



# The Colonial Master Gardener

January  
2015

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUE LIDDELL

This month we welcome the Class of 2014 to full membership in the Master Gardener Organization. Class Leaders Barb Floyd and Patti Lupton are in charge of the program with a reception following the meeting. As Interns, each class member has sampled the wide range of programs offered and is now ready to focus time and energy where his/ her talents and interests lie. New energy and enthusiasm will invigorate our programs.

As veteran MGs, maybe it's time to take a look at our past involvement, consider if our interests have changed and resolve to bring that same Intern energy and enthusiasm to new programs.

Speaking of resolutions: Have you paid your dues? Filled out all the forms? Entered your hours? Let's tie up all the loose ends of the old year, set exciting goals for the new, and make plans to reach those goals.

### Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 8

Program:

Welcome to New Interns!



## ADMINISTRATION

BY DIANE HARE

### EXTRA, EXTRA: READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Your membership matters, so please be sure that you have recorded your volunteer hours, completed the Recertification Form and the Standards of Behavior Form, and paid your dues on or before January 31st. The Forms are posted on the Membership Page of our Website. We are sending out an email in order to help you know what your status is with the Recertification Form and the Standards of Behavior Form. After you review the email, if you have questions or need help, please email Diane Hare at [DianeHare@cox.net](mailto:DianeHare@cox.net). **And thank you so much for the gift of your volunteer service to our Community!**

### HOW ABOUT A LITTLE HELP RECORDING YOUR HOURS INTO THE VMS (that's short for Volunteer Management System)?

Some of you have asked for a bit of help with the posting of your hours into the VMS. Well here goes:

- Go to our website, under the Members' Page to add your hours.
- Your hours need to be posted on or before January 31st, 2015.
- Travel miles are entered as a separate line item, using Travel as the description.

- To make things easier, you may enter a year's worth of travel as one line item for each project you report.
  - \* Be careful here though! If you enter one lump sum and you want to claim an income tax deduction for your mileage, you must also have a detailed, contemporaneously maintained travel log, in order to support your deduction.
  - \* If you entered your travel in detail by date, then the VMS should provide the documentation needed to support a tax deduction.
- The best advice we can give: record your hours as often as possible. The closer to the gift of your service you record your hours, the more hours you will remember to record.
  - \* Recording hours is pretty fast and easy!
  - \* If you have smart phone or tablet, you can record your hours on the go or any time at all.
- Help is just a phone call away!!! If you have questions or need any help at all, please call our Membership Chair: John Giffin at 757-645-7949. John is also willing to help you enter your hours if the computer is not your friend! Just say the word, okay?!
- We want to hand out oodles of Awards for the gift of your service, but you have to help us help you!!!! Record your hours! And thank you again for all you do to make our Unit the very special group that it is.

2014  
MG Board

*President:*  
Sue Liddell

*President Elect:*  
Debbie Griesinger

*VP  
Administration:*  
Diane Hare

*VP Projects:*  
Wilma Sharp

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Kathy Bush

*Secretary:*  
Patsy McGrady

*Treasurer:*  
Bob Winther

*VMGA Reps:*  
Marilyn Riddle and  
Jeanne Millin

*Past President:*  
Margene  
Hartsough

*Co-op Ext Rep:*  
Doris Heath  
564-2170

*Program Asst.,  
ANR:*  
Kate Robbins

## TREASURER'S REMINDER !!

BY BOB WINTER

### Final plea : MGA annual dues ...

Our MGA By-Laws state that dues are to be paid by all MGA members by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year. This is a requirement for all individuals wishing to continue membership and participation in our MGA.

Please note that a vast majority of members have already paid either by check or Paypal and I appreciate this commitment ... it makes the job easier for all involved in the collection of membership status on a yearly basis.

As in the past two months :

*I will be collecting dues at the January MGA General Meeting at a table set-up at the entrance to the meeting room. Since I will no longer be accepting cash please come prepared to deliver or write a check. Another option is to pay dues by Paypal on our website.*

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

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

Your prompt consideration of this important matter is well appreciated by your MGA board.

