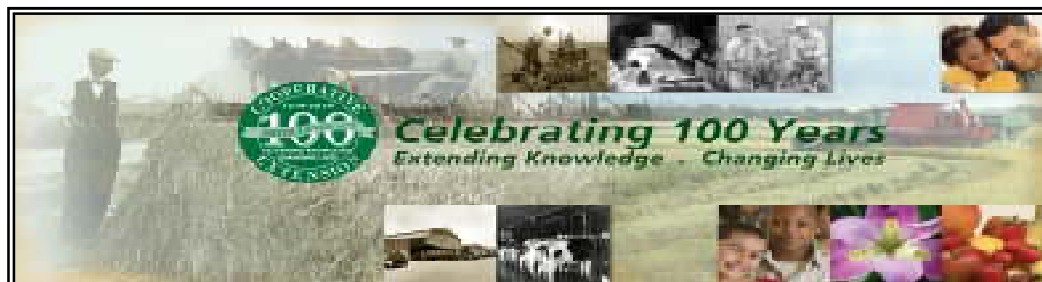




# VMGA REPORT

Early Fall Edition

Volume 21. Issue 5  
September/October 2014



## A Message from the President

Greetings, from the new VMGA President. If you know me, you know I am passionate about VMGA. This message is long, but there are a lot of things I'm excited about and would like to share with everyone.

So many times I have been asked why someone should join The Virginia Master Gardeners Association. Well, did you know that by joining VMGA this year you: helped sponsor Master Gardener College at VA Tech, organized the Silent Auction at MG College which resulted in a total of \$ 4,285.00 donated directly to the State Coordinator Endowment , contributed a \$10,000.00 match of all Master Gardener donations for the State Coordinator Endowment , distributed \$2,500.00 in scholarships to Master Gardener College to well deserving Master Gardeners throughout the Commonwealth and helped educate over 5,000 contacts on sustainable land care practices at the 2013 VA State Fair?

I imagine that now you are wondering what the State Coordinator Endowment has to do with VMGA. VMGA has entered into an agreement with Virginia Tech and Virginia Cooperative Extension to endow the State Master Gardener position. Through donations made to The Virginia Tech Foundation, the endowed position will ensure that there will always be a faculty position to coordinate and support the Extension Master Gardener program in Virginia. Securing a faculty position is essential to sustaining the Master Gardener Program. VMGA has a variety of materials available to inform Master Gardeners and possible corporate sponsors. Please help spread the word about this noble cause.

Updates: **How do you celebrate 100 years?** Virginia Cooperative Extension is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which officially established the National Cooperative Extension System. VMGA would love to hear how each of the different Master Gardener Units, Groups and Associations are celebrating this wonderful milestone. Many events have been planned throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia to commemorate the centennial in 2014 and to recognize the Master Gardener Program and Extension volunteers. Please send Angela Cingale, VMGA Vice President (acingela@cox.net ) notices of the events, activities and be sure to include pictures! Haven't planned an event yet? There is still time; we hope you will be able to expand on what others have been doing throughout the Commonwealth.

Have you noticed that most of the VCE Volunteers of the Month have been Master Gardeners? Don't forget to nominate Master Gardener Volunteers in your unit. Contact your local VCE agent to submit your nominations.

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### VMGA OFFICERS

#### President

Christy Brennan, Hanover

#### Vice President

Angela Cingale, James City  
County/Williamsburg

#### Treasurer

Pat Reilly, Prince William

#### Secretary

Joan Richards, Fairfax/Green  
Spring



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*president's message continued from page 1*

Get ready for the **VMGA Fall Education Event!** This event will be held on the campus of Virginia State University, Saturday 9/27/2014 and the topic of the day is Permaculture. Unsure what the term permaculture entails? Come learn from the experts while networking with other Master Gardeners and getting education hours! Snack and lunch are included, see the details and register at VMGA.net.

**Unit reports** should be submitted to Angela Cingale by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the even numbered months. Angela will compile the reports for the VMGA newsletter and the VMGA web site. She will be sure that they are distributed to local resources. We need to assure that our very best projects and educational opportunities are well known throughout the Commonwealth and the VMGA Executive Board is here to help with this mission.

