

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



June 2012



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS

The weather has been amazing this year with two tropical anomalies even before the start of the hurricane season. I am welcoming the rain from the last one.

I have a problem that has presented itself in my apple trees. I noticed yesterday that there is an infestation of the woolly apple aphid on every tree. So far, treatments consist of biological agents if you could contain them, no real effective organic method, and only one effective chemical method, Diazinon, which is harmful to the beneficials. There is a cultural method which I will be trying and that is scrubbing the trees with soap and water and removing the infestation while sanitizing the tree. Hopefully that will work and then I will research systemic applications if any exist. Wish me luck.

This last month has been pretty busy with school gardens and SOL's. The highlight of the month was a state award for a garden here in Williamsburg. We were happy to see J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School's Charles Morse receive the Virginia Lottery Super Teacher award for his work in the Classroom and the Garden. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the garden last year.

On another note, I have been busy with the School Health Initiative Program supplying them with information as they prepare to apply for a \$65-100,000 two year grant through the USDA to further the agricultural education, development

and maintenance of the School Gardens bringing the farm to table within James City County Public Schools.

We now have a scholarship program that was finalized at the May board meeting and will be presented to the membership soon to be approved so we can make the first award at the end of the 2012-2013.

We also have reviewed the policy regarding the purchase and wearing of Master Gardener gear and apparel. I contacted VMGA about rules/regulations at their organization along with Virginia Tech. There are no rules limiting the sale of the MG gear and apparel to anyone at either VT or VMGA whether they are an MG or not. The motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow any member wanting to purchase MG Gear to do so when we have our periodic sales.

Don't forget that we have elections during the June Meeting.

Monthly Meeting

June 7, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional Library;
Speaker:
Helen Hamilton, "Native Grasses"

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

Reminder that elections for officers will take place at the June meeting. Officers to be voted upon are:
President Elect - Margene Hartsough
VP Administration - David Sisson
VP Education - Judy Casone
VMGA Representatives - Angela Cingale and Marilyn Riddle

Nominations may be taken from the floor. Positions are for a two year term with the exception of President Elect which will be for one year. The person elected to the President Elect position will automatically become president the following year.

Debbie Griesinger was appointed to fill the position of VP Projects to complete the term of Beth Fugate who had

been elected for two years-2011-2013.

BY Law Update.

Article IV - Executive Board

Section 2 The Duties of the Officers shall be as follows:

Item 3 Duties of the Projects VP. Delete sentence reading "The Projects Vice President shall serve in place of the President in his/her absence."

Rational: With the addition of the position of President Elect, who shall serve in the absence of the president, the sentence is no longer necessary.

This by-law change will be voted upon at the September meeting.

The Colonial Master Gardener June 2012

2012
MG Board

President:
Roger Evans

VP Projects:
Beth Fugate

VP Internal Ed:
Harriet Parsons

VP Administration:
Margene Hartsough

Secretary:
Mary Ellen Edwards

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Linda Lucas

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

May 8th saw a group of 13 of us heading out for our "Day in Powhatan." Even though it was a long drive, it was a beautiful spring day and we saw beautiful orchids, iris and peonies. Our first stop was at Chadwick's Orchid greenhouses. We were given demonstrations of how to repot an orchid, how to pollinate and general care instructions. It was amazing to watch how the roots were aggressively separated and re-potted very tightly with sphagnum moss in a snug fitting simple clay pot. Chadwick's recommends a diluted fertilizer applied several times a month, water thoroughly once or twice a week (put under faucet and let water flow through), use a humidity tray and put in filtered direct light. If you are interested in the needs of specific orchids shoot me an e-mail and I will send you their info sheet.

We saw truly beautiful orchids. My favorite was the *Paphiopedilum* or Lady Slipper orchid. We discovered that several greenhouses were holding areas for "rental" orchids. Chadwick's has a program that allows you to drop your orchids off for care while you are on vacation, if they are sickly or if you want them out of the house when they are not blooming. For a very nominal fee they will house them and call you for pick up when they are ready to burst into bloom! Several of us couldn't leave without an orchid in our arms.

