

## Grow It Eat It Statewide Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2020 | 10-2 | Maryland 4-H Foundation | 8020 Greenmead Dr. | College Park, Maryland

### List of Attendees

Jean Burchfield  
Jo McClintock  
Kathleen Breen  
Ashley Delgado  
Anthony Nathe  
Robert Cook  
Esther Mitchell  
Erica Jones  
Stephanie Hamel  
JoAnn Russo

Erica Smith  
Bill Newman  
Linde Russell  
Carol Allen  
Nancy Allred  
Patricia Strawler  
Julianne Bethea  
Mariah Dean  
RT West  
Stephanie Mathias  
Jon Traunfeld

## GIEI Updates

### Jon Traunfeld

- Please refer to [umd.edu/virusinfo](http://umd.edu/virusinfo) for updates on the evolving COVID-19.
- Summer GIEI Statewide Meeting | Tuesday, July 28th | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm | Pot-luck lunch hosted by the UME Calvert County MG program at the [American Chestnut Land Trusts' Double-Oak Farm](#) in Prince Frederick
- HGIC & UME Master Gardener staff updates
  - Ask an Expert answered 7,150 questions in 2019! This is up 30% from 2018. Questions are becoming more complex as consumers are going online to answer simpler issues.
  - Miri Talbec is newest Ask an Expert member.
  - May K. Malinoski retiring June 30, hopefully will have a replacement by midyear 2020.
  - Year of Beneficial Bugs graphics available on the MG website [here](#). Graphics available for social media, postcards and blank PDFs. Email Jean Burchfield at [jbur@umd.edu](mailto:jbur@umd.edu) for any questions or requests.
  - Master Gardener Seed packets have arrived! Seeds will be mailed out to counties that are not present today. 'Prospera' basil and 'State Fair' zinnia seeds.
- 2019 UME GIEI annual reporting results
  - HGIC and MG Annual Reports now available [online](#). Jon will send the report to relevant politicians and stakeholders. County coordinators invited to do the same at a local level.
  - We would like to increase the accuracy of reporting by having all coordinators complete the survey with help from program leaders.
  - Testimonials and stories are just as important as the numbers. Pass along comments to your coordinator and Jon/ Steph to include in next year's annual report.
- Continuing Education
  - Many Cont. Ed. Events will be hosted virtually. Visit the [Continuing Education](#) page for up to date information
  - Growing Healthy Youth Gardens and Plant This, Not That! will be hosted via Webex.

- Website & social media-
  - HGIC is continuously updating webpages and moving away from PDFs to increase search engine optimization (SEO) and searchability on the UME website, accessibility, and ease of updating.
  - Grad student from Department of Entomology hired to update HGIC pollinator pages.
  - HGIC social media continues to increase followers and engagement.
- UME Master Gardener Learning Garden at The Maryland State Fair- Robert Cook
  - Effort between Baltimore City and Baltimore County and MGs from across the state.
  - Robert invited any MGs to volunteer in the prep stage this year.
  - Fair grounds open 24/7, feel free to visit any time. Email Robert at [robertacook@gmail.com](mailto:robertacook@gmail.com) for a tour.
  - Learning Garden adds in new features and plants every year and includes a variety of beneficial insects and growing methods.

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## GIEI County/City Program Updates

Coordinators provided 5-minute updates about their program.

### Anne Arundel County

- Kicked off 2020 with seed swap in January
- Seed starting workshops at two libraries, other library workshops coming up related to veggie gardening
- Apprentice Garden at Kinder Farm Park subscription program for families to garden for the year. Using no till and succession planting. Concerned about recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) leaching into garden beds. Recreation and Parks removed it due to the concern. Carol Allen is familiar with this product and is interested in potentially researching byproducts.
- Courtyard area for native plantings that can be used for landscape at AA Extension Office.
- Will teach 2-4 week veggie garden courses for adults Thursday evening starting in April.
- Historic Hancock Resolution Farm Park demonstrates 18<sup>th</sup> century farming practices with heirloom gardening. Will have visitor center and meeting room soon!

### Baltimore City (report provided by Deb Mckearney via email)

- Expanding library programs to 13 Pratt Libraries across the city. Presenting on various topics including container gardening and cucurbits.
- Increasing school garden curriculum with Marcus Williams, new MG coordinator.
- Continuing to present at retirement communities when it's requested
- Plant Clinics at farmer's markets remains really popular

### Baltimore County

- Repeat clients looking to learn more in different venues - they start at a library class then come to a demo garden event then a demo garden seminar, for example. More and more clients are telling us they learned about us or the event on Facebook.
- Sub-program/committee recruitment/strengthening:
  - We reorganized into functional units and away from subject area committees. Technically, there is no longer a GIEI committee in Balto Co. The effort goes into recruiting and strengthening the whole organization. We are working to make opportunities available to anyone using online tools and membership-wide communications.
  - I also believe that most volunteers don't have a set "passion" in any particular subject area and if they do, edible gardening is high on that list. I've also seen that folks enter the program with a particular interest and as they learn more about gardening or engage with our outreach they shift or expand their interests. This is win-win as it makes for a more well-rounded volunteer which

obviously carries into the organization and improves organizational capacity. Recruiting the right volunteers into the Program plays a large role in this and Alexa and that particular team have made significant improvements in that area.