As the days are getting shorter we all start thinking about the **State Fair of Virginia**. The 2014 State Fair will be held at the Meadow Event Park in Doswell, September 26<sup>th</sup> through October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Master Gardener booth, supported by VMGA funds will feature Protecting Our Pollinators and there are still good dates and times available for volunteering. Don't forget to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Centennial on VCE Day at the State Fair Sunday 9/28/2014. Please contact Christy Brennan (ctb47@comcast.net) to volunteer.

Are you interested in making VMGA a stronger organization? We need your help. There are several opportunities available, please consider volunteering in these positions to match your abilities!

Thanks so much to our newest volunteers Tina Chaleki (Central Virginia- Louisa), Katherine Debnar (Roanoke) and members who stepped up to form a Special Committee: Angela Cingale, Betty Jo Hendrix (Western Tidewater), Wanda Gerard (Suffolk), and Yolán Williams (Hill City) and Deb Straw (Hill City) have volunteered to serve on the committee.

Please consider joining us by volunteering for these current openings:

Fundraising Chair: Tina Chaleki

Endowment lead: Kathryn Debnar:

Needed – Logo/ Merchandising Team Lead

Needed - Silent Auction Team Lead.

Please consider volunteering your time to maintain VMGA as a strong link between Virginia Cooperative Extension and all Virginia Master Gardeners.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you. Come join us at the next Bimonthly Meeting  
Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 2014, Suffolk VA.

Christy Brennan



### Tick season is here.

The four most common ticks in Virginia are the lone star tick, the American dog tick, the brown dog tick and the deer tick.

For more information, see the Virginia Cooperative Extension publication, Common Ticks of Virginia, at <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2906/2906-1396/2906-1396.htm>



## THE GRAINETHUMB WHY SUCCULENTS?

George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners

*Style is a matter of taste, design is a matter of principles.*

---Thomas Church in *Gardens Are for People* (1955)

In what way are daylilies, hostas and succulents alike? If your answer is they all have more varied types than Heinz 57 varieties you have scored the correct answer. The fact is that there are more than 4,000 named varieties of succulents. While you are getting your head around this fact you are probably thinking 'Hens-and-Chicks', 'Autumn Joy' and some others. It is unfortunate that this plant family gets short shrift at garden centers and only receives minimum space in popular garden magazines. There is a lot to like about these non-fussy plants. If you are looking for something different in your landscape then look no further than the vast succulent group as they will reveal a panoply of interesting plants for you to consider. They are "...the drama queens of contemporary gardens" according to Gwen Moore Kelaidis in her book *Hardy Succulents: Tough Plants for Every Climate* (Storey Publishing, 2008). Saxon Holt rounds out the text with stunning color photography. It is notable that the American Horticultural Society bestowed an award for this book. Although succulents do not light up the horticultural world much like a plant-du-jour perennial, they do offer great variety in terms of interesting color, texture and size as well as durability, easy care, diversity and charm. To say that plant maintenance is minimal is really an understatement. Furthermore, succulents are versatile plants that bring a unique beauty to the garden. We need to get over the false notion that succulents need to be relegated to desert climates and that only a limited number are available for planting in our hardiness zone.

Succulent is a generic name for a diverse group of plant types much like conifer when referring to mostly needled evergreens. Several other popular plants that are included with the succulent family are ice plant (delosperma), a ground hugging gem with neat flowers and small chubby-like foliage and lest we forget the majestic yucca that can be tree-like as well as a shrub. Variegated yucca shrubs 'Color Guard' and 'Golden Sword' truly make a statement in the garden. Another plant that is often considered as a houseplant is the short stature unique agave. Some of these plants, often mistaken for cactus or yucca, can thrive in hardiness zone 5. Of course some not so hardy can spend the summer outdoors, but need to be brought inside when the weather cools. Set aside a special place in the landscape or a container because these unique plants can be a focal point.

