

The Compost

Winter 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER 

NEW CC MG GROW IT EAT IT EDUCATION PROJECT

Focusing on Growing Food

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UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



GROW IT · EAT IT

A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

The new Charles County MG 'Grow It Eat It Education Project' was recently formed to support the Maryland State 'Grow It Eat It' (GIEI) initiative.

The mission of the newest University of Maryland Extension 'Grow It Eat It' (GIEI) Program is to promote backyard and community food production. This was a need identified by survey respondents at the Charles County Fair last fall.

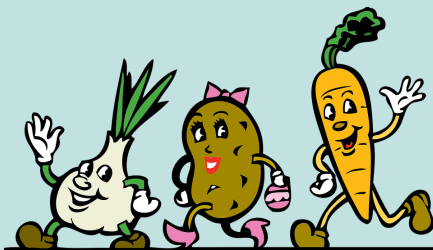
The goal is to educate people in Charles County on how to produce their own affordable and healthy food using sustainable gardening practices (including composting) in their homes, communities, and school gardens by offering presentations, demonstrations, and plant clinics.

For more information or to volunteer for the project, contact project co-chairs CC MG Meg MacDonald (maggiemac420@hotmail.com) or CC MG Beth Grem (ndbg1@verizon.net).

For more information on the state 'Grow It Eat It' program see: <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/environment-natural-resources/program-areas/master-gardener-program/about-program/grow-it-eat-it>



ASK A MASTER GARDENER
PLANT CLINIC



COMPOSTING

Article by CC MGs Meg MacDonald
and Beth Grem

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year and Congratulations Charles County Master Gardeners!

We had a very successful 2022. The 4,042 hours that were recorded for 2022 are a 550 hours increase compared to 2019, before the pandemic hit! Thank you all for the amazing work you do.

In December, our Holiday Celebration was wonderful -- filled with creativity, cheer and great company! We started the day with our Wreath Making Workshop and as you can see from the photo below, the finished wreaths were absolutely beautiful! The festivities continued into our pot luck lunch, featuring holiday favorite appetizers, main dishes, and desserts. What a delicious and satisfying way to spend the day and also celebrate Master Gardener accomplishments! Thank you to CC MG Carol Teets for being our Master Wreath Maker.

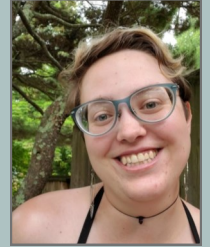
I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with the winter sowing workshop held on January 7th, and congratulate CC MGs Marlene Smith and Molly Moore on conducting an excellent program! We had very positive feedback from all the attendees. Make sure to read their article later on in the newsletter.

The 2023 Master Gardener Basic Training starts Wednesday, February 1st and runs through May 3rd. All classes will be held online through Zoom. 21 participants signed up, and I think each will be a great addition to our program.

Our next general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24 at 10:00 AM at the extension office. Please join us, if you can.

Stay warm!

Kaitlyn



CC MG Carol Teets

Article by CC MG County Coordinator Kaitlyn Baligush

FREE COUNTY MULCH - COME GET IT!



Getting free mulch from the Charles County's recycling center (across from the Bay Sox Stadium) saves us a lot of money. For eight months of the year, on Saturday mornings, the County loads the mulch directly into your Pickup truck bed or open trailer for you, but you can visit there any time when the facility is open and load the mulch yourself:

<https://www.charlescountymd.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/106/918>.

Our property consists of two hills with a creek running through the middle, draining to an 80-acre lake, so our focus is always to stop erosion and to keep as much of our topsoil as possible. One method to achieve this is using County mulch to create platforms in different locations on the hill.

In the above picture, in the back, you can see a small seating deck we installed that was built to stop erosion, but the bench in the foreground sits on compacted mulch only. The seating deck required HOA approval as well as a county permit, as it was larger. Using the mulch just took time and multiple trips to the recycling mulch center.

