



The Colonial Master Gardener

October
2016

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

“To create a garden is to search for a better world. In our effort to improve on nature, we are guided by a vision of paradise. Whether the result is a horticultural masterpiece or only a modest vegetable patch, it is based on the expectation of a glorious future. This hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening.”

—Marina Schinz, *Visions of Paradise* (1985)

Attempting to make a more perfect world---one garden at a time. As we educate our community, this philosophy could easily be applied to our Extension Master Gardener mission. With some mental extrapolation on this theme, in my current role as association president, I am attempting to do the impossible with our dedicated volunteer group. That is, attempting to encourage a harmonious group (with all members having a common interest in gardening, education, and community service) to invest in the future. This can only be done with dedicated and sound leadership. The future of our association depends upon this basic concept.

Challenges abound. We are still looking for eager volunteers to complete the slate for the 2017 JCC/WMGA board positions. Perhaps closer to your heart, several key projects need project leaders--- otherwise they will simply not be able to continue. A small, time investment can pay great dividends. Can you imagine our unit without pruning clinics, or without school gardens, or without Landscape Love, or without Turf Love? We seem to have lots of Master Gardeners interested in the workload, but fewer interested in completing the paperwork that is absolutely necessary to keep the project in compliance with Extension/Virginia Tech standards. Both have to be done.

I plan to orchestrate a “mini” town hall discussion during our next Master Gardener Association meeting on Thursday, October 6 to address the crisis that we are experiencing. Hopefully we can have a robust and honest exchange.



Planting at Matthey's Garden (left) and describing flowers at the Envoy (right).

Photos :Hope Yelich



Our October speaker is a fellow Peninsula Tree Steward, Rand Milam, who will describe his Tree Steward project during which he cataloged the trees along the Noland Trail at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News. Prepare to be amazed at what one man with a mission can do.

Let's find time to enjoy this glorious fall. Invest in the future by planting bulbs for next spring. Invest in the next century by planting a tree. Invest in our May 2017 Plant Huzzah! by dividing your perennials. Invest in our association by your willingness to provide necessary leadership.

Next Meeting:
Thursday, October 6
Program:
**A Tree Steward Looks at Trees at
Mariners Museum and Park**
Speaker:
Rand Milam

2016
MG Board

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Assistant:*
Kate Robbins
(757) 564-2170

THANK YOU BY ANGELA CINGALE

On behalf of the James City County Williamsburg board, I would like to shout a big, "THANK YOU" to all the members of our organization. We know that you are generous with your time, efforts, feedback, and in many cases go above the call of duty as a volunteer worker. You are a caring person with a commitment to educating ourselves and our neighborhoods.

Our board and association are regenerating enthusiasm and confidence with honest discussions and comments from our membership. We also want to be inclusive, not exclusive, so, please reach out to new members and make them feel part of our Extension MG group. One of our goals is to build healthy relationships within and outside of the Extension Master Gardener family, so please keep extending a hand, a smile, and word of encouragement to an unfamiliar face when attending a meeting or working in a project. Again, a sincere thank you.— Angela



The Graphics Fairy

TREE STEWARD ON OCTOBER 6 BY KATHY BUSH



Photo: Mariners' Museum and Park

We are pleased to have an enthusiastic Tree Steward from Newport News present his extensive research project to our membership on October 6. Rand Milam will bring us pictures and information about the trees in the park at the Mariners' Museum. The latest count is ninety-five species!

The park is 550 acres of privately maintained, naturally wooded

property that offers visitors a quiet and serene place to walk, run, or picnic. Within the park is the 167-acre Lake Maury, named for the famed 19th-century oceanographer and native Virginian, Matthew Fontaine Maury. Along the shoreline of Lake Maury is the five-mile Noland Trail.



Photo: Mariners' Museum and Park

Dedicated by and with significant continuing financial support from the Noland family, the twenty-five-year-old trail has fourteen bridges, picnic areas, benches, handicap access, and mile markers.

The Mariners' Museum park is open to the public every day from 6:00am-7:00pm.

Benches at approximately every half-mile offer places of rest along the trail, and views of Lake Maury can be found around every corner.

