

# The Colonial Master Gardener

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

November 2008



## Farmers Market Sally Sissel and Art Gustafson, Co-chairs

Thanks to all who helped make our latest Farmers' Market season another big success. All our projects were involved at one market or another and we introduced some new topics as well. We opened by featuring the new Mobile MG project which gave a lot of information about our organization as a whole. The public was very receptive to a market featuring our water stewards shortly following the community-wide Water Workshop. Our vegetable-themed markets were expanded this year to include a separate market for Incredible Edibles featuring container vegetable gardening. That group also supplied a small display for all the markets for the second half of the Summer. All the "old favorites" continued to be showcased as well. It's always a pleasure to meet



the interns as well as to work with old friends. A special thanks goes to the "set-up" team who had to get up at the crack of dawn to pick up the tents, set them up, etc. market after market. There's no doubt the Master Gardeners are doing a great service by being at the Farmers' Market, fulfilling our mission to educate the public. A big thank you to all ---and we look forward with working with you all again next year.

## Next Monthly Meeting

November 6, 9:00 am,  
Williamsburg Regional  
Library,  
Hunter Curry,  
Colonial Williamsburg  
nursery,  
*Holiday Decorating*

## MG Library Jeanne Millin

### Pruning

There are two pruning books in the MG Library and one should be on your own home horticultural shelves. The most recent acquisition is the 2005, "*The Pruner's Bible: A Step-By-Step Guide to Pruning Every Plant in Your Garden*", by Steve Bradley. It is a paper bound book with a good introduction to basic techniques and equipment and then an alphabetical listing of more than 70 of the most common home shrubs and small trees, with a detailed outline of how to do formative, routine and remedial pruning for each variety.

*"The American Horticultural Society, 'Pruning and Training: A Fully Illustrated Plant-by-Plant Manual"*, by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce was printed in 1995 and is a more extensive hardbound book. Many more varieties of ornamental trees, shrubs and climbing plants are covered, with attention paid to the varieties of species, hybrids and cultivars with atypical pruning or training needs. Stop by the MG office and take a look at these books before you go out on your 'Landscape Love' visits and decide if one of them should be in your personal library.

## Inside this issue:

Internal Ed News	2
MGs on the Air	3
Upcoming MG Events	3
Propagation Workshop	4

2008-2009  
MG Board

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258-8632

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The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:00am, 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 NEWS

### CAROL FRYER

Now that Fall is here, we are separating plants, cleaning up gardens and preparing them for the winter, and thinking about having well deserved time off from the gardens. Soon the holidays will be here which means a whole other type of involvement with plant materials.

To prepare and inspire us, we have invited Hunter Curry, foreman at the Colonial Williamsburg nursery, to our November monthly meeting to show us how to prepare for holiday decorating. Hunter has designed and executed decorations for special events at CW such as, decorations for the Palace garden when Queen Elizabeth visited the area in 2007 and she has created the Christmas decoration at the Wythe house for several years. She will show us examples of the various decorations she has made over the years at the same sites to provide a sense of design options, and she will take us through a demonstration of designing and completing a decoration during our November monthly meeting. In her spare time, Hunter creates floral arrangements for weddings and special events. We look forward to having her with us.

I recently came across information about two books for people with an interest in trees. The American Forests website - [www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/](http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/) displays the *National Register of Big Trees*, a 48 page colored register that can be downloaded in a pdf format for free or purchased for \$10. You can also download the *Big Tree Kids Activity Page* from the website for children who are in the 10 yrs. and older age range. Contact the headquarters at American Forests, PO Box 20001 Washington, DC 20013 if you do not use a computer.

The other book I discovered, is *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*. The Remarkable Trees of Virginia Project was launched in 2004, and has resulted in a book that celebrates some of Virginia's finest trees and a website through which people can nominate their favorite trees - [www.fw.vt.edu/4h/bigtree/](http://www.fw.vt.edu/4h/bigtree/). The authors of the book are Nancy Ross Hugo and Dr. Jeffrey Kirwan, project coordinators and photographer Robert Llewellyn. Photographs from the book will be at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens from October 18 - November 16. On October 30 at Lewis Ginter, the authors will speak about the project that led to the creation of the book. Fee for the lecture and reception. Contact: [www.lewisginter.org](http://www.lewisginter.org).

The Remarkable Trees of Virginia Project's website provides information about a 4-H Big Tree Program for children in Virginia from age 9 to 19 years, as well as useful information on identifying and measuring and reporting big trees, and a page on estimated tree life spans. The Virginia Big Tree Database is maintained jointly by the [Virginia Forestry Association](#), the [Virginia Department of Forestry](#), and the [Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources](#).

On December 4, 2008, our speaker at our monthly meeting will be Bob Goodhart, retired horticulture/landscape professor at CNU. He will teach us about the care and varieties of Camellias.

Please note that the January monthly MG meeting will be held on January 8 instead of the first Thursday which is January 1!

We hope to have an educational events calendar up and running on the website within a month or two. Please watch for it!

