

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



September 2013

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

Being good land stewards is not a new concept but over the years it seems it has taken a back seat to other interests. It is wonderful to learn about organizations, communities and individuals who are turning their sights back to being good land stewards and saving many gardens with great historical value. As a result some of the most beautiful gardens created beginning in the 1880's through the 1900's are being brought back to life for current and future generations to enjoy.

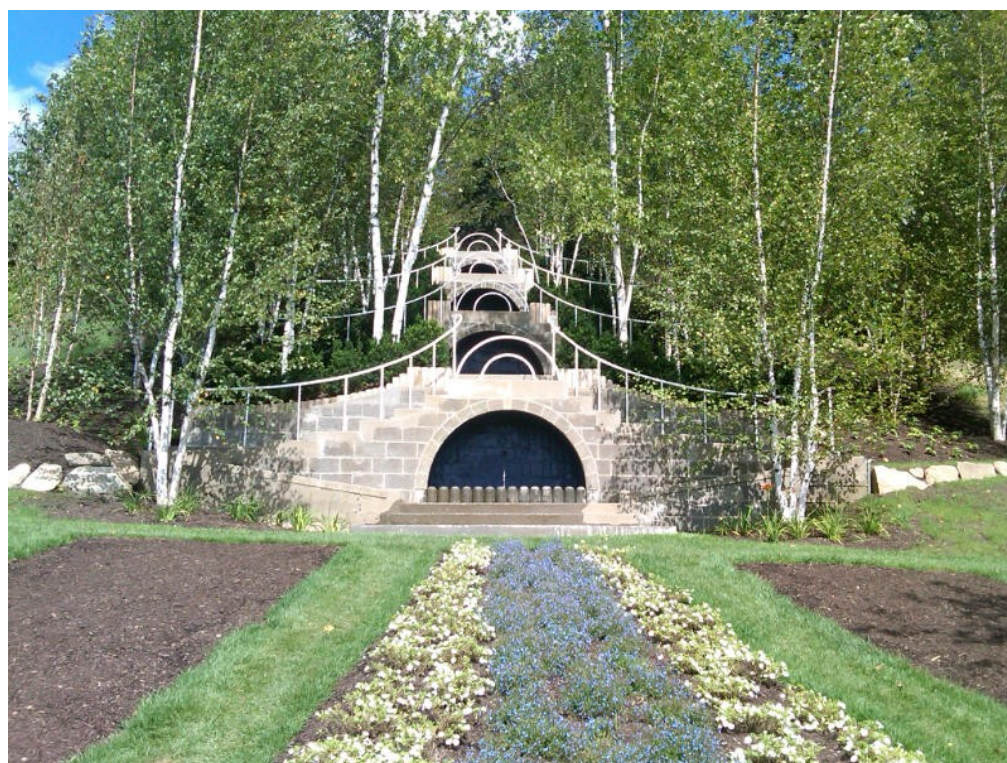
One such garden is Naumkeag in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The original gardens were developed between 1880-1890 but really took shape under the guidance of Naumkeag's owner, Mabel Choate and landscape architect Fletcher Steele beginning in 1926. Their collaboration lasted 30 years resulting in a series of beautiful garden rooms and the creation of the Blue Steps. At one point Mabel decided she needed an easier way to get to her cutting garden down a steep slope. She asked Steele to create some stairs to take her down a series of terraces to the cutting garden and requested they be modest in construction. The resulting series of steps were made from concrete but included water flowing under them and surrounded by beautiful birch trees. The recessed arches that were created by the steps on either

side were painted blue thus the Blue Steps. Even hardscaping adds much to a garden in addition to being utilitarian.

After Mrs. Choate died in 1958, time took a toll on the gardens. Fortunately, through a private donor these gardens are being restored. It will consist of 16 projects over five phases spanning 30 months but what a treasure for the future.

Be sure to place Friday, September 6 at 3 p.m. on your calendar to attend the reception to honor Doris Heath as she transitions into her new role as Southeast District Director. It would be wonderful to have a large group from JCCW Master Gardeners in attendance to wish her well. While she will not be directly involved with our unit, her new role will touch on issues that affect our work. You should have received the official invitation via email previously. The event will be at the Toano Woman's Club near the Extension Office.

Enjoy the transition into fall with cooler temperatures, pumpkins, mums and fall crops. Happy gardening, Margene



Next Meeting:
Thursday, September 5
Speaker:
Aaron Williams on
"Hardscapes in the Garden"

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2013
MG Board

President:
Margene
Hartsough

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Judy Casone

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Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Linda Lucas

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

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.