Photo #2 shows one of our walkways, this one is pretty level. We get "first grind" for our walkways as it lasts much longer and the bigger pieces lock together better to hold back runoff. We keep a cardboard sign in our pickup with the words "first grind" to help inform the backhoe operator. By now, he pretty much knows our truck, but occasionally we load the "good stuff", meaning the mulch that has been ground twice. This mulch can still be too hot to use immediately on plants, so we stockpile it for a year to let the heat dissipate.



Trails throughout our property are mulched. The third photo shows our "switchback" that is on a very steep slope, using dead trees to hold the mulch in place. It successfully stopped water runoff. The mulch is continuously replaced as eventually it breaks down and turns to soil, but it is great soil and the continuous replacement keeps my husband extremely fit.

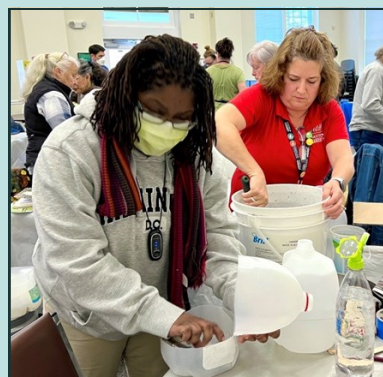
Because we are at the recycling mulch facility so much, we know all the workers by name. We've been told the County is having a hard time using up the mulch, so this article is a plea to encourage more users. The mulch is so much healthier for your land than the bags of chemically stained mulch that runs a bigger risk of attracting termites. (Always keep all mulch at least a foot or two away from your home foundation.)

Article and photos by CC MG Linda Bronsdon

ALL THE DIRT ON WINTER SOWING NATIVE PLANTS



Workshop, Jan 2021



CC MGs Marlene Smith and Molly Moore once again teamed up to present a new version of their wildly popular 'Winter Sowing' series. This time it was a workshop titled "All the Dirt on Winter Sowing Native Plants". The event was held on Saturday, January 7, at the Bel Alton Extension Office and co-sponsored by Charles County Master Gardeners and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society.

Gardening in January - what could be more fun, or unexpected! A very enthusiastic group of 29 participants and 12 Master Gardener volunteers gathered in the auditorium to learn and assist in how to winter sow native seeds in recycled plastic milk jugs in the dead of winter.

The audience of all ages hailed from Charles, St. Mary's, Calvert and Anne Arundel counties and included Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, members of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society and members of the public. All were drawn together by the growing recognition that native plants are critical to the health of both wildlife and people, along with their intrigue of the winter sowing method.

One of the huge benefits of winter sowing is that it's an incredibly inexpensive way to grow natives. The whole concept is based on recycled materials that you can find around your house, though we do recommend investing in a good quality potting mix.

The seeds used in the workshop were harvested from the Master Gardener demonstration garden in front of the historic Bel Alton High School and included Common Milkweed, Common Evening Primrose, Orange Coneflower, Blue Wood Aster and many more. Also included were seeds from the grow bags winter sown last year during the CC MG/4H pollinator ambassador program at the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center in LaPlata.

After Marlene and Molly walked the audience through the steps of winter sowing, participants dug in and got their hands dirty cutting open jugs, scooping potting mix into them, sprinkling on the seeds and sealing the jugs. We planted more than 60 jugs of native seeds that will produce hundreds of native plants in gardens across Southern Maryland.

Two shout-outs are in order. St. Mary's Master Gardener William Smith filmed the workshop for use on our website and social media; and 'Wee Bean Coffee Roasters' in LaPlata donated dozens of recycled milk jugs.

Their Story:

Have you ever wondered how Marlene and Molly came to be so passionate about winter sowing and native plants? What else have they been up to and how have they joined forces to bring their passions to the community?

Marlene began her winter sowing journey in January 2021 when she realized there was a "new-to-her" method of growing seeds outdoors in the middle of winter in protective, vented containers. Her research led her to the [Winter Sowers Facebook group](#) owned by Trudi Davidoff. Having never started plants from seeds (with the exception of a few cucurbits), Marlene was fascinated with the winter sowing method and decided to give it a try. And it didn't take long to become hooked!

