



The Colonial Master Gardener

June
2014

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

June is an important month for master gardeners. Many of our members will be going Master Gardener College at Virginia Tech. This is a very rewarding and educational experience for those who attend. If you are interested there is still time to register. June 6 is the cut off date for submitting early registration but late registrations are accepted from June 7 through 13 on line and MG College is from June 26-29. Go to <http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/>, select Master Gardener College, then select 2014 registration to get to the links for registration and for housing. There are separate links for the registration portion and for the housing portion.

Also in June we will be electing our new board to lead the association for the next year. Plan to attend the business session and cast your vote for the new leadership. It is important to know who these individuals are and to support them as they begin their term of office.

I know many projects are in full swing, while others have completed their work and others are ongoing throughout the year. Every project needs support so if you are looking for one, check the VMS members page calendar for those that are actively working over the next months. Additional volunteers are always a bonus for any project and very welcomed. Perhaps it is a good time to try something new. There are 36 projects from which to choose. THANK YOU for being involved in projects. These are what our

**Next Meeting:
Thursday, June 5**

**Speaker:
Doris Hamill, NASA, on using
Biochar in the garden**

association is about—educating and sharing our knowledge with others to improve the community in which we live.

Remember we will not be having a general meeting in July but the board will meet. If you have an issue that needs to come to the board simply send the information to me for inclusion in the meeting agenda.

NAMETAGS – Yes, those long awaited new nametags are here and will be distributed at the June general meeting. Also if you have not received your MG apron, there will be a supply at the June meeting. If the apron is not gotten by that time they will need to be obtained from the Extension Office in Toano.

Have a great June and July!! Happy planting and enjoy your garden. Margene

BARRELS AND BINS

BY DENNIS WOOL

Barrels and Bins Project is available for demonstrations and programs to garden clubs, neighborhood associations, garden workshops, etc.

It is always a fun interaction between MGs and participants demonstrating how to make and use rain barrels, composters, and grow boxes. Contact: Dennis Wool

UPCOMING FARMERS' MARKET DATES

May 31	Water Stewards
June 14	Incredible Edibles
June 28	Vegetables

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2014
MG Board

President:
Margene
Hartsough

President Elect:
Sue Liddell

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

*VP
Administration:*
Dennis Wool

Secretary:
Patsy McGrady

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 JUDY CASONE

I hope many of you came to the last meeting and heard our speaker, Frank Reilly, talk about Climate Change. Now I realize there are many thoughts on Climate Change...is it puffery or real.

Mr. Reilly made a compelling case and his knowledge was formidable. Mitigate or Adapt. What do you choose to do? Thank you Angela Cingale for working to get him to us from Virginia Tech.

Our speaker in June is Doris Hamill, a scientist with NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton. Her primary job with NASA is promoting interaction with the national security space community, but she also has been working the local community master gardeners to promote the use of biochar in garden soils for its environmental benefits. She is a knowledgeable and passionate speaker with a sense of humor. The title of her presentation is "Biochar - Environmental Superstar." Her presentation ties in with Mr. Reilly's Climate Change very well. One note, all of her emails to me went to SPAM. She says that frequently happens with NASA.gov.

This is my last letter as Internal Education VP. A relief for some I imagine. It has been my honor to

serve with some of the hardest working Master Gardeners in our organization. Many have been on the committee for quite some time....I imagine they are looking for their 401K packages. Some will be moving on making room for new ideas from new committee members. As many of you are aware, Kathy Bush is our incoming Internal Education VP. She will need your support and ideas. Having worked with her these last few months I am looking forward to her leadership.

As for the Board.....what a terrific group of people giving their time and then some to do the best possible job for the organization. Do we always agree.....now where is the fun in that? Are they always professional, I am proud to say they are and those of you coming on board at this time will have an informative and challenging adventure. I wish you all the very best.

Remember, we are the caretakers of this land.....what are you leaving your grandchildren?

Thank you all.
Judy Casone
Internal Education Vice President

E2 NEWS FOR MAY 2014

BY KARI ABBOTT



Hi Everyone,

A great big thank you to everyone who helped with the York River State Park Field Trips for the elementary schools in the E2 Project! We had amazing adventures this year, children saw a lot of different things, and lots of trees were identified! Everyone helped and that made the field trips enjoyable for everyone.