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 am at the Williamsburg Regional Library, Room B, on Scotland Street, Williamsburg.

The board meetings are open to all Extension Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

PREPARE FOR OUR ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE NOW

BY KATHY BUSH

It's time to divide perennials! The following is excerpted from Viette Nurseries's monthly newsletter <http://www.viette.com/index.php>. Used with permission.

Did you know ...

... if you started with a single daylily and you divided it into three plants after one year, and then divided it and each of its divisions into three plants the following year, and kept doing this every year for 7 years, you would end up with 2,187 daylilies? You can do the same thing with Hosta and many other perennials!

While many good quality perennials seem expensive in the garden center, the cost can easily be justified by a patient gardener who divides his or her perennials. Not only does this increase the number of plants in your garden, but it's also good for the plant, encouraging new root growth and better blooms the following season. Propagating your own plants allows you to expand your gardens inexpensively and carry a common theme throughout your landscape.

How will I know when I need to divide?

Your plants will usually "tell" you when they need to be divided! Here are several signs to watch for:

- The center of the plant is beginning to decline while the outside edges are growing well
- The plant is not blooming well or has stopped producing blooms altogether
- The plant just isn't performing like it used to
- Your plant is outgrowing its space and crowding out the plants beside it. Of course, if you want, you can usually divide a plant whenever it is large enough, i.e. has more than one stem such that each division will have roots and a crown.

When is the best time to divide plants?

Fall is an excellent time to divide many perennials because the warm soil, increased likelihood of rain, and fewer insect and disease related problems combine to make perfect growing conditions for your new divisions. New roots will grow all winter and, come spring, will be strong enough to support lush new top growth. These divisions, supplemented with new perennials, can be used to create a new bed or to extend an existing garden.

Early spring is another good time for dividing perennials. February or March before they break dormancy is the best time to divide most fall blooming perennials like asters, chrysanthemums, *Ceratostigma* (Plumbago), *Helianthus*, Japanese anemones, dahlias, and ornamental grasses. Other plants that do better when divided in the spring but after they finish blooming are *Dicentra* (Bleeding heart) and *Primula* (Primrose).

Some plants can be divided most anytime

Daylilies fall into this category but keep in mind that it is important to cut the foliage back when you divide plants that are actively growing in order to reduce water loss through the leaves.

Plants that shouldn't be divided

Certain plants do not do well or cannot be propagated reliably by division. These plants should be propagated by other means such as with cuttings. Included in this group are lavender, *Alyssum*, *Iberis*, *Santolina*, *Perovskia*, *Buddleia*, and *Caryopteris*.



This iris clump is overgrown and needs to be divided.



Tall bearded iris can be rejuvenated by dividing in late summer or fall.



Daylilies can be divided almost anytime.

INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL THINGS TO DO

BY KATHY BUSH

October 8. (Creeds Ruritan Center, 1057 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach). 10:30am-12:30pm. - Virginia Beach Master Gardeners are offering a course on **cold hardy citrus**. Learn what grows in our area and how to care for it. Citrus and fig trees for sale afterwards. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cold-hardy-citrus-tickets-27190909743>



The Graphics Fairy

October 8. (Wahrani Trail, Route 33 at Eltham, New Kent). 10:30am. **A Walk n' Talk n' Picnic.** VNPS member and vocational ecologist from Richmond will lead an "ID walk n' talk" followed by an afternoon picnic at the shelter. Bring a bag lunch, water, camera, note pad, bug spray, and enthusiasm!, *You must sign up for this event.* Please email or call Robert at robertwright_1@hotmail.com or (571) 228-8144 to register. A minimum of twelve participants is required.

October 11. (Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Rd., Norge). 1:00pm. Free. Herb Society of America open program-"**Landscaping for Pollinators.**" Denise Green, the owner of Sassafra Farm in Hayes, Va., will inspire you with ways to incorporate native plants into your landscape in a common-sense way. She will take a closer look at the planting conditions most often faced in Tidewater and suggest native trees, shrubs and perennials that thrive in those places, thus making your garden more successful, less maintenance intensive, and friendlier to wildlife and the environment in general. Ms. Greene, an expert in native plants, is a vendor at the Williamsburg Farmers Market and has been a key-note speaker at many local venues, including the CNU and CW symposiums. Her presentation will feature mountain mint, *pycanthemum michx*, named a Notable Native Herb in 2016. For more information, contact Sally Sissel at (757) 258-9638.



