



# The Colonial Master Gardener

November  
2020

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY PATSY MCGRADY

November is the month for giving thanks, but in this very peculiar year I find I have a very different set of things for which I am especially grateful. This year I am grateful for Zoom because it has been the primary mechanism for allowing me to have some level of social interaction. I am grateful for streaming services for providing me with a never-ending source of amusements to augment those HGTV remodeling shows and the ever-popular Hallmark movies. I have appreciated webinars that have enabled me to participate in various horticultural learning opportunities – so much that I think I am accruing more hours of continuing education this year than usual.

I am especially grateful for Master Gardeners and for how we have been able to persevere through this time of epidemic. While we have certainly drastically modified what we do and how we do it, the association has continued to function and to support the community. So, kudos to all of you who have worked projects with COVID-19 safety precautions. My thoughts are also with our MGs whose projects are in a pause mode and must have great wells of patience to wait for better days. My deep appreciation to those who have continued your MG affiliations by attending our Zoom monthly meetings, keeping it a viable organization even in these difficult times.

Aren't we all thankful for fall and for Halloween – a holiday where you don't have to do anything but put out cute decorations (only if you want) and buy candy (only if you want). Watching scary movies is optional. Displaying chrysanthemums and pumpkins is semi-optional.

One of the last things I have blooming this year are the large marigolds shown in the photo on the next page. They are lovely, cheery, and look a bit like fall with their large yellow blooms. I got them as seedlings from Liz Favre this spring. While not all that showy this summer, they have become the last hurrah of the year from my garden and make me happy whenever I look at them.

**Facebook:** It's wonderful that we now have an active and ever-changing Facebook presence. It provides useful information to the community on a continuing and frequent basis with lovely photos and substantive content. Even if you are generally not a Facebook user, please do check out our organization page. You can just google "Facebook James City County Master Gardeners." Try it next time you check your emails and get in the habit of

checking it out several times a week. Recommend it to your friends and neighbors. Thanks to Marion Guthrie for revitalizing our Facebook presence.

**Bylaws and Operating Manual:** The board, with assistance from Deb Bussert, Bill Dichtel, Marion Guthrie, Vickie Rockwell, and Joanne Sheffield, has reviewed and is proposing a revision to the bylaws. The proposed revision has been sent to the active and emeritus Master Gardeners for review. We will discuss the proposed changes to the bylaws at this November meeting and will vote on their acceptance at the December meeting. We have started our review of the operating manual and hope to provide the proposed revision for your review in the near future.

*(Continued on the next page, page 2)*



My quarantine buddies.  
Photograph by Dogsburg  
Grooming. Turkey:  
ClipArtBest.com



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED

2020  
MGA Board

*President:*  
Patsy McGrady

*President Elect:*  
Marty Oakes

*VP Administration:*  
Dee Arbegast

*VP Projects:*  
Rick Brown

*VP Internal Ed:*  
Hazel Braxton

*Secretary:*  
Paulette Atkinson

*Treasurer:*  
Linda Neilson

*VMGA Rep:*  
Marilyn Riddle

*Past President:*  
Cathy Hill

*VCE ANR Program  
Assistant:*  
VACANT

**2021 Budget:** Project leaders are assembling their project proposals and budget requests for 2021. We expect to present a proposed 2021 budget to the association for approval at the December meeting. The proposed budget will be emailed to all members prior to the meeting.



Clipart Library.com



Photo of marigolds by Patsy McGrady

## THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY HAZEL BRAXTON, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

After twice retiring, Gary Streb completed the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Garden training program in 2011. His primary interest has been the Landscape Love project, fueled by his earlier completion of the George Washington University landscape design certificate program. He has also had VCE Master Gardener leadership positions in the environmental education, pruning clinics, and the Farmers Market at Merchant Square projects, as well as serving as president of the JCC/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association. Additionally, he is currently active with the advanced Master Gardener stewardship programs as a Peninsula Tree Steward and Peninsula Water Steward. He is currently developing a new shoreline evaluation project in coordination with the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District.

