

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



April 2013



**April
Showers !**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

In a recent Gardeners Supply Company catalog the following was written:

"All the world's a garden and all the men and women merely gardeners. Gardening is unusual—few other activities are so varied in expression, yet so all inclusive and uniting. After all, really, what is gardening?"

Gardens can take any form from formal to free flowing, from large, full planned installations to a few patio containers. Some gardens are primarily a source of food; others exist only in service to beauty. For some gardeners, output is all that matters. For others, gardening is for personal enrichment and provides a spiritual connection to the land.

Gardening can be a passing trifle or a lifelong commitment. It can be a very social and community activity or a personal refuge and solo endeavor. Gardening is a way to teach others; and a never ending source of learning for ourselves. Gardening may be a means to save the world, or just to save our own sanity.

The final point is perhaps the most important. Gardening provides beauty, sustenance, health, natural habitat, education, shared community and more. What other activity, even if pursued solely for self-interest, makes the world a better place for all of us. People from every background, region, economic status, religion and political persuasion

share in this source of benefit, wonder and Joy. Looking for peace? Looking for cooperation? Looking for optimism? Look to the garden."

I felt this said it all.

Don't forget the opportunities we have coming up with the plant sale and as our varied projects get into full swing. Participation is what makes the difference—be involved.

Happy Gardening Margene

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is April 4.

Speaker: Patty Townsend

Subject: Dehydrating/Freezing Fruits & Vegetables

PLANTS HUZDAH! UPDATE

BY CHERE' HARPER



We are 5 weeks from Plants Huzzah! as this is being written, with plant markers ready to distribute to MGs at our April meeting. Fliers and posters are on order and signs to the site evaluated.

Seventy MGs have volunteered for their preferred part of the sale, either at the March meeting or the Intern Signup event. Along with the plant growers, team leaders and committee members we know are continuing from last year, we have 50% of our active MGs who have told us what they will do this year. We need to hear from everyone by the April meeting so we can make the most accurate

distribution of tasks possible, so "Sign Up" forms will be available again at the meeting. If you will not be at the meeting please email Nancy Cassano for plant transportation, Barbara Gustafson for sign posting, Anne Nielsen or Chere' Harper for all other positions. Please don't assume we know, do it today.

Every year we hear after the event about what worked well and what could have been better, and the difference is clear. If enough MGs are assigned to a function it works smoothly and easily. Every one of us makes the difference. Thank you!

The Colonial Master Gardener April 2013

2013
MG Board

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Margene Hartsough

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Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

VP Administration:
David Sisson

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Doris Heath
564-2170

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY JUDY CASONE

Well, I thought Spring was almost here but that notion was dispelled when I posted two (2) pictures of my home and birdhouses in the snow. However, most of my plants are up again now that the snow has melted. Enough already!!

Our speaker this month is Patty Townsend, Program Assistant – Horticulture from New Kent County VCE. A graduate of Virginia Tech with several years of experience, Patty will speak to us about 'Dehydrating/freezing fruits and vegetables'.

Thanks to Joanne Sheffield for the following link on school gardens:

<http://www.organicgardening.com/living/why-school-gardens-matter?>

Please take the time to check it out.

John Giffin and Angela Cingale have planned a very interesting field day for us to Lewis Ginter on Monday, May 13. Please look at the attached flyer for that information. Fun and educational, how can you lose?

I attended a quilt fair a few years ago and saw the quilt shown below. I asked if I could take a picture as not all quilters want their work photographed.



*The Gossip
Garden*

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.

LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB



Landscape Love Spring registration is open from March 1st through April 15th. The project's reputation and an early spring have combined to encourage over 50 homeowners to register for their personalized visit by our Landscape Love teams. And we still have almost three weeks left for more registration requests for visits! Publicity in the Daily Press, Virginia Gazette and HOA newsletters has been our mainstay, but the ever increasing reason homeowners are signing up is "word of mouth". This speaks volumes about the quality and value that Landscape Love provides the Williamsburg community.

We have 42 returning Master Gardeners for our five teams. Eighteen new interns signed up at the recent Project Fair to

volunteer for the project. **Our Orientation Meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 18th, Room A of the JCC Recreation Center, at 9 a.m.** The meeting will explain the project and the orientation booklet to the new interns (and a refresher to the current MGs). Please bring your spring calendar or have the calendar form filled in. This will significantly aid the Team Leader to schedule the homeowner visits.

Plan to be busy! And thank you for your support of this valuable community project.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – APRIL 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

PAWPAW *Asimina triloba*

While this small tree can grow to 25 feet tall, often it occurs as a large shrub with drooping branches. Leaves are large, to 12 inches long, and lance-shaped with a fetid odor when crushed. Dull purple bell-like flowers hang below twigs in the spring along with new leaves. Lumpy, oblong fruits to 4 inches ripen in autumn after leaf fall.

