



The Colonial Master Gardener

September
2015

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SUE LIDDELL

In order to give us a mix of experience on the Board, terms of office are staggered. For that reason we will have elections of some officers in November. Project chairs don't have a specific term limit, which is good since so many chairs love their jobs and don't want to give them up. However, for those who favor variety, three or four years as chair may be enough. Such is the case with the Mobile Master Gardener and Speakers' Bureau Chair Joanne Sheffield, who would like to pass on her job as chair. Some variety is built into the project, which is one of the major means of promoting MG activity to the public. Joanne's most recent setup was at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden for the Butterfly Festival. Joanne is pictured at the display, but she had a schedule arranged so that the MGs could man the table for a few hours and still have time to see the butterfly exhibit. She has the speakers' list and Mobile Master Gardener Board information ready to pass along to the next chair. Give her a call and find out more details. 301 983-1785 or josheffie@yahoo.com. Thanks.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 3

Program:

Dave Close and John Freeborn

"The Extension Master Gardener Program: Past, Present, and Future"

ADMINISTRATION

BY DIANE HARE



A Report from the Nominating Committee (Marty Oakes, Debby Griesinger, Hope Yelich, Diane Hare, and Margene Hartsough)

The slate of officers was proposed to the Board and will be presented to the membership via the upcoming newsletter and at the general meeting in September. The slate of officers is:

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

The membership will vote to fill these positions at our November general meeting.

Thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for their hard work! And thanks to the candidates, who are willing to share their time and talents with our unit! Please read more about them on page 2 of the newsletter.

About Our Website

Dave Banks is our webmaster, and he has been hard at work to develop a secure members' page for us. While the secure site is under construction, please feel free to visit it at <http://jccwmg.org/members> and use the password JCCWMGardeners. We plan to have our membership roster, general and Board meeting minutes, compliance roster, and treasurer's report posted on our secure site in the near future.

Thanks to Dave Banks for all his work on behalf of our unit!

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

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.

MEET OUR SLATE OF OFFICERS

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

Gary Streb – Position of President Elect

Gary was a member of the 2012 MG class. He immediately got involved in various projects, such as Youth Environmental Education at D. J. Montague, the pruning clinics, and the Botanical Garden, serving as a team leader in several. In 2013 he formally assumed the role of project chair for the Landscape Love program. He is an active water steward, is completing intern project hours for tree steward certification, and has attended Master Gardener College at Virginia Tech for the last three years. Gary states that as a Master Gardener he has been able to combine a lifelong interest in landscape gardening, education, and public service.



Cathy Johnson –Position of Secretary

Cathy completed her MG training in 2013 and was awarded full MG status in January 2014. She has been primarily involved in Colonial Williamsburg gardens, Landscape Love and the Pruning Clinic. During her internship she enjoyed Therapeutic Gardening at Chambrel, Seeds of Learning and Matthey's Garden.

She states that she has thoroughly enjoyed her short time with WJCCMG and appreciates the opportunity to learn from more seasoned members along with cultivating wonderful friendships.



Amy Higgins – Position of Treasurer

Amy is a member of the current MG class and expects to receive her full status in January 2016. She has been working with the school gardens, E2, Seeds of Learning, Therapeutic Gardening, Landscape Love, Waterwise gardening, Colonial Williamsburg Gardens and Backyard Barrels and Bins.

Through Amy's friend and Master Gardener, Angela Cingale, she realized from Angela's mentoring that becoming a Master Gardener was something she would really like so she could continue to learn and give back. Her experience as a Master Gardener has been beautiful, she says, because the gardens can't see what she sees and they have no idea how amazing they truly are or what they can do for a person.



Wilma Sharp – Position of Vice President for Projects

Wilma is running for this position after completing the term vacated by Debbie Griesinger a year ago. She has been a Master Gardener since 2013. She has been involved in Therapeutic Gardening, Matthey's Garden, CW Flower and Vegetable gardens Her work as Projects VP for the past year has been extremely valuable to the board.

Wilma says that Master Gardeners has enriched her gardening knowledge and she continues to learn even as she shares her knowledge with others.