Four-season gardeners will appreciate succulents because they provide winter interest. Another consideration is that they are easy to grow and also make nice companion plants with other non-succulent plants. The reason succulents are so durable is because they have the ability to store water in their tissue; therefore, the standard rule-of-thumb of one-inch of water each week does not apply. Think water-wise gardening. Most succulents tend to thrive in well-drained soils. A well prepared rock garden filled with an interesting collection of succulents is ideal, but this is not a limitation. For a bit of whimsy in the garden, consider creating a mosaic using a variety of succulents with varying color, texture and heights. You can achieve similar aesthetic results by arranging succulents in a group of eye-catching containers that can withstand most winters. Whereas most container plants need to be watered two or three times every day during the hot summer months, you can take a holiday from this chore. The school solution by most designers of containerized plants is that you should have fillers, spillers and a thriller. Really! Surely you can achieve eye-catching displays with succulents with this approach if that is your goal; however, like most things horticultural, the key remains, to paraphrase the gardener's mantra, right plant-right pot.



continued from page 3

From an aesthetic perspective, slow growing succulents provide a different look from most other plant species. They can have pointy tips, spines and plump looking leaves. The ground cover ice plant, noted earlier, can have scores of flowers given enough space to carpet the ground. With succulents you will get a long lasting plant that is lovely to look at, practically maintenance free from pruning, disease and pest problems. These plants will thrive given easy cultural conditions including good drainage that is achieved by using lots of gravel and sharp sand along with some loam and humus. For most succulents at least six hours of sunlight is ideal. More than six hours should not be a problem. Let the soil dry between infrequent watering and then thoroughly drench.

The original question was "Why succulents?" Are you now convinced?

P.S. Green roof gardening technology is evolving. For those interested in a roof-top garden, succulents are an ideal plant for this application. Before you make a decision to plant on a roof, it is imperative that you do some homework first because a roof needs to withstand the weight of the plants, soil and water but that is better left for another topic

## What is VMGA?

### Virginia Master Gardener Association

#### Benefits of Membership

Membership in the state association shows your support for VMGA as your voice to the VCE-MG program leadership at Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech. Members receive timely distribution of our newsletter, The VMGA Report, providing information about association business and news of local unit and association happenings around the state. VMGA members also receive discounted registration fees at VMGA education events. A Membership Directory is provided to facilitate networking among members. For information on becoming a member, please visit:

[www.vmganet.org/membership](http://www.vmganet.org/membership)

Also Check Out  
**STATE FAIR**  
OF VIRGINIA AT THE MEADOW  
Sept. 26 to Oct. 5, 2014

The Meadow Event Park  
1-95 Exit 98 (Dowell) Caroline County, Virginia  
It's the best of Virginia! Celebrate Virginia's finest animals and agriculture, exhibits and shows, top-topper music, fine arts and crafts, blue ribbon competitions and more!

If you are interested in helping organize future educational symposia for VMGA, please contact the educational chair at [Education @VMGA.net](mailto:Education@VMGA.net)



Virginia Cooperative Extension provides equal opportunities for all regardless of race, color, sex, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic. For more information, contact your local Extension office or the National Center for Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) at (202) 735-4700. For more information, contact your local Extension office or the National Center for Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) at (202) 735-4700.

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Virginia State University & Virginia Master Gardener Association

## Educational Symposium

**PERMACULTURE**  
Saturday, September 27, 2014  
Virginia State University





## Food Safety

Everybody eats, and no one wants to eat something that could make you sick. But there's a lot of misinformation out there about how and whether you should wash your food.

Food safety is an important issue. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year one in six people in the United States will get sick because of food-borne illness. And risks can be increased or decreased at every point between the farm and your fork. Yes, you want to make sure to cook your food to the appropriate temperature, but here are some other tips to help you make good decisions in the kitchen.



### 1. Don't Wash Meat

Some people think that you're supposed to wash chicken, turkey, or other meats before cooking. Those people are wrong. "Research shows that washing meat can spread dangerous bacteria around your kitchen or food preparation area," said Ben Chapman, a food safety researcher at North Carolina State University. "And washing poultry under running water can spray surface contamination up to three feet away. We cook meat to make it safer; washing meat can only make a meal riskier."