I have to share that on the hottest, most insect filled, sticky day, a grandmother stopped me at the end of the tour. She was so glad she came for the second time. The field trips just keep getting better. I have to admit that made my day!!

On June 11th, E2 Project people, past, present, and future are invited to go on a Papermaking Tour.

We have gotten permission to go to the West Point Paper Factory, and then we will visit a tree farm that grows trees for paper. It is going to be a new adventure, and require advanced training for the Master Gardeners in attendance. Please email Kari Abbott if you are interested, bearsbaskets@cox.net

The schedule for Master Gardener College is out, and your E2 Project will be presenting Friday June 27th from 1:30pm to 3:00 in the concurrent sessions!! Come join us, we would love to have friendly faces in the crowd.

And lastly, a request for film canisters for 35mm film if anyone has any, we sure could use a few more for one of our classes.

Thanks for all your support!! Kari

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:30 am, at the James City County Health and Human Services Building, on Olde Towne Road.

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

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LOOKING BACK ON THE 2014 PLANT SALE!!

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY PATSY MCGRADY



More photos: Next page!



The Colonial Master Gardener June 2014

Plant Sale 2014
Photos submitted by Patsy McGrady



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DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MG COLLEGE !! BY ANGELA CINGALE

Each year at Master Gardener College a silent auction is held to raise funds for the VMGA State MG Coordinator Endowment. It is important that we support this fund so that we don't have any down time if ever a new MG Coordinator at Virginia Tech is needed. The 5,500 MG's in our state deserve to have continuity and leadership from our state coordinator's office and the Endowment will provide the funds for this effort.

Marilyn and I will be attending MG College and will

gladly bring whatever silent auction items that you donate. Items that are sought are plants, tools, planters, gardening gear, garden art, home décor, culinary items and books. You can check the VMGA website ([www.vmga.net](http://vmga.net) under charitable activities) for more information. It would be very helpful to print out the form. Please see the website listed at the end of this article, and fill in the information complete with value of the item and bring both to our June 5th meeting and we will make sure that you receive an acknowledgement from VMGA.

Website: <http://vmga.net/PDF/2014SilentAuctionDonationForm.pdf>

NEW KENT EVENT ON JUNE 7 BY SUE VOIGT

During the New Kent County Historic Commission event "WW II Freedom Calls" on June 7, the New Kent Master Gardeners will have Carole's Garden open for tours and discussions about Victory Gardens back in the 1940s. We also will be giving away flower seeds. Join us for a unique event!



Photo: Chris Dahlstrom (below left) is holding a basket of the flower seed packets the NK Master gardeners will be giving away at the NK Historic Commission WWII Freedom Calls event on June 7 during our tours of Carole's Garden. Rodney Fields and Sue Voigt show the Carole's Garden harvest on May 12.

A detailed event poster for "WWII Freedom Calls NK" presented by the New Kent County Historic Commission. The poster features a central illustration of a woman in a patriotic, star-spangled dress, reminiscent of the iconic "I Want You" recruitment poster. The background is a collage of historical documents, including a USO dance notice dated February 9, 1944. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2014, from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm at the New Kent Historic School Grounds & Gym. The poster lists exhibits such as military tents, vehicles, equipment, uniforms, and a military band. It also mentions a USO Type Dance from 6-8 pm and various presentations and special guests. A small "I Want You" poster is included in the bottom right corner. At the bottom of the main poster, there is a row of smaller posters related to WWII, including "This Little Girl Won't Run", "Are You Doing All You Can?", "War Bonds", and "Civil Defense".

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WHY ATTEND MG COLLEGE?

BY ANGELA CINGALE

Why attend MG College? In the simplest terms, Master Gardener College is an opportunity to learn, meet people, and have fun. These three points on the positive experience of College are expressed below. It is important to continue our advanced education program at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg for the obvious reasons that horticultural professors, research facilities, laboratories, etc. are all located on the Blacksburg campus; therefore, we are able to take advantage of this single location.