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY JUDY CASONE

I hope you all enjoyed Andy Bradshaw's presentation on Sunflowers as much as I did. I mentioned I had never had much interest in them because the ones I had seen were ten (10) feet tall and I had watched one too many "Children of the Corn" movies. Consider me educated! What a fun and interesting presentation.

This month we have Aaron Williams, President of Williams Landscape & Design, Inc. Mr. Williams will make a Power Point presentation on "Hardscapes in the Garden," from a viewpoint of the history of landscape design. He will provide examples of hardscapes in today's landscapes and how they can be incorporated in a small or large scale.

October brings us Mary Turnbull and Hillside

Gardening. **November**, we will have a Mandatory Risk Management meeting on Civil Rights. You will be required to sign in at a table by the door. If you cannot attend this meeting, there is a presentation on-line followed by a test to verify you watched the information.

December we will have Chris Moore of Growing Virginia LLC. Chris is growing the VT Spirit Daylily and will talk to us about his part in the development of this flower. He will also be bringing some of the plants for those of you who were unable to get one when they were first offered for sale.

I look forward to seeing you all and hope you will enjoy our programs.

GREETINGS FELLOW MG'S FROM E2

BY KARI ABBOTT



As the school year starts, E2 is also getting ready to start our tenth year of helping the youth of James City County learn environmental stewardship. It looks like a great new school year!

There will be an E2 informational meeting September 3rd, from 9:00am to 11:00 at the Recreation Center on Longhill Road, Room A where MG always meet!

This is a project meeting for all returning E2'ers, and anyone interested in volunteering. We have a lot to talk about so it will be a lively meeting as well as review of the curriculum, changes that are afoot, and laughter and friendship. Anyone interested in having fun with us, please email Kari Abbott bearsbaskets@cox.net.

Returning volunteers email me please so I have enough materials for everyone in attendance.

FARMERS' MARKET SCHEDULE FALL 2013

September 7
Pruning

September 28
Trees/Shrubs

October 12
Therapeutic Gardening

October 19
Composting

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LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB



We are rapidly approaching fall and the fall session of Landscape Love. The registration period opened on August 1st and we have 35 homeowner requests to date—and we still have three weeks to go until closing on September 15th. At this rate we should be a little short of our all-time record of 83 of last spring. That was a strain on lots of our team members, so hopefully we will fall back into a more manageable norm.

To ready ourselves for the fall session I have scheduled a full team meeting for Tuesday, September 17th at 9 a.m. in Room A of the JCC Recreation Center on Longhill Road. Please bring your calendar for the end of September and the month of October so your geographical team leaders can start to schedule the visits with the homeowners. If you are unable to make the meeting please get this information to your leader as soon as possible—they need all of your input to be

able to assess the team visit composition prior to making the appointments. We would like to discuss our requirement to teach the elements of a sustainable landscape, as well as lessons learned from the spring round of visits.

If you have not yet been part of the Landscape Love project and want to join, please let me know and I will get you on a team. I'm at www.gstreb11@gmail.com. It is a perfect opportunity to learn from your fellow Master Gardeners and the homeowners.

Thank you for your continued support of the Landscape Love project. From the homeowner evaluations it is obvious that you are making a positive and significant difference in your community.

GO GREEN EXPO – SEPT. 21, 2013

BY BARB FOLEY

Mark your calendars now as the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Newport News Master Gardeners, and Newport News Waterworks will host the 6th Annual “Go Green Expo” at the Brittingham Midtown Community Center on Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs and Dr. Stu Rose, author of the book, *Sustainability*, will be on hand for lectures and book signings. This family-friendly, free event will showcase children's activities, a farmers' market, over 70 vendors, lectures, food, live music, entertainment, and our ever-popular rain barrel workshops! If you would like to attend one of the rain barrel workshops during the Expo, you must register in advance and there is a \$50 fee (to cover materials). At the end of the workshop, you will have your own rain barrel to take home. Contact Mary Wright at 757-591-4838 for more information and to register for the rain barrel workshops.

DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC REMINDER

BY DONNA XANDER

The fall session of the Diagnostic Clinic will be starting up on Wednesday, September 4th and will run every Monday and Wednesday, until the 30th of September. The hours are 8:30 am till noon at the Cooperative Extension Service in Toano.

