

THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

Celebrating 40 Years of Helping our
Neighbors Grow!



2023 JCCW MGA BOARD

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PLEASE NOTE:

The September Board meeting will be held on September 14th at the WRL in Room C, rather than the regular 3rd Thursday (September 21).

Also, the October Board meeting will be held on October 18 instead of October 19, in the usual place in Room B. All MGA members are welcome to attend.

NEWSLETTER

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The deadline for the upcoming October 2023 newsletter is Monday, September 18.

Send your submissions to Elizabeth Myers
vp-projects@jccwmg.org or
Marion Guthrie
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The James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association is a volunteer-driven non-profit that supports the outreach mission of the Virginia Cooperative Extension by utilizing research-based information to educate the public in our communities (James City, Williamsburg, and New Kent counties) on the best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship.



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.



President's Message

DEBORAH BUSSERT '16

Although summer does not technically end until later this month, when September arrives it sure feels like summer is over. Schools are back in session and activities that were on hiatus during the summer are back in full swing. The days are becoming noticeably shorter and nights a bit cooler. Fall has always been my favorite time of year.

With somewhat cooler weather, it is time to get back out to the garden. If you are like me, you have been mentally moving plants around all summer, so now is the time to make those changes. Fall is a great time to plant, divide and transplant spring and summer blooming perennials as well as most trees and shrubs. The soil is still warm, but the air is cooler and soil moisture more consistent. If you are planting, be sure to get your plants in the ground no later than four weeks before the predicted first frost date, which around here can be as early as mid-October. Remove any lingering flowers or seed heads because you want your plants to put their energy into root growth. Be sure to water your newly planted areas at planting time and continue to water regularly until the soil freezes. A layer of mulch will help conserve moisture and prevent frost-heaving. Now is also a good time to mark plants that you can dig or divide for next year's plant sale.

Quite a few of you were able to attend the placement and dedication of the bench dedicated to Donna Tierney at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden. If you couldn't attend, you can see the bench with the dedication plaque at the Garden. You will find it to the right of the main entrance gate, opposite the patio and gazebo. Thanks to all who contributed to the fund used to purchase the bench.

As required by our By-laws, Vice President of Administration Emily Coyner will be presenting the slate of officers nominated for the 2024 Board of Directors to be voted on at our Thursday, September 7 Association meeting. Pursuant to the By-laws, anyone who is interested in serving on the Board may have their name added to the slate of candidates for consideration at the meeting, but no one who has not consented in advance may be put forward. I would like to personally thank everyone who has stepped up to assume a role on our Board, past, present and future. Many thanks, as well, to those who served on the Nominating Committee: Emily Coyner, Carol Beers, Terry McGlennon, Debe Sineath, Gary Streb and advisor Vickie Rockwell.

Now is the time to think about budget needs and requests for 2024 projects. The Board will begin working on the budget in September. It is a lengthy process and you can make it easier on us, and particularly on Treasurer Linda Neilson, by getting your requests in promptly. Vice President of Projects Elizabeth Myers has been working with project leads to get this process going, and several proposals and budget requests are already complete.

Thanks so much for all you do for the Association and for the community. We are major force for good!

Deb

New Faces on Our Board

The Nominating Committee has completed the slate of officers for 2024 and we will vote at our next business meeting on Thursday, September 7 at the auditorium at the Williamsburg Regional Library. The slate is:

- Dave Kleppinger, President Elect
- Gary Griffith, VP Projects
- Dot Finnegan, Secretary
- Linda Neilson, Treasurer
- Marilyn Riddle, VMGA Rep

Here for your information are brief bios and photos of two new Board members.



DAVE KLEPPINGER (nominated for President Elect) was desk mates with Deb Bussert in the Master Gardening class of 2016. Over the years since, he has taken part in the Help Desk, the Speaker's Bureau and Farmer's Market, but particularly enjoys serving in the home visit programs. This year Dave completed training to become a Tree Steward and is a participating member of the Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum team. He is also currently working with another Tree Steward team to create the Ford's Colony Arboretum



GARY GRIFFITH grew up in Oklahoma where his father was a nurseryman, so he has been gardening since he was a boy. After degrees in Biochemistry and teaching in Southeast Asia, he worked at Kansas State University for 30 years in research, lab management, and analytical work. He completed Master Gardener training in Kansas in 2014 and has lived in Williamsburg since 2019 with his wife of 47 years. They volunteer with the Clara Byrd Baker School Garden Project and enjoy their three grandchildren.

