



The Colonial Master Gardener

January
2019

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CATHY HILL

Welcome to 2019. How did 2018 go so fast? As I write this it is still 2018, but I am looking ahead to planning for the coming year. There are two Master Gardener conferences/colleges close by in 2019 that I am planning to attend. The first is the [International Master Gardener Conference](#) in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, from June 17-21 (click on conference name or this link: www.internationalmastergardener.com. [Registration](#) is going on now. Sessions are filling up fast.



Agex/d

So what can we do to pass the winter months? You can find lots of ideas when you Google "What do gardeners do in the winter." One site had five tips to keep us busy:

- Grow bulbs indoors.
- Grow herbs in pots.
- Plan your spring garden.
- Feed the birds.
- Clean your tools.

If you have worked with me on any projects you know I like teaching more than digging in the dirt. I might try numbers one and two this winter.

I am looking forward to working with everyone this year. [My email](#) and phone (757-345-2588) are always available for questions, comments, and suggestions.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 3

Program:

Business Meeting, then:

The Graduation of the Extension Master Gardener Training Class of 2018, followed by a reception

The second is the [Virginia Master Gardener College](#) in September in Norfolk. This is a great opportunity since it is so close to us. The dates are September 19-22. More information will be available sometime this spring. I urge all of you to try to attend one or both of these events.

This month we celebrate the graduation of the class of 2018. Please come and celebrate with them. Remember the sense of accomplishment you had when your name was called at your graduation? And we will adjourn to the Stryker Center immediately after the meeting to meet the new graduates.



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2018
MGA Board

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*VCE ANR Program
Assistant:*
VACANT

THANK YOU AND GOOD-BYE FROM KATE ROBBINS



As many of you have heard, I have been offered a position with Auburn University's College Of Veterinary Medicine as their new Equine Research Coordinator and will be leaving my post as your VCE ANR program assistant in early January.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all as I have learned so much during my four+ year stay. Without a doubt, I can say that each day of work brought on its own challenges -some good—some not so good but but the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of people has been an amazing honor. Thank you. 😊

The Graphics Fairy

A FOND FAREWELL TO KATE BY GARY STREB, PAST PRESIDENT

Our Virginia Cooperative Extension Agricultural Natural Resources program assistant Kate Robbins will be departing in mid January for Auburn University, College of Veterinary Medicine, dealing with equine reproductive research.

Her guidance over the last several years has put our James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardener unit on a sound footing and geared for continued, future successes. We wish her the best in her "dream" job!



Kate Robbins

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 association board with Kate (at far left)

THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY IS REQUESTED BY HOPE YELICH, TRAINING TEAM MEMBER



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Wahoo! We are so proud of our 2018 VCE MG training class! They have spent the year digging through facts, planting ideas, and even dealing with some compost. Now it's time to harvest the rewards. (Yep, I really said that; I can't believe it either.)

All Extension Master Gardeners are invited to the Class of 2018 graduation ceremony at the JCCW Master Gardener Association monthly meeting Thursday, January 3. We are pleased that Larry Foster, former general manager of the James City Service Authority and interim executive director of the United Way of Greater Williamsburg (as well as illustrious member of the Class of 2014) will speak on the importance of community service.

Please join us as we welcome our new group of EMGs and their guests with a ceremony and reception.



The Graphics Fairy

DO JOIN US FOR CLASS BY HOPE YELICH, TRAINING TEAM MEMBER

As many of you know, the new training class begins on Tuesday, January 8. There are fifteen hardy souls ready to begin this new adventure. Feel free to come by for those sessions that interest you (and receive continuing education credit). Speaking for the training team, I can say that the trainees enjoy having MGs in the classes and interacting with them (that is to say—with you). We ask, though, that you take a seat at the back of the room so the students can fill the front rows.

There isn't a need to let us know when you plan to attend a class. The schedule is almost finalized, and when it is, we'll send it out. Classes will again be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-12:00, at the rec center. We're looking forward to another exciting year!

