



# The Colonial Master Gardener

June  
2018

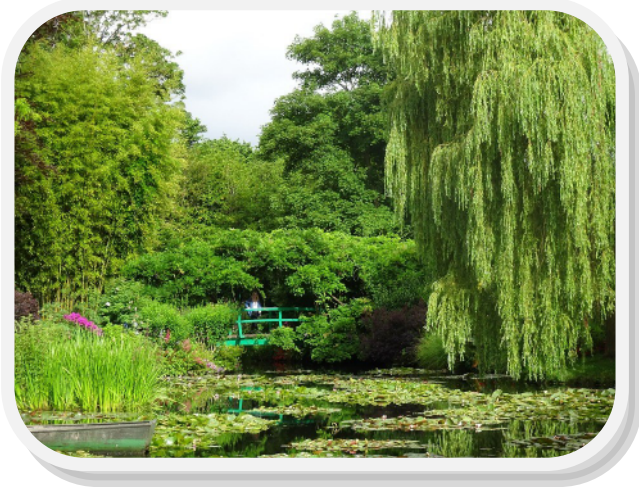
PUBLICATION OF JCC/W MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

**“Apart from painting and gardening, I am good for nothing. My greatest masterpiece is my garden.”**

**-- Claude Monet (early 20<sup>th</sup> century)**



Above: Monet's garden at Giverny, France (pixabay)

At right: Sherman Library and Gardens, located at Corona del Mar, Newport Beach, California. Photo: Gary Streb



**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, June 7**

**Program:  
Boxwoods**

**Speaker:  
Gordon Chappell, local landscape  
architect**

It seems that our own gardens need the most time/labor commitment when we are the busiest with our Master Gardener community volunteering. This spring, with its abundance of rain and cool temperatures, has produced an exuberant growth not seen in recent years. Everything in our little city of Williamsburg is green and vibrant—to include the never-ending weeds. There is simply not enough time in the day to get our garden chores done and our garden pursuits even adequately under control. Why? Most of our projects are now in full force, and our educational pursuits requested by our community frequently take precedence over our personal properties. The interns of the Class of 2018 are going every which way but loose trying to get their required hours finished. Just remember to take time for yourself! Your garden will appreciate it.

If we take a look at the many publications that publish the monthly “to do” lists, we may find that we are *supposed* to be really busy. Mulch to moderate the summer heat and retain valuable moisture.

**“It is a good plan, I think, to leave a heavy mulch of fallen leaves over the flowering shrubs instead of sweeping them all away. They serve the double purpose of providing protection against frost, and of eventually rotting down into the valuable humus that all plants need.” -- Helena Swanwick, *The Small Town Garden* (1907)**

There's not much new under the sun.

*(The president's message is continued on the next page)*

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- CONTINUED

2018  
MGA Board

*President:*  
Gary Streb

*President Elect:*  
Cathy Hill

*VP Administration:*  
Dee Arbogast

*VP Projects:*  
Janet Smith

*VP Internal Ed:*  
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Marilyn Riddle

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Vacant

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

Check your garden daily for insect infestation and control it organically. What is your personal acceptance of plant damage? We do not live in a perfect world and neither do our plants. Sustainable gardening is accepting of some flaws. As we approach the hot summer our installation of new plantings should reduce—otherwise you will be watering daily just to keep things alive. Fall will be here before you know it. The real beauty of summer is that it is too hot to do much but just sit back and admire your hard work planning in the winter and readying the awakening garden in the spring.

A recent trip to Southern California brought me to a different world and a humbling realization. Everything is local. I couldn't identify a single flower, perennial, shrub, or tree---being a James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener didn't help me at all when my granddaughter asked me, "What kind of tree, with the purple flowers, is that?" It was a trick question—they had one in their yard while living in New Zealand. The Mission at San Juan Capistrano is spectacular. Cactus and ice plant certainly fit the arid conditions, again proving



Above and at right: The mission at San Juan Capistrano, California. Photos: Gary Streb.

right plant right place is a universal rule. However, I immediately came home and bought a fuchsia hanging basket after attending a fuchsia festival at the Sherman Library and Garden in Corona del Mar. I'll find a place for it....

Congratulations to all the recipients of our JCC Williamsburg Master Gardener Association scholarships to Master Gardener College! Ricklin Brown, Frances Knight, Mandy Miller-Doggett, and Gail Weaver are this year's awardees. Well deserved and excellent choices!

[Registration for Master Gardener College](#) (June 21-24) is still open, but classes are filling fast—some are already full---and waiting any longer will not help. If you are planning to attend please let me know as we are trying to come up with some carpooling possibilities. You do not need a car if you stay in the dorms (I'm still amazed at the dorms—private baths with granite counters—in the 60's my dorm was only a one step up from the WWII barracks at Fort Bragg!) A good time is almost guaranteed.

