

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



February 2014



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

It was great to see seven members of our unit plus one spouse in attendance at the Home Gardeners Day in Newport News on January 16. The presentations were excellent. Keep this in mind for next year as this is a great way to get continuing education hours as well as meet Master Gardeners from other units.

Several important items which each member is responsible have a deadline the end of January. You must have paid the \$15 dues, completed the Recertification form, taken the Civil Rights Training with documentation on file before participating in **any** projects. Adherence to this is extremely important for every member of our unit and I encourage you to take action on any item that you might be lacking. We do not want to turn members away from a project because they have not met these responsibilities but under the new guidelines this can happen if necessary. Dennis Wool can help you with the Recertification and Civil Rights requirements and Bob Winther, our treasurer, should be sent the dues. More information is below.

Leadership in JCCW needs you. Consider taking an active role in the organization by taking on a project co chair

responsibility or throw your gardening glove into the ring for one of the board positions needed for the new year. You will always have support from those before you to guide you along until you are comfortable. Contact Dennis Wool if you would like to be considered for any leadership position. Your prior work expertise and knowledge are great assets for the organization, put them to work.

Finally the plant sale is coming on April 26 at Jamestown Beach Park. We need plants and volunteers. Think about the plant material you would like to donate and the ways you can offer your time to make this fundraiser the best ever!!! Sign up sheets for volunteer help will be available at the February meeting.

Happy gardening,
Margene

**Next Meeting:
Thursday, February 6**

**Speaker:
Andrew Bartlett,
Arborist**

MEMBERSHIP CHECKLIST

BY DENNIS WOOL

Check your status: Are you a member in good standing?

Over the past several months notices have been sent out to the membership regarding compliance with requirements for 2014. David Sisson informed attendees at both November and December meetings to pay attention to the paperwork. Bob Winther encouraged everyone to get their dues in on time. A deadline of January 31, 2014 has been established for compliance.

Three steps are necessary to continue forward into 2014 as a JCCW-MG:

1. Pay dues of \$15 --- send to Bob Winther, Treasurer
2. Complete the on-line civil rights training found on our web page and notify Dennis Wool by e-mail wool@cox.net

3. Complete the annual recertification application found on our web page and forward to Dennis Wool, 9919 Perch Tree Lane, Toano, VA 23168.

At the end of January, Project Directors will be provided a list of individuals who have not satisfied their membership requirement. Those individuals will NOT be permitted to participate in MG services/projects/functions until they have rectified their obligations. MGs who might wish to consider "Inactive" status must still pay their dues and file a request with the Board. Sorry if this sounds a bit harsh --- BUT -- we've known about this since November and repeat the ritual annually.

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2014
MG Board

President:
Margene
Hartsough

President Elect:
Sue Liddell

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

*VP
Administration:*
David Sisson

Secretary:
Patsy McGrady

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

With all the snow it might be a good time to catch up on some reading about upcoming garden projects in your own landscape or projects offered by the Master Gardeners.

Our guest speaker for the February 6th program is Andrew Koenig of Bartlett Tree Service. Andrew's presentation will include the most common pests and diseases found during his landscape inspections; the most common tree seen planted and wish they were not and trees that should be installed more in the landscape. If you have seen Andrew before you know how knowledgeable he is and if you have not seen him, you are in for a treat.

Also on your calendar should be the program on January 27th by the Williamsburg Garden Club. Gordon Hayward, noted garden designer, author and lecturer, will present a free lecture entitled "Art and the Garden", as the second annual Meriwether H. Major Speaker Series. In addition to the talk, there will be a reception and gallery of art created by members of the WGC. The art will be raffled, with the proceeds supporting programs for the community.

It will be held at the W&M School of Education, 301 Monticello. You are asked to carpool as parking is limited. I suggest early arrival to park and enjoy the art gallery and refreshments before the talk, 1:30-2:00. Mr. Hayward will be selling and signing books in the gallery room. The talk is at 2:15. (If the parking lot is full there are commercial areas a block away.) Park in Lot 3,4,6,7,or 8. When you enter the School of Ed, follow directional signage to the first floor Matoaka Woods lecture room and Dogwood snack room.

Last and certainly not least there have been several opportunities and information sent from John Freeborn. A statewide Extension Master Gardener Facebook Page was launched just before Christmas. <https://www.facebook.com/VCEMasterGardenerProgram>. Check it out.

The Winter issue of In-Season is hot off the digital press and can be viewed here: http://hort.vt.edu/astergardener/newsletter/InSeason_Winter2014.pdf.

See you on the 6th.

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.

E2 NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2014

BY KARI ABBOTT



As the New Year unfolds, E2 will be back in school with water activities that will keep the children engaged and excited. We started with water stewardship in January. February will be papermaking.

Though April and May seem far away, they will arrive faster than one spin around our new Turkey Game. The field trip dates have been established so if you think you might want to come along for the fun, here are the Schools and the dates.

