



Fall 2022

# Can You Dig It?

Hard to believe that we have come to the close of another Garden Year....or have we?

In this issue we will be addressing the District I Flower Show scheduled for Sept.24.....hopefully encouraging you to continue “gardening” with the anticipation of entering.

*Trish Reynolds*, Editor

## “Harvest Highlights”

### An NGC Standard Flower Show

is just weeks away and the excitement is building! As temperatures cool and fall weather brings renewed growth to our gardens, think about what horticulture you might enter in our show. We all have something....it’s really important to have a good showing and participation by all our clubs!

Please consider the Design classes that need to be filled. We want to “wow” the judges with exceptional exhibits and “highlights” of fall harvest. As an added bonus, the show will feature four programs throughout the afternoon designed to enlighten and instruct our visitors (and members). A Marketplace with local vendors and Dave Perry’s food truck will round out our event!

Carolyn MacGlashan, Chair

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Layout and Design—Rebecca Gaffney

**Design**

We are getting down to the last minute with the Design Division for the Flower Show and are hopeful you will be part of the “Village” and sign up for one of these design classes. Susie Middleton presented a fabulous Zoom workshop on Design and it is still available for you to watch. So please step up and help out.

**Horticulture**

The Horticulture Committee, in support of the upcoming District I Flower Show, Sept 24, 2022, “Harvest Highlights,” sponsored a Zoom Presentation on Sept. 1...see below on how to view. We hope that you that after you have viewed the presentation you will wander out into your gardens and find the best of the best to enter the show. It is fun and easy. If you need any assistance or have any questions, please feel free to contact Terry Hollman or Trish Reynolds, Show Horticulture Co-Chairmen.

**Topic:** *Better Horticulture for Exhibiting* w/Terry Holman

**Join Zoom Recording:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zzvjV7jMvyA3V8jzfmTE7JAHG22FnyQ514vlFhG-moxDIHu6ELy6girAQ\\_1q5vWT.jX0zrrons-AJqK9z](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/zzvjV7jMvyA3V8jzfmTE7JAHG22FnyQ514vlFhG-moxDIHu6ELy6girAQ_1q5vWT.jX0zrrons-AJqK9z)

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Trish's Dahlia



Trish's Celosia

As summer begins to wane, I've begun fall planting. I hope to keep my gardens producing through the first frost!

(<https://marylandgrows.umd.edu/2020/07/03/time-to-think-about-fall-planting/>)



*Pumpkin Arrangement featuring ornamental kale*

I just planted another round of Swiss Chard and kale, both of which I've found to overwinter in my raised beds and come back strong in the spring. I am also planting beets and turnips, both of which can take light frost.

Spinach and lettuces do very well in the fall when the weather cools, as do radishes, mustard, and arugula. These plants mature quickly, so you can

probably get almost two months of harvest if planted now.

When considering fall planting, read the seed packet for “days to maturity,” which is how long it will take to be ready to harvest. Keep in mind that as the days grow shorter, the days to maturity might take longer. There is a great article on the University of Maryland Extension’s Home & Garden Information Center blog about how to calculate days to maturity in the fall.

For instance, it's probably too late to plant the Yod Fah Chinese Broccoli seeds I purchased. Although they only take 55 days to mature, I need to add a couple of weeks to that number to account for shorter days.

Several varieties of flowers are said to do well in fall and some are even frost hardy. Bachelor's Button, Calendula, and flowering cabbages and kales do well in Maryland in the fall. They take a long time to get established, but I've had them last into January in my gardens and they are wonderful for fall arrangements. Asters and sedum also do well in Maryland in the fall and have the added benefit of being perennial.

Many seeds need cold stratification before blooming and can be planted in late fall to overwinter and bloom in the spring. Milkweed, poppies, Black-Eyed Susan, and coneflowers fall into this category.

Last winter I successfully started snapdragons and yarrow outside in January using the winter sowing method and had seedlings ready to plant out in March! More on that method can be found at <https://marylandgrows.umd.edu/2019/01/23/winter-sowing-how-i-get-a-jump-start-on-my-summer-flower-garden>. So, while others are beginning to clean out their gardens, I have started another round of planting to enjoy for months to come.

