



# The Colonial Master Gardener

March  
2020

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY PATSY MCGRADY

In this area, the two things we can count on in March are uncertainty and daffodils. Will there be warm days? Yes. Will there be cold days? Probably. Will it rain? Surely. Will it snow? Maybe. March can be a jumble of weather as we work our way toward spring. Generally, daffodils are blooming seemingly everywhere this month, if we don't have

super warm weather. Daffodils can take the snow but weather in the 80s will shorten their bloom times irreparably.

With several consecutive days of warm weather and the arrival of new plants at big box stores and garden centers, it is tempting to indulge yourself and purchase those very appealing plants, and then pop them in the ground. March is a good time to plant new trees and shrubs. Also, cool weather vegetables such as spinach, cabbage, peas, and romaine can take the March weather. However, when it comes to perennial and annual flowers, please restrain yourself or you may have gardener's regret later. The soil is still too cold and wet for most new perennials and annual flower plants. There are exceptions, such as hellebores and pansies (if you didn't get them planted in the fall).

While it is too early for most new flower planting, you can buy new perennials if they are just too tempting to resist. If they are small, starter plants, move them into a larger pot. If they are larger perennials, keep the pot in a protected spot and don't let it dry out. Annuals probably are not worth the effort to nurse along until the soil warms up since they will continue to be available in the gardening centers for several months. Whatever you do, do not buyimpatiens this early. They do not like cool weather and will only sit there in your garden looking sad and bewildered.

However, March is an excellent month to think ahead to our plant sale in early May. We are relying on plants from our Master Gardeners. While March is too early to plant new perennials, once your existing plants begin showing some growth in March and April, you can divide the plants and pot the extras for the plant sale. Please pot these plants as early as possible so they can become established in the pot and show good new growth. Another excellent way to provide plants for the plant sale is to purchase small perennials

when they arrive in three-inch pots in garden centers. These plants are usually quite inexpensive. Once you bring them home, transfer them to a six-inch pot with good potting soil. They will immediately look larger in the larger pot and, by the plant sale, they will have increased significantly in size.

We also need your excess pots for the plant sale. The plant sale committee has made herculean efforts to gather plants from various homeowners, but they need more. Please take some to the March Master Gardener meeting; or you can call one of the members of the plant committee and ask for a pickup. Please make sure you clean the pots prior to donation, and a nice spray with Lysol would be good.



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## A ROSTER REMINDER

BY DEE ARBEGAST, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

2020  
MGA Board

*President:*  
Patsy McGrady

*President Elect:*  
Marty Oakes

*VP Administration:*  
Dee Arbegast

*VP Projects:*  
Rick Brown

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Hazel Braxton

*Secretary:*  
Beth Deer

*Treasurer:*  
Kathy Skube

*VMGA Rep:*  
Marilyn Riddle

*Past President:*  
Cathy Hill

*VCE ANR Program  
Assistant:*  
VACANT

Please contact me if you have any problems or questions regarding the roster. Remember that the roster is for association members only.

To be an association member you must have the following to comply:

1. Twenty volunteer hours
2. Eight educational hours
3. Dues paid for 2020
4. Enrollment forms signed and sent to VP Administration (They are input into system and then given to the extension office to store).
5. OR emerita/emeritus status

If your email, phone number, or address changes, please [let me know](#).

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/VCEMasterGardeners/>. Lots of great articles, educational videos, beautiful photographs, upcoming events, and more!

To get to our VCE James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener homepage quickly, click on <http://jccwmg.org/wordpress/>

*Newsletter Editor:*  
Hope Yelich  
[hopeyelich@gmail.com](mailto: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.



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## THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Judy Kinshaw-Ellis retired to Williamsburg in 2014 after working as a college instructor of English and reading in Maryland. She had also spent many years trying to get things to grow in a variety of states as she followed her husband in his Army career.

After moving to Virginia, Judy completed the Master Gardener, Tree Steward, and Master Naturalist programs and has taken an interest in native plants and encouraging birds to visit her yard. Cal, the Baltimore oriole, is a regular visitor as are a number of other colorful birds. Judy also is a Jayhawk fan, having earned her master's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas. She grew up in Iowa and went Iowa State, the birthplace of Cooperative Extension. Judy works part time at Freedom Park as an educator for James City County.

