



The Colonial Master Gardener

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

January 2005

SUSTAINABILITY

Our ideals, laws and customs should be based on the proposition that each generation, in turn, becomes the custodian rather than the absolute owner of our resources and each generation has the obligation to pass this inheritance on to the future.

-- Charles A Lindbergh; *The New York Times Magazine*, May 23, 1971

PRESIDENT

Barbara Schroeder Gustafson
'99

564-1888

HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS ASSOCIATE

Leanne DuBois, '96
JCC Coop. Extension Agent
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

January 6, 2005

9:00 am

WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Denise Greene – Sassafras Farm

“USING NATIVE PERENNIALS IN THE LANDSCAPE”

He that works without tools is twice tired.

Handle your tools without mittens.

Benjamin Franklin

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We have apparently omitted a very important segment of gardening: food - as acquired through both fruit and vegetable gardening. To correct this, I want a group of interested members to explore project possibilities. Suggestions I have received include first having personal food gardens including those grown in containers, and eventually working into several aspects of community food gardening. First we need to assess MG interest. If you want to be part of this group, please let our President know!

IN MEMORIAM

VIRGINIA GREGORY

1929-2004

HEATHER CRANFORD

1950-2004



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This time of year our thoughts and activities center on friends and family. We lost our good friend and fellow master gardener Virginia Gregory quite suddenly this month. We are thankful that her daughters invited us to participate in a memorial reception at the Bruton Parish House. Virginia encouraged many of us to pursue our individual interests. As the therapeutic gardening project began she handed me informative articles or newspaper clippings before general meetings. She always contributed new ideas to our projects as the therapeutic gardening program expanded. For me and many others in this community her encouragement and thoughtfulness will be greatly missed.

Have all of you have sent in your money for our annual graduation dinner? I hope so! The date is Thursday, January 13; the time 6 PM; the place the Unitarian Church on Ironbound Road near the Clara Byrd Baker School. This year we decided to be genteel and have dinner catered. This is the time we officially welcome those hard-working 2004 interns as full-fledged Master Gardeners. All spouses are invited to join us. If you have neglected to make your reservations, please send \$12 per person to Treasurer Dave Banks.

Earlier this month, Laura Viancour of Colonial Williamsburg asked that we consider developing a weekly Reid Garden tour. Since I have been a garden guide at CW for the past four years, she felt I could coordinate this tour with her and the CW landscaping staff. I discussed this idea with Marilyn Riddle, Greg Allan and, our project coordinator Charlie Clapper. All felt, as I do, that it would add a needed educational component to the Reid Learning Garden. If any of you working at the Reid garden want to participate please contact either Marilyn or myself.

I hope all of you are enjoying this special time and will be full of gardening vigor in 2005.

BARBARA SCHROEDER GUSTAFSON

COMING ATTRACTIONS: ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER WATER STEWARDS

Next to air, water is our most precious resource. In James City County we have rich water resources -- lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and wetlands. Although water is a renewable resource, demand is rapidly rising as we become more urbanized and developed. Also problematic is the nutrient runoff that affects the health of our waterways. Many of our programs, including Turf Love, are addressing consumer educational needs concerning water quality in our community.

Recently, a group of Master Gardener volunteers and Conservation Organizations met to explore offering a Water Stewards advanced training program similar to the Tree Stewards. The first meeting established the need in the community. Since then the group has been crafting a curriculum and speakers for the class. Topics will include; Understanding the Water Cycle, Geology, Hydrology, Retention Ponds, Water Gardens, Riparian buffer plantings and more.
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Master Gardeners will learn how the Advanced Master Gardener Water Steward Program can serve Peninsula counties in reducing soil and nutrient runoff into the Chesapeake Bay. Master Gardener volunteers will be trained in water and soil conservation techniques to help establish programs to assist homeowners, associations, and others in conservation practices.