PLANT SALE 2016 BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH



You may think it is premature to talk about next year's annual plant sale, but actually it is a prime time to begin planning. What better time than the fall to look around our garden to assess what needs to be removed, or divided? By taking the time to pot those items you no longer want or that need dividing, they will have time to develop good root systems; come spring their new growth will fill the pot. You will be ahead of the game with beautiful specimens to offer our loyal customers who visit us annually for their plants.

Plants that are traditionally most popular include ferns of all types, hellebores, bee balm, sedum, rudbeckias, iris of all varieties, asters, daisies, and all types of herbs. Consider how you can pot these and nurture them over the winter months. You will be set for the sale! As always we encourage each member to provide a minimum of six plants.

The upcoming months are also a good time to consider those seedlings you might want to contribute. Tomatoes are always in high demand, especially the heirloom varieties. Other annuals are welcome too, so consider this as another opportunity to get a kick start on the plants you will donate to the sale.

Since the Jamestown Beach Park location might not be available, we are asking anyone who has a suggestion for another site to let us know. We would appreciate it if you could provide information on any costs associated with the potential site, along with its exact location and whom to contact to discuss the potential use of the space. Please remember we need a source of water at the site, and it needs to be easily accessible for both customers and the organization for setup.

If you would like to be part of the plant sale committee, please let one of us know. We always seek the input and participation of anyone, and we're always looking for new ideas. Sometimes they can be incorporated, sometimes not due to a variety of reasons, but we never know if something new can work really well unless we have the information.

Thanks for your participation last year and thank you for planning ahead for 2016 to make it better than ever.

—Margene Hartsough, Bess Hopewell, Patsy McGrady, and Nancy Cassano



The Williamsburg
Botanical Garden



Photos by Peggy Krapf

WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN SEEKS LOCAL ARTISTS WITH INFORMATION FORWARDED BY PEGGY KRAPF

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden is seeking local artists and craftspersons to sell garden, botanical, and nature-themed works at its fall fundraising plant sale. "Art in the Garden" will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 (rain date Sunday, Sept. 27), from 9am to 2pm in the Botanical Garden at Freedom Park off Centerville Road.

Twenty spaces are available, and the booth fee is \$50. Also for sale will be a large selection of plants including perennials, shrubs, butterfly plants, native plants, iris, bulbs, fall mums, pumpkins, and much more. All proceeds go to the maintenance and upkeep of the garden.

For more information and to reserve a space contact Peggy Krapf at 566-9088 or email info@heartseasandscape.com.

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY KATHY BUSH

Did you know that the VCE-Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program was created in 1972 in the state of Washington? Since then, it has spread to forty-eight states. At our September meeting, the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Coordinators are coming from VA Tech to give us a “State of the Virginia Master Gardeners” talk. This is a perfect time to hear what is happening statewide with MGs, ask questions you may have, and hear what the plans are for the future. Here are brief bios of our speakers:



DAVE CLOSE, MG STATE COORDINATOR

M.S. Southern Illinois University, 1996, B.S. Cumberland College, 1993. Background: Urban Forestry and Forest Ecology

Extension Areas: Dave has worked with the Extension Master Gardener program for more than eleven years. Prior to coming to Virginia, he was the Community Forestry Coordinator for the southern thirty-six counties in Illinois, a role he filled for nearly seven years. He was also an instructor in the Department of Forestry at Southern Illinois University, where he taught classes in tree identification, forest ecology, forest ecosystems, and urban forestry. After leaving Illinois and taking on his role as the State Coordinator for the Extension Master Gardener Program, his interests have evolved into volunteer management and leadership development of volunteers. He also works closely with Extension Agents statewide and the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association.



