



The Colonial Master Gardener

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

JULY 2004

SUSTAINABILITY

“*The Nature of Wetlands* – Wetlands are those landscapes that are covered with standing water for at least part of the year. Some wetlands, such as marshes and ponds, have standing water throughout the year. Others, such as wet meadows, may be covered with water in the late winter and spring, but then appear quite dry in the summer. However, dig down in the soil a few inches and you’ll probably find the most, soggy soils that characterize a wetland.

Wetlands help control flood waters, and also improve water quality by filtering out pollutants and nutrients. In addition, wetlands provide critical habitat for both resident and migrating birds, and other wildlife. Hundreds of kinds of birds and fish depend on some kind of wetland.” *Guide to Wetlands*, Oregon Garden, Silverton, Oregon

PRESIDENT

Barbara Schroeder '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.

You know you're a master gardener when you know the temperature of your compost every day.

RESULTS FROM THE VIRGINIA TECH LAB

The Plant Disease and Insect labs are always a wealth of information. In May scale has been a problem, especially on Camellias and Chinese Holly. The cottony camellia scale, tea scale and oyster shell scale have been the most prevalent. We've even seen more than one variety on a single plant sample. Always refer to the 2004 Pest Management Guide for treatment. The PMG can be accessed on the web at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/pmg>. Horticultural Oil seems to be the standard recommendation but it's always necessary to isolate the exact pest to recommend the appropriate treatment. When in doubt...send it out. **LEANNE DEBOIS**

KUDOS TO THE COMPOST TEAM

The Colonial Triangle Unit of Virginia (Herb Society of America) thanks you for your generosity in sharing your “black gold” for use at the Hospice House fragrance and kitchen herb garden. **PHYLLIS JENNINGS**

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

July 1 marks the beginning of a new year for our local VMGA. Most of our 2003-4 board has agreed to continue to serve. Please welcome the new members on the 2004-5 board. These are Charlie Clapper as Vice-President of Projects, Dave Banks as Treasurer and Ann DeForest as a Co-State Representative. The important position of Secretary still needs to be filled.

Hours awards were given to many master gardeners at Master Gardener College this past week. Seventeen members of our group also earned such awards this year; you can find them listed elsewhere in this newsletter. At MG College Leanne, Art and I attended a Coordinators' Conference where we met our new VSE State Coordinator Dave Close. We discussed many things including the importance of recording all volunteer hours, keeping the State Recording System up to date, and keeping our projects educational. Leanne DuBois with Angela Cingale, Ailene Bartlett, Frances Knight, Rich Bunger, Art Gustafson and Yours Truly represented JCC/W Master Gardeners there.

Many of you are already aware that our tents at Farmers' Market are now located at the beginning of the block adjacent to Henry Street. Those working this past Saturday report that the shade makes the tents much cooler, but that the folks attending appeared to have difficulty finding us.

Charlie Clapper, as the new First Vice-president, is chairing the July general meeting while Art and I are off in Ireland, Scotland and London. The program topic will explore the results of the membership survey with the purpose to represent your priorities more effectively. The board along with a number of active and concerned members will go over the results and discuss the conclusions with you. President-**BARBARA SCHROEDER-GUSTAFSON**

THE BOOK CORNER

"Good things come in threes", right?? Well ... the other weekend I was heading to Fredericksburg, and caught André Viette on AM1140 (WRVA). Of course, there was an "occasional" plug for his new book, *MONTH-BY-MONTH GARDENING IN THE MID-ATLANTIC*. (Nashville, Cool Springs Press, 2004). So, I headed for Borders, my favorite bookstore in that town, and I found André's book and 2 more quite similar! You know the rest... It's a monthly checklist, with lots of "did you know" information, good tips, and good lists. It's divided by subject: bulbs, trees, perennials, etc. making it easier to consult on one subject. Easy to read, to mark with sticky-tabs or a highlighter; no illustrations; good index. One complaint: André is NOT an organic gardener - lots of references to chemicals, but then, one has to consider the business he's in. All-in-all, a useful book. Number 2 is Karen Troshynski-Thomas's *HANDY GARDEN ANSWER BOOK*, (Detroit, Visible Ink Press, 1999). It, too, is divided by subject, with chapters on garden design, soil science, seeding, propagating and planting, etc. Resources section is good, as is index. It's a bit harder to use, but still full of good stuff, and easily flagged or marked. Number 3 is Barbara Pleasant's *SOUTHERN GARDEN ADVISOR*, (Nashville, Cool Springs Press, 2003). Although also arranged by month, it's more chatty, and contains more "did-you-know?" sections, some of them really interesting! Her resources list is limited to seed/nursery suppliers, and the index is good. This is more of a bedtime reading thing than a real tool, but it's still useful. By the way, Borders is the only bookstore I've ever seen that has a large selection of books on growing - marijuana. Go figure... (No, I haven't bought any - don't intend to.) **AILENE BARTLETT**

HERB OF THE YEAR – 2004

Garlic (*Allium sativum*)

I dare say that everyone reading this article has heard of garlic, but some might not have thought of it as an herb. Eaten in medieval times as a vegetable, garlic is used today in most world cuisines in just about every type of dish except, perhaps, desserts.