*(The president's message is continued on the next page)*

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.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- CONTINUED

Dee Arbegast, our vice president for administration, has updated our association's membership roster and has posted it on our website. Please review your data for currency—we can't keep the roster accurate without your help and assistance. Remember the data is for Master Gardener business only.

Do I really need to remind anyone to put their hours into the Volunteer Management System in a timely manner?

After a couple of inquiries, we found that our unit history begins circa 1983, meaning that we are nearing our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary! What better way to celebrate than to theme our annual association picnic as a birthday/ anniversary barbeque/party? Air-conditioned inside or outside on the patio, our new venue has all the comforts of late July in Tidewater Virginia. Family-favorite picnic menu will surely delight. Entertainment, door prizes, surprises, and guaranteed fun! Angela Cingale and Lyn Natanski have outdone themselves with this one! See details and the full invitation later in this newsletter. The decision on party hats is still out..... Hope to see everyone there.

Happy Gardening!

**“Gardening is like cooking: read the recipe and then use your head. A dash of skepticism can do no harm. Go lightly on caution, heavily on adventure, and see what comes out. If you make a mistake, what of it? That is one way to learn, and tomorrow is another day.”**

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



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## MGA SCHOLARSHIPS

BY GARY STREB, PRESIDENT

The Executive Board of the JCC Williamsburg Master Gardener Association is proud to announce the recipients of the four scholarships awarded for this year's attendance at Master Gardener College at Virginia Tech. The scholarships are merit based in the amount of \$250 each.

This year's recipients are: **Ricklin Brown, Frances Knight, Mandy Miller-Doggett, and Gail Weaver.** Congratulations for this honor and for all that they have done for our association are in order.

The board would like to thank the scholarship committee for their diligence in assembling the slate of superb nominees. Angela Cingale heads the committee, assisted by Barbara Gustafson, Marilyn Riddle, Hazel Braxton, Dee Arbegast, and Jeanne Millin.

Additionally, the state-level Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA) awards a limited number of merit-based scholarships to members of Master Gardener units throughout the Commonwealth. **Carol Fryer**, representing James City County/Williamsburg, was selected for this distinction. They could not have made a better choice!

## THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Gordon Chappell received his bachelor of landscape architecture degree from the University of Georgia. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a singular honor for which he is grateful and humbled.

Gordon has consistently provided significant leadership and responsible stewardship in varied administrative positions, both in his native Georgia and in Virginia. As campus landscape architect and director of grounds maintenance at the University of Georgia, he was in charge of budget planning and administration. In 1983, Gordon assumed the role of director of landscape maintenance for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, where he had stewardship of ninety acres of what is arguably the best collection of circa 1930-1960 Colonial Revival gardens and greens that survive today in the U.S.

With expanded duties, his title was changed to director of landscape and facilities services. Gordon later became chair of the Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium program planning committee and has served as a board member and president of the Southern Garden History Society, the Virginia Native Plant Society, and Virginia's Cooperative Extension Program. Gordon recently returned from an assignment in Europe.

## UPCOMING SEMINARS, SALES, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**June 9** (Wren Building, College of William and Mary). 10:00-11:30-am. **Campus Trees.** A walking tour of College of William and Mary campus, highlighting history of campus trees, and recent restorations in the Crim Dell meadow area. Meet at the front of the Wren Building at the west end of Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg. Contact Beth at 757 221 2213 to register and for more information. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

**June 11.** (North Phoebus Community Center, 249 Chamberlain Ave., Hampton, 23663). 5:30-6:30pm. **Vegetable Gardening 101.** Join Hampton Extension Master Gardener Stephen Bowles as he demonstrates the basics of vegetable gardening in Hampton Roads, from planting to harvest, through this beginner's workshop series. Other dates are July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 8. For more information contact [Gaylynn Johnson](#). Sponsored by the VCE Hampton Office and Hampton Master Gardeners.

**June 12.** (Maymont Children's Farm, 1000 Spottwood Road, Richmond 23220). 10:30-2:30am. **Bumblebee Jamboree.** Bumblebee Jamboree is metro Richmond's premier National Pollinator Week event hosted by the Chesterfield County Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension, along with other community partners tied to pollinator conservation. Family friendly and free. For information, call (804) 751-4401.

**June 16.** (Langley Visitor's Center, 15 LaSalle Ave., Hampton 23665). 9:00-10:30am. **Plants of a Salt Marsh.** A walk into the JBLE-Langley salt marsh with natural resource manager Alicia Garcia to see grasses, sedges and wildflowers that grow in challenging habitats. Limited to fifteen attendees. Register by June 10 to [Alicia Garcia](#) (alicia.m.garcia81@gmail.com). Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society.



