

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



March 2013

First Day of Spring!!

Wednesday, March 20

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

On January 26 the Virginia Gazette had an article entitled "Programs bloom at garden". How exciting it was to read the article and recognize six JCCW Master Gardeners and programs our association offers being featured. What a statement on how much JCCW Master Gardeners contribute to the community in which we live. Thanks to everyone for the work done to make our community better through good gardening practices and information programs on everything from butterflies to trees to decorative wreaths to building rain barrels and container gardens.

It is only two months before our major fundraising event – the Annual Plant Sale. Now is the time for those gifted with success in raising plants from seeds to get going. For those with gardens needing some thinning, start identifying what needs to be divided and let Chere' Harper know so a group can help you with that project. People power is needed for labeling and pricing plants, setting up tents, cashiers and a whole host of other activities. If you find you will be away the weekend of the event, financial assistance is always a way to support this project. Contact Chere' Harper to let her know in what ways you would like to assist. Everyone should be involved in some way.

You should have received an email promoting Master Gardener College. It featured a YouTube video which really gives one a great idea of what to expect and the fun plus learning experience offered during Master Gardener College. Consider this great event coming up in June.

With the arrival of March we can start looking in our gardens to see what plants are starting to raise their heads. I already have daffodils up and clematis sprouting. Come on spring. What a wonderful time of year. Happy gardening, Margene

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is March 7.

Speaker: Don Haynie, Herb expert.

FREE! TURF LOVE 'UNIVERSITY'

BY BARB FOLEY

SAT., March 9, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to noon
James City County Recreation Center

*LEARN HOW TO HAVE A HEALTHY, GREEN LAWN
AND LEARN ALL ABOUT RAIN GARDENS*

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED – (757) 564-2179
(please leave name & phone number)

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please contact Sandra Kee, Virginia Cooperative Extension, James City County Office, at 757-564-2170 or TDD (800) 828-1120 during business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event.

DUES REMINDER FROM BOB WINTHER

Your MGA annual dues ...

I am still awaiting payment of fiscal year 2013 dues of \$15 from approximately 25 active members. Please remember that your dues support the programs of your MGA and are vitally important if we are to continue offering the projects which we currently have.

Checks made out to "JCC/W Master Gardeners" with the note "Association Dues" in the memo line may be handed to me at a MG monthly meeting or sent directly to my home address:
Bob Winther - MG Treasurer
4751 Regents Park
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1798

Thanks to all who have already paid in a timely fashion and thanks as well to all who continue to provide outstanding benefits to our community.

The Colonial Master Gardener March 2013

2012
MG Board

President:
Margene Hartsough

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

VP Administration:
David Sisson

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

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 JUDY CASONE

Don Haynie will be our speaker at the March meeting. Mr. Haynie is widely known for his interest in herbs as it developed in the creation of Buffalo Springs Herb Farm in the Shenandoah Valley. After closing the farm in 2007 he is now doing garden consulting and lecturing on related topics. Don't miss this one.....

Our April speaker will be Patty Townsend, Program Assistant – Horticulture, New Kent County VCE. Her interest in dehydrating/freezing fruits and vegetables and canning will be shared with us. I'm especially looking forward to it as I work on the premise 'I grew it; now what?'



We have a field trip coming up in May to Lewis Ginter Gardens. John Giffin will be putting this together and information will be out soon. We will be carpooling as always. Bring cameras and be prepared to learn and enjoy the visit. More to come....

See you at the meeting.

LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB



Landscape Love is currently in the process of preparing and organizing for the spring 2013 visits. We hope that you will consider joining us---whether you are returning or volunteering for the first time. Last year we completed 138 visits to JCC/Williamsburg households and expect at least this many this year. The outstanding reputation of the project, especially by word of mouth, has us in ever increasing demand. We need your experience and assistance.

Again, we would like to publicize Landscape Love through the Area Council of Garden Clubs. If you are a garden club member and would like to help us publicize our project, please let me know. I'll have registration instruction forms at the March meeting. I'm at gstreb11@gmail.com.

