



The Colonial Master Gardener

November 2022

A PUBLICATION OF JCCW MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DEBORAH BUSSERT, PRESIDENT, CLASS OF 2016



Greetings to all! Now that our gardening season is more or less over, it is time to start thinking about next year. Don't forget to save those seed catalogs that are going to start coming in the mail for the 2023 training class – after you are done perusing them and planning your own garden.

A big thank you to all project leaders who completed their project renewal forms on time and also to those who, along with VP of Projects Elizabeth Myers, tweaked their budget requests so that our Association budget for 2023 will be in balance. The budget, as approved by the Board at our meeting last week, will be presented to the members at the November 3 business meeting for approval.

In preparing for 2023 project approvals, I was really impressed by both the number and variety of our unit's projects. Depending on how one counts, we have between 25 and 30 active projects within our Association. They include school gardens, demonstration and teaching gardens, programs for those with special needs, community outreach programs, speakers and much more. These projects are an extraordinary contribution to our community. Well done all!

Speaking of the budget, of course you are all aware that the main source of revenue to fund our projects and other activities is our Plant Sale. This year the sale will again be held at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden in Freedom Park. The set up date is Friday May 5 and the sale will be held on Saturday, May 6. Mark your calendars! This is an "all hands on deck" event.

We need everyone to participate, whether as a co-leader, sub-committee chair, propagator, potter-upper (is that a thing?) or volunteer on set up and sale day. If we do not have a successful sale we will not be able to fulfill our mission. So please – say yes when you are contacted and asked to pitch in. We need you!

We recently learned that the James City County Parks and Recreation Department will soon be requiring all Facility Rental Agreements for the use of the JCC Rec Center, Freedom Park Interpretive Center, Frink Community Center and Veterans Park be submitted by the VCE James City County Office only. This means that all reservation requests must be submitted by Sandra Kee; the County will not longer be accepting reservations from staff or individual volunteers. The schedule for making reservations and detailed information about how to do so will be posted on Better Impact.

Many thanks to all of you for making our Association so successful. I know I say this a lot, but I am so proud to be a part of this group.

To quote Rumi, "Let the beauty we love be what we do." *Deb*

November's Membership Meeting
WORKING NATIVE PLANTS INTO YOUR LANDSCAPE
with Judy Kinshaw-Ellis,
November 3, at 9:00 AM at the Library and via Zoom

Learn about native plants, and how the addition of even a few natives to your landscape can make a difference when Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, a member of our JCCW Master Gardener Association and an avid student of native plants, speaks on "Working Native Plants into Your Landscape" at our monthly lecture on Thursday, November 3, 9:00 am to 10 am, at the Williamsburg Regional Library and by Zoom (link here: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83862412909>).

December's Membership Meeting:

Thursday, December 1

9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Auditorium at the

Williamsburg Regional Library

Program:

Business Meeting Followed by
Graduation Ceremony, Class of
2022

**Adjourn to the Stryker Center for
Reception Immediately Following**

2022 JCCW MGA Board

President:
Deborah Bussert
president@jccwmg.org

President Elect:
Vacant

VP Administration:
Vickie Rockwell
vp-admin@jccwmg.org

VP Projects:
Elizabeth Myers
vp-projects@jccwmg.org

VP Internal Ed:
Bill Dichtel
vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org

VP Communications:
Marion Guthrie vp-communications@jccwmg.org

Secretary:
Dot Finnegan
secretary@jccwmg.org

Treasurer:
Linda Neilson
treasurer@jccwmg.org

VMGA Rep:
Joanne Sheffield
vmga-rep@jccwmg.org

VMGA Rep, Alternate:
Marilyn Riddle
vmga-alt@jccwmg.org

Past President:
Marty Oakes
past-president@jccwmg.org

VCEANR Agent:
Forrest Hobbs
vceagent@jccwmg.org

Webmaster:
Dave Banks
dfbanks2@gmail.com

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

LINDA NEILSON - A TREASURE INDEED FOR WATER WISE



BY ELVIN & KAY CLAPP, WATER WISE PROJECT LEADS, CLASS OF 2018



Linda Neilson joined the Water Wise team in March 2022 and hit the ground running. She was looking for a team that was easy to communicate with and where it was fun to work. She found her calling. In the course seven months, Linda attended 15 work sessions and made valuable contributions to landscape.

She is the first to volunteer for special assignments and was a tremendous help at the recent wellness fair held on site. Her pleasant demeanor, thoughtfulness, and plant knowledge are greatly appreciated. She often thanks the team leads for providing an environment where each team member is appreciated and has flexibility to select what tasks and what parts of the garden to work with.

