

# The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION & VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



## July 2011

**No Monthly Meeting  
In July**

### INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

Last Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of June saw a group of 26 of us travel by hook or crook to the gardens of Linda and Bill Pinkham. Some by ferry, some by Interstate 64 and some just appeared! What a wonderful time we had; the weather was perfect and we saw an area of coastal Virginia that was still as quiet and serene as in years past. As we entered the property we were struck by the view of the James River across the flower borders receding down to the marshlands. The gardens were a sight to behold; the daylilies were of every variety, size and color. Some had ruffles, some with spikes, and some with a different color border. We took notes fast and furious with an eye to purchasing as soon as we were at Smithfield Gardens. The included photos taken by Linda Lucas, Barbara Floyd and Kate Wilhide speak for themselves.

Before the tour Bill Pinkham spoke to us about some of the same problems that we all have but in a much larger scale for them. Deer, voles and moles, groundhogs and weeds have to be dealt with. Some suggestions were Bobbex, Milorganite, a mixture of Permatill, compost and topsoil for voles, Snapshot, Preen and corn gluten for weeds. But most of all, **Never let your weed go to seed!**

We toured the rock garden, so called because of the huge rocks that were placed ever so carefully by Bill (and heavy equipment). I was captured by the beauty of the vines covering the nail-free trellised entrance that led to their front door. Before you reached the front door you crossed a Koi pond on large stone slabs that seemed to float on the water. Some of us were a little un-nerved and did not make the crossing.

Some notes: Elephant garlic is better than Allium, there is a Knockout rose **climber**, look for "rad" in the name, and the

*Rubeckia Maxima* is amazingly tall and is a true coneflower, but just be sure your garden can accommodate 6-7 feet and more in height. There is an **Evergreen** Kousa Dogwood (*Angustata*). The Electric Marmalade Magic daylily won Ruth Schultz's heart. Linda does recommend the Supertunia over the regular petunia, very vigorous and hardy. Linda actually weedwacks her Hellebores before they bloom in January to expose the blooms.

Note in the photos the artistic way the French drains were constructed around Bill's studio. Bill, the artist, is seen everywhere in the garden, from the large stone or clay sculptures, the hand thrown and decorated stones, the clay pots, to the arcane faces in the ground. What a day! We will have to go again!

Remember, no meeting in July.



Entrance



Bill & Linda Pinkham



Pottery

# The Colonial Master Gardener July 2011

---

2011  
MG Board

*President:*  
Roger Evans

*VP Projects:*  
Beth Fugate

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Harriet Parsons

*VP Administration:*  
Margene Hartsough

*Secretary:*  
Mary Ellen Edwards

*Treasurer:*  
Bob Winther

*VMGA Reps:*  
Marilyn Fiddle and  
Angela Cingale

*Past President:*  
Linda Lucas

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

## WATER STEWARD TRAINING

BY JEANNE MILLIN

VCE Water Stewards contribute to the improvement of the environment in their communities through public education programs, demonstration sites and establishment of programs that teach the community about landscape management techniques that conserve and protect our water resources. VCE MG Water Stewards build on their MG training by involving MG's and other members of their community's organizations and agencies in these programs. Peninsula Water Stewards share their knowledge through train-the-trainer events such as the water workshop held in 2010 and the recent Rain Garden Project at New Quarter Park. If you would like to join us, please sign up for the Water Steward training planned for 2012.

Water Steward training will be provided by the Peninsula Chapter of Master Gardener-Water Stewards starting on January 4, 2012 and

finishing on March 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held from 12:30 to 3:30 at the JCC Recreation Center on Longhill Road. The cost will be \$125 for the 10 weeks. The application form is attached to this newsletter and will also be online starting July 1. Applications should be received no earlier than September 1. Only one class can be missed. We expect great interest in this program so get your application in early. Master Gardeners from all five MG organizations that are part of the Peninsula Chapter will be eligible for the class. Interviews will be conducted towards the end of September. Checks will not be cashed until you are informed that you are accepted in the class but should be sent with the application.

---

## E2 PROJECT

BY KARI ABBOTT

A big THANK YOU to all the interns and Master Gardeners who helped make this year's kindergarten and first grade field trips a great success.

I got one more thank you note from the children I wanted to share..

"Thank you , I liked the field trip we went on. It was fun. We could have been poisoned if you did not teach us about three leaves let it be..I liked the inchworm too." It is nice to know that Master Gardeners teaching children about poison ivy makes an impact!

Other news: on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in the multipurpose room at the Health and Human Services building, the annual training for the E2

Project will be conducted from 9am to 3pm. Please let me know if you are coming (email [bearsbaskets@cox.net](mailto:bearsbaskets@cox.net)), as I will have materials for you to keep. Everyone who would like to volunteer in the E2 Project is welcome.

It is a fun day. Dress comfortably as we will make a little bit of a mess. For Master Gardeners this six-hour workshop counts as advanced training so if you even think you might be interested, this is a good day to check things out!

The workshop covers the academic school year and the activities that are conducted in class and on the field trips.

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.

