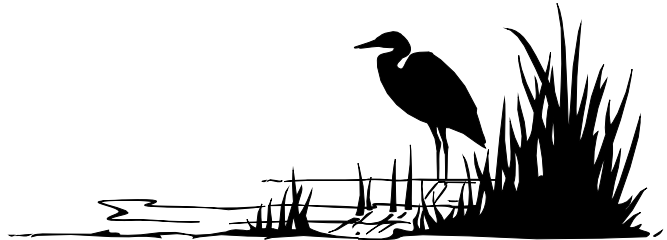


BAY-WISE MASTER GARDENER UPDATE



To: Bay-Wise Master Gardeners and Mike Ensor, 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: January 20, 2011

Greetings

Brrrr! This e-newsletter covers the period from July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

We haven't had any Bay-Wise advanced training sessions since last summer but we do have a few more certified landscapes around the state to acknowledge. We also have several upcoming Bay-Wise Advanced Training sessions scheduled for 2011. Before we delve into the future, let's take a look back at all our accomplishments within the past six months.

Certified Landscapes

According to my records, sixteen 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 following chart are those that have recently had their landscapes certified. Congratulations to all, for your landscape certifications.

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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ■ 11975 HOMEWOOD ROAD ■ ELLICOTT CITY, MARYLAND 21042-1545
.....

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ■ U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

.....
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS

Certified Landscapes of Our Recent Bay-Wise Master Gardeners

All Certified Landscapes between 7/1 and 12/31/10				
First Name	Last Name	County	B-W Training	Demo Certification Date
Marty	Appel	Queen Anne's	4/2/2005	7/10/2010
Ruth	Axelrod	Frederick	5/11/2010	10/25/2010
Ruth	Eisenhour	Harford	3/16/2009	8/4/2010
Kate	Greer	Queen Anne's	7/16/2009	9/28/2010
Sabine	Harvey	Kent	4/2/2005	10/13/2010
Nancy	Heiberg	Carroll	3/15/2005	8/31/2010
Amy	Johnson	Baltimore	3/10/2010	7/1/2010
Danna	Murden	Talbot	4/28/2010	10/12/2010
Pat	Piechocki	Baltimore	3/16/2009	8/5/2010
Paula	Pippin	St. Mary's	4/23/2009	7/30/2010
Betty	Rice	Howard	3/15/2005	7/10/2010
Marjorie	Schiebel	Carroll	3/15/2005	10/29/2010
Evelyn	Sedlack	Talbot	4/2/2005	9/20/2010
Judith	Shuler	Talbot	4/28/2010	9/10/2010
Judith	Slaughter	Dorchester	7/16/2009	12/13/2010
Karen	Winters	Talbot	4/28/2010	10/10/2010

Upcoming Advanced Trainings

As of press time, we have five Bay-Wise Advanced Trainings planned for this spring. The locations of the trainings are in Anne Arundel/Calvert, Dorchester, Talbot, Frederick/Washington, and Harford Counties. Visit the Bay-Wise website, www.baywise.umd.edu, for specific dates, sites and times. To schedule an advanced training, 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 Wanda MacLachlan 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 eighteen active Bay-Wise Master Gardeners in their county. They certified twenty-four landscapes since last June. They tell us, *"We had a successful year visiting 51 yards and certifying 40 of them. One of the events that led to such success was a workshop given in early May by one of our members to her garden club, challenging them all to get Bay-Wise certified. 22 did which kept us busy through August! Six of those were interns at the time, now MGs, contributing to the 13 MGs we certified this year. We are happy to report most of them are interesting in joining our committee and being trained; we hope we can schedule a BWAT class in the spring. We are also planning a workshop at another MG garden club*

and hope they take the Bay-Wise challenge too.

"Our seventh presentation was given in October to a HOA community on the water; the contact was an MG relocated from Howard Co!"