Since garlic has been around since pre-Biblical times, there are many legends about it. Many have to do with its strength, speed and endurance. Supposedly, Egyptian slaves ate garlic as they built the pyramids, and the Israelites ate it before they escaped from Egypt.

Being considered the herb of Mars, Romans ate it before going into battle. Some parts of Europe believe that if a man chews on a bulb of garlic before running a race, it will keep others from getting ahead of him. In Hungary, it is said that if a jockey fastens a clove of garlic to the bit of his horse, other horses when nearing him will back away from the smell.

From early times, garlic was believed to cure many ailments from high blood pressure to ridding an animal (or person) of worms or parasites. Today garlic's antibacterial qualities are being researched .

Garlic often used in companion planting is thought to control many pests, such as aphids (plant close to roses) and is included in some sprays supposed to keep deer away. A fellow Master Gardener recently suggested that garlic and the other alliums might even keep voles away.

Garlic can be grown from seeds or cloves, and can be planted either in the fall or in the early spring. It needs well-drained soil so that the cloves do not rot.

May's "*Herb Companion*" includes a very interesting article by Susan Belsinger and Tina Marie Wilcox on garlic. They tested 10 different varieties of garlic, growing them in their gardens and then having a taste test where they ranked them for strength and flavor. The issue included several recipes, even one for garlic ice cream that I, for one, will not try!

DEE ALBRIGHT

THROUGH THE GATE

The George Reid Garden has been a beehive of activity in May! Our volunteers have amassed a total of 348.5 hours for this month alone. Incidentally, I would like to make it clear that I am on record that we MGs are never going to serve as replacements for former paid employees. CW's Laura Viancour and Hunter Curry will attend the July club meeting and present the one year and five year pins to those who have reached that milestone. Laura requests that all Reid volunteers remain after the program to discuss some interesting opportunities she would like to offer. A special thanks to Bill Baetz and Tony Dion for their handiwork under the guidance of Greg Allen. Our perennials team and trees team have been spotlighted at the Farmers' Market recently. Veggie and herbs will be on display there in the next three weeks. I especially appreciate the cooperative spirit shown among the teams. **MARILYN RIDDLE**

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING
Bruton Heights Lane Auditorium
July 1, 9:00 am

Survey/Membership Meeting – Hear what people said. Help shape our future!

Aug. 5 Norfolk Botanical Garden gardener—Annuals That Thrive during July and August
Sept. 2 Dahlias! – Lynn Trott
Lynn will speak on dahlias and then you are invited to tour her garden
Oct. 7 TBA
Nov. 4 Donna Ware
Dec. 2 Ferns – Jim Orband
Jan. 6 Denise Greene from Sassafras Farm
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.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 27 - 1:00 – 5:00 Taking Root, Self Driving/Biking Tour of Small Farms in New Kent
AUGUST 21 - Super Turf Saturday JC/W Community Center

JCC/WILLIAMSBURG MASTER GARDENERS AT THE FARMERS' MARKET
SUMMER/FALL, 2004

JUNE 26 *Vegetables* including demonstrations in the Reid Garden

JULY 10 *Herbs* including demonstrations in the Reid Garden

JULY 24 *Drought Tolerant Plants*

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION SERVICE AWARDS, AS OF APRIL 1, 2004

Seventeen Master Gardeners have reached new milestones since April 2003.

2000 Hour Award Tony Bentivegna

1000 Hour Award Bruce Manilla Peggy Manning Grace Raymond Martha Smith Sally Sissel
Robert Strang

500 Hour Award Angela Cingale Tony Dion James Kearns Charlene Talcott

250 Hour Award Charles Clapper Bernice Fischer Lynn Flood Genrose Lashinger
Minouche Robinson Jean Winters

CONGRATULATIONS! HOUR PINS SHOULD BE AWARDED SHORTLY.

A RECOMMENDATION

Recently I had the opportunity of making a short (1 Hour) visit to the NC Arboretum at 100 Frederick Law Olmstead Way, Asheville, NC. A 426 acre public garden located in the Pisgah National Park, it has 65 acres of cultivated gardens, 10 miles of hiking and biking trails, a state-of-the-art green house and the finest Bonsai collection in the Southeastern US. There is also a quilt display and art display of NC artists. On Tuesdays, parking is free; on all other days it is \$6/car. Yes, I went on Tuesday. Those of you with access to the web can get all the details by going to www.ncarboretum.org. **RUDY ROBERTS**