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"Message from Mariah"

We have had a very busy fall! It feels like we have been nonstop since fair! Thank you to everyone who helped out at the fair!

Fair volunteers: Debra Mayfield and Stephanie Frederiksen who spent many hours preparing for the fair and volunteering at the fair. Deb volunteered at the fair everyday of the fair as she does every year. Patricia Armstrong, Lynn Duff, Rebecca Cervino, Barb Landers, Fran Beale, Janet Marks, Dawn Letts, Louise Snell, Thao Le Nguyen, Cindy Carpenter, Elizabeth Clark, Kimberly Dean, Debra Pence, Caroline Braun, Patrice Hopkins, Debbie Kole, Tracey Pintell-Quade, and Gerri Frazier all helped staff the Plant Clinic table in the Extension building! Thank you all so much!

Thank you to the volunteers who helped do garden tours with Deb at the fair! Jackie DePiazza, Kimberly Dean, Patrice Hopkins, Monika Herdlick, and Barb Landers.

Thank you to Linda Crandall and her worms who helped Riverfest go so swimmingly!

Out of the 5 weekends in October, we had public programming during 3 of them. Thank you everyone for all your hard work!

Front Yard ribbon cutting volunteers: Deb Pence who took the lead! Patricia Armstrong, Bill and Marlene Smith, Shannon Dyson, Lynn Williamson, and Patricia Armstrong. Also Roxana Soltero got a shout out at the event for all the hard work she has put into the project! I know that Fran Beale, Deb Pence, and others have also been big helps there!

Thank you Oyster Festival volunteers Linda Crandall, Brittany Martin, Debbie Kole, Thao Le Nguyen, Macy Hovland, Michelle Johnson, Lynn Williamson, and Jackie DePiazza! Picture from festival of Macy with horseradish from her garden and a sign about "ask how to grow horseradish for your seafood!" pictured below.

Thank you to the ever kind and helpful Jackie DePiazza and Lynn Williamson for educating the families that took time on their Halloween weekend to learn about science and gardening with us at STEAM Day!

Huge thank you to Sue Gibbs for helping on Early Childhood Advisory Council night! ECAC Coordinator, Bridgette, came up with the grassy pumpkins, pictured below!

Thank you Farm to School volunteers Liz Ward, Fran Beale, Sue Gibbs, as well as 4-H volunteers "Minnow" and Phoebe-tate! Below is a picture of myself and Minnow teaching pre-k children about corn as well as other fruits and vegetables. Picture credits to Blue Moon Studios Photography for taking many awesome pictures of Farm to School Day at Green Holly!

Our fall social was fantastic! Thank you to everyone who attended and brought a dish! Hopefully we can do more fun events like this in the future. Thanks to Jean Campbell and Summerseat for hosting us!! Below is a picture of Fran Beale with her "spooky meatloaf"! (directions for making your own at the end of the newsletter)





Fran Beale with her “crazy meatloaf”! All the food at the fall social was delicious! I am very glad to be back to being able to have potlucks again. Fran’s creativity with making the meatloaf into a skull shape really tickled our funny bones. Sorry, I had to put a corny joke in here.



Macy Hovland and Mariah Dean at the 2022 Oyster Festival ... featuring horseradish from Macy’s garden!



Above: Sue Gibbs and Mariah Dean at the always nice Early Childhood Advisory Council social engagement night, this time at the Leonardtown Library!



Left: 4-H'er Minnow and Master Gardener Coordinator Mariah educating pre-k students about local fruits, vegetables, and flowers at Farm to School Day!

Discover Leonardtown Library's Front Yard Native Garden

By: Bill and Marlene Smith

Through a community effort, the Leonardtown Library's Front Yard native garden was dedicated on October 8. The dedication was conducted by Michael Blackwell, Director of the St. Mary's County Libraries, and Elizabeth Curtz, board member of the Friends of St. Clements Bay who coordinated the installation of the Front Yard garden.

Michael and Elizabeth started the dedication by thanking the people, organizations and companies that were invaluable to implementing and maintaining the project:

County of St. Mary's
 County Commissioners
 Keep America Beautiful
 Chesapeake Bay Trust
 St. Mary's Forestry and Conservancy Board
 MD Urban Committee and Forestry Committee
 Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
 Annapolis Native Landscape Design
 St Mary's County Master Gardeners
 Silver Team of Girl Scout Troop 6184
 Butterfly Alley
 Wild Birds Unlimited Lexington Park
 Rotary Club of Leonardtown in honor of Lisa Blackwell
 Garvey Senior Center
 Friends of St. Mary's County Library
 Leonardtown Library
 Friends of St. Clements Bay
 Wentworth Nursery
 Natural Resources Management from Dr. James A Forrest Career and Technology Center

Special thanks went to several individuals including:

- Amy Henderson and Roxanne Soltero who were persistent in their help with planting and watering
- Shannon Dyson, Becky Wolf and Nicole Basenback for designing the interpretive signs
- Michelle Johnson, a.k.a. the brick guru, who supervised laying of the brick border
- Christine Packs of Annapolis Native Design for the garden design plan
- Dorothy Birch from the Natural Resources Management of Dr. James A Forrest Career and Technology Center for her students' assistance with the project
- Community members for benches and other donations made in honor of loved ones

Following the acknowledgements, here was a countdown to the ribbon cutting, or rather a "twine" cutting to keep in line with the native theme, to officially dedicate the garden and announce its opening for all to enjoy.



Pictured are Roxanne Soltero (SMMG), Patricia Armstrong (SMMG and Garvey Senior Center representative), Juanita Nether (Garvey Senior Center representative), Michael Blackwell, Elizabeth Curtz (Friend of St. Clement's Bay) and Amy Henderson (SMMG)

Continued on pg. 4

Walking around the Front Yard view and learning about all of the native plants, shrubs, and trees in the garden, individuals were able to visit various tables stationed throughout that provided education. Organizations represented included St. Mary's Master Gardeners and Bay-Wise, Butterfly Alley, Friends of St. Clements Bay, Library Book Collections and Birds Unlimited of Lexington Park. Music was provided by David Norris, while two food trucks, Lucky Dog and Nicoletti's, were on-site for our eating and snacking pleasure.

Master Gardeners Lynn Williamson, Debra Pence, and Shannon Dyson manned the "Ask a Master Gardener" table. They talked to patrons to answer their gardening questions and handed out literature. Master Gardener Linda Crandall was onsite as a representative for Bay-Wise. Linda had several demonstrations and examples about the health of the Chesapeake Bay.



