



The Colonial Master Gardener

November
2018

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GARY STREB

“We can get fuel from fruit, from that shrub by the roadside, or from apples, weeds, saw-dust, almost anything! There is fuel in every bit of vegetable matter that can be fermented. There is enough alcohol in one year’s yield of a hectare of potatoes to drive the machinery necessary to cultivate the field for a hundred years.”

— Henry Ford, as quoted in *The New York Times* (1925)

Next Meeting:

Thursday, November 1

Program:
Monarch Waystation Certification

Speaker:
Joni Carlson



How can you not love fall? When was the last time you took the time just to sit and watch the autumn leaves, studying their color and movement in the gentle breeze? Many consider it to be the best season—because of the glorious foliage and the festive traditions.

Albert Camus considered autumn a “second spring, when every leaf is a flower.” The hot, humid summer of Tidewater Virginia is a thing of the past, and thoughts of winter’s ice and snow still seem so far off. Of course, there are all the fall garden chores you need to do before the chill is felt in your fingertips; but if they don’t all get done you can rationalize the unfinished chores as a garden haven for overwintering insects and wildlife. Not every garden need be manicured, clipped, and mulched. Leave the leaves. Pick one or two up and *really* look at them. The beauty of nature can be seen in every changing autumn leaf, with the promise of the renewal of a lush garden in the spring, and the predictable continuity that it is all part of the Master Plan. Change, renewal, continuity—a common theme that threads throughout my presidential messages.

Many of the projects are wrapping up for the year—working outside, particularly early in the morning or in the shortening evenings, is starting to get a little chilly. Several project leaders are in the process of writing annual

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- CONTINUED

2018
MGA Board

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Gary Streb

President Elect:
Cathy Hill

VP Administration:
Dee Arbegast

VP Projects:
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VMGA Rep:
Marilyn Riddle

Past President:
Vacant

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

summaries and lists of accomplishments for continuity books that will provide not only a history but a roadmap for the future leadership of the project. Several of the projects are still in need of leaders, or a leadership committee, and the project's continuity book will provide the "to-do list" for the organization and workings of the project. But leadership changeover certainly encourages new ideas, different approaches, new avenues, a renewal of the educational mission. Becoming a project chair or co-chair does not require inventing a new wheel. Change, renewal, continuity.

We will be voting for three positions on the 2019 board of the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association during the November 1 meeting. The nominating committee put together a slate for the association's consideration: Patsy McGrady, president-elect; Dee Arbegast, vice president for administration; and Hazel Braxton, vice president for internal education. Duties and responsibilities are listed on [our website](#) (member's only section). According to our bylaws (also on [our website](#)), nominations are allowed from the floor, with the stipulation the person nominated agrees to fulfill the responsibilities if elected. Change, renewal, continuity.

As we approach the holidays and the end of 2018 we are already moving toward continued success in 2019. Liz Favre will be available in the library lobby before the November and December meetings to receive payment of your association dues. Dee Arbegast will have the necessary forms for next year's compliance requirements—you can get a head start and [print them off our website](#) (member's only section) beforehand. Another annual requirement you need to fulfill by the end of this year is the completion of twenty hours of Master Gardener volunteer hours in the approved projects **and** eight hours of continuing education.

Remember, as of last January, your travel time to and from a volunteer activity should be counted as part of the hour total for that activity. Unless you record these hour requirements in the Volunteer Management System you are not eligible to remain an Extension Master Gardener in 2019. Paying dues and filling in the essential forms is not enough—you do have to show evidence of volunteer work completed. If you need assistance finishing enough hours or recording your hours in the VMS, please contact [me](#) or [Cathy Hill](#). We need each and every one to fulfill our community commitments!

As an inspiration as you plan ahead for your spring garden, Joni Carlson will be our featured speaker at the monthly educational lecture at our November 1st meeting. Her instruction for "Monarch Waystation Certification" will provide a proven plan to attract, host, feed, and propagate the magnificent monarch butterfly.

Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes for a bountiful harvest.

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.

"The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest."

— William Blake, "Proverbs of Hell," *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (1793)



The Graphics Fairy

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION



The Graphics Fairy

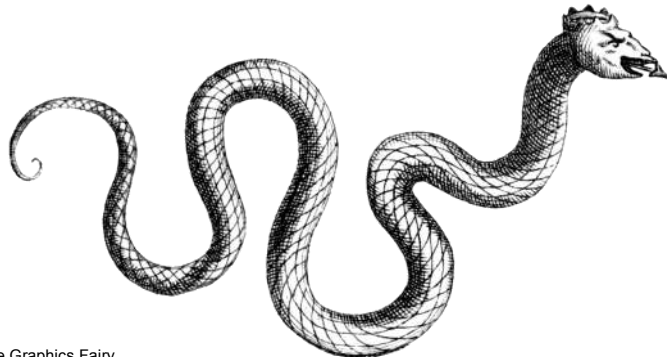
Joni Carlson is the James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardener speaker for November and will speak on monarch waystation certification. She has a varied and interesting background that includes a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Delaware, expertise in food and nuclear analytical chemistry, and a current post as a lead educator for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's museum.

