



Rainscapes Gazette

Fall Edition, October 2010

In this Gazette:

RainScapes Rewards Rebates

Tree Health for Fall

Got Ticks?

Resources

Find a Watershed Group

References for Schools

Get Ready for Winter in the Fall

RainScapes are watershed friendly ways to enhance your landscape! Fall is for Planting! Many native plants are available through local plant sales. Check the Maryland Native Plants site for a listing of the current sales <http://www.mdflora.org/plantsales.html>. The RainScapes staff was very busy this summer and continues to work to support and implement RainScapes projects throughout the county which improve our environment. We will have an update of some of our projects posted later this fall on the RainScapes page and if you want to find your local watershed group to get involved with, we have listed the groups which are active in Montgomery County in this Gazette. Meet your neighbors while finding a common project to benefit the watershed! Oct. 23rd is Community Service Day and many groups are organizing events to work on cleaning up their Watersheds. Check their websites for more information.

RainScapes Rewards Rebates

The rebate program continued to grow in popularity in Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10); for the first time, funds were fully allocated by the end of April of this year. The new fiscal year (FY11) began July 1 and the RainScapes Rewards Rebates program IS funded for FY11. We have had many projects submitted this fall; half of the funds budgeted for rebates for FY 11 has been allocated already so demand is strong! Rebates are evaluated and projects approved on a first come, first served basis. The applications for each type of rebate are posted on the RainScapes.org site.

TREES – Now is the time to plant!

You want a new tree! Trees planted in the fall and winter start growing roots and taking in nutrients from the soil right away. Trees planted in early spring also have a head start. They have more time to grow new roots and recover from being transplanted before putting out leaves and flowers in the spring. They are better able to survive the heat of August. You can plant a tree any time that the ground is not frozen.

Plant a tree and save some green! There are two COUPONS available for you to plant trees. It is a great time to plant green and save green!

Marylanders Plant Trees – Save \$25 off a Tree

Be counted towards the state's goal of 50,000 trees by 2010 – and save \$25 off your new tree! Check out www.trees.maryland.gov for information and advice on [where, how](#) and what [type of trees](#) to plant, and your [printable discount coupon](#). After planting, [register](#) your trees and [calculate the benefits](#) they provide. Let's make Montgomery County one of the best contributors in the State!

Leaves for Neighborhoods – Save \$25 off a Tree

Montgomery Planning Department's program "[Leaves for Neighborhoods](#)" will save you green when you plant trees. Print out the coupon [here](#) to save \$25 off a tree purchase of \$75 or more. At nurseries participating in both this program and the [state program](#) you can use both coupons together to save the most!

How to Buy a Tree

Planting a tree sounds easy enough, but there are a few things to consider before the tree goes in the ground. By making a handful of careful choices as you select what to buy and where to plant it, your tree will be healthier and you'll enjoy it more.

Select the right tree for the right place. Where do you want to plant your tree(s) and why? [Planting a tree for shade can save energy](#). Consider the full size potential, or how big the tree will grow, before you plant. Check for utility lines overhead, and always call [Miss-Utility](#) at 1.800.257.7777 or [submit a request online](#) before you dig.

Select the right tree species for your site. Native trees are preferable to non-natives because of their natural pest and disease resistance and adaptation to the local landscape. See a [list of native trees here](#). <link: [Maryland Native Plant Society](#).

Select the best tree from the nursery. When choosing a containerized tree (a tree grown in a pot vs. a ball & burlap), check for girdling or encircling roots. Have a nursery assistant help you slide the root ball out of the container to get a good look at it. When choosing a ball & burlap tree you should ask when the tree was dug from the fields – make sure it was this fall. For both types of trees, look for a root system that is proportionate in size to the crown. And you should see some new growth – look for clean white tips on the ends of the roots. Avoid undersized or discolored leaves that do not look "normal", and avoid trees with heavily pruned branches. Also, ask where the trees were grown. Trees grown locally are already adapted to our weather.

How to plant a tree...

Want to plant your own tree but don't know how? The local Casey Trees Foundation has helpful pictures that are printable to take outside with you when you plant.

[Tree Planting Guide](#) >

Fertilize Properly

Please do NOT fertilize newly planted trees. However, in later years, deep root fertilizing is usually beneficial. You can get help to determine appropriate methods and rates of application by contacting the University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center at 1.800.342.2507, or <http://www.hgic.umd.edu/>.

