

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



February 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS

Wow, what strange weather we've had this winter. I am sure you all have seen the daffodils in bloom, the cherry trees in bloom, and the forsythia starting to bud. This isn't good for us where the insect population is concerned. We will have to be on the lookout for a higher population this next growing season. An interesting aside, I think I've lost my winter house protector. We always have had a black snake living under the house in the winter. I believe that he either decided to move his territory, or has passed on. This year, I suddenly had house mice instead which caused some excitement. Fortunately, we saw the signs and caught them early enough that no permanent damage was done.

We held our board meeting the 20th at the Human Services Building. The meeting started with presentations from Nancy Sullivan of the Williamsburg Community Foundation covering how they operated. We then had Peg Crews make a presentation on the Help Desk and what she needed. I'll speak more to this later. We approved the nominating committee for 2012 which is already off on their hunt for potential leaders for our organization.

A request for a laminator was presented; however, we found out that the extension office has two available for our use. Each project needs to provide their own laminating



pouches. Please contact Sandra at the extension office to find out what size and weight pouches you need to purchase.

The 2012 budget was reviewed and approved for presentation with minor changes to the general meeting in February where it will be voted on.

The help desk needs your help. Now I know that sounds like a redundant sentence, but it's true. The help desk is a project and not just for interns. We need your expertise at the help desk to answer questions throughout the year. The work is not burdensome and tiring, but exciting as we find answers to questions that customers ask. Peg Crews will be at the meeting in February with a calendar and is asking for your help to take the project from a good one to a great one. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to help our extension office and help desk by working whatever time you can.

CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

It is that time of year when we need to be thinking about the leadership for the next year. Our Nominations Committee is beginning their work to develop a slate of candidates for offices and will be contacting members they feel would be good candidates to lead our organization. The members of the committee are: Dennis Wool, Carol Fryer, Sue Voigt, Jim Pressly and Angela Cingale. The positions to be filled are Administrative Vice President, Vice President Internal Education and the two VMGA representatives plus a President Elect which was approved at the June meeting. The President Elect will serve one year in that position then move to President the following year finishing as immediate Past President, thus requiring a commitment of three years as opposed to the prior requirement of four years. The other four positions require a commitment of two years.

Monthly Meeting

February 2, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional Library;
Speakers: 4 of our very own MGs!

If you feel one of these position would be of interest to you, please contact one of the Nominations committee members. It is always good to have choices so more than one person running for one office shows strength and interest among the membership.

Elections will be held in June with officers to take position in July.

The Colonial Master Gardener February 2012



2012
MG Board

President:
Roger Evans

VP Projects:
Beth Fugate

VP Internal Ed:
Harriet Parsons

VP Administration:
Margene Hartsough

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 HARRIET PARSONS

I just completed my registration for the 3rd Annual Master Gardener Day at VSU. The theme is "Focus on Food-- from Field to Table" on Saturday, February 25th. Let me know if you are going and we will organize a car pool. This is great opportunity for advanced hours.

February's monthly meeting will showcase four of our very own MG's who will present on their specific garden type. They will speak on their goals and how they achieved them. Of course, all gardens are works in progress.

Several MG's, including myself, have seen how effective *Power Point* presentations can be and want to learn more about the process. Not only does PP keep the audience interested it allows you, the presenter, to follow your own points easily by glancing at the screen. Angela Cingale, a *Power Point* pro, has offered to hold a training class for us. Angela will arrange to have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting for those interested.

April sounds far away but I want to start reminding you to plan on attending the meeting. I don't want to use the word mandatory but. . . the meeting will bring us all up to date on risk management training. We are due. We will watch the video and have a question and answer session with Jeremy Johnson, our rep from the Extension Office. Forms will be available at the meeting. Speaking of forms, I

hope you have all completed and returned your recommitment letter you received via e-mail this week. There are many ways you can contribute to our Master Gardener program. This is a simple one - - **your** attendance at the April meeting will save hours of follow-up work for those of us charged with the record keeping task. Remember, if you **have** the training, any risk, such as an accident is the responsibility of VEC, **not** your insurance. And, vice versa.

Two close-by events and coming up soon are the "*What's Buggin' You*" in Newport News, February 2, and "*Treading Lightly on the Land*" at Lewis Ginter in Richmond, February 8-10. Remember to check my e-mails for details.