For the team (Marty, Janet, Susan, Liz, Jennifer, Julie, and Kathy)—all best wishes. —Hope

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

January 8 and 10. (Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Road, Norfolk 23518-5337). 6:30-8:30pm. **Planning Your Garden in the Digital Age.** With horticulturalist Andy McBride. Bring your garden into the 21st century as you plan, organize, and design your upcoming spring garden using free online software from the comfort of you PC, Mac, or Chromebook laptop. Cost is \$40 (\$55 for non members). [Register here.](#)



January 14, 2019. (Founders Inn & Spa, 5641 Indian River Road, Virginia Beach 23464). **Home Gardener Day: Rethinking the Modern Garden.** Hosted by the Virginia Horticultural Foundation. Explore low maintenance gardens, easy care plants, and design techniques to create a beautiful and bountiful garden. Enjoy a catered lunch, visit educational booths and garden vendors, place a bid at the silent auction, shop the bookstore, and take home a few additions for your garden from our winter plant sale. Speakers and afternoon workshops. Registration is \$100 until January 6, \$125 after. [Register here.](#)

January 15. (Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Road, Norfolk 23518-5337). 1:00-3:00pm. **Moss Gardening.** With horticulturalist Mary Toth. Learn about bryophyte benefits, growth patterns, and the simple art of moss gardening. Participants will create their own moss shower mat. All supplies included. Cost is \$40 (\$55 for non members). [Register here.](#)

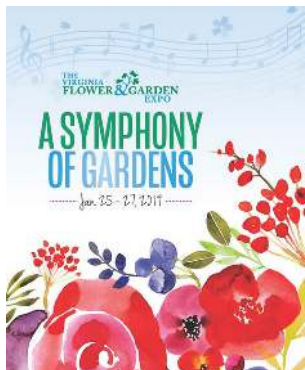


January 19. (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **Winter—Time to Prune and Plan.** The Master Gardeners pruning team will show you how to care for dormant trees and shrubs during the winter. Learn about the right tools for pruning, how to use and maintain them, along with the best time for pruning other plants. Plus, get planning tips for year-long garden success. Free, but limited seating. [Register here.](#) \$5 donation suggested.

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UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES —CONTINUED

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION



January 25-27. (Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th St, Virginia Beach 23451). 10:00am-7:00pm Friday and Saturday, 10:00am-4:00pm Sunday. [Virginia Flower & Garden Expo: A Symphony of Gardens](#). Sponsored by the Virginia Horticultural Society and Pilot Media. Nine landscape exhibits, lots of vendors, lectures, and demonstrations. Local MG Pam Mageland is running the Artist Challenge.

January 29 ((Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Road, Norfolk 23518-5337). 9:30-11:30am. [Gardening for Songbirds](#). With horticulturist Tom Houser. Discover the trees, shrubs, and perennials that provide food for songbirds and attract them to your yard. Walking required. Cost is \$10 (\$15 for non members). [Register here](#).



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."

A NEW MONTHLY FEATURE FROM PAST PRESIDENT GARY STREB

Garden advice from *The Colonial Master Gardener*, as excerpted from *Williamsburg's Joseph Prentis: His Monthly Kalendar & Garden Book*

The Monthly Kalendar January, 1775

"In the beginning of this Month, if the Weather is open, sow almans Hotspur Pease, Hotspur Beans or the long podded Bean;

In frosty Weather break the dead wood, from your Raspberry Bushes, and get in Dung. ----"



The Graphics Fairy

PRUNING CLINICS

BY GARY STREB AND PATRICIA PAQUETTE



The Graphics Fairy

IT'S NOT TOO LATE.....

to volunteer to be part of the pruning clinics team 2019! We expect several pruning problems will need to be addressed after the heavy, wet snowfall in December, leaving lots of broken branches scattered over the lawns of the Williamsburg-James City County community. Our VCE project will educate the homeowner on the pruning basics, proper techniques, as well as on the selection/care of pruning tools that will assist with the maintenance of their sustainably landscaped property.

