

# The Colonial Master Gardener

Publication of JCC/WBG Master Gardener  
Association & Virginia Cooperative Extension

June 2006



## President's Corner *Charlie Clapper*

Perhaps you've never considered gardening as an extreme sport but the Sunday, May 7, 2006 New York Times Book Review has two new gardening books: Beautiful Madness by James Dodson and The \$64 Tomato by William Alexander. The reviewer Constance Casey, a former New York City Parks Department gardener, argues that both authors see gardening as extreme sport. She thinks they have perhaps swung too far into the testosterone zone. Read the review or, better yet, dig into the book(s).

For the golfers and spouses of golfers among the Association's members here is the review's final paragraph:

"Both gardening and golf strain your back and weather your skin, and they involve the wearing of unflattering clothing. Both activities tend to attract people over 50, like these authors, who may not yet feel they have one foot in the grave but are nevertheless drawn closer to the soil (and to holes in the ground). Both provide a ritual. Golfers and gardeners go through the same motions year after year, but with slight changes that inspire hope that things will go better this time. The great advantage and solace of gardening is that there doesn't have to be a scorecard."

We're not into the Ironman triathlon. But we should remember the joys of gardening (and golf)!

## MG's Meeting the Needs of the Community *Leanne DuBois*

The Master Gardeners are an important part of our community and have been a moving force in implementing programs for all citizens. The Merrimac Detention Center completed the second Horticulture skills program and recently had a graduation ceremony for the students who participated and completed the nine week course. The program concluded with a simple ceremony and the youth received Certificates of Completion from VCE. The program focused on hands on learning and each week featured a portion of the class devoted to employment skills. A small vegetable garden was planted this year on the grounds next to the greenhouse. Thanks to Helen Kidder and Minouche Robinson for taking the lead in implementing this program and for encouraging these students to succeed.

Also this year the Water Wise Landscape Makeover sponsored by JCSA/Let's be Water Smart Program featured a Housing Partnership home located on Centerville Road. The home featured a modest and practical landscape that many homeowners or renters can adapt to their own yards. The planting featured minimal turf and attractive and easy to maintain landscape without the need for irrigation. Thanks to all who came to assist in the planting and especially for Turf Love and Bob and Jean Winters for their dedication.

### Next Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 1,  
Williamsburg Regional  
Library

**"RICH EARTH"**, Liz  
Witkowski, Owner New  
Century, Inc., National  
Distributor Of Rich Earth  
TM Mineral Soil Conditioner  
(each MG who attends this  
meeting will receive a  
sample of Rich Earth)



**Internal Education News Jean Winters**

I am pleased to report that we have received several responses about Program ideas for the future...please keep the ideas coming! (See survey on page 8 of this newsletter.) You may call in your responses as well. All such information will help us to present meaningful and desired topics covered. Our "steering committee" is anxious to keep the educational aspects of our Master Gardener organization a positive and helpful avenue for all to share in the learning process...the more ideas, the merrier, for successful gardening and assisting our fellow citizens in their horticultural pursuits! Many thanks! See you at the next meeting and the picnic!

**MG Summer Picnic Barbara Gustafson**

Plan to come to the Master Gardener Picnic Saturday, June 3, at Cathy and Bob Ripley's house on the James. The directions are: drive north on Route 5, cross the Chickahominy Bridge, take the first left after the bridge (approximately .03 mile). The road sweeps to the right, but you keep turning left at intersections until you reach 22511 Cypress Point Road on the right. You will see the tents and there will be people directing the parking.

We will have various games set up including badminton and horseshoes. We would like to have music, but we have not worked that out yet. There may even be some river cruising! The festivities begin at 2:30pm and food will be served from 4:00-7:00pm. Spouses and children are also invited.

More than 80 of us have signed up to come. Fifteen people are planning to bring salads; ten are bringing desserts; two are bringing chips and one a main dish. Dennis Sissel has generously offered to create his famous barbeque, so we really need to know the number we will be serving. If you are bringing a salad, think about coleslaw as it goes well with barbeque! We need more of you to bring chips and condiments.

