

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



March 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

What a treat it was to get out in the yard recently; although it has been devoured by deer this winter...much more than in past years. I'm hoping that all the "evergreen" shrubs that are totally bare right now will come back to life.

Many thanks to Evi Oakley for sharing the German *master gardener* concept with us at the February meeting and to Helen Hamilton for her presentation on Douglas Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home*, giving us more evidence on the importance of native plants. One approach Tallamy gives to increasing native plants in our own gardens is the "rule of attrition"—"when an alien dies, consider replacing it with the native species that comes closest to displaying the attributes (habit, size, texture, fall and flower color) of the lost alien." (p. 129) I may have the opportunity to practice that "rule" soon when I assess the winter's damage...and will certainly consult Tallamy's list of native plants "relatively unpalatable to white-tailed deer." There will be a copy of *Bringing Nature Home* in the MG office library.

If you have a horticultural area of expertise to share, please let Minouch Robinson know so she can add you and your topic to her MG Speakers Bureau list. Minouche frequently gets request for speakers from garden clubs, homeowners associations and other organizations. If you give a talk to a community group, do take the time to complete the Speakers Bureau form that can be downloaded from our website (click on "Speakers Bureau" on the home page and then "Speakers Report") and mail it to Minouche. She even has copies of powerpoints prepared by JCC/W MGs (complete with script) that you could use for a club presentation or your own homeowners association.



Helen Hamilton
presenting at the
February Meeting

The recent MG update and skills survey has been returned by many of you, and you should have received a current roster by now. We will make any corrections and additional changes that we receive from you by March 15, add the Class of 2010 and send that *very* up-to-date version to you before the end of March. One bitter-sweet reply that was received was a note from Leanne DuBois: "I've been writing the quarterly article for the *Virginia Gazette* under the Master Gardener name and that's about it. It may be best to render me useless as a MG at this time. With my schedule, commute, a daughter learning to drive (yikes), a mother with Alzheimer's, I can't commit at this time. I've been reading lot's of great things about the MGs and all the progress you're making. I miss you all; being the JCC agent was one of the best experiences of my life! Tell everyone I'm sending warm wishes this cold February. All the best, Leanne" We miss you, too, Leanne!

Next Monthly Meeting:

Mar. 4, 9 a.m., Williamsburg Regional Library.
Dr. Gerald "Jerre" Johnson, Professor emeritus of
Geology at William & Mary, "Williamsburg's Geology
& Fossils"

PLANT SALE NEWS

BY DENNIS WOOL



2010 Plant Sale News

Where is North? For the 2010 Plant Sale Steering Committee, North is April 23/24. While we must wait a bit to find out if we can achieve our goal of raising more funds than last year's successful event, we can report that we are steadily moving in the direction of having 100% participation by our members and interns. Thanks to so many of you who have signed up for various committee responsibilities and contributions of plants from your gardens. For those still "looking over the fence" - come on in. Whether you can donate one plant or one hour of your time - YOU are needed.

As the snow melts and we anticipate perennials to begin reviving, survey your gardens and determine if specimens can be captured for the sale. The Staging Committee will begin collecting plant donations April 4-11. Plants should be collected in 6" or 1 gal. pots and must be labeled to be accepted. Bring one or a dozen - but please participate. As we get closer to the sale, e-alerts will provide more details.

A gentle reminder: more than 2 dozen programs offered by our JCCW-MG are funded by the proceeds of this event. To expand MG opportunities to participate, "Sponsorships" will be available for MGs to support areas of the Plant Sale through tax deductible contributions.

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



Chesapekten jeffersonius

Dr. Gerald 'Jerre' Johnson, Professor emeritus of Geology at William & Mary, will be our speaker at the March 4th monthly meeting. He will enlighten and entertain us as he expounds on Williamsburg's geology and fossils. If you never took Geology 101 in college, you will be sorry you didn't after listening to Dr. Johnson. He continues to teach classes for the Christopher Wren Association, and conducts many 'Walk & Talk's for adults and children in our county's parks and recreation sites. Pictured above is a fossil that is found in our region that students from William and Mary College introduced to the legislature and it was subsequently named the State fossil, common name is Jeffersonian scallop.