Back in Time with Patsy McGrady '10

PATSY MCGRADY '10

How We Became an Association

Master Gardener training was first offered in Virginia in 1978 and just five years later, in 1983, three people from James City County attended that Peninsula Master Gardener training class in York County. This marks the beginning of Master Gardeners in James City County Williamsburg.

Under the direction of the York agent, these trained volunteers reached out to the public in the Hampton Roads area with gardening presentations, workshops, and a help desk. They also landscaped public areas, and planted highway median strips.

Then in 1990, motivated by the variety of Master Gardener projects being initiated across Virginia, the James City Williamsburg group realized that to better serve their community and be a successful organization, they needed the structure and leadership that would be provided by becoming an Association.

As a result, in September of 1990, with a group of 28 members, they voted to become an association. And subsequently in 1991, the group drafted our first bylaws, which were reviewed, and accepted. The new name, the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association became official. Here are those original bylaws.

Its purpose was:

1. To promote and serve the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program in cooperation with the JCC Extension office and the Virginia Tech Extension Horticultural office.
2. To promote continuing service opportunities and educational activities for MGs
3. To serve JCC area citizens and associations by offering assistance in horticultural matters.
4. To maintain a good relationship among MGs through social activities and other opportunities to interact with people having similar interests.

The membership also decided the following:

- Dues would be \$15.00 per year.
- Officers would consist of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer with terms in office running from January through December.
- Association meetings would take place on the first Wednesday of each month, at a time and place designated by the President.
- There would be the following standing committees: Program Coordinator, Education, Service, Social, Ways & Means, Publicity, Telephone Tree, Volunteer Hours, and Newsletter.

Master Gardeners Around the Campfire

These lyrics, typed on a typewriter with no author, were found at the Swem Library, among other historical documents about the James City County Master Gardeners dated from early to mid-1990s.

It's estimated that this song was written about that time as it reflects the American tradition of campfire songs which have their roots in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Remember "If I Had a Hammer", "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Puff the Magic Dragon"? It was during this time when a national movement for appreciating the outdoors was underway and the first National Parks were being established that our Master Gardeners wrote this ditty.

Verse 1: sung to the tune of Clementine

*We are gardeners, Master Gardeners, and we're proud to bear the name
Hand in hand with Mother Nature, our goals are all the same.
We're concerned with helping people understand the do's and don'ts
And be patient when confronted with so many can's but won'ts*

Chorus: sung to the tune of This Land is Your Land

*We'll spread the message, we'll tell our story to friends and neighbors in our
communities.
We'll use the telephone and state and county fairs
We'll think of ways from A-Z*

Verse 2: sung to the tune of Clementine.

*We'll inform on how to compost, how to prune our shrubs and trees
How to kill those pesky insects and control a plant's disease
We'll advise on fertilizers and a host of other things
Such as grass seeds, proper lawn care, but most of all soil samplings*

September 7th Membership Meeting *Back in Time with Patsy McGrady '10*

Don't miss the Master Gardener Member Meeting, at 9 a.m. on Thursday September 7, 2023, when Master Gardener Patsy McGrady will take us back 40 years in time to the early years of James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association. She'll talk about the evolution of our organization, how training has matured, how our projects have developed, the newsletter has changed and more. Join us for this fascinating presentation at the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom.

9/7/2023 AT 9:00 a.m.

in the Williamsburg Regional Library Auditorium and via Zoom at

us02web.zoom.us/j/2324806347

This presentation will be followed by our business meeting and the election of new officers.

Busy Summer at the Historic Triangle Learning Garden

BILL DICHTEL '18

We have had a lot going on since we started our expansion project at the end of 2022. It's hard to believe that we broke ground ten months ago with the installation of our gates and fencing. And once those were built, we quickly followed with the construction of sixteen raised beds and one elevated raised bed. We filled them with soil and mushroom compost and started planting. At the same time, our crew kept working in the established garden areas, leading to another wonderfully productive season.

In one short year we have nearly doubled the original garden footprint, adding to the number of available garden plots and to our abilities to grow fresh vegetables for our food bank partners, FISH and House of Mercy! All this expansion was made possible by our receipt of a VCE Microgrant in 2022 and by a kind, generous gift from Ford's Colony Garden Club Philanthropy Group this year.

