



The Colonial Master Gardener

April
2021

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARTIN OAKES

As I sit in front of the computer, I can hear the winds rattling my window. The warmer but blustery days of late March are here. The daffodils are in full bloom, and the Bradford Pear are full of flowers – not to mention the Forsythia. A new and nice time of year. The days will continue to lengthen until we reach the summer equinox in late June. Enjoy these days my friends.

I would like to begin by thanking Hope Yelich for her numerous years as Editor-in-Chief of the Newsletter. A tremendous effort by a tremendous individual. Well done Hoper. And thank you Katherine Sokolowsky for taking over the reins.

The JCC / Master Gardener Association has successfully transitioned into Better Impact (BI). I know there will be continued questions and challenges. I ask that all members log into the system and enter your current volunteer and CE hours. If you have difficulty, please contact Vickie Rockwell (VP Administration) or any Board member. We are here to help. And remember my motto: "If I can do it, anyone can do it". I want to thank Vickie Rockwell, Rick Brown, and Dave Banks for making this journey to BI as smooth as possible. Excellent.

The road to the hiring of an ANR Agent for James City County / New Kent County is now well traveled. The interview process occurred on Thursday 25th March. I was invited to participate on the panel with five additional members. These members included Janet Spencer, a current ANR agent, a retired extension agent / active farmer, Colonial Soil & Water representative, and a JCC Water Management representative/ active farmer. A selection was made and now moves to the next phase. I was thrilled to have a member of our organization on the interview panel. I feel Janet Spencer is extremely supportive of the JCC/W MG Association. I will continue to keep the membership updated.

The website is currently under renovation and refinement. Hopefully, the near future will see improvement in content and accessibility. A number of members are involved and I truly appreciate all of the work and effort. Included in the list are Patsy McGrady, Gary Streb, Janet Smith, Dee Arbegast, Hope Yelich, Marion Guthrie, and Dave Banks. Everyone will continue to work together to improve the most important website.



Finally, I would like to remind the members to submit logo ideas to Vickie Rockwell. A \$20,000 gift card will be given to the winner. OOPS – my mistake – a \$20.00 gift card. Sorry.

Remember the internal plant sale on Saturday May 1.

Thank you for your support and suggestions. Any assistance is appreciated. I thank the Board for all of the work, the dedication to their jobs, and for putting up with me. As Benjamin Franklin stated:

***Tell me and I forget
Teach me and I remember
Involve me and I learn***

I would like to involve every member of our organization.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 1
9:00am
VIA ZOOM

Program:

Boxwood Blight, Where are we now?

Speaker:

Mary Ann Hansen

2021
MGA Board

President:
Martin Oakes

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Deborah Bussert

VP Administration:
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VP Projects:
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Bill Dichtel

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Alternate:
Joanne Sheffield

Past President:
Patsy McGrady

*VCE ANR Program
Assistant:*
VACANT

Newsletter Editor:
Katherine Sokolowsky
katherinesoko@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.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY BILL DICHEL, VP FOR INTERNAL EDUCATION

The educational session at the April Master Gardener Meeting will feature Mary Ann Hansen. She will speak on, Boxwood Blight, Where are we now?

Mary Ann is an Extension Plant Pathologist in the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech. She teaches courses in plant diagnostics at the University and also works in the Plant Disease Clinic.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Pathology at Ohio State and her Master of Science degree in Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin. She has been on plant pathology studies in Africa and in Central America. She is a member of the Boxwood Blight Task Force and will bring us up to date on this important topic.

She will speak by Zoom on April 1 at 9:00 AM.



PERENNIAL PLANTS OF THE YEAR

BY DEB BUSSERT, PRESIDENT ELECT

The Perennial Plant of the Year ("PPOY") program is a marketing program sponsored by the Perennial Plant Association, a trade association composed of growers, retailers, landscape designers and other professionals in the herbaceous perennial industry. The PPOY Program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial believed to be suitable for a wide range of growing climates, require low maintenance, have multiple seasons of interest, and be relatively pest and disease free. The annual selection is made based on a vote of the members of the Association.

