The Colonial Master Gardener

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

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SUSTAINABILITY

"Losing all sight of his original determination to imitate nature, he built hills where there had been none, and leveled the ground where the hills had been until he became enchanted with his own mastery of the landscape. In much of his later work he completely failed to consider local topography and he felt no veneration whatever for the spirit of natural landscape." -- Isabel Chase (1943) on Capability Brown.

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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.

"The Glory of the 'Garden lies in more than meets the eye."
--Rudyard Kipling

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING September 2, 9:00 am
******Lane Auditorium at Bruton Heights******
DAHLIAS!
LYNN TROTT
Lynn will speak on dahlias followed by a tour of her garden

2004 New Master Gardener Helpline Books

- *Junior Garden Book – Cool Projects for Kids to Make Them Grow* (Better Homes and Gardens)
- *Home Gardener's Problem Solver – Condensed Edition* (Ortho)
- *The Garden Problem Solver* – Readers Digest
- *Lawns & Ground Covers* – Southern Living Garden Guide
- *The Critter Control Handbook Pro Secrets for stopping sneaky squirrels & other Crafty Critter* – Dan Hershey
- *Garden Insects of North America, The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs*
- *The Southern Living Garden Book* ***LEANNE DUBOIS***

Janie Fellowes has "retired" from her many years of helping send out the newsletter. Thank you Janie!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

While Art and I were admiring the glorious gardens of Ireland and Scotland, 78 of you attended the July general meeting to review and comment on the membership survey. Reviewing your conclusions in our last newsletter, I noticed both great and easily implemented ideas. As a result business meetings are cut in half by having volunteer sign-ups in the front. A senior advisory lady named Ailene has agreed to join our board; Greg Allen, our new Speakers' Bureau chair is working with past chair George Anderson and our project chairs to develop ways of including more of our membership in the Speakers program. Charlie Clapper, as Projects Head, met August 13 with project chairs to start a review of all existing projects. The more difficult-to-implement suggestions will be reviewed by the Board. I will be reporting our progress next month.

At the VA Tech MG Coordinators' Conference that Leanne, Art and I attended it became obvious that we are hurting our master gardener program by dragging our feet on implementing a contact recording system. In September we will begin recording contacts. Please see the new activity sheet inserted in this newsletter. If you have questions, phone or email me (make sure you use the new address), Charlie or Leanne. Recording contacts is necessary to reap the rewards of a state system

We are in the process of developing a video on our many projects for local TV. Charlie, Genrose, Tom Rogers, Leanne and I are in the planning stages now. And, because many of you suggested in the survey that we do more with other MG groups, we will be at the State Fair. If you'd like to help, call Ailene.

Somehow our honeymoon photos have not yet been organized. You shall see them; that's a promise. And seventeen of our master gardeners will be receiving their hour awards (apologies for being late) at the September general meeting. ***BARBARA SCHROEDER GUSTAFSON***

THE BOOK CORNER

DO I HAVE A BOOK FOR YOU! I have just gotten Eileen Powell's *THE GARDENER'S A-Z GUIDE TO GROWING FLOWERS FROM SEED TO BLOOM*, North Adams, Mass., Storey Books, c2004. It's hot off the press, and is likely to be a hot item since it has sowing, transplanting and care guidelines (including making cuttings) for some 600 plants; 576 photos of annuals, perennials and bulbs - in color; and an at-a-glance planning chart for selecting some 1200 species by height, color, and bloom time. I've NEVER seen any gardening information presented in such an easy-to-use form! It also includes a geographical list of some nurseries, some prominent plant societies, and a good index. What more could you want - except a good Master Laborer! ***AILENE BARTLETT***

TO THOSE ATTENDING the August meeting: Someone liked the "Trees" folder, which I had in the "Look" pile, and thought it was in the "Take" pile! May I have it back? Thanks? (You can find your own at the Newport News Barnes & Noble.) ***AILENE BARTLETT***

On Sept. 21, at 8:30 (a.m.) I'm having an open-house and plant sale at my garden. Plants will be dig-your-own, so come prepared. I will have 30+ varieties of perennials to share, plus some house plants and others already potted. Price will be nominal, and help/pots/some tools will be available. The Colonial Triangle Unit of the Herb Society of America, to which some of you belong, will also be invited. Let's make it a gala! ***AILENE BARTLETT***

CONTACTS-WHAT THEY ARE AND WHY WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM.

