

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



May 2013



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

By the time this is published our annual plant sale will be over. To Chere Harper and Nancy Cassano who co-chaired the event, thank you very much. A lot of time, effort, thought and anxiety went into making this event a success. To each of you who grew plants, worked on a committee, donated cash, purchased plants, gave books, or the many other ways of supporting this project, THANK YOU! This project is our primary fundraiser. These funds will provide the financial resources for the various projects in which JCCW Master Gardeners are involved that improve the quality of life in our community.

April 21-27 was observed as National Volunteer Week and while the week has passed it is important to be aware of the value of our time. According to IndependentSector.org the value of one hour of volunteer time is \$22.14. Because of the value of each and every hour we volunteer it is extremely important that these hours are recorded and tracked in the State Hours System. When we begin a dialogue with community, county, state or federal leaders only by having hard data can we make the case of how important it is to fund the Master Gardener program and the impact our activities have within the community. So, if you have not taken the time to record those hours, begin right now. Knowing how much our unit contributes to the community is important.

On April 13, I joined Angela Cingale, our VMGA Rep, and traveled to Norfolk Botanical Garden for the VMGA meeting.

For our new members, VMGA is the state organization for Master Gardeners and everyone is invited and encouraged to join. VMGA meetings give you an opportunity to meet other Master Gardeners from around the state and learn what they are doing within their units. Dave Close and his assistant, John Freeborn, were in attendance as well bringing us up to date on the latest from Virginia Tech. The meetings are every other month. Both Angela and Marilyn Riddle welcome others to join them at future meetings.

It is great weather now to get out with our hands in the soil. Projects are in full swing as well. Stay engaged and enjoy. Happy Gardening. Margene

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is May 2.

Speaker:
Norie Burnet, the Moss Lady

LANDSCAPE LOVE UPDATE

BY GARY STREB



Our delayed spring certainly did not stop anyone from planning their long term and annual landscapes. After last year's record number of visits we didn't know whether we would revert to our normal 50 registrations or continue with higher and higher numbers.

Because of the excellent publicity campaign, and more importantly, the word-of-mouth campaign, the Landscape Love project again broke all records for homeowner interest. Eighty-three property owners want our Master Gardener advice and counsel.

Most of the experienced Master Gardener Landscape Love volunteers and new interns attended one of two

orientation/training meetings to ready for the visits. Our educational mission emphasizes sustainable landscapes and water quality programs, in addition to landscape design, care and maintenance.

Our five teams are now busy scheduling and completing the visits. Fifty-one experienced Master Gardeners are participating, as well as 21 interns. We appreciate all of the efforts and expert experience that these teams will provide to the JCC/Williamsburg residents.

The Colonial Master Gardener May 2013



2013
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

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY JUDY CASONE

As we are easing into May, I want to share with those of you who missed the presentation by Don Haynie, his recipe for May wine.

- ◆ Purchase an inexpensive (read cheap) bottle of Chardonnay.
- ◆ Remove cork or unscrew cap and place a few sprigs of sweet woodruff in the bottle.
- ◆ Replace cork or top and chill for 24 hours.
- ◆ When ready to serve remove sweet woodruff from bottle and strain wine into a serving vessel.
- ◆ Relax, enjoy and thank goodness for your garden.

Please take note of the article (page 4) from Kate Wilhide concerning a tour of Mary Turnbull's Hillside Garden. Mary will be our guest speaker in October and is letting us see her garden while it is bloom.

Norie Burnet, owner of Eden Woods in Bon Air, VA is our speaker for May. She is known as the Moss Lady and has perfected the gardening of moss and other shade vegetation. Her garden is

included in the Archives of American Gardens as well as the Smithsonian Institute and others. She will be bringing a variety of mosses.

Born and raised in the South, with a Grandmother who always had a garden and the best homemade peach ice cream, how could I not have become a Master Gardener? A long way to go to learn what to her was just 'the way things are done,' I find there are many kinds of gardens, Southern or no. Formal gardens, cottage gardens, lawns, hedges and trees: all of these fascinate me. Those of you who know me know I could never have a Formal garden. If you have not yet chosen your style or the one you have just doesn't feel right, go to Monrovia.com and take the test for what may suit you best.

I urge you to make your May wine; relax in your garden and wonder who on earth would not like to dig in the dirt. It's the way things are done.

CALLING ALL MASTER GARDENERS !

BY PAT CROWE

The Therapeutic Gardening Team will hold its annual team meeting on Monday, May 20 at 1:30 pm at Chambrel. All are welcome ! If you want to know more about our program, meet the interns who have joined our team or hear our speaker, Faith Shartzter, *Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health*, speak to us on the differences between normal aging and early cognitive impairment and dementia, please join us.

Contact Linda Lucas or Pat Crowe by May 15 if you plan to attend. They can answer any questions you have and provide directions to Chambrel.



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.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – MAY 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

YELLOW STARGRASS

Hypoxis hirsuta

Yellow Stargrass is easily overlooked, with grass-like leaves and small flowers. Star-shaped flowers have 3 petals, and 3 sepals, all yellow and united only at the base. There are also 6 prominent stamens with large anthers surrounding a yellow pistil. The flowers occur at the tip of a hairy stem, often in clusters of 3, opening in the morning, but wilting in the hot sun. Never more than 12 inches tall, the flower stalks are shorter than the long, narrow, somewhat hairy leaves.

Widespread across Virginia, Yellow Stargrass grows in meadows and open woods with moist to slightly dry conditions. The plant can spread to form loose colonies, but is not particularly aggressive. The range is from Maine to Manitoba, and south to Georgia and Texas. It blooms March-June.

The genus name is from *hypoxys*, probably meaning “somewhat acid;” *hirsuta* is Latin for “hairy.” This small plant can be easily confused with a grass unless the flower is seen.



