

# The Colonial Master Gardener

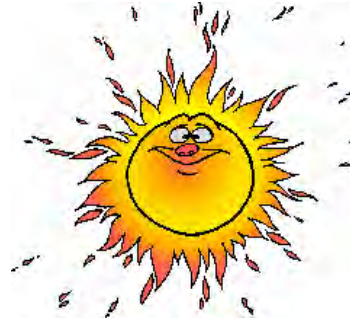
PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



## August 2011

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS



It is a real honor to be your newly elected president. I thank all of you for the confidence you've shown me. Things have been a whirlwind of activity since May and now we are on the downhill slide to the end of the year. Where did the time go? I know most of us were busily tending to our projects and personal gardens at home.

When I look at my garden I try to determine its health by looking at the leaves and limbs of the plants. From everything I've read I know that if enough leaves or limbs are lost, the plant will not be healthy and grow vigorously. Sometimes it's only a support that is needed, or multiple supports to keep the plant healthy and viable.

Of course the paragraph above is an analogy. If you look at the Master Gardener Organization as if it were a plant, I think you can see the similarities for health and growth. Some of our organization's limbs are in desperate need of support. Many of them have needed that support for months or longer. If we don't support our organization as we would take care of a plant, eventually the plant or the organization could in the worst case wither and die or at a minimum be stunted because it doesn't have the full complement of leaves and limbs to keep it completely healthy.

At this point, we have several areas that are in desperate need of support. One person or a team can step in and agree to support an area and make our organization healthier. We're known all over the state for being innovative and on the leading edge when it comes to seminars, speakers and new projects. We're also known throughout the county for our participation in county-organized functions with the traveling display, at the Farmers Market, the County Fair, Envirothons, Earth Days and many other activities throughout the area. We have a wonderful help desk that people are learning about from word of mouth. We're known for all our outreach activities, and folks, that is the best advertising we can get.

School Projects started the year off with two schools and have grown to seven schools with others asking for information, including private schools. The Therapeutic Gardening Program can't fill all the requests for support. Eastern State Therapeutic Projects grew from one group to

### Monthly Meeting

**August 4**, 9 a.m.,  
Williamsburg Regional Library;

Guest Speaker:  
Barbara Lombardi, Photography in the  
Garden

two this year. These are just a few examples of our growth this year.

Our organization needs some additional help from the membership. We have several vacancies that are in dire need because they are high profile areas that keep our name in front of the public. For the most part, these jobs can be performed at your computer and with a phone in the comfort of your own home. If you are daunted at the task, find a friend and form a team and do the job instead of trying to shoulder the load alone. I've always known that a team pulling together gets the job done faster and easier than trying to go it alone. Team up and take one of the vacancies listed below and help our organization become whole again!

We need members to take on the responsibility of:

Publicity  
Mobile Master Gardener Board  
Speakers Bureau  
Short Term Coordination of the County Fair

As a member of the Master Gardeners, please consider volunteering your time or time with a friend and help make the organization whole again. Feel free to contact Beth Fugate, myself or any other board member with any questions you may have regarding the available volunteer positions.

# The Colonial Master Gardener August 2011

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2011  
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

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.

## INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

It is a warm day in July as I start this article. From my patio door I can see my five foot tall Rudbeckia next to a dusty dark pink Rose-of-Sharon, below the ruffled orange daylilies, a sprinkling of peach Agastache, the beginnings of lavender Obedient plant next to a clump of clear white Shasta Daisy. What a beautiful sight! I had a neighbor who was a designer and who oriented her flowers so the best view was her view from inside the house. Somehow, this year, I have achieved it myself. Not a bad idea.

I have always said that I use my eyes as my camera but our August speaker actually uses her camera. Our speaker will be Barbara Lombardi, a photographer for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Her topic will be Photography in the Garden. Barbara is the photographer in the recently published book, **Flowers and Herbs of Early America**. We are fortunate in our area to be able to draw such high level speakers from CW, William & Mary, and the extension services.

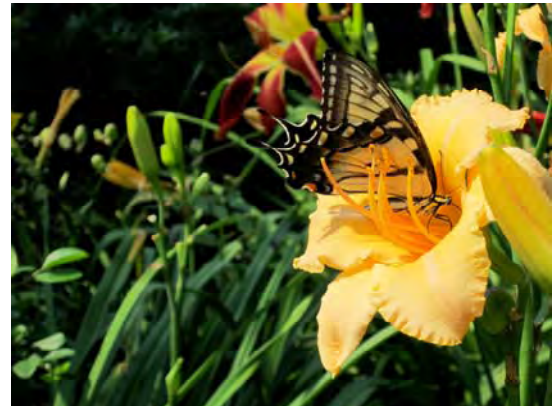
Future speakers and field trips will focus on trees and the watershed. Hypertufa anyone? If you are interested in making a Hypertufa container let me know. We plan on setting up a workshop this fall. Sounds like a great idea for a holiday present. Although I would have a hard time giving mine up.

