



Spring/Summer 2024

Can You Dig It?

What an incredible year so far....strange winter, early spring, many rainy weekends, and plants that have just been growing like “Jack and the Beanstalk.” And with climate change we are now in Zone 8a....Can’t wait to see what summer will bring...will it be warmer, more humidity, less rain....well, we will just have to wait and see.

In this issue of CYDI we are exploring several different avenues....Chloe will lead off with Current Trends in Horticulture. Then we will follow with four interviews with the chairs of our Community Gardens. Switching, Pam Keeton will give us some warnings and advice about ticks, sadly with some first-hand experience. Susie Middleton presents a fascinating article on “Moving to a Circular Economy”....you say what? And we will end with a list of Horticulture Workshops thru 2024....a full list will be found in your 2024-25 Yearbook.

We hope you will enjoy this very different issue, and we will be back in the late summer/early fall to explore how we can all participate in the upcoming District I Flower Show, “*Spirit of America*,” October 5 at the Elks Lodge in Easton.....mark your calendar.

Enjoy your summer and happy gardening.

Trish Reynolds, Editor

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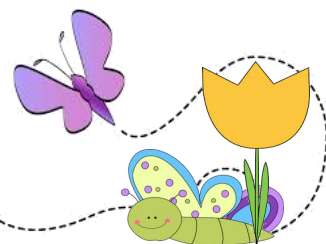
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Succulents: They are everywhere. They are for sale everywhere, at every garden center and in every size and often at very modest prices. They are also being used everywhere. They are in planters and arrangements in places where other plant material is unsuccessful. For example, right now there is an attractive planter of succulents in the front window of Legal Assets in Easton, where it would be difficult to have fresh flowers. The say they have been there since they opened.

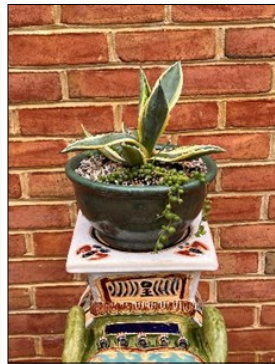
The same will hold true for planters and pots in your home garden. An arrangement of succulents on a sunny patio will look great all summer. One fall, I saw a great looking planter full of succulents in front of a shop in full sun in Traverse City, Michigan. I think it had been there all summer and I bet they had rarely watered it.



Chloe's "Pot of Gold."



Chloe's Agave



Chloe's Agave and String of Pearls

A pot full of succulents in a full sun does not need to be watered every day and will still live and thrive. And they grow. That small plant at the beginning of the season reaches a nice size by the end of the summer. If you overwinter it in your garage or home, in the spring you have a specimen plant ready for the following season. Use them alone. Use them mixed with fresh flowers, but use them.

Topiaries: Bunny Mellon loved them, and we saw many when we visited her estate, Oak Spring, in April. Some of them there were

mature enough that I suspect that they had been hers. I inquired as to their source for the younger plants. The nursery they recommended was Atlock Farm in Somerset, New Jersey. Then lo!, the next week Margaret Roach's regular column in the Sunday NY times had a long interview with Ken Selody who is its owner. He sells topiary in many sizes and in a great variety of species. There is also a HGTV 20-minute video with Atlock on how to make topiaries that I watched and enjoyed. Atlock's would be a great nursery to visit. Somerset, New Jersey is in the middle of the state, about a three-hour drive from Easton.



Bunny Mellon's Topiaries

There are several online sources that provide and ship topiary; specifically, Lamoureux Greenhouses and BellaVintageHome, both on Etsy. Also, there were topiaries in several houses during our recent Pilgrimage which, alas, I could not photograph.

Talbot County Garden Club's Repertoire of Community Gardens

During the course of this past year, we have heard from the chairmen of several of our community gardens relating the history of the gardens and participation by TCGC. So, for this issue four of us were "challenged" to do something different editor Trish asked Myra, Lin Moeller, Pam Keeton and Tracy* to "interview" the chairmen of the Community Gardens that TCGC maintains. We all took different approaches to basic questions - how long has TCGC been working in this garden ?, what's new for 2024 ?, difficulties/challenges ?, and more.

We hope you enjoy these interviews as many of you work or have worked in these gardens.

*Due to family issues, Horticulture Chair Trish stood in for Tracy.