Master Gardener table for Ask a Master Gardener: Lynn Williamson, Debra Pence, and Shannon Dyson. Bay-Wise: Linda Crandall

Butterfly Alley, a native plant business in Leonardtown, had displays of the native plant plugs that they sell at their shop just up the road from the library. They were represented by Carrie Crier, Rick Malchow, and their dog Otis.



Butterfly Alley: Carrie Crier (left) and Rick Malchow (back center)

During the event, Barb Whipkey, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited stores in La Plata and Lexington Park, donated and installed a blue bird house. Barb is a champion for Eastern Bluebirds.



Wild Birds Unlimited of Lexington Park: Barb Whipkey

The Leonardtown Library staff manned a table displaying the books that were donated by the Friends of St. Clements Bay for patrons to check out.



Leonardtown Library Staff representing the Library Book Collections donated by Friends of St. Clements Bay.

It took volunteers of the Front Yard over a year of dedicated work to bring the gardens to today's ribbon cutting. Volunteers invested significant time in order to demonstrate that landscaping with native plants can increase "curb appeal" as well as healthier eco-systems in our yards. One key element of using natives to enhance your curb appeal is including "signs of care" that signal to passersby that the landscape is intentional and not a neglected wild patch. Brick salvaged from one of the old Hayden farmhouse chimneys has been repurposed (one brick at a time) for edging the beds. In addition to edging, information signs have been installed, including the Welcome Sign that captures the project's essence.



The garden attracted many pollinators in its first year, as well as birds, bees, and other insects. A bee resort was installed to provide shelter for native bees. Two times this past season, a nest full of hungry baby mockingbirds was discovered tucked into a branch of one of the new native trees.



Photos courtesy of Elizabeth Curtz

The garden is also beginning to attract readers. Come by and take a look and give a good listen, who knows what treasures you might discover.



While the Ribbon Cutting on Saturday 10/8 was a real celebration of the Front Yard's first year of progress, the hope is that it was the first of many community gatherings at the Front Yard.

Article and photos (unless otherwise noted) by St. Mary's Master Gardener Bill Smith and Charles County Master Gardener Marlene Smith.

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Curtz

Front Yard Ribbon Cutting **By: Patricia Armstrong**

I enjoyed assisting fellow master gardeners at our information table at the Front Yard Project Ribbon Cutting on October 8 in front of the Leonardtown Library. There was a nice crowd in attendance and what struck me the most was the outpouring of support from various groups in our community to make this project a great success. Elisabeth Curtz has done a tremendous job communicating and garnering help and support. If you have not stopped by to see this project, please do so the next time you are in Leonardtown! This area is already being used by the public to read and relax. There are a few benches. Enjoy!



Put Some Spice in Your Fall

By: Janet Marks

Fall usually means the end to most fresh herbs and spices from the garden. As the basil fades and the parsley is consumed by caterpillars, this spice explodes into sight seemingly overnight. With dazzling purple flowers accented with red-orange stigmas and styles, *Crocus sativus* yields a harvest of the most precious spice.

The fall-blooming Saffron crocus, which is believed to have originated in Iran, grows surprisingly well in Southern Maryland. Saffron crocus favors the same conditions as their spring flowering cousins - well drained soil and full sun. They are dormant during the spring and summer, so other crops can spread over the corms. By the end of September, be sure to clear the saffron bed of any covering crops (or weeds). The plants emerge around mid-October and begin flowering a few days later.

Saffron season is short, with individual flowers only lasting about two days. To harvest the spice, you will need tweezers and reading glasses. Pluck the three red-orange threads (stigmas and styles) gently from each flower before it wilts. Let the threads dry in a safe (meaning non-breezy) place for a few days.

Saffron corms can be purchased from a number of online sources. Plant the corms in summer about 3" deep and 6" apart. The first harvest will be quite meager, however, the bulbs will multiply to provide a larger and extended harvest over the years. Deer, voles, and rabbits will also find saffron quite tasty, so protect your crop accordingly. Planting saffron will definitely make your fall a little spicier.



Fall and Winter Care of Roses

By: Kimberly Dean

Where did the summer go? It feels like just yesterday I was counting down the days until spring so that I could see the beautiful rose blooms. It is so hard to believe that it is time to start talking about fall/winter care for roses. Not into rose gardening? Many of these guidelines can be used for your perennials and shrubs.

Many of the fall gardening activities are driven by our frost date. In St. Mary's County, Zone 7b, our approximate frost date is October 29th.

Fertilization: When we fertilize, the rose pushes new tender growth. To ensure that growth has time to harden off, we calculate 6 weeks prior to our frost date to complete all fertilization. The last fertilization date for Zone 7b is approximately September 17th.

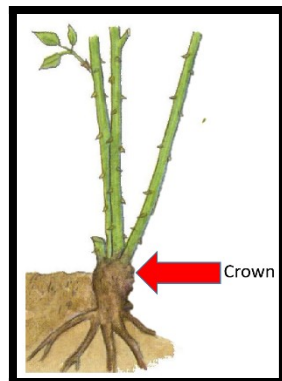
Deadheading (removing spent blooms): I typically stop deadheading when I finish my last fertilization. Some varieties produce red/orange hips that add winter interest and feed wildlife. I am surprised when I see a rose that isn't noted as having the ability to produce hips and then low and behold, it puts on a show for me. If you can't stand seeing the roses with spent blooms, there is no problem with continuing to deadhead.



New Plantings: To ensure that new roses have time to get their roots acclimated prior to the ground freezing, plantings should be targeted for 6 weeks prior to your last frost date. Note: the soil starts to freeze after 5 consecutive days at 32 degrees or

lower and it can be difficult to get the shovel into the ground at that time.

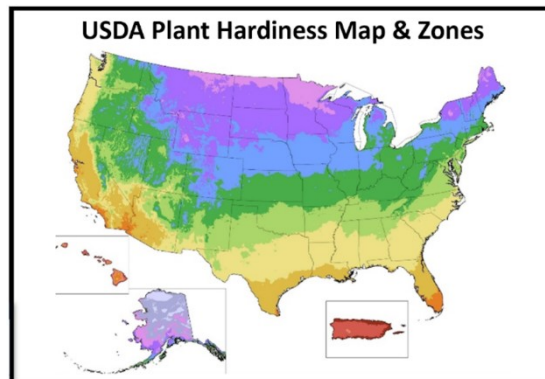
Plant Moves: I usually try to wait until roses are dormant prior to moving them to reduce shock. How will you know they are dormant? Take off a few leaves (defoliate) and watch the rose for two weeks. If the leaves don't grow back, your rose is asleep and can be safely moved. I use Biotone when planting (root stimulator) and when the rose wakes up in the spring, the biotone will be available for the rose.



