

Coordinator's Corner

Maxine Yoon, Master Gardener Coordinator

Hey everyone,

Apologies for sending out the monthly newsletter a little late. Last month, the GI-EI meeting, SERC Tour, and AAUFRC Ice Cream Social and Tour were all a success and thank you so much for coming. This month, we have our annual UME Open House and we need some help! Next month we will return to our usual virtual meetings every second Tuesday at 7pm. I will be out of town from August 21st - 22nd attending a UMD Faculty onboarding tour and from August 25th - 29th attending the National EMG Coordinator's Conference in Santa Fe, NM.

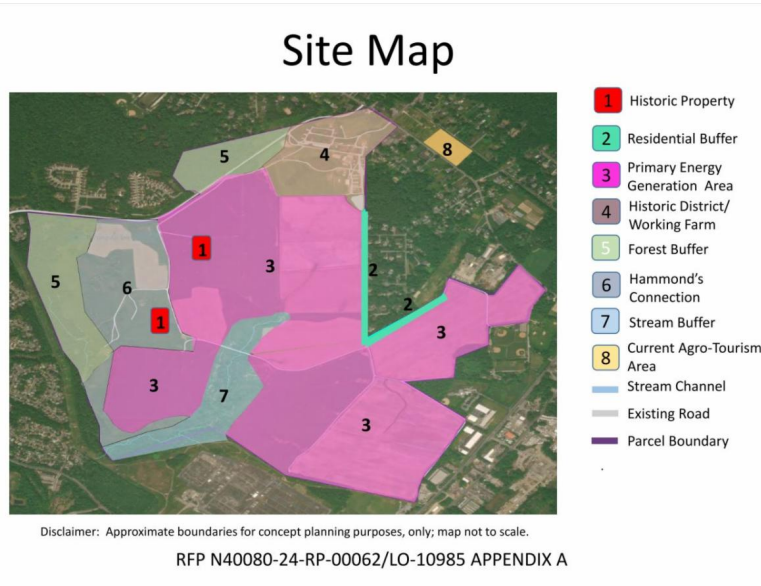
Naval Academy Dairy Farm - Solar Conversion Proposal

I went to the Navy's community conversation meeting last night about their Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Dairy Farm they released a couple of weeks ago. As of right now, I am putting all projects at the Dairy Farm in maintenance mode (including mine) until we hear any further updates which may take some time. The Navy plans on accepting a proposal sometime in January, 2025 and their environmental assessment is going to take at least another year to finish. We may or may not have any updates until 2026. They say that their vision is to successfully integrate development activities with agrivoltaics with local crop cultivation, farming ventures, and the potential for use by local organizations or non-profits and I hope that is the case.

If you'd like to send in any comments or questions as a concerned private citizen, please email NSAA-PAO@us.navy.mil

More information on this initiative can be found here: <https://bit.ly/45blwYI>

Sitemap: <https://govtribe.com/file/government-file/n40080rfp10985-nsa-annapolis-energy-rfp-appendix-a-site-map-dot-pdf>



UME Open House

We would love some help with managing all the guests at our Open House on August 23rd. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Master Gardener volunteers will inform guests where/what is occurring, point people in the right direction, extension office, and urban farm. Guests will also need some assistance with harvesting vegetables in the high tunnel and cut flowers. Some representatives of the dairy farm vegetable and native plant demonstration garden to give guests a guided tour would be great as well and a team from Ask A MG to manage the tabling while Maxine gives a tour of the production garden and beehives.

- 2-3 for high tunnel and cut flower harvesting
- 1 for food service in office
- 2 for Info/service/help (top of hill and by the office)
- 2 for Ask A MG table in extension office conference room
- 1 native plant garden tour
- 1 vegetable garden tour

To attend as a volunteer, please register here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A9AA2FA4FDCF8-50406578-aacume>

Thank you so much!

To attend as a guest, please REGISTER ONLINE - www.bit.ly/AAUMEOPENHOUSE

Feel free to invite friends and family!



