



The Colonial Master Gardener

August
2014

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY SUE LIDDELL

There are sixty-one MG units throughout the Commonwealth, made up of over 5,500 MG volunteers, who made 430,000 contacts in 2013 by volunteering 365,000 hours, for an economic value of more the 8.36 million dollars. Congratulations to all who earned Milestone Awards in 2013, contributing to this impressive total. Some were present at the 27th Annual VCE Master Gardener College Awards Ceremony and received their certificates and pins from Dr. Ed Jones, Director, VCE. Remaining MGs will be recognized at the August MG meeting.

A highlight of the awards ceremony was Kari Abbott's E2 Project placing first in The Search for Excellence in Youth Programming. Gary Streb accepted the award for the group.

Thanks to each one of you reading this message for your contributions to our MG unit. Your ideas, skills and unique personalities are of great value to our community beyond the hours.



Next Meeting:
Thursday, August 7

Speaker:
Christiana Tambone,
James River Association



Gary Streb



< Angela
Cingale



Iris
Grant >



Mitzi Balma >



< Sue Liddell

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2014
MG Board

President:
Sue Liddell

President Elect:
Debbie Griesinger

*VP
Administration:*
Diane Hare

VP Projects:
Wilma Sharp

VP Internal Ed:
Kathy Bush

Secretary:
Patsy McGrady

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Jeanne Millin

Past President:
Margene
Hartsough

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

*Program Asst.,
ANR:*
Kate Robbins



HAPPINESS
IS....having 16 MGs
from our unit along with
new Program Assistant
Kate Robbins attend MG
College. JCCW tied two
other units for the most
in attendance. We were
also recognized for our
contributions to the
Endowment Fund.

Marilyn Riddle & Jeanne
Millin
VMGA Reps

Chapter
Awards



ADMINISTRATION BY DIANE HARE

The MG Board
meets on the third
Friday of each
month, at 9:30 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.

The VMS (Volunteer Management System) Challenge!

We continue to work towards maximizing the capabilities of our VMS, but we need your help! Please log into your VMS Hours and go to "Edit Your Profile" and update your profile with your latest information. There is a place for you to upload a photo, which would really help us get to know one another even better. While you are in there, why not update your volunteer hours!

Membership Requirements

Just a heads up: We all have to do just a bit of record keeping/compliance in order to maintain our membership each year:

- ◆ Complete 20 hours of Volunteer Service and record same in the VMS. Please consider posting your volunteer hours on a regular basis.

We really benefit from the information you post, so please don't sell yourself short on your hours; your accurate reporting helps our Unit! Plus, the VMS helps you keep track of your volunteer miles, which will help you out come tax time!

- ◆ Complete Civil Rights Training (frequency to be determined)
- ◆ Complete Risk Management Training
- ◆ Complete Commitment Form
- ◆ Pay our dues.

Please remember that since we are under the auspices of Virginia Tech University, we must abide by their requirements for our Unit. So when the time comes later this year, please help us help you!

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INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY KATHY BUSH

I hope you have all had a chance to kick back this summer and enjoy the beauty of our surroundings. I came across this quote from John Lubbock that sums it up. "Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." With August's arrival, we start back with our monthly meetings and our fall gardening activities. Our JCCW MG motto reminds us of our purpose. Let's look for new opportunities to learn, educate, and communicate.

As the incoming VP for Internal Education, I want to encourage you to continue to learn. There are plenty of opportunities through monthly meetings, field trips, conferences, classes, mentoring and supporting our yearly MG training class, reading gardening books, working the help desk and diagnostic clinic, and of course hands on learning in our gardens and projects. Look for ways to help

each other learn by suggesting speakers, reviewing a book for the newsletter, organizing a field trip, or serving on our IE committee. If you hear of a great conference or gardening program, please let me know so we can advertise it to our membership.

On August 7th our speaker will be Christiana Tambone from the James River Association. She was quoted in a recent article in the Virginia Gazette about invasive grasses in the James River. We look forward to hearing from her an update on the river, storm water management, and other river-related concerns. Hope to see you there.

