



The Colonial Master Gardener

December
2014

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUE LIDDELL

We are slowly getting all our ducks in a row. VCE has been talking about another item, background checks, which practice will go into effect January 2015. Happily there is no form to fill out. All we have to do is pay the fee. We plan to cover this from our MG treasury, but will have to get approval of the membership first.

The 2015 TS Class, set to begin in January, will have ten JCC/W MGs: Ginny Cranford, P.J. Fresquez, Debby Griesinger, Chere' Harper, Jean Johnston, Harriet Parsons, Joanne Sheffield, Gary Streb, Kendra Swann and Pam Woodson. This advanced training will bring added value to many of our programs. The MG Class is also organized: co-chairs, students, instructors, class managers and mentors ready to work together.

Thanks to all who have been working to keep our organization running smoothly. Enjoy our Christmas get-together and all the gatherings of family and friends this month.



Next Meeting:
Thursday, December 4

Speaker:
Noel Talcott



ADMINISTRATION

BY DIANE HARE

Thanks to all who have completed their annual Recertification Form and the Standards of Behavior Form! If you have not yet completed your forms, we will have them for you at the December general meeting, and you can also find them on the Members Page of our Website at <http://jccwmg.org/mgmembers.htm>.

Blessings to you and your Families this Holiday Season! I am so thankful for the friendships made in Master Gardening & for the gift of service that we offer to our community.

Peace & Joy,
Diane

NEWSLETTER EDITOR POSITION

BY CATHY LOHWATER

I am **urgently** looking for someone to take over the Newsletter Editor position. It takes me anywhere from 5 to 10 hours a week, depending on the length of the newsletter and the number of submissions. It is a flexible job that can be done on your own time over several days, and you can do it from home! I can help you with the transition. I use Microsoft Publisher and can turn over the template to you, or you can use any other software that you like. If you have any questions about the job, please contact me at cathy.lohwater@cox.net. No obligations! Thanks.

2014
MG Board

President:
Sue Liddell

President Elect:
Debbie Griesinger

VP
Administration:
Diane Hare

VP Projects:
Wilma Sharp

VP Internal Ed:
Kathy Bush

Secretary:
Patsy McGrady

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Jeanne Millin

Past President:
Margene
Hartsough

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

Program Asst.,
ANR:
Kate Robbins

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:30 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.

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY KATHY BUSH

If you were looking forward to Miniature Gardens this month at our meeting, we have had a change in our speaker due to an unexpected surgery. We will be welcoming Noel Talcott, MG 2011, project leader of the Poquoson Demonstration/Learning Garden. Noel has retired from 37 years with NASA Langley Research Center and now has more time to enjoy his former weekend hobby- Gardening! He will bring us pictures of the innovative raised beds, vertical growing techniques, and straw bale method of planting. They grow flowers, vegetables, and herbs in this garden that is open 365 days of the year for viewing. It is well worth a trip in season to see the fruit of their labors and also to walk the 1 mile board-walked marsh trail and outdoor educational classroom. We plan to have a fieldtrip there next year.

We will also be enjoying tasty treats prepared by the JCCW/MG board to celebrate the upcoming season. Take the time to wish your fellow gardeners a joyous holiday. In this season of lights, may your holiday be bright with the Light that shines from above!

Upcoming Fieldtrips and Opportunities

December 10, 10-11:30, CW decorations tour with Tanya Wilson. Due to overwhelming interest the tour is filled.

January 17, 10-11:30 AM- Williamsburg Botanical Garden- **The Right Cut**, a workshop on early winter tree care, pruning and tools. Barb Landa and Annette Bell are speakers. Suggested donation \$5

January 19, Virginia Horticultural Foundation's program "Gardening Freedom! Home Gardener's Day" <http://vcemastergardener.blogspot.com/2014/11/gardening-freedom-home-gardener.html>
December 22 for early registration \$80 includes lunch



York/Poquoson Master Gardeners Learning Garden at Poquoson Museum

February 10, 1-2:30, Herb Society of America open meeting- **Tussie Mussies: A Victorian Valentine**, presented by Julie Stanton. Meets at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church fellowship hall, Norge, VA. Free

