



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:

Laurie Nistrath, Piedmont

Membership:

Deb Straw, Hill City

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*Fundraising: *Vacant*

Silent Auction 2013:

Washington County MGs

NEXT VMGA
BOARD MEETING
Saturday, December 8
10 AM
Hampton Roads AREC
1444 Diamond Springs Road
Virginia Beach

Volume 17, Number 5

VMGA Report

A voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**Tom Bolt, Norfolk**

To VMGA Membership

We greatly appreciate all the hard work Anita Smith has contributed to the VMGA as Membership Chair and her other Master Gardener activities. The Board accepted her resignation at its October 13 meeting with many thanks for her dedication and the fine job she has done. The entire membership wish her well in the next phase of her life as she and her husband, who is retiring from the shipyard, relocate out of Virginia to their retirement home.

At our October 13 meeting, Deb Straw of the Hill City Master Gardeners volunteered to try to fill Anita's shoes as Membership Chair. The Board appreciates Deb stepping forward to take on this job and pledge our support as she takes on these duties.

All our committees need our support and most could use some new volunteers to help out; new ideas, thinking outside the box. The Fundraising Committee especially needs a new chairperson. Betty Villers has been doing a superb job filling in on this job since Roslynn Tharp found she was unable to continue with these duties back in June. This committee organizes the sale of our logo wear and other items to raise funds for the Coordinator Endowment Fund. Anyone interested in helping out here can do so by contacting Betty or any members of the Executive Committee.

Your leadership team has met and is beginning to tackle the challenge of growing our membership and the challenge Dr. Diane Relf gave us at the Master Gardener College of doing a better job in getting the word out of our accomplishments and successes. We welcome all ideas and suggestions on meeting these particular challenges and on any other challenges

Virginia State Fair-Educational Tour

The Master Gardener's booth, Intensive Square Foot Gardening, featured mini-compost bins, vermicomposting, a display and matching game for the Part of Plants We Eat. Hordes of elementary, middle and high school students stopped by the visit and pick up handouts which went with our theme. In addition, over 190 FFA students visited the booth for the educational items and to see the exhibits. Master Gardeners and the MG booth were featured on local Richmond TV stations. Master Gardeners recorded over 5,900 contacts. Special thanks to Dave Close and MG Coordinator, Pattie Bland for their organization of this event.



Volunteers (Left to right)

Emily Gianfortoni, Lee Bedsole, Christy Brennan,
Cyrill Brock, Betty Jane Hughes, Pattie Bland,
Laurie Clarkston

GS and FC Master Gardeners prepare for 2013



Stephanie's tips for a successful program:

- ◆ Talk with people
- ◆ Share ideas
- ◆ Be open minded
- ◆ Explore the possibilities
- ◆ Do your homework!
- ◆ Network, Network, Network
- ◆ Get consensus-who will expansion impact?
- ◆ Team seasoned gardeners with new interns
- ◆ Think big, start small, be deliberate



The *Ready, Set, Grow!* project has already begun with planning and preparation on the part of many dedicated individuals. Master Gardeners in the Green Spring and Fairfax County units work collaboratively with George Mason University's New Century College to provide programs to new students.

In 2012, volunteers conducted over 100 two-hour presentations in 29 schools throughout Fairfax County. The excitement and the demand from over 2,300 children will propel the project into the new year with enthusiasm. Working with children stimulates creativity and generates an overall

sense of enthusiasm in adult volunteers. This gardening program affords MGs with a change of pace from working with adults. The opportunity to work with university students is the "...direct result of personal networking, a friend helping a friend, and then following up on an unexpected opportunity," says Stephanie Roesner, chair of the project. MGs teamed with under-

graduate and graduate students in this experiential learning program. They gained horticultural experience as well as time to plan and deliver programs that excite and engage children as they interact with plants.



Plans are underway for the next season. Participation in this program is open to all fourth grade students in Fairfax County. Orientation meetings and material organization sessions are scheduled for January. Gardeners can choose to refresh their Botany 101 skills along with interactive exercises similar to those conducted in the classroom.

Note: all training, preparatory, in-class, travel hours qualify as volunteer hours.