Landscape Love is a unique project that puts all of your Master Gardening training and experience to use for the benefit of the county/city homeowners. Please consider joining us!
Happy Gardening, Gary

NATIVE AZALEAS

BY HELEN HAMILTON

Don Hyatt, well-known for his extensive knowledge of azaleas (*Rhododendron* spp.) will present the next program for the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society. The chapter's meeting is on Thursday, March 21, at 6:45 pm, at the Yorktown Public Library on Battle Road.

Mr. Hyatt has a BA in horticulture and Biochemistry from VA Tech, MA Computer Science from VA Tech, maintains Stonehouse Creek Nursery in Amherst County, has gardened from age 3, and has a special interest in native azaleas and rhododendrons. He won a gold medal from American Rhododendron Society, has numerous other awards, and is also a botanical artist. Contact Information: Don@donaldhyatt.com (703) 241-5421; or locally, Lucile Kossodo, (757) 565-0769, the chapter's vice-president.



Photo: Don Hyatt and
Flame Azaleas

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – MARCH 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

PENNYWORT *Obolaria virginica*

Often hidden in leaf litter, this delicate little perennial can be overlooked until it achieves its 6-inch height. Pennywort is a low, fleshy, purplish-green plant with dull white or purplish ½-inch-long flowers, usually densely crowded in groups of 3 at the top of the stem and in the axils of the upper leaves. At the bottom of the stem the leaves are reduced to small scales; the upper leaves are opposite, stalkless, ½-inch long, thick, and round. There is some evidence the plant is dependent on mycorrhizal fungi for nourishment.

Look for this plant in late February and early March, just before the spring ephemerals appear. Pennywort likes rich moist woods and thickets, and grows throughout the Coastal Plain and elsewhere in Virginia. The range is from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Ohio, southern Indiana, and southern Illinois and south to Florida and Texas.

The common name refers to the coin-like shape of the leaves. Greek *obolos*, meaning “a small coin,” provides the genus name.

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



Photo: Pennywort (*Obolaria virginica*) taken by Phillip Merritt

PLANT SALE/BOOK TABLE

BY JEANNE MILLIN

It's that time of year again! Hopefully one of your winter projects has been reviewing and cleaning out those garden books you no longer use for donation to the annual MG Plant Sale for our book table. Kendra Swann and I will be accepting your donations at the March and April MG meetings. Kendra can be contacted for donations up to one week before the sale at kendrar179@aol.com; my e-mail is scotfarquhar@cox.net.

PLANTS HUZAH!

BY CHERE' HARPER

Our next Committee Meeting will be March 4th, 1:00 PM at the JCC Recreation Center. Our focus will be on checking the condition and quantity of our supplies, canopies and signs as we prepare for a great event this year. Everyone is welcome to join us!

NAME BADGE LANYARDS ARRIVED!!

The name badges and lanyards for the Master Gardener Class of 2012 have finally arrived and will be available at the March 7 meeting. Please see Barb Landa.

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES PROGRAM

BY BARBARA GUSTAFSON

The Incredible Edibles program at Child Development Resources (CDR) is different from most Master Gardener programs in that it involves little direct gardening. Once every month, several master gardeners meet with four separate parent groups. These parents have young children that have developmental delays or at risk for poor school outcomes and are enrolled in home visiting services.

The Master Gardeners talk with the parents about locally-grown herbs and vegetables, explaining what is currently available and easy ways to prepare them for their families. Behind the building at CDR is a small herb and vegetable garden, where parents have an opportunity to learn about raised bed and container gardens. Parents visit the garden, help harvest, and then go back to the CDR kitchen and sample the vegetable or meal.

For example, in May, broccoli will be ready to harvest in the garden. We have an information sheet that all groups can pass out and discuss. On it are recipes for broccoli soup, slaw as well as other suggestions for preparing it. Each group can decide what they would like to sample. Then all can pitch in to prepare the chosen dish. Any

broccoli not used can be taken home by the parents.

Some months we focus on other activities. In March, we talk about planting the garden and using self-watering containers. Often, we plant something in the garden such as potatoes or peas. Many of these parents live with extended family or apartments where one or two containers is their best option for growing vegetables or herbs. We offer them self-watering containers at cost and left-over plants from the plant sale free. Many of these parents have begun growing their own herbs or vegetables in this way.

Please come and join our group and make a difference in the eating habits of young families. We meet every second full week of the month, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:30-11:45. Most of us volunteer just one session each month, although there are a couple of us who like to do more. Even if you wish to do less, you are certainly welcome! The CDR building is off Croaker Road near the JCC library in Norge. You may contact me at Barbara-sg@cox.net.



