



# The Colonial Master Gardener

October  
2018

PUBLICATION OF JCC/W MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

**“Life is a grim business but we must take refuge in the nearest task whatever it is, and dealing with gardens is one of the most helpful.”**

— Edith Wharton, *Letter to Mary Senni* (1933)

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, October 4**

**Program:  
Bugs and Bees**

**Speaker:  
Daniel Arbogast,  
Nature Photographer and Lecturer**

Even though the temperature is still in the low 90s we can *easily tell* that this is the first week of fall because the Christmas displays are almost completed at our local Williamsburg Lowe's store. I am writing this the last week of September and already Thanksgiving is an “anticipated memory.” At this time of the year our gardens are also in this retail-marketing mode. We are starting to think about planting bulbs for a gorgeous spring display; dividing declining perennials for a more abundant, lush garden; and aerating and reseeding our lawn so it will be a requisite, deep green carpet early in the spring. Fortunately getting ready for the garden's winter sleep can be a fun and healthy pursuit. Getting out in the crisp fall air to rake, compost, install new plant materials, rearrange existing plants for a more pleasing arrangement or healthier locations, dividing perennials to create additional specimens all will enhance your creative spirit and get your metabolism moving. Just be careful and take care of yourself!

This month your association board successfully completed the first-ever vetting of all the current VCE projects based on the 2018 project proposals. Discussion and the flow of information back and forth proved mind awakening and useful to all involved. A couple of projects were modified to better serve our community needs. Some adjustments were made to better fit our VCE Master Gardener educational mission. After this thorough, line-by-line review, creating the 2019 project proposals will be much easier, and determining whether the projects comply will be significantly smoother. The result will be a clearer understanding of each project's mission and method of operation.

The annual project-leader meeting should affirm this common ground. Thanks to all involved in this lengthy and often contentious process.



Currier and Ives (1869)

(The president's message is continued on the next page, page 2)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- CONTINUED

2018  
MGA Board

*President:*  
Gary Streb

*President Elect:*  
Cathy Hill

*VP Administration:*  
Dee Arbegast

*VP Projects:*  
Janet Smith

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Hazel Braxton

*Secretary:*  
Jennifer Campbell

*Treasurer:*  
Liz Favre

*VMGA Rep:*  
Marilyn Riddle

*Past President:*  
Vacant

*VCE ANR Program  
Assistant:*  
Kate Robbins  
(757) 564-2170

Congratulations to our nominating committee for their successful efforts at getting a full slate for the required positions for the 2019 executive board of the JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association. Announcement of the slate will follow in this newsletter, and you will make the final confirmation/decision during the election at the November meeting. If only we were as successful at filling all of the empty project chair and co-chair positions. Without dedicated leadership and a stated continuity plan a project cannot continue; and unfortunately, we have a couple that fall into this category. Every project leader is ready, willing, and able to mentor a new co-chair, so you should not fear being thrown into a bottomless abyss. A co-chair may be considered an apprentice, getting ready to eventually take over the reigns of the project, but this is not a requirement. An option: rather than a chair and co-chair, a project could have a small committee with a spokesperson---"bite-size" leadership for those who have other, non-EMG obligations or responsibilities. Some other units have project leaders appointed by the VCE agent. However, there remains a basic reality---without leadership a project cannot exist. Anarchy is not an effective management style.

As I promised at our last general monthly meeting I am planning to open the floor for a continued discussion about the association plant sale. If anyone wants to prepare speaking-point graphics or a handout, please let me know beforehand so we can efficiently use the allocated half hour. This will be your additional opportunity to let your thoughts/ideas about the future of our association be known. As a reminder, our monthly board meetings are open to all association members.

Speaking of association membership---Liz Favre, our treasurer, will begin collecting our 2019 association dues (\$15, payable by check or cash) at the next general meeting on October 4. Annual VCE compliance requirements (a minimum of twenty volunteer hours and eight continuing-education hours) remain the same. As part of the dreaded paperwork, please keep your account up to date by regularly inputting your hours into the Volunteer Management System. Checking your account in the VMS is how we verify your hours.

