



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CATHY HILL

Preparing Garden and Yard for Winter: Why a Not-So-Neat Garden Is OK

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 3

Program:
An Early Christmas in Williamsburg

Speaker:
Susan Dippre

What do you do to prepare your garden for winter? Do you prune your perennials and rake up all the leaves? What if you had a good excuse for less labor in your garden this fall?

Sometimes our obsession with a neat and orderly garden in the winter is detrimental to some of our pollinators, other beneficial insects, and last but not least our birds.

Believe it or not some butterfly species overwinter in one of their lifecycle stages. Both the caterpillars and butterflies that overwinter in areas that get below freezing develop an antifreeze fluid to keep them alive in the cold.

Caterpillars that overwinter like to burrow in the leaf litter below their host plant. One butterfly in this area that does this is the Baltimore checkerspot. Some of their host plants are white turtlehead, arrowwood viburnum, and honeysuckle.

Some swallowtails overwinter as adults. They will rest in trees and crevices in man-made structures. Other species overwinter as eggs.

Bees are also affected by our winter cleanup.

Leaves and other yard litter are essential hibernating shelter for bumble bee queens. This habitat also attracts lady beetles that will be in the ideal location to attack aphids in the spring.

More than 70% of bees nest in the ground. To help them overwinter we need to minimize ground disturbance. Let the leaves stay. If you need to till or disturb the ground, try to keep the depth of disturbance to six inches or less.

It is necessary to be aware when pruning that there might be cavity-nesting bees attached to stems. You may keep these nests until spring



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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED

by cutting stems to six-to-twelve inches and storing them in a cool, dry space. There are also more "creative" nests that may be found on tree trunks or house walls. Keep your eye out for these.

And last but not least don't forget our birds. They need shelter in our shrubs and trees against the cold and predators. They also feed on seeds from our flowers and grasses.

IT'S A CELEBRATION!

I want to thank personally each and every Master Gardener for all of the hours you have worked this year on our many projects.

Please join me for cake after the association meeting to celebrate.

Let's Celebrate

—Cathy

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Susan Dippre began her career in Colonial Williamsburg's gardens in April 1980. Her first assignment as a gardener was at Carter's Grove plantation. She assisted with the holiday decorations there and fell in love with the beauty and creativity involved.

After eight years at "the Grove" Susan was moved to "town," where in 1990 she was promoted to foreman." As foreman, Susan was responsible for the maintenance of the gardens and grounds at the Williamsburg Inn and Lodge; and later, at Merchants Square. During that time she also renovated the rooftop garden at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum.

She became a supervisor in the historic area in 1995, inheriting the responsibility of decorating the whole area for the holidays. This task started with about fifty exhibition buildings and grew until she, with the assistance of a dozen gardeners and a half dozen carpenters, was decorating well over 120 buildings in the historic area, Merchants Square, and the visitor center. Susan coordinated a team that installed a majority of the CW hotel holiday decorations, including all interior and exterior trees at the front of the Williamsburg Inn, as well as nearby streets and parking lots.

After thirty-seven years in CW's landscape department, she retired in 2017.

The favorite parts of her job were the demonstrations, workshops, and working with the designers to create the beautiful and original holiday designs that graced the many buildings. Recently [she has begun a business](#) so she can continue the design processes throughout the year. This includes floral and landscape design.

The title of Susan's presentation is "An Early Christmas in Williamsburg." She will demonstrate how to make wreaths and swags.

2019
MGA Board

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Cathy Hill

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Patsy McGrady

VP Administration:
Dee Arbegast

VP Projects:
Janet Smith

VP Internal Ed:
Hazel Braxton

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Marilyn Riddle

Past President:
Gary Streb

*VCE ANR Program
Assistant:*
VACANT

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.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2020 ASSOCIATION BOARD

BY DEE ARBEGAST, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

Election day for our association is November 7 at the association meeting. The slate of officers is:



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President:	Patsy McGrady
President-Elect:	Marty Oakes
VP Projects:	Rick Brown
VP Administration:	Dee Arbegast
VP Internal Education:	Hazel Braxton
Treasurer:	Kathy Skube
Secretary:	Beth Deer

A big THANK YOU goes out to the nominating committee (Janet Smith, Liz Favre, Judith Alberts, Su Carlile, and myself) for their success in finding candidates for these board offices. It is also that time of year when we start collecting the [recertification \(aka re-enrollment\) form](#) and the [standards of behavior form](#). We will have the forms at the October, November, December, and January meetings. You can also access the form on [our website](#) and at the end of this newsletter. Hopefully this extra time gives us the flexibility to get all of our ducks in a row.



