



# The Colonial Master Gardener

June  
2019

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CATHY HILL

We all have pesky little plants in our gardens that seem to spring out of nowhere. We call them weeds. We didn't plant them. We don't want them, and if we don't get rid of them they take over.



**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, June 6**

**Speaker:  
Michael Andruczk**

**Program:  
Apple and/or Peach Trees**

## What's That Strange Plant in My Garden?

Merriam-Webster's definition of a weed is:

"A plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth; *especially* one that tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plants."

So basically we don't desire or value these unwanted plants.

The twelve most common weeds in Virginia are:

Dandelion	Corn Speedwell
Wild Onion	White Clover
Plantain	Crabgrass
Button Weed	Chickweed
Henbit	Spotted Spurge
Ground Ivy	Bittercress

These plants became "weeds" in the late nineteenth century when mass production of mechanical mowers made these mowers more available to the general public and easier to maintain a lawn.

Spotted spurge and a species of crabgrass are native to North America. Spotted spurge is the only weed that poses problems to both humans and animals. The plant can cause skin irritation in humans and is toxic to sheep.

All of the other weeds were brought here by early settlers for their medicinal qualities, food uses, and forage for animals. Many of them were actually cultivated.

As annoying as they are in our gardens, they were once valued plants. Many weeds are still used today for their medicinal qualities. They can also be used as ground cover between rows in the vegetable garden.

Here are some tips from *The Old Farmer's Almanac* to help control them:

Never let them go to seed.  
Mulch.  
Use your tools and hands to pull them.

You can find images of all of these weeds on the internet to help you identify them.

Happy weeding!

## POSITIONS OPEN FOR MGA BOARD 2020

BY DEE ARBEGAST, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

2019  
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

The following four seats on the board will open up in January 2020. It's hard to believe that we are beginning the process now to replace those currently serving. Please consider volunteering for one of the vacancies! If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer, please [contact me](#) or one of the current officers. We 'd be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Office Available	Currently Serving
President Elect	<a href="#">Patsy McGrady</a>
VP for Projects	<a href="#">Janet Smith</a>
Treasurer	<a href="#">Liz Favre</a>
Secretary	<a href="#">Jennifer Campbell</a>



The Graphics Fairy

## THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Michael Andruczk is the city of Chesapeake's extension agent for agriculture and natural resources –horticulture. Michael has a bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied ornamental horticulture. He also has a master of science in public horticulture administration through the Longwood (Gardens) Graduate Program at the University of Delaware.

Michael began his horticulture career at the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, where he worked for three summers. He also did work/study at the University of Wisconsin in the micropropagation laboratory and later undertook a one-year internship in urban forestry at The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. After graduate school Michael worked at the Norfolk Botanical Garden for over eleven years as the nursery and greenhouse manager, then supervising horticulturist, and finally as the curator of plant collections. He is now the associate extension agent for environmental horticulture.

Michael is a board member of the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short course, the Virginia Flower and Gardens Show, the Virginia Camellia Society, and the Holly Society. He is also a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, the Hampton Roads Horticultural Society, the Magnolia Society, and the Rhododendron Society.

Michael has been gardening in Chesapeake for twelve years on his acre of land. He likes to travel and visit new gardens whenever possible and has traveled to Hawaii, the Desert Southwest, the Pacific Northwest, and all throughout the Eastern United States. He has also visited Costa Rica, Turkey, England, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Italy, China, Madagascar, and New Zealand.

Newsletter Editor:  
Hope Yelich  
hopeyelich@gmail.com

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.

## THIS AND THAT

### Schedule of the Remaining Monthly Programs

All meetings take place at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre on Scotland Street the first Thursday of each month at 9:00am.

July: No meeting  
August 1: Dr. Brian Nurrie, "Aquaculture"  
September 5: Charlie Mahoney, "Sustainable Gardening"  
October 3: Susan Dippre  
November 7: Rex Talbot, "Herbs"  
December 5: Helen Hamilton

—Hazel Braxton, VP for Internal Education

### Email Address Change for Liz Favre....Again

I have changed my email address to

[341elf@gmail.com](mailto:341elf@gmail.com)

Please use this address for personal messages as well as for issues related to my role as treasurer.

Also, please note that my most recent email address, [liz.favre59@cox.net](mailto:liz.favre59@cox.net), no longer works. Thanks.

—Liz Favre, Treasurer



Dandelion and Phlox, by Sandy Sarsfield, flickr



Ken Caro shares a photo he took on May 3 of MGs and students putting on a skit during a Seeds of Learning session in the Blayton school garden shade structure.

