



VMGA REPORT

Early Spring Edition

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March/ April 2015

A Message from the President

In case you missed the 25th Anniversary Bi-monthly meeting in February, we had a wonderful time celebrating the vision and commitment of the original members.

Special guest Peggy Singleman (Horticulture Supervisor, Maymont), Grace Chapman (Horticulture Supervisor, Lewis Ginter), Kathryn Buruss (Horticulture Superintendent, State Fair of VA) and Gwynn Hubbard (VA Green Industry Council) shared with the group how important Master Gardeners are to their programs and expressed their gratitude.

Some of the original and long time members of VMGA were presented with certificates of appreciation. These members shared some of the adventures and opportunities they encountered during the early days of the association and reminded us of how important VMGA is to the Master Gardener program.

The 25th Anniversary of VMGA was recognized by Virginia Cooperative Extension with the presentation of a beautifully framed letter of appreciation. The acknowledgement was signed by Dr. Alan Grant (Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences), Dr. Ed Jones (CALs Assistant Dean and Director of Extension) and Dave Close, our State Master Gardener Coordinator.

Frank Reilly, celebration committee chair, presented letters of acknowledgement and appreciation of the Virginia Master Gardener Association from US Senators (and former Virginia Governors) Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. Additionally, Virginia General Assembly Delegate Scott Lingamfelter has introduced a bill to commend VMGA.

This was a special event and everyone had a good time celebrating the anniversary and the accomplishments of VMGA.

The meeting was good platform for discussing the retention of volunteers. Each unit representative was asked to provide data on retention rates for the past 5 years. Although we did not include the various reasons for volunteers becoming inactive, units provided recommendations on how to help with this problem. Several units have started mentor programs where seasoned Master Gardeners are assigned to a trainee to guide them through the process.

Some units mentioned scheduling more planned get-togethers: either group meetings, local educational events, membership-led training meetings or shared meals. While we do not yet have enough data to statistically analyze, the numbers showed an average retention rate of 35% after five years. Dave Close reminded us that the average national retention rate for all types of volunteers is 3% and the Master Gardener program is well above that average. It is our hope that the unit reports will be used by VCE to develop future training opportunities.

Moving ahead, the Executive Committee has been working together to write a VMGA handbook of timelines and duties for each officer and committee chair. It is our hope that the handbook will not only be a good resource for VMGA but to help as an organizational tool for individual Master Gardener units.

We are looking for Master Gardener groups to volunteer as host for the 2016 meetings. Information about hosting meetings can be found at <http://vmga.net/hosting.php>. Please let Christy Brennan (ctb47@comcast.net) know if your group is interested.

I hope everyone stays safe and warm. Thank goodness for gardening and seed catalogues to keep us in the gardening mood during the blustery and snowy days of late winter!

VMGA OFFICERS

President

Christy Brennan, Hanover

Vice President

Angela Cingale, James City County/Williamsburg

Treasurer

Pat Reilly, Prince William

Secretary

Joan Richards, Fairfax/Green Spring



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VMGA 25th Anniversary Report Advanced Training: The Early Years



From its inception in 1990, the new State Association of Master Gardeners has focused on providing accessible opportunities for continuing Advanced Training, seeking to augment both the basic class material and the annual Advanced Training offered in Blacksburg.

In 1991, three "Field Days" were authorized, one at VT, two to be in different locations within the state; utilizing the knowledge, skills and talents of Extension staff and MGs.

The first two topics were *'The Office Computer - a Learning Resource'* and *'Tips for Effective Presentations'*; followed in 1992 by *'Xeriscaping'*, *'Water Quality & the Chesapeake Bay'*, *'Compost Basics'* and *'I.D of the Major Plant Families'*. John Keller, Gloucester, was President; Paul Kulp, Fairfax, was Education Chair.

In 1993, Advanced Training opportunities included *'Urban Forestry'*, *'Writing Grants'*, *'Ornamental Trees and Shrubs; ID, Problems and Solutions'*. In October, the State Master Gardener Convention, *'Cultivating, Conserving and Caring'* boasted Jim Wilson of "Victory Garden South", Richard Bir from NC State and Frank Tortorella, MD as main speakers. Kay Parrott, Hanover, also arranged for tours of Ginter Botanical gardens and the VSU Research Plots in Petersburg.

Training sites included Lynchburg, Northern VA, Richmond/Central VA, Tidewater, Blacksburg, AHS River Farm, and Extension Research Stations. Local Extension Agents and MGs were always ready to assist and at times, to teach.

During 1994 and '95, VMGA was heavily involved in 'Saving Extension', local Units who 'lost' their agents due to budget cuts, etc. were forming MG-led Associations [under Extension scrutiny] with the agreement of VT. Much 'educational' effort was expended in Richmond with the Legislature!

With the growth in numbers of certified MG's, 'Advanced Training' sessions [aka 'Field Days'] were increased to 3-5 each year, in addition to MG College at VT. Some topics-- 'core items'-- were repeated--*'Using Electronic Media'*, *'Effective Presentations'*, *'IPM'*, *'Seed Propagation'*, *'Water Quality'*; newer presentations included *'All about Roses'*, *'Container Gardening'*, *'Fruit Trees'*, *'Daffodils and Other Bulbs'*, *'Trees for Home Landscaping'*, *'Perennials'*, etc. Karen Sacasky was President, Tom Geer was Education Chair



THE GRAINETHUMB

GARDENING LORE, WITTY PROSE AND TIPS

By George Graine, Fairfax Master Gardeners

Essay – A literary composition usually dealing with a subject from a limited or personal point of view.

---Merriam-Webster's Desk Dictionary

Gardening does not have to be work-work-work all the time. Instead take a time-out, take a sit-down, take in what is happening all around you and take time to read a good book. Put aside that pruning guide or landscape design manual and pick up Sharon Lovejoy's book with a goofy title called *A Blessing of Toads*. It is a truly positive reading experience. The book subtitle is a giveaway to the contents – *A Guide to Living With Nature* [in your own yard] (Down East Books, 2015). The author's anecdotal remarks accompany 45 short essays and include many delightful illustrations. (All of the essays were previously published in "Country Living Gardener" magazine.) To be sure, the author captures "instructions" on gardening without preachy thou shalt admonitions.

It might be a good idea to read the book title essay first starting on page 199. If you like these few pages, then chances are you will be in for a treat as you leisurely skip around and wander through 44 more essays, all with interesting titles. Lovejoy's words explain how to stop and smell the roses as they say, that is, learn to appreciate your garden and inhabitants. In fact, you will experience a journey forward into the mysteries of your own property that you may not have noticed before. As you yardabout, you may also have a change of perspective as you explore and create your own ever changing environment.

