

THE HORT REPORT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND, INC | SPRING 2023



IN THIS ISSUE:

EDITING YOUR GARDEN
STINGING NETTLES
NATIVE PLANT LEGISLATION
AND MORE!

Papaver atlanticum 'Flore pleno'



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As I write this, spring
is in full swing! And
yet, as Pete Bieneman
writes about in this
issue, I haven't yet
edited my garden.

My husband and I planned to do that this weekend, but we're finally getting the long-needed rain storms that, we hope, will give the ground a good soaking in preparation for this year's planting.

As I told you in past issues, I've known Pete since we were 18 years old and naïve college freshmen. But he had already been working for two years at Green Fields Nursery and probably had forgotten more about gardening than I will have the privilege to learn. Although my husband and I are still self-described gardening novices—and this summer will have been planting them together for 28 years—we try our best to create beautiful landscapes and are willing to experiment when Pete gives us suggestions. (I may be the only one who still calls him "Pete." Or at least the only one he won't correct.)

Shortly after we moved in our townhome, Pete arrived one day bearing gifts of flowers. But instead of my needing to get a vase to put them in, I just needed to let him get to work planting our first garden, which he did. Right then. As a total surprise.

"This is part of your wedding gift," Pete said, as he began digging up the front and planting gorgeous impatiens and other colorful blooming flowers. He topped it all with fresh mulch—the smell of which I still love today, probably because it triggers this memory. And I remember how in so little time, he had changed what was a dull, barren garden into what we found to be spectacular.

Pete may not have thought that what he did for us that day was as special as it was. But what resulted is us both being bitten by the gardening bug.

I've learned much over the years through trial and error. (Some errors are that hostas will not go away easily if you just dig them up. When we lived in our townhome, we tried digging them up three different summers from around our back deck, but we obviously didn't get all the roots, as one insisted on coming back again, and again, and again. After the third time, we decided it could stay.)

Some years, I was heartbroken if plants or flowers we added didn't quite make it or—did the opposite—grew like crazy, mowing down nearly everything in their paths.

Brad and I now live in a home with property, and we enjoy figuring out what we want to do to make it look better each year. That usually includes inviting Pete over and talking about what we'd like to do, and then getting advice on what is, well, more realistic for our landscape. But each time, I've learned a little more...

I hope that you learn a little more from the stories in this issue. We've got the low-down on Biochar, a great Plant This! by HSM member William Lowery, and a piece by Jennifer Forrence on how you can eat—seriously!—stinging nettles.

Have a wonderful spring and summer! And, as always, if you have any ideas for stories or suggestions for future issues of The Hort Report, feel free to email me at TheMicheleWojo@gmail.com. And if you'd like to write about something, please get in touch! You don't have to be a professional writer, to share a piece for Plant This! After all, that's what I'm here for—to help you out.

Happy planting!

YOUR GARDEN NEEDS AN EDIT

By Peter Bieneman

A garden, much like a room, can be come cluttered with too much “wrong” and not enough “right.”

Your love of Hosta may mean you’ve let them dominate the shady path: where is that shady path anyway? Delicate, expensive, specimens you coveted and lovingly made room for years ago may have succumbed to a domineering neighbor.

As plant collectors and admirers of healthy growth, we may all let our gardens go in parts—or in whole—from time to time. A garden grows and changes each season, “So editing considers what has changed within and around them,” says Kathi Shea, a Landscape Designer with Green Fields Nursery. Editing though, may be the hardest garden chore we face.

Any landscaper who does maintenance will be able to edit a garden in a matter of hours, but that is not what editing really means. Editing is the process we go through to design, refine, and present our gardens. We remove what is not successful and highlight what is.

You need to go through proper steps to edit correctly. I like starting on paper first, as if I’m designing from scratch. Pretend you are seeing your space for the first time.

“You always have to prioritize the bones or structure of the garden and then build from there,” Heather Loyd of Ephemeral Farms, LLC recommends.

