



The Colonial Master Gardener May 2020

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY PATSY MCGRADY

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Valerie Hillyer. Valerie loved teaching first graders in Seeds of Learning and participated in Landscape Love and Pruning. I keep seeing her smiling face, as she was at our March meeting. We provide our condolences to Peter Schaub on the loss of his wife Connie. The sudden and severe impact of this virus is almost too difficult to comprehend. We also wish to convey our sincere concern to our members who have family and friends impacted by the coronavirus. We hold you in our thoughts and send the strongest wishes for safety and wellness.



Photo: Slava Stupachenko on Unsplash

Next Meeting:

Because of the outbreak of the coronavirus, the date of the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Your board sends its deep appreciation for the exceptionally strong response we received to the request for a monetary assessment. As of April 16, the association has received \$3330 in assessments and \$3505 in donations. \$257 was received from members absorbing costs rather applying for reimbursement. In addition to the great outpouring of monetary support, project leaders were most gracious in cutting their project budget lines. This combined response has given the association the financial means to deal with the vast uncertainties we are facing this year. (Editor's note: For those who still want to send in an assessment, the form is included at the end of this newsletter, page 17).

As much as we appreciated the funds received, we were even more appreciative of the wonderful notes that many members included. The unified spirit of association members and your commitment to Master Gardeners will carry us through this difficult period of losses and uncertainties.

The revised budget was distributed via email on April 20. As discussed in that email and as reflected in the attached budget, we are not planning to have a fall plant sale. Every aspect of a fall plant sale was uncertain. We have no basis for estimating the interest in a plant sale in the fall. We would likely have had to rely on bulbs and mums and other items that we would have purchased for the bulk of our sale material. This could have jeopardized our non-profit status, as we discovered when the 2018 plant sale relied heavily on purchased nursery plants. Also, we may very well be put into another stay-at-home period in the fall. No one has a working crystal ball.

The plant sale committee (Liz Favre, Janet Smith, Marty Oakes, Hope Yelich, Susan Shoulet, and Donna Tierney) has put in tremendous amounts of time and lots of heavy lifting to prepare for a spring plant sale

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED

2020
MGA Board

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*VCE ANR Program
Assistant:*
VACANT

that we have been unable to have. The plant sale they were planning would have heavily focused on MG-raised plants and would have been amazing. We thank them ever so much for their work.

Now some good news. There are several hundred plants that have already been potted and prepared for the plant sale. When we are released from our mandatory stay-at-home restrictions (current date is June 10), the plant sale committee plans to have an informal, internal plant sale. While that is a bit late for planting, it is far better to get the plants out in gardens than hope they can survive another year in pots. Please see the article later in this newsletter for details.

VCE has provided very specific guidance on working in MG project gardens during the pandemic. To summarize, working is allowed if the garden provides food for underserved populations and if the participating MGs can maintain social distancing while working in the garden. The complete three-page directive is attached at the end of the newsletter on pages 11-13.

As we move into May, the novelty of staying at home has definitely worn off. It's also getting difficult to maintain that sense of urgency that we initially felt at the various restrictions to which we've been asked to adhere.

I've come to understand that the thing in college that has helped me the most in life was end-of-semester exams. Days upon days of exams. No time for anything but endless studying. It wasn't the specific information that I managed to cram into my mind that has stayed with me over the years but the sense that there are some times that you just have to get through. For me, this is becoming one of those times. You don't have to like it. It doesn't matter if you don't want to do it, all that matters is that you do it. As the British say "Keep Calm and Carry On."

Newsletter Editor:
Hope Yelich
hopeyelich@gmail.com

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! Marion Guthrie is doing a great job keeping us up to date, especially during this time when things are changing so frequently.

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

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.

PLEASE NOTE:
During the pandemic and while the library remains closed, the board meets through video conferencing.

RISK ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT BY DEE ARBEGAST, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

A gentle reminder that I need your risk assessment email stating you viewed the video, the information about which I sent in an email on April 2.

I have received the majority of replies but have a few outstanding ones. If you have sent your email to me, many thanks. If not, please note that the new deadline is May 1.