For those of you asking for Douglas Tallamy's plant list, please go to <http://bringingnaturehome.net/native-gardening> for his suggestions.

In closing, watch for the new intro of an old tomato, Ramapo, from Rutgers in April or the more readily available Moreton. Both are the Jersey tomatoes, great for slicing and thin skinned.

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.

LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY ANNE NIELSEN & GARY STREB, CO-CHAIRS

Landscape Love is in the process of organizing for the spring 2012 visits. We hope that you will consider joining us, whether you are returning or volunteering for the first time. Last year we made 97 visits to area residents and hope to accomplish an equal number this year.

At the moment, we are planning a few changes in our teams. The Ford's Colony team leader, John Giffin, is contemplating a division into two teams. Also, John Giffin and I are working on putting together a New Kent team. Let me know if you are a New Kent MG and would like to help form a team. There are several interns

who would benefit from working in the New Kent area.



This spring we would like to publicize Landscape Love through the Area Council of Garden Clubs. Mitzi Balma was very successful with Ford's Colony last fall. So far, we have Stonehouse, Colonial Heritage, Berkeley and Governor's Land covered. If you are a Garden Club member and interested in helping, please let me know. I will distribute registration instruction forms at the February meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

FEBRUARY WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

BY HELEN HAMILTON, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

American Hazelnut *Corylus americana*

This multi-stemmed shrub can be recognized in the winter by the 2-3-inches long, yellowish-brown catkins, hanging from the tips of every branch. These are the male flowers, the female flowers appear in small, reddish, inconspicuous catkins. In late summer the female flowers give way to small, egg-shaped nuts encased within interesting leafy, ragged-edged bracts.

Dark green leaves are oval-shaped, edged with double teeth. In the fall their color ranges from combinations of orange, rose, purplish red, and yellow to a dull yellowish green.

Hazelnut grows in moist to dry well-drained soils, can tolerate clay and drought. It is usually found in dry or moist woods and thickets, widespread in Virginia.

Growing 6-12 feet tall, the plant can form thickets, creating a dense privacy screen, and furnishing nesting sites for birds. Also known as American filbert, the hazelnuts are edible,



Photo: American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) taken by Phillip Merritt

and eaten by deer, squirrels, foxes, northern bobwhite, turkey, and woodpeckers. They have a higher nutritional value than acorns or beechnuts.

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

NEW PLANT HARDINESS ZONE MAP

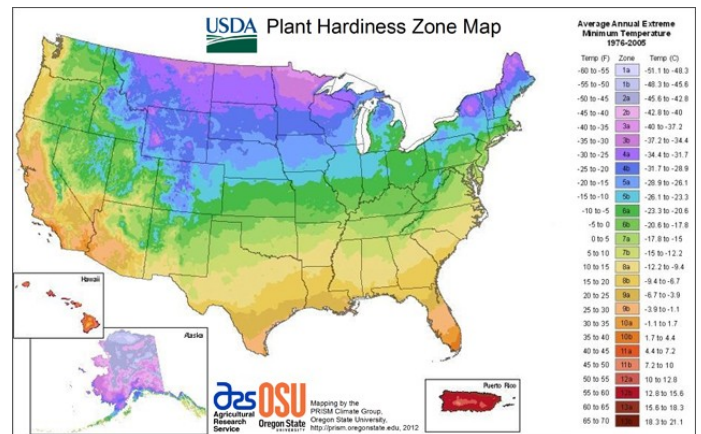
BY CATHY LOHWATER

The USDA updated the federal "Plant Hardiness Zone Map" on Wednesday for the first time in over two decades. This map, based on the average annual extreme temperatures of the year, was last updated in 1990. The map is now more interactive. It allows users to type in a zip code to see their exact zone, and also to enter their state to see a much more detailed zone map of their state. The website is <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>.

The new map was jointly developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Oregon State University's (OSU) PRISM Climate Group, with input from horticultural and climatic experts. It is based on average temperature records from 1976-2005 (30 year time period) instead of the earlier 1974-1986 (13-year time period) span.

The new map is generally one 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zone warmer than the previous map throughout much of the United States. According to the USDA, this map also reflects more sophisticated methods for mapping zones

between weather stations, such as algorithms that considered for the first time such factors as changes in elevation, nearness to large bodies of water, and position on the terrain, such as valley bottoms and ridge tops.