LANDSCAPE LOVE UPDATE

BY GARY STREB



Again the Landscape Love project has reached new record numbers and achieved substantial results. By the end of April we had 112 homeowner applications which put quite a task on our five geographical teams, which consisted of 57 returning Master Gardeners and 20 Interns. Scheduling of this many proved to be quite complex—aligning Master Gardener busy Spring schedules with homeowner's availability is a daunting task. We completed 103 visits, six will be rescheduled in the Fall 2014 session and three were cancelled.

Our biggest publicity medium is becoming the word of mouth campaign. But an informative article in the Virginia Gazette will probably bring us even more future interest; the author attended one of our visits and was quite impressed with the amount and depth of information provided. The homeowners were delighted! Community projects are also asking for our help—from Homeowner Associations to a non-profit community housing project. Creating and maintaining a sustainable landscape is our emphasis and the owners of almost 70 acres are accepting our advice and suggestions which will have an impact on how they approach their

individual landscapes and how their actions affect the environmental health of the region.

I personally want to thank each one of the Landscape Love team. Professional knowledge and approach has appealed to the homeowners within this community. The workload has been even more demanding this season and everyone stepped up to the challenge with simply outstanding results. Evaluations are glowing. The rain, heat and humidity did not deter your helpful advice and for that I thank you. A special shout out to the Team Leaders—Anne Nielsen, John Giffin, Toni Johnson and Barbara Floyd—whose leadership and support was essential for our success.

Hope to see you all gain in the Fall. (Reminder--we have 6 applications already!) Happy summer gardening.

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E2 NEWS
BY KARI ABBOTT



Hi Everyone,
What an exciting summer it has been for E2!

We won the Search for Excellence in Youth Programs for this year at Master Gardener College!!

What a great compliment to our Master Gardener chapter, to everyone who is a volunteer in the project, and to those of you who helped out in the past. What this means is that E2 can apply for International Master Gardener College. The application for International Master Gardener College is due September 15th. We will let you know what we as a group decide to do.

Our presentation at Master Gardener College was a great success. A heartfelt thank you to Bev Baker, Cathy Hill, Jeanne Millin, Mitzi Balma, and Gary Streb; we had a lively presentation. It was really cool. We had our E2 shirts so we looked very professional! The seventeen people who attended the breakout session were treated to a really fun experience. We had attendees eat like an insect, make paper, and learn about water, all the things

we do in our classrooms during the year. There was a lot of laughter from the attendees, which included our own Art and Barbara Gustafson. Several people asked for copies of our curriculum, so we are sharing it across the Commonwealth.

A shout out to Lisa Hardy! She spent many hours this month proofreading the E2 curriculum. It is now very professional looking. The CDs will be sent across Virginia this week. We received very positive feedback about our presentation and about our board that was up during MG College.

Schedules are gearing up for the beginning of the school year and who knew summer would just fly by so quickly.

And lastly, a request for film canisters for 35mm film. If anyone has any, we sure could use a few more for one of our classes. Thank you for the donations that have already been given. It was enough for 2 more sets of our water pollution class. Thanks for all your support!



From left to right, Mitzi Balma, Jeanne Millin, Kari Abbott, Gary Streb, Cathy Hill, Lois Enlow, and Bev Baker all smiles after a successful presentation at Master Gardener College.

NEW ANR PROGRAM ASST., KATE ROBBINS

Kate Robbins, a graduate of Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural/Natural Resources Journalism, brings over 25 years of experience in equine-focused agricultural business management.

A native New Yorker, and daughter of two professional journalists, Kate was offered both wonderful and diverse opportunities to engage in her true love of agriculture. From spending summers tending large gardens and hay fields to sleepless nights in early spring, lambing in upstate New York. She lived full time on a working dairy farm through high school and has owned and worked her own farms in both Colorado and Florida.

Water rights, water quality, soil tests and organic composting became not only a major interest but it was a matter of survival in the agricultural climates in which she and her family chose to lay down roots.

Kate has worked extensively with non-profit organizations specializing in agricultural based therapies for clients with a wide range of disabilities. Kate is an advanced instructor and Lead Certification Evaluator with PATH, Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International) and travels as a team faculty for national workshops and instructor certifications.

In 2005 Kate, husband Lee, and their young sons, Toffer and Tyler, decided to downsize their 115 acre Colorado



Ranch to be closer to family in Florida, where they successfully owned and operated a 15 acre sport horse breeding farm in Ocala. The family relocated to the Williamsburg area last summer seeking a more stable economic area to raise their now teenage sons.