Baltimore County

Chair, **Heather Wight**, tells us that her committee has grown to 24 Bay-Wise Master Gardeners. In addition to reaching 100 people in 8 different workshops or presentations, they have certified 8 residential, 1 non-residential and 5 Master Gardener landscapes (including 2 Bay-Wise demo sites) in the past six months. 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: *"Our Bay-Wise Committee had a burgeoning 2010. Over the course of the year, we extended our speaking and teaching efforts to many new groups, including Dundalk Community College, The Maryland State Fair, and [assorted] garden clubs. Two gardens in this year's Maryland Horticulture Society Garden [Tour] in fact were Bay-Wise certified so that the viewing public could see and experience Bay-Wise gardening within both a beautiful and educational showcase setting.*

"Furthermore, our exciting partnership with Gunpowder Valley Conservancy in the restoration of the Jennifer Branch watershed provided us numerous opportunities for community education and outreach initiatives. Over the course of the year, we assisted with rain barrel and rain garden installation workshops, provided informational Bay-Wise talks and training, and certified

yards in the Jennifer Branch watershed area. Our work with this active and enthusiastic environmental group will continue throughout 2011, during which time we will also be taking on an additional major project: installing a 200 sq. ft. Bay-Wise demonstration garden as part of the 2.5 acres given to the Baltimore County Master Gardeners for educational outreach at the new Baltimore County Agriculture Center.

“Jack Leonard has been a wonderful asset to our Bay-Wise team. He has devoted many countless hours developing and teaching a new ‘Landscape Design for Water Management’ course for Maryland MGs. He has also been doing presentations to other MGs.

“The objective of this course is to provide a base of knowledge and a decision making process to assist Master Gardeners when integrating water management into landscape designs. The course introduces the science, impacts, regulations and techniques associated with water and the landscape. Master Gardeners were introduced to various techniques and Best Management Practices that can be utilized for water management. Resources and references were provided to assist in the landscape design for water management process.

“We are looking forward to a year of continued growth and great gardening, our Bay-Wise team, now twenty-four members strong, will be welcoming four new Baltimore County Master Gardeners, who seek to join the committee and complete their advanced Bay-Wise training for 2011.”



Calvert

Judy Kay, Chair, informs us that there are twelve members of the Calvert County committee this year. They certified four client landscapes and two non-residential sites since 6/30/10.

Judy reports *“We were pleased to certify the grounds of Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center in Solomons, MD. The grounds feature a 1/4 mile walking path through woods and past permanent and loaned sculpture, including over 30 works on loan from the Smithsonian Institution and National Gallery of Art. It attracts visitors from all over the United States and abroad. Over the past two years, butterfly gardens were planted using native plants with advice and assistance from Master Gardeners. These have provided us with a location for talks about native plants and the Bay-Wise program.*

“The Calvert Well Pet Clinic was established by a former CCMG who has used native plants in landscaping and allowed CCMG to establish a community garden on the property for low income and Head Start families. The garden was established with the assistance and cooperation of the Nutritionist in the University of Maryland Extension office in Calvert County.”

Carroll

Long-time chair, **Dick Heiser**, turned over the reins to **Marilyn Phillips**, who reports that in addition to staffing an exhibit booth at the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair in early August, their committee of twelve has been pretty busy lately. Marilyn's report is as follows: *"I took over as chair of the Master Gardener Bay-Wise Committee on September 2, replacing Dick Heiger. Dick will remain on the committee, continuing to schedule and participate in the M. G. Bay-Wise yard certifications.*

"From August 31 to November 12, we've certified four yards, including two that belonged to active Master Gardeners. Our goal by the summer of 2011, is to have yards certified from as many active Master Gardeners as possible.

"On September 19, we manned a booth at the annual Monarch Madness event at Bear Branch. With a newly decorated tri-fold and lots of handouts, including a current one-sheet on stink bugs (a very popular handout!), we greeted about 200 folks as they walked past our booth. These included parents and kids of all ages, mostly interested in the free seed packets and the stink bug handout, but also stopping to have a variety of conversations about gardening, native plants, insects and one "I have this plant - what the heck is it?"

"Since our committee numbers were small to start with, our plan for the new year is to increase our membership so that it's not the same folks having to volunteer all the time. Hopefully, we can accomplish this with drawing in people from a spring Bay-Wise training class, and by regularly posting activity updates

on the Master Gardener newsletter, and the new county newsletter as well.

