

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



July 2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS

Wow, half the year has already passed. It seems like only a few weeks ago planning the spring garden was in full progress and now we are harvesting the bounty of our work this spring. I hope you all have been successful.

Last month, I was hit with the woolly aphid and this time I've got squash vine borers. I believe I may have gotten to them in time and won't lose my summer squash like last year. However, I am planting additional plants now to take their place.

The health department has received their grant for the community garden in the Grove. Art and Barbara Gustafson have been working with the Grove team from the Recreation Center and the Health department to get supplies for the building of the beds and garden racks which were picked up last week. This week the beds are supposed to be assembled and the soil delivered with a dedication possibly in July.

One thing I've learned from this experience is that we are all very talented individuals and have a lot to offer the community when asked for assistance. We were contacted by Preservation Virginia and asked to take a look at their gardens and make some suggestions. That is in the process. While there, the volunteer coordinator asked if anyone in our group would give a presentation on trees and plants that are

on the Island. If anyone would be interested in taking this on, that would be wonderful. The target audience is the volunteers at Historic Jamestown.

This month, I've had two requests for information. One was from a farmer in Illinois who wanted more information on container gardening and one was from Washington DC for a brother in Indiana on the same subject. It is wonderful to see that through friends and relatives our information is requested and shared freely throughout the nation. That is what makes the Master Gardeners a great organization.

I am anxiously waiting the return of our Master Gardener College attendees and hear their reports of what they have learned. It is through continuing education that we keep our minds active and through gardening that our bodies keeps our bodies healthier.

I hope all of you enjoy the activities of summer as we continue our projects.

Monthly Meeting

There is NO Meeting in July!

The next meeting is August 2.

SUPER TURF SATURDAY

BY BARB FOLEY

It's that time of the year again! Super Turf Saturday is on August 11, and this is our 11th annual session. Dr. Mike Goatley and his Virginia Tech Turf Team will hold forth on the latest research-based information on turf establishment and maintenance. Our partner vendors will also be in attendance to display and answer questions about seed, fertilizer, compost, soil amendments, and conditioners. Alternatives to turf (particularly rain gardens) will be discussed, including the James City County rebate Garden Love Program. Register early by calling the VCE, James City County Office, at 564-2170.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

BY Law Update.

Article IV - Executive Board
Section 2 The Duties of the Officers shall be as follows:
Item 3 Duties of the Projects VP. Delete sentence reading "The Projects Vice President shall serve in place of the President in his/her absence."
Rational: With the addition of the position of President Elect, who shall serve in the absence of the president, the sentence is no longer necessary.

This by-law change will be voted upon at the September meeting.

The Colonial Master Gardener July 2012

2012
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 Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Linda Lucas

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

With Master Garden College just finishing up and the hot hazy days of summer, there is not much going on in the way of educational programs. Makes sense to me! It is the time to pick our home grown veggies and attempt to keep up with the weeds. However, a group of 26 of us did go on the June 5th field trip to Seigman's Gardens in Gloucester. It was a rainy, cool day but we were not deterred. I am always amazed to drive to a secluded spot in an old neighborhood, far from the beaten path and find a wondrous garden. Check out the photos below and on page five--this is a garden worth seeing. Most of us would probably not think of using sedums as a ground cover on a bank at the entrance to the property, but it works. I did not see any mulch in this garden. A lot of randomly placed but unified flat stone (flagstone like) was used as a border to the beds, as well as protecting the irrigation heads.

There were many separate gardens. The Japanese style was a favorite, very small and simple, giving a sense of tranquility. The Koi pond was outstanding, beautiful from every vantage point. The outer space feature with crisscrossing lines and ships made of discarded hubcaps and found materials was fun but also served to keep the crows and deer at bay. I always thought bottle trees were tacky, not anymore! It's all in the design. Some of the things we liked as a group were the use of *Yaupon Holly* shrub instead of boxwood, evergreen *Viburnum Compacta*, the shrubby *Miss Kim Lilac*, *Evergreen Clematis*, the *Blue Ice Juniper* tree (soft and lacy), *Blue Globe Spruce* and a simple pot of bamboo. Mr. Seigman recommends we go to Sandy's Garden Center,

Longwood Gardens, Jack Massey off Crocker Road and Luck's for stone. It was great that we had the support of so many MG's. Thanks for attending.

