THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

Celebrating 41 Years of Helping our Neighbors Grow!

A publication of the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association

OCTOBER 2024

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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.

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 November 2024 newsletter is Monday, October 21.

Send your submissions to our editor, Marion Guthrie at <u>vp-</u> <u>communications@jccwmg.org</u>, and copy our vice president of projects, Gary Griffith, at <u>vp-projects@jccwmg.org</u>

Newletter 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 researchbased 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.

THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

President's Message

VICKIE ROCKWELL '19

A very special Thank You to our amazing Communications Team, led by VP Communications Marion Guthrie, for organizing and hosting the Ice Cream Social. A shout-out to – Betsy Beyer, Linda Becker, Michelle Garrard, Wayne Koenig, Christine Mason, and Marion Guthrie – for a job well done! It was a picture-perfect fall day, and everyone enjoyed catching up with each other and meeting our newer members. We had a great start to the fall activities.

On October 1, JCCWMGA gardeners will participate in the State Fair by working in the Master Gardener Booth.

Our Monthly meeting is on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The program will be "Precious Pollinators" in the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom.

On Thursday, October 10th, we are off to the Norfolk Botanical Garden for a day of private touring and education. A few seats are still available.

Coming up on October 11, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., is the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Matthew Whaley Elementary School's PTA and the JCCW Master Gardeners Mattey's Garden. Limited edition t-shirts are available by using this link: https:// tinyurl.com/MatteysGarden. Tiffeni Goesel, Project lead, and her team have done an outstanding job preparing the garden for this event.

The Bi-monthly VMGA meeting will be held on October 12 at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest in Lynchburg, VA.

The regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on October 17th at 9:30 in the library.

If this hasn't made you dizzy, October is also the perfect time to care for perennials, for fall seeding, and for planning your garden for next spring. I don't know about you, but my mailbox and email file are packed full of what my husband calls 'garden porn.' All those catalogs and sales brochures for new plants with pictures of perfect gardens. Inspiring or insanity-inducing? For me, it is a bit of both. Usually, I try a new plant in the garden. This year, I want to add alliums. Enjoy these beautiful fall days in your garden – a perfect time for dividing plants for the plant sale.

Finally, this is a reminder that elections will occur at the October 3 General meeting. The slate of officers for the 2025 include:

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Anne Hunt (2023 - transfer) 3,147 Lifetime hours

VP ADMINISTRATION Dorothy Finnegan (2020) 550 Lifetime hours

VP EDUCATION Crystal Skeeter-Davis (2022) 168 Lifetime hours

VP COMMUNICATIONS Marion Guthrie (2019) 3124 Lifetime hours

Enjoy the gardens and work safely!

Vickie



Master Gardener Member Meeting Programs



Precious Pollinators

October 3, 2024, at 9:00 am in the Williamsburg Regional Library (or via Zoom).

Butterflies and bees are specially designed to pollinate an array of plants. They use a wide variety of strategies to find and collect pollen. Native bees pollinate 70% of all flowering plants and are more efficient than honeybees. Providing habitat for pollinators is essential for our gardens and food production.

Please join us for Adrienne Frank's presentation on Precious Pollinators. Adrienne became a member and Master Naturalist in 2008 with the Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) of VA Master Naturalists. She has served on the HRC board in several capacities, including President and Treasurer.

Adrienne is also on the boards of Friends of Dragon Run and the John Clayton Chapter of the Native Plant Society. In 2013, she established a butterfly project for HRC and registered the Williamsburg Butterfly Circle with the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). She coordinates the NABA Count each August. She compiled Butterflies of the Greater Williamsburg Area: An Annotated List of Species.

An Introduction to Rain Gardens

November 7, 2024, at 9:00 am in the Williamsburg Regional Library or via Zoom

Alexandra Cantwell, from the Norfolk Botanical Garden, will give a presentation on Introduction to Rain Gardens. This presentation explores the basics of starting a rain garden, what it is, and why it's so important! From plant selection to design, this program lays the foundation for a better understanding of these small but mighty sustainable gardens.

