



# The Colonial Master Gardener

November  
2015

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUE LIDDELL

Walking through Shields garden I saw this buckeye butterfly and thought what an ideal example of the transition from Halloween to Thanksgiving. He is decked out in his Halloween costume, prepared to frighten any bird away with the big eyes on his wings, and showing off in beautiful fall colors. Being a butterfly he probably takes this for granted.

We humans know to be thankful. I am thankful for the board, which will have served the MG Association eighteen months by the end of December. Thanks to administration vice president Diane Hare for overseeing the newsletter, the Nomination Committee, the roster, publicity, and all the paperwork VCE has required. Thanks to internal vice president Kathy Bush for the fine speakers we enjoy each month for recertification, for field trips, and for overseeing Master Gardener trainees. Thanks to projects vice president Wilma Sharp for managing our many projects. Thanks to treasurer Bob Winther for preparing our budget and keeping the financial records.

Thanks to secretary Patsy McGrady for keeping records of board meetings and general meetings and for handling correspondence. Thanks to past president Margene Hartsough for providing continuity between the past board and the present one.



Thanks to president-elect Debby Griesinger for filling in at meetings when I have been away, for planning our picnic, and for filling a large notebook as she prepares to lead the group next year.

Thanks to state representatives Marilyn Riddle and Jeanne Millin for attending state meetings and keeping us abreast of statewide MG activities. Thanks to Kate Robbins as she has worked to bridge the gap between her position as program assistant ANR and the "gray area" of our association (Dave Close's words). Thanks to the new board members elected this month to lead us for the coming year.

Finally a thank you to each of you as you serve on committees and work on projects "to increase the knowledge and understanding of environmentally sound horticultural practices within the community." (From our by-laws)

Happy Thanksgiving from this pumpkin disguised as a turkey and from me.

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, November 5**

**Program:**  
Donald Coyle of Back Forty Bees  
"Beekeeping"

The presentation of "Gardens of France and England" will be repeated at the end of this meeting for members who weren't able to attend in October.



## A REMINDER FROM BOB WINTHER, MGA TREASURER 2011-2015

2015  
MG Board

*President:*  
Sue Liddell

*President Elect:*  
Debbie Griesinger

*VP  
Administration:*  
Diane Hare

*VP Projects:*  
Wilma Sharp

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Kathy Bush

*Secretary:*  
Patsy McGrady

*Treasurer:*  
Bob Winther

*VMGA Reps:*  
Marilyn Riddle and  
Jeanne Millin

*Past President:*  
Margene  
Hartsough

*Co-op Ext Rep:*  
Doris Heath  
564-2170

*Program Asst.,  
ANR:*  
Kate Robbins

*Once again ....*

Fiscal Year 2015 is quickly coming to an end. I would ask that you please submit any and all requests for MGA project reimbursement for the current year by December 15. The reimbursement form is out on our website. Please affix this form to all receipts.

Since I will be closing the accounts for 2015 on December 31, and turning over all financial related materials to the new incoming treasurer, Amy Higgins, it is important that all reimbursements occur well before that date (December 15, 2015). Any requests after that date will be applied against the 2016 budget.

*And dues collection ....*

MGA dues are still \$15.

I will be at association general meetings in November and December to collect any and all checks. Checks made out to "JCC/W Master Gardeners" with the note "Association Dues" in the memo line may be handed to me at these MGA monthly meetings or sent directly to my home address:

Bob Winther - MGA Treasurer  
4751 Regents Park  
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1798

If by chance a check is inconvenient, our MGA website has a PayPal option which is available to those wishing to pay in that manner.

*As always ...*

Your prompt consideration of this matter is well appreciated by your treasurer and MGA board.

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## ADMINISTRATION BY DIANE HARE

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:30 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.

Our unit's election of officers will be held at our November general meeting. The Nominating Committee has recommended, and the board has approved the following slate of officers:

President Elect: Gary Streb  
Vice President of Projects: Wilma Sharpe  
Secretary: Cathy Johnson  
Treasurer: Amy Higgins

For biographical information on these candidates, please see the September *Colonial Master Gardener*, page 2.



## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES AND PLANT SALES

BY KATHY BUSH

**November 10.** (Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Norge)  
**Open meeting of the Colonial Triangle Unit of the Herb Society of America.** 1:30pm. The speaker will be Briscoe White, an herb farmer in Charles City County who grows a catalog full of herbs locally for sale by mail order and online. His topic- "Planting a Great Herb Garden." Plants will be available for purchase.

**November 21** (Freedom Park Interpretive Center) **Growing Herbaceous Peonies.** 10:00am.- Mike Lockett will offer tips and sound cultural practices for successfully growing herbaceous peonies in the suburban garden. Suggested donation \$5.

**December 12-** (Williamsburg Regional Library) **Virginia Master Gardener Association meeting.** Open to all.

**January 18, 2016** (Virginia Beach, the Founder's Inn and Spa). **2016 Home Gardener Day.** 8:00am—4:00pm. Registration at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebissv0haf08977a&llr=v5ryi8bab>

Includes hot lunch, free parking, and a gardener's dream day of fellowship and knowledge! Has our world changed? Is your garden prepared? Speakers invited to this event include Thomas Rainer, Doug Tallamy, Vincent Simeone, Karen Bussolini, John Kartesz, and Pam Beck.

**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.



## GROWING A GREENER WORLD BY AILENE BARTLETT

On Saturdays at noon on PBS there's a wonderful program called "Growing a Greener World," and I was delighted on October 10 to tune in to a whole half hour devoted to Thomas Jefferson and the gardens at Monticello. Not only was the photography spectacular, but the information was, too! Peter Hatch, the retired Director and Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, told a great deal about Jefferson, his travels (which included collecting seeds from interesting plants), his plant trials, and his COPIOUS notes on the various plants—all the stuff we MGs need to note on our plantings, too. And yes, he did go out and get his hands dirty.

Also included in the program was a segment with CW's Bill Barker, aka "Thomas Jefferson," with some fine comments about Jefferson and his love for gardening.

Monticello has a festival devoted to the gardens, with talks, tastings of exotic plants, tours, etc. It seems to me that that festival would be a great venue for a MG day trip next year!

One can access "Growing a Greener World" on the internet by entering [growingagreenerworld.com](http://growingagreenerworld.com). Hopefully, this program will show up soon so that all of us can see it. And there are reruns of other programs, plus other information that might be interesting to you.



## INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY KATHY BUSH



At the recent Virginia Master Gardener Association Symposium in Petersburg I heard an amazing and almost scary statistic. One in every three-four bites of food we eat or drink is a result of pollination, either abiotic or biotic. We need pollinators to have food. Honey bees are responsible for pollination of approximately one third of the United States' crop species, including such species as almonds, peaches, apples, pears, cherries, raspberries, blackberries, cranberries, watermelons, cantaloupes, cucumbers, and strawberries. But Colony Hive Collapse Disorder has had a significant effect on the number of honey bees available to pollinate food crops. Wind and water contribute to pollination. But when we think of

pollinators, we think of birds, bats, flies, butterflies, beetles, moths, ants, wasps, and most often bees to pollinate our fruits and vegetables and the grasses and grains animals eat. This month Donald Cole, a local beekeeper, will come to show and tell us all about keeping and maintaining these invaluable insects. Honey, beeswax candles, and soap are wonderful byproducts of these busy bees. There are 300 different varieties of honey in the U.S., depending on the flowers, trees, and crops the bees have been foraging for pollen and nectar. In the process of making honey, bees collect nectar from flowers and combine that with an enzyme that converts the sucrose in the nectar to glucose and fructose. They put the liquid in the honeycomb cells and at that point it is 87% water. Come to the meeting on Thursday November 5 and find out about these necessary pollinators and how honey comes to our table as the delicious, natural sweetener we enjoy.

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## VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION REPORT

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

The meeting took place October 19 at the Central Rappahannock extension office in Stafford.

