

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



August 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

As I sit to write this article it seemed that for weeks the rains would never end and the sun shine again. Then a period of wondering if or when the rain would return. At last some rain has returned. Nature, including the rain and sunshine, are so important to our gardens be they flowers, shrubs or edible crops but they are the two things over which we have no control. While recently speaking with one farmer it was learned his whole corn crop was washed away during the rain event which dumped six inches of water in one day. While six inches in one day is not desirable, our dependency on these types of valuable resources is evident in food supplies of all types including livestock as well as plants.

Recently you were sent an email asking for participation in a survey about rural land, how it should be defined and various uses. I encourage you to take a few minutes to complete it as you have knowledge and vested interests not shared by many in how our land and its various resources should be used. It is important to participate in these types of survey opportunities as the responses provided by

informed individuals can make a difference to all for the future.

Your board has been working to improve the operation of our association to insure timely and complete information is available to those for which there is a need as well as to protect the unit. As we begin our new year please be open to the requests that are made. Our association has grown significantly, requiring better adherence to the policies and procedures set forth in the past. Timely responses to requests makes the job of the board so much easier and the needs of members met more efficiently. Only with cooperation by all can we continue to move forward in a positive manner.

August 1 is our next general meeting. Please plan to attend. There will be recognitions for hour achievements and this will be the first of many outstanding programs for the new year.

Happy gardening, Margene

HERE IS A SIMPLE QUIZ FOR YOU!

BY DAVE SISSON

Answers are on last page—Some may surprise you and some will inform you!

1. If your phone # or email address changes, you should:
 - A. Send an email to Dave Close
 - B. Send an email to Dave Brooks
 - C. Send an email to Dave Sisson
 - D. Send an email to John Giffin
2. Information on the VGMA hours site is the same as that in the MG Roster. T or F
3. All JCC/WMGA activities are listed on the VMGA Hours site calendar. T or F
4. Partial hours on a project should be rounded to the nearest hour—up or down. T or F
5. Part of your dues go directly to support scholarships in Agriculture. T or F
6. Your membership in JCC/WMGA automatically makes you a member of VMGA. T or F

Next Meeting:
Thursday, August 1
Speaker:
Andy Bradshaw
"Sunflowers"

HELP WANTED

BY ANGELA CINGALE

A publicity co-chair is needed to help with placement of articles in the newspapers, radio, and other venues. This year we would like to enhance our public image by stressing the MG value in our community. If you have a flair with words and would like to help write stories about our wonderful organization, this could be a niche for you.

If you are willing to help or have any questions, please contact Angela Cingale at 565-4712. Thank you!

The Colonial Master Gardener August 2013

2013
MG Board

President:
Margene
Hartsough

President Elect:
Sue Liddell

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

*VP
Administration:*
David Sisson

Secretary:
Patsy McGrady

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 JUDY CASONE

Our speaker for the month of August is Andy Bradshaw, a man who wears many hats in Williamsburg. One of his many interests is gardening and specifically working with Sunflowers. Now, I have never thought a great deal about Sunflowers in my garden as they are, in some instances, taller than me, some growing as tall as 10'. However, since becoming a Master Gardener, I have found that they can be a very important part of our ecosystem.

Our November meeting will be about Civil Rights and is a mandatory meeting as part of Risk Management. Another announcement will be made to remind everyone and to make arrangements for those who are unable to attend this meeting.

Please remember our December meeting will be on the second Thursday, December 12th.

2013 SUPER TURF SATURDAY

BY BARB FOLEY

On Saturday, August 10, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., join us and the experts from the Virginia Tech Turf Team for Super Turf Saturday. The theme is "Healthy Lawn + Sound Management = Save the Chesapeake Bay". It will be held at the James City County Recreation Center.

Preregistration is required: Call 564-2179 (leave message with name, phone, and number attending).

E2 NEWS FOR AUGUST!

BY KARI ABBOTT



As the dog days of summer are upon us, I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. It is hard to believe that E2 is ten years old!! To celebrate E2 we will hold a new school year kick-off.

When: September 3rd, 2013 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Who: Old and new volunteers, anyone who wants to volunteer...we have a lot to talk about as new things are happening in E2 this year. Come to the update; there is a lot to learn about!

Where: Rec Center, Room A

Why: We have new data collection that will be on-going this year, and new ideas that have come up this summer to discuss...all good, and exciting!

Please email me if you are going to be able to attend, I want to make sure to have enough stuff for everyone!! bearsbaskets@cox.net. As always, my best to you all. Kari

FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE SUMMER/FALL 2013

August 10
Plant Propagation

August 24
Barrels and Bins

September 7
Pruning

September 28
Trees/Shrubs

October 12
Therapeutic Gardening

October 19
Composting

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY

Turk's-cap Lily *Lilium superbum*

A truly spectacular plant with drooping orange to orange-red flowers spotted with purple. A green area in the center of the flower forms a star. The petals curl backward so the tips nearly touch, completely exposing the stamens with their dangling brown anthers. The entire flower is over 2 inches wide. This is the largest of native lilies, the stems 3 to 7 feet tall, with many flowers on a single plant. Lance-shaped leaves are 2-6 inches long, the principal ones whorled on the stem. Oblong seedpods contain flat seeds with thin papery wings, enabling dispersal by wind.