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- Roster Changes: If there are changes to any of your personal information, please [let me know](mailto:deearbegast@gmail.com) (deearbegast@gmail.com)
- Volunteer Hours: The end of the year is approaching fast. Please enter your hours regularly. I just ran some reports and see many that are blank for several months. We have many hard-working individuals, and we need the administrative part of our job documented for VCE purposes.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

October 1-31 (1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). **Ancarrow's List: Native Plants by the River's Edge.** A special exhibit of botanical art featuring illustrations of native wildflowers and plants at the Lora M. Robins Library in the Kelly Education Center at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Cost included in the regular admission price.

October 4 (6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk 23518-5337). 10:00-11:30am. **Floral Design Workshop: Indian Summer Bouquet.** Join Floral Designer Betty Ann Galway at the Norfolk Botanical Garden to create a beautiful Indian summer bouquet. All supplies included. Cost \$60 for nonmembers, \$45 for members. [Register here.](#)

October 5 (3663 Sherwood Place, Suffolk 23435). 10:00am. **Botany Blitz.** Calling all botanists and plant enthusiast to meet at the home of Maria and David Nissen to help identify plants on their 7-acre wooded property on Bennett's Creek in Suffolk. Lots of goldenrods and asters should be in bloom. Take I-664 S to exit 11 A, VA 337/W. Portsmouth Blvd. Turn left onto Sportsman Blvd. Cross train tracks and turn left onto Sherwood Place. Go to the end of the road, turning left at the horse corral and continue around it. There is limited parking near the house. Email Maria at MLnissen916@gmail.com or Meegan Wallace at clm003@verizon.net if you have questions. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

October 8 (6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk 23518-5337). 9:30-11:00am. **Secret Garden Meditation Walk.** Experience the healing beauty of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. We will slow down the pace of our hectic, busy days and become mindful of nature during our guided walk around the garden. Cost \$15 for nonmembers, \$10 for members. [Register here.](#)

October 12-13 (1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). 1:00-4:00pm Saturday, 11:00am-3:30pm Sunday. **Richmond Rose Society and Colonial District Show.** At Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, enjoy displays of specimen roses and get advice from consulting experts at the rose show. Included with regular garden admission.

October 12 (James City County Library, 7770 Croaker Road, Williamsburg 23188). 11:00am-12:00 noon. **Steaming Piles of Black Gold or How to Make Your Own Compost.** VCE Master Gardener Justin Diaz will explain the science behind making compost and help you get started planning your own

compost pile. (Additional information on page 7 of this newsletter.)

October 12 (6120 Knotts Neck Road, Suffolk 23435). 8:00am-12:00noon. **Knotts Creek Nursery Plant Sale.** Wholesale nursery offering its fall plant sale for Master Gardeners. Cash or check only. Their price is 10% over wholesale. Bring a wagon to use when shopping.

October 12 (3651 Rochambeau Trail, Toano 23188). 9:00am workday, 10:00am walk. **Stonehouse Elementary Habitat Workday and Walk.** Join Sue Voigt on Saturday morning at 9:00am for a Stonehouse Elementary School workday at the Stonehouse Habitat Garden at 3651 Rochambeau Drive in Toano. Sue will then lead a walk starting at 10:00 around the habitat to see fall flowers and many bees and butterflies. Park in the school bus parking lot near the far end of the building. [Contact Sue Voigt](mailto:svoigt1@cox.net) (svoigt1@cox.net) for more information. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society.

