

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION & VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

February 2009



GRADUATION DINNER NEWS JOHN GIFFIN

On January 15th our Annual Graduation and Recognition Dinner was held at the Unitarian Universalists Church. Eighty two of our members and their guests enjoyed a wonderful social hour, with delicious gourmet appetizers provided by MGs. That was followed by a dinner of roasted pork loin with red bliss potatoes, eggplant parmigiana (a vegetarian option), Caesar salad, and Italian Bread, from Florimonte's Fine Foods and Deli. Dessert was the traditional MG-made tiramisu prepared by Sally Sissel and Mary Ann Kimminau! The program hosted by our President, Dave Banks, began with a slide show of our activities, set to a rousing audio track, prepared by Susan Giandomenico. Carol Fryer announced new and expanding projects. Carol and Art Gustafson recognized those who contributed the most 2008 hours. Mary Liz Sadler and Reba Hazlewood honored the 2008 class with certificates and lanyards, as they officially became Master Gardeners.

We thank the following Master Gardeners for making this dinner possible:

Planning & Execution - Dave Banks and the Board
Set-up and Décor - Dave Banks, Ailene Bartlett, Charlie Clapper, Carol Fryer, Susan Giandomenico, Art Gustafson, Barbara Gustafson, Linda Lucas, Jean Winters

Reception - Sarah Dougherty and Judy Hansen
Appetizers - Beth Fugate, Carol Fryer, Bill Gallagher, John Giffin, Linda Lucas, Joanne Medina, Anne Nielsen, Mary Lib Puller, Mary Liz Sadler, and Dennis Wool

Wine Servers - Chuck Dougherty, Bob Fryer, Carol Fryer and Pat Crowe

Dessert - Sally Sissel and Mary Ann Kimminau
Slideshow - Created by Susan Giandomenico with photos from Carol Fryer, Art and Barbara Gustafson, Linda Lucas, Mary Mills, Anne Nielsen, Jim and Nelda Pressly and Sally Sissel

Plan to join us on January 14, 2010 for next year's dinner.



Class of 2008 - Graduation, January 15, 2008

(left to right): Mandy Miller-Doggett, Linda Weaver, Tod Allen, Annette Bell, Edith Schoenig, Barbara Landa, Carolyn Gaertner, Jeanne Millin, Dennis Wool, Susan Giandomenico, Bill Gallagher, Jack Gross, Harriet Parsons, Jane Healy-Nobrega, Joanne Medina, and Kathy Lykins.

Graduates missing from the picture: Ann Hobson, Bruce Klein, Helen Knies, John Johnson.

TRAINING CLASS OF 2008 REBA HAZLEWOOD AND MARY LIZ SADLER, COORDINATORS

The twenty graduates of the kept us on our toes from the first days of class with their energy, enthusiasm, curiosity, and eagerness to learn. When they became interns we were busy just keeping record of their hours and activities! Together they accumulated more than 2125 hours of volunteer service to the community, adding considerable depth to our ability to educate our neighbors. They worked in all aspects of the organization, enhancing particularly the plant sale and our efforts with

incredible edibles at Child Development Resources. We saw them everywhere we went, frequently with dirty hands, often with comments on the sad state of their own back yards (!), but always with smiles on their faces. They introduced handy, inexpensive, portable boxes for patio plants; provided English-Spanish translation when needed; started, dug up and tended lots of plants for the plant sale; weeded and watered lots of flower beds; were particularly busy and effective in staffing the extended help desk, and in general were always willing to do whatever needed to be done. We had fun!

Next Monthly Meeting

February 5, 9am,
Williamsburg Regional
Library,
Bob Goodhart,
the former Head of
Landscape at CNU. He
is active in the
Camellia Society, and
helps organize the
CNU yearly Garden
Symposium. His topic
will be
Landscape Design

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INTERNAL EDUCATION NEWS CAROL FRYER

On Thursday night, January 15, 2009, at the MG graduation dinner, Art Gustafson and I did a short presentation on the hours that Master Gardeners have contributed in 2008.

Many of our members contribute extensive hours to projects and to administration that allow our organization to accomplish all that we do.

Since not everyone was able to attend the graduation dinner, I have duplicated part of the presentation so that we can again honor those JCC/W MG members who contributed the largest number of volunteer hours during 2008.

