



# The Colonial Master Gardener

December  
2016

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

**“The classic garden was an enclosed space protected from the outside world, a sanctuary for its clatter, frustrations, and woe. But it was also much more. It was perceived as paradise, the original paradise. Indeed, the Old Persian word *pairidaeza* means an enclosure, and the Greek word *paradeisos* means a garden.”**

—Frederick McGourty, *The Perennial Gardener* (1989).

**Next Meeting:**  
**Thursday, December 1**

**Program:**  
**A Presentation of**  
**“Through Catesby’s Eyes”**

**Speaker:**  
**Bain Schultz**

The first freeze of our Williamsburg gardens reminds us of the constant and inevitable change in our everyday lives. Winter brings a period of reflection of the past year and a renewed enthusiasm for the future spring. In retrospect, this has been a tumultuous year for our association, but our mutual respect for one another and our common passion for sharing our gardening knowledge with others have given us the tools to weather the disruptions. My original theme of “change, renewal, continuity” has come full circle, and we will begin the cycle anew.

The bittersweet change. Two board members’ terms are ending. Outgoing vice president for internal education Kathy Bush’s dedication, tenacity, and common sense held us together when we needed it most. Angela Cingale, as vice president for administration, stepped up to an immeasurable challenge and has set us on a firm direction and course during a short term in office. We all owe them both an immense *Thank You*. We have no doubt that our two new board members-- Cathy Hill, vice president for administration, and Hazel Braxton, vice-president for internal education, will carry on in their able footsteps. Welcome aboard!

At the December association meeting we will again have the opportunity to execute our 2017 recommitment forms and standards of behavior requirement---just see Angela. Thanks to all of you who have already fulfilled these VCE annual requirements. Liz Favre will be available to receive your 2017 association dues of \$15---one of the few things that has not changed in years.

The 2017 budget will be presented for approval at the December meeting. Project leaders---please get your end-of-year project expenditures to Liz so she can close the books. We have added money to fund Master Gardener College scholarships that will be open to JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association members. And don’t neglect recording your Master Gardener hours on the VMS.

Let’s celebrate our change, renewal, and continuity at our December 1<sup>st</sup> association meeting. The “Clayton and Catesby” program will be educational. Your executive board will provide a reception during the recess where we can enjoy one another’s company and much-needed holiday calories.



HD4Wallpaper.net

It has been my pleasure to work to pull us together for the last few months, and I am excited about the prospects for our association for the next year.

Take the time to cherish the joys of the season. The end of the autumnal colored leaves. The crisp cool winter air. The promise of spring and its garden renewal. Enjoyment of friends and family. Hope that this is the merriest of Christmases.

**Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.**

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

2016  
MG Board

*President:*  
Gary Streb

*President Elect:*  
Vacant

*VP Administration:*  
Angela Cingale

*VP Projects:*  
Janet Smith

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Kathy Bush

*Secretary:*  
Cathy Johnson

*Treasurer:*  
Liz Favre

*VMGA Rep:*  
Marilyn Riddle

*Past President:*  
Vacant

*VCE ANR Program  
Assistant:*  
Kate Robbins  
(757) 564-2170

### Be in Compliance

By Angela Cingale, VP Administration

A sincere thank you to the eight-eight Extension Master Gardeners who are in compliance for the 2017 year by completing the VCE re-certification and standards of behavior form. You are ready to go in January and able to participate in our projects.

Once again, I will be at the library at 8:30am on Thursday, December 1, with the two forms ready for you to complete and sign. I will also accept them at the break and after the meeting.

We want to have this paperwork completed by December 31. If you know that you cannot attend the December meeting, please let me know, and I will send them by email for you to complete. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete these forms; non-compliance means that you cannot work on projects— and if you do, it becomes a liability issue. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

### MGA Dues Are Due

By Liz Favre, Treasurer

Just a reminder that I will be collecting the 2017 dues at our December 1 meeting and presenting the proposed 2017 budget. Checks should be made payable to JCCW Master Gardeners in the amount of \$15.00. I will also accept cash and give you a receipt.

Checks can also be mailed to my home.

Liz Favre, MGA Treasurer  
4419 Chickasaw Court  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

### Time Entry Reminder

By Janet Smith, VP for Projects

Make those hours count! Please be sure to enter all your time for the year in the VMS system by December 9.



