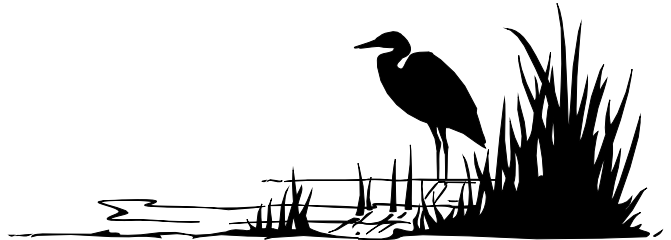


BAY-WISE MASTER GARDENER UPDATE



To: Bay-Wise Master Gardeners and Mike Ensor, Susan Williamson, Herb Reed, Steve Allgeier, Sudeep Mathew, Susan Trice, Joyce Browning, Georgia Eacker, Steve Dubik, Esther Mitchell, Rachel Melvin, Jennifer Horton, Heather Buritsch, Annette Ipsan, Robin Hessey and Jon Traunfeld

From: Wanda MacLachlan

Subject: Bay-Wise Update

Date: August 9, 2010

Greetings

Summer is here! Remember about six months ago when we were buried under endless mounds of snow and were yearning for heat to melt the mess? I guess we should be careful what we wish for. The snow and spring rains got plants off to a good start. But then came the record heat and accompanying mini-drought. I wonder what's next. A lot has happened since your last newsletter so let's get right to the recap. This e-newsletter covers the period from June 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

We haven't had many Bay-Wise advanced training sessions since last summer but we do have many certified landscapes around the state. Let's take a look back at all our

accomplishments.

Certified Landscapes

According to my records, forty-three new Bay-Wise Master Gardener landscapes have been certified since our last newsletter. Many belong to Master Gardeners that have had their landscapes certified in the past and have now taken the advanced training.

Listed in the chart below are those that have recently taken the Bay-Wise Advanced Training (from 7/1/09 to 6/30/10) and had their landscapes certified. Congratulations to all, for your landscape certifications.

Certified Landscapes of Our Recent Bay-Wise Master Gardeners

County	First Name	Last Name	Demo Certification Date
Anne Arundel	Kathy	Enderle	5/20/2010
	Carole	Fullagar	4/27/2010
	George	Honeycutt	10/24/2009
	Beki	Howey	4/10/2010
	Jeanne	Paglee	8/4/2009
	Mary	Young	4/12/2010
Baltimore	Ann	Blouse	10/19/2009
	Ethel	Colbert	11/23/2009
	Connie	Glover	5/24/2010
	V. Cathy	Layne	3/29/2010
	Jack	Leonard	4/15/2010
	Michael	O'Malley	3/29/2010
Carroll	Laura	Robertson	7/16/2009
	Lisa	Dustin	6/22/2007
	Kathy	Finch	4/5/2008
	Rachel	Gorr	4/20/2010
	Connie	Kirby	10/8/2009
	Bonita	LeGoollon	4/20/2010
Dorchester	Carol	Swomley	10/7/2009
	Diane	Miller	6/5/2010
	Joanna	Tilghman	7/16/2009
Harford	Mary	Greveris	6/21/2010
Howard	Beverly	DeVuono	4/10/2010
	Cathy	Latham	7/1/2009
	Betty	Rice	7/10/2010
Kent	Alice	Macnow	5/8/2010
Prince George's	Kathleen	Beres	7/18/2009
	Joseph	Henson	10/15/2009
Queen Anne's	Marty	Appel	7/10/2010
	Kate	Greer	9/28/2010