Just because your summer blooms are fading doesn't mean your garden season is over. There are several cool season vegetables and annuals you can plant to extend your garden season; it is also time to thin your plants – dividing overgrown clumps or moving/removing those that don't seem happy where they are.

Fall is really an ideal time to plant—your soil is still-warm, promoting good root growth. The cool weather eliminates the threat of heat stress on new plants, and there are fewer pests and diseases to threaten your plants.

Here is a short list of things to consider:

- **SPRING-BLOOMING BULBS** can be planted from autumn into early winter. Look for tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, alliums, and crocuses. It's important to put them in the ground in the fall to establish their roots. Wait to plant them till the nighttime temperatures drop to around 50 degrees or below for about two weeks to give the soil a chance to cool down so your bulbs don't emerge too early.



- **COOL-SEASON ANNUALS** Violas and their pansy cousins are among the hardiest and most colorful of the cool-season annuals. Others that can take the cold



include sweet alyssum, snap dragon, osteospermum, dianthus, lobelia, and cornflower. Mix in some ornamental cabbage or edible vegetables for contrast. You can plant these as soon as they become available, but they will do best if you wait until daytime temperatures remain below 80 degrees.

- **COOL SEASON VEGETABLES**  
You can get a fall harvest by starting fast-growing

varieties from seed or by purchasing transplants from local garden centers. Fall is a great time to plant another crop of spring greens such as spinach, leaf lettuce, arugula, mustard greens, and macho because they require cooler soil for seed germination and they mature quickly.



- **TREES, SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS**

Fall planting of trees, shrubs, and perennials offers a number of advantages over spring planting. The cooler temperatures are easier on the plants, so there is less chance for them to suffer from heat stress, especially in warmer climates. When the air temperatures become cooler than the soil, new top growth slows, allowing plants to focus their energy on root development in the still-warm soil. The moisture from fall rains also helps trees and shrubs establish strong root systems.



- **DIVIDING PERENNIALS**

In addition to planting new shrubs and trees, fall is the best time to divide or move perennials that need more growing room, especially those that bloom in the spring or summer, such as daylilies, bearded iris, peonies, and garden phlox. Divide and move perennials at least several weeks before the average date of the first hard frost in your area so your plants have time to recover from transplant shock and establish new roots.



Reference Source: <https://www.gardendesign.com/autumn/planting.html#:~:text=early%20spring%20planting.-,When%20to%20plant%3A,risk%20of%20poor%20root%20growth>. Pictures from source above, Garden Design, and Trish's library of pictures.

## Embarking on an Experiment Inspired by Past Programs.....Kim Eckert

Inspiration is found in so many ways. Visiting gardens, attending workshops and lectures and working in our club gardens in Easton all provide insights to gardening. In January, we had a wonderful virtual lecture by Jenny Rose Carey, the owner and gardener at 'Northview.' One of her photographs was particularly interesting to me.

The photo to the right is not perfect, — a screenshot from my phone during the lecture — but, this design element captivated me. While Jenny suggested *Claytonia virginica* as the bulb to plant, I thought, there must be others. As luck would have it, we had another speaker years ago who knew all about bulbs: Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs. As an industry associate and friend, I called him to get his suggestions. He mentioned:



- *Chionodoxa forbesii*-snow glory
- *Crocus speciosus*- fall
- *Crocus tommasinianus*- spring
- *Galanthus woronowii*- snow drop
- *Hyacinthoides*

Within a month of our January meeting, I ordered over 1500 bulbs. The task of planting in the fall seemed daunting but, it was eight months out so, I wasn't worried yet. As time grew closer, I called Brent for planting advice. He suggested — and I will adopt this technique:

- Choose a deciduous tree that sprouts its leaves in the latter part of spring.
- Mark the area around the tree where you want the bulbs placed.
- Add 2" of soil throughout the area.
- Place, drop or throw the bulbs (as Brent suggested) in the soil.
- Place 2" of mulch over the soil and water to set the planting.