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October 15. (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00am. **Ecological Lessons to be Learned from Plant and Insect Interactions.** Dr. Shawn Dash, from the Hampton University Department of Biology, will discuss the evolution of plant and insect communities while exploring pollination, herbivory, hyperparasites, and plant defenses. Suggested donation \$5 to help the WBG grow.

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INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL THINGS TO DO *CONTINUED*

BY KATHY BUSH

October 15 (Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, 1293 Milton Rd., Charlottesville). 10:00am-2:00pm. **Fall Open House.** Monticello's unique nursery and garden center at Jefferson's Tuffon Farm specializes in heritage and native plants. Peggy Cornett will speak on "Historic Trees for the Home Landscape," and Monticello's vegetable gardener, Pat Brodowski, will prepare edible treats from wild fruits and nuts foraged from local woodlands. Plants for sale and overstock items will be discounted! Preview at www.monticelloshop.org.



Center for Historic Plants gardens, barn, and greenhouse

October 22. (6120 Knotts Neck R., Suffolk). Knotts Creek Nursery fall plant sale for Master Gardeners—wholesale + 10%. For more information call (757) 483-6383.



**Knotts Creek
Wholesale Nursery**
6120 Knotts Neck Road
Suffolk, VA 23435
(757) 483-6383
info@knottscreeknursery.com



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November 2. (Charlottesville). - Extension Master Gardener Leadership Development Training. A great opportunity for leaders and future leaders to polish skills and learn some new ones. Free. There will be more information to follow.

January 16, 2017. The Virginia Horticultural Foundation **Home Gardener Day** will take place in Virginia Beach. Registration opens in October.



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UPDATE ON THE BOXWOOD BLIGHT SITUATION IN VIRGINIA AS OF 8/30/16

BY KATHY BUSH

From the VCE state office, this is a summary of the talk on boxwood blight for those who missed last month's excellent and important talk from Mike Likins:

Recent outbreaks of boxwood blight, caused by the fungus *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*, are causing concern in Virginia. Boxwood blight can cause severe defoliation of susceptible boxwood, including English and American boxwood, and is of serious consequence to nursery growers, landscapers and homeowners. All diagnoses of boxwood blight in home



Photo: Karl Gercens/flickr

landscapes made by the Virginia Tech Plant Disease Clinic since last fall are linked to new boxwood purchased from several Virginia locations of one national retailer, and new cases are likely to emerge. (See news article at: http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/boxwood-blight-hits-lynchburg/article_a2860e97-438c-523a-9c63-202902eaf42b.html). Agents will likely get inquiries, so we wanted to update you on the disease, the current situation in Virginia, and available educational resources.

Symptoms of boxwood blight include leaf spots, black streaking on stems and severe defoliation. Other diseases of boxwood, such as *Volutella* blight and root diseases, can be confused with boxwood blight; therefore, laboratory confirmation is necessary. Learn to recognize symptoms of boxwood blight by viewing the image gallery on the Virginia Boxwood Blight Task Force web site <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/boxwood-blight/>.

In all the cases diagnosed by the VT Plant Disease Clinic in home landscapes, the disease was introduced on infected boxwood plants. The fungus has sticky spores and is not adapted for movement on air currents; however, spores may stick to and be transported by spray hoses, tools, clothing, shoes, and vehicles. The fungus can also be transported in soil and likely by animals moving through infected plants, e.g. deer, dogs. Infected boxwood may also be present in holiday greenery.

What to tell clients concerned about boxwood blight:

Although the disease has been found in twenty-one counties/independent cities in Virginia, to our knowledge it does not appear to be widespread in any county.

English and American boxwood are very susceptible to the disease.

Other plants in the boxwood family that are susceptible to the disease include pachysandra and sweetbox (*Sarcococca*), so avoid introducing those plants into landscapes with highly valued boxwood.

