



The Colonial Master Gardener

March
2016

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DEBORAH GRIESINGER

I am humbly reminded, by the enthusiasm and opinions expressed at our last general meeting, how much each of you cares about the conditions of our association and its future. We are deeply entrenched in our relationships and friendships with each other. It's a positive place to be for all of us!

We look forward to welcoming John Freeborn, Assistant Master Gardener Coordinator at Virginia Tech, and David Close, Consumer Horticulture and Extension Master Gardener Specialist, to our general meeting on Thursday, March 3. The board is sending some of its questions on ahead, and there will be time provided for questions from the membership. Many of you have expressed concerns about your projects and their longevity. This would be the occasion to ask those questions.

Following the large majority approval vote on February 4, the board is proceeding with the steps to incorporation. A meeting is scheduled with a local attorney, Andy Bradshaw, and new bylaws will be created by the bylaw committee, which includes John Giffin, Margene Hartsough, Diane Hare, and Kendra Swann. The membership was provided notice of the creation of new bylaws on February 4.

The warmer weather this past weekend reassures me that our lovely growing season is just ahead. My deciduous magnolia looks ready to pop into bloom! Our favorite projects are beginning to start up for the season, and the newest Master Gardener trainees will graduate to interns on March 23. It is time to brush off the trowels and shovels and pruners and pursue those wonderful activities for which we Master Gardeners are famous in our beautiful community.

Thank you for all that you, the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners, do to educate our neighbors. I am very pleased to be a part of your association.

Happy Spring!

Frances at a tree identification project in New Kent.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 3

Speakers:

John Freeborn and David Close

THANKS, FRANCES!

BY SUE LIDDELL



Frances Knight was awarded emerita status at the February MG meeting. She has been a MG since 1993 and a Tree Steward since 2001. We are grateful for the years of gardening experience she has given to our MG projects. Here Diane Hare presents Frances with her certificate.



ARE YOU IN COMPLIANCE WITH VCE?

BY KATE ROBBINS

2016
MG Board

President:
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Gary Streb

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VP Projects:
Wilma Sharp

VP Internal Ed:
Kathy Bush

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Marilyn Riddle

Past President:
Sue Liddell

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

*Program Asst.,
ANR:*
Kate Robbins

Hello Extension Master Gardeners!

As we hopefully say good-bye to the last of the snow, it's time to make sure all Master Gardeners are in compliance with VCE. For liability purposes, VCE requires that **all** Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) re-enroll annually. This simple one-page (front and back) form can be found on the JCC/WMG homepage---or by calling/emailing me at the office.

If you participate in either a youth project (E-2, Matthey's Garden, Seeds of Learning School gardens, Merrimac Detention Center) or Therapeutic Gardening, you must also fill out the 4-H **Standards of Behavior** form (also on website). Risk Management compliance is every three years. The JCC/W unit is fine with its Risk Management until next year. Many of you have turned in your forms, but many have not. An EMG cannot participate in the projects if she/he is not in compliance.

VCE Compliance Chart:

Who	Re-enrollment	Standards of Behavior	Risk Management	Background Screen
Active Master Gardener	YES	Not necessarily	Needed again 2017	YES
Active MG working with youth and /or therapeutic gardening	YES	YES	Needed again 2017	YES
Emeritus Master Gardener	Only if <u>actively</u> participating in projects	Only if <u>actively</u> participating in projects	Only if <u>actively</u> participating in projects	Only if <u>actively</u> participating in projects
Inactive Master Gardener	NO	NO	Not needed	NO
First year MG – Graduating class'15	YES	Not necessarily	Received training during training class	YES
First year MG – Graduating class'15 working with youth and/or therapeutic gardening	YES	Yes	Received training during training class	YES
Intern Master Gardener	NO	Will sign in class	Will sign in class	YES

This compliance requirement is not to be confused with the JCC/WMG Association dues. Only annual paperwork and, as of 2015, participation in the mandatory background screening, is necessary to be in compliance with VCE. Association dues allow a MG to participate in "association" social events, "association" business meetings, "association-" only educational field trips, and to help fund the projects and scholarship funds.