The Graphics Fairy

NEWS ABOUT OUR INFORMAL MG PLANT SALE

BY DONNA TIERNEY, PLANT SALE COMMITTEE MEMBER

The plant sale committee would like to share this update on our new concept for selling the wonderful plants you have been holding and for replenishing our bank account!

Because of the ongoing pandemic restrictions, cancellation of the May plant sale, and the recommendation of the committee not to hold a fall sale, we are working on a plan to set up an internal, informal plant sale for Master Gardeners only.

To that end, here are the steps:

- Identify all plants being held by members
- Provide an inventory of available plants and sale details to MGs via email
- Collect them at a single place
- Price plants by pot size
- Hold a one-to-three day informal sale at a central place after June 10 (when COVID-19 restrictions are scheduled to be lifted)
- Pay for all sales by check mailed directly to treasurer Kathy Skube. No cash or credit cards.



The Graphics Fairy

This sale will NOT be advertised to the general public. All notifications will go only to JCCWMGA MGs via the common Google email account. All funds generated from the sale will go directly into our treasury.

Since our first task is to identify and locate all plants that MGs are currently keeping, you'll find a blank inventory form and a sample form at the end of this newsletter, on pages 14-16. If you have plants, please print off a copy of the form, fill in the information about the plants you have, and email or mail the inventory to:

Susan Shoulet
1904 Whittle's Wood Road
Williamsburg VA 23185
757-585-9851
Sshoulet@cox.net

We would greatly appreciate your inventory responses by MAY 6, 2020, so that we can consolidate the input and get a complete inventory of available plants emailed out to you. We will be sending out updates on the internal plant sale as the plan evolves and more is known about any changing pandemic conditions.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the sale, please contact Donna Tierney (dktdva@cox.net) We are hoping to keep this sale very simple, but the current team will need additional hands to help organize and price plants, oversee the sale, clean up, and donate/dispose of plants that don't sell. We appreciate your continued support!

The Plant Sale Committee—

Hope Yelich, Marty Oakes, Janet Smith, Susan Shoulet, and Donna Tierney

THE FARMERS MARKET AT MERCHANTS SQUARE PROJECT UPDATE

BY GARY STREB, FARMERS MARKET CO-CHAIR



The [Williamsburg Farmers Market](#) is physically closed until further notice, but several of the vendors are still selling their goods via the internet with social distancing delivery guidelines in place. Check out their websites for further information at <https://www.woso.co/form/formview.cfm?formid=1092>. The Williamsburg community can continue to obtain horticultural information by contacting our help desk by telephone or through the website at <http://jccwmg.org/wordpress/>

The project Farmers Market at Merchants Square is closed until further notice.

However, we will reopen at some point, and we are planning for that time. All of the I's will be dotted and T's crossed before we even think about a reopen plan. This is obviously not our Master Gardener volunteer decision to make.

We had previously started with a list of participants and their desired schedules, as well as a cancelled training/organizational meeting originally scheduled for March 31. We will need to start over completely once we are given authority to do so. It is perfectly understandable that some of us may feel uncomfortable in the public setting even after we are given the all-clear-go-ahead-with-normalcy notice. Most of us fall into at least one the categories of vulnerability that the CDC has defined. Health and safety are paramount, period.

Watch for update notices for the possible reopening of the Farmers Market at Merchants Square project for the 2020 season. There is too much uncertainty right now to pencil anything into your calendar.

Please stay safe, strong and sane.

MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE 2020 BY PATSY MCGRADY, PRESIDENT

[Registration](#) for this year's [Master Gardener College](#) begins on May 4 and will be online. Sessions run from 12:30-4:00pm June 25-28, and the cost is \$50.00. If you want to watch sessions that are running at the same time, they will be recorded, so you can watch the second one later.

To see the EMG College 2020 program, [click here](#). It provides more specific information and includes the speakers and the topics that will be presented.

Having MGC online is a wonderful opportunity to experience it without having to drive five hours to Blacksburg.

I do hope many of you will decide to "attend."

