

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



October 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS

Here we are starting October, the beginning of autumn and the month for ghouls, ghosts, and goblins, not to mention the harvest of the last of the vegetables and preparing your gardens for the winter. It's a good time to think about fall/winter planting of spring bulbs and winter vegetables. Southern Exposure Seed Exchange located in Mineral, Virginia, has an excellent guide for planting dates. I have extracted the Mid-Atlantic region for the state if anyone is interested. Many leaf vegetables, garlic, onions, turnips and more can be planted now so that you have fresh vegetables coming in during the fall months. You might even consider extending your season by constructing a simple cold frame over your garden. There are many ideas available for easy inexpensive construction of hoop or cold frames out on the Internet.

Doris Baskfield-Heath, Linda Lucas and I were privileged to meet with the New Kent County Staff this past month and got a wonderful tour of Carol's Garden along with two briefings of what the New Kent and Charles City County Master Gardeners have accomplished in the last year. We all know of the bigger events like the Farm Tour and the Envirothon, but did you know that they also host several other educational events during the year, like Seeds of Learning for New Kent and Charles City Counties? On the front page of our web site there is an excellent PowerPoint about New Kent. I was amazed at

Carol's Garden and the utilization of space maximizing what they have been able to grow. The Master Gardeners have donated over 270 pounds of produce to the Quin Rivers Community Action Agency this summer.

Many educational opportunities are available every month. I went to the Lewis Gintner Botanical garden for a class provided by Virginia Tech teaching propagation. Although it wasn't a complete in-depth class that would answer every question you wanted to know about but were afraid to ask, it taught pollination and separation of common plants, shrubs and trees. Watch your email for educational opportunities sent out each month.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Joanne Sheffield for assuming the Projects Mobile Master Gardener and Speaker's Bureau.

I also want to thank those that volunteered their own time to help other's clean up after the hurricane. Although only 12 man hours were spent volunteering, those 12 hours made a huge difference in helping some of our Master Gardener family recover from the ordeal.

Please contact Mary Ellen Edwards or myself if you know of anybody in our group that is ill or has suffered a loss.

Monthly Meeting

October 6, 9
a.m.,
Williamsburg
Regional
Library;

Guest Speakers
on **Watersheds:**
Ann Hewitt
and Craig
Metcalf from
the *Friends of
Powhatan
Watershed*
And
Shereen
Hughes,
Assistant
Director of
Wetlands Watch

WATER STEWARD TRAINING ALERT

BY JEANNE MILLIN

The Water Stewart training scheduled for next January to March needs more students. We have the room, the instructors and now we need you. In order to hold this class we should have 22-25 students and to date, we only have 10. Our cut-off date is October 10th. If we are not subscribed by that date, we will cancel with the JCC Recreation Center and the instructors. We need that time-frame to conduct interviews and order books before the holiday rush.

VCE Water Stewards contribute to the improvement of the environment in their communities through public education programs, demonstration sites and establishment of programs that teach the community about landscape management techniques that conserve and protect our water resources. VCE Water Stewards build on their MG training by involving MG's and other members of their community's organizations and agencies in these programs. Peninsula Water Stewards share their knowledge through train-the-trainer events such as the water workshop held in 2010 and the recent Rain Garden Project at New Quarter Park. If you would like to join us, please sign up for the Water Steward training planned for 2012.

Water Steward training will be provided by the Peninsula Chapter of Master Gardener-Water Stewards starting on January 4, 2012 and finishing on March 7th or 14th. Classes will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 at the JCC Recreation Center on Longhill Road. The cost will be \$125 for the 10 weeks. An application is attached. Please notify Jeanne Millin if you are interested by October 10.

The Colonial Master Gardener October 2011

2011
MG Board

President:
Roger Evans

VP Projects:
Beth Fugate

VP Internal Ed:
Harriet Parsons

VP Administration:
Margene Hartsough

Secretary:
Mary Ellen Edwards

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.

