

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION & VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



May 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY LINDA LUCAS

Many thanks to all who helped make Plants Galore such a great success! Dennis Wool started out last fall as our official plant sale cheerleader, urging all JCC/W VCE MGs to play a part in this year's plant sale. He and the other members of the steering committee, Deb Secrist, Jerry Babski, Toddy Voorhees and Carol Fryer, organized a talented crew of committee heads who in turn recruited teams of Interns and MGs to handle all the potting, selecting, watering, transporting, staging, pricing and selling.

Table experts and Helpdesk were available to give customers advice. Wow! A plant sale is a lot of work! Having so many of you involved made it much easier for everyone. Many of you contributed wonderful plants, and some of you who were not able to physically lend a hand helped by sponsoring an area. I'd say we came very close to the 100% participation that the steering committee was seeking!



Now you can concentrate on your own gardens. If you plan to grow lots of vegetables this year, check out AmpleHarvest.org. This organization connects growers with food pantries all across the country. We have pantries in our area, and they would welcome your extra produce. Ask MG Jim Kavitz. He has been contributing to several local pantries for the past two years.

And as we head into summer, our VCE-MG Water Stewards are contributing water-saving tips to newsletters that are sent out by James City Service Authority, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Neighborhood Connections.



One way to conserve water is by using rain barrels. Angela Cingale purchased one of the barrels made by Backyard Barrels & Bins project and decorated it beautifully for the plant sale. The rain barrel raffle was a huge success!



Genrose Lashinger and Linda Lucas presented the JCC/W MG Association donation for the new shed at Matthey's Garden to Debbie Besnier, Assistant Principal at Matthew Whaley Elementary.

DIAGNOSTIC CLINICS

BY TODDY VOORHEES

Diagnostic Clinics by the JCC/W Master Gardeners are about to start up again. Residents may bring gardening questions, samples of plants, insects or plant diseases to be diagnosed or identified free of charge. The Clinics will be held May 3, 10, 24 and June 14, 21, 28 at the Virginia Cooperative Extension, 3127 Forge Road in Toano from 8:30 until 12:00. May 17th and June 7th clinics will be held in the Women's Club of Toano building, next door to the Fire Station on Forge Road at the same times.

Next Monthly Meeting:

May 6, 9 a.m., Melissa Butler of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens will present "Sensual Gardens"

Please Note New Venue:

JCC Community Center on Longhill Road,
Room A

**2010 Plants Galore Sale
Highlights on Page 3**

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY CAROL FRYER



Sensual Gardens is the topic of our May speaker, **Melissa Butler** from Norfolk Botanical Gardens. We are looking forward to having Melissa with us for the first time. I'm sure she will enchant us all with horticulture information and photographs of the various gardens at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens.

With a few days of extremely warm weather, everything has grown about 12 inches and our gardens are becoming lush and sensual.....If you haven't been able to pull out all of your weeds, you might notice that they are flourishing and blooming along with the tulips, anemones, daffodils and azaleas. For me, spring is my favorite times of year. I love the progression of bloom from the pear trees, to redbuds, dogwoods, wisteria, and azaleas. It certainly beats mud season in northern New England.

At our June monthly MG meeting, Jim Orband, York County agent, will be speaking about Ferns. Jim is retiring at the end of June from the position he has held as the Agricultural and Natural Resources agent at the Cooperative Extension Office in Yorktown for over 20 years.

Jim has contributed invaluable services to extension and the State, and has trained hundreds of Master Gardeners in several counties in Virginia in addition to his home base in York County. If you have never heard him on the radio with Cathy Lewis of "Hear Say", turn in on the third Wednesday of the month from 12 noon to 1 PM. On WHRV, 89.5 FM.

Please remember that our May monthly MG meeting will be held at JCC Community Center on Longhill Road, in Room A. Our speaker will start at 9 AM followed by a break and refreshments, then our business meeting.

Upcoming Advanced Trainings:

Field Trip: New Kent Forestry Center – visit the research center, and walk the trail through the Bald Cypress Swamp, May 26th. Jim Word – trip coordinator; flier will be emailed.