A number of years ago, EMGs planted a bed at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden that was intended to include each of the selected plants. Although a number of them were successfully established, we found that many simply were not suitable to our hot, humid Zone 7b climate. As a result, that garden bed is being transitioned to showcase the best perennials for Williamsburg with an emphasis on natives and their cultivars. In a series of articles over the next few months, each of the selected plants will be highlighted along with information about our experience growing them so that you can decide which you may want to try in your own 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/>

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PERENNIAL PLANTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED ...

2021: *Calamintha nepeta* subsp. *Nepeta*:

Calamintha is a deer-resistant herbaceous perennial of the mint family native to Europe. Hardy in Zones 5 to 7, it blooms from June to September with tiny white to pale lilac flowers. It grows 1 to 1.5 feet high by 1 to 2 feet wide. It prefers full sun in a well-drained site but will tolerate light afternoon shade especially in warmer regions, and can be used as a ground cover, edging or specimen plant. The flowers attract many pollinators and both flowers and foliage are aromatic. Cutting back the foliage after flowering will stimulate new growth and reduce unwanted seedings. We have not planted *Calamintha* in the perennial garden, but I have used it in my home garden with great success.



Calamintha nepeta



Aralia Cordata 'Sun King'

2020: *Aralia cordata* 'Sun King':

Aralia cordata 'Sun King', commonly known as Japanese spikenard, is a deer resistant herbaceous perennial native to shady forested areas of Japan, Korea and China. It is hardy in Zones 4 to 8 and grows 3 to 6 feet high and wide. Its foliage is a bright chartreuse color that is maintained well through the heat of summer. It blooms from July to September with spikes of white flowers. Deep purple berries follow which are beloved by birds. It is best grown in moist, fertile, well-drained soils in part to full shade, protected from strong winds. It has no serious insect or disease problems. Its bright foliage will enliven shade gardens and contrasts well with ferns, hellebores and other shade-lovers. We planted three of these in the perennial garden last year and are waiting to determine how they survived the winter. I do not have any experience in my home garden with this plant.

2019: *Stachys officinalis* 'Hummelo':

Stachys officinalis 'Hummelo' is another deer resistant herbaceous perennial native to Europe and Asia that is hardy in Zones 4 to 8. It grows 1.5 to 2 feet high and wide and blooms from July to September with tiny rose-lavender flowers in dense spikes above the glossy, dark green foliage. It is easily grown in average, well-drained soils in full sun, with some light afternoon shade in hot, humid climates. Established plants have some partial drought tolerance. The leaves are evergreen in our climate and the clumps will spread over time to form a dense ground cover. It has no serious insect or disease problems, though slugs and snails may occasionally be found. We have grown 'Hummelo' in the perennial garden at WBG and it has done very well. I also have it in my home garden. 'Hummelo' promises to be an excellent plant for use in our area.



Stachys officinalis 'Hummelo'

MASTER GARDENER PROJECT UPDATES

2021 INTERNAL PLANT SALE UPDATE

BY DONNA TIERNEY, PLANT SALE CHAIR

SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND THE SALE IS JUST A MONTH AWAY! WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP TO PROPAGATE PLANTS!

Thanks to everyone who has already propagated and sent in their inventory information. We already have 354 plants promised! If you need help with digging or potting plants, please contact Kim Owens at (757) 592-8181.

VOLUNTEERS: More volunteers will be needed for set up and sale days. A list of opportunities will go out by mid-April.

DONORS: Instructions and time frames for plant delivery will go out shortly. If you have a large number of plants (over 40) we will ask you to make an advance appointment to prevent long wait times at intake

INVENTORIES: Please send your inventory information (in excel format if possible) to Jim Pressly (jmp1858@aol.com) as soon as possible. You can always send in updates if your inventory changes.

TRASH & TREASURES: A few items found during the storage unit clean-up will be available

BYO: Bags, boxes, and wagons as needed to haul away your purchases!

When: Saturday May 1, 2021 (set up for sale will be on Friday, April 30th)

Where: Historic Triangle Community Service Center, 312 Waller Mill Rd.

Time: 9AM-12PM

Wear: Your Master Gardener badge, masks & gloves and maintain social distance of 6 feet when shopping, waiting in line, or socializing

Payment: Checks Only

Audience: Master Gardeners Only (Note MGs can buy plants for friends or relatives, but ONLY MGs can attend the sale to prevent any potential COVID 19 liabilities from public attendance)



Happy Easter!
Thanks for your support!