- Topics of increasing interest: container gardening, seed saving/ starting, and over-wintering vegetables
- Topics of decreasing interest: "IPM". We avoid using the term; call it "good gardening practices" instead.
- Ideas & real-life success stories for engaging hands-on activities in demo gardens & at events: Folks at garden events will participate in an activity, but I'm not certain they are learning anything or taking the lesson home to employ it. I let others do their activities while I can walk the garden and give practical information to folks requesting it. Offering interesting things in the garden helps to start the conversation - interesting trellises/supports, unusual plants. We will let children harvest to gain their interest and engage their parents in a conversation about how they can grow these plants themselves.

## Calvert County

- Garden smarter- 23 lectures at libraries, 8 of which are GIEI this year. The rest of them focus on clean water.
- Seed swap was very successful!
- Project Spudnik garden started by 1 MG four years ago now has 35 children participating! Kids learn to grow potatoes in a bag. Donated 460 lbs of produce to food bank. (article on this project will be posted to MD Grows blog on 3/20/20.
- Anne Marie garden is 8 raised beds and produced 1010 lbs of food to local food bank
- Montessori school, scouts, stem group go through sessions over history lesson, planting, harvest, then cook and eat food.

## Frederick County

- Demo Garden signage has been a success! Realtor signs used to include handout about the garden.
- Will host festival to promote 2020 Year of Beneficial Bugs
- Gearing up for September Frederick County fair – theme is “Lettuce Turnip the Beet”
- 2019 started going to local farmer’s market with giveaways to attract contacts and families.
- Ag Week at Francis Scott Key mall had display boards, plants, props, etc. are big hits.
- Training on small space gardening like container gardening and square foot gardening is popular

## Howard County

- Non-profit farm, Chesapeake Ecology Center, collaborating to be a physical location for GIEI. Farm is currently bare land, working on planning the space for growing food based on living environment (small balconies, windowsills, container gardening).
- Soil conservation seeds for Title I schools is fully funded! Will be implemented by Earth Day 2020
- Howard County Conservancy improving wildlife management.

## Montgomery County

- Gleaning effort at farms in MOCO. Volunteers glean from farms and food is donated to Manna
- Growing Gardeners- Partnership with Manna to give seedlings, medium, pots, and instructions on how to grow food themselves in a balcony/ window.
- Open House- May 2
  - 800-1000 people
  - Classes for both children and adults
  - People prefer hands on workshops over classes
  - Foraging has been a popular topic
  - Discover local food for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders- where food comes from
  - Activities including seed mosaics, seed bombs and digging for bugs (fake insects buried in soil for little ones)

- Soil testing group
- Kombucha workshop
- Gardening workshop- how to prepare soil, seeds, transplants, protect crops
- Derwood Demo Garden- 2,578 lbs. of food, big jump from 2018. Delivered to Manna once a week

### Prince George's County

- Winter seed saving workshop partnered with Soil Conservation District
- Partnered with Capital Christian Fellowship Growing Roots program to work in the veggie and herb gardens
- Arbor Day- County Executive wants to have vegetable school gardens (Tower Gardens) for 26 elementary schools, may include [lettuce cup terrarium](#)
- Open house on May 16<sup>th</sup> featuring demo garden, training, lectures, crafts, and plant sale. Lectures centered around beneficial insects.
- MG interns required to do 2 hours at Riverdale Heirloom Gardens.
- Esther taught 16 teachers about greenhouses how to stock them, get started, how to grow, curriculum, selling for profit, applying for grants, etc.
- Local churches in PG county to start community gardens and school gardens.
- Beautification committee has judges that judge gardens and home owner landscape with awards ceremony and dinner.
- Pollinator festival in Brentwood to be held the second week in June.

### St. Mary's County

- Deb Mayfield is passionate about GIEI! Container gardens at State Fair Grounds with all food going to food bank.
  - Library workshops and school gardens are in development throughout the county.
  - Herb gardens in historic St. Mary's City
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## Food Safety in Food Gardens

Carol Allen, Agent Associate, Dept. of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture

See Presentation Attached