

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/W MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION & VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



December 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

These VCE-JCC/W Master Gardeners gathered with Doris Heath and Laura Viancour on a beautiful November morning to plant a replacement tree in the orchard behind the George Reid house in the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area. The greengage plum tree was planted in memory of Fay Anderson. Fay spent many hours volunteering in the Reid and Shields gardens after becoming a master gardener in 1999. Fay's husband, George, and their son Neil and his wife were on hand for the dedication. We miss this lovely lady's presence in our midst.

Mary Liz Sadler and Reba Hazlewood will be welcoming the 2010 MG Training Class on January 4. Thirty-five adults will be attending classes on Mondays and Thursdays from January through March. On Thursday, January 14, those who began their training almost one year ago will graduate as official VCE-JCC/W Master Gardeners. The Class of 2009 will be honored at our annual Graduation and Awards Dinner. Do plan to attend...and bring your spouse or guest...so we can



In Remembrance: Fay Anderson

show our newest MGs how pleased we are to have them. We don't have many opportunities to set aside our gardening gear and just socialize. Come join in the fun!

JCC/W MG Association dues for 2010 can be paid at the December 3rd meeting. Unlike just about everything else these days, the dues will NOT increase in price... just \$15 for the year. Linda Wever, our treasurer, would be happy to simplify your life by accepting one check for both dues and the January dinner (made out to JCC/W MG Assoc.). Happy Thanksgiving to all!

See you on December 3rd for our business meeting at 9:00, **goodies at the break** to welcome in the holiday season, and a program by Kathy Duncan on landscape design.

Next Monthly Meeting:

December 3, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional
Library.

Kathy Duncan, local
Landscape Designer and
Master Gardener, "Basic
Landscape Design and
Phases of Installation".

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Internal Education	2
Get Ready for Spring	2
Fall Landscape Love	3
Updates on Projects	3
Therapeutic Gardening	4
New Kent News	4
VCE Educational Series	5
VCE News	6

You are cordially invited

to

James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association's

Class of 2009 Graduation and Awards Dinner

Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 6:00 pm

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist Church

3051 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg

Cost is \$15 per person—No charge for our 2009 Graduates

Reservations and payment accepted through January 7, 2010



INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY CAROL FRYER

Last month, **Libbey Oliver**, coordinator of the Williamsburg Farmer's Market, did an outstanding job of demonstrating her approach and thoughts about incorporating cuttings from your own garden into holiday decorations. Libbey worked for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for several years and is one of the authors of **Williamsburg Christmas: The Story of Decoration in the Colonial Capital**. You really missed a sensational session if you were not at our monthly meeting. I recently got an email from Pat Crowe who stated:

I can do this! Yesterday, I was thinking about Libbey's arrangements and decided to use a few items from my yard to make a small arrangement as a hostess gift. Voila - Leyland cypress, rosemary, Mexican and pineapple sages, Tinus viburnum and some camellias do indeed look quite presentable!

It would be great to share photos of MGs' floral decoration inspired by Libbey's talk. Send photos to Cathy Lohwater for our next newsletter (cathy.lohwater@cox.net).



Libbey Oliver demonstrating seasonal decorations at Nov. 5 meeting



At our December meeting, we will hear about **Basic Landscape Design and Phases of Installation** from Kathy Duncan, a local landscape designer and Master Gardener. Please join us on December 3rd at the Williamsburg Library for our monthly business meeting at 9:00 AM, followed by refreshments then Kathy's presentation.

Some of my favorite landscape design books that are available at the library are:

Home Outside: Creating the Landscape You Love, Julie Moir Messervy
The Inward Garden, Julie Moir Messervy
Outside the Not so Big House, Julie Messervy
Your House, Your Garden: a Foolproof Approach to Garden Design, Gordon Hayward

Let us know what your favorites are !!!! Send your favorite titles to: cfryer@cox.net.



