



• VMGA OFFICERS

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Newport News

25th Anniversary VA Master Gardener College

June 20-24, 2012

click on the links below
for more information

[Conference Registration](#)

If you have questions regarding
registration, please call
540-231-5182

[Housing Reservations](#)

If you have questions regarding
housing, please call
540-231-5721

[Advanced Training:](#)

[Tree Stewardship](#)

There is an additional \$100 fee
for this training. Prior permis-
sion from local agent or coordi-
nator required to enroll.

VMGA REPORT

Volume 17, no. 3

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May/June 2012

New Officers for VMGA 2012-2014

Effective upon their installation into office at MG College in June, your new VMGA Executive Officers will be:

President: Tom Bolt, Norfolk

Secretary: Mary Ann Kincaid, VA Beach

Vice President: David Mims, Rockbridge

Treasurer: Laurie Anderson, Fairfax

Congratulations to all!

And the winner is.....by Susan Gingrich, MG Association of Central Rappahannock

Karen Anderson, Stafford County, the winner of our logo design contest is a graduate of Stafford's 2007 VCE Master Gardener program. Upon hearing this Susan Gingrich, wrote to Karen and asked her:

S. First off let me ask you Karen, why did you choose to become a Master Gardener?

K. I love nature and the outdoors. My father was a Master Gardener where I grew up, in Pennsylvania, so I was familiar with the extension office and how it worked. When I moved to my home in VA and finally had a yard of my own, I wanted to learn about all the plants growing in my yard, how to take care of them and to grow a successful vegetable garden. Many of my plants had problems. I made several trips to the extension office, when it was still off of rt. 17, and got many helpful tips and free information. I met Gwen (Pote, volunteer coordinator) and Guy (Mussey, Agent). I was impressed. Then I saw an announcement in the Free Lance Star that a new Master Gardener class was starting up, and I knew that I wanted to be a part of it, so I signed up. I love how it is all about serving the community. And now I can help others learn about stuff that I love, be outdoors, and work with wonderful people too! My interests have grown since 2007, and it's been a great journey so far!

S. How did you hear about the 25th MG College Logo design contest?

K. The way I heard about this was from an email that Gwen Pote forwarded from Dave Close, the VCE State Master Gardener Coordinator. I am a graphic designer by profession and I love trees, so I had to try!

S. What gave you the idea for it?

K. I knew there had to be a tree represented in it so I drew some ideas down. I actually came up with and submitted three designs, and this was the last one I came up with at about 3 a.m. in the middle of the night.

This one came together really fast in that I did not have to draw anything. I took a trip, last summer, with my family to the Redwood Forest in Northern California, the ultimate tree lover's paradise. I was snapping photos constantly and driving my family nuts. Anyway, I thought I'd use one of those photos that I liked and make it work somehow, given the theme of the conference (Tree Stewardship). This one was taken as we were driving through the forest at a higher elevation. My husband was driving and I snapped this through the front car window! It was very nicely composed and seemed the perfect fit. I enhanced it graphically, and submitted it.

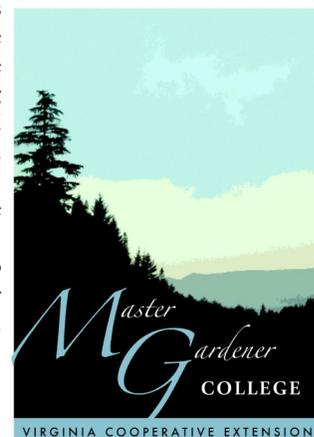
S. How did you feel when you heard that you won such a state wide competition?

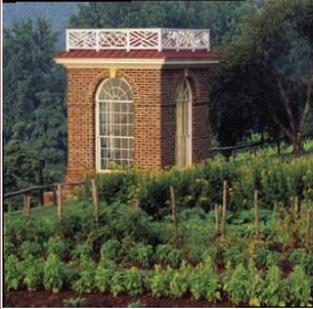
K. I was thrilled, to say the least! I feel very honored and pleased to be able to share my talents with people who share my love of nature, and my passion for trees. I am excited to see how the printed materials, t-shirt and pin turn out, even if I can't make it to the college in person.