Alexandra Cantwell graduated from Virginia Tech with a double major in environmental horticulture, landscape design, and contracting. She started working with Norfolk Botanical Garden afterward, serving as a horticulturist for 5 years, where she focused on native plants of the mid-Atlantic, sustainable landscape practices, and habitat creation. She then moved into the education department, where she now serves as the Director of Adult Education.

Zoom Meeting ID is 889 8534 0423 To access via Zoom: Log into Zoom and Click on Join a Meeting, Enter the Meeting ID noted above, and Click Join

Ice Cream Social

MICHELLE GARRARD, '21

What should you do when life hands you a perfectly sunny day? Why eat ice cream at Freedom Park—of course! The Master Gardener Appreciation Ice Cream Social on Saturday, September 21, was a gala event with almost 80 master gardeners and a smattering of friends and family. Along with creating their favorite ice cream masterpieces, guests enjoyed trivia games, cornhole, a self-guided educational trail walk, and raffle prizes. All were left happy, fully satisfied, and with a rumor of a repeat event in the near future.























PHOTOS BY ELVIN AND KAY CLAPP

Mattey's Garden Celebrates 25 Years!

TIFFENI GOESEL '18

YOU'RE INVITED TO MATTEY'S ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Mattey's Garden is 980 square feet with an outdoor classroom, tucked neatly into their schoolyard for the last 25 years at Matthew Whaley Elementary School, 301 Scotland Street, Williamsburg. On Friday, October 11, Mattey's will celebrate their 25-year anniversary milestone with a party from 5 to 6:30 p.m. You're invited!

> FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024 5 - 6:30 PM

MATTHEW WHALEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN 301 SCOTLAND STREET WILLIAMSBURG, VA. 23185

> Music by: Joe's Day Off Food by: Old City BBQ



A LITTLE HISTORY

Mary Ann Brendel of the Williamsburg Garden Club started the initial planning for the garden in 1997 when she contacted the school to participate in the "Roots and Shoots" program. Landscape designer Gale Roberts created the garden, which was built with the help and contributions of eight organizations, including the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association.

OUR MGS GIVE HELP AND SUPPORT

The JCCWMGA teaches the students and manages the garden to this day, covering much of the infrastructure upkeep costs through the Association's annual financial donation and the sweat equity provided by the Association's Master Gardeners. This includes a complete renovation in 2023.

VOLUNTEER IN MATTEY'S

Master Gardeners from James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners Association teach the children during monthly garden lessons. The garden supports the students' studies in science, art, and more. After school, the garden is a fun place to meet friends, watch the goldfish in the pond, or play a tic-tac-toe game. Stop by on Friday, October 11, to join the fun and see the garden. For more information, contact Tiffeni Goesel, Master Gardener and Project Leader, at <u>tiffenigoesel@</u> <u>cox.net</u>.

Save the Date for Graduation!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

The class of 2024 will graduate on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at our membership meeting in the WRL Auditorium on Scotland Street. Family and friends are welcome! There's a reception afterward at the Stryker Center. Don't miss it!



Class of 2025 Recruitment Begins!

Even as we salute the outstanding efforts of the 2024 class and welcome them into our membership, the Training Team is recruiting for the Master Gardener Class of 2025. We encourage anyone who wants to learn more about "Becoming a Master Gardener" to attend the information session on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 AM in the Stryker Center, 412 N. Boundary Street. Open to the community, this presentation will be an overview of what it means to be a Master Gardener and how to apply. The Training Team starts accepting applications for the class of 2025 on November 1st.

The 2025 Training Team is led by Terry McGlennon (lead), Elizabeth Myers (colead), Sue Barton, Linda Becker, Nancy Lia, Pam Mageland, Anne Nordin, and Mary Whitley. Members of the team are happy to answer any questions you may have. For more information, go to this link: <u>iccwmg.org/wordpress/about-us/</u> or call the Help Desk at 757-564-2175.

