

The Compost

Spring 2022

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER

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CC MG ANNUAL PLANT SALE

All hands on deck! It's time to go online and designate plants, vegetables and herbs that you will be donating. CC MG County Coordinator Kaitlyn Baligush has created a sign-up for our pre-work day (May 19 from 9 am -1 pm) at Kathy Jenkins home online and also for work shifts for the actual plant sale (May 21). We need you to sign-up. This is our largest outreach event with our community. It is the quickest way to earn your volunteer hours! In addition to the plant sale, we will have several on-going activities: "Ask a Master Gardener Plant Clinic" and "Bay-Wise" educational booth; potato and lettuce box demonstrations.

If you are growing vegetables, we have pots and PF-15 growing medium in the shed at the Extension Office. You need to bring your own container to get the soil. Please let Kaitlyn know if you are coming to get supplies so she can assist you or open the locked shed. You can also call either of us for the locked shed code for after-office-hours. Being unable to participate for the last two years, we are very excited to have our plant sale this year and look forward to working with you. Anyone is encouraged to join our plant sale zoom meetings.

For more information, please contact CC MG Terry Thir at (240) 441-4902 or thirccmg@aol.com or CC MG County Coordinator Kaitlyn Baligush at (301) 934-5403.

By CC MG Terry Thir,
Project Leader

JOIN US!



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**Charles County
Master Gardener
Annual Plant Sale**

Date:
Saturday, May 21, 2022

Where:
La Plata Farmer's
Market parking lot
on Talbot Street

Time: 08:00 am - 2:00 pm

SHOP
Perennials
Native Plants (photos)
Shrubs
Vegetables
Herbs
Heirloom Tomatoes

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<https://www.facebook.com/charlescountymastergardeners/>

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CC MG ANNUAL PLANT SALE CONT.

Desirable plants for Plant Sale 2022

Ornamental Plants: Shasta Daisy, Coreopsis, Coneflower, Asters, Chrysanthemums, Iris in bloom (or with color noted on label), Daylilies, Ferns, Yarrow, Heuchera (Coral Bells), Columbine, Lungwort (Pulmonaria), "Wild" Geranium - perennial **NOT** the annual variety, Evening Primrose or Sundrops, Bleeding Heart, unusual Hosta, Bugleweed (Ajuga), Hens & Chicks (Sempervivum), Pachysandra and Black-eyed Susan.

There are many others – if you enjoy a plant, others will probably enjoy it, too. There are also a few listed at the end that technically aren't invasive, but which do multiply. Please bring only **a few** of these as we tend to receive a lot of them.

Ornamental Plants that are not invasive, but **not desirable** as they don't sell: Sedum Acre, Hosta and Rose of Sharon.

Vegetables and Herbs - for inventory purposes, if you grow these, **please register online on sign-up** created by CC MG County Coordinator Kaitlyn Baligush.

Shrub & Tree Seedlings: Have to be over **4ft tall** to sell.

Natives: We will be buying natives that attract butterflies but if you have any of the following, they are **very popular**: Christmas Fern, Columbine (yellow or orange), Bee Balm, Spiderwort, Native Bleeding Heart (Dicentra eximia), or Epimedium.

INVASIVE PLANTS - Please do **NOT** donate: Ficaria Verna (Fig Buttercup), Geranium Lucicium (Shining Cranesbill), Iris Psuedacorus (yellow Flag Iris), Maiden Grass (Miscanthus Sinensis), Bishop's Weed (Aegopodium Podagraria), Yellow Archangel or Yellow Deadnettle (Lamium Galeobdolon), or Leatherleaf Mahonia (Mahonia Bealei).

And the Following:

Herbaceous Plants: Exotic Bamboos, Common Orange Daylily (Hemerocallis Fulva), or Exotic Bush Honeysuckle;

Shrubs: Japanese and European Barberry (Berberis Thunbergii and B. Vulgaris), Japanese Spiraea, Privets (Ligustrum spp.), Euonymus Alatus (Burning Bush) or Butterflybush (Buddleja Davidii);

Trees: Callery Pear (Pryus Calleryana) including Bradford Pear or Mimosa (Albizia Julibrissin);

Vines: Common and Big Periwinkles (Vinca Minor and V. Major), English Ivy, Wintercreeper (Euonymus Fortunei) or Wisteria.

Thank You!

