



The Colonial Master Gardener

May
2021

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARTIN OAKES

Good Morning, my fellow Master Gardeners!

I truly hope each of you are well and happy. It appears that the warmth of summer has arrived. Enjoy these days as the wrath of July and August will soon be upon us. I do miss seeing you in-person. Hopefully we can meet in face-to-face in July. As Lady Bird Johnson stated, "Where flowers bloom, so does hope." It is nice to visit with some of you fine people at various projects.

I hope everyone enjoyed our plant sale. My wish is that next year's event will be open to the public – a true plant sale. I want to thank the plant sale committee for their hard work and dedication. Well done.

The hiring process for the new James City County / New Kent County ANR agent is still "pending." Janet Spencer keeps me informed of the progress.

The Board of Directors formed a Communication Committee to manage a variety of communication issues including, marketing, web site, newsletter, and social media. The Board asked Marion Guthrie to chair this important committee. She will be actively searching for volunteers. The VP of Administration (Vickie Rockwell) will oversee this standing committee.

Finally, please maintain your volunteer and continuing education hours in Better Impact. If you have difficulty, contact Vickie Rockwell (rockwelly@asme.org) or Rick Brown (ricklin46@cox.net). Refer to Rick's recent email concerning the process of using BI.

I should be able to plant my tomatoes in the next week or so. As soon as the soil warms, in go the tomato plants- - unless Harriet vetoes my timing.

I want to thank every member of the Board. It is a wonderful group of people who are willing to work together to support our organization ... and put up with me.

Next Meeting:
Thursday, May 6
9:00am
VIA ZOOM

Program:
Invasive Plants

Speaker:
Rod Simmons



It's a great time to take a walk through the Williamsburg Botanical Garden!

2021
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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

Be sure not to miss the next educational session at the May Master Gardeners' Meeting at 9:00 AM on Thursday, May 6.

Rod Simmons will speak on "Invasive Plants" which have become an increasingly difficult and expensive problem to deal with for gardeners. Mr. Simmons is the director of Natural Resources and the Plant Ecologist for the City of Alexandria. He is a member of the Virginia Botanical Associates and works closely with the Virginia and Maryland Natural Heritage programs. He is a member and a past president of the Botanical Society of Washington, a past president of the Maryland Native Plant Society, a board member of the Virginia Native Plant Society, and a regular field trip leader for all of these organizations. He is a frequent lecturer on native plants, natural communities, ecological restoration, and other related topics. He is widely regarded as an expert in invasive plants and has been a leader in highlighting concerns on this topic in the middle Atlantic region.

MOBILE HELP DESK

BY GARY STREB, MG

Anxious to get back into the public education role?

We have a limited opportunity to again connect with the Williamsburg community of plant lovers with a special VCE project: The Mobile Help Desk Supporting the Williamsburg Botanical Garden's Plant Sale 2021.



The WBG's "Plants with a Purpose" annual plant sale is ongoing running through the end of May and is located within the grounds of the WBG. The sale is open to the public within the hours of operation of Freedom Park and is mainly unattended with an "Honor Box" for delighted customers to deposit cash. Instructions for credit/debit purposes are available. The VCEMG Mobile Help Desk will be set up each Saturday (May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29) during the sale from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. We have all of the materials on-site – canopy, table with VCE tablecloth, chairs, reference materials, and handouts (even the ever-popular rain gauges). We have set up 2 two-person teams, one from 9:00AM to 11:00AM and the other from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. So, we need 4 qualified EMGs each week that have worked either the Help Desk and/or the Farmers Market at Merchants Square.

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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MOBILE HELP DESK — CONTINUED

Each experienced EMG will be available, on a proactive stance, to provide customers with horticultural advice. You will help the customer select the right plant for that special place – plus, advice on the maintenance requirements of light, moisture, and soil. Also, each EMG acts as an Ambassador for the JCCWMG unit, describing our projects, and how we can help them in the multitude of ways that we do. If you cannot answer questions on the spot – do not be concerned – we will forward horticultural issues to the Help Desk for resolution and follow-through.

