

UNIVERSITY OF
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EXTENSION

MASTER
GARDENER 

The Vine

Spring 2021

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"A Message from Mariah" Submitted by: Mariah Dean

We have been having some beautiful weather this spring! I hope that you all have been able to get out and enjoy the weather! There are some new volunteer opportunities in this newsletter that can help get you outside if you'd like. Ann and John can use some help at the fairgrounds as well. Please check with Tim Barnes if you'd like to help with a sign garden or the freedom garden. There are other opportunities as well, please just contact me if you have any questions. As always, please be sure to stay hydrated!

Please also keep checking your emails for updates about volunteering during Covid. With the recent May 13th update, we are now able to continue doing most in-person programming, including with the public! Please check your email for the document that goes over the specific steps we have to take in order to have in-person programs with the public again. I will be sure to send out future updates as they come out. I am so glad we are able to do in-person programming again! Yay!!!!!! I'm excited to see everyone out and about!

If you have any questions about anything, I'm only an email away at mrdean@umd.edu You can also call the office phone at 301-475-4120 and leave a message and I will return it ASAP. If you'd like to come into the office, please schedule an appointment with me ahead of time.

I also wanted to thank you all for all that you have been doing! We have been doing some virtual plant clinics that have been going fairly well. I'm excited for all of the projects we'll do this year! I'll keep hosting some virtual events for anyone who prefers them. The library has said that the virtual presentations have been a big hit and getting really good attendance, some even better than in person presentations! And of course, thank you everyone who submitted items to the newsletter!

Our quarterly next meeting will be Wednesday, June 2, at 6pm at <https://umd.zoom.us/j/93872874564>

Happy spring!

Mariah Dean



What Small Space By: Patrice Hopkins

Growing in small spaces takes a lot of creativity and just simply accepting the fact that you must make do with what you got! That is the moral of my story with my 2020 spring and fall container gardens and now Spring 2021. My family and I moved back to St. Mary's county in October 2019 to significantly reduce the commute to my job at NAVAIR and my son's day-care (pre-COVID). We sold our home in Hughesville (5 acres) to relocate to our current townhome with a much smaller space until we can hopefully build next year. Regardless, I knew I absolutely would still garden, but worried how I would make it work since I am restricted to planting anything in the ground.



Well, I have to say, I did! How so? I went from gardening exclusively on the second level deck to expanding my gardening to the front door porch and first-level patio!

Below are some lessons learned as well as photos of my current garden spaces will hopefully inspire you to recreate your spaces and share with our community (see the hyperlinks as well):

1. **100% Container/Vertical gardening:** I was able to grow almost the same vegetables and fruits in containers/planters on our deck as I grew in my previous raised garden beds! When selecting seeds/plants to grow, be mindful of the growing habit and potential space needed – for example, grow determinate tomatoes and not indeterminate. Choose compact varieties and try dwarf varieties of peach and even apple trees that can grow well in containers!



Indoors, I used my [grow light system](#) and soil-blocking to start my seeds. What was helpful was during the time the seedlings were growing, it gave me time to formulate a game plan for where you will place those seedlings.

2. **Sunlight:** It just so happens that the back of our townhome gets plenty of sun so that worked out in my favor (min 6-8 hours is needed). In fact, it was a deciding factor when we choose the townhome.

3. **Plan the layout:** This is especially important to crop rotation (i.e. tomatoes, brassicas, etc.). I found it so helpful to just take pictures of my space, make a digital album on FB so I can refer to it later, and manually drew out where I wanted to place my seedlings and companion plants for insect control.

4. **Choose the right container:**

a.) Drainage: Choose containers that drain well and drill adding more holes as needed in the bottom first before you plant!

b.) Wheels/Casters: Having mobile planters was such a game changer. I was able to reconfigure and move around the planters as needed when the seasons changed (and much easier on the back!)

c.) Size of container: I used a combo of a three-tiered garden planter, [self-watering planters](#), [rail planters \(in my favorite color turquoise\)](#), and a combo of fabric pots.

d.) Visual interest – choose various vibrant colors is such a boost to the mood! Your small space will be popping with color!

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5. Secure rail planters, hummingbird feeder with zip ties or anchor if your deck is on a second level.

6. Choose the right potting **mix** – This really does matter. **Potting** mix = for **pots** – I had to say “duh!” to myself! I can tell you, this was the hardest lesson learned next to choosing the right containers for drainage. Potting soil is too heavy and Leafgro (unless you mix it with potting mix, but I would not advise it! When I used potting mix, it made a world of difference!! Otherwise, you will be constantly pouring out these pots when it rains! Also, standing water breeds mosquitos and leads to mold/smelly containers in the fall when there is less sunlight. Heed what I say to this overall pain in the you-know-what!

7. Drip irrigation: My life line when work gets busy! I had this in my larger past gardens and was able to find a [Small Deck Irrigation System](#) and [Timer](#)! Since pots/planters can dry out, it was super important to keep these watered. I did not have drip irrigation last year, but already I am seeing such an improvement to all of my containers!

Additionally, add wood chips/mulch to retain moisture (of course, this depends on the plant. Herbs – not needed because they do not like “wet feet.”

