

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



July 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

They say art is in the eye of the beholder. I would say that what is considered an acceptable plant is also in the eye of the beholder. In a recent article in the Chicago Tribune a lady was fined \$640 for violating the city's weed law. The local government has on their books a law regarding weeds and determined her choice of plant material was not acceptable even though it consisted of native plantings. In 2012, the City of Chicago collected \$3.7 million on weed violations.

It seems the weed which got the eye of the judge on the case was Milkweed which is not a weed at all. Also, this native plant is the only host plant upon which the Monarch Butterfly lays its eggs. Just so happens the Monarch Butterfly is the state insect of Illinois as well.

This individual was so determined to right this situation that she has taken on the city in her own court battle. Her little plot had been recognized in 2004 by the City of Chicago



commending her for the naturalized landscape she had developed. Does this seem a little strange that now her yard is considered weeds? Obviously the judge needs a little horticultural education.

I'm not sure how this will all turn out but this emphasizes the importance of educating the public about plants, their importance in the cycle of nature and that there are many types of plant material that serve functions beyond just adding beauty to our landscapes.

Hope you are enjoying the summer and be safe in your travels. Happy gardening, Margene

THE FACTS OF LIFE IN JCC/W MGA

BY DAVE SISSON, VP ADMIN.

This is going to be a repeated feature of our Newsletter. I am going to attempt to highlight details of ongoing operation, bylaws, etc. Also, I will try to address some of the 'urban legends' that often spring up and become 'facts' in our practice.

First lesson—**Obligations we all must meet.**

To remain an Active Master Gardener one must do certain things EVERY CALENDAR YEAR. This is the list in its entirety:

- Fill out and sent to VP Admin a RECOMMITMENT FORM. Without this form in our files, you CANNOT work on projects and be covered by VCE's Liability Insurance!!!
- Send your DUES to the Treasurer
- Fulfill your HOURS commitment {20 project Hours, 8 Advanced Education Hours}. Hours are submitted on the VCEMG Hours program. Best done daily as you go, but you can go back later and edit [but only if your memory is much better than mine!]

- Also don't forget to add in your CONTACT information. Much of our funding support is based on who we serve—so fill in the contacts section while listing your hours

Now what is so hard about this? Why do we have to beg, plead, and remind so often? The Board is going to try harder to make it easy next year. Recommitment forms will be on the Web site—reminders will be in the November and December Newsletters—Bob and I will set up a collection table at the December and January Meetings. BUT, [always a but someplace] anyone who is not current on January 31, 2014 will be taken of the Roster. We will not beg, plead, cajole, pester, or chase—you either want to be in or out and it will be your choice!

Stay tuned for More FACTS of Life!

NO MONTHLY MEETING IN JULY!!

The Colonial Master Gardener July 2013

2013
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

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.

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY JUDY CASONE

As usual, there is no meeting in July. When we resume meeting in August, our speaker will be Andy Bradshaw. Mr. Bradshaw will speak to us on Sunflowers.

September's program will be presented by Williams Landscaping. In October, Mary Turnbull will speak to us about Hillside Gardening.

SPECIAL NOTE! The December meeting will be on December 12th. This is the second Thursday of the month. There was a scheduling conflict with a Library staff function and we will meet on the **second Thursday, December 12th**. I will place this notice in the newsletter each month to make sure everyone is aware. Enjoy the summer.

PROMOTING THE SPEAKERS BUREAU AND MOBILE MG PROJECTS

BY JOANNE SHEFFIELD

There are 35-40 Master Gardeners who will speak on at least 42 topics ranging from Beekeeping to Water Conservation, Growing Vegetables to Dehydrating Vegetables and Fruits, Landscaping, Lawns, Container Gardening and so on.

People looking for speakers will find a request form on our Web site's home page. We have had requests from Garden Clubs, Senior Living Facilities, Homeowners Associations, Churches and Government Agencies. Additional opportunities could be with School Garden Clubs and School Classes—any place we can provide horticultural education.

Anyone who has developed a program is welcome to be included on our list of available speakers. Many of the required Master Gardener class presentations would be useful for brief programs and you would not have to worry about the trainers threatening to cut you off after 10 minutes!

If you make a presentation, we do ask that you return a Speaker's Report Form which is on our Web site. Also, the requesting organization is asked to fill out an evaluation to return to the Speakers Bureau.

CONGRATS, KARI !

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

Kari Abbott was recognized on June 19 by the Virginia 4-H program for her years of service with the 4-H environmental education and gardening programs. She was inducted into the Virginia 4-H All Star organization which is the highest achievement in Virginia 4-H.

