



### 2012-2014 VMGA OFFICERS

- **President:**  
**Tom Bolt,**  
**Norfolk**
- **Vice President:**  
**David Mims,**  
**Rockbridge**
- **Treasurer:**  
**Laurie Anderson,**  
**Fairfax**
- **Secretary:**  
**Mary Ann Kincaid,**  
**Virginia Beach**
- **Immediate Past  
President:**  
**Bill Scott,**  
**Prince William**

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Education:** Vacant  
**Newsletter:** Vacant  
**Membership:** Anita Smith,  
 Newport News  
**Unit Support/Communications:**  
 Frank Reilly, Prince William  
**Finance/Budget:** Pat Waring,  
 Bedford; Jim Kincaid, VA Beach;  
 Bill Scott, Prince William

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**P.Diane Relf Educational  
 Endowment Fund:** Vacant  
**State MG Coordinator  
 Endowment:** Vacant  
**Search for Excellence:** Vacant  
**Fundraising:** Vacant  
**Silent Auction 2013:  
 Washington County MGs  
 VCE Liaison:** Dave Close

**NEXT VMGA  
 BOARD MEETING**  
**Saturday, August 11**  
**1739 Jeff Davis Hwy**  
**Stafford, VA 22554**

# VMGA Report

A voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Tom Bolt, Norfolk**

To VMGA Membership,

Thank you for the confidence you have shown by electing me to head the VMGA Leadership Team for 2012-2014. Your incoming board greatly appreciates the work and accomplishments of the retiring board officers. Our pledge is to continue to grow our organization in many areas

The numerous challenges for your new leadership team are accepted with enthusiasm.

We will continue the fine work of the Education Committee and grow this area using increased synergies with

additional institutions of higher learning. Our heartfelt thanks go to Barbara Geer, who has done an outstanding job in heading up this committee. She has decided to step aside from her job as chair and will be hard to replace. Any suggestions for a new leader of this committee and how we can grow in this area will be appreciated. We have many opportunities here and look to the membership for your continued support.

In her keynote address, Dr. Diane Relf issued a challenge to us. She stated that Master Gardeners and the VCE are not very widely known. We need to

be getting the word out about our accomplishments—more publicity. In a meeting with Dr. Jones, he also stated that this is an area in which we can help “toot our horns.” He is looking at some innovative ways to report our successes. Your new Vice President, David Mims, is taking on this challenge. He will be in charge of marketing and publicity. We all need to be looking at how we can help do this both internally and externally.

As gardeners, we all know how to make things grow. Let's do this and also think “outside the box.”



## Congratulations to Dave Close

**Email From:** Harris, Roger

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2012 5:59 PM

**Subject:** Dave Close has been promoted!

I am very pleased to announce that Dave Close has been promoted to be our new **Director of Consumer Horticulture**. This is a calendar year, non-tenure track faculty position. Dave will remain Virginia's Master Gardener Coordinator and will be assisted by a new staff associate. This will enhance our support for the Master Gardener program while also allowing Dave to serve a larger audience. Dave's expanded duties will include program support for youth programs such as FFA and 4-H, vocational agriculture teachers, and local and regional VCE agents. Dave brings a tremendous amount of horticultural programming experience to this new position and he will be filling a void left by the retirements of Diane Relf (2002) and Alan McDaniel (2010). Dave's new duties will begin this July 1. Please join me in congratulating Dave (dclose@vt.edu).

—Roger J. Harris, Professor and Head, VT Department of Horticulture

## VA Tech: 150 years as an American land-grant university

Peggy Fox, Newport News

The Morrill Act of 1862 established our land-grant college system. Virginia wasn't eligible to participate before being readmitted to the union in 1870. The college, under the name of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, opened October 1, 1872.