Dan Arbegast will be the guest lecturer at our October educational lecture series presentation, sharing with us his photographs of "Birds and Bugs." Should be an interesting and insightful talk!

Happy sustainable gardening!



Ilya Mashkov, "Farmer with Pumpkins" (1930)

**"To see another's garden may give us a keen perception of the richness or poverty of his personality, of his experiences and associations in life, and his spiritual qualities."**

**— Charles Downing Lay, *A Garden Book* (1924)**

The MGA board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30am 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.

All graphics in this issue are in the public domain and are courtesy of [WikiArt](https://www.wikiart.org/).



Albrecht Durer, "Cervus Lucanus" (1505)

## THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Daniel Arbegast, a vector biologist who first became fascinated with insects in 4H, graduated from Penn State's forest technician program fifty years ago and Shippensburg (PA) State College in 1971 with a BS in education, majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry. He has completed additional studies in geoenvironmental studies at Shippensburg State University and in engineering at Penn State University.

Daniel worked for thirty-three years at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, rising from a sanitarian in a public health center to chief of the Division of Vector Management, where he was responsible for the Black Fly Suppression Program, the West Nile Virus Program, environment and health initiatives, consultation and support to public health vectors (insects, arthropods, rodents, and other organisms capable of transmitting disease), and support to the department's homeland security functions, including setting up laboratory services to support those programs.

In addition, he developed the first internet-based, shared data system between those county programs and the Pennsylvania departments of Environmental Protection, Health, and Agriculture and served as president of the Pennsylvania Vector Control Association and the Pennsylvania Entomological Society.

Daniel grew up in a farming environment and had a garden much of his life. He also kept bees for more than ten years, only stopping when work demands didn't allow time to maintain the hives. Daniel is married to Master Gardener Dee Arbegast.

## A FEW TIMELY REMINDERS....

### From Liz Favre, Treasurer:

Project chairs, if you have not done so already, please email me any updates or changes to the 2019 budget, ASAP.

I will collect dues at our October 4, November 1, and December 6 meetings.

Make your checks payable to JCCW Master Gardeners in the amount of \$15.00.

I will also accept cash and give you a receipt.

Checks can also be mailed to my home.  
Liz Favre, MGA Treasurer  
4419 Chickasaw Court  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

### From Cathy Hill, President-Elect:

This is a reminder to make your clothing order before October 15. Here is the link again:

<http://mastergardeners.deco-apparel.com/>

**From Karen Brooks:** To all therapeutic gardener volunteers and anyone else interesting in learning more about this project: Please join us on Thursday, October 18, at 1:00 at the Freedom Park Interpretive Center for our annual fall wrap-up meeting.

If interested in attending, please contact me, [Karen Brooks](mailto:knbrooks1@verizon.net), at [knbrooks1@verizon.net](mailto:knbrooks1@verizon.net)

### From Marilyn Riddle:

Last call! Members who would like to work at the [state fair](#) on Wednesday, October 3, please contact [Marilyn Riddle](#) for information about the day. We will carpool because the location is about one hundred miles away. My telephone number is 229-2177. We will work the 2:00-5:00pm shift and will leave this area about 11:00am.

**From Barry Holland:** Thanks to all the Master Gardener coaches and interns who worked the help desk this season. The help desk information along with that provided at the Farmers Market helped a lot of local gardeners. The help desk is open until October 29 this year.

## SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2019 ASSOCIATION BOARD BY DEE ARBEGAST, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

Election day for our association is November 2 at the association meeting. The slate of officers is:

President:	Cathy Hill
President-elect:	Patsy McGrady
VP Projects:	Janet Smith
VP Administration:	Dee Arbegast
VP Internal Education:	Hazel Braxton
Treasurer:	Liz Favre
Secretary:	Jennifer Campbell



Francisco Goya, "Witches Sabbath" (1789)

A big THANK YOU goes out to the nominating committee (Jen Campbell, Angie Cingale, Karen Brooks, and Marilyn Riddle) for their success in finding candidates for these board offices. It is also that time of year when we start collecting [recertification \(aka re-enrollment\) forms](#). We will have the forms at the October, November, December, and January meetings. You can also access the form on [our website](#). Hopefully this extra time gives us the flexibility to get all of our ducks in a row.

