



# The Colonial Master Gardener

April  
2018

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

**"I love Spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden."**

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

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, April 5**

**Program:  
Birds in Their Habitat  
(postponed)**

**Speaker:  
Bob Schamerhorn  
Nature Photographer**

Will spring ever really get here? We have had a couple of false starts, but all we need to do is look around our delightful little town. Early-blooming fruit trees are in their full glory. The daffodils seem more numerous and even brighter this year. My hellebores give me nothing but pure joy. Even the weed-infested lawns are spectacular with patches of colorful flowers, adding to the exuberant palate of spring excitement.

Also adding to the excitement of the season is the recent transition of the VCE Master Gardener Class of 2018 from trainees to interns. An inquisitive group, filled with enthusiasm, they will add many new talents to our Master Gardener unit, revitalizing many of our projects. If you were not able to meet them all at the recent "Spring Fling," please make an effort to welcome them at our next association meeting. And a sincere thank you to the whole training team who led the complexities of running a three-month class with unpredictable weather. The training committee, with its new members, class managers, and many others made for a memorable training experience for the new interns and have prepared them for increasing our ranks with top-notch knowledge.

Speaking of the 'Spring Fling'—what a great event! Starting with an idea to revive an old tradition, executed by our detailed-oriented social committee, the resulting evening provided our newest members the opportunity to meet our "seasoned" Master Gardeners. I can't begin to count the volunteer hours that were represented in that well-appointed room. Going without notes by our master of ceremonies (me) added to the drama.... Recognition by graduation year revealed several of our members from the *last century*. There was just too much unit history to relay adequately to the whole group. Jim and Nelda Pressly (Class of 1987 and 1988, respectively) had the distinction of being the longest-serving active Master Gardeners in attendance; we're grateful for everything they have done faithfully all these years. We are now their legacy. Kudos to all!

What is upcoming? In a few short weeks, on April 21, our annual plant sale will have several of our project groups working together for a successful fund raiser and educational event. A session called "Grow It and Eat It": a Seminar in Home Vegetable Gardening will be presented on site during the plant sale. Also onsite will be our horticultural help desk, with Master Gardeners available to answer questions about plant problems. And surrounding our community-education efforts will be our home-grown plants and specimens from several vendors, all for sale. Roving Master Gardeners will add value by



pixabay

(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 Arbegast

*VP Projects:*  
Janet Smith

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Hazel Braxton

*Secretary:*  
Jennifer Campbell

*Treasurer:*  
Liz Favre

*VMGA Rep:*  
Marilyn Riddle

*Past President:*  
Vacant

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

advising our customers about their purchases.

The zero-based evaluation of all the project proposals is ongoing by your MGA executive board. Change is reality in today's world. Several of our projects will see a new and renewed burst of energy and focus based upon the changing needs of the community that we serve. We thank you for your support in making new ideas successful.

Our April 5 educational lecture speaker, award-winning nature photographer, Bob Schamerhorn will awe us with "Birds in Their Habitat." Check out his website at [www.IPhotoBirds.com](http://www.IPhotoBirds.com) for a sneak preview. Preparations are just about finalized for our upcoming educational tour of [Hillwood Estate](#) in Washington, D.C., on April 25. I was pleased to see how quickly the bus filled up—it promises to be quite a road trip!

As Vita Sackville-West wrote in *In Your Garden* (1949): "One learns a lot by visiting other people's gardens."

Spring is our busiest time of the year—most of the projects are beginning again and will be in full force shortly. Please don't forget to take care of yourselves as you enjoy the renewal of spring in your own garden.

**"Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bands."**

-- Thomas Jefferson, *Letter to John Jay* (1785)

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.

## THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

A native of Lynchburg, Bob Schamerhorn has always been fascinated with nature. He graduated from Virginia Tech in the early 1980s with a degree in art and design, after which he held several creative positions, including engraver, canvas-painting artist, draftsman, and graphic designer. In 1996 Bob started a business, Infinity Graphics, which specializes in web design and business branding. In addition, he has helped publish a few bird books and has illustrated children's books.

Several of Bob's photos have won recognition and appeared in publications such as *Virginia Wildlife* and through institutions such as the Virginia Living Museum. For years he has maintained a weekly photo blog, which has hundreds of followers. In 2013 he began showing his photography at various festivals and events.

Bob lives in Richmond with his wife, Lori.