---

## MANY THANKS

I'm improving daily from the hip replacement, but I certainly could not have done it without all of the support I've had! Phone calls, visits, cards, edibles, chores done - all MUCH appreciated! Thank all of you from the bottom of my heart! .... Ailene Bartlett

## MGs AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

BY SALLY SISSEL

**July 2:** Water with Barrels and Bins

**July 16:** Therapeutic Gardening

**July 30:** Drought Tolerant Plants

# The Colonial Master Gardener July 2011

---

## MONARCHS IN THE GARDEN

BY HELEN HAMILTON

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden will present 3 "Learn and Grow Educational Programs" for children and adults this summer. All are scheduled for Saturday mornings, from 10:00-11:30 am at the Ellipse Garden in Freedom Park (Intersection of Longhill and Centerville Roads). The dates are July 16, August 20, September 17. Admission is free and open to the public.

Three programs about the life cycle of butterflies will feature (1) how to attract monarch butterflies into the garden, (2) how to raise monarch caterpillars, and (3) how to tag and release the adults. Activities will include: (1) creating the monarch life cycle using craft materials, (2) growing milkweed plants, (3) learning how to raise monarch caterpillars, and (4) tagging and releasing the adults.

For information check:

[www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org), or call 757-880-1893. Williamsburg Botanical Garden is also on Facebook.



Photo by Vickirose Britcher

---

## TUNE IN TO PBS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

For those of you who are able to get Richmond's PBS channel, WCVE, on your TV, please make a note of this: on the last Tuesday of the month, at 8 p.m., there is a program called "Virginia Home Grown". The host, Richard Nunnally, is a former Extension agent who now works for the RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH and the radio program. Usually, he and his co-host visit 2 or 3 different places of horticultural interest during each program, and have a question-and-answer session as well. The May 31 program featured Tufton Farm, a part of the Monticello complex, and a volunteer at the Ginter Botanical Garden who is engaged in hybridizing magnolias. Quite interesting! If you'd like to see some of the things going on horticulturally elsewhere in Virginia, this is not to be missed!

### SUPER TURF SATURDAY

Please don't forget Super Turf Saturday on **August 6!**

## "COLOR IT GREEN"

BY ANGELA CINGALE

Let's Re-use, Recycle, and Re-purpose whenever we can. "Color It Green" is the theme of the International Master Gardener College in Charleston, WV from October 11-14. More information on that next month. In the meantime, here are a few ideas to get you started:

**Paper Napkins:** Try to use fewer napkins. Each American consumes an average of 2,200 two-ply napkins per year, or just over 6 napkins per day. If each person used just 1 fewer napkin per day, it would save about 10 million of them from the trash – enough to provide a napkin to every person who eats a hot dog on July 4<sup>th</sup>. It will also save more than a billion pounds of napkins from the landfills each year. A stack of napkins that size could fill the entire Empire State Building.

**Sugar/Sweeteners:** Use loose containers rather than individual packets. When you use individual packets of sugar, you're using about as much packaging as the sweetener in it.

**DVDs:** Rent DVDs instead of buying them. Depending upon how much you watch one, you could save money. The average movie rents for about \$4, while the average new DVD sells for more than \$16.. You also have to worry about contributing to their trash pile: One hundred thousand DVDs and CDs are thrown away each month. If you do own DVDs and want to discard them, donate them to a local library or thrift store, or look for a DVD recycling center.



## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – JULY 2011

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, BY HELEN HAMILTON

SOFT RUSH, *Juncus effusus*

Not a grass, this erect, perennial herb grows 3 feet tall and forms dense clumps. The stems are stout, round and unbranched, with a bristle tip. There are no apparent leaves, and the flowers appear in an inconspicuous greenish brown cluster on the upper half of the stem. Each fruit capsule contains many minute seeds. Most of the stems remain greenish through winter.

Soft rush grows in sunny wet meadows, freshwater marshes, and shrubby swamps from Newfoundland to North Dakota, and south to Florida and Texas. Native to every county in Virginia, this clump-forming plant makes a nice addition to damp spots in the home garden, the spiky stems contrasting with broad-leaved perennials and shrubs.

Muskrats feed on the rootstalks, and birds find shelter

among the stems. Jamestown colonists opened the stems to extract a continuous white fiber which they used for candle wicks. For more information about native plants visit [www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org).



**Photo:** Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*)  
taken by Phillip Merritt



**More photos  
from the  
Pinkham  
gardens**



French  
Drain



Koi  
pond



# The Colonial Master Gardener July 2011



More photos from the Pinkham gardens



Rock Garden



Fringed spider lilies



## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **August Newsletter** is **Monday, July 18.**

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at [cathy.lohwater@cox.net](mailto:cathy.lohwater@cox.net) or call 757-259-1133.

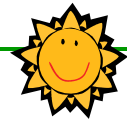
## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 7/18 Aug. Newsletter Deadline
- 8/6 Super Turf Saturday
- 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



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](mailto: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.

PENNSULA WATER STEWARD CLASS APPLICATION-Class of 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Employed \_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_ What is/was your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Master Gardener Unit Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Years as a Master Gardener? \_\_\_\_\_

MG Activities \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in Water Steward training? \_\_\_\_\_

Training will usually be on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30, from January 4<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>. In order to complete the class requirements only one absence will be permitted.

Will you be able to attend all classes? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be able to participate in a project and accumulate your required 20 hours of Water Steward activity in 2012? \_\_\_\_\_

References (and contact information):

	Name	Address	Phone	Relationship
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:**  
Jeanne Millin  
James City County/Williamsburg MG  
2901 Thomas Smith Lane  
Williamsburg, VA 23185