### 2. Washing Fruits and Veggies Only Removes up to 99 Percent of Pathogens

"That seems good, but it's not great," Chapman said. By comparison, cooking food can cut the number of bacteria or other microbial pathogens by 99.9999 percent. And that 0.9999 percent difference can be important. If a food is contaminated by thousands of microbes, washing off 99 percent means that dozens will be left behind — and that's enough to make you sick. That is why people who are immunocompromised, such as some chemotherapy patients, are often discouraged from eating raw fruits and vegetables.

### 3. Don't Use Soap

"Although washing has its limitations, vigorously rinsing produce under running water is the most effective way to remove the microbes that cause foodborne illnesses," Chapman said. You don't need to use soap or special cleaning solutions. In fact, using soap can actually introduce additional risk, because soaps may contain chemicals that aren't intended for human consumption.

### 4. You Can't Get All the Pesticides Off Your Food (but Don't Panic)

Some minute traces of pesticide will probably be on — or in — your fruits or vegetables when you eat them. "But being able to detect a pesticide doesn't mean that it's a public health problem," said Chris Gunter, a researcher at NC State who studies vegetable agriculture. That's because, after using a pesticide, farmers are required to wait for a specific period of time before harvesting (it's called a "pre-harvest interval"). During that time, the pesticide breaks down or washes off, meaning any residual pesticide meets EPA's human health requirements.

### 5. Even Organic Food Can Use a Rinse

Just because produce is labeled "organic" doesn't mean that it's somehow immune to microbial contamination. Organic farmers usually grow their fruits and vegetables in open fields, just like conventional farmers, and are subject to some of the same risks, such as fecal contamination from wildlife (that is, poop can still get on the food).

"Any time you're going to eat fresh produce you should rinse it off, if for no other reason than to rinse off dirt," said Don Schaffner, a food safety researcher at Rutgers. "And rinsing off produce may offer some risk reduction in terms of microbial pathogens."

### Bonus: Don't Wash Pre-Washed Veggies

If you've bought salad mix that is labeled as "pre-washed," you really don't need to wash it again, Schaffner said. In fact, you probably shouldn't wash it again. "An expert panel reported in 2007 that consumers who wash these salads again won't reduce the risk," Schaffner said, "and may actually create a risk of cross-contamination" where pathogens from other foods get onto the salad. In this case, being lazy is a virtue.

Renee R. Boyer  
Associate Professor, Extension Specialist  
Food Microbiology and Consumer Food Safety  
Food Science & Technology Department



**Permaculture: Finding Connections**

By Laura Kerson

Permaculture design is all about making connections between elements in your garden. The number of connections between parts is more important than the number of parts in your design. Think about what each element needs as well as what it produces. If you make a list for each major element you want in your garden, you can begin to see how items will link together based on their needs and products.

For example, let's say you want a pear tree in your yard. The tree will produce: fruit, pollen, shade, privacy, leaf mulch, and can serve as a wind-break. In order to provide those things, it will need: water, nutrients, pollen, pollinators, protection from predators or disease, and pruning.

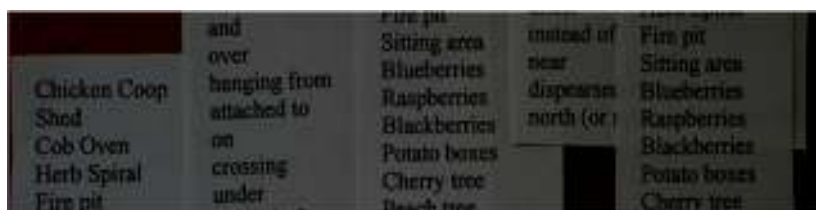
Taking these lists, along with the map you made last issue, you can begin to find connections and put elements in their place. You know the pear tree needs pollinators and will provide privacy. Looking at your map, you might find an area where there is a poor view that the tree could help block. Then you might want to plant some pollinator-attracting plants and locate some pollinator habitat close to the tree.

