



The Colonial Master Gardener

July
2015

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUE LIDDELL

With no MG meeting scheduled for July, I'm looking forward to the picnic on the 23rd to share vacation experiences. In this column I get a head start. We recently visited friends in Philadelphia who, despite having lived there for twenty-five years, had never been to nearby Longwood Gardens; so we all went.

Of course I have to mention the trees. Pierre du Pont bought the Longwood property to save the trees, and even as the gardens grew the trees were always the priority. One of the first plants we noticed was a butterfly bush trained into a tree. I questioned a nearby docent who assured me it was indeed a butterfly bush as labeled. It happened that he was a fellow Illini and of Irish descent, as were our friends. He helped us plan a route through the gardens and later joined us for lunch where we exchanged Irish stories. This docent, who put us on his mailing list for a "flower of the day" message, made our day at Longwood.

The next day we made our way to Chanticleer, another of the great gardens in the Philadelphia area and also one known for its trees. This is a much smaller garden, with no



labels, no individually staked flowers, just masses of flowers and shrubs in natural settings. We marveled at the copper beech and cucumber magnolias, featured trees at Chanticleer. Walking from one area to the next we met a fellow MG, Harriet Parsons, and her husband Doug. It's a small world.

I was treated to more trees in Camden, Maine, when I attended my grandson's wedding and walked under tri-colored beech on the way to the outdoor chapel. Huge oaks shaded the house of friends in Indiana. We couldn't believe the size of maples we planted at our first house in Decatur, Illinois, over fifty years ago. Still to look forward to: a wedding reception in St. Louis, a stop at Natural Bridge, and Master Gardener College.

I'm anxious to hear of your adventures.

NEWS FOR THE NEWSLETTER? PICTURES?

I'd like to invite everyone to send me (hopeyelich@gmail.com):

- ◆ News of upcoming events for the calendar on the last page
- ◆ News of past MG events, projects, and programs
- ◆ Pictures of MG events, projects, and programs
- ◆ News or photos of a trip you took that fellow readers would find interesting

Don't be shy. Let's share!



2015
MG Board

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Sue Liddell

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Debbie Griesinger

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Marilyn Riddle and
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Margene
Hartsough

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

*Program Asst.,
ANR:*
Kate Robbins

ADMINISTRATION

BY DIANE HARE

The Nominating Committee has been established and is comprised of: Margene Hartsough, Debby Griesinger, Marty Oakes, Hope Yelich, and Diane Hare. If you would like to share your time and talents by serving on our unit's board, please let one of the nominating committee members know of your interest. The committee will be meeting soon to develop a slate of officers for our members' consideration. This year we will elect the positions of president-elect, secretary, and treasurer.

Many thanks to Kendra Swann, who has offered to help develop a plan for mentoring Master Gardeners who transfer in from other units. We do such a great job of mentoring our interns, and so now we want to try and apply this same level of care to folks coming to us from other units.

Please let me know if you have any changes to your contact information, okay? You can email changes to dianehare@cox.net or give me a call at 757-253-0978.

By the time you read this, we will have been to Master Gardener College. I sure am looking forward to the fellowship, training, and ~oh yes ~ crashing the Virginia Beach Unit's party!

Happy Summer!



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.

BENEFITS OF MASTER GARDENER MEMBERSHIP

- ◆ Continue learning about horticulture
- ◆ Contribute to the community by working on meaningful projects
- ◆ Make new friends
- ◆ Take field trips and attend Master Gardener College
- ◆ Hear engaging and informative speakers each month
- ◆ Receive monthly newsletters
- ◆ Save with MG discounts

FIRST MG SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE WINNER

BY ANGELA CINGALE

The Virginia Cooperative Extension, James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners Scholarship Committee was established in 2012. The purpose of this committee was to award a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior who was planning to major in a plant-science-related field, including but not limited to horticulture, botany, agronomy, forestry, sustainable landscape management, and turf management in a land grant college. The board and members felt that this was in support of future horticultural leaders. However, a high school student from James City County, Williamsburg, New Kent County, or Charles City never met the criteria.



The committee asked Virginia Tech and Virginia State University for potential

Cello and Marshall Pierce, Marilyn Riddle (Scholarship Committee), and Suki Pierce

candidates, and Virginia Tech sent Marshall Pierce's information to us to see if he met the requirements. We're glad that he did, as he became the first winner of our scholarship.

