



The Colonial Master Gardener

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

AUGUST 2004

SUSTAINABILITY

“The birthright of all living things is health. This law is true for soil, plant, animal and humans: the health of these forms is one connected chain. Any weakness or defect in the health of any earlier link in the chain is carried on to the next and succeeding links, until it reaches the last--namely us.” Sir Albert Howard, “An Agricultural Testament”, 1940.

PRESIDENT

Barbara Gustafson '99

HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS ASSOCIATE

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

WEBMASTER

David Banks '03
258-8632

NEWSLETTER

Charlie Clapper '02

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.

While wearing my Master Gardener badge, I was asked, “Are you a gardener? I want to grow kudzu, how do I get started?”

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING August 5, 9:00 am
******BRUTON PARISH LEWIS HALL******

Norfolk Botanical Garden Gardener—Annuals That Thrive During July and August!

JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardeners at the Williamsburg Farmers' Market
Summer/Fall, 2004

August 7

Plant Propagation

August 21

Therapeutic Gardening

September 4

Herbs

September 18

Healthy Landscapes

October 2

Composting

October 16

Fruits and Nuts

All Markets include our Helpline and Turf Services



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The President is away. Look for a report in the next issue concerning Guinness and Glenfiddich Gardens.

THE BOOK CORNER

I found 'em! I found 'em! "What did you find?" you ask! I found some gizmos that I saw at Master Gardener College, and just HAD to have! They are of the "Pocket Naturalist" series, I found them at Barnes & Noble in Newport News, and they are **GREAT!** Oh, yes - they are little folders, capable of being tucked in a hip pocket, a purse, or a backpack, on subjects such as "Bugs and Slugs", "Butterflies and Moths", and "The Night Sky". There are a ton of others - trees, wildflowers, mushrooms, animal tracks, etc., etc., but I started with "only" the three. They are colorful and concise, for plant identification, convenient, easy to handle. Not as complete as a field guide, of course, but still quite useful, I think. I'll have them at the next meeting for you to see! **AILENE BARTLETT**

WATER SMART CONGRATULATIONS

James City County Extension along with JCC/W Master Gardeners and the Turf Love Program were all honored with a Proclamation from the Board of Supervisors for our contribution to the Water Smart Landscape Makeover Challenge.

A Bluebird house built by Bill Baetz was donated to the project and will be a featured accent item at the house located on Centerville Rd. The Water Smart landscape consists of water conservation practices such as native, drought tolerant plants, drip irrigation, and proper turf management techniques.

As a partner with the Water Smart program we were also recognized by the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Stewardship Virginia Program with certificates of appreciation signed by Governor Mark R. Warner and Secretary of Natural Resources W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr., for our efforts in conserving and enhancing Virginia's lands and waters and ensuring the health of our environment for present and future generations.

We look forward to future partnership opportunities and give many thanks to all who participated. **LEANNE DUBOIS**

THROUGH THE GATE

The George Reid teams continue to be busy maintaining the good health of plants...but watering has not been necessary very often. Does anyone have a suggestion for the legal eradication of the very fat squirrels? The Vegetables Team and the Herbs Team have hosted at the Farmers' Market and the garden during their respective assigned Saturdays. A garden party is in the planning stages as well as a night work party for those who are not available during the day. Laura Viancour met with the teams after the last club meeting and, upon her offer and our acceptance, will be designating four orientation sessions designed just for us in the near future. We are in the enviable position of having enough workers in practically all areas on any given workday, but we welcome others who would like to "check us out" in the future. Contact me at mriddle@cox.net for the schedules of each team. **MARILYN RIDDLE**

SURVEY 2004

JULY 1 MASTER GARDENER GROUP DISCUSSION

As previously announced, the July 1st general meeting was conducted as a workshop to review the MG survey responses, discuss the accomplishments of our organization, and to suggest improvements for the future. The membership broke into three groups, electing a secretary and reporter in each group. The facilitators for each group were: Charlie Clapper, Minouche Robinson, and Sally Sissel. At least one board member was assigned to each group, acting as a reference person. An outline of survey responses was given to each group. Each group evaluated the responses and determined their own findings and recommendations, then presented them to membership. Survey responses fell into three topics: Education, Organization, Projects. Below are the findings and/or recommendations from each group:

EDUCATION

Community awareness – Promoting “brand” i.e. HELP, TURF LOVE, LAWN RANGERS

- Meetings open to the public
- MG Calendar – statewide, local
- Multi-media publicity – Farmer’s Market – roving reporter – Hotlink

Helpline

- Cheat sheet for frequently asked questions – team to organize and implement
- Get experts involved as references from Lewis Ginter and Norfolk Botanical Gardens

Workshop training – refresher courses for members from MG training class

- Attend or send a local representative to the state and national meetings, i.e. Hanover Co., Southeast Regional.
- Get together with other area MG organizations to exchange ideas, seminars, i.e. York Co., Hampton.
- Speakers – more VA Tech speakers
- Hands on activities – learning by doing

ORGANIZATION

Business meetings – need to be shorter

- Post agenda and notices/committee reports on website
- Verify who has announcements before meeting, ID floor speakers better
- Have sign-ups in back of room to be done before or after the meeting. Do not pass around during meeting

Social - Adequate

- Annual dinner
- Some committees combine social and business meeting

Hours – Issues: Authorization? VA Tech

- How and why are they tracked?
- Differences for interns and members
- What’s elective and core?

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Interaction w/other organizations –Issues: Should we make more effort to communicate with other MG organizations? Yes. How? Who?

- Communicate with other area botanical gardens? – not a priority
- Representative on new effort for local botanical garden? If sent a request to MG Board
- Host state MG meeting? – Yes, once every 5 years
- Should we pay to send someone to VA Tech MG College?

Officers

- Senior Advisory Group to the Board – not officially
- Send board to regional conferences – Board decision
- Board size: not an issue. Need 8 officers. Others as necessary.

PROJECTS

Volunteer Sign-up:

- Clip boards before and after the meeting
- Make website sign – up available
- Buddy system for non computer users

Projects not supported by attendance

- Review projects : pump life into them or evolve to new project
- Redesign core projects – explain to interns why core vs. non core
- Survey MG's and interns regarding interest and expertise
- Involve new members in leadership role

Specific Projects:

- Plant Sale: Not enough plants – ask community for donations in good condition. Put ID on plants and growing instructions.
- Youth Programs – Do we want to reach all schools? Is there enough interest in MG group? How do we know school has interest or support?
- Speakers Bureau – Needs revamping – What? How? –Expertise of our MG's. Needs to be identified and encouraged.
- Public awareness of this group needs to expand through publicity

The above findings and/or recommendations will be reviewed by the board and the next steps will be decided. On behalf of the survey committee: Minouche Robinson, Greg Allen, Charlie Clapper, Angela Cingale and Tom Rogers, we thank you for your input.

MINOUCHE ROBINSON, Chairperson

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 13-14 - James City County Fair

AUGUST 21 - Super Turf Saturday JCC/W Community Center

SEPTEMBER 2 - Monthly Meeting “ Dahlias!” – Lynn Trott will speak on dahlias followed by a tour of her garden

Who would like to open their garden for a tour? Please let Genrose know ASAP.

Also, please send your ideas for subjects and speakers to Genrose.

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