

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



January 2013

Happy
New Year!!

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

January, the time for new beginnings. Part of the new beginnings for our Master Gardener organization is the welcoming of our newest members. Twenty-three interns have met all the requirements to receive their designation as Master Gardeners and we will be honoring these newest members at our January meeting. Plan to attend so you can welcome them into our group and share your support for them as they begin their journey as a Master Gardener.

January is also the time to be sure the many hours given during the past year have been recorded. It is extremely important that we have record of the work done by our members. If you have not recorded your hours, please take the time to do so as soon as possible.

It is time also to pay our dues and sign up for another fun filled year as an MG educating the community on everything from how to choose the right plant for the right place, composting, good water management, pruning, and so much more. Our treasurer, Bob Winther, will be glad to receive your check by mail or at the next meeting. Timely payment of dues insures our work continues and we know who is committed to the work we do.

Our gardens need attention too as the really cold weather is sure to arrive soon. Mulching provides our plants with the needed insulation they need. If we have periods without any rain some moisture will be welcomed by them. Take advantage of the days with beautiful sunshine, even when it might be cold, to do some tidying up of the garden. A clean garden makes for a healthy garden, remove those dead blossoms and leaves that could harbor disease. I know my camellias need some of this attention to prevent blossom blight come spring and insure beautiful blossoms to enjoy.

Happy Gardening, Margene

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is January 3.

Graduation:
Master Gardeners Class of 2012

REMINDER FROM THE MG TREASURER

BY BOB WINTHER



MGA annual dues ...

I have received dues from approximately 60% of membership for fiscal year 2013. Thanks to all who have submitted dues to-date. Please realize that your dues support the programs of your MGA and are vitally important to both the organization and yourself. Payment of dues and submission of a recommitment letter on an annual basis is also a requirement of MGA membership. MGA dues are still \$15.

Checks made out to "JCC/W Master Gardeners" with the note "Association Dues" in the memo line may be handed to me at a MG monthly meeting or sent directly to my home address.

Bob Winther - MG Treasurer
4751 Regents Park
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1798

Budget information ...

Your Board and Treasurer have approved a proposed budget for fiscal year 2013. This information will be sent to all MGA members by e-mail for acceptance at our January General Meeting. The document will also contain Budget/Actual \$s for 2012 for comparison. I would like to thank all Project chairs who submitted their dollar needs in timely fashion.

My best wishes to all in this holiday season and New Year. Thanks for all you do.

The Colonial Master Gardener January 2013

2012
MG Board

President:
Margene Hartsough

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

VP Administration:
David Sisson

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 JUDY CASONE

Well the year is coming to a close....did I do everything I thought I would in my garden? Not even close. It stares at me, covered in leaves and tells me another year has gone by without accomplishing many of my goals. I have, however, learned new things, made new friends and strengthened friendships already formed. So, all is not lost.

The January meeting will be the Graduation of the class of 2012. I hope that all of you will attend and join us for the Reception after the ceremony. It is a good place to see those friends you missed because you were on different committees and just kept missing each other. Most importantly, it is a place to welcome the new Master Gardeners,

perhaps learn of their interests and answer some questions. Welcome them to our organization because there is no better group of people.

We have some very interesting speakers this year. Bill Williams will speak on Birds & Gardening; Don Haynie joins us for Herbs; Norie Burket is 'Mad about Moss' and Scott Hemler of Colonial Williamsburg will speak on Topiaries.

It's been an interesting start to my term and I look forward to more adventures.

Wishing you well in the New Year.

BY-LAWS UPDATE

BY DAVE SISSON

"By action of the Board, the following amendment to the Bylaws is proposed.