October 15 (6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk 23518-5337). 1:00-3:00pm. **Selecting and Planting Shrubs and Trees.** Senior horticulturist Tom Houser will discuss selecting quality trees and shrubs and how to properly plant them. Participants will assist in planting a tree or shrub! Cost \$15 nonmembers, \$10 members. [Register here.](#)

October 16 (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **Learn and Grow: Bees in the Garden.** Learn about both honey bees and native bees and what you can do in your own garden to safely support these essential pollinators through plantings and practices. [Register here.](#) A \$5.00 donation is appreciated. Sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

October 19 (The Cheriton Fire Station, 21334 Bayside Road, Cheriton 23316). 8:00am—4:00pm. **ESVMG Garden Symposium.** Includes five lectures, lunch, and a raffle of local artisan items. \$70, and \$85 after September 15. To read more about this event and to register, go to www.esvmg.com.

The events page is continued on the next page, page 5

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES — CONTINUED

October 26 (1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). 11:00am-4:00pm. **OktoberFest**. Celebrate fall, nature's grand finale, with OktoberFest at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden — a day filled with live music by the Bellevue Rhythmaires, games and prizes, all included in garden admission. Food and drink are available for purchase.

As always, don't forget to take a look at Dave Close's latest biweekly update from the state EMG office. Click on

<https://www.mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/>

Below are some random pictures from [pixabay](https://www.pixabay.com/) for your enjoyment but mostly to fill up the space.

—Your Editor



MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE IN NORFOLK

BY PATSY MCGRADY

Pictured, left to right:

Kimberly Silver-Perry,
Harriet Parsons,
Beverly Baker,
Gary Streb,
Ginny Cranford,
and Patsy
McGrady



The thirty-second Annual Master Gardener College (MGC) was held in Norfolk September 19-22 at the Hilton The Main hotel. There were approximately 300 attendees from across the state. Attendees from our EMG association were Bev Baker, Ginny Cranford, Janet Fender, Patsy McGrady, Harriot Parsons, Kim Silver-Perry, Gary Streb, and Vicky Rockwell. The Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program will host the International Master Gardeners Conference in Norfolk in 2021. While the college is usually held at Virginia Tech in June, relocating to Norfolk in September provided a dry run for 2021.

This college provided an excellent variety of presentations ranging from plant and weed identification, turfgrasses, and mosses, to insects in the garden. Ginny Cranford and Gary Streb participated in the Water Steward advanced training. Multiple tours were available on September 19 and included the Brock Environmental Center, Hermitage Museum and Gardens, Norfolk Botanical Garden, and Paradise Creek Nature Park. Several of the keynote speeches focused on the impact of climate change on gardening.

Becky Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs was the featured speaker at the Thursday banquet. This was a treat because we are more familiar with her husband Brent being the public speaker. Mike Raupp, University of Maryland professor, noted expert on entomology, and creator of the [Bug of the Week website](#), provided both an entertaining and informative keynote speech and breakout session. Joseph Tychonievich, a recent Williamsburg native, excelled as a last-minute substitute for Holly Scoggins and offered a keynote speech on How to be a Smart Plant Shopper.

MGC will return to Virginia Tech at Blacksburg in June 2020. Hopefully many of you will be able to put it on your calendar and look forward to our next college.



STEAMING PILES OF BLACK GOLD: IN THE GARDEN WITH THE WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY

BY KATHY BUSH, CHAIR, SPEAKERS BUREAU

We have presented monthly programs to the public for the last four months, and each time the attendance has grown. In September Rick Brown presented his popular program on *Virginia Big Trees and the CW Arboretum* to a room filled with seventy-six people! The crowd left with great enthusiasm for getting out and walking Colonial Williamsburg to experience the great variety of trees to be found there and to see the state and national champions. Thank you, Rick for your time and knowledge! This month, on October 12 at 11:00am at the James City

County Library on Croaker Road, Justin Diaz will share his knowledge and experience with [Steaming Piles of Black Gold or How to Make Your Own Compost!](#) He will teach us how to make compost by recycling your kitchen scraps and fallen leaves into the best and cheapest soil amendment. Compost will make your garden thrive with less need for chemicals or fertilizer.



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GARDEN ADVICE FROM THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

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

The Monthly Kalendar October 1775

Dung your Ground, in order to plant Cabbages, set them out on Beds to prevent the Waters Standing.

