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<http://jccwmg.org>



The Colonial Master Gardener

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NOVEMBER 2003

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

November 6, 2003

9:00 a.m.

WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

AMY HICKS

Certified Organic *Amy's Garden* grows vegetables, herbs and fresh cut flowers for local farmers' markets from May through October. Amy takes pride in her 3 acre New Kent County farm.



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Saturday, November 8, 2003
8:30-1:30

James City Clean County Commissioners are offering a tour of county facilities to educate citizens on recycling, beautification, litter control and environmental conservation. See the 22-million-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant, "Isabel's" Hurricane Hill, Eastern State Hospital's pollution prevention, tour the Mainland Farm first operated by Jamestown settlers, and much more. An interesting and fun day that qualifies for recertification hours. Flyers with more details will be available at the next meeting. To reserve a seat and bag lunch call the County's Recycling Office at 565-4000 (or e-mail: privette@james-city.va.us). Wear comfortable shoes -- the tour includes a 1 mile walk.

Heartfelt sympathy goes to Barbara Schroeder on her father's death, October 12. Barbara and her sisters were very close to their father and will miss him. Our sympathy goes to Virginia Warren on her husband's death on September 28.

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send all copy-ready articles for newsletters to me at e-mail huyckclapper@earthlink.net by the 12th of the month. Thanks!

CHARLIE CLAPPER

President Barbara's Corner.....



Fall is in the air—and Hurricane Isabel has left its mark. We're organizing work teams to help those of us most badly damaged. If you either need help or are willing to help contact those who have agreed to organize this: Ailene Bartlett, Sally Sissel, Art Gustafson, and Dave Banks.

The tempo of the garden begins to change. The tempo of our group is moving with the seasonal change. Bob Strang, Master Gardener Recruiting Coordinator for our 2004 training program, is finalizing the class list. If any of your neighbors or friends wants to become master gardener and has not yet enrolled, have him or her contact Bob directly. There is still space, but can fill rather quickly. Because others working for the county have reserved the meeting room at the extension office from November through March, we were forced to find another facility. Leanne moves quickly. The location for the 2004 training class will be Building C at the James City County Offices on Mounts Bay Road. A public information session on the 2004 master gardener's course will be held on Friday, November 4 from 10-12 at the James City County Recreation Center. Current master gardeners are invited to meet potential new gardeners.

The Peninsula Tree Stewards, who consist of master gardeners from our group, York County and Newport News, are also organizing a training class in 2004. Because the 2001 training class was held in James City County, this class will be held in York County. Classes will probably be on Wednesday mornings February through April with exact times and location announced shortly. Our Project Coordinator, Anne Haltiner, and our Youth Program Coordinator, Charlene Talcott, have been exceptionally busy. A number of this year's projects are ending. Others are being revised or expanded and will be presented for approval. At the October meeting at Matthew Whaley the Avalon/LHS JMG Project was approved. Chairman Rich Bunger with co-chairs Helen Kidder and Tim Coyne held an introductory session on September 10 coinciding with the beginning of the school year. Rich has organized the project using teams so all volunteers may participate in a session every third Wednesday. If you would like to participate in this exciting project, contact one of the co-chairs. Another revised project is the 4th grade/ 4-H project chaired by Lynn Flood. This project begun at Matthew Whaley last year may be expanded. Composting may become an independent project rather than remaining part of the Reid Learning Garden. You will hear more on these projects as they go through the approval process.

Minouche Robinson, our Internal Education Coordinator, is looking for a speaker for the January 15 Graduation Dinner. She will be contacting master gardeners short of the required annual hours. Please be sure to report all you do. The logo and mission statement committee Minouche chairs is meeting this month and plans to report at the next general meeting.

