



The Colonial MasterGardener

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

DECEMBER 2004

SUSTAINABILITY

Many measurable environmental trends are negative. Over the past 50 years, we have wasted about a fifth of the world's topsoil, lost about the same proportion of agricultural land, cut nearly a third of the forests that existed in 1950 without replacing them, changed the atmosphere's character profoundly, and driven the rate of biological extinction to about 100 or even 1,000 times its normal level. Reversing these trends will make the world a better place with more opportunities for our descendants. **The only reason for embracing sustainability is a desire to share the world's bounty with our families, our fellow citizens, and people all over the world."** Dr. Peter Raven, Engelmann Professor of Botany, Washington University

PRESIDENT

Barbara Schroeder Gustafson '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 purpose of the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener is to learn, educate and communicate environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

DECEMBER 2, 9:00 – 11:00AM

QUARTERPATH RECREATION CENTER
(OFF RT. 60 NEAR FORT MAGRUDER)

PAUL TUBACH - WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

Social time after the business meeting and before the program. If you can help make coffee, provide juice and goodies contact Genrose at 221-0370 or glashinger@cox.net

What a man (and woman) needs in gardening is a cast-iron back with a hinge in it. C. D. Warner

Christmas Tree Fireproofing (CTF)

Everybody has their favorite recipe – here's ours. Mix together 2 gallons hot water, 2 cups of Karo syrup, 1 teaspoon Epsom salt, 2 teaspoons Clorox Bleach and ½ teaspoon Borax. Make a fresh cut in the base of the tree an inch or so from the bottom and stand the tree in a container of the CTF. Keep the tree drinking the mixture! Have a safe and great holiday.

CHARLIE CLAPPER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JANUARY 13, 2005 - 6:00 PM.

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN CHURCH, 3051 IRONBOUND ROAD

COST \$12 -- TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETINGS

2004 INTERNS ARE GUESTS (BUT NOT SPOUSES OR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Usually master gardener activities slow down considerably in November and December. This year we remain quite busy! Our group hosted a luncheon and tour for 37 Chesapeake Master Gardeners earlier this month. They requested a Williamsburg visit after our composting team gave a workshop for their Chesapeake group. Following a project overview at Chickahominy House we toured Matthey's Garden, Melissa's Meadow and the Reid Learning Garden. The Project Chairs put on a great show!

Our November Info Fair for prospective master gardeners was well attended. After introductions by Leanne and myself, Sally Sissel provided details of the 2005 master gardener training and Charlie Clapper described our projects and programs. Poster and displays decorated the room; fellow master gardeners were available to answer questions; and delicious refreshments were served. We have 30 paid applications for our 2005 class!

The Extension Office continues to receive requests for our participation in community events and projects. Minouche Robinson, Chair of the newly created MG/Extension Connection, will coordinate responses to these requests. As the liaison between Leanne, our board and project chairs she will help Leanne assure MG participation in these events. Volunteer hours will be entered as VCE Projects.

Cathy Ripley, Bruce Manilla, Ailene Bartlett, Mary Sheedy, Rebecca Sutton, and Judy Hansen, a lively and diverse group of master gardeners will head up our spring plant sale. If you have plants in your garden you would like to donate, please contact these folks. Digs will be organized near the end of February.

Have a great Thanksgiving. Come celebrate the holidays with refreshments at our December meeting. If you want to contribute, contact Genrose Lashinger.

BARBARA SCHROEDER GUSTAFSON

THE BOOK CORNER

Here is a book that sounds interesting. Has anyone read it and are you willing to write a review? Here's what others have said....

What Gardens Mean by Stephanie Ross

"A fascinating and original study of the history of gardens, and the aesthetic and philosophical issues they raise Ross beautifully integrates garden and art history, philosophy, psychology and literature." Mara Miller, author of *The Garden as Art* and "An innovative and absorbing study of the garden as an object of aesthetic interest." Allen Carlson, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. **CHARLIE CLAPPER**

THROUGH THE GATE

These past four weeks the Reid volunteers have proven that gardening is a year-round activity. The vegetables team spent two hours on October 29 planning their next year's work. The Perennials team worked on November 10 and 11 hauling compost to winter their plants. The lantanas became a constant topic of conversation. Mary Ann and her team ably fielded all questions when the Chesapeake MGs visited that second day. Over in veggies, Helen made several visitors happy with produce to take home. The Chesapeake MG's really visited George Reid to see the black gold promised by Dale and Art during their southside trip last summer. Tom led some to the herbs and explained the changes for next year. George, the new Orchard group leader, discussed his area of expertise. One visitor envied our showplace...especially when she realized the many hours of contributed significant, sustained effort. I smiled with pride over "my" teams!