The Historical Society Garden – Change is Inevitable.....Myra Gons

Change is inevitable! And The Historical Society Garden has certainly seen its share in recent years. As Joey Frankos and Janet Mackey spoke of large old trees, a boxwood allée, ivy-filled beds, and shade gardens, I didn't recognize the Historical Society Garden they described as the same one I have been helping tend since joining TCGC. Here are a few of the changes noted over the past 15 years or so:

- Several trees have been lost which changed shady beds into sun-filled ones, and boxwood blight has killed most of the boxwoods that used to line the wall along Glenwood Avenue.
- The ivy around the Kentucky Coffee tree is now a lawn which allows for a tent to be erected for sheltering events in the Garden.
- The removal of a beech allowed the creation of a perennial bed next to the James Neall House.
- In the center a crabapple has been planted to honor Priscilla Thut, a long-time co-chair of the Historic Garden.
- The loss of two sycamores turned the top terrace from a full shade garden into a full sun garden overnight!
- All that sun also gave rise to the need for irrigation throughout the Garden.



Remains of the Sycamore tree In the HSG



This area was part of the Boxwood Allée, now Glenwood Wall Garden

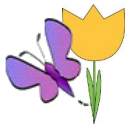
Each area that needed to be reworked and redesigned became an opportunity to plant native perennials to span the blooming calendar. Perennials take longer to establish (“first year: sleep, second year: creep, third year: leap”) so for the time being the new beds seem a bit sparse. Annuals help fill in the blank spaces in the planting beds for now. Small native trees, two weeping redbuds and a fringe tree, have also been added to the Garden.

Watch for more changes now that restoration work on Joseph's Cottage and the cottage behind the Huxley Herb Garden is finished. The HSG chairs look forward to designing and improving the gardens surrounding these buildings!



Members of the Historical Society Garden Club committee.





In April of 2002 the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony officially opened the Frances Plate Memorial Children's Garden in Idlewild Park, created as a gift to young children to come, play and imagine from a legacy given by member Frances Plate to the TCGC. Now twenty-two years later, after a winter hiatus, many of the original whirly-gigs are back in place at the top of each pole spinning in the breeze, inviting the young children again to come, play and imagine in the garden.



Julia M. and Jody S.

In April the hardworking ladies of the Children's Garden Committee raked, edged, mulched and readied the various garden areas for the planting of perennials and annuals on TCGC's annual Easton Beautification Day. Each year more perennials and fewer annuals are planted in the garden. The plants for this year were selected both for their ability to do well in partial shade (Over the years the towering trees have spread a greater canopy.) and to survive the periodic picking by little



Maribeth L. and Susie G.

fingers. This year's perennials plants include *Jacob's Ladder 'Golden Feather'* with an eight-inch height, small lavender flowers and variegated yellow and green leaves, *Candytuft 'Summer Snowdrift'*, a tender perennial that will hopefully give a mass of small white flowers through the summer, and native orange Butterfly Milkweed for the one sunny spot. The annual white Impatiens was selected to complement both recently transplanted Hosta and a white and lavender Sweet Potato Vine that has been a garden main stay over the past few years, giving a wonderful mass of color without the concern of little fingers picking to decorate other parts of the garden.

Last year the Children's Garden received a number of improvements and refurbishments. Two additional rows of pavers were added to the main entrance to address an erosion issue. The replica waterman's boat, *The Frances P*, was painted (which is done every couple of years). And, thanks to the assistance of the Easton Parks and Recreation Crew, 110 feet of 2" thick manilla roping atop and connecting the poles replaced that which had been vandalized. Our last needed improvement goal is to locate a 'new' old millstone for the 'millstone fountain' to replace that which had been vandalized a couple years ago.



Kim E. and Hatsie L.

Every other Wednesday morning from April to October the Children's Garden Ladies meet to tend to the various garden areas— raking, clipping, deadheading, watering and sweeping the walkways as needed, all the while learning from each other and cultivating their own gardens of friendship, a truly wonderful group.



Easton Parks & Rec Crew

The Children's Garden Committee is chaired by Hatsie Long, Lin Moeller, and Jody Shaner with a support committee including Kim E, Carol H, Maribeth L, Julia M, Anna Maria M, Colleen D, Susie G, Anne F, Margaret B, and Pam H.



The Fountain Garden.....Trish Reynolds

I interviewed Anne Jelich, Co-Chair with Virginia Sappington, of the Fountain Garden, sometimes referred to as the Five Corners Garden.



It appears from this plaque in the garden we have been working in this garden since 1990, 34 years!

Over time many things have been added to this garden...the beautiful Fountain, a memorial bench, brick surrounds, pathways, irrigation systems, and most recently a stunning stone wall (just last year).



