

The Colonial Master Gardener



Publication of JCC/WBG Master Gardener
Association & Virginia Cooperative Extension

January 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER CHARLIE CLAPPER, '02

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The first day of Christmas my true love sent to me
A truck load of free compost.
The second day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Two old gloves
And a truck load of free compost.
The third day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Three strong backs ...
The fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Four helpline helpers ...
The fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Five Holly shrubs ...
The sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Six MG interns ...
The seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Seven Silent Spring books ...
The eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Eight Landscape Love visits ...
The ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Nine wiggling earthworms ...
The tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Ten agents extending ...
The eleventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Eleven annuals blooming ...
The twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Twelve "deer off" sprays
Eleven annuals blooming
Ten agents extending
Nine wiggling earthworms
Seven Silent Spring books
Six MG interns
Five Holly shrubs
Four helpline helpers
Three strong backs
Two old gloves
And a truck load of free compost!

PRESIDENT

Charlie Clapper, '02
564-6191

HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS ASSOCIATE

Leanne DuBois, '96
JCC Coop. Extension Agent
564-2170

WEBMASTER

David Banks, '03
258-8632

NEWSLETTER

Lise Kline, '04
259-9477

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

Judy Hansen, '04
Master Gardener,
How to use Google
to Research
Gardening Topics,
**January 5 at the
Williamsburg
Library Theater.**



*Editors Note: The deadline
for submission of material for
the February Newsletter is
January 15. Please send to
Lise Kline at
legskline@cox.net or call 757-
259-9477. Thank you.*

Wishing you and your families berry good hollydays and an environmentally friendly new year!

Beginning in February, only those members who specifically request that a newsletter be mailed to them will receive one. All other newsletters will be e-mailed. Please contact Lynn Flood at 220-3864 or lcflood@cox.net

PEST MANAGEMENT GUIDES 2006 LEANNE DUBOIS, '96

The Pest Management Guides (PMG) for Home Grounds & Animals 2006 are available from Virginia Tech and this year the guides will be available in printed format for all MG's who request one! The PMG provides the latest recommendation for control of major pest, diseases, insects, nematodes and weeds. The guides are revised annually to keep current with the latest products, recommendations and safe use guidelines. This year features more organic controls for insects. They are now printed, three hole punched and binder ready. The last two years classes have not had the opportunity to receive a hard copy so we are pleased to finally provide you with your own copy. The guides are also available online at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/pmg/#home>.

CONGRATULATIONS JCC WATER STEWARDS LEANNE DUBOIS, '96

The Regional Advanced Water Steward training was recently completed and congratulations go out to our new JCC Water Steward graduates who include; Wayne Moyer, Rudy Roberts, Lynn Flood, Anne Haltiner, Sue Liddell, Helen Hamilton, Linda Lucas, Rich Strenkowski, Kari Abbott and Hester & Tim Coyne.



James City County, like most localities in Virginia, drains into the Chesapeake Bay. Land care practices adjacent to water ways impact the water quality and quantity of everyone. Advanced Master Gardener Water Stewards received advanced training in the impacts of land management and their relation to water quality to help implement programs in our communities. The Water Stewards will help educate citizens to adopt best management practices for water quality and quantity. Ask a Water Steward about rain gardens, riparian buffers and green roofs!

Special thanks to Wayne Moyer for his vision and leadership!

MG ANNUAL BANQUET AND GRADUATION CEREMONY DAVE AND VIRGINIA BANKS, '03, CO-CHAIRS

The JCC/W Master Gardener Annual Banquet and Graduation Ceremony will be held on January 12 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, 3051 Ironbound Road (near Five Forks). This is the same place we used last year, for those who remember it. Parking is plentiful,

and the building is on one level and completely accessible. If you would like a map, please click on the following web page: <http://www.wuu.org/mappage.html>

Dinner will again be provided by Florimonte's, and will include a vegetarian option.

The Graduation Ceremony for the MG Class of 2005 will be the "main event", as is customary at these events. This year, however, there will be some new awards for MGs from prior classes too. We are also promised some entertainment, but it's a surprise....

Tickets need to be purchased in advance, for \$12.00 per person (since we need to have a head count to order the food a week or two ahead of time). **IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO COME AND HAVE NOT YET NOTIFIED DAVE BANKS, PLEASE CALL HIM NOW AT 258-8632. FLORIMONTE'S TAKES A HOLIDAY VACATION AND THEY WOULD LIKE A COUNT BEFORE THEN.**

Class of 2005 members are guests of the MG Association and they come at no cost--but we still need to know you are coming so the food will be there. Spouses, partners, family members all require a ticket.