Article continued next page

ALL THE DIRT ON WINTER SOWING NATIVE PLANTS CONT.



Neighborhood Creative Arts Center, Feb 2022

Since that first attempt at winter sowing in January 2021, Marlene has used her experience to share her passion with others, first writing a brief article on her experiences with vegetable winter sowing for the spring 2021 edition of [The Compost](#).

Molly saw the results of Marlene's winter sown vegetable garden during a Bay-Wise certification visit in May 2021, and having tried the method herself, she suggested they trade experiences. With that, their partnership was born. The first team effort was their "[All the Dirt on Winter Sowing](#)" presentation to the CC MGs in November 2021, followed by an article in the winter 2022 edition of [The Compost](#).

Their recorded presentation has been viewed on YouTube over 21,000 times, and their first presentation and article was the inspiration for other CC MGs to try

the method for growing vegetables at the Southern Maryland Food Bank, for the 2022 CC MG plant sale, and for their personal gardens.

In addition to their team efforts, Marlene has taught past workshops at:

- ◆ Butterfly Alley, Hollywood, MD (October 2021)
- ◆ Native Plant Workshop, Leonardtown, Public Library (February 2022)
- ◆ Neighborhood Creative Arts Center, LaPlata (February 2022), in collaboration with CC MG County Coordinator Kaitlyn Baligush
- ◆ James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center, Leonardtown (December 2022)

Molly, who is currently also the President of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society, presented "Winter Sowing: How to Grow Your Own Natives for Birds & Beauty" virtually at the September 2022 Southern Maryland Audubon Society meeting.



Butterfly Alley, Oct 2021



James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center, Dec 2022

In addition to the recent workshop at the extension office, Marlene and Molly teamed up to conduct a live demonstration at the Leonardtown Library's 'Front Yard Native Gardens' (December 2022), where they taught St. Mary's County MGs and the 'Friends of St. Clements Bay', how to winter sow in milk jugs.

It was a bitterly cold winter day, and once the jugs were completed, Marlene and Molly assisted in creating a demo area for the library's patrons to learn about the method.

In early January, Marlene and Molly returned to the 'Front Yard' to work with high school students from James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center to winter sow more native seeds for the gardens. The 'Front Yard Native Gardens' are easy to find; just look for the winter sowing sign and milk jugs sleeping in their brick crib for the winter.

What's next for Marlene and Molly?

Marlene and Molly hope to team up to conduct a workshop at NCAC's homeschool co-op at Christ Church, Wayside, and perhaps an "All the Dirt on Winter Sowing Vegetables, Herbs, and Companion Plants" workshop at the Extension office in late winter. From questions that were asked during recent workshops, they may develop presentations on transplanting winter sown seedlings in the spring, as well as a seed collection and cleaning workshop in the fall.

Stay tuned for more information!

*Article by CC MGs Marlene Smith and Molly Moore/
Photos by St. Mary's County MG William Smith, A. Bonney and CC MG Molly Moore*



BAY-WISE CORNER!



Happy New Year, Master Gardeners!

For most of us, the beginning of winter and a new year brings both joy and woe. Joy for us, because, even if it can be very cold, we can also have very mild days and escape most of the frigid, unbearable winters of the north. For Master Gardeners the woe is not being able to plant, grow and enjoy the beauty of the vegetables we love, and the flowers that inspire us when it is too cold to do so. However, the recent unseasonable temps in our area gave some of us, who were behind on cleaning up our gardens and preparing them for winter, a welcome reprieve.

In November, we teamed with St. Mary's and Calvert County to host an in-person Bay-Wise advanced training at the Prince Frederick Library in Calvert County. MGs from more than five different counties and several returnees attended the training and updates. Personally, I was thrilled to be working with Wanda MacLachlan, the UME area coordinator before she retired. She assured me that her supervisor, Bill Hubbard, plans to continue the program and will be meeting with our State Coordinator in this regard. Let's keep our fingers crossed that a suitable replacement is found. Wanda did a terrific job with the program and she will be sorely missed.



