



“The Maryland Harvest” Preview and Reception! (*Brooke, Houpla!*) **(flyer attached!)**

Where else could you hear anyone say “Maryland farmers are rockstars!” Come see a wonderful documentary about Maryland farms and farmers and the chefs who love them and a panel discussion with Chef Spike Gjerde of the Woodberry Kitchen, Steve Rouse of Rousedale Farm, and “Maryland Harvest” host Al Spoler, moderated by Brooke McDonald of Houpla! “The Maryland Harvest” will air on Maryland Public Television on April 17 at 9 p.m. Hosted by Al Spoler and produced by Houpla, Inc., “The Maryland Harvest” takes us on a gastronomic tour of the state with Maryland chefs such as Woodberry Kitchen’s Spike Gjerde, Cindy Wolf of Charleston, David McCallum of the Tilghman Island Inn and Rob Plant of Blue Wind Gourmet. A wine-and-beer reception with local seasonal nibbles will follow! The event takes place on February 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the historic Woman's Club of Roland Park, 4500 Roland Avenue, Baltimore. There is no charge for this event, but reservations are required. Please r.s.v.p. to twcrp@comcast.net or call the office at (410) 889-0760.

Natural Gas Drilling (Fracking) and the Impact on Pennsylvania Farmers (*Michelle, PASA*)

For those of you doing *Issues Investigation* (Hungerford and Volk) in your environmental and agriculture education classes, this is an excellent student-made documentary that asks citizens to consider the perspectives of the farmers and residents who become engaged in the economics of the leasing process, mounting health concerns, and community impacts of the Marcellus Shale drilling boom in Pennsylvania. These two dairy farm women are taking their message to audiences all over PA – my own backyard! Hugely relevant to ag and natural resources issues: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_2oU3wIyow

USDA Unveils New Plant Hardiness Zone Map! (*ATTRA*)

USDA has released a new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map. The new map offers a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based interactive format and a “find your zone by ZIP code” function. Compared to the 1990 version, zone boundaries in this edition of the map have shifted in many areas. The new map is generally one 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zone warmer than the previous map throughout much of the United States.

Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature (*Britt DNR*)

Join MSDE and the Partnership for a series of regional workshops throughout the state to discuss Environmental Literacy Plans for county school districts. Anyone involved in planning, delivering, or supporting environmental literacy programs is invited to attend. Meetings will be held throughout February and March. Information on the Partnership and the regional workshop series can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/cin/>

UMD Youth Gardening Training Day! (*UMD Extension*)

Mark your calendars for Saturday February 25! University of Maryland Extension is offering a youth gardening training day for teachers, administrators, 4-H, after school leaders, Master Gardeners and other volunteers who work with youth in the gardening setting. This workshop will be going beyond the basics of gardening 101 and will focus on teaching tools that can enhance your time outdoors (and indoors) with the children. The training will be 9-3:30 at the Baltimore County Agricultural Center (1114 Shawan Rd. Cockeysville, MD 21030). Topics include: Safety in the garden, Managing and engaging kids in the garden, Starting a garden, Navigating the paperwork of starting a garden, Cooking with kids, Using grow lights, Making raised beds, Container gardening, How to acquire resources for your garden.

To register: <http://mastergardener.umd.edu/AdvancedTraining/YouthGard.cfm>

Schedule A Class Visit to Claggett Farm! (**flyer attached!**)

Claggett Farm, CBF's only land-based education center, is a 283-acre historic tobacco farm 12 miles southeast of Washington, D.C., and six miles west of Maryland's Patuxent River (just outside Upper Marlboro, Maryland). This ideal location allows us to offer one-, two-, or three-day educational programs which explore land, river, and Bay ecosystems. A living model of environmentally sustainable farming practices, the farm demonstrates the relationships between land use and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Claggett Farm's rolling landscape is covered with 20 acres of organic vegetables, clover, and grass pastures for our beef cattle, and 60 acres of forested buffer. Traveling by hay wagon and foot, we explore the farm, the forest, and our stream to discover our connection to the Chesapeake Bay. Students view several examples of schoolyard habitats designed to slow, cool, and filter harmful storm water runoff. Students also examine the "runoff plots," an activity designed to simulate urban and agricultural lands, their effects on local storm water systems, and impacts on the Bay.