Your Plant Sale Team –

Donna Tierney, Linda Berryman, Stacy DeMeo, Jean Johnston, Kim Owens, Jim Pressly, Gary Streb, and Gail Weaver

MASTER GARDENER PROJECT UPDATES

HISTORIC TRIANGLE LEARNING GARDEN

BY BILL DICHTEL, CO-CHAIR INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

The Historic Triangle Learning Garden is off to another growing season. We are excited that a number of new participants have joined our garden effort and several of the outstanding 2020 Intern group who helped to support the Garden through the Pandemic are continuing to participate with us. At this point, all of our available garden plots have been assigned but there are opportunities to help with our efforts to garden and grow produce for FISH and House of Mercy. Harriet Parsons and Kim Silver-Perry are directing the vegetable growing efforts in the Garden.

Another important addition to the Garden in recent years has been the Border Garden. The Border Garden has three important purposes...

1. It is a certified Monarch Way Station and serves to attract pollinators
2. It contains companion plants to many of the vegetables under cultivation in the Garden, and
3. It helps to beautify the site.

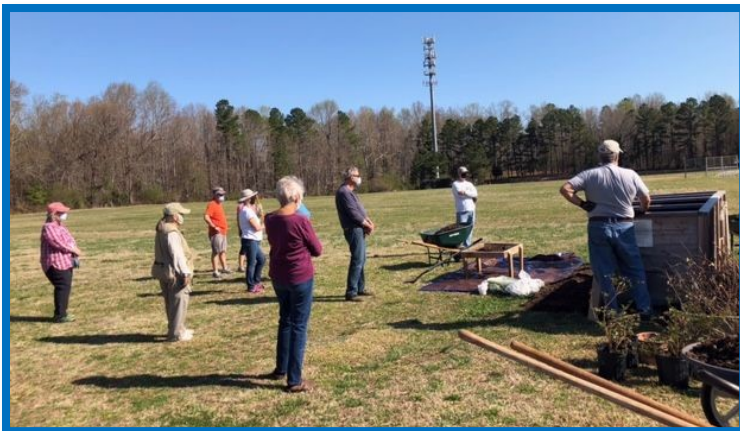
Bev Baker and Helen Cronk direct the Border Garden portion of our project.

Another important aspect of our project has been Composting. In the last year, we have increased the scale of our composting effort with all of our gardeners contributing materials to the effort to our series of bins. We try to emulate the "hot composting" techniques so ably taught to Master Gardeners by Justin Diaz and that have been successful.

Finally, our main goal is to increase our educational impact both to each other and to the community at large. The best evidence of this so far this year is the excellent presentation by Harriet Parsons on Heirloom and Hybrid Tomatoes at the February Master Gardener Meeting that will soon be available as a YouTube video thanks to the editing of Dave Banks and Marion Guthrie.

The Plant Sale will take place in the field right next to the Historic Triangle Learning Garden on Saturday, May 1.

Please come by and get a brief tour when you come shopping!



MGs at the Historic Triangle Learning Garden work day last Saturday, March 27. MGs spreading mulch, working on the Border Garden, and having a socially distanced learning session about their composting station.



WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

BY ELIZABETH MCCOY, WBG VOLUNTEER, AND JUDITH ALBERTS,
WBG BOARD CHAIR

The first Pollinator Palace was built at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden in March 2014, long enough ago that it required renovation this spring. Built from wooden pallets, bricks, glass bottles, clay pots, bamboo, drilled logs, and planting trays of succulents, a team of garden volunteers, including JCC-W Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, decided to rebuild it this year, cleaning it up and providing fresh materials as needed.

Did you know the majority of bees that pollinate our food crops and wildflowers do not live in hives and do not produce honey?



Hive-dwelling honey-producing bees did not even exist in North America until they were brought here by European immigrants in the early 1600's. That means the honeybee, which has become important to commercial agriculture and has captured press attention due to hive collapse, is not a native insect species.

There are roughly 4,000 species of native bees and they are all in grave peril because all of them are in population decline.

Informed gardeners know and love native bumble bees, carpenter bees, mason bees, leaf cutter bees and sweat bees, to name only a few. This branch of entomology is still expanding as scientists are now beginning to understand just how important native bees are to healthy ecosystems. Many native bee species haven't yet been thoroughly studied.

