



The Colonial Master Gardener

April 2023

Celebrating 40 Years of Helping Our Neighbors Grow!

A PUBLICATION OF THE JAMES CITY COUNTY
WILLIAMSBURG MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DEBORAH BUSSERT, PRESIDENT, CLASS OF 2016

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners – Happy Spring! What a welcome sight to see the Spring flowers and budding trees after seeing so much sand and desert in Egypt for nearly two weeks. I had a wonderful trip but brought an unwelcome guest home with me in the form of Covid. I am recovering but haven't regained my energy so this message will be short.



I understand the Project Fair was a great success and generated a lot of interest from the trainees and recent transfers in learning about our many projects. Please be sure to welcome new volunteers to your project teams. That is the best way for us to get to know each other.

Congratulations to the Historic Triangle Learning Garden team that has just been awarded a grant from the Ford's Colony Garden Club toward the expansion of the Fragrance Garden for the children at CDR and other outreach efforts. Many thanks to the FCGC for recognizing the importance of this project.

I'm sure I don't have to remind you that the plant sale is practically around the corner. Start those seeds, divide those perennials, and clean out those garden sheds so we can have a successful sale. And don't forget to check out the SignUp Genius recently sent around by Dot Finnegan. Many of you have already done so and lots of slots are filled. But many are not! We particularly need people for what I am calling "logistics", i.e., before the sale - directing traffic, setting up the flow through the Garden, tents, and the loading area, a second truck to pick up items from the storage unit; and after the sale - taking everything down and putting the Garden back in order. These may not be the most exciting tasks but are critical to having a well-run and organized sale. Please sign up!

Finally, in case you are interested, the 2023 edition of the EMG Training Handbook has been released and can be downloaded as instructed in the most recent bi-weekly update (<https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/biweekly-update/>) from Kathleen Reed, VCE State Coordinator, EMG Program. You can throw your old bulky notebook away!

Thank you for all you do. I am looking forward to seeing everyone once I can emerge from my Covid fog.

Deb

**2023
JCCW MGA Board**

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Our Board Meets
on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 AM, in Room B at the Williamsburg Regional Library, on Scotland Street. Members are welcome to attend.

Newsletter Editors: Marion Guthrie and Elizabeth Myers

APRIL 6TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

BY DEBE SINEATH, VP INTERNAL EDUCATION, CLASS OF 2022

“An Introduction to Orchid Genera Typically Grown by Orchid Collectors”

Thursday April 6 at 9:00 am

Via Zoom and in the Williamsburg Regional Library Auditorium

Ron Miller of the Tidewater Orchid Society will be giving us a hands-on demonstration of some of his own personal collection of orchids. He started growing orchids in 1995 as a diversion from his job as an executive at a small business in Princeton, NJ.

Since then, he has gone on to growing a diverse collection of orchids including all the genera he will introduce in his presentation. His collection, at one time, reached about 450 plants.

This presentation is best seen in person, however if you are unable to attend in person, the Zoom link is below:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/89051322897?pwd=UUpWdFNxVll3aTF2cXdrYXA2cy85dz09>

Meeting ID: 890 5132 2897

Passcode: 419871

MAY 4TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 9:00 AM

BY DEBE SINEATH, VP INTERNAL EDUCATION, CLASS OF 2022

Mark Your Calendar For A Tidewater Butterfly Primer

Jonay Campbell has been a member of the Butterfly Society of Virginia since 2014 and considers herself a butterfly enthusiast and native plant gardener. She has been studying and raising butterflies for about 20 years. In our world today, butterflies are on the decline, and it is Jonay's hope that helping others understand more about them will benefit not only the butterflies, but all of us as well.

During this fascinating and informative program, Jonay will discuss the butterfly lifecycle, how to garden to attract butterflies and perpetuate their lifecycle, why native plants are better, and why it's increasingly important to think about our gardens this way. She will also introduce some of the butterflies and moths that are common in the Tidewater area, how to look for and identify them, and what to plant to attract specific butterflies.

OUR MISSION

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 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.

WELCOME PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS, CLASS OF 2023!

BY CAROL KING, PENINSULA TREE STEWARDS, ADVANCED TRAINING COORDINATOR



The Peninsula Tree Stewards graduated a new class of 16 interns on Wednesday, March 22 at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. Students designed and implemented a project as part of their requirements. This class is completing tree tagging and arboretum projects and has plans to evaluate and improve processes within the organization.

