

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



March 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS



What is usually down-time for Master Gardeners has been anything but that this year. There are now many opportunities for advanced training offered these first three months of the year. The second annual VSU Mini-MG College will have taken place by the time you read this, but see Harriet's column for events on the horizon. It is not too early to be thinking about MG College at Virginia Tech in June, and several JCC/W MGs have already made reservations for the international MG gathering in Charleston, WV, in October. Monthly programs are also advanced education for MGs. We have switched in recent months to having the program first at our monthly gatherings, with the business meeting following the break. Speakers seem to prefer this timeframe, so we will stay with it.

We hope to feature a brief project update at our meetings once again as well. We sometimes get so engrossed in the projects we personally support that we miss out on the changes and improvements that are being made to other VCE-MG projects. Many thanks to Nancy Carnegie for sharing her personal garden project with us at the February meeting. The raised bed garden that she had constructed and successfully planted and harvested was great inspiration for all of us who aspire to grow more of our own food. Growing edibles is central to many of our MG projects. Incredible Edibles and School Gardens are joining forces in March to present a 3-session program for teachers, parents and other volunteers who are involved with children's gardens in our community.

Often we hear that MGs have health issues that prevent them from participating in some of the more labor-intensive projects that

we have. There are areas, though, that can use help that doesn't involve physical exertion and are still crucial to our MG program. Peg Crews would like to increase the number of MGs who participate in Helpdesk during the "off-season" months and as advisors to our interns who man the phone & computer from April through late fall. Minouche Robinson has chaired our Speakers' Bureau for a number of years and is ready to pass this important project on to someone else. Matching requested dates and topics to MGs who can do presentations can be done from the comfort of your home.

Toddy Voorhees has handled publicity for us for the past two years but is now looking for a replacement. If you enjoy photography and writing, this might be just the job for you (or for several of you working together). We need to publicize events like our Plant Sale to raise funds for our other projects; but it is equally important for us to keep the public informed on all that we are doing to promote good gardening practices and a healthy environment.

There are short-term administrative tasks that need to be done as well...jobs that might take just a few hours and can be done at home. Give Peg, Minouche or Toddy a call if you are interested in one of their areas, or contact me if you would like to know more about the short-term jobs.

HEALTH ISSUE FOR FORMER MEMBER

SUBMITTED BY JOYCE GRUNEWALD, PIEDMONT MG

Some of you may remember Barbara Brouse, a former JCC/W MG who now lives in Harrisonburg, VA and continues to be an active MG as an herb specialist. When she was a member of the JCC/W MGs, she gave many wonderful lectures on herbs. Joyce Grunewald (also a former member of JCC/W MGs) wants to let Barbara's old friends in the 'Burg know that she is having heart surgery on **March 2nd** in case they would like to wish her well. Her address is:

Barbara Brouse
1305 Woodland Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Thanks so much!

Next Monthly Meeting:

March 3, 9 a.m.,
Williamsburg Regional
Library; Guest:
Ross Hotchkiss, Mid-
Atlantic Director, Board of
American Daffodil Society

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INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

2010
MG Board

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March and early spring are just around the corner! We are very fortunate to have Ross Hotchkiss as our March speaker. Ross is the senior mid-Atlantic director on the Board of the American Daffodil Society, previously having served two terms as president of the Virginia Daffodil Society. He has also served as the director of the American Boxwood Society. In addition to an extensive collection of daffodils and daylilies, many he has hybridized, he has over two dozen different cultivars of boxwood on his property off River Road in Richmond. Today, Ross and his wife are community volunteers and are very good friends with Brent and Becky of **Brent and Becky's Bulbs**. I have a feeling there may be some giveaways at the meeting. Be sure to attend.

There are many educational events coming in March. Close to home, our own New Kent Extension Office and master gardeners are sponsoring a pruning clinic on Saturday, March 12 from 10-12. Also, they are holding a raised bed gardening clinic on Saturday, March 26th. Flyers for these events are attached. Contact Mary Mills at

millsm@vt.edu to reserve your place if you are interested in attending.

If I had an acre of land I would. . . .grow raspberries and blackberries. But first, I would go to the March 17th Fourth Annual Virginia Berry Production and Marketing conference at VSU. Coming soon on March 5th, our own Turf Love University will offer its spring session at the Community Center on Longhill Road from 9:30 until noon. Check our website for full details.

