

## From the Office.....

We are rolling right into fair and festival season! No "Garden Gab" this month, but please find us at one of the events listed below and join us to volunteer, if possible. Including all of the sign-up links, again, for your convenience.



Farmers Feeding St. Mary's  
September 13, 9 AM-1 PM @ U-Haul  
46041 Signature Lane, Lexington Park, MD  
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49ACAF2FAAF9C70-57162499-farmers#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49ACAF2FAAF9C70-57162499-farmers#/)

St. Mary's County Fair  
September 18-21 (times vary)  
42455 Fairgrounds Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA4AF29A0FFC25-57845397-stmarys>

RiverFest 2025  
September 27, 10 AM- 3PM  
Historic St Mary's City  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA4AF29A0FFC25-57846764-riverfest>

Farm to School Days  
-October 3 @ Mechanicsville Elementary School  
28585 Three Notch Rd, Mechanicsville, MD  
-October 8 @ Banneker Elementary School  
27180 Point Lookout Rd, Loveville, MD  
-October 16 @ Evergreen Elementary  
43765 Evergreen Way, California, MD  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA4AF29A0FFC25-57846407-farm>

STEAM Fest  
October 25, 10 AM- 2PM  
42455 Fairgrounds Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA4AF29A0FFC25-57846912-steam>

## Upcoming Events

- **Sept 7** - Beginner's Guide to Entering Garden Products into the County Fair



Join us for...  
**Beginner's Guide to Entering Garden Products into the County Fair**  
**Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> (4-5pm)**  
@ the LMPP Community Garden

- **Sept 9 & 23** - Ask a Master Gardener @ Leonardtown Library 1 PM - 3 PM
- **Sept 18-21** - St. Mary's County Fair
- **Sept 27** (tentative) - Ask a Master Gardener @ Home Grown Market 9 AM - 1 PM
- **Sept 27** - RiverFest @ HSMC 10 AM-3 PM
- **Oct 3, 8, 16** - Farm to School

## Ongoing....

- **Wed** - Front Yard Garden (8 AM)
- **Wed/Sat** - Historic Sotterley (9 AM -12 PM)
- **Sun/Wed** - LMPP Community Garden (1-4 PM and 3 - 6 PM, respectively)

## Featured Program

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

Admittedly, this is a bit of a misnomer, as continuing education isn't one of our county MG programs, but it IS one of the Master Gardener requirements and I thought that it was a good time to send a reminder to all that as volunteers, you have a 10 hour/year minimum requirement for Continuing Ed. This annual commitment keeps us well informed of new science and data to support our project sites and our knowledge of sustainable and research-backed gardening practices. These hours need to be accomplished and logged into VMS by the end of the calendar year. I encourage you all to take a peek at the UME Master Gardener Continuing Education page for inspiration.

[UME Master Gardener Continuing Ed Resources](#)

By following the link above, you can register in advance to upcoming classes, but recordings are often available several days later and you can catch up by clicking on the drop down menu at the bottom of the page (see screenshot -->)

For those who are regulars at the Ask a Master Gardener plant clinics (or would like to be!) I recommend the monthly updates to get seasonally relevant information you can share at our local clinics.

For those who have more experience with ornamental or food crop gardening but perhaps not as much with native plants, I would suggest searching for those topics, as I truly believe that there is a rapidly growing interest and great need for community wide understanding of sustainable practices, biodiversity, and the role we, as gardeners, can play in supporting our local ecosystems. The upcoming "Shrink Your Lawn Footprint" would be applicable.

If you have any other recommendations for your MG peers, please send them to me for redistribution. Of particular interest are activities and environmental interpretation for youth, pollinators, and composting.

