

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



January 2012

Happy
New Year!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS

Wow, it's gotten cold for a few days. It's starting to feel a lot like winter. We've all been busy this month with preparations for the holidays and festivities that abound during this time of year. As we move through the season, we often forget that there are things that we could be doing in our gardens to help our plants through the harsh winter weather that is about to descend on us. Have you mulched your plants? Have you pulled weeds? Have you cut down your old growth that's already died back? I am way behind and need to get out there to do work in the gardens now to keep ahead of the schedule. If we keep up with it, then the start of a new growing season won't be so arduous.

We held a board meeting on the December the 16th. Bob Winters, Anne Nielsen, and Gary Streb came before the board to give us a preview of the expansion of Turf Love this coming year. The name will change to Turf Love – Garden Love and will not only review the home owner's needs for their lawn, but will be working in conjunction with James City County to visually survey, design and advise homeowners to evaluate the need for a rain garden to help combat storm water runoff and keep chemicals out of the estuaries, rivers and Chesapeake bay. It is an exciting program and more will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

Interest-bearing accounts were again discussed. A proposal was made to have a committee study various available plans and come up with a solution that would best fit the organizational needs. We will be recruiting members for the committee in the coming month after we've all had time to recoup from the holidays.

The proposed 8 hours of required work for the Help Desk by master gardeners was discussed again. Peg Crews will be invited to the board meeting in January to address the

proposal, and work with the board for a suitable solution to her proposal.

A motion for Tony Bentivegna was made to move to Emeritus status. It was approved. Congratulations Tony!

The board finalized plans for the January Meeting which will begin at 9 AM on the 5th in the Williamsburg Library Auditorium. All Interns are asked to sit down front in the rows that will have been reserved for them. A business meeting will be held first with the graduation following immediately. Upon graduation everyone is encouraged to have refreshments in the Shell Room to welcome all the new Master Gardeners.

A reception was discussed briefly for the JCC administrators so they could get to know the extension personnel and what services/programs we are capable of providing. This is a wonderful opportunity to get the county extension's name in front of the county supervisors and administrators and selected personnel that we have not met.

As we move into the new automated time keeping system in January, I would ask that everyone be patient as it is implemented. We are sure there will be many questions and several possible problems. We are planning on having computers in the small meeting room adjacent to the auditorium in January for those of you that need help. Please keep in mind that the instructors and the people in the organization that are handling the time keeping system are not your enemy, but there to assist you when needed. Please be patient and nice to them as they work with you!

From my computer to yours I hope all you, your family and friends have had a wonderful set of safe and sane holidays.

2012 TRAINING PROGRAM

BY CAROL FRYER

The new 2012 MG Training Class starts on January 2nd, 2012. A schedule of classes is attached. JCC/W Master Gardeners can audit a class if room is available. Call or email either Barb Landa or Carol Fryer to request a seat for specific classes. There are approximately 8- 10 extra seats for MGs. Once we receive your request, we will let you know if there is room for you. Sign up early to get a seat!

Monthly Meeting

January 5, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional Library;

Intern Graduation

The Colonial Master Gardener January 2012

2012
MG Board

President:
Roger Evans

VP Projects:
Beth Fugate

VP Internal Ed:
Harriet Parsons

VP Administration:
Margene Hartsough

Secretary:
Mary Ellen Edwards

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Linda Lucas

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

Someone asked why we were having the intern graduation at the January meeting instead of the evening dinner program we have had in the past. The reason is that many of us thought we would like to see the interns recognized by the full membership for their completion of the requirements to become a Master Gardener. Remember how hard it was to do the course work and complete your hours? Let's all show up and give them a big hand! Let's see how it goes, feel free to let the board know which you favor. Hope to see you at the January meeting; remember, there will be food!

The February program for the monthly meeting will feature four of our own MG's who have developed their garden in a particular style. The discussion will not be just about how pretty their garden is but what their vision was, the challenges they faced, how the garden was changed or developed and what plans they have for the future. We will see a formal colonial garden, a colorful garden, water features in the garden and a shade garden.

There are lots of educational programs coming up over the dormant winter months, as noted below. Some are near, some far but still worth the drive for those advanced hours we need.

January 19, Danville MG Association "Spring to Green," a horticultural symposium covering rose care to the ten worst landscape design ideas.

January 20-22, The Virginia Flower & Garden Expo, Virginia Beach Convention Center. Not just another pretty flower show since it is now

organized by Laurie Fox, we will learn as well as have fun. Subjects will range from permeable pavers to a tour of "Nature's Wild Pantry."

February 2, "What's Buggin' You," Insects in Our Gardens, Newport News, sponsored by the Virginia Horticultural Foundation. Meet Amy Stewart, author of *Wicked Bugs*.