Compost/Mulch: Fall is a great time to top dress your beds with compost and mulch. Compost provides organic material to improve our clay soil and increase the health of our plants. Mulch is important during the winter months to insulate the crown of the rose. Ensure that you mound up the mulch slightly on the crown. If the crown is damaged by the winter elements, it will affect the rose health and the rose may not make it through winter.

Reduce the Canes to Waist High (shrub roses only): Many of my roses soar for the heavens at the end of the summer season. To ensure that the roses are not snapped in the wind over the winter, bring them down to waist high. When spring arrives, we will reduce further.

If there is any winter die-back on the canes due to a harsh winter, it usually affects the top 6-12". This portion will need to be removed in the spring. If you have already reduced your roses to 12" high in total and they are subjected to winter die-back, you may have no choice but to reduce the canes to the crown. Therefore, we leave at least 2 feet of additional height during the winter to accommodate for any winter die-back that will be trimmed down in the spring.



The following dates are approximate, for a more accurate date, search online by your city

Zone	Last Frost	First Frost	Last Fertilization
1	Jun 15	Aug 25	Jul 14
2	May 15	Sep 1	Jul 21
3	May 15	Sep 8	Jul 28
4	May 15	Sep 21	Aug 10
5	Apr 15	Oct 13	Sep 1
6	Apr 15	Oct 17	Sep 5
7	Apr 15	Oct 29	Sep 17
8	Mar 15	Nov 7	Sep 26
9	Feb 15	Nov 25	Oct 14
10+	Jan 31	Dec 31	Nov 19

As a note, if your rose is a “one-time” bloomer, you only get “one time” to reduce or prune it, which is immediately after the spring flush. If you did not reduce/prune within 2 weeks after the spring flush, and you trim in the fall, you may be removing your only spring blooms. Instead, consider pegging or staking overgrown one-time rose bloomers in the fall.



For climbing roses, trim the laterals off of the main canes to 6” and secure the main canes for the winter. Reduce the length of the main canes only if needed.

Seal canes with Prune Sealer: I have noticed an increase in cane borers on my roses. Cane borers can travel to the crown of the rose and damage or kill the rose. When you reduce the height of the rose, I recommend using Bonide Prune and Seal on any cane the same size diameter as a pencil (or larger) to prevent borers from digging into your nice soft pith.

Defoliate the leaves and clean the beds: Some varieties of roses drop their leaves during the winter but many of the modern roses do not drop their leaves. Is it necessary to remove the leaves? No. Why do I remove them? I remove the leaves because I want to give the roses a clean start in the spring. Living in a humid environment, our roses are often struggling with Black Spot. By removing the leaves, you remove any affected leaves and as a bonus, it removes hiding places for overwintering pests.



Protecting Rose Tree Standards: As mentioned above, one of the most important things for roses during the winter is insulation. If you have Rose Tree (Standards), an easy way to cover the trunk and crown is to use pipe insulation available at Lowe’s. I take a separate piece of insulation and cover the crown and secure with gardening twine. Talk about easy!



Is it pretty? No. Is it effective? 100% Yes. This method ensures that the roots are insulated and still able to be watered from snow/rain during the winter.

As a note, even though plants are dormant, they require a small amount of water every 30 days through snow/rain. As you are collocating your pots before winter, avoid placing them under an overhang that would prevent them from receiving water.

Enjoy your winter and join me as I count down until Spring on March 20th (140 days)!

I love talking about roses and you can reach me through email therosegeek1@gmail.com or social media:

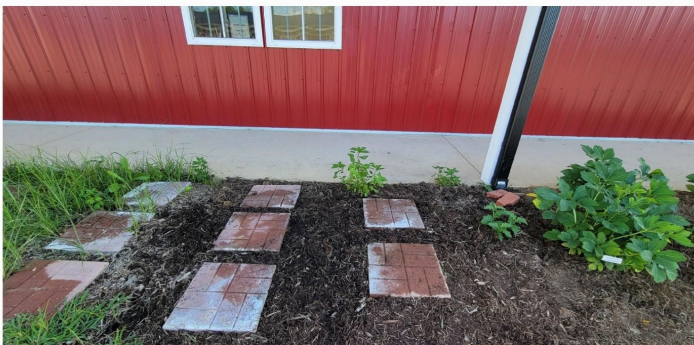
YouTube www.youtube.com/c/TheRoseGeek

Facebook: Rose Geeks



Barn at New Market before/after
Submitted by: Penny Shissler and Mariah Dean

The Barns at New Market have been getting some much needed attention from Penny Shissler. I appreciate what Penny has done there! Here are some before/after photos Penny sent. If you are interested in going to help weed the garden, please let us know! If you aren't sure if something is a weed, just leave/leaf it to us!



Cool Cut-Flowers
Submitted by: Patrice Hopkins

When planning gardens for the fall, most people talk about their plans for planting fall vegetable crops, such as snow peas, garlic, collards, kale, fall squash, drying herbs (I am doing this now) or planting various bulbs for the spring, but what about cool-season cut flowers? You would not believe how many cut flowers that we can plant and are hardy in the fall in our zone! I am a witness - it works!

I learned about planting cool-season cut flowers from a well-know and highly respected cut-flower farmer, Lisa Ziegler, The Gardener Workshop in Newport News, VA. I was so doubtful at first, thinking, how will they grow well through the fall and how will they flower at all?

So, I tested out this out during the “COVID” period (Fall 2020) when I lived in a townhome on my deck, and was pleasantly surprised on the outcome in planters!! I was cutting bachelor buttons and Sweet William had the longest season as far as into June 2020!! You’ll see pictures at the end of this article of the growth.

