

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



November 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

Fall has been good to us, making up a bit for the brutal summer. But the carved pumpkins at the front door are a sure sign that the year is winding down...just as MGs are gearing up for 2011. Barb Landa and Carol Fryer are busy organizing training for the Class of 2011. Registration is open until October 31st. The training class will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays next year to allow trainees and all involved in the training class the opportunity to attend our monthly meetings. Many of you have commented on the excellent quality of the programs we have each month. Our thanks go to the Education Committee for presenting us with such interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics. They are well into the new year with their program plans but are always open to suggestions.



Project chairs and volunteers are evaluating this year's efforts to ensure that they are still on target, to see what improvements might be made and to determine budget needs for 2011. Share your comments and ideas with the chairs so our projects can be even more relevant and effective in the coming year.

If Claire Britcher's talk on cottage gardens at our October meeting has you thinking along those lines, Pat Rathke suggests instant gratification with a picture of the pathway garden behind Shield's Tavern, the original painted by local artist Richard E. DePaul and filled with Dames Rocket, Japanese Iris, Sweet William and Forget-me-nots. She will bring her print to show at the November 4th meeting. See you then.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MARKET YEAR!

BY SALLY SISSEL

Thanks to all fellow Master Gardeners and interns who helped make the 2010 Farmers' Market a success. For the past six months, everyone volunteering for the Market did a superb job—all showed up on time, ready and willing to help set up and stayed to help tear down. The theme and turf tables were well manned with wonderful information and handouts for the public.

A special thank you to Dan Tevlin and John Giffin who faithfully picked up the tents and needed supplies (at the crack of dawn!) and delivered them back to storage at Market's end.

Speaking of storage, major thanks to all of you for voting to fund the new storage shed at Matthey's Garden. Both Matthey's and the Market are really benefiting from the new building. We especially appreciate its proximity to Merchants' Square.

Come next April, I will be, once again, recruiting. My master plan is always to have one "real" MG and 2 interns at each market, so when I put out the call, I hope you will consider volunteering for one of the 13 markets.

PROPOSED NEW PROJECT

BY JEANNE MILLIN, VP PROJECTS

At the MG meeting on November 4, JCC Master Gardeners will be asked to vote on a new 'School Gardens' project. This project will consolidate all the various school garden projects previously coordinated under the 'Incredible Edibles' program.

If approved, this project will coordinate the gardening advice MG's are currently providing to W/JCC schools under one project chair. Roger Evans has agreed to coordinate this new project and Genrose Lashinger will Co-Chair.

Next Monthly Meeting:

Nov. 4, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional Library;
Laura Viancour, Coordinator of Garden
Programs, Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation, on "Use of Herbs"

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2010
MG Board

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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.

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

We all have experience in growing herbs and love how they look and smell, but how many of us really use them? The Use of Herbs will be the topic for the November 4th monthly meeting. Laura Viancour, Coordinator of Garden Programs, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, will be our speaker.

I'm sure we will learn new and interesting ways to use herbs: lavender soap, rosemary ham, oregano balsamic vinaigrette anyone? As I look over my landscaping I see that my rosemary is blooming again, the sage is still in flower, the thyme, oregano and basil are still producing for the salad bowl. All in all the herbs are proving to be very drought and deer resistant. For Christmas I plan on making a live sage and rosemary wreath that I saw demonstrated last year in a Colonial Williamsburg workshop.

Advanced Training: Don't forget to note November 3rd on your calendar for the habitat workshop for Master Gardeners presented by the Master Naturalists. Meet at the JCC Community Center from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m..

Speakers will be Steve Living, VA Department of Inland Game and Fisheries, and Susan Powell, the president of the Master Naturalist Association. A great opportunity for hours and to expand our knowledge in an area that affects us all.

NOVEMBER WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH:

TALL GOLDENROD, *SOLIDAGO ALTISSIMA*

BY HELEN HAMILTON

Blooming profusely in late autumn, Tall Goldenrod is unmistakable with tall plumes of golden-yellow. The small yellow flowers are arranged along the upper side of branches, forming a feathery, pyramidal plume. The plant can grow over six feet tall and will self-seed prolifically. The downy grayish stem carries leaves that are usually toothed, rough, and finely downy beneath, with a pair of prominent lateral veins.

Tall Goldenrod can be seen along roadsides, open woods, and other dry open places. This vigorous perennial is found across the U.S. and most of Canada, and in nearly every county in Virginia. Requiring little care, Tall Goldenrod grows in any soil, dry to moist. It will grow very tall in optimum conditions, and requires staking. Several species of bees can be seen pollinating the flowers.

LANDSCAPE LOVE/TURF LOVE

TRAINING WORKSHOP

BY ANNE NIELSEN

Here is another training opportunity!! Bob Winters and I have put together a free training day on November 16th in the Rec. Center, Rooms A&B, 9 am-12 noon. We have invited the following people to speak: Laurie Fox, "Sustainable Landscapes", Jeff Derr, "Common Weeds in Turf and Landscape", and Robert Habel, DCR Urban Nutrient Management Specialist, speaking on Nutrient Management training.

We have purchased an excellent booklet for each of you which will be a valuable asset for weed ID when you are making home visits. Jeff Derr will bring a selection of potted weeds for us to identify. I know we will see a lot of "old friends". Laurie's subject will help us to make better suggestions to homeowners on what to plant that will thrive. This is a great chance to increase your skills.

Email me today so that your place is reserved: anne-mail@cox.net.

We'll have coffee but we need volunteers to bring cookies, sweet breads, or fruit to go with it. Let me know if you can bring something. Looking forward to seeing you there !! Please sign up as soon as possible.



Photo by
Phillip Merritt

There are a lot of goldenrod species in Virginia, many widespread and some with restricted distributions. They may have flowers in plumes or in branching, club-like, slender and wand-like, or flat-topped arrangements, depending on the species. Although Goldenrods are commonly blamed for hay fever, this discomfort is usually caused by the pollen from Ragweed (*Ambrosia spp.*) which is wind-borne. The pollen of Goldenrods is carried by insects as it is too heavy to be airborne under ordinary circumstances.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Nov. 3 Habitat Workshop
- Nov. 4 Monthly Meeting @ WRL, 9:00 a.m.
- Nov. 16 Turf & Landscape Love Workshops
- Nov. 22 December Newsletter Deadline
- 4/29-4/30 2011 Plant Sale (Rec. Center)
- 6/21-6/26 MG College 2011



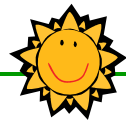
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **December Newsletter** is **Monday, November 22.**

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

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 of the organization. Pat may be reached at 221-0289 or 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.