We're on the web at [www.jccwmg.org](http://www.jccwmg.org)

### Melissa's Meadow Grace Raymond

We will be in the meadow on November 20 for the last time this year and will be collecting seed heads to be packaged in the spring. Come join us around 8:30 or 9 am.

# The Colonial Master Gardener November 2008

The James River Association's Wild and Scenic Film Festival will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kimball Theatre in Williamsburg. If you would like to purchase tickets or need any additional information, contact:

Sherrie B. Tribble  
Special Events and Projects Manager  
James River Association  
9 South 12th Street, 4th Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

804-788-8811 ext. 202 (phone)  
804-788-1119 (fax)

[www.jamesriverassociation.org](http://www.jamesriverassociation.org)

Film trailers may be viewed at our website [www.jamesriverassociation.org](http://www.jamesriverassociation.org) under the Calendar of Events Section.



JOIN US FOR A  
WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT  
THE JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 7:00 P.M.  
(DOORS OPEN AT 6:30)  
KIMBALL THEATRE, WILLIAMSBURG, VA

**MG thoughts and prayers are with:**

**Pat Crowe, on the recent loss of her mother**

**Lillian Woolfolk who recently broke her arm**

## 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.*

## E<sup>2</sup> NEWS FOR NOVEMBER!

### KARI ABBOTT

October was a busy month in school. Children at DJ Montague learned all about insects and had some real insects to observe, that helped make the lesson very memorable. E<sup>2</sup> was asked to do a kindergarten program on sharing water. Though it was kindergarten, the children had some very grown up ideas for making sure everyone had enough water to share. Who said everything we needed to know we learned in kindergarten? Over at Matoaka, the volunteers had a very successful first foray into the classroom. The children en-

joyed all the seeds that the Master Gardeners brought as well as the books.

The E<sup>2</sup> Project held a Project Learning Tree workshop for 18 teachers from the Williamsburg/James City County Schools on October 28. It was well received and great way to get more teachers involved in providing environmental education.

November brings in the changes in leaves, and the children will be creating their leaf art again this year. It will be beautiful.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with the E<sup>2</sup> Project, please email [bearsbaskets@cox.net](mailto:bearsbaskets@cox.net)

## FY(MG)

MGs are now on the air! You can see "The Green Garden" on JCCTV, channel 48, at 10am and 6pm. It's about 20 minutes long, a backyard landscape "re-do".

Libby Hedstrom and Leslie Meyer worked on the show last year, and would like to thank Jarl Christensen and Judy Hansen for helping plant the plants, and being the guest speakers.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Nov 13 MG Plant Sale 2009 Propagation Workshop (see page 4 of this newsletter)
- Nov 13 The Williamsburg Botanical Garden presents a Learn and Grow Evening Lecture, "Creating a Classic Colonial Decoration" with Libbey Oliver, Manager, Williamsburg Farmer's Market. From 7:30-8:30 PM at the Williamsburg Regional Library. Free Admission.
- Dec 4 MG monthly meeting, Williamsburg Regional Library, Bob Goodhart, retired horticulture/landscape professor at CNU, *Camellias*.
- Jan 8 MG monthly meeting, please note change from first Thursday to second Thursday for this meeting only.

EDITORS NOTE: The deadline for submission of material for the December MG Newsletter is **November 24**. Please send to Lise Kline, newsletter editor, at [legskline@cox.net](mailto:legskline@cox.net) or call 757-259-9477. Comments and questions about the newsletter are also welcome. Thank you.

## A Workshop to Benefit the MG Annual Plant Sale 2009

Acorns litter the ground, sweaters come out of the closet and pumpkins show up as yard decorations. Aah, Fall! When a Master Gardener's fancy turns to...

# Plant Propagation

## Colonial Williamsburg Greenhouse

### November 13

### 9 AM to 12 PM

This "hands on" class will cover all forms of plant propagation, from seed starting to divisions and rooting by cuttings. We will discuss equipment and material needs, planting and transplanting techniques.

Come prepared to get dirty and put your knowledge to work. Gloves, trowels and snips will be useful. You may wish to bring a folding chair.

No handouts will be passed out at the workshop, but you may download information from the following sites:

Seed Starting:

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-001/426-001.pdf>

Cuttings, Layering, Division:

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-002/426-002.pdf>

**This workshop is open to all members and interns. Those wishing to attend should email Plant Sale Co-Chair Debbie Secrist at [CLSDHS2@hughes.net](mailto:CLSDHS2@hughes.net) and be sure to put "Plant Sale Workshop RSVP" in the subject line.**

**Directions to the workshop:** *Traveling east on Route 60 from either Bypass Road or Lafayette, turn right on Quarterpath (just past the Quarterpath Inn). After parking at the Quarterpath Recreation Center, CW Greenhouses are a short walk on your left.*

**Parking:** *Parking will not be available at the greenhouse site. Please attempt to carpool with a friend and park at the Quarterpath Recreation Center. After turning in at the front entrance, turn left and continue on through the grounds (parallel to Quarterpath) until you get to the far fence. This will place you at the third ball field, where the Center has requested that we park.*

