



The Colonial Master Gardener

January
2021

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARTIN OAKES

Happy New Year, fellow Master Gardeners. I can easily predict that 2021 will be an improvement over 2020. It will improve – it simply has to improve. This is my first message since becoming the 2021 president of the JCC/W Master Gardener Association. I hope to keep these short and to the point. I want to thank you – the members – for your confidence in me, and I will work hard to meet your expectations. My father told me a number of times that you cannot make everyone happy all of the time. So, bear with me. Suggestions are welcomed and appreciated.

I must start by thanking the departing members of the association board. Patsy (president), Cathy (past president), Dee (administration), and Hazel (internal education) were tireless in their efforts to better our organization. Well done. Thank you so very much. I also welcome the new and returning members of the board. I truly look forward to working with each and every one of you - - - well, maybe not Rick (I hear he can be demanding). I have asked president elect Deb Bussert to also serve as vice president of keeping Marty out of trouble. This will be a challenge for her. You are also seeing my personality – I like to work hard but one must include some levity / humor in the process. A new addition to our January newsletter will be a summary of last year's activities by the outgoing president; thank you Patsy. This summary now will be a yearly tradition.

I feel the organization will continue in the ZOOM mode until early summer, although I may be optimistic on this date. I truly miss seeing my friends, but we must place safety first and foremost. Even when we can meet again in safety, the association board plans to continue the Zoom format for those who do not or cannot attend in person. I want to thank our Zoom master, Rick Brown, for his expertise and his dedication. Simply amazing.

My definition of a Master Gardener is one who likes to garden. Our heart and soul lie in the soil. This year the coronavirus prevented our participation in projects – our lives. As soon as we can, the board will work hard to revive and restart our projects; the vice president of projects (Rick) is ready to go. We must, however, follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control, the governor of Virginia, and Virginia Cooperative Extension, and doing so is one of my goals.

I am saddened not to have a training class in 2021. I am saddened to have only a minimal plant sale on May 1. I am saddened to have to close school gardens. These decisions were and continue to be necessary and the right thing to do. I thank every member for your cooperation during these times.

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



Both images pixabay

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED

At the last association board meeting, Janet Spencer (our regional VCE director) did provide a bit of encouraging information. VCE has approved the hiring of a full-time agent for James City County, whose duties will also include New Kent County. The interview process will begin in January. VCE has also recommended a new 4H agent. I have invited Janet Spencer to attend our January 7, 2021, meeting and briefly discuss the new agents and the hiring process. This news is most welcome and will hopefully make our daily lives a bit easier. Sandra Kee will remain at the Toano office.

Thank you, all members, for enduring 2020. We are getting ready to take off for 2021. As Frank Sinatra sang: "It will be a very good year."



Photo by Jim Lowe, a CW volunteer. Used with permission.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY BILL DICHEL, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

Lights, camera, action! Don't miss the Master Gardener's Zoom meeting on January 7. The educational portion of the meeting will be presented by our own Harry Fahl, the newly appointed lead of the pruning project. When faced with the challenge of how to communicate the techniques of pruning to home pruners in the middle of a pandemic, Harry and Patricia Paquette elected to lead their team into producing a series of three videos. These covered which tools to use for pruning, the reasons that pruning is done, and the "hows" of pruning.

Harry will talk about the video project from his original inspiration to the final production and posting on the internet. This is the first video project produced within our chapter of Master Gardeners, and hopefully it will serve as an inspiration to other members as they reach out in their educational roles. Please sign on and learn from the pruning team's experience! The educational portion starts at 9:00am.

Watch for a Zoom invitation from Rick Brown a few days before the meeting.

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/>

2021
MGA Board

President:
Martin Oakes

President Elect:
Deborah Bussert

VP Administration:
Vickie Rockwell

VP Projects:
Rick Brown

VP Internal Ed:
Bill Dichel

Secretary:
Paulette Atkinson

Treasurer:
Linda Neilson

VMGA Rep:
Marilyn Riddle
Alternate:
Joanne Sheffield

Past President:
Patsy McGrady

VCE ANR Program
Assistant:
VACANT

Newsletter Editor:
Hope Yelich
hopeyelich@gmail.com

The MGA board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30am at the Williamsburg Regional Library, Room B, on Scotland Street, Williamsburg.

