



The Colonial Master Gardener

August
2016

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

"The glory of gardening: hand in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nature a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." Alfred Austin, *The Garden That I Love* (1894)

Summertime and the Living is Easy! What a fantastic picnic! The venue had everything: the Pierce's Bar-B-Que-catered dinner was bountiful and delicious, the theme and decorations inviting, hors d'oeuvres and desserts to die for, the entertainment relaxing and easy going---even the weather was perfect!

It was gratifying to see us all enjoying one another's company, getting to know other families, and even winning free plants. Kudos and appreciation goes to Patti Lupton and Joan Burke for planning every exacting detail---nothing was left to chance---and all this hard work showed. The crew of Kate Wilhide, Lyn Natanski, Cathy Johnson, and Beth Fugate fulfilled the plan to perfection. All of the attendees owe these exceptional Extension Master Gardeners a great big **Thank You!**

Seven of us attended Master Gardener College at Virginia Tech the last week of June. We renewed and strengthened old friendships and created new bonds. Several keynote topics were presented in an auditorium setting, and smaller classes of twenty to twenty-five EMGs from all over the Commonwealth enabled detailed, in-depth discussions. We plan to share some of these lessons with the whole association. We had thirty-three JCC/Williamsburg Extension Master Gardeners earn milestone



Photo: Hope Yelich

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 4

**Program:
Fun with Succulents**

**Speaker:
John Wharton, Glass Gardens**

awards this year, but not a single one was present to accept the certificate/ pin during the awards ceremony. Let's change that next year! In the meantime, we will make the presentations at the next association meeting for hours ranging from 250 to 10,000!!

The VCE office has approved a new JCC/Williamsburg project. Working closely with the horticultural help desk, Tree Call will be a project of Master Gardener Tree Stewards and will provide on-site advice and counsel to homeowners on various tree concerns. Patsy McGrady and Kendra Swann will explain the details at the next association meeting on Thursday, August 4.

On page 3 is Angela Cingale's article seeking eager volunteers for various leadership positions both in our association and within the VCE projects. Please consider the opportunity to assist your fellow Extension Master Gardeners by planning and executing our mission and projects. Teamwork gets things done. This is your chance to make a difference.

It is indeed Tidewater Virginia summertime---take it easy---and enjoy your garden.

2016
MG Board

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*VCE ANR Program
Assistant:*
Kate Robbins
(757) 564-2170

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 am at the Williamsburg Regional Library, Room B, on Scotland Street, Williamsburg.

The board meetings are open to all Extension Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

NEW TREE STEWARD PROJECT: TREE CALL BY PATSY MCGRADY



Photo: Patsy McGrady

In response to the large number of tree-related calls to the EMG help desk, VCE program assistant Kate Robbins has asked the JCC Tree Stewards to form a new project to assist homeowners in identifying the causes of and appropriate responses to tree issues. Other groups within the Peninsula Tree Stewards area have similar projects which have been in operation for some time.

Patsy McGrady and Kendra Swann are co-chairs of this new initiative, called Tree Call, and have been working to define the scope of the project.

JCC Tree Stewards are invited to a kickoff meeting on Thursday, August 25, at 10:00am at the Interpretative Center at Freedom Park. At this meeting, we will discuss the initial scope of the project as well as associated procedures and guidelines. We also hope to identify those JCC Tree Stewards who are interested in participating in this project.

FUN WITH SUCCULENTS ON AUGUST 4 BY KATHY BUSH

At our August 4 meeting, we are going to do something a little different and very trendy. We will have our business meeting first, followed by a talk on succulent plants and planting terrariums by John Wharton from Glass Gardens in Norfolk, VA.

Following his presentation and demonstration, we will have a mini workshop for a maximum of twenty-five **prepaid** participants. The cost is \$10 if you provide a **small** container (think coffee mug, tea cup, mason jar), and \$15 if you want to choose one of John's containers. Goodwill or the ReStore are great places to find these at reasonable prices.

To pre-register, go to <http://www.glassgardensbyjohn.com/events/2016/8/4/plant-talk-williamsburg-master-gardeners-meeting>.



You may pay for the workshop with Pay Pal, credit or debit card. John will also be selling a few items at our meeting, such as a terrarium kit and some plants that can be purchased by credit card or cash. This will be a fun meeting!



