

# The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



May 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

Our goal was 100% participation, so many thanks to all of you for your contribution to the 2011 Plant Sale! Very special thanks, though, to Dennis Wool and his crew for the massive effort that went into planning and executing this event. Well done!

Congratulations to Bob and Jean Winters! They were recently honored by the Williamsburg Area Council of Garden Clubs and the City of Williamsburg for their contribution to the horticultural beautification of the local area in commemoration of the 2011 annual Arbor Day celebration. Larry Foster, General Manager of James City Service Authority also paid tribute to the Winters in his newsletter for the wonderful work they and all Turf Love volunteers do to encourage locals to care for their lawns with the preservation of our water source and the health of the Bay in mind.

MG Eileen Kuras, Class of 1983 and one of the first members of our JCC/W VCE MG unit, will soon be moving to Texas with her husband after 28 years of "master gardening" here. Recently she joined me for lunch with several other "seasoned" MGs. Eileen did her training with the Peninsula Master Gardeners; and that year there were six of them from the JCC/Williamsburg area. Ailene Bartlett came on board in 1985. In the late 1980's, there were enough in our area to form a separate unit. Jim Pressly was in the class of 1987, and Nelda joined the ranks in 1988, in time to help with the organization of our association.

It was delightful to listen to the reminiscing about those early days; and we realized that we need to put together a history of the organization. Janie Fellowes, Sally Sissel and Barbara Gustafson worked on organizing our history a number of years ago; so we have information, old newsletters and lots of pictures. Since much of the

paper trail plus computer documents that Janie, Sally and Barbara did have made their way to my house, in a few months I would like to start sorting through them and will need help. Please let me know if you'd be willing to lend a hand...especially some of you Emeritus MGs who remember those early years.

We are still looking for someone to take over the job of publicity for our association, too. This is another area that could be handled by several people working together...those who like taking pictures working with those who like writing and working with the media. It is so important that we let the public know all the good work we do in this community...like our PLANT SALE!



Eileen with Jim & Nelda Pressly, Frances Knight & Jean Barter

## MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JEANNE MILLIN

All Master Gardeners should try to attend MG College at least every few years. Some members attend every year and continue to find the programs interesting and educational and the camaraderie valuable. While the drive to Blacksburg is long, if it is shared with some of your MG gardening friends it seems shorter. If you have missed attending for any reason, there is a \$100 scholarship program for MG's who have made and will continue to make contributions to the educational goals of the MG

### Next Monthly Meeting:

**May 5**, 9 a.m.,  
Williamsburg Regional Library;  
Guest Speaker: Pam Burton of the Colonial  
Beekeepers Association.

organization. If you are interested in being nominated by the James City County/ Williamsburg group, please contact Jeanne Millin at [scotfarquhar@cox.net](mailto:scotfarquhar@cox.net), as soon as possible. Applications are due by May 13. We hope to see many of the JCC/W members in Blacksburg this June.

# The Colonial Master Gardener May 2011

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PLANT SALE COMMITTEE  
AND ALL VOLUNTEERS! JOB WELL DONE!



Photos submitted  
by Linda Lucas



# The Colonial Master Gardener May 2011

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MORE OF THE PLANT SALE .....



Photos submitted by Linda Lucas



# The Colonial Master Gardener May 2011

2010  
MG Board

*President:*  
Linda Lucas

*VP Projects:*  
Jeanne Millin

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Harriet Parsons

*VP Administration:*  
Margene Hartsough

*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.

## INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

Remember the storm Saturday evening? I was coming across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge from the House and Garden tour on the eastern shore! The bridge is scary enough without the high winds and the threat of a tornado. I had spent the day at Eyre Hall in Cheriton, Virginia. I had read about the site and knew this was a garden I had to see. It is an 18<sup>th</sup> century property that has remained in the stewardship of the same family for 8 generations. The entrance is flanked by 150 year old Crape Myrtles whose trunks were as large as any oak tree that I have seen. Ancient boxwood surrounds the most beautiful English –style mixed borders. The borders followed every landscaping rule we have read about. Tall shrubs and small trees in the back, perennials of every size and shape and color nested in with spring bulbs. An unbelievable array, all bordered by hundreds of white and blue pansies. All of this with not a weed in sight, attended by a gardener whose credentials were that she was a master gardener! Try to see this garden when it is next on tour. You will be inspired.