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

I just got back from the Andrea Wulf book discussion at the Hennage Auditorium. It was great to see so many master gardeners there. The author, historian and scholar talked about her theory of how gardening and farming were intertwined with our Founding Fathers' political philosophy. It sounded far-fetched to me until I thought about the beauty and structure of Monticello's gardens and landscaping design and compared this to Jefferson, the statesman.

September 15th saw a group of 26 Master Gardeners on a tree tour with Dr. Stewart Ware on the campus of William & Mary. This was the largest group we have had for a field trip. We learned a lot and earned advanced hours. For example, the three most populist trees are, in order, the Tulip poplar, Loblolly pine and White oak. Dr. Ware also says that there is no difference between the Tulip poplar, Yellow poplar and Tulip tree. I didn't realize that Yaupon Holly is a native and that the William & Mary campus has two of the largest Dawn Redwoods in the western hemisphere. We had a beautiful day and felt fortunate to have Dr. Ware share his knowledge with us. Thanks to Erin Halleran for organizing the trip.

Just a reminder that the Douglas Tallamy video, *Bringing Nature Home*, is being shown on Channel 46 or 47 at 7:00pm during the month of September. I have found it to be hit or miss on whether it is on the schedule or not. We are going to be viewing the video during our December monthly meeting but I would feel amiss not to let you know that it is available now. Speaking of schedules, our November speaker has cancelled but we have scheduled a physical therapy group to speak to us about how to work safely in the garden and how to rehab ourselves when hurt. Jerry Babski worked with this group, *The Williamsburg Physical Therapy & Sports Therapy Center*, and highly recommends them. Please remember to



save your Coleus plants. The plan is to take cuttings and propagate them for the plant sale. Give Jerry a call before you toss them away. Also, the Hypertufa workshop scheduled for October 20th is full but if you are interested, let either Angela Cingale or me know so we can put you on the waiting list in the event there are any cancellations.

October 1st is your last chance to register for the International MG Conference in Charleston, WVA October 11-14. Also, now is the time to set aside Feb. 25 for the Mini-Master Gardener College at Virginia State. This is a great way to get advanced hours and get a feel of the MG College on a smaller scale.

Our speakers for the October monthly meeting will work in tandem to present watersheds and what we can do on our own properties to help preserve our waterways. First, Ann Hewitt and Craig Metcalfe from the *Friends of Powhatan Watershed* will show their video. Also speaking is Shereen Hughes, the assistant director of *Wetlands Watch*, a non-profit dedicated to the conservation and preservation of wetlands throughout Virginia. She works with the VIMS Center for Coastal Management, the Virginia Master Naturalist program and the Virginia Master Gardeners program to increase watershed stewardship in Virginia. Shereen will bring her knowledge and background as a hydrologist, a landscape designer and an environmentalist to us.

"If we fix the ecosystems in our own backyards, the Bay will take care of itself." –Ann Jurczyk

The Colonial Master Gardener October 2011



NEW KENT HAPPENINGS

BY PATTY TOWNSEND

On September 22, 2011, The New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension Office held a luncheon to celebrate and honor the Master Gardener volunteers, county employees and friends who helped support the horticulture programs and events throughout the year.

Special recognition was given to program leaders: Mary Mills and Sue Voigt for Carol's Garden, Nancy Harris for the Pruning Clinic, Sue Voigt for the Raised Bed Clinic, GiGi Burrows and Eric Bramfitt for the Seeds of Learning Program in New Kent and Charles City, and Bob Winters for the Lawn Clinic. A brief program with power point presentations of the Enivorthon and the Farm Tour was also given. Planning for a great 2012 will take place in the future.



TIPS FOR WASHING PRODUCE!

SUBMITTED BY HELEN HAMILTON



From *Organic Gardening*, Oct/Nov 2011:

To remove the waxy coatings on apples and other purchased produce, sprinkle baking soda on wet fruits or vegetables and wipe/scrub gently. Rinse with fresh water. For a homemade produce wash, spray fruits and veggies with equal parts vinegar and water, wait 5-10 minutes, then rinse thoroughly. Or just use plain water.

ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

BY PAT CROWE

The Colonial Triangle Unit of the Herb Society will present an Advent Wreath Workshop on Tuesday, November 8. The workshop will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Norge. It begins at 1:30 PM and is free of charge.

Genrose Lashinger will design a wreath, fashioned of herbs significant during the Advent Season, including boxwood, signifying immortality, rosemary, symbolic of remembrance, and lavender, which means virtue. At the conclusion of her presentation, the wreath will be raffled!

Raffle tickets are \$5 for one ticket and \$10 for three tickets. Proceeds will be donated to the Unit's scholarship fund. Contact Pat Crowe for more information.



INVASIVE PLANTS

BY JEANNE MILLIN



This month's article on invasive plants is also a book review of two new additions to the Master Gardener Library. In the near-future they will also be added to the Farmers Market and Landscape Love resource books. Both books come from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Guides series and both may be worth having in your personal library. I have had Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants for a couple of years and have used it frequently. I am now adding Great Natives for Tough Places. Both can be found under the SB439 Library of Congress code number in the Master Gardener library in our Toano office.

Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants is divided into five sections: Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Herbaceous Plants and Grasses. Within each of the five sections the invasive plants are alphabetically listed by their Botanic Names. The invasive range of that plant is also listed. Alternatives to each invasive plant are described with their Native Habitat and Range, Hardiness Range, Ornamental Attributes and Uses, Growing Tips, and Related Alternatives. The 'Attributes at a Glance' section for each plant makes the reviews of Alternatives to the Native Species an easy task. For example, they list as alternatives to the invasive *Hedera helix* (English Ivy): *Pachysandra procumbens* (Allegheny Spurge), *Xanthorhiza simplicissima* (Shrub Yellowroot), *Mahonia nervosa* (Longleaf Mahonia) and *Gaultheria shallon* (Salal). Not all would work in the same environment as the invasive English Ivy, but if your goal is to halt the spread of invasives in your garden these alternatives are worth a look. This book is a valuable tool for those of us concerned about limiting the spread of those plants that do not contribute to the environment and crowd out the natives that our birds and small animals need for forage and food.

Great Natives for Tough Places, is a newer book and I have not used it in my own garden as of yet. It is also divided into the same sections as Native Alternatives but has an additional section that I am looking forward to using. This section, "Eight Tough Places to Garden", has symbols that are they used for reference within each plant section.

The eight tough places are: Sunny and Dry Sites, Sunny and Wet Sites, Shady and Dry Sites, Shady and Wet Sites, Alternating Wet and Dry Sites, Sites with Compacted Soil, Sites with Alkaline Soils and Sites with Nutrient-Depleted Soils. Since I have a few of these conditions in my own yard, I am looking forward to reading what is suggested, as I repair the damage of Hurricane Irene and the heat of the summer with more native, heat-tolerant plants.

FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE

BY SALLY SISSEL

October 1

Pruning

October 15

Composting

October 29

Turf plus general Q&A



VMGA UPDATES

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

- ◆ Feb 25, 2012--VSU, Mini MG College
- ◆ VMGA is now 745 members strong
- ◆ This summer's MG College finished in the black but had the lowest attendance in seven years.
- ◆ Next year will be the 25th MG College and plans are to make it special--mark your calendars for June 19-24, 2012
- ◆ 30 VA MGs have registered for the International MG event in October
- ◆ Bedford Co is testing a new MG training class via flash drive modules
- ◆ The Liddells, Millins, and the Gustafsons were recognized from our unit as providing significant support for the auction (this included two husbands who are not MGs)
- ◆ Oct 6-9 is the Peanut Fest in Suffolk
- ◆ The next VMGA meeting is Oct.8 in Roanoke

OCTOBER WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

BY HELEN HAMILTON, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER,
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPLITBEARD BLUESTEM

Andropogon ternarius

This is a beautiful grass in the fall, with the autumn sun backlighting the silvery white seed tufts. The distinctive flower clusters (racemes) are in pairs, forming a “V,” hence the common name “Splitbeard.” The flowers are much larger than those of Little Bluestem and Broomsedge. This perennial grass grows in clumps, reaching 1-4 feet in height. The narrow, ribbon-like leaves often turn coppery-colored in the fall.

