

# The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



March 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER EVANS

Spring is almost here and some exciting things are starting to happen and we are getting busier. The School project has taken on James River ES which will be a revitalization of a garden that has been fallow for several years. The focus will be farm to table. Additionally we've had several inquiries about community gardens, with a possible new site located at the James River Recreation Center in the Grove, if the grant for public health is obtained. The Public Health Department's focus is on persons with disabilities and seniors. The Health Department will know if they get the grant on March 14.

Turf Love, Landscape Love and the Mobile Master Gardeners were at the Destination Recreation which was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> at the JCC Recreation Center on Longhill Road, Incredible Edibles and School Gardens will be hosting the "Grow It and Eat It" symposium from 8:30 to 12:30 with a focus on vegetable gardening. There will be speakers and lots of Demonstration tables. Invite your family and friends to attend. Reservations can be made by calling the Extension office at 564-2170 as space is limited.

A proposal was brought to the board to possibly have another fund raiser using either Brent and Becky's Bulbs, or Flower Power. Both of the companies offer commissions on bulb sales. Both offer web based ordering where after you register your organization you put a link on what would be our JCC/WMG website to their respective access sites. After a lengthy discussion, it was

**First Day of Spring!!**

**Tuesday, March 20**

decided not to pursue this fund raising activity at this time. It was felt that if you posted a link to a vendor, then you would not have recourse to accommodate any other vendor that offered a commission on web based sales. The other alternative was Flower Power which also offers direct sales kits. These are primarily targeted at schools and churches which the board felt wasn't a good fit for the organization since it would be in direct competition with the Botanical Garden bulb sales, and also possibly our annual plant sale.

The board has reviewed the position descriptions for our positions and will be posted on the web site soon. Additionally, the by-laws are being reviewed where some minor corrections will have to be made which were overlooked when the office of President Elect was added. [See page 5 for By-Law Changes]

The board will start reviewing our old Goals and Vision Statement in order to bring it up to date. It hasn't been reviewed since 2007, so it is time.

New Kent and Charles City brought a proposal to separate their projects so that they can capture hours directly supporting activities in their county area of responsibility. This is an administrative change only.

Please consider volunteering for Co-Chair positions. We really need your help and support in this area.

## NEW POSITION

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

With the growth of our organization and the acquisition of a substantial amount of property, we are seeking a person to serve in the role of "Inventory Manager." If you are interested in helping the organization keep track of all our physical assets, let Margene Hartsough or another member of the Board know. This is a position that will start immediately.

## Monthly Meeting

**March 1**, 9 a.m.,  
Williamsburg Regional Library;  
Speaker:  
Colonial Soil & Water District, USDA  
On  
"Drip Irrigation"



2012  
MG Board

*President:*  
Roger Evans

*VP Projects:*  
Beth Fugate

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Harriet Parsons

*VP Administration:*  
Margene Hartsough

*Secretary:*  
Mary Ellen Edwards

*Treasurer:*  
Bob Winther

*VMGA Reps:*  
Marilyn Riddle and  
Angela Cingale

*Past President:*  
Linda Lucas

*Co-op Ext Rep:*  
Doris Heath  
564-2170

## INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY HARRIET PARSONS

I was sorry to miss the February meeting as I was out of the country. I heard from so many of you about Jerry Babski's and Barb Landa's presentations on their respective gardens. Nothing but compliments and requests that we put their power points online. You should have them in your e-mail by now. We will have the remaining two presentations by other MG's in the near future. I feel that there are many more wonderful gardens to be shared. If you would like to participate or if you know someone in our MG community that you would recommend, let us know. It is amazing how much talent we have in our group.

Next month we will have a presentation by the Colonial Soil & Water District (USDA). They will speak to us on a topic that will help us control the high usage of water in our gardens: **drip irrigation**. We have tried for a long time to schedule this topic but with little success. Drip irrigation is viewed as a limited topic but is important since there is definitely a water supply issue in our area. Limited also because of lack of interest by the general public. We might be able to change that perception.

