



The Colonial Master Gardener

May
2014

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

If you were not in attendance at the April meeting you missed getting the new JCCW Master Gardener Apron. Each ACTIVE Master Gardener will receive one to wear at the plant sale, and during any approved JCCW Master Gardener project. These are being provided as a way to help identify members when working with the public or performing work in regard to one of our many projects. Keep in mind these are not to be worn at other times and if you should lose, damage or determine at a future time it needs to be replaced you will bear that expense. For our interns, you will receive your apron as part of your graduation in January.

Although I am writing this article prior to the end of the plant sale, I am confident that all our members participated in some form, whether it was providing plants, working parking, serving as a cashier, answering questions as a table expert, transporting plant material or helping to set up or break down or making a donation, thank you for your involvement. Every project receives funding through this project and for that reason we all need to be participants. As they say many hands make light work and for a project of this size that is a very true saying.

Finally, we are in need of some members to step forward. We are searching for someone to take the position of

Next Meeting:
Thursday, May 1

Speaker:
Frank Reilly of VT and VGMA;
On Climate Change

President elect. This person gets to train for a year to learn the ins and outs of being president of this great association. There is nothing hard about the role, just a willingness to learn and to serve. We also are needing someone to take on the responsibility of Publicity. This requires sending pictures provided by project chairs to the local media on a timely basis. If you are interested and willing to step forward for either of these roles, let me know. Our association needs you.

Now, get out there and dig and plant and mulch and enjoy the spring that has finally arrived.

Happy Gardening Margene

BARRELS AND BINS

BY DENNIS WOOL

Barrels and Bins Project is available for demonstrations and programs to garden clubs, neighborhood associations, garden workshops, etc.

It is always a fun interaction between MGs and participants demonstrating how to make and use rain barrels, composters, and grow boxes. Contact: Dennis Wool

UPCOMING FARMERS' MARKET DATES

May 3	<i>National Herb Day</i>
May 17	Flowers
May 31	Water Stewards
June 14	Incredible Edibles
June 28	Vegetables

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2014
MG Board

President:
Margene
Hartsough

President Elect:
Sue Liddell

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

*VP
Administration:*
Dennis Wool

Secretary:
Patsy McGrady

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Linda Lucas

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.

TRAINING CLASS BY BARBARA FLOYD

March 26 marked graduation for the 2014 Master Gardener Training Class. After record-setting weather cancellations, the Trainees successfully completed the classroom portion of their training and officially became MG Interns. Please join the Class Coordinators and the Board in congratulating the new Interns. Also, a special thank you to the class members for their patience and flexibility in the re-scheduling of classes that seemed to never end.

Believe it or not, it's now time to look forward to next year's training and time for Patti Lupton

and I to think about moving on to other projects. With that in mind, we're looking for Master Gardeners interested in working with us and the 2015 class and being mentored into the Class Coordinator position for future classes. Coordinating training classes is very rewarding and very important to the future of the organization. If you are interested, please contact one of us – we'd love to discuss it with you!



Row 1) Susan Shoulet, Marty Mears, Janet Smith, Martin Oakes, Karen Pfeifer, Katherine Sokolowsky

Row 2) Bess Hopewell, Miriam Thompson, Doug Callery, Mary DiSalvo, Louann Martin, Susan Bennett, Kristin Detwiler, Michelle Fitzgerald, Paula Sumrall

Row 3) Mary Wool, Donna Pickard, Harry Burton, Hope Yelich, Mike Whitfield, Vicky Velez, Frank Caruso, Peter Schaub, John Manion, Larry Foster

Not Pictured: Harry Crumling



E2 NEWS FOR SPRING 2014

BY KARI ABBOTT



Hi Everyone,
What an exciting spring it is turning out to be!
The children in school this month have been learning about habitats, and how hard it is sometimes to survive when you are not in the right habitat. Our first graders really did enjoy the Habitat Probabilities game! We had a couple of very dramatic deaths when one or two students did not survive because they had no water, and they have learned that every living thing needs water. It has been a fun month with the children in the classroom.

Everything is gearing up for the field trips next month. If you would like to help out we would love to have you join us on the best field trip ever! The walk-through day is Thursday, April 24th, 9:00, at York River State Park. If you want to join us on the April 24th, please email Kari Abbott bearsbaskets@cox.net. I will make sure you get the materials so you can have a fun time at the park.

