



# VMGA Report

July/August 2011

Volume 18 no. 4

## VMGA Executive Board Officers

### President

Bill Scott, Prince William

### Vice President

Christy Brennan, Hanover

### Treasurer

Jim Kincaid, Virginia Beach

### Secretary

Peggy Fox, Newport News

## Save These Dates:

VMGA BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING-Fairfax/Greenspring	Aug 13
VBMG 12th ANNUAL FALL GARDENING FESTIVAL <a href="http://www.vbmq.org">www.vbmq.org</a>	SEPT 10
CULTIVATING COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS <a href="mailto:vmqaedu@rcn.com">vmqaedu@rcn.com</a> or <a href="mailto:csvgapro-grams@gmail.com">csvgapro-grams@gmail.com</a>	SEPT 24
STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA <a href="http://www.statefair.com">www.statefair.com</a>	SEPT 29—OCT 9
VMGA BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING-Roanoke	OCT 8
INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE Charleston, WV <a href="http://imagc.ext.wvu.edu/">http://imagc.ext.wvu.edu/</a>	OCT 11-14
WATER WISE LANDSCAPING VMGA Education Committee Nelda Purcell 540-576-9931	OCT 22
VMGA BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETING-Halifax	DEC 10

## From the VMGA President

*Bill Scott—Prince William*

It is difficult to believe that it has been a year since I began as President; certainly a quick and eventful year it has been! Our first Board meeting of this fiscal will be on August 13th in Fairfax-Greenspring. The meetings are open to all of the membership and are rotated around the state during each fiscal year. I invite as many of the members who are able to attend these meetings and to participate in them if you have input or questions for the Board of Directors.

Our fiscal year that ended on May 31, 2011, presented

many challenges for us. The VCE funding/reorganization issues presented significant issues for all of us. Despite the challenges VMGA moved forward. Our Education programs continued to grow and improve while membership increased as compared to the prior year. In our meeting with VCE management during MG College week, I believe that we established a good line of communication with Dr. Edwin Jones, the new Director of VCE and also with the other leaders of CALS and VCE. His approach of

“organizing VCE for the future” and his desire to remain at Virginia Tech for several years should add stability to the program.

I look forward to meeting and working with our membership in the coming months. If you have any questions or issues, I can be reached at my home number: 703-791-2646 or by email: [wjscott2@verizon.net](mailto:wjscott2@verizon.net).

### 2010 In Review\*

5,000 volunteers  
335,000 volunteer hours  
550,000 contacts  
valued at \$7.2 million  
*\*calendar year*

## Silent Auction Thank You

*Betty Villers—VA Beach*

The VMGA 2011 Silent Auction to benefit the State Master Gardener Coordinator Endowment Fund was a great success this year with \$3,345 collected. We could not have done it without all the generous donations from Master Gardeners across the state. Thank you for your support!

To all of you who bid and won the great items including paintings, plants, theme baskets, books, yard art, framed photos, feeders, birdhouses, planters,

children’s gardening items, solar lights and jewelry, we thank you as well.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped to accept the items, set up, enter information into the computer, collect payments, deliver items to winning bidders, and cleanup. It was their hard work and patience that enabled us to have a successful event. Those volunteers were:

Pauletta Anglin, VA Beach; Michele Booker, VA Beach; Paul Campbell, VA Beach; Sharon Corbin, Prince William; Kathryn Debnar, Roanoke; Bill Everett, VA Beach; Wand Gerard,

Suffolk; Barbara and Art Gustafson, JCC/Williamsburg; Peggy Holmes, VA Beach; Sherry Kern, VA Beach; Sue and Jim Liddel, JCC/Williamsburg; Jeanne and Mike Millin, JCC/Williamsburg; Diana Moffett-Zaki, VA Beach; Darryl Pierce, Surry; Karen Renda, VA Beach; Carol Roll, VA Beach; Fran Shelton, VA Beach; Jim Smith, VA Beach.

Thanks also to Dave Close for his assistance and patience as he went out of his way to fulfill our requests. Being able to accept donations at the Registration Tent and getting the Auction room a day earlier was a big help.

## Shaping Extension's Future

Source: <http://future.ext.vt.edu/>



Dr. Edwin Jones, Director  
Virginia Cooperative  
Extension

Virginia Cooperative Extension's mission is to help people put scientific knowledge to work through learning experiences that improve economic, environmental, and social well-being. We are taking the knowledge gained through research and putting it into the hands of those who need it most—consumers, farmers, and local businesses. We are accomplishing this through the dedicated efforts of the faculty and staff from our two land-grant universities, [Virginia Tech](#) and [Virginia State University](#), working together with our local, regional, and statewide partners.

