

# 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 July 2024 newsletter is Monday, June 17.**

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

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

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## A Heartfelt Thank You

**VICKIE ROCKWELL '19**

It was a picture perfect day for a plant sale - a bit cloudy, cool - a gentle breeze blowing. The WBG was packed with tables laden with young plants waiting for new homes and gardens. The anxious crowd started to line up at the gate by 8:30. Promptly at 9:00 a.m., the gate was opened, and the plant sale began. I do not know how many people passed through the gate, but I do know we had bumper-to-bumper traffic circling the garden until about 10:30. Comments from our customers leaving the sale ranged from the best-organized sale, ease of checking out, plants were in great shape, and pick-up plan was well done.

Do you know the saying that it takes a village? I want to paraphrase and say it takes a first-class organization to plan, organize, and execute the successful plant sale we had this year. I am proud to say that I am a member of the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association and all that it does.

A special thanks goes to Mary Sipe, Chairperson, who led this almost year-long effort. Her dedication and attention to detail are excellent, and her ability to oversee such a diverse project with individual personalities is laudable. She had an excellent group of activity leads, including Marion Guthrie - Communications; Deb Bussert - Plant Intake and Quality Control; Angela Cingale - Plant Pricing/Sales Tally; Anne Hunt - Plant Placement/Set up; Green Thumb - Elizabeth Myers and Terry McGlennon; Volunteers - Dot Finnegan; Linda Neilson - Budget and Cashiers; and Gary Streb - Logistics. And to all the many volunteers who worked to set up on Friday, manage the sale on Saturday, and take down the sale to get the garden ready for normal Saturday visits - THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I really can't forget our gardeners who planted seeds, divided plants, rooted plants, nursed the 'plugs' to healthy specimens, and generally provided our inventory. Without your dedication, our efforts would be for naught. By the way - did I mention our net sales are over \$12,000. This amount will allow us to fund our programs for next year and set some funds in reserve to cover the unexpected.

### **A note to be careful:**

We found a copperhead snake in our backyard this past week. Our lawn service has stated that all snakes seem to be more prevalent this year, so please take precautions when tending your gardens.

Vickie



# 2024 Plant Sale Results

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MARY SIPE '14

I want to thank each of you who donated items and/or worked at the plant sale. It was a highly successful sale, raising funds for our projects and providing our customers with high-quality plants, garden tools, and art for their gardens. As customers were leaving, we heard quite a few positive comments about how well the process went for them.

## Sales Results

Plant Sales	\$ 11,689 (1,506 plants)
Green Thumb Market	2,628 (387 items)
Donations	306
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<i>Total</i>	\$ 14,623
Less: Expenses	2, 513
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<b>Net Proceeds</b>	<b>\$ 12,110</b>

Each of the 124 Master Gardeners and interns played a crucial role in the plant sale's success, whether through their work on set up, their donations of plants or green thumb items, or their active participation. A special mention to Jim Pressly, whose generous donation of 245 plants was a significant contribution. Our interns also deserve recognition for their impressive 91% participation rate.

The quality of the plants grown by all of you was amazing. Many of the plants were loaded with buds and blooms, which always makes for a great display. The sheer number of plants on display was awe-inspiring.

Once again, the Green Thumb Market was the jewel of the sale. The artwork, creative decorations, Mother's Day items, and garden paraphernalia provided so many wonderful ideas for our customers to enjoy. The signage, displays, and organization were professional but fun as well. Even the used tools and equipment had been spiffed up and looked like new.

This was truly an all-hands-on-deck event, and it made everything run smoothly for our customers. Many of you answered questions of all kinds throughout the day, providing information about individual plants, garden tools, and ornaments, as well as at the Help Desk, which was appreciated by our customers. The volunteers who directed traffic, guided different areas, and helped with loading were especially helpful when the crowds were heavy. The tally team and cashiers were very efficient, and several customers said they had almost no wait time in the checkout process. There were 383 customers processed during the three-hour sale! The setup and cleanup crews worked long hours and weren't seen by our customers, but their efforts were very much appreciated by all of us.

