

The Compost

A Newsletter celebrating Charles County Master Gardener Projects

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CCMG Coordinator Update

by CCMG Coordinator Julia Rycyna

As the new Home Horticulture Educator, I have been welcomed generously into the Charles County community. The Master Gardeners (MGs) provided vital information so that I could ensure activities were able to continue smoothly this season.



There may have been some bumps in the learning curve, but we have all made it through. Thanks to MGs, I have received great feedback on developing and giving MG Monthly Meetings and my most recent presentation on "Pest Identification and Causes of Plant Problems." I hope to be able to continue giving more talks in the future that align with community interests and to work with the other Extension Faculty.



The current faculty and MGs have provided me with enormous assistance and connections to be able to take a step into the communities I am serving. The University of Maryland has had two new hires this fall: Dr. Stacy Small-Lorenz, Residential Landscape Ecologist, and Lisa Kuder, the Native Plants & Landscape Specialist. I hope that with their help we will be able to expand the reach of extension through our Pollinator, Native Plants, and Bay-Wise Programs.

CCMG Coordinator Update, cont.

by CCMG Coordinator Julia Rycyna

Fall is a busy season for outreach events, and I would like to thank all the MGs for all their support. This year the Charles County Fair celebrated their 100th anniversary. At the event over 300 visitors came to our booth. I also enjoyed my time getting to know the MGs through the Bel Alton Demonstration Garden Clean Up. This fall I have also focused on recruitment for new MGs to join the program. It is exciting to report that at least 10 new trainees with more to come. If you are interested in applying to become a MG volunteer, I will be **accepting applications until December 1, 2024**. Please fill out the [UME Volunteer Application](#) and send it to me at jrycyna@umd.edu.



University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Spring 2025 Basic Training

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February 4–May 6, 2025

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Additional in-person activities TBD

Currently accepting applications for Charles County

Email Julia Rycyna (jrycyna@umd.edu)

Deadline to apply December 1, 2024

A limited number of scholarships are offered depending upon availability

This institution is an equal opportunity provider



Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden

Article and photos by CCMG Brent B.

The Southern Maryland Food Bank's Seeds of Hope Community Learning Garden has been a huge success this year! The Charles County Master Gardeners (CCMGs) manage and operate the garden for the Food Bank. So far this year (as of 10/23/24), **698 lbs. of produce** have been harvested and given to the Food Bank for their various meal programs. This compares with 573 lbs. harvested all last year. And, we have a few more weeks left before our first frost date! Photos below (l-r): CCMGs Brian L. and Gail B. harvesting in September, and sweet potatoes started on Valentine's Day.



The sweet potatoes were kept indoors under grow lights (photo left) through March and into April to generate vines. The vines were then snipped so each leaf could be rooted in water to create slips. Photo right: CCMGs Karen H. and Sandee H. snipped vines to root in water. In May (bottom photo), the slips were planted in the Food Bank Garden in three tire planters (red, white, and blue) and two large, black grow bags donated by CCMG Alexandra M.



Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden

Article and photos by CCMG Brent B.

Sweet potato slips that were not used in the garden were given away to other CCMGs and to participants of outreach programs sponsored by the Food Bank. For example, in May, CCMGs Linda I., Karen W., Gail B., and Brent B. conducted an outreach program at the Wills Group in La Plata. From four large bundles of slips brought in, employees took home white and Japanese sweet potato slips (4-5 slips in a baggie) to plant in their own yards. CCMG Brent B. started harvesting the Japanese sweet potatoes on Oct. 9th (11 lbs.-top photo), and then CCMGs Brent B. and Brian L. harvested the rest of the Japanese and all the Garnet and Jewell's on Oct. 16th (37 lbs. – 2nd photo). Finally, CCMG Sandee H. finished up by harvesting the White's on Oct. 19th (18 lbs., bottom 2 photos). A total, then, of 66 lbs. of sweet potatoes was harvested from the garden in October! And it all started eight months ago on Valentine's Day!



Outreach

In August, CCMG Brent B., with the help of SMMG Marlene S., conducted a Food Bank outreach presentation on Seed Harvesting at the College of Southern Maryland. The presentation was for faculty during their 'Choose Your Own Adventure' pre-semester activities. The presentation was given in two sessions and each session covered collecting, cleaning, and storing seeds of native plants and vegetables. The outreach presentation was well-received. Photo left: SMMG Marlene S. lecturing at CSM.



Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden

Article and photos by CCMG Brent B.

Docent Support for the Master Gardener Learning Garden at the State Fair

Each year, the State Master Gardener Program solicits volunteers from all MG programs in the state to be docents for the UME Master Gardener Learning Garden at the State Fair in Timonium, MD. Docents can receive docent orientation on the weekend before the fair opens. The docents usually volunteer to provide one or more four-hour shifts in the Learning Garden during the Fair. Photos below (l-r): CCMGs Brent and Rosemary at the docent orientation, CCMG Rosemary observes BCMG Robert Cook at the docent orientation, and CCMGs Rosemary and Brent as docents.



Since this was the 'Year of the Heirloom Tomato' for UME Master Gardeners, the Fair Learning Garden had many varieties on display, some of which were not familiar to most fair attendees.



The three CCMG participants all said it was a great experience being a docent at the Fair this year, and that they really enjoyed working with the MG/Intern docents from the other counties who were there. This was CCMG Rosemary M.'s first time, but CCMG's Linda I. and Brent B. had previously worked at the Fair several years.

Food Bank Tours

MG and UME-related program groups can schedule Food Bank Garden tours/activities by contacting the CCMG Project Coordinator, Brent B. Other community members and groups can schedule garden tours and other gardening learning activities by calling Monica Bumbray, the Food Bank Community Outreach Program Manager, at (301) 274-0695.

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum Gardens

Article and photos by Rose Markham



The weather turned out to be very harsh this year, so the gardens needed a bit more care. Patti and I had a late start because of all the April rains, but we managed to get the gardens in shape come May. Clyde Hartshorn, the new Mudd House President, helped with the watering and, as a result, the herbs came through looking better than ever. So, the docents who conduct tours of the house included a visit to the herb garden! Our garden info box has been replenished with seeds and herb info sheets for visitors who will visit over the holidays.

We closed the Mudd House Gardens in October with a different twist this year. Patti was not available, but Michelle Chenault and Donna Ball (in photos, Donna in print top) expressed an interest to tour the grounds and help. It turned out to be a very pleasant ending for the year.

Big shout out to Kay Redman for keeping our Iris Bed thriving with beautiful blooms, as well as her work on the planter well that turned out perfect. The aster plants are doing well, and Michelle and Donna could not believe how many bees were swarming the flowers.



Patti and I both enjoy our time in the garden taking care of the plantings. If anyone would like to join us from April through October, please contact Patti Faulkner or me.

In the meantime, enjoy these pics I took. Thanks to Michelle and Donna for keeping me company and letting me know you thought we maintained the garden well. We'll look forward to seeing you again when the Mudd House re-opens in the spring.

Charles County Fair

by CCMG Terry Thir

Oh, what a busy weekend we had! Charles County Master Gardeners (CCMGs) and Interns helped staff an educational booth for the duration of the fair (Sept. 13-15). Horticultural information, Bay-Wise, Grow-It-Eat-It, Native landscaping, and much more information was shared with the public. Kids had fun taking photos in our praying mantis and milkweed head cut-out boards, along with other crafts. Many CCMGs were also involved in judging vegetables and floral submissions.

We also performed our puppet show "The Misadventures of Peter Rabbit in Farmer McGregor's Vegetable Garden," on Sat., Sept. 14. The kids were excited and interacted throughout the show.

I want to thank everyone who helped with preplanning preparations, staging, set-up, staffing the booth and breakdown at the end of the fair. It takes a lot of volunteers to make our participation meaningful to the community.





Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Project

Article and Photos by CCMG Rose Markham

Good News to share!!! The Junior Master Gardener program is now in its second year with the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center “Especially for Homeschoolers” (EFH) Group. It seems the JMG has become a popular club offering and, by the registration numbers this year, we should be very proud that we are making a difference. Barbara Hays has volunteered to assist this year as well as two other parents and, so far, the classes have gone very smoothly.

We started our first class on Sep 17 with 20 students and, after two weeks, we are now settled in with a few minor adjustments. Many of the students are new to the program so the class agreed to review Chapters 1 and 2 before we venture into new territory. Our main theme before year end will cover Ecology and Environmental Horticulture and end up exploring the world of insects. Our students from last year who are back with us have turned out to be excellent stewards by helping their classmates when we are doing hands-on activities.

The JMG program is modeled after the adult master gardener program and is offered to students from elementary school to adolescent ages. Last year’s class focused on ages 3–5, as well as 7–9. This year it is being offered to 7–9-year-olds.