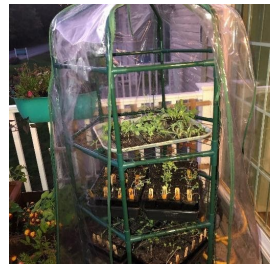
8. Keep consistent fertilization schedule – containers will need it.

9. [Mini Greenhouse](#) to start or harden off seedlings or protect during winter (I kept my strawberries covered in burlap and they overwintered well; Meyer lemon plant didn't make it, however):

10. [Hoops](#) and [Row Covers](#): During the winter (especially when it is freezing temperatures), I used hoops and row covers, secured with earth staples, clothespins and binder clips to cover my planters as well as [cheap burlap sacks](#) to cover my strawberries. I also cut them to whatever size I needed (and they also do great with germinating seeds, but monitor closely so the seedling does not grow through the burlap and you accidentally pull it up (talking from experience! Lol)

11. [Deep Seat Kneeler](#) – this item saved my knees on the hard deck, and it doubled as a sitting bench when you flip it upside down – what a great two-in-one bonus!

12. Storage/Alternate space to plant: Use a garage (if available) for soil, pots, etc. additional items or (if only indoor space), get a desk, bookshelves, floating shelves to add plants/small items (especially those that need to be out-of-reach for little hands!)



Often, I hear from aspiring gardeners that “I don't have enough space” or “I do not have a big yard.” You do not really need it! Because of this experience, I have been able to advise others on what they can grow when they only have a balcony/deck.

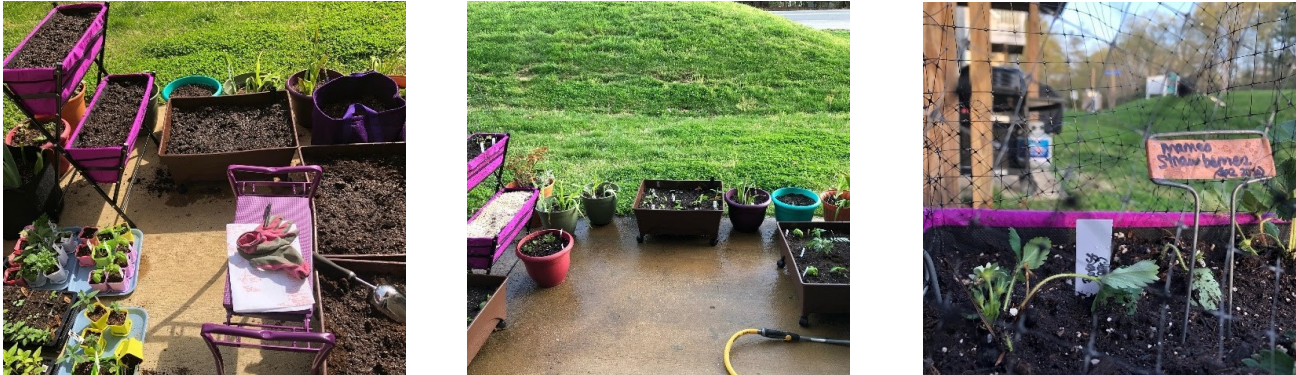
Happy Spring Gardening!!

Top Deck



Back patio Succulent Stand, Living Succulent Wall and Titus' Microgreens in a Jar.

Back Patio



My 4-year-old Titus' Microgreens in a Jar/Terrarium, Living Succulent Wall and Aloe on a stand .



It's a Container Gardening Type of Year

By: Jon and Sara Beth Everheart

Container gardening has become this year's project in our own backyard. Last year we invested in four large raised beds (10' x 4' x 2') made of fiberglass materials. The materials will last our lifetime, so no need for us to worry about replacing them or maintaining them in some sort of way. Last year those raised beds produced us with plenty of food and flowers - more than we could handle at times and we ended up sharing food with other families.

This year we decided to take on a new project and replace our old herb garden raised beds along the fence line with five new fiberglass ones (6' x 2' x 2'). The old raised beds were made out of wood and were basically falling apart due to weather damage. These fiberglass raised beds are simply for herbs

and flowers. We use herbs in our everyday cooking and we do like to have the availability of having fresh cut flowers. Please see the picture below of our new herb garden raised beds.

We also decided to try and grow raspberries along the inside of the fence line as well. That is the vegetation that you see inside the fence. Still a long way to go before we will have fruit!

To continue on with the container gardening theme, we also decided to try container gardening with a self watering system and hydroponic gardening in our side yard area.

Container gardening that has a self watering system inside of it can be constructed at home or purchased as a kit. The self watering system consists of some sort of a reservoir at the bottom $\frac{1}{3}$ of the container (can be made of a layer of stone wrapped in filter fabric or another container slightly smaller that fits inside). A wick (in this case a perforated pipe) joins the bottom water reservoir with the part of the container that houses the plants and will pull water up into the root balls as needed. This will provide a source of continuous water. Please see the photograph below for how we are currently growing basil and tomatoes in these types of self watering containers.

We purchased four 55 gallon drums from someone locally that had no use for them anymore. These were perfect (and very cost effective) for hydroponic gardening. We know that no one in our families has ever attempted to grow plants this way, so we did our research and used our master gardener knowledge to get us through the process.