1. All forms for actions requested by a member or committee of members for Board Action shall be Posted on the W/JCC MG web site with the e-mail address of appropriate recipient incorporated in the body of the form itself. Any member should be able to find the form needed by linked Index. [Copy, fill in the blanks and send is be the norm.]
2. E-mail is considered NOTICE when sent to or from a member of the Board with confirmation of delivery from the carrier. Hard copies of NOTICE e-mails shall become part of the Board Minutes.
3. Announcements in the monthly Newsletter are to be considered as information items, but do not constitute NOTICE, with the exception of the language proposed for Bylaw changes.
4. General e-mail communication among members is encouraged for keeping tasks on focus, projects scheduled, eliminate the need for separate meetings, etc.}

This language will be voted on in the February 2013 Membership Meeting and is to become Section 4 of Article 8. If you have questions or comments in advance, please contact Dave Sisson, VP, Administration, sisson2@cox.net.

In keeping with out existing Bylaws, please consider this 'Notice' of a pending change and vote date. These additions are being made to define the concept of 'Legal Notice' as it pertains to our internal communication exchanges with and among our members."

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.

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG

BY JOHN ALLISON

SUBMITTED BY MARY MILLS

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is a non-native stink bug currently invading eastern Virginia. Now that the weather is cool, adult BMSB will overwinter on the outside of buildings in large numbers and eventually move indoors. They can also be found in leaf litter around the outside of the house. This insect exhibits behavior similar to ladybugs, box-elder bugs, or cluster flies that also congregate on and in houses during late fall. When a brown marmorated stink bug finds a site that is suitable for overwintering it releases a chemical called an aggregation pheromone. The pheromone is a scent that attracts other BMSB to the area. The aggregation pheromone is not the same chemical that causes them to stink. Once inside buildings they can become a nuisance and emit an offensive odor if disturbed or crushed. During the winter months, the adults do not reproduce or feed. BMSB is a plant eater and will not bite humans or pets.

The BMSB can be kept out of homes and buildings by caulking entry points like cracks and crevices around windows, exhaust fans, phone wire and TV cable entry points, baseboards, and chimneys. Install insect screening behind attic gable vents and weather strip around doors. Repair torn window screens. Remove window-mounted air conditioners. Screen the top of chimneys. Rake away leaf litter from your home's foundation. Live and dead stink bugs can be removed from the indoors with a vacuum cleaner or shop vac. Place a piece of ladies' hose over the



bag end to catch the BMSB or use the vacuum bag and discard it right away so the vacuum cleaner does not hold the smell. Insecticides should not be used inside the house because they will not stop additional invasions and you will still have to clean up the dead insects.

By John Allison, ANR Extension Agent, Charles City County-Virginia Cooperative Extension, 10900 Courthouse Road, Charles City, VA 23124. Call 804-652-4743 or come by for information on this, and other home and garden questions.

BOOK REVIEW

BY JEANNE MILLIN



Flora of Virginia

Weakley, A.S., J.C. Ludwig, and J.F. Townsend. 2012

Flora Virginica was published 250 years ago. This book, a product of the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, which is an agency of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, is the first update since 1762. It was first created as a project in 2001. At 1,500 pages and 3 ¼ inches thick, with small print and many black and white pen illustrations, it is not for every bookshelf but is a valuable reference book for those looking for genera and specie information on the plants native to or naturalized in Virginia. The first part of this reference book contains information on the five Physiographic provinces of

Virginia and information on the geologic forces that created their differences. The nature of the different flora is described and suggestions are made for locations to find the best examples, mostly easily accessible state lands.

If you know your botanical names for species, one product of this research will be useful to all gardeners. It is found by looking for the: flora of Virginia website and then looking for the digital atlas dropdown. Take a look.

The majority of the book is organized by the familiar keys to plant families, with an extensive index, by familiar names in the back. This book can be found in the Master Gardener Library in the Extension Office under, QK191.W43.

The Colonial Master Gardener January 2013

Important Dates

- 1/3 Monthly Meeting at WRL
- 1/21 Newsletter Submissions Due

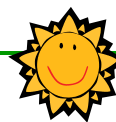
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **February Newsletter** is **Monday, January 21**. 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.

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.