

THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

Celebrating 41 Years of Helping our
Neighbors Grow!

2024 JCCW MGA BOARD

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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 May 2024 newsletter is Friday, April 19.

Webmaster:
Dave Banks
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Send your submissions to our editor, Marion Guthrie at vp-communications@jccwmg.org, and our vice president of projects, Gary Griffith, at vp-projects@jccwmg.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

VICKIE ROCKWELL '19



I have always wanted to start a talk with the phrase, “It was dark and stormy.” So here goes. It was dark and stormy that morning. The storm clouds were roiling across the sky, dropping rain in torrents. Thunder boomed as the lightning tore through the clouds. I stood at the window looking out at my garden, impatient with this weather that was keeping me from my garden, and I realized that fate had provided the perfect day to catch up on my research, planning, ordering, and even getting ahead on those required Continuing Education hours.

You know, a rainy day encourages us to pause and assess our gardens. In this calm, you can evaluate where you want to move plants, thin them out (for the plant sale), and determine what new plants to order. There’s also time to look through the seed and garden catalogs, research the best cultivars or natives to introduce, and place orders. You may also research how to maintain your existing perennials. Make notes in your calendar with the best time to divide, prune, feed, or simply leave them be. What does the plant require to stay healthy—benign neglect or daily tending?

You can also watch YouTube videos to find the answers you’re looking for and earn Continuing Education credits. Check out [our website](http://ourwebsite.jccwmg.org), jccwmg.org, and click on the educational videos tab. The VCE has an excellent [library of gardening videos](#). We also accept CE credits for gardening books. Check with our VP of Education, Debe Sineath, if you are not sure if the book you have may be used for credit.

While I’ve been writing this, the rain has stopped, and I recall a similar spring day when, with an umbrella in hand, I toured the [Norfolk Botanical Gardens](#), where the azaleas took my breath away ([see what’s in bloom](#)). So, here’s another suggestion: take a tour with a friend. There is so much going on in April, with [Earth Day on April 22](#) and [Arbor Day on April 26](#). Mostly, take the time to have fun.

A big thank you to all the JCCW Master Gardeners who are working hard for the upcoming plant sale on May 11. Stay safe and healthy.

Vickie

Master Gardener Member Meeting Programs

Backyard Composting

Gaylynn Callahan, an Extension agent in the City of Hampton, will speak about Backyard Composting at our membership meeting on April 4, 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.

She'll explain how easy composting is and the many ways to use it, especially how to turn organic waste such as leaves, fruit peels, food scraps, and coffee grounds into a resource that can help nourish your soil and spruce up your yard. When these very same items are thrown into an oxygen-deprived landfill, they break down and produce methane, contributing directly to global warming.

April 4, 2024, at 9:00 am via Zoom

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.

Your Zoom Meeting ID is 889 8534 0423. Log into the Zoom application, click on Join a Meeting, then enter your Meeting ID, and click Join. This meeting ID will be used for all of the 2024 programs.



An Introduction to Mushrooms!

Join us on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom when Theresa Augustin, Vice President of Education at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, will present an Introduction to Mushrooms. In this presentation, you'll learn what a mushroom is, its role in the ecosystem, and basic mushroom identification.

A graduate of Old Dominion University with a BS in Biology, Theresa joined the staff at Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG) in 2000 as an Apprentice Gardener. In 2016, as part of NBG's initiative to become a leader in environmental education and stewardship, she became their first Director of Environmental Engagement and Outreach. In 2021, Theresa was promoted to her current role as Vice President of Education. She is engaging and knowledgeable about the natural world, particularly focused on native plant communities, conservation, and mushrooms!

Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom

Your Zoom Meeting ID is 889 8534 0423. Log into the Zoom application, click on Join a Meeting, then enter your Meeting ID, and click Join. This meeting ID will be used for all of the 2024 programs.



JCCWMGA Makes the Honor Roll!



The Williamsburg-James City County School Board has invited us to an upcoming meeting to be recognized as a 2024 Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Business Honor Roll recipient. In a letter to Vickie Rockwell, the President of our Board, they cited our commitment to enhancing students' experiences and positively impacting their school community.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at James Blair Middle School, 101 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, VA. Their School Board meetings may be viewed live or later via YouTube, <https://youtube.com/WJCCSchools>.