JOHN FREEBORN, ASSISTANT STATE MG COORDINATOR

M.S. Virginia Tech, 2000, B.S. Virginia Tech, 1998. Background: Turf, Greenhouse Production, and Soil Science

Extension Areas: John has worked with Extension in West Virginia and Virginia for more than ten years. After serving as Extension Agent for Agriculture in West Virginia, John joined the research side of things on the Virginia Tech campus. He managed several research greenhouses for Dr. Joyce Latimer and Dr. Holly Scoggins, investigating floriculture topics such as plant growth regulators, overwintering survival, and nutrient deficiencies in a number of herbaceous perennials. John then joined the Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program and serves as the first line resource for agents, coordinators, and Extension Master Gardeners across the state. His focus is on customer service and updating EMG materials statewide. He sees the state office as a resource for all and looks forward to sharing information about EMG projects from across the Commonwealth!

BACKGROUND CHECKS EXPLAINED

BY KATE ROBBINS, PROGRAM ASSISTANT, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, VCE

As many of you are aware, since January 2015 the Virginia Cooperative Extension now requires a criminal background screening for all Master Volunteers who are in Positions of Trust. This designation refers to any and all volunteers who work with youth, seniors, those with disabilities, those handling funds, or those who have unsupervised access to VCE equipment/facilities. Members of the VCE Master Gardener program are considered Master Volunteers by Extension and therefore will now need to go through the screening not only to become a Master Gardener, but to maintain current eligibility status as well. The Southeast District will begin screening in September.

What will the screening identify?

Each national screening system is different and can search a full spectrum of history depending on the needs of the organization. The VCE screening will check:

- National Criminal Index Search
- National Sex Offender Registry Search
- Name
- SSN
- Date of Birth validation with address history verification
- County/statewide Level Criminal Search

What company will provide the screening?

PreSearch Background Services.

PreSearch has been chosen by Virginia Tech and has performed more than two million employment screenings.

How will the information be stored?

PreSearch Background Services uses a secure, online system to collect information from the volunteer. **Personal information is entered into the system directly by the applicant, and the VCE does not have access to the private information** provided. Results of the screening are only visible to the VCE state administrators and are not released to the local unit offices in order to protect the applicant's confidentiality.

What offenses will disqualify a person from becoming a VCE Master Volunteer?

- All sex offenses
- All felony violence
- All felony offenses other than sex or violence within the past **ten years**. This is to include drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment.
- All misdemeanors- violence in the past **seven years**
- All misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenses within the **last five years** or multiple offenses in the past **ten years**.
- Any other misdemeanors within the past **five years** that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the functions of that volunteer.

How will the screening work?

This is an online process. As your name is entered into the system via an email address, you will receive two emails from PreSearch.

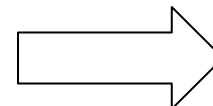
The first email will welcome you to the system to provide you a customized log in link.

The second email will contain the access code that will be needed to get into the link to complete the application.

***** Important! Save both emails until screening is complete. That way if you need to get back into the system the codes are available for you to access.**

Supervising agent: Kate Robbins
Department: ANR

Continued on the next page



BACKGROUND CHECKS EXPLAINED CONTINUED

I will email each of you PRIOR to submitting your name in the system so you watch for the screening email. Keep in mind that if you have been away—or do not check your email often— all three emails may appear to come at once.

Cost:

Annual dues will absorb cost.

Will outside Criminal Screenings be accepted?:

Outside screening results that meet the scope of search and have been completed within 3 years may be submitted to the VCE State Office for review.

In an effort to ease questions and concerns, the Board has offered to be the first applicants to participate in the process. I will offer an online tutorial during the October MG meeting and will be available in the office to offer help or to answer any questions.

I do thank you all for your understanding and cooperation as the VCE integrates this new component into the volunteer screening process as it will help protect the well being of the VCE programs, its participants, and its volunteers.

Please know, as always, my office door is open to answer any concerns or questions.

Thank you **ALL** for your time and effort to make this Master Gardener program a true SUCCESS!

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

If so, please let them know that applications are being accepted for the 2016 James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardener Training Program. Classes 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. The location will be announced at a later date, but it is likely classes will be held 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 October 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!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MENTORING NEW TRANSFER MASTER GARDENERS?