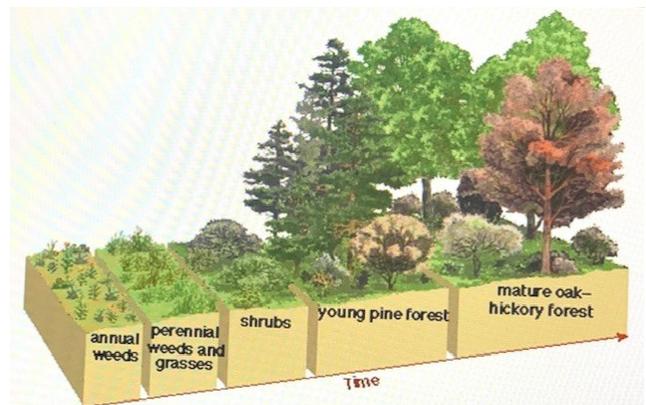
Now, wait until spring to enjoy your fall planting. It is a bit of an experiment but, if it works, I'm all in and will plant beneath a second tree in fall 2023.

## Mother Nature's Way of Gardening.....Lin Moeller

Mother Nature's gardening is seen, whether strolling through your own garden, hiking, biking, or driving along a roadway. She is continually planting seeds with a bit of assistance from her staff — the wind, water, birds, squirrels, or other animals. Scientists call Mother Nature's method of gardening *Natural Succession*. It is a natural process of change in an area over time. We, the gardeners, farmers, and horticulturalist try to control her plantings by weeding, mowing, harrowing fields, cutting down and using herbicides. Yet, she is persistent and along the fields and road sides, it is nice to see her natural handiwork — the blue chicory, Queen Anne's lace, goldenrod, milkweed, etc.

There are two types of *Natural Succession*: *Primary* and *Secondary*. Primary begins on a 'virgin' ground, lacking soil, such as rock formations or volcanically formed islands. Beginning with lichens, algae, and mosses, it takes 'eons' to create soils to sustain higher level plants that adapt and become unique to an area. Secondary Succession is the

method that Mother Nature uses where an area has an existing, established soil layer, but the vegetation has been removed due to flood, fire or man's harvesting it. With the



soil exposed, the seeds hidden in it have an opportunity to germinate. Driving past an abandoned field, the beginning of Mother Nature's gardening method would be noticeable.



During the first few years, annual ‘weeds’ and grasses fill the area. Then, perennial grasses and other plants begin to fill in. In the next few years shrubs and soft wood trees (sumac, spruce, and wild cheery) begin to sprout up - thanks to the work of her helpers.

As the shrubs and trees become more numerous and shade the

ground, the initial grasses and plants disappear. As this happens, the wildlife, finches and sparrows, pollinators, and smaller animals that rely on in this meadow habitat for survival are slowly sharing it with more woodland organisms.



In the ensuing years, larger, slower growing hardwood trees take over, shading and causing an additional thinning out of the under story below them. As their leaves fall, a thick carpet



covers the ground holding in moisture, breaking down and enriching the soil. The wildlife is now animals, insects and birds that need the trees for shelter, protection, and food. In our area the list would include deer, raccoon, fox, squirrel, owl, woodpecker, blue jays, moths, beetles, cicadas, etc. It takes Mother Nature fifty to one hundred and fifty years for her

‘garden’ to reach a mature forest stage, her masterpiece goal that is ecologically so beneficial.

**Exploring our National Parks..... Nancy Laplante**



This summer we travelled to Montana and stayed just outside of the West entrance of Glacier National Park. To say that the scenery there is beautiful is an understatement. The majestic mountains, forests, and bodies of water are breathtaking; we immediately understood why so many people vacation and live there. The two pictures at left are views from the deck of the lodge where we stayed.