There are things that gardeners and enthusiasts can easily do to support our native bees. At the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, we strive to model sustainable practices that support wildlife and educate the visiting public.



A gardener's most important role in protecting and supporting bees (and other pollinators) is to grow plenty of flowers to provide them with nectar and pollen. Bees come out earlier in the springtime now than in previous years, and so it is helpful to provide early blooms to feed them. Flowers vary in the quality and nutritional value of their pollen. Native plants provide the highest quality food for native bees.

Gardeners who understand the importance of native pollinators in their gardens are finding ways to provide habitat for them, as well as appropriate forage to support an increasing population of insects. Native bees don't live long as adults and will die after laying eggs. Individuals don't overwinter as adults. That is why providing safe habitat is crucial to support the population of native bees.

The simplest thing is to delay cleanup of last year's perennials and downfall. When you do tidy

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WILLIAMSBURG BOTANTICAL GARDEN—CONTINUED

up, keep in mind that much of this material may harbor larvae and pile it in an out of the way place until the young ones have a chance to emerge. If you are tempted to run these materials through a chipper-shredder, realize that some of next summer's bees may be living in these stems in larval form.

It requires very little effort to provide intentional, protected habitat for native carpenter and mason bees. They like holes in logs or blocks of wood, crevasses in woody plant stems, or even tubes of rolled up butcher paper. Straw, hollow bamboo stems, even wooden pallets, bricks, bottles, and a range of other materials may be used in creating a native bee habitat.

As with honeybees, a number of parasites and other microorganisms can attack native bee larvae, so it is important to keep the environment clean and dry. This is one reason that a roof is necessary on a 'bee house' or 'Pollinator Palace.' Woodpeckers and other insect loving birds will also explore the habitat for tasty larvae. It is important to provide long enough stems and deep enough holes in any drilled wood so a bee can lay her eggs deeply enough that they will be safe from hungry birds. A variety of plant materials can be included to support many different insects.

Our original Pollinator Palace's green, living roof was the first casualty of age. The flats that once held thriving succulents died back as surrounding trees filled in. There was no longer enough sunlight for those original succulent plants. The heavy flats holding growing medium were removed and stacked on the ground when the wooden slats holding them safely on the roof gave way.

In early March, the old Pollinator Palace was carefully disassembled by a team of Master Gardener volunteers, led by Harry Fahl. They salvaged and cleaned up what they could, hauling away the old wooden pallets and other plant material to another spot in the park where any remaining larvae can emerge. Bill Dichtel, Bill Palmer, Kim Owens, WBG volunteer Dave Mershon and others were involved in this effort.

New wooden pallets were brought to build a new structure on the old foundation of concrete blocks and flagstone. New bamboo was cut into 12" lengths, and the entire structure was rebuilt. Master Naturalist volunteers provided dried stems, drilled logs, and other materials. A team effort, many hands worked together to prepare the Pollinator Palace for a new generation of bees this summer.

Elizabeth McCoy volunteered to replant the green roof with mixed vegetation (mostly native) for dry shade. The green roof is an important part of this bee habitat. Some species of native bees, and other insects, burrow into the soil for shelter and to nest. The roof will keep the entire structure cool and protect it from the weather.

Our Pollinator Palace roof gets partial sun during the winter and early spring. By early summer, as surrounding trees unfold their leaves, most of the roof will be in partial to deep shade. The trays are very shallow, and so this selection of plants needs to tolerate short periods of drought, between rain and occasional waterings from our volunteer crew.

We have used a variety of evergreen and deciduous ferns in this planting, evergreen partridgeberry, native violets, site native mosses, spring blooming *Saxifraga stolonifera* and a mixed selection of Sedums already planted into a shallow tray for use on a green roof or other planting.

The mixed Sedums were provided by our local Homestead Garden Center. The mosses and native blue *Viola cucullata* were sourced on site.

[Tennessee Wholesale Nursery](#) provided the Partridgeberry, *Mitchella repens*; Walking fern, *Asplenium rhizophyllum*, Ebony Spleenwort, *Asplenium platyneuron*; all native evergreen plants. The Partridgeberry provides nectar and pollen for bees early in the season and red berries for birds later in the season. This is also a site native, like the Ebony Spleenwort, growing in wooded areas of the garden. Rather than disturb established plants in the woods, we ordered fresh starts from Tennessee.