York County MG's and VCE will hold their 2011 Horticulture Extravaganza on March 4th in Yorktown. Many topics will be offered: vegetable gardening, landscaping in small areas, beekeeping, raising chickens and another chance to hear Jim Orband on ferns.

Is there another "back to the land movement" going on? Sounds like it--based on these events! I think I will pass on raising chickens.

E2 UPDATE

BY KARI ABBOTT, CHAIRPERSON

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.

Things are growing in the E2 Program. We have added Clara Byrd Baker as our fourth elementary school on a permanent basis. First grade classes there began in January and are going very well. Other programs at Matoaka, DJ Montague and Blayton (Kindergarten Program) Elementary schools are moving through the year with exciting lessons. With all four schools the countdown to the end of the year field trip is on!! The children can't wait and are eagerly anticipating a day with Master Gardeners.

The E2 first grade field trip for:
Clara Byrd Baker is Friday, April 29
DJ Montague is Friday, May 6
Matoaka will be going May 10 & 11

The first grade field trips will be held at York River State Park. Master Gardener Volunteers can arrive at 9:30 a.m. if you have been on the field trip before. For new people there will be a training walk on THURSDAY, APRIL 28 at 8:30 a.m. at York River State Park. There you will receive a guide, go on the trail to provide a chance to ask questions and get a feel for the field trip. Please email to let me know you are coming, to help prepare for the walk.



Ask anyone who has gone in previous years, this is a fun field trip. The children ask good questions and admire the people who have helped them learn new things in the woods. If you are interested in having some great days with us, you are always welcome.

The E2 Program is doing something new this year: we are also hosting a kindergarten field trip. The three Kindergarten classes will be going on May 20 to Greensprings Park by Jamestown High School. This is a new adventure and again everyone is welcome and we will have a training day. This field trip is going to focus on things the children learned through the year. They will be looking at trees, birds, and insects. For the February lesson, the children are making field guides to help identify 4 birds they should see on the walk. There will be a training day, TBA, so look for updates next month.

Please email Kari Abbott if you are interested or have any questions(bearsbaskets@cox.net) .

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FACILITATOR ASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2011 PLANT SALE

BY DENNIS WOOL

To accomplish the 4 major goals of the Plant Sale – educate the community, raise funds for JCCW-MG, 100% MG participation, have fun – requires significant coordination and planning. This responsibility is shared by capturing the skills and energy of MGs who volunteer to serve as Facilitators in each of the project areas. The list that follows identifies Facilitators for 2011 that will be looking for helping hands – some requiring time before, during, or after the Sale. Please find a place you can help and join the fun.

Cashiers: Linda Wever; **Sales Tickets:** Ruth Schultz; **Transportation:** Chere' Harper and Jane Healy-Nobrega; **Security & Traffic:** Jim Word; **Publicity:** Toddy Voorhees; **Setup/Site coordination:** Harriet Parsons/Dennis Wool; **Breakdown:** All hands; **Table Experts:** Gary Driscole/Carol Fryer; **Help Desk:** Peg Crews; **Tagging/Pricing/Staging:** Sally Sissel/Mary Ann Kimminau; **Barrels/Bins:** Carol Cavanaugh; **Turf Love:** Bob Winters; **Children's Area:** John Giffin; **Hostas/Day lilies:** Kathy Lykins; **Vendor plants:** Jerry Babski. Special thanks goes out to each of these "Facilitators" and to Margene Hartsough who serves as the Board liaison to the Steering Committee.

BOOKS FOR THE PLANT SALE

BY JEANNE MILLIN



This year we are going to have a table with used and new books for sale. If you are overloaded with books and want to make some room for new titles, bring your donations to the April MG meeting. They will be priced and made available to members and the public. If you would like to help, contact Jeanne Millin @ 258-4724.

NEW FEATURES FOR THE 2011 PLANT SALE

BY DENNIS WOOL



Relocating the 2011 Plant Sale to the Recreation Center parking lot on Longhill Road affords the opportunity to provide new features that showcase MG projects and activities. The Sale will be adjacent to the Children's Play Area along two sides of the parking strip making room for easy set up/take down, open display of plants, and two new features: 1) a children's interactive area coordinated by Seeds of Learning; and 2) a used garden book sale coordinated by Jeanne Millin. While early in the planning process, the expectation is that children will leave the Plant Sale with a pot of something they have planted. Jeanne will be accepting both hard and soft cover books to be recycled to a new home – be generous and make room in your garden library for new volumes.