Dress your Borders. _____
20th transplant your Colliflowers. _____
Last of this month cut down your Asparagus and cover the Beds well with Manure. _____

Dung your Grounds

Such of the Garden as may be vacant should be well manured in October and also well spaded that it may have the advantage of fallow from the Sun, Snow, and air of the Winter season. _____

In March loosen the Surface of the borders which were planted with flowers of any Sort in the Fall, or autumn, let this be done in a dry day with a small Hoe, stirring the Earth very carefully between the Plants, taking care of the Shoots from the Bulbous Roots which are now appearing thro' the Surface, then let them be neatly rake and clear away all Dead Leaves, which appear about the Plants _____ By loosening the Surface of the Borders the first growth of seed weeds is prevented, and it greatly promotes the growth of the Flowers.



The Graphics Fairy

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

HISTORIC TRIANGLE LEARNING GARDEN

BY BARBARA GUSTAFSON, PROJECT CO-CHAIR



Last year when our board reviewed all our projects, they suggested that Incredible Edibles change the objective of The Historic Triangle Garden from a community garden to a learning garden. The rationale is that many Master Gardeners and members of the community wish to learn more about how to grow vegetables organically following VCE guidelines.

Our leadership volunteers put our collective heads together and began to list the organic and teaching aspects of organic vegetable gardening we believe should be emphasized and what might be added. We had occasionally included educational talks at the beginning of our work sessions in the garden; now we decided to do this routinely and with one person in charge. The choice seemed obvious: Harriet Parsons. This has worked quite well as Harriet always knows what needs to be currently addressed when it comes to growing vegetables. She also often sends emails to our gardeners when, between work sessions, a problem is spotted that either a member of our watering team or one of our gardeners can fix.

Along the way we decided we needed better community outreach, including a garden open house in June 2020. Paulette Atkinson has created the basic format for the event; the first planning meeting will take place next January. We also spoke with Kathy Bush, speakers bureau chair, about including presentations on growing vegetables and managing home vegetable gardens as part of the speakers bureau's Second Saturday Talks series. Harriet has developed a presentation on tomatoes; one of our garden participants is helping to update a PowerPoint on companion planting created by Yvonne Forbes and myself; Justin Diaz has done a presentation on composting. We hope to continue adding more. Historic Triangle Community Services



personnel are working with us to feature the garden in their new [Community Services Center website](#). We're also exploring ways to work with the students and staff at Waller Mill Elementary School, which is next to the garden.

By planting flowers and herbs known to be effective companion plants to the vegetables we grow, we can teach the well-known gardening method called companion planting. Judy McCormack and Diana Tiller-Dichtel did extensive research and created a poster explaining companion planting which is posted in the garden. It was a stretch, but we decided to include in our border a monarch butterfly waystation, both to help butterflies survive and to attract beneficial insects and pollinators. Bev Baker and Marty Oakes took charge of designing and obtaining plantings that incorporated both these techniques and created a beautiful and effective border.

All agreed we needed a method for both expanding our knowledge of good and bad bugs and having a quick reference system, so Paulette created a notebook on bugs that we keep in our garden shed for easy reference. A few donated reference books are also in the shed for access to more detailed information. Now whenever an

This article is continued on the next page, page 9

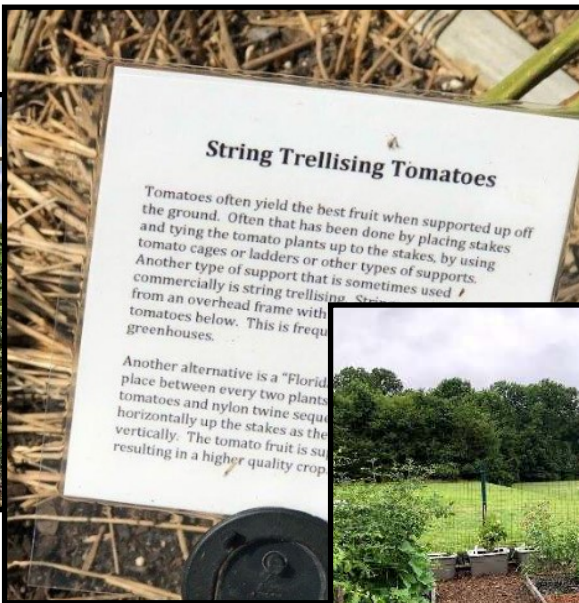
HISTORIC TRIANGLE LEARNING GARDEN — CONTINUED

unidentified pest appears, volunteers can quickly discover its ID and method of elimination and email the information to the rest of us.