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**June 16.** (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **The Art of Gardening with Rocks and Plants.** Our speaker, **Joseph Tychonievich**, is the author of *Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style*. His presentation will inspire you to develop this type of garden in your own yard or appreciate it in other yards. Joseph is known as one of the top young horticulturists in the United States. [Register](#) to guarantee a spot. Free and open to the public, although a \$5.00 donation is appreciated. For more information, [contact Joseph](#) at [gsparrowgardens@gmail.com](mailto:gsparrowgardens@gmail.com).

**June 21-24.** (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg). **31st Annual Master Gardener College.**

The spring issue of *In Season*, the EMG state office newsletter, is available now. To read it, click on

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WU1M4Y7J1sV2X0P-fDSNmysQ0Eb-YXn/view>

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.lt.vt.edu/mastergardener/current-master-gardeners/sample-page/bi-weekly-update/>. If that doesn't work, click on <http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/mastergardener/>. Then click on "I am currently a Master Gardener/News/Bi-Weekly Update."

**“Summertime... and we’re celebrating the  
35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the JCCW MG association  
at our summer picnic!!”**



You are invited to the “35th Anniversary Party for the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association Picnic:” Friday, July 20, 2018, at the James City County Rec Center, Rooms A & B , 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, Va., from 5:00 - 8:00pm

*Sponsored by the JCC/W Master Gardener Association Board*

We’ll meet at 5:00pm at the JCC rec center on Longhill Road for a barbeque supper. There will be tables inside and on the patio to accommodate all members who have concerns about the weather. The food will be catered by “Rocco’s Smokehouse Grill.” Refreshments will be available throughout the evening. Cake and ice cream will top off our delicious meal. There is ample parking, ADA access, and restrooms available onsite to ensure every convenience for attendees.

**Menu:**

Brisket-baked chicken and burgers; slaw and green salad, corn on the cob, lettuce and tomato, baked beans, rolls, corn muffins, BBQ sauce, refreshments, and desserts--will be provided for a nominal fee of **\$10.00** per person.

Please join us along with your spouse, family member, or guest for an evening with **friends, food, fun, music**, and surprises.

RESERVATION

James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association  
35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party Picnic

Please complete this form and return to:

Angela Cingale, 4077 Coronation, Williamsburg, VA  
23188, by *Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>* to secure your reservation for the  
July 20<sup>th</sup> picnic. Checks should be made payable to: JCCW MGA. *The  
cost per person for attendees is \$10.00.*

I am including my check for \_\_\_\_\_, and understand that this will  
become a contribution to the WBG/JCC MGA if my plans should  
necessarily change.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

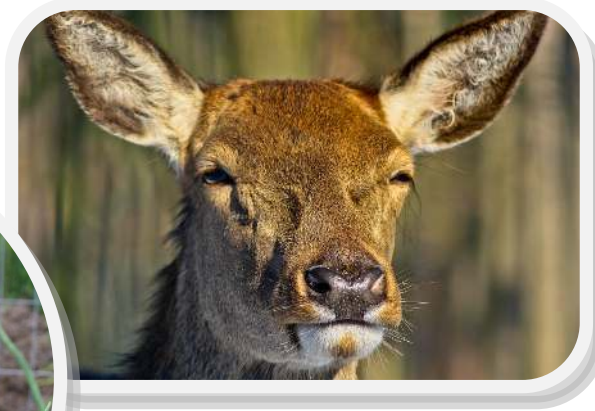
Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

*I'm looking forward to the JCCW MGA 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration Picnic.*



## I FOUND IT

BY AILENE BARTLETT



Left: Dave Whiting, Wikimedia Commons. Right: pixabay

I'VE GOT IT!! I've found something that the deer don't like! And it's a simple, attractive, perennial... It's the Egyptian "walking" onion!!

The Egyptian "walking" onion is so called because after it blooms (attractive, white, star-shaped blossoms) it forms small bulbils - baby onions - in a cluster at the top of the stem. When they get larger, they weigh down the stem, which bends, and when it reaches the ground, the bulbils root and start all over again. (Of

course, you can remove them and plant them wherever you want.)

By planting them near a plant which the deer love, they are there for Bambi to smell or try to eat, much to her chagrin. They're unobtrusive, easy to care for, and once you have bulbils, you've got a good source to spread around. Try 'em! You might like 'em - and Bambi doesn't!

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## A SHORT HISTORY OF KUDZU

Wouldn't it be nice if deer enjoyed kudzu as much as they enjoy our azaleas and hostas?

Some months ago Dave Kleppinger passed on the following article from the online magazine *Atlas Obscura*. It's a good synopsis of our initial love affair with the perennial vine. Thanks, Dave!