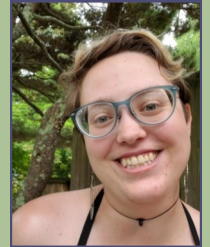
COORDINATOR'S CORNER



Woodland Phlox

Charles County Master Gardeners are back in business! As you will read in this issue of The Compost, we have many projects and events underway this spring. Master Gardeners will be present at NatureFest (<https://www.neighborhoodcreativeartscenter.org/nature-fest>) on Saturday, April 30th at Tilghman Lake Park and Port Tobacco Market Day on Saturday, May 7th. We will have some great take-aways at each event. We will return to the La Plata Farmers Market for our Plant Sale on Saturday, May 21st. For sale are native perennials, vegetables and lettuce boxes, and there will also be educational demonstrations.

We hope to see you out in the community!



April 17th-23rd was National Volunteer Appreciation week. In 2021, CC MGs contributed over 4,000 hours of volunteer service. I want to congratulate and thank each of you for your wonderful service to the community.

We also had a wonderful spring picnic social on April 23rd at Port Tobacco River Park. The comradery, weather, and eagles were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to those who attended.



Happy Spring and Happy Gardening!

Article by Kaitlyn Baligush,
CC MG County Coordinator/photos
by CC MG Brent Burdick

CC MG SPRING BASIC TRAINING 2022



Making 'seed bombs'!
R.-I.: CC MG Avery Johnson, MG Trainees June Leyland, Matt Perez, Sandra Heredia, Julie Pearson and Karen Hile.

The CC MG Spring 2022 Basic Training Course is almost finished. The course is primarily held through zoom with some additional in-person workshops.

For example, in March, CC MGs Tina Bailem, Brent Burdick and Inette Fury demonstrated our "Needs of Seeds" program so Trainees could see one of the ways we teach youth about the world of seeds. They were able to learn about different types of seeds and the ways they are spread, how to plant a 'bean cup', and how to make 'seed bombs'.

"How to plant a potato basket" was added as a bonus activity. The hands-on activities were enjoyed by all!

In April, CC MG Trainees also met with some members of our Bay-Wise team (CC MGs Rose Markham, Tima McGuthry-Banks, Molly Moore, Terry Thir, and Kathy Jenkins) who gave presentations on Bay-Wise gardening practices and a hands-on demonstration of our educational program "Who polluted the Potomac."



MG Trainee Sandra Heredia adding pollutants to the "Potomac River"

Article/ photos by Kaitlyn Baligush,
CC MG County Coordinator

MOVING MOUNTAINS!



In late March, two teams of CC MGs helped move some of the mountain range of wood chips in my driveway. Team One, stationed at my house, shoveled wood chips into pick-up trucks, which were volunteered by other MGs. Waiting at the Bel Alton Extension Office, Team Two was ready to unload the wood chips to cover the existing Demo Gardens.

Altogether five pick-up trucks of wood chips were transported and unloaded onto the MD Historical Garden, the Bay-Wise Garden, and the Native Pollinator Garden. Two additional areas, the Spiral Herb Garden and the Raised Bed/Container Garden were covered with cardboard and wood chips to prepare for our next installations.

Thank you to Team One and Team Two: Bill Allen, Gail Black and husband, Bruce, Brent Burdick and nephew, Kathy Davis, Kathy Jenkins and husband, Roy, Brian Larson, Janet McGrane, Kay Redmond, Terry Thir, and Teri White for their hard work. With plans for the new gardens, I look forward to the mountain range of wood chips diminishing into a single mountain and eventually to a molehill.

Article/ photos by CC MG Kathleen Jenkins





BAY-WISE CORNER!



Happy Spring Master Gardeners!

We know it's springtime when we see plantings popping up in our gardens that we can identify and then wonder about all those other plants that show up and we haven't a clue on what they could be.

Our Bay-Wise team has been busy this winter. We learned that the Neighborhood Creative Art Center was seeking MG volunteers to provide education presentations to its community. When we reached out to the Director of the Center to see if there was any interest in adding a horticulture program to the homeschoolers program, she immediately loved the idea of teaching her group about gardening and ultimately – planting their own vegetable garden. With the approval of the CC MG coordinator, we began our first class in February. The youngsters were very excited and actually drew up a design and layout for a no-till garden. Once they learned about soil, plants, how they grow, what are cool and warm season crops and how to keep them healthy, they selected the veggie plants, started seeds indoors, made up labels and watched them grow. The class was a success and we look forward to working with the class again next year. Here are some pics of the homeschoolers during some of our sessions. Enjoy!

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 BAY-WISE
A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



On April 13, we visited the Southern MD Foodbank Garden and participants were given a tour by CC MG Brent Burdick and his team. They learned about different vegetable beds in the garden; the strawberry bed was a big hit. They also tasted a chive herb and then had the opportunity to do some transplanting. All were intrigued by the potato basket demonstration and loved the idea that potatoes can grow in a "real" basket. At the end of our tour the youngsters were given plant container kits and seeds so that they could start a small garden at home. It was a lovely event and we thank Brent's team for engaging with such enthusiasm. Attendees enjoyed every minute and raved about how much fun they had. Please read CC MG Brent Burdick's update on the SMD Food Bank Garden for more.



