

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WBG MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION & VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



November 2006

President's Corner Charlie Clapper

"There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew."

-- Marshall McLuhan

Master Gardeners make a great crew. Our environmental knowledge greatly helps us educate the community about sound horticultural practices. A strong MG Association makes us even more effective. We have contributed a huge number of volunteer hours -- we should be very proud and pleased. Working with Leanne Dubois, the Board is discussing how our growing organization and its diversity of skills and interests should change as our community grows and changes. We get increasing numbers of assistance requests from the community (the County, the City, Schools, Assisted Living Facilities, Conservation and nonprofit Organizations.) Many requests result directly from the growth within our wonderful historic community. Next year, 2007 will be an especially busy year with the Jamestown 400th anniversary events. Even now not all projects have an adequate number of volunteers to do the work (Incredible Edibles and Junior Master Gardeners.) Some project chairs

have expressed a desire to "retire." We need someone new to head the Plant Sale. We will need new officers next July.

This fall people interested in becoming new Master Gardeners will be interviewed. We must be sure that we have the best candidates -- they must be ready to commit their time and talents and willing to lead projects and programs. This approach will strengthen our organization. (It is not a reflection on the skills and commitment of recent classes!) The Board will be asking existing MG's to tell us whether you are planning on continuing as active MG's in 2007. Doing this when each member receives their 2006 hours report will help project chairs in planning 2007 projects. We may also do a skills and interest survey as part of this process.

Requests for MG assistance come in three general areas: community outreach, education and the environment. Do we want to consider "nesting" projects within these broad categories and managing them together -- that would provide better coordination and "crossover" of volun-

teers within these three categories? For example, if Turf Love and Landscape Love were part of the environment category would it be more effective to have these projects managed by the same category leader? "Nesting" the projects would expand the approach already in place at the Reid Garden.

The Board is preparing next year's budget. In December we will ask you the members to approve a proposal to provide two college scholarships for youth interested in environmental horticulture. The membership has already approved grants to the community for beautification purposes. Are these items you want to see in the regular annual budget for next year?

I believe very strongly that the Board should know your feelings on issues related to the future of the MG Association. As a member of the crew I am asking how the crew feels about these ideas. E-mails, telephone calls and invites for coffee are welcomed. Let me hear from you! Thank you.

Next Monthly Meeting

November 2, Williamsburg Regional Library, **Helen Hamilton, JCC/W MG** and president of the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, will speak about **Native Grasses.**



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FROM THE EXTENSION OFFICE LEANNE DUBOIS, EXTENSION AGENT, HORTICULTURE

Colonial Williamsburg/ MG Garden Update

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has appreciated the support and mutually beneficial partnership with the JCC/W Master Gardener Association. To further support the unique partnership, valuable garden expertise and shared mission to education, the Master Gardeners and Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Staff are working on guidelines to solidify the relationship and promote a stream of dedicated MG/CW volunteers. Colonial Williamsburg has re-

quested the assistance of a dedicated group of approximately 40 MG volunteers to agree to working thirty hours for CW defined as follows; twenty hours to the Reid and/or Shields, four hours for recertification (Enrichment) training and another 6 as an elective, (administrative, enrichment, etc.). It will have no effect on the intern program. Interns will continue to maintain their *hands on* training in both gardens.

Details are still being worked out but if you have any questions, please contact Laura Viancour or Marilyn Riddle.

Fungi Stranger than Fiction

Over the last month we've had a number of people bring in or send photos of strange mushrooms protruding from their landscapes. I can understand why they don't attempt to describe them and prefer to bring them in anonymously and leave them on my desk. They resemble, quite graphically, a familiar part of the male anatomy. These are a fungus known as the Stinkhorn Mushroom. These fungi do not cause disease to plants or animals, but instead live a harmless existence on dead organic matter and are

commonly found on decaying mulch.

A stinkhorn begins life as an egg-like structure. As the fungus develops, it expands into a 4- to 8-inch tall mushroom-like body with a stalk and a slimy cap. The common name stinkhorn describes the putrid smell of the fungus which smells like rotting meat. This attracts flies, which think they're getting a great meal of roadkill or some other dead animal. The insects then disperse the spores of the fungus and the chain of stinkhorn mushrooms continue. They are actually edible, sounds like a challenge for Fear Factor.

Internal Education News Jean Winters

"You must be part of the change you want to see in the world" ...words of Mahatma Gandhi, a wise and compassionate man who practiced what he preached.

We have seen significant changes here in Williamsburg and the James City area, some disturbing and some more promising. We are planning to address some of these changes with our programming for 2007. Those who responded to our survey asked for information about our environment, our water resources, our ever diminish-

ing trees, our soft scapes and more. We are calling upon our own MGs and professionals of authority in the community to help understand what is happening close to home. Hopefully, this awareness will spark interest in further involvement of "annuals" and "perennials" in helping with those ever-changing concerns. If we are to "make a difference" we must become involved, even if for a short time or in a different venue than we have been used to. I ask that you remember the "essence" of being

Master Gardeners...to share our expertise with both the youth and other members of our neighborhoods and this home we call Williamsburg! Please join with me to address the challenges before us. The Educational Opportunities meeting at our home on November 1st will be the third of a series of in-depth meetings to map out our educational plans for the future. Should you have any ideas you feel we need to consider please let me know. Thank you!



