



The Colonial Master Gardener

Publication of JCC/WBG Master Gardener Association & Virginia Cooperative Extension

April 2005

SUSTAINABILITY JCSA WATER REGULATIONS

From May 1st to September 30th of every year, James City Service Authority customers are under Ordinance No. 116A-34 to help the County manage water demand during the hot summer months. Under the Ordinance, JCSA customers may use water outdoors for any purpose, at any time, on any day, as long they use a container or with a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle. The hose must be attended at all times. Any other method of outdoor water use, such as automatic irrigation systems, sprinklers, or hoses without automatic shutoff nozzles, must follow the Outdoor Water Use Schedule, which is based on street address. Under the Schedule, JCSA customers with odd addresses can use water outdoors between midnight and 9 a.m. and between 5 pm and midnight on Wednesdays, Fridays, & Sundays. Neighborhood common areas are considered odd addresses. JCSA customers with even addresses can use water outdoors between midnight and 9 a.m. and between 5 p.m. and midnight on Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays. (These regulations do not apply to the City of Williamsburg)

*** NEW ***

All irrigation systems installed in James City County and supplied water by the James City Service Authority (JCSA) after March 8, 2005 are required to have a rain sensor that is adjusted to shut off automatic irrigation systems when one-fourth inch of rain has fallen. The automatic irrigation system must have a backflow prevention device permitted through Code Compliance.

BETH DAVIS Environmental Education Coordinator JCSA

PRESIDENT

Barbara Schroeder Gustafson
'99

564-1888

HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS

ASSOCIATE

Leanne DuBois, '96
JCC Coop. Extension Agent
564-2170

WEBMASTER

David Banks '03
258-8632

NEWSLETTER

Charlie Clapper '02
564-6191

The purpose of the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener is to learn, educate and communicate environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING
April 7, 2005
9:00 am
WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
WATER QUALITY
John Milliman, VIMS
Also Welcome the Class of 2005
Greet the 30 new interns who are eager to work with of you.

Life is a garden made richer by those who share our path.

Calling All Gardeners!! Won't you open your garden to other Master Gardeners? It's is a learning experience. No judgments, just great ideas! If you are willing to participate, e-mail Genrose (glashinger@cox.net) with possible dates.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

April brings new beginnings with new projects and a new gardening season. We begin "Meet the Gardener" tours of the Reid Garden from 11 am to 12 noon every Thursday. The tours add educational community outreach to our very lively Reid Learning Garden.

Of course we will all be at our annual Plant Sale April 9 at the Recreation Center. Many of us joined in "The Digs" held at Ailene Bartlett's and Bruce Manilla's gardens. Others of us held our own private "digs" for the sale that raises money for our many and varied projects. Selling the bluebird houses, ably created by Bill Baetz's team, also helps our annual budget. Please help support our plant sale team, Cathy Ripley, Bruce Manilla, Ailene Bartlett, Mary Sheedy, Becky Sutton and Judy Hansen.

This month we initiate a the Milestone Awards to be presented to those active master gardeners volunteering their services for 10 years or more. 20 Year Milestone Awards will be presented to Eileen Kuras ('83) and Ailene Bartlett ('85). 15 Year Milestone Awards will be presented to Jim Pressly ('87), Nelda Pressly ('88), and Peggy Krapf ('90). 10 Year Milestone Awards will be presented to Tony Bentivega ('92), Grace Raymond, Audrey Hoistma, Phyllis Jennings, and Francis Knight (all '93), Bill Baetz ('94), and Sue Liddell, Margaret Mondul, Wayne Moyer, Martha Smith, and Lynn Trott (all '95). After the presentations at the general meeting, refreshments will be served. These folks make the rest of us feel downright humble!

We are waiting for the final recommendations of our two very active committees, the Reserves Task Force and the Nominating Committee. We should be hearing from them soon.

BARBARA SCHROEDER GUSTAFSON

GET TO KNOW LEANNE DUBOIS, VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AGENT, HORTICULTURE; JAMES CITY COUNTY/NEW KENT COUNTY

Leanne has years of diverse experience in the Horticulture and Agricultural field. She holds a Degree in Horticulture and advanced training certifications in both Horticulture and Law and is currently in the VA Tech Masters of Horticulture program. Leanne was a Project Coordinator with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Saratoga County, New York. There she worked with the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, local Farmers Markets, Gardening Projects for the Food and Nutrition program and various other horticultural related community revitalization and promotion initiatives. In 1999, they won a National Farm Bureau Promotion Excellence award for their efforts to educate and promote agriculture to the public.

Since moving to Virginia in 2001 with her husband and 3 children, Leanne has served as a volunteer research assistant for a rare plants grant awarded to the Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Department. She now serves as the Horticulture Extension Agent for New Kent County and James City County. Her duties include coordinating the Turf Love Nutrient Management Program -- a locally funded water quality education program and as the coordinator for the JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association.

VISIT THE JCCWGMG MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT <http://jccwmg.org>

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENING



WORMS! As gardeners we think more about worms than most people. Since starting this Junior Master Gardener Project, I have learned a lot from the children about worms. Did you know that worms have five hearts? Did you know that there are about 6000 different species of worms? Did you know that every pound of worms will eat about half a pound of your food waste? Worms have mighty appetites.

The Junior Master Gardeners at Williamsburg Christian Academy were on the front page of the *Virginia Gazette* on February 24th the day Bill Garlette, a Master Gardener from Newport News came and tickled the children's minds with worms. He brought a pound of Red Wigglers the best worms for Vermicomposting (available at most bait stores here). The children brought in coffee grounds, banana peels, potato skins, and other leftovers. With some shredded newspaper, the worms wiggled about to a feast. The children created a Vermicompost bin from two plastic containers with holes drilled in them. Since the Vermicompost bin was started, the worms have eaten a lot. There have been some baby worm sightings.

