

The Colonial Master Gardener



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

March 2007

President's Corner Charlie Clapper

I want to share with you the Association's Vision and Goals prepared by Leanne DuBois and the MG Board. Measurements to track our progress in meeting these goals have also been drafted. The Project Chairs will soon be asked to prepare the actual measurements (number of contacts, projects, percentages, etc). I think we are on our way an exciting future. I hope all of you will share in my enthusiasm and that you will participate in the process as it proceeds.

I have also included in my column a policy (Fair and Equitable Volunteer Participation) adopted by the Board. The need to balance the number of MGs working on specific projects has had considerable discussion by the MG Board. The Board wants to make sure that all MG volunteers have a fair and equitable opportunity to participate in all projects.

VISION, GOALS AND MEASURES

*The James City County Virginia Cooperative Extension and the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association Board have prepared a Vision Statement and a set of broad measurable goals to help guide us over the next **five** years (2007-2011). Intermediate goals for years 2007 through 2010 will be established soon.*

A vision statement outlines what an organization wants to be. It focuses on tomorrow; is inspirational and it provides clear decision-making criteria. Through visioning, we have the opportunity to plan our efforts in thoughtfully. This Vision process helps us respond to the many changes occurring within our organization and within our community.

VISION

THE JAMES CITY COUNTY/WILLIAMSBURG MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION IS A LEADING ADVOCATE OF SOUND HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION FOCUSED ON LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS.

FIVE YEAR GOALS, 2006-2011

I. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The James City County/Williamsburg Master

Gardener Association models environmental stewardship by emphasizing ways in which local homeowners using good horticultural practices can reduce water consumption and improve the quality of our watershed.

- A. **The Master Gardeners Association proactively assists James City County and the City of Williamsburg in meeting the 2010 goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement by advancing solutions that improve our local watershed.**
- B. **The Master Gardeners Association supports the Colonial Water and Conservation District, local government agencies, Homeowners Associations (HOAs), and individual homeowners by helping them implement their "Conservation Plans".**
- C. **The Master Gardeners Association provides educational and technical advice (what, where and how to plant and maintain trees, grasses, shrubs, mulches, etc.). It researches and maintains files on appropriate plant material, where to buy, cost estimates and planting specifications.**
- D. **Master Gardeners support the goals of the Community Conservation Partnership.**
- E. **The Master Gardeners Association delivers horticultural education information to a larger audience by focusing on HOAs in addition to our support of individual homeowners.**

Provide educational resources to HOAs that focus on improving the water quality of the watershed. Support HOAs by providing help with nutrient management plans, BMP management plans, alternative landscape options targeted to reduce water usage and educational forums. Communicate the importance of nutrient management plans to individual homeowners through larger group settings.
- F. **The Master Gardeners Association increases the number of "horticultural workshops."**

Workshops are engagements, meetings or

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Next Monthly Meeting

March 1, 9 am,
Williamsburg Regional
Library, Preserving &
Protecting Our Water
Resources



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FROM THE EXTENSION OFFICE LEANNE DUBOIS, EXTENSION AGENT, HORTICULTURE

America's Anniversary Garden Contests

The 400th Anniversary Commemoration presents an opportunity for beautification of the Historic District that will have an impact lasting beyond 2007. Thousands of tourists are expected to visit our community and beautification efforts and Anniversary Gardens are already visible on entrance corridors, neighborhoods and commercial businesses. The Anniversary Garden statewide garden theme is a way to welcome all visitors and show unified support for the Commemoration. To further encourage Anniversary Gardens throughout our community, the Historic Triangle Beautification Committee is sponsoring Beautification Awards for a number of different categories. Categories include, Small and Large Businesses, Neighborhood Entrances, Individual Residences, Institutions including Government Buildings and Schools and Beautification Partnerships, including Civic groups, Garden

Clubs, etc. The winners from the local contest will then have the opportunity to advance to our AAG statewide sponsored award program. The deadline for the local contest is July 1 and appli-



MG Pat Rathke was one of the designers of this garden at the entrance to Settlers Mill.

cations are available at the Extension office. More information can be found at www.historictriangle.com or on the America's Anniversary Garden website, www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden.