The [Morrill Act](#) Chap. CXXX.--AN ACT Donating Public Lands to the several States and Territories which

may provide Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be granted to the several States, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, an amount of public land, to be apportioned to each State a quantity equal to thirty thousand acres for each senator and representative in Congress to which the

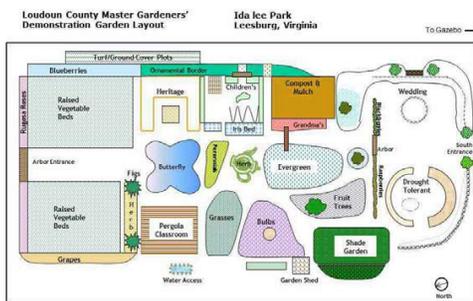
States are respectively entitled by the apportionment under the census of eighteen hundred and sixty: Provided, That no mineral lands shall be selected or purchased under the provisions of this Act.

To learn more about VT's historical connection to the Morrill Act, go to: [VT News](#).



## Loudoun County MGs in the news

Barb Bailey, LCMG



### County Master Gardeners

Demonstration Garden is a one-third acre urban oasis in Ida Lee Park. It is divided into vegetable, fruit and ornamental gardens, connected by pleasant, meandering pathways and adorned with all season landscape interest. This all Organic Garden is designed to be educational as well as enjoyable, and seems to beckon visitors. It offers a venue for lectures on horticulture, a back drop for wedding pictures, and a site for family picnics or community gatherings. Schools, clubs, and neighbors tour the garden, and it is featured on Loudoun's Farm Tours. On July 4th, hundreds visit as a part of the Ida Lee

fireworks celebration held nearby. This Garden is as bountiful as it is beautiful, yearly growing nearly a ton of high quality vegetables, all of which is donated to Inter-faith Relief. Be sure to come by for our Saturdays in the Garden, the first Saturday of the month, June 2nd, July 7th and August 4th from 10AM to noon. Bring your questions about veggies, perennials, pests, diseases or just walk through the garden at your leisure.

This article copied from [Trumpet Vine](#), volume VIII, #3, newsletter of the Loudoun County Master Gardeners.

[www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org](http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org)

Our Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden is a winner in the 2012 Signatures of Loudoun Design Excellence Program for Public Landscapes, awarded by the Design Cabinet of Loudoun Economic Development.

Twenty years in the making, the Loudoun

## Prince William Master Gardeners need your help

Peggy Fox, Newport News

The Teaching Garden at the Benedictine Monastery in Manassas, VA, grown by the Prince William Master Gardeners, is currently in the running for a grant sponsored by The DeLoach Vineyards. By casting your vote in favor of their garden program, you'll bring them closer to their goal of being one of five gardens competing for a share of \$20,000 in grant money.

Go to: [Support Community Gardens](#) between now and August 6th to cast your vote. You may vote once daily until then. Help make the dreams of the MGs and the Monastery come true!

As of July 16, this garden has received 17,582 votes.

TEACHING GARDEN AT THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY  
MANASSAS VIRGINIA

The Teaching Garden maintained by Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers serves as an outdoor classroom to teach sustainable and research-based ornamental and vegetable gardening techniques to the citizens of our community. The current design includes 28 traditional, raised and bio-intensive vegetable beds, and an impressive variety of trees and shrubs. The garden draws people, birds and other wildlife including many species of bees and butterflies. Classes offered each season from April through October demonstrate organic best management practices for soil building, turf, insect, weed, and disease problems as well as childrens programs.

vote for this garden

## The Graine Thumb: ADDING WHIMSY AND STYLE TO YOUR LANDSCAPE WITHOUT GOING GREEN

By George Graine  
Fairfax County Master Gardeners

When one thinks about “yarding-about” does any form of art for the garden come to mind? Will yardart break your bank? Could be but this is not necessarily true. Three books from different perspectives shine the light on almost anything imaginable as yardart. In fact these books will not only enlighten you but will delight you at the same time. You might even say to yourself, “Hey, why didn’t I think of such a clever idea.”