### Compost....It's Not Just for Plants Anymore

At a recent committee meeting, our past president brought the following—an article that appeared in the May 22 issue of the *Daily Press*— to our attention. Thanks to he-who-shall-not-be-named and to Judith Alberts for providing the link to the original article from the *New York Times*:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/us/human-composting-washington.html>

Dennis Wool and Justin Diaz, where are you when we need you?

—Hope Yelich, Editor

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**June 8** (College Landing Park, 2100 South Henry Street). 9:30-11:30am. **Plants Near Water.** At College Landing Park, many interesting flowering plants, grasses, and sedges grow along the shoreline of College Creek, and there are mature trees around the lawn and in the upland woods. We should see camphorweed, pickerelweed, buttonweed, bitternut hickory, honey locust, mistletoe, arrow arum, and many others. Meet in the parking lot at the park, 2100 S. Henry Street, Williamsburg, for a walk around the area and on the boardwalk. Contact Helen Hamilton at (757) 564-4494 or [helen48@cox.net](mailto:helen48@cox.net) to register and for information. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, VNPS.

**June 8** (Williamsburg Regional Library, JCC Branch, 7770 Croaker Road, Williamsburg 23188). 11:00am. **Herding Cats (That's Caterpillars).** See the description on page 9 of this newsletter.

**June 15** (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **Bay-Friendly Gardening.** Learn how your garden is connected to water resources and why your gardening practices affect the health of the Chesapeake Bay waterways. Karen During, coastal scientist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Center for Coastal Resources Management, will explain how to reduce erosion, reduce chemical contaminants, filter storm water runoff, and how these actions will improve wildlife habitat and provide you with a landscape to enjoy. Registration required; [register here](#). Part of the Learn and Grow Series of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

**June 16** (Virginia Living Museum, 524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News 23601). **Father's Day at the Virginia Living Museum.** 50% off admission for fathers or grandfathers with purchase of another adult or child admission. Also 10% off Wild Things Museum Store purchases for fathers (20% off store purchases for fathers who are VLM Members).

**July 13** (Stryker Center). 11:00am-12:00 noon. **Elegant Elephant Ears.** See the description on page 9 of this newsletter.

**August 10** (Stryker Center). 11:00am-12:00 noon. **Ornamental Trees for the Homeowner: Beyond Dogwood and Redbud.** See the description on page 9 of this newsletter.

**September 19-22** (Hilton Norfolk, The Main, 100 East Main Street, Norfolk 23510). **Master Gardener College.** **Registration** is now open! Important information from Dave Close via email 5/15:

Registering for the conference and for overnight accommodations requires two separate registrations. They are two separate and independent processes. If you have problems with either, please contact each respective office directly with any questions or concerns you may be having before you try contacting the state coordinator's office. Contact information is below in the two sections.

Keynote and Concurrent Sessions Registration: <https://register.cpe.vt.edu/portal/events/reg/participantTypeSelection.do?method=load&entityId=2346624>

Chrome and Firefox are the recommended internet browsers for registration, but we have been told other browsers work as well. Below are a few steps to keep in mind as you go through the process, going screen by screen. Please be patient, and if you have trouble, the contact information is below.

Here are the steps:

Go to: Create a NEW User ID, or if you registered last year, use your information from last year.

Select your registration type and sessions with a fee. The concurrent sessions and lab tours without a fee will come later in the process. Answer the questions that come up on this screen (Name, Unit, etc.)

Review your selection and pay. You will still get to select the concurrent sessions later.

*Continued on the next page, page 5*

## UPCOMING SALES AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES—CONTINUED

The payment process will take you to a secure area called NelNet

Enter your payment information (YOU WILL DO THIS BEFORE YOU SELECT YOUR CONCURRENT SESSIONS)

Select concurrent sessions and labs

Continue to Receipt

Then, to see your MG College session schedule, click log out, and then log back in with your user ID and password from step one. You can then see your MG College schedule.

If you have trouble registering, please call the main registration number at 540-231-5182 and ask for Sarah Downer or Sarah Lyon. Their emails are [sdowner@vt.edu](mailto:sdowner@vt.edu) and [lsarah7@vt.edu](mailto:lsarah7@vt.edu). If one of them is not available, other registrars will assist you.

Hotel Accommodations: Now, you will need to register for lodging at our designated conference hotel: Hilton's The Main. Guests should the hotel's direct reservation link: [https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/O/ORFWAHH-VGC-20190917/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](https://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/O/ORFWAHH-VGC-20190917/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

If you are staying overnight for the conference, please take advantage the accommodations we have arranged at the host hotel and conference center. Not staying at the conference hotel can be detrimental to the overall conference and could have a negative impact on the state coordinator's office. The room block will close on August 18 so please get your reservation secured before this date.