- Roster Changes: If there are changes to any of your personal information, you need to communicate this to [Kate Robbins](#) (kateor@vt.edu) as well as myself. Kate needs the correct information for the extension service. Check the accuracy of the Tree Stewards and Water Stewards on the roster. If any corrections, please [notify me](#). (deearbegast@gmail.com)
- Volunteer Hours: The end of the year is approaching fast. Please enter your hours regularly. I just ran some reports and see many that are blank for several months. We have many hard-working individuals, and we need the administrative part of our job documented for VCE purposes.



Claude Monet, "Haystacks at Chailly" (1865)

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**October 3.** (40 Atlantic Avenue, Wachapreague, VA 23480, VIMS Seaside Hall, Eastern Shore Laboratory). 7:30 pm. [VIMS Wachapreague Seminar: Exploring the Evolutionary Ecology of a Seaweed Invader in Virginia](#). The red seaweed *Gracilaria vermiculophylla* forms dense, drifting beds on the mudflats along the coast of Virginia. It was introduced to the area, as well as virtually every other temperate estuary in the Northern Hemisphere, in the middle of the 20th century as a consequence of oyster aquaculture. This talk will highlight how we figured out from where this seaweed came, how it is spread around now that it is here, and some of the quirks of its life cycle. Free and open to the public.

Louis Comfort Tiffany, "Autumn Panel from the Four Seasons Window" (1910)



**October 6** (1800 Lakeside Ave, Richmond 23228 ). 8:45-10:45am. [Lewis Ginter Workday](#). Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society volunteers at LGBG several times a year. We have cleared invasive ivy, bush honeysuckle and other plants to allow natives to thrive in the Woodland Vale, planted new natives along the lake and cleared ivy and barberry in the school bus parking area. We would love for you to join us as we give back at the gardens. Willingness to "get your hands dirty" is most important and tasks can be assigned based on knowledge and physical ability. All tools are provided. Children over 16 are welcomed. You do not need to be a member to volunteer. We will meet at 8:45 to the left of the fountain behind the visitor center.



Henri Rousseau, "Carnival Evening" (1886)

**October 5-7** (College of William and Mary, School of Education). All day. [Virginia Native Plant Society Annual Meeting](#). The 2018 VNPS annual meeting, hosted by the John Clayton Chapter, will center around the theme of sustainability; considering ways that we can make our organizations healthier and more viable, which in turn will allow us to multiply our efforts to preserve Virginia's natural plant populations. Also planned: some excellent walks; outings and presentations; great food, and charming companionship!. **RESCHEDULED** from September 14-16.



Jamie Wyeth, "Pumpkinhead: Self Portrait" (1972)

*Continued on the next page, page 6*

**UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES — CONTINUED**

BY LAUREL DAYTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Norman Rockwell, "Ghostly Gourds" (1969)



**October 13.** (6120 Knotts Neck Road, Suffolk 23435). 8:00am—12:00noon. **Knotts Creek Nursery.** Wholesale nursery offering its fall plant sale for Master Gardeners. Cash or check only, and bring wagons to use when shopping.

**October 20.** (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **How to Grow Herbs.** **Briscoe White**, co-owner of the [Growers Exchange](http://www.thegrowers-exchange.com), an online company for herb plants in Charles City County, will give recommendations for no-fail herbs, the best time to plants specific herbs outdoors and what NOT to do with herbs. Additionally, he will talk about best practices in planting and pruning herbs outdoors as well as growing herbs indoors through the winter. This event is part of the Learn and Grow Educational Series sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. The program is free, although a \$5.00 donation to help the garden grow is appreciated. For more information, contact Briscoe by email at [bwhite@thegrowers-exchange.com](mailto:bwhite@thegrowers-exchange.com)