Anne Arundel County Extension 2024 Open House



August 23, 2024
1:00 - 4:00 PM

97 Dairy Lane, Gambrills, MD



- * Free family event!
- * Tour Demonstration Garden
- * Meet the Extension Educators
- * Visit the Urban Farm

- * Youth activities
- * Plenty of free parking
- * Giveaways
- * Free refreshments

Register online - www.bit.ly/AAUMEOPENHOUSE








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September MG Monthly Meeting

Dhruti Patel, our Senior Food and Consumer Science (FCS) agent will be presenting a two part series for us next month, Capture the Flavor and Drying Herbs and Spices. The second presentation will be during our monthly meeting. I am very excited about this series and she is an excellent well-spoken presenter. I hope that you are able to make it!

Capture the Flavor

On September 3rd at 10am, Dhruti will discuss the history of herbs and spices, best practices of usage, cooking tips, and storage guidelines. This is an interactive session and will be in-person at the Extension Office. 97 Dairy Lane, Gambrills, MD 21054

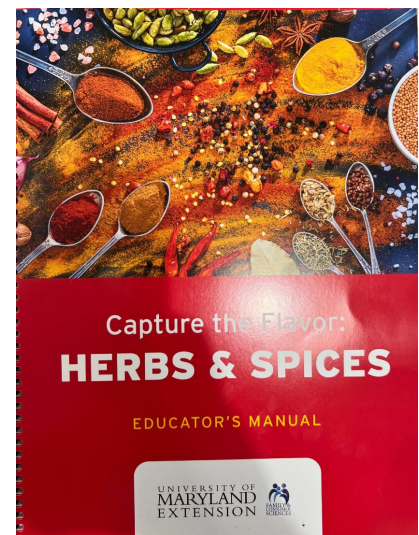
Please use the sign-up genius to register for Capture the Flavor.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A9AA2FA4FDCF8-50591293-capture>

Drying Herbs and Spices - MG Monthly Meeting

On September 10th at 7pm (zoom), she will discuss evidence-based strategies and principles of drying herbs and spices at home with food safety standards.

Dhruti Patel Bio:

Dhruti Patel is a Tenured Family and Consumer Sciences Educator with the University of Maryland Extension. She possesses 16 years of nutrition and health experience in healthcare, community, and academic settings. She possesses bachelor's in food and nutrition, two master's degrees in clinical dietetics and nutritional sciences, and currently doctoral candidate in education. Her areas of expertise are nutrition, stress management, mindfulness, food preservation, and wellness. She authored 23 manuscripts on an array of nutrition and wellness topics and presented over 32 conference proceedings on international, national, and state levels.



She served as a state Nutrition, Health, and Wellness Action Team chair for Maryland Extension and served as a co-chair for One Health strategic initiative for University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Beekeeping

About two weeks ago, when we moved the hives a little bit forward away from the dilapidated house and all the weeds, one of the hives fell over. To put it mildly, the bees were not very happy about that. As we moved the fallen hive to its new location, they got even more upset. They found the only part of my body not covered by the bee suit, my ankles, and by the time the swarm dissipated we counted about 12 dead bees in my boots. I even got stung through the suit on my legs a couple of times, so I must have gotten stung 15+ times. A valuable lesson was



learned; Make sure every part of your body is protected because you never know when mistakes will be made. Otherwise, the bees have been doing great so far and they seem to be very healthy. We put on a 3rd box since they have been running out of space. There hasn't been any incidence of small hive

beetles, wax moths, or mites which is quite rare. We have started monitoring for mites and will continue to do so until the end of the season. We have treatment options at the ready whenever our mite counts past the threshold. I staked down the hives to prepare them for this potentially windy and rainy tropical storm coming in so they should be fine. Thank you Nance Loughrey for helping me out with the bees! If you'd like to join us, please email me.

