



# The Colonial Master Gardener

June  
2016

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

*"Don't work so hard in your Spring gardening that you haven't the time or strength to enjoy your Spring garden."*

From *The Gardener's Bed-Book* (1929)

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, June 2**

**Program:  
Wild About Ferns**

**Speaker:  
Jim Orband**

Creating and maintaining your sustainable landscape is the common goal of many of our Extension Master Gardener projects. What does this really mean? How do we communicate this to our county residents?

Jim Orband, retired extension agent from York County, recently spoke to the subject at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden's Learn & Grow Educational Series. I heard his presentation before, but this time it had a new impact on me. We should be sharing gardening/landscape knowledge, not only with our residents, but with each other. Life is a continuous learning experience. In the next couple of months I plan to present in my message the major elements that constitute the foundation of the environmentally beneficial landscape, as written in *Conservation Landscaping Guidelines: The Eight Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping*. ([http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/8\\_elements\\_2013.pdf](http://www.chesapeakelandscape.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/8_elements_2013.pdf)). The goal of this landmark document is to contribute to the restoration of the Chesapeake watershed and improve the region's water and air quality.

To benefit all life in our watershed, we all need to incorporate as many of the following elements as possible: design to benefit the environment **and** to function well for human use; incorporate locally native plants that are appropriate for the site conditions (right plant right place); have an ongoing maintenance plan to remove existing invasive exotic plants and prevent future establishment of invasive plant species; and provide a wildlife habitat. Additionally, a sustainable/smart landscape promotes good air quality; conserves water and promotes good water quality; promotes healthy soils by composting plant waste on site and amends disturbed soils to encourage native plant communities; and works with nature to be more sustainable with less input. Over the next few articles I will flesh out these concepts.



[www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org](http://www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org)

*The president's message is continued on page 2*

2016  
MG Board

*President:*  
Gary Streb

*President Elect:*  
Vacant

*VP Administration:*  
Angela Cingale

*VP Projects:*  
Janet Smith

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Kathy Bush

*Secretary:*  
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*Treasurer:*  
Amy Higgins

*VMGA Rep:*  
Marilyn Riddle

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Vacant

*VCE ANR Program  
Assistant:*  
Kate Robbins  
(757) 564-2170

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED

Change, renewal and continuity was my theme last month. And the beat goes on. I would like to sincerely thank Wilma Sharp, vice president for projects, and Sue Liddell, past president, for their honest hard work, unselfish assistance, and friendship, as they resign from our association's board. The void they leave will indeed be hard to fill, but Janet Smith has graciously agreed to step in as vice president of projects to complete Wilma's term. Thank you, Janet!

Thanks are in order to everyone who planned and carried off our recent Plant Huzzah! The hard work was evident from start to finish. This event is our only major annual fundraiser and it funds all of our projects and internal training. Tremendous job by all.

This evening I attended a JCC Williamsburg school board meeting to witness the ceremony honoring the Volunteer of the Year for J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School, Kari Abbott. It was a joy to see Kari again rewarded for her creativity, dedication, and genuine enthusiasm for the education of our future generation. She remains a role model for us all. Congratulations!

**Save the date** Our second annual picnic, the "Easy Living Picnic," is slated for Thursday, July 21, 3:00-7:00pm at Freedom Park. The plan is for a relaxing and fun-filled gathering of Extension Master Gardener friends and guests. More details to follow. Hope to see you all there!



Photos from  
[www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org](http://www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org)



The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 am at the Williamsburg Regional Library, Room B, on Scotland Street, Williamsburg.

The board meetings are open to all Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

## UPCOMING TOURS, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, GARDEN FAIRS, AND PLANT SOURCES

BY KATHY BUSH

**June 6-11** (11300 Winfrey Rd., Glen Allen Va. 23059). **Lavender Fields Customer Appreciation Week.** Free classes, tours, specials, and tastings.

