



# The Colonial MasterGardener

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

NOVEMBER 2004

## SUSTAINABILITY

Are you a Bay-Wise homeowner? Homeowners can contribute to a cleaner local waterway, Chesapeake Bay and environment by using several environmentally sound approaches -- Fertilize Wisely, Water Efficiently, Mow Properly, Control Stormwater Runoff, Mulch Appropriately, Recycle Yard Waste, Manage Yard Pests with Integrated Pest Management, Plant Wisely, Encourage Wildlife, and Protect the Waterfront. *Maryland Cooperative Extension*

### PRESIDENT

Barbara Schroeder '99  
564-0157

### HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS ASSOCIATE

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

### WEBMASTER

David Banks '03  
258-8632

### NEWSLETTER

Charlie Clapper '02  
564-6191

*The garden must be prepared in the soul first or else it will not flourish*

### NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 4, 9:00 AM

\*\*\*\*WILLIAMSBURG LIBRARY\*\*\*\*

**“WITH PAINTBRUSH AND SHOVEL”  
DONNA WARE**

*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.*

*Autumn Ambience -- With a crispness in the air and the inviting flicker of the hearth, we are called to a warm and cozy place where everyone feels at their best – together at home.*

Our condolences to Bill Baetz on the loss of his brother.

**Do volunteers have liability coverage?** The University liability coverage provides protection for any employee or volunteer of the University as long as the individual is acting in an official capacity and within the scope of their duties. If a claim were made, the university would have to substantiate that the volunteer was acting as an agent. Therefore, it is important that VCE volunteers are properly enrolled. The liability insurance program is for claims of negligence against University representatives and does not provide medical insurance coverage of the volunteer.

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



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Many thanks to Mary Ann Kimminau, Class of 2004, for serving on our board as Secretary. By keeping consistent records, the Secretary keeps our board focused and makes everyone's job a little easier. Thank you again, Mary Ann.

Our VP for Youth Projects Charlene Talcott requested that all schools establish a plan on how they will work with us if they wish to have a Master Gardener Association project. Matthew Whaley exemplifies the kind of support we need from all schools. Until that support is forthcoming the heavy emphasis on Matthew Whaley noted in our survey will remain. Members seem satisfied with our quality youth programs. Some members indicated that we have too many, an equal number want more. Look in future newsletters for articles discussing the activities held in Matthey's Garden.

Minouche Robinson, VP for Internal Education, Genrose Lashinger and Leanne Dubois met to discuss other survey responses. The "rebirth of the Speakers' Bureau" came from exploring how our organization can improve both continuing education for the membership (inward) and educating the public (outward). Greg Allen is the new Speakers Bureau chair. All project chairs, Leanne, me and others are now helping to establish a large pool of speakers and more assertive outreach. A mentoring program for Master Gardeners is being addressed. More media coverage for our projects and better organization of our Helpline Room and Library is underway. Quarterly study groups are being developed, as are methods allowing current gardeners to monitor 2005 class sessions as "refresher" courses. Membership programs will include field trips, environmental issues, outside speakers shared with other community groups, and an "Expert Panel" from our membership at least once each year.

Minouche chaired the October Membership Meeting as both Charlie and I were at a workshop at the NE MG Conference explaining our Therapeutic Gardening programs. Having so many members willing to support one another gives us flexibility and makes this a very special organization. **BARBARA SCHROEDER GUSTAFSON**

## THE BOOK CORNER (Will return next issue)

### LANDSCAPE LOVE

By the time this gets published the Landscape Love project will have been visiting local homeowners for over a month. At this writing we have 33 homeowners signed up for landscape specific educational help or problem solving assistance. Our 14 volunteers have been divided into 7 two person teams. They have been trained using information modules developed by the start up team. The modules are intended to educate and inform volunteers about problems and questions they will encounter in the field. The program started knowing we need to smooth out the rough spots but the initial feedback from volunteers and homeowners is very positive. Knowing that we can make a difference and being given the tools to do so is very rewarding. Keep tuned for further progress reports as the pilot program evolves to meet community needs. My personal thanks to the team members that put in so much time and effort bringing Landscape Love from concept to reality. **RICH STRENKOWSKI**

Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade. *Rudyard Kipling*

## **PRIDE AND SPIDERS**

The recent membership survey has been very beneficial in seeking input from the membership on ways to improve our organization. In the coming months you will see that progress is underway to formulate many of the recommendations into future goals and programs. Without losing sight of what we've been doing right, we will bring focus on needed changes.

After attending many regional meetings lately, I always walk away with an immense sense of pride after describing the many successful projects we have underway in our community. Last year our membership contributed close to 12,000 hours to the community. Statewide, volunteers contributed 230,000 hours with more than 355,000 contacts reported. Our programs are responsive to community needs, have impact and are timely. We have forged successful alliances with other community-based service organizations resulting in expanded programs to an even larger audience base. I hope we continue to strengthen our vision and mission. Also I hope that you all share a sense of pride in being part of this organization... 'warts' and all (Halloween pun.... sorry).