But that just scratches the surface as to what Linda has contributed to Water Wise so far this year. She designed and produced a new color brochure that is printed in English and Spanish. She also created a color "insert" on blooms, berries, foliage, and stems in the garden during each season.

She developed and maintains a database of plants which includes their common Spanish names. Another significant accomplishment is master label maker for our copper plant tags. She purchased the label maker, researched corresponding Spanish names, and vetted the Spanish names with several sources.

And she is a stickler for detail, reminding us that if we do it right the first time, we don't have to redo our work. We are grateful for Linda's help as we move in the direction of educating the public about water wise principles.



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

Earlier this year, Marilyn and I (with Board agreement) arranged for our Unit to hold the bimonthly meeting of the Virginia Master Gardener Association in Williamsburg for the October meeting. It would be in person and by Zoom. We were concerned that there might be too many people coming from other parts of the state to invite all of our Master Gardeners, so only VMGA members were included. As it turned out, there was not a great in-person turnout, but who knew?! For that matter, the Zoom attendance could have been higher. At any rate, Georgi Hall, the VMGA President, did write the following message to us:

“Thank you for hosting VMGA’s October Bi-Monthly Meeting at the Stryker Center. The Meeting room worked out well for both our in-person and zoom attendees. It was great having a separate room for coffee, morning snacks and lunch and an area for displaying and selling our fund-raising merchandise.

We appreciated Marty Oakes welcoming us and introducing your Extension Agent, Forrest Hobbs, the Mayor of Williamsburg, Doug Pons, and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for James City County, John McGlennon. It was nice of Forrest Hobbs, Doug Pons and John McGlennon to take the time to meet us and tell us more about your unit, city of Williamsburg and James City County.

We appreciated the opportunity to meet Marty and other members of your unit and all the work your unit did in hosting us. We love our tote bags and look forward to seeing our bulbs bloom in the Spring.

Colonial Williamsburg, through Volunteer Coordinator, Jan Bomar, generously donated tote bags for everyone. There also were folk art puzzles which we raffled off. Marilyn purchased some daffodil bulbs from Brent and Becky’s which were included in each tote bag.

For those attending by Zoom, the meeting got off to a quiet start as the sound was not working. I was watching on my iPad and was affected by that and also by the speakers whose voices did not project loudly enough. It seems that the December and February VGMA meetings will be held only by Zoom. There is hope that a unit will step up to host the April meeting. June’s annual meeting has not been determined because this is also the time of the International Master Gardener College. The IMGC will be held in Kansas. Loudoun County has agreed to host in August.

Marilyn and I would like to thank those who helped us with this meeting—Marty Oakes, Carolyn Stringer, Angela Cingale, Vickie Rockwell, Gary Streb, Scott Wolz, Bill Dichtel, Dave Banks and Forrest Hobbs. Your assistance was most appreciated!



Top Left: Gary Streb with VCE State Coordinator, Kathleen Reed

Top Right: VMGA President Georgi Hall, Carolyn Stringer, Joanne Sheffield, and Angela Cingale

Bottom Left: Scott Wolz with his former Loudoun County colleague, VMGA Vice President Nelda Purcell

Photo credits: Carolyn Stringer and Gary Streb



PAYING YOUR DUES ONLINE IS EASY!

BY LINDA NEILSON, TREASURER, CLASS OF 2018

Our mission statement says it all. Our goal as Master Gardeners is to “educate the public in our communities...on the best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship”. Our membership dues play a vital role in supporting that goal. In fact, our Association’s source of operating income is dependent on our dues, donations, and our plant sale, which is our annual fundraiser to support our mission.

A look at the 2022 Association budget reveals that, as of September 2022, income breaks down into three major parts, 46% plant sale, 28% dues, and 26% donations (with some miscellaneous income). These sources of income fund our projects and provide us with the dollars we need to keep the Association operating, and make it possible for us to support scholarships, memorial funds, and special projects.

To remain in our Association, you, our members (active and inactive) pay annual dues of \$25.00 and the deadline for payment is this upcoming January 1st. Last year, our webmaster, Dave Banks, developed editable e-forms which make it easy to **submit your dues online** right from our website and eliminates paper waste and mailing costs.