The schools will be touring the park on:

Monday, May 5	Clara Byrd Baker
Tuesday, May 6	DJM
Wednesday, May 7	Matthew Whaley
Friday, May 9	JBB
Tues. & Wed., May 13 and 14	Matoaka

The schedule for Master Gardener College came out this month, and your E2 Project is listed on page 8! We will be presenting Friday, June 27th, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the concurrent sessions!!
Come join us; we would love to have friendly faces in the crowd. I told a group of York and Newport News Master Gardeners about the event, so hopefully some of them will attend also!

And lastly, I still have a need for film canisters for 35mm film. If anyone has any, we sure could use a few more for one of our classes.

Thanks for all your support!

MG APRONS

BY ANGELA CINGALE

So far, our MG aprons have been distributed at the April meeting and plant sale. To make it convenient for one last time, they will be available at the May 1st meeting.

After that meeting, they will be brought and stored at the Toano VCE office. Please ask Sandra Kee to have you sign for your apron.

HELP DESK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BY LUCY OAKLEAF

The Help Desk is in full operation thanks to our new Interns and their mentors. We provide a great service to the community and need the help of experienced Master Gardeners. Last year the help desk closed over 385 interactions with the public. Most of those phone calls, email exchanges or walk-ins covered more than one problem or question.

You can earn a minimum of four volunteer hours each day you spend on the help desk. Use the Help Desk calendar on the Volunteer Management System (<https://virginia.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm?logout=1>) to sign up. Select a day you can work, then "volunteer" by clicking on the button found at the bottom of the page. It's that easy!

Please consider working along side an Intern or partner up with another Master Gardener and sign up for an available day. It's a fun and easy way to provide a valuable service to our community without getting your hands dirty!

For more information, contact Lucy Oakleaf (757-903-2920) or Diane Armstrong (804-966-1464).

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LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB



The long delayed Spring certainly has not hindered anyone from planning their long term and seasonal sustainable landscape plans. All of the Spring 2014 registration applications are in and, again, Landscape Love has hit another record. The previous number of 83 was shattered by the 112 applications that we have received.

Most of our 55 Master Gardener landscape Love volunteers and 20 new interns from the Class of 2014 have attend one of the two orientation/training/organizational meetings to ready for the homeowner visits. The five teams are now busy scheduling and completing the homeowner visits. The support and experience of each of the landscape Love volunteers will provide the JCC/Williamsburg resident with

the best possible advice and information.

The primary method of Landscape Love publicity has become a word-of-mouth campaign. Our reputation has created a trustworthy service that is highly regarded and meaningful to the homeowners, that addresses both their individual concerns and local and regional environmental issues. Our educational mission emphasizes sustainable landscape and water quality programs, as well as landscape design, care and maintenance.

This will indeed be a busy season! Happy Gardening.

MG's PROVIDE WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN TOUR FOR CHRISTOPHER WREN CLASS

BY PATSY MCGRADY

On April 3 the Master Gardeners led a tour of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG) for approximately 20 people attending the Christopher Wren class on the WBG. This was the first tour of the season for the MG "Educational Tours of the WBG" project. Given the exceptional cold and lengthy winter and early spring date of the tour, the tour emphasized the structure of the garden, its many sections, and hints of pleasures to come as the garden awakens to spring. This is the second year that Christopher Wren has offered a course on the WBG.

Karen Jamison, Chairman of the WBG Board, presented the history of the garden; Angela Cingale discussed the therapeutic garden and programs provided at the garden; and Helen Hamilton provided an overview of the sections of the garden and the plants they contained. The third and final session of the class was the MG tour. Participating MG members included Mitzi Balma, Stacy DeMeo, Iris Grant, Cathy Hill, Valerie Hillyer, Patsy McGrady, Vince Rasper, Gary Streb and Jordan Westenhaber.



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VMGA UPDATE BY ANGELA CINGALE

Marilyn and I attended a VMGA meeting in Louisa County on April 12th. Dave Close was present and reported as follows:

1. There is an MG license plate effort; 450 out of VA 5,000 MGs are needed before the application can be filed. VA Tech is very supportive of this effort.
 - a. MG College registration will begin the week of April 28 and remain open until June 6; late registration will run from June 7-15.
 - b. Master Food Volunteers will be joining us this year as special guests; there are four scheduled concurrent sessions specifically for them, but they are open to EMGs too; Melissa Chase, the state coordinator for the MFV program arranged for the speakers for these sessions. This could be the beginning of an ongoing relationship with their program.
 - New tours, Kayak trip and Bike tour
 - Land Care Stewards is the advanced training and includes: Managing by Fire/Quail; Introduction plus Measuring the Forest

New VA Tech website will be ready mid-May with three sections; I want to be an EMG; I am an EMG; I am a VCE Agent/Coordinator (password protected) and will also include:

- (a) Unit Speakers lists
- (b) Presentations which can be used by any unit on a variety of subjects

2. Support available from the state coordinator's office to help VMGA Education Committee work with Robyn Puffenbarger, Chair; VCE admin and VMGA will be hosting an education event at VSU, one in September and one in February. We will inform our members of these events as they become available.