We have also worked on other improvements, including running underground conduit and hosing so that we have a hose connection and lightweight hoses in both of our gardens which makes watering a much less daunting task than it had been. Our watering teams can now stay within the garden, managing light-weight hoses and easily accessing all those garden areas where water is needed during the dry summer months. We also expanded our rain barrel system to a two-barrel reservoir when less water is required.

One of the real joys of our program has been our outreach. This year, we had a garden program with Girl Scout Troop 1531. We dedicated two raised beds to the Troop, and they planted tomatoes, cucumbers and sunflowers in their beds. They have returned to the garden several times to inspect, weed, and harvest. Some of their produce has been donated to the food bank at the House of Mercy.



Nancy Lia ' 23 with Girl Scouts of Troop 1531 in the Historic Triangle Learning Garden

We have also had outreach in the form of lectures by our gardeners to garden clubs through the Master Gardener's Speakers Bureau, and through the Master Gardener Library Program.

We are looking forward to our new host agency, Child Development Resources (CDR), moving into their building at the garden site. In anticipation of that and in discussion with CDR, around the new West Garden we are constructing a garden border that will be a Fragrance Garden, designed as an attraction for the children that they serve.

We are just now putting in our fall vegetables so feel free to join us. You are welcome to peruse the garden. Just be sure to latch the gates after you leave as a lot of the outside animals like our vegetables, too!



East Garden (Existed before 2022) is to right of shed) and the West Garden (Newly constructed) is to the left of the shed. Waller Mill Elementary School is in the background.



New HTLG Border Gardens ready to be planted with flowers and herbs for the new Fragrance Garden

Big Changes at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden

DEB BUSSERT '16 & MARY SIPE '14

Our Tuesday workdays at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden have been very productive this year, thanks to an outstanding crew of Master Gardeners, Interns and Garden volunteers. As always in any garden, change is afoot.

The first major change has been the removal of the shrub border along the fence. These shrubs, peegee hydrangea cultivars, roses, and Rose of Sharon, were first planted about 15 years ago and have been admired by many visitors. Unfortunately, their mature size was much too big for the space in which they were planted, and they had become a pruning headache. Also, the hydrangeas were

getting too much sun and burning up, while Rose of Sharon were attracting hordes of Japanese beetles and seeding prolifically around the Garden.

After much discussion, the Botanical Garden Board decided to remove all of them, a Herculean task undertaken almost single handedly by Mary Sipe, aided by the WBG grounds crew. In its place we have planted a border of shrubs and perennials chosen for their fall and winter interest - foliage, bark, bloom time or berries. We are excited to watch this new border come into its own over the next several years.



A second area of change involves what had been a bulb garden. Again, that garden was originally planted about 15 years ago under a beech tree. In that time, of course, the tree had grown significantly, so that most of the bulbs were not receiving enough sun to bloom well, if at all. That garden is now being transitioned to a shade garden, with hellebores, ferns, hostas, heucheras, astilbes and other, lesser-known shade tolerant plants we believe will thrive in our area.

The third major change this year has been the development of a new garden area planted with native shrub cultivars. With the increasing interest in and availability of native plants, we wanted to show some that are right for a home landscape. Native shrubs supply food and habitat for wildlife, but many of them are too big and unruly for the typical home garden. We searched out some of the newer cultivars that are more compact but keep the leaf color and flower form of the original so that they will still be useful to wildlife. We have included cultivars of arrowwood viburnum, native hydrangea, Virginia sweetspire, fothergilla, clethra and others.

We would also like to recognize the grounds crew, led by Harry Fahl and Jeff Mellinger, for some major improvements to the tool shed and work area. Many of you may have seen that the new structure designed to hold mulch, the debris trailer and composting area during the plant sale. The new structure nicely encloses these essential but not so attractive items. The crew has also painted and put new gutters on the shed and installed a fence to enclose the work area. There's always more to do, but the area already not only looks better, but also helps us keep organized.

If you haven't been out to the Garden recently, we hope you will stop by to see the results of all our hard work and that of other volunteers. Even better, come join our crew on Tuesday mornings (8:00 - 10:00 or until we get too hot). We can put you to work!