S. Thank you Karen. And once again, Congratulations.

JUNE 20-24, 2012

25th ANNIVERSARY





"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden...But though an old man, I am but a young gardener."

Thomas Jefferson, 1811

Center for Historic Plants Open House @ Tufton Farm

Thomas Jefferson owned over 5,000 acres in Bedford County, Virginia (at Poplar Forest), and he also owned 5,000 acres in Albemarle County, Virginia. Monticello was his pride and joy, but he also maintained five satellite farms surrounding Monticello: Milton, Tufton, Lego, Shadwell, and Pantops. Tufton Farm is now home of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants (CHP). The ever-popular May Open House (May 26th) is timed to coincide with the peak bloom of CHP's large collection

of antique roses, along with countless other late spring and early summer ornamentals. Tours of the rose collection will be led by Peggy Cornett, Monticello's resident rose expert. Gabriele Rausse, "the father of Virginia wine," as well as Assistant Director of Monticello's Gardens and Grounds, will be back to offer tastings of his fabulous local wines. To introduce our new CHP beehives, Monticello's beekeeper Paul Legrand will talk about the first year in the life of a hive. The Piedmont Master Gardeners will

be available to answer your gardening questions, and workshops such as 'Rose Propagation and Culture' will be offered. Don't miss the plant sale, with many antique rose varieties available, as well as a plenitude of historic iris, vegetables, herbs and ornamentals.

Tufton Farm (1293 Tufton Farm) is on Route 732 (Milton Road), approximately 1.3 miles east of the Rt. 53 entrance to Monticello.

www.monticello.org

VMGA Volunteer Opportunity: Newsletter

Effective July 1, 2012
 Volunteer Opportunity:
 VMGA Newsletter Editor/
 Publisher/Layout

The VMGA Report: VMGA will publish a bimonthly newsletter for distribution to active members of the Association, VCE-MG Coordinators, the various VCE offices, or such other individuals or agencies as approved by the

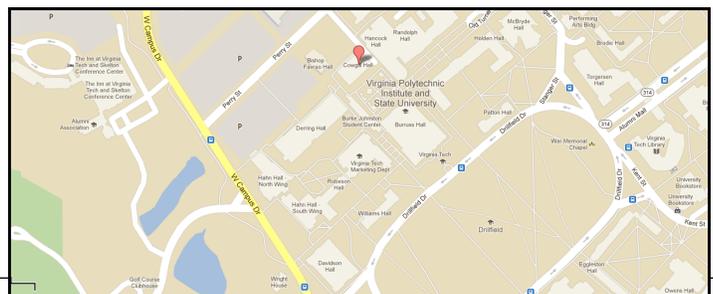
Board of Directors.
 Duties: 1) Edit and publish a bimonthly VMGA newsletter to be distributed in January, March, May, July, September, and November.
 2) Include in the newsletter activities of various units, a President's message, in addition to other appropriate articles and editorials.
 3) Distribute the newsletter at the most cost effective rate available.
 4) Maintain committee records and deliver to the incoming chair.
 5) Provide the Finance Committee with proposed committee budget by the April Board meeting. Approximate calendar of events and a time requirement: 10-12 hours per issue. Duties can be divided among a committee or team.

VA Tech In the News www.vtnews.vt.edu

BLACKSBURG, Va., May 15, 2012 – Two years after completion, [Virginia Tech's award-winning solar home](#) still is contributing to teaching, research, and the art and science of architecture. The 600-square-foot home, which now resides on the Blacksburg campus, made its latest hit with the American Institute of Architects as a recipient of one of the organization's highest honors being presented on May 18. The house is located off Perry Street behind Cowgill Hall, Architecture School, on Virginia Tech's main campus.