VOLUNTEERING AND VOLUNTEERISM BY ANGELA CINGALE

The JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association board would like to thank all the volunteers who are dedicated and committed to the mission of the VCE Master Gardener program. Virginia Cooperative Extension puts university knowledge into the hands of its volunteers. We are credible experts and educators who provide information, education, and tools you can use every day to improve lives in our communities.

We now need volunteers within our own organization to join present board members. A nominating committee has been formed, and now we need volunteers who are willing to serve on the board to fill the vacancies that occur every two years. The present board will guide and assist the new board appointees in any way possible and be there for you as needed. Please consider volunteering for president-elect, VP of administration, or VP of education. It can be fun and a learning experience while serving in one of the positions. If you know that you want to be part of the board, please let me or one of the officers know at the August board meeting.

I recently read a wonderful article called "The Principles of Volunteering: Why Have Them?" by the group called Volunteering Australia, which I have condensed in hopes that you will enjoy reading it. For the entire piece, see <http://volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/VA-Intent-of-the-Principles-of-Volunteering.pdf>.

Thank you for your consideration, Angela.

Intent of the Principles of Volunteering

1. Volunteering benefits the community and the volunteer. The contemporary view is that people engage in volunteer work to achieve a positive result for both the community and themselves.
2. Volunteering is always a matter of choice. Freely choosing to volunteer offers citizens a way of contributing to and participating in our society without being required to do so by law. The strength of volunteering depends on the active involvement of individuals who value the opportunity to be involved in or through not-for-profit organizations which provide a community benefit. Involvement in volunteering does not preclude individual motivations; people make choices about volunteer work in the same way that they make choices about paid work.
3. Volunteering is an activity of engaged and concerned citizens who have chosen to create, develop, and support community organizations. The special value of volunteering to the community lies in its voluntary nature and is an activity performed in the not-for-profit sector only. One of the defining characteristics of volunteer work is that, unlike some other forms of unpaid work, it occurs in or through not-for-profit organizations. Many roles are performed both by volunteers and paid workers. It is more useful to focus on what makes volunteering different from other forms of paid and unpaid work. Freely choosing to volunteer offers citizens a way of contributing to and participating in our society without being required to do so by law. This freedom of choice is what distinguishes volunteering from the duties of citizenship and other types of unpaid work. **The strength of volunteering depends on the active involvement of individuals who value the opportunity to be involved in or through not-for-profit organizations which provide a community benefit.**

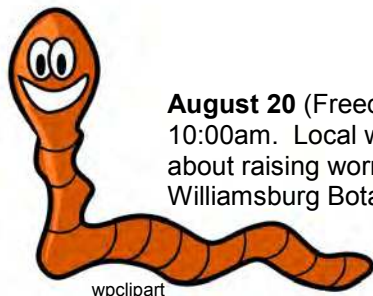
Involvement in volunteering does not preclude individual motivations; people make choices about volunteer work in the same way that they make choices about paid work.

4. Volunteer positions are designed to provide people who want to volunteer with an opportunity to offer their skills and time in a way that suits them, while benefiting the wider community in clear and immediate ways. Paid positions may be created so that organizations can acquire particular expertise, skills and experience in order to achieve specific outcomes, often within a set timeframe. A position in an organization that is a permanent full time role or a paid job in other organizations or subject to an award or special conditions is generally not a volunteer role.
5. Regardless of their socio-economic status, education, cultural background, age or gender, every individual has the right to a voice and to make a contribution to this or her community. Volunteering enables a diverse range of people, who may not wish or be unable to use more formal avenues of engagement or advocacy, to exercise this right by giving them opportunities to engage with and influence the community. Volunteering respects the rights, dignity, and culture of others. We need to ensure that volunteering action does not have a negative impact on the rights and dignity of others in the community. And this is achieved through volunteer-involving organizations and volunteers recognizing and respecting the rights of all individuals and the different cultural mix within the community.
6. Volunteering promotes human rights and equality as well as a social purpose. Volunteering has a wider social purpose beyond service provision, and work done by our volunteers in providing services to others is not an end in itself but is a means to promoting sound horticultural, research based information to our communities.

INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL THINGS TO SEE AND DO

BY KATHY BUSH

August 13 (Lancaster Community Library Building, 16 Town Centre Drive, Kilmarnock). **Raised Beds Seminar.** 9:30am-12:00 noon. Speakers: John Lunsford and Bonnie Schaschek. Sponsored by the Northern Neck Master Gardeners. Free. For more information, see www.nnmg.org.



August 20 (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). **Worms and their Uses.** 10:00am. Local worm farmer Ron Crum, will teach you all you need to know about raising worms and vermiculture. Suggested donation is \$5 to help the Williamsburg Botanical Garden grow more beautiful.

10TH ANNUAL
**HERITAGE
HARVEST
FESTIVAL**
AT MONTICELLO

September 10 (Monticello, Charlottesville). **Heritage Harvest Festival.** Speakers, workshops, tastings and tours- A day of fun and learning. <http://www.heritageharvestfestival.com/>

September 10 (Brittingham Mid-town Community Center, 570 McLawhorne Drive, Newport News 23601). 10:00am-3:00pm. **Go Green Expo 2016** is sponsored by the VCE and Peninsula Master Gardeners. This year's event theme is "Eat Local, Grow Local, Live Local." <http://www.nngogreenexpo.org/>



September 17 (Somerset, Orange County). **From Your Backyard to the Blue Ridge.** 9:00am-12:00noon. Presented by the Rapidan River EMGs. Email questions to rapidanrivermg@gmail.com. Or leave a message at the Culpeper Extension office phone: 540-727-3435. <http://vcemastergardener.blogspot.com/2016/06/from-your-backyard-to-blue-ridge.html>



Center for Historic Plants gardens, barn, and greenhouse

October 15 (Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, 1293 Milton Rd., Charlottesville). **Fall Open House.** 10:00am-2:00pm. Monticello's unique nursery and garden center at Jefferson's Tufton Farm specializes in heritage and native plants. Peggy Cornett will speak on "Historic Trees for the Home Landscape," and Monticello's vegetable gardener, Pat Brodowski, will prepare edible treats from wild fruits and nuts foraged from local woodlands. Plants for sale and overstock items will be discounted! Preview at www.monticelloshop.org.

GETTING TO KNOW SUCCULENTS

BY KATHY BUSH



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Succulents are easy to take care of because they store water in their leaves, stems, or roots. They like low humidity and require less water. The plants multiply and are easy to propagate. They often make great house plants, but some can stay outside all year round. If you have sedum in your garden, you have a succulent! They have a distinctive, fleshy, architectural look that kind of “grows on you!” Some people make a hobby of collecting them. There are hundreds of varieties to choose from. See this great article from *Better Homes and Gardens* that previews ten great succulents that you may already have in your home or can find easily in the garden center: <http://www.bhg.com/gardening/houseplants/projects/top-10-succulents-for-home/#page=0>). You can find another one with beautiful photographs from North Dakota State University at <https://www.ndsu.edu/pubweb/chiwonlee/plsc211/student%20papers/articles11/MarieHagemeister/>.

From the University of Minnesota extension office comes the following article, “**Cacti and Succulents,**” by **Deborah L. Brown** (<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/houseplants/cacti-and-succulents/index.html>). Article reprinted with permission.

Houseplant enthusiasts are looking continually for different and more exotic specimens for their collections. Fortunately, beginners and experts can find many good choices among the cacti and succulents.

The term succulent refers to a broad, loose category of plants, including cacti, which have developed thick fleshy leaves or stems. These serve as water storage organs to insure survival under arid conditions. Succulents are found worldwide. Besides cacti, they include many familiar plants: the jade plant (*Crassula arborescens*), the snake plant (*Sansevieria trifasciata*), the medicine plant (*Aloe barbadensis*), the century plant (*Agave americana*), the flowering Kalanchoes (*Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*) sold as gift plants as well as the sedums (*Sedum* sp.), and hens and chicks (*Sempervivum* sp.) so common in the perennial garden.