JCC/Williamsburg homeowner registration is open now at www.jccwmg.org and closes January 20. Five geographically based Master Garden teams will educate/demonstrate pruning essentials to registered homeowners throughout February and early March—the best time for most plant maintenance. The onsite visits follow the Landscape Love format. We provide the homeowners with the JCC/Williamsburg/New Kent Pruning Handbook so no report writing is required.

If you want to be part of the project---

Notify Gary Streb gstreb11@gmail.com or Patricia Paquette patricia.paquette@gmail.com by **January 6** that you want to participate.

The essential refresher training/organizational meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 22, at 9:30am in the Interpretative Center at Freedom Park**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Gary or Patricia.

Getting out in the crisp, winter air can be quite refreshing, and helping the Williamsburg community residents learn to properly maintain their landscape in a sustainable manner is very rewarding. Hope you can join us for the pruning 2019 season.

LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY GARY STREB, PROJECT CHAIR

By early November 2018 the Landscape Love project had finished another successful year, educating James City County/Williamsburg community homeowners on how to create and maintain their sustainable landscapes.

We had over seventy-five experienced Extension Master Gardeners and interns of the Class of 2018 provide advice to the residents of 106 James City County properties and nine within the City of Williamsburg, totaling over 155 JCC residents and over fifteen within the city. The recorded Master Gardener hours (which include pre-visit preparation/research, the visit itself, and the written summary report provided as a “to-do” for the homeowner) totaled almost 825. If only every volunteer input his or her VMS hours into the system it would be staggering!

These onsite, hands-on visits empower homeowners with knowledge that enables them to create a native, environmentally- friendly landscape, taking into consideration the basics of water quality and conservation.

I would like to thank each and every Landscape Love team volunteer for her or his dedication, professionalism, and time. Comments from homeowner evaluations relay the same praise. Team leaders Barbara Floyd, Ken Caro, Deb Bussert, Anne Nielsen, and Margene Hartsough did all the behind-the-scenes administration to make the project run flawlessly; and for that, an extra pat on the back!

Spring is just around the corner, and we hope to see you all again.

VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION REPORT

BY MARILYN RIDDLE, UNIT REPRESENTATIVE

The meeting took place December 8 in Suffolk at AREC on Holland Road.

I was pleased to have Angela Cingale and Frances Knight accompany me to this meeting. There are concerns that we purchase an audio system with mike for future educational events. This is timely because the age of the attendees continues to increase. It would also be helpful for the regular VMGA meetings. The next education event will be held at Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke on May 4. (I visited that location at the invitation of the Roanoke unit when they hosted last February. The greenhouse would be the envy of many such facilities.) A bylaws update is being considered. All units are encouraged to send pertinent items for the VMGA calendar to Joan Richards of the Green Spring unit. The SQUARE system of payment for clothing was approved.

Dave Close presented the coordinator's report. Among the items, it is to be noted that the attendance at the three training sessions for leaders/prospective leaders was: Northern Region, thirty-five; Central Region, thirty-four; and Southeast Region, seventy-five. Associate Director Ford is now on board. Dr. Dan Gorlick is a new administrator and Dr. Bobby Grisso has left the department for another position at VT. The 2019 International Master Gardeners College at Pennsylvania's Valley Forge Casino Resort will be held June 17-21. Many sessions are already full, so it is critical that you make your plans now. This will be followed by the Virginia Master Gardener College on September 19-22, at the Hilton's *The Main* in Norfolk. Registration has been increased to \$250. It was not clear if the price will remain at that level when it returns to Blacksburg in 2020. Dave was not sure what the room rate would be. I have heard both \$150 and \$159. With tax, either price will put the room in the \$180-\$190 range per night. Parking is \$20 per day if negotiations are not successful. There is a POSSIBILITY that parking may be available at a cheaper rate, and the rapid transit system could be used to the site at a reduced rate. There are also initial plans to introduce a banquet on Thursday night. Virginia Tech has contracted based on three hundred in attendance, an increase over the average at Blacksburg. It will likely be open to anyone, but MGs will be given preference.