Limbourg Brothers, "Autumn: Sowing the Winter Grain" (c. 1440)

**October 25** (Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk 23351). 6:30-8:30pm. **Butterfly Society of Virginia Monthly Meeting.** Come join us as we welcome Steve McCurdy to our October meeting. Steve and his wife, Karen, are co-presidents of the Butterfly Society of Virginia. They garden with host plants that support the life stages of caterpillars and with nectar plants that provide the sugar-rich liquid butterflies need. The South Hampton Roads Chapter meetings are open to the public and there is no charge for the evening program. We meet at the Norfolk Botanical Garden in the Holly Room. Please come and bring a friend! Refreshments will be served. Please plan to arrive before 7:00 as the gate to the Norfolk Botanical Garden closes at that time.

Francisco Goya, "Young Witch Flying with a Rope" (1824-1828)



As always, don't forget to take a look at John Freeborn's latest biweekly update from the state EMG office. Click on <https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/mastergardener/current-master-gardeners/sample-page/bi-weekly-update/> . If that doesn't work, click on <http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/mastergardener/>. Then click on "I am currently a Master Gardener/News/Bi-Weekly Update."

## LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB, PROJECT CHAIR



Theophile Steinlen, "Cat in the Moonlight" (c. 1900)

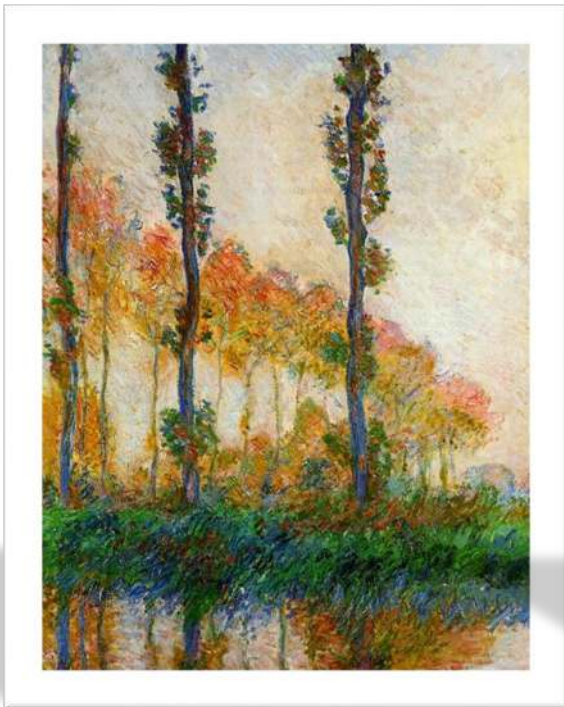
Landscape Love is well on its way this fall season.

After completing training/organizational meetings on September 18 and 21, the Landscape Love volunteers are well equipped and eager to answer the questions and concerns of the over sixty-nine James City County and City of Williamsburg homeowners who have requested an on-site visit by one of our teams. Almost fifty Extension Master Gardeners and ten interns of the Class of 2018 are participating and have already completed several of the visits. This season we have consolidated the traditional five teams into three: Ford's Colony, Williamsburg, and James City.

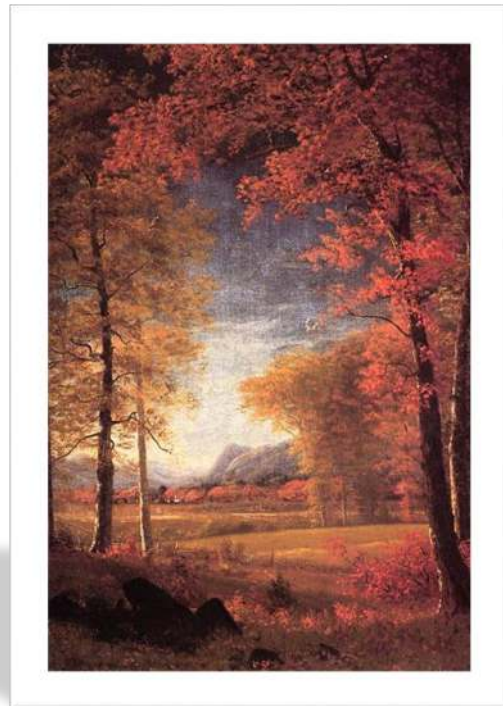
Each hand-selected visit team of three-to-four EMGs, including an intern, will spend about an hour at the residence and answer any/all questions about the homeowner's landscaping/gardening issues. Anything can come up, which really tests the knowledge of the whole team. Advance preparation and research are useful, and the follow-up summary report is helpful in providing additional information that may not have been previously disbursed. We provide each homeowner with a packet of pertinent Virginia Tech publications and lists of relevant websites to assist in their planning for a sustainable and attractive landscape.

