



The Colonial Master Gardener

September
2014

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY SUE LIDDELL

Last month's message reflected results of Master Gardener activity today: hours earned in projects never thought of a hundred years ago. Why a hundred years?

This year is the hundredth anniversary of Cooperative Extension. It took three acts of Congress to pave the way for the Master Gardener Organization. In 1862 the Morrill Act created the land grant universities where agricultural and mechanical subjects are taught. In 1887 the Hatch Act created the research centers so important to the agricultural community. In 1914 the Smith-Lever Act created Cooperative Extension and then there was an agent in every county to answer the questions of the farmers. This worked very well for a while, but population grew, towns sprung up. More people were seeking help, not only about crops, but about trees, shrubs, flowers and herbs. The agents couldn't handle the volume of calls. So, in 1972 in the state of Washington the first Master Gardener unit was formed. Now there are Master Gardeners in every state helping the Extension Agent bring research based information from the land grant universities to the public.

Next Meeting:
Thursday, September 4

Speaker:
Eric Bailey, Landscaper
On New and Interesting Plants

Our Help Desk is a good vehicle for helping Extension. Lucy Oakleaf, our Help Desk Project Chair, relayed a call to me concerning trees. A group of Tree Stewards is now studying to "reforest" a community. The developer took the easy road and planted Crape Myrtles everywhere. Our task is to introduce native trees, more in tune with our ecosystem. You too can feel the pleasure of solving problems like this and educating the community. Sign up for Help Desk.



TS Help Desk Call

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2014
MG Board

President:
Sue Liddell

President Elect:
Debbie Griesinger

*VP
Administration:*
Diane Hare

VP Projects:
Wilma Sharp

VP Internal Ed:
Kathy Bush

Secretary:
Patsy McGrady

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Jeanne Millin

Past President:
Margene
Hartsough

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

*Program Asst.,
ANR:*
Kate Robbins

LANDSCAPE LOVE UPDATE BY GARY STREB



This has been such a gorgeoll Summer I hate for it to end. But Fall is upon us and we are readying for the Fall Session of Landscape Love. Registration opened August 15th and so far we have received 31 homeowner applications for on-site visits. With a couple of weeks to go until the September 15th closing date it looks like we may be on a more manageable schedule than our recent Spring record of 103 visits. The homeowner visits will be scheduled from the last week in September throughout October---with the possibility of an extension into November if the number of applications dictates.

Two training/organizational meetings are scheduled to get us all on the same track. Tuesday, September 16th at 9 a.m. in Room A of the JCC Rec Center is the first session and Monday, September 22nd at 9 a.m. in Room A of the JCC Rec Center will be your second opportunity. If you are unable to make either meeting, please get your calendar/availability to your team leader as soon as possible. We cannot schedule the homeowner visits until we know who is available. We will be discussing sustainable landscape goals, our uniformity of information presented to the homeowners, and lessons learned from our Spring visits.

Please let me know whether you plan to participate in this Fall Session and which one of the meetings you plan to attend. Email is www.gstreb11@gmail.com. If you have not participated in the past and want to join us we would love to have you! Let me know so I can readjust the five geographical team compositions. It is a fun, rewarding project—you learn so much from your fellow Master Gardeners, Interns and homeowners.

Thank you for your professional influence on the Williamsburg landscape. We have reached a high level of community interest and demand because of each of you. We clearly demonstrate the Master Gardener goals of “learn---communicate—educate”.

ADMINISTRATION BY DIANE HARE

Wow! Summer sure has flown by! One of the highlights of my summer was attending Master Gardener College in Blacksburg. It was a wonderful experience, and hope you will consider attending next year!

Please plan to attend the October General meeting on **October 2nd, where we will have a brief, but mandatory training session**. With Kate Robbins' help at the extension office, we have identified important matters that need attention, and this training session will help move us on our way to compliance. We are just a bit behind other MG programs in the State, but not for long! Oh, if you are not able to make October meeting, we will offer additional training sessions, times to be determined.

Hope to see you soon!
Diane ☺

INTERESTING PHOTOS

Below is a picture from the Daily Press, photo by Rebecca Lundberg. Landscaper Nguon Phan has created topiaries in the front yard of his West Point, VA home. There you will find a giraffe, birds, deer, and this amazing dragon “hedge.”



Do you have a unique photo of interesting insects, trees, gardens, or hardscapes from your travels or in your neighborhood that you would like to share with our MG group? Send them with your name and a caption to Cathy Lohwater at cathy.lohwater@cox.net. Some may be featured in our next newsletter!