**The Revolutionary Yardscape** by Matthew Levesque (Timber Press, 2010) is all about ideas for repurposing local materials to create containers, pathways, lighting and more. **Handmade Garden Projects** by Lorene Edwards Forkner (Timber Press, 2011) provides step-by-step instructions for creative garden features including containers, lighting and other things. The third book is all about concrete (no peat moss, no vermiculite or other tufa additives). **Concrete Garden Projects** by Malin Nilsson and Camilla Arvidsson (Timber Press, 2011) shows how easy and inexpensive it is to construct containers, furniture, water features and other objects.

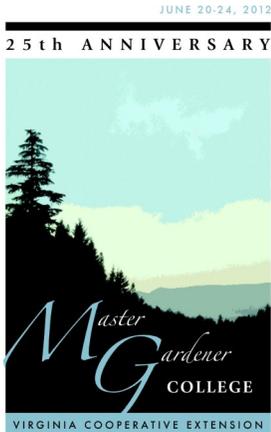
The thrust of the Revolutionary book is mostly about how to make something out of nothing. The word “repurposing” in the subtitle of this book is really a code word for recycling and often leads you to materials that one might find in a waste stream which really means scrap. Levesque has an interesting theory and you will learn how it makes a lot of sense as you thumb through the color photos in his book. Simply put, if you have four things that are the same size

and shape, you can build many different projects. Of course it does not always work out this way. Why rely on off-the-shelf items when with a little hunter-gatherer spirit, that we all possess, you can build your own unique whatever. There is a world of possibilities just waiting for you to find a new purpose for salvaged materials. Check out antique shops, thrift stores and sidewalk sales. Also, Aunt Maude’s garage, attic and basement could be a gold mine of found objects with a lot of possibilities.

The word whimsy comes to mind when considering Forkner’s book about handmade objects for the garden. In easy to follow DIY instructions the author is sure to inspire your creative and imaginative juices. She covers many clever ways to create art that could be charming, different from manufactured store-bought art and even provides some funky ideas. If your green space is lacking something but you cannot quite put your finger on the problem, perhaps it needs a change to your yard “personality.” This book is filled with ideas and perhaps one way to explain what is in this book is to think in terms of alternatives. For example, using a birdbath as a flower pot, the little red wagon that you grew up with could become a mini-garden or a cocktail table using boulders placed inside of an old low wire fence topped off with a glass circle. The book does not go off the deep end artistically but is rather purposeful and practical and also fun to consider so many things that will keep you busy after you are finished with your green garden chores for the day.

Now a question: When is a hypertufa pot not hypertufa? Answer: When the pot is made with 100% concrete. In the third book on the trilogy of yardart we

are assured that concrete can be much more than sidewalks, driveways and highway Jersey walls. In fact “Concrete is a magical material that can produce sober, heavy-weight pots one minute and delicate, fragile leaf prints the next.” Using concrete as yardart has endless possibilities that are long lasting and can change appearance as it weathers nicely. Many adjectives can describe a concrete project including inexpensive, stylish, useful, beautiful and durable just to mention a few. The cost of concrete is minimal and a never ending supply is available at big box stores. As in the two books noted above, the book on concrete has some similarities. DIY project ideas are accompanied by excellent color photos. The authors discuss how to convert found objects into something else and molds are readily available in your own house aside from the usual suspects such as second hand stores and yard sales. Just leafing through the book one comes across original ideas. Besides the creative aspects, your wallet will not take a hit and you will end up with something that can be functional and whimsical at the same time. Can you imagine a shoe scraper for getting the mud off your Wellies or duck shoes? How about a series of different shaped pots for a collection of dwarf hostas or miniature conifers? Stepping stones where one can press colorful river stones into the concrete before it sets (not in the book). A larger project could be a concrete slab for use as a table top. A fun project can be a giant tic-tac-toe board that is very creative yet easy to make and house numbers is a good practical project. The how-to-work-with-concrete is clearly explained in 30 pages and there are 100 project pages to ponder.