Please understand the paperwork is not in place to make a Master Gardener's life difficult. It is in place to create a liability cloak not only for the Master Gardener volunteer but the community member and the project team as a whole.

Help me help you! Your projects are AMAZING, and I want anyone and everyone who wants to participate to do so---safely and in compliance!!!

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 am at the Williamsburg Regional Library , Room B, on Scotland Street, Williamsburg.

The board meetings are open to all Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

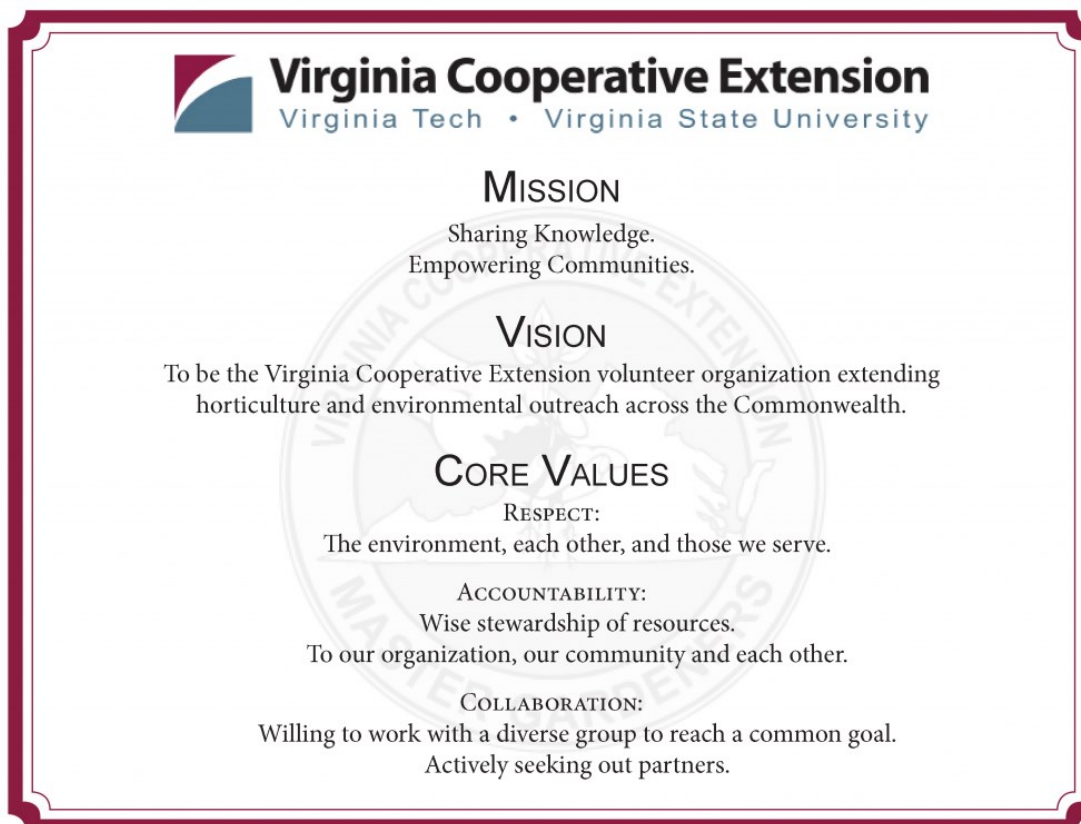
INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY KATHY BUSH

On March 3, at our monthly meeting, we will have the opportunity to question and receive answers from the state coordinators of the Virginia Master Gardener Program. Dave Close and John Freeborn will come from Blacksburg to clarify (hopefully) and enlighten us on many issues that last month's meeting brought to the forefront. Please be thinking of questions. You will be able to put them on a card or ask them in person with a microphone. We want to hear from you!

