

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION & VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**Happy
New Year!!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

Happy New Year ...and we are jumping right into it! The Class of 2010 begins its training on January 4. Our own Genrose Lashinger will be giving the program at our first meeting of the new year on January 7; and the Class of 2009 will officially graduate on January 14 at our association's Annual Graduation & Awards Dinner. This promises to be a very fun event that you won't want to miss. We have special guests coming...and entertainment! January 7 is the last date to make a reservation; so remember to bring your checkbook to the January meeting. (Or you could mail a check to Linda Wever by January 7. Her address is 3253 Oak Branch Rd., Toano, 23168; and the cost is \$15 per person.)

Why not include your \$15 association dues for 2010 in that check as well? Our JCC/W MG Association provides monthly horticultural programming that is interesting and educational, organizes field trips, keeps us informed with a great newsletter and website, and gives us a framework for socializing with those who have similar interests. Through the association, we organize the training of new volunteers and raise funds that help us fulfill our goal of educating the public...children, the elderly and everyone in between... on sound

horticultural practices that are good for the community and for our environment.

As we begin a new year, be thinking about what projects you would like to join in 2010. Many will continue as in years past, and there are new ones in the mix as well, like the County Fair (where we would like to have a major presence this year) and Backyard Barrels & Bins. Some well-established projects are trying new approaches. The plant sale committee is gearing up for April 24. All will need lots of help! Be sure to get your 2009 hours to Art by the end of January at the latest (sooner is better!). Once the hours have been tabulated, we will send out a request for you to commit to another year of VCE-MG volunteering and to indicate where your interests lie in 2010. Many thanks for all you do to keep our association strong and help with our mission as Extension volunteers.

Next Monthly Meeting:

Jan. 7, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg
Regional Library.

Genrose Lashinger
and Gale Roberts,
"Designing a
Children's Garden:
Mattey's Garden."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Internal Education	2
Plant Sale Team	2
New Incredible Edibles	3
VMGA Mini-MG College	3
Rebate Changes	3
MG Organization Origin	4
Sunshine Note	4

CNU'S 2010 GARDENING SYMPOSIUM DISCOUNT

When: Saturday, April 10
Where: Ferguson Center for the Arts
Featuring: Felder Rushing, Brent Heath, Sandy McDougle, Jim Orband

Download a Conference Brochure at:
Gardening.cnu.edu

Register by January 15 and registration is just \$10 (50% savings). Here's how to take advantage of this offer:

- Go to their website
- Print out a registration form
- Mark out the \$20 fee
- Write in \$10
- Mail the form to: LLS, 660 Hamilton Drive, Newport News, VA 23602

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY CAROL FRYER

At our January monthly meeting, Genrose Lashinger and Gale Roberts will talk about designing and developing a children's garden from the ground up : Matthey's Garden. This should be a wonderful presentation about a children's program that has flourished over several years, and it will give us insight from the conception of the garden to its changes and additions over the years.

Last month, I asked what were people's favorite gardening books, and I received this response From Kathy Lykins.

"These are my favorites :
The Well-Tended Perennial Garden by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, and
Time Tested Plants 30 Years in a Four Season Garden by Pamela Harper.
I check these two for advice on plant care and great plants.

My favorite for inspiration after an awful natural disaster is:
Earth On Her Hands: The American Woman in her Garden by Starr Okgenga.
One more I like is:



The Gardeners Palette by Sydney Eddison.
It has great advise on using color, texture, etc. I think all of these can be found at the public library. "

Happy Gardening and reading about gardens.

PLANT SALE TEAM TAKES SHAPE

BY DENNIS WOOL & 2010 PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

While we stay bundled up and hope our gardens haven't faired too badly in the wintry snow and freezing temps, your 2010 Plant Sale Committee is starting to warm up. An event of the magnitude we expect for our MAJOR FUND raiser requires a great deal of planning, coordination, and the incredible support of our volunteer MG membership. We are fortunate to have the experience of last year's steering committee - Susan Giandomenico, Debbie Secrist, and Jerry Babski at the helm again this year. At the first organizing committee meeting, lessons learned from last year's sale were outlined and strategies began for another terrific community sale.

Essential to our success will be the participation of all our MG membership and the 2010 Intern Class. To help you decide where your energies can best be spent, the following Focus Areas

have been established. Please note, you can volunteer for more than one area - critical however, will be the need for 100% participation in some part of this 2010 Plant Sale.

Filled Focus Area Chairs: Cashiers -Sarah Dougherty; Transportation (plants) - Jack Gross; Security & Traffic Control - Jim Word; Publicity -Toddy Voorhees.

Volunteer Focus Area Chairs Needed: Set up; Breakdown; Unloading and Staging; Tagging & Pricing (signage); Education Area; Pre-sale Organizing Team; Post-sale plant disposal.

2010 Plant Sale Committee meets again on January 14. PLEASE consider taking charge of one of the Focus Areas, and then be prepared to sign up for a Focus Area assignment at the February MG meeting. Success cannot be achieved without you.

