



# The Colonial Master Gardener

## October 2022

A PUBLICATION OF JCCW MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DEBORAH BUSSERT, PRESIDENT

Greetings Master Gardeners and Happy Fall. Time to gear up for all those fall chores. But don't be too quick to cut down your perennials. Recent research has shown that many insects overwinter in the hollow stems of those plants, so leave at least 12 – 18 inches standing until early Spring. The insects will thank you and so will the birds. Now meet your incoming Board!



**President-elect:** with the loss of Donna Tierney who had been President-elect, Vickie Rockwell graciously agreed to take on the office. You all know that for the past two years, Vickie has been doing an outstanding job as Vice President-Administration, but you may not know her background. An engineer by training, Vickie retired from the position of Director of Investment Development and a member of the Investment Committee for a global industrial gas manufacturing corporation responsible for determining optimal North American investment opportunities. She has served on several boards in the past, including the American Association of Engineering Societies and the City of Houston Tax Incremental Re-investment Zone. She has been a Master Gardener for four years and she and her husband Terry have 2 children and 4 grandchildren who are all avid gardeners.

**Vice President-Administration:** Newly minted Master Gardener Christine Mason will take over from Vickie as Vice President-Administration. Christine was a business developer for the securities industry, where she both supervised high performing teams and built relationships with high profile clients. She also functioned as liaison with the NFL Players Association. Her technical skills in statistical analysis and methodologies will serve her well in this position. She has served on various boards and committees, including the Historic Commission and Historical Society. Christine and her husband have two grown children and enjoy biking, golfing, hiking and travel. Of course they are avid gardeners.

**Vice President-Communications:** Marion Guthrie has held the position of Vice President-Communications by appointment since we amended the By-laws to create this position, but again you may not be familiar with her background. Marion has a Master's degree in Communications and has worked in marketing her entire career, providing strategic direction, managing teams, launching multimillion dollar advertising programs and managing sales results. She has been on the board of the Philadelphia Chapter of Women in Communications and the Philadelphia Direct Marketing Association. She retired from her own successful consulting firm in 2018 and moved to Williamsburg to be closer to family.

**Vice President-Internal Education:** Debe Sineath, another member of the class of 2022, will be taking over this position from Bill Dichtel. Debe has held many positions on a number of non-profit boards, including leadership roles in the California Chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America. She has also held operations, sales and project management positions in several Fortune 500 companies where she learned important skills such as planning, organizing and contributing to the overall welfare of the organization.

**Vice President-Projects:** When Ruth Huber unfortunately had to step down from this position, Elizabeth Myers stepped up and has been appointed to fill the remainder of Ruth's term through 2023. Elizabeth was also a member of the powerhouse class of 2022 and has already made her mark on the Association in several ways. She retired in 2021 after working for a federal agency in Washington, D.C. for nearly 30 years. In her career, she held a variety of leadership positions including operations, marketing, event planning, training and risk management. She has also served as a Girl Scout and youth ministry leader, an elder and a member of the board of a child development center. In addition to her Master Gardener activities, Elizabeth served on the Richmond alumnae board for Delta Gamma and is a member of the Three Rivers Garden Club. She is proudly following in the footsteps of her parents who are also Master Gardeners and community volunteers in Little Rock, AR.

Many thanks to all of them, and to continuing Board members Dot Finnegan (Secretary), Linda Neilson (Treasurer) and Joanne Sheffield (VMGA Representative). I'm very pleased to have such a talented group of people to work with over the next year.

## 2022 JCCW MGA Board

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**Our Board Meets**  
on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30am, in Room B at the Williamsburg Regional Library, on Scotland Street.

Newsletter Editors: Marion Guthrie, Elizabeth Myers, and Katherine Sokolowsky

## OCTOBER 6, SPEAKER & BUSINESS MEETING

BY BILL DICHTEL, VP INTERNAL EDUCATION, CLASS OF 2018

**Trees, trees, and more trees** – This engaging lecture by Master Gardener and Tree Steward Rick Brown will be in the Auditorium of the Williamsburg Regional Library (515 Scotland St.) on **Thursday October 6 from 9am to 10 am**.

Open to all master gardeners and the public, Rick Brown will talk about the Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum and how a team of volunteer Master Gardener Tree Stewards has worked to create the Commonwealth's only Level II nationally certified arboretum. The project continues as volunteers work to qualify for Level III with 500 individual species of trees and woody shrubs identified, tagged, mapped, and inventoried for the public's enjoyment and education.