February 8-10, Winter Symposium & CUNLA Short Course, "Treading Lightly on the Land" presented by the Lewis Gintner Botanical Garden and CVE.

February 16, Piedmont Landscape Association, co-sponsored by the Virginia Native Plant Society, Charlottesville. Hear author Catherine Zimmerman speak on meadowscaping as a lawn alternative as well as many other well-known speakers.

February 25, The 3rd Annual Master Gardener Day at VSU, Focus on Food from Field to Table, Petersburg, Virginia. A variety of subjects from pollinators, "super foods" to school garden programs will be presented. This is the one not to be missed.

February 25, Four-County MG's and CVE presents "Sparking Creativity in Your Garden," Culpeper, Virginia.

Remember, if you need more detail, do a search in your e-mails from me and you will find what details you need and how to register. Good news is that there is a calendar program in our new hour's reporting system starting in January where I should be able to post these events and will enable you to see at a glance what is coming up. Cheers.

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.

TREASURY REMINDER

BY BOB WINTHER

Association dues of \$15 are now due for fiscal year 2012. These monies help to support the programs of your MGA and are crucial to the well being of our organization.

Checks made out to "JCC/W Master Gardeners" with the note "Association Dues" in the memo line may be handed to me at a 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 this matter is well appreciated by your MGA board.

Thanks in advance.

JANUARY WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

BY HELEN HAMILTON, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

EBONY SPLEENWORT

Asplenium platyneuron

This is a small fern, with fronds tapering at both ends. The leaflets are oblong, narrow, and pointed, with a projection (ear) near the base; they are distinctly spaced, not opposite, with toothed edges. The fronds with reproductive spores grow to 10 inches long; the sterile fronds are shorter, spreading and evergreen. From the underside, the frond-stem (rachis) is red-brown in color; the fertile frond shows oblong spore cases. In summer the tall ladder-like fertile leaves with shining dark stems stand out prominently through the undergrowth, and especially as silhouettes against roots and rocks, alongside which they like to grow.

This little fern grows in moist but well-drained locations throughout eastern U.S. Very adaptable, it occurs in open woodland, on rocky banks, and on rotting logs, but thrives especially in thickets and other disturbed areas. Frequently colonizing masonry in urban and rural sites, it prefers calcareous rocks (or mortar joints) but will also grow on subacid rock. Ranging from Quebec to Kansas and Colorado and south to Florida, Texas and Arizona, Ebony Spleenwort is found in every county in Virginia. Spores are formed May through September.



Photo: Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*) taken by Helen Hamilton

Linnaeus provided the genus name, derived from *asplenon*, a name used by the ancient Greek Dioscorides for some fern supposed to cure disease of the spleen. The plant should be named the "Brown-stem Spleenwort," since nothing about the fern is black.

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

HELP WANTED

BY BETH FUGATE

We need a few good men and women to fill three openings for project leaders and/or co-leaders. I am certain there are several Master Gardeners who have the abilities to help with all of these openings. Please let me know if you are interested. Without your participation, we may have to suspend these worthy projects. Thanks in advance for all of your good work!

Wood Products: Dan Tevlin and Frank Messina have been co-managing the Wood Project but Frank can no longer participate. Ailene Bartlett has volunteered shop space and Dan is an experienced, ready and willing co-chair who needs help with this project. If you have woodworking skills and a little bit of time, please help us out so we can keep this worthy project going. The bird houses are beautiful but simple.

School Gardens: Roger Evans and Genrose Lashinger have done a fantastic job of getting this very worthwhile project off and running and they are now ready to hand it over to a new project team. Here's the description:

E40 School Gardens: Roger Evans, rwevans@cox.net, 651-2152; and Genrose Lashinger, glashinger@cox.net, 221-0370.

This program provides information and advice on organic and sustainable gardening practices to schools which are interested in maintaining school gardens. Advisors will provide information and guidance to committees from each school. These committees should include parent organizations and teachers. They may also speak to classes occasionally as part of an approved curriculum.

(See Detailed Project Overview on Page 5.)

Please let me know if you are willing to help with these projects. – **RSVP to Beth Fugate, 345-6048 or jbfugate@cox.net**



GROW IT & EAT IT! LINDA LUCAS

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Two of our MG projects, Incredible Edibles and School Gardens, are joining forces to present a workshop on Saturday, March 17, on growing our own fruits and vegetables. The event will take place at the Recreation Center from 8:30am to 2:30pm and is geared to all in our community who are interested in knowing more about growing their own food, whether in a school garden, a neighborhood garden or our own personal gardens.

An organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19th, at 1:30pm in the multi-purpose room at the Human Services Building on Olde Towne Road. *If you volunteer with Incredible Edibles or with the School Gardens project, please plan to attend.* If you just have an interest in this topic and would like to help us get ready, do join us at this meeting...and we ask all VCE-MGs to help us spread the word about this March 17 event!



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THERAPEUTIC GARDENING IN 2012 BY LINDA LUCAS

Just a reminder to all Therapeutic Gardening volunteers...we will meet on Thursday, January 26th, at 1:30pm in the multi-purpose room at Human Services on Olde Towne Road. Do plan to attend to help us get organized for all of our 2012 programs. If you have not volunteered with TG before but would like to know more, please come! Many programs will be continuing, some beginning as early as February; and several new ones will be explained. Contact Linda Lucas for more information.

MG TRAINING FOR TURF LOVE- GARDEN LOVE PROGRAM BY BARB FOLEY

James City County is implementing the Garden Love Program (addendum to the VCE Turf Love Program) to install rain gardens throughout the County. The Turf Love staff is involved, as are Master Gardeners. Dr. Laurie Fox, Ph.D., (Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Beach) will address the volunteers at a meeting on February 22. (Note: This presentation will not conflict with the Water Steward class the same date.)

Accordingly, please save the following date for Master Gardener training for the Garden Love Program:

Date: Wednesday, February 22

Time: 9 a.m.

Where: Human Resources Center (5249 Olde Towne Road, off Longhill Road)

How to register: Please call Mr. Bob Winters at 564-1662.

MG HOURS REPORTING BY LINDA LUCAS

Remember to report all of your MG hours for 2011 to Dave Banks in the normal manner: using the on-line form in the Members section of our website or the pdf form found there that you can download, complete and send to Dave. Hours for 2011 should be reported to Dave by January 31, 2012! To maintain your status as an active VCE-MG, you need at least 20 hours of project or administration volunteering and 8 hours of advanced education (programs at our monthly meetings of some other lecture or event that provides horticultural education).

We will each begin recording our own hours into the new state system in 2012. Help will be available at the January 5th meeting if you have questions about the new system or have not yet registered.

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

BY ROGER EVANS

E-40 School Gardens - - Co-Chairs Roger Evans and Genrose Lashinger

The school garden program provides information and advice on organic and sustainable gardening practices to schools which are interested in maintaining school gardens with an emphasis on farm to table vegetable gardening in support of the White House initiative to educate children about planting, growing and nutrition. As Master Gardeners, we advise, provide information and guidance to committees from each school about gardening, design, and recommend simple curricula for the teachers, committee members and children. The advisors also work with the teachers in the garden to teach planting, techniques and sound horticultural practices incorporating organics.

The School Garden Project was started in October, 2010 with two schools participating and 4 advisors to those two schools. Since that time, the project has grown to 6 schools and 17 advisors participating in the project. The

six schools participating in the project are J. Blaine Blayton Elementary, Matoaka Elementary, Norge Elementary, Berkeley Elementary, Jamestown High and Lafayette High this year. Starting next year we are adding a 7th school which is James River Elementary School. We will be reaching over 1500 children and contributing more than 300 hours to the schools next year.

The School Garden Project chairs have partnered with SHIP (School Health Initiative Program) which will provide some funding to the schools for purchase of vegetable plants and seeds, maintenance and repair of the gardens and new start-ups to support the ongoing effort to start healthy gardens in all schools within the county.

We always welcome master gardeners who want to work with the school garden project. If you would like further information contact either Roger Evans or Genrose Lashinger.

HERBS IN THE LANDSCAPE TO ADD TEXTURE, INTEREST AND MAGIC

BY PAT CROWE

Herbs for cooking, herbs for crafts, herbs for bouquets. How about herbs for landscaping? Don Haynie, florist, garden consultant and former owner of Buffalo Springs Herb Farm will inspire you to incorporate herbs into your landscape. He will conduct a presentation "**Herbs in the Landscape to Add Texture, Interest and Magic**" at the Herb Society's public meeting on **February 14**. Mr. Haynie will talk about the use of herbs to make the landscape more attractive and stress that herbs can be used in many areas of the garden because they take lots of heat and need less water than many annual and perennial plants.

The presentation is free of charge. In addition, you will receive an informative handout, containing Mr. Haynie's 20 favorite herbs for landscaping. The meeting will be held at 1:30 PM at Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church at 7479 Richmond Road, Norge, VA. and is free of charge.

Contact Pat Crowe for more information.