St. Mary's

Patricia	Dunlap	10/29/2009
Paula	Pippin	7/30/2010

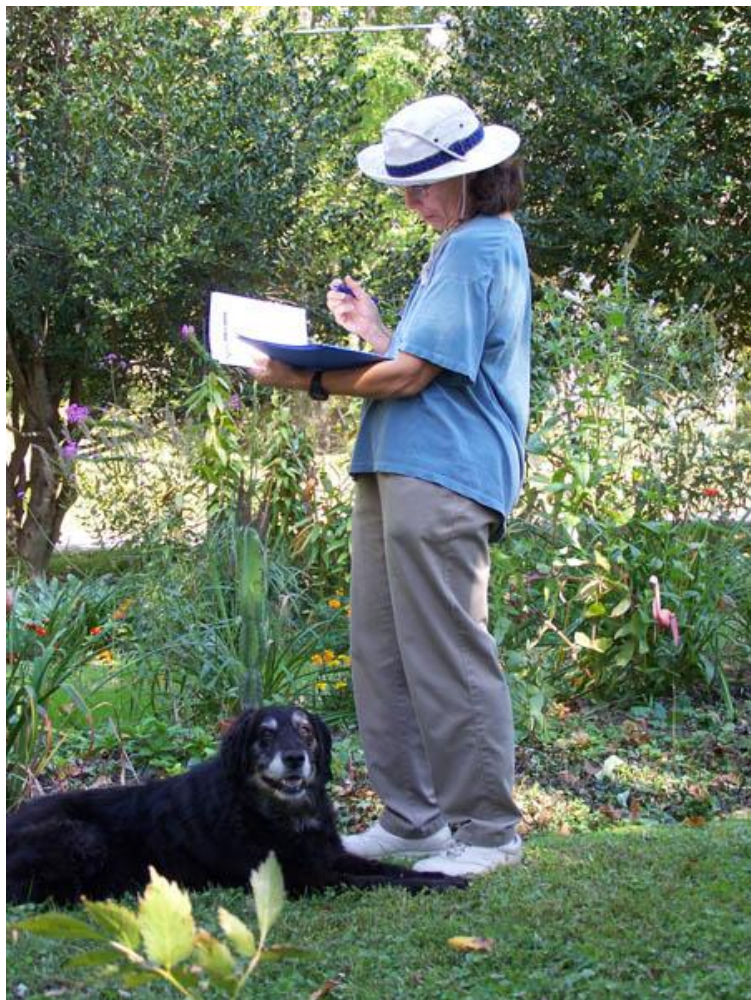
Talbot

Doris	Aasam	5/3/2010
Heather	Buritsch	5/12/2010
Suzanne	Clarke	5/25/2010
Lin	Clineburg	6/9/2010
Jody	Shaner	4/20/2010
Allison Davies	Talbot	6/9/2010

Washington

Rick	Thorkelson	5/27/2010
Barbara	Walsh	5/19/2010
Zaida	Wing	8/3/2009
Ruth	Huber	6/8/2010
Ruthann	Mills	6/8/2010

Bay-Wise Master Gardener, Alice Macnow, evaluating a landscape for certification.



Bay-Wise Advanced Trainings

Since our last newsletter we've held four Bay-Wise Advanced Trainings. We had one last year in July and three more this spring. In 2009, **Talbot County** hosted a session for nine new and three returnees. Congratulations to **Rebecca Appleton, Bonnie Dixon, Margaret Gardner** and **Kate Greer** from **Queen Anne's**; **Peggy Christie** and **Alice Macnow** from **Kent** and **Gail Robertson, Judith Slaughter** and **Joanna Tilghman** of **Dorchester Counties** for becoming the newest Bay-Wise Master Gardeners on the eastern shore.



Our first training in 2010 started off with a bang in **Baltimore County** and concluded early March resulting in a group of 25 brand new Bay-Wise Master Gardeners representing four different counties. **Carole Fullagar** and **Sharon Schroer** drove all the way up from **Anne Arundel County** and joined **Jared Lyles, Ursula Scheffel, Carla Smith** and **Patricia Sullivan** from **Baltimore City** along with **Lisa Dustin, Kathy Finch, Rachel Gore, Connie Kirby, Bonita LeGoollon** and **Carol Swomley** of **Carroll County** to learn about Bay-Wise BMPs. Hosts, **Ann Blouse, Kathleen Butcher, Hannah Byron, Leslie Erickson, Connie**

Glover, Amy Johnson, V. Cathy Layne, Jack Leonard, Frances Milio, Michael O'Malley, Chris Potts, Laura Robertson and **Mary Beth Tierney**, of **Baltimore County** showed off the newly opened, beautiful and green Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills.

