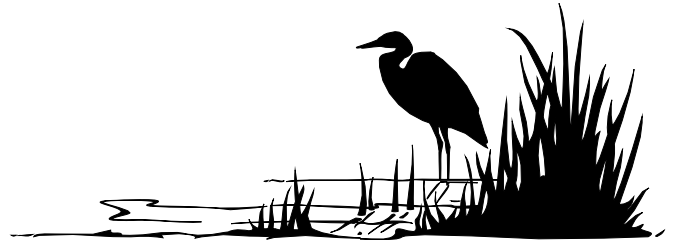


BAY-WISE MASTER GARDENER UPDATE



To: Bay-Wise Master Gardeners and Mike Ensor, Katie Dott, Herb Reed, Steve Allgeier, Doris Behnke, Sudeep Mathew, Susan Trice, Joyce Browning, Georgia Eacker, Esther Mitchell, Rachel Melvin, Jennifer Horton, Karen Sechler, Ginny Rosenkranz, Robin Hessey and Jon Traunfeld

From: Wanda MacLachlan

Subject: Bay-Wise Update

Date: February 1, 2012

Greetings

What weird weather we're having this winter! One day it's unseasonably warm, the next day it's snowing. Spring bulbs are already above ground. In a few cases, spring blossoms have appeared. What effect will this weather have on our landscapes? Do you know someone who is still denying climate change? This e-newsletter covers the period from July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

As reported in the 2011 Summer issue, this spring 123 Master Gardeners took the Bay-Wise Advanced Training. We haven't had any Bay-Wise advanced training sessions since then but we do have a few more certified demo landscapes around the state to acknowledge. We also have some upcoming Bay-Wise

Advanced Training sessions scheduled for March, 2012. But 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, fifteen new Bay-Wise Master Gardener landscapes have been certified since our last newsletter. Almost half belong to Master Gardeners that have had their landscapes certified in the past and have taken the advanced training in 2011.

Listed in the following chart are those that have recently had their landscapes certified. Congratulations to all, for your landscape certifications.

Certified Landscapes of Our Recent Bay-Wise Master Gardeners

All Certified Landscapes between 7/1 and 12/31/11				
First Name	Last Name	County	B-W Training	Demo Certification Date
Patricia	Telak	Baltimore	3/21/2011	7/26/2011
Richard	Dempster	Dorchester	3/15/2011	7/5/2011
Patti	Grove	Frederick	5/11/2010	9/8/2011
Linda	Hause	Frederick	5/11/2010	9/8/2011
Frank	Williams	Frederick	5/11/2010	9/27/2011
Lee Ann	Anderson	Harford	3/16/2009	10/27/2011
Stephen	Howard	Harford	3/21/2011	10/4/2011
Carol	McCormack	Harford	5/11/2005	7/25/2011
Lucy	Duff	Prince George's	5/28/2011	7/20/2011
Kelley	Okleson	Prince George's	5/28/2011	7/20/2011
Ann	Young	Prince George's	5/28/2011	7/30/2011
Jimmy	Persels	Queen Anne's	3/15/2011	9/23/2011
Louise	Shearer	Queen Anne's	3/15/2011	10/11/2011
Barbara	Walsh	Talbot	4/28/2010	10/14/2011
Charlene	Miller	Wicomico	3/15/2011	7/5/2011

Congratulations to each and every Master Gardener who has taken the Bay-Wise advanced training. Since the beginning of the program in 1996, you have certified a total of 825 client landscapes and 87 non-residential landscapes. In addition, 423 of you have had your landscapes certified as demonstration sites!



Prince George's County Bay-Wise Master Gardener, Dave Kneipp, certifies a local veggie garden in Cheverly

Upcoming Advanced Trainings

As of press time, we have three Bay-Wise Advanced Trainings planned for this spring in Baltimore City/Baltimore, Cecil, and Talbot Counties. If you haven't been to an advanced training in a while and would like a refresher, you are welcome to sit in. Visit the Bay-Wise website, www.baywise.umd.edu, for specific dates, sites and times. Ask the contact person whether there is room in the class for you. You don't have to pay the registration fee but you must bring your own HomeWork binder because you won't receive a new one (unless you pay the registration fee).