His other volunteer interests include board membership of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

Gary is involved with Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg on many levels--- including being a patient volunteer in the Hospice House and in the residences of its clients and their families. He also serves on the Guild Council, directs the Gardens and Green Grounds volunteers, and orchestrates garden/grounds maintenance of other outside volunteer groups from churches, schools, civic organizations, and businesses that volunteer to handle some of the larger projects on the eleven-acre campus. For his efforts he was awarded the Arbor Day Individual Award in 2019.

In his spare time, Gary has created a refuge/sanctuary on the wooded half-acre surrounding his home to such an extent that his next-door neighbor had referred to him as a "plant hoarder," a distinction that is difficult to refute.

The title of Gary's program is "Don't Throw Shade on Your Woodland Garden."

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/>

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.

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

## MEET OUR NEW NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD

BY DEE ARBEGAST, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

These intrepid Master Gardeners have agreed to run for positions on the association board. The membership will vote on them during our November 5 monthly Zoom meeting.

President-Elect:	Deborah Bussert
Administration:	Vickie Rockwell
Secretary:	Paulette Atkinson
Treasurer:	Linda Neilson
Internal Education:	Bill Dichtel
Alternate to the Virginia Master Gardener Association:	Joanne Sheffield

### Deb Bussert

Deb Bussert has been an avid gardener all her life. In fact, she planted her first tree when she was five years old. (OK, she was just sticking weeping willow branches into the ground, but some of them did grow.) After having lived in the Chicago area for thirty-five years, where she worked as a litigation attorney, Deb and her husband retired to Williamsburg in 2015. She took the Master Gardener training classes in 2016 and since then has worked in several different projects. Currently, Deb heads the project team for sustainable gardening at Williamsburg Botanical Garden and has recently joined the garden board as its treasurer. Aside from gardening, Deb enjoys reading, working on her family history and genealogy, and ringing handbells at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church.



### Vickie Rockwell

A proud graduate of the 2019 Master Gardener training program, Vickie is a relatively new resident of Williamsburg, having moved here in 2018. She and husband Terry live in the Peleg's Point community. They both enjoy working in their yard - gardening and landscaping. They also have two daughters, two sons-in-law and four grandchildren. Vickie's favorite volunteer projects here are Waterwise, the Colonial Williamsburg Learning Gardens, ARC, and Williamsburg Botanical Garden. She retired from Air Liquide USA in Houston, Texas, in February 2015. As director of investment development, Vickie was the secretary and a committee member who reviewed all new potential capital investments for the corporation to determine financial viability. As a past president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, she is still active on various committees and task forces and is looking forward to serving on the JCCW MG association board.

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## MEET OUR NEW NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD — CONTINUED



**Paulette Atkinson**

Paulette Atkinson has been an Extension Master Gardener for three years, graduating with the class of 2017. Outside of gardening and loving the great outdoors, Paulette enjoys reading, traveling, golfing, friends, and family. She has been active with Incredible Edibles, help desk, Turf Love, and Farmers Market projects. She desires to learn more and to serve the Williamsburg Community through project affiliation.

**Linda Neilson**

Linda has lived in Williamsburg for thirty-two years, migrating from Texas via Northern Virginia. She has three children and two grandchildren here in Virginia. Having been widowed since 2016, her current housemate is a six-year-old rescue cat named Calypso. Linda retired in 2008 from IT marketing. Her interests include genealogy research, golfing, reading, Osher Lifelong Learning classes (virtual, in lieu of actual travel when she and her husband traveled to nineteen different countries), and church activities as well as Master Gardening projects.