Moving along in my interview, I asked Anne what was their approach in deciding on the plant material they would be using for the season. Anne indicated that their primary approach was to choose plants that could be seen as cars passed by the gardens....thus red, yellow, oranges, hot pink, white, lime green....not blue or purple as these tend to be recessive colors.

Another question....how far ahead do you plan develop plans for the next year's garden.....Anne's response was,

no surprise, a year ahead....considering what plants to replace, what would be the plant material for the spring and then into summer and carrying over to fall..... switching out plant material so as to not be boring!

This spring's display was stunning with daffodils leading off and then tulips. The daffodils will remain in the garden, however the tulips will be lifted and replaced with new bulbs in the late fall.

I then asked Anne was what was new for this year? Hot pink sun impatiens, lime green coleus, white begonias ("Top Hat"), more Carex, added more *Ilex verticillata*, including a male for pollinating. The results are fabulous!



Pink Sun Impatiens



Carex and White Begonias

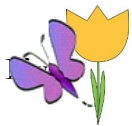


Canas beginning to add height to the back of the garden

Other considerations include texture, varying height of plant material, and trying to make the garden more sustainable. So as the garden moves into summer you will be seeing the return of the bright yellow canas and late lilies, both adding additional interest to the garden.

In addition to the enjoyment we all get from the Fountain Garden, it is often used for wedding photos, graduation photos and family portraits. This weekend as we celebrate Memorial Day the garden is festooned with American Flags celebrating all those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Thanks to Anne for this interview and to you and Virginia and your committee for this fabulous garden!



A Hidden Gem in TCGC's Repertoire of Hidden Gardens.....Pam Keeton

If you haven't taken the time to meander through the gardens at the Talbot County Free Library in Easton, you are missing out on one of the Club's hidden gems. Patty MacDonald, Cynthia Pease, and the library garden committee have been busy filling the flower beds with plants - many donated by members. And it's looking spectacular.

The Club's history with the library goes way back - to at least the 60s. But the Club's bond with it was cemented, so to speak, when Talbot County built a new library and invited the Talbot County Garden Club, assisted by the Garden Club of the Easton Shore, to design the landscaping and plant the gardens.

Over the last decade or so, the Library Committee has added a beautiful garden outside the children's book area and planted hundreds of bulbs throughout the gardens. Several members led these efforts, including Trish Reynolds, Joey Frankos, Carolyn Rugg, Cordy Tucker, Ingrid Blanton, and Courtney Kane.

A personal note: when I joined the Club in 2014, there was a chair and one member. Since then, the committee has grown to co-chairs and seven members, which I believe is a testament to the Club's renewed commitment.

Most recently, the committee has enhanced the library's gardens in several areas, including the addition of tulips, perennials, and native plants, and vivid annuals are changed seasonally in the containers by the front door to welcome visitors.



Idli Watkins, Parry MacDonald, Beth Norris, Cindy Pease, Sally McLuckie

"We've recently added colorful perennials, including heuchera, azaleas, rhododendron, and lovely annuals around the courtyard, explained Cindy. "Leaves were pruned from the hellebores to show the gorgeous flowers in late winter."



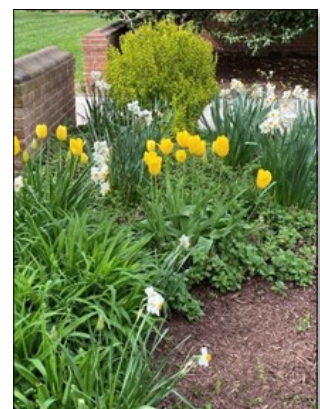
Carolyn Rugg, Joey Frankos, Chloe Pitard, Ann Ashby, Lynn Champion

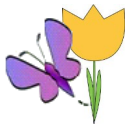
A new flower bed of goldenrod, native grasses and evergreens will shine this summer around the new avocado fountain, along with bright carex by the West St. willow oak.

"Thanks to Trish Reynolds, hundreds of daffodils and spring bulbs were planted with the help of the Young Gardeners Club," exclaimed Patty. "Special thanks also to Sally McLuckie and Janet Mackey for donations from their gardens."

Future plans include enhancing the children's library walled garden with more colorful, pollinator flowers and plants. A toad house, bird house and bat house are proposed to encourage the children to interact with the garden.

Summer plans for the overall library garden include weeding, watering and maintenance as needed.





It's that time of the year again – weeds and ticks. Now is a good time to get up to speed on tick-borne diseases in Maryland and ways to avoid them.

Ticks are arachnids, like spiders and mites. They have four life stages: egg, larva, nymph, and adult. Both nymphs and adults can carry diseases. They need blood at each stage, and some prefer to travel to different hosts to get it.