MG College: The 23rd Annual Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener College will take place at Virginia Tech in **Blacksburg, VA** from **June 22 - 27, 2010**. Registration will be open in early May, 2010. Read Jim Pressly's article in this newsletter about MG College for more information.

Other:

Virginia Beach Master Gardener Plant Sale, 9AM – 3PM, Sat. May 8, 2010, Virginia Beach Farmer's Market, 3640 Dam Neck Road, Virginia Beach, corner of Princess Anne Rd & Dam Neck Rd., for information: www.vbmg.org or call (757) 385-4769.

2009
MG Board

President:
Linda Lucas
565-0335

VP Projects:
Jeanne Millin
258-4724

VP Internal Ed:
Carol Fryer
220-0759

VP Administration:
John Giffin
345-5209

Secretary:
Pat Janot
221-0289

Treasurer:
Linda Wever
566-0286

VMGA Reps:
Jim & Nelda Pressly
220-1858

Past President:
Dave Banks
258-8632

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:00 am, at the James City County Health and Human Services Building, on Olde Towne Road.

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

WONDERING ABOUT

WATER RATES?



BY JCC/W WATER STEWARDS

Here in James City County we are serviced by the JCSA (James City Service Authority). JCSA has a three tiered rate system per billing quarter:

0-15000 gal	\$2.85 per 1000 gal
15000-30000 gal	\$3.45 per 1000 gal
Above 30000 gal	\$9.80 per 1000 gal

The JCSA water rate schedule is designed to become extremely expensive if you enter the third tier which occurs after 30,000 gallons usage in the billing quarter. The average household in James City County uses about 180 gallons of water per day which would be about 16,000 gallons in a quarter....just a bit more than the first tier rate. As you can see the first two tiers are

WATER TIPS OF THE MONTH

BY JCC/W WATER STEWARDS

Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of under running water from the tap.

Compost vegetable peelings instead of running the garbage disposal; results in big water savings.

Check sprinklers to be sure they water the lawn, not the house, sidewalk, driveway or street.

relatively inexpensive but...the third tier rate is 3X more expensive than the two lower tiers. What drives this three tiered rate system? In the past it was "PEAK WATER DEMAND"...currently that's not so much the case... but more recently the costs of water will likely cause our future water costs to rise.

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MGs SHINE AT THE 2010 PLANT SALE!!

BY DENNIS WOOL

The success of our Annual Plant Sale depends on three major areas of focus: the contributions of MGs, the quality of the plant material, and luck – especially when it comes to the weather. It's safe to say at this time that our 2010 Sale was an overwhelming success. MGs demonstrated that working collaboratively, it was possible to orchestrate a phenomenal plant sale. A team of 14 MGs serving as Plant Sale Facilitators met, designed, and organized every component of the event. Board members participated to track the activities and provide both guidance and support. MGs stepped in to volunteer for the many assignments and despite the harsh winter and late arrival of spring – donated an incredible array of plant material. This year's Intern Class not only contributed time and helping hands, but met the challenge of contributing plant material as well.

The Goal set by the Board for this year's Sale was to provide the community with quality plant material and raise sufficient funds to support more than two dozen JCCW-MG projects. The goal set by the Plant Sale Committee was to exceed the Board's expectations, but equally important to encourage 100% membership participation in the Sale. It is safe to say that the Sale exceeded everyone's expectations and while difficult to measure – nearly 100% of the membership contributed in some way to the record outcome.



Dennis Wool and Linda Lucas drawing the winning ticket from the Rain Barrel Raffle



Pictures submitted by Toddy Voorhees and Linda Lucas

THE MASTER GARDENER BOARD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

We often have questions about logging hours and other topics that probably several other people have, so this column is to help clarify and share information about these questions.

#1 Question: What is Master Gardener (MG) advanced training?

Answer: Master Gardener advanced training (also known as recertification training) is "time spent further developing and sharpening horticultural and educational program delivery skills" (from "Welcome to Master Gardening" in your MG Manual). Eight hours of advanced training are required each year to maintain VCE-MG status. Each MG monthly program lecture qualifies as one hour. Other lecture-style presentations on a horticultural topic that provide you with new and useful knowledge would also qualify.

#2 Question: If I visit a Botanical Garden does that qualify as advanced training?