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, **Jim MacNicholl** and **Margaret Karnes** are excited to report that their committee has grown to 20. They've certified five landscapes since last June including one belonging to a Master Gardener. They also had consultations with seven more clients which may or may not lead to future certifications. Their community outreach included a presentation in July to 22

residents of Cypress Improvement Association in Severna Park.

Baltimore City

Chair, **Betty Biliske**, tells us that her committee of 9 has been busy in the city. The group has certified 15 client landscapes (eight belonging to Master Gardeners) and 3 non-residential sites, which include Barclay Elementary School, Whitelock Community Farm and Otterbein Pocket Parks. They also consulted with three clients but those haven't led to certifications.

"The Baltimore City Committee has continued to educate people about best gardening practices in a variety of venues including the State Fair, a community association meeting, farmers markets and neighborhood festivals. The interest generated at these events resulted in Bay-Wise certification of fifteen more yards, an elementary school, a community garden and a series of pocket parks in one of Baltimore's historic districts.

"We are looking forward to the joint city/county training that will take place in March. Jon Traunfeld will be teaching a class on best Bay-Wise practices for vegetable gardens. With the Extension's promotion of urban agriculture in Baltimore we are looking forward to certifying many of the community gardens that are springing up on vacant lots.

"Committee membership is holding at nine. We are looking forward to increasing that number after the March Advanced training so we will have the capability for collaborating with some of the work being done in the watersheds

through Bluewater Baltimore.”

Baltimore County

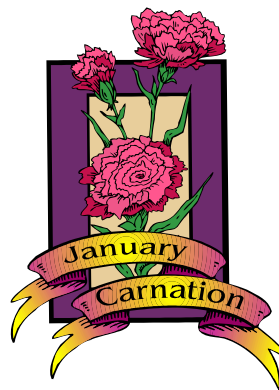
Welcome to new Co-Chairs, **Kim Barnes** and **Carolyn Vane**. They inform us that their committee has 24 members who have certified 7 residential, 1 non-residential and 1 Master Gardener/client landscapes in the past six months. They also report that this fall their team gave presentations to 17 members of the Manor Garden Club and 18 in the Glen Arm Garden Club. In November, they gave a presentation to the 34 new Master Gardener interns in their county. They also report: *“The BCMG Bay-Wise Committee had several opportunities this fall to educate the residents of our communities about the Bay-Wise Landscape Program. In addition to presenting our basic Bay-Wise training module to the new class of Baltimore County Master Gardener interns, members of the committee presented to two Federated District III Garden Clubs. The talks were very well received – one attendee commented, “A terrific Master Gardener’s program done with such enthusiasm and commitment...” We have three more garden club presentations scheduled for 2012, and hope that some of the members will be interested in having their landscapes Bay-Wise certified.*

“Bay-Wise Landscaping was the highlighted topic for the Baltimore County Master Gardener table at the Senior/Baby Boomer Expo, held in October at the Maryland State Fairgrounds. Bay-Wise Co-chair Carolyn Vane and others staffed the table, giving out information and yardsticks.

“Carolyn Vane is heading up the Bay-Wise Demonstration Garden at the Maryland Center for Baltimore County Agriculture in Cockeysville, MD. It has been partially planted with trees and shrubs, and was mulched and ready for the Maryland Agriculture Resource Council (MARC) Open House that was held there on October 22. We had a table at the Open House, and were able to introduce our demo garden and tell visitors about the Bay-Wise program.

“In partnership with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, the BCMG Bay-Wise committee has submitted a letter of support for a grant proposal for which they are applying. If received, our role will be to give advice on issues related to the market research for the project, and to participate in an educational workshop and certify homeowner landscapes.

“Joining with Baltimore City Master Gardeners, we are co-sponsoring a Bay-Wise Advanced Training Class for March 2012.”