**June 18** (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). **Butterflies and the Plants They Need.** 10:00am. Adrienne Frank, butterfly enthusiast and Virginia Master Naturalist from the Historic Rivers Chapter, will help us learn how to identify local butterflies as well as when and where we might see them. In addition, Adrienne will teach us which plants are necessary as host plants, and which are good nectar plants for the different butterfly species. Weather permitting, at the end of the program we will be able to observe the butterflies in the garden. The program is free, although a \$5.00 donation to help the garden grow is appreciated. Following the program, Extension Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions and talk about what is in bloom. For butterfly questions, contact Adrienne at [adrienne-gary@cox.net](mailto:adrienne-gary@cox.net)

**June 18** (20 Miller Rd., Newport News). Once a year Lisa Ziegler, owner of the **Gardener's Workshop** (<http://www.thegardenersworkshop.com/>), opens her flower farm to the public. This year it's Saturday, June 18, 10:00am-2:00pm. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for this special event.



[www.thegardenersworkshop.com/](http://www.thegardenersworkshop.com/)

**June 24-27** (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg). **Master Gardener College.** To register, click on <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/reg/mastergardener/mastergardener.pdf>. Discounts available until May 31.

**Throughout the summer. Colonial Williamsburg Gardens and Tours.** There are more than 100 gardens and green spaces in Colonial Williamsburg. Have you explored them all yet? Many of our EMGs work in or give tours of these delightful and interesting places. For more tours and ticket information, see <http://www.history.org/history/cwland/#programs>



[tripwow.tripadvisor.com](http://tripwow.tripadvisor.com)

Below are four tours that highlight gardens and history:

**Gardens of Gentility.** Fridays, 9:30-10:30am. Discover how gardens reflected status and wealth in the 18th century. This escorted walking tour will take you through several gardens along Palace Green.

**Founder's Flora.** Friday, June 10, 11:45am-12:45pm. Join James Madison for a walk to observe and discuss how colonial Americans' identity was based on their love of nature.

**Meet the Gardener.** Thursdays, 9:30-10:15am. If you've ever wondered about growing seasonal plants in the revolutionary City, this program is for you.

**Through the Garden Gate.** Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30-10:30am. Venture through private garden gates to explore restored 18th-century gardens. Learn the archaeological and historical evidence used to recreate these lush retreats.

**September 10** (Brittingham Mid-town Community Center, 570 McLawhorne Drive, Newport News, Va. 23601). 10:00am-3:00pm. **Go Green Expo 2016** is sponsored by the Peninsula Master Gardeners and the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

This year's event theme is "Eat Local, Grow Local, Live Local."

Save the date!



## NEW ENTRYWAY FOR THE WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

BY PEGGY KRAPP

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden in Freedom Park recently completed a renovation project at the entrance to the garden. A new paver walkway, stone walls, and drainage work now make a beautiful and accessible entry into the garden. The project was made possible by a Dominion Foundation Grant for Environmental Stewardship and by generous donations of time and materials by The King's Garden Landscape, SiteOne Landscape Supply, and Belgard Pavers.



Top row left to right: Karen Jamison, Williamsburg Botanical Garden chair, Peggy Krapf, landscape designer, Joanne Sheffield, WBG board secretary, and Ike Sisane, WBG board member. Bottom row left to right: Raul Rodriguez, Mitch Foos, Owner - The King's Garden Landscape, Martin Botello, Renato Botello.

For directions and more information visit [www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org)

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## OUR NEXT SPEAKER

BY KATHY BUSH

One of our favorite speakers is Jim Orband, a retired thirty-four-year veteran agent for the VCE in Yorktown. He has knowledge of a vast number of topics, but this month we have asked him to talk to us about one of his favorite plants- **FERNS**.

We will learn how ferns are propagated and how to landscape with them. Photos from well-known gardens and also from his own back yard will inspire us to find a moist shady spot in our yard to plant some ferns. I heard Jim's presentation a couple of years ago at an Herb Society meeting, and I can tell you he is "Wild About Ferns!"



Photo [www.ethanbolvary.com/](http://www.ethanbolvary.com/)

Look for downloads of Jim's presentation to print in your email.

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## A WARNING FROM KATHY BUSH



**DISEASE ALERT:** The first report of late blight in the mid-Atlantic region was confirmed to be occurring on tomato transplants in western Maryland. Please be alert and consult the *Pest Management Guide* (<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018.html>) for any recommendations.