Next, we went on to lunch where we were met by Mike Lockatell of *Roots and Blooms* who many of you know from the Farmer's Market. Mike gave us an extensive history of the reblooming iris before heading out to his wonderful and overflowing beds of blooming iris and peonies. Watch for the new dwarf peony variety, very sturdy with stems that hold the heavy blooms upright. Mike also has the Japanese peony type, recognizable because of the heavy and pronounced staminodes in the center of the bloom. Stop by and see him at the Market.



Next month, June 5, you will have another field trip opportunity to visit Seigman's 5-acre garden in Gloucester. This will be a garden you will not want to miss and it is an easy drive. Kathy Van Mullekom of the Daily Press featured the garden in a August 2011 article. Les Seigman is a horticulturalist who has worked many years for several universities, has his own business, *Green Art*, and is a frequent speaker at gardening and educational events. This will be a well-designed and innovative garden hidden away in a woodland area and filled with perennials, sedums, ferns and art objects. Les will share his gardening words of wisdom such as, "sedums replace the need for a large lush lawn, and thorny trifoliolate orange deter nibbling deer." **E-mail me if you would like to attend.**

I gave myself a real treat on Mother's Day. The classical gardens of Mt. Sharon, a restored estate dating to the 1700's in Orange, Virginia, were open to the public. The century old tunnel of boxwood is entered through a wedding arch which leads on to double parterres that contain knot gardens of barberry and box. Arbors and pergolas abound within the rose garden. The views of the Virginia countryside are open, expansive and as much a part of the garden as the box. I must give credit to my granddaughter for the photos. Watch for the garden to be on upcoming garden tours, well worth the drive.

Our June monthly meeting will feature our own Helen Hamilton speaking on native grasses. This is a timely subject as grasses are a great landscaping plant for waterwise gardening.



Mike Lockatell's irises and peonies;
More photos on the next page!

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.

The Colonial Master Gardener June 2012

"DAY IN POWHATAN" FIELD TRIP



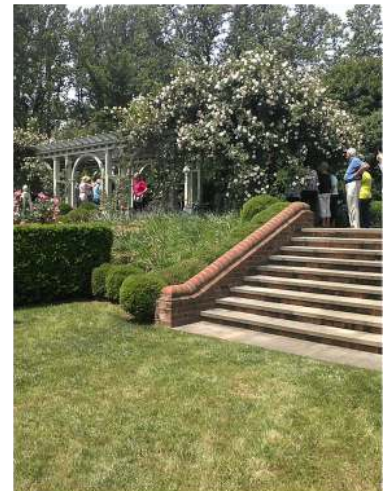
Chadwick's Orchid
Greenhouse



More of Mike Lockett's
irises and peonies



Mt. Sharon
(New Dawn Rose at right)



JUNE WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

BY HELEN HAMILTON, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

CLIMBING HYDRANGEA

Decumaria barbara

This handsome woody vine needs a climbing surface, without which it does not produce flowers. Like Trumpet Creeper and Climbing Euonymus, adventitious roots readily cling to tree bark, stone walls and fences. A high climber, the stems can reach over 60 feet in height. The opposite leaves are oval, usually toothed, glossy above, and deciduous. Blooming May through June, the numerous fragrant white flowers bear 7-10 petals and 20-30 stamens. Many-seeded fruit capsules, top-shaped and strongly ribbed, appear July through October. In the winter, the vine is often conspicuous with its clusters of dark fruits hanging from a bare stem clinging high on the trunk of a tree.

Climbing Hydrangea prefers partial shade in swamps, wet woods and moist forests. Occurring only in the southeast counties of Virginia, this vine extends to Florida, west to Louisiana and Texas, and to some mountainous habitats of South Carolina and Tennessee.

A member of the Family Hydrangeaceae, the genus *Decumaria* has only two species, Climbing Hydrangea which is native to eastern North America, and another species of eastern Asia. Such a startling distribution, seen also in hickories, tulip-trees, sassafras and many other plants, reflects massive geological and climatic changes and extinctions over millions of years.