Last year alone we made **more than 1.8 million face-to-face contacts** with people across the commonwealth reaching agribusiness, community leaders, entrepreneurs, homeowners, families, and many others, including 198,000 youth involved in our 4-H youth development programs.

We are excited and proud of the impact we are making on the lives of Virginians and will be using this website to share a sampling of these success stories. I would encourage you to visit us often and share with us your personal stories and ideas.

Your input will help us shape Extension's future and ensure its existence for many generations to come.

Warmest regards,  
Dr. Edwin Jones  
Director, Virginia Cooperative  
Extension.



## Pyridine Herbicide Carryover

Gleaned from *Piedmont Master Gardener's unit newsletter*, June 2011, vol. 23, no. 6

Daily at the Help Desk we receive inquiries about control of pests plaguing gardeners in their pursuit of fun and thrills of gardening. Often recommendations include chemical applications (see Pest Management Guide for 2011 <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018.html>).

Educated gardeners more frequently seek applications other "Living Better Through Ehmiistry" and turn to 'organic' approaches for control. (See pages 2-1 Organic Controls for Vegetables and 4-67 Organic

Controls for Ornamentals). One of our goals at the Desk is to provide suggestions using least-toxic controls. Occasionally even the purest efforts of gardeners go awry.

In 2009 we were asked to diagnose general decline of vegetable plants—tomatoes especially—in a Crozet client's organic garden. She lived a considerable distance from neighbors, used no chemicals on her plants, had no lawn and reported no black walnut threes within shooting distance of her garden. Yet, plants showed damage consistent with

broad-leaf weed killers.

Problem analysis frequently is a process of ruling-out, and when all else was eliminated our 'best-guestimate' of toxicity was supported by evaluation from the Plant Disease Clinic. We settled the blame on a hidden chemical contaminant in manure from a local horse farm.

Non-target plant symptoms of herbicide toxicity can vary from mild compromise to death. Symptoms are dependent upon type of chemical used and the plant exposed. These are especially perplexing when

gardens where owners claim to be 'organic' and deny use. For more about this carryover toxicity, see *Pyridine Herbicide Carryover: Causes and Precautions* by Pat Hipkins: <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2909/2909-1413/2909-1413.pdf>

*Debbie Miller—Piedmont*

## Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Green Industry Council expand garden container recycling program

Source: <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2011/06-061511-ext-viriniagardenersrecycle.html>

BLACKSBURG, Va., June 15, 2011 – Every year, millions of pounds of agricultural plastics such as flower and vegetable containers make their way to landfills, and only a handful of recycling centers in Virginia collect garden pots. Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Green Industry Council hope to buck this trend by bringing a successful garden container recycling program in Richmond to the rest of the state.

The program, [Virginia Gardeners Recycle](#), expands on a pilot project last summer in which project partners recycled more than 50 pallets — or 7,500 pounds — of plastic nursery and garden containers in the Richmond area. Schools, community colleges, community gardening groups, and area businesses removed several additional pallets of collected materials for reuse. Only four Richmond-area garden centers participated in 2010.

Project organizers expect the statewide initiative to reach a wider audience and to have a greater environmental impact than last year.

“We are identifying additional garden centers, nursery and greenhouse retailers, and even landscapers who are willing to collect and sort pallets of your nursery and garden containers,” said Joyce Latimer, Extension greenhouse crops specialist and professor of horticulture at

Virginia Tech. “We also have the Extension Master Gardener volunteer educators who promote container recycling to consumers, educate those consumers on how to prepare and sort their containers for recycling, and in some cases, assist garden centers with collection and sorting.”

The three major horticultural suppliers in Virginia — Griffin Greenhouse & Nursery Supplies in Richmond, Wetsel in Harrisonburg, and Maryland Plants & Supplies in Baltimore — will assist participating garden centers, growers, and landscapers in the recycling effort.

According to Latimer, homeowners and growers can prevent recyclable waste from ending up in landfills by returning plastic pots to a recycling collection drop-off location. She offered the following recommendations to help with the process:

- Knock all loose soil from the plastic containers.
- Remove all metal wire from hanging planters.
- Stack similar containers and group common resin codes (the number on the bottom of the pot).
- Return containers to the garden center and add them to the appropriate pallet or bin for that type of plastic.

- Only deliver pots during normal business hours.