TENTATIVE PLAN FOR LANDSCAPE LOVE 2020

BY GARY STREB, LANDSCAPE LOVE PROJECT CHAIR

Normally we would be right in the middle of the spring session of Landscape Love, but, alas, we are not in normal times. I hope that all are in good health and continue to be so by following the CDC pandemic guidelines. Lots of us fall into at least one of the vulnerable categories and need to be extra vigilant.

What's the plan for Landscape Love? We hope to open Landscape Love to the public with the fall 2020 session---registrations accepted throughout August and onsite visits commencing September and continuing into October. This home project is one that can easily adapt to the social distancing that will probably be part of our new normal for a while.

We will still need to have organizational/training meetings, especially for those who have not previously been part of the project---the Class of 2020. As soon as the JCC rec center opens for business again, we will make reservations for classrooms and get the word out. If all goes well, we expect these training sessions to be in late August. And we will have several, so we will not violate the social distance guidelines — or maybe have Zoom sessions instead. We will figure something out that is safe and reassuring for all participants.

We previously started a list of participants for the project and now-cancelled training/organizational sessions for April 20 and 21 that are now obsolete. At a later date I will reconnect with everyone to see if you still want to participate and when the best time to get together would be. There is too much uncertainty right now to firm anything up, but I know there will be lots of interest in the project from the “new gardener” community. Everyone is now finally realizing what a great overall activity gardening is!

The pandemic has changed America, and we Extension Master Gardeners will have to change with the public's needs and desires. Having an EMG team come to your home, free, to discuss any/all landscape issues sounds like quite a deal. We will see.

A point of clarification. I am serious about the CDC guidelines now and in the future, for us as well as our clients. I hope this does not negatively affect your decision to participate in the project ,but I have always been up front with my Three Basic Rules: Safety, Safety, and Safety.

Watch for more details as we start to reopen.

Stay safe, strong and sane!



Photo: Debby Hudson on Unsplash

NEWS FROM THE WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

BY JUDITH ALBERTS

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden's "Plants with a Purpose" fundraising plant sale is now an ONGOING "Honor Box" plant sale every day from 7:00am to dusk. The "Honor Box" is chock full of great pollinator-friendly native perennial plants to help rebuild beneficial habitat in sun or shade. The selection changes frequently so visit often to see what's available. Psst... most plants are priced at only FIVE BUCKS! Just drop your cash or check in the "Honor Box Birdhouse" lockbox.



The WBG's Learn & Grow programming is cancelled through May due to COVID-19. The June 20 program is still on the books as of this writing.

Stay tuned for updates at www.bit.ly/growatwbg or request our eNews at www.bit.ly/wbgnews.

THIS AND THAT

A Tour of World-Class Gardens

You have an opportunity to tour eight world-class gardens, virtually. Even if you could travel to them—they would be closed because of the coronavirus. The tour offers a form of relaxation; an opportunity to gain knowledge about the history and plants of each garden; and most importantly, an opportunity to gain Master Gardener educational hours.

The article, "8 Stunning Virtual Garden Tours Around the World," written by Ruth Doherty, appears in the March 26, 2020, *British House Beautiful*.

I encourage you to take the tour at this site: <https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/garden/g31913008/best-virtual-tours-garden/>

—Hazel Braxton, VP for Internal Education

Costco Connection

You never know where articles about Master Gardeners will turn up. Pat Crowe passed along the information that the April 2020 issue of the *Costco Connection*, a free magazine for Costco customers, has an article on Master Gardeners. Specifically, how Master Gardeners across the country help amateur gardeners with growing flowers and vegetables.

If you have a copy, the article appears on pages 56-57. If not, click on <https://www.costcoconnection.com/connection/202004/MobilePagedReplica.action?pm=1&folio=56#pg59>

THE MASTER GARDENER HELP DESK IS OPEN!

BY MARION GUTHRIE, PUBLICITY CHAIR

While the coronavirus and social distancing keep us apart and the Williamsburg office is closed, the JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener help desk is open! Stymied gardeners can email their gardening question to jccwmg1@gmail.com, along with their name, address, phone number, and any pictures of their problem. The help desk will respond and recommend a solution.

Of course, with the help desk office closed, puzzled gardeners aren't able to drop off their diseased specimens or get soil sample kits. Also, not everyone has email access, and if email is not available, there is a help desk phone (757) 564-2175, where anyone can leave a message and a member of the MG help desk team will pick it up.

