

# THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

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Celebrating 41 Years of Helping our  
Neighbors Grow!



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PLEASE NOTE: Our Board typically meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m., in Room B at the Williamsburg Regional Library on Scotland Street. All members are welcome to attend.

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### NEWSLETTER

Layout & Design:  
Odd Moxie

**The submission deadline for the upcoming April 2024 newsletter is Monday, March 17.**

Webmaster:  
Dave Banks  
[dfbanks2@gmail.com](mailto:dfbanks2@gmail.com)

Send your submissions to our editor, Marion Guthrie at [vp-communications@jccwmga.org](mailto:vp-communications@jccwmga.org), and our new vice president of projects, Gary Griffith, at [vp-projects@jccwmga.org](mailto:vp-projects@jccwmga.org)

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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; Williamsburg, James City, Charles City, Upper York 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

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VICKIE ROCKWELL '19



Regardless of the outside temperature after the winter hiatus of short days and cloudy skies, March is when we gladly start to leave the house for the garden in search of the green. If you are like me, you're peeking under the mulch for hints of green, examining the crocuses and daffodils for buds, and starting to execute your spring and summer garden plan. It's an exciting time, a time of renewal of resources that will sustain us for the coming year – the new green.

But as Master Gardeners, we are aware of the current environmental issues that are plaguing our planet and jeopardizing our new green. We hear and read about climate change, global warming, shrinking forests, and rising ocean levels in the news daily. What can we do to solve these issues and reduce our carbon footprint? I believe that part of the key to staying green is adopting sustainable solutions.

Webster defines sustainability as “Avoiding the depletion of natural resources to maintain an ecological balance.” Coursera.org characterizes it “as our societies’ ability to exist and develop without depleting all of the natural resources needed to live in the future.” There are dozens more that reference the environment and natural resources. To me, sustainability means using our resources wisely and not wasting what we have. I recommend following the three ‘Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

- Reduce. Begin at the beginning. Buy items with less packaging, biodegradable packaging, or ones with no packaging. Borrow items if you only need them once or twice or rent them. Buy in bulk for items that last, such as laundry detergent, cleaning products, rice, flour, and pasta.
- Reuse items you have lying around the house, i.e., use grocery bags as bin liners or pet poop bags. Buy items secondhand. Donate unused items to secondhand shops. Repair broken items rather than recycling them or throwing them away.
- Recycle. Should only be used if reduced or reused are not options. It turns unusable products into new products.

There are many benefits to adopting the three R's. It reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. It helps sustain the environment for future generations. It reduces the waste that must be recycled or sent to landfills and incinerators. It saves energy.

Some of you might be thinking, but I'm only one person. What can I do? I'll remind you of an African Proverb that says, “If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent the night with a mosquito.” March also celebrates St. Patrick's Day, so while you're wearing the green, remember “Reduce-Reuse-Recycle” and Happy Gardening!



# Master Gardener Member Meeting Programs

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## Working With Children

Hannah Bishop, 4-H Extension Agent from Dinwiddie County, will be presenting Working With Children. In order to remain certified, Master Gardeners are required to take this training session every 3 years, and our new 2024 interns need to complete the training in order to graduate.

This session is best seen in person so members and interns can sign in to confirm they have attended, and our VP of Administration, Emily Coyner, can update Better Impact appropriately. Please join us to meet and greet our new interns and get a refresher in this must-have training session.

**March 7, 2024, at 9:00 am in the Williamsburg Regional Library**

Zoom Meeting ID is 889 8534 0423, but Zoom is not recommended for this learning session. For more information, contact Debera Sineath, VP of Education, at [vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org).



## Backyard Composting

Gaylynn Callahan, an Extension agent in the City of Hampton, will speak about Backyard Composting at our membership meeting on April 7, 2024, at 9 a.m. Gaylynn developed the Hampton Urban Garden program, which provides city residents with access to an urban garden bed and education on basic gardening skills.