Members of the VCE JCCW Master Gardener Plant Sale committee shown discussing the proposed layout of the Annual Plant Sale outside the James City County Williamsburg Community Center. (Photo submitted by Toddy Voorhees)

THANK YOU FROM NEW KENT

BY SUSAN VOIGHT



The New Kent County Extension Office staff and the Master Gardeners who support them and their activities want to sincerely thank the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association for the lovely Cardinal Rain Gauge presented to us at the Annual Dinner, recognizing our contributions in service and education provided to the community through the Envirothon and Carole's Garden at New Kent.

Carole's garden has been prepared for spring planting. We will hold a Pruning Clinic on March 12 and a Workshop on Raised bed vegetable gardening will be held on March 26. You are all invited to come to the second annual Envirothon in New Kent on April 16 (10 am - 2 pm) and see the rain gauge in place! Thanks so much!

DIRT FROM MATTEY'S GARDEN

BY GENROSE LASHINGER



Mattey's Garden is beginning to wake from the cold winter. The garden will be featured on the ABC Gardens in the near future. A grant has been received from SHIP (Student Health Initiative Project) for the Matthew Whaley Cooking Club to grow and prepare vegetables grown in the garden. Mattey's has also received a gift for developing a Water Wise Garden in the Sundial Garden. Third Grade teacher Katie Schultz's class has begun the project by determining the area of the garden and how much compost to add. Next they will research water wise plants to put in the garden. Funding is ongoing for a covered pavilion over the picnic tables.

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LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY ANNE NIELSEN



With March winds blowing us closer to Spring everyday, it's time to start thinking about how to spend your volunteer hours. Landscape Love is asking for your participation in this project which is a valuable connection with our local community. If you have participated before, we invite you to bring that past experience and join us again. If you have been considering it and have questions, join us for our one morning training class to get your questions answered. This year we will be meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 9:30 a.m., in Room A at the Rec Center. Sign up with me at anne-mail@cox.net if you would like to come.

The website registration opens for residents on March 15th and closes on April 15th. Actual visits start around May 1st and conclude in June. There are 5 teams composed of MGs and Interns working throughout Williamsburg and James City County. In the past, most teams made five visits to homeowners. We aren't a Landscape Service. We just give advice based on VT recommendations so residents can solve their own problems

Join us this year. It's helpful to the community and it's fun!!!

Questions??? Call Anne Nielsen, 259-2455, or email me at anne-mail@cox.net.

SPRING CLEANING DONATIONS

BY BARBARA GUSTAFSON & LINDA LUCAS

Are you doing some spring cleaning?

Several Therapeutic Gardening programs are already under way, and others will begin soon. In many of the programs we decorate garden hats and are always looking for silk flowers to use for this project. Please let one of us know if you have some to donate...or bring them to the March meeting. Thank you!

WATER TIP OF THE MONTH

BY ALICE KOPINITZ, WATER STEWARD



Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.

PERMEABLE SURFACES

BY JCC/W WATER STEWARDS

Are you planning to build a patio, a walkway, an extra parking space? Think about using permeable surfacing. Unlike a solid surface, a permeable surface like gravel or a system of pavers will allow at least some storm water to filter into the soil rather than run off into drains or creeks and rapidly into our watersheds...along with excess fertilizers, oil spills, animal waste and other pollutants picked up along the way. Storm water is a problem; you can be part of the solution.

If you would like a presentation on permeable surfacing for your garden club or HOA, contact JCC/W VCE-Master Gardener Speakers' Bureau (www.jccwmg.org or Virginia Cooperative Ext. in JCC:564-2170).



REMINDER: NEWSLETTER HARD COPIES

As stated in last month's newsletter, hard copies of newsletters will no longer be sent to those MGs who also have e-mail, unless you contact Cathy Lohwater, Editor, to let her know that you still need to receive a hard copy (for example, you do not have access to your e-mail at home). E-mail her at cathy.lohwater@cox.net.

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DOES COMPOST FEED THE SOIL?

FROM ORGANIC GARDENING VOL. 57.2



The nutrients added by compost to fertilize the soil are minor compared with other benefits. The fertility content of compost is extremely variable, and usually quite low. The percentages of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are similar to the 2-1-2 NPK fertilizers sold at a garden center.

A conventional farmer adds 150 pounds per acres of a 2-1-2 NPK fertilizer to produce field corn, whereas an organic farmer adds 10 to 20 TONS (not even enough to cover the ground!) of compost per acre to achieve similar NPK results in the first year. But the organic farmer gets a whole lot more from the extra mass of compost that isn't found in a thin dusting of synthetic fertilizers.