BY GINNY CRANFORD

To those interested in being a mentor for MGs transferring into our JCC/W unit: Please join us for lunch right after our September monthly meeting at the regional library on **September 3**. We are having an informational meeting with our old and new transfers to set up a program to make transferring easier. **We will meet at Sal's by Victor in the Williamsburg Shopping Center after 11:30 Thursday**, or when the business meeting ends. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we can make reservations. Call **Kendra Swann at 757-903-4783 or kendraR179@aol.com** or **Ginny Cranford at 757-220-0585 or gcranford42@gmail.com**.



To our "old" and new Master Gardener transfers: Please join us for lunch! We'd love your company and your thoughts.

THERAPEUTIC GARDENING AT WILLIAMSBURG LANDING NEEDS YOU

BY GINNY CRANFORD



We need additional volunteers to help at the Woodhaven Memory Unit. On a typical day, we bring in flowers from our garden, talk about herbs and interesting things we have found, do some simple crafts, and enjoy a snack. We also love to sing about gardening! The residents are fun and love to have us come to visit with them.



September through February we meet at Woodhaven Hall on the second and fourth Monday of the month. In November and December we only meet on the second Monday. Come join us and see how rewarding it is. We meet at 9:30 am to get organized, then meet with the residents from 10:00-11:00. Afterwards, we meet for thirty minutes to evaluate how the program went. It only take two hours of volunteer time to give these lovely people something fun to do.



For more information or to volunteer, please contact **Nancy Carnegie at 757-345-2759, ncarnegie1@aol.com; or Ginny Cranford at 757-220-0585, gcranford42@gmail.com**

SEDGES, RUSHES, AND GRASSES, OH MY!

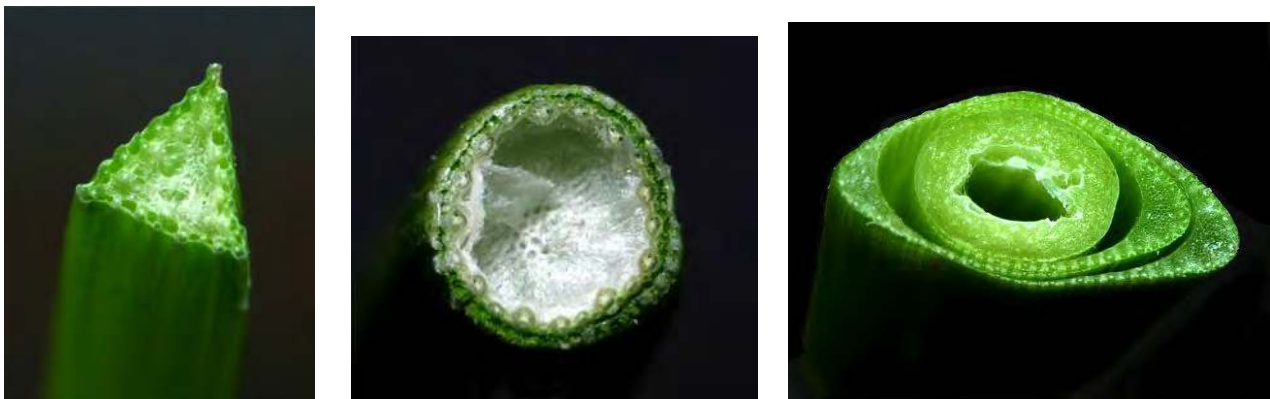
BY KATHY BUSH

At our August meeting we learned a lot about marshland grasses and vegetation that we see along our tidewater estuaries and rivers. Our enthusiastic speaker from the Virginia Living Museum, Dan Summers, quoted several times the simple ditty that helps us remember the differences between them, and I wanted to share that with you in case you missed it.

Sedges have edges, Rushes are round, Grasses are hollow, What have you found?

There is a very interesting blog from the Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History in York, S. C. (<http://www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeekMain.html>), where I found these highly magnified photos to prove the poem true.

What an amazing world we live in!



Dan was very grateful to be able to present to our attentive group. He writes: "If any of the more adventurous in the group might be interested in a the VLM leading a field program at some point that focuses on tidal marshes and shallow water ecosystems, I'd be happy to discuss the possibilities with you."

