The 2007 founding class of Baltimore County Master Gardeners has been referred to as the pioneers of the organization. If they are the pioneers, **Norman Cohen** can certainly be categorized as the father of the organization. From 2008 when he first stepped foot into the intern classroom until today, Norman has accepted every leadership role that has been given him.

The training facilitator at that time, Victoria Brueck identified him immediately as the person to launch the plant clinics for the organization. With the first banner and folding table, “dearly bought” from our meager budget, and bricks and elastic bands to hold the banner and paperwork in place, Norm inaugurated the Ask a Master Gardener table at community and park events. Each year, he added more AMG volunteers to serve area farmers’ markets and community events in Pikesville, Towson, Reisterstown, Parkville, Cockeysville and Catonsville. Already by September of this year, he and his volunteer leaders, Nancy Jones, Terri Ferguson, Vickie Miller and Ann Dooley have reported over 40 events and almost 1000 contacts.

Our numbers were so small in 2008, many of the interns were asked to serve on the Steering Committee. Norman was tapped as vice president with the expectation that he would continue to serve as president and then as ex-officio president – a three-year commitment. Norman was up for the task and worked diligently to bolster our meager budget and our ranks as he served his three-year stint. But there was a snafu in early 2010. Katie Dott resigned as president to take on the task of MG coordinator, and Leslie Erickson moved to president to serve for the remainder of that year and all of 2011. Norman found his commitment extended for another year as ex-officio president.

But there is more. Besides his role in AMG and on the Steering Committee, Norman was one of the first to step up to offer continuing education and talks for the still fledgling speakers’ bureau. Today, Norman collects multiple honoraria and accolades. He is in demand and is the hardest working person on the speakers bureau circuit. His talks include “Trees in the ‘hood,” “Integrated Pest Management,” and all of the Grow It Eat It topics that pack in our library audiences. This year he added “Weeds in the ‘hood” and “Putting Your Garden to Bed” to his repertoire.

Since the first Budding News was published almost two years ago, Norman has shared pithy observations and intelligent information in his monthly column, “Norman’s Patch.”

As 2012 draws to a close and Norman leaves his four-year term as a steward of the Steering Committee, we recognize Norman Cohen as the Father of BCMG. Norman – we couldn’t have grown this organization without you!
This year at “Ask a Master Gardener” sessions, the number one question asked was “Why does my yard have so many weeds this year?” With last winter being so mild, every weed seed sown seemed to germinate. With no exception, the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden could have been a primer for a weed identification course.

In late April the garden and the surrounding fields were a sea of golden yellow buttercups, *Ranunculus bulbous*. All Ranunculus species are poisonous when eaten fresh by cattle, horses, and other livestock, but their acrid taste and the blistering caused by their poison in the mouth leaves them uneaten. No wonder the multitude deer do not eat them either. *R. bulbous* is a naturalized import from Europe and is related to Lesser Celandine, *R. ficaria* (Ficaria verna), a plant listed on the invasive list.

Both horse nettle, *Solanum carolinense*, and Eastern black or deadly nightshade, *S. ptycanthum*, formally named *S. americanum*, were an all too common sight in the Demo Garden vegetable and flower beds. Both horse nettle and Eastern black nightshade are native plants in the same genus as the tomato, eggplant and potato. Horse nettle is a perennial that spreads by rhizomes and adventitious roots; its flower resembles those of the potato and it has extremely sharp prickles on the veins, midrib and petioles. Even with a good pair of leather garden gloves, my hands were pierced when weeding.

The Eastern black nightshade is an annual, poisonous to livestock, but it has no prickles and is easy to remove mechanically. Both can be host plants for the infamous flea beetle, which has affinity for eggplant leaves. To prevent flea beetle damage, kaolin, a mined mineral turned into a powder and applied to the leaves, forms an excellent physical barrier.

At the end of the blueberry patch in the Demo Garden was a 10 x 20 foot area where the sod had been removed to possibly start an edible landscape plot. Left uncovered and unmowed, the area became a nursery for Virginia copperleaf and common groundsel. Copperleaf, *Acalypha virginica*, is a summer annual with erect branched stems and foliage that develops a copper pigmentation. The plant is monoecious with inconspicuous greenish flowers that are in clusters in the leaf axils.

Groundsel, *Senecio vulgaris*, native to Eurasia, is a branched, erect winter or summer annual. The plant contains alkaloids that cause liver damage in cattle and horses, so it is certainly not a deer favorite. It is easy to recognize with its irregular toothed to deeply lobed margins and yellow disk flowers that appear from April to October. Groundsel hosts the fungus that causes black root rot in peas, soybeans, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, and several ornamental flowering plants.

One last fact: the weed seed bank contains thousands of seeds per square foot. Happy weeding!!

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**


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**Kudos**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2011 WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR 40 HOURS AND ARE NOW ACTIVE MASTER GARDENERS: KAREN CICMANEC, ELLEN FEIFAREK, KATHLEEN KNUST, PATSY PAHR, ROSE MARIE FURY, AND VARETTA HAMLIN.**

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ELLEN FEIFAREK FOR MANNING THE RECEPTION TABLE EVERY FRIDAY FOR THE 10-WEEK INTERN TRAINING. SHE HAS DONE A SPLENDID JOB KEEPING PAPERS, RECEIPTS—AND TRAINEES ORGANIZED.**
Kim Barnes, Native Plant Enthusiast

While many of us take a lifetime to find our passions, Kim Barnes was lucky enough to find hers when she took a seminar on native plants at the Irvine Nature Center in 1995. She still doesn’t remember why she enrolled, only that she had been a birdwatcher as a child. She even asked for a bird identification book and binoculars one Christmas. And her parents weren’t gardeners either. They went to her grandmother’s acreage for produce.

