

# THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

---

Celebrating 41 Years of Helping our  
Neighbors Grow!



## 2024 JCCW MGA BOARD

President  
Vickie Rockwell  
[president@jccwmg.org](mailto:president@jccwmg.org)

VP Administration  
Emily Coyner  
[vp-admin@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-admin@jccwmg.org)

VMGA Rep  
Marilyn Riddle  
[vmga-rep@jccwmg.org](mailto:vmga-rep@jccwmg.org)

President-Elect  
Dave Kleppinger  
[presidentelect@jccwmg.org](mailto:presidentelect@jccwmg.org)

VP Projects  
Gary Griffith  
[vp-projects@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-projects@jccwmg.org)

VCE ANR Agent  
Janet Spencer  
[vceagent@jccwmg.org](mailto:vceagent@jccwmg.org)

Past President  
Deborah Bussert  
[pastpresident@jccwmg.org](mailto:pastpresident@jccwmg.org)

VP Internal Education  
Debera Sineath  
[vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org)

Secretary  
Dot Finnegan  
[secretary@jccwmg.org](mailto:secretary@jccwmg.org)

VP Communications  
Marion Guthrie  
[vp-communications@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-communications@jccwmg.org)

Treasurer  
Linda Neilson  
[treasurer@jccwmg.org](mailto:treasurer@jccwmg.org)

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.

---

## COMMUNICATIONS LEADERS

Newsletter Editor: Marion Guthrie  
CE Programs: Debe Sineath  
Video Production: Crystal Skeeter-Davis  
Blog Director: Elizabeth McCoy  
Writers: Judy Kinshaw-Ellis, Betsy Beyer, Elizabeth McCoy  
Social Media Management: Linda Becker

Social Media Reporters:  
Beverly Davis, Crystal Skeeter-Davis, Emily Coyner, Jay Templin, Michelle Gerrard  
Photographer, Elvin Clapp  
Senior Webmaster: Dave Banks  
Website Administration: Wayne Koenig

**The submission deadline for the upcoming September 2024 newsletter is Friday, August 23.**

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

Newsletter layout graciously donated by Odd Moxie



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**

Many of the Past Presidents' August Newsletters have discussed the bountiful harvests that their gardens have produced. As I look at my meager vegetable plot, that is not a topic of which I have intimate knowledge. I am going to have to do something other than benign neglect next year. To those of you who are eating and sharing your produce—congratulations! Please share your secrets with me.

Recently, the board and I have come across some 'thou shall" and some 'thou shall nots' for Master Gardeners.

As a Master Gardener, thou shall:

- Accumulate a minimum of 20 volunteer hours per year.
- Acquire a minimum of 8 continuing education hours per year.
- Log your hours regularly in Better Impact
- Support the approved JCCWMG projects.
- Demonstrate the Vision and Values of the Master Gardener Program
- Have fun and enjoy your colleagues as you volunteer.

As a Master Gardener, thou shall not:

- Use your Master Gardener status for business advertising.
- Solicit contributions directly from outside sources. (this does not include grants, donations, or honorariums given to speakers)

Another, as President, thou shall not predict the weather. July was not as dry as I thought it would be. And thou shall get my newsletter to the communication team on time.

As the JCCWMGA continues to grow and mature and become a significant contributor to our communities, we must be the best example that we can be of the Extension Service.

In future months, I hope to clarify some of our association's building blocks. One of the most important is 'What is a 501c3 organization?' and how that affects what we can and cannot do.

For this month I thought I should explain, what does *Emeritus* status mean?

*Emeritus* status is meant to be an honorific title. It should be applied to those who want to continue but cannot due to health or other reasons. It should not be automatically granted at the 1,000-hour mark, nor should it be applied to those who just want to stop (resign). It should be requested by the EMG.

Typically, an *emeritus* does not have voting privileges within the association. An *emeritus* should not revert back to an active member. If they have temporary health problems that keep them from being active, they can request a leave of absence from the agent.

*Emeritus* status is not meant to be a way around completing service hours. The opportunity to continue with meetings and interact with the public (if up to date on background checks, etc.) is to allow for those who are emeritus to still be part of the group on a limited basis. They would not likely participate in every meeting, but it would be nice for them to be able to come to, say, the annual meeting or a spring picnic or graduation. Or maybe they can't drive, but occasionally, someone brings them to a program where they'll see many of their MG friends, and they want to sit at the outreach table and answer questions. If they interact with the public, they need to have their background check, etc., up to date. Again, it is meant to be an honorific title for someone who is unable to regularly participate.