2012 HELP DESK

BY PEG CREWS

This is my third year of coordinating the MG Help Desk. I've enjoyed training the interns and scheduling them for the summer Help Desk, but I have always been uncomfortable asking interns to sit on the Help Desk alone after their first day. I called a number of Extension offices throughout the state including Fairfax, Fauquier, Albemarle, Henrico and Chesterfield counties to find out how they are staffing their Help Desks. Bear in mind that these Extension offices have Agricultural and/or Horticultural agents on staff. What I've found is that the shortest time that elapses before an intern is left alone is 4 days. Most of the offices I called are always staffed with 2 people during the months of April to October.

What I propose is to try to change the culture here; to get experienced Master Gardeners to volunteer to work the Help Desk with the interns. Sometimes I think that more experienced MGs don't realize that they can work the Help Desk to earn hours. I see this as an opportunity for those who are not as physically capable of working a more demanding project, or those who find the heat and humidity of the Virginia summer unbearable, to come to the air conditioned Extension

office and sit with an MG intern to earn your hours. The interns will still be required to answer the phones, but I am sure they will feel more secure if an experienced MG is there to discuss questions with and who can act as backup. You might even find you enjoy it.

If you think you need some refresher training because it's been a while since you worked the Help Desk, I'll schedule a training session or I'll come in and work with you one on one. If you are worried that you can't answer all the questions that will be coming in, remember, no one can be expected to be an expert on all aspects of gardening. Everyone is allowed to say, "I'd be happy to research that and get back to you." I'll be talking to you at meetings in the coming months, and have sign-up sheets available monthly. Please think about working the Help Desk; it's where we all started, and we can go back.

GROW IT & EAT IT!—MARCH 17

BY LINDA LUCAS

We hope you have the date marked on your calendar (for reasons other than St. Patrick's Day). Master Gardeners will be presenting a workshop for the community on growing edibles on Saturday, March 17, beginning at 8:30am at the Rec Center in rooms A-B-C. Incredible Edible and School Gardens volunteers are busy planning. If you love to grow your own food, we would welcome your help. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th, at 1:30pm in the multi-purpose room at Human Services (Olde Towne Road).

We are also compiling a list of great resources for those who attend the workshop. If you have a favorite website or book on growing edibles...vegetables, fruits, culinary herbs...please share the names with us and let us know why you especially like them. Good books and websites on gardening with children would also be appreciated. Send your suggestions to Alice Kopinitz at askop4@cox.net.

FROM THE SEED LADY: CYNTHIA LONG

SUBMITTED BY HELEN HAMILTON

This is the time of year through February to plant seeds outside. Cynthia Long has discovered it is a lot of work to cold stratify seeds in her house, plant in trays under lights, replant in pots, and eventually move the plants outside.

So, she now recommends scattering seeds in situ, that is, in the places where they will grow, letting nature stratify the seeds. With winter rains, snow, cold weather, the plants will be germinating under natural conditions and will be ready to bloom in the spring and summer.

UPDATED E-MAIL

Kathy Van Mullekom retired from the Daily Press on January 20. She will continue her garden column and blog. Her new email address is kvanmullekom@aol.com.



NEW HOURS SYSTEM BY LINDA LUCAS

Remember that, beginning with January 2012, you will be entering your own MG hours into the new state system. Hopefully you have already logged into the system, received the password from Dave Close, and have changed that temporary password to one you will remember! If not, log into <https://virginia.volunteersystem.org> and click on "New User" to get that temporary password. It is good for one time only; so, once you have the temporary password, log in again to the website above, click on "James City County/Williamsburg" and then on "Edit Your Profile". Fill this out. (Even if you filled this in with your address, phone number(s) and email when using the test system, you may have to fill in the blanks again in the "James City County/Williamsburg" system.) After the phone numbers, you'll see "Change Password". This is where you'll want to enter a password you will remember...and don't forget to click on "save information" at the bottom of the page!

Enter your January MG hours by clicking on "Add New Hours" in the column on the left. On the "Event Description" line, you can enter the activity...monthly meeting or building self-watering containers or Incredible Edibles meeting... whatever you did. Click on the down arrow after "select a project" and choose one of the ones listed. You must do this line. Enter the hours under "volunteer hours" for all project work and administrative work (monthly business meetings, board meetings). Contacts are entered under "Population Served".

