



The Colonial Master Gardener

August
2022

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DEBORAH BUSSERT

Greetings Master Gardeners. What a lovely picnic we had on July 17 at the 4H Club site on the James River. The weather was beautiful, with a breeze off the river that kept us comfortable. Many, many thanks to organizers Marty Oakes and Angela Cingale, sponsor Steve Ewell, VCE Agent Forrest Hobbs who facilitated access to that wonderful site, and the many volunteers who helped with publicity, set up, provisions and clean up. Oh, and did I mention all the lovely sides, salads, and desserts that were brought in? Who knew we had so many talented cooks in our ranks.

The January 2022 Quarterly Newsletter of ArbNet, the organization that provides accreditation for arboreta around the world, includes the then recent accreditation of the Williamsburg Botanical Garden-Freedom Park Arboretum in its listings. As pointed out in the newsletter, "climate change and biodiversity loss are global challenges that arboreta are perfectly situated to address". The community of arboreta have lots of opportunities to educate and provide outreach to visitors, providing advice and best practices for sustainable living and how trees can help address these challenges. Here are a few of the recommendations that we can all follow to support trees and help mitigate climate change: Plant trees, especially natives, wherever you can;

- Share your experience about the right trees to plant for a healthier planet;
- Educate your community about how to select and care for trees;
- Reduce your environmental footprint to set an example for others in your community;
- Connect with local nurseries or growers who sell sustainably grown native trees; and
- Think globally and act locally.

Congratulations again to those Master Gardeners, Tree Stewards and WBG volunteers who did the work necessary to achieve Level I Accreditation from ArbNet – one of only 500 accredited arboreta in the world.

For those of you who are looking for native plants, the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News is having its Fall Native Plant Sale in September. The Member Preview Sale will take place on September 15 from 4PM to 6PM, with the public sale on September 17 – 18 and 24 – 25 from 9AM to 4:30PM. This sale is a fundraiser for the Museum but is also a wonderful source of native plants and information about them. More information about the sale is available on the Museum's website.

The Nominating Committee has been formed and is working on a slate of officers for 2023. We will be voting in September. Please seriously consider whether you are able to take on a leadership role. We will need to nominate a President-Elect and a VP of Internal Education.

Next Meeting:
Thursday, August 11 at 9AM
Williamsburg Library
Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/81698635339>

Program:
Lessons from Jug Bay Wetlands
Sanctuary

Speaker:
Dr. Colin Rees



Thank you to our Picnic Leaders!
(Photo Courtesy of Elvin and Kay Clapp)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — CONTINUED...

2022
MGA Board

President:
Deborah Bussert

President Elect:
Donna Tierney

VP Administration:
Vickie Rockwell

VP Projects:
Ruth Huber

VP Internal Ed:
Bill Dichtel

VP Communications:
Marion Guthrie

Secretary:
Dot Finnegan

Treasurer:
Linda Neilson

VMGA Rep:
Joanne Sheffield

Alternate:
Marilyn Riddle

Past President:
Marty Oakes

*Associate Extension
Agent:*
Forrest Hobbs

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.

Finally, don't forget to check our website on a regular basis for news and information. Recent articles by Elvin Clapp about the Water Wise project and Elizabeth McCoy on weed identification really caught my interest. Our website, along with our Facebook page, both managed by our Communications Committee and VP-Communications Marion Guthrie are excellent resources. If you have an idea for an article or blog post, let Marion or one of her team know. They are always looking for material. As always, thanks for all you do. We can change the world one plant and one gardener at a time.



THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

BY BILL DICHEL,
VP INTERNAL EDUCATION

Our speaker will be Colin Rees. Dr. Rees, an ornithologist and world traveler, previously was a biodiversity specialist with the World Bank. He has been a Professor of Zoology at the University of Maryland. He is one of the developers and founders of Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary on the Patuxent River, part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Southern Maryland, which he wrote about in his book Nature's Calendar. His talk on "Ornithology and Climate Change" will be outstanding.

We do ask that if you attend in person, you wear a mask in the auditorium. The Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society and Area Ornithology Group have been invited as well so we may have a good crowd attending in person.

As usual, we will have our business meeting after the educational session. The session will also be accessible by Zoom: <https://viriniatech.zoom.us/j/81698635339>

We look forward to seeing you on August 11.