The primary way the disease gets around is on infected plant material, so avoid introducing diseased plant material, especially if susceptible boxwood are already present.

Because the disease can also be transported on equipment, it is important for landscapers to sanitize tools and equipment between properties. Home growers should only hire landscapers who demonstrate awareness of the

Continued on the next page, page 7

UPDATE ON THE BOXWOOD BLIGHT SITUATION—CONTINUED

disease and who are implementing measures to prevent transport of the disease from one property to another.

We strongly recommend that growers purchase boxwood from a nursery or retail outlet that has purchased boxwood exclusively from a boxwood producer in the Boxwood Blight Cleanliness Program (<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-boxwood-blight.shtml>). These growers follow stringent practices to avoid the introduction of this disease to their nurseries.

Purchase cultivars with resistance to boxwood blight (e.g. Green Beauty, Nana, Golden Dream, Northern Emerald, Wedding Ring).

Familiarize yourself with the symptoms of the disease and best management practices by visiting the Virginia Boxwood Blight Task Force web site (<http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/boxwood-blight/>).

Monitor all boxwood plants in areas where new boxwood has been introduced within the past year for symptoms of the disease.

Examples of boxwood blight from the Virginia Tech publication *Best Management Practices for Boxwood Blight in the Virginia Home Landscape: Version 2, January 2015*.

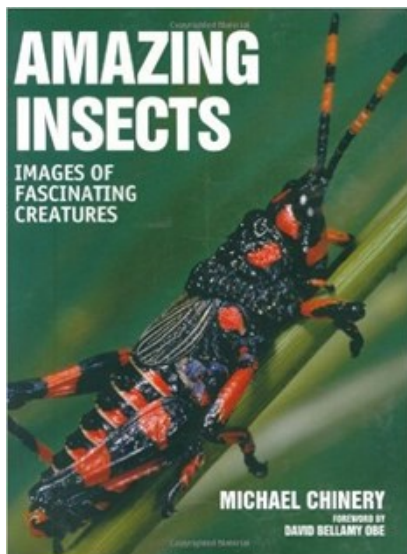


BOOKS ABOUT BUGS FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF**

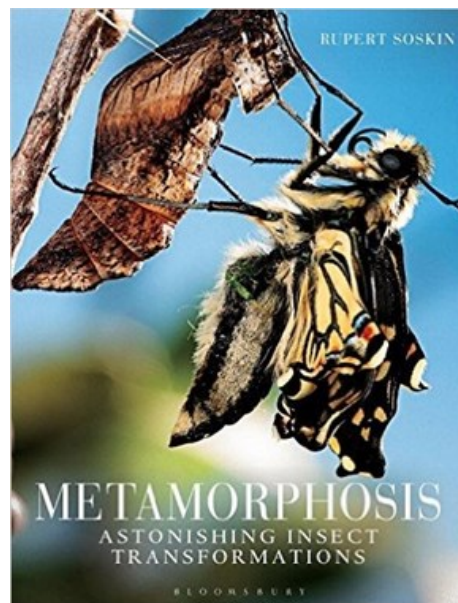
BY CAROL FRYER AND JOANNE SHEFFIELD

We recently discovered these two books and shared them with each other. If you want to know more about the insects that you see all around us, or those small insects that exist but we can't see with the naked eye, then these are the books for you. Have you ever wondered what an insect's mouth parts really look like, or how a fancy maggot becomes a beautiful butterfly, or where those strange looking Star War creatures come from?

The photos of the insects are taken with magnification up to 200 times actual size. The beauty of the photographs are worth looking at even if you don't like insects.



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Metamorphosis: Astonishing Insect Transformations, by Rupert Soskin (Bloomsbury, 2015)

This book illustrates some of the dramatic transformations insects undergo in their life cycles and explores why evolution has arrived at these remarkable solutions to survival. The aim of the book is to show remarkable transformations, most of which have never before been seen.

A range of selected species at each stage of development--from egg to larva to pupa and, finally, to fully formed adult are photographed in ways not done before.

Hardcover \$31.13 on Amazon.