Virginia Tech Lumenhaus



The GraineThumb REDEFINING YOUR LAWN

By George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners

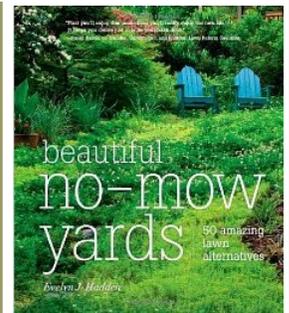
As some politicians say these days, “let me be clear”, because the Grainethumb does not have a dog in the fight of no-mow yards. Nor does he dispel the evolving Cooperative Extension encouragement for turf nutrient management programs. Evelyn J. Hadden wrote that “Lawn care is familiar to many of us – some of us have done it all our lives – but we may have no clue how to care for other types of landscape. It is always harder to do something new than to respect what you’ve done a zillion times before. But as you continue to respect that unfamiliar chore, it gets easier.” Hadden wrote a definitive book on how to redefine your lawn called [Beautiful No-Mow Yards: 50 Amazing Lawn Alternatives](#) (Timber Press, 2012). If you want to consider many creative approaches to no-mow yards, this book together with almost 300 muted color photos, attests to how you can decrease your monoculture – the lawn. As the author said, “...you won’t need to keep trimming that lawn if you trim it out of your budget.” Perhaps an area should be preserved for a lawn although perfection is not necessarily the goal. A place for play, for entertaining, even lying down to look up at the stars or anything else in your lifestyle might be just enough lawn.

Beautiful No-Mow Yards is not a handbook. “Each of the gardens in this book was chosen to highlight specific ideas and strategies.” Look at these gardens as a starting point because you have an opportunity to personalize your space and of course be mindful of the gardener’s mantra – right plant, right place. Consider hardiness and heat zones, size, texture, color, noticeable season change and anything else that may be important to you. Also note the oft used expression – my garden is a work in progress. This should not be an embarrassment or an excuse. Rather the no-mow yard is a happening because as a garden evolves you will be rewarded by a desire to make changes in emphasis or try the newest plant du jour. The key point is to love your new space because you probably only tolerated your lawn.

Lawn alternatives are not a new phenomenon. They have always been available but used in more limited ways such as island beds and mixed borders. Does the expression “familiarity breeds contempt” come to mind when considering the lawn? Perhaps not, but be honest...what happens when you have a cranky mower or the blade shreds your grass? Maybe you feel compelled to interrupt your alternate weekend plans in order to manicure the lawn. Why must a lawn be so oppressive? Is the grass greener on the other side of the fence? Do you really care? Do you aspire to have the neighborhood lawn of the week? Does any of this make sense? Think about these questions before you decide that it would be really nice to have free time for other pursuits and what’s not to like about saving more than a few bucks.

If you agree that your lawn is nothing more than a green carpet, nice to look at but seldom used, like a formal dining room, then no-mow yards can take you through the steps to wean yourself away from cookie-cutter yards with typical foundation plantings. Think plant diversity and at the same time carefully consider working with nature. This means understanding plant selection in order to minimize maintenance. You are the overseer of your landscape. How you spend your time will depend on three things; your site, your design and your own standards. Of course any garden budget should be reconciled along with all of your other expenses.

Beautiful No-Mow Yards is divided into three parts. “Design Inspiration: The Many Possibilities” showcases many different real life opportunities for lawnless gardens. Part 2 is all about the importance of “How to Get There” that is, how to convert an existing lawn into your garden of choice. The final section, “Choice Ground-Layer Plants” features a sampling with explanations of commonly available plants (one inch to four feet) that can often be found at full service garden centers. Are you convinced? Is a no-mow yard in your future? Gardening is not rocket science, in fact with the right attitude and motivation, gardening is shockingly simple and provides hours of pleasure when working outside and observing your new oasis. For more information on the no-mow yard visit these two web sites: www.lesslawn.com and www.lawnreform.org.



“What has your perfect lawn done for you lately? Is it really worth the time, effort, and resources you lavish on it?”