If interested in accruing EMG volunteer hours and helping the community learn about their WBG plant purchase, please sign-up here: <http://bit.ly/wbghelpdesk2021>

Questions? Please contact Gary Streb (gstreb11@gmail.com) or Judith Alberts (Judith.alberts@gmail.com).



VCEMG Mobile Help Desk would love your help at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden!

MASTER GARDENER REBRANDING INITIATIVE, 2021

BY VICKIE ROCKWELL, VP ADMINISTRATION

A brand is what sets an organization apart from others and is not just a product, logo, website, or name. It is all of the aforementioned and more - encompassing our personality, how we do business, how we interact with each other, and the communities in which we live.

With the move forward to the new volunteer tracking system, restructure of the website, maintenance of the Facebook page, and potential new social media interactions, our Association requires a clear and consistent strategy to maintain our brand. The following updates were approved by the James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association Board of Directors for immediate use as they lay the foundation for our organization. The following are the new, vision, mission, goals and core values. The name has stayed the same. We ask that you join with the Board and embrace them as we work, play, learn and volunteer together.

Name: Our official name is **James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association.**

Mission: To share sustainable gardening practices through volunteer activities with the public.

Vision: To champion the use of the accumulated scientific knowledge of horticulture to our neighbors.

Catch phrase: Neighbors helping neighbors grow.

Goals:

- To provide researched based horticultural guidance to community residents through personal and remote consultations, and electronic media.
- To educate local citizens of all ages through the maintenance of model gardens.
- To support and encourage the continuous education of member Master Gardeners, including interns and emeriti, to expand their horticultural knowledge and expertise.
- To ensure the continued operation of this non-profit organization through attentive leadership, group consensus, and proper managerial practice.

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REBRANDING — CONTINUED

Core Values:

- Embrace integrity and ethical conduct.
- Foster diversity and appreciate the dignity and culture of all people.
- Promote camaraderie and respect among the membership at all experience levels
- Nurture and treasure the environment and our natural resources.
- Facilitate the development, dissemination and application of sound horticultural knowledge.
- Encourage the benefits of continuing education.

PERENNIAL PLANTS OF THE YEAR

BY DEB BUSSERT, PRESIDENT ELECT

Here is the next installment of my ongoing series of articles about the Perennial Plants of the Year and our experiences with them at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

2018: *Allium* 'Millenium'

Allium 'Millenium' (yes, that is the correct spelling) is a clump-forming bulb in the amaryllis family. It is hardy in Zones 5-8, grows to 1-1.5 feet high with similar spread, and blooms with a typical ornamental onion type flower in July and August. It grows best in full sun to part shade with dry to moderate moisture. Deer and rabbits tend to avoid it and it requires little maintenance once established. It does require excellent drainage. Like most ornamental onions, 'Millenium' attracts butterflies and will self-seed if the seed heads are not removed. We have several clumps of this plant in the perennial garden which seem to be thriving and spreading.



Allium 'Millenium'



Anemone x hybrida
'Honorine Jobert'

2016: *Anemone x hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert'

Commonly known as Japanese anemone or windflower, *Anemone x hybrida* is an herbaceous perennial in the buttercup family. It is hardy in Zones 4 – 8 and blooms in August and September. Reaching a height of 3 to 4 feet in bloom, it will be covered with white flowers with prominent yellow stamens for several weeks. It grows best in partial shade in our area. It requires moderate moisture, is low maintenance, and will naturalize readily. It can spread widely, but is easily contained by removing stray runners. 'Honorine Jobert' is an old garden hybrid discovered in France in 1858. It is deer resistant and has no serious disease or insect problems. It should be protected from wind or the flower stalks may be staked. In the perennial garden at the WBG, after several years one of three plants died. The other two appear to be thriving and have spread rather assertively. The late summer/early fall blooms are very pretty and are admired by many visitors. We have this plant for sale at the WBG Honor Box Plant Sale if you want to try it.

