

The Colonial Master Gardener



PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

June 2010

*In memory of Lynn Flood
1951 -2010
JCC/W Master Gardener Class of 2002*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

It looks like I will be purchasing our tomatoes at the Farmers' Market this summer since I am way behind with the home garden. If you're expecting a big return on your vegetable garden, though, do check out the new Extension Master Gardener blog at <http://blogs.extension.org/mastergardener/> which began in early May. This week's entry talks about Ample Harvest, a national program I referred to last month that connects growers with food pantries across the nation. Hopefully the "Green Team" project, a Community Action Agency program for local teens that VCE-MG Incredible Edibles volunteers are assisting, will connect with FISH or other local pantries...in addition to encouraging teens to improve their diet and actually try the vegetables that they are growing!

Another of our projects that involves teenagers is the one chaired by Minouche Robinson and Helen Kidder at Merrimac

Detention Center. Eight teens were recently awarded certificates after successfully completing the 10-week program that Minouche and Helen run there with the help of other MGs who share their expertise during informal lecture and hands-on sessions.

We will be back at the Williamsburg Library for our June 3rd MG meeting. If you have gardening books or magazines you no longer need, bring them along to "recycle" among MGs. See you there.

Next Monthly Meeting:

June 3, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional Library;
Jim Orband, York County VCE Agent, on
"Ferns"

COME TO THE FAIR.....
AND BRING A PLANT OR
VEGGIE WITH YOU!

BY GREG ALLEN



The annual James City County Fair will be held this year from June 24-26. On Saturday, June 26th, entries—among them, plants, flowers and vegetables—will be judged and ribbons awarded. We're urging master gardeners to consider entries in these categories.

As I mentioned in a newsletter article earlier this year, flower and plant entries at the Fair have significantly declined over the past ten years. It's hard to understand that when you consider the growth of gardening associations, especially our

own, in the Williamsburg area.

The process is very straight forward:

1. Review the many categories. Go to our website (jccwmg.org), click on [Enter the JCC Fair Farm and Home Competitions!](#) then make your decision on what items you'd like to enter.
2. All entries for the Farm and Home Exhibits will be accepted Saturday morning, June 26 between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Judging commences at 8:30 and is over by about 10. Judges do not see the names of entrants.
3. Earn bragging rights for the ribbon(s) you win! Names of all ribbons winners are published in *The Virginia Gazette*.

We'll look forward to having great representation from Williamsburg/James City Master Gardeners.

2009
MG Board

President:
Linda Lucas
565-0335

VP Projects:
Jeanne Millin
258-4724

VP Internal Ed:
Carol Fryer
220-0759

VP Administration:
John Giffin
345-5209

Secretary:
Pat Janot
221-0289

Treasurer:
Linda Wever
566-0286

VMGA Reps:
Jim & Nelda Pressly
220-1858

Past President:
Dave Banks
258-8632

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:00 am, at the James City County Health and Human Services Building, on Olde Towne Road.

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

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY CAROL FRYER

Jim Orband, VCE agent in York County, will be speaking about **Ferns** at our June 3rd monthly meeting. Jim, who is retiring from his position at the end of June, has influenced and taught many of us through his classes and workshops over the years. Our Pruning Program began after several of us took his "Train the Trainer Class" in pruning in 2007. He has taught fruit tree pruning to the community every spring in the Reid garden in Colonial Williamsburg, and organized the yearly Horticulture Extravaganza workshops in Yorktown. He is a recognized horticulturist and speaker throughout the State and is a regularly featured guest on Cathy Lewis' Hear Say radio program. Please welcome Jim to our meeting on June 3rd.



There will be no monthly MG meeting in July. Since the first Thursday of the month is close to the July 4th holiday weekend and we suspect that many of our members will be away or preparing for a festive weekend. Have a HAPPY and SAFE 4th of JULY Celebration .

At our August monthly meeting, Lisa Ziegler , owner of The Gardener's Workshop, will teach us about **Fall Planting**. Lisa feels Fall is an important time to prepare your garden for next year's flowers. She is a cut flower grower from Newport News. She



started her business in 1998, shortly after becoming a Master Gardener. Her business, like her flowers, has flourished. She currently sells her flowers through upscale florists, Farmers' Markets, and her consumer subscription business. She is well know for her vivaciousness and talent in teaching flower gardening to folks with various levels of garden experience. Lisa has an on-line garden catalog for gardening and flower arranging tools and supplies. She will bring some items with her in August that will be available for sale.

After the June monthly meeting and election of Board officers, there will be a new Vice President of Internal Education who will take over the duties of my present position. It has been a delightful experience for me to head up the Education Committee that plans the educational activities for the membership. We are very pleased with the feed -back we have received from the membership about our field trips and monthly speakers. It takes a team of people to plan and execute our training events and we are fortunate to have such an excellent group of workers on our team. Look forward to more excellent advanced trainings, and to a new voice writing the monthly column.

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS



BY JCC/W WATER STEWARDS

"Why we should use drought tolerant native plants?"