–Evelyn J. Hadden

Other’s thoughts on lawns to satisfy your curiosity:

["A Love Letter to Wildlife"](#) Carole Sevilla Brown: Ecosystem Gardening

["What Can You Do to Replace Your Lawn?"](#) Carole Sevilla Brown: Beautiful Wildlife Garden

["Lawn Anti-Valentine"](#) Susan Harris: GardenRant

["Dear Lawn, I'm Breaking Up With You"](#) Heather Holm: Restoring the Landscape with Native Plants

["Book Review: Beautiful No-Mow Yards"](#) Susan Morrison: Blue Planet Garden Blog

["Just Say NO: 5 Ways to Break Up With Your Lawn"](#) Debbie Roberts: A Garden of Possibilities

["Landscapes That Love Us Back"](#) Evelyn Hadden: Lawn Reform Coalition

Integrated Shoreline Evaluation Assistance

Excerpts from the 2012 Program Activity Report of the Northern Neck Master Gardeners.
NNMG Communications Committee, Peggy Lassanske, Chair pjllassanske@aol.com. Reprinted with permission.

Northern Neck Master Gardeners www.nnmg.org
Serving Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond & Westmoreland Counties

Since 1989, Northern Neck Master Gardeners have worked with citizens and community leaders to provide horticultural education through seminars, workshops and personal contact. A number of Northern Neck Master Gardeners have taken advanced training to qualify as Water Stewards. This certified, VCE program studies the impact of land use practices on water quality. Water Stewards have also participated in Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) seminars that focus on shoreline stabilization methods to sustain habitat, improve water quality and promote erosion control.

I - S EA - New 2012 Initiative The need to engage shoreline property owners in the struggle for a cleaner Chesapeake Bay motivated Northern Neck Master Gardeners to develop the **Integrated Shoreline Evaluation Assistance (I-SEA)** program. For two years, Master Gardeners have been in training, developing resource materials, conducting research and a pilot program, writing the program's strategic plan and cementing working relationships with government agencies, non-profit organizations and academic institutions.

I-SEA Pilot From January through October, 2011, Water Stewards conducted an I-SEA Pilot program. The Pilot involved the properties of twelve, fellow Master Gardeners. I-SEA teams conducted on-site visits to evaluate actual shoreline conditions. Teams used the VIMS/CCRM Coastal Management Decision Tree Tools to determine treatment methods and provide property owners written recommendations. To validate I-SEA volunteer evaluations and recommendations, selected properties were reevaluated with a VIMS shoreline expert.

Conclusion: I-SEA volunteers were successful in applying the Decision Tree Tool to determine the preferred shoreline treatment.

Beyond Master Gardeners Master Gardeners are working with several entities that are actively involved in shoreline protection and management issues. For instance, County Planning and Community Development departments and Wetlands Boards may refer a homeowner to I-SEA volunteers for individual assistance prior to addressing shoreline issues. Northern Neck Soil and Water Conversation District will provide a nutrient management plan to the homeowner based on the results of the soil test collected during the I-SEA on-site evaluation. VIMS and CCRM will continue in an advisory capacity.

2012 I-SEA Workshops

June 2 Central Rappahannock Regional Library Newton Branch, Hague, Virginia
September 15 Rappahannock Community College, Kilmarnock Campus

Additional information on this program can be found at: [The Freelance-Star](#), April 23, 2012.



"The desired outcomes of the I-SEA program are fewer feet of hardened shoreline, preservation of riparian buffer areas and reduced nutrient pollution."