On a brighter note, we now have four new Bay-Wise certifiers, CC MG Kathleen Davis, and CC MG Interns June Leyland, Matt Perez and Elena Wilcox. To complete the last step of their training, they will be doing a property certification in the spring. Enjoy some of the photos I took during the sessions. I did manage to get a few shots of two sessions with presenters Beverly Jackey who spoke on household hazards, and Claudia Jones, an expert on critical areas. As you can see, we had a full class.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION | BAY-WISE A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Article continued next page



BAY-WISE CORNER! CONT.



We held our first committee meeting on January 11, and one of our goals is to identify and certify a number of demonstration gardens in Charles County. We will keep you posted on dates and times. The number of home certifications we were able to do this past year were disappointing. Sadly, just as we were doing well, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and we experienced an interruption in the program and literally were at a stand still for nearly two years.

Our goal is to work on advertising our programs through FB, flyers, newspapers and at all Master Gardener events to increase certification numbers. We hope that all of you will consider having your properties certified. In that endeavor, we are planning to bring the yardstick, videos and other venues to you at upcoming general meetings - very short videos and short talks - on how to fill out the yardstick and provide examples of what an actual certification looks like. Keep in mind, when you become certified, we not only present you with a certificate and signage we can also assist you in applying for a 50% remediation fee on your property taxes. This fee increases every year so you should take advantage of it. I encourage you to visit our website at <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/master-gardener/bay-wise>.

www.extension.umd.edu/bay-wise is also an excellent UMD site to explore. It's a great resource page and helps one understand what Bay-Wise is all about. As you can see, this program is a perfect example of how local government, organizations and homeowners can work together to help reduce the negative impact our gardens and landscapes may have on our environment. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at rosemarkham@comcast.net. Myself and all other committee members are available to answer any concerns you may have about how to 'Bay-Wise' your property and will assist you on how to fill out the application and form.

Our committee is looking forward to working with you. In the meantime, while there is mild weather during the day, go outdoors and experience winter and, if need be, re-design your gardens. I'm working on sowing seeds, thanks to CC MGs Marlene Smith and Sally Moore, our winter sowing seed gurus. It's going to get colder and I'm looking forward to some snow.



*Until next time,
Rose Markham*



*Article and photos by CC MG and
Bay-Wise Chair Rose Markham*

SOUTHERN MARYLAND FOOD BANK GARDEN

– Preparing the Garden for Winter –

We harvested the last of the Southern Maryland Food Bank “Seeds of Hope” Community Learning Garden during October. CC MGs Karla Costello, Tina Bailem and Derek Thompson worked with CC MG Brent Burdick during different days to finish the harvesting of tomatoes, peppers, green beans, and the last of the potato baskets. By mid-month, CC MG Burdick started closing down the tomato beds to get them ready for a cover crop of winter rye, which CC MG Derex Thompson helped sow. Later, they cleaned up the flower and herb beds. By the end of October, CC MGs Burdick, Bailem, and Thompson closed down the rest of the garden, including the Demo Patio Garden and hanging baskets.



During early November, CC MG Burdick met with Food Bank personnel (i.e., the Director and the Outreach Program Coordinator) to reflect on how the garden progressed this season, and to discuss plans for next year. CC MG Bailem hosted a Post-Season Reflection Meeting at her home, with CC MGs Burdick, Tori Critchlow, Linda Ivko and Gail Black, where the comments received from Food Bank personnel were shared. The discussion centered on how MGs thought what implementations and choices they made worked well and which had not, what can be done to improve, and what should be planned for the coming season.

When checking on the garden in December, CC MG Burdick noticed that the winter-rye seed did not germinate. To help protect the beds over the winter, he (along with his grandson) put a layer of cut-up leaves on the beds.

Activities for next year’s garden will begin in January 2023, when we will finish planning which seeds we want to winter sow.



While closing the garden down, CC MGs transplanted some of the hardier, cool-weather plants to one bed to winter over.