Here are list of cool-season flowers with a check mark by the ones I grew:

Indoors under grow lights 6-8 weeks before first frost (approximately Nov 15th):

- Bachelor Buttons
- Black-Eyed Susans
- Monarda Lambada (Check marks indicate the ones I planted in 2020 and September 13, 2022)
- Pincushions
- Sweet William
- Yarrow



9/13/22 – Started seedlings via soil blocking



10/26/22 – Transplants before planting into the garden on 11/7/22



- Snapdragons (Madame Butterfly and Rocket Mix)
- Yarrow (Colorado Sunset)
- Godetia (Grace Salmon)
- Bachelor button (Blue Boy)
- Black-Eyed Susan (Triloba and Goldilocks)

Directly sown:

- Dill
 - Giant Poppy pods
 - California poppies
- Sweet peas

o Benefits of fall-planting cut flowers:

- Longer time to be established
- Earlier and longer bloom time
- Healthier planted ahead of insect issues - I do not remember having any issues with a lot of insect problems
- Taller sturdier stems
- Enjoy visual therapy while waiting to plant your spring flowers and summer bulbs =D

How to Get Started:

- Plan early during the hot days of summer (June/July) when you don't feel like going outside lol.
- Decide which flowers you want to plant.
- Decide your site

- Consider the space. If using soil blocking - a small block is 24. You could plan to plant them but give some away to fellow gardeners/friends :)
- Timing, tracking and labeling ahead
 - o Calendar
 - Get a calendar and write it down!
 - Count backwards six to eight weeks and You won't believe how easy it is to forget
 - Most of the ones I listed need to be planted indoors 8 wks before first frost - mid Nov (but could be later due to this climate change!!)
 - o I used a big monthly calendar that has worked well.
- Track
 - o you don't have to be detailed, but I tend to be more detailed because I have a lot going on between work and caring for son. I easily lose track of time and it is so calming to my anxiety to just glance and see "oh; I have more time - it's not a problem, it should sprout in another week).
 - o Here are the dates I track:
 - Sowing date
 - Sprouting/germinating date
 - Transplanting
 - Harvest
 - Fertilizing/Gnat control - sometimes life happens and I am not always on schedule so I will highlight the fertilize date so I don't accidentally over fertilize
 - o I use color codes and highlight the box of the date on the calendar
 - Green is for planting, yellow is for transplanting, pink or orange? - fertilize orange is for harvest.
 - so you don't go into panic mode when you are checking each day)
 - I do this for my spring garden, but you don't have to do this). This has worked for me but do what helps you to remember.
- Labels and Markers
 - o On the trays, I use painter's tape. It has worked well to come off easier than any other tape - I've tried them all, painfully learned my lesson. Lol.
 - o Also, Go ahead and write your labels for planting out. It is so time consuming to write these when you're planting outdoors. If you go ahead and write it, you are ready to go when it is time to plant!

- Lately, I've been using the plastic markers. They last so much longer than the wooden ones that crack so easily after a while.
 - o I used garden markers - better than a sharpie and they last!! Sharpies are not your friend outdoors - ends up bleeding into the wood and you can't make out what it says later in the season (lol)
 - o I write a simple name and date I planted them in the ground. This way, I don't have to bring out my calendar, but when I do bring it outdoors to cross-checking to see if they are tracking to the harvest or bloom time, this gives me a quick snapshot of the date without having to flip pages to remember where I wrote it in which month.
- Planting indoors
 - o Soil-blocking using heated mat, and then under grow lights (I used my basement but watch temps).
 - Only for some of them did the heat mat worked for me but it wasn't fast. It was about a week (but I've seen it faster for warm-season seeds like zinnias or sunflowers) within a couple of days!
 - The key is planting early. I used the soil block method used by Lisa Ziegler which saves on soil, allows room for the root growth and is efficient in space allowing for more seeds to be planted at the same time.
 - Soil-blocking and under grow lights (I have LED). It has been very successful- starting in Sep - but you do have to water and drain every day until they are ready for planting.
- Water daily and drain - I used a small spouted watering can and drained in my basement toilet.
- Fertilize once a week it gets its true leaves (I.e. I established a "Friday Fertilize day for me and set an alarm on my phone to remember).
- Apply "gnatrol" solution and use insect sticky pads - kills the gnat adults and eggs - both have been super effective!
- Harden them off for a week or two. It's amazing to see the difference once they are out outside in the natural weather and environment. Make sure to put them in a space that has some shady (not in direct sunlight) and a place to shield from the wind starting out. Then dare yourself to let them prove themselves - survival of the fittest!!
 - o You don't have to cover them with a row cover until below freezing temps
- Planting outdoors
 - o Transplants: You can use containers or in raised bed (I'll excited about this since we moved to a house last December so I can plant in the yard now)
- Water
 - o Be careful - not too much. With less daylight, soil doesn't have a chance to dry out. If you start seeing mushrooms and green algae - it's too much water!
 - o Don't have to water as much in the fall. Snow in Feb will take care of it :)
- Netting / supports / biodegradable 360
- Enjoy the harvest in the spring!!
 - o The earliest to bloom for me was in March: Bachelor Buttons

You can do this! If I can do it with a full-time job, rambunctious six year old boy, my apprentice Titus, believe me - it can be done!!

I'll consider doing a follow up article to track how they are doing!! Looking forward to seeing them prosper and sharing beautiful blooms in the spring!

Lisa Ziegler/The Gardener's Workshop resources:

Soil-blocking:

<https://thegardenersworkshop.com/things-soil-blocking/>

<https://thegardenersworkshop.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Seed-Starting-with-Blocking-22n-for-web.pdf>

Cool season seeds:

<https://thegardenersworkshop.com/product-category/seeds/cool-season-seeds/>

Continued on pg. 13

Pictures of Cool-Season Flower (Fall 2020-Summer 2021) are below...

10/1/20



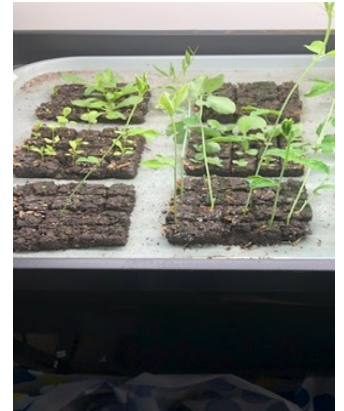
10/5/20



10/11/20 – Atriplex, Sweet William, Bachelor Button, & Yarrow seedlings



10/15/20



10/21/20



1/31/21



1/31/21



2/7/21 with row covers



3/19/21 - Yarrow



4/8/21 – Bachelor Buttons



4/16/21 – Yarrow & Black-Eyed Susan



4/16/21 – Sweet William



4/16/21 – Giant Poppy Pod & Dill



5/16/21 – Sweet William bloom!