Our Volunteer Activity Report (VAP) has been changed to include "Contacts" as well as "Activity Hours" and "Travel Time". An explanation of how to record Contacts is on the bottom of the new VAP sheet included as an insert to this newsletter.

"Contacts are the total number of persons other than master gardeners you have communicated with this month while working on a program or project. This includes direct contact, phone, email, flyers, or any other means. More than one master gardener may have simultaneous contact with the same person or group, such as two master gardeners working with one resident or four master gardeners teaching a class of 24. Master Gardener Contacts are how both county and state determine our educational value to the community and therefore the financing of our program. If you have questions, please talk with Leanne or a member of our board."

In June, Leanne, Barbara, and Art attended a VA Tech Master Gardener Coordinators' Conference chaired by our new MG State Coordinator Dave Close. Over 20 master gardener groups throughout the state were represented. The general purpose was to review state guidelines for master gardeners, air general concerns, and define future changes-especially in the state recording system. We are ahead of many of the other groups in the way we define and report Educational Time, Recertification Time and Travel Time, and are correct in listing MG Administration as an additional educational component. We are also ahead in recognizing Inactive and Emeritus Master Gardeners, in the way we handle our Training Classes and in our recognition of special contributions from our members. The area in which we are most lacking is in our failure to tabulate and report Contacts.

At the conference we learned that "Cost per contact is a way of keeping money coming into the master gardener program. It illustrates value." Virginia Cooperative Extension employees are required to report monthly all contacts related to educational programming except for those related to Extension business. These numbers help Extension tell its story to the taxpayers and government entities that make our programs possible. If we do not give contact numbers to Extension and the state, they must report zeros which makes it appear that we have no contacts with the residents of our community. Not many other master gardener groups are reporting contacts at this time although all will be required to do so by 2006. We intend to begin reporting by the end of September.

Project Chairs will probably have more contacts than many of the members of their group. If you pass out flyers or information sheets at Farmers' Market or throughout the community, these numbers are included as contacts. If you have an announcement or photo of a master gardener program published in the newspaper or on the local TV channel, the number of contacts should be estimated. If you have questions as to a logical number, talk to Leanne, Charlie or Barbara. It will take us awhile to work out this system, but if we all work together it will be both easier and more accurate.

BASIL (Ocimum basilicum) *This is the last of three herb articles prepared by Dee Albright. Thank you from the membership and the editor***.**
As the tomatoes continue to ripen on the vine, the basil comes to mind. No other herb goes better with tomatoes than basil. Basil, a native of Africa and Asia, dates to the time of Christ. It is said that basil was found growing around Christ's tomb after the resurrection.
In many Greek Orthodox churches, Basil is used to prepare the holy water and pots of basil are set below the altars. *(continued on Page 4)*

On St. Basil's Day (the first day of the new year), Greek women took basil to be blessed. When they got home, they would strew some of the leaves on the floor for good luck, eat some with the family for good health, and leave some of the leaves in chests to keep mice and moths away.

In Haitian pagan lore, Basil belongs to the goddess of love, Erzulie, and is considered a protector. Mexicans would carry it in their pockets to "magnetize money". A young Italian woman would pin a leaf on her clothing to proclaim chastity or put a pot of basil on her windowsill, letting her lover know she was ready to entertain him.

Most of us grow Sweet Basil for making pesto and in tomato dishes. Ocimum 'Genovese' is one of the best, although I am trying a excellent new variety, "Nufar", which I order from Burpee. The purple Basils, such as "Purple Ruffles", make a lovely lavender vinegar. There is Thai basil that is extra spicy, Lemon Basil that adds a citrus flavor, and even a "Cinnamon" Basil that smells and tastes like cinnamon.