## VMGA BOARD MEETING

BY ANGELA CINGALE

### State Coordinator's Liaison Report December 13, 2014 Lexington, VA

1. WebEx – Starting in January, we will be offering online sessions every other month. We have topics set for the first two sessions, but we will be soliciting suggestions for future topics. These are intended for agents, coordinators, and association leaders or leaders-to-be. Adobe Connect is being replaced by WebEx for delivering online training session.
2. Annual Report – we will soon be asking each unit to respond to a call for information for inclusion in the report. Please encourage your agent and/or coordinator to participate.
3. MG College – it looks like the Holiday Inn will be closed after the first of the year; also Conference and Guest Services has hired a new housing director; John and I will be meeting with them soon.
4. Background Policy – background screening policy was released this fall. Also, a timeline has been established for existing volunteers. A different district will be screened each quarter. The timeline was included with the policy announcement email.
5. Risk Management Module – John has been working with Jeremy Johnson, our Volunteer Specialist, to create a risk management module for agents and coordinators to use locally to teach risk management.
6. Milestones due soon – since the milestone awards are now based on a calendar year, a request will soon be sent to submit them to the state coordinator's office.

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:30 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.

## E2 UPDATE BY KARI ABBOTT



Greetings in the New Year!

The 2015 E2 year will start off with adventures with water in first grade and kindergarten. The monthly class will talk about how important it is to conserve and preserve water. A great topic to start the new year.

The field trips that were held in December produced happy children who were excited to be outside. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the field trip a special day.

Everyone who attended, parents, volunteers, and teachers all seemed to have a fun time.

Please email [bearsbaskets@cox.net](mailto:bearsbaskets@cox.net) if you would like to join us in E2 volunteering with school children.

Respectfully,  
Kari Abbott  
E2 Project Chairperson

# The Colonial Master Gardener January 2015

## INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY KATHY BUSH

This month we will be graduating the class of 2014 MG interns. Do you remember when you graduated? Didn't you feel like it was a big accomplishment? Come celebrate with them and encourage them to be an active part of our unit. When a cook graduates from cooking school, he/she is not automatically a chef but needs experience in the field producing lots of delicious meals. Here is a lighthearted effort to see how well our interns have become master gardeners.

### You know you are a Master Gardener when...

You can pick off Japanese Beetles and cabbage worms with your bare hands.  
Your bedtime reading is seed catalogs.  
You keep a nail brush in the shower.  
You are on a first name basis at the garden center.  
You keep a tarp or plastic in the back of your car to protect from soil spills and moisture.  
You take pictures of plants and creepy insects with your cell phone.  
You plan your trips and vacations with a stop at a well-known garden or two.  
You have composters and rain barrels and even a compost can on your kitchen counter.  
You have holes in your garden gloves and several new pairs on hand, ready to put into use.  
You are excited to find some of your plants have reseeded and multiplied so you can dig them up and donate them to the plant sale.  
Your friends and acquaintances ask for gardening advice and you say "I don't know the answer but I'll be glad to research it and get back to you!"  
And finally, You have enthusiastically recruited more students for next year's MG Training class!  
Good luck Class of 2014!

### Field Trips and Educational Opportunities

#### **April 11, 2015, The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Gardening symposium at CNU**

**Save the date:** The theme will be "**Great Gardens-Great Ideas**". Guest Speakers will be:

Sharon Loving, Director of Horticulture at Longwood Gardens, Chris Strand, Director Garden & Estate of Winterthur Museum, Patricia Brodowski, Director of Vegetable Gardens of Monticello. Registration will be on line in **January**.

**January 17, 10-11:30 AM-** Williamsburg Botanical Garden- **The Right Cut**, a workshop on early winter tree care, pruning and tools. Barb Landa and Annette Bell are speakers. Suggested donation \$5

**January 19,** Virginia Horticultural Foundation's program "**Gardening Freedom! Home Gardener's Day**" <http://vcemastergardener.blogspot.com/2014/11/gardening-freedom-home-gardener.html>

December 22 for early registration \$80 includes lunch.