Informational signs throughout the learning garden help us learn while gardening. Effective signage also informs all who visit the garden. We realized there are many ways to create effective signage, so we put together a signage committee. Yvonne Forbes and Justin Diaz created those that explained the purpose of the garden and the role of companion plantings. Marty oversaw the one that describes the monarch waystation. Bill Dichtel & Diana researched, designed, and created a variety of plant ID and other informational signs. Because many botanical gardens are now devising innovative signage, we noted any we saw during our summer travels. Through additional research, Kim Silver-Perry has developed a way for us share photos as well as a signage technique for obtaining additional plant information online.

We also agreed that a learning garden should include some experimentation on new planting and trellising techniques as well as on some of the new vegetables coming on the market. When Yvonne visited the New York Botanical Garden and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, she took both notes and photos that we are using in our research. Using a method she recorded for trellising tomatoes, Bill built the trellis while Yvonne and Harriet chose and trellised the tomatoes. Our gardeners continue to incorporate more ideas and unusual signage in the garden.

As you can tell, these ongoing changes are very much a joint effort among our lively and creative group of volunteers. I have certainly not been able to mention all our volunteers who participate in so many diverse ways. We are all learning more about growing vegetables organically and teaching each other in the process.



THIS AND THAT

Oh Would You Look at the Time: Budget and 2020 Dues

Project chairs, if you have not done so already, please email me before October 5 any updates or changes to your 2020 budget.

I will be collecting the dues at our November 7 and December 5 meetings. Checks should be made payable to JCCW Master Gardeners in the amount of \$15.00. I will also accept cash and give you a receipt. Checks can also be mailed to my home. —Liz Favre, MGA Treasurer
4419 Chickasaw Court
Williamsburg, VA 23188



Our chuckle of the month is courtesy of Louann Martin, who wrote: "My son sent this to me from a nursery in New Hampshire!! Must be that Yankee humor!"

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.

November 7: Rex Talbot, "Herbs"

December 5: Helen Hamilton

—Hazel Braxton, VP for Internal Education

Show and Tell

I was recently reminded of the opportunity many of us were given in elementary/grade school to take something in to 'Show and Tell' in front of the class.

For some of us it was a knee-knocking experience, but others were quite at home before an audience. Having something that we chose to share with our classmates, something that we loved or a treasured experience, made it easier to face our peers.

I am struck by the similarity that 'Show and Tell' has to the mission of our EMG speakers bureau. In our EMG training class, we are given a solid foundation in all things horticultural. Then each year we add to that knowledge through symposiums, classes, our monthly meetings, and our own natural interest in special gardening subjects.

Compared to the average JCCW citizen, we are the "experts?" We have a great roster of speakers from our unit who are knowledgeable and passionate about their chosen subjects. They gladly present at garden clubs and community groups, but we are always looking for new talent.

If you would like to 'show and tell' about an area of gardening that you are passionate about, please join the speakers bureau team!

[Contact me](mailto:kathykbush@verizon.net) (kathykbush@verizon.net) for more information.

—Kathy Bush, Chair, Speakers Bureau

More This and That on the next page, page 11

THIS AND THAT — CONTINUED

Chairperson for the Speakers Bureau and Mobile Master Gardener

We are looking for one or two people to take over the organizing and administering of this project. No public speaking required! This is a rewarding opportunity to make a difference in our EMG unit and in the community.

As the chair, you connect our speakers with local groups to fill their needs for their programs. You keep a calendar of engagements and tally monthly the number of contacts our speakers have made and report them to the vice president for projects. You have the opportunity to encourage and guide Master Gardeners and develop new venues for educating the public. You will have the chance to reach out to our membership and community partners, organize and promote our speakers, prepare displays, write for publicity and the newsletter, and possibly even be interviewed on the local radio station. You are only limited by your imagination as to how much you want to do.

I will be finished at the end of December but would be happy to work with someone before then to hand over the reins. If you have any questions or are interested in taking the leadership, please let me know. As a friend wisely said, "All projects come and go in our lives, and a volunteer commitment isn't a lifetime commitment." Thank you for your consideration!

