

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



December 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

Gardening projects might be winding down for the year; but, with planning already underway for 2011, VCE-MGs are still plenty busy. Shortly after the new year begins, the Class of 2010 will officially become VCE Master Gardeners. They will graduate at our association's annual Awards Dinner, which will be held on Thursday, January 13th. Mark the date on your new calendar now and plan to join us. In addition to graduation, there will be other awards, perhaps some entertainment and plenty of time to socialize. Bring your spouse or a guest along for a relaxing, fun evening. The cost will be \$14 per person, and you can pay at the December meeting (or mail a check to our treasurer, Linda Wever, at 3253 Oak Branch Road, Toano, 23168).

A new Training Class will begin on January 10th. Another Mini-MG College will take place on Saturday, February 26th with several of our Therapeutic Gardening volunteers providing one of the programs. A new Peninsula Tree Steward class is forming. There is no such thing as "down time" for us! If by chance you do find time for some winter reading, *The Brother Gardeners* by Andrea Wulf will take you back to the

18th Century and the great strides that were made then in the field of botany. For CW gardeners, many of the names will be familiar in this surprisingly readable (and well-documented) history of plants and plantsmen. Anna Lappe's *Diet for a Hot Planet*, however, is pure 21st Century. She will have you trying to figure out how to enlarge your vegetable garden next year.

JCC/W MG Association dues for 2011 will remain \$15 and can also be paid at the December 2nd meeting or sent to Linda Wever. One check to Linda (made out to JCC/W MG Association) would take care of dues and dinner!

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving, and we will see you on December 2nd at 9:00 a.m. to learn about orchids, socialize over refreshments provided by Incredible Edibles volunteers, and have our final association business meeting for 2010.

You are cordially invited to attend
JCC/W Master Gardener Association
Class of 2010 Graduation and Awards Dinner
Thursday, January 13, 2011, at 6:00 pm
Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist Church
3051 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg
\$14 per person—No charge for our 2010
Graduates
Reservations and payment accepted through
January 6, 2011

Next Monthly Meeting:

Dec. 2, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg
Regional Library;
Steve Urlick, "Orchid
Selection and Advice"



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2010
MG Board

President:
Linda Lucas

VP Projects:
Jeanne Millin

VP Internal Ed:
Harriet Parsons

VP Administration:
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Secretary:
Pat Janot

Treasurer:
Linda Wever

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Dave Banks

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:00 am, at the James City County Health and Human Services Building, on Olde Towne Road.

The Board meetings are open to all Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

BY HARRIET PARSONS

I don't know about you but I have purchased so many orchids, taken them home, enjoyed the beautiful, exotic bloom and never saw them bloom again. Needless to say, I am excited that we will have Steve Urlick, the conservator and curator of the Kaplan Orchid Conservatory at Old Dominion University as our speaker for our December 2 meeting. Steve oversees the health and well-being of over 1500 orchids. He will share tips on orchid selection and advice on care to ensure your orchids will bloom for years to come. Bring your friends and neighbors for what I know will be an exciting and interesting topic.



If you are looking for after-the-holidays educational activities think about traveling to Danville, Virginia where the Master Gardeners will be presenting a program on January 20, titled "Spring to Green."

Closer to home on Thursday, January 27, the Virginia Horticultural Foundation celebrates the 7th annual Home Gardener Day with a mid-atlantic horticulture short course in Virginia Beach aptly titled "Dem Bones: Structure in Great Landscape and Garden Design." I often look out my window in the dead of winter wishing my garden had more backbone such as red twig dogwood, berries, interesting bark or branch structure. This program sounds like just the place to get new ideas especially for those of you in Landscape Love. Let me know if there is interest and we will put together a car pool. More information about the great speakers can be found at www.mahsc.org/hgp.php.

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall color and weather.

"Leaves fall in gentle swirls to the ground
wind-borne speeding past the eaves
they whisper sounds as though self-willed
somersaulting, chasing one another"

Han Yu



LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY ANNE NIELSEN

Thanks to the continuing effort of our 42 volunteers, we had another successful round of residential visits. We expended 168.75 Master Gardener hours, seeing 54 residents. After a blistering summer, many landscapes were in need of repair and many homeowners desperate for sound advice. Residents were full of praise for the help that was given. I appreciate the dedication of all our volunteers. It is a concerted effort to say the least. Thank you, thank you to everyone. I hope to see many of you next spring when we start again!!

There was a great turnout (55) for the training session on "Sustainable Landscapes" and



"Weeds". Many thanks to Bob Winters for setting up our speakers, and serving as program coordinator. The handout on weeds should be with every landscape love volunteer when making a visit. The goodies that so many provided were delicious. Thanks to all those who contributed as well as Ruth Ann Pemberthy and Jeanne Millin who manned the door.

Happy Holidays!