Photo: Climbing Hydrangea
(*Decumaria barbara*) taken by Phillip
Merritt

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

LANDSCAPE LOVE, SPRING 2012

BY ANNE NIELSEN



This was a fantastic spring in many ways. Following the Winter that never arrived, everyone faced the problem of weeds and insects that never died!! I believe that this prompted the unbelievable number of applicants requesting our service. Residents were working in their gardens during the mild February and March days. As the number of applicants rose, my concern over getting the visits completed by the end of May escalated. Added to this was the low number of interns(11) available to help. The angst was unwarranted, the teams came through with flying colors. Our total applicants numbered 76 with 3 dropping out before visits were made. Our previous high had been 50, so it was a huge increase in effort.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated. To the 44 MGs who worked on the teams, thank you for going the extra mile. With fewer interns many veteran MGs were writing visit reports. To the overworked interns, thank you for exceptional reports. Your understanding of

the need for clear and complete reports to the homeowners resulted in excellent guidelines for residents for improving their landscapes. An extra thank you to Roger Evans for leading a visit centered around a home veggie garden. We all learned from his expertise. Last but not least, a big thank you to the team leaders, John Giffin, Gary Streb, Judy Casone, Sally Sissel and Margene Hartsough. This was Gary's and Judy's first run as team leaders and they were excellent as were all of the others. Hopefully the fall will be a calmer season. I look forward to seeing all of you again for the October visits.

If you could read the homeowner's evaluations you would know how much these visits mean to our residents. They depend upon your knowledge and you encourage them with correct information to solve their problems. Thank you again.

Have a great summer in your own garden!

The Colonial Master Gardener June 2012

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (E2)

BY KARI ABBOTT



Greetings! A **Big Thank You** as the Environmental Education (E2) project has once again had a successful year, thanks to the dedication of the volunteers. The end of the year field trips were adventures full of fun for everyone.

Thanks to the Botanical Garden volunteers who made the field trip for the kindergarten children outstanding. The Yellow Lady Slippers were a treat for everyone. Thanks to everyone who walked with the first graders at York River State Park. We saw, heard, and experienced so many different things. More people joined us this year, it was nice having everyone on the field trips.

Volunteers, look for an end of year kibitz time. I am trying to work out the place and the date. More information will follow by email or announcements.

As the school year ends, we are finishing the classroom experience with a critical thinking exercise that ties together many things we have talked about throughout the year.

There will be a summer training date for interns and anyone who would like to join us in the fall doing classroom curriculum. More information follow by email or announcements.

RAIN BARREL RAFFLE WINNER

BY DENNIS WOOL

Thanks to the generosity of Angela Cingale for donating a painted rain barrel to the Plant Sale again this year. As folks entered the Plant Sale area, they were presented with an opportunity to take a chance on this year's model. Pictured here is this year's winner – Janett Burton who was thrilled to add this addition to an already creative and colorful garden.



BARRELS AND BINS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

BY DENNIS WOOL

To date, B & B Team have made four presentations in the area – The Botanical Garden, Earth Day at Waller Mill Park, Earth Day in New Kent, and a local home owner's association. Interest from a wide variety of citizens remains high for the composters and for the rebates associated the rain barrels. Grow boxes always are a hit as folks who are challenged by space or physical limitations find they can still "garden" with this container. Incredible Edibles have used almost 2 dozen boxes with their families.

Your help is needed to find venues for the B&B presentations – garden clubs, neighbor associations, church groups – venues that might be looking for a 30+/- minute presentation. The Team has just one more event scheduled at the Farmer's Market in June and has plenty of inventory on hand. Funds from B&B are used to support the overall budget of JCCW-MG.

THANK YOU TO THE CLASS OF 2012 INTERNS

It was a pleasure to meet all of you during the classroom sessions. Your class has a lot of knowledgeable and very nice people. I wish you success in learning as much as you can while volunteering for many different projects. Thank you very much for the card and certificate. I look forward to working with you! Becoming a Master Gardener was a great decision: you have a chance to teach people (from kids to the elderly), you take the time to ask and answer questions, and you provide the labor to make the Williamsburg area a better place to live. So it may seem crazy at the moment, but Thank You for all the time you are putting in right now to get all of your hours towards graduation. From Renee Napolitano, MG, class of 2010.