Photos from Virginia Tech publication *Late Blight of Tomato and Potato*: [https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/ANR/ANR-6/ANR-6\\_pdf.pdf](https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/ANR/ANR-6/ANR-6_pdf.pdf)

## THE BLAYTON BUMBLE BEE GARDEN: EMGS WELCOME GIFT BY KEN CARO



The bumblebee garden at the J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School has recently been the beneficiary of a gift of a 500-gallon cistern and solar equipment to pump water from our eight fifty-gallon rain barrels to the cistern. Here are some photos of our current crops of broccoli and asparagus. The new water system has allowed us to put irrigation directly into the asparagus bed.



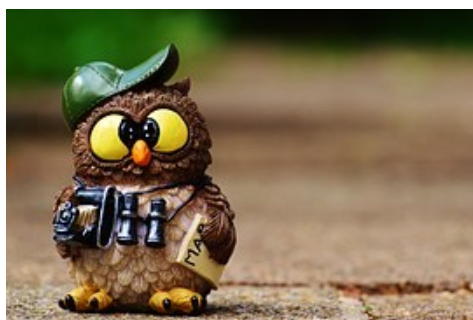
### A Message from Riley Sixta, Master Gardener Program Communications Project Manager at Virginia Tech:

Photos needed of EMGs working on projects!

As the state office has been working to create marketing and branding materials for the Extension Master Gardener program, we have seen a growing need for pictures taken of EMGs working on difference projects, both current as well as past projects.

If you wish to contribute, please send photos for which you have permission to use via email to me, Riley Sixta, at [rileys9@vt.edu](mailto:rileys9@vt.edu). We deeply appreciate anything that you can contribute.

Anyone who submits photos will have his or her email address entered into a random drawing for a prize!



pixabay

## SUMMER PLANT WALKS BY HELEN HAMILTON

These walks are free and open to the public. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

**Marsh Plants at Sandy Bottom Nature Park, Hampton. Saturday, June 4, 10:00 am.** Join Meegan Wallace for a look at a wetland restoration and early summer flowering plants. Contact Meegan at (757) 291-1099 to register and for more information about the plants you'll see.

**Campus Tree Walk, Saturday, June 11, 10:00 am.** Meet Beth Chambers at Phi Beta Kappa Hall, 601 Jamestown Road, for a walk around the campus of the College of William and Mary. Trees will have fresh leaves, and flowers will be in bloom in the wildflower refuge. Contact Beth at (757) 221-2213 to register and for more information.

**A Cool Ravine Bottom in Freedom Park. Saturday, July 23, 9:00 – 11:00 am.** Park near *Go Ape*. If it has rained recently, wear shoes you don't mind getting a little muddy. Bulbous bittercress (in fruit), great blue lobelia, butternut (growing beside black walnut), log fern, and skunk cabbage will be among the plants we will see.

**Greenhouse and Herbarium Tour, Saturday, July 30, 10:00 am.** Beth Chambers, curator of the herbarium at the College of William and Mary, will lead a tour through the herbarium, explaining the work of a curator and the importance of these records of plant specimens. Sheets of plants will be out for examination with some microscopic views as well. Beth will also lead the group through the new greenhouse at the integrated science center. Contact Beth at (757) 221- 2213 to register and for more information. Meet at the front of Phi Beta Kappa Hall, 601 Jamestown Road.

**Flowers of Late Summer. Saturday, August 13, 10:00 am.** Meet at Newport News Park's Ranger Station, Constitution Way. Use the NNPark entrance at Constitution Way. From Jefferson Ave, turn onto Constitution Way; drive 0.4 mile; the Ranger Station will be on the left (GPS coordinates 37.180092, -76.545788). There is plenty of parking at nearby picnic shelters. Peninsula Master Naturalist Susie Yager will lead a walk through this lakeside woodland. Strawberry bush and beautyberry should be in fruit, and numerous late summer flowers will be in bloom, including swamp loosestrife, purple false foxglove, and showy bur-marigold. If we're lucky we'll catch delicate butterfly pea in bloom too. The round-trip walk will be about two miles. The Ranger Station has restrooms. Contact Susie Yager to register at [soozigus@cox.net](mailto:soozigus@cox.net).

### UPCOMING FARMERS' MARKET DATES

**June 4  
Water Stewards**

**June 18  
Incredible Edibles**



bugguide.net

This little June bug can't wait for the 2nd annual EMG picnic on July 21!