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VCE-MG TRAINING PROGRAM NEWS

BY CAROL FRYER AND BARB LANDA

The next VCE-MG Training Class starts Jan. 10th 2011. We have moved the classroom location to the James City Williamsburg Community Center, aka "The Rec Center" on Longhill Road. Our classes are scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays, so you may see some of our trainees at our Thursday MG monthly meetings in February and March. Our last day of classroom training is April 4th. At the April 7th monthly meeting, we will present our new interns to the membership.

We have 29 students in the training program - 24 new trainees, 2 former Master Gardeners taking required classes for reinstatement, and 3 employees from various Ace Hardware stores on the Peninsula. Our new students bring a wealth of life experiences, enthusiasm, a love of gardening, and a desire to help educate the community about horticulture and sustainable landscape management.

Mary Liz Sadler has graciously accepted the role as Mentor Coordinator for this coming year, and is currently recruiting mentors. Please contact Mary Liz if you would like to help out with the new trainees. Mary Liz and Reba Hazlewood are also mentors to us for which we are eternally grateful. Even though they may feel they have told us everything they know about running the training program, we still have hundreds of questions for them each week as we tackle new phases of preparation for the class.

Peg Crews will again coordinate the Help Desk which, in our opinion, is not an easy task. We thank her for all her effort and time that she contributes to make the Help Desk happen. Peg plans to have a special Help Desk training session for the mentors so that they will have current information about the computer system, procedures, location of forms, recommended resources books and on-line VT pest management guide.

Peg and Mary Liz will be working closely with each other and with us to help provide support to the students at each phase of their training - classroom program and internship,

Rich Bunger remains our quiz master. He is responsible for developing all the quizzes, mid-term exam and final exam. Rich is also the contact person if any Master Gardeners would like to attend a class, as space allows. Rich's email is: shadyldy1@verizon.net

We've added a few new components to the classroom training program and look forward to a dynamic group of trainees. We have some seasoned class managers returning and will have some new class managers joining our team for the coming year. We will keep you updated and perhaps we will have newsletter input from the trainees in February.

WHO IS THIS JCC/W MG? → → →

This lady in the hat, an active JCC/W Master Gardener was seen at a recent birthday party in Williamsburg. Does anyone recognize her?



NEW KENT NEWS

BY SUSAN VOIGT

The New Kent and Charles City Master Gardeners will meet at the NK VCE on Thursday, December 9 from 9-11 am to plan for community outreach programs in 2011. All MGs in New Kent and Charles City are encouraged to attend and bring suggestions! For more information contact the NK VCE, 804-966-8487.



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MGs ON THE GO

Photos contributed by
Toddy Voorhees



Chairs Bob Winters of Turf Love and Anne Neilson of Landscape Love at the joint Sustainable Landscaping Seminar on Nov. 16th. Speakers are listed below.



Laurie Fox, VA Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center



Virginia Tech Professor
Jeffrey Derr



Laura Viancour, Coordinator of Garden Programs, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, speaking on "Use of Herbs" at the Nov. 4th meeting.



Jerry Babski "Training the Trainers" for the Pruning Team at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden on Nov. 12th.



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FALL GARDENING

BY HELEN HAMILTON



Who knew? Not me, not until our Plant Sale Chairman suggested fall potting parties, and I began to participate. Year-round gardeners also educated me, showing me plants that are forming vigorous rosettes for overwintering.

So I took a closer look at my own small garden, completely neglected since August, and started removing dead vegetation, and thinking about whether I really wanted that plant here, and this plant there. It's easy to dig and move and re-design when the growth is less rampant than in the spring. And while doing so, the extras go into six-inch pots, labeled, to be stored in the backyard until the plant sale.

With our mild late fall/early winter weather, it's the perfect time to evaluate how the garden appeared in the growing season, and to move and remove where feasible. And this is a good time to dig out the compost which has been fermenting all summer and create new beds.

It's been a lot of fun, and a lot more agreeable to work in 50-60 degree weather than 90-100!

Happy Holidays
To All !!

JCC/W Master Gardener Mission Statement

The purpose of the James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardener is to learn, educate, and communicate environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community. Trained by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener volunteers are committed to offering information to the public through sustainable landscape management educational programs.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the [January Newsletter](#) is [Monday, December 20.](#)

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Dec. 2 Monthly Meeting @ WRL, 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 20 January Newsletter Deadline
- Jan. 13 Graduation & Awards Dinner
- 4/29-4/30 2011 Plant Sale (Rec. Center)
- 6/21-6/26 MG College 2011

SUNSHINE NOTES

A donation was made in remembrance of SSG. Peter Giandomenico. A get well note was sent to Jim Kearns, Genrose Lashinger, Stephanie Harris, and Roger Evans. A note of sympathy was sent to the widow of Blake Gay, a former MG.

If you know a Master Gardener who is ill, facing surgery, has suffered a family loss, or any event in which that person might benefit from a [sunshine note](#), please contact the MG Secretary, Pat Janot. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf on the organization. Pat may be reached at 221-0289 or janotap@verizon.net.



ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. As an educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.