LEARN (opportunity for self-development):

Listen to excellent presentations at general sessions; Find out about current horticultural research; Learn about current horticultural trends; Become aware of issues of importance to Master Gardeners; Learn about unfamiliar topics; Attend and perform hands-on laboratory techniques; Reinforce information about familiar topics.

MEET PEOPLE (networking):

Hear about effectiveness of new Master Gardener programs/projects from others; Interact with Master Gardeners from other parts of the Commonwealth; Renew old acquaintances and start new friendships; Promote information exchange; Help others who are new to the college experience.

HAVE FUN (the other side of academia)

Look at and enjoy the always new features and plantings in the Hahn Horticultural Garden; Experience comfortable and safe surroundings on campus, downtown Blacksburg (walking distance from campus), and other nearby locations; Participate in a silent auction. All proceeds go to the State Master Gardener Coordinator Endowment; Enjoy a last on-campus opportunity for fellowship and networking at the annual picnic and plant swap.

The above is a reprint from a George Graine article to his Fairfax unit.

MILESTONE AWARD DISCOUNT:

Many of you received milestone awards this year. Take advantage of the offered discount for the many hours of time and effort that you put into our unit's projects. Note: Table includes hours, discount, early registration/late registration cost.

Registration Costs:

250 hours - \$165 (Late registration-\$175.00)
500 hrs receives a 15% disc. - \$140.25 (\$148.75)
1,000 hrs -30% or \$115.50 (\$122.50)
2,000 hrs -45% or \$90.75 (\$96.25)
3,000 hrs -60% or \$66.00 (\$70.00)
4,000 hrs -75% or \$41.25 (\$43.75)
5,000 hrs -100% - no registration cost

FEES: (Includes lodging, meals, tax, and associated fees)

Per person:

4 nights beginning 6/25/2014: \$329.24
3 nights beginning 6/26/2014: \$244.21;
2 nights beginning 6/27/2014: \$159.17;
1 night on 6/28/2014: \$74.14.

Marilyn and I would be very pleased if someone from our unit applied for one of the 5 VMGA sponsored scholarships to attend MG College. The scholarship is not need based but rather on a person's desire to attend, learn and then contribute to their unit in whatever form they choose. Good luck if you submitted your form to the committee. Hope to see many of you at VA Tech this year and please let us know of your planned arrival.

Many thanks..
Angela

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – JUNE 2014

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPIDERWORT

Tradescantia virginiana

Virginia Native Plant Society's
Wildflower of the Year 2008

The first gardener to grow this plant in cultivation was John Tradescant, gardener to Charles the First of England and a subscriber to the Virginia Company – this is the origin of the plant's name. John's son traveled to Virginia in the 1630s and sent spiderwort back to England where it became part of the English cottage gardens.

Spiderwort can be a good indicator of environmental problems since a high sensitivity to pollution and radiation causes it to mutate quickly. The hairs on the stamens have long been used in botany classes, because the flow of protoplasm can be viewed through a microscope. These hairs give the plant the common name, "wort" being the old England word for plant. Also, the sap from the broken stem forms filaments like a spider's web or the angular leaf arrangement suggest a squatting spider.

Along with lilacs, ribbon grass and some shrub roses, spiderworts are often found in abandoned gardens. Each flower lasts only a day, but new blossoms appear over a long period of time. The spent blossoms do not fall to the ground – they seem to melt off the plant, due to enzyme activity. The three petals are usually shades of purple and blue, but today even rose, pink, and white cultivars are offered by the nursery trade. Narrow, sword-shaped, but floppy, leaves arise from succulent stems, and plants range between one and two feet in height. After flowering is over, the leaves become even more floppy; they can be cut almost to the ground for a second show of flowers. Propagation is by division or seed. Flowering occurs April-July.

Although able to take full sun, spiderworts will adapt to partial shade and are not only handsome border plants, but very effective when planted against walls. This plant adapts well to cultivation and is easy to grow in somewhat acid fertile loam, tolerating dry to moist conditions. Very adaptable, it has been seen under deep shade of oaks, on a sandy bank that gets scorching afternoon sun, and in moist, peaty soil near ferns. In the wild, spiderwort



Photo by Jan Newton

inhabits dry upland forests, rocky open woods, and wood edges, so providing the plant with a similar habitat will help establishment in the home garden. The plant can become aggressive, but thinning and pulling unwanted seedlings keeps it under control.

