

THE DIGGERS

Dorchester Garden Club

June 8, 2012

Mark Your Calendars

JUNE 2012

- 10-12** Fiesta Time” Creative Line Design
Classes Sylvia Deck, Instructor
- 13** Four Seasons Garden Club presents “East Meets West” an Ikebana program with Midori Tanimune. 1:00 p.m. Christ United Methodist Church, 211 Phillip Morris Drive, Salisbury, MD.
- 17** Father’s Day
- 20** First Day of summer
- 20** Judges Council Cylburn Arboretum
- 23** Francis Scott Key Iris Society and FGCM present "Five Golden Rings" a Small Standard Flower Show featuring Beardless Iris Noon to 4:00 p.m. at The Shops at Kenilworth
- 23** Hampton Historic Site Mint Julep Party

JULY 2012

Reminder: No Garden Club Meeting in July

- 4** Fourth of July
- 14** *Herbal Delight* 10:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Cylburn Arboretum ****[Registration](#)**
- **Please note new instructions for reservations. Send to FGCM c/o Pat Wolinski, 4915 Greenspring Avenue Baltimore, MD 21209**

Garden Chores for the Month of June

- Fruit trees: For large fruit, thin Apples and Peaches to about 8 inches apart on the branches.
- Harvest strawberries when they are firm and red. Overripe berries spoil rapidly, so they should be avoided.

- Prune most evergreens now through July 15. Clip back new growth on Yews to keep them compact. When the young shoot tips (candles) of Fir, Pine and Spruce have elongated, cut them back to control height and width. Do not cut off the entire shoot as the tree may eventually die.
- Houseplants can be placed outdoors in a shady, protected area. Even if the houseplant prefers full sun indoors, the direct heat and intensity of the sun will be too much for them outdoors.
- Fertilize tulips and daffodils after blooming; remove spent flowers but do not cut leaves and stems as they provide food for the bulbs
- Encourage vines up trellises by tucking wandering shoots in; secure climbing roses to supports with soft ties
- Prune early-flowering shrubs like lilac, double-flowering plum, Nanking cherry and mock orange after flowers are spent
- Prune evergreens. Snap new growth (candles) on mugho pines by 1/3-1/2 when fully extended, just before they open, to control size and shape
- Shear hedges
- Prune birch and maple once they are fully leafed out
- Stake tall or floppy perennials, such as delphiniums and peonies
- Deadhead spent flowers

Source:

<http://www.lewisgardens.com/monthlytimetable.htm> and
<http://bayberrygardendesign.com/month-by-month-to-do-list/>

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***Thanks to All Who Helped Us
Produce a Beautiful Flower Show!***



Dee Terry, Staging Chairman and her husband Jim working on our display.



The award winning hat design by Allison Buczek



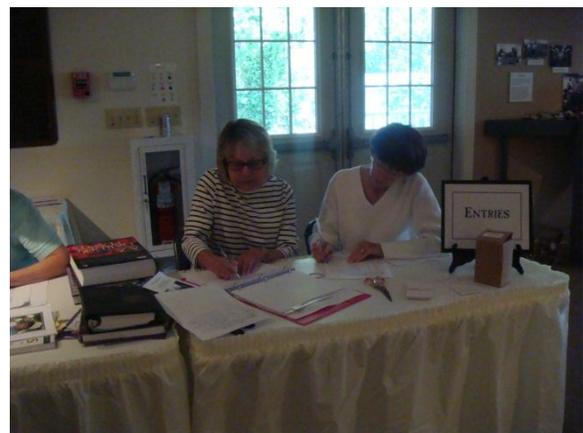
Our members entered some outstanding horticulture.



Kathy Scanlon's Blue Ribbon Hurricane Design.



Joan Johnson and Faye Phillips created some lush floral displays to mark the divisions.



We couldn't have done it without Mary Jo Papin our Entries Chair ably assisted by Millie Judd

THE DIGGERS

The Magic of Compost



Compost is the richest fertilizer you can use. And it is FREE, if you can make it yourself. You don't need to buy commercial fertilizers when you use this "nature's one." Compost is the results of decaying organic material like leaves, grass, or kitchen scraps. Although compost can be made in an open pile, you'll get faster results if you use a [bin](#). Nature does the work for you. All you have to do is provide the right environment of heat, moisture, air, and materials for the organisms in the compost pile.