(Photos Courtesy of Michele Garrard)

For information available to the public that includes gardening tips, and our activities, check out our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/VCEMasterGardeners](https://www.facebook.com/VCEMasterGardeners)) and our website (jccwmg.org). Contact Marion Guthrie (marion.guthrie@gmail.com) or Katherine Sokolowsky (katherinesoko@gmail.com) to submit your own gardening article!

To get to our VCE James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener homepage quickly, click on <http://jccwmg.org/wordpress/>

VMGA REPORT

BY JOANNE SHEFFIELD, VMGA REP

June's VMGA meeting was held at Master Gardener College. June is the annual meeting month and every two years the new Board begins its term at the end of the meeting. The officers for 2022-2024 are President Georgi Hall, Loudoun; Vice President Nelda Purcell, Franklin; Secretary Deb Straw, Hill City; Treasurer Stacey Morgan Smith, Suffolk, and Past President Leslie Paulson, Prince William.

Six people from our unit attended the college. Four of them were in the Land Steward course—Tiffeni Goesel, Cheryl Lynch, Kim Owens, and Vicki Rockwell. They arrived at College a day early to begin classes for this course. They will have to complete an approved project before being recognized as Land Stewards. The other two attendees at Blacksburg were Angela Cingale and Gary Streb. Both have a number of years of attendance at MGC and would be happy to tell you about their experiences.

Be sure to read the **VMGA Report**, the July/August edition of the VMGA newsletter (<https://vmga.net/wordpress/vmga-report-archive/>). On page 6 you will see a photo of the Scholarship winners to MG College. Vickie Rockwell is among them!

The August meeting of VMGA will be by Zoom. All are invited to attend. If you are not a member of the organization and would like the link, please contact Marilyn Riddle or me. The meeting is held bimonthly on the second Saturday at 10AM. Our Association will be hosting the October meeting on October 8 at the Stryker Center. Put it on your calendar if you would like to participate. More information to follow.

Our unit has manned the State Fair Master Gardener exhibit for many years. We plan to do it again this year. The Fair will be held from September 23 through October 2. Our volunteer date will be Tuesday, September 27. If you are interested in helping out (and visiting the Fair), please send Marilyn or me an email.

Remember, dues are only \$12.00 for VMGA and "Membership in the state association shows your support for VMGA as your voice to the VCE-MG program leadership at Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech." You also receive a discounted fee for VMGA programs, among other benefits.

THERAPEUTIC GARDENING

BY CAROLYN STRINGER

Master Gardeners from the Therapeutic Gardening group held a special evening event for "Big Arc" of Abilities on July 19. The topic was Pollinators, and over 30 of our Arc friends and their leaders enthusiastically participated, including several friends from our regular daytime sessions at WBG.

Karen Brooks and Barbara Floyd organized the event, while Pat Crowe, Elizabeth Myers and Angela Cingale educated everyone on the importance of Hummingbirds, Bees, and Butterflies.

Participants thoroughly enjoyed making several pollinator-themed crafts that Karen had created for them to take home.



Several MGs prepare and dispense craft supplies for the craft portion of the program. (Photos Courtesy of Carolyn Stringer)



A participant from the Arc of Abilities shows off his butterfly magnet. (Photos Courtesy of Carolyn Stringer)



MGs spread their wings for the butterfly portion of the program. (Photos Courtesy of Carolyn Stringer)

MATTEY'S GARDEN

BY MARY DISALVO, PROJECT VOLUNTEER

This summer there are 25 families that have signed up to come to Mattey's Garden to weed, water, plant and pick some vegetables and flowers. Louann Martin, Mattey's Project Lead, has assigned two families to a Master Gardener volunteer for each week. The Master Gardener Interns are also available to help. After a day and time are agreed upon, the Master Gardener and the families meet to work in the garden for an hour or two.

For my week, I contacted the Monday family and the Galke family. Just before they arrived, Intern Felecia Floyd and I changed the pond filter and weeded one of the beds so we could plant in it. When the families arrived, we walked around looking at what is growing right now. They planted some okra plants and seeds in the prepared bed. Then they watered the beds and picked some flowers (annuals and perennials) and a few vegetables and herbs to take home. We found two purple peppers, red onions, a small yellow squash and two large purple cabbages. Soon there will be tomatoes, squash, beans and melons. Jill and Bob Burruss have planted the Three Sisters in one bed (corn, beans and squash) and also visit the garden to weed during the summer. Louann jokes that "weeds are Mattey's favorite crop" so we pulled a few of those too! Both families were thrilled to be able to visit the garden and said it was an "amazing experience". The two moms and five children are looking forward to working in the garden again next summer.