All these native plants will grow well in the thin, gravely soil in the planting trays. They will provide year-round color and interest, support wildlife, and should grow into a self-sustaining community of plants to shelter our Pollinator Palace for many years to come.

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WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN—CONTINUED

While the *Saxifraga*, sometimes known as Strawberry Begonia, is native in Europe, it is much like native North American *Saxifraga* species. It grows well in deep shade and spreads quickly through runners. It is evergreen and produces delicate white flowers for pollinators in mid-spring. This is one of the more ornamental plants in the mix. This plant is easy to grow and easy to propagate by division.

The final two trays, for the back of the peak of the roof, will grow in the deepest shade. They will be installed once some additional ferns arrive from the Tennessee Wholesale Nursery.

The Pollinator Palace is a cooperative effort among the Williamsburg Botanical Garden Board of Directors and many Master Gardener volunteers, each with their own interests and skills. It is a work in progress, and we expect additional nesting materials will be added in the coming weeks.

We hope it will prove interesting and educational for visitors to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. But even more, we hope it will support and protect the native bees that pollinate this beautiful public garden.

RECOGNITION OF OUR MASTER GARDENERS EMERITI

PATTI LUPTON

Patti Lupton is from the EMG Class of 2007. With 1590 service hours, she was recognized by the JCC/W Master Gardeners Association Board as an Emerita in March 2021. She reached out into the community with active participation in Landscape Love, Pruning Consultations, Plant Sales, WBG Home Show and the Help Desk. Many of you worked with her at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, Hospice and Rain Garden. In the Association she was active in planning Social Events and was a Mentor.

Patti wants to continue to be as active as possible. We admire her dedication and will continue to accept all the hours she wishes to volunteer. Thank you for your service!

THIS AND THAT

News from the Williamsburg Botanical Garden

Late winter was certainly not a quiet time at the WBG. The Pruning Team has done major pruning of trees and shrubs throughout the garden. The Honor Box Plant Sale rack has been entirely rebuilt in preparation for the Plant Sale coming on April 24, and the Pollinator Palace was completely rebuilt. Daffodils and other early bloomers are up and showing a glorious display.

Learn & Grow, April 17, 2021 at 10 am

Topic: The Snake in the Grass and Other Garden Guests

Don't be alarmed when you see something slithering about in your yard or garden. Snakes and other amphibians are important to a healthy ecosystem. You owe it to them and yourself to learn about them and protect them. Wildlife biologist Meagan Thomas will debunk common myths and fears about snakes while explaining what makes gardens attractive to reptiles and amphibians.

Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/145227363955>

Previous programs are posted on the WBG's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQccCzkZ1hRQwo-t79qVWWg>

April 10: Project Workday will include painting and spreading mulch along pathways and gardens. Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040548aba622a0fc1-april>

April 24: Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration at the WBG in cooperation with James City County Environmental Sustainability Department. Time and details to be announced.

The **WBG's Honor Box Plant Sale** will open on **April 24th** in conjunction with the Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration. Sign up for Plant Sale-specific email updates at www.bit.ly/honorbox and you'll also be included in our general eNews list as well.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WilliamsburgBotanicalGarden/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/wbg_garden/

—Judith Alberts, WBG Board Chair



Knott's Creek Nursery in Suffolk will not be having a plant sale for MGs this spring. Mike and Anne (owners) have received shots, but none of their staff have. Mike doesn't want to risk exposure for them and getting shut down. He said maybe some time in the summer or early fall, if things get better

—Janet Smith

PLANT OF THE MONTH OF MARCH: WEEDS OR FLOWERS?

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

There can be a lot of advantages of growing wildflowers, a.k.a. “weeds” in a lawn or garden. While most are non-native, many bloom early in spring and will furnish nectar for insects that nesting birds need to feed young. These low-growing annuals require no maintenance, no watering, no fertilizer, and will survive mowing, blooming even when a few inches tall. A weedy lawn will grow on steep slopes and rocky areas where the habitat is difficult for turf.

Violets are one of the few Virginia native plants that do well as lawn weeds or ground cover; soon after blooming, the seeds that formed last year sprout new leaves. **Virginia Pepperweed** has peppery seeds used to season soups and stews, and the young leaves are a healthy addition to salads or used as cooked greens. **Wild Pansy** is attractive to many small bees and butterflies, including the fritillaries.