From his slides, it looks like it could be wet and muddy but fun! **Let me know if this is something you would be interested in pursuing:** kathykbush@verizon.net

Dan also mentioned the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater that continues to greatly affect all of Hampton Roads. It was only discovered in 1983, and scientists have been studying it ever since.

National Geographic has an interesting article on this if you want to learn more: http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/11/1113_chesapeakcrater.html

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E2 NEWS

BY KARI ABBOTT

Hi everyone,



What a summer that has gone by. Suddenly it is time for school to start and E2 to gear up for another exciting year!

We are finalizing school schedules, and anyone who wants to volunteer with us is always welcome. Contact me (bearsbaskets@cox.net) or find me at the Master Gardener meeting, and I will set a time for the training based when people are available.

In other exciting news, Cathy Hill and I leave on September 23 to head to the International Master Gardener College. Our E2 session currently has twenty-nine people signed up!, which is a little exciting since we thought the cap was twenty-five. We look forward to representing our chapter on the national stage.

Thanks for all your support!

LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB

Fall? Already? Hard to believe but if Landscape Love homeowner registration is open, then fall is in the air!

Registration for the residents of Williamsburg and James City County opened August 15 and remains open through September 15. We are off to a slow start, but the publicity campaign is still getting its footing.

Gentle reminder: Two training/organizational sessions are scheduled—one on Thursday, September 17 and the other on Monday, September 21. Both will be in Room A of the JCC rec center at 9 am and will last about an hour. Attendance is necessary at only one, but please let me know which you plan to attend. I will also discuss the new reporting format.

If you did not participate in the spring session and would like to join us for the fall visits, please let me know at gstreb11@gmail.com.

Enjoy your summer gardening!



DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

BY DONNA XANDER

Master Gardeners will hold their fall plant diagnostic clinic in the EOC building behind the firehouse in Toano starting Monday, September 21 through October 19. Clinics will run from 8:30 am until noon every Monday; so for those of you who need to get in some more hours, come and join us. It is a great learning experience.

UPCOMING FARMERS MARKET DATES

September 5 Therapeutic Gardening

September 19 Composting



THIS AND THAT

Take 757

By Peggy Krapf

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden "Music in the Garden" series is bringing back local jazz musicians "Take 757" by popular demand for the last concert of the summer. The open-air event will be held Friday, September 4 at 6:00 pm in the Garden at Freedom Park, 5537 Centerville Road. Bring your own chair. Wine is available. Parking at the Interpretive Center. Suggested donation of \$5. Visit www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org for info and directions.

Results of the VMGA Survey

By Marilyn Riddle

In August the Virginia Master Gardener Association president sent out a survey asking the VMGA representatives various questions about the operation of their units. There are more than sixty units in Virginia, but rarely do members attend a VMGA meeting. As for newsletters, fifteen of the twenty-three units that responded indicated they had newsletters, seven of them monthly newsletters.

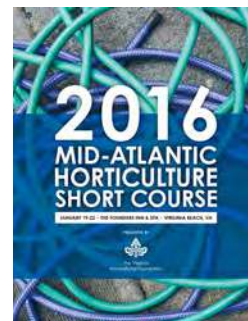
As usual, our unit continues to make us proud with what we do.

The 2016 Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course

Forwarded from Barbara Foley, Program Assistant, Agriculture and Natural Resources, VCE

Looking for a great way to earn continuing education hours? This annual event, sponsored by the Virginia Horticulture Foundation, is a nationally-recognized annual symposium for professionals in the green industries. Although geared to those in the retail industry, there are several topics of interest to Master Gardeners.

The course will take place January 19-22, 2016, at the Founder's Inn in Virginia Beach (note: not in Newport News this year). Registration opens in mid October. For more information, visit <http://www.mahsc.org/>



The 2015 VMGA Educational Symposium

Forwarded from Marilyn Riddle

The VMGA Educational Symposium will be held on September 19 at Virginia State University in Petersburg. Registration for this symposium, entitled "Native Plants: Their Use in Beautiful & Sustainable Landscapes," will be available shortly on our web site at: <http://www.vmganet.net/nexteduceedevent.php>. Please share this with all members of your unit. The is open to all Extension Master Gardeners and friends of EMGs. The flyer appears at the end of this newsletter.

