

Coordinator's Corner

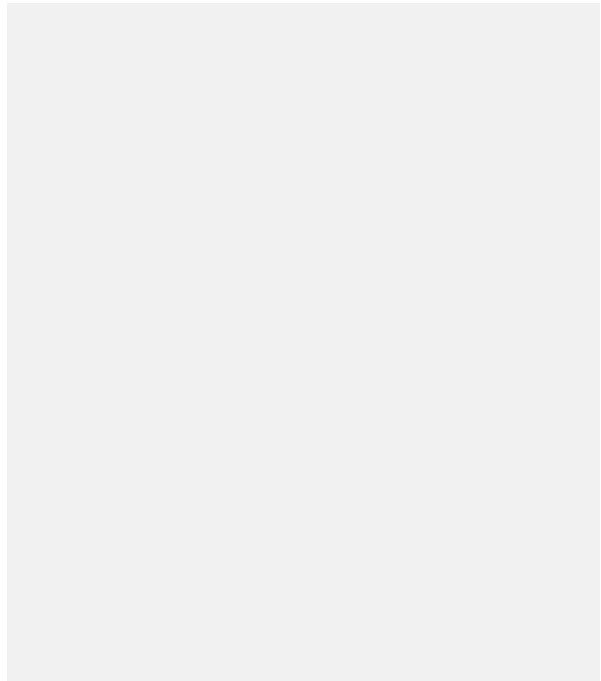
Maxine Yoon, Master Gardener Coordinator

Happy Labor Day,

I hope you were able to take advantage of the longer labor day weekend! Our in-person fall training starts tomorrow night; it is every Wednesday from 6-8pm at the extension office until the week before Thanksgiving. We have about 25 participants and I am very much looking forward to my first fall training session.

2024 National Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Conference

I had such a great time at this conference! It was great to get away (from the kids) for a little bit and explore a whole new biome and culture I've never been exposed to before. For example, there is green and red salsa pretty much everywhere. If you want both, you ask for Christmas! I met some wonderful MG Coordinators from Oregon, Oklahoma, and Florida. I even made some friends with the locals. Before all the presentations, we went to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and it was absolutely gorgeous. As you can see from two of these pictures. I'll show some of them off during our November monthly meeting. Plenty of native plants and flowers to enjoy despite being in the desert. I met a guy dressed like a tree, jump scaring folk as they walked past. Naturally, I had to take a selfie. I also learned some new ideas and programs I could potentially implement into our county!





Stay classy Anne Arundel,

Maxine Yoon, maxyoon@umd.edu

September MG Monthly Meeting - Drying Herbs and Spices

Dhruvi Patel, our Senior Food and Consumer Science (FCS) agent will be presenting the second part of the series during our monthly meeting, Drying Herbs and Spices. I am very excited about this series and she is an excellent well-spoken presenter. I hope that you are able to make it!

On **September 10th at 7pm (zoom)**, she will discuss evidence-based strategies and principles of drying herbs and spices at home with food safety standards. I will send out the zoom link to everyone the day of our meeting.

Dhruvi Patel Bio:

Dhruvi Patel is a Tenured Family and Consumer Sciences Educator with the University of Maryland Extension. She possesses 16 years of nutrition and health experience in healthcare, community, and academic settings. She possesses bachelor's in food and nutrition, two master's degrees in clinical dietetics and nutritional sciences, and currently doctoral candidate in education. Her areas of expertise are nutrition, stress management, mindfulness, food preservation, and wellness. She authored 23 manuscripts on an array of nutrition and wellness topics and presented over 32 conference proceedings on international, national, and state levels.