Hydroponic gardening consists of growing plants in a large container (up to 50 gallons) by a simple non-circulating hydroponic method that does not require electricity or any sort of a pump. You basically fill a container with water, add the correct amount of fertilizer (and this really is required here), place a lid on the container you are using, and then place seeds or transplant a plant of your choice into a basket holder inserted into and held by the lid of the container. No additional fertilizer or water are needed for several months.



Your plants will stop growing when most of the nutrient solution has been consumed from the water. This hydroponic technique is great for gardening projects because the materials are inexpensive and readily available (and weekend watering is not necessary). Check out our photographs below of the cucumbers, tomatoes, and squash plants (2 cucumbers top photograph, 1 tomato and 1 squash bottom photograph) that we are trying to grow via the hydroponic method.



Large drums can be very expensive brand new (up to \$200). If you can buy them slightly used (not used with harsh chemicals), that would be ideal. We purchased these barrels for roughly \$20 each and found the ad online through a virtual yard sale.

As an update on last year's large container gardening experiment with Hugelkultur style container gardening: Last year we planted about 40 asparagus root stocks in one of the four large raised beds that we purchased. After we planted them, some stalks grew, but they were very thin and inedible. This year, they are really starting to grow and are actually producing stalks of good size that we can eat. We have had one side of asparagus with dinner so far this year, but we think we will have more than we can eat by the middle of summer. Canning equipment has been purchased and is ready to go for times when we have more than we can eat and putting food in the freezer is not an option. Please see the photograph below for some of our first asparagus stalks coming up this year.



Container gardening really has had us working hard this year, but we will reap the rewards with the bounty that we will collect later in the season. Check out our next article in the summer with more updates on our gardening activities!

***Six Mile Cypress Slough (pronounced "sloo")
Preserve in Fort Myers
By: Caroline Braun***

My husband and I went to Six Mile Cypress Reserve in Fort Myers, FL in mid-April. What a treat - as many times as I've visited Fort Myers (my roommate from college lives there), I had never heard of it. It's a 1.2-mile walk with stations marked along the path to describe each area. I'd love to go back during different seasons to see how the preserve changes. I hope you enjoy the photos - and go if you get the chance!



Random flower nestled in foliage – looks almost like a morning glory



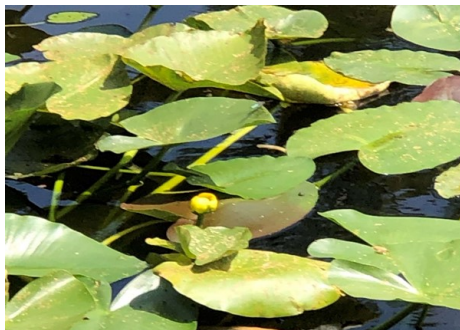
Otter pond (but no otter sightings)



Osprey on the Gator Pond (no gators; must have been in contact with the otters)



The Gator Pond



Lily pad flower about to burst



Multicolored swamp fern

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Blue Heron



Lots of Crustose lichen



A spot of green in the brown -Nature wants to live.

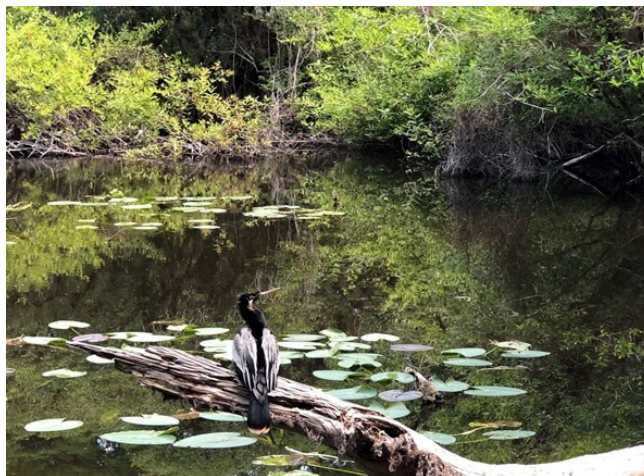


"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."