Speaking about Halloween, what about all those orb spiders! The two that we see most often in the office are the wolf spider and the garden or writing spider. People typically think the Wolf spider is the poisonous brown recluse which is extremely rare in our area. The Garden Spider is yellow and black and creates a zigzagged patterned orb. Check out the following websites for more info: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/departments/entomology/factsheets/wolfspid.html>  
<http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/ythfacts/mystery/mystry57.htm>

**LEANNE DUBOIS**

## **TREE STEWARDS**

Peninsula Tree Stewards are presently working in three project areas: inventories, reforestation, and presentations. These areas are approved by VA Tech and come up for renewal each year as each Master Gardener project does. Under each area Tree Stewards develop projects using VA Tech guidelines, working toward learning new skills and educating the public. The group votes on new projects with individual members free to work on any and all projects. We have 15 members plus the 17 recent graduates. Many of the recent graduates have the volunteer hours required to become Tree Stewards. They have started many new projects as a part of their training.

A carry-over project from last year is the York County property inventory. When completed it will enable county maintenance to access a web site where they can pinpoint trees and shrubs on county property, and have access to information on their upkeep. Homeowners will also benefit if they have the same trees and shrubs on their property. New inventories include a wetland area near the York County Learning Garden, a planned nature trail along the Noland Trail, an area of coastal plain trees at Sandy Bottom, and school grounds in Hampton and Williamsburg. The Noland Trail and Sandy Bottom projects will then be expanded into presentations for the public, educating people on the value of trees in the landscape. The school projects will involve both students and faculty.

Presentations can be made to order using selected slides from a 500-slide assortment. We have used these in the past to present programs on selecting and planting trees for wet areas and planting and caring for trees in general. The proper care of the crape myrtle has been detailed in a program. New presentations being developed include one based on a study of trees in relation to power lines. This will be used for public education on the advantages /disadvantages of above ground/below ground lines, and to make available lists of trees suited to planting near power lines. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Another school project concentrates on the apple tree. The Tree Stewards will plant seven dwarf apple trees, involving the students in first to fifth grades in care and maintenance. A Power Point presentation will be available for further educational value. We have ventured into commercial areas, presenting programs at Lowe's on the selection, planting and care of trees and shrubs.

Last year's very successful Reforestation Project will be repeated. Master Gardeners as well as Tree Stewards volunteered most of the 649.5 hours involved in the planning of the project and in the distribution of the 21,000 trees to area homeowners.

We're investigating participation in a Community Conservation Partnership. Tree Stewards would work with other community agencies to bring sustainable landscape management education to homeowner associations as Turf Love and Turf Alternatives now do for homeowners. We are looking forward to an interesting, busy, year. **SUE LIDDELL**

### **WHY MGS ARE SO ACTIVE AT MATTHEW WHALEY**

Several people completing the recent survey wanted to know why we have so many programs at Matthew Whaley, but not at the other schools.

Both some members of the public and Master Gardeners believe that our association is solely responsible for implementing the Matthey's Garden and its programs. The original garden was a cooperative effort between the MGs and the Williamsburg area garden clubs to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Williamsburg (1999). Some of the teachers have been very proactive in incorporating the garden into lesson plans.

I have been asked by teachers at other schools if we could start a garden at their schools similar to Matthey's Garden. When I (nicely) explain that we teach parents and staff to maintain the garden instead of doing it ourselves, and that they will need to fill out a form (which I will gladly furnish to them) before it can be considered by the Board, they do not push the issue further. I think most schools want "free labor" for a beautiful garden.

We do or have had less well known programs at other schools. SING (Science in Nature's Garden) was active at Stonehouse and Lynn Trott also maintains gardens there. We participated in a Junior Master Gardener Program at Lafayette.

If you know an interested school, please contact me. The Junior Master Gardener Program has many wonderful projects and the students can earn Master Gardener awards. SING also has lesson plans that can be used. **CHARLENE TALCOTT**

#### **Upcoming dates:**

**November 10** - 11:30 - 4:00. We play host to the Chesapeake MG's, Lunch at the Chickahominy House with a presentation followed by a tour of Matthey's Garden and CW Gardens.

**November 12** - 9:00 am. Community Reforestation Project II, EOC Kitchen. (Tree distribution day is March 19)

**November 16** - 9:00 am. Water Stewards Task Force Meeting EOC Kitchen. We've explored the concept and will meet to put together goals, curriculum and time line. Wayne Moyer is taking the lead.

#### **UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS**

**December 2** - Williamsburg Botanical Garden— Location TBA

**January 6** - Denise Greene – Sassafras Farm – Using Native Perennials in the Landscape

**February 3** - Jim Orband – Ferns

**March 3** - Karen Shumaker – Williamsburg Land Conservancy

**April 7** - TBA

**May 5** - Linda Johnson – CNU

**June 2** - TBA