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

LOOKING BACK AT 2020

BY PATSY MCGRADY, PAST PRESIDENT

This article is intended to be the first in a yearly tradition which will provide an historical overview of our association as we go forward and as our newsletters are archived as part of the Williamsburg Historical Records Association project at the Earl Gregg Swem Library at the College of William and Mary. In future years creating this document will be the responsibility of the JCC/W Master Garden Association outgoing president.
—Patsy McGrady, JCC/W MG president

2020 was definitely a year like no other. It presented challenges such as we've never encountered before. Our March association meeting was held at the Williamsburg Regional Library as usual. Then the coronavirus epidemic hit. Early on we lost one member, Valerie Hillyer, and the wife of another member, Peter Schaub's wife Connie. These losses made the epidemic very real to us. Below are some of the issues and activities we have dealt with this year. This article concludes with project overviews from some of the project leaders. All in all, it was a difficult and challenging year. Our Master Gardeners persevered and with great restrictions and limitations still made significant achievements.

The Epidemic and Resulting Guidance: On March 13, Governor Northam ordered schools to close. Given the developing national and state situation with the coronavirus epidemic, the board provided initial guidance on March 14 that terminated certain activities but allowed for some efforts to continue with restrictions. Given the rapid development of the COVID epidemic and related guidance from federal and state governments and the VCE, the board revised the policy on March 18 to: All work on MG projects involving in-person interaction with other MGs or potential interaction with other people will cease until further notice.

VCE provided specific guidance on working in MG project gardens on April 10. MG project work was allowed only if the garden provided food for underserved populations and if the participating MGs could maintain social distancing and adhere to other restrictions while working in the garden. Our state leadership also eliminated the requirement for service hours in 2020. In June VCE modified their guidance to allow work in ornamental gardens. This enabled us to open certain projects in a modified way and work them consistent with VCE guidelines. The board emphasized that no one had any obligation to work in a situation in which they did not feel comfortable.

Overall, in 2020, no projects were able to work directly with children, compromised communities, or groups of people. In early fall we were able to get clearance from our state leadership to operate our home visit projects since these could be worked with social distancing, masks, and adherence to other guidance defined by the VCE. Landscape Love decided there was insufficient time to plan for a fall season and looked to initiate their work in the spring. Tree Call did start to take homeowner requests for assistance as did Turf Love.

Plant Sale: The plant sale, originally scheduled for May, was initially cancelled but then redefined as a members-only sale in June following the June 10 end of Governor Northam's initial stay-at-home guidance. The plant sale committee, led by Janet Smith, had planned for a sale heavily focused on MG-raised plants and had several hundred plants potted and prepared for the sale. We had an informal sale that mandated the use of masks, social distancing, and limited payments to checks only. It was good to see other members, even with masks and social distancing. The sale netted around \$4,000 dollars.

Assessment: The plant sale plays a critical role in financing our projects. We had no plant sale in 2019. With the cancellation of the 2020 spring plant sale, the MG board decided on March 26 that it was necessary to assess members \$30 so that we will be able to continue to support our projects once the stay-at-home restrictions were lifted. The assessment was voluntary and resulted in approximately \$3,300 in assessments and \$3,500 in donations. Also, project leaders were most gracious in cutting their project budget lines. This combined response gave the association the financial means to deal with the vast uncertainties we faced this year.

Meetings: The board began meeting via Zoom in March, thanks to Rick Brown for his foresight in getting a Zoom subscription. Our first association meeting via Zoom was August 6. Membership at our Zoom association

Continued on the next page, page 4

LOOKING BACK AT 2020 —CONTINUED

meetings has been generally comparable to attendance at our in-person meetings. Those not able to get in were able to view the recorded presentation and meeting at their convenience.

2020 Master Gardener Training Class (Jennifer Campbell): Twenty-eight prospective Extension Master Gardeners attended the 2020 training course held primarily at the James City County Recreation Center from January 12 to March 12. While the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed their classes, students were able to finish their mandatory requirements online and transitioned to intern status on March 26. While many projects remained curtailed, 85% of the 2020 class was eventually able to volunteer for projects in some capacity. The JCC/W Master Gardener Facebook page provided a new opportunity. In addition to developing Facebook articles, interns also wrote articles for our newsletter, helped maintain many of our local gardens, and attended virtual Master Gardener meetings. Despite all the limitations, by year's end, they amassed over 500 volunteer hours, and five Interns acquired the fifty requisite hours to graduate. It is hoped that 2021 will bring ample opportunities for more interns to fulfill their requirements and we can eventually host a graduation celebration for the class of 2020. We will not have a new training class in 2021 given the continuation of the epidemic conditions in early 2021.