**Bill Dichtel**

Bill Dichtel grew up in Maryland and attended college and medical school in Baltimore. After six years of surgical residency in Houston, he returned east for four years of service in the Army Medical Corps at Walter Reed. He then practiced otolaryngology/head and neck surgery in Roanoke for twenty-five years and then in upstate New York for six more years. He and his wife, Diana, retired in 2017 and moved to Williamsburg. They became Master Gardeners in 2018 and appreciate the many friendships they have found through our organization.

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## MEET OUR NEW NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD — CONTINUED



**Joanne Sheffield**

Joanne moved to Williamsburg ten years ago from Montgomery County, Maryland. Having found out she was too late to apply for Master Naturalist training, Joanne joined the MG 2011 training class. She was excited to see that even the training leads wore blue jeans--her favorite clothes from childhood—and was very pleased with the course, projects, and camaraderie. Going through the training was a great way to become familiar with the Williamsburg area and make new friends. Although she did end up taking the Master Naturalist training in 2012-13, Joanne feels very fortunate to be a member of our association and looks forward to working with the Virginia Master Gardener Association as our unit alternate.

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## THEY KEEP BUSY AT THE J. BLAINE BLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN



Jeff Mellinger reports that volunteers recently harvested produce at the Blayton garden. They planted two different sizes of pumpkins earlier in the year, and last week they harvested the pumpkins.

The MGs gave them to the school so they could share them with the special needs kids who are currently going to in-person classes. They also harvested some of the sweet potatoes and regular potatoes planted earlier. Once all have been harvested, the volunteers will donate them either to the school or to FISH.



Ken Caro shares this photo of Peter Schaub displaying thirty-two pounds of heirloom crookneck squash he planted and harvested in the Blayton garden.

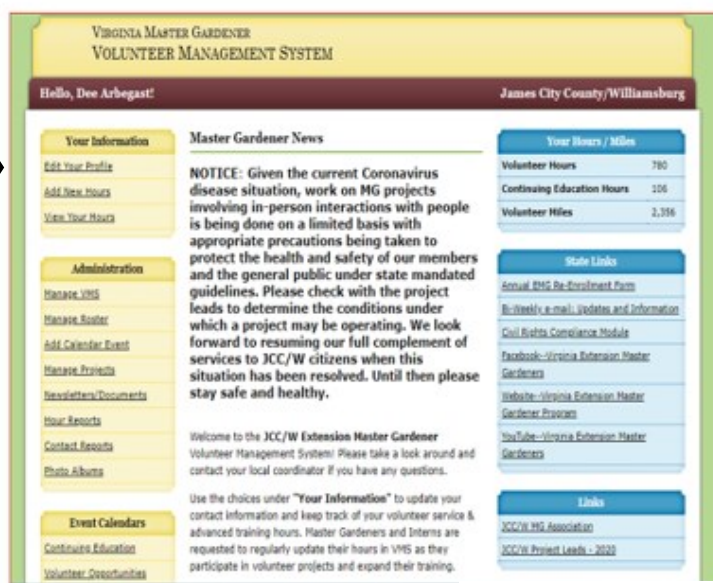
## BETTER IMPACT — GETTING READY FOR A NEW VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

BY DEE ARBEGAST, VP FOR ADMINISTRATION

Yes, that's really what it's called — Better Impact. According to VCE we will replace the current volunteer management system (VMS) with this one by January 1, 2021. In order to make the transition easier, you should go into the current VMS system and verify your information. I plan to offer training on the new system in the next week or so, but it would be helpful if you could do this first.