If you get stuck, here's a method you can try. As they say, sometimes the biggest limit to abundance is creativity! Start by listing all the major elements you would like in your garden. Then make a list of "connecting words".

- |              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Chicken Coop | Around                      |
| Shed         | In                          |
| Cob Oven     | Facing                      |
| Herb Spiral  | Between                     |
| Fire pit     | Beside                      |
| Sitting area | Into                        |
| Blueberries  | Before                      |
| Raspberries  | Evolving from               |
| Blackberries | After                       |
| Potato boxes | And                         |
| Cherry tree  | Over                        |
| Peach tree   | Hanging from                |
| Almond tree  | Attached to                 |
| Bird bath    | On                          |
| Compost pile | Crossing                    |
| Grape vines  | Under                       |
| Kiwi vines   | Instead of                  |
|              | Near                        |
|              | Dispersed throughout        |
|              | North, South, East, West of |

Make three copies of your elements list and two copies of the connecting words list, then cut them apart into columns. Lay them beside each other, alternating elements and connecting words. Then, slide the lists up and down and read horizontally to see if anything useful or inspirational results.

Although you will probably find some absurd connections like, "chicken coop hanging from blueberries near sitting area" you may also find some inspiring connections that really work like, "sitting area around fire pit beside cob oven." Most importantly, you'll find interesting connections you might not have thought of before. Remember to keep brainstorming, keep an open mind, and ask your friendly neighborhood Master Gardener for help if you get stuck!





## Beauty and Nutrition – all in one Family

This is the time of year we all start thinking about planting fall crops. Kale – and its pretty cousin, ornamental cabbage – are among the vegetables that make a second appearance during the cooler growing season. Bill McCaleb shared this information from research done at NC State:

“Kale plants can be grown over a pH range between 5.5 and 6.2. If the pH exceeds 6.5, iron can be tied up, thus becoming unavailable to the plant, being manifested as interveinal chlorosis. Both kale and ornamental cabbage can readily exhibit insufficient levels of fertility which will result in yellowing (nitrogen deficiency) or purpling, so you want to make sure that the pH is well within the acceptable range.”



Kale is a hearty, nutrient-dense type of cabbage that, for some people, is an acquired taste. It is thicker and more strongly flavored than other salad leaves, but is loaded with vitamins K, A and C, as well as antioxidants that are thought to bolster the immune system and help detoxify the body. The current trend is to blend it into “green” drinks or smoothies, but it can also be cooked with aromatics, as you would spinach or cabbage.

It is important to store kale properly to maintain its benefits and shelf life. First, select a firm, dark bunch and pull it apart to check for bad spots or signs of insect infestation. Remove the elastic band and put the unwashed bunch into a zip-lock bag. Flatten the air out of the bag, zip it up and write the date of purchase on the bag. Store kale in the coldest section of the refrigerator for up to five days.

When you are ready to use the leaves, float them in a deep bowl of cool water and swish them under to remove sand and dirt. Let the leaves soak for five minutes, then spread them out on a clean dish cloth and blot thoroughly. Trim off the woody ends and the kale is ready to go into your recipe.

Then there are the pretty choices of decorative cabbages (*Brassica oleracea*) that can add splashes of pink, fuchsia, purple and white outside in your fall garden. These are actually an annual species of kale that survives night temperatures as high as 60° and then toughs it out into early winter down to 5°. The cultivar determines the color of the leaves and tips.

Select plants with healthy, well-formed heads and deeply colored leaves; most cabbages will not grow larger once inserted into a planter or garden plot. Mix these plants with those that need all-day full sun and moist, well-drained soil. Set the plants deeply, so that the lower leaves are just above the soil surface.

Water the soil after planting to a depth of six inches. Add a layer of mulch to help preserve moisture and insulate the soil from temperature changes. No additional fertilizer is needed. Watering frequency will decrease as the weather cools, but check the top inch of soil – when this begins to dry, provide one inch of water from rainfall or supplemental watering.

