



The Colonial Master Gardener

April
2017

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

"In the teaching and practice of good gardening the fact can never be too persistently urged nor too trustfully accepted, that the best efforts are accomplished by the simplest means."

—Gertrude Jekyll, *Some English Gardens* (1904)



We are back in full gear now! This week the members of the Class of 2017 transition from trainees to interns, and many will join our association. There is a tremendous amount of new talent and enthusiasm that will fuel all of our ongoing projects, as well as create new friendships based upon our mutual passion for gardening and helping others. Please be sure to welcome them at the next general meeting! A well-deserved thank you is extended to the Training Class Committee of 5, as well as all the class managers, mentors, and many others who worked so diligently to make this effort so successful. The impact that you all have on the new Extension Master Gardeners is your legacy.

Thank you to all who planned, organized, and put on our first big event of the year, "Grow It and Eat It! A Seminar on Home Vegetable Gardening." The professional presentations are just what the Williamsburg community needed to kick-start the vegetable growing season. Next up is the annual plant sale on April 29. We are at a new venue and going solo again, without other gardening groups.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 6

**Program:
Seminar on House Plants**

**Speaker:
Ailene Bartlett**

This year we are incorporating a series of lectures/presentations, themed demonstration gardens, and the help desk, in addition to the superb selection of plant materials. You still have a month to harden off your seedlings, divide and pot up your perennials, and edit your landscape to create spaces for new plants. The renewal of an established garden keeps us all creative, busy, and always looking for the right plant for that right place.

The catalog for Master Gardener College 2017 is out. By now you all should have received an email from John Freeborn with the [pdf catalog](#). Registration begins in early May for the June 22-25 session. Four of our association members will be fortunate enough to receive \$250 scholarships to defray the cost of attending. Please read Angela Cingale's article about the scholarships that are available to all association members. I am really excited that we have instituted this benefit and hope you all take advantage of this opportunity. Dust off that resume!

While we all start in earnest with the flood of spring Master Gardener projects, please don't forget to take some time to get your fingernails dirty and enjoy your own garden.

**"What a man needs in gardening
is a cast-iron back,
---with a hinge in it."**

—Charles Dudley
Warren, *My Summer
in a Garden* (1870)



The Graphics Fairy

2017
MGA Board

President:
Gary Streb

President Elect:
Vacant

VP Administration:
Cathy Hill

VP Projects:
Janet Smith

VP Internal Ed:
Hazel Braxton

Secretary:
Cathy Johnson

Treasurer:
Liz Favre

VMGA Rep:
Marilyn Riddle

Past President:
Vacant

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CONTINUED

At our last association board meeting we addressed the status of our current youth programming and the challenges we have in order to improve it. Schools are again asking for our help and assistance. We have potential for new projects that could be started, but we need the spark of enthusiastic leadership. If you are interested in sowing that seed of the love of gardening in our youth please let [me](#) or [Kate](#) know of your interest and commitment.

By our next newsletter we should have an application for the four Master Gardener College scholarships that we are awarding to association members. The criteria will be merit-based, so get your Extension Master Gardener resume dusted off. If you haven't yet attended Master Gardener College at Virginia Tech please consider it. No tests and the company is fantastic!

Our monthly board meetings will now be on the third Thursday of each month, rather than the third Friday. (Next meeting is March 16th at 9:30am.) The Williamsburg Library, Room B, remains the usual location. Plan to attend if you have some issue or concern that you would like to address. We are here for you.

Again, if you have purchased Master Gardener clothing with Williamsburg Graphics and never received the merchandise, please let me know. The company has gone out of business, and the board will be addressing your concerns directly.

Get out and enjoy your gardening!

“Little by little, even with other cares, the slowly but surely working poison of the garden-mania begins to stir in my long-sluggish veins.”

— Henry James, *Letter to Alice James* (1898)



The Graphics Fairy

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

The MGA board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30am 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.

Ailene Bartlett is the JCCW Master Gardeners' program speaker for April. Ailene is one of our own. She has been an association member since 1985, and during this time she has served the organization well in many capacities. For many years, she allowed us to tag, store, and organize our contributions to the annual plant sale on the “back forty” of her property.

Ailene is a retired librarian from the Swem Library on the campus of William and Mary. She has relocated to the Brookdale Community where she still finds time to garden. Ailene has also achieved JCCW Master Gardener Emerita status.