Answer: If there is an educational component as part of your visit such as a tour by a staff member or a lecture on a horticultural topic that provides you with new knowledge, then that portion of your visit would count as advanced training. The rest of the time you spent enjoying and walking in the gardens would not count as advanced training.

#3 Question: If I attend a training program at Colonial Williamsburg (CW), does that qualify as Master Gardener hours that should be logged on our MG hours form?

Answer: All training provided by CW that focuses on a *horticultural* topic counts toward your MG advanced training hours. Training that focuses on other aspects of CW, such as marketing or products, cannot be counted as MG hours but should be recorded as CW volunteer hours.

#4 Question: Do the hours I spend helping CW's landscape department in gardens other than the Reid and Shields count as MG hours?

Answer: Hours spent helping in gardens other than at the Reid and Shields are counted as CW volunteer hours but **not** MG hours.

Send any questions you have to mgboard@jccwmg.org and we will try to answer them.

MG COLLEGE

BY JIM PRESSLY,

VMGA

REPRESENTATIVE



Master Gardener College will be at Virginia Tech June 22-27, 2010. This year features Water Steward training which will begin at 9:00AM Wednesday the 21st. A special activity on Thursday afternoon will take the place of a tour for those in this class. More information including the classes and training schedule will be posted soon on the Virginia Tech web site. Registration, housing information and meal costs will be available on the Virginia Tech web site in May. For information go the www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/index.html.

Attending Master Gardener College provides an opportunity to receive advanced training provided by nationally recognized experts, classes on interesting topics, tours and networking with fellow master gardeners. This year speakers will be:

Rita Randolph - owner of a green house operation in Jackson, TN. She is a newspaper and magazine columnist who enjoys speaking about topics such as unusual plants and unique container combinations.

Jeff Gillman - Associate professor in Department of Horticulture University of Minnesota. He is passionate about environmental topics and is knowledgeable in areas of plant health and plant propagation.

Kirk Brown - Actor and playwright who has written a biographical sketch of America's premier horticulturist John Bartram. He will take a role in MGC 2010 speaking to attendees as Bartram.

Pearl Fryer - of Pearl Fryer Topiary Garden in S.C.

Mike Raupp - Maryland IPM expert who has appeared on National Geographic TV. Some say he is a "bug whisperer".

Holly Scoggins - VT associate professor of Floriculture, Director of Hahn Horticultural Garden and master gardener college legend.

This is an opportunity to learn what other master gardener associations are doing. The schedule for Master Gardener College will be available on the web site.

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NEW BENCH FOR WATERWISE GARDEN

BY HARRIET PARSONS

The long awaited dedication of the bench for the Waterwise garden arrived on April 28. The garden has a secluded area that has been developed with herbs and overhung by a Dogwood tree and so the thought was to have a bench so everyone could enjoy the solitude. Thanks to the generosity of Diane Hutchins, Director of James City Social Services and Community Service Manager, we have a beautiful powder coated bench in place.

The bench was dedicated in the name of her brother who passed away some years ago. Please stop by, enjoy the garden, and read the plaque placed in front of the bench and go away with the thought, "live safe, be generous." Thanks Diane, from the Waterwise Team.



MGs sitting on and around the new bench, along with Commissioner Sandy Warner (back row, far right). Doris Heath was also present but not pictured (she was the photographer!).

FARMER'S MARKET SCHEDULE:

SUMMER 2010

BY SALLY SISSEL

May 1:	<i>National Herb Day</i>
May 15:	<i>Vegetables</i>
May 29:	<i>Water</i>
June 12:	<i>Gardening with Children</i>
June 19:	<i>Pruning</i>
July 3:	<i>Flower Gardens</i>
July 17:	<i>Incredible Edibles</i> <i>(vegetable container gardening)</i>
July 31:	<i>Therapeutic Gardening</i>

TAKING ROOT FARM TOUR NEEDS MG VOLUNTEERS

The Taking Root Farm Tour needs MG volunteers for Sunday, June 27th from 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. This will be the 5th farm tour. We need MGs to man the help desks at each site, help with parking and direct people around the farm sites. Those that volunteer for June 27th will also want to sign up for the Pre-Farm Tour on Thursday, May 27, from 12:30 – 4:00 p.m., at which time we will go around to the 3 farm sites, meet the farm owners, learn about each farm and their needs for June 27th. The tour is in the Barhamsville area this year. MG Volunteer hours for the Farm Tour may be charged to E-9 VCE Special Projects (New Kent Farm Tour). [See Flyer on Last Page.]