If you have trouble with either of these processes, please contact either the registration group or The Main ([https://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/virginia/hilton-norfolk-the-main-ORFWAHH/index.html?SEO\\_id=GMB-HI-ORFWAHH](https://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/virginia/hilton-norfolk-the-main-ORFWAHH/index.html?SEO_id=GMB-HI-ORFWAHH)) before attempting to call the Coordinator's office if your questions pertain specifically to housing or registration concerns.

Early registration closes on July 14. Please remember that registration will open for the public on July 15 so get your registration in

before then! Online registration closes on August 30, however you can still register in person the week of MG College should you choose.

Interns who have completed their internship would also be welcome to attend MG College, and if you are still working on your internship hours, please check with your local Agent or Coordinator for more information about the possibility of attending MG College.

Happy Registering and see you in September!  
—The State EMG Office

The 2019 Master Gardener College edition of *In-Season* is available [here](#). Learn about tours and workshops, keynote speakers, concurrent sessions, and more!

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."



pixabay

## MG SEPTEMBER 2019 SOUTHERN FIELD TRIP

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

We are planning a bus trip to three notable gardens this September! The first stop is to the [Sarah P. Duke Gardens](#) in Durham, N.C. This the largest garden. The second garden is the [North Carolina Botanical Garden](#) in Chapel Hill, N.C., and the third site is the [JC Raulston Arboretum](#) in Raleigh, N.C. The trip will require an overnight stay. I'm proposing that we stay at the [Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Raleigh Cary](#), address 1120 Ledsome Lane in Cary, N. C. The rate is \$129 plus taxes. Please make your own arrangements with the hotel.

### Specifics:

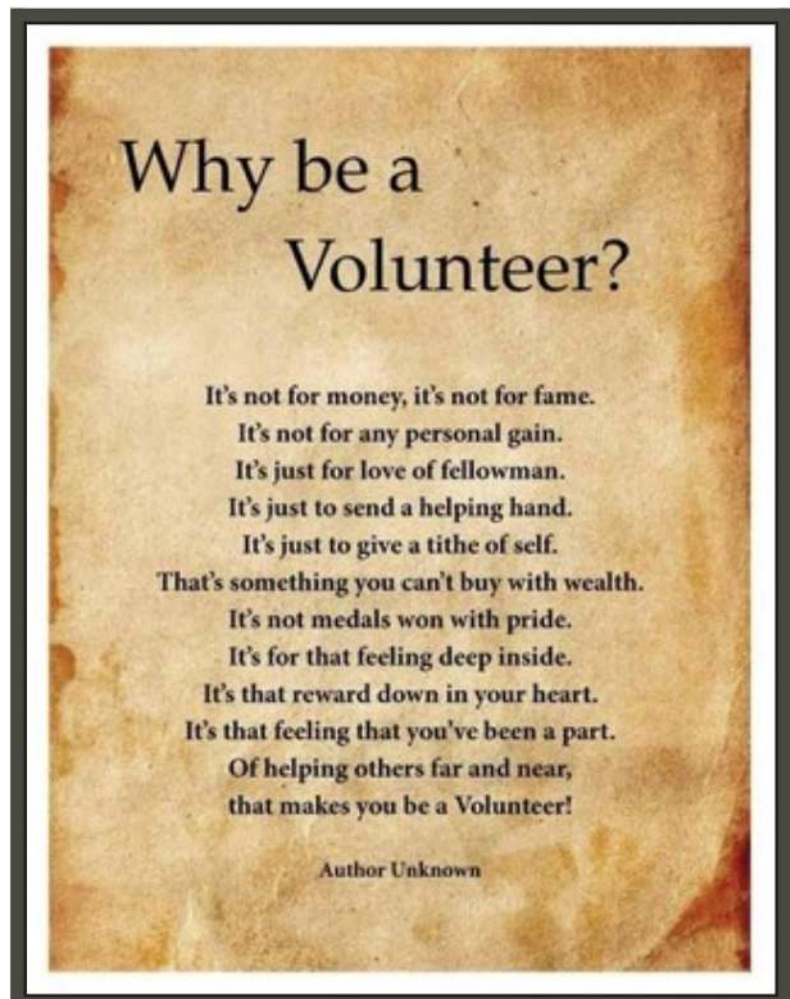
- Dates: September 10-11, 2019
- Time and Place of Departure: 8:00am, from the W/JCC rec center
- Who Can Go: Any MG and one guest
- Cost: \$52.00 (no admission costs), plus cost of hotel
- Deadline: June 6 to reserve your place with a check for \$52 per person. The cost is nonrefundable, but it is transferable. Send your check to treasurer Liz Favre at 4419 Chickasaw Court, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Liz will also accept checks at the June 6 monthly meeting. First come, first served.