Production Garden

I have been holding off on the production garden a little bit due to the uncertainty of the future of our time here at the Dairy Farm. Now that we have some sort of an answer, though a bit vague, we will continue our efforts here without any large investments. We have been timing our produce donations to the AAC food bank a day before their mobile food pantry distribution to get the produce out to the consumer as quickly as possible. Now that our summer crops are waning, it is time to transition over to leafy salad greens for the fall. I will be implementing a cover crop to help combat the weeds instead of the wood chip mulch which did little to prevent the perennial weeds from taking over. If you'd like to come help us out, please email me and let me know. And thank you Deb Fritz for your continued help with this project! We have donated about 150 lbs. of produce so far and have the potential for much more.

Stay classy Anne Arundel,

Maxine Yoon, maxyoon@umd.edu



Apprentice Gardens - Kinder Farm Park

Apprentice Garden meets at the Kinder Farm Park community garden #105 in Millersville, every Wednesday at 6:30PM, from April through September. You can join us for the Wednesday meetings, and/or do other-day garden checks and extra watering. There is a sign-in sheet in the garden mailbox for noting your presence and recording your hours.

Educational Outreach Activities (upcoming, monthly)

- Meetings with the families to answer questions, and to work with them and offer advice regarding weeding, watering, de-bugging, fertilizing, pruning and harvesting their crops

Volunteer Opportunities (upcoming, monthly)

- Working with project families to answer questions about their garden spaces, to offer advice and to work with them on garden chores.
- Tending, maintaining and watering the common spaces in the Apprentice Garden, shared by all gardeners.
- Tending, maintaining and watering the pollinator gardens along the outside of the Apprentice Garden fence.
- Providing other-day garden checks and extra watering during dry spells.
- Occasional work parties for specific tasks (none scheduled at this time).



Accomplishments and Challenges

The Apprentice Garden spaces are producing a variety of vegetables. String beans are finished, and the potatoes have been dug. Herbs from the Mediterranean garden, including handfuls of lavender, and basil from the common spaces are available for the families. Plus, cucumbers and okra are ripe, and tomatoes are ripening slowly. The winter squash is escaping its spaces and tucked back into the planting beds. In July, the families picked the late greens, okra, grape tomatoes, some peppers, onions, and beans.

The perennial flower gardens planted by the Master Gardener volunteers are growing well, including the swamp milkweed, and a variety of rudbeckia along the outside of the fence.

Thank you's to Kristin Silva, Kathy Albers, Wendy Boardman, Kathy Enderle, Deb Fritz, and Lourdes Hergenroeder. Thank you, especially, to all our weekend waterers - the lack of rain has been a challenge.

A pool party with a pot luck supper was held for the families and volunteers.

All is well in the Apprentice Garden.

Co-chaired by Janet Clauson and Kristin Silva

janetclauson301@gmail.com, 410.987.2027

ka_silva@verizon.net, 443.254.3133



The Dairy Farm Native Plants Demonstration Gardens

Greetings from the Dairy Farm Project.

Our great crew of MG's has been working hard and moving forward with the refreshing of our gardens.

If you are not familiar with this project, there are several sections of gardens to care for. The main garden area has been thinned, replanted, weeded and mulched and looks great.

Our wonderful volunteers are concentrating on the area around the Firehouse. Mulching was done around the pavilion gardens and we will get more

to finish the firehouse this month.

Otherwise, it is normal maintenance and watering.

Our next scheduled work parties are Saturday, August 10, and Thursday, August 22.
NOTE: WE ARE CHANGING TO OUR SUMMER HOURS OF 8:00 – 11:00 TO AVOID THE HEAT.

We have made great progress in our efforts to REORGANIZE, RENEW, REPLANT AND REFRESH our gardens. There is still a lot to do, so if you are interested, please join us. All are welcome.



Our regular work parties are the second Saturday and Fourth Thursday of each month. We have tools, but please bring your own favorites, gloves, water, etc. Large clippers or loppers will be helpful for this.