What is there? Sketch a rough plan; site your home, your fences, patio, paths, and other non-moveable features. Draw circles in for large trees and shrubs that exist and are significant features. Note the sun, wind, drainage, and features outside of your yard that may be important. Do you need to screen a neighbor’s cabana? Note the cabana on this site inventory. Be aware, you are not designing yet!

Next, lay some tracing paper over the site inventory and start troubleshooting. “I need privacy, the patio is too small, where is my access to the backyard?” are all questions to ask and marks to make on your site analysis. Simple arrows for paths and zigzags for screening are effective.

Think about plants that are out-of-scale to the space, ground covers that are invasive, and shrubs you want to keep. You will soon see this technique start to make sense as you add problem-solving information to the tracing paper.

Once you are satisfied with your progress, lay a third piece over the first two. Now you can come up with a concept plan. This could be in colored marker or colored pencil and, once again, have bold markings designating real elements for your space. For example, you may have the expanded access path, the evergreen hedge, the reconfigured patio, and a big circle for the new shade tree, showing its mature canopy.

“Editing is cleaning out the closet. Designing is putting it back together in an organized and thoughtful way.”

You essentially have done the process of planning a new garden. But wait—aren’t we talking about editing what we have? As Shea succinctly puts it, “Editing is cleaning out the closet. Designing is putting it back together in an organized and thoughtful way.” You need to edit, but you also need to be thinking of the design or—more appropriately—the redesign.

On site, you should start with removal and pruning. This seems basic, but, for example, we may have neglected pruning because we can’t reach the high hedge. Hire out the tasks that are dangerous or beyond your skill level, like arboriculture. Be sure you have made your vision clear to the workers. Flagging out removals with the foreman or marking with contractors’ paint can help avoid misunderstandings. This editing process will probably be the most dramatic—but remember, you have developed a plan.

The next steps will be transplanting and organizing your plants. By transplanting, I mean some things can go to other people’s yards! (If they want them, of course.) If you’ve planted *Packera aurea*, known as Golden Ragwort, in the past, you probably have enough to give to your friends. If your landscaper planted the azaleas too tightly years ago, you can remove some.



“Some things may have never worked, but as a garden gets more established, the lighting and water availability shift as trees and large shrubs mature. Editing would suggest making material replacements that are respectful of the original design,” says Loyd. This feels tactile and productive—like editing should feel.

But wait—there’s more.

What problems can you solve for your future gardening self by editing? Probably many. You know that David Austin’s Gertrude Jekyll Rose won’t grow along your shady north side, so why keep them? Remove them now and try a *Kalmia latifolia* (Mountain Laurel) that could solve the problem and bloom beautifully in shade.

And the *Phlox paniculata*, aka Garden Phlox, you brought from the old yard always gets powdery mildew. Worse yet, it’s taking up the whole front border. Why not remove it, and try a better disease resistant, compact cultivar? And why do you keep trying to grow *Daphne x transatlantica*? Nurseries are brimming with new and better plant selections.

Breeders constantly breed for compact habit and disease resistance. Research new choices thoroughly before you buy, and make sure you get the proper species. This will satisfy your need to add plants, but also help you make more appropriate choices.

With removal and transplanting done, have some fun and enhance your landscape.

“Design is a ground-zero opportunity to explore and implement new ideas and philosophies about how we want to live in our outdoor spaces,” says Loyd.

Add an arbor for climbers or place pots of topiaries on either side of your path entrance. Place a large, colorful glazed pot in your shade garden, and fill it with seasonal begonias. These quick fixes can add missing design elements such as symmetry, balance, texture, and color.

Reworking bed lines to form shapes and either reeling in or expanding existing beds will help add form and line to the garden. Massing existing material also helps give the sense of organization to a space.