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PERENNIAL PLANTS OF THE YEAR — CONTINUED

2017: *Asclepias tuberosa*

Butterfly weed is a well-known herbaceous perennial that is native to the Eastern and Southern United States. It is hardy in Zones 3 – 9 and typically blooms with bright orange/yellow-orange flowers from June to August at a height of about 1.5 feet. It spreads by underground runners and is easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. New growth tends to emerge late in the spring. Due to its deep taproot, butterfly weed does not transplant well, and is best left undisturbed once established. Mature plants may freely self-seed if the seed pods are not removed before they split open. This plant is deer resistant, drought tolerant, and has no serious disease or insect problems when grown in well-drained soil. The flowers are a nectar source for many butterflies and the leaves are an important food source for monarch butterfly larvae. We have planted and replanted butterfly weed in the perennial garden but have not been able to get it established. I suspect that the soil in that garden does not drain sufficiently and does not get enough sun.



Asclepias tuberosa

SHORELINE EVALUATION PROJECT (SEP)

BY GARY STREB, SEP, CO-CHAIR

The Shoreline Evaluation Project (SEP) is continuing extensive training to conduct on-site, tidal shoreline homeowner assessment visits this Fall. The project is open to advanced, certified VCEMG Water Stewards and is in partnership with the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District. In addition to several Zoom educational sessions and voluminous readings, the SEP volunteers had their first field trip on April 26th – just to get our feet wet.

An eroding, natural shoreline at Poley Point off the Colonial Parkway, near Felgate's Creek, was the site chosen by the CSWCD staff. Our instructor was Pam Mason, member of the Board of Directors of the CSWCD. Who knew how important Vetch is in determining wave energy? Or that the Mean Tide Range is the vertical distance between mean low water and mean high water levels (averages of tidal elevations observed during one tidal epoch of 19 years)? And that plant inventory may determine the type of shoreline, not the geology? We still have lots to learn before we go out to inform the homeowners of the best methods o

control shoreline erosion. The project will be administered by the CSWCD with the JCCWWMG Water Stewards providing the on-the-ground assessment and report to the homeowner. Our model relies heavily upon the successful Northern Neck Master Gardener experiences since 2012.

We will continue to keep you informed of our new adventure!



EMG Water Stewards (l to r): Joanne Sheffield, Ginnie Cranford, Gary Streb, Anne Nielsen, Jeanne Millin, and Carol Fryer.



The natural shoreline at Poley Point on the York River.

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MASTER GARDENING TRAINING PROGRAM, CLASS OF 2020

BY JEN CAMPBELL, MASTER GARDENER TRAINING PROGRAM, CO CHAIR



Resilient, enterprising, and hardworking are all words that describe the Master Gardening Class of 2020.

COVID may have suspended some of our Master Gardening Projects but has not deterred eager Interns. They have participated in every project available for them to work. In some cases, they have contributed where previous classes have not. For instance, they supplied a wide array of informative items to the JCC/W Facebook page in the way of virtual Help Desk articles. Most recently, Julie Smith's Facebook article on Fauna and Flora was cited in a Daily Press article. Students have partaken in monthly MGA Board Meetings; volunteered to serve with groups such as the MGA Branding Committee; written articles for the Association's Newsletter; and filmed videos for both the Pruning Clinic and Turf Love. Jill Burruss is providing invaluable feedback while serving as the Class 2020 representative on the MG Training Committee. And oh yes, they have been out working in the gardens and propagating plants for the Plant Sale. To date, they have amassed over 1400 hours of volunteer service.

Eager to continue their education and reconnect with classmates, many of the students recently participated in the Class 2020 field trips to Brent and Becky's and a Native Plant Walk narrated by Donna Ware. Trips to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, a tour of the Colonial Williamsburg garden, and other locations are also planned for the remainder of the year. They have participated in approved Continuing Education sessions and most importantly, they have enjoyed learning from Master Gardeners as they volunteer on projects.