5/16/21 – Bachelor Buttons bloom!



5/5/21 – 1st Bud on Bachelor Buttons



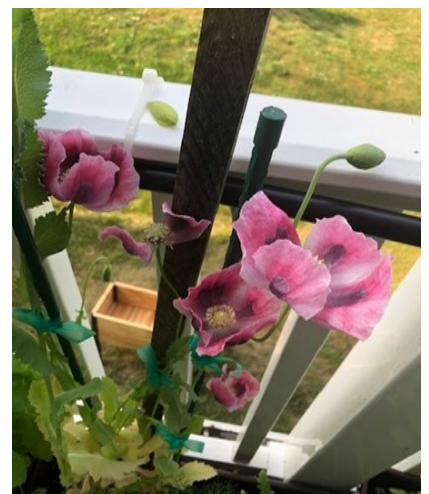
5/19/21 – 1st Spring Fall Arrangement w/
Bachelor Buttons and Sweet William



5/28/21 – Bachelor Buttons



5/28/21 – Giant Poppy blooms



5/28/21 – Bachelor Buttons up close



6/5/21 – Black-Eyed Susan Bud



6/5/21 – Yarrow blooms!



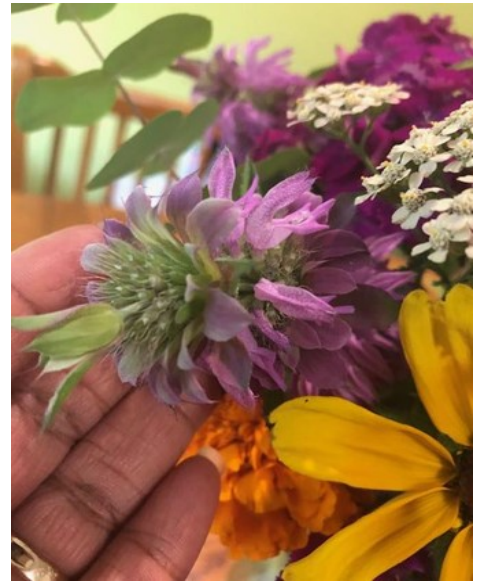
6/7/21 – 1st Bouquet of Fall and Spring blooms



6/30/21 – Pincushion (Black Knight), Yarrow and Dill

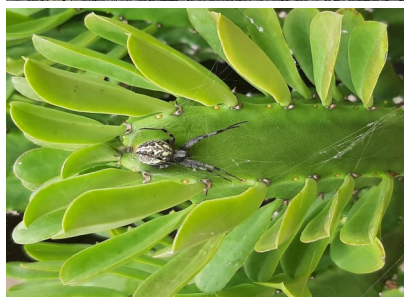
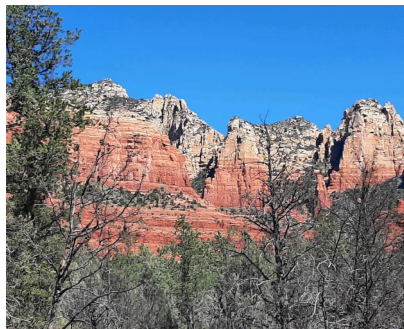


7/8/21 – Flower arrangements including bachelor buttons, yarrow, monarda lambada, and black-eyed susan



Arizona
Submitted by: Geri Frazier

Our two-week trip to the Tucson and Sedona areas provided visits to amazing museums, nature preserves, state parks, botanical gardens and heritage centers. The stunning scenery and diverse habitats incorporated cultural and heritage plantings, such as the three sisters as well as water conserving plants, native plants, pollinator & hummingbird gardens and so much more. I would recommend visiting the following three sites: The Tucson Botanical Gardens, which has 18 specialty gardens; Tohono Chul, which includes an Ethnobotanical Garden displaying plants used for food, medicines, dyes, materials and ceremonies by contemporary and ancient native people; and the Sonora Desert Museum, which includes Botanical Gardens and an Earth Science Center and Cave (with Arizona gems and minerals). Definitely a trip worth taking!



Tips on Growing Potted Citrus Trees in Zone 7B **Submitted by: Macy Hovland**

Choose an appropriate size plant. Trees meant to grow full size will not do as well as dwarf varieties in a pot. Some good choices are Improved Meyer lemon, kumquats, Calamondin orange, Makrut lime. Kumquats are a great one to start with because they tolerate a greater temperature range and have rewarding yields. Most citrus do not need a pollinator plant.

Repot new plants. Black nursery pots located in the sun will overheat the roots of a new plant. Repot in a 10 to 12 inch pottery or plastic pot and step up to a half whiskey barrel for older trees. Plant with the graft crown just above the soil line and prune off any suckers coming from below the graft. Using a plant trolley or caddy under the pot will be a big help when the plant needs to move inside.

Use a light, well-draining soil. A purchased mix for succulents is a good choice. Perlite and vermiculite help with drainage, peat moss, coir and wood chips help with aeration. Avoid mixes with wetting agents.

Water deeply before leaves wilt. Citrus trees do not like wet feet. Push a wooden chopstick into the soil and if moist soil sticks to it, then wait until the soil is dry before rewatering. Flush water through the pot rather than watering shallowly. Use no saucer because salts collected in the drained water can be reabsorbed into the soil. If roots are plugging the drainage hole then trim roots and if possible drill more holes in the pot.

Fertilize. Fertilize in spring. Citrus fertilizers contain extra nitrogen. Fish emulsion can help yellowing leaves. In winter use a dilute amount of fertilizer. Overwatering can also flush nutrients from the soil.

Provide light and warmth. Citrus plants like 8 hours of sun outside and temperatures above the 40's. In winter, place at a south facing window or use full spectrum grow lights for 12 hours. Plant trolleys or Pot Lifter are handy for moving plants inside for the winter.

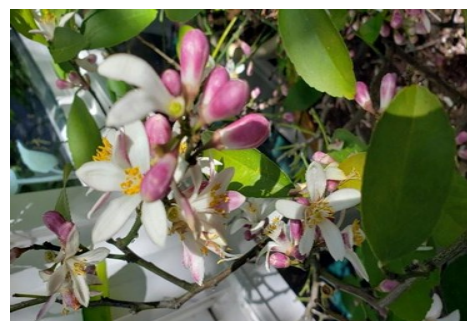
Control brown soft scale (*Coccus hesperidum*). Common indoor plant scale can be repeatedly treated by rubbing off the scale with a soft toothbrush dipped in rubbing alcohol. Sticky honeydew on the tops of leaves are a clue to look for scale on the underside of the leaves.