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**February 29-March 8** (Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia 19107). **Philadelphia Flower Show**. The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation's largest and longest-running horticultural event and features stunning displays by the world's premier floral and landscape designers. [Buy tickets here](#).

**March 7** (Tabb High School, 4431 Big Bethel Road, Yorktown 23693). 7:30am—2:45pm. **2020 Horticultural Extravaganza**. Joseph Tychonievich, author and plant breeder, will be the keynote speaker. The cost for Early Bird registration (with lunch included) is \$20 before February 1 and \$25 after with a deadline of February 21. Sign up early to get the classes of your choice!

**March 7** (Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). 9:00-11:30am. **Boxwood Care**. Learn best management care for your boxwood from planting, pruning, and rejuvenating older plants, to scouting for pests and current information on Box Blight. Instructor Laurie McMinn has worked with boxwood for more than eighteen years and will also demonstrate plucking on some hedges on the grounds. Come dressed for the weather and for walking. \$28 for members, \$41 for nonmembers. [Register here](#).

**March 7** (Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). 9:00am-12:00 noon. **Planning and Designing a Kitchen Garden**. Mark Ragland helps you realize your kitchen garden in time for you to get your hands dirty. Mark covers planning, preparation, and plant selection, with a trip to the Garden's Kroger Community Kitchen Garden for inspiration. \$30 for members, \$43 for nonmembers. [Register here](#).

**March 11** (Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Avenue, Norfolk 23518-5337). 9:30-11:30am. **Camellias 101**. An introduction to camellias and their care, followed by an outdoor walking tour. \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. [Register here](#).

**March 13** (Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Avenue, Norfolk 23518-5337). 10:00-11:30am. **Bulbs & Blooms Walk and Talk**. With horticulturalist Joelle Miller. This casual informative walk will allow plenty of time for questions and photos. Pre-registration not required. Walking required. Weather permitting. Will meet at Baker Hall Visitor Center. Cost included with admission.

**March 14** (Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). 9:00am-12:00 noon. 9:00am-12:00noon. **PH and Fertilization**. Learn about the life under your feet in this three-part series. In this class, instructor Karin Stretchko discusses soil pH and the many factors affecting it within soil chemistry, plant nutrition, and the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium cycles, including fertilization and how to read fertilizer labels. Parts 1 and 2 examined the physical properties of soil, life in the soil, organic matter, and sustainable gardening. \$30 for members, \$43 for nonmembers. [Register here](#).

**March 14** (Stryker Center, 412 N Boundary Street Williamsburg 23185). 11:00am-12:00noon. **In the Garden: Landscaping Like a Pro**. Peggy Krapf will share her many years of experience and teach you how to avoid the most common mistakes, choose the right plants and materials, and find the best contractors to do the work to make your yard beautiful. This free program is part of the "In the Garden" series sponsored by the Williamsburg Regional Library in cooperation with the James City County/Williamsburg VCE Master Gardeners.

**March 14** (Freedom Park). 10:00-12:00noon. **Naked Tree Walk**. Join Charlie Dubay for a walk around Freedom Park to identify trees in their winter condition. Learn how to distinguish woody plants by growth habit, bark, buds, bud scales, and leaf scars. Sponsored by the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society. Contact Meegan Wallace at [clm003@verizon.net](mailto:clm003@verizon.net) for more information. Saturday, March 28, will be the backup date in case of inclement weather

*The events page is continued on the next page, page 4*

## UPCOMING SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - CONTINUED

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**March 17** (Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). 10:00-11:00am. **Explore Conifers at the Garden.** Venture with your garden guide to the Streb Conifer Garden to see the many varieties of conifers suitable for Richmond's plant hardiness zone. The walk will include other areas of the garden to highlight the varied shapes, textures and colors of conifers and how they can be used in garden design. Free for members, \$17 for nonmembers. [Register here.](#)