Her first venture into gardening with natives began with Virginia bluebells (Mertensia virginica), native ginger (Asarum canadense), bluestem goldenrod (Solidago caesia), and cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis). These she acquired from the Irvine native plant sale, from Valley View Farms, and from a man who sold native plants at her church. These days she finds that while natives are still less plentiful than non-natives, they can be found at the Herring Run Nursery, Babikow, and Irvine, among others. (The Herring Run Nursery is part of the Bluewater Baltimore Watershed Association.)

When asked how one would determine whether a plant is a genuine native, she indicated that the best way is to buy from a reputable dealer and be careful because there is lots of variety within each species. She recalls buying three plants of spotted bee balm, all labeled the same, but when they began to grow in her garden, they all looked different.

Success in growing natives, she says, depends greatly on the soil. A lot of natives like thin soil, especially fall bloomers, and they don’t need extra water either. As natives, they are already fairly well adapted to the local environment. For those who want to begin planting natives, the best choice is to start with the website http://www.nativeplantcenter.net/. Type in what you’re looking for and what conditions you have in the site you want to use and the website will provide you with a list of natives that would work for that site. It’s important to get plants that are specifically native to the Maryland piedmont. And to consider the pollinators when choosing natives. Also you can go to native plant sales and talk with the vendors who are likely to be knowledgeable. It helps to learn what the native ecology was before we humans interfered. For example, the Towson area used to be an oak and hickory forest, so these days it would be a good idea to plant oak trees.

Kim’s interest in Bay-Wise seems to be a natural outgrowth of her interest in natives. She very much likes the idea of extending gardening toward environmental concerns. “It’s like sharing the environment with other gardeners,” she says. As a member of the speakers’ bureau, Kim makes presentations about natives in Harford and Baltimore counties, Baltimore City and at garden clubs. She is excited that Master Gardeners are interested in and understand the importance of natives. This concern helps with preserving the varieties and species that can often be overlooked.

Continuing Education to feature orchids and wreaths

RITA DONOHO

Orchids—they’re not as difficult as you think!

Come join us on November 8 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at our General Meeting/Continuing Education segment to learn about orchids. Our own Master Gardener trainee, Laura Holley, will present. She is a self-taught orchid lover and has given many a “dead plant” a happy & rejuvenated home!!!! Come learn about orchids. Laura will ease your fears (as she has done mine) and convince you to add orchids to your indoor & outdoor gardens.

Wreath making & Holiday Gala—December 13, 2012 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)

Heather Wight (who needs no introduction) will help us with our holiday wreath decorating. Heather has fabulous ideas! If you'd like to decorate a wreath, start gathering your decorations now – perhaps you have some favorite ornaments or treasures that you'd like to use on a wreath for your door or wall for the season. Bring your own wreath or order a mixed evergreen wreath from us for $10 for the workshop. Email Katie to reserve wreath(s).

More details of this event will follow; check Budding News and announcements at meetings. The December 13 meeting will be our last General Meeting/Continuing Education segment for 2012. In honor of the holiday season, please bring cookies/treats to share with your fellow Master Gardeners—we'll have time to talk, eat, drink (non-alcoholic beverages of course) and celebrate the holiday season and another great year as Baltimore County Master Gardeners!
What we’ve been doing....

Susan Reimer addresses General Meeting attendees

MG Lisa Airey presents Wine Education Lecture to The public and interested MGS

AMGs Anna Beren, Norman Cohen, and Jean Reott at Family Fun Day

Pollinator Garden plans are underway

The Pollinator Garden Committee under the direction of Jack Leonard and Aaron Raines will begin meeting in November to lay out plans for the pollinator garden. So far the plans have been approved and funds have been secured. A mission statement has already been drafted.

During the autumn and winter months, the committee will create a planting plan and plant list, develop educational materials, and prepare the garden for spring planting including garden layout, bed preparation and the installation of paths. The committee is looking for additional members before they begin garden construction and planting.
Define budding. budding synonyms, budding pronunciation, budding translation, English dictionary definition of budding. adj. Being in an early developmental stage: a gallery with the works of budding artists. adj at an early stage of development but showing promise or...Â budding - reproduction of some unicellular organisms (such as yeasts) by growth and specialization followed by the separation by constriction of a part of the parent. agamogenesis, asexual reproduction - reproduction without the fusion of gametes. Adj. 1. Budding, in biology, a form of asexual reproduction in which a new individual develops from some generative anatomical point of the parent organism. In some species buds may be produced from almost any point of the body, but in many cases budding is restricted to specialized areas. The initial.Â Hydra budding Members of the genus Hydra reproducing by budding, a type of asexual reproduction in which a new individual develops from a generative location on the parent's body. Budding is a type of asexual reproduction in which a new organism develops from an outgrowth or bud due to cell division at one particular site. The small bulb like projection coming out from the yeast cell is called a bud. The new organism remains attached as it grows, separating from the parent organism only when it is mature, leaving behind scar tissue. Since the reproduction is asexual, the newly created organism is a clone and is genetically identical to the parent organism.