**April 7, 2024, at 9:00 am via Zoom**

Zoom meeting ID is 889 8534 0423, and this meeting ID will be used for all of the 2024 programs. Here's how:

- Log into Zoom,
- Click on Join a Meeting,
- Enter your meeting ID, and
- Click Join.

This is open to the public, so bring your gardening friends! For more information, contact Debera Sineath, VP of Education, at [vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org).





# Mattey's Garden Clean Up

**TIFFENI GOESEL '18**

Mattey's Garden has been busy taking advantage of our mild winter. The Restoration Team, headed by Jeff Mellinger with Fred Rojek, Scott Woltz, and Mike Carron, replaced all but one garden bed with substantially higher beds. The remaining one contains the strawberry crop which will be relocated come spring. The new raised beds have seats around them, making it easier for both the children and the Master Gardens to work.

Many of the beds already contain crops of garlic, peas & carrots. In March, the First Graders will be planting potatoes and onions. The Pizza Garden has been moved over slightly and greatly enlarged with a new brick surround. A perfect circle was drawn by Fred, who used his ancient techniques to achieve this job. The bricks were reused, and some were donated from Fred's personal brick pile.

Several tons of good compost and soil were delivered by Scott, and the Team filled the beds. The ABC Garden was tidied up by the Team and Mary DiSalvo. Fresh soil was added. Terry McGlennon painted the Alphabet Markers in fresh, happy colors. The jungle that was on the fence has been removed and the school laid down thick mulch. Now, as parents, staff, students, and community members drive down the driveway, they have a much better view of the garden.

Tiffeni Goesel, project leader, has finished painting new signs for the Herb Garden, the Virginia Native Plants Garden, and the Pollinator Garden, and they will be installed in the spring. The Team also cleaned up the garden entrance, removing invasive species and relocating other plants to better areas.

The restoration is far from complete. Some upcoming projects are a potting bench, a back service gate, repairing and improving the leaning back fence, repairing loose boards, and the two arbors.



Fred lays a layer of brick around the new Pizza Garden.



Mary Kate Goelke, our PTA Parent assists the First Graders with homemade bird feeders.



The Teaching Team, including Mary DiSalvo, Terry McGlennon, Sue Barton, Felecia Floyd, Jody Stephens, and Morag Wiley, and headed by Tiffeni Goesel, has had some rewarding classes with both the Kindergarten and First Grade students. This included two devoted PTA Moms who read garden-themed books to the children and volunteered their time when we were shorthanded. The Kindergarten made their own tea bags and sachet bags and have started herbs indoors to be planted in the Herb Garden come May. The First Graders also started their own indoor lettuce, spinach, and kale crops.

As the restoration has been going on, the school staff have been very vocal about how they appreciate all our hard work and dedication and how much they love Matthey's Garden. The history of Matthew Whaley School is highlighted by the generations of students, parents, and grandparents, who are the school's garden greatest fans. Our garden is named after Matthew Whaley (1696-1705), the son of a local educator (Mary Whaley).

If you were once part of Matthey's Garden and would like to rejoin our team, please contact Tiffeni Goesel at [tiffenigoesel@cox.net](mailto:tiffenigoesel@cox.net). Our garden team consists of the overall garden and many smaller team gardens, such as the Fairy Garden and Herb Garden. If you are currently part of Matthey's and want to be on one of these teams, contact Tiffeni or Jeff. As the weather warms up, we will have much to do, and as you know, many hands make light work!



The Front Entrance gets cleaned up and rearranged. Mary DiSalvo, Mike Carron, Sue Barton & Felecia Floyd.



Jeff Mellinger adds compost and soil to the new raised beds.



# Spring Cleanup at Freedom Park

**JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS, '15**

The Free Black Settlement at Freedom Park is a small project where much of the work focuses on some pruning, spring cleaning, and mulching, along with the annual tree planting. In February, Donna Benson, Pamela VanCott, and Judy Kinshaw-Ellis weeded around the walnut and apple trees and in the elderberry patch. We also did some minor fence repairs and mulching.

