

VMGA REPORT

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• VMGA OFFICERS

- **President:**
Bill Scott, Prince William
- **Vice President:**
Christy Brennan, Hanover
- **Treasurer:**
Jim Kincaid, VA Beach
- **Secretary:**
Peggy Fox, Newport News

President's Message

Bill Scott, Prince William

The next Board meeting will be on April 14th hosted by James City County / Williamsburg. I encourage as many of the members who can to attend the Board meetings and to participate in them if you have input or questions for the Board of Directors.

The slate of officers for the 2012 – 2014 term is now complete with the inclusion of Laurie Anderson as a candidate for Treasurer. This slate represents the membership very well and should provide a strong group of officers for the

next two years. Leslie Paulson has volunteered to chair the Education Endowment Committee. A new editor for the newsletter is needed and participation in education from around the state is always welcome. There are always opportunities to volunteer if you want to actively participate in VMGA! Please consider volunteering your time to maintaining VMGA as a strong link between Virginia Cooperative Extension and all Virginia Master Gardeners.

Don't forget the 25th

Anniversary of Master Gardener College at Virginia Tech in June.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of 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 e-mail: wjscott2@verizon.net.

Hope to see you in Williamsburg!

Bill Scott, President

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State MG Coordinator Liaison Report

Dave Close, VCE

The electronic version of [Home Grounds and Animals PMG](#), publication number 456-018, is available online and print copies are becoming available. Priority is being given to those who need them for training and for Extension MG Help Desks and Plant Clinic kits.

MGCAT met on January 23 to continue planning for the 25th Annual MG College. Karen Anderson, a Master Gardener from Northern Virginia, was selected as the finalist for the MG college logo design contest. The YouTube promo video for MG College is live at [2012 Virginia Master Gardener College Promotional Video](#). All the keynote speakers for

MG College have been confirmed. They include **Robert McDuffie**, Assoc. Prof. Hort., VT, **Joe Murray**, Assoc. Prof. Biology, Blue Ridge Community College, **Diane Relf**, **Alex Niemiera**, Assoc. Prof. Horticulture, VT, **Brent Heath** of Brent and Becky's Bulbs, Gloucester, **Bob Lyons**, Prof Hort/Dir. Longwood Grad. Prog., Univ of Del., **Holly Scoggins**, Assoc. Prof. Hort, VT, **Elissa Steeves**, noted Blacksburg gardener of national fame and former hort teacher, and **Dr. Bruce Fraedrich** Vice President of Research at the F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company and Director of Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories. Tours and

workshops have been finalized and plans are being completed for the Tree Steward training and Concurrent Sessions.

The winter issue of *In Season* will be available by the end of February. Please make sure it gets distributed throughout your entire unit.

Dean Alan Grant is holding two strategic planning sessions for the College. The first one is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, from 10am to 12pm. The second will be on Wednesday, February 29, from 1-3pm. These sessions are open for stakeholder input and will be available for participation online through Adobe Connect.

New USDA Hardiness Zone Map released

[Washington Gardener Magazine](#)
[Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012](#)

The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F zones.

For the first time, the map is available as an interactive GIS-based map, for which a broadband Internet con-

nection is recommended, and as static images for those with slower Internet access. Users may also simply type in a ZIP Code and find the hardiness zone for that area.

State, regional, and national images of the map can be downloaded and printed in a variety of sizes and resolutions.



[USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#)

Working With Nature symposium

Working With Nature for Beautiful and Sustainable Gardens, June 9-10, 2012 Fairlington Community Center, Arlington, VA

Featuring Doug Tallamy, Author of *Bringing Nature Home* and **Holly Shimizu,** Executive Director, U.S. Botanic Garden.

Day One will feature a keynote Dr. Tallamy, professor and Chair of the

Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. His book emphasizes how native plants can beautify our gardens while serving as central food sources for the insects, birds and butterflies that are essential to a healthy local ecosystem. Presentation will be followed by breakout sessions with experts on elements of the *Landscape for Life*™ program, an eco-friendly approach to gardening from the U.S.