If you have any questions, please contact Malcolm Doying at oldcelt100@aol.com or Sandy Dale at sndale55@verizon.net.

Anne Arundel County Fair - Flower Department

Greetings to all Master Gardeners, new and old:
It is time to think about and get ready for this year's Anne Arundel County Fair.

We are excited to invite you to participate this year. As most of you know, this is a Master Gardener project held for only 10 days in September. We have a beautiful display of exhibits from home gardeners throughout the county. Our job is to accept the entries, place them on the shelves according to category, assist the judge on judging day, and release entries to exhibitors at the end of the Fair. We also answer questions from the public on fair days as well as keeping our booth clean and swept and the plants watered. We also are planning a Make-it-Take-it project for the kids on Children's Day.



We will be having a training class at the Fair Office on Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

Even if you have participated in the past, you are encouraged to attend this class as all the rules and procedures have changed. At this class you will learn how to accept entries, fill out the proper forms and identify what the exhibitor presents. This is not difficult, but needs to be done correctly. We have many seasoned MG's to help you so do not be afraid to jump right in and hook up with an experienced person.

We will also serve dinner at 6:30, with the meeting starting promptly at 7:00. This is a really fun event, so please join in. RSVP to Claudia Ploor, cploor@aol.com or Pat Shema, pshema@aol.com so we know how much food to provide. We will send an email to everyone who has signed up previously as well as interns.

Thanks to everyone who has made this a really fun project in the past. Please join us. Pat Shema

Re-Pollinate Anne Arundel

Educational Outreach Activities

- Every Thursday 3-6 and many Saturdays 10-2

Volunteer Opportunities

- Every Thursday 3-6 and many Saturdays 10-2

Accomplishments and Challenges:

RePollinate AACO is continuing to count the inventory but have encountered delays due to the excessive heat.

Fortunately, the plants are in a twice daily irrigated pen and they look great. Once the inventory with species list and quantities is complete, it will be time to collaborate with UMD Master Gardener Extension and the Watershed Steward Academy to assist in finding ideal homes for the full-grown plants in October. Another order of seedlings was picked up from Bonaterra, LLC through the plant grant. This gave us another boost in both species variety and quantity. There could be 5,000 sitting there! The team has been great and we have had new interns from the recent master gardener class join us. If you would like to be on the list to volunteer at the Beelab, email:

lauren_toomey@hotmail.com



Dairy Farm Vegetable Demonstration Gardens

Greetings all MG's.

We continue to water and weed. Thanks to the watering crew during the hot month of July.

CROP REPORT:

GOOD: We finished pulling the beets and onions. The carrots are very nice: long, straight, no forking. Whiter corn is doing well. We are getting a few cucumbers now.

NOT SO GOOD: The groundhog got the new planting of summer squash despite the netting we put up. He just nosed himself right under it, so that's that for squash. Tomatoes and peppers are stunted, and have not recovered. No fruit or new blossoms at this time, but maybe when it cools down some.

The red corn is stunted but there are a few developing ears if the rodent doesn't get it. No eggplant yet.

COMING ALONG: We have nice Basil and celery. We dug some potatoes, but they are still quite small. Potatoes are heat sensitive and will stop growing when soil temperature is 80 degrees or higher. They will grow more when it cools down. I usually harvest late August. Same with sweet potatoes. There have been no tours this month.



Please join in if you have an interest in growing food for your family. Come and learn with us.

Our next scheduled work sessions will be Saturday, August 10, and Thursday, August 22.

Our regular schedule is the second Saturday and fourth Thursday of the month.

NOTE: WE ARE CHANGING TO OUR SUMMER HOURS OF 8:00 – 11:00 TO AVOID THE HEAT.

If you would like to added to or deleted from my mailing list, please let me know. For continuing information, please read your newsletters and Friday Flashes.