Of the 25 class members, 14 have earned the requisite 50 hours required to become Master Gardeners. Unlike previous classes they are being awarded their much-deserved badges and lanyards as they meet requirements but will still receive their diplomas and graduate as a class – hopefully in a normal in-person Master Gardening Meeting in January 2022.

Congratulations to the following 2020 class members who have achieved Master Gardener status: Sue Barton, Carol Beers, Dennis Branden, Bob Burruss, Jill Burruss, Fran Cope, Camille Fisher, Suzanne Humphries, Carol Mayfield, Jeff Mellinger, Kim Owens, Bill Pearson, Julie Smith, Edwin Velez-Rivera.



MG CLASS OF 2020: A FIELD TRIP TO BRENT AND BECKY'S, AN INTERN'S DELIGHT

BY DOT FLANNIGAN, INTERN

On February 4, Brent Heath, of Brent and Becky's Bulbs, provided the MGA's membership with a superb lecture on companion plants. The field trip, arranged by Master Gardener Wendy Hamrick, proved to be an extremely informative and entertaining experience.

Many of us had not seen each other in a year; our 2020 course was cut short by the closure of our everyday world. Thus, we greeted each other like long lost friends, albeit with masks and elbow bumps. That morning, we were treated to lessons on history, planting, picking, plant varieties, and genetics.

The first sight we encountered getting out of our cars were rows and rows of beautiful daffodils. Honestly, I thought that I had some knowledge of daffodils, having about seven different variations in my yard. Nothing prepared me for Brent's introduction to the variants of the plant properly called narcissus. To my surprise, he explained that this predominantly spring flowering perennial is a genus of plants belonging to the amaryllis family, *Amaryllidaceae*.

After a history lesson about Mobjack Bay, his grandfather's 1900 settlement of the land that was once owned in part by George Washington, and the made-in-heaven phone call that brought Brent and Becky together (you will have to ask him personally for details), Brent started a 90-minute tour and informal talk about the plants and trees, occupying the acreage that he cultivates and manages. A sight that amazed many of us were the plethora of weeds growing among the daffodils – mingled in with the plants as well as in the ditches between the rows. Admittedly, Brent confessed to be less concerned with weeds than with the health of his cultivations.

Our first lesson: Brent bent down, slid his fingers down the stalk of one of the daffodils and plucked it, demonstrating the proper way to pick daffodils. Rather than cutting the flower stalks (guilty!), this proper gathering method, captures the flower's liquids, allowing it to last longer (and not dribbling on one's clothes). Another lesson entailed planting bulbs. Two-inch bulbs need to be planted three times their height, or down six inches in the hole.

We learned that narcissi flowers have six petal-like tepals surmounted by a cup- or trumpet-shaped corona. Some of his beauties include: *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* (the ubiquitous yellow tepals and yellow trumpet), *N. poeticus* (white tepals with small yellow trumpet edged by red), *N. jonquilla* (commonly jonquils, yellow tepals with smaller yellow trumpet), *N. bulbocodium* (reduced tepals and prominent corona, both yellow), and *N. papyraceus* (paper whites, solid white with small corona and tepals). A few of us spied a flower and asked if they were related to Lilies of the Valley. Then to our amazement, Brent said no, Snow Drops (*Leucojum aestivum*), are members of the amaryllis family, and thus a distant cousin to daffodils.