Here are the steps:

- Log into your VMS session by following this path from the [JCC/W MG Association homepage](#): MGA Members / Dues, Training, Forms / Log into the VMS to Record Your Hours. If it's not already in there, put in your email address and password and login.
- Select Edit Your Profile (upper left corner)



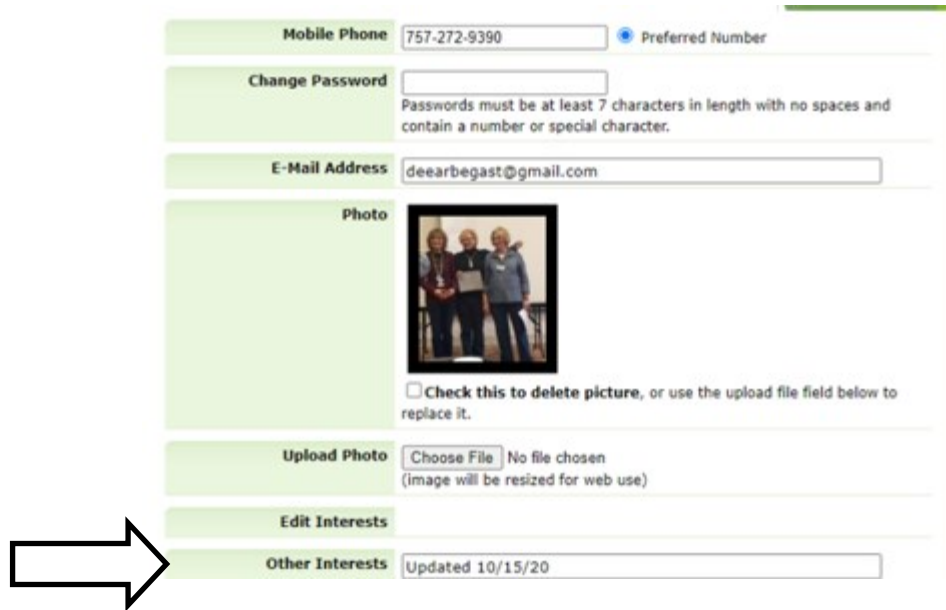
- Make sure your information is correct and change if necessary. Be sure your email address is correct! You don't have to fill out all the requested information. If you do not wish to share your information with other Master Gardeners, please select Private.



Continued on the next page, page 7

## BETTER IMPACT — GETTING READY FOR A NEW VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM — CONTINUED

- Last but not least, you need to put in the word Updated followed by the date. Click Save Information. This lets me know you have checked and updated any of your information.



The image shows a screenshot of a web form for updating a volunteer profile. The form has several sections with green headers: 'Mobile Phone' (757-272-9390, Preferred Number), 'Change Password' (with a note: 'Passwords must be at least 7 characters in length with no spaces and contain a number or special character.'), 'E-Mail Address' (deearbegast@gmail.com), 'Photo' (with a photo of three people and a checkbox to delete it), 'Upload Photo' (Choose File, No file chosen), 'Edit Interests', and 'Other Interests' (Updated 10/15/20). A large black arrow points to the 'Other Interests' field.

Administration will fill out any additional information.

You must enter your hours for 2020. You will also need to complete the risk management training, civil rights training, and complete the [standards of behavior](#) and [re-enrollment](#) forms. We ask that you do this no later than December 15 so the data can be captured for VCE. You cannot do this the last week of the year. Since we had limited outreach this year, it should be a doable task.

Thanks everyone for your cooperation. As soon as we hear from VCE we will start training on our new system. If you have any questions, you may email or call me. Please leave a voice mail and I will get back to you.

Dee Arbegast  
(757) 272-9390  
deearbegast@gmail.com



The Graphics Fairy



## VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION REPORT OCTOBER 10, 2020

BY MARILYN RIDDLE, JCCWMGA UNIT REP

The host unit, Piedmont (covering Albemarle Co-Charlottesville), had a most interesting report on their new digitized help desk. One of their EMGs, Aaron Bloomfield, from the Computer Science Dept, UVA, presented. His email is [aaron@virginia.edu](mailto:aaron@virginia.edu) if anyone wishes to obtain more information from him. At least three other units are also conducting their help desk in this manner.

Devon is available for assistance in draft test site for training classes. She can also explain CANVAS. A number of units will have online training and one already has begun. Working people appreciate the chance to participate. More information will be included in the minutes of this meeting.

