



The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

July
2014



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY SUE LIDDELL

The new board takes over this month, with a mingling of new and veteran MGs. When I moved to JCC/W in 1996, a transfer from Northern VA, the average service of a MG here was three years. With strong leadership and innovative programs we are holding on to our members and fulfilling our mission of educating the community. Following are some highlights about the talented new board:

Margene Hartsough, Past President: Margene is active in the James City Lions Club, having served as club secretary for four years and will take the position of 2nd Vice President July 1. She serves on The Williamsburg Symphonia League Board having been in positions of Vice President, recording secretary, and beginning July 1, membership and corresponding secretary. She is an active member of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church serving on the Altar Guild and leading their garden group, and was a past member of the Vestry. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Williamsburg Symphonia as the Education Vice President from 2008 to May 2014. She served on our Master Gardener Board as Administrative VP prior to becoming President Elect in 2012 and President in fall 2012. She graduated from the Greater Williamsburg Community Leadership and Service program in 2008 when first moving to the area in 2007. She is an avid golfer participating in three women's golf leagues in addition to her gardens.

Debby Griesinger, President Elect: Having lived most of her life in upstate New York, Debby and her husband, Steve, moved to James City County in 2009 to be closer to their daughter and her family. Luckily for them, they found this community to be beautiful and loaded with many welcoming individuals. She has enjoyed numerous years as an elementary school teacher, a middle school administrator, and an elementary principal. Presently she is a University Supervisor for student teachers at the College of William and Mary. Her careers in educating the public continue today with her roles in the Master Gardener organization. She has been the VP of Projects for two years and she is eager to assume the role of President Elect.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 7

NO MEETING IN JULY

Kathy Bush, V.P. Internal Education: Kathy grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania, earned a degree in Culinary Arts and worked in food service for 10 years. She married a minister who became an Army Chaplain and was privileged to live in the mid west and southern US, and in Germany. She homeschooled her 4 daughters for 16 years and has been active in church and community. She has a flock of 10 chickens that entertain and keep her supplied with fresh eggs.

Diane Hare, V.P. Administration: Diane is a proud Air Force wife and Army brat. She enjoyed a professional career as a CPA; she and her husband founded a CPA practice in Panama City, Florida and had the immense pleasure of working together for nearly 30 years. Just as soon as she retired, the first thing she wanted to do was sign up for the Master Gardener program. In addition to gardening, she loves to sew, cook, bake, travel and serve at her church, St. Bede's. She also enjoys working very part-time for a local CPA firm.

Bob Winther, Treasurer: Bob spent the first half of his life in the Greater New York City area where he married, raised a daughter and worked in the Information Technology field for 30+ years. Now he is retired and able to enjoy travel, gardening, gourmet food and all good things with his wife of 45 years, Jacqueline. He says life is good!

Patsy McGrady, Secretary: Patsy worked in the Department of Defense in the Washington, D.C. area. She moved to Williamsburg in 2002 and worked for contractors supporting the Air Force at Langley Air Force Base. She retired in 2009 and attended the 2010 Master Gardeners Training Class. She followed that with Tree Stewards Training in 2011. Also in 2011, she became project chair for the Educational Tours for the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. In May 2013, she began her position as Secretary for Master Gardeners.

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President's Message: Continued from previous page

Marilyn Riddle, VMGA Rep: Besides her involvement with Master Gardeners, Marilyn is involved with other current local activities. She is active at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church and chairman of the circle. At the Regional Library, she is on the Board of Friends now, after six years on the Foundation Board. At Sentara Williamsburg Hospital, she is on the Patient and Family Advisory Group. She is newsletter editor of local chapter of PEO. And, she is the southeast district rep of AAUW of VA.

Jeanne Millin, VMGA Rep: After retirement and her move to Williamsburg from Chicago, Jeanne became a Master Gardener and then a Master Naturalist that same year. She was the MG External Projects Vice-President for more than two years, and as incoming VP of the Colonial Herb Society, she will be their president next year. She volunteers at the

Bruton Parish Church Shop, participates in the Governor's Land Garden Club and plays bridge. She travels and visits her grandchildren in Maryland and her family around the world. In what spare time she has, she works in her own garden.

Sue Liddell, President: I have been a high school English teacher, tennis player, golfer, runner, and Master Gardener, consecutively with some overlap. I have participated in most MG programs, but the highlight, until this year, was serving as Peninsula Tree Steward Coordinator for ten years. The constants in my life are husband Jim and singing in a choir.

Board meetings, which are held the third Friday of the month at the Human Services Building beginning at 9:30 A.M., are open to the membership.

INTERNAL EDUCATION BY KATHY BUSH

Master Gardeners enjoyed a tour in June of the Italian and Japanese gardens at the Maymont estate in Richmond. Look for more field trips in coming months!



2014
MG Board

President:
Sue Liddell

President Elect:
Debbie Griesinger

*VP
Administration:*
Diane Hare

VP Projects:
Vacant

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

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.