In compost, carbon, microbes, and fungi are abundant, and work together to create vitality and resilience in organic garden soil. The carbon is food for microbes and fungi living in the soil and compost. The microbes process the nitrogen found in the complex molecules of food scraps and garden wastes, and they do it slowly, over a long period of time. After digestion by microbes, the nitrogen is in inorganic form, which dissolves in the soil water and is readily available for uptake by plants, slowly, throughout their growing cycle.

Generally, plants take up all the inorganic nitrogen available while growing, but a burst of chemical fertilizer sometimes provides more nitrogen than the plants can use. And the unused nitrogen washes down through the soil of the root zone into the groundwater, often causing pollution problems.

Also, carbon material in compost and soil acts like a sponge, wicking up moisture, and any unused dissolved nitrogen, and keeping it in the root zone where plants can continue to take it in between rainfalls. As such, compost helps shield crops from drought and nutrient stress longer and more successfully than done by synthetic fertilizers.

The thread-like hyphae of fungi bind together soil particles, preventing erosion from rainfalls. These aggregates keep essential carbon and minerals in place and accessible to plant roots, also creating spaces between the particles which help hold air and water near the roots, as well.

Therefore, compost is the ultimate recycling machine, returning materials to the ground that produced them. It is a "whole-foods diet" for the soil!

[Submitted by
Helen Hamilton]

EAT YOUR FOODSHED (FROM ORGANIC GARDENING FEB/MAR 2010)

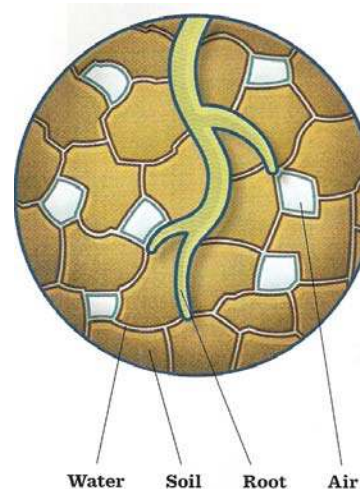


Across the country, people are asking "Who made this bread? Who grew these vegetables? Are they fresh and local, or have they come from 2,000 miles away, picked too early, ripening in the cavern of a refrigerated tractor-trailer, their carbon footprint getting bigger by the mile?"

A foodshed is defined as the geographic area that supplies a population with food, as a watershed which is the geographic area drained by a body of water. Maps are available for states and regions, showing sources for organic produce, farmers' markets, cheese makers, or other specific categories within a 100-mile radius, the mileage accepted as the definition of "local." Searching the internet for "foodshed maps" turns up a lot of information.

Foodshed was first used by W.P. Hedden in his 1929 publication "How Great Cities are Fed" – it is an old-fashioned idea which lost favor just after WWII when agribusiness began to transform farming. We are only now getting back to an idea that generations of people before us took for granted: The best food is locally grown. The words "sustainable, organic, locavore, carbon footprint" all go back to a much simpler time, before the big rigs and interstate highways.

Maybe it is now time to turn back the clock, and pay attention to the source of our foods. For example, blueberries are now available in the local groceries, transported from where they are now growing in Chile. But they were abundant last summer at local farms, and are easily frozen or made into jams and breads for use in the winter. Are we too accustomed to instant gratification and lack the ability to plan ahead? [Submitted by Helen Hamilton]



WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH — EASTERN RED CEDAR: *JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA* BY HELEN HAMILTON, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

There is much to like about our native red cedar which provides a home for many songbirds. The tree is evergreen, requires full sun, and is tolerant of most soils, especially those dry and infertile. The heartwood is highly aromatic, light, strong, durable, and widely used for cedar chests, cabinets, fuel, and fence posts. The dry outer bark, when stripped and rubbed between the hands, provides excellent tinder. A volatile oil derived from juniper leaves is used in perfumes and a flavoring may be derived from the berries.

Eastern red cedar can grow to 60 feet tall, retaining an attractive columnar-pyramidal form. The leaves are of two types -- sharp, spreading and needle-like on young plants up to 3 years old and as scattered shoots on adult trees. The adult leaves are small, scalelike, overlapping and carry a heavy coating, permitting survival during cold winters and hot dry summers.