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:30 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.

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INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY KATHY BUSH

Are you a creative gardener? Do you like to try new things and experiment with color and texture? Our speaker this month is Eric Bailey, a local landscaper and certified nurseryman. He will bring an interesting program highlighting unique and new plants, trees and shrubs for our garden. Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs so don't be surprised if you are tempted to add just one more bush or make room for another tree in your own yard. Come and see what Eric has to show us!

Our JCCW MG motto is **Learn, Educate, and Communicate**. In order to do the last two well, we need to work hard at being lifelong learners. We have all taken the training class but are we continuing to learn and grow as gardeners? Do we have fresh, new information to share with our community? There are plenty of opportunities to increase our knowledge of gardening and some programs will earn us hours for continuing education. Here are some that I have heard about. Please email me if you hear of an interesting program that you think would be beneficial for our MGs.

September 11, MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY. 7 PM, James City/Williamsburg *Community Center*, 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, VA. Felice Bond, Historic Rivers Chapter Master Naturalist and expert photographer will show how to achieve "up close and personal" photographs of plants and critters. Bring your camera for some hands on training. The program is open to the public with a suggested donation of \$5. Contact Karen Jamison, 880-1893, karenajamison@cox.net for information.

September 13th, The Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello, Charlottesville, VA, 9AM to 6PM. Workshops, demonstrations, vendors, and tastings. Check out their website at www.heritageharvestfestival.com. Groupon is offering ½ price admission at their website.

WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN 2014 PROGRAM SCHEDULE "Learn and Grow" Educational Series:

In Freedom Park Interpretive Center or Williamsburg Botanical Garden. 3rd Saturday of every month from January through November. All programs start at 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., open to the public, \$5 donation accepted. Programs are:

September 20: NO BEES, FEWER FUN FOODS! Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 10:00 am, open to the public, \$5 donation for each guest is recommended. A member of the Colonial Beekeepers Association, Pam

Burton, has kept bee hives on her property for many years, and enjoys seeing them at work. With declining populations of these essential parts of our food chain, her talk will be informative and very timely. For information, contact Pam Burton, pburton@ncsc.org.

October 18: HOW AND WHY RAIN

GARDENS. Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 10:00 am, open to the public, \$5 donation for each guest is recommended. Master Gardener Carol Fryer has designed rain gardens for James City County [homeowners and developments](#), and will provide information about their construction in home gardens. With Powerpoint slides and demonstrations, she will suggest suitable plants and locations in typical environments. For information, contact Carol Fryer, 757-220-0759 or cfryer@cox.net.

November 15: LIGHT AND NATIVE PLANTS.

Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 10:00 am, open to the public, \$5 donation for each guest is recommended. All plants need light, but how much shade they can tolerate, and how much full sunlight they can bear, determine what plants grow together. Learn about the special adaptations leaves can develop for capturing sunlight in deep shade. This program is presented by Dr. Stewart Ware, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the College of William and Mary who has received numerous awards and is widely published in peer-reviewed literature in botany and dendrology. For information, contact Stewart Ware, 757-565-0657 or saware@wm.edu.

Upcoming Field Trip

Some of us are visual learners. We need to see things to get our creative juices flowing. We will have the opportunity to see marvelous things in March at the Philadelphia Flower Show and Longwood Gardens Field Trip. Your Internal Education committee is planning this. If this trip sounds like something that would interest you, would you send a quick email to Nancy Cassano at travelagentnancy@aol.com noting your possible interest? We are trying to get the right sized bus. The dates are Friday March 6 to Saturday March 7. Cost is approximately \$200 per person double occupancy, depending on the numbers going, and we are giving Master Gardeners first sign up meaning no spouses or friends **at this time**. A deposit of \$100 will reserve your spot. Make check out to JCCW MG and give or mail to Kathy Bush.

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PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS

BY LARRY D. GASKINS

On August 8, over 40 area Tree Stewards, Master Gardeners, and volunteers attended The Virginia Tree Workshop held at Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center (AREC), Va. Beach. This workshop was sponsored by The Virginia Big Tree Program which is an educational outreach program of Virginia Cooperative Extension. The program's mission is to foster an awareness and appreciation for the diverse arboriculture within the Commonwealth, with special emphasis on the largest tree specimens.