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E2 NEWS FOR JUNE 2014

BY KARI ABBOTT



Hi Everyone,

We finished school on a good note, talking about water pollution and using critical thinking skills to find ways first graders could prevent water pollution. A very lively discussion was held in all our classes.

Once school was finished it was time for the adults to have some fun. Volunteers carpooled up to West Point. We were given a wonderful tour of the Rock-Tenn Paper mill.

We were treated to seeing the whole process. We went to a logging site, and met John Gibson, of Gibson and Sons Logging. He is an award-winning logger who demonstrated his skill with a huge caterpillar crane. It was amazing. A logging truck pulled in the site to be loaded, John just picked up the trailer with his crane and moved it into the place he wanted the trailer to be. Sometimes I wish I had that kind of help in parking spaces! Rock-Tenn and the Gibson's are part of a sustainable forest initiative to keep forestry as leading agriculture in Virginia.

We saw how the logs were brought to the chipper, and chipped. The process of soaking and melting the cell walls and cellulose of the wood is done in big vats. We did not see that. We were taken into the plant to see the process before our very eyes. It was loud, smelly, hot and amazing. Sixteen-ton rolls of paper were made in about 15 minutes! It was incredible.

All of us agreed the little book we use for school is no longer going to work; it just does not do a paper plant justice. E2 will be working on its own slide show, with a video for our papermaking lesson this year.

Everyone who went enjoyed the trip. We are fortunate that, for those of you unable to attend in June, we can schedule another trip in October, when the heat of the factory floor might feel good. More to follow as the occasion draws closer.

And lastly, if you have any 35mm film canisters, we sure could use a few more for one of our classes. Thanks for all your support!

From right to left: E2 Volunteers Larry Gaskins, Ruth Schultz, Lois Enlow, Kari Abbott, Janet Smith, Cathy Hill, Bev Baker, Vince Rasper, Mike and Jeanne Millin and the driver of the logging truck who joined us while his flatbed truck was being loaded.



PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS BY SUE LIDDELL



"Summertime – and the living is easy." The busyness of spring is a pleasant memory. I'm up to date on projects, volunteer hours recorded. My dream! Do I really have time to spend a half day in Gloucester? The topic is compelling, "Forests for the Bay." Of course I registered. I was a little concerned that most of the emails of registrants ended in "org" or "edu". I was happy to see a few Tree Stewards there.

The first speaker, Craig Highfield from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, concentrated on the relationship between forests and water quality. Two facts new to me were that 80% of Virginia forest land is privately owned and the red maple is now the dominant tree in VA forests.

Neil Clark, VCE Unit Coordinator, ANR from the Southampton County Office, expanded the topic to include the monetary value of the urban forest. His last slide listed a resource "Woods in your Back Yard". Ailene Bartlett has asked the Tree Stewards to advise the owner of an adjoining property on trees for his lot. This publication will be a valuable aid.

Ken Sterner from the VA Department of Forestry covered the many services and resources provided by the agency. As I learned in LandCare training, wildfire suppression is high on the list.

While some of the information was review from Tree Steward and Water Steward training, it bears

LOOKING FOR NATIVE PLANTS?

Unfortunately there is no one good place locally to get native plants; one has to hunt for them! Besides our annual Plant Sale, there are a few other sources. Homestead Ulster Gardens on Rochambeau Road often has a decent supply. The Colonial Gardens, across from Bruton Parish Church, stocks Virginia natives but also those plants grown by the colonists and native to their homes in England. Denise Greene grows natives in Hayes, and sells at the Farmers Market. She can also host a group who wants to buy plants.

And last, there is the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News. Their website states: "In an effort to educate our visitors about the benefits of gardening with native plants, the Museum holds native plant sales the last two weekends in April and September, offering high quality, nursery-propagated native plant species that are often difficult to find in the commercial nursery trade."

repeating. I learn new ways of presenting material, see a different point of view, and make new associations. We need eight hours of continuing education to maintain our MG standing. While this requirement can be met during our monthly meetings there are VCE programs offered as well. And for a real spike in hours, consider Tree Steward Training.



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IF YOU PLANT THEM, THEY WILL COME!

BY HELEN HAMILTON

The milkweed is blooming, but where are the butterflies? If some winter-hardy plants did not survive, perhaps the butterflies were also affected by the cold winter.

Depending on the species, butterflies and moths overwinter as eggs, caterpillars, or pupae in protected surroundings such as leaf litter, brush piles or dense vegetation, often on the tree or shrub that will feed the larvae. The metamorphosis from pupa to adult requires warm temperatures and some humidity.

Monarch butterflies escape cold winters by migrating south to California and Mexico where they live for six to eight months. In February and March they emerge from hibernation, mate and migrate north and east. In March and April they lay eggs on milkweed plants which hatch into baby caterpillars about four days later. The adults emerge about 4 weeks later, feeding on flowers until they die two to six weeks later, after laying eggs. The adults of the second generation appear in May and June, and the third generation in July and August. The fourth generation that migrates is born in September and October.

As hosts for Monarch butterflies and other swallowtails, Milkweeds are highly desirable in the home garden. These perennials usually have milky sap, opposite leaves, and rounded flower heads, densely packed with small blooms. Adult butterflies lay their eggs on the leaves and stems which furnish food for their caterpillars.