Please don't forget the International Master Gardener Conference, Oct 11-14, in Charleston,

WV. What a great opportunity to learn about so many interesting subjects, have fun and see the beautiful fall colors. (See more below.)

Our friends and neighbors, the Virginia Beach Master Gardeners, are hosting a program on water-wise gardening on Saturday, Sept. 10. I sent an e-mail with all the info but would be happy to resend if you are interested. Let's support our fellow MG's and show our appreciation for all the hard work that goes into a program like this.

For those of you who couldn't attend the field trip to Linda and Bill Pinkham's garden, it is featured in **The Country Gardens** summer issue, page 72-79. Many thanks to Kate Wilhide for the great butterfly picture (below) from the Pinkham's garden.



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## INTERNATIONAL MG CONFERENCE

BY ANGELA CINGALE

The West Virginia University Extension Service and the West Virginia Master Gardener Association invite you to The 2011 International Master Gardener Conference, October 11 -14 in Charleston, West Virginia at the Charleston Convention Center. Join USA and international Master Gardeners to the "Color it Green in a Wild & Wonderful Way" Convention and discover new plants, new methods, and new ways to keep a sustainable land.

Please visit [http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/about\\_the\\_conference](http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/about_the_conference) for fees, schedule and guest speakers such as, Anna Carolina Ball, CEO from Ball Horticultural Company; Joe Lamp'I, "Green" Gardening Expert and Author; Bill Cullina, "Sugar, Sex, and Poison: Shocking Plant Secrets Caught on Camera"; Brian Jorg, "Going Green – Leading by Example"; Lee Reich, My Weedless Garden are some of the topics.

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## MG COLLEGE

BY JEANNE MILLIN

Three of the four JCC/W Master Gardeners at this year's MG College received Milestone Awards. Art Gustafson received his 3,000 hour pin, Jeanne Millin her 1,000 pin and Barbara Gustafson her 5,000 hour pin. Next year, Sue Liddell, our fourth attendee, will receive her 7,000 pin. JCC/W should have a good representation from JCC/W to cheer her on.

Attending Master Gardener College was different for me this year since I wasn't on a Advanced Training track and I had persuaded my husband, Mike, to join me in the dorm. The incentive for him was two days of golf; for me, it was the sessions but also the chance to meet with Master Gardeners from other groups and to coordinate on some of the issues coming up for JCC/W this year, including Water Steward training and our scholarship fund.

The morning speakers were inspiring. The sessions on Invasive Plants with James Miller from the US Department of Agriculture-Forest Service and Bryce Lane were especially informative. Dr. Miller had some books that will become part of the MG library. As MG's, his work is especially important to some of our programs, like Landscape Love and Tree Stewards. I will try to write about some of our common invasive plants in future newsletters. Even though we all have had an opportunity to hear Dr. Laurie Fox at some of our meetings, I still find I get something out of her talks. Her session and handouts on Site Selection have already become part of my reference library. Friday's afternoon sessions were designed to enhance our Help Desk skills with talks on: Interpreting Soil Test Reports, Plant Diagnostics, Insects, and Abiotic Stressors and Nutrient



Deficiencies. Most of us can use additional information on these subjects. In my evaluation, I suggested that a formal track would be useful for future MG College sessions.

As some of you know JCC/W, in conjunction with Virginia Beach, was responsible for this year's Silent Auction. Thanks to the work of Barbara and Art Gustafson, Sue and Jim Liddell, and Mike and Jeanne Millin, as well as 13 Virginia Beach MG's, we managed to bring in approximately \$3,566 for the MG Coordinator Endowment. As a bonus, Mike and I were invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the dorm to join the Virginia Beach wine and snack party (Barbara, Art, Sue and Jim did not stay in the dorms). Next year JCC/W should have its own party!