GET READY FOR SPRING

BY DENNIS WOOL

Only a true MG understands that to have a great spring, one must prepare in the fall. Here's hoping you have already been busy in your gardens potting up donations for the **Annual MG Plant Sale – April 24**. Please remember to place your plants in 6" or larger pots and label with masking tape and marker. An inventory strategy will be sent out soon.

The Sale Committee has started planning our big fund raising event and we need your

participation. Start by blocking out April 23/24 as we have reserved the Community Building both days. Next month we will publish the Committee Chairs for each of the volunteer areas so that you can participate in an area of interest to you. We can't raise money for your projects if we don't have MG enthusiasm and participation.

Happy Holidays!

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.

The Colonial Master Gardener December 2009

FALL LANDSCAPE LOVE PROGRAM

BY ANNE NIELSEN

This Fall the Landscape Love project visited 42 households to help with landscape and environmental concerns. This was carried out by 24 Master Gardeners working on five teams. From the homeowner reports, everyone was impressed by the quality of the advice they got!! Ford's Colony gets a gold star for visiting 13 residents with 6 homeowner reports filed!! All the teams did a great job. Thank you so much for your dedication.

Volunteers were:

Fords Colony - Milt Berube, Annette Bell, Tod Allen, Dan Tevlin, John Giffin, Barb Landa, Ruth Ann Penberthy, Janice Wolford, Josette DeMarcantonio, Sue Liddell

Governors Land - Anne Nielsen, Carolyn Gaertner, Becky Morgan, Jeanne Millin, Denise Fleischmann, Beth Fugate, Nancy Carnegie (Spring only)

Jamestown - Caryl LeFever, Jane Healy-Nobrega, Ruth Schultz, Evi Oakley, Ann Hobson, Debbie Webb (Spring only), Peg Crews (Spring only)

Upper County - Rich Strenkowski, Mary Tucci, Helen Kidder, Laura Tucker, Margene Hartsough, Dwight Johnson, Ray Mindrup (Spring only), Don Bowman (Spring only), Gerhard Hertel (Spring only), Carol Fryer (Spring only)



Williamsburg - Sally Sissel, Suzanne Brown, Jerry Babski, Caitlin Matanle, Anne Zepkin, Mitzie Emory (Spring only)

Over the entire year, we visited 81 families which is a record for us. Next year we hope to see even more! To increase the number of applicants, we went to HOA meetings and the Farmer's Market. We also posted signs at the Rec Center, ran pictures in the Gazette, and included a flyer in the Neighborhood Connections newsletter.

A special thank you to Bob Winters for his advice and also for sending us referrals from the Turf Love visits. He's the best!!

We start again next April. Please join us. It's a great community program.



UPDATES ON PROJECTS

BY JEANNE MILLIN

NEW PROJECT:

At the December 3rd General Membership meeting, Master Gardeners will be asked to approve a New Project, Diagnostic Clinics. The Diagnostic Clinics project has been conducted in May and June for the past two years under VCE Special Projects (E9). This category is used for one-time or short special projects requested by the Extension Office. The Board felt that this project is now an on-going project and should stand alone. A new project number will be assigned after the MG membership approval at the December meeting.

PROJECT CHANGES:

At the November 20th Board Meeting, the Executive Committee approved the following changes to Projects:

1. Habitat for Humanity (E34) will be dropped from the list of approved projects until activity resumes and MGs are requested for another home landscaping project;

2. The CW Greenhouse and Outreach project (E16) will be renamed, CW Greenhouse. The garden tours previously conducted under this project will be moved into the CW Learning Garden (E5) and will have a new activity line on the timesheet.

PROJECT NEWS:

Helen Hamilton has agreed to Co-Chair the Mobile MG project (E33) with Denis Mehigan. Thank you Helen for stepping up! Helen has also a new Co-Chair of the Educational Tours of the Ellipse Garden project (E34). Clare Britcher is currently a member of the York County MGs and will be transferring her membership to JCC/W. Please welcome Clare when you see her at future meetings.