Many master gardeners have also been working on allocating the Reserves Fund. The Library Endowment Committee, Ailene Bartlett, Rudy Roberts, Sue Liddell, and Carlotta Cundari, will meet on the October 23rd to select a chairperson. They have begun compiling a list of suggested books and would be happy to hear from you if you have a favorite book on horticulture to recommend for this list. Genrose Lashinger has agreed to head the Youth Resource Library Committee with members Charlene Talcott and Sally Sissel assisting. Dave Banks (chair) Susan Voigt, Lynn Flood, and Charlie Clapper are the Committee for Laptop, PowerPoint and Accessories. The new Dell computer, software and projector have arrived. Lynn Flood and Lisa Heuval are organizing and scheduling a training workshop. Hurricane Isabel forced the cancellation of the October training. Other committees are also working busily. I'll tell you about them next month. For now, let me close by reminding you to stay tuned to our constantly evolving Master Gardener Website and on-line newsletter. Thanks to the very hard work of a large number of our members as well as our Horticultural Program Associate, Leanne DuBois, both of these are coming closer to our vision. We will have another meeting shortly with the JCC Webmaster to coordinate with the county website. Because these changes must benefit us all, let us know if you have any concerns or suggestions.

BARBARA SCHROEDER

UPDATE: PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, & INFORMATION

LESSONS FROM HURRICANE ISABEL

To be perfectly safe I'd tell home builders to cut down every tree tall enough to fall on the house. Of course this isn't possible because some of those trees don't belong to you. Builders are right to cut down every large tree on the lot. If you think of the root system stretching twice as wide as the crown so much damage is done to large trees it's a miracle any of them live. Hurricane Isabel took so many trees mainly because of the saturated soil. Trees growing in heavy soil, shallow soil, poorly drained soil or fill soil were in danger. Also, trees left after clearing lots for building in addition to losing most of their root system have most of their foliage at the top. This is a wind trap. The foliage will tend to grow towards the clearing, making the tree lopsided and prone to fall. If your trees stood up to the hurricane, don't be complacent. They have built up a one sided defense. Wind from the other side --not as strong-- may push them over in the next storm. Kathy Van Mullekom's October 12th column in the Daily Press listed smaller trees to replace those lost in the storm. The lists are from Bonnie Appleton's *The New York/Mid-Atlantic Gardener's Book of Lists*. But I'm still a tree-hugger after seeing a 27" diameter oak take dozens of smaller trees down with it and cover my yard and the yards of two neighbors with branches. It was 35 feet from the house but fell away. We'll be training new tree-huggers beginning in February, learning all about compression-damaged xylem and the tension pull that takes down our trees. Come join the Peninsula Tree Stewards. **SUE LIDDELL**

Charlene and Andy Talcott thank the many MGs who helped clean the yard and take out the decks. Your work was outstanding. Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation."

BLUEBIRD HOUSES

As winter approaches, we should be thinking of providing homes for our bluebirds (and making money for the MGs). As you all know, Bill Baetz, Don Demmert, and crew make cedar bluebird houses as one of our fundraising projects. Order blanks will be available at the Nov meeting -- start thinking holiday gifts-or order one for yourself. They will also be on sale at the Dec. 13th Farmers' Market. Price is \$25.00.



After four years of running their sections of the Learning Garden, Coco and Bob Strang and Shirley Livingston are "retiring" from their leadership positions. Coco, Bob, and Shirley are founding members of the Learning Garden which responded to local membership's desire for a master gardeners' garden. Shirley (vegetables) and the Strangs (herbs), studied 18th century plants and established what Colonial Williamsburg calls a kitchen garden—more authentic than most Restored Area Colonial Revival gardens. Their work, along with the other team leaders in perennials, trees and shrubs and composting, led to a number of honors, awards and firsts over the years. We owe them a debt of gratitude for all they've done.

Having reached emeritus status as a "doctor of vegetables", Shirley will be available to mentor her successors—Rebecca Sutton and Helen Walter. Coco and Bob, likewise, having achieved "doctors of herbs" emeritus status, will mentor their replacements—Linda Lucas and Tom Rogers. **GREG ALLEN**

New e-mail address. for Frank Carnivale..

dfvale@earthlink.net.

New numbers for Dale Firestone.

Phone: 645-3219

E-mail: dfirestone3@cox.net

New address Debbie Maddocks, MG Treasurer.