2009
MG Board

President:
Linda Lucas
565-0335

VP Projects:
Jeanne Millin
258-4724

VP Internal Ed:
Carol Fryer
220-0759

VP Administration:
John Giffin
345-5209

Secretary:
Pat Janot
221-0289

Treasurer:
Linda Wever
566-0286

VMGA Reps:
Jim & Nelda Pressly
220-1858

Past President:
Dave Banks
258-8632

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

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.

The Colonial Master Gardener January 2010

NEW INCREDIBLE EDIBLES PROJECT: COMMUNITY GARDENS GREEN TEAM

BY BARBARA GUSTAFSON

Incredible Edibles is starting a new program this month. Doris Heath connected us with Reba Bolen, director of the WJCC Community Action Agency (CAA). They had received a federal grant for creating a community garden program with selected high school students entitled the Community Gardens Green Team Program and wondered if Incredible Edibles might help them. It seemed a perfect fit and we agreed to explore the idea.

The purpose is to help these youngsters learn how to cultivate and care for a community vegetable garden in an outdoor setting as directed by supervisory personnel. Once the harvest begins, they will learn how to prepare and use the harvest and develop methods for putting the harvest to good use within the community.

First we helped select the best site from a number offered by VDOT, finally selecting a large garden area in Highland Park, off Henry Street in Williamsburg. John Smith, EITC Program Specialist with CAA, selected 16 high school students to participate, beginning in January and meeting weekly until sometime in September. As master gardeners, we will assist John and his helpers with educating these youths in establishing and maintaining a community vegetable garden. Jeremy Johnson, VCE 4H agent, will also be involved.

Classes are to begin at the JCC/W Community Recreation Center January 13 and continue through February. During these classes the students will design the garden and decide what to plant. This will be followed by tilling the garden site, having the students build a deer fence and raised beds, plant early seeds and herbs, develop a compost area and probably more to promote water conservation and organic gardening practices. As the project continues this coming summer, all of us will learn more. If any of you would care to join us, please contact me.

JCSA WATER CONSERVATION REBATE PROGRAM CHANGES

As a result of reduced revenues from the economic downturn, the James City Service Authority (JCSA) will change rebate amounts effective January 1, 2010 in order to sustain the rebate programs and to continue to place an emphasis on water conservation. For more information, visit www.bewatersmart.org, e-mail bewatersmart@james-city.va.us or call 253-6859.

VMGA EDUCATION EVENT- "THE CUTTING EDGE IN AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE"

MARCH 27, 2010

- The first mini-MG College at Virginia State University
- Sponsored by the Virginia Master Gardener Association
- Space Limited to the First 200
- Ettrick, VA (near Petersburg)

Opening Plenary session: Biointensive Mini-Gardens

Breakout Sessions (Choice of 3):

- IPM/ Insect Control
 - Hear what is new in IPM
- Shiitake mushrooms
 - Hands on and take some home to grow
- Cut Flower Production
 - Tips on successful cut flowers at home
- Tomato Grafting
 - Graft an heirloom tomato to take home
- Appropriate Technology
 - Hear what is new in alternative agriculture
- AgrAbility
 - Helps individuals with disabilities
- Seed Saving
 - Savor your favorites season after season
- Composting/Vermicomposting
 - Learn more about creating your own compost
- Community/Kitchen Gardens
 - A growing concept in urban areas
- Permaculture
 - Learn what this design theory is about

Closing Plenary:

Community Supported Agriculture

Optional: Tour of Randolph Farm Horticultural Exhibits following the event

Registration opens Jan. 15, 2010.
Forms available on or about January 12 at VMGA.net



The Colonial Master Gardener January 2010

ORIGIN OF MASTER GARDENER ORGANIZATIONS

BY PAT CROWE

In October, my husband and I visited the State of Washington where I grew up. While there, we visited Washington State University in Pullman, the home of the Master Gardener Concept. I was delighted to find an article about David Gibby, a former WSU extension agent responsible for the formation of the Master Gardener organizations, in the WSU magazine.

To read this article, go to the Washington State magazine website: <http://wsm.wsu.edu/index.php>. Click on *Past Issues* and select Fall 09.

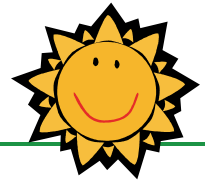
To learn more about the many activities of Master Gardeners in the Evergreen State, visit the State MG website: <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu>. You will find a tremendous variety of programs and publications, due to the variety in climate and geography of the State.

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.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the February Newsletter is Jan. 25. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Jan. 14 NK Cold Frame House Construction
- Jan. 14 Graduation/Awards Dinner
- Jan. 15 ESH Orientation (Therapeutic Gardening)
- Jan. 25 Newsletter Deadline
- Apr. 24 PLANT SALE

SUNSHINE NOTES

Sunshine, Condolences and a Peace Lily were sent to Phyllis Jennings on the death of her husband.

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 Janot. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Pat may be reached at 221-0289 or janotap@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.

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



JANUARY 2010 ADDENDUM

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS IN REID AND SHIELDS GARDENS

BY BECKY SUTTON

The Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Department will be accepting applications for volunteer positions at the Reid and Shields gardens through February 12, 2010. 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 MG Becky Sutton at rebecca.sutton@cox.net, to learn how to receive an application. Completed applications should be returned to Ginger Bryan by **February 12, 2010**.