—Kathy Bush, Chair, Speakers Bureau



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Be a Master Gardener Recruiter

Did you know that our current Master Gardeners are the most effective recruiting tool we have for finding new Master Gardeners? Those new Master Gardeners help fill the ranks of our Master Gardener Association and increase our ability to serve the community through our numerous garden-related projects.

Over the past several years, we have had relatively small Master Gardener training classes and will likely only graduate twelve from our latest class, which is why we are enlisting your help.

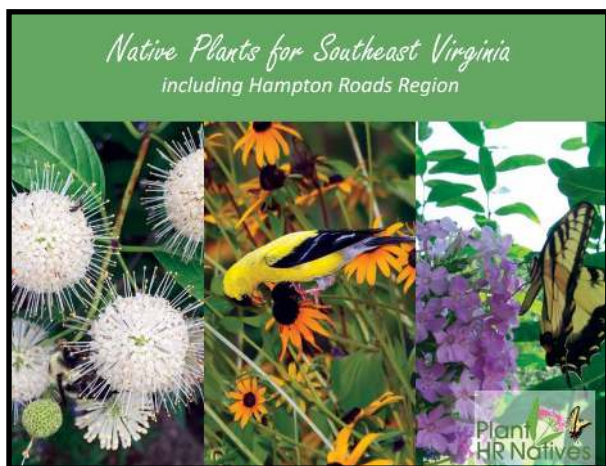
Consider speaking about the Master Gardener program to any civic organization, school, garden club, or church group in which you are a member. Do you have a friend or neighbor who has shown an interest in gardening? Why not give her or him a personal invitation to join our 2020 Master Gardener training class? We've found that folks who have been invited by one of us thrive as Master Gardeners. So please help with our recruiting effort as we strive for a robust 2020 class.

Registration is open now until October 31. Refer anyone interested in becoming a MG to [our website \(www.jccwmg.org\)](http://www.jccwmg.org) or give an extra nudge with a copy of our application.

If you need a flyer to post at your meeting, please [contact Kathy Skube \(skubekd@gmail.com\)](mailto:skubekd@gmail.com). Thanks for helping keep our organization strong!

This and That is continued on the next page, page 12

THIS AND THAT — CONTINUED



The Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, Including Hampton Roads Region

While this book is [online](#), you probably still want a hard copy. I have some at a cost of \$5.00, and all the plants, bushes, and trees are in beautiful color. The plants featured in this guide were selected because they are attractive and relatively easy for the home gardener to acquire, easy to maintain, and offer various benefits to wildlife and the environment.

Please [contact me](#), (arcingale@cox.net) or (757) 565-4712, if you would like to purchase one, and I will take it to the October meeting. Thank you.

—Angela Cingale

MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION AT THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE LEARNING GARDEN

BY KIMBERLY SILVER-PERRY

On Saturday, September 25, Master Gardeners, family, and friends gathered in the Historic Triangle Learning Garden for a dedication of the garden's memorial benches honoring two beloved members of our project, Art Gustafson and Richard Stratton.

Guests of honor included Art's wife Barbara – still the garden's co-chair – and numerous members of Richard's family (including his beloved dog, Lady). Other garden participants, members of the Master Gardener board, relatives, and friends joined together to pay tribute and remember good times. Guests were greeted by bagpipes, played by Master Gardener Kim Silver-Perry's son Charles.



Kim then introduced the bench project, its genesis and evolution. Through the generosity of donations from Master Gardeners, the learning garden was able to finance the purchase of raw materials to construct the benches. The volunteer team who designed, constructed, and inscribed the benches – Matt Slack, his son Parker, and daughter Emily – were also present, and Parker described his Eagle Scout project at Brookdale that enabled him to recreate the benches in our garden.

The day was one of learning and remembrance. Yvonne Forbes recounted the history of the garden, from its start as a program with the Community Action Agency for at-risk teens that was spearheaded by Art and Barbara, to a community garden, all the way to its current iteration as a learning garden and monarch waystation.

