



The Colonial Master Gardener

February
2019

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CATHY HILL

Change January to February and that's probably where we all are right now. We are thinking of pruning, perusing the catalogs that have been filling our mailboxes, and maybe even planning on some changes in our garden structure. With the low nighttime temperatures and several heavy frosts we are also hoping that we don't have too much damage to shrubs trees and other plants like last winter. So the cycle of the gardener continues.



Permission requested

Stay warm. Have a Happy Valentine's Day!



pixabay

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 7

Program:

Herding Cat(erpillar)s with Kids of All Ages

Speaker:

Judith Alberts

Below you will find links to a few newsletters from other units in the state. Interesting to see what other units are doing, and maybe you will take advantage of symposiums they offer.

Central Rappahannock- <https://www.mgacra.org/>
For the newsletter, *The Latest Dirt*, click [here](#) or search under More/Winter 2019.

The Piedmont Master Gardeners—<http://piedmontmastergardeners.org/> have an interesting website, with a link to their newsletter, *The Garden Shed*. To take a look, click [here](#).

Loudoun County- <http://loudouncountymastergardeners.org/>. Some February tips from their newsletter:

FLOWERS: Check stored bulbs, corms, and tubers-discard any that are soft or diseased.

GARDEN: Order seeds. Cut back raspberries.

LAWN: Avoid walking on frozen lawns to prevent winter damage.

TREES/SHRUBS: Gently brush snow from trees and shrubs to prevent damage. De-icing salt is harmful, protect your trees.

JCCWMGA will host the Virginia Master Gardener Association on Saturday, February 9, at the rec center, starting at 10:00am. We hope to see you there! Any questions, please contact Marilyn Riddle at (757) 229-2177 or at mriddle@cox.net.

HELP FOR THE HELP DESK

BY BOB HOWELL AND KATHY BUSH, PROJECT CO-CHAIRS

2018
MGA Board

President:
Cathy Hill

President Elect:
Patsy McGrady

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:
Gary Streb

*VCE ANR Program
Assistant:*
VACANT

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." I think I read that a long, long time ago, but how true it is with the JCC/W Master Gardener help desk this year. We have some new opportunities— great opportunities— but if you don't take advantage of them it could be the worst of times.

Currently, we have only fifteen interns going through the Master Gardener program. In the past, the interns have staffed the help desk and we, the Master Gardeners, have only acted as coaches. Normally there are close to ninety days that the help desk is open; but with only fifteen interns, that only covers sixty days, thus leaving us with a shortfall in staffing.



The Graphics Fairy

Many of you loved working the help desk when you were interns but didn't want to coach. You wanted real hands-on experience. Well, we heard your cries and are opening up the chance to either coach or actually work the help desk. Please consider this opportunity carefully, because we need your expertise. If you are interested in coaching or working the help desk, please contact us and let us know of your interest. Thank you!

Bob Howell rhowell0727@gmail.com
(757) 566-3278 (home) (304)629-4636 (cell)
Kathy Bush kathybush@verizon.net
(804) 966-5239 (home) (803) 807-6824 (cell)

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Judith Alberts is the February speaker of the month. Judith is a native Chicagoan whose childhood memories include a lot at the end of her city block that was filled with weeds that oozed sticky white sap and bright orange and black butterflies.

She received her BA in art education from the University of Illinois and has taught photography at the high school level, worked in portrait studios both large and small, operated her own wedding and portrait business, and was a sales and marketing instructor and consultant to the industry. Judith also earned the photographic craftsman designation from the Professional Photographers of America. She is currently a marketing consultant

specializing in email and Facebook marketing for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. She is also a board member for the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

In 2012, at the Norfolk Botanical Garden's monarch tag and release event, she held a butterfly, and *that* was the beginning of Judith's journey into the world of pollinators and what led her to the Master Gardener program in 2017.



dixiebaby

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.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

keqexjcd



February 13-15. (Massey Conference Center, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). **Winter Symposium and 50th CVNLA Short Course Pesticide Recertification Day: Looking forward, Looking Back.** Continuing education hours are offered for each day, along with book sales and signings and opportunities to network with industry colleagues. Net proceeds from the three-day event help build CVNLA's scholarship fund for students pursuing horticultural careers.

\$70 per day: February 13 or 14
\$125: Two-day combo ticket February 13 + 14
\$55: February 15
\$180: 3-day ticket February 13, 14, 15

Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, and all sessions. [Register here.](#)

February 16. (Freedom Park). 10:00-11:30am., again at 12:15. **The Good, the Bad, and the Bugly in Your Garden.** Assistant professor of biological sciences at Hampton University Dr. Shawn Dash will show us why insects are necessary for a healthy garden. Learn which bugs are friends and which ones are not. Both sessions are currently full; [click here](#) to be put on a waiting list.