## 2012 Search For

### Excellence

### Winners

Congratulations to

*Bedford and*

*Suffolk Master*

*Gardeners.*

*Well Done!*

## MG College 2012 a grand success

MG College 2012: 25 years in the making, celebrated by *more than* 260 Master Gardeners, our biggest attendance yet! There was no shortage of new and exciting activities to keep everyone engaged and educated. From workshops, tours and demonstrations to over 35 concurrent sessions. Our nine keynote speakers were exceptional. **Bob Lyons**, former VT Professor of Horticulture and

now Program Director and Professor of Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture at the University of Delaware; **Holly Scoggins**, VT Associate Professor of Hort; **Brent Heath** of Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Gloucester; and **Joe Murray**, Assistant Professor of Biology at Blue Ridge Community College and national tree biology educator, were just a few of our distinguished

**Peggy Fox, Newport News**

speakers.

Plans are already being set for MG College 2013. Save the date and your pennies to attend this outstanding educational opportunity. Join the celebration with new and old friends. You won't be disappointed!

**MG COLLEGE 2013  
JUNE 20-23**

## 2012 P.Diane Relf Educational Endowment Scholarship

Each year, VMGA seeks to award scholarships to those deserving members who through their dedicated efforts of volunteerism and VCE goals have demonstrated exceptional leadership potential or significant contributions in their respective Units.

Congratulations to the following recipients of a VMGA \$100 scholarship toward attendance at Master Gardener College 2012:

**Alexandra Wunderly**, Prince George;  
**Anita Smith**, Newport News;

**Larry Baker**, Culpepper;  
**Karen Sacasky**, Hill City;  
**Bill Scott**, Prince William;  
**Don Peschka**, Prince William;  
**Laura Collinsworth**, Central Rappahannock;  
**Elaine Benzio-Hild**, Central Rappahannock.

## Help Wanted

Well, everyone, this is my final edition as editor and layout person for the **The VMGA Report**. It's been a fun and interesting four years of keeping you up to date on MG happenings across the state. I've been amazed and intrigued by the reports and newsletters received from units. I've been amazed to learn of the fantastic endeavors taken on by units, large and small, and their

ultimate successes. Master Gardeners are an awe inspiring group. I've been inspired by their stories of curiosity, challenge and persistence to meet and exceed goals and expectations. MGs identify needs in their community and come up with innovative ways to meet them.

It's time for me to move on to other adventures in being a volunteer for VCE MGs.

I highly recommend the positions of newsletter editor, layout and reporting to a team of individuals who have a gift for writing and have experience with Microsoft Word and Publisher to volunteer for this wonderful job.

Please contact Tom Bolt if you're interested. [tombolt@cox.net](mailto:tombolt@cox.net)

—Peggy Fox, Newport News

## Additional Volunteer Opportunities at State Level

Other committees are in need of new or additional leadership. Please consider stepping into a new role! Education, Fundraising, Search For Excellence, State MG Coordinator Endowment

## Win an iPad 2



For the last few years, Dave Close and Dr. Joyce Latimer have been working with Extension MG volunteers and VCE agents to build the VCE publication base to meet the needs of our clientele. Now we have added an incentive.

Between July 1st and November 1st, 2012, we will be accepting manuscripts for consideration as VCE Extension Publications. After November 1st, we will select the best publication to

publish as an iBook for the iPad and give the primary author an iPad2 for their winning submission.

Publication guidelines will soon be available by link. Manuscripts for the iPad2 Contest will be judged on educational content, creativity, use of multi-media resources, and the quality of illustrations.

All submissions must be related to consumer horticulture and intended for publication on the VCE website. You know what resources are currently

**Dr. Joyce Latimer, VT**

missing in your local programming. You know what most of your local constituents are requesting. Many of you have already written material for your programs. It is very likely your local materials have statewide application. If you are willing to share, please consider submitting an entry for VCE publication. Dress them up with some appropriate illustrations and you could win an iPad2 and have your own published iBook!

Dr. Joyce Latimer, VT Professor of Horticulture [jltime@vt.edu](mailto:jltime@vt.edu)

## Hazard of Summer

The excitement of summer activities can preclude us from staying hydrated and cool. This can lead to serious consequences. Take my word for it, water is your friend. A recent, personal visit to the ER brought home to me the importance of this element.