Avoid blossom drop. Too much blossom drop can be caused by inconsistent watering during the bloom period.

There are many advantages to growing your own citrus.

Beautiful foliage. Citrus plants have glossy leaves which are attractive even when the fruit is not in season. Large planters have room for under-planting with colorful annuals.

Intoxicating fragrance. This photo shows the stunning flowers of Meyer lemon in late spring. The fragrance is wonderful. Although bees will be attracted to the flowers, bees are not necessary for pollination.



Harvest on demand. During the winter harvest, citrus plants will hold on to their fruit for a very long period of time. The fruit can be picked as needed.

Makrut (Citrus hystrix) The leaves and rind of the marble-sized fruit have a strong aromatic lime flavor. The hour-glass shaped leaves are shredded and added to Indonesian and Thai cooking. The leaves can be muddled into sparkling water with a splash of lime juice for a refreshing summer drink.

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Kumquat (*Citrus japonica*)

Kumquat trees are among the easiest citrus to grown in pots. The entire fruit is eaten, rind and all.



Blood orange (*Citrus sinensis*)

Blood oranges have a slight raspberry flavor. The maroon color develops during low night temperatures.



Meyer lemon (*Citrus meyeri*)

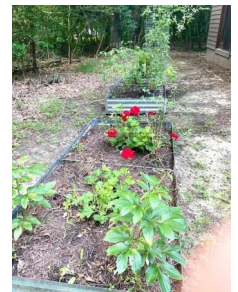
Meyer lemons have a sweeter flavor than familiar lemons. They were popularized by Alice Waters.

Raised Gardens
Submitted by: Ann Buckler

Back in 2021 during the tail end of the pandemic, I was purchasing flowers from a local flower grower in Hollywood, MD, when I fantasized about having my own cut flowers. I could have some raised gardens myself. It would be nice to have a view of the flowers in the back yard since I already had some flowering shrubs in the front. The backyard was sketchy for growing anything due to the lack of sunshine. Because of all the trees, I was unsuccessful at even growing grass. Only weeds seemed to survive. However, I decided to go ahead and create the raised beds anyway.

The first decision was what would I construct the beds out of. My first choice was wood. However, due to the supply shortages resulting from the COVID pandemic, I discovered that lumber was super expensive. A co-worker suggested using stainless steel. I checked Amazon and found a couple of raised metal beds at a better price than one made of wood. I got someone to assemble the two beds for me. Now for the soil to fill them. This had to wait until late Spring 2022.

I was scheduled for total knee replacement in June 2022 so I started to panic about the raised beds in April. Thanks to a fellow master gardener – Miriam Bonk, we got a trailer load of sifted soil from AAA Materials and she single-handedly wheelbarrowed the whole load to the back yard (I helped fill the wheel barrows but couldn't walk due to my knee) and filled the two raised beds. We combined some peat moss and soil conditioner in with the soil and at a later date, had the two beds topped it off with compost and mulch.



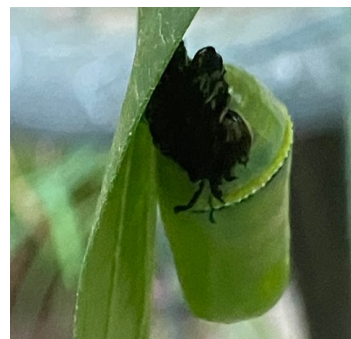


Monarch "Super Generation" in Our Own Backyard
Submitted by: Bill Smith and Marlene Smith

Did you realize that as fall arrived, so did the super generation of monarch caterpillars that will make their way to their winter home in Mexico? In September, Master Gardeners Bill and Marlene Smith found over two dozen caterpillars on their winter sown butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). Later in the month, they discovered several caterpillars preparing to pupate on their swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*). And so they began to document in pictures and videos the lifecycle of the last monarchs of the season in their native gardens.



09/22/22 16:40 A monarch caterpillar is in "J" formation on swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)



9/23/22 08:07 Less than 24 hours later, the chrysalis had formed. Note the remnants of the last caterpillar skin at the top of the chrysalis.

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10/05/22
Twelve days after pupating, signs of maturation can be seen through the translucent chrysalis. And recent raindrops add to the beauty of the photo.



10/21/22
Four weeks after pupating, cool weather has slowed metamorphosis; the leaves on the swamp milkweed are drying and falling off the plant.

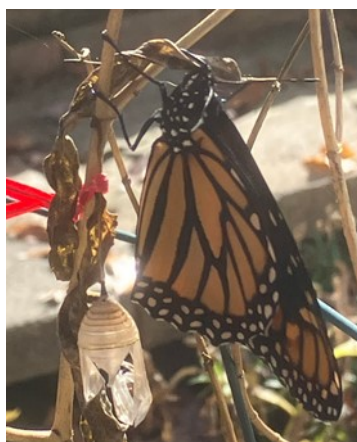


10/27/22
Five weeks after pupating, we are still holding on to hope that the monarch will successfully eclose.



11/01/22
Excitement builds as we observe changes in color as maturation progresses.

11/03/22
One day before enclosing, we can see details of the wings and body inside the now transparent chrysalis.



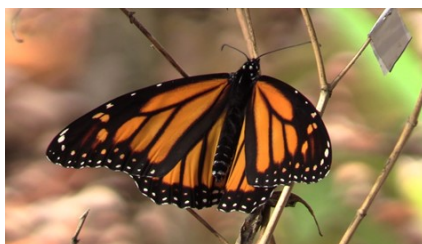
11/04/22
It enclosed after 43 days! The empty chrysalis and recently emerged monarch with expanded wings are seen in this photo. We are patiently waiting to get a good photo with expanded wings.



11/04/22
IT'S ECLOSING!
IT'S ECLOSING!!
IT'S ECLOSED!!!

11/05/22
IT'S A GIRL!!!

She took her first flight off the structure that she was hanging on to drying her wings. She flew about 6 feet to a stone wall in the sun. A short time later, she took flight and was gone. Fly high and fast to Mexico, lovely lady!!



So what is the “super generation” of monarchs?