**March 20 and 21** (Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). **Small Spaces: Springtime in Virginia.** Analyze the beautiful designs created by Garden horticulturists and consider how you can create your own version in containers, pot groupings, or small beds. Free for members, \$17 for nonmembers. [Register here.](#)

**March 21** (Freeman Center, Christopher Newport University, 1 University Place, Newport News 23606). 8:45am—5:00pm. **Gardening Symposium: Gorgeous Gardens: Good Enough to Eat.** An annual event. Workshops, plant and book sales, various vendors. Registration March 1-March 13 \$35.00; \$5.00 late fee after March 13. [Register here.](#)

**March 21** (Freedom Park Interpretive Center). 10:00-11:30am. **Compost is Garden Gold.** Recycle your kitchen scraps and fallen leaves into the best and cheapest soil amendment. VCE Master Gardener Justin Diaz will explain the science behind making compost and help you get started with your own compost pile. Free, but [click here to register](#) (registration opens March 1).

**March 21** (White Stone Church of the Nazarene, 57 Whisk Dr, White Stone 22578 ). **27th Annual Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar.** Join the Northern Neck Master Gardeners for their annual seminar. This year's theme is "Spring Fever: Adventures in Gardening" and features guest speakers C. Colston Burrell, Nancy Lawson, and Vincent A. Simeone. Cost \$50. [Register here](#)

**March 24** (Virginia Living Museum, 524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News 23601). 3:30pm. **Environmentally Responsible Lawn.** Part of the eight-part lecture series sponsored by the

VCE Newport News Master Gardeners. Barb Foley shows how to have a lawn without harming our waterways. For more information and pre-registration (required) contact VCE Newport News Master Gardeners at [www.nnmastergardeners.org](http://www.nnmastergardeners.org) or 757-591-4838.

**March 26** (Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Avenue, Norfolk 23518-5337). 1:00-3:00pm. **Backyard Composting 101.** This class will teach you how to compost your food scraps and yard waste, which compost bin fits your needs and how to maximize the composting process. \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. [Register here.](#)

**March 28** (JCC Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg 23188). 9:00am-12:00 noon. **Sustainable Turf University.** Attendees will learn about different species of turf, proper management techniques, weed control, soil testing, compost and more. Sustainable Turf University is presented by the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, and James City County. Free. For more information or to register for the event, please call Robyn Goad at (757) 645-4895. Also see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

**March 31** ((Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Avenue, Norfolk 23518-5337). 9:30-11:30am. **Introduction to Invasive Plants.** With assistant horticulturalist Allen Carter, learn what makes a plant invasive and how this differs from "weeds". Students will discuss the Virginia Invasive Species Working Group and review invasives of Virginia. Learn identifying characteristics, life histories, and control measures for listed plants. \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. [Register here.](#)

**March 31** (Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Avenue, Norfolk 23518-5337). 6:30-8:30pm. **Worm Composting.** Turn your kitchen waste into a dark rich soil conditioner. Each participant will make a working compost bin, complete with starter worms! \$40 for members, \$55 for nonmembers. [Register here.](#)

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

## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - CONT.

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

**March 31** (Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond 23228). 2:00-5:00pm. **Daffodils Through the Centuries: A Reflection.** This event, the 86th annual show, will feature award-winning daffodil specimens, spectacular floral arrangements and eye-catching photography in one of the nation's largest daffodil shows. Nearly 2,000 stems will dazzle attendees as we celebrate the Garden Club of Virginia's Centennial. Hosted by the Garden Club of Virginia and the American Daffodil Society. Free with regular garden admission.

**April 4** (Gari Melchers Home and Studio, 224 Washington Street, Falmouth 22405). 8:30am-3:30pm. **8th Annual Living in the Garden Symposium: Getting Ready for Spring!** Join the Master Gardener Association of the Central Rappahannock Area for our annual symposium, with featured speakers Bryce Lane, Michael Judd, and Barbara Ellis. Fee includes light breakfast, buffet lunch, and *How to Prune Trees and Shrubs* handbook. Cost \$75. For more information or registration form please contact: Laura Westermeier, symposium chair at (540) 479-3835 or [Laura.Westermeier@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.Westermeier@gmail.com). Also John Westermeier, symposium chair at [JFWestermeier@gmail.com](mailto:JFWestermeier@gmail.com)

**June 25-28** (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg). **Master Gardener College 2020.** Join us for our last college before we host the International Master Gardener Conference in 2021 for an exciting weekend of speakers, tours, and workshops. We'll be featuring a variety of brand new speakers and sessions this year. Stay tuned for more details about 2020 College!

