

Coordinator's Corner

Maxine Yoon, Master Gardener Coordinator

Upcoming FMLA: Medical Leave of Absence

I hope everyone had a wonderful thanksgiving and happy holidays to everyone! Just in case you missed our last monthly meeting, I will be taking an extended leave of absence from January 10th to April due to surgery and recovery.

There won't be any more monthly newsletters until I return. I would like to return in a work from home capacity sometime in March, but that depends on how well recovery goes. I will keep you all updated.

If you have any questions related to the MG program while I'm gone, please contact Stephanie Pully, pully@umd.edu, or Kaitlyn Baligush, kbaligus@umd.edu.

If you have any VMS related questions, please contact Carole Fullagar at cjfullagar@yahoo.com.

For office related inquiries, please contact Christie Germuth, ckneipp@umd.edu, and Samantha Miller, s4miller@umd.edu.

Stay warm out there and hope to see you at the Holiday Party!



Executive Advisory Board (EAB) Corner

Catherine M. Salam, Chair

Thanks to all the MGs who completed our Satisfaction Survey in the Spring of 2024. With a 60% return rate, the EAB members were able to have a realistic picture of the state of our Anne Arundel County Master Gardener Program. At our monthly board meetings, we have addressed some of your suggestions.

One recommendation was that we should be involved with other like-minded community organizations. One such initiative is the Severna Park Ask a Master Gardener Plant Clinic partnering with the Watershed Stewards Academy to create a native garden at the Jones Station/Ritchie Highway Park & Ride where the clinics are held. Also, the Board invited Judy Fulton, VP of the Maryland Native Plant Society, to our



November meeting. They have a wealth of information on their website: <https://mdflora.org/> We discussed ways we could collaborate; we would like to explore joint field trips. Stay tuned for more details!

The End of the Year Project Report template has been revised to include the Mission Statement and to make clearer the evaluation of goals/objectives from one year to the next. Project chairs and Co-chairs, the reports are due to your EAB Liaison by December 20, 2024.

Members are always welcome to attend EAB meetings, held the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 9-10 AM. Email Maxine to request the Zoom link.

ANNOUNCING THE 2024 MG HOLIDAY PARTY!

Tuesday, December 10th

New time!!! 6:30-8:30pm

Harundale Presbyterian Church, 1020 Eastway, Glen Burnie

All Master Gardeners welcome, with one guest

GET READY TO RAFFLE!!

Go wild! Create a Basket to Die for! (or at least for someone to treasure)

Some ideas: Food, Chocolate, Tools, Books, Birds, Pets, Art, Handmade Treasures, Coffee or Tea, Yard Art, All Things Gardening, or Something Completely Different**

(**As in the past, winners can only win one basket. If you win again, you may choose the second basket and we will redraw for the first basket.)

AND DON'T FORGET MYSTERY BOTTLES AND BONBONS!!

(Wine = Fruit and we all know Chocolate is just naturally good)

Donate a **BOTTLE** of wine (red, white, sparkling or dessert – we suggest in the \$15 range), preferably in a gift bag, OR some delicious **BONBONS** (any candy is fine), preferably in a gift box or bag. The **Bottles and BonBons** will be hidden and only identified by different colored ribbons. You choose the ribbon of the wine type you prefer or go for a BonBon. **NO PEEKING** allowed!

Bottles and BonBons will be grouped around ONE raffle can and will be raffled off in between our other major raffle items. One B&BB per person and no exchanges.

(Note: You can win BOTH one Raffle Item AND one Bottle or BonBon)

LET'S NOT FORGET DINNER!

Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name. (Remember: no

electrical outlets available but Sternos are OK.)

A-L Main Course

M-O Dessert or Fruit

P-S Salad or Vegetable

T-Z Appetizer

AND!!! If you want to volunteer to work the party, please contact Cindy or Janet.

Please RSVP (attendance AND raffle items) by Friday, December 6th

Cindy Wells, 410-703-5953, cwells5953@cs.com

Janet Clauson, 410-987-2027, janetclauson301@gmail.com

Ask A MG: Plant Clinic



What has piles of dirt, a plethora of plastic, decaying wood chips, and a bright future of sustainable biodiversity?

Answer: the Severna Park Farmer's Market Master Gardeners' Teaching Garden! What was only a pipedream is becoming a reality. Since last winter, we have

- Received permission from the MDOT to build
- Acquired soil test results
- Joined forces with the Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) and received liability insurance
- Trimmed and cleaned up dangerous dead and leaning trees with the help of MDOT and Clean Tree, as well as a huge pile of wood chips
- Received multiple free piles of soil
- Promises of Leafgro and free plants from multiple sources
- Received much enthusiasm and offers to help from the vendors and community visitors at the Farmer's Market.

Soon we will be announcing opportunities to share in the creation of this conservation garden during the upcoming months with the hope that by next spring, there will be no doubt that something very special is happening in this space. This is a wonderful chance to teach visitors (literally from the ground up) about biodiversity and sustainability.

Signups will be available on Dec. 14th at the Severna Park Christmas Farmer's Market. Questions? Contact [Kim Forry](#) or [Pam Hanna](#), or better yet, visit us at the Christmas Market! Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/891531813045990/>

Re-Pollinate Anne Arundel

Educational Outreach Activities

· **Most every Thursday 3-6 and Saturday 10-2**

Volunteer Opportunities
· Most every Thursday 3-6 and Saturday 10-2

The RePollinate plant distribution process has ended for the 2024 season. This year we collaborated with Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay to merge our



complementary inventories. Marlene Smith, President of Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay (also master gardener) posted great Facebook blogs on numerous environmental groups. The response was outstanding and enabled folks throughout Maryland to benefit from the distribution. Approximately 75 folks came and picked up plants. We also implemented a recommended \$25.00 donation fee. This will allow us to contribute towards the purchase of soil, seed, used pots, another gorilla cart, and maybe another tent and tables.

I encourage folks in the 2025 season to participate. The cadre of volunteers is skilled (majority both master gardeners and watershed stewards), and takes the time to provide didactic instruction on the different tasks we engage in. It is a great way to acquire evidence-based knowledge related to native plant seed identification and collection, cleaning, stratification and sowing, identifying “true leaves” of seedling flats ready for transplant, soil preparation, and transplant of seedlings.

Folks interested in being included on the weekly “happenings” transmittal should email lauren_toomey@hotmail.com

Compost Demonstration Garden at Quiet Waters Park

The Compost and Native Gardens project at QWP held their last compost demonstration and work session of the year on Sat. Nov. 2nd.

While the demonstration for the public was taking place, the rest of the compost team prepared the site for winter by emptying water barrels, filling all compost bins with leaves, coffee grounds and water. Supplies were also put away.



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