- Native American Proverb

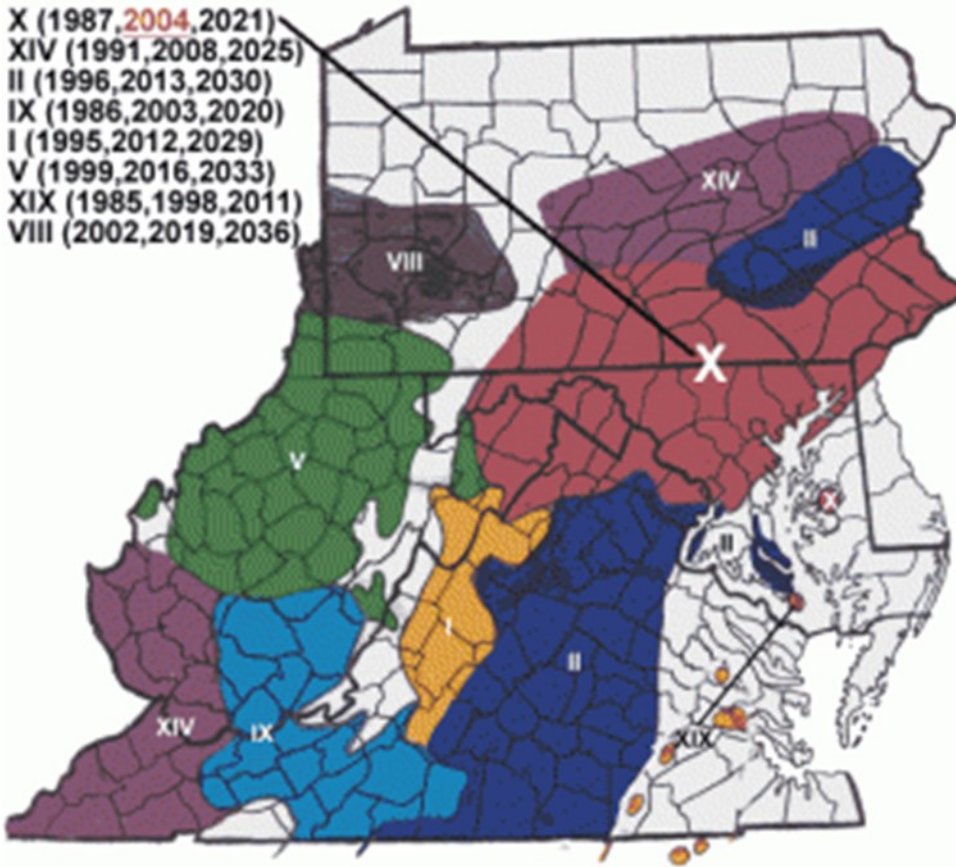


These woody cypress projections are called "Cypress knees"



Anhinga - Handsome guy!

Spring 2021 “Brood X” Periodical Cicadas Emergence
By: Mariah Dean



Map of cicada broods in the DMV (image from https://www.cicadas.info/?page_id=96)

This year in much of the DMV, the large periodical cicada Brood X will emerge from the ground. They will likely emerge in mid to late May when the soil reaches 64°F, with some stragglers coming out before and after that time frame. Their calls will be about as loud as a lawnmower and present from approximately mid-May to late June. They will not be present here in St. Mary’s County or broader southern Maryland. The map shows that in St. Mary’s County we have brood II which will emerge next in 2030 and brood XIV which will emerge in 2024.

You may be thinking- wait, what? I heard cicadas singing in the trees all summer of 2020 and years before! Well, yes, you did! Those were our annual cicadas, also known as dog day cicadas, *Neotibicen canicularis*. We usually have those every summer in St. Mary’s. Those are one of two types of cicadas in Maryland. The periodical cicadas, which consist of several species in the genus *Magicalicada*, emerge every 13 or 17 years.



Periodical cicada pictured far left.
 Dog day cicada pictured right.
 (images from budwood.org)

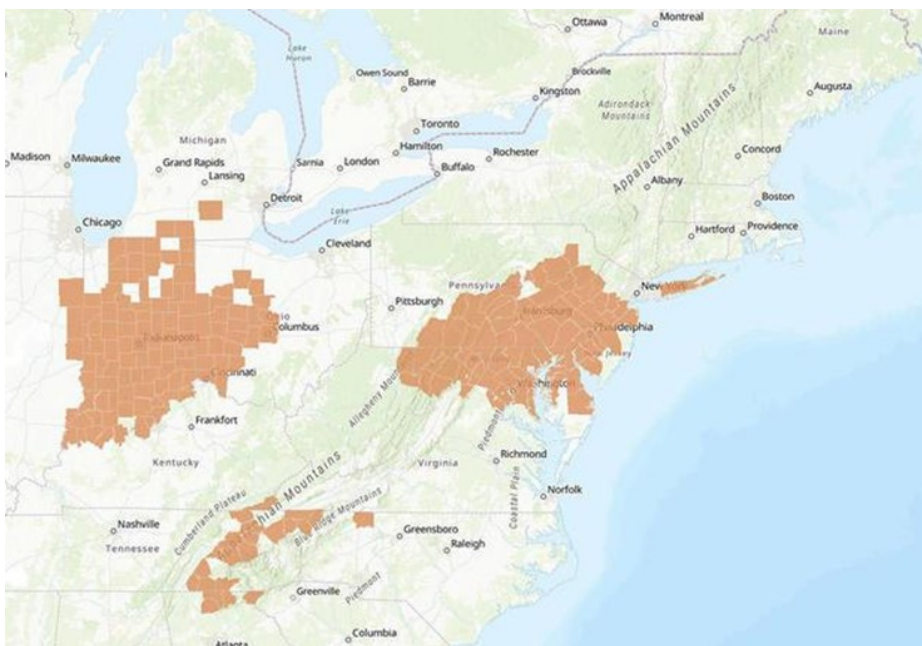
The two types of cicadas look distinctly different from one another. Dog day cicadas are green and black. Periodical cicadas are black with some orangey-red and they look like something that would only come out of the ground every 13-17 years! Sometimes the periodical cicadas can also have blue eyes, though the reddish eyes are the most common.

Cicadas don't cause damage to most plants. They can cause damage to young trees by ovipositing eggs into the leaves and stems $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{3}{8}$ ". This will cause some damage, commonly referred to as "flagging". Though this type of damage will not likely cause long term damage to well established and older trees, this type of damage may cause some serious damage to the younger trees. Generally, trees 6 feet and less are the trees most at-risk to suffering long-term damages from the emerging cicadas. For this reason, even though spring is an excellent time to plant trees, it would be wisest to hold off on planting any young deciduous trees until this fall in the areas where the periodical cicadas will emerge because of the likelihood of them being damaged by the periodical cicadas.