UPCOMING SALES, SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

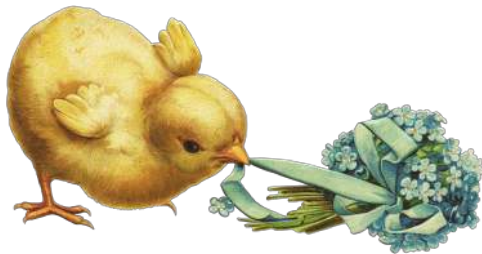
BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

April 1-December 2 (Shenandoah County Library System). Various times and different topics.

Adventures in Gardening. All presenters are Northern Shenandoah Valley MGs. Plant and seed giveaways. Free.



April 5 (Fort Monroe Community Center, Hampton). 9:30am-3:00pm. **“Hometown Habitat and Native Plants Messaging” Leadership Development Workshop.** The workshop is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Habitat Partners© Program. Training instruction will cover the Virginia Native Plant Marketing Action Plan; information about Community-Based Education Outreach; and how to use a Logic Model to plan education programs. A highlight of the training is a free screening of Catherine Zimmerman’s Hometown Habitat film during a working lunch. There is no fee to attend the training, and the lunch is included. During the workshop, participants will work in groups to brainstorm outreach ideas that will promote the use of native plants to the public. In exchange for the training, participants are asked to volunteer **their time afterwards** to plan and conduct education outreach in the region within the next twelve months. Register by March 31, online only, at <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/100341>



April 8. (Knotts Creek Wholesale Nursery , 6120 Knotts Neck Rd., Suffolk 23435). **Plant Sale and Open House for Master Gardeners.** 8:00am-12:00noon. 10% over wholesale cost for perennials and annuals. Take a wagon or wheelbarrow to haul plants.

April 11 (Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center). 11:00am-2:00pm.

Green Thumb Gardening Series. This series of classes offers Hampton Roads’ residents lectures, workshops, and tours in partnership with VCE Master Gardeners. Classes will be held five consecutive Tuesdays beginning April 11. The cost is \$8 per session or \$30 for all five sessions.



April 12 (Hahn Garden, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg). 12:00-1:00pm. **Community Food Forests with Catherine Bukowski.** Community food forests are food production systems that mimic a forest ecosystem by organizing edible perennial vegetation in similar layers to a young woodland. Bukowski has visited and documented twenty four sites across the country and continues to work on establishing a local one at the Hale-Y community garden with the support of VT Engage. She will discuss and show various examples of what she has seen in the development of the sites as well as their ability to transform underutilized urban areas into abundant landscapes that serve various community functions.

Continued on the next page, page 4

UPCOMING SALES, SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES —CONTINUED

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

April 15. (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **The Best Perennials for Tidewater.** Les Parks, curator of herbaceous plants at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, will share information on growing the best perennials for our area. 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 Les by email at les.parks@nbgs.org After the program, Extension Master Gardeners will be in the garden to answer questions and talk about what is in bloom.

April 22. (Williamsburg Botanical Garden, Freedom Park). 8:00am-2:00pm. **Spring Plant Sale.** Sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.



April 22. (Freedom Center, Christopher Newport University, Newport News). 7:00am-3:30pm. The Colonial Triangle Unit of the **Herb Society** will sponsor its **annual herb sale.** The sale will be held in the vendor area adjacent to the Freeman Center on the Christopher Newport University campus in conjunction with the annual garden symposium. Many varieties of herbs; everything from basil to thyme, from lemon verbena to scented geraniums will be for sale. Herb society members will be available to answer herb-growing questions. Proceeds will fund scholarships in horticulture which the herb society offers! For more information contact Veronica Balzer at (757) 463-1753.

April 22 (New Kent County VCE Office, 11809 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA). 9:00am-2:00pm. **Envirothon.** A day of earth-friendly activities for all ages designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the earth's environment.



April 22 (Grafton Ponds Area). 10:00am. **Sinkhole Ponds and Orchids.** Join environmental consultant Meegan Wallace to visit Grafton Ponds, which are Virginia's best remaining example of a coastal plain pond complex. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

May 6 (Newport News Park). 10:00am. **Spring Flowers.** Peninsula Master Naturalist Susie Yager will lead a walk through this lakeside woodland area to see numerous spring flowers as well as several ferns. Meet at the park's Discovery Center, Constitution Way. The round-trip walk will be about two miles. Contact Susie Yager to register at soozigus@cox.net. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

May 6. (Carrollton Library, 14362 New Towne Haven Lane, Carrollton). 10:00am-2:00pm. **Western Tidewater Master Gardeners First Annual Plant Sale.** Educational displays and presentations by Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Bee Keepers, and Portsmouth Hen Keepers. Rain date is May 7.