Botanic Garden that can provide a wealth of health and environmental benefits.

Day Two participants will tour the VCE/MGNV Demonstration Gardens in Arlington and Alexandria to see the elements of the *Landscape for Life*™ program in action.

Registration fee (includes a box lunch): \$40 for early registration; \$50 starting on April 1.

mgnv.org/events/june/sustainability-symposium-2012

Helpful Youth Program Resources

Peggy Fox, Newport News

Integrating Horticulture into the Elementary School Curriculum: Meeting the SOLs through Interdisciplinary Experiences

What was once a special study course at VT, this website now offers lesson plans and other helpful resources for

programs aimed at teaching children. The activity sheets are part of "The Young Virginia Gardener" program compiled by the Office of Environmental Horticulture. Each series consists of a teachers Information sheet and a set of youth

activity sheets. The site was last updated in 2002 so there's the possibility of obsolete internet links.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.hort.vt.edu/HORT6004/network/index.html>

Beautiful Gardens Plant Introduction Program

VT Spirit Daylily

Rick Baker VDACS , Domestic Sales and Marketing

The Beautiful Gardens Plant Introduction Program is proud to announce the release of its first new plant, the VT Spirit daylily. VT Spirit is named for Virginia Tech and is a wonderful representation of the school colors of maroon and orange. It is hardy in all Virginia growing zones and boasts a longer than average bloom season for daylilies. This plant



was bred by Virginia Tech graduate Linda Pinkham and donated to the Beautiful Gardens program for evaluation and introduction. The VT Spirit daylily is available from Brent & Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, VA, and can be purchased on line or through their catalog. We suggest that you order this spring while supplies last.

Beautiful Gardens was initiated in 2004 as a project of the

Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association to find, develop and introduce exciting new ornamental plants to the public and stimulate expanded production and profits for Virginia growers.

Beautiful Gardens program partners include: VNLA, VT Dept of Hort, VDACS, VCE- Master Gardener Program, Institute for Sustainable and Renewable Resources, Claytor Nature Center of Lynchburg College, Norfolk Botanical Gardens, J.Sargeant Reynolds CC and the support of numerous individuals active in the Virginia horticulture industry. For more information: www.beautifulgardens.org.

Bragboards or Search for Excellence?

Peggy Fox, Newport News

International Master Gardener Conference Search for Excellence

(Taken from IMGC website)

"On October 14, 2011 nineteen Search for Excellence Awards were presented at the [International Master Gardener Conference in Charleston West Virginia](#). [Search for Excellence](#) is the recognition program of Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada.

Awards are presented every two years at the international conference where volunteers gather to learn from each other and share project strategies with their peers from across the country. Nineteen Master Gardener programs were recognized for outstanding achievement in programming from a field of over 100 applicants.

Winning projects were chosen on the basis of their originality and creativity; practicality of the program; simplicity of replication by other Master Gardeners and their significant impact

on their communities.

First, second and third place awards were presented in six categories:

- Innovative Projects
- Community Service
- Youth Programs
- Workshop or presentation
- Special Needs Audiences
- Demonstration Gardens.

First place winners received a plaque and a small stipend to continue their educational projects. Congratulations to these Master Gardeners and Extension staff for their excellence in educating citizens about horticulture and good gardening practices."

Here in Virginia

[SFE](#) was introduced to Virginia MGs in 2006 in an effort to standardize the

reporting of programs and their community impact, to show other Virginia MG units how to duplicate outstanding programs in their communities and to showcase at the international level what Virginia MGs are doing. Yes, it's rigid. Yes, it can be painful and time consuming and other negative ways to describe "work". In addition, competition is optional. Units can decide for themselves if it's worth pursuing. Virginia MGs have a very good chance of scoring some international recognition with their programs and impacts. It's just a matter of packaging it in an award winning manner. Just ask our past winners:

For more details, go to: [IMGC 2011](#)



THE GRAINETHUMB

By George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners

I think most people assume he's a Saint Francis with a spade. He's more of a saint for aficionados.

