
September 2008

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008

9:30 am: Social Time
10:00 am: Business
10:30 am: Speaker

Speaker:

Mike Raupp

Topic:

How low diversity & invasives
destroy the landscape



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008

10:00 am

President's Perspective

By Gary Cahn

I'm very excited to announce a new MG activity that I hope a lot of you will want to join—SWAT. Special Work Action Teams.

SWAT groups will be MGs who are willing to provide gardening advice to any entity that needs it in Montgomery County. Remember that educating the public is the main mission of MGs. I see a SWAT as being a terrific way for us to educate more County residents than ever before. Here are some examples of organizations that have asked for a SWAT to provide them with gardening assistance.

There are several community gardens throughout the County that parcel out small plots of land to gardeners for use during the gardening season. A SWAT of MGs might agree to come to the community garden on the first Saturday of the month to provide advice to any of the gardeners who need it. The Home Depot in Germantown has asked us to provide them with a SWAT. They would set up a table in the gardening department and be available to answer questions from shoppers who need gardening help. A SWAT of MGs might travel to a nursery and provide training to its employees on various topics. Many high schools conduct spring mulch sales where lots of homeowners come to purchase their mulch. A SWAT could set up a table in the school parking lot on the day the mulch is picked up and provide gardening advice. Many farmer's markets are held during the gardening season. We could set up a SWAT table at these markets. Garden clubs frequently maintain gardens in their communities and they have work days. A SWAT could come to one of these work days and offer advice as requested.

Pat Lynch and I will serve as Co-Chairpersons of SWAT. There will be an organizing meeting immediately following the September general membership meeting in the Conference room. If you are interested in getting in on the ground floor and helping to set the direction of this new activity, I hope you'll join us on September 4. If you are interested in SWAT, but can't be there on September 4, please contact Pat or Gary.

THE MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

Mission and Vision

The Master Gardener Newsletter is a monthly newsletter published by the volunteer Master Gardener organization of Montgomery County, an office of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. Our mission is *Educating People to Help Themselves* through a variety of public service programs.

Mission: The Maryland Master Gardener mission is to educate Maryland residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes and communities.

Vision: A healthier world through environmental stewardship.

Extension Office Contacts

Director Douglas Tregoning
 Master Gardener Coordinator Stephen Dubik
 Master Gardener Secretary Linda Waters

Master Gardener Volunteer Organization

President Gary Cahn
 First Co-Vice Presidents Amanda Laudwein & Ron Anderson
 Second Vice President Sheryl Freishtat
 Treasurer Frances McClure
 Recording Secretary Lynn Farrow & Frances Smithson

For information on the organization and the services offered by Master Gardeners, contact:

Computer /Web Design Gary Cahn
 Derwood Demo. Garden Martha Fisher & Maria Wortman
 External Special Events Elsie Sullivan
 Fair Demo. Garden Sheryl Freishtat & Frank Lostumbo
 Internal Special Events Gloria Sherman & Barbara Waite-Jaques
 Landscape Design Leonard Friedman & Carol Hall
 Newsletter Editors Stacey Guthrie
 Plant Clinics Hayley Goris & Bill Connors
 Program/Education Bob Alde, Pat Kenny, Joe Ginther & Kate Crawford
 Public Relations Nancy Moses Greenblatt
 Speakers Adele Fein
 Strategic Planning Leonard Friedman
 Telephone Hotline Nancy Ballard & Arlene Cole
 Therapeutic Horticulture JoAnn Mueller
 Class of 2008 Chairperson Pat Lynch

Direct correspondence to:
 The Horticultural Consultant, Montgomery County
 Cooperative Extension,
 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855.
 e-mail: lwaters@umd.edu

All opinions expressed with reference to commercial organizations or products are those of the authors and do not represent an official endorsement by the Cooperative Extension.