March 28, 2015, 8-3 PM, Northern Neck Master Gardeners and VCE 22nd Annual Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar "What's New and What's Tried and True" Speakers, vendors, book signings. Check website www.nnmg.org after Feb 1st for registration form. \$25

Don't forget:

Maymont Estate in Richmond is decorated for a Victorian Christmas and is open Tuesday-Sunday Nov 21- Jan 4, 12-5. (Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Day, and New Year's Day)

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden-Dominion GardenFest of Lights 2014 Friday, Nov. 28, 2014 - Monday, Jan. 12, 2015 (Closed Dec. 24 & 25) Nightly 5-9 PM. The Conservatory is always a warm, herbaceous spot on a cold day!

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TREASURER'S REMINDER

BY BOB WINTHER

Once again

Current year reimbursements ...

Please submit any and all requests for reimbursement for the current year (2014) by December 15. Any requests received later than that date will be applied to the next fiscal year budget.

MGA annual dues ...

MGA dues are still \$15. Since our By-Laws state that dues are due by January 31st, let us see if we can do better than last year by adhering to the requirements for membership in our MGA in a more timely manner.

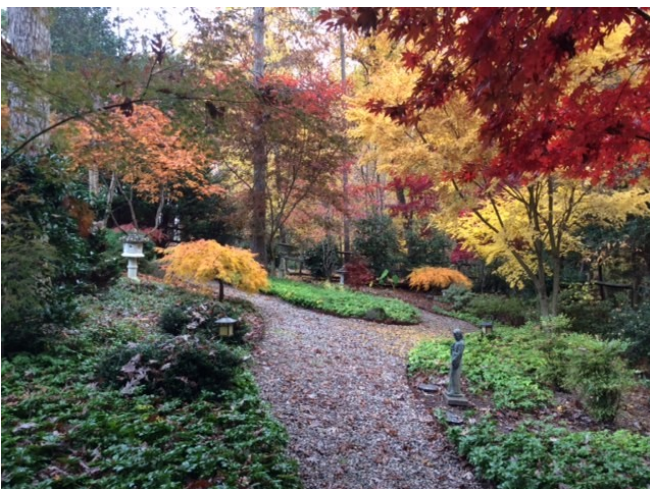
On that note, I really appreciate the effort of many members at the November general meeting in supporting our MGA by paying their annual dues at that time ... To-date I have received dues from 75 + members.

NOTE : I will be collecting dues at the December & January MGA General Meeting at a table set-up at the entrance to the meeting room. I will no longer be accepting cash so please come prepared to deliver or write a check.

Checks made out to "JCC/W Master Gardeners" with the note "Association Dues" in the memo line may be handed to me at the MG monthly meeting or sent directly to my home address.

Bob Winther - MG Treasurer
4751 Regents Park
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1798

Your prompt consideration of both these important matters is well appreciated by your MGA board.



Gorgeous Fall color in Marv Braman's yard — outstanding!

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PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW & LONGWOOD GARDENS MARCH 6&7

BY NANCY CASSANO

Schedule:

MARCH 6th— Leave 6:00-6:30am

Arrive PFS late morning.

Everyone bring a bag lunch.

The hotel said they may have a nibbles buffet for us when we return; I will ask the price.

MARCH 7th— Breakfast at hotel.

Rest of morning and early afternoon at

Longwood Gardens

Recommend a late lunch at LG.

Return back to Williamsburg round 7:30-8:30pm

We can go with a (25 person) mini-bus or a (44 person) motorcoach.

Pricing as follows (includes transportation, hotel, breakfast, taxes, entrance to PFS & Longwood Gardens):

25 person minibus-

Single rate \$291 per person

Double rate \$230 per person sharing room

44 person motorcoach-

Single rate \$246.00 per person

Double rate \$185 per person sharing room

(THE ABOVE RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH FINAL NUMBERS)

A deposit of \$500 for the Hilton Garden Inn, and a \$200 deposit for the bus company is due soon. I will be happy to use our corporate card to secure the space. The cancellation is generous. The hotel will refund the deposit if we cancel more than 45 days out and the bus deposit is totally refundable except for a \$25 process fee if cancelled 30 days or more from date of trip.