Matthew Whaley first graders harvested over ten pounds of turnips from Matthey's Garden for the annual Thanksgiving feast!

Have a  
peaceful, happy  
holiday season,  
everyone!



The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 am at the Williamsburg Regional Library, Room B, on Scotland Street, Williamsburg.

The board meetings are open to all Extension Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

## THOUGHTS ON SERVING IN LEADERSHIP WITH THE VCE MASTER GARDENERS

BY KATHY BUSH, VP INTERNAL EDUCATION

I have been going through lots of papers and records trying to streamline the transition for Hazel Braxton as she takes over the vice president for internal education position. I am so impressed as I read the names of all who served in leadership positions dating back to the early days of our group. Many of them are still active and leading in our organization today. I am humbled to have followed serving in their footsteps. I must say the two-and-a-half years have stretched me and challenged me to grow and get out of my comfort zone. It has been a privilege, and I hope you still consider stepping out and taking your turn to serve the Master Gardener Association. I am wishing Hazel much success in this position and hoping that all of you have a wonder-filled and joyous holiday season!

Blessings, Kathy Bush

A note from the editor: I also want to take this opportunity to thank Kathy for all she's done to help make our newsletter as interesting and informative as it's been. I will miss her dedication, creativity, and enthusiasm but know that Hazel will also bring her special gifts to the position. Thank you both, ladies. —Hope

## THROUGH CATESBY'S EYES

BY KATHY BUSH, VP INTERNAL EDUCATION



We welcome Bain Schultz to speak at our educational hour on Thursday, December 1. Bain, who works at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation as a landscape specialist, will present "Through Catesby's Eyes," a program highlighting some of the prints of the famous English naturalist and botanical artist, Mark Catesby (1683-1749). Catesby was acquainted with famous gardeners and nurserymen of the day, such as Peter Collinson and John Bartram.

Catesby traveled to Virginia and the Carolinas collecting seeds and plant specimens, and in his famous publication *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* he depicted birds, reptiles, fish, insects, and mammals, as well as plants. Still a treasure today, this was the first book to illustrate the animals and plants of North America.

Ms. Schultz will also share how the foundation uses the plants seen in Catesby's drawings in addition to plants he would not have seen in his travels to Virginia.

Come and learn from this interesting talk, and invite a friend or neighbor. Our programs are open to the public. There will also be a holiday reception in the gallery after the meeting.



Two of the images from the *Natural History*. In the public domain.

## UPCOMING SEMINARS, OPEN HOUSES, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY KATHY BUSH, VP INTERNAL EDUCATION

**December 9-10.** (20 Miller Road, Newport News, 23602, phone 757-877-7159). 9:00am-2:00pm. **Open House at the Gardener's Workshop.** While one never knows what the weather holds for Virginia in December—in most recent years it has been delightful. Come and walk our little urban farm, see cool flowers planted, our hoops and row covers in place, and our warehouse in full glory for an end-of-the-year blowout sale! What do we sell? The same tools, seeds, and supplies we use on our farm. With some really fun stuff thrown in for great gifts. Don't miss this annual open farm. Lisa will be giving walking tours, signing books, and answering questions throughout the day.



**January 16, 2017.** (Founder's Inn, Virginia Beach). 8:30am-5:00pm. **Home Gardener Day.** Speakers, classes, and workshops. \$85 early registration through Dec.1. \$100 Dec. 2-Jan. 9. \$125 Jan. 10-16. For more information, click on the [website](#).

**January 21.** (Williamsburg Botanical Garden). 10:00am-11:30. **Pruning-Winter Tree Care.** This workshop will provide instruction on early winter tree care. James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners will discuss the basics of pruning trees and shrubs and will demonstrate the proper use of pruning tools. This event is part of the Learn and Grow Educational Series sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. The program is free, although a \$5.00 donation to help the Garden grow is appreciated. For more information, contact Barb Landa at 757-259-2079 or by email at [barb@landa.org](mailto:barb@landa.org).