The Education Committee has been hard at work setting up two field trips. Our first, on May 24 is to Virginia Tech's HRAREC, Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Virginia Beach. There has been a lot of interest and requests to learn more about rain gardens. Our water stewards have recently been involved in establishing a rain garden at New Quarter Path Park with Dr. Laurie Fox, Research Associate at HRAREC. They feel we would receive a better feel of how to set up a rain garden and see one that has been in place and tested at the VA Beach site. We will also be able to see a buffer zone garden as well as several demonstration gardens. I encourage you to look at their site at [www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/hampton-roads/extension](http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/hampton-roads/extension), then **demo gardens** for a preview. This will count as advanced education. We will carpool and you can e-mail me at [dparsons1@cox.net](mailto:dparsons1@cox.net) if you plan on going. I will also bring a sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting.

Secondly, mark your calendars for June 16<sup>th</sup>. We will travel to Suffolk to see the gardens of Linda and Bill Pinkham. The Pinkhams are well known for the beauty and diversity of their acre garden surrounded by woodland and a view of the James River across a flower border and three acres of marshland. The garden was established 12 years ago after they retired from the nursery and landscape business they founded in 1978, Smithfield Gardens in Suffolk, which we will visit after our tour. We will be going during the height of the bloom of the 700 registered daylilies. We will see rock gardens, a formal garden room, an Oriental-



The Gardens of EYRE HALL

style garden, hot tropical, conifer area and shady woodland gardens not to mention the sculptures created by Bill in his clay studio. This is a garden not to be missed and is regularly on the House and Garden tours. For a preview, check out [www.daylilydiary.com/LindaPinkham/index.html](http://www.daylilydiary.com/LindaPinkham/index.html). or just google the Pinkhams for stunning photos. A donation of \$5.00 will be collected for the Norfolk Horticulture Society.

Remember that Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is the 2011 Invasive plant removal day. Let's help our Master Naturalists and the Virginia Native Plant Society by joining our MG, Jeanne Millin at New Quarter Park for a pulling of invasive "Beefsteak Plants" around the baseball area and other spots. There will be a "Walk and Talk" first, looking at natives in the park with Denise Green of Sassafras Farm, as well as the natives planted by the Water Stewards in the Teaching Garden.

Although our area has not yet been directly affected by the Emerald Ash Borer you may be getting questions about it, particularly if you are working on the help desk. If you are interested in more detailed information go to [www.hort.vt.edu/eab](http://www.hort.vt.edu/eab).

Our May speaker is Pam Burton of the Colonial Beekeepers Association. Pam will speak to us about bees, pollination and beekeeping as well as the timely topic of the loss of bee hive population.

Lastly, start thinking about Master Garden College the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup> and International Master Garden College October 10-14. I will send more info as I receive it.

## NATIVE PLANT BLOG

Our very own Helen Hamilton has created a simple blog about native plants, with new postings every few days. Check out the postings about what's blooming now: [www.wheretheygrow.com](http://www.wheretheygrow.com)

## SUPER TURF SATURDAY

Please add **August 6** to your calendars for the next Super Turf Saturday!

## PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS

BY SUE LIDDELL

Twenty one Master Gardeners recently completed the classroom training required to become Peninsula Tree Stewards and received their Graduation Certificates: three from Gloucester, six from James City County/Williamsburg, six from Hampton, two from Newport News, and four from York County. Doris Heath, VCE Unit Coordinator, made the presentation to the six MG's from JCC/W.