You can find the most recent bi-weekly update from the state EMG office on the Extension Master Gardener website: <https://www.mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/biweekly-update/>

The state EMG office team's winter edition of **In Season** is now available. This edition includes information on oak tree decline, a special volunteer coordinator recognition, updates on Master Gardener College 2020, and more!



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## MASTER GARDENER PINS

BY DEE ARBEGAST, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

Congratulations to the following for achieving these milestones!

### 250 Hours

Judith Alberts	Paulette Atkinson
Henry Fahl	Jayce Griffin
Wendy Hamrick	Bob Howell
David Kleppinger	Sandy Liebler
Pam Mageland	Sharon Marcial
Fred Matthies	Susan Miller
Carla Moses	Kathy Skube
Katherine Sokolowsky	

### 500 Hours

Carole Black	Deborah Bussert
William Dichtel	Ann Hobson
Judith McCormack	Becky Palmore
Patricia Ridgeway	Janice Rockoff
Sherry Walker	Cheryl Roettger

### 1,000 Hours

Hazel Braxton	Ginny Cranford
Cathy Hill	Bruce Klein
Ann Odle	Cheryl Roettger

### 2,000 Hours

Patricia Abraham	Yvonne Forbes
Mary Ann Kimminau	Janet Smith

### 3,000 Hours

Pat Rathke

### 4,000 Hours

Patricia Crowe  
Gary Streb

## GETTING READY FOR OUR PLANT SALE

BY HOPE YELICH, PLANT SALE TEAM MEMBER

The plant sale is set for Saturday, May 2, 8:00am – noon, at the Historic Triangle Community Services Center on Waller Mill Road, rain or shine! The committee (Janet Smith, Liz Favre, Marty Oakes, Hope Yelich, and Susan Shoulet) are busy working to ensure that this will be the best sale ever, but we need your help.

There will be sign-up sheets at the next monthly meeting, but to get you thinking, here are things some of our team leads have identified:



**Set-up and Tear Down:** Kat Reynolds is the lead. She needs volunteers, but you must be able to lift heavy items if necessary.

**Plant Pickup from Atlantic Growers:** Barbara Floyd. Is the lead. Barb will need eight-ten trucks/SUVs to transport the plants.

**Intake:** Pat Rathke is the lead. Pat will need lots of people to receive the plant donations and take them where they need to go.

**Trash and Treasures:** Bill Dichtel is the lead. Bill is particularly interested in volunteers with yard-sale experience who can help him set the pricing.

Below are some specific things you can do:

- Don't wait until two days before the sale to pot up the plants you intend to donate. They should look happy and healthy and settled in their pots.
- With our goal of having 5,000 plants to sell, please take a walk around your garden to see if you have any plants you can pot up for the sale. Do you have a neighbor who might have an abundance of a certain plant he or she would like to donate? Remember that we are promoting "potting parties"—just identify what needs digging up, and a group of volunteers will come by the house to dig and pot the plants for the sale.
- We need plastic pots as soon as possible! All sizes, but they have to be clean. If you have any to donate, please take them to the March meeting or email [janet4457@cox.net](mailto:janet4457@cox.net) to arrange for a pickup or drop-off.
- We will also need those cardboard boxes and plastic trays that you undoubtedly will collect as you purchase plants for your own garden. Those, along with plastic bags, will come in handy during the sale.
- If you are a member of a home-owner association (HOA) or belong to a local garden club, we'd love to have your help publicizing the sale. Please email Hope Yelich ([hopeyulich@gmail.com](mailto:hopeyulich@gmail.com)) to find out what you can do.
- Please look in your garage, shed, or garden for possible items to donate to the Trash and Treasures section. What is no longer useful to you might be someone else's treasure and could help the plant sale succeed.
- If you have any special talents in this area, make sure that it doesn't rain. (just kidding, sort of)

## THE FARMERS MARKET AT MERCHANTS SQUARE

BY GARY STREB, FARMERS MARKET CO-CHAIR

“To learn, to educate, to communicate” is the core value of our James City County/Williamsburg/New Kent Extension Master Gardener mission. We do this by offering information to the public through several sustainable landscaping management educational programs. The heart and soul of this endeavor is the horticultural help desk and its offshoot, The Farmers Market at Merchants Square. These two projects comprise the essence of what we do as Extension Master Gardeners.



