

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION & VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



October 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

Have you been by the Human Services Building on Olde Towne Road recently? The water-wise garden looks lovely. This effort is much appreciated by staff and clients there; and this year they have been encouraged by our Incredible Edibles team to help themselves to the veggies grown in demonstration containers by the entrance.

We've just had the 10th anniversary celebration for Matthey's Garden. Congratulations to all involved with that exemplary children's garden! And the environmental program for children at D.J.Montague is underway with the new school year. This summer I finally read *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv. It is excellent reading for anyone involved with children...grandkids, neighbors, our MG youth projects. "Unlike television, nature does not steal time; it amplifies it," Louv suggests. But I found the book to be a useful resource for other MG endeavors as well. His ideas on the therapeutic value of gardening, on green urbanism and on conservation are worth exploring. He suggests a simple, central organizing principle for development: "respect the

natural integrity of place".

Unfortunately Turf Love, which normally takes applications throughout the year, will not be accepting new applications after September 30 until February 2010 due to budget constraints. Lawn Rangers will continue to work on current applications and will do advanced training for next year. Whenever you have the opportunity, do encourage our community leaders to support Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Many thanks to all of you who offer to take on leadership roles in committees and projects. Peg Crews is now heading up Help Desk, taking over for Helen Hamilton who did such a great job not just keeping things going but expanding this service to community residents. Toddy Voorhees is now doing Publicity. Send articles and pictures to Toddy for local media, and contact her if you have an MG event that

Next Monthly Meeting:

October 1, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional
Library.

Mike Lockatell, Grower,
"Peonies and
Reblooming Irises:
Cultivars and Care".

AN INVITATION FROM THE HERB SOCIETY

BY SALLY SISSEL

Dr. Margaret Conover, PhD, will be the featured speaker at the October 13, 2009 meeting of the Herb Society of America's Colonial Triangle of Virginia unit. This meeting is open to the public and will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Norge. Dr. Conover's topic will be "Chia, More than a Pet".

Dr. Conover is a botanist and science educator who teaches and lectures throughout Long Island and New York, and is co-founder of the Long Island Botanical Society. As a 2008 Grant for Educator recipient from the Herb Society of America, she created a



comprehensive herb-related interdisciplinary curriculum unit for intermediate and middle school students, called "Beyond the Chia Pet," which is a continuation of a successful program created to teach plant life cycles to children in primary grades using chia seeds. She is dedicated to promoting the use of chia seeds for fun and food.

She is also a 2007 graduate of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program and serves on advisory committees to Suffolk County (NY) 4-H and a number of local parks and preserves.

Many of us remember the chia pet—it

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should be interesting to hear how the "pet" has turned into a miracle herb with many uses. The meeting is open to all so invite your friends and neighbors to attend. There will be refreshments—perhaps chia chips!!

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INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY CAROL FRYER



To everything there is a season.... a time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted.....

As we enter our fall season, I find myself spending more time in my garden tidying up, and thinking about what I should do to prepare for winter and next spring. I bought cayenne pepper plants this year by mistake, and as they grew profusely, I wondered what I was going to do with all these beautiful little hot-hot peppers. It suddenly dawned on me that I needed to dry the peppers to use them in holiday decorations, and that is what I have been doing.... as well as drying tansy and yarrow.

Mike Lockett, grower from Powhatan, will be our speaker at our monthly meeting on October 1st. His topic is **Peonies and Re-blooming Irises** - cultivars and care. He will be bringing some plants with him which will be available for sale to the membership. Mike is offering tours to his nursery in the spring and fall, and is working with other small agri-businesses in Powhatan County, Chadwick and

Sons Orchids and Shady Nook Alpacas, to offer a full day of agri-business tours. If you are interested, ask him about these tours during his presentation.

Our speaker for our November meeting is **Libbey Oliver**, horticulturist, and better known as the coordinator of the Farmer's Market for the City of Williamsburg. Libbey is a very talented and knowledgeable woman and one of her many talents is designing floral and dried arrangements. Libbey will help us get ready for the holiday season by talking about **Seasonal Decorations** and demonstrating for us.