- ◆ If you have concerns and questions about liability coverage from VCE for Master Gardeners...
- ◆ If you wonder how a Master Gardener Association can work effectively and compatibly with the local VCE...
- ◆ If it is unclear to you what the association's responsibilities are...
- ◆ If you wonder what the role of the local VCE is...
- ◆ If you have questions about funding for programs locally...

No question is insignificant, and your voice matters. Please do your part and participate in this important meeting.



LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB

Looks like spring is upon us! And that means the Landscape Love project is ramping up for the spring session. Registration for JCC/Williamsburg residents opens on March 15 and will close by April 15. Easy, online registration will be on our Master Gardener website at www.jccwmg.org/landscapeLove very soon.

Previous Landscape Love volunteers will shortly receive an email asking for your decision whether you want to continue with the project for this session/year. I hope you ALL do! The phenomenal success of the project is dependent upon your knowledge, communicative skills, and excellent customer service. Not to mention your much appreciated hard work and time commitment.

Please ensure that you have met the basic requirements to maintain your status as an active Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener. Each year we must complete the EMG Volunteer Re-Enrollment Form and Standards of Conduct. The Risk Management and Civil Rights Training requirements are available online---check the member's page of our website. By now all of the criminal background check screenings have been completed. If you haven't heard anything---no news is good news!

If you haven't submitted the initial request you will not be able to participate with the Extension Master Garden projects. If you have any questions about your status, please call or email Kate Robbins at the extension office.

I hope you all plan to continue with Landscape Love. For those of you who have been with us before, you are always welcomed back. And if you want to join for the first time let me know at www.gstreb11@gmail.com.

Our training session will be shortly after the April 15 registration closing, details to follow.

Enjoy the reawakening of your garden!



SPRING PLANT WALKS

BY HELEN HAMILTON

All walks are sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

Weeds and Orchids. Saturday, April 16, from 9:30 to noon. Join Donna Ware at Freedom Park to see native and non-native weeds [such as bluets (*Houstonia* spp. and *Veronica* spp.) of early spring in the big fields near the Interpretive Center and to visit a calcareous ravine to see showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) and other species that prefer high nutrient soils. For information and to register contact Donna at (757) 565-0657 or dmeware@verizon.net

Wildflowers and Orchids! Saturday, April 23, at 10:am, at Grafton Ponds area. Join environmental consultant Meegan Wallace to look for showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) which should be in bloom as well as many spring wildflowers.

Travel east on Fort Eustis Blvd (Va-105), pass Richneck Road on the right, look for a small parking area on the left, marked with VNPS signs. Contact Meegan at (757) 291-1099 to register and for more information.

Spring Flowers. Sunday, May 1, 2:00 pm. Meet at Newport News Park's Discovery Center, Constitution Way. Use the NNPark entrance at Constitution Way. From Jefferson Ave, turn onto Constitution Way; drive 0.9 mile; the Discovery Center will be on the right (GPS coordinates 37.181682, -76.537173); additional parking nearby along Constitution Way if needed. Peninsula Master Naturalist Susie Yager will lead a walk through this lakeside woodland area to see pink lady's-slipper orchid, partridgeberry, yellow star-grass, putty-root orchid, pickerelweed, and numerous other spring flowers as well as several ferns. The round-trip walk will be about two miles. The Discovery Center has restrooms. Contact Susie Yager to register at soozigus@cox.net.

Moss Walk in Eden Woods. Saturday, May 21 10:00 am. Moss Gardener Norie Burnet will lead our group through her lovely garden of trees, shrubs, and perennials carpeted with thirty species of moss. Norie is well known for the artistic layout of her gardens and for her extensive collection and knowledge about mosses. Meet at the Lightfoot Post Office to carpool to Norie's home in North Chesterfield, 1915 Montaigne Drive, Richmond, Va.