Frank Reilly resigned as Unit Support Chair after having served for fourteen years.

The education event at Virginia State University on September 19 operated at a \$1300 loss, primarily because of the stipulation that the catering company that must be used is expensive. VMGA had an event there a year ago as well. Parking was more of a problem this time due to mixed communication. A hard look will have to be taken about returning there in the future because each event is scheduled to be self-supporting. Next spring's event will be at both Maymont and the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond with the usual limit of sixty.

Our efforts at the state fair went reasonably well, but the event had to be cancelled three days before the announced closing due to high winds and emergency personnel being needed in other parts of the commonwealth. Eleven units participated. VCE Day was especially good. I have told the president that there is interest in our unit returning for a day next year.

John, speaking for the coordinator's office, said that the four district training sessions that they had just conducted had gone well. In response to a question about the MGs or their units paying for the background checks, John said that the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) did not have the money to pay for that.

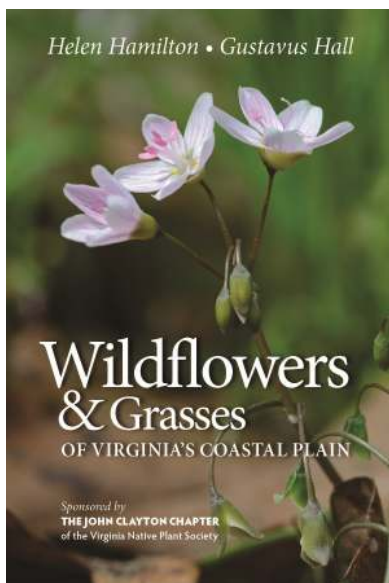
There will be a written recap of the president's question in the minutes, but I was pleased that our unit had four responses to the question about educational events and their effectiveness. We were one of only four or five who reported at the meeting. The president asked Betty Villers of Virginia Beach to chair the next nominating committee, and I was tapped to serve as a member.

## HELP REQUESTED FOR HOME OWNER ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

BY LARRY GASKINS

As we begin planning for our **2016 pruning clinics**, we would like to enlist the help of our members in “spreading the news” about this program. A number of Master Gardeners live in communities that have home owners associations (HOAs) that publish newsletters/bulletins announcing items of interest to the residents. We feel that announcing our pruning clinics in these media would be an effective way to publicize the program and, hopefully, to expand our number of applicants.

If you live in a neighborhood that has an HOA newsletter or bulletin, please let me know the name of the person (and contact information) so I can send information about the clinics. Email me at [ldgaskins@verizon.net](mailto:ldgaskins@verizon.net) or call (757) 220-0683.



***Wildflowers & Grasses of Virginia's Coastal Plain***, by Helen Hamilton and Gustavus Hall, could be the perfect gift for people on your list this year.

Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, with photographs taken locally by chapter members, this field guide is available from the publisher [www.brit.org](http://www.brit.org), Amazon, Barnes and Noble, the Freedom Park Interpretive Center, and other area outlets, which will include S/H and tax where appropriate.

Copies are also available from the co-author, signed by Helen, Gustav, and editor Louise Menges, for \$25, pickup or delivery. Email: [helen48@cox.net](mailto:helen48@cox.net)

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## LEARN TO LAY CONCRETE PAVERS LIKE A PRO

INFORMATION FROM PEGGY KRAPF

On November 7, the Williamsburg Botanical Garden will partner with Belgard Pavers and Site One Landscape Supply (formerly John Deere Landscapes) to offer a professional, hands-on workshop and lay a paver patio beneath the therapy pavilion in the garden. This program is an opportunity for both homeowners and landscape contractors to learn the basics of working with concrete pavers from Belgard instructors. Class begins at 9:00am on Saturday, November 7 (RAIN or SHINE), and will end when the project is completed.

Lunch will be provided. A \$20 donation to the WBG is requested. Registrants should come prepared to work with appropriate layered clothing, gloves, safety glasses, work clothes (no shorts), and sturdy shoes or boots (no sandals). Space is limited. To register or for more information, contact Peggy Krapf at (757) 566-9088.

## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER 2015

BY HELEN HAMILTON

PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY *Callicarpa americana*

This shrub is truly spectacular in early fall, with clusters of glistening rose-purple berries spaced with opposite leaves on long stems that achieve a curved or weeping form as they age. Birds love this plant—mockingbirds will perch on the branches and eat the fruits one at a time. If not all consumed, these fruits are long-lasting and provide food for many birds and wildlife well into the winter months.

Beautyberry prefers sun and soil a little moist, but is not fussy about growing conditions and does well in light shade and dry soils. In good habitat, this multi-stemmed shrub can grow to over six feet in height and width. To reduce the height and produce more berries, the branches can be heavily pruned in late winter just before the leaves appear, since the flowers appear on new growth. The plant will self-seed and branches will root if they rest on the ground. Small clusters of pink to white flowers appear in June. They can self-pollinate if the shrub stands alone, but several plants together will result in better fruit production.

This is an impressive plant that requires little care, grows fast, and quickly fills space. Most nurseries and plant sales by Master Gardeners and native plant chapters will offer specimens for sale. Three Asian species, *C. japonica* from Japan and *C. dichotoma* and *C. bodinieri* from China, are offered for sale in local nurseries. Cultivars from these Asian species offer a more upright growth habit, longer-persisting fruits, or cold tolerance; however, our native birds and insects are more familiar with the straight native species.

The fruits are edible for human consumption; they don't have much flavor, but are delicious when made into jelly. The roots, leaves, and branches of the American beautyberry were used by Native American tribes for various medicinal purposes. Parts of the plant were prepared for treatment of rheumatism, stomach aches, dysentery, and colic, among other ailments.



Flowers and fruit of the American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*). Photos taken by Helen Hamilton.



A walking trail in New Quarter Park in York County has been planted with beautyberry on both sides, the branches forming an arch over the trail.

For more information about native plants visit [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org).



## MG TRAINING PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 15

BY HOPE YELICH

Please share this information with friends and neighbors: there are five spaces left for 2016 James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Training Program! The session will begin on Monday, January 4, 2016, and continue through Wednesday, April 7, 2016. Classes will meet for three hours Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 am until 12:00 noon, at the county recreation center on Longhill Road. The cost of the program is \$150, which is due at the time of application.

**The deadline to receive completed applications is November 15, 2015.** To request an application or to ask questions about the process, call the VCE office in Toano at 564-2170.

As you know, Master Gardeners are volunteers with VCE who educate the public about gardening and horticulture while promoting sustainable landscape practices. There are more than thirty projects available to volunteers once they complete their training and internships, so spread the word before the class fills up!



### Calling all mentors and class managers By Kathy Bush

Speaking of the training program...The 2016 VCE Master Gardener Training Class will begin on Monday, January 4. Many plans and preparations have gone into this class, and we need your help.

Mary Wool ([mdwool@gmail.com](mailto:mdwool@gmail.com)) is the point of contact if you would like to serve as a class manager or mentor for a new trainee. **This year mentors will NOT have any responsibility for training on the Help Desk!!** Mentors will be expected to make initial contact with the trainees before the class begins, answer any questions, encourage them by phone, email, or lunch through the three-month training period, introduce them to projects and fellow MGs, and invite and make them feel welcome at our monthly educational meetings.

Mentors, your presence and food are needed at the first class and at graduation in March. You will continue to encourage and follow your trainee's progress as she/he gains hours and experience on MG projects throughout the year. We ask you to congratulate him/her and celebrate at graduation in January 2017. It is a yearlong commitment, but it is a pleasure to mentor our future MGs. I hope you will consider your role in the upcoming class.

Class managers help the class coordinators/facilitators by setting up the class room, sometimes introduce the speakers, make coffee and hot water for break time, set out snacks, grade tests, clean up, and are another friendly MG face to our new class. The benefit of this position is you get to listen to the lectures for the day. This is usually a 2-4 day commitment. If you have questions or would like to volunteer for either position, contact Mary Wool at [mdwool@gmail.com](mailto:mdwool@gmail.com).