I also want to give a special thank you to our team leaders who worked for months planning and then spent two long days on set up and the sale. They were usually the first to arrive and the last to leave. Because of their leadership, the customer experience was efficient, educational, and professional.

## Thank You Team Leaders

- Deb Bussert, Intake/QC & Customer Service
- Angela Cingale, Pricing & Tally
- Don Finnegan, Volunteers
- Marion Guthrie, Communications
- Bob Howell, Help Desk
- Anne Hunt, Placement & Set Up
- Terry McGlennon, Green Thumb Market
- Elizabeth Myers, Green Thumb Market
- Linda Neilson, Cashiers
- Gary Streb, Logistics

Thanks to everyone for your hard work, resulting in a successful sale. Your efforts assure us of funding for our many projects next year. The quality of our sales items will continue to improve customer enthusiasm for future sales. I am proud to be part of such a community-minded group and fantastic gardeners.















# Green Thumb Market 2024

**TERRY MCGLENNON '22**

The 2024 Green Thumb Market, as part of the 2024 James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners Plant Sale, was a huge success. Thank you so much to everyone who found treasures they could part with and donated to the sale. The donations came in so fast the month before the sale, that we filled an entire storage unit to the rafters! Getting the final items into the unit was like a unique kind of reverse Jenga! We had donations from countless Master Gardeners; without those donations, we couldn't have had a sale. Thanks to everyone who tracked us down throughout the county and delivered to us all things garden.

Thank you, also, to all the crafters who donated their own works of art. I am sure many moms out there enjoyed Mother's Day a little bit more, compliments of those special gifts. It takes a village to get all items from the storage unit to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden, so we thank all the car, van, SUV, and truck drivers who made fast work of it! Pricing, sorting, and displaying came next, and a whole band of merry gardeners pitched in to set up the Green Thumb area for the sale. Elizabeth Myers, Linda Becker, and I are extremely grateful to everyone who pitched in to make our small part of the Plant Sale a huge success.



# Native Plant Pollinator Garden at Veteran's Park/Kidsburg

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## Celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 17-23)!

**JEN CAMPBELL '16, ALEXANDRA MUHLY '21**

The Native Plant Pollinator Garden in Veterans Park/Kidsburg at 3793 Ironbound Road came to life in 2021 and has become a testament to the power of gardening education and the value of collaboration. This transformation from a one-acre expanse of grass into a thriving habitat was made possible by the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association (JCCWMGA), James City County Parks and Recreation, the Clean County Commission, and a generous grant from Dominion Energy, with the active participation and support of our community.

During National Pollinator Week, June 17-23, 2024, this garden will present a Pollinator Palooza with two special events. These events are not only educational but also fun-filled, designed to raise awareness of pollinators' benefits in an engaging way. The first event, on Thursday, June 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., is a children's extravaganza featuring crafts, giveaways, and a scavenger hunt. The second is on Saturday, June 22, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and will host exhibits by the Butterfly Society, Monarch Watch, Williamsburg Area Beekeepers, and Native Plant Society. Stop by for a visit. Learn about pollinators and see this beautiful garden for yourself!

This garden serves a purpose beyond its aesthetic appeal. It raises awareness about the pressing pollinator crisis and demonstrates the importance of biodiversity, the value of our local ecosystem, and the benefits of proper landscaping practices that can be replicated in a homeowner's own yard.

The success of the Native Plant Pollinator Garden at Veteran's Park relies on our community, which is encouraged to participate either individually or as part of a local organization. If you would like

to volunteer and learn alongside our JCCW Master Gardeners while helping our pollinators, please contact [jccmgardener@yahoo.com](mailto:jccmgardener@yahoo.com).

National Pollinators Week is an annual event celebrated internationally to support pollinator health. Pollinators, like insects and birds, are essential organisms that help plants reproduce by transferring pollen from the male flower to the female flower.