All images The Graphics Fairy

SCHOLARSHIPS TO MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE

BY ANGELA CINGALE, SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

The JCCW MG Association is pleased to announce the first annual scholarship awards, \$250 each, to four members of our organization who will be attending Master Gardener College. The event will be held June 22-25 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. The scholarships were established to help defray expenses associated with attending (registration, room and board, and gas).

For many who have not attended MG College, this is a wonderful opportunity to see how Virginia Tech, VCE, VMGA, JCCW MGA and other units are connected, educationally and horticulturally, throughout the state. There are wonderful speakers, classes for advanced training, and interaction with other units' MGs. The MG College offers gardening trips, tours, and a visit to a local farmer's market as well as the beautiful Hahn Gardens on campus.

The JCCW scholarship application will be on our website <http://jccwmg.org> under MGA Members. **The deadline for receipt of the form by the committee is May 6.** The scholarship committee will make the decisions, inform the recipients, and the winners will be announced at the JCCWMGA meeting on June 1.

To see this year's MG College newsletter, click [here](#) or google "master gardener college newsletter."

Be as happy as these bunnies and win a scholarship to Master Gardener College!



The Graphics Fairy

2017 PROJECT LEADERSHIP INFORMATION — UPDATE

BY JANET SMITH, VP FOR PROJECTS



The Graphics Fairy

As you might have discovered, there were some errors in the information and email addresses for the project chairs in last month's issue.

On the next page you'll find an UPDATED LIST of the chairs and co-chairs of the active projects, with contact information included. If you have any questions, corrections, or changes, please feel to contact [me](#) (Janet Smith) at smithpmp@aol.com

Continued on the next page, page 6

The Colonial Master Gardener April 2017

2017 PROJECTS AND THEIR LEADERS —UPDATE

EMG PROJECT	CHAIR	CO-CHAIR
Annual Plant Sale	Bess Hopewell bessmhopewell@gmail.com	Liz Favre liz.favre@cox.net
Blayton School Garden	Ken Caro ken@kencaro.com	Lisa Stefanick lvstefanick@gmail.com
Carol's Demonstration Garden at New Kent	Chris Dahlstrom dale_dahlstrom@msn.com	
Colonial Williamsburg Learning Gardens	Pat Abraham tspmeritage@cox.net	Barbara Floyd bmfloyd@cox.net
Diagnostic Clinic	Donna Xander dxander2@verizon.net	
Farmers Market	Sally Sissel sissel@aol.com	John Giffin giffinj@cox.net
Horticultural Help Desk	Avril Purvis avril_purvis@yahoo.com	Barry Holland fholland@cox.net
Incredible Edibles	Barbara Gustafson barbara-sg@cox.net	Yvonne Forbes istclas@msn.com
JCC Seeds of Learning	Donna Thibeault wrt45@cox.net	Marty Oakes oakesfour@aol.com
JCC/W TS Tree Call	Patsy McGrady patsymcgrady@cox.net	Kendra Swann kendrar179@aol.com
Landscape Love	Gary Streb gstreb11@gmail.com	Sherry Walker eco.mastergardener@gmail.com
Master Gardener Training Program	Marty Oakes oakesfour@aol.com	Janet Smith smithpmp@aol.com
Mattey's Garden	Genrose Lashinger glashinger@cox.net	Louann Martin lkmartin2011@gmail.com
Merrimac Detention Center	Pam Woodson pamnjerry@yahoo.com	Mike Whitfield mikewhitf@aol.com
MG JCC/W Tree Stewards	Patsy McGrady patsymcgrady@cox.net	
MG Peninsula Water Stewards	Jeanne Millin scotfarquhar@cox.net	
New Kent Seeds of Learning	Gigi Burrows legare04@gmail.com	Eric Bramfitt vamackem@hotmail.com
New Kent Help Desk	Mary Mills millsmd1@cox.net	
Pruning Clinics	Jeanne Millin scotfarquhar@cox.net	Patricia Paquette patricia.paquette@gmail.com
Speakers Bureau	Mary Wool mdwood@gmail.com	Dennis Wool wool@cox.net
Sustainable Gardening at Williamsburg Botanical Garden	Jordan Westenhaver jordancw9@cox.net	Joanne Sheffield josheffie@yahoo.com
Therapeutic Gardening	Pat Crowe pk.crowe@cox.net	Linda Lucas esllal@cox.net
Turf Love	Kate Robbins kateor@vt.edu	
Water-Wise Low Maintenance Gardening	Iris Grant rgrant4916@aol.com Susan Neidlinger sstrausba@yahoo.com	Stacy DeMeo sdemeo@hotmail.com

