



The Colonial Master Gardener

Publication of JCC/WBG Master Gardener Association & Virginia Cooperative Extension

OCTOBER 2004

SUSTAINABILITY

“Many of the problems that society confronts are of such inordinate complexity that it takes the greatest dedication and zeal to assemble the necessary data, analyze and prescribe. Happily there are other problems, where a very small perception can produce astonishing results. If one accepts the simple proposition that nature is the arena of life and that a modicum of knowledge of her processes is indispensable for survival and rather more for existence, health and delight, it is amazing how many apparently difficult problems present ready resolution”.

Design with Nature by Ian L. McHarg

PRESIDENT

Barbara Schroeder '99
564-0157

HORTICULTURAL PROJECTS

ASSOCIATE

Leanne DuBois, '96
JCC Coop. Extension
564-2170

WEBMASTER

David Banks '03
258-8632

NEWSLETTER

Charlie Clapper '02
564-6191

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 MONTHLY MEETING

October 7, 9:00 AM

******WILLIAMSBURG LIBRARY******

“PLANTS FOR WINTER INTEREST”

PEGGY KRAPP

The flower is relatively small. Everyone has many associations with a flower – the idea of flowers. You put out your hand to touch the flower – lean without thinking – or give it to someone to please them. Still – in a way – nobody sees a flower –really – it is so small – we haven't time – and to see takes time like to have a friend takes time. If I could paint the flower exactly as I see it no one would see what I see because I would paint it small like the flower is small.

So I said to myself—I'll paint what I see –what the flower is to me but I'll paint it big and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it –

Georgia O'Keefe, “*About Myself*”, 1939

Try the Weather Channel! It's Something Else! You get information on flights out of nearby airports, lawn and gardening tips (courtesy of Scott's), frost and freeze forecasts, and a lot of other stuff. Check it out at

www.weatherchannel.com **AILENE BARTLETT**



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This past month we divided the top concerns not yet addressed in the membership survey among our board members.

As VP for Projects, Charlie Clapper plans to work with the project chairs to devise better estimates on the number of volunteers each project actually needs and ways of ensuring that n volunteers agreeing to work on a project actually do so. He also plans to work with Sally Sissel, Greg Allen and a project chair on the "core" project issue in cooperation with the Training Class Steering Committee. Charlene Talcott, as VP for Youth Projects, will address concerns that we are giving Matthew Whaley special treatment. She has requested that any other school desiring to work with us on a new gardening program fill out a form which she is providing. More information concerning our youth programs and how they serve young people of James City County and Williamsburg will appear in future newsletters.

Minouche Robinson, VP for Internal Education, will meet with Genrose Lashinger, Program Chair, and Leanne DuBois to discuss members' educational concerns. As president I have already addressed the concerns for holding shorter business meetings, having all speakers come to the front, and having all sign up sheets in front rather than passing them around. The desire to eliminate business meetings cannot be addressed. We need business meetings to keep everybody informed. The same is true of keeping hours, not my favorite thing either, but required by Virginia Extension. Getting more members involved as leaders, using past presidents expertise more effectively and having more social events can possibly be addressed. I plan to get some members together to discuss this and then get back to you.

In October Charlie Clapper, Audrey Hoistma, Genrose Lashinger Linda Lucas and I will be giving a workshop entitled A Perspective on Master Gardeners Role in Therapeutic Settings with Older and Disabled Americans-Part II: Opportunities for Volunteers to Initiate, Facilitate, and Establish Independent Horticultural Activities as Therapy at the Northeast Regional Master Gardener Conference in Baltimore. I thank all of you for showing your confidence in us with your financial backing. Minouche Robinson will chair the October general meeting because we we'll be gone then. **BARBARA SCHROEDER GUSTAFSON**

THE BOOK CORNER

One of the comments on the survey we did earlier this year indicated that we needed "more plants for the plant sale". NOW is the prime time of year to make cuttings of many shrubs, trees, house plants, etc, providing, of course, that you can winter them over properly.

