

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



April 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS

Wow, here it is April and the first day of spring. It appears that winter didn't arrive this year. I am always amazed in the spring by the beautiful show the plants provide as they sprout and start their season of growth.

I am happy to announce that the Master Gardeners are very close to being able to offer a scholarship.

The idea of a scholarship appeared to be a simple issue until the committee started considering all aspects. It has been a learning experience for all involved. The Scholarship Committee has been working very hard to construct a living document that will satisfy all the criteria necessary to accommodate the three counties that have representation in our Master Gardeners Association and provide a roadmap for others to follow in their footsteps in the future. I applaud their efforts and stamina that they have shown trying to finalize the documents.

The board meeting this last month was entirely consumed by the scholarship documentation. We worked with committee representatives at the meeting going through the documents line by line to make revisions and to make sure they cross check to all documents. In the end, the committee chairperson suggested that the document just wasn't ready for



April Showers!

prime time this year and needed additional work which will be performed prior to the end of the year so that the information can be sent out to all the high schools in January 2013.

If you missed the "Grow It and Eat It" symposium that was held on St. Patrick's Day, you really missed an event. Between the attendees, participating Master Gardeners and vendors, we had over 100 people present. We tried a new venue which had a mix of vendors, projects, and speakers with short breaks so the audience could visit the exhibits. It was fast-paced and held the interest of all. The evaluations that came back were great and planning for the event next year has already started in order to make it even bigger and better than the one just held.

Please make plans to attend the April 5th Master Gardeners' meeting to satisfy your required annual risk management training. See you there!

BY-LAWS UPDATE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

As a result of the by laws change made last June adding the office of President Elect there are two additional sections which need to be brought into agreement with that addition. We will vote on these at the May meeting.

First:

Article IV Executive Board

Section 1:

Change the number of officers required to constitute a quorum from four to five.

Rational: With the addition of the office of President Elect there are eight officers on the Board with the potential of nine when there are two VMGA representatives. In order to have a simple quorum five must be present for any votes.

Second:

Paragraph 2 under Section 1

Wording should be:

The term of office shall be two years with the exception of President and President Elect, who shall serve for one year terms. To ensure Board continuity, three officers are to be elected one year and four the next. President Elect shall be elected annually.

Rational: Adding the wording "President Elect shall be elected annually." brings wording into agreement with action taken previously.

Monthly Meeting

April 5, 9 a.m.,

Williamsburg Regional Library;

Subject:

"Risk Management Re-Certification"

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2012
MG Board

President:
Roger Evans

VP Projects:
Beth Fugate

VP Internal Ed:
Harriet Parsons

VP Administration:
Margene Hartsough

Secretary:
Mary Ellen Edwards

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Linda Lucas

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

Kudos to Linda Lucas and her Incredible Edibles team along with the School Gardens for the excellent "Grow It, Eat It" workshop that was presented on March 17. We had great speakers, an enthusiastic audience, treats and eats as well as demonstration tables masterfully manned by knowledgeable Master Gardeners. It was a fun day! How about some others of you get together and present a program for our James City County Citizens? Ideas anyone? Just let me know.

Remember that April is the month for everyone to re-certify in risk management. Please mark your calendar to attend this meeting. We will watch the VCE video, complete and return our short forms and have our questions answered by Jeremy Johnson or John Giffin. This is an easy and fast way to take care of our requirement. Be there or be square!



We have our first field trip of the year coming up on May 8th. We will travel to Powhatan and visit Chadwick's Orchid greenhouse, have lunch and then go to J. Sargent Reynolds Community College to visit their Horticulture Department. We will have guided tours for both. It will be a beautiful time of the month to visit, we will see orchids, Irises, conifers and more as well as learn a lot about horticulture. We will carpool and I will send out an e-mail as we get closer. Sign-up sheets will be available at the April meeting.

Don't forget Master Gardener College coming up in late June. Remember to check my e-mails for upcoming events. Have fun weeding, get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather!