For details about these gardens, please see last month's newsletter, page 5.

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Angela Cingale offers this anonymous poem to celebrate our service through the VCE MG program.

Thanks, Angela!



## GARDEN ADVICE FROM THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

Excerpt from *Williamsburg's Joseph Prentis: His Monthly Kalendar & Garden Book*\*

### The Monthly Kalendar June 1775

Plant Cucumbers and Broad Beans. \_\_\_\_\_ or French Beans.

About the Middle of this Month sow Brocoli seed. Sow Cabbages \_\_\_\_\_ also Rhadishes twice \_\_\_\_\_ transplant your Cabbages \_\_\_\_\_ prick out Colliflowers, and Brocoli \_\_\_\_\_ Draw up all your Weeds by the Roots.

#### Gathering Seeds

Gather Seeds of all Sorts as they ripen, let this be done in dry Weather and as soon as they are cut spread them in some dry place, where the air can freely come, they ought to be turned frequently and after they are perfectly dry may be beaten out, and well cleaned from the Rubbish and Husks.

#### Strawberries

Where new Plantations of this Fruit are desired about the last of June is the proper time to prepare for it. \_\_\_\_\_ In chusing your Plants let them be taken from such Beds as bear well, and produce the largest Fruit. \_\_\_\_\_ Let the Plants be taken from the last Summers Growth very carefully up with the Roots, trim the Roots a little and cut off any Strings from the Head of the Plants, and let them be put in immediately, into the Bed in a Shady Situation,



The Graphics Fairy

and about three or four inches apart, and as soon a planted they must be watered to settle the Earth; In this Situation they must remain until Sept. or October, by which time they will be strong and in fine Order to transplant where they are to remain and ought to be planted at least twelve Inches asunder. \_\_\_\_\_ In February they should be well cleaned and have their Spring Dressing, first pull off all the runners and clear the Bed from weeds of every Sort, then loosen the Ground between the rows, and about each plant, which makes them flower Strong and produce large fruit

The Beds ought be kept free from Runners and weeds as they advance, but where new Plantations are wanted it is best to let the Runners remain. In dry weather they ought to be frequently watered, especially if they are in Bloom, and if not well supplied with water, you will have but small Fruit, and a thin Crop. In October or Nov. the Beds ought be well cleaned and any vacancies may at this time be filled up with other Roots.

\* Williamsburg, Va.: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2011.

## VOLUNTEERS AT THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG GARDENS

BY SUE LIDDELL

In May Colonial Williamsburg recognized volunteers at its annual reception for volunteers at the Lodge.

Master Gardeners partner with CW working in the George Reid and Shields Tavern gardens and giving tours. Carol Conner, Becky Sutton, and Pat Rathke received fifteen-year pins, while cheering them on were Ginny Cranford, Kendra Swann, and Barb Floyd.

Linda Lucas was not present to receive her pin.



Photos by Sue Liddell



## JCCW EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS ARE PARTNERING WITH THE WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE SECOND SATURDAY LECTURE SERIES TITLED *IN THE GARDEN WITH WRL*

BY KATHY BUSH

We are pleased to launch our first program in June with the Williamsburg Regional Library. In this outreach to the community EMG Judith Alberts, a member of our speakers bureau, will present her entertaining and informative talk on herding caterpillars at the James City County branch on Croaker Road at 11:00am on Saturday, June 8. Learn about caterpillars and the butterflies that they become so you can watch the magic of metamorphosis in even a tiny garden. Judith will show you how to draw mama butterflies to your yard or porch and how to protect the caterpillars so they can be the next generation of fluttering beauty. Support our program and tell your friends! At the end of the newsletter is a poster that you can print and with permission, post in your community building, favorite Starbucks, post office, grocery store, garden center, etc. We want to get the word out that we are garden educators! We hope that this will be an ongoing program. Here is the July and August programming:

July 13, 11:00 am, Stryker Center

Elizabeth McCoy -ELEGANT ELEPHANT EARS THAT GROW IN VIRGINIA- Discover some of the most spectacular, colorful, and care-free plants available to spice up your summer garden. Elephant ears thrive in our humid Virginia summers and naturally repel deer and other “nibblers.” Learn about the astounding variety of these heat loving perennials from Master Gardener Elizabeth McCoy, who will discuss *Caladiums*, *Alocasias*, *Colocasias*, *Zantedeschias* and Italian *Arum*. Unlock the mystery of growing these elegant beauties in your own pots or beds, and learn how to keep them coming back year after year.