Stephen Dubik,
Master Gardener Coordinator

How To Submit Articles

Master Gardeners are invited to write articles for the newsletter. Please keep in mind that submittals may be edited and/or not used until the following month. To submit articles for publication please e-mail by the 12th of the month to: Stacey Guthrie:

mgnewsletter08@yahoo.com

Deadline for submissions: 12th of the month

Computer Users Note

Home & Garden Information Center Web site:

<http://www.hgic.umd.edu>

Montgomery County Master Gardener Web site:

<http://extension.umd.edu/gardening/masterGardeners/local/Montgomery/index.cfm>

Horticultural Hotline: 301-590-9650

March — October: Mon. - Fri. 9 am - 1 pm

Plant Clinic Sites and Leaders

Audubon Naturalist Society (May-Sept)	Sat. 10 -12	Marlene Cianci
Brookside Gardens (Year-Round)	Sat. 10 - 2	Hayley Goris
Brookside Gardens (Year-Round)	Sun. 1 - 4	Bev Carragher
Davis Library (April-Sept)	Sat. 10 -1	Margaret Edison
Derwood Ex. Office	M-F 9-1	Nancy Ballard & Arlene Cole
Gaithersburg Library, (Apr-Sept)	Sat. 10-2	Frances Smithson
Germantown Library (May-Sept)	Wed. 7 - 8:30	Judi Moline
Quince Orchard Library (May-Sept)	Sat. 10 -1	Bill Connors
Twinbrook Library (Apr-Sept)	Sat. 10-1 (3rd Sat only)	Barbara Waite-Jaques & Bob Alde

July MG Board Meeting Summary

Treasurer's Report: As of June 30 the treasury totals \$12,564,77. A budget for the Baywise program was added, as well as a projected ending balance for December 31.

Coordinator's Report:

- Steve has ordered a sign for the demo gardens to be placed at the entrance to the park.
- A logo is being designed to promote the web site and e-mail address.

New Business:

MG Garden Tours – Twelve people volunteered to host tours of their gardens and generally one tour a month has been scheduled from April through October. .

Elections – A list of candidates will be presented at the August meeting. Officers can serve for two years; chairpersons can serve for four years. Most of the current officers are in their first year of service.

Posting Minutes – Minutes are available on the web site and in the phone room, so there is no need to send them out on the listserv.

Marketing at Garden Centers – It was decided that we could print our MG information on a business card ourselves. The card will contain the words “Ask A Master Gardener” and the logo, the Hotline number, the e-mail address, and the web site address.

Friends House Garden: A “New” Workplace for Master Gardeners

by Mickey Holloway and Joe Schechter, Montgomery County MGs

What follows is a short “Q&A” about Friends House Garden. Want more information? Get in touch with Mickey Holloway 301-570-1385, (gardenfh@netscape.net) or Joe Schechter 240-305-2294 (earthkpr1@netzero.net).

Q: What is Friends House Garden (FHG)? A: FHG is an approved project for Montgomery County Master Gardeners that began in 2007.

Q: Where? A: FHG is located on the grounds of Friends House, a Quaker retirement community in a bucolic corner of Sandy Spring (near Olney & Ashton).

Q: Who is in charge of the project? A: Mickey Holloway, a Master Gardener and resident of Friends House; Mickey's co-chair from Friends House is Caro Taylor.

Q: What is grown in the gardens at Friends House? A: The Master Gardeners focus is on the “kitchen garden”, which provides a substantial amount of fruits and vegetables for residents. (asparagus, kale, tomatoes, peppers, swiss chard, string beans, blueberries, blackberries, and apples).

In addition, there is a flower garden used to decorate the dining hall and residences.

Q: What are the goals of this MG project?

1. Work with Friends House gardeners to maintain and enhance the community-based agriculture currently in place;
2. Provide knowledge, assistance, and information to Friends House gardeners;
3. Advise on horticultural practices and cooperatively develop “best practices” in the garden;
4. Provide training, special programs, or informational lectures, if requested;
5. Provide access to additional resources from the Montgomery County MGs and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, when needed.

Continued on page 5

The Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the 60th Annual Montgomery County Fair

by Sheryl Freishtat and Frank Lostumbo



The 60th Annual Montgomery County Fair is now history, and many kudos and thanks go to the dedicated and innovative volunteers who worked many hours as part of the Fairgrounds Garden team. Their hard work provided visitors an environmental-friendly oasis that included a panoply of native plants, heirloom vegetables, colorful herbs and lush vegetation that lured a record-setting crowd of 10,000 enthusiastic visitors.

Children and adults were enraptured by the Blue Hubbard and French Galeux d'Eysines squash. They observed butterflies and hosts of pollinators, and enjoyed the inviting and magical atmosphere created by whimsical gourds and Malabar spinach while learning about companion planting, effective water use, techniques for reducing pollution of the Bay, rain barrels and rainscapes.