A serious section on helpful garden hints is included as a bonus with each essay. In most chapters you may have the feeling of build it and they will come. In other words, by carefully considering what you plant, your chances of living with nature (the book subtitle) are greatly enhanced. This is sort of like a how- to book with a lot of meaning. You can profit from the author's positive and at times negative experience because she shares her advice and wisdom as if it might be coming from the knee of your parents or grandparents.

If by the end of reading *Toads* you are not filled with inspiration and enthusiasm, then I have failed as a garden communicator. I hope you will feel otherwise because these essays should make your gardening hobby much more pleasurable. As a final thought, a quote from Steve Bender, Felder Rushing and Allen Lacy from their book *Passalong Plants* – "People don't own the wonders of nature, they just take care of them for a time. What brings joy to one should bring joy to all."

As a reminder, dues that are paid after January 1st of 2015 are good till May 31, 2016. No need to wait till late May to renew! Sending your dues in a few months early will help the Membership Committee in being able to timely process the applications. Renewing members have the option of submitting an online Membership Application <http://vmga.net/VMGAmembershipapplication.php> and paying by either check or PayPal OR downloading an application <http://vmga.net/PDF/VMGA-application-Rev-03-2014.pdf> and mailing it to the Membership Chair. Renewing members submit a Membership Application to ensure current choices for participation and contact information. Life Members are asked to keep VMGA informed of any changes in contact information – email the [Membership Chair](#).

Questions? Contact the [Membership Chair](#)





EXTENSION AND MASTER GARDENERS: THE BEGINNING

By George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners



Unlike a Paul Harvey saga concerning the rest of the story, this short article is about the beginning of the story. Have you ever wondered how Extension and the Master Gardener program got its start? Here is the abbreviated story.

Way back when, before the Civil War, not many colleges addressed the problems associated with people whose livelihood depended on agriculture. Congress realized something needed to be done about this shortcoming in rural America and this resulted in a series of congressional acts.

The First Morrill Act of 1862 granted land for agriculture and mechanical arts to be run by colleges and universities in all of the states. In 1890, the Second Morrill Act enhanced the 1862 Act with a partial endowment. This Act added 13 colleges in southern states for the education of black people and a land grant university was established in the District of Columbia too. In between the two Morrill Acts, the Hatch Act of 1887 established agriculture experiment stations at each of the land grant colleges to assist our still rural country. Then in 1935 the Bankhead-Jones Act provided for a more complete endowment to be provided to the land grant colleges.

Cooperative Extension offices have been helping agricultural communities since 1914. That was the year when Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act, an agreement by which colleges and universities would receive funding and resources in exchange for creating programs for local and state residents in horticulture, nutrition, and natural and human resource development programs. Everyone has benefited from the Cooperative Extension Service in so many ways. Agricultural Research Stations across the nation continue to provide a research-based approach to healthier crops, all kinds of plant material, and the environment.

In 1972, Dr. David Gibby, an extension agent with an expanding workload in the state of Washington, came up with the idea of training volunteers in extension-type work. Voila! The first Master Gardener volunteers were trained to provide expert assistance to home gardeners. Up to that time, home gardeners were helped by agents as time permitted in their busy schedule of helping the commercial agricultural community. The idea soon spread nationwide and even to an international presence.

Today, in Virginia we have an extension office associated with every county and/or city. Master Gardener volunteers work in concert with an Extension Agent's mission and in this regard it is often said that Master Gardeners are unpaid Extension staff.

Now you know the beginning of the story and you should be proud of our heritage. Based on the best information available, the 1991 *Directory of Master Gardener Programs in the United States and Canada* as well as some oral history, Arlington County jointly with the City of Alexandria started the first program called "Master Gardener" in 1980. Fairfax actually led the Commonwealth with their master gardener-like program called "Neighborhood Plant Clinic" in 1976.

In summary, the Master Gardener program was originally designed to help our citizens make decisions necessary for a successful gardening experience. New projects are constantly being reviewed and added to our basic structure. The mission and relationship between Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners maintains a strong balance in solving horticultural problems for citizens in the Commonwealth. Make it go! Make it grow!

This article originally appeared in the Fairfax County Master Gardeners newsletter, *The Daily Plant It* in September 2004.

VMGA will make reasonable attempts to contact you when emails to you bounce, but you can do your part:

Email the [Membership Chair](#) with changed email addresses.

Make sure you have no blocks on emails from VMGA.

Don't let your Inbox get "full"!

Renew online.

Thank you!





Gardening the “Smart” Way



There are many Apps available for iPhone and other smart phones. I am listing the ones that I currently use to pass to other interested Virginia Master Gardeners. These Apps are great mobile references. Many are free and others have a minimal one-time cost.

Apps for iPhone:

Landscaper Provides detailed information on numerous annuals, bulbs, cacti succulents, evergreens/conifers, ferns, flowering & fruit trees, grasses, ground covers & vines, herbs, house plants, palms, perennials, roses, shrubs, trees, vegetable/fruits/berries and water plants.

Herbs Provides details on many herbs including images, garden requirements, culinary and medicinal uses.

Leafsnap Snap a picture of a tree leaf on a white background and App provides a list of possible tree IDs.

Garden Bugs Provides pictures and detailed information for many garden bugs.

Scotts Bird ID Provides bird lists by state including detailed information on each bird, photos, bird calls and ability to report sightings.

GardenGuide Provides information on various crops and gardening techniques.

Turfgrass Weeds Provides photos and information on many lawn weeds.

USTrees Provides large tree list (common and botanical names) and detailed characteristics including leaf shapes and family ID.

NCSU Lawn Care Provides detailed information on grasses, maintenance, pests, irrigation tips and turf.

Thanks to Bob Kelley, Chesapeake MG for this list.

Chesapeake Master Gardener Tree Mapping Program



Mike Andruczyk (Chesapeake Extension Agent) worked closely with the City of Chesapeake in developing a tree mapping program utilizing existing maps of city owned property. The “smart phone” application (ArcGIS) allows Master Gardeners to enter pertinent information for each tree surveyed including: condition, species, height, circumference, notes and digital photographs. The data is entered and uploaded with the GIS location into the city’s digitized mapping system. A desk top computer application is also available.