Article cont. next page



BAY-WISE CORNER! CONT.



On March 25, CC MGs Rose Markham, Kathy Jenkins and CC MG County Coordinator Kaitlyn Baligush met with Paula Proctor, who is the Planner for the Planning and Growth Management Division of CC. The purpose of the meeting was to find out how we could assist her with home owner visits regarding maintenance of rain garden and retention ponds. It was decided that we would at some future date accompany one or two inspectors on a field inspection. We then will have a better idea on how to serve the county.

On Project Day, April 16, some of the Bay-Wise team members gave presentations on water irrigation, native plants, “Who Polluted the Potomac”, and the Melwood vegetable and pollinator gardens. The trainees who attended were very engaged. My thanks to CC MG Tima McGuthry-Banks who shared her Olla “Clay-Pot” irrigation system, CC MG Molly Moore on the importance of native plants, CC MG Kathy Jenkins on the Potomac River pollution issues, and C MG Terry Thir on sharing her experience with Melwood gardens. It was a successful opportunity to meet some of our new class of future interns.

We were also very busy on Saturday distributing 148 “buffers in a bag” to Charles County Homeowners, who had registered for the program beginning in January. They were offered a small bundle (9 seedlings) or large bundle (15 seedlings). Each bundle contained a mixture of Northern Red Oak, Red Maple, River Birch and Persimmon. A big thank you to Kaitlyn for registration and coordination of the event and CC MGs Barbara Hays, Jennifer Godlewski, and Janet McGrane for distributing the seedlings.



This was the first year that CC participated in the program and the Forest Service provided the seedlings. The Maryland Forest Service and the Potomac Watershed Partnership designed the program to assist homeowners in planting trees and shrubs to create a streamside buffer on or adjacent to a waterway. The buffer provides habitat for wildlife, reduces sediment, fertilizer, and other toxic chemicals from entering the waterways while stabilizing riverbanks and helping to prevent erosion. There was a huge response by homeowners wanting to participate and we plan on providing the program each year.

I would like to take this time to reintroduce our current CC MGs and our upcoming CC MG Interns to the Bay-Wise Certificate program administered by UME and CC MGs. The Bay-Wise program promotes environmentally sound landscape practices to protect our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay; we provide an easy to use ‘yardstick’ as a tool to do a self-assessment of your property prior to scheduling an on-site certification with MGs. Once certified you receive a Bay-Wise sign, a certificate and are eligible for the real estate tax credit. Our goal is to certify all our MGs so they can go out into the community and certify all those residents who need help and to save them money on their taxes. COVID put a hold on the last two years so we have a lot of lost time to make up.

Charles County offers a 50% storm water remediation fee credit that is included in your property taxes for Bay-Wise certified properties. The fee is \$115 for 2022, giving you a savings of \$57.50 on your tax bill. The credit is applied each calendar year.

Take a few minutes to acquaint yourself with the certification process by downloading these links and check those practices you are already using. The yardstick and application are fill-in PDFs and can be found [here](#). Scroll down to “How Do I Get My Home Landscape or Vegetable Garden Certified as Bay-Wise?”

Article continued on page 11

MELWOOD HORTICULTURAL THERAPY PROJECT SPRING 2022 UPDATE

Master Gardeners (MGs) and volunteers have been very busy since February planting flowers, herbs and vegetable seeds. The greenhouse is full of seedlings that are growing at a very fast rate. We are also excited to help with many of the CC MGs projects. Seeds were planted for the upcoming NatureFest that will be held April 30. We planted smaller varieties of zinnias, marigold and basil that can easily be planted in flower pots and containers. They look fabulous. We will have extra plants if any other projects are interested. Many herbs will be planted in our demonstration garden.

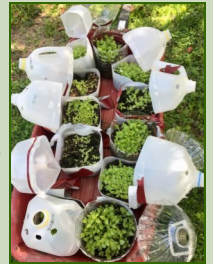


On April 6th, CC MG Gail Walker and I made the epic ride to Chief Mountain Farms, LLC, in Port Deposit, MD, to pick-up 10 flats of native plugs to grow in the greenhouse. We purchased: *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly weed); *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp milkweed); *Symphytotrichum nova-belgii* (New York asters); *Baptisia australis* (Wild Blue Indigo); *Echinacea purpurea* (Purple coneflowers); *Liatris spicata* (Blazing Star); *Monarda didyma* (Scarlet beebalm); *Phlox divaricata* (Woodland blue phlox); *Penstemon* (Husker red); and *Solidago nemoralis* (Gray goldenrod). A lot of work went into potting up 720 natives and caring for them daily. We are very fortunate to have access to Melwood's greenhouse. The plants have really grown quickly and many are now outside in our hardening-off area to get acclimated to growing outside. Mother Nature has not been our friend. We had to put row cover clothes on our outside plants to protect



them during several unseasonal cold surges. We are now fighting tent worms who want to eat the plants.