2024 PLANT SALE

MARY SIPE '14

This is a Rain or Shine Event.

Our Annual Fundraiser is a little over a month away, and we need all hands on deck to make it a success. The sale will be held at Williamsburg Botanical Garden in Freedom Park, 5537 Centerville Road, Williamsburg. The pre-sale will be set up on Friday, May 10th, with the sale opening to the public on Saturday, May 11th, at 9:00 a.m. The Sale ends at noon on Saturday.

Busy at Freedom Park

Remember that Freedom Park will be open and especially busy on Saturday, so we need to be mindful not to block other traffic when we drop off our donations at the garden. Volunteers will direct traffic on both set-up and sale days.

Restrooms

There are no restrooms in the garden. Restrooms are located in the Interpretive Center (a white building close to the parking lot). Some are inside and on the back of the building. Also, the garden's tool shed will be set up as a Volunteer Rest Area. If you need a break, we will have water, light snacks, and chairs in this area.

Use SignUp Genius

Please remember to sign up to volunteer using the SignUp Genius system sent out by Dot Finnegan. The earlier you do this, the easier it will be for our Team Leaders to finalize plans and communicate with you in detail. Here is the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A8AB23A5F85-48364823-2024>.

Set Up Day, Friday, May 10th

A map of the garden will be sent via email with the various drop-off areas and the sale layout. Three gates will be used. Plant donation drop-offs will be done at the northeast gate (you must circle around the garden). This has an area where we will not block Park traffic if we get backed up with plant drop offs. The entrance/pedestrian gate is on the northwest side of the garden and has the name of the garden above it. The third gate is on the south side of the garden, where customers will exit on plant sale day with an area for them to drive up to pick up their plants.



Parking is just past the garden. *Please do not leave valuables in your car.* Parking should not be an issue for our volunteers on the May 10th, set-up day. If volunteers have heavy or bulky items (other than plants), you may stop briefly at the entrance/pedestrian gate to leave them. The Park Staff have asked us not to block traffic or leave cars unattended. There will be volunteers directing traffic around the garden.



Plant donation drop-off will be on May 10th between 9:00 a.m. and noon. We realize that some MGs may not be able to do it during these hours, but you may ask a spouse, friend, or even a neighbor to do it for you. Our peak time is between 9 and 10:30 a.m., so if you can drop off a little later, that will help reduce backups. Please water your plants thoroughly the day before drop-off.



If you will be lending your wagons/carts for use during the sale, please drop these off at the entrance/pedestrian gate on May 10th between 8:00 a.m. and noon. You may ask a friend to drop these off if you are unavailable during these hours. There will be a volunteer there to accept and put a name tag on your wagon/cart. You may pick up your wagon after the sale ends at noon on May 11th.



Sale Day, Saturday, May 11th

We will have a flood of customers in the early hours of the sale day, with many arriving before the opening hour of 9:00 a.m. We are asking our volunteers to consider carpooling or having a spouse or friend drop you off to limit the number of cars in the parking area on the sale day. If you must drive, the Park Staff has asked us to park by Go Ape, which is at the end of the parking area past the Interpretive Center (white building). Please do not leave valuables in your car.



We will have someone at the entrance/pedestrian gate until the sale opens at 9:00 to let our volunteers in. Please make sure you wear your name tag to identify yourself and go to the front of the line to enter.

The sale will end at noon, and volunteers will clean up afterward.

I appreciate your support. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me, Mary Sipe, Plant Sale Director, at mcsipe2@gmail.com or (704) 763-3533.



Green Thumb Market is Accepting Donations!

Gifts & Plants

Do you remember that saying about one man's trash is another man's treasure? That was certainly true last year at the Plant Sale, with the success of the Green Thumb Market fueled by your donations. We hope to replicate that success and are seeking donations of rescued treasures. These are gently used garden tools, watering supplies (like hoses, sprinklers, and watering cans), planters, clean bird feeders or bird houses, garden statues, garden flags, patio decor, and unusual garden items. (No books, please.)