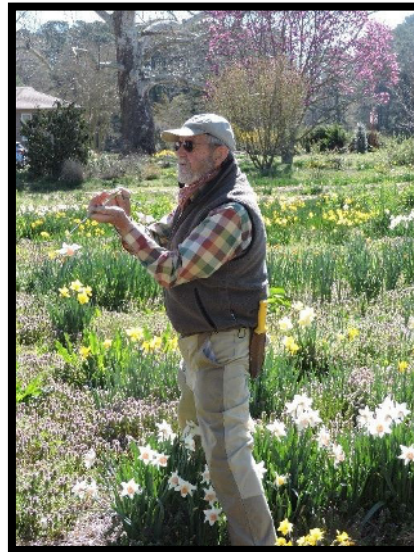


As we continued through Brent's gardening spaces, he pointed out a Princess Magnolia, a relatively new hybrid with beautiful pink flowers that precedes its development of leaves. Then we moved around to the front of his and Becky's elegant home built recently with 50 different types of wood. Not only did their home face an inlet of Mobjack Bay, but the area contained more examples of companion plants. Brent pointed out one of his favorites to us, "candy corn" (*Spiraea japonica*), a vivid fuchsia color flower with yellow leaves, nestled among other plants.

At this point, Brent demonstrated the process of creating a cultivar, displaying the stamen, pistil, and ovary of a flower. Biology textbook and internet pictures – even MG slides – are powerful tools for learning, but to have the

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A FIELD TRIP TO BRENT AND BECKY'S, AN INTERN'S DELIGHT —CONTINUED



parts and method explained in person was instruction brought to life.

Brent asked us the difference between a lawn and a yard. Chuckling, he told us that the area in front of his home was a yard; a lawn contains grass and is watered, often with an irrigation system. His yard, in contrast with the meticulous shrubbery planted directly in front of the house, is left natural without cultivation.

Our field trip ended with a visit to their store that offers almost any accoutrement that a gardener might need, from gardening spades and clippers and plant identification stakes to various household and gardening decorations. And the plants, oh, the variety of plants offered for sale. I doubt that anyone exited without purchasing something from the shop.

DR. WARE'S NATIVE PERENNIALS TALK: ONE LOCATION UP-CLOSE

BY DIANE HARDY, INTERN

On April 8, Dr. Donna Ware led interns on a Native Perennials walk and talk through the Williamsburg Botanical Gardens. We stopped at a curious horseshoe-shaped rock structure rising from the ground. This structure holds soil on a steep slope and crevice representing the coastal ravines found in areas like Freedom Park and

College Woods. Dr. Ware explained these areas are mountain disjuncts harboring calciphile plants normally found in the mountainous regions of Virginia and are rare to absent in most of the Piedmont region. These calciphiles, she explained, thrive in the ravines because of the high calcium soil from fossil shells.

Native perennials that inhabit our coastal ravines include *Quercus muehlenbergii engelm* (Chinkapin Oak), *Cornus alternifolia LF* (Alternate-leaved or Pagoda Dogwood), *Solidago flexicaulis L.* (Zigzag Goldenrod), *Aralia nudicaulis L.* (Wild Sarsaparilla), *Caltha palustris L.* (Cowslip or Marsh Marigold), *Sanicula marilandica L.* (Maryland Black Snakeroot), and *Cypripedium sp.* (Yellow Lady Slippers).

Look for the rare sight of yellow lady slippers as they start blooming in late April.



PRUNING PROJECT: STONEHOUSE SCHOOLYARD NATIVE HABITAT GARDEN

BY HARRY FAHL, PRUNING CLINIC, CO-CHAIR

I led a team of pruners that included Susan Barton, Elizabeth McCoy, and Julie Smith on April 15 to assist MG Susan Voigt at her Stonehouse Schoolyard Native Habitat Garden in JCC. This garden is a collaboration with the Virginia Native Plant Society. We helped with pruning back the native shrubs in the garden.



THIS AND THAT

News from the Williamsburg Botanical Garden

Plants with a Purpose Honor Box Sale, 7 am until dusk through May 31

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden's "Plants with a Purpose" Honor Box Plant Sale is open now until May 31. Plants on the Honor Box plant rack and the tables along the main walkway are available for purchase and priced as marked. You will find plants for both sun and shade that support pollinators and other wildlife. Many are deer-resistant, and many are divisions taken from the WBG's plantings.