Kate's combined experience with managing agricultural business needs as well as the needs of non-profit organizations (i.e.: volunteer programs, community involvement, grant writing, special events fund raising, etc.) has given Kate a unique skill set that she brings to the Virginia Cooperative Extension and James City County.

WBG TOUR IN HONOR OF FOUNDING MEMBER

BY PATSY MCGRADY

Cathy Hill, Patsy McGrady, and Gary Streb provided a tour of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG) to approximately 15 attendees of the 10 July service to dedicate a memorial stone to Carolyn Will. Carolyn was one of the founding members of the WBG and played a significant role in the creation and early cultivation of the garden. Carolyn's 98 year old mother, Mrs. Lily, was a special attendee. Mrs. Lily was especially touched to see the evolving calcareous ravine and the mature fernery which were favorite projects of her daughter. While the occasion was bittersweet and the day marked by occasional showers, the perennial gardens and wildflower meadow were in glorious bloom. Seeing the results of Carolyn's efforts and interests ended the day on a high note for her family and friends. The tour was provided as part of the MG project Educational Tours of the WBG.



Photo: Gary Streb in yellow raincoat

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REPORTING HOURS

BY JOHN GIFFIN

The Virginia Master Gardener Volunteer Management System (VMS) is our online way of reporting hours and mileage. Most of our members know how to go to this web site, <https://virginia.volunteersystem.org/users/index.cfm> then use their e-mail and password to enter the site.

To add hours (or mileage) you click on "Add New Hours." On this screen you enter an event description (what you did) and the date. If you are periodically reporting hours for multiple events under the same project, you can enter a general description and an "end of month" date.

Where it says "Apply to Project" you are required to "Select a Project." For normal projects you simply select the project name and enter the hours you used to prepare for a project, the hours of the event and hours you spent doing follow-up, e.g. writing a report. Then you enter your total "volunteer hours," the "Population Served (Contact Ethnicity) information (provided by the person in charge of the event) and click on "Save Hours" to enter the hours.

To report travel time to and from events, you make a separate entry of the event(s) being reported and select "Travel Time" from the "Apply to Project" list; enter the time under Volunteer Hours and click on "Save Hours" to enter the hours. You should always report travel time whether you drive yourself or ride with someone else.

To report the time you attend a Master Gardener meeting enter the event description (MG Meeting) and date, then select the "MG Business Meetings" and enter the hour(s), usually one hour, as a volunteer hour and click on "Save Hours" to enter the hour(s).

To report the time you attend a MG monthly program, enter the event description (MG Program) and date, then select the "MG Meeting Programs" and enter the hour(s), usually one hour, as a continuing education (not volunteer) hour and click on "Save Hours" to enter the hour(s).

In the next newsletter we will include information on reporting other continuing education, reporting travel mileage and editing hours.

If you have questions about the use of the hours system, call John Giffin at 757-345-5209, or Dave Banks at 757-258-8632.

NEW VP OF PROJECTS:

WILMA SHARP

Gardening has been a part of Wilma's life for as long as she can remember. She grew up and has lived in Virginia for the majority of her life, but for a few short years while her husband completed training to serve in the Army. She had small flower gardens as a child, then as an adult vegetable gardens in Albemarle County, rose and vegetable gardens in Hampton and Suffolk, and finally, here in Williamsburg, flower and herb gardens. She has always had house plants, especially windows full of African violets and kitchen herbs.

She is a retired educator, community volunteer, and, most importantly, a grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren, ages 18 months to seven years. She has three married daughters and a son. Wilma and her husband Marc have lived happily in Kingsmill for the past 24 years with an evolving garden that has been shaped by shared cuttings and seeds, volunteer natives, and an active wildlife population including a wide variety of birds that make for fascinating watching. They share avid interests in Colonial Williamsburg, Literacy for Life, Longwood University, UVA, and the College of William and Mary. (Marc is currently sharing her love of gardening. He is experimenting this summer with our Master Gardener inspired grow tubs which he has full of tomatoes!)

2014 SUPER TURF SATURDAY

BY BARB FOLEY

**Sat., August 16, 2014,
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

(displays open at 8:30 a.m.)
James City County Recreation Center
5301 Longhill Road

Learn how to have a beautiful lawn and make good choices between organics and synthetic lawn products.

