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JCC Coop. Extension

564-2170



The Colonial Master Gardener

Publication of JCC/W Master Gardener Association and Virginia Cooperative Extension
December 2003

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

December 4, 2003

9:00 a.m.

WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Best Plants for Hampton Roads:

A Landscape and Garden Companion

LAURIE FOX

Laurie Fox with Dawn Alleman, Ed Bradley, Norman Grose, Brenda Johnson-Asnicar, Sherry Kern, Evan Lynn, Trump Rudiger, and Jim Williams have written an easy reference for plants that thrive in the Hampton Roads area. They will discuss particular difficulties such as hot microclimates, salt spray, and boggy conditions. Come ready with your questions!

VOLUNTEER HOURS AND/OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

“The Garden Party”

Virginia Flower & Garden Show

January 15-18, 2004

Pavilion Conference Center, Virginia Beach

Volunteer shifts are open to Master Gardeners from the Hampton Roads area, so slots fill quickly, sign up today! The Norfolk office of VCE will be scheduling and coordinating volunteers this year, so call Brenda Lutz at 683-2816 to schedule your volunteer shift. Register now and reserve your place for this great volunteer opportunity. Please call 683-2816 (daytime). Volunteer Jobs: Plant Doctor Booth, Children's Activities, VCE Educational Display, School Tours and Speaker Moderator & Introduction. Volunteer Benefits include: Free admission to show and to garden lectures.

Earn volunteer or training (if you attend lectures) hours.

LEANNE DUBOIS

President Barbara's Corner.....



For some strange reason, I expected Master Gardener activities to slow down around now. The opposite is closer to the truth. In the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel, the expertise of our members has been in demand. Helping fellow Master Gardeners Helen Kidder and Charlene Talcott came first. Then, thanks to Leanne DuBois and Tony Dion we participated in the Hurricane Isabel Information Fair where we addressed concerns on pruning and staking damaged trees and shrubs, making emergency and long-term repairs to turf and selecting new plantings for changed landscapes.

Plans for 2004 training classes both for persons wishing to become Master Gardeners or Tree Stewards are well under way. Sally Sissel and her committee have reserved the old BOS room in the county complex for our 2004 Master Gardener Training Class. On November 14, an Informational Meeting for interested candidates was held at the Recreation Center. Over 20 persons heard Leanne DuBois explain the Extension's role and Sally Sissel define the responsibilities inherent in signing up for the class. Anne Haltiner and I gave a PowerPoint presentation on the various MGA projects, which was produced by Tony Dion with my assistance. The Waterwise Gardening, Melissa's Meadow, Reid Learning Garden, Composting, Turf Love, Therapeutic Gardening, Farmers' Market, Avalon/Junior Master Gardeners, Science in Nature's Garden, Matthey's Garden, Seeds of Learning and EnviroScape programs were all represented.

The current York and JCC Tree Stewards have completed preliminary planning for the 2004 Tree Steward Training Class. Peggy Manning is the class coordinator. Classes will be on Wednesday mornings, unless otherwise scheduled. Classes begin February 4, 2004 and end April 28, 2004 at the Charlie Brown Park, on Virginia route 238 between Lee Hall and York County. Some classes will be conducted at separate field locations. Applications should be submitted to Tree Steward Jim Eagle of York County before December 1.

Minouche Robinson is organizing the Graduation Dinner for the Master Gardeners Class of 2003. Sixteen have completed all 70 hours already and two more are very close. The dinner and program for gardeners and spouses/significant others will be Thursday, January 15 at the United Methodist Church on Jamestown Road. Mark your calendars.

The Special Reserves Projects are close to completion. Thanks to Dave Banks, Lynn Flood, Susan Voigt, and Charlie Clapper, the laptop and projector with PowerPoint and remote were available for the 2004 Master Gardeners Information Meeting. Lynn will announce training for using this equipment probably in January. If you wish to use the equipment, contact Dave, Lynn, Tony, or yours truly. We are still deciding on a safe permanent home. Thanks to Rudy Roberts, Ailene Bartlett, Sue Liddell and Carlotta Cundari the Library Endowment is now established except for formally presenting the check. The Youth Gardening Resource Center, planned by Genrose Lashinger, Flora Adams, Charlene Talcott and Sally Sissel, is close to completion. We should be very proud of using \$5,000 for community horticultural education. Belated thanks to the original Reserve Task Force, Art Gustafson, George Anderson and Merle Powell, who solicited ideas from our members, researched and presented them to our membership for final consideration and selection.