Remember, April is all about Risk Management recertification. Please mark your calendar now and plan on attending the meeting! Your attendance will insure that you are up to date in risk management and shows that you appreciate the work that your fellow MG's have done to prepare for this presentation. I wish I

could promise you a dessert treat as a reward but it will just have to be your short form card instead!

Nearby upcoming events include VCE and York County's MG's workshop on everything from pest management to Garden Potpourri. Dan Nortman will be there on March 10<sup>th</sup>. On March 31<sup>st</sup> the Northern Neck MG's will present on Watersheds. Check your e-mails for details. Do you ever ask yourself why we aren't listed in this continuing list of upcoming events? We should be! Let us know if you have ideas on a topic, plans will soon be in the works to have our own brand, JCCWMG, on our own seminar. Look for it in next year and plan on being a participant! In the meantime check your e-mails from me or Roger on specifics of upcoming events.

Also, look for information on our own Incredible Edible's Workshop on veggies that we can grow and eat, on Page 4. Don't just be an observer--get involved, we need you to make our association a success.

Do you have your seeds ordered and ready to be planted? If you put in early tomatoes I will need 3-4 plants about 10 inches tall to use in a demo on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Let me know if you can help.

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.

## TURF LOVE "UNIVERSITY" - IT'S FREE!

BY BARBARA FOLEY

Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension.  
**Sat., March 10 from 9 a.m. until noon.**  
James City/Williamsburg Community Center.

To pre-register, call Virginia Cooperative Extension at 564-2179 and leave your name, phone, and number attending.

To be discussed:  
New Garden Love Rain Garden Program!  
Spring Lawn Care  
Getting Ahead of Those Pesky Weeds  
See you there!

## PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING MG EQUIPMENT

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

If you have any equipment belonging to the association, please let Margene Hartsough know what it is, including a description. Some items are known about but expect there have been purchases not previously listed in any inventory accounting.

This includes table clothes, tools, signs, etc., that were purchased for the association with association funding. Thanks!

## MARCH WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

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

### Round-lobed Hepatica *Hepatica americana*

This small native plant is one of the earliest spring wildflowers, blooming March through April. With no stems the plant has large basal leaves with 3 rounded lobes. Hairy flower stalks emerge from a tattered clump of leathery, burgundy-brown tinted leaves from the previous year. New leaves appear only after the flowers bloom. Light blue to lavender or white flowers are easy to find in the forest litter, 1 inch across, on 8-inch tall stalks. The flowers have numerous stamens, are without true petals, the petal-like 5-9 sepals surrounded by 3 bracts.

Round-lobed Hepatica grows in dry or moist upland woods over most of Virginia. The range is from Quebec to Minnesota and Manitoba and south to Georgia, Tennessee and Missouri.

Widely used by Native Americans and colonists to treat many ailments, the plant served most commonly as a leaf tea for liver disorders. The common names, Hepatica and Liverleaf refer to the leaves being 3-lobed (as is the liver) and becoming



**Photo:** Hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) taken by Helen Hamilton

dark in color, with age. Treating organ problems with the plants that most suggest is known as the "doctrine of signatures," a former practice that originated in China. "Liverleaf" could also refer to the brownish color of the overwintering leaves.

For more information about native plants visit [www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org).

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## NATIVE PLANT HIGHLIGHT

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

### Virginia Pine *Pinus virginiana*

Although once considered a "forest weed" and called "Scrub Pine," Virginia Pine quickly reforests abandoned and cutover lands and has become a principal source of pulpwood and lumber in the southeast. Commonly a small or medium-sized tree, a specimen 114 feet tall has been recorded. Long branches are often drooping, forming a ragged, flattened crown. The lower branches are long persistent even when dead.

Reddish-brown bark is thin and scaly, with shallow fissures. The needles are in 2's, to 3 inches long, stiff, twisted, dark green, persisting 3-4 years. The cones are somewhat prickly, maturing the second year and remaining on the tree for several years after the seeds are released. Greenish male cones are in clusters at the tips of branches, while the female cones sit upright on the branches. This tree is wind-pollinated, blooming April through May.

Virginia Pine grows best on clay and loamy acidic soils, well-drained, especially on abandoned farm fields. This tree



**Photo:** Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*) taken by Helen Hamilton

occurs in every county in Virginia and ranges from southern New York to northern Florida and east Texas.