## UPCOMING SEMINARS, SALES, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION



Alpenrid

**April 7** (320 Butler Farm Rd., Hampton 23666 10:00am-12:00noon. **Matteson Trail Pawpaw.** Peninsula Master Naturalist Susie Yager will lead this walk to catch pawpaw in bloom. She also expects to see cottonwood, shagbark hickory, American elm, and jack-in-the-pulpit. Meet in the parking lot of the Hampton Performing Arts/Youth & Aquatic Center, Hampton. **Email Susie** at soozigus@cox.net to register. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

**April 7** (Knotts Creek Nursery, 6120 Knotts Neck Rd, Suffolk 23435). 8:00am-12:00noon. **Plant Sale for Master Gardeners.** No credit cards--just check or cash. Take a wagon or wheelbarrow to haul plants. Phone: (757) 483-6383.

**April 10** (King of Glory Lutheran Church, 4897 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg 23188). 1:00-1:30pm social time, program 1:30-3:00pm. **Herbal Libations.** Open meeting of the Colonial Triangle of Virginia Unit, Herb Society of America. Beth Dixon, beverage director of the Pasture and Comfort restaurants in Richmond, will talk about "cocktail gardens" and how to use fresh herbs to balance out drinks or make them more interesting.

**April 11** (1444 Diamond Springs Rd., Virginia Beach 23455). 6:00-8:30pm. **Square Foot Gardening and Containers That Get Noticed.** Part of the Green Thumb Gardening series sponsored by VCE's Hampton Roads Agriculture Research and Education Center and South Hampton Roads' Master Gardeners. \$8.00 per session (or \$30 for all five sessions in the series). Click on the "tickets" tab on [the website](#) to register.

**April 14** (3651 Rochambeau Dr, Williamsburg 23188). 10:00-11:00am. **A Walk in the Habitat Garden at Stonehouse Elementary School.** Caretaker Sue Voigt will search for early blooms on the small trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, and for a few early butterflies feeding on nectar. Park in the school bus parking lot near the far end of the school. Contact Sue for more information ([svoigt1@cox.net](mailto:svoigt1@cox.net)) or (804) 966-8487 or cell (804) 815-6085. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

**April 14** (11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1, New Kent 23124). 10:00am-12:00noon. **Raised Bed Gardening Clinic.** Learn about the advantages of raised bed gardening with vegetables, what it takes to have a successful garden, how to create a garden design, what constitutes good soil composition, and more. Visit Carole's Garden onsite. Free, but please register by April 10 by calling New Kent VCE at (804) 966-9645 or by emailing Patty at [patric4@vt.edu](mailto:patric4@vt.edu). Also, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

**April 14** (King of Glory Lutheran Church, 4897 Longhill Rd., Williamsburg 23188). 8:30am-3:00pm. The Colonial Triangle of Virginia Unit of the Herb Society of America's annual **Plant Sale.** A wide assortment of herbs, including harder-to-find varieties, as well as other garden-related items. For more information, contact Donna Pratt at (757) 608-8929.

**April 14. James City County Countywide Spring Cleanup.** The James City Clean County Commission invites you to participate in the 40th Annual Spring Cleanup. Local volunteers have removed over seven million pounds of trash from the last four decades. Register [here](#) or contact Peg Boarman at (757-565-0032) or [pboarman@cox.net](mailto:pboarman@cox.net).

**April 18** (1444 Diamond Springs Rd., Virginia Beach 23455). 6:00-8:30pm. **Tidewater Troubles: Disease and Insect Pests We Deal with Locally.** Part of the Green Thumb Gardening series sponsored by VCE's Hampton Roads Agriculture Research and Education Center and South Hampton Roads' Master Gardeners. \$8.00 per session (or \$30 for all five sessions in the series). Click on the "tickets" tab on [the website](#) to register.

*Continued on the next page, page 4*

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES --CONTINUED

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**April 21** (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **Gardening for Birds and Butterflies.** Open to the public, although registration is required to guarantee a seat. Bob Schamerhorn, an award-winning nature photographer, will share information packed with tips and experiences on how to improve any property for a diversity of wildlife. Bob will show specific examples and results of a suburban landscape becoming inviting to a variety of birds, butterflies, insects, and mammals. 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. Weather permitting, Master Gardeners will be in the garden after the program to answer questions and talk about what is in bloom.

**April 21** (Historic Triangle Services Community Center, 312 Waller Mill Rd, Williamsburg 23185). 9:00am-3:00pm. **JCC/WMG Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale.** Annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, etc. Also a "Trash into Treasures" sale of garden items. "Grow It and Eat It" will serve as an educational component.