Making Salsa

Harvesting Beans

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EXCITING SPRING NEWS FROM E2

BY KARI ABBOTT

After the wonderful presentation by Bill Williams on birds, if any of you would like to join us at York River State Park, please join in. We walk the Beaver Trail, which is about .5 miles long. There is some uneven ground, and one steep hill. The park considers the Beaver Trail an easy trail. If you have questions about the trail, please ask!

The children will be at the park on the following dates and you can pick one that suits you. We have seen many different birds, from warblers, robins, to nesting blue herons, bald eagles, as well as wild turkeys. The children have found hummingbird nests. We see all kinds of different trees, and every couple of years we see pink lady slippers, as well as ferns, mosses, and ginger. It is really a fun day of sharing your love of trees and habitats with a child. The E2 Project is active in five schools this year so we have dates to share with everyone. We meet at the park before the children arrive and then the walk lasts about one hour. We have a guide for everyone to use so everyone has the same information. Parking is free at the park when you are volunteering with us.

All times are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

April 17th will be the walk through for interns and anyone else that is new in joining the fun this year.

Schools will come on:

May 1 st	Matthew Whaley Elementary School
May 10 th	J.B. Blayton Elementary School
May 14 and 15	Matoaka Elementary School
May 9 th or 16 th	Clara Byrd Baker
May 17 th	DJ Montague

I am still working with Kindergarten to see if they can do a trip to the Botanical Garden this spring. I will pass on more information as I receive it.

If you would like to join us, please email me (bearsbaskets@cox.net) or call 564-4539. We would enjoy your company thoroughly.

Respectfully,
Kari Abbott, E2 Chairperson

VMGA REPORT OF 2/10/13 MEETING

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

Master Gardener College will be held June 19-23 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. There will be new tours and workshops. Registration should be online by April 1. The video was received by all last week. Dave Close brought his new Assistant MG Coordinator, John Freeborn, to the meeting. John has degrees from VT and worked in WV as an extension agent where he started a MG program in Mercer County. He will concentrate on publications. He also now has a Communications Coordinator, Lindsey Nelson. An iPad contest will be announced soon. Serious consideration is being given to developing online MG training. The April meeting will be at Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Arlington County has signed up to host next December to complete the 2013 schedule.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE THANKS

BY ANGELA CINGALE

The scholarship documents were voted on and approved by the membership at the February meeting to make it a reality. I would like to thank our board, Doris Baskfield-Heath and the scholarship committee: Mary Edwards, Barbara Gustafson, Linda Lucas, Jeanne Millin, Marilyn Riddle, and Harriet Parsons. Also, a big thank you for members who took the time to air their concerns, suggestions, edits and revisions. The scholarship wouldn't have happened without their time, effort and dedication to reward a deserving high school senior for 2013-2014 year. Kudos to the whole organization. Marilyn.

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BOOK REVIEW

BY CHERE' HARPER & JEANNE MILLIN



Bird-by-Bird Gardening

Sally Roth

After our wonderful February presentation by Bill Williams, it was time to find a newer garden guide that addresses our love for the beautiful birds that we also enjoy. This book is organized by bird families and applies to all areas of the U.S. Therefore, there is a lot of information that does not apply to the Tidewater Virginia habitat. That being said, it does have quite a bit of information on how birds feed, breed, feed their young and what food and environment they need for each of these tasks. It addresses how some bird families prefer insects, some seeds, some berries and makes suggestions on which plant, most of them native, you might wish to place in your home garden for each of these purposes. This is an interesting book that you might want for your own library; however it should be supplemented with a good bird guide, with range maps. This book can be found in the library under QL676.5R6684. It was published in 2006.

Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History

Bill Laws

This book was lent to me by member, Mary Ann Wittle. It will not be in the library since it is not the type of book

Master Gardeners might use in their community education projects. However, I have ordered this for a Master Gardener sister gift, with hopes that she will share it with me.

The Fifty Plants are ordered by their Latin Names and the two to four pages devoted to each give interesting tidbits about their effects on civilization and society. The pictures and illustrations are informative and each plant is characterized as to its contribution and value for edible, medicinal, commercial or practical uses. This is a nice book to pick up for short readings and could be a nice gift for the right person. This book can also be found in the James City County library. It was published in 2011.