But right now, Williamsburg gardeners will find that the best way to get an answer to their gardening question is to simply email the help desk at jccwmg1@gmail.com.



Photo: Unsplash

LOCATE ASH TREES!

BY MARION GUTHRIE, PUBLICITY CHAIR

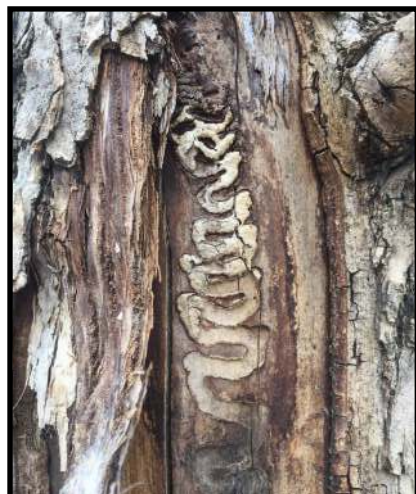


Photo: Judygva (back in town and trying to catch up), Wikimedia Commons



Photo: Howard Russell, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org, Wikimedia Commons

The Department of Forestry is fighting the invasion of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in our area, and they need your help! They are mapping the leading-edge of the beetle's infestation area to monitor the spread of these destructive insects. You can help by identifying the ash trees in your neighborhood and reporting them to the EAB coordinator, Meredith Bean, meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov.

So you can see what areas have already been reported, here's the map that shows the edge of the known infestation areas, along with information on this destructive beetle: <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/storymaps/index.htm>.

To identify ash trees, check out this short entertaining video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKJNcJkE0Kk>. You can practice your ash recognition skill as there are a couple you can walk to in Colonial Williamsburg. One is off of Henry Street, after Ireland, across the street, near the bus stop: <https://www.plantsmap.com/organizations/25281/plants/68109>. Here's another off of Palace Green St., near the Apothecary Shop: <https://www.plantsmap.com/organizations/25281/plants/68108>.

Whether you have ash borers or not, if you have ash trees contact the EAB Coordinator, Meredith Bean, meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov ASAP so the Department of Forestry's sampling efforts can coincide with emergence of the larva as adults in May.

As you may know, when the new EAB larva hatch in May, as adults they fly up into the ash trees and spend their days feeding on leaves and mating in the canopy. That's the death knell for your ash trees which may not look sick (perhaps some wilt) but will die to-to-four years once infected by the dreaded ash borers.

For more information and to report your ash trees contact Meredith Bean, Emerald Ash Borer Coordinator, Virginia Department of Forestry – Forest Health, at 900 Natural Resources Drive, Charlottesville VA 22903, Office: 434-220-9034, Email: meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov.

VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION REPORT BY MARILYN RIDDLE, UNIT REPRESENTATIVE

The association met April 11, 2020, in Louisa.

Communications—16-Month Calendar page can take unit activities when available. Website, managed by Dave Banks is also available to share information.

Education—Members be on alert for survey to direct the committee toward the interests of the majority. Preliminary indicates that first work may be done to shore up dome unit's own education activities.

Finance—Review committee saw no errors. May make a few suggestions. Linda Klein, Vandivere, and Pat Reilly on committee now. Plans to draw up budget for FY 2021 is in the early stages.

Education—may seek sponsors for 2020 Master Gardener College from VMGA membership.

Membership—Deb Straw will supply the names of upcoming renewals to any unit rep who makes that request. This is the time for most renewals.

Fundraising—As usual, clothing items have exceeded expectations. If we have to keep meeting virtually we will see a downturn.

Audit—More volunteers are needed.

VCE Report—MG C will be held virtually on June 26-28. It was stated that it will be of two days' duration. Registration will be \$50 and the portal should be open in early May.

NO plant sales in person or virtually this year until the "stay at home" order is lifted. You can donate your plants, perhaps to the food insecure. Visioning sessions could occur in the future as well. A **THANK YOU** to all EMGs, especially in these times from the VCE team.