**April 21.** (Reynolds Community College, 1851 Dickinson Rd., Goochland 23063). 8:00am-3:00pm. **Spring in the Garden: 14th Annual Spring Garden Fest.** Sponsored by the Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners in cooperation with Reynolds Community College and VCE. Two talks by nationally recognized horticulturalist Jeff Gillman: "The Truth about Garden Remedies," 9:00-11:00am; and "The Truth about Organic Gardening," 1:00-3:00pm. \$25 per talk or \$50 for both. Advance registration required. Call (804) 556-5841 or visit [www.gpmga.org](http://www.gpmga.org). Also plants for sale, garden tool sharpening, and "ask the experts."

**April 21-22** (524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard Newport News 23601). 9:00am-4:00pm. **Virginia Living Museum Spring Plant Sale.** Select from an incredible array of native plants for a variety of garden sites from dry to wet, including ponds, rock gardens, and shady spots. All the plants are high quality, nursery propagated native plant species, many of which are difficult to find in the commercial nursery trade. Rain or shine.

**April 28** (Williamsburg Community Building, 401 North Boundary St., Williamsburg 23185). 10:00am-2:00pm. Annual **Plant Sale** of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

**April 28** (13564 Jefferson Ave., Newport News 23603, Take I-64, exit 250B). 10:00-11:30am. **A Walk in Newport News Park.** Meegan Wallace will lead a walk through the upland and flood plain forests along the Baptist Run in the northern portion of Newport News Park. To register, contact Meegan at (757) 291-1099 or [clm003@verizon.net](mailto:clm003@verizon.net).

**April 28-29** Repeat of VLM plant sale. See entry for April 21-22.

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."



pixabay

## JCC/W MGA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE BY ANGELA CINGALE

The James City County/Williamsburg Master Garden Association is pleased to announce the second annual scholarship award, \$250 each, up to four members of our Master Gardener organization who would like to attend Master Gardener College this year. The college will be held from June 21-24, 2018, at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. The scholarship was established to honor members for their outstanding service to our organization while helping defray the cost of expenses associated with attending, such as registration, room and board, gas, etc.

For many who have not attended MG College, this is a wonderful opportunity to see how VaTech, VCE, VMGA, JCC/W MGA, and other units are connected educationally and horticulturally throughout the state. There are wonderful speakers, classes for advanced training (a mandatory eight hours during the weekend), tours, workshops, and interaction with other unit MGs. It's a chance to make lifelong friends as well as to experience life on the beautiful VaTech campus. Additional benefits this year include a visit to the [Dixie Caverns](#) and a tour the VaTech labs that process the soil, insects, and plant material that we send to their technicians. While on campus, you'll enjoy walking and photographing the beautiful [Hahn Horticultural Garden](#), and savor a Sunday picnic. Nearby, you can go to the local farmer's market and attend off-campus activities in the evening. It is too early to know all the activities and speakers, but by the time you send in your form, John Freeborn will have sent that information.

The JCC/W scholarship application will be on [our website, http://jccwmg.org](http://jccwmg.org), under MGA Members. There is also a copy of the form at the end of this newsletter. The deadline for receipt of the form is May 7, and please follow instructions as to where to send it. The scholarship committee will make a decision, inform the recipient(s), and the awards will be announced at the JCC/W MGA monthly meeting on June 7.



Left to right: Liz Favre, Donna Xander, and Kate Robbins

Donna Xander and Patsy McGrady were recipients of our first annual scholarship.

Dr. Gibby founded the Master Gardener program in 1972 in Seattle, Washington, in response to intense public demand for information about plant problems.



Left to right: Marilyn Riddle, Dr. David Gibby, Anne Nielsen, and Patsy McGrady.

## LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB

Spring is here, so that means that Landscape Love preparation is in full force!

Homeowner registration for the spring 2018 session is ongoing---through April 15. Applications have been light so far, but once more publicity is generated we expect our more normal response from the James City County Williamsburg community. Many of our clients are homeowners new to Tidewater Virginia and unfamiliar with the plants in their new yards. Our educational project is the ideal way to get them rapidly acquainted with their landscape and environment. This goes for our Master Gardeners as well---every onsite homeowner visit is a learning experience for us all.

We have scheduled two training/organizational meetings for returning EMGs and interns of the Class of 2018. The first is **Tuesday, April 17, at 9:00am in Room B of the JCC rec center**; and the other is **Thursday, April 19, at 1:30 pm in Room B of the JCC rec center**. Please plan to attend one of the meetings if you intend to participate in the spring session of Landscape Love even if you have been part of us for years---a discussion of procedures will ensure uniform answers to the community. Visits will commence in late April and continue throughout May.

