



# The Colonial Master Gardener

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

March 2005

## SUSTAINABILITY

“Global Warming” sometimes seems just so ... global – having little to do with us (or our cars). Actually it has everything to do with us, whether from increased flooding and /or droughts more severe storms or decreased water supplies. More and more evidence is accumulating in spite of some political assertions – that climate change must be taken seriously. As evidence, the 1990’s was the warmest decade ever recorded – winters are getting shorter as the growing season gets longer. Potentially certain plants such as spring bulbs and fruit trees may no longer get enough winter chilling to flower properly. Pest cycles can change with warmer temperatures making it more likely that plants will be affected. Higher CO<sub>2</sub> levels that come with warmer temperatures can potentially make herbicides less effective. While animals can migrate, plants can’t – so that animals dependent on particular plant species are harmed as well. See *Landscape Architecture*, December 2004

### PRESIDENT

Barbara Schroeder Gustafson  
'99

564-1888

### HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS

#### ASSOCIATE

Leanne DuBois, '96  
JCC Coop. Extension Agent  
564-2170

#### WEBMASTER

David Banks '03  
258-8632

#### NEWSLETTER

Charlie Clapper '02  
564-6191

*The purpose of the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener is to learn, educate and communicate environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community.*

## NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

March 3, 2005

9:00 am

### WILLIAMSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Karen Schumaker – Williamsburg Land Conservancy

That which one eats as the fruit of their own labor is properly called food.

## ATTENTION PLANT SALE DONORS!!

DO NOT make a big problem worse. DO NOT contribute anything that might be invasive UNLESS you tag it properly with its "roaming tendencies"! I am not contributing Clematis paniculata, as much as I love it, for that reason; also Artemisia annua (Sweet Annie), Melissa officinalis (Lemon balm), and Ageratum coelestinum (Fall ageratum). There may be others.

Also if anyone would like to "consult" my seed list/boxes with an eye toward trying some of the things I have around, please call me! My list includes veggies, flowers, shrubs, trees - you name it! I'm glad to share - space is getting tight, and some of them need to be used.

**AILENE BARTLETT**- 229-2822.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By now many of you have received the thank you letters Leanne sent out to all our members. It is a nice gesture of appreciation and we thank her for being so considerate.

At the February board meeting three projects were presented for consideration. Two projects are completely new: Incredible Edibles (community vegetable and fruit gardening) and Junior Master Gardeners (working with 4-H to expand JMG in our community). The third, Landscape Love, began a pilot last fall and now hopes to become a full-fledged master gardener project. All are well thought out and comply with state guidelines. We will vote on these at our next general meeting--and then the fun begins!

The Reserves Task Force is exploring ways of using our reserve funds to help meet organizational goals. Current requests include a camera for publicity, equipment for Seeds of Learning, reimbursements for educational trips, a memorial for Virginia Gregory, a donation to the VMGA Endowment Fund, and educational materials for Junior Master Gardener programs. If you have suggestions, please talk with Angela Cingale, Judy Hansen, Bill Leonard, Susan Quick, Toddy Voorhees, or Rudy Roberts.

Our nominating committee, Art Gustafson, Claire Gross, Susan Quick and Bob Winters are busy at work. A slate of officers will be presented to the membership no later than our June meeting (hopefully at the May meeting). If approved they will begin serving in July. If you wish a member to be considered, please let the committee know.

The "digs" for our April 9 Plant Sale begins soon. March 12 and 15 we are invited into fellow gardener Bruce Manilla's garden to separate and fill pots. On March 18 and 19 we can enter Ailene Bartlett's garden to do the same. What better way to fund future projects than by sharing the fruits of our gardening labors? Please plan on helping with these digs.

So until the digs,

**BARBARA SCHROEDER GUSTAFSON**

## BOOK CORNER

Listen up, you veggie-people (and we mean ALL OF YOU!) Pick up a copy of *Harris' Farmer's Almanac 2005 Seasonal Gardening Guide!* (Ukrop's has it, probably other places, too.) You name it - it's in there - the language of flowers, companion planting lists, weather forecasts (take with a grain of salt - it doesn't follow USDA growing zones), how to freeze-can-preserve the results of your efforts (providing they are vegetables or fruits), planting by phases of the moon, and a LOT of other stuff. I'd consider it one of those books that you use the marker on, turn down corners of pages, and stick it on the bookshelf even after 2005 is gone -- it's that full of good information.

Try it, you might like it!

**AILENE BARTLETT**

## JUNIOR MASTER GARDENING!!

WOW! I cannot believe the kindness and sharing that has come for the Junior Master Gardener Project. First, the special education children at Williamsburg Christian Academy have been thankful and shared the class on Habitats with their friends and families. In class we talked about bird habitats because we were making gourd birdhouses.

What does a basic habitat need? A simple guideline is a place to live, eat, drink, and raise offspring. So the special education students told me they were making the place to live. The students realized the next need is food. So we dove into *Backyard Bird Watching for Kids* by George Harrison. They looked up what kinds of seeds the different birds eat. We learned that Nuthatches, Titmice, and Chickadees would most likely inhabit the gourds. So we looked up what seeds these birds eat.