Extension Equal Opportunity Update

Programs offered through the Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension, are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, political beliefs, disability and religion. We are mandated by State and Federal laws to adhere to these policies and add these statements to all our program advertisements. If you are planning to prepare flyers or any other document to distribute to the public, please send a draft to myself or Sandra Kee, skee@vt.edu, our office administrator, so we can add the proper statements. The Extension office is subject to a Civil Rights audit so it is also important to maintain a file in the Extension office of all programs that have been offered to the public. Items such as flyers, brochures and attendance logs should be sent to Sandra to be maintained in the Extension Office in the event of an audit. Thanks for your attention to this matter.

EDITORS NOTE: The deadline for submission of material for the April Newsletter is March 15. Please send to Lise Kline at legskline@cox.net or call 757-259-9477. Thank you.

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hands on demonstrations offered to groups of the general public. Examples INCLUDE pruning and composting demonstrations and Super Turf Saturday. These workshops are not associated with the Speakers' Bureau.

II. YOUTH EDUCATION

The James City County Master Gardeners Association provides a variety of educational experiences demonstrating sound horticultural practices to youth in our community.

Programs align with Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) guidelines and the Virginia State Standards of Learning.

III. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The James City County Master Gardeners Association provides education about sound horticultural practices to

our entire community through the use of public demonstration sites, speaking engagements, educational forums and horticultural projects.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners have the authority and responsibility to accomplish our Environmental Quality, Youth Programs and Community Outreach goals.

POLICY – FAIR AND EQUITABLE VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Some projects have more MG volunteers than that specific project needs. Other projects need more volunteers. The Board wishes to ensure that selection of MG volunteers for each project is fair to all.

The Board wishes to emphasize that Project Chairs must ensure that all MG partici-

pants (including Trainees and Interns) have a fair and equitable opportunity to participate in all projects.

Project Chairs have the authority to establish rules and processes for their specific projects. They must also ensure that all interested participants have a fair and equitable opportunity to volunteer for that project. The Board suggests that using a rotation system or interviewing all persons interested in a specific project will provide such an opportunity. Project Chairs need to consult with the appropriate Board member before implementing any rules that might limit volunteer participation

Gardening Tips for March HELEN HAMILTON

Want to be a Frugal Gardener? Try some of these tips:

- Water wise: group plants according to their water requirements, and water in the morning to cut down evaporation. Mulch plants, use a soaker hose or drip irrigator.
- Think small. Buy small bare-root seedlings from mail-order catalogs rather than a large tree.
- You can get a lot of mileage from a \$1.99 packet of annual seeds, that keep reseeding, and coming back year after year.
- Buy off-season: annuals in early summer, perennials in late summer to fall. Perennials may look tired-looking, but by the next year they will have bounced back. One exception to the "buy later" tip is ornamental grasses. Buy them early in 4-inch pots and let them mature over the summer into the large plants nurseries would charge four times the money in the fall.
- Go multi-season. Look for plants with 4-season interest, like sweet pepperbush, *Clethra alnifolia*, which has fragrant summer flowers and bright yellow fall foliage.
- Divide and replant perennials and shrubs rather than buying new plants.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to replenish nutrients.

- Buy peonies and roses after blooming, when they are more likely to be on sale.
- Raise perennials from seed. A few of the easiest are columbine, Shasta daisy, valerian, lupine, lady's mantle, coneflower, black-eyed susan and balloon flower.

from Garden Ideas and Outdoor Living, Early Spring, 2007

Seed Starting Tips

- Seed cover is important. Bury seeds to a maximum of three times their diameter. Tiny seeds need only be shaken across soil and patted into place, then gently water with a fine spray.
- Some seeds benefit from scarifying (rubbing across sandpaper) or soaking overnight in warm water. Some of the most common are seeds of camellias, dogwoods, hawthorns, lupine, gourds, redbuds, sweet peas, moon vine.
- Sow tiny seeds by mixing them with a handful of fine sand in a grated-cheese shaker.
- Ground cover: many tiny seeds and seedlings are eaten by slugs or birds. Protect them with a thin layer of gravel spread across the potting mix or soil, then shake the seeds on top and water. The gravel acts as a protective mulch and reflects light

and heat.

Empty rinds of grapefruits, lemons, limes and oranges make excellent little starter pots. You can transplant rinds directly into the garden soil.

Cardboard egg cartons can be recycled into seed-starting flats. When it's time to plant, separate the sections with a sharp knife, and tuck each one into the soil. The cardboard will decompose as the seedlings grow.