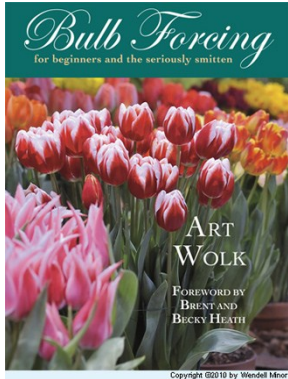
Ready, Set, Grow-This project is a result of the collaborative efforts of

Green Spring: Julie Liu and Georgi Hall, Co-Chairs &

Christie Nix and Janet Guzzano, Co-Chairs

Members of the Green Spring Master Gardeners (GSMG) or Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association (FCMGA) may contact Stephanie Roesner, chairperson at s_j_roesner@hotmail.com or readysset-grow@fairfaxmastergardeners.org for more details. All others may contact [Lenah Nguyen](#), 4-H Extension Agent, for more information. Volunteers are needed and welcome as school registration will begin at the end of November.

The Graine Thumb-George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners Bulb Forcing: Beyond Paper white Narcissus



Before it is time to shovel the walk, scrape the ice off your car or remove the snow load from your conifers, did you ever think you could get an early start on spring by reading a new book? *Bulb Forcing for Beginners and the Seriously Smitten* by Art Wolk (AAB Book Publishing, 2012) is a suggested must read. Near the end of this book is a chapter on container gardening using only bulbs. The process is fully illustrated with color photos and easy-to-follow instructions. One might think of this as cheating nature in a colorful way. By selecting early-mid-late season bulbs, your garden “plot” can mimic a glorious spring garden in a small space for about six weeks. By starting other pots weeks apart, with a different bulb selection, you can have an indoor garden for months.

Wolk turns the bulb-forcing world in some new directions as he explores and explodes some old-think “sage” advice. His more than 30 years of experience, including admission of trial and error, has brought a new level of understanding to the process of forcing bulbs with an educational, practical and humorous style of writing. This is the book if you want to learn how to become successful at forcing many different bulb types. You will probably agree with the author when he wrote “Forcing bulbs is a mode of mood elevation that’s so easy you’ll ‘get it’ before you get to the end of this book.” He’s right!

There are numerous books on how to force bulbs; however, Wolk’s text has information that probably does not exist elsewhere or surely not in a single source. Now that his “secrets” are out, he provides more than adequate instructions (read guidance) for forcing five bulb types. All are given fair treatment including true bulbs (e.g., daffodils), corms (e.g., crocus), tubers (e.g., anemone), tuberous roots (e.g., dahlia) and rhizomes (e.g., calla lily). This is why the sub-title of this article, Beyond Paper white Narcissus, is appropriate.

Wolk has an enlightened and hilarious way, including some embarrassing situations, of dispelling bulb forcing fiction and even some ridiculous procedures. You may be surprised and think he is breaking the “rules” of bulb forcing. As noted earlier; however, his years of experimentation and experience top the know-it-all experts of other bulb forcing books and bulletins on the subject. A real example: If you tried your hand at forcing a hyacinth bulb hydroponically in an hourglass container did you have a successful venture? If not, then most likely you were not sufficiently informed about the do and do not of what is probably the simplest of all bulb-forcing methods. (Shameless truth – Grainthumb had a lousy experience and now he knows what he did incorrectly.)

To the casual reader, Wolk’s bulb forcing book may look like just another large format coffee table book. Not true! The DIY explanations, diagrams and more than 350 magnificent color photos will help you pursue an indoor garden experience that may eventually lead to an expanded horticultural hobby. What you will also learn from his masterly photo-written dialogue is that you can force bulbs that you never considered possible to force; therefore, may the force be with you.

Art Wolk, is scheduled to speak at the 26th Master Gardener College.

To learn more about him, his work and accomplishments-

Visit his Website- <http://www.gardenlunacy.com>

*“...you have to
work hard to
screw this up.”*

Art Wolk



How well do you know Thomas Jefferson and plants?

- ◆ What red fruit did he bring to America and plant at Monticello?
- ◆ What type of potato cooking method did Jefferson introduce to America?
- ◆ Which variety of lettuce was his favorite?



The winner received a copy of *Ready, Set, GROW!*



Louisa-Central Virginia and Piedmont Master Gardener Units



Louisa -Central Virginia Master Gardeners, (L-R) Tina Chaleki, Irene Filacchione and Mary Jane Marshall share their knowledge with visitors to the "Roots and Shoots" tent. They also provided rain barrel demonstrations here as well as the State Fair at the end of the month.