She served as a state Nutrition, Health, and Wellness Action Team chair for Maryland Extension and served as a co-chair for One Health strategic initiative for University of Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

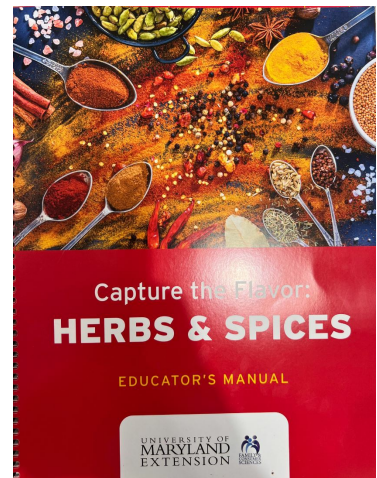


Fig Talk - October 5th @ 11am

I am very excited that our very own Jafar, the fig expert, will be hosting his Fig Talk for us at the extension office!

Do you love fig trees? The fig is a peculiar and underestimated fruit with a very rich history. For over a million years, over 750 species of fig trees shaped our world, influenced our evolution, and nourished our bodies and imagination. The fig is mentioned in every culture and religion!

Dr. Jafar Vossoughi, retired bioengineering professor and a Master Gardener, will present a comprehensive talk on the small, unusual fruit, the fig. The presentation will cover history, botany, biology, and information specific to the cultivars suitable for our region. A short review of the medicinal, nutritional, and culinary aspects of this fruit will also be discussed.

Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A9AA2FA4FDCF8-51119535-figtalk>



Tawes Garden

Although August has been hot, the Tawes Garden volunteers have been busy. We have worked at removing invasives in the garden and done non-stop weeding in the Plant Mural. We have also been preparing a new section of the garden for a Unity Gardens project planned for this fall. For our fourth Unity Gardens-funded transition of the Tawes Plant Mural to a native



plant demonstration garden, we have targeted the entry area to the Mural whose focal feature is a handsome duck sculpture. With help from volunteers from the Maryland Conservation Corps (an Americorps program), we removed non-native grasses, liriopse, ivy and vinca. Our plan is to replace those non-native invasives with native grasses and shrubs. Last week we received word that Unity Gardens accepted our application. Our Planting Day is Wednesday, October 9th and all MGs are welcome to come help us out. Many thanks to Unity Gardens!

Coming up -- **TAWES GARDEN CELEBRATES NATIVE PLANTS, Saturday, September 14th, 10am-2pm**

We are looking forward to sponsoring our second annual celebration of native plants at Tawes Garden. This event is not a native plant sale, although we will have

dozens of native plants to give away. Representatives from local groups supporting native plants and sustainable gardening will be there, including several Master Gardener projects, Project Butterfly & Bumblebee, Watershed Stewards, Wildflowers in a Weekend and Chesapeake & Coastal Services, part of the Department of Natural Resources. Master Gardeners will be available to answer gardening questions and help attendees learn about the many native plants that are in the Plant Mural demonstration garden and easy to grow in their own gardens, providing food and habitat for birds and pollinators.

The event is rain or shine, free and open to the public. Tawes Garden forms part of the campus of the Department of Natural Resources at 580 Taylor Avenue in Annapolis. Free parking is available in front of the DNR Building along Herbert Sachs Drive. Please share news about this event with neighbors and friends and take the opportunity to check out Tawes Garden.

Cindy Wells & Kathy Devine, co-chairs



Apprentice Gardens - Kinder Farm Park

Apprentice Garden meets at the Kinder Farm Park community garden #105 in Millersville, every Wednesday at 6:30PM, from April through September. You can join us for the Wednesday meetings, and/or do other-day garden checks and extra watering. There is a sign-in sheet in the garden mailbox for noting your presence and recording your hours.

Educational Outreach Activities (upcoming, monthly)

- Meetings with the families to answer questions, and to work with them and offer advice regarding weeding, watering, de-bugging, fertilizing, pruning and harvesting their crops

Volunteer Opportunities (upcoming, monthly)

- Working with project families to answer questions about their garden spaces, to offer advice and to work with them on garden chores.
- Tending, maintaining and watering the common spaces in the Apprentice Garden, shared by all gardeners.
- Tending, maintaining and watering the pollinator gardens along the outside of the Apprentice Garden fence.
- Providing other-day garden checks and extra watering during dry spells.
- Occasional work parties for specific tasks (none scheduled at this time).