Joni is a certified Virginia Master Naturalist with the Historic Rivers Chapter and is passionate about drawing, raising, and releasing butterflies. She enjoys teaching local elementary systems about their life cycle (with live samples) and in maintaining the certified monarch butterfly waystation on her property in Surry. Joni loves to show others how easy butterfly gardening is in order to increase their overall joy of gardening.

“When I’m out working in the garden, running my hands through the soil, I forget, for the moment, about the cares and woes of modern life, and my mind drifts back over the years to biology class, when Mrs. Wright told us about these tiny parasitic worms that live in the dirt and get under your fingernails, and if you bite your nails, the worms get into your body and lay eggs in your muscles. I don’t recall how serious a problem this was, but as a rule Mrs. Wright wouldn’t discuss a parasite unless it was fatal. So, Rule No. 1 of successful gardening is: Never bite your fingernails, or those of another gardener.”

--- Dave Barry, “Gardening Grows on You,” *Chicago Tribune* (1985)

And you were led to believe Rule No 1 was **Right plant, right place.....**



The Graphics Fairy

IN HONOR OF RUTH SCHULTZ

BY GARY STREB, PRESIDENT

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

—2 Timothy 4:7

Our friend Ruth Schultz left us on September 29, 2018.

Ruth cherished the time she spent through the years with her friends and family and asked we remember her through those experiences rather than her many accomplishments.

Her request will leave us reflecting on the time spent with her—our hands in the dirt, feet in the snow, faces turned towards the sun, saltwater splashing about, a cold beverage in hand, wind whistling in our ears, and smiles in our hearts.

She will be sorely missed but will be forever a part of us. Friendship above all ties does bind the heart, and faith in friendship is the noblest part.



Top: Ruth Schultz and rattlesnake watermelon



Left: Ruth and Pamela Sisson at CW's Reid Garden.

Below: At the 2016 annual CW volunteer reception. Pictured are Rich Bunger, Becky Sutton, Liz Favre, Ruth, and Carol Fryer.



All photos by Sue Liddell

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

November 10. (White Oak Trail at Newport News Park, 13560 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, 23603). 10:00—11:30am. **Fall Colors Walk.** Susie Yager will lead a level and easy walk through a lakeside woodland. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.



November 17. (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **Bulbs as Companion Plants.** Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's in Gloucester, will advise you whether you are planning to plant bulbs in a fresh, newly prepared empty garden or if you are adding them to an already existing one. 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 is appreciated.



November 23-January 7, 2019, except December 24 and 25. (Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). 5:00-10:00pm. **Dominion Energy Gardenfest of Lights.** A holiday tradition featuring one million twinkling lights, handcrafted botanical decorations, model trains, holiday dinners, firepit with s'mores and hot chocolate (for purchase); nightly family activities & more. The region's ultimate holiday extravaganza! Nonmember tickets \$13.00 adults, \$11.00 seniors.

November 15. (James City County Rec Center, 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, 23188). 9:00am—4:30pm. **Extension Master Gardener Leadership Development Training: Southeast District.** Agents, coordinators, and volunteers in leadership roles or are interested in le



November 22-January 1, 2019. (Newport News Park, 13560 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News 23603). 5:30-10:00pm. **Celebration in Lights.** Newport News Park will be transformed by over a million individual lights, creating animated holiday and fanciful scenes. For its twenty-sixth year, the event will add special effects snow that will fall on the cars as they drive into the Winter Wonderland area on special nights . Cost \$12.00 per car.



The fall 2018 edition of ***In Season*** is here. This is the newsletter of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program and comes out five times a year. To take a look at the nineteen-page edition, [click here](#). Our unit is well represented!

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."

MOBILE MG APPEARS AT JAMESTOWN FEED AND SEED

BY KATHY BUSH

On the first Saturday in October a team of Master Gardeners helped out [Jamestown Feed and Seed](#) by setting up a table at their Fall Plant Days celebration. MG intern Shadow Harmon along with MGs Dave Kleppinger and Kathy Bush met many newcomers to the area and fielded their questions.