The JCCWMGA 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, Charles City, Upper York, and New Kent counties) on the best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship.





# Water Wise Garden – Getting Close to the True Meaning

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**ELVIN AND KAY CLAPP '18**

First, it's important to clarify exactly what the "Water Wise" garden is. It is not a wetland, swamp, or rain garden. Its purpose is to demonstrate the use of low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plants. Located on dry land, the garden is watered using existing rainfall and water collected from a rain barrel. Supplemental water is provided by the county from one hose bib.

Several years ago, the Water Wise team embarked on a mission to redirect its activities to provide a well-layered landscape. The template was based on principles expanded upon by Elaine Mills, Northern Virginia EMG. This included grouping plants in drifts to enhance color and texture, placing aggressive "growers" in large pots buried in the soil, planting more native vegetation, and using more ground covers (especially green ground covers). We also focused on eradicating three species that had invaded the garden: Evening Primrose, Mint, and Wild Geranium.

We are proud to share that we have successfully increased our children's activities and distributed more information in Spanish to meet adult user demands. This has been possible through the hard work and dedication of all team members. We have also introduced a variety of interactive activities for the children, making their experience more enjoyable. We invite anyone with a Spanish background to join our team and help us serve our diverse population even better.

We have two challenges over the coming months. One is the recruitment of two individuals as project managers to begin serving in 2026. We are looking for an "assistant" project manager for 2025 to begin the transition to new leaders. If you are interested, let us know, and we'll work to integrate you into a leadership position. The second challenge is keeping the weeds under control using methods other than hand weeding. We invite any suggestions that you have found to be successful in your garden.

Located at James City County Human Services Center, [5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188](https://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/5249-olde-towne-road), this garden, staffed and maintained by the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners, hosts over 12,000 visitors annually. Workdays are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 8-10 am during the summer and 9-11 am during the fall. For additional information, contact Elvin or Kay Clapp at [elvkay@gmail.com](mailto:elvkay@gmail.com) or 602-647-9988.





From left to right:  
Linda Neilson, Kay Clapp, Katherine Johnson (joined JCC MG in 2024 from California), Stacy DeMeo, Thomas Reahl (2024 intern)





# Nearing Completion of Phase Two at Brickyard Landing Park

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**JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15**

If you have not made the drive out to Brickyard Landing Park, set a goal to go see the park in June. As reported last month, approximately 1500 plants went into the ground in April. Volunteers worked several days to complete the task, and the plants are already blooming and growing. As part of a demonstration garden, plug, quart, and gallon-sized plants were installed, and it should be interesting to see the different growth rates.

This project provides learning opportunities for both the people who will observe the garden and those who are planting. Because of several things, the plants that were growing in the garden area were not killed before the first phase of planting in the fall. A thick layer of mulch, applied after the tree and shrub planting, helped to slow down the growth of some weeds and grasses, but it did not stop them. Because of this, we have had a lot more weeding to do this spring as we planted phase two. Volunteers will attest to the fact that there are plenty of things growing at Brickyard. Spring rains have made weeding a little easier, but it is still challenging.

As the plants for phase two were being delivered, James City County brought in 25 yards of mulch and five yards of compost we had requested. The mounds of mulch and compost may not have intimidated our dedicated volunteers, but this writer was overwhelmed. The park coordinator,

Josh Bew, reached out to a Boy Scout unit to get the mulch placed around the garden to make it more accessible for volunteers. We are deeply grateful to the Scouts and their dads for their invaluable contribution. By the first of June, the remaining mulch should be placed.

Once mulching is finished, we will place plant identification tags. Although the garden is far from complete, once the tags are in, it should be ready for tours and educational programs. We look forward to sharing this project with the larger community, with the goal of helping people reduce erosion and increase the use of native plants.