This year's order of trees will be delivered the week of March 6, so there will be a tree planting day when the weather is right at the end of that week or early in the week of March 13. Hazelnuts and beautyberries will be added to the Settlement this spring.

In other news, in the Settlement, the two cabins had their gardens rebuilt and the soil replenished last summer. These beds have gone unused for several years, but they are an opportunity for anyone interested in vegetable gardening or medicinal plants to start a new project.

Vegetables or medicinal plants would complement many of the shrubs and trees that bear fruit and would have been a food source for those early settlers. The Settlement is an area of historical significance, as it was the site of one of the earliest free Black settlements in the country.

If you want to join the Settlement team, take on the vegetable or medicinal plant gardens, or plant trees, please contact Judy at [kinshawellis@gmail.com](mailto:kinshawellis@gmail.com).



Donna Benson, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, and Pamela VanCott spent a morning weeding and mulching in the Settlement at Freedom Park.



Don't miss our own Master Gardeners Judy Kinshaw-Ellis (page 19) and Mary Sipe (page 30) in the March issue of [Next Door Neighbors!](#)





# Business Notes

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## EARN CE CREDITS WITH GARDENING IN AMERICA!

The American Horticultural Society is launching its first Self-Paced Online Course through Lifelong Learning entitled [Gardening in America](#), which begins mid-March and ends mid-August. VTech requires board approval on any symposiums, conferences, or classes of this nature, and our Board has approved this learning opportunity. JCCW Master Gardeners taking these classes will qualify for one CE hour per module. Should you have any questions, please contact Debe Sineath, Vice President of Education, at [dkineath@yahoo.com](mailto:dkineath@yahoo.com) or [vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org). [Register here!](#)

## DUES ARE DUE!

2024 membership dues were due at year-end 2023. If you haven't paid them yet, here's what to do. Your dues are \$25.00, and payment options are by check and by credit card online. If paying by check, make it out to JCCW-MGA, and note "2024 Dues" on the check. Then mail it to JCCW-MGA, PO Box 1951, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1951. Pay easily online at [jccwmg.org/word-press/mg-dues-payment-2024/](http://jccwmg.org/word-press/mg-dues-payment-2024/).

Questions? Contact Linda Neilson, our Treasurer, at [lezelln@cox.net](mailto:lezelln@cox.net).

## JUST A VIDEO AWAY

Many videos qualifying for Continuing Education hours can be found on our website ([jccwmg.org](http://jccwmg.org)) under the Education tab, as well as on other Master Gardener websites.

Here's a sampling:

- [JCCWilliamsburg Master Gardeners - YouTube](#)
- [VBMGA Programs - YouTube](#)
- [VCE Loudoun Master Gardener Lecture Series - YouTube](#)
- [Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia - YouTube](#)

Don't forget to log your CE hours in Better Impact to ensure credit for the year.

## LANDSCAPE LOVE RETURNS SOON!

Preparations for a new season of Landscape Love are underway. We will begin accepting homeowner applications on March 18 and start our home visits in April. This is one of our most popular programs. A small team of our master gardeners visits a property at the homeowner's request to answer questions and provide gardening guidance on-site. If you want to volunteer, contact Barbara Floyd at [bmfloyd57@gmail.com](mailto:bmfloyd57@gmail.com). We'd really like to have you join us!

## PLANT SALE HELP WANTED

Master Gardeners are needed to join the Plant Acquisition team for our Plant Sale on May 11. You'll help acquire plants from Master Gardeners as well as retail resources and provide oversight on set-up day, Friday, May 10. For more information, contact Mary Sipe ([mcsipe2@gmail.com](mailto:mcsipe2@gmail.com)).

## JOIN THE CW GARDENS AND TOURS

It's puddle-wonderful spring, and the Colonial Williamsburg Demonstration Gardens and Public Tours project is back in the Catherine Orr Garden, the Shields Tavern Garden, and the Governor's Palace Herb Garden. We're looking for seasoned volunteers and new people too. Join us in the CW Gardens by contacting Barbara Floyd ([bmfloyd57@gmail.com](mailto:bmfloyd57@gmail.com)) or Pat Abraham ([pabraham219@gmail.com](mailto:pabraham219@gmail.com)) for information.