Dedication of Memorial Bench

On Wednesday, August 16, a memorial bench dedicated to Donna Tierney was placed in the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG). Beloved and respected by many, Donna died unexpectedly of natural causes, last year, on August 18. A group of her friends, neighbors and relatives including several Master Gardeners attended the brief ceremony. The bench can be seen just to the right of the main pedestrian entrance to the Garden, opposite the pavilion. It is black metal with a bronze memorial plaque that reads, "In Memory of Donna K. Tierney, Master Gardener, Friend of Nature." According to Donna's husband, Pat, the WBG was one of her favorite gardens and he was glad to see the bench placed there. Donations to her Memorial Fund came from Donna and Pat's friends from all over the country including many Master Gardeners.



In the Garden

Life Giving Seeds

ELIZABETH MCCOY '18

Every tiny seed holds a bit of life, stored efficiently enough that it can spring into growth in some future time when conditions permit. The saying goes that every acorn holds the potential for a future forest of oaks. Although that acorn will grow into only a single tree, each tree can produce millions of acorns during its lifespan. [Read more here.](#)



Photo by Jim Easton

Protecting our Waterways and Wetlands:

James City County's Stormwater and Resource Protection Division

SEAN SEID

If you enjoy all the wonders our waterways and wetlands in James City County offer, we have great news to share. By implementing simple best practices, you can protect your view, preserve your yard, safeguard wildlife, and help improve local water quality. In this article, we will explore the significance of the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance (CBPO), a set of regulations that apply to all properties in James City County, and the steps you can take to be a responsible waterway steward. [Read more here.](#)

Find more articles on our blog on our website, jccwmg.org

Landscape Love is Blooming

SHERRY WALKER '16

Undeterred by the heat and humidity, Landscape Love has been going strong since this spring and continues to receive applications from homeowners to visit their home landscape and answer questions. We have had a very successful project this year and we are not yet finished!

Through the first week of August, we have completed 67 home visits. Applications dipped a bit in July, which we attribute to weather, vacations and summer travel. But homeowners are coming back in August. Applications are robust this month and we already have several visits scheduled. Last year, August was one of our biggest months for visits.

Pictured is a garden we recently visited, hidden from the road, is a real treasure. Not surprisingly, we had questions about plants that are deer resistant, shade tolerant and would do well near the pond.

By the time you read this, August will be complete, and September will be the last month in which we accept homeowner applications. Historically, September proves to be a strong month for applications, so if you still need hours this year, September will be your last chance. This year, we have had 7 members from the new class take part in the project and we are happy to have them.

Classifieds

PLANT TAG FEEDBACK WANTED

How was your experience making plant tags last year? Too many plants with the same names in the listing of plants? Frustrated with not being able to delete entries? The Plant Sale Team is working diligently to make the tag-making process easier for the 2024 sale. Your thoughts, complaints and suggestions are needed. Please email Linda Becker at lindabecker53@gmail.com or call her at (757) 784-3366 or Mary Sipe at mcsipe2@gmail.com at (704) 763-3533.

DATE CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

The Master Gardener Association Board of Directors meets the third Thursday of each month in the Williamsburg Regional Library at 515 Scotland Street and typically runs from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. These dates are changing for the next two months. Please note, our September Board of Directors meeting will be held on September 14th at the WRL in Room C, rather than the regular 3rd Thursday (September 21). Also, the October Board meeting will be held on October 18 instead of October 19, in the usual place in Room B. MGA members are welcome to attend.

CE OPPORTUNITY: NATIVE GROUND COVERS FOR SUN AND SHADE

September 8, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30

A variety of native plant species, including perennials, ferns, grasses, sedges, and even some woody plants, can function as ground covers in multiple landscape situations. Join Master Gardener Elaine Mills to learn which native plants may serve as excellent replacements for overused and invasive traditional ground covers such as English ivy, liriopse, and periwinkle, while providing much-needed food and habitat for our local pollinators and birds.

Registration is FREE, use this link: mgnv.org/event/native-ground-covers-for-sun-and-shade/

GROW A BEAUTIFUL LAWN

Join us at the James City County Library on Croaker Road in Toano, Saturday September 9 from 10:15 to 11:15 am. when Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Dave Kleppinger will take the mystery out of shopping for lawn care products and explain the proper application of fertilizers, fungicides, pesticides, and insecticides. This program will help homeowners understand the sequential steps necessary to build a healthy attractive lawn. See you there!

2024 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING OPENS NOVEMBER 1

We are currently finalizing the academic schedule for our 2024 Training Class. Those interested can apply online on our website (jccwmg.org) once registration opens on November 1, 2023. You are our best source for recruiting Master Gardeners. We've found that often candidates apply because they know one of our members! So let your friends and family know registration opens on November 1 and encourage them to apply.