If you have previously participated in Landscape Love, you should have received an email invitation to join us again. Please let me know soonest if you plan to participate again so I can develop the team assignments. Fifteen of the twenty members of the Class of 2018 will be joining us. If you think that this is a project that may interest you please let me know, and we can arrange for you to "observe" during an upcoming visit. But you will soon notice that all team members participate in the exchange of ideas.



This little gem appeared on the Herb Society of America's Facebook page on March 14. Thanks to Rick Brown for spotting this and sending it on for our enjoyment.

Our challenge this season will be to evaluate the effects of unusually cold temperatures last winter, leaving several of our common plants winter-burned or damaged. Before we recommend getting rid of the specimens or begin harsh remedial pruning, we need to identify the extent of the damage and possibilities for new growth. Time will tell all. However, not many of us want to look at trees/shrubs with dead leaves for several months into spring.

Thank you to all who are contributing to the continued success of landscape Love. Each of us plays an essential role in our "Learn-Educate-Communicate" motto.



PublicDomainVectors.org

## MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE 2018

BY BESS HOPEWELL AND MARY MILLS, CO-CHAIRS

Our annual plant sale is almost here! The location is The Historic Triangle Services Community Center, 312 Waller Mill Rd. We will accept Master Gardener plants from 7:00am until 2:00pm, Friday, April 20. The intake location is the grass area on Waller Mill Road in front of the Historic Triangle Community Services Center. There will be someone directing traffic to keep the flow going in the proper direction. At the end of this newsletter is the JCC/WMG 2018 plant donation list. Please print a copy and complete the required information-- that will save time for our intake team. We also will have some copies at our April monthly MG meeting. Set up will begin on April 20 beginning at 7:00am until we finish. Kat Reynolds is the team leader and will send a reminder to her group. Other team leaders will notify their volunteers of their schedule.

Our Master Gardener pre-sale will be on Friday, April 20, from 3:00- 5:00 pm. Master Gardeners will have an opportunity to stock their garden with some beautiful plants from the great selection we will have to choose from. Our sale hours for the public are Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 - 3:00pm.

On both Friday and Saturday all MGs (unless walking is an issue) need to park across the street, at the Waller Mill Bible Church parking lot. They are kindly allowing us to use their parking lot again this year. The building manager of the services center requested that **NO VEHICLES STOP OR STAND ALONG THE GRASS OPPOSITE THE PARKING LOT OF THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER ON FRIDAY.** Last year that caused a problem with clients of the building and buses servicing the building.

This year "Grow It and Eat It" will be held at our plant sale. It will be a great addition and serve as an educational component for our customers. Thank you Barbara, Yvonne, and team. I'm sure it will be a great success. Take a look at the flyer at the end of the newsletter--and feel free to share it!

Rick Brown and Jon Tustin are busily working on our "Garden Trash & Treasures." Take a hard look at your garden-related possessions, crafts, whirligigs, and doodads, as Rick says. Donate them, and they might find a better home with someone else while making the MG association some money.

Dave Banks will send an email blast to all members with a copy of our flier. We ask all members to make copies and distribute where appropriate. Share the flier with Facebook friends, book clubs, home-owner associations, or any group that could help spread the word about our plant sale.

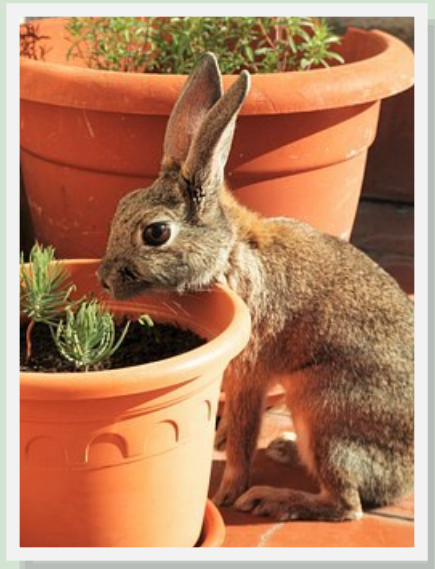
You still have time to dig perennials from your garden, buy plants to donate, and donate time or money. This plant sale funds all Master Gardener projects.

Just a few final reminders:

- We need wagons for both Friday and Saturday.
- We need shepherds hooks to display hanging baskets.
- Bring a hat, sunscreen, folding canvas chair, and snack.
- The MG association will provide bottled water for our volunteers.
- MGs can use the kitchen inside the building for breaks.

A lot of time and effort, by numerous people, goes into the coordination and execution of our plant sale, so let's hope Mother Nature smiles down on us and gives us beautiful weather for April 21!!!