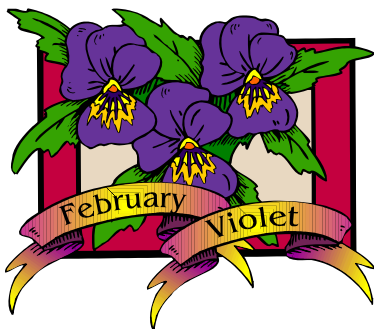


Calvert

Judy Kay, Chair, informs us that there are now 21 members of the Calvert County committee this year. They certified two client landscapes sites since 6/30/11.

Judy shares *"I'm afraid the hot weather took its toll on an event or two where we might have made contacts and we didn't have time to squeeze in two or three more before the holidays upset everyone's schedules. We hope to conduct those this spring and follow up on some visits that did not end in certification last year.*

"We are trying to come up with new "marketing" ideas to promote the program. Also, several Master Gardeners want their yards certified but have either been reticent or have had time issues. We do have good support for the Bay-Wise program in Calvert County and we're looking forward to visiting more yards in 2012. "



Carroll

New Chair, **Marilyn Phillips**, reports that their committee certified two client landscapes and one non-residential landscape (the Westminster Senior Center vegetable garden) since summer. All three sites are maintained by local Master Gardeners. Marilyn's report is as follows: *"The Carroll County Bay-Wise Committee is 10 strong. Our demonstration rain garden is doing well. We have a new permanent demo garden sign there and will be adding a small mailbox for rain garden brochures so visitors can help themselves. From*

July to December, we have been focusing on several community outreach projects for which we will serve as consultants. They include planning a rain garden for St. James Episcopal Church in Mt. Airy and working with McDaniel College on restoring a wetland area in Westminster's Kings Park. We're also hoping to give a Bay-Wise presentation this summer at Bear Branch Nature Center. These projects will serve as educational tools for our impact study."

Charles

Co-chairs **Ronda Goldman** and **Jessica Milstead** share that their committee is 14 strong. Although they did not certify any residential landscapes this fall, they've occupied themselves with certifying the grounds of both the Thomas Stone High School and the Charles County Government Center. They also gave a Bay-Wise presentation for 25 Hughesville Garden Club members in addition to one for 75 adults and 50 students at Thomas Stone High School. According to Ronda, *"2011 was an eventful year for Charles County. We currently have two schools in our Schools & Communities Project. JC Parks Elementary School committed to restoring 95% of their turf to natural wildlife habitat and the school received over \$130,000 to complete the outdoor classroom. Master Gardeners, teachers and students planted 2000 native plants as a result.*

"Thomas Stone High School was the second school to join the program and the students there are working on a strategy to certify 1,200 landscapes in their community. The Board of Commissioners took the Bay-Wise

Challenge and Bay-Wise Master Gardeners certified the grounds at the Charles County Government Building. Under the leadership of Commissioner Candice Quinn Kelly and the direction of Tom Roland, the Commissioners approved and signed Resolution Number 2011-47, which articulated their support of the program and encouragement of county residents to "Take the Bay-Wise Challenge."



Because of the Charles County Bay-Wise Master Gardeners' efforts, there things are happening: 1.) schools are converting turf to wildlife habitats; 2.) the Board of Commissioners is encouraging residents to Take the Bay-Wise Challenge and 3.) Thomas Stone High School students want to certify 1,200 landscapes in their community.



Dorchester

Chair **Judith Slaughter** and her committee of 15 busied themselves this fall certifying the grounds of the Eastern Shore Hospital Center this fall. Judy will be turning her Chair responsibilities over to Jim Leech in 2012. Thank you, Judy, for your leadership for this newly formed Bay-Wise committee.

