

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



January 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

Happy
New Year!!

Happy New Year to all! We will meet on Thursday, January 6th, to begin a new Master Gardener year and follow that just one week later with our Annual Graduation and Awards Dinner. Hopefully many of you will be on hand Thursday evening, January 13, to welcome the graduating Class of 2010 as brand new JCC/W VCE-Master Gardeners. If you have not already made your reservation for the dinner, you can do so through January 6th by mailing a check to our treasurer Linda Wever (made out to JCCW MG and mailed to 3253 Oak Branch Rd., Toano, 23168) or giving her a check at the January meeting. January 6th is the deadline. There is no cost for graduating interns. For their guests and for all other MGs and guests, the cost is \$14 per person. The dinner will be held at the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist Church, 3051 Ironbound Road, in Williamsburg.

It is also time once again to renew your membership in our JCC/W MG Association. (You could simplify your life by including your dues for 2011 in the check you write for the Graduation and Awards Dinner.) The association dues remain \$15 per year and are payable to Linda Wever by mail or at our next meeting. We are fortunate to have a very active MG association that provides us with interesting monthly programs and field trips, a website to keep us connected to each other and to our community and the excellent newsletter you are reading right now! We are volunteers for Virginia Cooperative Extension with the goal of educating our community on sound horticultural

practices; but, without organizing the training of new volunteers, keeping existing volunteers current and raising funds to support our many VCE projects...all done through our association...that goal would be difficult to achieve. Like many professional organizations, our JCC/W MG Association also pulls together people with particular interests...in our case a passion for gardening and a concern for our environment. So please renew your membership today!

In addition to renewing membership in our association, we are asked by VCE at the beginning of each year to renew our commitment to another year of being a Master Gardener. Toward the end of January you will receive an email (or letter if you don't have email) asking you to do just that. Please be thinking about what projects you would like to help this year, too. On the annual renewal you will have the opportunity to recommit and/or pick new projects for the new year. Please send any remaining 2010 hours to Art Gustafson as soon as possible...no later than January 31st...to be credited with them. Sometimes it seems there is a lot of record-keeping involved in what is "just a volunteer organization"; but, as VCE-MGs, we need to keep VCE informed about all the great work we are doing in our community. Thank you for each and every hour you volunteer in our projects and our association!

You are cordially invited to attend
JCC/W Master Gardener Association
Class of 2010 Graduation and Awards Dinner

Thursday, January 13, 2011, at 6:00 pm
Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist Church
3051 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg

\$14 per person—No charge for our 2010
Graduates
Reservations and payment accepted through
January 6, 2011

Next Monthly Meeting:

Jan. 6, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional
Library;
Eric Bailey, nurseryman,
"Challenge of Gardening
in the Shade"

2010
MG Board

President:
Linda Lucas

VP Projects:
Jeanne Millin

VP Internal Ed:
Harriet Parsons

VP Administration:
Margene Hartsough

Secretary:
Pat Janot

Treasurer:
Linda Wever

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Dave Banks

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.

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

Did you receive any new gardening books for the holidays? How about gardening magazines or gardening association publications? My wish list included Rosalind Creasy's Edible Landscaping, The Virginia Gardener, Virginia's own state gardening magazine, and the American Horticulture Society's publication, The American Gardener. If you join the state association, the VMGA, you will receive \$5.00 off their magazine. This is a great way to support our state and to educate ourselves as MG's.

Don't forget to send in your registrations for 3 upcoming events. First, if you are up to the drive to Danville, the Danville Master Gardeners are presenting a horticultural symposium, "Spring to Green" on January 20th, the deadline for registration is January 10th. If you are interested and can't find the e-mail, let me know and I will send it to you. Second, the "Dem Bones" program presented by the Virginia Horticultural Society in Virginia Beach, closer to home, on Jan 27th sounds like just the thing for a fast winter getaway. The program covers earthy bones as well as Dr. Treevorkian's guide to tree health! Seriously, you will learn about structure in the garden. The early bird deadline is Jan 14th. I plan on going, so if you want to carpool send me an e-mail at dparsons1@cox.net, please. Third and most important, the Master Gardener Day at VSC presented by the Virginia Master Gardener Association on February 26th will include our local stars, MGs Linda Lucas and Barbara Gustafson. Linda and Barbara will bring their "Therapy thru Gardening - Objectives and Methods" to a state-wide audience. If you missed them in our own Therapeutic Gardening seminar a few months ago, plan to attend.

Our first mini-field trip for the New Year will be to the William and Mary Herbarium on January 19th at 10:00. I must admit I wasn't sure what a herbarium



was so I looked it up. A herbarium is a library of dried, pressed and mounted plant specimens. The W&M herbarium houses the largest collection of Virginia coastal plain flora. Our guide will be the Herbarium Curator, Beth Chambers. Space will be limited to 25, sign-up sheets will be available at the January monthly meeting or you can e-mail me at dparsons1@cox.net.

