

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



October 2013



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

In August several of our project chairs took time to work with John Giffin and Dave Banks to become more familiar with the new VMS Hours System and more specifically the calendar which is a part of the system. The purpose of this training was to help these project leaders in utilizing this tool to make their job of communicating valuable information more efficiently. A bonus is that, as they post project activities, they can see if they are vying for time from our unit for the same period another project chair is seeking volunteers.

Each of us has experienced times when project activities have overlapped, forcing us to choose one over the other or find ourselves unaware of when a project was occurring. One of the advantages of the calendar in the VMS system is that projects can post their activities and all of us have access to the information in one easy to reach place. No need to make phone calls, spend valuable time searching through all those notes taken at the last meeting or activity, or looking back at emails that might contain the sought after dates and times, all with no success.

One project has already reaped the advantages of using the system and over time more projects will as well. I encourage you to spend a little time getting familiar with the calendar and add it to your technology tool box. Computers and apps are

the way business will be conducted in all areas and volunteering is no exception. Make the most of this tool for your MG activities. It just might save you some time, energy and frustration the next time you want to participate in a project and don't know when or where.

On Tuesday evening, September 10, Debbie Griesinger, Sue Liddell and myself attended the James City County Board of Supervisors meeting. The purpose of our attendance was to make a statement to the Supervisors regarding the lack of an Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in James City County and to seek their support in securing such an agent. While Doris Heath is working through her channels to assist in securing such an agent we need to take advantage of every opportunity to let those who have control within our county know the importance of this issue. Your Board is working on this issue as well and will advise you of any progress made. We will be seeking your help as well in the days ahead. This is important for our unit and for James City County.

Happy Gardening Margene

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY JUDY CASONE

Our program this month will be presented by Mary Turnbull (right). Mary has lived in Virginia most of her life. After working as a school librarian for 35 years, she recently retired from Lafayette High School. She started gardening about 20 years ago when she and her husband built a new house in Williamsburg. Her garden currently contains 102 non-native plants, 9 herbs, 4 different kinds of fruit-bearing plants, 7 vegetables and 89 native plants of which 50 are site native.

She has opened her garden for the Williamsburg Garden Club Annual Home and Garden Tour, a field trip for Virginia Wildlife magazine, and native plant walks for the John Clayton Chapter. She served on the board of the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society for 7 years. She completed the Master Naturalist training in March, 2013.



Remember....we don't own the land, we hold it for our children

The Colonial Master Gardener October 2013

2013
MG Board

President:
Margene
Hartsough

President Elect:
Sue Liddell

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

VP
Administration:
David Sisson

Secretary:
Patsy McGrady

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Linda Lucas

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

GARDEN LOVE - A SUCCESS STORY BY BOB WINTERS

Thanks to Master Gardener Water Stewards and Lawn Rangers and James City County Stormwater Staff, the grant-funded program "Garden Love" exceeded all expectations.

A total of twenty rain gardens were designed and installed, covering 3,411 square feet and treating 94,911 square feet of impervious/pervious area. Seventeen gardens were installed in residential landscapes and three on HOA and non-residential properties.

Turf Love benefited in that we were able to produce 387 certified nutrient management plans covering almost 130 acres of residential and commercial land in the fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

More than ever there is a place in James City County for Master Gardeners to participate in outreach and implementation programs dealing with its overall strategy to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL load reductions and MS4 permits.

Garden Love/Turf Love will continue through June 30, 2014. We are now accepting applications from homeowners for rain gardens. Reimbursement dollars are available to homeowners as in the pilot program. Based on the average residential garden of about 140 square feet, \$700 will be available upon presentation of original receipts for plants, soils, mulch and construction for each garden.

If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Bob Winters or Carol Fryer. Help is needed for all aspects of design and implementation.



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.



BOXWOOD BLIGHT ALERT!

SUBMITTED BY MARY MILLS

John Allison, New Kent/Charles ANR Extension Agent, asked that the following information be passed on to our Master Gardeners. This information was sent to all nursery inspectors in the area.