The Graphics Fairy



PLANT SALE APRIL 29 BY BESS HOPEWELL



Unbelievable!!! Only a few more weeks until our plant sale, which will be held **on** Saturday, April 29. The location of our plant sale is The Historic Triangle Community Services Center, 312 Waller Mill Rd. The hours are 9:00am-3:00pm. Set up is Friday, and the team leaders will tell the volunteers in the different groups what time to arrive. Intake of MG plants will be on Friday from 7:00am-noon. Our pre-sale will take place 3:00pm-5:00pm on Friday. On both Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29, we ask all Master Gardeners (after dropping off plants and unless you have a problem with walking) to park in the church parking lot directly across the street from our sale site.

Dave Banks will send an email blast to all members containing a copy of our flier. We are asking all members to make copies and distribute them where appropriate to get the most exposure. Also, if possible, put a copy on your Facebook page. There is also a copy at the end of this newsletter.

Chairs are working very hard and doing a wonderful job getting their areas organized to have a great plant sale and educational experience for the public. On the next page you'll find the form Pat Rathke has provided on which you can indicate what plants you are donating. Just print the page, fill it out, give it to Pat, and you're good to go.

There's still time to dig and pot plants from your garden or buy plants to repot to grow larger and donate. If you are not able to donate time or plants, a monetary donation is welcomed. We are still in need of volunteers in some areas. Please contact either Bess Hopewell (bessmhopewel@gmail.com) or Liz Favre (liz.favre@cox.net) to let us know if you would like to help.

Remember to bring a hat, sunscreen, folding canvas chair, and snack (to keep up your energy, with all the hard work we will be doing). There is a kitchen located inside the building that we can use for breaks. Looking forward to a beautiful day and a successful plant sale for our hard working group!



Photo: Hope Yelich

INTRODUCING THE INTERN CLASS OF 2017!

And so it was that on March 29 the newest crop of interns shed their trainee status. They can't wait to dig in. At times they thought we were leading them down the garden path—that we had gone to seed—and wondered if they had opened a can of worms by signing up. Maybe some even wanted to throw in the trowel. We sometimes wondered too. Were we a thorn in their side? Were they swamped? But we knew we had it made in the shade. This group had deep roots and strong branches and were not about to have grass grow under their feet. We hesitate to get sappy about it, but we think this is the best class yet. They are the cream of the crop. Theirs is a no-common-garden-variety group. But then again, this is a perennial comment we make at the end of each class. See you around the garden!

---The Training Team of Marty Oakes, Janet Smith, Hope Yelich, Mary Wool, Susan Shoulet, and Kate Robbins.



Front row, left to right: Doris Lewis, Linda Berryman, Robin Reichelt, Madeline Vann, Kimberly Silver-Perry, Judith Alberts, and Susan Miller.

Back row: Jerry Woodson, Jean Geiger, Beth Deer, Stephanie Lamb, Rick Brown, Marcella McDevitt, Deeno O'Connell, Sonya Morrison, Wendy Hamrick, Pam Mageland, Elizabeth Grainer; Paulette Atkinson, Jean Keating, Pat Cowan, Ryan Andrews, and Carole Black. Not pictured: Sharon Marcial and Jon Tustin

GARDEN TOOLS FOR SALE

The editor is sad to report that Dennis and Mary Wool are moving to California. We will miss them and their contributions to the association, but they're leaving some tools behind and offering them for sale:

Home Pro 15' telescoping limb saw w/ pruner	1 four prong pitch fork
Fiskar 45" power stroke limb trimmer	1 five prong pitch fork
Fiskar 25-37" telescoping power trimmer	1 black and decker electric trimmer
30" bow saw	Corkscrew compost turner
2 machetes	Assorted very large nursery pots – (free)

Make a reasonable offer – Dennis & Mary Wool (757) 741-2406

EMGS RECOGNIZED AT ARBOR DAY 2017

BY HOPE YELICH

Pat Rathke passed on the news that the EMGs were recognized with a certificate of appreciation at the 2017 Arbor Day ceremony on March 10 at the Williamsburg community center. This was in recognition of the Shields Tavern garden that they maintain and use as a teaching garden as part of our partnership with Colonial Williamsburg. Pat Rathke and Kathy Lykins accepted the certificate on behalf of all EMGs who helped make this garden beautiful.