The article is continued on the next page, page 13

MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION — CONTINUED

Harriet Parsons then offered remembrances of Art: the man, friend, and gardener. She remarked on his deep knowledge and willingness to mentor others and his dedication to ensuring the garden's sustainability. Next, Yvonne paid tribute to her classmate Richard. He volunteered for many tasks, from building beds and doors, delivering mulch and compost, and experimenting with new growing techniques that amazed us with unanticipated success. A few people shared their own memories of Art and Richard, and the service closed with Charles' piping rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Then the fun began. Newcomers to the garden were given tours of the beds, and Emily was tasked with the monarch net to capture any that might fly by (none was tagged that day, unfortunately). We all enjoyed the photo display that Barbara created of Art, Richard, and the garden. We chatted with Richard's family and took comfort in Lady's return to her garden watch, even if it was temporary. We were able to tell Matt and his children how much we appreciated their cheerful willingness to help with our project, when they only knew Richard from coffee hour at church. And we were able to enjoy the fine weather and good company in the garden's glow.

Thanks to all who joined us that day, whether in person or in spirit, and to all who donated money and time to make the memorial benches a reality.



WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH OCTOBER 2019

BY HELEN HAMILTON
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Obedient Plant produces spikes of rose-pink flowers that are striking against yellow goldenrods and the white asters of early fall. Although the flowers look like little snapdragons, the square stems identify this plant as a member of the mint family, and deer do not eat them.

The bud at the top continues to produce new blooms -- "indeterminate floescence" as botanists call this pattern of floral production when the youngest flowers are at the top of the stem.

The common name is well deserved -- when a blossom is pushed right or left it stays that way, because of friction between the flower stalk and the surrounding bracts. Children are amused by this seeming power over a flower. In nature this ability allows the blossoms to face away from a storm, providing an advantage for pollination since insects land against the wind.

The tubular flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Each flower has five triangular lobes, two forming an upper lip and three as the lower lip. The flowers have open mouths that show guidelines of dots and fine lines for bees and butterflies to follow as they seek food. Bumblebees are the major pollinators and can often be seen attached to the underlip when the weather is cold, or in the evening. Painted Lady butterflies have been seen on the flowers in late October. Obedient plant flowers are long-bloomers, from August through November.

This plant can be aggressive – it spreads by long stems, either above ground (stolons) or below (rhizomes), and self-seeds. But the young seedlings can be pulled easily if they grow where unwanted. The leaves are distinctive, opposite and sessile on the stem, lance-shaped with widely-spaced teeth that have sharp points – few plants have this appearance.

This native wildflower is easy to grow, in sun, shade or part shade and soils that are somewhat moist. To control the height of the four

-foot stems, they can be cut by one third early in the season, and pruning will control a tendency to droop. The plant can tolerate both poor drainage and drought but grows best in full sun with humus-rich soils.

Obedient plant grows naturally in many counties across Virginia, and ranges over eastern U.S. and Canada, but is rare as a native occurrence in eastern Virginia. Another species, swamp obedient plant (*P. leptophylla*) reaches only as far north as southernmost Virginia where it inhabits swamps and fresh to slightly brackish marshes.

A cultivar 'Alba' has white flowers and there is a variegated, pink-flowered form. Other forms are available in various shades of pink and rose, some growing less aggressively than the native species.

OBEDIENT PLANT *Physostegia virginiana*



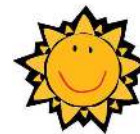
Photo: Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) taken by Helen Hamilton

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

Important Dates

- 10/1-31 Native Plants Art Exhibit (Richmond)
- 10/4 Floral Design Workshop (Norfolk)
- 10/5 Botany Blitz (Suffolk)
- 10/8 Meditation Walk (Norfolk)
- 10/12 How to Make Compost (WRL /JCC branch)
- 10/12 Knotts Creek Nursery Plant Sale (Suffolk)
- 10/12 Stonehouse Elementary Workday & Walk (Toano)
- 10/12-13 Rose Show (Richmond)
- 10/15 Trees and Shrubs (Norfolk)
- 10/16 Bees in the Garden (Freedom Park)
- 10/19 ESVMG Garden Symposium (Eastern Shore)
- 10/26 OktoberFest (Richmond)

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

Mitzi Balma — Get Well
Hazel Braxton — Sympathy

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 November 2019 newsletter will be Wednesday, October 23.