Beginning in 1916 the National Park Service (NPS) began caring for our national parks; they currently employ about 20,000 people. With the help of volunteers and partners, they safeguard these special places and share their stories with more than 318 million visitors every year. Depending on your interests, the national parks offer majestic mountain ranges in Alaska to the vast prairies of the Everglades. This link will bring you to a general map where you can select the park(s) that interest you, with many opportunities here in Maryland: <https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm>

If you travel to Northwest Montana, Glacier National Park will not disappoint. The NPS describes the park as: *“A showcase of melting glaciers, alpine meadows, carved valleys, and spectacular lakes. With over 700 miles of trails, Glacier is a paradise for adventurous visitors seeking wilderness steeped in human history. Relive the days of old through historic chalets, lodges, and the famous Going-to-the-Sun Road.”*

I will admit I am not all that adventurous, and we chose to drive Going-to-the-Sun Road to explore rather than a long





hike. There are many places to pull aside and walk a small trail and capture pictures. We traveled up to Heavens Peak, 8986 feet (2739M)! The views of snow tops from there were stunning, as well as views of Lake McDonald and many passes in between.

Keep in mind it is best to plan ahead and there can be fees associated with entrance to the parks. At Glacier NP the fees are best paid in advance as the park gets very crowded at peak times and the advance fee acts like your reservation for entrance. Inside the park you can explore a variety of water and land activities; nearby there are additional opportunities to explore the surrounding area. We chose to go horseback

riding on our last full day—a trail that took us through Flathead Forest. Here we saw wild huckleberries growing (they only grow wild, making them pricey for sale fresh or in yummy treats from ice cream to whiskey!), and Grizzly bear markings on trees.

Temperatures vary throughout the day from the mid-80s to low 40s at night, so pack layers. Whether you want to be actively hiking and exploring every day in the parks or extend your visit as we did to neighboring towns of Whitefish, Kalispell or Columbia Falls, there is something for everyone.

Travel from the east coast by air requires one stop, and there is also a train available if you are looking for a slower trip out west. Jump onto the websites and plan- Glacier Park closes in October for the season and reopens in April. With the possibility of 80-foot snow drifts there in winter the roads are not accessible, but the time allows the NPS to do much needed updates and repairs after a busy tourist season.

The picture at right is our horseback riding adventure. My horse Tarzan was the sweetest guy and my hubby's horse Buster lived up to his name in a good way — a perfect ending to a beautiful trip.



**Ode to Our Red Oak.....Samantha McCall**



*Samantha's son Max*

Today we say farewell to one of the most handsome trees we have ever known. For more than 250 years, you have stood sentinel over the sleepy little village of Tunis Mills, anchoring this sweet neighborhood to a deep sense of kindness, protection and connection. You also have the distinction of being the #2 Champion Red Oak in Maryland!

You have offered shelter from the sun's strong rays, provided a home for the birds, squirrels, insects and other critters and graced the neighborhood with your handsome and magnificent beauty. Your knobby roots and acorns made for great fairy houses.

For this we are forever grateful, as we shed tears over the loss of our prized #2 state champion red oak tree. How I wish your trunk and branches could speak, sharing with us what life in the village was like nearly three centuries ago when you were just a mere seedling on the block. You've witnessed such changes - now quietly secreted away in the depths of your roots. Through your yearly cycle of growth, you kept us tethered to the seasons and dates of time measured before calendars were born. We honor you, dear tree, and are thankful for your gifts and presence. After all, you are what led us to our home.





Down comes the tree!

A painful decision indeed, it was with much thought and reflection that we finally decided to do what had to be done - to relieve you from bearing the weight of your crown and branches. And after seeing that more than 2/3rds of your trunk was dead inside, we knew we did the right thing to avoid a potential disaster. Already branches had fallen and crashed through car windshields and bikes. There were several close calls with branches coming down close to where people were standing, and we knew right then and there, it was time to go. The possibility of hurting a person was too great.



Samantha's daughter Molly

Tonight, I go to sleep in my bedroom for the first time in 15 years, not worried that the tree will crash on our house during a windstorm. What a painful relief.