**January 30,** Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs will host a lecture with Lisa Ziegler, cut flower farmer and author of *Cool Flowers* on "Easy Seed Starting". Free and open to the public. 10:00 meeting, lecture to follow. Women's Club of Newport News, 461 J Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News, VA 23601.

**February 10, 1-2:30,** Herb Society of America open meeting- **Tussie Mussies: A Victorian Valentine**, presented by Julie Stanton. Meets at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church fellowship hall, Norge, VA. Free

**March 6-7,** Bus to Philly Flower Show and Longwood Gardens

MARCH 6th- leave 6-6:30am

Arrive PFS late morning

Have everyone bring a bag lunch

The hotel said they could have a nibbles buffet for us when we return, I will ask the price.

MARCH 7th- breakfast at hotel

Rest of morning and early afternoon at Longwood Gardens

Recommend a late lunch at LG

Return back to Williamsburg round 7:30-8:30pm

**March 21, 2015,** Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 10AM, **Geology of Plants**, Retired Geology professor Dr. Jerre Johnson, a review of geologic history of area and processes that shaped its landscape and soils.

**March 28, 2015, 8-3 PM,** Northern Neck Master Gardeners and VCE 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar "**What's New and What's Tried and True**" Speakers, vendors, book signings. Check website [www.nnmg.org](http://www.nnmg.org) after Feb 1<sup>st</sup> for registration form. \$25

### **Notes from December's general meeting**

Site for straw bale gardening: <http://strawbalegardens.com/about/faqs/1-what-is-straw-bale-gardening>

### ***The Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden***

The Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden is located adjacent to the Thomas A. Baum Senior Center at 300 Mustian Street in Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

<http://dare.ces.ncsu.edu/>

[OUTER+BANKS+ARBORETUM+AND+TEACHING+GARDEN/](http://dare.ces.ncsu.edu/OUTER+BANKS+ARBORETUM+AND+TEACHING+GARDEN/)

### ***Nags Head Woods Preserve***

701 West Ocean Acres Drive

Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/northcarolina/placesweprotect/nags-head-woods-ecological-preserve.xml#directions>

[Nags Head Woods Preserve Directions: Next Page]

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE:

### **Directions To Nags Head Woods Preserve:**

Take US 158 to the Town of Kill Devil Hills. Turn west near Mile Post 9.5 on Ocean Acres Drive: There is a stoplight with a McDonald's and Pigman's BBQ. Drive through a residential neighborhood for one mile; the road becomes gravel and narrows. The road will curve sharply to the right and you will see the white Nags Head Woods Preserve sign and parking area on the left. Walk up the boardwalk where trail maps and preserve guides are available at the outdoor information counter.

## PRUNING INSTRUCTION HOME VISITS

BY BARB LANDA

Have you noticed that many homeowners have a rather high anxiety level when the topic of pruning comes up? They feel uncomfortable doing the pruning themselves; yet, when they hire the job done by someone else, they still aren't sure that it is being done correctly. Pruning instruction at home to the rescue!

How does it work? A homeowner from James City County, Williamsburg, or New Kent registers online at the MG website between December 15 and January 15. A mutually convenient time is scheduled for the visit. A team of three or four MGs tours the property with the homeowner and demonstrates the best pruning practices for the specific concerns of the homeowner. An appraisal of the homeowner's equipment is made and a handbook is left for the homeowner's future reference. Actually, little if any pruning is done by the Master Gardeners since the emphasis is on instruction; but the homeowner is encouraged to try his hand. There is no charge for the visit.

If you would like to be a part of the pruning team, it's not too late. Are you thinking that your pruning know-how is a little rusty? Not to worry. We will be having two Train the Trainer sessions for new members of the team (and current members who want a refresher) on January 13 and 15. New members are always paired with experienced MGs on home visits while they become familiar with the process.

Since we do most of our visits in the month of February, this is a wonderful antidote for the winter blahs. Contact either Barb Landa ([barb@landa.org](mailto:barb@landa.org)) or Annette Bell ([wbell11@cox.net](mailto:wbell11@cox.net)) for more information.