We would like to see as many of you there as possible--come have a good time, chat with old friends without a trowel in your hand for a change, and honor awardees and new MGs.

TURF LOVE BOB WINTERS, '01

As we close calendar year 2005, we look back on a very successful program with about 200 homesite visits completed by our Lawn Rangers. You Rangers know who you are and that is your reward! Now 2006 promises to be a watershed (no pun intended) year with our 5th Annual Super Turf Saturday on August 19, and our celebration of the 1000th homeowner to join the Turf Love Parade. In the New Year, all of our Turf Love reports will be Virginia DCR Certified Nutrient Management Plans, a first as far as we know.

We have a large tent and welcome all of you! A sampling of upcoming events is as follows:

- Lawn Ranger Training – January 25, 2006 – JCWCC Longhill Road, 10 am to 12 noon.
Topics to be covered:
 - New VCE Soil Test Report – All you ever wanted to know about Buffer Ph, Cat ion Exchange Capacity, Base Saturation and Other Alchemistic Arts
 - New Turf Love BMP report, enhanced to include latest aerial photo with soil series overlays and watershed and resource protection information
 - The 2006 Home, Grounds, and Animals update for turf diseases, insect pests, and weeds.

As is our custom, all MG's are welcome! Please call Sandra or Barb at the Extension Office if you plan to attend, so that we can prepare for your participation.

- Turf "U" Spring Edition – March 4, 2006 – JCWCC Longhill Road, 10 am to 12 noon, Featuring: J. Dabney Morgan, Anderson's Home and Garden Showplace, and Bob Winters, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner. Topics: Making Your Spring Turf Planting a Success Story – soil amendments, seeds and pest control naturally . . . Yearlong Planning for Superior Turf on a Bay-Saving Nutrient Budget

Check out the JCC/W Master Gardeners website! It now has a Google search link so you can rapidly search our own website! Remember, it is <http://jccwmg.org> With all of the new material added by Landscape Love, such as the Helpline Frequently Asked Questions, you will find it easier to use the Google tool than to remember exactly where you saw "that piece on Deer Damage" or "the famous boxwood article". Try the Google tool--up they come!

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENING KARI ABBOTT, '04

What a year 2005 was! The New Year gave me time to reflect on the accomplishments of the volunteers who have helped get Junior Master Gardeners moving in a forward direction. JMG volunteers have contributed over 1,250 hours in 2005, working with 12 Master Gardener and intern volunteers. THANK YOU to you all, last year was a hoot. The folks who worked behind the scenes contributed so much too!

JMG has received over \$2,280 in book donations from publishing houses of books; really, cool books to help spark interest for the children. We currently have a very functional library to support environmental education. Our library includes books, pictures, articles, videos, class outlines, and specimens (insects, reptiles' skins, bird's nests and eggs, rodent bones etc.). These materials are all in addition to the wonderful money that the Master Gardener's have allocated to the program, for JMG books, leaders guides and materials, to help JMG on its way. Again, thank you.

2006 is full of excitement; plans for the spring are coming together nicely. JMG working with Matthew Whaley plans to be back as an after-school program in the Spring. We have created a class on habitats, starting with soil, plants, and trees. When we add the animals, we will talk about how it all connects, and comes back to the soil and the plants. We are working with the Williamsburg Regional Public Library to hold another summer program. The class this summer will be called "W³ * & U, Aquatic Adventures" (*Water, Wetlands, and Wildlife)". It is a class developed by the JMG Project to focus on water and the ecosystems in our county.

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2006! Just a friendly reminder that dues (\$15.00 per member) are due as of January 1, 2006. Please bring a check to the next meeting or contact Dave Banks at 258-8632.

There is lots of room to volunteer in this project, so we hope some new faces join us the wonderful world of environmental education. Grand adventures are waiting in JMG, the excitement is in the air...so zap me at bearsbaskets@cox.net, or say "hi" at the next meeting. My best to you all as we start on the adventure that is 2006.