THIS AND THAT AND THEN SOME

Plant Walk

By Helen Hamilton

SHRUBS GALORE! Saturday, September 5, 9:30 am at the Noland Trail at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. Susie Yager, Virginia Horticulturist and Peninsula Master Naturalist, will lead a walk on a portion of this trail heading eastward from the Lion's Bridge, for about a mile. Expect to see many native shrubs, lots of ferns and herbaceous plants such as striped wintergreen and galax. Meet in the parking lot near the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, 101 Museum Drive, Newport News, to carpool. Contact Susie at soozigus@cox.net for more information. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.



Photo of Opuntia (prickly pear cactus), by Helen Hamilton

From Richmond and points west of the Center:

- Take I-64 East to Exit 205 (Bottoms Bridge).
- Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto VA-33 W.
- Turn left at the stoplight onto Rt. 60 (Pocahontas Trail) East.
- Follow Pocahontas Trail for 12.6 miles. You will pass through two stoplights at Rt. 106 and Rt. 155. (At Rt. 155 you pass through the town of Providence Forge.)
- You will see Virginia Department of Forestry signs marking the entrance on the right.
- Turn right at the entrance onto Route 409 / G.W. King Blvd.
- Continue down G.W. King Blvd. a short distance and take the first right turn onto George Dean Highway, a dirt road. You will pass through a red farm gate.
- Follow George Dean Highway for one mile, bearing left at the fork in the road just as you reach the Forest Education Center.
- The parking lot is on your left across the road.



Photo of striped wintergreen Chimaphila maculata by Helen Hamilton

Plant Walk

By Helen Hamilton

UNUSUAL PLANTS. Saturday, October 3, 10:00 am. Lisa Deaton, Forest Education Specialist, will lead a walk on the one-mile trail at the New Kent Forestry Center (11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140).

We can expect to see sweetleaf/horse sugar, prickly-pear cactus, farkleberry/sparkleberry, sand hickory, arrow arum, frog's bit, American chestnut, longleaf pine and others. Meet at the Education Center (the Grading Building on the map), 11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge. Contact Helen Hamilton at 757 564 4494 or helen48@cox.net for more information.

From Hampton Roads and points east of the Center:

- Take I-64 West to Exit 231A for Norge.
- The exit ramp puts you onto Croaker Rd. / VA 607 South.
- At the first stoplight, turn right onto Rochambeau Dr. / VA-30 North.
- Follow Rochambeau Dr. for 3 miles, then travel straight through the stoplight onto Rt. 60 West.
- Follow Rt. 60 for 10.6 miles, and you will see Dept. of Forestry signs marking the entrance.
- Turn left onto Route 409 / G.W. King Blvd.
- Continue down G.W. King Blvd. a short distance and take the first right turn onto George Dean Highway, a dirt road. You will pass through a red farm gate.
- Follow George Dean Highway for one mile, bearing left at the fork in the road just as you reach the Forest Education Center.
- The parking lot is on your left across the road from the building.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND UPCOMING PLANT SALES

BY KATHY BUSH

September 11-12 (Charlottesville). **9th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello.** Sponsored by Southern Exposure Seed Exchange and Monticello. Lectures, vendors, demonstrations, and food. Groupon has 1/2 price tickets. More information at www.heritageharvestfestival.com.

September 12 (Newport News). **2015 Go Green Expo.** The Hampton Roads 2015 Go Green Expo will be held at the Brittingham Midtown Community Center, and the theme is "Eat Local Grow Local!" This year's event includes a rain barrel workshop as well as a cooking demonstration with the Culinary Institute of Virginia. More details are available here: <http://vcemastergardener.blogspot.com/2015/07/2015-go-green-expo.html>

September 11-12 (Richmond). Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-3. **Fall plant sale at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.** Sponsored by garden volunteers. No admission for the sale, regular admission for the garden.