There was much to celebrate on the upper eastern shore in April. Fifteen Master Gardeners became Bay-Wise after taking the training in **Talbot County**. Congratulations to **Donald Campbell, Suzanne Clarke, Robin Gordon, Melinda Hudson, Mary Lattimore, Kathleen Linehan, Julia Miller, Danna Murden, Anne Pettit, Judith Shuler, Barbara Walsh, Zaida Wing** and **Karen Winters** and to **Diane Miller** and **Laetitia Sands** of **Dorchester County**. Four returnees rounded off the group's attendance to nineteen.

One month later, on the 11th of May, twenty Bay-Wise Master Gardeners completed their training in **Washington and Frederick Counties**. The two groups co-hosted the training for twenty people: **Ruth Axelrod, Karin Birch, Carol Brumback, Nancy Garritt, Patti Grove, Jerry Hamilla, Linda Hause, Larry Hill, Penny Huth, Julie Kunz, Julie Nicholson, Frank Williams** from **Frederick** and **Cynthia Dwyer, Catherine Evans, Ruth Huber, Linda McNamee, Ruthanne Mills, Linda Moser, Gary Stallings** and **Karen Wilson** from **Washington** Counties. Congratulations to all.

I encourage every new Bay-Wise Master Gardener to become involved with your local Bay-Wise committee and become environmental stewards in your communities.

Upcoming Advanced Trainings

As of press time, we have no Bay-Wise Advanced Trainings planned for this fall. To schedule one, assemble a group of at least twenty Master Gardeners (don't forget you can work with other counties to reach your minimum of 20 attendees), select three training dates and a venue and then call me to work out a schedule.

News From the Counties:

Anne Arundel

Co-chairs, **Judy Graham** and **Carol Dowling** are excited to report that they now work with a group of about sixteen active Bay-Wise Master Gardeners in their county. They certified thirty-one landscapes since last year. They tell us, *"In March two new members traveled to Baltimore County to take the BWAT. We held the third session at Beki Howey's yard with 11 committee members showing up for the refresher. Of course her yard with rain garden, rain barrels and permeable walkways was certified with a record score!*

"Also in March we had a display table at the Davidsonville Green Expo and made 54 contacts including several yard visit requests. In addition, we have given six presentations so far in 2010.

"When we certified a garden at the Severna Park Library, a blurb ran in the SP column of the Capital newspaper explaining how we evaluate a yard; the chair for this project had her yard certified last November and set up the request for the library then.

"Our big success was when one of our members, Christine Scee, was giving a presentation to her garden club with the expectation that all the members would strive for Bay-Wise certification; many of the members are also MG interns and so far six have passed! We think 2010 has had a successful beginning."



Anne Arundel County Bay-Wise Display

Baltimore City

Chair and busy new Mom, **Dana Shaw** found time to share the City's good news. She tells us that her committee is eight strong. They have certified five sites this year. Dana also reports the following facts,

- *Bay-Wise display provided by Baltimore City Master Gardeners. Bay-Wise display created by two MG interns (and artists!), Betsey Heuisler and Gina Schrader.*
- *Signs will continue to be provided free to clients thanks to a \$100 donation from Charlestowne Retirement Community in appreciation for a great Bay-Wise presentation given by Pat Sullivan.*
- *Baltimore City Bay-Wise PowerPoint presentation*

developed by Patrick Holmes.