Don't miss this hour long look into the stories of the people who planted these trees, trees that have grown into what is now the largest group of National and State Champions assembled in any arboretum in Virginia!

Our business meeting follows the educational session after a brief intermission. You can claim in Better Impact an educational hour for the lecture and volunteer time for attending the business meeting. For those attending by Zoom, the link is available on the Better Impact front page, has been sent out by email, or is available here:

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/82228164522>



### November's Lecture & Business Meeting:

Thursday, November 3  
9:00am-11am  
Auditorium at the  
Williamsburg Library

#### Program:

Garden Immersion

#### Speaker:

Janet Fender,  
Master Gardener  
Class of 2019

Followed by Business Meeting

## BETTER IMPACT TIPS — LOG YOUR HOURS

BY CHRISTINE MASON, INCOMING VP ADMINISTRATION, CLASS OF 2022

It's important to log your volunteer hours for a few reasons. First, to be an active, *certified Master Gardener member*, you need to perform at least **20 hours of volunteer service per year**.

Second, Chapter Organizations are about **service to the community**. The state and the program's state sponsors (VCE and Virginia Tech) keep track of volunteer hours and benefits. JCC demonstrates that we're living up to our end of the bargain - volunteer service. Be reminded, **fun is a personal benefit**.

Finally, **risk management**. It protects you, the volunteer, if a lawsuit ensues from injury to an individual or damage to property. To ensure that you are covered, log your hours right away. You don't want someone to say, "you haven't volunteered!"

The tremendous difference that Virginia Cooperative Extension has made in the lives of Virginians has been due to the contributions of the many dedicated and tireless volunteers. Log your hours when you are leaving a project!!! Download the Better Impact app for convenience.

If you missed how to log hours via the Better Impact, click on this link - **September Newsletter**. It will take you to our September 2022's Newsletter. Scroll to the end and you'll find easy to understand directions on how to enter your hours into Better Impact. Now go log your hours!!!

(Compton Oak Photo Courtesy of Nancy Saputo)



## WATER WISE BOOTH AT THE JCC COMMUNITY WELLNESS FAIR

BY ELVIN CLAPP, WATER WISE  
PROJECT LEAD, CLASS OF 2018

Photo Credit: Elvin Clapp

*Assistant Social Services Director  
Barbara Watson (right) with Master  
Gardeners (left to right) Linda Neilson  
and Kay Clapp*

The Water Wise Team was busy preparing and hosting a tour of our Water Wise garden at the JCC Human Services Center (5249 Olde Towne Rd.) for the JCC Community Wellness Fair on September 10, 2022. The Fair was a great success with approximately 300 people visiting our Water Wise garden. Master Gardeners Kay Clapp and Linda Neilson had 57 adult visits to the JCCW Master Gardener booth and delighted over 35 children in a garden lesson on butterflies.

Project Lead and Master Gardener Elvin Clapp conducted 15 personalized tours where visitors showed special interest in the beautyberries, rain lilies, and coneflowers. Virginia State Senator Monte Mason stopped by the booth and expressed his support for the garden. The Water Wise team also connected with several Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders who shared an interest in organizing service projects to support the garden in the future.

As part of our mission to educate, the Master Gardeners provided copies of a new Water Wise brochure prepared by the team and printed in both English and Spanish. Another colorful handout they developed identified the blooms, berries, foliage, and stems during the garden's four seasons.

Kay Clapp also designed a special display on "Have You Spotted This?" focusing on the life cycle of the spotted lanternfly. This drew a lot of interest from attendees who indicated that this was their first exposure to this pest.

All in all, it was a great day to support the community and the Water Wise Team is looking forward to its next community event.



*Master Gardeners, Kay Clapp and Linda  
Neilson, assisting the Butterfly Makers*

## RECRUITING FOR OUR TRAINING CLASS OF 2023

BY JEN CAMPBELL, TRAINING CLASS PROJECT TEAM, CLASS OF 2016

Master Gardeners are our best source for recruiting new trainees. If you know someone who wants to take the training, please refer them to our website to sign up to get email updates [About Us! - JCCWilliamsburg Master Gardener Association \(jccwmg.org\)](https://www.jccwilliamsburg.org/master-gardener-association). Information on the training and next class can also be found there. *Online registration will open November 1, 2022. Class size is limited so urge your potential new training class member to register early.*



## THE ARC OF ABILITIES HAS FIRST 2022 FALL SESSION

BY CAROLYN STRINGER, THERAPEUTIC GARDENING PROJECT MEMBER, MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2012

It was a beautiful day to welcome the Arc of Abilities (AoA) group back to Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG) after our summer break. The AoA friends greeted Master Gardeners with clever cards they had created using herbs and other plants as puns! It was a wonderful surprise to start our session and greet old and new friends!