Thanks to everyone for all of your hard work.



pixabay

## THIS YEAR'S FARMERS MARKET SCHEDULE THROUGH JUNE

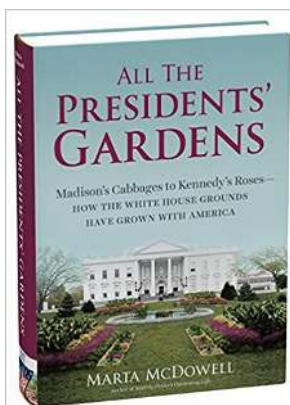
BY SALLY SISSEL

FARMERS MARKET SCHEDULE	
April 7	<u>Waterwise</u>
April 28	Gardening with Children
May 5	
May 12	National Herb Day
May 19	
May 26	Flowers
June 2	
June 9	Incredible Edibles
June 16	
June 23	Water Management
June 30	

## BUTTERFLIES AT BLAYTON ELEMENTARY



Judith Alberts conducts a butterfly demonstration for the Blayton School Garden Club. Thanks to Ken Caro for sending this to us.



## THERE'S EVEN A BOOK ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL GARDENS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

If you're into books and garden history, here's a must-read: Marta McDowell's *All the Presidents' Gardens: Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses—How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America* (Portland, Ore., Timber Press, 2016). She covers everyone from George Washington to Barack Obama, telling about their interests and influences, first on Washington, D.C., landscaping, and then on the White House gardens through the years.

What better time to read this than NOW, when the cherry blossoms are beginning to bloom around the D.C. Tidal Basin! And the illustrations are fantastic, most of them dating back to the period of the president in office in a particular chapter.

It's a heavy book, so put a pillow under it before you start to read, then enjoy!





pixabay

## **TRASH INTO TREASURES** **-- DON'T FORGET !!!** BY RICK BROWN

There's still time to clear out and turn your TRASH INTO TREASURES!

Bring those unwanted, unneeded but still lovable and somehow useful garden items for the plant sale to the Historic Triangle Community Services Center, 312 Waller Mill Rd., between 8:00am-2:00pm on Friday, April 20.

That's our setup day, and we'll be waiting eagerly for you (actually, we'll really be waiting to see what you bring).

Questions?

Contact Rick Brown, [ricklin46@cox.net](mailto:ricklin46@cox.net)

Jon Tustin, [carjon301@hotmail.com](mailto:carjon301@hotmail.com)

---

## **JCC/WILLIAMSBURG EMGS COMPLETE TREE STEWARD TRAINING COURSE** BY GARY STREB, PRESIDENT

Ten JCC/Williamsburg EMGs recently completed the three-month advanced training course to become a Peninsula Tree Steward.

Each will also need to complete an additional twenty hours to create and implement a Tree Steward program benefitting the JCC/Williamsburg community to receive certification as a VCE Tree Steward.

One of the projects involves a new tree inventory and updating the Tree Walk brochure at Colonial Williamsburg. Another will create a publication describing the historical uses of wood products made from the trees at Freedom Park.

Pictured are:

Front row: Susan Miller and Nancy Carnegie.

Back row: Rick Brown, Ann Hobson, Peter Schaub, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, and Stacy DeMeo.

Not pictured: Sharon Marcial, Kathy Bush, and Carole Black.



## OUR MGS AT THE CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT GARDEN SYMPOSIUM BY ANGELA CINGALE

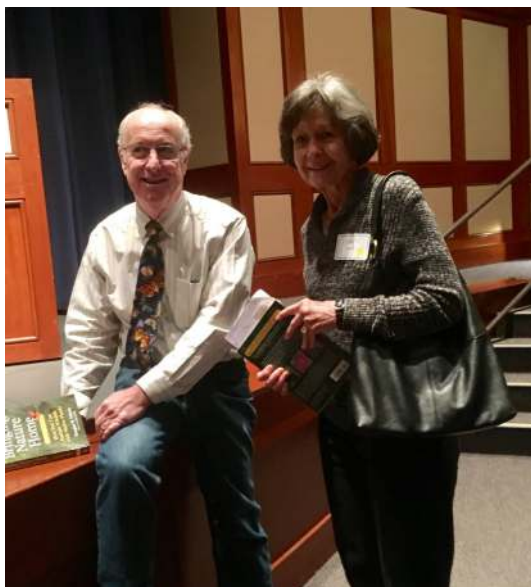
On Saturday, March 24, over a dozen JCC /W MGS drove to Newport News to attend the Gardening Symposium at Christopher Newport University.