Photo: Hope Yellich

The Williamsburg Farmers Market begins its nineteenth season on March 7, and the JCC/Williamsburg Extension Master Gardeners have been a faithful part of our city's tradition for the last eighteen years. We would like to extend an invitation to you all to continue the tradition or start a new one of your own by joining us on the Farmers Market at Merchants Square project.

To best answer the public's questions, we need the help desk mentality, and to help us we are now aided by our own dedicated iPad and our own hot spot. This is also the perfect venue to get the word out about all the programs that we EMGs offer the greater Williamsburg community. Publicity! Ideally, we would like to have one Lawn Ranger and/or Water or Tree Steward on each team to field some of the specialty questions. But all EMGs are welcomed!

Our first market day will be April 4, and our weekly participation will extend through September 26-- almost every Saturday—with business hours from 8:00am until noon, rain or shine. Our treasured location is familiar and consists of one canopy tent and a couple of tables. Each team is comprised of a team leader, two-to-three Extension Master Gardeners, and at least one intern from the Class of 2020. With twenty-nine interns and twenty-six market sessions this year, a few of the market days will have one more intern than the rest. The Saturday team is required to be there no later than 7:15am to unload the transport vehicle and set up the booth on Duke of Gloucester. All vehicles have to be off the street by 7:30, and we are right in the middle of the exit path for half the vendors. We are again dividing some of the four-hour business periods into two two-hour shifts. I will have sign-up sheets at the March JCCWMGA business meeting on March 5. If you can't attend the meeting, you can always email me with your availability dates.

We will have a training/organizational meeting of all the EMGs and interns to explain commitments and guidance on Tuesday, **March 31, at 9:00am in Room A of the JCC rec center.** If you are interested in being part of the project this year, either as an “old hand” or as a newcomer, please let me know at [gstreb11@gmail.com](mailto:gstreb11@gmail.com) **by March 19** so we can continue the planning for another successful year at your local Farmers Market at Merchants Square. I will also have day/shift sign-up rosters at the organizational meeting. Interns will select their mandatory work shifts at the project fair on Wednesday, March 25.

As you may have heard by now Justin Diaz, last year's co-chair, will not be able to join the project this year because of commitments each Saturday with his new position on the Williamsburg Farmers Market leadership team. Our loss is their gain! So.... I am looking for Saturday team leaders who will be able to orchestrate all operational aspects of the booth for some of the twenty-six available Saturdays. Transport of the kit to and from the market is an issue that needs to be addressed with some creative possibilities (or a SUV or pick-up truck). Please get in touch with me if interested. If you would prefer to be a transporter only, that can certainly be

*This article is continued on the next page, page 8*

## THE FARMERS MARKET AT MERCHANTS SQUARE — CONTINUED

seriously discussed. This is one of the few projects that is operational on weekends with a large block of time available, so if accruing sufficient VMS volunteer hours is an issue with you this may just be the ideal solution.

The Farmers Market at Merchants Square is probably our most visible project in the Williamsburg community and without your full support it cannot continue to be the respected and successful it has traditionally been. **We are counting on you!**

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## LANDSCAPE LOVE — MY SUSTAINABLE YARD

BY GARY STREB, LANDSCAPE LOVE CHAIR



Hard to believe that we will be opening up registrations for Landscape Love in less than two weeks. Maybe it is because we missed a real winter this year. No wonder the plants are so confused.