If you know someone in the area that Brood X will emerge in and they have already planted some young trees, fear not! They can use a netting around the trees to protect them from flagging. They will need some netting with holes smaller than $\frac{3}{8}$ ". They will want to install the netting in May before the cicadas emerge and then leave them on until about the end of June.

Professor emeritus and extension professional, entomologist Dr. Michael Raupp, did a research experiment on protecting trees from cicada damage so that you don't have to. The experiment determined that netting trees helped reduce damage from cicadas more than spraying them with pesticides did. Netting is also usually more economical than spraying!

If you can go witness the emergence of Brood X of cicadas this year, the closest places to us that will have them will be some parts of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties. They will also be present in most of northern Maryland, southern Pennsylvania, northern Virginia, and a small part of northern West Virginia. Please see image 2 for a full map of their current range. Brood X used to be more widespread. However their populations, like many cicada broods, have been decreasing over the years for various reasons.



"Brood X" range (image from CBS)



Picture I took of periodical cicada shells on a tree during a field trip in Washington D.C. near the FDR memorial on May 16th. There is a live one circled in blue!

<http://bugoftheweek.com/blog/2013/6/4/brood-ii-up-in-maryland-imagicicadai-spp?rq=cicadas>

<https://wjla.com/news/local/university-of-maryland-entomologist-cicadas-virginia-maryland-dc-brood-x-2021>

<https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/Cicada-Facts-2017.pdf>

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/cicadas>

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/cicadas>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/what-is-brood-x-us-cicada-infestation-coming-in-2021/>

Our Mighty Oak ***By: Suzanne Gibbs***

The oak is unmatched as a tree that shelters other life. Both the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* recently featured excellent reviews of Doug Tallamy's latest book, "The Nature of Oaks." Tallamy writes, "Oaks support more forms of life and more fascinating interactions than any other tree genus in North America."

The acorn drop provides food for many animals and birds, while the oaks are magnets for an extraordinary number of caterpillars. Tallamy reports that in his southeastern Pennsylvania home county, 511 species of moths and butterflies rely on oaks. Since these caterpillars continue to munch on the fresh oak leaves into May, nesting birds are able to provide their nestlings with a diet of protein and fat-rich larvae.

While planting oak trees is important, it's also important how you treat what's under an oak. When the oak leaves drop in autumn, resist the urge to grab your rake and tidy up. Leaving the leaves in place allows the caterpillars to pupate in the soil beneath the tree, and allows many organisms to live both off the leaf litter and then the soil humus it becomes.

Tallamy applauds oak plantings as a way to improve the health of our planet by their ability to capture atmospheric carbon. The oak partners with a beneficial soil fungi named mycorrhizae, which develops over several years to extend the root system of its host plant. These fungi produce a protein named glomalin, which itself becomes a significant carbon lock.

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The United States has a total of 91 indigenous oak species. These divide roughly into upland and bottomland species, the former suited to difficult dry sites and the latter to areas that get soggy. There is no need to pay a high price for a large sapling – after a few years a small tree will soon match or surpass a bigger tree. So get the smallest size tree you can find, or opt to plant acorns, which become fast-growing trees once the roots are established.

Left: A mighty and beautiful oak tree indeed in Sue's yard!

Join the “Greener Front Yard” Project in Leonardtown ***By: Nicole Basenback***

Friends of St Clements Bay has received a ["Clean Up and Green Up" grant](#) to create a "Green Front Yard" for the spectacular new building now housing Leonardtown Library and Garvey Senior Activity Center. We envision an outdoor space whose native trees and plants not only invite people to relax or enjoy outdoor classes, but also provide bird and pollinator habitat. Signage will provide water-friendly landscaping tips for homeowners' own front yards. Integral to this project is citizen input on desired uses. There are several ways to get involved over the coming months. Virtual community discussions will be held in May via Zoom, to help guide the landscape design. Then, several educational webinars will be held in late summer, and assistance will be needed for installation of the garden in the fall. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Liz Curtz at curtzei@gmail.com.



“Front Yard” site at the new Leonardtown Library / Garvey Senior Activity Center building to be reimagined as a sustainable and inviting green

Historic St. Mary's City Gardening Opportunities Are Coming to HSMC

Historic St. Mary's City is excited to introduce a new initiative designed to help revive the beauty of the natural resources of our museum.

Dedicated in 1984, the Margaret Brent Garden has been a beautiful area for museum goers to relax and appreciate the unmatched landscape of St. Mary's City. The boxwood garden is in need of renewed efforts to transform it into a vibrant area for the museum. The potential for this area is limitless; with the expertise and loving care of the Master Gardeners, we believe we can restore this area and provide a new opportunity for families to connect with the museum and each other.



Historic St. Mary's City would also appreciate help in renewing and strengthening the rain pond that greets visitors as they approach the Gift Shop at Farthing's Ordinary. This area has the potential to be a beautiful and functionally sustainable solution for storm water runoff, but does need a bit of a face lift in order to best perform its function.