Those e-forms are located here: <https://jccwmq.org/wordpress/mq-dues-payment-2022/>, on the jccwmq.org website’s home page in the Membership Tab. They can also be accessed on our Better Impact system (<https://app.betterimpact.com>) under the “Links” page. Of course, you can pay by check and mail it to JCCWMGA at PO Box 1951, Williamsburg, VA 23187. Contact Linda Neilson, Treasurer at lezelln@cox.net for more information.

The Association’s annual dues are \$25.00 with payment options which include check, cash, credit card and PayPal. (There is a nominal transaction fee when using PayPal.) We collect dues in the October-December timeframe and trust that you will pay your dues in a timely manner to fund the upcoming year’s budget.

For more information the MGA Dues and Donations Procedures is a document that provides detailed descriptions on how to fill out the forms. The document is located on our Better Impact system (<https://app.betterimpact.com>) under the “Files” folder. Then go to Governance and click on Dues and Donations Procedures.

By paying dues and giving of your volunteer time, you are the reason the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association continues to make a difference.

OUR MISSION

The James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association (JCCWMGA) is a volunteer-driven non-profit that supports the outreach mission of the Virginia Cooperative Extension by utilizing unbiased research-based information to educate the public in our communities (James City, Williamsburg, New Kent counties) on the best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship.

RECRUITING FOR OUR 2023 CLASS

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 \(jccwmq.org\)](#). Information on the training and next class can also be found there.

Online registration opened November 1, 2022. Class size is limited so urge your potential new training class member to register early.

HISTORIC TRIANGLE LEARNING GARDEN, FALL UPDATE

BY BILL DICHTEL, PROJECT CO-LEAD, CLASS OF 2018

Three Full Seasons

One of the great delights of living around Williamsburg is not only the beautiful, historic scenery, but the fact that living in USDA Climate Zone 7B allows us three full seasons to raise vegetables, herbs and flowers. We take total advantage of that at the Historic Triangle Learning Garden. This fall our gardeners harvested summer vegetables including squash, tomatoes, and cucumbers and planted fall crops of kale, lettuce, collard greens, cabbage, carrots, sugar snap peas and more.

Fall Planting Challenges

Our fall planting was not without setbacks, with small critters feasting on our crops, but after fortifying our defenses we have successfully thwarted them. The third week of October was unseasonably cold, but luckily we avoided hard frost and our growing and harvesting continued. Nature has been stingy with rain this year and as a result we've done more hand watering throughout the summer and fall. Despite the challenges, everyone pitched in, and we got it done. Gardeners had success with their individual plots, taking home good fresh produce.

430 Pounds of Fresh Produce

Led by Kim Silver-Perry and Renee Kingan, the harvest and delivery leads on our food security team, we have been able to raise and deliver over 430 pounds of fresh produce to FISH and House of Mercy for distribution to those in need. As our fall crops quit producing, we are replacing them with cover crops, primarily crimson clover to "fix" nitrogen from the air to fertilize the soil for the spring 2023 planting season.

We Received a Microgrant!

As we previously reported, we have other big developments in progress at the Learning Garden. We applied and received a VCE "microgrant" to help us expand the garden. The grant will allow us to almost double our gardening space as well as to develop a "Fragrance Garden" to benefit the children served by Child Developmental Resources (CDR). CDR is the non-profit agency that helps families whose children face developmental delays, lack of resources, homelessness, or other special needs. We plan a border garden primarily composed of herbs to provide a fragrance garden and an "aroma experience" for those children and their families.

Our New Garden is Owned by the City

As part of the preparation for the expansion, we discovered that the land designated for our garden's expansion is owned by the City of Williamsburg. The land provides access to the woods behind the area. We have worked with the City officials and the City legal department who have now executed a license for use of the land going forward. Our next step will be to begin construction of the fencing around the new garden which will be necessary because of the heavy animal populations including deer and groundhogs in the area.

Our Garden is Twice as Big!

With the added space, we hope that by February 2023, we'll be able to involve more community members and more Master Gardeners as part of our project. Stay tuned for more information and let us know if you have an interest in possibly getting a bed in the garden during the coming year. Contact Bill Dichtel (bill.dichtel@gmail.com) for more information.

**Native flowers
and pollinators in
the Historic
Triangle Learning
Garden in
Summer/Fall of
2022**



Photo credit: Bill Dichtel



Photo credit: Michele Girrard



THE JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT CAFÉ GARDEN UPDATE!

BY ANGELA CINGALE, PROJECT LEAD, CLASS OF 2000

The Jamestown Settlement Café Garden had a very good start with wonderful soil and compost which helped the plants in the various sections of the garden bloom and grow like they were on “steroids”! The Black and Blue Salvia, Liatris, Joe Pye Weed, Green Echinacea, Ironweed, Solidago, Boneset, Clematis, and Purple Passion vines grew beyond our expectations and are still producing flowers.