Facebook: Our Facebook presence has been rejuvenated and expanded. Marion Guthrie worked with our trainee interns to develop many interesting and informative articles that helped us reach many more people. Six interns wrote over twenty articles to help keep the local community educated on garden activities.

Bylaws and Operating Procedures Review: In the fall, the board, with assistance of several additional members, updated our bylaws and operating procedures. The association voted to accept the updated bylaws in December. The board expects to complete the update to the operating procedures in early 2021.

Projects: Overall, the projects that focused on gardens limited work to maintaining those gardens until the hoped-for resumption of educational activities in 2021. Seeds of Learning, which is based on direct interactions with children, was put on hiatus. The following discussions, provided by project leads, provide specific information on a subset of projects.

Colonial Williamsburg Learning Gardens (Pat Abraham, Barbara Floyd, Jim Word): 2020 started out as usual with cleanup at the Reid and Shields gardens in Colonial Williamsburg (CW). In March CW closed its doors due to the pandemic. During the closure time, CW landscape employees partially cleaned the vegetable beds and planted some new spring crops. The flower and herb beds were not gardened. As CW's resources were stretched, our gardens became overgrown. In June, CW reopened and, by the end of the month and with several restrictions, volunteers for our project could return. The number of volunteers at each session was limited, tool use and sanitation requirements were implemented, and masks were required. Our hearty volunteers arrived ready to remove seriously overgrown plants, clean up the beds, and begin our 'spring' planting in early July. These chores were tedious with fewer volunteers in attendance at each session, but we prevailed. Many wheelbarrow and truck loads of debris were taken to compost collection locations, and many flats of plants were planted. The remainder of the summer went as usual with watering, weeding, grooming, and harvesting. The gardens provided donations of herbs and vegetables, including squash, cabbage, kohlrabi, turnips, carrots, onions, green beans, lettuce, peppers, etc., to the food bank at The House of Mercy. We donated approximately 500 pounds of fresh vegetables to the food bank. In August, CW updated safety requirements to include a requirement that all staff and volunteers answer four Covid-related questions an hour before starting work each day, adding another complication to scheduling and work. From September through November, our volunteers performed our usual tasks of cleanup, composting, planting, and edging. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers for their cooperation and their tireless efforts to create and maintain beautiful learning gardens for visitors and our local community.

Continued on the next page, page 5

LOOKING BACK AT 2020 —CONTINUED

Pruning Clinic (Harry Fahl): The clinic provided presentations and home visits in January and February 2020. In the fall, the project group agreed that home visits were out of the question for 2021 due to the pandemic, and we decided on doing a series of videos. The group produced three conversational videos covering pruning essentials: “Choosing Your Tools,” “How Do We Prune,” and “Why Do We Prune.” The videos are short, covering the main points with live-action video supplemented with slides from an existing pruning presentation. The videos are now posted on our YouTube channel and are publicized on our MG website and Facebook page. None of the group had ever done anything remotely like this so it was an adventure of discovery – with a lot of laughs (with “a wonderful, interesting and informative result” – comment by Patsy)

Therapeutic Gardening (Linda Lucas): In 2020, volunteers with the JCC/W MG Therapeutic Gardening (TG) Project couldn’t interact directly with clients, most of whom were elderly and at greater risk for contracting the coronavirus. However, those who worked with the Arc of Greater Williamsburg’s Arc of Abilities program (which provides day support for fifteen or sixteen young adults with developmental disabilities) continued to maintain the four raised beds at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and continue with that project. MGS cared for bulbs; planted new herbs, vegetables, and flowers; watered when needed; and emailed updates and photos to the Arc of Abilities clients, encouraging the young adults and their families to visit the garden. Arc of Abilities meetings took place from March on, sometimes totally via Zoom but, for the last five months of 2020, at their facility, with half the group in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the other half in person on Wednesdays and Fridays. The staff has taken each group to the Botanical Garden from time to time to harvest lettuce, beans, peppers, and garlic from their beds; to clip herbs to use when they have a cooking session; to enjoy the flowers and all the pollinators that frequent them; and to check out the fairy garden that MGS helped them create last year. Hopefully, at some point in 2021, we’ll be able to join them in the garden once again...and resume our other TG programs as well!