Email Louann Martin (lk martin2011@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping at Mattey's Garden. All photos courtesy of Nikki Monday and MaryKate Galke.



A TOUR OF KELRAE FARMS—A LOOK AT FARM TO TABLE

BY MICHELE GARRARD, CLASS OF 2022

Boots on the Ground Tour - As part of their training, the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners (JCCWMG) recently received a “boots on the ground” tour of KelRae Farm, located in Toano, VA. Leading the tour was the farms’ owner-operator, Michelle Gulden. Michelle together with her husband Randy, took over the farm in 2001 from Randy’s great uncle, Henry M. “Buck” Hazelwood and they changed the name to KelRae, after their daughters Kelsey and Rachel.

That was more than 2 decades ago and now Michele and Randy have four daughters and what started as a part time adventure is now a full-time farming career, with a year-round, on site, indoor Farm Market Store, a popular Community Supported Agriculture program and an online farmers market known as the KelRae Farm Food Hub (kelraefarm.com).

Exploring the Farm to Table Model - KelRae Farm sells a variety of greens, vegetables, melons, sunflowers, free range eggs including chicken, turkey, and duck through their Food Hub service which offers a year-round farmers market with online shopping for pickup at the farm, or local delivery options. It also provides a Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) where consumers buy shares of the farm’s seasonal harvest. This spreads out the risk inherent in working the land while reinforcing the benefits of easy access to the healthy fresh food using the farm to table consumption model.

The Farm Market Store - There is also an onsite Farm Market Store with a vast variety of fresh produce, honey, meats, seafood, baked goods, soaps, and household items. All made possible through the hosting of over 40 local partners and collaborations with local farms and businesses. KelRae Farm conducts extensive outreach within the community supporting farm-to-school programs, participation in local farmers markets, volunteer opportunities for William and Mary students, as well as additional partnerships with local restaurants like the Culture Cafe, Two Drummers, Cochon, and Haas Mushroom, to name a few.

Farming Challenges - During their tour, Michelle, spoke about the profession of farming, rising early each morning to start her workday, and facing the daily challenges of growing and selling fresh food. This included the impact of the tight labor market affecting not only farm labor but also the entire country as well as the unpredictable behavior of Mother Nature, always the “queen” of weather conditions. Michele concluded that each farming year teaches you something new and that despite the many challenges, it’s a good life for her and her family.

Memorable Moments - The tour included a ride on the farm’s trailer pulled by the tractor with Randy at the wheel. And from their vantage point on the trailer, the Master Gardeners had a bird’s eye view of KelRae Farm where it was easy to see the fields and buildings that make up this successful business. And speaking of birds, while on their tour, the Master Gardeners were escorted by a hyper vigilant flock of Guinea Fowl who acted like watch dogs screeching at the arrival of these newcomers.

Nothin’ Easy About It – The Master Gardeners ended their tour and their class, enjoying lunch under the shade of an old oak tree with a sweeping view of this beautiful farm. They were told a story about a former U.S. President, Dwight D. Eisenhower who in an address in 1956 at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, told his audience: “Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you’re a thousand miles from the corn field.”

These Master Gardeners couldn’t help but agree.



(Photo Courtesy of Michele Garrard)

HEAVY DUTY WORKDAY AT WBG

BY LINDA BECKER, CLASS OF 2022

Several JCCW Master Gardeners and WBG volunteers banded together last week to do some much needed cleanup of the garden. Intern weed whackers, pruners, rakers and haulers were called to action on July 21 at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. Under the tutelage of Harry Fahl, the garden paths were widened and made safer for visitors. A job well done! (All photos courtesy of Harry Fahl)



MASTER GARDENER PICNIC

BY MARTY OAKES

The annual Master Gardener Picnic, after a two-year hiatus due to the Corona epidemic, was held on Sunday evening, July 17.