- *Plant clinic focused on Bay-Wise topic- Baltimore JFX Farmer's Market, June 27. New Baltimore City Bay-Wise display and Bay-Wise materials used.*

Baltimore County

Heather Wight completed her first year as the Baltimore County chair. She tells us that her committee is made up of twenty-one Bay-Wise Master Gardeners who have certified fourteen residential, two non-residential and six Master Gardener landscapes in the past year. She also reports that in May her team gave a presentation to 30 first-graders at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School. She also reports: *"We have had a very busy first half of 2010 with 20 residential landscapes certified so far. The Bay-Wise team certified two landscapes that were in the Horticulture Society of Maryland Garden tour to increase awareness of Bay-Wise. In addition to Irvine Nature Center, Cromwell Valley Park, a Baltimore County park, was certified in 2010.*

"In January, several of our Bay-Wise committee members took part in an upland assessment for the Jennifer Branch Sub-watershed with Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM) and the Gunpowder Conservancy to determine critical areas for the restoration project.



Baltimore County Bay-Wise display

"In February we implemented a partnership with the Gunpowder Conservancy and the Jennifer Branch Sub-watershed Restoration project. We took part in a Kick-Off event for citizens of the Cub Hill/Perry Hall area that were interested in restoring Jennifer Branch to good condition. Jennifer Branch is a tributary to the Gunpowder River which has experienced significant erosion over the years. This project is in partnership with the Baltimore County DEPRM to repair fragile ecosystems that contribute to polluting of the Chesapeake Bay.

"At the Jennifer Branch Kick-Off event the Baltimore County Bay-Wise, Grow It Eat It and Ask a Master Gardener committees had demonstrations and information booths for the 75+ homeowners in the Jennifer Branch watershed area. The Bay-Wise team

presented “Who Polluted the Gunpowder” demonstration and a Bay-Wise presentation to 2 groups of 25 homeowners showing them the importance of implementing the County plan to restore the watershed.

“Also in February we hosted Bay-Wise training at one of our partner organizations, Irvine Nature Center, which is also certified Bay-Wise. In addition to 7 Master Gardeners from Baltimore County, we had attendees from Baltimore City, Carroll and Anne Arundel Counties.

“Our Bay-Wise committee has grown in 2010 with the number of members doubling with many new additions from our 2009 Intern class. We are also looking forward to moving to our new home site, the County Center for Maryland Agriculture. Baltimore County Master Gardeners will have a garden space at the site and the first garden to be planted will be a Bay-Wise demonstration garden. The Center will be dedicated in September and we will be able to begin the initial work on that garden in fall 2010.”

Calvert

Judy Kay, Chair, informs us that there are twelve members of the Calvert County committee this year. They have been busy certifying eleven client landscapes including two Master Gardener interns and one other MG. In April they partnered with American Chestnut Land Trust and the Calverton School 6th grade class. Bay-Wise Committee members discussed native and non-native invasive plants sprinkled with some information about lawn

reduction as they supervised the kids who planted native plants there.



Calvert County Bay-Wise display

Judy is pleased to report that *“In 2008, the Calvert County Master Gardeners received a grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop demonstration gardens on the grounds of the Community Resources Building which houses the UMD Extension Office in Calvert County as well as other departments related to community services.*

“First, however, the County wanted to make extensive changes in the stormwater management infrastructure through a Calvert County Stormwater Management Grant. The work was completed in April 2010 and we were given approval by the County to begin work in late May. In addition to renovating the grounds, the CCSM Grant supplied the CCMG with several native trees, herbaceous perennials and grasses as well as LeafGro and mulch. Planting them in the heat and drought in June wasn't easy but several CCMG gave up Saturday mornings to dig and improve the soil and plant. Since planting, a watering routine was set up to keep them alive. As soon as possible, we will begin ordering plants using the CBT grant monies and continue planting this fall.

