

The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



September 2012

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU...



As I walked into the JCC/W Recreation Center on Saturday, August 11th, during set-up for the 11th Super Turf Saturday, I was so touched to see all that was being done to prepare for the annual event. When we realized that Bob would not be able to continue with the details as usual, a group of willing folks got together to help in making the program a reality after all! Such great Master Gardeners you are! We are so grateful for that wonderful cooperation and effort... a "special thank you" to each of you who played any part in the success of that special day! The cards, thoughts and prayers have meant so much too!

We thank you, one and all! With a grateful heart, Jean Winters

SUPER TURF SATURDAY

BY BARB FOLEY

Well, we survived another very successful Super Turf Saturday! We all missed Bob's presence, but everyone stepped right up to 'make it happen.' The Recreation Center, through Michelle Riordon's professional efforts, had the facility, tables, and audio/video equipment all set up for us to just move in. Tom Rogers and Don Parker did a great job emceeding and making sure that all went well. Rosemarie Brennan, Suzanne Davis, and Jane Davis told everyone 'where to go' when they registered. Sherry Sumerlin and Pam Woodson made them feel happy they had been told 'where to go' when they discovered their much-appreciated coffee bar.

The Master Gardeners and Lawn Rangers were well represented by tables for Turf Love (Bill Roemer and John Johnson), Garden Love (Carol Fryer), Landscape Love (Anne Nielsen and Gary Streb), the Mobile Master Gardener (Joanne Sheffield), and Bins and Barrels (Dennis Wool). Your displays and willingness to talk with attendees really made Super Turf Saturday a meaningful experience for all and served as a 'one-stop-shopping' opportunity for attendees. Other Master Gardeners and Lawn Rangers helped set up chairs and tables and did many behind-the-scenes chores for which we are grateful.

Thank each and every one of you for making Super Turf Saturday such a success! We couldn't have done it without you!

– In Bob's absence, Barb Foley, Turf Love Program

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is September 6.

Our speaker will be:
Andy Hankins, Extension Specialist, on the
subject of Mushrooms

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

BY Law Update.

Article IV - Executive Board

Section 2 The Duties of the Officers shall be as follows:

Item 3 Duties of the Projects VP. Delete sentence reading "The Projects Vice President shall serve in place of the President in his/her absence."

Rational: With the addition of the position of President Elect, who shall serve in the absence of the president, the sentence is no longer necessary.

This by-law change will be voted upon at the September meeting.

SAVE THE DATE !

BY PAT CROWE



The Therapeutic Gardening Project team will meet on Thursday, September 20 at 1 PM in the Interpretive Center at Freedom Park. We will celebrate our successes and plan for the 2013 programs. Budget, reporting and picture taking will be among the topics discussed.

A detailed agenda and directions to Freedom Park will be distributed in early September. Contact Linda Lucas or Pat Crowe if you would like more information, or would like to join our team.

The Colonial Master Gardener September 2012

2012
MG Board

President:
Roger Evans

VP Projects:
Debbie Griesinger

VP Internal Ed:
Judy Casone

VP Administration:
David Sisson

Secretary:
Mary Ellen Edwards

Treasurer:
Bob Winther

VMGA Reps:
Marilyn Riddle and
Angela Cingale

Past President:
Linda Lucas

Co-op Ext Rep:
Doris Heath
564-2170

INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY JUDY CASONE

Those of you who missed the August meeting missed an enlightening and entertaining session with Joy Long, a Master Gardener from Gloucester. I wondered how she would explain the title of her presentation, "Even Dead People Can Grow Roses", and was pleasantly surprised. If you wanted one of the rose catalogs, Joy was kind enough to come to the Farmers Market (I was volunteering) and drop off several more. They will be on the tables for you to pick up.

Our speaker this month is Andy Hankins, Extension Specialist with Virginia State University. Mr. Hankins will be speaking to us about Mushrooms. Having served as a state coordinator for the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, Mr. Hankins is now serving as a semi-retired Education Support Specialist at VSU. I am looking forward to his powerpoint presentation and learning more about one of my favorite foods.

The October program will feature VA Tech's Dave

Close, Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardener Specialist, who coordinates the MG programs. We would like to have questions from the membership and have a discussion about what is on our minds regarding issues, concerns or program observations/changes that we would like to see addressed. This is our opportunity to receive answers and additional information about the Master Gardener program in which we volunteer. Don't be shy, this is the perfect time to engage with Dave, who coordinates the MG programs on the state level. Send in your queries by e-mail to Angela Cingale, arcingale@co.net or Marilyn Riddle, mriddle@cox.net, VMGA Reps. We'll give him "a heads up" with our questions so he will be prepared to answer them on the 4th of October!