The Herb area had a volunteer grape tomato plant and so far, it has produced over 350 delicious tomatoes (we stopped counting). The Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, Thyme, and Basil went to the Café Kitchen, on a weekly basis to be used in their recipes. However, recently the Swallowtail butterflies laid their eggs, and we had caterpillars that ate the plants down to the root. We would take these “cats” home and a couple of days later, they were back!

The Basil, Lemon Grass, Hyssop, Garlic, and Onion Chives are still producing well. We recently installed some Ornamental Peppers for added color and they’re happy in the sunshine. Within the next couple of weeks, we’ll plant some ornamental cabbage and pansies for additional color during the winter months. Our goal is to have a colorful, viable garden year-round for staff and visitors to enjoy. Susan Carlile, Co-chair, created the plant markers for all the plants in the garden and everyone loves them.

We are already planning some new native plants for next year and are starting our volunteer work at 9 am and have cut down to one day a week due to the cooler temps.

Visit this garden gem. See the Opportunities Calendar in Better Impact for days and times to volunteer or contact me, Angela Cingale (arcingale@cox.net).



Photo credit:
Angela
Cingale

WATER STEWARD TRAINING - UPDATE

BY JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS, MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2015

Living between two major rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay is a daily reminder of how much water impacts our lives. The Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and one of the largest in the world. The health of the Bay is important on many levels and our new class of approximately 15 water stewards is learning what actions citizens can take to help improve water quality in our region.

Classes launched in October and experts from across the state are teaching the class on a wide range of topics. The course will include lessons on soil, watersheds, pesticides, and well water testing. Students will also learn about constructing rain barrels and rain gardens and will learn about living shorelines. The training also includes a field trip to area stormwater facilities. Each Water Steward will also develop and present a project either individually or as a team.

The training committee for this class has developed an interesting and wide-ranging curriculum and includes three of our Master Gardeners: Ginny Cranford, Patsy McGrady, and Gary Streb.



Photo credit: Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

Removing trees in a Resource Protection Area (RPA) requires permitting because it increases the amount of sediment that runs into our streams and rivers.

TREE STEWARDS APPLICATIONS FOR 2023 CLASSES DEADLINE IS NOV 15!

Classes begin January 4, 2023 meeting on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm through March 22, 2023. The location varies. A maximum of 24 students will be accepted. Cost of the course is \$75. Applications are available on Better Impact

Direct inquiries to:
Peninsula Advanced Training
Coordinator, Carol
King, cdkinggardener@hotmail.com



The Master Gardeners working in the Catherine Orr garden off Francis St. in Colonial Williamsburg on a Monday in mid-October had a wonderful surprise from a celosia which had a large unusual bloom. At times the variety that grows from its self-seeding surprises us. Like this one which looks a bit like the coxcomb on a rooster don't you think?

*ECOLOGY CORNER! NATIVE PLANT OPTIONS FOR FALL INTEREST

BY JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS, MASTER
NATURALIST, TREE STEWARD, MASTER
GARDENER CLASS OF 2015

Native plants save lives! We can all help increase the numbers of native birds and insects around our properties by planting more native plants in our yards. Living in Virginia, we have a wide native plant selection that can fit beautifully into a more formal front yard. Fall is a good time to plant, and we have some natives that bloom into November.

For example, this fall, take a look at how many insects are on your asters versus how many are on your chrysanthemums. Asters do not have the color variety, but cultivars come in several shades of purple and lavender. Read the tags on your asters because some varieties are short and some can be six feet tall. You may have space for both, but you need to know which one you have.

Small: Aromatic Aster, *S.oblongifolium*

Medium: Smooth Aster, *S.laeve*

Goldenrod gets a bad rap in the fall because people think it causes hay fever—it doesn't. Ragweed is the culprit. Goldenrod also has many different varieties and ranges from about 18 inches to seven feet! Some goldenrods are pretty well behaved while others will happily spread throughout your garden. Be sure to read the tags and read plant descriptions carefully before buying.