Carroll

Chair, **Dick Heiser**, reports that their committee is twelve strong. This past year they haven't been as active as in past years but they did manage to certify two client and six Bay-Wise demonstration landscapes. Note that all six of those demo sites belonged to the six Master Gardeners who took the Advanced Training this year. That's 100% certification rate of a new class of Bay-Wise Master Gardeners. ***That's also a first in Bay-Wise history!***



Charles

Co-chairs, **Ronda Goldman, Jessica Milstead**, report that they have 13 committee members. This past year they certified 4 residential and 4 non-residential sites that include, the Huntington Neighborhood Center, Wakefield Neighborhood Center, Hunter's Brook Neighborhood Center, and Charles County Detention Center. They also report, "*The Charles County Bay-Wise team was very busy during the 2009-2010 term. We completed our first tour of the Southern Maryland Trail and the team was delighted to explore the many treasures of the county. The purpose of this endeavor was to publicize the Bay-Wise program while also holding our administrative meetings at different places along the Heron's Trail. We met at the Accokeek Foundation, Mattawoman Art Center, Royal Tea Room, and many other places. The adventure proved to be an engaging discovery of natural and man-made treasures.*

"2010 also brought the launch of the second half of the Bay-Wise Schools and Communities Project. JC Parks Elementary School was the first school in Charles County to take on the opportunity to be a pilot school. The BWSC Project seeks to integrate Bay-Wise principles into the school system by encouraging environmental stewardship through student led environmental teams. Each school selects a key group to lead the project and the leadership team is responsible for integrating the principles throughout the student body. JC Parks chose their 5th grade robotics team and the children did a superb job. Many officials were impressed with their research and their ability to engage the entire student population. Their environmental efforts secured a 1st place position in the statewide robotics competition, visits from members of the Board of Education as well as one of the county commissioners.



"As a part of the school's action plan, the Bay-Wise Leadership Team, along with the guidance of the school's science teacher, chose to convert 90%-95% of their turf to its natural habitat. They will be installing a wetland classroom this fall and begin working on an arboretum, butterfly garden, and a Maryland garden. Upon completion, JC Parks will receive five certifications that will honor and showcase their work. This elementary school is working hard to preserve and protect our waterways and has emerged as a front runner in environmental education."

Dorchester

Welcome our newest Bay-Wise Master Gardener committee into the fold. Chair, **Judith Slaughter** reports, *“Dorchester County has hit the ground running. We began our MG program in the summer of 2009. Since that time, we have had five MG’s take the Advanced Bay-Wise training and certified 6 residential properties.”*

Harford

New Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, **Joan Parris** reports, *“The Bay-Wise program of Harford County was in abeyance for most of the reporting year when the long-time chair, Christine Marotta retired from the position. Thus we conducted very few certifications or activities. However, as an enthusiastic group of Master Gardeners, we are ready to begin certifying homes again. We’re starting slowly – but hopefully will build back up to larger numbers as we grow through 2010.”* She informs us that they have 26 Master Gardeners who are qualified to and willing to certify homes. Twelve of them attended the first meeting of this year. Since last report they have certified four client and two Bay-Wise demonstration landscapes.

Howard

Last year, Bay-Wise Master Gardener Co-chair, **Caroline Feil**, was a Master Gardener intern who accepted the responsibility of organizing their committee. Co-chair, **Pat Harrington** shares that along with the two demo and 4 client Master Gardener landscapes certified, there were 9 consultations where BW site visits were conducted but the properties were not certified. Three of the consultations were not individual

residential homes but condominium associations of multi-family homes.

In addition, Caroline reports, *“Whipps Cemetery, a Bay-Wise garden in Howard County, won a Watershed Enhancement Grant. Members of the Bay-Wise team are supporting this grant by giving presentations on Bay-Wise, Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).”*



Rain barrel in Howard County landscape

“A Howard County Bay-Wise Garden Tour was conducted at a beautiful property in West Friendship that was attended by over 150 Marylanders. We advertised the event and folks from Howard County and neighboring counties attended.”

“Columbia Association requested from the Howard County MG program a series of presentations and talks to be conducted at neighborhood centers in Columbia throughout the year. The Howard County Bay-Wise team scheduled 13 presentations according to

seasonal needs. Attendance was better than expected.