The cactus family has nearly 2,000 species, and with one exception all are native to the Americas. They range from the Arctic Circle to the mountains of Chile, but are most abundant in southwestern United States and Mexico. Cacti can be tall and lanky or squat and spherical, frequently without any branches and almost always without leaves. These shapes result in a large proportion of internal tissue to external surface area which reduces the amount of moisture that is lost through the plant itself. They often have scale or spines ranging from microscopically small to wickedly large and barbed. These protect against predators and are thought to aid the plant in withstanding hot drying rays of the sun.

Many cacti and succulents are extremely well adapted to living in houses where the relative humidity is low (10-30 percent). They require only modest amounts of water and fertilizer, but do need abundant light. They should be placed in a bright, sunny window. Insufficient natural light can be augmented by artificial lighting. A cool white fluorescent tube, or a combination of daylight and natural white fluorescent tubes will give good results. Position them 6-12 inches above the plants, and keep them on for 14-16 hours each day.

In nature, most cacti and succulents are found growing in open, well-drained sandy soil. These conditions should be duplicated indoors. A mix of one part potting soil and one part coarse sand is usually porous enough. A good test is to moisten the mixture and squeeze it in your hand. On release, the soil should fall apart. Both pot and growing medium should be sterile. Ideally, these plants should be grown in pots with drainage holes because excess water trapped in the soil will result in rotting and decay in a very short time.

The article is continued on the next page, page 6

GETTING TO KNOW SUCCULENTS — CONTINUED

BY KATHY BUSH

During the low-light winter months, cacti and succulents should be watered only enough to prevent shrinking and withering. When watering, do it thoroughly. Water should flow through the drain holes, and the excess should be discarded after a few minutes. A series of repeated shallow sprinklings often results in distorted growth. As the amount of light increases in the spring, so does the plant's need for water. The soil, however, should always be allowed to dry out completely between waterings.

Cacti and succulents have relatively low nutrient requirements. Cacti need fertilizer only once or twice a year during the late spring or summer when they are actively growing. Use a houseplant food that is higher in phosphorus than nitrogen, diluted to half the recommended rate. Other succulents may be fertilized in the same manner three or four times during the brighter months.

You may be able to bring your cacti and succulents into bloom indoors if you can approximate their native winter conditions. This involves a combination of good light, dry soil, and cool nights. Often a windowsill location will give the necessary light and cool night temperatures. Some cacti that are relatively easy to flower indoors are species of *Mammillaria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Lobivia*, and *Rebutia*. (Don't be fooled by the presence of tiny, brightly colored straw flowers commonly stuck into the tissue of small cacti sold commercially).

Many cacti and succulents benefit from spending the summer months outdoors. Once the weather warms up they should be placed in a semi-shaded, protected area of the yard and then gradually moved to a sunnier location. Avoid locations where they will receive the hot, intense sunlight from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Once outdoors, these plants will require more water and so should be checked regularly.

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Often cacti and succulents are grouped together in shallow dish gardens. While this may be an extremely attractive method of display, several precautions should be taken. Choose plants that are compatible in rate of growth so that one or two plants don't outgrow the rest. Even more important, the plants must have similar water requirements. Generally speaking, most cacti need less water than do other succulents. Since these shallow dishes seldom have drain holes, it is essential that the plants aren't overwatered. Broken clay pot shards or coarse gravel at the bottom of the container may provide a bit of drainage, but excess moisture will eventually be drawn back into the soil, which may keep the roots wet too long.

Cacti and succulents are not troubled much by pests. If they have mealybugs or scale, the problem can be controlled by wiping them off with alcohol-dipped cotton swabs. Fungal or bacterial rots can almost always be prevented by maintaining adequate cultural conditions-bright light and proper watering.

Cacti and succulents can be propagated easily by stem cuttings. Many succulents will form new plants from leaves which have been broken off. Allow the cutting wound to air dry before sticking the cutting into slightly moistened, sterile sand. Water sparingly since moisture retention is not a problem. When the roots have formed, transplant into the regular sand and potting soil mixture. Since cacti and succulents are diverse, consult a textbook regarding the specific requirements of individual species. Libraries and bookstores have many well-illustrated books to aid in plant identification.

WW-01127 Reviewed 2009

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING: INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

BY GARY STREB

A couple of months ago I started an ongoing series of articles that will review the eight essential elements of conservation landscaping from the landmark Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's [*Conservation Landscaping Guidelines*](#). I described the first two principles—to use design to benefit both the environment and human need and to use locally native plants that are appropriate for the site conditions—previously.