To receive this recognition volunteers must have been actively involved in unit, district and state level programming for a minimum of five years.

Congratulations Kari!

Since presenters are performing a volunteer service for the Master Gardener Association, any monetary remuneration given by the requesting organization should be donated to our group.

Closely related to the Speakers Bureau is the Mobile MG Display. These boards can be requested to let the group know of the variety of projects Master Gardeners do, plus they contain information on becoming a Master Gardener, and upcoming events such as the Plant Sale, Turf Love, Landscape Love, Diagnostic and Pruning Clinics. If you would like them to travel to your presentation, please fill out the Mobile MG Display Request Form on our home page.

If you have any questions, please email me at josheffie@yahoo.com

Finally, if you are willing to be a Co-Chair of these projects, please let me know. It's a great opportunity to get to know other Master Gardeners and members of the community.

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FARM TOUR THANKS

BY SUE VOIGT

The staff of the New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension would like to thank the Master Gardeners for volunteering their time, effort and support to the 2013 Taking Root Farm Tour. Without the Master Gardeners this event would not be successful. Approximately 140 people visited our three farm sites this year.

The goal of the farm tour is to educate the community on the importance of agricultural industries, and to recognize the contributions they make to the economic and social well-being of our community. Our sites this year were very diverse. Our goal was achieved; we received several comments back on our surveys telling us how much they enjoyed the farm tour.

Thank you again for your support and assistance.



RENEWAL FOR VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

BY ANGELA CINGALE

VMGA is the voice of Virginia Master Gardeners as the statewide association. Through meetings with VCE and VT leadership, the web site and newsletter, we are kept abreast of news and issues. These vehicles also provide information from other units which will enable us to improve the efforts in our local unit and to enhance our experience as a volunteer.

VMGA needs support with your membership. Our voice will

be stronger with you as a member. Dues are \$12 a year – from July 2013 – June 2014. Marilyn Riddle and I can provide you with the membership form, or you can download it from the website - <http://vmga.net/Membership/applicationnew.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact one of us. Thank you.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – JULY 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

DUCK POTATO

Sagittaria latifolia

Growing over 3 feet tall, this perennial has large fleshy leaves mostly shaped like arrowheads, highly variable in size. Both the leaves and flowering stalks are 2 feet long and contain a milky sap. The flowers are in whorls, with 3 white petals, the upper whorls with numerous yellow stamens. The leaves of Bulltongue Arrowhead (*S. lancifolia ssp. media*) reflect the name, as they are broadly lance-shaped, without the projecting pointed lobes at the base.

Common Arrowhead is abundant in marshes, ponds and streams across Virginia, blooming from June through October. The range is from Nova Scotia and Quebec to British Columbia, south to tropical America. Bulltongue Arrowhead occurs in Virginia only in the counties of the Coastal Plain, and is found near the coast from Delaware to Florida and Texas and south.

The genus name is from Latin *sagitta*, "an arrow", referring to the leaves. The species name *latifolia*



Photo: Duck Potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*) taken by Jan Newton

means "broad-leaved." The common name refers to the tubers produced on the ends of underground stems that are dug up and eaten by waterfowl. Native Americans roasted or boiled the tubers; several days were required to cook them properly -- the "potatoes", deer meat and maple sugar made a very tasty dish.

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

2013 SUPER TURF SATURDAY

BY BARB FOLEY

On Saturday, August 10, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., join us and the experts from the Virginia Tech Turf Team for Super Turf Saturday. The theme is "Healthy Lawn + Sound Management = Save the Chesapeake Bay". It will be held at the James City County Recreation Center.

Preregistration is required: Call 564-2179 (leave message with name, phone, and number attending).



E2 NEWS FOR SUMMER!

BY KARI ABBOTT



As always a very big THANK YOU to everyone who helped out with the 2012-2013 school year. The exit letters from the children expressed they had fun with the MG volunteers and they love the MG volunteers coming to their classroom. Way cool!

I will be working this summer on how to turn that love and fun into Virginia Cooperative Extension data.

There is a Project Wet workshop, for anyone interested in educating others about water, July 30, 2013 at the New Kent Forestry Education Center. See the attached flyer.

Schools have expressed a desire for our program to return, so anyone interested in volunteering please email me (bearsbaskets@cox.net).

There will be a new training class for E2; final information will be available for next month's newsletter and will be sent to anyone expressing interest. Please contact me at the above email if you have any questions.