The training program is offered every February by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension College Station, Texas. The dates and registration for Feb 2025 can be found in our CCMG weekly announcements. As we hope to expand our program in the future, I encourage you all to sign up to become JMG instructors. [Learn more at this link.](#) It’s not just rewarding, it is FUN!!!!

Photos taken by Georgia Bonney below: left – Barbara Hays instructing, right – Rose Markham in the student class.

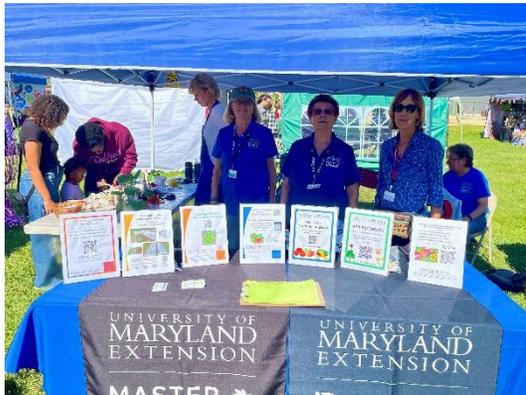


La Plata Fall Festival

Article by CCMG Terry Thir

Charles County Master Gardeners (CCMGs) participated in the annual fall festival that was held on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at Townhall. CCMGs had educational booths representing the Bay-Wise, Grow-It-Eat-It, natives and pollinators programs. An "Ask the MG expert" table responded to general horticulture questions. The children enjoyed all the craft activities. It was a fun day for both the CCMGs and all the participants who learned about horticulture, growing native flowers and vegetables. We also received interest in getting local properties Bay-Wise certified. Special thanks to all the CCMGs/Interns who helped organize and participate in the event. Thank you, Julia, for helping us. Participants: Tina Bailem, Beth Grem, Kathy Davis, Jon Gazarek, Marguerita Harding, Kathy Jenkins, Linda Ivko, June Leyland, M. MacDonald, Janet McGrane, Rose Markham, and Ronla Henry-Reeves.

Photos: middle: Intern Ronla Henry-Reeves, CCMG Kathy Davis, "Polly the Pollinator," CCMGs Janet McGrane, Jon Garazek, Tina Bailem and Beth Grem (photo by M. MacDonald); top left: booth; top right: CCMGs Tina Bailem and Janet McGrane; bottom left: CCMGs Marguerita Harding, Rose Markham, Linda Ivko (photo by Kathy Davis); bottom right: CCMG Tina Bailem, Janet McGrane, Beth Grem, June Leyland (photo by Kathy Davis).



Melwood Horticultural Therapy Programs

Article by CCMG Barbara Hill, photos by Suse Greenstone

July 2024: Suse Greenstone instructs Corporate Partner Stanley Morgan volunteers who will assist in preparing the garden beds for one additional late summer vegetable planting of zucchini squash and cucumbers, while our CCMG Avery Johnson and sister Lydia Johnson work on the irrigation system.



Suse Greenstone wanted to thank our CCMGs for all the invaluable, consistent, behind the scene work like watering, bug watch, pruning, etc. during the summer, holidays, and weekends! Of particular mention are Barbara Hill, Paris & Jerry Reed, Paula Hutzell & husband John, and Cyndi Gariepy!

Tiffany Daniel and Avery Johnson provided leadership at the last monthly Veteran’s Workday where we removed most of the summer vegetable plantings and cleaned things up for the fall planting.



Melwood Horticultural Therapy Programs, cont.

Article by CCMG Barbara Hill, photos by Suse Greenstone

A large push to harvest the remaining vegetables had a wonderful yield! What a gratifying experience.



There is always work to do in the gardens and greenhouse, and the Seed to Table Classes are beginning again (a MG favorite).



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Backyard Foraging

Article and photos by CCMG Marguerita Harding

It was heavily raining the morning of March 23, 2024 as I headed out to the Master Gardeners of Montgomery County's Extension Office for a seminar on backyard foraging. The speaker for the session was Tama Matsuoka Wong, author of the book: *Into the WEEDS: How to Garden Like a Forager*.

Tama was excited about the subject of foraging, and she is a true forager herself. I learned that foraged food is starting to be offered in restaurants by chefs wanting to add to their palette offering -- like using chick weed with its mild fresh taste in salads and pesto.

