



The Colonial Master Gardener

August
2018

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

“Surprise and hidden depths are part of the attribute of variety, whether it is the magnificently hidden canal at Vaux or merely a curving path disappearing into the shadow of trees in a small private garden. A garden without mystery is not one to live with, although it may serve as a setting to some great building, to be seen purely as part of a view and not self as an environment.”

—Dame Sylvia Crowe, *Garden Design* (1958)

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 2

**Program:
Insects**

**Speaker:
Dr. Shawn Dash, Hampton University**

Note: The talk will begin at 10:00am, not at 9:00 as usual

What a delightful picnic! If you were not able to attend our annual picnic and thirty-fifth anniversary celebration on July 20, you unfortunately missed a great milestone event and a real good time. The social committee outdid itself with meticulous planning that insured a comfortable venue, superb cuisine from Rocco's Smokehouse Grill, and right-on-target entertainment. Angela Cingale's and Lyn Natanski's diligence and attention to every detail certainly paid off with an enjoyable evening for all. Thanks also goes out to these MGs who helped with the event—Kate Wilhide, Dee Arbegast, Cathy Hill, Marty Oaks, Hope Yelich, and Linda Lucas. As we all know, we couldn't do what we do without the loving support of spouses and partners and this was evident at our party with many not only chipping in but leading the way. A sincere thanks to all.

What's with this weather? Wet spring with exuberant growth, then a dry, almost drought month, and now inches of rain almost daily. No wonder the plants are confused. Keep the grass long rather than scalping it in the hot, humid weather. Fescue is susceptible to brown patch fungus no matter what you do! Ensure you get evergreens pruned with enough time for the new growth to get seasoned before the cold weather sets in. Several of our perennials will offer a second set of blooms if properly deadheaded (crape myrtles), but with others you may want to keep the drying flower seeds to provide food for visiting wildlife and pollinators. Also, it's a good time to peruse your garden looking for empty spots or underperforming plants so you can prepare a list for fall purchases and installation. And don't forget to embrace your efforts and accomplishments.

Vetting of the VCE projects continues. Your board had been taking a critical examination of each project with the intent of setting standards, compliance, and community need. We have not attempted a comprehensive review of the mission, execution, and relevance of each project before, and it has proven to be a lengthy and detailed endeavor and quite an educational experience for each board member.

In discussions with projects leaders we have found some surprises and unintentional hidden procedures. We have



Archway, Stourhead Gardens, England. by flowcomm/flickr

(The president's message is continued on the next page, page 2)

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:
Hazel Braxton

Secretary:
Jennifer Campbell

Treasurer:
Liz Favre

VMGA Rep:
Marilyn Riddle

Past President:
Vacant

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

also found that the VCE office and the Master Gardener Association need to explain better the boundaries of the projects and relationships with other agencies and groups. We all should comply with the approved project proposal parameters and not expand into other areas simply because we feel there is a need and we have the desire. The Master Gardener program has a defined organizational structure and guidelines that we agree to when we become EMGs and continue as long as we are active in the program. Better clarity and education of all EMGs, even those who have been active for quite some time, is a top priority on our list.

Another recurring issue that we are facing is the lack of available leadership within the projects. A project can't get approved to run without a leader—some of the projects have resorted to a leadership group or committee, with each member having assigned responsibilities. A few projects currently lack a co-chair. It is essential that each project has a continuity plan to ensure that it can move forward in the absence of the project leader. This is not a ground-breaking revelation, but it is a problem that we are seeking to resolve. Case in point: the plant sale project has no leader. At our next general business meeting on August 2 we will discuss whether we as an association want to continue to have annual plant sales. Do we have a single spokesperson? Or a volunteer to spearhead the monumental effort? It is getting late in the planning process....

Dr. Shawn Dash from Hampton University will be our speaker at the August 2 educational lecture. He plans to speak about bugs, and I am sure we will all learn a lot. Our monthly educational lectures are always open to the public and this one was advertised in the *Daily Press*. Please note the change in time---**we will start the general/business meeting of the association at 9:00am, and Dr. Dash will begin at 10:00.** We will also distribute the 2017 milestone awards to recipients who have not yet received them at either Master Gardener College or at the anniversary celebration. Hope to see you all there.

“Many a good house both old and new is marred by the vulgarity and stupidity of its garden.”