WBG is grateful to Forest Lane Botanicals for donating over 120 Hellebores (1-gallon pots), which are priced at \$15 each.

Payment is on the Honor System. Just drop your cash (preferred) or check in the birdhouse lockbox attached to the plant frame. The option to pay online is available at www.bit.ly/wbghonorpay. Prices include all taxes and fees. Selection varies.

In addition to receiving plants left from the MGA sale, we'll also have plants from the Virginia Native Plant Society arriving the first week of May. Signup for email updates when new plants arrive at www.bit.ly/honorbox.

If you would like to donate plants to the WBG Honor Box Sale, here are the guidelines for what the garden can accept for the sale:

- Plants must be in pots that are at least 4". (Pots smaller than 4" are too difficult to keep watered.)
- Plants must be properly labeled, ideally with both botanical and common names.
- No plants considered invasive in the southeast US will be accepted.
- No houseplants will be accepted.
- Plants must be in "saleable" condition.
- We encourage donors to include cultivation info with the plants.

Please contact Judith Alberts, WBG Board Chair at judith.alberts@gmail.com to arrange a transfer of your donated plants by either pickup or delivery. Please do not just drop off your plants at the garden!

Give Local 757 - May 11 Day of Giving

The Give Local 757 Initiative is a program created by the Peninsula Community Foundation to spark and grow local philanthropy. This year's 24-hour giving day is Tuesday, May 11, 2021. Support the WBG at <https://www.givelocal757.org/organizations/williamsburg-botanical-garden>. The WBG has set a goal of \$10,000 to fund major repairs and maintenance needed in the garden, including path widening and re-grading, fence repairs, and updated signage.

May 15 - Learn and Grow Program: "Volcano Mulching and Other Tree Crimes"

The best way to grow a tree is to avoid killing it! Few trees die of old age. Incorrect planting methods, bad pruning, and improper care do more damage to a homeowner's tree than insects or diseases.

Learn about common tree-killing mistakes and how to avoid them by using the correct methods to protect your landscaping investment of time and money.

The speaker is our own Patsy McGrady, VCE Master Gardener, Tree Steward, and past president of the JCCWMGA. She describes herself as a "true tree nerd".

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151323431457>

—Judith Alberts, WBG Board Chair

THIS AND THAT — CONTINUED

Meet Diana Hardy – the Newest Member of Class 2020

A hearty welcome to Diana Hardy who is a Master Gardener intern, transferring from the Fauquier/ Rappahannock Counties program in Northern Virginia. She is a mom of three adult children, one cat, a poodle, and a plethora of potted plants. Her current favorite plant (and only named plant) is “Mrs. Figg” a Brown Turkey Fig Tree.

A desire to learn more prompted Diana to sign up for the Master Gardening Class. Passionate about sustainable vegetable gardening, she put her newly minted knowledge to work by volunteering at the Fauquier Education Farm. The Farm provides advance agriculture and agriculture-related education through best-method demonstrations, classroom instruction, on-farm workshops, and hands-on learning. She particularly enjoyed working alongside like-minded volunteers and the fact that the farm gives back to the local community by providing fruit and vegetables to people in need.

– Jen Campbell



Diana Hardy

VMGA Report, April 2021 is at the end of the newsletter.

– Marilyn Riddle, VMGA Rep

Thanks to Helen Hamilton!

Please join me in thanking Helen Hamilton for providing us with “Plant of the Month” articles to enjoy in our newsletters. Sadly, they are at an end. She has done a fabulous job in educating us on so many native plant species. Her interest in bryophytes, however, is consuming much of her time and interest now. She collects all over the coastal plain and identifies and prepares these specimens for two university herbaria. Very impressive! Thanks for all of your efforts, Helen. Happy hunting!

