



# The Colonial Master Gardener

Publication of JCC/WBG Master Gardener Association & Virginia Cooperative Extension

May 2005

## SUSTAINABILITY Planning Sustainable School Gardens

No matter how well you plan and how beautiful a place you create, if the garden is not child-generated, then children will lack ownership. If children lack ownership, they will lack a sense of stewardship. Sustainability requires stewardship. If the garden is to be used, respected and cared for, then stewardship is the key.

The act of building a garden means that you are ultimately relying on ethics. All ethics, to paraphrase conservationist Aldo Leopold, rely on the premise that an individual is a member of a larger community. Instinct may prompt an individual to compete, but ethics prompts them to cooperate. Leopold defines "land ethic" as the idea of extending the community to include soil, water, plants and animals. For more information see the complete article on:

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/Dig/DigDetail.taf?ID=2067&Type=Art> LEANNE DUBOIS

### PRESIDENT

Barbara Schroeder Gustafson '99  
564-1888

### HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS

#### ASSOCIATE

Leanne DuBois, '96  
JCC Coop. Extension Agent  
564-2170

#### WEBMASTER

David Banks '03  
258-8632

#### NEWSLETTER

Charlie Clapper '02 564-6191

*The purpose of the James City County/Williamsburg*

*Master Gardener is to learn, educate and communicate*

*environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community.*

### NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

May 5, 2005

9:00 am

WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

### "THE BEST SMALL PLANTS FOR WILLIAMSBURG"

Linda Johnson, Professor of Horticulture, Christopher Newport University

### AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

The Speakers' Bureau is pleased to announce an award to recognize significant contributions in furtherance of its mission. The *Order of the Golden Spade* was inaugurated on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Certificates of induction were presented to Peggy Krapf and Carl Brown for their sustained work in the Speakers' Bureau and their overall impact in educating the public. Members of the Order are also presented with a miniature golden spade in appreciation of their efforts.

Have **knowledge** about the environment and be **mindful** how your actions contribute to its stress and take appropriate **actions** to reduce damage.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At the April general meeting, I enjoyed presenting Milestone Awards to the following: 20 Year Milestone Award to Ailene Bartlett (1985); 15 Year Milestone Awards to Jim Pressly (1987), Nelda Pressly (1988), and Peggy Krapf (1990). 10 Year Milestone Awards to Tony Bentivegna (1992), Audrey Hoitsma, Phyllis Jennings, Francis Knight, and Grace Raymond (all 1993), Bill Baetz (1994), and Sue Liddell, Margaret Mondul, Wayne Moyer, Martha Smith, and Lynn Trott (all 1995). Last year a special award for the longest active member was presented to Eileen Kuras (1983). Jack Rascoe (1990), and Carl Brown, Hildegard Demmert, and Don Demmert (all 1993) have been awarded special Emeritus Awards.

A Special Award for Outstanding Service was presented to Mary Sheedy who served three years as Publicity Chair. Mary is leaving Williamsburg to live nearer her children and grandchildren. Media contacts and news articles have greatly expanded during her tenure.

Our annual fund raiser, the Master Gardner Plant Sale, was a great success. You can read more about it elsewhere in this issue. Many thanks to Chair Cathy Ripley and her team Ailene Bartlett, Bruce Manilla, Becky Sutton, and Judy Hansen. I hope you read the great article about our plant sale in last Saturday's *Gazette*.

At a recent board meeting I asked for a change in our By-Laws. Article III Membership and Dues Entry E now reads: "Emeritus Master Gardener: a dedicated Master Gardener who 'retires' due to health or other reasons after 3000 hours of service, or as determined by the coordinator." According to Emeritus Master Gardener guidelines in the *VCE Master Gardener Coordinator Manual*, this status can be awarded to "A dedicated VCE-MG who retires due to health or other reasons after 300 hours of service or as determined by the coordinator". (underlining is mine.) I am asking for a change in our Association's By-Laws to require 1000 hours. A membership vote will be taken at the May General Meeting. **BARBARA SCHROEDER GUSTAFSON**

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Claire Gross, Chair, and members Art Gustafson, Susan Quick and Bob Winters announces that the following have agreed to serve on the 2005-2006 board. This slate will be presented to our membership for approval at our May General Meeting. The new board officially takes office July 1, 2005 until June 30, 2006.

President: Charlie Clapper  
1st Vice-president, Projects: Ralph Ashton  
Vice-president, Int. Education: Jean Winters  
Vice-president, Youth Projects Vacant  
Secretary: MaryAnn Kimminau  
Treasurer: Dave Banks  
State Rep: Ann DeForest and Angela Cingale  
Past President: Barbara Schroeder Gustafson

Program chairs, who are not approved by the general membership and begin terms at the desire of the President are as follows.  
Publicity: Alice Kopinitz  
Newsletter: Lise Kline  
Program : Gail Hyatt  
Helpline: Helen Hamilton  
Supplies: Flora Adams  
Training: To be announced  
Historian: To be announced

The committee thanks all who responded to the invitation to serve both to those who were able to say "yes" and those who needed to decline at this time.

## JUNIOR MASTER GARDENING

The class started with a slow kind of dragging, scuffling, "I am not sure I want to be here," uneasiness. April 13th, six children from Matthew Whaley Elementary School shuffled into the principal's office for the first Junior Master Gardener After-school Club. Soon, things started to hum with interest. The Master Gardeners working with the class had planned the class. The children were to measure our garden space in Matthey's Garden and draw a "site map." Susan Powell, Ann Davis, and I explained how to measure a garden space, and plot the dimensions on graph paper. In the garden the children measured using a walking measure wheel. They jumped at a chance to pull weeds! Although the lesson emphasized plotting site maps, Junior Master Gardening educated the children on other topics. We dug in dirt, identified weeds and other plants. Ann and Susan were stellar at identifying Star of Bethlehem that the children thought were wild onions. I gave an impromptu lesson on worms, and taught the children about the difference in litter layer, topsoil, and subsoil dwelling worms. We thought we found grubs but they turned out to be Japanese beetles. Some errant daffodils were carefully relocated. The learning and educating was wonderful and practical.