“Together we can make recycling work for you and the garden center,” Latimer said. “Remember, Virginia Gardeners Recycle is for collection of plastic gardening pots and flats only. No other plastics can be accepted.”

Project organizers will donate any funds received for the recycled plastics to the Virginia Master Gardeners Association’s State Master Gardener Coordinator endowment fund.

A complete list of participating garden centers, retailers, and commercial landscapers is available on the [Virginia Gardeners Recycle website](#). Others may register by contacting [Joyce Latimer](#) at 540-231-7906.



Virginia Green Industry Council

### Participating Retailers

**Boulevard Flower Gardens**  
2100 Ruffin Mill Road  
Colonial Heights, VA  
(804) 526-4000

**Laurelton Gardens**  
504 Pittsylvania Ave  
Altavista, VA  
(434) 369-7242

**Laurelton Greenhouses**  
1311 Summerset Rd North  
Gretna, VA  
(434) 656-3302

**Countryside Gardens**  
220 E. Mercury Blvd.  
Hampton, VA  
(757) 722-9909

**Anderson’s Home and Garden Showplace**  
11250 Jefferson Ave  
Newport News, VA  
(757) 599-3510

**Cross Creek Nursery & Landscaping**  
501 Courthouse Road  
Richmond, VA  
(804) 794-9760

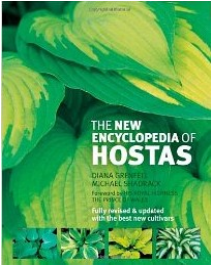
**Strange’s Garden Centers**  
12111 West Broad St.  
Richmond, VA  
(804) 360-2800

3313 Mechanicsville Pike  
Richmond, VA  
(804) 321-2200

**Ken Matthews Garden Center**  
4921 Geo. Washington  
Mem. Hwy  
Yorktown, VA  
(757) 898-7799

## *The Graine Thumb: HOSTAS and HOSTAS*

*George Graine—Fairfax*



People collect stamps, coins, teaspoons and Hummel's but collecting and growing plants called *hosta* is a whole different dimension. Perhaps your first hosta purchase came in a cardboard box as an impulse buy from the supermarket. After a while you bought a few more hosta plants at the garden nursery and then even more. You might ask yourself, what is happening to me? Do I have hosta-itis; am I becoming a hostamaniac; or a hostaphile poster child? Perhaps unknowingly you have found that the genus *hosta* makes for ideal landscape plants. A very large hosta can look fantastic as a focal point and hostas can be scattered about and combined with other plants.

An informative cure is readily available if you caught host "fever." *The New Encyclopedia of Hostas* by Diana Grenfell & Michael Shadrack (Timber Press, 2009) is the second edition of their classic

2004 book *The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas*. Unlike many alphabetically arranged encyclopedias, the authors took a different approach that greatly aids anyone ready to make a decision about their next hosta buy. Each chapter is divided by leaf color so if you are looking for green, chartreuse, yellow, gold, blue, blue-gray, variegated (margins, leaves, streaked, stippled, flecked, marbled, misted and more) it is all in the book. A chapter on miniature and very small hostas is also included. Another book dedicated to hostas is discussed below.

It is difficult to imagine how many hosta types exist. This encyclopedia includes about 850 color photos and over 300 are new in the second edition. There is even an interesting chapter on hostas they claim are for connoisseurs(!). As you might expect, the beginning chapters provide details on cultural information and PMGish pests, disease and other threats. An important point is made that provides information explaining the

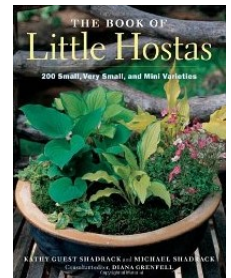
uniqueness of many varieties. All hostas cannot be lumped together and treated the same way; therefore, one could consider this as the nuance of the genus *hosta*. In other words, the gardeners mantra of right plant, right place should be practiced in order to maximize plant growth habits.

Dwarfism seems to be at a fever pitch in the horticultural world. Hostas are no exception. Kathy Grant Shadrack & Michael Shadrack together with consultant editor Diana Grenfell wrote a definitive book about tiny hostas call *The Book of Little Hostas: 200 Small, Very Small, and Mini Varieties* (Timber Press, 2010). Little hostas are ideal for those who garden in small spaces. Even so, locations abound as these hostas can be planted singly, in borders and even fairy gardens. Do not think of little hostas as just scaled down versions of big brother hostas although this can be the case. These diminutive plants can add an entirely new approach to your landscape

scape, patio, porch, or raised garden because they are so versatile. Numerous color photos show in more detail how little hostas differ from one another. The authors expend a lot of ink providing excellent advise on how to nurture your plants for optimum growth and interesting ways to display them for maximum viewing pleasure. It is imperative to know how to grow and care for little hostas as there may be cultural differences from big brother hostas.