The benefits of this program are numerous and include:

1. A detailed inventory of trees throughout city property
2. Information on trees needing removal, trimming, staking, fertilization, mulch, etc.
3. Data for use in earning awards and in generating grants for tree care, installation, etc.
4. Highlighting the need for certified arborist care
5. Potential for eliminating hazardous tree issues (broken limbs, dead trees) in parking lots, school, office and other sites

Initial surveys will include significant trees including unusual species, specimen plants and trees adjacent to trails, parking lots that could impact cars, power lines, pedestrians, buildings, etc. Wooded areas will be surveyed at a later date. However; large areas that could be planted with grant monies or other Arbor Day projects will be noted during the initial survey.



What to do this Month: March



- Continue planting hardy vegetable crops that mature quickly. Good choices are turnips, mustard, radishes, and spring onions.
- Thin plants when they are 2- to 3-inches tall to give them room for growth.
- Side-dress your early-planted crops with compost.
- Once all danger of frost has passed (April 11-20), you can transplant tender vegetables, such as tomatoes and peppers. Before planting, harden-off by placing containers outdoors in a sheltered area for a few days.
- If danger of frost has passed, plant warm-season crops, such as beans, squash, and corn.
- Remember to water your plants, especially any transplants.
- Keep a look out for insects. Control aphids with soapy spray on leaves.
- Dianthus and other cold-season annuals should flourish this month.
- Plant bulbs for spring and summer flowers such as dahlia, canna, and gloriosa. Amend beds with organic matter and provide stakes for growth.
- Plant warm-season annual flowers, such as asters, calendulas, cosmos, impatiens, phlox, salvia, and zinnias.
- Continue pruning summer-flowering shrubs, such as althea, hibiscus, and oleander. Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs until the last flowers have faded (but before new buds set).
- Prune trees and shrubs before the end of the dormant season.
- Rake up any leaves from your lawn and fertilize it after all danger of frost has passed.
- If you have not done so already, you can apply a pre-emergent herbicide to your lawn to help prevent any summer weeds.
- Apply a layer of mulch around your newly planted shrubs, flowers, and vegetables.
- Fertilize azaleas, camellias, ornamental shrubs, and palms, if needed. Use a fertilizer that has at least 30 percent of its nitrogen as slow-release.
- You can plant lawn seeds now, if needed.
- Mow your lawn at recommended heights (St. Augustine and Bahia: 3 to 4 inches; Centipede: 1.5 to 2 inches; Dwarf St. Augustine: 2.5 inches).
- Fertilize lawns with a slow-release nitrogen after danger of frost is clearly passed.
- Check sprinkler systems for any issues and fix, as needed.



What to do this Month: April



This month is good for tender vegetables, such as beans, sweet corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers. Plant two or more rows of corn for better pollination.

Continue planting warm-season crops: tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and cabbage. Plant okra, too!

Mulch your garden well to preserve moisture and keep down weeds.

Ensure that your garden receives 1 inch of rain per week. Set out an empty tuna can to measure the amount of rainfall.

Watch out for insects such as aphids and use an insecticidal soap spray if needed.

Plant an herb garden. Basil, parsley, oregano, chives, sage, rosemary, and thyme are good choices.

Remove any weeds in your garden, as they compete with your plants for water and nutrients.

Plant new annuals and bedding plants, such as coleus, geraniums, impatiens, marigolds, phlox, salvia, and zinnias.

This is a great time to plant many bulbs such as: canna, caladium, blood dilly, and iris.

Divide herbaceous perennials, clumps of bulbs, and ornamental grasses if the garden looks too crowded. Replant or give away!

Remove any dead flowers from plants to encourage new growth.

Apply new mulch around your plants, shrubs, and trees, if needed.

This is a great month for planting shrubs and trees.

Prune spring-flowering shrubs after they finish blooming. Fertilize azaleas, camellias, and any other shrubs that need fertilizer.

Remove any leaves from your lawn, and then fertilize it with a slow-release fertilizer.

Mow your lawn at recommended heights (St. Augustine and Bahia: 3 to 4 inches; Centipede: 1.5 to 2 inches; Dwarf St. Augustine: 2.5 inches).

Ensure that your lawn is getting enough water (1 inch per week).

Divide and repot houseplants. Fertilize if necessary.

Thanks to Hanover Master Gardeners for these tips.





Wicked Bugs

A review by Wanda Gerard



As with the previous book, Ms. Stewart tells us which category these bugs fall into. A few pages on the deer tick explain how the name Lyme disease got its name. One chapter is entitled 'The Gardeners Dirty Dozen'. Some of them are: aphids, slugs & snails, earwigs, and tomato hornworm. The chapter titled 'Have No Fear' lists the different syndromes people have that are insect related (very interesting!) An entire page is dedicated to the fear of bugs! And I learned that stepping on a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug released a smell that will attract more of these lovely bugs.... Oh, joy! Of course there were pages dedicated to spiders and scorpions. I found the pages about the hierarchy of any stings interesting. I did not know one could experience so much pain from insects.

Did you know that there are no such bugs called 'bookworms'? Instead, several species of lice beetles, moths, roaches and other scavengers are attracted to the nutrients found on library book shelves. A chapter on corpse eaters will make your hair stand up..... I actually recall hearing some of that info while watching an episode of CSI several years ago. I wonder if the writers of this and other TV show have this book on their bookshelf!?

Did you know that a 1) Bed bug can survive for up to a year without feeding? 2) That some bugs are called zombies? 3) There are roughly 3000 species of mosquitoes? 4) Native people from Alaska's Aleutian Islands made a mixture of a poisonous plants (aconitum), rotten animal brains and fat and an unspecified poisonous worm or caterpillar to dip their arrows into. I was doing fine with reading this until the rotten animal brains came into view. I wonder where and how in the world these concoctions were dreamed up. Could it be that on one find day someone woke up and said "I think I will take the brains of the dead polar bear, mix it with and you get the idea.....

Again, I found this to be quite an interesting book that I would recommend you read if you have an interest in bugs. I am going to ask Dan Nortman if he has read this next time I see him. If not, he will be wanting to locate a copy – then again, he probably knows all of this.



Honored Guests at 25th Anniversary

Karen Sacasky, Barbara Geer, Elizabeth Overton and Aileen Bartlett prepare to cut the anniversary cake. Missing is George Graine





Wicked Plants

A review by Wanda Gerard



This little green book contains information on plants that many of us have in our gardens, and dozens more that are what author 'Amy Stewart' calls villains. I can testify that several plants on her list are in my gardens as favorites, and that I will be planning to add yet some more.

We start with *Aconitum napellus* (Monkshood) and travel through the entire alphabet ending with *Taxus baccata* (Yew). Each plant is labeled as deadly, painful, destructive, offensive, dangerous, illegal or intoxicating. We are told which plant family it belongs to, its habitat, where it is native to and its common names.