EMGs do not have to be a member of Facebook to utilize Facebook Live. Food deserts might be identified and addressed in the future. Obviously, a unit by unit determination. MG College advanced training for 2022 is Landscapes.

Refer to email from EMG State Office with Kathleen Reed as lead, April 10, 2020, 1:50 pm for additional information.

Increase in annual dues to \$15 and lifetime to \$150 was defeated. Also, the VMGA scholarships were eliminated for **2020 only** at the recommendation of the scholarship committee by vote. This was due to the very low price this year and the fact that next year will be unusually high. Research is being done about the cost of two large banners for use by units upon request. A cost of \$250 is available for this purpose.

Annual Meeting (virtual) June 13, 2020 at 10:00 am. Loudoun Co-Aug; Charlottesville-Oct; Danville-Dec.

For those interested in joining the VMGA or in renewing a membership, the membership application form is attached on page 18 at the end of the newsletter.

WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH MAY 2020

BY HELEN HAMILTON
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

RED COLUMBINE *Aquilegia canadensis*



Photo: Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) taken by Helen Hamilton

This is one of our loveliest early spring flowers, with hanging red flowers that have long spurs and yellow centers. The nectar at the base of the spurs attracts long-tongued insects and hummingbirds. The flowers are mature when migrating hummingbirds appear in our area, and are important food for these little birds, and for early butterflies and bees as well. Insects seeking the nectar will brush against the extended anthers, collecting pollen to transfer to a neighboring flower with receptive female parts.

Native to eastern U.S., red columbine is found in most counties of Virginia, growing wild

in roadsides and forest edges. This early, long-blooming (March-May) spring plant forms small clumps about two feet tall. Once established, red columbine is easy to grow in a woodland garden with moist soil.

This perennial has a light, airy appearance, but is very durable and tolerant of cold weather. The aboveground plant disappears in the fall, but returns each year from the fibrous roots. As the plant self-seeds in early autumn, sprouts will appear the next year in other favorable garden locations, and seeds are easily collected for distribution in other areas. Red columbine looks wonderful when planted with golden ragwort, Confederate (white) violets, and wild blue phlox.

Attractive, lacy blue-green leaves are compound, divided into round-lobed threes. After the flowers fade, leafminers will leave traces in the leaves but they do not damage the roots of this perennial. When the leaves become unsightly, they can be removed, with no harm to the plant. Deer will avoid red columbine as the foliage is toxic.

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

Important Dates

- 6/25-28 Master Gardener College. This will be held online this year rather than in Blacksburg.



The Graphics Fairy

THINKING OF OUR MEMBERS

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:

Nan Hart—Get Well
Peter Schaub—Sympathy
Richard Hillyer —Sympathy

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the June 2020 newsletter will be Monday, May 25.

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

JCC/W Master Gardener Mission Statement

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

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Recommended Guidelines for Community Gardening during COVID-19

April 10, 2020

All Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) faculty, staff, and volunteers should follow directives currently outlined in Governor Northam's Executive Orders in all of their VCE work and volunteering efforts. *The Governor's Executive Orders are subject to change. Please ensure you are basing decisions on the most current version or any modified versions of the most recent Executive Order.*

All VCE faculty, staff, and volunteers should follow the directives and guidelines put into place by Virginia Cooperative Extension leadership. The Executive Leadership Team is working hard to ensure that the VCE community, and the communities we serve, stay safe during this pandemic.

All VCE faculty, staff, and volunteers should be sure that their volunteering efforts follow any directives put forth by their local government or their local agent.

Due to current circumstances, the 20 volunteer hour requirement for Extension Master Gardeners has been waived by the Extension Master Gardener State Office for calendar year 2020. Volunteer opportunities available during this time are optional and should only be done if you are comfortable doing so, are feeling well, and haven't been exposed to the virus. No VCE volunteer should feel pressured or obligated to volunteer if they are not comfortable doing so, even within what is currently allowed by Governor Northam's Executive Order. Should you choose to proceed, the guidelines listed below have been set for the protection of both our volunteers and the communities they serve.