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.



Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Re-Enrollment Form

VCE Unit Name: James City County/Williamsburg Re-Enrollment Year: 2020

Unit Address: James City County/Williamsburg - 3127 Forge Road, Toano, VA 23168

Volunteer Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

A. Contact Information (please update if any changes have occurred since your last enrollment)	
Address (Street, City, State, Zip)	
Home Phone	Cell Phone
Work Phone	Email Address
Emergency Contact Name	
Emergency Phone (Day)	Emergency Phone (Evening)

B. Voluntary Disclosure
<p>This information will be kept in a confidential manner and accessible only to authorized personnel. A "yes" answer does not automatically exclude you from volunteering for this unit of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program.</p> <p>Within the past 12 months or since your last enrollment, have you been arrested and / or charged with a crime including moving traffic violations?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If "yes" to the question above, please describe:</p> <p>I understand that criminal background or reference checks may be conducted on me at any time during the application process or during volunteer service of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE).</p> <p>Signature _____ Date _____</p>



Standards of Behavior for Virginia 4-H Volunteers

Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship are the six core ethical values which the CHARACTER COUNTS! program calls the “Six Pillars of Character.” These values reflect those of the Virginia 4-H program and each 4-H member, volunteer, and staff member should strive to practice these values. The following standards for 4-H volunteers identify how these values will be reflected in volunteer performance. These standards help to ensure the safety and well-being of all 4-H participants and the integrity of the 4-H program.

- I will teach, enforce, advocate, and model the Six Pillars of Character, which are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.
- I will represent the Virginia 4-H program by conducting myself with courteous manners and language, exhibiting good sportsmanship, serving as a positive role model, and demonstrating reasonable conflict resolution skills.
- I will dress in a manner that is appropriate for a given 4-H program/event in accordance with that program/event’s dress code.
- I will support and promote the Virginia 4-H mission, “*To develop youth and adults working with those youth to realize their full potential – becoming effective, contributing citizens through participation in research-based, non-formal, hands-on educational experiences.*”
- I will actively participate in, and complete, Virginia 4-H program orientation and training that prepares me to satisfactorily accomplish the tasks for which I have volunteered.
- I will abide by all applicable laws and Virginia 4-H program policies, guidelines, and procedures. This includes, but is not limited to those regarding, child abuse, risk management, abuse suspicion, substance abuse, and limits of authority.
- I will accept supervision and support from salaried 4-H Extension staff or designated management volunteers and understand that I work under the guidance, supervision, and leadership of the Extension staff in charge.
- I will handle 4-H funds and engage in 4-H fundraising (when applicable) in an ethical manner.
- I will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that programs are accessible to all individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.
- I will not use (or allow others to use) alcohol or illegal drugs at any 4-H program or event. I understand that tobacco products can only be used in approved areas at approved times during approved events if I am of legal age. I understand the Virginia 4-H Search and Seizure policy regarding alcohol, drugs, or weapons.
- I will, when transporting youth, operate motor vehicles and other equipment in a safe and reliable manner and only with a valid operator’s license in accordance with Virginia Tech and Virginia 4-H policies. I will comply with all motor vehicle-related state regulations and laws. All transported youth will be secured by properly operating seat belts when applicable.
- I will conduct myself in a manner that is in the best interest of youth and the Virginia 4-H program and will not use the volunteer position for purposes of private or personal gain.
- When applicable to my 4-H responsibilities, I will treat animals in a humane manner and teach program participants to provide appropriate animal care and management.
- I will use technology in an appropriate manner in accordance with 4-H, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Virginia Tech policies.
- I will complete all necessary paperwork in a timely manner.

I understand that these standards represent a contractual agreement between volunteers and the Virginia 4-H program (of Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech). My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by these standards for volunteers. I understand that immediate suspension or termination of my position as a volunteer could result if I do not meet these standards.

VOLUNTEER (Print)

VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE

DATE

EXTENSION SUPERVISOR (Print)

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN (Print)

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

(NOTE: This line must be signed for volunteers under 18 years old.)

STEAMING PILES of BLACK GOLD

How to Make Your Own Compost

October 12 - 11:00am
James City County Library

