

## **JCC/W VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER'S Speakers Bureau Topics and Presenters**

### ***About the JCC/W VCE Speakers Bureau***

*The Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) is committed to helping citizens learn how to maintain a healthy home environment, create sustainable rural or urban landscapes, protect water resources, grow a garden, and properly manage pests and wildlife. VCE specialists, agents, and master gardener volunteers provide training, information, and science-based answers homeowners need.*

*After reviewing our list of topics and speakers, please submit your request using our on-line form. Many of the JCCW speakers use PowerPoint to give their presentations, and most of our speakers are adept at presenting online via Zoom if the need arises. Exceptions are noted in red.*

**[Click Here to Request a Speaker](#)**

*The James City County/Williamsburg Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Speakers Bureau does not charge fees for program presentations. However, a donation from your organization will help the JCC/W Master Gardener Association fulfill its mission of bringing current information and best gardening practices to the community. Honorarium or donation checks, payable to JCC/W MGA, may be mailed to JCC/W MGA, Attn: Treasurer (SB), P.O. Box 1951, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1951. Please include a note to let us know who spoke to your group and on what date.*

Topic Category	Title, Presenter, Description
<b>Bulbs</b>	<p><b>Flowering Bulbs for Spring Color</b>  <b>Mitzi Balma</b>            There's nothing happier than spotting the first brave garden blooms in late winter. While daffodils are well known, there are many other early blooming bulbs that grow well in our area. Learn about them for spring color in your garden with VCE Master Gardener Mitzi Balma.</p>
<b>Bulbs</b>	<p><b>Flowering Bulbs Beyond Spring</b>  <b>Mitzi Balma</b>            Everyone knows about spring daffodils, but there are beautiful flowering bulbs for every season of your garden. Learn about planting with bulbs that will keep garden beds colorful into late autumn. VCE Master Gardener Mitzi Balma's enthusiasm for these plants will inspire you to get digging!</p>
<b>Container Gardening</b>	<p><b>Container Gardening</b>  <b>Angela Cingale</b>            No place for a traditional garden? You can grow flowers and even veggies in containers on your patio, balcony, or courtyard whether it's in a sunny or shaded spot. VCE Master Gardener Angela Cingale will show you the different types of containers you can use, which plants work well, and how to care for your container garden.</p>
<b>Edible Plants</b>	<p><b>Edible Bulbs and Flowers from A to Z</b>  <b>Angela Cingale</b>            From Allium to Zucchini blossoms, VCE Master Gardener Angela Cingale will tell you about the bulbs and flowers that are good to eat. Find out how to use Pansies, Rose petals, Hollyhocks and more in simple recipes to make and enjoy at home.</p>
<b>Fairy Gardens</b> Demonstration	<p><b>Fairy Gardens</b>  <b>Angela Cingale - <i>This is an IN-PERSON demonstration only.</i></b>            Create a delightful miniature garden for the fairies. VCE Master Gardener Angela Cingale shares ways to landscape on a tiny scale with suitable plants, and how to enhance it by making bridges or itty-bitty furnishings with natural materials such as twigs, leaves, moss, and stones.</p>
<b>Herbs, Colonial History</b>	<p><b>Colonial Herb Gardening</b>  <b>Wilma Sharp</b>            What did early colonists use to flavor and enhance their food, repel insects, mask foul odors, and cure their ailments? VCE Master Gardener and member of the Herb Society of America, Wilma Sharp, will enlighten you with the history and uses of herbs in Tidewater's days of yore.</p>
<b>Hospice Therapy</b>	<p><b>Behind the Scenes at The Hospice House Garden</b>  <b>Gary Streb</b>            A beautiful and peaceful garden surrounds The Hospice House here in Williamsburg. Many hands contribute to this labor of love. VCE Master Gardener Gary Streb is the volunteer director of the Hospice House garden. He will share with you the importance of this respite to the Hospice patients, their families, and the community.</p>