Eleven members of this graduating class are James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners. The Peninsula Tree Stewards are composed, for training and coordination, among the Tree Steward members from five Master Gardener units across the peninsula: JCC/W, York/Poquoson, Hampton, Newport News and Gloucester. For more information see Advanced MG Training on our website <https://jccwmq.org/wordpress/stewardship-programs/> <https://> or contact Carol King via email at ck409313@gmail.com.

TEACHING PRUNING ESSENTIALS

BY FRANK CARUSO, MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2014

The Pruning Team, comprised of 32 James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners, visited approximately 60 homes from January 15 through the end of February to provide free on-site pruning consultations to area residents. These Master Gardeners were broken into 4 geographical groups representing the greater James City County Williamsburg area.

They conducted their visits with each team having two experienced volunteers and one new volunteer. During these sessions, they provided hands-on training and answered homeowners' questions. It was a learning experience for all as these Master Gardeners gave homeowners lessons on tool sanitation, safety, and demonstrated how to make proper cuts. In addition, each homeowner received a pruning manual.

Gary Streb, Mitzi Balma, and Frank Caruso also gave several instructional clinics to gardeners at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, Governor's Land, Queen's Lake, and the Williamsburg Library on how to care for trees and shrubs. They brought along their pruning shears and saws to demonstrate the correct use of these tools and how to maintain them as well as where to cut, when to cut and what common pruning mistakes to avoid.

For information about pruning techniques see JCCWMGA video—
[Pruning Essentials: How Do We Prune?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUQW7qc__IQ)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUQW7qc__IQ



SEEDLINGS HAVE ARRIVED AT THE HOT WATER TRACT!

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



Freedom Park is home to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and Freedom Park Arboretum where many Master Gardeners give their time to create a gem of a garden that is home to a wide variety of trees and plants for visitors enjoy. Right around the corner from the garden is the Free Black Settlement, which gives the park its name.

The Free Black Settlement is also home to a MG project that focuses on increasing the tree and woody shrub species in the park. Each fall, tree seedlings are ordered from regional departments of forestry and those seedlings arrive in the spring. Hundreds of seedlings have been added to Freedom Park through this project including Redbuds, Virginia Pines, Hackberries, Button Bushes, Dogwood shrubs, Black Cherries, Persimmons, and a wide variety of others.

Some of the plantings have focused on adding native species that would have provided food to those early freed settlers. This year, Hazelnut, Chokeberry, and Highbush Blueberry patches will be added to the Settlement. Because of the transient nature of this early Free Black Settlement, the early inhabitants would probably not have planted trees and shrubs, but these native species would have grown naturally in the surrounding forests.

This year, we hope to add a team of MGs to water and do additional maintenance in the Settlement area. We will be planting seedlings in the area and will be scheduling regular work days, which will be something new this year. Send an email to kinshawellis@gmail.com if you want to join the team.

WATER WISE CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

BY ELVIN & KAY CLAPP, MASTER GARDENERS, CLASS OF 2018



We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Water Wise Low Maintenance Demonstration Project. We'll kick off our anniversary with coffee and cake on April 4th. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the JCC Human Services Center. This past month, the Olde Towne Medical Center dedicated a page on their website to the Water Wise garden. Susan Walkey of the Medical Center staff took the photos and developed the page to [the Garden at Old Towne](https://www.otmdc.org/garden) (<https://www.otmdc.org/garden>).

NATIVE PLANT POLLINATOR AND RAIN DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT VETERAN'S PARK/KIDSBURG

BY JEN CAMPBELL, MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2016

The Native Plant Pollinator Garden is a new Master Gardener Project this year. Established in early spring of 2021, a 200-foot swale of grass began its transformation into what is now a wildly beautiful garden full of bees, butterflies, birds and insects. JCCW Master Gardener and Certified Landscape Designer Peggy Krapf, designed the garden that features native plants and incorporates a rain garden.

The Garden, which is ideally situated in highly visited Veteran's Park, is a collaborative effort between James City County Parks and Recreation Division, the Environmental Sustainability Division, and our Master Gardeners.

The purpose of the garden is to raise awareness of the current pollinator crisis while educating the community on biodiversity, the local ecosystem, and beneficial landscaping practices that they can incorporate in their own yards.

Aside from being welcoming to both humans and wildlife, the Garden is a recognized Monarch Waystation, registered on the Home-Grown National Park network and is a recent recipient of the Arbor Day Award of Excellence.