Accomplishments and Challenges

The Apprentice Garden spaces are producing a variety of vegetables. String beans are finished, and the potatoes have been dug. Herbs from the Mediterranean garden, including handfuls of lavender, and basil from the common spaces are available for the families. Plus, cucumbers and okra are ripe, and tomatoes are ripening slowly. The winter squash is escaping its spaces and tucked back into the planting beds. In July, the families picked the late greens, okra, grape tomatoes, some peppers, onions, and beans.

The perennial flower gardens planted by the Master Gardener volunteers are growing well, including the swamp milkweed, and a variety of rudbeckia along the outside of the fence.

Thank you's to Kristin Silva, Kathy Albers, Wendy Boardman, Kathy Enderle, Deb Fritz, and Lourdes Hergenroeder. Thank you, especially, to all our weekend waterers - the lack of rain has been a challenge.

A pool party with a pot luck supper was held for the families and volunteers.

All is well in the Apprentice Garden.

Co-chaired by Janet Clauson and Kristin Silva

janetclauson301@gmail.com, 410.987.2027

ka_silva@verizon.net, 443.254.3133



Historic Linthicum Walks

Educational Outreach Activities

In August, project co-chairs Ingrid Watson and Anne Muecke met with the Friends of Historic Linthicum Walks President and Board about future plans for this special property. The Board installed an eye-catching red sign at the entrance of Linthicum Walks on Davidsonville Road, which should raise public awareness and utilization of the property. In turn, this may attract a larger audience for Master Gardener outreach and education next year. The Board is also considering what **public events** to host, working to remove *Microstegium vimineum* (Japanese stiltgrass) on the property before it goes to seed, and weatherproofing the on-site bulletin board, on which we Master Gardeners can share printed educational materials with visitors.

Volunteer Opportunities

Master Gardeners and interns are welcome to visit the [Historic Linthicum Walks](#) property at 2295 Davidsonville Road, Gambrills, MD. Reach out to Ingrid (ingridwatson@outlook.com) if you're interested in joining the Master Gardener project team next year.

Accomplishments and Challenges

- We had fun this summer continuing to shape the garden bed into a visually appealing, pollinator-attracting site for the enjoyment of our fellow Anne Arundel County residents.
- The Friends of Historic Linthicum Walks Board concurred with our proposal to highlight the status of this Master Gardener project garden bed as a certified Monarch Waystation. To maintain **Monarch Waystation** certification, our project will continue increasing the number of milkweed plants and other sources of nectar, removing invasive weeds, and improving soil fertility.
- Deer browsing is a challenge at Historic Linthicum Walks, but it's still possible to cultivate lots of pollinator-attracting flowers by planting less-palatable plants. We spotted this family of deer on the property just before sunset last week, but they were not bothering our Master Gardener project.



The Dairy Farm Native Plants Demonstration Gardens

Greetings from the Dairy Farm Project.

Our great crew of MG's has been working hard and moving forward with the refreshing of our gardens.

If you are not familiar with this project, there are several sections of gardens to care for. The main garden area has been thinned, replanted, weeded and mulched and looks great.

Our wonderful volunteers are concentrating on the area around the Firehouse. Mulching was done around the pavilion gardens and we will get more to finish the firehouse this month.



Otherwise, it is normal maintenance and watering.

Our next scheduled work parties are Saturday, September 14th and Thursday, September 26th.

NOTE: WE ARE CHANGING TO OUR SUMMER HOURS OF 8:00 – 11:00 TO AVOID THE HEAT.

We have made great progress in our efforts to REORGANIZE, RENEW, REPLANT AND REFRESH our gardens. There is still a lot to do, so if you are interested, please join us. All are welcome.

Our regular work parties are the second Saturday and Fourth Thursday of each month. We have tools, but please bring your own favorites, gloves, water, etc. Large clippers or loppers will be helpful for this.

If you have any questions, please contact Malcolm Doying at oldcelt100@aol.com or Sandy Dale at sndale55@verizon.net.