Frederick

Ruth Axelrod, Chair, informs us that their committee has grown from 8 to 17 in the past six months. Since summer they have certified three Bay-Wise demonstration landscapes, two client landscapes and they've consulted with two clients that haven't yet had their landscapes certified. She also reports the following: *"In September, we hosted a new, educational Bay-Wise display in the Frederick County Master Gardener booth at the week-long Great Frederick Fair. As the weather cooled down, we also caught up on certifying five home landscapes. In October, we helped work with students from Urbana Elementary School to plant an engineered bio-swale that will help protect the Great Heron Wetlands."*

Harford

Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, **Joan Parris** informs us that they now have 41 members on their committee. Since last report they have certified 18 client (9 belonging to local Master Gardeners) and four Bay-Wise demonstration landscapes. She also reports, *"Harford County Master Gardeners had a big presence at farmers' markets in Havre de Grace and in Bel Air. They distributed lots of Bay-Wise information and generated interest in landscape*

certification. In addition, we participated in the Eden Mill Fall Fest and reached over 50 clients with Bay-Wise information. For the most part, however, we were busy doing landscape certifications – 22 during the past six month period!”

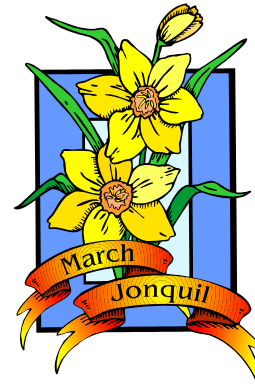
Howard

Bay-Wise Master Gardener Chair, **Linda Decker**. Linda reports that their committee of 26 has certified three client landscapes (two belonging to fellow Master Gardeners) 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 19 such visits since summer.

The committee was busy with community outreach as well. This fall they staffed information booths at the Country Day School, CMREC Open House and the “Slow the Flow” county stormwater management event and shared information with 75, 200+ and 60 residents, respectively.

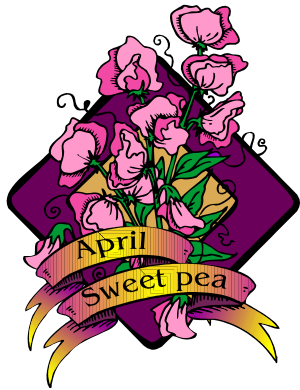
In addition, Linda reports, *“During June, 2011 nineteen of our Howard County Master Gardeners participated in the advanced training course, “Landscape Design for Water Management.” This instruction has proved invaluable in conducting site consultations for members of the Howard County community. During the second half of the year, we more than doubled the number of consultations we completed. Dealing with problems of erosion and requests for assistance in planning rain gardens has become of increased importance as community awareness*

and interest has increased in managing storm water. We have revised the manual we distribute to homeowners to include information on Rain Gardens, rain barrels, native plants and sources and listings of informative sites on the internet.



“Dryers Ice Cream has a manufacturing facility in Howard County. Large food-grade barrels used in their production are recycled as rain barrels in a cooperative venture with the Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services. They receive truckloads of empty barrels from Dryers, wash them, prep them and store them at the county landfill. Twice a month, April through October, our Bay-Wise Master Gardeners manage the distribution to the public. They explain how to convert the barrels and provide information on their use and impact. The residents pledge to buy the necessary fittings and make the barrels functional. This year 170 barrels were distributed to the public. Coincident with this activity, we also manage the distribution of free compost bins to the public. The Alpha Ridge Landfill has developed into an ideal location for public interaction. In addition to the give-away, we have a “working” compost pile and a demonstration rain garden. Our Master

Gardeners staff these locations on Saturdays to explain their functionality and engage citizens in discussions about better practices for their home landscapes.



“Once again we conducted our Bay-Wise Garden tour in the fall. We have selected this time of year to avoid competition with the many spring tours and to focus attention on Bay-Wise principles. Our home landscape this year was particularly instructive in dealing with problems caused by storm water. Neighboring properties are sloped in such a way that they contribute to the water flowing across the property. Installation of a French drain in the front of the house to divert water away from the basement and a new rain garden in the rear of the house were showcased. The numerous planting beds and their role in rain absorption were also highlighted. Signage throughout the property explained the plant selection and function of the various installations. Master Gardeners were on hand to engage the 86 visitors. Once again Chesapeake Natives participated and conducted a native plant sale. The tour was well attended, the feedback was unanimously positive and a number of visitors requested site consultations to

assist them in managing their storm water issues.

