



The Colonial Master Gardener

December 2022

A PUBLICATION OF
JCCW MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DEBORAH BUSSERT, PRESIDENT, CLASS OF 2016



Greeting Fellow Master Gardeners! Can any of us believe that 2022 is nearly over? What glorious fall color we had this year! In particular, I have never seen such wonderful displays on the many Crape myrtle trees planted around town. That was a real treat.

Many congratulations to our Class of 2022 who completed the requirements to become full-fledged Master Gardeners in near record time. They have already made a big difference in our Association with their energy and enthusiasm. Class members have logged over 2500 hours this year, participated in nearly every project on the books and eagerly stepped into leadership roles.

Our current VP of Projects and next year's VP of Internal Education and VP of Administration are all 2022 graduates, and others have become co-leads of several projects. We will be celebrating the Class of 2022 along with the upcoming holidays at our membership meeting on Thursday, December 1.

The success of each new class, of course, is due in large part to the fantastic training team headed up for the past several years by Jen Campbell. Jen has been ably assisted by Pam Arnold, Sue Barton, Kathy Briggs, Jill Burruss, Wendy Hamrick, Pam Mageland and Cheryl Roettger, and the entire team has been supported by VCE Agent Forrest Hobbs and VP of Internal Education Bill Dichtel.

Many, many thanks to all of you for your hard work, enthusiasm, and constant searching for ways to improve our training classes. As I write this the 2023 class is filling up fast and I am sure we will have the same excellent results in 2023, when the team will be headed by Pam Mageland and Sue Barton.

As reported by Rick Brown, Nature Camp scholarships have been awarded to two local high school students, funded by our Association because of your generous donations. We will invite these students to report on their experiences sometime next year. Thank you to all who donated. We know how important it is that young people have these opportunities.

Unfortunately, I will not be with you at the December Association meeting because I will be on my way to San Francisco for a weekend with my daughter. President-elect Vickie Rockwell will run the meeting in my absence. Now that most of us have put our gardens to bed at least for a few weeks, take time to relax and rejuvenate yourself. Soon enough, those garden catalogs will be arriving, and we will be looking for spaces where we can tuck in just one more plant.

Happy Holidays to all, and I will see you in January! **Deb**



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. Join us!

Newsletter Editors: Marion Guthrie & Elizabeth Myers.

DEB BUSSERT RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE



Our president, Deborah Bussert, was recently nominated by the Williamsburg Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for a DAR Community Service award.

The nomination, made in recognition of her service not only to the Association but also to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and Freedom Park Arboretum, was submitted to the State Chair and was approved. Deb received the award at the Chapter's monthly meeting on November 1.

PRESERVING OUR PAST WITH THE WHRA BY ELIZABETH MYERS, VP OF PROJECTS, CLASS OF 2022

Hope Yelich has volunteered to lead a new project working with the Williamsburg Historic Records Association (WHRA). Hope will be responsible for ensuring that our Association's records, including minutes, photos, and other materials, are stored with the WHRA.

The WHRA collects and preserves records of post-colonial Williamsburg, James City County, and York County and has gathered thousands of documents, ranging from a single photo to large collections of personal papers and organizational records.

The WHRA gives these historical documents to the Special Collections Research Center of the College of William & Mary's Swem Library who evaluate and catalogue them.



If you have any thing that you think should be considered for inclusion or any questions contact Hope at hopeyelich@gmail.com. Also here's a link to more information about William & Mary Libraries: Special Collections Research Center (<https://scrcguides.libraries.wm.edu/repositories/2/resources/2209>).

Thursday, January 5th Education Program & Business Meeting
from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM in the Auditorium at the Williamsburg Regional Library,

Winter Warm Up, Stretching & Strengthening

Last year, Jessi Voltin PT, DPT, Cert MDT & Courtney McThery, PT DPT of Pivot Physical Therapy in Lightfoot, showed us how to take care of ourselves using proper body mechanics when working in the garden. This encore presentation will focus on how to prepare ourselves for the upcoming gardening season with suggested warmups, strengthening and stretching exercises we can do at home. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn from the experts how to get yourself ready for another gardening season, without the aches and pains!