Deep Root Fertilization

You may not hear them complaining, but your trees are hungry. Trees growing in our yards and cities rarely receive the same nutrients they would if they were growing in a forest. In order to increase your trees' vigor, deep-root fertilization can add those nutrients back into the soil. Well-nourished trees are stronger and less susceptible to disease, insects, drought, and other stresses.

Deep-root fertilization effectively provides nutrients to trees because it is directed to a tree's feeder roots. Getting fertilizer below the grass to the roots of trees is important and not overly complex. Many licensed tree care companies offer this service, but it can also be done on your own with the proper supplies including an auger or fertilizer probe, hose, and a measuring tape.

“How to” Deep Root Fertilize:

Always follow the directions on the label of the fertilizer.

- **Test your soil** before fertilizing to determine what is lacking. Click [here](#) to learn about collecting and mailing your soil sample to the University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center (or contact them at 1.800.342.2507).
- **Never fertilize a newly planted tree.** After two growing seasons, [test your soil](#) to see if fertilization is needed.
- **Time it right:** Fertilize in October or November to encourage root development and/or in March or April, just after the soil has thawed to encourage tip and leaf growth.
- **Choose a fertilizer for trees;** it's not the same as fertilizer for grass. Look for “Tree” or “Evergreen” (if you have pines, spruces or other trees with needles) and water insoluble nitrogen (WIN) on the label. Good fertilizers can be found at home & garden or hardware stores and cost about \$1-3 per pound.
- **Use a slow-release fertilizer** to protect the quality of water in our watersheds.
- **Choose your method of application:**
 - [Fertilizer stakes](#) are pushed into the ground below the grass.
 - [Granular fertilizer](#) is placed into in holes you drill in the soil (about 10 inches deep).
 - [Liquid fertilizer](#) is injected 8-10 inches below the surface into the soil with a probe.

Visualize your target, where to put the fertilizer? Fertilize under the branches of the tree in a grid formation, about every 2 ft. Start at the dripline, or the ends of the branches, and go in towards the stem of the tree. For all trees, put fertilizer in about 2/3 of the way from the tips of the branches in to the tree trunk. For very large trees, stay about 6-8 feet away from the stem of the tree. This is the area that has the highest concentration of roots.

Got Ticks?

Deer spread ticks. The latest headlines underscore the need to carefully check yourself after spending time outdoors.

Invasive Honeysuckle Increase Risk of Tick-Borne Disease in Suburbs

[ScienceDaily \(Oct. 12, 2010\)](#) --- "You don't have to go out into the woods anymore," says tick expert Brian F. Allan, PhD, who just completed a postdoctoral appointment at Washington University in St. Louis. "The deer are bringing tick-borne disease to us."

Resources:

Rain Gardens & Conservation landscapes: Remember to check the RainScapes Resources section! Plant lists, site evaluation and other related resources are on this page of the website.

Rain Barrels& Cisterns: Remember to unhook your rain barrel and cisterns as the weather turns freezing. This prevents gutter backups and barrel cracking from freezing water. Then, in the spring, hook it back up!

For Contractor/Design Professionals:

Design professionals and contractors interested in receiving updates for training for environmental site design practices in Montgomery County, should sign up for our new [E-subscription](#). This subscription's purpose is to share news of interest for professional development, particularly as ESD to the MEP becomes the development standard for the county.

Find a Watershed Group!

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/Content/dep/water/localgroups.asp>