We handed out soil sample kits, rain gauges, and cards promoting the help desk, pruning clinic, Landscape and Turf Love, and the upcoming training class in January. We were pleased to work with Robin, who is employed at JF&S as their nursery coordinator. She has been a Master Gardener herself and went on to get a certificate in landscape design from Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. She says she



Pictured: Shadow Harmon and Dave Kleppinger

would be glad to order any plants you may be interested in and has a good supply of deer resistant and native plants in stock for fall planting. We are looking for opportunities to get out in the community and partner with retail establishments to promote the Virginia Cooperative Extension and especially the Extension Master Gardeners. If you would like to be one of the team to help with these pop-up MG tables, please contact me at kathykbush@verizon.net.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING AT THE WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

BY JORDAN WESTERHAVER



Master Gardeners in the Sustainable Gardening WBG project celebrate the end of another successful gardening year.

The group will be planting bulbs soon; otherwise, they will not meet until March.

Pictured left to right are: Harry Fahl, Bill Dichtel, Joanne Sheffield, Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Elizabeth McCoy, Robin Reichelt, Linda Lucas, Kathy Briggs, Donna Ware (WBG stakeholder and mentor), Deb Bussert, and Jordan Westenhaver.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

BY KATHY BUSH

We are all able to talk and enjoy speaking about what we know. But getting up in front of an audience or even a small group to share information can be intimidating, nerve-wracking, and definitely out of our comfort zone for some of us who consider ourselves introverts. We have good news. You can overcome your fears and we can help!

The board of the Master Gardener Association has generously agreed to sponsor advanced training for any qualified Extension Master Gardener who would like to polish her or his presentation- and public-speaking skills. We are looking for people who enjoy talking and teaching about best plants for a location, good and bad insects, turf and weeds, landscape design and management, herbs, and any other garden-related topic that you feel passionate about!

Through the years we have not put much effort into developing speakers for the MG speakers bureau. Our list of topics and speakers is thin, but we get requests throughout the year from garden clubs, community organizations, and homeowners associations. It is a pity to turn away these opportunities! WE NEED YOU TO CONSIDER USING YOUR TALENTS IN THIS AREA! As Master Gardener volunteers representing the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech, one of our *primary* responsibilities is to give accurate information to the community about horticulture. It is challenging and requires more responsibility to engage with the public. It is also more rewarding! Please consider stepping up your VCE commitment to our MG association by volunteering your time to share your knowledge and expertise.

We have hired a professional contract trainer to lead our training program, and we plan to set a date in late January. If you would like to be part of the class (space is limited to ten) or you are thinking about it and would like to talk, contact me at your earliest convenience at kathykbush@verizon.net.

BOXWOOD BLIGHT VIDEO SERIES FROM VIRGINIA TECH

Thanks to both Marilyn Riddle and Kathy Bush for passing on this message from John Freeborn. As Kathy notes, the videos “are brief and very informative, especially for all of us who do diagnostics and go on home visits.”

Hi All!

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program and the Virginia Tech Plant Disease Clinic are excited to announce completion of our educational boxwood blight video series.

This 11-part video series covers topics important to preventing the spread of boxwood blight in Virginia, including symptoms of the disease, disease spread, and prevention measures. The videos are appropriate for homeowners as well as landscaping professionals who may encounter the boxwood blight in their work. We hope this video series will be a helpful resource for you as you field questions from the public regarding this disease.

Boxwood blight was first discovered in Virginia in 2011 and many counties have had positive identifications of the disease since then. This disease poses a serious threat to Virginia’s boxwoods. For more information on boxwood blight, please visit the [Boxwood Blight Task Force page](#).

Check out our [YouTube video Series here!](#)

To view our new video series on boxwood blight, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnWrSBjZVh9ca6gVsTswtJ1A25YtdivZw>. Please feel free to share this information with stakeholders and others who would have interest!

Thank you,
The Office of the Extension Master Gardener State Coordinator and The Plant Disease Clinic

THIS AND THAT



2019 Training Class

By Hope Yelich

There's still time to apply to join the 2019 training class. We've extended the deadline to November 30. Please tell everyone you know who might be interested! Program information and applications are posted at www.jccwmg.org. For questions or more information, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension office in Toano at (757) 564-2170.

Clothing Deadline Extended

By Cathy Hill

We have extended the clothing order deadline to December 1.

I had several requests for hats, and there are two styles added to the web order page. The two styles are a baseball cap and a floppy hat. Don't forget you must set up your own account and pick up your items when you are called.

A reminder our web access is:
<http://mastergardeners.deco-apparel.com/>
(note the creative spelling in the link....)

Christmas gifts, anyone?

"Let us not forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts will follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization."

---Daniel Webster

From *Words for Gardeners to Live By* (Kansas City: Andrew McMeel Publishing, 2003). Thanks to Ailene Bartlett for sending this quote and information about the book.