Congratulations, everyone!



Photo: Charlie Rathke



Photo: Charlie Rathke



Pictures of the lovely Shields garden in full bloom.

Photos: Pat Rathke





THE BIG BUG HUNT 2017

BY KATHY BUSH

This is an ongoing citizen research project run by Growing Interactive, the provider of the world's leading apps for gardeners. It's a fun way to learn about different garden pests and help track when and where they appear in your area.

If you'd like to learn more about the project and subscribe to its newsletter, click on <http://bigbughunt.com/>

JCC TREE STEWARDS EDUCATE HOMEOWNERS ON TREE SELECTION, PLANTING, CARE

BY PATSY MCGRADY

JCC Tree Stewards in association with the James River Association hosted a Tree Selection and Planting Workshop Saturday, March 11, at the Freedom Park interpretive center.

Twenty-five people attended the workshop and selected a free tree for their homes from among seven available choices. The trees were fifteen-gallon-size and were delivered to each participating homeowner's residence. The trees were made available by a grant received by the James River Association.

Available trees were dogwood, redbud, fringe tree, red maple "October Glory," black tupelo, willow Oak, and bald cypress. Joanne Stafford and Ginny Cranford provided an overview and expertise on the flowering, ornamental trees. Patsy McGrady, Bev Baker, Anne Neilson, and Gary Streb covered the canopy trees. Larry Gaskins discussed how to plant and maintain a new tree, while Mitzi Balma provided the basics for pruning one. The workshop concluded with the planting of a dogwood across from the Go Ape building at Freedom Park. The attached photo shows Larry Gaskins and Mitzi Balma finishing up the planting of a dogwood.

A second workshop was held Saturday, March 25, at Freedom Park. Following delivery of the trees, Tree Stewards will visit the homes of participants to ensure the trees are properly planted.



Photo: Joanne Sheffield

LOGO MERCHANDISE FOR SALE: TO MAKE A LONG STORY....

BY ANGELA CINGALE

Our James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association is the recipient of logo merchandise which includes tee shirts and hooded fleece jackets. How they came into our possession is a series of events that started back in November 2016. At that time, our state association, the Virginia Master Gardener Association, placed a \$1,275 order with Williamsburg Graphics (WG). The merchandise was paid for in early December, delivered to the fund-raising chair at the meeting, and that's when the mistake was discovered. The VMGA logo had the James City County/Williamsburg information under it instead of a blank space. The two boxes of the VMGA order were delivered back to Williamsburg Graphics. However, by then Williamsburg Graphics had been sold to another company. The new owner was cleaning out inventory when one of our association members stopped in to pick up his order, at which time he gave our association the merchandise while still offering to correct the order for the VMGA organization.

In January of this year, after many calls to the new owner, we learned that Williamsburg Graphics owed the landlord back rent. In response, the landlord had had the premises padlocked, with the machinery and inventory inside and under his control. The new owners of the now-defunct company lost their investment of many thousands of dollars, while the VMGA lost \$1,275 from its



The Graphics Fairy and Nolan Yelich

purchase of the merchandise. We, the JCC/W association, became the beneficiary of this fiasco. In getting the two boxes of merchandise, our own EMGs also received the orders they had individually placed. In order to help our state association recoup some of its loss, our board decided to sell the donated merchandise to JCC/W EMGs and return the money to the VMGA.

The cost to our members is the wholesale, not the retail, price; so it's a win-win for JCC/W and for the VMGA, which will be able to recover a portion of their lost funds through our donation to them. An insurance claim has been filed with the credit card company, and if it can refund the VMGA's money, then the VMGA will reimburse our organization. We know that our members are able to empathize with our state organization by the terrible predicament caused by the former owner of Williamsburg Graphics.

At the April 6 meeting, the board members will sell short- and long-sleeved tee shirts in unisex and ladies sizes, as well as zip-up hoodies. Tee shirts will be \$8, long-sleeved shirts will be \$11, and the hoodies, \$25. Sizes are small (S), medium (M), large (L), and extra large (XL). The board will have the items ready for sale at 8:30a.m., in-between speakers, and after the meeting.