Preferring well-drained, sandy or gravelly soils, especially acidic, Splitbeard Bluestem is found in dry, thin woodlands, sandhills and old fields. The species ranges from Delaware and Missouri south to Florida to Texas, including eastern and central counties of Virginia.

Seeds are eaten by wild turkey, juncos, chipping sparrows, and the foliage is often browsed by white-tailed deer.



Photo: Splitbeard Bluestem
(*Andropogon ternarius*) taken by Helen Hamilton

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

BY LAW CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

SUBMITTED BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

The Board approved the following three changes to the ByLaws. Please review these changes and be prepared to vote on them at the **November meeting**.

Article V Committees and Vacancies

Add another section as follows:

Section 4. Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Administrative Vice President with the approval of the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members covering a spectrum of participants from different class years, project involvement, intern training coordinators, board experience, members of New Kent and previous nominating committee members.

Rational: to bring bylaws into compliance with current practice and to insure a diverse committee is selected.

Article VII Meetings

Section 2. delete the sentence reading: The President

shall appoint a nominating committee responsible for nominating a slate of officers.

Rational: To bring the bylaws into compliance with current practice.

Article VIII Amendments and Procedures

Section 1 delete sentence reading: Proposed amendments shall have been submitted to the membership in writing at the previous meeting.

New Section 1 to read:

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Association by a majority vote of those present. Proposed amendments shall be distributed to the membership through the monthly newsletter and/or electronically no less that 45 days prior to the membership vote.

Rational: By sending members proposed amendment changes at least 45 days prior to a vote whether receiving electronically or via the newsletter members will have had ample opportunity to consider the change and be ready to cast a vote. There is no need to make paper copies to be passed out at meetings.

OCTOBER 'TO DO' LIST SUBMITTED BY AILENE BARTLETT



Tips from Rodale Press's GARDENER TO GARDENER ALMANAC AND PEST CONTROL PRIMER:

1. Bring geraniums and other vacationing houseplants indoors before the first frost.
2. Thin the radishes, carrots, and turnips you sowed last month, then sprinkle the bed with 1" of compost.
3. Dig up sweet potatoes before winter rains cause them to split and rot.
4. Set out garlic cloves and continue to plant onions.
5. Sow late spinach to overwinter; it will resume growing in spring.
6. Clean up the blueberry patch: prune broken or diseased limbs, and thicken the mulch with a layer of pine needles or shredded oak leaves.

More tips from Ailene:

Pine trees are a GREAT asset! Not only do they produce pine needles, which make a great mulch (you can use them within a wire cage to protect semi-tropicals during the winter) but the cones also are great to top the soil of large potted plants to keep cats out of them. Cones are not fun for kitties to walk or nap on!

We hope that October is a work-friendly month so we can catch up on the things that Hurricane Irene put a damper on!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 10/6 Monthly Meeting, 9 AM @ WRL
- 10/11-15 International MG Conference, WV
- 10/24 Nov. Newsletter Deadline

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

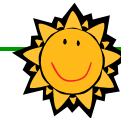
The deadline for submission of material for the **November Newsletter** is **Monday, October 24.**

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, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or JMEE12350@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.

PENNSULA WATER STEWARD CLASS APPLICATION-Class of 2012

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____

County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Information:

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone _____

Employed ___ Retired ___ What is/was your occupation? _____

Master Gardener Unit Affiliation _____

Years as a Master Gardener? _____

MG Activities _____

Why are you interested in Water Steward training? _____

Training will usually be on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30, from January 4th to March 14th. In order to complete the class requirements only one absence will be permitted.

Will you be able to attend all classes? _____

Will you be able to participate in a project and accumulate your required 20 hours of Water Steward activity in 2012? _____

References (and contact information):

	Name	Address	Phone	Relationship
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: _____

Return to:
Jeanne Millin
James City County/Williamsburg MG
2901 Thomas Smith Lane
Williamsburg, VA 23185