The third of the eight elements institutes a management plan for the removal of existing invasive plants and the prevention of future nonnative plant invasions. Alien plants are those that are artificially found in locations beyond their historical natural range, usually by human intervention. Invasive plants are aliens that spread by rapid growth because they lack the conditions/pests that keep them in control at their native home/range. Wind, water, and wildlife can also spread alien invasives that can in turn displace native plants, destroying the habitat for local wildlife. A weed is any plant, native or alien, that is in a place not wanted in the landscape and is not necessarily an invasive.

How can we manage the invasive plant invasion? First, do no harm. Before adding any plant to the landscape assure that it is native, or if alien, that it is not invasive. Remove existing invasive plants. Be suspicious of the thugs, whether native or alien, and if native, whether this “aggressive” native plant is desirable. Many of our familiar landscape plants, such as English ivy, Japanese pachysandra, Bradford pear, burning bush, Japanese barberry, vinca minor, Japanese privet, miscanthus, and lirioppe can be invasive and should be evaluated and used judiciously,.

Effective management is an ongoing process with the following regularly occurring steps: identify invasive plant issues; prioritize problems; implement a removal plan (biological, cultural or chemical) by priorities; edit the landscape by adding natives to fill in the gaps; constantly search for missed or new invasions; and keep aware of new invasive and control methods. You can find a useful list of commonly used invasive landscaping plants and native alternatives in the *Conservation Landscaping Guidelines*.

The fourth element of conservation landscape provides habitat for wildlife. What would the world be without the birds, bees, spiders, frogs, snakes, rabbits, and deer? An animal's habitat is the area where it has food, water, shelter, and breeding/nesting space. A diversity of various native plant and animal species, biodiversity, is essential for a healthy ecosystem. A conservation landscape design plans for animal habitats, not just planting native plants.

To support diversified animal species a planned conservation landscape should minimize turf lawns and landscape with natural layers of vegetation as in the untamed forest. Turf does not support a single species of wildlife. Housing subdivisions with open spaces can create corridors and transition zones rather than just fragment the natural, virgin landscape. The conservation landscape provides a year-round food supply for both plants and other animals, creating a complex food web. Water is essential for all life and could range from a simple water feature to a large lake. Structure imitates nature with layers of canopy, understory trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and groundcovers. Cover provides shelter from predators and natural threats.

Restrict pesticides. A diversity of insect pollinators assures that the natural process of pollination is successful. Pesticides also kill beneficial pollinators.

These two elements— a management plan to rid the conservation landscape of invasive, alien plants and prevent future invasions, and the provision of a habitat for wildlife— are closely related. Native species of plants frequently are the host plants for only limited native animal species. Native oak trees support over a hundred native wildlife species, but some Chinese and Japanese alien trees do not provide food for a single native animal species. Our planning is a critical link is enabling a complex, diverse ecosystem to thrive.

“What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered”

--Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Fortune of the Republic* (1878)

MILESTONE AWARDS THROUGH 2015

BY GARY STREB

Join us at the JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association general meeting on August 4, when the following JCC/Williamsburg Extension Master Gardeners will be awarded Milestone Awards for volunteer hours reported through 2015. Congratulations, everyone!

250 Hours: Mandy Baldrige, Douglas Callery, Ginny Cranford, Liz Favre, Louann Martin, Terri Mayberry, Wilma Sharp, Susan Shoulet, Carolyn Stringer, Mike Whitfield, Mary Wool, Hope Yelich, Susan Zickel

500 Hours: Kathleen Briggs, Kathy Bush, Stacy DeMeo, Larry Gaskins, Diane Hare, Cathy Hill, Kathy Johnson, Janet Smith

1,000 Hours: Karen Brooks, Nancy Carnegie, Yvonne Forbes, Nancy Green, Caroline Hedrick, Alice Kopinitz, Barbara Siegel, Kendra Swann, Jordan Westenhaber

2,000 Hours: Rebecca Sutton

3,000 Hours: Patricia Crowe

6,000 Hours: John Giffin

10,000: Kari Abbott

Suzanne Brown and Toddy Voorhees will receive **emerita status**.