Covering:

Soil composition
Lawn Decisions
Organic versus Synthetic Fertilizers
Reducing Disease
Weed Control

FREE – but please pre-register by August 15 (call 564-2179; leave message with name, phone, and number attending)



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WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2014

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

St. Andrew's Cross *Hypericum hypericoides*

Four narrow yellow petals in the shape of a cross distinguish two plants in the Heath Family, that are common in our area. Both are low branching shrubs with angled stems, about 3 feet tall. Beneath the flowers of St. Andrew's Cross are two green sepals, two other sepals are minute and not usually visible. St. Peter's Wort (*H. crux-andreae*) is a little taller and more erect; the leaves are larger and often clasp the stem. The yellow petals are larger and wider and four green sepals surround the flower.

Several other species in the genus *Hypericum* have the common name "St. John's Wort," all with five petals, not four.

St. Andrew's Cross grows in dry or moist, sandy or rocky soils from New Jersey to Oklahoma and south to Florida, Texas and Central America. The blooming period is early, from May through August. St. Peter's Wort grows in damp, sandy soil from Long Island to Oklahoma and eastern Texas, blooming later, from June through October.



Photo: St. Andrews Cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*) taken by Phillip Merritt

The common name for this family "wort" is derived from *wyrt*, "herb or root". Native Americans found medicinal uses for this plant. Infusions were used as an eyewash, for fever, toothaches, rheumatism, and to ease the pain of childbirth.

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

NEW KENT HAPPENINGS

BY SUE DONNELLY

On Saturday, August 2, 2014, Master Gardeners from the New Kent Extension Office will be conducting a Raised Bed Gardening Clinic. Master Gardeners and guest speakers will talk about the advantages of raised bed gardening with fall vegetables, what it takes to have a successful vegetable garden, how to create a garden design, good soil composition, ways to add organic matter, how to raise your vegetables organically, plus other vegetable gardening topics.

Following the clinic, visit Carole's Garden, the New Kent Master Gardeners' demonstration garden on site at the Extension Office. The clinic will be held at the New Kent Extension Office located at 11809 New Kent Highway New Kent, VA 23124



Raised Bed Gardening Clinic
Saturday, August 2, 2014

10:00 am - Noon

FREE!!

Pre-registration required

Location:

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

Master Gardeners and guest speakers will talk about the advantages of raised bed gardening with fall vegetables, what it takes to have a successful vegetable garden, how to create a garden design, good soil composition, ways to add organic matter, how to raise your vegetables organically, plus other vegetable gardening topics.

Visit Carole's Garden, the New Kent Master Gardeners' demonstration garden on site at the Extension Office.

To reserve your spot please register by July 25th by calling or emailing the New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645 / email patric4@vt.edu

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NEW KENT FIELD TRIP

BY PATTY TOWNSEND

New Kent Master Gardeners took a field trip on July 16, 2014 to the York/Poquoson Master Gardeners Learning Garden at the Poquoson Museum. The sprinkles of rain did not stop our viewing of the gardens or taking the Poquoson Museum Marsh Walk. Dan Nortman and other local Master Gardeners were on hand to answer our questions on alternative planting methods. Many ideas were formulated on the unique ways of creating raised beds. On the way to the marsh site, we viewed a tree planting project. Each tree was identified with markers and a brief overview of growing habits and other issues with wild life damage. This was a very informative visit and we would encourage others to visit this site.



UPCOMING FARMERS' MARKET DATES

July 12	<i>Plant Propagation</i>
July 26	<i>Barrels and Bins</i>
August 9	<i>Pruning</i>
August 23	<i>Trees/Shrubs</i>
September 6	<i>Composting</i>
September 20	<i>Therapeutic Gardening</i>

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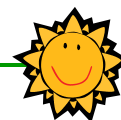
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the September newsletter will be **Monday, August 25**.

Please send any submissions to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net.

Important Dates

- 8/2 New Kent Raised Bed Clinic
- 8/7 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 8/16 Super Turf Saturday
- 8/25 Newsletter Submissions Due



SUNSHINE NOTES

In the past month, a card was sent to Kathleen Brigg for death of a close relative.

The organization would like to send cards to members with difficult medical issues or who have experienced a death in the immediate family. Please provide names to the MG Secretary, Patsy McGrady, 258-1181, patsymcgrady@cox.net.

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.

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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