Here are a few tidbits about some botanical crime families: The nightshade family has a few members that contain tropane alkaloids that cause hallucinations, seizures, and deadly comas. The nettle family has some members that have tiny hairs that contain a minute dose of poison that gets under the skin. The cashew family contains poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac to name a few (have to admit, I didn't know that one!) Most of the surge family members produce a milky sap. But the poinsettia, castor bean and a few other plants also belong to the spurge family. The carrot or parsley family has a few criminals (as Ms. Stewart calls them). Water hemlock, poison hemlock, giant hogweed and cow parsnip contain neurotoxins and skin irritants.

Here are some things you may not know, at least I didn't! Elderberry fruits when raw, contain varying levels of cyanide. Red kidney beans eaten raw or undercooked can cause severe nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. This is only a sampling of the interesting things I discovered inside the book; there are many more that you will find fascinating.

There are several pages that cover plants that are deadly to cats. The book also contains chapters on weeds of mass destruction, psychedelic plants, dreadful bouquet and bad houseplants to name a few.

I would recommend you check this book out of the library. I plan to reread it again during the winter months so that I can seriously understand those wicked plants and plan to incorporate even more of them into my gardens. Please if ever visiting my garden don't be taste testing the plants unless you know what they are, I don't want you getting sick.



Submit a nomination for our *Volunteer of the Month* award. **We want to recognize the best volunteers in the state** each month on the VCE public website (maybe more depending on number of nominations received). Nominations can be submitted using this survey. Click on or copy and paste this link to access the Volunteer of the month nomination form.

https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0NuDUwkeIMdPIrf

It is easy. Just requires a short write-up and a picture.

Also, make sure you recognize your Unit volunteers as well on your own Unit Website.



Soil Testing: it's that time of year

Joel from the Lakehead University Forest Laboratory demonstrates how to properly collect soil and get it ready for submission. Soil testing is a very important gardening practice. Its the sure-fire way to ensure your garden gets what it needs.



Right click on the picture. Then click open hyperlink.



Why Sponsor Master Gardener College?

Extension Master Gardeners are sought by the public for answers and education on all things gardens and lawns. More than 5,500 active Master Gardeners make 500,000 contacts with clients each year, and are avid consumers themselves. Master Gardener units engage speakers for classes and seminars they conduct and need venues for them. Individually, they join and support horticultural and environmental organizations and attend conferences and lectures.

They are interested in plants, lawn products, weed suppression, pruning techniques, design ideas and water quality and conservation issues. They purchase gardening books, tools, yard ornaments, and botanic-themed interior décor. Master Gardeners share their passion to their fellow volunteers and clients. And did we mention they love plants?

Connecting with these influential educators is a unique opportunity. Master Gardener College attracts nearly 300 attendees, mostly from the northern, southeastern and central population centers but from all over the state. In addition to appreciating you for your support of their annual College, your name, products, services or message return to their communities with a passion. Please consider supporting the most active and well-trained volunteers in the green industry.

VMGA College Sponsorships

We are assisting in finding sponsors for our next VCE MG College which will be held June 24-28 of this year. Attached are a sponsor cover Your VMGA organization has always been a sponsor and will do so again this year. We are looking for new sponsors. Perhaps your local unit association could see their way to provide some sponsorship. Do you know of any organizations, businesses or individuals that you interact with in your communities that could do this? With your help we can have the best VCE MG College ever. If you need any assistance or have someone you would like us to approach, you can contact Sue Edwards at suedward@vt.edu or John Freeborn at freeborn@vt.edu.



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

March 27-29 (Fri-Sun). 2015 WV Master Gardener's Conference,(Pipestem Resort, Pipestem, WV). Key note speakers: Peggy Cornett, and Dr. Bryce Lane. Numerous breakout sessions. For more information go to: <http://mastergardeners.ext.wvu.edu/calendar>

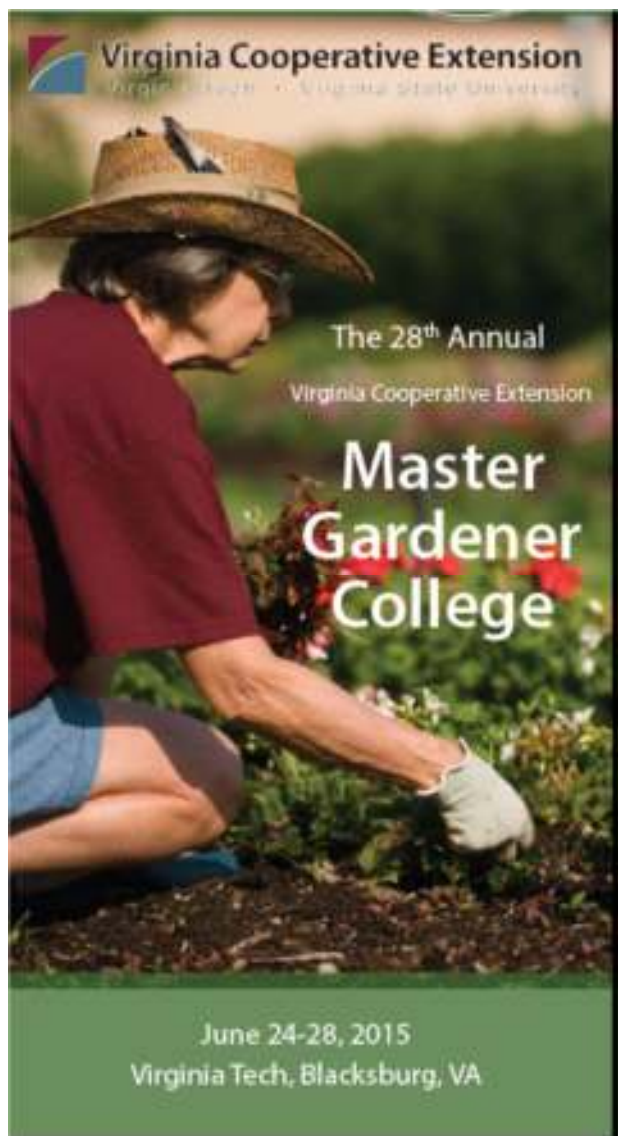


Right click on picture to open hyperlink.

The Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association (BAMGA) is pleased to present its third annual "Grow the Good Life" A Special Day Of Outstanding Gardening Presentations .



Click on the picture then right click to open hyperlink.



Master College 2015 Breakdown:

Along with the usual offerings for Master Gardener College, this year features Advanced Master Gardener Training for Tree Care Stewards.