Photo: Yellow Stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*)
taken by Helen Hamilton

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

E2 FIELD TRIPS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER



BY KARI ABBOTT

We had the walk-through at York River State Park on April 17th. There are some new additions pending for the YRSP guide, but it will be ready before the May 1st field trip! The field trips look to be an exciting adventure as always.

Attention *tree stewards* and *water stewards*!! The field trip to York River State Park has been approved by your leaders to count as service hours towards your yearly goal!! If you would like to help on this grand adventure, we would love your expertise to come along.

For anyone wishing to join us, E2 meets at York River State Park before the children arrive and then the walk lasts about one hour. Parking is free at the park when you are volunteering with us.

All times are 9:00am to 12:00noon.

Elementary Schools will come on:

Wednesday, May 1st: Matthew Whaley Elementary
** We already have *Plenty* of Volunteers for this date but, you are welcome to on any of the dates below! **

Thursday, May 9th: Clara Byrd Baker Elementary
Friday, May 10th: J.B. Blayton Elementary
Tuesday, May 14th and Wednesday, May 15th:
Matoaka Elementary
Friday, May 17th: DJ Montague Elementary

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

The Colonial Master Gardener May 2013

TREE STEWARD TRAINING COMPLETE

BY SUE LIDDELL

Congratulations to Dave Sisson, Pam Sisson, John Giffin, Janet Giffin, Bev Baker and Larry Gaskins for completing the twelve week classroom portion of Tree Steward training. (Picture at Right >>>>)

Doris Heath (far right), VA Cooperative Extension Unit Coordinator, distributed their certificates at the quarterly meeting of Peninsula Tree Stewards held at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. Twenty nine Interns have until the end of the year to complete the volunteer requirement.

JCC/W has three programs. One group has chosen to complete a Tree Inventory at the 4-H Community Center. The data collected will be used in educational programs at the Center. Two other areas chosen are Urban Forest Management and Suburban Forest Management. The aim of these projects is education of those making decisions on tree planting and care for large communities and small neighborhoods.

Peninsula Tree Stewards cover five jurisdictions. Members from Gloucester are working on an Abingdon Church Inventory and a Smart Landscaping Practices Presentation. Hampton is planning a Fort Monroe Tree Tour Inside the Moat. Newport News is targeting children with Storytime and Activity/Benefits of Trees, and Poquoson Museum Campus Treescaping is the program for York/Poquoson.

Learning tree ID is an ongoing process with tree stewards. Dr. Stewart Ware (at right in center with baseball cap) gave us two bonus classes as he led tree tours of the William and Mary campus.



FREE GARDENING PROGRAM

BY SALLY SISSEL

The public is invited to a program presented by Gordon Chappell, well-known Landscape Architect, to be held as part of the Herb Society of America's Colonial Triangle of VA Unit's regular meeting, on Tuesday, May 14 p.m. at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Norge.

Following light refreshments, the program will begin at 1:30. The public is encouraged to attend to listen and learn about "Garden Design for Small Spaces".

OPEN GARDEN TOUR

BY KATE WILHIDE

Come preview our October 2013 MG meeting speaker Mary Turnbull's garden during her plant walk on Saturday, May 25 at 9 a.m. Walk along the paths to see over 80 native plants, of which 40 were present in the wooded area when the Turnbull's built their home.

Refreshments will be served afterward, so please register by calling Mary at (757) 810-8382.

She is located at 109 Woodmere Dr. (near the intersection of Rt. 199 and Jamestown Rd.)

The Colonial Master Gardener May 2013

LIBRARY UPDATE/ BOOK REVIEW

BY CHERE' HARPER



The New Low-Maintenance Garden: How to Have a Beautiful, Productive Garden and the Time to Enjoy It
Valerie Easton

This is a beautiful and helpful addition to the library. The book covers easy to maintain design, time-saving practices and nature friendly gardening techniques. A large part is devoted to edible gardening throughout the yard and container vegetable growing is covered. I especially like their approach to simple gardening and the lists of plants that focus on easy garden maintenance and their lists of on-line resources. It was nice to see Brent and Becky's included in the list. This book can be found in the library under SB473 E 235. It was published in 2009.

Armitage's Vines and Climbers: A gardener's Guide to the Best Vertical Plants
Allan M. Armitage

This is another beautifully illustrated guide. It is organized alphabetically so it may not be a useful guide to planning a garden but it does give complete descriptions of each of the 115 plants and there are lists of specific vines for zones and uses. Armitage is a professor of horticulture in Athens, Georgia so his orientation is towards vines that grow year-round, but he does cover annuals and the less hardy plants that may grow in this area. This is a useful reference book and can be found in the library under SB427 A75. It was published in 2010.

FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE SUMMER 2013

BY SALLY SISSEL

May 4
National Herb Day
With Herbal activities for Children

May 18
Vegetables
Barrels and Bins

June 1
Gardening with Children

June 15
Flowers

June 29
Water Stewards

July 13
Incredible Edibles

July 27
Drought Tolerant Plants

DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC HOURS

BY DONNA XANDER AND JANET GIFFIN

The Master Gardener Diagnostic Clinic will be open the whole month of May in the kitchen at the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service in Toano. It will be open every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon (except Memorial Day when the offices will be closed). We will however open up again the last Wednesday of the month. The fall session will most likely be in September.



Carole's Garden: Photo of the first harvest on April 22 from Carole's Garden, submitted by Susan Voight



Important Dates

- 5/2 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 5/4 First Farmers' Market
- 5/13 Lewis Ginter field trip
- 5/28 Newsletter Submissions Due

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

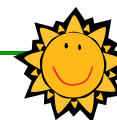
The deadline for submission of material for the **June Newsletter** is **Tuesday, May 28.**

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.

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.