September 18 (Waynesboro), 10-4. **Waynesboro Tree Workshop: Reveling in the Magnificence of Trees.**

Speakers and lectures are:

- ◆ Reveling in the Magnificence of Trees (Bryce Lane)
- ◆ Trees and Turf: An Antagonistic Relationship (Joe Murray)
- ◆ Climate Changing Our Landscapes—Believe It or Else! (Neil Hendrickson)
- ◆ Root Explosion! Missouri Gravel Beds (Eric Kuehler)

The afternoon session includes these stations:

- ◆ Station 1: Lichens 101 (Joe Murray)
- ◆ Station 2: American Chestnut—Bringing Back a Mighty Giant (Matt Brinckman)
- ◆ Station 3: Missouri Gravel Bed Demonstration (Eric Kuehler)
- ◆ Station 4: A Closer Look at Soils (Neil Hendrickson)

Mr. Rip Tompkins will conduct an all-day session, ArborMaster Tree Training and demonstrate climbing and the latest techniques in cutting.

There is a discount for tree stewards! Register at this site:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e9s4c26oe83d2568&oseq=&c=dd0aa290-9d25-11e4-bc73-d4ae52710c75&ch=dd0ec140-9d25-11e4-bc73-d4ae52710c75>

September 19 (Botanical Garden), 10am. **The Night Belongs to Moths.** With slides and narratives, Teta will introduce those night-flying insects that she attracts with white sheets and floodlights. A vibrant speaker with wide knowledge of her subject, Teta will share many unusual stories about moths and their relatives. Contact tkdragonrun7@gmail.com for more information. Suggested donation \$5.

September 19 (Virginia State Univ., Petersburg). 9-3:30. **The 2015 VGMA Educational Symposium.** This year's theme is native plants, native pollinators and garden design for the home landscape. Speakers Bryce Lane, Karl Shank, Anita Tuttle, and Jim Revell. <http://vmga.net/nexteducent.php> for information.

September 19-20 and 26-27. (Newport News). **Plant Sale at the Virginia Living Museum.** In an effort to educate our visitors about the benefits of gardening with native plants, the Museum holds native plant sales the last two weekends in April and September, offering high quality, nursery propagated native plant species that are often difficult to find in the commercial nursery trade.

September 21-22 (Cary, N.C.) **NCEMGVA** (North Carolina Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association) **2015 Conference: Stewards of the Environment.** Dr. Damon Waitt, Director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, will be the opening speaker. The keynote speaker will be Paul James, the star of HGTV's *Gardening by the Yard*.

To know more and to register, click on <http://ncmgva.camp8.org/>

October 22-23 (Richmond, Crowne Plaza Downtown). **Virginia Urban Agricultural Summit.** Confirmed speakers include Ben Flanner with Brooklyn Grande, and Ben Greene with The Farmery. <http://www.vabeginningfarmer.alce.vt.edu/news/20151022UrbanAgSummit.html>

January 18, 2016 (Virginia Beach, the Founder's Inn and Spa). **2016 Home Gardener Day.**

Registration for the event opens in September; 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.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2015

BY HELEN HAMILTON

PAST PRESIDENT, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

DOGFENNEL

Eupatorium capillifolium

Tall plants with lacy fernlike leaves line roadsides and woodland edges, usually in drifts, in late summer. The leaves are narrow and very finely divided. In early fall from September through November, the tiny daisy-like white flowers are replaced by small red berries. As the fruits age, the seeds develop hairs, like those of dandelions, allowing dispersal by the wind.

An attractive plant, Dogfennel grows over six feet tall, and can provide a dramatic backdrop in the garden or containers. But it's very aggressive and weedy and crowds out other, more delicate plants. There is a sterile cultivar called 'Elegant Feather' that has a more benign growth habit and doesn't produce seed.

Dogfennel grows on the Coastal Plain from New Jersey to Florida, Texas, and Arkansas, and in eastern Virginia counties. It is common in habitats where the soil has been severely disturbed, such as burned areas, clear-cuts, and various moist to wet locales. The plant spreads both by seeds and rootstocks which come from the main taproot and grow laterally in all directions.