Please join us for the monthly meeting at 9 AM on October 1st at the Williamsburg Library.



2009
MG Board

President:
Linda Lucas
565-0335

VP Projects:
Jeanne Millin
258-4724

VP Internal Ed:
Carol Fryer
220-0759

VP Administration:
John Giffin
345-5209

Secretary:
Pat Janot
221-0289

Treasurer:
Linda Wever
566-0286

VMGA Reps:
Jim & Nelda Pressly
220-1858

Past President:
Dave Banks
258-8632

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.

HELP DESK-LIBRARY

BY JEANNE MILLIN



One of the little known and underused assets in the Master Gardener office in Toano is the MG Library. The library is a research resource for all Master Gardeners and interns that must be used at the office. It is used primarily by those working at the Help Desk and by those working the spring Diagnostic Clinic, but it is available to anyone wanting information on horticultural issues. The list of books is available in the JCC/W MG member web page.

We are asking members who wish to make a donation to replace some of our books to contact me. We would like to replace the following missing books:

The Organic Lawn Care Manual, Paul Turkey, Amazon used paperback, \$13.57

Trees, Taylor Guide, 1988 Paperback, \$14.00

Rodale's All New Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening, 1993 Paperback, \$27.84

Scouting and Controlling Woody Ornamental Diseases, Penn State, Free to residents of PA-\$7 to others (Does anyone have a relative in PA?)

Designing with Perennials, Pamela J. Haper, Amazon used, \$14.00

Rodale Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs, \$16.29

Members who would like to make a donation should contact Jeanne Millin at scotfarquhar@cox.net.

RISK MANAGEMENT

BY CAROL FRYER

There are three steps that everyone needs to complete to be in compliance with the risk management and liability policies of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

1. FORMS – Annually, by October, each active Master Gardener needs to complete:

- Volunteer Application/Enrollment Short Form VA-114S (for everyone), and
- Standards of Behavior for Virginia 4-H Volunteers - IF you work with children.

The application(s) are active from Oct 1 of the current year through Sept. 30 of the following year.

These forms are online at <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/james-city/>

On the top menu bar you first select “Get Involved”; On the far right hand side, the third tab down is “Volunteer Resources”.

You should find all of the forms here. Dave Banks, our webmaster has also sent out the forms via a mass e-mail.

These forms need to be on record at our local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office in Toano in order to be covered by Virginia Tech’s liability policy. If you have not completed and turned in the above form(s), you will not be covered for liability while working in projects as a volunteer Master Gardener. Jeremy Johnson is the 4-H agent and our VCE Risk Management contact, and Doris Heath is our supervisor and administrative agent.

2. CARD - Virginia Cooperative Extension Risk Management Card

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Risk Management Card provides detailed information and steps to follow in the event of an incident resulting in serious injury and/or fatality and incidents that involve law enforcement/or may result in litigation. This wallet-sized card is on the above website and specific contact information may be obtained from the James City County Office.

This card should be carried by all volunteers when conducting any programming on behalf of Virginia Cooperative Extension. Doris Heath, JCC-VCE agent is the Supervisor who should be listed on the card, along with the Extension Office phone number and Doris’s cell

phone number (which will be available through the office, and should be in Dave Banks’ e-mail.) This card needs to be updated **only IF** there are any changes in our supervisor, or in phone numbers.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Every (3) Three Years, each active Master Gardener needs to attend a Risk Management Training. We provided a RM training with Jeremy Johnson in June 2009 at the monthly meeting, and one is scheduled on Sept 23rd at the Toano office which will be a live computer link-up with Dave Close, MG Coordinator at Virginia Tech.

We will record the September training session, so that it can be used by anyone that has missed one of the other two training sessions. We will let you know how to access the taped version once we have accomplished the task and it is ready for viewing.

The last previous risk management training was offered in March 2006, so everyone needs to participate in a training session this year which will cover us until 2012.