**February 18.** (Williamsburg Botanical Garden). 10:00am-11:30. **Think Spring and Have Bluebirds in Your Yard.** Join **Nancy Barnhart and a team of certified Master Naturalists** to learn all about bluebirds and how to attract them to your yard. This event is part of the Learn and Grow Educational Series sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. The program is free, although a \$5.00 donation to help the Garden grow is appreciated. For more information, contact Nancy Barnhart, at 540-454-3014 or email her at [barnhartnt@gmail.com](mailto:barnhartnt@gmail.com).

**March 24.** (Waynesboro). **Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium: A Gardener's Palette.** 8:00am-4:00pm. Doug Tallamy, Will Hooker, Ellen Ecker Ogden, and Vincent Simeone are the speakers. \$80 early registration before Jan. 3, \$90 regular registration, \$100 registration after March 1. Lunch included. This is a great way to get you're your educational hours. For more information, click on the [website](#).



All Images The Graphics Fairy

**March 25.** (White Stone). 8:00am-3:00pm. **Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar.** Rick Darke and Dr. Doug Tallamy, co-authors of *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, will speak. Registration opens February 1. For more information, click [here](#).

## A SEASON OF THANKS



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## THANKS FROM THE HELP DESK

BY AVRIL PURVIS

On behalf of myself and Barry Holland, thank you interns and coaches for your hard work at the help desk this season. I think we have finally shown everyone how much fun it can be. Barry and I hope you continue to volunteer next year. —Avril

Editor's apology: I forgot to put this in last month's newsletter, but a sincere thanks is never out of date.



# Williamsburg Botanical Garden

## THANKS FROM THE WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

BY KAREN JAMISON, CHAIR OF THE BOARD, WBG

Dear JCC/W Master Gardeners,

The Board of Directors of Williamsburg Botanical Garden takes this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to the wonderful team of Master Gardeners who have participated in the Sustainable Gardening project at WBG in 2016.

Thank you for guiding educational tours of the garden. You are a vital part of our community outreach. Thank you for garden workdays each week and the maintenance chores you accomplished each time. Your efforts are invaluable in our mission to showcase the best plants for the Historic Triangle. Thank you for completing the re-installation of the Perennial of the Year Garden, for undertaking the upkeep of plant identification tags throughout the garden, for assisting so ably at our fall plant sale, and for the many other contributions you have made this year.

At our Annual Meeting in October, WBG recognized JCC/W MG Cathy Hill as Volunteer of the Year. Cathy created a virtual tour of the garden and presented it to residents of an assisted living facility who were unable to come for a walking tour. We are delighted that she will offer this PowerPoint presentation to other groups who request it. Cathy also compiled information on the Perennials of the Year, 1990-2016, and created a very useful flyer that interested visitors can take.

We value the partnership between WBG and the JCC/W Master Gardeners.

We look forward to working together again next year.

Sincerely,  
Karen A. Jamison  
Chairman, WBG Board of Directors



The Graphics Fairy

## LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB AND SHERRY WALKER



pixabay

The citizens of James City County and Williamsburg city have again wisely used the Landscape Love project as their “go to” resource to create and maintain a sustainable landscape by inviting an Extension Master Gardener team to visit their residence and discuss their individual landscaping/gardening issues. Almost seventy EMGs and Interns from the Class of 2016 completed 150 on-site educational visits to over 200 residents.

During the fall session we experimented with the educational product that we traditionally provide the homeowner. In lieu of an emailed summary report of the discussion points addressed during the visit, each team was given the option of continuing with the summary report or providing the homeowner with a set of Virginia Tech publications that addressed the problems described in their application. A fusion of both approaches may be the best for the homeowner-- to receive a “short list” of solutions as well as hard-copy publications in hand for further research and reference.

And another significant improvement to the Landscape Love project---Sherry Walker has enthusiastically volunteered to co-chair the project. We all welcome her to Williamsburg and her fresh ideas.

We would like to thank the whole Landscape Love team for another successful year fulfilling our educational mission—“empowering the community”. Enjoy the well-deserved break in the ops-tempo and hope to see all of you back in the spring.

To All, a Merry Christmas and a happy and fruitful New Year!

## AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR SKILLS WITH THE COMMUNITY

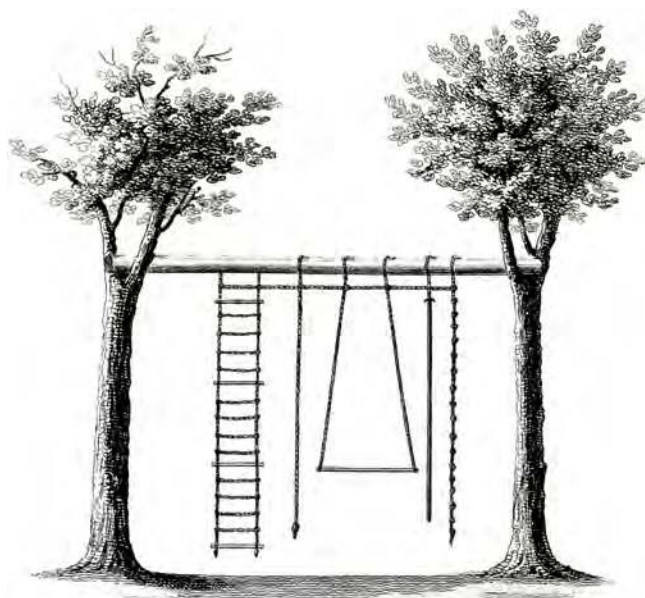
BY PATRICIA PAQUETTE AND JEANNE MILLIN

Winter is the best time to prune many plants in our area -- and the time when Master Gardeners can help people in our communities learn best pruning practices during on-site visits to their yards and gardens.

We visit homeowners in teams of two or three to give them hands-on training to maintain healthy shrubs and small trees, answer their questions, and offer advice. The rewards go both ways, as team members have the opportunity to experience a variety of landscapes and interesting people.

The on-site visits are held in February and March. We are scheduling orientation and review sessions for 2017 volunteers on Thursday, January 12, and Wednesday, January 18, at noon for new volunteers and for those who would like a refresher. Our full team organizational meeting will immediately follow at 1:00 pm. Both sessions will meet at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (5537 Centerville Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188).

If you have any questions or would like to join us this year, please contact Jeanne Millin at [scotfarquhar@cox.net](mailto:scotfarquhar@cox.net).



The Graphics Fairy

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF OUR MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION?

BY ANGELA CINGALE, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

Some of the things the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association provides its members:

- ◇ A mission statement to keep our association on track for our projects
- ◇ Financial support for our projects throughout the community – when we go over budget, the funds are there
- ◇ A budget and accountability of association funds
- ◇ Purchase of equipment, as needed, to supplement projects such as speaker's bureau or help desk
- ◇ Financial support for monthly speakers, seminars, and member-only events
- ◇ *The Colonial Master Gardener*, the JCCW MG Association monthly newsletter
- ◇ Cost for background checks
- ◇ A vote in association decision making – your vote counts
- ◇ Member-only items, such as aprons and lanyards
- ◇ Cost for MG meeting spaces as necessary
- ◇ Social events sponsored by our association, such as the annual picnic
- ◇ A monthly association newsletter
- ◇ Member-only field trips
- ◇ Opportunities to learn in specialized areas – PowerPoint, public speaking etc.
- ◇ Rented space for our Farmer's Market Equipment, plant sale and archived material
- ◇ Library books at the help desk office
- ◇ The right to hold office on the board, where decisions are made but presented and voted on by association members
- ◇ Advance notice of local and state news as reported in newsletter and at monthly meetings
- ◇ Scholarships for college students
- ◇ Scholarships to members to attend MG College at VA Tech
- ◇ Mentors to new trainees
- ◇ A meeting place for like-minded peers

\*\*Please note: Non-members do not participate or vote at the monthly meetings.

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## A FEW WORDS FROM AILENE BARTLETT

In planting the beds around my cottage at Brookdale with "deer-proof" plants, I added *Pycnanthemum muticum*, Mountain Mint, a Virginia native.. It grows about four feet high, has foliage that becomes a silvery gray around the small, almost daisy-like blossoms, and is pollinator heaven. Each day each blossom - and there were lots - were alive with bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other critters looking for a drink of nectar. It was mazing! However... Now that blooming time is over, I went out to whack back the peonies which grew next to the *Pycnanthemum* and found that, like most mints, it was busy taking over the bed.