**— William Morris, “Gossip About an Old House on the Upper Thames,”
The Quest (1895)**

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Dr. Shawn Dash is a trained entomologist, but his interests vary among many topics of the natural world from birds, reptiles, trees, and recently lichens. He graduated from the University of Delaware with dual degrees in entomology and wildlife conservation, received his masters in entomology from Louisiana State University (LSU), and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas-EI Paso in evolutionary biology. He holds the rank of assistant professor at Hampton University where he teaches courses on biodiversity, medical entomology, toxic and venomous animals, zoology and biology for nonmajors.

Dr. Dash is noted for his educational style and passion for teaching others. He is a sought-after public speaker and nature guide who is currently working on a few publications, including a book on the biodiversity of the greater Chesapeake Bay. Dr. Dash has a passion for invertebrates, especially insects. His research focuses on the evolution and ecology of ants, with his recent research dedicated to understanding regional ant-biodiversity and examining the ecology of ants and other invertebrates in urban communities.



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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.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

August 4 (Wellspring United Methodist Church, 4871 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg, 23188) 9:00am. **Clothed Trees**. Join Stewart Ware for a fun and informative walk all about trees. The woods around Wellspring United Methodist Church have most of our common upland trees, and Dr. Ware will show how to identify them, as well as some rarer trees. Meet in the parking lot at Wellspring Church on Longhill Road, just east of the junction with Old Towne Road. Contact Stewart at (757-565-0657) or saware@wm.edu for more information.

August 18. (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 9:00-10:00am. **Ferns, Mosses, and Forest Plants. Revisited**. Join Helen Hamilton to look for summer forest plants, ferns and mosses, on a short trail in Freedom Park. The Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists were involved in developing a path that leads to a deep ravine, heavily covered with low herbaceous plants. Bring a magnifier to look at tiny plants and a camera to photograph the larger ones. Park by the playground left of the Go Ape facility – look for the VNPS Plant Walk signs. Contact Helen at 757 564 4494 or helen48@cox.net for information. Note: This is a repeat of the July 14 program.

August 18 (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **Tips on Garden Photography**. John Whistler, local gardener, photographer, and owner of Whistler Works Studio, will give those gardeners who want to capture photos of the flora and fauna in their gardens or elsewhere basic and advanced suggestions to improve their images. Examples of his photography can be viewed at JohnWhistlerPhotos.com. Free and open to the public, but register in advance to guarantee a spot. To register, click [here](#).

September 8 (Brittingham Community Center, 570 McLawhorne Drive, Newport News 23601). 10:00am—4:00pm. **Go Green Expo**. Ten-year anniversary of Hampton Roads's premier, horticultural, sustainability, indoor event. Sponsored by the Peninsula Master Gardeners and the Virginia Cooperative Extension, this one-day event is free and open to the public.

September 10. (North Phoebus Community Center, 249 West Chamberlin Avenue, Hampton, 23663). 5:30-6:30pm. **Vegetable Gardening 101**. Join Hampton Extension Master Gardener Stephen Bowles in the vegetable garden this season. Learn the basics of vegetable gardening in Hampton Roads, from planting to harvest, through this beginner's workshop series. Free, but pre-registration is required.

September 14-16 (College of William and Mary, School of Education). All day. **Virginia Native Plant Society Annual Meeting**. The 2018 VNPS annual meeting, hosted by the John Clayton Chapter, will center around the theme of sustainability; considering ways that we can make our organizations healthier and more viable, which in turn will allow us to multiply our efforts to preserve Virginia's natural plant populations. Also planned: some excellent walks; outings and presentations; great food, and charming companionship!

September 15 (Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach 23455). 10:00am-3:00pm. **Fall Gardening Festival**. A project of the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners, this annual event includes speakers and demonstrations. There is no cost to attend, parking is plentiful and free, and it is a family and dog-friendly event.

September 29 (Holiday Lake Educational Center, 1267 4-H Camp Road, Appomattox 24522). 9:00am-4:00pm. **Bats, Birds and Bugs: Gardening on the Wilder Side**. A Virginia Master Gardener Association educational event. Speakers on entomology, bats, wildflowers, water resources, and what's happening in your backyard that you might not be aware of! Limited to 150 attendees, registration due by September 11. For further information, call (540) 544-7359. If there is enough local interest, consider carpooling to Appomattox.

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/](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."