If you are entering advanced training or continuing education (such as the monthly meeting program or Water Steward Training or a talk on a horticultural topic that provides you with new knowledge), enter those hours under "continuing education".

Travel time for all the MG activities that you do should be entered under "travel time" on that pull-down list; so you might want to just add up all your travel time for the month and enter it once. If you want to keep track of your miles (for income tax purposes), you can enter those miles in "miles driven" for each event that you enter.

You can enter your hours whenever you do a MG activity, or you can keep track on a calendar as you've probably been doing and enter them once a month or once every few months for each project. Try out this new system before the February 2nd general meeting, though, to familiarize yourself with it. John Giffin (345-5209) & Linda Lucas (565-0335) will be at the library before the meeting, during the break and after the meeting to answer questions or provide help...or give either of us a call with your questions.

NEW KENT UPDATE BY MARY MILLS

On January 20, 2012, the New Kent Master Gardeners held their annual planning meeting to review and plan for upcoming programs in New Kent.

Several topics were covered, but the most interesting information was the results in what programs the Master Gardeners enjoyed the most, which are the following:

- Farm Tour
- Envirothon/Earth Day
- Carole's Garden, Project E-35
- Pruning Clinic
- Seeds of Learning
- Educational Clinics

The members felt that last year's programs were successful and wanted to continue with the programs mentioned above this year. A calendar with dates and times will be created and each Master Gardener can choose which

programs they wish to volunteer their time.

Patty Townsend, Horticulture Program Assistant, demonstrated how to make seed tapes for planting in your garden. This is a wonderful thing to do indoors during the cold winter months for easy and efficient planting, especially for small seeds. At the close of the meeting we had a short tour of Carole's Garden to enjoy the new mural that Avril Purvis, 2011 Master Gardener, and her friend, Debbie Lodding, painted. A nice lunch was provided by the New Kent Extension Staff.

The first gardening workday for Carole's Garden will begin **Monday, February 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.** At which time we will be cleaning up the garden making it ready for March vegetable seed planting. If you are interested in volunteering this day, please email Mary Mills at millsm@vt.edu.

The Colonial Master Gardener February 2012

APPLICATIONS FOR COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

BY BECKY SUTTON

The Colonial Williamsburg Landscape department will be accepting applications for volunteer positions at the Reid and Shields gardens through February 15, 2012. The purpose of the Foundation's 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 Colonial Williamsburg is 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 Tricia Barner, Colonial Williamsburg Volunteer Office, 427 Franklin Street, Phone 220-7181, pbarner@CWF.org, or contact Master Gardener, Becky Sutton, to learn how to receive an application. Completed applications should be returned to Tricia Barner by **February 15, 2012**.



MASTER GARDENER SHOWS LABOR OF LOVE IN NEW KENT

BY MARY MILLS

Avril Purvis, Master Gardener, and her friend, Debbie Lodding, displayed their labor of love for vegetable gardening by painting a mural on the storage shed in Carole's Garden at the New Kent Extension Office. Many hours were spent applying several layers of paint to the rough and aged shed. The mural over looks the demonstration vegetable garden which is planted and maintained by New Kent, Charles City and James City County Master Gardeners to teach techniques on raised bed gardening, growing vegetables, composting and rainwater irrigation. Come visit Carole's Garden at the New Kent Extension Office, 11809 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA, 804-966-9645.



The Colonial Master Gardener February 2012

TREE STEWARD UPDATE

BY SUE LIDDELL

At the December meeting of Peninsula Tree Stewards, Doris Heath presented Certificates and Tree Steward Pins to members of the 2011 TS Class who had completed their required project hours. Three new TS's from JCC/W are Mitzi Balma, Carolyn Gaertner and Patsy McGrady. Mitzi and Patsy worked in the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, surveying trees in the native woodland area with the goal of future programs in the garden. Carolyn prepared a presentation of Colonial Williamsburg trees, showing ID, seasonal interest, and uses, which will be used in MG and CW programming. Jerry Babski and Betty Marcus, who completed the classroom training, have an extension on their project due to Hurricane Irene and physical injury.