Amazing Insects : Images of Fascinating Creatures, by Michael Chinery (Firefly Books, 2008)

Michael Chinery describes the natural science of insects -- their life cycles, camouflage and defense, predators and prey, and habitats. Over 250 spectacular color photographs, many taken in the wild by the author, using scanning electron micrograph (SEM) technology at super-magnifications and high speed to show in astonishing detail the fantastical shapes and remarkable lives of insects from around the world.

There really are cute bugs – take a look in this book .

Paperback \$29.95 on Amazon.

Both books are available for loan through the Williamsburg Regional Library.

** All right, I know that not all insects are bugs, but I liked the alliteration. —*The Editor*



All The Graphics Fairy

LANDSCAPE LOVE BY GARY STREB



Fall is upon us so that means Landscape Love is in full force!

We have had a higher than average interest this season, with ninety homeowners requesting your on-site educational visits.

After attending one of the two training/organizational meetings, the Extension Master Gardeners and interns are off to rapid start, completing several of the visits during the last week of September.

This season we are experimenting with the written materials that we provide the homeowner. In their initial application each homeowner describes the landscape issues he/she is encountering, ranging from erosion, fertilization questions, plants covered with insects, new homes with only the builder's landscape package, and on and on. We give the homeowners hard copy or the website of pertinent Virginia Tech or other educational institution publications that address their particular issues. However, anything could, and does, come up during the walk through the property. A short, abbreviated report may be beneficial to clarify the discussions and suggestions. Our goal is leaving the homeowner with the tools to create/maintain a sustainable and conservation landscape.

Kate Robbins spoke and answered questions during each of the training sessions about boxwood blight. She distributed kits to aid each team in the case that a sample might be needed to identify this dire fungus. It is incumbent upon each of us to know how to identify this blight and ensure that it is not spread.

If you think that this may be a project that interests you please let me know, and we can arrange for you to "observe" during an upcoming visit. But contributions are always encouraged. The exchange of information greatly benefits not only the homeowners but all of the Extension Master Gardeners and interns.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who are contributing to the great success of Landscape Love. Each of us plays an essential role in our "learn-educate- communicate" mission.

Donna Xander reports that the **FALL DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC**, which began on Monday, September 12, will run through October 24. It's being held in the kitchen of the VCE building in Toano right across from the help desk. This will be a great way for you interns who need a few more hours to complete your required hours, and it's a great learning experience too.

Come and find out how we go about looking up those questions people ask you, knowing that you are almost an Extension Master Gardener. No need to sign up— just come in. Everyone is welcomed.



CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING: HEALTHY SOIL AND MANAGEMENT

BY GARY STREB

The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's *Conservation Landscaping Guidelines---The Eight Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping* methodically describes how to create and maintain a sustainable landscape through sound conservation means. Previously, I condensed the narrative of the **first six elements**: use design to benefit both the environment and human need; use locally native plants that are appropriate for the site; create a management plan to rid invasive, alien plants and prevent future invasions; make provisions for wildlife habitats; promote healthy air quality and minimize air pollution; and lastly, conserve and clean water. The final installment of this series summarizes the elements of healthy soil and the management of a sustainable, conservation landscape.

The seventh element, a conservation landscape, promotes healthy soils. Healthy plants begin with healthy soil. Soil contains a delicate balance of minerals, air, water, and organic materials, all of which support the plant roots and supply nutrients, oxygen, and water. Soil structure—the size and proportion of soil particles and organic materials—affects how well this is done. Soil composition varies by region and supports different plant communities. Any disturbance to the soil alters the soil structure and creates an imbalance of plant/animal communities. A cornerstone of conservation landscaping is proper protection and ongoing care of the native soil.

The greatest opportunity to protect soil is during building/hardscape construction. When trying to protect the existing topsoil and native plants consider: measures to minimize grading damages; storing scraped topsoil during construction for reapplication; preventing compaction caused by grading, heavy equipment use, foot traffic, and parking; minimizing the effect of vehicles and foot traffic during construction; protecting existing trees and root zones with temporary fencing; and preventing erosion by covering the ground with mulch, geotextile fabric, or groundcover plantings.