We heard and learned much from the wonderful speakers, starting with Dr. Doug Tallamy and his presentation on “Restoring Nature’s Relationships at Home.”

Then on to “Inspiring Gardens: Big or Small, For Young or Old,” by Mary Kirk Cunningham and Bob Goodhart, and “Borrowing Secrets From Nature” from Joel Bunn.

The afternoon featured “Vegetables Love Flowers,” with Lisa Ziegler. Workshops concluded the day with a choice of workshops: “Miracles in the Garden” with Joel Bunn -OR- “Teaching Opportunities in the Garden,” with Mary Kirk Cunningham and Bob Goodhart. Besides the wonderful presentation, everyone enjoyed their day at the Freeman Center with a plant sale from Newport News MGS and the Native Plant Society.

All photos by Angela Cingale



## OUR SPRING FLING HAS COME AND GONE....FOR THIS YEAR BY ANGELA CINGALE, SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

An idea from Barbara Gustafson, Sally Sissel, and Mary Ann Kimmanau blossomed into a wonderful event that took place from 5:00-9:00pm March 9, 2018, at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on Richmond Road.

The function was a celebration of all our James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardeners, including trainees, newly graduated Master Gardeners, and "vintage" MGs: Frances Knight (Class of 1993), Sue Liddell (1995), Jim Pressly (1987), Nelda Pressly (1988), and Ailene Bartlett (1985). Unfortunately, Ailene, who has volunteered for thirty-three years, couldn't make the event. Our dedication and service to the community have had an impact on the lives of the people we serve through our projects. It was especially nice for all attendees to be recognized for the work we do.

The food was catered by Carrabba's Italian Grill, and they did their usual superb job; the meal was delicious. The day of the event Mr. Sissel supervised Sally, MaryAnn, Lyn Natanski, Kathy Johnson, Caroline Hendricks, and myself as we arranged the dining hall with tables, chairs, tablecloths, utensils, dishes, glasses, and flowers. Later we put out the refreshments, appetizers, and the catered food. Sally and Mary K made a special dessert for the ninety attendees. It was delicious, and we hope they will share their recipe.

We had entertainment in various forms. As we entered the hall, a PowerPoint presentation ran in a loop of photos that showed MGs, trainees, and recent graduates. Thanks to Hope Yelich for creating this for us. There was a wonderful piano player for the dinner portion and a skit with a talk featuring God (Marilyn Riddle), St. Francis (John Giffin), and St. Catherine (Dee Arbegast). Janet Giffin had done a beautiful job sewing a monk's costume for her husband. Who knew that we had such talent among our ranks!!! Even the tiniest detail was done with expertise and inventiveness.

Other thanks go to: Liz Favre, our treasurer, who collected the checks and kept a spreadsheet of all attendees; Lyn's husband, who did the name tags; our servers, Lyn, Kathy, Dee, Angela, Caroline, and Beth Fugate; Mary Ann and Mr. Sissel, who loaded and unloaded the dishwasher many times; Mary Ann, who washed the linen tablecloths, and with Sally, put away dishes and utensils; and Barbara Streb and my husband, Ray Cingale, for helping us every step of the way. Everyone worked diligently to provide a very nice affair, and the old saying "many hands make for light work" was certainly evident to the appreciative attendees.



The Graphics Fairy

Our Master Gardeners enjoyed the evening, many stating as much during and after the meal, and several recommended that another social event, besides the summer picnic, would be a nice follow up to this Spring Fling.

*Enjoy photos of the evening on the next page, page 12*



The Graphics Fairy

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" --Robin Williams



# The Colonial Master Gardener April 2018



Photos by Lyn Natanski and Barbara Streb



## RECENT DOINGS AT MATTEY'S GARDEN

BY LOUANN MARTIN, PROJECT CHAIR

There is always something new in Matthey's! The garden will celebrate its twentieth anniversary in 2019, and we have been working to refresh the space to get ready for the big event. The celebration is tentatively planned for the end of Virginia Garden Week 2019: April 26 for the school and parents, and April 27 for the community.

A group of dedicated Master Gardeners have been chipping away on an industrious project of rebuilding the raised garden beds in the main garden area. We have almost completed four (of eight) beds, and they look amazing! I would like to thank the following Master Gardeners for their help: Rick Brown, Carole Black, Hope Yelich, Judy Corello, Jean Geiger, and Jerry Woodson. Also some "volunteered" husbands, Don Martin and Jim Black, helped with their carpentry skills. This was truly a team effort.