Master Gardeners Art Gustafson and Cathy Ripley working on rapid compost at the Reid Garden.

GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER HELEN HAMILTON

Kitchen Compost. Fill bread bags with kitchen scraps (not meat, fat or dairy), close with a twist tie and place in a dark heavy-lidded container. In the spring, dig one-foot-deep holes in the ground and empty a bag of the decomposed compost into each one. Stand a stake in each hole to mark the location and later in the spring, plant tomatoes in each hole. The tomato plants sink their roots into the compost, and the stake supports the plant.

Aphids. Flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) has sticky leaves which will collect aphids if placed next to an infected plant.

Pets in pots. Cats and dogs don't like the smell of citrus, so scatter your orange and lemon peels in the pot (renew them every few days).

Bulb markers. Add a handful of crushed oyster shells where you plant bulbs in the fall. When the foliage dies back later in the season, the shells are still there so you won't replant the area. But don't overdo the shells, the raise the soil pH.

Olive oil is a good lubricant for your pruning shears. A light coating of this natural product will keep dirt and other materials from harming the pruners without drying or becoming sticky.

House plants. Don't use a tray filled with pebbles and water to add humidity. It can waterlog your plants and create a home for pests and disease.

Summer bulbs. Store gladiolus and freesias in egg cartons and write the variety on the top of the carton with a permanent marker.

Deer repellent: Make your own: 4 table-spoons ground cayenne pepper, 1 cup white vinegar, 1/2 cup peeled garlic, 1 cup clear ammonia, 1 cup Murphy's oil soap, 1 bar Ivory hand soap (optional). Boil the cayenne in the vinegar for one minute, then strain it through a coffee filter. In a blender, puree the garlic in two cups of water, then strain that mixture through another filter. Combine the two filtered liquids with the ammonia and oil soap in a 3-

gallon garden sprayer. Fill the sprayer to the maximum level with water, and spray this concoction around all the areas you want to protect. For extra stickiness, float a bar of Ivory soap in the sprayer and let it slowly dissolve over several fillings. Re-apply weekly, as well as immediately after every rainstorm.

Rosemary. Try starting cuttings in green glass bottles filled with water. Within a few weeks, roots will show and the cuttings can be transferred to a pot of soil.

Rose Wrap. To protect a prized rosebush from the ravages and winter and frost heaving, surround it with a cylinder (taller than the canes) made of box wire or chicken wire. After the ground freezes, top the canes with a mound of loose soil and fill the entire cylinder with straw or leaves. Cover the cylinder with a large plastic bag tied tightly to the frame. Remove the bag when spring growth resumes, clear the soil from the canes, and spread the leaves around the rose for mulch. Give the rose a thorough soaking with organic fertilizer.

Herb Society of America, Colonial Triangle Unit Sally Sissel, Co-chair

The Colonial Triangle Unit of the Herb Society of America will hold its November meeting on November 14 at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall of the Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Norge. **This meeting will be open to the public and will feature Laura Viancour speaking on "Herbs of American Indians".**

It's unfortunate that there was some confusion at the last MG meeting about the Herb Society meetings. We have 6 meetings with programs during the year: 3 are publicized as open to the public and 3 are limited to members and personal guests. The simple reason for this policy is that the Herb Society board felt that programs of the lecture type lend themselves more easily to being open to the public than some of our programs which involve crafts, demonstrations, etc. Rest assured no person will be turned away if he/she shows up at any meeting.

In the last MG newsletter, members were asked to send information on meetings open to the public--which is why an article is submitted to this newsletter. For your future reference, other meetings open to the public are:

- February 13, Ron Furqueron of Lee Hall speaking on "Herbs: History's Magical Plants"
- March 13, Mr. Joseph Freitus speaking on "Herbal Jams and Jellies" and selling his books of the same name, at the Scotland Street Library.

I will submit information on these other 2 meetings to the proper monthly newsletter.

EDITORS NOTE: The deadline for submission of material for the December Newsletter is November 15. Please send to Lise Kline at legskline@cox.net or call 757-259-9477. Thank you.

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PROGRAM UPDATES (AND OTHER MG INFO)

Melissa's Meadow workers will meet on Nov 16 and "put the meadow to bed" for the season. We will be collecting seed heads and clearing the path. Come and stay as long as you like; maybe exchange some turkey recipes while weeding.

Junior Master Gardeners

Greetings to all, JMG is once again sparking ideas in children and creating excitement about learning about soils, seeds, and insects! Eating like insects once again has proven to be a daunting task. Life as an insect is a dangerous one; you could really be a target while you were trying to get a meal. The children focused on the adaptations of insect mouth parts. The best part was learning how flies eat! In November the children will learn about how plants and trees are used for animals preparing for winter in first grade.