Cooler weather removes some of the pest problems, but these cabbages can still fall prey to aphids, cabbage worms and slugs. Remove the larger critters by hand and spray off the aphids with the garden hose. Most cabbage concerns are fungal, so keep foliage as dry as possible and promptly remove dead or yellowing plants.

So, enjoy your kale – whether in a healthy green smoothie, as a side dish with onions or in colorful borders up the front walkway. In all its forms, kale promises to make life brighter.





## Where are all the butterflies?

Originally written by Debbie Roos



July 13, I saw my first tiger swallowtail butterfly of the year, much later than normal.

Today I saw my *first* eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly of the year in my pollinator garden in Pittsboro, and it is *mid-July!* Last week I saw my first black swallowtail. Earlier in the spring I had a handful of black swallowtail and monarch caterpillars in the garden, and I saw one lonely adult monarch on April 26 this year. I have seen dozens of others, like hairstreaks and American ladies, but way fewer than in a normal year. Monarch butterflies receive a lot of attention in the national media as their numbers have decreased drastically in the past few years. What about our other butterflies?

Last summer we seemed to have an abundance of butterflies, at least the eastern tiger swallowtails, and I wrote about it in a September 2013 blog post at <http://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/2013/09/the-year-of-the-butterfly/>. A lot of folks have asked me why they aren't seeing many butterflies this year. I can't answer that but I can share what one of North Carolina's top butterfly experts thinks.



Gray hairstreak on Blue Star in mid-May.

Where are all the butterflies? I posed this question to Dr. Harry LeGrand, zoologist with the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program and one of North Carolina's top butterfly experts. LeGrand is the author of *Butterflies of North Carolina*, a comprehensive on-line butterfly atlas.

Dr. LeGrand compiles season summaries of butterfly sightings for the Carolina Butterfly Society's [The Chrysalis](#) newsletter. First of all, we are not imagining things, there IS a dearth of butterflies this year.

In fact, Dr. LeGrand says that "2014 is – by far – the poorest year for butterflies that I have witnessed since I started butterflying in 1991. Even finding a swallowtail, yes even a Tiger Swallowtail, has been a chore, as has just about everything else." Dr. LeGrand notes that both winters of 2012-13 and 2013-14 were rather cold, and the first was much colder than normal. The latter was more normal; however, both had quite a few severe ice and snow events, and note that cold weather continued well into March, with both years getting off to very delayed starts of 10-14 days.

Other observations from *Dr. LeGrand*: Since North Carolina has not been in drought status for nearly all of these two years, drought cannot be a factor in the low butterfly numbers. And, of course, "habitat loss" isn't significant on a large scale, so that doesn't explain the sharp drop in numbers. Why is the eastern half of NC so depauperate, as compared with the western half of the state? Usually, in a given part of a year, a group of species is "low" – maybe American Lady and Red Admiral, or the anglewings, or the grass skippers, or hairstreaks. But this year, EVERYTHING is below normal in the eastern half of NC. My personal belief – severe cold AND wetness, in combination, in winter and especially into March, has done in various life stages – allowing for more fungi, or predators, on larvae, etc., or possibly washing away pupae, etc.

I guess it remains to be seen how much the butterfly population rebounds this year. Here's hoping we see an uptick in the numbers and diversity of butterflies for the remainder of 2014!





Reflections from the Master Gardeners 1914 Annual Picnic



## Southern Region Master Gardener Conference 2014

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana October 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**

The East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association of the LSU Ag Center's MG Program is proud to host the 2014 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference. When gardening enthusiasts from Texas to Virginia converge on Louisiana's capital city, they will be greeted with riveting speakers, entertaining tours and a trade show that promises to offer those 'one-of-a-kind' items. This event will bring together master gardeners, vendors, horticulture professionals and others with a common interest in all aspects of gardening, the environment and plant sciences. The 2014 Conference Committee is grateful to all who have made this conference possible through sponsorships, in-kind gifts and hundreds of volunteer hours from our members.

Check it out at <http://SouthernRegionMGConf2014.com>.