Turk's Cap Lily grows in wet meadows, swamps and woods, preferring full or partial sun, rich soil and moist conditions. This lily is widespread across Virginia, and ranges from Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire to Georgia and Alabama. Blooms July-September.



Photo:
Turk's-cap
Lily (*Lilium
superbum*)
taken by
Seig
Kopinitz

The common name comes from the European species *L. martagon*, also called "Turk's-cap Lily," since the flower resembles a "martagon," a turban worn by the sultan of Ottoman Turkey. The plant has been used as a cooked vegetable. Virginia botanist Mark Catesby reported that "The Indians boiled these ... and esteemed them dainties."

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

GARDEN TIPS BY AILENE BARTLETT

None of the lists of plants enjoyed by our varmints that I've ever seen included Rudbeckia. However, I now have reason to believe they should be included. I looked out one day and saw one of our local rabbits grazing on my Black-Eyed Susans! Later inspection proved that it wasn't a random attack - a number of them were pruned up! And, a friend did me one better - the deer at her mother's house had eaten blossoms! So - Be Prepared!

Several years ago I acquired a *Silphium perfoliatum*, also known as Cup Plant. It's BIG, but really neat, with little cups where the leaves join, so that birds and insects have water! And, yellow flowers just now, at the top of the very tall stalks. I've recently read that they can be invasive, and given their size, it would take dynamite to eliminate them, so I am giving them second thoughts. Just a warning! Ailene

DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC BY DONNA XANDER

In September, we will be running the Diagnostic Clinic in the kitchen area of the Toano Extension Office every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

We will be starting September 4th (after Labor Day) and running through Monday, September 30th. Anyone interested in attending is certainly invited to join us.

This will be a great way to get in the rest of your hours since it will be getting towards the end of the year.



ANSWERS TO QUIZ (ON PAGE ONE)

1. Both B and D, John is Membership Chair and maintains the Roster; Dave Brooks is our IT guy and maintains the database the Roster is on. Dave Close is MG Coordinator at VT so he has other tasks to perform and probably would have to simply send it on. Dave Sisson is on the Board but doesn't make changes to the Roster. [He **really** doesn't know that much about computer stuff and should refrain from anything that isn't "Read Only"]
 2. *False—the two are not linked—YOU should update the VMGA Hours listing periodically; some use it to look up contact information. Why not update it the next time you enter hours?*
 3. *NOT YET! But we are working on this feature and you will hear more later. Encourage Project Chairs to use this to coordinate our activities. Project Calendars update the Master. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to look at the Master Calendar to see if there is something going on today where my help or expertise would be valuable rather than watching reruns or another ""reality"" (really?) show?*
 4. *Actually the Hours program will accept decimal hours. 1 hour and 6 minutes is 1.1 hour—So round to the nearest 6 minutes=.1hour, 12minutes=.2, etc. BE SURE THE DECIMAL IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE!!*
 5. *Only surplus from our budget is dedicated to scholarships. We are in the process of awarding our FIRST now. More on this later.*
 6. *False—Membership in the State organization is a separate membership. See Angela Cingale or Marilyn Riddle for more information or to sign up.*
- More facts (or perhaps we can start a new rumor) next month! Tune in! Dave Sisson, VP Admin*

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **September Newsletter** is **Monday, August 26.**

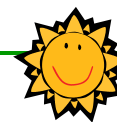
Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

Important Dates

- 8/1 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 8/10 Super Turf Saturday
- 8/26 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 9/3 E2 Meeting

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, Patsy McGrady. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf on the organization. Patsy may be reached at (757) 258-1181 or patsymcgrady@cox.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.

Fall Gardening Festival, September 21

It's easy to go green

Let Beach Master Gardeners help you take the guesswork out of going green

Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center
1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach



10 a.m to 3 p.m, Free parking and Admission

Learn from the best

- 10:30 **The Lazy Gardener.** The easy way to a great looking garden. Mark Weathington

- 11:30 **Front Yard Alternatives.** It doesn't have to be a lawn. Les Parks.

- 12:30 **A Really 'Green' Lawn.** If you love your lawn, do it without hurting Mother Nature. Jim Lachowicz

- 1:30 **Small Matters.** How small things you do in your yard can make a big difference in Hampton Roads. Karen Forget.

Fun for everyone

Do you want to be more 'green,' but are mystified by how to do it? Join us at the Fall Gardening Festival for tons of tips on how your home landscape can be planted and maintained with common sense methods that have minimal impact on the

environment. And that's not all. Master Gardeners will demonstrate how to test your soil, compost, prune, and even how to make a vertical garden. You'll find great plants at bargain prices and displays from a dozen garden societies.

Our popular plant doctors will hold office hours. And if this works up an appetite, you can sample the fare of three food trucks.



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