We are immensely proud of the many people who have contributed to this project, whether they are planting, weeding, watering, or moving mulch. This is a significant project, and we are building it together from the ground up!

Volunteers will work Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. We have developed an email group for those who want to work on this exciting project. If you have not received any emails from the group, let Judy ([kinshawellis@gmail.com](mailto:kinshawellis@gmail.com)) or Donna ([mid520@mac.com](mailto:mid520@mac.com)) know, and we will add you to our list.





# A Successful Conclusion to our 2024 Training!

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**ELIZABETH MYERS '22**

The Class of 2024 is a group of exceptional individuals who have not only completed their classroom training but are already making significant contributions to the Association and our community, a testament to their hard work and dedication!

During a very busy May, our students attended classroom training, took a tree walk with Rick Brown on Bassett Trace, viewed the exotic tree species at the Griffin Hotel with Susan Miller, attended a Water Quality and Conservation lecture at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS); took in the beauty of native plants and perennials and heard about the plants from Alan and Wendy Wubbels at Forest Lane Botanicals; learned about landscape design from Peggy Krapf; and walked the CW gardens to learn about herbs and vegetables from Scott Wolz and Bill Dichtel. Some of our trainees attended an orientation session by the Landscape Love team of Barb Floyd and Susan Zickel.

The entire training team, led by Sue Barton and Terry McGlennon, including Pam Magellan, Advisor; Elizabeth Myers, Nancy Lia, Pam Hatten, and Alexandra Muhly, is deeply appreciative of our Master Gardeners. Their dedication and time spent

with our trainees in the classroom and garden have been invaluable. The trainees also had the opportunity to learn from experts like Frank Caruso, Gary Streb, Jeff Mellinger, Pamela VanCott, Scott Wolz, Harry Fahl, and Barb Floyd, who taught a propagation class. Elvin and Kay Clapp were kind enough to document our journey with their photography.

Bob Howell (Help Desk) and Shadow Harmon (Community Outreach/Farmers Markets) and their teams continue to work with our interns to help them complete their required three sessions in these areas.

This class has not only shown exceptional dedication to our community but has also left a lasting impact. Almost every member participated in the plant sale, and their collective efforts have resulted in over 450 hours of service, a remarkable achievement that we should all be proud of! As the summer progresses, we will be excited to share the news that our newly minted interns—now that the 50 hours of training classes are complete—have achieved certified Extension Master Gardener status.







## *In Memoriam* **Bob Winters (1935-2024)**

**DAVE KLEPPINGER '16**

Bob Winters passed away in April 2024 at the age of 89. He and his wife Jean both became Master Gardeners upon retirement to Williamsburg over 25 years ago. He was class of 2001. Among his accomplishments, Bob was responsible for creating the Turf Love program. He was also certified by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation to write Nutrient Management Plans. He was doing well before failing health resulted in his retirement in 2023.

Bob's profound understanding of soil science and his unwavering commitment to environmental preservation were deeply rooted in his academic background. With a BS and MS in Engineering from Columbia University, Bob brought a unique and highly educated perspective to his work as a Master Gardener. His expertise was not confined to the Turf Love program; he also shared his knowledge as a guest lecturer for the Virginia Turfgrass Council and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and as a James City County Stormwater Plan Advisory Committee member.

Bob was not just a Master Gardener but a mentor to many, including myself. He dedicated his time to teaching Master Gardener Interns about soils and turfgrass management. The knowledge I possess and use assisting homeowners today is largely attributable to the time Bob so willingly gave me to answer my many questions, for which I am most grateful. His support and assistance will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jean. Bob and Jean were married for 65 years.



# Business Notes

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION WEBINARS

The VCE's Extension Master Gardener (EMG) State Office organizes monthly continuing education webinars featuring esteemed Virginia Tech and VSU experts. To access the [complete webinar archive, click here](#).