Dr. Johnson has offered to conduct a Walk & Talk for twenty lucky master gardeners on Saturday, March 13th along Duke of Gloucester Street. The group will meet on the steps of the Wren Building on the W&M campus. A sign-up sheet for the Walk will be at the monthly meeting.

□□□□□□

On April 1st, Bill Garlette will be the speaker at our MG Association monthly meeting. Bill taught a session on Organic horticulture to our MG trainees recently, and will be prepared to answer any of your questions at our meeting on organic gardening, organic horticulture, healthy soils, vermiculture, compost tea making, and ecology. His session with us on April 1st will be a Question and Answer format which means that we all need to prepare questions for Bill. Please think about questions you have, write them down and sent them to Angela Cingale , arcingale@cox.net.

Bill is an organic gardener from Newport News, and became a Master Gardener after a career in the military. He is known for his quick wit and enthusiasm as well as his knowledge of organic horticulture. Bill's Organic Horticulture lecture given to the class in January is currently on our website in the Member's page under the Training Class area.

Worm Farm Resource: If you are looking a source for worms for vermiculture, Ron Crum is running a worm farm on Forge Road and sells worms and worm bins. Mr. Ron's Worm Farm, 757-291-6675, or 757-566-4327.

MG ASSOCIATION TRIP TO THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

BY CAROL FRYER

MONDAY, MAY 17TH, 2010

We hope that the Master Gardeners, spouses and friends will support our trip to the National Arboretum in May. We need 45 people to sign up in order to provide this bus trip. We have reduced costs as much as possible to make this very reasonable for our membership and friends.

In addition to having a bus tour led by a staff member of the Arboretum in the morning, there will be plenty of time after lunch to walk to several of the gardens listed on the flier (pages 6 and 7) including the Arbor House gift shop.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DAY TO REMEMBER

See Pages 6 & 7
For More
National Arboretum Field Trip
Information
and Registration Form

MELISSA'S
MEADOW



BY GRACE RAYMOND

The first work day of the season is March 18; that is also the rain date for the interns touring the project gardens. We will be looking for weeds before the spring growth begins. Come around 8:30 and stay as long as you like.

The Colonial Master Gardener March 2010

93 YEAR OLD MG STILL DIGGING!

Duane McSmith, formally of JCC/W MGs, is still very active in Master Gardening work in Elizabeth City, NC. Prior to December 2003, his gardens at 120 Lakepoint Court were a very active training ground for the local general public as well as the Master Gardener trainees.

During the training program for future MGs it was traditional for the group to make a compost "box" and donate it to a project in the area.



This picture was taken about 1994; you might see your self in this picture. Of course, Duane is right in the middle.

At the present time McSmith owns and manages Hide-N-Wood Gardens (see next article) at 923 Wellfield Rd., Elizabeth City, NC, 27909.



UNIDENTIFIED PHOTO
Duane McSmith weeds a bed of garlic that will be harvested in the spring.

Any Harvestable item is shared with visitors through out the year Fresh garlic is greatly appreciated.

HIDE-N-WOOD GARDENS

HIDE-N-WOOD GARDENS is a real life, *show-it like-it-is* demonstration garden, owned and operated by former JCC/W MG Duane McSmith, age 93.

It is of interest to:

Persons with an interest in small fruits and vegetables. You will see demonstrations of intensified gardening techniques used throughout the year.

Persons with mobility problems. The food section of the garden consists of eight raised beds and four elevated beds.

Persons, or their care givers, with dementia problems. The gardens are arranged to meet the recommendations of the National Alzheimer's Association.

Persons with an interest in native plants of North Carolina. Portions of the garden have been designated as a Native Plant Habitat by the NC Native Plant Society. Of special interest is the Rain Garden established using native plants.



