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The Colonial MasterGardener

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January 2004

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

January 8, 2004

9:00 a.m.

BRUTON HEIGHTS

OUR BEST/WORST GARDENING EXPERIENCE

Our panel of experts: Bob Winters (turf love), George Anderson (pruning), Nelda and Jim Pressly (propagation), Bruce Manilla (garden design) and others will share their best and worst and answer your gardening questions. Please be there ready to fire away!

AN INVITATION TO THE GRADUATION DINNER FOR THE CLASS OF 2003

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004

5:30 p.m.

WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

514 JAMESTOWN ROAD

FELLOWSHIP HALL in the basement of the church

Guest speaker:

Lisa Ziegler, "Fabulous Flowers to Grow for Your Cutting Garden"

Park in the rear of the building and enter the side entrance marked Fellowship Hall.

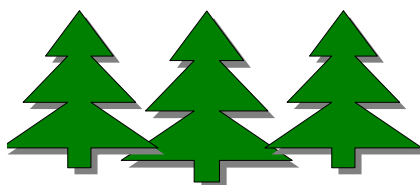
Sign up sheet at January's general meeting if you will be attending and which dish you will be sharing (vegetable, salad or dessert). All those attending (including the class of 2003) please bring a dish. Also sign up to help with set up, serving, and clean up. **(Please don't make me do this alone.)**

Your attendance will make this a special occasion. Let's welcome the new class with true master gardener enthusiasm and hospitality. Call me at 258-3467 or email me at minouche@cox.net if you will attend but won't be at January's general meeting.

Hope to see you all there!

Enthusiastically, **MINOUCHE ROBINSON**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



President Barbara's Corner.....



The James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners just received a note from the Williamsburg Regional Library thanking us for the \$500 supporting children's gardening books and the story time garden. To quote: "This generous support assists the library in achieving its mission of providing resources and programs that educate, enrich, entertain and inform every member of our community." Our members should indeed be pleased.

This past year we learned that the training of new master gardeners could be done quite well by us alone. The plant sale moved indoors where we were out of the wind and the rain and proved a great success. Our booth at Farmers' Market was open every other Saturday throughout the season, always with a new and interesting theme and plenty of volunteers. One of our largest projects, the Reid Learning Garden, made a number of graceful transitions in chairs with scarcely a ripple. Our projects encompass more of the youth in our community than ever before. Contact hours, educational projects, administrative and service activities and advanced training have steadily increased. We have shared the expertise of our members through organized garden tours and as speakers for our monthly meetings. Hopefully we are even learning how to reach out to each other more effectively.

Congratulations on a year well done! This coming year we will begin training more prospective master gardeners than ever before. It marks a good beginning for 2004.

BARBARA SCHROEDER

THE DIRT FROM MATTEY'S GARDEN

Mattey's has been a busy place this fall. Students have toured the garden after Hurricane Isabel to find that most of their crops planted last spring were still strong and growing. Fifth graders were amazed at the size of the sweet potatoes they harvested and ate in the school cafeteria. The tobacco plants were lush and blooming.

In October nine William and Mary students, one parent and four MGs worked on Make A Difference Day (a college public service day) to spread compost and mulch as well as clean out the pond, paint the shed and strip the vines off the fence. Three other work days involving parents and MGs helped to put the garden to bed. Kindergarteners have planted garlic outdoors as part of their Herb of the Month unit for November and ginger indoors for December. As usual, cafeteria manager, Mrs. Brown, prepared delicious snacks using herbs.

A mailbox painted by the school secretary has been added to the gate with maps of the garden. As a part of their math unit on measurement, fifth graders have been measuring the garden and beds in order to make a scale drawing which will be transferred to the computer.

Genrose is busy working on two grant applications: one from Fine Gardening magazine and the other from the Greenhouse Association. We hope to have Mattey's registered on the National Gardening Association's list of children's gardening by the first of the year. **GENROSE LASHINGER**

"GARDENING WITH CHILDREN" is a

workshop for parents, scout leaders, teachers, and anyone who wants to work with children's gardens. It will be held Saturday, April 3, 2004, from 9-1 at the James City Williamsburg Community Center on Longhill Road. We need speakers, poster and program designers, and someone in charge of equipment. Contact **CHARLENE TALCOTT** at 258-0317 to sign up to help.

