

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



January 2014

**Happy
New Year!!**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

I don't know how many of you love to buy gardening books. I seem to buy several each year. Like my cookbooks, I read gardening books like other people read novels. Each one has little hints and pieces of information that help improve my skill as a gardener or just provide interesting reading. Recently I was looking through my Southern Living Garden Book, which is my bible for plants, and found this seasonal piece of knowledge.

English Holly Rules. Few plants are as rooted in superstition and folklore as holly. In Merrie Olde England, for example, it was vitally important which kind of holly was brought into the house on New Year's Day. If the holly had smooth leaves (called a she-holly), the wife commanded the house for the year. If the holly was prickly (a he-holly) the husband laid down the law.

So the lesson here is check your holly before bringing it in.

As we begin the new year we have several important events happening. At the January 2 general business meeting we will recognize the newest members of our unit as the 2013

interns receive their certificates and formally graduate. Our new class of trainees begins their work on January 6. We look forward to meeting these new individuals and the support for our work they will provide. Welcome them as they attend future general meetings.

Also we are getting geared up for the annual plant sale. Remember this is our one major fundraising project for the year and the source for funds to support the many projects in which we are involved. Begin thinking about the plants you might donate, if your yard could benefit from a plant dig, what seeds you might propagate and most importantly where you might volunteer to make the sale a great success.

Happy New Year and Happy gardening
Margene

**Next Meeting:
Thursday, January 2**

**We Welcome Our
Graduating Interns**

CIVIL RIGHTS TRAINING

If you missed the November meeting, check the JCC/W MG website Members' Page for the link to the Civil Rights Training now required of ALL MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS (or go directly to: http://connect.ag.vt.edu/vce_vol_cr_training/). Once you view the training, send an e-mail to David Sisson, VP Administration (sisson2@cox.net) and to Doris Heath. This is needed in order to participate in ANY projects beginning January 31, 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMINDERS

BY DENNIS WOOL

Start the New Year on solid ground – pay your 2014 dues, complete the civil rights training course, and submit your recommitment paperwork if you have not already done so. It is also not too late to submit your hours for 2013. The consequences of ignoring these basic steps won't be pleasant for any of us. Happy New Year to all. Dennis Wool

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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

What a treasure our members are!!! If you missed the December program given by David and Pam Sisson you truly missed a wonderful tour of the gardens of Capability Brown. Pam and Dave's personal tours and sharing of information was enjoyable to all and I cannot thank them enough. They also left us with a little 'teaser' showing the David Austin Roses building and the thought that they would be glad to share that with us. I especially enjoyed the feedback from members who had lived in that region or traveled there. Their experiences added to the program. If you have not traveled there (as I have not) all I can say is....Road Trip.

In January we will have the Intern Graduation as our program. A reception will be held after the program to welcome them and allow interaction with other Master Gardeners.

Please check the MG web page for upcoming programs.

Aside from our scheduled programs, we are invited to a talk by Dr. Donna M. E. Ware. Dr. Ware will be speaking on the "Remnants of an Ancient Mountain Flora in the Grove Creek Watershed". Current events concerning this will also be addressed. Dr. Ware will be speaking at 7:00 P.M., Monday, January 6th at the JCC Human Services Building on Olde Towne Road. It will be in the multi-purpose room that has the kitchen units. Dr. Ware is knowledgeable and entertaining.

Until next year.....Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year!

E2 NEWS FOR JANUARY 2014 BY KARI ABBOTT



Best wishes to everyone starting the New Year.

A big shout out and thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Christmas Tree Farm Tours.

In addition to the faithful volunteers, new people were willing to help out. Everyone's support was greatly appreciated!! As you experienced, this was a very wet December and rain and mud kept us from going to the farm. It was a weird Christmas without the field trip, a usual event that helps us herald the season of sharing and giving.

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

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

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.

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WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – JANUARY 2014

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY

Poverty Oatgrass

Danthonia spicata

Visible even in winter, this clump-forming perennial is distinctive, with wiry tufts of curly, basal leaves and leafless stems. Old basal leaves persist throughout the year, tan-colored, more curved and in-rolled. Blooming in May through August, small flowers develop on stalks 1 foot tall, with 2 short and straight alternate leaves.

The leaves of a related species, Silky Oatgrass (*D. sericea*) are taller and parts of the plant are silky-hairy.

Often seen in pathways, Poverty Oatgrass prefers dry, stony soils in sun or light shade. The grass is widespread in Virginia and the U.S. and Canada. Silky Oatgrass grows in dry sandy soil and pine woods, chiefly on the Coastal Plain, extending from southern New Jersey to Kentucky, Florida and Louisiana.



The genus was named in 1805 for a French botanist. Because of its dense tufts of curly basal leaves, Poverty Oatgrass is relatively easy to identify, even when it isn't in bloom.

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

THANK A WOODPECKER TODAY

SUBMITTED BY HELEN HAMILTON

Emerald Ash Borer May Have Met Its Match!

According to the Dec. 18, 2013 issue of Science Daily, researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago found that woodpeckers find emerald ash borers a handy food source and may slow the spread of this noxious pest, even ultimately controlling it. Their findings are published online in the journal Forest Ecology and Management.

For the full article text, see:

[http://www.sciencedaily.com/
releases/2013/12/131218170816.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/12/131218170816.htm)

NEW KENT UPDATE

BY SUSAN VOIGT

The New Kent Master Gardeners are holding a planning meeting for 2014 on January 9 at 1 PM. All MG in New Kent and Charles City counties are encouraged to attend. Any other JCC/W MGs are welcome to attend as well. The meeting will be held in New Kent at the VCE office next to the historical high school.

Happy New Year! Susan Voigt

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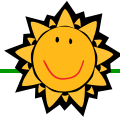
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **February** Newsletter is **Monday, January 20.**

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

Important Dates

- 1/02 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 1/09 New Kent Planning Meeting
- 1/20 Newsletter Submissions Due



SUNSHINE NOTES

In December, the JCC/W MG organization sent cards to the following:

Mary Ann Edwards – Health
Carol King (Peninsula Tree Stewards President) –
Death of close family member
Phyllis Putnam – Health

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.

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.

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.