Our worthy candidate, Marshall Pierce, is enrolled at Virginia Tech, in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, majoring in horticulture in the viticulture program. He will be a junior in the fall and will have completed an internship in California with the E. J. Gallo Winery (one of nine college students throughout the country). Last year he interned with several wineries on Long Island, New York. Through his internship he has provided research and findings to the wine producer; identified which chemical fertility programs to utilize for each crop; took soil and tissue samples for lab-derived data; scouted fields for disease, pests, or any other inhibiting factors; and wrote and delivered reports to Crop Production Services clientele.

In Marshall's essay he stated "Virginia Tech's environmental horticulture program provides an excellent foundation for any student interested in specialty crop development. The confidence I have to grow a broad array of crops, propagate them, identify plant pathological factors, and optimize environmental factors to increase the quality of product are only a few skills I've developed from my studies. On top of that the department also provides a minor in viticulture. This additional exposure and focus on vineyard management provides a crucial edge in my education focus."

His Virginia Tech professor, Eric Beers, wrote "Marshall came to class each class prepared and willing to answer questions. Most importantly, he was able to take concepts developed through specific examples taken from the primary literature and apply those to everyday situations that impact plant productivity or food quality. In my interactions with Marshall, I found him to be a prompt, mature, and respectful young man who had developed an excellent work ethic."

From Tom Mackerer, Crop Production Services, Facility Manager, Milton, N.Y.: "Marshall was responsible to visit farms that were customers of CPS. During his internship, he had to work independently and was self motivated to excel in his work. Marshall proved to have a good work ethic and embraced his responsibilities. I found Marshall to have a "glass full personality," and a mature attitude, both excellent attributes looked for by CPS in interns and future employees."

Our organization, the VCE JCC W MG organization, is honored that Marshall applied and received our scholarship because he will be a great role model for the next generation involved with the horticultural sciences. We wish him good luck in all his endeavors.

THERAPEUTIC THURSDAYS AND ARC OF GREATER WILLIAMSBURG

BY LINDA LUCAS

One of the programs in our JCC/W Therapeutic Gardening project is "Therapeutic Thursdays," a program begun by Angela Cingale and now chaired by Carolyn Stringer and Pat Janot. This program, held at Freedom Park in the Williamsburg Botanical Garden's Therapy Garden, provides gardening experience for adults from Colonial Behavioral Health. On May 21 Carolyn, Pat, and other JCC/W MGs who volunteer with them for Therapeutic Thursdays presented a special two-hour program to a large group of clients from The Arc of Greater Williamsburg, a non-profit organization that also serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program took place in the evening at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church.

Jordan Westenhaver led off with a presentation entitled "Gardening is for the Birds." Jordan has shared her avid interest in birds with many therapeutic gardening programs. For the Arc group of thirty-five clients plus Arc volunteers, she organized her excellent photos into a colorful PowerPoint presentation centered on the themes of food, water, and shelter for birds, to a very enthusiastic audience.

Other MGs on the Therapeutic Thursday team shared flowers from their gardens, peanuts, sunflowers, and other plants that feed the birds and passed them around for clients to see and smell. Karen Brooks, with the help of the MG team, led the group in making two crafts to take home: bird clips and colorful bird bookmarks.

The climax of the evening was the distribution of a variety of stuffed birds that made appropriate bird calls to the clients who were very excited to hold the Birds and hear the different bird songs. Kudos go out to Carolyn, Pat, Jordan, and the Therapeutic Thursdays team for sharing their TG skills and offering an educational and fun evening for Arc clients.



There are therapeutic gardening programs that are offered throughout the year. If you are interested in joining one of the TG teams, contact Pat Crowe or Linda Lucas.

CHESAPEAKE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING COUNCIL CONFERENCE

Save the date: November 13, 2015, for the annual Turning a New Leaf Conference, to be held in Towson, Maryland.

It will bring together professionals from landscape design, contracting, horticulture, planning and education to learn about the latest trends, issues and technologies in the field of conservation landscaping.

The conference consists of various presentations from industry leaders, innovators, and experts; includes an EcoMarketplace where businesses can market their products and services; and multiple networking opportunities for attendees to discuss current projects and new ideas.

UPCOMING FARMERS MARKET DATES

July 11	Plant Propagation
July 25	Barrels and Bins
August 8	Trees and Shrubs
August 22	Pruning
September 5	Therapeutic Gardening
September 19	Composting

VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES IN JULY

Join Donna Ware on a hike along Ford's Colony's Trailblazer's swamp boardwalk (Longhill Swamp) on Saturday, July 25, 9:30am-noon.