HONEY BEES AND SWARM SEASON

BY NATE BRAUNER, COORDINATOR FOR THE COLONIAL BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

As we get into spring, you're likely to see honey bees swarming. The Colonial Beekeepers Association (CBA), a non-profit organization, has set up a swarm hotline to help homeowners report swarms and when necessary send beekeepers to remove bees and relocate them. The CBA's swarm hotline is 757-828-7707. Swarms are usually removed for free.

This year, the CBA has formed a "Honey Bee (Apiary) Collective" at the York County Extension Office to leverage the research generated out of Virginia Tech to assist local beekeepers.

To that end, the Honey Bee Collective is partnering with CBA using their swarm hotline and conducting educational activities. As a result the swarm hotline is rapidly becoming a one stop shop for any honeybee related issues.

For more information about the swarm hotline contact Nate Brauner at nathan@brauner.us or the swarm hotline, 757-828-7707.

Nate is an outreach coordinator for the Colonial Beekeepers Association (CBA), serving the Virginia and Middle Peninsulas and he's a volunteer Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, out of York County.



HAVE YOU SEEN A HONEY BEE SWARM?



**Let a beekeeper help you
by giving them a new home.**

**CALL THE SWARM HOTLINE
(757) 828-7707**



TOMATOES WITH HARRIET SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH

BY VICKIE ROCKWELL, PRESIDENT ELECT & MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2019

The upcoming Master Gardener Library Lecture is on Saturday, April 8th at the Stryker Center at 10:15 am. The topic is "Tomatoes: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly" presented by Harriet Parsons. Harriet is a 2008 graduate of the JCCW Master Gardener Association and known for her vegetable gardening skills.

Do you try to grow tomatoes but are disappointed by your efforts? Do you have questions about determinate and indeterminate heirloom, hybrid, best cultivars for the Tidewater area? What about insects and diseases?

Harriet will share her experiences and knowledge about growing tomatoes here in humid Virginia. Direct your questions about the event to Vickie Rockwell, JCCW Master Gardener, at 832-512-7475 or email at varockwell@outlook.com.

Miss the Lecture? Catch Harriet on our website, [Growing Heirloom Tomatoes with Harriet Parson, teacher and Master Gardener, class of 2008](https://youtu.be/DBK3ejCUVqE) (<https://youtu.be/DBK3ejCUVqE>), recorded on March 4, 2021.

ECOLOGY CORNER — HOST PLANTS

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

Many people know that Monarch butterflies need milkweed to complete their life cycles. People also know that native plants are important for our pollinators, but the connection some people miss is that all of our butterflies have plants that they prefer to lay their eggs on. Some butterflies are generalists and some look for very specific plants.

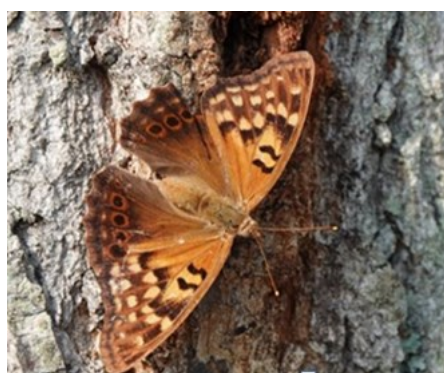
The good news is that if you have a favorite butterfly, you can plant specific plants to help attract that butterfly to your yard. The thing you want to keep in mind is that when butterflies lay eggs on your plants, the caterpillars that hatch are going to EAT YOUR PLANTS. Many of us have spent years trying to rid our gardens of things that eat our plants, so growing plants for the purpose of encouraging the life cycle of butterflies may go against our instincts.

What are your favorite butterflies? We have some pretty nice ones here. If you like our state butterfly, the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, you probably do not need to plant anything. The ETS host plants include the Tulip Poplar and Black Cherry, which can be found throughout our woods. A butterfly that does seem to find garden plants is the Black Swallowtail. Golden Alexander is a native host plant for the Black Swallowtail, but it will also lay eggs on parsley, fennel, or Queen Anne's Lace. You can buy parsley and tuck it into your hanging baskets or pots and the butterflies will find it—and eat it.