Next time you see a worm in your yard, ponder that some worms live up to 10 years, that they can digest between .08 and .3 grams of soil a day -- a lot of poop. Next time you see worms in your garden, make sure they have compost material available to munch on, and marvel at how amazing they are. Visit Mary Applehof, the Worm Woman (www.wormwoman.com) for an example of the booming vermiculture business. Be sure to check out the five beating hearts of a Red Wiggler.

More excitement awaits in the Junior Master Gardener Project, as insects are next! There are many opportunities to volunteer and lots to learn, all of it fun. Zap me an email at bearsbaskets@cox.net if you think you want to join in and please email if you would like instructions on how to build your own Vermicompost bin. The compost "tea" is great for house and garden plants. **KARI ABBOTT.**

LANDSCAPE LOVE

It's a beautiful spring day. You open your door, look out at perfectly pruned foundation shrubs, stately trees surrounded by two to four inches of mulch (not touching the trunk), and a beautification award in a weed-free island of perennials. April Fool! It's not your yard. It's your neighbors' after you and your Landscape Love partner visited. You told him how to prune his shrubs, gave him the low-down on mulch and suggested the perfect perennials for the island bed. What? That wasn't you? Well, it could be. Give Pat Markey a call at 564-7355 and volunteer. Here's how it works. Mr. Struggling Homeowner gets an application form from the MG web site, from Extension or at the Farmers' Market. When you and your partner receive the form you answer the questions using the available information. If the answer is not there, a little digging in the MG handbook should solve the problem. You will call Mr. Homeowner, arrange to go to his house with your team, solve his problem and maybe a few he didn't mention. The research and call should take a couple of hours. Plan on making a call every two weeks. This new project will be great for the community and for us. **SUE LIDDELL**

NEW 2005 ALL AMERICAN SELECTION PERENNIALS

Gaillardias are universally loved, so it's not surprising that dwarf (8"), "Arizona Sun", which has yellow-edged mahogany-red flowers is the 2005 All-American Selections perennial winner. The 2005 All-American Daylilies Selections are the "Red Volunteer" a rust resistant hybrid with 7" flowers for up to eight weeks, and "Miss Mary Mary", bearing small double gold flowers on 15" stems, that repeat blooming until frost. Check out other All-American winners at:

http://www.all-americanselections.org/Winners.asp?Year_Win=2005

<http://www.daylilyresearch.org/winners.html>

LEANNE DUBOIS

PUBLICITY CHAIR TRANSFER

I want to thank JCC/ Williamsburg Master Gardener Association for the opportunity to have served you as Publicity Chairperson for the past two plus years. It has been a great learning experience (talk about on the job training). I also want to thank all of you in the association who have contributed to my experience by getting me information in a timely fashion. This way I in turn could send press releases to the media so they could meet *their* deadlines. This is of utmost importance as I pass the mantle to Alice Kopinitz , who will need even more cooperation than I did because of the organization's expanded number of projects and programs. If program chairs and project coordinators want the best attendance at your programs and good publicity: get all the information about the event or project in document form and email as an attachment to Alice at askop4@cox.net . Provide place, day, date, time, content of event or program, and any special information that will be of interest to participants along with Virginia cooperative extension number (757)564-2170 and www.iccwmg.org , the Master Gardener website. Pictures you take for the event can also be attached to the email with description and names of people or place. Because newspapers need this information about two weeks before the event, send it to Alice 20 days ahead. Thanks again. **MARY SHEEDY**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 12, 2005 Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg, starting at 1:00 pm. MYSTERY, MAGIC AND MEDICINE: THE HISTORY AND FOLKLORE OF HERBS. The Herb Society of America, Colonial Triangle of Virginia Unit is hosting popular mystery writer, Susan Wittig Albert, a nationally-recognized speaker on the history and lore of herbs and the creator of the critically-acclaimed China Bayles herbal mysteries. Her latest book is titled: *Dead Man's Bones*. She will also sign her books, which will be available for purchase there. Herbal refreshments will follow the program. Admission is free and non-members are welcome. For information contact Lillian A. Campbell at 564-9580. PugLove@cox.net

May 5 Linda Johnson

June 2 Field Trip to 4-H Center with optional lunch \$7.50

Other field trip opportunities: Denise Greene's garden and Maymont Gardens.

MG'S MAKE THE LOCAL CABLE CHANNEL

LAWNS FOR ALL SEASONS: This video, produced last year in cooperation with the Master Gardeners' and PRIDE programs, teaches viewers how to grow super turf without harming the environment. Four Virginia Tech Turfgrass Specialists/Professors serve as panelists. Virginia Cooperative Extension Water Quality Educator Bob Winters hosts. The video was shown recently on the local cable channel at 7:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. running 1 hour/14 minutes. The tape is available at local libraries. Virginia Tech has asked to for copies for use throughout the Commonwealth.

MASTER GARDENERS

Does your Homeowners' Association forbid (a) compost piles or composters, (b) rain barrels attached to downspouts, or (c) edibles raised in containers in "public view", or in ornamental beds (also in public view), or in a special garden plot? Does your neighborhood sponsor community garden plots for its residents? I'd be curious as to what you have to say on the subject, and perhaps we can find a way to change some outdated ideas! Let me have your comments! **AILENE BARTLETT**