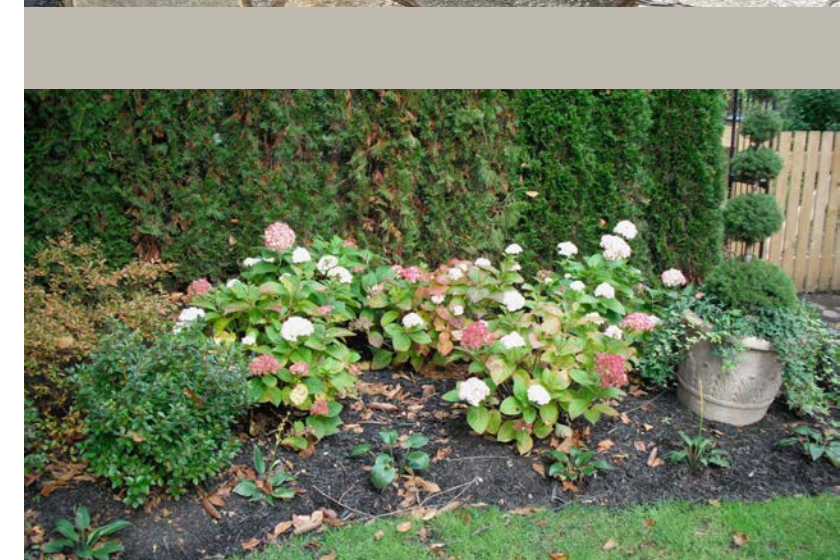
As you see your edited yard void of unwanted or overgrown material, you will be able to design with a clearer vision. Adding new plants will be a joy, not a “Where do I squeeze this in because I really want it” moment. Focal points, the garden’s “wow factor,” like a chartreuse leafed *Acer japonicum* or a mass of native spring ephemerals like *Mertensia virginica*, could be what your garden needs.

Remember, good editors add too!

This practice, part inside planning and outside doing, is what designers do every day.

Developing a plan of action is the best way to proceed. Leave room to grow your passion for plants, but don’t let them overwhelm your space. Remember, adds Loyd, “The most memorable edit is always the one that you are working on next. Your current projects/dilemmas are always at the forefront of your thinking.”

If anybody wants to know the secret to your beautiful, manageable garden, credit the editing.





Plant This!

By: William Lowery
Senior Horticulturist at The Salisbury University Arboretum

Greetings from the Eastern Shore! A plant that always brings back fond childhood memories is *Magnolia grandiflora*, or Southern Magnolia. Now, you're probably thinking, "That's a pretty big tree for my small suburban lot." But there are many manageable cultivars of Southern Magnolia that I will touch on.

One of my fondest memories growing up, was climbing my Mima's Southern Magnolia back home in Alabama. This was the first tree I remember climbing and also the first I remember getting stuck in. But, no matter how many times I got stuck, I would strive to climb higher the next day. My grandmother planted that tree in the 1940s, and by the time I came along, it was a mature specimen with branches sweeping across the lawn.

As I have gotten older, I still enjoy climbing up trees to do an easy pruning job; it just takes a little more effort getting up—and then back down.

Southern Magnolias are a symbol of the South. And as a cherished southern icon, they rank up there with mint juleps

and Harper Lee. As the noted plantsman Michael Dirr once said, "Yankees would kill to grow this tree." They have been featured prominently in many movies and books, and they're still a favorite for many home landscapes in the South and across the globe. In fact, the Southern Magnolia is one of the most widely planted ornamental evergreens in the world.

M. grandiflora is in the *magnoliaceae* family, along with the genus *Liriodendron*. The genus was named after the French botanist, Pierre Magnol, and *grandiflora* translates to "large flowered." They are believed to be some of the oldest and most primitive flowering plants still around, even outdating modern bees. Therefore, pollination was accomplished by wingless beetles.

One of the oldest fossils of a Southern Magnolia was found in Idaho and dated between 17 to 20 million years old. As the glaciers retreated during the last ice age, many plants were deposited in their current habitats, with *M. grandiflora* coming to reside in the southeastern U.S., from North Carolina south to central Florida, and west to eastern Texas and Arkansas.