Karen Brooks and Barbara Floyd, project leads, created an interesting program based on the current growing season in the garden. We talked about our crops in the WBG, and Angela Cingale told us about pawpaws. These trees grow in the forests and parks in our area and have a tasty fruit. We learned how to recognize both the fruit and the tree. Barb Floyd showed plants from her garden, including the pomegranate flower and its small fruit. We all enjoyed smelling the flowers and learning more about late summer blooming plants.

Pat Crowe talked about rosemary and ways we can cook with this herb, including a trick of using it as skewers when grilling meats. There was plenty of told us rosemary to see, smell, and feel. There are several rosemary bushes in the garden which the AoA can use for future cooking adventures.

Before coming to the garden, AoA had made art pieces for a mobile which they assembled during the session. The mobiles depicted the pumpkin's growing cycle from seed to roots, to leaves and flowers, and finally to pumpkins. In addition, the group took a pumpkin home to try roasting the seeds with rosemary, joining these two program components.

To cap off a great session to the beginning of our fall meetings, we released black swallowtail butterflies into the garden. Angela brought them along with caterpillars and chrysalis from her garden. Karen Brooks planted fall seeds and plants for tending during our upcoming fall sessions.

Photo Credit: Carolyn Stringer



### In the Garden

Articles written by JCCW Master Gardeners  
Click on the title to go to the article

[Growing Indigenous Trees from Seed](#) by Elizabeth McCoy, Class of 2018

[Henbane, A Witch's Tale](#) by Michele Garrard, Class of 2022

[Replacing Non-Natives and Invasive Plants with Natives](#) by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, Class of 2015 with photos of colorful fall perennials by Jim Easton, Nature Photographer

## ECOLOGY CORNER - BY JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS, CLASS OF 2015

*Editor's note: Ecology Corner is a new feature in our newsletter authored by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis. Each month, Judy will be sharing valuable information with us on tips and practices that will help us be better land stewards in our own patches of earth.*

### FALL GARDENING

When I first moved to Williamsburg, I signed up for an Osher class about fall gardening. I was new to town and excited to hear just what I should be doing to get my yard ready for the winter.

Much to my surprise, much of the class was about leaving my leaves and not cutting back my spent flower heads. This was not going to go over well with my better half, Mr. Clean. Truth be told, I was not sold on the idea either. We had just read our 300-page HOA rules and this guidance did not seem in line with getting along with the neighbors.

We happily live in an HOA community and many of you do, too. What can you do to help maintain habitat for our overwintering insects while keeping everything neat enough to not get THE LETTER?

Some ideas include:

- When you cut back your flowers, leave the stems a little higher than you normally would. Stems provide homes for overwintering insects. When spring arrives and your plants start to sprout, you can cut them back after insects have emerged.
- Rather than mulching your leaves, rake them to your beds and leave them where they will decompose. Many of our moths spend the pupa stage wrapped up in dead leaves and emerge in the spring.
- If you have space in your yard, keep the branches, stems, and twigs that you do trim in a brush pile. It will protect insects through the winter and will provide cover for birds.
- Insects are on the decline and have been for decades. Creating habitat for them will help improve numbers.

What can you do this year to help our wildlife?

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## BEATLE PROBLEM! - BY RICK BROWN, CLASS OF 2017

Imagine our surprise to find we have a serious Beatle problem in one of our MG Demonstration Gardens at Colonial Williamsburg. A remedy is being sought. This looks like a job for the HelpDesk!



Photo credit: Rick Brown took this photo on Francis St. The original Abbey Road was taken by the late Scottish photographer Iain Macmillan who stood on a ladder in the middle of the street while a policeman blocked the traffic. The whole thing was done in roughly 10 minutes. The crossing was outside the Abbey Road studios in London, where the Beatles recorded their albums.