Article and (most) photos by CC MG Brent Burdick (with other photos of him by his grandson).



CHAINSaws



If you live on a private road in Charles County, you own a chainsaw. If a tree falls across the right-of-way, the only way to take care of the obstruction is to extract what is left of the tree yourself.

There is a growing debate of gas versus battery-powered chainsaws. The advantage of having a battery is the ease of starting the device and a significant reduction in noise.

I was hesitant of the battery power, thinking that it might not be strong enough, but a friend allowed me use his chainsaw and the tree removal was no problem. I've owned both versions now for over a year and still tend to favor the gas powered device, but my husband prefers the third option, which is an electric chainsaw. It comes

down to personal preference.

A crucial consideration for the battery option is to select one brand and keep all your equipment purchases interchangeable with the battery, as it is the battery that is the high-ticket item. We started with an Eco lawnmower and selected an 18-inch chainsaw to match the battery, giving us two and allowing for one to be charging while the other is in use. For our small amount of lawn, one battery does the job. However, we now use the same batteries for a new leaf blower, which whispers compared to the noise of our previous blower. Wouldn't it be great if all your neighbors had quiet leaf blowers?

I recently learned that my 2-gallon tank of gas for our 16-inch Stihl chainsaw is too much to stockpile. After six months, the gas is considered "old" and should no longer be used to avoid sluggishness. I rarely use more than a gallon in that time period, so I'll need to start splitting the tiny bottles of two-cycle oil when mixing only a single gallon. High premium gas is always recommended.

Another nifty trick is the two-in-one chainsaw sharpener seen in the photo. If you're paying \$8 to \$10 for each blade sharpening, this device saves both time and money. It takes me 15 minutes to slide the sharpener a half dozen times over each tooth and the design assures the file is properly aligned. But even this file needs to be swapped out over time to keep everything as sharp as possible. When using a chainsaw, if the pieces that are flying off the cut are more like sawdust than chips, it is time to sharpen the blade.

Chainsaw tune-ups are pretty much non-existent with the battery mode, but in order to comply with the 5-year warranty, both the chainsaw and battery need to be returned to the manufacturer via the retail outlet, a time-consuming chore we've yet to tackle. My gas-powered chainsaw is checked regularly at 'Milt's' off of Friendship School Road deep in St. Mary's Amish country, but it provides an excuse to stop at Zimmerman's Nursery while in the neighborhood.

My husband and I agree that when the time comes that neither of us can operate a chainsaw, we will need to move, but until then we are the proud owners of two regular chainsaws and a new pole chain saw. Both the 16-inch gas and 18-inch electric weigh about the same; the new pole also uses the same battery, making it much heavier than our old pole. But it is the weight that keeps the time spent in using it to no more than an hour or two, helping me to avoid aggravated muscle pain.

Last winter's snow storm dropped 12 major trees along our drive and my muscles tingled for days afterwards.

Article and photo by CC MG Linda Bronsdon

WINTER SOLSTICE SOWING

For the past two years I have used the winter sowing method to sow seeds in protective, vented containers. The winter sowing method, as defined by the USDA, was introduced by Trudi Davidoff in a GardenWeb.com blog post in August 2020.

In that post, Trudi described her experience the previous winter of 2019/2020 in which her addiction for trading and collecting seeds, coupled with her small apartment in New York, led her to experiment with sowing seeds in a recycled aluminum pan with a plastic cover, and placing them outside exposed to the winter elements.

To her joy, the method had a very successful germination rate, including seeds that required cold moist stratification. Although others may have sown seeds directly in the soil or in open containers, Trudi's method was unique in that her intent was to use recycled containers to protect the seeds from washing away or being eaten by critters.

According to Trudi, she quit her job to start a nonprofit organization focused on teaching the method to others, worked with the USDA to develop the definition, and obtained a patent for the method. See [Trudi's story](#).

Since then, winter sowing has become wildly popular as more and more people have discovered this fabulous way to grow plants and it has been a game-changer for me. I have successfully germinated a wide variety of seed types: native annuals, perennials, biennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees; vegetables, including warm and cool season crops, herbs, and ornamental flowers (annuals, perennials, biennials).