Williamsburg Botanical Garden (Deb Bussert): Our 2020 project year got off to a great start with our first workday on March 12. Despite our weather-related concerns, it turned out to be a pleasant early spring day. We had about twelve EMGs and several interns in attendance. Immediately after that, however, we were completely shut down by Covid-19. When VCE restrictions allowed, beginning in late June, small groups (three-to-five EMGs) began working in the various gardens again doing basic maintenance and other typical summer garden tasks. We were careful to maintain social distancing and all had masks. The WBG provided hand sanitizer, and of course clean water for washing was readily available. We continued to work in the various gardens on an occasional basis, doing what was necessary to keep them looking good. Thankfully, we had ample rain so keeping our garden areas watered was not an issue. Although we did not have any formal public interactions, the number of visitors to the garden increased dramatically in 2020, probably because there wasn’t much else to do! When EMGs were working in the garden they could answer questions and engage with visitors at a safe distance. Many visitors commented on the beauty of our garden areas. We are so looking forward to getting back to normal sometime in 2021.



pixabay

JCC/W VOLUNTEER PROJECTS AND LEADERSHIP FOR 2021

BY RICK BROWN, VP FOR PROJECTS

Thanks to the fantastic cooperation of our unit's project leaders, we have had nineteen of our volunteer projects approved by Janet Spencer, the director of the Southeast District of VCE, for operation in 2021. The complete list of projects and the primary leaders for 2021 are listed below. All of the project leaders submitted their budgets and project renewal applications well before the December 14 deadlines, and all had received their final approval by December 11. Obviously, several of the projects continue in suspension after the new year because of COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the state and VCE. But some will operate under the guidelines with reduced participation and appropriate protective measures, and we will be ready with additional projects for volunteers if, and when, restrictions are lifted later in the year.

Please check with the project leads if you are unsure whether and when a project you would like to assist will be operating as 2021 begins. The Pruning Clinic has suspended home visits in 2021, but the resourceful project leads scripted and created three video programs that are available online to instruct the public on proper pruning techniques. Other projects have modified their programs or gone virtual in an effort to continue to provide educational instruction on specifics relating to their projects.

Challenges await as we cautiously move forward in the new year, but our unit is strong and our projects are there for your participation.



pixabay

Master Gardener Project Leadership 2021

MG Project	Project Leads	Project Leads
Annual Plant Sale- 2021	Donna Tierney dktv@cox.net	
Blayton School Garden	Ken Caro ken@kencaro.com	Pam Arnold pamsmitharnold@gmail.com
Clara Byrd Baker Garden	Cathy Hill Needles51@icloud.com	
Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum, Educational Tree Tours	Susan Miller susanmiller37@cox.net	Rick Brown ricklin46@cox.net
Colonial Williamsburg Learning Gardens & Tours	Pat Abraham tspmeritage@cox.net	Barbara Floyd bmfloyd57@gmail.com
Farmers' Market	Cathy Hill Needles51@icloud.com	Justin Diaz justinluisdiaz@gmail.com

The list of project leads is continued on the next page, page 7

The Colonial Master Gardener January 2021

Master Gardener Project Leadership- 2021 —continued

MG Project	Project Leads	Project Leads
Horticultural Help Desk	Bob Howell rhowell0727@gmail.com	Avril Purvis avril_purvis@yahoo.com
	Barry Holland fholland@cox.net	
Incredible Edibles	Bill Dichtel wjdichtel@aol.com	Harriet Parsons Dparsons1@cox.net
	Kimberly Silver-Perry Mo3dplus2@aol.com	
JCC Seeds of Learning [Presently suspended for 2021]	To be decided	
Landscape Love	Barbara Floyd Bmfloyd57@gmail.com	Sherry Walker eco.sherry@gmail.com
	Susan Zickel zickel@cox.net	
Master Gardener Training Program -2020	Jennifer Campbell jenkcampbell@yahoo.com	Julie Denny Jadenny525@gmail.com
Mattey's Garden	Louann Martin LKmartin2011@gmail.com	Hope Yelich hopeyelich@gmail.com
Peninsula Tree Stewards Local Unit Coordinator	Rick Brown ricklin46@cox.net	
Peninsula Water Stewards Local Unit Coordinators	Gary Streb gstreb11@gmail.com	Ginny Cranford gcranford42@gmail.com
Pruning Clinic	Harry Fahl hfhahl@gmail.com	Patricia Paquette Patricia.paquette@gmail.com
Shoreline Evaluation Project	Gary Streb gstreb11@gmail.com	Ginny Cranford gcranford42@gmail.com
Speakers Bureau	Elizabeth McCoy e.mccoy105@gmail.com	Judith Alberts judith.alberts@gmail.com
Sustainable Gardening at Williamsburg Botanical Gardens	Deborah Bussert deborah.bussert@yahoo.com	
Therapeutic Gardening	Iris Burke Irisburke14@gmail.com	Karen Brooks Knbrooks1@verizon.net