Important winter food for birds and small mammals are the bluish waxy seed cones, berry-like with fleshy scales. Inside the cones are a few wingless seeds, which pass through digestive tracts undamaged and are often dropped along fences. The fruits are eaten by over 50 species of birds, including cedar waxwings, bluebirds, bobwhite, grouse and pheasant. The great purple and olive hairstreak butterflies lay their eggs on red cedar which furnishes food for the larva.

European settlers planted cedars on either side of their front doors as a good luck charm – possibly because they are so long-lived. American Indians chewed the fruit for canker sores, and used fruit tea for colds and coughs. Leaf smoke or steam was inhaled for colds, bronchitis and rheumatism, and for purification rituals.



Ranging from southwest Maine to southern Minnesota, and southwest to Georgia and Texas, red cedar grows naturally in almost every county in Virginia. Juniper seedlings appear frequently in meadows and gardens, again from bird distribution. Cedar trees without the “berries” in the fall and winter are probably the male of the species, which carry golden-brown remnants of their pollen-bearing cones.

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

Photo: Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) taken by Helen Hamilton

WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN:

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT THE ELLIPSE GARDEN IN FREEDOM PARK

The Ellipse Garden in Freedom Park is located at the intersection of Longhill and Centerville Roads. All of the following programs are free and open to the public.

March 19th – 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Heirloom Vegetables

April 16th – 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Weed Warriors with Barb Dunbar

May 21st – 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Art in the Garden with Linda Miller

June 18th – 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Growing Antique Roses



July 16th – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Butterflies –educational, planting milkweed, and tagging

August 20th – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Butterflies –educational, planting milkweed, and tagging

September 17th – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Butterflies –educational, planting milkweed, and tagging

October 15th – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Red Emperor Tulip planting in Therapy garden with Barb Dunbar

November 19th – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

For more information contact 220-3575 or www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org

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USDA PRESS RELEASE:

USDA INTRODUCES ONLINE ATLAS OF RURAL AND SMALL-TOWN AMERICA

SUBMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION BY PAT
CROWE



WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 2011- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the debut of an online mapping tool that captures a broad range of demographic, economic, and agricultural data on rural areas across the United States. The Atlas of Rural and Small-town America, developed by USDA's Economic Research Service, provides county-level mapping of over 60 statistical indicators depicting conditions and trends across different types of nonmetro regions.

"The new Atlas will complement USDA's efforts in promoting rural development and well-being by helping policy makers pinpoint the needs of particular regions, recognize their diversity, and build on their assets," said Vilsack. "The Atlas is part of a broad USDA initiative to make relevant data easily accessible to the public, including researchers, journalists, public officials, and other professionals."

Nearly 50 million people -- 17 percent of the U.S. population -- live in nonmetropolitan (nonmetro) America, covering approximately 2,000 counties. Economic and social challenges facing rural areas and small towns differ greatly from those affecting larger U.S. cities, and vary substantially from one nonmetro county to the next.

The Atlas allows users to geographically compare selected states or regions using data on population, age structure, race and ethnicity, income, employment, agricultural well-being, and other measures. Regional planners in the rural Southwest, for example, could compare population trends in their area with counties or states in the Midwest. Maps can be filtered to show only counties of a certain type, such as those with high levels of manufacturing or with persistent poverty. For example, this option could be used to show high unemployment in manufacturing-dependent counties.

This web-based product assembles the latest county-level statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, USDA, and other Federal sources. Of particular note, the Atlas incorporates data from the first full set of county-level data

in the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). Data from the various agencies are combined in four broad categories that users can select:

- **People**—county demographic profiles, including age, race/ethnicity, education, family composition, population change, migration, and immigration.
- **Jobs**—conditions and trends affecting the labor force, such as employment change, unemployment, industry, and occupational structure.
- **Agriculture**—indicators of farm structure and the well-being of farm households, including farm size, income, sales, and tenure.
- **County typologies**—ERS county classifications based on the rural-urban continuum, economic structure, and other key locational features, such as, landscape amenities, occupation types, persistent poverty, or population loss status.

Users can click on a county and view a pop-up box showing data on all the indicators in each of these four categories. In addition, users can view an indicator (e.g., employment data) for the entire country, or can zoom into specific regions, states, or sub-state areas, and pan across the U.S. at different scales on the map. Maps can be downloaded for use in documents and presentations, and data are accessible via downloadable spreadsheets.

The Rural Atlas is visually and functionally similar to another product developed by the Economic Research Service – the Food Environment Atlas – which maps U.S. counties by factors that reflect a communities' access to affordable, healthy food. That web-based tool has attracted considerable attention from the media and among professionals concerned with diet and public health.

The Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America is available online at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/ruralatlas>.

MG LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

BY JEANNE MILLIN, LIBRARIAN



Xeriscape Handbook by Gayle Weinstein

Xeriscaping is a water-wise approach to sustainability. This guide offers a practical method of creating and maintaining your landscape in conjunction with environmental awareness. I picked up this book because I had just written an article on Xeriscaping for Water Stewards. I was in the bookstore at the Red Butte Garden at the University of Utah early in February (another story but a great Botanic Garden at any time of year), and though it was a bookstore in the desert climate of Utah, the book's Contents are useful for any area of the country.

Chapters cover Climate; Design; Soil; Compost and Mulch; Planting, Health and Maintenance (including IPM); and Applying Water. With water costs and availability becoming increasingly of concern, selecting the right plants, good landscaping techniques and good maintenance practices are becoming increasingly important. This book is one that you should look at. It is in the MG library filed at SB475.83.W45.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **April Newsletter** is **Monday, March 21.**

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

Upcoming Dates to Remember

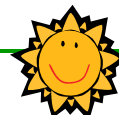
- Mar. 5 Turf Love U
- Mar. 12 New Kent Pruning Clinic
- Mar. 21 Newsletter Deadline
- Mar. 26 New Kent Raised Bed Clinic
- Apr. 13 Landscape Love Training Day
- Apr. 16 Environthon, New Kent
- Apr. 28 Training Day for E2 Field Trips
- 4/29-4/30 2011 Plant Sale (Rec. Center)
- 6/21-6/26 MG College 2011
- 10/11-15 International MG Conference, WV

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 NOTE



A plant and sympathy note was sent to Katherine Miniclier. A Get Well note was sent to Ed Lucas. A plant and sympathy note was sent to Frank Messina.

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.

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.

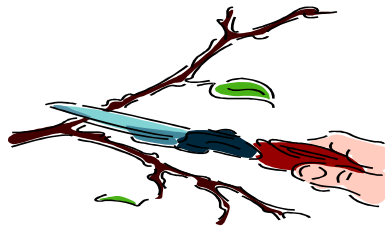
New Kent Extension Office

P.O. Box 205 / 11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1
New Kent, VA 23124

804/966-9645 / Fax: 804/966-5013

<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new.kent>

Pruning Clinic



Saturday, March 12, 2011

10:00 am – Noon

FREE!!

Location:

**New Kent Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1
New Kent, VA**

Master Gardeners will teach proper pruning techniques. Hands-on pruning demonstrations will cover landscape trees and shrubs... *plus* ...tools, sharpening & safety, and educational publications.

Bring your own pruning tools.

To reserve your spot or for more information contact:

**New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645,
email millsm@vt.edu or visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new.kent>**

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, New Kent - Virginia Cooperative Extension at (804-966-9645/TDD*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

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New Kent Extension Office

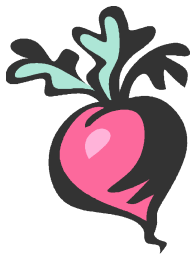
P.O. Box 205 / 11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1

New Kent, VA 23124

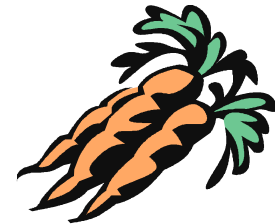
804/966-9645 / Fax: 804/966-5013

<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new.kent>

Raised Bed Gardening Clinic
Saturday, March 26, 2011
10:00 am - Noon



FREE!!



Location:

**New Kent Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1
New Kent, VA**

Master Gardeners and quest speakers will talk about the advantages of raised bed gardening with vegetables, what it takes to have a successful vegetable garden, how to create a garden design, good soil composition, ways to add organic matter, how to raise your vegetables organically, plus other vegetable gardening topics.

And a visit to the New Kent Master Gardeners' demonstration garden, on site at the Extension Office.

To reserve your spot or for more information contact:

New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645,

email millsm@vt.edu or visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new.kent>

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, New Kent - Virginia Cooperative Extension at (804-966-9645/TDD*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

www.ext.vt.edu

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Envirothon Earth Day



Saturday, April 16, 2011

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

Featuring: Critter's Don't Need Litter
With Two Performances: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Earth Friendly Educational Demonstrations
& Informational Booths For The Whole Family

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



New Kent Virginia
COUNTY · VIRGINIA



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu



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New Kent Clean County Committee