<p>Anacostia River</p> <p>Anacostia Watershed Citizens' Advisory Committee http://www.anacostia.net/AWCAC.html Email: anacostia@mwkog.org</p> <p>Anacostia Watershed Society The George Washington House 4302 Baltimore Avenue Bladensburg, MD 20710 Tel: 301.699.6204 fax: 301.699.3317 http://www.anacostiaws.org/ Email: info@anacostiaws.org</p> <p>Eyes of Paint Branch 1258 Cavendish Drive Silver Spring, MD 20905 Tel: 301-890-1998 http://www.eopb.org/</p> <p>Friends of Little Paint Branch http://friendsoflpb.org/</p> <p>Friends of Sligo Creek P. O. Box 11572 Takoma Park, MD 20913 www.fosc.org Email: president@fosc.org or outreach@fosc.org</p> <p>Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, Inc. (Hawlings River and Northwest Branch, Anacostia) PO Box 92 Sandy Spring, MD 20860 Tel: 301-869-5358 http://www.sandyspringgreenspace.org/</p> <p>Neighbors of Northwest Branch P.O. Box 4314 Silver Spring, MD 20914 http://www.neighborsnwb.org/</p>	<p>Potomac River</p> <p>(split into western and eastern half) Potomac River Direct EAST</p> <p>Cabin John Creek Friends of Cabin John Creek Watershed Contact Roy Seidenstein, Tel: 301-320-9880 Email: focicw@verizon.net http://www.cabinjohn.org/focicw/</p> <p>Potomac Conservancy 8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 612 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Tel: 301.608.1188, x 201 www.potomac.org</p> <p>Little Falls Watershed Alliance, Inc. 5325 Yorktown Rd Bethesda, MD 20816 Email: info@lfwaa.org Tel: 301-654-0571</p> <p>Potomac River Direct WEST</p> <p>Potomac Conservancy 8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 612 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Tel: 301.608.1188, x 201 www.potomac.org</p> <p>Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America 20601 Izaak Walton Way Poolesville, MD 20837 http://www.bcciwla.org</p>	<p>Patuxent River</p> <p>Greater Sandy Spring Green Space Robin Freedman, Executive Director, Tel: 301.260.8860 (Hawlings River and Northwest Branch, Anacostia)</p> <p>Patuxent Riverkeeper 18600 Queen Anne Road Rear Barn Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 Tel: 301-249-8200 Contact: Fred Tutman or Lauren Webster www.paxriverkeeper.org</p> <p>Patuxent Reservoirs Watershed Protection Group Contact: Steve Nelson. Tel: 301-206-8240 Email: snelson@wsscwater.com</p> <p>Wildlife Achievement Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America 26430 Mullinix Mill Rd., Mt Airy, Md. 21771 Tel: 301-253-2384 www.damascusiwla.org Conservation Committee http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeo63qr/index.html</p> <p>Lower Monocacy River</p> <p>No Group</p>
<p>Rock Creek</p> <p>Friends of Rock Creek Environment Beth Mullin Executive Director PO Box 42680 Washington, DC 20015 Tel: (202) 237-8866 http://www.friendsofrockcreek.org/ Email: force@friendsofrockcreek.org</p> <p>(Countywide) Izaak Walton League of America, National Office Save Our Streams Program 707 Conservation Lane Gaithersburg, MD 20878 Tel: 1-(800) BUG-IWLA Email: sos@iwla.org www.iwla.org</p>	<p>Seneca Creek</p> <p>Seneca Creek Watershed Partners Cindy Stevens Email: famstevens@gmail.com</p> <p>Lois Green-Sligo Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America 8721 Snouffer School Road Gaithersburg, MD 20879 Email: admin@lgsc-iwla.org http://www.lgsc-iwla.org</p> <p>Rockville Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America 18301 Waring Station Road Germantown, MD 20875-2255 Tel: (301)916-9191 http://www.iwla-rockville.com</p>	<p>Countywide</p> <p>Alice Ferguson Foundation 2001 Bryan Point Road Accokeek, Maryland 20607 http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/ Tel: 202-518-7415 or 301-292-5665</p> <p>Audubon Naturalist Society 8940 Jones Mill Rd. Chevy Chase, MD 20815 Tel: 301.652.9188 www.audubonnaturalist.org</p> <p>M-NCPPC Volunteer Center (lists county-wide opportunities) Tel. 301.495.2504</p> <p>Montgomery County Sierra Club 103 North Adams Street Rockville, MD 20850 http://maryland.sierraclub.org/montgomery</p>

References for Working with Schools

A few new books have come out which are good supports for those who volunteer with or work at school sites. A brief list is below:

No Student Left Indoors: Creating a Field Guide to Your Schoolyard (Take a Walk series)

By Jane Kirkland

How to Grow a School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers

By Arden Bucklin-Sporer

Schoolyard-Enhanced Learning: Using the Outdoors as an Instructional Tool, K-8

By Herbert W. Broda

Place-based Education: Connecting Classrooms & Communities, With Index By David Sobel

Edible Schoolyard: A Universal Idea By Alice Waters

Have a wonderful Fall!

