



# The Colonial Master Gardener

September  
2017

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

**“Growing things is like every other pleasure I have heard of: one enjoys it more keenly if one takes a rest from it.”**

**-- Ruth Stout, *How to Have a Green Thumb Without an Aching Back* (1955)**



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Looks like the nastiest heat and humidity of the Tidewater Virginia may be behind us. The weather was perfect this last weekend as our Extension Master Gardeners again provided sage advice and counsel to the walk-up residents of James City County and Williamsburg at the Farmer's Market in Merchants Square. Anything can be brought up: What height do I keep my Bermuda grass in the winter? Why does my neighbor's crepe myrtle have more blooms than mine? Why is only one branch of my boxwood dying? What's with the hydrangeas this year? This is what our Extension Master Gardener program is all about.

*“The purpose is to learn, educate and communicate environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community. Trained by Virginia Cooperative Extension faculty and area specialists, EMG volunteers are committed to offering information to the public through sustainable landscape management and educational programs.”*

The horticultural help desk provides a more detailed analysis for the homeowner, either in person, by telephone, or by email, throughout the year. The diagnostic clinic, held at the Toano extension office this month, is the perfect opportunity to have plant problems diagnosed, with remedies suggested.

Our summer respite is about over, and many of our

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, September 7**

**Program:  
Landscape Like a Pro: Tips and  
Tricks to Have the Best-Looking  
Yard in the Neighborhood**

**Speaker:  
Peggy Krapf, of Heart's Ease  
Landscape & Garden Design**

projects will be restarting with renewed vigor. The homeowner-oriented projects (Landscape Love, Turf Love/Garden Love, and Tree Call) are open for business. All are looking for interested EMGs to transfer knowledge to the city/county homeowners. Another area that has been resting but is ready to be reinvigorated is our youth program. Kate Robbins is looking for those of us who are interested in perpetuating our future gardeners, the youth—our legacy. Creative ideas are always welcome!

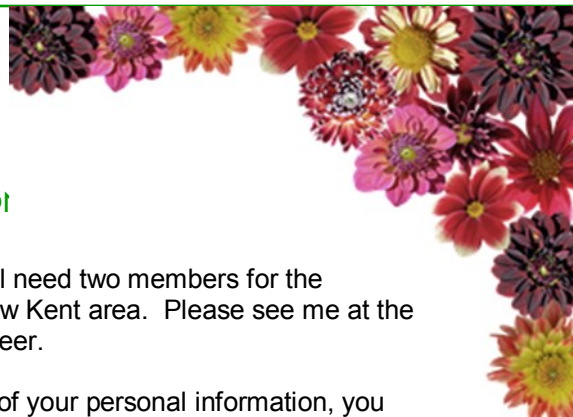
Speaking of the future—the nominating committee will be out and about seeking candidates for upcoming MGA board vacancies. If your talents tend toward the administrative side rather than the “dirty fingernail” side of Master Gardening, we may have a place for you. Don't be intimidated about the awesome responsibilities—just ask any of the current board members for the particulars.

We are all looking forward to hearing from Peggy Krapf at our next MGA meeting on Thursday, September 7, in the Williamsburg Library auditorium.

Enjoy the last of summer as we prepare for fall and anticipate the winter, planning for next spring. Gardening has no end.

**“Where grows?—where grows it not? If vain our toil, We ought to blame the culture, not the soil.”**

**-- Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Man, Epistle IV* (1732-34) (aka the Master Gardener's rule: Right Plant, Right Place)**



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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

## ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

BY CATHY HILL, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

1. Nominating Committee: As of this writing I still need two members for the committee. I especially need one from the New Kent area. Please see me at the association meeting if you are willing to volunteer.
2. Roster Changes: If there are changes to any of your personal information, you need to communicate this to [Kate Robbins](#) as well as [myself](#). Kate needs the correct information for the extension service.
3. Volunteer Hours: The end of the year is approaching fast. Please enter your hours regularly.