Dr. Eric Wiseman, Program Coordinator of the Dept. of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech, conducted the workshop which included the following topics:

- State of the Virginia Big Tree Program – Currently, the Va. Big Tree Register lists the 5 largest specimens of over 300 species including the categories of “biggest”, “fattest”, “tallest”, and “broadest” trees.
- Identifying and Measuring Trees – In order to determine eligibility for nomination, trees must be identified as to species, location, unique characteristics, and size. Physical features such as leaf, fruit, twig, bark, and form are used in tree identification. Measurement of trees include use of a flexible tape (for circumference and crown spread dimensions) and either the Clinometer or “stick & similar triangle” methods for height determination.
- Nominating Big Trees – Eligible trees include either native, non-native, or naturalized species. Hybrids, cultivars, ornamentals and unclassified varieties do not qualify. Trees nominated are evaluated based on circumference, height, and average crown spread. Points are assigned for these categories with the aggregate total assigned for each nominated tree. More details may be found at <http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/form.htm>.
- Big Tree Protection & Care – The Va. Big Tree Program's mission is to foster the appreciation and care for all trees which includes addressing various threats such as from development/disturbance, arboricultural malpractice, weather extremes, structural failure and pests. By promoting public awareness of the value of trees, including education and influencing favorable ordinances relative to low-impact development/construction practices, the long-term health of Virginia's arboriculture can be better preserved.

Virginia currently ranks among the top five states within The National Big Tree Program. The future viability of this program can be ensured by continued alignment with the national organization, improved database of tree inventories using digital and mobile mapping technology, sponsorship/endorsement support, and continued involvement of enthusiastic program volunteers.



Eric Wiseman of AREC



Tulip tree at AREC Workshop

More photos next page

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E2 NEWS FOR THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR 2014-15

BY KARI ABBOTT



Hi Everyone,
What an exciting summer it has been for E2!

With the new school year starting days from now, E2 is back in full swing for another successful project year. There will be an E2 Training session **Wednesday, September 10, from 1pm – 3pm** for anyone who would like to participate in our school program. Training for the classroom, experiential learning, fun and laughter will all happen during the training. The training will be held at the Rec Center on Longhill Road, and will be in Room C. Please email (bearsbaskets@cox.net) if you would like to attend. There will be a CD made just for you!

Our team is working on the International Master Gardener Search for Excellence Application. It is really a different experience. E2 is working on documenting partnerships and cataloging our success in words that do not take up more than 3 pages.

Our current monthly school schedules include:

2d Tuesday at D.J. Montague. There are four first grade classes this year. Start time 8:45 am – 11:30 am. Gary Streb is the school leader.

2d and 3rd Wednesday at Matthew Whaley. There are five first grade classes this year. Start time is 12:30 pm-3:30 pm.

2d Thursday at Clara Byrd Baker. There are four first grade classes this year. Start time is 9:30 am -1:10 pm with a half hour break for lunch. Cathy Hill is the school leader.

2d and 3rd Friday at JB Blayton. There are four Kindergarten classes. Start time is not set at this time but should be between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. until 12:00. First grade is 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

3rd Tuesday and Wednesday at Matoaka. There are six first grade classes. Start time 9:00 to 11:30.

Some Thursdays at Stonehouse. There are six Fourth grade classes – a new E2 endeavor. We will help the first part of the year when 4th grade science includes botany, watersheds, and other MG educational moments. Times to be determined.

- Thursday, Sept. 18: scientific inquiry
- Wednesday, Oct. 8: prep to go to park
- Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 9 and 10: field trip to York River State Park (an excellent opportunity for Water Stewards as it is about watersheds, aquatic insects, and more)
- Thursday, Oct. 23: TBD
- Thursday, Nov. 13: energy chains demonstrated with owl pellets

There is a lovely contingent of volunteers supporting E2, so thank you all who are making this year work smoothly. If you have any questions, or want to jump in the fun, email me!! Kari

MORE TREE STEWARD PHOTOS (CONTINUED FROM PRIOR PAGE)



Using the clinometer at AREC workshop



Gustafsons measuring circumference at William and Mary, 2007

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NEW KENT UPDATE

BY SUE DONNELLY

On August 2, 2014, the New Kent Master Gardeners hosted a Raised Bed Vegetable Garden clinic for residents of New Kent County. Master Gardener Pam Woodson presented a briefing informing attendees how to build raised beds, soil composition, planting and care of vegetables with an emphasis on fall vegetables. The presentation was followed by a tour of Carole's Garden, the New Kent raised bed demonstration garden. One lucky attendee won a door prize consisting of a harvest of beautiful vegetables from Carole's Garden (picture at left).