While there are several short-lived generations of monarchs throughout the summer in our region, in late summer a generation is produced that uses its energy to migrate rather than to reproduce. This final brood, called the “super generation”, is exceptionally long-lived. As late summer arrives, experiments suggest that “host plant quality” (monarch caterpillars prefer tender, young leaves, not the leathery plants of late August), decreasing day length, cooler overnight temperatures, and the changing tilt of the earth combine to flip a switch in the Monarch’s brain (which is about the size of the head of a pin), cueing the female monarch to lay a special egg.

The butterflies of these special eggs grow up to be very different from previous generations. This “super generation” is bigger, lives eight to 10 times longer and flies 10 times farther due to the absence of an age inducing hormone. And unlike other generations, they do not mate during the journey. It’s up to this super generation of monarchs to make the trip from northernmost parts of North America to central Mexico.

Wherever monarchs are, they are cued to start moving south when the sun recedes to around 57 degrees above their southern horizon. They navigate the long journey to central Mexico using an internal solar compass that allows them to adjust their orientation in relation to the sun’s horizontal movements across the sky, and they also rely on their small antennae to tell them what time of day it is. Factoring both the location of the sun in the sky and the time on their antennae clock, monarchs can point themselves in the right direction. All of these navigational cues allow monarchs in various regions of the US to set correct (but different) flight plans for central Mexico. Cloudy days along the journey? No problem; the monarch’s eyes have special cells that can find the sun using polarized light.

The super generation completes their migration by mid to late November and overwinter in the mountains of central Mexico. Monarchs eat little on their wintering grounds, depending on fat reserves built up during their leisurely migration. (A newly emerged butterfly has about 20 mg of fat in its body, but a Monarch newly arrived in Mexico carries 125 mg of fat.) In spring, signaled by warming temperatures and the availability of milkweed, Monarchs become reproductively ready and head back north, being careful not to outpace the emerging milkweed plants. They lay eggs in the southern tier of states, and their offspring continue the journey.

References:

<https://gbbg.org/2021/08/monarch-migration-super-generation/>
<https://www.wildcenter.org/our-work/all-about-monarchs/>
<https://wglbbo.org/citizen/the-miraculous-monarch>

Praying Mantis ***Submitted by: Jean Illingworth***

<https://biologydictionary.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/praying-mantis-eating-1.jpg>

At this time of year the local female praying mantis are looking for two things; a mate and a place to lay their egg mass. The females are usually quite a bit larger than the males and so are more obvious as you are working in the garden. You want them around because they are very effective insect killers. They are indiscriminate in what they will eat, so may eat a pretty butterfly as well as crickets and mosquitos. They are also cannibalistic.



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As you clean up the garden, whether it is now or in the spring, be on the lookout for mantis egg masses. DO NOT throw them in the compost or in the garbage. Cut the stalk holding the egg mass and store it in a safe outdoor space. Keep it where it will stay at the normal outdoor temperature, off the ground and in a protected from predator place. You will be rewarded next spring with a bountiful crop of little predators. If you keep them in a container, the hatchlings will be hungry and eat each other, so keep the egg masses outside.

Last spring, they hatched on May 1. It varies with the spring temperatures. If they hatch too early, there won't be anything for them to eat.

Look for egg masses on perennial stalks. I have found them on irises, black-eyed -Susan, asparagus, tall reeds and small tree branches. I have also found them attached to metal flower supports.



Submitted by Jean Illingworth

***Interesting Takeaways from the Smithsonian Gardens webinar:
Winter Garden Maintenance for Wildlife
Submitted by: Karen Doherty***

“One of the most valuable things you can do to support pollinators and other invertebrates is to provide them with the winter cover they need.”

- Ask yourself the question, “Whom do you want to invite into your garden during the winter?”. That will give you a starting place for deciding how much, if any, leaves or other debris to remove from your garden.
- As much as possible, leave the leaves in place. Why take away the natural mulch to then purchase bagged mulch? The leaves will feed plants as they decompose, suppress weeds, buffer freeze/thaw cycles, and provide nesting places for invertebrates.
- Leave stalks and stems 8” or more in the ground to provide a habitat for wintering insects and birds. Mason bees, for example, nest in the hollow stems of native plants, and they are one of our chief pollinators.
- Let logs lie in place to help form mushroom fungi and moss for beneficial insects.
- Leave parts of dead tree trunks as “hotels” for nesting birds and insects as they decompose.
- Leaves left 3-4 inches deep will protect roots from cold and prevent winter rains from leaching out nutrients and compacting the soil surface. Further, it acts as weed control.

Delaying or even reducing your garden’s cleanup until the spring is vital to the wildlife that calls your garden home. Pollinators need what every creature desires: regular food, adequate shelter, and plenty of fresh water. The natural world provides all that. We need to resist interfering.

***Fall Bay-Wise Tips for Your Lawn and Garden
Submitted by: Linda Crandall***

As Master Gardeners we are volunteers who have been trained as horticultural educators who support the University of Maryland Extension's mission by educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. Sometimes when we are fulfilling this mission we are out in public - staffing information booths or doing workshops, other times we are working individually or as a group planting or weeding local gardens.

Another way you can help accomplish the UME mission is by incorporating UME recommended landscape practices in your own landscape and then being prepared to give your neighbors a quick explanation -if they ask- why you are modifying your practices.

Here are three (3) Bay-Wise tips you can incorporate into your Fall routine that will build a healthy ecosystem in your garden.

- 1. Mow your leaves instead of raking them.

Leaves are one of nature's way of providing nutrients to the soil... especially to the soil around the tree they have fallen from. If you set your lawn mower on it's highest setting and just mow them a couple of times throughout the fall it will chop up the leaves and they will compost more quickly. The chopped leaves with also provide habitat for small critters as the weather gets cooler. If walking through the leaves is uncomfortable for you, you can always rake a few paths through the yard and put the chopped leaves you have raked up around your trees (spreading them throughout the drip zone) to give them an even bigger boost. Look here for more info on this subject: <https://www.gardentoolsexpert.com/mowing-leaves-instead-of-raking-these-are-the-best-methods-2/>

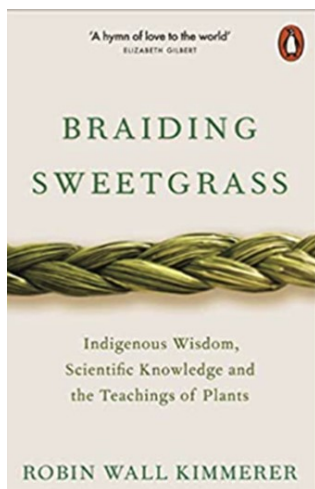
- 2. As you are cleaning up your garden beds instead of cutting all the dying plant debris back to the ground, either leave it and do your bed cleanup in the spring, or only cut back the stems and stalks to knee high.