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) confirmed the presence of the boxwood blight pathogen (*Calonectria pseudonaviculata* = *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*) on boxwood (*B. microphylla* 'green mound') from a home landscape planting in Chesterfield County on September 23. A home owner had sent a sample to Chesterfield County Extension and we confirmed the suspect boxwood blight diagnosis today by culture and PCR. A news article on the original find can be seen at this link: http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-09-11/local/41952180_1_fungus-boxwood-blight-three-plants

Boxwood blight has been known to be introduced to home and public landscapes in several mid Atlantic states since the fall of 2011. Until now boxwood blight had never been detected in a central Virginia landscape. The disease was previously known to be introduced in an isolated area of Carroll County associated with a nursery where the disease was introduced from an adjacent state. Boxwood plants were installed at the Chesterfield home within the past several months. The boxwood stock originated in a state where boxwood blight has been confirmed in the past. It is likely the pathogen was introduced on the recently installed boxwood that was originally produced out of state.

It is best to purchase plants from nurseries that are enrolled in the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program created by the National Plant Board and coordinated at the state level by VDACS. An important aspect of any cleanliness or best management program is to monitor and detect any potential introductions as early as possible to increase the effectiveness of mitigating a potential outbreak.

Boxwood blight can be recognized by black streaking on the stems and branches as well as dark leaf spots. The leaves defoliate within days and weeks of infection rather than turning brown and staying attached to the branches. There are resources available from Virginia Tech with more in depth information and pictures to help recognize symptoms. A pest alert can be found at the following link:

http://www.ppws.vt.edu/~clinic/alerts/11-04-11_boxwood_blight_alert.pdf

Below is a list of other resources with useful pictures for recognizing signs and symptoms of boxwood blight:

http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/documents/publications/fact_sheets/plant_pathology_and_ecology/boxwood_blight_a_new_disease_for_connecticut_and_the_u.s._12-08-11.pdf

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/extension/clinic/Submit/box_blight_symptom_guide.pdf

Home owners who think they may have boxwood blight should work with their local county extension office to submit samples to Virginia tech.

Based on field observations, all boxwood species and cultivars including the most commonly used cultivars of *B. sempervirens* and *B. microphylla* are hosts to the boxwood blight pathogen. Based on research out of North Carolina State University cultivars of *Buxus sempervirens* (American and English) appear to be the most susceptible to boxwood blight. These cultivars are also the most dominant in historical plantings throughout Virginia. Cultivars of *B. microphylla* show varying degrees of resistance but still carry, transmit the disease and show symptoms.

Research on fungicides out of North Carolina State University looks promising, however once the pathogen becomes established on a site it can likely persist in the soil for years making repeated fungicide applications necessary to protect plants from a flare up of the disease, especially during wet periods. Because this pathogen can likely persist in soil for long periods keeping the disease from spreading to a site in the first place is by far the best option for growers and landscapers. Currently it is not recommended that commercial nurseries use fungicides on boxwood to reduce the risk of masking symptoms and further spreading boxwood blight disease.



PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

BY DAVE SISSON

Proposed below are changes to the Bylaws that reinforce the Board's authority to act more directly when Recombitment form and dues are not submitted in a timely manner. The Underlined sections above are proposed as changes. These will be voted on at the November meeting. If you have questions or comments, please contact Dave Sisson, 757-903-7118, sisson2@cox.net for further clarification.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP STATUS, OBLIGATIONS AND DUES

C. Master Gardener: One who has completed the full Master Gardener Program - classroom and internship - and is volunteering with VCE, fulfilling the program requirements of 20 hours of volunteer work and 8 hours of advanced training annually. Annual volunteer and training hours should be submitted monthly but must be submitted no later than January 31st of the year following the year during which hours were performed. Annual Recombitment Form to must be submitted with areas of interest listed no later than January 31st of each current year. Failure to report required hours or intent on time may result in membership termination.

