

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION & VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

May 2009



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PLANTS GALORE TEAM FOR A JOB WELL DONE

On behalf of the entire MG membership, we want to thank Susan Giandomenico, Debbie Secrist and all their volunteers who made the Plant Sale and Pre-Sale a resounding success. We can't imagine the number of man-hours it took, but we could all see the result of your dedication. We all appreciate it!



Co-Chairs Debbie Secrist and Susan Giandomenico
Source: Picasa

Staging Area/Pre-Sale



Plants Galore Sale



Next Monthly Meeting

May 7, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional
Library.

Marie Butler,
horticulturist at the
Virginia Zoo, will
present:
*I Have an Elephant in
My Garden, What's Your*

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INTERNAL EDUCATION NEWS



BY CAROL FRYER

*Handle every stressful situation like a dog.
If you can't eat it or play with it,
pee on it and walk away.*

I thought that after our pruning season was over, I would be able to sit back and relax – Wrong! Many of us feel as though we are running a persistent marathon going from one project to the next.

Along that train of thought, I wish to personally congratulate the **Plant Sale Team** and their helpers for all their dedication, innumerable hours, and extraordinary effort put into making this a great fund raiser for the association. We need to remember that these are the folks that are raising funds that support many of the projects we do. I thought that all those hard-working, tired, and stressed folks might enjoy the quote above...

This month at our **May 7th** meeting, **Marie Butler**, horticulturist at the Virginia Zoo will be our speaker. The title of her presentation is: ***I Have an Elephant in My Garden, What's Your Problem?*** If you have not heard her speak before, you are in for a real treat.

Remember that Marie will be giving us a personal tour of the Virginia Zoo on May 11th. You need to contact Ruth Schultz at reshultz8888@yahoo.com if you wish to sign up for this field trip. There will be a \$5 donation to the Horticulture Fund at the Virginia Zoo that Ruth will collect from participants. There is no entry fee.

In June, **Ken Thompson**, IPM specialist at Green Guard Associates, will be our monthly speaker and he will be giving us an update on ***Integrated Pest Management***. When I took my training course in 2006, Ken was one of my favorite speakers. I never thought I would be so enthralled with a speaker who had no props and no visual aides. I do remember our classroom coordinators telling us to limit our questions, so that Ken could get through his prepared presentation. With his years of practical experience and knowledge of his topic, he can answer all of your questions. Come prepared to get your answers on what to do in your own landscapes when you encounter pests and disease. And remember Ken's motto: **ALWAYS READ THE LABEL .**

In June we will also have a **Risk Management training session** presented by our **4-H Agent, Jeremy Johnson**. This training will occur during the business portion of our meeting. It is very important that all of this year's interns, members of the 2008 class, and any Master Gardener who has not had **Risk Management Training** within the last 3 years attend. The training session will last approximately 30 minutes. There will be a sign up sheet for attendees.

We also plan to offer a live on-line Risk Management

training through the VCE Office via an Adobe connection to Dave Close, State MG Coordinator at Virginia Tech. If you are unable to attend the June training and wish to attend this on-line training, please let me know. The date has not been scheduled yet, but will probably be in late May or early June. My e-mail address is: cfryer@cox.net.

PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS

CLASS OF 2009

BY SUE LIDDELL

Twenty Master Gardeners recently completed the classroom training to become Peninsula Tree Stewards. Seven are from W/JCC: Tod Allen, Carol Fryer, Cathy Lohwater, Jeanne Millin, Anne Nielsen, Dan Tevlin and Donna Xander. The project they have chosen to fulfill their remaining requirements is "A Tree Survey of the Ambler Property." This is land adjacent to the Jamestown Settlement with landscape dating back to the mid-1800's.

Other projects to be completed by class members include:

- Compilation and Organization of Frequently Asked Questions of Gloucester Master Gardeners,
- Creation and Marking of a Self-Guided Tour in the New MG Arboretum at Blue Bird Gap Farm behind the Hampton MG Demonstration Garden,
- A Tree Inventory of Gosnold Hope Park, one of Hampton's major parks,
- An educational opportunity for children involving Planting and Care of an Apple Tree in the Grin and Grow Garden in Newport News,
- Pruning Instruction for MG Interns in Newport News Park, and
- An Inventory of the Plantings Along the Riverwalk in York County.

Thanks to Peggy Manning, Class Coordinator, Flora Adams, George Anderson, Art and Barbara Gustafson, Rudy Roberts and Tree Stewards from Hampton and York County. It was truly a group effort.



Class of 2009 with Andrew Koenig, Certified Arborist; Dan Nortman, Middlesex County Extension Agent, ANR; and Jim Orband, York County VCE Unit Coordinator

2009
MG Board

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258-8632

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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.