Bill Roemer, Betty Marcus, Carolyn Gaertner, Jerry Babski, Patsy McGrady and Doris Heath. Not pictured: Mitzi Balma.

Three separate projects will complete the JCC/W volunteer requirements:

1. An Inventory of the Native Woodlands section of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden,
2. An Inventory of major trees on Duke of Gloucester Street, and
3. An Inventory of major trees along the hiking trail in Ford's Colony.

Other projects from other jurisdictions include:

Assess trees for preservation during parking lot construction of Woodville Park in Gloucester; create a walking tour of St. John's Churchyard in downtown Hampton; create a PowerPoint presentation to teach homeowners about their trees and how to select and care for them (NN); create a class on tree benefits, functions and identification for the Boys and Girls Club of Newport News, 15-20 children in third and fourth grades; and, create a Tree Inventory and Strategic Plan for the Wetlands Area of the York MG Learning Garden.

Each of these projects will result in educating the public on the benefits of trees.



Instruction on use of Tree Field Guides led by Dr. Stewart Ware, Professor Emeritus, W&M, was one of the classes in the 12 week program. Carol King of Hampton coordinated the new class with a committee of one from each jurisdiction. Tod Allen represented JCC/W. Many Tree Stewards helped with preparing and grading tests, recruiting and introducing speakers and the many behind the scene tasks necessary. It was a very successful group effort.



## UPCOMING VMGA EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

- MG College:** VA Tech; June 21-26
- Local Foods Movement:** Harrisonburg; Sept. 24
- Water Quality/Buffer Landscaping:** Smith Mtn. Lake; Oct. 22

The last two are VMGA educational events that have just been announced.

Contact Marilyn Riddle at [mriddle@cox.net](mailto:mriddle@cox.net) for further information and carpooling information.

# The Colonial Master Gardener May 2011

## ENVIRONMENTHON A SUCCESS

BY PATTY TOWNSEND

Re-Use, Re-Do and Re-Think was the message from The Envirothon/Earth Day held on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Being earth friendly and more conscious of our surroundings and how we relate to mother earth were demonstrated and displayed by over twenty vendors during the day. This event was hosted by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office in New Kent County and The New Kent Clean County Committee. The weather was cloudy but that did not stop people from attending.

Thanks to our sponsors "CXs Transportation and Virginia Farm Bureau" and the wonderful master gardeners and other volunteers for making this a fun educational day for everyone.



## PLANT SALE PREPARATION: STRAWBERRIES FROM MATTIE'S GARDEN

(Photos by Toddy Voorhees)



## MGs AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

BY SALLY SISSEL

- May 7:** National Herb Day
- May 21:** Vegetables
- June 4:** Gardening with Children
- June 18:** Flowers
- July 2:** Water with Barrels and Bins
- July 16:** Therapeutic Gardening
- July 30:** Drought Tolerant Plants

# The Colonial Master Gardener May 2011

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## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT (E<sup>2</sup>)

BY KARI ABBOTT



### CONFIRMING THE FIELD TRIP DATES

Thank you to the new interns who have signed up to help, any master gardeners who would like to attend are always welcome!

### NEW DATE:

Walk Through Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 9AM at York River State Park.  
DJ Montague is Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at York River State Park. Early walk through at 8AM; otherwise be there at 930AM.  
Matoaka will be going Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at York River State Park; volunteers arrive at 9AM.  
Kindergarten will be going Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> to Greensprings Park by Jamestown High School; time TBA.  
Clara Byrd Baker will be going **Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>** at York River State Park; volunteers arrive at 9AM.

Please email me if there are any questions or concerns.

If you are interested in joining the fun, please contact me, information below. Everyone is welcome to come have fun with the E<sup>2</sup> Project.

The games shared at the last Master Gardener meeting are being field tested over the next two months. The teachers have been great in helping make the concepts taught stronger. The children love the attention that they are test marketers! Good things growing in E2! More ideas on the way.