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MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE

BY ANGELA CINGALE

Awesome is the only word that you can say about the fantastic, beautiful campus at Virginia Tech. Since many of us attended in earlier years, the campus has grown with many new buildings, the football stadium has progressed to a professional level, the Hahn Garden has been enlarged and the pavilion an classroom can be rented. They have actually added a number of raised beds featuring edibles and trellising plus a new edible garden with containers and variegated corn! A wedding on Saturday was filled with the wedding party as they took photos at the ponds, gazebos, and the beautifully landscaped areas on the grounds.

The 2013 MG College was full of anticipation of what we were going to learn in our many classes. Carol Fryer, Barbara and Art Gustafson, Mandy Miller, Jeanne Millin, Ann Nielsen Gary Streb and myself arrived in the middle of the week and saw lots of friendly faces from around the state, inspirational speakers, and attended classes that are not offered locally. The keynote speakers were beyond excellent with their presentations in a down-to-earth approach with their subject matter. Where else can we hear about using an artist's color wheel and perspective in your garden, "Garden Lunacy", "Soils Made Easy", "How to Deal with Climate Change in Our Own Backyards", and many others.

There were also receptions in the evening which were a lot of fun with catered food and local wines. And the silent auction had a very good representation from the JCC/W MG's with many items donated from our own membership. A big thank you from the VMGA representatives to all who donated items. On Saturday, some of our JCC MG's went to Blacksburg's Farmer's Market and they were able to obtain plants and local vegetables grown from community gardens and local farmers, native plants that are difficult to find and lovely hand-made pottery and woodworking. The clear, sunny mountain weather every day was delightful, and the mist on the surrounding mountains is always a sight to behold.

Plus, we had numerous interactions with other Master Gardeners from our state. And the JCC/W MG's had a lunch meeting with leaders of the Loudon Master



Gardeners where we brainstormed about how to manage the association when one's Extension Agent is not replaced. A presentation on the need for effective project and program evaluations led to numerous discussions with other Master Gardeners as well as inspiring our own members into doing some research on the matter.

And every day was a gift with lectures that went beyond our expectations in terms of content and challenges that were posed. Next year, we'd like to see an increase from 8 members attending to 16 JCC W MGs. If you receive a milestone award, that is the year to go so you get your discount but you can also apply for a scholarship to help defray the cost of tuition. We had 4 of our members receive milestone awards at a special ceremony conducted by Dave Close. Next year's theme is Land Care Steward and MG College is from June 25th – 30th, 2014. Start planning your trip to Blacksburg now. Marilyn Riddle and Angela Cingale will keep you informed next year about the many lectures and speakers which you could attend. Stay tuned!!!



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FARMERS MARKET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BY SALLY SISSEL

I am now scheduling volunteers for the 2nd half of the Farmers Market season: August, September, and October. The dates are: August 10 and 24, September 7, 28 and October 12 and 19th. As always, I try to have 2 experienced MGs and 2 interns at each market.

If you are interested in volunteering, please send me a list of ALL the dates for which you could volunteer and I will work out the schedule and get back to you. Thanks so much, Sally



FIELD TRIP PHOTOS

These are photographs of last month's Field Trip to Pam Harpers' Garden. Photos taken by Toddy Voorhees.





FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE SUMMER 2013

BY SALLY SISSEL

July 13
Incredible Edibles

July 27
Drought Tolerant Plants

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **August Newsletter** is **Monday, July 22**.

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

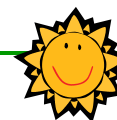
Important Dates

- 7/22 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 8/10 Super Turf Saturday

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

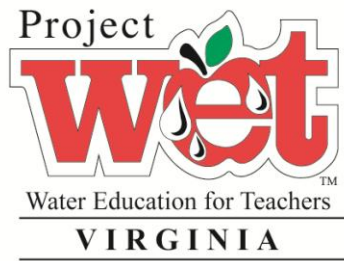


If you know a Master Gardener who is ill, facing surgery, has suffered a family loss, or any event in which that person might benefit from a **sunshine note**, please contact the MG Secretary, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Mary Ellen 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.



Project WET Workshop

for classroom teachers and
environmental educators

Tuesday, July 30, 2013

9:00 – 3:30

**at the Education Center at the New Kent Forestry Center
11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140**

Project WET is a nationally developed, supplemental water education program for educators – public and private school teachers, youth club leaders, museum and nature center staff, natural resource personnel, and any others invested in water education.

Each participant will receive the *Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0*, a full-color 592 page book with 64 multi-disciplinary water related activities for children grades K-12.

**There is no charge for this workshop.
Please bring your own lunch.**

Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WETworkshopJuly30>

Contact Kari Abbott at kabbott@vt.edu for further information.