The list of project leads is continued on the next page, page 8

The Colonial Master Gardener January 2021

Master Gardener Project Leadership- 2021 —continued

MG Project	Project Leads	Project Leads
Tree Call	Sharon Marcial samarcial@cox.net	Susan Millers susanmiller37@cox.net
Turf Love	Bob Winters rowinter@verizon.net	Judy McCormack judymccormack@cox.net
	Robyn Goad Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District robyn.goad@colonialswcd.net	
Water-Wise Low Maintenance Gardening	Susan Neidlinger sstrausba@yahoo.com	

HISTORIC TRIANGLE LEARNING GARDEN UPDATE BY KIMBERLY SILVER-PERRY, PROJECT CO-CHAIR, INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

In his December 2020 holiday email Dave Close, program director for the Extension Master Gardener program, stated:

“When COVID-19 restrictions impacted in-person volunteering efforts agency-wide, the EMG State Coordinator’s office led an Ad Hoc Committee to write guidelines and procedures for volunteers and Extension faculty and staff to continue work in food producing gardens statewide. Produce from these gardens was then donated to local food distribution organizations who could assist struggling community members impacted by the pandemic.”



An example of HTLG community involvement

What does that look like for us in the James City County-Williamsburg Master Gardener program? As of year-end 2020, the JCC/W MG Historic Triangle Learning Garden (HTLG) had donated a total of 117 pounds of produce to area foodbanks, primarily from two garden beds that—during nonpandemic times—supply produce to an offshoot of the organization that provides our land, the [FISH food pantry](#) at the [Historic Triangle Community Services Center](#). In March 2020, FISH suspended operations until safer times. Adhering to VA Tech guidelines, our HTLG team, including community members and interns, continued to work the land in a socially distanced manner. While we did donate to the [Williamsburg House of Mercy](#), that group was already a part of a well-stocked network and our volume was tiny in comparison. We decided to pivot and donate to smaller groups where we would have a more significant impact. As a result, we are proud that our team consistently supplied fresh food for approximately four dozen families.

Initially, we provided produce to the [College of William and Mary Campus Food Pantry](#). At the outset of the pandemic, not only were students stranded in Williamsburg, but many hourly staff members found themselves without employment. The HTLG helped to provide vegetables for nearly two dozen people and families, approximately two-thirds of them students and one third staff members.

Then when local public schools abruptly went online, many families who received free lunches were suddenly without this source of nourishment. The Queens Lake Middle School food pantry went mobile, delivering nonperishable items to Waller Mill Elementary School and Magruder Elementary School families. HTLG produce, with supplemented canned goods, resulted in at least eighteen families having at least one source of fresh produce per week from spring throughout the fall semester.

BIENNIAL PRUNING CLINIC

BY HARRY FAHL, PRUNING CLINIC PROJECT LEAD

Come One, Come All to the Second Biennial Pruning Clinic Festival!

Join me and other enthusiastic pruners of all skill levels as we prune and thin at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. We will be doing hands-on training in the hows and whys of effective pruning, while doing the important work of maintaining this beautiful garden. I will be there to instruct in the use of your tools and will also be available inspect and sharpen your pruning utensils.

Professor emerita Donna Ware will help identify plants that should not be disturbed, others that require attention, and still more that should be removed entirely. This opportunity is one that should not be missed, not only for its instructional value but also for the cold –weather camaraderie and fun in the garden.

We did this two years ago and the wooded areas of the WBG looked fantastic. Now its time to do it again, only this time we can reach out into certain areas outside of the woods. So much to do, so much to learn, and so much fun to be had.

Let's get the garden ready for the influx of our spring visitors to this wonderful environment. As for Covid-19, we will of course abide by all the precautions outlined by the Virginia Master Gardener Association and by the state and other governing bodies. I will take the temperature of all volunteers upon their arrival. Masks will be mandatory and effective social distancing encouraged. The garden is large enough to accommodate this.