Members, Minouche Robinson, Ann Perce, Angela Cingale, and Ann DeForest, created a mission statement for membership consideration. It has been accepted unanimously. It reads: *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.*

A logo reflecting the thoughts of this mission statement and using a similar symbol to that on our polo shirts was also selected by our membership. Our next objective is to use these on our new website and as a letterhead.

Thank you for the potted amaryllis picotee (white with red fringe) from White Flower Farm sent in sympathy of my father's death. The timing is perfect, as much of my family will be here for Thanksgiving to enjoy it.

Have a very nice Thanksgiving.

BARBARA SCHROEDER

UPDATE: PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, & INFORMATION

HERBS AND SPICES

As you daydream next year's garden, you may want to ponder the herbs you'll plant then, dreaming of freshly picked tarragon and salads laced with oregano. Too often, people approach using herbs much as they match wines with foods: with unnecessary trepidation. Wine varieties and herb flavorings seem mysterious when they need not be. The most important distinction for herbs is whether they are fresh or dried as many, such as basil, can almost seem two completely different flavors—and that's before considering *all* the many wonderful varieties of basil.

The simplest approach matches families of herbs/spices with families of foods. Herbs come from plant leaves; spices from all other parts (bark, nuts, etc.) Consider three families of such seasonings: Friendly Herbs, Strong Herbs and Sweet Spices. Friendly herbs—dill, parsley, rosemary, tarragon, mint and thyme—go well with fish, salads, and vegetables. Strong herbs—basil, bay and oregano—go well with meats. Sweet spices work well with fruits and with meats in unexpected places. While exceptions abound this approach provides a starting place that seldom produces inedible results.

Future articles will consider each of these, recognizing that many other seasonings exist—all the multitudes of chiles, for example. For now, try thyme on your Brussels sprouts or tarragon on your carrots. It's a socially acceptable way of playing with your food!

HELENE KRAIGE

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send all copy-ready articles for newsletters to me at e-mail huyckclapper@earthlink.net by the 12th of the month. Thanks!

CHARLIE CLAPPER

Bill Baetz's e-mail is blb10@cox.net

BLUEBIRD HOUSES

As winter approaches, think of providing homes for bluebirds (and making money for the MGs). Bill Baetz, Don Demmert, and crew make cedar bluebird houses as one of our fundraising projects Order one for yourself or as a gift. They will also be on sale at the December 13th Farmers' Market. Price is \$25.00.



TREE STEWARD TRAINING FEBRUARY 4 - APRIL 2004

Classes meet at Charlie Brown Park, located on Virginia Route 238 between Lee Hall and York County with some special separate field locations. The Tree Steward Training is a specialized advanced-level MG training program. York County, JCC and Newport News Master Gardeners have formed the Peninsulas Tree Stewards; therefore this training involves three localities. Classes cover tree anatomy, root function, pruning, tree health and maintenance, soils and riparian issues, propagation, planting and care, tree inventory and techniques for tree identification. Graduates are expected to render a 20 hour minimum of service in tree-centered activities during the first year, with a minimum of 10 service hours in subsequent years to maintain active status. The primary text book, "Arborists Certification Study Guide" and a copy of the Peterson Field Guide "Eastern Trees" is included in tuition. Interested Active Master Gardeners must apply by December 1, 2003. Printed applications may be obtained from Tony Dion or you can get the format from Jim Eagle, York MG by emailing jamesdeagle@cox.net. Submit an application with a check for \$85, made to the York County 4H Activities Fund, by December 1, 2003 to Peggy Manning, Program Coordinator, 112 Archer's Hope Drive, Williamsburg, Virginia, 23185. Her e-mail is: hdmmpam@whro.net. Applicants will be interviewed during the first two weeks of December, 2003. If not selected, your tuition will be fully refunded. If, for any reason, you elect to withdraw from the program, your tuition will not be refunded after January 1, 2004.