I recommend this plant for its attraction to pollinators, but with two caveats: 1. It needs to be staked in order to keep it upright, and 2. It will take over your world if you let it, so you might want to contain it somehow. The stalks that grow out are quite shallow, so putting a piece of lawn edging around the clump would probably contain it.

Come Spring, if anyone wants a start, let me know!

Would you believe, I've gotten a Christmas present already? And I'm busy reading it, too, so I *had* to share with all of you! The gift is a book by Cindy Conner entitled *Seed Libraries and Other Means of Keeping Seeds in the Hands of the People* (New Society Publishers, 2015). It's a great book about the Who-How-When-Where-Why of saving seeds and sharing them with the public, and is something which we Master Gardeners ought to consider, even if we only share with others in our organization. Read the book and you'll learn a lot!

## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2016

BY HELEN HAMILTON  
PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### Asters

*Symphyotrichum* spp.

Easily recognized in summer and fall by their daisy-like flowers, the genus Aster represents over 250 species, most of which botanists have recategorized into other genera such as *Symphyotrichum* and *Eurybia*. Like milkweeds and most goldenrods, asters do not need to be pampered other than providing good drainage and full sun, and they can tolerate some shade. Some are branching and sprawling, others tall and still, forming big clumps. Propagation is usually by division, either in spring or fall. There are many cultivars and color forms in garden centers, and they are great cut flowers.

Planted in drifts either in the border or in the wild garden, with the smaller types used as edging, asters should be in every gardener's collection. They even succeed in a rock garden and make especially attractive combinations when mixed with ornamental grasses, also blooming in late fall. Seen most often along woods edges and roadsides, asters bloom late in the season and furnish food for insects preparing for winter.

New York aster (*Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*) is a stunning plant in late fall, the violet-blue ray flowers with yellow or reddish disk flowers, contrasting with blooming goldenrods. A definitive characteristic is the whitish green bracts under the flower heads with spreading or backward-curling tips. The species name is Latin for "of New Belgium," which was the early name for New York.

Large-flowered aster (*Symphyotrichum grandiflorum*) is well named as the flowers are almost two inches wide. It grows wild only in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of Virginia and the Carolinas.

Frost aster (*Symphyotrichum pilosum*) blooms late – from September through November, and even into December. The flower heads are yellow when young, and later become reddish, so one plant has flowers of various colors. Since this is one of the last plants to have flowers before a heavy frost, it is an important source of pre-winter nourishment for many insects.

### JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Helen's new book, ***Ferns & Mosses of Virginia's Coastal Plain***, has just been published. To order a copy, fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and send it on.....it's a perfect gift for someone you know....or maybe for yourself.



Photos, top to bottom:  
Frost Aster (*Symphyotrichum pilosum*)  
taken by Helen Hamilton  
New York Aster (*Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*) taken by Seig Kopinitz  
Large-flowered Aster (*Symphyotrichum grandiflorum*) taken by Jan Newton

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



## Important Dates

- 12/9-10 Open House, Gardener's Workshop ( N. News)
- 1/16/17 Home Gardener Day (Virginia Beach)
- 1/21 Pruning-Winter Tree Care (WBG)
- 2/18 Spring and Bluebirds (WBG)
- 3/24 Shenandoah Plant Symposium (Waynesboro)
- 3/25 Gardening in the Northern Neck (White Stone)



## **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**The deadline for submissions to the January 2017 newsletter will be Monday, December 19.**

**Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at [hopeyelich@gmail.com](mailto:hopeyelich@gmail.com)**

## **SUNSHINE NOTES**



In the past month, we sent a card to:

The family of Virginia Warren  
with condolences for her death

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 EMG secretary, Cathy Johnson, at (757) 208-0065, or [cathypj@gmail.com](mailto:cathypj@gmail.com)

### **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.*

## **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.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

### Order Form

***Ferns & Mosses of Virginia's Coastal Plain:***      \_\_\_ copies @ \$18 each, total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Wildflowers & Grasses of Virginia's Coastal Plain:***      \_\_\_ copies @ \$28 each, total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Order total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info (email/telephone) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Check enclosed \_\_\_ Credit Card (Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_)

Send check or credit card order to: **Helen Hamilton  
PO Box 314  
Lightfoot, VA 23090**

### Order Form

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Lightfoot, VA 23090**