## Educational Opportunities

### **September 9 – October 14, Nellie Hough Gardening Course**

every Tuesday 9am, Albemarle area

The Nellie Hough Course is designed for participants of all levels of gardening experience who wish to gain and to share insights into the rewards and challenges of gardening.

More information:

[http://albemarleclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/NH2014Flyer\\_Word.pdf](http://albemarleclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/NH2014Flyer_Word.pdf)

### **September 12, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. , “Trees Don’t Grow on Money Either”**

#### **ArborMaster Tree Training, Waynesboro, VA**

On behalf of Trees Virginia, Waynesboro Parks & Recreation and the VA Dept of Forestry we are excited to bring you the 19th annual Waynesboro Tree Care Workshop - Morning presentations will be followed in the afternoon by intriguing demonstrations and lunch in the park. More information is available here: <http://us3.campaign->

[archive2.com/?u=ef6becdd189ff9b0398555c53&id=8af29cafd8&e=e32f628657](http://archive2.com/?u=ef6becdd189ff9b0398555c53&id=8af29cafd8&e=e32f628657)

### **September 13, Green Gardens for Clean Streams, Bundoran Farm, 9:30am-11am**

Rain gardens and native plants attract pollinators and reduce runoff. Tour Dorothy Tompkins’ stunning rain garden filled with native plants that thrive in our region. Learn how adopting “green” gardening practices can have a dramatic effect on the health of our streams. Bundoran Farm , 585 Hightop Drive, North Garden Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Robert Jennings at 484/888-2966 or [rjennings@cbf.org](mailto:rjennings@cbf.org)

pace is limited, so RSVP to guarantee your spot.

### **Announcing an Open-Enrollment Introduction to Soil Course**

NC State University has just broken ground with the nation's first open enrollment online Intro to Soil course and we want to make sure you knew about it. Learn more about this online course at:

<http://go.ncsu.edu/introduction-to-soil>.



## Coordinator Endowment Update

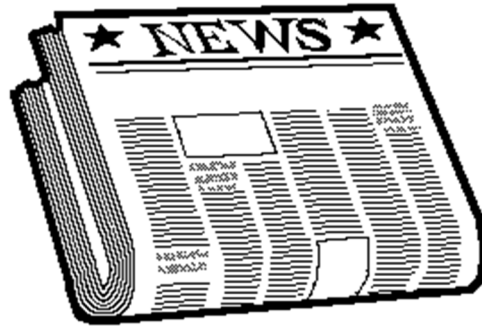
As reported in the last issue, VMGA's matching challenge was expected to be met. However, the result was greater than anticipated! Since VMGA announced the challenge, cash gifts and payments increased by more than \$23,000. This represents donations by local associations/units and individuals made directly to The Virginia Tech Foundation or through purchases of VMGA's Master Gardener Gear and/or the Silent Auction.

Cash gifts and pledge payments are important as that is what earns interest. Over the past several quarters, VMGA's Coordinator Endowment interest account has increased by almost \$3,000 each quarter. Do the math! It's easy to see how your cash donations make a big difference.

If making a cash donation isn't in your financial future, perhaps you know of a business or an individual who would like to invest in the future of the Virginia Master Gardener program. Let the Coordinator Endowment team know by emailing VMGA. Another way to contribute is to purchase t-shirts or sweatshirts or other Master Gardener gear. Visit the VMGA web to see items for sale.

The status of the Endowment Balances is as follows. The previous three reports are included to show growth.

	Feb 1, 2014	Apr 1, 2014	Jun 27, 2014	Aug 6, 2014
Market value	\$270,530	\$271,439	\$287,986	\$307,776
Cash gifts & pledge payments	\$210,817	\$212,319	\$227,016	\$235,514
Outstanding pledges	\$5,075	\$5,875	\$6,175	\$6,275
Deferred commitments	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$233,986	\$233,986
Interest income account	\$14,159	\$17,036	\$19,931	\$19,931
Total market value & pledged/committed	\$471,771	\$484,350	\$528,147	\$548,037



## **News from the VMGA Board**

### **Board Consolidates Fund Raising Activities, New Chair**

At the most recent bi-monthly meeting, VMGA's Board and members approved actions to consolidate all fund raising activities under the Fund Raising Committee. Prior to this action, the Fund Raising Committee had been responsible for Master Gardener merchandise sales. Previous Fund Raising Chair, Betty Villers, had suggested that merchandise sales be called just that, and the idea to consolidate blossomed.