Cash and checks only please.

As of March 27, this is what is available. Sizes and number of shirts are in parentheses:

- Short-sleeved tee shirts in unisex sizes: Pistachio(S-2, L-8, L-9, XL-8); Light Blue(XL-2); Carolina Blue (XL-2); Sky Blue(XL-2); Violet(M-2); and Prairie Dust(S-2).
- Short-sleeved ladies tee shirts (which are 2" shorter): Orchid(M-3); Pistachio(L-8, XL-8).
- Long-sleeved tee shirts in unisex sizes: Maroon(S-1, M-2, L-5, XL-5); Carolina Blue (S-1, M-2, L-5, XL-5).
- Hoodies in unisex sizes: Maroon; (S-1, M-2, L-4, and XL-4); Carolina Blue(S-1, M-1, L-5, XL-3).

INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

BY SUE LIDDELL

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has compiled a list of invasive plants, plants that cause economic and ecological harm and ongoing management issues. They threaten our forests, grasslands, wetlands and waterways. Following are some that have been seen in our area:



Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) also known as stinking sumac, Chinese sumac, varnish tree, and stinktree is a rapidly growing deciduous tree with large compound leaves. It is native to China and was brought to the United States in the late 1700s as a shade tree. Today this invasive tree threatens to overwhelm our natural areas, agricultural fields, and roadsides. It is a prolific seed producer and can thrive in even the most unfavorable conditions with little management. This tree was also made famous in the Betty Smith novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* because of its ability to thrive under adverse conditions. Its rapid growth also means that it can crowd out nearby native plant species, and its aggressive root system can cause damage to pavement, sewers, and building foundations. Better trees would be black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), or sweet bay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*). (Photo: NC State University)



Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) is native to Asia and was introduced into the U.S. in the 1830s for wildlife food and ground cover. It produces abundant fruits that are widely distributed by birds and mammals. It leafs out early and retains its leaves late in fall, shading out desirable native species and reducing species diversity. It is able to germinate and survive in shade as well as sun. Native alternatives would be groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*), inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), or Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*). (Photo: PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources)



Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) was introduced into the United States from China in 1852 for ornamental planting and is now naturalized throughout the southeastern United States. Plants mature rapidly and are prolific seed producers. They also reproduce vegetatively by means of root suckers, so they can replace native vegetation. Native choices might be spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), or winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). (Photo: NC State University)



Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) was introduced to the U.S. in the early to mid-1800s as an ornamental plant for erosion control, and for wildlife forage and cover. It is evergreen to semi-evergreen, has a vigorous root system, and grows rapidly. Shrubs and young trees can be killed by girdling when vines twist tightly around stems and trunks, cutting off the flow of water through the plant. Dense growths of honeysuckle covering vegetation can gradually kill plants by blocking sunlight from reaching their leaves. A better choice would be trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*).

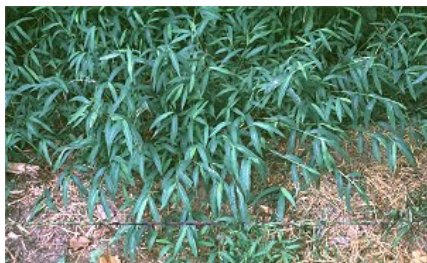
Photo: Sue Liddell

Continued on the next page, page 14

INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION--CONTINUED



Kudzu (*Pueraria Montana* var. *lobata*) A native of China and Japan, kudzu vine was introduced to the United States in 1876 during the Centennial Exposition that was held in Philadelphia to celebrate the nation's 100th birthday. The Japanese government created a beautiful garden exhibit filled with native Japanese plants, including kudzu. Gardeners liked the glossy leaves and scented flowers. Then in the 1920s, owners of a plant nursery in Chipley, Florida, noticed that their goats and cows enjoyed eating kudzu. They began marketing it as livestock fodder, and kudzu spread across the South. In fact, kudzu has become one of those plants identified with the South, like Southern magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and mimosas (*Albizia julibrissin*). In the 1930s and 1940s the Soil Conservation Service paid farmers to plant kudzu to combat erosion. By the 1950s it was removed from the list of acceptable species in the Agricultural Conservation Program, and today it is recognized as a noxious weed. It girdles and kills trees and shrubs and also covers and kills vegetation by blocking sunlight. (Photo: USDA Forest Service)



Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) was not introduced to the U.S. on purpose, as were the others. It arrived in 1919, probably as packing for porcelain. It is especially well adapted to low light conditions. It threatens native plants and natural habitats in open-to-shady, and moist-to-dry locations. Stiltgrass spreads to form extensive patches, displacing native species that are not able to compete with it. It spreads by seed and vegetatively, rooting at every joint along the stem. Replace with appropriate ground cover and keep pulling stiltgrass. (Photo: NC State University)

These are just six of the three hundred invasive species reported in natural areas of our part of the U.S., according to *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*. We can do our part to halt the invasion by monitoring our property for invasives and encouraging native biodiversity. Please see the [Virginia Plant Species List](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/nh-invasive-plant-list-2014.pdf) at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/nh-invasive-plant-list-2014.pdf> for more information.

SAY HI TO RITA...OR IS IT REDMOND?

This common rat snake likes to sun itself by MG Susan Shoulet's front porch in Governor's Land. Like the rest of us, she or he enjoys a warm, sunny spring day. Rat snakes are good climbers (we never would have known...) and help keep the population of mice, rats, and other small rodents down.



Photo: Susan Shoulet)

LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY SHERRY WALKER AND GARY STREB

It's officially spring and time to get in the garden! With spring comes registration for the Extension Master Gardener program Landscape Love. In fact, registration is now underway and will be open until April 15 for homeowners to apply. For those new to Landscape Love, this program advises homeowners on issues they have in their landscapes. We don't move dirt, pull weeds, or plant; we simply provide needed information and hopefully, inspiration.

So, whether you are new to Landscape Love or are an experienced veteran of the program, we would be honored to have you join us this spring. If you know any homeowners who need some encouragement to apply, please remind them the cutoff for registration is April 15, and it's on a first come, first-served basis. The application is online at www.jccwmg.org. From the home page, follow this path: Projects/ Home Visit Programs/ Landscape Love. It is simple and easy.

Homeowner visits will occur from late April through the end of May.

If you are planning to participate in Landscape Love this spring, you should attend one of the two organizational meetings we have scheduled. The first is **Monday, April 17, 9:00am at the JCC rec center**, and the second is **Thursday, April 20, 9:00am, also at the JCC rec center**. You will need to attend one of the meetings, so please pencil it in your calendar now. The meeting will be about an hour.

If you would like to rejoin us or participate for the first time, let us know at gstreb11@gmail.com or Sherry Walker at eco.mastergardener@gmail.com.



The Graphics Fairy

SPRING PLANT WALKS BY HELEN HAMILTON

A Walk in the Habitat. Sunday, April 2, 2:00:3:00pm. Look for signs of spring in the native plant garden at Stonehouse Elementary School, 3651 Rochambeau Drive (Route 30) in Toano. Habitat caretaker Sue Voigt will search for early blooms on the small trees, shrubs, and wildflowers and a few early butterflies feeding on nectar. Park in the school bus parking lot near the far end of the school building, and contact Sue for more information (svoigt1@cox.net; (804) 966-8487, or cell (804) 815-6085)

Sinkhole Ponds and Orchids. Saturday, April 22 at 10:00am at the Grafton Ponds area. Join environmental consultant Meegan Wallace to visit Grafton Ponds, which are Virginia's best remaining example of a coastal plain pond complex (about a two-mile round trip to ponds). We will also see showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) in bloom as well as many other spring wildflowers and ferns. From I64, travel east on Fort Eustis Blvd (Va-105), pass Richneck Road on the right, look for a small parking area on the left, marked with VNPS signs. Contact Meegan at clm003@verizon.net to register and for more information.

Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

All walks are free and open to the public

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH APRIL 2017

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



Photo: Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) taken by Phillip Merritt

Jack-in-the-Pulpit *Arisaema triphyllum*

This easy-to-grow native wildflower has unusual foliage and flower. The striped green and purple canopy (spathe) curves gracefully over a club-shaped spadix (the “Jack” or preacher in his canopied pulpit). The lower portion of the spadix carries tiny flowers of one or both sexes, where heat and odor are produced, attracting pollinating flies.

A single three-part leaf on a long stalk then expands and overtops the spathe. Appearing along with the flowers, the leaves are divided into three parts, the two lower leaflets more or less horizontal to the third leaflet. Jack-in-the-pulpit leaves could be confused with those of trillium, but the three leaflets of trillium are all equidistant from each other.