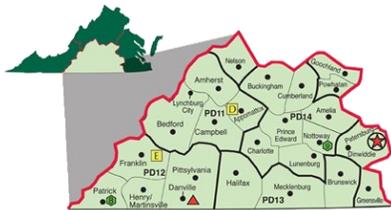


State Master Gardener Coordinator Liaison Report, April 2012

Dave Close, VCE MG Coordinator

1. Printed copies of the 2012 edition of the Home, Grounds, and Animals PMG were shipped in late February/early March to local Extension offices for Ext MG Help Desks and Plant clinic kits. The publication number 456-108. The file can accessed at <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018.html>.
2. MG College Advisory Team met on March 26 to finalize the concurrent sessions.
3. The winter issue of *In Season* was uploaded in late March. Please make sure it gets distributed throughout your entire unit. A special MG College edition forthcoming. Stay tuned.
4. VCE had their first statewide conference since 2008, in mid-March. Attended by nearly 350 agents, specialists from the ARECs, 4-H Education Centers and faculty from VT and VSU. More than 50 new faculty members hired since July1, 2011, were introduced. The vast majority of these hires were county agents.
5. The VT Dept. of Hort. interviewed two candidates for the new Sustainable Food Production position. This is a teaching/research split appointment, but there will be some natural spillover in Extension. The successful candidate should be on campus by August.
6. Leadership Development Training is typically held as a pre-conference offering during MG College week. This year we are removing it from the MG College and taking it on the road. We will do one training session in each of the four VCE districts in late summer/early fall. Stay tuned for more details.
7. Dave is working with the VT Marketing and Communications office to develop some basic guidelines and suggestions for MG Association websites to clarify issues of branding and appropriate use of VT/VSU/VCE logos and indicia statements.
8. Dates for additional Volunteer Management System trainings have not yet been set, but are forthcoming.

Central District



Virginia Cooperative Extension
 Institute for Advanced
 Learning and Research
 150B Slayton Avenue, Suite 112D
 Danville, VA 24540
 Phone (434) 766-6761



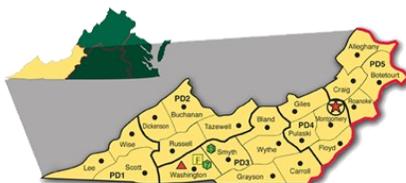
Virginia Cooperative Extension Planning Districts

Northern District



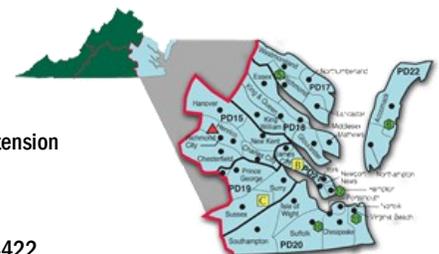
Virginia Cooperative Extension
 Northern District Office
 2322 Blue Stone Hills Drive
 Suite 140
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801
 Phone (540) 432-6029

Southwest District



One Partnership Circle, Suite 126
 Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
 Abingdon, VA 24210
 Phone (276) 619-4330

Southeast District



Virginia Cooperative Extension
 Southeast District
 2810 N. Parham Road
 Suite 300
 Richmond, VA 23294-4422
 Phone (804) 527-4246

VMGA Membership

Reminder: The fiscal year of the VMGA is June 1-May 31. Annual memberships and renewals are now due. Please go to the VMGA website to [renew online](#) or [print and complete](#) a membership form and mail with payment to: Anita Smith, Membership Chair, 575 Crown Point Drive, Newport News, VA 23602

MG College 2012 Scholarships

Diane Relf Educational Endowment Fund for Master Gardener College Scholarships

The VMGA Scholarship committee has received 19 applications for scholarships which can be awarded to only 8 deserving members who, through their dedicated efforts of volunteerism toward VCE goals, have demonstrated exceptional leadership potential or significant contributions in their respective units. Good luck to all whose applications were submitted.

MG College Silent Auction for the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund

In December of 2004, VMGA entered into an agreement with the Virginia Tech Foundation to provide partial funding for the State MG Coordinator with a \$1 million endowment. VMGA will again hold its Silent Auction at MG College in June to raise money for the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund.

VMGA is asking Master Gardeners statewide to donate items for the Annual VMGA Silent Auction. All proceeds from this auction are donated to the State Master Gardener Coordinator Endowment Fund. As Master Gardeners, the on-campus Coordinator is essential for the continued success of the Master Gardener program in Virginia.