If you are interested in Co-Chairing any of the projects in which you are currently involved, please contact the Chairperson and they will train you and welcome your help.

The Colonial Master Gardener December 2009



NEW THERAPEUTIC GARDENING PROGRAM

BY FRANK MESSINA

A new Therapeutic Gardening program will be conducted at Eastern State Hospital (ESH) in 2010. This TG program will work with 8 to 10 higher functioning adults who might find horticulture training useful in finding employment upon their release from ESH. Some might even have some previous experience in this field. The program would be more educational than previous TG programs at ESH but would still encourage interaction with others in a relaxed setting. Ten sessions are planned with each one focusing on a particular area. We will ask fellow Master Gardeners with specific expertise to present particular topics. The program will be conducted primarily in the greenhouse at ESH and will begin in February since ESH has a plant sale in early May.

Frank Messina, Anne Odle and John Giffin will lead the program. MGs who would like to participate need to complete ESH's volunteer application, sign a confidentiality statement and, if possible, attend an orientation at ESH on January 15. (Some of you did all of this in 2009 and won't need to repeat anything.) Shown below is a tentative schedule of topics for the sessions, which will take place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The time with the residents will be from 10:30 to 11:30 with set-up and clean-up time added at either end. The plan is to have an instructional talk followed by a related activity each time the group meets. Each participant will keep a notebook, and handouts on various topics will be given.

If you think you might be interested in volunteering in the program, you may discuss it with any of the Eastern State co-

chairs or the Therapeutic Gardening Project co-chairs Linda Lucas and Barbara Gustafson. If you know you are interested, **please let Frank Messina know that you would like to volunteer in this new program** (fgmessina@aol.com or 741-2725).

Session 1—February 10: Explanation of the program followed by discussion on getting the garden started

Session 2—February 24: Seed planting

Session 3—March 8: Planting in containers, with demonstrations on making inexpensive containers

Session 4—March 23: Planting in raised beds

Session 5—April 13: Propagation from existing plants

Session 6—April 27: Composting

Session 7—May 11: Companion Planting

Session 8—May 25: Plant Problems-Diseases & Insects

Session 9—June 8: Pruning

Session 10—Lawn Care

NEW KENT NEWS

BY SUSAN VOIGT

The NK MG team met at the NK VCE on November 19 for an Autumn potluck lunch and planning for 2010, followed by a tour of Carole's Garden with fall plantings of lettuces, broccoli, cabbages and garlic. We still need to plant the raspberry and thornless blackberry beds and then the move of the garden will be complete. On January 14 at 10 a.m. we plan to reconstruct a cold frame house over one of the garden beds. Also on that date we will plan Carole's garden planting and maintenance for 2010. Any interested MGs are welcome to join us.

Three major events in 2010 are of special interest to all JCCW MGs:

January 29th

Entrepreneur Express Seminar—Free

A one-day program on starting a small business, sponsored by NK VCE.

April 17th

New Kent Environmental Fair at NK VCE

We will feature exhibits on raised bed vegetable gardening, composting, water barrel workshop, lasagna gardening, mushroom gardening and a NK MG plant sale. We hope some JCCW MG projects can have displays, especially container gardening and rain barrels.

June 27th

Annual Taking Root Farm Tour

We hope many JCCW MGs will volunteer again this year to help at the farm sites. The Farm Tour Field trip for MG volunteers will be on May 27.

The hard work by Patty Townsend and Mary Mills, the current staff at the NK VCE, with support from the NK MGs are beginning to be more visible to NK county staff and we hope to make a bigger impact in the county in 2010.





VCE EDUCATIONAL SERIES:

KEEPING LANDSCAPES "SUSTAINABLE"

Virginia Cooperative Extension is sponsoring an educational series providing the professional landscaper with research based information that solves problems in landscape situations. You can attend one class or all scheduled classes. All classes are free, pre-registration is required and can be done by calling 890-4940 or emailing ex199@vt.edu.