The Green Thumb Market Team is also looking for donations of original handmade items, including greeting cards, garden pots, garden stakes, pot picks (fairy wands), statues, and other original garden decors. You, the artist, can let us know if there's a minimum price you would expect for your creation.

Bring your clean items to the April 4th business meeting. Let us know in advance, which will help us determine how much we are transporting to storage that morning. But that's not your only chance to donate! We can work with you to accept items at other dates and times. For questions and donations, simply get in touch with any member of the team: Linda Becker (lindabecker53@gmail.com), Terry McGlennon (TerryMcGlennon4@gmail.com), and Elizabeth Myers (egmyers@comcast.net)!



Labeling Your Plants for the Plant Sale

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

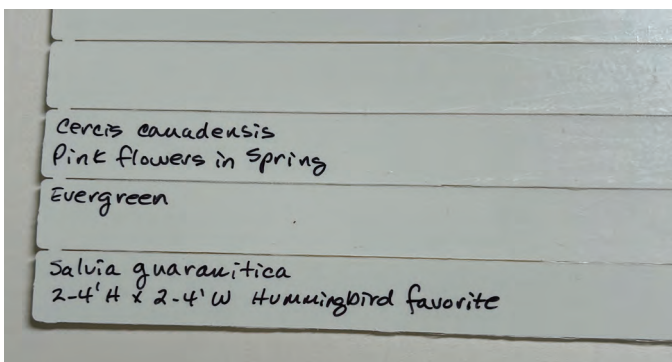
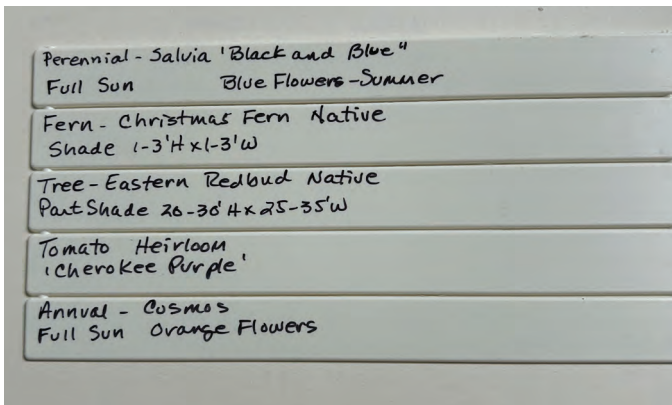
- Type of plant, i.e., perennial, tree, bulb, etc.
- Common name
- Variety, if applicable
- Whether native
- Light requirements, i.e., sun, part shade, shade
- Flowering season and color, if applicable

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, Deb Bussert (pastpresident@jccwmg.org) 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.

James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Annual

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 11
9:00 a.m. - Noon

Annuals, Perennials, Herbs
Veggies, Trees, Shrubbery

Garden Treasures at the Green Thumb Sale:
Garden art, unique Mother's Day gifts,
and more!

Rain or Shine

Williamsburg Botanical Garden inside Freedom Park
5537 Centerville Rd.

The JCCW Master Gardener Association partners with the Virginia Cooperative Extension to educate the public in our communities on best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship. If accommodation is needed for this event at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, contact 757-564-2170 during business hours.

Brickyard Landing-Phase Two

April 15 to 19

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15

The winter rains have made the digging at Brickyard Landing Park much easier, which is good news. Plants and plugs, funded by a grant from the Colonial Soil and Water District, have been ordered for phase two of this new project. Grasses and perennials will be delivered as plugs, quarts, and gallons just before the scheduled plantings April 15 to 19.

Interns from our partnering organization, Virginia Master Naturalists, will get the site prepped on April 13 so everyone can see where different plants should be planted. Grasses and perennials will have much smaller containers than the November planting of trees and shrubs, making them easier to plant. We will have approximately 1500 plants and will need lots of help.

If you are not able to dig, we need people to hand out plants and put them in the ground once the holes are dug. We have found that with our plantings if one person digs and another places the plant, the process goes very quickly. This is a good thing when we have so many to plant.