## FARM DATA

if you're interested in farm data, Master Gardener Scott Wolz provided this link from the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS), which offers farm data, the number of farms, producers, and more. Check out: <https://vegetablegrower-snews.com/news/usda-nass-releases-2022-census-of-agriculture-results/>

# Witch-Hazel Family Fractures

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## Master Gardener CE Opportunity: 3/14/24 @ 7:00 pm

Arlington & Alexandria Tree Steward Training invites you to a Zoom presentation on Hamamelidaceae: The Witch-Hazel Family Fractures, presented by Emily Ferguson, Charlottesville Tree Steward and Master Naturalist, who presents interesting facts about sweetgums and witch hazel. You do not need to register for this session. Save the link and attend on Mar 14, 2024, at 07:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83578736287?pwd=OUkzakFFbW1Ea1V6V2lqemZzTE0wdz09> Meeting ID: 835 7873 6287 Passcode: 031638



# Williamsburg Botanical Garden Pruning Project

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**HARRY FAHL ' 18**

Harry Fahl, Master Gardener and Tree Steward, invites you to join the upcoming Bi-Annual Williamsburg Botanical Garden Pruning and Thinning Project. It started on Tuesday, February 6th, and continues each consecutive Tuesday from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. How many weeks in total depends on how many volunteers give their time.

If you plan on attending any or all of the sessions, please email Harry at [hfhahl@gmail.com](mailto:hfhahl@gmail.com) and include your telephone number. This will enable him to plan the day and to reach out to you if circumstances dictate a change in that day's efforts. For questions, contact Harry too





# Ecology Corner

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## Planting in Wet Shade

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15



Buttonbush, Judy Kinshaw-Ellis

Sometimes, it seems as though nothing will grow in the wet, shady area of a yard, and this is one situation where picking the right plant for the right place is critical. You may not get all of the showy blossoms that come with a sunnier spot, but there are some lovely choices.

The Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) will grow in standing water, adding a dramatic red spot to a shady area. Ferns always thrive in a shady spot, and Royal Fern (*Osmunda spectabilis*) also tolerates wet ground. Another plant that adds interest to a shady spot is Soft Rush (*Juncus effesus*). It will also thrive close to the house near a water spigot.

A small tree or shrub might be the answer if you want to fill more space in your shady area. Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) is a compact tree that is a pollinator magnet. Its blooms are about the size of a golf ball and are quite intricate. It can be pruned to keep it compact.

Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) is another pollinator favorite. Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) grows slowly but can grow quite large. It has intricate flowers in the spring and is available in compact cultivars. If you are looking for something just a bit larger, you might consider Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) or Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*). Both are beautiful flowering small trees.

Shady areas can present some of the biggest challenges to gardeners. Add in a low-lying wet area, and growing plants can be even more daunting. Take time to educate yourself and evaluate what plants thrive in these conditions, and you can transform that wet, shady area of your garden into a site where well-selected plants, trees, and bushes thrive.



# Volunteering in the Gardens

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**ANNE HUNT '15**

Keeping your certification up to date

As James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners, we must complete 20 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of continuing education annually to remain certified. What's the best way to give those hours? What works best for our personal schedules? How do you find what gardens meet when and what projects need our help? The Communications Team has these suggestions.

Select JCCMG projects that interest you. We have 29 programs, from garden work to home consultations, where your help is needed. For a list of Project Leads and their email contact information: <https://jccwmg.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Project-Leads-Roster-February-202427Feb.pdf>

Get connected. All project leads maintain an email list of MG's interested in their specific gardening activity. Being on a specific project's email list is the best way to stay current on a project's activities. For example, a weekly garden workday might be Monday, but the meeting might be changed or canceled if it rains. Project leads *keep you in the know* via email! Remember to get on the project lead's email list to ensure you are at the right place and time.