– Katherine Sokolowsky, MG Newsletter Editor

Invasive Plant Species Resources

I was doing some research into invasive plants in advance of the WBG Plant Sale to be sure we would not be selling any “bad actors” and I came across the attached list of Alien Invasive Landscape Plants in Virginia published by the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm. I thought it was more useful that some other lists I have seen, because it calls out a number of commonly available/planted species that we should encourage gardeners to avoid. I even have some of these in my garden (I’m lookin’ at you, Ajuga). The list is at the end of this newsletter.

– Deb Bussert, Sustainable Gardening at Williamsburg Botanical Gardens, Chair

THIS AND THAT — CONTINUED

Diane Relf International Master Gardener Conference Scholarship

Virtual International Master Gardener Conference will be held September 13-17, 2021. VMGA is awarding twenty \$150 scholarships. All scholarship applications must be submitted by unit VCE agent or coordinator, and only 2 applications per unit are accepted. Agents/coordinators have full discretion as to which 2 are submitted.

Even though the Conference will be online, there is still a registration fee and the scholarship will cover the entire cost of registration. If there is a deserving Master Gardener with limited resources, this is a great opportunity to receive a scholarship. However, financial need is only one of the many qualities used in granting the award. Scholarships are available to all active Master Gardeners, except previous recipients and interns.

Scholarship guidelines and a convenient online application can be found at vmga.net, under "Education", "Diane Relf Scholarship". Questions can be sent to Tonya Harper (Scholarship Committee Chair) at: sunset67@ntelos.net.

The deadline is June 5, 2021. Notification of application receipt will be sent to the submitter. Agents/coordinators and scholarship awardees will be notified by July 15, 2021.

— Vickie Rockwell, VP of Administration



Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebrated at the WBG

On Saturday, April 24th, the James City Clean County Commission and the Williamsburg Botanical Garden celebrated both Earth Day and Arbor Day with activities to promote environmental conservation.

The celebration was highlighted by the planting of an American Hornbeam tree (*Carpinus caroliniana*), which is in the Birch family and is a Virginia native species. The day also launched the on-site Master Gardener Mobile Help Desk and the opening of the WBG's annual "Plants with a Purpose" plant sale. These events were part

.... continued below

Neighbors helping neighbors grow!

of a collaboration that included support from James City County, the JCC Williamsburg Master Gardeners and the James City Clean County Commission.

Peg Boarman, Co-chair of the James City Clean County Commission and WBG Board Chair Judith Alberts celebrate Earth Day at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden by planting a tree. The full press release is at the end of the newsletter.

— Marion Guthrie, Communication Committee, Chair

Photo credit: Gretchen Bedell



Important Dates



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the June 2021 newsletter will be Wednesday, May 26

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

THINKING OF OUR MEMBERS

The organization sends cards to members with difficult medical issues or who have experienced a death in the immediate family.

We also acknowledge achievements/milestones and donations made to the association.

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

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.

VMGA Report—April 2021

- In the host (Arlington/Alexandria) report, we learned that their unit, near the size of ours but with a paid staff of five works at three farmers' markets and seven teaching gardens. Seeds are distributed to community members at the local branches of their public libraries as a community service on occasion.
- Annual budget was adopted.
- With much data from recent activities, the Education Committee received permission to charge a minimal fee for future events.
- The VCE Manual has been updated—choice of online version via PDF or a hard copy.
- No fundraising chair has been found.
- After a brief pause, VCE publications will be available on new site.
- IMGC registration opened on Apr 5. Some classes have already closed.
- IMGC Scholarships, in place of the MGC ones, are still being accepted. There will be 20 and each is for \$150, the price of registration. THESE ARE NOT NEED BASED primarily, but rather based on one's EMG activity. However, need is one aspect that may be listed. We do not tend to have many applicants from JCC/W. An agent is allowed two applicants. However, most, if not all, applicants supply their "vita" to the agent. That does mean no more than two/unit. Our district agent will serve as the agent.
- Wanda Gerard is still accepting recipes to be made available to IMGC participants. Deadline is May 31. Recipes using VA products are encouraged.
- Cheri Haggerty, past president of VMGA, attended this meeting. She currently lives in IN. She said that Purdue has been involved in their safety plan during the pandemic.
- In June, we will have our annual meeting starting at 10:00 am as normal for these bi-monthlies. In normal times, this meeting occurs at MGC in the evening.
- We will vote (all in attendance) on the bylaws in June.
- Central Rappahannock will be our host for the next meeting.