If you are intrigued by the beauty of the Passion Vine, consider adding it to a trellis in your landscape. It is a preferred host plant for the Variegated Fritillary. Red-spotted Purples and the tiny Spring Azure both like Black Cherry, while the Zebra Swallowtails need PawPaws for their caterpillars. The Spicebush Swallowtail prefers Spicebush, a shrub, or Sassafras. The Spicebush caterpillar is bright green and has huge spots near its head to make it look like a snake.

Black Cherry hosts many different butterflies and so does the Hackberry. American Snouts, Question Marks, Hackberry Emperors, and Tawny Emperors all use the Hackberry tree as their host plant. When you visit the nursery this spring, pick up some extra parsley for the swallowtails or consider adding some new host plants to your garden and enjoy the butterflies who find them.

For a more thorough list of host plants, take a look at this article:
<https://www.lewisginter.org/butterfly-host-plants/>



Picture 1: Black Swallowtail caterpillar on fennel

Picture 2: Hackberry Emperor on Hackberry tree

Picture 3: Variegated Fritillary on Passion Vine

THE GREEN THUMB MARKET WANTS YOUR GARDEN TREASURES

BY ELIZABETH MYERS, VP OF PROJECTS, CLASS OF 2022

Now through the end of April, donate your gently used garden treasures to the Plant Sale! We're collecting:

Green Thumb Art Market: Original and hand made items including greeting cards, garden pots, garden stakes and pot picks, statues and other original, new garden decor. You, the artist, can let us know if there is a minimum price you would expect for your creation.

Trash and Treasure: Gently used garden tools and watering supplies (hoses, sprinklers, and watering cans), planters, clean bird feeders or bird houses, garden statues, flags, patio décor, and unusual items you no longer want but no books.

Do you have treasures you can transport to our Thursday, April 6 membership business meeting? Let us know as we're happy to take them off your hands then. If the business meeting doesn't work for you, please contact one of us and we'll set up a better time with you.

Got questions or donations? Here's the team's contact info.

- Linda Becker(lindabecker53@gmail.com),
- Christine Mason(cjvmason@gmail.com) ,
- Terry McGlennon TerryMcGlennon4@gmail.com)
- Elizabeth Myers (egmyers@comcast.net)

Pictured here are some of last year's treasures but we are thrilled with the items we have so far for this year's sale and look forward to adding yours to our treasure trove!



James City County
Williamsburg
Master Gardeners

PLANT SALE

SAT • MAY 6, 2023 • 9am-12noon

RAIN or SHINE at the
Williamsburg Botanical Garden inside Freedom Park
5537 Centerville Road, Williamsburg

ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, HERBS, VEGGIES, TREES, SHRUBS
On-Site Help Desk to Answer Your Gardening Questions
GARDEN TREASURES at the GREEN THUMB SALE

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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, genetic expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law. If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Sandra Kee, James City County Unit at 757-564-2170(TDDP) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

With cooperation from the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and James City County Parks



PLANTS FOR THE PLANT SALE—NEXT STEPS

BY DEBE SNEATH, VP OF EDUCATION, CLASS OF 2022



Still puzzling over what plants are acceptable or what type to get? Our plant experts say no invasive plants and no houseplants can be sold. That still leaves many to choose from! Annuals, perennials, grasses, ferns, shrubs, trees. Our many local nurseries like Forest Lane Botanicals, Homestead Gardens, Colemans, Atlantic Growers and Sandy's Plants can help if you are still stumped. You can also contact Gary Streb at gstreb11@gmail.com and he'll fill you in on everything you need to know!



If you haven't had time to divide or thin out your plants, there is still time to reach out to our awesome DIG Team. Just contact Debe Sineath at dksineath@yahoo.com or call/text 610-724-6749 to schedule a time. We will dig, pot, store and add to the plant database for the proper tags and deliver to the plant sale. What could be easier!



Need a place to store those plants or have them cared for? We have the resources to baby those babies. Give Debe a call, text, or email at dksineath@yahoo.com or 610-724-6749. Once again, we can give them the tender love they need, get them labeled and delivered to the plant sale.



Do you have the plants ready to donate but don't know what's next? All plants need to be added to our plant inventory database to create a tag to label them. This computerized database is up and running. Go to this link on our website—<https://jccwmg.org/planttags/> - and follow the directions to enter your plants into inventory and get your plant tags. If you need help our dig team is good at data entry too. Just let us know and we can get those plants entered and tags created for you to pick up—easy peasy! Just contact Debe Sineath at dksineath@yahoo.com or call or text 610-724-6749.