Congregate in the parking lot of Wellspring United Methodist Church, 4871 Longhill Road (a short distance east of the 7-Eleven store at Olde Towne Road and Longhill Road) to carpool. We may leave the boardwalk at times, so it would be a good idea to wear rubber boots unless summer has been droughty. Among the species we will see are log fern (*Dropteris celsa*), Southern lobelia (*Lobelia Georgiana*), climbing hydrangea (*Decumaria Barbara*), swamp black gum (*Nyssa biflora*), cherrybark oak (*Q. pagoda*), and swam chestnut oak (*Q. michauxii*).

Please contact Donna Ware at dmeware@verizon.net or 757-565-0657 to register.



Ben Salter, Wikimedia Commons

Some non-native species in a pot

The John Clayton Chapter will hold its **chapter meeting on July 16, from 6:45pm—8:45pm at the Newport News Main Street Library**, 110 Main St., Newport News. Shawn Dash, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Hampton University, will give a talk on **“Ecological Lessons To Be Learned From Plant And Insect Interactions.”** The program is free and open to the public.



Marie Butler

ONE HOT DAY IN JUNE

BY KATHY BUSH

Sixteen of our MGs trekked this month to the Virginia Zoo in Norfolk and had a wonderful tour given by the horticulturalist and garden designer Marie Butler.

She entertained us with stories of animals on the loose and guests who climb on her plant displays. Who knew all that goes in to designing gardens for zoos?

Some plants are toxic when well-meaning visitors feed them to the animals. Animals can climb on overhanging trees and shrubs and get out of their enclosures. She is very good at designing with color and texture to make each of the thirteen themed gardens a pleasure to see.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH - JULY 2015

BY HELEN HAMILTON

PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

LEAFCUP

Smallanthus uvedalia (*Polymnia uvedalia*)

This is a large, coarse plant growing three-ten feet tall on stems that are often hairy. Huge leaves, to over a foot long, are cut into several lobes and somewhat resemble the foot of a bear, suggesting the other common name "Bearsfoot." The plant is usually known as "Leafcup" because the leaves are arranged in pairs on the stems, and the petiole of each leaf is winged, forming a small cup around the stem.

Each plant is covered with yellow flowers, one-three inches across, visited by many butterflies, bees, wasps, and other insects. Leafcup is a member of the Aster Family, with tiny flowers crowded into the central disk, surrounded by yellow rays. Aster flowers are complex – the anthers (male reproductive part) are packed into a cylinder and as they mature, the pistil (female reproductive part) is pushed up through the cylinder, presenting pollen grains to insects seeking nectar. After a few days, when the pollen grains are no longer viable, the stigma opens and becomes receptive to the pollen deposited by other visiting insects. The large seeds resulting from fertilization are food for many species of birds.

Leafcup is native to nearly every county in Virginia and ranges from New York to Illinois and Missouri, south to Florida and Texas. This large perennial grows best in part shade, in soil that remains moist in the summer. It can be seen in native woodlands at the edge of forest, in shade filtered by the leaves of the forest trees. Because of its size, this plant is suitable for the back of a perennial border or edges of woods.

Native Americans used extracts of the root of Bearsfoot as a stimulant and laxative. Physicians in the late 1800s recommended its use in ointments for ailments such as rheumatism, swellings, fevers, burns, cuts, and local inflammations.

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

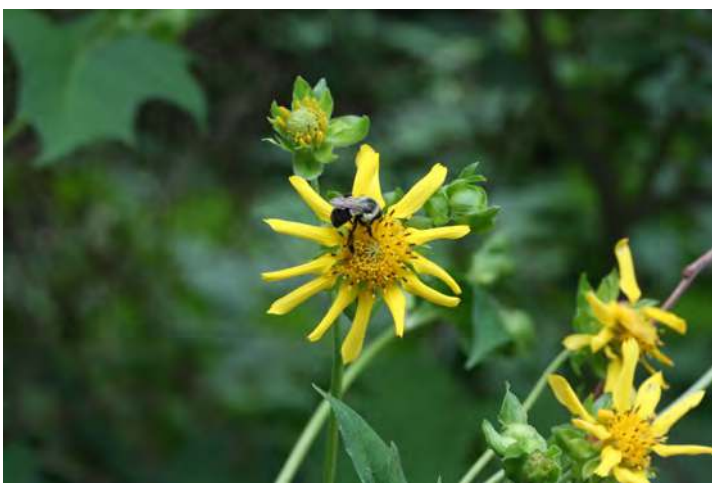


Photo by Helen Hamilton

Leafcup flowers

Leafcup leaves



Photo by Helen Hamilton

WHO SAYS PINK AND YELLOW DON'T GO TOGETHER? BY KATHY BUSH

I spotted this on the fence in my yard one recent evening and quickly snapped a picture with my phone. Do you know what it is?