CC MG Terry Thir also attempted her first experience with winter sowing. Seeds were sown in early February. I now have an abundance of Lil Joe Pye weed that I will be caring for and donating to the plant sale.



Easter Egg Eggstravaganza – This event was held on April 9th at Melwood Recreation Center in Nanjemoy, MD. CC MG Avery Johnson and her sister Lydia (Melwood volunteer) created natural egg dyes from vegetables. They used red cabbage (blue dye), beets (red dye), hibiscus flowers (blue/violet), and turmeric (yellow dye). Over 200 eggs were hard boiled and dyed by Melwood participants, staff and CC MG Linda Bronsdon. CC MGs Kathy Davis, Gail Walker, Linda Bronsdon, Avery Johnson, Jan Lakey-Waters and Terry Thir helped educate children and families on how to make the natural dyes. Avery and Lydia were able to educate in Spanish as well. It was a fun family event sponsored by United Way and Melwood.



Article cont. next page



MELWOOD CONT.



Learning Center – CC MG Brian Larson has taken the lead for the vegetable gardens. He has redesigned our beds, shoveled tons of earth and rototilled the beds. CC MGs helped adding leaf growth and bone meal to enrich the soil. We also cleared out the raised beds and trimmed herbs. Again, Mother Nature has made it really hard to get the work done or to plant outside. We hope in the next few weeks to plant tomatoes and other herbs outside with Melwood clients.

Pollinator Gardens – CC MGs Pam Sarvis and Terry Thir weeded the pollinator garden. We will be digging up several varieties of natives for our plant sale. The spiral herb garden received a major haircut and we will be adding new plants. Melwood participants weeded the tee-pee and other native gardens. All are excited to plant sunflowers and scarlet runner beans around the tee-pee garden. Zinnias and Tithonian will be grown from seed and planted in other beds. Milkweed plants are emerging in their dedicated flower bed. To date, we have seen white cabbage, tiger and zebra swallowtails. We will track the different types of butterflies seen visiting the gardens.



Other Melwood Volunteer Opportunities

Melwood is preparing for the summer camps and disabled veteran retreats. If you are interested in becoming a vetted volunteer, please contact CC MG Terry Thir, Melwood Liaison or Suse Greenstone, Manager, Horticultural Therapy program at SGreenstone@melwood.org.



L.-r.: CC MGs Kathy Davis, Gail Walker, and Pam Sarvis, “embodying the spirit of working at Melwood” (Terry Thir)



Article/ photos by CC MG Terry Thir



L.-r.: CC MGs Brian Larson and Suse Greenstone, Manager, Horticultural Therapy program, hard at work in the vegetable garden

SOUTHERN MARYLAND FOOD BANK GARDEN

The Southern Maryland Food Bank “Seeds of Hope” Community Learning Garden is off to a great start! Our project managers, CC MGs Brent Burdick, Tina Bailem, and Inette Furey, began planning in February for this year’s garden. On Valentine’s Day, we started our first jugs of winter sown seeds (kale, spinach, and Swiss Chard) and planting sweet potatoes indoors to generate slips.

Due to inclement weather, work in the garden itself did not actually get started until late March. Over a series of week-day mornings and Saturday sessions through April, MGs, Interns, and guests started cleaning up the garden, planting more jugs of winter sown seeds, planting potato baskets, preparing the raised beds for spring planting, and tending the crops of kale and spinach that wintered over in the garden. We also hosted our first youth-group outreach activity.

The raised beds that were planted with Winter Rye last fall were all covered with cardboard to kill off that cover crop. We cleaned out and refilled the rain barrels, and weeded the open beds that housed the wintered -over kale and spinach. In addition, the fencing around the garden was enhanced to prevent deer from jumping over the garden’s pallet perimeter to eat our crops, as the deer had done last year. We used the old bamboo from prior year trellises to build barriers above the pallets. A special thanks goes out to CC MGs Brent Burdick, Bob Peregoy, Brian Larson, Tom Belote, Linda Ivko, and others for all the ‘wraps and fraps’ they did lashing the bamboo into rail-like fencing.