Finally, all plants must be “shop worthy” by Friday May 5th with the plant details added to the database, the plant labels added to the plants and the plants taken to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. If you need help transporting give Debe Sineath a call or email and the Dig team will pick them up and deliver them. White glove or maybe we should say garden glove service!

Here's a photo from last year's sale. Thank you Master Gardeners for making this year's sale equally successful!



HOW TO GET YOUR PLANTS TO THE SALE

BY GARY STREB, PLANT SALE PROJECT LEAD, Gstreb11@gmail.com

Mobile/text 757.871.7369

Land/message 757.565.0250



PLANT SALE AND SET UP DATES - Annual James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association's Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 6th, from 9:00 to noon at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden in Freedom Park. Our set-up will be Friday, May 5th.

Hard to believe that the Plant Sale is only about 5 weeks away! Spring has sprung so the plants are getting ready. But are you ready---or at least on the right path to support this critical endeavor? We have lots of moving parts and several dedicated fellow EMGs behind the scenes pulling together all of the vital functions that need to be completed on time. This is a full-team press and we thank you for your continued support in any way you can.

CALL THE DIG-LINE - Debe Sineath and her digging team has been busy assisting fellow EMGs cull their gardens for healthy specimens. If you have plants to donate but are unable to physically divide and pot them or if you would like to get your fingernails dirty and prepare the donations for sale, please give let Debe know at dksineath@yahoo.com.

YOUR PLANTS NEED TAGS - Every plant will have a computer-generated identification tag in the pot for sale, as well as a separate price tag. Dave Banks is again creating these for the thousands of plants we will have for sale. He needs your full and timely support to get this done! We will need a plant list of the donations you are making and each plant and number of each will need to be input into the computerized inventory. The procedure will be like what we did last year with some improvement made to make it easier for you to input the data. This can be done incrementally so start now---the Plant Tags site is open.

HOW TO GET YOUR TAGS. Go to our website at jccwmg.org and click on the **Members Only** Tab. The last item on the drop-down menu is **Plant Tags**. Click on it and just follow the instructions. Most of the plants we will be selling are already in the data base so you will not have to spend the amount of time you did last year. Start now and update as necessary. We (and especially Dave!) would appreciate not waiting to the last minute. Distribution guidance will be announced later in an update email.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO VOLUNTEER in-person on May 5th and/or May 6th? We need you to put your intentions into our computer-assisted program, **Sign-up Genius** as soon as possible. Several of you have indicated your intentions by signing the roster we distributed at the JCCWMGA meeting in February or by emailing me directly. We are asking you to **confirm** by going to the **Sign-Up Genius** and put your name in the desired job position and time slot---if you have questions about the job requirement the committee leaders are listed in the program. Thanks to each of you that have already followed Dot Finnegan's email instructions and filled in your intent. Dot or Carol Beers will be able to address your concerns about the sign-up process at either definn@widomaker.com or beersc@cox.net.

WE STILL NEED TRANSPORT. Trucks, SUVs, and vans will be needed to transport plants already staged at the Learning Gardens on Waller Mill, pick-up supplies at the storage building on Ironbound, both on May 5 and 6. Carts and wagons are still needed for customer purchases during the sale. **Sign-Up Genius** will be used to volunteer your time and transports.

Watch for **Plant Sale 2023 Updates** via email. Questions and concerns can be addressed at our next monthly Association General Meeting on April 6th. In the meantime, really any time, let me know your issues and we all will get it resolved for you.

AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE

BY MARILYN RIDDLE, VMGA REP. ALTERNATE, CLASS OF 2001

If you want to witness early May twice this year, plan to attend this year's Master Gardener College at Virginia Tech on June 7-11. The advanced training is for Tree Stewards this time. Yes, there is almost a month's shift in the growing season from ours. If you have never been to Blacksburg, you will see a real change once you leave I-81 S in Christiansburg and drive for 30 minutes toward West Virginia. The total trip can be done in a little more than four hours if you plan it right.

This will be the earliest that this event has ever been held to ensure that those who are also going to the international counterpart in mid-June will have more time to rest between the two. My task is to share with you some of my tips that have made my trips there more enjoyable.

If you are past 75, I would suggest that the dorms are not your best choice for housing due to the very hard plastic, zippered mattress coverings that are somewhat akin to soft concrete. I have stayed mostly in bnbs. I have a housing opportunity because of a membership in a national volunteer group that has placed me in the homes of some of the retired VT administrators. That has been wonderful because, by chance, they had actually worked in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, so we had much in common to talk about.