IT'S FARMERS MARKET TIME AGAIN

BY SALLY SISSEL



Photos by Hope Yelich



As most of you know, the MG's Farmers Market project has two spaces in Merchants Square in front of the CW Craft House every other Saturday from 7:30 until 11:30 from April through September, during which time Master Gardeners fulfill our mission of educating and communicating environmentally sound horticultural practices to the public.

Dates for the first half of the market will be: April 9, April 23, May 7, May 21, June 4, and June 18. I will begin scheduling volunteers for the first half of the market dates very soon; I'll schedule for the second half of the market dates in mid June. I schedule only for the Q&A table—the theme chairs schedule their own volunteers.

I am counting on “veteran” market volunteers to return, and I will contact you if I don't hear from you first! Those of you who have not been able to volunteer in previous years and, particularly, those who were interns last year, would be most welcome to join us.

Please let me know of all the dates for which you would be available. Then I will sort them out and send you the final schedule.

Special note to interns: You will hear about all the projects soon and will be able to sign up for the projects of your choice at your project fair. I hope you will consider volunteering for the market: It's a lot of fun, you get to meet many fellow MGs, and you earn four hours at one time!

I look forward to meeting and working with many of you during the summer.

Thanks,
Sally Sissel, co-chair. Any questions—email me at sissel@aol.com or call 757-9638

THE HELP DESK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

BY AVRIL PURVIS

The help desk needs volunteers to assist the upcoming class of 2016 in April. The mentor program has changed since it did not work effectively; therefore, we are looking for volunteers to hear about the new way we plan to address the issue. Please consider at the very least listening to the new way we are approaching the change, and just perhaps, you may be able to assist. Thank you for your consideration.

Please contact Avril Purvis avril_purvis@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING CLASSES, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIUMS, AND PLANT SALES

BY KATHY BUSH

March 5 (Virginia Military Institute, Lexington). **Grow 2016: A Celebration of Native Plants.** 8:30am-3:30pm. Held in Marshall Hall, VMI Center for Leadership and Ethics, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA. The event features native plant experts Rick Darke, Cole Burrell, and James Gagliardi. Registration information can be found on www.grow2016.com.

March 12-13 (William and Mary Hall, Williamsburg). **Williamsburg Home Show.** Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm, Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm. All kinds of ideas for your home and yard with a special "Green Thumb Theater" featuring three of our JCCW Extension Master Gardeners (Linda Lucas, Peggy Krapf, and Dennis Wool). Also Peggy Singlemann, director of horticulture at Maymont and co-host of *Virginia Home Grown* on PBS. Other featured speakers are Peggy Cornett, curator of plants at Monticello and local flower farmer Lisa Ziegler. **Help is needed to give out information at the Master Gardener table. Contact Gary Streb (gstreb11@gmail.com) if you can give a few hours!**

March 17 (Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre). 6:45pm-8:30pm. **Expert Advice about Flowering and Fruiting Landscape Plants You Can Grow.** Michael McConkey from Edible Landscaping in Afton, Va., will give an interesting talk based on his thirty years of experience growing all things edible. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society.

March 18 (Waynesboro, Va., Parks and Recreation). **2016 Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium.** 8:00am - 4:00pm. A *Gardener's Palette* of speakers during the 2016 Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium. It requires an overnight stay but is well worth the effort. <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebehmk67973f19bb&llr=nzdak9dab>

March 19 (Williamsburg Botanical Garden, Freedom Park). **Designing the Small Garden.** 10:00am—11:30am. Gordon Chappell, landscape architect and former CWF Director of Landscape and Facility Services, will talk about the hows and whys of garden design. Suggested donation to help the garden grow, \$5.