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/kudzu-american-history-decoration-fodder-erosion>



"Triumph of the Kudzu." John S. Perkins, flickr

## INTERNS 2018

BY HOPE YELICH

By now many of these faces are familiar, since the interns are busy accumulating hours during spring projects. For those of you who would like to refresh your memory from time to time, here is the Class of 2018. Thanks to Linda Slyfield for taking this group shot during their transition ceremony in March.



First row, left to right: Tiffeni Goesel, Mary Grogan, Nan Hart, and Julie Denny

Back row: Lael White, Justin Diaz, Kay Clapp, Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Bob Howell, Sally McConnell, Bill Dichtel, Kathy Skube, Linda Neilson, Elizabeth McCoy, Shadow Harmon, Elvin Clapp, Pam Arnold, David Kraus, and Harry Fahl. Not pictured: Jayce Griffin

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## THE INVASIVE LANTERNFLY

BY HOPE YELICH

The editor begs the indulgence of the interns, since their photo appears interspersed with information about garden pests. Nothing is implied by the placement, and she is certain of their understanding.....

Marilyn Riddle would like to alert readers to an article that appeared in the June 4 issue of the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. The spotted lanternfly, a recent Asian import, loves eating grapes, stone fruits, and hops, as well as leaving honeydew on plants and lawn furniture, and is making its way into Virginia.



MTSOfan/flickr

For the full article, click on [http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/virginia-tech-beginning-fight-against-invasive-spotted-lanternfly-seen-in/article\\_14701cec-de27-5a15-a082-b0a29d8bcae9.html](http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/virginia-tech-beginning-fight-against-invasive-spotted-lanternfly-seen-in/article_14701cec-de27-5a15-a082-b0a29d8bcae9.html)



## IMAGES FROM THE APRIL 20, 2018, PLANT SALE SETUP

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH MCCOY, INTERN, CLASS OF 2018



*Continued on the next page, page 10*

SCENES FROM THE PLANT SALE SETUP -- CONTINUED



## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH JUNE 2018

BY HELEN HAMILTON  
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### CROSSVINE *Bignonia capreolata*

Blooming profusely in coastal Virginia from late April through June, with red and yellow bell-shaped flowers, crossvine is a stunning addition to the home garden. The funnel-shaped flowers varying from orange to red outside and trimmed with yellow, and glossy green leaves mark crossvine as a plant of unusual beauty. Its native habitat is moist woods, and the flowers can be seen from local roadways at the edge of woodlands. Walking the Jamestown Loop Road in May and June, the blossoms appear at your feet with no apparent source nearby. That's because the vine has climbed to the top of the tallest trees to catch sunlight.

While it will reach a height of fifty feet, in the home garden it will grow on a trellis, fence or porch, rewarding the homeowner with cascades of flowers at eye level. Without a structure to climb upon, crossvine will spread across the



Photo: Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) taken by Helen Hamilton

ground. Because the leaves remain on the vine over the winter, this species is a nice alternative groundcover to non-native periwinkle and ivy. It has appendages on the ends of its tendrils that cling to surfaces, so that it can climb a brick wall or wood arbor without support wires.

Its stems are small, and this woody vine grows fast once it has become established, spreading throughout the area from root suckers. The orange-flowered trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*) is in the same family and blooms after crossvine, in late summer through fall.

Flowering occurs as the daffodils fade; the bright reds and yellows complement the wild blue phlox and azaleas. Brown seed pods appear in late fall; the paired leaves are semi-evergreen, turning bronze or copper in the fall and remaining on the vine through the winter.

Crossvine likes swampy forests, rock outcrops, and limy river banks, growing in sun or part shade, in acid to alkaline soils. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds love the flowers. The cut stem shows a cross pattern, which is the source for the common name.

It is deer resistant, and there are no serious disease or insect problems associated with crossvine. This plant is a native alternative to invasive non-native English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and the Asian wisterias.

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

## Important Dates

- 6/9 Farmers Market (Incredible Edibles)
- 6/9 Walking Tour of W&M Campus
- 6/11 Vegetable Gardening 101 (Hampton)
- 6/12 Bumblebee Jamboree (Richmond)
- 6/16 Plants of a Salt Marsh (Hampton)
- 6/16 Rocks and Plants (Freedom Park)
- 6/21-24 Master Gardener College (Blacksburg)
- 6/23 Farmers Market (Water Management)
- 7/20 Annual Picnic



The Graphics Fairy

## **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**The deadline for submissions to the July 2018 newsletter will be Wednesday, June 20.**

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

## **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, Jennifer Campbell, at (757) 968-9499, or [jenkcampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkcampbell@yahoo.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.