The Next Phase Begins: Save the Dates!

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15

From November 11 to 15, the Brickyard Landing Demonstration Garden will install 120 trees and woody shrubs. We will work two daily shifts: 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. We hope that starting on Veterans Day will allow people who might otherwise be at work to help with the planting.

By November, the park will be treated with herbicides to help reduce the weeds in the new garden section. Many of the holes were dug out early in the summer to help loosen the ground for our fall planting. We will still need volunteers to dig, but it should be easier than last November's plantings. We will also need volunteers to plant and mulch around each plant. It will be heavy work, so we are soliciting help from other organizations as well as calling on you, the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardeners.

Also, we plan to seed the meadow in December and plant plugs. We will pick a date in December soon to do the seeding, and we hope to have a number of people to help with this part of the project, which will be fun.

If you have not been to Brickyard Landing Park to see this project, make it a priority to come take a look. We are currently working to weed and mulch the perennial and grass beds. While the Bermuda Grass is a formidable challenge, the garden continues to grow and transform. We hope to see you in November at Brickyard Landing Park, 990 Brickyard Road, Lanexa, Virginia. Questions? Contact Donna Benson (mid520@mac.com) or Judy Kinshaw-Ellis (kinshawellis@gmail.com).

Thanks for your help.

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OCTOBER 2024

A Day in the Life of an MG in CW

KATHY LYKINS '08

One day in mid-September, Master Gardeners deadheaded, removed spent annuals, cut back perennials, and staked a few drooping flowers. We decided to trust the meteorologist and not water, keeping. Wednesday as our fallback. Our trial of planting a celosia, where we had pulled rudbeckia with summer blight a week before and treated it with lobster and mustard, appears promising. We are looking forward to the October changeover.

THE COLONIAL MASTER GARDENER

THE TAK OF THE DAY, LIZ, IS THE DAY, LIZ, IS THE DAY, LIZ, IS THE PENCE.

Changes at the Botanical Garden

MARY SIPE '14

Since its beginning in 2005, the Williamsburg Botanical Garden (WBG) has grown and changed a lot. So much so that we have been working to re-furbish some beds over the past two years that aggressive plants have taken over. The structures in the Garden have needed some significant updates as well. As with most garden renovations, there have been ups and downs, but our volunteers have hung in there and are making it happen. If you haven't visited recently, I wanted to highlight selected projects to let you know what we have been working on.

The Flowering Shrub Border along the east side of the fence was replaced with a Fall and Winter Interest Border. The old border had very large plantings that required drastic yearly pruning to keep them out of the paths and some things that were receiving too much sun. The new plantings are shrubs and perennials with interesting flowers, bark, leaves, and stems through the fall and winter months when other garden areas may be winding down for the season. This is the second year of this display, and the plants look great. Part of the Butterfly Garden was changed to display Native Shrubs for the Home Landscape. These shrubs have the characteristics of the straight species but are more manageable. We hope this will encourage our visitors to plant more native shrubs by giving these beautiful examples that work in an average-sized yard.

The Iris Bed has been changed to a Hummingbird Garden. This garden area accumulates water from runoff from the rest of the garden, and irises were challenging to grow even in a raised bed. The new plantings display easily grown plants by the typical home gardener, guaranteed to attract hummingbirds. We hope to encourage using plants to attract hummingbirds because nectar is more nutritious than sugar water.

The Fairy Garden partially collapsed recently due to some rotting wood. It had been in place for many years, and the Grounds Crew volunteers have removed it so that they may install a completely new structure that will last many more years. This is a very popular area for children as well as adult



visitors, and I'm sure our volunteers will make it better than ever.