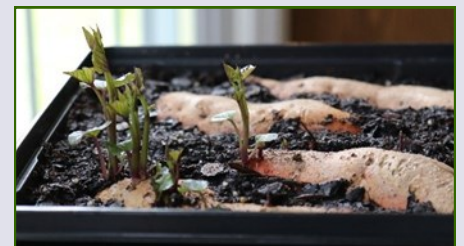


In all, over 38 jugs were winter sown with seeds. CC MGs Inette Fury, Linda Ivko, Gail Black, Brian Larson, Sally Matts, Avery Johnson, and Trainee Sandra Heredia contributed at various times so that, in addition to our first three jugs, we now have broccoli, carrots, cilantro, peppers (Anaheim, Jalapeno, Sweet, Long Sweet Blend, California Wonder, Thai Hot, Habanero, Hot Salsa Blend, and Hot Cayenne), tomatoes (Red Cherry, Roma, Rutgers, Beef Steak), tomatillos, kohlrabi, Butternut Squash, zucchini, Yellow Straightneck Squash, cucumbers, cantaloupe, basil, cilantro, dill, lavender, spearmint, and red Mexican sunflowers (seeds from last year’s garden). A special thanks goes to CC MGs Marlene Smith and Molly Moore whose training this past winter led us to our first attempts at Winter Sowing for our Food Bank demonstration garden.



Several MGs on various occasions planted a total of eight round and two oblong laundry baskets with potatoes. Four small baskets were planted with Yukon Gold, four small baskets with red, and the two oblong baskets with blue potatoes.

The sweet potatoes that were planted indoors in February, started growing vines in March, and now (in April) have great vines. The vines are ready to be processed for turning the small leaf/stems into slips.



Article continued next page

SOUTHERN MARYLAND FOOD BANK GARDEN CONT.

We hosted our first outreach youth group activity on April 13th. CC MGs Brent Burdick, Tina Bailem, Tori Crichlow, and Meg Mack, along with our UME Master Gardener Coordinator for CC, Kaitlyn Baligush, conducted tours and gardening demonstrations for a group of home-schooled children (and their families) from the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center (NCAC) of La Plata.

In addition to a brief tour of the garden, the children transplanted Swiss chard, spinach, and kale (that we had winter sown last February) into the garden. Next they harvested kale and spinach that had wintered over. The children presented their harvest to the Food Bank staff – this was the first harvest from the garden this season. (The Food Bank was going to use the harvest for a dinner they were sponsoring that night.) At the end of their garden activities, participants received a pot, watering can, bag of soil, instructions, and seeds from the Food Bank so they could start their own gardens at home. A special thanks goes to CC MG Rose Markham who set up this activity for NCAC – see related article elsewhere in this issue.



We are anxious for warm weather to get here! We want to get more of our spring and summer crops started. Also, we plan on harvesting more bamboo this spring so we can build new trellises where they are needed in the garden for our cucumbers, tomatoes, Butternut squash, cantaloupes and Birdhouse gourds.

Article by CC MG Brent Burdick; photos by CC MGs Tori Crichlow, Meg Mack, Sally Matts, Tina Bailem, Rose Markham, Brent Burdick and others.

“ALL THE DIRT ON WINTER SOWING” UPDATE

Little did Molly and I know when we turned our passion for winter sowing into a presentation for the CC MGs last fall that we were on to one of the hottest trends in home gardening. Our presentation has received an unexpected amount of interest from not only many of our fellow CC MGs (CC MGs are winter sowing for the upcoming plant sale and for the SM Food Bank), but also from others around the state.

There was a write up on our presentation in the recent [UME CC Connection Spring 2022 newsletter](#) (thank you Kaitlyn!), and Jon Traunfeld (Extension Specialist & Director, Home and Garden Information Center) included winter sowing as a low-cost, low-risk climate-resilient gardening technique in his recent Maryland Grows Blog [“Comfy plant places and new garden spaces for vegetables”](#). The blog included examples of my 2022 winter sown peas and my 2021 winter sown tomatoes.

Jon also included his current experiments with winter sowing and the effects of various soil mixtures on seed germination and seedling growth in his recent Grow It Eat It [“Seed Starting and Planning Your Garden for Climate Change”](#) webinar, which was recorded for those unable to attend.

As of 4/15, [“All the Dirt on Winter Sowing”](#) currently has 16,714 views and 581 likes, thanks to the many other social media mentions it has gotten.

Winter sowing is a game changer! If you have not tried it, it's not too late. With the winter season behind us, you can now turn your attention to spring and summer sowing! Check out the spring and summer sowing information on the Winter Sowers Facebook group [here](#).



A portion of my 2022 mostly winter sown containers, mostly native plants

Article and photo by CC MG Marlene Smith

BAY-WISE CORNER! CONT.