February 23. (Wellspring United Methodist Church, 4871 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg 23188). **Nude Tree Walk.** Join Stewart Ware for a fun and informative walk all about trees. The woods around Wellspring United Methodist Church have most of our common upland trees, as well as some rarer trees, and Dr. Ware will show how to identify them in winter condition. Meet in the parking lot at Wellspring Church on Longhill Road, just east of the junction with Old Towne Road. Contact Stewart at (757) 565 0657 or saware@wm.edu for more information. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

March 2. (Tabb High School, 4431 Big Bethel Road, Yorktown 23693). **Horticultural Extravaganza.** Bryce Lane, the host of the Emmy-winning UNC TV show "In the Garden with Bryce Lane," will be the keynote speaker. Registration, including lunch, is \$25, without lunch is \$10. Deadline February 15. To register, [click here.](#)

March 9. (Shenandoah University, 1460 University Drive, Winchester 22601). 8:00am-4:00pm. **Gardening in the Valley Symposium.** Scheduled topics include greenhouses & planning, designing resilient gardens, foraging in your yard, GMOs in the garden. Sponsored by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association. The cost is \$65 through PayPal [through this link](#) or \$70 at the door and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. All proceeds benefit the NSVMGA memorial scholarship fund.

March 12. (King of Glory Lutheran Church, 4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg 23188). 1:00pm refreshments, 1:30-3:00pm program. The program will feature Mistie Roundtree from CaryTown Teas in Richmond, who will talk about teas from around the world and different immersions for health and taste. Sponsored by The Colonial Triangle of Virginia Unit (CTVU) of the Herb Society of America. For more information, contact Donna Pratt at (757) 608-8929.



keqexjcd

The winter 2019 *In Season* newsletter, a publication of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program and the Virginia Tech School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, is now available. To see a pdf copy, [click 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."

THIS AND THAT

Another timely quote from *Words for Gardeners to Live By*, illustrated by Mary Engelbreit (Kansas City, Andrew McMeel, 2003). Thanks to Ailene Bartlett for sending this in.

"To create a garden is to search for a better world.

In our effort to improve on nature, we are guided by a vision of paradise.

Whether the result is a horticultural masterpiece or only a modest vegetable patch,

it is based on the expectation of a glorious future.

This hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening."

-Marina Schinz-

Attention

To those who have not paid their 2019 dues:

Please mail your check to me at 4419 Chickasaw Court, Williamsburg, 23188.

Sorry I will not be at the February 7th meeting. Also, in order to avoid any confusion, please do not give your checks or cash to other members to give to me. Thank you.

— Liz Favre, Treasurer

Well Done!

A million thanks to social committee members Kate Wilhide, Kathy Johnson, Bess Hopewell, and Marty Oakes for their invaluable help setting up for the intern graduation. A special thank you also to Marty for bringing water, ice, and the beautiful party bucket.

The room and decorations looked festive, the food was delicious, and everyone seemed to have a good time—especially the new Master Gardeners, who were being honored.

The time and effort put into the reception was appreciated by all.

—Angela Cingale, Social Committee Chair



pixabay

HELPING PAPA IN THE GARDEN

AS TOLD BY KEN CARO

The Graphics Fairy



An old gentleman lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like the old days.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Papa,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. The next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Papa,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love, Vinnie

GARDEN ADVICE FROM THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

As excerpted from *Williamsburg's Joseph Prentis: His Monthly Kalendar & Garden Book*

The Monthly Kalendar February 1775

The first of this Month, sow Ormans Master Hotspur, Charltons Hot Spur and Marrow fat Peas, and plant Windsor Beans.-----

Slip Currant and Gooseberry Bushes, and set out the Slips

On the day that the Moon fulls, sow Onions and throw in Lettuce, and Rhadish with your Onions

In the Decrease of the Moon, sow Carrots, Parsnips, Spinach, Parseley, Celery, Garden Cresses, white Mustard, Cabbage and Colworts.---

In the Middle of this Month plant out Cabbages and Colworts.---

In the last week set out Slips of Box.

Dressing Borders

In February let your Beds and Borders be thoroughly cleaned from Weeds, and the surface of your Flower Borders be lightly and carefully loosened with a hoe in a dry day, and neatly raked, which gives a liveliness to the Surface, is pleasing to the Eye, and well worth the Labour.-----



The Graphics Fairy

NEWS FROM MATTEY'S GARDEN

BY LOUANN MARTIN, PROJECT CHAIR

For most Master Gardener projects, January is relaxed and laid back. A time to reflect on the past year to appreciate the achievements and review those things which didn't go as planned. It is also a time to look ahead to the coming year for dreaming and planning as well as for planting, weeding, and digging.

In Matthey's Garden, January and February are a little slower but never laid back. We are still holding classes, although the weather thus far has not cooperated so we could bring the children outside to enjoy the winter days. The first-grade students did delight in a perennial indoor favorite—making bird feeders.