Common Dandelion is a familiar perennial weed with a long taproot and milky juice. The rosette of deeply divided bright green leaves is highly nutritious and many gardeners enjoy the early leaves in salads. Dandelion is a member of the Aster Family with no disc flowers, only rays (petals) which are visited by a variety of insects to feed on nectar and collect pollen.

Clovers members of the Pea Family, add nitrogen to the soil and are favorite foods for bees. Many species of birds and mammals feed on the foliage, flowers, and seeds of **White Clover**.



Purple Deadnettle



Bird's-Eye Speedwell

Other introduced weeds that appear in early spring are annuals – **Bird's-eye Speedwell**, **Hairy Bittercress**, **Chickweeds**, and **Field Madder**. These small plants are everywhere in spring, and usually die back in summer. They cover bare soil before favorite garden perennials emerge, and can be viewed as a free cover crop, their roots aerating the soil. Before these little wildflowers set seed in gardens the whole plant can be composted.

Bulbous Buttercup fills fields with golden yellow while **Henbit**, and **Purple Deadnettle** furnish purple color all over meadows and along roadsides throughout the summer.

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WEEDS AND FLOWERS—CONTINUED



Asiatic False Hawksbeard

Asian Stiltgrass has no redeeming qualities, forming extensive patches that overwhelm and eliminate other herbaceous plants. Deer will not eat this plant – it has no nutritive value – they browse on native plants instead, and the invasion of Stiltgrass increases. Wherever a light gap appears in the forest, or along a roadside, this extremely invasive plant is everywhere, and impossible to eradicate. The seeds live for years in the soil, and are inconspicuous at the tips of the stems in late summer. In the home garden, hand-pulling or mowing before seeds are produced is helpful.

While most spring weeds are more helpful than harmful, these last 3 are noxious invaders, and should be controlled wherever possible.

But there are 3 weeds that are extremely aggressive and highly invasive. Blooming April through June, and then releasing copious amounts of seed, **Asiatic False Hawksbeard** has a long taproot, difficult to pull when the plant is mature. The leaves in a basal rosette superficially resemble those of Common Dandelion but they are gray-green and the stems are hairy. The yellow flower is small and soon releases wind-blown seeds covered with white bristles. Unless the plant is removed when young, the seeds will sprout plants next spring in sun or shade, in gardens, and sidewalk cracks.

Mulberry-weed is a recent invasive weed, first reported in Louisiana in 1964, growing in greenhouses and nurseries, possibly spreading from topsoil containing the abundantly produced seeds. The seedling suggests mulberry, but the leaves and stems are densely hairy, and the plant will produce seed when only an inch or so tall. Appearing in mid-summer, it continues to produce seed through October. Hand-pulling before the seeds mature is the best control method in the home garden. All parts of the plant should be placed in the trash, not composted.



Mulberry-weed

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WEEDS AND FLOWERS—CONTINUED



Chamber Bitter



Chamber Bitter

A special note of caution from Lucille Kossodo, president of John Clayton Chapter/VNPS:

“A few years ago, I started seeing something which at a very quick glance I thought was Common Partridge Pea - *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (see center photo above). I regret to say I ignored it the first year maybe because I hoped it was Common Partridge Pea having expanded in my garden. The next year this mimosa like weed had spread beyond my wildest nightmares all over the yard, in flower beds and in the lawn. I then researched it and found out it was something called Chamber Bitter - *Phyllanthus urinaria*. It is an Asian plant that people thought helped with urination problems.

Well, it is harder to remove than Asian Stilt Grass and incredibly invasive. I removed it in the thousands but was unable to remove it all before winter arrived. I am aware that I shall have to work on this removal for quite a while since I do not use chemicals in my yard on account of pollinators. Now, that I have studied it, I can tell that it is similar but different. The leaves are wider and more sturdy than those of Common Partridge Pea. Behind each stem there are seeds to be sure they spread all over. If you see it, remove it immediately. Above are two photos of Chamber bitter, one of the photos shows the seeds in back of the stem.”



Common Partridge Pea

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

Important Dates



Photo from unsplash

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:
Frances Knight – Thinking of You
Carolyn Stringer – Sympathy

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 May 2021 newsletter will be Wednesday, April 28

Please send any submissions to Katherine Sokolowsky, newsletter editor, at katherinesoko@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.