Pawpaw grows in rich, moist woods in all counties of Virginia. The range is from western New York and southern Ontario to southern Michigan and eastern Nebraska, south to Florida and Texas. It blooms March-May, and fruits August-October.

With a taste similar to banana, the fruits were once widely eaten by Native Americans and early settlers. Both the leaves and seeds have insecticidal properties. Areas with an abundance of Pawpaw seedlings often indicate heavy deer browse, since this species is unpalatable to deer.

For more information about native plants visit www.claytonvnps.org.



Photo: Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)
taken by Helen Hamilton

MORE EXCITING SPRING NEWS FROM E2

BY KARI ABBOTT



For tree stewards and water stewards!! The field trip to York River State Park has been approved by your leaders to count as service hours towards your yearly goal!! If you would like to help on this grand adventure, we would love your expertise to come along.

We see all kinds of different trees, and there are lots of water things to talk about. We have a guide so you know what we would like to share with the children. It is really a fun day of sharing your love of trees and habitats with a child. The E2 Project is active in five schools this year so we have dates to share with everyone. We meet at York River State Park before the children arrive and then the walk lasts about one hour. Parking is free at the park when you are volunteering with us.

All times are 9:00am to 12:00noon.

April 17th will be the walk through for interns and any new veterans joining the fun this year.

Schools will come on:

May 1 st	Matthew Whaley Elementary
May 9 th	Clara Byrd Baker
May 10 th	J.B. Blayton Elementary School
May 14 th & 15 th	Matoaka Elementary School
May 17 th	DJ Montague

If you would like to join us, please email me (bearsbaskets@cox.net) or call 564-4539. We would enjoy your company thoroughly.

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READY, SET, GROW!

BY PAT CROWE

Giant flowers, sprouting carrots, plants in a can and green-haired eggheads! Oh my!

The Therapeutic Gardening team developed and delivered two one-hour workshops for the Peninsula Child Care Provider Conference "Caring for our Children" on March 16. The project team was organized around the theme "do it for cheap" throughout the workshops, stressing that gardening can be easy and fun, using re-cycled and re-purposed materials. Team members researched topics and selected ideas that featured simple planting, growing and craft activities centered on gardening for children. Participants received goody bags, free seeds, informative how-to-do-it handouts, booklists and of course prizes. A craft idea table was available for inspiration and surplus cans, tubes, and egg cartons were free for the taking so participants could get started on garden activities right away.

You can see the team had a great time!

Photo credits: Sue Liddell



Ready, Set, Grow Team



Eggheads: Stars of the Show



Kathy Johnson and Nancy Carnegie presentation



Karen Brooks' presentation



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LIBRARY UPDATE/ BOOK REVIEW BY CHERE' HARPER



The Master Gardener Library has been re-shelved upward to provide easier access to all volumes, especially when manning the Help Desk.

A number of volumes with the various project Chairs need to be reconciled to our Accessions file and evaluated for condition and possible Deaccession or replacement if necessary. Project Chairs have been sent a separate email for this purpose. If any MG learns of a book that would be useful to our members and projects, please submit it for possible acquisition.

On occasion a Master Gardener may have books that are no longer useful to them, but may be a good reference for the Library. Such donations are welcome. Also, after our April MG meeting any books for donation to Plants Huzzah! may be left at the Help Desk/Library, with a note tucked inside telling us your intention, please.

BOOK REVIEW:

Smart Yard Care, Big Rewards from Small Investments in Stewardship, by Francis J Reilly, Jr., VCE Master Gardener, is a comprehensive guide to living at the Wildland/Urban Interface, including the topics "Yard Waste and Its Reduction", "Invasive and Endangered Species", "Living with Wildlife" and "Fire Safety." Recommendations for further reading and other resources are also included.

In a highly readable style, it also has an especially useful Table of Contents with subtopics on the same page, allowing speedy Help Desk answers. Some examples are "How can I reduce Yard Waste?", "So is *this* species Harmful?", and "When the Unthinkable Happens: Dealing with a Skunk Encounter."

Smart Yard Care is a Help Desk reference and may be found at SB 433 R in the Library.

IT'S TIME FOR THE 2013 FARMERS MARKET BY SALLY SISSEL

The 2013 season for the Master Gardeners at the Williamsburg Farmers Market will begin Saturday, May 4.

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. I 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. I am scheduling only for the Q&A table—the theme chairs schedule their own volunteers.

I am counting on "veteran" market volunteers to return and will contact you if I don't hear from you first! Those of you who have not been able to volunteer in previous years and, particularly, those who were interns last year would be most welcome to join us.

My goal is to have 2 "real" MG 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 me know and, what dates you would be available.