Speakers: 50+ expected

Range of Topics:

- **Food preservation**
- **Weed identification**
- **Arboriculture**
- **And much more!**

Expected Attendance: 250+ Master Gardeners

Its never to early to plan ahead. The 28th annual Master Gardener College featuring Tree Steward training will be held June 24-28, 2015. For more information go to

<http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/mastergardener/current-master-gardeners/mg-college/faq-2/>

Scholarships are available. Talk to your unit representative. Also, if you received a milestone award in 2014, you may be eligible for a discount on the 2015 Master Gardener College registration fee.



Plant Disease Update February 2015

Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science at Virginia Tech

Botrytis Blight on Flowering Plants



Botrytis blight on Marigold

The appearance of a gray, fuzzy mold on flowers, leaves or stems of ornamental plants is a sign of the fungal disease, Botrytis blight, also called, for obvious reasons, “gray mold”. The gray mold fungus grows well under cool, humid conditions and can attack a wide range of plant species. It is common on greenhouse plants, such as poinsettia, geranium, and petunia, at this time of year. It can also occur on landscape plants, including tulips, peonies, and roses, in early spring.



Botrytis blight on tulips in landscape

Symptoms include leaf and flower spotting or blight, stem lesions, and dieback. The fungus produces spores prolifically on both dead and recently infected tissue. Because each spore can cause a new infection, it is important to remove dead tissue, including fallen leaves and flowers, on a regular basis. In the landscape, removal of plant debris also helps to prevent overwintering of the fungus. In greenhouses, careful control of temperature and humidity, in addition to strict sanitation, helps to control the disease. Preventative fungicides are also available for control. As temperatures rise later in the growing season, the disease is typically less of a problem.



Northern Neck Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension

Invite you to the 22nd annual

Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar

“What’s New? What’s Tried and True?”



March 28, 2015

**Seminar Location: Church of the Nazarene, 57 Wisk Drive,
Whitestone , Virginia 22578**

Registration: form available at www.nnmg.org

Registration fee: \$ 25 Time: 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM (Doors Open 8:00AM)



March 20,2015 Waynesboro Virginia

The Perennial Plant Diva at the Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium. 8AM to 4PM. Information and registration at : <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ea35rzxk409da5ed&llr=nzdak9dab>



Plant Guilds

Laura Kerson



In February, I was delighted to speak about the Permaculture concept of Plant Guilds to a friendly crowd at the Sustainable Living Fair at ODU. It's inspiring to see so many people invested in improving the world around them and interested in planting gardens that mimic the natural patterns found in a forest ecosystem. For those of you who couldn't attend, this article will describe how you can design and grow a Plant Guild at home or somewhere in your neighborhood.

If you examine a forest, you will find mostly perennial plants growing in a way that make efficient use of sun, rain and soil nutrients. At the top are the tallest trees with the largest canopies, followed by smaller understory trees. Next there is a shrub layer with herbaceous plants surrounding it. The lowest level includes ground covers and creeping vegetation as well as fungi and plants with large and harvestable roots. In addition to these layers, you sometimes find vines or vertical climbing vegetation using trees for support.

Your guild will be built around a central component: usually some sort of fruit or nut tree, though native trees with a wildlife benefit are excellent choices here too! Surrounding the tree you will want a variety of small fruits, usually in shrub form, and depending on placement they may need to be more shade tolerant such as currants or elderberries.

You need to include plants that attract both beneficial pollinators and predatory birds to eat pest insects. Keep diversity and variety in mind here when making your choices for these types of plants. You'll want varieties that bloom throughout the season, especially when your fruit flowers are blooming, and a diversity of flower sizes and shapes.

Mulch plants are another important component of your guild. These can be plants that spread easily and act as a live mulch, such as squash or nasturtium, or they can be plants that are cut back several times a season, like horseradish or comfrey, known as "chop and drop" mulches.

Thinking about your soil health, you will also need to add plants that collect and distribute different nutrients in your guild. Comfrey is typically a good plant for this because of its deep tap root that draws nutrients from far down in the soil. You'll also want to include some sort of nitrogen fixing plant such as clover or lupine.

To discourage nearby grass from intruding into your guild, bulbs can be planted around the border of your guild bed. You can choose flower bulbs or edible bulbs, but make sure you don't confuse the two as many flower bulbs are poisonous when eaten! In certain situations, you may also choose to include a strong smelling plant such as marigolds or chives to repel certain pests that may attack your guild.

Another great thing to do for your soil and your plants is to inoculate the area with edible mushrooms. Mycelium are the large, thread-like root system of the mushrooms that live in the soil layer. The mycelium are responsible for decomposition of organic matter, they aid in the transport of water and nutrients to plant roots, and are an important food source for many soil invertebrates.

continued on page 16



Plant Guilds cont.

Once you've selected plants that will benefit your guild, you can work on laying out your design. Make sure to consider plant height, sunlight availability, ease of harvest and any other specific factors unique to your site. Most importantly, don't be afraid of messing it up. If you're planting useful and beneficial plants in a space that previously had none, no matter what you do, it will be an improvement!

Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

Central Element: Paw-Paw, Persimmon, Apple, Pear, Fig, Cherry

Small Fruits: Currants, Elderberry, Blueberry, Gooseberry, Seaberry, Raspberry

Nutrient Accumulators: Comfrey, Dandelion, Plantain, Nettles, Yarrow

Mulch Plants: Squash, Nasturtium, Artichokes, Rhubarb

Insect Plants: Dill, Fennel, Tansy, Cosmos, Feverfew, Bee Balm

Nitrogen Fixers: Clover, False Indigo, Peas, Vetch, Lupine, Locust

Bulbs: Onions, Garlic, Camas, Tulip, Daffodil, Crocus, Hyacinth

Pest Repellent: Marigold, Chives, Garlic, Leeks, Catnip

Fungal Layer: Oyster, Wine Caps, Shiitake Logs, Shaggy Mane





The Aging Garden

As they mature, gardens get shadier, much to our dismay, and we start running out of planting space. Sometimes we gardeners want to shout, “No! Wait! That’s not what I was aiming for,” but like teenagers, these words go unheeded.

Because plants and trees are growing creatures, our gardens get shadier as they mature. Consequently, if your aim is to have 365 roses you probably will have to take down some trees; otherwise you’ll have to change the progression of your garden’s future with the proviso that some factors, such as the neighbors’ trees blocking out the sun, are out of your control.



Fall is the best time to assess our gardens: in the winter we see the skeleton with great spaces between its ribcage; in the spring we are excited—and grateful—when plants return, while in the summer we’re busy nurturing our plants through the heat and humidity.