LANDSCAPE LOVE



BY ANNE NIELSEN & GARY STREB, CO-CHAIRS

Registration for Landscape Love opened early this year on March 1st. The early date and the warm weather have brought us 40 registrations with 26 days left for even more. Two pictures in the Gazette have really helped as well as visits to HOAs, Newcomers at Ford's Colony, Turf U, and various Garden Clubs. Residents have a hard time believing that such a valuable service can be free!!!

We have 45 MGs signed up for our 5 teams. We will also welcome the new Interns to our teams as of April 2nd. **On Thursday, April 12th at the Rec Center, Room A, 9-12 am, we will have the Orientation Meeting.** The Interns will have the 9-10:30am period to go over their Orientation booklet, followed by team meetings with as many MG team members as possible. Please bring your calendars or have the calendar forms filled out. This will make the scheduling much easier. It looks like a busy season with lots of interesting visits ahead.

Thanks for volunteering your valuable time to help the community.

NEW INVENTORY MANAGER

BY MARGENE HARTSHOUGH

Big thank you to Pattie Louche, a 2011 MG graduate, who has stepped forward to serve as our Inventory Manager.

If you have items purchased by the association with a value of \$50 or more, please email Pattie with a description and value. Her email address is plouche@verizon.net.

GARDENING RESOURCES

BY PAT CROWE

Lisa Ziegler of *The Gardener's Workshop* has a series of downloadable articles suitable for home owners, garden clubs, Master Gardeners, etc. on her website. Check out her website: [Http://www.thegardenersworkshop.com/](http://www.thegardenersworkshop.com/), click on "learning center" and select "TGW Library".

She is adding more articles all the time.

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:00 am, at the James City County Health and Human Services Building, on Olde Towne Road.

The Board meetings are open to all Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

APRIL WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

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

DWARF BLUET *Houstonia pusilla*

This tiny annual bluet, with purple-violet flowers no more than ¼ inch across, colors fields and roadsides in early spring. Each blossom consists of a narrow tube, ending in 4 petals at right-angles around a central reddish eye. The flowers are borne on stalks up to an inch long, terminally and from the axils of the ½ inch long leaves.

Dwarf Bluet grows in dry soil, often in gravel roadways from Virginia south to Florida and west to South Dakota and Texas. In Virginia, this plant occurs mostly in the Coastal Plain and south-central counties.

Two similar perennial species grow naturally in the Coastal Plain in Virginia: Common Bluet, *Houstonia caerulea* has light blue flowers centered with a yellow eye; and Woodland Bluet, *Houstonia purpurea* – the light blue flowers with a light center cluster at the ends of stems up to 18 inches tall. These two species bloom later than Dwarf Bluet, and are found in woodlands and other moist situations, not roadsides and disturbed soils.

For more information about native plants visit



Photos of Dwarf Bluet (*Houstonia pusilla*)
by Helen Hamilton, past-president of the
John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant
Society

ATTENTION: MEMBERS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE VMGA MEETING

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

The state VMGA meeting will be held on Saturday, April 14 in Williamsburg. If you are planning on attending, please sign up for one of the lunches, as detailed below:

Brown Bag lunches: \$9.25 with choice of either Turkey Breast w/Swiss Cheese, Ham with Swiss Cheese, Vegetarian, Chicken or Tuna Salad. Lettuce & Tomato, a bag of chips, Brownie and 12 oz drink of your choice is included, as described in the brochure.

Drink choices: Coke, Diet Coke, De-Caf Coke, Coke Zero, Sprite, Sprite Zero, Ginger Ale, Root Beer, Mr. Pibb, Nestea Iced Tea with Lemon, and Nestea Lemonade.

Please send your lunch meal choice and checks to:
**Marilyn Riddle, 2505 Goodrich Durfey, Williamsburg,
VA 23185, by April 7th, mriddle@cox.net**

PLANT SALE/BOOK TABLE

BY JEANNE MILLIN

It's that time of year again! Time to review and donate those gift books and books you no longer use to the annual MG Plant Sale for our book table. This year Jeanne will be traveling during the Plant Sale so the co-chair, Kendra Swann, will be accepting your donations at the April MG meeting.

Kendra can be contacted for donations up to one week before the sale at kendrar179@aol.com.