If they are *emeritus*, they do not need to complete Civil Rights, Risk Management, or background checks. But if they interact with the public, as shown in the example above, then they do need their certifications and background checks.

Reminders:

- Emily Coyner is organizing the Nominating Committee for the September elections.
- Our next General Meeting is on Thursday, August 1, at 9:00 am in the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom.
- Save the date for an Ice Cream Social at the Freedom Park Interpretive Center on September 21 from 2 to 5 p.m.

To All - Stay Safe!

Vickie





# Master Gardener Member Meeting Programs

---

## Great Plants for Dry Shade

On **August 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Williamsburg Regional Library** (or via Zoom), Michelle Baudanza, Conservatory Curator at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, will present a lecture on drought-tolerant and easy perennials and shrubs for your garden. She will also delve into more unusual selections, providing you with a unique opportunity to expand your horticultural knowledge in a practical and applicable way.

Michelle has been with the Norfolk Botanical Garden for over five years, and before that, she worked as a landscape designer and horticulturist for the city of VA Beach. Michelle was inspired to pursue her degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Christopher Newport University by spending time outdoors while stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC, in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Plan to attend this lecture in the auditorium at the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom (Meeting ID is 889 8534 0423). For questions, contact our VP of Internal Education, Debera Sineath, at [vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org). Open to the public - bring a friend!

To access via Zoom:  
Log into Zoom,  
Click on Join a Meeting,  
Enter the Meeting ID noted above, and  
Click Join

## Buffers & Berms

On **September 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Williamsburg Regional Library** (or via Zoom), Laurie J. Fox, Ph. D., a Horticulture Associate at Virginia Tech in the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, will present a lecture on berms and buffers, including their purpose and benefits. Dr. Fox will have pictures of the installation at the research center and other types of buffers and berms, suitable plants, and some resources to share. For more information, contact Debe Sineath ([vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org](mailto:vp-internal-ed@jccwmg.org)). Your Zoom Meeting ID is 889 8534 0423. Bring a friend!





# Water Wise Garden, August Update

---

**ELVIN & KAY CLAPP '18**

**Surviving the Drought:** The recent heat wave and drought presented numerous challenges to the Water Wise (WW) team. Several plant beds are indeed drought tolerant, but they were impacted by this latest six-week episode of high heat and no rain. For the rest of the garden, it was a constant strain to drag hoses and hand-water plants. The good news is that the WW team stepped up to the challenge and kept the garden in good shape. No plants were lost.

**Mulch to Do About Nothing:** The WW team often discusses the pros and cons of various types of mulch. James City County provides free mulch with a heavy concentration of chips. Use of this over time has resulted in a built-up residue of small slivers and stick-size material. We've also used pine needles and "green" mulches. We recognize that we need more compost blended into the soil. Recently, we've added higher-quality mulch in some areas, especially to highlight our signature plants.

Presentation is important when you have 15,000 visitors walking through this garden each year. Their recent positive comments validated the trial use of quality mulch.

**Team Dedication and Spirit:** As project managers, we are constantly amazed at the WW team's support of this garden. It's impressive to see them work during the recent heat wave. Equally impressive is their willingness to engage with each other and with visitors to the JCC Human Services and Olde Towne Medical Center building.

Workdays are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, from 8 to 10 a.m. during the summer and 9 to 11 during the fall. For additional information, contact Elvin or Kay Clapp at [elvkay@gmail.com](mailto:elvkay@gmail.com) or 602-647-9988.





Mulch residue and runoff issues



Use of different mulches over time.



Use of quality mulch to highlight signature plants



# How does your garden grow? Brickyard Update

---

**JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15**

Although it feels like the weeds are winning, a number of plants are blooming at the Brickyard Landing Park riparian buffer demonstration garden. Joe Pye Weed is definitely the hit of the flower show, but Threadleaf Coreopsis, Spotted Bee Balm, Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod, and Blue Mist Flower are all attracting pollinators.