There are 17 who signed up at the October meeting and several others who emailed me their interest. At this point I would aim for the 25 seat coach unless we get another dozen confirmed travelers.

The deposit of \$100 is due by December 31st if possible. The deposit is refundable up to mid January.

I have been in contact via emails and phone calls with the bus company, hotel, PHS and Longwood Gardens. They are looking forward to our MG group coming to the Philly area.

The cost per person is APPROXIMATE! It may go up or down a bit depending on #'s.

My recommendation is to go with 25, and call first come first serve. Those that sign up and get their deposit in first have a seat on the bus! :)

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG LANDSCAPE VOLUNTEER TIME

BY PAT ABRAHAM

The Colonial Williamsburg Landscape department will be accepting applications for volunteer positions at the Reid and Shields gardens. The purpose of our volunteer program is to maintain the two gardens as "demonstration gardens" while growing flowers and vegetables of the colonial period. Through our labors, we provide support for Colonial Williamsburg and create an enviable attraction for passing visitors and touring guests. While accomplishing these goals, our volunteers maintain a mutually beneficial partnership between the Virginia Cooperative Extension, James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Each Master Gardener who wants to volunteer in the Reid/Shields gardens must commit to volunteering a minimum of 30 annual hours: 20 hours of garden work plus 4 hours of training plus 6 hours of miscellaneous gardening in CW.

These hours can be spread among all the projects in the Reid/Shields Gardens....Perennials, Herbs, Roses, Veggies and Orchard. The 6 hours of miscellaneous can be administrative work (team leaders), the Colonial Williamsburg Volunteer Enrichment series, or additional work in the gardens.

To facilitate the entry process, applications will be available from Barb Floyd and Pat Abraham at the December Master Gardener meeting. Completed applications are due Friday, January 9, 2015. They can be mailed to the address on the application or dropped off at the Franklin Street office, attention Trish Barner, Volunteer Coordinator. If you are unable to attend the December meeting, contact Barb or Pat to make arrangements to obtain an application.

Barb Floyd: bmfloyd@cox.net

Pat Abraham: tspmeritage@cox.net

E2 UPDATE BY KARI ABBOTT



As the holiday season begins to unfold, a wish to all who volunteer in E2 and to all our Master Gardener's for a very cheerful and safe holiday season!

In December there were be several schools going to the Millfarm Christmas Tree and Berry Farm. If you would like to volunteer for an E2 field trip this is a fun one! We are at the farm for an hour and a half. The children are there for one hour. It is an easy walk. The weather usually is quite nice; it is not too cold, and just right for walking through the evergreens. This field trip is quick and fun.

The dates of the field trips are
Dec 5th Friday – JBB from 10:00-11:00
Dec 9th Tuesday – DJM 10:00-11:00
Dec 10th Wednesday – Matthew Whaley from 10:00-11:00

There are three stations the children rotate through. One is walking through the farm seeing how a farmer plants trees. The second station the children learn that trees need soil, water, and sun to grow, and what happens when trees grow too closely together. Yes, a hard hat and a toy chain saw are involved. Comparisons are made between natural forest and cultivated farms. Children learn the trees are a natural, renewable resource. This is the beginning of learning about sustainable forestry initiatives. The third station is a lesson to pay tribute to the owners of the farm. Both of the owners are volunteer fire fighters. A side benefit is if you haven't picked out your Christmas tree, you are in the right place to buy a locally grown tree.

The field trips will be the meeting times for the three schools. There will be no classroom instruction at these three schools.

Please email bearsbaskets@cox.net if you would like to volunteer for the field trip or have any questions about volunteering. If you would like to see the write up of the field trip I will gladly share it with you. We have a lot of fun.