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Grow It & Eat It!—March 17
Great presentations by Jerry, Deb, Roger & Sherry



Plus smiling faces, lots of good growing tips and more!



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BARRELS AND BINS OPEN FOR BUSINESS BY DENNIS WOOL



The Barrels and Bins Team is pleased to report that we are open for business and prepared to demonstrate again the utility of recycling products into use in the home garden. Rain barrels remain an item of homeowner interest as water bills continue to rise and the \$25 rebate (limit 4) for residents of James City County is still available. Our team is prepared to demonstrate how the barrels can be decoratively painted or daisy-chained to increase utility. David Sisson has 5 units linked from which he waters his entire garden throughout the season. Barrels are \$65 for the grey and \$50 for the white.

We find a steady increase in interest in our small (35 gal) composter which does not require either a great deal of space or much effort to employ. Thanks to a recent contribution of barrels from Sentara Hospital and the handy work of Eric Bramfitt, the cost of the composter remains at \$65.

Anyone who has tried the concept of container gardening understands why some folks are already picking fresh lettuce and spinach. Strawberries will be on the scene shortly and will be enjoyed over the next several months. The market has come out with a new 14 gallon container that we will be trying this year along with our standard 18 gallon version. Interestingly enough, both containers retail for about the same cost, so our Self Watering Container Kit will be the same for both sizes - \$15.



Barrels and Bins Team have made 3 presentations so far this year with additional opportunities at the Plant Sale and Farmer's Market. If our Team is to have another successful year supporting the budgets of our Master Gardener Projects, we need your help! Our demonstrations promote creative gardening and sales – so we need venues like home owners associations, garden clubs, and civic organizations. Please promote B&B by incorporating us into your service/project areas whenever you can. We all have a lot of fun and enjoy supporting the JCCW/MGs.

DUES REMINDER

BY BOB WINTHER - MG TREASURER

Our MGA By-Laws require payment of association dues by all active members by January 31 of each fiscal year in order to retain membership in the MGA. **Please note that Association dues of \$15 are now due for fiscal year 2012 and are past due.**

Since I have received dues from only 142 members to date I assume that there must be at least 50 checks payable to JCCWMG MGA out there somewhere waiting to be mailed by a busy volunteer.

These monies help to support the programs of your MGA and are crucial to the well being of our organization.

Checks made out to "JCC/W Master Gardeners" with the note "Association Dues" in the memo line may be handed to me at a MG monthly meeting or sent directly to my home address.

Bob Winther - MG Treasurer
4751 Regents Park
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1798

Your prompt consideration of this matter is well appreciated by your MGA board.
Thanks in advance, Bob W.

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NEWS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT

BY KARI ABBOTT, CHAIR



Spring is here and it is time to go outside. Here are the dates referenced at the MG March Meeting. I hope some of you will join in the fun on these field trips.

The Kindergarten Field Trips to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden are April 13th and 20th. Volunteers should arrive at 9:30 and plan to stay until 11:30-12:00 both days. There will be a quick training at 9:30 each day. The activities are really clear and fun. It should be a fun field, sunshiny kind of good time.

WEDNESDAY the 18th of April there will be a walk through from 9:00 – 12:00. This is for anyone who wants to learn how the York River State Park field trip is conducted.

We have a cheat sheet for adults. On the 18th we will walk the trail and help people feel comfortable with the material.

Clara Byrd Baker will go to York River State Park April 25th. Volunteers should arrive at 9:30 and plan to stay until 12:00.

Mataoka Elementary School will go to York River State Park May 8th and 9th. Again, volunteers should arrive at 9:30 and plan to stay until 12:00.

DJ Montague Elementary School will go to York River State Park May 10th. Again, volunteers should arrive at 9:30 and plan to stay until 12:00.

ANYONE who is interested in having a fun time outside please email Kari Abbott at bearsbaskets@cox.net.

LOOKING FOR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

Would all members of the American Horticultural Society please contact Marilyn Riddle mriddle@cox.net.