Directives for specific garden locations:

Community gardens: VCE faculty, staff, and volunteers are able to work in community gardens at this time. All faculty, staff, and volunteers should ensure that they are following the guidelines listed below, in addition to any directives from the Governor, VCE, and their local government, and that they have direct approval from their local VCE Unit Office to continue their volunteering efforts. Community garden work should be directed toward food security. Food grown during this time should be working to meet the needs of the community. Consider the potential volume and variety of produce anticipated from each garden. Will it genuinely meet a food access need? In other words, will the garden produce a significant amount of produce to sincerely alleviate hunger?

School gardens: With school closures across the Commonwealth, VCE faculty, staff, and volunteers should not work to plant or maintain gardens that are located on school owned property during this time unless the local Extension office has secured

Continued on the next page

permission from the school district to be on school property for the express purpose of maintaining an active garden explicitly and solely for food production purposes only to address local food access/security.

Community-based youth gardens: Gardens located at community sites that serve youth such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. can be planted and maintained with permission from the partnering organization. No programming with youth should take place inside these gardens at this time, only garden planting and maintenance explicitly by adult volunteers and faculty/staff.

Demonstration gardens: Working in demonstration gardens is allowed if the garden is functioning for food production and produce is donated/used in the community. No in-person adult programming should take place in these gardens at this time, only garden planting, cultivation, maintenance, and harvesting activities are permitted. As an alternative, please consider sharing online resources and learning materials with garden patrons through electronic means (online modules or videos, online publications, etc.).

Ornamental display gardens, environmental demonstration gardens and arboreta: Volunteering in these are not allowed at this time. All volunteering efforts should be focused on issues of food security in order to help meet the needs of our communities during this crisis. Food pantries, food banks, and other community entities who assist with food distribution will have unmet needs that gardeners can help to fill.

Plant acquisitions and donations of plants: As work begins in community gardens, forethought should be invested in where and how plants are acquired and handled to ensure safe handling practices are followed in every step of the acquisition process. Likewise, plants originally grown or intended for Master Gardener Plant Sales can be donated to the community. Any donation site must allow for social distancing guidelines to be met when community members go to pick up the plants. Additionally, faculty, staff, and volunteers should wash hands prior to and after handling any containers, pots, etc., and make sure to avoid touching their mouth, nose, and eyes.

COVID-19 is not a foodborne illness and it is extremely unlikely that someone will catch it through eating. However, extra care can be taken while handling plant materials and plant containers by assigning specific and separate tasks to volunteers while practicing social distancing. Individuals handling plants and containers should wash their hands before and after each activity.

Guidelines for volunteering in gardens during [COVID-19](#) pandemic:

Handwashing: Wash your hands frequently. Handwashing stations with soap, disposable paper towels, and trash receptacles should be set up in community garden spaces to allow faculty, staff, and volunteers and other gardeners a place to wash their hands in the garden. Please refer to this VCE publication to learn how to properly set up a handwashing station: [Handwashing Facilities](#).

Face coverings: Since CDC has recommended wearing face coverings (not to be confused with face masks needed by health workers), individuals should consider



Wear a covering for added protection. For instructions on how to make a face covering, click on <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Garden sanitization: Sanitize high touch areas frequently, including at the start of a shift and at the end with disinfectant sprays or wipes. Such areas might include water spouts, hoses, garden gates, and other hard surfaces in the garden. It is important that high touch areas are first free of any dirt or debris before sanitizing.

Tools: Faculty, staff, and volunteers should bring their own tools and gloves to use in the garden and should leave with those same tools at the end of their shift. **Communal tools and sharing of personal tools should be avoided at this time.**

Scheduling and group size: A schedule for each local garden location should be created to help with staggering of volunteers in gardens. We highly suggest creating watering and work schedules that allow one person to water the whole garden in effort to minimize touch points between volunteers. When scheduling, limit group size to no more than 10 volunteers in the garden at one time. Family/household members are encouraged to volunteer together. Based on the size of the respective garden and the potential presence of community gardeners working in rented plots, you may need to reduce the number of volunteers present in order to maintain current social distancing recommendations.

Social distancing: Social distancing should be maintained at all times while in the garden. Volunteers and any others in the garden should maintain a distance of at least 6' between each other. No more than 10 individuals should be in the garden space at one time.