H Rose Mallow, *Hibiscus coccineus*, one of five or six Mallows that are lovely when in bloom. Other moist soil plants represented are Water Hemlock, Swamp Iris, Lizard Tail, Cattails, Pickerelweed, Variegated Sweetflag and many small ground cover plants.

UPDATED IPM GUIDES

BY PAT CROWE



VA Tech has updated the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guides for 2010. At this time, links are in the Trainee section of the Members' page on our website. After the class concludes, we will update you on the location of the more permanent link.

BAMBOO "FRIEND OR FOE"

BY JACK GROSS

This seems to be a no brainer - of course bamboo is a foe. Just ask anyone who was unfortunate enough to plant it, buy a house with it already growing or have a neighbor who thought it was a good idea to plant a screen to block the view of your rusted out cars, old refrigerators and washing machines in your backyard. Once bamboo gets started it only has one mission and that is to spread, and it grows like nothing else. Well, there may be a silver lining for bamboo. In many parts of the world, bamboo is a friend and used for making homes, in farming and whatever else it is they do with bamboo. Anyway, there is no reason bamboo cannot be used for beneficial purposes in our area.

Last year the Backyard Barrels and Bins (BBB) and Incredible Edibles (IE) projects started using bamboo stakes for their self-watering containers and they really worked well. We used them as long stakes for pole beans at DJ Montague and Child Development Resource Center (CDR). For all of the self-watering containers that were used in our projects, we used bamboo stakes that saved each project a considerable amount of money - approximately \$2.50 per stake. At (CDR) we used shorter pieces of bamboo to stake the rabbit fence around raised beds, longer and thicker stalks for pole beans and, of course, the stakes for self watering containers. We have also provided bamboo to other projects to use in their containers and gardens.

As clever as we were at using bamboo for our gardens, Roger Evans, Co-chair of Backyard Barrels and Bins Project (and our R&D guy) reached new heights using bamboo. Roger wanted to plant decorative gourds for making bird houses. He made a tripod out of larger pieces of bamboo for the gourds because the plant is a heavy, climbing plant and needs lots of support. Half-way through the growing season he realized his tripod was not going to do the job so he added more height to his tripod. We were able to find some bamboo stalks approximately twenty feet long and he added these to his initial tripod. It did the job, as you can see in the picture. Both gourds are in self-watering containers.

Both BBB and IE projects have been scouring the county for bamboo harvesting sites and have found it scattered all over. If you know someone who has bamboo in their yards, they most likely will appreciate your cutting back their bamboo problem. You should consider using bamboo in your gardens



where you need stakes for tomatoes, pole beans, cucumbers and a host of other climbing vegetables and flowers. Bamboo is also excellent for making a trellis in the garden. So, instead of buying your stakes that were grown in the plastic forest, try renewable, and free, bamboo.

Most of the bamboo we have harvested has come from behind the Colonial Williamsburg Nursery where they have a substantial growth that is encroaching on several nursery buildings. The nursery manager has encouraged me to bring several small groups to the nursery and take all the bamboo we want. So, you might think cutting bamboo is fairly straight-forward; however, we have learned the hard way that there are some dos and don'ts in harvesting. I am offering to anyone who would like to cut some bamboo with me to email me at jack-gross@cox.net for information purposes only. Cut one for yourself and one for the plant sale and our projects. Starting March 9th and 16th we will go into the bamboo forest behind the nursery and will harvest all the bamboo you can carry away. We will meet at the nursery at 11:00 AM and be finished by noon.

SEMINAR OPPORTUNITY:

"GARDENING IN THE NORTHERN NECK"

On March 27, 2010, the Northern Neck Master Gardeners are hosting a seminar, "At Home in Your Garden: Plants that Belong". Guest speakers include author, photographer and garden designer, C. Colston Burrell, who will give a talk on combining flowers and foliage to create season-long interest in your garden. Greg Paige,

Arboretum Curator of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory, will provide tips for saving your landscape's biggest investments. There will be workshops, and items to purchase. The seminar will take place at the Church of the Nazarene, 57 Whisk Drive, White Stone, VA, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

Registration forms are available at www.nnmg.org, or call (804) 580-5694 for additional information.