Leopold Education Project Workshop for Teachers! (MAEF)

This nationally acclaimed environmental literacy curriculum is based upon the work of conservationist-farmer-professor Aldo Leopold, particularly through his transformational essay collection *A Sand County Almanac*. The spring curriculum workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 9am – 3pm at Swan Harbor Farm in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Cost for participants is \$30 to include lunch, all curriculum materials and a copy of ASCA. Call or email me to register peppig@maefonline.com. This workshop is also available for groups, schools and centers around the state. Just give a holler!

2012 Urban Youth Garden Grants (MAEF) (flyer attached!)

MAEF is proud to announce the 2012 Urban Youth Garden Grants program is under way. The goal of this project is to increase the awareness of and appreciation for agriculture in the lives of urban students through hands-on and gardening activities. All elementary and secondary teachers and youth educators are eligible. Two types of grants are available. The first grant for New Gardens is up to \$500. The second grant for existing gardens is up to \$250. Deadline for application is March 9, 2012. An application can be found as an attachment to this newsletter.

Maryland FFA Middle School Agricultural Knowledge Bowl Event! (MAEF)

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation will again sponsor MD FFA Middle School Agricultural Knowledge Bowl this year on Monday, June 26, 2012 at the Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD during the FFA Convention. The time for this event is 1:45 in the Bridge Room. Awards for the event are provided by the FFA Alumni. First Place Team: \$75, Second Place Team: \$ 50 Third Place Team: \$25 Items for Quiz Bowl will be taken from 6th-8th Social Studies and Science AG related curriculum. Example: Eli Whitney invented the _____. Teams can also prepare by going the www.agday/education/fun_facts.php to include “Fun Facts: About the Food We Eat” and “AG Day Facts: Flora, Fauna, & Food for Thought”. Or visit www.maefonline.com/resources.php and play some games! Also you can use the book *Seed, Soil and Sun*. Complete rules for MD FFA Middle School Agricultural Knowledge Bowl Event can be found as an attachment to this newsletter. To register your team, contact Charles Gummer at charlesgummer@verizon.net or 410-960-2979.

Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Gears Up For February Conference! (Parks & People)

GBCAN’s 2012 Conference is right around the corner! This year’s event will take place on February 23 at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore. Last year’s conference was a smashing success welcoming over 200 participants. Over 20 workshops were presented and some, like the presentation on family nature clubs, led to great new opportunities for children to experience nature. This year’s conference promises more

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.
February 15, 2012

great ideas and practical advice for those interested in forging stronger bonds between children and nature. The conference will bring together adult and youth leaders across the sectors of education, health, business, faith and the arts for a discussion and workshops about connecting youth to nature in local parks, schoolyards, community green spaces and beyond. The 2012 GBCAN Conference is free and open to the public; however, advanced registration is required.

<http://www.parksandpeople.org/play/greater-baltimore-children-and/2012-gbcan-conference/>

Student Temporary Employment Program – USDA/NRCS Summer Program! *(Cole Bishop, FFA)*

Job Announcement Number: MD-607445-BL

SALARY RANGE: \$11.91 to \$18.97 / Per Hour

OPEN PERIOD: Monday, February 13, 2012 to Friday, February 24, 2012

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0303-02/04

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Summer

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 04

DUTY LOCATIONS: 12 vacancy(s) - Annapolis, MD United States

Positions located throughout Maryland!

The “Student” announcement was posted under Vacancy ID: MD-607445-BL. The announcement closes on February 24, 2012. Please contact **Beverly Leftridge, Human Resources Officer at 443 482-2938**, if you have questions on the application process!

Constellation Energy EcoStar Grant Program! *(Steve Folk, Constellation)*

Constellation Energy supports nonprofit organizations that are working to improve the quality of life in company communities throughout the U.S. The company offers EcoStar Grants of up to \$5,000 to local nonprofit organizations for projects that address at least one of the following five environmental focus areas: pollution prevention, education and outreach, energy efficiency, conservation, and community activism. Funded projects must be located geographically within a region where Constellation Energy does business (the continental states with the exception of AZ, GA, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, and WY). The application deadline is March 10, 2012. Online application information is available on the company’s website.