Eight species of milkweed occur in our area, five are very common. Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with light orange to brick red small flowers prefers dry sandy soil in full sun, and is drought tolerant. The pink-flowered Swamp Milkweed (*A. incarnata*) grows in moist ground in open areas. Also with deep-pink flowers, Clasping Milkweed (*A. amplexicaulis*) is found in dry woodlands. Common Milkweed (*A. syriaca*) has pink flowers and grows all over Virginia in fields, meadows, open woods, and along roadsides. White Milkweed (*A. variegata*) occurs in upland woods and thickets.

Less common in our area are three other species. Purple Milkweed (*A. purpurascens*) has deep purple flowers, grows in moist woodlands and swampy areas, often in limy soils, but rare throughout the state. The leaves of Green Milkweed (*A. viridiflora*) are pale green; the plant prefers the dry soil of fields and roadsides. It is common the Piedmont and some mountain valleys, but rare in the Coastal Plain. Whorled Milkweed (*A. verticillata*) is distinguished by very narrow leaves in whorls along the stems; the flowers are greenish-white. This species is rare in our area and not common elsewhere.

Over 75% of all flowering plant species need animals to



move their pollen allowing fertilization and seed set. Most pollinators are beneficial insects such as flies, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and especially bees. But populations of pollinators are declining due to human activities – development, agriculture, pesticide use, habitat fragmentation. Recognizing the crucial role that pollinators play in natural ecosystems, and in our food crops, seven years ago the U.S. Senate designated a week in June as National Pollinator Week. Joining many other states, Gov. McAuliffe issued a proclamation declaring the week of June 16-22 as Virginia Pollinator Week.

So, until the weather cooperates, and the adult butterflies emerge, our gardens should be pollinator-friendly habitats, supplying pollinators with nectar, pollen and homes. Using our book “Wildflowers and Grasses of Virginia’s Coastal Plain,” websites such as www.pollinator.org and www.xerces.org, I have created a list of local native plants (on www.claytonvnps.org) that have high pollinator value, which is, they will attract and feed a wide variety of pollinating insects.

Many designs for pollinator habitats are available – the Williamsburg Botanical Garden has installed a large “Pollinator Palace” (see photo above), built with wooden pallets, bricks, bamboo and other plant stems, to attract native mason bees, leafcutter bees, miner bees. Bare ground under trees provides homes for ground-nesting native bees.

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WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – JULY 2014

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY

Green Adder's Mouth *Malaxis unifolia*

Nothing else resembles this little plant, but it's green, and small, and easily overlooked in leaf litter. Truly a "midget" orchid, the flowers are less than 1/8 inch long, and twisted. Like many orchids, the flowers of Green Adder's Mouth start in a position upside down and as they open they gradually twist around. Opening from the bottom up, over 80 irregular green flowers will eventually appear. A single oval, pointed leaf surrounds the stem, less than a foot tall.

Green Adder's Mouth grows in damp woods and bogs in sandy or acidic soils in the Coastal Plain and Mountain regions of Virginia. Blooming June through August, it is infrequent in our area, but very rewarding when found. The range is from Newfoundland and Quebec to Manitoba, south to Florida, Texas, West Indies and Central America.

The genus name is from the Greek *malacos* for "soft" referring to the texture of the leaves, and the species name *unifolia* is Latin for "one-leafed." The common name possibly refers to the adders, a group of venomous snakes, with the single leaf having the appearance of the open mouth of a snake.

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



2014 SUPER TURF SATURDAY BY BARB FOLEY

**Sat., August 16, 2014,
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
(displays open at 8:30 a.m.)

James City County Recreation Center
5301 Longhill Road

Learn how to have a beautiful lawn and make good choices between organics and synthetic lawn products.

Covering:
Soil composition
Lawn Decisions
Organic versus Synthetic Fertilizers
Reducing Disease
Weed Control

FREE – but please pre-register by August 15
(call 564-2179; leave message with name,
phone, and number attending)

Sponsored by Virginia Cooperation Extension,
James City County Office
See you there!



Photos: Green Adder's Mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*) taken by Helen Hamilton

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UPCOMING FARMERS' MARKET DATES

June 28	<i>Vegetables</i>
July 12	<i>Plant Propagation</i>
July 26	<i>Barrels and Bins</i>
August 9	<i>Pruning</i>
August 23	<i>Trees/Shrubs</i>
September 6	<i>Composting</i>
September 20	<i>Therapeutic Gardening</i>



MEMBER'S PASSING BY PATSY MCGRADY

Patricia Caviston, MG class of 2003, recently passed away. She was a resident of Williamsburg for many years but moved to Napa CA to be with her daughter a few years ago. The organization has sent a condolence card to her daughter, Mary Beth Farver, and family.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the August newsletter will be **Monday, July 21**.

Please send any submissions to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net.

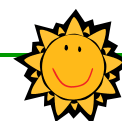
Important Dates

- 7/21 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 8/7 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 8/16 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



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.

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.