Looking forward to another great year,
Pat Shema, Chair pshema@aol.com 410-721-7610

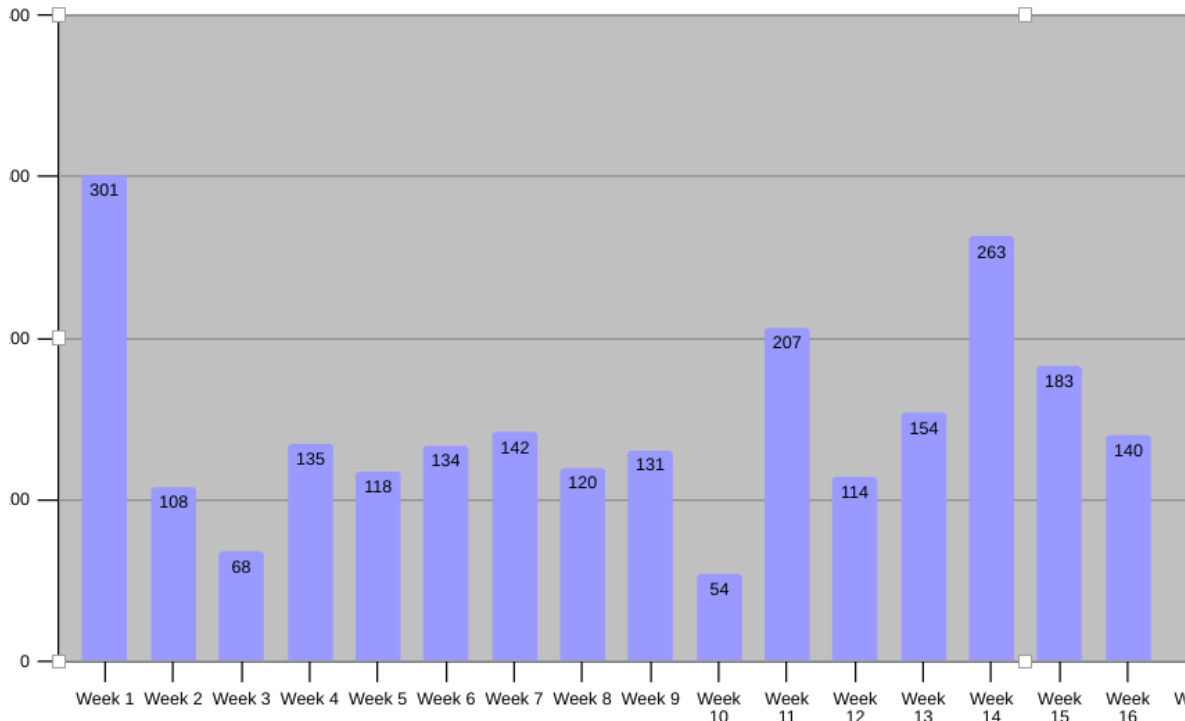
Ask-a-Master Gardener Plant Clinics

Severna Park Farmer's Market

We are so excited to finally have the go-ahead to create a conservation garden at the Severna Park Farmer's Market. This will provide the opportunity to educate visitors from the ground up (literally) amending the soil, proper mulching, native plant selection, and general care. We are also pleased to be working with Watershed Stewards Academy on this project and are grateful that Noelle Chao, WSA Director of Education and Equity Initiatives, along with our own Maxine, have been communicating with the Maryland Transit Authority to secure permission to plant the property. Anita Robertson from the Farmer's Market has generously offered her support as well. We've had multiple offers to help from fellow vendors and visitors. Our hope is to begin the clean-up and soil amendment process this fall and plant in the spring. Kim Forry will design the plot and we will be working through the winter to create labels and signage and write grant(s) for funding of materials. This is not a separate MSDE project, but rather an opportunity to further build a community of like-minded folks at all levels of learning including Master Gardeners, Watershed Stewards, vendors and visitors from the Severna Park Market.



Total Count to date: 2372 contacts for all 3 clinics and all "one-off" clinics



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mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
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program.intake@usda.gov.
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