REPORTING HOURS

BY JOHN GIFFIN

This is the second article about the Virginia Master Gardener Volunteer Management System (VMS), our on line hours and mileage reporting system at <https://virginia.volunteersystem.org/users/index.cfm>.

To report Continuing Education hours to include Master Gardener (MG) meeting programs, you click on "Add New Hours" in the upper left corner of the screen. On this screen you enter an event description (what you did) and the date. Typically the event is a "MG Meeting Program," or a "Z-Recertification/Continuing Education" horticulture program (e.g. a Native Plant, Botanical Garden or Herb Society program or Super Turf Saturday). After you record the date choose a Continuing Education "project" title, which is one of the two types of events in italics above. If you drove to the event you may enter the miles to and from the event. Then enter the Continuing Education hours (not Volunteer hours) for the actual program event. Then you click on the "Save Hours" button at the lower left side of the screen.

To report travel mileage to any event to which you drove you can enter the mileage in the "Miles Driven" block when you enter the event hours. You do not need to enter it separately.

To report travel time to and from events, you make a separate entry of the event(s) being reported and select "Travel Time" from the "Apply to Project" list; enter the time under Volunteer Hours and click on "Save Hours". You should always report travel time whether you drive yourself or ride with someone else.

To edit (in other words correct) any hours information already reported, click on "Viewing Your Hours" in the upper left corner of the screen. All of your hour entries appear. Select the entry that you want to edit, by clicking on the underlined activity. The screen for that event appears as you originally entered it. Change any entry to correct it or add information. After making corrections or additions, click on the Save Hours box at the lower left. If the entry you are trying to correct is a duplicate or for some other reason you want to delete the hours for that event, click on the "Delete Hours" button.

To find out how many hours you have accumulated as a total for any year (or other time period) click on the "View Your Hours" choice in the upper left hand corner of your screen. Then enter the start date (e.g. 01/01/2014) and the end date (e.g. 12/31/2014) and click on the "Submit" button. All your activities for the period will be shown and the total "Miles Driven," "CR Hours," and "Vol. Hours." This "Submit" button is not used for any other purpose. If you have Excel software on your machine, it is also possible to create an Excel spreadsheet of the information displayed on the screen by clicking on the "Create Excel" button.

If you have questions about the use of the hours system or want to suggest a subject to be covered in a future Colonial Master Gardener issue, call or send an e-mail to John Giffin at 757-345-5209 (giffinj@cox.net), or Dave Banks at 757-258-8632 (dfbanks@earthlink.net).

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VMGA MEETING UPDATE

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

Listed below are notes from the August 9, 2014 VMGA meeting in South Boston (hosted by the Southside MG Association). I have chosen items that are likely to be of most interest to the membership:

- IRS has restored the 501-c-3 status to VMGA as a non-profit public charity with tax exempt status.
- VMGA is sponsoring its first educational event on September 27 after a lapse of one year at VSU on the topic of Permaculture. The cost is \$25 or \$40 depending on VMGA membership. Lunch is included.
- The 2014 membership rosters for those requesting hard copies were distributed to the unit reps. Please report e-mail and USPS address changes to Deb Straw promptly. (In a quick count, our unit appears to have the most members in the state—thanks so much!)
- All units with established community gardens are requested to input their experiences to Frank Reilly.
- The State Fair will be held September 27 - October 5. There is still a need for volunteers for the 5-9 pm shifts. Admission is complimentary for workers. VCE Day is September 28 as a celebration of the centennial of Virginia Cooperative Extension.
- VMGA's matching challenge was met to the \$10,000 level, the max.
- Leadership Development Training is being offered again this year. The October 7 session will be here in Williamsburg. It is all day. Registration is not yet available.
- The dates for the 2015 MG College are June 24—28 and the theme is Tree Stewards.
- By late August, MG handbooks should be available online.
- New training manuals for MGs as well as for the coordinators are being written by agents.
- Signs, with a uniform appearance for use throughout the state, are now available for having printed locally by contacting John/Dave. Angela has put in a request.
- This year's MG Publication Contest is almost ready to debut. An iPod is the award.
- Dave and/or John have three conferences in September/October so there will be times when replies are not timely.

Marilyn

GARDENING TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

Does anyone have time to watch TV? There are a couple of interesting programs which are of interest to gardeners. On Saturday at noon, on WHRO, there is "Growing a Greener World", hosted by Joe Lampl. It's a nice general gardening show, on the organic side, always with some interesting hints and bits of knowledge. There's a cooking segment at the end, with Chef Nathan at the helm. He's a hoot!