If you like hostas, you will really enjoy both of these books. And if you were not into hostas before, these books might change your mind.

*George Graine lives on his half-vast estate in a mid-20th century contemporary home surrounded by a mini-forest outside of Falls Church. His most recent plant specialties are collecting and growing dwarf hostas and miniature conifers in pots and his favorite plant is a 23-year old 'Crimson Queen' Japanese maple that he grew from practically a thin stick. In 2012, George will celebrate 25 years as a VCE Master Gardener volunteer.*



*With  
sympathy:*

To Betty Jo Hendrix,  
Western Tidewater Master  
Gardeners

on the death of her  
husband

June 20, 2011

## *VMGA Scholarships 2011*

This year's recipients of the Diane Relf Educational Endowment scholarship to be used for attending Master Gardener College were:

Pat Coughlin—Halifax  
Jim Scibek—Fauquier  
Margaret McGough—Hill City  
Maggie Hart—Prince William

Betty Villers—Virginia Beach  
Jeff Mays—Hanover

One scholarship was awarded in memory of Virginia Craig to Cathy Smith—Central Rappahannock.

Congratulations to all of you!

## *Pest Alert: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug*

Excerpted from: [http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2902/2902-1100/2902-1100\\_pdf.pdf](http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2902/2902-1100/2902-1100_pdf.pdf) [http://www.bgic.umd.edu/content/documents/June22\\_2011stinkbugpressrelease.pdf](http://www.bgic.umd.edu/content/documents/June22_2011stinkbugpressrelease.pdf)

The brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys*, is a plant pest that was recently introduced into the United States from its native range in Japan, Korea, and China. The word marmorated refers to its marble-like coloration. Sometimes called the yellow-brown stink bug of the East Asian stink bug, it was first reported in the United States in Allentown, PA. It was found in VA in 2004 and by 2010, it was found throughout most of the Commonwealth.

“Brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB) are an agricultural menace that has devastated crops and livelihoods. While they are a homeowner nuisance and release a potent odor, they are generally harmless to humans,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance.

To farmers, especially fruit and vegetable farmers, the BMSB has become an agricultural menace that is destroying crops.

Because stink bugs have no natural predators, the BMSB population exploded last year throughout the Mid-Atlantic, including Maryland. While many research institutions are working to find ways to eradicate the pest, there is currently no quick or certain way for homeowners or farmers to control this pest, and there are no chemical recommendations currently available for homeowners or farmers to follow. Results from lab insecticide tests, showed that the stink bug only appeared to be dead after being exposed to an insecticide. After living in a coma-like state (or “moribund state”) for a week, the bugs appeared to

come back to life, their bodies having broken down the insecticide.

Report sightings at the Rutgers University BMSB web site [www.rce.rutgers.edu/stinkbug/report](http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/stinkbug/report)



## *MG College 2011*

### **SILENT AUCTION**

This year's silent action held MG College, June 22-26, was a wonderful success. Nearly 200 beautiful and unique items were donated for sale to the highest bidders. Money raised from this event will benefit the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund. A big THANK YOU to all who contributed their time, talent, items and money. A total of \$3,345 was collected.

### **RAFFLE**

**Shelby Snider**, of Roanoke Master Gardeners, created

and generously donated a free-standing garden fountain made of hypertufa. Congratulations to our winner, **Cheryl Pisani** of Suffolk! Ticket sales generated \$221 which will also benefit the State MG Coordinator Endowment Fund. Thank you to all who purchased a raffle ticket. Thank you to Shelby for the beautiful fountain.



## *Hanover IPM Calendar*

*Pattie Bland—MG Coordinator, Hanover*

Hello Master Gardeners,

On behalf of our Hanover unit, let me tell you about our colorful, information-packed, **16-month IPM calendar** that's great for novice and veteran gardeners alike.

Designed by one of our creative MGs, the calendar contains pest ID photos and IPM recommendations, in addition to planting schedules, gardening tips and land care information. All

proceeds support our horticultural classroom grants program.

Price: \$12.95 + \$2.00 postage. Please call to arrange bulk orders.