"Our latest, and most exciting, activity is planning a demonstration rain garden on the farm land behind the Ag. Center. The committee is working with Diane Brown, who's planning a demonstration Grow It Eat It garden there as well. We all met on Friday, November 12, to scout the area and make tentative plans. We'll spend the winter months creating and planning our rain garden, and be ready in the spring to start construction. The garden will be maintained by the Bay-Wise committee members.

"Our future plans include slowly expanding this demonstration garden area to perhaps host a variety of small demo gardens such as a pollinator garden, butterfly garden, and kitchen garden. Our planned mission is "education and stewardship through demonstration". Once established, we assume that the majority of our visitors will be school groups, but we also want to promote the area to include community tours and demonstrations as well."

Dorchester

Chair **Judith Slaughter** and her committee of 5 reports, *"Dorchester County did not escape the 2010 record heat and mini-drought that plagued Maryland's Eastern Shore and its environs. Both had a negative impact on our certification activities. We had several residents interested in Bay-Wise consults but as we neared our visits, most were cancelled. As one resident stated, "the majority of my lawn, gardens and landscaping is 'fried'!" We*

assured them that we could come out in 2011 and offer suggestions for drought tolerant varieties and water-saving practices. Dorchester County, Queen Anne and Wicomico Master Gardeners, are co-sponsoring an Advanced Bay-Wise Landscape Management Training Program in Cambridge this spring on March 8th and March 15th from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. All Maryland MG's are welcome to attend. The fee is \$40. For more information, please call Judy Slaughter at (410) 228-4497 or Rachel Melvin (410) 758-0166 or Ginny Rosenkranz at 410.749.6141 ex. 106. One of the non-residential landscapes scheduled for a consult is the Eastern Shore Hospital Center, a DHMH Mental Health Facility. We will be doing a Bay-Wise consult in tandem with this March, 2011 training."



Frederick

After many years of service, **Elyse Phillips** steps down as chair and **Ruth Axelrod** steps up. Ruth informs us that they have 8 committee members. In 2010 they certified two Bay-Wise demonstration landscapes. She also reports the following:

- "Bay-Wise Advanced MG Training (with Washington County): trained 12 Frederick County MGs, May 10 and 11, 2010.
- Go Green Conference, Frederick, June 7, 2010:
 - Staffed a booth that reached 145 contacts

- Presentation/workshop by Elyse Phillips
- Decorated building with native plants; planted and gave away 27 troughs of succulents.
- Consultations regarding three landscapes, Elyse Phillips, Spring, 2010
- Green Valley Elementary School: Consultation regarding existing rain garden, Elyse Phillips and Ruth Axelrod, October 27, 2010.
- Life Directions LLC, Frederick: Consultation with counseling center owners regarding installation of a Bay-Wise therapeutic garden, Ruth Axelrod (with MG Beth Beard), November 11, 2010.

Harford

Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, **Joan Parris** informs us that they have 30 Master Gardeners who are qualified to and willing to certify homes. Since last report they have certified 11 client and two Bay-Wise demonstration landscapes. She also reports, "On September 23, Joyce Browning, Elaine Dodd and Ruth Eisenhower participated in a Rain garden seminar with the Wheel Creek Watershed group at Abingdon. They promoted Bay-Wise gardening techniques and answered questions for 23 adults and 1 youth.

In its quest to be designated a "Green School," Reisterstown Elementary invited one of our certified Master Gardeners to speak on the topic "Who Polluted the Potomac". Master

Gardener Linda Masland made her 30-minute presentation to three groups of third, fourth, and fifth graders in December. Almost 150 children enthusiastically participated in the presentation/discussion.

In December, Joan Parris met with a Home Owners Association to discuss partnering with them to promote Bay-Wise landscaping techniques. The HOA will post links to the HGIC website on their home page; a Bay-Wise representative will attend the annual HOA meeting to make a Bay-Wise presentation; and certified Master Gardeners will offer assistance to the Association as they work with professional landscapers to encourage them to use Bay-friendly best practices.”