Where to begin getting ready? Find yourself a good book on the subject, or a "mentor" who will teach you a crash course! I would be happy to have one or two of you come over, read a bit, then cut a bit and pot a bit! Give me a call at 229-2822. Let's have LOTS of homegrown, well-grown, properly identified, plants for the spring sale. **AILENE BARTLETT**

"To be overcome by the fragrance of flowers is a delectable form of defeat,"
Beverley Nichols

VISIT THE MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT <http://jccwmg.org>

STATE FAIR

On September 27 thirteen of us will work 3 shifts at the State Fair in Richmond and meet-and-greet people at the MG desk in the greenhouse, surrounded by glorious veggies, fruit, and flowers. This, too, is in reply to our survey about "not being so "provincial". So we're out and seeing what's on the other side of the hill.

Even if you're not working the Fair, I encourage you to visit it anyhow! Where else can you love a llama, pet a pig, chuck a chicken under the chin, rave at a rabbit? Not only that, but the crafts are fantastic, and one might find something useful at the commercial exhibits, as well! And there's always carnival food and rides. Try it, you might like it!

AILENE BARTLETT

THROUGH THE GATE

"The Reid Garden Veggie Volunteers and the Clymbing Squash"

Last spring Wesley Greene, Garden Historian for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, gave us four tiny clymbing squash plants that he had started from seeds saved by an English collector in 1995. As far as we knew, we were the only people in the United States to grow this squash. So we took our responsibility seriously and gave the plants an entire bed in which to grow and made sure that we planted no other squash that might cross-pollinate with them. Everyone was amazed at the speed these tiny seedlings took over the entire bed and made attempts to invade not only the perennial beds but other areas of Colonial Williamsburg. They were healthy, huge, and getting bigger every day. When they finally started flowering it became quite obvious that the fruit and flowers were going to be a "must have" menu item for the local squirrels. We began our defense by spraying repellent and surrounding some of the fruit with chicken wire cages. The only problem with the cages was that we misjudged how big these scalloped squash were going to be. They quickly outgrew their cages and we had to recage. The whole summer was spent chasing squirrels and trying to protect our prize squash but we did not need to worry. The squash won by producing so many fruit that even the squirrels gave up. At present we have many volunteers hoarding the precious fruit at home waiting for them to ripen and then to preserve the seeds. Other fruit has been left on the vine to ripen as they should and still others have been planted all over Colonial Williamsburg by the squirrels. Thus, we can be proud that our Master Gardeners team has ensured one rare climbing squash will not be lost to history. **HELEN WALTER**, Veggies Co-Chairman

TIPS FROM GARDENING MAGAZINES

This new monthly column focuses on helpful tips taken from various gardening magazines. We hope you will find this helpful. Should you have information that you'd like to submit for publication, send it via email to hj63090@cox.net. Do you ever think about planting bamboo but shudder at the thought of this invasive plant taking up residence all over your yard? Worry no more. Bob Polomski, Clemson University Extension Consumer Horticulturist and Horticulture Magazine columnist, (June 2004), made recommendations regarding clumping bamboos. Clump-forming bamboos can outgrow their space. Pinching the newly appearing clumps on the edge of the clump can prevent this. While most clump-forming bamboos are often tropical or subtropical in origin, some have proven to be hardy in cooler climates. The *Fargesia* species can survive in temperatures as low as -20 degrees F. Native to Himalayan Mountains, this species prefers a cool, moist climate, but given the right conditions can form clumps 10-12 feet tall. **HEIDI GOMES**

CLASS OF 2005 HAS A HOME

The Human Services Building on Olde Towne Road will be the home for the training of the 2005 class of Master Gardeners. The room there is very similar to the one at Extension, with a kitchen area and ample room for 30 participants. There will even be some room for any "seasoned" Master Gardener who may wish to sit in on a particular lecture. As was done last year, once the schedule of classes has been completed, it will be published in the newsletter and on the website. **One major change: classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays instead of Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

The steering team for the training class has met and plans are well underway. Publicity will start appearing soon and information sent mid-October to those names we have already gathered. There will be a public informational gathering at the JCC/W Community Center on Longhill Road on November 11 from 10 a.m. until Noon. If you have any neighbors, friends, etc. who might be interested in becoming a Master Gardener, please encourage them to call Extension for initial information and attending the informational meeting. Members of the team are: Sally Sissel, Sue Liddell, Rich Bunger, Charlie Clapper, Jeri Traver, Susan Quick and Greg Allen. If any member has suggestions for the team to consider, please contact one of them. **SALLY SISSEL**

JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardeners Williamsburg Farmers' Market Summer/Fall, 2004

October 2

Composting

October 16

Fruits and Nuts

All Markets include our Helpline and Turf Services

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

November 4 - Donna Ware – With Paintbrush and Shovel – Williamsburg Library

December 2 - Williamsburg Botanical Garden– Location TBA

January 6 - Denise Greene – Sassafras Farm – Using Native Perennials in the Landscape

February 3 - Jim Orband – Ferns

March 3 - Karen Shumaker – Williamsburg Land Conservancy

April 7- TBA

May 5 - Linda Johnson – CNU

June 2 - TBA

ADDRESS CHANGES

Mary Mills
4020 Quinton Rd, Quinton VA 23141

Carol Conner
dwconner@juno.com

Ann Lorish
alorish@cox.net

New transfer members from
Chesapeake via Tampa.
Gale and Bob Hyatt
2831 Castling Crossing
Williamsburg, Va 23185
zoegrh@aol.com

FROM THE HISTORY FILES MG NEWSLETTER, NOV. 1997

Trouble with voles and squirrels eating those bulbs you spend hours planting. Why not try laying wire mesh (chicken wire) on top of the bed. Squirrels can't dig through it yet flowers will grow up through the holes. Or try planting bulbs in 2-liter bottles. Cut good drainage holes in the bottom; cut off the bottle's neck; then plant a bulb in good potting soil in each bottle. According to some this provides an easy way to identify and move those bulbs when the desire arises.

**James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association
Volunteer Activity Report**

NAME _____ for MONTH _____, 2004

		Activity Hours	Contacts**	Travel Time
Educational Programming	E1. Horticulture Help Line	_____	_____	_____
	E2. Hort. Spkr's Bureau	_____	_____	_____
	E3. Waterwise Projects	_____	_____	_____
	E4. JCC/W MG Web Site	_____	_____	_____
	E6. Therapeutic Gardening	_____	_____	_____
	E7. Landscape Love	_____	_____	_____
	E9. VCE Special Projects*	_____	_____	_____
	E10. Seeds of Learning	_____	_____	_____
	E11. Science In Nature's Garden (SING)	_____	_____	_____
	E15. CW LTD Garden-GReid	_____	_____	_____
	E16. CW Greenhouse/ and Outreach	_____	_____	_____
	E18. Farmer's Market	_____	_____	_____
	E19. Rapid Composting	_____	_____	_____
	E20. Melissa's Meadow	_____	_____	_____
	E21. Turf Projects	_____	_____	_____
	E22. Youth Presentations*	_____	_____	_____
	E24. Tree Steward Programs	_____	_____	_____
E25. EnviroScape	_____	_____	_____	
E27. Matthey's Garden	_____	_____	_____	
E29. Stonehouse Gardens	_____	_____	_____	
MG Administrative (Volunteer Coordination)	A3. Admin/Executive Efforts	_____	_____	_____
	A4. Wood Products	_____	_____	_____
	A5. Plant Sales	_____	_____	_____
	A6. MG Newsletter	_____	_____	_____
	A7. MG Video/Media	_____	_____	_____
	A11. Monthly MG Meetings	_____	_____	_____
	A12. Training Preparation	_____	_____	_____
Recertification Training	RT1. MG Monthly Lecture	_____	_____	_____
	RT2. Adv. Training*	_____	_____	_____
	Other*: _____	_____	_____	_____

* Explanation is REQUIRED

**Contacts are the total number of persons other than master gardeners you have communicated with this month while working on a program or project. This includes direct contact, phone, email, flyers, or any other means. More than one master gardener may have simultaneous contact with the same person or group, such as two master gardeners working with one resident or four master gardeners teaching a class of 24. MasterGardener Contacts are how both county and state determine our educational value to the community and therefore the financing of our program. If you have questions, please talk with Leanne or a member of our board. Please submit your hours to Art Gustafson at the Monthly meeting, Through the mail (156 Old Field Road, 23188), by E-Mail(arthurg@cox.net), or by use of web site.