There are two pavilions in the garden that have green roofs. The original structure by the main patio was built in 2005. Unfortunately, about half of the original plants on the roof have died, which is not surprising after nearly 20 years. Because of the fairly significant cost of revitalizing the plants, we have not been able to address it until now. We obtained grant money, which should cover refurbishing both roofs over the next few months. We are very excited to show the public how even a small structure, once again with plantings, can support wildlife and is more attractive in a garden than traditional roofing materials.

Our amazing volunteers have cleared several other areas of aggressive plants in the garden, such as obedient plants, daylilies, goldenrods, and honeysuckles. We have tried some new plantings but have had significant rabbit damage in the past two years. Fencing seems to be the only reliable deterrent, so it has slowed down our new planting schedule.

Through it all, our volunteers have taken on the challenges with humor and perseverance. I cannot thank our volunteers enough for how hard they have worked despite these challenges to improve the display beds, and I know that with patience, we will continue to make progress to restore these areas. If you are interested in working in the garden or have questions, contact Mary Sipe at mcsipe2@ gmail.com.



Business Notes

2024 BUDGET

The 2024 budget is posted on Better Impact on the front page. Page down.

DON'T FORGET!

Master Gardener Help Desk hours are 9 am-12 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Give them a call for all your gardening needs at 757-564-2175.

SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE

The Speakers' Bureau is looking for a volunteer to put together a program on starting plants from seeds. Ideally, the presentation will be about 45 minutes long. If you'd like to do the research and writing but want to avoid public speaking, we are happy to find someone to give your talk for you!

Your research, writing, and presentation count as volunteer hours. Interested in developing this or other topics? Contact Jay Templin at <u>whitebootsforge@</u> <u>gmail.com</u> or Angela Cingale at <u>arcingale@cox.net</u>.

LOOKING FOR THE TREE STEWARD MANUAL?

Tree Steward Manual is designed for Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners training to be certified advanced Master Gardener tree stewards. Written by a dedicated team of volunteers who themselves completed advanced Master Gardener tree steward training, the manual covers a wide range of topics, specific to each region of Virginia, including identifying trees, selecting and planting appropriate trees for local landscapes, caring for trees, and troubleshooting tree problems. Here's the link to the Tree Steward Manual.

WEBINARS FROM THE EPA

Carol King, Coordinator for the Virginia Peninsula Tree Steward Program and co-author of the Tree Steward Manual, reminds us that the EPA is continuing its series of webinars on Integrated Pest Management. The full calendar, along with information on how to attend, can be seen here: Upcoming Integrated Pest Management Webinars | US EPA.

BETTER IMPACT - A NEW LOOK THAT WORKS FOR YOU

Over the last two months, the Communications Team has continued its focus to make Better Impact (our Volunteer Management Software) and MyImpact (your personal, private portal into Better Impact) an up-to-date hub for "need-to-know" info that is important to each and every JCCW Master Gardener. Just log into your MyImpact page, scroll down, and see what's changed! Under "News," you will now easily find info on upcoming Member Meetings and announcements with all pertinent info on current programs, opportunities, and events.

While this kind of info has always been available, it was often communicated through various emails from key players planning those events. Now, you can look in one place and be assured that you can find all the "who, when, where, what, and how" information you need.

<u>Click here</u> or go to your MyImpact App on your mobile device and EXPLORE.

Preserving Our Past with the WHRA

HOPE YELICH '14

Hope is finishing her project of collecting historical documents for the Williamsburg Historic Records Association (WHRA). If you have anything that you think she should consider for inclusion, please contact her (hopeyelich@gmail.com) or Wayne Koenig (koenig01@gmail.com), who is working with the Swem Library.

Hope has been collecting our documents often in hardcopy, including minutes, photos, and other materials, and providing them to the WHRA. The WHRA collects and preserves post-colonial Williamsburg, James City County, and York County records, then gives them to the Special Collections Research Center of the College of William & Mary's Swem Library, where they are evaluated, cataloged, and stored. For information about William & Mary Libraries: Special Collections Research Center, go to: (https://scrcguides.libraries.wm.edu/repositories/2/ resources/2209) and here's a link for the WHRA: Collection: Williamsburg Historic Records Association Records | Special Collections Research Center (wm.edu).