M. grandiflora can reach upwards of 90 feet with a spread of 30-50 feet. They are evergreen, with the leaves being oval in shape and leathery in texture. They also have dark glossy green above with reddish fuzz called indumentum on the undersides. While each individual leaf is retained on the tree for about two years, there is a constant shedding of leaves, which could be an argument for not limbing the tree up.

As a temperate broad-leaved evergreen, it is one of the most temperature tolerant, growing into USDA hardiness zone 6. The large, creamy white flowers are actually composed of similar sepals and petals, referenced as tepals. They have a lemony fragrance and can be as much as fifteen-inches wide, but only last on the tree for about four days.

In my opinion, some flowers may smell as good, but none smell better. The fruiting cone turns a pinkish red color once fertilized, and once the seeds ripen, it will split open to reveal the waxy, red seed.

There are upwards of 125 cultivars of Southern Magnolia, many of which are worthy garden specimens. 'Charles Dickens' is a broad spreading tree with very large flowers. 'Edith Bogue' is also a broad spreader and more tolerant to the cold than the species. 'Bracken's Brown Beauty' has a dense, pyramidal habit, is quite cold tolerant, and doesn't shed its leaves as often as the species. It flowers quite prolifically, and has a nice brown indumentum. This cultivar would be more suited to a suburban lawn. According to Chanticleer Garden, 'Bracken's Brown Beauty' and 'Edith Bogue' are the most reliably hardy cultivars grown at the garden.

'D. D. Blanchard' is a more compact, upright grower that only gets about 30-feet wide, while retaining the height of the species. 'Little Gem' is a slow growing, more compact columnar cultivar that will only reach about 14-feet tall in 16 years, making it a great candidate for growing espalier form against a wall, planting in a mixed border, or even in a large decorative container. 'Teddy Bear' is a newer cultivar that is compact like 'Little Gem,' but doesn't grow as slowly. It also has a nice reddish-brown indumentum, resulting in the trade name.

Southern Magnolias prefer to be planted in deep, rich, slightly acidic soil with good drainage, with late winter to early spring being the ideal time to plant. The roots resent disturbance, so they are best planted in smaller sizes. But once established, they are one of the most drought-tolerant magnolia species. Main flowering occurs in late spring to early summer, with full-sun conditions producing the most abundant flowers. The leathery leaves protect from salt spray and urban air pollution, and the tree is generally pest- and disease-free. Any pruning should take place in spring just as or before new growth starts.

The larger cultivars of Southern Magnolia should be left to more expansive lawns, but the smaller ones are great for tighter suburban landscapes and gardens, as well as screening material. The floral fragrance is more pronounced in the evening, making the smaller cultivars candidates for placement near a patio for evening enjoyment.

I love these trees for their large, fragrant blooms, the yearly evergreen foliage, and the memories they evoke of my childhood.