## REVISED REIMBURSEMENT FORM

BY LIZ FAVRE, TREASURER

Please see a copy of the revised reimbursement form at the end of this newsletter. (It will also be available on the website). Note that two different signatures are now required: the person to whom the check is to be made payable as well as the project chair or co-chair.

If anyone needs to be reimbursed, please send your information to me as soon as possible. I will start to work on the budget at the end of September, and it would be helpful to have all reimbursements up to date.

It is also time for our project chairs to be thinking of next year's budget (2018). Please feel free to [email me](#) with any questions regarding the 2017 budget.

## NEED SOME ADDITIONAL MASTER GARDENER HOURS?

BY DONNA XANDER

The Master Gardener fall diagnostic clinic will be starting up on Mondays only, from September 11 to Monday September 25, from 9:00am to noon at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service office in Toano. We will meet in the kitchen across from the help desk, and everyone is welcome to join us.

If any of you are planning to go out on any Landscape Love sessions, this is a great opportunity to get plant samples and bring them in to look under the microscope. Or maybe you have something in your own yard that you would like to find out about. This is a great learning opportunity and I look forward to seeing you there.

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.



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

Peggy Krapf, an award-winning landscape designer and one of our own, is September's Master Gardener speaker. Peggy has landscape specialist certification from George Washington University, is a certified and active member of the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers (VSLD), a James City County Water Smart Partner, and a James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener. She's been a professional landscape designer in Williamsburg for twenty-four years and a Virginia Master Gardener since 1990.



Photo courtesy of Heart's Ease

Peggy has served as a landscape exhibit judge for the Marymount Flower & Garden show and as a member of the VSLD board of directors. For seven years she also has served on the board of directors of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. She has taught multiple landscape design and horticulture classes, including the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short-Course, the Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium, and the Virginia Master Gardener training program.

The owner of [Heart's Ease Landscape & Garden Design](#) firm, Peggy also maintains an active [Facebook page](#). Heart's Ease is a small landscape design company specializing in residential and commercial properties in the Williamsburg area. Her landscapes have been featured on tour during Historic Garden Week in Virginia and Ford's Colony "Hidden Treasures." Peggy's designs have won best landscaping awards in many publications, including *Builder/Architect Magazine*, *Southern Living*, and the *Daily Press*.

Her talks are always informative, amusing, and right on target. Always a "must see!"

## DO YOU KNOW PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS?

BY HOPE YELICH

**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

**BECOME A MASTER GARDENER**

VCE Master Gardener volunteers work in their communities to educate and advance sound horticultural and environmental practices. Training involves a wide variety of classroom and hands-on experiences. Topics covered during this 13 week certificate program include:

- Basic Botany • Pruning • Lawns • Trees & Shrubs
- Soils & Fertilizers • Insects & Diseases
- Annuals & Perennials

Training begins **January 9, 2018**. For more information and on application, contact the VCE Office at **757-564-2170**  
Application Deadline: **October 31, 2017**  
Course Fee: **\$165**  
(Fee covers handbooks, classroom materials and background check.)

[www.offices.ext.vt.edu/james-city](http://www.offices.ext.vt.edu/james-city)

Amazingly, it's that time of year again. Kate Robbins at the VCE office in Toano is now accepting applications for the 2018 James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener training program. As usual, we want to get the word out to as many people as possible, and that includes your friends, neighbors, colleagues, and people who read your neighborhood newsletter. The ad you see at the left will appear in the *Virginia Gazette's* Backyard section on September 2 and 30, and the training team will use other publicity avenues too. If you'd like to help us by including the information in your neighborhood newsletter—as well as by word of mouth-- the information is below. ( I can also send you a copy of the ad in pdf and jpg formats.)

The only major change is that we will hold classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays rather than on Mondays and Wednesdays. The session will begin on Tuesday, January 9, and end on Thursday, March 29. Each class will be three hours long (9:00am-12:00 noon) at the county rec center on Longhill Road. Course topics include botany, pest management, plant culture, flowers, vegetables, pruning, landscape design, water conservation, and more. The course fee is \$165.