Howard

Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, **Caroline Feil**, has turn over the reins to new chair, **Linda Decker**. Linda reports that their committee of 27 (including six 2010 interns) has certified one Bay-Wise demo site, 1 residential client and 3 non-residential client sites since mid year. They also spend a lot of their time consulting with clients on issues such as erosion control, IPM and suitable native planting, even though those sites are not certified. They made 13 such visits since summer.

In addition, Linda reports, “*Spreading the message has been a key part of the activities during 2010. The “Earth Forum for Howard County” was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County on three Sundays in early 2010. Our Bay-Wise Master Gardeners lead the discussion panels on Storm Water*

Management, Native Plants, and Bay-Wise. This forum was very well attended by the community and our MG’s helped raise awareness of key environmental issues.

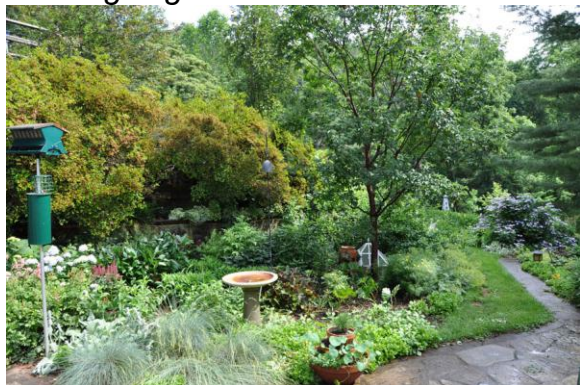
“Our Bay-Wise Master Gardeners have also been prominent speakers at the Village Centers in Columbia on Bay-Wise related topics. We provide a monthly “Bay-Wise Garden Tips” that is published in each of the Village newsletters reaching all Columbia residents. We have also taken advantage of the display spaces in the county libraries. During 2010, we had month-long displays at the Central and Miller branches promoting Bay-Wise principles. Our artistic MG’s made sure that these displays were eye-catching as well as informative.

“Once rain barrels were against the covenants in the villages of Columbia, but that hurdle has been overcome and our Storm Water Management subcommittee supported the Columbia Association in the demonstration and sale of over 100 rain barrels to Columbia residents. A county-wide effort to promote rain barrels was conducted at the Alpha Ridge Landfill and Recycling Center. Together with our composting committee, our Bay-Wise group participated in the distribution of rain barrels and compost bins free to the public. Master Gardeners staffed the distribution and engaged the public in understanding the value of composting and water management. Over 150 rain barrels were distributed to residents who signed pledges to install and use them. We will be able to follow-up with these residents

to gauge the effectiveness of the program.

“Capitalizing on the volume of visitors to the landfill, Bay-Wise in cooperation with Howard County, installed a rain garden at Alpha Ridge. Designed and planted by our Bay-Wise MGs it features native plants. On Saturday mornings MGs showcase the garden. Literature and signage at the site explains its value to residents who visit at other times.

“This year’s Bay-Wise Garden tour and Native plant sale was held in September and showcased one of our Master Gardener’s landscape. Displays were positioned throughout the property with Bay-Wise MGs on hand to explain the various aspects of a Bay-Wise managed property. We have always had an excellent turn-out at our garden tours, but this year we were gratified to have over 160 people attend; 122 from the general public. This gave us an opportunity to spread the Bay-Wise message. We surveyed participants and received excellent feedback. Sixteen of the visitors requested assistance with their landscape issues and consultations are on-going.



Garden highlighted on Howard County's Bay-Wise Garden Tour

“While the number of certified landscapes did not reach the level of

previous years, our Master Gardeners were active in working with clients with landscape issues. We have conducted consultations and assisted individual home owners as well as community groups such as condo associations and schools in assessing and dealing with erosion, pest management and native plant selection. Our local schools are interested in “green projects” and several have solicited help with designing and implementing rain gardens. “

Kudos to the Howard County crew!