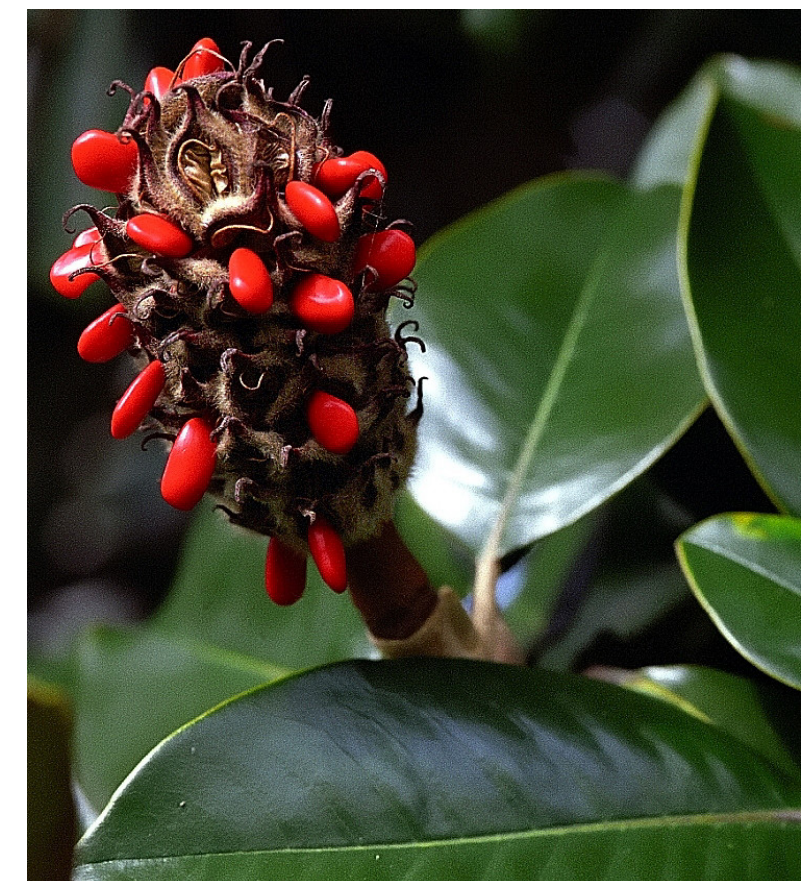
Resources:

Magnolias – A Gardener's Guide by Jim Gardiner. Timber Press, 2000.

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Michael A. Dirr. Stipes, 2009.

The Art of Gardening – Design, Inspiration, and Innovative Planting Techniques from Chanticleer by R. William Thomas, et al. Timber Press, 2015.

Would you like to write about your favorite plant? If so, email editor Michele "Wojo" Wojciechowski at TheMicheleWojo@gmail.com.



This column features a favorite seasonal plant of an HSM member.



EATING FROM THE FIELD—NETTLES!



By Jennifer Forrence

I am a cautious eater and slow to try new things—usually, the tried and true is good enough for me. Last year, however, I moved outside of my comfort zone and tried a new food that was amazingly good and full of nutrition, though with an off-putting name.

Who would look at the word “stinging nettle” and think...that might make a delicious soup (etc.)?

I once had a delightful young friend (I’ll call her Gigi) who was a volunteer at Cylburn and a passionate forager. Gigi extolled the virtues of finding her food in the woods and fields. She loved burdock, which I only knew as an awful weed with huge leaves, massive roots if you try to dig them up, and seeds that stick to your clothes. Gigi taught me a lot about finding beauty in the natural world, but I was dubious about eating foraged weeds.

One day we happened upon a patch of low-growing fuzzy leaves that Gigi identified as stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and said it was delicious to eat. Gigi told me to be careful around the plant as contact with the leaves can cause a painful stinging sensation (hence the common name “stinging nettle”) and lead to a rash. I put Gigi’s recommendation to eat this plant in the back of my mental filing cabinet. It was a weed that could cause skin irritation. A good one to skip.

I don’t know what got me off the fence. But last spring while clearing weeds in an old chicken yard, I realized that I was digging up stinging nettle. I grow some vegetables successfully but my greens never amount to much despite careful planting, watering, and weeding. The nettle was thriving in the chicken yard without any support from me. I was feeling adventurous and decided to give this foraged food a try.

Harvesting is definitely done with gloves! I used some old dishwashing gloves—not the thin latex ones. The sting of these leaves is irritating (and sometimes painful) so best to avoid it. I prewashed the leaves in cold water, though they seemed untroubled by pests (unlike kale, for example, which comes in from the garden with a lot of extra insect protein). Next, I neutralized the nettle sting by blanching the leaves in boiling salty water for about a minute. You can put them in cold water after, or just drain in a colander. I have read that you can skip the blanching and just add your washed nettle greens directly into a sauté, but I haven’t tried it yet.

The result of this modest effort? Amazing, flavorful greens. To say it “tastes like spinach” does it a disservice. I think it tastes like spring!