### **PRUNING CLINIC**



**Baffled by pruning?**

**Plants overgrown and  
unkempt??**

**Hands-on Pruning**

**Instruction – FREE**

Go to [www.iccwmg.org](http://www.iccwmg.org)

Click on "Pruning Clinic"

**Fill out application online**

**Applications accepted December 15 to  
January 15**

# The Colonial Master Gardener January 2015

## "POSTCARDS" FROM RUSSIA:

A series of photos from a trip **Pat Crowe** and her husband took from St. Petersburg to Moscow in September



Garden at The Kremlin/Moscow



Park in St. Petersburg

Even though Russia is much farther North than SE Virginia, the summer blooming plants are surprisingly similar. (begonia, coleus, dusty miller, etc.) The "White Night", a period of almost total light, exists from mid May until early July. As a result of little darkness, flowering plants grow quickly and are very large!

Park flowerbeds are very stylized and well manicured. The home gardener is much more 'casual' and appears to pay little attention to weeding and lawn mowing.



←  
This small garden is located on Kizhi, one of 1650 islands in Lake Onega in the region of Karelia (one of the oldest inhabited sites in Russia.) and home of many wooden structures made without nails. At just 500 km (300 miles) south of the Arctic Circle, the summer highs are only in the 60s. (It was a brisk 40 on the day we visited in early September.) As you can see, greens and other root crops grow well.



Sunflower in Mandrogi



←  
Mosses are doll figures made from moss, cones and other natural materials. They are from the early 20th century and are found in the Vyatka province in Western Russia. (Photo taken in *Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia*)



"We are the Girls from Sochi" - park in Yaroslavl.

# The Colonial Master Gardener January 2015

---

## COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG DECORATIONS WALKING TOUR WITH TANYA WILSON SUBMITTED BY KATHY BUSH



On a cold December day many of our members enjoyed learning about the wreaths, swags, and decorations adorning the buildings at Colonial Williamsburg. We discovered the many natural materials used and Mrs. Wilson talked about method and design. We saw the lovely and interesting first place winners and chose some of our favorites. We were inspired to try our hand at making our own creations at home. Afterwards some of us lunched at Shield's Tavern. Thank you to Tanya Wilson!



## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – JANUARY 2015

BY HELEN HAMILTON

### *Pansies in the Snow*

Those bright faces in our winter gardens are not native plants but hybrids of several species, one of which is the European *Viola tricolor*. While violets were known in 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., cultivated by the Greeks as an herbal medicine, experiments in England in the 1800s produced the familiar hybrid garden pansy. Breeders are constantly tweaking pansies for more durability to cold temperatures, and long life. Planted in the fall, the garden pansy may go dormant in deep winter, but will emerge with large blossoms in the spring. Pruning leggy growth and deadheading increases their attractive appearance.

Over 600 species of the genus *Viola* are found worldwide, and many are native to Virginia. This large group is divided by the appearance of the flowers, either on the same stem with leaves, or as separate stalks. The common blue violet (*Viola sororia*) produces flowers on separate stalks and the wild pansy (*Viola bicolor*) carries both flowers and leaves on the same stem.



Blue Violet

The leaves of common blue violet are one of the first signs of spring, followed soon by the flowers appearing early in February. Wild pansies come into bloom a little later and are seen in lawns and meadows from March through May.

Violets are real opportunists, reproducing in 3 different ways – by runners, self-pollination, or cross-pollination by visiting insects. While violets can be somewhat weedy, releasing many seeds, most of which seem to germinate, the leaves furnish food for the caterpillars of the fritillary butterfly, and are thus highly desirable in the home garden.



Wild Pansy

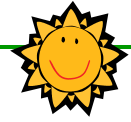
Pansies



## Important Dates

- 1/8 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 1/26 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 1/31 Annual Dues are due

## SUNSHINE NOTES



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](mailto:patsymcgrady@cox.net).

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the February newsletter will be Monday, January 26.

Please send any submissions to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at [cathy.lohwater@cox.net](mailto:cathy.lohwater@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.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital, family, or veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; Jewel E. Hairston, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.