Among the many thousands of visitors who experienced the garden and asked pertinent questions were the Dean of the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Cheng-i Wei and his wife, Wen-pei, and Montgomery County Executive, Ike Leggett. As some visitors stated, it was a fun place to just absorb the beauty of the natural environment.

We also wish to give kudos and thanks to all of the tent volunteers who actively engaged the many visitors on safe horticultural practices with enthusiasm and cheerful smiles. They were all around the garden answering questions, offering suggestions and discussing highlights of the garden.

Harvest Festival and Close Encounters

by Elsie Sullivan

Many thanks for all of you who have already signed up to work Close Encounters. There are still opportunities available and the signup sheets will be at both the September and October meetings or you can e-mail me and I will try to match you with one of the vacancies.

The Harvest Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5. Activities have been finalized and we need co-chairs and workers for the various events. They are as follows:

- Mr. McGregor's Garden (Children's Garden)
- Tussie Mussies
- Plant Clinic and MG Information
- Terra Cotta Pot Painting
- Herbal Tea/Gardening
- Make a Butterfly
- The Bug Game

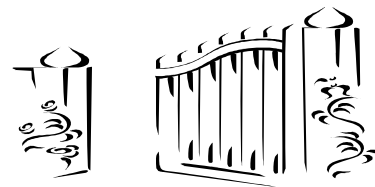
The Festival runs each day from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with setup on Saturday beginning at 9:30 a.m. Sign up sheets will be available at the September and October meetings or you can email me at esull432733@aol.com.

The Festival is sponsored by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in cooperation with Master Gardeners, 4-H and other organizations. If you have not worked the Festival before,

A New Initiative: Master Gardeners Open Gardens

by Taffy Turner, Montgomery County MG

All over Montgomery County there are gardens being tended by Master Gardeners. By definition we are an organization of gardeners. Most of us were gardening long before we took the class and became 'Master Gardeners'. We have sunny gardens, shady gardens, herbaceous perennial gardens, vegetable gardens, established gardens, experimental gardens, collector's gardens and gardens in transition. We have as many different types of gardens as there are Master Gardeners.



What a wonderful opportunity we have to see gardening in Montgomery County by people who really know how to garden here. The Open Gardens will allow us to share our gardens with our colleagues. We can get ideas, ask questions and expand our knowledge both as hosts and as attendees.

The plan is to have one open garden a month (two or more if the hosts live within a couple of miles of each other) with the hosts deciding the time and day. Hosts will provide a brief description of the garden, and, ideally, a plant list to distribute to visitors. Refreshments are optional. The information, directions, etc. will be posted on the listserv, newsletter and website.

If we have several people who are interested in showing their gardens in the same month (May and June are usually popular for garden tours) we could have more than one day of Open Gardens a couple of weeks apart. I will try to alternate the areas – one month Silver Spring, the next Gaithersburg, etc. This will depend on the location of volunteer hosts.

At the July meeting, 12 people signed up to host so we have enough people for the rest of this season as well as much of next year. If you are interested in hosting an Open Garden sometime in the future, please let me know – taffy.turner@earthlink.net, or 301-681-9133. If yours is a certified Baywise garden, please indicate.

And one last incentive: attendees can log up to one hour of continuing education time. Hosts can count service hours for preparation of plant lists and presentation, etc. Mulching, weeding, and general garden maintenance cannot be counted for service hours.



Friends House Gardening Project continued from page 3

Q: How many Master Gardener are working at Friends House?

A: In its first year, Mickey Holloway led a small group of Master Gardeners: Brad Foss, Eamon Magee, Alberta Magzarian, Joe Schechter, and Don Wittig. This year, a group from the class of 2008 interns has joined with the 1st year gardeners: Eva Coffman, Mary Dominique, Julie Fortin, Ruth Heltzer, Jane Keller and Pat Kingsley.

Montgomery County Master Gardeners Open Garden

Margie Richards, Montgomery County MG
12517 Arbor View Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Wednesday, September 10 from 9:30 to 11:30 am
RSVP appreciated
(Rain date: Thursday, September 11, same time)

When I walked with my son-in-law at Brookside before moving here, I said, "I don't need every plant; I can come here." My problem started when our daughter unscrewed the kids swing set and took it with her leaving me with a large wood chipped area in the back yard. She thought we were too old for a swing set! My "gardening" in New York had consisted of tomatoes, strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb (sob, sob, which I can't grow here), zinnias and marigolds.