April 2 (White Stone). **23rd Annual Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar - Nurturing Nature: Sustainable Gardening.** 8:00am—3:00pm. There will be guest speakers, vendors, book sales and even book signings! The seminar location is at the Church of the Nazarene, 57 Wisk Drive, White Stone, VA 22578. The registration forms will be available February 1 on the website <http://www.nnmg.org/nngardeningseminar.asp>. The

registration fee is only \$25! Don't miss these specific speakers:

- * Lisa Ziegler (The Gardener's Workshop, Newport News), will present *From the Ground Up*. Program includes how to plant seeds directly in the garden or indoors using the soil block method. Lisa reveals the steps she follows to prepare garden soil organically for abundant growth and low maintenance.
- * Tim McCoy (Research Specialist, Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs), will speak on *Native Pollinators: An Overlooked Stakeholder Group*. Find out what you can do to help the pollinators-Tim's talk even includes MANY specific suggestions!
- * Kevin Goff: (Director of the River Program, St. Margaret's School, Tappahannock), will discuss *Too Much of a Good Thing*. Learn how homeowners in the Chesapeake Bay watershed can work for healthier water quality in our neighboring creeks, rivers, and the Bay.

April 16 (Freeman Center, CNU). **19th Garden Symposium.** Focus will be "Creating Environmentally Friendly Gardens" oriented to our specific geographic areas. There will be three speakers in the morning session and a panel discussion with audience participation after lunch. (In collaboration with the CNU Grounds Department.) Vendors will be outside to include the Colonial Triangle Chapter of the Herb Society of America with a tent full of herbs.

April 24-26 (Colonial Williamsburg). **70th Annual Garden Symposium.** Topics include planting for architectural interest, planting with style, perennials, foliage plants and foodscaping. One day or deluxe three day tickets available. For advanced ticketing call 1-800-603-0948.



Photo courtesy of Edible Landscaping

2016 PLANT SALE BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

Two months and counting before our plant sale on Saturday, April 30.

I hope you have planted your seeds and are beginning to see some sprouts. If you are doing tomatoes be sure to contact Harriet Parsons (email dparsons1@cox.net) and share with her the variety you are propagating.

If you plan to do other plants from seeds, now is the time to get going on these so they will be of good size for the sale. Another alternative is to purchase seedlings from one of the big box stores or your favorite nursery. You can take one of the four or six packs, transfer each seedling to a six-inch pot, fill with soil, apply the appropriate fertilizer, and give it the right environment for the next two months and turn these tiny plants into beautiful specimens for the sale.

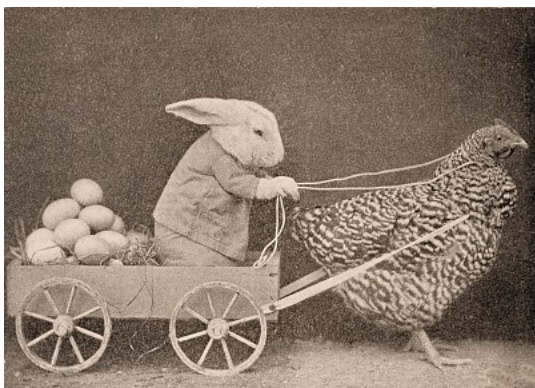
We also will need lots of volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be available at the March general meeting; so begin thinking about where you would like to spend some time helping with the various aspects of the sale. We will need help with setup on Friday morning, plant intake on Friday, table experts, cashiers, and talliers, critter control Friday night to Saturday morning, breakdown on Saturday afternoon, transport of plants, canopies, stanchions, and signs. There is a place for everyone, and your support with some of your time is valuable and essential for a successful event.

Remember, we ask for six 6" pots from each MG member. If you're doing herbs or veggies, 4" pots work well.

Everyone, let's make this a great event by pitching in and doing our part.



2015 plant sale. Photo by Hope Yelich



The Graphics Fairy

Attention Project Chairs!

Please put Monday, March 21 on your calendars. That's the day of the annual project fair at the rec center for the trainees-about-to-be interns. This is your chance to show off your project and sign up some enthusiastic new members of our MG family.

—Hope Yelich, for the Training Team

E2 NEWS

BY KARI ABBOTT



In February the children learned about paper, and it was a blast. The first graders made paper flowers, trees, and hearts while having a grand time. At Matthew Whaley we had tables in the hall with their completed projects. The second and third graders who passed by wished they were back in first grade, because they remembered making paper; they were like "Hey, we did that," "I would rather make paper," and "I remember the fun." The students remind us every day to be a friend to everyone, to take turns, and to laugh. Sometimes they teach us much more than we teach them.