Who said this was going to be a Titanic effort? And the new garden beds. Photos: Louann Martin



Hope, Jean, Jerry, and Rick. Photo: Louann Martin

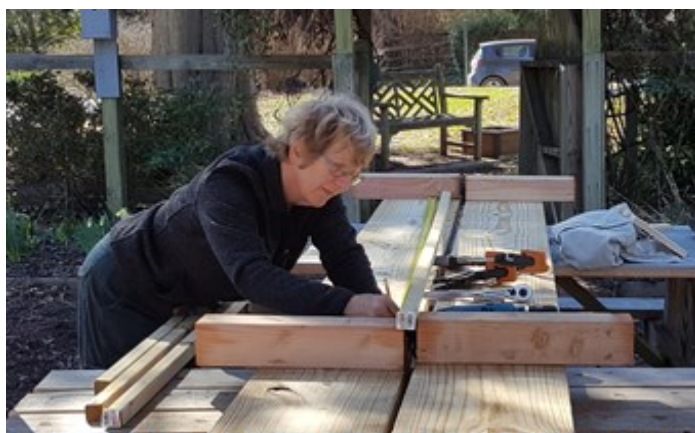
The kindergarteners are enjoying the Herb of the Month series. Due to inclement weather in January and February, we held a double session in the classroom in February. The children enjoyed having the "garden helpers" (as we are called) come into their class to show them rosemary and oregano.

The first grade class made bird feeders (in a class session in January), planted peas in February (which are growing nicely), and planted potatoes; these are patiently waiting for warmer weather to show their potential.

I would like to welcome the new co-chair of the garden: Carole Black. She is a new Master Gardener, having graduated in January. She brings with her an educational background along with a shared love of the garden.

Thank you to my "retiring" co-chair, Genrose Lashinger. She served as the Master Gardener manager of the garden for many years and was instrumental in establishing and helping to "grow" the garden. Without her, Matthey's would not be the award-winning garden it is today! Thank you, Genrose.

The garden is relatively quiet, waiting for spring – like the rest of us. Stop by and have fun!



Louann measures twice, cuts once. Photo: Hope Yelich

## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH APRIL 2018

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

### WILD PANSY *Viola bicolor*



Photo: Wild pansy (*Viola bicolor*) taken by Helen Hamilton

The native field or wild pansy (*V. bicolor*), is a welcome sign of spring, blooming all over fields, meadows, and roadsides. Spoon-shaped leaves are alternate on the stem and flanked by paired leafy appendages (stipules) that are deeply cut into narrow lobes. The flower has five pale blue petals, the lower petals are purplish-veined, and there is a yellow center. All violets eject their seeds mechanically from the pods. Under mature plants, seedlings from the prior year will germinate, creating nice groundcover in spring and early summer.

This is a winter or spring annual, often forming dense colonies, which is why some gardeners view them as weeds. Truly opportunistic, they

reproduce in three ways: runners produce additional clonal plants, visiting insects cross-pollinate the flowers to produce seeds, and special buds remain closed and self-pollinate. These are seen at the base of mature plants, oval and whitish on long stems.

Wild pansy tolerates sandy, clayey, and limy soils and is found in most of the eastern U.S. except the extreme north. Field pansy is most often seen in roadsides and fields of coastal Virginia, while the large blue common blue violet (*Viola sororia*) is more common in gardens.

Violets are not fussy about growing conditions – full or part sun, moist to part dry soil, they will cover the ground until the heat of summer begins to shrivel the leaves. Since the caterpillars of fritillary butterflies lay their eggs and eat the leaves of violets, these are highly desirable plants in the home landscape.

Field pansy has also been called the “Confederate violet” since the small flowers are thought to be the tears of Confederate soldiers as they left the battlefield. The blue-veined grayish-white morph of the common blue violet, *V. sororia*, is also commonly known as “Confederate violet.”

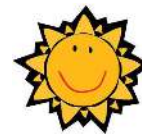
While violets were known in the fourth century B.C., cultivated by the Greeks as an herbal medicine, experiments in England in the 1800s produced the familiar hybrid garden pansy. The term “pansy” originated from the French *pensée*, for “thought,” and the Latin *pensare*, for “weight, consider,” referring perhaps to the nodding appearance of many pansy faces.