## BLAYTON SCHOOL GARDEN VISITED BY FIRST LADY OF THE COMMONWEALTH DOROTHY MCAULIFFE

BY PATRICIA RIDGWAY

On Tuesday, October 6, the students at J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School were treated to a visit by First Lady of Virginia Dorothy McAuliffe. Part of her time was spent in the Bumblebee Garden, which is worked by Master Gardeners Ken Caro and Lisa Stefanick, with the assistance of school representative Charley Morse.

Ms. McAuliffe dug sweet potatoes along with the students, who dug an additional 105 pounds for the school cafeteria.

The event generated some wonderful publicity for the school garden and indirectly for our Master Gardener projects. Channel 13 News had a segment on Ms. McAuliffe's visit, and the *WYDaily* featured it in its October 7 issue.

For the full article, with additional pictures, visit [http://wydaily.com/2015/10/07/local-news-get-schooled-blayton-students-seize-spuds-try-squash-during-farm-to-school-kickoff/?page\\_number\\_0=6](http://wydaily.com/2015/10/07/local-news-get-schooled-blayton-students-seize-spuds-try-squash-during-farm-to-school-kickoff/?page_number_0=6).



Dorothy McAuliffe (back row, second from right). Master Gardener Lisa Stefanick is to the right.

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"Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence." -Erma Bombeck

"Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later." —Og Mandino

Charlie Brown: We've got ANOTHER holiday to worry about. It seems Thanksgiving Day is upon us.

Sally Brown: I haven't even finished eating all of my Halloween candy.

"I celebrated Thanksgiving in an old-fashioned way. I invited everyone in my neighborhood to my house, we had an enormous feast, and then I killed them and took their land." —Jon Stewart

"For flowers that bloom about our feet;  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;  
For song of bird, and hum of bee;  
For all things fair we hear or see,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!" -Ralph Waldo Emerson

"After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations." — Oscar Wilde

"When I wake up each morning, I praise the Lord for the gift of being alive."  
— Lailah Gifty Akita

"We are blessed in so many ways; many things we take for granted but we should stop and be thankful each and every day."  
—Catherine Pulsifer



## Important Dates

- 11/5 MG Monthly Meeting, WRL
- 11/7 Learn to Lay Concrete Pavers, WBG
- 11/10 Empowering the Caregiver Expo
- 11/10 Meeting of the Herb Society
- 11/21 Growing Peonies, Freedom Park
- 12/3 MG Monthly Meeting, WRL
- 12/12 VMGA Meeting, WRL
- 1/18/16 Home Gardener Day
- 1/19-22 Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course, Virginia Beach
- 4/16: 19th Gardening Symposium, Christopher Newport University

## 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, Patsy McGrady, 258-1181, [patsymcgrady@cox.net](mailto:patsymcgrady@cox.net).

### **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 submissions to the December newsletter will be Monday, November 23.**

**Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at [hopeyelich@gmail.com](mailto:hopeyelich@gmail.com)**

## 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.



COLONIAL HERITAGE

Community Foundation, Inc.

*“Empowering the Caregiver” EXPO*

Tuesday, November 10th, 2015, 1 to 4 p.m.

Colonial Heritage Ballroom

6500 Arthur Hills Drive, Williamsburg, VA

Goal of the Expo is to enhance the lives of the family caregiver who work tirelessly to provide for their loved ones daily

*Expo will feature:*

- Interactive Programs
- Stress Relief Activities
- Dynamic Speaker
- Informative Exhibits on Local Resources
- Door Prizes and Refreshments

*There is no charge to attend, but registration is a must.*

*Please Contact by November 1st:*

Richard Boyden

757-345-6974

Rboyden1@cox.net

Angela Cingale

757-871-2866

Arcingale@cox.net

or

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

Respite Service Assistance Available

*“Empowering the Caregiver” Expo*