Anne Arundel County Fair - Flower Department

Greetings to all Master Gardeners, new and old:

It is time to think about and get ready for this years' Anne Arundel County Fair.

We are excited to invite you to participate this year. As most of you know, this is a Master Gardener project held for only 10 days in September. We have a beautiful display of exhibits from home gardeners throughout the county. Our job is to accept the entries, place them on the shelves according to category, assist the judge on judging day, and release entries to exhibitors at the end of the

Fair. We also answer questions from the public on fair days as well as keeping our booth clean and swept and the plants watered. We also are planning a Make-it-Take-it project for the kids on Children's Day.



We will be having a training class at the Fair Office on Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

Even if you have participated in the past, you are encouraged to attend this class as all the rules and procedures have changed. At this class you will learn how to accept entries, fill out the proper forms and identify what the exhibitor presents. This is not difficult, but needs to be done correctly. We have many seasoned MG's to help you so do not be afraid to jump right in and hook up

with an experienced person.

We will also serve dinner at 6:30, with the meeting starting promptly at 7:00. This is a really fun event, so please join in. RSVP to Claudia Ploor, cploor@aol.com or Pat Shema, pshema@aol.com so we know how much food to provide. We will send an email to everyone who has signed up previously as well as interns.

Thanks to everyone who has made this a really fun project in the past. Please join us. Pat Shema

Re-Pollinate Anne Arundel

Educational Outreach Activities

- Every Thursday 3-6 and many Saturdays 10-2

Volunteer Opportunities

- Every Thursday 3-6 and many Saturdays 10-2



Compost Demonstration Garden at Quiet Waters Park

The Compost & Native Gardens project's public attendance continues to remain high even during the summer months. This year an average of 14 residents attend each compost demonstration.

The QWP compost site will finish out the year by hosting compost demonstrations for the public at 10am on the following days: Wed. Sept. 4, Sat. Sept. 21, Wed. Oct. 2, Sat. Oct. 19, Sat. Nov. 2. The MG/intern work session is 9am-noon on these days as well.

Look for the Compost & Native Gardens project at the Tawes Garden Native Plant Festival on Sat. Sept. 14th where the project will be staffing a table, answering compost related questions and handing out literature.

During the work sessions, the members of the compost team have diligently worked to produce and harvest compost for the gardens. The public sees first hand how we maintain the 15 bins on display and make use of the finished compost. At the end of each demonstration, the attendees are invited to view the native plants on display.

The team has also kept the native plant gardens looking amazing in spite of this year's record breaking heat and drought.

Here's a picture of Catherine Salam presenting the compost demonstration!



Dairy Farm Vegetable Demonstration Gardens

Greetings all MG's.

We continue to water and weed. Thanks to the watering crew during the hot month of July.

CROP REPORT:

GOOD: We finished pulling the beets and onions. The carrots are very nice: long, straight, no forking. Whiter corn is doing well. We are getting a few cucumbers now.

NOT SO GOOD: The groundhog got the new planting of summer squash despite the netting we put up. He just nosed himself right under it, so that's that for squash. Tomatoes and peppers are stunted, and have not recovered. No fruit or new blossoms at this time, but maybe when it cools down some.

The red corn is stunted but there are a few developing ears if the rodent doesn't get it. No eggplant yet.

COMING ALONG: We have nice Basil and celery. We dug some potatoes, but they are still quite small. Potatoes are heat sensitive and will stop growing when soil temperature is 80 degrees or higher. They will grow more when it cools down. I usually harvest late August. Same with sweet potatoes. There have been no tours this month.



Please join in if you have an interest in growing food for your family. Come and learn with us.

Our next scheduled work sessions will be Saturday, August 10, and Thursday, August 22.

Our regular schedule is the second Saturday and fourth Thursday of the month.

NOTE: WE ARE CHANGING TO OUR SUMMER HOURS OF 8:00 – 11:00 TO AVOID THE HEAT.

