

# The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**June 2013**



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

As I travel it is always a wonder to see what is emerging, blooming or being harvested in different parts of the country. On my recent trip to the Midwest that was especially true. My husband and I visited six states over 11 days. During our drive out of Kansas City we remarked about how stark trees and shrubs still were compared to home and thought they might look different upon our return in seven days. Well the wacky weather we have all been experiencing kept the changes we expected to a minimum. Little had changed especially considering we came through a blizzard. Little chance for those tender leaves to emerge.

Nonetheless, there was much to comment on. There was a tree that I continually saw that had no leaves yet (which would help identify it), was near the rivers in most cases with bark that seemed to be lime green. I asked a number of people and even checked the bookstores for information on local trees but never found out what this tree was. Some thought it might be a type of birch others called it an ash, then my husband kept saying he thought it might be a cottonwood. Too bad I never found a knowledgeable Tree Steward to help provide the answer.

While reading the paper in Kansas City there was an article about Crepe Myrtle. The article talked about how this shrub/tree we enjoy so much in Virginia has not been so successful in the Midwest. However, due to the past 10 to 20 years having pretty mild winters they are enjoying this beautiful tree with some growing 15 to 20 feet. Another article shared the joy of creating a seasonally adjusted container garden. This reminded me of the container gardens I had planted prior to leaving on our trip and hoped from which to be harvesting some bounty upon my return.

June 6 will be our last general meeting until August. This is an important meeting as we will be electing officers for the coming year. Positions to be filled are President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and Projects Chair. Your voice in elections is an important part of membership so be present and let that voice be heard. Once again there will be a great program to enjoy prior to the business session. These wonderful programs provide a great deal of knowledge and count toward our recertification hours so they should not be missed.

## NEW KENT FARM TOURS

BY SUSAN VOIGT

Everyone is invited to come out to New Kent on Sunday, June 23 for the self-driving tour of 3 local farms and Master Gardener displays. Any Master Gardeners who are helping with the farm tour should already be signed up with the NK VCE (Mary Mills and Patty Townsend). Thanks!

### Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is June 6.

Office Elections!

Speaker: Scott Hemmler, Topiaries

## NEW FARMERS' MARKET VENDOR

BY SALLY SISSEL

Libbey Oliver, manager of the Williamsburg Farmers' Market, wanted all of us to know that the Farmers' Market now has Green Hand Nursery attending the market with annuals and herbs. They own The Flower Pot in Grafton and Green Hand in Gloucester, all great plants.

# The Colonial Master Gardener June 2013

2013  
MG Board

*President:*  
Margene Hartsough

*VP Projects:*  
Debbie Griesinger

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Judy Casone

*VP Administration:*  
David Sisson

*Secretary:*  
Mary Ellen Edwards

*Treasurer:*  
Bob Winther

*VMGA Reps:*  
Marilyn Riddle and  
Angela Cingale

*Past President:*  
Linda Lucas

*Co-op Ext Rep:*  
Doris Heath  
564-2170

## INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY JUDY CASONE

What a wonderful field trip to Ginter Botanical Gardens!! I had never been but I believe even those who were familiar with it were impressed with the different areas and plans for the future. We were not there in time to see the opening of the Butterfly section in the Conservatory but I have every intention of going back. Ralph Ashton and his associate were fun and knowledgeable and for my part, patient with the group. Sort of like herding cats I think I heard Ralph say.

After lunch part of the group went on to Eden Woods, home of Norie Burket, our speaker last month. She started with the section she referred to as "After the Ball Is Over" as everything had bloomed. It was still gorgeous and interesting to us all. She was kind enough to give cuttings from some of her plants to those Master Gardeners who were interested.

John Giffin, Ginter Event Planner, along with Janet Giffin and Art Gustafson.  
Photo by Judy Casone.

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Our speaker for this month is Scott Hemmler, a gardener with Colonial Williamsburg. Scott will share with us his expertise in Topiary and how to achieve the look you want. Please come prepared to take notes.

As a result of John Giffin and Angela Cingale's expert planning for the Ginter and Eden Woods field trips, we have had many requests for more and specific treats. If you have something special you would like to see as a program or if there is a garden you would like to visit let me know.