Many of our homeowner clients are new to Tidewater Virginia and unfamiliar with the plants in their new yards. Others who have lived in their home for decades may not have any idea what the mystery green plants are or how to care for them. Our educational project is the ideal way to get them rapidly acquainted with their landscape and piece of our environment. This goes for our Extension Master Gardeners as well---every on-site homeowner visit is a learning experience for us all.

In light of Landscape Love's mission, I am proposing to update the name of the project to more clearly describe its purpose to the homeowner. **My Sustainable Yard** lets the homeowner immediately know that we are focused upon teaching them sustainable gardening techniques based on their personal slice of this planet—their yard. I'm taking a poll of all the Landscape Lovers out there to see if you all think that the new refreshed name better reflects what we are doing and, also, accepting additional suggestions for something that may be better. This is a team effort! We are ready for some changes.

Whatever we call it I am inviting you to participate in the project for the Spring 2020 session.

Two training/organizational meetings for returning EMGs and Interns of the Class of 2020 have been scheduled. The first is **Monday, April 20, at 9:00am in Room B of the JCC rec center** and the other is **Tuesday, April 21, at 9:00am in Room B of the JCC rec center**. Please plan to attend either one of the meetings if you intend to participate in the spring session of **Landscape Love—My Sustainable Yard** even if you have been part of us for years---discussion of guidelines and procedures will ensure uniform information is given to the community. Homeowner registration opens March 15 and closes April 19. Visits will start by late April and continue throughout May.

Please let me know by **March 27** whether you plan to participate this season so I can develop the team assignments. Also, let me know which meeting you plan to attend and lastly, what you think of a new name of the project. Email remains [gstreb11@gmail.com](mailto:gstreb11@gmail.com). We have a large training class this year, with twenty-nine soon-to-be interns of the Class of 2020. That means we have the potential of five to six Interns per team—larger or more teams may mean more visits. Signup for the Class of 2020 will be at the project fair on March 25.

Our challenge this season will be to evaluate the effects of an unusually mild winter. Lots of our nasty garden pests may have survived and are ready to make up for lost time. And our frost date is still several weeks away so we may still get some bud-killing, freezing weather. We will have to be prepared for anything. Time will tell all. In any case it will be a learning experience for us all.

Thank you to all who are contributing to the continued success of Landscape Love—My Sustainable Yard. Each of us plays an essential role in our "Learn-Educate-Communicate" motto.



## THIS AND THAT



### Williamsburg Magazine March 2020

Pat Crowe passed on news that this month's *Williamsburg Magazine* has an article that features local gardens, including the Williamsburg Botanical Garden's new fairy garden. This diminutive patch of earth is the product of the MG therapeutic gardening team and their ARC clients. A special kudos to Linda Lucas, Karen Brooks, Barb Floyd, and Diana Dichtel-Tiller, who led the effort.

### Upcoming Risk Management Training

Janet Spencer, our VCE regional VCE supervisor, will provide the risk management training at our Master Gardeners meeting on April 2. We are all required to take this training every three years. Please make every effort to attend this training.

—Patsy McGrady, President

### Reminder: We Want Photos!

We want to keep the Mobile Master Gardener display board up to date with current photos of Master Gardeners engaged with the community.

Please send photos of your project activities to: [mgspeakersjccw@gmail.com](mailto:mgspeakersjccw@gmail.com).

Kindly include a caption which tells the 'who, what, where, when and why' of the action in your photo—and also who took it.

We will print photos to display at the "In the Garden With WRL" second Saturday programs each month, as well as at other outreach activities in the community.

—Judith Alberts & Elizabeth McCoy, Speakers Bureau co-chairs

### Don't Forget Our Facebook Page

Marion Guthrie is doing a great job keeping up with MG activities on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VCEMasterGardeners/>). She recently posted photos and described recent work at CW's Reid and Shields gardens, writing "This past week 11 master gardeners met in the Reid and Shields gardens to work in the herb beds and pull weeds including chickweed, henbit, and moss and came upon calendula blooming. It's typically grown as an annual but can be cultivated as a short-lived perennial in warmer climes (Zones 8-10). We're in 7b. The blooms are edible and loaded with antioxidant compounds." Lots of good stuff there.....



## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH MARCH 2020

BY HELEN HAMILTON  
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Male red maple. (*Acer rubrum*). Photo taken by Helen Hamilton

### RED MAPLE *Acer rubrum*

One of the first signs of spring is the red haze over the bare limbs of our local maple trees. This would be the male and female flowers of red maple. Typical of many species, the male flowers appear first as a yellowish pink, closely followed by the darker pink blossoms of the female trees. When fertilized, the familiar maple “keys” form and drop from the twigs like miniature helicopters.

Red maple is a medium-sized tree with smooth gray young trunk bark and broken darker older bark. The highly variable leaves have three-to-five lobes and are whitened underneath. It is well named, as its flowers, petioles, twigs, and seeds are all red to varying degrees. However, this tree is most well known for its brilliant deep scarlet foliage in autumn. Many cultivars

are available with varying shades of red and leaf shapes.

One of the most common and widespread deciduous trees of eastern North America, red maple ranges from Minnesota, east to Newfoundland, south to Florida, and southwest to Texas. Usually occurring in low, wet sites, this tree is adaptable to a very wide range of site conditions. It can be found growing in swamps, on poor dry soils, and most anywhere in between.

Red maple will tolerate some air pollution and is easy to transplant. With striking fall foliage and pleasing form, it is often used as a shade tree for landscapes. Maple syrup and lumber production occur on a small scale from red maple.

This is the state tree of Rhode Island.

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



Female red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Photo taken by Helen Hamilton

## Important Dates

- 2/29-3/8 Philadelphia Flower Show (Philadelphia)
- 3/7 2020 Horticultural Extravaganza (Yorktown)
- 3/7 Boxwood Care (Richmond)
- 3/7 Kitchen Garden (Richmond)
- 3/11 Camellias (Norfolk)
- 3/13 Blubs & Blooms (Norfolk)
- 3/14 PH and Fertilization (Richmond)
- 3/14 Landscaping Like a Pro (Stryker Center)
- 3/14 Naked Tree Walk (Freedom Park)
- 3/17 Conifers (Richmond)
- 3/20-21 Small Spaces (Richmond)
- 3/21 Gardening Symposium (Christopher Newport)
- 3/21 Compost is Garden Gold (Freedom Park)
- 3/21 Gardening in the Northern Neck (White Stone)
- 3/24 Responsible Lawn (Virginia Living Museum)
- 3/26 Backyard Composting (Norfolk)
- 3/28 Sustainable Turf (JCC rec center)
- 3/31 Invasive Plants (Norfolk)
- 3/31 Worm Composting (Norfolk)
- 3/31 Daffodils Through the Centuries (Richmond)
- 4/4 Living in the Garden (Falmouth)
- 6/25-28 Master Gardener College (Blacksburg)

## 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 achievements/milestones and donations made to the association

This month we sent cards to:

Helen Hamilton—Get Well  
Pat Crowe—Get Well  
Kathy Skube—Get Well  
Judy Corello—New Grandchild

Please provide names to the EMG secretary, Beth Deer, at (757) 435-3183, or [elizabethdeer@cox.net](mailto:elizabethdeer@cox.net)

## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the April 2020 newsletter will be Tuesday, March 24.

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.

**JCCW Master Gardener Association**

**Reimbursement/Payment Form**

Instructions: Fill in the information as needed with a description of items purchased, and staple all original receipts to the back.

Pay to the order of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List the purpose of the reimbursement, including description of items purchased, and project(s) that the request is connected to and the amount of each.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Two Different Signatures Required:

\_\_\_\_\_

Requestor Signature

Approval Signature

Mail this form and all supporting documents to: **Kathy Skube**  
**3955 W Providence Rd, Williamsburg, 23188**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

# **SUSTAINABLE TURF UNIVERSITY**

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 12:00pm  
James City County Recreation Center  
5301 Longhill Road**

Join regional experts to learn about how to grow and maintain a healthy, environmentally friendly lawn! Learn about different species of turf, proper management techniques, weed control, soil testing, compost, and more.

For more information, or to register for the event, please call Robyn Goad at (757) 645-4895.

Sustainable Turf University presented by: Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, and James City County