2088 Harpers Mill Rd.

Williamsburg, VA 23185

Minutes, Master Gardener General Membership Meeting, Oct. 2, 2003

Call to Order – President Barbara Schroeder called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. at Matthew Whaley School's auditorium. There were approximately 40 members present. Officer's Reports: President - Re Hurricane Isabel, Barbara discussed the idea of helping MGs in need. Ailene set up some help early on, and Art contacted Dave about putting a system on our website. A membership e-mail was circulated. Both Helen Kidder and Charlene Talcott reported substantial damage. Charlene needs help with the outside work; a sign-up sheet was passed around. Volunteer sheets and September minutes - available at the meeting. Garden Tours - have been postponed until spring unless Genrose hears from someone who still has a garden intact. Extension Office Meeting Room – will be unavailable for MG activities because county is using it for offices from Nov – Mar. Condolences - Virginia Warren's husband passed away Sunday. A service was to be held this afternoon at Memorial Baptist Church. A plant will be sent. Secretary's Report – September minutes were approved as distributed. VP for Projects – Anne brought the Avalon/LHS-JMG project before the membership for vote, and it was approved. VP for Internal Education – Minouche said she was still trying to confirm Bill Barker for the graduation dinner on Jan. 15. Another possibility is Lisa Ziegler who has a nursery and sells cut flowers at the Farmers Market. Minouche will get back to those who signed up to help with dinner in Dec. She mentioned there was still confusion in tallying members' total recertification hours. She, Art and Susan are trying to iron out snags. In the meantime, because of the confusion, members should send their recertification hours to both Art and Minouche. MGs need eight recertification hours each year. The Logo and Mission Statement committee will to meet after the meeting. Treasurer – Debbie reported September \$40 income for birdhouses, \$260.30 expenses; we have \$2031.34 remaining for year and are within budget. Regarding MG shirts, Debbie asked those who ordered to pick up and pay. Those wanting to order (either green or natural) will have to prepay. Extension – Leanne reported van training has been rescheduled to Oct. 23 from 10 – 2 p.m. at the Community Center, Room B. This training is not necessary unless driving children under 18, but is still recommended. A driver must have a volunteer form on file with a copy of his/her driver's license. She asked that if we check anything out of the Extension Office, we leave her or J.D. a sign-out note. Leanne has a display board on MG program that was used at the county fair available for checkout. Committees and Projects: Newsletter – Charlie was absent, but Barbara mentioned that it's 50-50 for receiving newsletters on line or via mail. If you haven't let Charlie know your preference, please do so within the next week. Publicity – Mary wants to get the word in the newspaper re the classes for 2004, but the location remains a question; it should be resolved soon. Good recent picture in paper of new MG board members. Website Update – Barbara announced Dave reported the county has approved hosting our website and it should be up and running in one to two weeks. Time sheets will be available on website, in newsletter or at meeting. Reserves – Rudy reported the Library Endowment committee has not met yet, but the Library is happy to get the money for books. He also suggested keeping the library in mind for individual contributions. When the committee makes up the list of horticulture-related books, they will check against library's listing. Rudy will get something in newsletter next month. Genrose reported the Youth Resource Library committee has selected \$300 worth of books and videos, and will continue work during the next month. She will coordinate these selections with the Library Endowment's selections. Laptop with PowerPoint and projector – Lynn reported that a Dell laptop and projector and Powerpoint have been selected. The Dell laptop is on back order. The workshop on using the new equipment will be rescheduled—look in newsletter for date and location. Farmers' Market – Art sent around a sign-up sheet for Oct. 4 and 18 help. 2004 Training Class – Sally reported the steering team is sorting out the class particulars. Location is a problem. As a precaution, she has reserved as many dates as possible at the Norge library, but class time is a problem there. In the meantime, the Williamsburg library is looking like it might be a better option. We need to get an announcement in the newspaper. Old Business – Mission Statement and Logo: Minouche will have something to report next month. Hours Pins - Barbara announced that since VATEch lost its organizer and Frank Riley is overloaded he is still working on getting the pins. Leanne said that in future dealings with Tech maybe we need a plan B. Announcements – Waterwise Gardening Sign: survived Hurricane Isabel; still need picture for paper. Monticello Trip: three of our MGs went and it was very good. VA Beach Garden Festival: was postponed, so look in newsletter for possible new date. Debbie Maddocks has a new address: 2088 Harper's Mill Road, Williamsburg, 23185. Business Meeting adjourned for program on Matthey's Garden. Respectfully Submitted, **Mary Ann Carlson**, Secretary