This project is a bit more physical with all of the new planting, but the view cannot be beat. Join us for a morning or afternoon. If you haven't yet responded to the SignUpGenius for planting the week of April 15, please do so if you want to help get this project started.



Business Notes

2024 BUDGET

Looking for our budget for 2024? Log into Better Impact (<https://app.betterimpact.com/>) and page down to the News Page.

THE NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORT!

A core group of JCCW Master Gardeners are planning to represent our Association at various events, including fairs, festivals, and outdoor markets! Your help is needed. Please get in touch with Shadow Harmon at shadow.harmon@gmail.com or Dennis Hewston at phewston@warwick.net to learn more and volunteer.

PLANT SALE CUSTOMER TEAM

Do you love to talk about plants, exchange plant information, and help your gardening friends? Then Customer Service at the Plant Sale is for you. We have 14 positions available during the Sale on May 11 for each of the two shifts (8:30-10:30 a.m. and 10:30-12:15 p.m.) for Master Gardeners to help our customers, answer their questions, and make and keep the plant tables full. You don't have to be an expert. You already know more than most of our customers. If you don't know the answer, someone else will. So please sign up for Customer Service on Plant Sale Day using this link to SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A8AB23A5F85-48364823-2024>.

MISSING MASTER GARDENERS!

Two Zoom attendees from our March 7th MG member meeting, "Working with Children," could not be identified from their login credentials. They were - Carol's iPad and Annen. If one of these belongs to you, notify Emily Coyner, VP of Administration, at coyner.emily@gmail.com, so you'll receive credit for taking this required training. Thanks.

PLANT-A-TREE CEREMONY

You're invited! The fourth annual Arbor Day Plant-A-Tree Ceremony will be on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and Freedom Park Arboretum. The event marks the opening of the WBG-FPA's annual "Plants with a Purpose" plant sale. Giveaways will also include seeds, DIY bird feeders, and more. The event is FREE, and no registration is required. Enjoy this family-friendly event! For more information: <https://jamescitycountyva.gov/3881/Arbor-Day-Plant-A-Tree-Ceremony>.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE PLANT SALE!

Volunteering for the Plant Sale. The link to our SignUpGenius website is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C45A8AB23A5F85-48364823-2024>. Review all of the possible tasks and time frames. Remember that the plant sale is our primary fundraising activity. Volunteer today! Questions? Contact Dot Finnegan, definn@widomaker.com.

VBMG GARDENING TALKS

The Virginia Beach Master Gardeners' Gardening Talks and Workshops committee plans and hosts a series of public lectures each year. The one-hour lectures are currently being offered via Zoom. The lectures are not sequential, so you can attend all or just your favorite topics. All talks are free and open to the public. No registration is required. Here's the link for more information: <https://www.vbmg.org/gardening-talks-and-workshops.html>. Earn CE Credit.

TREE CALL IS OPEN!

The Tree Call program opened on March 18 for the 2024 Season. This is a free consultative service offered by the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association (JCCWMGA) to homeowners who want educated advice about the health of their trees. At the homeowner's request, a small team of two or three tree stewards visit the property to answer the homeowner's questions and make recommendations.

To schedule a Tree Call, homeowners complete the form at this link: <https://jccwmg.org/word-press/home-visit-programs-4/>. Contact Barry Holland, project leader, at francisholland64@gmail.com for more information.

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 in mid-March and ends in 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 get in touch with Debe Sineath, Vice President of Education, at vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org. [Register here!](#)

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK!

The Garden Club of Virginia invites you to join them April 20 - 27, 2024, for tours throughout Virginia during Historic Garden Week! For one week in April, visitors will tour private landscapes, public gardens, and historic sites across Virginia, enjoying our beautiful state at the peak of spring.

In addition, more than 1,000 world-class floral arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members will enhance tour properties. This beloved statewide event will include unique tours organized and hosted by 48 member clubs located from the foothills of the Shenandoah Valley all the way to the beaches of Tidewater.

All the details can be found at this link: <https://www.vagardenweek.org/>. Tours in our area are 4/20 & 4/21 in Gloucester, 4/23 in Williamsburg, and 4/24 in Hampton, Newport News, and Poquoson. The Board has approved one hour of CE credit per tour for members attending this event.