The Cherokee found medicinal uses for various plant parts and used the needles or gum to scent soap. The seeds are an important food source for many small mammals and birds, including the Northern Bobwhite. Because older trees contain much softened wood, Virginia Pine offers good nesting sites for woodpeckers.

# The Colonial Master Gardener March 2012

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## NEW KENT THANK YOU BY SUSAN VOIGT

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 present 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 **workshop** on Raised Bed vegetable gardening on **March 3** and a Pruning Clinic on **March 17**. You are all invited to come to the second annual Envirothon in New Kent on **April 28** (10 am - 2 pm) and see the rain gauge in place!

Thanks so much to all the MGs who support the New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension!

## SAVE THE DATE BY ROGER EVANS

### Grow It & Eat It!"—Saturday, March 17, 2012

The Incredible Edibles and the School Gardens have teamed to put on a one day seminar on **March 17<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM at the Recreation Center located at 5301 Longhill Road, for teachers, parents and the general public who are interested in school gardens, community gardens or personal gardens. There will be a series of short presentations on growing edibles interspersed with break times allowing the audience to visit various demos related to edible gardening.

Help is needed to organize and assist on the day of the event. To volunteer, please contact either Linda Lucas or Roger Evans.

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## BOOKS FOR THE PLANT SALE BY JEANNE MILLIN

It is that time of year again; time to make room for new garden books and to clean up our libraries. Please bring donations of books to both the March and April General Membership meetings.

I will be out of the country during the plant sale this year and am looking for a co-chair to take over in my absence. I will help with collecting and pricing books but will not be able to keep them after mid-April. Please contact me at one of our upcoming meetings if you might be interested. This is a good job for someone who is not able to stand for a long period of time or do heavy work. (You will be able to request someone from the committee to assist in transporting books to the sale and moving them to your sale area.)

## MG COLLEGE REMINDER

Don't forget! ***The dates for MG College will be June 20-24, 2012.*** The theme this year is Tree Stewardship, and Tree Steward training will be offered as an advanced MG module during MG College this year. There will be a great line-up of keynote speakers, tours and workshops, and concurrent sessions. For more information, visit the website and click on "MG College":

<http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/#>

Also, for the first time ever, you can see a brief 5-minute promotional video for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MG College here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5X7ad0YSkcs>.



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## PENINSULA WATER STEWARD PROJECTS

BY JEANNE MILLIN, PWS CHAIR

The Peninsula Water Steward class has one more session to go and then we will be working on our projects. It has been an informative 10 weeks and we look forward to sharing our knowledge with the communities of James City County/Williamsburg, Newport News, Hampton and the Northern Neck. Master Gardener/ Water Stewards welcome your participation in their projects/programs. They have all been designed as community education.

The Northern Neck group is doing a "Living Shorelines and Riparian Buffer" project, the Hampton group is doing a "Non-point Source Pollution Awareness" project, the Newport News group is doing a "Buffer Zone and Shoreline Restoration" project, and the James City County/ Williamsburg group is doing three projects: "Powhatan Creek Watershed monitoring", "J. Blaine Blayton Elementary



School Stormwater Education" project and the "St. Olaf's Rain Garden".

If you are interested in participating in any of these projects, please contact Jeanne Millin and she will put you in touch with the appropriate program chair.

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## BY-LAWS UPDATE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

As a result of the by laws change made last June adding the office of President Elect there are two additional sections which need to be brought into agreement with that addition.

First:

### Article IV Executive Board

#### Section 1:

**Change the number of officers required to constitute a quorum from four to five.**

*Rational:* With the addition of the office of President Elect there are eight officers on the Board with the potential of nine when there are two VMGA representatives. In order to have a simple quorum five must be present for any votes.

Second:

### Paragraph 2 under Section 1

Wording should be:

**The term of office shall be two years with the exception of President and President Elect, who shall serve for one year terms. To ensure Board continuity, three officers are to be elected one year and four the next. President Elect shall be elected annually.**

*Rational:* Adding the wording "President Elect shall be elected annually." brings wording into agreement with action taken previously.