The schedule follows:

Every Tuesday and Thursday beginning January 19, continuing until the tasks are completed or March 4, 2021. Each session will begin at 9:00am and continue to 12:00 noon. Of course, each session will be weather permitting. If severe weather is active or forecast, I will put out a communication early that morning advising of actions for that day. As with other MG projects it's understood that you may not be able to attend all workdays. Come when you can. You know as MGs you have a requirement of twenty volunteer hours each calendar year. This project will count toward your accumulated MG hours. You can apply them to the Pruning Clinic or Williamsburg Botanical Garden. We also have a number of Tree Stewards in this region. This project will also count toward your tree-steward minimum of twenty hours needed to maintain your active status. Please record them under Peninsula Tree Stewards. For those who are both MGs and TSs, choose which one to which you would like your hours applied and record them accordingly.



The guests who visit the garden throughout the year, the MG volunteers, the Botanical Garden volunteer staff, the bushes, shrubs, and trees will be very grateful for your participation.

If you are interested, please forward your contact information (name, email, and preferred phone number) to me:

Harry Fahl.
hhfahl@gmail.com
(410) 382-0225

Photo of Harry Fahl by Marion Guthrie



pixabay

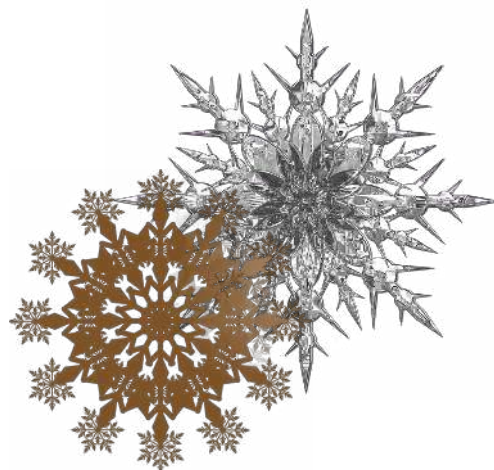
THIS AND THAT

Keep Your Grow On!

Internal Plant Sale will be held on May 1!
Keep those propagations going!

Thanks to those who have volunteered to help.
More guideline for potting and labeling will be forthcoming soon!

Happy New Year to All!
Donna Tierney Plant Sale Chair
dktva@cox.net



Speakers Bureau Update

Garden clubs are meeting via Zoom these days, so the Speakers Bureau is updating its listing of programs and speakers who are comfortable and willing to give virtual presentations.

If you're interested in getting involved as a speaker, contact Judith Alberts and Elizabeth McCoy at mgspeakersjccw@gmail.com.

—Judith Alberts



Master Gardener Apparel Now Available

Our vendor A Logo for You has recently updated their website. For those of you who have ordered before, you will have to set up a new account. If this is your first order, you will also need to set up an account. I do not know if orders can be picked up in person yet; but the company will ship directly to you.

Any garments with the embroidered logo will be available quickly since they are done one at a time. However, check before you order t-shirts. They are not on the website yet. If you are ordering t-shirts, expect a delay. Screen printing is done when there is a total of at least twenty items to print. That doesn't mean you have to order twenty --just twenty t-shirts have to be ordered by Master Gardeners.

Below is the link to our order page:

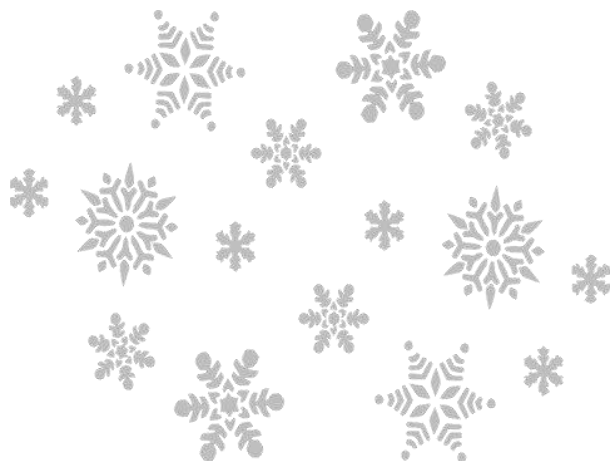
https://stores.alogoforyou.com/master_gardeners/shop/home

Contact information:
757-220-9259
alogo@alogoforyou.com

100 Stafford Court
Williamsburg, VA 23185

This and That is continued on the next page, page 11

THIS AND THAT — CONTINUED



Virginia Horticultural Foundation Home Gardener Day

Join us January 11, 2021, for Growing Wild as we explore native plants, the important role they play in ecosystems, and how we can incorporate more of them into our home landscapes. Our four speakers – Doug Tallamy, Ryan McEnaney, Brie Arthur, and Ian Caton – will talk about why we should all plant native, the breeding of cultivars, using natives in food gardens, and how to propagate these plants.

