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**Landscaping Newsletter and Garden Tips
August, 2013 Volume 112**

Congratulations Dave & Karen Smith!

**Winners of our Free Tick Spray
for July, 2013**



This is a picture of our spray truck. It's been running non-stop since early May.

The free tick spray contest was designed to give back to our community. The value of this service is up to \$500.00.

We asked you to nominate a deserving family or individual to receive our tick repellent service. And, you nominated a LOT of people!

We received many emails, letters and a phone call or two. It was so difficult to choose. We wish we could have helped everyone.

However, we finally picked Dave & Karen Smith of Tilghman, MD to receive the spray. Their good friend, Debbie Sherwood, nominated them. Here's what she wrote:

"I nominate Dave & Karen Smith of Bar Neck in Tilghman Island. They are a part of the Chesapeake Bay Retriever Rescue.

They foster parent the "Chessies" - rehabilitate health, manners, etc. They work tirelessly and make sure the dogs they take in have great homes and adopt them out.

They also follow up on how the dogs are doing. Plus, if there are any problems, they want the dog brought back, not turned into a shelter.

The dog they have now, Chaka, had to have two different surgeries to repair ACL injuries to two different legs. Chaka is doing great because of their good care.

And, please don't forget the Chesapeake Bay retriever is our state dog!

What an awesome couple. They deserve some kind of recognition for their big hearts. They are really great, but humble folks. Thanks!"

...Debbie Sherwood

Thanks to everyone who reached out to try and help someone else. Watch this space for more contests.

A great addition to your landscaping...

Black-Eyed Susans look wonderful in local gardens

We have a lot of Black-Eyed Susans (Rudbeckia) in our garden. They are always good for a vivid POP of color.

In addition to being our state flower, they're low maintenance. Plant them in a sunny spot, that's well drained.

Here are some of the best reasons to include them in your garden:

*Black-eyed Susans attract butterflies.
Deer almost always avoid them.*

They're perennials, so they come back year after year.



For more information from the state of Maryland, check out this link:
[Black-Eyed Susans](#)

What I did on my Summer Vacation



Here's a shot of our newly renovated kitchen. There's a full size refrigerator opposite the stove.

As you may remember, I own a small trailer in Ocean City. Melissa and I love spending time there. I fish and we both garden and cook...all the things we never have time for when we're at home.

Well, I bought another one last year and have fixed it up like a dream. It's brand new from floor to ceiling. Including the floor and the ceiling. And the walls as well.

All new appliances and a big screened porch. A full kitchen. We offer free wi-fi and a flat screen tv. The trailer even has a washer and dryer.

It sleeps two or three and is available for rentals by the week or weekend. Please let me know if you're interested.



*Here's a photo of the front. Take a look at the huge screened porch.
It's the favorite spot for most guests.*

August Garden Tips

* Ah, August. That brief time of the season when there's not much we have to do in the garden.

Sure, we need to pull a few weeds. Maybe, restake the tomatoes. But mostly, we can sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Pick the tomatoes right off the vine. Figure out what to do with all the extra zucchini. Does anyone want one or twelve? Yell at Melissa for putting a pumpkin plant in our vegetable garden.

The darn thing has taken over most of one of the gardens. It's growing over the lawn and out into the driveway. She was so disgusted when she kept having to replant that garden, due to deer damage that she put in a pumpkin plant, hoping they wouldn't eat it. I hope they will...it's huge!



We can't even cut the grass beside the garden. The vines are really heavy!

- * The Better Homes and Gardens website advises that we avoid watering gardens at midday when it's hottest. More water evaporates than is absorbed into the soil. Here's more information: [BHG website](#).
- * It's best to water lawns early in the morning. When you water in the evenings, grass retains moisture overnight. There's more chance of fungal disease developing. Deep watering once or twice a week is more advisable than shallow, frequent sessions.
- * As August arrives, stop pruning evergreens. If you trim them now, you'll risk cutting away brand new growth. Then, when plants start to grow again, new growth won't have time to harden off and may be decimated during the winter.
- * You may notice a dust or talcum-like powder on your roses, phlox or lilacs this month. That's powdery mildew. It's a fungal disease and it's not usually fatal. However, it's very unsightly and spreads easily to other plants. Applying a fungicide now will keep the disease from spreading. If you're unsure about how to proceed, call us for a free evaluation. Our Plant Health Care Program may help prevent further damage to your plant.

Just a reminder...

If we provide your lawn care services, we'll be in touch with you over the

next month or so to review your lawn.

Each year, your lawn faces challenges, due to weather, water issues and more. We like to see each lawn IN PERSON to see how I can better assist your grass with my natural/organic lawn care program.

So, we'll be contacting you soon. My manager, Dave Lee or I will personally visit your property to see what's happening with your lawn.

On another note, we'll also be contacting all of our tick repellent clients again this fall. We'll need to complete your fall spray so that we can keep your family safe from ticks all year.

You need to be sprayed in the fall to kill adult ticks. You don't want them to lay eggs before the end of their life cycle. You'll have the same tick problems next spring, if we don't take steps this autumn.

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