You can use it in any way you would use cooked greens. A classic use is to make nettle soup, but I also loved

I think it tastes like spring!

it in pasta, as a side dish flavored with garlic and olive oil, and in stews.

And, as the [NIH says](#), it’s good for you—high in amino acids, protein, and flavonoids, a great source of vitamin K, and its iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium and zinc will help keep your bones strong. It has been used as a food source for centuries.

It was probably in May when I decided to try eating nettles last year. My research indicates that you should harvest it before it blooms. And if you harvest it when it first grows, it will re-grow, and you can get multiple harvests from one plant (like “cut and come again” lettuce), thus extending your yield. I started harvesting earlier this year, and hope to get many meals from this lovely plant.

Head over to the [community forum](#) on the members’ only website, and give us some feedback. Have you tried nettles? Are you inspired to try nettles? Would you eat a nettle dish if someone else prepared it? What other foraged food have you tried?

Please share your foraged foods experiences. We’d love to hear from you!

BIOCHAR: EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

By Michele Wojciechowski

There's been some recent buzz about Biochar, and it has left many gardeners wondering the same things: what is it? What does it do? Should I be using it or not? Any downsides?

So we contacted Mark Highland, President, Organic Mechanics Soil Co. He graciously answered our questions about this possible garden additive.

What follows is our interview, edited for length and clarity.

Let's start with the simplest question: what is Biochar?

Biochar is a soil amendment. Biochar is carbon, produced by pyrolysis in the absence of oxygen.

What does it do?

Biochar enhances soil's water-holding capacity, nutrient-holding capacity, while serving as a home for beneficial microbes. Biochar can be made from any organic matter. We say it's a "lifetime" soil amendment, in that once a gardener adds it at the recommended rate, then you don't have to add it again during a human lifetime. In fact, it just gets better with each passing season.

Is its main purpose to be environmentally friendly or to help the gardener with their plants? Or both? Please explain.

As a soil amendment, Biochar enhances the root zone to promote good soil structure. Since Biochar holds moisture, using it reduces the gardeners need for watering. Biochar's cation exchange capacity allows it to hold nutrients in the soil—instead of them being washed away. Sinking Biochar in the ground also puts carbon permanently in the ground as a carbon sink.

How can a gardener use it?

Raw Biochar must be amended, inoculated, or charged. Once blended with other soil amendments like compost—and fertilizers if needed—Biochar will enhance the soil. If you add raw Biochar to your landscape, it will "suck" the nutrients out of the soil, as it has readily available exchange sites that attract nutrients from the soil. Organic Mechanics offers our Biochar Blend, a fully inoculated, charged product that is ready to apply to any landscape, at any time of year.

What should gardeners be aware of? Can it cause any problems with particular plants?

Not all Biochar is made equally. Buyers should ask for testing results. Anything showing Carbon content of less than 60% is technically not Biochar (according to the AAPFCO). Furthermore, gardeners should understand if they are looking

at a raw Biochar product, or if it is a preamended, inoculated Biochar enhanced soil amendment. There's a big difference between the two, and we frequently see people getting confused on this topic.

Is it safe to use in vegetable gardens? Why or why not?

Adding Biochar to vegetable gardens is one of the best ways to use it! It will improve the soil structure, hold water and nutrients in soils, and our Biochar Blend will increase yield.

Can it be covered with mulch? Why or why not?

We recommend adding mulch (compost) on top of surface applications of our Biochar Blend, to hold it in place so it doesn't wash away in a rain event. Ideally, it's incorporated into the soil profile. But, if only a surface application is possible, this is what we recommend.

Can it work for all types of watering conditions?

Biochar works in all watering conditions and all landscape conditions.

Does it have any reactions with supplements that a gardener might use—such as bloodmeal? Lime? Herbicides? Etc.?

Biochar has cation exchange capacity, so it will hold nutrients in soil.

Is it safe to use around children and pets?

Yes, Organic Mechanics Biochar Blend is safe to use around kids and pets. We test for heavy metals, and our Biochar is made from softwood pine wood chip.