F. Inactive Master Gardener. The status of Inactive Master Gardener is temporary and is available for a one or two year period upon request of the individual and approval by the VCE Coordinator and Executive Board. An application for Inactive Status may be submitted at any time. However, it must be submitted before the January 31st hours deadline, if the person has failed to complete the necessary annual hours for the previous year. An Inactive Master Gardener pays the yearly dues, is not removed from the mailing list, and may continue to contribute to the organization. During the inactive status, the member remains a qualified Master Gardener without completing the annual program requirements. After a two-year absence, the VCE Coordinator may require the member to take some additional training before regaining active status.

GARDENING ARTICLES FROM THE RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH

BY MARILYN RIDDLE

Two articles from the *Richmond Times Dispatch* will be of interest to many of our group...especially the tree stewards.

The first article, from Blacksburg, announces that the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors committee has approved a compromise location for an indoor football practice facility that will protect the 14-acre forest area known as *Stadium Woods*. University spokesman Larry Hincker told the *Roanoke Times* that full board action is not required until it allocates private donations for the project after design work is completed. A previous proposal to build the facility called for the facility to be built on about three acres of the woods.

The VA Dept of Forestry is asking Virginians to help preserve native trees by collecting acorns and seeds from 13 species. The best time to collect is the last week of September through the first week of October. Lawns or paved areas are ideal collection sites. The species are: Chinkapin, Chinese Chestnut, Hazelnut, Black Oak, Chestnut Oak, Northern Red Oak, Pin Oak, Sawtooth Oak, Swamp Chestnut Oak, Swamp White Oak, White Oak, Willow Oak, and Black Walnut. Identify the species in paper, not plastic, bags. Bring to the meeting on Oct. 3 and they will be collected for delivery to the nearest department office.

FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE FALL 2013

October 12
Therapeutic Gardening

October 19
Composting

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE

Helianthus tuberosus

This large sunflower is one of the few food plants that grow wild in the great prairies of northern United States and southern Canada, and one of the plants the native Americans gathered for the nutritious tubers. In 1805 Lewis and Clark reported seeing the squaws collect them from the burrows of gophers or prairie dogs, where they had been hoarded. Imported to England in the early 1600's, they were usually boiled, peeled, sliced and stewed with butter and a little wine.

Growing to a height of 3 feet, and blooming from August through October, Jerusalem artichoke is a nice addition as drifts in the back of a perennial border or in a wildflower garden. The plant grows wild in moist thickets and fields in nearly every county in Virginia, every state in the U.S. except for the southwest and eastern and central Canada. It is a good weed eradicator, as it makes so dense shade that few other plants can compete.

Jerusalem artichoke is a suitable crop in any soil and climate where corn will grow. It survives in poor soil and in areas as cold as Alaska. It tolerates hot to sub-zero temperatures. The first frost kills the stems and leaves, but tubers withstand freezing for months. It grows best in a loose loam, and in full sun, but can tolerate some shade. Jerusalem artichoke is one of the best of our wild food plants. Easily located in the fall by the flowers, an abundance of tubers will be produced in the fall and winter before the ground freezes. To propagate, plant whole tubers or pieces as early as possible in the spring. Tubers begin to form in August.

The golden rays of the 3" wide flowers are long and pointed; leaves are egg-shaped, coarsely toothed, very rough and thick, stems are rough and hairy. The large, crisp tubers, often as large as a medium-sized potato, terminate slender runners or branches radiating from the base of each plant. Fresh tubers can be substituted for potato in most recipes, or sliced thin and added to salads, or boiled briefly and pickled with wine vinegar. The flavor of the tubers somewhat resembles that of the Globe



Jerusalem Artichoke:
Photo by Phillip Merritt

artichoke, *Cynara scolymus*, grown in California for its edible flower buds. Both plants are members of the Aster family, but the globe artichoke is more closely related to thistles than to sunflowers.

Jerusalem artichoke is a folk remedy for diabetes and rheumatism. Native Americans drank leaf and stalk tea or ate flowers to treat rheumatism. The edible tubers may aid in treating diabetes. Like those of beans, the roots are known to induce intestinal gas.

"Jerusalem" is from the Italian *girasole*, the sunflower which "turns to the sun"; it has nothing to do with the city of Jerusalem.