Small: Blue Stemmed Goldenrod, *S.caesia*

Medium: Gray Goldenrod, *S.nemoralis*

Large: Rough Goldenrod, *S.rugosa*

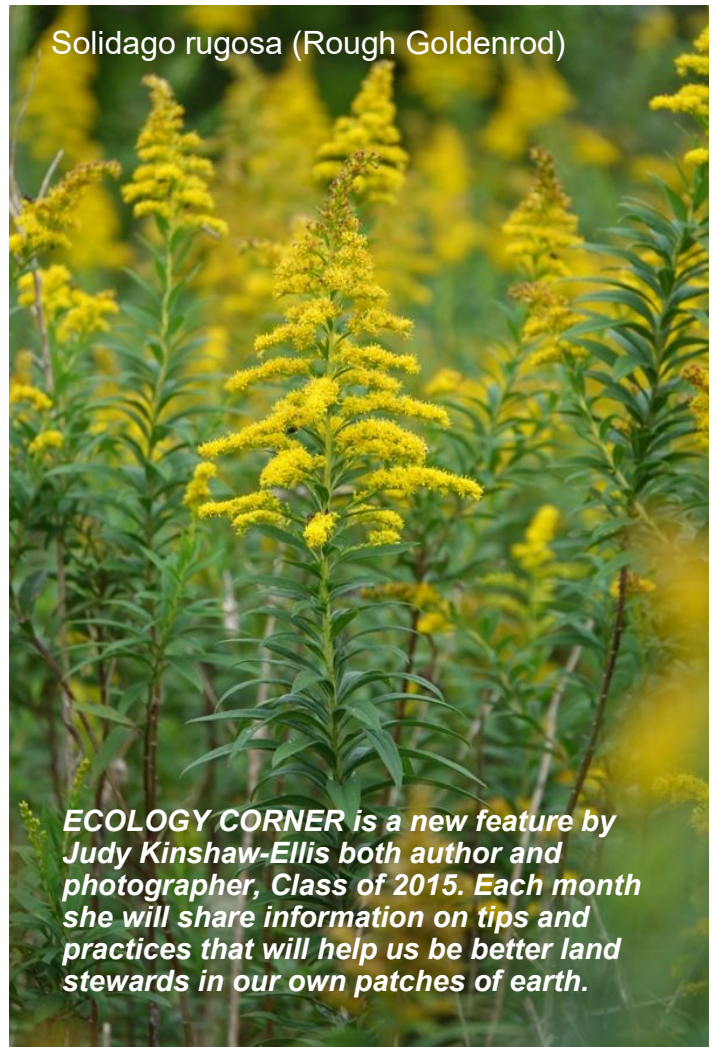
Grasses are a plant group that is often ignored by flower gardeners, but they can add interest and texture to your beds. Some grasses can be very tall as well, but look for varieties like Little Bluestem or Pink Muhly grass if you are looking for something shorter.

Medium: Pink Muhly, *M.capillaris* (1 to 3 feet)

Medium: Little Bluestem, *S.scoparium* (18 to 24 inches)

If you want to add some natives to your garden, fall is a good time to plant plugs, larger plants, or sow seeds. Watch for native plant sales across the region.

Solidago rugosa (Rough Goldenrod)



ECOLOGY CORNER is a new feature by Judy Kinshaw-Ellis both author and photographer, Class of 2015. Each month she will share information on tips and practices that will help us be better land stewards in our own patches of earth.

LET YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING DO SOME GOOD!



Are you a big fan of our Association and wish you could do more to support our projects? Consider starting your online shopping this holiday season at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). This is a simple way for you to support us every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. There are millions of organizations you can choose from but we hope you'll choose us!



Photo credit: Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PLANNED IN FREEDOM PARK

BY JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS, HOTWATER PROJECT, MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2015

The Hotwater Project, which has focused on adding additional trees to the woods surrounding the Settlement area at Freedom Park, will expand next season by adding regular workdays to plant and water both new trees and some of the young trees that have been added the past few years. The area also has some new medicinal perennials that were added this fall.

The big news in the Settlement is that Freedom Park has won a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry to install an outdoor classroom. The classroom will have seating for approximately 40 people and will have a white board. If we have any woodworkers in our group, please let me know if you are interested in working on the white board, which will be protected by a roof. It should be a nice addition for people who are presenting programs or giving tours of the arboretum. It is scheduled to be completed by next summer.

Next spring, we will be adding more seedlings of plants that should provide food. Hazelnut and chokeberry plants are on order as well as a few other seedlings. We will be planting some of the plants in patches, which will make them easier to fence in and to water.

Additionally, the raised beds that line the pathway to the second and third cabin are being replaced and the soil will be replenished. This will give us the opportunity to add some plants to those gardens. Deer browsing has been an issue in the past and the deer are still here, but we would like to investigate whether there are food crops or medicinal plants that are less appealing to the deer.