The Colonial Master Gardener March 2010

BOOK REVIEW

BY JEANNE MILLIN



Organic Gardeners Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control

Master Gardeners are now required to use the Virginia Tech-Integrated Pest Management techniques in giving advice to the public. This 500+ page paperback provides many of the answers we need for Help Desk, Farmers Market and Landscape Love programs.

The first 250 pages are a plant-by-plant alphabetical listing of common problems with advice on how to combat those issues. In Part 2 the book discusses Insects-how to recognize friends and eliminate foes. Part 3 covers Diseases-Identifying Causes and Implementing Cures. Part 4 talks about cultural, Physical and Biological Controls and how to use them safely.

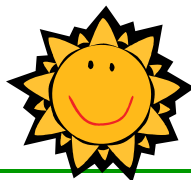
The Organic Gardener's Handbook is edited by Barbara Ellis and Fern Bradley and won a *New York Times* Best Gardening Book award. It is in the Master Gardener library at call number SB974.072

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.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the March Newsletter is Mar. 22. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.



SUNSHINE NOTES

A Thank You was sent to Tom Fugate for his donation of a lap top carrying case.

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 on the organization. Pat may be reached at 221-0289 or janotap@verizon.net.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Mar. 4 Monthly Mtg. @ WRL; 9 AM; Gerald Johnson, geologist
- Mar. 6 Turf Love "U", 10:00 to noon
- Mar. 13 Dr. Johnson's Walk & Talk
- Mar. 13 Self-Watering Container Seminar
- Mar. 22 Newsletter Deadline
- Apr. 1 Monthly Mtg. @ WRL; 9 AM; Bill Garlette
- Apr. 17 Envirothon; New Kent VCE
- Apr. 24 PLANT SALE
- May 17 Field Trip; National Arboretum
- June 27 Taking Root Farm Tour

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.

FIELD TRIP MAY 17, 2010



THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARBORETUM



Garden Displays, Collections & Structures

Administration Building-Aquatic plants

Asian Collections

Azalea Collections

Dogwood Collections

Fern Valley

Friendship Garden

Gotelli Dwarf and Slow Growing Conifer Collection



Holly and Magnolia Collections

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum

National Boxwood Collection

National Capitol Columns

National Grove of State Trees

National Herb Garden

Perennial Collections

Washington Youth Garden

The **Friendship Garden** surrounds the Arbor House with an alternative design to traditional home landscape plantings with a four-season, low-maintenance, naturalistic landscape design that showcases a wide range of plants – perennials, bulbs, and ornamental grasses with outstanding performance and ornamental characteristics.

The **National Herb Garden** covers 2 ½ acres with 800 kinds of herbs from around the world, with a Knot garden, Historic Roses, and Theme gardens.

The **National Boxwood Collection** covers 5 acres with over 100 Buxus species. It is the most complete living collection of boxwood in the world.

The **Azalea Collections** trails lead to the top of Mount Hamilton for a view of the US Capital.

Fern Valley includes native ferns, wildflowers, shrubs and trees representing various habitats of the eastern United States.

Youth Garden - includes a butterfly garden, heirloom vegetables, herb garden and edible borders.

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum – Chinese miniature trees and Japanese bonsai

Holly and Magnolia Collections – 10 acre planting with many varieties introduced by the Arboretum.

Gotelli Dwarf and Slow-growing Conifer Collection – on 5 acres of landscaped hillside (a stop on the tour).

Asian Collection landscaped with plants from China, Japan and Korea, overlooking the Anacostia River (a stop on the tour).

Dogwood Collection located near the Anacostia River overview.