Photo: Hope Yelich

WHAT HAVE YOU SPOTTED IN YOUR SUMMER GARDEN?

BY KATHY BUSH

Have you see this tiny creature getting nectar from your flowers? At first glance you may think it is a baby hummingbird because it has the long proboscis going deep into the flowers. It has wings that allow it to hover and quickly flit from flower to flower. But it has two black antennae, and its body is different than that of the hummingbird.

It is nicknamed the hummingbird moth but is actually a sphinx or hawk moth. Its sucking apparatus rolls out similarly to a party noise maker and rolls back when not in use. I find them on my bee balm and butterfly bush.

If you see something interesting in your garden that you would like to share with the rest of us, please snap a photo or find a photo online (one that's not under copyright), and tell us about what you have found. We are surrounded by an amazing creation that begs to be noticed. Send your photo to Hope Yelich hopeyelich@gmail.com and she will share it in the monthly newsletter.



Photo: Dwight Sipler/ Wikimedia Commons



pixabay

OUR 2ND ANNUAL ASSOCIATION PICNIC

BY SUE LIDDELL

PHOTOS BY SUE LIDDELL AND HOPE YELICH

Forty-seven EMGs and their guests (total of eighty-five) enjoyed Pierce's Bar-Be-Que and live music at the second annual picnic, this year at the Freedom Park Interpretive Center.

We were asked to bring either an appetizer or dessert to round out the meal, and I believe there were forty desserts. Bocce ball and cornhole were available for the activity minded, but the main interest seemed to be in exchanging vacation stories and perhaps a little EMG catching up.

Our hosts set up the food in the air conditioned meeting room where many enjoyed dinner, although colorful tables outside and the live music attracted the majority. President Gary Streb spoke a few words after dinner, welcoming everyone and thanking the committee: co-chairs Patti Lupton and Joan Burke and their team of Lyn Natansky, Beth Fugate, Kate Wilhide, and Cathy Johnson. Gary also thanked talented musicians Billy Jack and Paul Todd. Afterward, Barb Floyd, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, and Donna Xander received the three plant prizes.

A good time was had by all. Thanks to the association board for sponsoring this event!

Look for more photos on the association website.



Co-chairs Patti Lupton and Joan Burke



More photos on the next page, page 10

OUR 2ND ANNUAL ASSOCIATION PICNIC CONTINUED



Angela Cingale and Family



Billy Jack, our musicians



Dessert table #1



No shortage of creative cooks in our group!



What was that, Gary?



Anne Nielsen with Kathy and Ken Bush

More photos on the next page, page 11

OUR 2ND ANNUAL ASSOCIATION PICNIC CONTINUED



Ron and Cathy Johnson



Dennis and Mary Wool



Plant winner Donna Xander



Barbara Floyd accepts her plant



Marty Oakes explains it all to Becky Sutton



Jim and Audrey Word with Ruth Schultz

Don't forget to look for more photos on the association's website!
<http://jccwmg.org/>

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH AUGUST 2016

BY HELEN HAMILTON

PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Photo: Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) taken by Teta Kain

BONESET

Eupatorium perfoliatum

Boneset gets its name from the long, lance-shaped leaves that are paired and fused on the stem, without petioles. Because the stem appears to be growing through the leaf, early herb doctors wrapped its leaves with bandages around splints, thinking the plant would be useful in setting bones. Treating body problems with the plants that suggest them is known as the "Doctrine of Signatures," an old worldwide superstition in pre-modern times. The plant was also used to treat break-bone fever or dengue fever, another explanation for the common name.

This sturdy plant grows over five feet tall on straight stems that are covered with long, spreading hairs. At the tip of each stem is a large flat-topped cluster of white flower heads that can be over eight inches across. Each flower head has about fifteen tiny florets, each with a protruding style that gives the group of flowers a fuzzy appearance. Other species of Eupatoriums found on the Coastal Plain have spreading clusters of white flowers, but the leaves are rounded, sessile, or on short petioles. Joe Pye Weed is a close relative.

Widespread across Virginia, this native perennial grows in marshes, swamps, bogs, wet pastures, and other moist or wet low grounds. It is a good choice for the back of the perennial border, around the banks of a pond, or in a wildflower garden where it may naturalize. Very easy to grow, boneset will spread by forming colonies from abundant rhizomes. For shorter, more bushy growth, the stems can be cut back early in the growing season.