They are not killed by freezing temperatures. Some can live up to three years! They become active in the spring when temperatures are warm.

Ticks don't fall from trees, like many people believe. They find hosts by hanging on leaves or grasses and grabbing on to whatever walks by. It's called "questing." Ticks hold onto leaves and grass by their third and fourth pair of legs. They hold the first pair of legs outstretched, waiting to climb on to a host. When a host brushes the spot where a tick is waiting, it quickly climbs aboard. Some ticks will attach quickly, while others will wander, looking for warm, cozy places to dig in. They can bite along the way. I've encountered multiple bites by the same tick, looking for just the right place to attach. And everywhere they bite, they leave an itchy red bump!

Not all ticks carry all the various tick-related diseases. For instance, Lyme disease is primarily spread by Blacklegged or Deer Ticks. Ticks acquire disease-causing pathogens by feeding on wildlife. If one carrying a disease bites a human, it must be attached for 24-48 hours to transmit the disease. That's why it's very important to check for ticks after being outside.

Ticks that Call Maryland Home

There are more than 80 species of ticks in America! Thank goodness, the [University of Maryland](#)¹ lists only six species typically found in Maryland. Unfortunately, most of them can transmit diseases.



American Dog Tick

The most common ticks found in Maryland include the **American Dog Tick, Blacklegged or Deer Tick, Brown Dog Tick, and Lone Star Tick. The Gulf Coast Tick** is not

common, and the **Asian Longhorned Tick** is relatively new to Maryland.

American Dog Ticks can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, and tick paralysis. They are found in areas with little or no tree cover.

Blacklegged or Deer Ticks are found in forests and are the primary carrier of Lyme Disease. They can also spread Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, and Powassan Disease. Adult ticks like to hang on white-tailed deer, while larval and nymphs feed on small mammals like mice, chipmunks, and voles.

Brown Dog Ticks like to feed on dogs. If your dog spends time outside, it's not wise to have it sleep with you! Even if they are protected, ticks can hitch a ride to find a human. They carry Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Canine Ehrlichiosis, and Canine Babesiosis.



Unfortunately, I'm very familiar with the **Lone Star Tick**, which is found in dense undergrowth and animal resting areas. It can transmit human Ehrlichiosis,



Lone Star Tick

Tularemia, Southern tick-associated rash, and Alpha Gal. I have Alpha Gal, as does another garden club member. And I've met many people on the Eastern Shore who either have it or know people who do.

Recent media reports in other states claim Alpha Gal is on the rise but is often misdiagnosed. I ended up in the emergency room twice before a friend suggested I get a simple blood test for Alpha Gal, which tested positive. Alpha Gal typically lasts three to five years unless you are reinfected. But it can last a lifetime. I've had it for five years and am ready to get over it!

Alpha Gal causes an allergy to mammal meat and byproducts. Mammal meats include beef, pork, venison, rabbit, etc. Byproducts can include anything containing lard or gelatin, such as capsules, gummy candy, and vitamins. A friend reported having a reaction to a

¹Pictures of ticks came from the internet

croissant while traveling in Italy – it was made with lard! And some people even react to cheese! It takes five or six hours to react, which makes it hard to pinpoint. Reactions include hives and swelling of the tongue and airways.

Help, I Found a Tick on Me!

If you find a tick on your body or that of a family member, remove it as soon as possible with a slow, steady pull. Tweezers are helpful. If the tick is alive, it will eventually let go. It's important to get the whole tick because pieces left in your skin can cause infection or irritation. I know this from experience.

Do not use nail polish or other substances to smother a tick, and do not try to get it to crawl out with a hot match or pin. These methods will only cause problems!

If you want to know what kind of tick you were exposed to, save the tick on a piece of tape or in a baggy and send it to a lab to be identified. The University of Maryland, through Johns Hopkins Lyme and Tickborne Diseases Research and Education Institute, has a [Tick Identification service](#). The [PA Tick Research Lab](#) in Pennsylvania offers tick testing to detect the presence of 18 different pathogens that can cause disease, as do several other labs.

How to Protect Yourself from Ticks

- Wear long pants, long sleeves, and close-toed shoes if entering an area where ticks might be. Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants.

- Wear clothing and shoes treated with permethrin. It kills ticks on contact.
- Avoid sitting on logs, stumps or on the ground.
- Use insect repellents with DEET or Picaridan. I know we like to use organic and natural repellents, but illnesses from ticks can be serious and only DEET and Picaridan are truly effective.
- If using sunscreen, put that on first and then apply insect repellent.
- Shower immediately after being outdoors.