Enjoy our photos. They show only a small part of the wonderful visits we had.



Ginter Field Trip participants.  
Photo by Sue Liddell.

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More  
Photos  
on Page  
5.

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 June 2013

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## LANDSCAPE LOVE UPDATE

BY GARY STREB



**Another record breaking Landscape Love season!** The applications came in steady throughout the six week registration period and resulted in a new record of 84. After two scheduled orientation/training sessions, we had 51 returning Master Gardeners and 18 new interns ready to tackle this unprecedented effort.

Our final results were 82 on-site consultations and two homeowners who chose not to have us visit in person—we did give them sage advice telephonically. Our “typical” homeowner is no longer a standard quarter acre lot with questions about the right plant for the right place. We are now helping develop a Firehouse design and plan a vegetable garden, providing advice to a homeowner’s association on reclaiming an overgrown common ravine area as well as 3-acre country plots. These new challenges have certainly put the talents of our Landscape Love Team to the test. And they have come out with customer satisfaction that is truly outstanding.

I would like to thank the whole Team for a smooth and effective first season as the Project Chair. The professional approach, meaningful guidance to the homeowner and superb customer service and follow up are the hallmarks of this dedicated and over-worked group. The reports have

been solid, giving the homeowner a clear plan of attack on a multitude of landscape issues. Creating and maintaining a sustainable landscape is what we emphasize and the customer is eagerly accepting our advice and suggestions. We are making an impact on how our citizens now approach their landscape and how it fits in the overall environmental health of the region.

Thank you to you all. Some did your visits in the rain and others in the humid heat. But all satisfied our intent and customer expectations. A special thanks to the Landscape Love Team Leaders—John Giffin, Barbara Floyd, Anne Nielsen, and Margene Hartsough. Their leadership and mentoring made this spring season a resounding success.

Hope to see you in the fall when we do this all again. (I already have three registrations that were too late for the spring!) Happy summer gardening! Gary

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## BARRELS & BINS BONANZA

BY DENNIS WOOL

This spring has been a real bonanza for the B&B Project thanks to the contributions of so many MGs. Because we do not “advertise” our products, we are dependent on folks to invite us to their special events or garden club meetings. Events sponsored by Parks and Recreation, Turf Love, Freedom Park, New Kent Extension Office, Plant Sale, and Farmer’s Market all resulted in significant community exposure and sales. JCSA’s continued support of rain barrels by extending rebates again this year had positive results.

Project Chairs deserve special thanks as a great many barrels were delivered to Seeds of Learning school gardens. Lamonica Samuels was instrumental in getting barrels to Bruton High School. The Gustafsons included B&B in a Saturday workshop and purchased nearly 60 grow boxes for CDR and the Community Garden. Angela Cingale donated/ painted a beautiful barrel for the Plant Sale raffle and hosted a demo at the Villages Garden Club. Jane Healy-Nobrega hosted our venue at the Ford’s Colony Garden Tour. Helen Hamilton orchestrated a demo at Freedom Park with more than 75 in attendance.

None of this activity could take place without the B&B Team and the enthusiastic support of this year’s interns, 18 of whom participated in a 2-day rain barrel build-a-thon.

Our sales results:

Rain barrels:	40+
Grow boxes:	80+
Composters:	15+.

Equally important, we have provided a significant amount of education about our work as Master Gardeners – encouraging folks to sign up for the 2014 class, engaging the community to support water conservation, and having a really good time doing what we love – playing in the garden.

## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – JUNE 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### RATTLESNAKE PLANTAIN

*Goodyera pubescens*

Also known as Jewel Orchid, this small plant produces basal rosettes of distinctive silvery-veined foliage which persist through the winter. A dense stalk 6-10 inches tall carries a column of small white flowers each on slender stalks.

Blooming June through August, Rattlesnake Plantain grows best in partial shade in rich, well-drained soil, slightly acidic, and will benefit from mulch of composted hardwood bark or conifer needles. It is found often growing out of clumps of moss in dry or moist oak and pine woods. Widespread across Virginia, the range is from southern Maine and southern Quebec to Minnesota south to South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Arkansas.