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

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18TH ANNUAL WAYNESBORO PLANT HEALTH CARE WORKSHOP FOR URBAN TREES: WEATHERING THE STORM

BY SUE LIDDELL

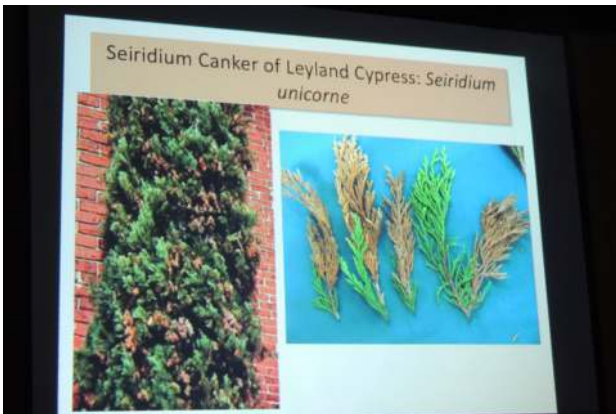
I was one of 235 attending the Plant Health Care Workshop, many professionals attending for Certification Credit, landscapers, municipal employees, and Master Gardeners. The lecture topics covered were impressive: "Roots, the Important Half", "Can Topping Lead to Insights into Restoration Pruning", "Tree Canopy Prioritization", and "Tree Care Diagnostic Techniques".

With the prevalence of Leyland Cypress here, I was particularly interested in the report on Seiridium Canker. The fungus, *Seiridium unicorne*, attacks trees under stress. It might first be noticed when the leader or a major branch dies. It starts with twig dieback randomly through the tree. This is the time to cut these dead twigs out, back to healthy growth. Sanitize your pruners between each cut. There is no fungicide effective on the disease so prevention is the answer. Don't crowd your trees. During drought periods when trees would be stressed, water the ground, not the foliage. The fungal spores are spread by the splashing water entering wounded areas. It was reassuring to be reminded that though these and other fungal spores are everywhere, they don't always do damage to our plants.

root system. Don't be afraid to dig around the container or root ball when buying a tree.



The Riparian work was at the beginning stage, plans being made to create a buffer on the near side of the water to match the far side.



Then we were in the field with "Planting the Best Trees Possible", "A Riparian Buffers Field Study" and a "Tree Risk Assessment". We saw a good example of what happens when a tree is planted too deep and adventitious roots grow well above the normal root zone. The adventitious roots were too large to cut off without damaging the tree, yet not strong enough to be the major



The Workshop provided information valuable to Tree Stewards, Water Stewards, Land Care Stewards, Landscape Love and Garden Love members with the bonus of a beautiful setting for the afternoon in Ridgeview Park.

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FALL LANDSCAPE EXTRAVAGANZA

BY BARB FOLEY

The annual Fall Landscape Extravaganza sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension-York/Poquoson Office will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013, at Yorkminster Presbyterian Church, 6218 George Washington Memorial Highway, Grafton. Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m., with orientation at 9:00 a.m. Two blocks of concurrent educational programs will be offered from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. and from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Classes include:

Ten Plant Problems in Tidewater – Mike Andruczyk, Extension Agent, Chesapeake
Art in the Garden – Bill Smoot, Fred Heutte Center, Norfolk

New and Underused Plants – Eric Bailey, Landscapes by Eric
Landscaping for Good Bugs – Dan Nortman, Extension Agent, York/Poquoson
Create a Living Flower Arrangement with Layers of Bulbs (\$30 fee) – Brent Heath, Brent and Becky's Bulbs
Landscaping Basics – Helen Janele, Eco-Scapes Design

This popular event is free and open to the public; seating is limited, so early registration is required. Registration materials can be found at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce Contact the York-Poquoson Extension office at 890-4940 with any questions.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **November Newsletter** is **Monday, October 28.**

Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

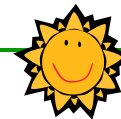
Important Dates

- 10/3 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 10/5 York VCE Fall Landscape Extravaganza
- 10/28 Newsletter Submissions Due

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, Patsy McGrady. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf on the organization. Patsy may be reached at (757) 258-1181 or patsymcgrady@cox.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.