More Trees = Happier People

Yes, we know that, but others apparently don't. Thanks to Rick Brown for passing on the link to this *New York Times* opinion piece (October 7, 2018):

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/07/opinion/more-trees-happier-people.html>



FREEDOM PARK TREE STEWARD PROJECT BY JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS



Pictured: Peter Schaub, Kathy Bush, Nancy Carnegie, Drew Ellis, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis. Photo by Alister Perkinson.

On Monday, October 22, eight volunteers installed four trees and five shrubs at the Settlement in Williamsburg's Freedom Park.

The Tree Steward Team-- Kathy Bush, Nancy Carnegie, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, and Peter Schaub-- researched trees used by Settlement inhabitants for tools, furniture, food, and building, among other things. They narrowed the first phase of their project to plants that would have provided food.

The Settlement at Freedom Park, which was known as the Hot Water Tract at the time, was established by the will of William Ludwell Lee, who freed his slaves and

provided land and money to build homes for them. Although it was not the first settlement for free African-Americans, it was among the earliest.

For the first phase of the project, we planted peaches, elderberries, and a fig tree. Additionally, we sowed pawpaw seeds in the woods at the edge of the Settlement. Three apple trees will be planted later in the season once dormant trees are available. While the team is concentrating on trees that would have been here before the British arrived, the project is not limited to native plants, because by the time the Settlement was established in 1803, many plants and trees had already been brought here by early settlers.

Apples and peaches are not native, and the Hot Water Tract more than likely would not have had an orchard. However, the residents would have had freed slaves who would have worked in the plantation orchards and may have cultivated trees to provide food.

The next phase of this project will be identifying and applying for grant money. Future goals include purchasing some larger trees, identifying some of the trees used for other purposes, and designing and purchasing educational signs.

The team would like to thank volunteers who helped with this project: Greg Hajos, Mike Whitfield, Drew Ellis, and Joanne Sheffield, as well as park manager Alister Perkinson, who helped by providing trees, mulch, tree clearing, and help with planting. Next time you head down Centerville Road, take a drive into Freedom Park and take a look at the work.



Photo by Kathy Bush

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2018

BY HELEN HAMILTON
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Photos: Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) taken by Helen Hamilton

COMMON HACKBERRY *Celtis occidentalis*

Distinctive warty, cork-like ridges cover the smooth gray to light brown bark of hackberry.

The form is that of a shrub, with several woody stems growing from the base; the crown is rounded, and the branches spread and droop slightly.

The leaves are long-pointed and alternate on the stems. They have coarse teeth and mostly uneven bases and are rough on the surface, about four inches long. Another species, *C. laevigata*, has subtle differences in the leaves; the *Flora of Virginia* states that the distinction between the two species “is problematic in Virginia.”

In early spring, inconspicuous yellowish-green flowers appear in small clusters, followed by small, orange to purple fruit on stalks at the leaf bases. Flowers bloom in April and May, and fruits follow from October through November. Five species of butterflies, including mourning cloak, visit the flowers for nectar, and many birds love the sweet, ripened fruits, often called “sugarberries.”

Common hackberry grows in moist soils, usually along streams, and also in forests, meadows and fields. Growing naturally in most counties of Virginia, the range is from Canada south to Virginia and west to Oklahoma. Hackberry is a good landscape choice since it grows rapidly, can resist strong winds, tolerate air pollution, provide erosion control, and doesn't require watering.

Hackberry is a member of the Cannabaceae, the hops or hemp family, with eleven genera distributed worldwide. Economically important species are *Humulus* (hops), *Cannabis* (hemp) and *Celtis* (hackberry), that can be cut into lumber for furniture and containers.

The common name apparently was derived from “hagberry,” meaning “marsh berry,” a name used in Scotland for a cherry.

Small galls often produce tiny bumps on the leaves that are harmless to the tree and can be used to help identify the species. Contorted twig clusters called “witches' broom” are often at the ends of branches. Produced by mites and fungi, they do little harm to the tree but can be unsightly. Some gardeners prefer cultivars that are resistant to witches' broom for landscape use.

Native Americans used the hackberry for medicinal purposes as well as for food. The fruits (drupes) are sweet and sugary but with a hard stone that is rich in protein and fats. Survival manuals recommend crushing the entire fruits to a paste, then toasted into a bar.



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

Important Dates

- 11/10 Fall Colors Walk (Newport News Park)
- 11/15 EMG Leadership Training (JCC Rec Center)
- 11/17 Bulbs as Companion Plants (Freedom Park)
- 11/22-1/1 Celebration in Lights (Newport News Park)
- 11/23-1/7 Gardenfest of Lights (Lewis Ginter, Richmond)

- 9/19-22, 2019 Master Gardener College (Norfolk)



The Graphics Fairy

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the December 2018 newsletter will be Friday, November 23.

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

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 a card to:

The family of Ruth Schultz

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