We also were represented at the November 11 Info Fair with posters from the herb garden and the perennials picture book. November 16 found us at the Bruton Heights auditorium watching Hunter Curry assemble holiday decorations -- a thanks from Laura Viancour to her volunteers. No surprise that half of the audience were....JCCW MGs! -- **MARILYN RIDDLE**

THE COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

The Community Conservation Partnership is an outgrowth of our Community Reforestation Project. It coordinates a dynamic partnership of like-minded conservation organizations that share a mission of educating the public about environmental issues facing our region. This *one stop shopping* for all your conservation needs is an opportunity to present the "bigger picture" while teaching cause and effect relationships. This partnership empowers individual citizens to make informed decisions benefiting us all. It will help citizens meet their personal objectives such as having healthy lawns or designing landscapes that conserve water and natural resources. It will also enable us to share expertise, media, outreach efforts, volunteers, and grant funding opportunities.

Recently we organized a Watershed tour to promote local programs addressing watershed conservation issues. Many local officials participated. Our Turf Love program demonstrated how to bring conservation practices to your front door. These one-on-one conservation actions have a double impact of satisfying personal objectives and offering an environmental impact bonus!

Currently we are working on a fall tree planting program to cater to Homeowners Associations. The Villages of Westminster, Graylin Woods and Brandon Woods are participating. Each subdivision is very active in planning and developing this venture. 4000 trees will be planted on over 18 acres of land subject to county easements or common areas deeded to neighborhoods for protection of watersheds.

The newly formed organization puts us in a better position to serve the community. The Master Gardener volunteer plays a vital role in this endeavor. This large and growing effort is a compelling illustration of concerned and capable people willing to be pro- active in achieving a healthier, beautiful and more prosperous community. **LEANNE DUBOIS**

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

THE SPEAKERS' BUREAU

The Speakers' Bureau, one of our outbound educational and communication programs, offers community organizations an extensive choice of horticultural topics. Master gardeners within our membership are the presenters. As you know from first hand experience, their portfolios include virtually the entire range of garden subjects -- often backed by years of education and experience.

Usually, each presenter has a talk lasting anywhere from 30 minutes to a couple of hours, always with time for a question and answer period. The time can be tailored and the subject tweaked to fit the requesting organization's need. Presentation media ranges from PowerPoint to slides to flip charts. From time to time we get a request for a panel of experts and can satisfy such requests with various members of the Bureau.

In the near future, we'll publish a complete list of available talks on our web site and publicize in the local media.

We're also always looking for additional members to join the Speakers' Bureau and we'll help you with your material. Speaker requests--e.g., no nights, no out-of-county, etc. -- are noted and will be honored. If you'd like to find out more, call **GREG ALLEN**.

HELP WANTED

Gardeners to share their knowledge and educate our community
Requirements: Must be a graduate of the Master Gardener Training program and willing to speak to groups. Some gardening experience helpful.

Benefits: Unbelievable tax-free remuneration; very flexible hours; great recognition (applause).
Contact Greg Allen 258-5348

TRAINING CLASS 2005

Class is filled with 30 student/volunteers, 6 professionals from the county and no more than 3 professionals from Colonial Williamsburg. Classes start January 3, 2005

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

January 6 - Denise Greene – Sassafra 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

December 11 – Farmers' Market. Theme is Holiday Greens and Plants. Phyllis Jennings and Audrey Hoistma in charge.

THYME FOR CELEBRATION

The Herb Society of America, Colonial Triangle of Virginia Unit meets December 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 7479 Richmond Road in Norge. Program is a Christmas Social. Non-members welcome. Free admission. For information: Lillian Campbell at 564- 9580 PugLove@cox.net

Judy Mays e-mail is: jujomays@cox.net

Carole Ashton e-mail is: ashtonc@earthlink.net

HELP! The Helpline season is over but the local citizens don't seem to be aware of this fact....so help is needed to answer calls from local homeowners on a limited basis. Please call the Extension Office if you have some time to volunteer.