If you would like to join us, email me or Ann Deforest or Anne Odle, any one of us will do. More detailed directions will be send out via mass email near the end of May and also be available at the June 1 general meeting.

**AMERICA'S  
ANNIVERSARY  
GARDEN  
CLOTHING**

Buy a Tee Shirt or Hat at the June Monthly Meeting.

Tee- Shirts -- \$12.00  
Hats -- \$14.00

Checks or Cash (exact amount)

**Taking Root Farm Tour**

Sunday, June 25, 12 Noon - 5 p.m.  
New Kent County

Visit 6 farms including Cattle, Sheep & Goat,  
Horse, Vineyard, Horticulture Crops, Organic Farm plus a Farmer's Market  
Call (804) 966-9645 for a map and more information or visit [www.jccwmg.org](http://www.jccwmg.org)

**Volunteers needed, please call Jeannie Gilman to sign up and for more information (804) 966-2237.**

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- June 25 New Kent Farm Tour, noon to 5:00pm
- July 6 Monthly MG meeting, Creating Backyard Habitats using Native Plants, Louis Verner, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Quarterpath Recreation Center
- August 3 Monthly MG meeting will be held at York River State Park, in the amphitheater, followed by a tour conducted by Charlene Talcott. All plantings at York River State Park are native. Of note is the riparian planting area, which has wildlife food plantings, highland, and lowland plants, and a newly planted America's Anniversary Garden. DIRECTIONS: To get to York River State Park from I-64, take the Croaker Exit (231-B). Travel north on Rt. 607 (Croaker Road) for 1 mile, then right on Rt. 606 (Riverview Road) for about 1.5 miles, and turn left onto York River Road. Travel approximately 2 miles to Day Use area and parking lots. Because you will be here for a program, you will not have to pay the parking fee. Should you require additional directions, please contact: Charlene Talcott at [charmac1@earthlink.net](mailto:charmac1@earthlink.net)



MG Interns Jarl Christensen and Libby Hedstrom working with first graders at James River Elementary School

## The America's Anniversary Garden goes "Native" Leanne DuBois

The York River State Park was the site of the first official "all natives" version of the America's Anniversary Garden. Denise Green of Sassafras Farm designed the garden overlooking the York River, near the Visitor Center. The garden includes a beautiful specimen fringe tree, several native shrubs (arrowwood, highbush blueberry, aronia, and Virginia sweetspire), native vines (coral honeysuckle, passionvine, virgin's bower, and American wisteria), and a wonderful assortment of native perennials and wildflowers (calico and smooth asters, hyssop skullcap, sundial lupine, wild quinine, whorled milkweed, cardinal flower, rose mallow, blue vervain, blue-eyed grass, blue flag iris, wild stonecrop, wild blue phlox, goat's beard, and columbine). This extensive assortment of native plants will produce pockets of red, white, and blue throughout the year in this scenic location. Over 15 volunteers including Bonnie Appleton, Extension Specialist participated in the garden planting. Special thanks to Helen Hamilton and Charlene Talcott for their time and leadership in seeing this project through.



Volunteers planting the Native Plant AAG at York River State Park.

## Project Updates

**Melissa's Meadow** group will meet June 15 early (7:30-8:00) since the hot weather should be in full force. Be prepared to clip and weed.

## A Successful Plant Sale 2006 Cathy Ripley

To all of those many hands that made light work for the plant sale, THANK YOU!! We had many well dressed plants and I think the public greatly appreciated it. We made about the same income as last year, right around \$3,000.00. It was a great success. Aileen, Becky and I appreciate all the seed planting, digging, potting and hauling. Great job to everyone!! Many thanks!

