaker to our membership.

What flowers are you growing that would make good cut flowers? Kathy York, member of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers (www.ascfg.org) emphasized that almost any plant, branch or flower can work in arrangements. The trick is to hydrate the cut flower, sometimes for several hours to ensure longevity. Make sure to cut as early as possible in the morning, or late in the evening; strip the stems of the flowers as they are cut (she wraps her thumb and index finger with stretchy "vet" tape); immediately place the stem in water with floral solution and use CLEAN buckets—no metal.

If the cut flowers droop, (especially with woody or milky stemmed plants) try watering the plants the night before and plunge the stems into *very* hot water (as hot as comes out of the tap). If the stems are milky, after stripping the leaves, make sure the water is deep enough to cover the stem joints and don't mix them with other flowers.

Let your flowers sit and hydrate for at least one hour before working with them. Thanks for Kathy for sharing her secrets!

Calendar

(Continued from page 12)

Garden Plant Sale, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Friends of the National Arboretum Garden Fair and Plant Sale. Thousands of plants, some hard to find anywhere else, are ripe for the picking at this much-anticipated annual sale. FONA members only may shop April 27 from 12:00pm-7:00pm. Sponsored by the Friends of the National Arboretum; proceeds help support USNA programs. Free. New York Avenue parking lot.

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

May 4-5
Flower Mart, Mount Vernon Place

May 8
Foliage for Garden Design: Consider the Leaf, 7:30 p.m. Judy Glattstein will speak to the meeting of the Maryland Horticultural Society tonight. Ms. Glattstein is a popular instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, Judy Glattstein is the award-winning author of eight gardening books who lectures across the United States and abroad. Towson Unitarian Universalist Church
1710 Dulany Valley Rd, Lutherville. Members admitted with membership card.
Non-member \$15.00 For more information call:410-821-5561.

May 12 & May 13

Cylburn Market Day Weekend and Used Book Sale, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring your little red wagon to load with super spring plants and crafts. Support Cylburn Arboretum by purchasing vegetables, annuals, perennials, azaleas, crafts, and much, much more. Several vendors and the Cylburn Greenhouse will have a wide variety of plants available. The annual used book sale is a great place to pick up gardening books, reference books, and popular fiction all weekend long. Also stop by on Sunday, May 13th, for workshops throughout the day. This is the spring plant and craft sale for Baltimore. For more information, or to be a vendor, please call 410-367-2217 or e-mail info@cylburnassociation.org. Cost: \$5 parking fee (good for both days)

May 15

Youth Gardening, 10 a.m.-noon This is one of the working subcommittees of the MGA. The subcommittees are comprised of MG's from different counties who come together to work in their areas of interest to better the entire state program. You can check the MG state website, mastergardener.umd.edu, for location, directions or a description of the committee. AT HGIC, Ellicott City. Email rmhessey@umd.edu for more info.

May 22

State Strategic Planning Committee, 10 a.m.-noon This is one of the working subcommittees of the MGA.



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

Grow Veggies anywhere!

April 24—The “salad table” workshop will train you in new methods that make food gardening possible for all ages, abilities, and situations. Bonus: Everyone will take own their very own salad box! Workshop will be at Cylburn Arboretum (registration deadline is April 16). The workshops will be presented again at the Frederick County Extension on Thursday, May 3, 9-3:30 p.m. (registration deadline is April 23). The instructor is Jon Traunfeld, Registration is \$35. For more information, contact Robin Hessey rmhessey@umd.edu 410-531-1754.