**[ More on the Land Care Steward Program at MG College on the next page]**

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## JOIN PROJECT TO IDENTIFY FARMER LOCATIONS

BY WAYNE MOYER

Throughout the county there are farmers and crafts people producing food, livestock, and items for sale; but where are they? When are they open? What do they have to offer? I am working with Leanne DulBois, former Extension Agent, on a catalog of all such people in the county. If you are interested in working of this project, please send me an e-mail and I will organize a meeting at the Croaker Road Library.

## WATER TIP OF THE MONTH

SUBMITTED BY ALICE KOPINITZ



When you give your pet fresh water, don't throw the old water down the drain. Use it to water your trees or shrubs!

# The Colonial Master Gardener August 2011

## LAND CARE STEWARD PROGRAM AT MG COLLEGE

BY SUE LIDDELL

The Land Care Steward program brought me to Master Gardener College two days early. A good part of one day was programming by Hanover Land Care Stewards. They had taken the training in 2005 and developed programs on Recycling, Composting, and Firewise Landscaping. The Firewise theme was a natural continuation of sessions led by Barb Stewart of the National Park Service. Field trips further explored the problems of the urban/forest connections. The morning keynote speakers and Land Care-designated afternoon sessions contributed to 30 hours of Land Care training. For certification, I have submitted a plan to work with Landscape Love to incorporate firewise landscaping information into the program for homeowners.

A bonus for me began with an announcement that an elm tree on campus was being treated for Dutch Elm Disease. At lunch I located the tree and found two notable professors at the site: Dr. R. Jay Stipes, Retired Prof. Plant Pathology and Physiology, and Dr. Gary Griffin, Chestnut Blight expert. They explained that the tree was in the early stages of the disease and so a good choice for treatment. This consisted of 35 gallons of fungicide being injected into the root flare through over 50 injection sites. Later, the diseased portion of the crown would be pruned away. Later in the day I met Asst. Prof. Urban Forestry, Dr. Eric Wiseman, removing the tubing from the tree. The fungicide had been absorbed and was working its way into the crown.

Dr. Wiseman alerted me to a huge burr oak nearby to add to my picture collection. MG College was an educational and enjoyable experience on this beautiful Hokie campus.



Fungicide Container and over 50 Injection Sites



Dr. Wiseman



< Hokie Bird

## SUPER TURF SATURDAY

Please don't forget Super Turf Saturday on **August 6!**

## INVASIVE PLANTS OF VIRGINIA; INVASIVE PLANTS IN SOUTHERN FORESTS

(FIRST IN A SERIES...)

BY JEANNE MILLIN

One of the problems with controlling the spread of invasives in our own personal gardens and in the gardens in which we work or provide advice to the homeowner is defining the term 'invasive'.

Over the next couple of months, I would like to spark a discussion of what we, as Master Gardeners, should say to the public on this subject. The session on invasives that I attended at this year's Master Gardener College was given by Dr. James H. Miller, who is one of the co-authors of a new book published by the US Department of Agriculture Research Station at Auburn University in Alabama.

In these newsletter articles, planned for this fall, I will mention some of the trees, shrubs and plants Dr Miller labels 'invasive'. His list covers Southern Forests, but what might be invasive in Alabama may not be in Virginia. The better guide for MG's in this area may be the list published by the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council ([www.invasive.org/maweds.cfm](http://www.invasive.org/maweds.cfm)). This list is titled "Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia". It has been developed through the work at the Blandly Experimental

Farm run by the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). It is organized by types of plant material (trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, grasses and annuals/biennials). This list is the one which, I believe, we as Master Gardeners should follow in giving advice on plant material to the public and also in what we sell at our plant sale. You can also find the same information sorted by section: Highly Invasive Species, Moderately Invasive Species and Occasionally Invasive Species. [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf)

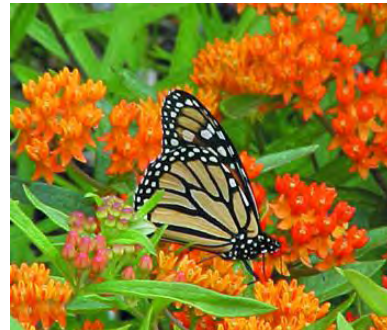
I was involved with clearing invasive plants in the upper Midwest for a few years before we moved to Illinois. I am familiar with Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) which are all considered highly invasive in this area. I have done invasive pulls at New Quarter Park of Japanese stiltgrass (*Microrstegium vimineum*). However some of the moderately invasive species such as Crown-vetch (*Coronilla varia*), Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.) are less familiar to me as invasives. I will discuss in future articles strategies for controlling invasives, which ones are still sold by nurseries in the area and why we should be concerned about the effects of invasive plants on our environment.