## Junior Master Gardeners Kari Abbott

May provided chances for JMG to bloom all over the place! May 9th and 10th four first grade classes went on the "Greatest Field Trip Ever." Considering it was first grade that was probably true. One class went into the Salt Water Marsh, which bordered the York River and Taskinas Creek. One class went on the Beaver Trail. Both excursions were at York River State Park. After a lunch break, the classes switched areas. Many thanks to the wonderful interns, Daryl and Mary Addington, Sarah Dougherty, Sandi Gauthier, Dan Devlin, Nancy Harris, and Jarl Christinsen, the children had a great time! The harder life of the salt marsh was seen, felt, and smelled. Fiddler crabs, wolf spiders, Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, and other wildlife scat, feathers, and tracks were found. Along with three plants (two which were in the same genus, *Spartina alterniflora*, and *Spartina patens*.) The woodlands provided habitats the children had been learning about all year. The children saw signs of beaver chew, a spotted turtle, and they identified many trees. Parent chaperones also learned a lot listening to the Master Gardener crew that was present for the field trips. Due to complications with the weather, the final field trip for the last two classes will be May 23rd.



*MG Tom Rogers presenting "Container Gardening" to 120 members of the regional council of AARP, a Speaker's Bureau engagement.*

Thank you to the Master Gardeners for buying the reward beads that helped make the field trips successful. Everyone behaved and earned the four beads signifying success. The four teachers who have attended the field had great praise for all of the Master Gardeners for helping out; it was nice to know everyone was greatly appreciated.

W\*3 and U classes end this month at DJ Montague with a final class with critical thinking exercises on water pollution. Teacher responses have been positive, and JMG is working on returning next year.

The Golden Ray, Insects in the Garden, Junior Master Gardener Class, an after school program at Matthew Whaley ends in May also. Seven children have been learning about insects, their classification, mouthparts, and other insect facts. Like last summer, the insect mouthparts class was a great hit. JMG challenges anyone to eat a skittle, or M & M using just tongue depressors, no hands! It is a great experiential learning exercise showing how hard insects work to get a meal. Susan Powell has lead the class with great support from Ann Davis and Jarl Christinsen.

As classes come to an end, ideas are percolating for the two summer camps at York River State Park; both sessions have been filling up quickly, and should be a great summer experience for the children who attend.

The Wetlands Habitat Class held April 12 was a very interesting class. The Master Gardeners did a better job of finding plants in the Salt Marsh at York River State Park, they found 9 plants! Libby

**Please note these changes of address:**  
 Don Parker  
 GDParker2001@cox.net  
 Peggy Manning  
 peggymanning@cox.net

Norris's presentation on wetlands restoration was wonderful. The power of wetland seeds is amazing; they can germinate after years of dormancy. The other biologist, Andy Zadnik, David Norris, and Habitat Educator, Carol Heiser presented a solid day of information.

Volunteers in the JMG program are having fun. They are getting muddy, sharing, and gaining knowledge and, best of all, educating the children of our county well. If you would like to join us, you are welcome! Email me at [bearsbaskets@cox.net](mailto:bearsbaskets@cox.net), my best to you all.

## JCC/W Master Gardener Volunteer Association Member's Survey 2006

Dear Member,

This survey is our way of collecting your thoughts and ideas regarding our Monthly Educational Programs and on-going Recertification Programs. We want to appeal to your interests, enthusiasm and curiosity. Please take a few minutes to fill out the questions below. Fill them out as broadly or as specifically as you want. Every response will be greatly appreciated by the Steering Committee. We want to provide to the membership interesting and valuable learning experiences.

Please return your Survey to either Shirley Mitchell at [rfm@visi.net](mailto:rfm@visi.net) or Anne Haltiner at [aehalt@cox.net](mailto:aehalt@cox.net) by May 31st. Thanks!

1. Program topics you would like to hear:

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2. Speakers you would like to hear:

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3. Hands-on topics you would like to participate in:

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4. Would you be interested in being part of a small "focus" or "interest" group?