RECORD SIZE TRAINING CLASS

We have finally said "absolutely no more"!! Our 2004 training class will have 34 participants, only one of whom is a professional, and we have several on a waiting list. Thanks to all who helped put this training together. **SALLY SISSEL**

UPDATE: PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, & INFORMATION

If you belong to the Ginter Gardens or subscribe to Horticulture Magazine you have already received information on a great program to be held on Saturday, January 31 at the Ginter. "The New Oasis Garden" features Penelope Hobhouse as keynote speaker. Also speaking are C. Colston Burrell, Thomas Hobbs, (designer from Vancouver) and Nicholas Staddon, (director of new plant introductions for Monrovia). Cost is \$99 if you are a member/subscriber; \$109 otherwise.

Sally Sissel can copy the full details for anyone interested who doesn't already have it. Would be a great way to get all your 2004 recertification hours in one fell swoop!--and have fun besides. If enough MGs want to go, we should be able to use the county van with one of our "fully trained" drivers. It's more fun to go all together rather than take so many cars. Contact Sally if interested. Make your own reservations, etc. but she would be happy to look into shared transportation.

STRONG, FRIENDLY & SWEET

A recent survey proclaimed that Christmas consists of candles, evergreens & cinnamon. While theologically peculiar, it is true that Cinnamon, Ginger, Cardamom, Allspice, Nutmeg and Cloves—the Sweet Spices—do seem most associated with winter-defying cakes, cookies and drinks. The Sweet Spices help banish wintry grayness. Raleigh Tavern's gingerbread cookies, always delicious (unless left to harden for too long) provide special comfort as does Cocoa loaded with cinnamon or Oranges spiced all over with cloves. Besides these "usual suspects" try nutmeg in your turkey gravy (or, like the Scandinavians, in mashed potatoes or in a potent wine-based potion, Glogg). Consider how these sweet spices are most associated with tropical and polar cuisines—grown by the equator, used in the arctic to mellow winter's blasts. Nibble candied ginger from Fresh Market or replace cloves with cardamom when glitches and gremlins have apparently replaced Santa and elves and Christmas becomes daunting chores rather than a Joyful Arrival. May Your New Year be spicy and sweet.

HELENE KRAIGE.

You might be a Master Gardener if ... You always carry a shovel and a plastic bag in your trunk as emergency tools.

ANGELA CINGALE



NEW STATE MG COORDINATOR IS DAVID CLOSE

After a national search, a team of interviewers selected David Close to become the Virginia Cooperative Extension State Master Gardener Coordinator. He is expected to begin sometime in March 2004. David Close has worked with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources, in southern Illinois since 1997 and has a Master's Degree in Forest Ecology from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. He has demonstrated skills in administration, program development, teaching, and volunteer management in an environmental arena. He is the author of more than 12 publications and recipient of more than 7 grants.

The position announcement was distributed to MG programs and Extension Offices nationwide in late September of 2003. David Close presented such a compelling combination of experience, desire, and skills, that he was the clear choice among eight candidates for the position.

The interview team included representatives from VCE, the Horticulture Department at Virginia Tech, and a MG representative. The choice of David Close was unanimous.

VMGA should be proud to have been asked to help with this important decision regarding the future of Virginia Master Gardeners. Both VCE and the Horticulture Department put high priority on filling this position with a quality candidate. Both worked hard to find funding to mount a national search, and put together an offer to the chosen candidate commensurate with his abilities and that would allow him to accept the position.

LEANNE DUBOIS

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE !!! **IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2004 MG DUES**

Please make your \$15 check payable to **JCCW Master Gardeners**. Mail to DEBBIE MADDOCKS, 2088 HARPER'S MILL ROAD, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185-7520 or give your check to Debbie at the January 8 monthly meeting or at the January 15 graduation dinner.

Cheers,
DEBBIE

Minutes, Master Gardener General Membership Meeting, Dec. 4, 2003

Call to Order: President Barbara Schroeder called the meeting at the Williamsburg Library to order at 9:10 a.m. with approximately 55 members attending.