The make & take aspect of this exhibit drew people to the LCVMG's display. Participation was active as young people were engaged with selecting objects from nature to personalize a picture



Tina MacIntire discusses stink bugs and parasitic wasps with mesmerized young man at the Piedmont Master Gardener "Youth Gardening



The items on the table relate to the gardening quiz. Piedmont Master Gardener, Elena Speidel shares examples of fruits and vegetables refer-

Ira Wallace of Southern Exposure Seed Exposure, proposed the idea of a harvest festival as a unique way to share the education mission of the Seed Exchange, Monticello and Central Virginia Master Gardeners. A grant from Whole Foods of \$3,000, as well support from other groups, supported the first event in 2007. The first festival was held at Tufton Farm., at the Center for Historic Plants. While Master Gardeners are no longer "official sponsors" of the event, they are certainly instrumental in organizing and implementing the weekend. Prominent writers, speakers and educators shared their love of gardening with over 4,700 visitors!

Join master gardeners September 6-7, 2013 for the 7th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival.

GARDENING EVENTS AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH CAN BE LOCATED ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.VMGA.NET SEND YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT TO CALENDAR@VMGA.NET FOR INCLUSION ON THE WEBSITE PAGE.

ECOSAVVY SYMPOSIUM
THEME-XTREME GARDENING
CLIMATE CHANGE
FEBRUARY 23, 2013
GREEN SPRING GARDEN IN ANNANDALE

FOR MORE INFORMATION-CONTACT JUDY
KIRBY JMJRS@YAHOO.COM

Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course Feb 4-7, 2013
Location-Marriott at City Center, Newport News, VA



Winter Symposium & CVNLA Short Course at Lewis Ginter Memorial Garden.

2013 Peninsula MG Tree Steward Class

January 9-March 27, 2013

Wednesdays 9-12

Location will vary



Cost-\$155 make checks payable to
JCC/Williamsburg MG

For more information, Carol King, Coordinator (757) 268-6589

cdkinggardener@hotmail.com

Home Gardener Day: February 2, 2013
Newport News, VA-see the Virginia Horticultural Foundation Website for details

Looking for a little publicity?

Want to increase attendance at your function? The calendar on the website is one of the top three most visited pages on the website. You can list your activity with webmaster, webmaster@vmg.org. or through David Banks davidm87674@earthlink.net.

Who are you following? The social world of world of gardening...



What are gardeners discussing on Facebook?

Grow it, Eat it- [Maryland's Food Gardening Network](#)

Growveg.com-Suitable gardening apps which help gardeners to grow fruit and vegetables to the best of their ability. Friends from both the US and UK post frequently to this site.

Organic Authority-a resource for all things organic!



What are gardeners Twitting about?



GrowVeg.com @GrowVeg



Mother Earth News @MotherEarthNews



Virginia Tech Tree Identification: a Dendrology App by Seiler et al. Virginia Tech Tree Identification brings the award winning Virginia Tech digital dendrology material. (This is a free app from Google Play-open the hyperlink above to find it.)

Gardening Blogs-

Grow Blog: [Organic Gardening for the Internet Generation](#) features [Virginia's own Barbara Pleasant](#).



The Garden Professor's Blog-you can find this group on Facebook- four university professors, including VT's own Holly Scroggins, discuss the science behind gardening in a fun way. [You can browse the blog for over three years of blogs written by this group.](#)



DEB STRAW
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
 249 SNAPPS MILL ROAD
 SPOUT SPRING, VA 24593

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.vmganet.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 of 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.

VMGA BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY, December 8, 2010

10 a.m.

Hosted by:

Virginia Beach MGA

Location:

Hampton Roads AREC

144 Diamond Springs Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Lunch: Catered by Leaping Lizard Cafe. Cost for lunch is \$9. Checks must be received by December 5. Please contact:

Betty Villers

3133 Inlet Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23454

CALENDAR

Mark your calendar

VMGA Meetings

2013

- February 9 FRANKLIN
- April 13 NORFOLK
- June 21 MG COLLEGE
- August 10 GOOCHLAND/POWHATAN
- October 12 NORTHERN NECK
- December 14 Host Needed

Check the VMGA website for more events around the state.

Stay in touch with Master Gardeners throughout the country-



Through Facebook-

EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER

Extension Master Gardener Blog



Through Twitter-

@eXEMG