Historic St. Mary's City is excited to be reinstating a partnership with the University of Maryland Extension and Master Gardeners. If your expertise, passion or skills could help Historic St. Mary's City reach its goal of revitalizing the landscape, please contact Mariah Dean or Ellen Fitzgerald (volunteer@DigsHistory.org). Future plans include regular service days to help these projects succeed!

Doug Tallamy Virtual Learning Review By: Linda Crandall

If you read the article I wrote for the last SMC MG newsletter, you will know that this past winter I discovered the expanding world of gardening workshops and symposiums that are now available on ZOOM. ZOOM broadcasts allow us to attend a workshop in almost any location, with no drive time or traffic, and from comfort of our own homes –perhaps even in our PJ's. The only thing that I have missed is the great food that is available at all the MG functions I have been to in the past.

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This winter I have attended workshops in Virginia, Ohio, and Michigan. Although, as Master Gardeners some people find it hard to get their hours of continuing education – so far this year – from January through April I have ‘attended’ over 40 hours of workshops, enjoyed every minute of it, and learned SO MUCH!!! I have discovered new experts and authors while I have continued to learn from old favorite.

One of the speakers I always enjoy listening to and learning from is Douglas Tallamy. This winter I attended three (3) different presentations he did and they were all wonderful. The one that I am most excited about was one that he did for a Master Gardener group in Michigan. Many of us are familiar with Dr. Tallamy, and most may have read his first book, “Bringing Nature Home.” Those of us who have continued to read his books may have read the book he wrote last year called, “Nature’s Best Hope, A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard”. In that book he outlines a plan that encourages all of us to share in the work of conserving nature by working together to develop and protect a more natural environment. It starts in our own yards, by the way we design them and then is followed through, with the way we maintain them. He believes that if enough people join him, we can put aside as many acres for nature, as if we created a dozen new National Parks.

In the book, and in past talks he has given, he has said that currently 85% of the land east of the Mississippi River is privately owned, and the land farther west is often tightly managed. Both of these facts often prohibit us as a community from making big changes. Along with an improved ecosystem, another advantage to his new plan, is this improved environment would happen all over the country, not just in a few states, and we would all benefit from it. The workshop I attended recently was to share with those attending the next step he has in mind for us.

At the conference/symposium, he first reminded us of a few steps we could take right now, even though it was very, early spring.

1. Try to reduce the amount of lawn you have by 50%.
2. Add what he called ‘keystone plants’.
3. Try to plant native plants, but always think... ‘Is it productive?’
4. Reduce nighttime light pollution by; adding outside lights that have motion sensors, use yellow bulbs, and led bulbs.
5. Don’t use “Mosquito Joe”, companies that make broad applications of insecticides.
6. Create spaces that will attract caterpillars – plant host plants.
7. Mulch around your trees with leaves in the fall and then leave the leaf litter in the spring. Also, create beds under your trees to reduce possible mechanical damage to roots.

At this point he got to what was, at least for me, the most exciting news. Working with a team of others, he has set up a new website that will help us all make these steps, and help work together to create this new ‘National Park’. He is calling the new park, “Homegrown National Park and here is the website, <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>. The website lets you learn more about the idea/plan, read additional information about why it is necessary, and sign up to help.

Actually, you can do one more thing there; you can follow this effort as it spreads across the county, growing in popularity. I would like to encourage all Master Gardeners in St. Mary’s County to consider checking this out and joining the effort. I would also like us to share this information with our families and friends. It sometimes feels as if things are spiraling out of control, and it is not often we can really feel like we are able to make a difference. This is a way – not only to make a difference, but to see the difference that is being made, and to share some positive energy with others.

Thru The Garden Gate

Thru the Garden Gate May 2021

By: Claudia Knowlton

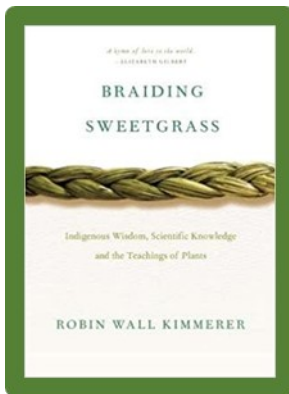
Spring! Glorious Spring! Every Master Gardener is likely outside busy with spring garden clean-up, and beginning to add new plants following garden plans designed during the winter months.

The garden gate illustrated this month brings to mind the aroma and beauty of purple lilacs now in bloom in St. Mary's. When nature bursts forth from barren winter slumbers it seems to call us to join in the joy of the season. Each selection in this month's column was chosen to reflect the renewal of energy experienced during springtime. There is a reason for the term "spring fever" as we all want to be out and about sharing the latest news! During the winter, books give great comfort and inspiration, especially gems that while published some time ago, are now beloved classics. Two are featured this month for your enjoyment. This spring you may wish to finally consider getting out and traveling again, so ideas for horticulturally themed regional and international travel are featured. Enjoy!