Also, do not assume that the campus is the size of William and Mary's. I just checked, and Tech's campus is only a little more than double the size of the one at WM but has fewer buildings. Classes and dorms are chosen to minimize walking, but remember you are in the edge of the mountains and there will be hills many places.

You should check the weather forecast before leaving, but I would guess you will find a difference of 10 degrees, Fahrenheit, at that time. I choose classes based on the reputation of the speakers and not on their subject matter. I checked with four VMGA friends throughout the commonwealth today and even those on the master gardening conference planning committee tell me that the full description and registration will not be available until just before April 1.

Remember that there are VMGA scholarships for which you can apply, and higher income does not exclude anyone. Only two may be submitted per unit by our agent, Forrest Hobbs, so make him aware that you would like his backing soon.

If you are not in the dormitory/cafeteria plan, you will likely want to purchase one or two meals per day in the dining hall. They have excellent food, limitless supply, and an almost infinite variety. I will be glad to make a list serve and send you information when it arrives if I think it is ahead of general distribution. There has been conversation and even attempts over the last five years or so to rotate the sites for MGC, but that does not seem to remain in current plans. An urban center just does not have the feel of that beautiful campus for such an event.

Oh, also, you need to go to the website for the Moss Arts Center on campus and see if they have any activities while you are at MGC. The tours before MGC often are sold out on the first day. I made the cut for the "Dirty Dancing" tour which allowed me to visit a place that I would have never driven to because of the narrow, curvy roads as well as the rugged terrain. If they offer "A Night in Floyd" again, check with me.

Marilyn Riddle
mriddle@cox.net

Arc of Abilities Hosts MGs for Delicious Lunch

February 23, 2023 - To kick off the upcoming season of Therapeutic Gardening, Master Gardeners were treated to lunch prepared by AoA friends at their place. They provided a tasty meal consisting of crispy salad, a pasta dish, and cookies decorated with flowers and butterflies.

They made a large sign that said "Thank you, MGs!"

Several AoA friends made and held letters to spell "garden" then told what each letter represented.

For a craft, MG Karen Brooks gave out sketches of maps representing Virginia's growing areas. We discovered that we are in the coastal plains of Virginia, and one popular crop is tomatoes.



A great time with AoA and MG Friends



MG'S PARTICIPATE IN BLAYTON SCHOOL'S OPEN HOUSE

BY PAM ARNOLD, MASTER GARDENER, CLASS OF 2018



Photo Credit: Elizabeth Myers

The Master Gardeners from J. B. Blayton School Garden were invited by the school's principal to join the school's March open house activities. Master Gardeners developed two exercises for this event that explained the planting and growing process.

One where the students chose from pumpkin, sunflower, or melon seeds and were shown how easy it is to place their seed in a hole they make in the dirt with their finger.

And another activity where the students were charged with figuring out the best place in their home to germinate their newly planted seed. Windowsills were a top favorite.

This JCCW Master Gardener project is a school club in which 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders can participate and it is co-chaired by Ken Caro and Pam Arnold.

CLASSIFIEDS

SEEKING 40TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC CHAIRPERSON

We are celebrating our 40th Anniversary this summer with a picnic in July! We are seeking a volunteer to coordinate this fun event! Date, time, location are set and a portion of the picnic is set aside to recognize our 40 years of service to the community.

We need someone to "bring it all together"! The chairperson (or persons) will rally members to attend and bring salads/sides or desserts to share, determine how many volunteers are needed to pick up supplies and set up the picnic day of the event, work with the board on the recognition segment and help communicate details about the event.

You will not be alone! Last year's co-chair, Angelia Cingale, has offered to provide advice and direction for the incoming chairperson!

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Elizabeth Myers, (egmyers@comcast.net)

NEED GRAPE GROWER TO TEACH BASICS



Clara Byrd Baker Kids Garden is looking for someone who is knowledgeable about growing grapes. We hope to get the grapes in mid-April & have the kids plant them. We're looking for a person who can guide us with planting, proper espaliering, harvesting, and the like. This person would also give a simple 15–20-minute introduction to grape growing to third to fifth graders and answer questions on proper care.