This month we will work on preparing the children to go to York River State Park with E2 original games. They will learn about creatures they might find at the park and about habitats. The field trip is like the final exam of the year. It is a perfect place to do E2 training, outside in the woods. Please email me if you would like to join us, bearsbaskets@cox.net.

The walk-through of the park to update the field guide and for anyone who is interested will be on Wednesday, April 13, from 9:00am-12:00noon. It would be the perfect time to learn about our lessons while on the trail. The guide will be updated from last year after the April 13 walk-through and sent to any who would like to read it.

The students will be in the park on these dates:

JB Blayton	Friday, April 29
Matthew Whaley	Wednesday, May 4
DJ Montague	Tuesday, May 10
Clara Byrd Baker	Thursday, May 12
Matoaka	Wednesday, May 17 and 18



The Graphics Fairy

Please email bearsbaskets@cox.net if you would like join us in E2 volunteering with school children.

I had some room to fill, so I thought I'd paste in some more cute bunnies from The Graphics Fairy. —Hope



TURF LOVE

BY JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS

When we think of March, we always think of green, and that is certainly true for our lawns. Although Turf Love accepts applications all year around, once things start to grow again, even more people want to get their lawns in shape. In addition to our home visits, we offer a program in the spring to help homeowners take care of their lawns.

This year, Turf Love University on April 2 will focus on organic lawn care. Our speakers will discuss going organic in whole or in part and will talk about some of the new ideas for reducing chemical use. Our own Dennis Wool will present on composting at home, and we will also have a speaker explain commercial composting. If you are interested in improving your soil through an organic approach to lawn care, be sure to attend this year's program and bring your friends!

Turf Love University, Saturday, April 2, 9:00am—1:00pm, at the JCC Recreation Center on Longhill Road.

Please call or email Judy at the Extension Office if you plan to attend: JKinshaw@vt.edu or 757-564-2172.



Photo by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis
Bunny by The Graphics Fairy



The Graphics Fairy

VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION REPORT

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

This is Marilyn's summary of the February 13 report submitted by John Freeborn (the Assistant State Master Gardener Coordinator):

Over five hundred new training handbooks have been shipped since mid December. The totally rewritten chapters were on woody plants and herbaceous plants. Revisions and comments will be accepted until May. The bi-monthly webinars have resumed. The most recent topic was wildlife interaction. It will be available for replay in the coming weeks.

The winter issue of *In Season* was released this week. There were two articles on EMGs. (EMG is a newer form of MG where the E stands for extension.)

EMG College is June 24-27, beginning on Friday with check in, and ending on Sunday on campus with tours on Monday.

EMG coordinators and agents will have training on February 23 in Charlottesville. There will be a one-hour Q and A session.

Plans are for the completed modules of the online EMG training to be released within the next two weeks.

Please let John Freeborn and Dave Close know if your association has concerns about liability and the relationships among VCE, EMGs, and the associations.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH MARCH 2016

BY HELEN HAMILTON

PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Seedbox

Ludwigia alternifolia

A look at the fruits makes it clear why this plant is called seedbox –numerous little brown boxes no larger than ¼ inch in diameter are visible in the winter when leaves are absent. Seedbox grows two-three feet tall and has many branches with smooth stems covered with the almost-square fruits. In summer small, yellow flowers with four petals and four stamens appear next to each leaf along the stem. Each flower lasts only a single day, but there are always blooms along the many branches of each plant. Evening-primrose flowers are similar, but those of seedbox are smaller.