--- Peter Cilioz, Campania International

While sales at the yard art section of many garden centers lead you to believe that Saint Francis of Assisi is the most popular statue in home gardens, he is not actually our champion. Perhaps the birds depicted on this statue symbolize freedom and it is suggested that animals should have the ability to roam wherever they please but these concepts are not completely garden worthy. Few people seem to know that our revered champion is Saint Fiacre. Who is this Irish holy man who is also the saint of gardeners? Before the Grainethumb answers this question, let me caution you not to expect this saint to displace the famous swashbuckling Irish Saint Patrick. No parades, no green beer or other forms of revelry will happen to honor Saint Fiacre, at least not in America. Saint Fiacre was born near the end of the sixth century, a good five hundred years before Saint Francis. Make no mistake about it, Saint Fiacre is the true patron saint of gardeners and was recognized as such in Europe since the Middle Ages.

A very brief history of Saint Fiacre is in order before the legend, that is, the miracle leading to Fiacre's sainthood. His father was a warrior and as such he was often away from home. Although

Fiacre was devoted to his mother, unfortunately she passed when he was a teenager. This experience must have



set him on the path to become a holy man leading a reclusive life of a monk in solitude. Having been raised in a monastery he developed an abiding love of science, the joy of plants including healing herbs as well as an appreciation of nature. Eventually Fiacre left the green of Ireland for France where he established a hermitage in a cave near a spring. When he asked Bishop Faro of Meaux, France for some land in order to grow food crops and herbs for healing the Bishop granted this request.

The deal was struck. Fiacre could have as much land as he could entrench in a single day from sunup to sundown. Praying on this proposition, the next day Fiacre dragged the point of his staff (spade?) across the ground and the earth turned as he went, toppling trees and shrubs, digging up briars and weeds and stones moved to prepare the land for a garden of medicinal herbs, flowers, seeds and other

plant material. This is the legend (miracle?!). In time Fiacre built a chapel in honor of the Holy Virgin, a house where he lived and a hospice for the sick and penniless. As word spread, people started to flock to Fiacre for food, healing, wisdom and of course spiritual guidance. A woman considered the feat of Fiacre nothing short of sorcery. (Was this a precursor to Salem witchery?) This accusation resulted in a harsh ruling by Fiacre. Henceforth he barred all women from his monastery on pain of blindness or madness. Actually, this was not unusual because women were routinely excluded from monasteries. Over time Saint Fiacre became famous for his healing powers. With this gift he was able to cure his flock of followers when he laid hands on the sufferer. His garden became a place of pilgrimage for many centuries especially for those seeking healing.

If you saw the TV series about the mystery-solving Brother Cadfael, he is like a fictional counterpart to Saint Fiacre because both were gardeners and herbalists. At that time, herbs were an essential part of the healing arts and not used primarily for beauty or culinary enhancement. Now that you know the story about Saint Fiacre you do not have to be religious to have him as part of your yardscape and he should no longer be ignored.



International Master Gardener's Conference 2013

Alaskan Cruise
September 7-14, 2013

Cruise line – Holland America

Sailing from – Seattle, September 7, 2013

Return to – Seattle, September 14, 2013

Ports of call:

Seattle, Washington, US; Juneau, Alaska, US; Glacier Bay; Sitka, Alaska, US; Ketchikan, Alaska, US; Victoria, British Columbia, CA

Day 1: [Seattle, Washington, US](#)

Day 2: At sea

Day 3: [Juneau, Alaska, US](#)

Day 4: [Glacier Bay](#)

Day 5: [Sitka, Alaska, US](#)

Day 6: [Ketchikan, Alaska, US](#)

Day 7: [Victoria, British Columbia, CA](#)

Day 8: Arrive [Seattle, Washington, US](#)

For more details, go to:

<http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/> and
<http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/newsletters/january2012.pdf>

Why Master Gardener College?