I am still pushing you to look at the state MG webinar, which has lots of links to all kinds of activities and programs throughout the U.S. Check out <http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener/2012/06/06/emg-blog-learning-notes-recapping-may-2012/>

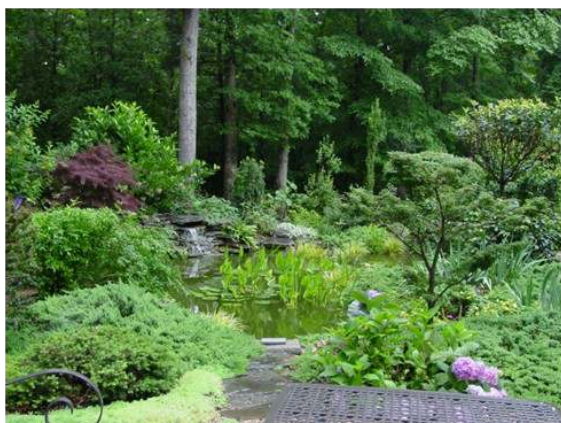
There is no meeting in July. Our speaker for August 2 is Joy Long. Her topic is "Anybody can grow roses!" Sure, sure.

Finally, my term as Internal Education chair is over! I want to express my appreciation to the Education Committee who has made my job easier. Thank you one and all. I also want to encourage more of you to step up and be more involved in a leadership role. I never thought I could take over and do as good a job as previous chairs but with the help of the committee and those MG's offering encouragement and thanks for our work it turned out not to be so tough. Judy Casone will be the new chair. I have worked with her on other projects and know that she will be great. Let's help her out with our ideas on speakers, field trips and attendance.

Your fellow MG, Harriet

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.



See More Photos from the Seigman Garden field trip on page 5

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MG COLLEGE REPORT

BY SUE LIDDELL

Nine JCC/W Master Gardeners took part in the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Master Gardener College. From the pre-college workshops and tours to the closing picnic at the Horticulture Gardens, there was something for everyone. Art Gustafson was impressed with the American Chestnut Plantation Tour. The Milestone awards ceremony recognized seven JCC/W MGs for reaching goals from 250 hours to 7000 hours.

Milestone Awards

Patsy McGrady	250
Daniel Tevlin	500
Marilyn Riddle	1000
Angela Cingale	3000
Carol Fryer	3000
Barbara Gustafson	6000
Sue Liddell	7000

The morning keynote speakers were entertaining and informative, many teaching an in-depth class in the afternoon. Tree Steward training was emphasized this year and sessions offered were excellent, particularly Dr. Dave Orcutt's "Abiotic Stressors and Plants". Food was abundant; a Dessert Reception after the Awards Ceremony and an Endowment Reception with music at the University Club were special times to meet and mingle. Many pledges and donations were given during the week. A Wine Tasting Reception was the background for the Silent Auction. Proceeds went to the Endowment Fund. All attendees went home with a plant or two, a reminder of their growth as Master Gardeners.

JULY 19 PROJECT CHAIR MEETING

BY DEBORAH GRIESINGER, VP PROJECTS

A meeting has been set up for Project Chairs and Co-Chairs at the Recreation Center on Longhill Road on Thursday, July 19th, at 1:00 PM in Room B. This meeting has been coordinated with Jeremy Johnson, the Extension Agent for Youth Development, as he begins to plan for his 4-H programs for the fall. Jeremy will speak with those of us involved in youth programs regarding 4-H enrollment forms and the calendars for these programs.

The Master Gardener Project Chairs and Co-Chairs will discuss the schedule, calendars, and the budget requirements for your projects.

I will briefly go over the requests for a monthly report from each project---not formal, just a few sentences to include the number of hours, contacts, and the number of Master Gardeners working there. There will also be an end of year summary report or impact statement that needs to be sent to me at the end of your projects. I will compile both of these reports and send them to Doris Baskfield-Heath, so that she can write her reports to the state and the county. Completing these reports and their accuracy has a large impact of the possibility of hiring an agricultural or horticultural agent.

I will send a more detailed agenda for the meeting as we get closer. Please send me thoughts or ideas that you may have for the agenda and our meeting at dgriesinger@cox.net. Thank you and see you on July 19th.



Some of the MG College Award Recipients:

Sue Liddell, Barbara Gustafson, Dan Tevlin, and Patsy McGrady



JCCW MG Attendees to the 2012 MG College:

Front row: Patsy McGrady, Art and Barbara Gustafson, Anne Nielsen, Donna Xander. Back row: Dan Tevlin, Marilyn Riddle, Carol Fryer, Sue Liddell.

JULY WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

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

Wildflower of the Month – July 2012
John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society

STARRY CAMPION *Silene stellata*

The flowers of this native perennial are quite beautiful with deeply fringed white petals flaring from a greenish bell-shaped tube. Blooming July-September, each one-inch flower has 5 petals in clusters on tall slender stalks. Remaining open during the evening, night and early morning, they tend to close in bright sunlight.