Some of the past recordings available on the Continuing Education Resources webpage

#### Recorded Webinars, Online Classes, and Resources

##### State Master Gardener Program

- Companion Planting for a Healthy and Productive Vegetable Garden | Slides
- Diverse and Climate-Resilient Crops for Maryland Gardens | Slides
- Buzzworthy Bees: Empowering Others to Cultivate Native Bee Habitats | Slides
- Pollinator Power: Tools, Resources, and Outreach Strategies for National Pollinator Week | Slides
- Crapemyrtle Bark Scale Invades Maryland: Myths, Management, and the Bigger Picture
- Growing Together: How Master Gardeners Can Support Thriving Community Gardens | Resources
- Planting Trees in a Changing Climate
- Plant Diagnostics Training Series 2024: Diagnosing Plant Problems | IPM & Working with the Public
- Navigating the Spotted Lanternfly Buzz: Separating Science from Sensation
- Sustainable Solutions: Landscaping for Resilience Around Septic Systems & Flood-Prone Areas | Resources
- Year of Heirloom Tomatoes Train-the-Trainer
- To Rake or Not to Rake?
- Working the Night Shift: Pollination After Dark
- Moonlight Gardens | Resources
- 2023 Spring Ask A Master Gardener Plant Clinic Training | Resources
- Spotted Lanternfly Update from MDA
- Hydroponic How-To
- Fall Vegetable Garden Evaluation: Is it time to redesign your garden?
- Biodiversity and Diversity in Bio: What's the Point?
- Preserve Your Harvest
- IPM for Backyard and Community Vegetable and Fruit Growing | Veggie Booklet
- Turf BMPs and Alternatives | Resources
- Seed Starting and Planning Your Garden for Climate Change | Resources
- Turf Troubleshooting | Resources
- Winter Sowing | Resources
- Engage Your Community Through Interpretation
- Consult Like a Pro with HGIC
- Sustainable Food Systems in the Era of Climate Change and Pandemics: Can we have it all?
- A Common Sense Approach to Pest Control: Integrated Pest Management
- Lift Ev'ry Voice
- Return of the Cicadas in 2021: Fun, Fear, and Fascination

### Qualifying Continuing Education

- Classes/webinars/workshops
- Tours/field days
- Other educational activities offered by UME, plant societies, botanical gardens and arboreta, colleges, nature centers, etc.
- Subject matter presentations made at MG membership meetings
- Continuing education events coordinated and sponsored by the local Extension Office or by the state MG office

## Volunteer Spotlight

BILL & MARLENE SMITH

**A Dynamic Duo (and a dog named Misty)**

I first met Bill when we both took an interest in the Lexington Manor Passive Park Master Plan released by Recreation & Parks in 2019. I was doing a park walk-through with then R&P Director, Art Shepard, and Bill asked to come be our personal camera crew documenting the process. Later, in 2020, Bill and I were “classmates” in the fall Master Gardener training.

The Smiths live near the line separating Charles and St. Mary's counties, so Marlene had trained years prior in Charles Co. While they are now both logging hours as St. Mary's MGs, their passion for native plants and parallel involvement with non-profits Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay and Nurture Natives means they frequent both counties, installing gardens, teaching workshops, mentoring youth gardeners, and spreading the message about the importance of native plants and biodiversity in our ecosystems.



Marlene & Bill and Misty

This year alone, Marlene has already logged a *STAGGERING* 238 volunteer hours! I have rarely seen these two overachievers apart (even when I see pictures from events they attend, I assume that Marlene is featured more prominently because Bill is often the one *behind* the camera.) so it's safe to say that Bill's hours will closely mirror Marlene's when they are logged (like any couple, they have their differences and Marlene logs along the way, while Bill waits until the end of the year). I have every confidence that by the end of 2025, this powerhouse team will topple **500 combined hours** (750, if we are counting the unwavering support and presence of Bill's service dog, Misty) They are also both perennial and curious learners, logging continuing education hours far exceeding the minimum required.

To explore some of Bill's video evidence of their contributions over the years, check out <https://www.youtube.com/@nikhaven> -or- <https://www.youtube.com/@wildoneschesapeakebay>

On behalf of the bees, birds, and butterflies....thank you both!

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