Our January 6th speaker will be Eric Bailey, a Virginia certified nurseryman from Nickerson Landscapes. Eric is a landscape designer who will speak to us about the challenge of gardening in the shade and choosing the right plant for the right location. He will focus on design first-- then incorporating the right plants. I just hope he talks about Hellebores, my new favorite shade plant.

If you have a chance, check out this site: <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/>. Here is an opportunity on a cold winter day to learn about Emerald Ash Borer monitoring/management as well as tomato wilt disease which destroyed all my heirloom tomato plants last season. With this knowledge I may now have a fighting chance in the upcoming season. This is also helpful if you are on the help-desk!

Lastly, and way more fun, what do you think is the correct answer to the following question? What perennial produces flowers in winter? a) coral bells b) Hellebore c) geranium From quiz @Wash Post/Joel Lerner 12/18 Green Scene. Check with me at the meeting for the answer, January 6th!

THERAPEUTIC GARDENING

BY LINDA LUCAS

Therapeutic Gardening volunteers will meet on Wednesday, January 19, at 1:30 in the afternoon. The meeting place has not yet been confirmed, but please mark the date on your calendars now! If you have volunteered in previous TG programs, we hope that you will continue and that you will be able to join us on the 19th. If you have thought about volunteering in this project and would like to learn more about the programs we have and what we do, please let Barbara Gustafson (barbara-sg@cox.net) or Linda Lucas (esllal@cox.net) know so we can

contact you with the meeting place and the agenda for January 19th. We have a number of different TG programs planned for 2011 and welcome new volunteers. Many of our programs involve simple gardening activities that don't require a great deal of physical effort but allow us to share our love of horticulture with special needs populations.

COMPOSTING IN COLD WEATHER: ONE WAY TO BYPASS PROBLEMS WITH COMPOSTING KITCHEN SCRAPS IN WINTER IS TO DO IT INDOORS

BY LEE REICH (FINE GARDENING MAGAZINE)

SUBMITTED BY CAROL FRYER

No matter how particular you are about building your compost pile properly in winter, not much will happen in the cold weather. Mounds of old salad, cooked broccoli, and moldy bread just sit there. There won't be odors from the pile in winter, but it's not a pretty sight and may attract animals.

One way to bypass problems with composting kitchen scraps in winter is to do it indoors. To compost indoors, or at least to get materials started composting, all you need is three buckets with loose-fitting lids. (Five-gallon plastic buckets, which are readily available from restaurants, often at no charge, should suffice.) If the lids fit tightly, just keep them loose as you fill the buckets with compost.

First, fill bucket #1 with a mixture of equal parts of dry sawdust or peat moss and dry soil, with a little limestone added. Do not use sawdust from pressure-treated or painted wood.

Then, on the bottom of bucket #2, lay an inch of dry straw, leaves, or shred-ded newspaper. Dump your kitchen scraps into bucket #2 as they become available, each time sprinkling on some of the sawdust-soil mixture from bucket

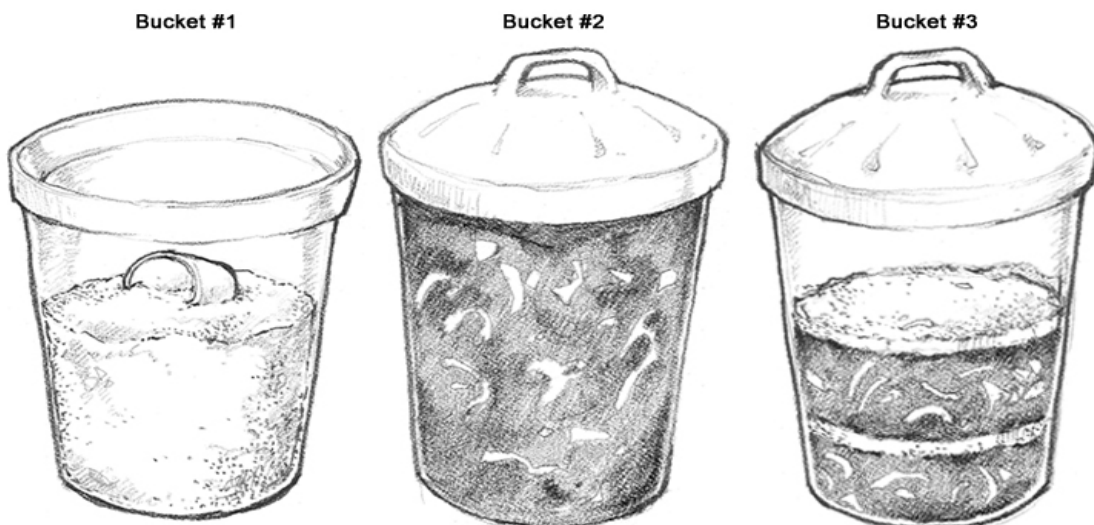


#1 to absorb odors and excess moisture. The sawdust-soil mix also adds carbon to the compost-in-progress, which balances out the high nitrogen concentration in most food scraps. If you have a lot of scraps at once, dump in a portion at a time, covering each layer with the sawdust-soil mixture. Chop up large pieces of scraps and let water drain from anything that is very wet before tossing it into the bucket.