Officer's Reports: President – Barbara announced that the Hours Pins were in from VA Tech. They were given to the following: 2000 Hours: Greg Allen, Sue Liddell, Rudy Roberts; 1000 Hours: George Anderson, Audrey Hoistma, Barbara Schroeder; 500 Hours: Barbara Catharine, Dale Firestone, Virginia Gregory, Anne Haltiner, Peggy Manning, Sally Sissel, Susan Voigt; 250 Hours: Dorothy Betz-Houk, Susanne Brown, Mary Ann Carlson, Tony Dion, Art Gustafson, Becky Morgan, Marilyn Riddle and Charlene Talcott. Membership news: Jane Strauss passed away, and a memorial service will be held Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Unitarian Fellowship Sanctuary; Jan Steinberg's mother passed away; and Dale Firestone was to undergo bypass surgery in Richmond. Also, Barbara Brouse is moving away from Williamsburg- A Committee including Minouche (Chair), Greg Allen, Charlie Clapper, Angela Cingale and Tom Rogers has been formed to survey how membership sees our various projects and their effectiveness. There will be an Appreciation Day at the March meeting to say thank you to a few master gardeners for extraordinary service. Criteria will be either retired from a long-term position of authority or served unusually long in one or two specific areas. If you have anybody to recommend, get in touch with Art, Minouche, Angela Cingale, Leanne, or Barbara. Secretary – The November minutes were approved as distributed. Treasurer -- The separate account for training was opened with a balance of \$5,194.08. November income was \$270 (birdhouses), expenses were \$114.82, with cash flow of \$155.18. Reserve Task Force expenses: laptop and PowerPoint, \$2,891.34; library, \$500 for Youth Resources; with \$7,180.17 in checking account. Cash flow for year is \$1,082.98. VP for Internal Education – Minouche reported membership was doing OK with Recertification Hours. She will be calling people who signed up to help with the Jan. 15 Graduation Dinner at the Methodist Church. VP for Youth Programs – Charlene talked about a Children's Day scheduled for next spring, (now April 3). It would run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is geared to the adults who garden with children, e.g. scout leaders, 4-H, parents and teachers. She will need speakers, help with posters and printing, and refreshments. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Extension – Barbara announced for Leanne that a "Spring into Gardening" Seminar would be held March 20 at the Community Rec Center. It will have workshops and panel discussions by master gardeners and JCC Pride. Bob Winters, Anne Haltiner, Ailene Bartlett, Wayne Moyers, Barbara Schroeder and Beth Davis of JCC Service Authority are working with her. She also is organizing with the Peninsula Tree Stewards, 4H groups, York and New Kent EO, Soil and Water Conservation District and VA Department of Forestry a Reforestation Project that would buy trees from the forest service and sell to the public to replace trees lost to Hurricane Isabel. 1st VP for Projects – Anne brought the project Rapid Composting up for vote, and it was approved. She said the Junior MG/Avalon/Lafayette project would be going back to the drawing board in January, because there are not enough children at Avalon to support it. Get in touch with Jodi Luke if you have new ideas for Avalon.

Committees and Projects: MG Training Coordinator/Farmers' Market – Sally said she had presented the refund checks to 16 of the Interns and discussed a mentoring system for the newly graduated 2004 MGs with a sign-up sheet for volunteer mentors passed around. For the 2004 Training Class, there are 29 in hand and two more possibilities, with only one professional. Sally requested volunteers to help with a technical problem of converting two videos into one. A special congrats to the Training Coordinators: Coco and Bob Strang, Greg Allen, Minouche Robinson and Sue Liddell. The Farmers' Market for Dec.13 has all the volunteers needed and is all set. Therapeutic Gardening – Marilyn announced openings for six to eight new participants and passed around a signup sheet. Angela is having a meeting Wed., Dec. 10 at 9:30 at her home. All Therapeutic Gardening members, both old and new, are welcome. Newsletter – No report. Publicity – Mary has pictures for the newspaper that will appear over the next few months. Programs – Genrose said next month's meeting will feature a panel discussion led by members of our organization about the "Best and Worst Experiences in the Garden." Lisa Ziegler will be speaker at the Graduation Dinner. All MG general meetings will be held at Bruton Heights from now through June. Reserves – a check for \$500 for the endowment to the Youth Gardening Resource Center was presented to the Library. Tree Steward Class – Sue reported sign-up was extended to December 5th, inviting professionals from the area; there will be good speakers; and they are down to 15 from 30 possible students. Let Sue know if you are interested. **Old Business:** Mission Statement and Logo – Minouche reported the County graphics person would not be available to help with the logo design, so she would do it herself. **Announcements:** Barbara mentioned that in the past there had been a marketing team for selling the bluebird houses. At present we need a better selling venue. If anybody is interested in helping, please contact Barbara. Business adjourned for a timely program, in light of the recent hurricane, on "Best Plants for Hampton Roads: A Landscape and Garden Companion," presented by Laurie Fox.

Respectfully submitted, **MARY ANN CARLSON**