It is followed by "Victory Garden", which has been around for years. It's not as good as it once was, but still worth watching - and Roger Swain still appears! And after that is P. Allen Smith's "Garden Home", which includes hints from his Arkansas garden, as well as entertainment decorating. A little more high-end, but still interesting.

On the last Tuesday of the month, on WCVE (Richmond) at 8:30 p.m., is "Virginia Home Grown". It's sponsored by the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, and covers some interesting horticulture/agriculture goings-on in the State. Mark Viette is a frequent part of the show, and there is a cooking segment at the end.

So, prop your feet up (wipe the dirt off first) and see what's new!

Ailene

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ailene Bartlett is moving! She'll be at 38700 Treyburn Drive, Cottage 4415, Williamsburg, VA 23185, as of September 1. She hopes the phone number will be the same.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2014

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Sand Beans

Strophostyles umbellata/helvola

These are low herbaceous plants with branching and trailing slender stems, often twining up the stems of flowers or grasses. Typical of members of the Pea Family, the leaflets have three lobes, they are smooth and oblong in shape. Hot pink flowers open in the morning and fade to peach after they have been pollinated. As in many others of this family, the 5 petals consist of an upper banner, 2 lateral wing petals and 2 lower petals united into a boat-like keel which has a dark purplish spur-like projection that curls back up at the tip – looking like a raised elephant's trunk.

Bean-like seedpods are up to 2 inches or more long. Preferring sandy soils, these plants grow in fields, thin woods and thickets in the eastern and Piedmont counties of Virginia, but infrequent in the mountain region.

The two species can be distinguished by the shape of the leaflets; those of Annual Sand Bean (*S. helvola*) are wider and usually somewhat lobed, with the terminal lobe wider than the others. Annual Sand Bean is a pioneer plant, often found colonizing open sites in either moist or dry conditions, even on cinders. It grows on dunes, beaches, lowland forests, sandy woodlands and clearings. The range is from Quebec to Minnesota and South Dakota and south to Florida and Texas.



Photo: Annual Sand Bean (*Strophostyles helvola*) taken by Helen Hamilton



Photo: Perennial Sand Bean (*Strophostyles umbellata*) taken by Helen Hamilton

The leaves of Perennial Sand Bean are narrow, lance-shaped, and longer. The range is from southern New York to Florida and Texas north in the interior to Indiana and Oklahoma. Preferring somewhat drier conditions, this plant occurs in dry or rocky woodlands, old fields, and dry meadows but also in freshwater tidal marshes.

The genus name *Strophostyles* comes from the Greek *strophe* meaning “a turn, twisted bank” and *stylos* meaning “the styles, a stalk, a column”, all referring to the twisted keel of the flower.

Both species bloom from June through September. The flowers are cross-pollinated by bees which seek the nectar and pollen. Caterpillars of skippers and some beetles feed on the foliage. Northern Bobwhite, Mourning Dove and Wild Turkey are among the birds that feed on the seeds.

For more information about native plants visit www.claytonvnps.org.

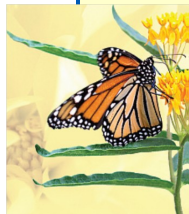
UPCOMING FARMERS' MARKET DATES

September 6 *Composting*

September 20 *Therapeutic Gardening*

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Williamsburg Botanical Garden PLANT SALE



The Art of the Garden
Fall Perennials and Shrubs
Butterfly-friendly Plants
Mums, Garden Artists
& Crafters

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27
9am - 2pm
Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 28

Native Plants, Perennials,
Butterfly Plants, Daffodils
& Bulbs, Iris, Fall Mums,
Garden Books & More

Cash, check, credit cards
accepted. All proceeds
to benefit the Williamsburg
Botanical Garden.

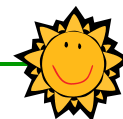
*Williamsburg Botanical Garden
5537 Centerville Road
(intersection of Longhill and Centreville Roads)*

Admission to the garden is free and open to the public
daily 7AM to dusk

williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org

Important Dates

- 9/4 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 9/22 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 9/27 WBG Plant Sale



SUNSHINE NOTES

In the past month, MG provided cards to the following people:

Jim Word – death of close relative
Jane Davis – Husband's death
Kathy Briggs – death of close relative

The organization would like to send cards to members with difficult medical issues or who have experienced a death in the immediate family. Please provide names to the MG Secretary, Patsy McGrady, 258-1181, patsymcgrady@cox.net.

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.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the **October** newsletter will be **Monday, September 22**.

Please send any submissions to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.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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