A new state office website will be unveiled in early 2019. Dr. Mike Goatley will lead a webinar on December 18 at 10:00am on Turf. There will be a Q/A session. It will be archived if anyone is not available to hear it live. Two items were distributed. One on glyphosate (Roundup) and one on MG project proposals. It is to be noted that the article on the chemical is the work of a Master Gardener in the Piedmont area.

For the glyphosate (Roundup) publication go to "VCE Publications," then choose "Lawns" (or click on the publication title). The publication is "[SPES-63NP](#)". This is to be noted that a Piedmont Master Gardener researched and wrote the article. His conclusion is: Occasional use of these products by home gardeners does not generate unacceptable risk of toxicity as long as users follow directions for mixing and using. However, the large scale commercial dependence of glyphosate and other chemical pesticides and fertilizers is most troubling.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH JANUARY 2019

BY HELEN HAMILTON
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

POISON IVY

Toxicodendron radicans

“Leaflets 3, let it be!” Few plants carry three-parted compound leaves, and this is an easy way to recognize a very irritating plant. Some bean vines have three-parted leaves, but poison ivy is woody and attaches with aerial roots. Not related to invasive English ivy, poison ivy can grow as an erect shrub or climber. Leaves are variable – they may be stiff and leathery or thin, hairy or not, shiny or dull, toothed or not. The red or yellow fall foliage is especially conspicuous.

Twigs are brown with short aerial rootlets; old stems, covered with fibrous roots, look hairy. Small yellowish flowers blooming in May-July produce small clusters of round white fruits in August-November.

Poison ivy is found in every county in Virginia, and is widely distributed throughout the eastern and central United States. A close relative with lobed leaflets of three, poison oak (*Toxicodendron pubescens*), does not extend into the northern states or Canada but is found in several coastal plain counties and across Virginia. Unlike poison ivy, poison oak never vines – it is always an upright shrub and it tends to occur in drier, sandier habitats than does poison ivy.

Human sensitivity to the irritating oil urushiol is variable, and 15-25% of the population is not at all allergic to poison-ivy and will never develop a reaction. Some people require prolonged or repeated exposure to the plant to develop a rash, but about half of all people will break out with a single contact, some requiring hospitalization. Without the leaves, poison ivy vines are difficult to identify in the winter, and for persons with high sensitivity, touching a stem or the roots will cause an allergic reaction.

Despite poisonous effects of the plant on humans, the fruits are relished by over sixty species of birds. Many seeds are passed undamaged through their digestive systems, allowing wide distribution of this noxious vine.



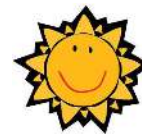
Photo: Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) taken by Helen Hamilton

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

Important Dates

- 1/8 & 10 Planning Your Garden in the Digital Age (Norfolk)
- 1/14 Home Gardener Day (Virginia Beach)
- 1/15 Moss Gardening (Norfolk)
- 1/19 Winter—Time to Prune (Freedom Park)
- 1/25-27 Virginia Flower & Garden Expo (Virginia Beach)
- 1/29 Gardening for Songbirds (Norfolk)
- 6/17-21 International Master Gardener Conference (Valley Forge, Pa.)
- 9/19-22 Master Gardener College (Norfolk)

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:

Bob Winters
Valerie Brooks

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



Acapexid

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the February 2019 newsletter will be Monday, January 28.

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

JCC/W Master Gardener Mission Statement

The purpose of the James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardener is to learn, educate, and communicate environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community. Trained by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener volunteers are committed to offering information to the public through sustainable landscape management educational programs.

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. As an educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

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