The garden space is finite, something we all have to learn sooner or later. I loved ordering plants with simple abandon—and I could do so because mine was a new garden. However, that was twenty years ago and today I’m wracking my brain trying to figure out where I can put the five roses UPS is bringing me as I write this column. The climbing rose, ‘Cl. Clotilde Soupert’ will present no problem as I have one spot against some lattice-work where she can reside. However, the other four present a dilemma because there is no room to provide for plants requiring a sunny location.

Meanwhile, I have inspected the garden with a somewhat jaundiced eye. Because I’m in the midst of my rose mania, the new roses are a given: they are staying. I surveyed the area and my eyes stopped at *Solidago rugosa* ‘Fireworks’, a lovely goldenrod that has not performed one hundred percent for me. This is a lush goldenrod and for everyone else it stands high but it persists in drooping, requiring staking, in my good soil. I cut it back by half in May, and still it cascades all around, covering way too many plants in the process. So I am saying goodbye even though I love the time when it blooms right before the asters and the chrysanthemums.

I’m also saying goodbye to those I classify as “dumb plants.” *Vernonia lettermanii* falls into this group. I can only say that I have tried and finally during its third growing season it has thrown out some violet blooms. I apologize but the plant does not speak my language and it is hogging sunny real estate that could harbor a rose.

Sometimes I site a plant too close to a shrub simply because I abhor blank spaces and, lacking imagination, I cannot fathom the size the shrub will eventually reach. Sometimes this has worked to my advantage as when I planted a bunch of dahlias near a camellia. The camellia grew out, sheltering the tubers from the cold and forcing the dahlias to stretch for light. They need no staking as the skirts of the camellia disguise their stretching stems. The result is a charming circle of dahlias surrounding the camellia.

However, my *Baptisia* x ‘Purple Smoke’ is now too close to my lovely willow, *Salix integra* ‘Hakuro-nishiki’. *Baptisia* puts down a large taproot, making it hard to dig out while the *Salix* prevents it from expanding to the size it wants to be. Eventually I shall have to decide between the two but for now I am putting it off.

A particular camellia, ‘Taylor’s Perfection’, had never performed well for me in a particular sunny location so after four years I decided it needs to say goodbye. I had now found four places for the five roses and I was about to shout “Eureka!”

It’s important to go through this period of reassessing the garden, as not only does the garden change but we also modify our garden priorities. Plants we thought were cool ten years ago are no longer quite as appealing. The fact is this: the aging garden now is home to high priced real estate so we have to be choosy in our plant selection.

Meanwhile, I have just come back from one of my favorite nurseries, one that offered me a free rose. ‘Bailey’s Red’ is a climbing rose discovered in Holly Springs, NC. How could I possibly have refused to give this orphan a home? I have planted it right next to my windmill palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*. So when you see a lonely red rose climbing a palm, you’ll know that I have totally run out of room.

Byline A serious gardener for the past twenty years, Kit Flynn resides in Chapel Hill. She is also a Durham Master Gardener.



VMS Tips and Tricks – March 2015

VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER
VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

How to Report Service and Education Hours

1. Risk Management training is required for all Master Gardeners once every three years. If you had this training in 2012, you have to have it again in 2015. Attendance at the Risk Management training offered before a MGNV General Meeting counts. Attendance at the Agent's Plan of Work-Continuing Education session also counts. Using the dropdown Projects list, select "Continuing Education- Agent's Plan of Work and Risk Management for Recertification" and also record the date and description of the event.

2. Travel Time. Travel time is used for two purposes. For interns, it is used to record travel time to and from their Service work. For MGs, travel time to and from Volunteer and Continuing Education opportunities can be recorded. While travel time is a much-valued contribution to VCE, it may not be counted toward initial certification or the 20/8 recertification requirement. It does, however, count toward your Milestone hours. (See Decision II below also.)

3. List of projects. Scroll down the list of projects to determine the project to which your hours should be applied. If you don't know what category to use, **ask your project leader**. If you are in VMS, you can also check out the Projects descriptions (click on "Projects" at the bottom of yellow section on the left side of the screen).

4. If you are still not sure how to report your hours, here's a five-step process that may help you:

Decision I:

What category of reporting is it? The list of possible projects is broken down into seven categories in VMS:

- **Civic Engagement** (for service in nontraditional ways to the community);
- **Continuing Education** (for recording all advanced training, repeated training AND for recording Cont. Ed. committee service);
- **Demo Gardens** (for various demonstration garden tasks and their special events);
- **Public Education** (for recording teaching, public outreach, and event organization as well as Pub. Ed. committee service);
- **MGNV** (for service in some capacity to MGNV);
- **Travel Time** (for recording time getting to and from intern Service work and MG Volunteer work and Cont. Ed. attendance); and
- **VCE** (for service in some capacity to VCE, including the VCE MG training).

Decision II:

Do I record travel time with the project information or separately? You can record your travel time and **mileage** in the Volunteer Hours and Miles Driven blocks as you are recording Volunteer or Cont. Ed. hours or you can report mileage and travel time separately in another entry for the same date by selecting "Travel Time" from the Projects list. (See also 2. Travel time rules above.)

Continued on next page



VMS continued from page 12

Decision III:

What is the Name/Description and date of the event? If you are recording hours in the same category/project for multiple dates, you can make one entry with one date and the aggregate number of Volunteer hours and travel time (if allowed).

Decision IV: Where does it go? Everything you enter can be put into Volunteer Hours or Continuing Education. If you choose to enter mileage, that is for your own personal use for tax reporting purposes. It is not required and we do not report it.

Decision V: How do I record Contacts? It's simple: Old vs Young. Male vs. Female. PLUS your best guess about the recipient's ethnicity. Note: If you are reporting hours for Demo Garden work parties and other group events, only one person in the group reports the contacts for that event unless the leader specifies otherwise.

SAVE HOURS: Be sure to click on Save Hours at the bottom of the screen when you are finished.

Thank you to the VCE Special garden Bulletin for this article.

Need to log in some hours? Right click and click open hyperlink. <https://virginia.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

'Slow, Low and Grow'

Master Gardener Regional Advanced Training

Friday March 13, 2015

Tidewater Community College - 1428 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23322

Registration: 8:30 a.m. Program: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Plants for Sale!

"Slow Gardening: Savoring All Senses, All Season" - Felder Rushing

Retired Consumer Horticulture Mississippi Extension Agent and author of 15 gardening books

Book Sales and Signing!

