



## Winter Newsletter

### NEW GRANT PARTNERSHIP WITH MDOT

By Anne Gilbert, Maryland Forest Service

The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC) is excited to announce a new partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). This new partnership grant is very similar to the existing MUCFC grant with just a change in eligibility requirements and different maximum grant amount.

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### FRAMING THE FUTURE WEBINAR SERIES

By Megan Carr, Urban Forester, Baltimore City Rec & Park

A new webinar series is helping to make state and local forest policy more accessible to natural resources professionals and environmental stakeholders in Maryland. Recurring on the third Thursday of each month at 1 pm, the Framing the Future series launched in November of 2021. The first discussion was on the Tree Solutions Now Act which calls for the planting of five million trees over an eight-year period. The December 2021 session focused on a component of the Tree Solutions Now Act which requires that 10%, or 500,000 of those five million trees be planted in urban and underserved areas.

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New grant partnership with MDOT
- 2022 Arbor Day Poster Contest
- Framing the Future Webinar Series



2021 Winner school planting event.

## 2022 ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

### “TREES ARE TERRIFIC... AND MARYLAND FORESTS ARE TOO!”

The Maryland Forest Service, in partnership with the Maryland Forest Conservancy District Boards, is sponsoring a “Poster Contest” for 5th grade classes throughout the

State of Maryland.

The theme for the poster is: Trees Are Terrific....and Maryland Forests are Too! Statewide Winners will receive a tree planting at their school.

*“It’s always wonderful to hear the First Lady’s perspective on the art. I look forward to hearing her input every year.” said Anne Gilbert, Tree-Mendous Coordinator.*

*“Our food forest of fruit and nut trees and berry bushes was implemented through multiple plantings starting in the fall of 2016 using our first MUCFC grant, and was further enhanced with permaculture beds with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust in 2021. However, there was no signage to inform the public about the purpose of the garden. Thus, the second MUCFC grant was used to erect and informational sign.”*

Havre de Grace Green Team Grant Report; a requirement of receiving funding from a MUCFC grant.

For a picture of the sign see page 6.

MUCFC is excited to welcome Maryland’s First Lady Yumi Hogan to be our guest judge for the fifth time! “It’s always wonderful to hear the First Lady’s perspective on the art. I look forward to hearing her input every year.” said Anne Gilbert, Tree-Mendous Coordinator.



In the picture top, Luke is receiving a framed copy of his poster (artwork above), from the Carroll County Forestry Board during a ceremony at Spring Garden Elementary School. Pictured from left to right: art teacher Mrs. Teresa Greenberg, poster artist Luke Etter, Project Forester Donna Davis, Tree-Mendous Coordinator Anne Gilbert, County STEM Coordinator Bryan Shumaker. The 5th grade students at Spring Garden ES planted 10 winterberry holly shrubs, 3 redbud trees and 2 flowering dogwood trees on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

2022 poster contest winners will be announced in late February. Plantings will be scheduled for April and May 2022.

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/Arbor-Day-Poster-Contest.aspx>





*ABOVE: Berry Glassman., Harford County Executive receiving the PLANT award from MUCFC member Danny Davis in 2015. Harford County has been a Green PLANT Community since 2003 to present.  
BELOW: Aberdeen Proving Ground accepting their Green PLANT Award from Anne Gilbert in 2017. APG has been a Green PLANT Community since 2003 to present.*

## FOREST SERVICE EDUCATION OUT-REACH ACTIVITIES

Check us out online for tons of activities for kids to do at home! The Maryland Forest Service saw a need during the COVID lock down for more at home activities. As a result there is a list of over 40 tree related activities that can be done in your own home.

Activities are arranged by category, Art/Language Arts/Social Studies, Science/Math, Forest Products, Math/Computer, Smokey Bear and more.

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/education/Educational-Outreach-Activities.aspx>

## PEOPLE LOVING AND NURTURING TREES COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD

**The PLANT Award** is recognition for communities who care for their trees. Communities of all types can receive the award— schools, HOAs, parks, local governments, government facilities, scout troops and churches, just to name a few.

Your Community is probably already at one of the four levels of the PLANT Award program. Choose the level you feel best fits your community's activities in the last year. Over time your community can see your program grow, as your award level increases. The reviewing committee will look at your submitted documentation and then award the best fitting level!



The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee of the Maryland Forestry Boards in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources sponsor this program and review the applications.

**Applications and supporting documentation are due January 31, 2021.** Awards will be mailed in mid-March so that you have it in time for Arbor Day celebrations in April!

Communities throughout Maryland are recognized each year, it's time your community joins them! Show off all of your community's hard work taking care of its trees to all who are in it and those that visit!

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programs/plantinfo.aspx>

## MUCFC GRANT APPLICATION TIPS

### Signature

Every Grant application needs a Forestry Board Member signature prior to submitting.

Find your local forestry board here: [www.marylandforestryboards.org](http://www.marylandforestryboards.org) then click on local boards at the top of the page.

### Funding Plan

Provide an itemized list of how the money will be spent.

Provide a list of species and prices.

If equipment is being requested provide information on who that equipment will be used after the project.

### Maintenance Plan

The more detail the better. The committee wants to know exactly how the trees will be taken care of after the initial planting.

### Final Report

Submit the final report in order to be eligible for another MUCFC grant in the future.

Send pictures! We'd love to share your success with others.