**Book Review .....Chloe Pitard**

***Eager, The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter***

By Ben Goldfarb

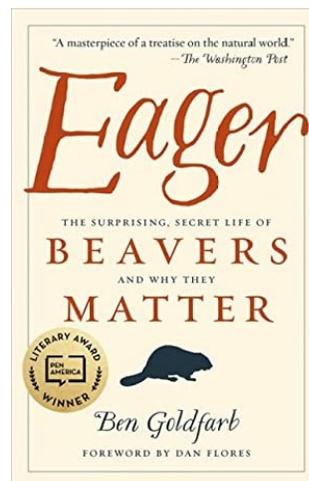
This book, published in 2018, was introduced to me by the Nature Center Book Club in the community I visit in the Poconos each year. It is an interesting and important addition to the literature that investigates our natural world and what humans have done, and continue to do, to impact the 'natural order' of things.

Beavers, like wolves and salmon among other creatures, are keystone species that support entire ecosystems. Animals, insects and birds generally do not live in the deep forest. It is in the edges and clearings where there is life. Beaver dams create open spaces which along with water and marsh provide sunlight and food. In beaver ponds there is a profusion of life supporting habitats for multiple living creatures: animals, birds, fish, amphibians and insects; a whole ecosystem. As beavers gradually move upstream the ponds they leave behind become rich meadows with soil enriched by the sediment that accumulated in the ponds.

The Nineteenth Century in North America was what this author calls the Age of Extermination. Passenger pigeons are gone forever. Egrets, bison, many waterfowl, fur seals, ocean otters, almost all creatures with fur or feathers, were pushed to the edge of extinction. Beginning in the 1500's and reaching a climax in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, beavers were systematically exterminated in North America to provide the fur which became the felt for men's hats. The slaughter was stopped only by the introduction of cheap Chinese silk that replaced increasingly rare and expensive beaver pelts. Beavers had been extinct, or nearly so, in Europe far earlier.

The reintroduction of beavers has come very gradually and is often not welcomed with open arms. Beaver ponds are not orderly affairs, they are chaos. They consist of downed and standing trees and rising water levels which can lead to clogged culverts and flooded roadways and parking lots. In the East, state highway departments find beaver dams and the flooding they cause difficult to deal with. In the Western United States, cattle are primary and beaver activity is not always welcomed by ranchers.

Goldfarb explores the successes and tribulations brought about by the reintroduction of beavers in various parts of the United States and Europe. There is good news and not-so-good news. It has not been all easy. Not everyone is happy when beavers come to their plot of land. Goldfarb makes a convincing case that beavers are worth the trouble. This is an interesting read and worthwhile addition to the field of environmental journalism. (My copy is available for loan.)



## TCGC's Planting Project Along Easton's Rail-Trail Expansion.....Janet Mackey

The planned expansion of Easton's Rail-Trail is underway! The town has roughed out the east-west trail from Aurora St. through town as it heads towards Moton Park on Port St. You can see the rock base of the trail in place as it extends from Washington St. through Aurora St. Now we can finalize TCGC's plans to enhance two blocks of the new trail. The photo provides a "before" view of this section of the trail at Aurora St. facing west.



TCGC approved funding this spring for the Rail-Trail Enhancement Project when our membership voted to award the first of TCGC's newly established Project Grants from our Capital Investment Fund. We set up a Rails to Trails Project Committee made up of Caroline Benson, Paige Connelly, and Cindy Pease, with me, Janet Mackey, as the project manager.

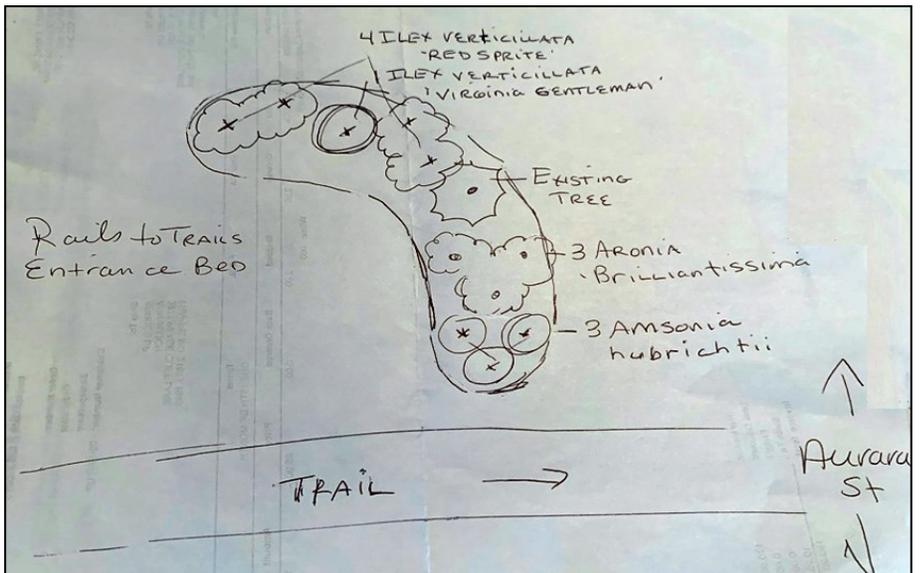
We recently met with Kody Cario, the town's Project Manager for the trail expansion, to catch up on the