## UPDATES FROM THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

BY ANGELA CINGALE

### Virginia Master Gardener Association Live Auction at MG College

The Master Gardener College will be held from Saturday, June 25 through Monday, June 27. Your state MG association, Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA), proudly sponsors this event, other educational activities, and a fund raiser for the an endowment fund used to support the state master gardener coordinator position on the Virginia Tech campus. The tradition of contributing to the endowment this year will be with a spirited live auction on Sunday, June 26, after the annual VMGA meeting and reception. This event, held yearly, will continue with your generous donations to the auction. The Master Gardener community has shown support and dedication to VCE and VMGA by making donations of popular items. Below are some examples of the wide variety of items that we would appreciate for this upscale auction. This list below are suggestions but not meant to limit your contribution(s):

plants (unusual)      garden tools      planters      fountains      yard art and sculpture  
bird houses      bird baths      bird feeders      home décor  
garden hats      culinary items      baskets      new and "gently" used books      time share  
rain barrels      wagons      garden gloves

This year, as the live auction chair, I'd be happy to pick up your items and bring them to MG College. The basket and items collected last year were very well received, and I would appreciate your assistance in providing the same quality items for participants to bid on. Please contact me at [arcingale@cox.net](mailto:arcingale@cox.net) or by phone at (757) 871-2866, at your earliest convenience. VMGA thanks you in advance for your continued support, and I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you, Angela Cingale

**It's not too late to register for MG College.** Go to, <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/reg/mastergardener/> to register for your tours, workshops, and concurrent sessions of your choice .

Early registration is open through June 10. Late registration will be available June 11-17, online. After that, late registrations will be handled on site at MG College on Friday, June 24 or Saturday, June 25.

If you have not already done so, you can register for housing by visiting this website: <https://regstg.com/Registration/Registration.aspx?rid=5192f1d4-05b4-4303-8817-5614b01e4bab>

Registering for the conference and for housing requires two separate registrations. If you have questions regarding housing, please call (540) 231-5721. If you have questions regarding registration, please call (540) 231-5182. Please keep in mind that MG College is not open to interns or trainees until they have completed their full fifty-hour internship. However, if you complete your hours by June, then you are welcome to register and attend!

A big thank you for volunteering for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program. We are here because of your dedicated service to educate our communities with the most up-to-date horticulture information. This poem is for all of us to enjoy. Author unknown.

### Why be a Volunteer?

It's not for the money, it's not for the fame.

It's not for any personal gain.

It's just for love of fellow man.

It's just to send a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self.

That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not medals won with pride.

It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart.

It's that feeling that you've been a part.

Of helping others far and near, that makes you be a Volunteer!



The Virginia Master Gardener Association will sponsor an educational event in September 2016 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and Maymont. You won't want to miss this worthwhile event. Please look for details from John Freeborn or our VMGA rep., Marilyn Riddle.

## CW LEARNING GARDENS

BY SUE LIDDELL

CW volunteers, including Extension Master Gardeners who work in the historic area, were treated to a reception at the Williamsburg Lodge in May. Mitchell Reiss, CEO and president of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, presented pins to fifteen-, twenty-, and thirty-year volunteers. Supervisors will present pins to the volunteers who have served one, five, and ten years. Master Gardeners give tours and work with vegetables, flowers, trees, and herbs. All photos are by Sue Liddell.



Clockwise: Rich Bunger, Becky Sutton, Liz Favre, Ruth Schultz, and Carol Fryer



Jeanne Millin, P.J. Fresquez, Maggie West (herb society), Kathy Bush, Laura Truslow (herb society)



Pat Crowe, Carol Schmidt (herb society), Steve (cabinetmaker/gunsmith volunteer), and Linda Lucas



Virginia Bendura, Stacey DeMeo, and Bev Baker



Kathy Briggs and Ruth Murphy



Barbara Floyd and Pat Abraham



## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH JUNE 2016

BY HELEN HAMILTON

PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### BLUE-EYED GRASS

*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*

Not a grass, but a member of the Iris family, this little blue flower has a yellow eye; each of the six petal-like parts has a bristle tip. Leaves are narrow, branching and grasslike, six to eighteen inches tall. Flower color ranges from pale blue to deep blue-violet, the flower size from ¼" to ¾" wide. Blooming from May through June, small round fruits are produced through July.