We all know not to let Basil bloom. Susan Belsinger, in her wonderful book on Basil, suggests that instead of pinching off the blooms, cut off as much as a third of the plant and stick it in water. It roots easily and is a marvelous way to increase the number of plants. Then when you need to use two or more cups for making pesto, you don't cringe. The most onerous Basil pest is the Japanese beetle. I usually pick them off the plant or, if the infestation isn't too bad, I share.

Basil can be dried by hanging it upside down in a dry, dark area or by pulling the leaves off and laying them on a screen to dry, but I prefer to freeze it. One way is to chop about two cups of Basil in your food processor with one cup of water. Then pour the mix into ice cube trays and freeze. When you want to put it into a sauce, pop out a couple of cubes. The Basil will turn dark, but in a dish you don't really care. I also freeze pesto. Some wise woman once told me how she freezes it in a plastic bag, pressed flat. Then when you need to use some of the pesto, just break or cut off what you need. There are lots of ways to prolong this wonderful herb, but there is nothing like fresh Basil, so ENJOY IT NOW! ***DEE ALBRIGHT***

JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardeners
Williamsburg Farmers' Market
Summer/Fall, 2004

September 4
Herbs
September 18
Healthy Landscapes
October 2
Composting
October 16
Fruits and Nuts
All Markets include our Helpline and Turf Services

To Marilyn Riddle --Thanks so much for sending the MG newsletter! We had squirrel problems at GR and CW brought in a man who used cages to catch them and he hauled them off to another county. My garden is going great guns!! I brought in four bee hives and those little cuties are doing a super job of pollinating. I have sold over 600 pounds of cucumbers and donated 100 pounds to the food bank. I am also harvesting heirloom lemon cucumbers;
Brandywine and Garden Delight tomatoes; basil, parsley ,dill, mint, cilantro, carrots, wax and green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, and banana peppers. Watermelon are almost ready & pumpkins will be ready in the fall. Rain has been plentiful. Thanks for keeping in touch & hello to the MG's!! Joyce Grunwald-Kauffman

James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association
Volunteer Activity Report

NAME_____for MONTH_____, 2004

		Activity	Activity Hours	Contacts**	Travel Time
Educational Programming	E1.	Horticultural Help Line	_____	_____	_____
	E2.	Hort. Spkr's Bureau	_____	_____	_____
	E3.	Waterwise Projects	_____	_____	_____
	E4.	JCC/W MG Web Site	_____	_____	_____
	E6.	Therapeutic Gardening	_____	_____	_____
	E7.	LHS-JMG Project	_____	_____	_____
	E9.	VCE Special Projects*	_____	_____	_____
	E10.	Seeds of Learning	_____	_____	_____
	E11.	Science in Nature's Garden (SING)	_____	_____	_____
	E15.	CW LTD Garden- G. Reid	_____	_____	_____
	E16.	CW Greenhouse and Outreach	_____	_____	_____
	E18.	Farmer's Market	_____	_____	_____
	E19.	Rapid Composting	_____	_____	_____
	E20.	Melissa's Meadow	_____	_____	_____
	E21.	Turf Projects	_____	_____	_____
	E22.	Youth Presentations*	_____	_____	_____
	E24.	Tree Steward Programs	_____	_____	_____
	E25.	EnviroScape	_____	_____	_____
	E27.	Mattey's Garden	_____	_____	_____
	E29.	Stonehouse Gardens	_____	_____	_____
MG Administrative	A3.	Admin/Executive Efforts	_____	_____	_____
(Volunteer Coordination)	A4.	Wood Products	_____	_____	_____
	A5.	Plant Sales	_____	_____	_____
	A6.	MG Newsletter	_____	_____	_____
	A7.	MG Video/Media	_____	_____	_____
	A11.	Monthly MG Meetings	_____	_____	_____
	A12.	Training Preparation	_____	_____	_____
Recertification Training	RT1.	MG Monthly Lecture	_____	_____	_____
	RT2.	Adv. Training*	_____	_____	_____
	Other*:	_____	_____	_____	_____

* Explanation is Required

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Please submit your hours to Art Gustafson at the Monthly Meeting, Through the mail (156 Old Field Road, 23188), by E-Mail (arthurg@cox.net), or by use of our web site.