Dates will be: May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13, and July 27. Thanks, Sally Sissel

THERAPEUTIC GARDENING NEEDS YOU!

The Therapeutic Gardening project needs a few more volunteers for the program at Eastern State Hospital Hancock Building. This program is held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday, now through June, at 1:00pm. An orientation at Eastern State the morning of April 9 plus several screenings are required to volunteer at ESH. Contact Yvonne Forbes (istclas@msn.com) by April 4 for more details if you can help with this worthwhile program.

DON'T FORGET!!

Start NOW-- update your hours and contacts EVERY DAY. Get in the habit, and save time and brain strain later!



Important Dates

- 4/1, 15, 22 Plant Sale Planning Committee Mtg.
- 4/4 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 4/9 Therapeutic Gardening Training
- 4/13 Envirothon Earth Day in New Kent
- 4/17 E2 Training
- 4/18 Landscape Love Training
- 4/22 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 4/26-27 Plant Huzzah! Sale
- 5/4 First Farmers' Market
- 5/13 Lewis Ginter field trip

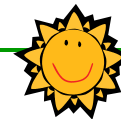
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **May Newsletter** is **Monday, April 22**. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

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 of 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.

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Envirothon Earth Day



Saturday, April 13, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

A day of Earth friendly activities for all ages designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment.



VIRGINIA
AQUARIUM
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

“Ocean In Motion”
Aquarium & Touch Tank

Live Animal Demonstrations by AWARE
Rehabilitators and educators interested in helping injured and orphaned wildlife.



Join us at the New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA
Call 804-966-9645 for more information.



New Kent Clean
County Committee



Virginia
Cooperative Extension

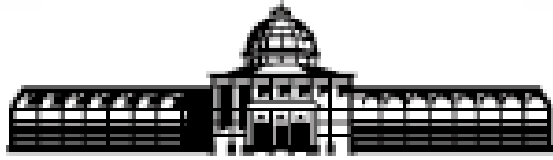
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James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners

Invite you to join us for a Field Trip to the



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Monday, May 13th

Trip Schedule

- 7:45 AM Meet at the James City County Recreation Center
8:00 AM Leave Williamsburg for Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
9:00 AM Arrive at Garden [Admission: Adults \$12]
9:15 AM Two Hour Guided Tour by Ralph Ashton
11:30 AM Lunch at Garden Café [\$5-10] or Robins Tea House [\$8-15]
12:45 PM Afternoon Options:
A – Visit Norie Burnett Moss Garden (1:15 – 2:30 PM)
[Limited to 14 people. See details on the reverse.]
B – Tour Lewis Ginter Back 40 (1:00 – 1:45 PM)
[Unlimited. See details on reverse.]
C – Tour Lewis Ginter gardens of choice.
3:30 PM Reassemble for return to Williamsburg
4:30 PM Arrive at James City County Recreation Center



To learn more about Lewis Ginter visit this site: <http://www.lewisginter.org>

Total tour is limited to 30 people.

To register for the trip, please
sign up at the April 4th meeting

or contact John Giffin at giffinj@cox.net

For more information call him at (757) 345-5209.



Lewis Ginter Morning Tour

The morning tour will be conducted by Ralph Ashton, who has been a Master Gardener since 2004 and a trained volunteer Garden guide at Lewis Ginter since 2010. He will show us the highlights of the Central Garden area including the Conservatory, the Sunken Garden, Healing Garden and Four Seasons Garden. Other areas include the Asian Valley and the Rose Garden.

Lunch Options

The Garden Café serves Lunch (\$5-\$10) from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm The menu includes soups sandwiches, beverages and deserts with a \$7.95 daily special .

The Robins Tea House (\$8-\$15) is open from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. The menu consists of soups, salads, sandwiches and plates plus beverages and desserts. The Tea House does take and may require reservations -- (804) 262-9887, x 399.

Meals are not allowed to be brought into the Garden. Snacks are permitted and vending machines are available. Guests should eat snacks at tables in the Children's Garden.

Afternoon Option A (“First come, first served” at April 4th Meeting)

This group will visit Eden Woods, a moss garden at its finest, in Norie Burnet’s own backyard. Norie exhibits numerous moss specimens and discusses how easy it is to create your unique moss garden in your backyard.

Ms. Burnet’s moss garden was documented by the Smithsonian Institute Archives of American Gardens in 2005 and has been the subject of many magazine articles on gardening. Only the first 14 registrants will be accepted.

Afternoon Option B

This group will experience a thirty minute guided tour of the Lewis Ginter “Back 40” -- the Greenhouses, Community Garden and Irrigation Lake. Then the group members will be allowed to explore different Lewis Ginter garden areas on their own until we return to Williamsburg at 3:30 pm.