town's progress. We were excited to hear about a few changes that will improve the overall Rail-Trail network.

The big news is that the Town of Easton has purchased the necessary land to be able to connect the Rail-Trail extension *directly* to the existing North-South Rail-Trail through the parking lot adjacent to Meintzer Petroleum on Aurora St. People will be able to leave the existing Rail-Trail at that point, follow a trail segment through the parking lot, and cross Aurora St to continue westward. TCGC's project is to enhance the first 2 blocks of the new trail, starting at Aurora St.

The trail was constructed along the south edge of the property to join to the trail segment in the parking lot. The original plan had the trail ending in the middle of the property. We had designed a pair of planting beds to highlight the entrance to the trail. Now that we are able to see precisely where the trail is, we have updated our plans. Anne Jelich and Virginia Sappington revised the planting plan for the Aurora St. portion of the trail, as shown in the sketch at right. This enables us to source the plants so they will be available when the town is ready to plant late in the fall.

Most of the rest of our design for the two block section remains as we planned. In



the Aurora St. block, we will provide a bench along the south edge of the trail that will be shaded by existing trees in a neighbor's yard. To screen another neighbor's back patio across from the bench, we will put in a large planting bed of tall native switch grass fronted with black-eyed Susans to brighten the summer days. We will plant a large specimen sweet bay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) in an open grassy area. Our plantings, combined with the existing row of crabapple trees edging this block and several other existing trees, will provide both year-round interest for people enjoying the trail and native habitat for birds, butterflies, and other critters.

In the second block we will add a row of native fringe trees (*Chionanthus virginicus*) along the trail. We also will place a bench at the Hanson St. end of the block backed by native hydrangeas.

Our project area encompasses these two blocks between Aurora St. and Hanson St. Additionally, though, we will plant two redbud trees in the next block across Hanson St. to replace two that died in that block's row of trees. The three sets of trees edging the trail along these three blocks – the redbuds, fringe trees, and crab apples – will have beautiful spring flowers, provide shade in the summer, and produce lovely fall color.

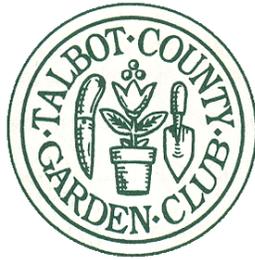
The Rail-Trail Enhancement Project is a great way for TCGC to give back to the Town of Easton. We are sharing our knowledge of gardening to enrich the natural beauty of our environment which will benefit our community ... which is exactly our club's objective!

### Where Will TCGC's Rail-Trail Planting Be?

The map shows the existing and planned sections of Easton's Rail-Trail System. The North-South Trail segment shown in blue is the existing Rail-Trail. On the west side (to the left on the map), the Easton Village Trail, shown in green, also has been built. The town is in the process of building the Spur Trail shown in yellow. The new segment through the parking lot will mean that the offset section at the right end of the Spur Trail will continue in line with the rest of the trail, rather than requiring people to use city streets for a few blocks. The club's tree-planting project will be located to the left of the offset section of yellow trail on the map, as shown by the arrow.



Town of Easton Rail Trail System-Overview



**TALBOT COUNTY GARDEN CLUB**

P.O. Box 1524, Easton, MD 21601

*Member of*

Garden Club of America

National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Atlantic Region

The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District I