Use markers for tiny seeds. Victorians always planted the round, robust seeds of radish along with their tiny carrot seeds. Markers break the crust for the smaller weeds, and also show exactly where they are planted, a great aid for weeding. Use radish markers for poppies, evening primrose, as well as carrots.

Bury pieces of human or dog hair around seedlings to deter the critters who try to feast on them. Hair also contains nutrients that will nourish young seedlings.

When seeds are sowed too thick, thinning is imperative or none will survive. Use small scissors to cut extras at soil level, because pulling out seedlings can injure the survivors.

from Trowel & Error, Sharon Lovejoy

Internal Education News Jean Winters

We must learn to look on plants not as mere points of colour, but as old friends on whose coming we can rely, and who, returning with the recurring seasons, bring back with them pleasant memories of past years.

Henry Bright

So it was, in our modest garden, that we were happily surprised to see two of our three Lenten Roses coming into bud this year, one a creamy white and the other a soft rose shade. We shall continue to enjoy their "return."

On a more Educational note, I shall list the "Eight Tools of Watershed Protection" so that you will hopefully see the "tie-in" we are trying to make with our topics of programs for 2007: Watershed Land Use Planning, Land Con-

servation, Aquatic Buffers, Better Site Design, Erosion and Sediment Control, Stormwater Best Management Practices, Non-Stormwater Discharges and Watershed Stewardship Programs. Our ultimate goal is to help our fellow citizens here at home understand how important it is to do what we can to "save the Bay." It is a long process, actually some of which has been going on for a long time, but we have a long way to go. The more we understand the more effective we can be!

Brian Noyes was a big help in February in starting us off. Although he was alone for that presentation, he was able to lead us into the next program, which we are calling "Preserving and Protecting Our Water Resources". Our other

original invited guests plan to attend this time and will present with Rich Strenkowski. Following in April will be a comprehensive presentation, entitled "Putting Environmental Stewardship into the Master Gardener Dialogue", chaired by Barbara Gustafson and Beverly Baker and involving very knowledgeable MGs in demonstrations. I invite you to attend these valuable programs with me, together we can make a difference, if only a step at a time! I know that we will appreciate all the time, interest and care that goes into making these programs possible!

Happy Spring!

The Colonial Master Gardener

MG Program Updates (and other info)

The Sunshine Fund
sent a remem-
brance this month
to fellow MGs:

Judy Hansen
Max Walton
Rich Strenkowski
CoCo Strang
Mary Claire Aston

2006-07 MG BOARD

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Charlie Clapper, '02
564-6191

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Ailene Bartlett, '85
229-2822

EXTENSION AGENT

Leanne DuBois, '96
564-2170

EXTRA CREDIT . . . FOR THAT PESKY RECERTIFICATION HOUR CATEGORY!

The Speaker's Bureau needs PowerPoint presentations on the following topics based on repeated requests from groups:

- Herbs
- Preparing the Garden for Spring
- "Grow – dammit" (soil amendment what won't grow here, plant recommendations for sun/shade, etc.)

Our Board has authorized **recertification training** credit hours for anyone willing to develop one of these talks. Fine print: must deliver presentation at least once; must let the Speaker's Bureau use in future engagements. Interested? Call Greg Allen at 258-5348.

MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION.... KARI ABBOTT, JMG PROJECT CHAIRPERSON

That is the way it feels in JMG!! The JMG Project got exciting news in February; JMG was awarded a \$3000 grant, to create a useable curriculum that involved environmental education, land and water stewardship in third grade education. It is a nice winter surprise. Coordination with third grade teachers at DJ Montague and Matthew Whaley is going on to get the curriculum organized and thought through. It is exciting!

The children had fun making paper in February again this year. Many thanks to Jarl Christensen, Ann Davis and Sarah Dougherty who jumped in and helped during the papermaking classes. The children enjoyed talking with other Master Gardeners. It was cool.

JMG has also gotten some feedback from the distribution of shower timers through the first grade. One parent was so thankful to receive the shower timer. It changed bath time from being a 45 minute to hour ordeal to a neat and clean 15 to 20 minute wonder. This time change left more time activities the family could do together and a smoother bedtime. It is nice when a lesson in school can impact a family's togetherness at home.

March in school will be working on habitats. Habitats are always fun, since in the JMG they start in the trees and forests. It is always great fun to share the trees, creatures and nature with first graders. They are usually in awe. If you want to experience the wonder please let me know, we welcome all Master Gardeners! You can email me at bearsbaskets@cox.net. We shall see what April showers bring.