For more information and registration, click on

<http://homegardenerday.org/index.html>

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

I'm still looking for an eager beaver (or really anyone) willing to take on the newsletter. I know you're out there.....

—Hope Yelich
hopeyelich@gmail.com



Williamsburg Botanical Garden

January's Virtual Learn & Grow program features our own Peggy Krapf, who will take us for a Walk on the Wild Side!

January 16, 10:00—11:30am Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/134641736057>

—Judith Alberts

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/>

All images from pixabay

PRUNING VIDEOS NOW ON YOUTUBE BY HARRY FAHL, CO-CHAIR, PRUNING CLINIC



Hello, my Master Gardener friends,

In September I was asked if I would take the lead on the pruning clinic project for 2021.

Gary Streb, who has moved on to other

interests, Patricia Paquette, and Jeannie Millin all were extraordinarily helpful in making the transition from their leadership to me. Patricia and Jeannie offered to stay with me as we moved into a new year. During the first meeting we all agreed that the traditional method of outreach -- visiting our citizens' homes -- was out of the question for 2021 due to the pandemic. We decided that a series of videos might be the answer to our educational mission.

We reached out to a local young man who had taken off from his studies in Rhode Island and was home in Williamsburg. He agreed to do the videography and editing. Arden Shostak turned out to be an unbelievable asset. I asked Jen Campbell if she would recommend an intern to work as a performer in the videos. Kim Owens came to mind. Bill Dichtel, with whom I have had the pleasure of working on other projects, came to the fore as another actor. Bill brought Yvonne Forbes as our last video recruit. Patricia Paquette stayed with the project as an advisor, although she did appear on camera at least once.

We produced three videos: "[Pruning Essentials: Why do We Prune?](#)," "[Pruning Essentials: How do We Prune?](#)," and "[Pruning Essentials: Choosing Your Tools.](#)" We could not go into real depth on any topic because we wanted to keep the length of the video down so as not to lose the interest of the viewer. We did however cover all the main points of each topic with videos showing live action of the procedures. We supplemented this with slides from our existing pruning presentation.



Without the help of the "behind the scenes" technical expertise of Marion Guthrie, Judith Alberts, Patricia Paquette, and Dave Banks the films would never have been released. I can't thank them enough for their efforts to bring them into the virtual world so they can be seen by each of you. These videos are now available, and an outreach effort inviting our citizens to see them will soon go out.

Please encourage your neighbors and friends who may be interested in learning the basics of pruning woody shrubs and trees to open the video offerings.

We hope you enjoy the results of our efforts. Not one of us have ever done anything remotely like this, so it was an adventure of discovery, and a project that gave us lots of laughs and offered each of us the opportunity to develop long-lasting friendships with one another.

Enjoy!

The Colonial Master Gardener January 2021

PENINSULA WATER STEWARD PROGRAM UPDATE

BY GARY STREB, LOCAL UNIT CO-COORDINATOR

The Peninsula Water Steward program is alive and is actively being revived! After many years of inactivity, we have had significant interest in many areas of the Water Steward program's scope of work. Renewed interest necessitated the revitalization of the quarterly meetings of the Peninsula Tree Stewards, initial planning for a regional Water Steward Training program, and the approval of a new JCC/Williamsburg shoreline evaluation project.

The Peninsula Water Stewards met by Zoom on October 20 with representatives from the James City and Newport News Water Steward programs and hosted by the Hampton associate horticulture agent Gaylynn Johnson. I will lead the program and orchestrate quarterly meetings that will consist of continuing education lectures by guest speakers and business meetings to share information among the Peninsula units. Active stewards from James City/Williamsburg, Hampton, Newport News, Gloucester and York/Poquoson will participate. Most of the other units currently have active WS projects to report. Volunteer commitment has been determined by the state Master Gardener coordinator Kathleen Reed to be twenty hours of exclusive WS project volunteer participation and five hours of WS continuing education hours. This annual commitment is in addition to the 20/8-hour annual minimum to remain an active Extension Master Gardener. Future meetings will consist of lectures, webinars, tours, and field trips—all dependent upon current COVID-19 guidelines and VCE directives. The next meeting is scheduled for February.