Tips for Controlling Ticks in Your Yard

- Trim back vegetation and remove leaf litter where you walk.
- Reduce rodent habitat as they are major carriers of ticks.
- Consider having your yard treated, especially areas you frequent. Shortly after moving here, we had a party and several guests reported finding ticks on themselves after leaving. And after my first spring here, I found more than nine ticks on me. We now have approximately one-third of our yard treated for ticks each year. The treatments are timed in April/May and September/October when ticks are active. The spray used by our contractor is organic and approved for waterfront properties.



Moving to a Circular Economy...better for the planet and all of us
.....Susie Middleton

Sadly, the US has become a “Throw-Away Society.” The term describes a critical view of overconsumption and **excessive production of short-lived or disposable items over durable goods that can be repaired.** Much of Europe is ahead of us in adopting solutions that are designed around the concept of a Circular Economy.

A circular economy is an economic system designed to eliminate waste and continually reuse resources, thereby maximizing the value of resources and minimizing environmental impact. In a circular economy, products, components, and materials are kept in use for as long as possible, through strategies like recycling, refurbishing, remanufacturing, and sharing.

It starts with designs that reuse materials or look for ways to eliminate waste in their manufacturing processes, retailers looking for products that have more than a single use. **And of course – us, the consumer. Each of us can contribute to a circular economy in several ways:**

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Practice the three Rs by reducing consumption, reusing items whenever possible, and recycling materials like paper, glass, plastic, and metal.

Choose Sustainable Products: Opt for products that are durable, repairable, and made from recycled or renewable materials. Look for eco-friendly certifications and labels when shopping.

Repair and Maintain: Instead of immediately replacing broken items, consider repairing them. Extend the lifespan of your belongings through regular maintenance and proper care.

Buy Secondhand: Support the secondhand market by purchasing used items like clothing, furniture, electronics, and appliances. This reduces demand for new products and extends their useful life.

Participate in Sharing Economy: Embrace sharing platforms for items you don't use often, such as tools, vehicles, or household appliances. This reduces the need for everyone to own their own version of every item.

Compost Organic Waste: Instead of sending organic waste to landfills, compost it at home or through community composting programs. This diverts waste from landfills and creates nutrient-rich soil for gardening.

Educate Yourself and Others: Stay informed about the principles of circular economy and share your knowledge with friends, family, and community members. Encourage others to adopt circular practices in their daily lives.

Advocate for Change: Support policies and initiatives that promote a circular economy at local, national, and global levels. Encourage businesses and governments to prioritize sustainability and circularity in their practices and policies.

Think you can't have an impact? Trader Joe's announced that it will be taking steps to cut back on plastic and other packaging waste after a petition launched by Greenpeace harnessed nearly 100,000 signatures.

So put on your thinking cap and look for ways you can make a difference.



Preview of Horticulture Trips & Workshops Thru 2024

June 27, 2024

“Vintage Family Farm – Pick your own early summer bouquet”

Location: 4541 Preston Rd., Hurlock, MD.

September 4, 2024 - 10am

“Award Winning Horticulture”

Do you have plants in your garden? ...if so, you have something to enter in the District I Flower Show. (10-5-24). Never entered before? No Problem, come and learn the tips and tricks for getting a blue ribbon for your entry. Join Susie Middleton, FGCMMD President and Master Flower Show Judge, as she takes you through all the stages from making your selection to entering the show.

Location: Talbot County Library

October 1, 2024 – 10am

“Composting – Fall Cleanup and More”

According to the EPA, “compost is organic material that can be added to soil to help grow bigger produce, prettier flowers and a healthier garden.” As the gardening year comes to a close, Pam Keeton will explore composting techniques for your garden and leaf debris, as well as kitchen scraps – what to use and what not to use!

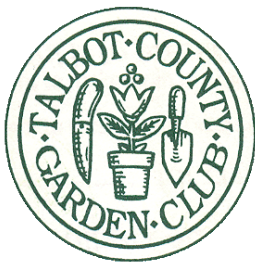
Location: Historical Society Garden

November 13, 2024 - 10am

“Microgreens Workshop”

Come to a fun and enlightening workshop with Terry Holman, District I Director, that introduces you to the world of growing your own crops of healthy microgreens on your own kitchen counter with crops harvested in as little as 7 days! Learn how nutritious microgreens are and how easy they are to grow and enjoy. Participants will receive a Microgreen growing kit complete with Microgreen seeds, soil media and container to grow future crops.

Location: TBD



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