Discussed was how to prepare your garden beds to hold your unconventional garden fair, along with propagation, selective weeding, and preserving your bounty. There were some good uses for a few invasives: Japanese honeysuckle, which the blossoms can be dried and added to green tea to make more flavorful tea; and Japanese knotweed can be pickled like cucumbers and added to sandwiches and fish dishes.

The book is dotted with recipes that are easy to try for a beginner -- all from weeds and natives we have living around us. It is about taking that wild weed prone section of your yard and letting it thrive. Making some rustic beds to help contain them and start your own foraging space.

Photos: Left – CCMG Marguerita Harding with Tama Matsuoka Wong, Author.
Right: Tama Matsuoka Wong forages for chick weed for a chef customer.



Monarch Mania on Cobb Island

Article by CCMG Janet McGrane



The Cobb Island Citizens Association (CICA) sponsors Monarch Mania each October with the primary focus of tagging and releasing monarchs caught on the Island. Master Gardeners have participated each year providing educational information and children’s arts and crafts.

This year’s event was held at the Cobb Island Volunteer Fire and EMS building. The children and all participants enjoyed the tag and release of the monarchs. Mike Callahan did an informative presentation on the life cycle and migration of the butterflies. More detailed information on the monarch life cycle, tagging monarchs and collection of data is available at monarchwatch.org and monarchjointventure.org.



Master Gardeners provided information and answered many questions on native plants, pollinator gardens and vegetable gardens. The children especially liked creating butterflies, decorating caterpillars and wearing monarch masks that were given out at our crafts table.



Photo top left: Master Gardener participants were CCMGs Kathy Davis, Antoine Johnson, Intern Olivia Pettus and CCMG Janet McGrane. Photo middle: Mike Callahan explaining Monarch migration and the tag and release program. Bottom photo: CCMGs Antoine Johnson and Kathy Davis working the crafts table.

Bay-Wise Landscape Management

Article by CCMG Rose Markham

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A MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



Bay-Wise Certification

In August, Barbara Hays and I certified the home of Peter Bakke who lives in Indian Head. Peter lives with his wife and son in a single family, rural area on six breathtaking acres overlooking the Potomac River in full sun and with a panoramic view of the Virginia landscape. He created an interesting combination of both a flower and vegetable tiered garden facing the southeast of his property and filled it with numerous native plants and flowers. He also mixed different herbs throughout to keep away some of those pesky insects from his veggies. At the top tier of his garden, he offers a sanctuary for birds, wildlife and other pollinating insects that give continuous life to his garden. He also devised an irrigation system linking different types of soak hoses to water his plants.

On the north side of his property, which also receives plenty of sunlight, Peter created an orchard of several species of trees: oaks, maples, and elms. As you walk to the end of his tree line, he has designed a walkway filled with native shrubs. His home is surrounded with flower gardens that were full of Black swallowtails, Eastern Tigers, Pearl Crescents, a few common buckeyes and some I didn't know, but, sadly, no monarchs. The bees and dragon flies were everywhere. Peter has many other ideas to make his property more environmentally friendly and plans to keep in touch as he continues to improve his landscape. Here are a few pics we took during our visit.



If you are interested in having your property **Bay-Wise certified**, which will give you a property tax credit, please click the link to visit our website for information on how to apply.



Bay-Wise Landscape Management, cont.

Article by CCMG Rose Markham

Finally, we participated in a Family & Furry Friends Fun and Food Fall Festival event on October 26th at the Charles County Animal Shelter in Waldorf where we met with and discussed environmentally friendly fall gardening practices with many Waldorf homeowners. Folks signed up to become Master Gardeners and took literature on our Bay-Wise home certification program. Adults and children had fun making pinecone owls, vine holiday wreaths, painting pumpkins and visiting the supervised campfire to enjoy roasted marshmallows and dripping chocolate s'mores. The fresh cider and cinnamon donuts were a big hit.

The festival was held at the Humane Society in Waldorf and sponsored by the Trivent Organization through a grant awarded to a 4-H educator who volunteers with the Charles County Humane Society. All the art, crafts and food were donated by Trivent. I have included some of the photos I took. Enjoy! Photos clockwise from top: Animal shelter employee, former MG Alberta Carson and Intern Olivia Pettus, campfire area, Rose Markham and 4-H Educator Sharon Rabie, owl crafts.