Hours worked in:	
Projects - MG's	Administration
2528.5 hours	1960 hours
Kari Abbott Sue Liddell Jim Jenkins Ruth Schultz Helen Hamilton Carol Fryer Denis Mehigan Barbara Gustafson Jim Word Linda Lucas	Jim Kavitz Angela Cingale Dave Banks Bill Baetz Sue Liddell Art Gustafson Rebecca Sutton Mary Liz Sadler Reba Hazelwood Carol Fryer

Top 10 - 4050.5 Total Hours

Kari Abbott Angela Cingale Sue Liddell James Kavitz Carol Fryer Ruth Schultz Jim Jenkins Art Gustafson Barbara Gustafson Helen Hamilton
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2008

Interns - Most hours Total hours: 1494

2008
Jack Gross Susan Giandomenico Jean Millin Annette Bell Harriet Parsons Edith Schoenig Bruce Klein Carolyn Gaetner Dennis Wool

2009
MG Board

President:
Dave Banks
258-8632

VP Projects:
Jeanne Millin
258-4724

VP Internal Ed:
Carol Fryer
220-0759

VP Administration:
John Giffin
345-5209

Secretary:
Pat Crowe
645-4538

Treasurer:
Sarah Dougherty
565-7954

VMGA Reps:
Jim & Nelda Pressly
220-1858

Past President:
Charlie Clapper
564-6191

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:00am, 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.

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG VOLUNTEER APPLICATION LAURA VIANCOUR

The Colonial Williamsburg Landscape department will be accepting applications for volunteer positions at the Reid and Shields gardens through February 11, 2009. 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.

While we are unable to offer volunteer positions to all who apply, 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).

Please contact Ginger Bryan, Colonial Williamsburg Volunteer Services, 220-7181 or Master Gardener, Becky Sutton, to learn how to receive an application. Completed applications should be returned to Ginger Bryan by **February 11, 2009**.

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MESSAGE FROM DORIS HEATH, EXTENSION AGENT, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES AND UNIT COORDINATOR

I hope each of you had a safe and happy holiday.

Our staff created an annual report (July 2007 to June 2008) to be used as a means to educate local policy makers of the great work that we were doing throughout the county. In the absence of an ANR Extension Agent, it became clear that I had to create a method to collect information from all volunteers to assist me in becoming a better communicator with local administrators, VCE administrators and state/federal legislators.

A form was sent to all Project Chairs, along with instructions, to be shared with the volunteers to assist in capturing data that can in turn be used to report the great work that you are doing throughout the community. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) recognizes the importance of diversity and inclusion in the development and implementation of Extension programs. However, beyond our own interests in participating in VCE programs and teaching classes/workshops, as a federally funded agency, VCE is required to comply with USDA Civil Rights policies, rules and regulations. VCE has established a system for all employees and volunteers to collect and report data on clientele participation in Extension educational programs.

Since sending the form out there has been a few questions and I'm going to make an attempt to explain what we are being asked to do from VCE. VCE ask us to capture two types of contact information when we are providing educational services -- **direct and indirect contacts**.

Direct contacts are those people that you come **face-to-face** with and provide educational information, such as in conferences, workshops, trainings, farmers market, letters, etc. You are reporting this information by race, sex, and age. If a person has not completed a form that provides this information, you are not expected to ask people this information; however my suggestion is give it your best guess.

Indirect contacts are when we given educational information in such ways as e-mail, phone, newsletters, articles, etc. These contacts are not counted by race and/or age; they are recorded in the "incomplete demographic data" box on the form.

The only contacts that are not reported are when you are speaking with each other such as to plan educational opportunities, board/committee meetings, speaking with the agent, etc. Mainly anything that is not providing or receiving education.

If you haven't gotten the form yet, or you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Please know that any information you collect is better than not collecting any.

MG thoughts and prayers are with:

Leanne DuBois on the death of her father, Barbara Gustafson following surgery, Ailene Bartlett following surgery, Lois Enlow following surgery

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.

EDITORS NOTE: Beginning with the March newsletter, the newsletter editor will be Cathy Lohwater. She can be reached at cathy.lohwater@cox.net. The deadline for submission of articles will continue to be the Monday following the Board meeting on the third Friday of each month.

Scene from the Graduation Dinner
January 15, 2009.



Calendar of Events
www.jccmg.org

- Mar 5 monthly MG meeting, Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL), Wendy Wubbels, owner, For estlane Botanicals, ***Hostas and Shade Plants***
- Apr 2 monthly MG meeting, WRL, Andrew Koenig, Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, ***Tree Problems and Care***
- May 7 monthly MG meeting, WRL, Marie Butler, landscaper, ***Gardening at the VA Zoo***

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Turf "U" Spring Session will be held on Saturday, February 28 at James City Williamsburg Community Center

Doors open at 8:30 AM and sessions will run until 11:30 AM. All manner of turf issues will be addressed with particular emphasis on preparing lawns early for the hot/dry which is sure to come again this year. Display tables will be available to other MG projects of interest to our citizens. Contact Bob Winters to reserve your table. Posters & flyers are available for your favorite bulletin board. Your help in getting the word out is appreciated!



Scene from the Graduation Dinner January 15, 2009.

UPCOMING HERB SOCIETY EVENTS SALLY SISSELL

Mark your calendars now!

The Colonial Triangle Unit of the Herb Society of America invites all Master Gardeners to two upcoming special events.