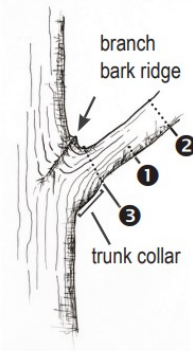
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programs/urban/mucfcgrant.aspx>

## FALL MAINTENANCE CORNER

### Pruning

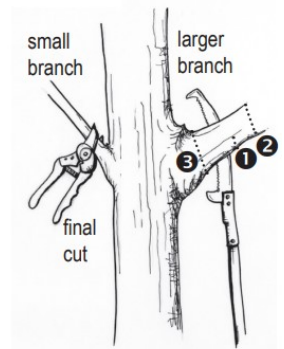
Winter is the best time of year to prune trees. It is easy to see the tree's structure and there is low risk of disease spread. It is best practice not to remove more than 25% of a tree's canopy per year.

The 3-step pruning method is recommended to reduce the chance of bark ripping and damaging the tree.



#### Three-step method

1. Cut one-third of the way through the branch on the under side.
2. Go 2-4 inches beyond the undercut to remove the branch.
3. Make the final cut just outside the branch bark ridge and trunk collar.



Find more in the US Forest Service's Tree Owner's Manual— <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/TreeOwnersManual.pdf>

## NEW GRANT PARTNERSHIP WITH MDOT CONTINUED

Eligible projects are those that had trees removed as part of construction of a transportation facility project and are affected by heat island or by environmental justice issues. For the purposes of this grant "transportation facility" is defined as highway construction including bicycle and walking paths.

Those areas affected by the Purple Line construction are also eligible. This grant cannot be used for required mitigation. (All of these construction projects have already complied with one of Maryland's Tree Laws.) Projects can be on public or private land.

The maximum grant award per project is \$5,000. Grant applications are due February 15th and July 15th, as are the existing MUCFC grant applications.

Contact your local forestry board for the application, grant guidelines and assistance in filling out the application.

<http://www.marylandforestryboards.org/chairs.cfm>

Grant applications should be mailed to:

Wanda MacLachlan  
MUCFC Grants Chair  
University of Maryland  
Extension  
11975 Homewood Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
410-531-5973  
wtm@umd.edu





## TREE FAQ

### Who should I get to prune my tree?

The State of Maryland requires that any person providing tree care (including pruning and removal) for compensation on trees greater than 20 feet tall must have a Tree Expert License. Always check to see if the person you are hiring has this license. The MD Forest Service website has a searchable list of Licensed Tree Expert (LTE) companies.

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programapps/newtreexpert.aspx>

### Do I need permission to plant and care for a tree?

If the tree is to be planted within a public road right-of-way, you will need a permit from the Department of Natural Resources Forest Service. Check with your local government as some cities and counties have special requirements regarding locating and selecting the right species of trees.

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/MarylandersPlantTrees/frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx>



*Maryland Arborist Association Volunteer Day at Federal Hill in Baltimore City in 2018. LTEs at work!*

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*“January’s speakers were Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor at the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, and Dr. Dexter Locke, Research Scientist at the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station.”*

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## GROWING THE URBAN TREE CANOPY CONTINUED

Speakers in the series so far have included leaders from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Blue Water Baltimore, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Prince George’s County Department of Environment.

January’s topic took a historical view of the ways that state and local policies have literally and figuratively shaped our current environment. January’s speakers were Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor at the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, and Dr. Dexter Locke, Research Scientist at the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for future sessions, please email [mdurbanforest@gmail.com](mailto:mdurbanforest@gmail.com)

This webinar series is sponsored by Maryland Department of the Environment, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, Maryland Forestry Foundation, Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee, Maryland Association of Forest Conservation District Boards and Maryland Municipal League. □



## MUCFC MEMBERS

**Wayne Lucas** – Chair, Landscape Architect/Arborist/Tree Care Expert, Prince George's Department of Public Works

**Megan Carr** – Vice Chair, Urban Forester, City of Baltimore, Forestry

**Dawn Balinski**— Treasurer

**Rebecca Feldberg** - Secretary, Consulting Arborist

**Frederick Johnson**— Park Manager I, Prince George's County Parks

**Cheryle Franceschi**— Producer, Por Eco Productions, One Idea/Dos Languages

**Jeanne Kavinski** - Arborist, Pope Farm Nursery, M-NCPPC/Montgomery Parks

**Agnes Kedmenecz**— Woodland Stewardship Educator, UMD Extension, Wye Research & Education Center

**Wanda MacLachlan** - Grants Lead, Area Educator, Residential Landscape Management, University of Maryland Extension

**Augie Mahar**— Distribution Program Manager, Vegetative Management, BGE

**Jason Sprouls**— Community Forestry Program Manager, Neighborhood Design Center

**Kristin Taddei** - Forest Conservation Planner Coordinator, Montgomery County Planning Department

**Marian Honecny**— Supervisor, Urban & Community Forestry, Maryland Forest Service

**Julie Mawhorter**—USDA, US Forest Service Rep

**Anne Gilbert** – DNR Liaison, Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator—Central Region, Maryland Forest Service

## LEARN MORE

The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee (MUCFC) is a volunteer group of citizens, professionals, and government officials united to protect and enhance Maryland's forest ecosystems. MUCFC is a sub-committee of the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards. The primary functions of the Committee are to promote and coordinate the Maryland Community PLANT Award Program that officially recognizes communities planting and caring for trees, and to administer Grants to schools and communities through their local Forestry Boards that promote planting and care of trees.



### Learn more about applying for a MUCFC Grant online:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programs/urban/mucfcgrant.aspx>



*"The sign explains that the food forest provides food harvest, shade canopy, improved air and water quality, and wildlife habitat and that it is a resource available to the community to harvest for free and to participate as volunteers in the care of the plants." - From the Havre de Grace Green Team's Final Report*

## DONATE TODAY

Help support MUCFC's work throughout Maryland by donating today.

Visit the Maryland's Forest Conservancy District Boards Donations page and click the PayPal "**Donate**" button:

<http://www.marylandforestryboards.org/donations.cfm>

Be sure to specify MUCFC or Urban Canopy in the special instructions section of the payment form.