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

## Important Dates

- 4/7 Mattesan Trail Walk (Hampton)
- 4/7 Knotts Creek Nursery Plant Sale (Suffolk)
- 4/10 Herbal Libations, (King of Glory)
- 4/11 Square Foot Gardening (AREC, Va. Beach)
- 4/14 Walk in the Garden (Stonehouse Elementary School)
- 4/14 Raised Bed Clinic (New Kent)
- 4/14 Herb Society Plant Sale (King of Glory)
- 4/14 James City County Annual Cleanup
- 4/18 Tidewater Troubles (AREC, Va. Beach)
- 4/21-22 Virginia Living Museum Plant Sale (Newport News)
- 4/21 JCC/WMG Annual Plant Sale (Historic Triangle)
- 4/21 Gardening for Birds & Butterflies (Freedom Park)
- 4/21 Spring in the Garden (Goochland)
- 4/25 Tree Basics (AREC, Va. Beach)
- 4/25 Field Trip to the Hillwood Estate
- 4/27-28 Chesapeake MG Plant Sale (Chesapeake)
- 4/28 VNPS Plant Sale (Community Building)
- 4/28 Walk in Newport News Park (Newport News)
- 4/28-29 Virginia Living Museum Plant Sale (Newport News) --repeat

## SUNSHINE NOTES



This month we sent a card to

Cheryl Roettger

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)



pixabay

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the May 2018 newsletter will be Wednesday, April 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.





**James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association**  
**Scholarship to Master Gardener College Application**  
**For Members Only**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**E-mail:**

**Are you a paid JCCW MGA member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

**Are the required VCE /compliance forms with Kate Robbins? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_**

**What year was your intern class?**

**Please list the activities and programs that you have participated in since you completed your internship. Use the back of this page if necessary.**

**How many total service hours have you contributed since your intern class?**

**How will the awarding of this scholarship and attendance at MG College 2018 enhance the efforts of our MG Unit?**

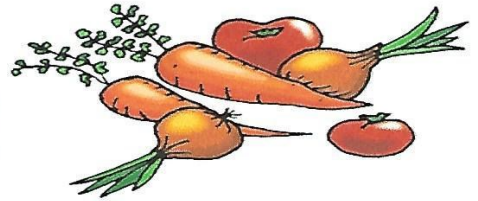
**What are your plans for future leadership roles in the JCCW MGA unit?**

**To encourage other JCCW MGA members, we are requesting that you promote the scholarship and experience at Master Gardener College at a future JCCW MGA meeting. Please let us know when this would be convenient for you.**

**Please return this form to Angela Cingale, Scholarship Chair, 4077 Coronation, Williamsburg, VA 23188 by May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**NOTE: The scholarship is awarded only once while you are an active JCCW MGA member.**

# GROW IT & EAT IT!



## Seminars on Home Herb & Vegetable Gardening

### During the James City/Williamsburg Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale!

## Talks & Hands-on Demonstrations

*How to Start Vegetables from Seed*

*Creating & Maintaining Healthy Compost*

*Herb Gardening in Pots, Raised Beds and Gardens*

*Vermiculture-Worms Can Help You Garden*

*Raised Beds-What's Available & Why Plants Love Them*

*Container Gardens & Self-Watering Containers*

*Good & Bad Bugs in your Garden*

*Herbs & Vegetables in Your Home Landscape*

*Plus Community Garden Registration*

**PLANT SALE Saturday April 21 9-3**

**TALKS & DEMONSTRATIONS 9:30-2:30**

**Historic Triangle Community Services Center on Waller Mill Road**

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Sandra Kee, James City County Unit at 757/564/2170/TDD\*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital, family, or 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; Jewel E. Hairston, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.



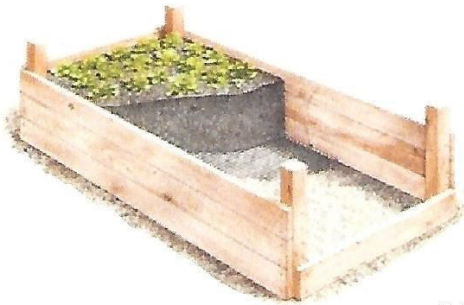
**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

# Raised Bed Gardening Clinic

Saturday, April 14, 2018

10:00 am – Noon



**FREE!!**



Location:

New Kent Extension Office  
11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1  
New Kent, VA 23124

Learn about the advantages of raised bed gardening with vegetables, what it takes to have a successful vegetable garden, how to create a garden design, good soil composition, ways to add organic matter, plus other vegetable gardening topics.

Visit Carole's Garden, a demonstration garden, on site at the Extension Office.

To reserve your spot please register by April 10, 2018 by calling or emailing the New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension at 804-966-9645/email Patty at [patric4@vt.edu](mailto:patric4@vt.edu)

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cynthia Rowles, New Kent - Virginia Cooperative Extension at (804-966-9645/TDD\*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

\*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.