As the native perennials and grasses fill in, the hope is that the very healthy Bermuda grass will be crowded out of the beds. Bermuda grass and one other crabgrass species are the primary weeds that need to be removed, and volunteers are also mulching the beds as each one is weeded. The numerous volunteers who have been working to eradicate the invasive grasses are looking forward to fall, when growth should slow down.

Fall will also bring another round of planting. The county has been awarded a grant through the Coastal Resilience and Trees Fund for just more than 100 new trees and woody shrubs, including a blueberry patch. The grant will also fund the construction of a dry riverbed, three interpretive signs, and a native plant meadow. The tree planting will likely occur in November and seeding of the meadow will occur in December. We are recruiting a large group of volunteers to help with these plantings, and the county has already dug some of the holes for trees.

If you are out at the park in the next few weeks, the meadow will be cut and treated to kill the existing plants. Currently, there is a grassy area and an area with taller grasses and Sweet Gum seedlings that will become part of the native plant meadow.

The garden is shaping up thanks to the many generous volunteers who give their time, though we can always use extra hands. Workdays are Mondays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. We ask for people to arrive at whatever time works for them and stay up to two hours. With the heat and the level of work, we want our volunteers to stay healthy and safe. Park address: 990 Brickyard Road, Lanexa. Contact Judy Kinshaw-Ellis for more information ([kinshawellis@gmail.com](mailto:kinshawellis@gmail.com)).



# Business Notes

---

## BLUE RIDGE PRISM

Please take a minute to fill out this invasive plant survey form at this link: [forms.gle/QwUmDmwbjSVtUXVU6](https://forms.gle/QwUmDmwbjSVtUXVU6). Blue Ridge PRISM is conducting a survey to learn more about the most problematic invasive plant species across Virginia. Also, check out this link for the current Blue Ridge Prism Newsletter & upcoming events: [mailchi.mp/blueridgeprism/summer-2024-newsletter-10345564?e=4ec1c7515a](https://mailchi.mp/blueridgeprism/summer-2024-newsletter-10345564?e=4ec1c7515a). Thanks to Kim Owens for sharing!

## CONTINUING EDUCATION WEBINARS

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

## JOIN THE VMGA!

The Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA) fosters communication, education, and fellowship among Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers state-wide. Why not become a member today? Click on this link for an application: [vmga.net/vmga-membership-application-renewal-form](https://vmga.net/vmga-membership-application-renewal-form).

## OUR HALFWAY MARK

It is hard to believe we have passed the halfway mark of 2024! I hope you have found joy in your invaluable contributions to our Association's Master Gardener projects. This is a reminder to log your hours in Better Impact and keep your information current. Call it a mid-year checkup! If you require assistance, please email me ([coyner.emily@gmail.com](mailto:coyner.emily@gmail.com)), and I will happily schedule a time with you. Happy Gardening!

## CANNING ADVICE

While home canning is a wonderful way to preserve your garden's harvest, it's important to understand the risks. Improperly canned vegetables significantly contribute to botulism outbreaks in the United States, underscoring the importance of following safe canning practices.

As a result, Ed Olsen, M.S. ED., the Consumer Horticulture Specialist and Extension Master Gardener Program Director from the EMG State Office, recently sent you an email on home food preservation. This is a reminder that only trained Master Food Volunteers or properly trained VCE Agents can present this type of programming to the public. If you wish to have a home food preservation component in an EMG program, please contact our president, Vickie Rockwell ([president@jccwmg.org](mailto:president@jccwmg.org)) or our VCE Agent, Janet Spencer ([vceagent@jccwmg.org](mailto:vceagent@jccwmg.org)), for guidance.

## SAVE THE DATE! ICE CREAM SOCIAL IS COMING!

At the recommendation of several members, the Board has decided to hold an ice cream social for this year's membership reward event, and members are encouraged to bring their families. They've agreed that the Interpretive Center at Freedom Park is a good location, and after reviewing available dates, they chose Saturday, September 21, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the large conference room, which will give us access to outside seating on the patio.

We're looking for a few dedicated party impresarios to help plan the particulars, such as ice cream toppings, decorations, and activities, and help with set up and clean up. Your contribution is key to making this event a success, and we are truly grateful for your willingness to help. Bring your ideas and ice cream social experiences to our Zoom call on August 14, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82290177728?pwd=ew3SvYGX2lbAQuFXuUYmbJ7Nc8zGXg.1>.