Many beneficial insects and pollinators need these stems to burrow into during the cold winter. Lots of solitary bees will choose stems left standing to nest in and lay eggs. For more ways to support pollinators check out this website: <https://www.pollinator.org/> ... make sure to check out their regional planting guides.

- 3. Watch where the water goes when it rains.

A lot of the problems that are threatening the health of the Chesapeake Bay are as a direct result of deforestation and how much runoff there is in this region during major rain events. During the Fall and Winter when we have less happening in our yards to distract us, you can pay attention to where water in your yard settles or runs off. You can begin to plan now, to make changes in the early spring that will help slow down the runoff, or stop it completely. I hope you will get some good ideas to try here: <https://oaec.org/publications/slow-it-spread-it-sink-it/>

Braiding Sweetgrass review Submitted by: Suzanne Gibbs



Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants by Robin Kimmerer, 2013.

Braiding Sweetgrass is a publishing wonder with more than 1.4 million copies in print and audio. It has been translated into nearly 20 languages. In 2020, the paperback edition landed on the New York Times bestseller list and stayed there many weeks.

Robin Kimmerer is a botanist who is trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member and citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, Robin also embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. By bringing these two lenses of knowledge together, Robin encourages readers to awaken to a wider ecological consciousness that requires the acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationships with the rest of the living world.

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Kimmerer asks her readers to honor the Earth's bounty by restoring rather than taking, and by rejecting an economy and culture rooted in acquiring more. Through engaging personal stories as well as Native American wisdom and lore, Kimmerer invites us to learn as she has from plants and other species, nature's teachers. "If we use a plant respectfully, it will flourish. If we ignore it, it will go away," she writes.

An online reviewer wrote: "I recommend *Braiding Sweetgrass* to anyone who enjoys a good story- Kimmerer's narrative is approachable, potent, funny, and she is simply a great storyteller. But it feels like a delight particularly tailored for those of us who are naturalists, teachers, and revelers in natural beauty. "

As Master Gardeners and plant enthusiasts, let yourself be delighted by *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Skull Loaves ***Submitted by: Fran Beale***

There is really nothing special about the meatloaf "skull" I made for the Fall Festival meeting we held at Summerseat and then the traditional skull cake I made for Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Friends in California gave my son the pan and he passed it on to me. I just thought if you could make a regular cake in the pan, why not make a funny meatloaf as well!

Any recipe would work for this pan (I used hamburger in mine for the meatloaf, but any meat would work). Packing the meat in tightly is the key, and after baking, I decorated it with ketchup, mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes, hard-boiled eggs and olives! The Day of the Dead cake was made with a box cake mix and then decorated with buttercream icing.

Also thought I'd show you my "feet" meatloaf I made for Halloween. My adult children thought it was "gross", but the kids loved it! My granddaughter, Sarah, helped me; she used green peppers for the toenails; an onion slice for the ankle bone and of course, plenty of ketchup!



Fall Recipes!

Corn Fitters Recipe **Submitted by: Aili's Indonesian**

1 cup flour	2 spring onions, chopped
¾ cup rice flour	3 eggs
1 can corn, drained	½ tsp turmeric
2 Makrut leaves, shredded	2 garlic cloves, minced
4 shallots, diced	1 cup oil or more



Mix the dry ingredients then add the eggs and use a cup of water to make a thick batter. Add the vegetables. Scoop 2 TBS of batter at a time into the hot oil and fry until golden. Do not crowd the fritters in the oil.

Sauteed Dandelion Greens with Caramelized Onions **Submitted by: Ruth Yates from <https://www.catholicfoodie.com/>**

RECIPE INGREDIENTS

8 packed cups of chopped dandelion greens	1 teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus a little extra for drizzling	1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or to taste
2 cups sweet yellow onions, thinly sliced	A dash or two of cayenne, optional
Juice of 1 lemon	Lemon wedges as garnish

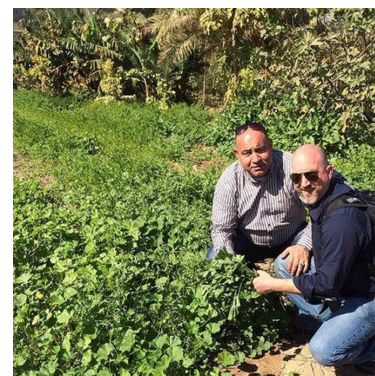
INSTRUCTIONS

To Prepare the Dandelion Greens

1. Thoroughly wash the greens, making sure to rinse out any deeply embedded dirt and debris, then shake out the excess water and set aside.
2. Cut the greens into 2-inch strips (width-wise), and steam them to soften, just until they begin to wilt. Alternatively, you can blanch the greens in boiling water for a minute or two, until they soften.]
3. Set aside in a strainer so that excess water can drain out. Once the greens are cool enough to handle, you can use your hands to squeeze out any remaining water.

Caramelize the Onions and Add the Dandelion Greens

1. Pre-heat a heavy-bottomed stainless steel skillet over medium-high heat.
2. Add 1/2 cup of olive oil, the onions, and a pinch or two of salt. Stir well to coat the onions in the olive oil, and sauté until golden brown.
3. Using a slotted spoon, remove enough of the onions to top each finished serving and set aside.
4. Add the dandelion greens to the skillet and season with salt and pepper. Sauté, stirring occasionally, for 7 to 10 minutes.
5. During the last minute or two of cooking, add the lemon juice and stir well to incorporate.
6. The greens can be transferred to a serving dish. Top with the caramelized onions and garnish with the lemon wedges.



Various continuing education opportunities this upcoming season!

Check the state continuing education website at <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/environment-natural-resources/program-areas/master-gardener-program/volunteer-resources/continuing-education> for lots of webinar recordings and upcoming state-wide continuing education! Also be sure to check out the Garden Thyme podcast at <https://gardenthymepodcast.buzzsprout.com/>



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An invasive insect that has the potential to devastate Maryland's vineyards, orchards, and nurseries.

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