A sincere thank you to all of the volunteers who are the vital part of Landscape Love. Your knowledge and willingness to educate our community epitomizes our volunteer educator mission.

Claude Monet, "The Three Trees" (1891)



Albert Bierstadt, "Autumn in America: Oneida County, New York" (date unknown)



## WHAT IS THE MOBILE MASTER GARDENER?

BY KATHY BUSH

We could say that we are all Mobile Master Gardeners! Some of our members travel around the country seeing the sights and visiting friends and family, and some take cruises and trips overseas. Everyone seems to be going somewhere, and it is so much fun to hear about everyone's travels. But we have a project called the Mobile Master Gardener that is used to get the word out about our work around the county. It gives us visibility in the community and explains our mission and purpose as Extension Master Gardeners.



The James City County/Williamsburg Extension Master Gardeners make available to the community a professional tri-fold board highlighting all of our projects, training classes, and upcoming events. Maybe you saw it at our September meeting as you came into the theater. It is updated regularly with pictures and information about Turf Love, Landscape Love, pruning clinics, and our annual training class in January. We also have freebies to accompany the board like rain gauges and pencils. Recently the board appeared at the Kingspoint Neighborhood Association meeting thanks to Elizabeth McCoy and Ann Hobson.

We would like to get more visibility in the community; so I am asking **YOU** to be our representative at your HOA or community or club events. Please think about where this "advertising" could be used effectively and let me know of any opportunities that you have to use the Mobile Master Gardener.

Contact me at [kathykbush@verizon.net](mailto:kathykbush@verizon.net). Thank You!

## THE 2019 TRAINING CLASS: TRAINEES AND CLASS MANAGERS

BY HOPE YELICH

Yes, it's that time of year again. Kate Robbins at the VCE office in Toano is accepting applications for the 2019 James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener training program. As usual, we want to get the word out to as many people as possible, and that includes your friends, neighbors, colleagues, and people who read your neighborhood newsletter. If you'd like to help us by including the information in your neighborhood newsletter—as well as by word of mouth—please let me know, and I'll make sure you have the most up-to-date information.

As last year, classes are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the county rec center on Longhill Road, and each class is three hours long (9:00am-12:00noon). The first day of class is January 8, the last March 28. The course fee remains at \$165.

**The deadline to receive completed applications is October 31, 2018.** Program information and applications are posted at [www.jccwmg.org](http://www.jccwmg.org). For questions or more information, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension office in Toano at (757) 564-2170.

Also, if you're interested in being a **class manager**, please [let me know](mailto:hopeyelich@gmail.com) ([hopeyelich@gmail.com](mailto:hopeyelich@gmail.com)). I plan to contact everyone who helped us last year, so feel free to wait for my November email if you prefer.



## MATTEY'S GARDEN

BY LOUANN MARTIN, PROJECT CHAIR

Another school year has begun at Mattey's! We have an enthusiastic group of ninety-seven kindergarteners and eighty-four first graders who are venturing into the garden to learn about gardening with herbs, vegetables, flowers, and insects and their interaction with one another.