Respectfully,
Kari Abbott

FALL TIPS FOR GARDENERS BY AVRIL PURVIS

Enjoy the last of the sunshine in your yard before winter arrives and get a jump on next spring by tackling a few simple chores. Fall work in the garden can be done at a much more leisurely pace, but equally as important as spring and summer. After the first frost, cutting down perennials and removing annuals from the garden beds is the best way to ensure a healthy garden for next spring. Add 2" - 3" of mulch to perennial beds especially if you have recently planted new ones. The mulch gives new plants time to develop roots before the ground freezes and keeps established plants from heaving out of the soil during freezing and thawing. Dried grass clippings, straw or shredded autumn leaves work well.

The most neglected chore in fall is watering of trees and shrubs, particularly young ones; they should be watered every two weeks until the ground freezes. Remember that your autumn leaves can be used as compost; they will decompose over time and improve the soil. After the leaves are cleared from the yard, mow it one last time to a height of 2". Applying fertilizer in the fall encourages a healthy root growth and make your lawn thicker and greener for next spring. Use a fertilizer specifically formulated for fall application because it contains a blend of nutrients for root growth.

Lastly, take care of your tools before storing them for the winter. Clean the soil and sharpen as needed and apply a light coating of vegetable oil to prevent rust. Run lawn mowers until they run out of fuel and change the oil as needed. Unless you still have a need for water outside, it's time to shut off the outdoor hose valves, disconnect the hoses and drain any water to prevent damage from freezing. Have fun.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER 2014

BY HELEN HAMILTON
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER,
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Spotted Spurge *Euphorbia maculata*

Spotted Spurge is a familiar creeping annual with more or less prostrate stems, often forming circular mats. The reddish stems are filled with sticky, milky latex. Leaves are opposite, oblong, mostly under 1/2 inch long, with toothed edges. Dark green in color, each leaf often has a central purple spot. From the leaf axils, what appear to be very small flowers with four white petals are anatomically cups with petal-like edges containing several minute male flowers and one female flower each. This species can be confused with the widespread weed Nodding Spurge (*E. nutans*), which has obliquely ascending stems and larger, asymmetric leaves.

Blooming all year, from January through December, this is a common weed of open disturbed areas such as lawns, gardens, fields and even sidewalk cracks. Found in every county in Virginia, Spotted Spurge is native over eastern North America and introduced elsewhere.

The milky latex can cause skin irritation and blistering and is

Photo: Spotted Spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*) taken by Helen Hamilton



toxic if ingested. The name *maculata*, “spotted,” refers to the purplish mark on the leaf.

For more information about native plants visit
www.claytonvnps.org.

LANDSCAPE LOVE UPDATE

BY GARY STREB

This year the Landscape Love Team again surpassed all previous records with 177 home visits completed (103 in the Spring and 74 in the Fall). This milestone could not have happened without the superb professional dedication and advice of over 75 Master Gardeners and Interns. The project continues to grow not only in the number of educational visits but increased enthusiasm from the Williamsburg community.

The public good that the Landscape Love project, and each and every volunteer, provides has touched 257 Williamsburg community homeowners at home, in their own gardens. The advice is hands-on and focused on specific issues or problems. The result is more and more homeowners engaging in the development of a more sustainable landscape in their own property and therefore a more sustainable landscape county-wide and a cleaner Chesapeake Bay. The collective

educational effort of the Landscape Love project is something of which we can all be proud.

Thank you to the whole Landscape Love Team for all that you have done. As we all learn more (from each other as well as from the homeowners), communicate and serve the community the project will only get stronger and more in demand. I would personally like to thank the Team Leaders for making the project the success that it is. And a special thanks to the Interns of the Class of 2014—you all put your new education to good use with excellent results.

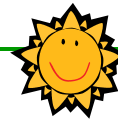
Hope to have each of you back next year. Best wishes for blessed holiday.
Gary Streb

The Colonial Master Gardener December 2014

Important Dates

- 12/4 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 12/15 All expense reimbursement requests due to Bob Winther
- 12/29 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 1/31 Annual Dues are due

SUNSHINE NOTES



The organization would like to send cards to members with difficult medical issues or who have experienced a death in the immediate family. Please provide names to the MG Secretary, Patsy McGrady, 258-1181, patsymcgrady@cox.net.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the December newsletter will be Monday, December 29.

Please send any submissions to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net.

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.

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.

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