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NEWS FROM CAROLE'S GARDEN AND THE NEW KENT MGs



This is the 3rd year for the demonstration vegetable garden at the Providence Forge site of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, dedicated as Carole's Garden last year in memory of Carole Ashton (Master Gardener Class of 2004). Spinach, garlic, strawberry and raspberry plants over-wintered and early vegetables were planted last month during a workday. The cold frame green house we constructed one cold day in February has been protecting shrub and rose cuttings and tender vegetables we've planted. In late April more plants were added, and beginning in May some MG Interns will be helping to tend the garden.



Three big events are coming up this summer:

- a seminar given by Andy Hankins (Alternative Agriculture Specialist at VSU) and Amy Hicks (of Amy's Garden) on June 18 (see page 5 for details),
- the 6th Annual New Kent Farm Tour on Sunday, June 28 (see page 4 for details),
- and A BIG MOVE early July, when the Extension Office must relocate to the New Kent Courthouse area.



Any JCC/W Master Gardeners interested are welcome to participate in any or all of these events. If you need more information about what is happening in New Kent, please call the New Kent Extension Office, (804) 966-9645.

E2 UPDATE

BY KARI ABBOTT, E2 CHAIRPERSON

The school year is ending with big field trips!

The school year ends in June but the E2 Project has things planned for the children to keep them busy through May. The field trips to York River State Park started April 28th and went well. Thank you to all the volunteers, master gardeners and interns who helped out. As always the beautiful trees, ferns and mosses presented a lovely backdrop to the creatures we saw. Matoaka Elementary school will be going to the park May 18th, 19th and 20th, so if you want to join us, please email Kari Abbott. Everyone is welcome.

May will be the end of our lessons in the classroom. At DJM, the last lesson will be critical thinking about water, and at Matoaka, the last hurrah is the field trip. Both schools have had a great year and the E2 Program looks forward to returning with new volunteers joining our ranks along with the new interns.

Again thanks to everyone who has helped this year in every little way. Summer will hopefully be a quite time, but look for the training class in August to start the new school year.

WE'RE LISTENING!



There have been some recent complaints that speakers can't be heard well at the MG Monthly Meetings. We want to make sure EVERYONE hears EVERYTHING so we are making a few changes. From now on, all speakers and members -- even those giving short notices -- must come to the front and use the microphone. We ask that anyone who is going to make an announcement at a meeting please sit in the front row near the podium. If you get stage fright, please write out your announcement and someone will read it for you.

Did you know that the Williamsburg Library Theater has an assistive hearing loop? Just turn on the t-coil in your hearing aid. You can sit anywhere in the theater and you will be able to hear. No hearing aid? Just ask to borrow one of the hearing amplification devices at the desk located at the entry to the theater. These devices only work if the microphone is used, which is the reason for the new "mandatory microphone at meetings" rule!

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.

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MG VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 6TH ANNUAL TAKING ROOT FARM TOUR

The 2009 Taking Root Farm Tour is scheduled for Sunday, June 28 and they need MG volunteers! Below are the details.

Farm Tour Orientation Field Trip—Thursday, May 28, 2009 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. This field trip is ONLY for Master Gardeners planning to volunteer for this year's Taking Root Farm Tour. Volunteers should meet at the New Kent Extension Office, 4301 -B Olivet Church Road, Providence Forge, VA at 12:30 p.m. and will travel by bus to visit the selected farm tour sites. The pre-visit will give each volunteer an opportunity to gain insight into the unique characteristics of the farms and farm families, and choose their tour day site.

Taking Root Farm Tour— Sunday, June 28, 2009 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteers will need to be at their designated sites at 12:00 p.m. This year the tour will be in the Talleyville area along Rt. 106 in New Kent County. Five agribusinesses will be featured: New Kent Winery, Cedar Grove Stables, Poplar Springs (a cattle farm), Atlantic Growers (greenhouse operation), and the New Kent Visitor Center/Farmers Market.

Please contact the New Kent Extension Office if you are interested in volunteering to support this valuable educational event by calling (804) 966-9645 or emailing Mary Mills at millsm@vt.edu

TAKING ROOT FARM TOUR

Self-Driving Tour of
Local Farms

SUNDAY
June 28, 2009
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Visit 5 Diverse Farms/Businesses
Learn about Agriculture in Your Community

Featuring:
New Kent Winery · Cedar Grove Stables · Poplar Springs
Atlantic Growers · New Kent Visitors Center & Buy Local Market

Sites Located in Talleyville, VA Area on Rt. 106
From I-64 take Exit 211 (Talleyville/Roxbury) follow signs

Sponsored by:





Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and activities are open to all regardless of race, color, or national origin. No fee shall be charged for this service.

James City/New Kent/Williamsburg Master Gardener Assoc.

Call (804) 966-9645 the Extension Office for a map and more information or visit www.jccwmg.org

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Extension Office at (804) 966-9645 during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. **TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Highlights From Last Year's Tour:



REMARKABLE TREES OF VIRGINIA

The book, "Remarkable Trees of Virginia," is now available in bookstores and online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. One of the authors, Jeff Kirwan, is an Extension Specialist and Professor of Forestry at Virginia Tech. Kari Abbott mentioned this book at one of our monthly meetings and many of you expressed an interest.



