

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



December 2012



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

Now that December has arrived along with our first freezing temperatures it is time to spend some time looking through all those wonderful catalogs filled with spring, summer and next fall possibilities as we sip a warm cup of coffee or tea. My husband says we are single handedly keeping the post office running due to all the catalogs I receive. This is a good time to do research on those new plants we want to try and consider how best to reconfigure planting beds to make the most of their locations, light and access to water. I have a few that need this work.

As we wind down the 2012 Master Gardener year, we should be very proud of all the accomplishments made by each project, the knowledge we shared with so many people, the results of our plant sale, the learning we have acquired individually and all the numerous other things we have done as individuals and as a group to make our

community better. Hats off to each of you for making our association such a great organization that is always on the move.

To each of you, I and the Board extend holiday greetings. May the season be filled with joy and the new year better than ever. Happy gardening, Margene

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is December 6.

Our speaker will be:

Laura Viancour, Manager, Landscape Services
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

REMINDER FROM THE MG TREASURER

BY BOB WINTHER



Once again friends

Please submit any and all requests for reimbursement for the current year (2012) by December 15. The reimbursement form is out on our website. Please affix this reimbursement form to all receipts and have the form signed by your project/committee chair. I am presently attempting to put together a budget for fiscal year 2013 and this information is very important.

MGA annual dues ...

I have only received dues from a small portion of membership for fiscal year 2013. MGA dues are still \$15. Since these monies support the programs of your MGA they are vitally important to both the organization and yourself and your timeliness of payment is appreciated.

Checks made out to "JCC/W Master Gardeners" with the note "Association Dues" in the memo line may be handed to me at a MG monthly meeting or sent directly to my home address.

Bob Winther - MG Treasurer
4751 Regents Park
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1798

Your prompt consideration of both of these important matters is well appreciated by your Treasurer and MGA board.



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

Our Guest Speaker for December is no stranger to Master Gardeners. Laura Viancour, Manager, Landscape Services Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has been a visible and influential part of the Colonial Williamsburg's gardens and grounds.

Laura began her career at Colonial Williamsburg originally as a gardener over 30 years ago. As manager of landscape services, she is responsible for Colonial Williamsburg's 301-acre Historic Area. She serves as chairman of the

annual Garden Symposium, Colonial Williamsburg's longest running educational seminar.

Laura's topic this month is 'Tis the Season. Explore how Yuletide traditions of colonial times evolved into the signature Williamsburg Christmas look that is admired today in the Historic area.

LANDSCAPE LOVE 2012 SUMMARY

BY GARY STREB



To all the Landscape Love Volunteers:

Our combined Landscape Love Spring and Fall 2012 sessions have produced some record breaking results. This year we conducted 138 home visits, with 536 Master Gardener and Intern hours and contacting almost 200 James City/Williamsburg residents. The project has grown by leaps and bounds and commands respect throughout the county—and this is due to the hard work, enthusiasm and professional knowledge of each and every one of the Landscape Love team. We should each be proud of our reputation and influence in the community.

I'm excited to take the responsibility of the Landscape Love project from Anne Nielsen. Because of her leadership, dedication, expertise, and plain hard work over the last six years the project is now a recognized authority for the county residents.

We thank all of you for all of your contributions this year and hope you all will continue to be Landscape Lovers next year!

BOOK REVIEW

BY JEANNE MILLIN



City of Trees: The Complete Field Guide to the Trees of Washington, D.C.
Melanie Choukas-Bradley, Editor

I know a 438 page paperback about the trees of Washington, DC might not be the most used book in the MG library but this may be a wonderful Holiday present for relatives who live in DC or for those of you that travel to Washington occasionally. This is a new and updated edition of a 25 year old classic. It is very readable and extensively researched with fascinating stories behind many of the garden areas and plantings in the Washington area.

In addition to the usual botanical guide, over 300 species of trees are identified, many of them not found in your usual Peterson guide because they are rare, one of a kind tree's from other countries given as gifts. The guide lists where species are located and identifying characteristics for many of those hard to name trees. This book can be found in the Master Gardener library, under Library of Congress number, SB 435.52, 2008.