The statewide speakers' list will soon be available as an education committee project. A survey analysis of the program needs of EMGs is also being prepared. This began as an education committee project.

The Fundraising Chair submitted her resignation, due to family illness. Someone volunteered to consider. No merchandise is being sold at the moment.

Kathleen announced that 70-75 members have been participating in the Leadership Development Series on Wednesday afternoons via zoom, to continue for five weeks rather than the one-day format in the past in selected locations throughout Virginia. The format is general discussion and then breaking into groups of ten for three periods during these two-hour sessions. Some will only be 90 minutes. Lab webinars were available in late June. Online training modules are on CANVAS. The e-giving campaign for endowment will occur at the end of the year.

Discussion began about the fact that the logo that was once VMGA's is now used as the one for VCE EMGs. Do we need our own distinct logo? The units could add their name if they wished to do so. The bylaws changes will be voted upon at the December 12 meeting. They all deal with virtual meetings. The lack of a quorum delayed from this meeting.

President's Question for December is "How do your unit mentors help trainees?"

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## WE HAVE A NEW TRANSFER MEMBER!

Hello, my name is Ruth Huber. Soon after I retired from nursing I became a Master Gardener, in 2006 in the Northern Neck Master Gardeners unit. A recent move has brought my husband and me to Providence Forge.

I have enjoyed meeting and working with Master Gardeners from many units for the past fourteen years. I have been involved with teaching gardens, children's programs, farmer's markets, VMGA, and numerous other programs. I am currently serving as the VMGA audit committee chair. I look forward to meeting the members of the JCC/W Master Gardeners.





## THIS AND THAT



The Graphics Fairy

### Reply All: A Gentle Reminder

Your editor received a request that I ask everyone to remember email etiquette when it comes to hitting that “reply” key.

Although for many people it’s second nature to respond with “reply all,” few messages sent to us actually need or require “reply all” responses. If you need or want to reply to an email, ask yourself whether everyone needs to see your response....or just the author of the original email.

**“This morning I took out a comma and this afternoon I put it back again.” — Oscar Wilde**

Do you like to take perfectly good prose and bend it to your will? Do you like total control over commas, spaces, and capital letters? Then I have the job for one or two of you! Your humble editor, after six years, is looking to move on to other projects.

And, more importantly, our monthly newsletter needs some new blood; or, to put it more elegantly, a refresh. If this chance to wallow in creativity appeals to you, please get in touch with me ([hopeyulich@gmail.com](mailto:hopeyulich@gmail.com)). I’d love to talk to you about it. Truly, taking what our members send and putting them in a readable package isn’t hard! And most of the time it’s really fun.

I know you’re out there.....  
—Hope

### Virginia Camellia Society Pre-Sale

For full details and an order form, click on: <http://www.genserva.com/vcs/calendar.htm>. Have your orders in by October 31. Pickup is at the Chesapeake Central Library on November 14.

### Thank You

Thank you so much to those of you who participated in the VMGA education committee’s survey. You made Joanne and me proud. We ranked #3 in terms of return from the units who identified their group.

—Marilyn Riddle



The Graphics Fairy

### WBG Learn and Grow Series

Everything is Connected is the next program, a virtual one, on Saturday, November 21, 10:00-11:30am. Brian Taber, the director of the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, will share insights into how garden spaces are important for the preservation of wildlife for a healthy ecology and environmental conservation. Ration will open soon. (L&G programs will be online events through the rest of 2020.)

### 2020 Conservation Forum with Doug Tallamy

Sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia, this forum took place virtually last Monday. You can access the presentation anytime until October 26, 2021, by clicking on this link: <https://www.gcvirginia.org/forum2020/>

*This and That is continued on the next page, page 10*

## THIS AND THAT — CONTINUED

### JCC/W MG Association Records

Recently the board has considered where to keep our records (bylaws, board minutes, operating manual, etc.) so they are accessible and preserved for future use.