2022 REFLECTIONS ON THE JCCW MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION—BY FORREST HOBBS, VCEANR AGENT

Making a difference—The James City County and Williamsburg region is greatly impacted by the work of our Master Gardener Association. Our volunteers have logged nearly 20,000 hours so far this year, and those hours encompass a wide range of educational activities around the area.

A Benefit of the VCE Partnership— In January the new year started the way 2021 ended with concerns for community health because of COVID coupled with limited Zoom access resulting in members being electronically denied access to our meetings and continuing education sessions.

As a result, we worked with the VCE, utilizing their resources to increase our Zoom capacity to 500 members so the entire membership could attend online. All without increasing our Zoom cost. 2022 was off to a promising start!

Partnerships Formed—February included a memorable Meet and Greet with the new training class. The return to hands-on education brought a positive energy to the group. I know more than I let on about the logistics of MG trainings, and you guys are rock stars. Additionally, a new community partnership was rekindled with Jamestown Settlement where MGs designed and installed a native plant and herb garden.



The Project Fair was a highlight in March and interns got to take a look at the varied programs available. The membership also learned about pest management and boxwood blight, which were important and relevant updates. April flowers were a big part of the annual plant sale, and several members toured Sandy's Plants, a regional supplier. The speaker for the monthly meeting fascinated the membership with how beneficial fungi work to improve our soil.

Team Efforts and Sweat Equity—May was a month for bonding with projects that involved team efforts and sweat equity. New projects at the Jamestown 4-H Center and the Chickahominy Tribe—Eastern Division paved the way for more MG involvement at both locations. At Jamestown, MGs participated in a Help Day. At the Chickahominy Tribe, MGs helped construct a greenhouse. Both projects highlighted how a team approach works and reflected well on the organization.

Peonies, Picnic, and Shoreline Project—Who doesn't love peonies? I took a personal interest in the June meeting and learning about peonies in Virginia. With the information shared, four local cut flower growers added contacts and marketing leads. July brought the return of the Annual Picnic and a new location: Jamestown 4-H Center. It also saw the launch of another new project, the Shoreline Evaluation Project where Water Stewards will help homeowners who live on the water, learn how to stabilize their shorelines.

Plant Oak Concept—Dr. Colin Rees was an impressive guest speaker for our August meeting. I am still using one of the passages in his book that calculates the value and need of trees. This added to my knowledge of the plant oak concept, which suggests that it takes two oak trees to support each human, and has been part of the new MG training – yes, I do pay attention.

For Virginia, September brings State Fair opportunities – Master Gardener and otherwise. Important connections are made through such outreach, and some of them are already being utilized. It also was the beginning of the Water Steward training; eight of the 15 class members are from JCC Williamsburg. Great programs are being prepared for next year with this advanced training. I am proud that we hosted the VMGA in October and it was referred to in positive terms recently at an Urban Farming Conference I attended for training at VSU – I got the positive stare down of envy.

2022 REFLECTIONS ON THE JCCW MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

BY FORREST HOBBS, VCEANR AGENT (continued from page 3)

New Master Gardeners and New Water Stewards—The classroom portion for the six-week Water Steward training ended in November and the local students proposed projects for our area, which will be developed and implemented in 2023. The new trainees will lead projects that other MGs will have the opportunity to help with should they choose.

Many of the stormwater management best practices include installation of native plants, something the membership learned about at the monthly meeting. December will be the graduation celebration of another enthusiastic group of Master Gardener interns. You will not want to miss the December meeting.



It is amazing what has occurred in 2022 and I am proud of our Master Gardeners and the educational programs at hand. There is a lot of energy, happiness, and educating within the group and we have weathered the COVID storm and have become a stronger entity because of it. It is a major part of what I do while covering the two counties, and I am hoping that the bond between VCE and the local Master Gardeners continues to grow.

I continue to learn new things about the important work that our organization does and know that there are more projects in the works. The number and variety of projects reflects the intelligence and professionalism found in each of you. It is an honor for me to be an advisor to this program.



MASTER GARDEN ANNUAL DUES

BY LINDA NEILSON, TREASURER, CLASS OF 2019

To our members:

Thank you for your support of the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association. We value your contributions to the organization and value your memberships that make up the lifeblood of our organization. Your involvement is important and very much appreciated.