## POLLINATOR PALOOZA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Native Plant Pollinator Garden at Veterans Park is gearing up for two events in June, both celebrating National Pollinator Week (17-23 Jun 2024). We're in need of volunteers for these events. The first event, on Thurs, 20 June, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., is a children's event and part of the County's Longest Day at Play. We're looking for volunteers to staff various stations, including crafts, exhibitions, and a scavenger hunt, all aimed at educating our youngest community members. The second event, on 22 June from 9:00-11:00 a.m., is a family-focused event. It will feature representatives from a variety of pollinator-friendly organizations, such as Williamsburg Area Beekeepers, Monarch Watch, the Native Plant Society, Plant Virginia Natives, and local Boy Scouts. You can sign up at [JCC/W Master Gardeners: Pollinator Palooza \(signupgenius.com\)](#) or by contacting Jen Campbell at [jenkcampbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jenkcampbell@yahoo.com) or Alexandra Muhly at [44lexie@gmail.com](mailto:44lexie@gmail.com).

## HURRY, MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE, JUNE 5-9

VCE goes virtual! This year's Master Gardener College will be via Zoom, an easy-to-use conference platform that works like regular Zoom meetings. This makes it possible to eliminate a registration cap—as many Master Gardeners who want to attend can attend! The schedule is as follows: June 5, 6, 8, and 9, afternoon to early evening. June 7: day of virtual and in-person tours beginning in the morning. For more information and to register, see <https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/college/>

## INTRODUCTION TO MUSHROOMS

Our member program for May 2024 is now posted on our website and can be seen on [our YouTube channel here](#). Theresa Augustin, Vice President of Education at Norfolk Botanical Garden, presented an introduction to mushrooms, including their role in the ecosystem and basic mushroom identification. It was a great program. If you missed it, you can watch it and earn your CE credit hour. Contact Debe Sineath, our VP of Internal Education ([dksineath@yahoo.com](mailto:dksineath@yahoo.com)), for more information.

## IS IT SAFE?

Ever wondered if your well or spring water is safe to drink? Our Water Stewards are participating in the Virginia Household Water Quality Program (VAHWQP) for the second year. Anyone with a water well in Jams City County and New Kent County can have their water tested confidentially for major contaminants at a reasonable cost. VAHWQP provides sample kits, which you can pick up on June 3, 11:30-1:30 p.m., at the Extension office, 3127 Forge Road, Toano, VA. This year, water sampling and kit collection happens on Wednesday, June 5, between 8-10 a.m. [There's more information here](#), and you can contact Bob Burruss ([bob.burruss@gmail.com](mailto:bob.burruss@gmail.com)).

## JOIN THE VMGA!

The Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA) fosters communication, education, & fellowship among Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers state-wide. Their next annual meeting is June 15, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Gloucester, VA. [Click for more information about the event](#).



## **WATER STEWARD TRAINING, 2024**

For the first time, VCE is offering Water Steward training online via Canvas this summer from July 8 to August 17. This eight-week course will include four live Zooms (July 8, July 22, August 5, and August 12 at 4:00 p.m.), weekly recordings and readings, and assignments for you to complete independently (and one group project). After completing the 8-week training, Water Steward interns work with their local Extension agent to develop and complete an intern project.

[Click for more information and to register.](#)

## **FAMILY NIGHT, FILM SCREENING!**

Watch "[Uninvited](#)," which explains the spread of invasive species and how diverse partnerships and strategies are used to attempt to manage that spread. In this enlightening and important documentary, hear from Doug Tallamy, an esteemed Entomologist at the University of Delaware, Bernd Blossey, a distinguished member of Cornell University's Department of Natural Sciences, and Jennifer Dean, a respected Invasive Species Biologist at the NY Natural Heritage Program, as they share their insights into this critical issue.

As part of the documentary, viewers are encouraged to report invasive species. Virginia residents can report using [EDDMapS.org](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invsp-whatyoucando-map) or directly with VA DCR. Both methods are linked on this page: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invsp-whatyoucando-map>. VCE has provided this link so you can [watch the film at your convenience here](#). Don't miss the opportunity!