See you at the meeting, Judy.

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:00 am, at the James City County Health and Human Services Building, on Olde Towne Road.

The Board meetings are open to all Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

LANDSCAPE LOVE

BY ANNE NIELSEN & GARY STREB

Here it is September and time to start our Fall program. So far it looks like a regular season. Our applications are numbering about 30 with 15 days left to sign up. Gary and I have talked with homeowners at Turf U and the Farmer's Market so there may be a late surge. We are not expecting a repeat of the record breaking 75 that we had in the Spring!!!

In preparation for our visits, team members will meet on September 20th at 9 a.m. at the Rec Center on Longhill Road, Room A. We will talk about writing final reports and discuss any items of concern you might have.

Angela Cingale took a class in Northern Virginia called **Landscape For Life** based on the principles of the **Sustainable Sites Initiative**. We want to introduce this to you as a

possible class to help us become more informed Master Gardeners. Unfortunately, Angela can't be with us on the 20th. Gary and I will give you a smattering to see if you are interested.

We'll divide into teams and discuss visits. I will send you a calendar form in mid-September that you can fill out and bring with you for your team leader.

It's not too late to sign up for a team. If you join us, we think you will enjoy helping fellow residents and learn a lot from other MGs along the way.

See you on September 20th, Anne & Gary.



SEPTEMBER WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH

BY HELEN HAMILTON, JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Virgin's Bower *Clematis virginiana*

A fine-textured vine, Virgin's Bower features aromatic, pure white flowers, each with 4 narrow petal-like sepals. Growing in clusters in leaf axils, the flowers are profuse enough to cover the foliage. In late summer the female flowers give way to showy, feathery plume-like seed heads. Without tendrils, the leaf stalks twist and wrap around other plants. Bright green leaves are compound, with 3 sharply-toothed or lobed oval leaflets, each about 2" long.

The introduced Sweet Autumn Clematis (*C. terniflora*) has similar flowers, but the dark-green leaves, usually of 5 leaflets, are leathery, shiny and smooth, without teeth or lobes. Native to Japan, this plant is commonly cultivated, often escaped, and is considered invasive in some areas. Both the native and introduced species bloom July through September, and both produce feathery seed heads. The leathery, unlobed leaves are distinctive for the introduced plant.

Virgin's Bower is easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to partial shade. Occurring in moist low woodland areas and thickets bordering streams,



Photo: Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*) taken by Phillip Merritt; Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*) taken by Helen Hamilton

ponds and fence rows in most counties of Virginia, the plant ranges from Nova Scotia and Manitoba, and south to Georgia, Kansas, and Louisiana.

Although toxic and irritating to skin, the leaves have been used medicinally.

For more information about native plants visit www.claytonvnps.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (E2)

BY KARI ABBOTT



Greetings,

School is getting ready to start and the Environmental Education Project has a new seed lesson to get the children more involved in learning how seeds move around so much in the fall. We are in five schools this fall, in kindergarten and first grade. It is exciting that the program is expanding and growing.

E2 conducted training in August that gave the attendees the flavor of what would happen in the school year to prepare for the fall. If anyone missed the training, but would like to volunteer in the E2 project, you are welcome to join us. Please email your intent to bearsbaskets@cox.net.

Respectfully, Kari Abbott

FARMERS' MARKET LATE SUMMER/FALL SCHEDULE BY SALLY SISSEL

September 8	Incredible Edibles
September 22	Trees & Shrubs
October 6	Pruning
October 20	Composting

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VMGA UPDATE

BY ANGELA CINGALE & MARILYN RIDDLE

The VMGA meeting was held in Stafford on April 11, 2012 and brought to order by Tom Bolt, President.

The VMGA VP, David Mims, has been asked to focus on increasing membership and on marketing the VMGA organization and MGs by answering, "What is VMGA and what do MGs do." David had a meeting with the Virginia governor's wife and the discussion was on the "Kids Growing Food... From Farm to Table" approach in schools.

Dave Close's report:

1. Dave has added a new title to his MG Coordinator status as Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardener Specialist.
2. He is searching for an assistant which would be a paid position.
3. A training program will be held for VCE employees and coordinators on Water Stewardship.
4. He and Joyce Latimer have been holding 4 H training around VA.
5. VA State Fair will be held at Doswell from 9/27 and 10/8 There will be 4 regional leadership training programs, to be announced.