As a nonprofit organization, your dues and donations support educational outreach in our communities.

Just as a reminder, the 2023 membership annual dues (\$25.00) are due by December 31st. Payment options are check, cash, or PayPal/credit card. You can pay online by check and mail the check to:

JCC/W MGA
PO Box 1951
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1951

(By using the PayPal credit card service, you are agreeing to a PayPal transaction fee.)

[Image – Clipartix.com](https://www.clipartix.com)



Hot Water Tract—Tree Project (Judy Kinshaw Ellis)

Freedom Park's Settlement has received a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry to install an outdoor classroom. This should be a fabulous addition for all of us giving programs at the park and especially programs for the arboretum. We also planted about 400 seedlings in the spring.

Turf Love (Dave Kleppinger)

Turf Love completed another successful year educating landowners about responsible lawn care. In 2022, over 90 landowners participated in the program, so Turf Love Lawn Rangers collected more than 90 soil samples which were analyzed and used to prepare Certified Nutrient Management Plans to reduce fertilizer overuse across James City County. These landowners are now better stewards of our local environment and contributing to improved water quality locally and in the greater Chesapeake Bay.

Bumblebee Garden at Blayton Elementary School (Ken Caro and Pam Arnold)

At the Bumblebee Garden at J. B. Blayton Elementary School, we are most thrilled to have a garden club again with students. We have 17 students and lots of MGs to help and teach. We have wonderful Master Gardeners who have prepared lessons for the students: they have learned about the garden itself and garden safety procedures, sunflowers, and bees and other pollinators. They will be learning about composting, growing and processing flax, and growing and processing cotton, and more. The Masters Gardeners who kept Blayton Garden beautiful for two years while we waited for the students to return deserve many plaudits!

Therapeutic Gardening (Karen Brooks)

Our five year partnership with ARC and its growth over those years is remarkable. A great team of Master Gardeners make the sessions run smoothly.

The group cooks once a week and loves to eat what they grow. They have made pesto several times and basil honey salad dressing.

Of the experience one ARC participant said; "Once, when the weather didn't cooperate, Master Gardeners came to see us, and we made a pizza pot and grew oregano, basil & cherry tomatoes. Even though Mr. Squirrel got some of our tomatoes, we still made DELICIOUS pizza!"

Training Team (Sue Barton and Pam Mageland)

The 2022 JCCW Master Gardener training class has logged over 2,546 hours (as of November 12, 2022) for an average of 134 hours per person! Two of these master gardeners have logged over 300 hours already this year. A few class members reached 50 volunteer hours BEFORE the class ended in May, and all 19 remaining members gained master gardener status within 6 months of finishing the MG course.

This extraordinary class has three volunteers now serving on the JCCW MG board, and five of them have joined the training team for the coming year. We are especially proud of this enthusiastic and accomplished group and look forward to their graduation ceremony on Dec.1 at the monthly MG business meeting at the WRL. A reception at the Stryker Center will follow, and we invite all Master Gardeners to join us for the celebration.

Williamsburg Botanical Garden (Deb Bussert and Cheryl Roettger)

The Williamsburg Botanical Garden project had several reasons to celebrate 2022. New members were welcomed into our gardening and maintenance crews. WBG also hosted three successful plant sales; the JCCW Master Gardener sale, the Native Plant sale, and the WBG Honor box plant sale which supports the WBG gardens.

Special thanks to all of the WBG volunteers who take care of the garden beds, keep the trees and bushes pruned, maintain the walkways, borders, and garden structures, educate our many visitors, and handle the administrative work for WBG. We couldn't do it without you! We look forward to your return as we make some exciting plans for 2023!

Water Wise (Kay and Elvin Clapp)

The team accomplished all of their 2022 objectives including installing a rain barrel, removing invasive plants, developing a low maintenance "desert" garden area, grouping plants in pods, using more low-water plants and installing "intelligent" mulching.

The team expanded their contacts with the English and Spanish speaking public including developing brochures, a plant list, and installing metal plant tags. We also distributed Virginia Tech literature, participated in an on-site wellness fair, posted a whiteboard highlighting flowering plants, and provided childrens' activities.