Also as part of the stewardship portion of the E2 Project, I will be conducting a Growing Up Wild workshop for Head Start in June, to help bring outdoors into the classroom. Later in the summer a Growing Up Wild workshop will also be done with Family Focus Providers. Growing Up Wild and Early Childhood Education are two national programs that have activities for younger (3-7) children, with songs, art activities, and movement activities. If any of you are interested in such a workshop for ideas of things to do outside with your grandchildren, children, nieces, and nephews or even the child next door, contact me and I can arrange to do a workshop for Master Gardeners.

Please email Kari Abbott if you are interested or have any questions ([bearsbaskets@cox.net](mailto:bearsbaskets@cox.net)).

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## SASSAFRAS FARMS OPEN HOUSE

SUBMITTED BY CAROL FRYER

Open House May 9th from 10 am until 1:30 pm., **Sassafras Farms** - native plant nursery in Gloucester

Directions to Sassafras Farm: Going north on Rt. 17, come across the York River on the Coleman Bridge. Go to the 5th stoplight after the Coleman Bridge, there will be a Walgreen's on your left, turn left onto Hook Rd. Go to the end of Hook Rd. and turn right onto Hayes Rd. Follow that until you see Abingdon Fire and Rescue on your left. Turn left just after the rescue squad onto Bray Rd. Follow Bray Rd. around a sharp curve to the left, pass two side roads on the right and look for a black mailbox ( # 7029 ) on the right. Come up the gravel drive between the cedars. You'll see the greenhouses.

## REMINISCING

BY HELEN HAMILTON

This photo (below) is from the April MG meeting on when Jan Newton gave a talk on Native plants. I remember when I was on the MG Helpdesk in 2004, the year I took the class, when Jan called in with plans to construct a native plant habitat at the new Stonehouse Elementary School which her daughter attended. They lived across the street from the school. I encouraged her, and suggested she contact Cynthia Long, who is a charter member of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society, and has raised native plants from seed. Cynthia had an extensive collection and gave Jan a lot of plants to start her plantings at Stonehouse.



Helen Hamilton, President, JCC/VNPS, Jan Newton, Webmaster and Publicity Chair, JCC/VNPS, Cynthia Long, past president JCC/VNPS



Jan Newton, Native Plant Specialist spoke at our April 4th meeting (Photo by Toddy Voorhees)

# The Colonial Master Gardener May 2011

## MG LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

BY JEANNE MILLIN, LIBRARIAN



### The Creative Garden: Setting The Stage with Practical and Clever Ideas

This small (40 page) manual was given to the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners by a representative of the National Design Council of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. at our last meeting. It has handy and easy to implement suggestions for putting objects and landscaping ideas into your garden and is one of those books it would be fun to just page through for interesting ideas on disguising garbage cans, creating interesting entrances, fences and gates, paths and walkways, etc. Look it up the next time you are in the library. It will be filed under SB454

### Creating A Deer & Rabbit Proof Garden by Peter Derano

I am finding this book so useful, I ordered one for my own library and one for the Farmers Market, in addition to the one that can be found in the MG library under SB951.D47. This book was first published in 2007 and reprinted in 2009. Plants are listed alphabetically by type (perennials, grasses & ferns, bulbs & tubers, annuals, vines, ground covers and evergreens). On the top of each page are symbols of deer and rabbits indicating whether the plant is resistant to one or both species. There are also lists of resistant plants for sun and shade, and plants which are invasive and which should be avoided. This soft cover book is only 182 pages but the 401 full color photos provide good information for all of us who are looking for a great garden in an area that must be shared with deer and rabbits.

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **June Newsletter** is Monday, May 23.

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at [cathy.lohwater@cox.net](mailto:cathy.lohwater@cox.net) or call 757-259-1133.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 5/5 Monthly Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.
- 5/23 June Newsletter Deadline
- 6/21-6/26 MG College 2011
- 8/6 Super Turf Saturday
- 10/11-15 International MG Conference, WV

### **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, 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](mailto: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.