To ensure proper credit to you and your unit, please complete an Auction Donor Form, found on page 7.

You can help by generously donating any of the following suggested items:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| gardening tools | planters | pre-planted containers |
| new & gently used books | baskets | plants |
| bird feeders | bird houses | gardening gloves |
| fountains | hats | hand crafted items |
| garden art | bird baths | |

Please invite and encourage donations from local retailers and nurseries as well.

It is not clear whether or not credit cards will be accepted, so be sure to bring your check book and plenty of cash just in case! Thanks to those who have sent in their completed donation forms. (see page 7 for form).

If you have any questions or would like to assist, please contact Mary Wright at Mbwright@vt.edu or Vanessa Connell at Saintsgal62@verizon.net or either of us at 757-591-4838. This year, Newport News Master Gardeners will be heading up the Silent Auction. We welcome and appreciate help and guidance from other units. Thank you to Betty Villers, VA Beach, for offering to share her expertise at this year's auction. Please consider joining us on Thursday and Friday evening at College to see and hear how this event is put together. For the future, the handling of the Silent Auction will be rotated among units each year, so volunteer to help this year so you will be ready when it's your turn.

Mary B. Wright, Program Associate, ANR/Horticulture, Newport News

May: Garden for Wildlife Month

Did you know that May has officially been designated as "Garden for Wildlife Month?"

Garden for Wildlife Month is a special time of the year to rally, assist and encourage anyone who is passionate about wildlife to make a difference right in their own backyard. A Certified Wildlife Habitat site is a place that welcomes birds, butterflies and other local wildlife. All you need to do is provide the four elements animals need most: food, water, shelter and places to raise young. As a special offer in honor of Garden for Wildlife Month, National Wildlife Federation will plant one tree for each yard certified through their [Certified Wildlife Habitat™](#) program.

MG College Plant Swap and Sale: CHANGES

The annual plant swap held during MG College will be conducted through an online forum this year for those individuals who wish to participate with other MGs wishing to swap. Details forthcoming.

The VT Hort Club plant sale, conducted by Holly Scoggins, will not be held this year due to the cancellation of the Hort class which provided the plant material for past sales.



VMGA Silent Auction Donation Form

Donor: _____

Contact Name (if different from donor): _____

Donor/Contact Street Address: _____

City : _____ Zip Code: _____

MG unit: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Donated Item(s): _____ Value: _____ Minimum bid recommendation:

THIS FORM MUST BE SENT TO MARY OR VANESSA BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR MG COLLEGE.

Return form to: Mbwright@vt.edu or Saintsgal62@verizon.net
Mary B. Wright Vanessa Connell
3 W Commodore Drive 264 James River Drive
Newport News, VA 23601 Newport News, VA 23601

Thank you.

HISTORY OF STATE MG COORINATOR ENDOWMENT FUND 2004—present

February 2004 VMGA bimonthly board meeting:

Funding for the MG Coordinator Position at Tech:

Jane Shilling, Loudoun, gave a presentation on the possibility of the VMGA setting up a trust fund to help fund the position of Master Gardener Coordinator. The following is the overview she shared with us:

What: We need to generate partial financial support for the MG Coordinator position at Virginia Tech. To illustrate: at a salary of roughly \$70 thousand, we would need to generate just \$35,000 to provide 50% support for the position each year. If we create an endowment (like a Faculty 'Chair'), it would take \$700,000 (based on standard assumptions that endowments use 5% of interest on capital. The requirements can be calculated in the same way for other salary assumptions.

Why: The MG Coordinator is our position - MGC supports us, and our work!