For more information, contact Marion Guthrie at [marion.guthrie@gmail.com](mailto:marion.guthrie@gmail.com).



# Ecology Corner

## Wishing for Long Bloom Times

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15

We are all looking for flowers with long bloom times to fill our gardens. So, what native plants fit this category? Although we have long been taught that perennials bloom for a short time, we only plant them once, and annuals bloom all summer, but we have to plant them every year; there are native plant choices that are longer-blooming perennials.

Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) is a cheery ground cover that does well in partial shade. It stays low and has a yellow blossom.

Yarrow (*Achillea borealis*) has low-growing foliage and then has a taller stem with the flowers. The native Yarrow has a white flower, but cultivars come in several colors. Its foliage is rather lacy looking.

Mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum*, various species) is a pollinator favorite. If you stop by any garden, it is generally busy with bees, wasps, and other pollinators. It also can be a vigorous spreader in a garden, so be mindful of where you plant it. Some varieties, such as Narrow-leaf Mountain Mint, are less aggressive in a garden. Because its blossoms are similar in color to its foliage, the flowers are not as showy as many other blooms. However, it offers a cool contrast in a bed.

Rudbeckia varieties are a favorite for many gardeners. They self-seed freely, so they are likely to pop up throughout a flower garden. Three-lobed Coneflower (*Rudbeckia triloba*) has a small Black-eyed Susan blossom.

Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is a native vine that sometimes blooms all twelve months. Both red and yellow varieties are native to the coastal plain. It is a favorite of hummingbirds and the host plant for the Spring Azure butterfly and the Snowberry Clearwing moth. For the best display, Coral Honeysuckle should be grown on a trellis.

If you are just getting started with planting natives, give some of these favorites a try. The long bloom times will enhance your garden and bring many pollinators to your yard.

# Amazing Natives

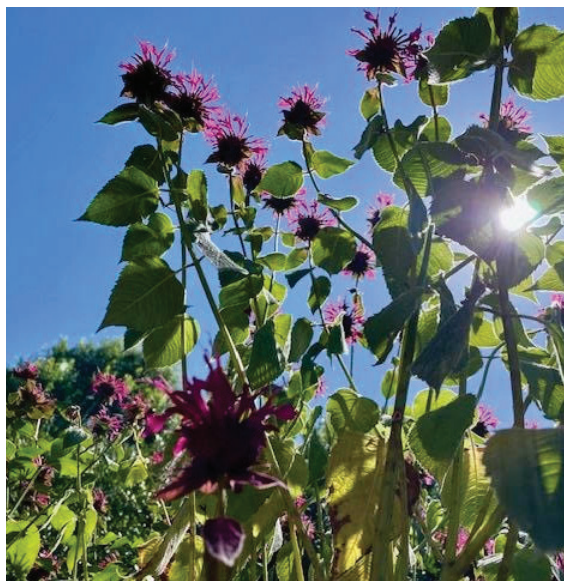
---

**SUSAN CARLILE '16**

Jamestown Settlement Cafe's garden continues to amaze us, with the overachieving native varieties growing to staggering heights and widths. Putting native plants in good soil and a raised bed where no critters invade has been a remarkable success. The aggressive growth of several plants has called for some serious "whacking back." It has been a good year to see the fruition of the work the team has done for three seasons.

The bed we established and maintain at the visitor's entrance is a testament to the garden's self-sustainability. The natives are thriving and showy, and the successful reseedling of native columbine has become more of a ground cover than we had anticipated. With another season of growth, this bed will practically take care of itself. We continue to supply the Café kitchen with fresh herbs, with basil being the most popular. The kitchen also benefits from the freshly harvested French tarragon, thyme, rosemary, and sage from this garden.

One joy of working in this garden is the response we receive from the Jamestown Settlement employees who enter through the patio gate beside our project. Many stop to ask about plants and to remark on our lovely pollinator-attracting garden. It is wonderful to receive that gratitude for the work we're doing. For more information, contact Susan Carlile at [gcarlile73@aol.com](mailto:gcarlile73@aol.com). Jamestown Settlement Café is conveniently located on the lower level of the Jamestown Settlement Living History Museum at 2110 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.







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.

Office: 3127 Forge Rd., Toano, VA 23168  
Mailing: P.O. Box 1951, Williamsburg, VA 23187  
jccwmg1@gmail.com | (757) 564-2175