Unless acquired from a wildflower nursery, the plants sold today are usually a series of hybrids. Natural hybrids do occur. Today there are more than 30 cultivars: 'Snow Cap' has pure white flowers, and 'Valor' bears deep reddish purple flowers, both on 20-inch stems. 'Pauline' is pink-flowered on 12-inch stems, and 'Concord Grape' grows 18 inches high with dark bluish-green leaves contrasting with the beautiful purple flowers.

Three species of *Tradescantia* occur throughout much of eastern North America. In Virginia, *T. virginiana* is found in counties west of Richmond, and southeast of Tidewater; *T. ohioensis* grows in Virginia Beach and the western mountainous counties; *T. subaspera* has been located in the southwestern counties. These three species differ in the length and appearance of the leaves and flower color. Spiderwort ranges from New England to Georgia, Minnesota, and Missouri.

Bumblebees are the principal pollinators for all three species of spiderwort.

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

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SPRING GARDEN TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

1. The ticks are here! Do all the proper things to protect you, the kids, and the pets! And look yourselves over when you come inside, so you can get the pests off you as soon as possible! Some of them are still quite small, so if you have an itchy spot, find the magnifying glass and have a look.
2. This place is Weed Central this spring. If you have as many as I have, get busy and pull them ASAP! Otherwise they'll reseed and you'll get further behind!
3. Thanks to all of you tramping around my 'Wayback, we had no trouble with the resident groundhog during the plant sale prep. Everything went well, and I thank you for your help. It's a zoo - but it's fun, too!
4. Has everyone planted their edibles, in gardens, flowerbeds, or containers? Keep a log of your edible -ness, so we can compare notes, and let others in the community know How-To-Do-It successfully.

Important Dates

- 6/5 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 6/7 Carole's Garden Tour; WW II Victory Gardens
- 6/23 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 6/26-29 MG College

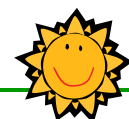
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the July newsletter will be **Monday, June 23**.

Please send any submissions to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net.

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

For the previous month, the MGs sent a card to:

Sara Nugent for death of a close relative.

The organization would like to send cards to members with difficult medical issues or who have experienced a death in the immediate family. Please provide names to the MG Secretary, Patsy McGrady, 258-1181, patsymcgrady@cox.net.

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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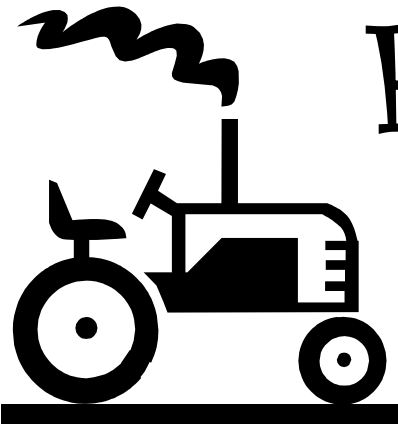


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TAKING ROOT

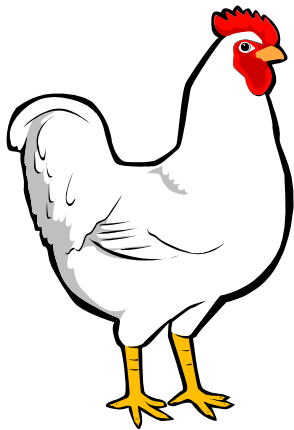
Farm Tour



SUNDAY
June 22, 2014
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Visit a diverse farming operation and learn about agriculture in your community.



Featuring:

Holly Fork Farm
4901 Holly Fork Road
Barhamsville, VA 23011

**Row Crops, Fruit Crops,
Vegetable Crops and Value
Added Farm Products**



Site located in Barhamsville, VA Area
From Old Stage Road/VA-30, turn onto Holly Forks Road, travel .9 mi.. Holly Forks Road becomes
Tabernacle Road, travel 1.9 mi. Turn slight left onto Triangle Road, travel .5 mi. Triangle Road be-
comes Holly Fork Road, travel .4 mi & follow signs. Holly Fork Farm is on the right.

**Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, New Kent County , 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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