PLANTS GALORE, JOINT PLANT SALE BECKY SUTTON, BARBARA GUSTAFSON, BECKY MORGAN, AILENE BARTLETT

As we move along with our plans for the combined Plant Sale with the Virginia Native Plant Society, the committee would like the membership to be aware of the help that is needed to make this year's sale a success. At the March meeting please bring clean plastic pots to share with those who have plants to donate, but no pots. Save some for your own plant donations. Plants, plants, and more plants are needed to sell: tall plants, trees, and shrubs are also welcome. Other donations would be garden items in good shape, baskets and decorative pots.

Be sure to allow enough recovery time for plants that have been dug. Seeds should be started at the appropriate time to be sold by April 29, the date of the Plant Sale. We plan to have all plants

at Ailene Bartlett's house, 105 Brookwood Drive, by April 20.

Plants for starting from seeds:

Asters
Cosmos
Zinnias
Liatris
Lantana
Parsley
Chives

Plants to donate from your gardens:

Black-eyed Susans
Coneflowers
Lantana "Miss Huff" (a perennial favorite)
Butterfly Bush
Goldenrod
Agastache
Salvia
Iris

APRIL MG MONTHLY MEETING

When you come to the monthly lecture on April 5, you will find something new and exciting. The subject will be Putting Environmental Stewardship Into Our MG Dialogue and will consist of short presentations by our members. Each presentation will be a short overview focusing on specific techniques with supporting research, materials and resources that we can use when working with the public.

This program couldn't have been done without the knowledge and participation of our Water Stewards and Tree Stewards. Our Water Steward program has been focusing on how to be good stewards of our environment, and its members comprise

the bulk of our presenters. Topics, however, will be varied: Encouraging Stewardship with Youth, Composting, Nutrient Management, Riparian Buffers, Drought Tolerant Plants, Garden Scapes, Effective Trees for Home Landscaping, and Stewardship in Landscape Design.

The business meeting for April will be as short as Charlie can make it--no more than 15 minutes. Presentations will be from 8 to 15 minutes apiece, with two question and answer periods and a short break for you to look at the materials on display. The program will be longer than the regular monthly meeting, but should end by 11:15 at the latest.

Barbara Gustafson, and Beverly Baker, co-chairs

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE GRANTS

The Virginia Cooperative Extension James City County/Williamsburg (JCC/W) Master Gardener Association has awarded sustainable landscape grants of \$250.00 each to the neighborhoods of Indigo Park Recreation Association and Adam's Hunt. Recently, Charlie Clapper, President of the JCC/W Master Gardeners presented Certificates of Appreciation to Jill Whitten, representing Indigo Park Recreations, and Charlie Martino, representing Adam's Hunt. The grant applications

were received by Caroline Rhodes of Neighborhood Connections and reviewed by the Master Gardener Mini Grant Committee: Rich Strenkowski, Kari Abbott and Angela Cingale. The grants were awarded through the JCC/W Master Gardener organization for a neighborhood landscape project that supports a longer-term relationship to educate their community on good horticultural practices through various Master Gardener projects including Landscape Love, Turf Love, the Speakers Bureau and other community outreach projects.



Pictured in front row, left to right, Kari Abbott, Jill Whitten, Angela Cingale. Second row, Charlie Clapper, Charlie Martino, and Rich Strenkowski.

THROUGH THE GATE...TO THE GEORGE REID AND SHIELDS KITCHEN TAVERN GARDENS MARILYN RIDDLE, PROJECT CHAIR

Much planning continues to occur to ensure that the 2007 season will be the best ever. Interviews will take place in the next two weeks. There is a minimal commitment of 30 hours

annually—among three categories—if one is a Colonial Williamsburg volunteer in this program. Annually, there will be a call for any JCCWMG to apply. One MG and the garden itself have been in recent CW publications. Claire Gross is pictured in the brochure for the garden symposium and the Reid Garden is featured the first week of September in the 2007 desk calendar.