– Marilyn Riddle, VMGA Rep

April 29, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebrated at the WBG

On Saturday, April 24th, the James City Clean County Commission (JCCCC) and the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG) celebrated both Earth Day and Arbor Day with activities to promote environmental conservation. The celebration was highlighted by the planting of an American Hornbeam tree (*Carpinus caroliniana*), which is in the Birch family and is a Virginia native species. The day also launched the on-site Master Gardener Mobile Help Desk and the opening of the WBG's annual "Plants with a Purpose" plant sale. These events were part of a collaboration that included support from James City County, the JCC Williamsburg Master Gardeners and the James City Clean County Commission.

Peg Boarman, Co-chair of the James City Clean County Commission, remarked that she remembers celebrating the first Earth Day in 1970 with her Girl Scout Troop and said, "The mission to preserve the earth is more important than ever and each one of us makes a difference." WBG Board Chair Judith Alberts quoted the Chinese proverb that says, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now."

The James City Clean County Commission Co-Chair Emma Zahren-Newman and JCC Assistant Environmental Coordinator Emily Douglass set up an informational table that gave out free packets of flower seeds and seed-embedded bookmarks. Also attending the event were Christopher McKnight, Freedom Park Coordinator, many of the WBG Board members and dozens of VCE Master Gardeners.

Tree saplings were showcased in the WBG's Honor Box plant rack and available to purchase on the "Honor System", along with hundreds of other pollinator-friendly plants. Many of the saplings and plants are from the garden itself, carefully propagated by volunteers over the last several months of garden maintenance. The "Plants with a Purpose" Honor Box Plant sale will run through May 31 during the Garden's regular hours of 7 am to dusk.

Saturday's event also launched the Master Gardeners Mobile Help Desk to provide guidance to visitors with questions about the right plants for their gardens and answer other gardening questions. The Help Desk at the WBG is staffed by JCC-Williamsburg Master Gardeners from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays when weather permits until May 29th.

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, incorporated in 2002 and dedicated in July 2006. The WBG is free to visit every day of the year from 7 am until dusk. The 2-acre ellipse-shaped garden is located within Freedom Park at 5537 Centerville Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188. For additional information, call 757-561-9444 or email eNews@williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org.

State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm Alien Invasive Landscape Plants in Virginia

The following list contains alien invasive plants that are grown and/or used in the landscape/nursery industry. Plants that are not grown, distributed and planted by the industry (such as *Alliaria petiolata*, Garlic Mustard) do not appear on the list.

The following sources provided information to develop this list: Invasive Plant Atlas <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/index.html>, Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council <http://www.maipc.org/> and Digital Atlas of Virginia Flora <http://vaplantatlas.org/> Please note that cultivars of these plants can also be invasive.

Trees:

<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa or Silktree
<i>Evodia daniellii</i> (<i>Tetradium daniellii</i>)	Korean Evodia or Bee-Bee Tree
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur Corktree
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery, Ornamental or Bradford Pear
<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	Sawtooth Oak
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian Elm

Shrubs:

<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom
<i>Deutzia scabra</i>	Fuzzy Deutzia
<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	Thorny Olive or Silverberry
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	European Spindletree
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Rose of Sharon
<i>Ligustrum amurense</i>	Amur Privet
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Border Privet
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	California Privet
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese Privet
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	European or Common Privet
<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	Winter Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera standishii</i>	Standish or Fragrant Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tatarian Honeysuckle
<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	Jetbead
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Wineberry
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Japanese Meadowsweet
<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden Viburnum