Harvesting and Delivery: While food has not been implicated in being a source of transmission for the coronavirus, it is important for individuals to follow best practices for hygiene such as handwashing and avoiding touching the face during transport and delivery of produce. Gloves may be worn while harvesting. Hands should first be washed and then gloves placed on the hands. Gloves should be discarded if tears develop. After discarding used gloves, hands should again be washed. Necessary precautions must be taken to minimize the number of touch points between volunteers, harvested produce, and transferring the produce to the appropriate distribution outlet (e.g. food bank, food pantry, direct to client). This includes packaging, containers, vehicles, surfaces, and coolers at the distribution location. Please consult food safety documents listed below for further details.

PLANT INVENTORY FORMAT FOR JCCWMGA INTERNAL PLANT SALE

SAMPLE

Name of Master Gardener Who has Plants:		
Mary Jones		
Telephone Number: 757 545-2234		
Location of Plants: (address)		
3366 Maple Lane Williamsburg, VA		

Note: Plants should be labeled, in good condition--clean, free of any type of pest or disease. MG owning plants is responsible for transporting them to the sale site.

If transportation is a problem, please circle below :
I NEED ASSISTANCE With Transportation

Name of Plant/Color if Appropriate:	Quantity	Plant Size (gallon/inches or Container Type)
White Dogwood Trees	6	1 Gallon
	5	5 Gallon
Large Red Azalea	10	5 Gallon
Boston Fern	5	12" hanging basket
Trailing White Geranium	6	5" pots
Purple Iris Bulbs	40	1 plastic bag

Name _____ Email _____

2020 JCC/W Master Gardeners Assessment (\$30) _____



JCC/W Master Gardener Association

c/o Kathy Skube

3955 W Providence Rd

Williamsburg, VA 23188

Please mail your check for this one-time assessment to the above address. If you would like to include an additional donation to the Chapter's General Fund, please indicate below –

Assessment \$30

General fund _____

Thank you for your contributions!

Volunteer signature

Date



Virginia Master Gardener Association, Inc.

Membership Application and Renewal Form

We encourage you to use the online form at www.vmga.net, "Join VMGA."
VMGA uses electronic means to disseminate the newsletter, directory and announcements.
Please accept the responsibility to update the Membership Chair of any email address changes.

Name: (please print legibly) _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check any committee(s) for which you can volunteer and any skills that you can contribute.

<input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee (event planning)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising (merchandise sales, Silent Auction or appeals)
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Audit, finance, budgeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Web skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (writer, reporter, layout)

Membership Class (Please check appropriate class)

Active (Trainees, Interns, Master Gardeners, Emeritus MGs or Extension Staff)

- New Active member (\$12 annual dues)
- Renewing Active member (\$12 annual dues)
- Lifetime Active member (\$120 one-time payment, valid as long as you remain an active VCE-MG)

Auxiliary or Sustaining (members cannot vote or hold office)

- New Auxiliary member (\$12 annual dues for those who were formerly active VCE-MGs and are no longer contributing hours, but wish to continue to support VMGA)
- Renewing Auxiliary member (\$12 annual dues)
- Sustaining Member (\$250 or more; for individuals or businesses interested in supporting the work of VMGA)

VCE Unit through which you submit volunteer hours (Extension staff, please note your unit):

_____ Year Completed Training _____

Signature _____

Renewing Your Membership? Information about VMGA Charitable Activities for Current Members

- To donate to VMGA's Master Gardener College scholarship fund, please note the amount here \$_____ and include the amount in your payment total.
- To donate to VMGA's State MG Coordinator Endowed Fund, make your check payable to "VT Foundation," note Account #886119 in the memo line and mail to CALS Development Office, 216 Hutcheson Hall (0402), Blacksburg VA 24061. A donation/pledge form can also be found at www.vmga.net.

Mail this form and your check made payable to "VMGA, Inc." to:

Deb Straw, VMGA Membership Chair
249 Snapps Mill Road
Spout Spring, VA 24593

Questions? Call Deb at 434-352-5024 or email her at debstraw@aol.com, or visit www.VMGA.net.