How: Raising money is not as hard as it seems! Americans give billions to charity each year - and finding worthy causes is harder than finding money to support them. Gardening is one of the biggest interests of the American public! And Master Gardeners already has non-profit (501 C-3) status, making us eligible for tax-deductible contributions. If we truly believe this is a worthy cause - that it has real impact on the well being of citizens in Virginia - we can find the money. The first step is to prepare a 4 case statement' that makes the case for why this cause is worthy of support. The second step is to go find the money. There are basically two ways to do this:

Grants: Search computerized data bases for State agencies, foundations, and family foundations that support gardening, environment, nature, education, training, and/or volunteer and community efforts. Learn their requirements, and write grant proposals.

Private Donors: Identify friends, family, and especially Master Gardener Chapters who would be willing to help! Large (known as 'lead') gifts are sought first, and should cover about half of the need. Smaller gifts are used to make up the remainder.

Who: We could approach this by:

making a contribution from MG funds, and asking a task force to coordinate with chapters to raise the money by doing it ourselves. And/ Or, allocating some funds from the MG treasury to support the efforts of a fundraising task force (preparing a great 'Case Statement', printing materials, traveling to meet with potential donors).

In either case, it is essential to coordinate with Virginia Tech's Development Office -both because they have the capacity to support our efforts, and because they have their own well-considered fund-raising efforts and we want to be sure we are working together, not tripping over the same donors!

June 2004

Endowment Funding:

Max Bales, Director of Development of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences said the Endowment is at VA Tech. He has worked with other groups to put together endowments. He has cleared this with the Dean of Agriculture and she is very interested in working with us. The minimum for any type of endowment is \$50,000. If for some reason \$50,000 is all that we raise, then we'll have an endowment set up in place that will start growing. It will grow as VA Tech Endowment grows and will pay 4.7%. Money will be used to offset cost of MG Coordinator position. This endowment protects the position from being booted. We have to reach \$50,000 in five years. If at five years we don't have the \$50,000, we will have to take a look at what we're doing. We can keep adding to the endowment, there is never a time we can't accept an investment into the endowment. VaTech views MGs as being worthwhile. He said you're telling Tech, we will have a presence. We need to think about who to ask for monies.

December 16, 2004

Committee made a motion that VMGA enter into this agreement and the committee be tasked with executing the endowment. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Will plan for a big announcement in January.

October 8, 2005

State Coordinator Endowment Committee - Pat Reilly, Chair
Pledged to date is \$12,150 and actual balance as of September 30 plus some other deposits that have been sent through VMGA is \$61,359.10 (includes the \$50,000 challenge grant) making a total of \$73,509.10. Remember the challenge grant is \$50,000 if we raise the matching amount in the first year. We are about half way there.

Our biggest effort will be in the 50 for 5 effort. We are asking every Master Gardener to pledge \$50 a year for five years.

August 2006

The total in the endowment fund is up to \$210,000 from contributions and pledges.

December 2007

\$241,336.75 in the MG Coordinator Endowment Fund

October 15, 2008

Balance: \$248,660.24

December 2009

Total contributions are \$308,911.37

October 2010

\$320,731.00

May 31, 2011

\$338,529.79

If every active Master Gardener pledged \$50 for 5, the endowment would be paid.

GOAL: \$1,000,000

LAST REPORTED

ENDOWMENT

BALANCE:

\$338,529.79

(May 31, 2011)

[STATE MG
COORDINATOR
ENDOWMENT
FUND FAQ's](#)

The Present:

From the Editor:
Virginia Master Gardeners can make the difference. Due to state budget cuts every year, the MG Coordinator position is in jeopardy every year from possible funding shortfalls. We need your help, now more than ever, with reaching our \$1,000,000 goal.

Please consider pledging to give "\$50 for 5" or an amount with which you are comfortable. Check with your employer for the possibility of a matching donation.

Donation form can be found at:

[VMGA Endowment](#)

Boxwood Blight: A New Disease of Boxwoods Recently Found in the Southeastern U.S.