So Remember the **Three Easy Steps** listed above- **Forms, Card, and Training.**

We will have forms and cards at the October monthly meeting, and you can turn the forms in that day if you wish.

Thanks for your cooperation !!!!!!!

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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NEW KENT ON THE MOVE

BY SUSAN VOIGT

The New Kent Cooperative Extension has moved to 11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1 (near the NK Courthouse in the old middle school). The phone number did not change (804-966-9645). Paul Davis retired in August after 20 years as the New Kent Extension Agent.

The NK VCE will host "Entrepreneur Express" (a workshop on how to start and operate a business) on January 29, 2010, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. For more information see the website: www.vastartup.org/register/events/53.

Carole's Garden, the raised bed demonstration vegetable garden, has also been relocated and reconfigured. On September 22, Patty Townsend and a few Master Gardeners planted 7 new beds there with fall crops, including cabbage, kale, cauliflower, lettuce, spinach, garlic and herbs.



Before picture



Building Beds

CAROLE'S GARDEN



Planting fall veggies



Beds before planting



Nearly done with 9 beds!



The MG Planting Team:
Sue, Ralph and Mary Ann- wet but happy

MARYLAND SENATOR PROPOSES NO-PHOSPHORUS LAWN FERTILIZER

February 2008: *U.S. Water News Online*

One Maryland senator wants to take phosphorus out of most lawn fertilizers.

Democratic Senator Brian Frosh of Montgomery County has proposed a bill to require Marylanders to use no-phosphorus fertilizer for all established lawns. Phosphorus would still be allowed in fertilizer for new lawns.

Frosh says his bill would not set up a lawn police to punish homeowners using phosphorus fertilizer. But he says the phosphorus isn't needed for established lawns and that fertilizer makers should label the no-phosphorus fertilizer for older lawns.

Phosphorous, along with nitrogen, is a nutrient that can turn aquatic habitat into dead zones when excessive amounts are dumped through residential and farm runoff and waste water.

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TIPS OF THE MONTH

BY BETH FUGATE AND CAROL FRYER



On Monday, Sept 14th, several JCC/W MG members went on the field trip to Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester. Brent Heath led an 1 1/2 hr. tour through the gardens at the commercial center and through the gardens around his home, and then gave an 1 hour+ formal presentation on companion plantings at the garden center.

Brent gave us several tips for gardening with bulbs. Tips that we remember include:

If forcing bulbs, use early bloomers since they require less cool time. Vernalization is the cold period that spring blooming bulbs need. Spring bulbs require 8-16 wks of vernalization.

The best time to plant spring flowering bulbs is after the first frost, in November and December.

Many bulbs smell like nuts to animals and that is why squirrels and deer often dig up bulbs to eat. Dip or spray crocus bulbs and tulips in deer repellent (such as, Repel, Deer off) before planting to alter the smell of the bulb. Plant lilies 4-8" deep and spray with deer repellent.

If daffodils don't bloom, they need compost or fertilizer in the fall. Lack of nutrition is the cause rather than overcrowding. When daffodil leaves begin to turn yellow, you can cut the leaves back. Divide daffodils when the leaves begin to turn brown.

Don't use bone meal unless it is part of a more complex bulb fertilizer. Bone meal alone is not adequate and attracts animals. Top dress with fertilizer or compost in the fall.

To hide the leaves of daffodils or tulip, plant amongst perennials that bloom later, or plant daylilies in front of the bulbs. Plant small bulbs within ground covers. Stab a tool right into the midst of groundcover, drop a bulb in the hole, and pat into place.

Bulbs that require sun, like daffodils, can be planted under deciduous trees in part shade if they are early blooming varieties.

Water only when plants need it. Tulips need dry soil. They don't do well in areas that have irrigation. Darwin tulips come back better than other types. Most tulips are treated as annuals here in Virginia.

Snowdrops (*Galanthus*) and Winter Buttercup (*Eranthus*) are deer resistant. Soak *Eranthus* overnight before planting. Soak anemones overnight and plant on its side – difficult to determine top from bottom. All member of the *Amaryllis* family are deer resistant.