Mantis Awards (*Jane Howe, MAEF*)

Each year, Mantis presents the Mantis Awards to charitable and educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life in their host communities. NGA selects 25 outstanding applicants to receive Mantis tiller/cultivators. Any nonprofit garden program may apply. In the past, winners have included schools, churches, correctional facilities, parks departments, youth camps, community gardens, and many others. These are groups turning slim resources into bountiful gardens with far-reaching benefits, from increasing their community's access to fresh nutritious foods to educating the public about the importance of gardening in our nation's history. Applications are due by March 1st, 2012. Applications may be emailed to amandaw@garden.org. Complete submission instructions are listed on the first page of the application. While we encourage applicants to use our new online application system, a form-fillable application is also available. Please visit <http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants/2012-mantis-awards-community-and-youth-gardens> for complete info!

RSF Social Finance Seed Fund (*Kevin Webster, USDA*)

RSF Social Finance (RSF) is a pioneering nonprofit financial services organization dedicated to transforming the way the world works with money by supporting breakthrough ideas at the intersection of social change and finance. The RSF Seed Fund provides small grants of \$500 to \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations as well as individuals doing charitable work. Funded projects must address one of the following focus areas: The Food and Agriculture category encourages new economic models that support sustainable food and agriculture, while raising public awareness of the value of organic and Biodynamic farming. The Education and the Arts category supports education and arts projects that are holistic and therapeutic. The Ecological Stewardship category promotes projects devoted to preserving the earth's ecosystems, especially integrated, systems-based, and culturally-relevant approaches. Grant proposals are due March 15, 2012. Visit the RSF website to review the funding categories and submit an online application. <http://rsfsocialfinance.org/services/giving/seedfund/apply-for-a-seed-fund-grant/>

Free Screening! Queen of the Sun (*Alejandra, Waldorf School of Baltimore*)

A thought-provoking look at pollination systems and society's dependence on bee! Come to a free screening on Friday March 30 at 7:30pm. The Waldorf School of Baltimore, 4801 Tamarind Rd, Baltimore MD 21209. Phone - 410-367-6808

Maryland Wood Energy Coalition – Biomass Technology (*Jonathan, UME*)

The Coalition was organized by the University of Maryland Extension and the Department of Natural Resources Forest Service in April 2010 with the goal to increase the use of woody biomass for

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.
February 15, 2012

high-efficiency wood energy technologies. The prospectus is available for download at the Harry R. Hughes Center For Agro-Ecology (www.agroecol.umd.edu) and the University of Maryland Extension Forest Stewardship Education website (www.naturalresources.umd.edu). For More Information Contact: Jonathan Kays, Natural Resource Extension Specialist, University of Maryland Extension, 301-432-2767 x323, jkays@umd.edu

CNH Foundation Scholarships now available! (MATA)

High school and two-year college students are invited to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship from the CHS Foundation, the major giving entity of CHS Inc., the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperative. Geographical constraints may apply, however, 25 \$1,000 scholarships are available for first-year students studying an agricultural-related major at any two-year college, and 50 \$1,000 scholarships are available for seniors attending any two or four-year college, pursuing an ag-related major. Broadly, 125 scholarships are available to students working towards an ag-related major at 30 universities across the nation. Click here for information and applications. <http://www.chsfoundation.org/about.html>
Applications due April 1, 2012!

Thoughts on Farms and Farming

Contributed by J.B. in Vermont

"There seem to be but three ways for a nation to acquire wealth. The first is by war, as the Romans did, in plundering their conquered neighbors. This is robbery. The second by commerce, which is generally cheating. The third by agriculture, the only honest way, wherein man receives a real increase of the seed thrown into the ground, in a kind of continual miracle, wrought by the hand of God in his favor, as a reward for his innocent life and his virtuous industry." - Benjamin Franklin

"When, in some obscure country town, the farmers come together to a special town-meeting, to express their opinion on some subject which is vexing the land, that, I think, is the true Congress, and the most respectable one that is ever assembled in the United States" - H.D. Thoreau

"Only he can understand what a farm is, what a country is, who shall have sacrificed part of himself to his farm or country, fought to save it, struggled to make it beautiful. Only then will the love of farm or country fill his heart." - Antoine de Saint-Exupery