The plant grows 2-3 feet tall on finely pubescent stems, unbranched or branched very little. Long, lance-shaped leaves are in whorls of 4 along in the middle of the stems, while the lower and upper leaves are opposite. The round central stem is hairless to densely pubescent and somewhat swollen at the base of the leaves, where it is often reddish purple.

The leaves of the introduced Bladder Campion (*S. vulgaris*) are opposite on glabrous stems and the 5 white petals are deeply notched, but without fringes. The base of this introduced flower (calyx) is papery, inflated and net-veined, suggesting a tiny melon.

Starry Campion grows in open woods and ranges from Massachusetts to North Dakota, and south to Georgia and Texas. A native of Europe, Bladder Campion is now a common weed through much of North America. Both plants are widespread across Virginia.



Photo: Starry Campion (*Silene stellata*)
taken by Phillip Merritt

The genus name comes from Silenus, a mythical drunken Greek covered with foam – some species of this genus have sticky secretions and are called Catchflies. A colonial botanist reported the use of Starry Campion for snakebite, suggested by the markings on the root, similar to the skin of a rattlesnake, but found to be ineffective.

With no floral scent, the flowers are pollinated by moths and bumblebees as these insects take nectar from the flowers. Deer will probably avoid this plant, since the foliage and seeds contain saponins which are somewhat toxic to mammalian herbivores.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (E2)

BY KARI ABBOTT



Greetings,

The Environmental Education project ended the year on several great notes. The field trips to York River State Park and the Botanical Garden were grand! Again, a big thank you everyone who helped! The last classes went well, and the children can't wait to see everyone again.

On that happy note, I have arranged the **TRAINING** for volunteering in the E2 Project. **Any master gardeners are welcome to attend.** It will be Thursday August 16th, 2012 from 9am to 3pm. The training will be held at the building in New Quarter Park. Bring your lunch, and dress for outside adventures. It will be an action packed fun day of environmental education. This does count as advanced

training for the Master Gardener volunteer hours. Reservations are needed so I have enough supplies for everyone.

Email me at bearsbaskets@cox.net if you are interested. Good things are going on in E2!

NEW LAND CARE STEWARD

Congratulations to Sue Liddell, who recently received her Land Steward Certificate and Pin. She participated in this training at last year's MG College and received the certification at this year's College. Good job!

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MASTER NATURALISTS BEGIN BASIC TRAINING IN SEPTEMBER

SUBMITTED BY JEANNE MILLIN



The Historic Rivers Master Naturalists group is accepting applications for its annual six-month Basic Training session. The session starts September 4, 2012 and ends March 13, 2013. The group meets about twice a month on Tuesday evenings and participates in a field trip each month on a Saturday. People who are curious about nature, enjoy the outdoors and want to be part of natural resource management and conservation in Virginia are perfect candidates.

Topics include:

Biology of birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, insects

Native trees and plant biology

Geology of Virginia

Meteorology and climate

Winter Botany

Wetlands and Freshwater Ecology

Citizen Science, field methods & scientific naming

Enrollment is limited to 25 people. The fee is \$150.00, which includes all materials, instruction, and Chapter membership dues for 2012 and 2013.

Completion of Basic Training is the first step to becoming a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist. An additional eight hours of Advanced Training plus 40 hours of Volunteer Service within a year will qualify the member for certification by the State Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

The statewide program began in 2006. The Historic Rivers Chapter was one of the first Chapters organized. Now there are more than 30 Chapters in Virginia. The program is sponsored by Virginia's Cooperative Extension, Department of Forestry, Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Virginia Master Naturalist 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.

The application for Basic Training can be downloaded from the Historic Rivers Chapter website: www.historicrivers.org/ or contact the Basic Training Committee at hrctraining@cox.net Additional information about the statewide program is at: www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/

More of the Seigman Garden Field Trip



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FARMERS' MARKET SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 30 *Water Stewards; Barrels & Bins*
July 14 *Therapeutic Gardening*
July 28 *Drought Tolerant Plants*

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **August Newsletter** is **Monday, July 23**. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

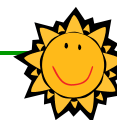
Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 7/19 Project Chair Meeting
- 7/23 Deadline for August Newsletter Submissions
- 8/2 Next Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 8/11 Super Turf Saturday
- 8/16 E2 Training

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.



Need Lawn 911?



Get the Help You Need **FREE** at **SUPER TURF SATURDAY**



Presented by Virginia Tech Turf Team

Saturday, August 11, 2012 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road

**Life Support for Your Turf
National Defense Against Weeds and Disease
Turf Surgery – Proper Mowing
Nourishment for Your Turf – Nutrient Planning
Water, Water, NOT Everywhere -- Proper Irrigation**



**Pre-register by Aug 10
757-564-2179**



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Sandra Kee (757-564-2170/TDD*) during business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120

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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, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.