This would be members helping members become more knowledgeable about a topic, such as perennials or composting? (yes)\_\_\_\_\_ (no)\_\_\_\_\_

What topics would be of interest to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Would you be interested in Field Trips or Tours? (yes)\_\_\_\_\_ (no)\_\_\_\_\_

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*THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR FEEDBACK.*

# JCC/W Master Gardener By-Laws June 2006

## NOTE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Here are the proposed by-laws of the Association. Changes from the current by-laws are shown in blue in italics. The articles on Inactive Master Gardeners, Sunshine Fund and Reserve Funds have already been adopted by the Membership. The Board recommends that the membership approve a change to the Sunshine Fund addendum which had a \$25 maximum amount. Most of the other proposed changes to the by-laws are for clarification purposes. Please submit e-mail or written comments to Secretary Mary Ann Kimminau. A membership vote on the by-laws will be held at the July General Meeting.

~~(Revised May 2005)~~ June 2006

### JAMES CITY COUNTY / WILLIAMSBURG MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

#### ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The James City County / Williamsburg Master Gardener Association."

#### ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the work of Master Gardeners (volunteer educators), in conjunction with the James City County Virginia Cooperative Extension, to increase the knowledge and understanding of environmentally sound horticulture within the community. This organization shall also serve to provide ongoing educational opportunities for Master Gardeners themselves, and to disseminate information about community activities of interest to the membership.

#### MISSION

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

#### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Membership: There are ~~five~~ six levels of Master Gardener status.

A. Master Gardener Trainee: One who is currently in classroom training to become a Master Gardener, but has not yet taken or satisfactorily passed final examination on course materials.

B. Master Gardener Intern: One who has completed the Master Gardener Program classroom training requirement, achieved 70% or better cumulative average on final examination, and is currently y-fulfilling the initial internship experience of 50 hours educational efforts/work time plus an additional 20 hours working the Helpline.

C. Master Gardener: One who has completed the full Master Gardener Program - classroom and internship - and is actively volunteering with VCE, fulfilling the program requirements necessary to remain active.

D. Specialized Master Gardener: One who has received specialized training in any of the advanced-level Master Gardener training programs and has completed the program requirements. Specialized training is available in various areas, such as Master Gardener Tree Steward, Master Gardener Water Steward, and ~~Master Gardener Yard waste Manager.~~ Master Gardener Wildlife Steward.

E. Emeritus Master Gardener: A dedicated Master Gardener who "~~retires~~" due to health or other reasons after 1000 hours of service, -This title can only be granted when approved by the VCE Coordinator and with consensus of the Executive Board or as determined by the coordinator. This is a high honor status and should have limited use. This title is specifically for individuals who can no longer complete the requirements for remaining an active Master Gardener, but who ~~have earned~~ wish to continue active continued affiliation with the program.

F. Inactive Master Gardener. The status of Inactive Master Gardener is temporary and is available for a one or two year period upon request of the individual and approval by the VCE Coordinator and Executive Board. An Inactive Master Gardener pays the yearly dues, is not removed from the mailing list, and may continue to contribute to the organization. During the inactive status, the member remains a qualified Master Gardener without completing the annual program requirements. After a two year absence, the VCE Coordinator may require the member to take some additional training before regaining active status.

Section 2. Dues: The fiscal year for the Association runs from January 1 through December 31. Dues must be paid by March 15 for members to retain active status. Only members who pay dues will receive the monthly newsletter.

#### ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board, hereinafter the Board, shall consist of the officers of the Association, and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Association. All actions and business conducted by the Board shall be by majority vote, provided a quorum (defined as one half) of the officers is in attendance. The Board may invite other members to attend meetings as necessary and prudent, but these members will be non-voting.

1. The officers shall consist of a President, First Vice President for Projects, Vice President for Internal Master Gardener Education, Vice President for Youth Programs, Secretary, Treasurer, State Representative and such other Directors as deemed necessary by the Board and appointed by the President. These officers, plus the immediate Past President, and the County Extension Agent (ex officio) shall constitute the Executive Board.
2. The term of office shall be for one year.
3. Officers shall be elected by the membership not later than June of each year and assume their duties at the July meeting.

