

**WE'RE NEVER TOO OLD OR TOO YOUNG TO LEARN—
AND IT'S FREE FROM MASTER GARDENERS!**

Maritta Perry Grau, Frederick County Master Gardener

This week it's back to school and learning new things for Maryland public school students. But it's never too late for any of us to learn new things. Master Gardeners in all 50 states love to pass on to you what we're constantly learning about local flora and fauna. We reach out through schools, city and county fairs, farmers' markets, seminars, and any other venue where we can answer your questions and provide you with information you need to make your gardens and landscapes the best they can be. Below are some ways you can learn, in partnership with us.

Learn by exploring the Master Gardener Demo Gardens. Stop by the University of Maryland Extension Office at 330 Montevue Lane in Frederick to get free help in identifying a plant, a plant disease, an odd insect you've found, or to get answers to many other plant-related questions you may have. Tour our demonstration shade gardens in front of the extension building; the vegetable plots, espaliered fruit trees, shrubs, herb spiral, and table gardens behind (please close the gate as you enter/leave the gardens to help keep out the deer); and our hedgerow between Montevue Lane and the parking lot. Most of our gardens have literature boxes with free flyers that identify what's been planted and provide other pertinent information. And take time to view the new Storm Water Management project.

Learn by visiting the Master Gardener Children's Garden. A part of the Demo Gardens at Montevue Lane, it has lots of interesting plants for children to touch and explore. We also hold periodic readings there for children accompanied by an adult. The next one is Wednesday, September 11, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. A Master Gardener will read the children a story, then lead them in a garden-related activity. It's free and no registration is required. Rain date will be September 12.

Learn by visiting the Master Gardener booth at the Great Frederick Fair. Going to the Great Frederick Fair? Stop at the Master Gardeners' booth in the Farm and Garden Building, 14A. We'll be there Sunday, September 15 (Master Gardener Sunday), through Friday, September 20 (Kids' Day). We'll have hands-on activities for children. You'll be able to get information about storm water management and environmentally friendly landscape practices; learn how to garden to attract butterflies and bees (all good pollinators for your vegetables and flowers), how to create a rain garden, and how to make a rain barrel.

Learn by attending our seminars. We have exciting, educational, free Saturday-morning seminars coming up this fall. You'll want to register early for these as they fill up fast. Registration opens three weeks before each seminar date. To register, go to our website (bit.ly/FCMG_Happenings); or call 301-600-1595. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.; walk-ins are welcome if there is room. Coming up in September are seminars on techniques to harvest and store your garden produce, fruits, and herbs; and a seminar on the paw-paw, a little-known native fruit tree. In October we'll teach you how to make decorations with natural materials and how to clean up the garden for winter.

Learn by visiting Master Gardener booths at local farmers' markets. Currently, our Pollinator Committee staffs a booth at the Saturday Farmers' Market on West Patrick Street, in front of Wolfe's Furniture Store, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Learn by becoming a Master Gardener. Sign-ups for the 2020 training program begin October 1. The classes portion will be held on Thursdays, February 13 through April 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Classes cover a huge variety of horticulture topics. Many of the sessions are taught by University of Maryland faculty and experts in the field. Contact Susan Trice, Master Gardener Coordinator, for more information (strice@umd.edu; 301-600-1596).

For more information about gardening, visit <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening>, or call us at 301-600-1596.



From left are Rick Walter, University of Maryland Extension (UME) Area Director for the Central Region; Stephanie Mathias, State UME Master Gardener Coordinator; Jan Gardner, County Executive of Frederick County; and Shannon Moore, Manager of the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources. The four were present for "Tapping Day" in June when the new Storm Water Management System was formally put into use at the University of Maryland Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. *Photo courtesy of the Frederick County Master Gardeners*

Pictured are a few of the demonstration gardens in early June behind the University of Maryland Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. *Photo courtesy of the Frederick County Master Gardeners*





Pictured is a playful tabletop succulent garden at the demonstration gardens behind the University of Maryland Extension Office, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick. *Photo courtesy of the Frederick County Master Gardeners*



Earlier this summer, the University of Maryland extension offices at 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick, in cooperation with Frederick County government, celebrated a year-long updating and renovation of the storm water management system to a new state-of-the-art system. Shown above are edging grasses and mulch, a part of the filtering system behind the plants, and a portion of the rock drystream bed that will help control and divert water from the parking lot. Stormwater enters into the

system from a curb opening and then is filtered through mulch and organic layers before being transferred out through a pipe system. *Photo courtesy of the Frederick County Master Gardeners*

For more information about the Frederick County Master Gardener/Horticulture Program, visit: <http://extension.umd.edu/frederick-county/home-gardening> or call Susan Trice at the University of Maryland Extension Frederick County office, 301-600-1596.

Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersfrederickcountymaryland>

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