I googled 'pink and yellow moth' and found images and lots of information. The Latin name is *Dryocampa rubicunda* but is commonly known as the **Rosy Maple moth**. Adult moths emerge in the late afternoon and mate in late evening. Then the female lays eggs at dusk the next evening in groups of ten-thirty on the undersides of maple leaves (sugar, silver, and red maples). They also can lay eggs on oak, American beech, and butternut leaves. The eggs hatch in about two weeks, and they feed voraciously on the leaves. They go through several cycles as the caterpillars grow, and when fully grown they pupate and overwinter in chambers at the base of the tree. These caterpillars usually do not kill trees but can defoliate and damage the appearance of your specimen red maple. Control with BT is recommended, or you can look for them and knock them off and dispose of them.



These photos show one instar of the caterpillar green-striped mapleworm). They have a red head, with yellow and black stripes and black 'horns.'

NATIONAL MOTH WEEK IS JULY 18-26

How timely! According to the [National Moth Week website](http://nationalmothweek.org/), (<http://nationalmothweek.org/>) National Moth Week “celebrates the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths. “Moth-ers” of all ages and abilities are encouraged to learn about, observe, and document moths in their back yards, parks, backyards, parks, and neighborhoods.” To find out more, click on the link above.

A member of the *Sphinxidae* family of moths, from the [National Moth Week website](http://nationalmothweek.org/).



INTERNAL EDUCATION: READING ABOUT GARDENING

BY KATHY BUSH

Since we do not have a MG meeting in July, why not spend a little time reading interesting articles and books about gardening? From garden history to the latest trends in horticulture, there is so much to read and so little time!

At the local book store I counted twenty-two different gardening magazines ranging from *Cottage Garden Projects*, *Garden Design*, *Fabulous Flowers*, *Gardens Illustrated*, *Easy Edible Gardening*, to *Real Gardeners*. Surely there is one there to strike your fancy while you are relaxing with a cool glass of tea.

I have a stack of books I hope to get read or finish reading this summer. One is *The Fresh Honey Cookbook, 84 Recipes from a Beekeeper's Kitchen* (Laurey Masterton). The book has twelve chapters, one for each month of the year. Each month she features a different flavor of honey like blueberry, tupelo, tulip poplar, and cranberry and includes the process of beekeeping and explains all the work bees do to make delicious honey. There are recipes using each distinct flavor and color of honey to round out the book.

Another book waiting to be read is *The General in the Garden: George Washington's Landscape at Mount Vernon*. Beautiful pictures and an introduction by Andrea Wulf (*Brother Gardeners*) tempted me this spring to stay home from MG projects, but books can wait; weeds and water can't! I enjoy reading about passionate gardeners from the past, and George Washington was one of the most creative and innovative gardeners of his time.

Finally we come to surfing the web for interesting and timely articles. Many of you send me links or articles of interest to Master Gardeners. Here are a few:

[This is What Pesticides are Doing to Bees Brains](http://eatlocalgrown.com/article/14519-pesticides-bees-brains.html?c=ngr)

<http://eatlocalgrown.com/article/14519-pesticides-bees-brains.html?c=ngr>

[Home Depot Decides Secret Pesticides Probably Don't Belong in Bee-Friendly Plants](http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/06/30/home-depot-label-neonics)

<http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/06/30/home-depot-label-neonics>

[Unearthly Delights: Sci-Fi Plants for Your Garden](http://www.lewisginter.org/garden-uneearthly-delights/)

<http://www.lewisginter.org/garden-uneearthly-delights/>

Virginia Tech has made available online past and upcoming webinars. Take a look at:

All Bugs Good and Bad Series (June 5, 2015) All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series: Insect-borne Diseases Affecting People, at Learn.extension.org/events/1848. Includes links to related materials. (August 7 2015) All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series: Management of Japanese Beetles and Other White Grubs, at Learn.extension.org/events/1847. Includes links to related materials.