George Graine, Master Gardener College Advisory Team

This year Master Gardener College, our annual state conference, will celebrate its SILVER ANNIVERSARY, June 20-24, at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg. A lot has changed since the earliest days of College and you can be the beneficiary of many improvements including the academic experience, dormitory facilities and even the meals. The responsibility for putting on the College each year rests with Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), with program support from the state Master Gardener Association (VMGA). Opportunities abound for all to participate in academic subjects, laboratories, workshops, field trips, and still have time for fun with other serious-minded gardeners from across the Commonwealth. You will make new friends. You will have plenty of time to see how other Master Gardeners go about their activities during breaks, meal times, and in the evening. The VCE Master Gardener Program web site, www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener, will provide all of the pertinent information concerning registration for classes, on campus air-conditioned dormitory lodging (single room, two beds with private bathroom) and a meal ticket for all meals while attending College, as it becomes available. The meals are varied, tasty, plentiful and wholesome.

If you desire other accommodations, Virginia Tech has an on campus hotel, the Skelton Inn, and Blacksburg has many chain motels that are close to campus. For those staying off-campus, you are welcome to take your meals in the university dining hall and the cost for any meal is very reasonable.

In simplest terms, Master Gardener College is a place to learn, meet people and have fun. These three points on the positive experience of College are expanded below. It is important to continue our College at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg for the obvious reason that professors, research facilities, laboratories, etc. are all located on the Blacksburg campus; therefore, we are able to take advantage of this single location.

Learn (opportunity for self development) Listen to excellent presentations at general sessions Find out about current horticultural research.

Learn about current horticultural trends.

Become aware of issues of importance to Master Gardeners.

Learn about unfamiliar topics. Attend and perform hands-on laboratory techniques.

Reinforce information about familiar topics.

Learn vicariously about some far away place via a gardening paradise travelogue.

Meet People (networking) Hear about effectiveness of new Master Gardener programs/projects.

Interact with Master Gardeners from other parts of the Commonwealth. Renew old acquaintances and start new friendships.

Promote information exchange. Help others who are new to the college experience.

Have Fun (the other side of academia) Enjoy the always new features and plantings in the Hahn Horticultural Gardens.

Experience comfortable and safe surroundings on campus, downtown (walking distance from College) and other nearby locations.

Participate in a silent auction for the VCE State Master Gardener Coordinator Endowment.

Enjoy one more on-campus opportunity for fellowship and networking at the annual picnic and plant swap.

COME CELEBRATE THE

25TH ANNIVERSARY of the VIRGINIA

MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE

June 20-24



P. Diane Relf Educational Endowment Fund

The P. Diane Relf Educational Endowment Fund for Master Gardener College Scholarships

The Diane Relf fund was established to provide educational support to Master Gardeners, and usually is used to provide scholarships to MG College. 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. Additional criteria are included on the application form. All VCE Master Gardeners planning to attend MG College can be considered for these scholarships. The number of \$100.00 scholarships awarded is determined by the

budgeted amount and donations to the Endowment Fund.

Nominations: Units may nominate two candidates each year. The selection method used is up to individual units. All applications must be submitted via the local VCE Extension Agent or MG Unit Coordinator. For more information, go to: <http://vmga.net/endowment.htm>

The Insider's Connection

Peggy Fox, Newport News, editor VMGA Report

We can all use a little help from time to time. Learning what's happening with other VA Master Gardeners is a great way to improve programs. Here's a list of MG websites from across Virginia. If your unit isn't listed here, please send your web address so the list can be updated. *Editor*