“Members of Bay-Wise have been active in maintaining contact with county and community groups. Several of our members assisted this fall in the planning and planting of gardens at the new Robinson Nature Center. The Watershed Advisory Committee of Columbia has secured funding to install more than 200 rain gardens. One of our Master Gardeners has designed four templates for their use. At present the effort is directed to selecting 10 sites in the Long Reach and Owen Brown communities to be the prototypes. The plan calls for Master Gardeners to aid in training youth to participate in the construction of the gardens and to also work with homeowners to maintain the functionality of them.

“Noting a lack of information on permeable pavers that could be shared with members of the community, one of our Bay-Wise members undertook the task of creating a fact sheet. This 11 page document provides more than an overview; it describes the various options in detail and also includes source information. This document was shared with Howard County and is accessible on their Green Central Station website. In fact, as a result of this venture, the county has also created a link from their website to our website. They describe our efforts and direct residents who wish to have a Master Gardener consult with them on home landscapes to us at our website. We have updated our site to include the Homeowner’s Questionnaire and the latest version of the Bay-Wise yardstick.

"We have maintained our ongoing program providing monthly garden tips for the Columbia Village newsletters. We also installed a month-long display at the Glenwood library showcasing the role of Rain Gardens in storm water management. We participated in community events with information booths. During the second half of 2011, we staffed a Bay-Wise booth at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center, CMREC, open house. While children were enthralled with the adjacent Vermicomposting demonstration, we captured the adults and shared our Bay-Wise yardstick. Howard County conducted a community forum called "Slow the Flow – What residents should know about storm water." Georgia Eacker was a featured speaker on the topic, Bay-Wise, and we also had an information booth to provide additional information and contacts."

Prince George's

Franchella Kendall, Chair, reports that their committee grew to 25 members this year. In addition to certifying three demo and three residential sites, they've been working with Andrews Air Force Base to certify 396 acres of residential housing grounds, all serviced by its landscape maintenance contractor. This landscape includes not only the Welcome Center but also yards of 1,100 family housing units, the yards of Belle Chance, the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force's house, playgrounds, parks and other common areas.

Franchella adds that *"On November 7th she conducted Bay-Wise presentation to the new class of 20 Master Gardener interns."*



Queen Anne's

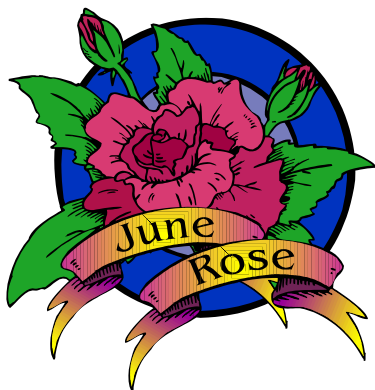
Co-chairs, **Vida Morley, Kate Greer, Jane Chambers, and Rachel Melvin** report eleven active committee members this year. They've certified 5 residential landscapes (including two Bay-Wise demo yards) in the past six months.

Co-chair, Rachel reports the following:

- *Queen Anne's MG Carol Jelich and Talbot MG Joanne Buritsch team taught Bay-Wise concepts to the 2011 intern class. MG's Carol Jelich and Joanne Buritsch did a mock Bay-Wise consultation with the participants of the class.*
- *Master Gardeners participated in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation-Ice Cream Social on Clean watersheds at the Galena Firehouse on 9/27/2011. Master Gardener John Ittu spoke on ways to reduce runoff from entering watersheds by using rain barrels and ways to incorporate native plants in this endeavor. 27 people attended and received Bay-Wise yardsticks.*
- *Master Gardeners participated in the 6th Annual Corsica River Awareness day on 9/17/2011. Master Gardeners educated 183 individuals the importance of doing a soil test in the fall and on*

the Brown Marmorated Stink bug and ways to discourage them from entering homes. Each participant was given a BMSB fact sheet, a soil test bag, and Fact Sheet HG110. Additionally, children were also able to get their picture taken with their favorite pollinator cut out made by Master Gardeners.