I cannot speak to all Biochars made everywhere, which is why we recommend people ask for a soil test report, and it should include heavy metals, as companies are making Biochar from many types of organic matter.

What are any challenges that could arise from using it?

You don't want to over apply Biochar. It has a recommended application rate for a reason. Overapplication can result in reduced yields.

Are there particular instances in which it should not be used?

You may not want to use Biochar on Ericaceous plants, as those plants prefer acidic soils, and when Organic Mechanics Biochar Blend is applied at our recommended rate, Biochar Blend will raise soil pH by 0.1-0.5 points.

Anything else that you think gardeners need to know about Biochar and its use?

Make sure you are buying Biochar or an amended Biochar enhanced soil amendment from a reputable supplier. If they won't provide test results, find another supplier. You want to see carbon level near 80% for quality Biochar.

Biochar costs have started to come down as more production ramps up and demand increases. We will see the cost of Biochar continue to be more economical, especially from the largest suppliers. Biochar can be used anywhere in the landscape, and it is frequently prescribed as a soil amendment treatment in landscapes that need some TLC in the plant healthcare department. Finally, Biochar enhances soil properties and plant growth.

NATIVE PLANTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By Nancy Blois

The importance of native plants was recently brought to the attention of our state and federal governments. While Governor Wes Moore signed a proclamation officially designating April 2023 “Maryland Native Plant Month,” there’s much more to the story.



Phlox stolonifera 'Sherwood Purple'

Photos: Sharon Forrence

In 2021 and 2022, Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) and Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) co-sponsored a Senate Resolution to designate April as “National Native Plant Month.” With the retirement of Senator Portman, Senator Mike Braun (R-IN) has kindly agreed to be the Republican co-sponsor. Senators Hirono and Braun have agreed to co-sponsor the Senate Resolution to make April 2023, National Native Plant Month. (More information on the resolution is available [here](#).) The Horticultural Society of Maryland was asked to support a matching House resolution, which we did. As of this writing, April 13, neither of these resolutions has passed.

Spearheaded by the ten Maryland Garden Club of America garden clubs, bills were locally sponsored in the Maryland legislature to create a Maryland Native Program. The Horticultural Society of Maryland recently joined a group of organizations in support of the bills before both the House (HB 950) and the Senate (HB 836). We submitted written testimony, prepared by Nell Strachan, to both the House and the Senate. With the rising awareness of the importance of native plants to pollinators, biodiversity, and the health of our ecosystems, consumers’ demand is increasing. However, consumers have difficulty identifying plants native to Maryland and finding them for sale.

This bill will:

- Establish a “Maryland Native Plants” program through the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Maryland Extension (UME)
- Create a consumer friendly, but voluntary, labeling program and logo to identify a plant as a “Maryland Native” on plant tags, pots, and point-of-sale signage.
- Develop an online list of Maryland native plants eligible for labeling in coordination with the MDA, DNR, UME, and Maryland Native Plant Society.
- Create a Maryland grower/retailer certification program promoted through the Maryland Best Program to help Marylanders to buy and retailers to sell native plants.
- Educate the public on the benefits of planting Maryland native plants. Many are already looking for natives, but plants usually lack consumer friendly labeling and information.
- Promote through media, MDA/UME/DNR websites, and environmental groups.
- Position Maryland as a leader in promoting native plants and help create new business.
- Complement 2022 legislation (HB15/SB7) that focused on reducing invasive plants

The full text of the bill is available [here](#).

The bills “crossed over,” and, with an amendment, passed the entire legislature. As of this writing, the bill is still awaiting the signature of Governor Moore.



Baptisia australis

TALKING WITH RON ROBERTO, FUTURE HORTICULTURALIST

By Nancy Blois

Ron Roberto is the Cylburn Arboretum Friends 2022 summer intern, partially funded by the Horticultural Society of Maryland, and soon-to-be graduate of the Community College of Baltimore County.

What follows is our interview, edited for length and clarity.