It was a great team to work with who actively engaged with the public, worked hard, and had a lot of fun.

2022 JCCW ASSOCIATION PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS! - continued

Landscape Love (Barb Floyd, Susan Zickel, Sherry Walker)

The Landscape Love project was incredibly successful this year thanks to the 40 Master Gardener volunteers who participated and completed 98 home visits for the local community. Surprisingly, August received the most applications, followed closely by April, May and September. All visits were completed in October. Thank you to all who participated in Landscape Love in 2022!

Colonial Williamsburg Gardens (Barb Floyd)

In the Colonial Williamsburg Demonstration Gardens and Public Tours, we learned that some of the required protocols for coping with Covid 19 were actually a better way of managing the gardens. We implemented those changes, along with incorporating new plant varieties on the advice of Colonial Williamsburg landscape employees. With this collaboration, we completed another successful season of providing lovely gardens and tours to the public.

Historic Triangle Learning Garden (Bill Dichtel)

We have had enthusiastic gardeners and a wonderfully productive year at the Historic Triangle Learning Garden. We had three successive seasonal crops producing fresh produce for ourselves, learning all the way. At the same time, we raised more than 430 pounds of fresh produce for those in our communities who are in the greatest need. We had great outreach, most notably constructing a large polycarbonate greenhouse for the Chickahominy Native American Garden. Notably, we obtained a VCE Microgrant and have nearly doubled the square footage of our garden to increase opportunities next year and in years to come.

Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum and Tours (Rick Brown)

The fourth year for the Colonial Williamsburg (CW) Arboretum project has seen a marked shift in the overall approach to our volunteer efforts. This began in 2018 as a Tree Steward project and has since been certified each year as a Unit volunteer project for our members. We doubled the size of our volunteer team from 6 to 12. With the help of these energetic new members, we have succeeded in identifying enough trees and woody shrubs to reach the required 500 individual species needed to achieve Level III status as the second such arboretum in the Commonwealth. We expect to file the updated application prior to

Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum and Tours (Rick Brown) - continued

Laura Viancour, the CW Horticultural Education Manager, developed two Arboretum tours and trained several of our volunteers as guides to lead these new public tours. "The Griffin Tour," acquainted CW visitors with the exotic trees and shrubs acquired and planted prior to 1980 by Bob McCartney, a former CW horticulturalist and now nationally recognized expert in tree propagation. This area is designated "The McCartney Collection" as a tribute to his foresight in planting the mature specimens we now enjoy. Because of their unique character, many of these are recognized as "Virginia Big Tree Champions."

The second tour, beginning at the iconic Compton Oak, is located in the central portion of the Historic Area and provides guests with insights and uses of the native trees, as well as plants imported by the colonists who lived in this area prior to 1800. Both of these tours were provided weekly and were well attended by visitors. The tour in the Historic Area proved so popular that a second session was added to the schedule each Monday to accommodate the guest overflow.

New areas that saw an increase in plantings in 2022 were three renovated parking lots and the complete new landscaping of the area at the CW Museums. All these areas provided opportunities to add additional species to the collections. Each of these areas also had to be inventoried and the plants cataloged by adding data to the PlantsMap website that the Tree Steward team created for the Arboretum.

All of this project's volunteers are either Tree Stewards or have been accepted into the new training class being offered in 2023.

Finally, the Arboretum team assisted the CW Arborist and Landscape Department in selecting additions to be purchased for the collection to increase and diversify the inventory of trees and shrubs in the Arboretum.

This project with all its facets is personally rewarding for our members and provides the fulfillment of the core public educational component of the mission of the JCCW Master Gardener Unit.



Photo credit: Microsoft Creative Commons

2022 JCCW ASSOCIATION PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS! (continued)



Tree Call (Anne Nielsen and Carol Fryer)

This year, from May to the beginning of November, the Tree Call Project had 26 calls from homeowners with concerns about their trees.

One of the most significant problems has been Crepe Myrtle Bark Scale that has attacked every crepe myrtle in one neighborhood and has also begun to spread in another nearby neighborhood.