August 10, 11:00 am, Stryker Center

Patsy McGrady- ORNAMENTAL TREES FOR THE HOMEOWNER-BEYOND DOGWOOD AND REDBUD - Explore the varieties of trees that you can enjoy and at the same time add value and curb appeal to your home with VCE Master Gardener and Tree Steward Patsy McGrady. There are so many beautiful trees that are suited to be specimen trees in a home setting. She will include planting tips, proper pruning, and disease prevention.



## SEEDS OF LEARNING 2019

BY MARTY OAKES AND DONNA THIBEAULT

The Master Gardeners' Seeds of Learning project finished another very successful year visiting the first graders in all nine Williamsburg/James City County schools.

The children enjoyed both our presentation and participating in a play about the parts of a sunflower and what plants need in order to grow. They enjoyed the centers where they observed the characteristics of unusual plants such as the strawberry, which is the only fruit that grows its seeds on the outside. They learned the parts of a plant we eat beginning with the seed (beans). They especially enjoyed the center where they were able to observe a baby plant (embryo) and plant their own sunflower seeds, which they could take home.

One child told us it was like an indoor field trip. The teachers and students look forward to our visits every year. All this would not be possible without the help of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers. Thanks to all of you for a very successful year!



Looking at parts of a seed.



Planting sunflower seeds.



Obviously nobody planted this seed.

Both photos by Donna Thibault

—Wikimedia Commons

## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH JUNE 2019

BY HELEN HAMILTON  
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### THIMBLEWEEDS *Anemone virginiana*

This spring-blooming tall anemone grows up to two feet tall (sometimes taller in the wild) and typically occurs in rocky or dry open woods or wooded slopes. One-inch diameter flowers are borne on erect stems above the foliage and feature five, greenish-white, petal-like sepals and a thimble-like, center mound of yellowish stamens. Flowers give way to thimble-shaped, cottony seed heads which remain on the plants well into winter. Three-parted, deeply cut leaves may carry a reddish tinge late into the season.

Tall anemone is an excellent spring flower for the shaded or woodland garden and also a good choice for naturalized areas or native wildflower gardens. The plant tends to spread into unoccupied areas, effectively forming a nice groundcover through the season. It will be found in other areas of the garden next year, from dissemination of its seeds.

A very similar plant, Canada anemone, is non-native and can be aggressive. The leaves of *Anemone canadensis* are deeply divided (not three-lobed) and sessile on the stem, that is, without a petiole.

Leaves of the native *Anemone virginiana* are at the end of long petioles in whorls along the stem. Both plants produce thimble-shaped flowers and seed



Native Tall Anemone (*Anemone virginiana*) taken by Seig Kopinitz

heads – they are also known as “thimbleweeds.”

Growing in nearly every county in Virginia, the blooming season extends June through August. The plant prefers moist, sandy soils, and is easily grown in average, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. No serious insect or disease problems have been reported.

Many plants in the buttercup family, such as these two anemones, contain caustic irritants. Native Americans use the roots or leaf tea for wounds, sores, and nosebleeds. The botanist Peter Kalm (mountain laurel carries his name as *Kalmia latifolia*) reported that the seeds when dipped into alcohol could be used to ease tooth pain.



Non-native Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*) taken by Helen Hamilton

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

## Important Dates

- 6/8 Herding Cats (WRL JCC branch on Croaker Road)
- 6/8 Plants Near Water (College Landing Park)
- 6/15 Bay Friendly Gardening (Freedom Park)
- 6/16 Father's Day at the Virginia Living Museum (Newport News)
- 7/13 Elegant Elephant Ears (Stryker Center)
- 6/17-21 International Master Gardener Conference (Valley Forge, Pa.)
- 7/19 MG Annual Picnic
- 8/10 Ornamental Trees (Stryker Center)
- 9/19-22 Master Gardener College (Norfolk)

## SUNSHINE NOTES



The organization sends cards to members with difficult medical issues or who have experienced a death in the immediate family. We also acknowledge donations made to the association.

This month we sent cards to:

Donna Xander—Condolence  
Tiffeni Goesel—Condolence

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



Alenexrd

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the July 2019 newsletter will be Tuesday, June 25.

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.



**LEARN** about caterpillars and the butterflies they become so you can watch the magic of metamorphosis in even a tiny garden. VCE Master Gardener Judith Alberts will show you how to draw butterflies to your yard or porch and how to protect caterpillars so they can be the next generation of fluttering beauties.