There is a local organization called the [Williamsburg Historic Records Association](#), whose mission is to collect information on Williamsburg from the end of the colonial era to the present day. This material is housed in the Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, at William & Mary. For instance, various local garden clubs have their records preserved there.

Swem already has all the issues of *The Colonial Master Gardener* going back to January 2015 and scattered issues back to 2002. I send them digital copies every six months. For instance, various local garden clubs have their records preserved there.

I'll go into a bit more detail at our monthly meeting November 5, but archiving the association's records through the WHRA is something the board is considering seriously. Stay tuned.



The Graphics Fairy

### Looking for Interested MGs to Work on an Educational One-Day Seminar

I'm trying to assess interest in a seminar with featured speakers that, if it goes ahead, would probably take place in fall 2022 at the earliest. This would be an event with a fee and would include lunch. I'm hoping we can sell plants from a nursery in the Raleigh area and realize a profit. I think having this in the fall is preferable to one in the spring, since we wouldn't compete with the many spring seminars and sales.

If you're interested in seeing this go forward, please

### You Too Can Speak the Language of Plants

Rick Brown sent along an article he read in the *New York Times*. To read it, click on <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/28/realestate/yes-you-can-learn-to-speak-the-language-of-plants.html/>

It's about a new book, *The Gardener's Botanical: An Encyclopedia of Latin Plant Names*. It's available for \$25 on Amazon [here](#).



### Online Continuing Education Opportunities

From the state EMG office, Kathleen Reed lists \*several\* online CE resources MGs can utilize while away from projects. Click on: <https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/biweekly-update/>

## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER 2020

BY HELEN HAMILTON  
JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### DOG –FENNEL *Eupatorium capillifolium*

In late summer drifts of dog-fennel line roadsides and woodland edges with their lacy fernlike leaves, narrow and very finely divided. In early fall from September through November, the tiny daisy-like white flowers are replaced by small red berries. As the fruits age, the seeds develop hairs, like those of dandelions, allowing dispersal by the wind.



Photo: Dog-fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) taken by Helen Hamilton

An attractive plant, dog-fennel grows over six feet tall, and can provide a

dramatic backdrop in the garden or containers. But it's a very aggressive weed, even invasive in some areas. It's a robust native perennial and forms colonies that crowd out other, more delicate plants. There is a sterile cultivar called "Elegant Feather" that has a more benign growth habit and doesn't produce seed.

Dog-fennel grows on the Coastal Plain from New Jersey to Florida, Texas and Arkansas, and in eastern Virginia counties. It is common in habitats where the soil has been severely disturbed, burned areas, clear-cuts, and various moist to wet locales. The plant spreads both by seeds and rootstocks which come from the main taproot and grow laterally in all directions.

In *The Flora of Virginia* the description of this plant ends with: "nearly ubiquitous in disturbed habitats of the Coastal Plain."

When crushed, the leaves and flowers release an unpleasant odor. The common name refers to the fennel-like odor, which dogs appear to enjoy. Essential oils of dog-fennel have shown activity as an insecticide and antifungal agent; leaves have been used to repel mosquitoes and juice from the plant extracted to treat bites of reptiles and insects. Livestock and wildlife usually avoid consuming Dog Fennel since the plant contains liver-damaging alkaloids.

The species name *capillifolium* is derived from the Latin *capill* meaning "hair" and *folium* meaning "leaf," referring to the thin segments of the leaves.

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

## Important Dates



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### **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**The deadline for submissions to the December 2020 newsletter will be Monday, November 23.**

**Please send any submissions to Hope Yelich, newsletter editor, at [hopeyelich@gmail.com](mailto:hopeyelich@gmail.com)**

### **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.

If you know any member who should receive a card, please contact our new secretary, Paulette Atkinson, at (757) 813-7234 or [papinehurst@gmail.com](mailto:papinehurst@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.