If you would like to volunteer for this event and the pre-tour, please email Mary Mills at the New Kent Extension Office at millsm@vt.edu or call (804) 966-9645 by Friday, May 21st.



Another problem caused by deforestation

MELISSA'S

MEADOW

BY GRACE RAYMOND



We will be in the meadow May 19, a Wednesday and not our usual Thursday. We would like spread pine needles on the path and if you can help pick it up at Lowe's beforehand please contact me at 566-3921 or Raymondgm@aol.com. We will also be weeding and clipping. Come around 8:30-9:00 with your tools and stay as long as you wish.

BOOK REVIEWS

BY JEANNE MILLIN



Good Bug Bad Bug

Author: Jessica Walliser

This compact little book should be in everyone's library but you can check it out at the MG office. It is a 90 page 5X7 spiral bound guide to both beneficial and pests in the garden. This book fits in with the new emphasis on Integrated Pest Management providing information on: Description, How To Spot Damage, Plants They Attack, Live Biological Controls, Preventive Actions, Organic Product Controls and General information in alphabetical order for both pests and beneficial. This little book closes with product information and a source directory. It is available from Amazon for \$11.95 and can be found in the MG library under call number SB603.5 W.

The Enabling Garden: Creating Barrier-Free Gardens

Author: Gene Rothert, HTR

This book was recommended as a library purchase by Barbara Gustafson, co-chair of the Therapeutic Gardening project and is a recent purchase for our MG library. In addition to information on gardening options for people with disabilities, it also has some useful information that can be used for older adults. I already have a useful pair of clippers that are helpful when my hands are stiff and this book has some good suggestions for tools and methods of gardening that are easier on stiff knees. This is a good reference book that can be found in the MG library, at call number SB457.4 H36R68.

LIBRARY UPDATES: CONTRIBUTIONS; POSITION OF LIBRARIAN

Thanks to the generosity of Jim Baetz, a long-time MG member who recently moved, MG programs, our library, and our treasury were enriched by a number of worthwhile books. The Landscape Love program was given some reference books, which can be used by members of that team, and one book on Colonial Williamsburg plants will be held by the Farmer's Market team. A few books were added to the reference library at the Help Desk and the older, duplicate books were sold at the plant sale.

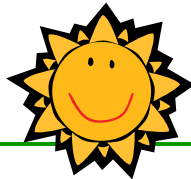
Jeanne Millin, who has been our librarian for the past two years would be willing to pass that task on to a successor. Please contact her if you are interested.

JCC/W Master Gardener Mission Statement

*The purpose of the James City County/
Williamsburg Master Gardener is to learn,
educate, and
communicate
environmentally sound horticultural
practices to the community. Trained by
the Virginia
Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener
volunteers are
committed to offering information to the
public through
sustainable landscape management
educational programs.*

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the March Newsletter is [May 24](#). Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.



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, Pat Janot. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Pat may be reached at 221-0289 or janotap@verizon.net.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **May 6** Monthly Mtg. @ Rec. Center; Melissa Butler
- **May 17** Field Trip; National Arboretum
- **May 24** Newsletter Deadline
- **June 22-27** MG College
- **June 27** Taking Root Farm Tour

TAKING ROOT

Farm Tour

Self-Driving Tour of
Local Farms



SUNDAY

June 27, 2010

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Visit 3 Diverse Farming Businesses Meet the Farm Families
and learn about Agriculture in your Community

Featuring:

Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Riding Center

Squirrel Hollow Goat Farm

Allen's Vegetable Farm

With Master Gardener Help Desk & Other Exhibitors At Each Farm

Sites located in Barhamsville/Toano, VA Area

(From I64 take Exit 227 (Rt. VA-30N) toward Toano/West Point

& Follow Signs on VA-30N to Farms)

Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, New Kent County and the JCC/NK/Williamsburg Master Gardener Assoc.

Call (804) 966-9645 for a map and more information or visit www.jccwmg.org

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 at (804) 966-9645 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

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.