Also at the meeting the leadership of Peninsula Tree Stewards passed from Sue Liddell to Carol King of Hampton as Coordinator, and from Peggy Manning to Jackie Lohr of York County as secretary/historian. From the original 1998 class of 17 we have seen the group grow to 53, 19 from JCC/W. Each member worked on a project which benefited the community and has used the advanced training in other Master Gardener projects through the years. As a group our greatest contribution has been in organizing the training classes. Training is available periodically at MG College, but those who have gone this route have also taken our classes. We look forward to the next TS Class in 2013.

VMGA

BY ANGELA CINGALE & MARILYN RIDDLE

Please mark April 14 on your calendars to see VMGA in action at its bimonthly board meeting here in James City County when we host the representatives from throughout Virginia. If you would like to assist, please let us know. We will be on location at the site, JCC Community Center, at 8:00 to welcome the group when they begin arriving about 9:00. The board meeting is 10:00-2:00. Contact Angela at arcingale@cox.net and Marilyn at mriddle@cox.net. Thanks.



Sue Liddell and Peggy Manning, being honored for serving 10 years as Tree Steward Leaders



New Tree Steward, Carolyn Gaertner, with Doris Heath



New Tree Steward, Mitzi Balma



New Tree Steward, Patsy McGrady

The Colonial Master Gardener February 2012

HELP WANTED:

BY BETH FUGATE

Annette Bell has been project chair for the Pruning Team for a while now. She has done a great job and recently arranged to have a large supply of pruning guides printed and ready for use. Annette has expressed a desire to step down. Ideally, we would like for two people to co-chair this program with Annette, beginning with the spring pruning sessions and take over from there. Anyone who has an interest in working with this great team can send Beth Fugate an e-mail. Thanks in advance for lots of responses! jbfugate@cox.net

E32 Pruning Clinics: The Pruning Program is an environmental program that promotes sustainable landscapes. The program provides educational training to community groups and homeowners on pruning and care of ornamental shrubs and small trees. The program offers workshops and home-based pruning lessons for individual homeowners and small groups. Pruning sessions are scheduled in winter/early spring. Homeowners and groups are instructed in pruning techniques, appropriate tools and are provided with additional resources on pruning instruction.

PLANTS HUZZAH

BY CHERE' HARPER



Plants Huzzah! will meet on the first Mondays of February, March and April, at room A or B (check the notices by the doors) of the Recreation Center on Longhill Road, at 1 PM. In February we are considering our supply needs and what is usable from last year, especially damaged tents/canopies, stanchions to mark our space, plant stakes and waterproof markers.

All who have information on any of these items or others are asked to please email: bluecardinal1@yahoo.com. And as always, you are welcome to join us - we aim for the less than one hour meeting.

FEBRUARY GARDENING TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

Heads up, gang! It's time to get outside and play in the dirt! Given our up-and-down weather, it's rather hard to tell just what to do, but there are a number of things that come to mind. You can spend a rainy day inside sharpening your tools, taking inventory of your gardening supplies (and making a shopping list), looking over your seed stash and putting the packets in order by sowing date.


A pretty day invites you to start pruning shrubs, looking for weeds to eradicate (I pulled chickweed on New Year's Day!), deciding where you're going to plant new things, and marking the locations. If you're pruning things you might want to pass along, you can make some cuttings, too. And, best of all, no matter what the weather, you can pour a cup of tea, prop your feet up, and read all the seed and nursery catalogs that are arriving! When you do that, keep your Magic-Marker handy to mark possible additions to your collection, but don't get carried away like I do! Also, you might want to start keeping a garden log, if you don't already do so: date, temp., cloudy/clear/rainy, etc., what's in bloom, what you're planting, what you're harvesting, etc. In view of our weather patterns, this might be an interesting project for all of us!

FEBRUARY 14 – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

BY PAT CROWE

Everyone knows the significance of February 14th! Why, of course, it's the date of the Herb Society's presentation by Don Haynie, "**Herbs in the Landscape to Add Texture, Interest and Magic**"!

This free-of-charge presentation will be held at Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church in Norge and will begin at 1:30 PM. Mr. Haynie is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker. He will provide a handout featuring his favorite landscaping herbs.

We hope to see you there! You will  it!
For more information, contact Pat Crowe.