VMGA President Christy Brennan noted that the Silent Auction and the activities of the State Coordinator Endowment Committee were also involved with fund raising. It made sense organizationally and for financial recording purposes to consolidate the activities under one committee chair. Each of these three activities will have leaders and volunteers needed to conduct their activities.

Tina Chaleki of the Central Virginia Master Gardeners is the new chair of the Fund Raising Committee. Because the Fund Raising Committee is a Standing Committee, Tina is a voting member of the Board. It will also be her job to report to VMGA's Board and members the activities of the three activities, and to support the teams.

Kathryn Debnar has agreed to become the leader of the Coordinator Endowment team. The Silent Auction team will be created in the months before MG College, but Merchandise Sales needs the assistance of one or a couple of MGs. Skills and abilities needed between the one or several MG volunteers for merchandising are:

- Organizational abilities to keep inventory,
- Some marketing knowledge to keep up the web page and sales flyers,
- Basic knowledge of Excel or a willingness to learn,
- Storage space for six containers of inventory (decreasing all the time!),
- Time to travel to meetings and events (VMGA and optional local meetings)
- Imagination to find new products and methods for merchandising.

If you are interested, or know someone who matches these skills and abilities, please contact the Fund Raising Chair, Tina Chaleki, through the VMGA's President.



# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Submit a nomination for our *Volunteer of the Month* award. **We want to recognize the best volunteers in the state** each month on the VCE public website (maybe more depending on number of nominations received). Nominations can be submitted using this survey. Copy and paste this link to access the Volunteer of the month nomination form.  
[https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_0NuDUwkelMdPIrf](https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0NuDUwkelMdPIrf)  
 It is easy. Just requires a short write-up and a picture.  
 Also, make sure you recognize your Unit volunteers as well on your own Unit Website.  
 You can continually submit throughout the year, but the first selection will be made with the nominations received before February 1.



Do you recognize this disease that affects tomatoes and peppers? Do you know how it can be prevented? Visit the Virginia Tech Plant Disease Clinic's webpage to find out more.



### Calendar of Events

If you wish to have your event published in future newsletters, please send to [jancva52@gmail.com](mailto:jancva52@gmail.com)

## THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Sharing knowledge. Empowering communities.



for an economic value of more than





**VMGA**  
**A Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners**

**Deadline for November/December newsletter:**  
**October 15, 2014**  
**Please submit any announcements or articles to be included in the next issue to:**

**Jan Worthy, editor**  
**Central Shenandoah Valley MGA**  
**[jancwva52@gmail.com](mailto:jancwva52@gmail.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.

## **Mission, Vision, and Core Values**

**Mission:**  
Sharing Knowledge. Empowering Communities

**Vision:**  
To be the Virginia Cooperative Extension volunteer organization extending horticultural and environmental outreach across the Commonwealth.

### **Core Values (Internal & External):**

- **Respect**
  - The environment, each other, and those we serve
- **Accountability**
  - Wise stewardship of resources
  - To our organization, our community, and each other
- **Collaboration**
  - Willing to work with a diverse group to reach a common goal
  - Actively seeking out partners

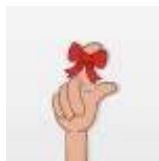
**Like us on Facebook**  
**VCE Master Gardener Program**

### **VMGA Bi-Monthly Board Meeting**

**When:** Saturday, October 11  
**Where:** Suffolk Cooperative Extension, 440 Market Street, 218 Suffolk, VA 23434

For more details see [vmga.net/meetings.htm](http://vmga.net/meetings.htm)

### **Newsletter Submission Deadline**



The deadline for submission of articles and announcements for the November/December 2014 issue of the newsletter is October, 15.