

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



August 2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS

Wow, July sure is finishing up with a lot of messy weather. I was astonished when I checked my rain gauge on July 21, and saw that it was smack dab full of water. It was over 5 inches of rain on Friday night to Saturday at 6 AM. Then there was another 1.5 inches on Saturday. Needless to say we've seen enough rain for a few days.

I grew up working in a farming community and still follow the agriculture news through www.agweb.com. The news about the corn and soy beans this year is not very pleasant. My boyhood friend still farms in Illinois and said most of his corn is gone (1200 acres).

The price per bushel for both corn and soy beans has risen dramatically over this last month with expectations that it will top out at \$10 for corn and \$20 for soybeans or more. Also due to the drought this week Agweb said that it is so dry in the plains that we're back to the dust bowl era. It certainly isn't good news for anyone.

We can all expect to pay a lot more for commodities in the coming months due to the shortages on the harvests. Illinois is one of the hardest hit states with 66% of the crop in very poor to poor condition, with 27% fair, 7% good, and none in excellent condition. By comparison, Virginia is listed as none in very poor to poor condition, 25% fair, 66% good, and 9% excellent. We are very fortunate with the weather.

Hopefully next year will be better growing year for all of us.

A lot has been happening during this last month. We've had a very productive Project Chair meeting and I believe all of us left re-energized with hope for the future.

The Historic Triangle Community Garden has really done well this year. Lots of vegetables out there and people are enthusiastic about what's happened. Feel free to go out and look at it. It's located behind the Historic Triangle Building at 312 Waller Mill Road.

At our board meeting this month, not a lot could be accomplished because most of the board was out of town or ill. So it was very short with the people in attendance giving their reports. David Sisson and Judy Casone were there and it was good to hear their inputs from a new perspective. I am looking forward to having a good board for the next year because we have a lot of important items to work on.

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is August 2.

Our speaker will be:

Joy Long, Gloucester MG,
on the secrets of caring for Roses

SUPER TURF SATURDAY

BY BARB FOLEY

It's that time of the year again! Super Turf Saturday is on August 11, and this is our 11th annual session. Dr. Mike Goatley and his Virginia Tech Turf Team will hold forth on the latest research-based information on turf establishment and maintenance. Our partner vendors will also be in attendance to display and answer questions about seed, fertilizer, compost, soil amendments, and conditioners. Alternatives to turf (particularly rain gardens) will be discussed, including the James City County rebate Garden Love Program. Register early by calling the VCE, James City County Office, at 564-2170.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

BY Law Update.

Article IV - Executive Board

Section 2 The Duties of the Officers shall be as follows:

Item 3 Duties of the Projects VP. Delete sentence reading "The Projects Vice President shall serve in place of the President in his/her absence."

Rational: With the addition of the position of President Elect, who shall serve in the absence of the president, the sentence is no longer necessary.

This by-law change will be voted upon at the September meeting.

The Colonial Master Gardener August 2012



2012
MG Board

President:
Roger Evans

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

VP Administration:
David Sisson

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 JUDY CASONE

Well, this summer has certainly been the one to test my native and drought tolerant plants. That is, unless we have a downpour. So far so good, but it's only July so we will see how it goes. I based several of my selections on the Water Wise Garden, one of my favorites. As a friend and mentor once said to me... 'there is always next year'. Next year it is.

Our speaker for the month of August is a very interesting person. Joy Long, a Master Gardener from Gloucester, will share her love of roses. She is a retired teacher and attorney. Add consulting rosarian, horticulture judge and arrangement judge for the American Rose Society, and you realize that she is truly a lover of gardening. Joy grows many

roses, perhaps as many as 185 at last count! She includes shrubs, polyanthas, miniatures, old garden roses dating back to before 1867, floribundas, a few hybrid teas. With all of that, she claims that her emphasis is on easy care roses. Her definition of "easy care" is a wonder! Please join us to learn her secrets. I am always ready to learn about roses, my sometimes good/sometimes not so good plants.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and thank Harriet Parsons for her help and mentoring through the process.

LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY ANNE NIELSEN & GARY STREB



It's hard to believe that we are already into August! Those who love hot and humid weather must be having a wonderful summer! For those like me who are gardening in the early morning or late afternoon, it has been a trial. The calendar tells me that it's time to open registrations and get ready for our Fall visits. Registration opens on August 1. After the bonanza of spring registrations I hope that our fall numbers are easier to handle. Gary and I will be visiting the Farmer's Market every other Saturday to let residents know that we are ready to help them with their landscape problems.

The main components of this project are the great group of MG volunteers who make up the teams. This is the key time for changing landscapes, especially replacing those shrubs that didn't survive the summer heat. We need your experience and knowledge to help residents make the right choices. I look forward to seeing you in September and October as we make these visits. If you aren't available, please let me know at anne-mail@cox.net.

Enjoy what's left of the summer and recharge your Landscape Love battery!

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.

SAVE THE DATE !

BY PAT CROWE

The Therapeutic Gardening Team will meet at the Freedom Park Interpretive Center on Thursday, September 20 at 1:00 PM. Additional details to follow.

Contact Linda Lucas or Pat Crowe for more information. If you are on the Therapeutic Gardening Team or would like to become involved in 2013, please attend this meeting !



AUGUST WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

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

Hairy Elephant's Foot *Elephantopus tomentosus*

The common name of this branching perennial refers to the wide oval leaves clustering at the base in a rosette. Blooming August through November, the small bluish-purple flower heads are surrounded by small, triangular bracts and grow at the top of a long stem, up to two feet tall.

Two other species of this interesting plant can be found in our area. Smooth Elephantsfoot (*E. nudatus*) is very similar to Hairy Elephantsfoot (*E. tomentosus*), differing in the arrangement of hairs on the midrib under the leaf, and the width of the widest leaf. The leaves of the third species Carolina Elephantsfoot (*E. carolinianus*,) are mostly on the stem, not at the base. The flowering stems of all 3 plants have small leaf-like bracts at the junction of the stem and flower stalk.

Hairy Elephant's Foot grows in open, sandy woods on the Coastal Plain from southeast Virginia to Florida and Texas, and north to the interior of Kentucky. Carolina Elephant's Foot is widespread across Virginia, while Hairy and Smooth Elephant's Foot are concentrated in the central and eastern counties.



Photo: Hairy Elephant's Foot (*Elephantopus tomentosus*) taken by Helen Hamilton

The scientific name of these plants is composed of the Greek *elephas*, "elephant", and *pous*, "foot", a translation of an ancient name.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (E2)

BY KARI ABBOTT



Greetings from the Environmental Education (E2) Project. Things are starting to shape up for this school year. The MG Board recently approved our expanding into two new first grades. My thanks to all the volunteers who are helping make this project grow and succeed.

The annual training for E2 is going to be held Thursday August 16th at the Freedom Park Building. Everyone who is interested is welcome to attend. The training will be from 9am to 3pm. The training will cover topics taught during the school year, so come prepared to have fun. Please email me (bearsbaskets@cox.net) if you are interested in attending. Dress comfortably as you will have a fun filled day that involves lots of activities.

FARMERS' MARKET LATE SUMMER/FALL SCHEDULE BY SALLY SISSEL

August 11	Plant Propagation
August 25	Barrels and Bins
September 8	Incredible Edibles
September 22	Trees & Shrubs
October 6	Pruning
October 20	Composting

The Colonial Master Gardener August 2012

BOOK REVIEW

BY JEANNE MILLIN



Rain Gardens: Sustainable Landscaping for a Beautiful Yard and a Healthy World

By Lynn M. Steiner and Robert W. Domm

This is one of the most comprehensive guides to Rain Gardens out in print. As such, it may be too much information for those just looking to know what rain gardens are about and why. For those wanting more information about how to measure, soil amendments, encouraging wildlife, and what to plant for various conditions, it is a useful reference book. Especially helpful is the chapter on maintaining a rain garden. We all know that maintenance is the overlooked part of any planting project.

This book is now in the MG Reference Library under Library of Congress call number TD657.4 2012.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **September Newsletter** is **Monday, August 20**. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

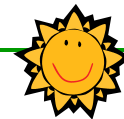
Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 8/2 Next Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 8/11 Super Turf Saturday
- 8/16 E2 Training
- 8/20 Newsletter Submissions Due

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.

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.