The crepe myrtle bark scale (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*) is a recently introduced pest from Asia that initially infested crepe myrtles (*Lagerstroemia* spp.) in Texas during 2004. Since then, it has spread rapidly through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Georgia. Now it has been discovered in North Carolina and Virginia, and the distant spread of this pest has likely been through the movement of plant material. (Clemson University). Treatment includes professionally administered soil drenches and sprays with chemicals.

One of our most unusual Tree Calls was a problem of bark being stripped from the trunks of Beech trees in a homeowner's forested land. The bark was being stripped high up (10-15 ft.) in the trees as well as at the trunk flare.

After calls to the Department of Forestry and the VA Department of Wildlife Resources, we learned that squirrels were the culprits, and we could recommend hiring a trapper and wrapping chicken wire around the tree trunks. If you like being a detective, come join us.

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.

ECOLOGY CORNER WHAT ARE NATIVARS?

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

As we work toward adding more native plants to our gardens, we are often faced with nativars or cultivars of native plants. Should we buy them and plant them?

Nativars or cultivated natives have been modified to breed in bigger flowers, different colors, stronger stems, more compact plants, or larger fruits to name a few changes. For plants that come with manufactured tags, the plant name will be in quotations. For straight natives, the botanical name will not include any additional names.

All of those modifications sound pretty good. We all want bigger flowers that do not flop over. If we are growing pawpaws or persimmons, a larger fruit is always good.

So, what is the problem? In studies, the biggest problem with nativars is where the native plant has been altered to change the leaf color. When a leaf is changed to purple or red, it lacks some of the chemicals found in green leaves. Native insects are less likely to feed on those plants and if they do, they do not get the same nutrients.

Nativars planted on a small scale do not make much of an environmental impact. However, with mass production by the nursery industry, the impact is more widespread.

When adding native plants, straight species are preferred because they attract the most native insects. As we learn more natives, we understand the characteristics of the plants and where they will thrive in our landscapes.

For more information on nativars:
Wildones.org
Landscapearchitecturemagazine.org

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.



CLARA BYRD BAKER SCHOOL GARDEN

(CBB) - BY GARY GRIFFITH, PROJECT CO-LEAD,
MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2015

This fall has brought the rekindling of the school garden at Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School on Ironbound Road. Aided by the very helpful principal Mike Hurley and three teachers and staff, five volunteer Master Gardeners began revitalizing the existing garden after the long Covid break. Helping the restart are Master Gardeners Karen Brooks, Kay Hines, Juli Griffith, Gail Weaver, and Gary Griffith.

Significant structure was still in place in the garden from past efforts, including six raised beds, a fenced enclosure, a water hydrant (currently under repair), a storage shed with an adjoining stage and benches for the students, and even two outdoor planter boxes.

Our first task was to mow the high grass and then clean out all six raised beds, which took three work sessions and 12-15 hours. Soil was amended in two of the beds and some sideboards were replaced, as well as the addition of some decorative touches. We were then ready for our first class, held October 18.

Twelve 3rd to 5th graders came out for the SHIP program, along with two school staff. The first topic was safety with garden tools, followed by planting one entire raised bed with garlic bulbs! This bed will become our “pizza garden”. The kids were excited to see the bulbs sprout up within less than a week. Plenty of garlic for all!

Through a donation to the Clara Byrd Baker Garden, Kay Hines brought dozens of strawberry plants, which the students planted the next week. They learned about roots, planting, and watering, with high expectations for a yummy crop next year. Students were also given a strawberry plant for home planting.

The next class was on “Seeds and Soil” to introduce the students to some properties of soil, where plants get their food, and how a seed germinates to become a plant. The students each planted 10 seeds of one of six different fall crops with hopes of seeing emerging sprouts at the next class in two more weeks.

The most current class will be on the “Pumpkin Life Cycle” with a craft activity to give them an idea of the growth that takes place in a plant to produce a mature crop. Weather and time permitting, the garlic, strawberries, and veggie seedlings will be checked for progress.

Each week, with the help of the CBB graphic artist and the teachers, the students receive a page for their Garden Journal to describe what they have done and the results they are seeing. This will be an ongoing record of their activities and lessons in the Garden Class. With eager children, committed volunteers, and strong school support, the Clara Byrd Baker School Garden will become a thriving place to learn and enjoy gardening for many years to come.