## LOGO WEAR IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

BY LINDA BECKER, CLASS OF 2022

Holiday gifts! Does this thought thrust anxiety upon you? I know you lie awake hoping for divine inspiration for the perfect gift for your master gardener. Relieve your angst by visiting the **LOGO GEAR tab on the Master Gardener webpage ([iccwmq.org](http://iccwmq.org))**.

Have you seen the lovely red jacket that will keep your gardener toasty during pruning season? The master gardener in your life can certainly use a fresh T-shirt. An insulated glass or flask etched with the gardener's name will be the BEST stocking stuffer. Relax, this holiday season and click the logo gear tab *soon to avoid shipping delays*.



From [our online catalog](#)

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## PLANT RESCUE IN COLBY SWAMP, JOLLY POND'S WATERSHED,

BY DR. DONNA WARE

Last spring, Master Gardener Harry Fahl's friend invited him to rescue any plant material that would be useful to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG) from the property where he was building a house on Jolly Pond Road.

The house site is on a ridge above a small tributary that feeds into the head of Jolly Pond, and the parcel includes adjacent bottomland of that tributary. Jolly Pond was built around 200 years ago by damming the Colby Swamp tributary to Gordon Creek. A portion of Colby Swamp lies within the boundaries of Freedom Park.

Donna Ware and Pat Murphy of WBG accompanied Harry to the site on July 26. By that time, the house site had already been cleared, so they scouted the bottomland portion where there was evidence of heavy browsing and grazing of the vegetation by deer.

Golden ragwort, lady fern, cinnamon fern, pawpaw, and Virginia snakeroot, all plants that deer do not savor, were present under a canopy of red maple, green ash, and swamp chestnut oak, with some American hornbeam in the understory. Flowering stems of the small green wood orchid were peppered among the golden ragworts.

The stems, leaves and the small greenish to whitish flowers of this species are not easy to spot, especially when they are among golden ragworts. So, perhaps the latter provided significant cover for this petite native orchid when the white-tailed grazers steer clear of the golden ragworts as they pass through the ravine.

White turtlehead, Indian cucumber-root, and sessile bellwort were three herbaceous species that appeared to have been reduced to very small numbers and diminutive stature in this heavily deer-affected, well-drained ravine bottom. Unlike native orchids, the probability of successful transplanting of these species is relatively high, and they are slated to be rescued to appropriate native plant habitats within the (deer-fenced) Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

A second native orchid was in flower that day on this property. A handsome cluster of downy rattlesnake-plantain was nestled at the very base of a tree on the wooded slope above the ravine floor. Placement of a deer enclosure around this local patch will be recommended to the landowner.

## VMGA REPORT- BY JOANNE SHEFFIELD, VMGA REPRESENTATIVE, CLASS OF 2011

**WE'RE HOSTING THE BI-MONTHLY MEETING!** - Saturday, October 8th is the bi-monthly meeting of the Virginia Master Gardener Association and we're the hosts! VMGA members from our unit have been invited to attend. Unfortunately, we could not extend in-person invitations to the general membership due to space limitations but members can attend via Zoom. If you are a nonmember and would like to attend please contact me, [josheffie@yahoo.com](mailto:josheffie@yahoo.com).

**STATE FAIR HAPPENINGS** -We had a beautiful day at the State Fair Tuesday, September 27th. The Master Gardener booth's theme was Decomposers with information on composting complete with a vermicomposting bin. To the dismay of some and the joy of others, the Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, which were displayed last year, were regrettably cut from this year's program. Often mistaken for pests, the *Madagascar hissing cockroaches* are not pests. They live on forest floors where they forage for decaying plant material. They're decomposers!

The photo of our booth includes these Master Gardeners who made our participation possible, from right to left: Gary Streb, Tiffeni Goesel, Marty Oakes, Anne Nielson, Ruth Huber, back of Mary Ann Kimminau, Joanne Sheffield. Other volunteers not pictured were Deb Bussert and Angela Cingale (photographer).



### HURRY, NATURE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED TIME!

We are offering scholarships to the 2023 sessions of Nature Camp in Vesuvius, VA. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who love learning about nature and are presently in grades 5-12 to spend two weeks this coming summer in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Tell your friends!

But scholarship applications to Nature Camp at Vesuvius, VA are only accepted until this October 31, 2022! So hurry! There is only one scholarship form to complete on the [Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists](http://www.historicrivers.org) website ([www.historicrivers.org](http://www.historicrivers.org)). Look for the Nature Camp Scholarships tab. For additional information and questions, please contact Rick Brown at [ricklin46@cox.net](mailto:ricklin46@cox.net).