The children used the chart that was donated by Valerie Copping of Wild Birds Unlimited to identify Nuthatches, Titmice, and Chickadees. Finding out the seeds these birds eat, the students made pinecone feeders putting on lots of varieties of sunflower seeds. Then we talked about where the birds would find water to drink -- in leaves, puddles, or birdbaths.

All of the children hoped they would see baby birds later this spring or summer. Then we talked about plants and trees in their yards. We talked about hanging the birdhouses in a safe place where family cats or dogs wouldn't get to the birds. Although squirrels would eat a lot of the seeds, they were not predators. Slowly it became clear that by putting out a birdhouse the students might change some things in their backyard.

It was a very exciting moment to get that point across. While I did not carry the lesson as far as applying Newton's Third Law - The Law of Reciprocal Actions - that states for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, the children understood – *they were tinkering in nature, and they had to think about what they were doing. Would it be good for nature?* This time it was.

Second, the kindness of others can be seen in the donation by Willow Creek Press of their book *Backyard Bird Watching for Kids* by George Harrison. The kind lady who answered the phone was a Master Gardener herself. She understood trying to start a new project and offered help. The company is small and doesn't usually donate their books. It was a very nice moment when she said she would donate a book to us.

**Clearly this is an exciting new project. I invite you to come join the Junior Master Gardeners where you too can make a big difference in a child's life and the world we live in.** The project covers all sorts of information, including plant growth, soil and water, ecology and environment, insects, diseases, landscape horticulture, fruits and nuts, vegetables and herbs--does some of this sound familiar?

If you think you would like to be part of the excitement, please e-mail Kari Abbott ([bearsbaskets@cox.net](mailto:bearsbaskets@cox.net)). There will also be a sign up also at the March Master Gardener's Meeting. **KARI ABBOTT.**

## PATRON SAINT OF GARDENERS

So often when gazing into a garden you are accosted by St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, but the patron saint of gardeners, St. Fiacre is beginning to appear. He can be recognized by the trowel and flowers he carries. St. Fiacre was born and ordained a priest in Ireland. He went to France in 626 where he built an oratory and began a life of severe self-denial. At this time he befriended the poor and counseled visitors until his death in 670. During his life his attention to his garden caused him to be named the patron saint.

**DECEMBER 1997 MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER**

## LANDSCAPE LOVE

Last fall fourteen trained MG volunteers working in teams of two visited thirty-three homeowners, helping them make their landscapes more loveable. The Landscape Love project is beginning its second year with an enthusiastic planning team led by Rich Strenkowski. He and Jerry Clarke are coordinating an ambitious Website development initiative to help solve one of the projects' most pressing issues – the distribution of information to our volunteers and our homeowner clients. We want to have all the information available on the MG website in time for this season's start. Jerry is also busy reviewing all the current forms and making a list to make sure homeowners who applied for a visit last year are the first people called. Helen Hamilton is working with reference materials. Keri Abbott and Judy Hansen are developing a volunteer training program. Bob Hyatt is preparing volunteer kits. Please call Pat Markey if you want to volunteer on this project. Volunteer training will be held the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to start our home visits by mid April. That seems a long time away but the number of homes accepted will be based on the number of volunteers. So mark you calendars, give Pat Markey a call, and plan on helping some lucky homeowners with their landscape problems this spring.

**SUE LIDDELL**

### DUES

2005 MG dues of \$15.00 are due. Mail a check to: DAVE BANKS, Treasurer,  
215 Charter House Lane, Williamsburg VA 23188

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 8 at 1:30 p.m. "Forever Yours" The Herb Society of America, Colonial Triangle of Virginia Unit presents Carol Thompson, Photographer  
Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 7479 Richmond Road in Norge. Non-members are welcome and admission is free.  
For information contact Lillian A. Campbell at 564-9580.

April 7 John Milliman, VIMS – Water Quality

May 5 Linda Johnson

June 2 Field Trip to 4-H Center with optional lunch \$7.50

Other field trip opportunities: Denise Greene's garden and Maymont Gardens.

### BECOME CERTIFIED AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

2 Full Days of Training 10 am – 4 pm

**Day One:** March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Airfield 4-H Educational Center located in Wakefield, VA. Training will include **Watershed Curriculum** and **Project Wet Certification**.

\*\*Transportation Provided from the Jamestown 4-H Center.

**Day Two:** March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center located in Williamsburg, VA. Training will include **Aquatic Insects, Water Quality, and Aquatic Wild Certification**.

\*\*Transportation Provided from the Airfield 4-H Center.

Contact:

Andrea Carson (Airfield)

757-899-4901 [acarson@vt.edu](mailto:acarson@vt.edu)

Sue Vezeau (Jamestown)

757-253-4931 ext. 13 [suev@vt.edu](mailto:suev@vt.edu)

SUBMIT YOUR HOURS MONTHLY, AND VOLUNTEER TO BECOME A PROJECT CHAIR OF  
MG ASSOCIATION OFFICER

VISIT THE JCCWMG MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT <http://jccwmg.org>