Topic Category	Title, Presenter, Description
<b>Landscape Mistakes</b>	<b>Common Mistakes in Landscaping</b> <b>Gary Streb</b> We are told that we learn best from our mistakes. VCE Master Gardener and longtime chairperson of the Landscape Love program Gary Streb will share with the audience what <b>not</b> to do in your yard. He has seen it all from ‘murdering’ Crepe Myrtles to having the wrong plant in the wrong place. Save yourself aggravation and get your garden right the first time.
<b>Lavender</b>	<b>Love That Lavender</b> <b>Angela Cingale</b> Learn about the rich history of Lavender and how humanity has used it through the ages for soothing remedies. Discover soaps, lotions, potions, and recipes with this fragrant herb, and get tips for growing your own Lavender at home.
<b>Lawn Care</b>	<b>Take the Mystery Out of Growing a Beautiful Lawn</b> <b>Dave Kleppinger</b> This program will help homeowners understand the sequential steps necessary to build healthy, attractive lawns. VCE Master Gardener Dave Kleppinger takes the mystery out of shopping for lawn care products and eliminate the excessive and improper application of fertilizers, fungicides, pesticides and insecticides.
<b>Plant Health</b>	<b>Why is My Plant Dying?</b> <b>Patsy McGrady</b> Sometimes plants die a little at a time and sometimes they seem to die overnight. Ever wonder why and if you could have saved your plant? VCE Master Gardener and Tree Steward Patsy McGrady will walk you through the steps to figure out what is causing problem and what can be done to bring plants back to health.
<b>Shade Garden</b>	<b>Gardening in the Shade</b> <b>Gary Streb</b> Do you have a shady spot in your garden or is your yard mostly shade? VCE Master Gardener and Tree Steward Gary Streb will provide guidance for designing and maintaining a lovely shade garden. He will highlight what plants grow best in shade.
<b>Starting a Garden</b>	<b>New Home, New Garden</b> <b>Mitzi Balma</b> Have you ever landscaped your home or started a large flower garden from scratch? VCE Master Gardener Mitzi Balma has done it three times! Get advice and learn the joys and pitfalls of starting a new garden.
<b>Tomatoes</b>	<b>Tomatoes: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly</b> <b>Harriet Parsons</b> 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, and keeping them from sprawling all over your garden? What about insects and diseases that injure your crop? VCE Master Gardener Harriet Parsons will share her experiences and knowledge about growing tomatoes here in humid Virginia.

Topic Category	Title, Presenter, Description
Travelogue	<p><b>London's Chelsea Flower Show Highlights</b>  <b>Mitzi Balma</b>  This is your chance to see the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show through the eyes of VCE Master Gardener Mitzi Balma. Through her lovely pictures and interesting commentary, you'll almost feel like you are on the other side of the Pond!</p>
Trees / Landscaping	<p><b>Ornamental Trees for the Homeowner – Beyond Dogwood and Redbud</b>  <b>Patsy McGrady</b>  Explore the varieties of trees that you can enjoy and at the same time add value and curb appeal to your home with VCE Master Gardener and Tree Steward, Patsy McGrady. There are so many beautiful trees that are suited to be specimen trees in a home setting. She will include planting tips, proper pruning, and disease prevention.</p>
Tree Care	<p><b>Volcano Mulching and Other Tree Crimes</b>  <b>Patsy McGrady</b>  The best way to grow a tree is to avoid killing it! Few trees die of old age. Incorrect planting methods, bad pruning, and improper care do more damage to a homeowner's tree than insects or diseases. Learn about common tree-killing mistakes and how to avoid them by using the correct methods to protect your landscaping investment of time and money.</p>
Trees	<p><b>Trees, Trees, and More Trees</b>  <b>Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum   Virginia Big Trees Registry   Dendrology</b>  Here are three mini programs that can be presented individually or in combination. 1) Learn about the Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum and how a team worked to create the Commonwealth's only Level II nationally certified arboretum; 2) Learn about the Virginia Big Trees Registry and what it takes to certify a tree for the registry. 3) Learn how to identify native and foreign trees that are found locally and their relative values in the natural balance necessary to sustain a healthy ecosystem. Rick Brown is a VCE Master Gardener Tree Steward and Master Naturalist.</p>
Vegetables, Fall Planting	<p><b>Planning and Planting a Fall Vegetable Garden</b>  <b>Bill Dichtel</b>  Fall is the best for planting cruciferous vegetables such as broccoli, plus you can plant another crop of peas, lettuce, and other leafy veggies. VCE Master Gardener Bill Dichtel shares techniques as cloches, high tunnels, and cold frames to extend the growing season for the home vegetable gardener.</p>
Wildlife, Butterflies  Demonstration  Adults and children 5+	<p><b>The Life Cycle of Butterflies for Children</b>  <b>Angela Cingale – <i>This is an IN-PERSON demonstration only.</i></b>  Learn about the parts of a butterfly and how it starts out as a caterpillar. VCE Master Gardener will share what to grow as host and nectar plants to attract butterflies, and how to protect the caterpillars. Discover books and resources for parents to help their children learn more at home.</p>