AND NOT A SINGLE ANT BY ANGELA CINGALE

I'd like to thank all the people who made the JCC MGA thirty-fifth anniversary picnic a huge success. Our indoor celebration on July 20 at the JCC rec center proved that "many hands make light work," as all the planning and coordination came together for a successful evening of food, fellowship, and entertainment. We enjoyed a great meal from Rocco's Smokehouse Grill, lively conversation, and enjoyable music from Tunes by Two, Trish & Gail. Everyone also appreciated the celebratory cake and ice cream at the end of this special occasion.

Gratitude goes to Gary Streb for his choice of venue, his ability to move the crowd along, and especially for his sense of humor. Special thanks to the MGs who helped the social committee: Lyn Natanski, , Kate Wilhide, Dee Arbegast, Liz Favre, Cathy Hill, Marty Oakes, Hope Yelich, and Linda Lucas. To the spouses (Ray Cingale, Dave Natanski, Dan Arbegast, Ed Lucas, and Barbara Streb) who assisted the social committee members in whatever way was needed, Thank You! We hope to see you all at our next social event.



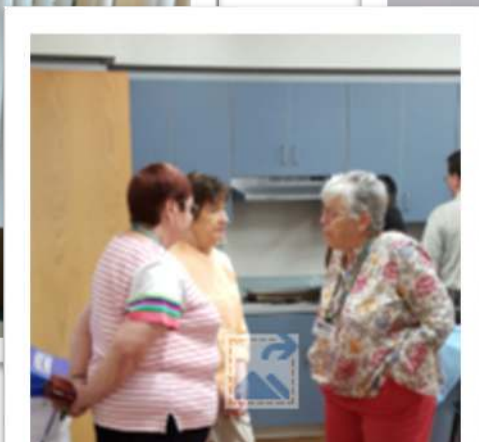
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Photos: Hope Yelich

THIS AND THAT

Help Needed at the Farmers Market

By Kate Robbins, VCE ANR Program Assistant

Diagnostic help is needed at the Farmers Market at the MG table every Saturday. If you're interested in sharing your expertise, please [email Kate \(kateor@vt.edu\)](mailto:kateor@vt.edu) with dates you can be there to answer questions. We will have a presence at the Farmers Market through September. During that month especially, EMGs will work to recruit students for the 2019 training class.



Frog topiary, by Paul Lawston, flickr



Bees and Honeycomb, International Mosaiculture Competition/flickr

Find the Right Plant

Thanks to Marilyn Riddle for passing on information about an online “tool” developed at Rutgers called Protecting Bees. It will help you identify the right plant for the right pollinator. Click on <https://protectingbees.njaes.rutgers.edu/>.

Notes from the Training Team

By Hope Yelich

The Training Team is looking for two eager volunteers who would like to join our ranks. It's a transitional time for us, with some members leaving the team after this year, and we'd like to work with new members so things will run smoothly the following year. We're hoping to find two EMGs with computer skills (Microsoft Office, including Excel), but the most important skill is a desire to be an ambassador to our program. While the team is busiest during the class months of January-March, it's really a ten-month commitment once we figure in meetings, orientation, preparation, etc. If you think you might be interested in working with us, please [email Kate Robbins at kater@vt.edu](mailto:kater@vt.edu). Believe us, this is a very satisfying and fun project!



Topiary at Waddeston Manor, England, by Andy Lott, flickr

MESSAGE FROM A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

BY ANGELA CINGALE, SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners are naturally interested in the education of future horticultural leaders. The JCCW MGA scholarship is a community-outreach project that attracts young people with these interests. We offer a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school student or a student enrolled in Virginia Tech or Virginia State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) Program. A student must be from James City County/Williamsburg, New Kent, or Charles City, and planning to major in a plant-science-related field, including but not limited to horticulture, botany, agronomy, forestry, sustainable landscape management, or turf management, at the post-secondary level.

Below is a copy of the letter we received from Caylin Stewart, who is the recipient of one of these scholarships. Caylin was a scholarship winner in fall 2015, her freshman year at Virginia Tech. She had outstanding credentials plus lofty goals and is on her way to realizing her dream after graduating this year.

Congratulations on beginning your career with Smithfield Foods, Caylin!

1118 Kenan Street
Wilson, North Carolina 27893

Angela Cingale
4077 Coronation
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

Dear Ms. Cingale and the James City Master Gardener Scholarship Committee,

It's been a few short years since I was selected as the 2015 scholarship recipient on behalf of the James City Master Gardeners. Although the time seemed to fly by, I am beyond happy and inspired by the journey I had at Virginia Tech. During my college years I had the opportunity to build a network of supporters, advocates, and friends who contributed and gave meaning to my journey. I cannot express how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to not only attend college, but to truly experience what it has to offer; you all are to thank for that! With the help of your committee, I was able to attend and graduate from Virginia Tech in three years without a dime of loan debt to my name. Your scholarship helped me to focus on my college experience rather than working, and for that I am eternally grateful.