“At the Earth Forum for Howard County, held at the First Presbyterian Church, several MGs gave talks and answered questions. The talks included Bay-Wise, stormwater issues and native plants. Attendance was excellent.

“Our Stormwater Management subcommittee supported Columbia Association in the distribution of rain barrels. Over 100 rain barrels were sold. MGs conducted talks to educate the community on landscaping techniques for stormwater management and distributed literature.

“Howard County Government and Bay-Wise are cooperating in a bimonthly rain barrel give-away at the county landfill. MGs staffed the distribution booth. The county gets barrels and drills holes for required hardware to be attached. MGs provided rain barrel literature to the Howard County Government which the HC government used in a packet that was distributed with each rain barrel.

“MGs are collating a list of the groups in Howard County involved with watershed issues and their planned activities. The goal is to give to Columbia Association and Howard County Central Green Station a monthly list of activities for publication. More communication amongst the various groups will hopefully lead to increased cooperation and less duplication.

“Howard County government and Howard County Bay-Wise in a joint venture are created a demonstration rain garden of native plants at the

county landfill. The native plants were purchased through a grant given to the Howard County MGs.”

Montgomery

Martha Fisher, Chair, isn't quite sure how many are on their committee but she is sure that they certified the Montgomery County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden (at the county Extension office), Montgomery County Fairgrounds Demonstration Garden and 16 residential landscapes. For sure!

Prince George's

Franchella Kendall, Chair, reports seventeen active members of their committee again this year. In addition to the two new demo landscapes certified this year (see list on page 2) they also certified five other residential landscapes. Franchella is excited to share that they also conducted three presentations: two for Master Gardener intern classes and one for Liberty Park at Andrew's Air Force Base.



Prince George's County Bay-Wise display

Queen Anne's

Co-chairs, **Vida Morley** and **Rachel Melvin** report ten active committee members this year. They've been busy certified fifteen residential landscapes this past year including four Bay-Wise demo sites and four client/Master Gardener landscapes. Between 6 reported outreach events, they reached 549 residents.



Queen Anne's County MG, Paula Bounds at the rain barrel truckload sale

Co-chair, Rachel reports, "On 6/12/10, in cooperation Kent Island Federation of the Arts, Master Gardeners participated in "Gardens by the Sea Tour". Master Gardeners were present at several water front gardens. One garden on the tour was owned by a Master Gardener and was certified Bay-Wise. MGs handed out 50 'Green Books for the Bay' and educated individuals on the critical area, storm-water management, native plants and rain gardens.

"The Bay-Wise Master Gardener Committee hosted a Bay-Wise Lecture Series "Back Yard Actions to Improve our Environment" in April and May. Living within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Marylanders play a vital role

in the health of our streams and tributaries. Homeowners can contribute to a cleaner Bay by changing a few simple practices in their back yards, while saving time and money. The series included classes on alternatives to fertilizer, managing water wisely, gardening for wildlife with native plants, and Integrated Pest Management-getting to know the bugs in your garden. Each of the four classes were held at the two locations Queen Anne's County Free Public Library in Stevensville and Caroline County Public Library in Denton. 36 people total from the two counties attended.

"In cooperation with Queen Anne's, Talbot and Caroline Counties' Departments of Planning, Master Gardeners were present at the Truckload Rain Barrel and Compost Sale at Chesapeake College. Master Gardeners instructed community members on composting and installing rain barrels. Additionally, 65 individuals participated in a survey on reasons why to compost and use rain barrels. Each survey participant received a HGIC magnet and a fact sheet on composting."

St. Mary's

Co-chairs, **Linda Crandall** and **Fran Cook** report eight active committee members this year (double what they had last year). They have certified three residential landscapes since the last report, including one Bay-Wise demo site. They have also been busy making presentations and staffing displays at the St. Mary's County Fair and Earth Day in the Square at Leonardtown.