A chairman is needed for the MG Coordinator Endowment which has been ongoing. Laurie Neistrach, a Greene County MG, is the new editor of the newsletter. There is a need for more members to volunteer for committees and become a chairman; one of them is the Education Committee. Questions about the endowment were partially answered. Members must retain their active status to remain life members. The bylaws committee will work before the next meeting. The next board meeting is October 13 in Fauquier County.

Christy is looking for help at the state fair and has slots for MG units. Anyone who works at the information booth gets a free ticket and a unit group can obtain as many as 10 for the day. Anita Smith, Membership Chair, Newport News, wants to publically thank Dave Banks for his great assistance on the VMGA website and for the membership page. Respectfully submitted, Angela Cingale, VMGA Rep.

BOOK REVIEW

BY JEANNE MILLIN



Wildflowers

Readers Digest: North American Wildlife
Edward S. Barnard and Sharon Fass Yates,
Editors

The definition of a wildflower in this book is, "any flowering plant that grows outside cultivation and is neither a tree nor a tall shrub." I like this approach better than "a plant growing in the wrong place" definition that is commonly used. This handy 467 page book is organized by botanical family and both common and latin names are given. I was not familiar with the botanical organization approach and it was useful to study the chart given in the front of the book. Illustrations are line drawings and flowers, leaves and in some cases buds are given. Maps are provided for each plant. Size of plant, bloom time, habitat and what to look for are given for each plant. This book can be found in the Master Gardener library, under Library of Congress number, QK110.N868.

WBG VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BY ANGELA CINGALE

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden is excited to announce that our newest phase of growth is ready to begin. You can be part of creating this legacy by giving the most valuable gift of time as a volunteer. To help meet our growing demand, additional volunteer chair and co-chair positions have just become available for the following committees: Membership, Fundraising, Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator.

If someone would like more information or have expertise to share in one of the above positions, please have a conversation with Angela by e-mail, arcingale@cox.net or call at 565-4712. Without our volunteers, the Williamsburg Botanical Garden could not offer the community all of the knowledge and beauty that the Garden represents. Speak with a friend about joining together and call today!

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GARDENING TIPS

BY AILENE BARTLETT

Well, here we are, waiting for fall weather so we can get out and play in the dirt! Don't know about you, but my yard is an A-1 MESS, and likely will not recover for some time.

However, I have kept somewhat busy indoors: I read Jerry Baker's new book, The New Impatient Gardener, and found it interesting. There's enough useful stuff in it that I am going to be a *bad* librarian and use markers and tabs to flag the stuff I want to keep handy.

If you haven't sown lettuce and other greens, it is time. It is also time to snip parsley and freeze it for winter use. It is still too early to plant pansies, given our hot weather. Hold off on them for a bit. Keep things deadheaded, if you can stand it.

I read a new idea on composting, which might be of use to you folks who can't or don't have a compost bin. How about digging a hole, not too large, in an "unobtrusive" place, filling it with compostables, then covering it with the dirt? Then, dig another somewhere else, etc., etc. That way the compost is where you need it, is not (too much) in sight, and small quantities will compost fairly quickly. If anyone tries it, let me know how it works!

It is a good time to have soil tests done. The Extension Office has boxes and forms. The labs are less busy this time of year, so reports come back a bit sooner. KEEP ON DIGGING!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the October Newsletter is Monday, September 24. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at cathy.lohwater@cox.net or call 757-259-1133.

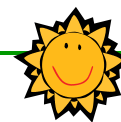
Upcoming Dates to Remember

- 9/6 Monthly Meeting at WRL
- 9/20 Landscape Love Meeting
- 9/20 Therapeutic Gardening Meeting
- 9/24 Newsletter Submissions Due

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.

SUNSHINE NOTES



If you know a Master Gardener who is ill, facing surgery, has suffered a family loss, or any event in which that person might benefit from a sunshine note, please contact the MG Secretary, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or JMEMEE12350@verizon.net.

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.

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Backyard Shiitake Mushrooms



Saturday, September 15, 2012

10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

FREE!!

Location:

**New Kent Extension Office
11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1
New Kent, VA**

**Learn how to grow and harvest Shiitake mushrooms
in your own backyard.**

**To reserve your spot or for more information contact: New Kent
Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645 or email millsm@vt.edu.**

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cynthia Rowles, New Kent - Virginia Cooperative Extension at (804-966-9645/TDD*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

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