Years later, I think I'm trying to have one of everything to see how it grows. Sometimes it is a challenge to identify all before they bloom. Scorecard for **native** species is: 5 ferns, about 50 wildflowers, 5 vines, 25 shrubs and 12 trees. I have enjoyed the view overlooking the "tall-mini-meadow" of native plants in the former play area as well as daffodils in season. When we moved in there was a bank covered with ivy and silver maples, azaleas, the standard dogwood tree and pin oak planted by the builder and little else. It has been strictly do-it-myself except for this year when friends have planted, pruned and weeded. The Brookside Nature Center deer have done the layered pruning of perennials recommended by Tracy DiSabato-Aust. I have also had to resort to some paid help for heavy lifting.

Because there is such a hill in the back, those that don't like rocky steps may want to park on Arbor View Road, take a walk on the lower level of garden, walk up the wood chip path (thank you, Brookside Garden ... bucket by bucket the chips have arrived!) and go into the upper garden to view the *Franklinia* tree, which will be blooming.

Directions: From Randolph Road, turn into Garden Gate Road, which is near Kennedy High School. Turn left onto Arbor View Road. Second right is Arbor View Terrace. Address:12517. From the Brookside Gardens Visitors Center entrance: Go across Glenallan Rd., up Heurich Rd. Make first right onto Billman. Make first right onto Garden Gate. Follow above directions.



Bay-Wise Landscaping

by Martha Fisher



"Better water quality through smarter gardening"

What a statement that is! We Master Gardeners are especially aware of the impact we all have on the environment but...how many of your neighbors are? Have they made the connection that what they do affects more than their little piece of the earth? Have they even given it a thought? One way to encourage sustainable landscaping is to have your yard Bay-Wise certified. When the neighbors see the certifying committee walking through your property with clipboards, it truly sparks interest. Later when a Bay-Wise sign is visible they become even more curious.

Interested in making your landscape more environmentally sound? Follow these steps:

1. Log on to <http://www.hgic.umd.edu/media/documents/publications/bw1.qxd.pdf>
2. Download the appropriate MD Yardstick (for landscapes with lawns, for landscapes without lawns or for vegetable gardens)
3. Complete the MD Yardstick
4. Send an email requesting a site visit to: nickfish2002@yahoo.com

The goal is to reach at least 36" on the yardstick by checking off environmentally sound landscape techniques that you put into practice. Each item is assigned a point value.

If you scored well on the Bay-Wise MD Yardstick and you want to show your Bay-Wise pride to all your neighbors this certification program is for you. Once your home landscape is certified you will receive a certificate and small sign to display in your landscape.

Almost all of the Maryland Master Gardener counties have this program in place. Montgomery County has fewer certified landscapes than any other county in the state. Let's change this and show that we care too!

If you are interested in taking the Bay-Wise training course please send me an email (nickfish2002@yahoo.com). If there is enough interest we will ask Wanda MacLachlan to offer the training again soon.

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Master Gardener September 2008 A Great Topic Every Month!

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
<i>January</i>	<i>Rain Gardens</i>	<i>Pam Rowe</i>	<i>Md Dept. EPA</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Raising Cut Flowers</i>	<i>Carol Carrier</i>	<i>MC Master Gardener</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>Outdoor Tropicals & Home Gardens</i>	<i>Joe Seamone</i>	<i>Exotic Landscape Designer</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Top Threat to Landscapes in 2008</i>	<i>Stanton Gill</i>	<i>University of MD</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>New Garden Materials</i>	<i>Gene Sumi</i>	<i>Homestead Gardens</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Improving Analytic Skills for Gardening Problems</i>	<i>Dave Clement</i>	<i>Home & Garden Info Center</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>Hardy Ferns & Associated Plants</i>	<i>Diane Lewis</i>	<i>Brookside Gardens</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>Town Hall Meeting</i>	<i>All Members</i>	<i>MCMG</i>
September	How Low Diversity & Invasives Conspire to Destroy the Landscape	Mike Raupp	University of Maryland
October	Harmful Insects	Brian Clark	PG Cooperative Extension
November	Gardeners with Developmental Disabilities	Woody Woodruff	Red Wiggler Community Farm
December	Honoring Master Gardeners	Everyone	Master Gardeners