They are happy to report, "We have spent the last year team building, and now have a committed Bay-Wise Team of eight (8) members (Fran Cook, Linda Crandall, Pat Dunlap, Ann Hoover, Paula Pippin, Kurt Reitz, Judy Roa, and Linda Williams). By the end of July 2010 we will have three teams of two with experience in making site visits. Three of our members are interested in (what we are calling) "transition coaching" - working with those who have an interest in Bay-Wise, but who don't feel they would currently earn enough inches to become certified.



Native pachysandra starting to bloom

"We made several site visits on Friday, July 30th. There is a growing list of more than 15 properties of those interested in having a visit scheduled in the near future. It is our goal to visit and certify twelve (12) properties this year (2010). We have also set up a web site (<http://sites.google.com/site/smcmgbaywiseteam/>) for team use, with the goal of helping us stay organized as we grow. "Committee members created a PowerPoint presentation last year that they used this year to reach 131 people in five different classes. They still have a few more presentations scheduled in the

fall, and a couple scheduled early next spring."

Talbot

Co-chairs, **Joanne Buritsch** and **Penny Balgley** report 43 active committee members. Although they only certified one client landscape this year, they've certified nine demo landscapes belonging to their 2009 advanced training graduates. They received a \$145,000 grant to provide education, demonstrations and certifications in their watershed. During their monthly meetings they tour each other's landscapes viewing and sharing Bay-Wise BMPs. They also lead three other Bay-Wise classes in the county reaching 32 county residents.

Co-chairs, Penny and Joanne submit the following report:

5/16/09 – Bay-Wise booth at RADPAD at Easton Point Marina - Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education: Rad Pad Tred Avon River Day: Bay-Wise MGs promoted the program and talked to visitors
6/13/09 – First Stop for the Bay Symposium – Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum – Bay-Wise members from QA and Talbot partnered with Environmental Concern, CBMM and Adkins Arboretum to offer this one-day symposium and unveiling of the Green Book for the Bay
7/9-11/09 – Talbot County Fair, Bay-Wise MG's promoted Bay-Wise to fair-goers and answered questions, as well as handed out Green Books
5/11/10 – Bay-Wise member Phyllis Rambo promoted Bay-Wise At the Oxford Garden Club Flower Show with a Bay-Wise exhibit winning 2nd place.
6/5/10 – At Easton's Farmers Market a Bay-Wise display with members

promoted Bay-Wise Programs. Six parties signed up for Bay-Wise consultations.
6/11/10 – *For the Women’s Club of St. Michaels garden tour, 2 of the 4 gardens were Bay-Wise Certified and Bay-Wise information was available for the 53 attendees.*
6/19/10 – *At St. Michaels Fresh Market a Bay-Wise team promoted Bay-Wise programs and sold rain barrels. 3 parties signed up for Bay-Wise consultations that day.*
7/8-10/10 *Talbot County Fair – Bay-Wise MG’s promoted Bay-Wise program to fair-goers.*

Washington

Co-chairs, **Annette Ipsan** and **Sharon Bondroff** report five active committee members this year. They certified six landscapes as Bay-Wise including two Bay-Wise demo sites. Annette added, “*In addition to hosting a joint advanced training session for both Washington and Frederick County MGs, we gave 3 educational talks on the program, and used our Bay-Wise display at 2 events.*”

More Assorted Stuff

Correcting Local News Reporters
2009 **Talbot County** Bay-Wise Master Gardener, **Gloria Lindemann** had an interesting experience with the local weather reporters last October. On a 10 PM weather forecast, [reporters] recommended listeners fertilize their lawn the next day because a lot of rain was predicted. Gloria fired off a message to hem that “This is very bad advice. Granular fertilizer SHOULD NOT be applied when heavy rain is

forecast because most of it ends up in the Chesapeake Bay. Please see the University of Maryland Extension Bay-Wise Maryland Yardstick for Landscapes with Lawns.
[www.hgic.umd.edu/ media/documents/ publications/bw2.qxd.pdf](http://www.hgic.umd.edu/media/documents/publications/bw2.qxd.pdf) ”