According to information gleaned from the Mayo Clinic website:

“Heat exhaustion is one of the heat-related syndromes, which range in severity from mild heat cramps to heat exhaustion to potentially life-threatening heat-stroke.

Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion often begin suddenly, sometimes after excessive exercise, heavy perspiration, and **inadequate fluid or salt intake**. Signs and symptoms resemble those of shock and may include:

- Feeling faint or dizzy
- Nausea
- Heavy sweating

- Rapid, weak heartbeat
- Low blood pressure
- Cool, moist, pale skin
- Low-grade fever
- Heat cramps
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Dark-colored urine

If you suspect heat exhaustion:

Get the person out of the sun and into a shady or air-conditioned location.

Lay the person down and elevate the legs and feet slightly.

Loosen or remove the person's clothing.

Have the person drink cool water or other nonalcoholic beverage without caffeine.

Cool the person by spraying or sponging with cool water and fanning.

Monitor the person carefully. Heat exhaustion can quickly become heatstroke.

Call 911 or seek emergency medical help if the person's condition deteriorates, especially if fainting, confusion or seizures

**Peggy Fox, Newport News**



occur, or if fever of 104 F (40 C) or greater occurs with other symptoms.”

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/>

An ounce of prevention, actually 8 ounces of fluid for every 15 minutes of moderate exercise, is worth a pound of cure. Here are some ways to prevent heat exhaustion:

1. Avoid dehydration. Water and Gatorade were recommended to me.
2. Minimize skin exposure by wearing a hat and appropriate clothing.
3. Pay attention to and don't ignore your body's signals.

Water is your friend.

—Peggy



Anita Smith  
 VMGA Membership Chair  
 575 Crown Point Drive  
 Newport News, VA 23602

## VMGA A Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

**Communication and Fellowship** among Virginia Master Gardeners and VCE staff, including a bi-monthly newsletter (The VMGA Report), a web site ([www.vmga.net](http://www.vmga.net)), a membership directory to help you contact Master Gardeners around the state, and bimonthly board meetings where issues concerning the Master Gardener volunteer are discussed. Board meetings are open to any Master Gardener or VCE employee.

**Quality Education** at a reasonable price. VMGA offers advanced training on timely and varied topics that members want to hear, at locations throughout the state.

**Support** for your unit with information on association organization, speakers, Master Gardener training, and project development and management.

**Representation**, through the Unit Representative, in decisions concerning Virginia Master Gardeners.

## CALENDAR

### VMGA BOARD MEETING

**Saturday, August 11, 2012**  
**10 a.m.**

Hosted by:

Central Rappahannock MGA  
 Location: Rowser Building  
**1739 Jeff Davis Highway (Route 1) Stafford, VA 22554**

Lunch: To be catered by Panera. Cost for lunch is \$9. Lunch choices with checks must be received by Friday, August 3. Please contact:

Laura Collinsworth  
 7 Jamall Cove, Stafford, VA 22554

[l.collinsworth@verizon.net](mailto:l.collinsworth@verizon.net)

### Mark your calendar

#### VMGA Meetings

#### 2012

OCTOBER 13 *FAUQUIER*  
 DECEMBER 8 *Host Needed*

#### 2013

FEBRUARY 9 *FRANKLIN*  
 APRIL 13 *NORFOLK*  
 JUNE 21 *MG COLLEGE*  
 AUGUST 10 *GOOCHLAND/  
 POWHATAN*  
 OCTOBER 12 *Host Needed*  
 DECEMBER 14 *Host Needed*

JCC/WMSBG MASTER  
 GARDENERS

**Super Turf Saturday** Aug. 11  
 VCE, James City County Office, 564-2170

NEWPORT NEWS MGs **Go Green Expo** Sept 22 [nmaster-gardeners.org](http://nmaster-gardeners.org)

Check the VMGA website for more events around the state.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH MGs ACROSS THE COUNTRY. GO TO: [MASTER GARDENER BLOG](#)