Don't miss our own Master Gardeners Cheryl Hannah (page 13), Judy Kinshaw-Ellis (page 19), and Mary Sipe (page 30) in the in the March issue of [Next Door Neighbors!](#)



Water Wise Garden Kicks Off the 2024 Season

ELVIN & KAY CLAPP '18

We started the Water Wise Garden 2024 work season on March 20, and to accommodate the new interns, going into the season, we've scheduled our regular workdays to the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We invite you to join our team as we strive to increase our educational opportunities for English-speaking and non-English-speaking visitors.

An estimated 14,000 people walk through the garden each year, and not surprisingly, we receive more questions and compliments about the exceptional work that our JCCW Master Gardeners are doing each year.

Right now, spring is bursting out in the Water Wise garden with a flush of daffodils and Leucojum (also known as summer snowflakes). It's a perfect time to stop by and check it out. The garden is located in front of the JCC Human Services Center, 5249 Olde Towne Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188. For additional information, contact the project leaders, Elvin or Kay Clapp, at elvkay@gmail.com.



Ecology Corner

Do You Need A Swale?

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15

Have you had enough rain? Is your yard saturated? Do you have ruts where water washes through? A fairly simple, affordable, and attractive solution may be a dry riverbed or swale. If you have a low, soggy spot in your yard or a rut that runs when the rains come, you know where that dry riverbed should go.

A swale and a dry streambed are similar, except that a streambed features rocks and gravel covering much of its surface and may or may not have plants in the part that accumulates water. A similar landscape feature called a swale, is a sunken area that accumulates water but does not contain any or many rocks.

You can build a small swale yourself, but you should hire a pro with earth-moving equipment for a long, wide one. Also, consult a landscape contractor or a civil engineer if you live near a bluff, have a septic tank nearby, or are on a slope that drops more than a foot over a horizontal distance of 20 feet or so.

If you are doing this project yourself, you'll need a few items. First, you'll need liner fabric, which is not normally recommended for a flower bed but is appropriate for the base of your riverbed. Then, you'll need pea gravel and four-to-eight-inch river rocks. The amount of fabric, pea gravel, and river rock you need will be determined by how large you make your dry riverbed. You will dig a trough 12 to 18 inches deep. The edges of your trough should slope.

When the excavation is complete, line the area with the landscaping fabric. It will serve as a weed barrier while allowing water to soak through. Add the pea gravel along the deepest part of the riverbed. If

you have purchased additional large rocks, place them along the top edge of your trough. Then, add your river rocks. Trim your landscaping fabric back close to the rocks. Add some plants along the edge and mulch if you like that look.

This is an ambitious project but could be completed over several days or a couple of weeks. It will definitely slow erosion and solve several stormwater issues, and it is an attractive solution. Looking for some inspiration? Our friends in North Carolina have put together this article with pictures. Here's the link: <https://durhammastergardeners.com/2023/04/19/diy-building-a-dry-stream/>.

Welcome to the 2024 Extension Master Gardener Class

SUE BARTON '20 and ELIZABETH MYERS '22



On February 27, 2024, the training team welcomed 22 new interns to our Association. This eager group of trainees filled our registration list within hours of the application process opening online - and they do not appear to be slowing down in their interest and engagement with our initial classes.

This group represents several backgrounds and interests, including a married couple, sisters-in-law, and three ladies named Robin! Of course, many are lifelong gardeners. A few were born outside of the US, and they speak several languages, including Russian, Farsi, German, Spanish, Turkish, and “the Queen’s English.”

They also include folks with military/DOD connections, many who’ve worked with vulnerable populations, a painter, a poet, a wetland conservationist, a cyclist, a tax preparer, and even a former plant sale chair! We can’t wait for you to meet and get to know this interesting group.

At Orientation, the class was welcomed by the training team: Sandra Kee (VCE Unit Administrative Assistant), Isaiah Morton (4H Agent), Vicki Rockwell (JCCWMGA president), Debe Sineath (VP for Internal Education), and Kay and Elvin Clapp (class of 2018), who graciously took photos of the trainees.