Photos: Louann Martin

As Mattey's Garden prepares for its twentieth anniversary celebration on April 26 and 27, 2019, there is much to do in the garden. In addition to our regular education sessions, we are planning two Saturday building sessions on October 13 (10:00am – 1:00pm) and October 27 (2:00-5:00pm). During the sessions, we will concentrate on rebuilding the remaining four raised beds. Some parents from Matthew Whaley might join us to help, when we can teach them the building process for raised bed gardening. We will also work on plants from the alphabet garden, many of which have ramblled into their neighboring letters. Apparently, plants can't read!

Green Spring Garden Club plans to include Mattey's as a destination on its Holiday House Tour on December 1 (Grand Illumination weekend). Master Gardeners will be at the garden to educate the guests of the garden. The club would like to recognize

the garden for its accomplishments throughout the years. Because of this, we have pushed up the work timetables to accommodate their invitation.

In celebration of the twentieth anniversary, the Matthew Whaley PTA is having T-shirts designed and sold as a fund-raising project, with proceeds benefiting the garden. If anyone would like to purchase one, contact Louann Martin ([lk martin2011@gmail.com](mailto:lk martin2011@gmail.com)). I will give you all the details you need (cost/size, etc.).

Mattey's welcomes two new co-chairs: Rick Brown and Hope Yelich. They will be working with me to keep Mattey's growing! Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Ken Caro sent along this photo showing staff members of the Williamsburg Regional Library, William and Mary, and Master Gardeners joining together to mulch the Blayton School Garden during the Day of Caring on September 8.



## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH OCTOBER 2018

BY HELEN HAMILTON  
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### DEVIL'S WALKING STICK *Aralia spinosa*

Devil's walking stick is well-named – in winter the plant is recognized by an unbranched stem covered with sharp spines, not at all suitable for support while walking. In the growing season the plant produces enormous compound leaves that are divided three times (triply compound) and covered with irritating prickles. These are the largest leaves in North America, reaching four feet long and three feet wide, forming an umbrella-like canopy. Green in summer, they become attractive bronze-yellow to red in fall.

This is a shrub or small tree that can grow to thirty feet, adding a tropical look to a naturalized setting or mixed shrubbery border. The greenish-white flowers are small, but in great clusters that can be three



Photo: Devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*) taken by Helen Hamilton

feet long, held above the leaves, and then drooping from the weight of the flowers. Covered with bees and butterflies in summer, the flowers are followed by dark-purple, juicy berries, very popular with birds and small mammals, that leave behind lacy red stalks.

Devil's walking stick is very easy to grow, thrives on neglect, and is adaptable to urban conditions. Full sun or part shade and any type of soil is suitable – the plant prefers moist, fertile loams but will tolerate soils with rocks and clay. Devil's walking stick is often found along well-drained stream banks and roadsides. It grows rapidly and spreads by self-seeding and sprouts from the base, eventually creating a thicket. A pioneer species, the plant disappears as a forest is maturing.

Scattered throughout eastern U.S. and most counties in Virginia, devil's walking stick grows in upland and low woods and woods edges. While it could be an accent or ornamental, devil's walking stick is too aggressive for the home garden, but since the flowers and fruits are so valuable to pollinators and birds, it is suitable for planting in large lots along the edge of woodlands.

Deer tend to avoid browsing on the prickly leaves, and the plant has no disease problems or insect infestations.

For more information about native plants, visit [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)

## Important Dates

- 10/3 Wachapreague Seminar (Eastern Shore)
- 10/6 Lewis Ginter Workday (Richmond)
- 10/5-7 VNPS Annual Meeting (W&M)
- 10/13 Knotts Creek Nursery Plant Sale (Suffolk)
- 10/20 How to Grow Herbs (Freedom Park)
- 10/25 Butterfly Society of Virginia Meeting (Norfolk)

Isaac Levitan, "Autumn Leaves" (1879)



## 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.

This month we sent cards to:

Patricia Paquette Get well  
Lyn Natanski Get well  
Susan Shoulet Sympathy

Please provide names to the EMG secretary, Jennifer Campbell, at (757) 968-9499, or [jenkcampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkcampbell@yahoo.com)

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the November 2018 newsletter will be Wednesday, October 24.

Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at [hopeyelich@gmail.com](mailto: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.