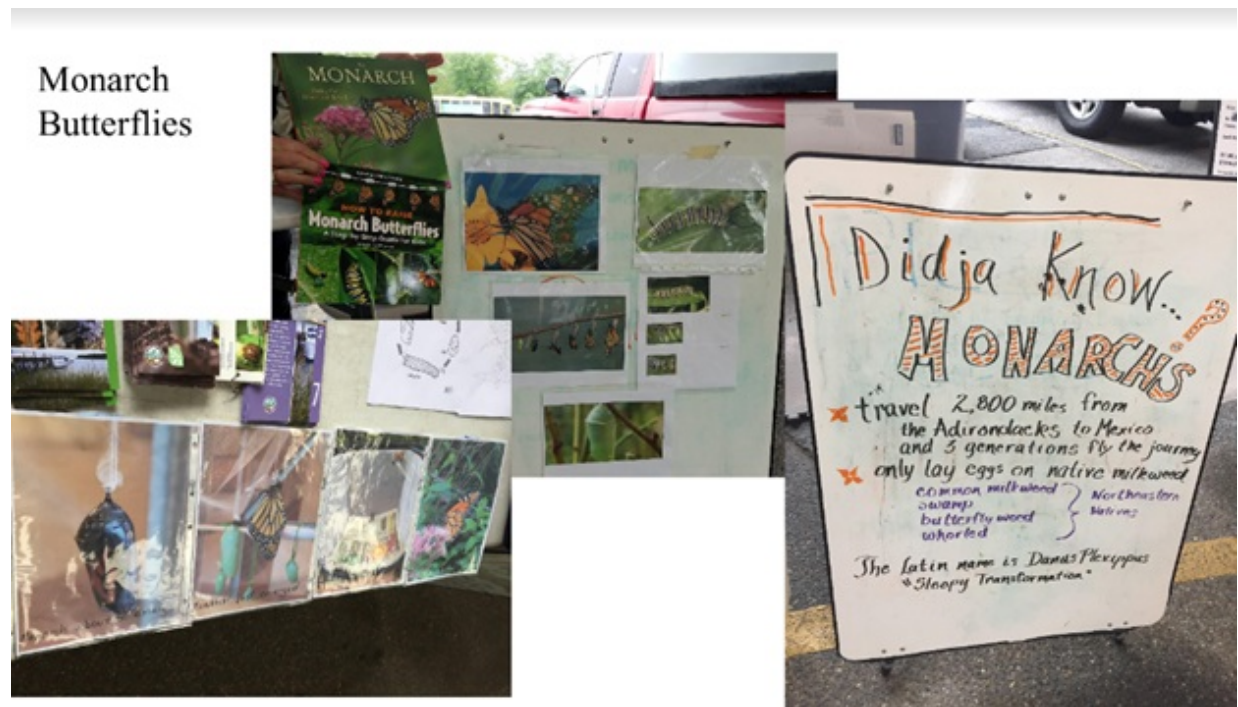
If you would like to be added to or deleted from my mailing list, please let me know. For continuing information, please read your newsletters and Friday Flashes.