- *Rachel coordinated and arranged for Master Gardeners to have a pollinator habitat booth at the fall native plant sale at Adkins Arboretum on 9/17/2011. Master Gardeners were available to answer gardening questions on a variety of topics including soil testing, native plants, IPM, and fall gardening. 14 people attended.*



Talbot

New chair, **Lynn Freeburger**, reports there are now 23 active committee members. In the second half of the year the committee certified nine client landscapes (one belonging to a Master Gardener) and one demo landscape in addition to 34 consultations. They also certified Talbot County Historical Society, a non-residential site.

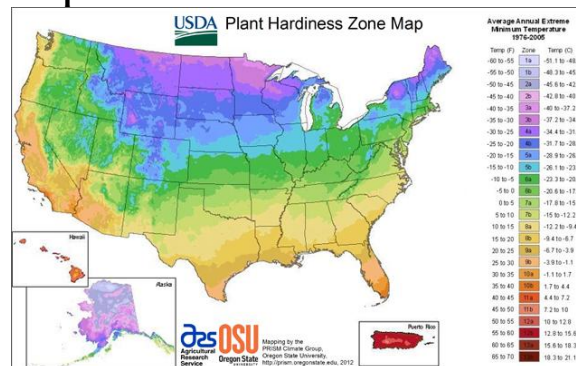
The committee reached 213 adults and youth in 8 different classes/workshops.

Chair, Lynn Freeburger submits the following report: *“Implementation of a 2010 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays grant [worth \$133,180] has been the key focus of the Talbot Master Gardeners with 7 more workshops since July, Bay-Wise consultations and certifications, and a Bay-Wise event at the Avalon Theater in October. Direct mail pieces, surveys and many other promotions have been utilized to make this program a success.”*

What was the impact of their efforts, you may ask. Lynn continues, *“We issued surveys to all residents who participated in our free soil testing promotion, as well as those who attended workshops, to find out what practices were used for lawn care. Post-surveys are now being distributed to all of these participants to see what changes they have made as a result of our programs. Stay tuned . . .*

More Assorted Stuff

New USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is Here!



The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map

The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is now available. You may notice that you are now in a different hardiness

zone as compared to the previous map. Hardiness zones are based on the average annual minimum temperatures during the past 30-year period. Our temperatures have been incrementally rising over the past few decades, thus redefining our zones.

According to their website, the USDA's Agricultural Research Service states, "For the first time, the map is available as an interactive GIS-based map, for which a broadband Internet connection is recommended, and as static images for those with slower Internet access. Users may also simply type in a ZIP Code and find the hardiness zone for that area.

"No posters of the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map have been printed. But state, regional, and national images of the map can be downloaded and printed in a variety of sizes and resolutions." Visit <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov> to see and download your new map.

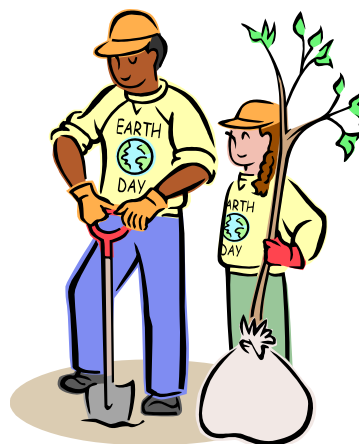
Interested in Planting Trees?



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>



Pesticide Stewardship Website

According to its website, the National Science Foundation Center for Integrated Pest Management (CIPM) was established in 1991 to coordinate technology development, program implementation, training, and public awareness for IPM at the state, regional, and national level. They developed a multi-functional website that includes all the information a homeowner needs to know about pesticides. Check it out at: <http://pesticidestewardship.org/Pages/default.aspx> Cursor down near the bottom of the left side menu to see the section on homeowners. Find useful fact sheets here.

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 360 “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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