When crushed, the leaves and flowers release an unpleasant odor. The common name refers to the fennel-like odor, which dogs appear to enjoy. Essential oils of Dogfennel have shown activity as an insecticide and antifungal agent; leaves have been used to repel mosquitoes and juice from the plant extracted to treat bites of reptiles and insects. Livestock usually avoid consuming Dogfennel since the plant contains liver-damaging alkaloids.

The species name *capillifolium* is derived from the Latin *capill* meaning "hair" and *folium* meaning "leaf," referring to the thin segments of the leaves.

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



Dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*). Photo taken by Helen Hamilton

**A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL AT OUR FIRST ANNUAL JCCWMG FAMILY PICNIC
JULY 23, 2015, AT UPPER COUNTY PARK**

PHOTOS BY MIKE MILLIN, PATSY MCGRADY, AND SUE LIDDELL



The Sign-In Fence



President Sue Liddell

The Colonial Master Gardener September 2015



Picnic planner Debby Griesinger (center) with early arrivals Joanne Sheffield and Sue Liddell



The wonderful decorations had a sunflower theme.



Mingling

...and eating



The Colonial Master Gardener September 2015

Fantastic chicken and potluck goodies



There was even a pool for the grandkids. What, no more dessert?



Marilyn Riddle and Jeanne Millin

Cornhole, anyone?



THE EVER-CHALLENGING EGG TOSS WAS DEFINITELY A HIGHLIGHT OF THE PICNIC



Jim Liddell explains the rules of the game.



The close ones are easy.



Waiting for the throw.



Frances Knight misses.



Joan Burke put a thumb through her egg.

Neal Nielsen makes a good catch.



The Colonial Master Gardener September 2015



Anne Nielsen gets a grounder.



Debby Griesinger is eliminated.



Finalists, Vicki Velez, Liz Favre



Concentration!



Jim Liddell retrieves egg from winners Liz and Niels Favre



Gary Streb cleans off his shoe.

Important Dates

- 9/4 Music in the Garden, Botanical Garden
- 9/5 Plant Walk, Mariners' Museum
- 9/5 Farmers Market: Therapeutic Gardening
- 9/12 Go Green Expo, Hampton
- 9/11-12 Heritage Harvest Festival
- 9/11-12 Fall Plant Sale, Ginter Botanical Garden
- 9/18 Waynesboro Tree Workshop
- 9/19 Moths, Botanical Garden
- 9/19 Native Plants symposium, Virginia State University
- 9/19 Farmers Market: Composting
- 9/19-20 Native Plant Sale, VLM
- 9/21-22 NCEMGVA Conference
- 9/26 Fall Plant Sale, Botanical Garden
- 9/26-27 Native Plant Sale, VLM
- 10/3 Plant Walk, New Kent Forestry Center
- 10/22-23 Virginia Urban Agriculture Summit, Richmond
- 1/18/16 Home Gardener Day

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.

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 October newsletter will be Monday, September 21.

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at 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.



2015 VMGA
Educational Symposium

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; Jewel E. Hairston, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.
If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Robyn Puffenbarger at (540-828-5713) during business hours of 9a.m. and 5p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.



Native Plants: Their Use in Beautiful & Sustainable Landscapes

Timetable

9 AM *arrival and registration with coffee*

9:30–10:30 AM Karl Shank, *“If you could hire Nature to design your farm, your landscape, your village green...”*

Short break

10:45–11:45 AM Jim Revell, *“Native Pollinators - Who are they and are they important?”*

11:45 AM lunch break

12:45–1:45 PM Anita Tuttle, *“Wild Natives for Civilized Gardens”*

Short break

2 - 3 PM Bryce Lane, *“Home Gardening to Attract Wildlife”*

Short break

3 PM *panel Q&A Session*

About

19 September 2015
Virginia State University
Petersburg, VA.

Registration is online at VMGA.net and lunch is included in your registration fee. VMGA/VCE can register for \$25, non-VMGA/VCE for \$40 by September 10, 2015. Late registration depends on availability!

For More Information,
<http://www.vmganet.net/nexteduvent.php>