Climate, Forest & Woodlands (June 10, 2015) Are Conservation Organizations Configured for Effective Adaptation to Global Change?, at Learn.extension.org/events/2110

Leadership (June 15, 2015) Perspectives of a Program Leader, at Learn.extension.org/events/2123. Includes links to related materials.

Public Value (June 9, 2015) Basics for Helping Organizations Identify and Promote Their Public (and Private) Value, at Learn.extension.org/events/2022

Recording: All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series (May 1, 2015) All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series: Beneficial Garden Helpers. Recording and materials available at Learn.extension.org/events/1854

HAPPY READING AND LEARNING THIS SUMMER!

SCENES FROM MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE

BY SUE LIDDELL

Kari Abbott, Ginny Cranford, Carol Fryer, Diane Hare, Cathy Hill, Sue Liddell, Jeanne Millin, Anne Nielsen, Gary Streb, and Kendra Swann attended the 28th annual MG College at Virginia Tech June 24-28, 2015. In all, forty-eight of our members received service awards.



Ready for Class

Tree Risk Assessment with Joe Murray



Ginny Cranford at the silent auction table with one of the many baskets contributed by members.

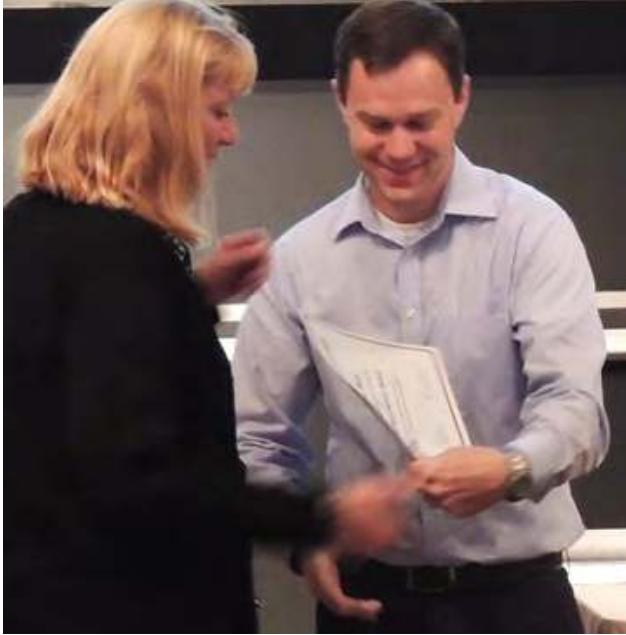
SCENES FROM MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE, CONTINUED

Peninsula Tree Stewards



Listening to the Sunday keynote speaker

SCENES FROM MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE, CONTINUED



Diane Hare accepting her award.



Kari Abbott accepting her scholarship.



The HokieBird



The Last of the Mohicans

JCCWMG's
Annual
Family
Picnic

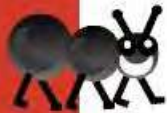
You're
Invited!



July 23rd
11am-3pm
Upper County
Park
Cost \$5,
children free

RSVP by July 10th
to
Debby Griesinger,
President Elect
dgriesinger@cox.net
(607) 621-8317

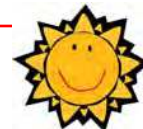
Be there, or
be Square!



Important Dates

- 7/11 Farmers Market: Plant Propagation
- 7/16 VNPS talk on plant and insect interactions
- 7/18 What's Wrong with My Tree?
- 7/18-26 It's National Moth Week!
- 7/23 1st Annual MG Picnic
- 7/25 Farmers Market: Barrels and Bins
- 7/25 Plant Walk in Ford's Colony
- 8/6 MG Monthly Meeting
- 8/8 Farmers Market: Trees and Shrubs
- 8/22 Farmers Market: Pruning
- 9/5 Farmers Market: Therapeutic Gardening
- 9/11-12 Heritage Harvest Festival
- 9/19 Farmers Market: Composting
- 9/21-22 NCEMGVA Conference

SUNSHINE NOTES



In the past month we went a card to:

Ken Caro — Health
Angela Cingale — Family Death
Debby Griesinger — Family Death
Ruth Schultz — Accident

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.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the August newsletter will be Monday, July 20.

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at hopeyulich@gmail.com

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.