Grow It Eat It Education Project

Article by CCMG Beth Grem, photos by CCMG Kathy Jenkins

On October 5, 2024, the GIEI Education Project Team - Tina Bailem, Michelle Chenault, Beth Grem (Co-Chair), Lori Guido, Kathy Jenkins, Meg MacDonald (Co-Chair), and Terry Thir presented a fall gardening workshop on ways to use the vegetable garden space in autumn. The presentation was held at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) La Plata campus. Topics included how to clean up the space and prepare it for spring, how to use the space to grow fall vegetables, with particular emphasis on selecting vegetable varieties that will grow in cool weather and over winter for an early spring harvest. We also discussed ways to extend the harvest of fall crops by using covers like cold frames and floating row covers. CCMG Tina Bailem demonstrated her beautiful lettuce box for the participants and Kay Redman shared her knowledge on planting and growing garlic. Click here for the **"Fall Vegetable Gardening"** presentation.

CCMG Volunteers Linda Bronsdon, Kay Redman, and MG Intern Ronla Henry-Reeves and Rose Markham were on hand to sign in participants, answer questions at the demonstration tables and handle the presentation A/V duties.

We had an enthusiastic Q & A session where we answered participants questions on a range of topics and the response was overwhelmingly positive. We are looking forward to our next workshop in February on **"Starting Seeds, Indoors and Out."**

Photos top (l-r): CCMG Tina Bailem discusses heirloom tomatoes, CCMG Kay Redman, CCMG Beth Grem demonstrates with a row cover. Bottom (l-r): CCMG Linda Bronsdon answers a question, and CCMGs Kay Redman, Beth Grem with Intern Ronla Henry.



Senior Education Programs (SEP)

Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault

The **Richard R. Clark Senior Center's** Senior Plus gardening program had a very successful summer. The 'Clark Gardeners' have completed 11 classes so far in the 12-class curriculum. We are transitioning the patio garden to show its beauty in the fall. We planted several natives and pollinator plants this summer, however, although we have not seen any monarch butterflies, other butterflies and bees are enjoying the late blooming asters, chrysanthemums, marigolds and zinnias. We are still harvesting tomatoes, green peppers, hot peppers, and various types of potatoes. Herbs have been cut and prepared for drying for use this fall and winter. The SEP team is very proud of the work, commitment and engagement of the Senior Plus group. Each Clark Gardener will receive a certificate of completion, a bud vase of (donated) fresh flowers and some special refreshments (with a horticulture twist) during the last class on October 30th.

A presentation entitled "Monarch Madness" was held for all the seniors at the Clark Center on Wed., Sept. 25. The speaker was Michael Callahan, Naturalist from the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center. Approximately 30 people attended the presentation. Although we did not find any live monarchs before the presentation to tag during the event, Michael gave his presentation in his full monarch butterfly regalia (photo right taken by Donna Ball). Photo below is of a hibiscus in the Clark Garden.



Indian Head Senior Center - The SEP team is continuing to provide consultation for the Green Thumb Gardeners at this site. Our new Master Gardener Coordinator, Julia Rycyna provided a presentation on October 11th entitled: "Good Bugs, Bad Pests and Plant Problems" to the Green Thumb Gardeners and other seniors. We are planning discussion_topics for 2025. The current Center Coordinator is resigning in November, and we will meet with the Acting Center Director to obtain her input. CCMG Lori Guido is serving as the SEP liaison to the Indian Head Senior Center.

Nanjemoy Senior and Community Center - The presentation on "Cool Weather Crops and Fall Flowers" provided on Wednesday August 14, 2024, by Paris Reed was well received. The 10 participants received about 6 packs of cool weather crop vegetables and flower seeds each to try in their gardens this fall. The group is keenly interested in planting crops this spring. Discussions about their onsite garden plot plans are ongoing.

Senior Education Programs (SEP), cont.

Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault

Waldorf Senior and Recreational Center - The presentation entitled “All About Orchids” was provided on Monday August 12, 2024, by Paris Reed was also well received. The 12 participants learned how to take care of (including repot) an orchid plant provided to them for the class and orchid plants at their homes. This group loves hands on activities and the coordinator at the site is very willing to provide resources for these activities. We are currently planning an evergreen workshop for December.