National Capitol Columns 21 sandstone columns that once stood at the east portico of the U.S. Capitol are now in the heart of the Arboretum.

Research Fields are throughout the Arboretum.



Wear comfortable shoes for walking. You can bring snacks/food with you on the bus, and an extra bottle of water, or other beverage. There are no food concessions at the Arboretum. Bring a camera to capture all the beautiful plants, landscape and your friends

James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association

Trip Schedule

6:15 AM meet bus in Williamsburg at the JCC Community Center
6:30 AM sharp - leave Williamsburg
9:30 AM arrive at the National Arboretum
10:00 AM -12 noon - guided bus tour with staff from the Arboretum
with stops at the Asian Garden and Conifer Garden
12:00 noon box lunch at the National Grove of State Trees
1:00 - 3 PM time to walk and view gardens of your choice , and visit the gift shop
3:15 PM board bus at the Administration building
3:30 PM sharp - bus leaves Arboretum
6:00 - 6:30 PM arrive back in Williamsburg

visit the website to learn more about the Arboretum: www.usna.usda.gov



Registration Form



The tour is limited to the first 45 people that submit their registration AND check.
A waiting list will be kept in case of any cancellations.
A Refund will not be made if a reserved spot cannot be filled.

Please make out your check to: **JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association**
Mail to: Carol Fryer, 4345 Landfall Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Name: _____
Address : _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
Cell phone: _____
Field trip fee: @ \$35 / person ; #. of people: _____ total: _____
Box lunch: optional @ \$10/ person ; # of lunches _____ total: _____
TOTAL amount of check: _____

Registration Deadline - March 20th

Box lunch choices : (one per person)

- _____ grilled chicken salad on multigrain bread with seasoned berries, romaine,
and mild creamy cucumber/wasabi dressing
- _____ vegetarian wrap with cheese, grilled zucchini, tomato, sweet red onion,
sprouts with pesto sauce
- _____ baked ham and cheese on multigrain bread with cranberry or honey mustard



Price of the box lunch include a piece of fruit, a cookie , a mint and a bottle of water.

Y'ALL COME!



**James City County Williamsburg
Master Gardener Association
Presents
Gardening
with
Self Watering Containers**



**9:30-11:00, Saturday March 13, 2010
James City County Rec Center, Rooms A&B**

QUIZ

1. Do you lack space in your yard for vegetables?
 2. Is your yard light challenged for vegetables?
 3. Do critters damage your vegetables?
 4. Do you want higher produce or flower yields?
- Did you answer yes to any question?

This is the workshop for you.



LEARN

Container Construction
Higher Yields
Using Recycled Products
Demo and Handouts

Info about:

Rain Barrels
Compost Barrels





Envirothon Earth Day



Saturday, April 17, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

A day of activities for all ages designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment.

**Join us at the New Kent Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA**

**Earth Friendly Educational Demonstrations
For The Whole Family Featuring:
VA Aquarium's "Ocean In Motion" Touch Tank & Aquarium**

Storm Water Management Demonstration

Rain Barrel Making Demonstration

Cub Scouts Pack 518-taking orders for Rain Barrel Kits

How To Grow Mushrooms

Honey Bee Display

Handmade Milk Soaps

Alpacas

Recycling "Chicken Tractor"

Chickens

Carole's Garden

Forestry Department-Free Tree Seedlings

Extension/Master Gardeners'

Raised Bed Garden

Recycled Art - NKHS

Recycled Clothing

Master Gardeners' Demonstrations:

Raised Bed Gardening

Container Gardening

Gardening Help Desk

Composting

Worm Composting

Plant Sale

And

More

Additional Booth Displays by:

Southern States Cooperative-Vegetable Gardening

Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District-Child Activities

Parks & Recreation—Earth Day Activities for Kids

Heritage Library

Central VA Waste Management

Environmental Division

General Services—Public Utilities

Providence Forge Rescue Squad

And Many More



Call (804) 966-9645, the Extension Office, for more information.



Virginia Cooperative Extension
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