When bucket #2 is full, set it in a warm spot indoors and start filling bucket #3. By the time bucket #3 is full, the contents of bucket #2 should be well on the way to becoming compost, that is, no longer looking like garbage and no longer attractive to scavengers.

When buckets #2 and #3 are full, you can dump the contents of bucket #2 outside on your compost pile. Then start filling that bucket again while bucket #3 sits. I keep the bucket I am filling and the sawdust-soil mixture right in my kitchen. Warmth hastens decomposition, and the whole setup is odor- and fly-free, environmentally sound, and very convenient.

From *Fine Gardening* 83, pp. 24-26.



Bucket #1 contains equal parts of sawdust or peat moss and dry soil, with a little limestone mixed in.

Buckets #2 and #3 contain compost at different stages of decomposition. Once one bucket is full, begin to fill the next bucket, setting the first bucket aside. When both buckets are full, add the older one to your outdoor compost pile.

(Photo/Illustration: Erica Marks)

The Colonial Master Gardener January 2011

2011 PLANT SALE PLANNING STARTED

BY DENNIS WOOL

A quick note to MGs that the Steering Committee for the 2011 Plant Sale begins meeting in early January to orchestrate the calendar and begin the organizational process for another outstanding event on April 29/30. As previously noted, the Sale will change locations to the JCC Recreation Center on Longhill Road - lots of space and adequate parking. Tents similar to those used at the Farmer's Market have been purchased (on sale) and discussions have begun with our commercial greenhouse partners. There is some hope that additional specialty growers will be added this year.

While the ground may be frozen, the creative minds of our membership are warming up Sale Day activities that will truly make this a memorable event for the entire family. Two items need your immediate consideration: 1) Are you interested in serving as a Team Facilitator or some other

leadership role for the Sale? And 2) Do you have any reasonably warm/greenhouse type space that you might store plants as we get closer to the 1st of April?

Finally, we have established an expectation that every MG contribute plant material from their own gardens, from seed or from nursery stock, to the Sale - 6-10 6" pots at a minimum. The 2010 intern class proved what a great idea this was as they contributed more than 500 plants to last year's event. More info to follow next month. If you have an interest in working on the plant sale planning process, please contact one of the Steering Committee Members - Toddy Voorhees, Kathy Lykins, Jerry Babski, or Dennis Wool.

REMINDERS:

Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Volunteers

The deadline for submitting applications to the Colonial Williamsburg Landscape department for volunteer positions at the Reid and Shields gardens is **January 15, 2011**. Any MG who becomes a volunteer in the Reid or Shields gardens 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 to learn how to receive an application.

International Master Gardener Conference

On October 11-15, 2011, the International MG Conference will be held in Charleston, WV. The keynote speakers will be Anna Caroline Ball, President and CEO of Ball Horticultural Company, and Joe Lamp'l, author of *The Green Gardener's Guide*.

Applications for SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE are **due February 1, 2011**. Go to the website <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu> for more information.

SAVE THE DATE:

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

ENVIROTHON EARTH DAY



9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

A day of activities for all ages designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment.

Join us at the New Kent Extension Office:
11809 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA

Earth Friendly Educational Demonstrations
For The Whole Family Featuring:
Presentation—Critters Don't Need Litter
Two performances
Demonstrations and Booth Displays

If any MGs would like to participate in this event, contact Patty Townsend, Horticulture Coordinator for New Kent VCE, at patric4@vt.edu, or call the New Kent Extension Office for more information (804-966-9645).



Steve Urlick speaking on "Orchid Selection and Advice" at JCCW MG Dec. 2nd meeting

Photo submitted by Toddy Voorhees



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

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

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

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Jan. 6 Monthly Meeting @ WRL, 9:00 a.m.
- Jan. 13 Graduation & Awards Dinner
- Jan. 24 February Newsletter Deadline
- Apr. 16 Environthon, New Kent
- 4/29-4/30 2011 Plant Sale (Rec. Center)
- 6/21-6/26 MG College 2011
- 10/11-15 International MG Conference, WV

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

A plant and note of sympathy was sent to Barb Landa on the death of her mother.

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.