The project team includes the following CCMGs and Interns (in addition to Donna Ball, as Project Co-lead): Tiffany Daniel, Kathy Davis, Elveta Gibson, Lori Guido, Jeanine Harrington, Barbara Hays, Linda Ivko, Kathy Jenkins, Brian Larson, Aileen Lennon, Rose Markham, Janet McGrane, Meg MacDonald (representing Grow It Eat It- GIEI) Laura McManus, Kay Redman, Jerry Reed, Paris Reed, Jessica Richards, Stacey Sheffey, Terry Thir, Karen Trundle, Gail Walker, Laura Walker, Karen Westhead, Teri White, Julie Nethon-Williams and Karina Willette. Again, sincere thanks to everyone for your hard work, skills and time. I'm feeling grate*fall* for these glorious autumn days and the SEP team!!

Photo below taken by Donna Ball of a Swallowtail butterfly on marigolds at the Clark Center. Right: Clark Garden, bottom right: Midnight Snack hybrid cherry tomatoes.



Extension Demonstration Gardens and Open House

Article by CCMG Kathy Jenkins

“First they sleep; then they creep; and finally, they leap!” Every gardener has heard the adage about plants’ growth. This year, CCMGs experienced the third step -- “they leap.”

The Bel Alton Demonstration Gardens were planned by CCMG members and the UMD Master Gardener Educator and Coordinator at the time, Luke Gustavson. We decided to design and implement a series of demonstration gardens as part of our educational program about native plants. We dreamed about how beautiful they would be and how much we could use them to educate the community about both native plants and best gardening practices.

The first garden, MD History Garden, was planned and planted in 2018 and 2019. When the Pandemic hit, we had to pull back and wait for the time we could safely continue to fulfill the dream. In a few more years that followed, we had four more gardens in place: Bay-Wise, Native Pollinator, Container, and Spiral Herb Gardens.

After years of sleeping and creeping, this year, 2024, the Gardens leapt! Black-eyed Susans nearly smothered the History Garden. Golden-rods volunteered in areas they were never planted; sometimes three gardens away. Lyre-leaf Sages nestled themselves between stepping-stones. Towering Asters defied our garden boundaries. The Gardens were, in a word, a mess!



On Thursday, September 26, and Saturday, September 28, several CCMGs decided enough was enough! Thank you to the following people who rolled up their sleeves and tackled the huge job of digging, repotting, transplanting, weeding, and pruning overgrown, exuberant plants: Bill Allen, Donna Ball, Kathy Davis, Tony Johnson, Rose Markham, Janet McGrane, Julia Rycyna, Carol Teets, Terry Thir, Derex Thompson, and Jan Lakey-Waters. You all made a wonderful difference in the appearance of our Bel Alton Demonstration Gardens. Left: CCMG Donna Ball and others work on sections of the gardens.

Extension Demonstration Gardens and Open House, cont.

Article by CCMG Kathy Jenkins

Photo left: Hardworking CCMGs taking a break for lunch (clockwise from left): Kathy Davis, Rose Markham, Derex Thompson, Coordinator Julia Rycyna, Terry Thir, Tony Johnson, Janet McGrane and Donna Ball. Not pictured, but still hardworking: Bill Allen, Kathy Jenkins, Carol Teets, and Jan Lakey-Waters. Photo right: Rose Markham and Janet McGrane assess the work to be done.



Now the Demo Garden project leaders, in collaboration with our Coordinator Julia Rycyna, are planning to continue with our educational activities during the winter. Keep watch for announcements for fall seed saving and winter sowing workshops. We hope you will join us as we keep the dream of our Demo Gardens alive!



Open House – On October 4th, CCMGs participated in the UME Extension Open House. Local businesses, county government and elected officials were invited to learn more about our Extension programs. CCMGs Kathy Jenkins and Terry Thir gave tours of the demonstration native gardens. Photo right: CCMG Kathy Jenkins (middle) discussing the gardens with County Commissioner Gilbert Bowling and Jennifer Bowling from Charles County Public Schools.



Save the Date

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Seed Saving and Cleaning Workshop

November 9, 2024

9501 Crain Hwy Bel Alton, MD 20611

10am–12pm

Fall is here and plants are going to seed. In this free workshop you will get the opportunity to collect, clean, and take home seeds from the Bel Alton Demonstration Garden. Our garden has a variety of native plants.

Seating is limited. To register email:
jrycyna@umd.edu

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.



If you have a landscape, insect, or plant disease question, please use the [Ask Extension webpage](#) to submit photos and other details.



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Click on photo above to visit our website.



The mission of the Charles County Master Gardeners is to support the University of Maryland Extension service by educating residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

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