Please contact Juli Griffith at 785-410-1674 or ggriff73@gmail.com if you're interested or know of someone who might be. We meet at CBB at 4:00 Tuesdays.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for MAY, 2023 is Monday, April 21,

Send your submissions to:
Elizabeth Myers, egmyers@comcast.net
or Marion Guthrie,
marion.guthrie@gmail.com

MORE CLASSIFIEDS



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14

Why not order some Logo Gear for those gardeners in your life? The clothing is embroidered with our JCCWMGA Logo. Check out our online catalog (https://stores.alogoforyou.com/master_gardeners/shop/home) and order your LOGO GEAR today! Questions? Contact Linda Becker, (lindabecker53@gmail.com)

Direct your questions about
THE PLANT SALE

including current needs and volunteer opportunities to Gary Streb, gstreb11@gmail.com. Gary is the Project Leader for this important fundraising event. See this newsletter for more information about the sale.

WATCH LEARN & GROW ON YOUTUBE

Judith Alberts kindly provided the link to the WBG-FPA Botanical Garden YouTube channel where all the Learn & Grow recorded series are maintained in a single playlist. A wealth of information and some familiar faces too. Enjoy!

Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYTjvLi5Aqy-gCHdZE-CIDR6bdQQmcFI>

If you know of a Master Gardener who is experiencing difficult times or who deserves recognition, please let us know by contacting Dot Finnegan, secretary@jccwmg.org

LANDSCAPE LOVE IS OPEN!

Our popular Landscape Love program is now accepting applications. Landscape Love enables homeowners in the greater James City County Williamsburg area to meet with Master Gardeners to review and discuss their landscape questions right in the homeowner's yard.

Common requests are to identify plants, plant problems, discuss solutions and suggest plants that meet a specific need such as sun, shade, or deer resistance. These Master Gardeners don't create landscape designs or address property drainage issues. Their visits are plant and soil focused.

If you would like to apply for a visit, complete the application on the website at jccwmg.org. Sign up today on the website, at this link - <https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/home-visit-programs-5/>. Interested in joining the LL Team or looking for more information?

Contact:

Sherry Walker, eco.sherry@gmail.com
Barbara Floyd, bmfloyd57@gmail.com,
Susan Zickel, zickel@cox.net



4H JUNIOR CAMP SEEKS MASTER GARDENERS FOR JULY PROGRAMS

The 3-day 4H junior camp is seeking volunteers eager to teach garden topics of your choice to campers on July 25, 26, and 27. There is a need for 2 volunteers per class and a plan for 2 classes per day!

If you are interested in any or all of these dates, please contact Nealcyne Watkins (nealcynw@vt.edu) or call her at 804-695-7554.

A short video of last year's Plant Sale, with thanks to Odd Moxie Design - <https://youtu.be/JEY8O4C7CvI> on YouTube!

CELEBRATE EARTH & ARBOR DAYS

Find more articles on our website (jccwmg.org) in the garden blog.
Earn Hours, Learn, Have Fun!



April 22, Earth Day

WATCH—Urban Forests and Why They Matter - Stewardship and Sustainability of Urban and Community Forests

P. Eric Wiseman, PhD, Associate Professor of Urban and Community Forestry, Dept. of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech

<https://video.vt.edu/media/>

[Peninsula+Tree+Steward+Winter+2023+Training/1_zok00j6m](https://video.vt.edu/media/Peninsula+Tree+Steward+Winter+2023+Training/1_zok00j6m) (1 credit)



FOR THE
LOVE OF
TREES

Pioneers in the Nebraska Territory missed the trees they left behind back East. They needed trees for shade from the summer sun, for windbreaks to hold the soil, for fuel, and for building materials. They needed trees so much, that Nebraska's Board of Agriculture planned the first American Arbor Day celebration on April 10th of 1872. A million trees were planted in Nebraska that day. **Read more** <https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/for-love-of-trees/>



April 28, Arbor Day

WATCH—When to call an Arborist – Arbor Day

Andrew Koenig and Dan Lonergan, I.S.A. Board Certified Master Arborists and I.S.A. Qualified Risk Assessors

<https://video.vt.edu/media/>

[Peninsula+Tree+Steward+Winter+2023+Training/1_7n30w31h](https://video.vt.edu/media/Peninsula+Tree+Steward+Winter+2023+Training/1_7n30w31h) (1 credit)



Two American Chestnut Trees Planted at Freedom Park on Arbor Day 2022

Read about the American Chestnut: <https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/two-american-chestnut-trees-planted-at-freedom-park-for-arbor-day/>.

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