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## ONLINE NATIVE PLANT CENTER FOR MID-ATLANTIC!

SUBMITTED BY JEANNE MILLIN

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Image Matters LLC, has announced an online Native Plant Center for the Chesapeake Bay Region. The portal uses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's native plant database, associated with the publication entitled *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed*. Visit [www.nativeplantcenter.net](http://www.nativeplantcenter.net) to search for native plants by name, plant type, sun exposure, soil texture and moisture, and even find native plants with the same shape, color, size or other characteristics as favorite non-native plants. The portal also includes a geo-locator feature to identify plants suited to a user's specific location.



Butterfly Weed

**Reminder:  
Want to Be a Water Steward??**

Registration for the **Spring Water Steward Class** starts September 1. See the July MG newsletter for the registration form.

Send to:  
Jeanne Millin  
2901 Thomas Smith Lane  
Williamsburg, 23185

## TAKING ROOT FARM TOUR VISITS UNIQUE FARMS IN NEW KENT COUNTY

BY PATTY TOWNSEND

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Office in New Kent sponsored the 8<sup>th</sup> Taking Root Farm Tour on Sunday, June 26 along with New Kent County, CSX Transportation, Inc., Farm Bureau and the JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association.

This tour of the three farms provided an opportunity to recognize the contribution that small-scale family farms make to the economic and social well-being of our communities. Thank you to the following farms for opening their doors to the community: Thompson's Border Collies, Sheep and Goats; Old Church Sod and Skimokan Farm; and Kuhn's Dominion Farm – Animal Rescue. Approximately 300 people enjoyed the fun filled education day. The event offered hands on learning of agriculture practices used in our county.

Without the volunteers from the JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardeners Association this program would have had the success that we experienced on the beautiful day.



Farm Tour 2011



Kuhn's Dominion



Old Church Sod

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## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

BY HELEN HAMILTON

### PURPLETOP GRASS

*Tridens flavus*

This grass is all over the roadsides in late summer, and easily recognized by its loose, open, purple spikelets and distinctive weeping form. Growing to 4 feet tall, the upper stem, branches and flower parts are covered with a waxy, greasy substance.

Purpletop is common in fields, roadsides, and edges of woods and is native to every county in Virginia. The range of this grass is from Massachusetts and southern Michigan and Nebraska south to Florida and Texas.

The species name comes from the Greek *trioudous*, "three-toothed", referring to a tiny flower part with a 3-toothed tip. Birds eat the seeds, and wildlife use the plant for cover. Purpletop is the larval host for 4 species of butterflies.



Photo: Purple top grass (*Tridens flavus*) taken by Helen Hamilton

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

## NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT!

BY KARI ABBOTT



The Growing UP Wild workshop went very well this month, a big thank you to Mary Liz Sadler for hosting the workshop, everyone learned a lot and got great ideas!

### Upcoming E2 event:

The Annual Training in preparation for the school year volunteers!

**When:** WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>! From 9am-3pm. Bring a lunch. There is a fun day of things to do! This is a very hands-on workshop and it will go over the educational program we do each year in the elementary schools.

**Where:** The workroom in the James City County Health and Human Services Building. Everyone who would like to work with the E2 Project is invited!! Interns and MG's!

**RSVP:** Please email or call me ([bearsbaskets@cox.net](mailto:bearsbaskets@cox.net)) if you are planning to attend, as there are materials and supplies to be collected before the class. It is a fun workshop and counts as advanced training for MG's.

The E2 Project is back to school in September. Accompanying the classroom visits this year will be the E2 Educational Newsletter (which was approved by the Williamsburg James City County schools). It will be on school web pages throughout the year. Exciting new adventures in the E2 Project.

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## WILTING TIPS

SUBMITTED BY WATER STEWARDS

**Wilting** - A plant reacts very simply to too little or too much water – it wilts. Wilting that occurs during the heat of a midsummer day is common and temporary; don't be alarmed by it. However, wilting that extends beyond the heat of the day, especially if it occurs in the morning, is a signal that the plant is suffering a serious water shortage.

**Avoid watering by hand** - it often wastes water as there is excess runoff, and water does not penetrate beyond the top 1 inch of soil. This irrigation practice harms plants by forcing root growth too close to the surface. If you must water by hand, place a 5-gallon bucket with a few holes in the bottom next to the plant and fill it with water; when it has drained, move it to the next plant and refill.