First, download the appropriate MD Yardstick along with an application either for landscapes or vegetable gardens. Complete the application. If you live in Charles County, contact CC MG County Coordinator Kaitlyn Baligush at kbaligus@umd.edu to sign up for a site visit for certification. Do not submit your completed yardstick and application before you contact your local MG program. If you need assistance, the extension phone number is 301-934-5403 or you can contact me at rosemarkham38@gmail.com.

Here is the information for our upcoming **Bay-Wise Training** this fall. Save the dates and plan to attend. The information this program offers is phenomenal. You actually will be certifying an on-site property for final certification. It is usually held at a MG's home; you will be accompanied by 2-3 Bay-Wise MGs to assist you. Look for upcoming emails on location and other updates.

Date: 2-Day In-house Training
November 2 and November 9
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Until next time, happy gardening!

Article and photos by CC MG and Bay-Wise Coordinator
 Rose Markham and CC MG and
 Backyard Buffer Program Coordinator Janet McGrane

AEROGARDEN AND IDOO HYDROPONIC GARDENS

What do you give a person who has everything? Last Christmas I received an Aerogarden hydroponic garden. I figured as long as I have it, I might as well use it. I set it up on New Years Eve. Two days later the first sprouts appeared. From then on, I was hooked. I inspected the garden every day to find new growth as well as new sprouts. My Aerogarden was the six pod model which sells for about \$130 on Amazon. The seeds come already packed in the sponge molds. I tried thyme, dill, mint, Thai basil, basil and parsley.

I enjoyed watching the growth so much that I got an IDOO hydroponic garden for my birthday in February. This model has 12 Pods and sells for about \$80. This time I planted lettuce (2 kinds), cilantro, peppers, lavender spinach and dill. This garden is also doing well. So far, I have harvested dill, basil and thyme which we have used in numerous dishes. I took the mint and parsley out of the Aerogarden and transplanted them into pots which I will further transplant outdoors when the weather permits. I replaced these with more lettuce. For those avid summer gardeners who long to see something grow, I highly recommend winter hydroponics. It's fun, interesting and delicious.



Aerogarden after 3 weeks



IDOO garden after planting



Aerogarden after 6 weeks



Lettuce after 1 week



Dill after 1 week

STREAM RESTORATION



It rained a lot in the summer of 2020. During one of the many downpours, a big chunk of our creek “blew out”, meaning the land along the edge of the creek simply disappeared overnight, leaving a gaping space with ugly, distended roots. I researched “stream restoration” and “live stakes” and learned this latter term means cuttings from certain tree species stuck in the ground to hold the erosion control fabric on a newly sloped creek side (see photo).

Once I started reducing the angle of the creek wall, I found a huge tire buried two feet below the original ground level. More than likely, this man-made barrier contributed to the failure, but it had to come out. The tire acted as a sinkhole, filled with wet clay and no organic matter or natural stones. Once it was out, I still had to lower the angle down to the stream, only now a much bigger area than originally anticipated because the tire removal left such a large hole.

The erosion control fabric is held in place with three-foot lengths of sweet bay magnolias. The various extension articles also recommend red twig dogwood, which I will add closer to the end of March or early April. The general success rate of rooting is only 50%.

One other takeaway is the recommendation to leave the erosion control fabric in place for a very long time (as in years). The fabric comes with no directions (and in 120-foot lengths from Home Depot for \$60) but there were many on-line reviewers noting removal caused tentative rooting to be destroyed. The straw is “woven” with a very thin plastic grid about the size of bird netting, only much thinner.

For a helpful link with more information please click [here](https://extension.psu.edu/live-staking-for-stream-restoration) or copy and put this info in your browser bar: <https://extension.psu.edu/live-staking-for-stream-restoration>.



VICTORIA PARK SENIOR APT PROJECT



Raised beds prior to spring cleaning

Greetings, Fellow Gardeners!

It has been a busy spring already with the gardeners and residents at Victoria Park (Vic Park) Senior Apartments. The team has conducted several exciting events at the facility in Waldorf. The residents of Vic Park are learning to take care of their community indoor herb garden that now consists of basil, mint, sage, oregano, thyme and 2 varieties of garlic in containers, in the garden box area planted last fall. The garlic plants in the outdoor pots are growing nicely. CC MGs are now allowed inside the facility. The CC MG Vic Park team developed and conducted a two-part (March 5th and April 9th, 2022) program entitled “Best Practices for Raised Bed Gardening” for the residents.

Each educational session also included a hands-on activity at the outdoor raised garden beds, in anticipation of the spring growing season.