Prince George’s

Franchella Kendall, Chair, reports seventeen active members of their committee again this year. They certified two non-residential sites recently. One was the Cheverly Vegetable Garden. For the second site, Franchella is excited to share that their recent efforts have really paid off. *“The Certification of the Andrew’s Air Force Base Liberty Park Welcome Center has opened the door for the Prince George’s Master Gardeners to work with the Base to possibly certify other areas on the Base and to provide ongoing education programs about Bay-Wise and other Maryland Master Gardener Programs.”*

Queen Anne’s

Co-chairs, **Vida Morley, Kate Greer, Jane Chambers, Carol Jelich** and **Rachel Melvin** report eleven active committee members this year. They’ve certified four residential landscapes in the past six months in addition to a middle school vegetable garden. Between 3 reported outreach events, they reached 146 youth and adults.

Co-chair, Rachel reports, "*Queen Anne's MG Carol Jelich team taught the Bay-Wise intern class this year with Talbot MG Joanne Buritsch. Several interns are interested in joining the Bay-Wise committee. An article prepared by Karen Wimsatt, Heather Buritsch and Rachel was printed in the Star Democrat, regarding the Bay-Wise class for interns and the Bay-Wise program. The article was circulated and we received complimentary recognition of our program from Tom Miller, the Regional Director for Extension and Nick Place, the Associate Dean for the College of Ag. and Natural Resources.*

"Several Master Gardeners participated in an EPA video on proper lawn care techniques regarding water quality, pesticide use, and the health of the Chesapeake Bay (10/22/2010). The purpose of this video is to teach homeowners how to maintain the landscape while not harming the water and environment. Arranged for a Master Gardener (Debbie Pusey) and myself to interview a Queen Anne's county resident (Phil Schwartz) on their current lawn care practices and how proper maintenance can help the health of the bay. After filming the homeowner had his landscape Bay-Wise certified by Bay-Wise MG's Kate Greer and Debbie Pusey. Airing should occur in early 2011."

Talbot

Co-chairs, **Joanne Buritsch** and **Penny Balgley** report 52 active committee members. In the second half of the year the committee certified four client landscapes and four demo landscapes belonging to their 2010 advanced

training graduates in addition to nine consultations. They received a \$48,000 Tred Avon Watershed Grant to provide education, demonstrations and certifications in that watershed.

Co-chairs, Penny and Joanne submit the following report: "*Talbot County attends two Farmers Markets, one in Easton and the other in St. Michaels. Occasionally talks and demonstrations are given. Always Bay-Wise displays, MG information and rain barrels to be sold are on hand.*

"This fall, in preparation for our Grant work, we held a special program on Bay-Wise principles at the home of Marcia Fidis for her friends and neighbors. We gave 3 presentations: the state of the Bay, lawn fertilization and shrubs and trees that could be used in yards or buffers.

"Joanne Buritsch and Carol Jelich gave the new combined class of Queen Anne County and Talbot County new MG's a lecture with displays on Bay-Wise gardening."

Washington

Co-chairs, **Annette Ipsan** and **Sharon Bondroff** report eight active committee members this year. Aside from the class taught at the Sharpsburg Library in August, "*We gave 4 educational talks on Bay-Wise practices, featured Bay-Wise in 2 plant clinic displays with the theme, "Healthy Gardens, Healthy Waterways," and talked about Bay-Wise with 366 visitors to an information booth at local event called Boonsboro Days. A Bay-Wise certified landscape was also featured in a county-wide garden tour*

which featured Bay-Wise Master Gardeners as docents,” Annette added.

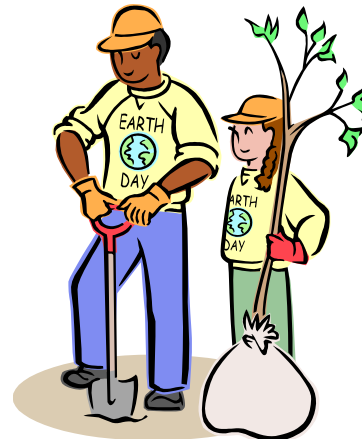
More Assorted Stuff

Interested in Planting 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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