DON'T FORGET!!

Start NOW-- update your hours and contacts EVERY DAY. Get in the habit, and save time and brain strain later!

YORK COUNTY HORTICULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

BY BARB FOLEY

The 2013 Horticultural Extravaganza will be held on March 9 at Tabb High School. Registration is now available. Please visit the York Extension website at <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=5437> to see all the great speakers and to register.

If you have any questions, please contact the York-Poquoson Extension office 757-890-4940.

RECOMMITMENT FORMS DUE

BY DAVE SISSON

Thanks to all of you who have turned in your Recommitment Form. If you haven't done that yet, please do ASAP. We want to get out an updated Roster and that form gives us those changes that occur from time to time in address, phone #, email, etc.

If you don't know what happened to yours--"didn't get the email" "Kids used it for scrap paper" "couldn't get it to download" or whatever, call me and I will see that you get a copy to fill out. Dave Sisson, 7579037118, sisson2@cox.net.

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PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS

BY SUE LIDDELL

The Peninsula Tree Steward Class of 2013 is well underway with 27 students, including 6 from JCC/W: Beverly Baker, Larry Gaskins, Janet Giffin, John Giffin, Dave Sisson and Pam Sisson. The mid term has come and gone, all students passing with flying colors.

Students have reviewed and expanded upon topics covered in the MG Course: Tree Botany, Soils and Fertilizers, Siting, Planting, Tree Pathology and Tree ID. Still to come are classes on Pruning with Hormones, Small Tree Training, Large Tree Hazards and Maintenance, Riparian Tree Issues and Developments, and Fruit Tree Maintenance.

A favorite class was the Tree ID with Dr. Stewart Ware. Each student keyed the same deciduous tree and evergreen using *Peterson's Field Guide* following Dr. Ware's step by step instructions. Then each received his own specimen to key. Everyone is looking forward to the bonus class, a tree tour of the W&M campus with Dr. Ware.

Interspersed with topics covered in the text are lessons on programming from Tree Stewards and Extension Agents, Megan Ketchum from Hampton and Dan Nortman, York County. JCC/W students are developing three programs to educate the community. A review of the 4H Education Center Trail will enhance the educational potential of the site with signage and tours. A program in Kingsmill will establish guidelines for environmentally friendly plantings along the miles of roads. A bonus with this project is that Jerry Babski will participate and so earn his TS pin. He had completed all the class work but a torn Achilles tendon prevented his completion of the necessary volunteer hours. The third program will develop guidelines for establishing an urban forest on a single lot. Tree Stewards continue their work of educating the community on the value of trees.



Bev Baker, Janet Giffin, John Giffin



John Powell—Gloucester, Pam Sisson, Dave Sisson



Dr. Ware and Class



Larry Gaskins, Hurricane Thompson—Gloucester



Important Dates

- 3/4 Plant Sale Planning Committee Mtg.
- 3/7 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 3/9 Turf Love University
- 3/12 Herb Garden Mtg., Peggy Krapf Talk
- 3/25 Deadline for Newsletter Submissions
- 4/1, 15, 22 Plant Sale Planning Committee Mtg.
- 4/17 E2 Training
- 4/26-27 Plant Huzzah! Sale

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

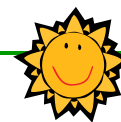
The deadline for submission of material for the **April Newsletter** is **Monday, March 25.**

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

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 of the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or 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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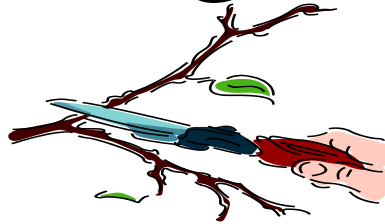
New Kent Extension Office

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>

Pruning Clinic



Saturday, March 16, 2013

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 11th, and 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 13, 2013

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

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



VIRGINIA
AQUARIUM
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

“Ocean In Motion” Aquarium & Touch Tank

Live Animal Demonstrations by AWARE
Rehabilitators and educators interested in helping injured and orphaned wildlife.



Join us at the New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA
Call 804-966-9645 for more information.



New Kent Clean
County Committee



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