MINUTES, MASTER GARDENER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, NOVEMBER 6, 2003

Call to Order- President Barbara Schroeder called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. at the Williamsburg Regional Library with 60 members attending. **Officer Reports: President** - Barbara announced that the van training was held on October 23. Although this training is not a requirement to qualify for driving the county van, it is worthwhile training. The Tree Steward 2004 Class is going well but to sign up for this course you must fill out the form that was sent to all who said they were interested by Jim Eagle. Tony Dion can send you a copy by e-mail. The Tree Stewards had a presentation at the Hurricane Isabel Information Fair sponsored by JCC and Neighborhood Connections on how to replant and stabilize shrubs and trees damaged by hurricane Isabel. Tony and Leanne coordinated this effort. Expect to see pictures of the new water wise garden sign in the Daily Press soon. The Waste Chase will be this Saturday but it has been fully booked. We think that your response to Extension's request to write your state senator and delegate is very important as the state is entering a new round of layoffs. They do respond to citizen concerns. **Secretary's Report** - October minutes were approved as distributed. **VP for Projects** - Anne brought the "Science in Nature's Garden-SING" (this 4th grade/4H project was listed last year with the Matthey's Garden project at Matthew Whaley) for vote, and it was approved. This project will be at Stonehouse and will start in the spring. **VP for Education** - Minouche requested that all members bring the recording of their hours up to date. The graduation dinner for 2003 interns will be at the United Methodist Church on Jan 15th. A speaker has been engaged. **VP for Youth** - Charlene stated that she is coordinating activities in youth projects to have the least amount of overlap as possible to give everyone who wishes to work with the youth a chance to do so. She asked for a volunteer to co-chair the Seeds of Learning project with her. **State Reps** - Dale described the many advantages of belonging to the VMGA. **Extension** - Leanne reported that an information presentation would be made on Nov 14th to the 90 plus prospective applicants for the 2004 MG Training class. It will be from 10 a.m. to noon at the Rec Center. **Treasurer** - Debbie gave a presentation of our current financial status and then presented the 2004 budget as developed by the Board. The 2004 Special Expense Fund of \$2000 to cover special circumstances that were not anticipated at budget time received considerable comment from members. Jim Pressley proposed a motion to reduce this fund to \$1000 with a \$100 spending limit allowed for any one unbudgeted item. Any proposed expenditures more than \$100 to be voted on by the membership. This motion was seconded and approved. **Committees and Projects:** **Newsletter** - Charlie encouraged contributions to the monthly newsletter by the 12th of the month. Members who can receive e-mail are encouraged to sign up for an e-mail copy instead of a mail out. Those members having trouble opening the enclosure should contact David Banks. **Publicity** - Mary Sheedy stated that the Thursday Daily Press had a picture of Sally Sissel and Sue Liddell with Leanne conferring on the 2004 class plans. Mary is looking to get an article on Bill Baetz and our birdhouses soon. **Programs**- Genrose announced that up coming membership program lectures would be on Landscaping and Plants. **Website Update** - Dave announced that continuing problems with the county hosting our web site led him to purchase our own MG web site. **Reserves** -Rudy reported that the Library Endowment has been set up. He suggested that perhaps a bereavement response should be a donation to this fund in the name of the decedent in lieu of flowers. Barbara stated that the Dell computer and the projector have been received. The workshop on how to use the new equipment will be announced soon. **2003 Interns** - Sally reported that 16 of 20 interns have met their hour requirements, two more are close, and there were two drop outs. **Mission Statement and Logo Committee** - Minouche presented a mission statement which was approved. (the mission statement can be found in the President's Corner). She also displayed the committee's selection of a logo for our MG shirts. She then presented three variations of a logo for our stationary, which were voted on by the members. The final logo is being prepared by a graphic artist. Congratulations to Minouche, Ann DeForest, Ann Perce and Angela Cingale for doing a good job. Business adjourned for an interesting program on organic farming presented by Amy Hicks.

Respectfully submitted by **ART GUSTAFSON**, substitute secretary