Ask-a-Master Gardener Plant Clinics

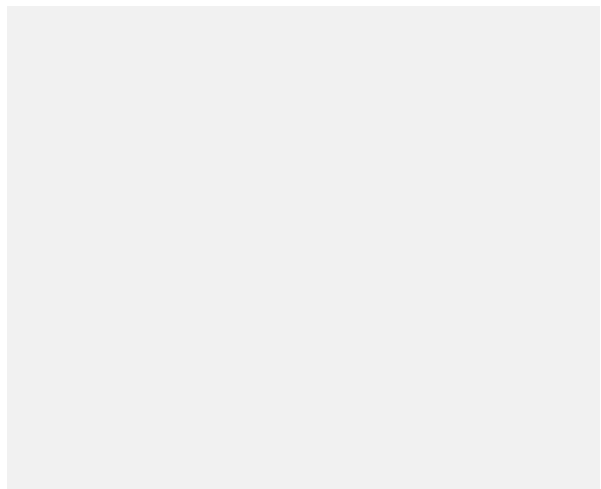
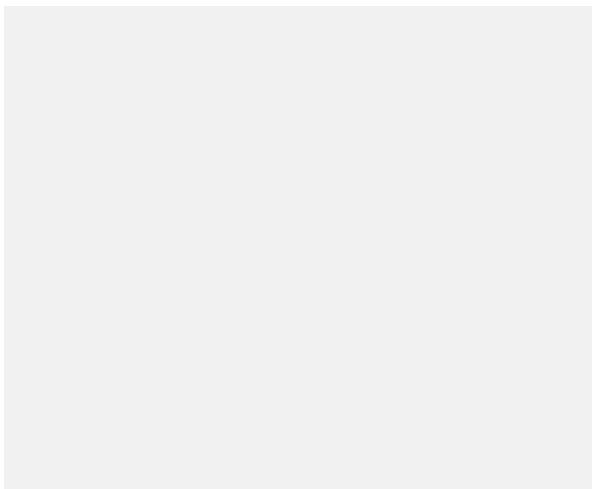
Learning naturally loops through a cycle of interest, exploration, discovery, reflection, and more interest, leading learners on to increasingly complex knowledge and sophisticated thinking. The **Ask-a-Master Gardener Plant Clinics** use the strategy of open-ended questioning with photos and other artifacts to pique interest and tap into prior knowledge. This provides opportunities for conversations, deeper understanding of gardening and our environment while building community. These are a few examples of this strategy used at the Riva Road, Annapolis, Crofton Library, and Severna Park clinics.

Next month we will be sharing our plans for the new Community Conservation Garden at the Severna Park site. We are planning to test the soil and will share the results and a tentative timeline. Many of the vendors are also excited about this endeavor and have asked to be a part of the creation. Stay tuned!

Riva Road, Annapolis



Severna Park



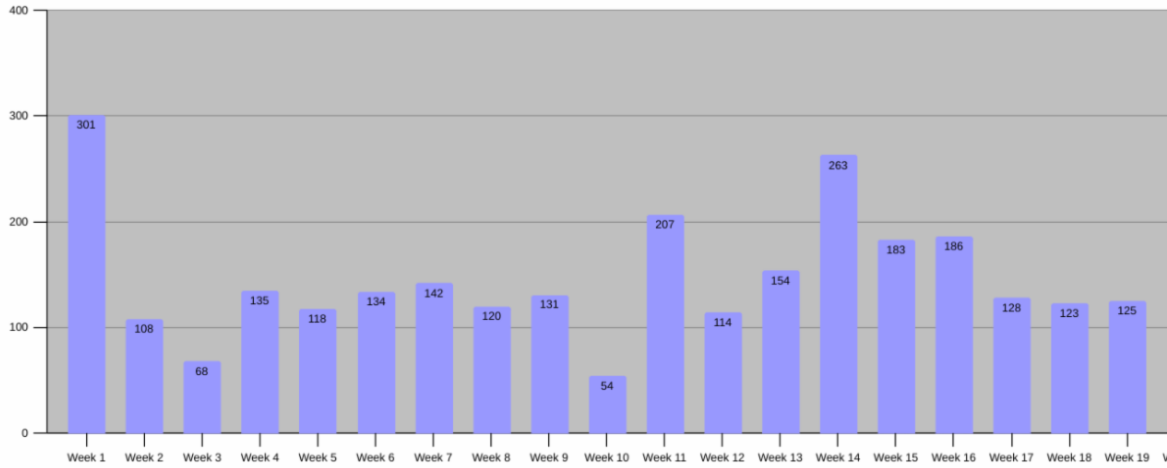


Crofton Library



Total Ask A MG indirect contacts

Total Count to date: 2372 contacts for all 3 clinics and all "one-off" clinics



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Name of Organization: **University of Maryland – Department of Natural Resources**

Name of Program: **Master Gardener Program – Anne Arundel County**

Contact Information for Program Staff: **Ronald David Myers, 3012267473, myersrd@umd.edu**

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