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PRUNING NEWS

BY ANNETTE BELL

The pruning application cycle for the Pruning Project is underway and will end January 14, 2012. At that time appointments with applicants will be scheduled. Applications can be made by going to our website and submitting them online. During the pruning sessions a homeowner will be given hands-on instruction by one of our teams of 2 to 3 Master Gardeners in proper pruning techniques to maintain healthy ornamental shrubs and small trees. This project, along with Landscape Love and Turf Love, is a valuable service to county and city homeowners. The response we received last year was very positive, and the homeowners the teams visited seemed to very much appreciate the help they were given.



VMGA REPORT: DEC 10, 2011 MEETING

BY MARILYN RIDDLE AND ANGELA CINGALE

- Excellent Powerpoint of unit activities was presented by host MG President --
 - Online help desk, Mar-Dec; daylily and chrysanthemum division, vermiculture
 - Area botanical garden is a 501-c-3 organization; 21 acre with option to expand to 50 svbg.org
- 525 current VMGA members, 176 have not renewed, 159 are lifetime
- MG College scholarships—members are encouraged to approach the unit to express interest in one of the scholarships, not needs-based but rather MG activities; \$800 in budget for 2012 scholarships; deadline is Apr 4
- State Fair has entered into Chapter 11 to reorganize
- More nominees are needed on the VMGA slate
- VT Report by D. Close
 - 50 Virginians attended Intl MG Convention in WV, 40 were MGs
 - Logo design contest for 25th MG College is still open
 - Dean Grant announced that VA now has 190 agents and expects to have 220 by next summer
 - Dr. Jerzy Nowak is back in a part time position
 - Strategic Action Plan for 2012-2016 is completed...seven major areas
 - Four new buildings are being constructed for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences near “the cage” residential parking lot
- Volunteers needed for Maymont Flower and Garden Show; free admission on that day
- Brochure is available for the 3rd annual VMGA Day at VSU on February 25, 2012, “From Field to Table”
- Next meeting--February 11, 2012 in Prince William County

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **February Newsletter** is **Monday, January 23.**

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

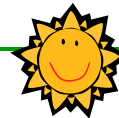
Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 1/5 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 1/23 Feb. Newsletter Submission Deadline
- 2/14 Herb Society's Public Meeting
- 2/22 Garden Love Training
- 3/17 “Grow and Eat It” Seminar
- 4/14 VMGA Meeting Hosted in Wmbg.

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.

SUNSHINE NOTES



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, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or JMEE12350@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.

MG Training Class Schedule 2012

Date	Location	Chapter/Topic	Speaker
Jan. 9 – Mon	Classes are in Room A at JC/W Community Ctr	Orientation	Extension Staff, MGs
Jan 11 - Wed	unless otherwise indicated	1 Botany	Dr. Eric Engstrom
Jan 16 – Mon		4&5 Pathology	Mike Likins
Jan 18 – Wed		3 Entomology	Dr. Michael Meyer
Jan 23 – Mon		6 Pest Management & Guide	Renee Hypes /Dan Nortman
Jan 25 – Wed		2 Soil	Sam Doak/ Bob Winters
Jan 30 – Mon		11 & 10 Vegetables & Fruit	Andy Bradshaw
Feb 1 - Wed		9 Houseplants/Native Plants	Aileen Bartlett/ Helen Hamilton
Feb 6 – Mon	Field trip – not open to MGs	7 Propagation Workshop	Jerry Babski
Feb 8 – Wed		14 Annuals, Bulbs, Herbs	Laura Viancour,
Feb 13 - Mon		15 Landscape	Brian O'Niel,
Feb 15 – Wed		14 Perennials/Roses	Lisa Sanderson Clare Britcher
Feb 22 - Wed		13 Trees & Shrubs	Mike Andruczyk
Feb 27 – Mon		Intern Reports	2012 Interns
Feb 29 - Wed		8 Pruning	Wesley Green
March 5 –Mon	Field Trip not open to MGs	Pruning Workshop	MG Pruning Team
March 7 - Wed		16 Water Quality & Resource Protection	Larry Foster/ Dr. Laurie Fox
March 12 - Mon		12 Lawns	Bob Winters
March 14 Wed		Weed ID	Dr. Jeff Derr
March 19 - Mon	* Human Service Building	Help Desk/Diagnostic/Hours	Crews/Curtis/Giffin
March 21- Wed	Field Trip not open to MGs	Tree Walk	
March 26 -Mon	“ “ “	Teaching Gardens	MGs
March 28 –Wed	“ “ “	Bennett Nursery	Peggy Krapf
April 2 – Mon		Possible Make-up Day	
April 5-Thurs	* Williamsburg Library	Risk Management/ MG Mtg. Trainee Graduation & Reception	

Seating is limited in the classroom, therefore, JCC/W MG members that wishes to audit a class must contact either Barb Landa (220-0279) or Carol Fryer (220-0759) to see if a seat is available.