The first part of the common name refers to the mottled leaves, which resemble a snake's skin, a similarity that once suggested their use as a snakebite remedy. "Plantain" is in reference to the broad, rounded leaves, which are similar in shape to those of plantain, a common lawn weed. The specific epithet *pubescens* is Latin meaning "downy" or "hairy," and refers to the downy hairs on the flower stalk.

For more information about native plants visit [www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org).



**Photos:**  
Rattlesnake  
Plantain  
leaves  
(above) and  
blooms (left)  
taken by Jan  
Newton

## E2 FIELD TRIP SUMMARY

BY KARI ABBOTT



E2 Field Trips Were A Great Success according to students, teachers, and volunteers! A big THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered; you all were wonderful. The children had a blast and told everyone so!

The E2 field trips to York River State Park escaped the rain, the warmer days in May, and ended up having great times in the forest. This year there were 5 schools that came on 6 days. Master Gardener Volunteers lead students through the park. Trees were everywhere! In some classes each child was given a tree to remember so the whole class could name 20 trees on the trail as well as the habitats that were in or around the trees. There were a lot of seeds moving about the first two weeks in May and that was good reinforcement of our lessons and Seeds of Learning. It was the third time the children heard about seeds, let's hope it stuck this time. The Great Blue Herons are nesting if any of you would

like to see this awesome moment in nature. They are on the other side of the lake in the pine tree leaning to the left. There appear to be at least 4 nests. Children saw feeding time, standing watch time, and birds flying around. One or two bald eagles were seen, as well as ospreys, indigo buntings, and Tangiers. Amphibians and reptiles were out. We heard many tree frogs, bullfrogs, and cricket frog calls, though sometimes difficult to separate from the excitement of the first graders. All in all it was a very exciting trip. Parents even had a good time too, which is always good.

The last lessons were taught at the end of May, a critical thinking exercise deciding "Who Junked Up The James"...and how it could have been prevented.

There will be a new training class for E2. I am working on how to arrange it so it is not so long, but still gets the information across. More to follow soon.

## The Colonial Master Gardener June 2013

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Norie Burket tour participants.  
Photo by Sue Liddell.

Norie Burket tour  
participants by a Red  
Mulberry Tree. Photo by  
Sue Liddell.



### FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE SUMMER 2013 BY SALLY SISSEL

June 15  
*Flowers*

June 29  
*Water Stewards*

July 13  
*Incredible Edibles*

July 27  
*Drought Tolerant Plants*



## Important Dates

- 6/6 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 6/24 Newsletter Submissions Due

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

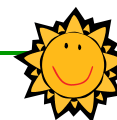
The deadline for submission of material for the **July Newsletter** is **Monday, June 24.**

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at [cathy.lohwater@cox.net](mailto:cathy.lohwater@cox.net) or call 757-259-1133.

### 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



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, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or [JMEMEE12350@verizon.net](mailto:JMEMEE12350@verizon.net).

## 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.

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# Virginia Cooperative Extension

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# TAKING ROOT

## Farm Tour

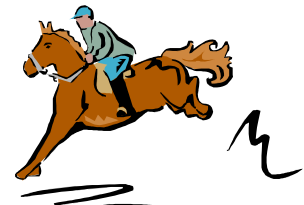


Self-Driving Tour of  
Local Farms

**SUNDAY**

**June 23, 2013**

**1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**



Visit three (3) diverse farming operations,  
and learn about agriculture in your community.



### *Featuring:*

**Caris Brooke Farm**

**Farmers Forage Research  
Cooperative Farm**

**Lee Hi Farm**



☞ Sites located in Providence Forge, VA Area ☞

From Interstate 64 take Exit 214 (Rt. 155) towards Providence Forge, travel 3.8 miles,  
turn left at Stop Light onto Rt. 60 towards Williamsburg & follow signs to Farm Sites.

Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, New Kent County, CSX Transportation, Inc., Farm Bureau,  
and the JCC/NK/Williamsburg Master Gardener Assoc.

For more information visit: <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new-kent/> or call the  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, New Kent County (804) 966-9645.

**If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cynthia Rowles at (804) 966-9645 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.**

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