The Colonial Master Gardener June 2012

FARMERS' MARKET SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 2	<i>Gardening with Children</i>
June 16	<i>Flowers</i>
June 30	<i>Water Stewards; Barrels & Bins</i>
July 14	<i>Therapeutic Gardening</i>
July 28	<i>Drought Tolerant Plants</i>

GARDENING TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

GOOD NEWS!! Home Depot will accept plastic pots and flats for recycling!! All you have to do is go in the garden shop, get a shopping cart, load it up, and run it back in! For those who are interested, yes, Ailene's collection will be reduced, but I'll try to keep those of possible use to us. TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT!

And otherwise... plant your beans of all sorts, and winter squash. Start your seeds for fall crops of tomatoes, peppers, eggplants - set them out in July. And it's "thyme" to cut and dry herbs. If you haven't mulched things yet, you might like to get to it. The dry part of the season is almost upon us, and you'll save water/energy by mulching! TAKE NOTES as to what is going on in your garden! The weather is still tricky, and it will be nice to have a record of what happened and how you - and your plants - reacted.

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.

PLANT DEALS

BY CAROL FRYER

Knotts Creek Nursery will sell plants to JCC/W Master Gardeners at wholesale prices at their nursery. They are located at 6120 Knotts Neck Rd, Suffolk, VA. They specialize in perennials, grasses, vines and annuals. Check out their website & their catalog - www.knotscreeknursery.com. The owner, Anne Hilton, is usually at the Williamsburg Farmer's Market. You can set up an appointment with her to visit the nursery. If you plan to go, look through the catalog beforehand so you will be prepared with a list of what you might want to see and buy.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

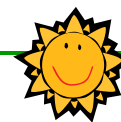
The deadline for submission of material for the **July Newsletter** is **Friday, June 22.**

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 6/8 Field Trip: Gloucester
- 6/20-24 MG College
- 6/22 Deadline for July Newsletter Submissions
- 6/24 New Kent Taking Root Farm Tour
- 8/11 Super Turf Saturday

SUNSHINE NOTES



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, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or JMEMEE12350@verizon.net.

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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

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Stormwater Management Workshop: Lakes, Ponds & Rain Gardens!



When: June 13, from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. (registration 8:30 a.m.)

Where: James City/Williamsburg Community Center
Rooms A&B
5301 Longhill Rd., Williamsburg

Topics:

- Stormwater Management Facilities (aka BMPs), their function and maintenance.
- Designing and installing rain gardens.
- Solving aquatic problems in lakes & ponds.
- Funding & maintenance costs.

Guest Speakers:

Laurie J. Fox, Ph.D., Virginia Tech Horticulture Associate
Kyle Finerfrock, Environmental Scientist,
Solitude Lake Management

Want to go?

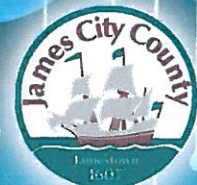
Email: pat.menichino@jamescitycountyva.gov

Or call: Pat Menichino 757-259-1443

RSVP by June 11. Seating is limited.

We work in partnership with all citizens to achieve a quality community.

**Taking
Clean
Water
by Storm**



TAKING ROOT

Farm Tour



Self-Driving Tour of
Local Farms

SUNDAY

June 24, 2012

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Visit two diverse farming operations,
and learn about agriculture in your community.

Featuring:

Davis Produce
(a grain & pumpkin producing farm)

Saude Creek Winery
(an operating vineyard & winery)



☞ Sites located in Lanexa, VA Area ☞

From Interstate 64 take Exit 220 (VA-33E/West Point), travel 3.5 mis.,
turn left at Stop Light onto Rt. 249 towards New Kent, & follow signs to Farm Sites.

Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, New Kent County, CSX Transportation, Inc., Farm Bureau,
and the JCC/NK/Williamsburg Master Gardener Assoc.

For more information visit: <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new-kent/> or call the
Virginia Cooperative Extension Office, New Kent County (804) 966-9645.

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.

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