pixabay

Our last local WS training course was in 2012. Since then, steward training was available at Master College, the last held at the Master Gardener College at Norfolk in 2019. To meet demand for specialized training, we are planning to hold a regional Water Steward training program in conjunction with the Southside Water Stewards, orchestrated by Dr. Laurie Fox of the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads AREC. Anticipated timelines for planning purposes will be mid-summer 2022, with the five-week course meeting on consecutive Fridays from 9:00am-3:00pm. Locations will vary among the participating units to coincide with tours/field trips. After our initial first two meetings, the draft training program outline has been prepared by Dr. Fox and Virginia Beach WS Mary Ann Kincaid and emphasizes pertinent water issues. Major tasks have been assigned to members of the small group. The survey of our local unit gave us nearly thirty EMGs who are interested in training participation and developing additional local projects. We are looking for additional Water Stewards to join the regional planning team---if interested please get in touch with me, Gary Streb at www.gstreb11@gmail.com.

Within our unit we have approval of a new project, the Shoreline Evaluation project (SEP) that will assist coastal homeowners in their protection efforts to mitigate the effects from erosion on their shoreline frontage and will address both upland and waterfront sources. The project is a partnership with the [Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District](#) and the Extension Master Gardeners, similar to the relationship we have with the Turf Love project. We already have had an initial organizational meeting and an additional project specific training session by Karen Duhring from VIMS. Additional lecture/webinar training and written resources to master before onsite visits are scheduled are in the works. The project will mirror the successful project by the Northern Neck unit, with us shadowing some of their homeowner onsite visits, again within COVID-19 guidelines. We hope to begin visits by fall 2021. It is not too late for an active WS to join us in our initial efforts. Gary Streb and Ginny Cranford (gcranford42@gmail.com) co-chair the project.

If you are already a trained Water Steward and have transferred into our unit since 2012, please get in touch with us if you are interested in adding your specialized knowledge to our planning efforts. We have aggressive ambitions and need your help!

PLANT OF THE MONTH JANUARY 2021

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SIDEWALK CRACK MOSSES

The growing season for most plants is over by the end of fall – even the asters that can persist into December have shriveled and finished their blooming for the season. But winter is the season when many mosses are green and reproducing. Easy to see on cold rainy days in January are those that live in the mortar between the concrete in sidewalks and brick walls and in asphalt.

Mosses don't require much to make a life. A little moisture and a tiny amount of mineral soil and their spores open to start new growth. These small plants are pioneer species, making a home for the plants that have tubes to transport water (vascular plants). Only one cell thick, they soak up water from the environment. If no water is available, they will be dormant until the next drop arrives. A vigorous population of mosses allows the seeds of vascular plants to sprout; Norie Burnet of Eden Woods in Chesterfield tells visitors that a moss garden is just as much work as a wildflower garden since the vascular plants are constantly "invading" the moss carpet.

Here are three common mosses easily recognized without magnification. These tiny plants usually do not carry common names since there are so few observers. A few authors have invented some names that try to describe the plant.

Bryum argenteum aka "Silver Moss"

This is the moss most characteristic of cracks in sidewalks, also found along paths, in gardens and fields. The entire plant is no more than one cm tall (less than ½ inch) and the leaves are only one mm long. Round stems are upright, tightly packed and appear silvery to pale green since the leaves have lost their chlorophyll at the tips. Nothing else looks like this moss in sidewalk cracks. The second name *argenteum* is Latin for "silver." The photo includes an emerging vascular plant enjoying the lush environment provided by the moss.

Entodon seductrix aka "Cord Glaze Moss"

Named probably by a female botanist who reports "Dried, the moss looks like glossy embroidery floss." It is found everywhere – on tree bases, rocks, concrete blocks, roof shingles, asphalt, and in the mortar and on sidewalks. It is easily recognized by shiny, green-yellow stems that are round and wormlike, with scaly overlapping leaves. "Entodon" refers to the teeth in the capsule; Ralph Pope, author of a field guide, says the name "seductrix" suggests the author "clearly spent too many years in the lab."

Weissia controversa aka "Pigtail Moss"

The bright yellow-greenish leaves are twisted, like pigtails. This small moss often forms large cushions in open bare soil, on soil over rock and cement. The genus name honors a botanist F.W. Weiss and the epithet (species name) refers to problems with nomenclature.



Photos:
Top: *Bryum argenteum*
Middle: *Entodon* Asphalt
Bottom: *Entodon*

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

Important Dates



pixabay

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the February 2021 newsletter will be Monday, January 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.