## New VCE-MG Hours System Coming

Training will take place at the August 5<sup>th</sup> MG meeting

Learn how to log in to the new *test system*, practice on this test system to get comfortable with it and help us iron out any problems. We will each begin using the actual system January 1, 2012, to record our VCE-MG hours. Dave Banks will take over hours duties from Art Gustafson at that time. Until January 1, 2012, continue to record your hours as usual and send them or give them to Art.

**Come to the August 5<sup>th</sup> MG meeting to hear more!**

## “BIRDS AND BLOOMS” GREEN TIPS

EXCERPTED BY ANGELA CINGALE

Here are some “Green” tips from Bird and Blooms, Aug/Sept 2011, for our own gardening spaces.

1. Recycle old sheer curtains; They're perfect for covering cabbage plants to keep destructive moths from laying eggs there. They're also a good cover for lettuce during hot weather.
2. Recycle used red ribbons or red hand towel near your hummingbird feeders to help the birds find your feeder faster;.
3. Reuse old shoestrings or soft fabric belts in a new way. They will come in handy when you need to tie up flowers or tomato plants that need some support.
4. Recycle large coffee cans to use as flower-pots. Spray paint them or add painted scenes or decals. The plants will also love the iron the rusty can produces.
5. Can't golf anymore? Instead of buying a garden tool wagon or bag, use the golf bag to haul the garden tools around the yard. The pockets are perfect for twine, clippers and other small items.
6. Recycle used dryer sheets by using them at the bottom of pots. This way, no potting soil falls through the holes, and water will have good drainage.

Happy Gardening!

# The Colonial Master Gardener August 2011

## FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE

BY SALLY SISSEL

### August 13

*Plant Propagation*

### August 27

*Barrels and Bins*

### September 10

*Incredible Edibles  
Sunflower Contest judging*

### September 17

*Trees/Shrubs*

### October 1

*Pruning*

### October 15

*Composting*

### October 29

*Turf plus general Q&A*

## WHEN IT'S TOO HOT OUTSIDE...

BY AILENE BARTLETT

On Saturdays, at noon, there's a program on PBS called "Growing a Greener World." It's fairly new, and is quite interesting. Try to find it on WCVE (the Richmond PBS station) or WHRO (Norfolk)! It's followed by "Victory Garden" and H. Allen Smith's "Garden Home". With such hot weather, a glass of iced tea and a cool sit-down might be welcome!

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **September Newsletter** is **Monday, August 22.**

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at [cathy.lohwater@cox.net](mailto:cathy.lohwater@cox.net) or call 757-259-1133.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

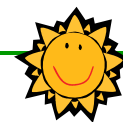
- 8/4 Monthly Meeting, 9 AM @ WRL
- 8/6 Super Turf Saturday
- 8/10 E2 Training
- 8/22 Sept. Newsletter Deadline
- 10/11-15 International MG Conference, WV

### 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 [JMEE12350@verizon.net](mailto:JMEE12350@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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KID'S ZONE (hosted by 4-H) ~ "ASK A MASTER GARDENER" BOOTH  
CHICK-FIL-A ON-SITE FOR LUNCH**

**JOIN US AT  
THE PENINSULA'S  
PREMIER  
SUSTAINABILITY  
EVENT!**

**September 24, 2011  
10am - 4 pm**

**Brittingham Midtown Community Center  
570 McLawhorne Drive  
Newport News, VA 23601**

Rain barrel workshops are at 11:00 am and 2:00 PM. There is a \$40 fee for each rain barrel. Please pre-register at 591-4838. Space is limited, so register early!



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. If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Karen Baker, Newport News office at 757-595-7644 during business hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. \*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

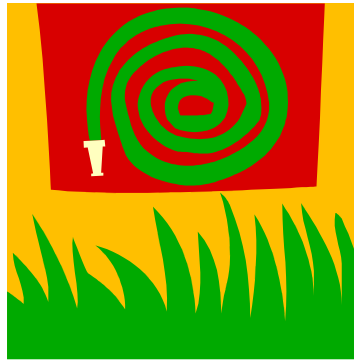
**New Kent Extension Office**

P.O. Box 205 / 11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1  
New Kent, VA 23124

804/966-9645 / Fax: 804/966-5013

<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new.kent>

# Lawn Care 101 Clinic



Tuesday, August 16, 2011

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**FREE!!**

**Location:**

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

**Learn how to establish, renovate or maintain a healthy lawn along with the importance of soil testing, fertilizing, liming, watering and preparing for each season.**

**To reserve your spot or for more information contact:  
New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645.**

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.

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

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