Boneset and all Eupatoriums are attractive to many insects, feeding and provisioning nests during the blooming season, August through October. Bees collect pollen and feed on the nectar at the base of each style, as do wasps, beetles, and butterflies. Predator species such as assassin bugs, paper wasps, bee wolves, and tachinid flies are frequent visitors to boneset for the nectar. For the services provided by these beneficial insects, the presence of Eupatorium species in the home garden is a necessity.



Photo: Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) taken by Jan Newton

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

MASTER GARDENER BADGES AT THE FARMERS MARKET

BY MARY WOOL

A special thanks to the EMG volunteers at the Farmers Market for helping to “get out the word” about how to become an Extension Master Gardener.

The EMG 2017 Training Class Committee has asked those working at the market to become ambassadors for our next training class by wearing “ASK ME” badges. We are now recruiting for the class and are looking forward to finding another enthusiastic group of volunteers.



UPCOMING FARMERS MARKET DATES

July 30—Pruning
August 13—Trees & Shrubs
August 27—Composting
September 10—Therapeutic Gardening



NEWS FROM THE J. BLAINE BLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ken Caro shares with us that EMG Lisa Stefanick's daughter Victoria (left) and two friends picked vegetables in the Blayton school garden and donated them to FISH. Quite a bounty!

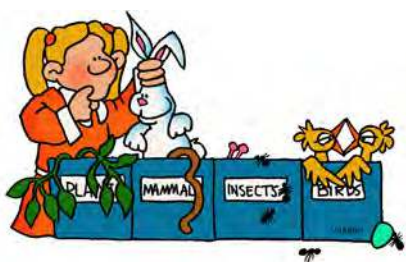
THIS AND THAT

Coaches Needed for the Help Desk. The help desk needs more coaches for the interns during the July/August/September months. It's likely to be a very busy time, and the coordinators desperately need your participation.

If you can give some hours for this important activity, please contact Avril Purvis at 869-5639.



pixabay



Donna Xander reports that the **FALL DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC** will start up on Monday, September 12 and run through October 24. It will be held in the kitchen of the VCE building in Toano right across from the help desk. This will be a great way for you interns who need a few more hours to complete your required hours, and it's a great learning experience too.

Come and find out how we go about looking up those questions people ask you, knowing that you are almost an Extension Master Gardener. No need to sign up— just come in. Everyone is welcomed.

Kathy Bush would like to share her discovery of the **Big Bug Hunt** site (<http://bigbughunt.com/>). It's a cooperative project in which gardeners report sightings of insects so others know when to expect Japanese beetles, stink bugs, and other pests.

Join the campaign, and you can assist this international research effort while helping those in your geographical area.



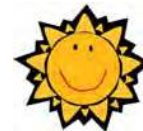
Magnus Manske/Wikimedia Commons

Plant Walk: Flowers of Late Summer, Newport News Park, Saturday, August 13, 10:00 am. This walk is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society. For details on the walk, see June's *The Colonial Master Gardener*, page 6.

Important Dates

- 8/6-7 Butterfly Festival (Williamsburg Bot. Garden)
- 8/13 Farmers Market—Trees and Shrubs
- 8/13 Flowers of Late Summer (Newport News Park)
- 8/13 Raised Beds Seminar (Kilmarnock)
- 8/20 Worms & Their Uses (Freedom Park)
- 8/27 Farmers Market—Composting
- 9/10 Heritage Harvest Festival (Monticello)
- 9/10 Go Green Expo (Newport News)
- 9/10 Farmers Market—Therapeutic Gardening
- 9/17 Backyard to the Blue Ridge (Somerset)
- 10/15 Fall Open House (Monticello nursery)

SUNSHINE NOTES



In the past month, we sent a card to:

Jeanne Millin: Surgery

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 EMG secretary, Cathy Johnson, at (757) 208-0065, or cathypj@gmail.com



pixabay

This little guy says to avoid the Dog Days of August and volunteer today!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the September newsletter will be Monday, August 22.

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at hopeyelich@gmail.com

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.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.



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