In addition, the Training Team is presenting "Becoming a James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener" at the Library Talk Series on October 14, at 10:00 a.m. Encourage anyone who is thinking about becoming a Master Gardener or simply interested in gardening to attend. For more information contact Sue Barton (sj3barton@cox.net) or Pam Mageland (kcpsmags@cox.net).

Virginia Master Gardener Association Update

JOANNE SHEFFIELD, VMGA Representative, '11

The regularly scheduled bimonthly meeting of the VMGA Board was held in Loudoun County on August 12, 2023. Of the 25 participants using Zoom, our unit had 4 in attendance.

Of note was the fact that the Education Committee has planned a meeting on Saturday, November 11th in Lovingston, VA. (Depending on the route, Lovingston is a little more than two hours from Williamsburg.) The meeting will be held between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on the topic of Woody Plants. It will include propagation, diagnostics, and Help Desk information. In addition, there will be an update on the Boxwood Blight situation, plus a tour of Saunders Brothers, Inc., a nursery and orchard in existence since 1915! More information to come.

We are participating in the Virginia State Fair in the Horticultural Tent on September 26th. The topic is Good Bugs, Bad Bugs and could include someone in a Spotted Lanternfly costume. I'm happy to say that several Master Gardeners immediately stepped up to work the Fair, so, at this point, we are full.

We heard reports from Dr. Mike Evans and Dr. Mike Gutter regarding the search for the Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardener Specialist, a position vacated by Dave Close over a year ago. Evidently, there are eight candidates, but there are a lot of variables involved in getting the position filled. The best-case scenario is two to four months. After that position is settled, there is a need to fill the Extension Master Gardener Program State Coordinator slot vacated by Kathleen Reed. Devon Johnson is holding the fort in the office and has appreciated the various offers of help from Master Gardeners.

Devon reported on the milestone pin situation. The pins were late arriving for Master Gardener College and when they arrived, half of them didn't have an imprint. It takes the vendor four weeks to produce them which probably means September. Additionally, the printed EMG Handbook might be available by August 31st and will be sold through Amazon.

If you have any ideas on who should be a VMGA officer taking on a two-year position next June, contact Frank Reilly (frank@thereillygroup.net) to join the Nominating Committee.

Finally, those who have not renewed their VMGA membership will receive final notice in August. The deadline for the VMGA Directory is in September, so new members should fill out the membership form asap.

The Membership Application and Renewal Form can be found on the VMGA website at vmga.net/wordpress/vmga-membership-application-renewal-form/. Mail the membership form and your check made payable to "VMGA, Inc." to Tonya Harper, MGA Membership Chair, 67 Misty Hills Ln., Troutville, VA 24175. Questions? Call Tonya at 540-818-9324 or email her at sunset67@ntelos.net.

Ecology Corner

Native Plants for Dry Shade

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15

If you have a dry, shady spot around your yard that needs some love, fall is a smart time to plant native perennials. We do not get the instant gratification of planting larger plants in the spring, but we get comparable results at a slightly lower cost.

For those of us who have been around awhile, pachysandra, periwinkle, and English Ivy were the go-to shade ground covers that have since become the bane of gardeners and environmentalists across the country. Lucky for us there are some wonderful native groundcovers and low growing perennials.

Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*) is often found by streams, but it can also tolerate dry shade. It has small yellow blossoms in the spring, which are self-seeded. If you do not want as much spread, you can trim the seed pods. Trimming the seed pods will also give your garden a neater look, and the foliage forms a nice mat with leaves that are about eight inches high.

Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) also blooms early in the season and has a cheery yellow bloom. No need to deadhead or trim these blooms at all. When it is blooming, it reminds me a bit of a primrose.

Another lovely spring bloomer is our native Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). Its red blooms are about three feet high, but once you let them go to seed, the stems can be trimmed back, and the low growing foliage adds a delicate ground cover. They do self-seed quite happily, so you may want to remove the spent flowers before they seed.

If you are looking for something a bit taller in the shade, both Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*) and Bluestem Goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*) are nice

options. Solomon's Seal has a tiny greenish white flower under the stem in the summer. Bluestem Goldenrod is a smaller goldenrod with blossoms along the stem in the fall. It does not spread as readily as some of our other goldenrod varieties.