The venue was spectacular, and the attendance was tremendous. Members and guests totaled 95 hardy folks. The weather was warm and humid but a breeze off the James River provided some comfort. The view from the pavilion is simply beautiful. The 4H Center was very generous in providing the picnic site. The selection of food items was overwhelming – more appetizers, salads, desserts than we could consume. Rocco's provided hamburgers, hot dogs, and beans. And a special thank you to Steve Ewell and his wife for arranging the caterer.



Thank you to our Picnic Team!
(Photo Courtesy of Elvin and Kay Clapp)

I would like to thank the Co-Chair of the Picnic Committee for her work and dedication – Angie Cingale you are a jewel. Thank you. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of the entire committee – could not have been done without your assistance. Members include: Steve Ewell, Dennis Brandon, Donna Tierney, MaryAnne Teed, Stacy Demeo, Pam VanCott, Connie Motley, Anne Nielsen, Maureen Parent, and Marion Guthrie. The Communications Committee (Marion and her staff) were especially helpful in marketing the picnic. A huge Thank You to each and every one of you. I wish to thank our Corporate Sponsor for the generous contribution – Steve Ewell/Coldwell Banker Real Estate. This event was truly a group effort.

A wonderful evening for visiting and catching up on news. A wonderful evening for master gardeners.



(Photo Courtesy of Elvin and Kay Clapp)

Super Turf Saturday

Robyn Woolsey of the Soil and Water Conservation District has announced “Super Turf Saturday” on Saturday, August 6 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM at the James City County Recreation Center. Bob Winters will preside and other VT/VSU faculty will present. The program is FREE but YOU MUST REGISTER in advance to attend. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter! This event does count for Master Gardener continuing education credits! Sign up today before it's too late!

– Bill Dichtel, VP Education



Chickens on Kelrae Farms
(Photo Courtesy of Michele Garrard)

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 secretary, Dot Finnegan, at definn@widomaker.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.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions to the September 2022 newsletter will be Wednesday, August 24.

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



ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its 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, military status, or any other basis protected by law.



James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardener Association EMG MILESTONES: CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Milestone Awards

One of the highlights of Master Gardener College each year is the announcement of the annual Milestone Awards. Our Association members received 29 awards, including 9 who reached the 250-hour milestone, 11 who reached 500 hours, 3 who reached 1,000 hours and 5 that achieved 2,000 hours. Our grand champion was Barb Floyd, who logged 5,000 hours as a Master Gardener.

In total, Virginia Extension Master Gardeners volunteered in excess of 315,000 hours, made over 676,000 contacts with the public, and contributed services valued at over \$9 million.

Congratulations! Well done all.

250 Hour Milestone:

Pamela Arnold
Linda Berryman
Pat Cowan
Jeff Mellinger
Carla Moses
Linda Neilson
Judith Shuck
Scott Wolz
Jerry Woodson

500 Hour Milestone:

Paulette Atkinson
Harry Fahl
Judy Kinshaw-Ellis
Dave Kleppinger
Pam Mageland
Sharon Marcial
Kat Reynolds
Vickie Rockwell
Peter Schaub
Katherine Sokolowsky
Victoria Velez

1000 Hour Milestone:

Susan Carlile
Marion Guthrie
Elizabeth McCoy

2000 Hour Milestone:

Karen Brooks
Liz Favre
Patsy McGrady
Martin Oakes
Cheryl Roettger

5000 Hour Milestone:

Barb Floyd

SUPER TURF SATURDAY

**Saturday, August 6, 2022
9:00am - 11:30am**

**James City County Recreation Center
Community Rooms A, B, and C
5301 Longhill Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23188**

**Turfgrass experts from Virginia Tech
will provide presentations about turf
management, weed control and
prevention, and more!**

**This event is free to attend but
registration is required.
Register online at
www.colonialswcd.org.**

WANT TO BE A WATER STEWARD?!

Join us for our inaugural training class this fall!
Registration opens in August! Contact Extension Agent,
Gaylynn Callahan, gaylynnj@vt.edu or 757-727-1401, for
more information

October 7 - November 11, 2022
Fridays, 9 am - 3 pm

Northampton Community Center, 1435 Todds Ln., Bldg. A,
Hampton, VA 23666



Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Water Stewards are specially trained volunteers uniquely equipped to provide education and support on water-related issues in their communities, such as stormwater management or erosion.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



Rain Barrel Workshops



Shoreline Evaluation



Rain Garden Design