**The deadline to receive completed applications is October 31, 2017.** Program information and applications are posted at [www.jccwmg.org](http://www.jccwmg.org). For questions or more information, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension office in Toano at (757) 564-2170.

As you know, Master Gardeners are volunteers with VCE who work within their communities to educate and advance sound horticultural and environmental practices. There are twenty projects available to volunteers once they complete their training and internships, so spread the word before the class fills up!

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**September 9.** (Brittingham Midtown Community Center, 570 McLawhorne Drive, Newport News). 10:00am-3:00pm. **Go Green Expo.** Go Green Expo 2017 is Hampton Roads's premier horticultural, sustainability, indoor event! Sponsored jointly by the Peninsula Master Gardeners and the Virginia Cooperative Extension, this one-day event is free for visitors, residents, and business leaders.



Photo: Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

**September 16.** (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00am-11:30am. **The Butterfly Garden: Strategic Plants that Attract and Raise Butterflies.** Master Naturalist and butterfly raiser Joni Carlson will cover butterfly life cycles and how to grow plants that sustain butterfly species. She will also speak on how you can become a citizen scientist to monitor and tag monarchs and what it takes to turn your yard into a monarch way station. This event is part of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden's Learn & Grow Educational Series. The program is free and open to the public, although a \$5.00 donation is appreciated.

**September 16.** (College Landing Park). 2:00pm. **Flowers and Grasses.** In early fall grass flowers make a nice contrast with blooms of asters and goldenrods, and many trees will show fall colors. Meet at College Landing Park, 2100 S. Henry St., Williamsburg, for a walk around the James River wetlands and lawn areas for fall weeds. Contact Helen Hamilton at (757) 564-4494 or [helen48@cox.net](mailto:helen48@cox.net) for information.



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**September 16-17.** (Virginia Living Museum, Newport News). 9:00am-4:00pm. **Fall Native Plant Sale.** Choose from an incredible array of beautiful and unusual native plants for a variety of garden sites and styles, from wet ponds to dry rock gardens. Member preview is Thursday, September 14, from 4:00-6:00pm. The sale will be held in the Conservation Garden. Admission is free.

*Continued on the next page, page 5*

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES --CONTINUED

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**September 21** (Stryker Center Council Chamber, 412 N. Boundary St., Williamsburg). 7:00-8:00pm. **Husbanding the Land & the Future of Farmers Markets.** In celebration of the Williamsburg Farmers Market's 15th anniversary, the farmers market is hosting a series of forums to discuss the food we all eat. Forum discussion will focus on farmland trusts, land conservancy, regional foodways, the changing dynamics of farmers markets and CSAs, and the politics of food. This forum is free and open to the public.



Photo: Hope Yelich



**September 23.** (AREC, 1444 Diamond Springs Rd., Virginia Beach 23455). 10:00am-3:00pm. **Fall Gardening Festival.** Sponsored by the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners, the theme this year is Gardening in Cool Seasons. Speakers, demonstrations, tours of the gardens and arboretum at AREC, plant sale and bake sale, etc. Family-friendly (and dog-friendly) event. Free, lots of parking.

## Support VIMS (Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences) When Shopping on Amazon

If you make online purchases through Amazon, you can support the VIMS Foundation every time you shop, at no cost to you. It's easy. Just [click here](#), and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the VIMS Foundation.



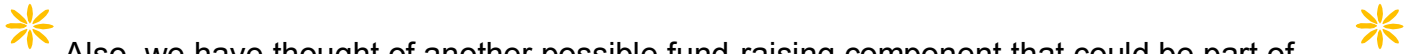
As always, don't forget to take a look at John Freeborn's latest biweekly update from the state EMG office. Click on <https://blogs.it.vt.edu/mastergardener/current-master-gardeners/sample-page/bi-weekly-update/>. If that doesn't work, click on <http://blogs.it.vt.edu/mastergardener/>. Then click on "I am currently a Master Gardener/News/Bi-Weekly Update". There you'll find information on a tree workshop, an online course, an upcoming garden symposium on the Eastern Shore, and more.

**MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE 2018**

BY MARY MILLS AND BESS HOPEWELL



Please mark your calendar for the following dates: **Saturday, April 21, 2018** for the plant sale, and **Friday, April 20, 2018** for plant intake and set up at the **Historic Triangle Community Services Center on 312 Waller Mill Road, Williamsburg.**



Also, we have thought of another possible fund-raising component that could be part of the plant sale, and we would like to know if there are any Master Gardeners who could help with the following:



A garden yard sale ("**Garden Trash & Treasure**"), which could include garden tools, planters, shepherds hooks, statuary, garden apparel, etc. These must be in good functional condition and appearance-- items that you wouldn't mind having yourself or passing on to a friend.



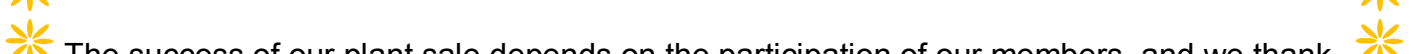
We need two or three volunteers who would like to work together on this component of the plant sale.



These volunteers would be responsible for receiving the items on the Friday, April 20, intake date and pricing them. They would **NOT** be responsible for removing the left-over items after the plant sale.



Thinking ahead... late summer/fall is a good time to check out garden centers, big-box stores, and garden gift shops for their end-of-season clearance sales. They offer great bargains this time of year for items that you could donate to our Garden Trash & Treasure sale.



The success of our plant sale depends on the participation of our members, and we thank you in advance for all your hard work.



Contact:

Bess Hopewell, chair, at [bessmhopewell@gmail.com](mailto:bessmhopewell@gmail.com) OR

Mary Mills, co-chair, at [millsmd1@cox.net](mailto:millsmd1@cox.net) .



## INTERNS AT WORK AT THE METHODIST RESPITE CARE CENTER

BY SUE LIDDELL

Interns have been a big help at Methodist Respite. They bring in plants, present information, and help with activities. They interact with the clients using innate skills and skills learned in therapeutic gardening planning sessions. Thanks for your continued participation!



Jean Geiger with white iris



Carole Black and oregano



Beth Deer with dill



Nancy Miller with a book on herbs



Kimberly Silver-Perry, Paulette Atkinson, Beth Deer, and Susan Miller

What's blooming now?

## THE NEWS FROM MATTEY'S GARDEN

BY LOUANN MARTIN

There is always something happening at Mattey's Garden! For those of you who are not familiar with the program, this is a learning school garden located at the Matthew Whaley Elementary School just outside Colonial Williamsburg.

The Master Gardeners coordinate and present hands-on programs for the kindergarten and first-grade classes of the school. Kindergarten sessions are 2:00-3:00pm on designated Fridays, and first-grade sessions are 9:30-11:30am, also on Fridays. Kindergarteners learn about the "herb of the month," while the first-grade program centers on "literature meets gardening".



Little Mattey welcomes visitors.



Genrose Lashinger at the June celebration honoring her work in the garden.



Jean Geiger, Louann Martin, and Don Martin work on Little Mattey. Below are the spiffy "new" picnic tables.



The leadership of the program has undergone changes in the past year. Genrose Lashinger, who had served as the project chair for the past fifteen years of the program, has stepped back and will serve as co-chair to Louann Martin.

Genrose was honored for her years of service with a get-together in June, at which she received an inscribed wind chime. This gift has a special meaning, since Genrose was the music teacher for Matthew Whaley for thirty-four years. What a fitting tribute! The wind chime hangs under the pavilion for all to see and hear as the slightest breeze brings music to the garden.

A clay pot, "Little Mattey," was donated to the garden. He is garbed in colonial dress and watches over the sun garden tucked away in a special spot. His "great granddaddy" clay pot sits in another corner watching over the herb garden when he is not hiding in the autumn clematis.

A group of devoted Master Gardeners has worked endlessly to keep the garden in shape. In addition to the program which is part of the school-year curriculum, there is a summer program that pairs up families with Master Gardeners to tend the garden: weed and water. If there are any vegetables or herbs available, the family may take some home for a meal.