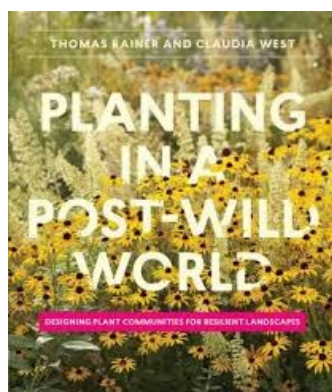
This native perennial grows mostly in swamps and wet soil, and along stream edges. With many seeds in each little seedpod, the plant can be aggressive in the home garden. This native perennial occurs wild in nearly every county in Virginia, and ranges from Massachusetts and south Ontario to Iowa and southern Nebraska, south to Florida and Texas. Flowers appear in July and August, and are heavily visited by native bees, sucking nectar and collecting pollen.

The species name comes from the fact that the leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Honored by the genus name, Christian Gottlieb Ludwig was a professor of botany at Leipzig 1709-1773.



Photo by Helen Hamilton

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



Helen Hamilton passed on information about this book: *Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities*, by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West (Timber Press, 2015), which promotes responsible stewardship of the land. Thomas Rainer recently spoke at the VNPS Prince William Wildflower Society Chapter.

A GARDEN BLESSING, BY WELLERAN POLTARNEES

Kathy Bush sent this along. Thanks, Kathy.

When you enter your garden, let it be as though you opened a magic gate into a new and wonderful world- a world ever changing and ever new.

Here all the cares of the world are shut out, and your challenges are straightforward and immediate.

Let your garden teach you patience, and remind you daily of how much there is to learn and how much to do.

May your garden be a place where you can find peace- where time stands still.

Let your garden refresh your senses, opening you to its myriad hues and scents. And may it encourage you to listen to the hum of insects, the songs of the birds, the splash of water, and the sound of the wind through the trees.

Let your garden offer you many times to be happily alone, And also a place for conversation and blossoming friendships.

May you learn in your garden, to feel and to know that all portions of the cycle of growth are good- from the first blossomings of spring to the fierce arrival of winter.

I wish for you shade at midday, and also places to warm yourself in the early mornings and late afternoons.

Let your garden reach out to you even within your home. May it fill you with the wonder of nature's endless variety, and the powerful force of living things.

Know that your garden is a place where you are needed, where your efforts are visibly rewarded, and where nature cooperates with your wishes.

Let this be your place to be still and peaceful. Let your garden be an island in the midst of life where you vacation at will, and are refreshed by its message of endless renewal.

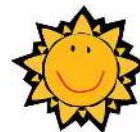
Know that the life you have given to your garden, your garden will give back to you.

A Garden Blessing, Laughing Elephant Books, Seattle,
2000

Important Dates

- 3/5 Grow 2016, Lexington
- 3/12-13 Williamsburg Home Show
- 3/17 Landscape Plants, WRL
- 3/18 2016 Shenandoah Plant Symposium, Waynesboro
- 3/19 Designing the Small Garden, WBG, Freedom Park
- 3/26 Weeds or Wildflowers?, WMG, Freedom Park
- 4/2 Turf Love University (JCC rec center)
- 4/2 Nurturing Nature, White Stone
- 4/9 Farmers Market
- 4/16: 19th Gardening Symposium, CNU
- 4/16 Weeds and Orchids, Freedom Park
- 4/16 Bluebirds in Our Gardens, WBG, Freedom Park
- 4/23 Farmers Market
- 4/23 Wildflowers and Orchids!, Grafton Ponds Area
- 4/24-26 70th Annual Garden Symposium, CW
- 4/30 Annual Plant Sale, Jamestown Beach Park
- 5/1 Plant Walk, Newport News Park
- 5/7 Farmers Market
- 5/21 Moss Walk, Richmond
- 5/21 Farmers Market
- 6/4 Farmers Market
- 6/18 Farmers Market
- 6/24-27 EMG College

SUNSHINE NOTES



The organization would like to send cards to members with difficult medical issues or who have experienced a death in the immediate family. Please provide names to the MG secretary, Cathy Johnson, at (757) 208-0065, or cathypj@gmail.com.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the April newsletter will be Monday, March 21.

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at

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.

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.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.