1. The March 10 regular meeting will be open to the public and will feature the Williamsburg Botanical Garden's "drama team" which includes our own Helen Hamilton. The team will be presenting its production of "Name Your Poison: an Herbal Mystery". This production was such a hit when presented in the Garden that they decided to "take it on the road", for which the herb society is very thankful. Plan to attend the March 10th meeting at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Norge at 1:30 p.m.

2. Wednesday, April 15th (how can you forget the date: tax day!) the Herb Society will be presenting noted author, Susan Wittig Albert, at the Williamsburg Community Building (where we have our plant sale). Susan is nationally known for writing several series of books--most noteworthy for gardeners is her critically-acclaimed China Bayles series of herbal mysteries. As a friend noted, these are "cozy" mysteries: quick, easy, and fun. Susan will be on a free lecture/book signing tour promoting her latest book: Wormwood. My personal favorite is An Unthymely Death which includes lots of recipes, tips, crafts, etc. Several years ago, Susan came this way and filled the library so if you haven't read one of her books, you may want to give them a try. The actual time of her presentation has not been set --probably 1:00 or 1:30-but I will send a reminder when more details are known. Read a book, come meet the author on April 15th!!

Upcoming Training Events

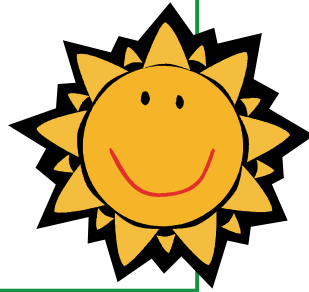
- **BMPS---ARE STORMWATER TREATMENT PONDS AND BASINS EFFECTIVE OR ARE THERE BETTER ALTERNATIVES?**
Sponsored by the Peninsula Housing and Builders Association (PHBA) and the James City County Citizens' Coalition
Date: January 29, 2009 Time: 4-6 p.m. Place: Building C, County Complex, 101 Mounts Bay Road. Free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Robert Duckett - 757-595-1600, rduckett@penhousing.com; or Sarah Kadec - 757-259-0358, skadec@verizon.net
- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Central Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association (CVNLA) is presenting **GARDENING IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE**, Feb. 4, 5, & 6. An event for green business owners and their staffs, landscape architects and designers, master gardeners, and seasoned home gardeners. This symposium is one of the Garden's special events marking its 25th Anniversary in 2009, and is funded by the Robins Foundation. For more details, and to register go to www.lewisginter.org. Cost is \$40 per day.
- **THE NATURE OF HABITAT - WORKSHOP for MASTER GARDENERS**, Feb 7th, 2009 9:15 AM - 12:30 PM, James City Community Center, Longhill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188 To REGISTER GO ON-LINE: <http://habitatworkshop.eventbrite>.
- **THE CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT GARDENING SYMPOSIUM** will be held on Saturday, April 25th at the Ferguson Center. For more information: gardening.cnu.edu.

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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, Pat Crowe. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf on the organization.

Pat may be reached at 645-4538 or pk.Crowe@cox.net.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PLANT DISPOSAL ART GUSTAFSON

As we all know after every plant sale we are left with a large variety of interesting plants. Even after the 1/2 off sale to all our fellow MG's! This year we will try to put all those plants without a home to good use. So, I am forming a committee, with Susan and Debbie's blessing, to responsibly find proper homes for those plants. I am asking for volunteers to help with this task.

We will need to be creative in this process and do our ground work before the plant sale. We will have a planning meeting early in February. If you would like to volunteer for this task please let me know by e-mail (arthurg@cox.net) or just give me a call (564-1888).



Scene from the Graduation Dinner January 15, 2009.

We're on the web at www.jccwmg.org

**ONE FINAL
REMINDER:
2009 dues (\$15)
should be
sent ASAP to:
Sarah Dougherty
144 Tolers Road
Williamsburg,
VA 23185**

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SERIES OFFERED TO HOA'S LINDA LUCAS

As a spin-off from last May's Water Workshop, MGs are now offering a series of one-hour presentations on environmental stewardship for homeowners associations. Three talks have already been given to residents in the Wellington community. A fourth is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, at the Wellington clubhouse at 6:30pm. The topic that evening will be pond buffers & RPA's. Mandy Miller Doggett, a Wellington resident, is the MG liaison with the Wellington HOA. Another series will begin later in February at Colonial Heritage with Rosemarie Brennan as MG liaison.

Topics include turf issues, basic landscape design, RPA/pond buffer planting, drought-tolerant plants, rain gardens, permeable surfaces, proper planting and pruning. The series provides a way to address specific environmental issues in a community and creates an on-going link to the community that will be useful in promoting other MG services to homeowners such as Turf Love, Landscape Love, Pruning Clinics and special events. Master Gardeners are welcome to join us on February 10 at the Wellington Clubhouse from 6:30 to 7:30pm to hear the program and see if a similar series might be of interest to other HOA's.