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.



BY-LAWS UPDATE

BY DAVE SISSON

"By action of the Board, the following amendment to the Bylaws is proposed.

1. All forms for actions requested by a member or committee of members for Board Action shall be Posted on the W/JCC MG web site with the e-mail address of appropriate recipient incorporated in the body of the form itself. Any member should be able to find the form needed by linked Index. [Copy, fill in the blanks and send is be the norm.]
2. E-mail is considered NOTICE when sent to or from a member of the Board with confirmation of delivery from the carrier. Hard copies of NOTICE e-mails shall become part of the Board Minutes.
3. Announcements in the monthly Newsletter are to be considered as information items, but do not constitute NOTICE, with the exception of the language proposed for Bylaw changes.
4. General e-mail communication among members is encouraged for keeping tasks on focus, projects scheduled, eliminate the need for separate meetings, etc.)

This language will be voted on in the February 2013 Membership Meeting and is to become Section 4 of Article 8. If you have questions or comments in advance, please contact Dave Sisson, VP, Administration, sisson2@cox.net.

In keeping with our existing Bylaws, please consider this 'Notice' of a pending change and vote date. These additions are being made to define the concept of 'Legal Notice' as it pertains to our internal communication exchanges with and among our members."

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG RECRUITMENT

BY PAT ABRAHAM

The Colonial Williamsburg Landscape department will be accepting applications for volunteer positions at the Reid and Shields gardens. The purpose of our volunteer program is to enhance the work of paid staff, meet the business needs of the institution, and above all support the mission of Colonial Williamsburg, as well as maintain a Master Gardener teaching garden with the opportunity to educate the public in good horticultural practices.

Volunteer positions in the Reid and Shields gardens are limited to Master Gardeners in support of a mutually beneficial partnership between the Virginia Cooperative Extension James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardener Association and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Any Master Gardener who becomes a volunteer in the Reid or Shields garden must commit to volunteering a minimum of 30 hours annually (20 hours of garden work plus 4 hours of training plus 6 hours of miscellaneous work).

To facilitate the process, applications will be available from Barb Floyd and Pat Abraham at the December Master Gardener meeting. Completed applications are due at the January 3 meeting. If you are unable to attend the December meeting, contact Barb or Pat to make arrangements to get your application.

"MONARCH WATCH" SEED EFFORT



The organization Monarch Watch is trying to increase the market for milkweed. They are trying to start a lot of geographically-appropriate milkweed seed to be sold in flats. They are looking for volunteers to start the seed in January.

They are trying to "connect with native plant societies, nature centers, zoos and botanical

gardens, master naturalists, master gardeners, and restoration projects – just about anybody that would be interested in distributing milkweeds through plant fundraisers or other means." If you are interested in volunteering, they need to know in December. Check out the following link:

<http://monarchwatch.org/blog>



GARDENING TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

THEY'RE COMING!! I've already received three 2013 seed/nursery catalogs! Whee! It's time for me (and you) to look at your stash of leftover seeds, and start thinking about what you might like to order this spring.

Here are a few ideas...

1. Your seed stash should be kept in a plastic box in the refrigerator. Seeds vary in their length of life, but more than 2 years is iffy at best, and storing them in a cool place does help. This time of year I usually sort out my newer ones, then when seed-starting time comes, I stir up a plot of soil and sow the old ones, just to see what comes up!

2. While you're drooling over your catalogs, anything you think you might want to order should be marked with a marker pen, and the page corner turned down. Maybe you won't order the same, or similar, seeds more than once!

3. Collect and mark catalogs, then place your orders all at once. Easier to keep track of what you're ordering that way!

4. Don't forget to acquire seed-starting materials, too - containers, soil, etc. You don't have to order those from the catalogs; your local stores are okay sources.

Yeah, it's early to start thinking about spring gardens, but you've got time to plan, think, re-plan, rethink, etc. **ENJOY!**

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **January Newsletter** is **Sunday, December 23.**

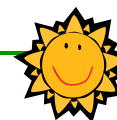
Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

Important Dates

- 12/6 Monthly Meeting at WRL
- 12/23 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.