If you live in an area which has cold winters, the spring is the best time to start the compost pile. If not, you can work your compost any time when there is a supply of grass clippings and other organic material. In all climates, summer is the perfect time for composting. Most gardeners find that they can make several batches during the summer.

Compost is not soil, but when mixed in your planting areas, it improves your soil. You will see changes in texture & fertility. Compost will loosen clay soils and it will help sandy soils retain water. The organic matter provided in compost provides food for many different organisms, including fungi, bacteria, insects and worms. This decay of organic material keeps the soil in a healthy well-balanced condition with the nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus which is produced naturally.

Almost any organic material can be used in the compost pile. Two types of organic material are needed: carbon-rich materials "browns," and nitrogen-rich materials "greens." Include brown materials like dried leaves, straw, saw dust and wood chips. Include fresh or green materials such as grass clippings and kitchen scraps. There is no single "right" compost technique. There are several variations based upon some basic principles of aerobic decomposition. The technique you start with may be modified as you gain experience. Keep it simple, convenient, and suited to your lifestyle.

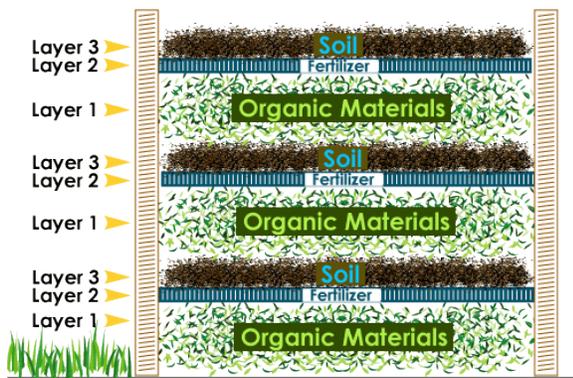
Do not use ashes from the barbeque, animal by-products (meat scraps, grease, bones), milk or dairy products, dog or cat droppings, cardboard, diseased plants. Remember, chances are that if a substance is harmful to you it could also be harmful to the decomposer organisms in your compost piles. Certainly don't add yard wastes that be treated with chemicals. When in doubt DO NOT ADD IT.

When the compost is "done" mix it liberally into new planting areas and also around existing plants. Most successful gardeners perform this task once or twice a year. Treat composting as an art and not as pure science. *All organic matter breaks down eventually, no matter what you do.* A bit more brown is a good rule. You will find that you learn by doing. With time you will discover what works best for you.

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Basic Instructions -- to make compost:

- Find an area in your yard for your compost to live - generally one cubic yard (3'x3'x3') is sufficient. Begin with dry "brown" materials (2 parts), like wood chips, dried leaves, sawdust, or straw.
- Next add a layer of moist "green" materials (1 part), such as grass cuttings, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, dead flowers, or pruning materials from your garden. Remember to break up twigs or large pieces of waste material.



- Keep adding layers, alternating "green" & "brown" materials with a layer of soil. A layer of manure is great too, if you can get it.
- The mixture should be kept wet (water with a hose once a week to keep entire mixture moist). Ideally your compost should feel like a moist wrung-out sponge.
- You can turn or mix your pile as often as you like - every 7 days or so - or at least once a month. Your compost needs air; turning it will help the decaying process and, more importantly, turning prevents unpleasant odors. A pitchfork works well for turning the pile.
- Add chicken manure or bone meal (for nitrogen) if your compost isn't decaying. These are available at your local garden center. Horse manure is great, but you may have difficulty finding it.

- When it smells and looks like rich dark fluffy soil, the compost will be ready to use in your garden! If you are not applying the compost immediately, cover and store it.

Source: <http://www.joyblooms.com/gardening/composting.htm>

The Tomato Garden

An old Italian man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his tomato garden but it was very hard work as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincenzo, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Vincenzo,

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I am getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the garden for me.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Papa,

I'd do anything for you Papa, except dig up that garden. That's where I buried the bodies.

Love, Vinnie

At 4 am the next morning, FBI and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. The same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Papa,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love, Vinnie

Source: [http://www.funny.com/cgi-](http://www.funny.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Funny.woa/wa/funny?fn=CDAJO&Funny)

[bin/WebObjects/Funny.woa/wa/funny?fn=CDAJO&Funny](http://www.funny.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Funny.woa/wa/funny?fn=CDAJO&Funny)
[Jokes=tomato_garden](http://www.funny.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Funny.woa/wa/funny?fn=CDAJO&Funny)