Excerpted from VCE/VT Clinic Alert [boxwood blight alert.pdf](#) published Nov. 2011

by: Norm Dart, Virginia State Plant Pathologist, Mary Ann Hansen and Elizabeth Bush, Extension Plant Pathologists, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Tech

Boxwood blight (also called “box blight” in Europe), caused by the fungal pathogen *Cylindrocladium buxicola*, was reported for the first time in the U.S. at two North Carolina production nurseries in October, 2011. Boxwoods originating from an infected block of plants at one of the North Carolina nurseries were planted in two production fields in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are developing and implementing mitigation strategies aimed at aggressively removing the pathogen from infested fields and stopping the spread of this disease.

Signs, Symptoms, Impacts

C. buxicola infects leaves and branches of boxwoods, causing severe defoliation and dieback (Fig. 1). Infected branches develop long blackish-brown cankers that appear as stripes on stems (Fig. 2). In mild, humid conditions the fungus produces clusters of white spores visible to the naked eye.

Biology

All known species and varieties of boxwoods (*Buxus* spp.) are susceptible to *C. buxicola*. The pathogen spreads via air currents. The spores are activated by water and are most infective during high humidity and when spread by wind-driven rain or water splashed from overhead irrigation.

For the complete article, please go to: http://www.ppws.vt.edu/~clinic/alerts/11-04-11_boxwood_blight_alert.pdf



Figure 1: Defoliated boxwood crop, caused by *C. buxicola*.



Figure 2: Dark stripes of cankers caused by *C. buxicola*.

INSECT REPELLANTS

Did you know?

DEET (also known as N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide)

—developed by the U.S. Army in 1946.

—one of the most effective repellent options

Picaridin (also known as Icaridin or KBR 3023) is a DEET-free alternative that became available in the U.S. in 2005

—doesn't have the same smelly and greasy characteristics as DEET.

—will not eat away at plastics or synthetic clothing

IR3535® (also known as SkinSmart®)

—DEET-free alternative,

—introduced to the U.S. in 1999

—one of the most recommended insect repellents by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control).

Permethrin (also known as Permanone®)

—should not be sprayed directly on your skin. It is made to be sprayed on clothing or gear. Permethrin can be harmful if the liquid comes in contact with your skin, which is why you should wait for your clothing/gear to completely dry before using. Once it's dry, Permethrin is safe to use and will last for several weeks and several washings.

Insect Repelling Clothing such as Insect Shield® and ElimoTick is already pre-treated with Permethrin through a special process that binds it tightly to a fabric's fibers. This allows for a material that will maintain its repellent properties through 70 launderings, which is the typical lifetime of a garment.

Sources:

[Univ of Nebraska-Lincoln](#)

[EPA](#)

Links for VCE Publications

[Publications and Educational Resources](#)

[Fruits and Vegetables](#)

[Lawn and Garden Tips](#)

[Soil Sampling](#)



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), 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.

The VMGA Report

Editor: Peggy Fox, Newport News
Electronic Distribution: Tom Bolt, Norfolk

Deadline for July/August newsletter:
July 1, 2012

Please submit any announcements, articles of interest or news from your unit newsletter to be included in the next issue to:
peggyfox@hotmail.com

Your submissions will be forwarded to the new editor.

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.

CALENDAR

VMGA MEETINGS 2012-2013

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| August 11 Stafford | Feb 9 Franklin |
| October 13 Fauquier | April 13 Norfolk |
| December 8 To be determined | June 22 MG College |
| | August 10 Goochland/Powhatan |

June 9-10 [Working with Nature for Sustainable, Beautiful Gardens](#)
MGs of Northern Virginia, www.mgnv.org

July 9-11, 2012 [2012 Soil Microbiology Short Course: Applications and Analyses of Mycorrhizal Associations](#)

This training course is designed for scientists, organic farmers, and others interested in the practical and theoretical aspects of using mycorrhizal fungi to enhance plant growth and nutrient cycling. The course provides 21 hours of training and instruction, and a Certificate of Completion will be provided upon conclusion. Enrollment is limited, so register early to secure a seat in the course.

[Lewis Ginter](#) events

[Norfolk Botanical Garden](#) events