Central Rappahannock

www.mgacra.org

Chesapeake

www.cmgv.org

Eastern Shore

www.easternshoremastergardeners.com

Fairfax

www.fairfaxmastergardeners.org

Fluvanna

www.fluvannamg.org

Gloucester

www.gloucesterva.info/ext/mastergardener/home.htm

Goochland

www.gpmga.org

Hampton

www.offices.ext.vt.edu/Hampton/gardenersnews.pdf

Hanover

www.hanovermastergardeners.com

Heart of Virginia

www.hovmg.org

Henrico

www.henricomga.org

Hill City

www.hcmga.com

JCC/Wmsbg

www.jccwmg.org

Loudoun

www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org

Louisa County

www.louisacvmg.org

New River Valley

www.civic.bev.net/nrvmg/

Newport News

www.nnmstergardeners.org

Norfolk

www.nmgv.org

Northern Neck

www.nnmg.org

Northern Shenandoah

www.nsvmg.org

Northern VA

www.mgnv.org

Piedmont

www.piedmontmastergardeners.org

Portsmouth

www.pmgva.org

Prince William

www.mgpw.org

VA Beach

www.bvmg.org

VMGA

www.vmganet.org

VA State MG Coordinator

www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener

eXtension

<http://www.extension.org/>

The Garden Professors

www.gardenprofessors.com

Bonnie Plants™ Cabbage Program

contributed by George Graine, Fairfax

Kids

Want to help out a third-grade teacher? Let them know about Bonnie Plants' Third-Grade Cabbage Program. The mission? Inspire a love of vegetable gardening in young people. The program is free; Bonnie's provides the plants. Teachers can sign up online at www.bonnieplants.com.

In 2011, more than 1.5 million kids

Love

Cabbages



participated in the U.S., growing their own cabbage plants. Bonnie's makes it a little more fun for the kids by using OS Cross (oversized) cabbages that produce giant heads. At the end of each growing season, teachers select a class winner based on size, appearance and maturity and that submission gets entered in a state scholarship drawing. The winners are randomly selected by each state's Director of Agriculture,

and Bonnie Plants awards a \$1,000 scholarship to one student in each state.

On a side note, Bonnie's also just announced another kids gardening program at the retail level. They've licensed cartoon characters from the Growums garden brand as part of an initiative to promote green gardening and healthy eating. Learn more at www.growums.com.

With sympathy

To Ann Zudekoff on the passing of husband, Bedford Area Master Gardener, Shim Zudekoff 9/11/1935 - 12/26/2011.



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

VMGA

A Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

Deadline for May/June newsletter:

April 20, 2012

Please submit any announcements or articles of interest to be included in the next issue to:

peggyfox@hotmail.com

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative Action employer.

MARCH

4-10 Philadelphia Flower and Garden Show www.theflowershow.com/Attractions/gardenevents.html

Mar 10-June 3 A Million Blooms (Kicks off with Orchids Galore!) www.lewisginter.org

7 The Nature of Trees...and Other Related Thoughts, Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke, www.treesvirginia.org

8, 17, 22 Gardening in Small Spaces, Bedford Area MGs, scbaker@vt.edu

10 Good Gardening Symposium, Prince George County MGs, www.pgmga.org

10 Horticultural Extravaganza, York County VCE/MGs, Tabb High School, Yorktown, www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

24 Grow the Good Life Bedford Area MGs, 540-586-7675 www.bedfordareamastergardeners.org

24-25 Loudoun County MGs Annual Gardening Symposium <http://www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org/>

CALENDAR

24-25 Gloucester Daffodil Festival <http://www.gloucesterva.info/daffodilfestival>

28 Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium 2012 Waynesboro Parks and Recreation Department 540-942-6735 www.waynesboro.va.us and parksandrec@ci.waynesboro.va.us

31 Northern Neck Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension invite you to the 19th Annual Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar "Watershed to Water's Edge" <http://www.nnmg.org/>

APRIL

14 Community Gardens, presented by Norfolk Master Gardeners, www.nmgv.org

20-22 15th Annual Garden Faire A Passion for Gardening, Washington County MGs, Abingdon, www.gardenfaire.net

21 Christopher Newport University 15th Annual Gardening Symposium, Newport News <http://gardening.cnu.edu/workshops.htm>

MAY

1-4 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference at Natchez, Mississippi <http://msucares.com/srmg>

5 12th Annual Festival of Gardening, The Aviary in Miller Park in Lynchburg, More info at www.hcmga.com

JUNE

20-24 25th Anniversary Master Gardener College Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener College will take place at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. This year's advanced training: Tree Stewardship <http://www.hort.vt.edu/mastergardener/>