Suddenly time was up. The children left a little smarter about worms, dirt, root systems, and bulbs. They left happy and with a baggie full of Asiatic Lilly bulbs with instructions. They all expressed a commitment to return again. The Master Gardeners left with a sense of warmth and excitement about volunteering in JMG. If you want a part of the excitement contact Kari Abbott at [bearsbaskets@cox.net](mailto:bearsbaskets@cox.net).

Lastly thanks to everyone who helped the Junior Master Gardener Project. The help for this project has come from far and wide. Master Gardeners in our group have been great. Master Gardeners in York County, Newport News, in Wisconsin, Alaska, and Oregon have all contributed. Ellen Powell of 4-H is a resource about children's education unto herself. James City County employees Beth Davis and Jennifer Privette had solutions that wowed me. Thank you to the JCC/Williamsburg schools and Williamsburg Christian Academy that have graciously let us work in their schools, supported us well, appreciated our input, and laminated our big posters. The Department of Forestry, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Norfolk Zoo have provided posters, identification booklets, and pamphlets that make the visual part of this program so much better. Publishing companies have donated books. It has been a wonderful thing to see all the kindness that is still present in this world. So THANK YOU ALL!! The Junior Master Gardener Program appreciates every small, medium, big act of kindness -it makes the JMG world shine a lot brighter. **KARI ABBOTT.**

## PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS

Thirteen Master Gardeners completed their volunteer hours to become Peninsula Tree Stewards: Flora Adams, Richard Bunger, Ann DeForest, Tony Dion, Lynn Flood and Art Gustafson from James City County/Williamsburg; Julie Mericle from Newport News; Wendy Mooring from Hampton, and Carol Brower, Dan Hawley Larry Riddick, Jim Robertson and Teela Robertson from York County. One of their projects might turn up at a MG meeting. "The How, When, Why and Where of an Apple Tree." The trees have been planted at Stonehouse Elementary School and were pruned in Feb. The next step is creation of a Power-Point presentation which will cover planting and care, plus details about pollinators, pests, diseases and just about anything you would want to know about the apple. Ann DeForest heads up that project, working with Art Gustafson and Rich Bunger. Certificates and pins were distributed at the quarterly meeting held at the 4-H Education Center where the group will be doing an Inventory of the trees along an under construction walkway. **SUE LIDDELL**

VISIT THE JCCWMG MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT <http://jccwmg.org>

## PLANT SALE

Each year the plant sale is different from the year before. I can't say enough good things about this year's sale. Membership participation was at an all time high. The number, quality and variety of plants was also at an all time high. The bottom line reflects all of the above. This year we netted close to \$3,000. It was great fun, from the dig's, through the sale, to the last sign stored. Thank you to a wonderful committee: Rebecca Sutton, Bruce Manilla, Aileen Bartlett and Judy Hansen. As you work in your yards this summer, and see something that needs dividing or can be rooted, please mark it so when fall comes you can put it aside for next years sale. There are green houses among our members that allow winter storage for next years sale. Thanks to all who participated. "Many hands make light work". **CATHY RIPLEY, CHAIR**

## COMMON SPRING-TIME DISEASES OF WOODY ORNAMENTALS IN THE LANDSCAPE

If you love plant pathology you'll enjoy this publication of *Common Spring-Time Diseases* from Rutgers University. It has all my favorite landscape diseases including Anthracnose, Fire Blight, and Juniper Tip Blight all either appearing now or soon at the Helpline office. Many disease problems occur in spring. Problems are worse when plants are under stress, have suffered extensive winter damage, or when the weather is cool and rainy. Trees and shrubs in poor health are more susceptible to disease. The publication describes some common problems that occur in the spring. Color photos help diagnosis. Improving plant vigor by incorporating good cultural practices is the most important aspect of disease control. Although some of the control recommendations call for chemical treatment, using chemicals should always be your last resort. Often it's best to remove a plant susceptible to chronic problems and replace it with something more sustainable and disease resistant.

The new Pest Management Guide is available in the office and on line. This year Organic Controls are included.

Link to Rutgers Cooperative Extension – Plant Disease Control:

<http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/pdfs/e160.pdf>

**2005 Pest Management Guide**

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/pmg/>

**LEANNE DUBOIS**

June 2 Field Trip to 4-H Center with optional lunch \$7.50

July 2005 "PLANNING AND USING YOUR HERB GARDEN" with Nicole Schermerhorn

A Thyme to Plant Herb Farm/Lavender Fields (Nicole will not be charging a speaking fee, but in exchange, she is bringing her truck loaded with plants that we will have the opportunity to purchase.

Other field trip opportunities: Denise Greene's garden (Sassafras Farm) and Maymont Gardens.

Calling All Gardeners!! Won't you open your garden to other Master Gardeners? It's is a learning experience. No judgments, just great ideas! If you are willing to participate, e-mail Genrose([glashing@cox.net](mailto:glashing@cox.net)) with possible dates.

The correct e-mail for Bob Schultz is [schultzrosi@aol.com](mailto:schultzrosi@aol.com).

Editors Note: Lise Kline becomes the editor of the newsletter in June. Please send her material for the June Newsletter by May 15 to [legskline@cox.net](mailto:legskline@cox.net) or call 757-259-9477.

I have enjoyed editing the newsletter. My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed.

**CHARLIE CLAPPER**