The educational presentation for session 1 consisted of an overview of raised bed gardening. The topics included preparing (testing) bed soil for the best crops, a discussion of what the residents wanted to grow and the soil testing process. Participants and CC MGs worked on 6 raised beds to collect the sample that would be sent away for soil analysis and actively engaged in some preliminary bed preparation.

The topics for session 2 included a review of the soil test results and information about soil remediation and amendment, specifically related to the garden boxes for each gardener. Vic Park Jaycees Building (11060 Weymouth Ct) Property Manager, Ms. Chaundra Brown, and 5 children volunteers (including two 4-Hers plus their mom!) worked side-by-side with 6 Vic Park gardeners to clean up the beds and add fresh soil to remediate the soil in the raised beds. The wonderful team of CC MGs that participated in this activity included Donna Ball, Lori Guido, Linda Ivko, Brian Larson, Julie Nethon-Williams, Erika Smith, Gail Enid Walker and Karen Westhead.



Vic Park residents, volunteers and CC MGs remediating soil



Vic Park residents and CC MGs working on spring clean-up of boxes

Everyone had a great time working together and sharing their love for gardening. In addition, the Vic Park gardeners have started growing the seedlings they will use for their crops this year using the seeds provided by the Extension Office and the knowledge gained during the session in November 2021 regarding growing and care of seedlings. We are all excited to see the great crops to be produced this year. Future activities proposed include a composting workshop with installation of inside and outside units and learning to grow ginger, turmeric and other container crops.

Additional photos and videos taken during the “Best Practices for Raised Garden Boxes and Soil Preparation” activity are located in the Box. Please click [here](#) and [here](#).

Vic Park Project meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. via zoom. Contact Michelle Chenault (cell # 301-526-3225 or email vmchenault@gmail.com) for more information and to receive email invitations to the meetings.



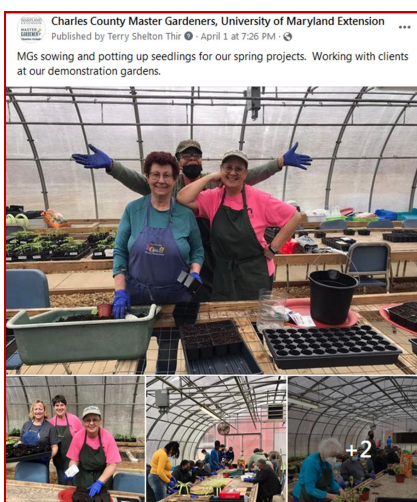
FACEBOOK CORNER!



The power of social media continues to bring more followers to the CC MG's Facebook page, and over the last quarter we have included more posts on current CC MG projects and events. If you have not done so, check out the recent posts on several of our projects.



[NCAC/4H/CCMG Pollinator Project](#)



[Prepping plants for upcoming events](#)

Has your project been featured on Facebook? If not, please share photos and a brief description of your projects to Terry (thirccmg@aol.com) or Marlene (nikhaven@comcast.net) so we can be sure to promote the great work the CC MGs are doing out in our community!

We also have the ability to add events to our Facebook page. Recently we added the upcoming plant sale to promote the return of our annual fundraising event. [Check it out!](#) And if you are working on a project that has an upcoming event, we'd love to include it on Facebook!!

Curious what other Facebook pages and groups your fellow Master Gardeners follow?

This quarter's Facebook page to visit is the [Maryland Native Plant Society Discussion Group](#). With the increased community interest in adding native plants to home landscapes, this is a good Facebook group to follow or join to get help on native plants in our region. "The main focus of this forum is plant identification. Share your photos of plants you can identify so that others can learn. We also welcome requests for identification. We're happy to identify both native and non-native plant species. Please post your pictures with information about where you found the plant growing, eg: "on a riverbank in Washington County, full sun". Include a description if photo doesn't show details. We have some talented botanists here but they might not see your post; be patient and maybe try again in a day if you don't get a response.... The Maryland Native Plant Society's mission is to promote awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats. We pursue our mission through education, research, advocacy, and service activities."