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VMGA MEETING NOTES

BY ANGELA CINGALE

1. MG College Update – Land Care Stewards for 2014; June 25-29
2. Strategic Planning session – Dave Close, John Freeborn, and Lindsey are working on pulling together a 1.5 day planning retreat for the EMG program. They were originally going to do this before MG College, however, it has been postponed until the first week of December. They will be collecting input at the state wide meeting.
3. Leadership Development Trainings scheduled for August and September to gather more information for the process. Leadership Development Training dates set for. . . .
 - A. August 20, Southwest District, Wytheville
 - B. August 21, Central District, Appomattox
 - C. September 11, Northern District, Warrenton
 - D. September 12, Southeast District, Williamsburg
4. Statewide volunteer enrollment/re-enrollment forms were sent out in late July/early August. These are to be used when registering new Extension MG trainees and for annual commitment forms for returning Extension MG Volunteers. They are not intended to be modified, but they can be customized with the local unit's name, the year, and when they are due back to the office.
5. Recently announced the second iPad publication contest. We are waiting to publicly release the winner's name from last year's contest.
6. VA Tech will have a new Associate Specialist for Volunteer Development back on staff by September 10. Jeremy Johnson is currently a 4-H agent in James City County. He will be making the transition in the coming weeks. He will spend one year at the Tidewater AREC and then move to Blacksburg.
7. Soon the Master Volunteer Impact Team will be launching a VCE-wide survey to gather impacts on all of our VCE volunteer programs from volunteers. Watch for this and please give Dave and John our feedback. This will be critical as VA Tech develops a strategy to articulate the Public Value of VCE within the context of our volunteer programs. Your participation in the survey is a critical.
8. The statewide Volunteer Management Reporting system currently has rosters entered for nearly all 60+ units. James City County was one of the first to test it.

CREATING AN ARTFUL GARDEN"

BY HELEN HAMILTON

Saturday, September 28, from 8 am through 2 pm, fall plants will be offered for sale at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Parking is available at the Freedom Park Interpretive Center, with a short walk to the Garden. Awaiting new owners are many plants potted from area in the Garden, as well as garden mums and other perennials from local nurseries. Vendors will be on site selling artwork, books, re-blooming iris, and more. Rain date is the next day, Sunday, September 29, 8-2pm. Contact Karen Jamison at 757 880 1893 or karenajamison@cox.net for more information.



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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.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY HELP

BY ANGELA CINGALE

Monarch Watch Director and University of Kansas insect ecologist Orley R. "Chip" Taylor has been observing the fragile populations of Monarch butterflies for decades, but he says he has never been more concerned about their future. The group of butterflies that made it to Mexico in 2012 was the smallest all-time ever recorded. Perhaps you have observed that the Monarch population in the Williamsburg area has not been as plentiful in 2013.

Please help me by checking your Milkweed and if you want to share the eggs, caterpillars or chrysalis, kindly call me at 565-4712 or e-mail me at arcingale@cox.net and I will come by and pick them up. Normally, this time of year I am raising around 80-100. So far, I have 22 in various stages and have had dismal success in breeding them. I was hoping to have at least 80-100 for the September 21st tagging and release program at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. We had a huge turnout last year. Thank you.



Chip Taylor

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GARDENING TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

The USDA has come out with a revised plant-hardiness map which you can access at ars.usda.gov. There's not a lot of change in our area, but if you want to check on other areas, use it!

Also, I picked up a copy of the Old Farmers' Almanac ALL-SEASONS GARDEN GUIDE at Barnes & Noble, and found all sorts of useful things. If you visit Almanac.com/Gardening you can find seed-starting and planting dates, gardening "to-do's" by month, plant guides, and recipes, etc. Try it - you might like it!

Let's do our fall planting ASAP. Hard to do, with the rain and humidity, but keep at it! It's time to start cleaning up all the mess that the rain has left us, too.

RECEPTION FOR DORIS HEATH!!

Please come to honor Doris and she leaves to start her new assignment as Southeast District Director

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH
3:00 P.M.

TOANO WOMEN'S CLUB

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **October Newsletter** is **Monday, September 23.**

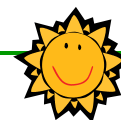
Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

Important Dates

- 9/3 E2 Meeting
- 9/5 Monthly Meeting @ WRL
- 9/6 Reception for Doris Heath
- 9/17 Landscape Love Team Meetings
- 9/23 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 of 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.