BUMBLEBEE GARDEN AT J.B. BLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BY PAM ARNOLD, PROJECT CO-LEAD, MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2018

The school garden club at the Bumblebee Garden resumed club meetings on October 17th of this year after two long years of no clubs, no students. The Covid restrictions are over, and we rejoiced along with the students and student advisor, Mrs. Z. The club meets every Monday morning from 8:15 to 9:15. The last meeting for this session is on December 5th. The club will resume in the Spring.

Now in its eleventh year, Bumblebee Garden began as an engineering club project and over time it evolved into its own club. Today it consists of 43 raised vegetable beds, another raised bed of berries, a large bulb bed (including jonquils, daffodils, and several varieties of iris), a bed with plants that support pollinators, and two large beds of spices. There is also a large shelter with four picnic tables, and a multi-barreled water collection system.

It can be found in the back of J. B. Blayton Elementary School which is located off Jolly Pond Road. Luckily, we have a strong team of Master Gardeners and helpers that work with these students and maintain the garden. In addition, the project is sponsored by SHIP which seeks to give students experiences outside of the normal classroom studies. The mission of the Bumblebee Garden is to educate students in growing, harvesting, eating, using, and enjoying what our earth can produce.

So far, we have taught the students about safety in the garden, sunflowers, and pollinators, making and using compost. We also have lessons about growing flax and making it into string for cloth as well as growing and spinning cotton. We conclude this series with a lesson on the value of worms in gardening and an explanation of our garden water system which is solar powered and uses mostly collected rainwater.

In addition to lessons, the club members also learn about what they grow by sometimes cooking it and frequently eating it. During the very first meeting this year, the students were treated to watermelon that they helped to harvest. The variety was a called Moon and Stars and was enjoyed by all.

The members like to experiment with new varieties of plants, to see what will happen with their growth in different circumstances. That includes preparing and eating potato and leek soup, sweet potato pie, Jerusalem artichoke chips, and other dishes. Additionally, we eat tomatoes and sweet sugar peas picked right off the plants in the garden. We can do that because our garden is organic. No chemicals for us!

In addition to cotton and flax, our Bumblebee gardeners grow popular vegetables like bush beans, broccoli, squash, pumpkins, sweet sugar peas, radishes, carrots, okra, spinach, lettuce, watermelon, leeks, and onions along with several varieties of potatoes and tomatoes. We also grow some unusual vegetable varieties like peanuts and artichokes. This year Bumblebee Garden at Blayton Elementary project donated 100 pounds of fresh produce to FISH, Inc of Williamsburg, a nonprofit that provides food assistance to the community.



A LETTER OF THANKS FROM FISH

BY PAM ARNOLD, MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2018

Many of the JCCW Master Gardeners work in a variety of gardens in and around the greater Williamsburg area, as many of you know. In the process of teaching and helping the gardening public, we also grow vegetables which are often donated to FISH.

FISH is a non-profit organization that provides food, clothing, and small housewares to persons in need who live in the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and the Bruton District of York County, Virginia.

This year, a total of 430 pounds of fresh produce were donated to FISH. The Blayton Garden Donated more than 100 pounds, and our other gardens donated more than 300 pounds.

Jack Trotter, FISH President, wrote this letter recognizing the Blayton team but we should all appreciate his words and take a moment to acknowledge our efforts and the good our Association is doing in this community. For more information about FISH go to: <https://fishwilliamsburg.org/>.

FISH, Inc.



312 Second Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

757-220-9379

Emergency Services
Food, Clothing, Housewares

November 3, 2022

James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association
P. O. Box 1951
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Dear Friends of FISH:

On behalf of the 150 FISH Volunteers and the Board of Directors, thank you for the hard work at the Blayton School Garden that generated over 100 pounds of fresh produce donated to FISH this growing season.

The offer of fresh greens, beans or carrots always brings a smile to our clients, as well as improved nutrition. The number of people seeking assistance from FISH continues to grow each month. We have served between 35 and 55 *new* households in each of the last six months, and continue to seek partnerships to get food to persons who do not come into our Second Street location.