Now is the time to spread viola seed as well as larkspur and Sweet William in the garden for spring bloom. Scratch the soil, scatter the seed, and scratch in.

Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum virginianum*, is good to repel mosquitoes.

If you plan to dig up and store bulbs that can't survive cold winters, like Caladiums, do so after the first frost. Dry the bulbs in front of a fan for 3 days to prevent fungus. Store caladiums at 70 degrees or higher. Next year, plant your stored bulbs late when the ground is warm – maybe May or June. Florida caladiums, such as Florida Red, Florida Fantasy, etc., can tolerate sun; other types need shade.

Cannas are susceptible to a virus. Symptoms are streaked and puckered leaves. Remove and destroy plants with these symptoms.

Brent uses an easy method for planting bulbs; he puts down six inches of compost, tosses on bulbs and tops with another six inches of compost. He only uses his own homemade compost, no soil, for planting bulbs. He also makes compost tea.

MELISSA'S

MEADOW

BY GRACE RAYMOND



We will be in the meadow Oct. 15 around 8:30. Come prepared to cut and collect seeds and prepare the meadow for the winter.



SUNSHINE NOTES

A Peace Lily was sent to Mary Tucci in sympathy following the death of her parents.

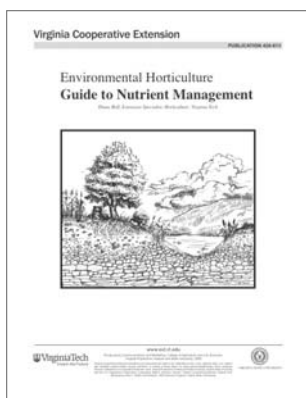
If you know a Master Gardener who is ill, facing surgery, has suffered a family loss, or any event in which that person might benefit from a **sunshine note**, please contact the MG Secretary, Pat Janot. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Pat may be reached at 221-0289 or janotap@verizon.net.

GUIDE TO NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

BY CAROL FRYER

I frequently download articles from Virginia Tech when I am searching for answers to particular problems. These articles are generally stored on my desktop in one or more folders, and I confess that I often forget about them until I re-open the files to see why I saved them.

One publication I recently re-opened is **ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE: GUIDE to NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT – PUBLICATION 426-613**, written by Diane Relf, *Extension Specialist, Horticulture, Virginia Tech*. This is a 16-page article that is mostly text with illustrations and provides a wealth of horticulture information. A nice feature is that topics are highlighted for specific months of the year. For those of us who need reminders of what to do when, this is a wonderful resource. The paper starts out with information on PLANT NUTRITION and includes a chart about necessary plant macronutrients and symptoms of deficiencies.



January focuses on UNDERSTANDING FERTILIZERS with sub-topics of fertilizer analysis and effects of over-fertilizing.

February - EROSION CONTROL
MARCH - ENHANCE YOUR LAWN HEALTH
April - TILLING YOUR SOIL
May - FERTILIZING YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN, timing application and application methods.
June - IRRIGATION
July - REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT
August - IMPROVING YOUR SOIL
September - PROTECT SOIL IN THE WINTER
October - TEST YOUR SOIL
November - USES FOR LEAVES
December - WINTERIZING SHRUBS AND TREES

This is followed by an overview of NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY

To find online publications at Virginia Tech use this website:
www.pubs.ext.vt.edu

The *Pest Management Guide for 2009* is linked there. If you have trouble finding it, type the guide name into the search box and click.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **Oct. 1** Monthly MG Meeting at WRL; Mike Lockatell, "Peonies and Reblooming Irises"
- **Oct. 13** Herb Society Meeting, "Chia Pets"
- **Oct. 21** Therapeutic Gardening Meeting @ 1:30, Vineyards Clubhouse
- **Nov. 5** Monthly MG Meeting at WRL; Libbey Oliver, "Seasonal Decorations"

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the November Newsletter is Oct. 26. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

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.