This perennial is common throughout Virginia and grows in meadows, ditches, and damp woods. Two other similar perennials are in the Coastal Plain; the stems of *S. atlanticum* are more narrow, and *S. mucronatum* has unbranched stems. Annual blue-eyed grass *S. rosulatum* is not native; the petals are lighter, and a conspicuous dark ring surrounds the center. This introduced species is common in the Gulf coastal states and is spreading northward, growing in fields and disturbed ground.

Blue-eyed grass does best in full sun to partial shade, preferring good, moist, well-drained soil. After the flowers fade, clumps of the narrow leaves are an attractive groundcover throughout the summer and into fall. The plants look great in a rock garden or along a border and can naturalize in the lawn. Propagation is by seed or division; they will self-seed, but not aggressively.

The genus name is Greek, *sys* for "pig" and *rynchus* for "snout," referring to "pig snout" as pigs searched for the roots. Native Americans used the plant for medical purposes.

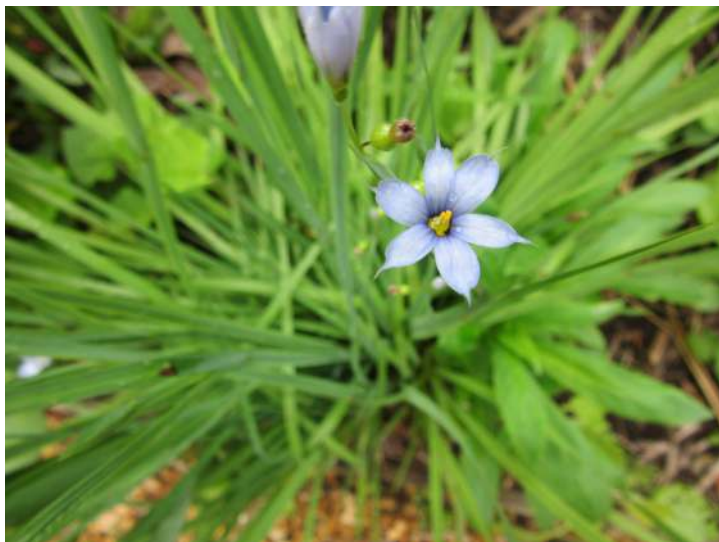


Photo: Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)  
taken by Helen Hamilton

For more information about native plants visit [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org).

## BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL AT THE WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN AUGUST 6-7

BY JORDAN WESTENHAVER

Mark your calendars! Williamsburg Botanical Garden at Freedom Park is pleased to announce it will again host a Butterfly Festival the first weekend in August.

This festival has several parts, but the main and most exciting focus will be two butterfly tents with a total of over 500 butterflies enjoying those hot August days. We will also offer craft activities for children as well as a costumed butterfly volunteer wandering around looking cute. We will have educational programs for families, children, and adults throughout the two days.

In order to make this happen, the WBG needs fifty butterfly helpers. These folks fit into four categories....

**Docents** – these folks stand inside the tent and help folks to hold butterflies, take photos, ‘dust’ the folks who are exiting, and hand out nectar sticks as folks enter.

**Educational Specialists** – these folks are willing to help with the programs and also stand inside the tent and answer questions.

**Set-up/take-down volunteers** – these folks help out with the set up at 10:00 Friday morning and take down Sunday afternoon after the butterfly release at 4:30. We especially want strong, tall folks who can lift things up high!!!