"Low Maintenance Gardening" - Julie Finn

Owner/Propagator of plant nursery - Meadow of Bliss

"Grow Anything Anywhere: Beautiful Veggies, Herbs and Flowers" - Felder Rushing

co-host of the NPR call-in garden program called The Gestalt Gardener.

15 Silent Auction items! Rainbarrel obelisk and more!
So Bring your \$ and largest car!

Registration form at: <http://www.vbmg.org/upcoming.htm>



A SUCCESSFUL PLANT SALE—HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS

By Jim Davis



Does every unit hold a plant sale every year? In 1997, when our unit was still young, we most certainly discovered the need for money. We'd formed an association, our board decided to sell plants, and we've held a sale every year since. Learning and building along the way, we now hold an elaborate event attracting a large crowd and yielding income to support our eighteen projects in the county. Maybe other units have found the same methods basic and successful, but some might find useful suggestions in what we have developed over the years.

Our coordinators agree: size and complexity demand good organization. Preparation moves from digging and dividing plants, to assigning teams for the many necessary jobs, to creating the all-important publicity. Most plants come from MG gardens, dug in the fall, so that customers see a fresh sprout at sale time in May. D and D is tough. Plants must be located, dug when weather permits, tended till spring and catalogued. These are challenges for this stalwart team, who also must suffer the heartbreak of attrition. Pots are all the same size, and plants are labeled uniformly, with both common and botanical names, habit, preferred location and care. We make our handsome labels with software. At the sale, a team sorts plants by species, each identified by a large color photograph (from the internet). All invasive species are, of course, forbidden. In addition to perennials, we offer, in containers, annuals and vegetables, bought wholesale from a local nursery. These sell fast.

Checking out is simplified by making all prices in even dollars, with no time wasted counting change. One knowledgeable and well-equipped MG has enabled us to accept credit cards via the handheld magic contraption with which so many of us are still unfamiliar. In addition to the check-out team, another (sturdy) bunch lugs purchases to cars. Publicity starts in the local newspaper, on a street banner, posters and radio stations well before the sale.

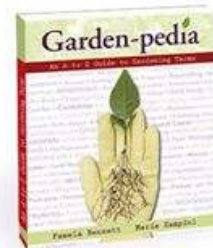
But plants are not the only attraction. Before opening, we hold demonstrations. Early arrivers learn about such things as proper transplanting. During the sale, our plant clinic team answers horticultural questions (and advertises the next MG Class). Another team sharpens garden tools for free, teaching their owners how it's done. Donated compost is sold in (scrounged) buckets. The Native Plant Society has its own sales table. Every year, the SPCA brings dogs and cats for adoption (puppies and kitten are hard to resist), a bluegrass band performs, donated gardening items are sold at low prices, and free plants are offered for children: avocado seeds with instructions, hens and chicks and jade-tree sprouts well started in soil.

It's a social affair for the unit, with a sense of accord and good fellowship pervading. Among customers, we see many friends and renew acquaintances with others. Cleanup is accomplished quickly and with good will. At home, we record volunteer hours and feel confident for another year.



THE GRAINETHUMB GOING BEYOND BOTANICAL LATIN

By George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners



Encyclopedia: A work containing information on all branches of knowledge, usually arranged alphabetically.

---The Oxford Universal Dictionary

No doubt you own a dictionary, know your way around Wikipedia, and for some consulted *Wyman's Garden Encyclopedia* expanded second edition (1221 pages – yikes). You have also probably seen cookie boxes in the grocery store and other products using the words “new and improved” on the label. Are they? In the case of a book called *Garden-pedia*, new and improved is exactly what you get. The subtitle of this book is *An A-to-Z Guide to Gardening Terms* by Pamela Bennett and Maria Zampini (St. Lynn's Press, 2015). It is an extremely helpful book for gardeners of all stripes. Unlike a typical encyclopedia, the authors provide more meaningful information by including descriptive definitions that go beyond the typical few words of other garden books of terms. Of course like most encyclopedias, *Garden-pedia* is alphabetical and, in the computer idiom of the day, user friendly. Below are just a few reasons why.

Clarifies horticultural jargon in a clear and concise way so that the terms become useful for gardeners at any level from black thumb to hort- pro.

The definitions are expanded in an easy to follow format so that you will obtain more knowledge and color photos to further illustrate the terms.

Within 200 pages (!) including side-bars, tips, and cross reference, the points being made are easy to understand.

This is a take-along book (only 6-7”) to the garden center because plant signage often leaves a lot to be desired.

All gardeners should take comfort in knowing that help is on the way and at a low cost. In the final analysis, *Garden-pedia* provides deep rooted (pardon the pun) wisdom. Do not be surprised if this book helps to consider and reinforce what you may or may not already know. Also, and this important, the book will clarify some horticultural myths that have been around for years although they are not pointed out as such.



2013 Statistics on Virginia Master Gardeners

Approximately **5,500** Virginia Master Gardener Volunteers reported a total of **365,000** volunteer hours in 2013

That equates to approximately **180 full-time workers!**

That also equates to more than **\$8.4 million** of in-kind labor for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

They also reported having made more than **430,000 client contacts** in their communities.

These statistics confirm that Virginia Master Gardeners are among the most active MGs in the country!



The HCMGA's Festival of Gardening



What is the Hill City Master Gardener Association's **Festival of Gardening (FOG)**? Is it a plant sale? Is it community education about gardening? Are there gardening activities for children? What about a coffee bar and bake sale? YES. It is all of these things and much more.

Begun in 2000 as a plant sale to provide funds for MG activities in Lynchburg and Amherst and Bedford Counties, FOG continues to sell about 3,000 plants to the public on the **first Saturday in May**. These plants are grown and donated by members. They range from trees and shrubs to houseplants. Lots of tomatoes and vegetables, common and unusual ornamental plants, annual and perennial flowers and herbs, and lovely container gardens grace the Lynchburg City park where the sale is held each year.

While the sale continues from **8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, community education takes place in formal and informal settings. MGs discuss the qualities and care of their plants with the customers. Demonstrations range from irrigation and rain barrels to worms and composting as well as canning and preserving the fruits of our gardens. Free lectures have been an attraction for many years. This year's speakers will enlighten the public on Tick-Borne Diseases (9 a.m.), Fruit and Vegetable Damage from Insects (10 a.m.), and Deer Management for the Home Gardener (11 a.m.). In addition, a pair of MGs will man a table all morning and find answers to gardening questions that are brought to them.

Activities for the children have varied through the years. Among other things, this year young imaginations will be peaked with sensitive plants, herbs and highly scented plants, and a living locket.