Interested? Questions? Contact:

Patti Bland, ANR Program Assistant/MG Coordinator, Hanover County Extension Office at [pbland52@vt.edu](mailto:pbland52@vt.edu) or (804) 752-4310.

# 2011 State Fair of Virginia *Christy Brennan—Hanover*

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

The 2011 State Fair of Virginia will be held **Sept 29 thru Oct 9, 2011** at The Meadow Event Park, I-95 exit 98 next to King's Dominion.

Volunteers are needed to staff the demonstration displays and provide answers to fair visitors.

This year's educational focus: **Water Quality and Protection** featuring a stream table, rain barrels and well owner demonstration.

The stream table demo provides an understanding of how sediment, vegetation and flowing water interact to form stream channels. The model contains moveable sediment that responds to flowing water much like sediment in a real stream. It accurately portrays stream processes like bank erosion and head cutting. Also, it

demonstrates the rather destructive process of channelization. It can be used to convince audiences that protecting and restoring stream corridors with vegetation is the best way to protect fish and wildlife.

Different types of erosion controls can be demonstrated in the stream table including rip-rap, vegetative buffers, bio-logs, etc.

Additional demonstrations will be on display:

- Composting
- Vermicomposting
- Insects
- Strawberry DNA

See the Virginia SOLs come to life in "Virginia's Largest Outdoor Classroom!"

Last year MGs reported over 9,000 contacts while at the State Fair! Don't be left out—get your unit involved. We welcome photos and Brag

Boards to showcase Master Gardener projects.

To schedule your unit to assist, contact:

Christy Brennan  
[ctb46@comcast.net](mailto:ctb46@comcast.net)

AND.....

Don't forget to enter your crops and plants. Go to

[www.statefair.com/competitions](http://www.statefair.com/competitions)



## **VMGA HELP WANTED**

The following position are available for members interested in helping make our state association a successful organization.

### **MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

This position covers recruitment of new VMGA members, renewal of current memberships, compilation of member roster and collection of annual membership dues. For additional info contact Christy Brennan.

### **SILENT AUCTION CHAIR**

Request and collect donations from units, individuals and retailers, sort and set up auction display tables, and more....

Contact Betty Villers, VA Beach, for more information.

[bettyv@cox.net](mailto:bettyv@cox.net)

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR**

Plan and coordinate the educational activities and events of the VMGA. Please contact Bill Scott, Prince William, for further details.

[wjscott@netzero.com](mailto:wjscott@netzero.com)

# Search for Excellence *Christy Brennan—Hanover*

The Search for Excellence (SFE) is a competition sponsored by VMGA to highlight Master Gardener units, projects, people, and results during the Virginia Master Gardener College. Our SFE competition mimics the SFE competition held during the International Master Gardener Conference. The requirements include completion of a form which breaks down the project into steps which can be replicated by other units and it reports the results of the project. The results are interpreted

as: the number of people impacted by the project, how they were impacted (were habits changed, lessons learned), how was data obtained (through participant surveys, taped interviews of participants, interviews of workers), and how was the community affected? The 2011 SFE Contest was honored to have two judges who were very familiar with judging Extension projects. Brian Calhoun, Associate Director, Community Viability, and Bob Meadows, State 4-H Director Emeritus.

The judges commented that "reporting project results is a necessary part of every project. Without the results, it is difficult to understand the impact Master Gardeners and the projects have throughout the state." The judges carefully evaluated and considered each entry. This year's award winners are:

**1st Place:** Hanover—Workshops and Presentations—"Worm-athon".

**2nd Place:** Arlington/Alexandria—Community Gardens

**3rd Place:** Bedford Area—Therapeutic Gardens, Special Audiences

**Honorable Mention:** Northern Shenandoah Master Gardeners—Youth Programs: Frederick County JMG Camp.

**Honorable Mention:** Virginia Beach Master Gardeners—Youth Programs: JMG Camp.

Brag Boards were displayed by: James City County/Williamsburg and Piedmont Master Gardeners.

***Congratulations all!***

# Membership has its rewards

*Christy Brennan—Hanover*

As a VMGA unit representative, I seem to have difficulty finding just the right way to inform the MGs in my unit about the importance of having a strong and unified state association and explaining how valuable membership in the VMGA can be to every Virginia Master Gardener.

I have given several presentations about VMGA during each of our unit's quarterly meetings and always have a VMGA membership table ready at these events. Continually I inform new interns and seasoned MGs about the VMGA when volunteering throughout the community, still I wonder why we do not have 100% participation in the association especially now when VCE has been evaluating the budget and programming cuts.