A special project for the year involved refurbishing the picnic benches. We replaced and sealed the tops and seats, and now they're ready for a new school year.

As the summer days wane and, hopefully, the weather turns cooler, we look forward to another school year at Mattey's. The project has the wonderful support of the school, teachers, parents, students, and of course the Master Gardeners, whom we couldn't do without!

If anyone is interested in this program, please drop us an email and we will add your name to the schedule.

Louann Martin: [lkmartin2011@gmail.com](mailto:lkmartin2011@gmail.com)  
Genrose Lashinger: [glashinger@cox.net](mailto:glashinger@cox.net)



## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2017

BY HELEN HAMILTON

PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### SEASHORE MALLOW *Kosteletzkya virginica*

This is a very showy plant with a profuse display of pink and yellow flowers that bloom at the ends of stems or in leaf axils. Open during the day, the petals close at night. The flowers look like hibiscus, but they are much smaller and a deep pink. A single plant can have hundreds of three-inch flowers, normally blooming July through October. In wet summers, seed pods will form earlier.

As in other members of the Mallow family, the stamens are fused into a yellow central column. The gray-green leaves are egg-shaped, pointed, and usually with triangular lobes at the base. Lower leaves are maple-like with three-to-five

lobes. The erect, branching stems are one-to-three feet tall.

Growing in full sun in brackish marshes, wet meadows, swamps and shores, seashore mallow occurs only in the Atlantic coastal and tidewater counties of Virginia. Moderately salt tolerant, the plant prefers sand and soils with high acidity but will tolerate clay habitats. These plants prefer mucky soils but will grow well in garden soils that are regularly irrigated, as in rain gardens. They work well in beds with sunflowers, grasses, and goldenrods.

With a long, tubular flower, seashore mallow attracts butterflies and hummingbirds to collect nectar. So characteristic of native coastal flora, our sister native plant chapter in South Hampton Roads selected seashore mallow as their floral logo. The genus was named for Vincenz Kosteletzky (1801-1887), a Bohemian botanist.

Seashore mallow belongs to the Malvaceae, a family with most members in the American tropics. The European marsh mallow *Althaea officinalis* has a pasty root that was the original source of the candy "marshmallow." But the



Photo: Seashore mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*) taken by Helen Hamilton

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

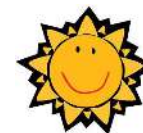
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PLEASE NOTE: **The Ferns in Bloom plant walk**, scheduled for Saturday, September 9, has been **CANCELLED**. For more information, contact Helen Hamilton at (757) 564-4494 or [helen48@cox.net](mailto:helen48@cox.net).

## Important Dates

- 9/2 Farmers Market--Therapeutic Gardening
- 9/9 Go Green Expo (Newport News)
- 9/16 Butterfly Garden (Freedom Park)
- 9/16 Flowers and Grasses (College Landing)
- 9/16-17 Native Plant Sale (Virginia Living Museum)
- 9/21 Husbanding the Land (Stryker Center)
- 9/23 MG Fall Gardening Festival (Va.Beach)
- 4/21 Annual plant sale

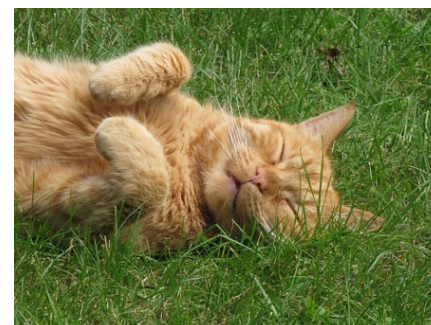
## SUNSHINE NOTES



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)



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## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the October 2017 newsletter will be Monday, September 25.

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

**JCCW Master Gardener Association  
Reimbursement/Payment Form**

**Instructions:** Fill in the information as needed and staple all original receipts to the back.

Pay to the order of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**List the project(s) that the request is connected to and the amount of each.**

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**Two Different Signatures Required:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person Being Reimbursed Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Signature:

Mail this form and all supporting documents to: **Liz Favre**  
**4419 Chickasaw Court**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23188**

Treasurer's Notes:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_