Fall is a perfect time to get those spring blooming natives in the ground. They will grow roots over the winter and put on a fine show in the spring.

When you are shopping at our local nurseries, be sure to ask for native plants and buy them when they have them. The Native Plant Society maintains a list of native plant nurseries and natives can also be found at online nurseries. Trading with friends is also an effective way to add natives to your landscape.

For a more complete list of natives that will tolerate dry shade, look at this site:

plantvirginianatives.org/dry-shade



Emergency Update

DEBORAH BUSSERT '16

With the retirement of Forrest Hobbs, we are without the dedicated services of a local VCE agent. Southeast District Director Janet Spencer will be the temporary agent and advisor for our unit as she has done in the past, until a new agent is found. Janet's office is in Suffolk, and she can be reached there at (757) 807-6532 or on her cell phone at (757) 899-0232.

If an emergency arises during any Master Gardener (MG) project or activity, such as a fall, or other serious injury, here are the steps you should take:

1. Tend to the injured person's immediate needs. To that end, all project leads and anyone in charge of an MG activity should have a basic first aid kit at hand. Be sure the injured person is safe to either continue the activity or to go home. Call a family member or friend if necessary.
2. Use your judgment to determine whether to call 911 for assistance. Err on the side of caution. First responders will always say they would rather be called out than not.
3. Only after the person has been tended to, whether by you or emergency personnel, contact Sandra Kee in the Toano VCE office at (757) 564-2170 or via email at skee@vt.edu. Copy Janet Spencer on any emails. They will determine whether the situation warrants additional reporting.
4. Do not discuss the situation with anyone who does not have a "need to know." Respect the privacy of the injured person and avoid any commentary about what caused the accident or injury or who might be at fault.
5. Consider putting this information in your phone or other place, where you can find it quickly.

Be careful, don't overdo it, especially in the heat, and quit before you get too tired. Watch your step, wear appropriate clothing and never work alone. Accidents do happen, but we can all do our best to keep ourselves and our fellow Master Gardeners safe.



2023 Milestone Awards

*Virginia Cooperative
Extension*

Out of more than 700 Milestone Awards earned by Virginia Extension Master Gardeners in 2022, our JCCWMG Association members received one of the largest number of any of the extensions, a total of 56 awards. This included 22 who reached the 250-hour milestone, 14 who reached the 500-hour milestone, nine who reached 1000 hours and five who achieved 2000 hours.

In addition, the following awards were presented:

3000 HOURS

- Rick Brown
- Jim Word

4000 HOURS

- Ruth Huber

5000 HOURS

- Gary Streb

6000 HOURS

- Carol Fryer

7000 HOURS

- Angela Cingale

As a Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteer, you make an impact in your community by sharing knowledge and promoting research-based horticulture throughout the commonwealth. Through community garden projects, school garden education, help desks, and so much more, you are helping to build a sustainable and thriving gardening future.

On behalf of the VCE and our Association, thank you for your dedication, the hours you contribute, and your hard work. It is seen and appreciated by the state EMG office and your community. You are making a difference. Here is a link to all Virginia's Milestone Award recipients: [2023 Milestone Awards.pdf](#).

In total, in 2022, Virginia Extension Master Gardeners volunteered in excess of 315,000 hours, made over 676,000 contacts with the public, and contributed services valued at over \$9 million.

Congratulations! Well done all.



Editor's Message

MARION GUTHRIE '19

Fall is creeping in slowly and I can't be the only one who is eager for the crisp air and the musky smell of autumn. Changing seasons reminds me to take a moment to appreciate, as well as consider ways to protect, the beauty around us.

And speaking of protecting, I want to acknowledge Elizabeth McCoy, writer and content manager of our website (jccwmg.org) for her work fostering a collaboration with the James City County Stormwater Resource Protection Division (SRP) to produce the article, "[Protecting our Water Ways and Wetlands](#)." Authored by Sean Seid from their staff, Elizabeth has been working with SRP for several months. The article is practical and interesting. Read it and then share it with friends and family.

And don't miss Patsy's presentation at our Membership meeting on September 7, 9 a.m. She's been plunking in the Swem Library and has gathered some historical documents from our Association's early days. She's going to share her finds with us, and you too may get Clementine stuck in your head with the lyrics from the Master Gardener song.

Keep growing!
Marion Guthrie, Editor
vp-communications@jccwmg.org





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