I am currently beginning my professional career with Smithfield Foods as an Operations Trainee through a terrific initiative called the Career Foundation Program. This program offers fulltime employment and benefits to talented college graduates looking toward a career in the food industry. As you may remember when I applied for your scholarship, my dream was to open a community center for homeless individuals that is sustained by agriculture. Well today, that is still my dream and I couldn't be more excited about working for Smithfield and becoming involved with a similar initiative that they offer. I'm beyond excited for the future to come and again so appreciate and grateful for the gift you have given me.

All the best,

Caylin Stewart

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

AUGUST 2018

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

PURPLE PASSIONFLOWER

Passiflora incarnata

Unbelievably, this tropical-looking flower is native to Virginia and is common here in the southern Coastal Plain. Intricate, three-inch lavender flowers have a fringe of wavy, hair-like segments, banded with purple and on top the five sepals and petals. Three styles extend from the ovary in the center of the flower, a unique arrangement allowing only the largest bees to accomplish pollination. Leaves are toothed along the edges and three-lobed.

Purple passionflower is a host plant for the variegated fritillary butterfly. Emerging early in the spring, female butterflies lay their eggs on the leaves of this plant, and may produce as many as three broods through the year. Caterpillars can be seen feeding on the leaves throughout the summer and into the fall. Yellow passionflower (*P. lutea*), also native to Virginia, is not quite as showy, with smaller yellow flowers and a small black berry as fruit.

Growing in fields, pine woods, and fencerows widely across Virginia, the plant occurs in southeastern U.S. and Bermuda and west to Oklahoma and Texas. Any soil will do, rich is preferred. Full sun produces more flowers, and the drainage can be moist to dry. The plant has deep roots and will colonize to form groundcover. In a controlled garden or flower bed, this viny plant should be located in a container, sunk into the ground.

Dedicated to share knowledge and record newly discovered species and created hybrids, Passiflora Society International has a website, annual meetings, and biannual newsletters. There are over five hundred species of the genus *Passiflora*, mostly vines, shrubs, and trees of tropical America. Native to South America and sold often in local nurseries, the leaves of non-native blue passionflower (*P. caerulea*) have five lobes, not three. Many other cultivars and tropical species are available online and in the nursery trade.

The passionflowers were discovered by a Roman Catholic friar in Mexico in the early 1600s. Symbolism to the Christian passion abounds. The combined sepals and petals could represent ten apostles (omitting Peter who denied, and Judas who betrayed), the five anthers = the five wounds, the column of the ovary = the cross, the stamens = the hammers, the three stigmas = the three nails.

However, American Indians already used the plant in folk medicine and as an aphrodisiac, attaching a different meaning to the plant's name. Chemists have found drugs in passionflower used to combat insomnia and anxiety. A writer in southern Appalachia advises: "After you have lived with someone for many years the little things they do start to bother you. So you take some passionflower leaves and make you a tea. Pretty soon you start to relax and the little things don't bother you so much and you get along fine." Passionflower tea and liquid extracts are widely available.

Another name, maypop, comes from the hollow yellow fruits that pop when crushed. The fruit is greenish-yellow, edible, and makes a very good jelly. In 1612 Captain John Smith reported that in Virginia the Indians planted a wild fruit like a lemon, which begins to ripen in September. It is the official state wildflower of Tennessee.



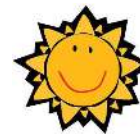
Photo: Passionflower Vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) taken by Helen Hamilton

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

Important Dates

- 8/4 Clothes Trees (Wellspring Church)
- 8/18 Ferns, Mosses, Garden Plants (Freedom Park)
- 8/18 Garden Photography (Freedom Park)
- 9/8-10/15 Home Horticulture Education (Norfolk)
- 9/8 Go Green Expo (Newport News)
- 9/10 Vegetable Gardening 101 (Hampton)
- 9/14-16 VNPS Annual Meeting (W&M)
- 9/15 Fall Gardening Festival (AREC)
- 9/29 Bats, Birds, and Bugs (Appomattox)

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



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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the September 2018 newsletter will be Wednesday, August 22.

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at 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.