Book of the Month

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer



A friend of mine, who loves plants and gardening as much as she loves her children, has said that her copy of *Braiding Sweetgrass* is underlined, and tabbed and a continual source of inspiration. Why? Because Robin Wall Kimmerer is not only a botanist who asks scientific questions about nature, but, as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the natural world as our oldest teacher. She writes of the reality of living in a reciprocal relationship with nature; she awakens our ecological conscience. Wisdom for living is revealed in every page beginning with the braiding of *Hierochloe odorata*, the fragrant, holy sweetgrass. The very process brings people together in friendship and communion with each other and nature. Its full title tells the story: the author braids together "*Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants.*" (Published in 2013 by Milkweed Editions dedicated to ecological stewardship, it is available on Amazon.com and at St. Mary's Library.)

Planning A Weekend in Regional Gardens:

The Washington Post published an interesting article in the Friday, April 23rd issue of Weekend magazine describing six regional gardens that also include art. If you are looking for a get-a-way that will inspire you to add a sculpture or other piece of art to your own garden, these are ideal for a day trip. One of the six gardens is **AnnMarie Sculpture Garden and Art Center in Calvert County.**

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If you haven't been there recently do plan time to go soon, especially if you love fairy houses tucked into the woods. Check out their website for other classes and regional events as well. Here is the full list of gardens with websites:

Annmarie Sculpture Garden: <https://www.annmariegarden.org>

Baltimore Museum of Art: <https://artbma.org/collections/sculpture.garden.html>

Glenstone: <https://www.glenstone.org>

Hirschhorn Sculpture Garden: <https://hirshhorn.si.edu/exhibitions/sculpture-garden-plaza/>

The Kreeger Museum: <https://kreegermuseum.org/visit/reopening>

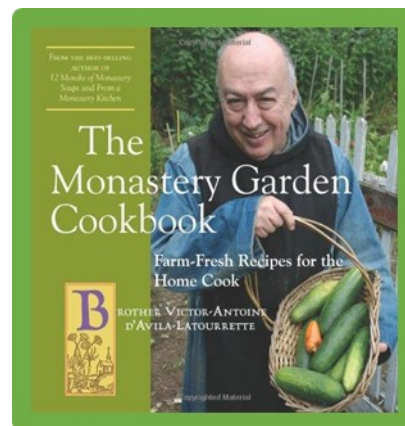
National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden: <https://www.nga.gov/collection/sculpture-garden.html>

Book of the Month

The Monastery Garden Cookbook: Farm-Fresh Recipes for the Home Cook by Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila Latourette

Suddenly in spring a gardener is faced with cooking wonderful newly harvested greens, the first produce of the season. However, sometimes one can feel overwhelmed. Coming to the rescue is this delightful cookbook, one of a series by Brother Victor, a Benedictine monk from Our Lady of the Resurrection Monastery in upstate New York. His French heritage inspires his cooking which always uses produce grown in the monastery garden. This book, like all of his cookbooks, includes charming wood block illustrations. From a gardener's perspective this is organized in an ideal way grouping recipes alphabetically by vegetable. There are soups, sauces, dips, salads and vegetarian main dishes. So if you have too many asparagus or spinach, swiss chard and sorrel this cookbook is for you!

(Published by The Countryman Press, Woodstock Vermont, 2011 and available at St. Mary's Library.)



Feast Your Eyes on These Seasonal Recipes!

Yummy Risotto Submitted by: Claudia Knowlton



Who can resist a yummy risotto! Easy, delicious, and always offering the opportunity for each cook to make it their own with the addition of herbs and spices. Arborio rice is available in most local grocery stores.

Ingredients:

4 Tablespoons of butter & splash of olive oil
1 Onion, chopped
1 celery stalk, chopped
1 bunch asparagus, cut in 1 inch pieces

2 cups Arborio rice
5 cups of chicken broth
1 cup of dry white wine
Fresh thyme or other herbs of your choice

Directions:

1. Melt butter with olive oil in large saucepan.
2. Add onion, celery, and asparagus. Sauté until veggies glisten.
3. Add the rice and stir for 1-2 minutes. Add broth and wine.
4. Stir continuously! Add salt and pepper and herbs to taste.
It may take as long as 15 minutes for rice to fully cook. Add broth if needed.
5. When rice is cooked, add grated cheese and stir vigorously until mixed with rice. Serve in bowls, add warm grilled slices of sourdough bread and serve with extra cheese and a glass of chilled wine. *Bon Appétit*

Soft-Shelled Cicadas Submitted by: Mariah Dean

Mike Raupp taught our first ever online IPM class for the Master Gardener basic training in spring 2020. During the class, he mentioned a cook book that one of his grad students, Jenna Jaden, created. She named the cookbook "Cicadalicious: Cooking and Eating Periodical Cicadas". I found it online at <http://www.tullabs.com/cicadaworld/cicadarecipes.pdf>. Below is one of the recipes in the cookbook that Mike Raupp recommended. Jenna recommends using either young adults right after they emerge from the ground or females. You can identify females because of the ovipositor, which appears as a thin folded up tube, near their abdomen.

Soft-Shelled Cicadas Ingredients: 3 cups flour
1 cup Worcestershire sauce Salt and pepper to season flour
60 freshly emerged 17 year cicadas 1 cup corn oil or slightly salted butter
4 eggs, beaten

Directions: After capturing, blanch cicadas for 1 minute in boiling water. Then marinate cicadas in a sealed container in Worcestershire sauce, in the fridge, for several hours.* Dip them, in beaten egg, roll them in the seasoned flour and then gently sauté them until they are golden brown. Yield: 4 main dish servings *this step may be skipped and you may go directly to the egg step instead.