Build community. Participating regularly has two benefits. First, the project leads put tremendous work into organizing their activities. And they need reliable help! Secondly, regular participation is how you make friends and build your sense of community within the program.

Be in the right place at the right time

Here's a 20,000-foot overview of when our Gardens meet. This is only a partial list to give you an idea of what is available. This is not all 29 projects. Just gardens.

## MONDAY

Jamestown Settlement

Veteran's Park Kidsburg Pollinator Garden

CW\* (Orr-Shields)

## TUESDAY

Williamsburg Botanical Garden

Clara Byrd Baker

CW\* (Governor's Palace)

## WEDNESDAY

CW\* (Orr-Shields)

Waterwise Low Maintenance Gardening

## THURSDAY

Williamsburg Botanical Garden Operations

Brick Yard

## FRIDAY

Blayton School Garden

Mattey's Garden

CW\* (Orr-Shields)

Historic Triangle Learning Garden\*\*

## SATURDAY

Historic Triangle Learning Garden\*\*

\* CW Gardens require you to have certain prerequisites

\*\* Historic Triangle Learning Garden alternates between Friday and Saturday

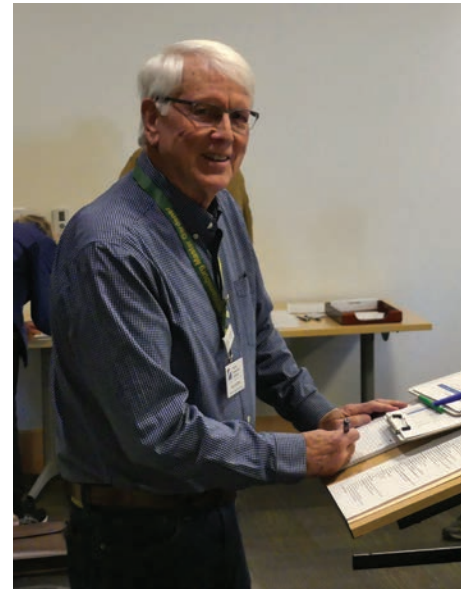
For more information, contact VP of Projects Gary Griffith ([vp-project@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-project@jccwmg.org)).



# Our Project Leaders Met

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Our Project Leaders met on Thursday, February 22nd, at the Stryker Center, when Gary Griffith, Vice President of Projects, provided and reviewed important information about leading and managing the [Association's 29 projects](https://content.betterimpact.com/files/agency/32285/Project-Leads-Roster-redone-February%202024%20word%20%281%29.pdf). Questions and a lively discussion ensued. <https://content.betterimpact.com/files/agency/32285/Project-Leads-Roster-redone-February%202024%20word%20%281%29.pdf>





# Our Plant Sale – Digging Time is Here

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**MARY SIPE '14**

As most of you know, the vast majority of the plants that we sell at our annual fundraiser come from our own home gardens. Gently used garden paraphernalia are also donated for our Green Thumb Market from our garage and attic cleanouts. It is now time to begin digging these plants and looking in your home for items to donate.

Please dig and pot up early so plants can recover from the transplant shock. Doing this early in the season while it is cool is good for the plant and the gardener! Please ensure you sterilize your pots in a 10% bleach and water bath so we don't pass along diseases to our customers' gardens. I will bring pots to the next MG meeting, but we also have many more pots in storage if you need more. Please contact me at [mcsipe2@gmail.com](mailto:mcsipe2@gmail.com), and we can arrange a time to meet at Matthey's Garden, where these are stored.

We had an issue last year with too many of the same types of plants. In some cases, we had up to 100 of the same plant, many of which didn't sell. We decided to recommend that no one pot up more than 25 of the same type of plant. I know most of us find it difficult not to pot up everything when we divide, but limiting it to the very best of the divisions gives us larger plants that will sell quickly. I'm sure your neighbors and friends can take your extras and will happily have them.