It is great to have the Master Gardeners as partners. Best wishes for a bright holiday season,

Jack Trotter
FISH President

NEW WEBSITE: fishwilliamsburg.org

EMAIL: fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com



FISH HAS MOVED!

COME SEE US AT OUR NEW ADDRESS

312 Second Street
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

757-220-9379

fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com

HOURS: Monday-Friday: 10 am - 4 pm
1st Saturday: 10 am - 2 pm

In case of inclement weather, FISH follows the WJCC School Division's schedule for closing.

Photo credit: fishwilliamsburg.org

VMGA BIMONTHLY MEETING, PLAN TO ATTEND

BY JOANNE SHEFFIELD

December 10th is the VMGA's bimonthly meeting, held via Zoom beginning at 10:00 am. Watch for the Zoom link on Better Impact so you and other members and potential members can log in. The latest VMGA newsletter is also available online at <https://vmga.net/wordpress/vmga-report-archive/>. Perhaps you'll be inspired to write an article for the next VMGA issue. The deadline for that January/February newsletter is December 27th. Information goes to newsletter@vmga.net. Why not make it a New Year's resolution to become a VMGA member at the bargain price of \$12.00? To make joining easy, here's a link to the membership form: <https://vmga.net/wordpress/vmga-membership-application-renewal-form/>.

WHY LOG YOUR HOURS?

BY CHRISTINE MASON, MASTER GARDENER, 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 along with 8 hours of continuing education.

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 shows the state offices 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 app or desktop, read September 2022's article at <https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/MG-Newsletter-September-2022.pdf>. Scroll to the end. Now go log your hours!



GROUND BREAKING!

BY BILL DICTEL, VP OF INTERNAL EDUCATION, CLASS OF 2018



The Historic Triangle Learning Garden obtained permission to expand the garden on adjacent land owned by the City of Williamsburg and obtained a VCE Microgrant to help finance that project. We broke ground, installing all of the metal fence posts and setting wooden posts and lintels for two gates on Saturday, November 12th.

Pictured are our hard workers (left to right) Drew Morgan, Ray Teed, MaryAnn Teed, Kim Silver-Perry, Michele Jett Garrard, Bill Dichtel, Kay Hines, Harriet Parsons, Alice Kopinitz, Carol Mayfield and Dennis Branden. Also working but not pictured was our photographer, Renee Kingan.

EXPERIENCE FEEL GOOD SHOPPING!

BY LINDA BECKER, MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2022



Wow! The December holidays are just around the corner. Last month in the newsletter, we talked about simple giving through Smile.Amazon.com. Do you do your holiday gift shopping on Amazon? Well, you can help the JCCW Master Gardener Association at the same time. Simply and painlessly. And, it won't even put a dent in your wallet! Before you make your next purchase from Amazon, do this:

1. Go to **Smile.Amazon.com**
2. Make sure you are signed into your Amazon account
3. At the top of the page under the "Hello..." put your cursor on "Accounts & Lists" where a drop-down menu should appear
4. Click on "AmazonSmile"
5. When prompted to select or change your charity, type in... "James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association"
6. Click on **Search**
7. Our Association should come up. Click on the "Select" button.
8. Now when you purchase items at Smile.Amazon.com, 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be returned to the Association coffers. Also each time you shop, before you order, be sure that you log into Smile.Amazon.com

There also is a place to download a button to your home screen so when you want to shop on Amazon, just click on the button and you are on your way. Thanks, y'all!!!



MASTER GARDENER LIBRARY SERIES!

BY VICKIE ROCKWELL, PRESIDENT ELECT, CLASS OF 2019

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, Williamsburg Regional Library and James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association are once again teaming up to present a lecture series on various home gardening and landscaping topics. The lectures are slated the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:15 to 11:15, either at the James City County Library at 7770 Croaker Road or the Stryker Center at 412 N. Boundary St.

The next presentation at the James City County Library at 7770 Croaker Road on December 10 is "Why are my Plants Dying?" Sometimes plants die a little at a time and sometimes they seem to die overnight. Ever wonder what you could have done to save them? The lecture will focus on outdoor plants. James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener and Tree Steward, Patsy McGrady, will walk you through the steps to figure out what is causing the problem and what can be done to bring the plants back to health.