A person interested in the soil management in an established yard must respond to the existing conditions. Performing a basic soil test will determine whether modifications are necessary. If the soil is compacted it must be improved to allow the flow of nutrients, air, and water. If a screwdriver can't be easily inserted into the soil there is an issue with compaction. Core aeration, tilling, plowing, turning with shovels or breaking with a fork are intrusive measures. The easiest, and most recommended, method of correcting soil compaction is to apply leaf litter mulch and let nature take its course. Do not till the soil if it is not compacted. Over the long term unnecessary tilling destroys soil structure and creates more compaction. Add organic material where it is lacking. Compost or leaf litter improves both sandy and clay soils to allow the free flow of required nutrients, air, and oxygen. As a last resort, add new soil but be aware that you might import weeds.

Conservation landscaping focuses on working with the existing soil conditions and choosing plants that thrive in those conditions. Amendments are needed only under extreme conditions. Choose native plants suited for the existing soil. Change the pH only when absolutely necessary. Limit fertilization. Recycle on-site organic materials. Use mulch judiciously—too much can lead to runoff or excess organic matter can cause abnormal plant growth habits. Use the appropriate size and type of mulch, as well as the correct amount of mulch (two-three inches, avoiding contact with the plant base).

As a land steward of your property, accept the responsibility! **The eighth and last guideline of conservation landscaping is proper management.** Conservation landscaping is managed to conserve energy, reduce waste, and eliminate/minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. In order to reduce the requirement for extensive maintenance, develop a site management plan that works with natural processes, recycles and achieves a self-sustaining landscape.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle are the hallmarks of conservation landscaping. Reducing waste starts by not

Continued on the next page, page 11

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING: HEALTHY SOIL AND MANAGEMENT-CONTINUED

creating it in the first place. Select the right plant for the right place. Prune selectively to enhance the natural form and strengthen the structure. Practice grasscycling (do not bag the clippings). Compost! Water wisely.

Manage pests with integrated pest management techniques. Regularly monitor for signs of disease problems and insect pests; do not use pesticides routinely or indiscriminately. A total pest -free and disease-free landscape is not possible. What is your tolerance of plant damage? Live with a few imperfections and save the planet! Insects attract birds and other beneficials---a good thing. Use the least toxic method of pest control first. Learn to pick insects and diseased leaves. Manually pick weeds rather than throwing chemicals all over the soil. Use pesticides only when absolutely necessary.

Control undesirable vegetation by manual plant removal, whether it be weeds or invasive plants. Smothering or solarization is environmentally sound but takes more time. Mechanical removal or chemical control should be considered as last resorts. Soil disturbance invites more weeds—a vicious cycle.

Conserve energy. All of our labor-saving machines require the use of fossil fuels. Well placed trees can reduce heating/cooling requirements. Reducing turf reduces the requirement for lawn mowers, weed eaters, and a myriad of other machines and fossil fuels.

Once we have embraced the eight guidelines of conservation landscaping it is incumbent upon us to teach the rest of our community of the benefits. Serve as the neighborhood example. Get the movement rolling. That's what being an Extension Master Gardener is all about.



Ken Caro reports that on Friday, September 16, eleven volunteers from the United Way Day of Caring, spread fifteen yards of compost on the Blayton School Garden.

Thank you for all the hard work—volunteers in action!

Helen Hamilton shared the following: Preparing for the annual plant sale next May, members of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society, recently dug ferns from the gardens of chapter member Kendra Swann, with help from Kendra's granddaughter Maddie. Kendra is also an Extension Master Gardener.



Photo by Sue Voigt of Maddie, Tim Costello and Kendra Swann

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH OCTOBER 2016

BY HELEN HAMILTON

PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

CUT-LEAF CONEFLOWER *Rudbeckia laciniata*

A valuable addition to the wild garden, green-headed coneflower typically grows five-eight feet tall with bright yellow flowers that can be five inches across. This daisy-like flower with drooping rays has green center cones that are unusual in this genus of the black-eyed and brown-eyed Susans.