Scholarship assistance is made available through the collaboration of these organizations:

- Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists
- John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Natie Plant Society
- Williamsburg Bird Club
- Williamsburg Garden Club
- Green Spring Garden Club, Inc.
- James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association



# CLASSIFIEDS

**MENTORS FOR NEW MEMBERS WANTED**—We have new members moving into our Association from other Master Gardener units and we are seeking mentors for them. If you like meeting people, sharing your enthusiasm for gardening and helping people to feel welcome, contact Vickie Rockwell, varockwell@outlook.com. She is happy to answer your questions and match you with one of our new members!

## SEEKING MISSING BOOKS

The Master Gardener Resource Library located in the Help Desk office, 3127 Forge Road, Toano is missing these books:

Book Title	Author	Pub. Date
<i>Taylor's Guide to Shrubs</i>	Taylor Guides	1987
<i>Taylor's Guide to Perennials</i>	Barbara Ellis	1991
<i>Diseases of Trees and Shrubs</i>	Wayne Sinclair	1995
<i>Success with Water-Saving Gardens</i>	Graham Clarke	2007



If you have one of the Library's volumes or would like to donate one of these books, please let Chere' Harper ([bluecardinal1@yahoo.com](mailto:bluecardinal1@yahoo.com)) know and we'll make arrangements for its delivery to our Library so we can all enjoy it. Many thanks!

## NIGHT OWLS NEEDED



Are you a night owl or a weekend warrior? That's a Master Gardener who prefers to complete their volunteer hours at night when the rest of us are sleeping? We're looking for you!

Please let us know if you are out there and we can plan interesting tasks that can be completed in non-traditional hour time slots.

Contact Elizabeth Myers ([vp-projects@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-projects@jccwmg.org)) and let her know who you are, when you are available and any special skills you would like to offer up!

### Resources

**Website:** [jccwmg.org](http://jccwmg.org)  
Dave Banks, webmaster

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/JCCWMasterGardeners](https://www.facebook.com/JCCWMasterGardeners)  
Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, Facebook editor

**Archived Newsletters:** <https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/newsletters/>

**Better Impact (BI):** <https://app.betterimpact.com/Login>  
Christine Mason, [cjvmason@gmail.com](mailto:cjvmason@gmail.com)

**Looking for Hours? Opportunities Calendar:** see opportunities tab on BI's front page.

## PLANT SALE PROJECT LEADS NEEDED

The 2023 Annual Plant Sale is seeking project leads!

This annual event is our biggest fundraiser of the year and allows us to fund all of the volunteer projects and community engagements we manage across our area. The sale itself is a huge event for our local community giving the Master Gardeners exposure to the community with a fun day of plant shopping and answering questions from the gardening public. We are in need of several leaders to get the sale planning started and subcommittees formed.

Last year's plant sale was a wild success due to the hard work of all volunteers and especially the planning and project management prowess of Donna Tierney. Donna's family located and returned the planning materials she created so we would have her roadmap for this event. This coming year, Leaders for the 2023 plant sale will be able to honor her legacy while leveraging her plans and recommendations for changes.

If you are interested in leading this essential event, contact Elizabeth Myers ([egmyers@comcast.net](mailto:egmyers@comcast.net)).







Queen Elizabeth passing the Orr (formerly Reid) Garden in 2007.

## Tree Stewards Now Accepting Applications for 2023 Classes!

Classes begin January 4, 2023 meeting on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm through March 22, 2023. The location varies from Williamsburg to Hampton.

Application dates are October 1 to November 15, 2022. A maximum of 24 students will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Cost of the course is \$75 due at application.

Applications are available on Better Impact with additional instructions and information.

### Direct inquiries to:

Peninsula Advanced Training Coordinator,  
Carol King, [cdkinggardener@hotmail.com](mailto:cdkinggardener@hotmail.com)



## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

for November, 2022 is

**Wednesday, October 26.**

Send your submissions to either:

Elizabeth Myers,

[vp-projects@jccwmq.org](mailto:vp-projects@jccwmq.org)

or

Marion Guthrie,

[vp-communications@jccwmq.org](mailto:vp-communications@jccwmq.org)

If you know of a Master Gardener who is experiencing difficult times or deserves recognition, please let us know by contacting Dot Finnegan, at [secretary@jccwmq.org](mailto:secretary@jccwmq.org)

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