Save the Date: Floriade Expo 2022
By: Claudia Knowlton



It is not too soon to begin exploring the possibility, however slim, of attending this world-renowned international horticultural exhibition held in the Netherlands just once every ten years.

Perhaps you've never heard of Expo Floriade, but it is worth learning about it and considering a visit.

Covering 148 acres of themed gardens in Almere, located outside of Amsterdam, a visitor will find a stunning collection of trees, shrubs, plants, crops and flowers from over 40 countries. When Expo Floriade opens April 14, 2022, it will showcase innovative environment solutions laying the groundwork for growing Green Cities of the future. Running for 6 months, there will be exhibits, workshops, demonstrations tasting surprises and much more. The focus is on innovations and solutions for energy, health, food and greenery. A cable car between the northern and southern part will offer spectacular views of the green architecture of the international pavilions.

Check out the event website ([www.http//2022ExpoFloriade.org](http://2022ExpoFloriade.org)) and you will also find numerous travel companies offering tours at a variety of price-points. How about a Master Gardener group tour?!



Scavenger Hunt Game

Spring 2021 at Home, Neighborhood, & Community Scavenger Hunt Game

Written & Provided By:



University of Maryland Extension St. Mary's County Master Gardener Program

*Special thanks to Jon and Sara Everheart for their work on this!

Family Scavenger Hunt - For Groups of All Ages

1. Name a vegetable you have seen or eaten in a salad: _____
2. Do you see trees or bushes with flowers on them in your neighborhood? What color(s) do you see? _____
3. How many legs does a spider have? _____
4. What is the one thing that seeds need to start growing besides soil? _____
5. Name a fruit that begins with the first letter of your last name: _____
6. What type of tree loses all of its leaves for only one part of the year? _____
7. Name 2 different kinds of animals that you might see in your backyard or in your neighborhood: _____
8. Name a plant that has one of the colors of the rainbow: _____
9. Name a vegetable or fruit that you would NOT like to eat: _____
10. Find a leaf bigger than your hand _____
11. A mushroom is a type of _____. Do you see any of these in your area? _____
12. What is the name of the bird that is bright red (hint, it's a male bird), that is commonly seen in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C.? _____
13. What kind of tree has seeds that people commonly call "helicopter seeds?" _____
14. What is the most important kind of bee? _____

Scavenger Hunt Game

15. Find 3 different kinds of leaves _____

16. Ladybugs have 6 legs and are in the same family as small beetles. Do you see any? _____

It's Scavenger Hunt Bingo Time!!

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Based on your answers, let's see if you
can make BINGO! 5 in a row wins!

MASTER
GARDENER 

Spring Flower Bloom Color: White	I found 3 different kinds of leaves!	Helicopter seeds are from a _____	I have seen/eaten cucumber in a salad	A Spider Has _____ Legs
I have seen/eaten tomato in a salad	Second Animal Spotted: Dog	Plant that has the color red of the rainbow	I completed the Entire Challenge!	Spring Flower Bloom Color: Yellow
Plant that has the color blue of the rainbow	I spy mushrooms! A mushroom is a type of _____	FREE SPACE!	Tree that temporarily loses leaves _____	I don't want to eat _____ _____
Bright red bird called a _____	Spring Flower Bloom Color: Purple	Plants need _____ and soil to start growing	I spy a ladybug!!!	First Animal Spotted: Bird
I have seen/eaten lettuce in a salad	Plant that has the color yellow of the rainbow	Most important kind of bee _____	Spring Flower Bloom Color: Pink	I found a leaf bigger than my hand!

Do you have some questions? Join the zoom meeting scheduled for Month, XX, 2021 at XX pm to go over your answers (and bonus question answers) with Master Gardeners and gain some more knowledge about the environment, plants, animals, and soil in your area!

Continuing Education Opportunities..

There are more continuing education opportunities than ever with how many people have been doing webinars! Please see below for some upcoming ones.

- * Summer GIEI Meeting: July 28, 2021 9am-12pm Register At: <https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYofuGgqz4uEt3e-ctB6PBOVDtC-3w0ui0f>
- * A Common Sense Approach to Pest Control: Integrated Pest Management July 20, 2021 7-8:30pm Register at: https://umd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zSJk4xCMTWe3m6kxoFGyCQ
- * International Master Gardener Conference 2021 September 12-17 Register at: https://register.cpe.vt.edu/portal/events/reg/participantTypeSelection.do?meth-od=load&entityId=3061758&utm_source=cmpgn_extmstrgrdn&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=_FCP_1_DM676142
- * The Garden Thyme Podcast <https://gardenthymepodcast.buzzsprout.com/687509>
- * Ongoing Calvert County Master Gardener's Garden Smarter Series, held on Saturday mornings <https://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/2021-02/Garden%20Smarter%20Postcard%20Final.pdf>
- * Maryland Native Plant Society has some upcoming webinars, see more at <https://mdflora.org/events>
- * And much more!! Please keep checking your inboxes for more continuing education opportunities from me! Also if you have any you think others may be interested in, please send them to me and I can share them! Thank you!

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<https://extension.umd.edu/st-marys-county/home-gardening/master-gardener-program>



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