3. District-level Leadership Development Training sessions coming this summer/fall; Dave and John are already working on the dates.

PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS BY SUE LIDDELL

Did you know that a mature tree uses the twenty-six pounds of carbon dioxide it takes up to emit oxygen enough for a family of four for a year? You will learn more about the value of trees to us and to wildlife and learn how to educate the public in sound methods of maintenance by signing up for Tree Steward training. If there is enough interest the Peninsula Tree Stewards will be holding classes in 2015. George Anderson uses his skills in leading Tree Tours in Colonial Williamsburg. Sign up with Sue Liddell.



DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC BY DONNA XANDER

The diagnostic Clinic will be starting up on the 5th of May through the 28th. It will be held in the Extension Service building in Toano every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 to Noon except for May 26th, which is Memorial Day. Everyone is invited to come and join in a great learning experience.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – MAY 2014

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Perfoliate Bellwort *Uvularia perfoliata*

This species is well-named, since both the flower stalk (pedicel) and the leaf stem seem to grow through the leaf or bract. “Perfoliate” is from Latin *per* meaning “through” and *folium*, meaning “leaf.” Appearing terminal, the flower is solitary with a large, leafy, perfoliate bract on the pedicel. The fragrant flower is narrowly bell-shaped, with 3 petals, 3 petal-like sepals and 6 stamens, and the interior surface has small orange glands.

The plant grows 1-1/2 foot tall, and the oblong or elliptical leaves also appear pierced near the base by the stems. They are 2-3 inches long, usually hairless and somewhat whitened.

Perfoliate bellwort reproduces mostly asexually, from rhizomes, an underground stem which will produce new roots and shoots in fertile soil. The rove beetles can do a little cross-pollination, and ants are attracted to the seeds which have an oily or sweet covering, thus aiding in dispersal.

Another common species is Straw-lily (*U. sessilifolia*). Neither the flower nor the leaves are perfoliate; the leaves are attached directly to the stem, without a stalk. *Sessilifolia* refers to the leaf which is sessile on the stem.

Also called Merrybells, these perennials are most abundant in calcareous soils in moist to fairly dry hardwood forests. Both are widespread across Virginia. Perfoliate Bellwort ranges from New Hampshire to



Photo: Perfoliate Bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*) taken by Kathi Mestayer in her backyard

southern Ontario and Ohio, south to Georgia, and western Florida and east Texas. Straw-lily has a wider distribution, occurring in eastern and central U.S. and Canada. Both species are in bloom from April through May.

The genus name, from the Latin for “little grape,” refers to the uvula, the fleshy lobe at the back of the palate, and apparently to the drooping flowers of this genus.

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

THIRD ANNUAL SPRING TOUR OF THE WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN BY PATSY MCGRADY

The Third Annual Spring in the Garden Tour of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden will be on Saturday May 3. Tours will be given at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. as part of the MG “Educational Tours of the WBG” project and will last approximately one hour. People interested in attending are requested to register at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden website: <http://www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org/>.

In case of rain, the tours will be given on Sunday, May 4.

The garden is located in Freedom Park, 5535 Centerville Rd, Williamsburg, VA. Come and enjoy spring at our own local jewel of a garden.

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Third Annual Spring in the Garden Tour of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden Freedom Park

Saturday May 3, 2014 Tours at 1:00 and 2:30 p.m.

Tour will be conducted by the JCC/W Master Gardeners

Sign-up in advance requested at

<http://www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org/>

In case of rain, tours will be given on Sunday 4 May



Important Dates

- 5/1 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 5/3 WBG Tour
- 4/26 Plant Sale
- 5/19 Field Trip
- 5/26 Newsletter Submissions Due

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the June newsletter will be **Monday, May 26**.

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.



SUNSHINE NOTES

For the previous month, the MG send cards to:

Rosemarie Brennan – medical
Donna and Stewart Ware – death in family

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.

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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