Jumping right into the curriculum, the class attended a lecture on “Soils and Nutrients” at the College of William and Mary presented by a Master Naturalist and Full Teaching Professor of Geology. They then toured the W&M greenhouse and the herbarium.

The class will be joining projects in late March and early April once all of the required VCE training and several core classes are completed. Please be sure to welcome them when you see them at meetings and when they are out working on the projects. They will be easy to identify with their blue lanyards. We will continue to share photos and updates on their progress in the coming months.

Join VCE's 2024 Virtual Master Gardener College

STACEY MORGAN SMITH, VCE Master Gardener Volunteer, Suffolk
Treasurer, Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA)

EMGC 2024 is coming June 5 – 9! This year's virtual event will keep the education and fun of an on-campus conference while improving accessibility for the 5,000+ volunteers in the VCE MG program.

This year, you can:

- Learn from interesting keynote speakers.
- Doug Tallamy discusses restoring ecosystem function at home, work, and play.
- Debra Freeman explores traditional African American crops that you can find today.
- Heather Holm discusses some of the specialist bees that visit our native plants.

Participate in more than a dozen concurrent sessions on a range of topics, including:

- Trees and shrubs in small gardens,
- Indoor vegetable gardening and
- Gardening as we age.

Enjoy optional add-on tours and social time with fellow volunteers at locations throughout the state, like:

- Some of Virginia Tech's Agricultural Research Centers,
- Oak Spring Garden,
- Maymont's Gardens, or
- Enjoy a "Virtual Tour" from home at the National Arboretum, Desopo House, and other spots.

You'll even have the opportunity to network and learn from one another by joining round-table discussions and visiting social spaces to:

- View unit brag boards.
- Talk about projects like seed libraries, garden tours, public workshops, or
- Learn more about the Advanced EMG Steward programs.

For those new to hybrid continuing-ed events, they have unique benefits, like keeping costs lower, saving hours on the road, and removing some of the accessibility concerns that come with setting up on campus for a few days. They also give you increased continuing education opportunities; in addition to the 3+ hours of online sessions per day and optional tours in June, you can see any breakout sessions you missed (or rewatch a favorite) because you'll have access to recordings for six months. Prior Zoom educational conferences allowed more volunteers to attend than the traditional in-person format. If hybrid learning isn't for you, EMGC will return to campus at a future conference.

More information on keynotes, breakouts, and tours will follow soon, with early registration beginning mid-April. You'll also have the opportunity to see this Zoom conference platform in action through a short training webinar before June. If you have questions, you can reach the state office at emgoffice@vt.edu.

VMGA's mission includes fostering communication, education, and fellowship among VCE MG volunteers. As part of that mission, VMGA is happy to support EMGC and the state program office at this year's conference. If you'd like more information on VMGA, contact me, Stacey Morgan Smith, at Treasurer@VMGA.net. See you in June!

VCE Master Gardener College



June 5 - 9, 2024
virtual conference



Keynote speakers, breakout sessions,
program round-table discussions, networking,
plus virtual tours and add-on in-person tours.

See mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/college for more info as it's available

*Planned Cost

Early registration: \$40
begins mid April

Regular registration: \$60
begins May 8

both include 6 months' access
to recorded sessions.

**Cost subject to change.*



In the Garden

Celebrating Earth

ELIZABETH MCCOY '18

As we welcome another spring, our thoughts turn to Earth Day, April 22, and Arbor Day, on April 26. Did you know that Americans have celebrated Arbor Day by planting trees since April of 1872? As [Bill Mollison](#), one of the founders of Permaculture, observed, “Without trees, we cannot inhabit the earth.”

In our current era of climate chaos, we depend on trees more than ever for their cooling shade, for cleansing the air we breathe, for their ability to manage run-off from heavy rains, and for their support of the entire web of life in our ecosystem. These articles on our website speak to how we can use trees to grow a better world for ourselves and our grandchildren.

- [For Love of Trees](#)
- [A History of Our War With Plants](#)
- [Planting Trees and Other Hacks to Manage Wet Soils](#)
- [Planting a 'Food Forest' at Home for Sustainable Harvests](#)
- [Summer Flowering Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators](#)





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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