CW LEARNING GARDENS LEANNE DUBOIS AND CHARLIE CLAPPER

The Board, Colonial Williamsburg and the CW Learning Gardens Project Chair(s) have concluded discussions concerning the staffing of the CW Learning Gardens for the 2007 garden season and beyond. The Project Chair (Marilyn Riddle)

along with Becky Sutton will be able to answer any detailed questions you may have, but we are pleased to inform the general membership of the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener's Association that there will be open positions available so that any interested member can apply to have volunteer service in these gardens. The open positions, however, will be limited in number.

Melissa's Meadow will begin the season on March 15 with a general clean up. Please bring tools to do some clipping, weeding and the like. All are welcome.

The Colonial Master Gardener

MARCH HERB SOCIETY MEETING



The March meeting of the Herb Society of America, Colonial Triangle Unit will be held at the Williamsburg Regional Library on Tuesday, March 13, starting promptly at 2:00pm.

Joe Freitus will be speaking on Herbal Jams and Jellies.

This meeting is open to the public and all Master Gardeners are invited to attend. The lecture would apply towards the 8 hours required for RT2.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MG KARI ABBOTT

for being named Virginia's Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator. Kari's many accomplishments are documented in the Jan-Feb 07 issue of the James City County Unit Newsletter of the VCE, which can be found at www.james-city.va.us/pdf/vce. Way to go, Kari!

From the Chesapeake Bay Foundation contributed by Anne Haltiner

TAKE ACTION FOR CLEAN WATER

It just takes a minute and a free call to become one of the hundreds of Chesapeake Bay advocates across Virginia supporting clean water funding legislation providing \$250 million in general funds and/or bonds. The funding would provide matching money to localities across Virginia so they can upgrade their wastewater treatment plants and comply with state regulations aimed at cleaning up Virginia rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Let your legislators know that you support this crucial legislation (Senate Bill #771 and House Bill #1710) by calling the Constituent Viewpoint toll-free line at 1-800-889-0229 or on the web at <http://legis.state.va.us> and click on

Who's My Legislator. Still need help? Contact CBF's Hampton Roads office at hamptonroads@cbf.org or at (757) 622-1964.

EAT MORE OYSTERS BUT SAVE THE SHELL!

During this century, oysters have been the most harvested animal in the Chesapeake Bay. Between heavy harvest, loss of reef habitat, pollution, and disease, they may be fading away. Many things need to happen: cleaner water, continued restoration, and habitat replenishment. **How can you help?** Next time you eat oysters, save that shell to put oyster habitat back into our local waters! So far this winter, CBF has worked with local partners to collect over 337,000 oyster shells for Hampton Roads restoration projects. Though to build more reefs in our local waters, we need more shell!

Participating restaurants in Norfolk include Tanner's Creek Seafood Restaurant and Raw Bar, and O'Sullivan's Wharf. Le Yaca restaurant, located in the Village Shops at Kingsmill in Williamsburg, has donated 18 bushels since January 2006. Gloucester Seafood recently donated 500 bushels, to be used this spring to construct an oyster reef in the Lafayette River as part of a living shoreline project at the Norfolk Zoo.

An initial public drop-off site for shells is located at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, behind the Webb Center. Contact CBF for the exact location. CBF is searching for more drop-off locations, volunteers, and restaurants in the Williamsburg area. For more information or to join the shell collection effort, contact CBF's Hampton Roads office at 757-622-1964 or

www.cbf.org/shellrecycling

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Mar 3, 2007 Turf Love "U" Spring Session, Saturday, March 3rd, 10:00 to 12:00, at the James City County/Williamsburg Community Center
- Mar 24, 2007 Walk in the Forest, New Kent Co. Forestry Center, 11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, 11am-4pm. This free family activity day is designed and hosted by the regional forestry community. Guided nature hikes and fun activities will highlight Virginia forests and the benefits that they provide. Free tree seedlings will be given to participants.
- April 1, 2007 Monthly MG meeting, Williamsburg Regional Library, Environmental Stewardship, see above
- Apr 29, 2007 VNPS & JCC/W MGA Plant Sale, Williamsburg Community Building, 12-4pm
- May 2-5, 2007 International Master Gardener Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas. For more information: <http://mg2007.uaex.edu> or call 501-671-2000.
- June 19-24, 2007 MG College in Blacksburg
- Oct 22-28, 2007 OPERATION REJUVENATION - Rebuilding community gardens devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Coordinated by Dave Close, State MG Coordinator. Mark your calendars, details forthcoming. Departing from and arriving in Blacksburg.

In Memory of

*Sue Rogers
MG Class of 2005*