Make sure that you check the Do Not Sell List before you spend time digging plants. The list includes invasive plants and plants that have not sold well in the past or are considered overly aggressive spreaders. Please note that we do not sell houseplants either. The list may be found on the home page of Better Impact in the News section. Here is the link: <https://content.betterimpact.com/files/agency/32285/Do%20Not%20Sell%20Plant%20List.pdf>

We will soon ask you to sign up for the Set Up Day of May 10th where we do everything from setting up tables and tents to taking in your plant donations to price and organize for the next day's sale. The Green Thumb Market items will be donated earlier and stored. You will hear more about how to donate these items very soon.

Sign up for the Sale Day of May 11th to answer customer questions, write up purchases, accept payments, and help with loading, cleanup, and breakdown. It will be coming soon as well. So, consider how you can participate on one or both of these days.

There is a way that each of us can contribute to the sale, either through donations or helping on Set Up Day or Sale Day. It will take all of us contributing to reach the fundraising goals needed to finance our projects for the coming year. We will be opening up the signup system very soon with further instructions.

Thank you all for your dedication and efforts in making this a successful event.

# Labeling Your Plants for the Plant Sale

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**DEB BUSSERT '16**

As you have probably heard by now, we are not using the labelling system we used for the last two plant sales for various reasons. That means that each one of you must label the plants you are growing for the plant sale. Here are some guidelines:

1. The Association will provide you with white plastic labels, either 8" for perennials, grasses, groundcovers, ferns, biennials, bulbs, trees, shrubs, and vines, or 6" for vegetables, herbs, and annuals.
2. You must use a permanent marker with a fine or super-fine point. Do not use Flare, Magic Marker, or any other type of pen or pencil to make your labels.
3. Your labels for perennials, grasses, groundcovers, ferns, biennials, bulbs, trees, shrubs, and vines should include the following information:

## FRONT

- Type of plant, i.e., perennial, tree, bulb, etc.
- Common name
- Variety, if applicable
- Whether native
- Light requirements, i.e., sun, part shade, shade
- Flowering season and color, if applicable

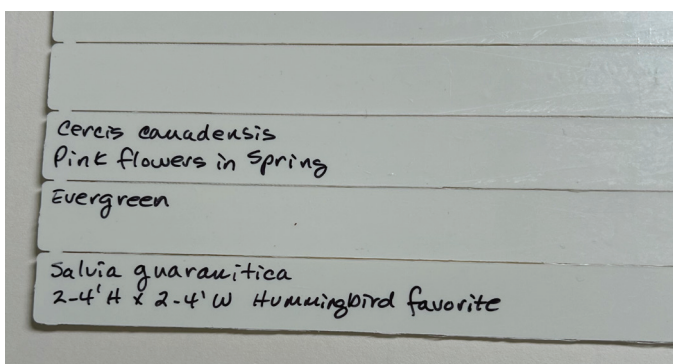
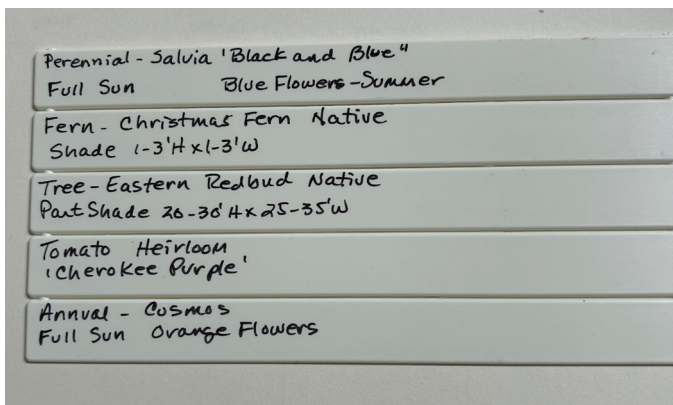
## BACK

- Botanical name
  - Size, i.e., 2-4' H x 2-4' W
  - Notes, i.e., "Hummingbird favorite," "fragrant," "requires good drainage"
4. For vegetables, herbs, and annuals, include the following:
    - Type of plant, i.e., vegetable, annual, herb
    - Common name
    - Variety
    - Light requirements
    - Flower color, if applicable
    - Notes