Our New ANR Agent!

Luke Gladden is a 2024 graduate of North Carolina State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a focus in Entomology. He has taken various courses at NC State, including Plant Nutrition, Soil Science, Entomology, Energy, Sustainability, GIS, and Environmental Law. Luke is from New Bern, North Carolina, but has familial ties to New Kent and is a resident. He is excited to help serve as the ANR Extension Agent for New Kent and James City County. He can be reached by at <u>lukeg03@vt.edu</u>.



2025 VCE Tree Steward Certification Course

JCCWMG Outreach

BARRY HOLLAND '15

The Peninsula Tree Stewards are organizing a Tree Steward certification class.

WHAT:

This is a 36-class hour certification with a followon Tree Steward project that should be completed within 12 months of the class completion. Classes are 3 hours a week, plus reading prep. The optimum participation is in person every session, but planning will include remote access and self-paced catch-up.

WHO:

Any Master Gardener who has completed the Master Gardener course and their 50 hours of project time.

WHEN:

We are planning a start on Jan 8, 2025, followed by weekly sessions on Wednesday mornings. Graduation is projected on/about March 26, 2025. Classes will be mainly in person and LIVE on ZOOM. All classes will be recorded for viewing at your convenience.

WHERE:

Class locations are planned for central Newport News, Williamsburg, York, and possibly Hampton.

HOW:

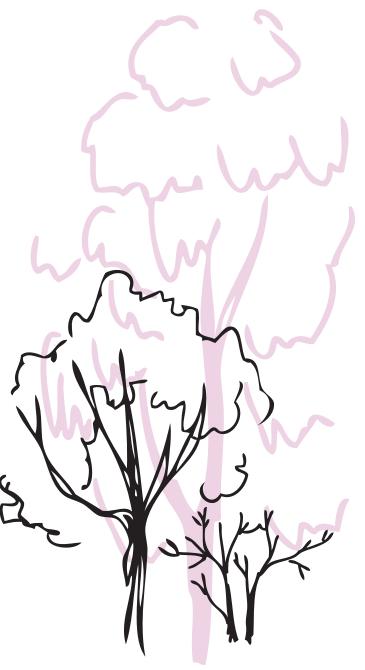
Applications will be available in early October. VCE agent Luke Gladden must approve these as part of the application process. The cut-off for applications will be in mid-November.

COST:

The estimate now is around \$75, covering speaker gifts, refreshments, and several resource books for class participants. The basic textbook is available for free download or can be purchased in print; the cost is to be determined.

INTERESTED?

Please contact Barry Holland (<u>francisholland64@gmail.</u> <u>com</u>). Your interest is not binding, but it will allow for proper planning for the class.



VMGA Report September 2024

MARILYN RIDDLE '01

Grace Monger Stern is the new State EMG Program Coordinator. She is the former Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent in Nelson County and will be based in Saunders Hall, Virginia Tech.

October 1 — Dot Finnegan, Vickie Rockwell, Gary Streb, and Pamela VanCott will represent our unit of the VMGA at the state fair.

October 12 — Our next VMGA meeting will be held at Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's summer home, near Lynchburg. We will have a special speaker, the Director of Archaeology at Poplar Forest, as the focus rather than the regular business meeting, which will also occur as usual. There will also be a tour of the house.

November 9 — Fall Continuing Education Day (9 - 1) at the Washington VA Volunteer Firehouse with three speakers on the topics of Propagation of Native Woodies, Keystone Natives, and Seed Propagation. Respective fees are \$10 for VMGA members and \$20 for non-members. Washington, VA, is in NW Virginia, about 155 miles from Williamsburg, north of Culpeper. Registration is required as it is for most events.