TIME FOR FARMERS' MARKET

BY SALLY SISSEL, CO-CHAIR



It's time for the 2012 Farmers' Market. The 2012 season for the Master Gardeners at the Williamsburg Farmers Market will begin Saturday, May 5.

As most of you know, we have 2 spaces in front of the CW Craft House every other Saturday from 7:30 until 11:30. Sally will begin scheduling volunteers for the first half of the market dates very soon and for the 2nd half of the market dates in mid-July. She is scheduling only for the Q&A table—the theme chairs schedule their own volunteers.

Thanks to Margene for sending her the names of those already indicating an interest on their recommitment forms. We can always use more!!

Sally's goal is to have 2 "real" MGs at that table with 2 interns—so if you would be interested in helping (most of you know how much fun it really is!), please let Sally know and, what dates you would be available.

Dates will be: May 5, May 19, June 2, June 16, June 30, July 14, and July 28. Thank you!

FARMERS' MARKET SUMMER SCHEDULE

May 5	<i>National Herb Day</i>
May 19	<i>Vegetables; Barrels and Bins</i>
June 2	<i>Gardening with Children</i>
June 16	<i>Flowers</i>
June 30	<i>Water Stewards</i>
July 14	<i>Therapeutic Gardening</i>
July 28	<i>Drought Tolerant Plants</i>

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GARDENING TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

Given our rollercoaster weather, it's hard to say what to do at this time of year. Of course, you can ALWAYS deadhead, pull weeds, and plan ahead.

You'd best bypass the cool-season plants available at the plant centers - it's going to get too hot for them too soon. Thin the crowded lettuce, carrots, and chard you already planted. Put tall, twiggy branches (pruned from your crape myrtles maybe?) next to the peas to support the branches. If you still have cool season crops, mulch around their bases to keep them cool.

Now's the time to select new azalea and rhododendron bushes while they are in bloom! That way, you can tell if they fit into your color scheme! And add to your garden log, so next year you can see what happened in some of this weird weather. GOOD DIGGING!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **May Newsletter** is **Monday, April 23.** Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

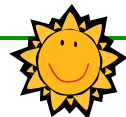
Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 4/5 Monthly Meeting @ WRL, 9 a.m.
- 4/14 VMGA Meeting Hosted in Wmbg.
- 4/23 Newsletter Deadline for May issue
- 4/28 New Kent Envirothon/Earth Day
- 6/20-24 MG College

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.

SUNSHINE NOTES



If you know a Master Gardener who is ill, facing surgery, has suffered a family loss, or any event in which that person might benefit from a **sunshine note**, please contact the MG Secretary, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf on the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or JMEMEE12350@verizon.net.

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.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.



JCC/W Master Gardeners: Bins and Barrels Products *

**Proceeds from the sale of all Barrel and Bin Products are used to support all JCC/W Master Gardener Projects.*

Grow Boxes



\$15.00

Also known as *Self Watering Containers*, the Grow Box provides a plant environment for gardeners wanting to grow herbs or vegetables without a traditional in ground garden. Using an 18 gal tub and recycled materials, the Box has a 2.5 gal reservoir for water at the bottom, allowing the plant to draw moisture as needed. Filling the reservoir is accomplished through a bamboo pipe. The Grow Box/SWC is sold as a kit, just assemble, add potting mix and plants, watch your garden grow.

Rain Barrels



White-\$50.00

Grey- \$65.00

Master Gardeners promote the concept of Water Wise Gardening using best practice concepts that include the capture of rain water from roof run off. Barrels are easily attached to gutter down spouts or placed in strategic run off areas of non-guttered homes. Rain water (approx. 55 gal) is then stored until needed. An Overflow Pipe directs excess away from the house. Units can be used in single or multiple combinations using brass fittings. Rebates of \$25 are available from the JCSA.

Composters



\$65.00

Composting has long been a hallmark of gardening and the focus of recycling green yard/household waste. To assist the urban gardener with this focus, Master Gardeners have produced a 35 gal. composter from recycled materials. The door in the composter (barrel) provides easy access to add/remove material. Turning the compost is accomplished on a roller frame provided.

For further information:
James City County Extension Office
Help Line—757-564-2170