**Butterfly-costumed volunteers** to walk around and delight the children.

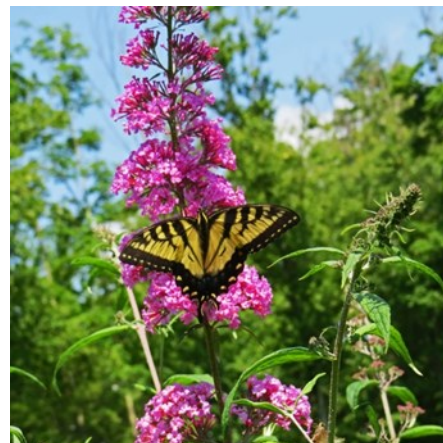


Photo by Judy Jones, Virginia Master Naturalist



The Graphics Fairy

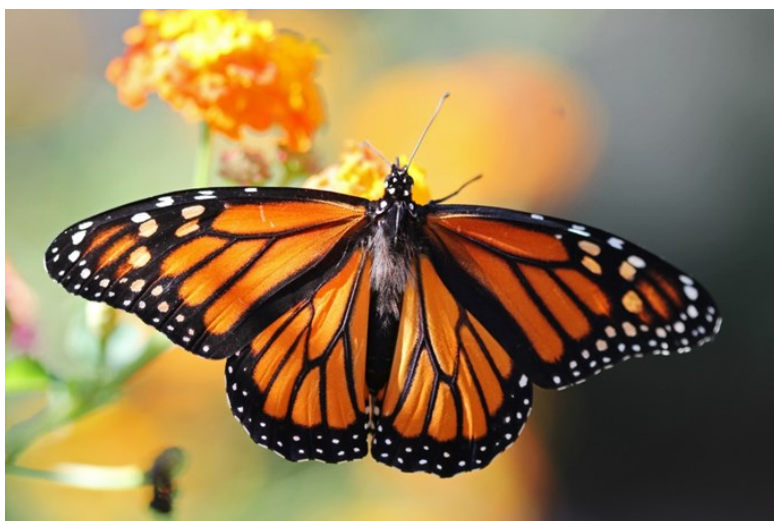


Photo by Judy Jones, Virginia Master Naturalist

If you'd like to participate, send an email to [wbgtoursmg@gmail.com](mailto:wbgtoursmg@gmail.com) and indicate which day you are available. We'll send you specific sign-up information soon.

## THIS AND THAT

**Come and Get 'Em!** Once again, Ailene Bartlett will be giving away bulbs. In about a month, Ailene reports she'll start digging A TON of daffodils to divide and will have LOTS to give away. Anyone who would like to help her dig is most welcome to join her! Also, after July 4 Ailene is planning to dig up some nice blue-and-white plicata iris for division and would like to find nice homes for them too.

If you're interested, give Ailene a call at (757) 229-2822.



The Graphics Fairy



pixabay

**Coaches Needed for the Help Desk.** The help desk needs more coaches for the interns during the July/August/September months. It's likely to be a very busy time, and the coordinators desperately need your participation.

If you can give some hours for this important activity, please contact Avril Purvis at 869-5639.

**Those Six-Inch Pots.** Remember how handy it was to have those plastic six-inch pots all ready to accept your plants for the plant sale? Wouldn't it be nice to reuse them next year but not have to store them yourself? Margene Hartsough advises that if you take your CLEANED six-inch pots to future MG monthly meetings, she will make sure they are stored for next year's sale.



Ljoo/Wikimedia Commons



Wikimedia Commons

### More News You Can Use From Kathy

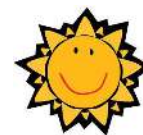
**Bush.** From the state VCE office: Here you'll find **over 300 videos** curated for accuracy and watchability. Find videos in three ways: Browse "Latest" videos on the home page, Browse by Category, or Search. To see them, visit <http://goodgardeningvideos.org/>

Kathy noted that "I started looking at these videos and got hooked. They range from botanical gardens and arboretums around the country and the world to how to prune a rhododendron. You will want to bookmark this site!"

## Important Dates

- 6/4 Farmers Market (Water Stewards)
- 6/4 Marsh Plants Walk (Hampton)
- 6/6-11 Lavender Fields Customer Appreciation Week
- 6/11 Campus Tree Walk (W&M)
- 6/18 Farmers Market (Incredible Edibles)
- 6/18 Gardener's Workshop Garden Tour, Newport News
- 6/18 Butterflies (Freedom Park)
- 6/24-27 EMG College
- 7/23 Ravine Bottom Walk (Freedom Park)
- 7/21 2nd annual EMG picnic (Freedom Park)
- 7/30 Greenhouse Tour (W&M)
- 8/6-7 Butterfly Festival (Williamsburg Bot. Garden)
- 8/13 Flowers of Late Summer (Newport News Park)
- 9/10 Go Green Expo (Newport News)

## SUNSHINE NOTES



We sent no cards this past month.

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 EMG secretary, Cathy Johnson, at (757) 208-0065, or [cathypj@gmail.com](mailto:cathypj@gmail.com)

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at [hopeyelich@gmail.com](mailto:hopeyelich@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.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. 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; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.