PS: February 14 is also Valentine's Day; don't forget that either!!

The Colonial Master Gardener February 2012

TURF LOVE-GARDEN LOVE PROGRAM

BY BARB FOLEY



The Turf Love Program was expanded by a grant to include installing rain gardens in James City County. "Garden Love" is part of our cooperative effort with the JCC Stormwater Department to safeguard and sustain our water supply and to avoid contamination of our watershed and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Garden Love, as an extension of Turf Love, will be administered through the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office and will rely heavily on the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners.

After application by the homeowner/business, the Master Gardeners will visit the target site to assess its infiltration potential and options for a rain garden. If deemed appropriate for a rain garden, we would help design the rain garden, identify plants, and advise the homeowner/business. The homeowner could receive a rebate of \$8 per square foot of garden and is responsible for physically installing and maintaining the rain garden. The homeowner might choose to use a commercial contractor to do the work, and we are working with the local green industry to provide training and agree on concepts before they begin the work.

Before we start on our first rain gardens, we will provide **rain garden training at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Human Resources Center** (5249 Olde Towne Road). We are privileged to have Dr. Laurie Fox, Ph.D., from the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and Ms. Carol Heiser from Habitat Education, of the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries, to share their extensive knowledge with us. (Note: This training will conclude in sufficient time for the Water Stewards-in-training to make their class on that same date. Dr. Fox is addressing that group too.)

If you are interested in participating in this exciting new James City County project and are able to attend the training on Feb. 22, please either send me an email (bsfoley@vt.edu) or call the VCE Office (564-2179). If you are unable to call on a Tuesday or Wednesday (when I am in the office), please leave a message with your name, phone, and email.

Hope you can come! See you then!

ENVIROTHON/EARTH DAY

BY PATTY TOWNSEND

Mark your calendars!! The New Kent Extension Office will be organizing the 3rd Annual Envirothon / Earth Day on April 28, 2012. It will be on the grounds outside the Virginia Cooperative Extension (New Kent County) Office, which is located at 11809 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA 23124. This is a day of activities designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment for people of all ages. We hope that you will be able to participate in this event to help educate, inform and show new ways of saving our resources. If you are able to provide an environmentally friendly/green/recycled product, knowledge on environmental issues, or if you know of

any other county department or organization(s) that would be interested in participating, please contact me at patric4@vt.edu.

Due to the unforeseen bad weather last year, we have set up a contingency plan this year. This event will take place rain or shine.

Please mark your calendar with this important date April 28, 2012. The hours of the event will be 9:00am to 2:00pm. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Patty at 804-966-9645.

The Colonial Master Gardener February 2012

BOOK REVIEWS

BY JEANNE MILLIN



50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants: The Prettiest Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, and Shrubs that Deer Don't Eat

This new book in our library is beautifully illustrated. It has a unique 'Deer-resistance rating' that serves as a reminder that no plant is truly deer-proof. A Quick Look block for each of the plants provides information on Hardiness Zones, Height and Spread and the Deer resistance rating. This book is written for the knowledgeable gardener, providing both 'How To Grow' information and 'Design Tips'. It would be a good book to use on a landscaping visit where the homeowner has a deer problem and still wants a colorful garden. It will be filed in the library under SB994.D4C63.

The Complete Compost Gardening Guide by Barbara Pleasant and Deborah L. Martin

The book is a new purchase on the library shelf and the best of the three guides to composting in our library. A fairly thick 300 page manual, it is the most complete guide of the three. All are found under the S661 Library of Congress catalog number. Among the topics covered in this book, published this past year are: types of composting, construction of your own bins and materials to be used, tools for aeration and mixing, vermicompost, screening, getting rid of unwanted seeds, and planting on compost areas. This book is easily used, amply illustrated and worth a look for any of our members currently composting or thinking they would like to do so in the future.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **March Newsletter** is **Monday, February 20.**

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

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.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 2/2 Monthly meeting @ WRL
- 2/14 Herb Society's Public Meeting
- 2/20 Deadline for March Newsletter
- 2/22 Garden Love Training
- 3/17 "Grow and Eat It" Seminar
- 4/14 VMGA Meeting Hosted in Wmbg.
- 4/28 New Kent Envirothon/Earth Day

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.