The MGs donate wonderful baked goods, and the folks in the FOGGY Café prepare coffee early for the workers as well as the public. As the trucks with plants begin rolling into the park around 6:30 a.m., the coffee must be ready to go. There are also garden accessories (pots, bird houses, gardening books, etc.) available for purchase.

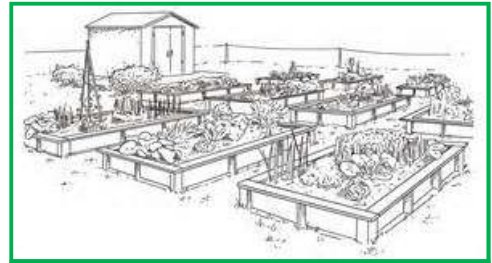
What about the "much more" mentioned in the first paragraph? The "much more" is the comradery, the spirit of being a part of a community effort to meet the group's goals, that is evident throughout. Members contribute through their work on planning committees, pricing the plants, preparing the plant labels, making baked goods, providing the infrastructure required (tables, electricity, etc.), making signs, delivering plants to members with space to hold them while they are inspected and priced, picking up those plants for delivery to FOG, spreading the news of the event to the media, greeting customers as they enter the park grounds, scheduling the workers, and being part of the team in myriad large and small ways.

While the lectures are given in a building and the café is under cover, all remaining activities take place in the open air. To achieve monetary success, we are dependent on the weather. The spirit and team work involved in preparing for FOG make it a successful event before it starts.





HCMGA Partnership with HumanKind



The Hill City Master Gardener Association and HumanKind (formally known as the Presbyterian Home) joined in a joint partnership in the fall of 2014 to develop an extensive gardening project which will be completed in three phases. HumanKind, which was founded in 1903, is headquartered on approximately 170 acres in the city of Lynchburg, Virginia. In the past, the land was used as a self sustaining farm which provided its residents with dairy and produce.

The first phase of the project will consist of several raised beds which will be the HCMGA demonstration gardens. There will also be raised beds for stakeholders' gardens. Flowering fruit trees will be planted in an area that will eventually develop into an orchard. There will be benches so the gardeners may take breaks and rest. Over time we plan to have meandering paths through the garden with a gazebo and shaded areas for family activities.

The second phase will include raised bed community gardens and a production garden. We anticipate that youth groups will be invited to manage the production garden with the produce going to the youth group. They may consume the produce or they may sell it at the farmers' market as a fund raising venture.

Phase three will consist of expansion of the orchard and the planting of more flowering trees and shrubs. The plan will also incorporate a water garden feature, more family centered areas with picnic tables and additional shaded areas.

We anticipate inviting volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club, the Lynchburg YMCA, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the 4H clubs, as well as, other youth clubs and possibly civic organizations as partners in this expansive gardening project.

A formal ground breaking is planned for the spring of 2015.

Scientist Finds New Ash Borer Host

Wright State University Biology Professor Dr. Don Cipollini pointed out his groundbreaking discovery that the white fringe tree can be a host for the emerald ash borer. Cipollini was the first to publish research and convince the U.S. EPA to confirm the white fringe tree as the only other known host for the invasive beetle.

Read more at:

<http://ysnews.com/news/2014/11/scientist-finds-new-ash-borer-host>





More Educational Opportunities

Colonial Williamsburg Gardening Symposium

April 10, 2015

How many living layers are in your garden? During Colonial Williamsburg's 69th Garden Symposium, Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, authors of "The Living Landscape," share their expertise on using plants to create and maintain a layered landscape. Planting in layers allows gardeners to take full advantage of their space and include a diversity of plants that provide beauty and benefit wildlife. The authors and other experts will suggest design strategies for effectively transitioning from one layer to the next and recommend plant selections that range from tall shade trees to mid-size shrubs to low-growing perennials and groundcovers. Maintenance tips for all plants will be shared in hopes that you will be encouraged to create a home landscape that is satisfying on many levels.



Location: Hennage Auditorium, Art Museums

Open to public Time: 2:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Advance Registration required . Call 1-800-603-0948

 Chesterfield County Master Gardeners Present
2015 Horticultural Horizons Symposium
Current Issues in Plant Breeding:
A discussion on the different techniques of plant breeding



Traditional Plant Breeding	Molecular Plant Breeding	Genetically Engineered Plant Breeding	Policies and Regulations of Plant Breeding
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Special Guest Speakers:

Joseph Tychonlevich Author, & Horticulturist	Elizabeth A. Grabau, Plant Pathology, Physiology & Wood Science	M. A. Saghai -Maroof Genetics and Crop & Soil Environmental Studies
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May 2, 2015 9am-3pm
 Chesterfield County Public Meeting Room
 10001 Ironbridge Rd
 Chesterfield, VA 23832

Event cost is \$30 and includes a box lunch

Questions? Call 804-751-4401

Registration is on a first come, first served basis and will close on April 10, 2015.



Loudoun County Master Gardeners' 6th Annual Gardening Symposium

Saturday, March 21, 2015

15a Lee Recreation Center, Social Hall (Downstairs) • Leesburg, VA

LET'S GET GROWING!

Earth is so promising this time of the year. Four prominent garden speakers will provide inspiration, ideas and information. Join us for a full day of learning and get motivated with like-minded garden enthusiasts.



BARBARA PLEASANT

Award winning author and Mother Earth News contributing editor, will speak on *Rise Resilient to Organic Gardening* and will share tips on growing organic vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers.



DEAN NORTON

Director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon Estate, will speak on *Mount Vernon's Gardens and Landscapes* and provide an entertaining look at the restoration and conservation of George Washington's gardens.



JESSICA WALLISER

Well known author, columnist, radio co-host and devoted dug lover, will speak on *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden* and will present current research on how to best maintain a garden's natural balance.



DAVID CULP

Award winning author and creator of the gardens at Shenandoah College, will speak on *The Layered Garden*, offering tips on interplanting different species in the same area so that as one plant perishes its peak, another takes over for a nonstop parade of color.



Register at:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eahvusd3d6346ab3&oseq=&c=&ch=>



VMGA
A Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

Deadline for May/June 2015 Newsletter is April 15th.
Please submit any announcements or articles to be included in the next issue to:

Jan Worthy, editor
Central Shenandoah Valley MGA
jancwva52@gmail.com

**ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS
AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. As an educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative Action employer.

Like us on Facebook
VCE Master Gardener Program

VMGA Bi-Monthly Board Meeting

When: Saturday, April 11, 2015

Where: Franklin County (Southeast)

For more details see vmga.net/meetings.htm