# The Colonial Master Gardener March 2012

## GARDENING TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

Our weather being what it is, some of the gardener's to-do lists for February-March are WAY OFF! Oh, well, we do what we can... For March: in the middle of the month (perhaps earlier...) plant a row of Swiss chard. Also in midmonth, plant other hardier vegetables beets, carrots, kohlrabi, radishes, leaf lettuces, and turnips. Transplant onions, shallots, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, white potatoes and asparagus crowns to the garden. SET OUT HERBS, such as rosemary, chives, and thyme - **BUT NOT BASIL - not yet!**

It's a good time to prune back shrubs, herbs that have gotten leggy, ornamental grasses, etc. Also, if your daffodils need resetting later because they are

overgrown - mark their locations while you can see them! And get ready to divide perennials, and pot things for the plant sale!

Small commercial: Let It Grow, the hydroponic/nursery shop formerly on Lake Powell Road just behind 7-11 is now at Williamsburg Crossing, near Florimonte's. They are no longer a nursery, but still have hydroponic equipment, and LOTS of good, organic fertilizers, pesticides, etc., as well as the excellent Fafard potting soil we used to have to go to Roxbury Mills, in New Kent, to get! Give them a try!

### NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the [April Newsletter](#) is [Tuesday, March 20](#).

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at [cathy.lohwater@cox.net](mailto:cathy.lohwater@cox.net) or call 757-259-1133.

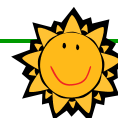
## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 3/3 New Kent Raised Bed Gardening
- 3/10 Turf Love U/ Garden Love
- 3/17 "Grow and Eat It" Seminar
- 3/17 New Kent Pruning Clinic
- 3/20 April Newsletter Deadline
- 4/14 VMGA Meeting Hosted in Wmbg.
- 4/28 New Kent Envirothon/Earth Day
- 6/20-24 MG College

### 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



If you know a Master Gardener who is ill, facing surgery, has suffered a family loss, or any event in which that person might benefit from a [sunshine note](#), please contact the MG Secretary, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf on the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or [JMEMEE12350@verizon.net](mailto:JMEMEE12350@verizon.net).

## ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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

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**New Kent Extension Office**

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

New Kent, VA 23124

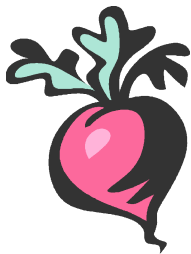
804/966-9645 / Fax: 804/966-5013

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

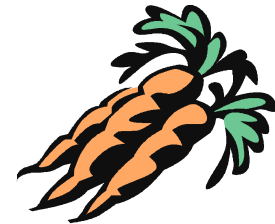
# Raised Bed Gardening Clinic

## Saturday, March 3, 2012

### 10:00 am - Noon



# FREE!!



**Location:**

**New Kent Extension Office**

**11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1**

**New Kent, VA**

Master Gardeners and guest speaker, Dan Nortman, York County Horticulture Extension Agent, 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, Good Bugs & Bad Bugs, and companion planting.

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

To reserve your spot by March 1st, and for more information contact:

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

email [millsm@vt.edu](mailto: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](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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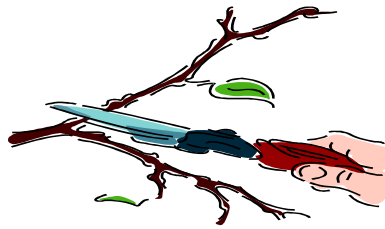
**New Kent Extension Office**

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>

# Pruning Clinic



## Saturday, March 17, 2012

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 register by March 15<sup>th</sup>, and for more information contact:  
New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645,  
email [millsm@vt.edu](mailto: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.

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# Envirothon Earth Day



Saturday, April 28, 2012

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.



Live Animal Demonstrations 10:00 am & 1:00 pm

By AWARE, rehabilitators and educators interested in helping injured and orphaned wildlife.

**Earth Friendly Educational Demonstrations  
& Informational Booths For The Whole Family**

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

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



**Virginia  
Cooperative Extension**

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**New Kent Clean  
County Committee**