December 9

"Weed Control in the Landscape," by Dr. Jeff Derr, Ext. Specialist, Weeds

Get up-to-date information on weed control. Listen to the effective use of herbicides in the landscape. Learn how to control with pre-emergent or post-emergent strategies.

January 20

"Selecting Sustainable Bedding Plants," Speaker To Be Announced

Diseases and other problems cause havoc in your clients' flower beds, forcing you to seek more sustainable bedding plants. Come learn alternative bedding plants to keep customers happy and increase your bottom line.

February 17

"Tree Planting," by Dr. Bonnie Appleton, Ext. Specialist, Nursery Crops

Learn the newest research and how you can incorporate it into your business. The research lets us know of increased success when planting a tree.

Location:

Newport News Extension Office
739 Thimble Shoals Blvd, Ste 1009
Oyster Point Plaza
9 am – 11 am

FIELD TRIP

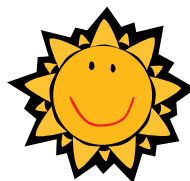


MG Field trip to Brent & Becky's, Sept. 14, 2009

Happy Holidays
TO ALL !!

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

A Sunshine Note was sent to Ruth Ann Penberthy following her hand surgery.

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 on the organization. Pat may be reached at 221-0289 or janotap@verizon.net.

The Colonial Master Gardener December 2009



VCE NEWS

FROM JIM ORBAND,
EXTENSION AGENT, ANR, YORK COUNTY

Virginia Cooperative Extension is sponsoring many listening sessions throughout the Commonwealth in order to gather information. Please join us for a public dialogue on community needs and the future focus of Extension. We will ask you to define critical issues in your community related to economics, environment, and quality of life. We will ask you to identify the role Extension should play in responding to these issues, and tell us what Extension should continue doing, start doing, or stop doing.

Public meeting for our region: Please call in your reservation at 890-4940 and join us on **December 8, 2009** from 10 am until 11:30 am at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center, Room 102 A & B, 570 McLawhorne Drive (off of Jefferson Ave) in Newport News. I hope that you will be able to share your thoughts as we listen to you.

[Strategic Planning for Virginia Cooperative Extension:](http://www.ext.vt.edu/strategicplanning)
www.ext.vt.edu/strategicplanning

In early 2009, Virginia Cooperative Extension began a strategic planning process at the request of Virginia Tech Senior Vice President and Provost, Mark G. McNamee. The process will culminate with the development of a five-year plan that sets organizational priorities and develops goals and objectives for enhancing Extension's relevance, viability, and sustainability to the people of Virginia.

A Strategic Planning Steering Committee was named in May of

2009. The 26 member team believes the strategic planning process can help us envision our future and develop the necessary procedures and operations to achieve that future. The future, however, often begins with a look to the past. By reflecting on our purpose, vision, and strategies for carrying out our mission, we can better determine how prepared we are to cope with the changing world.

The Steering Committee developed a structure to collect input from all Extension stakeholders, both internal and external, via a series of face-to-face meetings during the fall of 2009. We will include agents, staff, specialists, administrators, government officials, ELC members, families, communities, 4-H, agribusiness, and other stakeholders in these dialogues. The richness of the ideas resulting from such interaction will provide a solid foundation from which Extension can address the concerns and issues of those that we are charged to serve. The breadth of this involvement also enables us to think broadly to address the economic, environmental, civic and community engagement, and life quality issues that face all communities.

The input from these dialogues will be collected and analyzed by the Steering Committee in early 2010, at which time the plan will be drafted.

Upcoming Dates to Remember



- **Dec. 3** Monthly MG Meeting at WRL; Kathy Duncan, "Basic Landscape Design and Phases of Installation"
- **Dec. 28** Jan. Newsletter Deadline
- **Jan. 14** NK Cold Frame House Construction
- **Jan. 14** Graduation/Awards Dinner
- **Jan. 15** ESH Orientation (Therapeutic Gardening)
- **Apr. 24** PLANT SALE

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the January Newsletter is **Dec. 28**. 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.