MELISSA'S MEADOW BY GRACE RAYMOND



We will be in the meadow on Thursday, May 21. I hope you can join us at any time after 8:30 up through 10:30 or 11:00.

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EARTH DAY

The Master Gardeners were well represented at Waller Mill Park on Earth Day, April 18th. The skies were blue, the temperature was in the 70s with a gentle breeze and many families came to the event.

We had 263 people stop by our exhibit to learn more about composting, vermiculture (worm farming) and self-watering containers. Barbara Landa and her worm farm was a great hit for all the children, and Jack Gross enthralled the crowd with his instructions for building a self-watering container.

Seven interns, Mitzie Emory, Sally Haller, Evi Oakley, Nancy Carnage, Bill Roemer, Margene Hartsough and Ann Zepkin helped out as well as Master Gardeners Dennis Wool, Jack Gross, Barbara Landa and Carol Fryer.



Our Mobile MG Display with Carol Fryer, Nancy Carnage, Mitzie Emory And Margene Hartsough



Barbara Landa showing Nancy Carnage her worm farm.



Jack Gross demonstrating his self-watering container.

ITEM OF INTEREST:

FARMERS' MARKET JOB OPENING

Libbey Oliver is seeking an "Assistant to the Manger" for the Williamsburg Farmers' Market. The position is a part-time, hourly administrative support position. Computer, communication, and volunteer coordination skills are required. The job description can be found at www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com and resumes can be sent to Libbey Oliver at the Market office or loliver@williamsburgva.gov.

JUNE 18 ORGANIC GARDENING & PESTICIDE ALTERNATIVES SEMINAR

On Thursday, June 18, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, there will be an Educational Seminar (which will count toward MG Recertification Hours). This seminar will consist of the following:

- ◆ **Organic Gardening**, by Amy Hicks, of Amy's Garden, a USDA Certified Organic Specialty Produce and Cut Flower business in New Kent County selling at local farmer's markets in Williamsburg & Richmond
- ◆ **Alternative Pesticides & Organic Potato Test Plot**, by Andy Hankins, Extension Specialist in Alternative Agriculture at Virginia State University.
- ◆ **Raised Bed Gardening**, by New Kent Master Gardeners.

This seminar will be held at the New Kent VCE Office, 4301-B Olivet Church Road, Providence Forge, VA.

Following the seminar, there will be a tour of Carole's Garden, the cold frame greenhouse, and the pesticide alternative test plot. If the potato crop is ready for harvest that day, everyone is welcome to stay, help harvest, and take some potatoes home.

Registration is required to attend the seminar. Email or call Mary Mills, New Kent Extension Office at millsm@vt.edu or (804)-966-9645.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

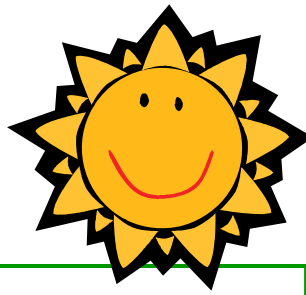
Don't forget the upcoming MG field trips in May:

Monday, May 11: Trip to the Virginia Zoo and Guided Tour. Registration is required. The fee is a \$5 contribution to the Zoo's Horticultural Fund. The trip coordinator is Ruth Schultz, reschultz8888@yahoo.com



Thursday, May 21: Special MG-Only Tour of Forest Lane Botanicals (hostas, daylilies and companion plants). Registration is required. There is no fee. The trip coordinator is Jim Word, JWORD521@aol.com





Remember to
check out the
**Calendar Of
Events**
on our website
(www.jccwmg.org)

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, Pat Crowe. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf on the organization.**

Recently, she has sent the following:

- A note of condolence to Sue Liddell upon the death of her sister-in-law.
- A get-well note to Frank Messina who is recovering from surgery.
- A note of condolence to Marcia Bailey upon the death of her father.
- A note of condolence to Jeannie Gilman upon the death of her mother.

Pat may be reached at 645-4538 or pk.Crowe@cox.net.

EDITORS NOTE: The deadline for submission of material for the June MG Newsletter is **May 25**. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133. Comments and questions about the newsletter are also welcome. Thank you.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- May 7 Monthly MG Meeting @WRL; Marie Butler of the Virginia Zoo, "I Have an Elephant in My Garden, What's Your Problem?"
- May 11 Field Trip to Virginia Zoo
- May 21 MG Tour of Forest Lane Botanicals (hostas, daylilies and companion plants)
- May 28 Orientation for Farm Tour Volunteers
- June 4 Monthly MG Meeting @WRL; Ken Thompson of Green Guard Associates, "IPM Update"
- June 18 New Kent VCE Educational Seminar
- June 18-21 MG College @ VA Tech
- June 28 Taking Root Farm Tour