The next evening, Gloria was shocked. She says, “*[The reporters] actually read and displayed part of my e-mail on the 10PM news weather forecast. They put a link to the Bay-Wise Yardstick for lawns on the WBOC web page. You have to access the "As seen on WBOC TV" under the "Get It Now" link. Once there the link is "Maryland Cooperative Extension". Not real obvious, but who am I to complain?*”

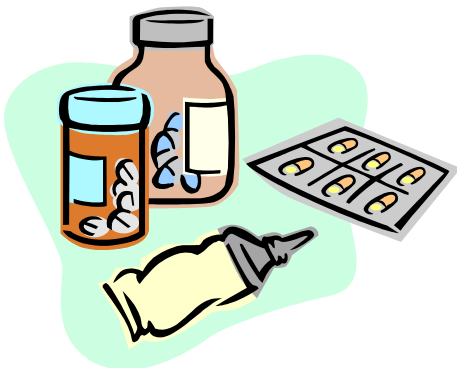
Dispose Meds Safely



According to a USA Today article updated in 9/09, more than 100 different pharmaceuticals have been detected in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and streams throughout the world. A considerable assortment of pharmaceuticals — including antibiotics, mood stabilizers and sex hormones — have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans. Unused medication can

poison unsuspecting children and experimenting teens. When flushed down the drain they can pollute local streams, rivers, lakes and the bay.

For instance, according to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, four contaminants were found in source waters for the Potomac, Patuxent, and Occoquan. The herbicide, Atrazine, Carbamazepine (primarily used in the treatment of epilepsy and bipolar disorder), the antibiotic, Sulfamethoxazole and the naturally occurring estrogenic hormone, estrone, were found in concentrations of parts per billion and parts per trillion; these amounts are said to be negligible.



No matter the concentration, these contaminants should stay out of our water supply. If you have leftover medications you can return unused portions to participating pharmacies around the state. They will, in turn, send them to a medical waste disposal facility. Find the nearest pharmacy by visiting the “Dispose My Meds” website and clicking on the link near the bottom right side of the homepage. There are several participating pharmacies around Maryland. Find one close to you at <http://www.disposemy meds.org/> .

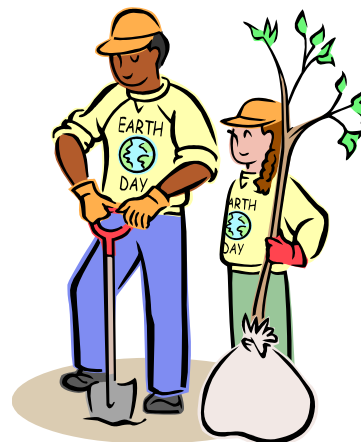
Interested in Protecting Trees?



The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC) is a volunteer group of citizens, professionals, and government officials united to protect and enhance Maryland's forest ecosystems. MUCFC is a sub-committee of the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards. Every county in the state has a Forestry Board. The primary functions of the Committee are to 1.) Promote and coordinate the Maryland Community PLANT award program that officially recognizes communities planting and caring for trees, and 2.) Administer grants to communities, through their local Forestry Boards, that promote planting and care of trees. If you are interested and would like more information about membership, please contact Wayne Lucas, 301-324-2684 or me, at 410-531-5973.

If you are interested in applying for a grant of up to \$1,500, or learning more about MUCFC, visit:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programs/urban/mcfc.asp>



Is Your Landscape Certified?

Are you among the few, the proud, the “certified?” Has your landscape been certified as Bay-Wise yet? If you answered “no” to these two questions, it is time to move into action. One of the successful indicators of the Bay-Wise Landscape Management Program is to have all Bay-Wise Master Gardeners’ landscapes certified as demonstration landscapes. So far there are 330 “demo landscapes” throughout the state. If yours isn’t one of them, *and you know who you are*, contact your county’s Bay-Wise committee chair to set up an appointment. The process is easy & fun and one of the rewards is increased visibility in your neighborhood as an expert on ecologically sound landscaping.



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