What are you studying at CCBC?

I'm working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in Sustainable Horticulture, and certificates in Basic Horticulture Technician, Greenhouse Production, and Landscape Installation, Maintenance and Design.

How did you choose these programs?

I knew that I wanted to get into horticulture. I was attracted to the sustainable practices taught by the program.

Was there an instructor who was especially inspiring?

Martha Pindale's experience and knowledge were inspiring, and her practical education in the garden was especially helpful. She also does estate work, which goes along with my interest in gardening.

What was your favorite course?

Herbaceous perennial ID. It was an insightful course about the commonly used landscape plants in our region taught by the well-experienced Martha Pindale.

Was there a course that you found especially enlightening? Why?

Organic gardening.
Growing my own food from seed is something that has always been an interest of mine. The process is rewarding from start to finish. Overall, the course highlighted the importance of health, sustainability, and environmental protection.

Why did you apply for the intern position at Cylburn?

I wanted the opportunity to work alongside the head gardener, and the flexibility in scheduling worked well for me.



What was the most important thing you learned in your internship?

The importance of timing: knowing the proper time to do things. Whatever I did that day at Cylburn, I would do the same as soon as I got home!

What advice would you give someone interested in applying for the intern position?

The internship provides amazing exposure to people with decades of experience in horticulture. Sounds very cliché, but give it your all to get this position and have the willingness to learn. This internship opened so many doors for me in my career, provided networking opportunities, and exposed me to really experienced people working in the horticulture field.

What did you like best about your time at Cylburn?

I liked that it was a public garden as well as the social interaction with visitors and the chance to educate them. I also loved being around the dedicated CAF staff!

Anything else you'd like our readers to know?

I'm still in the beginning of my horticulture career. I have yet to do private garden work besides my own home. This internship was my first experience working in a public garden. I really love the community aspect; it feels gratifying knowing that others (the public) enjoy the work I've done on the grounds.

Welcome to New Members!

The HSM and the Hort Report would like to introduce and give a hearty welcome to our newest members:

Jane Anthon	Grayson Guthrie	Justin Robertson
Andrew Bunting	Hilary and Jonathan Hargis	Sara Service
Kimberly Buxton	Ally Jen	Lynn Supp
Nancy Carter	Candy Kessel	Christian Venuto
Janet Coleman	Daniel Law	Mary Yee
Hannah Deckwerth & Pierre Mertz	Deborah Lippincott	Pamela and Max Zdunowski
Alex Dinsmore	Deborah Major	
Jon Gazarek	GINNA NAYLOR	

Thanks for joining us. We're glad to have you here!

We also want to give a shout-out to all of our renewing members as well.

We appreciate that you continue to be part of our gardening family!

2023 GARDEN TOUR AND WORKSHOP SERIES

This year, in lieu of the traditional June Garden Tour, the HSM is again offering a revised and expanded experience—a series of garden tours and workshops, extending throughout the season, including grower tours, residential and public garden tours, as well as in-depth workshops.

Last year, besides visiting gardens near and far, we had workshops on Integrated Pest Management as well as woody plant propagation and dahlia growing, visited a globally rare plant community at the Bare Hills serpentine barrens, walked the Jones Falls Trail with the founder of Baltimore Green Map, and learned about environmentally thoughtful tree production at Raemelton Farms.

Keep an eye on your email, where we will announce upcoming opportunities.

Urban Designs Wins HSM Award

By Peter Bieneman

At the spring Maryland Home and Garden Show, we awarded Urban Designs of Baltimore the Horticultural Society of Maryland's 2023 award for "the most effective and practical use of plants."

The mainly gravel-and-stone constructed garden was a showcase of unusual specimens. A striking, *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Chirimen' was featured among other beautiful and well labeled plants. Interesting perennials such as *Polygonum capitatum*, *Viola brittoniana*, *Primula vulgaris* and *Carex pensylvanica* were used effectively.

We look forward to recognizing superior gardening creations in this yearly event!