5. You do not have to include that information for trees, shrubs, and other plants with insignificant flowers.
6. In cases where the common name is also the botanical name (i.e., hosta, hellebore, peony), there is no need to write the botanical name again on the back of the label.
7. You can make arrangements to get labels from me at upcoming Association meetings or pick them up at another time. These labels are not inexpensive, so please only take as many as you really need. Contact me in advance with the number of labels you request so I can bring enough to the meeting. We ask that you return any unused labels for next year's sale.
8. Labels should be inserted into the pots with the front FACING OUT. Please remove any old labels or obscure them with a black Magic Marker.



The NC Ext. Service Plant Toolbox website <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu> is a good research tool for size and other plant attributes. This website also allows you to search by a part of the name or by the common name.

# Big Plans for The Native Plant Pollinator Garden

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JEN CAMPBELL '16



Planted in 2021, the Native Plant Pollinator Garden at Veteran's Park has big plans for 2024 and needs your help to succeed. The garden's focus is to educate the community on the importance of biodiversity by showcasing native plants and their role in supporting pollinators while also incorporating other best management practices, such as a rain garden.

We are committed to making this a garden where the community can work and learn alongside our Extension Master Gardeners. To make this happen, we will focus on two initiatives. The first is to host a Pollinator Palooza, and the second is to expand the biodiversity of the garden.

The Pollinator Palooza will celebrate National Pollinator Week (17-23 Jun 2024). This is a

collaborative effort with JCC Parks and Recreation and the JCC Clean County Commission. It entails two separate events, both held adjacent to the garden at Veterans Park.

The first event on Thursday, June 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., is geared for children and will also be part of the County's Longest Day at Play, the summer solstice. Several stations will involve crafts, exhibitions, and even a scavenger hunt. All are geared toward educating our youngest community members.

The event on Saturday, June 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., will focus on adults and will have representatives from pollinator-friendly organizations, such as the Williamsburg Area Beekeepers, Monarch Watch, the Native Plant



Society, Plant Virginia Natives, and the local Boy Scouts. We hope to grow the event and conduct the Pollinator Palooza on an annual basis.

Lastly, thanks to a generous grant from Dominion Energy, we are expanding our garden. We intend to provide additional host and nectar sources by adding native spring flowering trees and shrubs to the area. We plan to convert a large drainage area into a rain garden. Finally, by adding educational signage, we will further educate visitors on the importance of native plants and pollinators.

If you are curious or thinking about helping out, please contact Jen Campbell at [jenkcampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkcampbell@yahoo.com) or Alexandra Muhly at [44lexie@gmail.com](mailto:44lexie@gmail.com). Our weekly maintenance sessions (Mondays at 9:00 a.m.) in the garden will start soon. We would love to see you there.





# Emergency Update

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**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](mailto: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.





# In the Garden

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**ELIZABETH MCCOY '18**

Here are three new blogs by Master Gardener Elizabeth McCoy, recently posted on our website ([jccwmg.org](http://jccwmg.org)).



## **Can I Nibble the Fiddleheads?**

Perfect little green, tightly curled fiddleheads push through the damp earth and unfurl themselves into fresh, delicate fern fronds. You might wonder whether you can pluck one to nibble as you hike through the woods. Learn which are good to eat, how to cook them, and how to grow your own! [Learn more...](#)



## **Myrica, Superhero of the Garden**

Myrica produces fragrant, waxy drupes and provides excellent cover and forage for wildlife. All three native East Coast species grow in coastal Virginia. Myrica has superpowers to support wildlife and thrive in our area. [Read more here:](#)



## **Recycle Coffee Grounds!**

Coffee grounds can enrich compost and improve soils, but without a plan for using them, we miss the opportunity to benefit from this amazing resource. [Here's a plan...](#)





Comprised of over 200 master gardeners, the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association serves the gardening public in Williamsburg, New Kent, Charles City, Upper York, and James City Counties.

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