Many times I get discouraged that my effort yields very little in the way of results, then I get a member to join and I know we are making a difference, one MG at a time.

Several local units have included a first VMGA membership to all new interns. This is one way we can encourage new members to be a part of the state level association and to spread the word.

To all unit representatives who may have experienced this too, hang in there. We are growing! Continue to share the benefits of becoming a VMGA member—maybe your unit has a unique method of increasing membership that you would like

to share at our next bi-monthly board meeting or in the next issue of our state MG newsletter, The VMGA Report?

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Membership in the Virginia Master Gardener Association offers:

**Communication and Fellowship** among Virginia Master Gardeners and VCE staff, including a newsletter, a web site ([www.vmga.net](http://www.vmga.net)), a membership directory to help you connect with MGs around the state, and bi-monthly board meetings where issues concerning the MG 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, MG training, and project development and management.

**Representation** through your Unit Representative, on decisions concerning Virginia Master Gardeners.

You, the Master Gardener or VCE employee, offer the Association:

Your **support** as a member of the Association.

Your **ideas** and **expertise** as Virginia Master Gardener volunteers and VCE staff.

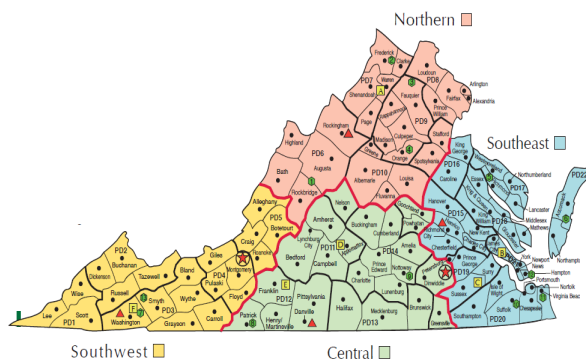
Your **time** to make it all work!

## VMGA

### A Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

Annual dues are just \$12.00. To apply for membership, go to:

<http://vmga.net/membership.htm> then click on the link for an online form or contact Christy Brennan at [ctb47@comcast.net](mailto:ctb47@comcast.net).



# State MG Coordinator Update

*Dave Close—VCE*

**State Record Keeping System**—Contact Dave to let him know your unit is ready to try the new system. The system was developed and is used by UC-Davis. It will be used across the commonwealth. When the system goes “live”, the present system data will be copied and pasted, recorded into the new system as a lump sum, then archived.

**New Director of VCE**—Dr. Edwin Jones, formerly of NC State, took office April 1. He has much experience with Cooperative Extension and plans to stay with VCE for the long term.

**Volunteer email addresses**—Records are being updated for the purpose of newsletter communication.



VMGA, Inc.  
2416 LAUDERDALE DR  
RICHMOND, VA 23238

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A voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

<http://vmga.net>

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## ***SAVE THESE DATES***

### **VMGA BI-MONTHLY BOARD**

#### **MEETING**

August 13, 2011  
10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Hosted by Fairfax/Green  
Spring Master Gardeners  
at

Green Spring Gardens  
Horticulture Center  
multi-purpose room

**4603 Green Spring Rd  
Alexandria, VA 22312**

For directions:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/  
parks/gsgp/directions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/directions.htm)

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October 8—Prince William  
December 10—Halifax

### **CULTIVATING COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

8 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Rockingham County Admin Center, Harrisonburg, VA

Food shapes our lives, communities and world in many ways. In this special workshop, we will explore how community food systems link all the VCE-MG program objectives together. Learn how you, as a Master Gardener volunteer, can play a vital role in fostering community food systems by “connecting the dots” between the farmer and consumer!

Registration opens July 18. Hosted by the Central Shenandoah Valley MG Association (CSVMGA) and VMGA.

For more information contact:

[vmgaedu@rcn.com](mailto:vmgaedu@rcn.com) OR [csvgaprograms@gmail.com](mailto:csvgaprograms@gmail.com)

### **WATERWISE LANDSCAPING: GOOD PRACTICES=GOOD**

#### **WATER QUALITY**

OCTOBER 22, 2011

9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Using the Riparian Buffer Garden installed by the Franklin County Master Gardeners at the 4-H Center as an example, participants will learn about various ways to use landscaping practices to protect water quality: riparian buffers, rain gardens, safe fertilizers and many other ideas.

Hosted by VMGA and Franklin County Master Gardeners

For more information contact:

Nelda Purcell (540) 576-9931