The January 14th Lecture will be at the Stryker Center at 412 N. Boundary Street. Mitzi Balma will present "New Home, New Garden." Have you ever landscaped your home or started a large flower garden from scratch? Get advice and learn the joys and pitfalls of starting a new garden from Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Mitzi Balma who has done this three times.

Mark your calendars! Hope to see you on December 10th at the James City County Library and on January 14th at the Stryker Center. If you're interested in being a presenter and have a topic, contact Vickie Rockwell at varockwell@outlook.com.



In the Garden

More gardening articles from our website blog (jccwmq.org).



Diospyrus virginiana, the Divine Fruit

By Elizabeth McCoy, Master Gardener, Class of 2018

A sad spindly 'mystery tree' grows on a steep slope in our back fern garden. I first noticed it six or seven years ago. Its top was broken off in a winter snowstorm a while ago, and its odd growth pattern, plain looking leaves and immature bark left me clueless about its identity. My best guess was[Read more: https://jccwmq.org/wordpress/diospyrus-virginiana-the-divine-fruit/](https://jccwmq.org/wordpress/diospyrus-virginiana-the-divine-fruit/).



Wild Thing, You Make My Heart Sing!

By Wendy Hamrick, Master Gardener, Class of 2017

Over the next 90 to 120 days, wildlife will endure bone-chilling winds, frozen ground, and limited access to fresh water or easy foraging. It is time to get up off the couch and winterize your backyard for their benefit. [Read more: https://jccwmq.org/wordpress/wild-thing-you-make-my-heart-sing/](https://jccwmq.org/wordpress/wild-thing-you-make-my-heart-sing/).



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://jccwmq.org/wordpress/predicting-the-weather/](https://jccwmq.org/wordpress/predicting-the-weather/)

ORDER YOUR LOGO WEAR NOW

BY LINDA BECKER, MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2022

Do 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 flask will be the BEST stocking stuffer. Relax this holiday season and click the logo gear tab on jccwmq.org and avoid shipping delays. Allow three weeks for delivery. Order today!



CLASSIFIEDS

NEED YOUR HELP!

How You Can Help the 2023 Master Gardener Plant Sale!

The Plant Sale will be held on May 6, 2023. Here are several ways you can help us have a successful sale:

- **Volunteer to co-lead a committee:** Plant Acquisitions and Communications Committees are searching for co-leads to assist with planning and working with committee volunteers.
- **Volunteer to serve on a committee:** All committees need volunteers and we are delighted there are several who have members already signing up! Your assistance is definitely needed and a great way to get hours early in the year.
- **Plan your plant donation:** It's time to consider what plants you will donate and if you are going to propagate or purchase! It's a perfect way to spend those colder months and getting started on the growing season.
- **Hunt for Green Elephant:** Be sure to keep an eye out around your garage and your attic for green elephant items that can be donated. Some holiday gifts are perfect for passing along.

If you are interested in any of these roles, or any other role on the plant sale planning team, please contact Elizabeth Myers,

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 and then let folks into the call from the Zoom waiting room.

Interested? Contact Debe Sineath, VP Internal Education (2023) at dksineath@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@jccwmq.org

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE The next newsletter is February

There's no newsletter in January. Check your email and BI for Updates

The deadline for February article submission is Thursday, January 12

Email your submissions to:
Marion Guthrie, marion.guthrie@gmail.com,
& **Elizabeth Myers**, egmyers@comcast.net

RECRUITING STUDENTS FOR OUR 2023 CLASS

BY JEN CAMPBELL, TRAINING CLASS TEAM

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.

Looking for a Digital Partner

Are you familiar with a digital publishing platform like PowerPoint, WordPress, Canva or Microsoft Publisher? I'm looking for Master Gardeners with an artistic bent who are interested in learning more about digital publishing to help develop newsletters and website information for the JCCWMGA. Contact Marion Guthrie, marion.guthrie@gmail.com.



Do You Love Newspapers?

I'm looking for someone who wants to share our stories with the press and help manage the media for our Association. Call me, Marion Guthrie and let's talk (610-717-7814).