May 5: Clara Byrd Baker
May 6: DJM
May 7: Matthew Whaley
May 9: JBB
May 13 & 14: Matoaka

Also if anyone has any empty 45 mm film canisters E2 would appreciate you donating the canister to E2. We have an activity that uses the canister and we need a few more. Thanks so much.

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PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS

BY SUE LIDDELL AND PATSY MCGRADY

The MG organization periodically offers advanced training to become a Tree Steward. Approved programs for TSs fall under the headings of Presentations, Inventories, and Reforestation. Mitzi Balma and Patsy McGrady used their TS training to create a tree tour at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG) after inventorying the trees in the Native Woodlands section. The Native Woodlands section is representative of young woodland in the Virginia Tidewater region. The largest and oldest trees are loblolly pines. Tulip tree (yellow poplar), sweetgum, and red maple are the most common mature deciduous trees. American holly and American beech are abundant but generally occur as saplings. One southern red oak and a slightly smaller white oak stand at the edge of the section with several southern red oak and water oak saplings beginning to grow throughout the section. The understory is comprised of a multitude of wax myrtle and dangleberry bushes.

Patsy and Mitzi co-chair a MG project to provide educational tours of the WBG and feature the Native Woodland section during these tours. During 2013, tours were provided for about eight groups totaling over 100 people. In October, Patsy and Mitzi led a special program at the WBG focusing on the trees in the Native Woodland.



Mitzi Balma measuring loblolly pine



Patsy McGrady leading presentation

Tree Stewards also lead tree tours in Colonial Williamsburg in the fall, partnering with CW volunteers in the Tall Treasures tours offered to ticket holders. Sue developed a PowerPoint presentation based on this tour and has shared it with garden clubs in the area. Tree tours educate participants in tree identification and value of trees to us and to wildlife. For example, the American holly is a valuable tree to wood carvers for use as inlay. The wood is white, with no growth rings visible. The tree has fall and winter interest with the bright red berries which provide food for bluebirds, robins, mockingbirds, cedar waxwings and many other species of birds. MGs continue to learn as they provide educational and entertaining programs for the public. If you are interested in TS training in 2015 contact Sue Liddell.



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INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

BY BARBARA GUSTAFSON

Encouraging everyone to grow some of their own food is quite popular today. Our project, Incredible Edibles, is designed to do this with an emphasis on the underserved within our community. It has two main programs. We maintain a small herb and vegetable garden at Child Development Resources and meet there four times each month with the young parents to prepare easy menus from the garden's harvest and help them grow their own herbs and vegetables in self-watering containers. At the Historic Triangle Community Garden, situated behind the Historic Triangle Community Center, we have sixteen raised beds which we rent out to local families, community groups and master gardeners. Here we help them plan, plant and care for their vegetables and donate our considerable surplus to FISH. Each year we also hold one or two public symposiums for the public on various aspects of growing one's own produce.

We started last year with eight active master gardener volunteers for the Historic Triangle Garden and five for the CDR Parents program. In March we held two Saturday symposiums open to the public with Dennis Wool, Deb Secrist, Art Gustafson, Yvonne Forbes, and Barbara Gustafson giving presentations on various aspects of vegetable gardening. This was immediately followed by concentrated efforts to clean up the Historic Triangle Garden and rebuild the fence around it as winter winds had knocked it down and deer had trampled over everything. By April the garden participants, nine local families, and Head Start/Family Services plus Master Gardener volunteers and a number of their spouses had their beds plus a special bed for FISH donations planted, companion plantings and herbs in, and trellises installed. In spite of all the spring rain, we also managed to get self-watering containers planted, the garden weed-wacked and wood chips spread before the heat of summer.

By late May the first peas, lettuce, and onions were picked; by early June zucchini, and patty

pan squash were harvested...and the first squash eggs were spotted. All gardeners took care of their own beds with their individual master gardener mentors guiding them. Suggestions for controlling the squash bugs and powdery mildew were shared by mass e-mailings with detailed information available at the garden. By July the gardens were producing faster than we could harvest. Much of the surplus beans, onions, tomatoes and squash were donated to FISH. Flea beetles, Mexican bean beetles, and leaf miners joined the squash bugs to feast. Carol Fryer shared a homemade spray of garlic, water and milk that turned many beetles away. We added to the battle with both Neem Oil and homemade insecticidal soap. Our plants survived and continued to produce. By the end of the season all of us had our fill of a wide variety of home-grown vegetables. FISH sent us a very nice thank you on behalf of all those who had enjoy what we had donated.

At our CDR Garden, Gary Driscole decided to plant a wide variety of beans for our parents to sample. We helped each parent group plant self-watering containers and a variety of potatoes. Thirty-eight self-watering containers were distributed to the parents at cost for their home gardens and we helped them fill them with herbs and vegetables, including many remaining from our plant sale. Mandy Dogget-Miller updated the garden notebook kept in the parents meeting room which contained recipes and extra gardening information for the parents to access.