In October, Ed Olsen and Grace Stern will lead all-day training sessions for unit leaders in five locations throughout Virginia. The agendas will be identical.

Vickie Rockwell and Marilyn Riddle will attend the October board meeting in Lynchburg. If you have questions or need more information, visit the VMGA website at <u>vmga.net</u> or contact Marilyn at <u>mriddle@</u> <u>cox.net</u>.

Your Dues are Due

2025 Master Gardener Association Dues

LINDA NEILSON '18

It's hard to believe, but it's that time again. This is a reminder that the 2025 membership annual dues of \$25.00 are due by December 31. It's easy to pay. Use one of these convenient methods.

IN-PERSON: Pay at our General Membership Meetings in October, November, and December. These meetings are always on the first Thursday of every month at the Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland St., at 9 a.m. You can pay with cash, a check, or a credit card.

ON OUR WEBSITE: (jccwmg.org), go to "Members Only/Membership Dues," fill out the form, and pay by check, credit card, or PayPal. (By using the PayPal credit card service, you agree to a PayPal transaction fee.). Here's a direct link: jccwmg.org/ wordpress/mg-dues-payment/

BY MAIL: Pay your \$25.00 by check to James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association and mail it to JCCWMGA, PO Box 1951, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1951.

Thank you for your continued support of the James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association. We greatly value your volunteer effort and your dues, which together drive this organization's success.



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Ecology Corner

Plant This, Not That

JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS '15

In our challenge to deter invasive species:

Rather than Bradford Pear Chokecherry (Prunus virginiana) Black Gum (Nyssa sylvatica) Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis) Fringe Tree (Chionanthus virginicus)

Rather than English Ivy Creeping Phlox (Phlox stolonifera) Golden Ragwort (Packera aurea) Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)

Rather than Nandina Virginia Sweetspire (Itea virginiana) Strawberry Bush (Euonymus americanus) Red Twig Dogwood (Cornus sericea)

Rather than Crape Myrtle-Fringe Tree (Chionanthus virginicus) Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida) Downy Serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea) Rather than Butterfly Bush Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) Gayfeather (Liatris spicata) Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa) New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus)

Rather than Burning Bush Dwarf Fothergilla (Fothergilla gardenii) Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius) Oakleaf Hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia) Arrowwood Viburnum (Viburnum dentatum)

Rather than Asian Wisteria American Wisteria (Wisteria frutescens) Kentucky Wisteria (Wisteria macrostachya)

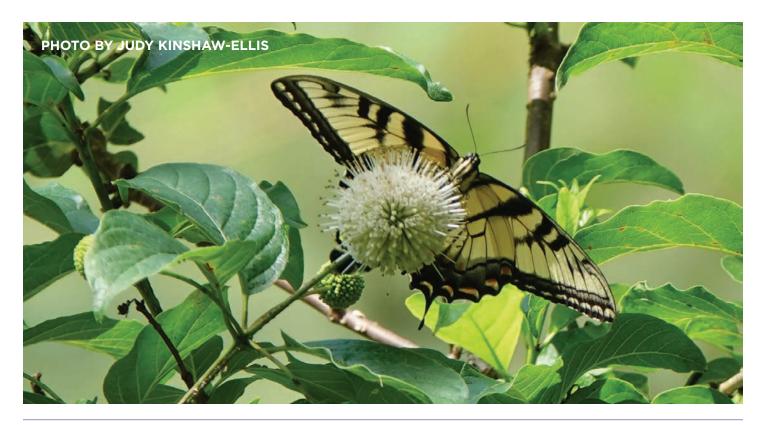
Rather than Creeping Lily Turf (Liriope) Pennsylvania Sedge (Carex pensylvanica) Creeping Phlox (Phlox stolonifera) Blue Eyed Grass (Sisyrinchium angustifolium)



PHOTOS BY JUDY KINSHAW-ELLIS









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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