We accepted an invitation to participate in the annual Greensprings Christmas House Tour on December 1. The day turned out to be seasonable (that is, cold), but we had all of the "fixings" to make the day fun and inviting for all the guests and volunteers.

Matthew Whaley Art Department teacher Robert Oppecker and his first-grade students decorated the garden beautifully along with Master Gardener volunteers Su Carlile and Hope Yelich, who made natural material swags for the gazebo. A "friendship evergreen tree" graced the middle of the garden and featured decorations made of acorns, pinecones, cotton balls, magnolia pods, and leaves, as well as strings of cranberry and popcorn for the wildlife in the garden. Under the direction of Mr. Oppecker, students painted wooden stars to place on the tree.



First grade bird feeder volunteers. Photos by Louann Martin



Decorated tree and new garden beds

An enclosed fire pit kept everyone warm from the elements and provided ambiance for the garden. A crackling fire and an evergreen tree – what else could be more inviting? I provided hot soup for the volunteers, and Tiffeni Goesel brought corn muffins to go along with the soup. I want to thank my volunteers who helped that day: Judy Corello, Liz Favre, Wilma Sharp, Sally McConnell, Tiffeni Goesel, Hope Yelich, Su Carlile, and Kay and Elvin Clapp. We welcomed over one hundred visitors to the garden, many from out of state.

The raised beds are completed, ready for the final addition of the soil we expect to spread this month before the start of the new growing season. We are hoping for better weather this year, which will help our plants grow!

Our remaining project for the twentieth anniversary, which we will celebrate April 27, is to refurbish the alphabet garden. We are in the process of cleaning

out the area and deciding which plants to include. Because Matthey's is a monarch butterfly waystation, we are looking especially at native plants. If anyone has plants she/he might want to contribute, please let me know (lk martin2011@gmail.com). We have plenty of bee balm but are particularly looking for that elusive 'X' plant.

Be sure to mark your calendars for April 27!

WHY I LOVE A WINTER GARDEN

Gary Streb shares with us some photos he took in his garden in Windsor Forest. Editor's note: I live in Windsor Forest, and I want my garden to look like Gary's!



Hellebores



Daphne

Ornamental Cabbage



Nandina
Domestica

Camellia Japonica



Camellia Sasanqua

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2019

BY HELEN HAMILTON
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

BRITISH SOLDIER LICHEN *Cladonia cristatella*



Photo: British Soldier Lichen (*Cladonia cristatella*)
taken by Helen Hamilton

A bright spot in the woods and meadows in winter is this little lichen with the red caps, named for the red uniforms of the British soldiers during the Revolutionary War. The surrounding material is gray-green, a color characteristic of lichens, reflecting their dual lifestyle. A green alga *Trebouxia erici* supplies nourishment by its photosynthesis while the fungus, *Cladonia cristatella*, furnishes necessary water and nutrients.

Lichens are not plants, but an association, often called “mutualism” of two, and sometimes three different organisms. Often gray-green in color, their growth form can be shrubby, as is this species, leafy, or crusty, among others. Certain lichens live on leaves, as parasites. Sexual reproduction is by spores, formed in ascospores, the red caps of this species, and bowl-shaped structures in other lichens. They reproduce asexually when a fragment is broken from the main body, and by producing microscopic, dust-like particles distributed by the wind.

These are extremely important organisms ecologically. They can transfer nitrogen from the air to the soil in a form usable by plants; they break down old wood, returning nutrients to the soil; and they can grow on bare rock, eventually dissolving the rock and creating minute bits of soil. Very sensitive to air pollution, a lack of lichens in an area indicates an unhealthy atmosphere.

British soldier is usually found on mossy logs, tree bases, and stumps. Native to North America, this species is widespread in Virginia, common in moist exposed roadside soil and rotting wood, especially in sunny openings.

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

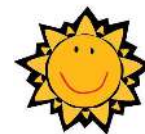
Important Dates

- 2/13-15 Winter Symposium (Lewis Ginter, Richmond)
- 2/16 Good, Bad, and Bugly (Freedom Park)
- 2/23 Nude Tree Walk (Wellspring UM Church)
- 3/2 Horticultural Extravaganza (Yorktown)
- 3/9 Gardening in the Valley Symposium (Winchester)
- 3/12 Teas Around the World (King of Glory Church)
- 3/23 Early Spring in the Forest (New Kent)
- 6/17-21 International Master Gardener Conference (Valley Forge, Pa.)
- 9/19-22 Master Gardener College (Norfolk)



pixabay

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 EMG secretary, Jennifer Campbell, at (757) 968-9499, or jenkcampbell@yahoo.com



pixabay

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the March 2019 newsletter will be Monday, February 25.

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.

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.