Throughout the season we sampled a number of new recipes which we and the parents made in the CDR kitchen from the garden's harvest. These included a radish stir fry, broccoli soup, potato casseroles, Asian Red Bean salad, grated squash and sausage, a variety of quick tomato and herb pastas and variations of pumpkin stir fries. As a special Christmas treat, the parents put together bags of dried calico bean soup while sampling bowls of the same.

If any of you would like to join us in introducing home vegetable gardening to our community while personally enjoying the benefits, please contact any member of our team—including Yvonne Forbes, Harriet Parsons, Pat Janot, Gary Driscole, Mandy Miller-Doggett, Art or myself.

[Incredible Edible Photos: Next Page!](#)

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INCREDIBLE EDIBLES, CONTINUED:



Photos, from top left: Pat Janot and Harriet Parsons in Historic Triangle garden; Yvonne Forbes gathering carrots for FISH; Mandy Miller-Doggett and CDR parents in CDR garden; CDR parents checking self-watering containers; Yvonne Forbes, Barbara Gustafson & Dennis Wool at March Gardening Symposium

BARRELS AND BINS BY DENNIS WOOL

Barrels and Bins Project is available for demonstrations and programs to garden clubs, neighborhood associations, garden workshops, etc.

It is always a fun interaction between MGs and participants demonstrating how to make and use rain barrels, composters, and grow boxes. Contact: Dennis Wool

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY 2014

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY

BROOMSEDGE

Andropogon virginicus

Broomsedge adds color to the winter landscape with clumps of reddish-orange stems and leaves, striking when sunlight catches the white, fuzzy seedheads. In the spring this perennial grass forms a stiff clump of light green stems 3 feet tall. Tufts of paired flowers are held against the stem by leafy bracts, opening in late fall. Attached to each seed is a straight bristle surrounded by silvery hairs, allowing distribution by the wind. Splitbeard Bluestem, *A. ternarius*, is similar a similar grass, but the flowers are obviously paired, each seed with a bent bristle, not straight.

This grass grows in open, sunny locations on dry soil, preferably loose, sandy, and moist sites such as abandoned fields, roadsides and clearings. While the primary native meadow grass in the northeast, the presence of Broomsedge often indicates poor soil, low in phosphorus, that has been overgrazed and nutrient-poor. Occurring in every county of Virginia, it is found

Photo:
Broomsedge
(*Andropogon
virginicus*)
taken by Helen
Hamilton



throughout the eastern states, from Massachusetts to Ohio, Missouri and Kansas, south to Florida and Texas. Requiring low amounts of water, the grass can be used for residential landscaping and golf courses.

The Zabulon skipper is an eastern butterfly, which has been sighted in the Williamsburg area. Broomsedge is a nectar source and larval host for this butterfly and others. Small birds eat the seeds in winter when other food supplies are limited, and the grass provides cover for ground nesting birds such as quail and turkeys.

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

GARDEN TIPS FROM AILENE

BY AILENE BARTLETT

Do you have seeds left over from previous years that you'd like to plant this spring? If so, it's a good time to test their viability and see if they need to be replaced (especially since the seed catalogs are arriving at a furious rate!) If they are less than 2 years old, you are probably okay, but older ones should be tested. How do you do this?

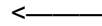
1. Get some paper towels and plastic sandwich bags.
2. Get some small pieces of paper and a marking pen.
3. Dampen the paper towels. On each one sprinkle some - but not all - of an envelope of seeds. Fold the towel and place in a sandwich bag. Add a small piece of paper on

which you've written the name of the seed and the date of your testing. Seal.

4. Place bags on top of the refrigerator, which is just warm enough.
5. After about 6 days, check to see what's happening in each bag. If all seeds are sprouted, you're good to go. If half are sprouted, note on the seed envelope to sow at twice the suggested rate. If no sprouts are visible, put back for 3-4 more days. At that point, if nothing has sprouted, discard the seed.

This should keep you busy until the weather improves!

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The Master Gardeners that work in the Blayton School Garden had a holiday lunch in December. They were joined by the PTA president and the Media Center Teacher.

Photo submitted by Ken Caro

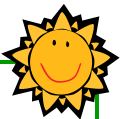
Important Dates

- 1/27 Wmbg Garden Club, "Art in the Garden"
- 2/06 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 2/24 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



Over the pass month, the organization has sent cards to:

Hazel Braxton – death of close relative
Avril Purvis – accident
Otto C. Ripley and family – death of Jean Ripley, a former MG member
David Sisson – retirement from MG board.

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 MG Secretary, Patsy McGrady, 258-1181, patsymcgrady@cox.net.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **February** Newsletter is **Monday, February 24.**

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

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.