Prolonged periods of drought do have an impact on native plants, but they tend to be better adapted to this climate and can tolerate its extremes. Planted in appropriate habitats, many natives will thrive in our gardens without much supplemental watering. However, even the most drought tolerant plants need to get their roots established before they can stand on their own. For best results, plant in the fall when the temperatures have dropped and the ground has more moisture in it. That way your plants will be well established before hot and dry conditions return.

CHOOSE PLANTS WISELY – People tend to choose plants that they like, rather than what's suited to their yard – and then try to make up for poor habitat with extra water and fertilizer. Drought only makes it tougher on such misplaced

WATER TIPS OF THE MONTH

BY JCC/W WATER STEWARDS

Here are a couple of outside water tips:

1. Don't forget to check your outdoor faucets, sprinklers and hoses for leaks.
2. Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades the roots and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.

plants, and when it gets so severe that water use is restricted, there may be nothing you can do to save them. Select plants to suit the conditions in your yard! Choose plants appropriate for the local climate, and then plant them in the proper habitat, whether it's wet, dry, sun or shade. If you have a wet spot in your yard, then you can grow plants that like it moist there. (An often overlooked area is that spot where condensation from your air conditioner drips all summer long – it's the perfect spot for plants that like it moist in the summer.)

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2010 PLANT SALE HUGE SUCCESS

BY DENNIS WOOL

For all who participated in any aspect of the 2010 Plant Sale there should be no question as to our huge success. More than 180 MGs and interns worked over the several months of planning/growing to present a beautiful array of vegetation. You will recall that the 2010 Plant Sale Committee was given two challenges – raise sufficient funds to support the more than 2 dozen MG projects and maximize participation. Both goals were accomplished – actual proceed totals will be announced at the June MG meeting.

MGs really came through with donated plants and vendor specimens were of exceptional quality. We should be especially proud of the fact that of the 2822 plants sold – 2087 of those plants or 74% were contributed by MGs! The Native Plant Society sold 1100 of their plants. Our raffle produced \$206

thanks to the donation of the decorated rain barrel from Angela Cingale and donor/sponsors contributed \$385 – a great big thanks! Many hands made light work and it appeared from my observation position that folks had a pretty enjoyable time.

While it's always dangerous to single out anyone in an event like this, we'll take the risk and acknowledge the tremendous generosity of Ailene Bartlett who allowed her yard to be designated as the Staging Area. I think she enjoyed our presence as much as we appreciated her and she has already volunteered her yard for the 2011 Sale. The Board has reclassified the Plant Sale as a stand-alone Project with year-round status. An organizing process for the 2011 Sale will begin in late August or early September with opportunities for folks to take Leadership/Facilitator positions and identify areas they might wish to join. Again, well done MGs – 2010 was a huge success.

MG COLLEGE

BY DAVE CLOSE



Registration is now open for anyone wishing to attend the 23rd Annual Master Gardener College in Blacksburg, VA, from June 22-27, 2010. Registration involves a two-stage process:

1. Register for the conference: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/reg/mastergardener/>
2. Register for on-campus housing: <http://www.studentprograms.vt.edu/conferences/conferences.php>

If you choose to stay off-campus, we have a block of rooms available at the Inn at VT and the Holiday Inn. Please check the "Room and Board" page on my website (www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/) for details about housing and other off-campus options. This link can be found under "MG College."

Please read all information carefully, especially with regards to Water Steward training. Registration will be open until Friday, June 11.

For details about the conference please check out the Spring issue of *In Season* newsletter: http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/InSeason_Spring2010.pdf

We look forward to seeing you in June!

FROM THE GARDEN

BY CAROL FRYER

Gerhard Hertel, MG has developed an easy method to bring drip irrigation to a newly planted shrub or flower.

He sent the following photos that show the materials he uses and how they are assembled. The materials include an empty gallon plastic bottle, a length of 1/4" drip irrigation tubing, an adjustable dripper for one end of the tubing, a connector to join the tubing to the bottle, and a tool to punch a hole in the bottle. The hole is made in the lower part of the bottle. The tubing is attached to one end of the connector, and the other end is inserted into the hole in the bottle. Gerhard uses a little epoxy glue around the hole after the connector is inserted to seal the joint. The dripper is attached to the other end of the tubing. Once the epoxy has dried, the unit can be placed next to your newly planted shrub. Take the cap off the bottle fill it with water, and the water will slowly drip out to wet the soil around your new plant. Thanks for sharing this. CF



←←
Drip bottle in place



→→
L to R: Hole punch,
drinker, connector



ARBORETUM TRIP – MAY 17TH

BY CAROL FRYER

Although we set out on our bus trip with trepidation, our master gardeners and guests had a terrific time at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. last week. Thunder storms were predicted for the day as we left the parking lot at the James City County Community Center at 6:20 AM. We arrived at our destination in less than 3 hours with smooth sailing all the way. We had a light drizzle of rain throughout the day, but once we got over the fact that that was what Mother Nature had in mind for the day, we totally immersed ourselves in the wonders of the Arboretum. Our 2 hour bus tour with Julia, a volunteer guide from the Arboretum, was well worth the whole trip. We made stops at the Asian Gardens and Conifer Collection with our tour guide, and drove throughout the Arboretum while our guide gave us information and answered all of our questions about the gardens and plant materials in the landscape. Instead of lunch at the picnic tables, we had lunch on the bus at the picnic area. The afternoon was spent exploring gardens on our own. Our trip home was as smooth as our morning ride.