Photo: Cut-leaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*) taken by Helen Hamilton

The leaves of these three common members of the aster family are different – black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) have oval, hairy, and coarsely toothed leaves, and the leaves of brown-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia triloba*) are oval, not hairy, and usually the lower leaves have three lobes. The leaves of cut-leaf coneflower leaves are very different – the lower leaves are cut into narrow lobes almost to the midvein, and each lobe has teeth, the upper lobes are somewhat less divided. The species name “laciniata” means “torn,” referring to the deeply divided and toothed leaves.

This native plant was first described centuries ago and can be found in abandoned gardens; its typical native habitats are in moist places such as creek banks. Coneflowers are field flowers and nonstop summer-to-fall bloomers. They are tough, drought-resistant plants that love full sun and seem to bloom forever, never needing deadheading. In fact, no one deadheads coneflowers until very late in the fall when the stems and seed heads are black and the birds have eaten all the seeds long ago.

Cut-leaf coneflower is a substantial plant that can overwhelm a small garden – it spreads rapidly from underground stems, and its tall stems may need staking late in the season. Late in the season these flowers furnish necessary food to many insects for migration and overwintering. The nectar and pollen attract bees, wasps, flies, and especially butterflies -- the big swallowtails, and the smaller buckeye, pearl crescent, and painted lady.

Green-headed coneflower is found throughout Virginia, and ranges from Quebec to Florida, and west to Montana and Arizona. Cultivars are available in the nursery trade. Traditionally the plant has been used to treat indigestion, burns, and other ailments.

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

DO YOU KNOW PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS?

BY HOPE YELICH

It's not too late to encourage your friends and neighbors to apply for the 2017 James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Training Program. **We're accepting applications until October 31.**

Classes will begin on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, and continue through Wednesday, March 29. Classes will meet for three hours Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00am until 12:00 noon at the county recreation center on Longhill Road. Course topics include botany, pest management, plant culture, flowers, vegetables, pruning, landscape design, water conservation, and more. The course fee is \$150. Program information and applications are posted at www.jccwmg.org. For questions or more information, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension office in Toano at 564-2170.



Both The Graphics Fairy

Photos of
some recent
happy
graduates....

(just kidding)



CALLING ALL MENTORS AND CLASS MANAGERS

BY HOPE YELICH (FOR THE TRAINING TEAM OF MARTY OAKES, JANET SMITH, SUSAN
SHOULET, HOPE YELICH, AND MARY WOOL)

Speaking of the training program....The 2017 VCE Master Gardener Training Class will begin on Wednesday, January 4. Many plans and preparations have gone into this class, and we need your help.

Hope Yelich (hopeyulich@gmail.com) is the point of contact if you would like to serve as a class manager or mentor for a new trainee. Remember that mentors no longer 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 EMGs, 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 EMG projects throughout the year. We ask you to congratulate him/her and celebrate at graduation in January 2018. It is a yearlong commitment, but it is a pleasure to mentor our future EMGs. I hope you will consider your role in the upcoming class.

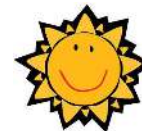
Class managers help the class coordinators/facilitators by setting up the class room, sometimes introduce the speakers, make coffee and hot water for break time, set out snacks, grade tests, clean up, and are another friendly EMG face to our new class. The benefit of this position is you get to listen to the lectures for the day. This is usually a two-four day commitment.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer for either position, contact Hope Yelich at hopeyulich@gmail.com.

Important Dates

- 10/8 Cold Hardy Citrus (Virginia Beach)
- 10/8 Walk n'Talk Picnic (New Kent)
- 10/11 Landscaping for Pollinators (Our Saviour Lutheran Church)
- 10/15 Plant and Insect Interactions (Freedom Park)
- 10/15 Fall Open House (Monticello nursery)
- 10/22 Fall Plant Sale (Knotts Creek Nursery)
- 11/2 Leadership Training (Charlottesville)
- 1/16/17 Home Gardener Day (Virginia Beach)

SUNSHINE NOTES



In the past month, we sent a card to:

The family of George Anderson to express condolences on his death

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 EMG secretary, Cathy Johnson, at (757) 208-0065, or cathypi@gmail.com



The Graphics Fairy

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the November newsletter will be Monday, October 17.

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at hopeyelich@gmail.com

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.

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.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.



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