JMG has been invited to third grade. The children loved the soil class! They put four different types of soil, clay, forest soil, wetlands soil, and sand in a jar with 2 cups of water. Then they shook it up. The questions that created were just grand! Why did the clay's water which was a murky gray turn totally clear? Why are there more layers in wetlands soil than forest soil? They really liked feeling the soil, rubbing it between their fingers. The water cycle was tied into soil, as a beginning of a year of cycles in nature that all tie together.

In January 2007 look for JMG to do the advance training at our Master Gardener Meeting. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend, and learn about environmental education and the impact that learning and being outside has on children's education.

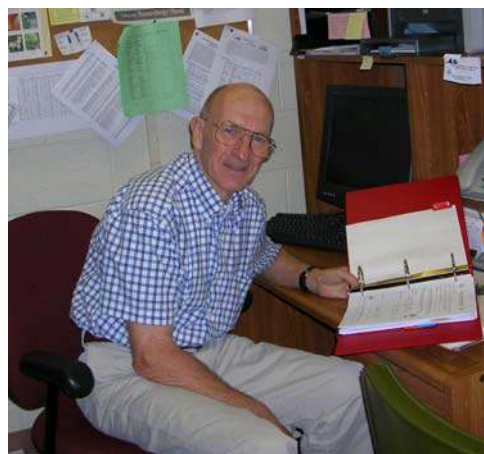
As always everyone is welcomed to join in the fun of Junior Master Gardeners! Please email Kari Abbott at bearsbaskets@cox.net

Spring Sale Planning

THINK SPRING!! Now that it is fall, don't forget to divide plants and repot unwanted bulbs for the **Plant Sale**. Potting them now and putting them in one spot so they can easily be watered once in a while will give them a good root system for spring planting. If you have small trees, dig around them now and leave them in place to develop new roots, then you can just lift them in the spring and pot them for the sale.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Nov 14, Colonial Triangle Unit of the Herb Society of America will hold a meeting at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall of the Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Norge. This meeting will be open to the public and will feature Laura Viancour speaking on "Herbs of American Indians".
- December 7, Monthly MG meeting, Lisa Heuvel, speaking about "Discovering the Powhatan Indian Landscape". Lisa is on the Education Outreach staff of the CW Foundation, a Master Gardener, and a historical interpreter at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.



Jim Massengill mans the Helpline at the Extension Office.

We're on the web
at
www.jccwmg.org

James City County/ Williamburg Master Gardeners



Stedman® by Hanes® - 7-Ounce Pique Knit Sport Shirt. 055X

Fabric/Style: 7-ounce, 100% cotton pique, welt collar and cuffs, double-needle bottom hem. Two-button placket with wood tone buttons.

Adult sizes: S-2XL

Available color: DeepForest, Natural

Price embroidered \$20.00



Port & Company® - Long Sleeve Value Denim Shirt. SP10

Fabric/Style: 6.5-ounce, 100% cotton denim, garment washed; generous cut, double-needle stitched, tuck-in tail, button-down collar, horn tone buttons; patch pocket, with button-through sleeve plackets and adjustable cuffs.

Adult sizes: XS-2XL

Available color: FadedBlue

Price embroidered \$23.00



Sport-Tek® - Nylon V-Neck Wind Shirt. JP72

Fabric/Style: 100% nylon shell, lightweight flannel body lining, nylon lining in sleeves for easy on/off; 1 x 1 poly/Lycra-ribbed cuffs/collar/waistband, locker loop, side-seam pockets.

Adult sizes: XS-2XL

Available color: Hunter

Price embroidered \$26.00



Port Authority® - Medium Length Apron with Pouch Pockets. A510

Fabric/Style: 100% cotton with Teflon finish for added protection; 3 pouch pockets, 1 pen pocket, 1" wide neck and waist ties, adjustable neck strap. This apron is a great way to stay clean while gardening and other pursuits. Measures 22"w x 24"l.

Available color: Hunter

Price embroidered \$15.00



Port Authority® - Fine Twill Cap. C800

Fabric/Style: Fine twill provides a wonderful feel and added polyester makes this cap a great performer. 65/35 poly/cotton, 6-panel construction, structured, high profile; self-fabric closure with grommet, stitched eyelets and a fashion-curved bill. Buckram lining in the front helps cap retain its shape. The high profile construction provides a large embroidery surface.

Available color: Hunter, Khaki

Price embroidered \$12.00 ea.



Sport-Tek® - Sideline Jacket. JP71

Fabric/Style: 100% nylon shell with lightweight flannel lining in the body, nylon-lined sleeves for easy on/off; locker loop, slash pockets, raglan sleeves with elastic cuffs, drawstring bottom hem, inside pocket with Velcro closures.

Adult sizes: XS-2XL

Available colors: Hunter

Price embroidered \$28.00

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