If you are interested in working on this project, please send an email to kinshawellis@gmail.com even if you have contacted me before.

LOGO WEAR IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

BY LINDA BECKER, MASTER GARDENER 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 (jccwmq.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 on jccwmq.org and avoid shipping delays. Allow 3 weeks for delivery.



Click on this link to see [our online catalog](#)



CLASSIFIEDS

RECRUITING LEADERS!

The 2023 Plant Sale is scheduled for May 6, 2023, with set up the day before. Our location will be the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. The Board has been recruiting Master Gardeners to fill a variety of roles and there's good news.

We have several MGs who have committed to the planning team! The best news? Several past plant sale team leaders have committed to being advisors to this year's teams.

We still need leaders to serve as overall sale and committee chairs. Three of the key open leadership roles are described below:

Plant Intake and Quality Control: This team is responsible for ensuring the plants collected for the sale are healthy, well-watered, and suitable for the sale. The majority of this work takes place on the day before the sale. Hours for collecting plants can be set by the subcommittee.

Plant Pricing: This team is responsible for assessing all plants against the post size guidelines and placing a pricing stick into the pot. Most work will occur on the day before the sale.

Volunteer Coordinator: This team is responsible for assessing committee volunteer needs for the set up and sale days as well as setting up the volunteer sign up application and making sure the slots are filled.

If you are interested in any of these leadership roles, or any other role on the plant sale planning team, please let Elizabeth Myers (egmyers@comcast.net) know!



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

for December, 2022 is

Monday, November 21.

Send your submissions to:

Elizabeth Myers,

egmyers@comcast.net

or

Marion Guthrie,

marion.guthrie@gmail.com

Co-hosts Needed!

Internal Education is looking for a couple of volunteers to act as co-hosts on our monthly Membership Zoom call in 2023.

Simply log into Zoom at 8:45 am, accept the co-host designation & then let folks into the call from the Zoom waiting room.

It's easy & you can count the time as a volunteer! Interested? Please contact Debe Sineath, VP Internal Education (2023) at dkineath@yahoo.com or 610-724-6749 (cell) if you can help.

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@jccwmg.org

Resources

Website: jccwmg.org

Dave Banks, webmaster

Facebook: 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

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

Newsletter Editors:

Marion Guthrie, marion.guthrie@gmail.com

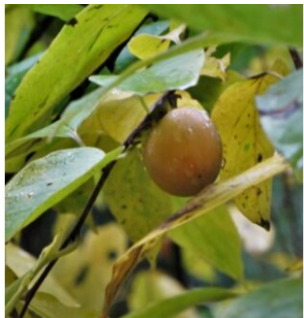
Elizabeth Myers, egmyers@comcast.net

Katherine Sokolowsky, katherinesoko@gmail.com

In the Garden

Articles written by JCCW Master Gardeners

Find more articles on our website (jccwmg.org) in the blog.



Foraging for Autumn Harvests

By Elizabeth McCoy, Master Gardener, Class of 2018

Have you ever noticed how the strawberries you pick on a warm May afternoon taste much better than the huge red berries you buy at the grocery store? Everyone who has grown ([read more: https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/foraging-for-autumn-harvests/](https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/foraging-for-autumn-harvests/)) ...



Predicting the Weather, An Age Old Question Considered

By Michele Garrard, Master Gardener, Class of 2022

According to Greek Mythology, pomegranates are responsible for the change of seasons because Persephone, Zeus' daughter, was kidnapped by Hades, and tricked by him into eating six pomegranate seeds. As a result she was condemned to spend six months every year at his side in the underworld ([read more: https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/predicting-the-weather/](https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/predicting-the-weather/)).



From History and Legends to My Own Front Yard: The Beautiful Oak

By Elizabeth McCoy, Master Gardener, Class of 2018.

At the intersection of myth, fantasy, and living reality stands a towering oak tree, covered in plump acorns. More than 400 species of oaks grow across temperate and tropical regions of North America, ([read more: https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/from-history-and-legends-to-my-own-front-yard-the-beautiful-oak/](https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/from-history-and-legends-to-my-own-front-yard-the-beautiful-oak/))...



Bye, Bye Birdies By Jim Easton, Nature Photographer

Our kids getting on the school bus aren't the only things that are on the move this fall. More than 40 species of birds, are migrating from our yards and gardens. Here are some ways we can help. ([read more: https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/p7960previewtrue/](https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/p7960previewtrue/))....

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.