We are fortunate to have Wayne Moyer who has been a leader in this effort. Wayne also serves on the board of the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District giving him a well rounded perspective on the subject. **LEANNE DUBOIS**

2004 MASTER GARDENER SURVEY

The membership survey completed in July resulted in a number of changes. A summary of the changes already implemented follows:

- Business meetings have been shortened and follow an agenda.
- More field trips are included in lieu of lectures at monthly meetings.
- Social hours are scheduled as part of some monthly meetings.
- Reporting of hours has been simplified as much as possible while still meeting state reporting requirements.
- Current master gardeners now have the opportunity to attend the new 2005 intern training classes.
- Media coverage of master gardener activities has greatly expanded.
- As part of the annual update of projects, the project chairs have been asked to provide firm estimates of the number of volunteers they need for their projects. This will help determine how many new projects the organization can take on.
- Communications between the Extension Office and the MG organization have been improved so that we can better plan new projects and their volunteer requirements.
- Efforts continue to interest schools other than Matthew Whaley in children's programs. (see article in the November 2004 Newsletter)
- Efforts continue to get more members involved on committees or as project chairs.

DIRT FROM MATTEY'S GARDEN

Many thanks to all who helped make this the best growing season yet in Matthey's Garden. The garden has been "put to bed" with a new layer of mulch covering the garden and a crimson clover cover crop growing in all of the raised beds. Collards, broccoli, and garlic are growing in the Kindergarteners Salad Garden and in November a whole bus load of Master Gardeners from Chesapeake toured the garden. A wonderful statue of a child reading a book has been donated by Williamsburg Garden Club member, Diana Havell, in memory of her mother and grandmother and several plant signs have been given in honor of the garden's designer, Gale Roberts. The garden signs will be ordered soon and will go in by the first of the New Year. Have a wonderful New Year and stay tuned for more excitement from Matthey's!

GENROSE LASHINGER

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

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION: SUBMIT MY HOURS MONTHLY, AND VOLUNTEER TO BECOME A PROJECT CHAIR OR MG ASSOCIATION OFFICER

HOURS REPORTING

Master Gardeners discover that we are often asked to give gardening solutions to our friends and neighbors--sometimes even while standing at the grocery checkout. We have ignored this kind of "Community Outreach" on our monthly volunteer activity reports. We will change our Activity Sheet to include a category for this kind of community information-sharing accomplished by individuals rather than by project teams such as Turf Love, Tree Stewards, etc. The same criteria that are used for team projects must be used in this category as well as educational use of Cooperative Extension publications and other aids, etc. Look for this on future activity sheets as item A-7 MG Video/Media/Community Outreach.

TRAINING CLASS 2005

The 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. Make your appointment to attend advance training by calling or e-mailing Rich Bunger

DUES

2005 MG dues of \$15.00 are due as of the January MG meeting. You may wish to mail me a check instead of trying to remember to bring it to the meeting.

DAVE BANKS, Treasurer, 215 Charter House Lane, Williamsburg VA 23188

GRADUATION DINNER

**JANUARY 13, 2005 - 6:00 PM. UNITARIAN CHURCH, 3051 IRONBOUND ROAD
COST \$12 -- TICKETS AVAILABLE AT JANUARY MEETING OR FROM DAVE BANKS
2004 INTERNS ARE OUR GUESTS (BUT NOT SPOUSES OR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS)**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 13 -- Graduation Dinner – Marie Butler – Norfolk Botanical Garden/Zoo
I Have Elephants in My Garden. So What's Your Problem?

February 3 -- Jim Orband – *Ferns*

We need four people to chair one meeting each for Hospitality. Duties would include preparing coffee and juice with cups, napkins, etc. and asking others to bring goodies. The months are April, July, September, and December. Please contact Genrose if you can help.

HELP WANTED

The Jamestown and Airfield 4-H Educational Centers are in need of Instructors to teach Environmental Education classes in subjects such as Marine Science and Forestry. We will be hosting an instructor training this coming spring to certify instructors in several different curriculum areas. Stipends are available to pay instructors when they teach, but volunteers are always appreciated too! If you, or anyone you know, would be interested please contact Sue Vezeau Program Director/Archaeologist at 757-253-4931 ext. 13 or by email: suev@vt.edu
Thank you and Happy Holidays! Sue Vezeau Jamestown 4-H Educational Center,
3751 4-H Club Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE 2004 NEWSLETTERS!

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