This year I took a break from the hustle and bustle of holiday baking to start a new tradition; I solstice sowed seeds on December 21. Solstice sowing celebrates the beginning of the winter sowing season by sowing four sets of seeds: Remembrance, Life, Trees, and Faith. My selections for solstice sowing included spiderwort in remembrance of my mother, cardinal flower to invite hummingbirds and life into my garden, and paw paw trees in honor of Mother Nature. Having faith in the process, I also sowed several native seed varieties that need cold moist/warm moist/cold moist conditions to germinate, so I'm hopeful that they will surprise me when the time is right. Here is what Trudi suggested:

“Solstice Sow ~ WinterSown's Solstice Sowing Ceremony

The Winter Solstice marks the return of lengthening daylight hours. It typically falls on December 21st of each calendar year. On that calendar date the night is at its greatest length in hours. The Winter Solstice is celebrated in many nations around the globe with feasting and ceremonies which often include candles and bonfires to guide and illuminate the way for the sun to return. Traditional foods served on the holiday often contain seeds; in ancient times the Solstice was also associated with both fertility and harvest. Cooked grains, legumes and seeded cakes should be part of your Winter Solstice holiday meal. Our Winter Sowing season starts on the Winter Solstice. Winter Sowers can celebrate the day by sowing four sets of seeds. Each set will honor Remembrance, Life, Mother Nature, and Faith.

Seeds of Remembrance should be seeds of flowers that remind us of someone we knew and loved but is now gone from our lives forever.

Seeds of Life should be seeds of plants that make fruit or nectar and invite birds, butterflies and other pollinators to our gardens.

Seeds of Trees should be sown to honor Mother Nature. Trees will help clean the air we breathe, reduce excess sun on the soil surface, and provide shade for our heads on any hot summery day.

Seeds of Faith are from plants that are a zone beyond ours in warmth; they thrive where winter is milder. Sowing them reminds us to take a 'Leap of Faith' in our hearts and trust that Mother Nature is capable of miracles. Remember that Solstice Sowing is like Winter Sowing, you can do it when you can and if you can. I do hope that some will give this sow a go and ask you all to keep the faith! [Trudi](#)”



Happy Solstice! And Happy Sowing!!

Article and photo by CC MG Marlene Smith

A MOTHER-DAUGHTER EXPERIENCE



Last year, CC MG Mary Ellen Howard and her daughter, Rebecca, for the first time entered flowers at the Charles County Fair.

An avid gardener for about 30 years, Mary Ellen has been working to instill a love of gardening in her daughter. The work has paid off! The two of them have been growing dahlias, among other flowers, for the past few years and decided this year to enter some into the fair competition.



Mary Ellen told her daughter that “even if we don’t win anything, it’s so fun to enter!” The two of them entered dahlias, zinnias, celosia and a rose into the competition.

Working at the MG booth on fair weekend, Mary Ellen told her daughter she would wait to see if they had any ribbons until they could walk into the building together that evening.

What a surprise to see all those ribbons!! Rebecca won several first, second and third place ribbons for her dahlias and a celosia, and Mary Ellen won a first place for a zinnia, several second and third place ribbons, including one for a “Frances Meiland” rose. What a fun experience for this mother-daughter duo!

Article and photos by CC MG Mary Ellen Howard

Gardening New Year's Resolutions
(That I'm not going to keep)

<p>Only buy plants I have room for.</p>	<p>Stick to my plant shopping budget.</p>
<p>Keep on top of weeding.</p>	<p>Stop buying half dead plants on clearance.</p>

Joseph Tyehonievich

VICTORIA PARK SENIOR APTS PROJECT

Happy New Year, Fellow Gardeners!

Although the active growing season has ended, gardeners at the Victoria Park (Vic Park) Senior Apartments have two plants still growing during the winter as part of their 2022 “Best Practices for Raised Bed Gardening” series.