MELISSA'S MEADOW GRACE RAYMOND, '93

The Tree Stewards and Master Gardeners who have taken Jim Orband's Pruning class will be trimming the trees around the meadow on the third Thursday in January.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 10, 2006, 1:30 p.m., The Herb Society of America, Colonial Triangle of Virginia Unit, Sherry Kern, instructor of Horticulture at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, Master Gardener and Certified Arborist will discuss the new invaders to the region including weeds and herb related plants. The program will take place in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 7479 Richmond Road in Norge. Contact: Lillian A. Campbell, 123 Fyfe Court, Williamsburg, VA 23185, 564-9580, PugLove@cox.net
- January 12, 2006, Annual Master Gardener Banquet and Graduation Ceremony, Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, 3051 Ironbound Road, 6-9 pm.
- February 2, 2006, Monthly Master Gardener Meeting, Williamsburg Regional Library, "Historic Triangle Corridor Enhancement Project," Bill Frymoyer and Caren Schumacher
- March 2, 2006, Monthly Master Gardener Meeting, Williamsburg Regional Library, "Risk Management," Leanne DuBois, '96.

A warm welcome to new Master Gardener, Judy Emerson, who recently moved here from Montana. She was an active MG there and has transferred her membership to Virginia. Judy can be reached at 814 Colonial Ave. 23185, telephone 345-3526.

2006 MG TRAINING CLASS

Master Gardeners will again this year, be able to "audit" the classes presented for new Master Gardener training. Due to limited space at the training facility, the number of MGs auditing these classes is limited to five (5) persons per session. Therefore, attendance will be on a reservations basis. A copy of the schedule may be obtained at the January monthly meeting, by contacting Rich Bunger, and was recently emailed to MGs.

To request a reservation, contact Rich Bunger at shadyldy@bellatlantic.net. Use MG Class in the Subject Line. Please provide the date and topic title of the class you desire to attend. I will provide a response, stating if there is space available or that I am placing you on the alternate list. If you are unable to contact me by e-mail, I may be reached at 757-253-9118.

Auditing of these classes will be credited for recertification training hours.

TI MELY TIPS FOR JANUARY Helen Hamilton, '04

These suggestions were gleaned from Jim Lachowicz's December gardening newsletter, which also contains a lot of information about holiday plants (poinsettias, Gloxinias, amaryllis, Kalanchoe, Christmas cactus). For a free monthly subscription, contact: jlachowicz@cox.net

- Yews, junipers, holly, boxwood, broad-leaf evergreens, and many deciduous trees and shrubs can be propagated this month. Insert evergreen cuttings in vermiculite or sand in a cool greenhouse. Tie bundles of deciduous cuttings together, and bury in sand in a cold frame. Remove in early spring and, plant in a nursery bed. Small cuttings can also be used for holiday wreaths.
- Mulch perennial borders after the ground freezes to a depth of a two or three inches. Applying mulch too early increases the chance of harboring destructive field mice that are still on the lookout for comfortable winter quarters.
- Be careful when using deicing salts around driveways and walks this winter; salt is toxic to many flowers, trees, shrubs, and lawn grasses. Sand, sawdust, or a combination of these work well for deicing walks and will not injure plants.
- Drain the fuel tank and run the lawn mower or tiller engine dry before putting the machine away for the winter.
- Check belts and spark plugs and buy replacements, change the oil, sharpen the blades or tines, and clean off dirt and plant debris so equipment will be ready to go when you need it next spring.
- Mums and pansies tend easily to be heaved out of the ground during weather freezes and thaws, causing root damage. Place discarded cut live Christmas tree branches over flower beds to prevent this from happening.
- Houseplant foods are beneficial, but remember that a little fertilizer can go a long way. Many gift plants may not need to be fertilized until spring.
- The potted plants you receive during the holiday season are not meant to be kept as permanent house plants. They were raised in a greenhouse and do not adapt well to the conditions in your home. Treat them like long-lasting cut flowers -- enjoy them as long as possible, but discard when they become unattractive.
- Seeds taken from fresh grapefruits and oranges sown in a well-drained, sandy soil will soon produce attractive, green-leaved plants.
- You still have time to make herb vinegars from chives, shallots, garlic, or any herbs on your windowsill for the holidays. Use approximately four ounces of fresh herbs to one quart of wine vinegar. Allow the herbs to infuse for at least two weeks.
- Mice chew off the bark of fruit trees at ground level or below and often completely girdle a tree causing it to die. To reduce this damage, keep mulch pulled away from the base of the tree and examine mulch frequently for the presence of mice. Leave a bare circle, one foot wide, around fruit tree trunks when spreading mulch so the mice won't nest there.
- Prune your grapevines a little earlier this year to make a classic wreath. If you can't shape the wreath as you prune, before bending the vines, soak them in water overnight for increased flexibility.

NOTE: Ground Christmas trees, branches and stems can be obtained from the Jolly Pond landfill free for a few days after Christmas. Bring a shovel and containers, like black plastic bags, and fill your trunk. Makes great garden pathways and mulch.