We celebrated the birthday of Renee Napolitano's son, Sean, on the way home with brownies and a birthday song, and arrived back in Williamsburg a little before 6:30 PM with smiles on our faces.

As Lillian Woolfolk so adeptly stated 'Rain can't spoil the beautiful place of such wonderful trees and flowers! If anything the gray-green cast of the sky made the colors brighter.' How true. The trunks of the trees were vivid browns and rusts, and the leaves and flowers had the fresh luster of a wet watercolor painting. The conifer garden has myriad shades of intense green.... all of which would look different in the hot sun. Jerry Babski told me 'when we were leaving the Bonsai display, three Japanese in high dress arrived carrying three bonsaied azaleas in full bloom on a covered litter...it was quite a sight.'

Thanks to everyone who signed up and made the trip possible and thanks to John Giffin and Jerry Babski who helped plan and organize this trip. Here are a few photos from Bev Baker and me.



Asian Pavilion



Ruth Schultz and Carol Fryer in Fern Valley



Ruth Schultz, Bev Baker and Toni Web



MG CONGRATULATIONS

Bill Baetz (Class of '94), Peggy Manning (Class of '98) and Wayne Moyer (Class of '95) were recently granted Emeritus status for their contribution of time and talent to our association and the community as Active MGs. Bill, who chaired our birdhouse project for many years, has already relocated to a new home in Pennsylvania.



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NEW SHED AT MATTEY'S GARDEN

BY GENROSE LASHINGER

After twenty years of service, the old Matthey's Garden Shed was torn down to make way for a new one! Designed by Gordon Chappell, retired landscape architect from Colonial Williamsburg, the historically appropriate shed is a donation to the Garden whose daughter attended Matthew Whaley. The shed is being built by Chris Jennings who built the Garden and whose two children also went to Matthew Whaley. Andrew Jennings, Chris' son, named the garden, Matthey's Garden. Funds for the Garden came from the Matthew Whaley PTA, JCC-Williamsburg Master Gardeners, Greensprings Garden Club, Williamsburg Garden Club, the Williamsburg Women's Club and Mrs. Annette White. The shed is close to being complete and we hope to have a dedication ceremony before the end of the school year.

Our next plan is to build a pavilion over the picnic tables which will allow the teachers to use the Garden even in inclement weather. The pavilion is to have a green roof of plants. Funding by interested people will be welcome.

LINK TO NEW GUIDELINES ON CHESAPEAKE BAY

Pat Crowe submitted the following link to an article that appeared in the Williamsburg-Yorktown Daily, regarding the EPA's new, stricter policy on cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. It may be of interest to many of you.

<http://www.wydaily.com/local-news/4367-new-stricter-federal-policy-to-protect-chesapeake-bay.html>

MELISSA'S

MEADOW

BY GRACE RAYMOND



Our next work date is June 16, the third Wednesday of the month. We begin about 8:30 and will be deadheading and weeding.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the July Newsletter is June 21. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

FARMER'S MARKET SCHEDULE: SUMMER 2010

BY SALLY SISSEL

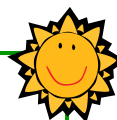
June 12: Gardening with Children
June 19: Pruning
July 3: Flower Gardens
July 17: Incredible Edibles
(vegetable container gardening)
July 31: Therapeutic Gardening

**Tuesday Farmers' Markets Begin June 1:
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

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



A note of condolence was sent to Ruth Schultz and a donation was made in her friend's memory.

If you know a Master Gardener who is ill, facing surgery, has suffered a family loss, or any event in which that person might benefit from a **sunshine note**, please contact the MG Secretary, Pat Janot. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Pat may be reached at 221-0289 or janotap@verizon.net.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- June 3 Monthly Meeting @ WRL; Jim Orband, "Ferns"
- June 21 July Newsletter Deadline
- June 22-27 MG College
- June 24-26 James City County Fair
- June 27 Taking Root Farm Tour

TAKING ROOT

Farm Tour

Self-Driving Tour of
Local Farms



SUNDAY

June 27, 2010

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Visit 3 Diverse Farming Businesses Meet the Farm Families
and learn about Agriculture in your Community

Featuring:

Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Riding Center

Squirrel Hollow Goat Farm

Allen's Vegetable Farm

With Master Gardener Help Desk & Other Exhibitors At Each Farm

Sites located in Barhamsville/Toano, VA Area

(From I64 take Exit 227 (Rt. VA-30N) toward Toano/West Point

& Follow Signs on VA-30N to Farms)

Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, New Kent County and the JCC/NK/Williamsburg Master Gardener Assoc.

Call (804) 966-9645 for a map and more information or visit www.jccwmg.org

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cynthia Rowles at (804) 966-9645 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. As an educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.