

Notes from the Director

Dear HGIC Clients and Supporters,

2007 was a busy year for the Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC). From the resurgence of gypsy moth to the serious summer drought, Marylanders relied on the expertise of HGIC faculty and staff to help them solve just about every imaginable garden, landscape, and pest problem. HGIC continued to train and support Maryland's 1,110 active Master Gardeners who extend MCE's reach by answering tens of thousands of questions from residents in 18 counties and Baltimore City. We also provide "back-up" to our excellent cadre of county horticulture faculty who coordinate the local MG programs in Maryland. All of our educational services are aimed at improving water and soil quality and conserving natural resources.

"Going green" became a major theme throughout the Maryland media in 2007. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' campaign to construct a green building at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center (HGIC's home) is a major response to the public concern over global warming and other environmental issues. Our faculty is excited by the opportunities this will bring for educating students, homeowners, and Master

Gardeners on "green" practices and technologies.

HGIC staff and faculty will engage in a strategic planning process this spring to help us build on our excellent record for delivering the best horticultural and pest management information to the public. We will assess new technologies and opportunities, and the needs of our stakeholders as we devise short-term and long-term plans for HGIC's future. We look forward to serving you and your community in 2008 and beyond.

Wishing you lots of luck and enjoyment this growing season.



Jon Traunfeld



Services

- Toll-free telephone service 8 am-1 pm, Monday - Friday. Callers receive one-on-one assistance from certified professional horticulturists (1-800-342-2507 in-state, or 410-531-1757 toll call for out-of-state).
- Plant and pest diagnostic service analyzes samples mailed in by residents, prescribing least-toxic solutions to problems.
- Fact Sheets and other publications: Scores of fact sheets authored by Home and Garden faculty and horticulture consultants are available to the public in printed and electronic versions. Clients request publications via phone, mail or website.
- Maryland Home and Garden newsletter: published three times per year with a circulation of over 5,500. The newsletter contains timely articles, monthly calendars with reminders, and helpful tips.
- Media spots for newspapers, radio, and television stations. Weekly Q & A and "plant of the week" columns for the Baltimore Sun, and bimonthly articles for local newspapers statewide.
- State wide coordination of the Master Gardener Program.
- Internet services -www.hgic.umd.edu
 - Send a Question to our staff. Answers are received via e-mail within 48 hours.
 - Download fact sheets in color or black and white.
 - Diagnostic website offers photographic keys to help residents diagnose and solve their plant problems.

2007 IMPACTS



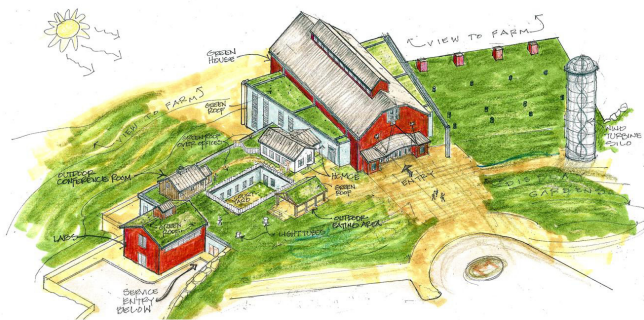
- 12,207 clients assisted by horticulture consultants via the HGIC's toll-free phone number
- 31,600 fact sheets and newsletters mailed to clients
- 52,400 magnets and bookmarks distributed
- 200,117 user sessions on the HGIC websites
 - 2,615 questions answered via online question submission service
 - 343,862 fact sheets downloaded



Green Building



The proposed Green Building project gained momentum and visibility at campus, local and state levels in 2007. The proposed plan is to create a unique facility that is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified Green Building. It will have administrative offices, and be the site of on-going research in green and sustainable technologies. The building design will allow for implementation of technology upgrades as a result of the research, instead of being a static structure. In effect, this facility will be a living laboratory. Further, the facility will have a 300 seat conference center for educating the public on sustainable practices. It will also give the K-12 educational community a new venue for integrating environmental science into the curriculum through seminars and workshops. We are partnering with other UMCP schools & colleges, local government and state agencies, and the business community. Dr. Cheng-i Wei, Dean of our College hopes to have the building completed in 3-5 years. For more information, visit the website - www.greenbuilding.umd.edu



Conceptual drawing of proposed building

Staff: Jon Traunfeld - Center Director, Regional Specialist, fruits and vegetables, and State Master Gardener Coordinator (E-mail: jont@umd.edu); David Clement - Regional Specialist, plant pathology; Mary Kay Malinoski - Regional Specialist, entomology; Maria Malloy - Business services specialist; Lynn Jacobson and Jim Leith - Administrative support; Robin Hessey - State Advanced Training Coordinator, Master Gardener program; Horticulture Consultants - Marian Hengemihle, Chris McComas, Shelley McNeal, Ellen Nibali, Bob Orazi, Debbie Ricigliano, Lew Shell, Jane Talarico, Ginny Williams

Detecting Invasive Species in Maryland

In 2007, marmorated stink bug spread into central Maryland, emerald ash borer devastated portions of Prince Georges county and Japanese stiltgrass became a major turfgrass weed for thousands of residents. Invasive species are a major problem in Maryland. Education is key to identifying, preventing, and managing these problems. There is a national need for extension faculty and staff, Master Gardeners, and others to receive First Detector training for the protection of US and Maryland Agriculture. First Detectors protect agriculture against pests of concern through early diagnosis, submission of samples, and reporting to Land Grant Universities, State and Federal programs. In 2007, 181 Master Gardeners, in 7 counties, were trained to be First Detectors by HGIC faculty.

Maryland Master Gardeners- Growing Strong!



HGIC staff and faculty provided state-level support of Maryland's rapidly growing Master Gardener program. Master Gardeners are regular users of HGIC fact sheets, web

information, and horticulture hotline.

The Maryland Master Gardener Program, a volunteer education program taught and administered by Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE), puts environmental power into the hands of the people who want to do their part to create sustainable gardens and landscapes and reduce pollution that affects Maryland's water resources.

The state-wide program is active in 18 counties, Baltimore City, and two prisons. Our 1,110 volunteers gave over 60,000 hours of dedicated service, valued at over \$1.1 million. Visit the website-mastergardener.umd.edu- to learn more about the program in your location.

2007 Awards and Recognition



Maria Malloy, Business Services Specialist, is a 2007 recipient of the Board of Regents Nonexempt staff award. This award is the highest honor the Board of Regents bestows. Three non-exempt staff members from the entire University system are selected to receive this honor.