Article continued next page



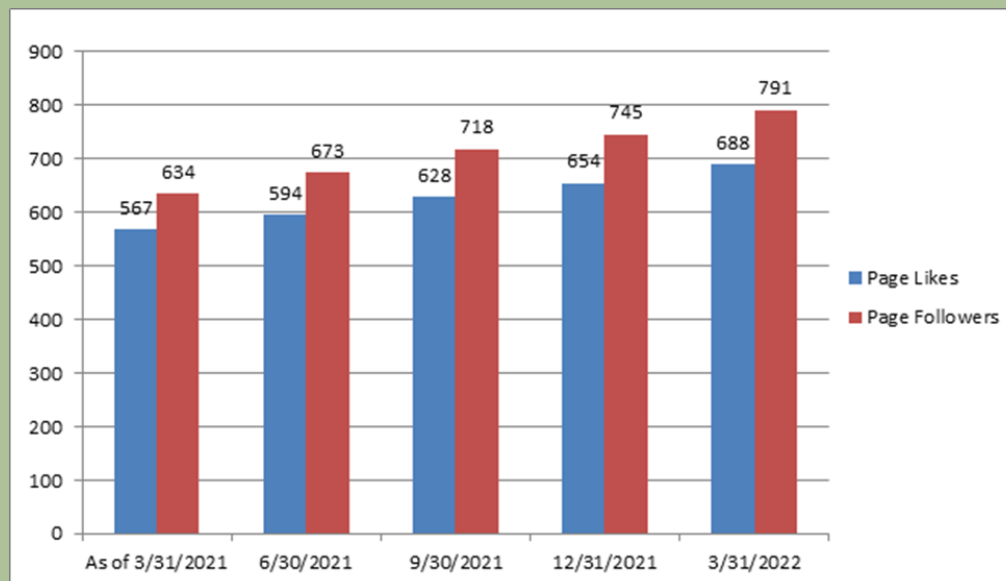
FACEBOOK CORNER!



Facebook Stats

As of March 2022, we have 688 LIKES and 791 FOLLOWERS. That's up 121 LIKES (21%) and 157 FOLLOWERS (25%) in the past year (since March 2021).

THANK YOU to those who contribute to our posts and to everyone who likes and shares our posts. We are starting to engage our community more. Working together, we can continue to increase our social media presence on Facebook. Current goals: 700 Page Likes AND 800 Page Followers. Anyone want to guess when we will reach these goals?



Please continue to help grow our Facebook Likes and Followers! Remember, the more sharing we do, the more people see our posts. Once someone new sees and "likes" one of our posts, we can then invite them to like our page and follow us. Please consider sharing CC MG Facebook posts that you like on your personal Facebook page or to a Facebook group that you belong to. With your help, we can reach and exceed 700 Page Likes AND 800 Page Followers!

If you have not joined [our Facebook](#) community, please like, follow us, share our posts, and invite your friends, too!

Article and stats by CC MG Marlene Smith

NATUREFEST 2022

NatureFest 2022 is a WRAP!!

Saturday, May 1, was a beautiful day for NatureFest 2022. This is our second year participating in this community event hosted by the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center (NCAC) at Tilghman Lake Park in La Plata. In addition to the CC MGs, participating organizations included: Rotary Interact Club, Southern Maryland Audubon Society, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, Charles County Humane Society, Charles County Public Works, Deez L'Town Beez, Charles County 4-H Pollinator Ambassadors, and the Charles County Youth Orchestra.



This year Charles County Master Gardeners provided the following:

- ◆ Seed packets (Tomatoes, Basil, Cilantro, Zinnias)
- ◆ Seedlings/plants (Marigolds, Tomatoes, Basil, Zinnias)

Activity kits:

- ◆ Seed cups
- ◆ "Create a Caterpillar"
- ◆ "Anatomy of a Plant"
- ◆ "Self-Watering Planter"
- ◆ "Grow a Hairy Caterpillar"
- ◆ Vermi-composting demonstration and creation of worm cups
- ◆ Matching boards



I would like to personally thank all the members of the NatureFest 2022 team for their dedication and hard work in preparing for and staffing the event. I received the following words of thanks from Ms. Georgia: "I am so grateful to all of the CC MGs that donated their time, talent, and expertise towards creating garden kits and teaching the children at NatureFest. The Master Gardeners are such a huge part of this effort to encourage families to explore and learn more about the fun of gardening! And we all know the many benefits of gardening for children: they become excited about eating vegetables, they get outside and breathe the fresh air, they become joyful and self-confident because of their gardening successes, and they learn to be patient as they wait to reap the fruits of their labor. Thank you so much for all you have given to our NatureFest families.

You are wonderful!"

Article by CC MG Marlene Smith/photos by St. Mary's Cty MG Bill Smith

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<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/master-gardener>

Submit articles, photos, reports, events, and other items for publication to Tina Bailem at nicholas8555@msn.com by July 15, 2022 for the Summer 2022 newsletter. If you send a photo, please include a brief description of the activity and names of persons included in the photo, as well as the photographer's name. If you send a photo of a plant, please include the scientific name.



Iguana, recently met in the Mexican jungle

Photo by CC MG Tina Bailem

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Check out the new Charles County Master Gardener page on [Facebook](#)! If you haven't already, please like us and share with your friends. This will be a great way to expand our reach into the community!

<https://www.facebook.com/charlescountymastergardeners>