Section 2. The duties of the officers shall include the following be as follows:

1. The President shall preside at all meetings, appoint all chairs, and coordinate the work of the officers and committees of the Association. The President shall meet with the County Extension Agent at a minimum on a monthly basis to discuss ongoing work of the Association.
2. The First Vice President shall be responsible for all community educational service projects. The First Vice President shall serve in place of president in his/her absence.
3. The Vice President of Internal Master Gardener Education shall be responsible for all projects coordinate all and programs which serve to further the education of master gardeners and master gardener trainees.
4. The Vice President for Youth Programs shall be responsible for all projects and programs which serve to educate children.
5. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board. The

Secretary shall maintain the records of the Association and turn them over promptly to a successor when one is elected.

6. The Treasurer shall maintain all funds of the Association, disburse any funds for official Master Gardener activities, and provide periodic reports, including an annual report to the general membership at the close of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall turn over all records to a successor when one is elected.

7. The State Representative shall attend meetings of the Virginia Master Gardener Association.

8. The immediate Past President shall act as an advisor and ~~have no required duties~~ provide support as requested.

Section 3. Duties of the Executive Board:

The specific "Duties of Board Members" will be identified by the Board such as is deemed prudent by them for the effective and efficient conduct of the Association's stated purpose. These duties will be reviewed and revised as necessary by each new Board, with approved revised editions appended as a supplement to these By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE V COMMITTEES AND VACANCIES**

Section 1. Committees may be created by the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, to manage and/or conduct the responsibilities of the Association.

Section ~~1~~2. Vacancies. Executive Board vacancies shall be filled by Presidential appointment, in consultation with the Board and with membership approval, to complete the expired terms of office.

Section 3. Sunshine Fund. As the budget will allow, upon the serious illness, hospitalization or death of a member of the JCC/W Master Gardeners or an immediate family member (generally one who resides in the same household), a plant, flowers or a contribution to an organization shall be made. The maximum amount will be determined by the board. For all other acknowledgements, a card will be sent.

Section 4. Reserve Funds. Monies removed from the JCC/W Reserve Fund for expenses to cover special circumstances not anticipated at budget time should be limited to \$1000 a year with a \$100 spending limit allowed for any one unbudgeted item. Any proposed expenditures of more than \$100 is to be voted upon by the membership

## **ARTICLE VI MEETINGS**

Section 1. General membership meetings will be held monthly on the first Thursday at a time and place designated by the President.

Section 2. The election of officers shall be held no later than the June meeting. The President shall appoint a nominating committee responsible for nominating a slate of officers. Prior to the "call for a vote" the Chair shall ask for additional nominations from the floor. Prior approval should be obtained from the nominee before any person is nominated from the floor.

Section 3. Actions or recommendations submitted to the membership shall be approved or disapproved by a majority vote of those voting members present.

## **ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS AND PROCEDURES**

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Association by a majority vote of those present provided that the proposed amendment(s) shall have been submitted to the membership in writing at the previous meeting. Proposed amendments must be distributed to the membership through the monthly newsletter and/or mass e-mail -or by mail- no less than 15 days prior to the -meetingmembership vote.



Section 2. Procedures for the conduct of all meetings will be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest revision.

Section 3. In addition to these by-laws full job descriptions for all board members ~~operating guidelines~~ will be established to address the day-to-day requirements, functions, and needs of the organization. These ~~operating guidelines~~ job descriptions may be amended at any time ~~by a majority quorum vote of the executive board.~~ Current ~~guidelines~~ job descriptions, VCE Sustainable Landscape Management Practices, and the current VCE guidelines for "Master Gardeners as Educators" and Educational Programming", Guide to Master Gardener Educational Programming, pp. V-15, and V-16 are available to the membership upon request.