## **REMINDER: THERE WILL BE NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING OR SPEAKER IN JULY.**

However, we will have a Board meeting on the third Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in Room B at the Williamsburg Regional Library on Scotland Street, and you're welcome, as always, to attend.

Our next general membership meeting is the first Thursday of the month, August 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom when Michelle Baudanza, Curator of Herbaceous Plants at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, will give a talk on plants that thrive in dry shade. Watch July's newsletter for more details.



# Master Gardener Member Meeting Programs

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## The A-Zs of Crape Myrtles

Join us for an enlightening presentation with Andrew Koenig, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Certified Tree Care Safety Professional, and ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor, as he explains everything about *Lagerstroemia*, commonly known as *crape myrtle*. This woody plant is a genus of around fifty species of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs native to the Indian subcontinent.

Also known in this region as the lilac of the south, it is an immensely popular landscape tree. With that popularity comes challenges with Aphids, Bark Scale, Crape Murder, and a host of other situations that Andrew will be able to tell us about and show us how to deal with.

Andrew has been involved with tree care since graduating from the University of Illinois in 1994. He holds a degree in Forestry, and his career has focused on Arboriculture, urban forestry, and Horticulture. Andrew joined Bartlett Tree Experts in 2001 as an Arborist Representative in the Williamsburg office. Among several accolades, he was recognized as the “Arborist of the Year” by the Williamsburg Council of Garden Clubs.

**Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 9:00 am in the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom**

Your Zoom meeting ID is 889 8534 0423. Log into Zoom, Click on Join a Meeting, then enter your Meeting ID, and click Join. This meeting ID is used for all the 2024 programs. This presentation is open to the public. Bring a friend.







# Ecology Corner

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## Virginia Sweetspire, a versatile shrub to prevent erosion

**JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15**

Spring rains remind us where the soppy wet spots are in our yards and where our soils are eroding. A wonderful native shrub, Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), might help solve either of those issues, and it will attract pollinators, too.

Sweetspire is a smaller shrub that grows to between four and six feet but may grow larger under ideal conditions. The straight species plant suckers will help hold the soil, whether you are protecting a stream bank or an area that is eroding in your side yard. If you need something a bit smaller, there are cultivars available. The cultivars are shorter and do not sucker as much but be sure to read the tag to determine the mature size of the plants you are buying.

If you have a low spot in your yard that is often wet, Sweetspire is a good plant for that area as well. It tolerates dryer areas and likes a sunny to part-shade environment. As with most plants, it will bloom better with more sun.

This shrub flowers from May into June, and pollinators love it. Additionally, it provides a colorful display in the fall. Now is the time to take a look around and see if there is an area on your property that is eroding. A number of plants can help hold the soil, but Sweetspire provides seasonal interest and is worth consideration.



# Metal Masters Creates New Gate

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**MARION GUTHRIE '19**

Ben Henry, the founder and owner, and his staff at Metal Masters have generously given their time and talents to the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG) by replacing the WBG's old garden entrance. They designed, manufactured, installed, and then donated a magnificent new gate. What a great way to greet every visitor! The WBG and the JCCW Master Gardeners who volunteer for this garden extend a heartfelt thank you.

The new gate, a testament to Metal Masters' craftsmanship, is designed for effortless garden entry. It features self-closing hinges, a thoughtful addition to deter wildlife. The installation was a Metal Masters family affair, with cousins and business partners Ben and Carlyn ensuring the piece was perfectly placed and secure. This updated entrance is beautiful. It enhances the garden's aesthetics and improves its function.

Why not stop by and see the gate and this wonderful botanical garden for yourself? Admission and parking are free. The WBG is inside Freedom Park, 5537 Centerville Rd. Williamsburg. When Freedom Park is open, the WBG is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to sunset. The James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association is proud to partner with the WBG as a learning garden for the Association's Master Gardener members.



Photo credit, Elvin Clapp





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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