Residents planted Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) in containers to grow indoors and Garlic (*Allium sativum*) in containers and the ‘teaching bed’ to winter over for harvesting in late spring/early summer. Members of the CC MG Vic Park team drop by to check on these plants and chat with gardeners throughout the winter.

To improve the water delivery method, the team was asked by one of the property managers to prepare a proposal for a watering system to present to the building owners for funding this past fall. We successfully completed this task, and we have approval to proceed with the planning.

The effort received a great jumpstart from a donation of 1 rain barrel from CC MG Donna Ball and 2 rain barrels from CC MG Kay Redman. They have been placed on the property. Thank you for your generosity, Donna and Kay!! The next step is to develop a detailed plan, complete with a sketch, a list of materials with estimated cost and timeline, for execution by the Vic Park staff.

Thanks again to the great team of CC MGs that worked with the Vic Park residents this past year: Donna Ball, Lori Guido, Linda Ivko, Brian Larson, Julie Nethon-Williams, Erika Smith, Gail Enid Walker and Karen Westhead. We are all excited to start planning for the 2023 gardening season. Future activities proposed include designing the watering system for installation by the property staff, learning to grow turmeric, growing more potatoes and other container crops and more!

New ideas are welcome!! The Vic Park Project meeting is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 pm 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.



Garlic
Allium sativum



Ginger
Zingiber officinale

“Don’t think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It’s quiet, but the roots are down there riotous.”
-RUMI

Article by CC MG Michelle Chenault

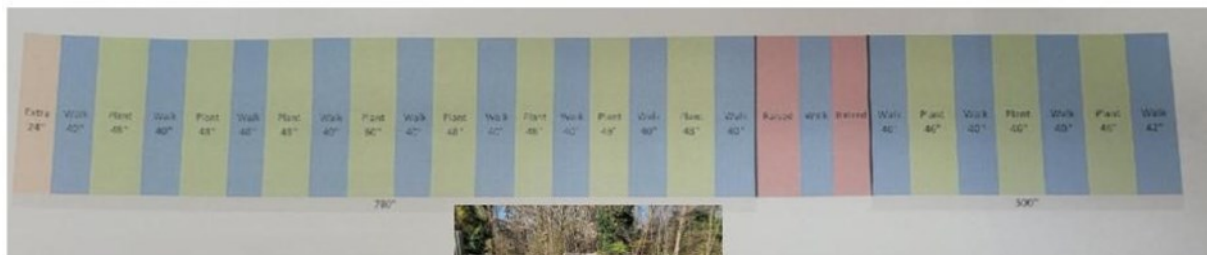
MELWOOD HORTICULTURAL THERAPY PROJECT WINTER 2023 - UPDATE

Fall & winter slows down the activity at Melwood, Nanjemoy as the Holidays come and go and plants hibernate. There are still some classes held, where Master Gardeners continue to assist.

This quarter, in addition to helping with classes, Master Gardeners helped to strip the Learning Garden of plants to allow the Enlargement Project to occur. Of course, the Pollinator Garden was being prepared for the winter season too. Wow, what a job T. E. Woods (contractor who bid on the enlargement project) did on the Garden! We will all enjoy this in the upcoming Spring and Summer season!

Volunteers are always needed, they must be vetted. For more info contact Suse Greenstone, Manager Horticultural Therapy at sgreenstone@melwood.org.

Melwood Learning Garden Enlargement Project



In 10 days, T.E. Woods removed left fence, removed soil & pavers, fixed slope for drainage & created 11 planting beds, 13 walkways, relaid pavers & put up new fence & wire for the extended area! Wonderful work!



Article and photos by CC MG Barbara Hill

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GARDENER** 

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9501 Crain Highway, Box 1
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Phone 301 934-5403 or 301 753-8195
Tina Bailem, Compost Editor
Kaitlyn Baligush, CC MG County Coordinator

Find us on the Web at:

<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 April 15, 2023 for the Spring 2023 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.

SAVE THE DATE:

***NatureFest
in LaPlata, Charles
County***

April 22, 2023

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.



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>