Fruits are smooth, shiny, green berries clustered at the base of the thickened spadix; they ripen in late summer when the spathe and leaf wither, revealing the cluster

of bright red berries borne on a stalk one-to-two-feet high, replacing the leaf and flower.

Jack-in-the-pulpit is an excellent choice for a shade or woodland wildflower garden where it will thrive in rich soil and partial to full shade. It is very easy to cultivate and requires little care, and it grows under a variety of conditions. It partners well with columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) and foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*).

Native in all counties of Virginia, this woodland plant is found in every state east of the Mississippi and extends through central U.S. to the borders of Colorado and Utah and into Canada.

While birds and mammals eat the berries of this plant, all parts produce intensely irritating calcium oxalate crystals. American Indians knew that cooking and drying eliminated the bitter taste; roots were used as a vegetable, ground for bread doughs, and used for a variety of medicinal purposes.

Arisaema refers to the plant’s resemblance to other members of the Arum family, the Araceae – Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), Arrow-arum (*Peltandra virginica*), and Golden Club (*Orontium aquaticum*) are native to Virginia. Other members of this family from the tropics are grown as familiar house plants.

Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*), *Philodendron*, and *Dieffenbachia* are sold locally in garden centers and nurseries. Another relative *Caladium*, also known as elephant ears, is grown for its colorful foliage and is often planted in woodland gardens.

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

Important Dates

- 4/1 Adventures in Gardening begins (Shenandoah Co. Library System)
- 4/2 A Walk in the Habitat (Stonehouse Elem.Sch.)
- 4/5 Hometown Habitat and Native Plants (Hampton)
- 4/8 Farmers Market (Merchants Square)
- 4/8 Knotts Creek Nursery Plant Sale (Suffolk)
- 4/12 Community Food Forests (VA Tech)
- 4/15 Best Perennials for Tidewater (Freedom Park)
- 4/22 Envirothon (New Kent VCE Office)
- 4/22 Botanical Garden Plant Sale (Freedom Park)
- 4/22 Herb Society Plant Sale (CNU)
- 4/22 Sinkhole Ponds and Orchids (Grafton Ponds)
- 4/22 Farmers Market (Merchants Square)
- 4/29 JCC/W Master Gardener Plant Sale (Historic Triangle Community Services Center)
- 5/6 Western Tidewater MG Plant Sale (Carrollton)
- 5/6 Spring Flowers (Newport News Park)
- 5/6 Farmers Market (Merchants Square)
- 5/20 Farmers Market (Merchants Square)
- 6/3 Farmers Market (Merchants Square)
- 6/17 Farmers Market (Merchants Square)
- 6/22-25 Master Gardener College (VA Tech)

SUNSHINE NOTES



In the past month we sent a card to:

Claire Gross on the death of her husband

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 cathypji@gmail.com

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the May 2017 newsletter will be Monday, April 24.

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at hopeyelich@gmail.com



The Graphics Fairy



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.



**VCE JAMES CITY COUNTY WILLIAMSBURG
MASTER GARDENERS'**

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE
APRIL 29, 2017**

HISTORIC TRIANGLE COMMUNITY CENTER

312 WALLER MILL ROAD

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

RAIN OR SHINE / CASH OR CHECK ONLY

**NEW THIS YEAR— EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS GIVING LECTURES ON
LANDSCAPING, PRUNING, GROW BOXES. A HELP DESK, WHERE EXTENSION MASTER
GARDENERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS. THERE WILL BE
A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, HERBS & VEGETABLES TO PURCHASE.**

For more information, visit www.jccwmg.org or call 757-564-2170

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the James City County Unit at 757/564-2170/TDD* during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is 800/828-1120.



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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 McKinnis, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.



Envirothon Earth Day



Saturday, April 22, 2017

9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

A day of Earth friendly activities for all ages designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment.

Live Animal Demonstrations by AWARE at 10:00am and 1:00pm
Rehabilitators and educators interested in helping injured and orphaned wildlife.

Join us at the New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA
Call 804-966-9645 for more information.

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify New Kent Extension Office at (804) 966-9645 during business hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.



**New Kent Clean
County Committee**



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

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 McKinnis, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

These materials and the activities described herein are not sponsored or endorsed by the New Kent County School Board.